



REGIONAL BALTIC MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING ROADMAP 2013-2020

Adopted by the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting on 3 October 2013. VASAB Ministerial Conference on 26 September 2014 committed to the implementation of the Roadmap.

PREAMBLE

AWARE of the high and rapidly increasing demand for maritime space and increasing multiple pressures on marine environment and resources.

RECALLING the HELCOM-VASAB Baltic Sea Broad-scale Maritime Spatial Planning Principles adopted by HELCOM and VASAB CSPD in 2010.

NOTING that the MSP Principles have been tested in 2010–2012 through projects, and that they have proven relevant and well suited.

RECOGNIZING the valuable work done by the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG since 2010 as a regional Baltic Sea platform on Maritime Spatial Planning.

TAKING NOTE of the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, VASAB Long Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region (LTP), the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and of the EU Integrated Maritime Policy and its goals of blue growth as well as the proposal by the European Commission for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal management (COM 2013 133 final), without prejudice to the outcome of the ongoing negotiations.

AWARE that the Baltic Sea countries are currently at a different stage of advancement in maritime spatial planning.

CONFIDENT that this roadmap will support the achievement of a wide range of HELCOM and VASAB goals and policies relevant to the Baltic Sea including VASAB Long Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region and HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan.

AWARE on the potential need for future revisions of the timetable indicated in this roadmap due to ongoing regional and European processes.

GOAL

Will make every effort to draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea Region by 2020 which are coherent across borders and apply the ecosystem approach.

NECESSARY STEPS

The following steps are perceived as necessary:

1. Intergovernmental cooperation on MSP

1.1 Cooperate in the field of MSP using *inter alia* the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG framework and thus facilitate reaching the target of drawing up and implementing transnationally coherent Maritime Spatial Plans applying the ecosystem approach throughout the region by 2020.

1.2 Take into consideration and cooperate upon global and European policy and regulatory developments related to MSP.

1.3 Draft and adopt by 2015 Baltic Sea regional “*Guidelines on transboundary consultations and cooperation in the field of MSP*”. These guidelines could address the initiation of the process, consultations, cooperation, institutional arrangements and time schedules as well as possibilities for preparing joint transboundary MSPs.

1.4 Coordinate the MSP related actions and projects, including those implemented within the framework of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and its Action Plan, noting the role of HELCOM and VASAB as the Horizontal Action Leaders for MSP.

2. Public participation

2.1 Draft and adopt by 2015 Baltic Sea regional “*Guidelines on public participation for MSP with transboundary dimensions*”. These guidelines should address means of public consultation and transparency of information.

3. Ecosystem approach in MSP

3.1 Draft and adopt by 2015 procedurally oriented Baltic Sea regional “*Guidelines on the application of Ecosystem Approach in transnationally coherent MSP*”.

4. Information and data for MSP

4.1 Identify by 2013 competent contact points for MSP for the purpose of transboundary consultation and joint planning.

4.2 Share basic, relevant and available MSP related information as soon as possible.

4.3 Promote the creation and sharing of MSP relevant Baltic Sea regional datasets.

4.4 While creating and sharing MSP related information and datasets utilize existing processes for sharing of spatial information including, for those Baltic Sea States who are EU member states, the implementation of the EU INSPIRE Directive (2007/2/EC).

4.5. Prepare a future oriented report by 2015 on marine and maritime activities and developments of Baltic Sea regional importance.

5. Education for MSP

5.1 Promote the education and professional development of MSP planners.

5.2 Initiate and draw lessons from practical sub-regional experiences of coherent MSP to try out guidelines and joint regional working practices.

6. National and Baltic Sea regional frameworks for MSP in place

6.1 National frameworks for coherent MSP are in place in all Baltic Sea countries by 2017.

6.2 Apply by 2018 Baltic Sea regional “*Guidelines on transboundary consultations and cooperation in the field of MSP*”.

6.3 Apply by 2018 Baltic Sea regional “*Guidelines on public participation for MSP with transboundary dimensions*”.

6.4 Apply by 2018 Baltic Sea regional “*Guidelines on the application of Ecosystem Approach in transnationally coherent MSP*”.

7. Evaluation and follow-up

7.1 Take further steps related to regular monitoring and evaluation needs of MSP.

7.2 Update the Roadmap, if necessary, in 2014 after HELCOM and VASAB ministerial meetings and assess the implementation of this Roadmap 2016, 2018 and 2020.

Summary timetable

<i>Step</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
Share basic, relevant and available MSP related information utilizing existing processes.	As soon as possible.
Promote the creation and sharing of MSP relevant Baltic Sea regional datasets.	As soon as possible.
Promote the education and professional development of MSP planners.	As soon as possible.
Initiate and draw lessons from practical sub-regional experiences of coherent MSP.	As soon as possible.
Identification of competent national MSP contacts (focal points).	2013
Baltic Sea regional " <i>Guidelines on the application of Ecosystem Approach in transnationally coherent MSP</i> " adopted.	2015
Baltic Sea regional " <i>Guidelines on transboundary consultations and cooperation in the field of MSP</i> " adopted.	2015
Baltic Sea regional " <i>Guidelines on public participation for MSP with transboundary dimensions</i> " adopted.	2015
Prepare a future oriented report on marine and maritime activities and developments of Baltic Sea regional importance.	2015.
Assessment on the implementation of this Roadmap.	2016, 2018 and 2020
National frameworks for coherent MSP in place.	2017
Apply Baltic Sea regional " <i>Guidelines on the application of Ecosystem Approach in transnationally coherent MSP</i> ".	2018
Apply Baltic Sea regional " <i>Guidelines on transboundary consultations and cooperation in the field of MSP</i> ".	2018
Apply Baltic Sea regional " <i>Guidelines on public participation for MSP with transboundary dimensions</i> ".	2018
Maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea Region which are coherent across borders and apply the ecosystem approach.	2020