Baltic Sea Region
MSP Data Expert Sub-Group
11th meeting

DECISIONS

Venue: Danish Maritime Authority

03/04/2019

General:

1. The 3rd thematic Data workshop of Pan Baltic Scope Data Sharing activity held on previous day introduced with the improved prototype of Baltic MSP web-map for MSP output data (so called BASEMAPS, initiated within Baltic LINes project, hosted by HELCOM). Workshop participants were introduced to the improved version of BASEMAPS and were provided with the opportunity to test it. Participants agreed that comparing with the previous version many improvements have been achieved and provided various feedback on the future developments.

2. MSP Data Experts Sub-group (hereafter - Data Group) members introduced with latest developments concerning the data issues ("tour de table"):

    a. DENMARK: First Danish MSP is under development, therefore designated areas haven`t been finalized yet. Data collection has been carried out for the use of marine areas. First MSP launched for consultation by the end of 2019. Digital MSP plan – almost ready for tender. Work on SEA has been started and first meeting with consultant took place.

    b. ESTONIA: First draft is ready, next week it will be published nationally. Translation is being planned. Transnational consultation period planned to start at the end of April. Data layers in the first draft MSP will be available in English on the data portal. Local plans overlap with MSP, but are of lower level then MSP. Despite that ministry considering the role of local municipalities in MSP.

    c. FINLAND: First national consultation will take place on April and May, one of the meeting will be held on the 10th of April. The first consultation material consists of two main documents – baseline review and drafts for the future scenarios. Baseline review describes the characteristics and ecological status of MSP areas and blue economic profiles for regions. Consultation will be digital. Some information available in English. Partial translations will be available in later stages. Seminars of MSPs will be organized, a workshop on future scenarios has been carried out already.

    d. GERMANY: The highest priority at this moment is sectoral planning, 2nd draft of site development plan in WMS & WFS formats has been published on GeoSeaPortal of BSH. Many discussions with federal ministries, sectors and political level. Regarding data – for the 1st MSP from 2009 and MSPs of federal states (Mecklenburg - Vorpommern and Schleswig - Holstein) attributes mapping table have been prepared – first step to use geodata according to the Data guidelines. Shapefiles are being prepared to test tool of cumulative impacts (as part of Pan Baltic Scope project). The 1st MSP will be published according to the Data guidelines until summer.

    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: national MSP has been agreed with all involved ministries in interinstitutional process. Waiting for the State Environmental Bureau decision, then it will be handed to the government

for approval. When the plan will be adopted, it will be prepared for publishing in National Spatial Development Information System. Should be available by beginning of the next year. Latvia is also carrying out land sea interaction test case in Salacgriva Municipality (as part of Pan Baltic Scope) – a local level thematic plan for land and sea interacted part is being elaborated to test how to apply the MSP on a local level.

g. POLAND: GIS services are now available https://mapy.umgdy.gov.pl, where it is possible to access extent and data of Polish plans, submitted comments and proposal available. One section is available in English - WFS data of Polish plan, a static map. On June 4-5 final transnational consultation meeting for Polish plan is foreseen. The final version of the plan should be available till then. After this meeting, the procedure for adoption of the plan will start. Contract for the elaboration of Spatial Information System for Maritime Information - a GIS system for MSP input data has been signed and it should be finalized until July 2020.

h. RUSSIA: Nothing has changed regarding MSP Data since previous meeting. Large project on MSP methodology on transboundary areas and data gathering still ongoing.

i. SWEDEN: the latest MSP version has been published for a shorter review and minor changes until June, which is the last review before handing it to the government for adoption. Plan is as a webmap (WMS & WFS). Spatial plan area is adopted according to the Data Guidelines and efforts are made to adopt the entire MSP.

3. HELCOM has updated `spatial plan area` dataset in BASEMAPS and HELCOM Data&Maps Service.

4. Data guidelines have been agreed by the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group in its 17th meeting on 14-15 November 2018, Riga, Latvia, adopted by the VASAB CSPD/BSR in its 80th meeting on 23 January 2019, Schwerin, Germany and adopted by the HELCOM in its 40th meeting on 6-7 March 2019, Helsinki, Finland.

5. List of the available data focal points and available GIS services are available on VASAB webpage. Further on updates should be sent to liene.stikane@vasab.org

6. HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG has agreed on prolongation of mandate for the Data Group until 2021 after Terms of Reference has been amended.

7. HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG in their 80th Meeting set 3 questions/tasks to the Data Group:

   a. Baltic LINes data related recommendations should be discussed in this group

   b. HELCOM FISH group has expressed interest to cooperate with the MSP group regarding fisheries data. The group wants to know what exactly is needed for MSP

   c. Mandate prolongation of the Data Group must be accompanied with amendments in the Terms of Reference (ToR) of this group.

Outcomes:

8. Regarding the Baltic LINes recommendations to the Data ESG it was agreed:

   a. Recommendation *The BSR MSP Data ESG should work to support the data availability in the newly created tool to access Baltic Sea MSP data based on a Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (an output of Baltic LINes called BASEMAPS) and make sure that their national data is included* is already included in task h: *agree on roadmap; the group should consider developing existing infrastructure further for MSP, if possible, before considering new platforms for data infrastructure* as BASEMAPS is a new platform for data infrastructure. It will be decided later on if the BASEMAPS should be specifically mentioned.

   b. Recommendation *The status of the data availability should be followed up at each group meeting of the BSR MSP data ESG. The data ESG should inform the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG on the status of BASEMAPS' completion* is included in task c: *follow up and compile identified main*

trans-boundary / cross-border issues in MSP in the BSR in relation to data and information. This recommendation suggests just another format to carry out the task.

    c. Recommendation *BASEMAPS should be the focal point for getting an overview on MSP related spatial data stemming from national Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures (MSDIs). Therefore, BASEMAPS could be the starting point for cataloguing relevant data to be used by MSP related spatial decision support tools* could be considered to be included in <u>task h</u>*: agree on roadmap; the group should consider developing existing infrastructure further for MSP, if possible, before considering new platforms for data infrastructure.* However, this could be discussed only when the decision on previous recommendations is made.

    d. Recommendation *BASEMAPS should be continuously fed and its data layers extended to other sectors such as aquaculture, underwater cultural heritage, etc.* <u>Task h:</u> *agree on roadmap; the group should consider developing existing infrastructure further for MSP, if possible, before considering new platforms for data infrastructure.* However, this could be discussed only when the decision on previous recommendations is made and the benefits of BASEMAPS is clearly defined.

    e. Recommendation *The BSR MSP Data ESG should encourage MSP data providers to establish English as an additional language to provide MSP transboundary data* is not depicted in ToR, however, even though the INSPIRE directive foresees this it has not been implemented. This task is beyond the responsibilities and possib<u>i</u>lities of the Data ESG so it was decided to not consider this recommendation further.

    f. Recommendation *Likewise, the BSR MSP Data ESG should also work to support a common symbology for MSP data and establishment of common term vocabulary to achieve semantic interoperability*. is depicted in <u>task f:</u> *compile minimum data/ information/ evidence requirements for trans-boundary / cross-border MSP: scope, metadata, standards, formats etc. for "Input Data", and "Sharing" of these data.* However, ability to influence *metadata, standards and formats* is very limited and data providers are defining these so it was decided to eliminate those from ToR. So far a common terminology has been summarized for MSP Output data in "Glossary" of possible sea uses available in VASAB webpage.

9. It is suggested that the excel file collecting available GIS services (Annex to the First Data Group Report) could be moved to BASEMAPS and Data Group could take over the follow-up of the available data. Group should discuss and agree on this until the next meeting. Members of the data group would have access to the admin panel of BASEMAPS to coordinate and update national information.

10. It is suggested that one month before every Data group meeting the information to update the input data excel should be sent to both secretariats (or update BASEMAPS if such an approach is chosen in the future). However, there are many inconsistencies and inaccuracies in the input data table so it would require a lot of resources to keep it up to date and opportunities to influence data providers are limited. The group has previously decided to concentrate on the output data more.

11. The question of usage and intent of BASEMAPS was made as maintaining it requires a lot of resources. It should be clearly defined what will be the strategic focus of the BASEMAPS. It was suggested to monitor how many users there are and what are the reasons to use BASEMAPS or summarize available GIS services in the excel file (Annex to the First Data Group Report). There is a need to know that people would actually use this. Potential users might be the ones using HELCOM Maps&Data Service. There is a need to approach data from neighbouring countries when elaborating national MSPs. HELCOM Data& Maps includes more generalized data that cannot be used for planning. However there are many gaps in the available data in BASEMAPS at this point so it is challenging to use it. BASEMAPS have the potential to be the place to see all the MSP related data in one place.

12. It should be considered what are the national perspectives for using BASEMAPS and a wider discussion on added value on BASEPAMS is needed in HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG.

13. Countries have an obligation to provide ICES with their fisheries data, however approaches in collecting data on fisheries is inconsistent and fisheries are considered in different ways in national MSPs. As ICES

has a database on fisheries data, the information they have might be sufficient for HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG. This question must be discussed with the planners not only data experts. So this question shall be further clarified prior giving the answer to the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG.

14. HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG in their 18th Meeting has expressed their approval on the good results Data ESG has delivered and agreed to prolong the mandate of the group until 2021 and gave the task to discuss future tasks and incorporate them into the Terms of Reference. Many of the amendments have been suggested during the discussion on Baltic LINes recommendations.

15. It is agreed to continue working on BASEMAPS developments and therefore to add two tasks to the ToRs - to ensure availability of MSP output data in BASEMAPS after adoption of maritime spatial plans and to continue working on BASEMAPS to keep it up to date. It is very likely that new challenges will arise when data will be uploaded on BASEMAPS so this should be among the main tasks of this group in the future to improve the operation of the BASEMAPS for MSP Output data.

16. Modus Operandi of the ToRs is outdated as it mentions concrete projects and initiatives, which should be generalized.

17. BASEMAPS for MSP Output data should include a disclaimer that this is a copy of the national MSP data and if the user would like to see precise data - a national site should be visited.

Tasks:

18. HELCOM (Joni) prepares a description on BASEMAPS to explain its purpose, intent and usage patterns (by April 25). It shall be used to validate why resources should be allocated to upload and keep up to date information in BASEMAPS. Later a statistics of users should be added.

19. VASAB (Liene) prepares amendments in Terms of Reference that will be circulated (on April 25th) among members of the Data ESG who will be invited to provide feedback (until 10th of May). It will be forwarded to the next HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG for approval.

20. Chair (Kristine) will contact a fisheries expert and prepare an example on how to update the table (annex to the first Data Group Report) on fisheries data.

21. Final draft of BASEMAPS for MSP Output data will be sent to the group by mid-June for 2 week-testing. Additional information will be provided on what is available in BASEMAPS.

Future meetings:

22. Next meeting will be hosted by PL and will take place in Warsaw in beginning of October 2019 (1st - 4th October).