

WKBEDLOSS – Scoping of physical loss pressures on the seabed D6C1/C4 – methods to operational data products

WKBEDLOSS - Scoping workshop on physical loss pressures on the seabed D6C1/C4 - from methods to operational data products

The *Workshop on scoping of physical loss pressures on the seabed D6C1/C4 - from methods to operational data product (WKBEDLOSS)*, chaired by Steven Degraer, Belgium will meet in Copenhagen, Denmark, 11 March – 13 March 2019 to:

- a. Identify the main physical pressure(s) causing loss of benthic habitats per EU ecoregion, taking account of the results of ICES WKBEDPRES1 (2018). Evaluate the relative significance of each pressure per ecoregion, the characteristics of these pressure(s), and identify which human activities the pressures are linked to.
- b. Taking account of the results of other initiatives on the effects of pressures on the seabed, establish guidance for the collection of pressure data. Identify and report on methods to collect pressure data that will ensure the data can be used to assess the benthic habitat impacts of these pressures.
- c. Define and report on practical steps to collate data on physical pressure(s) expected to impact benthic habitats, including data management best practices (pressure data to be sourced and data flows to be mapped). Steps should state actions to be taken, when, and by whom, to ensure the identified pressure data can be collated by June 2019 (through data calls, working groups, projects, organizations).

Prior to the workshop, the Chair, together with two ACOM approved invited attendees (tbc) will prepare material to address the TORs. This group will also ensure the completion of the workshop report.

WKBEDLOSS will report to the attention of ACOM by 15 April 2019.

Supporting information

Priority

High, in response to a special request from DGENV on the Common Implementation (CIS) of the MSFD. The advice will feed into ongoing efforts to provide guidance on the operational implementation of the MSFD.

Scientific justification

This workshop focuses on the requirement of D6C1 to assess the spatial extent and distribution of physical loss pressures on the seabed (including the intertidal area) for each subdivision¹ and per MSFD broad habitat type in each subdivision for criterion D6C4. Physical loss by all relevant human activities should be considered (e.g. permanent physical restructuring of the coast and seabed such as by land claim, canalisation, certain coastal defence and flood protection measures, construction of coastal and offshore structures, restructuring of the seabed, extraction of minerals including gravel and sand, and placement of cables and pipelines, dredging and immersion).

The workshop will prepare a guidance document to illustrate for each physical loss pressure the data flow from “owner” to product. General guidelines will be required that define how 1) pressure data should be (re)processed and how 2) the pressure data should be interpolated and/or extrapolated when data is missing.

The following supporting material is provided to guide the interpretation of TORs a-c:

a) What are the main physical pressure(s) causing benthic habitat loss per EU ecoregion? This TOR will ensure the scoping of pressures most relevant to seabed loss. For each EU ecoregion the top pressures causing physical loss to the seabed should be identified. When evaluating physical loss pressures, consideration will also be given to which habitat-pressure impacts are most important (and how this should be accounted for when aggregating results). For each pressure a description of the link to the main drivers and/or sectors-activities will be included (i.e. manageable human activity).

b) What features should be used when collecting these pressure data? The workshop should agree upon pressure features for drafting a guidance document for the collection of pressure data (see TOR C). The features should be in line with the criteria proposed by WKBEDPRESS1 (2018).

c) What practical steps are needed to collect data? Using agreed criteria (see TOR B), a draft guidance document for the collation of pressure data will be produced to ensure best practice and correct standardization when assessing spatial extent and distribution of pressure and habitat data. The document will consider work done in Regional Sea Conventions (e.g. HELCOM’s SPICE), RMFOs and available data (e.g. habitat data in EMODnet). The document, for each physical loss pressure and each ecoregion, will include:

- data sources, data flow and data management best practices
 - operational guidance of how pressure data should be (re)processed, interpolated/extrapolated when data is missing
 - practical steps/tasks to collect and map data by June 2019 (data calls, working groups, projects, organizations)
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Resource requirements	ICES data centre, secretariat and advice process.
Participants	Workshop with researchers and RSCs investigators If requests to attend exceed the meeting space available ICES reserves the right to refuse participants. Choices will be based on the experts' relevant qualifications for the Workshop. Participants join the workshop at national expense.
Secretariat facilities	Data Centre, Secretariat support and meeting room
Financial	Covered by DGENV special request.
Linkages to advisory committees	Direct link to ACOM.
Linkages to other committees or groups	Links to WGSFD, WGFBIT, WGEXT, WGMPCZM, WGMHM, WGECON, BEWG, WGMRE, CSGMSFD and SCICOM.
Linkages to other organizations	Links to OSPAR, HELCOM, Barcelona Convention, Bucharest Convention