

**Agenda Item 2      Recent MSP developments**

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**THE OUTCOME OF A MEETING OF MSP PRACTITIONERS**

On 11-12 September 2013, in Visby, Gotland, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) convened an informal meeting of neighbouring national governments on the topic of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

**The outcome of a meeting of MSP practitioners, held in Visby, Sweden, on 11-12 September 2013**

On 11-12 September 2013, in Visby, Gotland, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) convened an informal meeting of neighbouring national governments on the topic of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). This meeting was Sweden's first international consultation action as it starts the process of MSP, in advance of expected legislation by the Swedish Parliament. All Baltic Sea Region countries, together with Norway, were represented at the meeting.

Three case studies of finished (or well advanced) MSP:s from around the region were presented in depth. These case studies demonstrated a diversity of approaches to MSP: (1) regionally-based MSPs driven by national planning law and urgent national issues (Germany); (2) comprehensive national marine management planning that does not have the full force of law (Norway); and (3) integrated land-and-sea comprehensive planning anchored in national law (Lithuania). Other countries provided short updates on the status of their MSP processes as well as expectations about what is likely to happen in the future.

SwAM officials provided delegates with an in-depth orientation of how planning works in Sweden generally, as well as a review of how Sweden's MSP might be developed. Delegates had many questions about Sweden's highly decentralized, municipality-based approach. They appreciated being included at this early stage, and expressed a desire for more such consultation.

A short mapping and review exercise identified key influences affecting the overall process of MSP in the Baltic Sea Region. The meeting explored three priority topics that emerged: communication, data exchange, and how to use existing pilot projects for MSP more broadly. These conversations led to a set of reflections, recommendations and suggestions, some applying to Sweden specifically but most to the region more generally. A key recommendation included the creation of a "planners' platform" for ongoing practical and technical exchange on the topic of MSP, and for exploring key issues such as cumulative (trans-national) impacts of development projects.

Each country offered recommendations and requests directly to Sweden about moving forward with MSP in the context of international consultation. These concentrated on a desire for early consultation and information on the options that Sweden is considering, preferably in English and in pictorial form.

Sweden closed the meeting with a set of general reflections about how it expects to move forward but emphasized that the way forward remains uncertain until legislation is passed.