Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation

Helsinki, Finland, 9-13 November, 2015

STATE & CONSERVATION 3-2015

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Background

At HELCOM State and Conservation 2 (11-15 May, 2015), under the discussion on data flow arrangements (agenda item 3MA), it was reiterated that the preferred route of data submission was via ICES as the COMBINE data host. There are however some practical issues with ensuring harmonization with the European data flow via EIONET. In this regard the meeting noted: "*that data submitted to COMBINE is automatically transferred to EIONET and that this ensures reporting to EEA of data on chemicals.*"

The Contracting Parties to HELCOM requested a proposal from ICES on how this transfer can be notified to the CP's, so that they have some form of receipt of when, and what, data are included into the EIONET dataset.

Action required

The Meeting is invited to <u>comment</u> on and <u>accept</u> this proposal.

Background information on the existing data flow

ICES acts as a partner in the European Topic Centre on Inland, Coastal and Marine Waters. One of the responsibilities of ICES is the merging of data that are submitted to ICES with the data collected on the Central Data Repository of the EEA (the EIONET data flow). The result is the yearly update of a comprehensive dataset that are used for the assessments and the update on Core Set Indicators (CSI) on Nutrients, Chlorophyll a, and contaminants in biota. The process of the producing this dataset is shown in the diagram below.
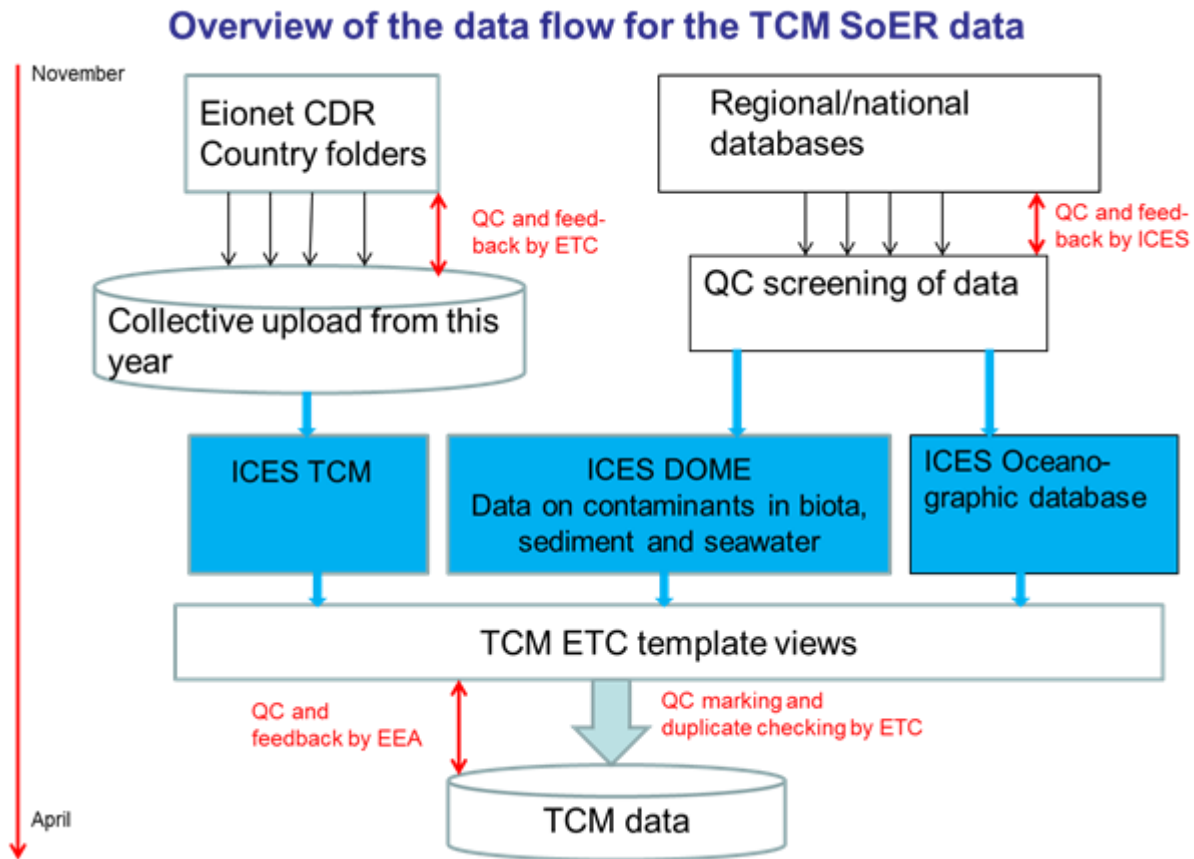
Fig. 1. Overview of the data flow, feedback, and QC procedure in handling the Transitional, Coastal and Marine (TCM) Data. Data enters via 2 different routes (Eionet CDR and the ICES Data Centre). Data are screened by different QC procedures dependent on data type and routes. The data from the ICES Data Centre and Eionet CDR are in the end transformed to a unified format (Eionet TCM) before being merged into the total dataset published in Waterbase. The timeline at the left indicates the normal timeframe from end of the deadline of CDR submission to the final production of the TCM data set that is published in Waterbase.

Data are submitted to Eionet CDR and ICES Data Centre on a more or less regular basis. The submission of data to Eionet CDR occurs in principle once a year whereas the submission of data to ICES is a continuous process throughout the year. There are however obvious peaks in the submissions of data to ICES due to assessment deadlines set by HELCOM and OSPAR (see Fig.2 below).

	Hazardous substances in biota, sediment and seawater	Oceanographic data (nutrients, chlorophyll, S, T, etc.)
HELCOM	1 September	1 May
OSPAR	1 September	1 September
Eionet	31 October	31 October

Fig. 2. Overview of the present deadline for submissions of TCM data types to the regional conventions and Eionet CDR.

Suggested mechanism for notifying countries when their data are included in the European data set

The data from the ICES Databases are extracted on a specific date, usually in the beginning of December (as late as convenient in the relation to the deadlines of delivery of data from the ETC). These are data that have passed the normal QC checks at that given point in time.

It is suggested to make a notification to each HELCOM member country based on presence of data from the latest monitoring year and HELCOM area for each country. This notification could be given in at least to different ways:

1. A webpage updated in December each year on the ICES website indicating the status of each HELCOM contracting parties data deliveries (via ICES) to the EIONET dataset

2. An e-mail is sent in December each year to the HELCOM STATE emailing list notifying of the update of the online delivery summary

The extraction criteria for the data would be:

Eutrophication variables (as agreed with EUTRO-OPER):

- Data points falling within HELCOM assessment units
- Data from the latest monitoring year

Contaminants variables (as agreed with STATE):

- Data labelled as HELCOM data (the monitoring programme label) AND falling within HELCOM assessment units
- Data from the latest monitoring year