



Document title	Survey of knowledge and research needs for achieving good environmental status
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Background

The HELCOM Gear Group has developed a draft 'HELCOM work plan to improve regional coherence in moving towards Good Environmental Status' (section 3.2). A topic on the work plan that has already been included in the Roadmap of HELCOM activities is to **make a survey of knowledge and research needs for achieving good environmental status** (roadmap activity 32, document 3J-2).

The HELCOM work plan notes that knowledge and research needs for achieving good environmental status are brought forward occasionally by HELCOM Working Groups, but they have never been compiled in a common document. Gap analyses have also been recently carried out nationally, e.g. in the context of MSFD reporting. To compile such information in one joint report will **serve the development of activities in HELCOM** as well as to **inform external funding mechanisms on the knowledge and research needs of HELCOM**.

The survey will be extended to HELCOM Working Groups, Expert groups and relevant projects. The results will be summarized in a report that will be structured to reflect the segments of the Baltic Sea Action Plan and descriptors of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

State and Conservation 3-2015 supported that HELCOM expert groups should also be invited to contribute to the survey and agreed to come back to the outcome of the survey at State and Conservation 4-2016.

This document contains the list of focal areas and guidance on issues to be indicated in the survey. The associated template ([document 2-3-Att.1](#)) should be used when submitting response to the survey.

Action required

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information and contribute to the survey by using the [attached template](#).

Focal areas for the survey on knowledge and research needs for achieving good environmental status

HELCOM Working Groups, Expert groups and projects are requested to consider, in their field of expertise, the knowledge and research gaps related to the development of:

- monitoring programmes (as included in the HELCOM Monitoring manual and other HELCOM guidelines),
- indicators (HELCOM candidate and pre-core indicators) and determination of GES for those indicators,
- integrated assessments (including data and tools to assess status of e.g. eutrophication, hazardous substances and biodiversity as well as pressures, impacts and climate change),
- environmental targets (in the sense of required quantitative reduction of pressures to achieve GES c.f. MAI/CART),
- design and assessment of cost-effective measures to achieve GES (e.g. measures for safety of navigation, to reduce input of anthropogenic matter, to reduce impact of resource extraction),
- valuation of ecosystem services (e.g. as part of social and economic analyses or integration into management and planning)
- spatial protection and nature conservation measures,
- management of ecosystems (e.g. use of models in ecosystem management)

Indicative length of description of knowledge/research needs: 100-150 words. Two brief examples are included in the template, [document 2-3-Att.1](#).

Indicate for each response:

- 1) a) if the required data/information is likely to already exist i.e. knowledge could be acquired through gathering of existing data/information or a review activity, or
b) new research activities are likely to be required to meet the knowledge needs,
- 2) estimated time to achieve new knowledge for management purposes (<1 year, 1-5 years, >5 years),
- 3) if the knowledge need is perceived at the national and/or regional level,
- 4) if the knowledge is needed for any specific planned activity in HELCOM (e.g. needed by mid-2017 for use in the 2nd HELCOM holistic assessment),
- 5) link to BSAP segment and MSFD descriptors when relevant.