

THIRD HELCOM HOLISTIC ASSESSMENTS OF THE BALTIC SEA ENVIRONMENT (HOLAS III)

- **Planning and process**

HOLAS III Assessment Phase (November 2021-December 2023)

Document 4J-85

General information

Work to support the publication of the Second State of the Baltic Sea report - timeline

	2020				2021				2022				2023			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Indicator development/consolidation (HELCOM Indicators)	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█								
Establishing and ensuring dataflows (HELCOM DataFlow)			█	█	█	█	█	█	█							
Refining and further developments of assessments (HELCOM MetDev)					█	█	█	█	█							
HOLAS III Assessment								█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█

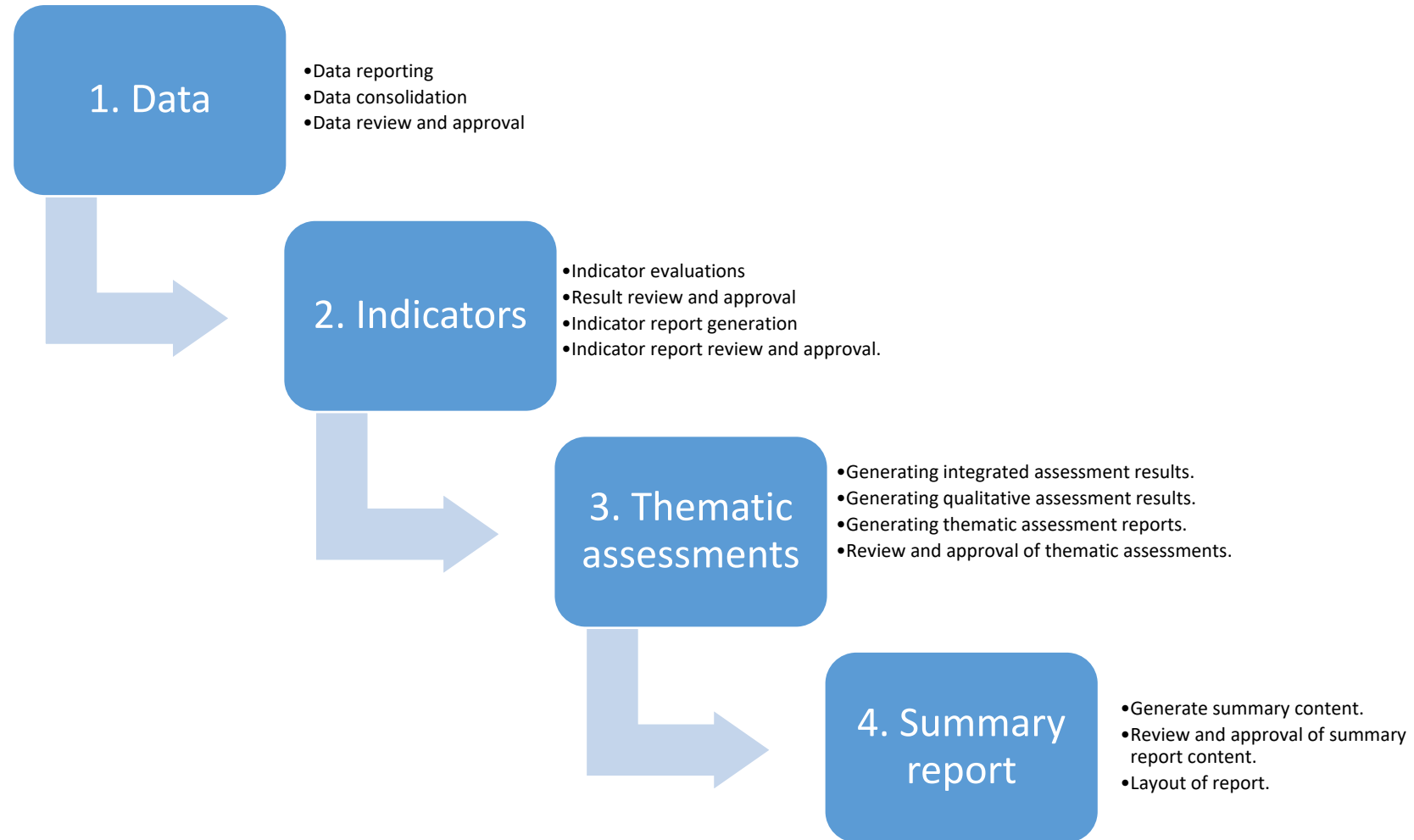
Changes to HOLAS III

- Based on:
 - Results from the lessons learned survey done after HOLAS II.
 - Early scoping with CPs under GEAR and S&C.
 - Input and feedback from EG and indicator leads.
 - MSFD Art. 8 reporting timelines and timelines of associated national processes.

Deliverables

- Updated and expanded spatial pressure and impact tool
- Updated integrated assessment tools
- Updated and expanded methodology for economic and social analyses
- Data and metadata
- Indicator reports
- Thematic assessments
 - Quantitative indicator driven integrated assessment results
 - Results of non-indicator driven analyses
 - Qualitative assessments
- Summary report
- Website

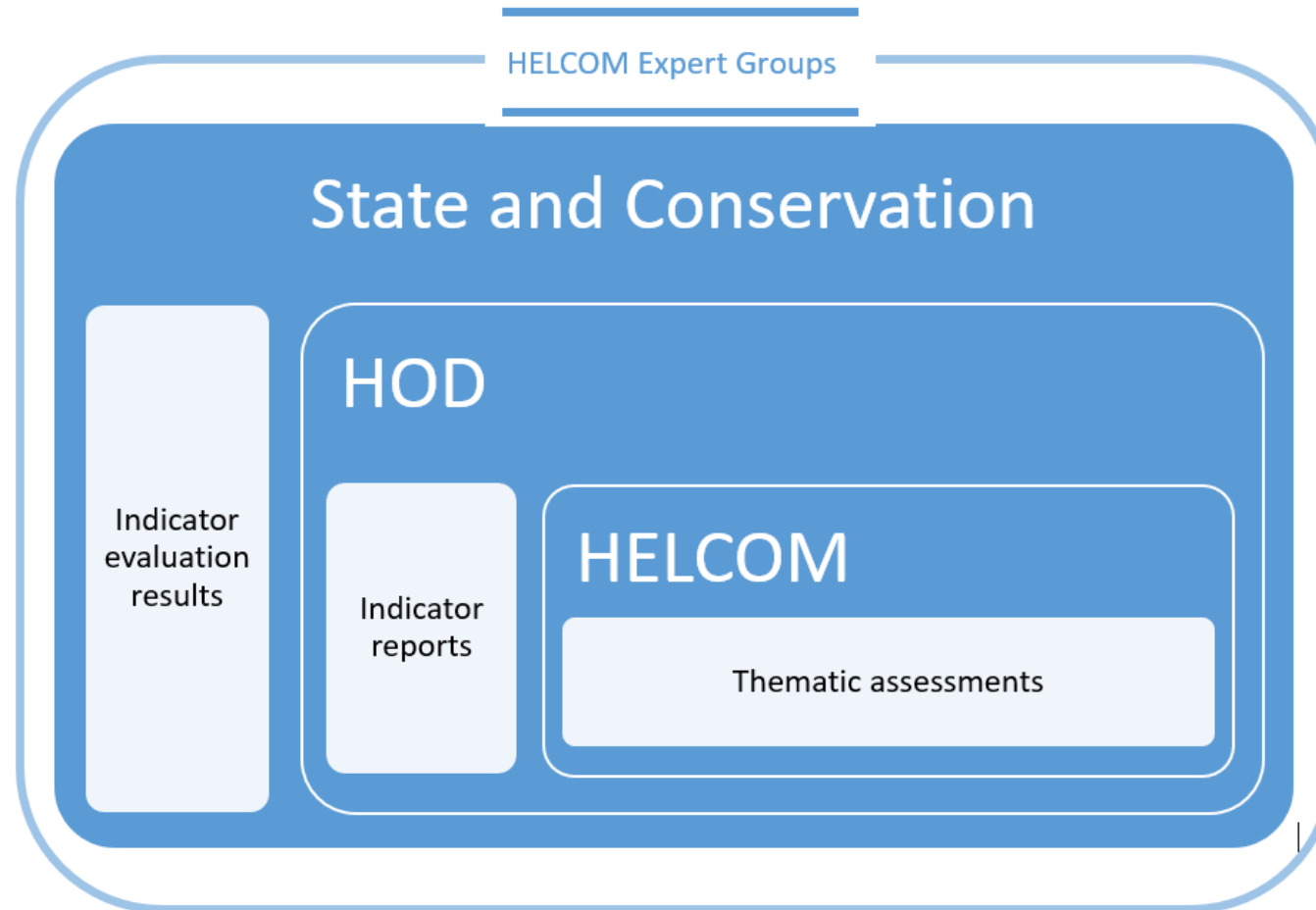
Work flow



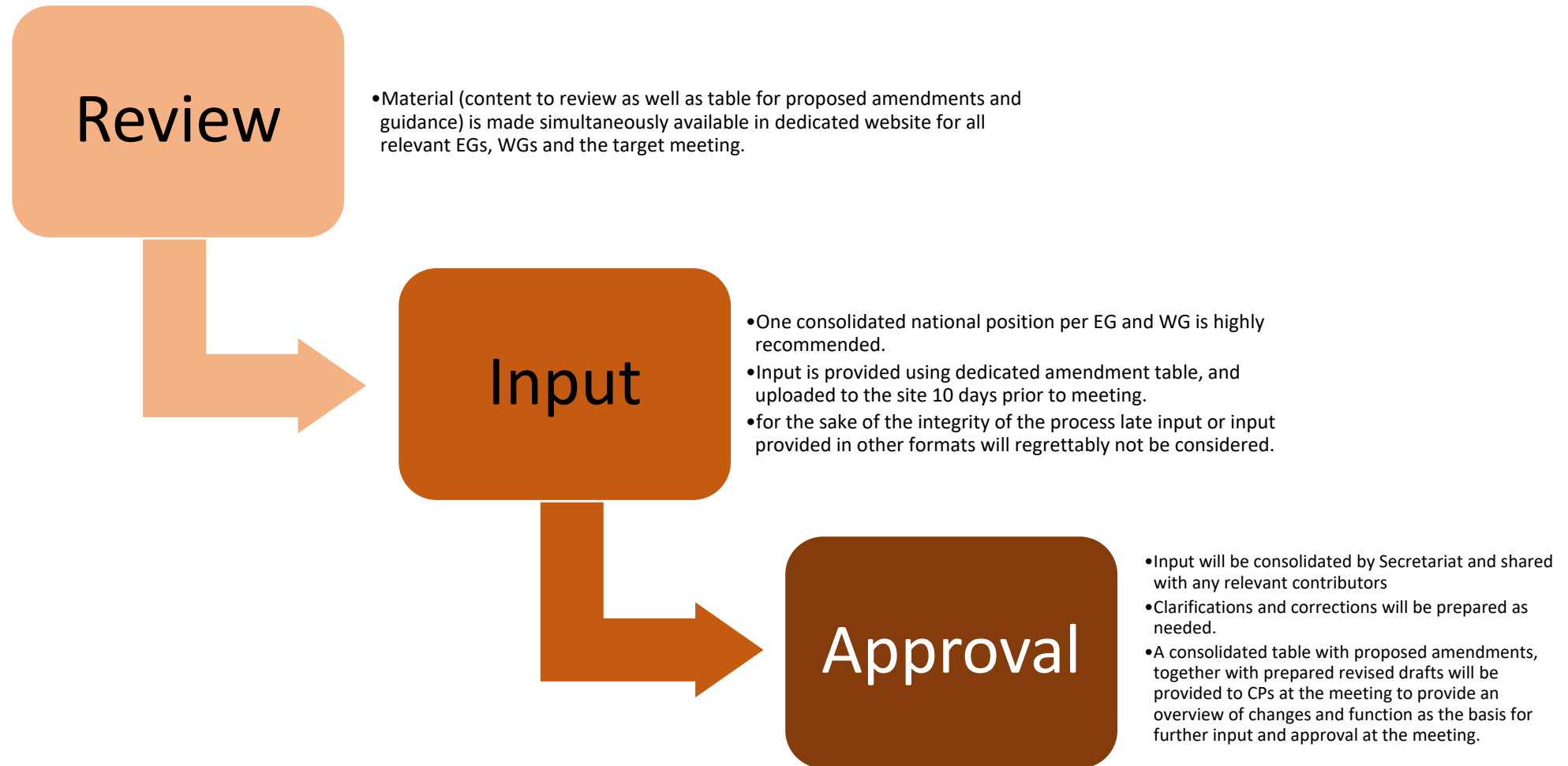
Decision process and structure

- Nested approach for approval, capitalizing on the existing meeting schedule and structure.
- To ensure that the all relevant expertise is harnessed, and equal treatment of the Working Groups, at each step of approval relevant WG's and EG's are invited to intersessionally review and provide input to the products from a technical and scientific perspective.
- At each approval step the products will be made available to all reviewers at the same time, thus ensuring that all parties are reviewing the latest version of the documents and aiming to avoid overlapping but disjointed review processes.

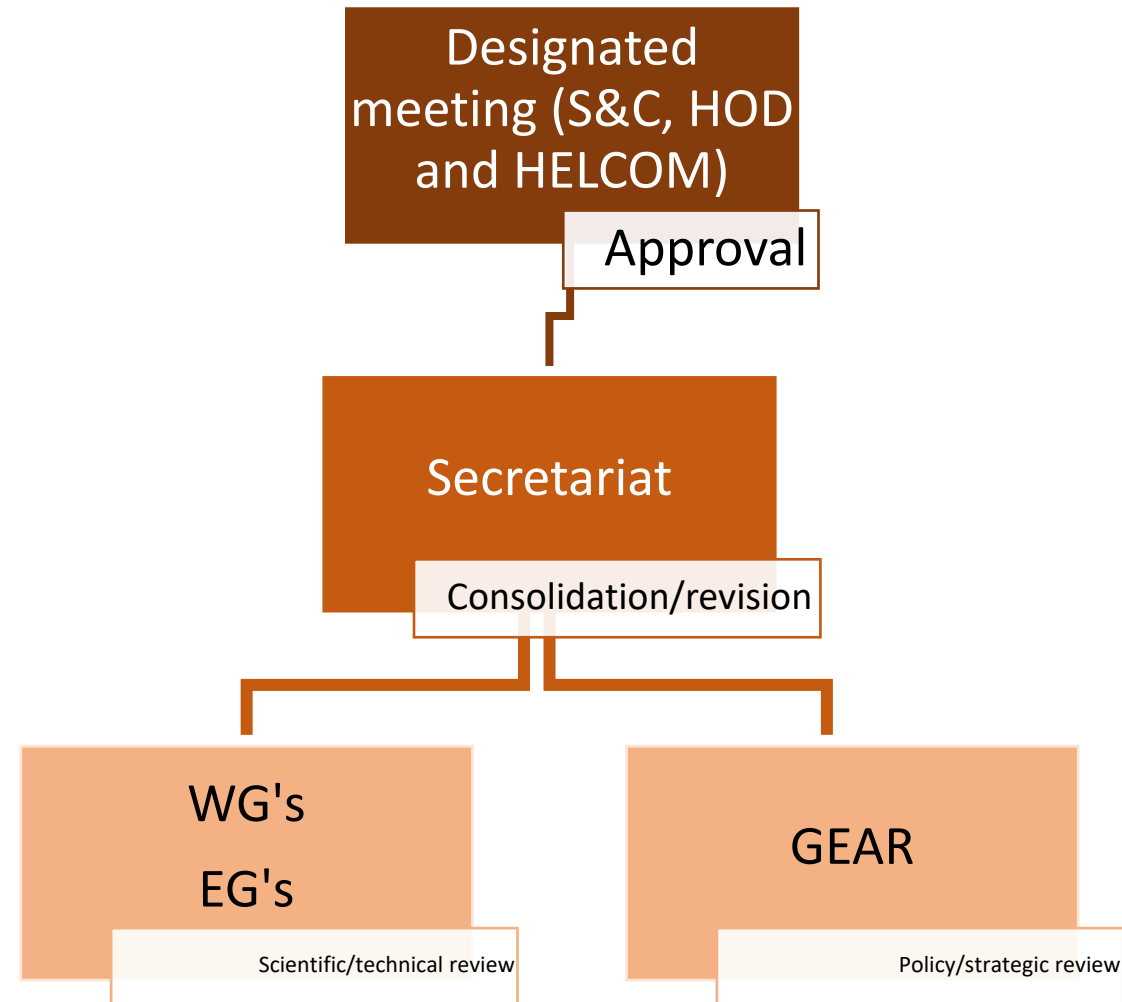
Decision process and structure



Decision process and structure



Decision process and structure



Work to support the publication of the Second State of the Baltic Sea report – specified timeline

Year	Week number	Task/action													Calendar events		
		Data collection	Approval of data	Evaluation of indicators	Approval of indicator results	Indicator report writing	Indicator report approval	Analysis of BSPI/BSII & ESA	Integrated assessments (HEAT, ...)	Thematic assessment report writing	Approval of thematic assessments	Summary report	Approval of summary report	Layout (all products)		Website	Publication (all products)
2022	26																
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																
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2022	38																
2022	39																
2022	40																
2022	41																S&C
2022	42																
2022	43																
2022	44																
2022	45																GEAR

Provisional deadlines for HOLAS III:

- **Indicator evaluation results** for HOLAS III need to be ready for review and approval by **31 August 2022**.
- **Indicator reports for HOLAS III** need to be ready for review and approval by **27 September 2022**.
- **Thematic reports of integrated assessments and analyses** (ESA, Biodiversity, Hazardous substances etc) need to be ready for review and approval by **5 December 2022**.
- **State of the Baltic Sea report content** needs to be ready for review and approval **8 May 2023**.
- **Layout and website** need to be ready, and published by end of 2023.

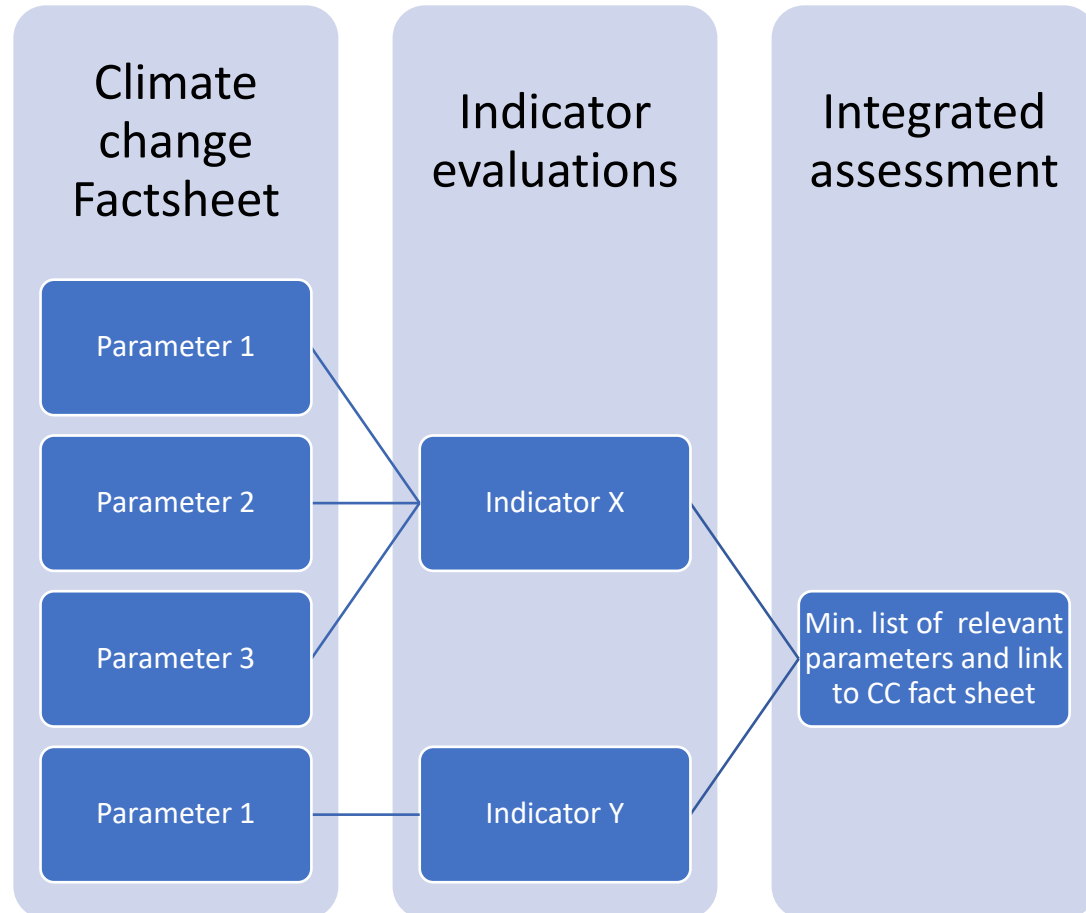
CG Focal Points

- In order to ensure clear, transparent and directed flow of information between the Secretariat, the CPs and national experts within the HOLAS III process it is proposed to establish a time bound correspondence group of national HOLAS III focal points as outlined below.
- *Mandate*: Time-bound CG, the group would not have a mandate to approve any products.
- *Task*: functioning as support with regards to management and coordination of the HOLAS III related activities at the national level (e.g. data reporting, review processes etc.) to ensure that the integrity of the process is maintained. Would also function as the natural communication point for the information flow to and from the Secretariat (and would be included in all relevant HOLAS III correspondence) and would help to ensure that CP can stay informed on progress of the overall work. Should clearly conflicting input be provided as part of the review processes, by experts either representing the same CP or different CPs, the relevant focal points can be contacted and informed by the Secretariat and invited to clarify the position nationally and thus facilitate the approval process.
- *Membership*: consisting of one or two national focal points for HOLAS III. The focal point is envisioned to be a person who manages the national coordination of HOLAS III work (e.g. engages experts in the various processes, organises reviews, collates input etc.), and who would thus benefit from a more in depth overview of the progress of the HOLAS III process as a whole.
- *Mode of working*: The CG would be a formalized communication channel between the Secretariat and the CPs regarding the practical processes surrounding HOLAS III. It is not foreseen that the CG would have any meetings, however, should any major changes in the agreed process occur the focal points may jointly be briefed on the proposed way forward, to ensure structured and direct flow of information.

Holistic Perspectives

- Will be the focus of the summary report.
- Possible full time support from mid 2022-mid 2023.
- Underpinned by dedicated workshops.

HOLAS III and climate change



- For the indicator reports:
 - List of relevant parameters.
 - How may the indicator topic already have been affected and how may it be affected in the future?
 - Are there consequences that need to be considered (e.g. need to review threshold values or methodology)?
- For reports:
 - section on climate change overall.
- Driver indicators:
 - Explore if some of the CC parameters may be useful as driver indicators?

Data

By Jannica Haldin, HELCOM
Tuesday, May 4, 2021



Data

1.1 Data submission

1.2 Data consolidation

1.3 Data approval

Process

1.1. Data submission

- Preparatory data call approved in December 2020, data call published in April 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.

1.2 Data consolidation

- Data consolidated by Secretariat and provided for review by national experts in an online workspace, approved by correspondence through nationally nominated experts.
- Metadata will be provided and included, depending on the dataflow, either by the data submitters or by the HELCOM Secretariat.

1.3 Review and Approval

Review and Approval

1.3 Review and Approval

- Review and approval will be done by nominated national experts and will take place intersessionally online as indicated in the timetable.

Data: Provisional timeline

Process
Submission (with date)
Review/endorsement
Approval

2021

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Data reporting												

2022

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Data reporting						6 June-1 July						

Indicators

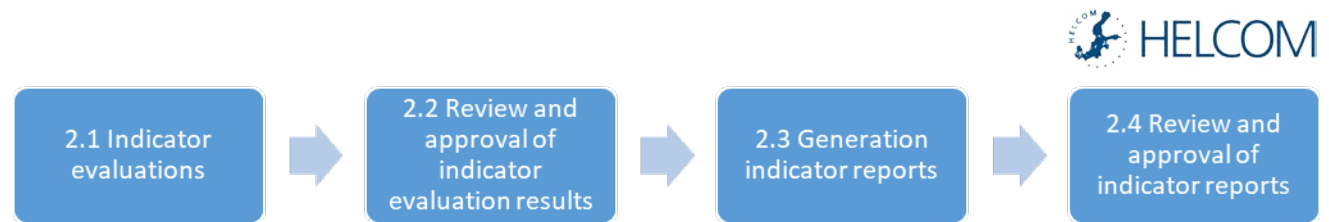
By Jannica Haldin, HELCOM
Tuesday, May 4, 2021



Indicators: general

- New indicator website (BLUES)
- New indicator report template (BLUES)
- Will include climate change considerations.
- Will, where possible, include information on/links with trends, drivers, pressures and impacts.

Indicator Reports



Process

2.1 Generating indicator results

- The indicator evaluations are performed by the respective indicators leads.

2.2 Review and approval of indicator results.

2.3 Generating 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 and Pressure WGs 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.
- Where deemed appropriate linking the pressure indicators with information on sources and loads will be explored jointly by relevant experts under the auspice of the Holistic Expert Platform.

2.4 Review and approval of indicator reports

Approval

2.2 Review and approval of indicator results

- The results of the indicator evaluation will be presented for approval by the State and Conservation Working Group 2022 as indicated in the timetable.
- Results will be submitted to the WGs and EGs for review concomitantly with submission to State and Conservation, nationally consolidated comments by WGs and EGs representatives to be provided to Secretariat 10 days prior to the State and Conservation WG meeting, for consolidation by Secretariat. Comments and input will be shared with the State & Conservation and indicator leads by information deadline for the meeting. Indicator leads invited to provide clarifications and corrections to the Meeting, as needed.

2.4 Review and approval of indicator reports

- Indicator reports, including the approved evaluation results, will be presented to Heads of Delegation in December 2022 for approval.
- The reports will be submitted to EGs, WGs and GEAR for intersessional review concomitantly with submission to the Heads of Delegation meeting, nationally consolidated input from the review process 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.

Indicators: Provisional timeline

Process
Submission (with date)
Review/endorsement
Approval

2022

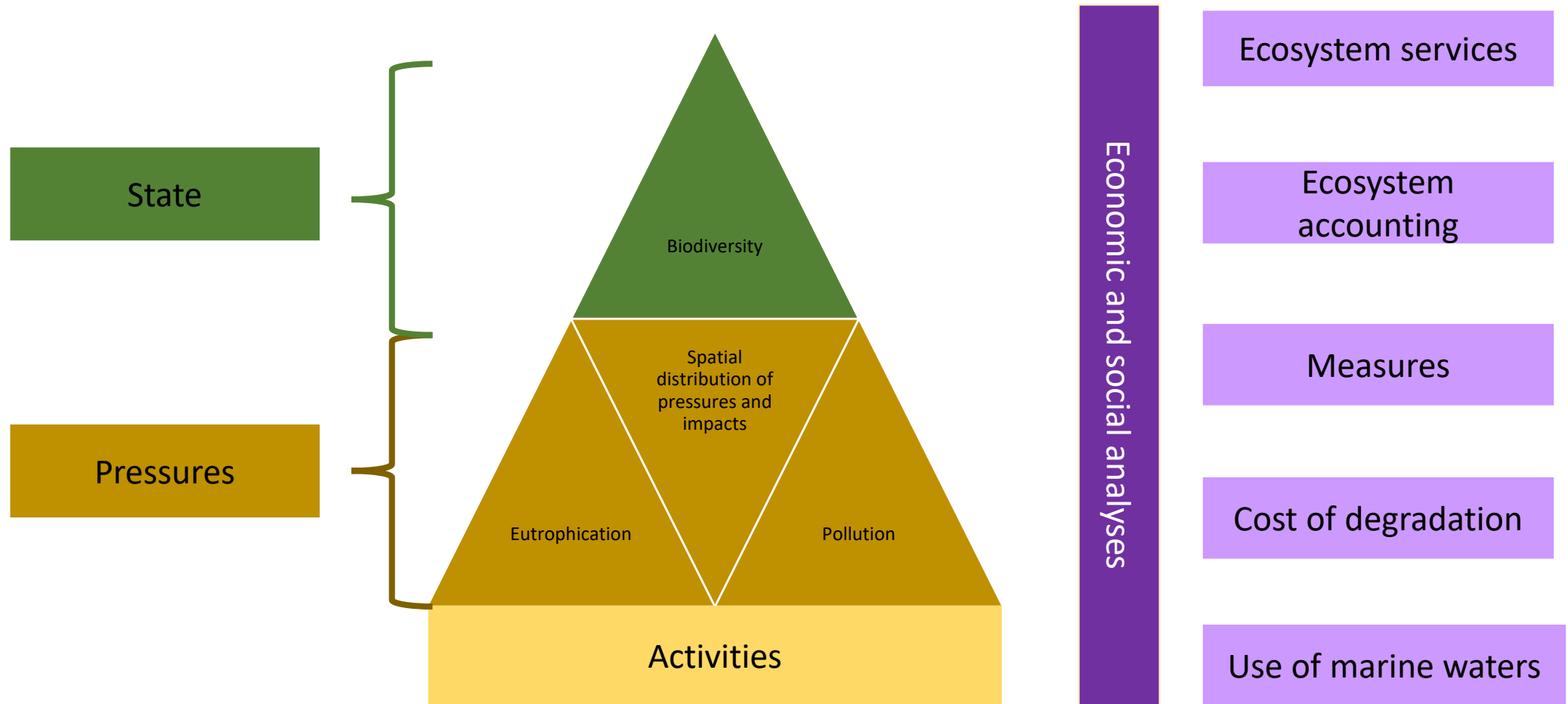
Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Indicator evaluation results								31 August		10-14 October*		
Indicator reports										17 October		8-9 December*

Thematic Assessments

Thematic Assessments

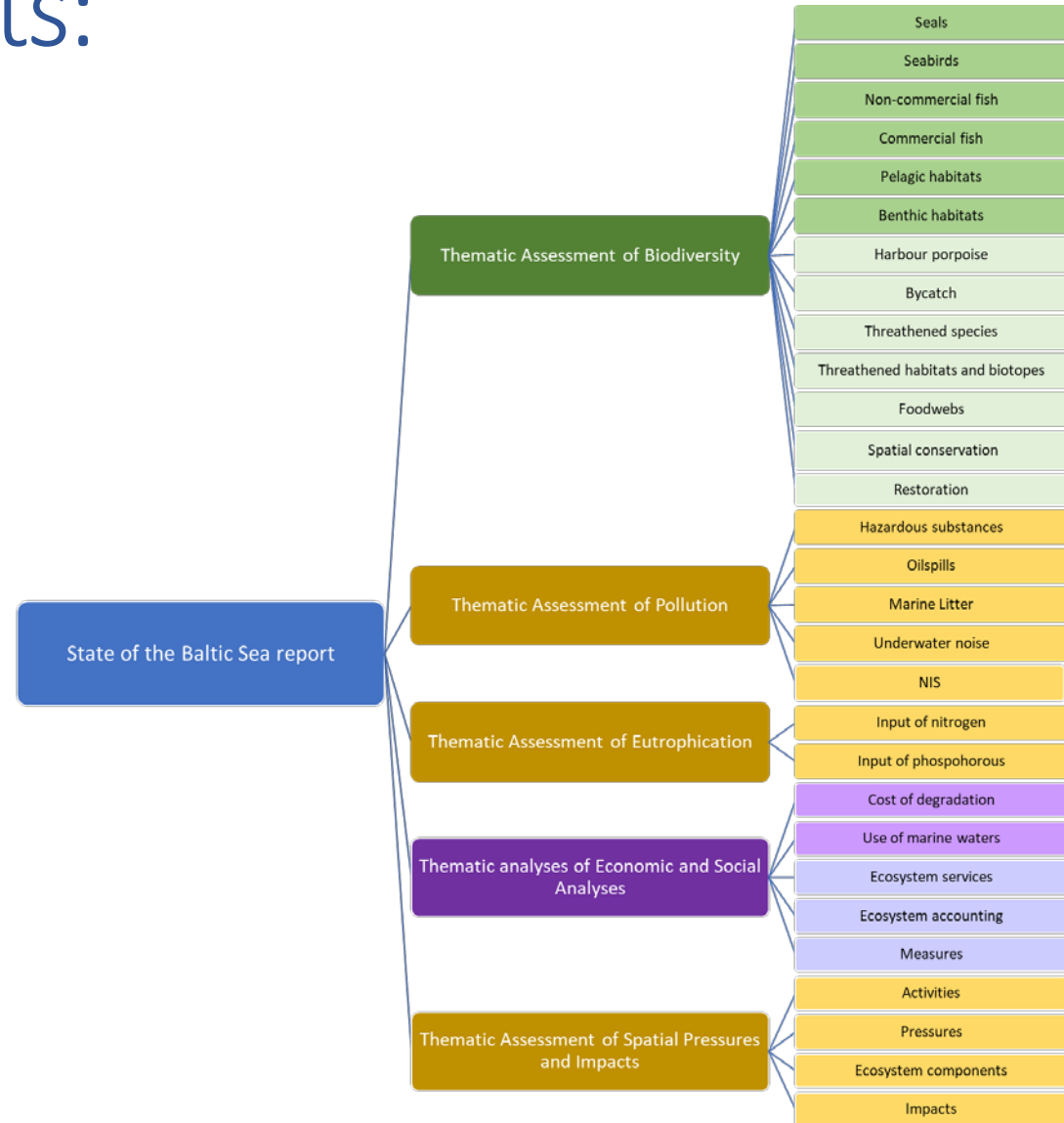
- Will build on information in indicator reports, integrated assessment results, qualitative assessments and previously published material (e.g. Maritime Assessment, Climate change fact sheet, MPAs, Red list...)

Logic of thematic assessments



Thematic Assessments: general

- Focusing on presenting methods and results in detail (focusing on the **WHAT** and the **HOW**).
- New topics introduced, expanding from those topics included in the integrated assessments.



Template for Thematic Assessments

- Prepare a shared template for thematic assessments (early 2022, first draft to be reviewed in spring 2022, approved by S&C in autumn 2022, jointly with the indicator results).
 - Ensures that the relevant information needed for the Summary report is available under all the thematic assessments.
 - Ensure that the thematic assessment reports present the needed information to make them policy relevant and also highlights gaps etc.
 - Support the holistic perspective.
 - Make the information and reports more accessible and easier to navigate.

Who will do what for the thematic assessments

State: Biodiversity []	Pressure: Pollution [EN HAZ, supported by Secretariat]	Pressure: Eutrophication [IN EUTRO, supported by Secretariat]	Economic and social analyses (Secretariat)	Pressure: Spatial pressures and impacts (Secretariat)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Introduction [responsible for running BEAT, supported by Secretariat] •Species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Seals [responsible for running BEAT] •Harbour porpoise (BLUES) •Birds [responsible for running BEAT] •Fish [responsible for running BEAT] •Zooplankton [responsible for running BEAT] •Phytoplankton [responsible for running BEAT] •Foodweb •Threatened species (Secretariat) •Bycatch (BLUES) •Habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Seabed •Pelagic (BLUES) •Threatened habitats and biotopes (Secretariat) •Spatial conservation (MPAs, OECMs) (Secretariat) •Restoration (Secretariat) •BEAT methodology (BLUES) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Introduction [responsible for running CHASE, supported by Secretariat] •Contaminants (Secretariat) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Pharmaceuticals [] •Oilspills [indicator lead] •Marine litter (BLUES) •Underwater noise (BLUES) •Non-indigenous species [Indicator lead] •CHASE methodology [EN HAZ, supported by Secretariat] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Introduction [responsible for running HEAT, supported by Secretariat] •Nutrient concentration [responsible for running HEAT] •Direct effects [responsible for running HEAT] •Indirect effects [responsible for running HEAT] •HEAT methodology [IN EUTRO supported by Secretariat] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Introduction (Secretariat) •Ecosystem services [Secretariat] •Ecosystem accounting [Secretariat] •Drivers (Secretariat) •Use of marine waters (BLUES) •Cost of degradation (BLUES) • Effectivness of measures (BLUES) • Methodologies (Secretariat) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Introduction (Secretariat) •Methodology and tool (Secretariat)

Thematic Assessments

Process

3.1 Generating thematic assessment results

- Data driven thematic assessments (including integrated data assessments of the approved indicator results), is proposed to be taken forward as indicated in the list. Information presented in square brackets is provisional and either remains open or is dependent on ongoing processes.
- Qualitative assessments is proposed to be taken forward as indicated in the list. Information presented in square brackets is provisional and either remains open or is dependent on ongoing processes.
- 3.3 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 the IN EUTRO and EN HAZ will be responsible, supported by the Secretariat. The responsible party for the Thematic Assessment of Biodiversity remains open and will depend on the hosting of the BEAT tool.
- 3.4 Review and approval of thematic assessments



Approval

3.4 Review and approval of thematic assessments

- The thematic assessment reports, including the results of the assessments themselves and relevant contextual information, will be presented for approval to HELCOM 44-2023.
- The reports will be submitted to EGs, WGs and GEAR for intersessional review concomitantly with submission to the HELCOM meeting. Nationally consolidated input from the review process is to be provided to Secretariat by the end of January/beginning of February 2023, as indicated in the detailed timeline. 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.

Thematic Assessments: Provisional timeline

Process
Submission (with date)
Review/endorsement
Approval

2022

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Integrated assessments										17 October		
Thematic assessment reports												5 December

2023

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Thematic assessment reports			15-16 March									

Summary report

By Jannica Haldin, HELCOM
Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Summary Report: general

- Will focus on linking the information together and the holistic aspects (looking at the **WHAT** and the **WHY**).

Summary report process and link to earlier HOLAS III work.

Summary assessment (1/4-2/4 2023)

Build the summary report based on Thematic Assessment content, indicator reports and other supporting information (e.g. CC fact sheet)

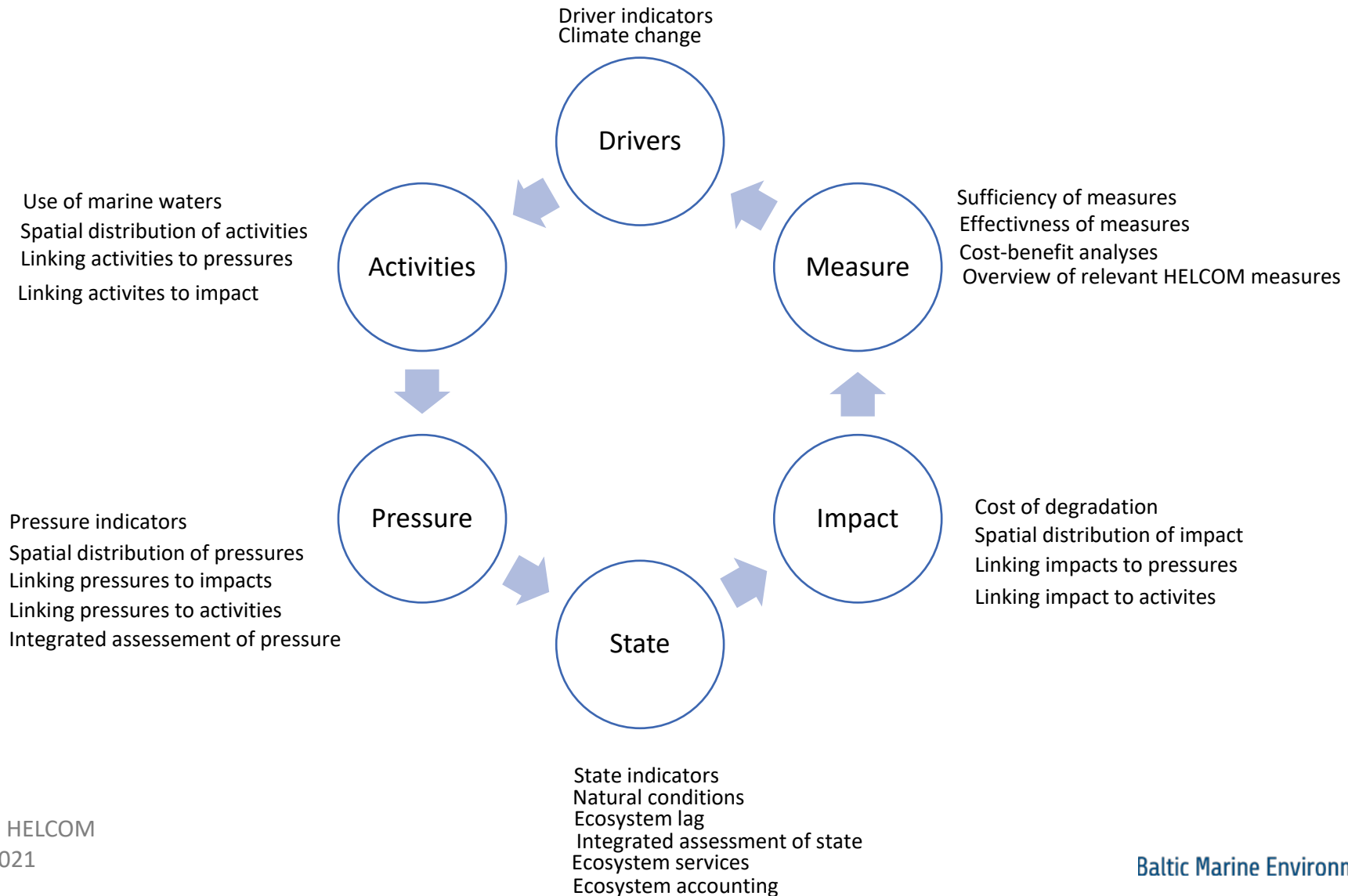
Thematic Assessments (4/4 2022)

Follow and proof read the Thematic Assessment reports.

Structure of Summary Report (2/4 2022)

How should the report be structured?
How should the chapters be structured?
How do we present the different material?
What type of information will be needed (will also affect the Thematic Assessments)?

Link between HOLAS III and HELCOM overall work



Summary Report: general

Chapter X

- Status/state (map+text)
 - What indicators/topics are considered (textbox?)
- Trends (graph+text)
- Links ecosystem services
- What are the main pressures (map+text)
 - What do we know about sources?
 - What do we know about pathways?
- What are the main activities (pressure/activity matrix+map+text)
 - Use of marine waters
 - Ecosystem accounting
- Drivers
 - Direct
 - How does climate change effect this topic
 - Indirect
- What actions/measures are HELCOM taking to tackle these activities/pressures (HELCOM actions overview+spatial presentation+text)?
- Natural conditions/ecosystem lag
- How might this topic affect/be affected by other topics included in the assessment (crosslinkage graph+text)
- Gaps/uncertainties
- Summary of impacts
 - Cost of degradation (if available)

Summary Report

4.1 Generating content for the summary report



4.2 Review and approval of summary report content



4.3 Layout of reports

Process

4.1 Generating content for the summary report

- 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, implementation information from the HELCOM explorer etc.

4.2 Review and approval of summary report content

4.3 Layout of report

- Layout of the reports will be done in-house at the Secretariat.

Approval

4.2 Review and approval of summary report content

- The summary report content will be submitted to EGs, WGs and GEAR for intersessional review concomitantly with submission to the HOD meeting for approval (June 2023). Nationally consolidated input from the review process is to be provided to Secretariat 10 days prior to the meeting. Input will be consolidated by Secretariat and shared with any relevant authors. Clarifications and corrections will be prepared as needed. A table with proposed amendments, together with prepared revised drafts will be provided to CPs at the HOD meeting, to provide an overview of changes and function as the basis for further input and approval at the meeting.



Summary report: provisional timeline

	Process
	Submission (with date)
	Review/endorsement
	Approval

2023

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Summary report, content					8 May	13-14 June*						
Summary report, layout and website						15 June						15 December

Thank you for your attention!

