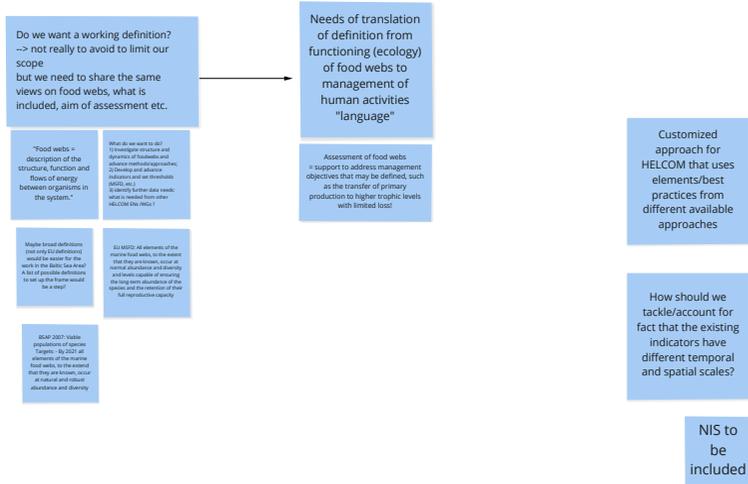


Setting the scene: assessing food webs & Food webs as concept

How to define food webs?

- Could the development and agreement of a common working definition of food webs (or the assessment of food webs) for HELCOM assessment purposes be valid?
- Could this help with defining the work needed to develop an appropriate assessment of food webs in the region?
- Could documenting this, support progress and planning of the work?



Requirements

- What is sufficient (BSAP and MSFD)?
- What is required?
- Are the requirements of the MSFD and BSAP parallel/compatible (i.e. 1:1)?
- Are the policy assessments 'ecologically sound' and sufficient for the protection of the Baltic Sea marine environment?
- Scale?

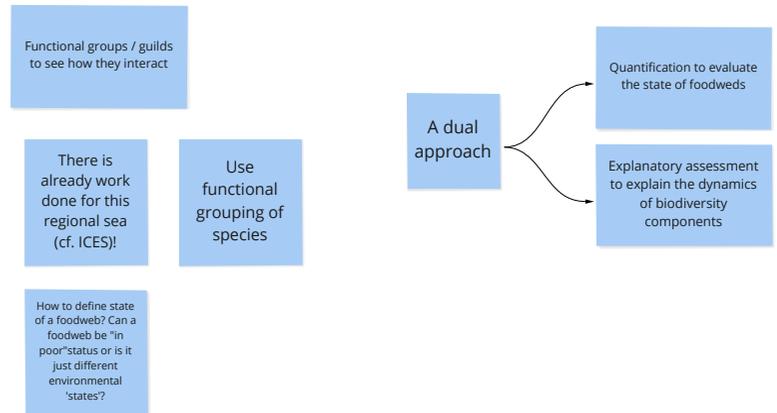
Possible alignment with OSPAR work on food webs (cf. QSR)

Align with MSFD D4

We need to define the minimum requirements, i.e. the lowest common denominators, and use this as a baseline

How to understand this concept/approach food web assessment

- A broad concept that covers as many food web 'compartments' as possible?
- A 'chain' approach?
- A key processes or key species approach?
- A key interactions (e.g. seal-fisheries) approach?
- An ecosystem niche approach?
- Inclusion of all species?
- Inclusion of NIS? Impact of NIS?
- Inclusion of major drivers and processes?
- An assessment of balance and stability/robustness (e.g. to change)?
- An approach that enables positive action/protection?
- An approach that incorporates the dynamics of a feed web and its complexity?



Why assessing foodwebs?

- How can management utilise and respond to the assessment made?
- Can it be linked to pressures or activities?
- Can it be linked to responses or measures that can improve the situation?
- How can the evaluation/assessment be interpreted (including by non-scientists)?
- Needs to be robust (or reflect a confidence in the assessment).
- Even initial assessments and pointers may allow managers to take positive action if clearly utilisable.

Using foodwebs only for assessment or also to support management?

Important topic for resilience of ecosystems towards climate change

Reporting needs

Do we know what is needed? -> We need a "strategy" for assessing food webs in D4. Discussion with colleagues working on D1, D2, etc.?