



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 11.3.2022
SWD(2022) 55 final

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT
Accompanying the document

Communication from the Commission

**Commission Notice on recommendations per Member State and region on the 2018
updated reports for Articles 8, 9 and 10 of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive
(2008/56/EC)**

{C(2022) 1392 final}

EN

EN

CONTENTS

A. INTRODUCTION.....	2
B. NATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS	4
1. Belgium	4
2. Croatia.....	6
3. Cyprus.....	9
4. Denmark.....	12
5. Estonia.....	15
6. Finland	18
7. France.....	20
8. Germany	26
9. Ireland.....	29
10. Italy.....	31
11. Lithuania	36
12. Latvia	38
13. Malta.....	41
14. Netherlands.....	43
15. Poland	45
16. Portugal	48
17. Romania	52
18. Spain	55
19. Slovenia	59
20. Sweden.....	62
C. REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS	66
21. Baltic Sea.....	66
22. North East Atlantic Ocean.....	68
23. Mediterranean Sea.....	71

A. Introduction

In accordance with Article 17(2)(a) and 17(2)(b) of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD, 2008/56/EC)¹, Member States were due to notify to the Commission by 15 October 2018 their updated reports for Articles 8, 9 and 10 of the Directive. The Commission has to assess these Member State reports in accordance with Articles 12 and 17(4) of the Directive.

The assessment has led to a national report per Member State² and to a regional report on coherence for three³ of the four MSFD marine regions (Baltic Sea, North-East Atlantic Ocean, and Mediterranean Sea)⁴.

In addition, the assessment has led to a set of recommendations per Member State and per region (which are generally applicable to all Member States in those regions). The recommendations aim to identify the ways in which the reports for Articles 8, 9 and 10 should be improved when next updated in October 2024.

This Annex accompanying the Communication from the Commission “Commission Notice on Recommendations per Member State and region on the 2018 updated reports for Articles 8, 9 and 10 of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC)”⁵ gives the specific national and regional recommendations for all countries and regions assessed so far. They are expressed in relation to the three articles (8, 9 and 10) that have been reported on, and in relation to the descriptors identified in Annex I of the MSFD and the criteria identified in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848.

1) Regions, subregions and Member States:

Code	Regions and subregions	Constituent Member States
BAL	Baltic Sea	DE, DK, EE, FI, LT, LV, PL, SE
ANS	North East Atlantic Ocean: Greater North Sea	BE, DE, DK, FR, NL, SE, UK
ACS	North East Atlantic Ocean: Celtic Seas	FR, IE, UK
ABI	North East Atlantic Ocean Bay of Biscay & Iberian Coast	ES, FR, PT
AMA	North East Atlantic Ocean: Macaronesia	ES, PT
MWE	Mediterranean Sea: Western Mediterranean Sea	ES, FR, IT, UK
MAD	Mediterranean Sea: Adriatic Sea	EL, HR, IT, SI

¹ Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive), OJ L 164, 25.6.2008, p. 19.

² The technical country-specific assessments were prepared for the Commission by an external consultant – see https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/326ae5ac-0419-4167-83ca-e3c210534a69/library/31bf127a-ca1f-483e-a34e-e0243754ef81?p=1&n=10&sort=modified_DESC.

³ The fourth marine region, the Black Sea, has only two Member States (Bulgaria and Romania) and cannot be assessed for coherence until Bulgaria provides its e-reports.

⁴ The technical region-specific assessments were prepared for the Commission by an external consultant – see https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/326ae5ac-0419-4167-83ca-e3c210534a69/library/31bf127a-ca1f-483e-a34e-e0243754ef81?p=1&n=10&sort=modified_DESC.

⁵ C(2022)1392.

MIC	Mediterranean Sea: Ionian Sea & Central Mediterranean Sea	EL, IT, MT
MAL	Mediterranean Sea: Aegean-Levantine Sea	CY, EL
BLK	Black Sea	BG, RO

2) Descriptors:

Code	Descriptor
D1-B	Biodiversity – birds
D1-M	Biodiversity – mammals
D1-R	Biodiversity – reptiles
D1-F	Biodiversity – fish
D1-C	Biodiversity – cephalopods
D1-P	Biodiversity – pelagic habitats
D2	Non-indigenous species
D3	Commercial fish and shellfish
D4	Food webs
D5	Eutrophication
D6	Sea-floor integrity
D7	Hydrographical changes
D8	Contaminants
D9	Contaminants in seafood
D10	Litter
D11	Energy, including underwater noise

B. National Recommendations

1. Belgium

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N01	Features and elements assessed	Extend the assessment to include all relevant criteria elements or features, or provide a justification for not including them.	ANS - BE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10
Art08/2018/Rec N02	Assessment methodology	Report key aspects of assessment methodology (parameter, value achieved and unit, trend, and integration rules at parameter and criteria levels, where appropriate) for all criteria used, as the basis for assessing environmental status of each element.	ANS - BE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10
Art08/2018/Rec N03	Extent to which GES is achieved	For all elements assessed, conclude on status at parameter, criteria and element levels to form the basis for reporting the extent to which GES has been achieved.	ANS - BE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D4, D6, D7, D8, D10
Art08/2018/Rec N04	Key pressures preventing GES	Identify the most important pressures that are preventing the achievement of GES to help focus the measures needed.	ANS - BE	D1-P, D2, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N05	Consistency of current assessment against the 2018 GES Determination	Ensure the assessments under Article 8 are clearly based on the latest determination of GES reported under Article 9, by improving the alignment between the two articles in relation to elements, parameters and threshold values.	ANS - BE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D3, D4, D5, D9, D10

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art09/2018/Rec N01	Use of primary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description, or an adequate justification for non-use, together with which other Member States were informed of its non-use and when, for all primary criteria.	ANS - BE	D1-F
Art09/2018/Rec N02	Use of secondary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description or, in view of the risk to GES for the criteria, explain why they are not used, for the secondary criteria not yet used.	ANS - BE	D2, D8, D10
Art09/2018/Rec N03a	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, and clearly including the criteria elements (expressed generically as features) and the parameters.	ANS - BE	D1-M, D2, D4, D8, D9
Art09/2018/Rec N03b	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, to include objectives reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for all criteria used.	ANS - BE	D1-M, D1-F, D8
Art09/2018/Rec N04a	Quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree threshold values, where needed by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for the criteria used and associated criteria elements.	ANS - BE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10
Art09/2018/Rec N04b	Quantitative GES determination	Report the proportion of criteria elements in each assessment area that should achieve the threshold values for each criterion used.	ANS - BE	D1-P, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04c	Quantitative GES determination	Report the GES extent threshold value for each feature, and confirm that this is based on an integration of the criteria used per element (i.e. the GES extent unit is 'proportion of elements in good status within element group/feature').	ANS - BE	D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D4, D6, D8, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art10/2018/Rec N01	Targets for key pressures	Develop target(s) which focus on reducing specific pressures and their impacts that are preventing the achievement of GES	ANS - BE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N02	Measurable targets	Improve the target specification, by including target values, elements, parameters and indicators that enable progress with the target to be measured.	ANS - BE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
Art10/2018/Rec N03	Assess progress with targets	Assess progress with each target, by quantifying reductions achieved in specific pressures and/or their impacts, and not repeating the Article 8 assessment.	ANS - BE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N04	Quantify gap to GES	Develop joint targets for pressures that are widespread in the region or subregion and which require coordinated action (e.g. due to their transboundary nature), reflecting as necessary any subregional specificities in the level or distribution of the pressure.	ANS - BE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N05	Link target to direct measures	Link each target to measure(s) that directly (or indirectly) reduce the relevant pressure(s).	ANS - BE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D10, D11

2. Croatia

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N01	Features and elements assessed	Extend the assessment to include all relevant criteria elements or features, or provide a justification for not including them.	MAD - HR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D3, D4, D6, D7, D9, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N02	Assessment methodology	Report key aspects of assessment methodology (parameter, value achieved and unit, trend, and integration rules at parameter and criteria levels, where appropriate) for all criteria used, as the basis for assessing environmental status of each element.	MAD - HR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10
Art08/2018/Rec N03	Extent to which GES is achieved	For all elements assessed, conclude on status at parameter, criteria and element levels to form the basis for reporting the extent to which GES has been achieved.	MAD - HR	D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D2, D3, D6, D7, D8, D10
Art08/2018/Rec N04	Key pressures preventing GES	Identify the most important pressures that are preventing the achievement of GES to help focus the measures needed.	MAD - HR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-P, D4, D6, D8, D10
Art08/2018/Rec N05	Consistency of current assessment against the 2018 GES Determination	Ensure the assessments under Article 8 are clearly based on the latest determination of GES reported under Article 9, by improving the alignment between the two articles in relation to elements, parameters and threshold values.	MAD - HR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-P, D3, D6, D7, D8, D10
Art09/2018/Rec N01	Use of primary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description, or an adequate justification for non-use, together with which other Member States were informed of its non-use and when, for all primary criteria.	MAD - HR	D1-C, D6, D8, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N02	Use of secondary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description or, in view of the risk to GES for the criteria, explain why they are not used, for the secondary criteria not yet used.	MAD - HR	D5, D8
Art09/2018/Rec N03a	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848,	MAD - HR	D1-C, D3, D6, D7, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
		and clearly including the criteria elements (expressed generically as features) and the parameters.		
Art09/2018/Rec N03b	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, to include objectives reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for all criteria used.	MAD - HR	D1-C, D3, D6, D7, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04a	Quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree threshold values, where needed by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for the criteria used and associated criteria elements.	MAD - HR	D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04b	Quantitative GES determination	Report the proportion of criteria elements in each assessment area that should achieve the threshold values for each criterion used.	MAD - HR	D5, D6, D8, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04c	Quantitative GES determination	Report the GES extent threshold value for each feature, and confirm that this is based on an integration of the criteria used per element (i.e. the GES extent unit is 'proportion of elements in good status within element group/feature').	MAD - HR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N01	Targets for key pressures	Develop target(s) which focus on reducing specific pressures and their impacts that are preventing the achievement of GES.	MAD - HR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N02	Measurable targets	Improve the target specification, by including target values, elements, parameters and indicators that enable progress with the target to be measured.	MAD - HR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
Art10/2018/Rec N03	Assess progress with targets	Assess progress with each target, by quantifying reductions achieved in specific pressures and/or their impacts, and not repeating the Article 8 assessment.	MAD - HR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-C, D2, D3, D4, D5, D7, D9, D10

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art10/2018/Rec N04	Quantify gap to GES	Develop joint targets for pressures that are widespread in the region or subregion and which require coordinated action (e.g. due to their transboundary nature), reflecting as necessary any subregional specificities in the level or distribution of the pressure.	MAD - HR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-C, D1-P
Art10/2018/Rec N05	Link target to direct measures	Link each target to measure(s) that directly (or indirectly) reduce the relevant pressure(s).	MAD - HR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-C, D2, D3, D5, D7, D10

3. Cyprus

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N01	Features and elements assessed	Extend the assessment to include all relevant criteria elements or features, or provide a justification for not including them.	MAL - CY	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N02	Assessment methodology	Report key aspects of assessment methodology (parameter, value achieved and unit, trend, and integration rules at parameter and criteria levels, where appropriate) for all criteria used, as the basis for assessing environmental status of each element.	MAL - CY	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D4, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N03	Extent to which GES is achieved	For all elements assessed, conclude on status at parameter, criteria and element levels to form the basis for reporting the extent to which GES has been achieved.	MAL - CY	D1-B, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N04	Key pressures preventing GES	Identify the most important pressures that are preventing the achievement of GES to help focus the measures needed.	MAL - CY	D1-B, D1-C, D1-P, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N05	Consistency of current assessment against the 2018 GES Determination	Ensure the assessments under Article 8 are clearly based on the latest determination of GES reported under Article 9, by improving the alignment between the two articles in relation to elements, parameters and threshold values.	MAL - CY	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D2, D3, D4, D6, D7, D9, D10
Art09/2018/Rec N01	Use of primary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description, or an adequate justification for non-use, together with which other Member States were informed of its non-use and when, for all primary criteria.	MAL - CY	D1-B, D1-R, D1-F, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N02	Use of secondary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description or, in view of the risk to GES for the criteria, explain why they are not used, for the secondary criteria not yet used.	MAL - CY	D5, D7
Art09/2018/Rec N03a	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, and clearly including the criteria elements (expressed generically as features) and the parameters.	MAL - CY	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N03b	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, to include objectives reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for all criteria used.	MAL - CY	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04a	Quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree threshold values, where needed by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for the criteria used and associated criteria elements.	MAL - CY	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04b	Quantitative GES determination	Report the proportion of criteria elements in each assessment area that should achieve the threshold values for each criterion used.	MAL - CY	D3, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art09/2018/Rec N04c	Quantitative GES determination	Report the GES extent threshold value for each feature, and confirm that this is based on an integration of the criteria used per element (i.e. the GES extent unit is 'proportion of elements in good status within element group/feature').	MAL - CY	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N01	Targets for key pressures	Develop target(s) which focus on reducing specific pressures and their impacts that are preventing the achievement of GES	MAL - CY	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N02	Measurable targets	Improve the target specification, by including target values, elements, parameters and indicators that enable progress with the target to be measured.	MAL - CY	D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
Art10/2018/Rec N03	Assess progress with targets	Assess progress with each target, by quantifying reductions achieved in specific pressures and/or their impacts, and not repeating the Article 8 assessment.	MAL - CY	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
Art10/2018/Rec N04	Quantify gap to GES	Develop joint targets for pressures that are widespread in the region or subregion and which require coordinated action (e.g. due to their transboundary nature), reflecting as necessary any subregional specificities in the level or distribution of the pressure.	MAL - CY	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
Art10/2018/Rec N05	Link target to direct measures	Link each target to measure(s) that directly (or indirectly) reduce the relevant pressure(s).	MAL - CY	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10

4. Denmark

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N01	Features and elements assessed	Extend the assessment to include all relevant criteria elements or features, or provide a justification for not including them.	ANS - DK	D1-B, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D6, D8, D9, D10
			BAL - DK	D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N02	Assessment methodology	Report key aspects of assessment methodology (parameter, value achieved and unit, trend, and integration rules at parameter and criteria levels, where appropriate) for all criteria used, as the basis for assessing environmental status of each element.	ANS - DK	D1-B, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D6, D8, D11
			BAL - DK	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D3, D4, D6, D8, D9, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N03	Extent to which GES is achieved	For all elements assessed, conclude on status at parameter, criteria and element levels to form the basis for reporting the extent to which GES has been achieved.	ANS - DK	D1-B, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			BAL - DK	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N04	Key pressures preventing GES	Identify the most important pressures that are preventing the achievement of GES to help focus the measures needed.	ANS - DK	D1-P, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
			BAL - DK	D1-P, D3, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N05	Consistency of current assessment against the 2018	Ensure the assessments under Article 8 are clearly based on the latest determination of GES reported under Article 9, by improving the alignment between the two articles in relation to elements, parameters and threshold values.	ANS - DK	D1-B, D1-M, D1-P, D3, D6, D7, D10, D11
			BAL - DK	D1-B, D1-F, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D7, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
	GES Determination			
Art09/2018/Rec N01	Use of primary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description, or an adequate justification for non-use, together with which other Member States were informed of its non-use and when, for all primary criteria.	ANS - DK	D1-C, D5, D6, D11
			BAL - DK	D5, D6
Art09/2018/Rec N02	Use of secondary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description or, in view of the risk to GES for the criteria, explain why they are not used, for the secondary criteria not yet used.	ANS – DK BAL - DK	D1-B, D5, D8
Art09/2018/Rec N03a	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, and clearly including the criteria elements (expressed generically as features) and the parameters.	ANS - DK	D1-B, D1-M, D2, D3, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9
			BAL - DK	D1-M, D2, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D9
Art09/2018/Rec N03b	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, to include objectives reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for all criteria used.	ANS – DK BAL - DK	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D2, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9
Art09/2018/Rec N04a	Quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree threshold values, where needed by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for the criteria used and associated criteria elements.	ANS - DK	D1-B, D1-M, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D10, D11
			BAL - DK	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D7, D8, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04b	Quantitative GES determination	Report the proportion of criteria elements in each assessment area that should achieve the threshold values for each criterion used.	ANS – DK BAL - DK	D1-P, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art09/2018/Rec N04c	Quantitative GES determination	Report the GES extent threshold value for each feature, and confirm that this is based on an integration of the criteria used per element (i.e. the GES extent unit is 'proportion of elements in good status within element group/feature').	ANS - DK	D1-B, D1-M, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
			BAL - DK	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N01	Targets for key pressures	Develop target(s) which focus on reducing specific pressures and their impacts that are preventing the achievement of GES	ANS - DK	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D6, D7, D9, D10, D11
			BAL - DK	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D4, D6, D7, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N02	Measurable targets	Improve the target specification, by including target values, elements, parameters and indicators that enable progress with the target to be measured.	ANS – DK BAL - DK	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N03	Assess progress with targets	Assess progress with each target, by quantifying reductions achieved in specific pressures and/or their impacts, and not repeating the Article 8 assessment.	ANS – DK BAL - DK	D1-M, D3, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N04	Quantify gap to GES	Develop joint targets for pressures that are widespread in the region or subregion and which require coordinated action (e.g. due to their transboundary nature), reflecting as necessary any subregional specificities in the level or distribution of the pressure.	ANS - DK	D1-B, D1-M, D1-P, D2, D3, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			BAL - DK	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art10/2018/Rec N05	Link target to direct measures	Link each target to measure(s) that directly (or indirectly) reduce the relevant pressure(s).	ANS - DK	D1-B, D1-R, D1-P, D2, D3, D5, D6, D7, D10, D11
			BAL - DK	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D10, D11

5. Estonia

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N01	Features and elements assessed	Extend the assessment to include all relevant criteria elements or features, or provide a justification for not including them.	BAL - EE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D3, D4, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N02	Assessment methodology	Report key aspects of assessment methodology (parameter, value achieved and unit, trend, and integration rules at parameter and criteria levels, where appropriate) for all criteria used, as the basis for assessing environmental status of each element.	BAL - EE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D2, D3, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N03	Extent to which GES is achieved	For all elements assessed, conclude on status at parameter, criteria and element levels to form the basis for reporting the extent to which GES has been achieved.	BAL - EE	D1-M, D1-F, D6, D8, D9, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N04	Key pressures preventing GES	Identify the most important pressures that are preventing the achievement of GES to help focus the measures needed.	BAL - EE	D1-P, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N05	Consistency of current assessment against the 2018 GES Determination	Ensure the assessments under Article 8 are clearly based on the latest determination of GES reported under Article 9, by improving the alignment between the two articles in relation to elements, parameters and threshold values.	BAL - EE	D1-M, D1-F, D7, D9, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N01	Use of primary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description, or an adequate justification for non-use, together with which other Member States were informed of its non-use and when, for all primary criteria.	BAL - EE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N02	Use of secondary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description or, in view of the risk to GES for the criteria, explain why they are not used, for the secondary criteria not yet used.	BAL - EE	D2, D5, D8
Art09/2018/Rec N03a	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, and clearly including the criteria elements (expressed generically as features) and the parameters.	BAL - EE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D3, D6, D8, D9, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N03b	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, to include objectives reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for all criteria used.	BAL - EE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D8, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04a	Quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree threshold values, where needed by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for the criteria used and associated criteria elements.	BAL - EE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D3, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04b	Quantitative GES determination	Report the proportion of criteria elements in each assessment area that should achieve the threshold values for each criterion used.	BAL - EE	D1-P, D5, D8, D9, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art09/2018/Rec N04c	Quantitative GES determination	Report the GES extent threshold value for each feature, and confirm that this is based on an integration of the criteria used per element (i.e. the GES extent unit is 'proportion of elements in good status within element group/feature').	BAL - EE	D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D3, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N01	Targets for key pressures	Develop target(s) which focus on reducing specific pressures and their impacts that are preventing the achievement of GES	BAL - EE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D7, D8, D9, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N02	Measurable targets	Improve the target specification, by including target values, elements, parameters and indicators that enable progress with the target to be measured.	BAL - EE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N03	Assess progress with targets	Assess progress with each target, by quantifying reductions achieved in specific pressures and/or their impacts, and not repeating the Article 8 assessment.	BAL - EE	D1-M, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N04	Quantify gap to GES	Develop joint targets for pressures that are widespread in the region or subregion and which require coordinated action (e.g. due to their transboundary nature), reflecting as necessary any subregional specificities in the level or distribution of the pressure.	BAL - EE	D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N05	Link target to direct measures	Link each target to measure(s) that directly (or indirectly) reduce the relevant pressure(s).	BAL - EE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D2, D3, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11

6. Finland

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N01	Features and elements assessed	Extend the assessment to include all relevant criteria elements or features, or provide a justification for not including them.	BAL - FI	D1-F, D2, D3, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
Art08/2018/Rec N02	Assessment methodology	Report key aspects of assessment methodology (parameter, value achieved and unit, trend, and integration rules at parameter and criteria levels, where appropriate) for all criteria used, as the basis for assessing environmental status of each element.	BAL - FI	D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D4, D6, D7, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N03	Extent to which GES is achieved	For all elements assessed, conclude on status at parameter, criteria and element levels to form the basis for reporting the extent to which GES has been achieved.	BAL - FI	D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N04	Key pressures preventing GES	Identify the most important pressures that are preventing the achievement of GES to help focus the measures needed.	BAL - FI	D2, D5, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N05	Consistency of current assessment against the 2018 GES Determination	Ensure the assessments under Article 8 are clearly based on the latest determination of GES reported under Article 9, by improving the alignment between the two articles in relation to elements, parameters and threshold values.	BAL - FI	D1-F, D1-P, D5, D8, D9, D10
Art09/2018/Rec N01	Use of primary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description, or an adequate justification for non-use, together with which other Member States were informed of its non-use and when, for all primary criteria.	BAL - FI	D1-B, D1-F, D8

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art09/2018/Rec N02	Use of secondary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description or, in view of the risk to GES for the criteria, explain why they are not used, for the secondary criteria not yet used.	BAL - FI	D2, D5, D8
Art09/2018/Rec N03a	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, and clearly including the criteria elements (expressed generically as features) and the parameters.	BAL - FI	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D2, D4, D5, D6, D7, D9, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N03b	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, to include objectives reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for all criteria used.	BAL - FI	D1-B, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D4, D5, D8, D10
Art09/2018/Rec N04a	Quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree threshold values, where needed by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for the criteria used and associated criteria elements.	BAL - FI	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D3, D6, D7, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04b	Quantitative GES determination	Report the proportion of criteria elements in each assessment area that should achieve the threshold values for each criterion used.	BAL - FI	D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04c	Quantitative GES determination	Report the GES extent threshold value for each feature, and confirm that this is based on an integration of the criteria used per element (i.e. the GES extent unit is 'proportion of elements in good status within element group/feature').	BAL - FI	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D4, D5, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N01	Targets for key pressures	Develop target(s) which focus on reducing specific pressures and their impacts that are preventing the achievement of GES	BAL - FI	D1-B, D1-M, D1-P, D3, D5, D7, D9, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N02	Measurable targets	Improve the target specification, by including target values, elements, parameters and indicators that enable progress with the target to be measured.	BAL - FI	D1-B, D1-M, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art10/2018/Rec N03	Assess progress with targets	Assess progress with each target, by quantifying reductions achieved in specific pressures and/or their impacts, and not repeating the Article 8 assessment.	BAL - FI	D1-B, D1-M, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D8, D9
Art10/2018/Rec N04	Quantify gap to GES	Develop joint targets for pressures that are widespread in the region or subregion and which require coordinated action (e.g. due to their transboundary nature), reflecting as necessary any subregional specificities in the level or distribution of the pressure.	BAL - FI	D1-B, D1-M, D1-P, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
Art10/2018/Rec N05	Link target to direct measures	Link each target to measure(s) that directly (or indirectly) reduce the relevant pressure(s).	BAL - FI	D1-B, D1-M, D1-P, D4, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10

7. France

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N01	Features and elements assessed	Extend the assessment to include all relevant criteria elements or features, or provide a justification for not including them.	ABI - FR	D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10
			ACS – FR ANS - FR	D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10
			MWE - FR	D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D3, D4, D6, D8, D9

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N02	Assessment methodology	Report key aspects of assessment methodology (parameter, value achieved and unit, trend, and integration rules at parameter and criteria levels, where appropriate) for all criteria used, as the basis for assessing environmental status of each element.	ABI - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-P, D3, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
			ACS - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
			ANS - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
			MWE - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-C, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N03	Extent to which GES is achieved	For all elements assessed, conclude on status at parameter, criteria and element levels to form the basis for reporting the extent to which GES has been achieved.	ABI - FR	D1-B, D1-R, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
			ACS - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
			ANS - FR	D1-B, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
			MWE - FR	D1-B, D1-R, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D4, D6, D7, D8, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N04	Key pressures preventing GES	Identify the most important pressures that are preventing the achievement of GES to help focus the measures needed.	ABI – FR ACS – FR ANS – FR	D8, D10

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
			MWE - FR	D1-P, D4, D10
Art08/2018/Rec N05	Consistency of current assessment against the 2018 GES Determination	Ensure the assessments under Article 8 are clearly based on the latest determination of GES reported under Article 9, by improving the alignment between the two articles in relation to elements, parameters and threshold values.	ABI – FR ACS - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D4, D6, D7, D8, D9
			ANS - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D6, D7, D8, D9
			MWE - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D4, D7, D8, D9
Art09/2018/Rec N01	Use of primary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description, or an adequate justification for non-use, together with which other Member States were informed of its non-use and when, for all primary criteria.	ABI – FR MWE - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D4, D6, D8
			ACS - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D4, D6, D8, D10
			ANS - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D4, D6, D8, D10
Art09/2018/Rec N02	Use of secondary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description or, in view of the risk to GES for the criteria, explain why they are not used, for the secondary criteria not yet used.	ABI – FR ACS – FR MWE - FR	D10
Art09/2018/Rec N03a	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, and clearly including the criteria elements (expressed generically as features) and the parameters.	ABI – FR MWE - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D4, D6, D8, D9
			ACS - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D4, D6, D8, D9, D10
			ANS - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D2, D4, D6, D8, D9, D10

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art09/2018/Rec N03b	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, to include objectives reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for all criteria used.	ABI - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D4, D6, D8
			ACS - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D6, D8, D10
			ANS - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D4, D6, D8, D10
			MWE - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D4, D6, D8
Art09/2018/Rec N04a	Quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree threshold values, where needed by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for the criteria used and associated criteria elements.	ABI – FR ACS - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D2, D4, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			ANS - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D2, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			MWE - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04b	Quantitative GES determination	Report the proportion of criteria elements in each assessment area that should achieve the threshold values for each criterion used.	ABI – FR ACS – FR ANS - FR	D5, D6, D8, D10, D11
			MWE - FR	D1-C, D1-P, D3, D5, D6, D8, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art09/2018/Rec N04c	Quantitative GES determination	Report the GES extent threshold value for each feature, and confirm that this is based on an integration of the criteria used per element (i.e. the GES extent unit is 'proportion of elements in good status within element group/feature').	ABI – FR	D1-B, D1-R, D1-F, D2, D4, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
			ANS - FR	D1-B, D1-F, D2, D4, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
			MWE - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N01	Targets for key pressures	Develop target(s) which focus on reducing specific pressures and their impacts that are preventing the achievement of GES	ABI - FR	D1-B, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D4, D8, D10
			ACS – FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D4, D9, D10
			ANS - FR	D1-F, D1-P, D6, D9, D10
			MWE - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D2, D3, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N02	Measurable targets	Improve the target specification, by including target values, elements, parameters and indicators that enable progress with the target to be measured.	ABI – FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D2, D3, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
			ANS - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-C, D2, D3, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
			MWE - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N03	Assess progress with targets		ABI – FR ACS – FR	D3, D5

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
		Assess progress with each target, by quantifying reductions achieved in specific pressures and/or their impacts, and not repeating the Article 8 assessment.	ANS - FR	
			MWE - FR	D1-P, D3
Art10/2018/Rec N04	Quantify gap to GES	Develop joint targets for pressures that are widespread in the region or subregion and which require coordinated action (e.g. due to their transboundary nature), reflecting as necessary any subregional specificities in the level or distribution of the pressure.	ABI - FR	D1-B, D3, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
			ACS - FR	D3, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
			ANS - FR	D3, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			MWE - FR	D1-F, D3, D4, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N05	Link target to direct measures	Link each target to measure(s) that directly (or indirectly) reduce the relevant pressure(s).	ABI - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D2, D3, D4, D5, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			ACS - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9
			ANS - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			MWE - FR	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11

8. Germany

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N01	Features and elements assessed	Extend the assessment to include all relevant criteria elements or features, or provide a justification for not including them.	ANS - DE	D1-B, D1-F, D3, D4, D7, D9, D10
			BAL - DE	D1-B, D3, D4, D6, D7, D9, D10
Art08/2018/Rec N02	Assessment methodology	Report key aspects of assessment methodology (parameter, value achieved and unit, trend, and integration rules at parameter and criteria levels, where appropriate) for all criteria used, as the basis for assessing environmental status of each element.	ANS - DE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			BAL - DE	D1-B, D1-F, D1-P, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N03	Extent to which GES is achieved	For all elements assessed, conclude on status at parameter, criteria and element levels to form the basis for reporting the extent to which GES has been achieved.	ANS - DE	D1-B, D1-F, D1-C, D2, D4, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			BAL - DE	D1-F, D1-P, D2, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N04	Key pressures preventing GES	Identify the most important pressures that are preventing the achievement of GES to help focus the measures needed.	ANS – DE BAL - DE	D1-P, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N05	Consistency of current assessment against the 2018 GES Determination	Ensure the assessments under Article 8 are clearly based on the latest determination of GES reported under Article 9, by improving the alignment between the two articles in relation to elements, parameters and threshold values.	ANS - DE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
			BAL - DE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art09/2018/Rec N01	Use of primary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description, or an adequate justification for non-use, together with which other Member States were informed of its non-use and when, for all primary criteria.	ANS - DE	D1-B, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
			BAL - DE	D1-M, D4, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
Art09/2018/Rec N03a	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, and clearly including the criteria elements (expressed generically as features) and the parameters.	ANS - DE	D1-B, D1-R, D1-F, D2, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			BAL - DE	D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
Art09/2018/Rec N03b	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, to include objectives reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for all criteria used.	ANS - DE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D4, D5, D6, D8
			BAL - DE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D4, D5, D6, D8
Art09/2018/Rec N04a	Quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree threshold values, where needed by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for the criteria used and associated criteria elements.	ANS - DE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			BAL - DE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04b	Quantitative GES determination	Report the proportion of criteria elements in each assessment area that should achieve the threshold values for each criterion used.	ANS – DE BAL - DE	D1-P, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04c	Quantitative GES determination	Report the GES extent threshold value for each feature, and confirm that this is based on an integration of the criteria used per element (i.e.	ANS - DE	D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D4, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
		the GES extent unit is 'proportion of elements in good status within element group/feature').	BAL - DE	D1-F, D4, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N01	Targets for key pressures	Develop target(s) which focus on reducing specific pressures and their impacts that are preventing the achievement of GES	ANS - DE	D1-B, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D7, D9, D10
			BAL - DE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D7, D9, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N02	Measurable targets	Improve the target specification, by including target values, elements, parameters and indicators that enable progress with the target to be measured.	ANS - DE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			BAL - DE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N03	Assess progress with targets	Assess progress with each target, by quantifying reductions achieved in specific pressures and/or their impacts, and not repeating the Article 8 assessment.	ANS - DE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			BAL - DE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N04	Quantify gap to GES	Develop joint targets for pressures that are widespread in the region or subregion and which require coordinated action (e.g. due to their transboundary nature), reflecting as necessary any subregional specificities in the level or distribution of the pressure.	ANS - DE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D2, D3, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
			BAL - DE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art10/2018/Rec N05	Link target to direct measures	Link each target to measure(s) that directly (or indirectly) reduce the relevant pressure(s).	ANS - DE	D3, D4, D7
			BAL - DE	D7, D11

9. Ireland

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N01	Features and elements assessed	Extend the assessment to include all relevant criteria elements or features, or provide a justification for not including them.	ACS - IE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D4, D5, D6, D7, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N02	Assessment methodology	Report key aspects of assessment methodology (parameter, value achieved and unit, trend, and integration rules at parameter and criteria levels, where appropriate) for all criteria used, as the basis for assessing environmental status of each element.	ACS - IE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-P, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N03	Extent to which GES is achieved	For all elements assessed, conclude on status at parameter, criteria and element levels to form the basis for reporting the extent to which GES has been achieved.	ACS - IE	D1-B, D1-R, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D6, D8, D10
Art08/2018/Rec N04	Key pressures preventing GES	Identify the most important pressures that are preventing the achievement of GES to help focus the measures needed.	ACS - IE	D5, D6, D8, D10
Art08/2018/Rec N05	Consistency of current assessment	Ensure the assessments under Article 8 are clearly based on the latest determination of GES reported under Article 9, by improving the	ACS - IE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D6, D7, D8, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
	against the 2018 GES Determination	alignment between the two articles in relation to elements, parameters and threshold values.		
Art09/2018/Rec N01	Use of primary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description, or an adequate justification for non-use, together with which other Member States were informed of its non-use and when, for all primary criteria.	ACS - IE	D1-C, D1-P, D6, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N02	Use of secondary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description or, in view of the risk to GES for the criteria, explain why they are not used, for the secondary criteria not yet used.	ACS - IE	D5
Art09/2018/Rec N03a	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, and clearly including the criteria elements (expressed generically as features) and the parameters.	ACS - IE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D3, D4, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10
Art09/2018/Rec N03b	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, to include objectives reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for all criteria used.	ACS - IE	D1-F, D6, D7, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04a	Quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree threshold values, where needed by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for the criteria used and associated criteria elements.	ACS - IE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D2, D3, D4, D6, D8, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04b	Quantitative GES determination	Report the proportion of criteria elements in each assessment area that should achieve the threshold values for each criterion used.	ACS - IE	D3, D5, D6, D8, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04c	Quantitative GES determination	Report the GES extent threshold value for each feature, and confirm that this is based on an integration of the criteria used per element (i.e.	ACS - IE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D2, D4, D5, D6, D8, D9, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
		the GES extent unit is 'proportion of elements in good status within element group/feature').		
Art10/2018/Rec N01	Targets for key pressures	Develop target(s) which focus on reducing specific pressures and their impacts that are preventing the achievement of GES	ACS - IE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N02	Measurable targets	Improve the target specification, by including target values, elements, parameters and indicators that enable progress with the target to be measured.	ACS - IE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N03	Assess progress with targets	Assess progress with each target, by quantifying reductions achieved in specific pressures and/or their impacts, and not repeating the Article 8 assessment.	ACS - IE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D5, D8, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N04	Quantify gap to GES	Develop joint targets for pressures that are widespread in the region or subregion and which require coordinated action (e.g. due to their transboundary nature), reflecting as necessary any subregional specificities in the level or distribution of the pressure.	ACS - IE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D2, D3, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11

10. Italy

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N01	Features and elements assessed	Extend the assessment to include all relevant criteria elements or features, or provide a justification for not including them.	MAD – IT MWE - IT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D6, D8, D9, D10

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
			MIC - IT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D6, D8, D9, D10
Art08/2018/Rec N02	Assessment methodology	Report key aspects of assessment methodology (parameter, value achieved and unit, trend, and integration rules at parameter and criteria levels, where appropriate) for all criteria used, as the basis for assessing environmental status of each element.	MAD - IT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D6, D8, D10, D11
			MIC – IT MWE - IT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N03	Extent to which GES is achieved	For all elements assessed, conclude on status at parameter, criteria and element levels to form the basis for reporting the extent to which GES has been achieved.	MAD – IT MIC – IT MWE - IT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D6, D8, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N04	Key pressures preventing GES	Identify the most important pressures that are preventing the achievement of GES to help focus the measures needed.	MAD – IT MIC – IT MWE - IT	D1-C, D1-P, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N05	Consistency of current assessment against the 2018 GES Determination	Ensure the assessments under Article 8 are clearly based on the latest determination of GES reported under Article 9, by improving the alignment between the two articles in relation to elements, parameters and threshold values.	MAD – IT MIC - IT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D2, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
			MWE - IT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D2, D4, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N01	Use of primary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description, or an adequate justification for non-use, together with which other Member States were informed of its non-use and when, for all primary criteria.	MAD – IT MIC – IT MWE - IT	D1-M, D1-R, D1-C, D1-P, D6

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art09/2018/Rec N02	Use of secondary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description or, in view of the risk to GES for the criteria, explain why they are not used, for the secondary criteria not yet used.	MAD - IT	D1-B, D2, D4, D5, D8
			MIC – IT MWE - IT	D2, D4, D5, D8
Art09/2018/Rec N03a	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, and clearly including the criteria elements (expressed generically as features) and the parameters.	MAD - IT	D1-B, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D3, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			MIC – IT MWE - IT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D3, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N03b	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, to include objectives reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for all criteria used.	MAD – IT MIC – IT MWE - IT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D5, D6, D7, D8
Art09/2018/Rec N04a	Quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree threshold values, where needed by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for the criteria used and associated criteria elements.	MAD – IT MIC - IT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D8, D10, D11
			MWE - IT	D1-B, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D2, D3, D4, D5, D8, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04b	Quantitative GES determination	Report the proportion of criteria elements in each assessment area that should achieve the threshold values for each criterion used.	MAD – IT MIC – IT MWE - IT	D5, D6, D9, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04c	Quantitative GES determination	Report the GES extent threshold value for each feature, and confirm that this is based on an integration of the criteria used per element (i.e.	MAD – IT MIC – IT MWE - IT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D6, D8, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
		the GES extent unit is 'proportion of elements in good status within element group/feature').		
Art10/2018/Rec N01	Targets for key pressures	Develop target(s) which focus on reducing specific pressures and their impacts that are preventing the achievement of GES	MAD - IT	D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-P, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
			MIC - IT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-P, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
			MWE - IT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N02	Measurable targets	Improve the target specification, by including target values, elements, parameters and indicators that enable progress with the target to be measured.	MAD – IT MIC - IT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			MWE - IT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N03	Assess progress with targets	Assess progress with each target, by quantifying reductions achieved in specific pressures and/or their impacts, and not repeating the Article 8 assessment.	MAD - IT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
			MIC - IT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
			MWE - IT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
Art10/2018/Rec N04	Quantify gap to GES	Develop joint targets for pressures that are widespread in the region or subregion and which require coordinated action (e.g. due to their transboundary nature), reflecting as necessary any subregional specificities in the level or distribution of the pressure.	MAD – IT MIC - IT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-P, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
			MWE - IT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-P, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N05	Link target to direct measures	Link each target to measure(s) that directly (or indirectly) reduce the relevant pressure(s).	MAD - IT	D1-B, D1-F, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
			MIC - IT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
			MWE - IT	D1-M, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11

11.Lithuania

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N01	Features and elements assessed	Extend the assessment to include all relevant criteria elements or features, or provide a justification for not including them.	BAL - LT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D4, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N02	Assessment methodology	Report key aspects of assessment methodology (parameter, value achieved and unit, trend, and integration rules at parameter and criteria levels, where appropriate) for all criteria used, as the basis for assessing environmental status of each element.	BAL - LT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D3, D6, D7, D8, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N03	Extent to which GES is achieved	For all elements assessed, conclude on status at parameter, criteria and element levels to form the basis for reporting the extent to which GES has been achieved.	BAL - LT	D1-M, D1-P, D7, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N04	Key pressures preventing GES	Identify the most important pressures that are preventing the achievement of GES to help focus the measures needed.	BAL - LT	D1-P, D6, D7, D10
Art08/2018/Rec N05	Consistency of current assessment against the 2018 GES Determination	Ensure the assessments under Article 8 are clearly based on the latest determination of GES reported under Article 9, by improving the alignment between the two articles in relation to elements, parameters and threshold values.	BAL - LT	D1-F, D1-P, D6, D7, D9, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N01	Use of primary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description, or an adequate justification for non-use, together with which other Member States were informed of its non-use and when, for all primary criteria.	BAL - LT	D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D5, D6, D8, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art09/2018/Rec N02	Use of secondary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description or, in view of the risk to GES for the criteria, explain why they are not used, for the secondary criteria not yet used.	BAL - LT	D5, D8
Art09/2018/Rec N03a	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, and clearly including the criteria elements (expressed generically as features) and the parameters.	BAL - LT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N03b	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, to include objectives reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for all criteria used.	BAL - LT	D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D5, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04a	Quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree threshold values, where needed by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for the criteria used and associated criteria elements.	BAL - LT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D3, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04b	Quantitative GES determination	Report the proportion of criteria elements in each assessment area that should achieve the threshold values for each criterion used.	BAL - LT	D1-P, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04c	Quantitative GES determination	Report the GES extent threshold value for each feature, and confirm that this is based on an integration of the criteria used per element (i.e. the GES extent unit is 'proportion of elements in good status within element group/feature').	BAL - LT	D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D4, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N01	Targets for key pressures	Develop target(s) which focus on reducing specific pressures and their impacts that are preventing the achievement of GES	BAL - LT	D1-M, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D6, D7, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N02	Measurable targets	Improve the target specification, by including target values, elements, parameters and indicators that enable progress with the target to be measured.	BAL - LT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-P, D2, D3, D7, D8, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art10/2018/Rec N03	Assess progress with targets	Assess progress with each target, by quantifying reductions achieved in specific pressures and/or their impacts, and not repeating the Article 8 assessment.	BAL - LT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-P, D2, D3, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N04	Quantify gap to GES	Develop joint targets for pressures that are widespread in the region or subregion and which require coordinated action (e.g. due to their transboundary nature), reflecting as necessary any subregional specificities in the level or distribution of the pressure.	BAL - LT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N05	Link target to direct measures	Link each target to measure(s) that directly (or indirectly) reduce the relevant pressure(s).	BAL - LT	D1-B, D1-F, D1-P, D3, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11

12.Latvia

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N01	Features and elements assessed	Extend the assessment to include all relevant criteria elements or features, or provide a justification for not including them.	BAL - LV	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N02	Assessment methodology	Report key aspects of assessment methodology (parameter, value achieved and unit, trend, and integration rules at parameter and criteria levels, where appropriate) for all criteria used, as the basis for assessing environmental status of each element.	BAL - LV	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N03	Extent to which GES is achieved	For all elements assessed, conclude on status at parameter, criteria and element levels to form the basis for reporting the extent to which GES has been achieved.	BAL - LV	D1-B, D1-M, D1-P, D4, D6, D7, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N04	Key pressures preventing GES	Identify the most important pressures that are preventing the achievement of GES to help focus the measures needed.	BAL - LV	D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N05	Consistency of current assessment against the 2018 GES Determination	Ensure the assessments under Article 8 are clearly based on the latest determination of GES reported under Article 9, by improving the alignment between the two articles in relation to elements, parameters and threshold values.	BAL - LV	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D8, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N01	Use of primary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description, or an adequate justification for non-use, together with which other Member States were informed of its non-use and when, for all primary criteria.	BAL - LV	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D3, D4, D6, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N02	Use of secondary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description or, in view of the risk to GES for the criteria, explain why they are not used, for the secondary criteria not yet used.	BAL - LV	D2, D5, D7, D8
Art09/2018/Rec N03a	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, and clearly including the criteria elements (expressed generically as features) and the parameters.	BAL - LV	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10
Art09/2018/Rec N03b	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, to include objectives reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for all criteria used.	BAL - LV	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D6, D8, D10
Art09/2018/Rec N04a	Quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree threshold values, where needed by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for the criteria used and associated criteria elements.	BAL - LV	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art09/2018/Rec N04b	Quantitative GES determination	Report the proportion of criteria elements in each assessment area that should achieve the threshold values for each criterion used.	BAL - LV	D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04c	Quantitative GES determination	Report the GES extent threshold value for each feature, and confirm that this is based on an integration of the criteria used per element (i.e. the GES extent unit is 'proportion of elements in good status within element group/feature').	BAL - LV	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N01	Targets for key pressures	Develop target(s) which focus on reducing specific pressures and their impacts that are preventing the achievement of GES	BAL - LV	D1-B, D1-M, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N02	Measurable targets	Improve the target specification, by including target values, elements, parameters and indicators that enable progress with the target to be measured.	BAL - LV	D1-B, D1-M, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N03	Assess progress with targets	Assess progress with each target, by quantifying reductions achieved in specific pressures and/or their impacts, and not repeating the Article 8 assessment.	BAL - LV	D1-B, D1-M, D1-P, D2, D4, D5, D6, D7, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N04	Quantify gap to GES	Develop joint targets for pressures that are widespread in the region or subregion and which require coordinated action (e.g. due to their transboundary nature), reflecting as necessary any subregional specificities in the level or distribution of the pressure.	BAL - LV	D1-B, D1-M, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D6, D8, D9, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N05	Link target to direct measures	Link each target to measure(s) that directly (or indirectly) reduce the relevant pressure(s).	BAL - LV	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11

13.Malta

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N01	Features and elements assessed	Extend the assessment to include all relevant criteria elements or features, or provide a justification for not including them.	MIC - MT	D1-M, D1-F, D1-C, D2, D3, D4, D5, D7, D8, D9, D10
Art08/2018/Rec N02	Assessment methodology	Report key aspects of assessment methodology (parameter, value achieved and unit, trend, and integration rules at parameter and criteria levels, where appropriate) for all criteria used, as the basis for assessing environmental status of each element.	MIC - MT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N03	Extent to which GES is achieved	For all elements assessed, conclude on status at parameter, criteria and element levels to form the basis for reporting the extent to which GES has been achieved.	MIC - MT	D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N04	Key pressures preventing GES	Identify the most important pressures that are preventing the achievement of GES to help focus the measures needed.	MIC - MT	D1-P, D2, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N05	Consistency of current assessment against the 2018 GES Determination	Ensure the assessments under Article 8 are clearly based on the latest determination of GES reported under Article 9, by improving the alignment between the two articles in relation to elements, parameters and threshold values.	MIC - MT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-P, D4, D6, D7, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N01	Use of primary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description, or an adequate justification for non-use, together with which other Member States were informed of its non-use and when, for all primary criteria.	MIC - MT	D1-M, D1-F, D1-C, D4, D6

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art09/2018/Rec N02	Use of secondary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description or, in view of the risk to GES for the criteria, explain why they are not used, for the secondary criteria not yet used.	MIC - MT	D2, D8
Art09/2018/Rec N03a	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, and clearly including the criteria elements (expressed generically as features) and the parameters.	MIC - MT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-C, D3, D5, D6, D7, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N03b	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, to include objectives reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for all criteria used.	MIC - MT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04a	Quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree threshold values, where needed by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for the criteria used and associated criteria elements.	MIC - MT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04b	Quantitative GES determination	Report the proportion of criteria elements in each assessment area that should achieve the threshold values for each criterion used.	MIC - MT	D1-P, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04c	Quantitative GES determination	Report the GES extent threshold value for each feature, and confirm that this is based on an integration of the criteria used per element (i.e. the GES extent unit is 'proportion of elements in good status within element group/feature').	MIC - MT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N01	Targets for key pressures	Develop target(s) which focus on reducing specific pressures and their impacts that are preventing the achievement of GES	MIC - MT	D1-M, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N02	Measurable targets	Improve the target specification, by including target values, elements, parameters and indicators that enable progress with the target to be measured.	MIC - MT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art10/2018/Rec N03	Assess progress with targets	Assess progress with each target, by quantifying reductions achieved in specific pressures and/or their impacts, and not repeating the Article 8 assessment.	MIC - MT	D1-B, D1-C, D1-P, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N04	Quantify gap to GES	Develop joint targets for pressures that are widespread in the region or subregion and which require coordinated action (e.g. due to their transboundary nature), reflecting as necessary any subregional specificities in the level or distribution of the pressure.	MIC - MT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-C, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N05	Link target to direct measures	Link each target to measure(s) that directly (or indirectly) reduce the relevant pressure(s).	MIC - MT	D2, D3, D4, D7, D10, D11

14.Netherlands

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N01	Features and elements assessed	Extend the assessment to include all relevant criteria elements or features, or provide a justification for not including them.	ANS - NL	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
Art08/2018/Rec N02	Assessment methodology	Report key aspects of assessment methodology (parameter, value achieved and unit, trend, and integration rules at parameter and criteria levels, where appropriate) for all criteria used, as the basis for assessing environmental status of each element.	ANS - NL	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D4, D7, D8, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N03	Extent to which GES is achieved	For all elements assessed, conclude on status at parameter, criteria and element levels to form the basis for reporting the extent to which GES has been achieved.	ANS - NL	D1-F, D1-P, D2, D4, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N04	Key pressures preventing GES	Identify the most important pressures that are preventing the achievement of GES to help focus the measures needed.	ANS - NL	D1-P, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N05	Consistency of current assessment against the 2018 GES Determination	Ensure the assessments under Article 8 are clearly based on the latest determination of GES reported under Article 9, by improving the alignment between the two articles in relation to elements, parameters and threshold values.	ANS - NL	D1-B, D3, D4, D7, D9, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N01	Use of primary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description, or an adequate justification for non-use, together with which other Member States were informed of its non-use and when, for all primary criteria.	ANS - NL	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D4, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N03a	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, and clearly including the criteria elements (expressed generically as features) and the parameters.	ANS - NL	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D2, D4, D6, D7, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N03b	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, to include objectives reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for all criteria used.	ANS - NL	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D2, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10
Art09/2018/Rec N04b	Quantitative GES determination	Report the proportion of criteria elements in each assessment area that should achieve the threshold values for each criterion used.	ANS - NL	D1-B, D1-P, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04c	Quantitative GES determination	Report the GES extent threshold value for each feature, and confirm that this is based on an integration of the criteria used per element (i.e. the GES extent unit is 'proportion of elements in good status within element group/feature').	ANS - NL	D2, D4, D6, D8, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art10/2018/Rec N01	Targets for key pressures	Develop target(s) which focus on reducing specific pressures and their impacts that are preventing the achievement of GES	ANS - NL	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N02	Measurable targets	Improve the target specification, by including target values, elements, parameters and indicators that enable progress with the target to be measured.	ANS - NL	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N03	Assess progress with targets	Assess progress with each target, by quantifying reductions achieved in specific pressures and/or their impacts, and not repeating the Article 8 assessment.	ANS - NL	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N04	Quantify gap to GES	Develop joint targets for pressures that are widespread in the region or subregion and which require coordinated action (e.g. due to their transboundary nature), reflecting as necessary any subregional specificities in the level or distribution of the pressure.	ANS - NL	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N05	Link target to direct measures	Link each target to measure(s) that directly (or indirectly) reduce the relevant pressure(s).	ANS - NL	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D4, D7, D8, D9

15.Poland

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N01	Features and elements assessed	Extend the assessment to include all relevant criteria elements or features, or provide a justification for not including them.	BAL - PL	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D2, D3, D4, D6, D9, D10

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N02	Assessment methodology	Report key aspects of assessment methodology (parameter, value achieved and unit, trend, and integration rules at parameter and criteria levels, where appropriate) for all criteria used, as the basis for assessing environmental status of each element.	BAL - PL	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D2, D3, D5, D6, D8, D9, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N03	Extent to which GES is achieved	For all elements assessed, conclude on status at parameter, criteria and element levels to form the basis for reporting the extent to which GES has been achieved.	BAL - PL	D1-B, D1-F, D3, D5, D6, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N04	Key pressures preventing GES	Identify the most important pressures that are preventing the achievement of GES to help focus the measures needed.	BAL - PL	D1-P, D2, D3, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N05	Consistency of current assessment against the 2018 GES Determination	Ensure the assessments under Article 8 are clearly based on the latest determination of GES reported under Article 9, by improving the alignment between the two articles in relation to elements, parameters and threshold values.	BAL - PL	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D2, D4, D5, D6, D7, D9, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N01	Use of primary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description, or an adequate justification for non-use, together with which other Member States were informed of its non-use and when, for all primary criteria.	BAL - PL	D1-B, D1-F, D6, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N02	Use of secondary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description or, in view of the risk to GES for the criteria, explain why they are not used, for the secondary criteria not yet used.	BAL - PL	D1-M, D2, D8
Art09/2018/Rec N03a	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848,	BAL - PL	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D3, D4, D6, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
		and clearly including the criteria elements (expressed generically as features) and the parameters.		
Art09/2018/Rec N03b	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, to include objectives reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for all criteria used.	BAL - PL	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D3, D6, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04a	Quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree threshold values, where needed by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for the criteria used and associated criteria elements.	BAL - PL	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D3, D6, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04b	Quantitative GES determination	Report the proportion of criteria elements in each assessment area that should achieve the threshold values for each criterion used.	BAL - PL	D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04c	Quantitative GES determination	Report the GES extent threshold value for each feature, and confirm that this is based on an integration of the criteria used per element (i.e. the GES extent unit is 'proportion of elements in good status within element group/feature').	BAL - PL	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D4, D5, D6, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N01	Targets for key pressures	Develop target(s) which focus on reducing specific pressures and their impacts that are preventing the achievement of GES	BAL - PL	D2, D3, D4, D5, D9, D10
Art10/2018/Rec N02	Measurable targets	Improve the target specification, by including target values, elements, parameters and indicators that enable progress with the target to be measured.	BAL - PL	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N03	Assess progress with targets	Assess progress with each target, by quantifying reductions achieved in specific pressures and/or their impacts, and not repeating the Article 8 assessment.	BAL - PL	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D9

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art10/2018/Rec N04	Quantify gap to GES	Develop joint targets for pressures that are widespread in the region or subregion and which require coordinated action (e.g. due to their transboundary nature), reflecting as necessary any subregional specificities in the level or distribution of the pressure.	BAL - PL	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N05	Link target to direct measures	Link each target to measure(s) that directly (or indirectly) reduce the relevant pressure(s).	BAL - PL	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11

16. Portugal

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N01	Features and elements assessed	Extend the assessment to include all relevant criteria elements or features, or provide a justification for not including them.	ABI - PT	D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
			AMA - PT	D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9
Art08/2018/Rec N02	Assessment methodology	Report key aspects of assessment methodology (parameter, value achieved and unit, trend, and integration rules at parameter and criteria levels, where appropriate) for all criteria used, as the basis for assessing environmental status of each element.	ABI - PT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			AMA - PT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N03	Extent to which GES is achieved	For all elements assessed, conclude on status at parameter, criteria and element levels to form the basis for reporting the extent to which GES has been achieved.	ABI - PT	D1-B, D1-R, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
			AMA - PT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N04	Key pressures preventing GES	Identify the most important pressures that are preventing the achievement of GES to help focus the measures needed.	ABI - PT	D1-P, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			AMA - PT	D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N05	Consistency of current assessment against the 2018 GES Determination	Ensure the assessments under Article 8 are clearly based on the latest determination of GES reported under Article 9, by improving the alignment between the two articles in relation to elements, parameters and threshold values.	ABI - PT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D2, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			AMA - PT	D1-B, D1-M, D2, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N01	Use of primary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description, or an adequate justification for non-use, together with which other Member States were informed of its non-use and when, for all primary criteria.	ABI - PT	D1-B, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
			AMA - PT	D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D6, D8, D9
Art09/2018/Rec N02	Use of secondary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description or, in view of the risk to GES for the criteria, explain why they are not used, for the secondary criteria not yet used.	ABI - PT	D2, D8
			AMA - PT	D8

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art09/2018/Rec N03a	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, and clearly including the criteria elements (expressed generically as features) and the parameters.	ABI - PT	D1-B, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			AMA - PT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9
Art09/2018/Rec N03b	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, to include objectives reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for all criteria used.	ABI - PT	D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
			AMA - PT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D3, D5, D6
Art09/2018/Rec N04a	Quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree threshold values, where needed by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for the criteria used and associated criteria elements.	ABI - PT	D1-B, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			AMA - PT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10
Art09/2018/Rec N04b	Quantitative GES determination	Report the proportion of criteria elements in each assessment area that should achieve the threshold values for each criterion used.	ABI - PT	D3, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
			AMA - PT	D1-P, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04c	Quantitative GES determination	Report the GES extent threshold value for each feature, and confirm that this is based on an integration of the criteria used per element (i.e.	ABI - PT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D3, D4, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
		the GES extent unit is 'proportion of elements in good status within element group/feature').	AMA - PT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N01	Targets for key pressures	Develop target(s) which focus on reducing specific pressures and their impacts that are preventing the achievement of GES	ABI - PT	D1-M, D1-R, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			AMA - PT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N02	Measurable targets	Improve the target specification, by including target values, elements, parameters and indicators that enable progress with the target to be measured.	ABI - PT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
			AMA - PT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N03	Assess progress with targets	Assess progress with each target, by quantifying reductions achieved in specific pressures and/or their impacts, and not repeating the Article 8 assessment.	ABI - PT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D3, D4, D5, D7, D10, D11
			AMA - PT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D3, D4, D5, D6, D10
Art10/2018/Rec N04	Quantify gap to GES	Develop joint targets for pressures that are widespread in the region or subregion and which require coordinated action (e.g. due to their	ABI - PT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
		transboundary nature), reflecting as necessary any subregional specificities in the level or distribution of the pressure.	AMA - PT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N05	Link target to direct measures	Link each target to measure(s) that directly (or indirectly) reduce the relevant pressure(s).	ABI - PT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D2, D3, D4, D6, D7, D10, D11
			AMA - PT	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D10, D11

17.Romania

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N01	Features and elements assessed	Extend the assessment to include all relevant criteria elements or features, or provide a justification for not including them.	BLK - RO	D1-B, D3, D4, D6, D7, D9, D10
Art08/2018/Rec N02	Assessment methodology	Report key aspects of assessment methodology (parameter, value achieved and unit, trend, and integration rules at parameter and criteria levels, where appropriate) for all criteria used, as the basis for assessing environmental status of each element.	BLK - RO	D1-B, D1-F, D1-P, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N03	Extent to which GES is achieved	For all elements assessed, conclude on status at parameter, criteria and element levels to form the basis for reporting the extent to which GES has been achieved.	BLK - RO	D1-F, D1-P, D2, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N04	Key pressures preventing GES	Identify the most important pressures that are preventing the achievement of GES to help focus the measures needed.	BLK - RO	D1-P, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N05	Consistency of current assessment against the 2018 GES Determination	Ensure the assessments under Article 8 are clearly based on the latest determination of GES reported under Article 9, by improving the alignment between the two articles in relation to elements, parameters and threshold values.	BLK - RO	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N01	Use of primary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description, or an adequate justification for non-use, together with which other Member States were informed of its non-use and when, for all primary criteria.	BLK - RO	D1-B, D1-M, D4, D6, D8, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N02	Use of secondary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description or, in view of the risk to GES for the criteria, explain why they are not used, for the secondary criteria not yet used.	BLK - RO	D1-F, D8
Art09/2018/Rec N03a	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, and clearly including the criteria elements (expressed generically as features) and the parameters.	BLK - RO	D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
Art09/2018/Rec N03b	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, to include objectives reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for all criteria used.	BLK - RO	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D4, D5, D6, D8
Art09/2018/Rec N04a	Quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree threshold values, where needed by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for the criteria used and associated criteria elements.	BLK - RO	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art09/2018/Rec N04b	Quantitative GES determination	Report the proportion of criteria elements in each assessment area that should achieve the threshold values for each criterion used.	BLK - RO	D1-P, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04c	Quantitative GES determination	Report the GES extent threshold value for each feature, and confirm that this is based on an integration of the criteria used per element (i.e. the GES extent unit is 'proportion of elements in good status within element group/feature').	BLK - RO	D1-F, D4, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N01	Targets for key pressures	Develop target(s) which focus on reducing specific pressures and their impacts that are preventing the achievement of GES	BLK - RO	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N02	Measurable targets	Improve the target specification, by including target values, elements, parameters and indicators that enable progress with the target to be measured.	BLK - RO	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
Art10/2018/Rec N03	Assess progress with targets	Assess progress with each target, by quantifying reductions achieved in specific pressures and/or their impacts, and not repeating the Article 8 assessment.	BLK - RO	D1-B, D1-M, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D9
Art10/2018/Rec N04	Quantify gap to GES	Develop joint targets for pressures that are widespread in the region or subregion and which require coordinated action (e.g. due to their transboundary nature), reflecting as necessary any subregional specificities in the level or distribution of the pressure.	BLK - RO	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N05	Link target to direct measures	Link each target to measure(s) that directly (or indirectly) reduce the relevant pressure(s).	BLK - RO	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D4, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11

18.Spain

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N01	Features and elements assessed	Extend the assessment to include all relevant criteria elements or features, or provide a justification for not including them.	ABI - ES	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-C, D2, D3, D4, D6, D8, D9, D10
			AMA - ES	D1-B, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
			MWE - ES	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
Art08/2018/Rec N02	Assessment methodology	Report key aspects of assessment methodology (parameter, value achieved and unit, trend, and integration rules at parameter and criteria levels, where appropriate) for all criteria used, as the basis for assessing environmental status of each element.	ABI - ES	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D11
			AMA - ES	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D11
			MWE - ES	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N03	Extent to which GES is achieved	For all elements assessed, conclude on status at parameter, criteria and element levels to form the basis for reporting the extent to which GES has been achieved.	ABI - ES	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D2, D4, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
			AMA - ES	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D2, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
			MWE - ES	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D4, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N04	Key pressures preventing GES	Identify the most important pressures that are preventing the achievement of GES to help focus the measures needed.	ABI – ES	D2, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			AMA - ES	D1-C, D1-P, D2, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
			MWE - ES	D1-C, D1-P, D2, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
Art08/2018/Rec N05	Consistency of current assessment against the 2018 GES Determination	Ensure the assessments under Article 8 are clearly based on the latest determination of GES reported under Article 9, by improving the alignment between the two articles in relation to elements, parameters and threshold values.	ABI - ES	D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D2, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			AMA - ES	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			MWE - ES	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
Art09/2018/Rec N01	Use of primary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description, or an adequate justification for non-use, together with which other Member States were informed of its non-use and when, for all primary criteria.	ABI - ES	D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D3, D4, D8, D10
			AMA - ES	D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D8, D10

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
			MWE - ES	D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D2, D3, D4, D5, D8, D10
Art09/2018/Rec N02	Use of secondary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description or, in view of the risk to GES for the criteria, explain why they are not used, for the secondary criteria not yet used.	ABI - ES	D5
			AMA - ES	D5, D8
Art09/2018/Rec N03a	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, and clearly including the criteria elements (expressed generically as features) and the parameters.	ABI – ES	D1-B, D1-R, D1-F, D3, D4, D5, D7, D8, D9, D10
			AMA - ES	D1-B, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D7, D8, D9, D10
			MWE - ES	D1-R, D1-F, D3, D4, D5, D7, D8, D10
Art09/2018/Rec N03b	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, to include objectives reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for all criteria used.	ABI - ES	D1-R, D1-F, D3, D4, D5, D7, D8, D10
			AMA - ES	D1-R, D1-F, D3, D4, D5, D7, D10
			MWE - ES	D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D7, D8, D10
Art09/2018/Rec N04a	Quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree threshold values, where needed by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for the criteria used and associated criteria elements.	ABI – ES	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			AMA - ES	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			MWE - ES	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art09/2018/Rec N04b	Quantitative GES determination	Report the proportion of criteria elements in each assessment area that should achieve the threshold values for each criterion used.	ABI - ES	D5, D6, D10, D11
			AMA - ES	D5, D6, D8, D10, D11
			MWE - ES	D1-C, D5, D6, D8, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04c	Quantitative GES determination	Report the GES extent threshold value for each feature, and confirm that this is based on an integration of the criteria used per element (i.e. the GES extent unit is 'proportion of elements in good status within element group/feature').	ABI - ES	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D2, D4, D8, D10, D11
			AMA - ES	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D2, D4, D5, D6, D11
			MWE - ES	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D4, D6, D8, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N01	Targets for key pressures	Develop target(s) which focus on reducing specific pressures and their impacts that are preventing the achievement of GES	ABI – ES AMA - ES	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D6, D9, D10, D11
			MWE - ES	D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D9, D10, D11
			ABI – ES AMA - ES	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D2, D3, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
Art10/2018/Rec N02	Measurable targets	Improve the target specification, by including target values, elements, parameters and indicators that enable progress with the target to be measured.	MWE - ES	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D2, D3, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
			ABI – ES AMA - ES	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D2, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
Art10/2018/Rec N03	Assess progress with targets		ABI – ES AMA - ES	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D2, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
		Assess progress with each target, by quantifying reductions achieved in specific pressures and/or their impacts, and not repeating the Article 8 assessment.	MWE - ES	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D2, D3, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
Art10/2018/Rec N04	Quantify gap to GES	Develop joint targets for pressures that are widespread in the region or subregion and which require coordinated action (e.g. due to their transboundary nature), reflecting as necessary any subregional specificities in the level or distribution of the pressure.	ABI - ES	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D2, D3, D4, D7, D8, D9, D10
			AMA - ES	D1-B, D1-M, D2, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
			MWE - ES	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D2, D3, D7, D8, D9, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N05	Link target to direct measures	Link each target to measure(s) that directly (or indirectly) reduce the relevant pressure(s).	ABI - ES	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D2, D3, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9
			AMA – ES MWE - ES	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D2, D3, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10

19.Slovenia

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N01	Features and elements assessed	Extend the assessment to include all relevant criteria elements or features, or provide a justification for not including them.	MAD - SI	D1-B, D1-F, D2, D3, D4, D8, D9, D10

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N02	Assessment methodology	Report key aspects of assessment methodology (parameter, value achieved and unit, trend, and integration rules at parameter and criteria levels, where appropriate) for all criteria used, as the basis for assessing environmental status of each element.	MAD - SI	D1-B, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N03	Extent to which GES is achieved	For all elements assessed, conclude on status at parameter, criteria and element levels to form the basis for reporting the extent to which GES has been achieved.	MAD - SI	D1-B, D1-F, D1-C, D2, D3, D4, D6, D7
Art08/2018/Rec N04	Key pressures preventing GES	Identify the most important pressures that are preventing the achievement of GES to help focus the measures needed.	MAD - SI	D1-C, D1-P, D2, D6, D8, D9, D10
Art08/2018/Rec N05	Consistency of current assessment against the 2018 GES Determination	Ensure the assessments under Article 8 are clearly based on the latest determination of GES reported under Article 9, by improving the alignment between the two articles in relation to elements, parameters and threshold values.	MAD - SI	D1-B, D1-F, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10
Art09/2018/Rec N01	Use of primary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description, or an adequate justification for non-use, together with which other Member States were informed of its non-use and when, for all primary criteria.	MAD - SI	D2, D4, D6, D8, D10
Art09/2018/Rec N02	Use of secondary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description or, in view of the risk to GES for the criteria, explain why they are not used, for the secondary criteria not yet used.	MAD - SI	D7, D8, D10
Art09/2018/Rec N03a	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848,	MAD - SI	D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
		and clearly including the criteria elements (expressed generically as features) and the parameters.		
Art09/2018/Rec N03b	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, to include objectives reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for all criteria used.	MAD - SI	D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8
Art09/2018/Rec N04a	Quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree threshold values, where needed by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for the criteria used and associated criteria elements.	MAD - SI	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D8, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04b	Quantitative GES determination	Report the proportion of criteria elements in each assessment area that should achieve the threshold values for each criterion used.	MAD - SI	D3, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04c	Quantitative GES determination	Report the GES extent threshold value for each feature, and confirm that this is based on an integration of the criteria used per element (i.e. the GES extent unit is 'proportion of elements in good status within element group/feature').	MAD - SI	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N01	Targets for key pressures	Develop target(s) which focus on reducing specific pressures and their impacts that are preventing the achievement of GES	MAD - SI	D1-M, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
Art10/2018/Rec N02	Measurable targets	Improve the target specification, by including target values, elements, parameters and indicators that enable progress with the target to be measured.	MAD - SI	D1-B, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N03	Assess progress with targets	Assess progress with each target, by quantifying reductions achieved in specific pressures and/or their impacts, and not repeating the Article 8 assessment.	MAD - SI	D1-B, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art10/2018/Rec N04	Quantify gap to GES	Develop joint targets for pressures that are widespread in the region or subregion and which require coordinated action (e.g. due to their transboundary nature), reflecting as necessary any subregional specificities in the level or distribution of the pressure.	MAD - SI	D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N05	Link target to direct measures	Link each target to measure(s) that directly (or indirectly) reduce the relevant pressure(s).	MAD - SI	D1-B, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D10, D11

20.Sweden

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec N01	Features and elements assessed	Extend the assessment to include all relevant criteria elements or features, or provide a justification for not including them.	ANS - SE	D1-M, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			BAL - SE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D3, D4, D6, D7, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N02	Assessment methodology	Report key aspects of assessment methodology (parameter, value achieved and unit, trend, and integration rules at parameter and criteria	ANS - SE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D2, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
		levels, where appropriate) for all criteria used, as the basis for assessing environmental status of each element.	BAL - SE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N03	Extent to which GES is achieved	For all elements assessed, conclude on status at parameter, criteria and element levels to form the basis for reporting the extent to which GES has been achieved.	ANS - SE	D1-B, D1-F, D1-P, D4, D6, D7, D11
			BAL - SE	D1-B, D1-F, D1-P, D4, D7, D8, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N04	Key pressures preventing GES	Identify the most important pressures that are preventing the achievement of GES to help focus the measures needed.	ANS - SE	D1-F, D1-P, D3, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
			BAL - SE	D1-P, D3, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec N05	Consistency of current assessment against the 2018 GES Determination	Ensure the assessments under Article 8 are clearly based on the latest determination of GES reported under Article 9, by improving the alignment between the two articles in relation to elements, parameters and threshold values.	ANS - SE	D1-M, D1-F, D4, D10, D11
			BAL - SE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D6, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N01	Use of primary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description, or an adequate justification for non-use, together with which other Member States were informed of its non-use and when, for all primary criteria.	ANS - SE	D1-B, D1-F, D6, D10, D11
			BAL - SE	D1-B, D1-F, D6, D7, D10
Art09/2018/Rec N02	Use of secondary criteria	Provide a qualitative GES description or, in view of the risk to GES for the criteria, explain why they are not used, for the secondary criteria not yet used.	ANS - SE	D1-B, D2, D5, D7, D8
			BAL - SE	D2, D5, D7, D8

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art09/2018/Rec N03a	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, and clearly including the criteria elements (expressed generically as features) and the parameters.	ANS - SE	D1-B, D1-C, D2, D6, D7, D10, D11
			BAL - SE	D1-B, D1-F, D2, D6, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N03b	Qualitative GES description	Provide and/or modify the qualitative GES description at criterion level, to include objectives reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for all criteria used.	ANS - SE	D1-B, D1-M, D2, D6, D7, D10, D11
			BAL - SE	D1-F, D2, D6, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04a	Quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree threshold values, where needed by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, for the criteria used and associated criteria elements.	ANS - SE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D4, D5, D6, D7, D10, D11
			BAL - SE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D4, D6, D7, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04b	Quantitative GES determination	Report the proportion of criteria elements in each assessment area that should achieve the threshold values for each criterion used.	ANS – SE BAL - SE	D1-P, D2, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec N04c	Quantitative GES determination	Report the GES extent threshold value for each feature, and confirm that this is based on an integration of the criteria used per element (i.e. the GES extent unit is 'proportion of elements in good status within element group/feature').	ANS – SE BAL - SE	D1-M, D1-P, D4, D6, D8, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N01	Targets for key pressures	Develop target(s) which focus on reducing specific pressures and their impacts that are preventing the achievement of GES	ANS - SE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
			BAL - SE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N02	Measurable targets	Improve the target specification, by including target values, elements, parameters and indicators that enable progress with the target to be measured.	ANS – SE BAL - SE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N03	Assess progress with targets	Assess progress with each target, by quantifying reductions achieved in specific pressures and/or their impacts, and not repeating the Article 8 assessment.	ANS - SE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D2, D4, D6, D7, D10
			BAL - SE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D4, D6, D7, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N04	Quantify gap to GES	Develop joint targets for pressures that are widespread in the region or subregion and which require coordinated action (e.g. due to their transboundary nature), reflecting as necessary any subregional specificities in the level or distribution of the pressure.	ANS – SE BAL - SE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec N05	Link target to direct measures	Link each target to measure(s) that directly (or indirectly) reduce the relevant pressure(s).	ANS - SE	D3, D7, D9, D11
			BAL - SE	D3, D6, D9, D11

C. Regional Recommendations

21.Baltic Sea

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec R01	Coherent set of elements	Cooperate with other countries in the region or subregion to establish a set of elements or features covering all relevant aspects of the criteria being used, in accordance with the selection criteria in the Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848.	BAL	D1-B, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
Art08/2018/Rec R02a	Coherent assessment methodology	For the criteria that are agreed to be used, cooperate with other countries in the region or subregion to develop and/or deliver assessments according to a common methodology, including an agreed 6-year period for the data used, taking account of any methodological standards set out in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848.	BAL	D1-B, D1-M, D1-P, D2, D4, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec R02b	Coherent assessment methodology	For the elements and criteria that are agreed to be used, cooperate with other countries in the region or subregion to conclude on their environmental status, in order to report on the extent to which GES has been achieved.	BAL	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10
Art08/2018/Rec R02c	Coherent assessment methodology	Cooperate with other countries in the region or subregion to identify the most important pressures that are preventing the achievement of GES, reflecting any subregional variation, in order to inform the need for measures that require regional or subregional coordination.	BAL	D1-B, D6, D11
Art09/2018/Rec R01a	Coherent use of primary criteria	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree a consistent use of the criteria, or an agreed rationale for their non-use.	BAL	D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art09/2018/Rec R01b	Coherent use of secondary criteria	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree a consistent use of the criteria, or an agreed rationale for their non-use.	BAL	D1-B, D2, D7, D8, D10
Art09/2018/Rec R02a	Coherent qualitative GES description	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree a qualitative GES description, reflecting (sub)regional specificities where appropriate. Provide a description for each primary and secondary criteria that are agreed to be used in the (sub)region, reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848 and clearly including the criteria elements (expressed generically as features) and parameters.	BAL	D1-M, D1-F, D2, D6, D7, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec R02b	Coherent qualitative GES description	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree a qualitative GES description, reflecting (sub)regional specificities where appropriate. Provide a description for each primary and secondary criteria that are agreed to be used in the (sub)region, reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848 and clearly including the objectives.	BAL	D1-M, D1-F, D2, D5, D6, D7, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec R03a	Coherent quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree a quantitative GES determination, as required by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, reflecting (sub)regional specificities where appropriate. Provide threshold values for each element for the primary and secondary criteria that are agreed to be used in the (sub)region.	BAL	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D2, D3, D6, D7, D8, D10
Art09/2018/Rec R03b	Coherent quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree a quantitative GES determination, as required by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, reflecting (sub)regional specificities where appropriate.	BAL	D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
		Indicate the proportion of the elements in each assessment area that should achieve those values.		
Art09/2018/Rec R03c	Coherent quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree a quantitative GES determination, as required by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, reflecting (sub)regional specificities where appropriate. Provide a GES extent threshold value for each feature, indicating the proportion of elements within the group/feature that should be in good status for the feature to be considered in GES.	BAL	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-P, D2, D3, D5, D6, D8, D9, D10
Art10/2018/Rec R01	Key pressures in (sub)region	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to develop targets which need a regional or subregional approach, for the pressures preventing the achievement of GES	BAL	D1-B, D1-M, D1-P, D2, D5, D6, D7, D9, D10, D11

22.North East Atlantic Ocean

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec R01	Coherent set of elements	Cooperate with other countries in the region or subregion to establish a set of elements or features covering all relevant aspects of the criteria being used, in accordance with the selection criteria in the Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848.	ACS, ANS, AMA, ABI	D1-B, D1-R, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D4, D8, D10
Art08/2018/Rec R02a	Coherent assessment methodology	For the criteria that are agreed to be used, cooperate with other countries in the region or subregion to develop and/or deliver assessments according to a common methodology, including an agreed	ACS, ANS, AMA, ABI	D1-B, D1-C, D3, D4, D7, D8, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
		6-year period for the data used, taking account of any methodological standards set out in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848.		
Art08/2018/Rec R02b	Coherent assessment methodology	For the elements and criteria that are agreed to be used, cooperate with other countries in the region or subregion to conclude on their environmental status, in order to report on the extent to which GES has been achieved.	ACS, ANS, AMA, ABI	D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D6, D7, D11
Art08/2018/Rec R02c	Coherent assessment methodology	Cooperate with other countries in the region or subregion to identify the most important pressures that are preventing the achievement of GES, reflecting any subregional variation, in order to inform the need for measures that require regional or subregional coordination.	ACS, ANS, AMA, ABI	D1-C, D6, D7, D9
Art09/2018/Rec R01a	Coherent use of primary criteria	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree a consistent use of the criteria, or an agreed rationale for their non-use.	ACS, ANS, AMA, ABI	D1-C
Art09/2018/Rec R01b	Coherent use of secondary criteria	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree a consistent use of the criteria, or an agreed rationale for their non-use.	ACS, ANS, AMA, ABI	D1-R, D2, D4, D5, D10
Art09/2018/Rec R02a	Coherent qualitative GES description	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree a qualitative GES description, reflecting (sub)regional specificities where appropriate. Provide a description for each primary and secondary criteria that are agreed to be used in the (sub)region, reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848 and clearly including the criteria elements (expressed generically as features) and parameters.	ACS, ANS, AMA, ABI	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-C, D1-P, D4, D6, D10

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art09/2018/Rec R02b	Coherent qualitative GES description	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree a qualitative GES description, reflecting (sub)regional specificities where appropriate. Provide a description for each primary and secondary criteria that are agreed to be used in the (sub)region, reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848 and clearly including the objectives.	ACS, ANS, AMA, ABI	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D6, D7
Art09/2018/Rec R03a	Coherent quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree a quantitative GES determination, as required by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, reflecting (sub)regional specificities where appropriate. Provide threshold values for each element for the primary and secondary criteria that are agreed to be used in the (sub)region.	ACS, ANS, AMA, ABI	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec R03b	Coherent quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree a quantitative GES determination, as required by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, reflecting (sub)regional specificities where appropriate. Indicate the proportion of the elements in each assessment area that should achieve those values.	ACS, ANS, AMA, ABI	D2, D3, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec R03c	Coherent quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree a quantitative GES determination, as required by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, reflecting (sub)regional specificities where appropriate. Provide a GES extent threshold value for each feature, indicating the proportion of elements within the group/feature that should be in good status for the feature to be considered in GES.	ACS, ANS, AMA, ABI	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D4, D6, D7, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec R01	Key pressures in (sub)region	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to develop targets which need a regional or subregional approach, for the pressures preventing the achievement of GES	ACS, ANS, AMA, ABI	D1-B, D1-R, D1-P, D4, D5, D7, D9, D10

23.Mediterranean Sea

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art08/2018/Rec R01	Coherent set of elements	Cooperate with other countries in the region or subregion to establish a set of elements or features covering all relevant aspects of the criteria being used, in accordance with the selection criteria in the Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848.	MIC, MAD, MAL, MWE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D4, D8, D10
Art08/2018/Rec R02a	Coherent assessment methodology	For the criteria that are agreed to be used, cooperate with other countries in the region or subregion to develop and/or deliver assessments according to a common methodology, including an agreed 6-year period for the data used, taking account of any methodological standards set out in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848.	MIC, MAD, MAL, MWE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D4, D7, D8, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec R02b	Coherent assessment methodology	For the elements and criteria that are agreed to be used, cooperate with other countries in the region or subregion to conclude on their environmental status, in order to report on the extent to which GES has been achieved.	MIC, MAD, MAL, MWE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
Art08/2018/Rec R02c	Coherent assessment methodology	Cooperate with other countries in the region or subregion to identify the most important pressures that are preventing the achievement of GES, reflecting any subregional variation, in order to inform the need for measures that require regional or subregional coordination.	MIC, MAD, MAL, MWE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-C, D1-P, D4, D7, D11
Art09/2018/Rec R01a	Coherent use of primary criteria	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree a consistent use of the criteria, or an agreed rationale for their non-use.	MIC, MAD, MAL, MWE	D1-F, D1-C, D1-P
Art09/2018/Rec R01b	Coherent use of secondary criteria	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree a consistent use of the criteria, or an agreed rationale for their non-use.	MIC, MAD, MAL, MWE	D1-C, D2, D4, D5, D10

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art09/2018/Rec R02a	Coherent qualitative GES description	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree a qualitative GES description, reflecting (sub)regional specificities where appropriate. Provide a description for each primary and secondary criteria that are agreed to be used in the (sub)region, reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848 and clearly including the criteria elements (expressed generically as features) and parameters.	MIC, MAD, MAL, MWE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec R02b	Coherent qualitative GES description	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree a qualitative GES description, reflecting (sub)regional specificities where appropriate. Provide a description for each primary and secondary criteria that are agreed to be used in the (sub)region, reflecting the relevant criteria in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848 and clearly including the objectives.	MIC, MAD, MAL, MWE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-C, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10
Art09/2018/Rec R03a	Coherent quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree a quantitative GES determination, as required by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, reflecting (sub)regional specificities where appropriate. Provide threshold values for each element for the primary and secondary criteria that are agreed to be used in the (sub)region.	MIC, MAD, MAL, MWE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D10, D11
Art09/2018/Rec R03b	Coherent quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree a quantitative GES determination, as required by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, reflecting (sub)regional specificities where appropriate. Indicate the proportion of the elements in each assessment area that should achieve those values.	MIC, MAD, MAL, MWE	D1-F, D1-C, D1-P, D3, D5, D6, D9, D10, D11

Code	Topic	Recommendation	Applicable (sub)region	Applicable descriptors
Art09/2018/Rec R03c	Coherent quantitative GES determination	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to agree a quantitative GES determination, as required by Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, reflecting (sub)regional specificities where appropriate. Provide a GES extent threshold value for each feature, indicating the proportion of elements within the group/feature that should be in good status for the feature to be considered in GES.	MIC, MAD, MAL, MWE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-C, D1-P, D3, D4, D5, D6, D9, D10, D11
Art10/2018/Rec R01	Key pressures in (sub)region	Coordinate with other countries in the region or subregion to develop targets which need a regional or subregional approach, for the pressures preventing the achievement of GES	MIC, MAD, MAL, MWE	D1-B, D1-M, D1-R, D1-P, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11