

Overview of HELCOM matters related to harbour porpoise

20th Meeting of the Jastarnia Group
13-15 March 2024



Third HELCOM holistic assessment (HOLAS 3)

All HOLAS 3 products are now published!

- 59 indicator reports (can be found on the new [HELCOM indicators webpage](#))
- [Thematic Assessment Report on Biodiversity \(main report compressed\)](#)

For full resolutions downloads:

- [Thematic assessment of biodiversity 2016-2021 PART 1](#) (Preface – Chapter 7)
- [Thematic assessment of biodiversity 2016-2021 PART 2](#) (Chapter 8 – References)
- [Thematic assessment of biodiversity 2016-2021 ANNEXES](#)
- [Thematic Assessment Report on Hazardous substances, marine litter, underwater noise and non-indigenous species](#)
- [Thematic Assessment of Report on Economic and Social Analysis](#)
- [Thematic Assessment Report on Spatial Distribution of Pressures and Impacts](#)
- [Thematic assessment of eutrophication](#)
- [Updated data and data layers in HELCOM Map and Data Services](#)
- [Intro video on indicators](#)
- [Intro video on economic and social analyses](#)
- [Intro video on holistic assessment](#)

Summary report:
<https://stateofthebalticsea.helcom.fi/>

Review of HOLAS 3 and development towards HOLAS 4

- Informal Consultation Workshop on HOLAS **review** and **development**
- 18-19 March 2024
 - **All HELCOM Working and Expert Groups** were invited
 - Based on the **comments** received during HOLAS 3 + **post-HOLAS3 review process**
 - **Policy** match + **technical** aspects towards the **initiation** of the **HOLAS 4 development phase**
 - **Themed sessions**, one on marine mammals (*by-catch will be considered under Marine Mammals and Waterbirds, but independant work plan to be considered*)



Baltic Sea Action Plan: action B8

B8: “By 2022 at the latest, specify knowledge gaps on all threats to the Baltic Proper harbour porpoise population, and by 2023 for the western Baltic population, including by-catch and areas of high by-catch risk, underwater noise, contaminants and prey depletion. Knowledge gaps related to areas of high by-catch risk are to be addressed and by 2028 at the latest additional areas of high by-catch risk for both Baltic Sea populations are to be determined. To strengthen the Baltic harbour porpoise population, by 2025 identify possible mitigation measures for threats other than by-catch and implement such measures as they become available.”

→ **Publication in December 2023** of the [report](#)

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Review of the Guideline for the implementation of ecosystem-based approach in Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Baltic Sea area

- From 2016: **new policy landscape / new round of MSP**
- Review process by a dedicated Task Force and guided by the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG
- **Parallel process** with drafting the Guidelines for Cetacean-sensitive Maritime Spatial Planning for the ASCOBANS Area
 - Communications with the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG to ensure synergies (cf. IC HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 4-2024, 19-21 March 2024)



Red List II project

- Data call from 30.11.2022 to 02.05.2023
- Maps of extent of occurrence and area of occupancy for mammals
- Threat categories deriving from the Swedish tool EDIT
- Lack of information raised by experts / 2 populations should be assessed differently
- New assessment to be provided soon
- Mammal WS on 10 April / confirmation to be sent soon to the relevant contacts

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Expert Group on Marine Mammals (EG MaMa)

Informal Consultation Session (IC EG MAMA 2-2023) on 12-14 September 2023 in Stralsund, Germany

- **New Terms of Reference and workplan (2023-2024)**
- Data flow:
 - Mortality data for harbour porpoise → HELCOM-ASCOBANS database under HELCOM Biodiversity database
 - Harbour porpoise acoustic monitoring data → HELCOM Biodiversity database
 - Uncommon marine mammals species in the HELCOM Area: work in progress
- Information on **IUCN Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force** on Important Marine Mammals Areas
- Reporting of **HELCOM Recommendation 17/2** “Protection of the Harbour Porpoise in the Baltic Sea Area”
- Update on **ASCOBANS work** (e.g. bycatch, workshops, surveys, offshore renewable energy Working Group, etc.)
- Information and discussion on **bycatch mitigation** for the Baltic Proper harbour porpoise, relating to the BSAP and the EC Marine Action Plan
- Other topics of relevance: bycatch, **SAMBAH-II** : IC HOD 3-2023 “urgent need for funding to revitalize HELCOM work on the critically endangered Baltic Sea harbour porpoise and consider the next steps.”
- Cooperation with EG Foodweb: **HOLAS 4+ / foodweb assessment**
- **IC EG MAMA 3-2024: 26-28 November 2024** in Lithuania / Baltic Seal Rehabilitation Center



HELCOM 50th Anniversary



Riga, Latvia • 25 April 2024
Ministerial Meeting
on the Baltic Sea Marine Environment

How the results of **HOLAS 3** can be used to strengthen the **implementation** and reach the **goals** of the **BSAP** ?



- **Proud past!**
- **Where do we stand?**

By invitation in Riga but online streaming available



Thank you!

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