



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature
Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION
10-2019

Hamina, Finland, 6-10 May 2019

Document title	Lead and co-Lead countries for HELCOM Monitoring Programme topics
Code	3MA-1
Category	INF
Agenda Item	3MA – Development and implementation of Recommendations
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Submitted by	Secretariat

Background

HELCOM STATE & CONSERVATION 2-2015 agreed on a Lead Country approach for the review and development of HELCOM monitoring guidelines.

The Lead and Co-Lead countries for specific HELCOM monitoring guidelines and links to existing HELCOM monitoring guidelines are outlined in this document. The document has been updated based on the outcome of STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018.

Action required

The Meeting is invited to take note of this information.

HELCOM Programme topics, links to existing HELCOM monitoring guidelines and Lead & co-Lead countries

Cells marked **yellow** indicate programme topics and sub-programmes for which no lead country or other process for developing the guidelines has been identified.

Programme topic	Sub-programmes	Link to existing HELCOM monitoring guidelines	Lead and co-Lead countries/Need for review
Birds	Marine wintering birds abundance and distribution	Guidelines for coordinated cost-effective monitoring of marine wintering birds	HELCOM guidelines for monitoring of wintering birds agreed at STATE & CONSERVATION 2-2015 (2N.6). No need for review.
	Marine breeding birds abundance and distribution	No counterpart in existing HELCOM guidelines.	Will be considered by ICES/OSPAR/HELCOM JWGBIRD
	Marine bird health	No counterpart in existing HELCOM guidelines.	Lead: Sweden
Mammals	Seal abundance	Guidelines for monitoring Seal abundance and distribution in the HELCOM area as recommended by the HELCOM SEAL Expert Group	HELCOM guidelines for monitoring of seal abundance agreed at STATE 1-2014. Guidelines for monitoring Seal abundance and distribution in the HELCOM area were reviewed by SEAL 12-2018 and endorsed by STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018.
	Health status	Guidelines for monitoring reproductive status of seals in the HELCOM area	Guidelines for reproductive status were endorsed by STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016 (study reservations lifted by PL intersessionally and by DE at STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016). SEAL 12-2018 considered further improving the guidelines for monitoring reproductive and nutritional status of marine mammals. The meeting noted that Sweden and Germany are working bilaterally to establish a plan to take the work forward and expect to be able to present further developed guidelines for EG MAMA 13-2019
	Harbor porpoise abundance	No counterpart in existing HELCOM guidelines.	HELCOM Expert Group on Marine mammals will coordinate.
Fish, shellfish and fisheries	Coastal fish	Guidelines for Coastal Fish Monitoring (replacing Annex C10 of COMBINE manual: Guidelines for fish monitoring sampling methods of HELCOM)	The most recent version was adopted by STATE 1-2014). FISH PRO III agreed that Sweden will finalize the updated guideline and send it for approval to STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019
	Migratory fish	No counterpart in existing HELCOM guidelines.	No need for review
	Offshore fish	No counterpart in existing HELCOM guidelines.	No need for review

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	Commercial shellfish	No counterpart in existing HELCOM guidelines.	Not concluded. Nephrops are monitored through ICES coordinated Nephrops underwater TV surveys . Monitoring of bivalve populations is not coordinated Baltic wide.
	Fisheries by-catch	No counterpart in existing HELCOM guidelines.	Initiated through contributing to the regional DCF process by the Fish Group.
Hydrography	Water column hydrological characteristics (temperature, salinity, transparency, turbidity)	Guidelines for measuring Secchi depth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annex B8 Technical note on the determination of hydrographic parameters - Appendix 1 Technical note on the determination of salinity and temperature of seawater Parts of Annex C2 Hydrographic and hydrochemical variables	Lead: Sweden, co-Lead: Poland Use of satellite data: Finland Salinity, temperature and turbidity agreed at STATE & CONSERVATION 7-2017 Secchi depth agreed at STATE & CONSERVATION 6-2017.
	Water column physical characteristics (waves, currents, sea level)	Parts of Annex C2 Hydrographic and hydrochemical variables	Lead: Sweden, co-Lead: Poland Use of satellite data: Estonia and Finland
	Ice	No counterpart in existing HELCOM guidelines.	No need for review.
Hydrochemistry	Water column chemical characteristics (O ₂ , pH, pCO ₂ , H ₂ S)	Guidelines for sampling and determination of hydrogen sulphide Guidelines for sampling and determination of pH Guidelines for sampling and determination of dissolved oxygen in sea water Guidelines for sampling and determination of total alkalinity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annex B8 Technical note on the determination of hydrographic parameters - Parts of Annex C2 Hydrographic and hydrochemical variables 	Lead: Sweden O₂, co-Lead: Poland Guidelines on hydrogen sulphide, pH and total alkalinity adopted at STATE & CONSERVATION 6-2017 Guidelines on dissolved oxygen endorsed by STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2019
	Nutrients	Guidelines for sampling and determination of ammonium Guidelines for sampling and determination of nitrate Guidelines for sampling and determination of nitrite Guidelines for sampling and determination of phosphate Guidelines for sampling and determination of total nitrogen Guidelines for sampling and determination of total phosphorus Guidelines for sampling and determination of silicate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annex B9 Technical note on the determination of nutrients Parts of Annex C2 Hydrographic and hydrochemical variables	Lead: Sweden, co-Lead: Poland Guidelines for monitoring nutrients agreed at STATE & CONSERVATION 6-2017
Phytoplankton	Phytoplankton – Pigments	Guidelines for measuring chlorophyll a	Lead: Sweden and Finland Use of satellite data: Finland

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			Guidelines adopted by STATE & CONSERVATION 6-2017
	Phytoplankton - Species composition, abundance and biomass	Guidelines for monitoring phytoplankton species composition, abundance and biomass	Lead: PEG QA Guidelines adopted by STATE & CONSERVATION 6-2017
Zooplankton	Zooplankton - Species composition, abundance and biomass	Guidelines for monitoring of mesozooplankton	Lead: ZEN-ZIIM Guidelines adopted by STATE & CONSERVATION 6-2017
Seabed habitat distribution and extent	Habitat-forming species and substrates	Annex C9 Guidelines for monitoring of phytobenthic plant and animal communities in the Baltic Sea	HELCOM intersessional network of benthic experts (IN BENTIC)
	Seabed habitat physical characteristics	No counterpart in existing HELCOM guidelines.	No regular monitoring. Update and improvement of broad scale habitat maps.
Species distribution and abundance (benthic community)	Hardbottom Species	Parts of Annex C9 Guidelines for monitoring of phytobenthic plant and animal communities in the Baltic Sea	Lacking lead and assisting countries. Not priority / under development.
	Softbottom fauna	- Annex C8 Soft bottom macrozoobenthos Parts of Annex C9 Guidelines for monitoring of phytobenthic plant and animal communities in the Baltic Sea	Based on a review made by Finland for STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016, it was agreed that the current guidelines are valid. No need for revision.
	Softbottom flora	Parts of Annex C9 Guidelines for monitoring of phytobenthic plant and animal communities in the Baltic Sea	Monitoring guidelines are proposed to be developed, linked to the tentative development of indicators on softbottom flora.
Non-indigenous species	Non-indigenous species ¹	Guidelines for non-indigenous species monitoring by extended Rapid Assessment Survey (eRAS)	Lead: Lithuania Co-lead: Germany Guidelines for monitoring guidelines for extended Rapid Assessment Survey (eRAS) agreed at STATE & CONSERVATION 6-2017.
Inputs	Nutrient inputs from atmosphere	No counterpart in existing HELCOM guidelines	Air emission and atmospheric deposition monitoring are coordinated by EMEP . No need for review.
	Nutrient inputs from land based sources	PLC-water guidelines	Guidelines prepared by the PLC-6 project were published in 2015.
	Contaminant inputs from atmosphere	No counterpart in existing HELCOM guidelines	Air emission and atmospheric deposition monitoring are coordinated by EMEP . No need for review.
	Contaminant inputs from land based sources	PLC-water guidelines	Guidelines prepared by the PLC-6 project were published in 2015.
	Acute pollution	HELCOM Response Manual .	No need for review.

Programme topic	Sub-programmes	Link to existing HELCOM monitoring guidelines	Lead and co-Lead countries/Need for review
Concentration of contaminants	Contaminants in water (PFAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annex B11 Technical note on the determination of heavy metals and persistent organic compounds in seawater - Appendix 1 Technical note on the determination of trace metals (Cd, Pb, Cu, Co, Zn, Ni, Fe), including mercury, in seawater - Appendix 2 Technical annex on the determination of heavy metals and persistent organic compounds in seawater - Parts of Part D Programme for monitoring of CONTAMINANTS and their effects <p>Guidelines for Monitoring of Radioactive Substances Guideline on the determination of Perfluoroalkylated substances (PFAS) in seawater</p>	<p>Lead: Germany Guidelines on the determination of PFAs in seawater were endorsed by STATE & CONSERVATION 8-2018.</p>
	Contaminants in sediment (heavy metals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annex B13 Technical note on the determination of heavy metals and persistent organic compounds in marine sediments - Appendix 1 Technical note on the determination of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in sediment - Appendix 2 Technical note on the determination of chlorinated biphenyls in sediment - Appendix 3 Technical note on the determination of heavy metals and persistent organic compounds in marine sediment - Parts of Part D Programme for monitoring of CONTAMINANTS and their effects <p>Guidelines for Monitoring of Radioactive Substances Guideline for the determination of heavy metals in sediment</p>	<p>Lead: Germany Co-lead: Poland Guidelines for determination of heavy metals in sediment were endorsed by STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018.</p>
	Contaminants in biota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annex B12 Technical note on the determination of heavy metals and persistent organic compounds in biota - Appendix 1 Technical note on biological material sampling and sample handling for the analysis of persistent organic pollutants (PAHs, PCBs and OCPs) and metallic trace elements - Appendix 2 Technical note on the determination of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in biota - Appendix 3 Technical note on the determination of chlorinated biphenyls and organochlorine pesticides in biota 	<p>Lead: Germany Co-lead: Poland and Sweden EN HAZ to develop guidelines for PFOS in biota and water and for HBCDD in biota and sediments</p>

Programme topic	Sub-programmes	Link to existing HELCOM monitoring guidelines	Lead and co-Lead countries/Need for review
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appendix 4 Technical note on the determination of trace metallic elements in biota - Appendix 5 Technical note on the determination of total mercury in marine biota - Parts of Part D Programme for monitoring of CONTAMINANTS and their effects Guidelines for Monitoring of Radioactive Substances	
Biological effects of contaminants	TBT/imposex		Endorsed by STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016 (document 2MA-5), and study reservation lifted by Germany.
Contaminants in seafood	Contaminants in seafood	No counterpart in existing HELCOM guidelines	CPs to inform on national approaches/links between environmental and health authorities.
Litter	Macrolitter characteristics and abundance/volume	Guidelines for monitoring beach litter	EN LITTER Beach litter monitoring guidelines were endorsed by STATE & CONSERVATION 8-2018.
	Microlitter particle abundance and characteristics	No counterpart in existing HELCOM guidelines.	The marine litter network is working on the guidelines, but appropriate compartment is not agreed yet so timing of guidelines not known.
Underwater noise	Ambient noise (no info yet)	Guidelines for monitoring continuous noise	EN NOISE HELCOM monitoring guidelines on continuous noise, were endorsed by STATE & CONSERVATION 8-2018.
	Registry of impulsive sounds (no info yet)	No counterpart in existing HELCOM guidelines	The registry of impulsive sounds is publically available. PRESSURE 4-2016 approved the reporting format for the registry . PRESSURE 6-2017 (Outcome para. 4.2) invited the Contracting Parties to report 2016 data to the register by 8 September 2017 for its inclusion in the updated version of the "Baltic Sea Status Report". PRESSURE 6-2017 (Outcome para. 4.4) agreed on reporting annually to the registry taking into account a later clarification by Russia.
Benthic Physical loss and damage	No info yet	No counterpart in existing HELCOM guidelines	No monitoring. Estimated based on impacts from pressures.