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| Document title | Reproductive disorders: Malformed amphipod embryos |
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| Agenda Item | 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.

Reproductive disorders: Malformed amphipod embryos

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| Indicator name |
| Reproductive disorders: Malformed amphipod embryos |
| Scale of assessment for HOLAS III and rational |
| The assessment scale is not expected to change from Scale 2, as applied in HOLAS II. |
| Spatial coverage of the indicator for HOLAS III |
| <p>The spatial coverage of this indicator can be increased by HOLAS III as the required parameters have been included in the HOLAS III data call. Additionally, several Contracting Parties are underway with national monitoring or national projects of relevance and the indicator may therefore become applicable across a wider area. Currently a data synthesis is being carried out for Estonia, Latvia, Russia and Sweden, but it may also be possible to incorporate data from Lithuania and Denmark by HOLAS III. Such increased data availability may represent a significant spatial coverage increase by HOLAS III, however, the full overview on the spatial coverage and thus the applicability of the indicator will only be properly known after the HOLAS III data call has been completed.</p> <p>Based on the data synthesis threshold values will be derived for the Gulf of Finland and Gulf of Riga during 2021. These are specific to the data input as described in the section related to threshold values below, thus these derived values would differ from the values actually applied in HOLAS III. This testing in 2021 will however verify the potential to apply the indicator to expanded regions.</p> <p>It is proposed that the leads continue the ongoing development work, supporting other interested Contracting Parties with establishing their assessments, towards the HOLAS III and that once the HOLAS III data call is completed and a full overview of the expanded scale of the possible assessment for HOLAS III is available a decision could be made on if the indicator should be considered as a supplementary indicator or could be moved to a core indicator (as this change would not impact the HOLAS III assessment phase or the integrated assessments).</p> <p>The State and Conservation meeting is invited to support the process outlined above regarding the further development of this indicator towards HOLAS III.</p> |
| Methodology to be applied for HOLAS III and rational |
| No methodological changes are planned. The existing methodology will be applied to other relevant areas. |
| Threshold value setting logic and rational |
| The threshold value setting approach will not change and will follow the existing published protocol set out in the current indicator. |
| Threshold value(s) |
| The threshold value for this indicator are generated based on a published approach already approved and applied in the existing supplementary indicator. The methodology generates different threshold values that are specific to the assessment unit/station and are dependent on the specific input data (i.e. the results or monitoring data reported). These are thus dependent on the actual data received |

under the HOLAS II data call and can only be generated at the assessment stage. The process for setting the threshold values is set out in the existing HELCOM supplementary indicator.

Other significant issues that need to be addressed or presented to State and Conservation

No specific issues are noted for the current process.

Latest indicator report or (for new indicators) initially completed indicator template

The latest version of the indicator is available on the HELCOM indicator web page, [here](#).