



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature
Conservation

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Document title	Draft list of criteria elements for species related descriptors
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Submitted by	Secretariat

Background

This document contains the draft list of criteria elements for species related descriptors prepared by the Secretariat.

The Annex I Part II of the Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848 describes the “Criteria and methodological standards, specifications and standardized methods for monitoring and assessment of essential features and characteristics and current environmental status of marine waters under point (a) of Article 8(1) of Directive 2008/56/EC” for each criteria element. For species groups of birds, mammals, reptiles, fish and cephalopods (D1), the Annex I Part II states that:

- For D1C1, Member States shall establish that list of species through regional or subregional cooperation, pursuant to the obligations laid down in Article 25(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 for data collection activities and taking into account the list of species in Table 1D of the Annex to Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1251 (the Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 may be used for the collection of relevant fisheries-related data under Descriptors 1, 4 and 6).
- For D1C2, D1C3, D1C4 and D1C5: Member States shall establish a set of species representative of each species group, selected according to the criteria laid down under ‘specifications for the selection of species and habitats’, through regional or subregional cooperation. These shall include the mammals and reptiles listed in Annex II to Directive 92/43/EEC and may include any other species, such as those listed under Union legislation (other Annexes to Directive 92/43/EEC, Directive 2009/147/EC or through Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013) and international agreements such as Regional Sea Conventions.

The 11th recital of the Regulation No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy states that “The CFP should contribute to the protection of the marine environment, to the sustainable management of all commercially exploited species, and in particular to the achievement of good environmental status by 2020, as set out in Article 1(1) of Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council”. The HELCOM Workshop on Status Assessment of Commercial Fish (ComFish WS 1-2021), to be held on 28-29 September 2021 will propose a way forward to prepare this list intersessionally after which the list will be submitted for with all relevant materials to HOD 61-2021 for approval for use in HOLAS III (8-9 December 2021). As a consequence, the CFP list is not cross-referenced with this draft list of criteria elements for species related descriptors and will be added at a later stage

The list of species occurring in the Baltic Sea used in this exercise is based on the HELCOM Checklist of Baltic Sea Species 2.0. Bird, benthic invertebrates, fish and lampreys, macrophytes as well as mammal species are included in this first draft.

In line with the MSFD Revised Commission Decision guidance on how to identify criteria elements this list aims to cross-check the full list of species occurring in the Baltic Sea with the relevant species occurring on the:

- Table 1D of 2016/1251,
- EU Habitat Directive (92/43/EEC) Annexes
- EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) Annexes
- EU Red List,
- HELCOM Red List

This is done with the intention to identify which species in the Baltic fulfil the basic requirements for criteria elements, thus limiting the number of species which should be considered in detail.

The intention is to also cross reference the species with the HELCOM indicators, giving an initial indication of possible gaps with regards to criteria elements. Please note that the information on HELCOM indicators will be added at a later stage by the Secretariat with the help of HELCOM subsidiary bodies, such as Expert Networks and also lead/co-lead indicators.

Once finalized, this list can be a starting point to elaborate the lists for each MSFD criteria. The list is available as an excel file in attachment to this document (3J-15 Att.1).

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- consider the draft list of criterial elements for species related descriptors.
- provide guidance on the further elaboration of the next draft.