

**Agenda Item 1      Adoption of the Agenda**

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Submitted by:      VASAB and HELCOM Secretariats

**PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA**

The fifth Meeting of the Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG) will be held at the HELCOM Secretariat (Katajanokanlaituri 6 B) in Helsinki, Finland, on 13-14 September 2012.

The Meeting will start on Thursday, 13 September at 10:00 and is expected to terminate no later than 16:00 on Friday, 14 September.

The main focus of the meeting will be on the implementation status of the actions decided in 2009 VASAB Long Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region as well as MSP relevant actions in the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan 2007 and its follow-up, towards the next HELCOM and VASAB Ministerial Conferences.

The Meeting will be jointly opened by the Working Group Co-chairs Ms. Anita Mäkinen, Finland, and Mr. Andrzej Cieslak, Poland.

The Contracting Parties/Member Countries as well as Observers are requested to submit documents for the Meeting to the HELCOM Secretariat (laura.meski@helcom.fi) not later than by 29 August 2012.

The Contracting Parties/Member Countries as well as Observers are also requested to inform the HELCOM Secretariat beforehand about any presentations to be made during the Meeting. In case presentations are to address the Meeting with some requests for decisions, they should be preceded with a paper summarizing the presentation and stating the actions requested.

**Agenda Item 1      Adoption of the Agenda**

The Provisional Agenda has been prepared on the basis of the Minutes of the fourth Meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG (7-8 February 2012, Riga, Latvia) as well as consultations between the Co-chairs of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and the Secretariats.

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Agenda as contained in document 1/1.

**Agenda Item 2      Information on Maritime Spatial Planning developments, projects and events in the Baltic Sea Region**

The Meeting will be presented with the updated document on national MSP developments reported by the Contracting Parties/Member Countries.

At the fourth Meeting of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG, the European Commission informed on the ongoing (at that time) process of the Impact Assessment for MSP and ICZM, which will be the basis for the policy initiative on MSP. The European Union is invited to inform on the progress of the IA report and further details on the policy initiative.

The HELCOM Secretariat will submit a document on the ongoing revision process of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) including the MSP related indicator and in the context of the Horizontal Action “Encourage the use of Maritime Spatial Planning in all Member States around the Baltic Sea and develop a common approach for cross-border cooperation” led by HELCOM and VASAB. The Meeting will be invited to consider the information, with the view to further establish the role of the Working Group to enhance coordination and integration of the MSP related actions and projects in the Baltic Sea region.

Poland, as a lead partner, is invited to present the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG-supported project “PartiSEApate – Multilevel Governance in Maritime Spatial Planning throughout the Baltic Sea Region”, which was approved by the Monitoring Committee of the Baltic Sea Region Programme at its meeting in Riga, 12 June 2012. The Meeting is invited to discuss the anticipated project activities and outcomes and the project contribution to the work of the Working Group.

The Meeting will be informed on the MSP related activities at the Baltic Sea Day 2012 which was organized 21-23 March 2012 in St. Petersburg, Russia.

The Meeting will be informed on the outcome of the MSP related activities at the European Maritime Day 2012 which was organized 21-22 May in Gothenburg, Sweden.

The Meeting might wish to discuss any other issues related to this Agenda Item.

### **Agenda Item 3            Towards the Ministerial Conferences**

HELCOM Ministerial Meeting has been preliminary scheduled for 3 October 2013 and will be organized in Copenhagen under the Danish Chairmanship of HELCOM. The HELCOM Secretariat will inform on the overall aims and the content of the Ministerial Meeting.

VASAB Ministerial Conference will take place in 2014. VASAB Secretariat will inform on the overall plans for the Ministerial Conference.

The Baltic Sea countries agreed to test, apply and evaluate (by 2012) the use of [the joint MSP principles](#) when developing national MSP initiatives, as well as regionally (2007 BSAP, 2010 HELCOM Ministerial Declaration). The Meeting is invited to evaluate how well this has been achieved, e.g. based on the outcome of the Plan Bothnia project, as requested by the 37<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation (HELCOM HOD 37/2012). HELCOM Secretariat will submit a document on this issue.

In the context of testing MSP principles the project BaltSeaPlan is invited to present the conclusions from selected draft transboundary maritime spatial plans produced (e.g. Pomeranian Bight and Middle Bank).

The fourth Meeting of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG invited the Contracting Parties/Member Countries to send their possible comments on the [best practices](#) and [minimum requirement studies](#) (made for Plan Bothnia). The Meeting is invited to further consider the possible input to the Ministerial Conferences based on these studies.

The fourth Meeting of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG agreed to have an overview of the opinions on the need for a common vision for the Baltic Sea, taking into account the BaltSeaPlan vision and the HELCOM Recommendation 24/10 on implementation of integrated marine and coastal management of human activities in the Baltic Sea area. The comments received from the Contracting Parties/Member Countries indicated different ways towards having a common vision. The Meeting is invited to revisit the issue of elaborating a MSP vision for the Baltic Sea.

#### **Agenda Item 4            International legislative basis for Maritime Spatial Planning**

The fourth Meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG agreed to compile an overview of national legislation on MSP and processes to put MSP legislation in place and welcomed the offer by Germany to lead this activity. Germany is invited to present the compiled information based on the inputs of the Contracting Parties/Member Countries for consideration by the Meeting.

Sweden, Germany with the help of the EU are invited to present a draft input on minimum requirements for MSP according to the updated outline as contained in [Annex 2](#) of the Minutes of the previous Working Group Meeting.

The Meeting is invited to discuss the issue with the aim to elaborate a condensed document, which can be forwarded as an input to the Ministerial Conferences.

#### **Agenda Item 5            Practical application of the ecosystem approach in Maritime Spatial Planning**

HELCOM work on ecosystem approach implementation will be presented to support the discussions on practical application of the ecosystem approach in MSP and to discuss other linkages.

Sweden is invited to present the study on how to deal with the ecosystem approach by the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management.

Finland is invited to present the further developed paper on the necessary elements of a MSP relevant application of the ecosystem based approach according to the updated outline as contained in [Annex 3](#) of the Minutes from the previous Working Group Meeting.

The Meeting is invited to consider the presented information and discuss it in the context of preparations for the Ministerial Conferences.

#### **Agenda Item 6            Data gathering and mapping processes needed for MSP in the Baltic Sea**

The HELCOM Secretariat will present in more detail the work of HELCOM on producing, reporting, gathering and presenting data and information in support of the implementation of the ecosystem approach in the Baltic Sea, with emphasis on MSP relevant data and linkages to other regional as well as European data collection frameworks.

The Meeting will be presented with the experiences of the Plan Bothnia project on MSP data of a transboundary sea area.

The fourth Meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG agreed to follow up the BaltSeaPlan recommendations on the development and implementation of a data exchange network and infrastructure for MSP and management purposes in the Baltic Sea Region. The Meeting is invited to consider the recommendations and the meanwhile published [report BaltSeaPlan No 20](#) further.

The “SeaGIS - Cooperation for ecosystem based planning of the marine environment using GIS” project is invited to present the ongoing work.

Based on the information presented, the Meeting is invited to:

- identify gaps and discuss necessary improvements in the availability of data and information for MSP;
- discuss the possibilities for harmonization and consistency of maps and data as well as data requirements for MSP in the Baltic Sea, also in the context of minimum requirements and taking into account the possible inputs on data from other processes and projects.

### **Agenda Item 7            Any other business**

The Meeting is invited to consider the possibilities to bring the MSP simulation game to the Baltic Sea region based on a document to be submitted by the HELCOM Secretariat at a later stage.

As announced in the previous Working Group meeting, WWF might wish to present reports from the BaltSeaPlan project prepared by WWF concerning fisheries.

The “Gulf of Finland Year 2014” project is invited to present the ongoing work, especially in relation to the MSP theme.

The “ESaTDOR - European Seas and Territorial Development, Opportunities and Risks” project is invited to present their ongoing work related to MSP.

The Contracting Parties/Member Countries are kindly invited to check and update the List of Nominated Experts for the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG, to be submitted at a later stage.

The Meeting might wish to discuss any other matters under this Agenda Item.

### **Agenda Item 8            Future work and next meeting**

The Meeting is invited to discuss and decide on the major topics to be considered during the sixth HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Meeting.

The fourth Meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG tentatively scheduled the sixth Meeting of the Working Group during week 4 of 2013, possibly 24-25 January. The Meeting is invited to decide on the specific dates for this Meeting. The fourth Meeting of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG also tentatively scheduled the seventh Meeting of the Working Group to take place before the HELCOM Ministerial Conference in May 2013.

### **Agenda Item 9            Outcome of the Meeting**

A List of Decisions will be prepared at the end of the Meeting and presented for consideration and adoption.