



BALTSPOACE

Towards sustainable governance
of Baltic marine space
2015 – 2018

Reflections on issues of importance for MSP processes in the BSR – a university researcher perspective

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Assumptions based our research on marine governance & MSP

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- 1) MSP is a form of marine governance
- 2) Fundamentally challenging ('wicked')
 - Complexity of levels, actors, sectors, policies
 - Incertitude and knowledge-base
 - Ambiguity and disagreement
- 3) In MSP: Integration challenges
- 4) Context matters
- 5) Evaluation and adaptation: central and contentious



Reflections on issues of importance for MSP processes in the BSR

1. 'Now it is time for critical review'
 - Continuous **reflexivity, evaluation and learning** are fundamentally important – actively initiate and strengthen such processes in the WG and beyond; learning from other planning contexts

2. 'How to facilitate coherent national implementation?'
 - Clearly stated **ambitions** and criteria/methodology for **evaluation and follow-up** are vital – Development of regional 'guidelines'
 - **Coherence vs. context-adjustment?** – integrate in evaluation discussions
 - **Institutional capacity-building** – Identify capacity 'gaps', promote education and learning among countries, sectors etc.
 - **Ecosystem approach MSP vs. integrated use MSP:** Need to clarify the practical differences in various contexts



Reflections on issues of importance for MSP processes in the BSR (cont.)

3. 'Improvement in cooperation' 'Is *ad hoc* sufficient?'
 - Regional cooperation through **deliberation and learning** are vital – Incremental, reflexive & adaptive institutional development ('muddling through')
 - How to **build engagement** for regional MSP deliberation? – acknowledging the importance of stakeholder input and critique; focus on 'applications' and MSP challenges; combination of sectoral/issue-specific and cross-sectoral forums

4. 'Enhanced information exchange'
 - **Over-focus on quantitative descriptions?** – More focus on understanding through inter-disciplinarity, social sciences etc.
 - Identification and **coping with knowledge deficits**
 - **Relevance and applicability** of knowledge and advice – new 'post-normal science' processes for knowledge integration^{4/5}



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