



OUTCOME OF THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE HELCOM-VASAB MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING WORKING GROUP (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 20A-2020)

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OUTCOME OF THE 20th MEETING OF THE HELCOM-VASAB MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING WORKING GROUP (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 20-2020)

Introduction

0.1 With reference to the 20th Meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group (section 3.14 of the [Outcome](#)), the intersessional Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 20A-2020) was held online on 15 May 2020.

0.2 The Meeting was attended by representatives of all HELCOM and VASAB members except Lithuania. HELCOM observers were represented by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), and The Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The list of Participants is contained in **Annex 1**.

0.3 The Meeting was chaired by the Co-Chairs of the Working Group, Mr. Joacim Johannesson, Sweden, and Ms. Katarzyna Krzywda, Poland.

0.4 The Co-Chairs opened the Meeting and welcomed the participants.

0.5 Mr. Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky, Professional Secretary of HELCOM, assisted by Mr. Florent Nicolas and Mr. Riku Varjopuro, HELCOM Secretariat, acted as Secretaries of the Meeting.

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

Document: 1-1

1.1 The Meeting adopted the Agenda elaborated by the HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats in consultation with the Co-Chairs.

Agenda Item 2 Update of the Regional MSP Roadmap

Document: 2-1, 2-2

2.1 The Meeting took note of the questionnaire results on the MSP Roadmap update and thanked the Secretariats for preparing the questionnaire and document 2-2.

2.2 The Meeting considered an initial proposal on the structure of the revised MSP Roadmap based on responds to the questionnaire summarized in the (cf. document 2-1) and in general agreed on the structure of the updated Roadmap as it is given in the document.

2.3 The Meeting further agreed on the content of the preamble, the goal and objectives of the updated Roadmap as given in the **Annex 2**. The Meeting pointed out that all agreements are provisional, and the text will be further updated during the drafting of the updated Roadmap.

2.4 The Meeting also expressed the following general recommendations for further drafting of the updated Roadmap.

General recommendation on the Roadmap's structure.

- The Roadmap should apply a strategic approach but at the same time contain concrete practical steps and actions to achieve the objectives.
- Some MSP tools could also be reflected in the objectives e.g. related to data, knowledge base building etc.
- Objectives are to be linked with the group workplan and also serve for policy making.

General recommendations for the content of preamble.

- The role of MSP in the region and in the BSAP are to be reflected in the preamble as well as in the updated BSAP.
- The current status of MSP in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) is to be reflected in the preamble indicating that the region is a forerunner in the world in development of MSP.
- The role of MSP to promote sustainable use of the sea resolving and minimising conflicts between sea users is to be reflected.
- The preamble to the Roadmap should start with indication that this is the second roadmap and include brief summary on implementation of the Roadmap 2013-2020, highlighting the main achievements.
- The goal of the previous Roadmap has been achieved which is to be clearly stated in the preamble to the updated Roadmap. This assertion can be substantiated by a reference to a recent assessment of the application of the Baltic Sea common regional MSP framework.
- The preamble should also prominently indicate the purpose of the Roadmap and why the roadmap is needed.
- The preamble should indicate future challenges which MSP might address.
- The regional MSP principles are to be acknowledged and referenced in the document but not listed. The Meeting recalled that the recent assessment had revealed the need to update principles.
- The link to the Paris Agreement on climate change should be included in the links to other global processes.

Objectives

- Order of the objectives is to be further considered.
- Formulation of objectives should avoid presenting MSP as subservient to other policies
- Social and economic analysis, multi-use concept and spatial efficiency should be reflected among actions to achieve respective objectives.

2.5 The Meeting invited participants to provide comments on the preamble including exact wording which participants would like to see in the preamble to the Secretariat (Florent.Nicolas@helcom.fi) by 15 June 2020.

2.6 The Meeting discussed proposed timeframe for the updated Roadmap pointing out that the timeframe should be at least 5 years to leave sufficient time for implementation. The Meeting in general supported the proposed provisional timespan for the new Roadmap 2021-2027 stressing that the Roadmap might be updated or tuned in the course of its implementation.

2.7 The Meeting recalled that the mandate of the group is given by the end of 2021 and that HELCOM HODs and VASAB CSPD/BSR could be invited to consider the prolongation of the Mandate after the 2021 in line with the timespan of the Roadmap.

Agenda Item 3 Reviewing synopses and other actions proposed for BSAP update

3.1 The Meeting recalled the ongoing process of technical reviewing of synopses and other actions for the BSAP update and requested the HELCOM Secretariat to circulate repeatedly the template for technical review of new actions.

Agenda Item 4 Any other business

4.1 The Meeting took note of the information on the invitation by Finland to register to the online meeting dedicated to transboundary consultations on Finnish MSPs.

4.2 The Meeting agreed to arrange the next online meeting of the group specifically dedicated to the technical reviewing of the new actions for the updated BSAP and proposing measures for the new MSP Roadmap on 18 June 2020 on 9.30 CEST. Expected duration of the meeting will be 3 hours.

Agenda Item 5 Outcome of the Meeting

5.1 The Meeting adopted the Outcome.

Annex 1 List of Participants

Representing	Name	Organization	E-mail address
Chair	Joacim Johannesson	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	joacim.johannesson@havochvatten.se
Chair	Katarzyna Krzywda	Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation	katarzyna.krzywda@mgm.gov.pl
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Observers			
International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)	Julie Kellner	ICES	julie.kellner@ices.dk
The Coastal Union Germany (EUCC)	Franziska Stoll	EUCC	stoll@eucc-d.de
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	Metta Wiese	WWF Sweden	metta.wiese@wwf.se
HELCOM Secretariat			
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Representing	Name	Organization	E-mail address
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Annex 2 Initial proposal about the new MSP roadmap structure based on the compilation of responds to the questionnaire

This document is a revised version of the document 2-2 based on the discussions during the online meeting on 15 May 2020.

Initial proposal about the new MSP roadmap structure based on the compilation of responds to the questionnaire

Preamble

The preamble describes:

~~Noting the achievements of the current Roadmap in promoting MSP cooperation and development of MSP in the Baltic Sea Region and being aware that countries having developed MSPs and enter the next step, which is transition from drawing plans to their implementation, there is a need to follow a new MSP Roadmap;~~

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- ~~• The current status of MSP in the region focussing on the fact that most~~Aware that countries have developed MSPs and the next ~~period~~step is transition from drawing plans to their implementation;
- ~~• Recognizing the fact that MSP is an adaptive and continuous process, Maritime Spatial Plans will need to address future challenges such as climate change and a more sustainable use of marine resources in the context of the circular economy;~~
- ~~• Recalling that MSP needs to be based on ecosystem-based approach and is a process, and one of the tools facilitating sustainable economic and social development and the protection of the marine environment, by promoting cooperation between Baltic Sea Region countries in MSP, including minimizing the conflicts among different sectoral interests. Also recalling that MSP by that, can promote efficient, safe and sustainable use of the sea;~~
- ~~•~~A description of the role of MSP as a tool and process to facilitate economic and social development and protect the marine environment (i.e. MSP promotes efficient, safe and sustainable use of the sea minimizing the number of conflicts and promoting cooperation between activities deepening the cooperation between Baltic Sea Region Countries about MSP including energy networks, shipping, pipelines, underwater cables and protecting the marine environment through early mapping of marine activities effects on the marine sea 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 strengthening the joint effort and coherence throughout the Region to implement MSPs, assuring aiming for sustainable development progress towards environmental targets of the BSAP, sustainable economic and social development of the Baltic Sea region and building a sound basement for an adaptive MSP process ~~the update of MSPs~~ applying ecosystem-based approach ~~the regional MSP principles~~.

The proposed goal is an attempt to synthesise the majority of responses. 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) 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.;
- Social and economic analysis;
- Spatial efficiency - multi use and conflicts management;
- Including ecosystem services analysis for linking between environmental and social economic dimensions.

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 contribute for achieving progress towards good environmental status of the BS Baltic Sea 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.

4) MSPs ~~serve~~ contribute to ~~for the maritime sector economic growth, sustainable blue economy.~~

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.

5) Spatial planning increases climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience in the BS-Baltic Sea+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 coastal 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.