Baltic Sea countries on the way to implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning

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VASAB Ministerial Conference

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The joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group

- Jointly set up by VASAB CSPD/BSR and HELCOM for intergovernmental MSP cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region
- All Baltic Sea countries and the European Commission participate
- Stakeholders can participate as Observers or invited Guests
- First meeting in October 2010
- 2-3 meetings per year
- Mandate prolonged till 2017

HELCOM

VASAB
VISION & STRATEGIES
AROUND THE BALTIC SEA

Riku Lumiaro

Results of the Working Group 2010-2014

- Regular intergovernmental MSP dialogue
- Baltic Sea Broad-scale Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) Principles
- Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2013-2020
- Updated overviews of MSP in the Baltic Sea countries
- Overview of legislative basis for MSP
- Baltic Sea Broad-scale MSP Principles tested through projects
- *WG Report 2010-2013 is distributed at the VASAB Ministerial Conference*

Riku Lumiaro

Metsähallitus

Baltic Sea Broad-scale MSP Principles

Vilma Hakala

1. Sustainable management
2. Ecosystem approach
3. Long term perspective and objectives
4. Precautionary Principle
5. Participation and Transparency
6. High quality data and information basis
7. Transnational coordination and consultation
8. Coherent terrestrial and maritime spatial planning
9. Planning adapted to characteristics and special conditions at different areas
10. Continuous planning

Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2013-2020

<u>Baltic Sea countries will make every effort to</u>:

- draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea Region by 2020,

- which are coherent across borders and apply the ecosystem approach.

Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2013-2020

Necessary steps:

- **Intergovernmental cooperation on MSP**
  - cooperate upon global and European policy and regulatory developments related to MSP
  - draft and adopt by 2015 Baltic Sea regional «Guidelines on trans-boundary consultation and cooperation in the field of MSP»
  - coordinate MSP related actions and projects

Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2013-2020

Necessary steps:

- **Public participation**
  - draft and adopt by 2015 Baltic Sea regional «Guidelines on public participation for MSP with trans-boundary dimensions»

- **Ecosystem approach in MSP**
  - draft and adopt by 2015 procedurally oriented Baltic Sea regional «Guidelines on the application of Ecosystem Approach in transnationally coherent MSP»

- **Information and data for MSP**
  - identify competent contact points for trans-boundary consultation and joint planning – *done!*
  - share MSP related information
  - Promote creation and sharing of regional datasets

Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2013-2020

Necessary steps:

- **Education on MSP**
  - Promote education and professional development of MSP planners
- **National and Baltic Sea regional frameworks for MSP in place**
  - National frameworks for coherent planning in place in all Baltic Sea countries by 2017
  - Apply by 2018 regional Guidelines on trans-boundary consultations and cooperation, public participation and application of Ecosystem Approach in transnationally coherent MSP
- **Evaluation and follow-up**
  - Update the Roadmap, if necessary, after HELCOM and VASAB ministerial meetings

Other activities of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG

- Courses for MSP professionals arranged in cooperation with Baltic University Programme

- Baltic MSP principles tested in several concrete demonstration projects
  - BaltSeaPlan, 2009-2012
  - Plan Bothnia, 2010-2012
  - PartiSEApate, 2012-2014
  - Baltwise Seed (Gulf of Finland), 2014

Completed MSP Pilots:
BaltSeaPlan
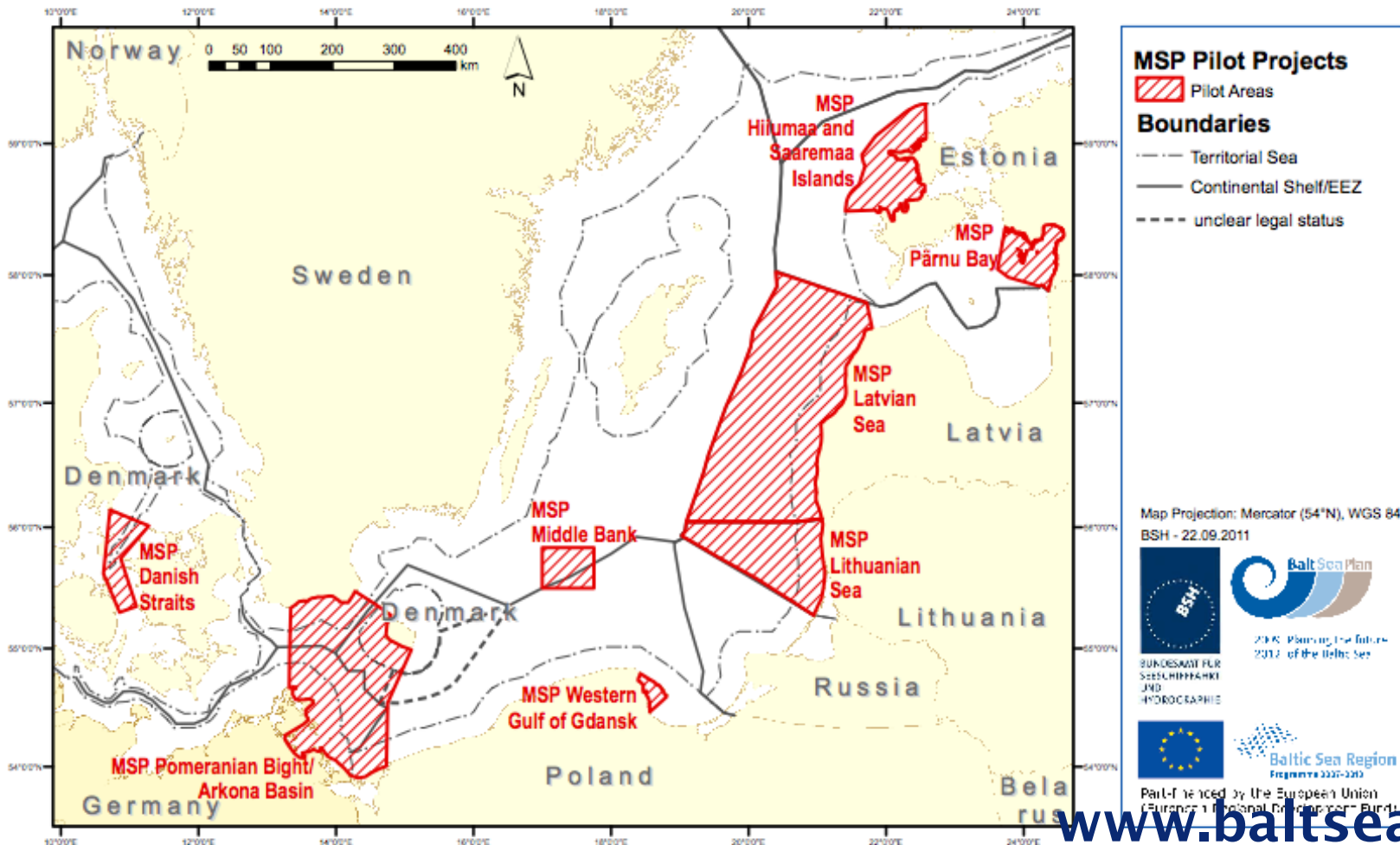
Completed transboundary
MSP Pilot: Plan Bothnia

www.planbothnia.org
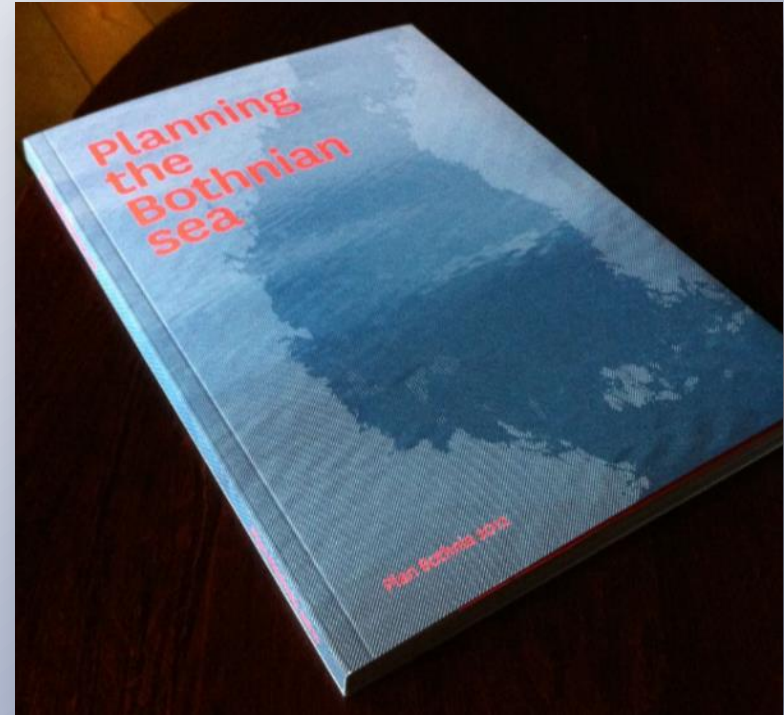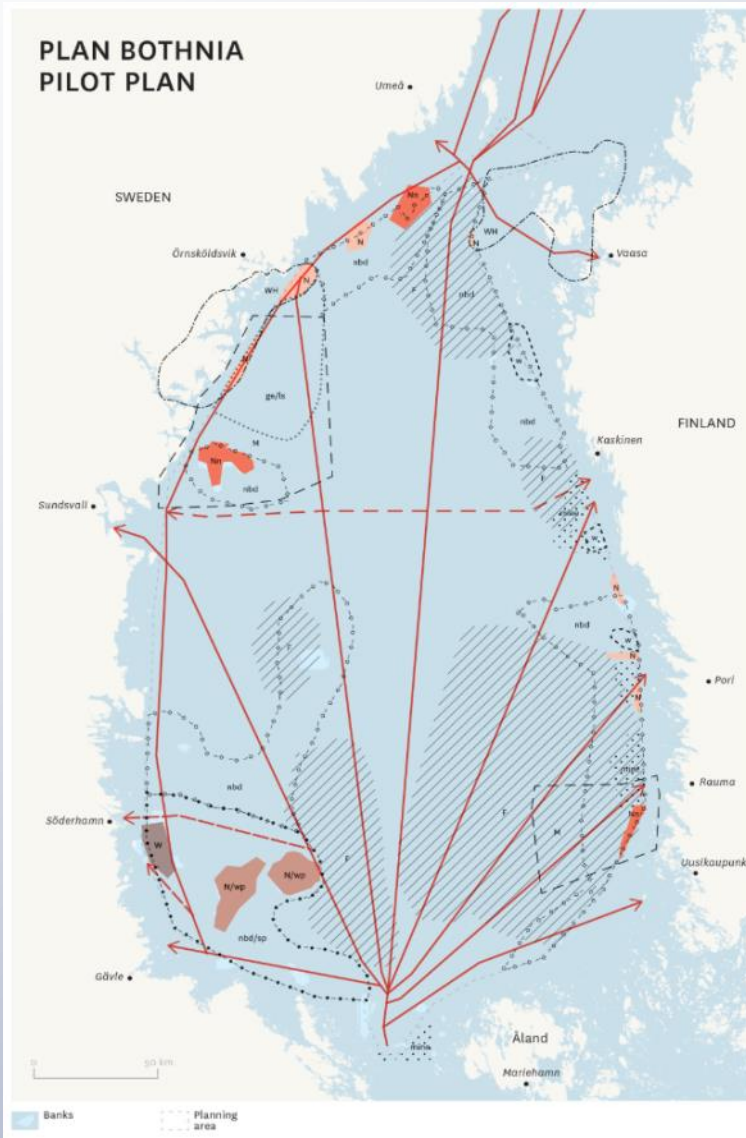
PLAN BOTHNIA
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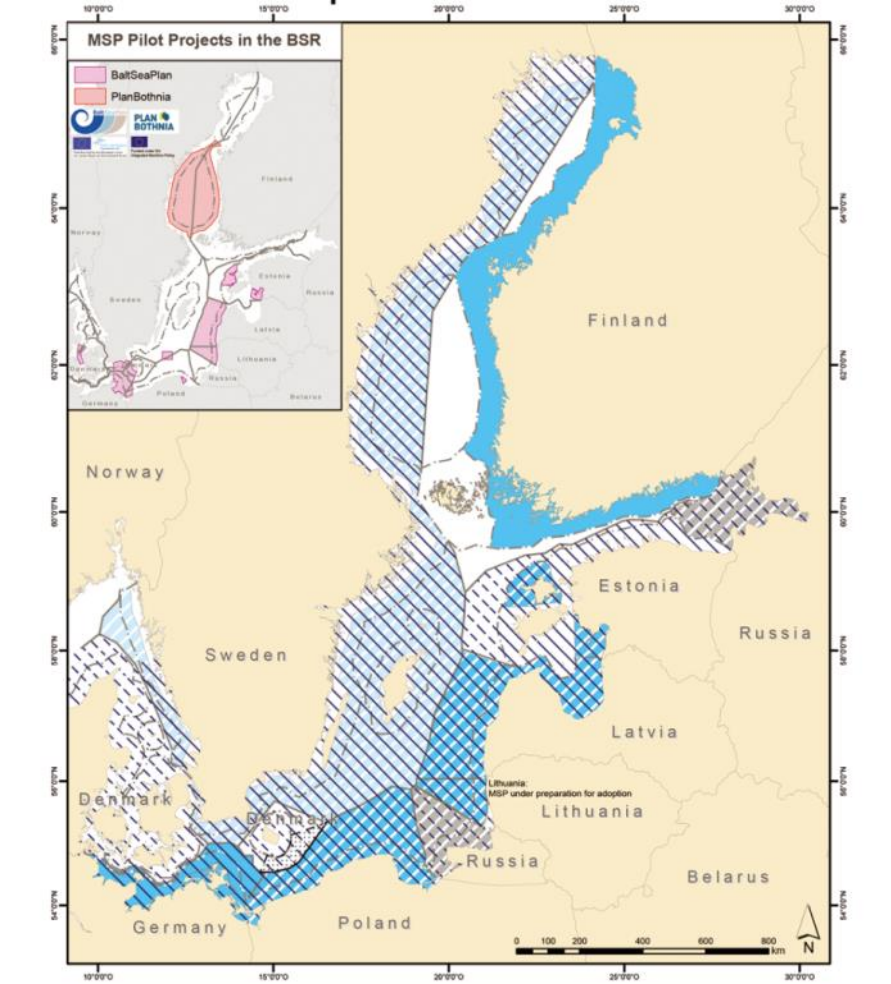
Multi-level governance MSP project:
PartiSEApate

The following represent the key elements of the multi-level governance framework for MSP at the pan-Baltic level:
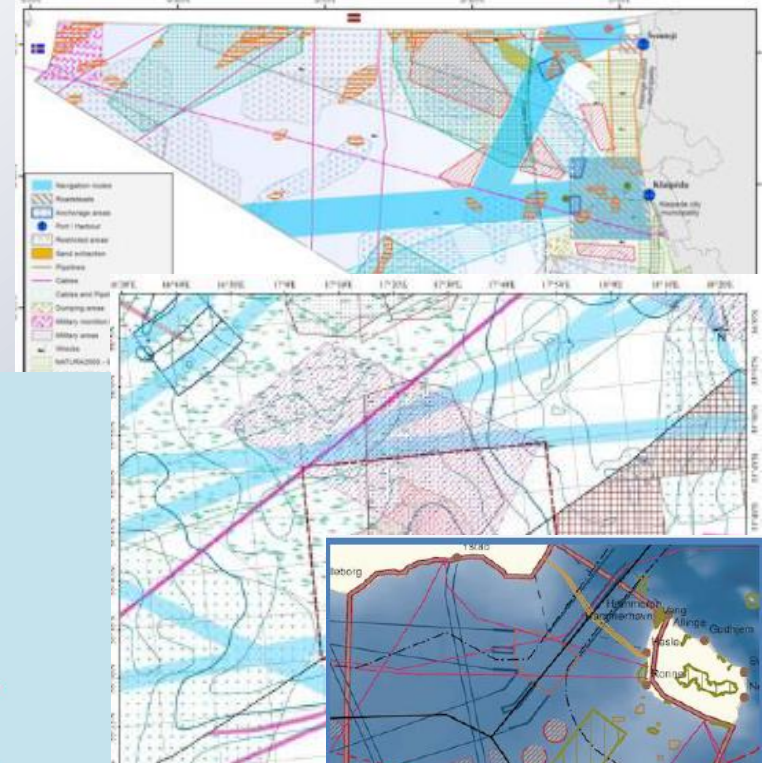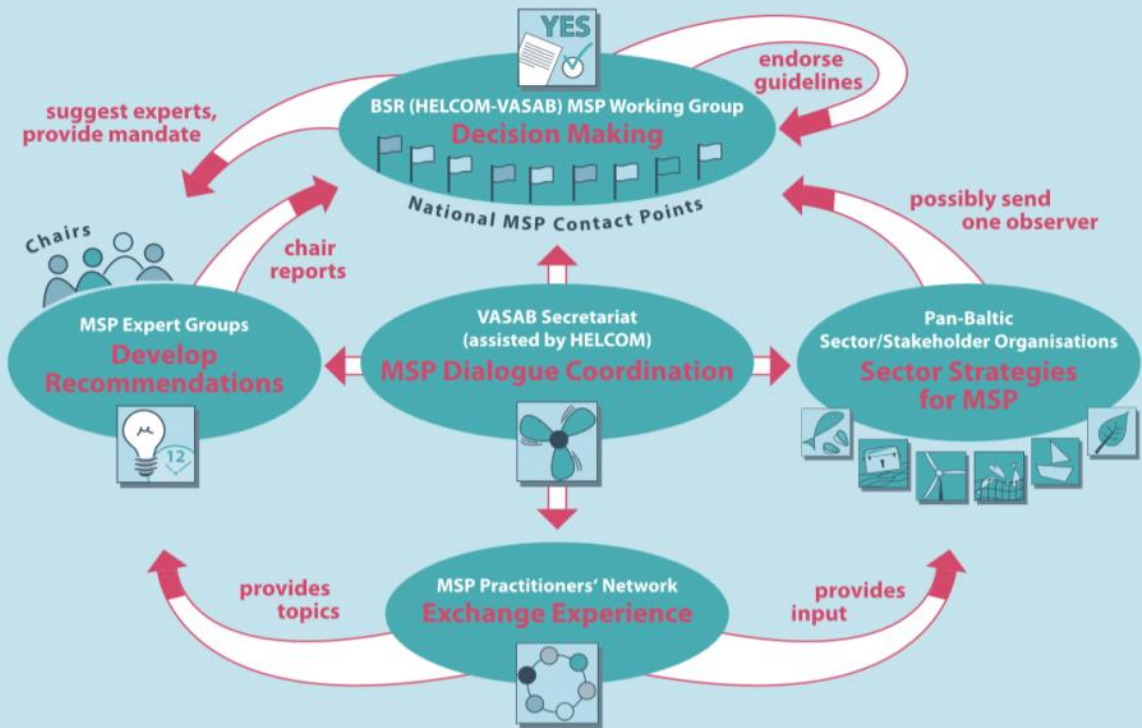
Cross-Border Consultation

MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE
IN MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING
THROUGHOUT THE BALTIC SEA REGION

PartiSEApate
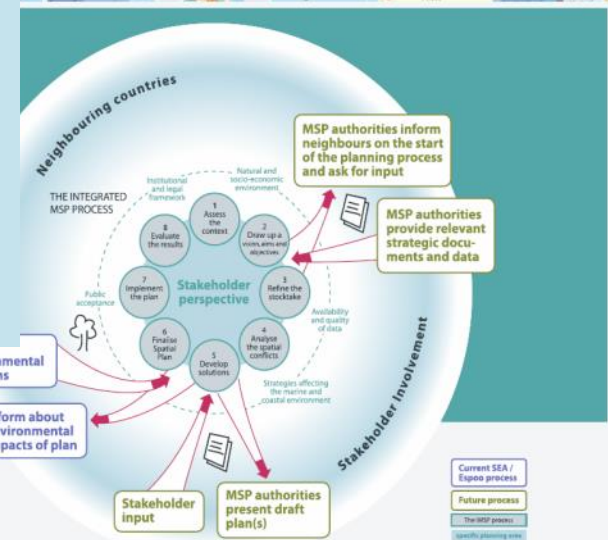
MSP legislation and implementation in the Baltic Sea

GOF2014 and MSP

GOF2014 and MSP

Gulf of Finland Year 2014

Blue Growth calls for Maritime Spatial Planning

European Commission's Blue Growth initiative promotes efforts to develop the use of seas and coastal areas sustainably to create value, including jobs. The Marine Strategy Framework Directive aims to protect marine biodiversity and achieve a good environmental status in European sea areas. These, with many other directives, as well as international and national legislation, govern the use of the sea.

The multitude of controlling measures requires a holistic methodology to master the complexity of sea area planning. A directive establishing a framework for Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) was adopted in July 2014. The directive emphasizes transparency in the maritime planning, aiming at efficient and sustainable organization of human activities at sea.

In the Gulf of Finland, also the Russian Federation's national MSP legislation, currently under preparation, affects the international planning. Thus, the development of MSP for the area poses great challenges, but also indicates advancing cross-border harmonization of planning practices.

Spatial data for Maritime Spatial Planning

Spatial data can be used to describe a large variety of phenomena relevant to maritime spatial planning (MSP), and they play at least three roles in the MSP process:

1) **Input:** information about the existing situation of different phenomena in the planning area
2) **Process:** primary information in the analysis of spatial relationships of the background information and planning objects
3) **Output:** as map data when the planning results are communicated visually

Spatial datasets, commonly understood as "map layers", seemingly represent two-dimensional (2D) surfaces. In the marine environment, it is essential to include two other dimensions: the vertical dimension and the temporal dimension. Thus, the compilation of the 2D surfaces in geographical analyses offers a methodological toolbox to handle the complexity of the 4D system.

It is important to understand that spatial data are essentially numbers: values describing the occurrence and properties of different phenomena at different locations. It is the task of planners to extract information and knowledge from the data – such knowledge, which is needed to gain sufficient understanding of the 4D marine system, and to make informed management decisions.
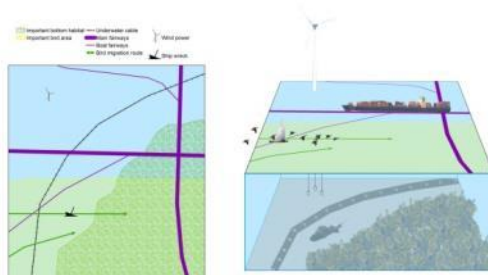
In spatial analysis, a compilation of 2D data is used to portray the four-dimensionality of the marine environment. In addition to the layers representing the different vertical levels of the sea, such as bathymetry and seafloor ecosystems, it should be remembered that the seasonality and long-term changes of the sea need to be covered.

Spatial data inventory in the Gulf of Finland

The analysis of the spatial relationships of the planning areas and units depends on the availability of spatial data (digital maps). A metadata inventory was conducted in Estonia, Finland and the Russian Federation in spring 2014. The data coverage was assessed and reported with emphasis on the thematic variety of the existing data, as well as the challenges of the international data exchange.

The main findings of the inventory:

- 247 datasets were identified, covering around 60 themes
- Only about one fourth of the datasets cover the entire GoF area.
- Most of the datasets cover the sea area of one country.
- The data were classified into three main thematic categories: 'Boundaries', 'Environment' and 'Human activities'. Out of these, 'Human activities' was best covered by spatial data.
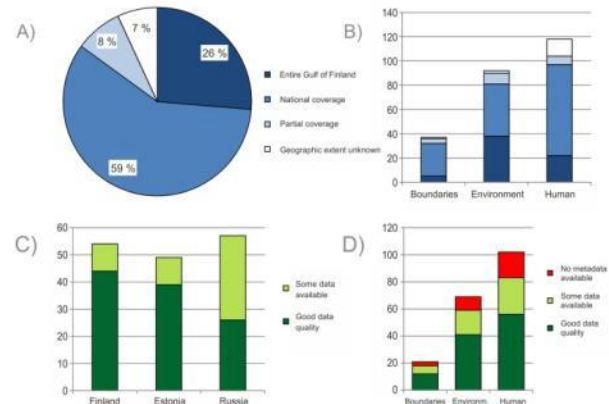
A) About one fourth of the identified datasets had uniform coverage of the whole Gulf of Finland. B) The proportion of full coverage was highest in the environmental data category. C) The proportion of 'good data quality' varied between the countries based on the metadata. D) Data quality assessment for the main thematic categories based on metadata

Recommendations

- The data gaps identified in this study should be acknowledged and verified, and new data collection and production should be focused on the high-priority themes with missing information
- Data for Maritime Spatial Planning should be collected in harmonised manner to ensure technical and semantic interoperability in international cooperation
- Communication between planners from different countries is encouraged to establish a common understanding of the planning practices and data management principles

Photographs: Hanna Luhtala & Harri Tolvanen

Baltic Sea Countries ready to implement MSP and Regional MSP Roadmap

There is momentum for MSP in the Baltic Sea:

- the **Directive establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning in EU was adopted in July 2014**

- **the Concept of the Law on the offshore MSP in the Russian Federation has been drafted**

- Roundtable discussions on MSP during the Baltic Sea Summit 5-6 April 2013 in St Petersburg.

- Baltic Sea Days 2012 & 2014: Roundtable on MSP as a part of Gulf of Finland Year 2014 in St. Petersburg

HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG will ensure harmonized implementation
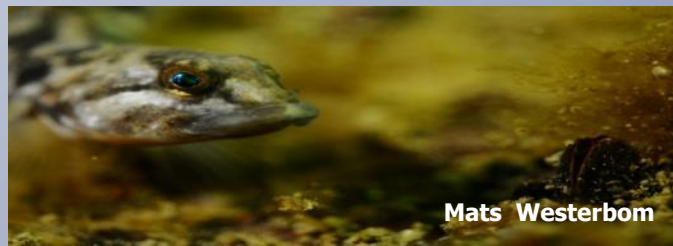
Mats Westerbom

HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG

Thank you for your attention