



Document title	Initial proposal about the new MSP roadmap structure based on the compilation of responds to the questionnaire
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Agenda Item	2 - Update of the Regional MSP Roadmap
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Background

This document is an initial proposal on the structure of the revised MSP Roadmap based on responds to the questionnaire summarized in the (cf. [document 2-1](#)). Measures to achieve objectives listed in the document have been compiled from various sources to illustrate proposed structure of the updated roadmap. They are of pure illustrative character and should be further developed in line with reviewing of the proposed actions for operational part of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP).

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- agree on the structure of the updated Roadmap;
- discuss the content of the preamble and agree on the procedure to contribute to the content;
- decide on inclusion of MSP principles in the preamble and for their update;
- agree on the goal of the new MSP Roadmap;
- agree on the draft objectives as the meeting time allows and to set a procedure to accomplish the task;
- agree on the procedure to advance actions and divide between the Roadmap and BSAP in line with the BSAP update process.

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Preamble

The preamble describes:

- The current status of MSP in the region focussing on the fact that most countries have developed MSPs and the next period is transition from drawing plans to their implementation;
- A description of the role of MSP as a tool and process to facilitate economic and social development and protect the marine environment;
- The value and gained progress of intergovernmental collaboration within the HELCOM-VASAB MSP working group. Encourage its continuation and strengthening as well as point out other related tool for cooperation;
- The linkage with updated BSAP highlighting that MSP serves to achieve GES set by BSAP;
- How MSP cooperation contributes to achieving the objectives of the VASAB Long Term Perspective;
- The linkage with other policies - UN SDG goals, CBD (MPA 30%), EU MSP & MSFD, EU SBSR, etc.;
- Already developed regional MSP framework consisting of MSP Principles, Recommendations and Guidelines (principles could be listed in the preamble).

The roadmap is a subject for regular evaluation. A timeline for the roadmap implementation follow-up can be set here. For example, depending on the Roadmap timeline the evaluation period could be 3 or 2 years. It might also include correction of the roadmap to better serve recent situation in MSP.

The preamble could also reflect the intention to develop a sound background (including joint tools and methods) for the updated of the existing MSPs following the principles, considering implementation experience and regional/global cooperation.

Goal:

The goal of the road map is joint effort throughout the region to implement MSPs, assuring progress towards environmental targets of the BSAP, sustainable economic and social development of the Baltic Sea region and building sound basement for the update of MSPs applying the regional MSP principles.

The proposed goal is an attempt to synthesise the majority of responds. The goal should prominently highlight transition from drawing plans to their implementation.

Time period:

2021- [2027] – the period can be aligned with the update of national MSPs, BSAP, UN SDG, the EU programming period, etc.

Objectives (subject or further development as well as actions):

1) MSPs serve for achieving progress towards good environmental status of the BS set in the BSAP.

Actions to achieve the objective:

- Guide the application of ecosystem-based approach to protect biotopes of high ecological value and sensitivity;
- Develop (agree on) common methodology for indicating areas of high natural value (as a basis for steering harmful activities away from such areas);
- Identify possibilities of MSP in achieving the CBD target of reaching 30% target for protected sea areas, including the MSP's potential in strengthening nature conservation outside of strictly protected MPAs;

- Develop methods and tools applicable in MSP for reducing cumulative environmental impacts of sea-based activities.

2) MSPs improve regional policy coherence.

Actions to achieve the objective:

- The Baltic Sea countries' MSP authorities continue close collaboration within the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group;
- Further develop institutional framework for the intergovernmental collaboration on MSP in the BSR;
- Study the relationship between various policies related to protection and sustainable use of marine resources;
- Enhance Baltic-Sea level collaboration of MSP authorities with various sectors with an aim to aligning sectoral policies and sectoral decision-making;
- Advance instruments for coordination policies related to land-sea interaction.

3) MSPs serve for the maritime sector economic growth.

Actions to achieve the objective:

- Update the future oriented report on marine and maritime activities and developments of Baltic Sea regional importance;
- Share experiences in guiding sectoral development to resolve conflicts between marine users, identify actions that can be enhanced on the BSR level and apply them;
- Assure cross-border coherence and resolve transboundary conflicts hampering development sectors of marine economy.

4) Implementation of MSPs builds knowledge base for the new MSP cycle.

Actions to achieve the objective:

- Develop regionally coherent monitoring system to follow up implementation of MSPs;
- Set criteria of MSP coherence and follow up implementation of MSPs in the light of these criteria;
- Develop criteria for evaluation of effectiveness of MSPs to achieve the Roadmap' objectives;
- Further advance MSP data flow model assuring regional compatibility of the data;
- Improve regional technical equipment serving for smooth MSP related data flows and assuring data actuality;
- Facilitate exchange of information on the best practices of MSP implementation across the BSR;
- Enhance education of MSP planners, etc.

5) Spatial planning increases climate change resilience in the BS region.

Actions to achieve the objective:

- Identify the role of MSP as a tool to increase resilience of the region against climate change;
- Develop regional guidance on accounting climate change factor in MSP;
- Share the best practices of application of MSP to protect costal zones and assure their safe use in the light of climate change.

Roadmap milestones and implementation timeline:

Milestones to evaluate progress towards each objective could be proposed and target year for their achievement set.