



OUTCOME OF THE 21st MEETING OF THE HELCOM-VASAB MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING WORKING GROUP (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 21-2020)

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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 The 21st Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 21-2020) was held on 12 - 13 November 2020. Due to COVID-19 circumstances the Meeting took place online.

0.2 The Meeting was attended by representatives of all Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention and VASAB members. HELCOM observers were represented by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), The Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC), the Race For The Baltic and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The Meeting was also attended by invited guests from the EU MSP Assistance Mechanism, the Finnish Environment Institute, the Regional Council of Southwest Finland, the SUBMARINER Network for Blue Growth and from BalticRIM project representatives. 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

Documents: 1-1, 1-2

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

1.2 The Meeting took note of the proposal by Finland to change the sequence of presentation, taking the presentation on offshore wind farm design before the presentation on the state of MSP in Finland.

Agenda Item 2 Matters arising from other HELCOM and VASAB work

Document: 2-1

2.1 The Meeting took note of the information on the recent HELCOM and VASAB meetings and work.

Agenda Item 3 Development of the regional MSP framework

Documents: 3-1, 3-1 Att.1, 3-1 Att.2, 3-1 Att.3, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6, 3-7, 3-8, 3-8 Att.1, 3-9, 3-9 Att.1, 3-10, 3-10 Att.1, 3-10 Att.2, 3-11 Rev.1, 3-12, 3-12 Att.1, 6-4

3.1 The Meeting took note of the information on the recommendations from the Pan Baltic Scope project.

3.2 The Meeting thanked Sweden for leadership in the Pan Baltic Scope project which produced valuable results for the regional MSP work and the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG community. The Meeting pointed out that the implementation of some of the recommendations originating from the project has already been launched and some have been reflected in the draft of the new regional MSP Roadmap.

3.3 The Meeting also took note of the proposal by Latvia to consider the ongoing effort of making "Planners' Forum" started by Pan Baltic Scope project a sub-group of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and that

such a proposal would require a detailed discussion on a mandate of such a sub-group during the next WG meetings.

3.4 The Meeting noted that relations between MSFD and MSP is still an issue in some countries, especially, the connection between programmes of measures under MSFD and spatial plans. The Meeting proposed to take the issue for further discussion at the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG.

3.5 The Meeting took note of the presentation on findings of BalticRIM project by Ms. Magda Matczak and Ms. Susanne Altvater (**Presentation 1**).

3.6 The Meeting welcomed the results of the project pointing out that some of the project results have already been taken into account in national MSPs. The Meeting agreed to consider Maritime Cultural Heritage (MCH) related proposals when discussing the new regional MSP Roadmap.

3.7 The Meeting took note that Sweden has initiated a process involving responsible national and regional authorities to develop the inclusion of MCH considerations in MSP.

3.8 The Meeting took note that the EU Commission has commissioned the MSP Assisting Mechanism to produce a short “guiding paper” providing general guidance on incorporating Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) in MSP. The paper will also address evaluation of economic value of the UCH and tools to integrate it in MSP.

3.9 The Meeting in general welcomed the proposed draft memorandum between the BalticRIM and HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and opportunities for cooperation highlighted in the document. The Meeting agreed that the document should be thoroughly evaluated and discussed at the next HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG meeting. The Meeting invited BalticRIM project team to supply the draft memorandum to the HELCOM Secretariat (florent.nicolas@helcom.fi) for further circulation to the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Contacts for revision and commenting before the next WG meeting.

3.10 The Meeting took note of the information about the updated work plan for the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) and the detailed plan for its drafting including the preliminary timetable presented by Ms. Susanna Kaasinen (HELCOM Secretariat) (**Presentation 2**).

3.11 The Meeting took note of the presentation on the preliminary results of the sufficiency of measures (SOM) analysis by Ms. Heini Ahtiainen (HELCOM Secretariat) (**Presentation 3**).

3.12 The Meeting took note that the SOM results can be taken into account in MSP as the effect of many pressures largely depends on the location of those pressures. For better understanding of the concrete role of MSP spatial reference of pressures under consideration are to be further improved.

3.13 The Meeting also noted that the evaluation of the disturbance was based on expert evaluation and literature analysis to estimate the effect of existing measures.

3.14 The Meeting took note of the information on the drafting process of the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) and on how to include MSP as horizontal action.

3.15 The Meeting took note on the proposed way of addressing MSP in the overall preamble for the BSAP and agree on it as given in the [Attachment 1](#).

3.16 The Meeting took note of the draft introductory text for the horizontal action on MSP in BSAP, discussed it and agreed on the introductory text as given in the [Attachment 2](#).

3.17 The Meeting took note of the information on the existing actions that have been in principle agreed by HOD 58-2020. These actions will be transferred to the updated BSAP.

3.18 The Meeting discussed new MSP related actions proposed for the inclusion in the updated BSAP and endorsed them with comments as given in the [Attachment 3](#).

3.19 The Meeting took note of the information that further work on the proposed new actions will take place in Drafting Group of BSAP and HOD meetings, in line with the BSAP updated workplan.

- 3.20 The Meeting took note of the information on the reporting status of the joint HELCOM actions of relevance for HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and agreed on the implementation of the actions as given in the [Attachment 4](#).
- 3.21 The Meeting took note of the information on the Ecosystem-based approach (EBA) guidelines recommendations from the EBA-toolbox activity within the Pan Baltic Scope project.
- 3.22 The Meeting took note of the proposal that the work on the revision of the EBA guideline can start from the evaluation of the application of the EBA guideline in the course of the current MSPs development.
- 3.23 The Meeting took note that the EU is conducting a study on the application of EBA in MSP by the EU member states. The study report will be available in Spring 2021. The Meeting also took note that the results of this study could be utilized for the revision of the regional Guideline. The new MSP project application recently laid to the EU call, if being funded, will also provide additional resources for the revision of the Guideline (cf. Para 5.8).
- 3.24 The Meeting took note of the draft new MSP Roadmap as it was developed by the Drafting Group in the document 3-12 Att.1.
- 3.25 The Meeting discussed and agreed that the end date of the new MSP Roadmap can be aligned with the timeframe of the updated BSAP. The timeline for the MSP Roadmap is proposed to be 2021 - 2030.
- 3.26 The Meeting agreed on the text of the draft new Roadmap as given in the [Attachment 5](#).
- 3.27 The Meeting also agreed to include in the new Roadmap an action related to HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group's role as a coordinator of the Policy Area Spatial Planning of the EUSBSR.
- 3.28 The Meeting agreed to return to the milestone section of the document at later considerations.
- 3.29 The Meeting agreed that the draft of the new Regional MSP Roadmap is not yet ready for submission to HOD 59-2020 and it will be submitted to the HELCOM 42-2021 and to the VASAB CSPD/BSR in spring 2021.
- 3.30 The Meeting also agreed that the drafting group will continue drafting the document to propose adequate solutions for the remaining open issues for consideration by HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG group. The Meeting further agreed that the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group will have an extra one-day intersessional meeting on 3 February 2021 focussed on finalizing of the draft Roadmap for submission to HELCOM 42-2021 and VASAB CSPD/BSR. The Meeting agreed to consider the document on cross-border coherence of MSPs at the extra meeting in February 2021.
- 3.31 The Meeting also agreed to postpone the discussion on the climate change in MSP to the next HELCOM-VASAB MSP meeting in spring 2021.

Agenda Item 4 Information and data for MSP

Document: 4-1

- 4.1 The Meeting took note of the decisions of the 14th Meeting of the Baltic Sea Region Maritime Spatial Planning Data Expert Sub-Group (BSR MSP Data ESG).
- 4.2 The Meeting welcomed the progress achieved by BSR MSP Data ESG and supported the proposal by the Chair of the BSR MSP Data ESG that the group will focus on the output data next year. The other work strand of the group will be specifying input data themes in cross-border context.

Agenda Item 5 Intergovernmental cooperation and follow-up progress in regional MSP

Documents: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3 Rev.1

- 5.1 The Meeting took note of the national update on new MSP developments:

Denmark: Denmark does not yet have a comprehensive Marine Spatial Plan for its sea areas but is currently in the process of developing one. The MSP will form the basis of the coordination between the many uses of Denmark's sea area and will be legally binding. The consultation phase of the Danish MSP has been postponed until the beginning of year 2021.

Estonia: In September 2020 the transboundary consultation about Estonian MSP main solution and impact assessment report (including SEA) started. Commenting phase is 9 weeks and feedback to the documents are expected by 18.11.2020. A transboundary consultation virtual meeting was held in 23rd September 2020. All the documents in English and the recording of the meeting are available in [the Estonian MSP portal](#).

Finland: The consultation of the Finnish draft MSP's took place in May-June and the [planning proposal](#) is now being finalized. Planning proposal is now submitted to the Regional Councils' Assemblies for approval by the end of 2020.

Germany: The process of revising the current MSP is ongoing. A first round of national consultations on the first draft will conclude on 24/25 November. Documents for the international consultation can be expected at the end of November, beginning of December, with a virtual meeting early next year. A possible second round of consultation may be conducted in Q2 2021. Comments from the national consultation should be available on the [BSH website](#) early next week (in German). Updates will be available at: <https://wp.bsh.de> (website offers a subscription function to be notified of news).

Latvia: Several national sectorial policies are currently being reviewed and redrafted due to the new policy planning period in Latvia and new EU goals. The adopted MSP serves as national sea-use policy, and therefore influences many of these processes, for example transport policy, national climate and energy plan, national industrial policy and of course environmental policy. In late October a discussion cycle with several target groups was organized by developers of the national environmental policy and one of them was devoted to marine environment. In Latvian case it is important to mention, that Environmental policy serves as a basis for further actions and plans to be developed in the field, this also applies to drafting of next Programme of measures (PoM) as an implementation instrument of MSFD. The understanding of MSP and its role in national policy system differed between the invited stakeholders. Some of them was seeing it as a separate action, some as a tool. The discussion resulted with a common understanding, that MSP is a separate policy document and the process itself has given a comprehensive view on best conditions and space for different new actions to be introduced in sea space in a sustainable manner. It can also ensure an action of "use of best and most up to date data, knowledge and information in licencing and EIA processes to ensure the sustainability of marine ecosystem". Still the discussion is in its starting point and many others are about to come, so we are looking forward to new insights and findings in sectorial policy alignments.

Poland: The final version of the MSP was submitted by the director of maritime office to the minister responsible for maritime economy. According to Polish law, the MSP should be adopted in a legislative procedure. The procedure has formally started and is expected to be ended by March 2021.

Lithuania: At concept planning stage STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) procedures were carried out domestically, also at the cross-border level by delivering necessary SEA materials to EU member states and other countries specified in the abovementioned Procedure. More Information can be found [here](#). As for now, planning procedures of Comprehensive Territorial Plan of the Republic of Lithuania are still undergoing. We hope the government will approve it this year. After approval, we will update information about Lithuanian MSP and send it to EU Member States and other countries.

Russia: The draft federal law "On the state management of the maritime activities of the Russian Federation 02/04 / 10-20 / 00109878" has been approved by departments and ministries and is awaiting submission to the government. After legal and anti-corruption expertise and government approval, the law will be submitted to the Russian State Duma. The expected date for the adoption of the law is January 2022.

In relation to MSP, the Law provides definitions of MSP, marine activities and maritime actors. Also, the list of tasks for achieving the goals of strategic planning includes a provision on improving MSP for the purpose of spatial and temporal distribution of various types of marine activities within the borders of the Russian Federation, in the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation and on the continental shelf of the Russian Federation. Thus, the adoption of the law will create preconditions for the development of a law on MSP.

The Capacity4MSP project, with the support of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, is developing a Roadmap for the Russian MSP and is carrying out a wide range of activities to promote it. The Roadmap will be submitted to interested national and regional authorities by the end of 2021 together with pilot MSPs of the Gulf of Finland and South-East Baltic.

Sweden: In December 2019 we submitted the [plan proposals](#) to the Swedish Government. The government shall adopt plans by March 2021 the latest. The Chapters 4, 12 and 13 of the proposal are available in English. The chapters relate to expected implications and impact of the marine spatial plan proposals.

5.2 The Countries were invited to check changes in the list of national MSP focal points for transboundary consultation and joint planning in the Baltic Sea Region countries and to inform the HELCOM (florent.nicolas@helcom.fi) and VASAB (elina.veidemane@vasab.org) Secretariats in case of any changes.

5.3 The Meeting took note of the regional calendar of national MSP-related processes and meetings (**Annex 2**). The Meeting also took note that the regional calendar with support of Capacity4MSP project platform includes now also information on other events that are not connected to national MSP processes but might be relevant for daily work.

5.4 The Meeting took note of the presentation from Ms. Elina Virtanen (Finnish Environment Institute) on balancing profitability of energy production, societal impacts and biodiversity in finding locations for offshore wind farms (**Presentation 4**).

5.5 The Meeting took note of the presentation from Ms. Mari Pohja-Mykrä (Regional Council of Southwest Finland) on the state of MSP in Finland (**Presentation 5**) and thanked Finland for sharing information.

5.6 The Meeting took note of the information on the Capacity4MSP Planners' Forum held on 11 November 2021.

5.7 The Meeting took note of the recent Political Declaration by Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan (BEMIP) to establish an offshore energy working group. The Meeting agreed that the BEMIP group could be invited for discussion at one of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group meetings.

5.8 The Meeting took note of the information from the HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats on the submitted project application eMSP. The application was prepared by partners from the North and Baltic Seas and the process was led by The Netherlands.

Agenda Item 6 Coordination of Horizontal Action Spatial Planning and MSP related projects and events

Documents: 6-1, 6-1 Att.1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-5

6.1 The Meeting took note of the information on the last developments and activities related to the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) and Horizontal Action Spatial Planning. The Meeting took note that the Horizontal Action Spatial Planning will be transformed to Policy Area Spatial Planning which implies some operational changes for the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group.

6.2 The Meeting took note of the presentation from Ms. Inga Jekabsone (VASAB Secretariat) on the status of the project platform Capacity4MSP and its contribution to the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG (**Presentation 6**).

- 6.3 The Meeting took note of the presentation on the opportunities and challenges for multi-use in the Baltic Sea from Ms. Ivana Lukic (SUBMARINER Network) (**Presentation 7**).
- 6.4 The Meeting also took note of the information by the EU on the guidance paper on multi-use of marine space which is planned to be published soon.
- 6.5 The Meeting took note of the information on the MSPGlobal Initiative update.

Agenda Item 7 Any other business

- 7.1 The Meeting agreed that the 22nd Meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group will be held as an online Meeting on 20-21 April 2021.

Agenda Item 8 Outcome of the Meeting

- 8.1 The Meeting adopted the Outcome.

Annex 1 List of Participants

Representing	Name	Organization	E-mail address
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Observers			

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World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	Metta Wiese	WWF Sweden	metta.wiese@wwf.se
Invited guests			
EU MSP Assistance Mechanism	Kristina Veidemane	Baltic Environmental Forum	kristina.veidemane@bef.lv
Regional Council of Southwest Finland	Mari Pohja-Mykrä	Regional Council of Southwest Finland	mari.pohja-mykra@varsinais-suomi.fi
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MUSES, UNITED and MULTI-FRAME projects	Ivana Lukic	SUBMARINER Network for Blue Growth EEIG	il@submariner-network.eu
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Annex 2

Updated Regional calendar of national MSP-related processes, meetings and other events – November 2020*

*The calendar is being prepared with support of Interreg BSR project platform “Capacity4MSP - Strengthening the capacity of MSP stakeholders and decision makers”.

2020			
Month	MSP related national and macro-regional meetings	MSP related national processes	Other events with MSP relevance
November	<p>online – 2nd Planners forum within Capacity4MSP project platform, 11 November</p> <p>online – HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 21st meeting, 12-13 November</p>	<p>AX - Work with 2nd consultation material and MSP revisions</p> <p>FI – approval of MSP’s by Regional Councils</p> <p>DE - (national) public consultation on first draft revised maritime spatial plan for the German EEZ in the North and Baltic Sea, from 25th September till 5th November</p> <p>EE – transboundary consultation period till 18th November about main solution and impact assessment report (including SEA) of Estonian MSP</p>	<p>online – Capacity4MSP 3rd Partners meeting, 10 November</p> <p>online – meeting of EU Member States Expert Group (MSEG) on MSP, 19 November</p> <p>online - The 8th, concluding BONUS Forum: Research and Innovation for Sustainability, 24 November</p>
December		<p>AX - Work with 2nd consultation material and MSP revisions</p> <p>FI – approval of MSP’s by Regional Councils</p> <p>DE - international consultation on first draft revised maritime spatial plan for the German EEZ in the North and Baltic Sea, tbc</p>	
2021			

January	AX - Meetings with stakeholders and partners Online (DE) – international consultation meeting on first draft revised maritime spatial plan for the German EEZ in the North and Baltic Sea, tbc	AX - Work with 2 nd consultation material and MSP revisions	
February	AX - Meetings with stakeholders and partners Tbc - 3rd Planners' Forum within Capacity4MSP project platform, tbc	AX - Work with 2 nd consultation material and MSP revisions	
March		AX - MSP to be adopted by the Government of Åland	RU - XXI Anniversary International Environmental Forum Baltic Sea Day , St. Petersburg, 23-24 March online - Stakeholder Workshop p.1 on Land-Sea Interactions, Land-Sea-Act project (week 1 st -5 th March) DE or online - Stakeholder Workshop p.2 on Land-Sea Interactions in Hamburg or online, Land-Sea-Act project (week 15 th – 19 th March)
April			Tbc - Capacity4MSP 4th Project Partner Meeting <i>Belgium</i> - EU Hack4Oceans , 20-21 April 2021 RU - XIX Strategic All-Russia Forum 2020-2021, tbc
May			<i>Netherlands</i> - European Maritime Days 2021 , Den Helder, 20-21 May <i>Greece</i> – MSP Forum by the MSP Global initiative (a week after the EMD) (tbc)

June	LV – Baltic 4th MSP Forum , Jūrmala, 1-2 June jointly with Capacity4MSP project platform and Land Sea Act project. LV (tbc) - 4th Planners' Forum within Capacity4MSP project platform, 2-3 June		
July			
August			
September		LV or online - National stakeholder Workshop on Land-Sea Interactions in Riga or online, Land-Sea-Act project, tbc	LV - Capacity4MSP final Project Partner Meeting , tbc
October			<i>Belgium</i> - Blue Growth Workshop and International Expert Panel meeting in Brussels or online, Land-Sea-Act project, tbc
November			
December			

Country or autonomous area codes:

DK - Denmark

EE - Estonia

FI - Finland

AX - Åland

DE - Germany

LV - Latvia

LT - Lithuania

NO - Norway

PL - Poland

RU - Russia

SE - Sweden