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<b>Document title</b>	Follow up work to Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, prepared by DG GES
<b>Code</b>	3-2
<b>Category</b>	INF
<b>Agenda Item</b>	3 – Regionally coordinated implementation of MSFD
<b>Submission date</b>	23.4.2019
<b>Submitted by</b>	CG-MSFD
<b>Reference</b>	

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### Background

In 2017 document GES\_17-2017-03 was presented during the 17th EU Working Group on Good Environmental Status (WG GES) meeting. The document identified the follow-up work needed for the revised Commission Decision on GES at either EU level or regional/subregional level and outlined the processes on how to take this work forward. WG GES 19 agreed that the Drafting Group GES (DG GES) should prepare a proposal for further organizing EU-level work. The attached detailed working document was prepared and presented by DG GES to the 21st WG GES meeting (GES\_21-2019-13). It provides an initial detailed overview of GES Decision follow-up work at the level of JRC, ICES, EU COM, EEA and RSCs and illustrates initial proposals for next steps and priorities. It is intended as a management document which should enable WG GES and the Marine Strategy Coordination Group (MSCG) in future to coordinate the work between the actors and to set priorities for EU-level work.

WG GES 21 welcomed the working document as a useful management aid for WG GES and ultimately MSCG. Comments made during the WG GES meeting to be taken up by DG GES included the need for a clearer distinction between EU and regional level work, a focus on policy needs, linking activities with timelines and a more focused prioritisation and conciseness of recommendations.

The document is still under development by DG GES. WG GES 21 invited Member States to comment on the document by 15 April 2019. DG GES will meet on 1-2 July 2019 in order to consolidate the factual overview as well as the recommendations for coordination and priorities of EU-level work. The table/document is intended to be submitted to WG GES and MSCG at their autumn meetings in order to provide an overview of the current state in the process and to enable decision-making for setting priorities.

At its meeting in July, DG GES will furthermore look at taking forward priority cross-cutting / overarching issues concerning the implementation of Commission Decision 2017/848 and Art. 8 MSFD which have been identified in GES\_17-2017-03 and the Art. 8 MSFD Assessment Guidance (test version) of 2017. The aim is to further develop and consolidate the Assessment Guidance in 2019/2020 with Descriptor-specific and overarching EU-level work in time for the preparation of the next Art. 8 MSFD assessments.

### Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information and use it as appropriate to support discussions under agenda item 3.



## Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

### *Common Implementation Strategy*

## 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Good Environmental Status (WG GES) & presentation of DG ENV funded projects under “DG ENV/MSFD Second Cycle” call

Conference Centre Albert Borschette, Rue Froissart 36, 1040 Brussels

18-19 March 2019, 9:30-17:30 (Room 1/B)

20 March 2019, 9:00- 12:00 (Room 0/C)

Agenda item:	6a
Document:	GES_21-2019-13_rev
Title:	Follow up work to Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848
Prepared by:	Drafting Group GES
Date prepared:	13/03/2019
Background:	<p>Document GES_17-2017-03 presented during the 17<sup>th</sup> WG GES meeting identified the follow-up work needed for the revised Commission Decision on GES at either EU level or regional/subregional level and outlined the processes on how to take this work forward. GES 19 agreed that DG GES should prepare a proposal for further organizing EU-level work. Document GES_20-2018-7 mapped broadly progress made since the adoption of the GES-Decision and identified gaps regarding the elements for assessment, threshold values and methodological standards per criterion for each descriptor. Following GES-20 no further comments were received on that document.</p> <p>The present document provides an initial detailed overview of GES Decision follow-up work at the level of JRC, ICES, EU COM, EEA and RSCs and proposes next steps and priorities for taking the follow-up work forward and for coordinating the work between the actors. The overview will need be completed and updated for the next WG GES meeting.</p>

#### WG GES is invited to:

- a) Take note of the progress made
- b) Provide steering on the way forward

## Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848 – follow-up work

WG GES 17-2017 agreed to make available to Member States a test version of Draft guidance for assessments under Article 8 MSFD ([GES 17-2017-02](#)) in order to allow Member States to use and test it in the application of Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848 and the Article 8 assessments due in October 2018. The Draft guidance highlights numerous issues which require further discussion and agreement in order to provide a coordinated approach in implementing Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848 across the EU. Some of the issues relate to explicit requests of the GES Decision, others relate to the need for a common understanding of how to interpret and implement the GES Decision.

Document [GES 17-2017-03](#) presented during the 17th WG GES meeting identified the follow-up work needed for the revised Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848 on GES (GES Decision) at either EU level or regional/subregional level and outlined the processes on how to take this work forward. It was also agreed that progress would be regularly reported to WG GES for consideration and steering. The results of these work strands should be fed back into the further development of Draft guidance for the assessments under Article 8 MSFD.

WG GES 19 mandated the Drafting Group GES with the preparation of a proposal for organizing the follow-up work on Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848 based on the clarification with JRC, ICES, MS represented in DG GES and EU Commission on ongoing EU-level work, identified technical and overarching issues so far not addressed and issues that may arise from the latest assessment experiences.

Document [GES 20-2018-7](#) presented at the 20th WG GES meeting mapped broadly the state of work at EU and regional/subregional level since the adoption of the GES Decision, notably on elements for assessment, threshold values and methodological standards, as well as on the use of the criteria.

The present document is intended to provide a basis for WG GES 21 to steer the overall GES Decision follow-up work. To this end the document intends in **Annex 1** to provide an initial detailed overview of ongoing work with the aim to help identifying gaps, need for coordination, room of cooperation of actors involved and issues for prioritization in the GES Decision follow-up work. Information for the Mediterranean is in preparation. In the Black Sea, no regional agreements on GES and thresholds have been set up, but Romania and Bulgaria have started this process. Detailed information for Annex 1 is in preparation. In the time given, initial recommendations were prepared, a more systematic review of coordination and prioritization needs still to be carried out. The document will be regularly updated and presented to WG GES in order to allow continued monitoring and steering progress of the various work strands.

For progressing on overarching / cross-cutting issues a Workshop is planned (e.g. tentatively in second half of 2019). These issues include for example risk based approach, linking criteria across descriptors, approach to assess cumulative impacts and effects (see list of issues in [GES 17-2017-02](#)). The DG GES plans a brainstorming meeting mid 2019 in order to prepare a proposal for taking forward cross-cutting topics (and possibly for a workshop) and for discussing organization and coordination of EU-level work on the follow-up of Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848.

WG GES 20 arranged the set-up of a new Task Group on Seabed Habitats and Seafloor Integrity which is supported by ICES work on D1/6. There will be need for some coordination with work on other descriptors and establishment of interfaces with other work strands.

DG GES considers the follow-up work on D6 and D10 for 2019 in hand. Further work on D4 could start, once work on D1 has progressed. The following recommendations for starting and organizing further follow-up work in 2019 are proposed (details in Annex 1):

- JRC to assist Member States through descriptor-specific expert networks in progressing on specific questions relating to D1, D2, D5, D7, D8, D9.
- ICES to assist Member States through appropriate platforms and processes in progressing on D1, D3 and D6 (D7C1 “physical loss”).
- TG Marine Litter to continue to assist Member States to progress on threshold values, baselines and other continuous work for D10.
- TG Noise to assist Member States to progress on indicators and threshold values in relation to D11.
- DG GES to assist Member States in progressing on a common understanding of the role of pressure criteria in the assessment of species and habitats.

## Annex 1 – Overview of progress on GES Decision follow-up work and further organization of work

Sources of information for the table contents: “Tasks” referred to in the table are taken from [GES 17-2017-03](#) and [GES 17-2017-02](#). The state of play at OSPAR and HELCOM are based on their reports to WG GES 20, [GES 20-2018-08](#) and [GES 20-2018-09](#) respectively. The state of play of work by JRC, ICES, TG ML, TG Noise, TG Seabed is based on their mandates, progress reports at WG GES 20 and any known publication of reports or advice or similar.

Criteria	GES Decision requirements	State of play of EU and RSC level work	Recommendations DG GES for concrete EU-level tasks to follow-up the GES Decision
* primary			
** conditionally primary			

### Pressures according to Art. 8 (1) lit. b MSFD

#### Descriptor 2: Non-indigenous species

D2C1*	Element list		<b>JRC:</b> NIS baseline lists prepared per MS and per regional Sea up to the reference year of MSFD reporting, with the collaboration of national experts appointed by the MSFD competent authorities.	
	Threshold values	(sub)regional	<p><b>JRC:</b> Analysis of new introductions of NIS per Member State and subregional area and their associated pathways, per 6 years intervals (after 1970).</p> <p><b>OSPAR:</b> Trend indicator available. Planned work to split the indicator into two: one indicator (D2C1) on introduction and one indicator (D2C2) on abundance/distribution. Threshold values are still to be agreed. OSPAR priority: high.</p> <p><b>HELCOM:</b> Trend indicator with threshold value (0 new introductions) available. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019.</p> <p><b>MED:</b></p> <p><b>BlackSea:</b></p> <p><b>EEA:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- indicator MAR002 trends in marine NIS introduction; data since 1949, pan EU coverage, threshold value (0 new introductions)</li> <li>- link to management: MAR003 trends in pathways of new introduction</li> </ul>	

Criteria * primary ** conditionally primary	GES Decision requirements		State of play of EU and RSC level work	Recommendations DG GES for concrete EU-level tasks to follow-up the GES Decision
D2C2	Element list	(sub)regional	<p><b>JRC:</b> Listing of high-impact invasive marine species in the European seas, delivered to EEA to support the MS reporting for the 2018 updates for Art. 17.</p> <p><b>OSPAR:</b> So far no indicator available. Planned work to develop one by splitting the current trend indicator (see D2C1). First list of species is available, requires further development. Conceptional work has started.</p> <p><b>HELCOM:</b> So far no indicator available. No current active work strand. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019.</p> <p><b>MED:</b></p> <p><b>BlackSea:</b></p> <p><b>EEA:</b> No indicator</p>	
	Threshold values			
D2C3	Element list	(sub)regional	<p><b>OSPAR:</b> So far no indicator available. No current active work strand OSPAR priority: low</p> <p><b>HELCOM:</b> So far no indicator available. No current active work strand. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019.</p> <p><b>MED:</b></p> <p><b>BlackSea:</b></p> <p><b>EEA:</b> indicator in prep, CIMPAL index</p>	
	Threshold values	(sub)regional		
D2	Use of criteria to assess GES		<p><b>JRC:</b> Task to support Member States in clarifying the role and assessment methods for D2C2 and D2C3 in assessing GES for D2 and D1. Work has not yet started.</p> <p><b>RSCs:</b> Currently no activity, not relevant.</p> <p><b>EEA:</b> Currently no activity</p>	
D2	(EU) Projects of interest to topic		<p><b>MEDCIS</b> <a href="http://medcis.eu/">http://medcis.eu/</a>  <b>COMPLETE</b> <a href="http://www.helcom.fi/helcom-at-work/projects/complete/">http://www.helcom.fi/helcom-at-work/projects/complete/</a></p>	
<b>Descriptor 3: Commercially exploited fish and shellfish stocks</b>				
D3C1*	Element list	(sub)regional	<p><b>OSPAR:</b> So far no indicator available.</p> <p><b>HELCOM:</b> So far no indicator available. Dedicated assessment with ICES support for HOLAS II; currently no formal follow-up process. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019.</p> <p><b>MED:</b></p> <p><b>BlackSea:</b></p>	ICES to support Member States through an appropriate process and platform (to be determined) in defining which species are “commercially-exploited” species in the meaning of Com Dec 2017/848. The definition is deemed necessary as a basis for Member States to agree lists of commercially exploited species in

Criteria * primary ** conditionally primary	GES Decision requirements	State of play of EU and RSC level work	Recommendations DG GES for concrete EU-level tasks to follow-up the GES Decision
		<b>EEA*</b> : indicator MAR007 - Status of the assessed European fish stocks in relation to Good Environmental Status per regional sea (fish mortality <u>and</u> Spawning Stock Biomass)	each assessment area through regional or subregional cooperation. The clarification will also support (sub)regional cooperation on setting up list of fish species under D1. Further work by ICES on methods for low-data stocks which should be tested and applied. The work should also identify gaps in data collection as contribution to the revision of the CFP Data Collection Framework.
	Threshold values	GES Decision: $F_{MSY}$ according to ICES advice, assessment available via ICES annual Fisheries Overview advice.	
D3C2*	Element list (sub)regional	<b>OSPAR</b> : So far no indicator available. <b>HELCOM</b> : So far no indicator available. Dedicated assessment with ICES support for HOLAS II; currently no formal follow-up process. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019. <b>MED</b> : <b>BlackSea</b> : <b>EEA*</b> : indicator MAR007 - Status of the assessed European fish stocks in relation to Good Environmental Status per regional sea (fish mortality and Spawning Stock Biomass)	Further work by ICES on methods for low-data stocks which should be tested and applied. The work should also identify gaps in data collection as contribution to the revision of the CFP Data Collection Framework.
	Threshold values	GES Decision: $F_{SSB}$ according to ICES advice, assessment available via ICES annual Fisheries Overview advice.	
D3C3*	Element list (sub)regional	<b>ICES</b> : Task to develop assessment tools for D3C3. See → <a href="#">Advice 2017</a> (second advice phase) <b>OSPAR</b> : Planned Workshops on D3 assessment in 2019. <b>HELCOM</b> : Consultation and agreement to be based on ICES advice. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019. <b>MED</b> : <b>BlackSea</b> : <b>EEA</b> : Currently no activity	
	Threshold values (sub)regional		
D3	Use of criteria to assess GES EU	<b>ICES</b> : Planned support to propose methods on integrating D3 criteria in order to assess GES. <b>OSPAR</b> : Planned Workshops on D3 assessment in 2019. <b>HELCOM</b> : No current activities. <b>MED</b> : <b>BlackSea</b> : <b>EEA</b> : Currently no activity	

Criteria * primary ** conditionally primary	GES Decision requirements	State of play of EU and RSC level work	Recommendations DG GES for concrete EU-level tasks to follow-up the GES Decision
D3	(EU) Projects of interest to topic		
<b>Descriptor 5: Eutrophication</b>			
D5C1*	Element list	<p><b>ICES:</b> common assessment platform developed for both HELCOM area (HEAT) and OSPAR area (COMPEAT).  <b>OSPAR:</b> DIN, DIP  <b>HELCOM:</b> DIN, DIP; TN, TP  <b>MED:</b> DIN, TP  <b>BlackSea:</b>  <b>EEA:</b> indicator MAR005 – Nutrients in TCM waters</p>	
	Threshold values (sub)regional	<p><b>OSPAR:</b> Indicator (without threshold) available. OSPAR priority to agree threshold values: high  <b>HELCOM:</b> Threshold values for DIN, DIP available. Threshold values for TN, TP still need to be agreed for the Western Baltic Sea (2019). Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019.  <b>MED:</b> Threshold values for DIN, TP still need to be agreed.  <b>BlackSea:</b></p>	
D5C2*	Element list	<p><b>OSPAR:</b> Chl-a  <b>HELCOM:</b> Chl-a  <b>MED:</b> Chl-a  <b>BlackSea:</b>  <b>EEA:</b> indicator MAR006 – Chlorophyll in TCM waters</p>	
	Threshold values (sub)regional	<p><b>OSPAR:</b> Indicator (without threshold) available. OSPAR priority to agree threshold values: high  <b>HELCOM:</b> Indicator with threshold values available. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019.  <b>MED:</b> Indicator with threshold values available. Review and prioritization of MED indicators needed. Need to be agreed for the southern Mediterranean Sea (2020).  <b>BlackSea:</b></p>	
D5C3	Element list	<p><b>OSPAR:</b> Indicator (<i>Phaeocystis</i>) available. According to Common Procedure additional species addressed by national indicators. OSPAR priority for agreeing a regional list of plankton species: low  <b>HELCOM:</b> Cyanobacteria Index. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019.  <b>MED:</b> Currently no activity</p>	

Criteria * primary ** conditionally primary	GES Decision requirements	State of play of EU and RSC level work	Recommendations DG GES for concrete EU-level tasks to follow-up the GES Decision
		<b>BlackSea:</b> <b>EEA:</b> Currently no activity	
	Threshold values (sub)regional	<b>OSPAR:</b> Indicator ( <i>Phaeocystis</i> ) available without threshold. OSPAR priority to develop regional thresholds: low <b>HELCOM:</b> Test indicator (Cyanobacteria index) with threshold values. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019. <b>MED:</b> Currently no activity <b>BlackSea:</b>	
D5C4	Element list		
	Threshold values (sub)regional	<b>OSPAR:</b> So far no indicator available. OSPAR priority for developing an indicator with threshold values: low <b>HELCOM:</b> Threshold values available. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019. <b>MED:</b> Currently no activity <b>BlackSea:</b> <b>EEA:</b> No	
D5C5**	Element list		
	Threshold values (sub)regional	<b>OSPAR:</b> Indicator available. OSPAR priority for developing (sub)regional thresholds: high <b>HELCOM:</b> Threshold for oxygen debt available for deep waters. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019. HELCOM indicator with thresholds for near bottom oxygen concentration in shallow waters under development – development priority: high <b>MED:</b> Currently no activity <b>BlackSea:</b> <b>EEA:</b> indicator MAR012 – Reduced oxygen (existing + development); Yes TLV	
D5C6	Element list		
	Threshold values (sub)regional	<b>OSPAR:</b> So far no indicator available. OSPAR priority for developing threshold values: low <b>HELCOM:</b> <b>MED:</b> <b>BlackSea:</b> <b>EEA:</b> No	
D5C7	Element list		

Criteria * primary ** conditionally primary	GES Decision requirements	State of play of EU and RSC level work	Recommendations DG GES for concrete EU-level tasks to follow-up the GES Decision
	Threshold values (sub)regional	<b>OSPAR:</b> So far no indicator available. OSPAR priority for developing threshold values: low <b>HELCOM:</b> <b>MED:</b> <b>BlackSea:</b> <b>EEA:</b> No	
D5C8	Element list Threshold values (sub)regional	<b>OSPAR:</b> So far no indicator available. OSPAR priority for developing threshold values: low <b>HELCOM:</b> Soft-bottom macrofauna community indicator under development. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019. <b>MED:</b> Currently no activity <b>BlackSea:</b> <b>EEA:</b> No	
D5	Use of criteria to assess GES EU, zumindest (sub)regional	<b>JRC:</b> Task (2017) to assist Member States in reviewing existing methods and possibly agreeing EU-wide integration rules and to clarify how specific D5 criteria contribute to GES assessments of species and habitats according to GES Decision under D1 and D6. Work started: 1) Survey collecting monitoring information from D5 expert network (JRC report). 2) WFD/MSFD alignment is being addressed in collaboration with JRC WFD team. Proposal to be presented to WG GES and Ecostat. 3) A comparison on assessment methods has been started with a group of experts representing the four RSCs. Aim is not to agree EU-level method but to assess the degree of environmental protection of the most relevant methods in use. <b>OSPAR:</b> Integration rules (method: Common Procedure) available. <b>HELCOM:</b> Integration rules (method: HEAT3) available. <b>MED:</b> Integration rules under development (method: NEAT). <b>BlackSea:</b> <b>EEA:</b> Eutrophication assessment, 2019 in prep, HEAT tool	Based on 2018 reporting on Art. 8 MSFD, JRC to assist Member States through the D5 expert network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– in comparing existing integration methods, taking into account experience by EEA using one assessment system for all EU waters as well as the COMPLETE results, to allow MS to discuss/agree on common integration rules.</li> <li>– in clarifying how to incorporate WFD results in D5 assessments, taking into account any implications on WFD and MSFD WISE-reporting.</li> </ul> Overarching issue to be taken up by DG GES in further forward-planning: Clarify how D5 criteria contribute to GES assessments of species and habitats, taking into account any need for coordination with Habitats Directive.
D5	(EU) Projects of interest to topic	<b>SPICE</b> <a href="http://www.helcom.fi/helcom-at-work/projects/completed-projects/spice/">http://www.helcom.fi/helcom-at-work/projects/completed-projects/spice/</a> <b>JMP EUNOSAT</b> <a href="https://www.ospar.org/news/jmp-eunosat">https://www.ospar.org/news/jmp-eunosat</a>	

Criteria * primary ** conditionally primary	GES Decision requirements	State of play of EU and RSC level work	Recommendations DG GES for concrete EU-level tasks to follow-up the GES Decision
<b>Descriptor 7: Changes to hydrographic conditions</b>			
D7C1	Element list	<p><b>JRC:</b> Task (2017) to support the development of methodological standards to make WFD assessment usable for MSFD purposes. Work not yet started.</p> <p><b>OSPAR:</b> No current activities.</p> <p><b>HELCOM:</b> No current activities</p> <p><b>MED:</b> National monitoring programmes for EO7 Hydrography Common Indicator 15 „Location and extent of the habitats impacted directly by hydrographical alterations“ have also been developed in non-EU countries (Algeria, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia via EcAp MED II project; and are being developed in Albania and Montenegro via GEF Adriatic project).</p> <p><b>BlackSea:</b></p> <p><b>EEA:</b> WFD hymo assessment (Coastal); COPERNICUS assessment. On Thresholds: TBD P&amp;E report</p>	<p>Based on 2018 reporting on Art. 8, 9 and 10 MSFD, JRC to assist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– in reaching a common understanding on the requirements for implementing the criteria and on the how to link WFD assessments with MSFD assessments, including e.g. questions relating to scales of assessment. The work should take account of</li> <li>– discussions in TG Seabed (physical loss of natural seabed),</li> <li>– quoted EEA work,</li> <li>– EIA and SEA as information sources,</li> <li>– links with maritime spatial planning,</li> <li>– the role of models (COPERNICUS) for broader scale impacts of offshore installations.</li> </ul> <p>(See also the recommendations of the EU Commission Art. 16 MSFD report on D7 – SWD (2018) 393 final, p. 21.)</p>
	Threshold values		
D7C2	Element list		
	Threshold values (sub)regional		
D7	(EU) Projects of interest to topic		
<b>Descriptor 8: Contaminants in the environment</b>			
D8C1*	Element list (sub)regional	<p><b>ICES:</b> standardized reporting and assessment platform for hazardous substances in development for OSPAR and HELCOM areas</p> <p><b>JRC:</b> Task, to support Member States in developing an EU-wide definition of contaminant <i>groups</i> and rules for deselecting WFD-substances in areas beyond geographic application of WFD. Work started by providing a reference list of contaminants for Art. 8 MSFD e-reporting (Tornero and Hanke, 2018) to be used as a basis for harmonizing grouping/combining of substances. JRC report (Tornero, Hanke, and the MSFD Expert network on contaminants, 2019) lists contaminants/matrices and threshold values used by MS in 2018 Art. 8 reporting. Ongoing discussion with experts and RSCs on excluding</p>	<p>Based on 2018 reporting on Art. 8 MSFD, JRC to assist Member States through the D8 expert network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– in grouping of substances (which substances and the method for combining them in one group) , taking into account existing regional contaminant group indicators.</li> <li>– in establishing a minimum list of WFD substances of MSFD relevance based on physical-chemical characteristics, and typical sources and pathways as the basis</li> </ul>

Criteria * primary ** conditionally primary	GES Decision requirements	State of play of EU and RSC level work	Recommendations DG GES for concrete EU-level tasks to follow-up the GES Decision
		<p>WFD substances from MSFD assessments and the application of EQSbiota. Planned Workshop in May 2019.</p> <p><b>OSPAR:</b> Element list as suite of indicators of (groups of) contaminants available. OSPAR priority for extending the list of elements: subsidiary to developing threshold values for already agreed elements</p> <p><b>HELCOM:</b> Element list as suite of Indicators of (group of) contaminants available. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019.</p> <p><b>MED:</b></p> <p><b>BlackSea:</b></p> <p><b>EEA:</b> indicator MAR001 – Hazardous substances in marine organisms; Yes TLV.</p>	<p>for MS to develop region-specific expanded lists. Work should seek active RSC contributions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– in establishing a minimum list of substances of concern from offshore sources, not covered by RSCs. . Work should seek active RSC contributions.</li> </ul>
	Threshold values (sub)regional	<p><b>JRC:</b> Task to support Member States in linking MSFD and WFD assessments. Ongoing discussion with experts and RSCs on excluding WFD substances from MSFD assessments and the application of EQSbiota. Close collaboration of JRC and RSCs on harmonized approaches to select relevant substances and derivation of TV.</p> <p><b>OSPAR:</b> Priority to develop thresholds for existing indicator substance/matrix combinations and seek coherence with WFD EQS.</p> <p><b>HELCOM:</b> Threshold values available for most substance/matrix combinations. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019.</p> <p><b>MED:</b></p> <p><b>BlackSea:</b></p>	<p>JRC to support MS through the MSFD Expert network on contaminants in sharing experiences across RSCs and continued cooperation between RSCs and EU Commission in establishing MSFD TVs consistent with WFD. It might be necessary to review exiting or develop new guidance from/consistent with WFD WG Chemicals.</p>
D8C2	Element list (sub)regional	<p><b>JRC:</b> Discussions within the MSFD Expert network on Contaminants will be hold during the workshop in May in order to understand the state of the art in MS.</p> <p><b>OSPAR:</b> One common indicator (TBT imposex) available, other indicators under development. OSPAR priority: common indicators (and indicators which are expected to move to common indicator status)</p> <p><b>HELCOM:</b> One core indicator (white eagle reproduction) agreed but with limited spatial coverage. Other indicators under development or yet applied in some countries' waters only. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019.</p>	<p>Link and enable information exchange between existing discussion streams on integrated assessments. See overarching issues for DG GES.</p>

Criteria * primary ** conditionally primary	GES Decision requirements	State of play of EU and RSC level work	Recommendations DG GES for concrete EU-level tasks to follow-up the GES Decision
		<b>MED:</b> <b>BlackSea:</b> <b>EEA:</b> No	
	Threshold values (sub)regional	<b>OSPAR:</b> One common indicator (TBT imposex) with threshold value. , other indicators under development. OSPAR priority: common indicators (and indicators which are expected to move to common indicator status) <b>HELCOM:</b> One core indicator (white eagle reproduction) with threshold value available. Other indicators under development. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019. <b>MED:</b> <b>BlackSea:</b>	
D8C3*	Element list	GES Decision: No threshold values required. <b>OSPAR:</b> So far no indicator available. OSPAR priority: low <b>HELCOM:</b> An indicator on operational oil spills from ships available. Review of its suitability for D8C3 and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019. <b>JRC:</b> Task, to support Member States in developing an EU-wide understanding of what „significant“ acute pollution is. Work to be initiated at contaminant Workshop in May 2019. <b>MED:</b> <b>BlackSea:</b>	Based on 2018 reporting on Art. 8 MSFD, JRC to assist Member States through the MSFD Expert Network on Contaminants in developing an EU-wide understanding of “significant” acute pollution and how to use the criterion in D8 assessment.
	Threshold values		
D8C4	Element list	GES Decision: Element list as for D1 and D6. No threshold values. <b>JRC:</b> Task, to support Member States in developing an EU-wide understanding of what „significant“ cumulative spatial and temporal effects are. Work to be evaluated and workplan developed at contaminant Workshop in May 2019. <b>OSPAR:</b> So far no indicator available. OSPAR priority: low	Based on 2018 reporting on Art. 8 MSFD, JRC to assist Member States through the MSFD Expert Network on Contaminants in developing an EU-wide understanding of “significant” cumulative spatial and temporal effects and how to use the criterion in D8 assessment.
	Threshold values	<b>HELCOM:</b> No current activities. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019. <b>MED:</b> <b>BlackSea:</b> <b>EEA:</b> No (? Included in assessments)	
D8	Use of criteria to assess GES EU	<b>JRC:</b> Task to support Member States in developing an EU-wide understanding of the use of D8C2, D8C3 and D8C4 and their role in the overall status assessment for D8 and to assist agreements on	Based on 2018 reporting on Art. 8 MSFD, JRC to assist Member States through the MSFD Expert Network on Contaminants

Criteria * primary ** conditionally primary	GES Decision requirements	State of play of EU and RSC level work	Recommendations DG GES for concrete EU-level tasks to follow-up the GES Decision				
		integration rules. Work to be evaluated and workplan developed at contaminant Workshop in May 2019. EEA: Contaminants assessment, 2019 in prep ( EEA-use of CHASE tool).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- in comparing assessment approaches and developing an EU-wide understanding on integration rules, taking into account experience by EEA using one assessment system for all EU waters</li> <li>- in linking WFD assessments with MSFD assessments, taking into account any implications on WFD and MSFD WISE-reporting.</li> </ul>				
D8	(EU) Projects of interest to topic	<b>SPICE</b> <a href="http://www.helcom.fi/helcom-at-work/projects/completed-projects/spice/">http://www.helcom.fi/helcom-at-work/projects/completed-projects/spice/</a> <b>MEDCIS</b> <a href="http://medcis.eu/">http://medcis.eu/</a> Access to and contact with relevant projects and initiatives (e.g. JPI Ocean) through MSFD Expert network on contaminants.					
<b>Descriptor 9: Contaminants in seafood</b>							
D9C1*	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Element list</td> <td style="width: 50%;">(sub)regional</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Threshold values</td> <td>(sub)regional</td> </tr> </table>	Element list	(sub)regional	Threshold values	(sub)regional	GES Decision: EU based requirements. <b>JRC:</b> Task to support regional cooperation on D9. This includes clarifying the requirements of D9 in relation to EU food safety legislation. Element lists compiled by JRC. Discussion on regional approaches to selecting substances and threshold values planned. JRC provides support on those issues to Art. 20 MSFD report. <b>OSPAR:</b> No current activities. Clarification is needed, if any threshold values for contaminants not covered by Regulation (EC) Nr. 1881/2006 need to be developed. Currently no work planned. <b>HELCOM:</b> No current activities. Clarification is needed, if any threshold values for contaminants not covered by Regulation (EC) Nr. 1881/2006 need to be developed. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019. <b>MED:</b> Indicator revised under IMAP particularly for sample collection; and aligned with EO9CI17 (ca. D8C1) as possible. Criteria idem as OSPAR and HELCOM. <b>BlackSea:</b> <b>EEA:</b> No	Based on 2018 reporting on Art. 8 MSFD, JRC to assist Member States through the MSFD Expert Network on Contaminants in clarifying the requirements of D9 in relation to EU food safety legislation. This is deemed necessary as a basis for Member States to regionally cooperate on approaches to implement D9C1.
Element list	(sub)regional						
Threshold values	(sub)regional						

Criteria * primary ** conditionally primary	GES Decision requirements	State of play of EU and RSC level work	Recommendations DG GES for concrete EU-level tasks to follow-up the GES Decision
D9	(EU) Projects of interest to topic	Access to and contact with relevant projects and initiatives through MSFD Expert network on contaminants.	
<b>Descriptor 10: Marine litter</b>			
D10C1*	Element list	<p>GES Decision: elements defined</p> <p><b>TG ML:</b> Update of litter monitoring guidance ongoing</p> <p><b>ICES:</b> ongoing work to standardize a method to quantify amounts of seabed litter from trawl survey</p> <p><b>OSPAR:</b> Review of indicator ongoing.</p> <p><b>HELCOM:</b></p> <p><b>MED:</b></p> <p><b>BlackSea:</b></p> <p><b>EEA:</b> MLW (composition of litter), MSFD data based indicators in prep</p>	
	Threshold values EU	<p><b>TG Marine Litter:</b> →<a href="#">HARM Report 2016</a> provides overview of state of knowledge on effects and risks. Workshop on Litter Baselines and Thresholds (→<a href="#">Part of TG ML 12 Minutes</a>) reflects state of discussion. Discussion paper (GES_20-2018-04) to be published. TVs for beach litter under development.</p> <p><b>OSPAR:</b> Further development of indicators for GES assessment (e.g. adaptation of monitoring).</p> <p><b>HELCOM:</b> Further development of indicators (beach litter and seafloor) for GES assessment. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019.</p> <p><b>MED:</b></p> <p><b>BlackSea:</b></p>	TG ML to continue developing TV.
D10C2*	Element list	<p>GES Decision: elements defined</p> <p><b>TG ML:</b> Position paper on microliter to be discussed, finalized and published in 2019.</p> <p><b>ICES:</b> ongoing work to harmonise methods to quantify amounts of seabed litter</p> <p><b>OSPAR:</b> Review of indicator ongoing.</p> <p><b>HELCOM:</b> Discussion on microliter. Lower priority than above two. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019.</p> <p><b>MED:</b></p> <p><b>BlackSea:</b></p> <p><b>EEA:</b> MSFD data based indicators in prep</p>	

Criteria * primary ** conditionally primary	GES Decision requirements		State of play of EU and RSC level work	Recommendations DG GES for concrete EU-level tasks to follow-up the GES Decision
	Threshold values	EU	<p><b>TG Marine Litter:</b> →<a href="#">HARM Report 2016</a> provides overview of state of knowledge on effects and risks. Workshop on Litter Baselines and Thresholds (→<a href="#">Part of TG ML 12 Minutes</a>) reflects state of discussion. Work of the SAM SAPEA report to be considered</p> <p><b>OSPAR:</b> Further development of indicators for GES assessment (e.g. adaptation of monitoring).</p> <p><b>HELCOM:</b> Further development of indicators for GES assessment. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019.</p> <p><b>MED:</b></p> <p><b>BlackSea:</b></p>	
D10C3	Element list	(sub)regional	<p><b>OSPAR:</b> Indicator with threshold values available for North Sea. Indicator species for other marine subregions under scrutiny.</p> <p><b>HELCOM:</b> Suitable indicator species under development. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019.</p> <p><b>MED:</b></p> <p><b>BlackSea:</b></p>	TG Litter to review and develop guidance on D10C3/4, planned workshop in May 2019 (UBA, Berlin)
	Threshold values	(sub)regional		
D10C4	Element list	(sub)regional	<p><b>OSPAR:</b> So far no indicator available. Development of an indicator on entanglement of marine organisms in litter items (candidate indicators) is being further pursued.</p> <p><b>HELCOM:</b> Suitable indicator species under development. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019.</p> <p><b>MED:</b></p> <p><b>BlackSea:</b></p>	TG Litter to review and develop guidance on D10C3/4, planned workshop in May 2019 (UBA, Berlin)
	Threshold values	(sub)regional		
D10	Use of criteria to assess GES	EU	<p><b>TG Marine Litter:</b> Task to clarify the use of D10C1, D10C2, D10C3 and D10C4 and their roles in assessment the status of D10, including development of integration rules. Clarification of use and role of D10C3 and D10C4 in assessing the status of species (D1).</p>	Overarching issue to be taken up by DG GES in further forward-planning: Clarify how D10 criteria contribute to GES assessments of species and habitats
D10	(EU) Projects of interest to topic		<p><b>INDICIT</b> <a href="https://indicit-europa.eu/">https://indicit-europa.eu/</a></p> <p><b>SPICE</b> <a href="http://www.helcom.fi/helcom-at-work/projects/completed-projects/spice/">http://www.helcom.fi/helcom-at-work/projects/completed-projects/spice/</a></p> <p><b>MEDCIS</b> <a href="http://medcis.eu/">http://medcis.eu/</a></p> <p>FanPLESStic <a href="http://www.helcom.fi/helcom-at-work/projects/fanPLESStic-sea">http://www.helcom.fi/helcom-at-work/projects/fanPLESStic-sea</a></p> <p><a href="#">TG ML compilation of &gt; 50 relevant projects in a keyword based list: URL to be provided.</a></p>	

## Descriptor 11: Introduction of energy

Criteria * primary ** conditionally primary	GES Decision requirements	State of play of EU and RSC level work	Recommendations DG GES for concrete EU-level tasks to follow-up the GES Decision
D11C1*	Element list	Not relevant	
	Threshold values EU	<p><b>TG Noise:</b> Work on deriving threshold values has started: →<a href="#">Workshop 2017</a></p> <p><b>ICES:</b> a common impulsive noise registry and indicator developed by ICES for Baltic and NE Atlantic and related to similar development for Med.</p> <p><b>OSPAR:</b> Ongoing work to develop an indicator on effects of underwater noise.</p> <p><b>HELCOM:</b> Ongoing work (distribution of loud low and midfrequency impulsive sound) to develop indicators (focus on monitoring). Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019.</p> <p><b>MED:</b></p> <p><b>BlackSea:</b></p>	TG Noise is considered the main body through which Member States develop indicators and threshold levels at EU level. TG Noise is encouraged to accelerate progresses in this work.
D11C2*	Element list	Not relevant.	
	Threshold values EU	<p><b>TG Noise:</b> Work on deriving threshold values has started: →<a href="#">Workshop 2017</a>.</p> <p><b>ICES:</b> A common impulsive noise registry and indicator developed by ICES for Baltic and NE Atlantic and related to similar development for Med.</p> <p><b>OSPAR:</b> Ongoing work to establish monitoring.</p> <p><b>HELCOM:</b> Ongoing work (continuous low frequency sound) to develop indicators (focus on monitoring). Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019.</p> <p><b>MED:</b></p> <p><b>BlackSea:</b></p>	TG Noise is considered the main body through which Member States develop indicators and threshold levels at EU level. TG Noise is expected to make progress and come forward with concrete proposals.
D11	Use of criteria to assess GES EU	<p><b>TG Noise:</b> Task, to develop integration rules for the assessment of status D11 and to clarify the role of D11 criteria in assessing the status of species (D1).</p> <p><b>EEA:</b> Pressures and cumulative effects assessment, 2019 in prep, CEA tool</p>	Overarching issue to be taken up by DG GES in further forward-planning: Clarify how D11 criteria contribute to GES assessments of species and habitats
D11	(EU) Projects of interest to topic	<p><b>QUIETMED</b> <a href="http://www.quietmed-project.eu/">http://www.quietmed-project.eu/</a></p> <p><b>MEDCIS</b> <a href="http://medcis.eu/">http://medcis.eu/</a></p> <p><b>BIAS</b> <a href="https://biasproject.wordpress.com/">https://biasproject.wordpress.com/</a></p> <p><b>JOMOPANS</b> <a href="https://northsearegion.eu/jomopans/">https://northsearegion.eu/jomopans/</a></p>	

State according to Art. 8 (1) lit. a MSFD

Criteria * primary ** conditionally primary	GES Decision requirements	State of play of EU and RSC level work	Recommendations DG GES for concrete EU-level tasks to follow-up the GES Decision	
<b>Descriptor 1: Fish</b>				
D1C1*	Element list	(sub)regional	<b>ICES:</b> Ongoing work on by-catch assessment. <b>OSPAR:</b> <b>HELCOM:</b> <b>MED:</b> <b>BlackSea:</b>	Synergies with ICES or GFCM on Data availability of bycatch of non-commercial fish species are needed, to support MS in developing assessments and indicators for fish bycatch.
	Threshold values	(sub)regional		
D1C2*	Element list	(sub)regional	<b>JRC:</b> – Reference list for species in support of e-reporting developed in 2018. The list can be used as a basis for Member States in regional cooperation on agreeing regional element lists. – Proposals for harmonized and coordinated approaches to derive reference and threshold values: JRC Workshop carried out in January 2019. – Ongoing work on harmonising monitoring and assessment methods. <b>OSPAR:</b> Indicators available. Usability for species-based assessment to be reviewed. Priority 2019 is on non-commercially used species, on the use of OSPAR list of threatened and declining species and on the integration of the D3 assessment in the assessment of species under D1. Criteria abundance (FC1) and distribution (FC7/8) are covered. Fish assessment workshop in 2019. <b>HELCOM:</b> Indicators with threshold values for abundance (D1C2) available only but not applicable for all sub-regions. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019. <b>MED:</b> <b>BlackSea:</b>  Note: Some anadromous fish species are covered by the Habitats Directive.	See D3 (ICES): Defining which species are commercially exploited will aid Member States in developing additional lists of (non-commercial) fish species through (sub)regional cooperation. Review grouping of fish species in demersal, pelagic and coastal in light of experiences with Art. 8 MSFD e-reporting.  JRC to assist Member States through the D1 expert network in clarifying the relationship between Habitats Directive and MSFD. This is deemed necessary as a basis for progressing towards a harmonized and coordinated approach to deriving reference and threshold values under both Directives
	Threshold values	(sub)regional		
D1C3**	Element list	(sub)regional		
	Threshold values	(sub)regional		
D1C4**	Element list	(sub)regional		
	Threshold values	(sub)regional		
D1C5**	Element list	(sub)regional		
	Threshold values			
D1 Fish	Use of criteria to assess GES	EU	<b>ICES:</b> Recommendations by request of EU (ICES Special Request Advice) on the integration of criteria, species and species groups for birds, marine mammals, reptiles, fish and cephalopods published on 12 July 2018 ( <a href="https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.4494">https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.4494</a> ) und in discussion by Member States.	ICES or JRC D1 expert network to assist Member States through an appropriate platform and process (to be determined) to test proposed approaches for D1 in real data assessments.

Criteria * primary ** conditionally primary	GES Decision requirements	State of play of EU and RSC level work	Recommendations DG GES for concrete EU-level tasks to follow-up the GES Decision	
<b>Descriptor 1: Coastal and seabirds</b>				
D1C1*	Element list	(sub)regional	<p><b>ICES:</b> Ongoing work on by-catch assessment.  <b>OSPAR/HELCOM:</b> Joint Workshop in second half of 2019 with participation of ICES and other relevant organisations in order to aid in developing (OSPAR) / operationalising (HELCOM) by-catch indicator.  <b>MED:</b>  <b>BlackSea:</b></p>	<p>Practical proposals to solve data gaps will aid Member States in developing or operationalizing indicators.                      Member States should refer to existing agreements and legislations to harmonize different activities.</p>
	Threshold values	(sub)regional		
D1C2*	Element list	(sub)regional	<p><b>JRC:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reference list for species in support of e-reporting developed in 2018. The list can be used as a basis for Member States in regional cooperation on agreeing regional element lists.</li> <li>Proposals for harmonized and coordinated approaches to derive reference and threshold values: JRC Workshop carried out in January 2019.</li> <li>Ongoing work on harmonising monitoring and assessment methods.</li> </ul>	<p>JRC to assist Member States through the D1 expert network in clarifying the relationship between Habitats Directive and MSFD. This is deemed necessary as a basis for progressing towards a harmonized and coordinated approach to deriving reference and threshold values under both Directives</p>
	Threshold values	(sub)regional		
D1C3**	Element list	(sub)regional	<p><b>OSPAR:</b> Initial indicators with threshold values (D1C2, D1C3) available, but D1C3 under further development. Indicator for D1C5 under development through OSPAR/HELCOM/ ICES Joint Working Group on Birds (JWG BIRD).  <b>HELCOM:</b> Initial indicators with threshold values (D1C2) available. Indicator for D1C5 is under development. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019.  <b>MED:</b>  <b>BlackSea:</b></p>	
	Threshold values	(sub)regional		
D1C4**	Element list	(sub)regional		
	Threshold values	(sub)regional		
D1C5**	Element list	(sub)regional		
	Threshold values			
D1 Birds	Use of criteria to assess GES	EU	<p><b>ICES:</b> Recommendations by request of EU (ICES Special Request Advice) on the integration of criteria, species and species groups for birds, marine mammals, reptiles, fish and cephalopods published on 12 July 2018 (<a href="https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.4494">https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.4494</a>) and in discussion by Member States. See also JWG Bird report regarding ICES Advice on the integration.</p>	<p>ICES or JRC D1 expert network to assist Member States through an appropriate platform and process (to be determined) to test proposed approaches for D1 in real data assessments, taking into account approaches used by MS in 2018 assessment.</p>
<b>Descriptor 1: Marine Mammals</b>				

Criteria * primary ** conditionally primary	GES Decision requirements	State of play of EU and RSC level work	Recommendations DG GES for concrete EU-level tasks to follow-up the GES Decision
D1C1*	Element list (sub)regional	<p><b>ICES:</b> Ongoing work on by-catch assessment.</p> <p><b>OSPAR/HELCOM:</b> Joint Workshop in second half of 2019 with participation of ICES and other relevant in order to operationalise by-catch indicators.</p> <p><b>OSPAR:</b> Indicator for one species available (harbour porpoise). Threshold values and sufficient data basis are lacking. OSPAR priority: include other species</p> <p><b>HELCOM:</b> Initial indicator available (better developed for mammals than for birds). Threshold values and sufficient data basis are lacking (some proposals on approaches available).</p> <p><b>MED:</b></p> <p><b>BlackSea:</b></p>	<p>Practical proposals to solve data gaps will aid Member States in developing or operationalizing indicators.</p> <p>Member States should refer to existing agreements and legislations to harmonize different activities.</p>
	Threshold values (sub)regional		
D1C2*	Element list (sub)regional	<p><b>JRC:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reference list for species in support of e-reporting developed in 2018. The list can be used as a basis for Member States in regional cooperation on agreeing regional element lists.</li> <li>Proposals for harmonized and coordinated approaches to derive reference and threshold values: JRC Workshop carried out in January 2019.</li> <li>Ongoing work on harmonising monitoring and assessment methods.</li> </ul> <p><b>OSPAR:</b> Indicators for some species available. Threshold values are mostly lacking. OSPAR priority: work on data requirements for D1C2, D1C3 and D1C4 and new candidate indicators for D1C3..</p> <p><b>HELCOM:</b> Indicators for seals (D1C2, D1C3, D1C4) available. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019.</p> <p><b>MED:</b></p> <p><b>BlackSea:</b></p> <p>Note: For species covered by the Habitats Directive, the thresholds should be consistent with the Favourable Reference values established by the relevant Member States under Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive) and the results should be not be in contradiction to the assessment under this Directive</p>	<p>JRC to assist Member States through the D1 expert network in clarifying the relationship between Habitats Directive and MSFD. This is deemed necessary as a basis for progressing towards a harmonized and coordinated approach to deriving reference and threshold values under both Directives.</p>
D1C3**	Element list (sub)regional		
	Threshold values (sub)regional		
D1C4**	Element list (sub)regional		
	Threshold values (sub)regional		
D1C5**	Element list (sub)regional		
	Threshold values		
D1 Marine Mammals	Use of criteria to assess GES EU	<p>For mammals the Commission Decision refers to the integration method used by the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>EEA:</b> Biodiversity assessment, 2019 in prep, BEAT tool</p>	

Criteria * primary ** conditionally primary	GES Decision requirements	State of play of EU and RSC level work	Recommendations DG GES for concrete EU-level tasks to follow-up the GES Decision
<b>Descriptor 1: Cephalopods</b>			
D1C1*	Element list	(sub)regional	<p><b>ICES:</b> Ongoing work on by-catch assessment.  <b>OSPAR:</b>  <b>HELCOM:</b>  <b>MED:</b>  <b>BlackSea:MED:</b>  <b>BlackSea:</b></p>
	Threshold values	(sub)regional	
D1C2*	Element list	(sub)regional	<p><b>JRC:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reference list for species in support of e-reporting developed in 2018. The list can be used as a basis for Member States in regional cooperation on agreeing regional element lists.</li> </ul>
	Threshold values	(sub)regional	
D1C3**	Element list	(sub)regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposals for harmonized and coordinated approaches to derive reference and threshold values: JRC Workshop carried out in January 2019.</li> </ul>
	Threshold values	(sub)regional	
D1C4**	Element list	(sub)regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing work on harmonising monitoring and assessment methods.</li> </ul>
	Threshold values	(sub)regional	
D1C5**	Element list	(sub)regional	<p><b>OSPAR:</b> No indicator available. Work currently not prioritised. First, list of relevant species, risks for the species and areas of risk should be identified.  <b>HELCOM:</b> No work planned. There is no regular occurrence of cephalopods in the Baltic Sea.  <b>MED:</b>  <b>BlackSea:</b></p>
	Threshold values	(sub)regional	
D1 Cephalopods	Use of criteria to assess GES	EU	<p><b>ICES:</b> Recommendations by request of EU (ICES Special Request Advice) on the integration of criteria, species and species groups for birds, marine mammals, reptiles, fish and cephalopods published on 12 July 2018 (<a href="https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.4494">https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.4494</a>) und in discussion by Member States.</p>
<b>Descriptor 1: Reptiles</b>			
D1C1*	Element list	(sub)regional	<p><b>ICES:</b> Ongoing work on by-catch assessment.  <b>OSPAR:</b>  <b>HELCOM:</b>  <b>MED:</b>  <b>BlackSea:</b></p>
	Threshold values	(sub)regional	

Criteria * primary ** conditionally primary	GES Decision requirements	State of play of EU and RSC level work	Recommendations DG GES for concrete EU-level tasks to follow-up the GES Decision
D1C2*	Element list (sub)regional Threshold values (sub)regional	<p><b>JRC:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reference list for species in support of e-reporting developed in 2018. The list can be used as a basis for Member States in regional cooperation on agreeing regional element lists.</li> <li>Proposals for harmonized and coordinated approaches to derive reference and threshold values: JRC Workshop carried out in January 2019.</li> <li>Ongoing work on harmonising monitoring and assessment methods.</li> </ul> <p><b>OSPAR:</b> No indicators available. Work currently not prioritised. First, list of relevant species, risks for the species and areas of risk should be identified.</p> <p><b>HELCOM:</b> Reptiles are not relevant for the marine region.</p> <p><b>MED:</b></p> <p><b>BlackSea:</b></p> <p>Note: For species covered by the Habitats Directive, the thresholds should be consistent with the Favourable Reference values established by the relevant Member States under Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive) and the results should not be in contradiction to the assessment under this Directive.</p>	JRC to assist Member States through the D1 expert network in clarifying the relationship between Habitats Directive and MSFD. This is deemed necessary as a basis for progressing towards a harmonized and coordinated approach to deriving reference and threshold values under both Directives
D1C3**	Element list (sub)regional Threshold values (sub)regional		
D1C4**	Element list (sub)regional Threshold values (sub)regional		
D1C5**	Element list (sub)regional Threshold values		
D1 Reptiles	Use of criteria to assess GES EU		
<b>Descriptor 1: Pelagic habitats</b>			
D1C6*	Element list (sub)regional Threshold values (sub)regional	<p><b>ICES:</b> surveillance indicators suggested by ICES in 2016 and 2017 (links to D4)</p> <p><b>OSPAR:</b> Several indicators in development. So far no threshold values. Basis for determining elements and threshold values still need to be elaborated.</p> <p><b>HELCOM:</b> Several indicators in development, partly with threshold values for test application in individual subbasins. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019.</p> <p><b>MED:</b></p> <p><b>BlackSea:</b></p>	

Criteria * primary ** conditionally primary	GES Decision requirements	State of play of EU and RSC level work	Recommendations DG GES for concrete EU-level tasks to follow-up the GES Decision	
D1	(EU) Projects of interest to topic	<b>MISTIC SEAS 2</b> <a href="http://mistic-seas.madeira.gov.pt/en">http://mistic-seas.madeira.gov.pt/en</a> <b>MEDCIS</b> <a href="http://medcis.eu/">http://medcis.eu/</a> <b>SPICE</b> <a href="http://www.helcom.fi/helcom-at-work/projects/completed-projects/spice/">http://www.helcom.fi/helcom-at-work/projects/completed-projects/spice/</a> <b>IDEM</b> <a href="http://www.msfd-idem.eu">www.msfd-idem.eu</a>		
<b>Descriptor 1/6: Benthic habitats</b>				
D6C1*	Element list Threshold values	<p><b>ICES:</b> Ongoing work for EU (ICES Special Request Advice), to recommend and demonstrate methods for the assessment of spatial extent and distribution of habitat loss (D6C1/C2) and physical disturbance (D6C2) to the seabed per subdivision and per MSFD broad habitat type.</p> <p>Based on 2016 and 2017 advice and review of D6 methods, ICES is working towards a cross-regional EU-wide D6 assessment framework – with accompanying technical guidelines. First draft published, further work and input required from TG.</p> <p><b>TG Seabed Habitats and Sea-floor Integrity:</b> Tasked with the development of an EU-wide assessment framework for benthic habitats (D6C4, D6C5) and integrity of the seafloor (D6C1, D6C2, D6C3). Focusing on Union-level requirements for D6C4 and D6C5 by considering work on regional level for D6C3. This includes following the mentioned ICES-work, RSCs and national approaches as well as assessments under other EU policies (e.g. Habitats Directive), development of threshold values (D6C4, D6C5) and integration rules.</p> <p><b>OSPAR:</b> Individual indicators (without threshold)</p> <p><b>HELCOM:</b> First indicator available for D6C5 (threshold values available for some basins). Other indicators (D6C4,, D6C5) at various stages of development. Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019.</p> <p><b>MED:</b></p> <p><b>BlackSea:</b></p> <p><b>EEA:</b> Pressures and cumulative effects assessment, 2019 in prep, CEA tool</p>		
D6C2*	Element list Threshold values			
D6C3*	Element list Threshold values (sub)regional			
D6C4*	Element list (sub)regional Threshold values EU			
D6C5*	Element list (sub)regional Threshold values EU			
D1/6 Benthic habitats	Use of criteria to assess GES EU			
D1/6	(EU) Projects of interest to topic		<b>IDEM</b> <a href="http://www.msfd-idem.eu">www.msfd-idem.eu</a> <b>HELCOM ACTION</b> <a href="http://www.helcom.fi/helcom-at-work/projects/action/">http://www.helcom.fi/helcom-at-work/projects/action/</a>	

Criteria	GES Decision requirements	State of play of EU and RSC level work	Recommendations DG GES for concrete EU-level tasks to follow-up the GES Decision
* primary			
** conditionally primary			
<b>Descriptor 1/4: Ecosystems including food webs</b>			
D4C1*	Element list	(sub)regional	<p><b>ICES:</b> D4 guidance (on surveillance indicators) provided during the revision of the Decision. Task to support Member States in development assessment systems. Currently no specific request/commission.</p> <p><b>OSPAR:</b> Individual indicators (without threshold values) available. Review of usability for assessment requirements according to COM Decision (EU) 2017/848 is necessary. OSPAR priority for indicator development: primary criteria</p> <p><b>HELCOM:</b> Indicators under development (plankton D4C1 and D4C3; coastal fish D4C2). Review and prioritization of HELCOM indicators/work by 06/2019.</p> <p><b>MED:</b></p> <p><b>BlackSea:</b></p>
	Threshold values	(sub)regional	
D4C2*	Element list	(sub)regional	
	Threshold values	(sub)regional	
D4C3	Element list	(sub)regional	
	Threshold values	(sub)regional	
D4C4	Element list	(sub)regional	
	Threshold values	(sub)regional	
D4 Ecosystem /foodwebs	Use of criteria to assess GES		No current work.
D4	(EU) Projects of interest to topic		<b>IDEM</b> <a href="http://www.msfd-idem.eu">www.msfd-idem.eu</a>