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<b>Document title</b>	Outcome of State & Conservation 5E-2017: Adoption of threshold values for core indicators
<b>Code</b>	4-12
<b>Category</b>	DEC
<b>Agenda Item</b>	4 - Matters arising from the subsidiary bodies
<b>Submission date</b>	7.2.2017
<b>Submitted by</b>	Executive Secretary
<b>Reference</b>	

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## Background

State & Conservation 5-2016 agreed to convene an extra online meeting 26 January 2017 to consider the endorsement of proposed threshold values for core indicators (outcome para 7J.4).

HOD 51-2016 (outcome para 6.12) agreed to extend the core indicator on 'Oxygen debt' to Bothnian Bay, Bothnian Sea and Åland Sea assessment units. State & Conservation 5E-2017 endorsed the assessment unit specific threshold values as contained in Annex 2, Table 1.

HOD 51-2016 (outcome para 6.17) took note that with regard to shifting the status of the pre-core indicator 'Cyanobacterial bloom index' to core indicator, Germany kept its reserve with the aim of clarifying the situation as soon as possible. State & Conservation 5E-2017 endorsed the proposed threshold values for the indicator provided that it is stated in the indicator report and the 'State of the Baltic Sea' report that the indicator is still being tested and the results should be considered as intermediate.

HOD 51-2016 (outcome para 6.16) adopted 'Total nutrients' as a core indicator. State and Conservation 5E-2017 endorsed the open sea assessment unit specific threshold values as contained in Annex 2, Table 1.

State & Conservation 5E-2017 (outcome paras 3.14-3.16) endorsed the threshold values for the core indicator 'State of the soft-bottom macrofauna community' as contained in Annex 2, Table 1, noting that the threshold values for Gulf of Finland, Gulf of Riga and Eastern Gotland Basin should be considered as interim values and further verified through testing the indicator as part of the 'State of the Baltic Sea' report. Finland and Sweden informed the meeting on the intention to revise the threshold value for the indicator in the Quark. The results of the bilateral discussion has been reported to the State and Conservation Working Group and is included Appendix 1. Finland and Sweden propos the threshold value to be set at 1.5.

State & Conservation 5E-2017 endorsed the threshold values of the core indicator 'Zooplankton mean size and total stock' as contained in Annex 2, Table 1.

In response to the request by HOD 51-2016 (outcome para 6.22) State & Conservation 5E-2017 agreed on the following wording to be used in HOLAS II with regard to indicator and threshold values being included as intermediate/test results in the 'State of the Baltic Sea' report (HOLAS II):

"Note that the indicator and/or its associated threshold value is 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."

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- adopt the core indicator assessment unit specific threshold values as presented in the Outcome of State & Conservation 5E-2017, Annex 2, Table 1 for the core indicators Oxygen debt, Cyanobacterial blooms index, Total nutrients, State of the soft-bottom macrofauna community and Zooplankton mean size and total stock,
- adopt the revised threshold value for the 'State of the soft-bottom macrofauna community' as proposed by Finland and Sweden (Appendix 1).
- take note that the core indicator 'State of the soft-bottom macrofauna community' is proposed to be included in the 'State of the Baltic Sea' report as intermediate results and furthermore that the threshold values for the assessment units Eastern Gotland Basin, Gulf of Riga and Gulf of Finland are identified as interim threshold values to be validated when developing the assessment,
- take note that the core indicator 'Cyanobacterial blooms index' indicator results are included as intermediate results,
- take note of the wording in relation to core indicator results included in the State of the Baltic Sea report (HOLAS II) as interim results agreed on by State & Conservation 5E-2017.