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<b>Document title</b>	HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan follow-up (MSP Segment)
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<b>Category</b>	INF
<b>Agenda Item</b>	2 - Matters arising from other HELCOM and VASAB meetings
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<b>Reference</b>	Outcome of HOD 50-2016, para. 4.1-4.2

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## Background

A follow-up system for HELCOM agreements – [the HELCOM Explorer](#) - was published in May 2016 based on information on progress for **regional level actions** and reporting by Contracting Parties on the implementation of **national actions**. HOD 50-2016 requested HELCOM Working Groups to consider and make plans for the implementation of the actions not yet accomplished under their area of responsibility ([Outcome of HOD 50-2016](#), para 4.2).

This document lists the joint regional and national actions related to MSP and the status of their implementation. This document contains background up to date and can be viewed at the [HELCOM Explorer](#).

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to

- Take note of the implementation status of the HELCOM ministerial commitments related to MSP, including national level actions as reported by the countries, and that information is presented in web-based HELCOM explorer;
- Make use of the information when planning future activities as may be fit.

## Background

The development of a system to follow-up HELCOM agreements under the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP), Ministerial Declarations and Recommendations was initiated in 2014 and published on a web-based platform in May 2016 where actions can be viewed, sorted, and downloaded - [the HELCOM Explorer](#).

The follow-up system is based on the assessment of accomplishment of:

- joint regional actions, implemented by HELCOM Working Groups, Experts Groups and projects,
- national actions, implemented by Contracting Parties.

The assessment of accomplished joint regional actions agreed under the BSAP and Ministerial Declarations is up to date (June 2016). Reporting on national actions by the Contracting Parties is nearly completed.

For the reporting of national actions HOD 49 -2015 agreed on a step -wise approach firstly focusing on the commitments under the BSAP and Ministerial Declarations ([Outcome of HOD 49-2015](#), para 4.102), not yet covering HELCOM Recommendations. Neither implementation of the Helsinki Convention as such is covered by this follow-up. The current follow -up therefore only includes a limited number of actions.

Aggregated results of the current accomplishment of actions were presented at HOD 50-2016 ([document 4-25](#)).

### Regional and national actions on MSP

In relation to MSP, there are seven joint regional actions from BSAP and Ministerial Declaration. Five of those are considered as accomplished already as two remains to be accomplished (Table 1).

For national actions, there is four with future target year and 1 with on-going assessment (Table 2).

## HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan follow-up (Spatial Protection Measures)

The following tables contains summarised information of all joint and national actions on MSP. The origin of each action is BSAP / Ministerial Declaration (MD); BSAP segment or equivalent in MDs is Biodiversity and nature conservation; Category of action is Management coordination and the Pressures/Measures addressed is Spatial protection measures (MSP). The actions with all information is available from the [HELCOM Explorer](#).

### Joint actions

Table 1. Joint actions on MSP.

Action as agreed in HELCOM	Target year	Status of regional indicator (Accomplished, partly accomplished, not accomplished)	Supporting information for assessment
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- whereby all Contracting Parties and relevant HELCOM bodies shall co-operatively participate;</li> <li>- thereby giving guidance for the planning and ensuring the protection of the marine environment and nature, including habitats and seafloor integrity;</li> <li>- securing sustainable use of marine resources by reducing user conflicts and adverse impacts of human activities</li> </ul>	2010	<b>Accomplished</b>	See overview prepared for the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Declaration
Establish a joint, co-chaired HELCOM-VASAB Working Group on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) 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 implementation	Not specified	<b>Accomplished<sup>1</sup></b>	
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	Not specified	<b>Accomplished<sup>2</sup></b>	
Draft and adopt by 2015 Baltic Sea regional “Guidelines on transboundary consultations and cooperation in the field of MSP” and the “Guidelines on public participation for MSP with transboundary dimensions”	2015	<b>Accomplished</b>	C.f. Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2013-2020. The Guidelines were agreed by HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 12-2016 and approved HOD 50-2016 in June 2016.

<sup>1</sup> HELCOM-VASAB Working Group on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) was established. In accordance with its ToR the group acts as EUSBSR HA Spatial Planning steering committee.

<sup>2</sup> Baltic Sea broad-scale maritime spatial planning (MSP) principles were adopted by HELCOM HOD 34 -2010 and the 54 th Meeting of VASAB CSPD/BSR

Draft and adopt by 2015 procedurally oriented Baltic Sea regional "Guidelines on the application of Ecosystem Approach in transnationally coherent MSP"	2015	<b>Accomplished</b>	C.f. Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2013-2020. Guidelines were agreed by HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 12-2016 and approved by HOD 50-2016.
Prepare a future oriented report by 2015 on marine and maritime activities and developments of Baltic Sea regional importance	2015	<b>Not accomplished<sup>3</sup></b>	Not agreed yet
Update the Roadmap for Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), if necessary, in 2014 after HELCOM and VASAB ministerial meetings and assess the implementation of this Roadmap 2016, 2018 and 2020	2016	<b>Future target year</b>	Continuous, no updates required in 2014 after the ministerial meetings

## National actions

Table 2. National actions where assessment is on-going (some countries are in the process of implementation).

Action	Target year	Regional status	Action: Accomplished	Action: On-going	Action: Not accomplished
Identify by 2013 competent contact points for MSP for the purpose of transboundary consultation and joint planning	2013	<b>Assessment on-going<sup>4</sup></b>	This action is reported as accomplished by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Denmark:</b> 'Information of contact points are to be seen in HELCOM/VASAB Country Fiche for Denmark';</li> <li>- <b>Estonia:</b> 'Estonian Ministry of Finance <a href="http://www.fin.ee/?lang=en">http://www.fin.ee/?lang=en</a>';</li> <li>- <b>Finland:</b> 'Ministry of the Environment/Department of the Build Environment';</li> <li>- <b>Latvia;</b></li> <li>- <b>Poland:</b> 'Such contact point is identified in the "Act on sea areas of the Republic of Poland and the maritime administration" of March 21st 1991, Chapter 9. Text is available in Polish language at: <a href="http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/DetailsServlet?id=WDU19910320131">http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/DetailsServlet?id=WDU19910320131</a>'</li> <li>- <b>Sweden:</b> 'http://www.vasab.org/index.php/documents/doc_download/968-sweden'</li> </ul>	This action is reported as on-going by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Lithuania:</b> 'Contact points will be confirmed in the near future' and</li> <li>- <b>Russia.</b></li> </ul> This action is reported as reporting on-going by <b>Germany.</b>	

<sup>3</sup> The ToR for the Report was agreed by HELCOM-VASAB 12-2016. The work on the report is ongoing.

<sup>4</sup> Regional status is assessed to be Accomplished when all HELCOM countries have identified contact points; Partly accomplished: Some HELCOM countries have identified contact points; Not accomplished: None of the HELCOM countries have identified contact points.

Table 3. National actions with a future target year

Action	Target year	Regional status	Action: Accomplished	Action: On-going	Action: Not accomplished
Draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea region by 2020, which are coherent across the borders and apply the ecosystem approach, cooperate in the field of MSP using inter alia the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG framework	2020	Future target year <sup>5</sup>	This action is reported as accomplished by: - <b>Estonia:</b> ‘Two pilot projects have been carried out in Estonia -around Hiiu island (hiiumeri.artes.ee) and in Pärnu Bay area (parnumeri.hendrikson.ee). Both pilot plans cover only territorial waters. Pärnu Bay area plan has been developed in close cooperation with Latvia. In case of Hiiu island maritime spatial plan, no crossborder impact was identified’; - <b>Lithuania:</b> ‘ <a href="https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/acabfe0014e411e58569be21ff080a8c">https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/acabfe0014e411e58569be21ff080a8c</a> (in Lithuanian)’.	This action is reported as on-going by <b>Latvia</b> ; and as reporting on-going by <b>Germany</b> .	This action is reported as not accomplished by <b>Denmark, Finland, Poland, Russia and Sweden</b>
Apply by 2018 Baltic Sea regional “Guidelines on transboundary consultations and cooperation in the field of MSP”. Apply by 2018 Baltic Sea regional “Guidelines on public participation for MSP with transboundary dimensions”	2018	Future target year <sup>6</sup>	This action is reported as accomplished by <b>Latvia</b>	This action is reported as reporting on-going by <b>Estonia, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden</b>	This action is reported as not accomplished by <b>Denmark and Finland</b>

<sup>5</sup> Regional status is assessed to be Accomplished when Maritime spatial plans based on the ecosystem approach are applied in all Baltic Sea countries; Partly accomplished: Maritime Spatial Plans based on ecosystem approach applied in some Baltic Sea countries or Not accomplished: Maritime Spatial Plans based on ecosystem approach not applied in the Baltic Sea.

<sup>6</sup> Regional status is assessed to be Accomplished when all HELCOM countries have applied the guidelines; Partly accomplished: Only some of the HELCOM countries have applied the guidelines; Not accomplished: None of the HELCOM countries have applied the guidelines.

<p>Apply by 2018 Baltic Sea regional “Guidelines on the application of Ecosystem Approach in transnationally coherent MSP”</p>	<p>2018</p>	<p><b>Future target year<sup>7</sup></b></p>	<p>This action is reported as accomplished by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Latvia</b></li> <li>- <b>Poland:</b> ““Guideline for the implementation of ecosystem-based approach in MSP in the Baltic Sea Area” are in line with “Act on sea areas of the Republic of Poland and the maritime administration” of March 21st 1991, Chapter 9: Maritime Spatial Planning. Text is available in Polish language at: <a href="http://isap.sejm.gov.p/DetailsServlet?id=WDU19910320131">http://isap.sejm.gov.p/DetailsServlet?id=WDU19910320131</a> Guideline were tested during different Baltic Sea Region projects and pilots for maritime spatial plans, where the Polish maritime administration participated’.</li> </ul>	<p>This action is reported as reporting on-going by <b>Germany</b> and <b>Lithuania</b>.</p>	<p>This action is reported as not accomplished by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Denmark;</b></li> <li>- <b>Estonia;</b></li> <li>- <b>Finland;</b></li> <li>- <b>Russia;</b></li> <li>- <b>Sweden:</b> ‘Work is carried out in the Baltic Scope project on how to facilitate the implementation of the guidelines through a checklist approach. Final project outputs will be available in April 2017.’</li> </ul>
<p>National frameworks for coherent MSP are in place in all Baltic Sea countries by 2017</p>	<p>2017</p>	<p><b>Future target year<sup>8</sup></b></p>	<p>This action is reported as accomplished by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Estonia:</b> ‘Planning Act of Estonia <a href="https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/ee/Riigikogu/act/522122015001/conso/ide">https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/ee/Riigikogu/act/522122015001/conso/ide</a>’;</li> <li>- <b>Lithuania:</b> ‘Lithuanian HELCOM-VASAB expert recommended to rely on the Country Fiche Lithuania report’;</li> <li>- <b>Poland:</b> ‘National frameworks for coherent MSP were established during the process of implementation of the Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning. As a result “Act on sea areas of the Republic of Poland and the maritime administration” of March 21st 1991 was amended. The Polish Parliament has adopted changes in this Act on 5th of August 2015, regarding inter alia, MSP procedures in Poland. The new law is already in force. Text is available in Polish language at: <a href="http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/DetailsServlet?id=WDU19910320131">http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/DetailsServlet?id=WDU19910320131</a>’; and</li> <li>- <b>Sweden:</b> ‘<a href="http://www.vasab.org/index.php/documents/doc_downl&lt;br/&gt;oad/968-sweden">http://www.vasab.org/index.php/documents/doc_downl&lt;br/&gt;oad/968-sweden</a>’.</li> </ul>	<p>This action is reported as on going by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Denmark;</b></li> <li>- <b>Finland:</b> ‘The MSP legislation in Finland should be in place by the end of August 2016’;</li> <li>- <b>Latvia;</b></li> <li>- <b>Russia.</b></li> </ul> <p>This action is reported as reporting on-going by <b>Germany</b>.</p>	

<sup>7</sup> Regional status is assessed to be Accomplished when All HELCOM countries have applied the guidelines; Partly accomplished: Only some of the HELCOM countries have applied the guidelines or Not accomplished: None of the HELCOM countries have applied the guidelines.

<sup>8</sup> Regional status is assessed to be Accomplished: All countries have established national frameworks for MSP in time; Partly accomplished: Some countries have established national frameworks for MSP in time or Not accomplished: None of the countries have established national frameworks for MSP in time.