



Document title	Arrangement of approval for core indicator evaluations for use in HOLAS II integrated assessments
Code	4J-26
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	4J – HELCOM indicators and assessments
Submission date	17.10.2016
Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	HOLAS II 6-2016 (paragraph 8.12 of the outcome)

Background

This document includes information on the arrangement to calculate and approve updated core indicator evaluations to be used in the 2nd HELCOM holistic assessment. The updated indicator evaluations should be provided to the HOLAS II project by late 2016/early 2017 and i.a. used in the thematic integrated assessments on biodiversity, eutrophication and hazardous substances that are planned to be implemented in February 2017 (described in HOLAS II 6-2016 [meeting document](#)). HELCOM experts groups, projects and networks are involved in the work to update the indicator evaluations as indicated in the document.

Dedicated workspaces on the HELCOM portal will be used for national approval by the Contracting Parties. The procedure consists of checking the data used and to approve of the indicator evaluations that will feed into the integrated assessments to be made for HOLAS II. Once the checking procedure is completed, the data used in the indicator will be ‘frozen’ and defined as the HOLAS II assessment data.

This document lists the procedure for approving the indicator evaluations for core indicators that are anticipated to be operational with associated GES boundaries for use in the 2nd HELCOM holistic assessment. The overall timeline is to complete the core indicator evaluations by the end of January 2017 at the latest. Based on the updated indicator evaluations, updated core indicator reports will also be prepared by STATE & CONSERVATION 6-2016.

Note, that the approval process for datasets on pressures and human activities is included separately in meeting document 4J-20. Specific information on data calls and database to be used are provided in document 3MA-1.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- endorse the proposed arrangement for updating and approving of indicators evaluations for use in thematic integrated assessments in HOLAS II,
- take note that these indicator evaluations will also be used to update the core indicator reports, through the relevant HELCOM expert groups/networks/projects, for endorsement by State and Conservation 6-2016.
- inform the Secretariat (ullali.zweifel@helcom.fi) by November 2016 on State and Conservation contact points for approval of indicator evaluations under the respective theme.

Arrangement of approval for core indicator evaluations for use in HOLAS II integrated assessments

The process for approving the core indicator evaluations of the HOLAS II assessment period 2011-2016 is described thematically;

Table 1 – Biodiversity,

Table 2 – Eutrophication,

Table 3 – Hazardous substances,

Table 4 – Non-indigenous species.

As a general overview the process can be described as 1) data being checked nationally 2) indicators being calculated either in a centralized approach or by Lead Countries and checked nationally (Figure 1).

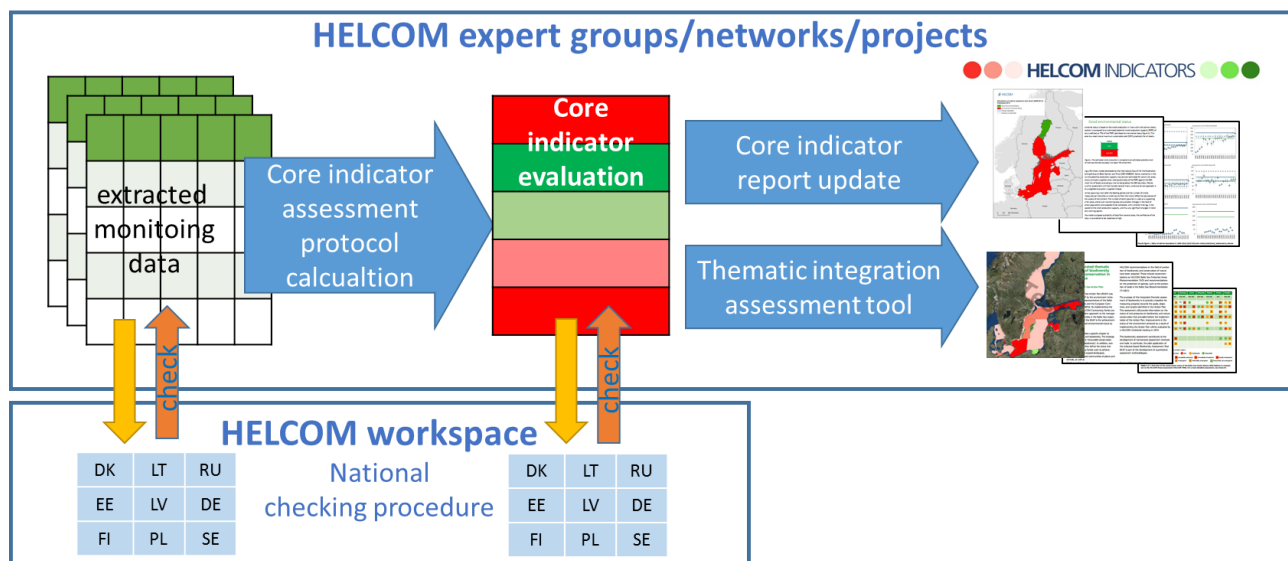


Figure 1. Process for approving of core indicator evaluations to be used in the thematic assessments and for core indicator reports through the HELCOM workspace.

For the first version of HOLAS II, the indicators should be based on data from the period 2011-2015. In late 2017 an update of the indicators will be made to include also data from the year 2016. The data that is to be used and the evaluations that are made using the indicator assessment protocols are to be checked by Contracting Parties. The 'checking procedure' is arranged through dedicated HELCOM workspaces. When the checking procedure is completed, the assessment data and indicator evaluation based on the data will be 'frozen' as the HOLAS II assessment dataset.

When the indicator evaluations have gone through the checking procedure they will be used in the thematic integrated assessments in HOLAS II. They will also be used to update core indicator reports. The relevant HELCOM expert groups/projects/networks are the bodies involved in developing the updated indicator evaluations and describing the result in the indicator report. The updated indicator reports will be made available to State and Conservation 6-2017.

When the dataset and the indicator evaluations have been updated, Contracting Parties will be given 2 weeks to approve of the data and evaluations. The anticipated period for the approval process is January to mid-February 2017 depending on indicator. To facilitate the approval process Contracting Parties are invited to inform on which State and Conservation contacts points that will coordinate the task for the respective theme.

Table 1. Biodiversity: Process for calculation and approval of indicator evaluations to be used in HOLAS II biodiversity assessment ¹.

An asterix* marks core indicators with specific national study reservations. *Indicators in italics are pending agreements, i.e. pre-core and candidate indicators or GES boundary proposal.*

Indicators	Process for indicator calculation and HELCOM groups/network/project involved	Process for checking of data and approval of indicator evaluations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Abundance of waterbirds in the breeding season – Abundance of waterbirds in the winter season 	JWGBird; Data through specific data call. Indicators calculated centrally by institute in communication with Lead and Co-Lead countries	Contracting Parties via HELCOM Biodiversity workspace as developed by BalticBOOST.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Distribution of Baltic seals* – Population trends and abundance of seals* 	SEAL EG; Data from HELCOM Seal database. Indicators calculated centrally by Chair of SEAL EG and Lead Country Sweden in communication with SEAL EG.	Contracting Parties via HELCOM Biodiversity workspace as developed by BalticBOOST.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Nutritional status of marine mammals* – Reproductive status of marine mammals* 	Lead Country approach; Ad hoc data collection via SEAL EG will be arranged and indicators will be calculated by Lead country Sweden pending agreement on the indicators.	Contracting Parties via HELCOM Biodiversity workspace as developed by BalticBOOST.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Abundance of coastal fish key functional groups * – Abundance of key coastal fish species* 	FISH-PRO II project; Data from HELCOM coastal fish database. Indicator calculated centrally and communicated with FISH-PRO II.	Contracting Parties via HELCOM Biodiversity workspace as developed by BalticBOOST.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Abundance of salmon spawners and smolt* – Abundance of sea trout spawners and parr* 	Lead Country approach; Data compiled annually at WGBAST through national representatives at the meeting. Salmon indicator to be updated centrally by Lead Country using available 2015 data. To be updated to include 2011-2016 data in the spring of 2017 as an input to HOLAS II mid-2018. Trout to use current data 2010-2014, to be updated to include 2011-2016 data in the spring of 2017 as an input to HOLAS II mid-2018.	Contracting Parties via HELCOM Biodiversity workspace as developed by BalticBOOST.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Proportion of large fish in the offshore community</i> 	Lead Country approach; Standardized acoustic Swedish dataset to be used, calculated centrally by Sweden.	Contracting Parties via HELCOM Biodiversity workspace as developed by BalticBOOST.

¹ ICES indicators on stock specific F_{MSY} and SSB were agreed to be used in HOLAS II by HOD 50-2015 (paragraph 4.45 of the outcome). HOLAS II 5-2016 supported the use of the SSB indicators in the integrated biodiversity assessment in addition to the assessment of commercial fish (paragraph 3.11 of the outcome).

NB: these indicators will undergo an approval process at ICES and be delivered to HELCOM as completed products.

Indicators	Process for indicator calculation and HELCOM groups/network/project involved	Process for checking of data and approval of indicator evaluations
– Zooplankton mean size and total stock	ZEN-ZIIM project; Data from COMBINE by use of specific ICES dataviews. Indicators calculated by ZEN-ZIIM experts, anticipated to be calculated during ZEN-ZIIM 2016 meeting.	Contracting Parties via HELCOM Biodiversity workspace as developed by BalticBOOST.
– <i>Seasonal succession of functional phytoplankton groups</i> – <i>Phytoplankton community composition as a food web indicator</i>	PEG; Data from COMBINE by use of specific ICES dataviews. Indicators calculated by PEG or Lead Countries as agreed by PEG.	Contracting Parties via HELCOM Biodiversity workspace as developed by BalticBOOST.
– <i>State of the soft-bottom macrofauna community</i>	Lead Country approach: Data from COMBINE by use of specific ICES dataviews. Indicators to be calculated centrally by group of benthic experts as proposed by TAPAS workshop .	Contracting Parties via HELCOM Biodiversity workspace as developed by BalticBOOST.
– <i>Distribution, pattern and extent of benthic biotopes</i>	Reporting of data and information to be used in the assessment by Contracting Parties. Indicator calculations to be done centrally – to be further agreed if indicator is endorsed as core indicator.	Contracting Parties via HELCOM Biodiversity workspace as developed by BalticBOOST.

Table 2. Eutrophication: Process for calculation and approval of indicator evaluations to be used in HOLAS II assessment of eutrophication.

An asterix* marks core indicators with specific national study reservations. *Indicators in italics are pending agreements, i.e. pre-core and candidate indicators or GES boundary proposal.*

Indicators	Process for indicator calculation and HELCOM groups/network/project involved	Process for checking of data and approval of indicator evaluations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – DIN – DIP – Chlorophyll a – Secchi depth – Oxygen debt – <i>Total nutrients</i> – <i>Cyanobacterial surface blooms</i> – <i>Shallow water bottom oxygen debt</i> 	<p>IN-Eutrophication; Data extraction from COMBINE and complemented by non-COMBINE data (e.g. satellite observations) and stored into assessment database in ICES. Indicators are calculated by scripts from the assessment database and results and data viewed through HELCOM eutrophication workspace.</p>	Contracting Parties via HELCOM Eutrophication workspace
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – WFD assessments results related to indicator on benthic flora and fauna (also to be used in assessment of biodiversity assessment as agreed) 	<p>IN-Eutrophication. Contracting Parties will be requested to update WFD assessment results used in EUTRO OPER test assessment. If updated results are not available, then the assessment as reported in the second WFD cycle will be used. No additional calculations will be made.</p>	Contracting Parties via HELCOM Eutrophication workspace

Table 3. Hazardous substances: Process for calculation and approval of indicator evaluations to be used in HOLAS II hazardous substance assessments.

An asterix* marks core indicators with specific national study reservations. *Indicators in italics are pending agreements, i.e. pre-core and candidate indicators or GES boundary proposal.*

Indicators	Process for indicator calculation and HELCOM groups/network/project involved	Process for checking of data and approval of indicator evaluations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD) – Metals* – Polybrominated biphenylethers (PBDE) – Perfluorooctane sulphonate (PFOS) – Polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) and their metabolites* – Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) and dioxin and furans* – TBT and imposex* 	<p>EN-Hazardous Substances; Data extraction from COMBINE and indicator calculations by use of MIME-script tentatively to be managed through workspace</p>	Contracting Parties via HELCOM Hazardous substance workspace as developed by BalticBOOST.

Indicators	Process for indicator calculation and HELCOM groups/network/project involved	Process for checking of data and approval of indicator evaluations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Reproductive disorders: malformed eelpout and amphipod embryos</i> – <i>Lysosomal membrane stability (LMS)</i> 	EN-Hazardous substances; Data to be extracted from COMBINE, knowing that most data needs to be collated through an ad hoc national process. Tentatively calculated centrally by Co-lead countries.	Contracting Parties via HELCOM Hazardous substance workspace as developed by BalticBOOST.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – White-tailed eagle productivity* 	Lead Country approach; Data to be complemented for 2015 based on ad hoc data collation through Lead Country Sweden. Indicator calculated centrally by Lead Country Sweden in communication with co-lead countries.	Contracting Parties via HELCOM Hazardous substance workspace as developed by BalticBOOST.
WFD assessments results related to indicators on hazardous substances	Contracting Parties submitted the second cycle WFD chemical status assessment results to the Secretariat. Nor further calculations will be made on the specific assessments.	Contracting Parties via HELCOM Hazardous substance workspace as developed by BalticBOOST.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Radioactive substances: Cesium-137 in fish and surface waters 	MORS EG; Data extraction from HELCOM MORS database. Calculations done centrally by HELCOM Secretariat.	Contracting Parties via HELCOM Hazardous substance workspace as developed by BalticBOOST.

Table 4. NIS: Process for calculation and approval of indicator evaluations of non-indigenous species as to be used HOLAS II.

An asterix* marks core indicators with specific national study reservations. *Indicators in italics are pending agreements, i.e. pre-core and candidate indicators or GES boundary proposal.*

Indicators	Process for indicator calculation and HELCOM groups/network/project involved	Process for checking of data and approval of indicator evaluations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Trends in arrival of new non-indigenous species* 	Lead Country, TG Ballast; Dataset collated from AquaNIS, indicator calculated centrally.	Contracting Parties via HELCOM NIS workspace.