



Document title	Provisional Annotated Agenda
Code	1-2
Category	DEC
Agenda Item	1 - Adoption of the Agenda
Submission date	16.10.2017
Submitted by	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats
Reference	

Background

The 15th Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 15-2017) will be held at Warsaw, Poland, on 7-8 November 2017, upon invitation by the Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation of Poland and upon the joint invitation by HELCOM and VASAB. The Meeting will be opened on Tuesday, 7 November 2017 at 15:00 in the Novotel Warszawa Centre (Marszalkowska 94/98). The second day of the Meeting will be held in the premises of the Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation (Nowy Swiat 6/12) tentatively from 09:00 to 16:00.

The major themes for the meeting are coordination and follow-up regional policy, application of ecosystem-based approach in MSP and other tasks from the work plan of the group. HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG acts as the Steering Committee concerning the MSP part of the Horizontal Action Spatial Planning of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The Meeting will thus also follow-up on developments under EUSBSR.

The Meeting will be chaired jointly by the Working Group Co-Chairs Mr. Joacim Johannesson, Sweden, and Ms. Katarzyna Krzywda, Poland.

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 Outcome of the Fourteenth Meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG as well as consultations with the Co-Chairs of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and the HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats. The Meeting is invited to adopt the Agenda.

Agenda Item 2 Matters arising from other HELCOM and VASAB work

The Meeting will be informed on matters within HELCOM (HOD 52-2016) (document to be submitted later) and VASAB of relevance to the group, including past and upcoming meetings.

HELCOM-VASAB MSP 14-2017 discussed the need to highlight the progress in MSP achieved in the region at the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2018 (cf. paragraphs 5.8-5.9 of [the Outcome](#)). The online meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation on 26 September 2017 agreed to utilize HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 15-2017 meeting for providing input to drafting the text proposals for the Ministerial outcome.

The Meeting will be informed of the status of preparations for the upcoming HELCOM Ministerial Meeting to be held in on 6 March 2018 in Brussels, Belgium. The Meeting is invited to provide input to drafting of the Ministerial outcome.

Agenda Item 3 Regional coordination and policy follow-up

The Countries will be invited to update on new national MSP developments.

The countries are invited to check and update the list of national MSP focal points for transboundary consultation and joint planning in the Baltic Sea Region countries.

Poland is invited to present the draft maritime spatial plan for the Polish EEZ and territorial waters. Germany might wish to present the recent results of Mecklenburg Western Pomerania MSP.

HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 14-2017 discussed the recommendations of the Baltic SCOPE project and suggested to establish a task force to make a proposal on relevance of the Baltic SCOPE project recommendations to the mandates of HELCOM groups. The Meeting welcomed the offer by Finland and Sweden to elaborate the proposal with the assistance of the HELCOM Secretariat by the MSP WG 15-2017 meeting. The Meeting will be informed accordingly.

Germany leading the project the Coherent Linear Infrastructures in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans (Baltic LINES) is invited to submit information on the interim project results so far, including regarding safety of navigation in MSP e.g. to be shared with the HELCOM SAFE NAV group, and project representatives are invited to attend the meeting.

Agenda Item 4 Ecosystem-based approach in MSP

HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 14-2017 welcomed the use of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in the region as a harmonized approach to accounting of valuable components of the marine environment in the marine management, and particularly in maritime spatial planning.

At the UN Conference on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14, HELCOM Contracting Parties and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity registered [a voluntary commitment](#) to identify EBSA in the Baltic Sea.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of information on the upcoming CBD Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in the Baltic Sea, to take place during 19-24 February 2018 (document to be submitted later). The Meeting is invited to further consider how the Baltic Sea EBSAs could be utilized in regional and national MSP work.

HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 14-2017 suggested to launch intersessional activities connected with implementation of ecosystem-based approach in MSP, green infrastructure and connectivity of MPAs. The Meeting welcomed the offer by Sweden to elaborate, in cooperation with Germany, Latvia, Finland, and representatives of HELCOM State and Conservation group and with the assistance of the HELCOM Secretariat, a working plan for the task summarizing related ongoing processes and present the plan at the next MSP WG for discussion at both HELCOM groups. The Meeting will be invited to consider the working plan and agree as appropriate.

HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 14-2017 agreed to include the exchange of experiences on how to link the implementation of EU MSFD and other legal frameworks and MSP into the agenda of this meeting.

The [first version of the HELCOM State of the Baltic Sea report](#) was released in July 2017 (document to be submitted later). The assessment serves purposes of the Helsinki Convention but has also been done to support HELCOM Contracting Parties being EU Member States in fulfilling their obligations under MSFD.

HELCOM Secretariat will make a presentation on the State of the Baltic Sea report as an example and background information for discussion on linking the work under MSP and marine policies on a regional level.

Members are invited to share their experiences of linking MSP and marine policies on national or regional level.

The Meeting might wish to identify other legal frameworks that link to MSP.

Further, the Meeting might wish to provide feedback on the State of the Baltic Sea report itself.

Agenda Item 5 Implementation of the other tasks from the group Work Plan

- A regional calendar of national MSP-related processes and meetings (VASAB Secretariat to prepare a reporting template).
- Progress towards achieving main tasks of the BSR MSP Data Expert Sub-group
- Education for MSP – exchange of experience on how to promote the education and professional development of MSP planners (Work Plan Item 5).

Agenda Item 6 MSP-related projects and events

The Meeting is invited to take note of information on activities under the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) in relation to 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 and act as appropriate.



- Information on the PanBaltic SCOPE project (project lead partner might provide information)
- Information on the BALTSPEACE project (project partners might present)
- Information on the BaltCoast project (project partners might present)
- Information on the recent MSP related event:
 - EU Member States Expert Group on Maritime Spatial Planning meeting held in Malta (Sweden might want to present as represented HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG at the meeting)
 - the UN Ocean Summit side-event “International Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) for an effective and sustainable management of our oceans and seas” held in June (Sweden might want to present as one of the organizers)
 - the Conference on Land-Sea Interactions held in June (Latvia might want to present as represented HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG at the event)

Agenda Item 7 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. HELCOM and VASAB members are invited to check and update the fiches, if needed, prior to the meeting.

The HELCOM and VASAB members and Observers are invited to check and update the List of Nominated Experts for the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG (document 7-1).

The Meeting might wish to consider any other matters raised by the HELCOM and VASAB members and Observers at 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.