

Outcome Att.1 - Working file for drafting the next work plan of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG

HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 23-2021 contributed to the draft of the new work plan with comments and proposal for tasks, potential lead/co-lead and support, timeframe for the tasks and deliverables as highlighted in yellow in the table below. The Meeting agreed that the Attachment 1 should be considered as a working file to be further developed during HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 23A-2022 (cf. [Outcome](#), para 3.10).

Colour code: most urgent actions to be accomplished by 2024 / end of new Work Plan

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1.	Obj.1: Implementation of maritime spatial plans builds knowledge base for the new MSP cycle						
1.1.	Develop a guiding framework to support harmonized evaluation of MSPs, including a set of definitions	BSR evaluation framework for MSPs; common set of general definitions ("Implementation", "Knowledge Base", "MSPCycle", "Coherent MSP", "monitoring, assessment, evaluation", etc.)	2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing a common guiding framework : - [Compiling the different national processes on evaluation and assessments / follow-up of MSP - Dialogue on approaches for evaluation and monitoring aiming to harmonization of such approaches - Desk study on tools to assess / monitor / review MSP (e.g. EU study, other sea areas, etc.) - Consideration of action 1.2] 	Contracting Parties (potentially DE, etc.) with support (i.e. background documents) from eMSP NBSR project learning strand on "monitoring and evaluation" led by BSH (DE) and Gdynia Maritime University(PL). eMSP can provide support but the report document	2023	A report document as guiding framework

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					should be done by the CPs / WG.		
1.2.	Develop and share a concise and descriptive overview on national plans' implementation (what does implementation mean in different countries; where / when do they impact on decisions on certain projects, spatial and temporal management of activities etc.)	overview on national MSPs implementation, if possible, inclusion in established country fiches that would have a dedicated section	2025 and 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possibly an updated structure of the country fiches (e.g. sections, etc.) to make possible for the CPs to share such information (e.g. how MSP should be implemented, etc.): - Reference to actions 1.1 on the guiding framework and 1.3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CPs to update country fiches - VASAB Secretariat to update the structure of country fiches with the approval by the WG, with support of eMSP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 24-2022: proposal on updated structure of the country fiches - HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 25-2022: approval of the new structure 	Updated information in country fiches to possible extent
1.3.	Develop a regional follow up system on MSP, including monitoring of implementation at the Baltic Sea level	BSR follow-up system of implementation of MSPs	2027	[Overlapping - linkages to actions 1.1 and 1.2 to be further discussed / eMSP and document 3-3 submitted to MSP WG 23-2021]			

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1.4.	Facilitate exchange of information on the best practices of MSP implementation, monitoring and evaluation across the BSR and other sea basins	Regular exchange in HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group	Cont.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuously update of national information on MSP developments including implementation of MSPs. - Exchange experiences, know-how and good practices (e.g. on multi-uses, socio-economic, cultural aspects), monitoring and evaluation using the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG as a platform for regional dialog. - Encourage CPs to share relevant information with the MSP WG a written information 	CPs and observers with support from the Secretariats	Continuously	Information exchange and update of country fiches
		Conference (ca. 2023 - 2025) on Implementation of MSP in the BSR with input from other regions	2023-2025	Facilitate and support the organization of a conference to be explored	Possible connection with eMSP, other relevant project(s) or meetings	(to be defined during HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 25-2022 and 26-2023 meetings)	(to be defined during HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 25-2022 and 26-2023 meetings)

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		MSP Planners Forum acting on the regular base	Cont.	<i>Set-up of a Planners Forum (cf. work under Capacity4MSP as one of a basis)</i>	To be defined	To be defined	Up and running of a regular MSP Planners Forum
1.5.	Analyse and support spatial efficiency by comparing approaches and solutions with regard to spatial use (e.g. exclusive vs multi use of space) and conflicts management	Report on best practices/cases and recommendations on spatial efficiency and good examples of multi-use	2027				
1.6.	Improve MSP related data retention and flows and assuring data actuality. Ensure regional compatibility of the MSP Input and Output Data and strengthen mutual cooperation in broader context, especially EU	MSP Output data is available in BASEMAPS	2022	Support to finalize and make available output data	BSR MSP Data ESG	2022	MSP Output data is available in BASEMAPS
Shortlisting of MSP input data themes to be regularly updated in regional portal, including climate change related spatial data		2022	Continuous work up to the needs of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG	BSR MSP Data ESG	Continuously	Improved availability of MSP input data	
Overview on national MSP data portals		2025					
continuously exchange the best practices in MSP related data handling with MSP data platforms beyond the Baltic Sea region		Cont.	Cooperation with other initiatives (i.e. EU, Sea Areas, etc.) and projects (i.e. eMSP) for continuous exchange	BSR MSP Data ESG	Continuously	Exchange and increasing of knowledge	

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1.7.	Establishing of links with relevant scientific frameworks and maritime knowledge; support the education of MSP planners and international educational exchange	Regular consideration of recent scientific developments at regional MSP related events; contributing to regional MSP science and educational needs	Cont.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cooperation within HELCOM and VASAB frameworks and other relevant initiatives (i.e. eMSP, MSP4BIO, StategicLIFE) - Explore the possibility to invite representatives of ICES WG on MSPXXXXX to present their work during a MSP WG Meeting investigate the possibility of exchange programmes between MSP authorities Share knowledge information on MSP education at national levels 	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats	Continuously [possibly]	Exchange and increasing of knowledge
2.	Obj.2: Maritime Spatial Planning improves regional policy coherence.						
2.1.	The Baltic Sea countries' MSP authorities continue close collaboration	Continuous dialog utilizing various regional platforms, e.g., HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group, MSP Planners Forum	Cont.	Exchange of knowledge during WG Meetings and planners forum	Secretariats and CPs	Continuously	Close collaboration towards coherence of MSPs
2.2.	Use the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group as a platform for cooperation of	continuous dialog with sectors utilizing various regional platforms	Cont.	- Close cooperation with other relevant HELCOM bodies (i.e. actions from	Secretariat with support of the CPs	Continuously	Knowledge exchange and in the long-term better planning

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	MSP authorities with other HELCOM bodies and stakeholders to establish a common understanding on how MSP can contribute to regional goals			the BSAP shared among several WGs) - Continuously increase Involvement of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG in global and EU wide MSP initiatives and stakeholders			
2.3.	Enhance Baltic sea level collaboration of MSP authorities and planners with various sectors to contribute to aligning sectoral policies and sectoral decision-making and by raising awareness on the role of MSP between involved stakeholders	Regular regional events, e.g., Baltic MSP forum	regularly	Information sharing (cf. action 2.2 on conference) and involvement in the EUSBSR events or other events (i.e. CBSS) to enhance collaboration with relevant stakeholders, for example energy sector (i.e. offshore windfarm).	Secretariats + CPs	Continuously	(to be defined if needed)
2.4.	Further develop institutional framework for the intergovernmental collaboration on MSP in the BSR	review Baltic Sea regional "Guidelines on transboundary consultations, public participation and co-operation"	2026	<i>Work plan 2020-21: Compile good practices on the application of the regional MSP related Guidelines</i>			

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2.5.	Explore good practices and application of planning and policy instruments for coordination of land-sea interactions across different levels and sectors	report on good practices addressing land-sea interactions	2022	Discussion during a HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Meeting based on the results of the Land Sea-Act project	Latvia with the support of the Secretariats and CPs	2022 (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 24-2022 or 25-2022)	Outcome of discussion on land-sea interactions
2.6.	Study the relationship between various policies related to protection and sustainable use of marine resources by continuously following national MSP implementation as well as other related processes concerning marine and coastal domain (e.g. European Green Deal, Sustainable Blue Economy, Offshore renewable energy and Biodiversity strategies, etc.)	supplement country fiches with relevant information	2025	<p><i>Work plan 2020-21: Continuously increase Involvement of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG in global and EU wide MSP initiatives</i></p> <p><i>Work plan 2020-21: Exchange experience in linking implementation of MSP and other legal and policy frameworks including e.g. the EU directives</i></p>			
2.7.	Utilise the prominent role of coordinating Policy Area "Spatial Planning" within the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) to improve cross-sectoral and multi-level cooperation	HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group acts as the Steering Group for MSP within the EUSBSR Policy Area "Spatial Planning".	Cont.	The WG acts as Steering Committee and the Secretariats as co-coordinators of the EUSBSR PA Spatial Planning	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats	Continuously	Steering committee decisions and promotion of cross-sectoral and multi-level cooperation to improve cooperation

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	across the BSR and contributing to its objectives						with other initiatives/platforms
3.	Obj.3: Maritime Spatial Planning contributes to achieving progress towards good environmental status of the Baltic Sea set in the Baltic Sea Action Plan						
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 and other relevant input	updated EBA-guidelines	2025	Initial work on the update of EBA-guidelines based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pan Baltic Scope results - eMSP - National practical experiences of the EBA in MSP - other relevant guidance documents (i.e. <u>EU EBA guidance</u>) 	- SE + DE + HELCOM Secretariat to guide a Task force on EBA guidelines (initial members: FI, DE, SE, HELCOM Secretariat) - eMSP to provide support / background information (learning strand on EBA)	2024	Draft version of revised EBA guidelines
3.2.	Develop a Baltic SEA-framework including themes, common data, assessment methods for	Follow-up on the sharing of environmental information and stakeholder participation as part of	2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harmonizing SEA approaches - Exchange of experience of Espoo 	Poland and HELCOM Secretariat to summarize event		

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	<p>impact evaluation, cross-border consultations</p>	<p>international consultations and the Baltic MSP Espoo procedures as carried out for the current MSPs</p>		<p>consultations (questionnaire/event?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Involvement with the Baltic Sea Seminar to the Espoo Convention focal points groups - Feedback from the Marine regions cooperation kick-off meeting on 19 November 2021 (this event is based on the Espoo Convention request after summer to establish cooperation with Regional Seas Conventions and identification of synergies and possible cooperation activitie). 	<p>on 19 November 2021 Poland and HELCOM Secretariat to further draft this task</p>		
		<p>Baltic SEA-framework to improve compatibility of SEA practices and results</p>	<p>2025</p>	<p>Use of the results of Pan Baltic Scope on SEA-framework and possibly further development within relevant projects (i.e. eMSP)</p>			

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3.3.	Establish cooperation between HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group and HELCOM STATE and CONSERVATION and relevant HELCOM bodies to develop common language and views on Ecosystem based management and green infrastructure, cumulative assessment methods, spatial data, status assessments	Regular cooperation process involving HELCOM-VASAB MSP, State and Conservation and relevant bodies, starting with a joint meeting with State and Conservation in 2022	2022 and cont.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Online workshop as “scoping event” separated from State & Conservation or HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Meetings. Preparatory meeting with co-Chairs to produce a document for S&C 16-2021 and HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 24-2022. - CBD post-2020 new targets for 2030/2050 visions /and other processes such as EU Biodiversity 2030. 	HELCOM Secretariat to coordinate	Q1 or Q2 2022 for planning phase and a common workshop at the end of 2022 (tbc)	Workshop
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) or other areas of high natural values in maritime spatial plans (as a basis for steering harmful	Development of Green Infrastructure maps including ecosystem services based on HOLAS III	2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Follow-up of HOLAS III process and linkage with MSP (cf. relevant BSAP actions on ecosystem services) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Follow-up of relevant projects 			
		Additional section in country fiches demonstrating how MSP supports conservation and sustainable use	2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cf. revision of the country fiches (action 1.2) - Follow-up of relevant projects 	VASAB secretariat		

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	activities away from such areas) and identify possibilities for MSP to support the BSAP targets related to protected areas as well as national and regional strategies						
3.5.	Promote the use of methods and tools in MSP for assessing cumulative environmental and other impacts of sea-based activities:	Stocktake and review of the existing methods and tools	2022	[- survey? - HOLAS III / MetDev work? - Other relevant work? - Linkage with SEA? - Possibility to make use of the EU MSP support mechanism?]	Involvement of eMSP?	tbd	tbd
		Harmonised approaches for cumulative impacts assessments	2026				
3.6.	Evaluate how MSPs are supporting the overarching goals of the MSFD and thereby contributing to deliver to good environmental status	Report on MSP's impact on the implementation of the MSFD, including programmes of measures and achieving GES	2026				
4.	Obj.4: Maritime Spatial Planning contributes to sustainable blue economy						

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4.1.	Share experiences in guiding sectoral development to minimize economic losses and the weakening of ecosystem services, identify actions that can be enhanced on the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) level through implementation of MSP and apply them in the view of sustainable blue economy, including cross-border perspective	Report/Guiding document on good practices for sectoral sustainable development	2026				
4.2.	Investigate the linkage between environmental and social-economic dimensions through an ecosystem services analysis with cross-border MSP perspective	joint analysis of ecosystem services in relation to MSP in order to achieve sustainable blue economy	2027	<i>Work plan 2020-21: Consider the practical use of socio-economic parameters including ecosystem services in MSP</i>			
4.3.	Encourage participatory and transparent processes with all stakeholders of sea use to ensure successful integrated and holistic MSP and management towards sustainable blue economy:	An overview of MSP impacts on progress towards sustainable blue economy in the Baltic Sea Region, including contribution to the SDGs 2030	2025				

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4.4.	Update the future oriented report on marine and maritime activities and developments of Baltic Sea regional importance	Updated future-oriented report on marine and maritime activities and developments	2028				
5.	Obj.5: Spatial planning contributes to climate change mitigation, adaptation and increased resilience of the Baltic Sea Region						
5.1.	Explore how MSP related sectors will be affected by climate change including how climate change might impact human activities under different future scenarios, aiming at developing MSP-strategies for increasing capacity of different sectors to adapt to expected climate change impacts	A discussion paper as guidance for strategic ways for integrating climate change adaptation into MSP for the next planning cycle, 2025, coordinate timing with mid-term evaluations of national adaptation strategies	2025				
5.2.	Explore how MSP can contribute to climate change mitigation and nationally determined contribution in terms of Paris Agreement, including NECPs and relevant national strategies	Stocktaking national experiences - an overview published	2025				

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5.3.	Identify how MSP can support adaptive conservation strategies to cater for spatial changes in ecosystems (e.g. migration of species, change of critical conditions for habitats), including the further exploration of the potential for including climate refugia in MSP for the entire Baltic Sea	Information document on MSP's role in adaptive conservation strategies, including best practices,	2026				
		Modelled maps of climate change impact on marine ecosystem (depending on availability of spatial data on climate change impacts)	2026				