

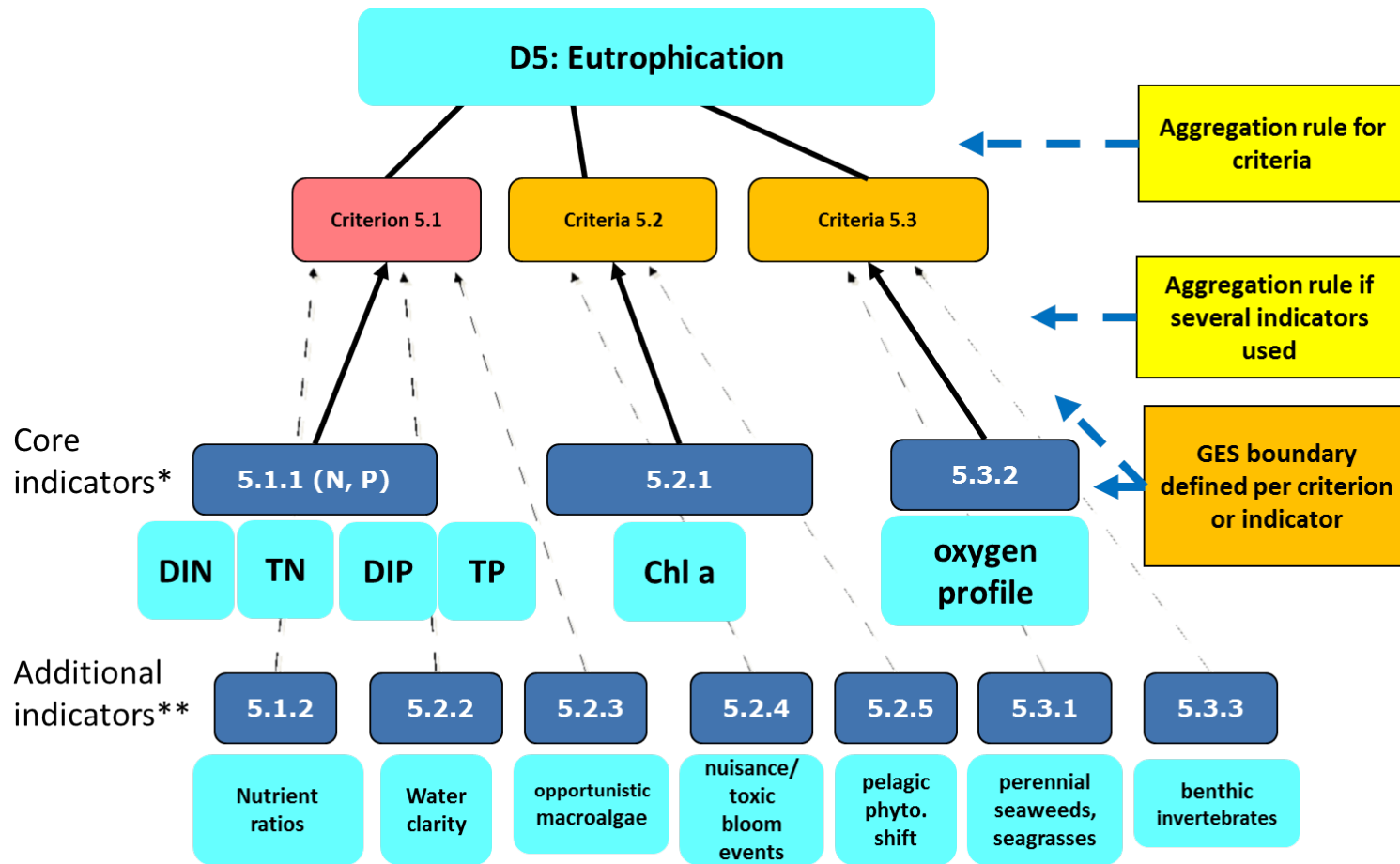
Brief overview of the outcome of the JRC Descriptor 5 workshop to support the review process of the Commission Decision

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Background of the revision process

- Commission Decision 2010/477/EU concerns MSFD criteria for assessing good environmental status
- First MSFD reporting round on Articles 8, 9, and 10 has shown a lack of coherence between MS in defining good environmental status
- Review and possible revision of this decision has been decided
- Aim is a simpler and clearer Commission Decision that is self-explanatory and coherent with other EU legislation (e.g. WFD)
- Review in particular aims to define GES criteria more precisely, including setting quantifiable boundaries for the GES criteria where possible and specifications and standardised methods for GES assessment in particular as regards temporal and spatial aggregation
- JRC was among others responsible for the descriptor 5 “eutrophication”
- Expert network with eutrophication experts from MS has been established working mainly through correspondence and a workshop in September 2015 in Ispra

Results of the Ispra Workshop relevant to the Ecostat Nutrient work – 1) nutrients as core indicators



* Core indicators are EU-wide mandatory to assess D5; ** Additional indicators reflect regional specificities as prescribed by RSCs

Results of the Ispra Workshop relevant to the Ecostat nutrient work – 2) how to handle coastal waters where WFD and MSFD overlap

- Debate: is the WFD assessment of ecological status sufficient for the assessment of D5 under the MSFD?
- No consensus was reached – two approaches possible
 - Direct reuse of WFD assessment for eutrophication in the context of MSFD
 - Use of WFD data/indicators/good-moderate boundaries to complement the MSFD indicators, but different aggregation rules to assess criteria and Descriptor (i.e. re-assessment for MSFD)

OSPAR COMP („Common Procedure“)

	Category I Degree of nutrient enrichment Nutrient inputs Winter DIN and DIP Winter N/P ratio	Category II Direct effects Chlorophyll <i>a</i> Phytoplankton indicator species Macrophytes	Categories III and IV Indirect effects/other possible effects Oxygen deficiency Changes/kills in zoobenthos, fish kills Organic carbon/matter Algal toxins	Initial Classification
a	+	+	+	problem area
	+	+	-	problem area
	+	-	+	problem area
b	-	+	+	problem area ¹
	-	+	-	problem area ¹
	-	-	+	problem area ¹
c	+	-	-	non-problem area ²
	+	?	?	Potential problem area
	+	?	-	Potential problem area
	+	-	?	Potential problem area
d	-	-	-	non-problem area

+) = Increased trends, elevated levels, shifts or changes in the respective assessment parameters in Table 2

-) = Neither increased trends nor elevated levels nor shifts nor changes in the respective assessment parameters in Table 2

? = Not enough data to perform an assessment or the data available is not fit for the purpose

Note: Categories I, II and/or III/IV are scored '+' in cases where one or more of its respective assessment parameters is showing an increased trend, elevated level, shift or change.

Results of the Ispra Workshop relevant to the Ecostat nutrient work – 3) Use of WFD quality standards in coastal waters and GES boundary determination in offshore waters

- Concerning the G/M boundaries applied for “eutrophication indicators” (including nutrients) under the WFD MS should preferably use these in coastal waters and extrapolate them along salinity gradients into the open sea to ensure coherence with the WFD G/M boundaries
- G/M boundaries established by the RSCs can be used as long as **a consistent level of ambition** with WFD is ensured

Thank you for listening