

# Establishing thresholds /Union level cooperation

- Commission Decision: some of the requirements (mainly art. 4)
  - where appropriate, distinguish the quality level that reflects the significance of an adverse effect for a criterion and be set in relation to a reference condition
  - be set at appropriate geographic scales of assessment to reflect
  - be set on the basis of the precautionary principle, reflecting the potential risks
  - make use of best available science
  - be based on long time-series data (where available)
  - reflect natural ecosystem dynamics
  - be consistent, where practical and appropriate, with relevant values set under ... Regional Sea Conventions
  - MS should express the extent to which GES is achieved as the proportion of their marine waters over which the threshold values have been achieved or as the proportion of criteria elements (species, contaminants, etc.) that have achieved the threshold values
  - MS should express any change in status as improving, stable or deteriorating

Criteria elements	Criteria	Methodological standards
Anthropogenic impulsive sound in water.	<p>D11C1 — Primary:</p> <p>The spatial distribution, temporal extent, and levels of anthropogenic impulsive sound sources do not exceed levels that adversely affect populations of marine animals.</p> <p>Member States shall establish threshold values for these levels through co-operation at Union level, taking into account regional or subregional specificities.</p>	<p><i>Scale of assessment:</i></p> <p>Region, subregion or subdivisions.</p> <p><i>Use of criteria:</i></p> <p>The extent to which good environmental status has been achieved shall be expressed for each area assessed as follows:</p> <p>(a) for D11C1, the duration per calendar year of impulsive sound sources, their distribution within the year and spatially within the assessment area, and whether the threshold values set have been achieved;</p>
Anthropogenic continuous low-frequency sound in water.	<p>D11C2 — Primary:</p> <p>The spatial distribution, temporal extent and levels of anthropogenic continuous low-frequency sound do not exceed levels that adversely affect populations of marine animals.</p> <p>Member States shall establish threshold values for these levels through co-operation at Union level, taking into account regional or subregional specificities.</p>	<p>(b) for D11C2, the annual average of the sound level, or other suitable temporal metric agreed at regional or subregional level, per unit area and its spatial distribution within the assessment area, and the extent (% km<sup>2</sup>) of the assessment area over which the threshold values set have been achieved.</p> <p>The use of criteria D11C1 and D11C2 in the assessment of good environmental status for Descriptor 11 shall be agreed at Union level.</p> <p>The outcomes of these criteria shall also contribute to assessments under Descriptor 1.</p>

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