



Document title	MSP-related topics in the work of HELCOM State & Conservation WG
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Background

HELCOM HOD 54-2018 emphasized the need of closer communication and cooperation between HELCOM groups. Maritime Spatial Planning is an example of cross-sectoral activity incorporating information from various knowledge spheres and sectors of economic activities. HELCOM-VASAB MSP group regularly indicates the need in close cooperation with other HELCOM work groups aiming at full utilization of the group's expertise in the work towards goals set by the Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap (2013-2020).

Two meetings of HELCOM State & Conservation group have taken place since the last MSP meeting in May 2018. Also HELCOM MPA Management Workshop was held in September 2018. Large amount of cross-cutting issues were considered at the meetings. Some of them found reflection in the group's updated work plan for 2019-2020.

The document contains extraction of the outcomes of the State & Conservation group meetings concerning MSP-related issues. It also contains an extract from the group's draft work plan.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of and reflect on the outcomes of the meetings with regard to accounting them for MSP work.

MSP related topics in the work of HELCOM State & Conservation WG

State & Conservation 8-2018 (14-18 May Klaipeda, Lithuania)

The Meeting took note of the discussions and outcomes of the 16th meeting of HELCOM-VASAB MSP working group, as presented by the Co-Chair. The Meeting highlighted the importance of the information sharing between State and Conservation, Fish, HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and Pan Baltic Scope project, as well as the participation of relevant experts from all the groups in the workshop proposed to be held in December 2018 jointly by Pan Baltic Scope and HELCOM (see also document 2J-11). The Meeting noted the importance of including migration routes of birds in the agenda of the December workshop. The Meeting noted that MSP matters will also be further considered during the biodiversity and nature conservation session of the Meeting.

5J.3 The Meeting took note of the clarification by Poland that HELCOM VASAB MSP WG 16-2018 agreed that the Recommendations should be amended to account for MSP issues. The Meeting noted that Poland offered to lead the drafting work and that comments by the HELCOM VASAB MSP WG members are to be sent to Poland by 30 May and incorporated by 15 June by Poland for further discussion. The Meeting agreed to the proposal that the discussion on the Recommendation will be postponed to the next State and Conservation meeting and invited Poland to present a revised version at STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018. The Meeting took note of the clarification by Poland that HELCOM VASAB MSP WG 16-2018 agreed that the Recommendations should be amended to account for MSP issues. The Meeting noted that Poland offered to lead the drafting work and that comments by the HELCOM VASAB MSP WG members are to be sent to Poland by **30 May** and incorporated by **15 June** by Poland for further discussion. The Meeting agreed to the proposal that the discussion on the Recommendation will be postponed to the next State and Conservation meeting and invited Poland to present a revised version at STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018.

RECOMMENDATION 34E/1 SAFEGUARDING IMPORTANT BIRD HABITATS AND MIGRATION ROUTES IN THE BALTIC SEA FROM NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF WIND AND WAVE ENERGY PRODUCTION AT SEA

3N.21 The Meeting took note of the information that OSPAR is in the process of planning a MPA, based on data collected by BirdLife. The Meeting agreed to arrange a workshop at the HELCOM Secretariat, and in cooperation with JWG BIRD, in autumn 2018, to collate data and draft a regional map of seabird migratory routes and identify potential data gaps in relation to this. The Meeting welcomed the information that Sweden has personnel resources to support the work and invited co-leads Sweden and Germany, in cooperation with the Secretariat, to take the organization of the workshop forward.

RECOMMENDATION 35/1 SYSTEM OF COASTAL AND MARINE BALTIC SEA PROTECTED AREAS (HELCOM MPAs)

1) Follow-up of action 'include HELCOM MPAs as areas of particular ecological significance in coastal and maritime spatial planning processes and incorporate their management provisions'

3N.48 The Meeting took note of the information that a work plan outlining cooperation between the HELCOM-VASAB MSP group and the State & Conservation group was presented by Sweden at the HELCOM-VASAB MSP meeting (available in document 2J-11).

3N.49 The Meeting took note of the presentation by Sweden on how to take the work on MSP/MPAs forward (**Presentation 20**).

3N.50 The Meeting noted that the Pan Baltic Scope project will provide regular updates on this work to the respective HELCOM WGs.

3N.51 The Meeting took note of further information on the planned joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and Pan Baltic Scope workshop (as presented also under the Joint session) to be held in December 2018. The Meeting agreed to review and provide feedback on the process and products of the Pan Baltic Scope project.

e) Follow-up of action 'Identify and/or map areas of ecological significance for individual or groups of HELCOM threatened species, also in order to support maritime spatial planning based on the ecosystem approach'

3N.65 The Meeting took note of report of the Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of EBSAs in the Baltic Sea (document 3N-12, Presentation 24), as presented by the Secretariat, and noted that the next steps in the CBD EBSA process includes side-events to be organized at CBD SBSTTA and/or CBD COP to share the information about the regional workshop and described EBSAs as well as other relevant activities of the HELCOM countries. The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to provide material to the presentation to be held by Penina Blankett (Penina.blankett@ym.fi, markku.viitasalo@ymparisto.fi) at the event.

3N.66 The Meeting welcomed that Sweden will present information about the MOSAIC project during STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018.

3N.67 The Meeting clarified that MPAs cannot be used as a basis of describing the CBD EBSAs, because for the designation of MPAs other criteria may be used. The Meeting noted that through the EBSA process the Baltic Sea area is recognized on a global scale. The Meeting however noted that the described EBSAs are not the only biologically or ecologically important areas in the Baltic Sea.

f) Follow-up of action 'Take measures to reduce transboundary pressures and/or impacts on HELCOM threatened migrating species'

3N.68 The Contracting Parties are invited to share information with the Meeting on, or express their interest in, any transboundary efforts to reduce the pressures and/or impacts on threatened migrating species.

[HELCOM MPA Management Workshop](#) [Outcome of the MPA Management Workshop](#)

[EN BENTHIC 2-2018](#)

[Draft Terms of Reference for HELCOM IN BENTHIC](#)

[State & Conservation 9-2018 \(22-26 October 2018 in Copenhagen, Denmark\)](#)

RECOMMENDATION 16/3 PRESERVATION OF NATURAL COASTAL DYNAMICS

3N.2 The Meeting considered the draft questionnaire, consisting of nine questions related to the Recommendation, prepare by lead country Denmark. The Meeting reviewed and amended the proposed questions for the reporting questionnaire and agreed to set up an intersessional review process, further input to be provided to Denmark (makra@mfvm.dk) by 22 November 2018. The Meeting invited Denmark to amend the questionnaire accordingly and presented the finalized version to State and Conservation for intersessional approval between 1-7 December 2018.

3N.3 The Meeting agreed to initiate the reporting on the recommendation by sending the finalized questionnaire to national State and Conservation representatives by 1 February 2019. Responses are to be made available to lead country Denmark (makra@mfvm.dk) by 1 April 2019, after which the results will be compiled and presented to State and Conservation 10-2019

3N.4 The Meeting acknowledge the relevance of the information under the Recommendation for MSP related work and invited the Secretariat to share the information collated under the reporting of the recommendation with the HELCOM-VASAB MSP working group.

RECOMMENDATION 34E/1 SAFEGUARDING IMPORTANT BIRD HABITATS AND MIGRATION ROUTES IN THE BALTIC SEA FROM NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF WIND AND WAVE ENERGY PRODUCTION AT SEA

a) Follow-up on action 'Compile and exchange information on existing, on-going as well as planned developments for wind energy facilities and wave energy installations well as on migration routes and staging areas of birds'

3N.25 The Meeting took note on the information regarding Workshop on Seabird migratory routes as present by Germany (document 3N-16). The Meeting noted that the Workshop will take place 20-22 November 2018 in Helsinki. The Meeting noted that Contracting Parties that have not already nominated national experts were requested to do so, and the nominated experts were asked to register to the workshop as soon as possible.

3N.26 The Meeting welcomed the information by Finland, Estonia, Denmark and Sweden that they have nominated experts and that Poland is exploring the possibility to nominate an expert.

3N.27 The Meeting took note of the information by Germany that the Co-lead countries have been working on collating data and literature to support the work at the workshop. The Meeting further noted the information by the Secretariat that a data call to support the work at the workshop is being elaborated and that to the extent possible Contracting Parties are invited to submit all relevant data before the workshop.

RECOMMENDATION 35/1 SYSTEM OF COASTAL AND MARINE BALTIC SEA PROTECTED AREAS (HELCOM MPAs)

d) Follow-up of action 'ensure, when selecting new areas, that the network of HELCOM MPAs is ecologically coherent and takes into account connectivity between sites'

3N.43 The Meeting welcomed the information that lead country Finland will arrange a workshop on habitat and biotope mapping, mapping methods, habitat and species modelling and production of relevant maps (presentation 21). The Meeting highlighted the importance and usefulness of such a workshop.

3N.44 The Meeting agreed that the first workshop should be a two to three-day workshop, preliminarily to be held in fall 2019, aimed at those experts performing mapping and working on producing the end products used in conservation and MSP. It should serve as a scoping exercise, identify the gaps and needs in knowledge and present successful mapping practices which will then be used to inform further work. The Meeting agreed that the work should be conducted in close cooperation with EN BENTHIC.

3N.45 The Meeting agreed that further comments to the proposal can be made to Finland (markku.viitasalo@ymparisto.fi) by 5 November 2018, after which the document will be finalized. The Meeting further agreed that the finalized document be presented to HOD 55-2018 for approval.

3N.46 The Meeting took note of the workplan of EN BENTHIC, as presented by the Secretariat and noted that the workplan will be presented in more detail and approved under the Joint session (document 7J-2).

l) Follow-up of action 'include HELCOM MPAs as areas of particular ecological significance in coastal and maritime spatial planning processes and incorporate their management provisions'

3N.53 The Contracting Parties were invited to inform the Meeting on how natural values and nature conservation interests have been taken into account in their maritime spatial plans. The Meeting took note of information by Finland that they are currently working to incorporate these values into their MSP plans, including the identification of ecologically valuable areas to be included in the MSP processes.

3N.54 The Meeting took note of the information on the upcoming joint Pan Baltic Scope project–HELCOM regional expert workshop on essential fish habitats in the Baltic Sea, as presented by the Secretariat (document 2J-2).

3N.55 The Meeting agreed that further comments to the proposal can be made to Finland (markku.viitasalo@ymparisto.fi) by 5 November 2018, after which the document will be finalized. The Meeting further agreed that the finalized document be presented to HOD 55-2018 for approval.

3N.56 The Meeting took note of the workplan of EN BENTHIC, as presented by the Secretariat and noted that the workplan will be presented in more detail and approved under the Joint session (document 7J-2).

RECOMMENDATION 24/10 IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED MARINE AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES IN THE BALTIC SEA AREA

5J.6 The Meeting recalled the following information regarding Recommendation 24/10: HELCOM 39-2018 took note that Poland could not agree on the revised Recommendation 24/10 'Implementation of integrated Marine and Coastal Management of Human Activities in the Baltic Sea Area' and invited Poland to clarify the reservation at the next meeting of the State & Conservation Working Group.

5J.7 The Meeting took note of the information by Ms. Katarzyna Kaminska, Poland, that work on the recommendation is currently ongoing and that the revised text will be presented at the upcoming HELCOM-VASAB MSP meeting, after which it will be submitted to State and Conservation 10-2019 for approval.

5J.8 The Meeting agreed to return to the question on the reporting on the Recommendation once the revision process is finalized, unless otherwise decided under the BSAP update process.

Draft State & Conservation Work Plan 2019-2020

2.2	Develop a reporting system on prioritized human activities and pressures, building on the existing HELCOM reporting, to regularly collect harmonized data for HELCOM assessments	State and Conservation Other WGs Secretariat		Link to MSP needs. Need to find functioning working structure. Exchange with Pressure and HELCOM_VASAB MSP.	Identification of priorities for regular reporting using HOLAS II BSPI BSII information
6.3	Intensifying regional, sub-regional and cross-sectoral cooperation to support measures for the conservation and protection of species and coastal and marine habitats and biotopes.	State and Conservation			ongoing
7.3	Improve the understanding of the role of MPAs for ecosystem services, in order to enhance cost-effectiveness of MPAs management and yield the greatest environmental benefits.	State and Conservation		Use recent tools recommended by IUCN (e.g. INVEST). Finland to present their initial work with the tool based on IUCN workshop.	2019-2020
7.4	Coordination of management measures of pressures and impacts on MPAs, in particular for adjacent transnational MPAs	State and Conservation		Update of the MPA data base needed to show objectives and measures for MPA's in a structured way using a template.	no timeline set
7.6	Collate and provide information on how to consider nature conservation needs, ecologically significant areas (also outside the protected areas) and ecosystem function in Maritime Spatial Planning and vice versa.	State and Conservation HELCOM-VASAB MSP		Share information from Finnish project in S&C 10-2019	2019-2020
9.2	Develop detailed marine habitat and biotope maps (including broad habitat types under the MSFD)	State and Conservation	EN BENTHIC	n to base mapping on HUB through initiatives by Contracting Parties. cooperation with EMODNET.	2018 - make an updated inventory of national mapping