



Document title	Information on the Outcome of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 17-2018
Code	2-5
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	2 - Matters arising from HELCOM work of relevance of the group
Submission date	23.1.2019
Submitted by	Secretariat

Background

This document contains information on the Outcome of the [HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 17-2018](#), (14-15 November 2018 in Riga, Latvia).

The Meeting is invited to note discussions on actions related to Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) within the BSAP that are not yet accomplished, and the view of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 17-2018 that easy access to fisheries data remains a challenge, while such data, regularly updated, are needed for MSP.

Annex 2 of the Outcome of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 17-2018 describes actions related to Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) within the BSAP that are not yet accomplished. The Meeting is in particular invited to note the action on working to develop common procedures to facilitate the sharing of aggregated data on fisheries activities in the Baltic Sea in an applicable format for the purpose of assessing pressures on marine and coastal ecosystems e.g. to be applied in MSP. In this regard, HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 17-2018 commented inter alia that the action remains valid as data on fisheries are highly relevant for MSP, but it continues to be challenging to have easy access to data (and on a regular basis), both on regional and national level, and is not cost free. Spatial planners are users of the data, but other groups should be addressed to accomplish this action. The Baltic SCOPE project (i.e. Central Baltic case, study including Estonia, Latvia and Sweden), showed that the fisheries dataset were available from the different national fishery institutes but the format was different and it was hard to use these dataset.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcomes and to consider possible advice to HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 18-2019, in order to facilitate access to fisheries data for MSP purposes.