



**eMSP  
NBSR**

Emerging Ecosystem-based  
Maritime Spatial Planning  
Topics in the North and Baltic  
Sea Regions



**Co-funded by  
the European Union**

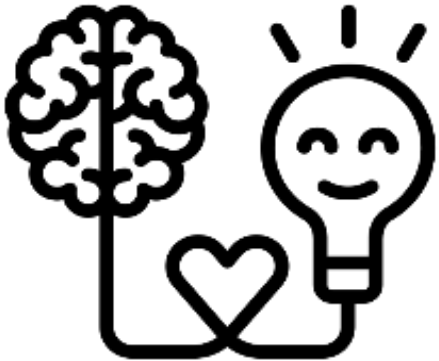
# Learning Strand on Ecosystem-based approach in maritime spatial planning



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HELCOM

## Goal - Our Passion

*We love Mother Earth and, especially our seas. We love dialogue and deliberation. We love systematic approaches and synergies. We love ecosystem services. We love creative solutions. We love sustainability. We love MSP. We think about the future.*



**The main goal of the LS is to enhance the ecosystem-based approach in MSP through:**

- investigation of good practices,**
- further development of international legal and policy framework and**
- distribution of relevant knowledge for the North and Baltic Sea regions.**

## Scope - Our Curiosity

### *How existing environmental legal and policy framework influences the development of national MSP?*

- Reflection of various policies in national MSPs and their impact on the plans.
- Integration of principles, goals and targets set by international treaties in MSP.
- Public participatory process.

### *What is the environmental impact of MSPs?*

- Evaluation of environmental impacts or anticipated mitigation effect of national MSPs.
- Assessment of MSP role in the achievement of Baltic Sea and North Sea environmental goals.
- Analysis of the role of environmental impact assessment in the drawing of national MSPs.
- Planning solutions of the highest anticipated environmental effect.

### *What is in future?*

- Potential influence of the EU Green Deal priorities related to the environment.
- Ecosystem accounting & ecosystem services – national and transboundary application.
- Accounting for sustainable blue economy (SBE) targets in the application of EBA in MSP.



## Objectives - Our Mission

*We want to strengthen ecosystem-based MSP, see better integration of environmental considerations in actual planning, and promote synergies to protect the environment assuring sustainable social and economic development through MSP*



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- A review of ecosystem-based approach application in national MSPs to reveal challenges and compile good practices.
- Identification of gaps in the existing international legal and policy framework which can be filled in based on the practical application of EBA in maritime spatial plans.
- Develop concrete recommendations supporting international legal and policy framework for application of EBA in maritime spatial planning, e.g. EBA guidelines, common ground for Strategic Environmental Assessment-framework.
- Establishing a framework for continuous science and policy dialog and mutual knowledge exchange in the North Sea and Baltic Sea regions.

## Our case study baby “Casey”

“Casey” complements theoretical investigation illustrating good EBA practices compiled from North Sea and Baltic Sea regions.



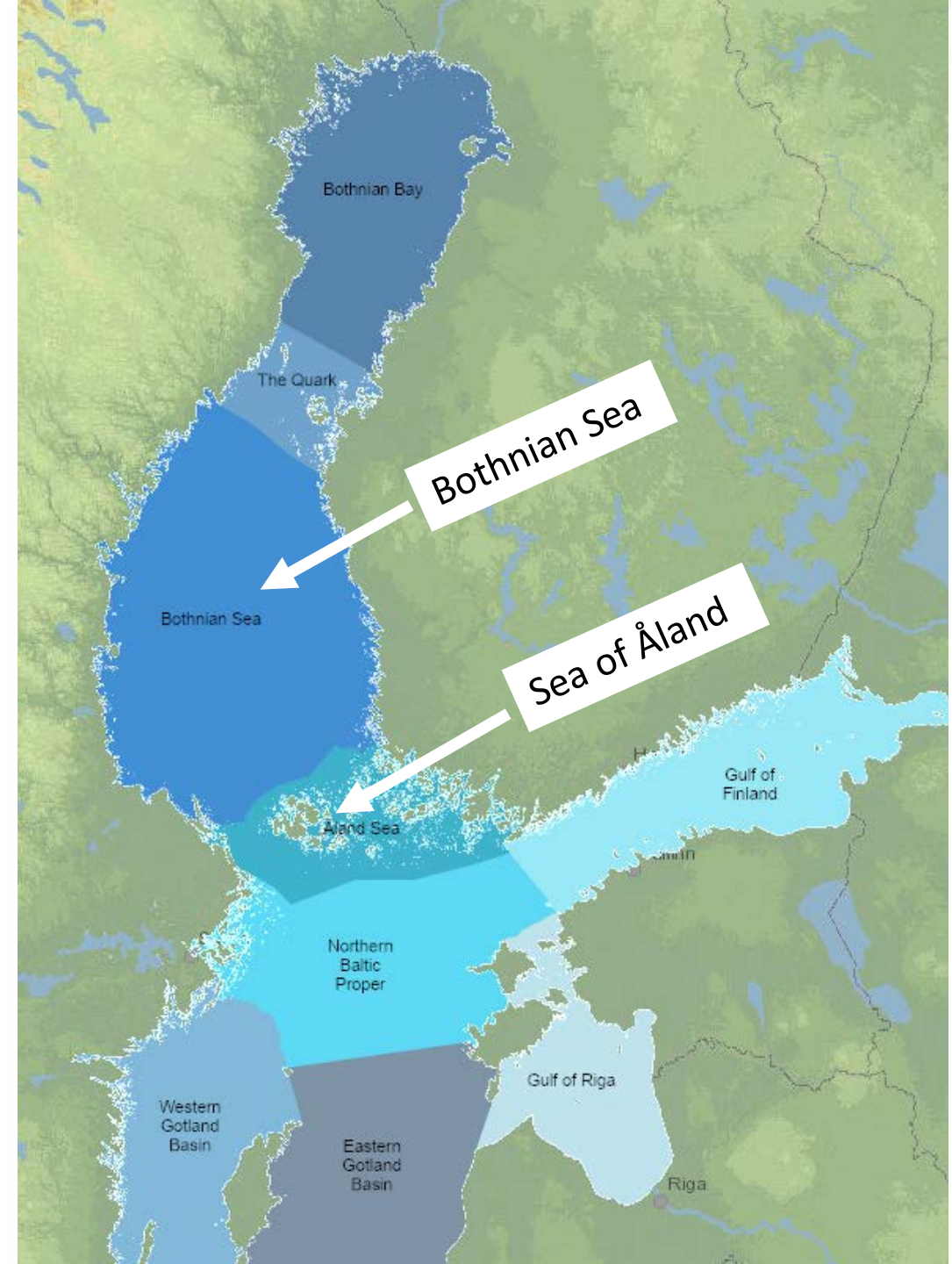
“Casey”

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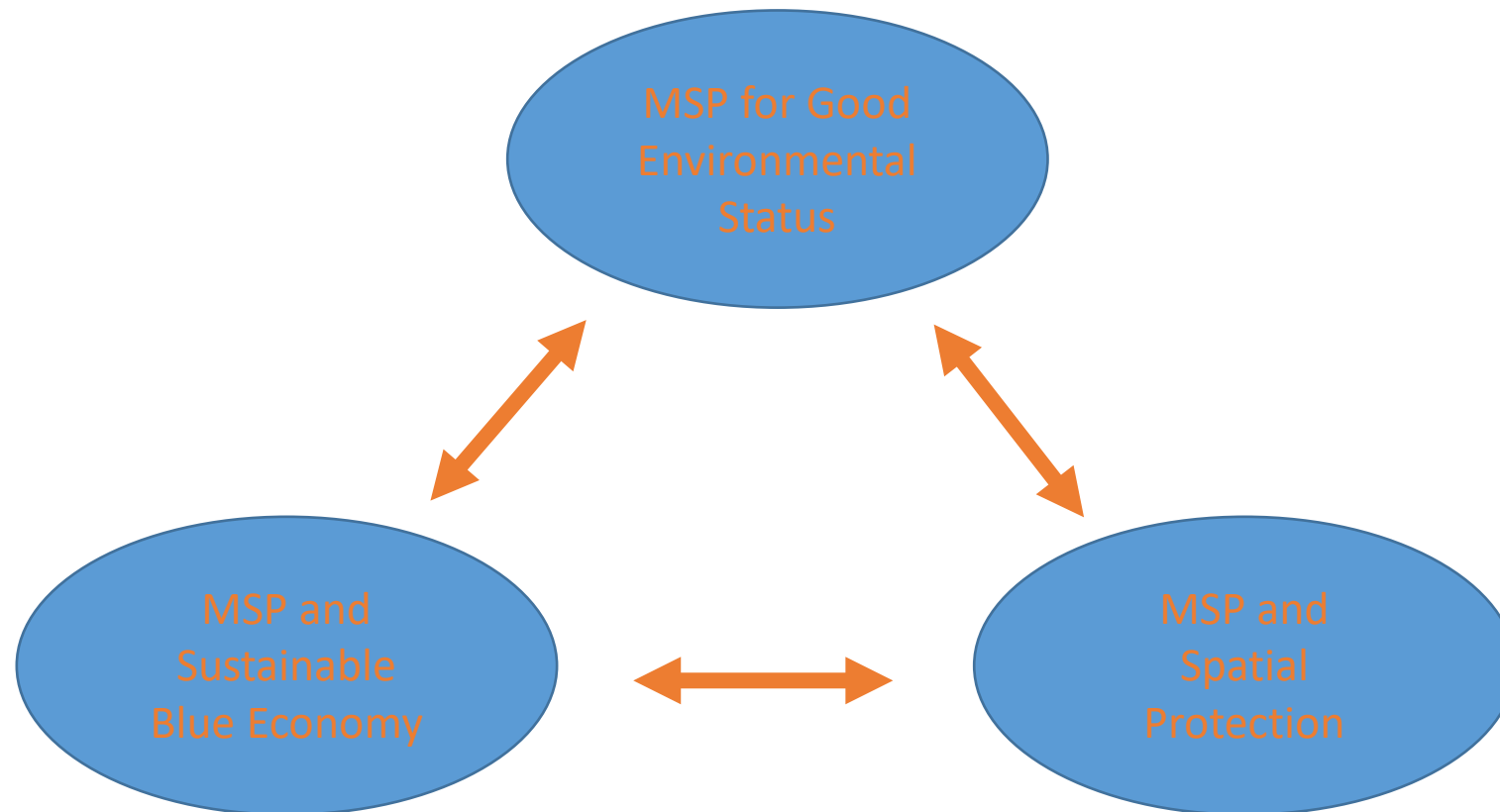
- To demonstrate how MSP can contribute to the achievement of Good Environmental Status (BSAP and MSFD targets)
- To test methods for assessment of large-scale offshore wind development in a transboundary context
- To investigate and assess scenarios for sustainable blue economy
- To contribute to integration between MSP and spatial conservation measures as part of marine management aiming at coherent networks for MPAs, EBSAs and green infrastructure

## Geographical scope

- Main areas for testing of tools are the Bothnian Sea and the Sea of Åland
- Concepts may be tested in other areas



## Three interlinked sub-cases





## MSP for Good Environmental Status

- Utilizing available (Helcom HOLAS III) data and testing the functionality of existing environmental indicators in impact assessment of MSP
- Linking to indicators and showing how planning scenarios may affect indicators and how plan activities contribute in relation to indicators
- Developing ideas on how MSP can contribute to environmental targets

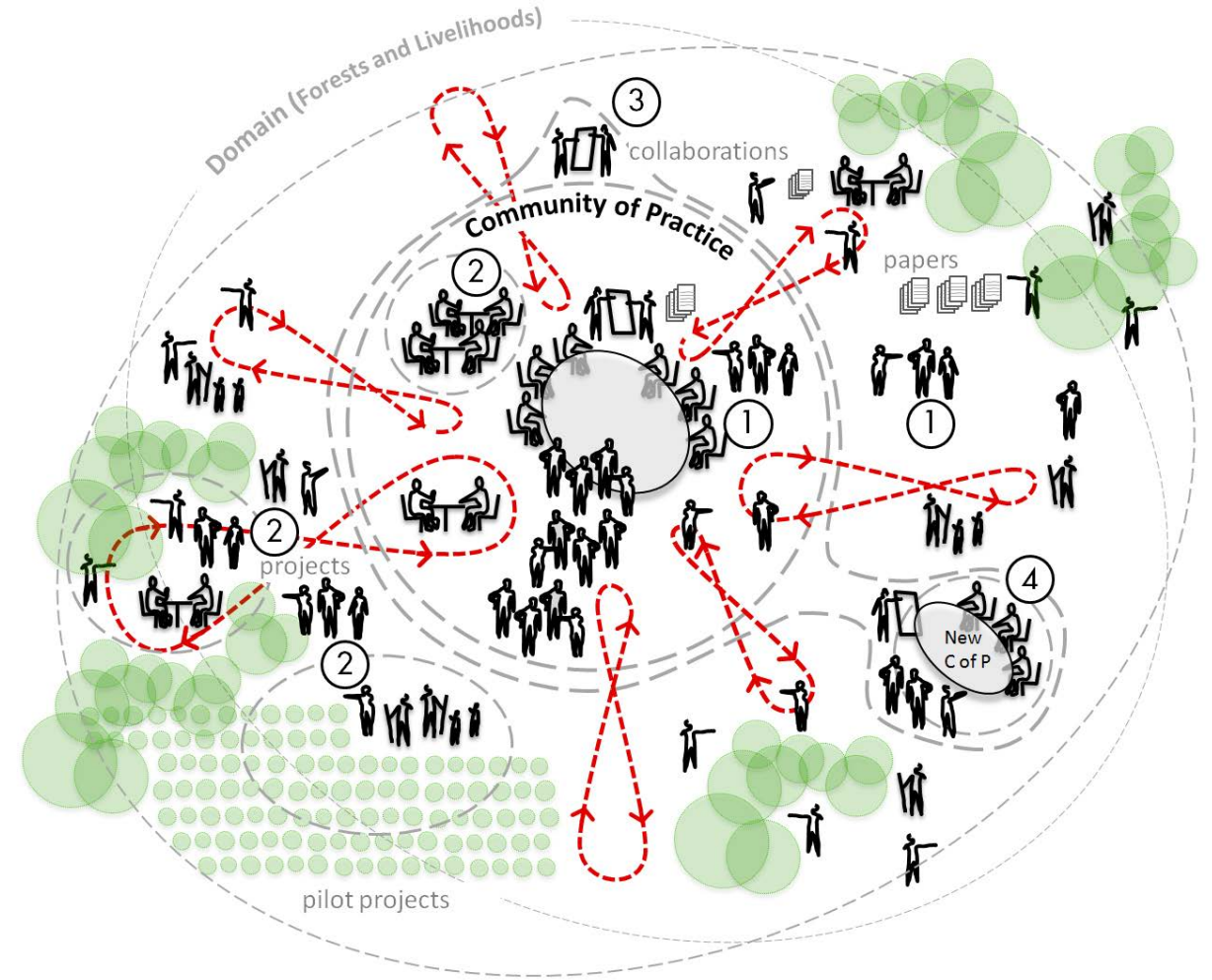
- Assessing potential effects of different development scenarios in a transboundary context
- Identifying opportunities for synergistic sustainable use of the sea based on ecosystem services data
- Developing ideas on coherent strategic environmental assessments in MSP

- Developing the understanding between the MSP and MPA communities on the relationship between MSP and spatial protection
- Show-casing examples of how MSP can contribute to spatial conservation objectives
- Defining synergies and conflicts in relation to sectors

## Our Means – Community of Practice

**a dialog platform** lasting throughout the whole project implementation period and beyond

**time-bound drafting groups** to develop concrete project deliverables



## Our deliverables

- An overview of good practices of the application of ecosystem-based approach in national MSPs.
- A map of gaps in existing international legal and policy framework related to practical application of EBA in maritime spatial plans.
- Recommendations to fill gaps and advance international legal and policy framework for application of EBA in maritime spatial planning (e.g. EBA guidelines, legislative recommendations, common ground for Strategic Environmental Assessment-framework etc).
- Policy briefs targeting urgent needs for enhancement of EBA in MSP in the light of Green Deal with concrete illustrative examples.
- Study case illustrating practical experiences on approaches and tools to strengthen ecosystem-based MSP.
- Recommendations for a framework for continuous science and policy dialog and mutual knowledge exchange in the North Sea and Baltic Sea regions.



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# Over to Jan!

## Where we are after one year of the project?



Netherlands Enterprise Agency



Ministry of Infrastructure  
and Water Management



Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and  
Food Quality of the Netherlands



Swedish Agency  
for Marine and  
Water Management



VARSINAIS-SUOMEN LIITTO  
EGENTLIGA FINLANDS FÖRBUND  
REGIONAL COUNCIL OF SOUTHWEST FINLAND

