

## ICES Request Form

Request from	UK on behalf of Greater North Sea Basin Initiative (GNSBI) Nature Track
Contact within organisation	
Content contact person	
Request announced	15 October 2025
Request received	
Answer deadline client	April/May 2026
Request code (client)	2025_SR06_UK-GNSBI_Nature_Track
Request code (ICES)	
Request Title	Exploring existing indicators to track nature restoration progress across the Greater North Sea Basin
<p><b>Request to ICES</b></p> <p>This request is made by the UK on behalf of the Greater North Sea Basin Initiative (GNSBI) Nature Track, in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet the needs of all GNSBI member countries (BE, DK, FR, DE, IE, NL, NO, SE and UK);</li> <li>• Provide a basis for a common, sea basin approach to understanding progress towards nature restoration targets in GNSBI countries;</li> <li>• Make best use of existing indicators, avoid duplication of effort, build on previous work and other initiatives and to maximize efficiency in tracking restoration progress at a sea basin scale.</li> </ul> <p>We invite ICES to consider the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is it possible to identify a core set of existing indicators, common to all GNSBI countries, that could be used to track nature restoration progress at a sea basin scale? These could include indicators of active and passive restoration, environmental pressure or state, or process indicators, as appropriate and suitability for use in coastal, inshore (Mean High Water Spring to 12nm territorial limit) and offshore waters (beyond 12nm territorial limit up to 200nm). It would be helpful to understand which GNSBI countries are using identified indicators.</li> <li>2. Is there sufficient data (in terms of spatial and temporal resolution, and quality) to support the practical use of these indicators for restoration, through current monitoring and reporting processes?</li> <li>3. How might the properties of these indicators make them a suitable choice in the context of different reporting needs (such as national requirements, CBD Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, OSPAR or EU legislation).</li> <li>4. Where gaps are identified in suitable existing indicators to track restoration progress at a sea basin scale, can you signpost to ongoing work elsewhere that could help address these gaps (within or outside of the GNSBI area)?</li> </ol> <p>Please note that background and additional information is provided as a supplementary document to support the interpretation of this request.</p>	

It is envisaged it would be helpful to receive the output in the form of a report and a slide pack with online presentation of the key outcomes.

Planning ICES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Preparatory work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catalogue national, regional, and global marine restoration initiatives and obligations for the GNSBI countries.</li> <li>• Inventory of indicators for nature restoration using ICES and external sources including OSPAR as listed in supplementary document.</li> <li>• Survey on suite of indicators for reporting on restoration initiatives, recommendations and obligations. ICES will issue a survey/questionnaire to ICES member countries to collect information on envisaged indicators to use for nature restoration reporting.</li> <li>• Compile data received prior to the workshop</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Workshop on <i>Core Indicators for Marine Restoration in the Greater North Sea Basin (WKCORE-MAR GNS)</i> (TBD, march 2026) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify a set of core indicators, common to all GNSBI countries</li> <li>• Tabulated description of the set of core indicators including type of indicator, data availability, suitable scale of application and detected gaps</li> </ul>           Produce a workshop report </li> <li>3. Technical service using the data and results produced at the workshop.</li> </ol> <p>Release of the technical service: 01/052026</p>
Request (budget) accepted	
ICES contact person	
WG(s) involved	
Preparation timing	
Review group	NA
Advice drafting group	NA
ACOM Webex	NA
Release date	1 May 2026