



Document title	comments on EN-HZ request for support for a review of hazardous substances biological effects
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Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	7J – Progress of relevant HELCOM expert groups and projects
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Submitted by	Germany
Reference	

Background

The EN-HZ group discussed options on how to further develop indicator for biological effects and considered that a future workshop on the topic could be relevant to initiate development work. To support such an approach the group considered that a review of current data and knowledge in the Baltic Sea region would be valuable, and the group proposed to prepare a document to State and Conservation enquiring regarding availability of national resources for an 'ICES special request' to WGBEC (the ICES Working Group on Biological Effects).

This add.1 to document 7J-9 contains comments from Germany to the document.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to consider the option of a questionnaire to HELCOM CPs to collect up to date information on biological effects.

Germany agrees to the options discussed by EN-HZ on how to develop biological effect indicator and is also seeing the need to gather information on biological effects methods for the Baltic Sea area. As not all CP are active members of ICES WGBEC, Germany is suggesting starting a questionnaire within HELCOM CPs first in order to see which biological effects should be prioritized for indicator development. Thus, all biological effect experts within the Baltic Sea region have the chance to contribute to this process.

If no lead for the prioritized indicator is found within HELCOM, a request could be send to WGBEC to support the development of specific biological effect indicators as a second step.

The questionnaire should include all biological effect indicator (HELCOM candidate and pre core) which were developed within Coreset I and II to gather if there was any progress for this indicators in recent years. Proposals for new biological effect indicator could be included.

With the help of the answers received the following questions regarding biological effect methods in the Baltic Sea regions should be answered:

- Any progress on existing Coreset indicator?
- Pros and Cons of the effect method?
- Which CP is already monitoring which effect?
- What is the data basis regarding temporal and spatial resolutions?
- Who is the contact person for a certain effect for each CP?
- Any objections for certain effects?