

Aspect of assessment obligations	European Legislation				International Conventions				UK Legislation				Policies / Policy Instruments			
	Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)	Habitats Directive (HD)	Birds Directive (BD)	Water Framework Directive (WFD)	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	OSPAR Convention	Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)	UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)	Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA)	Conservation of Seals Act (CSA)	Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA)	Marine (Scotland) Act (MSA)	High Level Marine Objectives (HLMOs)	Government Vision for the marine environment	Marine Policy Statement (MPS)	EU Biodiversity Strategy (EUBS)
High-level aspirations	Achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) in marine waters by 2020 - 11 qualitative GES descriptors; D1, 2, 4, 6 directly relate to biodiversity	Maintain or restore natural habitats and species of Community interest to Favourable Conservation Status (FCS). Establish Natura 2000 network of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state. Provisions for protection, management and control of these species & rules for their exploitation, including establishing special protection areas (SPAs)	Protect, enhance and restore all bodies of surface water...with the aim of achieving good surface water status (including Good Ecological Status) by 2015 at the latest	Conserve biological diversity, ensure sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources...	Prevent and eliminate pollution, protect the OSPAR maritime area against the adverse effects of human activities so as to safeguard human health and conserve marine ecosystems and, when practicable, restore marine areas which have been adversely affected OSPAR's five thematic strategies: 1. Biological Diversity and Ecosystem Strategy 2. Eutrophication Strategy 3. Hazardous Substances Strategy 4. Offshore Industry Strategy 5. Radioactive Substances Strategy	Conserve migratory species, especially those which are endangered or at unfavourable conservation status. Cooperate to provide necessary steps to conserve such species and their habitats. Conclude Agreements between range states to conserve migratory species listed on Annex II	Provide law and order in the world's oceans and seas. Protect and preserve the marine environment and exploit resources in accordance with this. Prevent, reduce and control marine pollution.	Provide protection for all wild birds. Protect those species of plant and animal listed on Schedules 5 & 8 of the Act. Designate SSSI / ASSIs and Marine Nature Reserves (MNRs).	Conserve and protect UK seal species. Licences for killing etc can be granted in certain circumstances	Define objectives for marine conservation (amongst other things such as marine activities, management authorities, fisheries and coastal access). Designate Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) to contribute to an ecologically coherent network of MPAs	Help ensure clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse marine and coastal environments, managed to meet the long term needs of both nature and people, by putting in place a new system for improved management and protection of the marine and coastal environment in Scotland. Repeals the Conservation of Seals Act in Scotland	Achieve a sustainable marine economy Ensure a strong, healthy and just society Live within environmental limits Promote good governance Use sound science responsibly	Achieve clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas. Within one generation to have made a real difference by building on the progress already made	Framework for new marine planning systems. Provide the high level policy context within which national and sub-national Marine Plans will be developed, implemented, monitored, amended and ensure appropriate consistency in marine planning across the UK marine area. The MPS also sets the direction for marine licensing and other relevant authorisation systems, supports sustainable development and the UK Government Vision.	Reverse biodiversity loss and speed up the EU's transition towards a resource efficient and green economy. By 2030, EU biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides – its natural capital – are protected, valued and appropriately restored for biodiversity's intrinsic value and for their essential contribution to human wellbeing and economic prosperity, and so that catastrophic changes caused by the loss of biodiversity are avoided.
Assessment requirement	Article 8 - 'In respect of each marine region or subregion, MSs shall make an initial assessment of their marine waters...' Article 17 - '...MSs shall review... their marine strategies every six years after their initial establishment...'	Article 17 - 'Every six years ... MSs shall draw up a report on the implementation of the measures taken under this Directive...'	Article 12(1) - 'MSs shall... report on the implementation of national provisions taken under this Directive'	Article 13(1) - 'MSs shall ensure that a river basin management plan is produced for each river basin district lying entirely within their territory.'	Article 26 - 'Each CP shall... present to the Conference of the Parties (COP), reports on measures which it has taken for the implementation of the provisions of this Convention and their effectiveness in meeting the objectives of this Convention'.	Article 6 - 'CPs shall... (a) Undertake and publish at regular intervals joint assessments of the quality status of the marine environment and of its development, for the maritime area or for regions or sub-regions thereof.'	Article VI - '...Parties which are Range States for migratory species... should inform the COP... at least six months prior to each ordinary meeting of the Conference, on measures that they are taking to implement the provisions of this Convention for these species'.	Article 206 - 'When States have reasonable grounds for believing that planned activities under their jurisdiction... may cause substantial pollution of or significant and harmful changes to the marine environment, they shall, as far as practicable, assess the potential effects of such activities on the marine environment...'	Part I, section 24 - 'The conservation bodies, acting through JNCC... may at any time and shall five years after 30th October 1991 and every five years thereafter, review Schedules 5 and 8'. The Act does not stipulate any requirement to assess the status of SSSIs.	None stipulated within the Act. However, section 13 of the Act specifies that 'the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) shall provide the Secretary of State with scientific advice on matters related to the management of seal populations'	Section 124 - 'Before the end of every relevant period... the appropriate authority must lay before the appropriate legislature (Parliament, Welsh National Assembly, Scottish Parliament) a report...'	Section 103 - 'Before the end of each relevant period... Scottish Ministers must lay before the Parliament a report...'	None formally identified	Chapter 1 of Safeguarding our Seas (2002) - UK Government will 'develop our environmental monitoring framework and produce a first integrated assessment of our seas in 2004' (i.e. Charting Progress. Charting Progress 2 (CP2) produced in 2010)	None formally identified	None formally identified
Geographic scope	Member State (MS) waters from baseline (transitional waters excluded) out to Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) & including extended continental shelf, where claimed, & WFD coastal waters	EU territory of MSs. For marine waters, MS waters from baseline out to EEZs & including extended continental shelf, where claimed, and WFD transitional & coastal waters	European territory of the MSs of the EU	All bodies of water within the European territory of the MSs of the EU. Coastal waters extend out to 1nm (3nm in Scotland) from baseline (mean high water spring)	Within the limits of national jurisdiction of 193 Contracting Parties globally	North East Atlantic (NEA) maritime area (15 Governments of the Western coasts of Europe)	116 Contracting Parties & across range states of any migratory species i.e. 'any State that exercises jurisdiction over any part of the range of that migratory species...'	Across the territorial seas of coastal states out to 12nm from the baseline (low water line) of 157 Contracting Parties	Territories of England, Wales & Scotland out to 12nm for schedules 5 & 8. MNRs can be designated out to 3nm and SSSIs designated down to low water mark	Territories of England and Wales, including their territorial waters out to 12nm	Mean High Water Spring (MHWS) tide level out to the limits of the UK Marine Area (continental shelf). Northern Irish and Scottish inshore waters are excluded from MCZ provisions	Scottish inshore waters (all nature conservation functions in the Scottish offshore area fall under the MCAA)	UK marine area	UK marine area	UK marine area	European territory of the Member States of the European Community
Reporting scale	EU marine region scale (i.e. Baltic Sea, North-East Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea) or sub-region scale	Entire feature scale within MS. Five biogeographic regions are also used for reporting by the EC: Atlantic, Macronesian, Mediterranean, Black Sea & Baltic Sea	MS scale. Composite EU scale report is then produced by the Commission	Reporting of river basin management plans for each water body is carried out at the river basin district scale	Contracting Party scale	NEA area or its regions: Region I – Arctic Waters Region II – Greater North Sea Region III – Celtic Seas Region IV – Bay of Biscay & Iberian Coast Region V – Wider Atlantic	Contracting Party scale	UN Regular Process reporting scale is not yet defined.	Feature within a site scale for SSSIs. Subsequently site assessments can be aggregated to give national scale assessments	Reporting is at UK scale. However, information is also provided at the country level i.e. England, Wales, Scotland and also for the main colonies within countries	Reporting at site scale and also across the network as a whole	Reporting at site scale and also across the network as a whole	N/A	CP2 assessment used 8 UK marine regions: 1. Northern North Sea 2. Southern North Sea 3. Eastern Channel 4. Western Channel & Celtic Sea 5. Irish Sea 6. Minches & Western Scotland 7. Scottish Continental Shelf 8. Atlantic North-West Approaches	N/A	Not defined as yet
Biological scope (species and habitats)	All EU marine biodiversity (Table 1 Annex III)	Natural habitats & species listed on Annexes I, II, IV & V	All species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state (Annexes I, II & III)	Biological quality elements: Phytoplankton Angiosperms (e.g. Saltmarsh / seagrass) Macroalgae Benthic invertebrate fauna Fish fauna (except in coastal waters)	All biological diversity	All habitats and species of the NEA maritime area: Fish Cetaceans Seals Seabirds Rock & biogenic reef habitats Shallow sediment habitats Shelf sediment habitats Deep sea habitats Threatened and declining species	Migratory species listed on Appendix I and II (appendix I - species at risk of extinction, appendix II - species at unfavourable conservation status)	Primarily applicable to vulnerable, rare or declining marine habitats & species across global oceans & seas. Part V also specifically promotes cooperation to conserve highly migratory species (listed on Annex I of the Convention), marine mammals & anadromous & catadromous fish species	Animals and plants listed on Schedules 5 & 8. Any aspect of biodiversity can be designated as an SSSI if it is of 'special interest'	Two species of seal which live and breed in UK waters, the grey seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>) and the harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>); also referred to as the common seal). Other seal species which occasionally occur in UK waters are also covered by the Act.	An MCZ can be created for the purposes of conserving: a) Marine flora or fauna; b) Marine habitats or types of marine habitat; or c) Features of geological or geomorphological interest.	MPAs can be created for the purposes of: 1. conserving marine flora or fauna, 2. conserving a. marine habitats or types of such habitat, b. features of geological or geomorphological interest. Nature Conservation MPAs are most relevant	N/A	All marine biodiversity: plankton & microbes fish seals cetacean marine birds intertidal rock intertidal sediment subtidal rock shallow subtidal sediment shelf subtidal sediment	N/A	All biological diversity
Reporting cycle frequency	July 2012 (initial assessment) and every 6 years thereafter	Every 6 years - next reporting in 2013	Every 6 years - next reporting in 2013	15 years after Directive enters into force (2015) and then every 6 years - next reporting in 2015	Intervals determined by the Conference Of the Parties (COP) - next reporting in 2014	Regular intervals. Quality Status Reports (QSR) produced in 1987, 1993, 2000 and 2010	Every 3 years - next reporting in 2014	First reporting under the UN 'Regular Process' in 2014	Review of Schedules 5 & 8 every 5 years - next review in 2013. Assessment of SSSIs every 6 years - next reporting depends on when feature/site was last assessed	Annually - next reporting in 2013	Every 6 years - first reporting due December 2012	Every 6 years - first reporting due December 2012	N/A	At regular intervals - next reporting currently unknown	N/A	Not defined as yet
Baselines used	OSPAR (Regional Convention coordinating MSFD implementation) Guidance - ideal baseline is reference conditions in line with prevailing physiographic, geographic and climatic conditions (in line with GES Descriptor 1)	EC Guidance - favourable reference values. Concept of 'viability for range & area (habitats) or range and pop size (species)'. Can use a 1994 baseline (UK) or use historical data, where appropriate	Agreed baseline of c.1979 for all MSs (or as near to that date as data is available)	Directive text - baseline is conditions which are not, or are only minimally, anthropogenically impacted i.e. Reference conditions. Reference conditions are specified for each water body / habitat type	Varied baselines used. Decision X/2 notes the need for baselines to be articulated for several targets within the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity	No baseline identified within the OSPAR Convention. EcoQOs use varied baselines. Threatened or declining habitats/species use historic, recent or current baseline. QSR assessment uses former natural conditions as baseline	No baseline identified within the CMS. UK has used baselines under the HD for species also listed on that Directive	Not yet defined. The UN Regular Process of assessment is currently under development	No baseline identified within the Act. Common Standards Monitoring (CSM) for protected sites suggests a current baseline should be used if current condition is viable in the long term	Variety of baselines used depending on when data is first available	None defined within the Act	None defined within the Act	N/A	Highly varied baselines used across different biological components used for CP2 assessment	N/A	Not defined as yet. However, it is stated that EU 2010 biodiversity baseline will be a key component of the assessment framework
Assessment Status classes	Two classes are articulated within the Directive: GES and sub-GES	EU Guidance identifies three classes: Favourable Unfavourable-inadequate Unfavourable-bad	No status classes identified within the Directive or guidance	Five ecological status classes are articulated within the Directive: High, Good, Moderate, Poor, Bad Two chemical status classes are identified: Good, not good	No status classes are identified within the CBD. UK implementation uses the indicator classes: improving, little or no change, deteriorating, insufficient data	No status classes are identified within the Convention. Three assessment classes are used in the QSR: Good, Moderate, Poor	Two status classes are articulated within the Convention: Favourable conservation status and unfavourable conservation status	Status classes are not yet defined under the UN Regular Process. The integrated assessment will likely build on other large scale assessment processes undertaken within the chosen global regions. Seven condition classes for SSSIs are identified under CSM: Favourable - maintained Favourable - recovered Unfavourable - recovering Unfavourable - no change Unfavourable - declining Partially destroyed Destroyed	No status classes defined within the Act	No status classes defined within the Act.	No status classes defined within the Act.	No status classes defined within the Act.	N/A	No status classes are defined within the vision. Four classes are used within the CP2 assessment: Few or no problems Some problems Many problems Lack of evidence/robust assessment criteria (Plus an assessment of trends and confidence)	N/A	Status classes are not defined as yet
Assessment Criteria	See Commission Decision 2010/477/EU for criteria under D1, 2, 4 & 6. For example, under D1 for habitats assessment criteria are: habitat distribution, habitat extent, habitat condition. For species: species distribution, pop size, pop condition	Assessment criteria (termed 'parameters') are identified within the Directive text. For habitats: habitat range, habitat area, structure & functions, future prospects For species: species range, population size & condition, habitat for the species, future prospects	New reporting guidance identifies the assessment criteria: - Population size - Population trend - Breeding distribution & range size - Breeding range trend - Progress on implementation of action/management plans - Main pressures & threats - SPA coverage & conservation measures taken	The Directive identifies the following assessment criteria for the biological elements - Phytoplankton: Composition, Abundance, Biomass Angiosperms: Composition, Abundance Macroalgae: Composition, Abundance Benthic invertebrates: Composition, Diversity, Disturbance sensitive taxa, Pollution indicative taxa, Abundance Fish fauna: Composition, Abundance (transitional only)	No criteria are identified within the CBD. However, the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan articulates five strategic goals (e.g. Goal C: Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity) which may be described as high level criteria to assess the effective implementation of the Convention	The OSPAR QSR uses the following assessment criteria: Habitats - range, extent, condition. Species - range, population size, condition	Article 1 of the Convention describes the criteria used to determine favourable conservation status of migratory species: 1. Population dynamics and viability 2. Species range 3. Habitat for the species 4. Distribution and abundance of the species	Assessment criteria are not yet defined under the UN Regular Process. The integrated assessment will likely build on other large scale assessment processes undertaken within the chosen global regions	Section 22 of the Act defines the specific criteria which must apply for a species to be listed on Schedule 5 or 8. No formal criteria exist to assess the status of SSSIs	No assessment criteria are formally defined in the Act but the Government advice report identifies these important aspects of the status of seal populations: 1. Population size 2. Age structure of the population 3. Survival rates within the population	No assessment criteria are defined within the Act or guidance	No assessment criteria are defined within the Act or guidance	N/A	The assessment criteria used are highly varied across different biological components	N/A	No assessment criteria have been defined as yet

Criterion targets	No criterion level targets are formally defined within the Directive. At the UK implementation level, Criterion level targets exist for biodiversity descriptors of GES. See Defra public consultation document 2012 for the exhaustive list	Article 1 of the Directive broadly defines FCS targets for each of the 'parameters' used to assess habitats and species. EU Guidance (May 2011) provides more detailed target matrices for these parameters	No criterion targets are formally identified within the Directive. However, Article 2 articulates - 'MSs shall... maintain the population of the species... at a level which corresponds in particular to ecological, scientific and cultural requirements, while taking account of economic and recreational requirements, or to adapt the population of these species to that level'	Annex V, Table 1.2 and sections 1.2.3, 1.2.4 of the Directive articulate the normative definitions (targets) of High, Good & Moderate status for quality elements of coastal and transitional waters	The Strategic Plan identifies 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2015 or 2020 - Contracting Parties can set their own targets within this flexible framework	Table A2.1 and A3.1 of OSPAR Commission, 2009, Report of the Utrecht Workshop - Regional Assessment defines % targets for each of the criteria used in the QSR regional assessment process	Article 1 of the Convention articulates the following criterion level targets: 1. Species is viable in the long term 2. Range is neither currently being reduced, nor is likely to be reduced in the long term; 3. There is sufficient habitat to maintain the population on a long-term basis; and 4. Distribution & abundance of the migratory species approach historic coverage and levels...'	Criterion targets are not yet defined under the UN Regular Process. The integrated assessment will likely build on other large scale assessment processes undertaken within the chosen global regions.	For a species to be listed on Schedule 5 or 8, a 50% decline in population, number of localities or range over 20 years or a projected / inferred decline of 50% is required (therefore the target is for no species to reach this limit). No criterion targets exist for SSSI assessment	No criterion targets are formally identified within the Act	No criterion targets are formally identified. However, the Act articulates that the MCZ network will be assessed in terms of the following high level targets: a) the network contributes to the conservation/improvement of the marine environment in the UK marine area; b) the features which are protected by the sites comprised in the network represent the range of features present in the UK marine area; c) the designation of sites comprised in the network reflects the fact that the conservation of a feature may require the designation of more than one site	No criterion targets are formally identified. However, the Act articulates that the MCZ network will be assessed in terms of the following high level targets: a) the network contributes to the conservation/improvement of the marine environment in the UK marine area; b) the features which are protected by the sites comprised in the network represent the range of features present in the UK marine area; c) the designation of sites comprised in the network reflects the fact that the conservation of a feature may require the designation of more than one site	N/A	The vision does not identify any criterion level targets. However, the following criterion level targets are used within the CP2 assessment for benthic habitats: Total area of habitat impacted = ≤ 10% - limited area impacted > 10-25% - moderate area impacted > 25% - large area impacted Various criterion level targets are used in CP2 across different species components	N/A	The EUBS identifies six high level targets: 1: Fully implement the Birds & Habitats Directives 2: Maintain & Restore Ecosystems & their Services 3: Increase the contribution of Agriculture & Forestry to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity 4: Ensure the sustainable use of fisheries Resources 5: Combat Invasive Alien Species (IAS) 6: Help Avert Global biodiversity loss
Assessment Indicators (attributes)	No indicators are identified within the Directive. However, see the European Commission Decision on criteria and methodological standards on GES for marine waters (2010/477/EU) for indicators. Also, the HBDEG advice to Defra (2011) describes the detailed biodiversity indicators proposed at a UK level to meet the requirements of the Commission Decision. A common set of indicators is in the process of being agreed at an OSPAR level	No indicators are defined within the Directive or EU Guidance. The UK approach to undertaking assessments under the HD includes Common Standards Monitoring (CSM) for protected sites. This guidance identifies potential indicators for assessing habitats and species, termed 'attributes'	No indicators are identified within the Directive	No indicators are identified within the Directive. However, classification tools (indicators) are determined through intercalibration across MSs. The UK WFD Technically Advisory Group (TAG) recommends certain classification tools for assessing ecological status	Indicators for the CBD are being developed within the remit of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technology Advice (SBSTTA). UK Indicators (Biodiversity Indicators in Your Pocket) in use include (marine): 1a. Populations of breeding seabirds 3. UK BAP priority species 4. UK BAP Priority habitats 6. Protected areas 9. Sustainable fisheries 11. Invasive species 13. Marine ecosystem integrity (size of fish in the North Sea)	There are nine current North Sea EcoQOs: 1. Seal population trends 2. By-catch of harbour porpoises 3. Spawning stock biomass of commercial fish stocks 4. Proportion of large fish in the community 5. Occurrence of eutrophication 6. Level of imposex in dogwhelks and other marine gastropods 7. Proportion of oiled common guillemots 8. Levels of hazardous substances in seabird eggs 9. Levels of plastic particles in fulmar stomachs Several more are under development	No indicators are identified within the CMS. Any indicators used to assess conservation status will be specific to the species and Agreement between range states	Indicators are not yet defined under the UN Regular Process. The integrated assessment will likely build on other large scale assessment processes undertaken within the chosen global regions	No indicators are defined within the Act. However, CSM guidance does identify attributes for each SSSI feature type which together can describe the feature condition e.g. Extent, biotope composition, distribution of biotopes For Harbour Seals: Survey counts of individuals Female age structure Pup survival rates in Orkney and Scottish West Coast	The Government advice report identifies the following indicators for the assessment of Grey Seal status: Pup production Female age structure Adult female survival Individual fecundity For Harbour Seals: Survey counts of individuals Female age structure Pup survival rates in Orkney and Scottish West Coast	The Act stipulates several 'indicators' of conservation status and effective management of MCZs e.g. Number of sites designated. For the assessment of site features themselves, the MCZ Project Conservation Objective Guidance suggests draft attributes which could be used to assess condition e.g. extent, species composition	The Act stipulates several 'indicators' of conservation status and effective management of Nature Conservation MPAs e.g. Number of sites designated. Site specific attributes of condition will need to be developed to assess features within MPAs through the Scottish National Marine Plan	N/A	The use of indicators within the CP2 assessment is highly varied across different biological components. Indicators are most well developed for fish and plankton communities See the CP2 Healthy and Biologically Diverse Seas Evidence Group (HBDEG) Feeder Report (2010) for more details of indicators used	N/A	No indicators are identified as yet but it is mentioned that the 26 SEBI (Streamlining Europe's Biodiversity Indicators) EU biodiversity indicators will form a key component of the monitoring, assessment and reporting framework under the 2020 strategy
Indicator targets / thresholds	No indicator targets are identified within the Directive or guidance. Within the regional OSPAR coordination and UK implementation processes, targets are being identified and agreed for indicators	No indicator targets are identified within the Directive or guidance	No indicator targets are identified within the Directive or guidance	Class boundaries (thresholds) are determined through intercalibration across MSs within Geographic Intercalibration Groups (GIGs)	Some indicator targets have been identified at a UK level but many still under development or are articulated as trends over time	Each EcoQO has an associated target value for the North Sea region only	No indicator targets are identified within the CMS. Any indicator targets used to assess conservation status will be specific to the species and Agreement between range states.	No indicator targets are defined under the UN Regular Process. The integrated assessment will likely build on other large scale assessment processes undertaken within the chosen global regions.	Indicator / attribute targets should be site specific and should aim to maintain current condition (if this is considered to be favourable)	No indicator targets are defined within the Act or guidance	Targets are to achieve the site specific conservation objectives for the features	Targets are to achieve the site specific conservation objectives for the features	N/A	Indicator targets are not yet in use for many aspects (except fish) of biodiversity as assessed under CP2	N/A	No indicator targets are defined as yet
Aggregation rules	Aggregation rules are not yet determined but aggregation is likely to be required across indicators within each criterion	Spatial aggregation rules used to produce biogeographic scale assessments from MS information. Aggregation is required across criteria for each individual feature	Spatial aggregation rules will be required in order to produce EU scale reports. Rules are not yet defined for the next reporting round in 2013	No spatial aggregation is required. Aggregation is required across all quality elements for each water body	No formal aggregation rules exist	No spatial aggregation is required. Assessment of the broadly defined biological components is based on aggregated response of the majority of subcomponents for each biological component	No aggregation rules are required. Assessments are made per species at a National scale	Aggregation rules are not yet defined under the UN Regular Process. The integrated assessment will likely build on other large scale assessment processes undertaken within the chosen global regions.	Spatial aggregation rules are required to produce site level assessments from SSSI units. Attributes for each feature are aggregated to produce a feature assessment	No aggregation rules are required	No aggregation rules are defined	No aggregation rules are defined	N/A	For CP2, spatial aggregation rules were used to determine the total area impacted for each broadscale benthic habitat within each regional sea and to aggregate from 11 regions (for benthic habitats) to 8 regions.	N/A	No aggregation rules are defined
Overall assessment approach	Assessment approach is not yet determined but it is unlikely to be a one-out-all-out approach	One-out-all-out approach across all criteria for each feature	Assessment approach is not yet defined	One-out-all-out approach across all quality elements for a water body	Assessment of each individual target is done at the national level. Details need to be finalised for next reporting rounds	Precautionary approach across all criteria (worst case scenario)	One-out-all-out approach across all criteria for each species	Assessment approach is not yet defined under the UN Regular Process. The integrated assessment will likely build on other large scale assessment processes undertaken within the chosen global regions.	One-out-all-out approach across feature attributes in line with CSM guidance	No formal status assessment is required, therefore, no approach exists	Assessment approach is not yet defined	Assessment approach is not yet defined	N/A	Approach is to assess the extent of the pressures and/or impacts from human activities on each biodiversity component	N/A	Assessment approach is not yet defined