



23 March 2018

To: HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG nominated representatives
Observers of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG

cc: HELCOM Heads of Delegation
Contact Addresses of VASAB CSPD/BSR
Contact Addresses of HELCOM State & Conservation group and Maritime group
Observers of HELCOM State & Conservation group and Maritime group

Dear Madam/Sir,

We have the pleasure to invite the HELCOM Contracting Parties and VASAB Member Countries as well as the Observer organizations to the 16th Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 16-2018). The Meeting will be held in Helsinki, Finland, on 8–9 May 2018, upon invitation by the Ministry of the Environment of Finland. It will be held back-to-back with the first international consultation meeting of the Finnish maritime spatial plans (7–8 May), to which the Ministry of Environment of Finland will send a separate invitation.

The HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 16-2018 will be opened on **Tuesday, 8 May 2018 at 14:00** in the Ministry of the Environment, (Aleksanterinkatu 7) and is expected to end on **Wednesday, 9 May at 16:00**. The Meeting will be chaired jointly by the Working Group Co-Chairs Mr. Joacim Johannesson, Sweden, and Ms. Katarzyna Krzywda, Poland.

The Meeting will focus on evaluation of the progress in implementation of the regional MSP roadmap, coordination and follow-up of regional policy, facilitation of the ecosystem-based approach in MSP, and other tasks from the work plan of the group. Implementation of the PanBaltic SCOPE project and other MSP related projects, and detailed work plan on green infrastructure and MSP aspects in maritime policy will be also discussed.

Documents for the Meeting will be made available on the [HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 16-2018 Meeting Site](#) in the HELCOM Meeting Portal. Please note that you need to be a registered user with relevant rights to access the restricted meeting documents. Instructions for the use of the Meeting Portal are available on the [HELCOM website](#). Participants of the Meeting are kindly requested to register to the Meeting by answering the [Participation Survey](#) not later than **by 30 April 2018**.

As agreed by HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 6-2013 (paragraph 1.2), Contracting Parties/Member Countries as well as Observers are requested to submit substantial documents requiring a decision or action to the Secretariats (ville.karvinen@helcom.fi and info@vasab.org) at the latest four weeks in advance of the meeting, i.e. **by 10 April 2018**. Information documents should be submitted at the latest two weeks in advance of the meeting, i.e. **by 24 April 2018**.

Yours sincerely,

Monika Stankiewicz
HELCOM Executive Secretary

Talis Linkaits
VASAB Head of Secretariat