



Document title	First draft of proposed HOLAS III working structure
Code	4J-2
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	4J – Progress of relevant HELCOM expert groups and projects
Submission date	14.9.2020
Submitted by	Secretariat

Background

This document contains the first draft proposal for the working structures associated with the third Holistic Assessment of the State of the Baltic Sea. The proposed working structure contained in this document is based on the agreed detailed timeline for the HOLAS III assessment, as approved by HOD 58-2020. No changes in timing have been made. Please note that there are still identified gaps and unclarities included in the structure presented in this document, these are expected to be filled as the process progresses (e.g. in relation to leads on the thematic assessments which in its current proposed format is partially dependent on project funding).

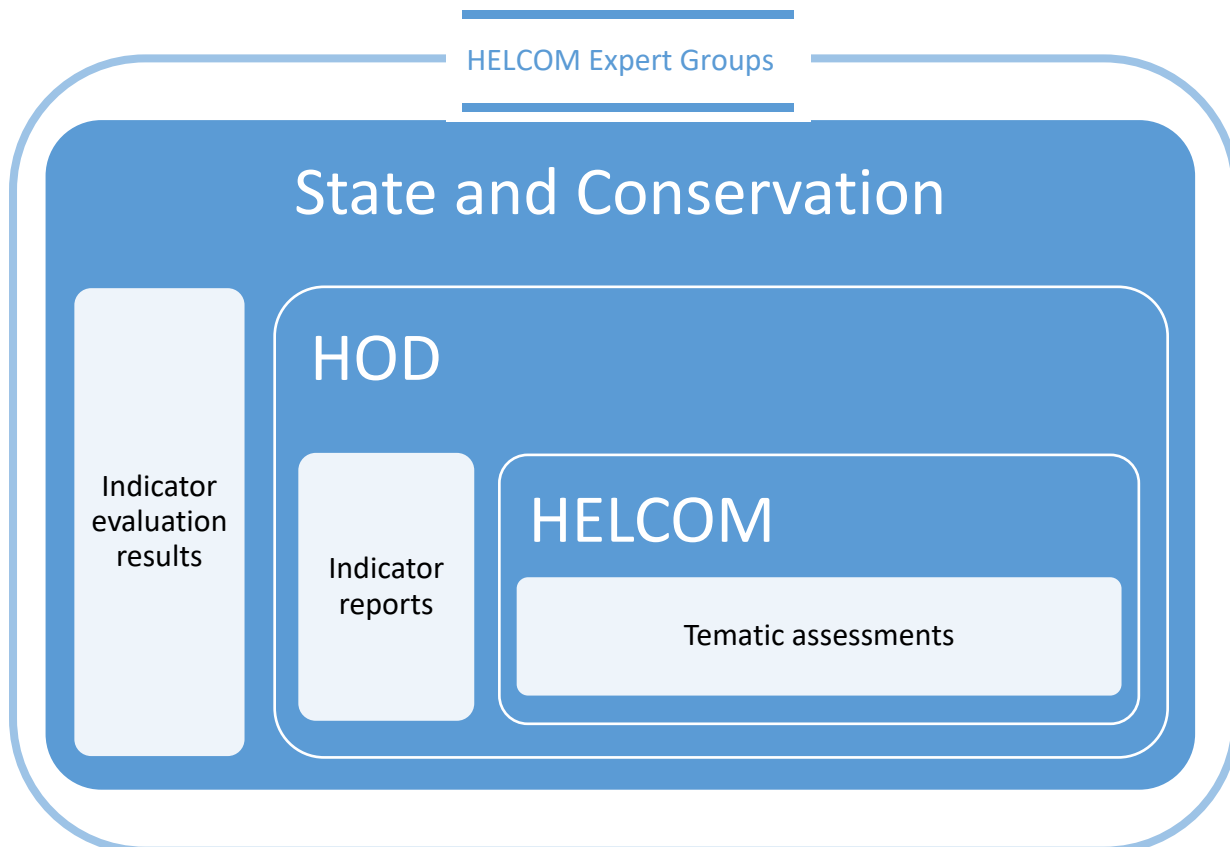
Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- consider the proposed setup of the HOLAS III assessment working structure, including proposal for which HELCOM meetings would be invited to endorse and approve the various deliverables;
- provide comments to the draft working structure as needed;
- endorse the submission of the proposed working structure to GEAR 23-2020 for endorsement and HOD 59-2020 for approval.

Draft proposed working structure of HOLAS III

For the working structure of the HOLAS III assessment a nested approach for approval, capitalizing on the existing meeting schedule and structure, is proposed. This implies that for each product the approval moves increasingly higher in the HELCOM hierarchy, while still allowing the relevant underlying groups the possibility to provide input and comments, within the same process. It also means that to the extent possible each process builds on already approved results from the previous process. This should significantly reduce redundancy within the approval process. An overview of the approval process as presented in the timeline is available in Annex 1.



Data submission and approval

Preparatory data calls issued by Secretariat in 2020, possible specifications to data calls provided in autumn 2021. Divided into “speeded up” data reporting of existing functional dataflows needed to meet HOLAS III deadlines and ad-hoc data call for non-existent or not fully functional dataflows.

Data to be submitted by national experts. Data consolidated by Secretariat and provided for review by national experts in an online workspace, approved by correspondence through State and Conservation WG.

Metadata will be provided and included, depending on the dataflow, either by the data submitters or by the HELCOM Secretariat.

Indicator evaluations

Performed by the respective indicators leads.

The results of the indicator evaluation will be presented for approval by the State and Conservation Working Group.

Results will be submitted to Expert Groups (EGs) for review concomitantly with submission to State and Conservation, comments by EG representatives to be provided to Secretariat 10 days prior to the State and Conservation WG meeting, for consolidation by Secretariat. Comments and input by EGs will be shared with the Meeting and indicator leads by information deadline for the meeting. Indicator leads invited to provide clarifications and corrections to the Meeting, as needed.

Indicator reports

Indicator reports will be prepared by the indicator leads, with intersessional review and support from the relevant EGs. The Secretariat will provide leads with an indicator report template ahead of time, which will be presented to State and Conservation WG in advance for review. The template will be provided to indicator leads at the start of the indicator evaluation process and the common template will be used for all indicator reports.

Indicator reports, including the approved evaluation results, will be presented to Heads of Delegation in December for approval.

The reports will be submitted to Expert Groups (EGs) and State and Conservation representatives for intersessional review concomitantly with submission to the Heads of Delegation meeting, comments by EG and WG representatives to be provided to Secretariat 10 days prior to the Heads of Delegation meeting. The Secretariat will consolidate the input and share it with the Meeting and indicator leads by information deadline for the meeting. Leads will be invited to provide clarifications and corrections to the Meeting, as needed.

Thematic assessments

Thematic assessments (i.e. integrated data assessments), including the integrated assessments of the approved indicator results, will be done as follows:

- Biodiversity: Secretariat/partner
- Hazardous substances: automated, via ICES
- Litter: [possibly through HELCOM BLUES]
- Noise: [possibly through HELCOM BLUES]
- Eutrophication: Automated, via ICES
- Pressure and impacts: Secretariat
- Economic and social analyses: [Secretariat, possibly through HELCOM BLUES].
- [Foodweb: CG Foodweb]
- [Commercial fish:]
-

Results will be included in the thematic assessment reports.

Thematic assessment reports

Thematic assessment reports will be prepared by the relevant lead as listed above, with the exception of the automated assessments, for which XXXX will be responsible.

The thematic assessment reports, including the results of the assessments themselves and relevant contextual information, will be presented for approval to HELCOM 44-2023.

Reports will be submitted to Expert Groups (EGs) and State and Conservation WG for intersessional review concomitantly with submission to the HELCOM meeting. Comments by EGs and State and Conservation representatives are to be provided to Secretariat by the end of January/beginning of February 2023, as

indicated in the detailed timeline (see Annex 1 for overview). Input will be consolidated by Secretariat and shared with the authors, who will be invited to provide clarifications and corrections as needed. A table with proposed amendments, together with prepared revised drafts will be provided to CPs prior to the HELCOM meeting, to provide an overview of changes and function as the basis for further input and approval at the Meeting.

Summary report

The summary report is envisioned to be prepared by the Secretariat.

The summary report will be based on the information and results presented in the various approved thematic assessments and indicator reports. The content will be supported by contextual information generated under other thematic assessments (e.g. biodiversity element specific pressure and impact maps, possible driver indicators to support the status assessments etc) and where relevant information from the HELCOM Climate Change Fact Sheets.

In addition, the topics for which full thematic assessments or indicator reports are available, there are a number of topics to be included in the summary reports where the assessment for HOLAS III is foreseen to still be more qualitative in nature, e.g. foodweb, commercial fish, threatened species, and management efforts.

The draft Summary Report will be presented for review to the spring meetings of State and Conservation and GEAR. Comments will be collated in tabular format and following the meeting an amended version of the report will be prepared and presented to Heads of Delegation for approval.

Ad Hoc working structures

To support and further strengthen the holistic aspect of the work it is proposed that a small scale platform be established, the task of which would be to, at the expert level, ensure improved cooperation and integration between the thematic work strands. It is envisioned that the platform would consist of relevant leads for the various work strands and meet as necessary (likely online) to explore linkages, synergies across segments and how to best include and present these aspects in the reporting.

Annex 1. Proposal for approval processes for HOLAS III

		Approval of data	Approval of indicator results	Indicator report approval	Approval of thematic assessments and assessment result	Approval of summary report	Proposed approval process
2022	23						
2022	24						
2022	25						
2022	26						Online approval process, approval by national experts through State and Conservation WG
2022	27						Summer holiday
2022	28						Summer holiday
2022	29						Summer holiday
2022	30						Summer holiday
2022	31						
2022	32						
2022	33						
2022	34						
2022	35						
2022	36						
2022	37						
2022	38						
2022	39						
2022	40						
2022	41						Approval at State&Conservation
2022	42						
2022	43						
2022	44						
2022	45						GEAR
2022	46						
2022	47						
2022	48						
2022	49						Approval at HOD
2022	50						

		Approval of data	Approval of indicator results	Indicator report approval	Approval of thematic assessments and assessment result	Approval of summary report	Proposed approval process
2022	51						Christmas
2022	52						Christmas
2023	1						Christmas
2023	2						
2023	3						
2023	4						Mid-way comments
2023	5						
2023	6						
2023	7						
2023	8						
2023	9						Approval at HELCOM 44-2023
2023	10						
2023	11						
2023	12						
2023	13						
2023	14						
2023	15						
2023	16						
2023	17						
2023	18						
2023	19						S&C
2023	20						GEAR
2023	21						
2023	22						
2023	23						
2023	24						Approval at HOD