Baltic Sea Region
MSP Data Expert Sub-Group
3rd meeting

12-13/04/2016
Swedish Agency Marine and Water Management (SwAM)
Gothenburg, Sweden

DECISIONS

General

1. Within the BONUS call 2015 "Blue Baltic" there is submitted a project application "Pathways and Needs Towards a Baltic Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure for MSP - MSPDAT". Project lead partner - Maritime Institute in Gdańsk, other partners: Helmholtz Zentrum Geesthacht (Germany); University of Tartu (Estonian Marine Institute); Tallinn University of Technology (Estonian Maritime Academy); Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology; Coastal Research and Planning Institute (CORPI); Baltic Institute for Ecology of Hydrosphere (Russia). Project objectives:
   a. To identify and compare MSP information and data needs for decision-making across the BSR at different stages of the MSP cycle,
   b. To carry out a risk assessment of failing to obtain the required data,
   c. To find out if and how countries have filled essential data gaps, e.g. by using proxy data or less high quality data,
   d. To understand main motivation and interests of stakeholders in application of data in the MSP process in relation to various institutional and cultural contexts,
   e. To assess data and information needs for MSP monitoring and evaluation in the BSR and provide a framework of parameters for data and information collection.
2. BSR MSP Data expert group will act as a reference group to the MSPDAT project findings.
3. Interreg BSR project application for EUSBSR HAC&PaC support "Horizontal Action "Spatial Planning" Support - HASPS 2":
   a. The HASPS 2 project aims to support objectives assigned in the HA Spatial Planning of the EUSBSR, coordinated together by HELCOM and VASAB.
   b. Among the other activities the project also supports the BSR MSP Data expert group – within the project 1 more MSP Data group meeting will be supported in 2016 and a follow-up event in 2017.
   c. The project application has been submitted, there will be the final decision of Interreg Monitoring Committee on 14 June 2016.

Presentations:

4. The progress of HELCOM work developing the second holistic assessment of ecosystem health in the Baltic Sea (HOLAS II):
   a. Holistic assessment will be carried out regularly in six-year monitoring and assessment cycle according to the HELCOM Monitoring and assessment strategy (adopted in 2013).
   b. Assessment framework is based on 4 components – human activities, pressures, ecosystem components and ecosystem services & economic consequences and consists of thematic assessments based on regularly updated core indicators.
   c. So far assessment methods have been intensively developed and tested, the required data for HOLAS II will be collected by the end of 2016 (HELCOM has

issued data call during May 2016); first results of the holistic assessment will be released by mid-2017 and final report will be prepared by mid-2018.

5. HELCOM future plans in data management and data sharing:
   a. Currently all data that has been reported to and processed by HELCOM, are stored in a collection of thematic centralized databases. This "reporting approach" has been developed over years in absence of comprehensive online access to data in Baltic countries regarding majority of data themes needed for HELCOM assessments. Access to this centralized HELCOM data and data products is made available via HELCOM Map and Data service via view and download services in the map service and the provided interfaces (WMS and ArcGIS Rest). Thus HELCOM has for years worked for making public data accessible online and this reporting approach will continue to be an option to gather data for those datasets lacking national online access points.
   b. In the future along with the access to the HELCOM databases, it is planned that some of the source datasets would be made accessible online via interfaces (e.g. WMS/WFS) by the national data owner to a data access point (e.g. HELCOM Map and Data Service), when it can be visualized/harvested to any system capable of displaying it. This could be data portal of neighbouring country or a regional data access point.
   c. In order to achieve this goal, there are institutional and technological requirements (WMS and WFS interfaces available and maintained at source) for data providers and for data access point to be capable of supporting the standards.
   d. HELCOM together with data provider organisations need to work further in developing comprehensive national and regional level metadata access point and list of available interfaces to operationalize the planned developments.
   e. Currently there are projects piloting this approach, e.g. BalticLINES project, which will test concept of distributed datasets by utilizing national interfaces to access MSP relevant data to a regional data access point following principles outlined in the INSPIRE directive.
   f. Although open spatial data interfaces are not commonly used in BSR countries yet for data exchange, still there has recently been progress in data exchange infrastructure of those countries that are EU members due to the requirements outlined in the INSPIRE directive.
   g. In the context of "Baltic Spatial Data Infrastructure", the HELCOM Map and Data Service could serve as a data sharing platform for MSP needs in BSR.
6. The project "SEAGIS 2.0 - Sustainable development of the marine environment" (funded by by Interreg Botnia - Atlantica programme):
   a. The project attempts to support MSP and cross-border cooperation in MSP in part of the Gulf of Bothnia (Quark area).
   b. Within the previous SEAGIS project the mapping service was developed as a tool for cross-border information, data and knowledge sharing and a dialogue platform between the countries, authorities, entrepreneurs and the public in MSP for the project area.
   c. The previous project SeaGIS collected ~550 GIS layers out of which 300 are visible via SEAGIS map service.
   d. The project "SeaGIS 2.0" will continue to improve SEAGIS map service by evolving web feature services (WMS and WFS) allowing to download map data directly from relevant data providers that offer WMS/WFS and that have relevant MSP data.
   e. The project will increase geographical coverage of available data, as well as the map service will be adapted for mobile devices.
   f. The project will also evaluate the current state of the nature protection network in the project area to elucidate if important habitats, species and HELCOM biotopes are well protected.

Outcomes:

7. It was noted that although MSP Data group has been given ambitious mandate, it should focus on simplified approaches and smart end-solutions for MSP planners meanwhile MSP Data group should avoid double-work which is being done in other platforms or projects.
8. MSP Data group agreed that INPUT data is data and information (human activities (current use), environmental issues, conditions, policy targets etc.), which is used for preparation the maritime spatial plan.
9. With the given timeline and available recourses the MSP Data group will not tend to harmonise (or modify) the INPUT data itself (due to the data formats and scope this task would not be feasible), but will focus on what kind and where particular data can be found. The Table describing INPUT data sets in each Baltic country will

be structured into 11 themes accordingly to the Directive (2014/89/EU) establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning (MSP Directive).

10. Group discussed and agreed on general data attributes which are relevant for characterising OUTPUT data ("Output data table"). In general the OUTPUT data:
    a. is the data and information deriving from the maritime spatial plans (planned solutions - zoning, spatial analysis etc.);
    b. is organised in few data sets (spatial plan area, possible activities & uses, restrictions & external regulations) as simply as possible with moderate level of detalisation; if particular contact or specific information is needed, one can use the INPUT data table;
    c. serves as an INPUT data for the another maritime spatial plan;
    d. has one or few responsible institutions per country (usually – responsible institution for particular plan);
    e. is regularly updated according to national MSP cycle;
    f. should not have restrictions regarding data exchange;
    g. could be easily available via web services;
    h. regarding the geometric data structures, it is up to country what type of geometric methods to use to illustrate particular data layer (point, line or area).
11. When describing minimum requirements for the MSP OUTPUT data, MSP Data group can use INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe) Data Specification on Land Use as a guidance, but not copy it due to its complexity.
12. Output data layers are organized accordingly to MSP Directive themes which corresponds to the sectors and demonstrates the possible issues to be solved within the MSP.
13. Output data table could be adapted or adjusted in the future according to the planning needs.

Tasks:

14. Taking into account the delays of National data reports, compilation of national "input-data" will be prepared by the mid of May. The template of INPUT data table will be adjusted to the MSP Directive themes. The information given by countries so far, will be placed into the template and circulated among the countries for justification or supplementation. INPUT data template will be supplemented also with information about relevant HELCOM data sets.
15. OUTPUT data table will be distributed to the group members for final comments or adjustments.
16. The outcomes of the group "brainstorming" session will be compiled by Susanne and distributed to the group members.
17. The MSP Data group members can settle a skype group meeting in order to discuss urgent issues or clarifications, if needed.
18. Next – 4th meeting will be held on 14-15th in Tallinn, Estonia; venue - Estonian Maritime Academy of Tallinn University of Technology. After the meeting the meeting date was corrected to **13-14th June 2016.**
19. Proposed presentations and discussion topics for the next Data group meeting:
    a. Presentation of Estonian approach to implementation of INSPIRE directive;
    b. Introduction to the Project "Baltic LINes";
    c. identification of gaps (data, updating, availability, accessibility);
    d. sharing output data;
    e. minimum INPUT and OUTPUT requirements;
    f. contribution to the BALTIC 2nd MSP Forum regarding the Data workshop.
20. Short description of the Baltic 2nd MSP Forum will be distributed to the MSP Data group for consideration and suggestions regarding possible MSP Data workshop which could be organised within the Forum on 23-24 November 2016 in Riga, Latvia.