

State and Conservation 15-2021

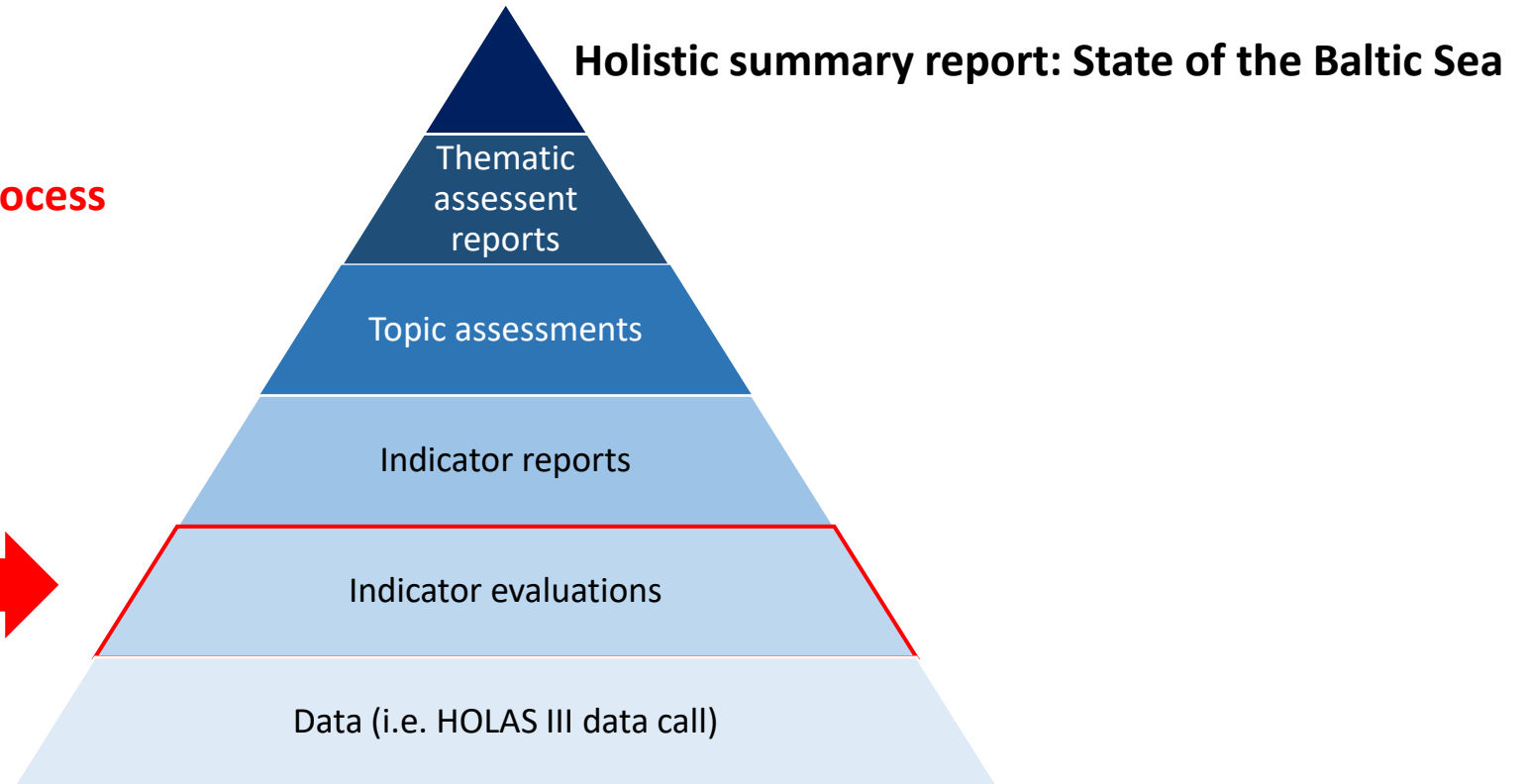
Indicators and assessments towards HOLAS III



Conceptual overview of the HOLAS III assessment structure and the progressive integration of results.

***also sent to HOD for threshold value process**

Red outline will show where in the scheme the current slide is addressing – e.g. ‘indicator evaluations’.



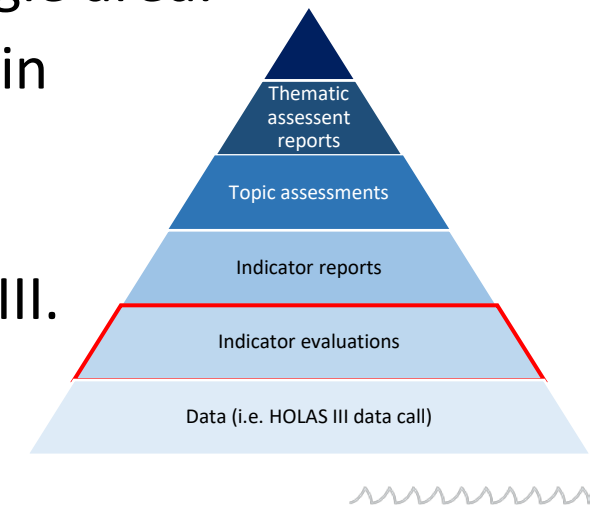
Fish



Abundance of key coastal fish species



- ***Abundance of key coastal fish species - Document 3J.28**
- Scale 3, as in HOLAS II.
- Spatial coverage expected to increase due to additional data from areas in Poland, Lithuania, Finland and Sweden (possibly also more).
- If data allows additional species may also be included. Aggregation of species results will be applied if more than one species included in a single area.
- The HOLAS III indicator will follow the general approach applied in HOLAS II.
- The 'baseline approach' will utilise the more robust ASCETS. Methodology, recently published and reviewed under FISH PRO III.
- Threshold values based on 5th and 95th percentile values of the bootstrapped distribution for the ASCETS approach (on the data for the specific assessment).



State and Conservation - Action requested

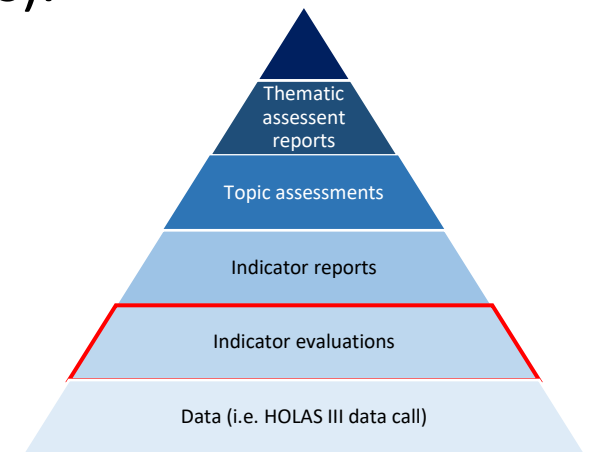
The Meeting is invited to:

- provide further technical guidance to the indicator leads and experts, including specific requests defined within the document;
- consider and endorse the proposed developments of the indicator for use in the HOLAS III assessment, including list of species to be included in evaluation as submitted to this Meeting.



Size structure of key coastal fish species

- ***Size structure of key coastal fish species (L90) - Document 3J.29**
- Scale 3 expected, as for other coastal fish indicators.
- Spatial coverage expected to be aligned with key coastal fish species indicator, as it builds on the same monitoring data.
- Species to be assessed: perch, flounder, also potentially pike and pikeperch (in more Northern coastal areas) and eelpout (Danish coastal waters).
- Analysis ongoing in HELCOM BLUES.
- L90 - length of the individual at the 90th percentile of the size distribution, responds to fishing pressure and not other sources.
- Preliminary threshold values included: L90 Perch 22-24 cm, L90 Flounder 25-30 cm.
- Further progress anticipated in autumn 2021 and by March 2022.



State and Conservation - Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

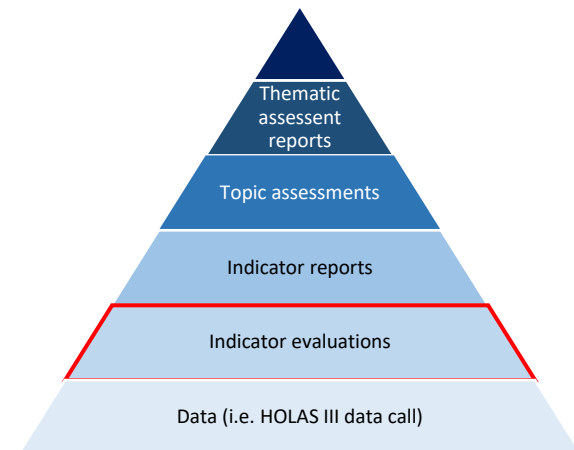
- provide further technical guidance to the indicator leads and experts, including specific requests defined within the document;
- consider and endorse the proposed developments of the indicator for use in the HOLAS III assessment.



Abundance of coastal fish key functional groups



- ***Abundance of coastal fish key functional groups - Document 3J.30**
- Scale 3, as in HOLAS II.
- Spatial coverage expected to increase due to additional data from areas in Poland, Lithuania, Finland and Sweden (possibly also more).
- Lower in Finnish areas due to commercial catch data not being suitable for cyprinid assessment.
- FISH PRO II agreed to only include cyprinids and/or mesopredators (depending on the coastal area) – piscivores excluded.
- The HOLAS III indicator will follow the general approach applied in HOLAS II.
- The ‘baseline approach’ will utilise the more robust ASCETS. Methodology, recently published and reviewed under FISH PRO III.
- Threshold values based on 5th and 95th percentile values of the bootstrapped distribution for the ASCETS approach (on the data for the specific assessment).



State and Conservation - Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

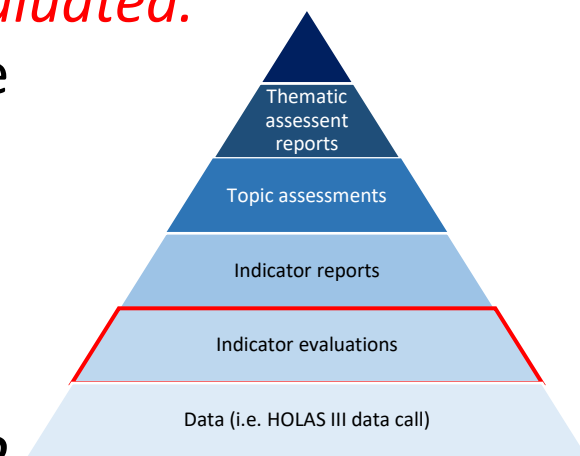
- provide further technical guidance to the indicator leads and experts, including specific requests defined within the document;
- consider and endorse the proposed developments of the indicator for use in the HOLAS III assessment as indicated in the corresponding document, including list of species to be included in evaluation as submitted to this Meeting.



Abundance of non-commercial offshore species (three-spined stickleback, flounder, brill and dab)



- *Abundance of non-commercial offshore species (three-spined stickleback, flounder, brill and dab) - Document 3J.88
- Scale 1 or 2, dependent on delineation of species distribution.
- Preliminary: For stickleback (SD 25, SD 26-29 and 32, and SD 30), flounder (**SD 24-23, SD 24-25**, SD 26 and 28, and SD 27 and 29-32), and for brill and dab one assessment per species covering SD 22-32. *Turbot also being evaluated.*
- Methodology as applied for coastal fish indicators and will utilise the more robust ASCETS.
- Threshold values based on Xth and XXth percentile values of the bootstrapped distribution for the ASCETS approach (on the data for the specific assessment).
- Further progress anticipated in autumn 2021 and by March 2022.
- Input to ComFish WS1-2021 also provided.



State and Conservation - Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- provide further technical guidance to the indicator leads and experts, including specific requests defined within the document;
- endorse the indicator as a candidate indicator;
- consider and endorse the proposed developments of the indicator for use in the HOLAS III assessment.



Assessment of non-commercial fish

- **Assessment of non-commercial fish - Document 3J.31**
- Proposal to include non-commercial fish species (if available) as species with equal weight as for commercial fish species in respective species group in the BEAT integration

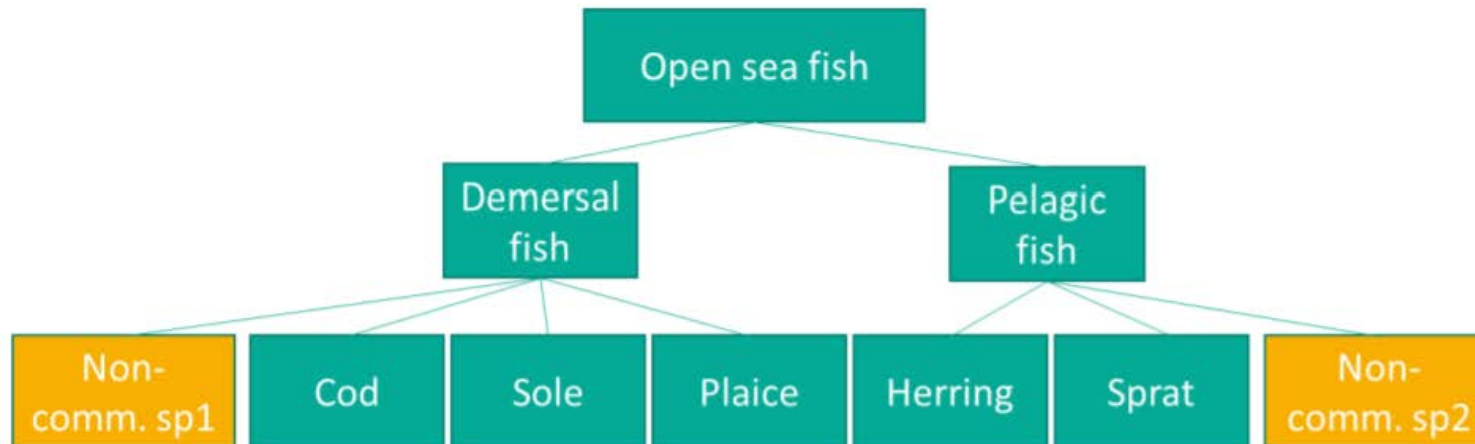
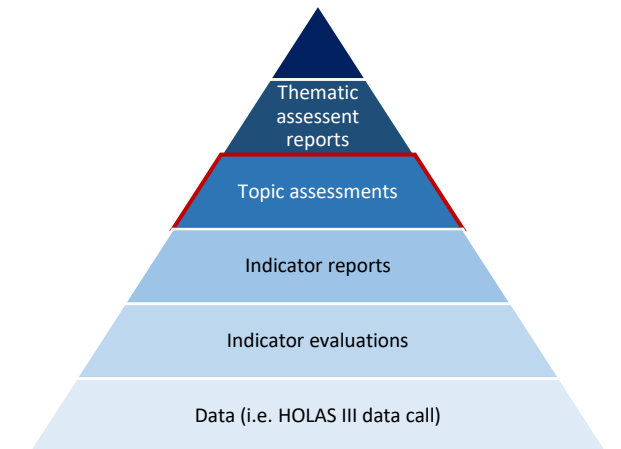


Figure 1. Proposal on integration structure for fish in open sea areas in BEAT for HOLAS III.



State and Conservation - Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- take note that the integrated assessment of non-commercial fish will be done utilizing the BEAT assessment tool.

