

# State of the Art in Maritime Spatial Planning in the Baltic Sea Region

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# HELCOM

The Contracting Parties signed the first Helsinki Convention in 1974 and updated it in 1992. The current Convention entered into force in 2000.



## Helsinki Convention

The set of guiding principles and obligations signed by the Contracting Parties on the protection of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea



## HELCOM Secretariat

Coordinates the work and meetings of the Helsinki Commission and ensures CPs meet their obligations under the Helsinki Convention

## The 10 Contracting Parties (CPs)



Each Contracting Party designates its own Head of Delegation as well as members of the Working Groups and of the Expert Groups and Networks



## Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)

HELCOM chairmanship rotates every two years between the Contracting Parties (CPs)



### Heads of Delegation

Permanently represent the CPs and are decision-makers



### HELCOM Working Groups

Develop recommendations, policies & strategies



### Expert Groups & Networks

Provide scientific and technical underpinnings



## Decision making in HELCOM



The highest decision-making body in HELCOM is the Ministerial Meeting (the meeting of the HELCOM line ministers of each CP) that takes place every three years.



The Helsinki Commission meets annually (except when a Ministerial Meeting takes place) and is also entitled to make decisions. Its participants are designated by the CPs.



The Heads of Delegation meet twice per year and are also authorised to make decisions on behalf of the CPs.

# Triple planetary crisis and the Baltic Sea region

1

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Globally: UNFCCC

In the Baltic Sea region: HELCOM with BalticEarth, 2021 BSAP addressed in all 4 segments & horizontal topics

2

## POLLUTION

Globally: UNEP with e.g., Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

In the Baltic Sea region: HELCOM 2021 BSAP / eutrophication (36 actions) and hazardous substances & litter (32 actions) segments

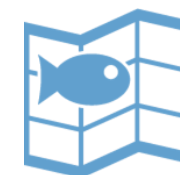
3

## BIODIVERSITY LOSS

Globally: UN CBD

In the Baltic Sea region: 2021 BSAP goal and biodiversity segment (35 actions)

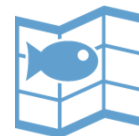
Need for Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)



# Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group

A forum for regional, transboundary and cross-sectoral dialogue for coherent regional Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) processes in the Baltic Sea since 2010

- **BASEMAPS** map service to access Baltic Sea Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) relevant data from the original source where it is stored
- **Country fiches:** maps and information on the sea areas, national laws and regulations, governance, contact information, existing spatial plans and plans under development as well as information on other MSP related developments
- **Ten principles** jointly agreed for the Baltic Sea region, guiding coherent MSP processes across borders
- **Joint guidelines**
  - Guideline for the implementation of ecosystem-based approach in MSP in the Baltic Sea area
  - Guidelines on transboundary consultations, public participation and co-operation
  - Voluntary guidance for the assessment of cross-border coherence in Maritime Spatial Planning



# Joint coordination of the EUSBSR Policy Area Spatial Planning



- Territorial development of the region
- Forum for exchange of know-how on spatial planning and development

Baltic Sea Region countries

MEMBERSHIP

Contracting Parties

VASAB Ministerial Conference

POLITICAL LEVEL

HELCOM Ministerial Meeting

VASAB CSPD/BSR

STEERING LEVEL

HELCOM Heads of Delegation

VASAB CSPD/BSR (steering committee for land-based spatial planning)

The Joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group (steering committee for MSP)

BSR MSP Data Expert Sub-Group

VASAB Secretariat

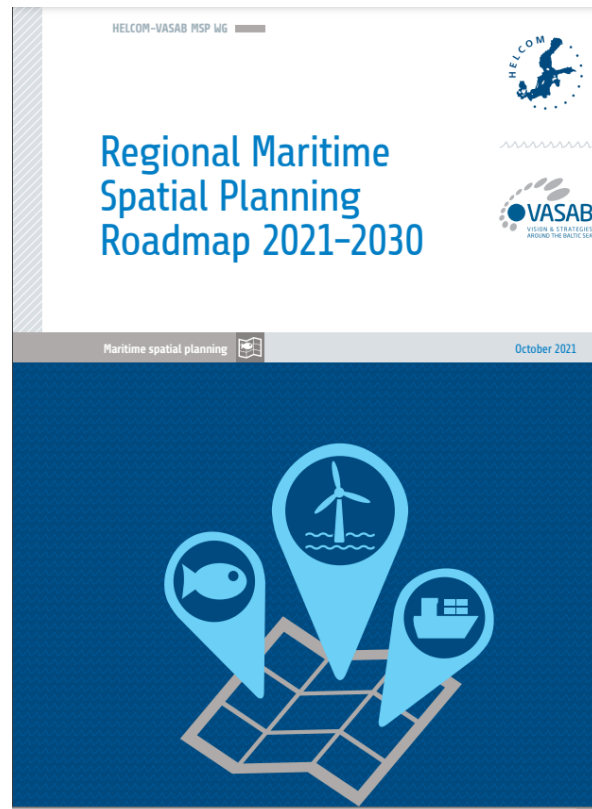
COORDINATION

HELCOM Secretariat

- Helsinki Convention, environmental policy maker
- Coordinates actions to protect the marine environment, promotes sustainable development and ecosystem-based approach in MSP

PASPS support project

# Regional MSP Roadmap – steering the state of the art MSP



## Objectives

- Preparing the next MSP cycle
- Improving regional coherence
- Contributing to progress towards good environmental status
- Sustainable blue economy
- Mitigation, adaptation and resilience towards climate change

The revised MSP Roadmap focuses on the shift from drawing up of the maritime spatial plans to **implementation, monitoring, evaluation** and follow-up with subsequent eventual **reviewing** of the plans, with the focus on implementing **ecosystem-based approach** – with 27 actions to achieve the objectives.

# Supporting regional policy work

## 2021 HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP)

- 199 actions
- Implementation date: by 2030 at the latest
- VISION: 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.

## Our regional projects supporting BSAP & MSP

With both HELCOM and VASAB in the partnership:

- [eMSP NBSR](#) - Emerging ecosystem-based Maritime Spatial Planning topics in the North and Baltic Seas Region
- [BalticSea2Land](#) - Fostering integrated governance for the joint sustainable use of human and natural capital in the near shore zone

With HELCOM in the partnership:

- [MSP4BIO](#) - Improved science-based maritime spatial planning to safeguard and restore biodiversity in a coherent European MPA network (HORIZON)
- [ReMAP](#) - Reviewing and Evaluating the Monitoring and Assessment of Maritime Spatial Planning (Interreg)

## Join our event!

[Strengthening ecosystem-based approach in MSP and supporting sustainable blue economy](#) on 13-15 June 2023, Helsinki

(eMSP NSBR, MSP4BIO and PASPS)

Thank you!

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