



Document title	Adoption of threshold value for Gdansk Basin Zooplankton MSTS indicator
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Agenda Item	3 - Matters arising from the subsidiary bodies
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Submitted by	Executive Secretary
Reference	

Background

This document is a late document due to the State and Conservation 7E-2018 process that was completed on 16 February 2018.

This document relates to the Zooplankton Mean Size and Total Stock (MSTS) HELCOM core indicator. Specifically it relates to the threshold value, as derived using the endorsed methodology, for the Gdansk Basin.

The methodology for setting threshold for the Zooplankton MSTS HELCOM core indicator were agreed at [HELCOM HOD 48-2015](#) (outcome para 3.63, and Annex 4). At [HELCOM STATE&CONSERVATION 5-2016](#) (outcome paragraph 4J.19, and cf. document 4J-29) Finland and Sweden endorsed nationally relevant threshold values and other countries agreed to further discuss the proposals in the ZEN-ZIMM project before stating their position. Revised threshold values were proposed at [HELCOM HOD 51-2016](#) (outcome paragraph 6.9) and Poland placed a study reservation on the proposed boundary for the Gdansk Basin. At [HELCOM STATE&CONSERVATION 5E-2017](#) (Outcomes paragraph 5.6) Poland lifted their study reservation on the Zooplankton MSTS indicator but withdrew the specific threshold values for the South Eastern Gotland Basin, Bornholm Basin and Gdansk Basin (outcome paragraph 3.22, and cf. document 5-2) since they required greater testing, were deemed premature for use in the first version of the State of the Baltic Sea report, and in cases required stronger intercalibration with data from other countries. At the same meeting threshold values for specific sub-basins were endorsed (Outcomes paragraph 3.24, and Annex 2). The table below represents an extract from Annex 2 containing the relevant information for this indicator.

Extract from Annex 2: Zooplankton mean size and total stock

Assessment unit threshold value	mean size (μg wet weight ind ⁻¹)/total stock (mg m ⁻³)
Northern Baltic Proper	5.0/220
Gulf of Finland	8.6/125
Åland Sea	10.3/55
Bothnian Sea	8.5/84
Bothnian Bay	23.7/161

At [HELCOM HOLAS II 8-2017](#) (outcome paragraph 3.12) Poland requested that the Gdansk Basin and its threshold value should be included in the indicator update process and the final State of the Baltic Sea report. Preparations were made for this to take place and the relevant data, result and indicator evaluation were provided at the national checking process for HELCOM indicators. At this stage no questions or objections were made regarding the inclusion of the Gdansk Basin and its threshold values for this indicator.

Concurrent with the national checking of HELCOM indicator evaluations the relevant information and specific threshold value, as derived using the endorsed methodology, for the Gdansk Basin was sent to State and Conservation for approval ([HELCOM STATE&CONSERVATION 7E-2018](#)). This process was completed on 16 February 2018 and approval for the Gdansk Basin threshold value was given either directly or by tacit approval. The final outcomes of this meeting (via correspondence) are being prepared, however the relevant documents (document 3 and 3-ATT.1) are available at the Meeting site. The proposed threshold value for the Gdansk Basin is shown in the table below.

Assessment unit threshold value	mean size (μg wet weight ind-1)/total stock (mg m^{-3})
Gdansk Basin	10.2/103

The data are prepared, the result and indicator evaluation have been carried out and this has already passed through the national checking of indicators process. Thus the inclusion of this specific threshold and additional sub-basin will cause no disruption to the ongoing update processes for the indicators or the final State of the Baltic Sea report.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to adopt the proposed Zooplankton MSTs indicator threshold for the Gdansk Basin, as an additional sub-basin included in the indicator report and final State of the Baltic Sea report.