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<b>Document title</b>	Suggestion on practical cooperation between HELCOM Fish and HELCOM-VASAB MSP working group
<b>Code</b>	2-8
<b>Category</b>	DEC
<b>Agenda Item</b>	2 – Matters arising from HELCOM work of relevance for the group
<b>Submission date</b>	15.5.2018
<b>Submitted by</b>	Secretariat

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*Note that this document was submitted after the established deadline. It will be decided by the Meeting whether the document can be discussed or is postponed to the next meeting.*

## Background

This document contains a suggestion from the HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group, on practical cooperation between HELCOM Fish group and HELCOM VASAB MSP group.

Annex 1 contains extracts related to the suggestion from the The 16th Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 16-2018), held on 8-9 May 2018 in Helsinki, Finland upon invitation by the Ministry of the Environment.

At FISH 7-2017, the Meeting had highlighted that regional maps of fish nursery areas and other essential habitats were not available and requested that HELCOM Fish should be informed of any events on this topic (c.f. paragraph 2.15 of the Outcome of FISH 7-2017). It may be highlighted, that HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 16-2018 recalled this request and pointed out that FISH is to be involved in the work on Green Infrastructure. The Meeting subsequently requested the HELCOM Secretariat to inform the HELCOM Fish group on an indicative timetable for cooperation between HELCOM/VASAB MSP WG, HELCOM S&C WG and the Pan Baltic Scope project on the topic of green infrastructure / blue corridors for linking MSP and management of marine areas (Annex 2).

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to

- agree on initiating cooperation between the HELCOM Fish group and HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG, as described in Annex 1, including to start a dialogue on integration of information on fisheries activities and aquaculture in spatial planning, in cooperation with HELCOM-VASAB MSP group;
- consider the indicative timetable for cooperation between HELCOM/VASAB MSP WG, HELCOM S&C WG and the Pan Baltic Scope project on the topic of green infrastructure / blue corridors (Annex 2) and provide feedback regarding contribution of Fish in the cooperation;
- invite Contracting Parties and observers to contribute to the agenda of the joint workshop on concepts such as Green Infrastructure to link MSP and MPAs / EBA (Annex 1, item 5.10) and attend the workshop in December 2018.

## Annex 1 Practical cooperation between the HELCOM Fish group and the HELCOM VASAB MSP group (extracts from the outcome of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 16-2018).

2.9 The Meeting discussed the ways of practical cooperation with HELCOM FISH group, particularly forwarding information from the FISH group which might be of high importance for maritime spatial planning.

2.10 The Meeting welcomed the idea that the national representatives in MSP group would attend FISH group meetings and also invited national representatives in HELCOM FISH group to attend HELCOM-VASAB MSP meetings.

2.11 The Meeting recognized the growing concern of the fisheries industry that maritime spatial plans would reduce access to important fishing grounds. The Meeting assumed that the information on fishing activities in border-crossing areas might be of high relevance for application in national MSPs.

2.12 The Meeting also assumed that outcomes of the PanBaltic Scope project related to Green Infrastructure will contain regional data on essential fish habitats and, thus, would be of interest for consideration at HELCOM FISH group.

2.13 The Meeting agreed to provide the FISH group with a regularly updated document on MSP-related events.

2.14 The Meeting took note of the information on VECTORS project (<http://www.marine-vectors.eu/>) finalized by IOW, which considered the integration of fisheries in MSP and that the outcomes of the project has already been utilized for spatial planning. The outcomes of this project might also be included into the information exchange with FISH group.

2.15 The Meeting invited HELCOM FISH group to start regional dialogue on integration of information on fisheries activities and aquaculture in spatial planning, in cooperation with HELCOM-VASAB MSP group.

### **Timetable for future cooperation on Green Infrastructure and Blue Corridors in MSP**

5.1 The Meeting discussed the timetable for future cooperation on Green Infrastructure and Blue Corridors in MSP and marine environmental management (document 5-3).

5.2 The Meeting also took note of the information by Latvia on the plans for activity 1.2.4 Green Infrastructure in the Pan Baltic Scope project and on the ongoing process to compile information on the availability of relevant data to elaborate a scope of the concept.

5.3 The Meeting discussed other activities related to biodiversity which will be taken into account in this timetable.

5.4 The Meeting was informed that a paper to S&C regarding the workshop on Green Infrastructure planned in December 2018 had been prepared by Latvia as a message on behalf of Pan Baltic Scope project.

5.5 The Meeting recalled the demand of HELCOM FISH group for information on essential habitats and pointed out that the FISH group is to be involved in the work on Green Infrastructure and requested the HELCOM Secretariat to inform HELCOM FISH group on the suggested timetable.

5.6 The Meeting discussed the scope of the December workshop and highlighted that, as the understanding of the concept of the Green Infrastructure is rather broad, the agenda of the workshop should

integrate various aspects of accounting of ecosystem components in MSP engaging a wide spectrum of stakeholders to attend the workshop.

5.7 The Meeting agreed that the workshop in December 2018 will be organized jointly by HELCOM-VASAB MSP and Pan Baltic Scope project. The Meeting also took note that Sweden will present the timetable for future cooperation on Green Infrastructure and Blue Corridors in MSP and marine environmental management at State & Conservation 8-2018.

5.8 The Meeting requested HELCOM Secretariat to contact Latvia and clarify the exact dates of the workshop by 18 May 2018 and inform the group and other relevant HELCOM bodies accordingly.

5.9 The Meeting welcomed the offer by Germany to support Latvia in the development of the agenda of the workshop and invited other countries to assist in the organization of the workshop.

5.10 The Meeting concluded that the agenda of the workshop is to be thoroughly described and well disseminated within the HELCOM and VASAB structures. The Meeting invited all Contracting Parties to strengthen communication and cooperation between national experts attending different HELCOM groups to assure their involvement in preparation of the workshop. The Meeting agreed that the draft agenda of the workshop will be ready by the end of August 2018 and invited the HELCOM groups State & Conservation and FISH to contribute to the agenda providing suggestions to Latvia (kristine.kedo@varam.gov.lv) with the copy to the HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats by 15 August 2018.

5.11 The Meeting agreed on the tentative timetable for future cooperation on Green Infrastructure and Blue Corridors in MSP and marine environmental management as Annex 3 to this outcome.

## Annex 2 Indicative timetable for the cooperation between HELCOM/VASAB MSP WG, HELCOM S&C WG and the Pan Baltic Scope project on the topic of green infrastructure / blue corridors for linking MSP and management of marine areas.

### **Background**

MSP needs relevant planning evidence at an aggregated BSR level. Example from Sweden and a test made in the Baltic Scope project showed the potential value of using of green infrastructure, blue corridor, maps (Green Maps) as a basis in MSP. Such maps cannot be created by the HELCOM/VASAB MSP JWG and the need for them highlights the need for further developed linkages towards other HELCOM groups like State & Conservation and HELCOMs work with HOLAS II. Such maps may also be a link between MSP and the MPA-network.

At the 14<sup>th</sup> HELCOM/VASAB MSP WG meeting Sweden offered to in cooperation with Germany, Latvia, Finland representatives of HELCOM S&C WG and with assistance from the HELCOM Secretariat to start developing a work plan for the task of summarizing related ongoing processes relating to the implementation of the ecosystem-based approach in MSP, green infrastructure and connectivity of MPAs and present the plan at the next HELCOM/VASAB MSP JWG meeting for discussion at both HELCOM groups.

For the 15<sup>th</sup> HELCOM/VASAB MSP WG meeting a draft work plan was developed including a list with current national and other processes of relevance.

This document presents an indicative timetable for the cooperation between HELCOM/VASAB MSP WG, HELCOM S&C WG and the Pan Baltic Scope project on the topic of green infrastructure / blue corridors for linking MSP and management of marine areas.

Time/ format	Action	Focus	Responsibility
May 2018/ HELCOM S&C WG HELCOM FISH	Presentation of Green infrastructure/Blue corridors workplan for HELCOM S&C WG	Aim and contents of the workplan. Discuss potential benefits and forms of cooperation (Why and How)	Sweden ; Latvia
29-30 May 2018/ PanBaltic Scope	Pan Baltic Scope workshop on Green Infrastructure in MSP	To agree on a common set of criteria and concept for establishing of GI within the Pan Baltic Scope project (What)	Latvia
October/November 2018/ HELCOM/VASAB MSP WG HELCOM S&C WG HELCOM FISH	Presentation of a draft agenda of a joint workshop on sharing results of projects / national experiences on concepts such as Green Infrastructure to link MSP and MPAs / EBA at HELCOM/VASAB and HELCOM S&C	To compile CPs contribution to the workshop and finalize its agenda	Latvia with support of Germany, Sweden and Finland
	Discussions on elements of GI in MSP / MPA context	Discuss the definitions of Green Infrastructure and Blue corridors in MSP-context aiming at a common understanding of the concept(s) and the relevance to MSP. Compare different "methods" and aims.	Sweden, Germany, Latvia, Finland
December 2018/ PanBaltic Scope with HELCOM / VASAB WG	Joint workshop on sharing results of projects / national experiences on concepts such as Green Infrastructure to link MSP and MPAs / EBA at Pan Baltic Scope, HELCOM/VASAB JWG and HELCOM S&C	Testing of concepts such as GI by national/transnational case studies	Latvia, with help of HELCOM/VASAB WG
First half 2019/ HELCOM/VASAB MSP WG HELCOM S&C WG HELCOM FISH	Feedback from the joint workshop to HELCOM/VASAB MSP WG and HELCOM S&C WG meetings.	Presentation of preliminary results (initial suggestions for "green" maps based on outcomes of the Workshop) and their application for implementing EBA (i.e.in overall GI concept)	Latvia (HELCOM/VASAB MSP WG) Finland or Sweden (HELCOM S&C WG)
November? 2019	Joint workshop on Green Infrastructure maps, if needed. This workshop is not included in the PBS GI activity work plan.	In depth assessment of developed green GI maps. Pros and cons. Potential further development. Analysis of practical use in MSP and marine management.	TBD

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November 2019/ HELCOM/VASAB MSP WG HELCOM S&C HELCOM FISH	Discussion on the use of the “green” maps at HELCOM/VASAB WG and HELCOM S&C	To elaborate suggestion on a regional tool to promote using of the “green” maps in MSP (e.g. Recommendation)	Sweden, Germany, Latvia, Finland
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