



UPDATED MAP & DATA SERVICE FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION

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D 2.4- Updated Map and data service for the Baltic Sea region

Current and Future Data Uploads to HELCOM Map and Data Service (MADS)

Deliverable 2.4 of PROTECT BALTIC outlines the current and planned data uploads to the [HELCOM Map and data service \(MADS\)](#).

MADS is an online platform hosted by HELCOM that provides open access to a comprehensive range of geographic and environmental data related to the Baltic Sea region.

As the lead for Work Package 2 (WP2: Data), HELCOM serves as a long standing and well-established data hub for regional Baltic Sea data. The HELCOM Secretariat has decades of experience working with national ministries, agencies, and data hosts on data reporting. It also has a strong mandate, granted directly by the countries, to submit data calls, as well as to process and store data at the regional level.

Under this mandate, HELCOM collects and maintains a wealth of data on the Baltic Sea, organizing it into thematic databases accessible through online data portals, databases, data services and data tools, many of which will be used in PROTECT BALTIC.

Status of environmental data uploads

At present, no environmental data have been updated to MADS. The initial plan for uploading environmental data to MADS at this stage of the project was to make all layers available in one place for the modellers. However, once work began, the modellers requested that only the layers actually included in the models, along with the modelling results, be included in MADS.

This decision is based on two key factors. First, the modellers highlighted that the large volume of underlying data requires substantial storage space and processing power and storing it in MADS could significantly slow down the modelling process. Second, to enhance clarity, robustness, and policy relevance, the focus should be on publishing only the data that has been directly used to generate the results.

Subsequently the following considerations apply to data uploads:

- Most environmental data for MADS will be generated within PROTECT BALTIC and will be uploaded once finalized.
- Open-source data that have already been compiled remain accessible through their original sources. These will not be republished on MADS until it is clear which datasets have been used in the modelling and in what format.
- A few datasets are still pending. A decision on their upload to MADS will be made once all relevant data have been gathered, as they may not be available as uniform datasets elsewhere.

- Data originating from only a few Contracting Parties will not be uploaded, as MADS focuses on regional datasets. Instead, such data have been made available directly to Work Package 3 (WP3: Spatial modelling).

Open-source data policy

Publicly available open-source data will not be republished unless they have been included in the modelling or, after the modelling is complete, are considered to provide added value. This approach prevents unnecessary data duplication across multiple sources while ensuring that all information driving the modelling results is available in one place. By doing so, it enhances transparency, facilitates the use and interpretation of results, and ultimately strengthens their policy relevance and potential for informed decision making.

Future upload considerations for collected environmental data

A decision is still pending on whether to include certain received environmental datasets in MADS. For example, data products originating from research projects may be published if the data producers provide consent.

Further details on specific datasets can be found in:

- **Deliverable 2.5:** *Updated Gap Analysis of Data to Obtain a Clear Overview of Further Data Needs and Infrastructure Development*
- **Deliverable 2.7:** *Report on Data Collated and Uploaded to Various Databases/Portals.*

Once the first set of modelling is complete, all predictor variable layers used in the modelling, along with the modelling results, will be uploaded to MADS and made publicly available.



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