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<b>Document title</b>	German comments to document 2-6
<b>Code</b>	2-18
<b>Category</b>	CMNT
<b>Agenda Item</b>	2 - Next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting
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### Background

This document contains the German comments to document 2-6 "Adoption of the first version of the State of the Baltic Sea report".

### Action requested

The Meeting is invited to consider the German comments to document 2-6.

**German comments, as re Document 2-6, as of 19 June 2017**

Section	Page	Paragraph/ Table/Figure	Comment	New or comment already sent before S&C 6
1	4	3 <sup>rd</sup> Para	but hunting is permitted in some countries, restricted to populations above <a href="#">a minimum size a limit reference level</a> and with a positive growth rate.	new
1	5	Fish	sea <b>trout</b> (the word trout is missing)	new
1	5	Mammals & waterbirds	<b>Bycatch should be mentioned</b>	new
1	5	3 <sup>rd</sup> Para	Water-birds are assessed by their abundance during the breeding and the wintering season.	new
1	8	Fig 3	<b>Delete the result for the indicator Soft-bottom macrozoobenthos for the Kiel Bay</b>	new
1	11	2 <sup>nd</sup> Para	The <a href="#">watershed-drainage area</a> of the Baltic Sea is about four times larger than the surface area and is inhabited by around 85 million people (Figure 1.1).	new
1	11	3 <sup>rd</sup> Para	Freshwater reaches the Baltic Sea from numerous rivers, corresponding to about one fourtieth of the total water volume per year (Bergström et al., 2001).	new
1	11	5 <sup>th</sup> Para, line 2	<b>On a Baltic-wide scale, The</b> marine species live side by side with freshwater species that reproduce in freshwater tributaries or which can tolerate the brackish conditions. (Remark: there are marine and freshwater species but they do not necessarily all occur next to each other everywhere. On a Baltic-wide scale, they do.)  The report state now: In the Inner Baltic Sea ...	<b>Is implemented change ok?</b>
1	11	4 <sup>th</sup> Para	<del>The entrance to the North Sea was previously wider, but was narrowed due to land upheaval after the most recent ice age4.</del> The recent configuration with a connection to the North Sea and a development to marine/brackish conditions established during the Litorina transgression (same Reference as above, and others).	not implemented comment
1	18	Box 1.1	In the Gotland deep, oxygen conditions ranged from -8.75 ml/l (in November 2013) to 2.9 ml/l (in April 2015 at 235 m depth; Nausch et al., <a href="#">2016</a> 2016).	new
1	19	Fig 1.9	Data from <b>Leibniz-Institut für Ostseeforschung Warnemünde-Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemuende</b>	new
1	23	Table B.1.1.2	Biodiversity: State of the soft-bottom macrofauna	new

			Add: (some areas) So it's similar to the Eutrophication box	
1	24	1 <sup>st</sup> para	Through the HELCOM coordinated work of hundreds of experts, 381 regionally agreed core indicators have been operationalized since the initial assessment, and are included in this assessment to reflect the status of the Baltic Sea environment.  Please check if 38 correct. It's not clear which of the indicators shown on page 22 & 23 are counted here.	new
1	25	Fig 2.1	Supplementary material Add: Baltic Sea Pressure Index	new
3	44	Box 3.3	Marine and coastal recreation is an <del>an</del> marine activity which is dependent on the state of the Baltic Sea environment.	new
4.1	52	Fig.4.1.2.	In coastal areas HELCOM utilizes national indicators used in the Water Framework Directive to arrive at status of coastal assessment units for eight countries.	new
4.1	53	Fig. 4.1.4.	Pie chart: Indirect effects  delete the zeroes	new
4.2	64	Para 1	Man-made chemicals and heavy metals enter the Baltic Sea via <u>waste water treatment plants</u> , <u>leaching off house hold materials</u> , waste deposits, through the atmosphere from industrial plant emissions, and from many other sources.	not implemented comment
4.4	86	Para 2	Various human activities may generate continuous sound. <del>Examples for such activities are among others bridges, offshore wind turbines, shipping and boating that</del> also influence on the local sound environment.  <u>The report state now:</u> <del>V</del> Various human activities may generate continuous sound. Shipping and boating are important contributors. Meanwhile, structures such as bridges and offshore wind turbines also influence on the local sound environment <del>also influence on the local sound environment</del> . One concern is that human generated continuous sound may mask animals' communication and signals used for orientation.	Is implemented change ok?
4.4	86	Para 4	Impulsive sound is characterized by a short duration, and a fast <del>pulse</del> rise time.	not implemented comment
4.4	86	Para 5	A good environmental status with respect to underwater sound requires that the level and distribution of both continuous and impulsive	not implemented comment

			sounds should not cause <b>significant</b> impact on marine life.	
4.4	88	Para 1	Impulsive sounds may cause large scale displacement as well as physical damage to marine animals <b>Sentence complete as:</b> Impulsive sounds may cause large scale displacement as well as physical damage to marine animals, <b>if no mitigation measures have been applied.</b>	not implemented comment
4.4	90	Fig. 4.4.3	<b>Add a footnote stating:</b> Figure subject to change according to the revision of the document for HELCOM guidelines for establishing environmental targets for underwater noise (HOD52 doc 3.6).	new
4.5	92	2 <sup>nd</sup> para	<b>Invasive non-indigenous species are typically generalist species that can tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions</b>  Invasive species are not necessarily generalist. If a species becomes invasive is dependent on many factors. Also specialists may become invasive after their introduction. Suggest to delete the sentence	not implemented comment
4.6	96	Assessment of commercially exploited fish 2 <sup>nd</sup> para	Long term management plans for the internationally managed fish stocks aim to ensure that these are capable of producing a maximum sustainable yield ( <b>MSY</b> ), as mainly being regulated by the exploitation rate.	new
4.6	97	1 <sup>st</sup> para	For each year, F/Fmsy, and the SSB/MSY B-trigger, respectively, were calculated using the 2015 reference value.  Please explain abbreviation	new
4.6	100	1 <sup>st</sup> para	... additional species <b>like birds and mammals</b> , which are caught as incidental bycatch ( <b>see Box 5.4.2 und 5.5.1</b> )	not implemented comment
4.6	101	1 <sup>st</sup> para	Waterbirds are hunted as game in some countries, although the timing is regulated, with hunting <b>prohibiting prohibited</b> during the spring migration and breeding season <sup>3</sup> (EC 2009).	new
4.7	104	1 <sup>st</sup> para	There is currently no established method for evaluating how much of the loss and disturbance <b>that</b> is causing adverse effects on the marine environment.	new
4.7	105	Disposal of dredged matter line 3	In addition, increased turbidity during the disposal causes increased siltation on the site itself and in the areas around it.	new
5	113	2 <sup>nd</sup> para	For example, HELCOM countries have agreed to take measures to improve the status of species that are threatened according to the 2013 HELCOM Red List (HELCOM 2013) with the aim of achieving	new

			a favourable conservation status <del>of</del> for all species by 2021 (HELCOM Recommendation 37/2, 2016).	
5	113	3 <sup>rd</sup> para	Hitherto, twelve regionally agreed biodiversity core indicators have been made operational and are included in this assessment.  Please check if 12 correct. It's not clear which of the indicators shown on page 23 are counted here.	new
5.1	117	1 <sup>st</sup> para	The sea floor of the Baltic Sea encompasses several types of habitats, from species-rich seagrass meadows ...	not implemented comment
5.1	117	2 <sup>nd</sup> para	Typical species <del>further</del> in the Baltic Sea <del>further</del> include amphipods (mainly <i>Monoporeia affinis</i> ), the isopod <i>Saduria entomon</i> , and the Baltic clam ( <i>Macoma balthica</i> ).	new
5.1	117	4 <sup>th</sup> para	The use of national indicators makes results not directly comparable between coastal areas of <u>different countries</u> , and the results may also be influenced by variability in other factors, such as geomorphology and hydrology.	new
5.1	118	5 <sup>th</sup> para	Although a high share of the total Baltic Sea area was covered by the assessment, both core indicators had only partial coverage (Figure 5.1.1-3). The Bornholm Basin and the Gdansk Basin were only assessed with the core indicator 'Oxygen debt', since threshold values for the 'State of the softbottom macrofauna community' hasn't been agreed yet for these basins.	new
5.1	119	Fig 5.1.1	Footnote 3 (Kiel Bay) is missing	new
5.1	121	1 <sup>st</sup> para	At the species level, the HELCOM red list gives additional information on the status of <del>faunal</del> benthic species.	new
5.1	121	Last para	... dominated by the ocean quahog ( <i>Arctica islandica</i> )...	not implemented comment
5.1	122	Fig 5.1.5	What does this Fig. refer to? No reference in the text is given	not implemented comment
5.1	122	Impacts 1 <sup>st</sup> para.	This text is mainly ecosystem functions and reads as if the major impact on the biotope are the specimen their own.  Change title of section as decided at S&C 6	not implemented comment
5.2	125	1 <sup>st</sup> para	The use of national indicators varied among geographical areas and hence, the results for coastal areas are not directly comparable <del>across</del> between countries but provide an indication on the status of the coastal micropelagic system at Baltic regional scale.	new
5.3	135	Fig 5.3.4	No reference in the text to this figure  Please check the scale of the y-axis.	new

5.3	136	Fig 5.3.4	Figure has the same number as the one the site before	new
5.4	140	2 <sup>nd</sup> para	Environmental contaminants in the 1960s and 1970s caused further decimation of the populations by severely reducing fertility <del>in</del> of ringed and grey seals (Helle 1980).	new
5.4	144	3 <sup>rd</sup> para.	It should be mentioned that this number is the total abundance estimate because it differs from the counted numbers given in Fig. 5.4.6 which could be confusing for the reader.	not implemented comment
5.4	148	1 <sup>st</sup> para	Furthermore, the situation of the status for Baltic Proper harbour porpoise was recognised by the ASCOBANS and HELCOM as well. <del>is reflected in the</del> The Jastarnia plan (ASCOBANS 2009) and HELCOM recommendation 17/2 (HELCOM 2013b) <del>),</del> suggest adequate protection measures	new
5.4	149	Fig. 5.4.8	“summer management border”  isn't mentioned before, please explain what is meant or delete it	not implemented comment
5.5	general		Check for consistency if the English species names are written with capital or small letters	new
5.5	152	3 <sup>rd</sup> para	For threats on waterbirds from incidental by-catch in gill nets, see Box 5.5.1, for hunting on waterbirds, see Chapter 4.6.	new
5.5	159	1 <sup>st</sup> para	Many species are also vulnerable to incidental by-catches in fishing gear (see Chapter 4.6 and Box 5.5.1).	new
6	168	Fig. 6.1	The impact value should start with 0,01. 0,00 would suggest that there is no impact, which is included in the white areas	new
6	170	3 <sup>rd</sup> para	Due to the large scale of impact values obtained (large difference between maximum and minimum values) in the Baltic Sea Impact index, areas subject to low and medium impact may be hard to differentiate in Figure 6.2 creating an impression of widely undisturbed areas, especially in the Baltic Sea.  Delete that part or concretize like in the central Baltic Sea or in the open basins of the Baltic Sea	new
6	172	Fig. 6.3	It's not clear how the ranked values were generated and which scale is used at the x-axis. Please add an explanation.	new
6	172	1 <sup>st</sup> para	The evaluation suggests that benthic habitats are potentially impacted by loss and disturbance in all sub-basins of the Baltic Sea, but the highest <del>estimated estimates</del> were found for coastal areas and in the Southern Baltic Sea (Figure 6.4).	new
6	173	Fig. 6.4	The impact value should start with 0,01. 0,00 would suggest that there is no impact, which is included in the white areas	new

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			The white areas should be explained as no data or no impact	
7	179	MPAs	Please refer in the text to the MSFD Article 13 (4)	not implemented comment