



Document title	Information from HOLAS III data call and HOLAS III data collection process
Code	3J-13
Category	INF
Agenda Item	3J – Progress of relevant HELCOM expert groups and projects
Submission date	13.9.2021
Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	HOD 59-2020 (Outcome p. 6.16-6.18), State & Conservation 14-2021 (Outcome, p. 4J.48-49)

Background

This document contains information from HOLAS III data call and HOLAS III data collection process.

HOLAS III data call outline was approved in HOD 59-2020 ([Outcome](#), p. 6.16-18) and detailed version with reporting guidance and specific reporting formats was submitted to State & Conservation 14-2021 meeting. [The HOLAS III data call](#) specifies following data needs for HOLAS III which requires Contracting Parties to take action:

1. “Speeded schedule data call” to facilitate early reporting of monitoring data for the assessment period 2016-2021 and to contain all required parameters for indicator-based assessments. This applies to regular monitoring data reported annually to HELCOM / HELCOM data hosts.

2. “Ad hoc data call” to complement regular data collection, for indicators without existing data

flows and to feed into spatial and pressure and impact assessment. Ad hoc data call is subdivided to following strands:

- **2a. Data for indicators**

- **2b. Data on human activities** for cumulative impact assessment / spatial and pressure impact assessment

- **2c. Data on ecosystem components** for cumulative impact assessment / spatial and pressure impact assessment

As some Contracting Parties have already started to prepare the work on planning the data deliveries, this document outlines current status, expected issues for HOLAS III data availability and planned next steps for efficient data delivery for HOLAS III by the reporting deadline of end of May 2022.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- coordinate national response to the data call in line with the HOLAS III timeline
- approve the arranging of helpdesk sessions for data rapporteurs in early 2022, arranged by the Secretariat.
- coordinate nationally and nominate experts to participate in data reporting helpdesk session to be organized in the first quarter of 2022

Information from HOLAS III data call and HOLAS III data collection process

HOLAS III data call

The [HOLAS III data call](#) specifies following data needs for HOLAS III which requires Contracting Parties to take action:

1. **“Speeded schedule data call”** to facilitate early reporting of monitoring data for the assessment period 2016-2021 and to contain all required parameters for indicator-based assessments. This applies to regular monitoring data reported annually to HELCOM / HELCOM data hosts.

2. **“Ad hoc data call”** to complement regular data collection, for indicators without existing data

flows and to feed into spatial and pressure and impact assessment. Ad hoc data call is subdivided to following strands:

- **2a. Data for indicators**

- **2b. Data on human activities** for cumulative impact assessment / spatial and pressure impact assessment

- **2c. Data on ecosystem components** for cumulative impact assessment / spatial and pressure impact assessment

Timeline

Timeline of the data collection process for HOLAS III is outlined below.

Process step	December 2020	April 2021	October 2021	Q1/2022	April 2022	end of May 2022
Data call approved	HOD 59-2020					
Data call specified and published		State & Conservaton 14-2021				
Data call reminder			State & Conservation 15-2021			
Data reporting sessions				Helpdesk sessions		
Data call progress report					State & Conservation 16-2022	
Deadline for reporting						HOLAS III reporting deadline

Current status of reporting

Regular reporting

For regular HELCOM data collection, reporting deadline for 2020 monitoring data is 1 September. Therefore the regular data reporting has taken place for 2016-2020 datasets.

Ad hoc data call

Status of ad hoc data call is that some Contracting Parties have started to plan the work on delivering the data by end of May 2022. As the reporting period is 2016-2021 for most datasets, not all data can be delivered earlier. However, it is recommended to investigate providing data as early as possible to avoid overload in end of May 2022. To assist in this process, HELCOM Secretariat will organize thematic data reporting helpdesk sessions in early 2022.

Expected issues with HOLAS III data collection

HOLAS III reporting timeline for 2021 monitoring data is earlier than regular practice. This will result in some data gaps for year 2021. The foreseen gaps were reported to State & Conservation 13-2020 based on input gathered from Contracting Parties (Document 4J-17). Following STATE&CONSERAVTION 13-2020, some Contracting Parties have signalled the possibility to deliver data earlier than indicated for State & Conservation 13-2020, thus diminishing the originally indicated gap.

The HOLAS III data call was planned ins such a way that it targets only data which cannot be derived from other data collection activities, aiming at avoiding duplication of efforts. Thus, data which is collected and reported under other frameworks was excluded from the data call. However, as the HOLAS III assessment phase is approaching there has been indication that in a few case such data, which was expected to be available for the assessment, may not available be to HELCOM or cannot be used for the assessment. Should this persist there is a need to consider additional HOLASIII data collection efforts, e.g. targeted data requests on specific topics, in order to ensure the data is available in time for assessment and, by extension, the integrity of the assessment.

HOLAS III data reporting helpdesk session

Since the data call is cross-sectorial and detailed in terms of defined data needs, it is suggested that the Secretariat organizes helpdesk sessions for Contracting Parties for Q&A of issues that arise in the data call. Such sessions aim to provide Contracting Parties with support for the data reporting, share information and give rapporteurs the chance to lift any foreseen or encountered issues with the reporting for discussion. To optimize the added value of such session the sessions are suggested to be organized in thematically grouping following the data call structure:

- 1. Speeded schedule data call for indicators
- 2a. Ad hoc data call for indicators
- 2b. Data on human activities
- 2c. Data on ecosystem components

Contracting Parties are requested to nominate experts dealing with data reporting and to register interest to helpdesk sessions to joni.kaitaranta@helcom.fi by 1 December 2021.