

Coordinated Assessment of Marine Species and Habitats under the BHD and MSFD



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Actions for improvement



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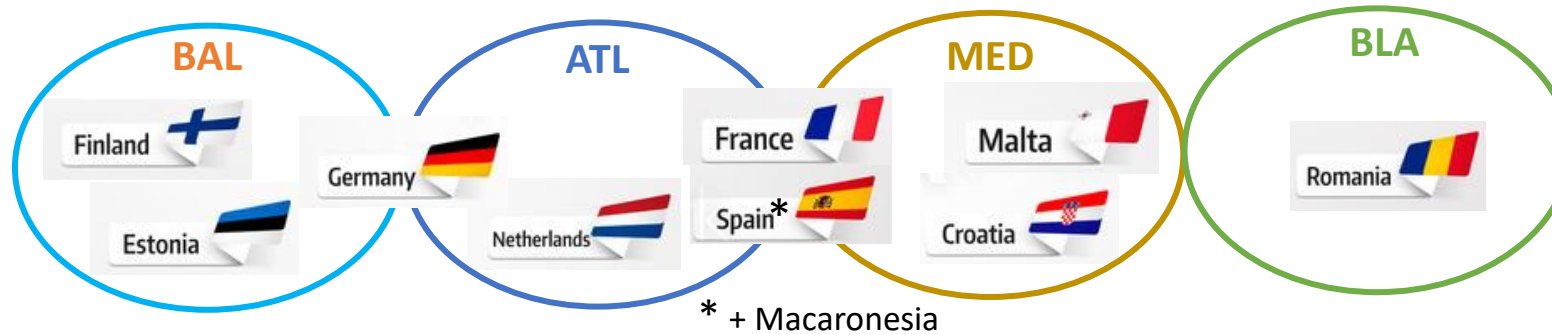
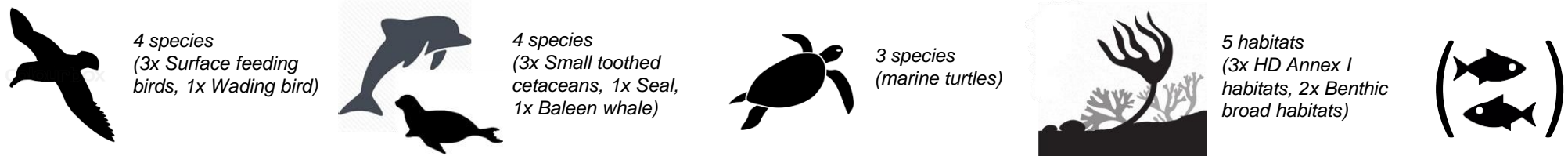


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Study objective, scope and methods

Current level of coordination, alignment and efficiency of the BHD and MSFD monitoring, assessment and reporting on marine species and habitats, and opportunities for better integration



Results

Study on
Coordinated assessments of marine species and habitats
under the Birds and Habitats Directives and
the Marine Strategy Framework Directive

The final report is available here:

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/publications/index_en.htm

Recommended Actions at **European** level

Changes to policies and reporting requirements

1. Develop a common reporting format/system
2. Align reporting cycle timings
3. More prescriptive reuse of BHD parameters in MSFD for BHD species/habitats
4. Standardise pressure definitions and harmonise use of pressures
5. Resolve discrepancy in use of trends in the assessment under BHD-MSFD

Guidance to Member States on policy implementation

6. Spatial aggregation / disaggregation
7. Clear, standardised protocol for benthic habitats reporting
8. BHD-MSFD-RSC harmonisation
9. Training / guidance delivery to Member States (workshops etc)
10. Addressing financial constraints and minimising new financial burden (due to changes in reporting requirements)

Recommended Actions at **Member State** level

Improved compliance with current reporting requirements

1. Commonalities in reporting (if a BHD Annex species is reported under MSFD, it should also be reported under BHD)
2. Individual species assessments (Elements reported under MSFD should be individual species level, not functional group)
3. Reporting broad benthic habitats under MSFD (+ OHT as additional habitats)

Develop monitoring best practice, build MS capacity and cooperation

4. Improved biodiversity monitoring (particularly for reptiles)
5. Efficiencies in data collection (e.g. use of citizen science, new monitoring technologies)
6. Building Member State capacity (e.g. shared training and good practice within and between MSs)
7. Member State internal cooperation (formalised institutional process to unify approaches and facilitate coordination and flow of data, within and across all relevant ministries/agencies)