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HELCOM TAPAS Workshop on the benthic habitat indicators

Time: Tuesday 27 September 10:00 – Wednesday 28 September 16:00

Venue: Estonian Ministry of Environment, Narva mnt. 7a, Tallinn, Estonia

Aims

The aim of the two day workshop is to discuss the results of the development work on the indicator ‘Distribution, pattern and extent of benthic biotopes’ that is carried out under the TAPAS project. The workshop will furthermore address the indicators, ‘Cumulative impact on benthic biotopes’, and ‘State of the soft-bottom macrofauna community. The indicators are anticipated to be used in the 2nd HELCOM holistic assessment (HOLAS II project). The workshop is invited to discuss how the indicators may form the basis for an assessment of benthic habitats.

The workshop will be chaired by TAPAS Theme 2 lead partner Mr. Georg Martin, Estonian Marine Institute.

Meeting documents

Workshop participants are advised that background documents to the workshop will be uploaded to the [document library](#) of the meeting site.

Registration

The participants are kindly requested to **register to the Workshop by 20 September, 2016** by answering the [Participation Survey](#).

Please note that only registered users of the [HELCOM Meeting Portal](#) with relevant rights are able to fill in the Participation Survey and to access the restricted meeting documents. Please find instructions [here](#) for first time Meeting Portal users.

Provisional Agenda

Tuesday 27 September	
	<p>Arrival and words of welcome</p> <p>Workshop outline and link to the TAPAS and HOLAS II projects</p>
10:00 – 12:30	<p>Pre-core indicator 'Distribution, pattern and extent of benthic biotopes'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of new indicator concept by Lead Partner • Presentation of test outcomes on different substrate (rocky and other) and on different level of detail in defining biotopes (cf. HUB level 3, HUB level 5-6) • Conclude on habitats/biotopes to be assessed in the indicator and the concept to be applied
12:30-13:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
	<i>continued discussion</i>
13:30-18:00	<p>Pre-core indicator 'Cumulative impact on benthic habitats'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of relevant new information, e.g. from national projects • Presentation of test outcomes where assessment protocols have been applied in selected areas by indicator Co-Lead countries Finland, Germany and Sweden. • Conclude on the assessment protocol to be used and the scale at which assessment is made
Wednesday 28 September	
	<i>continued discussion</i>
9:00-12:30	<p>Core indicator 'Status of the soft-bottom macrobenthic community'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finland: Presentation of findings from tests of applying area specific sensitivity values and proposals for GES boundaries • Conclude on the GES boundary and sensitivity values to be used
12:30-13:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
	<i>continued discussion</i>
13:30-16:00	<p>Discuss how the indicators can contribute to the benthic status assessment component of HOLAS II</p> <p>Concluding remarks</p>