

## **Information to be provided by participants in advance of the workshop**

1. Details of assessments carried out under the auspices of States or intergovernmental organizations attending the workshop which could be relevant to issues in the draft Possible Outline for the First Global Integrated Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects. A starting point for assembling this information should be the assessments listed in the GRAMED data-base, where much of this information is already to be found. Assessments not carried out by States or intergovernmental organizations, but which the States or intergovernmental organizations use, or which they consider to be relevant, should also be included. The details to be provided should include, as far as possible:

(a) Agency conducting the specific assessment;

**Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM)**

(b) Major intended users of the assessment, and the uses for which it was intended;

**Decision-makers and experts of the Baltic region, also wider public and media.**

(c) Spatial and temporal scale of the assessment, and frequency of assessment cycle;

**Entire Baltic Sea, every 6-years**

(d) Issues covered by the assessment;

HELCOM Initial Holistic Assessment

(<http://www.helcom.fi/stc/files/Publications/Proceedings/bsep122.pdf>)

HELCOM Thematic Assessment of Hazardous Substances

(<http://www.helcom.fi/stc/files/Publications/Proceedings/bsep120B.pdf>)

HELCOM Thematic Assessment of Eutrophication

(<http://www.helcom.fi/stc/files/Publications/Proceedings/bsep115B.pdf>)

HELCOM Thematic Assessment of Biodiversity

(<http://www.helcom.fi/stc/files/Publications/Proceedings/bsep116B.pdf>)

HELCOM Thematic Assessment of Maritime Activities

(<http://www.helcom.fi/stc/files/Publications/Proceedings/bsep123.pdf>)

HELCOM Pollution Load Compilation 5

(<http://www.helcom.fi/stc/files/Publications/Proceedings/BSEP128.pdf>)

Older assessments: see [http://www.helcom.fi/publications/bsep/en\\_GB/bseplist/](http://www.helcom.fi/publications/bsep/en_GB/bseplist/)

(e) Types of data, experiential knowledge, indicators and the reasons for their selection, and other information sources contributing to the assessment;

**Source of data:**

- **HELCOM Joint Monitoring Programme COMBINE**

([http://www.helcom.fi/groups/monas/en\\_GB/monas\\_guidelines/](http://www.helcom.fi/groups/monas/en_GB/monas_guidelines/))

- **National monitoring programmes**
- **Data compiled by projects**

**The recent HELCOM assessments have used assessment tools which integrate quantitative indicators by using target levels for each indicator. The indicators were selected within HELCOM expert projects by scientific criteria.**

(f) Where trends of component information sets have been deduced, the methods employed;

(g) Where an effort has been made to integrate different types of information, particularly social, economic and ecological information, the extent of, and methods for, such integration;

**The Initial Holistic Assessment includes socio-economic analyses but those were not integrated with the environmental indicators for a quantitative assessment.**

(h) Sources of any evaluation benchmarks, reference levels or ecotoxicological assessment criteria used in the assessment;

**The eutrophication related reference levels and targets were developed by the Contracting Parties for the HELCOM assessment and the EU Water Framework Directive.**

**Hazardous substances threshold levels are OSPAR environmental assessment criteria, EU environmental quality standards and US EPA ERL-values.**

**Biodiversity reference levels and targets have been so far developed site-specifically without coordination, but development is going-on.**

(i) Extent and sources of any forecasts, projections, and scenarios used in the assessment; and **Spatial interpolations from monitoring stations to adjacent areas.**

(j) If data-assessment limitations (such as data-extrapolation errors, uncertainties and/or information gaps) were addressed in the assessment, a description of how this was done.

**Each assessment consisted of an estimate of confidence. These were expert-judgment classifications based on certain criteria (data quality, quality of reference level, quality of target setting). See the reports for further information.**

2. For issues in the draft Possible Outline for the First Global Integrated Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects for which no assessment has been carried out by a State or intergovernmental organization attending the workshop, but where they hold relevant data or information:

(a) What types of relevant data or information are known to be collected and managed, and by what State(s) and agencies (this is expected to be the case for some key social and economic data)? What information can be provided about the spatial and temporal coverage and technical content of such data or information?

(b) Where key types of information are not known to exist, can expert knowledge be mobilized to fill the gap and, if so, how can the experts be accessed? 6

3. Contact details of focal points for the States and intergovernmental organizations to be represented at the workshop.
4. Advance notice of identified capacity-building needs.