



## Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature  
Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION  
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Online, 4-8 October 2021

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<b>Document title</b>	Plans for organizing the Baltic Sea OECM workshop and preliminary results from the scoping survey
<b>Code</b>	2J-3
<b>Category</b>	DEC
<b>Agenda Item</b>	2J - Matters of relevance for the Meeting and information from the Secretariat
<b>Submission date</b>	27.9.2021
<b>Submitted by</b>	Secretariat

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*Note that this document was submitted after the established deadline. It will be decided by the Meeting whether the document can be discussed or is postponed to the next meeting.*

### Background

This document contains the latest information and updates regarding the plans for organizing a HELCOM Baltic Sea workshop on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in 2022, jointly with FAO/IUCN, as well as preliminary results from the scoping survey prepared to support the workshop. The survey approach was reviewed and supported by STATE&CONSERVATION 14-2021 and submitted to Contracting Parties intersessionally between STATE&CONSERVATION 14 and STATE&CONSERVATION 15-2021. Given the limited number of responses received, and after discussions with FAO and IUCN/WCPA, it was considered that it may be premature to revise the agenda of the workshop at this stage. Instead, it is suggested that the agenda be revised after the technical webinar planned for **23 November 2021**, the input of which should guide the details of the workshop agenda. After discussions with FAO and IUCN/WCPA, it is suggested that the dates of the workshop be changed to **1-3 February 2022** to avoid conflicts with other meetings and enable participation of FAO and IUCN/WCPA experts.

Invitations for the webinar and workshop will be sent out following the STATE&CONSERVATION 15-2021 meeting.

### Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

The Meeting is invited to endorse that the revised agenda be submitted to State and Conservation WG for intersessional review and approval following the webinar.

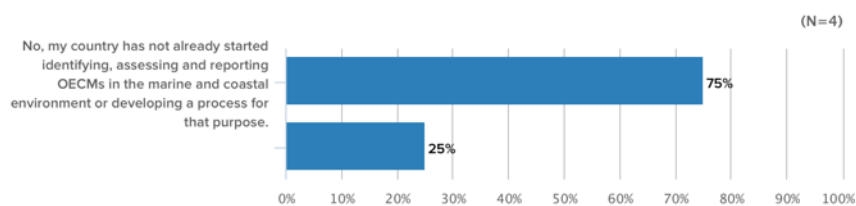
The Meeting is invited to approve the organization of the Workshop on OECMs on 1-3 February 2022.

## Plans for organizing the Baltic Sea OECM workshop and preliminary results from the scoping survey

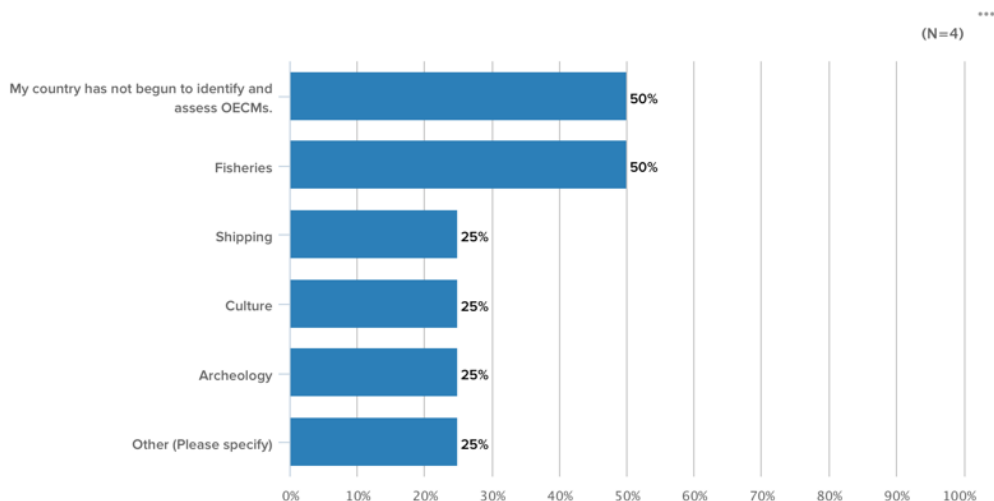
The organization of a Baltic Sea workshop on other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) is ongoing. After discussions with FAO and IUCN/WCPA, it is suggested that the dates of the workshop be changed to 1-3 February to avoid conflicts with other meetings and enable participation of FAO and IUCN/WCPA experts.

A scoping survey was distributed in May 2021 to all Contracting Parties, the deadline for which was extended to 15 August 2021 to encourage more Parties to respond. Four (4) responses were received from Finland, Germany, Poland and Sweden. Of those countries to respond, only Finland indicated that it has started a process for identifying OECMs in the marine environment, with an identified lead agency, and looking at several sectors: fisheries, shipping, culture, archeology, military and land-sea planning. Poland and Sweden also indicated an interest in identifying fisheries-related OECM, with the possibility of potential OECMs (fisheries closures) existing in their respective countries.

Has your country already started the process of identifying, assessing and reporting OECMs in the marine and coastal environment?



7. Which specific sector(s) is your country focused on for OECM identification and assessment? *Check all that apply.*



Finland submitted a specific case study for consideration. These are fisheries restricted areas near river mouths, which objective is to protect migratory riverine fish, by restricting certain types of fishing gear. In addition to the Finnish case study FAO and IUCN will support the Baltic Sea workshop through the identification, and selection of, case studies to underpin discussions (see document 2J-4 for a more detailed list). These case studies will be selected via the following processes: a literature review to identify additional case studies of area-based management in the HELCOM area will be conducted which can provide good examples with which to work through the OECM criteria. These may include area-based management measures in the shipping, energy, archaeology sectors, as well as any other relevant sectors that are identified. Secondly, case studies in other regions that can be used to address additional issues with the OECM criteria that may not be covered by the identified Baltic Sea case studies will be identified. Through the workshop, these case studies will be analysed against the OECM criteria to try and address the participants questions in interpreting the criteria in different circumstances.

Given the limited number of responses received, and after discussions with FAO and IUCN/WCPA, it was agreed that it may be premature to revise the agenda at this stage. Instead, it is suggested that the agenda should be revised after a technical webinar, which will hopefully enable a better understanding of the OECM concept and a good initial interaction with the Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholder that should guide the details of the workshop agenda.

To this end, a one day technical webinar, proposed for 23rd of November 2021, will be held with the below structure and agenda:

### **Webinar Marine OECMs in the Baltic Sea Region**

**Date: 23 November 2021**

**09h00 – 15h00 CET**

#### **Objectives**

The aim with the webinar is to provide a general introduction to the concept of OECMs, and its evolving scope in global policy and regional strategies, to a broad audience using. In addition, the webinar will also. Share advances on marine OECMs globally, and offer an opportunity to initiate discussion and reflection by workshop participants on the OECM definition and criteria, and the role that OECMs can play in the Baltic Sea region, and the initial interest and needs by Baltic countries to advance OECMs. It is expected that the results of these discussions would facilitate work at, and help target preparations for, the workshop in February 2022.

The webinar will be hosted by the HELCOM Secretariat, FAO and IUCN WCPA.

#### **Target participants**

The webinar is by invitation-only and will include the CBD and HELCOM focal points, marine protected areas agencies, representatives of ministries in charge of fisheries, culture, military, energy production, shipping and navigation in all HELCOM contracting Parties.

In addition to governmental agencies, the participants will also include HELCOM observers, and other CSOs active in area-based management in the Baltic Sea region, as well as representatives from the private sectors and research institutions active in area-based management.

**Agenda**

<b>Time (CET)</b>	<b>Programme Agenda</b>
<b>Part 1 : Introductions to OECMs</b>	
9:00 – 9:15	Opening of the webinar: HELCOM Executive Secretary
9:15 – 9:45	A general introduction to the concept of OECMs, and its evolving scope in the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and relevant international strategies of relevance to the Baltic
9:45 – 10:30	The OECM CBD criteria and guiding principles
10:30 – 11:00	Illustrative examples of potential marine OECMs (covering various sectors)
11:00 – 11:30	Fisheries related OECMs and FAO guidelines
11:30 – 12:00	Exploring the potential of OECMs in the Baltic Sea Region
12:00 – 12:30	Finland experience with OECMs
<b>12:30 – 13:30</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
<b>Part 2 : General Discussion</b>	
13:30 – 14:30	Discussion and reflection on OECMs in the Baltic Sea, their common characteristics and their roles in achieving global and regional conservation and development objectives
14:30 – 15:30	Discussion on main challenges in understanding and applying the OECM definition and criteria, and establishing processes for recognizing and reporting OECMs
<b>Part 3: Preparing for the Workshop (State&amp;Conservation WG and observers)</b>	
15:30- 16:30	Specific issues and questions that need expanding on during the workshop  Additional case studies that may be useful to prepare for the workshop  Provide an overview of the workshop and background material that participants are expected to read
16:30-16:45	Closure of the webinar