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DATA:
INDICATORS





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INDICATORS FOR BIODIVERSITY AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

'Preparation of biodiversity and hazardous substances indicators with targets that reflect good environmental status for HELCOM (including the HELCOM CORESET project) and the improvement of Russian capacity to participate in the operationalization of those indicators'

Implemented by St. Petersburg University
(Main Consultant)

BACKGROUND

Core indicators are a set of state and pressure indicators that measure the progress towards achieving Good Environmental Status (GES) in the Baltic Sea, which is the goal of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP).

The core indicators enable the comparison of monitoring data and assessment results across the entire Baltic Sea region. As core indicators have a

scientific basis and reflect changes due to anthropogenic pressures, they enable the improvement of the environmental status by management measures on land or at sea.

The Russian part of the Gulf of Finland has some specific characteristics. It is the easternmost part of the Baltic Sea and has the most freshwater of the regions of the gulf. Bringing the experts working in this part of the Baltic Sea into the cooperation framework of HELCOM is important for the success of the work on the core indicators.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective in our project was to enhance the participation of Russian partners in the development of the core set of HELCOM biodiversity and hazardous substances indicators. Furthermore, we set out to improve the provision of data from Russia to HELCOM and to improve Russian capacity to participate in the operationalization of those indicators, including pressure indicators. In particular it supported the HELCOM CORESET and HELCOM CORESET II projects.

MAIN OUTCOMES

In total, 31 HELCOM-CORESET indicators were analysed by Russian experts

in the Russian part of the Gulf of Finland.

The experts estimated the general relevance of each HELCOM-CORESET indicator to the conditions of the Russian waters of the Gulf of Finland. They provided available data on the state



of the indicator in the given area, even if it was not a subject of regular state monitoring. In this case, the experts used their own knowledge and initial research to establish the limits for good environmental status, to adapt the indicator to regional conditions and to propose monitoring schemes for each indicator in the Russian part of the Gulf of Finland.

The final report also discusses the challenges of Russian involvement in the operationalization of the indicators.

In total, 27 experts and consultants were integrated in the work, which has been a major step forward in developing the experts' network to participate in HELCOM's activities related to the development and implementation of the indicators.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Russian experts continue to participate in HELCOM core indicator work and take into account that new challenges in the form of new hazardous substances and potentially new harmful processes require new approaches to monitoring. ●

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