

HELCOM-VASAB task force on coherent MSP

HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 19-2019



HELCOM

Background

- Task force is to bring clarity to definition of cross-border coherence of MSP

Will make every effort to draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea Region by 2020 which are coherent across borders and apply the ecosystem approach.
- To support follow-up of MSP at regional level



The Meeting is invited to:

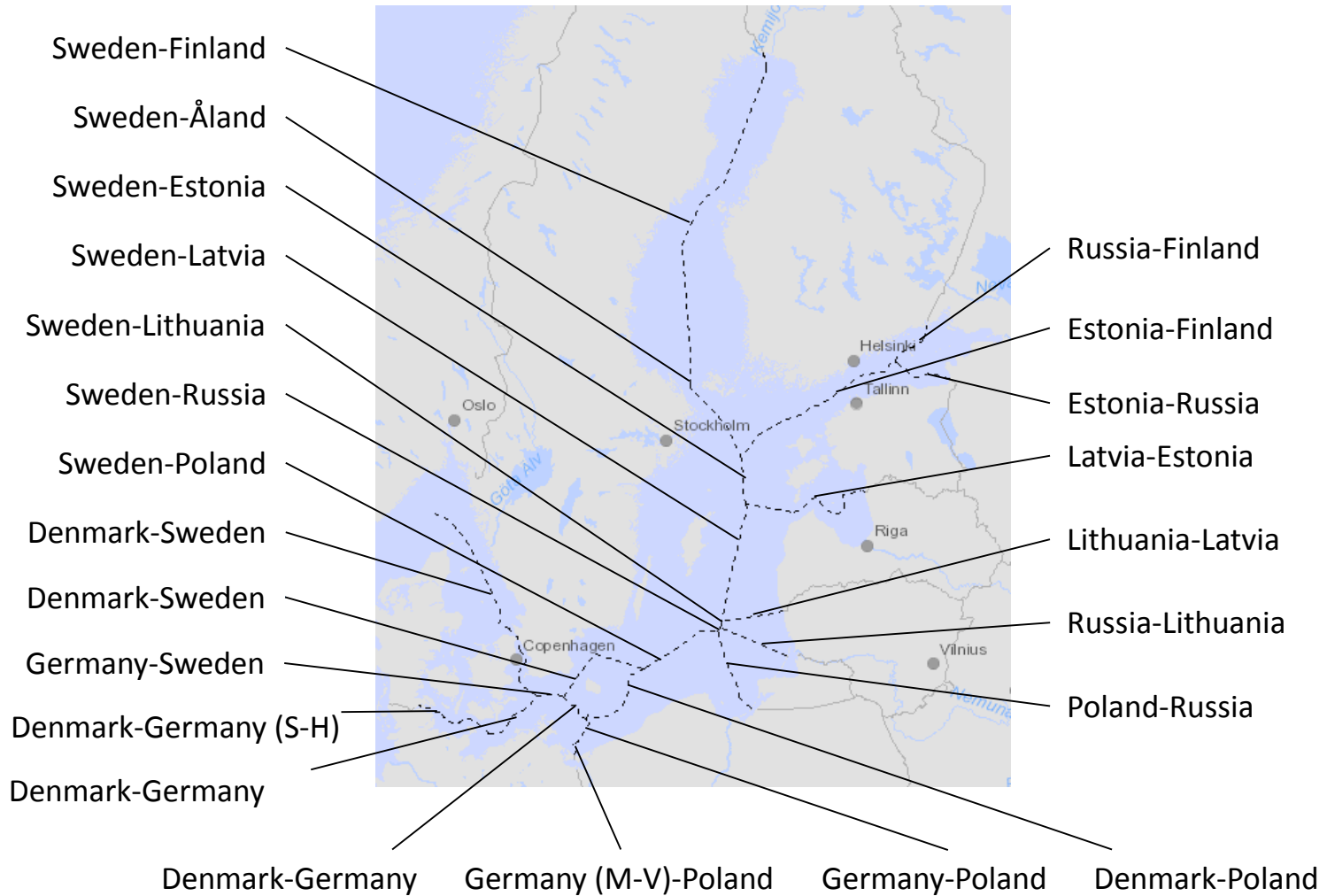
- take note on the progress of the tasks force's work as described in this document,
- consider the proposed approach and reflect on the key guiding principles to develop common definition and criteria for MSP coherence in the BS region,
- comment on the proposed case studies and their sufficiency to illustrate the proposed approach.

Activities

- Meetings
 - Online meeting May 21st
 - Hamburg September 6th
- Intersessional
 - Concept development
- The work still very much in progress...

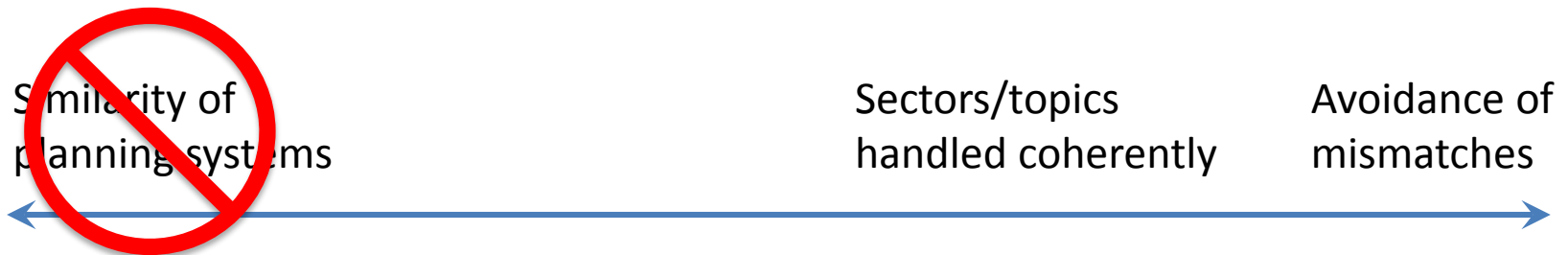


Map of the 23 cross-border areas in the Baltic Sea



Definitions of coherence

“If an argument, set of ideas, or a plan is coherent, it is clear and carefully considered, and each part of it connects or follows in a natural or reasonable way”
(Cambridge dictionary)



Principles (draft)

- Border by border approach (not country by country)
- Focus in official MSP plans
- Focus on "functional coherence"
- Develop a set of criteria



Border by border approach

- BSAP follow up on the MSP commitments country by country
- Time horizon
 - Long planning cycles → follow up of progress, not only the outcome?
- Border by border approach would allow step-wise follow up
- Lack of a plan across the border -> ?

Focus on official MSP

- Excluding lower level plans e.g. Finland's and Sweden's municipal plans
- Limit to what is expressed in MSP
 - Planning outputs: text + maps
 - Not to go further into sectoral policies or permit procedures
- Brief description of the 23 border areas
 - Diversity or similarity?

Functional coherence

- Pragmatic view on coherence
- Lack of mismatches, enhancing synergies
- Support common environmental goals
- Coherent handling of sectors in MSP
- General aspects are acknowledged, but not elaborated
 - Other international comprehensive policies (BSAP, MSFD, EUSBSR, etc.)
 - Sector-specific policies



Set of criteria

- Necessary/sufficient/preferred levels of coherence
- (assumed) Diversity of border areas
 - a set of criteria to include relevant criteria for different types of border areas

Cases	Comments
Baltic LINes example of Latvia – Sweden misalignment/alignment of shipping lanes	To be developed by Sweden and Latvia Illustration of negotiation and the results between countries within MSP processes.
SE/PL (Nynäshamn-Gdansk)	To be developed by Sweden Too similar to above? Does it add perspectives? E.g. other aspects of coherence? Poland has very detailed and binding MSP, while Sweden has less detailed and guiding plan. That is different from the above case. Does it have implications on coherence?
Offshore wind/ shipping lanes SE/DE	To be developed by Sweden and Germany Discussion on the different perspectives. The Swedish includes general provisions but no detailed geographic provisions.
DE-SE cable alignment case	To be developed by Sweden and Germany Discussion on the different perspectives. The Swedish includes general provisions but no detailed geographic provisions. Is it MSP or sectoral decision-making?
Latvia communicated with Poland on the Latvian fisheries interests in the Polish waters	To be developed by Latvia
Coherence between Finland's and Sweden's MSP plans	To be developed by Finland and Sweden Finland is producing very broad-scale, non-binding and strategic MSP plans. Also Sweden has guiding, non-binding plan. Many concrete decisions that affect functional coherence are not handled in MSP. How to deal with cross-border coherence in such a context?



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Next steps & meetings

- Online meeting November 8th
- Final DEC document to the HELCOM-VASAB WG 20-2020

