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<b>Document title</b>	Assessment methodology for physical loss and physical disturbance
<b>Code</b>	6-2
<b>Category</b>	INF
<b>Agenda Item</b>	6 – Any other business
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## Background

The ‘State of the Baltic Sea’ report, or HOLAS II, released in 2018, assessed the impact of dredging and depositing of dredged material, regarding physical loss and physical disturbance to seabed. The methodology of the assessment was discussed by EN DREDS 3-2017 and 4-2018 and [presented](#) at PRESSURE 8-2018. PRESSURE 8-2018 agreed that the methodology can be used for the purposes of HOLAS II assessment but should include a disclaimer stating that “Any identification and assessments of losses and disturbances caused by dredging/depositing operations at this stage have a preliminary character”.

The work to assess the environmental impact on dredging and depositing activities, particularly as physical loss and disturbance, is now progressing within HELCOM and in other related organizations.

[PRESSURE 10-2019](#) had a dedicated session on the review, revision and development of new HELCOM objectives as a part of updating the BSAP. PRESSURE group was tasked to make first proposals for ecological objectives for physical loss and physical disturbance to seabed. This discussion is also taking place within the STATE & CONSERVATION group. The ecological objectives are directly linked to the methodology how to assess the range and intensity of these two pressures.

Work on the assessment of physical loss and disturbance is also tightly linked with the definitions in MSFD and the related work at ICES. Particularly the WKBEDLOSS and WKBEDPRES workshops are working on this topic and delivering advice on seafloor integrity for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). The first workshop on both are held and the reports can be found as attachments to this document. ([6-2-Att.1 WKBEDPRES1 Report](#) and [6-2-Att.2 WKBEDLOSS Report](#)).

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of ongoing ICES work related to physical loss and physical disturbance.

The Meeting is invited to exchange views on the need to develop recommendations for the methods to account the effect of dredging/depositing operations at sea in the future HELCOM assessment of the sea floor damage.