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| Document title | Assessment of birds in the 'State of the Baltic Sea' report |
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| Submitted by | Secretariat |
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Background

Two HELCOM core indicators represent the status of watersbird: 'Abundance of waterbirds in the wintering season' and 'Abundance of waterbirds in the breeding season'. In the integrated assessments under biodiversity, the results are combined to assess the ecosystem element 'birds'. Based on the online meeting of HOLAS II 6E-2017, it was proposed to base the integrated assessment on results of the species groups that are included in the respective indicator. The HELCOM SPICE Biodiversity Workshop ([HELCOM SPICE Biodiv WS 1-2017](#)) however noted that the integrated results for birds based on species groups diverged from the results of the two core indicators (Outcome, para 9c).

Two options for assessing the integrated status of birds were presented to HOLAS II 7-2017:

- 1) Directly integrating the two core indicators to the "bird"-element, and inform separately on status of species groups.
- 2) Integrate results of the species groups under the respective indicator, then integrate species groups to overall "bird"-element.

HOLAS II 7-2017 agreed "to base the assessment of birds on the core indicators while displaying the results for species groups separately. This aggregates wintering and breeding birds separately and refers to the clear and transparent indicator results, but gives also information on the different species groups" (Outcome, para 6.13) i.e. proposed to use option 1.

The results of integrated status of birds in the chapter on biodiversity in the first version of the 'State of the Baltic Sea' report is based on option 1 (see document 4J-14).

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the proposed assessment of birds based on core indicators and endorse the approach for use in the HOLAS II project.