



Document title	'Number of drowned mammals and waterbirds in fishing gear' updated core indicator report
Code	4J-19
Category	DEC
Agenda Item	4J – HELCOM core indicators and assessments
Submission date	24.4.2017
Submitted by	Lead Country Germany
Reference	HOD 48-2015 (outcome para 3.63)

Background

The core indicator 'Number of drowned mammals and waterbirds in fishing gear' was agreed by HOD 48-2015 to be published although no quantitative threshold value has yet been proposed.

The core indicator report was considered by State&Conservation 5-2016, and the meeting recommended that the information provided by the core indicator should be included in HOLAS II although a quantitative indicator evaluation will not be possible to prepare, noting that it needs to be clearly indicated that there is a severe data gap and further agreed to provide written comments on the report (outcome para 4J.56-4J.57).

The core indicator report was also presented to Fish 5-2016 and the meeting noted that the underlying data is currently insufficient and the data collection within DC MAP is one way how to ensure better data availability in the future (outcome para 3.13). The meeting clarified that in a HELCOM context the term to be used in this core indicator is 'incidental by-catch', the correction has been made as editorial editing throughout the report.

Relevant changes to the indicator report compared to the version presented to State&Conservation 5-2016 and Fish 5-2016 are visible as track changes. The changes made to the report take into consideration the comments received from countries at the working group meetings.

As the core indicator does not yet have an adopted quantitative threshold value or established data arrangements, the indicator currently provides only a descriptive assessment of the status in relation to incidental by-catch outlining principles for a full assessment when data gaps can be filled. Thus, there has not been a national approval process for the indicator data or results.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to endorse the publication of the updated report.