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## Background

HELCOM has received the CBD notification <http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2017/ntf-2017-083-marine-en.pdf> requesting information on national, subregional or regional experiences in the implementation of marine spatial planning. The notification has been addressed to Parties to the Convention, other Governments and relevant organizations. The CBD aim is to support the efforts of Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations in applying marine spatial planning. The information will be disseminated through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention and relevant online information-sharing mechanisms.

This document contains a compilation of information on MSP, which may be relevant to share with CBD.

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information and provide possible comments and additions to the overview to the HELCOM Secretariat ([laura.meski@helcom.fi](mailto:laura.meski@helcom.fi)) by 17 November 2017.

## Experiences in the implementation of marine spatial planning in the Baltic Sea

### A cooperation framework for MSP in the Baltic Sea region

#### [Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group](#)

A joint Working Group on Maritime Spatial Planning, launched in 2010 by HELCOM and VASAB, is a regional platform for cooperation among the Baltic Sea Region countries for coherent regional Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) processes in the Baltic Sea.

[HELCOM](#) - the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission is an intergovernmental organization made up of the nine Baltic Sea coastal countries, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden and the European Union. Founded in 1974 based on a regional convention, its primary aims are to protect the marine environment of the Baltic Sea from all sources of pollution and to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources within the Baltic Sea Area. HELCOM makes recommendations on implementation of the convention, by specifying the obligations and developing them further, or providing for uniform standards and joint measures. HELCOM Recommendations constitutes so called "soft" law – in addition to political dimension, they have normative obligations. Ministerial meetings of HELCOM are held on a regular basis, at which Contracting Parties make commitments for continued work to achieve the aims of the convention.

VASAB (the Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea) is intergovernmental multilateral co-operation of eleven countries (Baltic Sea countries and Belarus and Norway), guided by the Conference of Ministers responsible for spatial planning and development, steered by the Committee on Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region (CSPD/BSR) composed of representatives of respective ministries and regional authorities (Germany, Russia). VASAB prepares policy options for the territorial development of the Baltic Sea Region and provides a forum for exchange of know-how on spatial planning and development between the Baltic Sea countries.

#### [Mandate for the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG](#)

The mandate for the Group has been prolonged by HELCOM HOD 50-2016 and 72<sup>nd</sup> VASAB CSPD/BSR Meeting.

#### [Work Plan for the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG](#)

The Work Plan for the Group, 2017-2019, was adopted by HELCOM 38-2017 and the 74<sup>th</sup> VASAB CSPD/BSR Meeting.

#### [Meetings of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG](#)

Meetings of the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group take place up to three times a year. The outcomes of the meetings can be found in the [HELCOM Meeting Portal](#) and on the VASAB home page.

#### [MSP Data Expert Sub-group](#)

The Baltic Sea Region Maritime Spatial Planning Data Expert Sub-group, established in 2015, works under HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG by supporting data, information and evidence exchange for MSP processes with regard to cross-border/transboundary planning issues.

#### [Horizontal Action Spatial Planning under the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region \(EUSBSR\)](#)

HELCOM and VASAB are co-leaders of the Horizontal Action "Encouraging the use of Maritime and Land-based Spatial Planning in all Member States around the Baltic Sea and develop a common approach for cross-border cooperation" (HA Spatial Planning) of EUSBSR. HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG acts as a steering group for HA Spatial Planning.

## MSP related policy documents and outcomes

### [HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan \(2007\)](#)

HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) is a regional programme to restore the good ecological status of the Baltic marine environment by 2021. The Plan, adopted by all the coastal states and the EU in 2007, provides a basis for HELCOM work. The plan includes i.a. a commitment to “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”.

### [HELCOM Recommendation 28E/9 on development of broad-scale marine spatial planning principles \(2007\)](#)

HELCOM Recommendation 28E/9 is part of the Baltic Sea Action Plan. It recommends that the HELCOM Contracting Parties jointly develop marine and coastal broad-scale spatial planning common principles to facilitate the protection and sustainable use of the Baltic Sea. It further recommends improvements related to spatial data and to carry out consultations jointly concerning activities which may have transboundary negative effects on the environment and coastal populations.

### [HELCOM-VASAB Baltic Sea Broad-scale Maritime Spatial Planning Principles \(2010\)](#)

The Broad-scale Maritime Spatial Planning Principles were jointly developed and adopted by HELCOM and VASAB. The ecosystem approach is an overarching principle for MSP. The ten principles further call for sustainable management, a long term perspective and objectives, transnational coordination and consultation, MSP to be based on the precautionary principle, high quality data and information basis among other things.

### [Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap \(2013-2020\)](#)

HELCOM 2013 Copenhagen Ministerial Meeting adopted the Roadmap and VASAB Ministerial Conference 2014 committed to the implementation of the Roadmap. The Roadmap outlines the anticipated Baltic Sea regional work on MSP to be done by the HELCOM and VASAB Members. 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.

### [Guideline for the implementation of ecosystem-based approach in MSP in the Baltic Sea area \(2016\)](#)

The Guideline for the implementation of ecosystem-based approach in MSP in the Baltic Sea area was adopted by the 72<sup>nd</sup> meeting of VASAB CSPD/BSR and approved by HELCOM HOD 50-2016 in 2016. The Guideline presents a first step towards a common understanding on how the ecosystem-based approach can be applied in drawing up a spatial plan for a sea area in accordance with spatial planning legislation in force in the Baltic Sea countries.

### [Guidelines on transboundary consultations, public participation and co-operation \(2016\)](#)

The Guidelines on transboundary consultations, public participation and co-operation cover the following topics:

- consultations between MSP authorities of neighbouring countries and/or those countries directly affected by MSP and the related public participation process that should take place concerning transboundary aspects during the process of drafting a maritime spatial plan.
- cooperation between MSP authorities at pan-Baltic scale on issues affecting most or all of the Baltic Sea and/or the level involving most or all BSR countries as well as the process foreseen to ensure effective stakeholder engagement at a more strategic level.

### [Country fact sheets](#)

The Baltic Sea countries are at different stages in the MSP planning cycle. The MSP country fact sheets/fiches are a source of data on the MSP status in the Baltic Sea countries. The fact sheets contain maps and information on the sea areas, national laws and regulations, governance, contact information,

existing spatial plans and plans under development as well as information on other MSP related developments. Updating of the fact sheets is coordinated by the HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group based on an agreed procedure.

### International MSP projects and workshops in the Baltic Sea

A number of MSP projects have taken place in the Baltic Sea during the last decade to advance MSP in the region. Baltic Sea countries have participated actively and HELCOM and VASAB have also acted as partners in a number of projects.

[BaltSeaPlan project](#) (Planning the future in the Baltic Sea, 2008-2012)

[Plan Bothnia project](#) (Maritime Spatial Planning preparatory action for the Baltic Sea, 2010-2012)

[Fishing for Space workshop \(2013\)](#) aimed at bringing together fisheries and maritime spatial planning sectors to discuss a common future.

[PartiSEApate project](#) (Multilevel Governance in Maritime Spatial Planning throughout the Baltic Sea Region, 2012-2014)

[Baltic SCOPE project](#) (Towards coherence and cross-border solutions in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans, 2015-2017)

[Baltic LINes project](#) (Coherent Linear Infrastructures in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans, 2016-2019)

[Pan Baltic SCOPE project](#) (2018-2019)

Pan Baltic SCOPE is a new MSP-project in the Baltic Sea Region, which will start in January 2018 led by Sweden. The objective of the project is to achieve coherent national maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea region and to build lasting macro-region mechanisms for cross-border cooperation.

The project activities will be carried out at different geographical scales – from sea-basin level (pan-Baltic Sea) to specific area, including even site-specific work. The work at sea-basin level will create knowledge strengthening, enhances cross-border and pan-Baltic dimensions in MSP cooperation.

The project will have five interlinked work packages:

- WP 1.1 Cross-border Collaboration and Consultation to Support National MSP-processes
- WP 1.2 Advancing the Implementation of the Ecosystem-Based Approach and Data Sharing including cumulative impacts and economic and social analysis
- WP 1.3 Integrating Land-Sea Interactions into MSP
- WP 2.1 Management and Coordination
- WP 3.1 Communication and Dissemination