Document title	Recommendations from the collaboration Pan Baltic Scope
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Agenda Item	3 – Development of the regional MSP framework
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Background

Pan Baltic Scope was a collaboration between 12 planning authorities and organisations from around the Baltic Sea in 2018 and 2019. The collaboration was a continuation of the previous project Baltic SCOPE. It was co-funded by the EU fund EMFF. Sweden was lead partner for both Baltic SCOPE and Pan Baltic Scope.

Pan Baltic Scope produced a wide range of deliverables, most of which can be downloaded at the project website www.panbalticscope.eu. Pan Baltic Scope formulated recommendations that can be useful to planners, authorities, policy-makers and others dealing with maritime spatial planning. Three of the recommendations are of especially high relevance for the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group. Six others are targeted at the working group.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- take note of the recommendations from the Pan Baltic Scope collaboration,
- discuss the relevance of the three recommendations to the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group at the next meeting of the Working Group (21-2020).

Pan Baltic Scope and recommendations

Pan Baltic Scope developed approaches and tools at pan-Baltic level

Pan Baltic Scope was a collaboration between 12 planning authorities and organisations from around the Baltic Sea in 2018 and 2019. We worked towards bringing better maritime spatial plans for the Baltic Sea Region. Pan Baltic Scope broadly contributed to more coherent national maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea region, and to building lasting macro-region mechanisms for cross-border MSP cooperation.

We developed **common tools and approaches**, built on previous projects and carried out **concrete cross-border cooperation** that supported national planning solutions. Pan Baltic Scope also contributed to **building trust** among the project partners – a vital ingredient for cross-border cooperation.

Summary of work and results

Our **Planning Forum** based its work on needs of the planning authorities, and created exchange on an array of issues, handled concrete topics and gave a cross-border perspective to national planning processes.

The **Finland-Åland-Sweden case** provided local stakeholder expert needs and knowledge through meetings and an online tool, as well as exchange among planners from different levels.

The **Land-sea interactions** recommendations are based on analyses and two case studies, and produce guidelines and a pilot plan. A land-sea interaction perspective is an enabler for integrating MSP into overall governance system.

Our **handbook on ecosystem-based approach** and **strategic environmental assessment** gives useful tips and a modular implementation for practical needs of planners.

The **green infrastructure concept** for marine spatial planning is ready, and we tested mapping the ecological value and supply of ecosystem services for the **whole Baltic Sea**. We also made pan-Baltic **maps on essential fish habitats**. Our modelling shows that **climate change** has significant effects on **distribution of species**, and is a threat to ecosystem functions and the blue economy the next 80 years. We map areas important as climate refugia or "last stands".

The **open source** desktop app and online version for **assessing cumulative impacts** called BSII-CAT is ready to use, just like the **free, online tool** PlanWise4Blue for **assessing economic** and cumulative impacts for MSP.

The **map and data service** BASEMAPS gives an overview of where states are in their planning, and lets the user view planned sea uses, and browse MSP designations by types and sectors.

We **assessed the common regional frameworks** that gave valuable input for updating guidelines, work plans and roadmaps.

Monitoring and evaluation helps you do the right thing. Systematic expert and stakeholder assessments can reduce uncertainties about outcomes of plans.

Lessons learned summarises our collaboration and knowledge co-creation, giving accounts of participants' learning and reflections on challenges and enablers for transboundary maritime spatial planning.

Pan Baltic Scope shows how important it is that the **responsible MSP authorities** work together, because then results are developed for the real needs, ownership and implementation are immediate, boosting the national processes. A **planning forum** for practical, hands-on work has proven a great cooperation mechanism.

Our **recommendations** were developed based on the above mentioned experiences in the project. They can be useful to planners, authorities, policy-makers and others dealing with maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea, and possibly beyond.

Recommendations summarized

[The recommendations](#) were printed in November 2019. They reflect the views of the Pan Baltic Scope collaboration and not necessarily the views of each separate organization in the collaboration.

Five headlines ≈ main recommendations

The recommendations are sorted under five headlines. These headlines can be seen as five main recommendations:

1. Cooperate across borders – Better together
2. Involve more dimensions and knowledge – Maritime spatial planning for everyone
3. Share to understand – Look beyond borders
4. Use the ecosystem-based approach – Save the sea, get prosperity
5. Monitor and evaluate – Do the right thing!

Top 3 most important to HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group

Most important to HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG would these three single recommendations be:

1. Continue the practical, hands-on transnational cooperation across the Baltic Sea to identify common solutions and share good practices, generate understanding on each other's governance and administrative systems, objectives and challenges and achieve greater coherence between national plans.
   Target groups: Planning authorities, HELCOM, VASAB

2. Maintain existing platforms for intergovernmental MSP cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region by extending the mandate of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group beyond 2021 and by continuing to support cross-border MSP related projects.
   Target groups: HELCOM, VASAB, Ministerial level in charge

3. Establish the Planning Forum as a practical, hands-on sub-group of HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group, to implement recommendation number one and to contribute to the other four recommendations.
   Target groups: HELCOM, VASAB, Ministerial level in charge

Six other important recommendations targeted at HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group and others

11. Facilitate cross-sectoral dialogue to anticipate and mitigate conflicts between different marine users.

15. Share methods, data and practices nationally and at a pan-Baltic scale to ensure coherent plans across administrative borders and geographical boundaries.

16. Share methods, data and practices nationally and at a pan-Baltic scale to ensure:
    a. transparent, coherent and comparable strategic environmental assessment processes and cumulative impact assessments
    b. spatially referenced social and economic analyses and cumulative impact assessments
    c. closing knowledge gaps

19. Link MSP closer to the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive at national, transnational and HELCOM levels. Develop spatially related Good Environmental Status objectives that can be supported by MSP and used in Strategic Environmental Assessments.

27. Develop further the marine green infrastructure concept and mapping methods to increase the knowledge on functioning of marine ecosystem and relational understanding of socio-ecological systems.

This should include the connectivity analysis as part of the ecological value mapping as well as more elaborated approach to ecosystem service mapping.

31. HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group or planning authorities in the Baltic Sea Region should organise, in a few years' time, a workshop for all Baltic Sea Region countries to discuss first national monitoring out-comes and possibilities of cross-border co-operation in monitoring and evaluation.

Attachments

- 3-8 Att.1 Summary brochure about Pan Baltic Scope
- 3-8 Att.2 List of tools and reports from Pan Baltic Scope
- 3-8 Att.3 Recommendations from Pan Baltic Scope