BS-CBE March reporting CBE 9

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| **Title** | **BS Report CBE 9: Discussion results review GES and targets (Art. 9 & 10)** |
| **Date** | 28 March 2014 |
| **Location** | Brussels (Belgium) |
| **Attendees** | See Participants list |
| **Reporter name** | Volckaert Annemie, Durinck Riet (ARCADIS Belgium) |
| **Subject** | Discussion (potential) common indicators, evaluation monitoring fact sheets (based on pilot D5 & D10), action plans. |
| **Objective** | Link to the contract: Task 1.1 and 1.2 |
|  | Link to the MSFD implementation stage: * Article 12 technical assessment of the initial assessment and reported GES and targets.
* Presentation of monitoring program for public consultation and for reporting to the EU Commission.
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| **Results** | Agreement on terminology (agreed common indicators, harmonized common indicators).Identification and agreement on (harmonized) common indicators for D5, D10, and on D1 & D3 (to be further discussed with MS experts).  |
| **Issues discussed** | **1. Revised GES & targets**It has been agreed (building on the discussions of the bilateral EC meeting) that the MFS should build on the revised GES & targets, and thus not on the GES & targets reported for the Art. 12 assessment. An overview of the revised GES & targets will be delivered to the EC, together with the reporting on the monitoring programmes (Note: currently agreed that no electronic reporting (conf. art 12) assessment is needed on GES/ targets). Romania stated that they have already done a revision of their GES & targets.**2. Common indicators**The importance of the use of the same terminology has been highlighted. Following terminology has been agreed :* Agreed common indicators: agreement on indicator and parameter (*on definition level*)
* Harmonized common indicators: agreement on indicator, parameter and methodological approach (sampling/monitoring & assessment strategy) (*on definition level + methodological approach*)

Proposed common indicators and their formulation have been discussed for D1, D3, D5 and D10. The excel table on common indicators has been revised during the discussion (in annex). Some proposed common indicators have already reached a common agreement by BG & RO (marked in green), others need to be further discussed with the relevant experts in BG and RO (marked in orange). This exercise should be further coordinated by the local PTE coordinators in collaboration with the NFCP for the remaining descriptors.It has been noted that besides common indicators, each MS is free to define in addition other indicators on a national basis (so only valid for BG or RO).**D1:** * For D1 it is important to agree on common parameters (e.g. a species of brown algae or a mammal species). Several indicators are then linked to this parameters (e.g. distribution area, population size…).
* Seabirds, mammals, non-commercial fish: it is recognized that there are potential common indicators; needs to be discussed with the experts
* Proposal of common parameters and indicators that can serve as input for the CBE on integrated monitoring (ICES):
* 1.1.1 + 1.2.1:
	+ Parameters = *Cystoseira barbata,* dolphins (Delfinus, Tursiops and Phocoena), *Alosa Immaculata, Alosa tanaicaI* . Sturgeon: to be discussed.
	+ Indicators = Distribution area and population size of *Cystoseira barbata,* dolphins (Delfinus, Tursiops and Phocoena), *Alosa Immaculata, Alosa tanaicaI* .
* 1.1.2: it is recognized that there are potential common indicators; need to be discussed with the experts
* 1.1.3: two types of habitats of this mussel are possible (depending on distribution – coastal vs shelf?). One of them can be common. Formulation of the common indicator needs to be agreed between BG and RO.
* 1.1.3: *‘The size and range of distribution of the banks covered by* Mytilus gallorpovinvialis *mussels’* : ‘*size’* and ‘*range’* mean the same? 🡪 to check if there is an error in the translation from Bulgarian to English.
* 1.4.1. + 1.5.1 + 1.6.1 :
	+ Parameters: *Donacilla cornea, Donax trunculus* and *Pholas dactylus*
	+ Indicators : Distributional range, Habitat extent and Habitat condition of *Donacilla cornea, Donax trunculus* and *Pholas dactylus*
	+ Formulation of the common indicator needs to be agreed

**D3:** * Fish is being monitored by BG and RO together, so agreed common indicators are also harmonized (same methodological approach).
* 3.1.1: Fishing mortality: RO has to check if fishing mortality of red mullet and rapa whelk is also relevant. If so, to add to list of common parameters.
* 3.1.2 Biomass: sprat and turbot potentially common; to be further discussed
* 3.2.1 + 3.2.2: potential common indicators for dogfish, red mullet , whiting, sprat, turbot, anchovy; to be further discussed
* 3.3.1 + 3.3.2 + 3.3.3: this is not monitored within the regular surveys. Only occasionally this is monitored. Potential common indicators for sprat and turbot; to be further discussed.
* 3.3.4: No intention of reporting
* These aspects also need to be discussed with ICES.

**D5:*** 5.1.1 Nutrient concentrations:
	+ Parameters =(PO4, TP, NOx, NH4, NT, SiO4)
	+ Indicator: seasonal nutrient concentrations (PO4, TP, NOx, NH4, TN, SiO4)
	+ Seasonal: at least spring and summer? 🡪 seasons need to be agreed
	+ Also harmonized
* 5.1.2: Ratio’s
	+ derived from 5.1.1.
	+ the ratio is fundamental for the assessment of eutrophication
	+ 3 ratios: N/P, Si/N, Si/P
	+ Also harmonized
* 5.2.1: Chlorofyll a:
	+ Parameter: chlorofyll a
	+ Indicator: 75th or 90th percentile of summer chlorofyll a concentrations
	+ Use of 75th or 90th percentile? It is expected that there will be only a slight difference between these two percentiles. 🡪 needs to be agreed
	+ Methodology: surface layer or deep see chlorofyll level? 🡪 needs to be agreed
* 5.2.2: Water transparency: common indicator, also harmonized.
* 5.2.3: Abundance of opportunistic macroalgae:
	+ to be further discusses
	+ RO shall look if the EI index can also be used.
* 5.2.4: Diatom dinoflaggelate ratio:
	+ Need for common formulation (same words)
	+ Season: spring? 🡪 needs to be agreed
* 5.3.1: Perennial seaweeds and seagrasses:
	+ EI index: RO needs to check if this index is also used
	+ The species metnioned by BG are aslo relevant for RO: needs tob e checked
* 5.3.2: Bottom oxygen saturation
	+ Most important season is summer

**D10:*** 10.1.1: Beach litter: number of beach litter items per **meter** beach 🡪 the transect needs to be chosen. Agreement to use the EU guidance document on marine litter for methodological approach (if so, the indicator will also be harmonized).
* 10.1.2:
	+ Litter in the water column: not yet being addressed for 1st cycle
	+ Seabed monitoring: Fishing for litter? To be checked.
	+ MARELITT project: BG and RO are interested to act as host.
* 10.1.3: Not yet being addressed
* Impact on marine life:
	+ Impact on which species? 🡪 RO: Fish. BG: Fish, seabirds? 🡪 needs to be agreed (proposal now is to use: fish – which species?)
	+ To be discussed with experts when consulting for D1.
	+ Agreement to use the EU guidance document on marine litter for methodological approach.

**3. Monitoring fact sheets (MFS)**The monitoring fact sheets of D5 and D10 are almost finished. At the moment it is not clearly mentioned in the MFS of D5 and D10 which specific indicators and parameters that will be addressed by the monitoring. We agreed on underlining the indicator within the targets and to add the parameters between brackets. This needs to be completed, following the examples below. Example 1:* Target: 5.1.1. The 75th percentile of seasonal concentrations of nutrients are within the threshold values indicative of GES, according to the relevant national legislation, by 2020
* Associated Indicator: seasonal concentrations of nutrients (PO4, TP, NOx, NH4, TN, SiO4)
* Parameter: PO4, TP, NOx, NH4, TN, SiO4
* How to report within MFS under 2.4 Targets

5.1.1. The 75th percentile of seasonal concentrations of nutrients are within the threshold values indicative of GES, according to the relevant national legislation, by 2020 (parameters: PO4, TP, NOx, NH4, TN, SiO4)Example 2* Target: 1.1.1 Maintaining a stable distribution area for Cystoseira barbata community.
* Associated Indicator = Distribution area of Cystoseira barbata
* Parameter = Cystoseira barbata
* How to report within MFS under 2.4 Targets
	+ 1.1.1. Maintaining a stable distribution area for Cystoseira barbata community. (parameters: Cystoseira barbata)

The drafting of the MSF of the other descriptors needs to be continued urgently.It is recognized that it is important to have enough input from all relevant experts in drafting the MSF. It is advised to consult experts in smaller groups, in unilateral meeting (in BG or in RO) that are only dedicated to their specific expertise to prepare the draft MFS, which can then be further discussed in bilateral meetings between BG & RO.It is recognized that it is important to have at least a draft version of the MSF on D1, D4, D6, D3 before the meetings with ICES in April take place, and to send these draft sheets to ICES in advance.Due to time constraints focus should first go to completing priority fields when preparing draft MFS, that have the highest added value to be discussed with the relevant experts. There is also some room to streamline the completion of the MFS between BG & RO (e.g. by structuring some answers/ predefined structures, agreed formulation of targets). COWI will be asked to coordinate this process further. It is recognized that the timetable of completing the monitoring fact sheets is very ambitious, but is necessary to be able to meet the deadline for reporting the monitoring programmes (15/10/2014). It has been agreed to follow a conservative approach and stick to the reporting and consultation timetable agreed by the NFCP and PTE (attached). Flexibility will be built in later, to the extent possible (eg. Starting with translation of the programme MFS completed by 15/05/2014, but giving room for delivering a limited number (max. 3) of MFS two weeks later). |
| **Actions** | WHO | WHAT | BY WHEN |
|  | ARCADIS  | Review timetable consultation & reporting process MFS | 31/03/2014 |
|  | ARCADIS/COWI | Example of adjustment of MFS + indicating priority fields  | 07/04/4014 |
|  | COWI | Revised subprogramme MFS / activities MFS | 07/04/2014 |
|  | NFCP | Sending available reviewed report on GES and targets to ARCADIS (if available) | 07/04/2014 |
|  | Dan, Vio | Reformulation of common indicators in the monitoring fact sheets D5 & D10 + revision of GES/targets | 07/04/4014 |
|  | Dan, Violin, local experts, NFCP | Further discussion on potential common indicators to make them common for D1/4/6 and D3 as a preparation to CBE integrated monitoring ICES | 07/04/4014 |
|  | Dan, Violin, local experts, NFCP | Drafting the programme MFS for D1, (D4, D6) and D3 (focus on priority fields). To be sent to ICES in advance of the meeting | 09/04/2014 |
|  | Dan, Violin, NFCP | Completion of the final programme MFS for D5 and D10 (final revision) incl. agreed formulation on target (underlining indicator + parameters within brackets) | 15/04/2014 |
|  | Dan, Violin, local experts, NFCP | First draft programme MFS remaining descriptors (priority fields) | 25/04/2014 |
|  | Dan, Violin, local experts, NFCP | Second draft programme MFS remaining descriptors  | 09/05/2014 |
|  | Dan, Violin, local experts, NFCP | Final programme MFS  | 15/05/2014 |
|  | Dan, Violin, local experts, NFCP | Drafting Pilot project MFS (subprogramme level) (D5+D10) | 15/04/2014 - 15/06/2014 |
|  | BG & RO | Final Approval subprogramme level MFS by appropriate authorities (based on revisions pilot subprogramme MFS) | 15/06/2014 |
|  | To be organized by BG & RO | Translation programme level MFS | 15/06/2014 |
|  | Dan, Violin, local experts, NFCP | Completion MFS (subprogramme level) remaining indicators | 15/04/2014 - 15/09/2014 |
| **Follow-up events/activities related to CBE** | * CBE integrated monitoring – ICES (April 2014)
* CBE action plans & subprogramme MFS (June 2014)
* CBE data coordination & management (2nd half 2014)
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| **Annex** | PREP: Background doc on common indicators (d.d. 21/03/2014) |
|  | PRES: Presentation given at bilateral EC/CBE: Common indicators |
|  | RES: Revised Excel table common indicators (d.d. 02/04/2014) |
|  | RES: Revised consultation & reporting process MFS (timetable) |
|  | RES: Revised BS\_action points\_02042014 |