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Background

This document contains the Outcome of the 20th Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 20-2020) held online on 1 – 2 April 2020.

The topics of the BSAP and the Regional MSP Roadmap updates are covered by a separate document also submitted to the meeting.

The complete Outcome can also be found [here](#).

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcome of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 20-2020 and consider it as appropriate. Specifically, the Meeting is invited to:

- take note of the proposal by Sweden to revise the Ecosystem-Based Approach guideline and that the discussion will also take part during the next HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Meeting (due to COVID-19 circumstances);
- take note that the group approved recommendations on common requirements for aggregated fisheries data prepared by the MSP Data Expert Sub-Group and that the requirements will be forwarded to FISH and STATE&CONSERVATION groups;
- take note of the information on the EUSBSR Horizontal Action Spatial Planning, on the upcoming DG Mare call for MSP projects as well as information related to MSP events (agenda item 6);
- approve the organization of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 21-2020 in Gothenburg, Sweden, tentatively on 12-13 November 2020. The Capacity4MSP project partner and Planners´Forum will also be organized in Gothenburg on 10-11 November 2020.



OUTCOME OF THE 20th MEETING OF THE HELCOM-VASAB MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING WORKING GROUP (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 20-2020)

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OUTCOME OF THE 20th MEETING OF THE HELCOM-VASAB MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING WORKING GROUP (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 20-2020)

Introduction

0.1 The 20th Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 20-2020) was held online on 1 - 2 April. The Meeting was planned to be held in Warsaw, Poland, upon invitation by the Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation, but due to COVID-19 circumstances it took place online.

0.2 The Meeting was attended by representatives of all HELCOM and VASAB members except Lithuania. HELCOM observers were represented by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde (IOW), The Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC) and the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF). The Meeting was also attended by the representative from the EU MSP Assistance Mechanism. The list of Participants is contained in **Annex 1**.

0.3 The Meeting was chaired by the Co-Chairs of the Working Group, Mr. Joacim Johannesson, Sweden, and Ms. Katarzyna Krzywda, Poland.

0.4 The Co-Chairs opened the Meeting and welcomed the participants.

0.5 Mr. Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky, Professional Secretary of HELCOM, assisted by Mr. Florent Nicolas and Mr. Riku Varjopuro, HELCOM Secretariat, acted as Secretaries of the Meeting.

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

Document: 1-1 Rev. 2

1.1 The Meeting adopted the Agenda elaborated by the HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats in consultation with the Co-Chairs.

Agenda Item 2 Matters arising from other HELCOM and VASAB work

Document: 2-1

2.1 The Meeting took note of the information on the recent HELCOM and VASAB meetings.

Agenda Item 3 Development of the regional MSP framework

Document: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-7, 3-8, 3-9, 3-10, 3-11

3.1 The Meeting took note of the information on the status of the HELCOM BSAP update.

3.2 The Meeting took note of the submitted input materials from Capacity4MSP project platform – the presentation ([Presentation 1](#)) from Angela Schultz-Zehden (SUBMARINER network) on MSP implementation in the Baltic Sea Region and the information document 3-10 from Jacek Zaucha (University of Gdansk) on good MSP practices from previous and ongoing MSP projects as inputs for further discussions towards the new MSP Roadmap.

3.3 The Meeting took note of the proposal on the provisional work plan to elaborate new regional MSP Roadmap in line with the update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan. The Meeting also took note of the draft evaluation of the implementation of the current Regional MSP Roadmap 2013-2020 (document 3-2).

3.4 The Meeting welcomed the proposed timeline for the update of the roadmap.

3.5 The Meeting agreed on the proposal to launch the update work from a questionnaire to collect initial views of Contracting Parties on the key elements of the new Regional MSP Roadmap, its scope and objectives. The questionnaire in MS Excel format will be published online which will give all group members an opportunity to contribute to the Excel spreadsheet as well as see other contributions.

3.6 The Meeting discussed questions in the questionnaire and in general supported the proposal. The Meeting recommended that the work is to be focused on the identification of overall goal of the new MSP Roadmap as the MSP status in the countries significantly differs from that when the current MSP Roadmap was adopted.

3.7 The Meeting took note of the view of the EU that the new MSP Roadmap should respond to arising challenges and elements such as cross-border cooperation, climate change (climate proof), the EU Green Deal, addressing gaps in MSP Data, EBA and how MSP can address these challenges.

3.8 The meeting encouraged the partners to consider, when appropriate, recommendations from any Baltic Sea MSP-related projects (e.g. document 3-2) when identifying actions for potential inclusion in the revised BSAP or the new roadmap.

3.9 The Meeting took note of the clarification that the questionnaire is intended to compile expert views of the group members but not a consolidated country position.

3.10 The Meeting discussed timeline for the questionnaire and pointed out that despite the questionnaire is designed to compile expert's opinion, responding will require some national consultations thus the proposed timeline looks too tight.

3.11 The Meeting agreed on the proposed questions including the one on the period of the new MSP Roadmap. The Meeting proposed that questionnaire would also give an option to raise any other questions/comments related to the topic.

3.12 The Meeting agreed on the proposed four step approach to compile proposals for the update of the MSP Roadmap and on the timeline as it is given in the document 3-9 Rev.

3.13 The Meeting requested the Secretariats to publish the final questionnaire online and notify group members about its availability. The inputs in the questionnaire will be expected from the Group till 17th April 2020.

3.14 The Meeting also discussed format of the final online meeting on 15 May and agreed that the online meeting proposed in the step 4 of the proposed plan will not be a broad stakeholder event but in the format of HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group during which participants will represent their views.

3.15 The Meeting considered the proposal to integrate MSP related actions in the updated BSAP.

3.16 The Meeting agreed that the text of the BSAP preamble related to MSP should set the general principles and avoid too prescriptive statements on details of MSP as countries have different approaches in MSP.

3.17 The Meeting agreed on the tentative text on MSP which is to be further integrated in the BSAP preamble as given in the document 3-3 Rev. 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.

3.18 The Meeting agreed on the following written procedure to review the proposed actions for operational part of the BSAP including synopses:

- the HELCOM Secretariat will prepare a template for consideration of the actions including options to distinguish actions between segments of the updated BSAP and identify those which are suitable for the new Roadmap and circulate to the group by 10 April 2020. The template will also provide an opportunity for alternative wording for actions and proposal for new actions;
- the group will be invited to fill in the proposed template by 22 May 2020;
- the group will discuss the process and clarify open issues briefly at online meeting on 15 May 2020;

- during the online meeting on 15 May the group will agree on the online session provisionally in mid-June to discuss the results of consideration of actions via correspondence and finalize them.

3.19 The Meeting took note of the information on the progress of the Task Force on coherence of planning and welcome the initiative noting progress achieved by the Task Force ([Presentation 2](#)).

3.20 The Meeting took note of the information by the EU that the EU MSP platform carried out a study "[Cross-border consultation on Maritime Spatial Planning](#)" which address issues related to coherence of MSPs and of relevance for this HELCOM work.

3.21 The Meeting discussed organization of correspondence procedure to identify criteria for MSP coherence. The HELCOM Secretariat will provide [an online document](#) to collect inputs by 17 April. The document is password protected. An access to the document can be asked from the HELCOM Secretariat (riku.varjopuro@helcom.fi).

3.22 The Meeting requested the Secretariats to produce a to-do-list containing all deadlines for the procedures agreed by the meeting.

3.23 The Meeting took note of the WWF position paper: Achieving ecosystem based marine spatial plans.

3.24 The Meeting took note of the position by WWF that duly submitted document 'The Baltic Shadow Plan: For the future of the Baltic Sea - NGOs key asks for the revised BSAP' by CCB and WWF should be taken for consideration in the revision of the measures for the Working Group recommendations pertaining to MSP in the updating of the BSAP, as decided by HELCOM 41-2020 (Outcome of HELCOM 41-2020, para 4.5)

3.25 The Meeting took note of recommendations from the Pan Baltic Scope collaboration.

3.26 The Meeting agreed to postpone the discussion of the relevance of the Pan Baltic Scope recommendations to the next Meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG in autumn 2020.

3.27 The Meeting took note of the proposal by Sweden to revise the EBA Guideline, consideration of which was postponed to the next meeting and invited Working Group members to comment on the document on a volunteer basis, providing feedback to Sweden (jan.schmidtbauer.crona@havochvatten.se) with copy to Secretariats (florent.nicolas@helcom.fi and elina.veidemane@vasab.org) by mid-September 2020. The input from Contracting Parties will be taken into account in the discussion on the substance of the EBA Guideline at the next HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG meeting.

Agenda Item 4 Information and data for MSP

Document: 4-1

4.1 The Meeting took note of the recommendation on common requirements for aggregated fisheries data.

4.2 The Meeting welcomed the work done by BSR MSP Data Expert Sub-Group and approved the proposal requesting the HELCOM Secretariat to forward the recommendations to FISH and STATE&CONSERVATION groups.

4.3 The Meeting took note that ICES is appreciating and willing to support the work of BSR MSP Data Expert Sub-group.

Agenda Item 5 Intergovernmental cooperation and follow-up progress in regional MSP

Document: 5-1

5.1 The Meeting took note of the national update on new MSP developments:

Denmark: Our MSP is still under development. As the deadline is closing in, we are of course quite busy. Currently we are working on the SEA, adjusting the data and supporting documents and developing our digital

platform for our legally binding digital MSP. We expect to initiate the international consultation in the middle of the year.

Estonia: Our main solution and impact assessment is ready and we have conducted a public display nationally. Regarding covid-19 outbreak we had to postpone our national public meetings and we can continue with the process after the crisis will be over. Till this time, we have decided to work with the input we got in the national public display and amend the materials accordingly.

We are postponing our transboundary consultations also. This will be our last commenting phase and we would like to distribute the last version of the plan to the countries so everybody could have the opportunity to see the whole solution and comment it. We still hope to start it before summer vacations maybe in May.

Finland: Draft maritime spatial plan will be finalized in April and public hearing arranged on 18th of May – 17th of June. Several stakeholders have participated in the planning process through the maritime scenario workshops and by setting the goals for the plan in vision workshops. The plan is a very general level strategic plan showing potential areas for different uses. The role of the plan is to facilitate development, not to set restrictions. There will be an online national and an international consultation meeting on 20th May. Neighboring countries will be invited to participate in the meeting, and more information of the plan and meeting arrangements will be sent in the near future.

Germany is in the process of revising its 2009 maritime spatial plans for the German EEZ. Draft concepts for the revision are available in English at the [BSH website](#). In line with the Guidelines on transboundary consultation, public participation and co-operation, representatives of neighbouring countries in the Baltic Sea and North Sea are invited to an online meeting on 23 April 2020 for an update on the current process and an exchange of views. The BSH would also be happy to accept any written comments by 20 April 2020. If you have any comments, wish to take part in the meeting, or this information did not already reach you by mail, please contact EingangOdM@bsh.de.

The international conference with support of the Federal Agency of Nature Conservation (BfN) “MSP NATURE 2020” in Berlin (in April) was postponed after reviewing the COVID-19 situation around the world. Postponement options are autumn this year or spring 2021.

Latvia: The implementation phase has started and the main focuses now are multi-level governance and practical aspects of land-sea interactions. A pilot plan and mapping possible actions to be taken on local level to deal with land-sea interaction aspects on municipal level was finalized last year. Based on that, a legislative proposal with changes to competences of local municipalities is prepared and will be discussed inter-institutionally. There is also a new pilot study ongoing on Western coast of Latvia, that is focused on balancing the community interests and national decisions with introducing new uses in the sea. These actions will contribute to raise awareness of stakeholders apart from those, directly involved in the implementation of the maritime spatial plan and therefore contribute to the 1st MSP evaluation report that is to be prepared in 2023.

Poland: The SEA procedure for the draft plan has been launched in February 2020. The procedure is led by the General Directorate for Environmental Protection. After submission of the final draft plan to the Minister, planned in the second half of 2020, the plan will be adopted in ordinary legislative procedure.

Russia: Russia started the development of the Russian MSP Roadmap.

Sweden: On 17 December 2019 SwAM submitted the plan proposals to the Government. Also related environment impact assessment, sustainability appraisal, summary of the public consultation as well the review, follow-up letters from SwAM to neighbouring countries, and other documentation were submitted to the Government. All documents are available on SwAM website www.havochvatten.se. As part of the publication, the national MSP web tool on the web site of SwAM was updated. Parts of the documents will be translated to English and published by June 2020. Feel free to use online translation services to get an

overall scope of the proposals. The Government is preparing the marine spatial plans for adoption. SwAM is developing a framework for MSP follow-up and evaluation during 2020.

5.2 The Countries were invited to check changes in the list of national MSP focal points for transboundary consultation and joint planning in the Baltic Sea Region countries and to inform the HELCOM (florent.nicolas@helcom.fi) and VASAB (elina.veidemane@vasab.org) Secretariats in case of any changes.

5.3 The Meeting took note of the regional calendar of national MSP-related processes and meetings (**Annex 2**). The Meeting also took note that the regional calendar with support of Capacity4MSP project platform includes now also information on other events that are not connected to national MSP processes but might be relevant for daily work.

5.4 The Meeting took note of the invitation by Germany to the group members to attend a meeting dedicated to MSP principles of the German MSP plan under revision. The meeting will be held online on 23 April 2020.

5.5 The Meeting took note of the information by Finland that national and international public hearings on draft MSP's will be from 18 May to 17 June 2020. The Meeting also took note that online international consultation on Finnish draft MSP's will take place online on 20 May 13.00-15.00 EEST and that Finland invites Working Group members to participate.

5.6 The Meeting took note on the information by the EU MSP Assistance Mechanism that will conduct new technical studies on MSP Communication and Engagement, Multi-use solutions and licencing, Underwater cultural heritage and MSP and on addressing future uses in MSP.

5.7 The Meeting took note of the information on the outcome of the Planners' Forum that was held on 31 March 2020 as part of the Capacity4MSP project. A work group for a long-lasting mechanism for MSP-cooperation (e.g. planning forum) was established. Notes of the meeting will be soon available.

5.8 The Meeting took note that the MSP related event in Moscow, Russia planned for June 2020 will likely be postponed.

5.9 The Meeting took note that Estonian transboundary consultations will be postponed as well as all related activities mentioned in the calendar.

Agenda Item 6 Coordination of Horizontal Action Spatial Planning and MSP related projects and events

Documents: 6-1 Rev. 2, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, 6-5

6.1 The Meeting took note of the information of the last developments and activities related to the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) and Horizontal Action Spatial Planning. Procedure to prolong the technical assistance project of the EUSBSR implementation - HASPS 3 has been started.

6.2 The Meeting took note of the brochure on HA Spatial Planning available [online](#).

6.3 The Meeting as the steering group of HA Spatial Planning is invited to the EUSBSR Support module on Policy alignment. First online meeting will take place on 21-22 April 2020. The WG Members interested in this module are invited to contact the HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats for more information (florent.nicolas@helcom.fi and liene.gaujeniete@vasab.org).

6.4 The Meeting agreed to recommend flagship status for Capacity4MSP project platform.

6.5 The Meeting took note that the DG Mare is working on the call for MSP projects and that the publication of the call is foreseen by 14 May 2020. The submission starts on 9 June 2020 and will be opened until 10 September 2020. The results of the evaluation of the proposals will be ready by October – November 2020. The core of the call will be to encourage identification of the main future challenges that can be addressed by MSP.

- 6.6 The Meeting took note of the information on forthcoming MSP-related events in the EU and FAO.
- 6.7 The Meeting took note that the EU event on International Ocean Governance was postponed till December 2020.
- 6.8 The Meeting took note that Finland is currently in contact with FAO regarding the event in July 2020 and interested in presenting the results of identification of OECMs in the marine environment in Finland.
- 6.9 The Meeting took note of the information on the OCEANS PACT project.
- 6.10 The Meeting took note of the information on the MSPGlobal Initiative update.

Agenda Item 7 Any other business

- 7.1 The Meeting welcome the offer by Sweden to host the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 21-2020 in Gothenburg on 12-13 November 2020 and Capacity4MSP Project partner meeting and Planners' Forum 10-11 November 2020.
- 7.2 The Meeting took note of a proposal by [Baltic RIM project](#) that a questionnaire prepared by the project will be circulated to HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG members to compile experts' opinions and inputs on integration of Maritime cultural heritage issues into MSPs. The results will be used to prepare the corresponding project Guidelines. Guidelines will be presented in the final conference of BalticRIM project in September 2020, in Kotka (Finland). The project consortium is invited to present project outputs at the next HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG meeting or Planners Forum.
- 7.3 The Meeting encouraged the Working Group members to respond to the Baltic RIM questionnaire.
- 7.4 The Meeting thanked both Secretariats for preparation of the Meeting and co-Chairs for great chairing of the online meeting.

Agenda Item 8 Outcome of the Meeting

- 8.1 The Meeting adopted the Outcome.