



Document title	Proposal to modify HELCOM Assessment units
Code	2MA-22
Category	DEC
Agenda Item	2MA – Revision of HELCOM monitoring
Submission date	17.10.2016
Submitted by	Secretariat, Finland and Sweden
Reference	STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016 (p. 2MA.5)

Background

HELCOM STATE & CONSERVATION 3-2015 discussed a proposal to modify HELCOM Assessment units in the Åland Sea, Western Gotland Basin, Kattegat, the Sound and Great Belt (Document 2MA-8). The proposals refer to the Assessment units level 2-3 as agreed in HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy (specified in its Attachment 4 (p 21-29) (Figure 1). The Meeting recalled that the modifications to the sub-basins are valid to all HELCOM work that is referred to in the Monitoring and Assessment Strategy. The Meeting agreed in principle on the modifications, pending a clarification by the Secretariat that these changes do not affect the MAI/CART assessment.

STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2015 took note that the issue had been addressed at the last PLC6 meeting that advised not to change the borders, however that specific reasons to this position had not been provided. The Meeting invited Denmark, Finland and Sweden to contact their PLC contacts for further clarification. The Secretariat contacted State and Conservation and PLC contacts of the Contracting Parties in question with the following outcome:

- Finland informed the Secretariat that after consulting national PLC representatives the suggested change of the sub-basin borders on Finland's side of the sub-basin does not affect the MAI/CART calculation. Therefore Finland sees no problem in changing the delineation of the southern and northern border of the sub-basin to follow the Finnish WFD and MSFD borders.
- Sweden informed that the proposed changes do not cause severe problems with either PLC or MAI/CART reporting. Sweden also pointed that this is iterative process and HELCOM should harmonize the basins in the future step by step as long as possible, e.g. further division of the Gulf of Finland. Furthermore it should be made sure that it is possible to aggregate assessment areas and use different aggregation for different purposes.
- Denmark: response pending.

This Meeting document contains the proposed changes as presented to STATE & CONSERVATION 3-2015.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to agree on proposed changes to the assessment units.

Modification of HELCOM Assessment units in Åland Sea, Western Gotland Basin, The Sound and Great Belt

Modification of HELCOM Assessment units in Åland Sea and Western Gotland

As agreed with Finland and Sweden in consultation, the following Assessment unit line was drawn and will be applied to following Assessment unit levels listed below as defined in HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy (Figures 1 and 2). The modification has not yet been uploaded to the HELCOM Map and Data Service.

- 2) Division of the Baltic Sea into 17 sub-basins,
- 3) Division of the Baltic Sea into 17 sub-basins and further division into coastal and offshore areas
- 4) Division of the Baltic Sea into 17 sub-basins and further division into coastal and offshore areas and division of the coastal areas by WFD water types or water bodies.

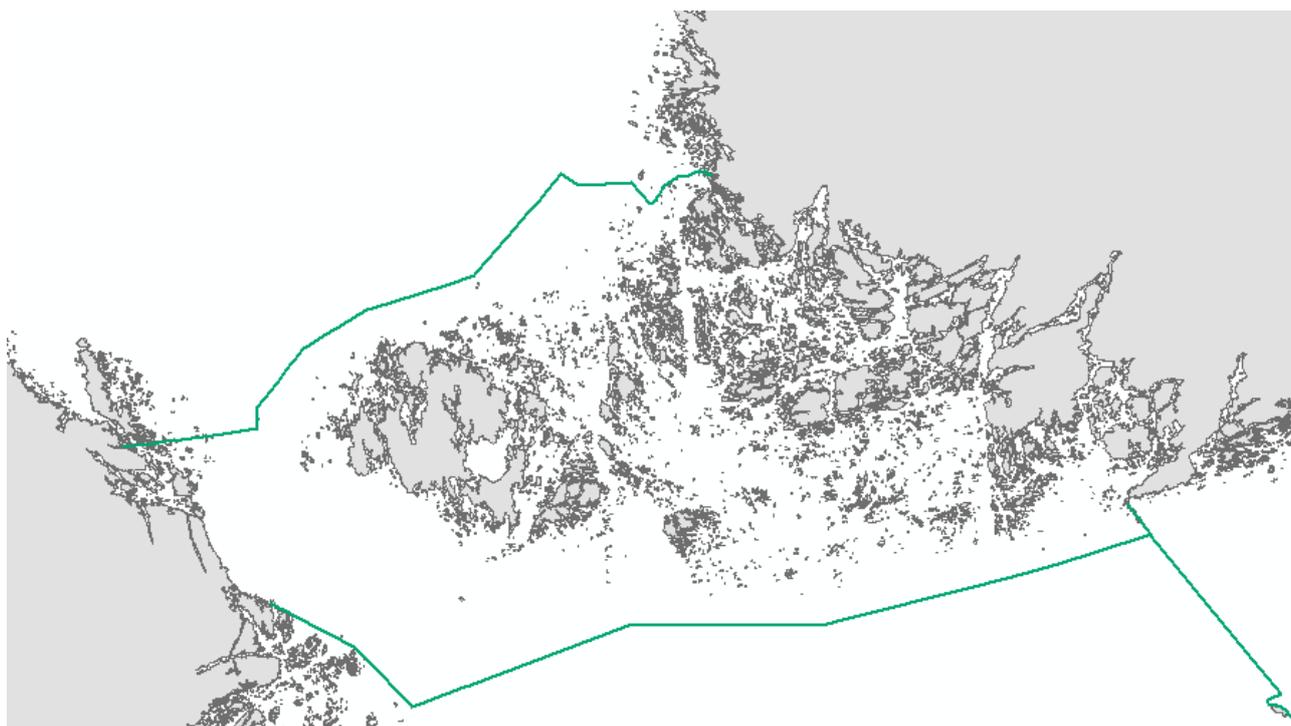


Figure 1. New Åland Sea subbasin lines, updated based on input by Finland and Sweden.

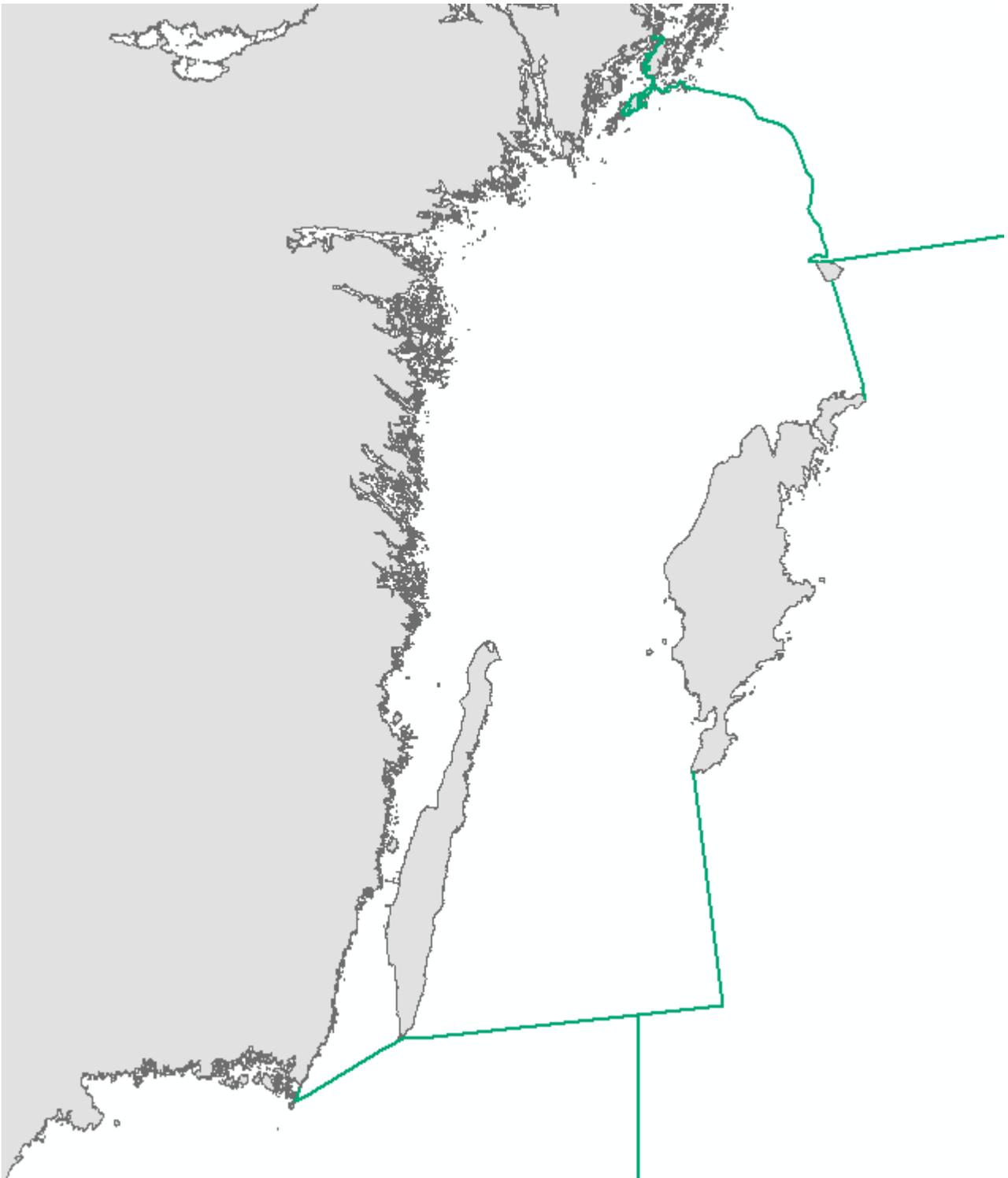


Figure 2. New Western Gotland Basin, updated based on input by Sweden.

Modification of HELCOM Assessment units in the Sound and Great Belt to be aligned with MSFD subregion borders

The finalisation of the MSFD subregion borders to be used in 2018 reporting will be done in November 2015. In the Baltic Sea the boundary between Baltic Sea and North Sea lies in Danish and Swedish national waters in the Sound and Great Belt. The current draft (Figure 3) can be considered final regarding the Baltic Sea border. Therefore the secretariat, in consultation with Sweden and Denmark, proposes changes to the existing HELCOM assessment units (Figures 4a-b) so that the borders are harmonised with MSFD subregion border Baltic Sea-North Sea.

As requested by Denmark and Sweden, also the border between Kattegat and The Sound will be modified to south to the Helsingør and Helsingborg line, to be compatible with Danish and Swedish WFD lines, more precisely between borders of following WFD areas:

- Sweden: ANS-SE-AA-K_5b_S_Halland_och_N_Oresund - ANS-SE-AA-K_6_Oresund
- Denmark: OW2 - OW3a

The proposition is to draw open sea area line is drawn directly between the national borders of the above mentioned borders (Figure 5a).

The proposition is also to utilize MSFD region border between Kattegat and Great Belt (Figure 5b).

Delineation between 'Baltic Sea' and 'North-east Atlantic Ocean' MSFD marine regions: positions in The Sound, Kattegat.

No	Name	Latitude	Longitude
1	Sweden	55° 33' 56.1" N	12° 53' 30.3" E
2	Östra Pepparholmen	55° 35' 20.1" N	12° 46' 37.4" E
3	Västra Pepparholmen	55° 36' 40.2" N	12° 43' 35.0" E
4	Denmark	55° 37' 47.8" N	12° 40' 49.6" E
5	Amager	55° 38' 33.6" N	12° 33' 09.1" E
6	Copenhagen	55° 38' 36.3" N	12° 33' 02.0" E

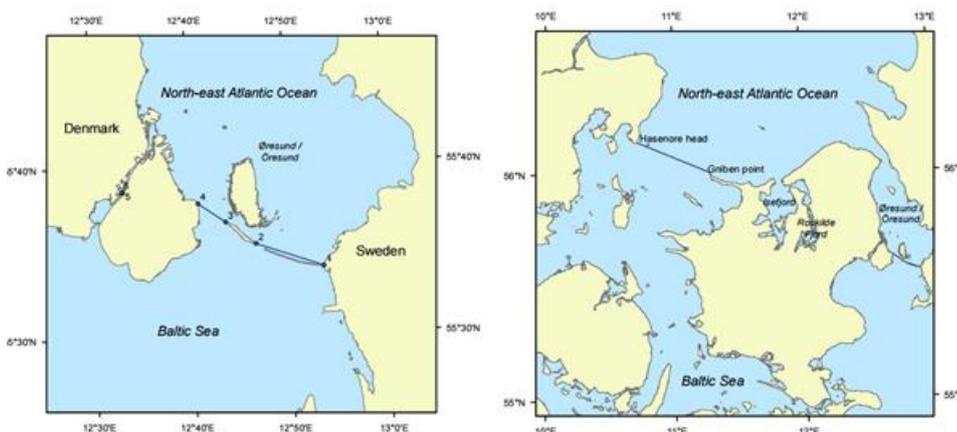


Figure 3. Delineation between "Baltic Sea" and "North-east Atlantic Ocean" to MSFD marine regions.

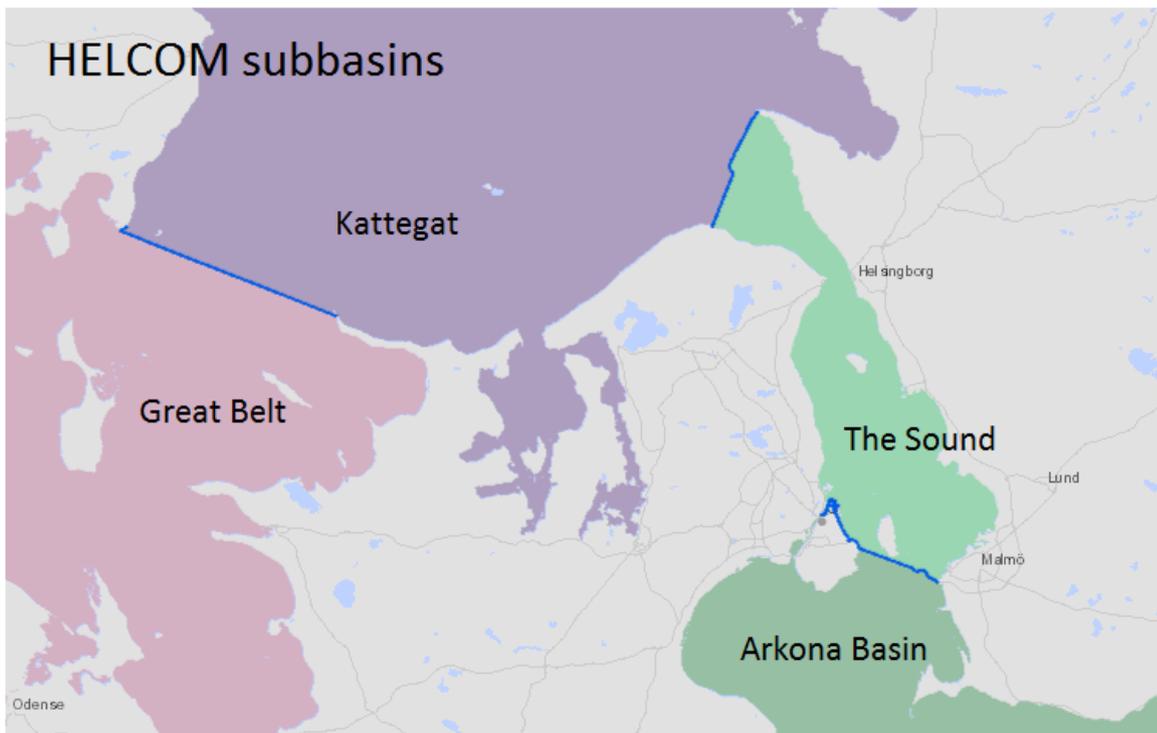


Figure 4a. Current delineation of HELCOM subbasins within The Sound and Great Belt.

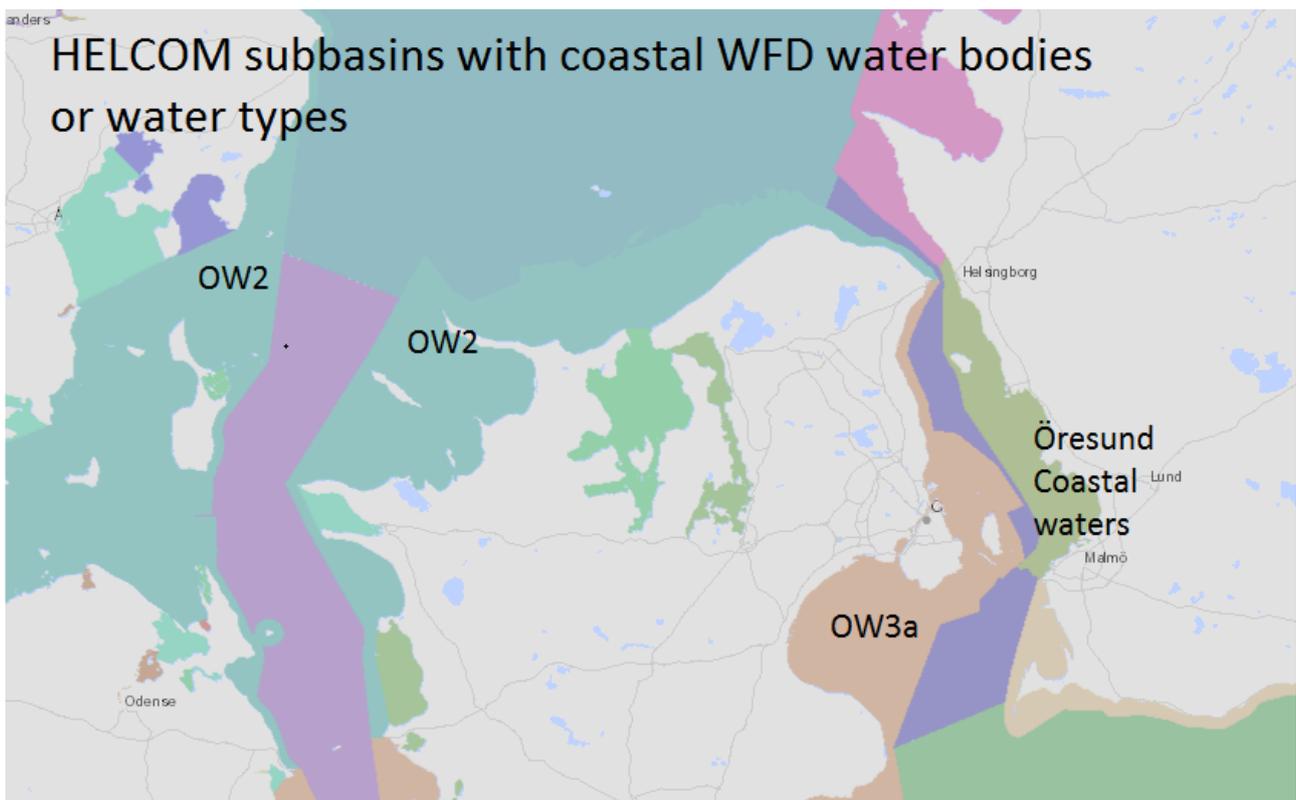


Figure 4b. Current delineation of HELCOM subbasins with coastal WFD water bodies or water types.

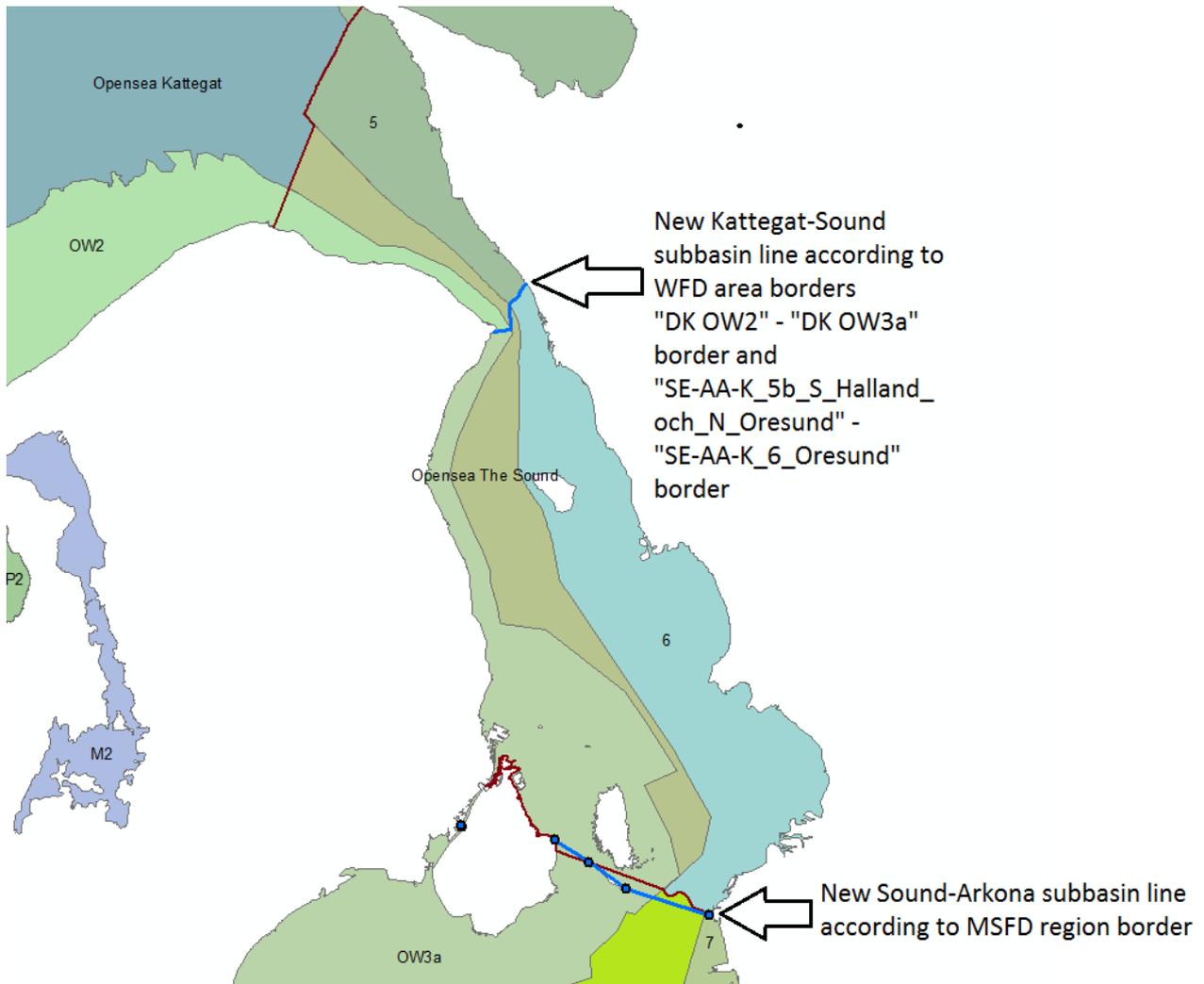


Figure 5a. Suggested new subbasin borders (blue) between Kattegat, The Sound and Arkona Sea. Red lines indicate old subbasin lines.



Figure 5b. Suggested new HELCOM subbasin line (blue) and old subbasin line (red) between Kattegat and Great Belt.