Baltic Sea Region
MSP Data Expert Sub-Group
10th meeting

DECISIONS

Venue: Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Latvia

13/11/2018

General:

1. The thematic Data workshop of Pan Baltic Scope Data Sharing activity held on previous day introduced with the first prototype of Baltic MSP web-map for MSP output data (so called BASEMAPS, initiated within Baltic LINes project, hosted by HELCOM). The prototype was elaborated according to the Recommendations for transboundary MSP output data, agreed by the BSR MSP Data expert sub-group (MSP Data group) in its 9th meeting on 17-18 April 2018 in Vilnius, Lithuania. MSP Data group was thanked for participation and valuable comments on the first prototype. All comments will be analysed and processed to improve the BASEMAPS prototype. The summary of comments will be sent to the MSP Data group after the analysis. The improved prototype for further testing will be delivered by April 2019. It is expected to have the Baltic MSP webmap in operation in 2019/2020, ensuring the visualisation of MSP output data by general and sectoral view. It is intended to include into the BASEMAPS also the layer of 'spatial plan area' which now is available at HELCOM Map and Data Service.

2. The initial document "The Recommendations on transboundary MSP Output data structure and exchange" prepared and agreed by the MSP Data group in its 9th meeting of 17-18 April in Vilnius, Lithuania, was presented at 16th meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group. The HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG agreed in general on the suggested approach to transboundary MSP output data and agreed to start drafting "**Guidelines on transboundary MSP output data**". The drafting of the Guidelines was coordinated with Finland, to ensure elastic approach for strategic plans, as well as circulated among the MSP Data group for confirmation. The content (particularly the attributes and definitions) in the Guidelines are the same as in Recommendations document that was adopted by Data expert group. Principles and steps for exchange of national/regional MSP output data is still under development and will be agreed as technical guidance by MSP Data group on later stage. The Guidelines were considered and agreed at the 17th meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group and forwarded to the HELCOM HOD and VASAB CSPD/BSR for approval.

3. MSP Data group introduced with latest developments concerning the data issues ("tour de table"):

    a. DENMARK: A lot of effort has been devoted to development of national MSDI. The data model is being developed by aggregating all the input data, as well as technical specification for legally binding maps is in consideration. One more aspect that is being considered is legal impact of geospatial data, tough more investigation is needed to evaluate it.

    b. ESTONIA: The first description of planning process of the maritime spatial plan is being prepared to inform the neighbouring countries about the outline of national maritime spatial plan. 1st draft indicating the map of interests is expected in spring 2019.

    c. FINLAND: The national MSP coordination group (involving the representatives of counties) has set a sub-group for data issues. It has been decided that ArcGIS online tool will be used for viewing input data and information, as well as on later stage – also regional maritime spatial

plans. First draft and public hearing of regional maritime spatial plans is expected in spring 2019.

d. GERMANY: It is planned to update maritime spatial plans for German EEZ, but it is complicated due to the shortage of staff. First status report and evaluation is being carried out, including the new uses that were not foreseen by first plans since 2009. It is also planned to update the context, as well as stakeholders list, as a lot have changed since elaboration of first MSP. It is intended to move further on first half of 2019, as there will be new ideas and findings form evaluation of existing plans. Regarding MSP output data, there still are no services available for the MSP of 2009, however the sectoral spatial plan data (for offshore grid development) is available in GIS services. The 2nd version of CONTIS – information system on activities and infrastructure in North and Baltic Seas is being developed.

e. LITHUANIA: Have started the work on new comprehensive plan for whole territory of Lithuania, including the sea area. It is planned to adopt it by 2020.

f. LATVIA: The final draft maritime spatial plan has been put into governmental consultation process and the plan is expected to be adopted by the beginning of 2019.

g. POLAND: The 2nd draft of national maritime spatial plan is in its final phase and being discussed inter-institutionally. International meeting for 3rd MSP draft is envisaged in 2019. A lot of work have been done within the Pan Baltic Scope project – services were prepared and published for MSP area. A separate online platform for all Polish maritime spatial plans (output data) have been prepared. With regards to other maritime spatial plans in Poland, the 1st draft of MSP for Szczecin and Kamieński lagoons and ports is almost finished and at the end of 2018 will be consulted in cross-border consultations with Germany.

h. RUSSIA: There are no legal basis for MSP and responsible institution appointed in Russia yet, neither official processes initiated.

i. SWEDEN: National and international consultations were held during summer and a lot of comments have been received. The draft maritime spatial plan and maps will be updated and a small round of comments will take place on March 2019. After that the final draft of the maritime spatial plan will be handed in to the government for adoption by December 2019.

Outcomes:

4. The maintenance mechanism and efforts from countries after launching the first BASEMAPS prototype for MSP Output data were discussed. The approach proposed by Pan Baltic Scope project was in principle agreed - the output data should be visualised as general overview by sea use type (allowed, forbidden etc.) and by single sector (e.g., aquaculture, transport etc.).

5. The data harmonization process for the operability of the BASEMAPS could be described as follows:

   a. **Extension of MSP output data sets** according to the Guidelines for transboundary MSP output data in the Baltic Sea by national MSP Data focal points after elaboration and adoption of maritime spatial plan.

   b. **Validation of MSP output data sets** – the online validation tool to be developed by HELCOM. National MSP Data focal points shall ensure the validation process.

   c. **Given access to the validated MSP output data sets** by publishing the maritime spatial plan on national WFS or sending validated shapefile to HELCOM Secretariat, if no WFS exists. National MSP Data focal points shall ensure that MSP output data for the BASEMAPS is up to date (via WFS or by sending updated shapefile). If there is an existing WFS, HELCOM uses the time stamp to run a daily update check and extracts a shapefile from WFS.

d. **Publishing a merged data set on the BASEMAPS** - HELCOM creates a merged data set to be published as WMS on BASEMAPS from harmonized national data sets. There should not be a possibility to download merged data set, but a link to national services should be provided. This is to avoid interpretation of national data. The disclaimer should be included indicating that the BASEMAPS product visualizes the general overview of planned sea uses derived from the adopted maritime spatial plans in the Baltic Sea and for detailed analysis the original source (responsible institution for MSP) should be obtained.

6. The layer of 'spatial plan area' (currently published in HELCOM Map and Data Service) will be included in the BASEMAPS on later stage. In order to ensure an up-to-date information on 'spatial plan area' data set attributes (e.g., MSP process step), national MSP focal points will be given access to the BASEMAPS to update the information using an easy online web-form.

7. It was decided that it would be useful to publish all the available links to national MSP output data services or MSP web applications where MSP output data could be accessed. It was decided, that the Data group chapter on new VASAB website would suit this purpose.

Tasks:

8. LV and HELCOM continue work on further improvement of BASEMAPS for MSP Output data. In this regard PL will send an updated data for further work. The BASEMAPS shall include 3 layers of data:

   a. MSP area ('spatial plan area');

   b. Planned sea use by type (priority, reserved, allowed, restricted and forbidden uses);

   c. Planned sea use by sector. It was suggested to add in description not only the title of categories, but also sub-categories and their definitions for better understanding.

9. Within next month special attention will be given to 'spatial plan area' data sets:

   a. LV will work on visualization proposal;

   b. HELCOM will incorporate it into BASEMAPS for MSP output data.

10. In order to ensure brief overview of available national GIS services for MSP, it was agreed to compile into the list the links of currently available national (or regional) MSP data services or web applications. All BSR countries are invited to send the relevant information to VASAB Secretariat (elina.veidemane@vasab.org) for publishing it in the VASAB webpage.

11. Additionally, all BSR countries are invited to send the updated information regarding the national MSP Data focal points or 'spatial plan area' data set, if there are any changes.

Future meetings:

12. Next meeting will be hosted by DK and will take place in Copenhagen in the beginning of April 2019 (1st-12th April). It will be held back-to-back with the 3rd workshop of Pan Baltic Scope Data Sharing Activity.

13. Bettina on behalf of Baltic LINes and NorthSEE projects team invites everybody to the joint projects MSP conference "Connecting the Seas" to be held on 13th-14th February in Hamburg. There will be parallel workshops, one of them will be devoted to the MSP data issues.