



Document title	Input for the next work plan of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG
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Agenda Item	3 – Development of the regional MSP framework
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Background

This document serves as an input for the preparations of the new HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG work plan 2022-2024(/2025?), based on the actions and outputs of the [draft] Regional MSP Roadmap 2021-2030 (adopted by VASAB CSPD/BSR 85th meeting and to be approved by the 2021 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting).

The document proposes to link the milestones identified by the [draft] Regional MSP Roadmap with each work plan period by 2030. The document also includes references to the tasks of the work plan 2020-2021 that might be considered when elaborating the tasks for the new work plan 2022-2024(/2025?), based on the analysis of the current work plan 2020-2021 (cf. document 3-4).

The meeting participants might be divided into groups to work on the activities to be included in the new work plan during the dedicated session during HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 23-2021.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- consider the input presented in this document,
- discuss and suggest the timeline of the new work plan,
- discuss and suggest in possible activities to be included in the new work plan,
- agree on the next steps to further elaborate the next work plan of the WG.

Input for the new work plan 2022-2024/25? – towards Interim assessment of the progress in the Roadmap implementation

Colour code: most urgent actions to be accomplished by 2024 / end of new Work Plan

No.	Roadmap 2030 Action	Roadmap2030 Output	Timeframe	What task should be included in Work Plan 2022-2024/25?	Who would be leading / supporting	Timeframe	Deliverable / concrete output in Work Plan 2022-2024
1.	Obj.1: Implementation of maritime spatial plans builds knowledge base for the new MSP cycle						
1.1.	Develop a guiding framework to support harmonized evaluation of MSPs, including a set of definitions	BSR evaluation framework for MSPs; common set of general definitions ("Implementation", "Knowledge Base", "MSPCycle", "Coherent MSP", "monitoring, assessment, evaluation", etc.)	2023	<i>Work plan 2020-21: Develop a common understanding of the cross-border coherence</i>			
1.2.	Develop and share a concise and descriptive overview on national plans' implementation (what does implementation mean in different countries; where / when do they impact on decisions on certain projects, spatial and temporal management of activities etc.)	overview on national MSPs implementation, if possible, inclusion in established country fiches that would have a dedicated section	2025 and 2028				
1.3.	Develop a regional follow up system on MSP, including monitoring of implementation at the Baltic Sea level	BSR follow-up system of implementation of MSPs	2027	<i>Work plan 2020-21: Develop a system to follow up implementation of the relevant goals set in the regional MSP framework.</i>			
1.4.	Facilitate exchange of information on the best practices of MSP implementation, monitoring	Regular exchange in HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group	Cont.	<i>Work plan 2020-21: Continuously update of national information on MSP developments including implementation of the joint MSP principles.</i>			

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	and evaluation across the BSR and other sea basins			<i>Work plan 2020-21: Exchange experiences, know-how and good practices (e.g. on multi-uses, socio-economic, cultural aspects), using the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG as a platform for regional dialog.</i>			
		Conference (ca. 2023 - 2025) on Implementation of MSP in the BSR with input from other regions	2023-2025				
		MSP Planners Forum acting on the regular base	Cont.	<i>Work plan 2020-21: Exploring a possibility for long lasting mechanism for cooperation of MSP practitioners (e.g. planning forum)</i>			
1.5.	Analyse and support spatial efficiency by comparing approaches and solutions with regard to spatial use (e.g. exclusive vs multi use of space) and conflicts management	Report on best practices/cases and recommendations on spatial efficiency and good examples of multi-use	2027				
1.6.	Improve MSP related data retention and flows and assuring data actuality. Ensure regional compatibility of the MSP Input and Output Data and strengthen mutual cooperation in broader context, especially EU	MSP Output data is available in BASEMAPS	2022	<i>Work plan 2020-21: Improve visibility and transparency of MSP related data through development of publicly available information resources</i> <i>Work plan 2020-21: Ensure MSP output data sharing through regional distributed information systems utilizing existing information platforms</i>			
		Shortlisting of MSP input data themes to be regularly updated	2022				

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		in regional portal, including climate change related spatial data					
		Overview on national MSP data portals	2025				
		continuously exchange the best practices in MSP related data handling with MSP data platforms beyond the Baltic Sea region	Cont.				
1.7.	Establishing of links with relevant scientific frameworks and maritime knowledge; support the education of MSP planners and international educational exchange	Regular consideration of recent scientific developments at regional MSP related events; contributing to regional MSP science and educational needs	Cont.	<i>Work plan 2020-21: Support the education and professional development of MSP planners</i>			
2.	Obj.2: Maritime Spatial Planning improves regional policy coherence.						
2.1.	The Baltic Sea countries' MSP authorities continue close collaboration	Continuous dialog utilizing various regional platforms, e.g., HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group, MSP Planners Forum	Cont.	<i>Work plan 2020-21: Continuously update of national information on MSP developments including implementation of the joint MSP principles</i> <i>Work plan 2020-21: Develop a common understanding of the cross-border coherence // Testing the approach of Voluntary guidance for assessment of cross-border coherence (Task Force on Coherence)</i>			

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2.2.	Use the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group as a platform for cooperation of MSP authorities with other HELCOM bodies and stakeholders to establish a common understanding on how MSP can contribute to regional goals	continuous dialog with sectors utilizing various regional platforms	Cont.	<i>Work plan 2020-21: Continuously increase Involvement of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG in global and EU wide MSP initiatives</i>			
2.3.	Enhance Baltic sea level collaboration of MSP authorities and planners with various sectors to contribute to aligning sectoral policies and sectoral decision-making and by raising awareness on the role of MSP between involved stakeholders	Regular regional events, e.g., Baltic MSP forum	regularly	<i>Work plan 2020-21: Ensure better cooperation between countries and sectorial stakeholders involved in MSP to strengthen coherent MSP and MSP applying ecosystem approach [thematic workshops; exchange with BEMIP] NEW: Contribution to the update of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective</i>			
2.4.	Further develop institutional framework for the intergovernmental collaboration on MSP in the BSR	review Baltic Sea regional "Guidelines on transboundary consultations, public participation and co-operation"	2026	<i>Work plan 2020-21: Compile good practices on the application of the regional MSP related Guidelines</i>			
2.5.	Explore good practices and application of planning and policy instruments for coordination of land-sea interactions across different levels and sectors	report on good practices addressing land-sea interactions	2022	<i>Work plan 2020-21: Evaluation of approach on coherence of terrestrial and marine planning in MSP</i>			

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2.6.	Study the relationship between various policies related to protection and sustainable use of marine resources by continuously following national MSP implementation as well as other related processes concerning marine and coastal domain (e.g. European Green Deal, Sustainable Blue Economy, Offshore renewable energy and Biodiversity strategies, etc.)	supplement country fiches with relevant information	2025	<p><i>Work plan 2020-21: Continuously increase Involvement of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG in global and EU wide MSP initiatives</i></p> <p><i>Work plan 2020-21: Exchange experience in linking implementation of MSP and other legal and policy frameworks including e.g. the EU directives</i></p>			
2.7.	Utilise the prominent role of coordinating Policy Area "Spatial Planning" within the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) to improve cross-sectoral and multi-level cooperation across the BSR and contributing to its objectives	HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group acts as the Steering Group for MSP within the EUSBSR Policy Area "Spatial Planning".	Cont.	<p><i>Work plan 2020-21: Act as Steering Committee and co-coordinators of the EUSBSRS HA Spatial Planning</i></p>			
3.	Obj.3: Maritime Spatial Planning contributes to achieving progress towards good environmental status of the Baltic Sea set in the Baltic Sea Action Plan						
3.1.	Update the EBA-guidelines based on shared experiences in national application of the ecosystem-based approach in MSP and the evaluation of EBA implementation in the latest	updated EBA-guidelines	2025	<p><i>Work plan 2020-21: Compile good practices on the application of the regional MSP related Guidelines</i></p>			

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	MSPround and other relevant input						
3.2.	Develop a Baltic SEA-framework including themes, common data, assessment methods for impact evaluation, cross-border consultations	Follow-up on the sharing of environmental information and stakeholder participation as part of international consultations and the Baltic MSP Espoo procedures as carried out for the current MSPs	2022				
		Baltic SEA-framework to improve compatibility of SEA practices and results	2025				
3.3.	Establish cooperation between HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group and HELCOM STATE and CONSERVATION and relevant HELCOM bodies to develop common language and views on Ecosystem based management and green infrastructure, cumulative assessment methods, spatial data, status assessments	Regular cooperation process involving HELCOM-VASAB MSP, State and Conservation and relevant bodies, starting with a joint meeting with State and Conservation in 2022	2022 and cont.				
3.4.	Identify how MSP can support conservation and sustainable use in equitable way reflecting marine protected areas (MPAs) and possible Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) or other areas of high natural valuesin maritime	Development of Green Infrastructure maps including ecosystem services based on HOLAS III	2025				
		Additional section in country fiches demonstrating how MSP supports conservation and sustainable use	2023				

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	spatial plans(as a basis for steering harmful activities away from such areas) and identify possibilities for MSP to support the BSAP targetsrelated to protected areas as well as national and regional strategies						
3.5.	Promote the use of methods and tools in MSP for assessing cumulative environmental and other impacts of sea-based activities:	Stocktake and review of the existing methods and tools	2022				
		Harmonised approaches for cumulative impacts assessments	2026				
3.6.	Evaluate how MSPs are supporting the overarching goals of the MSFD and thereby contributing to deliver to good environmental status	Report on MSP's impact on the implementation of the MSFD, including programmes of measures and achieving GES	2026				
4.	Obj.4: Maritime Spatial Planning contributes to sustainable blue economy						
4.1.	Share experiences in guiding sectoral development to minimize economic losses and the weakening of ecosystem services, identify actions that can be enhanced on the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) level through implementation of MSP and apply them in the view of sustainable blue economy, including cross-border perspective	Report/Guiding document on good practices for sectoral sustainable development	2026				

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4.2.	Investigate the linkage between environmental and social-economic dimensions through an ecosystem services analysis with cross-border MSP perspective	joint analysis of ecosystem services in relation to MSP in order to achieve sustainable blue economy	2027	<i>Work plan 2020-21: Consider the practical use of socio-economic parameters including ecosystem services in MSP</i>			
4.3.	Encourage participatory and transparent processes with all stakeholders of sea use to ensure successful integrated and holistic MSP and management towards sustainable blue economy:	An overview of MSP impacts on progress towards sustainable blue economy in the Baltic Sea Region, including contribution to the SDGs 2030	2025				
4.4.	Update the future oriented report on marine and maritime activities and developments of Baltic Sea regional importance	Updated future-oriented report on marine and maritime activities and developments	2028				
5.	Obj.5: Spatial planning contributes to climate change mitigation, adaptation and increased resilience of the Baltic Sea Region						
5.1.	Explore how MSP related sectors will be affected by climate change including how climate change might impact human activities under different future scenarios, aiming at developing MSP-strategies for increasing capacity of different sectors to adapt to expected climate change impacts	A discussion paper as guidance for strategic ways for integrating climate change adaptation into MSP for the next planning cycle, 2025, coordinate timing with mid-term evaluations of national adaptation strategies	2025				

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5.2.	Explore how MSP can contribute to climate change mitigation and nationally determined contribution in terms of Paris Agreement, including NECPs and relevant national strategies	Stocktaking national experiences - an overview published	2025				
5.3.	Identify how MSP can support adaptive conservation strategies to cater for spatial changes in ecosystems (e.g. migration of species, change of critical conditions for habitats), including the further exploration of the potential for including climate refugia in MSP for the entire Baltic Sea	Information document on MSP's role in adaptive conservation strategies, including best practices,	2026				
		Modelled maps of climate change impact on marine ecosystem (depending on availability of spatial data on climate change impacts)	2026				