



Co-funded by the  
European Maritime and  
Fisheries Fund of the  
European Union

# Ecosystem-based toolbox

Pan Baltic Scope Activity 1.2.1

Jan Schmidtbauer Crona

Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management

Swedish Agency  
for Marine and  
Water Management



Ministry of Environmental  
Protection and Regional  
Development  
of the Republic of Latvia

DANISH MARITIME AUTHORITY



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE



Nordregio



SATAKUNTALIITTO  
The Regional Council of Satakunta



Ålands  
landskapsregering

# EBA-toolbox activity

## Aim

The activity should contribute to a coherent implementation of ecosystem-based approach (EBA) in national MSP in the Baltic Sea Region.

The aim is to share experience on practical implementation of EBA in partner countries, including implementation of the SEA-framework, and to test the HELCOM-VASAB Guideline and the tools for the implementation of EBA in MSP.

## Tasks

- To carry out a synthesis analysis of recent research on EBA in MSP including evaluation of the guideline in relation to the Malawi principles.
- To take stock of the current practice with regard to EBA in MSP in the Baltic Sea Region.
- To take stock of the results of other activities in WP 1.2 (SEA, Green infrastructure, Cumulative assessment, SocioEconomic Evaluation etc.) and how they provide tools for EBA.
- To provide recommendations on potential development of the HELCOM-VASAB Guideline and the EBA toolbox (checklists) developed in the Baltic SCOPE project.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



TOOLS  
PRACTICE  
SCIENCE

# SCIENCE

## Göteborg University report:

*“Synthesis report on the ecosystem approach to marine spatial planning” D. Langlet et. al.*

### *Some conclusions*

- No major differences in how the ecosystem approach is understood in the Guideline and in the Malawi Principles, in particular not since the Guideline is intended as ‘an operationalization
- Guideline deals to a very limited extent with how to manage conflicts or opposing perspectives relating to values and objectives, or how to overcome lacking trust or understanding between MSP actors
- Local knowledge nor the need for knowledge about the perceptions, values and practices that drive people to act is not mentioned
- More of a checklist than a help to reflect constructively on practical and value related challenges

### *Some proposals*

- Include the need for transparent structures for both assessing and communicating trade-offs in MSP processes as addition to the Alternative development key element
- Include the need for designing participatory processes with real two-way communication so as to make them accessible to a wide diversity of people
- Include the need for developing a strategy for managing uncertainty, not merely in terms of applying precaution in the actual decision-making but in relation to communication and interaction between different actors in the MSP process

# SCIENCE

**”Lack of substantive elaboration of the different steps and concepts mentioned in the Guideline” →**

**Need for more detailed HELCOM/VASAB EBA guidelines?**

**Or elaborate a bit but keeping main “general” approach and adding informal toolboxes?**

## PRACTICE

- **EBA integrated in national MSP regulations**
- **General guidelines exist**
- **Various degrees of experiences and implementation of EBA in MSP, partly due to different phases in MSP-process**

Integral part of spatial planning (since long), interwoven with nearly every MSP step.

Not yet applied

The EBA is applied in MSP from the first step  
-The environmental data and information were gathered and analyzed carefully at the beginning to give planners the knowledge on important and valuable areas processes which should be taken into account in planning solutions.

-The wide stakeholder involvement is performed

-The SEA recommendations are almost fully incorporated into MSP

*Cumulative assessments*

Under consideration

We applied EBA in the implementation of the following tasks:

- Mapping of benthic habitats and ecosystem services
- Assessing sensitivity of marine habitat types to different sea uses
- Assessment of ecological impacts of alternative sea use scenarios and optimal sea use solutions

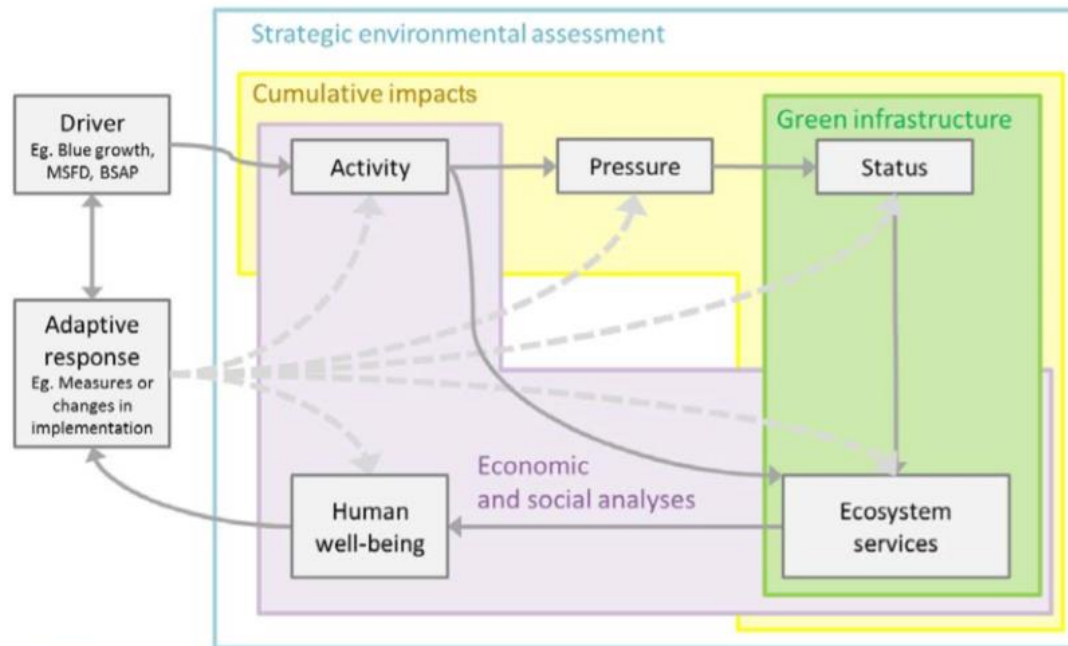
## PRACTICE

- **Stakeholder activation, Lack of time or budget allocation, Conflicts and split opinions/ lacking common visions**
- **Data and Knowledge** is insufficient; stakeholder interest is low in these aspects
- **Operationalization of ecosystem services** is very difficult for planning purposes. Thus hindering a linkage to estimation of socio-economic effects in MSP. - Different or unclear interpretations of the **precautionary principle** (national and international levels, between stakeholder groups etc.) - **Uncertainty** and lack of knowledge of structure and functioning of ecosystem and how they are affected by current and future activities and planning/management decisions.
- Limited data, **lack of uniform methodology** (different countries are approaching differently)
- 1. **Sometimes strong investors' resistance** 2. Still lack of awareness of EBA long term importance, 3. to some extent lack of data and knowledge

# TOOLS

## EBA-toolbox activity in PanBaltic Scope

Tools to support the ecosystem-based approach in MSP



EBA-analytical framework

[www.panbalticscope.eu](http://www.panbalticscope.eu)



# THE NEXT STEPS

PRACTICE

- **EBA-MSP workshop Finland/Åland 25<sup>th</sup> April in Helsinki**
- **2nd joint Workshop 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> of May in Malmö**
- **Preparation of the Joint deliverables:**
  - **Background report (Questionnaire results, synthesis analysis etc.)**
  - **Planners handbook**
  - **Recommendations (on EBA implementation and comparability of SEA) → Input to HELCOM/VASAB MSP WG**