



Document title	Developments in the HEAT assessment procedure – comments from STATE&CONSERVATION 14-2021
Code	4-1
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	4– Improvements in the HEAT assessment procedure
Submission date	19.5.2021
Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	

Background

Developments in the HEAT assessment procedure, including improvements in the confidence assessment, aggregation rules, and scaling of indicators were considered by IN-EUTROPHICATION 19-20201 and were further submitted to STATE & CONSERVATION 14-2021 ([document 4J-80](#) to that meeting) for approval.

STATE & CONSERVATION 14-2021 agreed on the proposed procedure for the confidence assessment. The meeting also discussed the proposed aggregation rules and concluded that several CPs were of the opinion that the proposed integration rules may need further consideration. To support further discussion, and with the aim of coming to a shared understanding prior to HOLAS III, the meeting invited IN Eutrophication to test both alternatives to demonstrate the effect of the integration rules on the assessment results and to present these results at STATE & CONSERVATION 15-2021 for further deliberation and agreement.

STATE & CONSERVATION 14-2021 further considered the proposed change from ER to EQR in HELCOM eutrophication assessment ([document 4J-81](#) to the meeting) and agreed the use of Eutrophication quality ratios (EQR) instead of the current Eutrophication ratios (ER) in eutrophication assessments.

The meeting considered how to address concerns related to appropriately addressing that a change in the used approach may result in changes in state apparent between the HOLAS II and HOLAS III assessments, reflecting a change in the methodology rather than a true state change. The Meeting further emphasized that it is important to clearly differentiate and demonstrate this in the results of HOLAS III and invited IN Eutrophication to re-run the previous assessment (HOLAS II) with the current methodology to provide comparison and illustrate where change represents true change, as opposed to a shift in methodology. With regard to acceptable deviation, State&Conservation noted that it is under the remit of IN Eutrophication to establish acceptable indicator and/or assessment unit specific deviations and invited IN Eutrophication to discuss acceptable deviations between observed and target values.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information and to consider on a way forward with regard to clarifying open issues to State&Conservation.