



## Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Heads of Delegation  
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HOD 52-2017

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*The revised document includes the changes to the State of the Baltic Sea report agreed at HOD 52-2017.*

### Background

The tables included in this document presents the changes to the State of the Baltic Sea Report (document 2-6) as proposed by Contracting Parties (documents 2-12, 2-18). The changes listed as “Content changes” concern proposals to the substance of the report, and “Editorial changes” concerns corrections and editorial improvements. The “Content changes” were discussed and resolved by a drafting group during HOD 52-2017.

### Action requested

The Meeting is invited:

- to consider the outstanding issues and agree on the proposed “Content changes”,
- to mandate the Secretariat to implement the issues listed as “Editorial changes”.

## Content changes; discussed by the meeting

nr	From	Comment	Agreed change
1	Denmark; Executive summary	Text on unselective fishing proposed to be rewritten as follows (or deleted): "In addition to the targeted species and size classes of fish, unselective fishing imposes mortality on non-target fish species and sizes, which are caught as incidental by-catch"  This concerns the following text  "Three out of eight assessed commercial fish stocks are in good status with respect to both biomass and fishing mortality rates. However, fourteen stocks are currently lacking evaluation. Unselective fishing methods additionally causes mortality of non-target fish species and size classes."	"Three out of eight assessed commercial fish stocks are in good status with respect to both biomass and fishing mortality rates. However, fourteen stocks are currently lacking evaluation. In addition to the targeted species, unselective fishing methods cause mortality of non-target fish species and size classes."
2	Denmark; Executive summary	Addition proposed to last part of section of mammals "The Kattegat-Belt Sea-Western Baltic sub-population is also assessed as threatened by HELCOM, but the sub-population is estimated at around 40500 animals and the population is stable."	Agreed to be added as proposed.
3	Denmark; Executive summary	For seabed loss and disturbance, add "potentially"	Agreed to be added as proposed.
4	Germany: Executive summary	Mammals & waterbirds: Bycatch should be mentioned	To be consider in the 2018 update
5	Sec; Pressure chapter	Overall introduction text for the pressure chapter needs to be added	<i>CHAPTER 4; PRESSURE</i> <i>"Today 85 million people inhabit the watershed surrounding the Baltic Sea. The sea is one of the world's largest brackish water areas and is inhabited by both marine and freshwater species. A mix of land-based human activities, such as agricultural, industrial, and urban activities exert a wide variety of pressures on the sea. The sea itself experiences busy shipping between its surrounding countries and is an important or emerging resource for fishing, fish farming, gravel extraction and wind energy, to name a few, as well as being used for leisure and tourism. Some of the pressures on the Baltic Sea are exacerbated by the limited level of water exchange, which means that nutrients and other substances from the drainage area accumulate in the Baltic Sea and are</i>

nr	From	Comment	Agreed change
			<p>only diluted slowly. HELCOM has identified seven distinct pressures, which are assessed in this chapter.”</p> <p>(To be reformulated to make more fluent)</p>
6	Denmark chapter 4.1, page 60, para 2 lines 3-7	Please rephrase to: " <i>The monetary benefits of reducing eutrophication have been assessed in a Baltic-wide stated preference contingent valuation study in 2011 (Ahtiainen et al. 2014). The study's results represent a hypothetical value of reaching good eutrophication status in the Baltic Sea, by estimating citizens' willingness to pay for achieving the target status.</i> "	"The monetary benefits of reducing eutrophication have been assessed in a Baltic-wide stated preference contingent valuation study in 2011 (Ahtiainen et al. 2014). The results represent the value of reaching good eutrophication status in the Baltic Sea, based on citizens' stated willingness to pay in a survey for achieving the target status."
7	Germany; 4.4 Underwater noise page 86, para 5	A good environmental status with respect to underwater sound requires that the level and distribution of both continuous and impulsive sounds should not cause <b>significant</b> impact on marine life.	„A good environmental status with respect to underwater sound requires that the level and distribution of both continuous and impulsive sounds should not cause negative impacts on marine life“
8	Germany; 4.4 Underwater noise page 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>	"Impulsive sounds may cause large scale displacement as well as physical damage to marine animals. In some cases mitigation measures may help to lower the damage."
9	Germany; 4.4 Underwater noise page 86, para 2	Various human activities may generate continuous sound. <b>Examples for such activities are among others bridges, offshore wind turbines, shipping and boating that also influence on the local sound environment.</b>	Agreed to be added as proposed.
10	Germany; 4.5 Invasive species page 92 para 2	<del>Invasive non-indigenous species are typically generalist species that can tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions</del>  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	Delete this sentence, and rephrase the sentence thereafter as follows:  "Harbours and ports are hot spots for the introduction of non-indigenous species, as they may easily find suitable places to settle in shallow water or modified habitats (Lehtiniemi et al. 2015)"
11	Germany; 4.6 Species	... additional species <b>like birds and mammals</b> , which are caught as	„In addition to the targeted species and size classes of fish, unselective fishing imposes mortality on smaller sized fish and non-

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	extraction page 100 para 1	incidental bycatch (see Box 5.4.2 und 5.5.1)	target species of fish, but also on birds and mammals (add ref to boxes 5.4.2 and 5.5.1), which are caught as incidental by-catch. The unwanted catch of fish has been mostly discarded in the past, and has been monitored and included in stock assessments for cod and some flatfishes“
12	Sec; Biodiversity chapter	Overall introduction text for the biodiversity chapter needs to be added	“Due to its unique salinity gradient and high variability in habitat types, the Baltic Sea contains a greater biodiversity and variety of plant and animal life than might be expected. However, growing pressures (described in Chapter 4) in recent decades have taken their toll on the species. Achieving a good status of the biodiversity in the long term is a HELCOM priority, strengthened by the revised Helsinki Convention in 1992. The latest results show that many species are still under threat. It is anticipated that biodiversity will show signs of improvement in the coming years, as the effects of recently implemented measures is being seen, but also that continued efforts to support biodiversity are of key importance.
13	Denmark Biodiversity, chapter 5.4, page 147 sentence 3 from the end	Please add: "However, based on later SCANS data, the population has been stable over the past 22 years".	“The Kattegat-Belt Sea-Western Baltic sub-population was estimated at around 40 500 animals (95% confidence range 25 614 to 65 041) using a visual line transect survey (Viquerat <i>et al.</i> 2013). This sub- population was also assessed as threatened by HELCOM albeit with the lower threat status ‘vulnerable’. However, based on a later survey of small cetaceans in European Atlantic waters and the North Sea (SCANS) the population has been stable over the past twenty-two years (Hammond <i>et al.</i> 2016).”
14	Denmark Chapter 6, summary section, line 4	Change to “ <i>The Baltic Sea Impact Index estimates the potential cumulative burden on the environment based on spatial...</i> ”	“ <i>The Baltic Sea Impact Index estimates the cumulative burden on the environment based on spatial...</i> ”
15	Denmark Chapter 6, Figure 6.2	Change to “Estimation of <u>potential</u> cumulative impacts”	Not to be implemented
16	Denmark Chapter 6, page 172, para 1 line 8	Please delete the sentence "The most impacted sub-basins were identified as the Kiel Bay, the Sound and the Bay of Mecklenburg (Figure 6.5)".  Denmark cannot accept figure 6.5 as we do not find the method acceptable/suitable for such quantitative comparisons.	Keep figure 6.5 but revise the figure text as follows  “Figure 6.5. Cumulative impacts on benthic habitats in the Baltic Sea sub-basins. The values are calculated as the ‘sum of impact’ from physical loss and physical disturbance on the studied benthic habitat types and habitat forming species, divided by the area of the sub-basin. The estimates are based on currently best available regional data, but

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			spatial and temporal gaps may occur in underlying datasets."
17	Germany chapter 7, page 179, MPAs	Please refer in the text to the MSFD Article 13 (4)	To be considered in the 2018 update
18	Sec; Chapter 7	Ending words need to be added	New chapter "PLANNED FURTHER WORK" to be added and under this:  "HELCOM will from mid-2017 to mid-2018 update the assessment results.... (to be elaborated further to mention gap filling, etc key word listed from doc 2-9)...  HELCOM will analyse these first results in order to agree on the conclusions and further consideration when consolidating the report in 2018, including in the next Ministerial meeting, and to reflect on those conclusions and a future outlook in the updated version."
(19)	Page 117, line 5	A special concern is.....	Rewrite "A special concern is the large area with low oxygen or no oxygen at all in the deep basins of the central Baltic Sea..."
(20) Added during drafting group	Chapter 5.3 (Biodiversity/fish)	Additional sentence to be added in connection to figure 5.3.1  Proposal from Denmark "The index used to produce figure 5.3.1 is preliminary and not in compliance with the multiannual plans. Hence, the index need be reassessed and further developed for the next baseline report for the "	"The assessment of commercial fish is provisional. It does not comply with the Multiannual Plans and needs to be developed further for the next assessment period".
(21) Added during drafting group	Sweden; Chapter 4.1 page 54, para 2 lines 2-3	Make sure that it is mentioned in the text that the thresholds for Kattegat are not the same as the thresholds used in the OSPAR assessment	add footnote: "This refers to the HELCOM threshold values, which are not identical to the OSPAR threshold values"

## Editorial changes and corrections; to be implemented by the Secretariat

Nr	Editorial	Comment	Agreed changes
1	Sweden; Executive summary	Remove "as game" from text on waterbird hunting, since some birds are not hunted as game (eg cormorants)	"Hunting has a relatively small role today. Seals are generally protected, but hunting is permitted in some countries, restricted to populations above a minimum size and with a positive growth rate. Waterbirds are hunted <del>as game</del> in some countries, whereas in others they have strict protection."
2	Estonia; Figure 1.9	Note in the bottom oxygen map that the map could be biased for the deep areas in the Gulf of Finland.	"Figure 1.9. Poor oxygen conditions at the sea floor restrict productivity and biodiversity in the Baltic Sea. The maps show the...//... modelling. Data from Leibniz-Institut für Ostseeforschung Warnemünde. See also Feistel <i>et al.</i> (2016). Due to the range of input data used, the map may not correctly reflect the situation in the Gulf of Finland. "
3	Denmark; Box 3.2	Please delete "regional scale" since value transfer in some cases have been used	To be applied
4	Denmark; chapter 4.1 para 3, line 4-5	"...1990s, and in the 1990s the first effects of reducing leaching of nutrients from farmlands were also seen"  to be replaced by  "...1990s, and in the 1990s the first effects of reducing loss of nutrients from agriculture were also seen"	To be applied
5	Denmark; chapter 4.1 page 49, para 1, line 1-2	insert: "(chl a concentrations, water clarity and cyanobacterial bloom index)" insert: "(oxygen debt, soft-bottom fauna)"	This would imply repeating information that is already given in the text right below. This part could be rewritten instead to emphasise and clarify better what indicators were used
6	Denmark; chapter 4.1 page 49, para 1, line 1-2	replace "bound to phytoplankton" with "bound in phytoplankton"	To be applied
7	Denmark; chapter 4.1 page 50, para 1, line 2-3	replace "such as chlorophyll-a, indicators reflecting the status of macrophytes and macrozoobenthos " with "such as phytoplankton (chlorophyll-a), benthic invertebrate fauna and macrophyte (macroalgae and angiosperms)"	To be applied
8	Denmark; chapter 4.1 page 50, last para, line 2	replace "water bodies" with "assessment units"	To be applied
9	Denmark; chapter 4.1	Figure 4.1.3 seems to indicate otherwise. Coastal areas in Kattegat,	To be checked

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	page 51, last para, lines 2-3	along the Estonian coast are for example green based on nutrient levels. Please check again and update the text.	
10	Denmark; chapter 4.1 page 52, Figure caption 4.1.2	change "Note that the integrated status of Kattegat coastal areas differs from corresponding results in the OSPAR intermediate assessment" to "Note that the integrated status of Swedish coastal areas in the Kattegat differs from corresponding results in the OSPAR intermediate assessment"	To be applied
11	Denmark; chapter 4.1 page 54, para 2 lines 2-3	Please correct: "The threshold values were only achieved in the Kattegat and the Great Belt for <u>total nitrogen</u> "	To be corrected, this related to the comment from Sweden under "Content" , end of table
12	Denmark; chapter 4.1 page 54, para 2 lines 3-4	Please delete the following as it is stated below: "and only in the Great Belt for dissolved inorganic phosphorous."	To be applied
13	Denmark chapter 4.2, page 64 para 2 line from the end 5	Please include the reason for giving preference for biota.	"If several threshold values are available, priority is given in HELCOM to environmental quality standard values for biota, rather than in water or sediment. For many substances, most data is available for biota and this estimate reflects the accumulation of contaminants in the living environment"
14	Denmark chapter 4.6, page 100, table 4.6.2	In Denmark the scheme cannot be called "hunting".  Please rephrase to:  "Hunting of grey seals is also allowed in Estonia. In Denmark licensed fishermen may apply for permission to shoot a limited number of grey seals or harbour seals within close proximity of their fishing gear."	To be applied
15	Denmark chapter 5.1, page 118 para 5 line 4	must be: has not been agreed	To be corrected
16	Denmark chapter 5.1, page 119, figure 5.1.1	Text for footnote 3 is missing	To be applied
17	Denmark chapter 5.1, page 122, para 1 line 6	Please rephrase from  "All habitats listed under the Habitats Directive require strict protection."	To be applied

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		<p>to</p> <p>“All habitats listed under the Habitats Directive require strict protection. to All habitats listed under the Habitats Directive require require protection and the designation of MPAs”.</p>	
18	Denmark chapter 5.2, page 127, Figue 5.2.2.	<p>This comment is not correct. DK choses to not have DK coastal water bodies assessed by the pelagic assessment tool due to potential conflicts with WFD status assessments.</p> <p>Secondly the statement is not true. Some Danish open water bodies are assessed in the figure (Kattegat and Great Belt).</p> <p>Please rephrase to "all Danish <u>coastal</u> areas...."</p>	“The grey sector represents not assessed areas, and includes areas not assessed due to the lack of indicators or data, and all Danish coastal areas”
19	Denmark chapter 5.3, page 134 last sentence	<p>Please insert the following text either here or in another suitable place in the chapter:</p> <p>"It should be noted that reference levels and estimates of stock size and fishing mortality in individual years has changed over time as new data became available. Hence, a fishing mortality above FMSY or a biomass below MSY Btrigger on average do not necessarily demonstrate that the advice from ICES on fishing opportunities was exceeded. For example, sprat fishing mortality is consistently above FMSY in the period but realized catches were below the advised catch options from ICES in three years out of five."</p>	<p>For reasons of balance in the text this should preferably be added as a footnote</p> <p>To be inserted close to figure 5.3.1</p> <p>“In the assessment, reference levels and estimates of stock size and fishing mortality in individual years change over time as new data became available. Hence, a fishing mortality above FMSY or a spawning stock biomass below the MSY B-trigger on average do not necessarily demonstrate that the advice from ICES on fishing opportunities was exceeded. For example, sprat fishing mortality is consistently above FMSY in the period but the realized catches were below the advised catch options from ICES in three years out of five."</p>
20	Denmark Chapter 6, page 166, para 3 line 3	Change to “where their current cumulative distribution <u>potentially</u> is highest”	Not to implement (keep without “potentially”)
21	Denmark Chapter 6, page 168, para 2 line 4	Is this a random or a ranked list of pressures? In other assessments I have seen that fisheries and nutrient loading are the most important pressures in the Baltic, so maybe mention these first?	To be resorted as suggested
22	Denmark Chapter 6,	?? Only 3 components are listed in this sentence.	To be clarified as follows:

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	page 170, para 3 line 3		"The <del>five</del> most widely impacted ecosystem components (species or habitats) in the Baltic Sea were the water-column habitats which cover the entire sea area (deep water and surface water), the widely distributed benthic circalittoral habitats, and the marine mammals (Figure 6.3)."
23	Denmark Chapter 6, page 170, para 3 last line	Something is missing in the sentence  This refers to the following sentence  "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 XXX Baltic Sea."	To be corrected
24	Denmark Chapter 6, page 172, para 1 line 3	Please insert the following: "representing <u>potential</u> physical loss and physical disturbance to the seabed.	Not to implement
25	Denmark Chapter 6, page 175, para 1 line 3-4	What about phytoplankton?  This refers to the following sentences: "The increased nutrient levels favour epiphytes growing on seagrass and some macrophytes, both of which compete with seagrass for light. This leads to overgrowth and shading and finally to a reduced biomass of seagrass"	To be clarified. Proposed rewrite:  "The increased nutrient levels favour phytoplankton and epiphytes growing on seagrasses, leading to overgrowth and shading and finally to a reduced biomass of seagrass."
26	Denmark Chapter 6, figure 6.4	How should white areas in Baltic Sea be understood (e.g. Bothnian Bay and Gulf of Riga)? Low impact or no data?	Clarified. "Areas in white in the map are not covered by any of the pressures associated with impact on the seabed".
27	Denmark Chapter 7 Figure 7.1	What is the scale on the x-axis? No. of actions?	To be clarified
28	Germany, Chapter 1, page 4, 3rd para	but hunting is permitted in some countries, restricted to populations above a limit reference level and with a positive growth rate.	To be corrected
29	Germany, chapter 1, page 5, fish	sea <b>trout</b> (the word trout is missing)	To be corrected
30	Germany, chapter 1, page 5, 3 <sup>rd</sup> para	Waterbirds are assessed by their abundance during the breeding and the wintering season.	To be applied
31	Germany, Chapter 1,	Delete the result for the indicator Soft-bottom macrozoobenthos for the Kiel Bay	To be corrected

Nr	Editorial	Comment	Agreed changes
	page 8, figure 3		
32	Germany, Chapter 1, page 11, 2nd para	The drainage area of the Baltic Sea is about four times larger than the surface area and is inhabited by around 85 million people (Figure 1.1).	To be applied
33	Germany, Chapter 1, page 11, 3 <sup>rd</sup> para	Freshwater reaches the Baltic Sea from numerous rivers, corresponding to about one fortieth of the total water volume per year (Bergström et al., 2001).	To be corrected
34	Germany, Chapter 1, page 11, 5 <sup>th</sup> para, line 2	<b>On a Baltic-wide scale</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.)  <u>The report state now:</u> In the Inner Baltic Sea ...	To be implemented
35	Germany, Chapter 1, page 11, 4 <sup>th</sup> para	The recent configuration with a connection to the North Sea and a development to marine/brackish conditions established during the Littorina transgression (same Reference as above, and others).	“Proposal for how the full para would read: „Geologically, the Baltic Sea is very young. After the last glaciation (the Weichselian Glaciation ending around 12 000 years ago) when the Scandinavian ice sheet retreated, the Baltic Sea area has gone through a series of differing salinity phases, including both freshwater and marine/brackish water phases (Harff et al. 2011). The recent configuration of the Baltic Sea, with a connection to the North Sea, was established during the Littorina transgression between 7 500 and 4 000 years before present. The entrance to the North Sea was previously wider, but was narrowed due to land upheaval (Leppäranta and Myrberg 2009). The current brackish water form of the Baltic Sea was initiated only around 2 000 years ago (Emeis et al. 2013).“
36	Germany, chapter 1, page 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., 2016).	To be corrected
37	Germany, chapter 1, page 19, fig 1.9	Data from <del>Leibniz-Institut für Ostseeforschung Warnemünde</del> Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemuende	To be corrected
38	Germany, chapter 1, page 23, Table B.1.1.2	Biodiversity: State of the soft-bottom macrofauna  Add: (some areas)	To be applied

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		So it's similar to the Eutrophication box	
39	Germany, chapter 1, page 24, 1 <sup>st</sup> para	Through the HELCOM coordinated work of hundreds of experts, 38 <sup>1</sup> 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.	To be corrected
40	Germany, chapter 1, page 25, fig 2.1	Supplementary material Add: Baltic Sea Pressure Index	This will be in the same report as BSII, to be clarified
41	Germany, chapter 3, page 44, Box 3.3	Marine and coastal recreation is an activity which is dependent on the state of the Baltic Sea environment.	To be applied
42	Germany, chapter 4.1, page 52, figure 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.	To be corrected
43	Germany, chapter 4.1, page 53, figure 4.1.4	Pie chart: Indirect effects  delete the zeroes	To be applied
44	Germany, chapter 4.2, page 54, para 1	Man-made chemicals and heavy metals enter the Baltic Sea via waste water treatment plants, leaching off house hold materials, waste deposits, through the atmosphere from industrial plant emissions, and from many other sources.	To be applied
45	Germany, chapter 4.4, page 86, para 4	Impulsive sound is characterized by a short duration, and a fast pulse rise time.	To be applied
46	Germany, chapter 4.4, page 90, figure 4.4.3	Add a footnote stating: 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).	To be added
47	Germany, chapter 4.6, page 96, 2 <sup>nd</sup> para om assessment of commercially	Long term management plans for the internationally managed fish stocks aim to ensure that these are capable of producing a maximum sustainable yield (MSY), as mainly being regulated by the exploitation rate.	To be applied

Nr	Editorial	Comment	Agreed changes
	exploited fish		
48	Germany, chapter 4.6, page 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	“For each stock, the level of fishing mortality was assessed by comparison with the reference value ‘FMSY’, which is the level of fishing mortality estimated to deliver a long term maximum sustainable yield. The spawning stock biomass was assessed in relation to the associated reference value ‘MSY B-trigger’.”
49	Germany, chapter 4.6, page 101, 1 <sup>st</sup> para	Waterbirds are hunted as game in some countries, although the timing is regulated, with hunting <del>prohibiting</del> <b>prohibited</b> during the spring migration and breeding season <sup>3</sup> (EC 2009).	To be applied
50	Germany, chapter 4.6, page 104, 1 <sup>st</sup> para	There is currently no established method for evaluating how much of the loss and disturbance <del>that</del> is causing adverse effects on the marine environment.	To be checked
51	Germany, chapter 4.7, page 105, disposal of dredged material, line 3	In addition, increased turbidity during the disposal causes increased siltation on the site itself and in the areas around it.	To be corrected
52	Germany, chapter 5, page 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 a favourable conservation status for all species by 2021 (HELCOM Recommendation 37/2, 2016).	To be applied
53	Germany, chapter 5, page 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.	To be checked
54	Germany; Biodiversity chapter 5.1 page 117 para 1	Typical species <del>further</del> <b>further</b> in the Baltic Sea include amphipods (mainly <i>Monoporeia affinis</i> ), the isopod <i>Saduria entomon</i> , and the Baltic clam ( <i>Macoma balthica</i> )	„Typical species further in, along the salinity gradient, include amphipods (mainly <i>Monoporeia affinis</i> ), the isopod <i>Saduria entomon</i> , and the Baltic clam ( <i>Macoma balthica</i> ).“
55	Germany, chapter 5, page 117, 1 <sup>st</sup> para	The sea floor of the Baltic Sea encompasses several types of habitats, from <b>species</b> -rich seagrass meadows ...	To be applied
56	Germany, chapter 5.1,	The use of national indicators makes results not directly comparable between coastal areas of different	To be applied

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	page 117, 4 <sup>th</sup> para	countries, and the results may also be influenced by variability in other factors, such as geomorphology and hydrology.	
57	Germany, chapter 5.1, page 117, 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.	To be corrected
58	Germany, chapter 5.1, page 119, fig 5.1.1	Footnote 3 (Kiel Bay) is missing	To be added
59	Germany, chapter 5.1, page 121, 1 <sup>st</sup> para	At the species level, the HELCOM red list gives additional information on the status of benthic species.	To be applied
60	Germany, chapter 5.1, page 121, last para	... dominated by the ocean quahog (Arctica islandica)...	To be applied
61	Germany, chapter 5.1, page 122, fig 5.1.1	What does this Fig. refer to? No reference in the text is given	To be corrected
62	Germany, chapter 5.1, page 122, impacts 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	To be applied
63	Germany, chapter 5.2, page 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.	To be applied
64	Germany, chapter 5.3, page 135, fig 5.3.4	No reference in the text to this figure  Please check the scale of the y-axis.	To be applied
65	Germany, chapter 5.3, page 136, fig 5.3.4	Figure has the same number as the one the site before	To be corrected
66	Germany, chapter 5.4,	Environmental contaminants in the 1960s and 1970s caused further	To be applied

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	page 140, 2 <sup>nd</sup> para	decimation of the populations by severely reducing fertility of ringed and grey seals (Helle 1980).	
67	Germany, chapter 5.4, page 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.	To be applied
68	Germany, chapter 5.4, page 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. The Jastarnia plan (ASCOBANS 2009) and HELCOM recommendation 17/2 (HELCOM 2013b) suggest adequate protection measures	„The situation of the status for Baltic Proper harbour porpoise was recognised by the agreement on the conservation of small cetaceans in the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) and is reflected in the ASCOBANS recovery plan for Baltic harbour porpoises (Jastarnia plan; ASCOBANS 2009) and HELCOM recommendation 17/2 (HELCOM 2013b)“
69	Germany, chapter 5.4 page 149, fig 5.4.8	“summer management border”  isn't mentioned before, please explain what is meant or delete it	To be checked
70	Germany, chapter 5.5, general	Check for consistency if the English species names are written with capital or small letters	To be corrected
71	Germany, chapter 5.5, page 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.	To be applied
72	Germany, chapter 5.5, page 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).	To be applied
73	Germany, chapter 6, page 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	To be corrected
74	Germany, chapter 6, page 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	To be applied
75	Germany, chapter 6,	It's not clear how the ranked values were generated and which scale is	To be clarified

Nr	Editorial	Comment	Agreed changes
	page 172, Fig 6.3	used at the x-axis. Please add an explanation.	
76	Germany, chapter 6, page 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</del> estimates were found for coastal areas and in the Southern Baltic Sea (Figure 6.4).	To be corrected
77	Germany, chapter 6, page 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  The white areas should be explained as no data or no impact	To be corrected
added by drafting group	Chapter 7, page 179	Change terminology for HELCOM MPA	“A specific aim for the network of marine and coastal Baltic Sea protected areas (HELCOM MPAs) is to be.....”
added by drafting group	Page 180, line 1	Change terminology for HELCOM MPA	Page 180, 1. Line, of first para HELCOM is now working towards the development of a method to assess the management effectiveness of HELCOM MPAs and the network.
added by drafting group	Page 117, line 5	A special concern is.....	“A special concern is the large area with low oxygen or no oxygen at all in the deep basins of the central Baltic Sea...”