



## Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature  
Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION  
5-2016

Tallinn, Estonia, 7-11 November, 2016

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<b>Document title</b>	National Red List work in Finland
<b>Code</b>	5N-1
<b>Category</b>	INF
<b>Agenda Item</b>	5N – Plans for implementation of the work plan and emerging issues
<b>Submission date</b>	20.10.2016
<b>Submitted by</b>	Finland
<b>Reference</b>	STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016, Parag. 5N.8

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### Background

STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016 invited the Contracting Parties to inform the Secretariat on planned updates of the national Red Lists with the view to compile a timetable of national and international reporting obligations.

This document includes information on the national Red List work in Finland.

### Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

Those Contracting Parties that have not yet provided reports are invited to inform the Meeting on the improvement of national data and work on Red Listed species and biotopes and on planned updates of the national Red Lists.

## National Red List work in Finland

### **BIOTOPES**

Finland is currently working on the national Red List of Biotopes. The last Red List is from 2008 and covered only a few Baltic underwater biotopes. The current work will cover approximately 50 underwater biotopes, which are based on the HELCOM Underwater Biotopes (HUB) classification, with some national adaptations. The methods used for the evaluation follows IUCNs Red List of Ecosystems (RLE) approach. The assessment is based on five criteria:

- A. Declining distribution
- B. Restricted distribution
- C. Degradation of abiotic environment
- D. Altered biotic interactions
- E. Quantitative risk analysis

Data used for assessing underwater biotopes are e.g. species and biotope data collected within the VELMU-program, benthic monitoring data and depth distribution data of *Fucus* etc. As an example of approaches used, the declining distribution (criteria A) of biotopes has been approximated by making a distribution model using current environmental parameters and comparing the results with a model using e.g. Secchi-depth values from 50 years ago.

One mission for the field season for VELMU in 2016, was to fill knowledge gaps on the distribution of underwater biotopes that had been evaluated as Data Deficient (DD) in 2008.

Aside from the Baltic underwater biotopes, the biotopes are divided in to coastal, freshwater, mire, forest, bedrock, cultural and fell biotopes. All together there are over 400 biotopes that are being evaluated. The evaluation is scheduled to be done by 2018.

### **SPECIES**

The last full evaluation is from 2010, but didn't include e.g. algae, aside from Charophytes. Red algae had been included in the red list evaluation of 2000, but in the 2010 evaluation the group was excluded due to insufficient data. Birds and mammals were evaluated in 2015. The next full evaluation is planned for 2019.