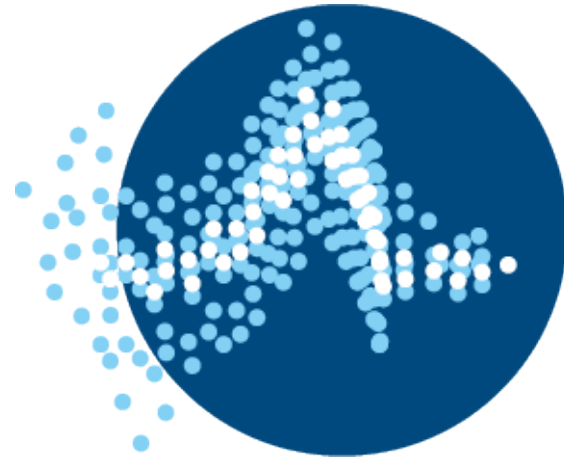


THIRD HELCOM HOLISTIC ASSESSMENTS OF THE BALTIC SEA ENVIRONMENT (HOLAS 3)

- **Planning and process**



THIRD HELCOM
HOLISTIC ASSESSMENT
OF THE BALTIC SEA
2016-2021

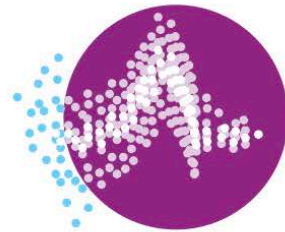
H O L A S 3



Eutrophication



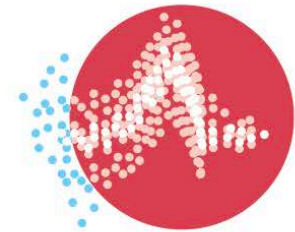
Biodiversity



**Hazardous
substances**



**Economic and
social analyses**



**Spatial pressures
and impacts**

Deliverables

- Updated and expanded spatial pressure and impact tool
- Updated integrated assessment tools
- Updated and expanded methodology for economic and social analyses
- Data and metadata
- Indicator reports
- Thematic assessments
 - Quantitative indicator driven integrated assessment results
 - Results of non-indicator driven analyses
 - Qualitative assessments
- Summary report
- Website

Addressing challenges identified in HOLAS II

By Jannica Haldin, HELCOM
Friday, November 19, 2021

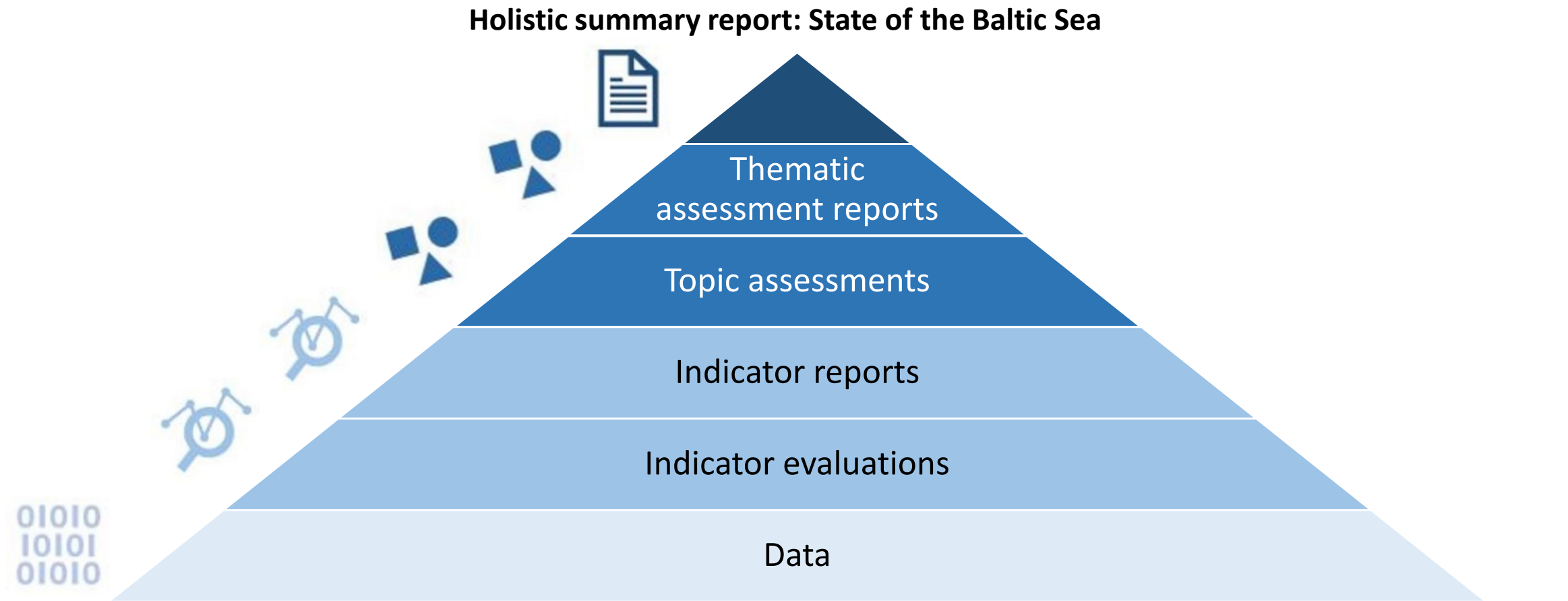
Changes to HOLAS 3

- Based on:
 - Results from the lessons learned survey done after HOLAS II.
 - Early scoping with CPs under GEAR and S&C.
 - Input and feedback from EG and indicator leads.
 - MSFD Art. 8 reporting timelines and timelines of associated national processes.

Main points for improvement identified from HOLAS II

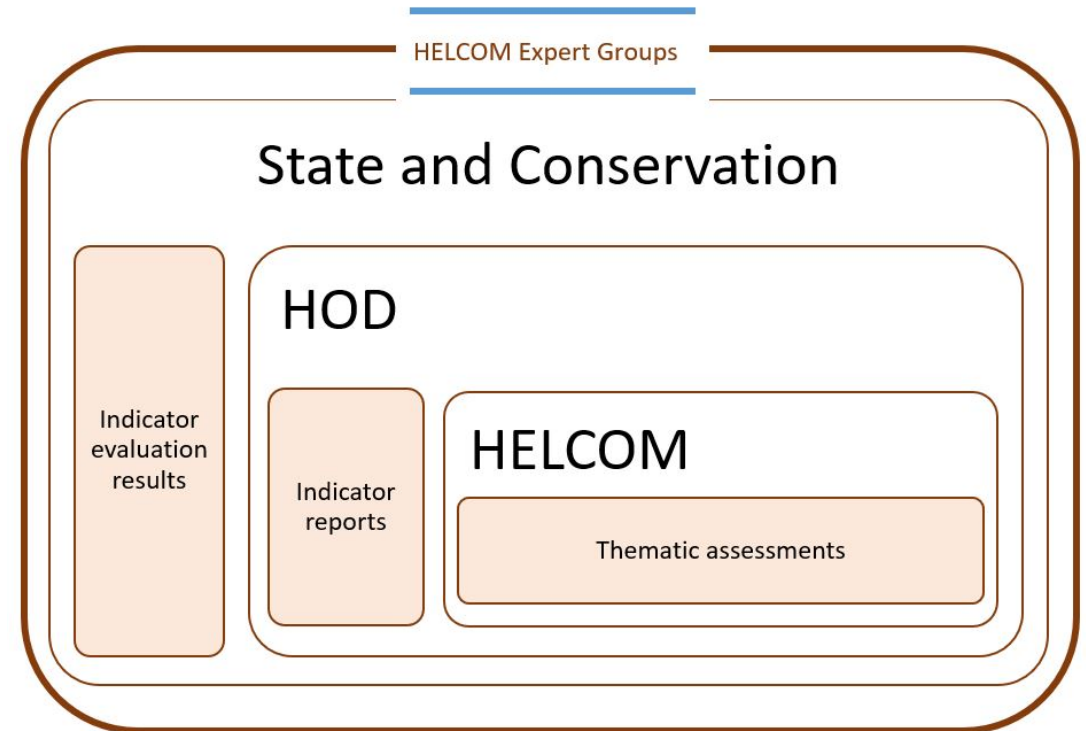
- Flow and process of the assessment
- Review and approval processes
- Information flow
- Holistic perspective
- Incorporating climate change

Flow and process of the assessment

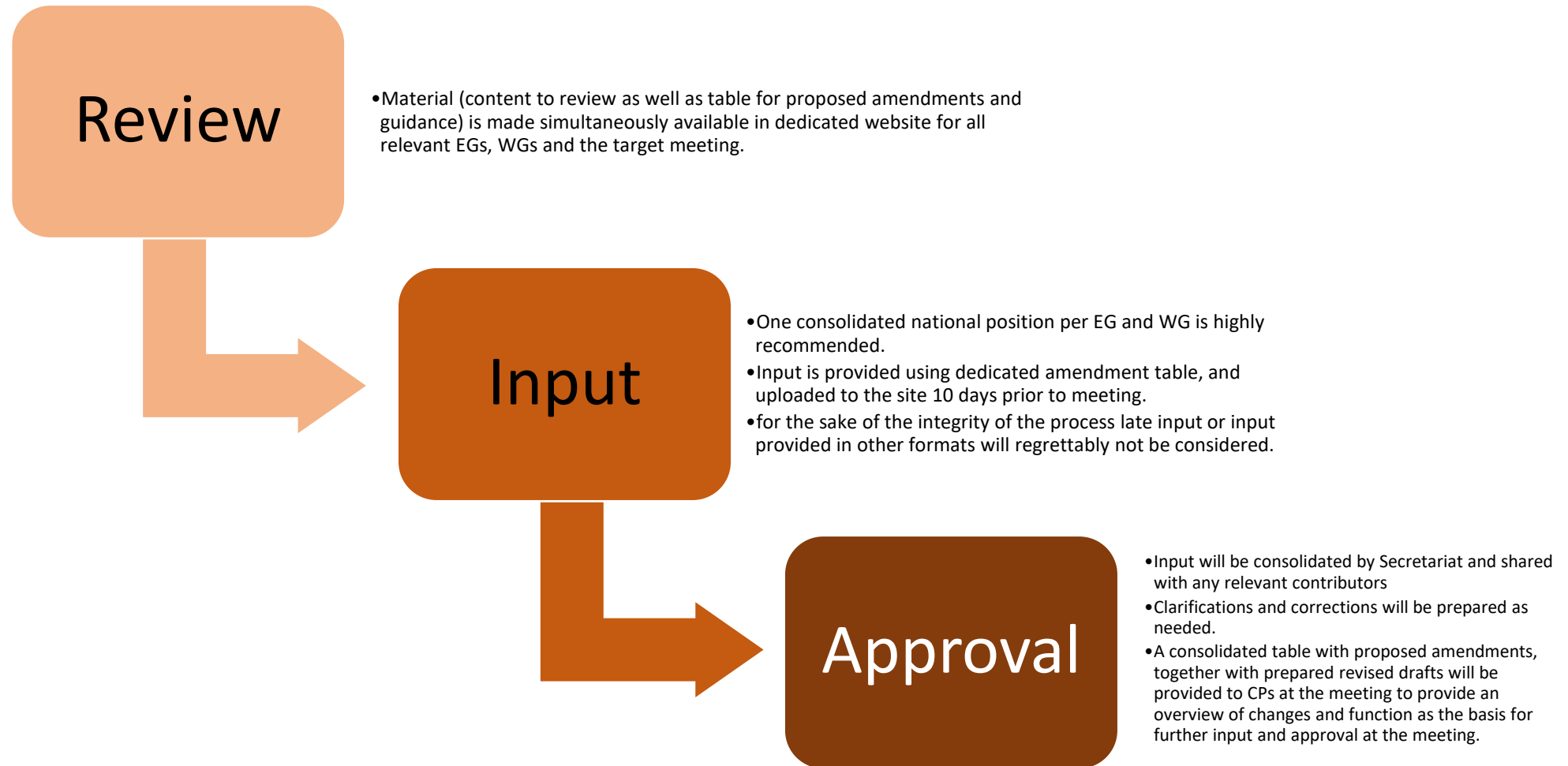


Decision process and structure

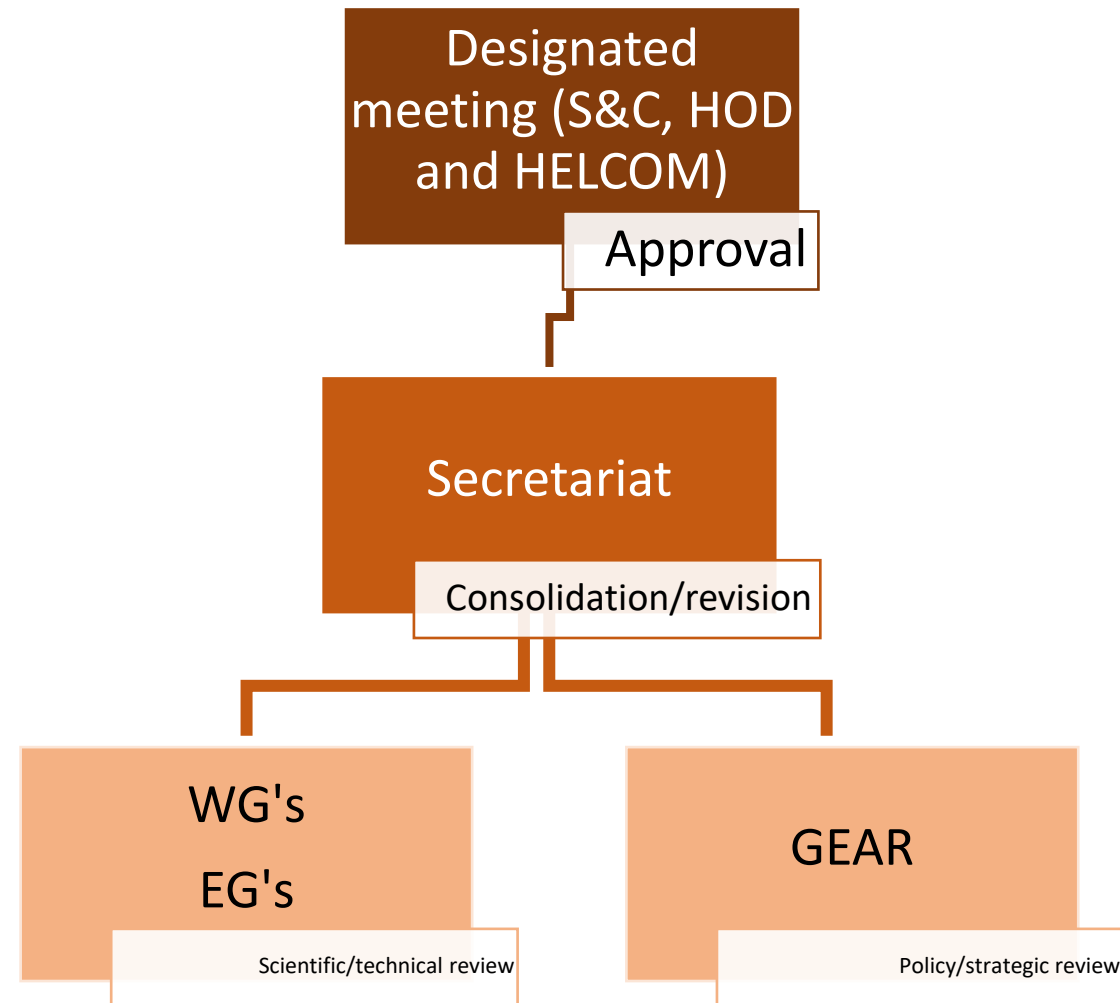
- Nested approval approach proposed for HOLAS 3.
- Each consecutive product is approved at a higher level in the HELCOM structure, indicative of the type of product in question i.e. if the product is primarily technical or of more direct policy or strategic relevance.
- The setup capitalizes on existing planned meetings, while incorporating a review by the preceding levels (e.g. Expert Groups or/and Working Groups).



Decision process and structure



Decision process and structure



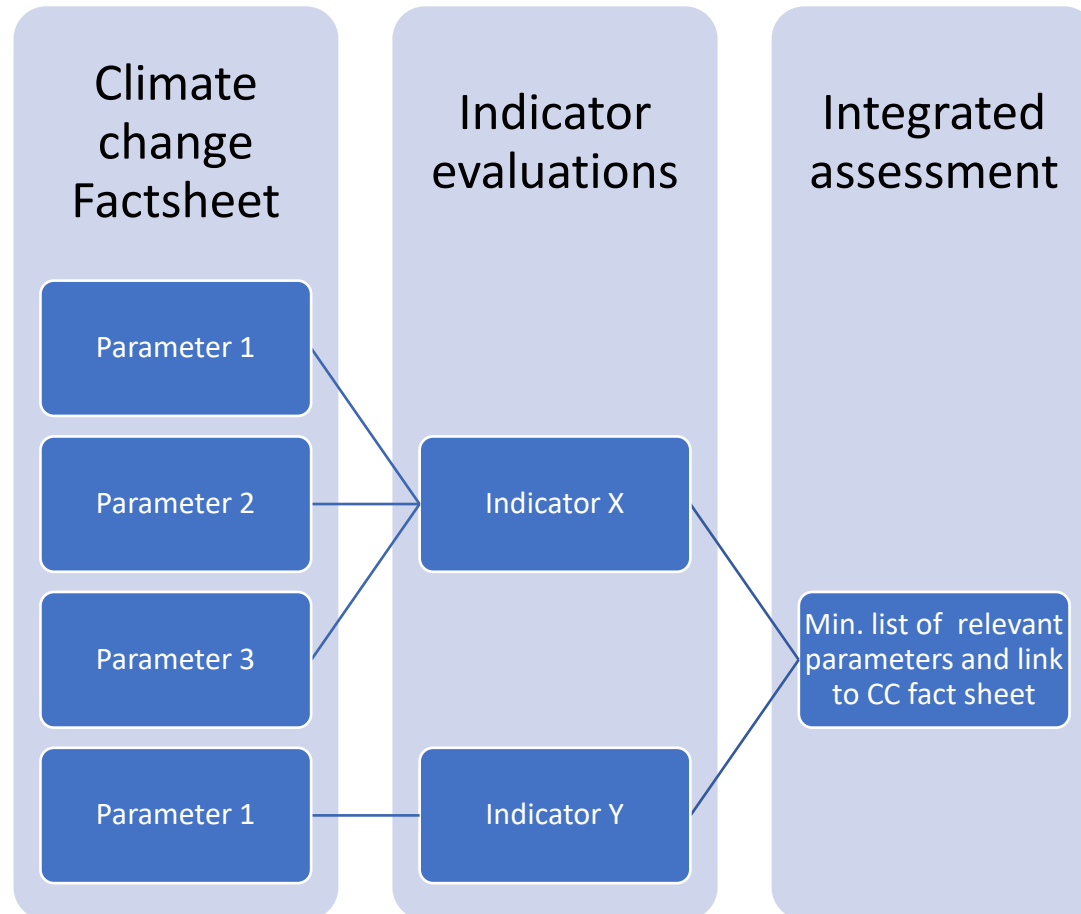
CG HOLAS 3

- time-bound correspondence group of national HOLAS 3 focal points will be established.
- clear, transparent and directed flow of information between the Secretariat, the CPs and national experts.
 - function as support for management and coordination of the HOLAS 3-related activities at the national level (e.g. data reporting, review processes etc.)
 - to ensure that the integrity of the process is maintained.
 - function as the natural communication point for the information flow to and from the Secretariat and would help to ensure that CPs can stay informed on progress of the overall work.

HOLAS 3 Targeted Topical Workshops

- *Mandate*: One-off workshops based on identified needs, no approval or process decision mandate.
- *Task*: To support and further strengthen the holistic aspect and the ecological relevance of the work by, at the expert level, ensure improved cooperation and linkage between the thematic and topical work strands. The conclusions to be incorporated into the products of the HOLAS 3 process.
- *Membership*: technical/scientific experts representing the various topics included in HOLAS 3, based on national nominations.
- *Mode of working*: The workshops would be targeted to tackle one or a small number of identified challenges or horizontal/cross-cutting questions touching on more than one topic or theme per workshop. The workshops would thus target expertise on the identified topics only. The workshops would be individual one off events, likely taking place online and focus on explore linkages and synergies across topics, as well as how to best include and present these aspects in the report.
- planned to take place in autumn 2022 and early 2023

HOLAS 3 and climate change

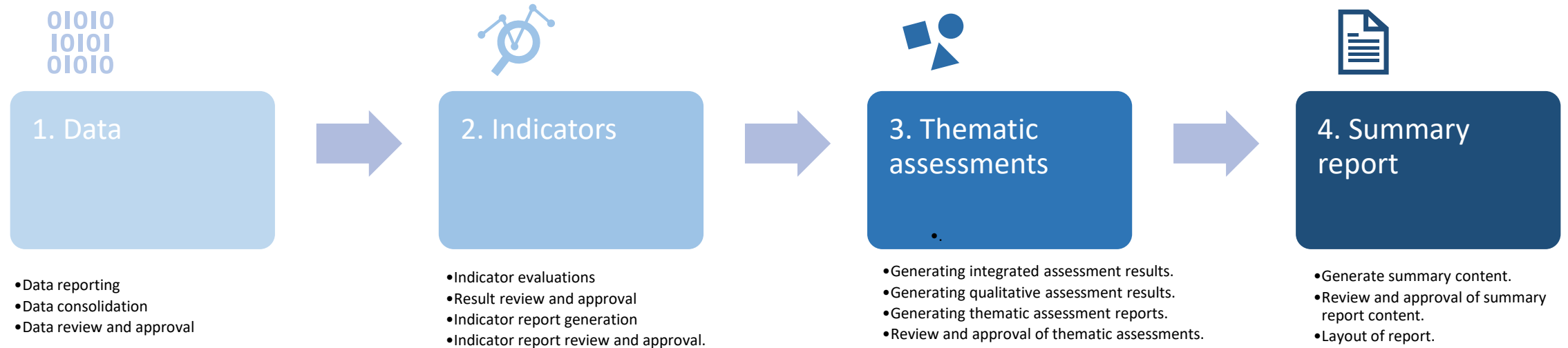


- For the indicator reports:
 - List of relevant parameters.
 - How may the indicator topic already have been affected and how may it be affected in the future?
 - Are there consequences that need to be considered (e.g. need to review threshold values or methodology)?
- For reports:
 - section on climate change overall.
- Driver indicators:
 - Explore if some of the CC parameters may be useful as driver indicators?

HOLAS 3 Assessment Phase (November 2021-December 2023)

Document 4J-85

How do we assess the state of the environment?



HOLAS 3 Assessment phase – specified timeline

	Submission (with provisional date)
	Review/endorsement
	Approval (with provisional date)

2022

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Data reporting						6.6-1.7						
Indicator evaluation results								31.8		10-14.10		
Indicator reports										17.10		31.11-1.12*
Integrated assessments										17.10		
Thematic assessment reports												5.12

2023

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Thematic assessment reports			15-16.3									
Summary report, content					8.5	13-14.6*						
Summary report, layout and website						15.6				27.10		

Provisional deadlines for HOLAS 3:

- **Indicator evaluation results** for HOLAS 3 need to be ready for review and approval by **31 August 2022**.
- **Indicator reports for HOLAS 3** need to be ready for review and approval by **17 October 2022**.
- **Thematic reports of integrated assessments and analyses** (ESA, Biodiversity, Hazardous substances etc) need to be ready for review and approval by **5 December 2022**.
- **State of the Baltic Sea report content** needs to be ready for review and approval **8 May 2023**.
- **Layout and website** need to be ready, and published by end of 2023.

Data

Data



Data

- [HOLAS 3 Data call](#) opened in April 2021:

1. **“Speeded schedule data call”** to facilitate early reporting of monitoring data for the assessment period 2016-2021 and to contain all required parameters for indicator-based assessments. This applies to regular monitoring data reported annually to HELCOM / HELCOM data hosts.

2. **“Ad hoc data call”** to complement regular data collection, for indicators without existing data flows and to feed into spatial and pressure and impact assessment. Ad hoc data call is subdivided to following strands:

- **2a. Data for indicators**

- **2b. Data on human activities** for cumulative impact assessment / spatial and pressure impact assessment

- **2c. Data on ecosystem components** for cumulative impact assessment / spatial and pressure impact assessment

Data

1.1 Data submission

- Preparatory data calls were presented in autumn meetings of HELCOM groups in 2020 and approved at HOD 59-2020. Specifications to the data calls were provided in spring 2021 and the [data call](#) was officially opened in March 2021. The data calls are divided into “speeded up” data reporting of existing functional dataflows needed to meet HOLAS 3 deadlines and a grouped ad-hoc data call for non-existent or not fully functional dataflows. Data is to be submitted by national experts in accordance with the specifications in the data calls.
- To facilitate the technical aspects of the data reporting for the HOLAS 3 assessment the Secretariat will arrange HOLAS 3 data reporting helpdesk sessions. Such sessions aim to provide Contracting Parties with support for the data reporting, share information and give rapporteurs the chance to lift any foreseen or encountered issues with the reporting for discussion.
- A data helpdesk email has been set up and the contact details will be shared with CG HOLAS 3 (for dissemination to data rapporteurs) and participant in the Helpdesk sessions.

1.2 Data consolidation

- Submitted data will be consolidated by the Secretariat and provided for review by nominated national experts in a dedicated online workspace. Metadata will be provided and included, depending on the dataflow, either by the data submitters or by the HELCOM Secretariat.

1.3 Data review and approval

- Review and approval will be carried out by the nominated national experts and will take place intersessionally online using a dedicated workspace as indicated in the specified timetable in Annex 1.

1.4 Publication of data and metadata

- The data and metadata will be published online following approval of the thematic assessment content, by the end of March 2023, thus enabling their use for national consultation processes for HELCOM Contracting Parties who are also EU Member States. See Annex 1 for an overview of the timeline



Data: Provisional timeline

Process
Submission (with date)
Review/endorsement
Approval

2021

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Data reporting												

2022

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Data reporting						6 June-1 July						





Indicators

By Jannica Haldin, HELCOM
Friday, November 19, 2021





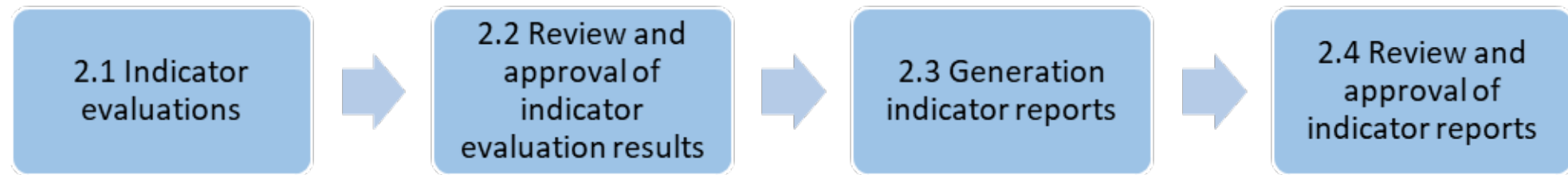
Indicators

- New indicator website (BLUES)
- New indicator report template (BLUES)
- Will include climate change considerations.
- Will, where possible, include information on/links with trends, drivers, pressures and impacts.





Indicators





Indicators

2.1 Generating indicator results

- The indicator evaluations are performed and compiled by the respective indicator leads.

2.2 Review and approval of indicator results

- The results of the indicator evaluation will be presented for approval by the State and Conservation Working Group as indicated in Annex 1.
- Results will be submitted to the relevant WGs and EGs for review concomitantly with submission to STATE&CONSERVATION 17-2022, using a dedicated workspace. Comments by WGs and EGs representatives are to be provided to the Secretariat 10 days prior to the State and Conservation WG meeting, using the dedicated amendment table, for consolidation by the Secretariat. Comments and input will be shared with STATE&CONSERVATION 17-2022 and indicator leads prior to the meeting. Indicator leads will be invited to provide clarifications and corrections to the meeting, as needed, and proposed amendments will be presented at the meeting for approval.

2.3 Generating indicator reports

- Indicator reports will be prepared by the indicator leads, with intersessional review and support from the relevant EGs.
- The Secretariat will prepare an updated indicator template, the structure of which was presented to the State and Conservation WG and GEAR for review in autumn 2021 and will be presented for approval to State and Conservation in spring 2022. Following the approval of the template the Secretariat will provide leads with pre-filled indicator report templates, using the relevant information from the 2018 HOLAS II indicator reports, in spring 2022, with the aim to facilitate work for the indicator leads. The same template will be used for all indicator reports. In addition to the new template an updated indicator webpage will be prepared to accommodate the reports after approval.
- Where deemed appropriate and feasible, linking the pressure indicators with information on sources and loads will be explored jointly by relevant experts. This is proposed to be done under the umbrella of one of the HOLAS 3 Targeted Topical workshops in autumn 2022 (see Annex 1 for proposed timing), targeting the relevant indicator leads and the topical experts from both State and Conservation and Pressure WGs. Climate change information will be included as indicated earlier in the document.

2.4 Review and approval of indicator reports

- Indicator reports, including the already approved evaluation results, will be presented to Heads of Delegation in December 2022 for approval.
- The reports will be submitted to EGs, WGs and GEAR for intersessional review concomitantly with submission to the HOD 63-2022 meeting, using a dedicated workspace. Comments by WGs and EGs representatives are to be provided to the Secretariat 10 days prior to the Heads of Delegation meeting, using the dedicated amendment table, for consolidation by the Secretariat. Comments and input will be shared with HOD 63-2022 and indicator leads prior to the meeting. Indicator leads will be invited to provide clarifications and corrections to the meeting, as needed, and proposed amendments will be presented at the meeting for approval.

2.5 Publication of indicator reports

- The reports will be published online following approval of the thematic assessment content, by the end of March 2023, thus enabling their use for national consultation processes for HELCOM Contracting Parties who are also EU Member States. See Annex 1 for an overview of the timeline





Indicators: Provisional timeline

Process
Submission (with date)
Review/endorsement
Approval

2022

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Indicator evaluation results								31 August		10-14 October		
Indicator reports										17 October		31 November -1 December





Thematic Assessments

By Jannica Haldin, HELCOM
Friday, November 19, 2021





Thematic Assessments

- Will build on information in indicator reports, integrated assessment results, qualitative assessments and previously published material (e.g. Maritime Assessment, Climate change fact sheet, MPAs, Red list...)



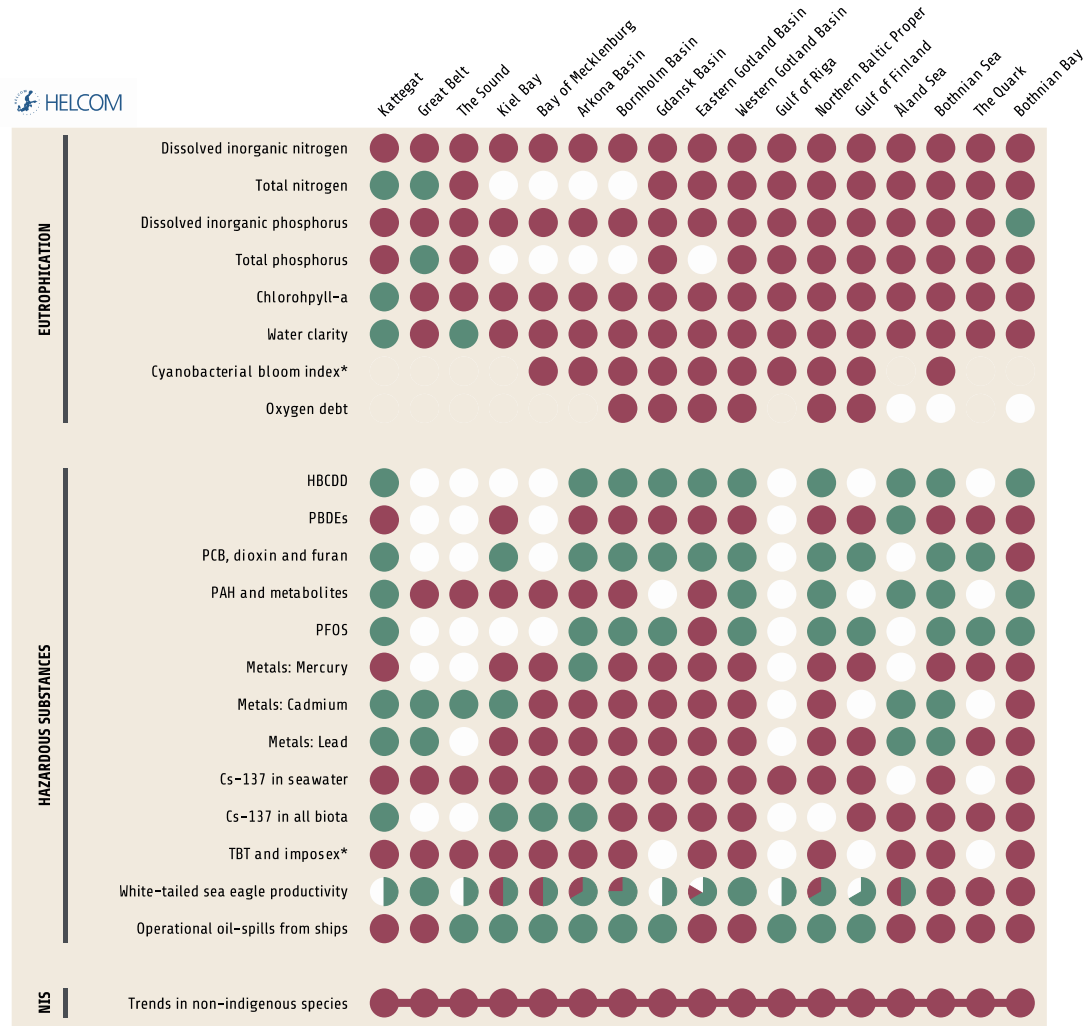


Integrated assessments

- Uses the integrated assessment tools HEAT (eutrophication), BEAT (biodiversity) and CHASE (hazardous substances), as well as provisional methodology for integration (e.g. seabed).

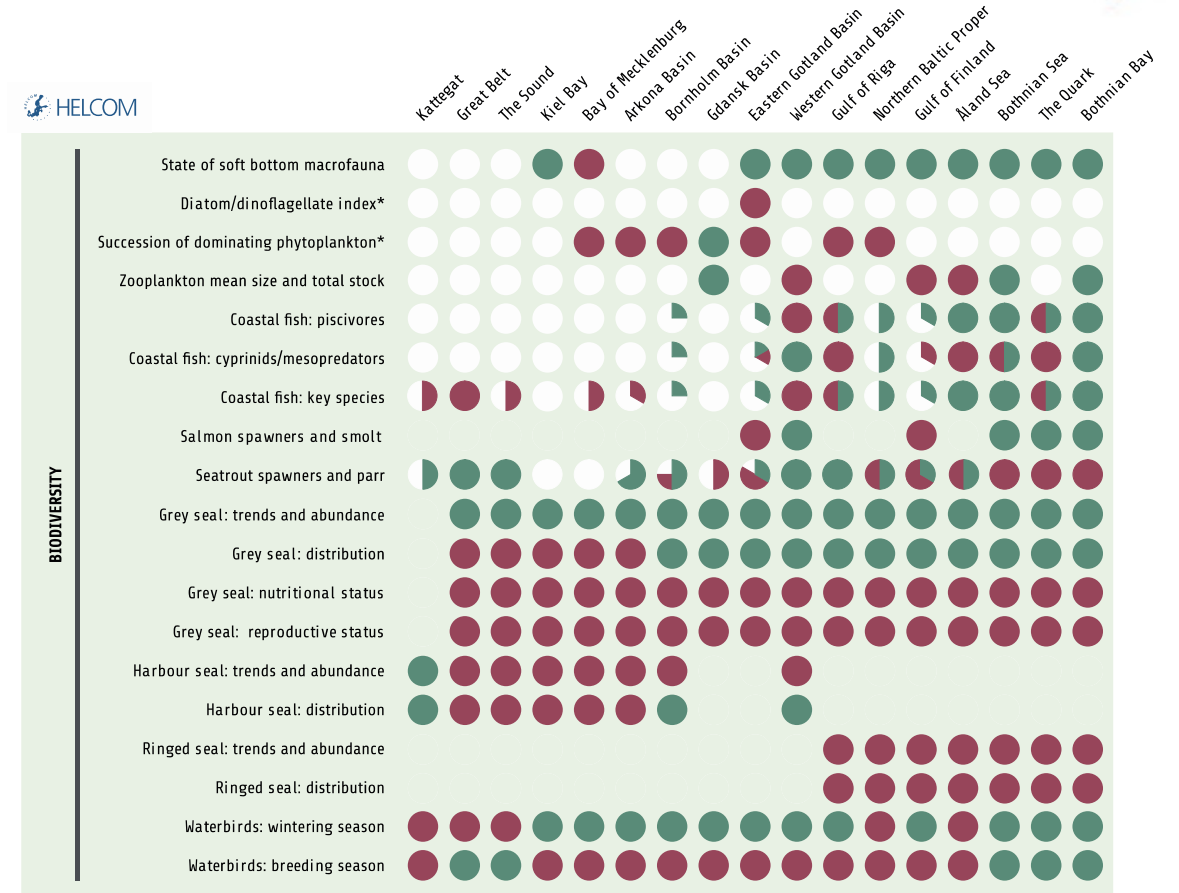


Status of pressure-based core indicators in the sub-basins of the Baltic Sea



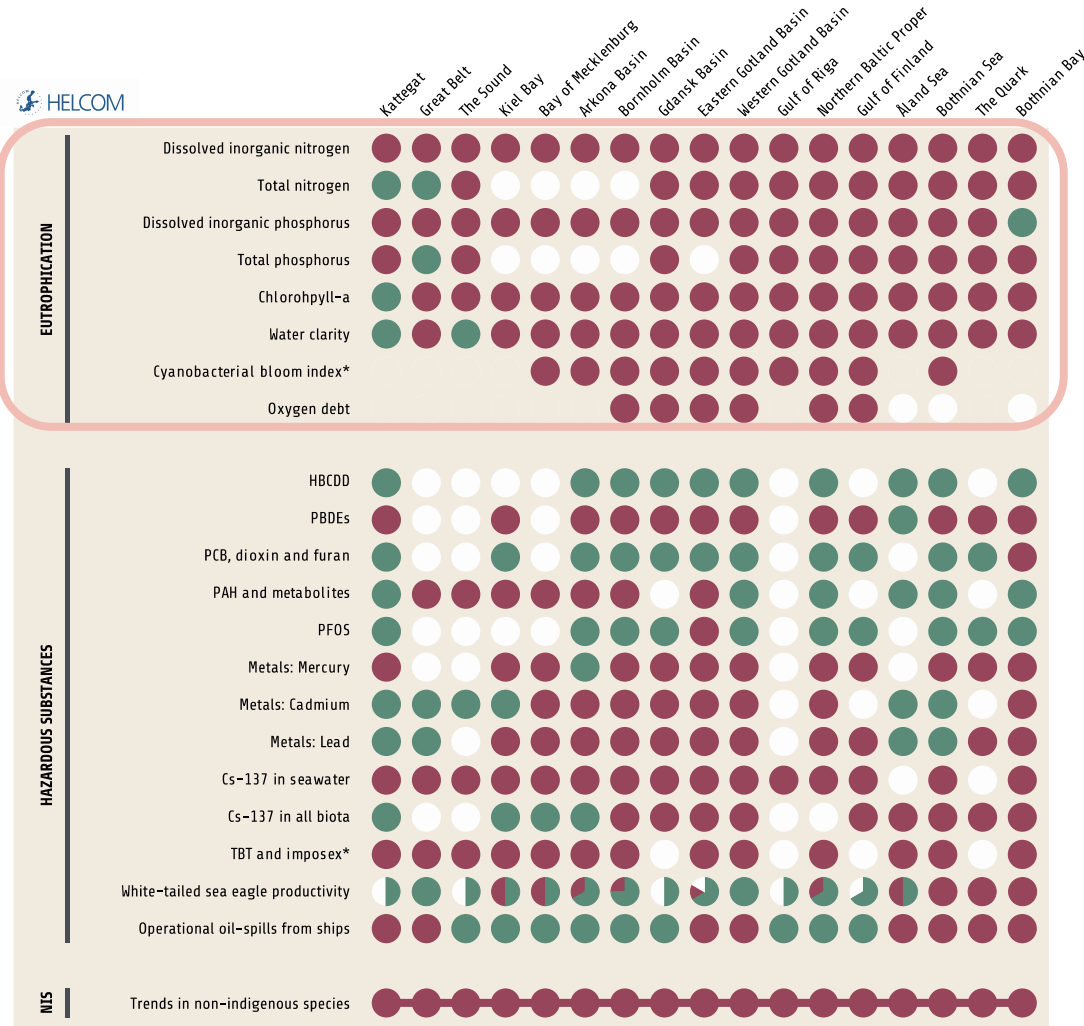
* Included as test

Status of biodiversity core indicators in the sub-basins of the Baltic Sea



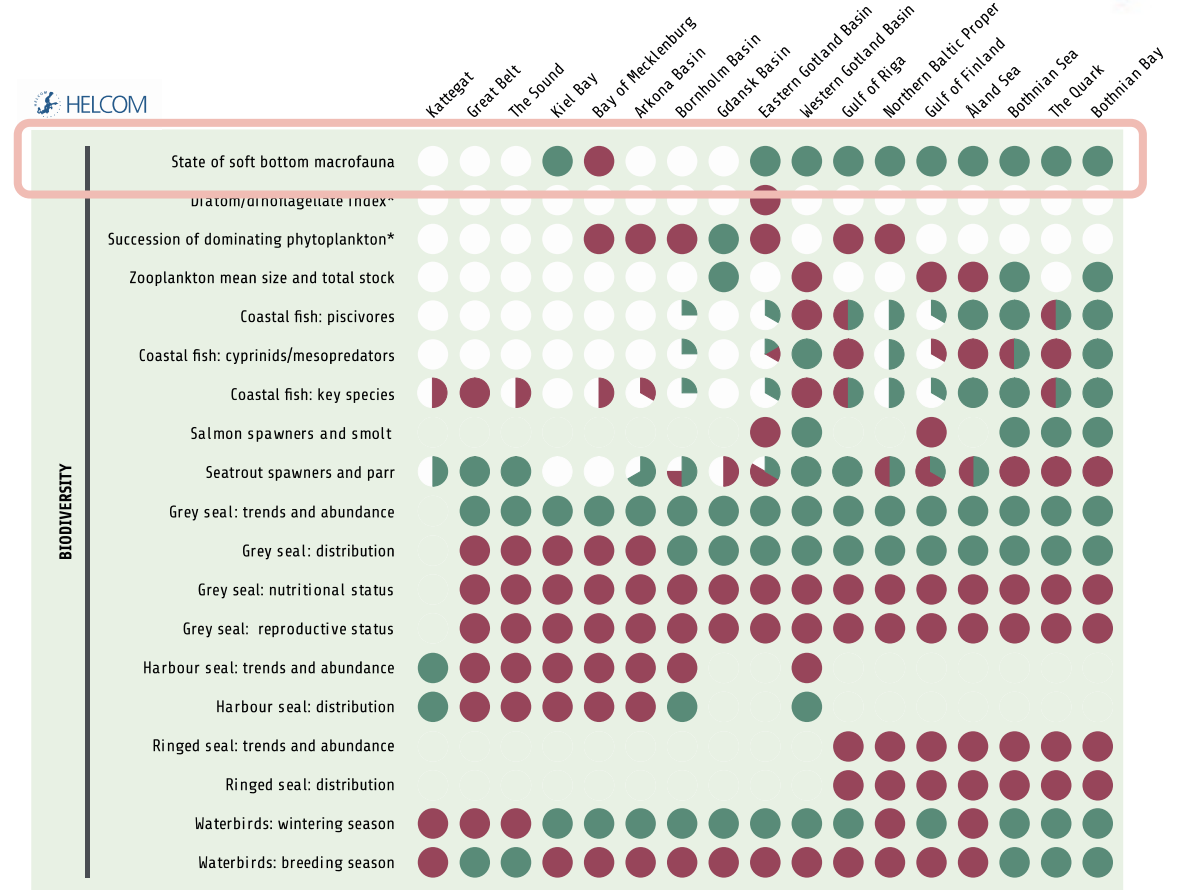
* Included as test

Status of pressure-based core indicators in the sub-basins of the Baltic Sea



* Included as test

Status of biodiversity core indicators in the sub-basins of the Baltic Sea



* Included as test



Example 2: Integrated assessment

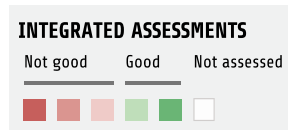
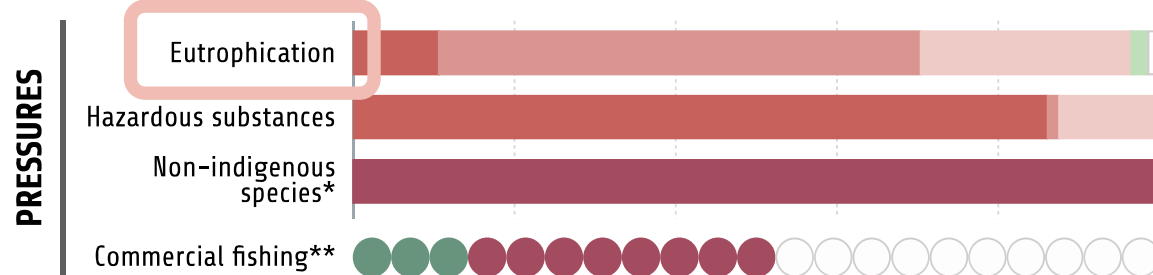
A combination of indicators provide an integrated assessment about a particular topic/theme, such as eutrophication, both overall (graph) and by sub-basin (map).

Indicators used for the assessment

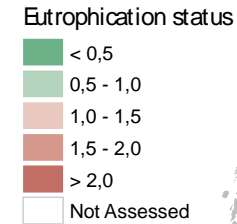
Eutrophication



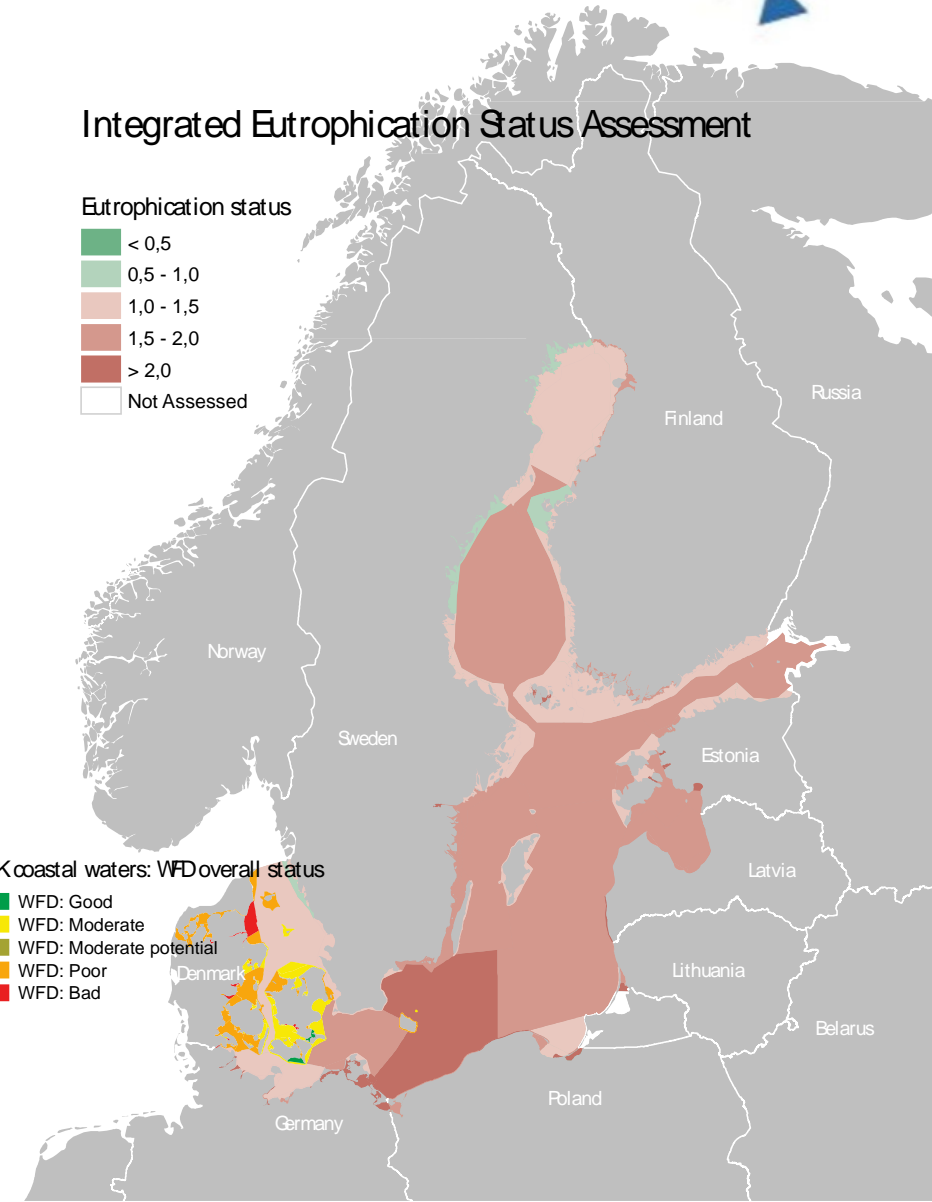
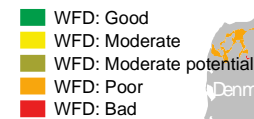
- Dissolved inorganic nitrogen.
- Dissolved inorganic phosphorus.
- Total nitrogen.
- Total phosphorus.
- Chlorophyll-a.
- Cyanobacterial bloom index.*
- Oxygen debt.
- State of the soft-bottom macrofauna community.
- Coastal water indicators (national).
- Water clarity.



Integrated Eutrophication Status Assessment



DK coastal waters: WFD overall status





Thematic Assessments



Eutrophication



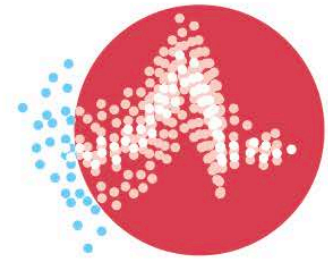
Biodiversity



**Hazardous
substances**



**Economic and
social analyses**



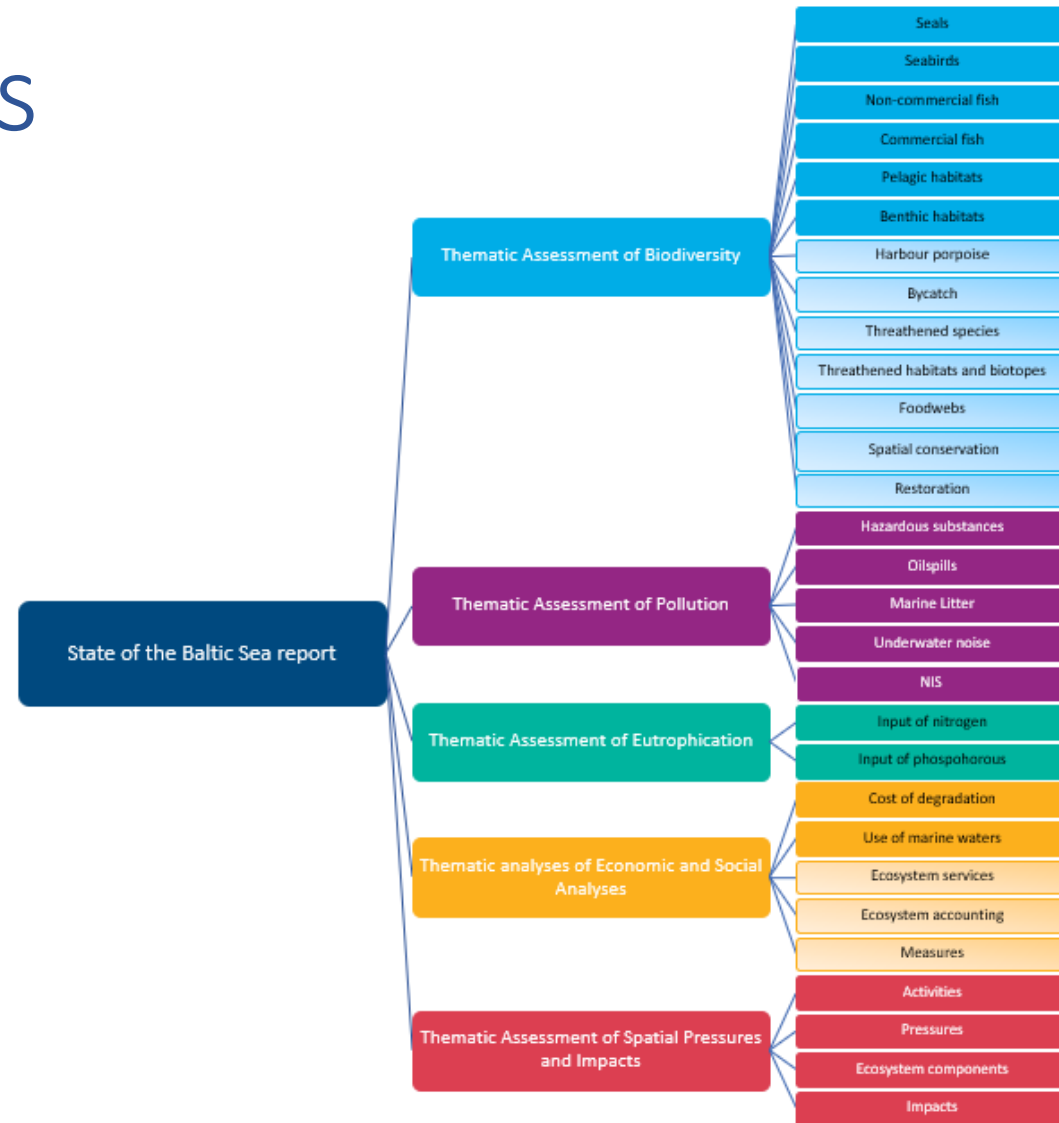
**Spatial pressures
and impacts**





Thematic Assessments

- Focusing on presenting methods and results in detail (focusing on the **WHAT** and the **HOW**).
- New topics introduced, expanding from those topics included in the integrated assessments.





Template for Thematic Assessments

- Prepare a shared template for thematic assessments (early 2022, first draft to be reviewed in spring 2022, approved by S&C in autumn 2022, jointly with the indicator results).
 - Ensures that the relevant information needed for the Summary report is available under all the thematic assessments.
 - Ensure that the thematic assessment reports present the needed information to make them policy relevant and also highlights gaps etc.
 - Support the holistic perspective.
 - Make the information and reports more accessible and easier to navigate.



Thematic Assessments





Thematic Assessment

3.1 Generating quantitative thematic assessment results (including integrated assessments)

- Data driven thematic assessments (including integrated assessments of the approved indicator results using the HELCOM integrated assessment tools), are proposed to be taken forward as indicated in Figure 8 and in the dedicated document on assessment and analysis approaches submitted to HOD 61-2021. Any subsequent changes stemming from the proposed Targeted Assessment Methodology workshops planned for spring 2022 are proposed to be presented for approval to STAE&CONSERVATION 16-2022 prior to use in HOLAS 3. Information presented in square brackets in figure 8 is provisional and either remains open or is dependent on ongoing processes.

3.2 Generating qualitative thematic assessments

- Qualitative assessments are proposed to be taken forward as indicated in Figure 8 below and in the dedicated document on assessment and analysis approaches submitted to HOD 61-2021. Any subsequent changes stemming from the proposed Targeted Assessment Methodology workshops planned for spring 2022 are proposed to be presented for approval to STAE&CONSERVATION 16-2022 prior to use in HOLAS 3. Information presented in square brackets in figure 8 is provisional and either remains open or is dependent on ongoing processes.

3.4 Review and approval of thematic assessments

- The thematic assessment reports, including the results of the assessments themselves and relevant contextual information, will be presented for approval to HELCOM 44-2023.
- The reports will be submitted to EGs, WGs and GEAR for intersessional review concomitantly with submission to the HELCOM 44-2023 meeting, using a dedicated workspace. Initial input from the review process is to be provided to Secretariat, using the dedicated amendment table, by the 8 February 2023, as indicated in the detailed timeline (see Annex 1 or Table 1 for overview). Input will be consolidated by Secretariat and shared with the contributors, who will be invited to provide clarifications and corrections as needed, giving the Secretariat and relevant contributors the opportunity to address the comments and provide amendments for review prior to the HELCOM meeting. A table listing input and proposed amendments, together with prepared revised drafts will be provided to CPs prior to the HELCOM meeting, to provide an overview of changes and function as the basis for further input and approval at the meeting.
- Additional comments by WGs and EGs representatives are to be provided to the Secretariat 10 days prior to the HELCOM meeting, using the dedicated amendment table, for consolidation by the Secretariat. Comments and input will be shared with HELCOM 44-2023 and contributors prior to the meeting. Contributors will be invited to provide clarifications and corrections to the meeting, as needed, and proposed amendments will be presented at the meeting for approval.

3.5 Layout of Thematic Assessment reports and publication

- The layout of the thematic assessments will be done in-house at the Secretariat and the reports will be published online following approval of the content, by the end of March 2023, thus enabling their use for national consultation processes for HELCOM Contracting Parties who are also EU Member States. See Annex 1 for an overview of the timeline.





Thematic Assessments: Provisional timeline

Process
Submission (with date)
Review/endorsement
Approval

2022

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Integrated assessments										17 October		
Thematic assessment reports												5 December

2023

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Thematic assessment reports			15-16 March									



Summary report

By Jannica Haldin, HELCOM
Friday, November 19, 2021



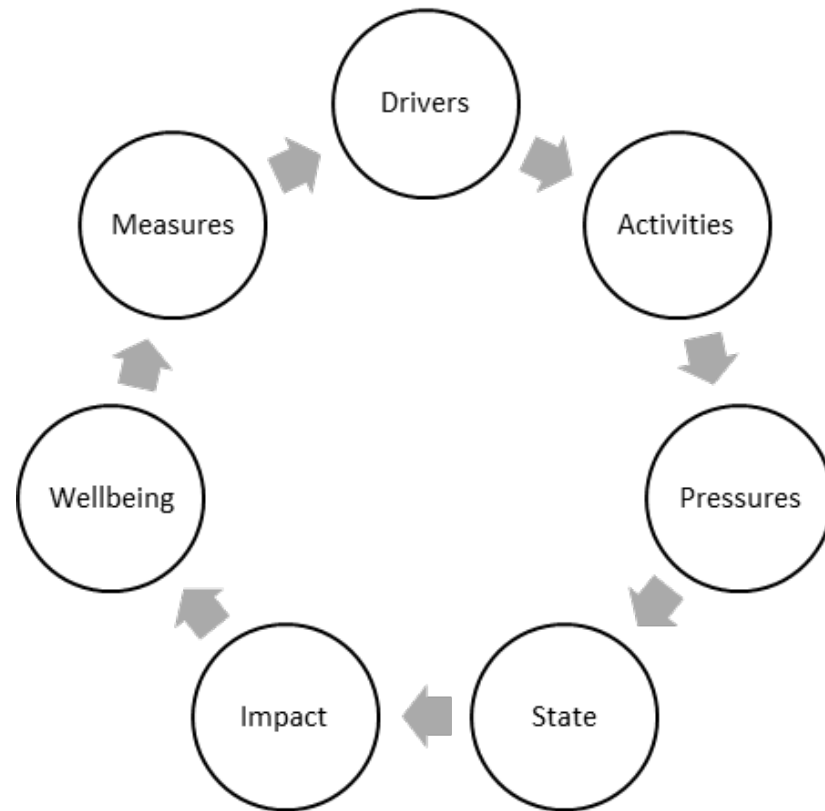
Summary Report



- The main aim, and the added value, of the Summary Report lies in the possibility to link the information from the topical assessments together and thus highlight the holistic aspects of the assessment for each topic (looking at the **WHAT** and the **WHY**).



HOLAS 3 and the holistic perspective



- In practice this means that for each topic/chapter of the summary report, as many of the aspects of the DAPSI(W)M cycle as possible should be addressed.



Summary Report topic chapters, examples

Chapter X

- Status/state (map+text)
 - What indicators/topics are considered (textbox?)
- Trends (graph+text)
- Links ecosystem services
- What are the main pressures (map+text)
 - What do we know about sources?
 - What do we know about pathways?
- What are the main activities (pressure/activity matrix+map+text)
 - Use of marine waters
 - Ecosystem accounting
- Drivers
 - Direct
 - How does climate change effect this topic
 - Indirect
- What actions/measures are HELCOM taking to tackle these activities/pressures (HELCOM actions overview+spatial presentation+text)?
- Why has GES not been reached? (e.g. implementation gaps, natural conditions/ecosystem lag...)
- How might this topic affect/be affected by other topics included in the assessment (crosslinkage graph+text)
- Gaps/uncertainties
- Summary of impacts
 - Cost of degradation (if available)

Summary Report



4.1 Generating content for the summary report



4.2 Review and approval of summary report content



4.3 Layout of reports and website production



Summary report

- *4.1 Generating content for the summary report*
- The summary report is envisioned to be prepared by the Secretariat and the dedicated expert secured by Sweden. The report will be based on the information and results presented and approved under the various thematic assessments and indicator reports as well as material already available from other HELCOM processes.
- The introduction is envisioned to provide explanation of the structure of and idea behind the HOLAS 3 assessment, including information on the assessment framework in general. It is also intended to highlight the value and use of the HOLAS 3 assessment, its links with the 2021 BSAP as well as relevant general background information on the Baltic Sea environment, climate change etc.
- Each segment of the report will include an introduction presenting general background information for that segment. Each segment will then be divided into topical chapters.
- The content under each topical chapter of the report will be supported by contextual information generated under thematic assessments not directly under the theme in question (e.g. biodiversity element specific pressure and impact maps, possible driver indicators to support the status assessments etc.) and where relevant information from the HELCOM Climate Change Fact Sheets, implementation information from the HELCOM explorer etc. in line with the DAPSI(W)M assessment framework (please see Figure 10 for an initial idea of the type of information a chapter might contain).
- The content of the report is intended for general consumption and should be accessible while still presenting a level of detail that allows a mildly initiated reader to follow the process and understand the significance and implications of the results. Wherever possible the content and results of the chapters will be presented supported by figures and similar visual aids.
- *4.2 Review and approval of summary report content*
- The reports will be submitted to EGs, WGs and GEAR for intersessional review concomitantly with submission to the HOD 64-2023 meeting, using a dedicated workspace. Comments by WGs and EGs representatives are to be provided to the Secretariat 10 days prior to the Heads of Delegation meeting, using the dedicated amendment table, for consolidation by the Secretariat. A table with proposed amendments, together with prepared revised drafts will be provided to CPs at the HOD meeting, to provide an overview of changes and function as the basis for further input and approval at the meeting. Contributors will be invited to provide clarifications and corrections to the meeting, as needed, and proposed amendments will be presented at the meeting for approval..
- *4.3 Layout of report and website production*
- The layout of the summary report and website production will be done in-house at the Secretariat following approval of the content. A mock-up of one of the summary report chapters can be provided as an example to the HOD meeting to illustrate what can be expected from the final product and to function as a basis for guidance.



Summary report: provisional timeline



Process
Submission (with date)
Review/endorsement
Approval

2023

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Summary report, content					8 May	13-14 June*						
Summary report, layout and website						15 June				28 October		

Thank you for your attention!

