

HELCOM/VASAB MSP Meeting 2 20-21/10 Riga

## *Ecosystem approach in MSP*

# Findings of the Swedish Commission on MSP

Sten Jerdenius – Swedish Ministry of the Environment

# Ecosystem in proposed MSP law

## Chapter 1 Introductory regulations

**3 § The purpose of planning of the sea is to contribute to sustainable development. In order to achieve that, the structure and function of ecosystems must be maintained or if needed restored. Thereby the ability of ecosystems to provide mankind with goods and services needed will be maintained.**

# Managing the Marine Mosaic: A Briefing in Marine Spatial Planning with an Ecosystem Approach

**12 CBD principles of the ecosystem  
approach**

**HELCOM/OSPAR definition based on those:**

*The comprehensive integrated management of human activities based on the best available scientific knowledge about the ecosystem and its dynamics, in order to identify and take action on influences which are critical to the health of Marine ecosystems, thereby achieving sustainable use of goods and services and maintenance of ecosystem integrity.*

# Nature and role of MSP

**Balance project:**

- 1. The General Use Zone**
- 2. The Targeted Management Zone**
- 3- The Exclusive Use Zone**
- 4. The Restricted Access Zone**

## Environmental drivers for MSP

**Highlights 11 targets for good environmental status in annex 1 of MSFD**

**1, 4, 6, 7, 8 11 relevant for MSP (my opinion)**

# Core ecological principals for MSP

1. **Maintain native species diversity**
2. **Maintain habitat diversity and heterogeneity**
3. **Maintain key species**
4. **Connectivity**

**Table with considerations for making principals operationalised**

# Resilience perspective on managing marine social-ecological systems

- **Ecosystem services focus**
- **Long-term and ongoing use of ecosystems**
- **Adaptive/flexible (uncertainty, disturbances)**
- **Considers ecological limits (tipping points)**
- **Cannot be a one-off solution (rigid plan)**

# Assessment of current approaches to MSP, strengths/weaknesses

**UK Marine Spatial Planning Framework**

**Belgian Marine Spatial Planning master plan**

**Netherland's integrated management plan**

**Germany's plans for North and Baltic Seas**

**Norwegian integrated management plans for Barents Sea**

**Massachusetts Ocean Plan**

**Australia – Great Barrier Reef**

# Consolidated recommendations

## *Ecological recommendations*

- **Make MSP ecological**
- **Ecological boundaries and coherence**
- **Think large marine ecosystems**
- **A resilience perspective**
- **Understand marine spatial heterogeneity**



# Consolidated recommendations

## *Socioeconomic recommendations*

- **A shared vision of MSP**
- **Balancing interests and framing benefits**
- **Commitment to stakeholder engagement**
- **Stakeholder engagement as a valuable data source**
- **Make the case for MSP (not more red tape)**