

**Work Plan for the Joint OSPAR HELCOM Expert Group on Non-Indigenous Species 2021-2024
(As agreed by JEG NIS 1-2022 and STATE & CONSERVATION through correspondence procedure)**

| N. | Task description | Lead | Timeframe | Results | Interseasonal activities |
|--------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|
| Data and Database | | | | | |
| 1 | Provide proposals for improving and harmonizing formats for data submissions under both conventions | Task group: Peter, Sergej, Henn | First proposal to BDC 2022, submission deadline 11 March | Agreement that OSPAR would also include data to AquaNIS | Lena to provide a draft document on content needed for the proposal |
| 2 | Identify data issues associated with the databases and/or specific datasets, aim to improve AquaNIS as appropriate | Task group: Peter, Sergej, Henn (Kim Lundgren) | Before summer 2022 | | First step to check what data is in the OSPAR dataset and identify what content would be relevant for the AquaNIS database. Second step decide what data entry would be needed |
| 3 | Provide update to ICES WGITMO on work of JEG NIS and foreseen AquaNIS developments | Peter | | Clarity on work priorities and how they are mutually beneficial rather than double work | |
| 4 | Prepare data sets for assessments according to the quality requirements and make them available in accordance with data use and access policy | Task group: Peter, Sergej, Henn | HELCOM indicator will be run in 2022 (OSPAR dataset already compiled) | Set the stage for next updates post HOLAS III and QSR 2023 for more harmonized outputs | |
| 5 | Specify technical aspects of how to make data stream processes operational, e.g. automating delivery of indicator assessments through scripts | Task group: Peter, Sergej, Henn | 2023 | | |
| Monitoring | | | | | |
| 6 | Provide a forum for discussion of monitoring programmes, focusing on developing joint or coordinated monitoring where possible | | 2023/2024 | | Could arrange a dedicated meeting to discuss alignment of HELCOM and OSPAR monitoring programme |

| N. | Task description | Lead | Timeframe | Results | Intersectoral activities |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------|---|--|
| 7 | Provide updates to OSPAR CEMP guidelines and appendices, HELCOM monitoring programmes and guidelines when required | | After task 5 | | |
| 8 | Provide expert opinion on the development and implementation of new monitoring strategies and guidelines for NIS | | | Discuss new methodologies, e.g. eDNA, as well as frequency. Proposals to achieve adequate programmes based on comparisons between countries, including on criteria beyond new-introductions | |
| Assessments | | | | | |
| 9 | Ensure information flow with regular communication to both convention secretariats relevant to JEG NIS and/or general NIS related issues | Co-convenors and Secretariats | Regularly | | |
| 10 | Provide updates of indicators to be delivered regularly, frequency to be decided with the priority to deliver assessments for the QSR-2023 and HOLAS3, including thematic assessments | OSPAR: Peter as indicator lead HELCOM: (tbc Maiju as indicator lead) | Regular updates | | |
| 11 | Further develop the candidate indicators and/or developing new indicators, where a need has been identified by the Conventions or by MSFD (D2) at the EU level | | Tbc 2023 workshop | Build on task 7, taking up information from novel monitoring approaches | Compile list of existing indicator proposals which have not yet been feasible to apply. Organise dedicated workshop to discuss. Consider MSFD discussions in JRC |
| 12 | Develop integration methods and other aspects of indicator assessment, which require further development to be in line with EU MSFD assessment requirements according to COM DEC 848/2017 | | | | |

| N. | Task description | Lead | Timeframe | Results | Intersessional activities |
|-----------------------------------|---|------|----------------|---------|---------------------------|
| 13 | Contribute NIS related information to assessments carried out by other relevant groups | | | | |
| 14 | Coordinate with JRC and coordinate on MSFD | Henn | As appropriate | | |
| Ad hoc expert consultation | | | | | |
| 15 | Respond as needed to queries from the parent organisations and their respective subsidiary bodies, such as JTG BALLAST & BIOFOULING, relating to NIS issues by providing input or expert opinions | | | | |
| Any other issues | | | | | |
| 16 | Identify resources to carry out work, for example through projects | All | | | |