



## Criteria for fully operational HELCOM core indicators

- a) **The scientific concept / design of the indicator,**
    - Detailed description of the concept developed
    - Scientific background for the concept described and the type of data is supporting the concept,
    - Referenced and reviewed
    - Connection to anthropogenic pressures qualitatively or quantitatively clarified as appropriate for the indicator
    - Policy relevance and links to legislative targets clearly described
    - Ecologically relevant areas (HELCOM assessment units) where the indicator is applicable are described
  
  - b) **Assessment protocol,**
    - Assessment protocol described in sufficient detail for any expert to process monitoring data (e.g. statistical processing) and compare the outcome to the threshold value / environmental target
  
  - c) **Threshold value/environmental target,**
    - Threshold value / environmental target adopted
    - Quantitative value clearly presented, where relevant as assessment unit specific values
    - Underlying concept described and relevant supporting references given
    - Trend based threshold values/environmental targets are provisional, and is considered to require further development work and a review in 5 years' time with the aim of determining a quantitative value
    - Confidence of the appropriateness of the threshold values it to be given
    - Applicability of the threshold value should be demonstrated for a selected area
  
  - d) **Coordinated monitoring and methodology**
    - Technical guidelines described, joint HELCOM monitoring described through the HELCOM Monitoring Manual, guidelines to be detailed and accessible for all users
    - Optimal monitoring (frequency and sampling strategy) that provide a high confidence indicator evaluation described, identifying possible gaps in the current monitoring
    - Appropriate quality assurance in place
  
  - e) **Data management arrangements**
    - Description of data flow (sampling, analyzing, hosting)
    - Quality assurance routines in place for data
    - Snapshot datasets of the underlying data to each indicator evaluation made available
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