



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature
Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION
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Document title	Case studies on OECMs to be considered at the WS on OECMs
Code	2J-4
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Agenda Item	2J – Matters of relevance for the Meeting and information from the Secretariat
Submission date	27.9.2021
Submitted by	Secretariat

Background

Given the very limited number of case studies submitted (one submitted by Finland, see Annex 1), the identification of case studies will be carried out through desktop research and literature review. In selecting the case studies, HELCOM, FAO and IUCN/WCPA will strive to look for cases that most likely will meet the criteria and others that may present challenges in interpreting the criteria. The team may also identify case studies from outside the Baltic region that can provide useful insights or similarities with potential OECMs in the Baltic Sea. Where possible, the team will contact managing authorities of the proposed case studies to ensure accuracy of information.

Fisheries case studies

- *Case study by Finland: Rivermouth fisheries restriction areas*
- Additional relevant case studies will be identified from a literature review currently being finalized, which targeted peer-reviewed literature that looks at the biodiversity conservation outcomes of 11 types of area-based fisheries management measures
- Lyme Bay mussel farm – United Kingdom (analyzed in the ICES WKTOPS workshop in February 2021)

Cultural and archeological case studies

- Two sites, one inscribed and one not inscribed in the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage

Energy

- Italy's oil and gas restriction area (12 NM around entire Italian coast)
- Offshore wind farms in France as a potential OECM

Shipping

- One ATBA (area to be avoided) within the Baltic Sea PSSA

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

Annex 2. Response by Finland to the screening tool to identify possible OECM case studies

Characteristics that define an OECM	Questions	Answer	Brief Justification	Supporting documentation (where possible)
Geographically defined area other than a Protected Area	Is the area a geographically defined space? <i>Size and area are described, including a description of the characteristics of relevant depths within the water column if possible. Boundaries are geographically delineated with coordinates that can be mapped.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	1, 3 and 5 km buffer zones from the mouth of the river.	https://kalastusrajoitus.fi/#/kalastusrajoitus
	Is the area currently recognized as a protected area? <i>Answer no if the area is not currently recognized or reported by a competent authority to the CBD Secretariat or the World Database on Protected Areas as protected area or part of a protected area. Please indicate if the contains a protected area (in which case only the surface area outside the protected area can qualify as OECM).</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No but the area contains a protected area	Some of these areas can overlap with existing protected areas. Need to be determined case by case.	
Area governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the <i>in-situ</i>	Does the area have a legitimate governance authority? <i>the area is under the authority of a specified entity or an agreed upon combination of entities that has or have the formal governance mandate and powers to achieve in-situ conservation of biodiversity in the area. This includes (1) <u>Governance by a government agency</u> (from central to local); (2) <u>Governance by private individuals, organizations or companies</u> (e.g., fishers associations); (3) <u>Governance by indigenous</u></i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	The restrictions of fishing near river mouths is based on the Fishing Act, in Chapter 7 Fishing Act, Chapter 12, includes surveillance by supervisory authorities and fishing supervisors	https://www.finlex.fi/en/laki/kaannokset/2015/en20150379.pdf

<p>conservation of biodiversity</p>	<p><i>peoples and/or local communities (e.g., territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities (ICCAs)); and (4) <u>Shared governance</u> (i.e., governance by various rights holders and stakeholders together, such as between indigenous peoples and local communities and Governments or between private individuals or civil society organizations and Governments.).</i></p>			
	<p>Is the area being managed in a manner consistent with the ecosystem approach and likely to achieve long-term biodiversity conservation outcomes? <i>FAO defines the ecosystem approach to fisheries as an approach that “strives to balance diverse societal objectives, by taking account of the knowledge and uncertainties of biotic, abiotic and human components of ecosystems and their interactions and applying an integrated approach to fisheries within ecologically meaningful boundaries.” The area could be considered as managed in a way consistent with the ecosystem approach to fisheries when the management system addresses threats to harvested, dependent and associated species, as well as critical habitats and ecosystems for conserving native biodiversity and the ecosystem processes that support biodiversity.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>The aim of these areas is to protect migratory riverine fish, by restricting certain types of fishing gear. The restrictions are in place year-round and are base on fishing legislation. Total ban on fishing is not in place though, to allow less intensive fishing types.</p>	

	<p>Is any type of monitoring being conducted that could be used to assess the effectiveness of the current management measures with respect to their effect on biodiversity conservation in the area?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Natural Resources Institute Finland conducts annual surveys on salmon and trout numbers.</p>	<p>e.g. https://www.luke.fi/en/natural-resources/fish-and-the-fishing-industry/fish-resources/salmon-2/ https://www.luke.fi/en/projektit/itam-lohi-ja-merit-tornionj/ https://www.luke.fi/en/projektit/eu-tike-lohen-jokiseurannat/</p>
	<p><i>Undertaking monitoring activities in an area implies that data and information on how local species and ecosystems are used and impacted by fisheries activities is regularly collected. This could include the use of indicators for measuring change. Monitoring can also include, as an example, the incorporation of traditional knowledge and community-based monitoring, integrating public/community participation in the collection, analysis and interpretation of data and changes or trends in the natural environment.</i></p>			

<p>Area with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values</p>	<p>Does the management system in place include measures to support the area's associated ecosystem functions and services? <i>In the case of marine environments, ecosystem services might include (1) <u>Provisioning services</u> (energy, food and feed, materials and assistance, medicinal, biochemical and genetic resources); (2) <u>Regulating services</u> (habitat creation and maintenance, regulation of air quality, regulation of climate, regulation of ocean acidification, regulation of freshwater and coastal water quality, regulation of hazards and extreme events, regulation of organisms detrimental to humans); (3) <u>Supporting services</u> (habitat for aquatic species, biomass production, nutrient cycling, water cycling); (4) <u>Cultural, recreational and educational services</u> (learning and inspiration, physical and psychological experiences, supporting identities, maintenance options).</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>The aim is to protect migratory fish, which are important ecosystem services, both as food, but also as cultural and recreational values.</p>	
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