



Document title	Coordinated HELCOM VASAB process to develop future MSP work plan
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Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	6 - Planning future work and a new Work Plan
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Submitted by	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats
Reference	

Background

This document has been prepared for the Contracting Parties/Member States to plan for a coordinated process to consider a future work plan on Maritime Spatial Planning in the Baltic Sea.

The proposal has been submitted to HELCOM 37-2016 (10-11 March 2016) and the intention is that it will also be considered by the VASAB CSPD/BSR.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the proposal and may discuss how the process would be coordinated.

Proposal for a HELCOM and VASAB coordinated process to consider and prepare a future work plan on Maritime Spatial Planning in the Baltic Sea

A joint co-chaired Working Group on Maritime Spatial Planning was launched in October 2010 by HELCOM and VASAB Committee on Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region (CSPD/BSR). The Working Group was established to ensure cooperation among the Baltic Sea Region countries for coherent regional Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) processes in the Baltic Sea.

The current Mandate for the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG was approved by HELCOM HOD 41-2013 and the 62nd VASAB CSPD/BSR Meeting. The Mandate is set **until 31 December 2016**. The Work Plan of the Working Group covers years 2014-2016.

This document contains a proposal for a coordinated process to consider future of the joint MSP Working Group within HELCOM and VASAB, to be started now and finalized by the end of the year.

Initial steps

- **71st Meeting of the VASAB CSPD/BSR, 23 February, Gdansk**
 - Initial information to CSPD/BSR members, discussion on expected outcomes of the VASAB workshop
- **VASAB Workshop on assessment of Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013-2020, 24 February, Gdansk, Poland**
 - Members of VASAB CSPD/BSR, HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and additional HELCOM representatives invited to exchange ideas and discuss what is the MSP interest in future beyond the Baltic MSP Roadmap 2014-2020
- **12th Meeting of HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning, 24-25 February, Gdansk, Poland**
 - to evaluate the progress in fulfilling the Mandate, the Work Plan 2014-2016 and the working methods of the Working Group;
 - to identify working items for future work;
 - discussion on a coordinated HELCOM and VASAB process to consider future of the joint Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group
- **37th Meeting of the Helsinki Commission, 10-11 March, Helsinki, Finland**
 - to consider a proposal for a coordinated HELCOM and VASAB process on the future of the Maritime Spatial Planning WG
 - Contracting Parties are invited to present their preliminary views on prolongation of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and possible working topics for future
 - VASAB Chair and Head of VASAB Secretariat invited to attend to follow the initial exchange in HELCOM and inform on VASAB considerations so far
 - HELCOM-VASAB MSP Co-Chairs and Vice Co-Chairs to follow and contribute (a standing invitation to attend HELCOM and HOD meetings)

Further possible steps

Based on initial views of the Contracting Parties/Member States on prolongation of the joint WG and considerations of possible future working items, a draft list of future MSP topics for the Baltic Sea region cooperation could be compiled in [March/April].

Pending the initial steps above, the next steps could be as follows:

- **72nd Meeting of the VASAB CSPD/BSR, 8 June, Warsaw, Poland and 50th Meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation, 15-16 June, Estonia**
 - In both meetings to consider and if possible support a draft list of future MSP topics and consider any other related matters as deemed necessary
 - HELCOM HODs and VASAB CSPD/BSR communication prior to the meetings
 - HELCOM and VASAB Chairs and HELCOM Executive Secretary and Head of VASAB Secretariat to communicate the outcomes of the respective meetings; assistance provided by the Secretariats as needed

- **73rd Meeting of the VASAB CSPD/BSR, September, Krakow, Poland**
 - Provide guidance to the 13th meeting of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG on a proposal for the updated mandate for the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and for a new work plan

- **13th Meeting of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG, [back-to-back with the 2nd Baltic MSP Forum, 24/25 November, Riga, Latvia]**
 - Based on the list of MSP topics and further consideration of working methods, to prepare and agree on a proposal for the updated mandate for the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and for a new work plan

- **HELCOM Heads of Delegation and VASAB CSPD/BSR**
 - to consider and adopt/agree on the updated mandate for the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and the new work plan [intersessionally, HOD 51-2016 in December, CSPD/BSR 73-2017 in January]
 - Communication between the HODs and CSPD/BSR and consolidating national positions
 - HELCOM-VASAB MSP Co-Chairs and Vice Co-Chairs to follow and contribute via a standing invitation to attend HELCOM and HOD meetings