



OUTCOME OF THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE HELCOM-VASAB MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING WORKING GROUP (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 23A-2022)

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OUTCOME OF THE 23rd MEETING OF THE HELCOM-VASAB MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING WORKING GROUP (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 23A-2022)

Introduction

0.1 With reference to the 23rd Meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group ([outcome](#), paras 3.9 & 5.8), the intersessional Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 23A-2020) was held online on 27 January 2022.

0.2 The Meeting was attended by representatives of all Contracting Parties to HELCOM and VASAB members except Denmark and Lithuania. The Danish representative informed the HELCOM Secretariat that unfortunately, no representative can attend the Meeting. HELCOM observers were represented by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). The Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC) representative informed the Secretariat that unfortunately, no representation will attend the meeting. 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 Mr. Kai Trümpler, Germany.

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

0.5 Ms. Lotta Ruokanen, HELCOM Professional Secretary, assisted by Mr. Florent Nicolas, Associate Professional Secretary and Ms. Deborah Shinoda, Project Researcher, acted as Secretaries of the Meeting.

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

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

Agenda Item 2 Matters arising from other HELCOM and VASAB work

2.1 The Meeting took note of the information from the HELCOM Secretariat on the 61st Meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation (HOD 61-2021) held on 8-9 December 2022. Among other topics, HOD 61-2021 agreed that the 43rd Meeting of the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM 43-2022) will be held on 3-4 March 2022 and that to achieve the objectives set in the 2021 BSAP, there is a need to review the working structure and consider necessary adjustments to support the implementation of the actions in an optimal way. HOD 61-2021 also agreed that a technical guidance document should be prepared to support the discussions on restructuring at the meeting of Chairpersons, as well as at Working Group meetings in the spring of 2022. The Meeting noted that HOD 61-2021 approved that the next meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG will be held on 31 March – 1 April 2022 (cf. [Outcome](#), para 6.58).

2.2 The Meeting also took note of the joint HELCOM/Baltic Earth Stakeholder Conference on climate change to be held online on 9-10 March 2022. The Meeting also took note that the invitation will be shared in due time by the HELCOM Secretariat and that the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Contacts are welcome to attend the event as climate change is a relevant topic for MSP, especially when starting to implement the MSP Roadmap and the updated BSAP.

2.3 The Meeting took note of the information on the recent 2nd Meeting of the Chairpersons of HELCOM and HELCOM main groups to further work on the BSAP implementation as well as to possibly review the HELCOM structure. The Chairpersons meeting also discussed how to enhance the flow of information and improve coordination between HELCOM main groups, which a point highlighted during the Chairpersons meeting.

2.4 The Meeting took note of the latest information from the VASAB Secretariat on the update of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region. The stakeholder consultations will be opened from March to July 2022 and the adoption of the VASAB LTP is planned for end of 2022 / beginning of 2023 (**Presentation 1**).

Agenda Item 3 Draft of the work plan 2022-2024

3.1 The Meeting recalled the current draft of the new work plan elaborated by HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 23-2021 (document 3-1 and its attachment). The Meeting was invited to further work on the current draft using breakout rooms (cf. document 3-2). The Meeting discussed the outputs of the breakout discussions for each objective. The final outputs from the discussions were collated by the HELCOM Secretariat in the **Attachment 1** of this Outcome.

3.2 The Meeting noted the need to harmonize the wordings (e.g. Contracting Parties, etc.) in the new draft based on the work of breakout rooms and also noted that the Secretariats will harmonize some elements at a later stage, preferably before further work on this new draft.

3.3 The Meeting noted the need to review all the different proposals for the Country Fiches in the draft work plan and to discuss this topic during the next WG meeting on how to address those, considering also the need to discuss what is the aim of the final content in those fiches.

3.4 The Meeting agreed to further work on the draft work plan during the upcoming meeting of the MSP WG (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 24-2022) and to potentially finalize the work plan during the next meeting for submission to HELCOM HOD 62-2022 and VASAB CSPD/BSR 87th. The Meeting invited the HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats to prepare the new version in due time to be submitted to HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 24-2022.

Agenda Item 4 Climate change and MSP

4.1 The Meeting recalled that HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 23-2021 invited the Contracting Parties to submit written input on national considerations of climate change to the Secretariat (florent.nicolas@helcom.fi) by 17 December 2021 and agreed to come back to the matter of climate change during this intersessional meeting. As no contributions were received, the Meeting invited once again the Contracting Parties to send such contributions by **28 February 2022** to the HELCOM and VASAB Secretariat (florent.nicolas@helcom.fi and info@vasab.org). The Secretariats will compile the input received in a document to be submitted to HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 24-2022.

4.2 The Meeting highlighted the relevance of this emerging topic in MSP as well as in the draft work plan and noted the importance for the Contracting Parties to send such contribution to the Secretariats. The Meeting agreed that topics related to adaptation and mitigation measures and processes (e.g. state of play of offshore windfarms etc.) are relevant input to be sent as contribution.

Agenda Item 5 Any other business

5.1 The Meeting took note of the information from Poland that the Polish Chair of the BEMIP Working Group has a new position, and the nomination of the new Chair of the Working Group is currently not known.

Agenda Item 6 Future planning

6.1 The Meeting recalled that HOD 61-2021 approved that HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 24-2021 will be held on 31 March – 1 April 2022. The Meeting noted that due to the last developments of COVID-19, the meeting will be held online and the invitation as well as the provisional agenda will be shared shortly by the HELCOM Secretariat.

Agenda Item 7 Outcome of the Meeting

7.1 The Meeting participants were provided with the draft Outcome of the Meeting by Thursday 27 January 2022. The Meeting participants were invited to provide comments to the draft Outcome by Tuesday 1 February 2022 closure of business. The Meeting agreed that if the comments from the participants are only editorial and not on the substance of the Outcome, the Outcome will be automatically adopted. If participants are contributing with substantial editorials, the Secretariat will circulate an updated Outcome to be adopted by correspondence.

7.2 The Meeting adopted the Outcome by correspondence. The Outcome as well as meeting documents and the presentation will be made publicly available on the HELCOM-VASAB MP WG 23A-2022 [Meeting site](#).

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
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