



## Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature  
Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION  
13-2020

Online, 5-9 October 2020

---

<b>Document title</b>	Overview of expected 2022 data reporting timelines for regular HELCOM dataflows
<b>Code</b>	4J-17
<b>Category</b>	INF
<b>Agenda Item</b>	4J – Progress of relevant HELCOM expert groups and projects
<b>Submission date</b>	28.9.2020
<b>Submitted by</b>	Secretariat

---

### Background

Preliminary gap analysis of HOLAS II and HELCOM data flow summaries have been started in HELCOM Data Flows project (Described in [S&C 12-2020 Document 3MA-8](#)) and draft data call has been outlined for State & Conservation 13-2020 (Document 4J-1).

This document summarizes current knowledge on availability of regularly reported 2021 monitoring data for HOLAS III following the current HOLAS III timeline ([HOD 58-2020 Document 5-5](#)).

This document summarizes actualized data reporting events, availability of data and challenges in providing 2021 data for end of May 2022 as informed by data reporters and/or expert networks.

### Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

## Introduction

This document summarized input that the Secretariat has gathered from data rapporteurs and expert networks related to challenges in providing data for assessment in time for HOLAS III.

## General conclusions

Contracting Parties have various national processes carried out before submitting the data to HELCOM/ICES. These can be additional national quality control procedures done in conjunction with e.g. national assessments. These will add time to the delivery of data to common HELCOM database.

Some Contracting Parties are currently looking at options for providing data according to HOLAS III timeline whereas some Contracting Parties do not see that possible in their current setting. However, some Contracting Parties can provide monitoring data by the tightened timeline.

## Biodiversity related data

It should be noted that biodiversity assessment is carried out for several species' groups separately, namely benthic, pelagic (zoo- and phytoplankton), fish, mammals, water birds. This analysis focuses only on annually reported biological data, such as coastal fish monitoring data and biological community data to ICES (phytoplankton, zooplankton, zoobenthos).

Coastal fish monitoring data for 2021 should be available for assessment in end of May 2022. Related to biological community data, in some cases reporting is possible only by the existing deadline of 1 September, but for some CPs, the internal deadline is end of May which makes possible earlier deliveries (see Figure 1.).



**green = possible to get 2021 monitoring data by end of may 2022**

**yellow = 2020 available in end of may 2022**

**red = not even 2020 available. white = no info/no reporting**

Figure 1. Reporting and availability for biodiversity related data from the CPs for HOLAS III deadline for 2022 (information as of September 2020)

## Contaminants

For some contracting parties, there is a considerable lag from sampling to reporting of data. Lag can be over 2 years. This will result in gaps in data for years 2020 and 2021 for certain CPs data in contaminant assessment.

Also for contaminants, for few CPs reporting is possible only by the existing deadline of 1 September, but for some CPs, the internal deadline is end of May (see Figure 2.).



**green** = possible to get 2021 monitoring data by end of may 2022

**yellow** = 2020 available in end of may 2022

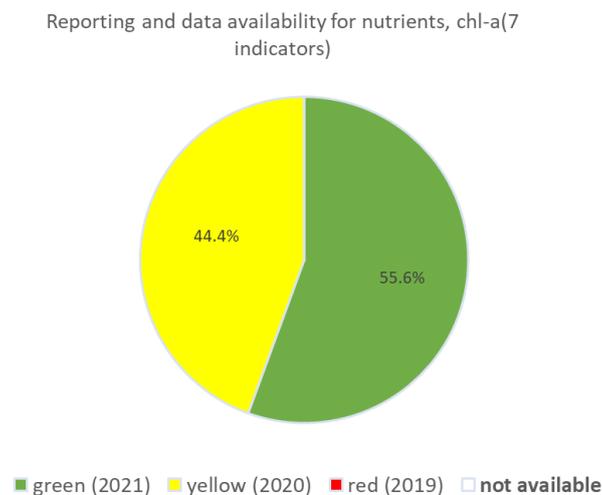
**red** = not even 2020 available. **white** = no info/no reporting

Figure 2. Reporting and availability for contaminants related data from the CPs for HOLAS III deadline for 2022 (information as of September 2020)

## Eutrophication

IN-Eutrophication meeting 16-2020 ([Outcome](#), Annex 2) flagged about difficulties in reporting of the 2021 monitoring data by end of May 2022. However, several Contracting Parties have signaled the possibility to be able to report nutrient data by end of May. Thus it appears that monitoring data for 2021 would be missing from only few Contracting Parties, if data submission are successful and extraction is carried out immediately after HOLAS III data collection deadline (see Figure 3.).

In-Eutrophication network stressed that if HELCOM would make a clear statement of an earlier reporting deadline for the year 2021 data at an early stage, this could be brought forward nationally in order to change the reporting time for 2021 data in order to achieve earlier data submissions. The network proposes deadline 31 March for reporting eutrophication data, specifically for year 2022 in order to reach HOLAS III deadlines.



**green**= possible to get 2021 monitoring data by end of may 2022

**yellow** = 2020 available in end of may 2022

**red** = not even 2020 available. **white** = no info/no reporting

Figure 3. Reporting and availability for eutrophication related data from the CPs for HOLAS III deadline for 2022 (information as of September 2020)

## Input from data rapporteurs

In general, it was perceived by some Contracting Parties and IN-Eutrophication that a specific request/data call from the Secretariat well in advance could facilitate the early reporting of 2021 monitoring data in first half of 2022. However, for some Contracting Parties it would not result in speeded reporting since some processes simply cannot be speeded up.

It should be noted that the requested earlier reporting is very close to some defined quality assurance processes (e.g. statistical tests on the dataset before used in national processes and submitted to international use) thus it can pose data quality issues for the assessment.

## Summary of gathered information

Latest monitoring data that can be reported by end of May 2022 per data type and Contracting Party is displayed in the table below.

Integrated assessment theme	Data flow	Core indicators (n)	Deadline	DEN	EST	FIN	GER	LAT	LIT	POL	RUS	SWE	Reference
Biodiversity	Coastal fish	2	1 May	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021		2021	FISH-PRO III 2-2020 p. 3.3
	Biological community: Phytoplankton	1	1 September		2021	2020	2020	2019	2020	2020		2020	• ICES Accessions ( <i>italic</i> ), • Data submitters ( <b>bold</b> )
	Biological community: Zoobenthos	1	1 September	2020	2021	2021	2020		2020	2020		2020	
	Biological community: Zooplankton	1	1 September		2021	2020**	2020	2020	2020	2020		2020	
Contaminants	Concentration of contaminants in biota	7	31 October	2020	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2020		2019	• EN HAZ experts • ICES Accessions ( <i>italic</i> ), • Data submitters ( <b>bold</b> )
	Concentration of contaminants in sediment	7	31 October	2020	2021	2020	2019	2021				2019	
	Concentration of contaminants in seawater	7	31 October	2020	2021	2020	2019	2021				2019	
	Radioactive substances	1	1 September	2020	2021	2021	2020		2021	2021		2020	MORS EG 10-2020 Outcome
Eutrophication	Nutrients, chl-a	7	1 September	2021*	2021	2021	2020	2021	2020	2020	2020	2021	• IN-Eutro ( <i>italic</i> ) • Data submitters ( <b>bold</b> )

\*) By the end of May most of the Danish marine nutrient data will only be quality assured by the Agency for the Protection of the Environment – unless the process with reporting the status of Danish marine areas is speeded up.

\*\* ) Speeded schedule possible for reporting of 2021 monitoring data by end of June 2022.