

Future work on HELCOM indicators

3J-6 Draft HELCOM work plan for indicators

STATE & CONSERVATION 8-2018

Background

- STATE & CONSERVATION 7-2017 agreed to return to the issue of future development of indicators.
- GEAR 17-2017 requested that the Secretariat develop a questionnaire on the subject.
- Secretariat received four (five) responses to the questionnaire
- Responses summarised in the form of an action plan for future work on the HELCOM indicators (at GEAR 18), taking into account aspects highlighted in document 3-6 of GEAR 18-2018.



Purpose of document

- Action plan is intended to incorporate the ideas and needs expressed by Contracting Parties into a viable time line that will enable a full review of the current indicators to be carried out, a careful policy discussion to take place, and the specific planning of future work to meet policy requirements and technical capacity when the work plan is initiated.
- This document has been shared with GEAR and PRESSURE working groups concurrently.
- The document is presented at State and Conservation in preparation for submission to HOD 54 (by 24 May).



Aim of the action plan

- Ensure all Contracting Parties will be in a position to fulfil the requirements of applicable policies: e.g. update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP), introduction of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), new EU Commission Decision on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).
- Support the third holistic assessment of the Baltic Sea.
- Clarify priorities for development - including developing relevant data collection and management solutions, and developing a more inclusive and more visible platform for the indicators, will be important issues to address during the active working phase on indicators.



Guideline for future work

Future work will be guided by four major driving principles:

- good planning
- good governance
- high quality
- complete transparency



STEP 1: Review

Analyse current status by mapping to policy documents

- **Plan:** Mapping of the HELCOM indicators to existing policy documents.
- **Aim:** Mapping to policy documents to identify current status and identify development needs.
- **Action:** Policy experts review mapping prior to sending to expert groups to fill in.
- **Timeline:** Expert responses returned to GEAR (Autumn 2018).



STEP 2: Define

Policy based discussion of mapped indicators

- **Plan:** Policy based discussion to define a common vision between Contracting Parties.
- **Aim:** Harmonized approach, agreed priority areas and work focus. Policy leads.
- **Action:** Expert responses will provide the background for discussion. Policy perspective defined.
- **Timeline:** At GEAR (Autumn 2018).



STEP 3: Confirm

Outline general working structure

- **Plan:** Confirm working structure for indicator work and any developments (e.g. policy leads).
- **Aim:** Ensure structure and responsibilities are clearly defined.
- **Action:** Form an indicator management document that can inform future work.
- **Timeline:** Spring 2019 – joint action with GEAR and State and Conservation.



STEP 4: Prepare

Joint policy-technical-expert workshop

Plan: Workshop to bring together technical and policy experts for future indicator work.

- **Aim:** Document a list of indicators of priority and identify specific way forward, including joint work (e.g. with OSPAR).
- **Action:** Develop common focus and understanding, and clear plan with milestones.
- **Timeline:** Spring 2019 – possibly back-to-back with GEAR.



STEP 5: Execute

Initiate work program on indicator development and adjustment

- **Plan:** Initiate the work to develop new indicators and adjust existing indicators.
- **Aim:** Longer program of work leading up to BSAP update (2020) and next holistic assessment (2022).
- **Action:** Initiate development work once approved by HODs.
- **Timeline:** June 2019 HODs.



Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- discuss and comment on the proposed plan with the aim of further developing the proposal and finalizing it for submission to HOD 54-2018.

