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MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF HELCOM-VASAB MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING WORKING GROUP (HELCOM -VASAB MSP WG)

INTRODUCTION

- 0.1 The Fifth Meeting of the Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 5/2012) was held at the HELCOM Secretariat in Helsinki, Finland, on 13-14 September 2012.
- 0.2 The Meeting was attended by nominated experts from all Contracting Parties/Member Countries, except from Belarus, Norway and Lithuania, as well as by various invited guests and EUCC The Coastal Union Germany, the European Sea Ports Organisation (ESPO) and WWF as Observers. The List of Participants is contained in **Annex** 1.
- 0.3 The Meeting was chaired by the Co-chairs Ms. Anita Mäkinen, Finland and Mr. Andrzej Cieslak, Poland.
- O.4 The HELCOM Executive Secretary Ms. Monika Stankiewicz welcomed the participants on behalf of the HELCOM Secretariat and highlighted the most important tasks for the Meeting: the input from the Working Group to the upcoming HELCOM and VASAB Ministerial Meetings and the fulfilment of the commitments from the previous Ministerial Meetings. Also the application of the ecosystem approach, the legislative basis and the role of the Working Group in relation to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) and the data gathering and mapping processes needed for MSP were highlighted.
- 0.5 Ms. Stankiewicz acted as Secretary of the Meeting assisted by Ms. Laura Meski, Assisting Professional Secretary from the HELCOM Secretariat.

Agenda Item 1

Adoption of the Agenda

Documents: 1/1

- 1.1 The Meeting <u>considered</u> the Agenda, <u>agreed</u> to include information on the Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) Expert Group established under the EU Integrated Maritime Policy Group under Agenda Item 3 and <u>adopted</u> the Agenda (document 1/1) elaborated by the HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats in consultation with the Co-Chairs.
- 1.2 The Meeting <u>took note</u> of the comment on the necessity to keep the deadline for submission of documents to the meetings.

Agenda Item 2

Information on Maritime Spatial Planning developments, projects and events in the Baltic Sea Region

Documents: 2/1, 2/2, 2/3, 2/4, 2/5, 2/6, 2/7

- 2.1 The Meeting <u>took note</u> of document 2/1 on MSP developments in the Contracting Parties/Member Countries as well as updates by the Contracting Parties/Member Countries as follows:
 - Denmark informed that the work is ongoing on better coordination on national and international level in order to prepare for MSP and a business case is being developed on marine spatial data infrastructure to look into the benefits of data availability for MSP.
 - Estonia informed that the National Spatial Plan for 2030 and the Maritime Policy for 2020 have been approved by the Government in August 2012. In relation to the Maritime Policy, the Ministry of Economics is preparing an action plan for the years 2012-2015. Two pilot projects on MSP are ongoing in Pärnu and Hiiumaa County.

The GORWIND project, which Estonia has been taking part in, is ending in October 2012.

- 2.2 The Meeting took note of the information by the EU that as it looks now the policy initiative on MSP (and ICZM) will be presented by the end of the year to the Council and the Parliament. The delay is due to the many aspects to be taken into account when making the policy initiative.
- 2.3 The Meeting <u>requested</u> the Secretariats to update the table on MSP developments according to the new information. The table will be circulated for updating by the Contracting Parties/Member Countries before the next meeting of the Working Group according to the procedure agreed on at HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 4/2012.
- 2.4 The Meeting <u>considered</u> the information on the ongoing revision process of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) and the Action Plan (document 2/2) and <u>recalled</u> the role of HELCOM and VASAB to act as Horizontal Action (HA) leaders for HA Spatial "Encouraging the use of maritime and land based spatial planning in all member states around the Baltic Sea and develop a common approach for cross-border cooperation, including EMODNET".
- 2.5 The Meeting <u>concurred</u> that the role of the Working Group is to facilitate involvement of and cooperation with relevant stakeholders from the entire macro-region regarding ecosystem based MSP in transboundary context, including facilitation of policy discussions conveying relevant results and recommendation to the policy level.
- 2.6 The Meeting <u>welcomed</u> the inclusion in the Strategy of an overall sub-objective related to MSP and <u>noted</u> that it is in line with the ambition in this region to draw up and apply transboundary, ecosystem-based maritime spatial plans.
- 2.7 The Meeting <u>reflected</u> on the MSP objective and related indicator in detail with the main points being:
 - the MSP objective and indicator has been endorsed by the Council and is subject to review by the Commission in cooperation with High Level Task Force;
 - the meaning of the objective and target on pilot plans in 2013 is ambiguous, and for instance the target can be interpreted as legally rooted pilot plans or plans drafted within pilot projects such as BaltSeaPlan and Plan Bothnia; however, the interpretation of the objective as given in the HA Spatial description provides useful reference point how the indicator should be understood (the Baltic Sea countries should aim at developing national maritime spatial plans based on ecosystem approach and the planning should be coherent across the borders, which calls for close transboundary cooperation);
 - involvement of relevant authorities in the process of preparing pilot plans is of crucial importance for the plans to be followed up and possibly to be made legally binding;
 - even though not legally binding the pilot plans prepared within the various finalized projects provide valuable experience for further work on transboundary spatial plans and represent a positive development also in the context of the EU Strategy;
 - having by 2020 coherent ecosystem based MSP plans in place will require substantial work to meet this ambitious target;
 - many countries, such as Finland, do not have at the moment planning legislation for EEZ in place and the deadline of 2020 implies that the necessary legal base should be put in place to be followed by the adoption of the plans.
- 2.8 The Meeting <u>scrutinized</u> the MSP relevant text in the proposed revised Action Plan of the Strategy and <u>was of the opinion</u> that it could be more forward-looking and reflecting the ongoing advancements in the Baltic Sea region and higher level of ambition of the future work on MSP. The Meeting <u>agreed</u> on proposing the amendments to the MSP description as included in document 2/7, and in addition to correct the last sentence on the upcoming EU policy initiative.

- 2.9 The Meeting <u>took note</u> of the information by the EU that the revised Action Plan of the EUSBSR is a coordinated proposal by the Commission.
- 2.10 The Meeting took note of the presentation by Poland on the PartiSEApate project, which is a project on Multilevel Governance in Maritime Spatial Planning throughout the Baltic Sea Region (document 2/4, **Presentation 1**). The two-year project was approved by the Monitoring Committee of the Baltic Sea Region Programme at its meeting 12 June 2012 in Riga, Latvia. The first project partner meeting was held 6-7 September 2012 in Riga, Latvia.
- 2.11 The Meeting <u>recalled</u> that the Working Group supported the project through a letter issued by the Co-chairs and <u>welcomed</u> the project and its offer to contribute to the work of the Working Group as well as to the upcoming Ministerial Meetings.
- 2.12 The Meeting <u>discussed</u> the activities to be carried out within the project and <u>noted</u> the high level of ambition regarding project deliverables, which may require some further prioritization.
- 2.13 The Meeting took note of the clarification by Poland that the project aim is not to substitute any formal processes but to further test transboundary maritime spatial planning, and that some resources have been accommodated for, e.g. participation of Russian experts.
- 2.14 The Meeting <u>took note</u> of the information by the EU on a study on multilevel governance to be initiated by the European Commission soon.
- 2.15 The Meeting <u>agreed</u> to function as Project Advisory Group and provide feedback to the project during its meetings. In addition, the Meeting <u>agreed</u> that the Secretariats and Co-chairs will serve as focal points to the project in order to ensure close cooperation in intersessional period.
- 2.16 The Meeting took note that an expert group will be established within the project to which all Baltic Sea countries as well as the HELCOM Secretariat are invited to nominate their representative. Also the Co-chairs of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG are invited to participate.
- 2.17 The Meeting <u>considered</u> nominating the PartiSEApate project as a flag ship project for HA Spatial, and after clarifying the nomination procedure and criteria (document 2/2, page 13) the Meeting agreed on granting the flagship project status to PartiSEApate.
- 2.18 The Meeting <u>welcomed</u> the project to report on the progress of the project at the Working Group meetings and to distribute all relevant information to the group.
- 2.19 The Meeting <u>was of the opinion</u> that more flag ship projects should be initiated/nominated in the future.
- 2.20 The Meeting took note of the information on the BALTFIMPA project on managing fisheries in marine protected areas (document 2/6). HELCOM is currently running an inception phase of the BALTFIMPA project to produce the initial generic tool to assist decision making on possible negative impacts of fishing gear and practices on habitats and species in the Baltic Sea. The Meeting invited BALTFIMPA and PartiSEApate to cooperate as there are synergies and potential for mutual benefits in the projects' implementation.
- 2.21 The Meeting took note of the information on the XIII Baltic Sea Day International Forum which was held in St. Petersburg, Russia, 21-23 March 2012 with the topic "Towards environmentally safe, secure and prosperous Baltic Sea Region Roadmap from Stockholm, 1972 to Rio-De-Janeiro, 2012 (Stockholm+40 / Rio+20)". During the Baltic Sea Day Forum a two-day roundtable was arranged on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) as a tool for integrated management of human activities and nature conservation in marine areas. The roundtable was well visited with around 60 participants during both days. The Meeting especially took note of the conclusions and recommendations of the resolution (document 2/3).

- 2.22 The Meeting took note of the information by Russia that the work on MSP in Russia has been started and that the XI Annual Leaders of Strategic Planning Forum will take place 22- 23 October 2012 in St. Petersburg, Russia.
- 2.23 The Meeting took note of the information on the European Maritime Day (EMD) 2012, which was organized in Gothenburg, Sweden, 21-22 May 2012 (document 2/5). The theme for the EMD this year was "Sustainable growth from oceans, seas and coasts: blue growth". The following MSP related sessions were organized during the Stakeholder Day on 22 May:
 - Ecosystem based management and marine spatial planning: achievements and challenges requiring science-policy collaboration. The session was jointly organized by HELCOM, VASAB and the Swedish Institute for the Marine Environment and the projects KnowSeas, MESMA and ODEMM and Sea Meets Land;
 - Cross-border Maritime Spatial Planning: lessons from the southern North Sea and Bothnian Sea. The session was organized by the Plan Bothnia and MASPNOSE projects and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM).
- 2.24 The Meeting <u>took note</u> of the information on the final conference of the Plan Bothnia project which was organized back-to-back with the EMD on 23 May in Gothenburg (document 2/5). The conference was organized by VASAB and the Meeting <u>thanked</u> the VASAB Secretariat for the well-organized event.
- 2.25 The Meeting <u>took note</u> of the presentation by Mr. Stephen Jay, Liverpool University, on the outcome of the Plan Bothnia project (**Presentation 2**), in which Mr. Jay was one of the reviewers, and thanked Mr. Jay for the interesting presentation.
- 2.26 The Meeting took note of the positive feedback from both Finland and Sweden on the Plan Bothnia project and experience gained in the project and its outcome, and welcomed the input from the project to the discussions under the MSP WG, including to the work towards the Ministerial Meetings.

Agenda Item 3 Towards the Ministerial Conferences

Documents: 3/1, 3/2, 3/3, 3/3/Add, 3/4, 3/5/WP1

- 3.1 The Meeting took note of the information on the priorities of the Danish HELCOM Chairmanship (1 July 2012-30 June 2014) as well as on the general topics for the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting which will be arranged 3 October 2013 in Copenhagen, Denmark (document 3/1). The overall aim of the Ministerial Meeting is to assess the progress in implementing the Baltic Sea Action Plan and the 2010 Moscow Ministerial Declaration, including MSP related commitments (HELCOM Recommendation 28E/9 on development of broad scale marine spatial planning principles; testing, application and evaluation of the use of the joint MSP principles). The Meeting welcomed the information that cooperation with VASAB is on the Danish Chairmanship agenda.
- 3.2 The Meeting also <u>took note</u> of the plans for the VASAB Ministerial Meeting which will be arranged in autumn 2014 in Tallinn, Estonia, under the Estonian Chairmanship of VASAB. The discussion on the content of the VASAB Ministerial Meeting has just started, and the meeting of the Committee on Spatial Planning and Development on 24 October 2012 will have a focus on the conference. Possible deliverables include compendium on national MSP legislation and minimum requirements for MSP. The final conference of the PartiSEApate project has been scheduled for September 2014, to provide input to the VASAB Ministerial Meeting.
- 3.3 The Meeting <u>considered</u> the table outlining how some of the jointly agreed MSP Principles have been applied on national level in legislation related to MSP by the Baltic Sea countries (document 3/3 and 3/3/Add). The Meeting <u>found</u> the proposed approach valuable and <u>thanked</u> the VASAB Secretariat for the effort and providing the outline.

- 3.4 The Meeting <u>noted</u> that some guidance could be given on how to fill in the table and <u>clarified</u> that the meaning of the principles is given in the description of the HELCOM-VASAB broad-scale MSP Principles so these should be read together.
- 3.5 The Meeting took note of the information by Finland that even though no national MSP legislation has been issued, the land use act enables planning in territorial waters in that country. The Meeting further clarified that the table attempts to assess whether the MSP Principles are covered by legislation, whether it is MSP relation or legislation that allows MSP; however, it does not intend to give insight how these principles are implemented.
- 3.6 The Meeting <u>took note</u> of the comment by Germany that information for Germany needs to be corrected in the table.
- 3.7 The Meeting <u>agreed</u> to revise the table to contain all MSP Principles and <u>requested</u> the VASAB Secretariat to amend the table accordingly, also taking into account the above comments and to re-distribute it to the Contracting Parties/Member Countries for amendments within a month for presentation at the next meeting of the Working Group. The Meeting further <u>agreed</u> that the overview should be accompanied with the evaluation/synthesis that could be used in the compendium on national legislation (cf. paragraph 4.1).
- 3.8 The Meeting <u>took note</u> of the presentation by Germany on the Pomeranian Bight pilot MSP plan (**Presentation 3**, document 3/2).
- The Meeting <u>considered</u> it important to go into depth in the few pilot plans which are available, e.g. the Pomeranian Bight and Plan Bothnia, and to find sufficient time during the meetings for the discussion. The Meeting <u>agreed</u> to focus on lessons learnt from these cases (e.g. chapter 7 of the Pomeranian Bight report) at the next meeting of the Working Group, based on the document to be prepared by the Secretariats and Co-chairs addressing some selected key issues such as principles used in conflict resolution (i.a. fisheries vs. marine protected areas).
- 3.10 The Meeting <u>recalled</u> the discussion on the MSP related 2020 objective and <u>agreed</u> that a roadmap is needed to fulfil it. The Meeting further <u>agreed</u> that the evaluation of the MSP Principles in the regional framework is an important input to the Ministerial Meetings in 2013 (HELCOM) and 2014 (VASAB) and should be part of the road map.
- 3.11 Further, the Meeting <u>found</u> it valuable that some kind of operational guidelines are developed for selected Baltic MSP Principles.
- 3.12 The Meeting took note of the suggestions for further work on transboundary MSP based on the Plan Bothnia project outcome (document 3/4) and was of the opinion that the suggestions/recommendations can be further developed into such guidelines on some of the broad scale MSP Principles, e.g. the principle on transnational coordination and consultation, to be included in the road map.
- 3.13 The Meeting <u>referred</u> to the best practices document, developed as part of the Plan Bothnia project by Mr. Jacek Zaucha and <u>agreed</u> that this document, as well as documents 3/3 and 3/3/Add, could be used as part of the evaluation.
- 3.14 The Meeting <u>highlighted</u> the importance of MSP in reaching the goals (Good Environmental Status, GES) of the HELCOM BSAP, as well as of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) for countries being EU members, and <u>agreed</u> that the link between MSP and GES in the context of the ecosystem approach as well as goals of other policy areas should be reflected upon in the evaluation of the principles and the road map.
- 3.15 The Meeting <u>invited</u> Sweden to share experiences in combining implementation of MSFD and MSP processes and provide input to the evaluation paper.
- 3.16 The Meeting <u>decided</u> to establish an intersessional drafting group to draft the roadmap, consisting of the Co-chairs as well as the two Secretariats, for consideration by the next meeting of the Working Group. Also the Contacting Parties/Member Countries are invited to participate in this intersessional work.

- 3.17 In addition to such a pragmatic roadmap, the Meeting <u>found it important</u> to reflect on MSP on a more strategic level. The Meeting <u>established</u> a drafting group consisting of Germany, Poland, EU, Sweden, Co-Chairs, HELCOM Secretariat as well as EUCC to come up with an outline for a document on the key issues to be addressed by the HELCOM/VASAB Ministers.
- 3.18 The Meeting <u>considered</u> the outline produced by the drafting group contained in document 3/5/WP1 and took note of the following comments:
 - by WWF that a definition on the ecosystem approach and a set goal on monitoring should be included and the coherent direction on governance should be defined;
 - by the VASAB Secretariat that the creation of legal base for MSP and common understanding on MSP is relevant to be included, that the roadmap should be activities-orientated and the key topics for cooperation are too detailed, and while being subject to the discussion in the Working Group, they are not necessarily relevant for ministers, and the roadmap should aim at achieving a common goal for all Baltic Sea countries;
 - by Sweden that the proposed key topics for transboundary cooperation should be further narrowed down/be more focused and for instance development of pan-Baltic energy policy should not be subject of this roadmap, and that the HELCOM-VASAB WG provides a forum for transnational work on MSP in the Baltic Sea;
 - by Germany that also minimum requirements for MSP should be included.
- 3.19 Taking the above comments into account the Meeting <u>considered</u> the working paper 3/5/WP1 as a good first attempt to provide stepping stones for further cooperation, with a view to producing the roadmap and providing input to the Ministerial Meetings.
- 3.20 The Meeting <u>invited</u> the Contracting Parties/Member Countries to give their further possible comments to the working paper (document 3/5/WP1) **by 31 October 2012**, to be collated and further elaborated on by the Secretariats and Co-Chairs.
- 3.21 The Meeting took note of the information on the MSP Expert Group established under the EU Integrated Maritime Policy Group. All member states of the EU are invited to participate in the group by nominating an expert. Meetings have been held in December 2011, April 2012 and June 2012. A joint meeting between the MSP group and the ICZM group was held 11-12 September 2012 in Copenhagen, Denmark. The next meeting of the MSP group will be held in November 2012. The main aim of the group is to exchange information on MSP practices in the EU and on how to develop MSP in an EU context. The MSP group has an EU perspective, not only Baltic. Other regional seas are following the progress within MSP in the Baltic as well as the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group.
- 3.22 The Meeting <u>invited</u> the group to brief the Working Group on the progress and also to distribute the Minutes of the meetings.
- 3.23 The Meeting took note of the information on ICZM Protocol in Mediterranean Sea (legally binding) which the Baltic Sea countries could learn from. A lot is going on in the Mediterranean Sea region related to MSP which the Baltic Sea countries should be aware of.

Agenda Item 4 International legislative basis for Maritime Spatial Planning

Documents: 4/1, 4/1/Add, 4/2

- 4.1 The Meeting <u>considered</u> the information on national legislation on MSP and processes to put MSP legislation in place compiled in documents 4/1 and 4/1/Add and <u>thanked</u> Germany for preparing the questionnaire.
- 4.2 The Meeting <u>considered</u> the document to be a valuable overview of national legislation on MSP. However, the Meeting <u>agreed</u> that the overview as such would be too bulky to be submitted to the Ministerial Meetings.

- 4.3 The Meeting <u>agreed</u> on including more practical information (contact information for institutions, agencies etc.) as well as making the question on SEA more explicit (not if SEA is applied, but how) also taking into account questions on public participation and transparency, and trounsboundary consultation.
- The Meeting <u>requested</u> the Secretariats to revise the questionnaire according to the above discussion and to circulate the questionnaire to the Contracting Parties/Member Countries for amending the filled in information **within a month.** The Meeting further <u>requested</u> the HELCOM Secretariat to publish the overview on the HELCOM web page and keep it regularly updated in connection to the meetings of the Working Group.
- 4.5 The Meeting <u>considered</u> the further use and development of the overview and <u>recalled</u> the compendium published by VASAB in 2009 as a good example on how the overview could be presented. However, the Meeting <u>noted</u> that further work would be needed to draw conclusions and produce the summary for which the evaluation from document 3/3 and 3/3/Add could be used (cf. paragraph 3.7).
- 4.6 The Meeting considered Annex 2 from previous meetings oulining the tasks of the Working Group to produce an overview of legislative basis (cf. Annex 2 to the Minutes of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 4/2012). The Meeting agreed that items one (UNCLOS regime) and three (overview of national MSP legislation and processes) of Annex 2 have largely been finalized and what remains is the collating of the information. For item two (international and regional conventions, agreements, policies and strategies and EU directives), further work is needed and the Meeting welcomed the renewed commitment of Sweden to prepare a document for the next meeting of the Working Group with a summary of legislative basis. The Meeting welcomed the offer by the HELCOM Secretariat to contribute with a part on environmental legislation.
- 4.7 The Meeting took note of the contribution by the European Union on the proposal for conclusions/summary regarding the international legal basis for MSP (document 4/2) and thanked the EU for the valuable input. The Meeting requested the Contracting Parties/Member Countries to comment on the draft conclusions by 31 October 2012, to become part of the condense document on overview of legislative basis to be collated by Sweden.
- 4.8 The Meeting further <u>discussed</u> the input to the Ministerial Meetings based on the overview of legislative basis and <u>agreed</u> that the purpose of presenting the overview would be to confirm that sufficient legislative basis exists for doing MSP.

Practical application of the ecosystem approach in Maritime Spatial Planning

Documents: 5/1, 5/1/Rev

- 5.1 The Meeting <u>took note</u> of the presentation by the HELCOM Secretariat on the ongoing process within HELCOM related to implementation of the ecosystem approach which exemplified the kind of information that is and will become available in the future and could be used in MSP (**Presentation 4**).
- The Meeting <u>considered</u> the document by Finland on the ecosystem approach in the planning process, which has been further elaborated since the previous meeting (document 5/1 and 5/1/Rev) and <u>thanked</u> Finland for the revised version of the paper. The Meeting <u>expressed</u> the opinion that the content is very useful for further defining the Ecosystem Approach with a view of a condensed input for the Ministerial Meetings.
- 5.3 The Meeting <u>clarified</u> the purpose of the paper to be a general paper on the use of ecosystem knowledge in MSP planning processes. The Meeting <u>noted</u> that even if there are differences between countries in terms of planning, and dimensions like ownership of sea areas, the main steps are the same. However, the Meeting also <u>noted</u> that the objectives for starting MSP planning vary.
- 5.4 The Meeting suggested to consider the following issues in the document:

- to make reference to ecosystem goods and services;
- to include the Malawi principles which were not referred to in the document;
- to make linkages to the SEA directive;
- to reflect the differences between marine and land spatial planning;
- to reflect that also other stakeholders than authorities need to be included in consultation:
- not to integrate descriptors into the document.
- 5.5 The Meeting <u>took note</u> that Germany, who has a study reservation, is in the process of preparing a national position on ecosystem approach to MSP which will provide input also for the work carried out by the Working Group and <u>requested</u> Germany to come back with comments in advance of the next meeting of the Working Group.
- 5.6 The Meeting <u>agreed</u> that an Ecosystem Approach document could be an important input to the Ministerial Meetings but that it should be expressed in a short and concise way. The Meeting <u>agreed</u> that this concise political level document could be complemented with a more comprehensive technical document.
- 5.7 Sweden <u>informed</u> that similar work on defining the ecosystem approach as submitted by Finland is ongoing in Sweden. The Meeting <u>welcomed</u> this input from Sweden for developing a joint understanding of the ecosystem approach further.
- 5.8 The Meeting <u>took note</u> of the presentation by Sweden on the study on applying the ecosystem approach in MSP by the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (**Presentation 5**).
- 5.9 The Meeting <u>invited</u> Finland, Poland and Sweden to develop further document 5/1/Rev according to the discussion above **by 31October 2012** for the additional round of consultation prior to the next meeting of the Working Group.

Data gathering and mapping processes needed for MSP in the Baltic Sea

Documents: 6/1

- 6.1 The Meeting <u>took note</u> of the Green Paper on "Marine Knowledge 2020; from seabed mapping to ocean forecasting" recently adopted by the European Commission (document 6/1). The Meeting <u>recognized</u> the importance of the ongoing process and consultation on the paper, as of relevance to MSP.
- The Meeting took note of the presentation by the HELCOM Secretariat on the HELCOM Map and Data Service and linkages to other regional and European data collection frameworks (**Presentation 6**). HELCOM is gathering data as defined in the HELCOM monitoring and assessment strategy and, in addition to regularly reported data, HELCOM is hosting several thematic environmental datasets. All data is made publicly available through the HELCOM Map and Data Service. The gathered and harmonized data includes much MSP relevant datasets. Several HELCOM hosted datasets are currently accessed by other organizations and data portals such as EMODNET Biology using standard interfaces OGC WMS or ArcGIS REST. The HELCOM Map and Data Service is also showing open data hosted by other organizations (EEA) in principle of Shared Environmental Information Systems (SEIS), which is a concept facilitated in Marine Knowledge 2020 Green Paper.
- 6.3 The Meeting <u>took note</u> of the comment on the need to ensure the sufficient spatial resolution of the data.
- 6.4 The Meeting took note of the information on the BaltSeaPlan project recommendations on the development and implementation of a data exchange network and infrastructure for MSP and management purposes in the Baltic Sea Region as published in the BaltSeaPlan report No 20, presented by Germany (**Presentation 7**). The Meeting found the report very useful for mapping the ongoing European processes on data and outlining a

number of general challenges such as fragmentation of data, data shortage and availability, etc., that need to be solved to enable high-quality data for MSP.

- 6.5 The Meeting took note of the presentation by the HELCOM Secretariat on the experiences of the Plan Bothnia project on MSP data concerning sharing data and project information, noting that there are cases where the data does not exist but it is often also a question of limited access as well as comparability (**Presentation 8**).
- 6.6 The Meeting took note of a central message on data issues from the Plan Bothnia project, which is that ensuring access to data is a central element, regardless of the way in which data is distributed or quality controlled, and that regional projects should be encouraged by the Working Group to share the data they have collected with other actors in the region. The wide sharing of the data also raises its quality as limitations and errors are often only spotted during actual use.
- 6.7 The Meeting <u>took note</u> of the clarification that while data on shipwrecks and migratory routes in coastal areas has been made available within the Plan Bothnia project, these data are scarce for the open sea.
- 6.8 The Meeting <u>highlighted</u> the importance of data reliability and the understanding of what kind of data are needed for MSP, including regarding trends and future developments as well as temporal scales. Quality of the data should be shown, as this affects planning.
- 6.9 The Meeting <u>noted</u> that accuracy of the data is related to the planning scale and for instance, for defined hot spot areas more detailed information is needed.
- 6.10 The Meeting <u>took note</u> of the information by Germany that as far as the national level is concerned, data are being exchanged within special marine data architecture available to authorities that follow the INSPIRE Directive.
- 6.11 The Meeting <u>clarified</u> that there is no need to create a new pan-Baltic database with MSP relevant data, but instead to ensure, facilitate and enhance the data exchange and sharing that could also be used for MSP.
- 6.12 The Meeting <u>discussed</u> how to ensure coherent MSP relevant dataset that cover the whole Baltic Sea and how to organize the work also within the Working Group on data gathering and mapping processes needed for MSP in the Baltic Sea. The Meeting <u>found</u> the added value in taking a pro-active role by the MSP Working Group with the aim to identify and communicate the needs in terms of data for MSP towards national, regional and European data developments, such as EMODNET (cf. newly open call for human activities data).
- 6.13 The Meeting <u>agreed</u> on the need for a practical way forward for the Working Group to address the complexity of the issue and contribute to ensuring coherent MSP relevant datasets for the Baltic Sea. In this respect, the Meeting <u>invited</u> the PartiSEApate project to contribute to the work of the Working Group on MSP relevant data to the next meeting of the group.
- The Meeting took note of the presentation by Mr. Jens Perus on the SeaGIS (Cooperation for ecosystem based planning of the marine environment using GIS) project, which is a project related to MSP in the Northern Quark Region between Finland and Sweden (**Presentation 9**). SeaGIS is a three-year project which started in September 2011 with a budget of one million euros. The partners of the project are both from Finland and Sweden. Mr. Perus underlined that SeaGIS is not a planning project but rather a capacity building project. More information on the project can be found at http://seagis.org. The Meeting thanked Mr.Perus for then presentation on the project.

Agenda Item 7

Any other business

Documents: 7/1, 7/2, 7/3

- 7.1 The Meeting <u>welcomed</u> the information presented by Mr. Kai Myrberg from the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) on the "Gulf of Finland Year 2014" (**Presentation 10**). The Gulf of Finland Year 2014 is an initiative that is already ongoing, will cumulate in 2014, and is planned to last after 2014. Its main aim is to advance trilateral cooperation on the Gulf of Finland, foremost regarding research, in five themes. One of the themes is maritime spatial planning, and for instance a relevant issue could be the planned second line of the Nord Stream pipeline. It is foreseen that a ministerial declaration will be produced in 2014 covering these themes as well as a number of events organized.
- 7.2 The Meeting took note of the invitation by Co-chair Ms. Anita Mäkinen, leading the MSP theme, to the Contracting Parties/Member Countries to actively engage in the Gulf of Finland Year initiative on MSP, with a view to, e.g. possibly establishing a MSP cross-border project similar to the Plan Bothnia project.
- 7.3 The Meeting took note of the more detailed information on the requirements and costs for organizing the simulation game "MSP Challenge" in the Baltic Sea region (document 7/3). The Meeting discussed the different possibilities for organizing the game as well as the timing and invited the HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats to consider the possibility to organize it back-to-back with an event, for instance, within these organizations.
- 7.4 The Meeting <u>suggested</u> having a more real world scenario for the Baltic Sea played possibly as a simulation game.
- 7.5 The Meeting took note of the presentation by Mr. Holger Janßen on the ESaTDOR (European Sea and Territorial Development Opportunities and Risks) project (**Presentation 11**) and thanked Mr. Holger Janßen for the presentation. The project is a cooperation between many partners funded by ESPON 2013 Programme. Cross-border governance papers produced by the project are available on the web page (http://www.iowarnemuende.de/esatdor.html).
- The Meeting took note of the presentation by WWF on the "Counter Currents Scenarios for the Baltic Sea towards 2030" report (**Presentation 12**, document 7/2). The report presents a range of possible futures for the Baltic Sea leading up to the year 2030. Fours scenarios give indications on where we are going, indicating a tremendous growth in the area with heavy demands on the Baltic Sea. The report is the result of a process that was launched in 2011 and that has involved a broad spectrum of stakeholders from both the public and private sectors. A two-day workshop held in March 2012 involved some 50 persons representing a wide range of countries, sectors and institutions from all around the Baltic Sea. The Meeting thanked WWF for the presentation.
- 7.7 The Meeting <u>requested</u> the Contracting Parties/Member Countries to check and update the List of nominated experts for the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG (document 7/1) to be communicated to the Secretariats (laura.meski@helcom.fi and info@vasab.org) **by 21 September 2012**. The list of nominated experts for the HELCOM-VASAB MSP is contained in **Annex 2**.
- 7.8 The Meeting <u>took note</u> of the information by Sweden on the meeting of the ministers responsible for integrated maritime policy under the EU Presidency of the EU that is proposed to cover also MSP.

Future work and next meeting

Documents: 8/1

- 8.1 The Meeting <u>took note</u> of the Work Plan 2010-2013 for the Working Group and <u>decided</u> to start drafting the follow up Work Plan for the following years at the next meeting of the group based on the proposal by the Secretariats and Co-Chairs.
- 8.2 The Meeting <u>decided</u> to arrange its next meeting (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 6/2013) in Riga, Latvia to be hosted by the VASAB Secretariat, on 29-30 January 2013 starting at 09:00 on the first day and finalizing no later than at 16:00 on the second day.

- 8.3 The Meeting <u>agreed</u> that the priority topics for the next MSP WG should be related to the Ministerial Meetings and the agenda for the meeting should be organized accordingly, allowing sufficient time for discussion. Further, the number of Power Point presentations should be limited and bulky documents presented together with a summary.
- 8.4 The Meeting also preliminarily <u>agreed</u> on the timing of the seventh meeting of the Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 7/2013) to be held on 6-7 May 2013, to be hosted by the HELCOM Secretariat in Helsinki.

Outcome of the Meeting

Documents: None

- 9.1 The Meeting <u>adopted</u> the List of Decisions.
- 9.2 The Minutes of the Meeting have been finalized by the Secretariats of HELCOM and VASAB in consultation with the Co-chairs of the Meeting and made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal as well as on the VASAB website, together with meeting documents and the presentations given during the Meeting.

ANNEX 1

	LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	
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ANNEX 2

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LIST OF DOCUMENTS

HELCOM - VASAB MSP WG 5/2012	Date dd.mm.yy	Title	Submitted by
1/1	12.07.12	Provisional Annotated Agenda	VASAB and HELCOM Secretariats
2/1	30.08.12	Maritime Spatial Planning developments reported by Contracting Parties/Member Countries	VASAB and HELCOM Secretariats
2/2	30.08.12	Ongoing revision process of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) and the Action Plan	HELCOM Secretariat
2/3	30.08.12	XIII Baltic Sea Day International Environmental Forum	HELCOM Secretariat
2/4	05.09.12	PartiSeaPate – Project on Multilevel Governance in Maritime Spatial Planning throughout the Baltic Sea Region	Poland
2/5	05.09.12	European Maritime Day 2012 and the Plan Bothnia project final conference	VASAB and HELCOM Secretariat
2/6	12.09.12	Managing Fisheries in Baltic Marine Protected Areas (BALTFIMPA) Inception Phase (2012-2013)	HELCOM Secretariat
2/7	14.09.12	Revised description of the sub- objective "better cooperation" for the Action Plan of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region	Poland
3/1	30.08.12	HELCOM Danish Chairmanship and Ministerial Meeting 2013	HELCOM Secretariat
3/2	05.09.12	Developing a Pilot Maritime Spatial Plan for the Pomeranian Bight	Germany
3/3	10.09.12	Implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning principles in national legislation on MSP	VASAB Secretariat
3/3/Add	12.09.12	Implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning principles in national legislation on MSP	VASAB Secretariat
3/4	13.09.12	Transboundary MSP – some suggestions based on the Plan Bothnia project	HELCOM Secretariat
3/5/WP1	14.09.12	Outline for key issues to be addressed by the HELCOM and VASAB Ministers	Drafting group
4/1	30.08.12	Overview on national legislation on MSP and processes to put MSP in place	Germany
4/1/Add	12.09.12	Overview on national legislation on MSP and processes to put MSP in place	Germany

4/2	14.09.12	Proposal for conclusions regarding the international legal basis for MSP	European Union
5/1	11.09.12	Ecosystem approach in drafting a plan for maritime areas	Finland
5/1/Rev	13.09.12	Ecosystem approach in drafting a plan for maritime areas	Finland
6/1	10.09.12	Green Paper on "Marine Knowledge 2020; from seabed mapping to ocean forecasting"	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats
7/1	30.08.12	List of nominated experts for the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG	VASAB and HELCOM Secretariats
7/2	05.09.12	Counter Currents - Scenarios for the Baltic Sea towards 2030	WWF
7/3	05.09.12	The Maritime Spatial Planning simulation game "MSP Challenge"	VASAB and HELCOM Secretariats
8/1	12.09.12	Work Plan for 2010 – 2013 for the Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats

LIST OF PRESENTATIONS

No.	Title	Presented by
1.	PartiSEApate - Overview: Background, Outputs, Activities	Poland
2.	Plan Bothnia: A brief review	Stephen Jay
3.	BaltSeaPlan	Nico Nolte
4.	Ecosystem approach in HELCOM	HELCOM Secretariat
5.	Applying the Ecosystem Approach in Maritime Spatial Planning	Sweden
6.	HELCOM Data activities	HELCOM Secretariat
7.	BalSeaPlan - Findings - Data for MSP	Nico Nolte
8.	Plan Bothnia - Reflecting about data	HELCOM Secretariat
9.	SeaGIS	Jens Perus
10.	Towards the Gulf of Finland Year 2014	Marine Research Centre, SYKE
11.	Towards a spatial typology - Results of the ESaTDOR project	Holger Janßen