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## Background

The implementation of actions under the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) and the Ministerial commitments has been followed-up on a number of occasions, the last [overview](#) being prepared for the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting.

The Secretariat has worked on how the current follow-up system could be revised and improved. The new system is proposed to be two-phased with a simple follow-up system of agreed actions to be firstly developed and implemented. In the second phase, a detailed follow-up system for the reporting on measures taken and the effectiveness of their implementation is proposed to be developed. This document focuses on the first phase.

The follow-up system will be based on the self-evaluation by the countries with regard to national level commitments. Secretariat will do aggregation of results to a regional level as well as assess accomplishment of regional level actions.

The intention has been to use the new follow-up system for producing a status of the implementation of HELCOM commitments for the 'Joint document on regional coordination of Programmes of Measures'. The joint document is intended e.g. for the use by HELCOM EU Member States in support of their establishment and reporting of regionally coordinated Programmes of Measures under Art. 13 of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). For this purpose it would have to be finalized by March 2016 based on the reporting by the countries.

Actions that have **Specific objectives** will be followed-up in terms of level of accomplishment.

Actions with **General objectives** are proposed to be followed-up by other means, e.g. through regular or ad hoc reporting of Working Groups.

Actions which had previously been assessed as accomplished will not be followed up.

HELCOM Recommendations since 2007 that are providing more detailed requirements than those in the BSAP and HELCOM Ministerial Declarations are proposed to be reported through the **follow-up of Recommendations** according to a similar scheme as for other agreed actions.

The next step is that [GEAR 12-2015](#) (29-30 October 2015) will consider the follow-up system and [HOD 49-2015](#) (10-11 December 2015) will be presented with a proposal for presentation of results as well as will conclude on the reporting timetable.

### Action required

The Meeting is invited to review the proposed follow-up for MSP related commitments in HELCOM and more specifically provide feedback on the selection of commitments suggested to be followed up and indicators for their reporting.

**Table 1. Actions on Maritime Spatial Planning with Specific objectives and targets to be followed-up in terms of level of accomplishment.**

NB that the proposed rules for assessing level of accomplishment (green, orange, red) refers to the regional level. NA= Not applicable.

Action (nr from 2013 Declaration)	Origin	Level of implementation	Proposed indicator for follow-up of national implementation	Proposed indicator for assessment of accomplishment on a regional level	Accomplished (Regional)	Partly accomplished (Regional)	Not accomplished (Regional)
FURTHER AGREEING that the ultimate goal is to draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea region by 2020, which are coherent across the borders and applying the ecosystem approach, / 1.1 Cooperate in the field of MSP using inter alia the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG framework and thus facilitate reaching the target of drawing up and implementing transnationally coherent Maritime Spatial Plans applying the ecosystem approach throughout the region by 2020	MD 2013/2013 Roadmap for MSP	National	Marine spatial plans applied in national marine waters: Yes/No	Nr of CP that have applied marine spatial plans in their national waters	Maritime spatial plans based on the ecosystem approach applied in all Baltic Sea countries	Maritime spatial plans based on ecosystem approach applied in some Baltic Sea countries	Maritime spatial plans based on ecosystem approach not applied in the Baltic Sea
1.3 Draft and adopt by 2015 Baltic Sea regional "Guidelines on transboundary consultations and cooperation in the field of MSP". These guidelines could address the initiation of the process, consultations, cooperation, institutional arrangements and time schedules as well as possibilities for preparing joint transboundary MSPs.	MD 2013/2013 Roadmap for MSP	Regional		Guidelines has been adopted	Guidelines has been adopted		Guidelines has not been adopted
6.2 Apply by 2018 Baltic Sea regional "Guidelines on transboundary consultations and cooperation in the field of MSP".	MD 2013/2013 Roadmap for MSP	National	A country has applied the guidelines	A number of countries who have applied the guidelines	All HELCOM countries have applied the guidelines	Only some of the HELCOM countries have applied the guidelines	None of the HELCOM countries have applied the guidelines
2.1 Draft and adopt by 2015 Baltic Sea regional "Guidelines on public participation for MSP with transboundary dimensions". These guidelines should address means of public consultation and transparency of information.	MD 2013/2013 Roadmap for MSP	Regional		Guidelines has been adopted	Guidelines has been adopted		Guidelines has not been adopted
6.3 Apply by 2018 Baltic Sea regional "Guidelines on public participation for MSP with transboundary dimensions".	MD 2013/2013 Roadmap for MSP	National	A country has applied the guidelines	A number of countries who have applied the guidelines	All HELCOM countries have applied the guidelines	Only some of the HELCOM countries have applied the guidelines	None of the HELCOM countries have applied the guidelines

Action (nr from 2013 Declaration)	Origin	Level of implementation	Proposed indicator for follow-up of national implementation	Proposed indicator for assessment of accomplishment on a regional level	Accomplished (Regional)	Partly accomplished (Regional)	Not accomplished (Regional)
3.1 Draft and adopt by 2015 procedurally oriented Baltic Sea regional "Guidelines on the application of Ecosystem Approach in transnationally coherent MSP".	MD 2013/2013 Roadmap for MSP	Regional		Guidelines has been adopted	Guidelines has been adopted		Guidelines has not been adopted
6.4 Apply by 2018 Baltic Sea regional "Guidelines on the application of Ecosystem Approach in transnationally coherent MSP".	MD 2013/2013 Roadmap for MSP	National	A country has applied the guidelines	A number of countries who have applied the guidelines	All HELCOM countries have applied the guidelines	Only some of the HELCOM countries have applied the guidelines	None of the HELCOM countries have applied the guidelines
4.1 Identify by 2013 competent contact points for MSP for the purpose of transboundary consultation and joint planning.	MD 2013/2013 Roadmap for MSP	National	A country has identified competent contact points	A number of countries who have identified contact points	All HELCOM countries have identified contact points	Some HELCOM countries have identified contact points	None of the HELCOM countries have identified contact points
4.5. Prepare a future oriented report by 2015 on marine and maritime activities and developments of Baltic Sea regional importance.	MD 2013/2013 Roadmap for MSP	Regional		A report has been prepared	A report has been prepared		
6.1 National frameworks for coherent MSP are in place in all Baltic Sea countries by 2017.	MD 2013/2013 Roadmap for MSP	National	National framework for MSP has been established in time	A number of countries that have established national frameworks for MSP in time	All countries have done so	Some countries have done so	None of the countries have done so
7.2 Update the MSP Roadmap, if necessary, in 2014 after HELCOM and VASAB ministerial meetings and assess the implementation of this Roadmap 2016, 2018 and 2020.	MD 2013/2013 Roadmap for MSP	Regional		Assessment has been done in 2016, 2018, 2020	The final assessment done in 2020		No assessment is done in time

Table 2. Actions on MSP with General objectives or overlapping with commitments of the other HELCOM agreements i.e. **not to be follow-up in terms of level of accomplishment**. Progress is proposed to be followed up over time by HELCOM Working Groups (or a more precise target needs to be expressed).

Action (nr from 2013 follow-up)	Origin	COMMENTS/CONCERNS
41.1 jointly develop by 2010, as well as test, apply and evaluate by 2012, in cooperation with other relevant international bodies, broad-scale, cross-sectoral, marine spatial planning principles based on the Ecosystem Approach: - whereby all Contracting Parties and relevant HELCOM bodies shall co-operatively participate; - thereby giving guidance for the planning and ensuring the protection of the marine environment and nature, including habitats and seafloor integrity; - securing sustainable use of marine resources by reducing user conflicts and adverse impacts of human activities,	BSAP	Assessed as accomplished in 2013
41.2 Test, apply and evaluate the use of the joint HELCOM-VASAB broad-scale transboundary MSP principles when developing national MSP initiatives, as well as regionally	MD 2010	Overlapping with similar already accomplished commitment from BSAP
41.2 Draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea region, which are coherent across the borders and applying the ecosystem approach. Continuing the work towards reaching common understanding and adopting guidelines on ecosystem approach, transboundary consultation and co-operation as well as public participation in the MSP framework according to the Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2013-2020.	MD 2010	Overlapping with Ministerial Declaration 2013 and 2013 Roadmap for MSP
NOTING that the Baltic Sea countries are entitled to establish a legal regime for Maritime Spatial Planning throughout their Internal Waters, Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zones; WE AGREE to put national frameworks for coherent Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in place by 2017 reflecting HELCOM-VASAB MSP principles, including the ecosystem approach, taking into account the relevant EU policy instruments for the Baltic Sea countries being EU Member States;	MD 2013	Overlapping with 2013 Roadmap for MSP
WE DECIDE to continue the work towards reaching common understanding and adopting guidelines on ecosystem approach, transboundary consultation and co-operation as well as public participation in the MSP framework according to the Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2013-2020;	MD 2013	Overlapping with 2013 Roadmap for MSP
WE WELCOME the progress made within the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group since 2010 and SUPPORT the continuation of the HELCOM co-operation with VASAB and the role of the joint MSP Working Group to utilize the full potential of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and to serve transboundary and cross-sectorial co-operation and consultation;	MD 2013	continuous
WE ENCOURAGE the development of effective and efficient exchange of experience and knowledge from all relevant disciplines taking into account the results from Maritime Spatial Planning practices and projects;	MD 2013	continuous
1.2 Take into consideration and cooperate upon global and European policy and regulatory developments related to MSP.	MD 2013/2013 Roadmap for MSP	
1.4 Coordinate the MSP related actions and projects, including those implemented within the framework of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and its Action Plan, noting the role of HELCOM and VASAB as the Horizontal Action Leaders for MSP.	MD 2013/2013 Roadmap for MSP	continuous
4.2 Share basic, relevant and available MSP related information as soon as possible.	MD 2013/ 2013 Roadmap for MSP	continuous
4.3 Promote the creation and sharing of MSP relevant Baltic Sea regional datasets.	MD 2013/2013 Roadmap for MSP	continuous
4.4 While creating and sharing MSP related information and datasets utilize existing processes for sharing of spatial information including, for those Baltic Sea States who are EU member states, the implementation of the EU INSPIRE Directive (2007/2/EC).	MD 2013/ 2013 Roadmap for MSP	continuous

Action (nr from 2013 follow-up)	Origin	COMMENTS/CONCERNS
5.1 Promote the education and professional development of MSP planners.	MD 2013/ 2013 Roadmap for MSP	continous
5.2 Initiate and draw lessons from practical sub-regional experiences of coherent MSP to try out guidelines and joint regional working practices.	2013 Roadmap for MSP	continous
7.1 Take further steps related to regular monitoring and evaluation needs of MSP.	MD 2013/ 2013 Roadmap for MSP	continous
- that Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), using as an overarching principle the ecosystem approach, should be developed for the different Baltic Sea areas in close transboundary cooperation with the aim of having long-term sustainable management and planning	MD 2010	Overlapping with MD 2013
- to establish a joint, co-chaired HELCOM-VASAB Working Group on Maritime Spatial Planning which will develop and adopt its terms of references by 2010, in this way also enabling coordination and integration of the MSP related actions and projects impleme	MD 2010	accomplished
- the joint HELCOM-VASAB Working Group to finalise, for adoption by HELCOM and VASAB in 2010, a set of joint HELCOM-VASAB broad-scale transboundary Maritime Spatial Planning principles based on the document on Maritime Spatial Planning;	MD 2010	accomplished
- to test, apply and evaluate the use of these joint principles when developing national Maritime Spatial Planning initiatives, as well as regionally	MD 2010	Overlaps with BSAP and has already been assessed as accomplished

Table 3. HELCOM Recommendation 28E/9 Development of broad-scale marine spatial planning principles in the Baltic Sea area

Action from HELCOM Recommendation 28E/9	COMMENTS/CONCERNS
a) jointly develop the marine and coastal broad-scale spatial planning common principles to facilitate the protection and sustainable use of the Baltic Sea;	Overlaps with already accomplished action from the BSAP.
b) fill in data gaps in spatial data e.g. on marine and coastal biodiversity, natural resources, use of land and water areas, demography, traffic, shipping;	Continuous
c) develop joint solutions to the problems associated with access to spatial data;	Continuous
d) provide HELCOM and other relevant parties with the necessary spatial data for marine and coastal broad-scale spatial planning;	Continuous
e) identify and map interacting and/or conflicting interests, obligations and uses of the sea, primarily to broaden the HELCOM GIS as a data source and an effective tool to be used in marine broad-scale spatial planning (compatible with the European Environment Agency database including spatial data);	Continuous
f) carry out consultations jointly concerning activities which may have transboundary negative effects on the environment and coastal populations.	Continuous