



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature
Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION
15-2021

Online, 4-8 October 2021

Document title	Proposal to include non-commercial fish species in the BEAT assessment tool
Code	3J-31
Category	INF
Agenda Item	3J-Progress of relevant HELCOM expert groups and projects
Submission date	13.9.2021
Submitted by	Secretariat

Background

Non-commercial fish indicators for the open sea are currently under development in the HELCOM BLUES project. The work focusses on a limited number of species and their readiness and application is dependent on both progress within the project and full approval processes in HELCOM. If the indicators are finalized and approved for use in HOLAS III, they can be included in the integrated biodiversity assessment (i.e. the BEAT tool). This document outlines the proposal for how to include non-commercial fish indicators in the assessment.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note that the integrated assessment of non-commercial fish will be done utilizing the BEAT assessment tool.

Proposal to include non-commercial fish species in the BEAT assessment tool

Non-commercial fish indicators are expected to include assessments of single species. Data for the indicators will come from ICES (or other regional data collection processes, e.g. via FISH PRO III) and be delivered per ICES statistical rectangles, i.e. the same spatial units as for commercial fish species. In HOLAS II the commercial fish species were assessed according to the ICES statistical rectangles and it is foreseen that the same spatial units will be used also in HOLAS III to assess the status of fish in the open sea areas in BEAT.

The proposal is to include non-commercial fish species as species with equal weight as for commercial fish species in respective species group in the BEAT integration (Fig. 1). ICES statistical rectangles will be used as the spatial assessment units for fish in open sea areas. Coastal areas will be assessed using the coastal fish indicators.

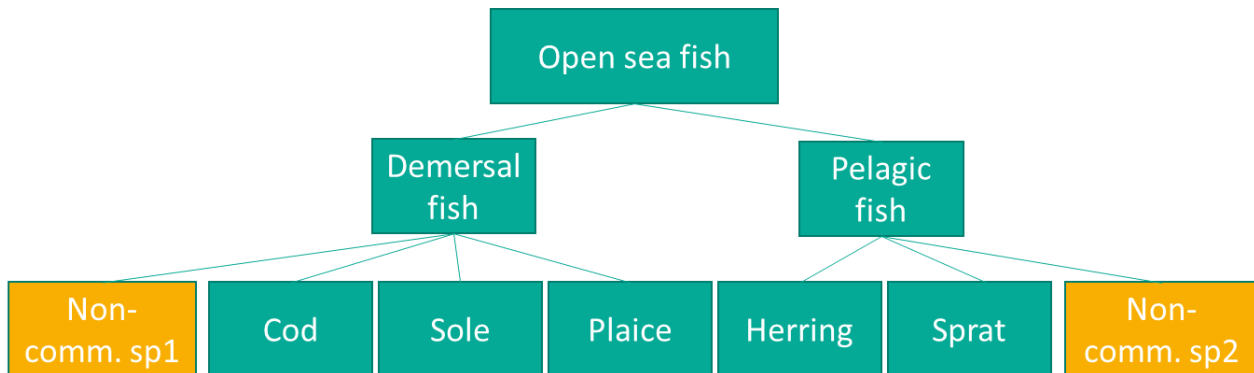


Figure 1. Proposal on integration structure for fish in open sea areas in BEAT for HOLAS III.