

## **WKBEDPRES1 – Scoping of benthic pressure layers D6C2 – methods to operational data products**

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**WKBEDPRES1** - Scoping workshop on benthic pressure layers D6C2 - from methods to operational data products

The *Workshop on scoping for benthic pressure layers D6C2 - from methods to operational data product (WKBEDPRES1)*, chaired by Phillip Boulcott, UK (Scotland) will meet in Copenhagen, Denmark, 24 October – 26 October 2018 to:

- a. Scope the main pressure(s) on benthic impact per EU ecoregion. The workshop will evaluate the relative significance of each pressure per ecoregion, the characteristics (e.g. frequency/extent) of these pressure(s), and what human activities the pressure is linked to.
- b. Establish criteria to guide the collecting of pressure data. The workshop will determine criteria to guide collation of pressure data, to ensure the practical use of the data in assessing benthic impact.
- c. Decide on practical steps to collate the required data, while applying data management best practices (pressure data will be sourced and data flows mapped). The practical steps include identifying what steps need to be taken and by whom to ensure identified data is collated by June 2019 (data calls, working groups, projects, organizations).
- d. Suggest appropriate assessment units by broad benthic habitat types to assess spatial extent and distribution of physical disturbance. With the support of Commission Decision 2017/848/EU Table 2 and EUNIS habitat classification the workshop will suggest how to aggregate from habitat to overall spatial extent and distribution of physical disturbance. Specific characteristics of all European ecoregions should be considered.

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.

WKBEDPRES1 will report to the attention of ACOM by 12 November 2018.

## Supporting information

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### 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.

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### Scientific justification

This workshop focuses on the requirement of D6C2 to assess the spatial extent and distribution of physical disturbance pressures on the seabed (including the intertidal area) for each MSFD broad habitat type within each ecoregion and subdivisions within. Physical disturbance by all relevant human activities should be considered (e.g. physical restructuring of the coast and seabed including dredging and depositing of materials, placement of infrastructure, extraction of minerals including gravel and sand, and use of bottom-contacting fishing gear). Central to this is to identify methods to express 1) the intensity of the pressure in a way appropriate to derive the cumulative of all disturbance pressures, and, to express 2) the intensity of the pressure in a way appropriate to assess adverse effects under D6C3 and D6C5, both for the single pressure and the cumulative of all pressures. In doing this, recovery time will also be considered.

The workshop will prepare a guidance document to illustrate for each 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-d:

a) What are the main pressure(s) causing benthic impact per EU ecoregion? This TOR will ensure the scoping of pressures most relevant to impact the seabed. For each EU ecoregion the top pressures impacting the seabed should be identified, with relative significance weighted in percentage. In addition, for each pressure a description estimating the frequency of activity, area of the seabed affected along with other relevant parameters (e.g temporal frequency, intensity, acute, chronic, spatial extent, direct or indirect effect, homogenising effect or heterogenizing effect) should be provided. Combined, such an approach will allow a comparison of ecoregions. When evaluating 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 criteria should be applied when collecting these pressure data? The workshop should agree upon criteria for drafting a guidance document for the collection of pressure data (see TOR C). The criteria can include the following:

- Grain and resolution (c-square) of data.
  - Issues related to data security / data policy
  - Encompass the main activities contributing to disturbance pressures on the seabed (including dredging and depositing of materials, extraction of minerals, and use of bottom-contacting fishing gear per metier);
  - Be applicable to all EU waters (noting subregional variations where necessary due, for example, to data availability);
  - Be suitable for assessment of the pressure over a 6-year MSFD reporting;
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- Express the intensity of the pressure in a way appropriate to derive the cumulative of all disturbance pressures on the seabed;
- Express the intensity of the pressure in a way appropriate to assess adverse effects under D6C3 and D6C5, both for the single pressure and the cumulative of all pressures;
- Be sufficiently operational that a demonstration product can be made in Workshop 2, 2019, with available data.

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 take into account 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 pressure and each ecoregion, will include:

- data sources, data flow and data management best practices
- definitions of how pressure data should be (re)processed, interpolated/extrapolated when data is missing
- practical steps/tasks to collect data by June 2019 (data calls, working groups, projects, organizations)

d) What are the relevant assessment units and broad benthic habitat types to be used? This TOR will determine what broad benthic habitat types should be used as assessment units for each ecoregion using the Commission Decision 2017/848/EU Table 2 and EUNIS habitat classification. The TOR should include suggestions as to how to aggregate up from individual habitats to the overall spatial extent and distribution of physical disturbance. Ecoregions specific characteristics should be considered.

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, CSGMSFD and SCICOM.
Linkages to other organizations	Links to OSPAR, HELCOM, Barcelona Convention, Bucharest Convention