



Document title	Annotations to the Provisional Agenda
Code	1-2
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
Submission date	9.7.2015
Submitted by	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats
Reference	Outcome of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 10-2015

Background

The Eleventh Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 11-2015) will be held in Riga or Jurmala, Latvia, on 30 September-1 October 2015. The Meeting will be opened on Wednesday, 30 September at 9:00 and is expected to terminate no later than at 14:00 the following day.

The Meeting will be co-chaired by Ms. Anita Mäkinen, Finland, and Mr. Andrzej Cieślak, Poland, Co-chairs of the Working Group.

Annotations to the Provisional Agenda

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

The Provisional Agenda (document 1-1) and the Annotations to the Provisional Annotated Agenda (document 1-2) have been prepared on the basis of the Minutes of the Tenth Meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG as well as consultations among the Chairs of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and the HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats.

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Agenda.

Agenda Item 2 Regional coordination and policy follow-up

It has been recognized that the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG can play an important role in facilitating the national processes/contributions to the implementation of the EU MSP Framework Directive, in sharing regional experiences on the European and global level and that synergies should be sought for in the work on the regional and European level.

The European Commission is invited to provide information on processes related to the EU Directive on MSP, which was adopted on 23 July 2014.

The Contracting Parties/Member Countries, which are EU Member States, are invited to briefly inform on national MSP developments in relation to implementation of the EU Directive on MSP. Likewise the Russian Federation is invited to brief on MSP developments in Russia.

The Contracting Parties/Member Countries are invited to discuss and consider how the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG can, in the best possible way, facilitate the national processes/contributions in implementing the

EU MSP Directive, share regional experiences at the European and global level and ensure synergies of the MSP work at the regional and European level.

The intention is to continue the discussions to identify topics of common interest and how the Group could best serve expectations of the Contracting Parties/Member Countries. Contributions in writing prior to the meeting are welcomed.

The Meeting is invited to take note of information on activities related to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) and Horizontal Action (HA) Spatial Planning for which HELCOM and VASAB act as the Horizontal Action Coordinators and the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG acts as the Steering Committee concerning the MSP part.

An indicator-based system to follow up the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, the HELCOM Ministerial commitments and HELCOM Recommendations is under development by the HELCOM Secretariat and the working groups. The Meeting will be informed about the actions and commitments which are suggested to be followed up and invited to propose the follow-up system of actions relevant to MSP, based on the document to be prepared by the HELCOM secretariat.

Agenda Item 3 Implementation of the Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2013-2020

According to the [Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013-2020](#) a set of guidelines are to be drafted and adopted by 2015 and applied by 2018.

The Meeting is invited to consider and endorse the draft Guidelines on transboundary consultations and cooperation, and public participation to be submitted at a later stage. The Guidelines have been drafted by a Task Force under the lead of the Lead Country Poland. The first draft of the Guidelines were circulated among the official contacts of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG on 25 May 2015 for comments by 1 July 2015.

HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 10-2015 agreed to use the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG document on the ecosystem based approach and MSP as the Guidelines on the application of ecosystem approach in transnationally coherent MSP, after applying some editorial changes. The Meeting will be informed of the follow-up consultations to complete the guidelines.

The Meeting is invited to consider the timing for organizing a seminar/workshop on the ecosystem-based approach in MSP, possibly in cooperation with some partners. The EU is invited to inform of their planned workshop on MSP and environment, which is planned to be held in November 2015.

The Contracting Parties/Member Countries are invited to check and update the list of national maritime spatial planning focal points for the purpose of transboundary consultation and joint planning in the Baltic Sea Region countries (document 3-1).

Agenda Item 4 Guidance on information and data for MSP

The Terms of Reference for the Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Sub-Group has been approved by HELCOM 36-2015 and VASAB CSPD/BSR on 3 March 2015 and reaffirmed by 69th VASAB CSPD/BSR meeting on 25-26 May 2015. The first meeting of the Sub-Group will be held on 1-2 October 2015 in Riga, Latvia, back-to-back with this meeting. The outcomes of the work by the data expert sub-group, including of its first meeting, will be regularly reported to the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG.

HELCOM is preparing the second holistic assessment of the ecosystem health of the Baltic Sea (HOLAS II), which will cover, among others, pressures and impacts from various human activities. The Meeting will be informed by the HELCOM Secretariat of the planned content of the assessment and the status and timetable for its finalization.

HOLAS II will be built on the core indicators, which are data products providing quantitative regional assessment of different elements of the marine ecosystem of the Baltic Sea. The Meeting might wish to consider how such regional core indicators could be of use in transboundary MSP, based on information to be presented by the HELCOM Secretariat.

Agenda Item 5 MSP related projects

The leaders or initiators of MSP projects are invited to inform the working group of their activities / plans within the projects, including within:

- Baltic SCOPE project – Towards coherence and cross-border solutions in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans;
- BaltSpace project – Towards Sustainable Governance of Baltic Marine Space;
- Plan4Blue project proposal;
- Baltic LINes project proposal.

Agenda Item 6 Any other business

The Meeting is invited to take note of the country fiches on MSP status published on the [HELCOM](#) and [VASAB](#) web pages. Contracting Parties/Member States are invited to check, and update the fiches if needed, prior to the meeting and Finland, Lithuania and Russia are invited to fill in their country fiches as soon as possible.

A [Consultation on International Ocean Governance](#) has been initiated within EU by the Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (document 6-1). The aim of the consultation, closing on 15 September 2015, is to gather input on how the EU could contribute to achieving better international governance of oceans and seas to the benefit of sustainable blue growth. The Contracting Parties/Member Countries might wish to take part in the consultation and share their opinions on the subject.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the [WWF Principles for a Sustainable Blue Economy](#) (document 6-2).

The Meeting will be informed about possible cooperation between the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and the CBSS intergovernmental working groups of national heritage: the Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage in the Baltic Sea States, Baltic Sea Region working group on Underwater Cultural Heritage and working group on Coastal Culture and Maritime Heritage. Ms. Marianne Lehtimäki, consultant of the Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage in the Baltic Sea States is invited to inform about the MSP related underwater and coastal heritage activities and projects.

The Contracting Parties/Member Countries and Observers are invited to check and update the List of Nominated Experts for the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG (document 6-3).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the calendar on MSP related events during 2015-2016, to be submitted at a later stage and update the list if needed.

The Meeting might wish to consider any other matters raised by the Contracting Parties/Member Countries and Observers at the Meeting.

Agenda Item 7 Future work and meetings

The Meeting is invited to consider and update, if needed, the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Work Plan 2014-2016 (document 7-1).

The Meeting is invited to decide on the date for and focus of the next meeting of the Group. The Contracting Parties/Member Countries are invited to consider hosting the meeting. Information on

upcoming meetings within HELCOM is contained in document 7-2 and information on upcoming meetings within VASAB will be submitted by the VASAB Secretariat to facilitate scheduling the meeting.

Agenda Item 8 Outcome of the Meeting

A draft Outcome of the Meeting will be prepared at the end of the Meeting and presented for consideration and adoption.