

Renewed effort towards good environmental status of the Baltic Sea - BSAP update and new Regional MSP Roadmap



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The HELCOM vision

For a healthy Baltic Sea environment...



... with diverse biological components functioning in balance,



... resulting in a good ecological status,

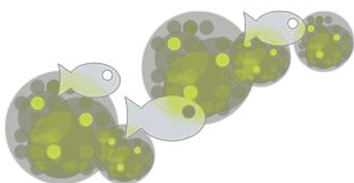


...and supporting a wide range of sustainable economic and social activities.

Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP)

2007-2021

To achieve the good environmental status of the Baltic Sea by 2021



*Baltic Sea
unaffected by
eutrophication*



*Baltic Sea
undisturbed
by
**hazardous
substances***



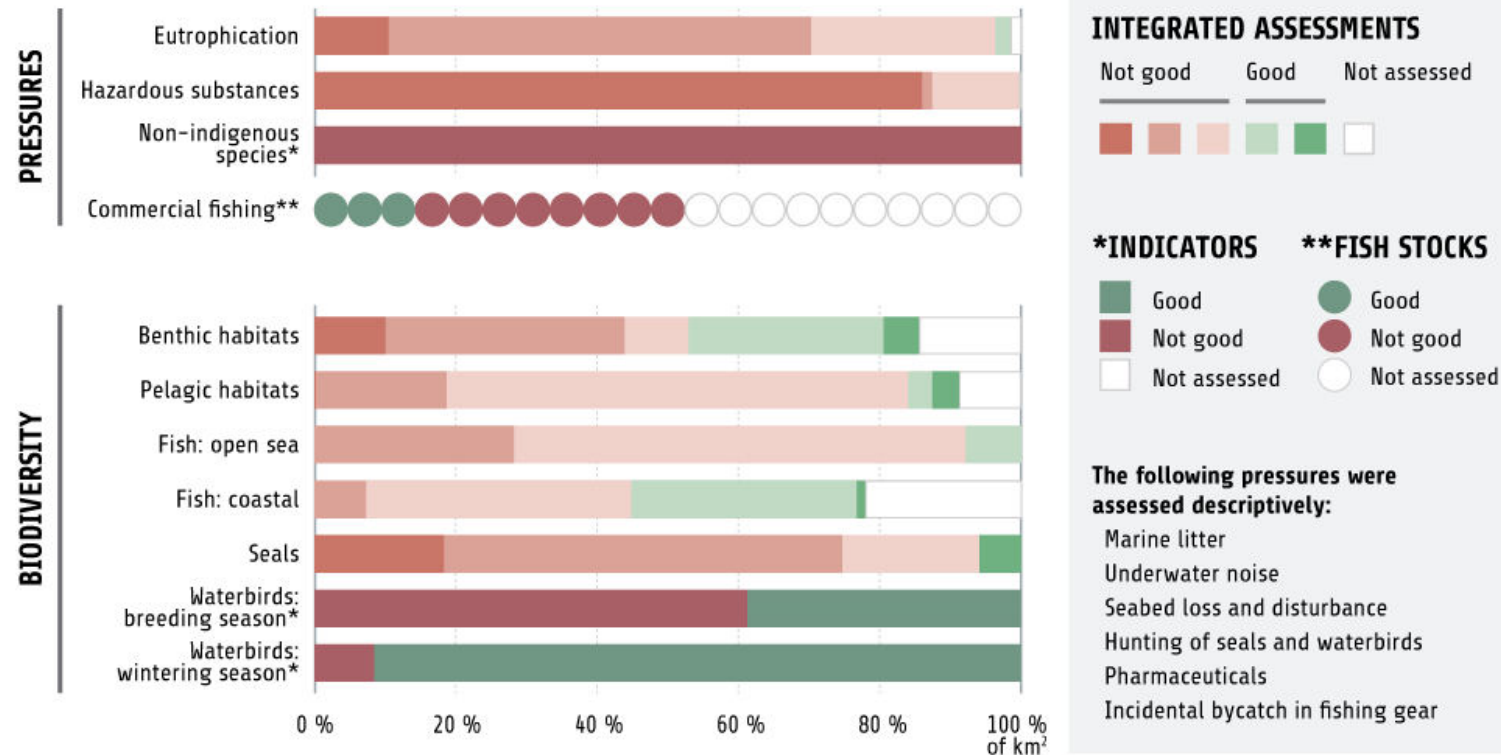
*Favourable
status of Baltic
Sea
biodiversity*



*Environmentally
friendly
**maritime
activities***

Baltic Sea: current state

State of Baltic Sea pressures and biodiversity 2011–2016

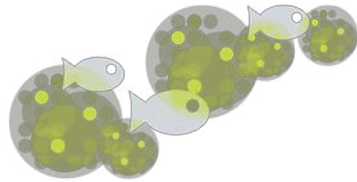


Summary of the assessment of pressures and status for the Baltic Sea showing the proportion of area covered by different assessment status categories (based on square kilometres). For commercial fishing, the summary shows status of fish stocks. Integrated assessment results (eutrophication, hazardous substances, benthic habitats, pelagic habitats, fish, and seals) are shown in five categories. Assessment results based on indicators (commercial fishing, non-indigenous species, and waterbirds) are shown in two status categories.

Progress yes, but...



The Baltic Sea is not in a good state:
Environmental goals set by the BSAP are unlikely to be fully reached by 2021



Eutrophication:
Still the major pressure despite trends of nutrient reduction



New challenges:

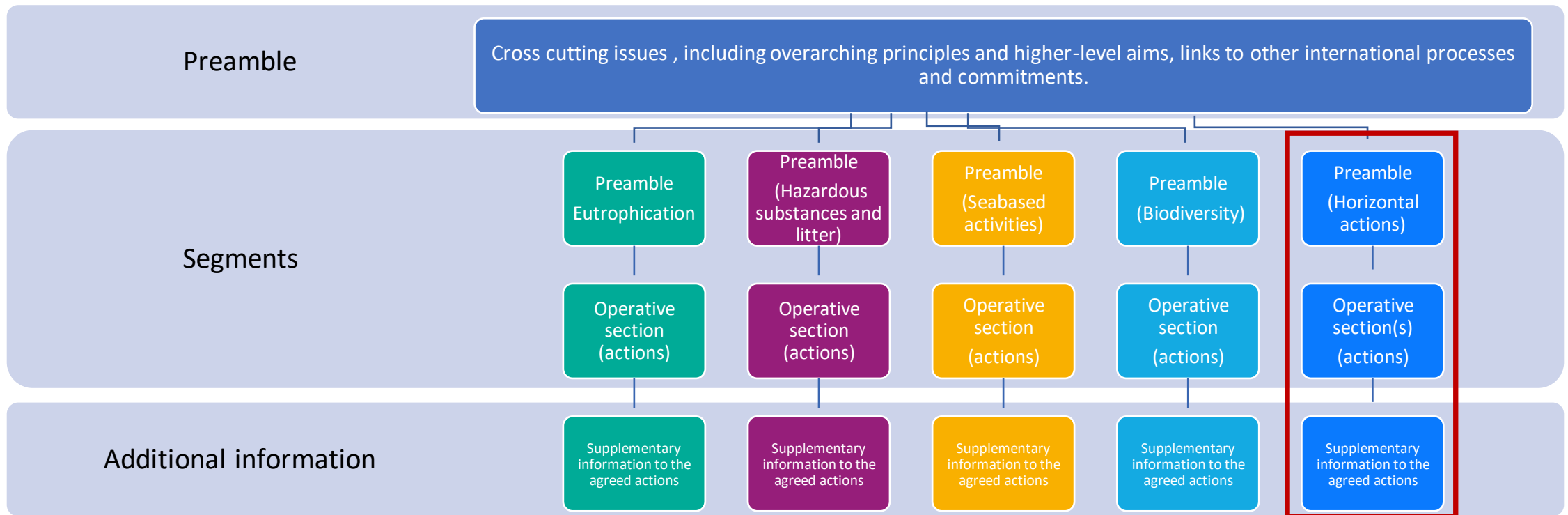
- Marine litter (plastics and other)
- Underwater noise
- Emerging pollutants (pharmaceuticals etc)
- Seabed disturbance
- Climate change



Reasons for delay:

- Ecosystem lag
- Some measures haven't been implemented yet
- Some measures might not be sufficient
- New challenges

Structure of updated BSAP





Horizontal actions proposed by HELCOM WGs for inclusion in the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP)

The topics included in this segment are by their nature cross-cutting, or “horizontal”, thus potentially affecting the implementation of all elements of the Plan as a whole.

Provisional topics for horizontal actions:

- Climate change
- Monitoring
- Maritime spatial planning (MSP)
- Economic and social analysis (ESA)
- Financing
- Education and public awareness raising
- Hot spots



MSP in the BSAP

Overarching preambular:

...**STRESS** the need for coherent spatial planning of human activities at sea across the region, applying the ecosystem-based approach;

The BSAP recognizes that:

Maritime spatial planning (MSP) is a process to support **the integrated management of sea-based human activities**. By reducing their negative impacts on the various components of the marine environment, it effectively contributes to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the various BSAP segments.

Maritime spatial planning provides important added value for the BSAP as it is a process that **considers multiple human activities from a spatial perspective**.

Maritime spatial planning supports sustainable development and **sustainable marine economy**, or blue economy, by **applying an ecosystem-based approach**.



...and practically

Use maritime spatial planning (MSP) as a tool to signal areas of high nature value

Implement maritime spatial plans with the aim to steer sea-based activities away from areas where they can cause serious damage or disturbance

establish system of HELCOM marine protected areas, supported by those other spatial conservation measures, under alternative regimes for marine protection, which can contribute to the coherence of the network.

Map ecosystem services and the present and potential spatial distribution of key ecosystem components

incorporate the produced maps in the work concerning maritime spatial planning ...



Associated documents

Documents which directly relate to implementing actions and measures for achieving the overall visions and objectives of the updated BSAP e.g. roadmaps, topic specific regional action plans, strategies, Recommendations etc.

Associated documents:

- Guidelines for Sea-Based Measures to Manage Internal Nutrient Reserves
- Updated Marine litter action plan
- **Regional MSP roadmap**
- Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy



REGIONAL BALTIC MSP ROADMAP 2013-2020

Goal: to draw up and apply **maritime spatial plans** throughout the Baltic Sea Region by 2020 which are coherent across borders and apply the ecosystem approach

REGIONAL BALTIC MSP ROADMAP 2021-2030

Goal: strengthening the joint effort and coherence throughout the Baltic Sea Region **to implement Maritime Spatial Plans**, aiming for sustainable development of the region **and building a sound basis for an adaptive Maritime Spatial Planning process** applying the ecosystem-based approach.



Objectives

Objective 1 Implementation of MSPs builds knowledge base for the new MSP cycle.

Objective 2. Maritime Spatial Planning improves regional policy coherence.

Objective 3. Maritime Spatial Planning contributes to achieving progress towards good environmental status of the Baltic Sea set in the Baltic Sea Action Plan.

Objective 4 Maritime Spatial Planning contributes to sustainable blue economy.

Objective 5 Spatial planning contributes to climate change mitigation, adaptation and increased resilience of the Baltic Sea Region



Measures to achieve objective 3

3.1 Update the EBA-guidelines based on shared experiences in national application of the ecosystem-based approach in MSP and the evaluation of EBA implementation in the latest MSP-round.

3.2 Develop a Baltic SEA-framework including themes, common data, assessment methods for impact evaluation, cross-border consultations.

3.3 Establish cooperation between HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group and relevant HELCOM bodies to develop common language and views on Ecosystem based management and green infrastructure, cumulative assessment methods, spatial data, status assessments.

3.4 Identify how MSP can support conservation and sustainable use in equitable way reflecting marine protected areas (MPAs) and possible Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)

3.5 Promote the use of methods and tools in MSP for assessing cumulative environmental and other impacts of sea-based activities.

3.6 Evaluate how MSPs are contributing to deliver to good environmental status.



Conclusions

The goal of the first regional MSP roadmap – to draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea Region - has been achieved

New regional MSP roadmap focus of regional work towards implementation of current Maritime Spatial Plans and building a sound basis for an adaptive Maritime Spatial Planning process

MSP is recognized as an important tool to achieve good environmental status of the Baltic Sea

Maritime Spatial Planning is a contributing process but not a measure to achieve GES for the Baltic Sea

Maritime Spatial Planning has other goals than achieving good environment status of the Baltic Sea.

The Baltic Sea Action Plan and the Regional MSP Roadmap 2030 are designed as coherent documents contributing to achieving each other goals and objectives.

but...

We need to work further developing practical means for implementation of ecosystem-based approach; MSPs contribution to reducing environmental pressures and evaluation of the effect of MSPs implementation on the Baltic.

BALTIC 4th FORUM MSP

1-2 JUNE 2021, ONLINE

Delivering MSP Interactions and Capacities Across All Levels

