

Status of the 'State of the soft-bottom macrofauna community'-indicator

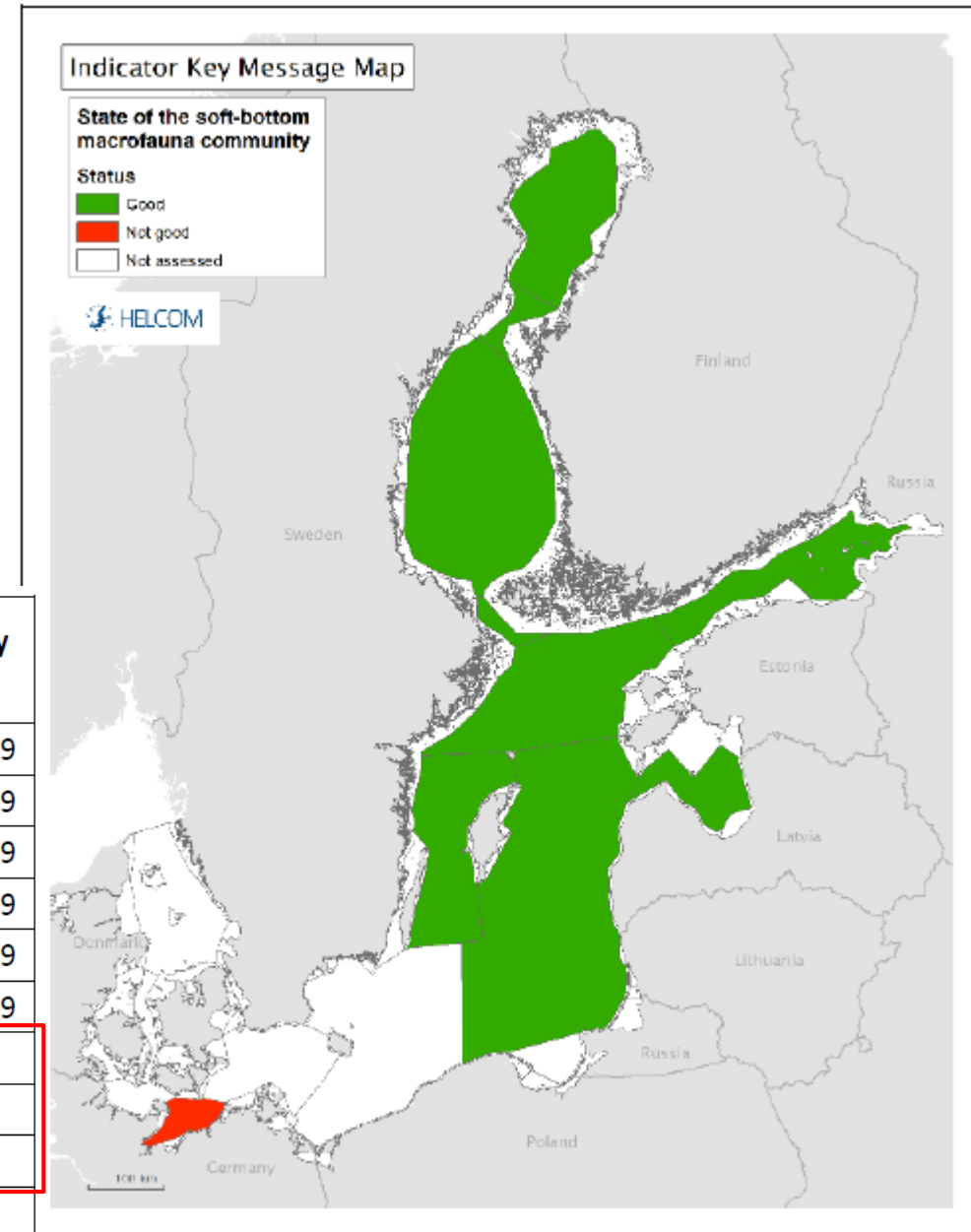
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HOLAS II

“The indicator and some of its associated threshold values are still being tested in some countries and may be further developed in HELCOM as a result of the outcome of the testing, or the results may show that the indicator is not suitable for use in a specific sub-basin. The results should thus be considered as intermediate.”

Sub-basins in the red box where especially mentioned as having intermediate threshold levels.



Open sea assessment unit	Assessed depths	Threshold value					BQI species sensitivity value method			
		Subset according to Schiele <i>et al.</i> 2016								
		2	3	4	8	9	11	12	13	
Bothnian Bay		1.5								Leonardsson <i>et al.</i> 2009
The Quark		1.5								Leonardsson <i>et al.</i> 2009
Bothnian Sea		4.0								Leonardsson <i>et al.</i> 2009
Åland Sea		4.0								Leonardsson <i>et al.</i> 2009
Northern Baltic Proper	<60 m	4.0								Leonardsson <i>et al.</i> 2009
Western Gotland Basin	<60 m	4.0								Leonardsson <i>et al.</i> 2009
Gulf of Finland	<60 m						0.93		1.07	Schiele <i>et al.</i> 2016
Gulf of Riga								1.59	1.07	Schiele <i>et al.</i> 2016
Eastern Gotland Basin	<60 m				1.81	2.11				Schiele <i>et al.</i> 2016
Bay of Mecklenburg		7.22	5.44	4.52						Schiele <i>et al.</i> 2016

HOLAS III

- How to use the indicator in HOLAS III?
 - Under D5C8 → feeding into D6C5?
 - Assessing benthic habitats in BEAT?
- No new threshold values have been proposed, nor has any of the intermediate threshold values been verified
 - Same sub-basins and threshold values as in HOLAS II?
- A need to more clearly communicate the fact only areas above the halocline are assessed with this indicator
 - The map gives a falsely positive signal → cut out the area below the halocline?

Baltic Data Flow project

- Aims at harmonizing data reporting
 - Updating data reporting guidelines (document under Agenda item 5)
- Developments towards a semi-automated and transparent indicator calculation process
 - Extraction of data from the COMBINE database
 - Calculation of BQI for samples
 - Calculating indicator value for assessment units
 - Comparison of indicator values to threshold values
 - Indicator results as input to BEAT