Document title	Progress of the Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Sub-Group
Code	5-3
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	5 - Ecosystem-based approach in MSP
Submission date	14.10.2019
Submitted by	Latvia
Reference	

Background

Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Sub-Group has been working since autumn 2015 and has produced several important outcomes, such as the group's first report on data availability and gaps and guidelines transboundary MSP output data structure. These outcomes have been appreciated and endorsed by the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG. Therefore, within the discussions on recommendations from Baltic LINes project and the fact that the mandate of the group ends on 2019, HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 18-2019 invited Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Sub-Group to update the ToR of the group.

Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Sub-Group discussed the ToR in its 11th meeting, held in Copenhagen on 4th of April 2019 and agreed on amendments on its 12th meeting, held in Warsaw on 3rd of October 2019. The amended ToR of the Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Sub-Group are attached to this document.

HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 18-2019 also requested Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Sub-Group to initiate discussion on which fisheries data is needed in national MSP with the goal to identify common requirements for aggregated fisheries data. The Meeting will be informed of the progress of the BSR MSP Data Expert Sub-Group on this matter via presentation by the chair of the group.

Action requested

The meeting is invited to consider and endorse the updated ToR of the Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Sub-Group. The meeting is also invited to discuss the proposals on the progress of work and future plans of MSP Data Expert Sub-Group presented in the meeting.

With suggested adjustments

Terms of Reference

for a Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Sub-group (BSR MSP Data ESG)

Objective

The BSR MSP Data Expert Sub-group (hereinafter - BSR MSP Data Expert Group)

- supports data, information and evidence exchange for MSP processes with regard to cross-border / trans-boundary planning issues,
- facilitates the work of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and helps with implementation of the WG's work-plan incl. the Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2013-2020.

Status

The BSR MSP Data Expert Group

- is a sub-group to HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG which it reports to (the sub-group also reports to VASAB CSPD/BSR and within HELCOM according to the established procedures),
- develops recommendations & proposals to responsible authorities (MSP, MSP data),
- aims at avoiding duplication of work with regard to activities of further (regional) initiatives and working groups on the issue of MSP data, in particular with regard to outputs and products, and thus establishes links to e.g. the IHO WG in BSR and other relevant groups e.g. through representation (membership) in these groups (or vice-versa),
- is established for a period **agreed by HELCOM and VASAB CSPD/BSR**[1].

Membership

Core members of the BSR MSP Data Expert Group

- are MSP experts / planners representatives from all BSR countries (in general: 1/country + deputy),
- are Data / GIS / SDI (Spatial Data Infrastructure) experts from relevant authorities/agencies in BSR countries (1 – 2/country + deputy),
- are appointed by competent national authorities (coordination on national level).

Additional members/experts

- may participate in meetings by invitation by the chair of the group depending on issues to be dealt with such as representatives of other organizations, technical experts, etc.

The Chair

- is elected by core members of the BSR MSP Data Expert Group for a defined period of time to be decided by the expert group
- is supported by a co-chair, who is a representative of the meeting's host (in turn: national MSP / MSP data agency/authority: "rotating "co-chair").

Modus Operandi

Meetings

---

[1] *HELCOM note*-with a possibility of extension according to the agreement in HELCOM.
During the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group 18th meeting a prolongation was agreed until the end of 2021.

- are called up to 4 times / year (face-to-face meetings, as needed: entire core group / planners sub-group / data experts sub-group / EG + additional participants as seen fit),
- are being hosted by national MSP / MSP data authorities and may also be hosted by the VASAB and HELCOM Secretariats, taking turns,
- may be set up as general meetings, workshops, conferences **(e.g. contribute to BSR MSP Forum, in the framework of Flagships),**
- may be held as face-to-face meetings, online conferences, e.g. in between face-to-face meetings or as follow-ups,
- may preferably being held back-to-back other relevant meetings / conferences / WGs if possible, e.g. **relevant MSP projects, BSR MSP Forum, HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG, European Maritime Day etc.**

Communication

- is maintained by e-mail (internal, between members), and possibly by making use of HELCOM (discussion boards, etc.) or VASAB websites (to be explored)
- and links shall be established between the EG and other existing and forthcoming relevant forums and activities, including:
  - o **Ongoing and future MSP projects**
  - o **Baltic Sea North Sea Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure WG**
  - o ICES WKCMSP
  - o under MSFD (e.g. indicators, measures)
  - o under HELCOM (e.g. common indicators, incl. Baltic wide information on pressures)
  - o INSPIRE

Technical/administrative support:

- is being given by VASAB (application for funding for meetings to Interreg VB BSR Programme)
- GIS support is provided by HELCOM data centre

Tasks (to be amended as necessary)

The BSR MSP Data Expert Group will

a. prepare a list of BSR National MSP Data Contact Points, incl. contact persons/details (in addition to List of National MSP Contact Points by HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG, Country Fiches)
b. prepare an additional list (to be extended as needed) of further contact persons, data experts etc. (compilation by national authorities/agencies)
c. follow up and compile identified main trans-boundary / cross-border issues in MSP in the BSR in relation to data and information
d. initially prepare a general overview on national state of play of "MSP Data" with regard to trans-boundary / cross-border issues in BSR States (availability), incl. an overview on
  - o available (relevant) data (incl. metadata, problems with ownership, legal issues, licenses, cost etc.)
  - o data services (accessibility etc.)
e. compile minimum requirements / criteria etc. for trans-boundary / cross-border MSP "Output Data" (Maritime Spatial Plans)
f. 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
g. prepare an overview on gaps in relevant data / information / evidence, problems e.g. with ownership, licensing, cost, legal aspects in general

h. agree on roadmap; the group should consider developing **BASEMAPS** ~~existing infrastructure~~ further for MSP, if possible, before considering new platforms for data infrastructure

i. establish links to BSR MSP projects, WGs etc. and support "implementation of the way of thinking" with regard to MSP data

j. **ensure that national MSP output data is made available on BASEMAPS after adoption of MSP in compliance with the Guidelines on trans-boundary MSP output data structure**

k. **ensure that the MSP output data in BASEMAPS is kept up to date according to the Guidelines on trans-boundary Baltic Sea Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure for MSP (to be elaborated by the end of 2019)**

Outputs (to be amended as necessary)

Deliverables of the group shall be (among others)

a. List of National MSP Data Contact Points and contact persons

b. List of additional relevant institutions, contact persons / data experts

c. List of main / most relevant MSP issues in a cross-border / trans-boundary context in relation to data and information

d. Compilation of minimum requirements for Maritime Spatial Plan Data: "Output Data" and sharing of this data

~~l. Compilation of minimum requirements for "Input Data" and sharing of this data which has relevance for trans-boundary / cross-border planning issues~~

e. Overview on (national / regional) situation of MSP Data which has been identified as being relevant with regard to cross-border/trans-boundary (planning) issues in BSR

f. **Guidelines on trans-boundary MSP output data structure**

g. Regular reports to HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG

Resources needed:

The Contracting Parties/Member Countries are to nominate their representatives to the group, and the work will rely on expert participation and contribution of the Contracting Parties/Member Countries. Additional resources will be sought for through various projects. HELCOM Secretariat will provide GIS expertise.