



Comparison of the *conservation status assessment* and the *indicator-based integrated biodiversity assessment*

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FCS vs GES: differences in approach

- *Favourable Conservation status*
 - *status of population* for birds
 - Limited to Annex species
 - Predefined assessment parameters (indicators)
- *Good Environmental Status*
 - All marine biodiversity considered
 - Assessment at 3 ecological levels
 - Com. Dec. D1 indicators structured under 7 GES criteria
 - Flexible choice of final indicator list



Outcome levels

- FCS: 3 levels
 - Favourable
 - Unfavourable – inadequate
 - Unfavourable - bad
- GES: 2 levels
 - GES
 - Non-GES



Thresholds

- FCS
 - Favourable reference values (range, population, area)
- GES
 - Reference Condition and acceptable deviation
 - GES boundary value (interval of values)
 - ...
- Difficulties setting the targets



Area assessment

- FCS
 - intended for drawing conclusions on species and habitats separately, not on assessment areas
 - summary statistics provide the basis for comparison of assessment areas
- MSFD
 - intended for drawing conclusions whether the assessed area is in GES or not
 - No strict guidelines for evaluation

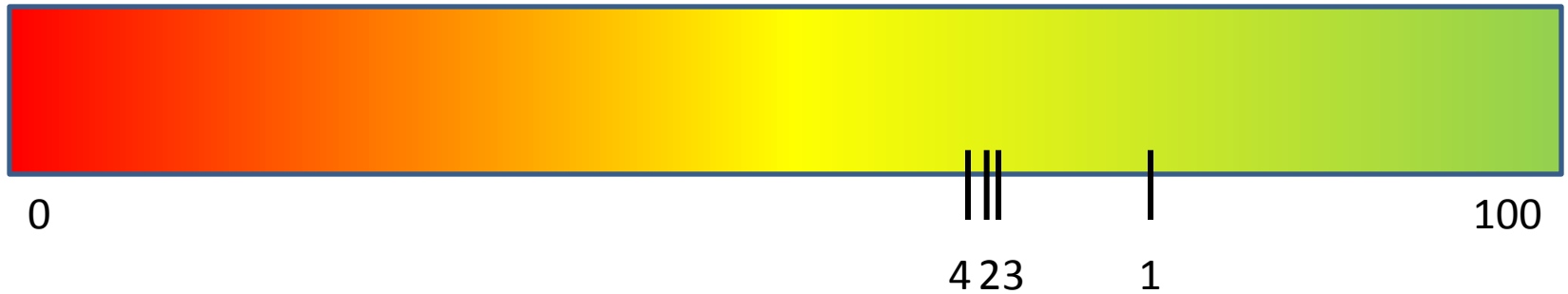
Comparison of assessment results

	GES assessment					FCS assessment		
Project area	Score	Uncertainty 1 (high) to 3 (low)	No. of indicators assessed	No. of biological features covered	No. of criteria covered	Score	Proportion of objects with known status	No. of species and habitats assessed
Gulf of Riga (1EST-LAT)	66	3	44	9	7	74	82	33
Hanö Bight (2SWE)	87	2	27	5	4	65	77	22
Coastal area of SW Finland (3FIN)	38	2	11	5	4	66	89	18
Gulf of Finland (4FIN-EST)	29	3	12	4	2	63	36	11

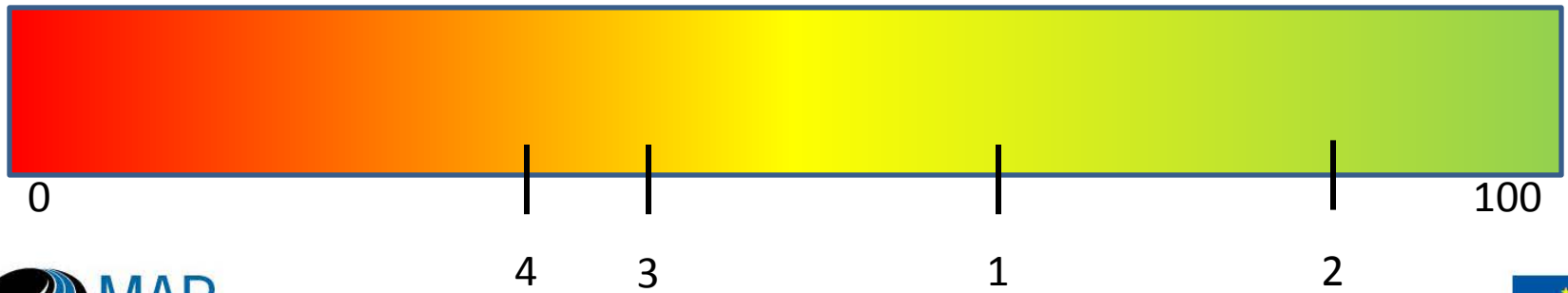


The effect of the number of factor levels

FCS

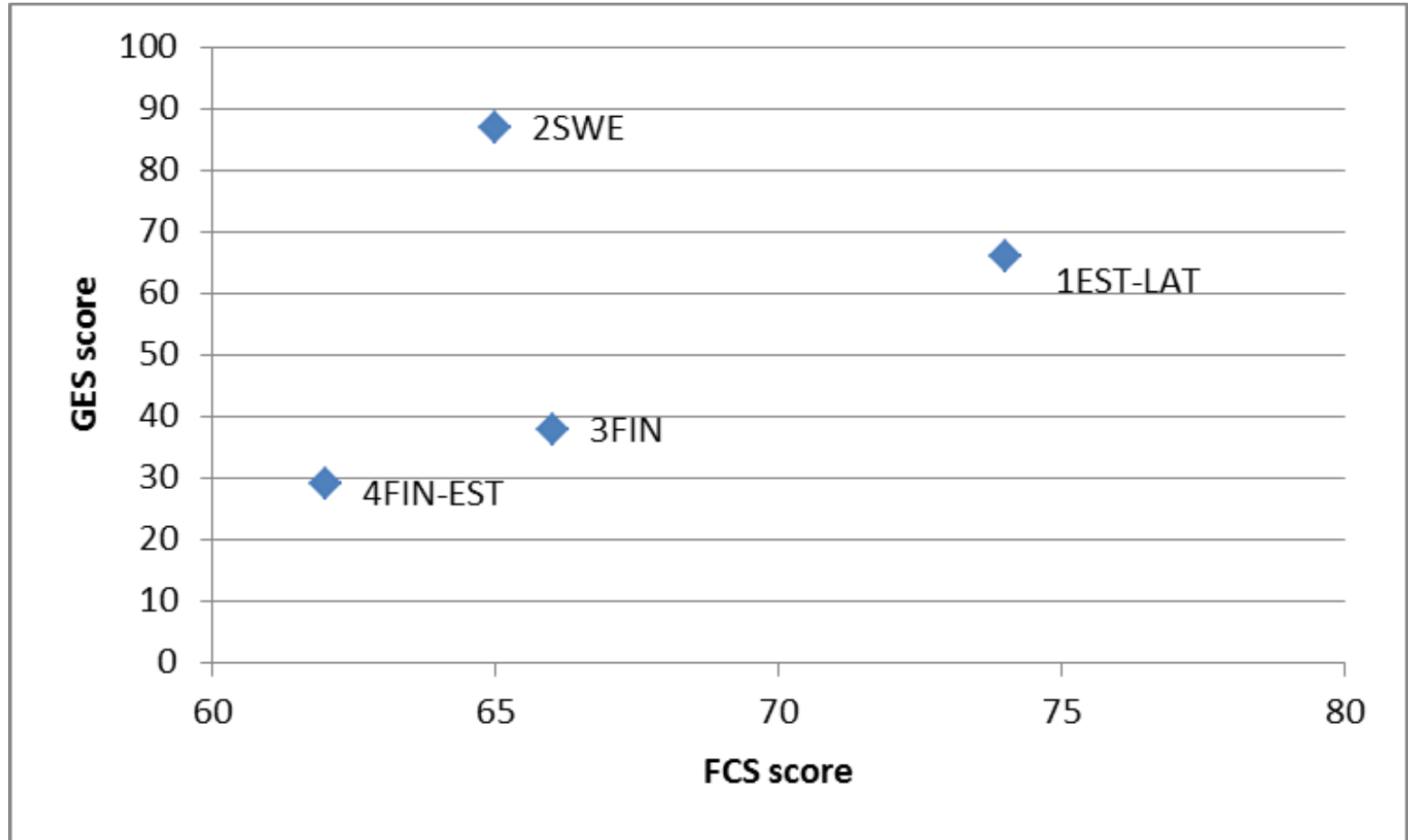


GES



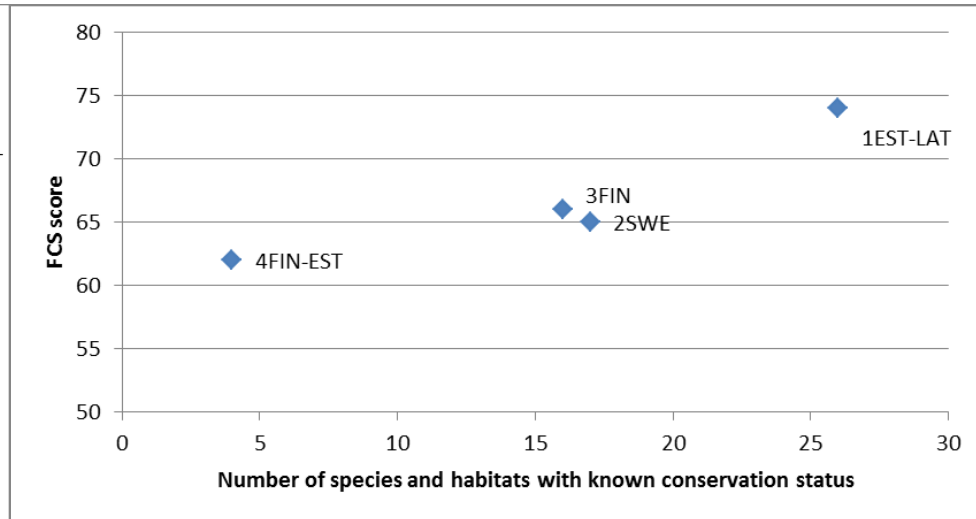
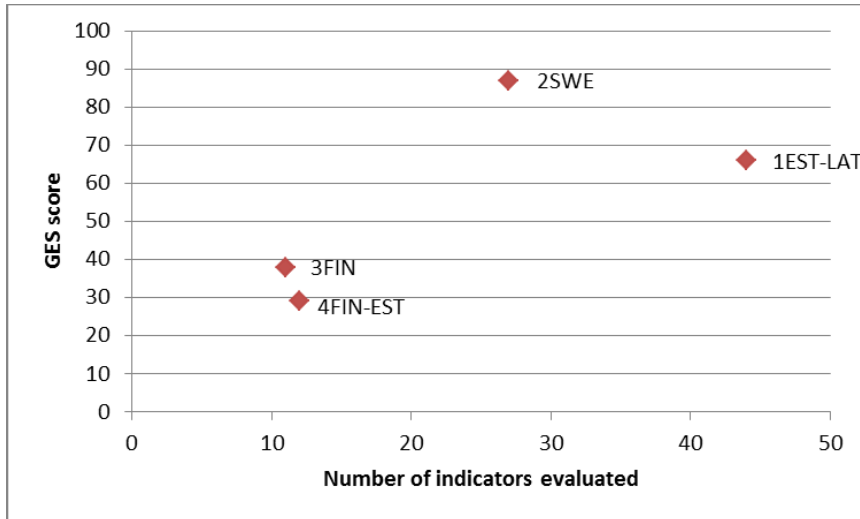


FCS vs GES scores





Number of indicators or species and habitats assessed





The effect of geographical delimitation on the assessment results

- FCS (HD and BD)
 - typically carried out at national scale
- GES (MSFD)
 - typically carried out for marine regions or sub-regions falling into the EEZ waters of the countries



The effect of geographical delimitation on the assessment results

- No methodological problems for assessments at different scale
 - Data availability at a particular scale
- No methodological problems for transboundary assessments
 - representing the biodiversity on both sides of the border
 - For FCS: no data on one side = no data for assessment
 - For GES: possibility to grade the spatial representativeness of each indicator facilitates the utilisation of data that does not cover the whole



Conclusions

- The parameters used for the FCS assessment were often similar or originated from the same data sources as those used in the GES assessment, and vice-versa. **Thus monitoring programmes established to ensure sufficient data availability to comply with the reporting requirements under one directive can make an important contribution for the collecting of data compliant also with the reporting requirements of another directive**
- Using a more complete list of indicators (for GES) with high confidence scores or species and habitats (for FCS) with known status ensures a more reliable outcome of the assessments



Conclusions

- We did not encounter any methodological problems in applying the indicator-based integrated biodiversity assessment and the conservation status assessment at the project area scale.

However, if the availability of data is not considered when selecting the geographical scale of the assessment, a lack of representative data could make the result of the assessment biased and unreliable.



Conclusions

- Both methodologies of biodiversity assessment can be applied for cross-border areas.

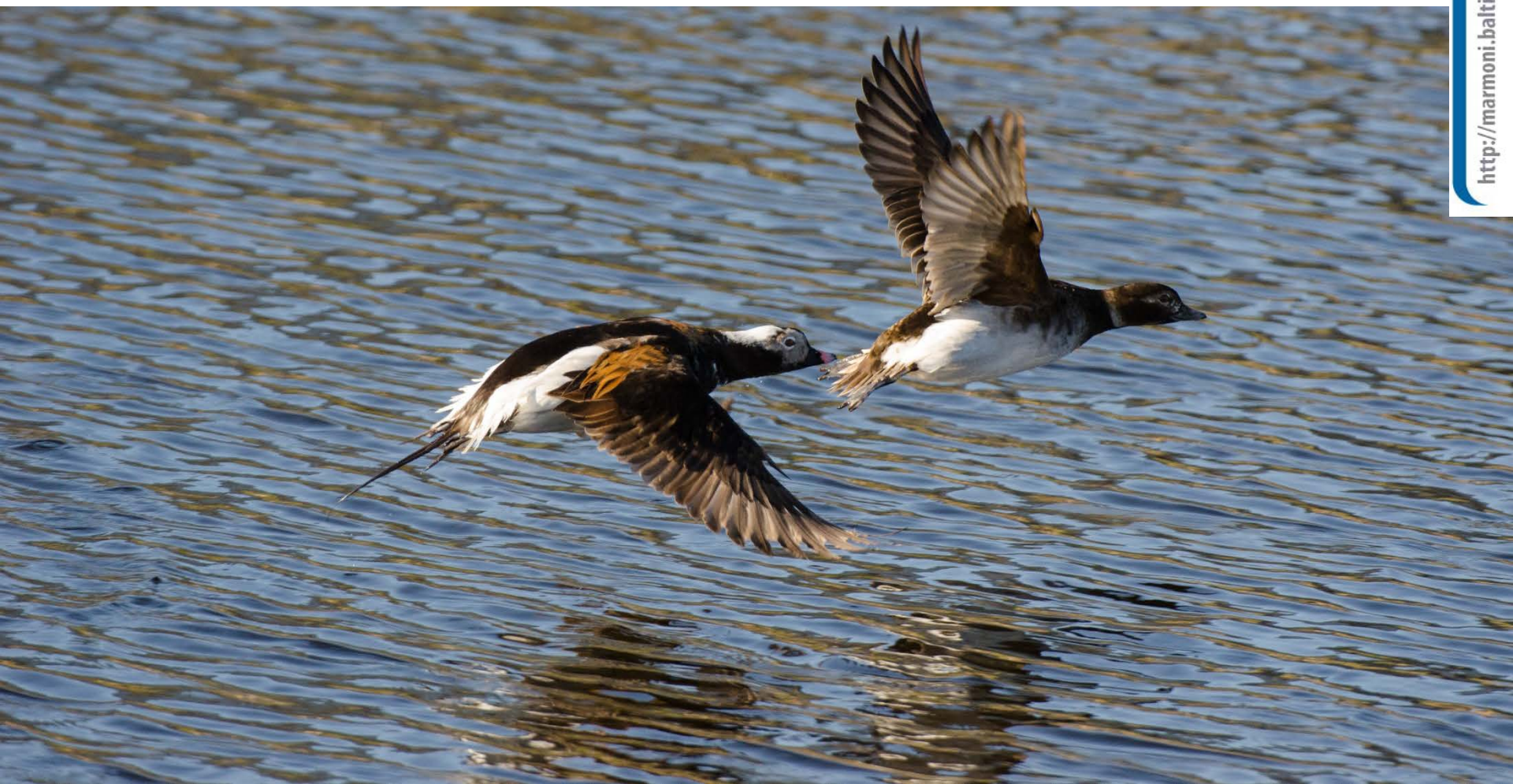
However, for the FCS assessment, a lack of data for a specific parameter on one side of a country border within the assessment area results in an “unknown” conservation status for the parameter in question for the whole assessment area.

The methodology for the GES assessment is more robust in this regard since the indicators to be used as input are not strictly defined and can be adjusted according to the availability of data.



Thank you!

<http://marmoni.balticseaportal.net>



Innovative approaches for marine biodiversity monitoring and assessment of conservation status of nature values in the Baltic Sea