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<b>Document title</b>	Nutritional status of seals
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<b>Agenda Item</b>	3J-Progress of relevant HELCOM expert groups and projects
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### Background

The document below provides a template filled by indicator leads to provide an overview of progress to STATE & CONSERVATION 15-2021. Key aspects such as methodologies, spatial extent changes, assessment scales and threshold values are presented, identifying ongoing work and other relevant issues towards HOLAS III. This process builds on the prior review of indicator development carried out under STATE & CONSERVATION 14-2021 (summarised in [document 4J-16 Rev.1](#), and detailed within numerous documents under agenda item 4J). The focus of these development works is the completion of indicator development and adjustment work for HOLAS III by the end of 2021, as previously agreed under HOD 57-2019 ([document 4-20, Outcomes paragraph 4.51](#)).

The aspect of threshold values in particular is a key issue as threshold value approval will be carried out at HOD 61-2021, with these same templates being submitted to HOD at the same stage as submission to State and Conservation 15-2021 (to allow for the longer national processes required that culminate in approval at HOD).

The document below addresses a single indicator and as well as the generic 'action requests' relating to endorsement of the proposed application in HOLAS III (and the threshold values proposals, where relevant), specific additional requests or statements are also indicated within the separate sections of the document to help guide where further input/discussion/guidance may be needed.

This template aims to report the indicator development for HOLAS III, allowing for technical guidance and endorsement by STATE & CONSERVATION 15-2021 and also simultaneously to facilitate the threshold value approval process by HOD 61-2021.

### Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- provide further technical guidance to the indicator leads and experts, including specific requests defined within the document;
- consider and endorse the proposed developments of the indicator for use in the HOLAS III assessment.

## Nutritional status of seals

<b>Indicator name</b>
Nutritional status of seals (this will be the indicator name applied in HOLAS III since the indicator currently only addresses seals).
<b>Scale of assessment for HOLAS III and rational</b>
The assessment will be applied at the relevant assessment scales (management areas) used for the seal species (i.e. the same scales as in other seal indicators).
<b>Spatial coverage of the indicator for HOLAS III</b>
The spatial coverage will be dependent on the data received under the HOLAS III data call but spatial coverage is anticipated to increase compared to HOLAS II. All data received will be included in the assessment where it can be applied to the methodology, and all other data collected will also be reflected/summarised within the report.
<b>Methodology to be applied for HOLAS III and rational</b>
The same assessment methodology applied in HOLAS II will be utilised in HOLAS III. The Monitoring and Assessment Guidelines have been updated to reflect this.
<b>Threshold value setting logic and rational</b>
This will not be changed from the existing indicator, as applied in HOLAS II. The reason for not changing this is that to revise it and propose better options requires extensive analytical work that can not be achieved before HOLAS III. However, the indicator will be improved via already agreed developments such as including data from all Contracting Parties where available and compatible and to improve the application of the indicator for other seal species (i.e. not simply focussing on Grey seals).
<b>Threshold value(s)</b>
As described above.
<b>Other significant issues that need to be addressed or presented to State and Conservation</b>
The indicator leads would like to highlight the need for input to support further development of the indicator in the longer-term also. The EG MAMA health team carried out a data call within the group during September 2020 for additional data (mainly health data) but did not receive sufficient data to across the whole region. The health team will prepare a new data call directed towards longer-term development and hope to get stronger regional input to the process.
<b>Latest indicator report or (for new indicators) initially completed indicator template</b>
The latest version of the indicator is available on the HELCOM indicator web page, <a href="#">here</a> .