



Document title	Proposal of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG on updating BSAP and new MSP Roadmap
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Background

There are two processes in progress within the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group. One is to update the Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2013-2020 and the other is to elaborate a proposal regarding the integration of the MSP into the updated BSAP. HOD 57-2019 mandated the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG to do the latter.

The Baltic Sea MSP Roadmap is proposed to be updated simultaneously with the update of the BSAP. This is an opportunity to coordinate the two processes and assure coherence and synergy between these two regional strategic documents.

The document contains proposals of the group on the BSAP update and new MSP Roadmap as well as planning of the further work on these documents.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to

- consider the proposals to integrate MSP in the updated BSAP and on the new Regional MSP Roadmap;
- reflect on the proposal and guide further work of the group on the development of these regional strategic documents, assuring the coherence and synergy between them as well as coordination of the adoption process.

Progress in HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group

Progress in the update of the MSP Roadmap

HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG organised an online meeting (link to outcome) in May 15th to elaborate on the new roadmap. The meeting discussed and agreed on a proposal for a structure for the updated roadmap document. The meeting also agreed on the proposal for an overall goal and concrete objectives for the new roadmap. Finally, the meeting proposed a time period, for which the roadmap would apply. The meeting discussed also the content of a preamble of the new roadmap and proposed some formulations for that.

Drafting of the new roadmap is proposed to continue in the 21st meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group in autumn 2020 and most likely continue until the 22nd meeting in spring 2021.

A provisional structure of the new roadmap includes a preamble, overall goal, time period for the roadmap, aspirational objectives and concrete actions as well as milestones and timeline.

Preamble that was provisionally agreed to include the following elements:

- Noting the achievements in Baltic Sea region MSP so far (e.g. achieving the goal of the current roadmap)
- Brief description of what is MSP (adaptive cycles, ecosystem-based, all three pillars of sustainability, avoiding conflicts)
- MSP's role in broader marine governance within Baltic Sea, especially linking to BSAP, but also UN SDGs, EUSBSR, Paris Agreement, etc.
- Noting the linkage to VASAB's Long-term Perspective
- Highlighting that the coming years are a transition from drawing up of the plans to implementation and eventual updates of the MSP plans
- Acknowledging the existing MSP principles

Please note that the preamble will be elaborated in coming months.

Goal. The Working Group's provisional proposal for the overall goal is as follows:

The goal of the roadmap is strengthening the joint effort and coherence throughout the region to implement MSPs, aiming for sustainable development of the Baltic Sea region and building a sound basement for an adaptive MSP process applying ecosystem-based approach.

Time period for which the new roadmap would apply was suggested to be six years 2021-2027. This would match quite well the EU programming periods as well as the MSFD reporting. The Working Group suggested also to have a mid-term review of the roadmap to see if modifications are need.

Objectives to meet the overall goal were formulated. The provisional list is as follows.

- Implementation of MSPs builds knowledge base for the new MSP cycle
- MSPs improve regional policy coherence
- MSPs contribute for achieving progress towards good environmental status of the Baltic Sea set in the BSAP
- MSPs contribute to sustainable blue economy
- Spatial planning contributes to climate change mitigation, adaptation and, thus, increase resilience of the Baltic Sea Region.

Each of the objectives will include a list of concrete actions to achieve them. The actions will be elaborated in the next steps.

Milestones and timeline will be listed in the roadmap document similarly to the current one.

Integration of MSP into the BSAP

The HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group has discussed integration of MSP into the BSAP in its recent meetings. In the 20th meeting (section 3.16 of the [Outcome](#)) the Working Group agreed that the text of the BSAP preamble related to MSP should set the general principles and avoid overly prescriptive statements on details of MSP as countries have different approaches to MSP. The Meeting further agreed on the tentative text on MSP which is to be further integrated in the BSAP preamble as given below. The Meeting pointed out that the text will be later modified to be coherent with the whole text of the updated BSAP and considered by the group at the next Meeting when the draft updated BSAP is available.

The following is provisionally proposed to be included in the preamble of the updated BSAP:

- *that maritime spatial planning is a process to support integrated management of sea based human activities and thus reduce their negative impacts on various components of the marine environment safeguarding biodiversity, promoting the sustainable growth of maritime economies and the sustainable use of marine resources and balancing interests of stakeholders;*
- *that maritime spatial planning is based on a comprehensive, forward looking analysis of marine space use with a purpose of identifying preferred and optimal locations for the sea-based activities and, thus, contributes to ecological objectives of different BSAP segments;*
- *that maritime spatial planning has important added value to the BSAP as it is the only process that takes a comprehensive spatial perspective on marine space, which is not the case with marine protection measures that focus on single human activities or components of marine ecosystems;*
- *that maritime spatial planning includes considerations to marine nature values to enhance nature conservation [supporting improvement of the marine environment] and the enhancement of marine ecosystem services;*
- *that maritime spatial planning supports sustainable development and sustainable blue economy and contributes to achieving good environmental status of the Baltic Sea by applying an ecosystem-based approach and considering social, economic and cultural and other relevant aspects, and by cooperating to produce plans that are coherent across borders.*
- *Contracting parties are committed to implementation of the “Regional MSP Roadmap”.*

The MSP-related actions are currently under a technical review. The review process also involves identification of measures for inclusion to the respective segments of the updated BSAP and new Regional MSP Roadmap. HELCOM-VASAB MSP 20-2020 agreed to perform technical review of the proposed measures filling in the templates by 22 May (section 3.18 of the [Outcome](#)). The group agreed on the online session 18 June to discuss the results of the technical review and finalize it. The meeting will be held after the next meetings of HELCOM HODs and VASAB CSPD/BSR to take into account guidance provided by both decision-making boards.