



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature
Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION
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Document title	Information from the ICES Data Centre on simplified reporting formats
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Background

This document provides information on development of solutions to improve the situation of reporting to the COMBINE database by the Contracting Parties. The reporting status situation and gaps outlined in document 3MA-1 might be improved if submission of data can be assisted with a simpler reporting format. Therefore a simplified reporting format has been developed for reporting of contaminants and biological effects, and is underway for phytoplankton and zooplankton data.

This document also outlines recent development on data views that are designed to be used by experts preparing the assessments. The functionalities include data extraction tools for parameters defined together with core indicator leads.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information related to development of formats and data views.

Information from the ICES Data Centre

Format developments for contaminant and biological effects data

A simplified format for reporting contaminants and biological effects data has been released to help submitters who cannot submit data using the standard ERF3.2 format. It can be downloaded from the ICES web site at <http://www.ices.dk/marine-data/data-portals/Pages/DOME.aspx>. Press the button marked "Download Reporting Formats" to download all reporting formats in a zip file. The relevant contaminant format and instructions are "Simplified_Format.xlsx" and "Simplified_Format_Instructions.docx". There are examples for biota, sediment and water data in the different tabs.

Submitters should send their data in the simplified format to accessions@ices.dk. ICES will convert the files and load them into the DOME database. Note that only fields marked as "mandatory" are necessary for conversion and entry into the database. The format has been tested on Swedish biological effects data in biota and on Russian contaminants data in water. Some mandatory information is still needed but there is progress and the data will be able to enter the database once Data Centre edits have been confirmed by Sweden and Russia.

Format developments for biological community data

A simplified format for the submission of phytoplankton and zooplankton data is being developed. Drafts will be added to the zip file (http://www.ices.dk/marine-data/Documents/ENV/Environment_Formats.zip) as they become ready. Once they are finalised (April is the target), data will be accepted.

FAQ

A "frequently asked question" document is now available for data submitters and data users and at www.ices.dk/marine-data/Documents/ENV/DOME_Frequently_asked_questions.docx.

Data needed

There are many gaps in data. See the live status of data submissions at <http://data.ices.dk/accessions/AllCommissionSummary.aspx?commission=HELCOM>

Summaries of data by parameter are available at http://www.ices.dk/marine-data/Documents/Submission_Summaries/HELCOM_Data_summaries.xls. This is periodically updated as a snapshot of the database.

Data can be submitted at any time of the year. It is possible that data arriving after the September 1 deadline may not be included in STATE COMBINE database overview because of needed processing time. Data submitted after September 1 are however included in the live status of data submissions.

DOME Views

DOME views (<http://dome.ices.dk/views>)

For assessments and for expert users, DOME views have been created. These allow a view of the data using a number of filters that can be applied to biota, sediment, seawater and disease data. HELCOM expert are welcome to try the views and download their data with methods and QA information.

DOME views for biological community are also being developed.