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## 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 WG 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> 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 and present the plan at the next WG meeting for discussion at both HELCOM groups.

This document presents the summary of related ongoing processes and outlines a draft plan for further work.

## Action requested

The meeting is invited to take note of the document, discuss the relevant ongoing processes and consider the draft plan for further work.

## Green infrastructure / blue corridor maps linking MSP and MPA

This topic relates to paragraph 3.3 of the HELCOM/VASAB MSP WG workplan:

3.3 Investigate the possible regional development of concepts such as green infrastructure, blue corridors etc	Sweden with contribution by Germany and taking note of work being done by HELCOM State and conservation working group, HOLAS II, Baltic Scope project	2019	A compilation of the major ecosystem components and the description of their ecological value A draft of the regional concept of a green infrastructure (blue corridors)
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It also links to the Pan Baltic SCOPE project application which includes an activity led by Latvia on Green Infrastructure.

*PanBaltic SCOPE:*

*Activity 1.2.4 Green Infrastructure*

*MoEPRD (lead), SwAM, MoEPRD, EE, BSH, RCS, GoA*

- *Test the concept by utilizing available data*
- *Develop definitions how to present habitats important for fish and improve Baltic-wide maps on important fish habitats, based on the existing knowledge and information from ongoing activities, such as ICES WGSFD8 and ICES WGVHES 9*
- *Collect feedback on the draft concept from the HELCOM-VASAB MSP working group and HELCOM State and Conservation group involving designated authorities and agencies dealing with nature protection and biodiversity conservation from all Baltic Sea countries, for further developing the concept.*

The topic involves a number of questions like:

- Can the MPA-work of S&C be used in MSP? While being aware of its shortages, how can the MPA-data base be used?
- Can a regional Green Infrastructure/Blue corridors-approach be a way to link and develop in a holistic way the MPA-work and feed into ongoing MSP-processes as a basis for ecosystem considerations in planning aiming at reaching MSFD- and BSAP-targets?
- How can we build on current processes to strengthen linkages between in the work on MSP, MSFD and MPA:s ?

### Relevant national-, HELCOM-, research- and other processes to include in a plan for further work

A number of processes are ongoing with varying link to the topic. Here we have tried to identify processes (in a broad sense) which may be of interest to link to further work.

#### HELCOM processes

- Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Sub-group
- Task Group on HELCOM Marine Protected Areas MPA-roadmap roadmap (including development of a tool for assessing management of MPAs, cross-border management of MPAs)

- Baltic Sea EBSA workshop
- HOLAS II and SPICE

#### Other processes

- BONUS BASMATI Project – aiming at informing multi-level governance systems for their management of ecologically and socio-economically sound network of protected marine areas in the Baltic Sea.

#### Swedish processes

- Development of Symphony based green infrastructure maps for Swedish waters (and beyond depending on data availability...)
- Implementation of the national action plan for MPA:s which stresses the need for MPA, MSP and green infrastructure to be developed as part of a common framework. Ongoing work to develop national and regional (at sub national level) MPA conservation goals and objectives by using Open Standards, which is a framework for adaptive management.
- MOSAIC method for identifying marine green infrastructure at local/regional level
- SEA GIS II

#### Finnish processes

- VELMU I
- Just started projects/processes regarding both MSP and MPA issue
- VELMU project and the map portal where you can get the information on distribution on species and habitats in the Finnish marine area. Now in VELMU 2, with the aim to make more inventories in areas where with less information, to get more information on threatened and DD species and habitats. To recognize key habitats and to evaluate ecosystem services. Also developing maps biodiversity index maps. Directed to sectors that need biological information but are not experts to evaluate their importance in the ecosystems. <https://www.luke.fi/en/natural-resources/fish-and-the-fishing-industry/fish-and-environmental-changes/fish-production-areas-and-their-use/>
- SEA GIS II

#### German processes (Federal Agency for Nature Conservation)

- Research and Development project aiming at developing a contribution to MSP from a nature conservation point of view: transferring scientific data on spatial claims of ecosystem components and their sensitivities into concrete planning objectives and principles to provide scientific input to MSP of the German EEZ. Including identification of priority areas for nature conservation purposes and strengthening ecological connectivity of MPAs.
- Research on establishing connectivity between ecologically valuable areas (and MPAs) from a planning point of view (a R+D project dealing with this issue, among others, has just started last month).

#### Latvian processes

- Will be lead in the part of Pan Baltic SCOPE project with focus on green infrastructure/blue corridors
- Developing national MSP data further with link to BONUS BASMATI project work.

## Draft plan for further work

### The first step is a reaching out activity:

- The WG should increase its cooperation with other HELCOM groups of relevance (e.g. S&C including TG MPA)
- The WG should encourage response from other HELCOM groups on how they see MSP and their possible contribution to data of relevance for MSP
- The WG should arrange back to back workshop with S&C to define baseline for cooperation developing ToR? Also aiming at sharing results of research projects/national processes which could be relevant for other countries as well about requirements of MPAs/MSP.

### The second step is focused on the topic:

- 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.
- Investigate identified relevant processes, challenge their possible contribution to the topic and provide scientific basis for discussion considering results of these processes
- Compare different "methods" and aims
- The WG should have representatives taking part in the EBSA workshop in February 2018 in Finland

### The third step is developing and testing a method or methods:

- Develop green maps for the BSR
- Evaluate maps in MSP and MPA context
- The Pan Baltic SCOPE project could be a resource for work on the topic.
- The BONUS/BASMATI project could be a resource for work on the topic