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<b>Document title</b>	'Reproductive disorders: malformed embryos in amphipods and eelpout' – updated supplementary indicator report
<b>Code</b>	4J-25
<b>Category</b>	DEC
<b>Agenda Item</b>	4J – HELCOM core indicators and assessments
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<b>Submitted by</b>	Lead Country Sweden
<b>Reference</b>	State and Conservation 5-2016 (outcome para 4J.49)

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### Background

The indicator 'Reproductive disorders: malformed embryos in amphipods and eelpout' and the proposed threshold value was endorsed by Finland and Sweden to be used as a supplementary indicator in the 'State of the Baltic Sea' report at State&Conservation 5-2016 (outcome para 4J.49).

The indicator report is now presented as a supplementary indicator which is made applicable to assessment units shared by Sweden and Finland. The indicator is thus applicable in the following assessment units; Bothnian Bay, The Quark, Bothnian Sea, Åland Sea, Northern Baltic proper and Western Gotland Basin. For Bothnian Bay there are only data available from single studies due to sampling difficulties in the thick ice conditions, and thus no proper assessment is possible. Currently no monitoring stations are available from the Åland Sea. The indicator report has been updated based on data from the Swedish monitoring programme for the period 2011-2016. The use of the indicator to assess the Gulf of Finland may be further explored by Finland, Estonia and Russia.

In the assessment units where the indicator is currently applicable, only reproductive disorders in the amphipod *Monoporeia affinis* is measured. The Lead Country Sweden has proposed to remove eelpout from the indicator (results and concept) if the indicator is not to be applicable in the southern areas of the Baltic Sea in order to streamline the indicator report.

This document presents an updated indicator report proposed to be included as supplementary indicator information in the 'State of the Baltic Sea' report.

### Action requested

The Meeting is invited to

- agree on removing eelpout from the indicator concept and results as monitoring of the species is not carried out in the assessment units where the indicator is applicable,
- endorse the publication of the report.