



Document title	Background information for list of species for commercial fish assessment
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Agenda Item	4 – List of commercial fish species
Submission date	21.9.2021
Submitted by	HELCOM Secretariat
Reference	Document 3J-95 submitted to STATE & CONSERVATION 15-2021

Background

To support the assessment of fish, in particular for HOLAS III purposes there is a need to define which species should be included under the assessment of coastal fish (and/or non-commercial fish) and which as commercial fish. This is especially relevant for commercial fish which is an assessment topic not hosted directly within a HELCOM Expert Group and thus the focus of this Workshop.

The establishment of the list of species for commercial fish assessment is currently ongoing. This document contains a first draft of such list based on different sources within HELCOM (e.g. the HELCOM Biodiversity Check List from 2021 and the HELCOM Red List of species). This document was also submitted to STATE & CONSERVATION 15-2021 as [document 3J-95](#). The background information of the document is included in this document and highlights the current process between STATE & CONSERVATION Working Group and ComFish WS 1-2021.

STATE & CONSERVATION 15-2021 is invited to:

- take note of the information.
- take note that a proposed approach for establishing the list of commercial fish species will be submitted as a late document to STATE&CONSERVATION 15-2021.
- provide national positions on the preferred option to derive species lists by 24 September 2021, in advance of the ComFish Workshop, to be sent to the HELCOM Secretariat (florent.nicolas@helcom.fi).

Since STATE & CONSERVATION is held on 4-8 October 2021, additional information from the Working Group meeting will be shared among the participations of ComFish WS 1-2021 prior or during the Workshop. The aim of this request has been to try and gather national positions in advance of the Workshop and therefore enhance the focus of ComFish WS 1-2021.

Please note that Sweden is also in the process of preparing a list of commercial fish species based on the Approach 1 of the table 4 from the [ICES Special Request Advice](#) (EU request for advice on developing appropriate lists for Descriptor 3, commercially exploited fish and shellfish, for reporting by EU Member States under MSFD Article 17 in 2024). This document will be submitted to the workshop as soon as it is available (cf. document 4-2 submitted to ComFish WS 1-2021).

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to

- Take note of the background information submitted to STATE & CONSERVATION 15-2021
- Use the information provided to discuss the way forward to establish the list of commercial fish species

Background information submitted to STATE & CONSERVATION 15-2021

To guide the assessment of fish for HOLAS III purposes there is a need to define which species should be included under the assessment of coastal fish and commercial fish, especially so for commercial fish which is an assessment not hosted directly by a group within the HELCOM framework.

The establishment of the list of species for commercial fish assessment is currently ongoing. The HELCOM Workshop on Status Assessment of Commercial Fish (ComFish WS 1-2021), to be held on 28-29 September 2021 will propose a way forward to prepare this list intersessionally after which the list will be submitted for with all relevant materials to HOD 61-2021 for approval for use in HOLAS III (8-9 December 2021).

This document presents a draft of the list for commercial fish species to be used in HOLAS III. It is based on the [document 4J-15](#) submitted to STATE & CONSERVATION 14-2021 and has been updated based on information from the current work under FISH-PRO III. The list has also been cross-checked with the HELCOM [latest](#) red list species. A column “Red List category” was added to the table, based on [HELCOM Red List Species Information Sheets \(SIS\) Fish](#) to provide an overview of the proportion of possible commercial species which are also red listed.

As this process is ongoing with the support of ComFish WS 1-2021, clarifications are still needed regarding which approach should be used for HOLAS III, in line with D1 and D3 of the MSFD. The different approaches are explained in the table 4 of the [ICES Special Request Advice](#) (EU request for advice on developing appropriate lists for Descriptor 3, commercially exploited fish and shellfish, for reporting by EU Member States under MSFD Article 17 in 2024). Please note that this topic is also included in the document 3J-32. The establishment of a HOLAS III list depends on the approach to be chosen for HOLAS III, and a separate document outlining the proposed approach from the ComFish WS 1-2021 will be submitted as a late document for endorsement by the Meeting.

With the [HELCOM ComFish WS-1-2021](#) approaching (see document 3J-32), and due to take place prior to the State and Conservation meeting itself (28-29 September 2021), Contracting Parties are invited, if possible, to confirm their preferred option for defining the list of commercial fish species (i.e. which of the options proposed by ICES they would favour) prior to the HELCOM ComFish WS 1-2021. This is proposed to establish if there is clear indication of regional support for a single option. If this is the case greater focus at the workshop could be placed on addressing the specific details of the species list itself and the subsequent appropriate assessment and indicator methodologies, as opposed to agreeing on an option for establishing the list. The Contracting Parties can provide national positions to the HELCOM Secretariat (florent.nicolas@helcom.fi) prior to ComFish WS 1-2021.

Background information on the list of species for commercial fish assessment

The table below is a draft overview for commercial fish species which could be used in HOLAS III. It is based on the [document 4J-15](#) submitted to STATE & CONSERVATION 14-2021 and was slightly updated based on information from the current work under FISH-PRO III. The list was also cross-checked with the [HELCOM Checklist 2.0 of Baltic Sea Macrospecies](#).

Species considered	Commercial fish				
	Covered by ICES stock advice for the Baltic in the period 2016-2021	Included in European Environment Agency list of D3 species	Appears on ICES advice list of additional species to add to the MSFD D3 Reference List (1 = The species is reported by an EU Member State and should be added to the "ReferenceList D3". 2 = The species may be important at a local level in the region, based on information WKD3LISTS)	Reported under D3 by one or more CP for 2018 national reporting	Red List Category Categories: NA: Not applicable CR: Critically Endangered EN: Endangered VU: Vulnerable NT: Near Threatened LC: Least Concern DD: Data Deficient
Anchovy (<i>E. encrasicolus</i>)		X	2		NA ¹
Baltic flounder (<i>P. solemdali</i>)		X	2		NA ¹
Brill (<i>S. rhombus</i>)	X (only in 2016 and 2017)	X		SE	NA ¹
Cod (<i>G. morhua</i>)	X (all years)	X		DE, DK, EE, FI, LT, LV, PL, SE	EN (three stocks were separately assessed: – Kattegat as CR (A2bc), – Western Baltic as NT (A2b+4b), – Eastern Baltic as VU (A2bc+4bc).
Common bream (<i>A. brama</i>)			1	DE	NA ¹
Common dab (<i>L. limanda</i>)	X (only in 2016 and 2017)	X		DE, SE	NA ¹
Common sole (<i>S. solea</i>)	X (all years)	X		DK, DE, SE	NA ¹
Eel (<i>A. anguilla</i>)	X (all years)	X		DE, DK, SE	CR
Flounder (<i>P. flesus</i>)	X (all years)	X	2	EE, DE, LT, PL, SE	NA ¹
Garfish (<i>B. belone</i>)		X		DE	NA ¹

¹ No information available in the HELCOM Red List Species.

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Great sandeel (<i>H. ianceolatus</i>)	X (all years)	X	1	DK	NA ¹
Greater silver smelt (<i>A. silus</i>)		X		SE (Skagerrak only?)	NA ¹
Haddock (<i>M. aeglefinus</i>)		X		DK, SE	NT
Hake (<i>M. merluccius</i>)		X		DK, SE	NT
Herring (<i>C. harengus</i>)	X (all years)	X		DE, DK, EE, FI, LT, LV, PL, SE	LC
Labrids (<i>L. berggylta</i> , <i>L. mixtus</i> , <i>C. exoletus</i> , <i>S. melops</i> , <i>C. rupestris</i>)		X (Coryphaenoides rupestris)			NA ¹
Lesser sand-eel (<i>A. marinus</i>)	X (all years)	X	1	DK	LC
Lumpfish (<i>C. lumpus</i>)			2		NT
Norway pout (<i>T. esmarkii</i>)		X		DK	NA ¹
Perch (<i>P. fluviatilis</i>)		X	1	EE, FI, DE	NA ¹
Pike (<i>E. lucius</i>)			1	DE	NA ¹
Pikeperch (<i>S. lucioperca</i>)		X	1	EE, FI, DE	NA ¹
Plaice (<i>P. platessa</i>)	X (all years)	X		DK, DE, SE	NA ¹
Roach (<i>R. rutilus</i>)			1	DE	NA ¹
Roundnosed grenadier (<i>C. rupestris</i>)		X		SE (Skagerrak only?)	NA
Saithe (<i>P. virens</i>)		X		DK, SE, (Skagerrak only?)	NA ¹
Salmon (<i>S. salar</i>)	X (all years)	X		EE, FI	VU
Small sandeel (<i>A. tobianus</i>)	X (all years)	X	1	DK	LC

¹No information available in the HELCOM Red List Species.

Species considered	Commercial fish				Red List Category
	Covered by ICES stock advice for the Baltic in the period 2016-2021	Included in European Environment Agency list of D3 species	Appears on ICES advice list of additional species to add to the MSFD D3 Reference List (1 = The species is reported by an EU Member State and should be added to the "ReferenceList D3". 2 = The species may be important at a local level in the region, based on information WKD3LISTS)	Reported under D3 by one or more CP for 2018 national reporting	
Smelt (<i>O. eperlanus</i>)			2		NA ¹
Sprat (<i>S. sprattus</i>)	X (all years)	X		DK, EE, FI, DE LV, LT, PL, SE	NA ¹
Trout (<i>S. trutta</i>)			2		VU
Turbot (<i>S. maximus</i>)	Only North sea (but Kattegat is included?)	X		DK, DE, SE	NT
Tusk (<i>B. brosme</i>)		X		SE (Skagerrak only?)	NA ¹
Whitefish (<i>C. maraena</i>)		X	2	FI	EN
Whiting (<i>M. merlangus</i>)		X	2	SE (Skagerrak only?)	VU
Witch flounder (<i>G. cynoglossus</i>)		X		SE (Skagerrak only?)	NA ¹

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