



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature
Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION
3-2015

Helsinki, Finland, 9-13 November, 2015

Document title	Modification of HELCOM Assessment units in Åland Sea, Western Gotland Basin, Kattegat, The Sound and Great Belt
Code	2MA-8
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	2MA – Revision of HELCOM Monitoring
Submission date	30.10.2015
Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	STATE & CONSERVATION 2-2015 2MA.16

Background

HELCOM [Monitoring and Assessment Strategy](#) describes (in its attachment 4) the HELCOM sub-divisions, which divide the Baltic Sea on four hierarchical scales to assessment units, allowing a nested approach for regional monitoring and assessment purposes. The Monitoring and Assessment Strategy was adopted by the Copenhagen Ministerial Meeting in 2013.

Since then, following modifications have been deemed necessary:

- 1) Finland and Sweden submitted a document to HELCOM STATE & CONSERVATION 2-2015 suggesting changes to Åland Sea, Western Gotland Basin. According to decision 2MA.16 in that meeting, the meeting requested Sweden and Finland to provide shapefiles on the new subbasin boundaries. The shapefiles were provided and the new assessment units were constructed but have not been released in the HELCOM Map and Data service.
- 2) Parallel to the first revision process, the European Commission, at the Committee meeting in May 2015, announced its aim to finalise the map and boundaries of the MSFD regions and subregions which are listed in Article 4, so that the map and associated GIS shapefiles could be made available for MSFD implementation purposes, including forthcoming Article 8 assessments in 2018. Following discussions in WG DIKE in June 2015, it was agreed that Member States should be asked to agree on the region and subregion boundaries of relevance to their waters, based on the currently proposed boundaries described in a draft EEA technical report. The finalising of the boundaries will be done by the Committee 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 can be considered final regarding the Baltic Sea border. The secretariat, in consultation with Sweden and Denmark, proposes changes to the HELCOM assessment units so that the borders are harmonised with MSFD subregion border Baltic Sea-North Sea. This would make regional indicators compatible with spatial units of the MSFD reporting enabling better alignment of the processes. The modifications of the borders are not significant as the current assessment units are already close to the MSFD region borders.

Action required

The Meeting is invited to agree on the suggested modifications of the sub-basin boundaries and mandate the Secretariat to publish updated assessment unit shapefiles and update Monitoring and Assessment strategy accordingly.

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 (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 as indicated in Figure 1 and Table 1,
- 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.

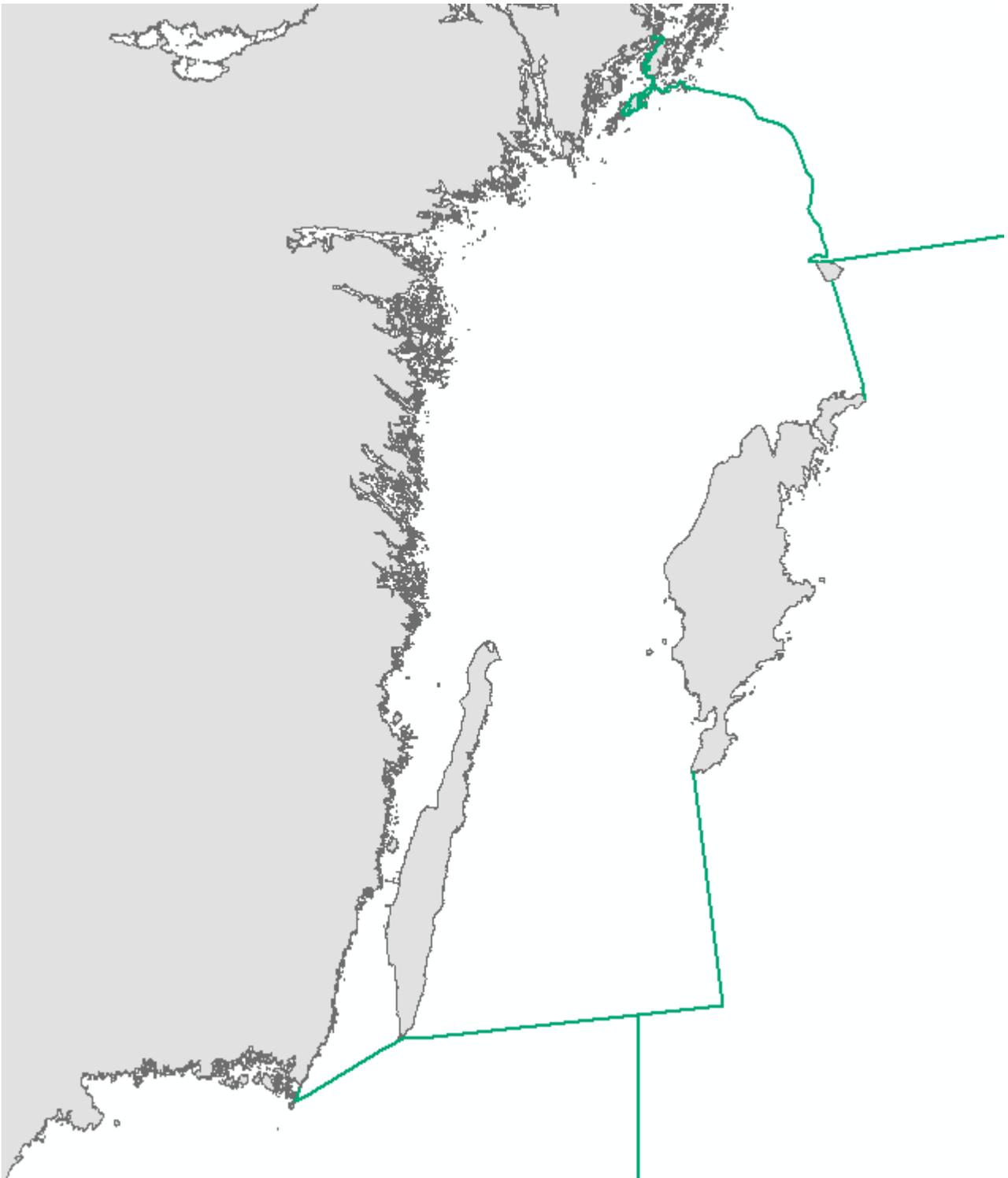


Figure 2. New Western Gotland Basin, updated based on input by Sweden.

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

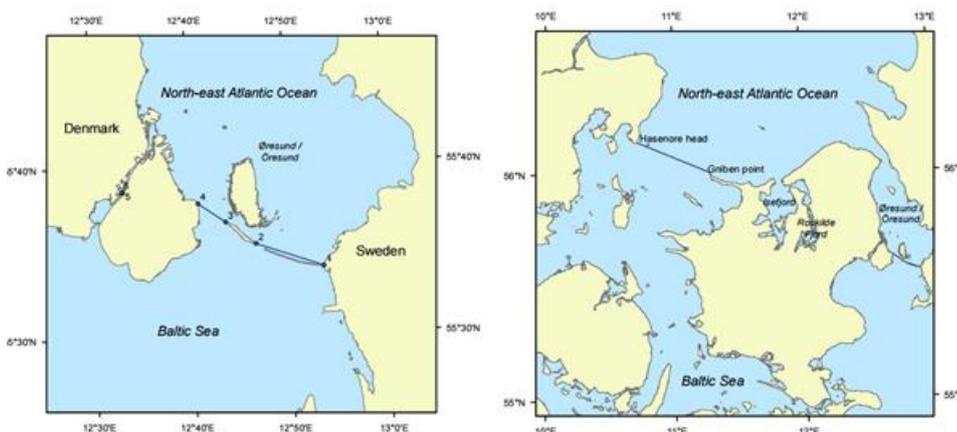


Figure 3. Delineation between "Baltic Sea" and "North-east Atlantic Ocean" to MSFD marine regions.

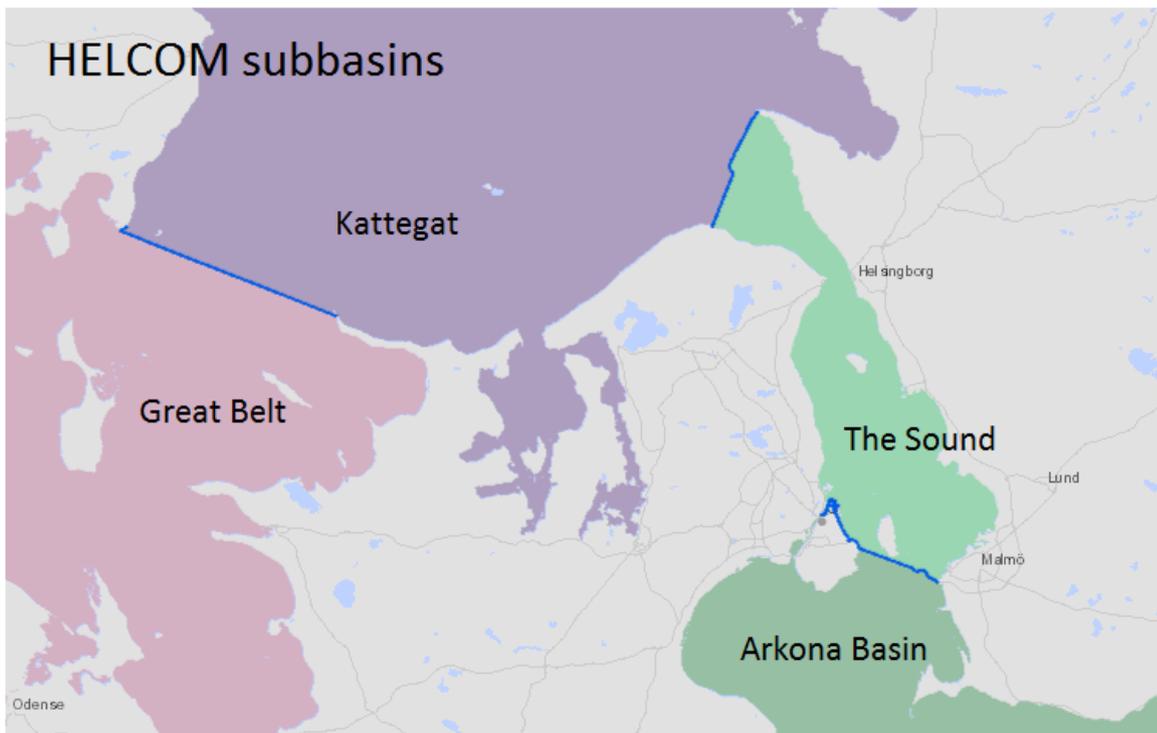


Figure 4a. Current delineation of HELCOM subbasins within The Sound and Great Belt.

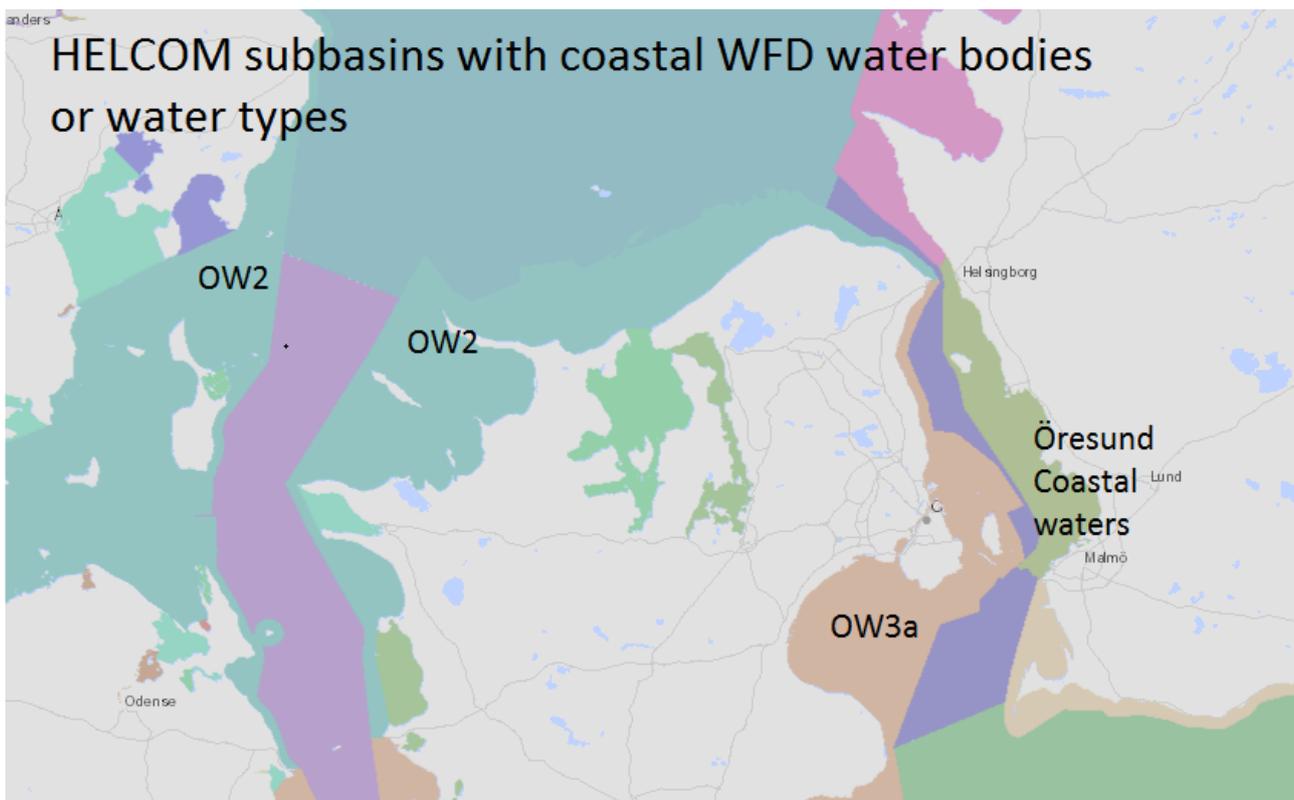


Figure 4b. Current delineation of HELCOM subbasins with coastal WFD water bodies or water types.

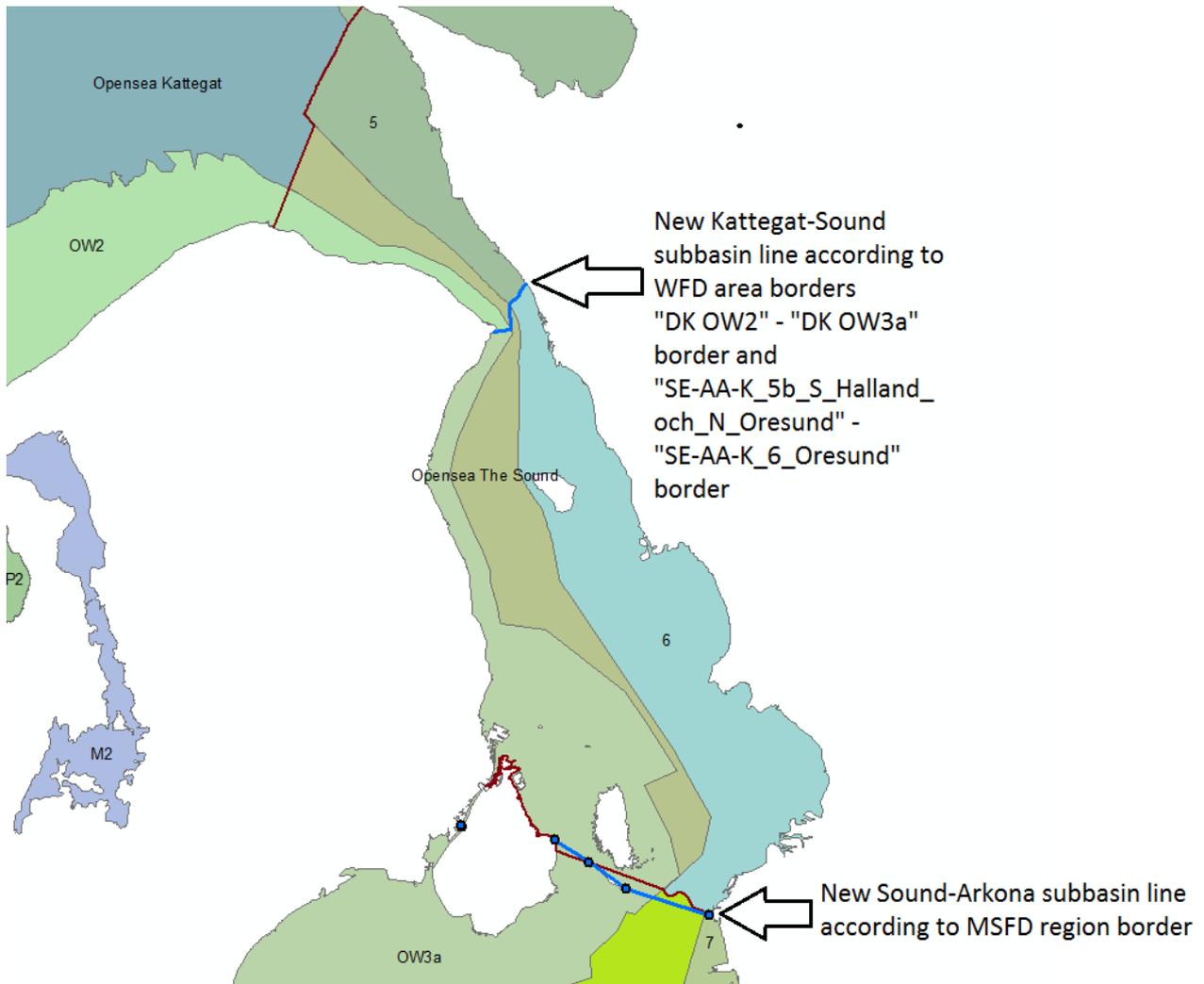


Figure 5a. Suggested new subbasin borders (blue) between Kattegat, The Sound and Arkona Sea. Red lines indicate old subbasin lines.



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