



## **Work Plan for 2010 – 2013 for the Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group**

- 1. To apply the adopted Joint Maritime Spatial Planning principles**
- 2. To support the setting-up of frameworks for Maritime Spatial Planning in the countries of the Baltic Sea Region, to ensure more corresponding processes, and for transboundary consultation beneficial for this purpose**
  - inform on experiences and best practices to follow up the situation in the BSR countries with regard to implementation of MSP, discuss and propose initiatives to be taken concerning relevant framework elements (development of legal basis, responsibilities for MSP, procedures);
  - investigate and seek common understanding for necessary minimum requirements for BSR MSP systems;
  - promote and support achievements of economic, social and ecological benefits from MSP;
  - cooperation with the Baltic University Programme and other institutions in order to discuss common measures for enhancing education in the field of MSP.
- 3. To investigate the legislative basis for Maritime Spatial Planning, and to find a common understanding for planning**
  - problem-oriented presentation, during one of the first meetings, as an input to find a common understanding;
  - overview of global (UNCLOS, IMO conventions, Convention on Biological Diversity etc), EU (Water Framework Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Integrated Maritime Policy, Fisheries and Agricultural Policies etc), and regional (1992 Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, HELCOM and VASAB Action Plans, Ministerial Declarations, Visions and Strategies, Recommendations etc. as well as other regional organizations and entities, such as ICES and BONUS) legislation, policies and strategies;
  - using and possibly updating the VASAB Compendium on national MSP legislation for the Baltic Sea Region countries, including responsible authorities.
- 4. To promote the use of the Ecosystem Based Approach as an overarching principle for Maritime Spatial Planning and to find a common understanding for planning**

- problem-oriented presentation, during one of the first meetings, as an input to find a common understanding;
  - develop clear examples of the need for and the use of the Ecosystem Based Approach in MSP;
  - discuss and if possible develop the necessary elements of a MSP relevant application of the ecosystem based approach.
- 5. To explore the possibilities of Maritime Spatial Planning to contribute to the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the BSAP**
- 6. To define linkages and correlation between Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Maritime Spatial Planning**
- review national approaches to ICZM and its implementation including national systems for decision making in the sea and coast areas;
  - discuss the relationship between ICZM and MSP, including cross-border co-ordination and coordination with MSP activities.
- 7. To explore the possibilities for a Spatial Vision for the Baltic Sea**
- discuss examples of components of a vision using experience from ongoing work and projects such as BaltSeaPlan;
  - seek a common understanding for a Spatial Vision for the Baltic Sea.
- 8. To identify data gathering and mapping processes needed for Maritime Spatial Planning**
- investigate and analyse available data and information for MSP including Geographic Information Systems and other structures, identify gaps and propose necessary improvements
  - investigate the need for common sets of data and information for the Baltic Sea and propose necessary minimum common requirements for harmonization and consistency of maps and data.
- 9. To initiate, establish and follow, projects and seek to improve the conditions for the creation of new Baltic Sea Maritime Spatial Planning projects**
- find areas that would benefit from jointly coordinated actions and seek to initiate new projects relevant for MSP on the basis of common experiences;
  - investigate possibilities for funding of projects and seek to promote conditions for creation of Baltic Sea MSP;
  - follow and seek to evaluate and make use of projects on MSP in a cooperative manner.

**10. To create better understanding for the specific conditions and needs for Maritime Spatial Planning in the Baltic Sea Region in the EU and seek to find a common approach to EU initiatives in the region**

- discuss upcoming EU meetings and events in order to find out the need to put forward a Baltic Sea perspective;
- discuss EU initiatives as well as the need for Baltic Sea Region initiatives in the EU, especially within the context of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the horizontal action on MSP;
- identify fields of cooperation with BONUS and other projects and programmes.

**11. To propose to CSPD/BSR and HELCOM HoD and to organize together with VASAB/ HELCOM Secretariats necessary public events on Maritime Spatial Planning**

- discuss the objectives, venue, cooperation and participation for a Pan-Baltic Conference and prepare a concept for it;
- send representatives of the joint working group to relevant meetings organized by global, EU and BSR organizations and authorities developing maritime spatial planning.

**12. To propose further activities towards next Ministerial Conferences**

- propose a vision and decision proposals on further development of MSP (e.g. on minimum requirements, development of legal basis, revision of principles) based on progress reached so far.

EU directives, policies and strategies are applicable to HELCOM member states being also EU member states.

### Annex to Work Plan 2010-2013 for the Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group

Tasks and proposed actions	Responsibility	Timing
<b>1. To apply the adopted Joint MSP principles</b>		
a) According to the Baltic Sea Action Plan the joint MSP Principles should be applied, tested and evaluate by 2012 Contracting States/Member Countries to inform how the principles have been applied	Contracting States/ Member Countries MSP WG, in co-operation with PLAN BOTHNIA	2011-2012
<b>2. To support the setting-up of frameworks for maritime spatial planning in the countries of the Baltic Sea Region, to ensure more corresponding processes, and for transboundary consultation beneficial for this purpose</b>		
a) Inform on experiences and best practices to follow up the situation in the BSR countries with regard to implementation of MSP, discuss and propose initiatives to be taken concerning relevant framework elements (development of legal basis, responsibilities for MSP, procedures, transboundary consultation)	Contracting Parties/Member Countries PLAN BOTHNIA, (HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats to coordinate a Chapter on best practices) BaltSeaPlan	Recurring activity at the meetings of the MSP WG  2011-2012
b) Investigate and seek common understanding for necessary minimum requirements for BSR maritime spatial planning systems (see also 3 b)	PLAN BOTHNIA, (HELCOM and VASAB Secretariat to coordinate a Chapter on minimum requirements, including data and mapping)	2011- 2012
c) Promote and support achievements of economic, social and ecological benefits from MSP (analytical paper prepared as extract information from existing experiences)	MSP WG	2011-2013 Discussion during third meeting of the MSP WG in Riga, Latvia, 28-29 September 2011 on who will prepare the paper and the purpose of it, also acknowledging the difficulty in identifying such benefits in a measurable way.
d) Cooperation with the Baltic University Programme and other institutions in order to discuss common measures for enhancing education in the field of MSP	Contracting States/Member Countries MSP WG VASAB Secretariat	2011-2013

<b>3. To investigate the legislative basis for Maritime Spatial Planning, and to find a common understanding for planning</b>		
a) Problem-oriented presentation, during one of the first meetings, as an input to find a common understanding	Contracting Parties/Member Countries MSP WG	Presentations and discussions during second meeting of the MSP WG, in Riga, Latvia on 20-21 January 2011
b) Overview of basic elements for the legislative basis for MSP, in the whole maritime area (internal waters, territorial seas and the exclusive economic zones)	Germany and Denmark, in cooperation with Sweden and the HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats	Third meeting of the MSP WG meeting in Helsinki, Finland, on 28-29 September 2011
c) Using and possibly updating the VASAB Compendium on national MSP legislation for the Baltic Sea Region countries, including responsible authorities (depending on the process on the national level)	Contracting States/Member Countries MSP WG	2011-2013
<b>4. To promote the use of the Ecosystem Based Approach as an overarching principle for Maritime Spatial Planning and to find a common understanding for planning</b>		
<b>5. To explore the possibilities of MSP to contribute to the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the BSAP</b>		
a) Problem-oriented presentation, during one of the first meetings, as an input to find a common understanding	Contracting Parties/Member Countries MSP WG	Presentations and discussions during second meeting of the MSP WG, in Riga, Latvia on 20-21 January 2011
b) Develop clear examples of the need for and the use of the Ecosystem Based Approach in Maritime Spatial Planning	Contracting Parties/Member Countries MSP WG Finland, assisted by the HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats and supported by Sweden PLAN BOTHNIA	Presented at third meeting of the MSP WG meeting in Helsinki, Finland, on 28-29 September 2011 and at further meetings in Work Plan period
c) Present proposals for necessary elements of a MSP relevant application of the ecosystem based approach	Finland, assisted by the HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats and supported by Sweden PLAN BOTHNIA	Presented at third meeting of the MSP WG meeting in Helsinki, Finland, on 28-29 September 2011 and to be developed and discussed at further meetings in Work Plan

		period
<b>6. To define linkages and correlation between Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Maritime Spatial Planning</b>		
a) Review national approaches to ICZM and its implementation including national systems for decision making in the sea and coast areas	Contracting States/Member Countries MSP WG	2011-2013
b) Discuss the relationship between ICZM and MSP, including cross-border co-ordination and coordination with MSP activities taking into account the outcome of the impact assessment by EC and the proposed action by EC	Contracting States/Member Countries MSP WG	2011-13; timing dependent on and following the presentation by the European Commission of the outcome of the Impact Assessment and the proposed actions  Fourth meeting of the MSP WG including presentations by the Contracting States/ Member Countries
<b>7. To explore the possibilities for a Spatial Vision for the Baltic Sea</b>		
a) Present examples of components of a vision using experience from ongoing work and projects such as BaltSeaPlan	MSP WG	BaltSeaPlan draft vision presented during second meeting of the MSP WG, in Riga, Latvia on 20-21 January 2011 2011-2012
b) Discuss components of a Spatial vision for the Baltic Sea and seek a common understanding for such a Vision	MSP WG, in co-operation with PLAN BOTHNIA and BaltSeaPlan	2012-2013
<b>8. To identify data gathering and mapping processes needed for MSP</b>		
a) Investigate and analyze available data and information for maritime spatial planning including Geographic Information Systems and other structures, identify gaps and propose necessary improvements	Contracting Parties/Member Countries MSP WG	2010-2013

b) Investigate the need for common sets of data and information for the Baltic Sea and propose necessary minimum common requirements for harmonization and consistency of maps and data	Contracting States/Member Countries MSP WG PLAN BOTHNIA, (HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats to coordinate a Chapter on minimum requirements, including data and mapping) BaltSeaPlan	2011-2013
<b>9. To initiate, establish and follow, projects and seek to improve the conditions for the creation of new Baltic Sea MSP projects</b>		
a) Find areas that would benefit from jointly coordinated actions and seek to initiate new projects relevant for MSP on the basis of common experiences	Contracting Parties/Member Countries MSP WG	2011-2013
b) Investigate possibilities for funding of projects and seek to promote conditions for creation of Baltic Sea MSP	Contracting States/Member Countries MSP WG	2011-2013 Joint input of HELCOM and VASAB to the future research areas within the BONUS programme submitted to the BONUS Secretariat on 16 December 2010
c) Follow and seek to evaluate and make use of projects on MSP in a cooperative manner	Contracting States/Member Countries MSP WG	2011-2013
<b>10. To create better understanding for the specific conditions and needs for MSP in the Baltic Sea Region in the EU and seek to find a common approach to EU initiatives in the region</b>		
a) Discuss upcoming EU meetings and events in order to find out the need to put forward a Baltic Sea perspective	Contracting States/Member Countries MSP WG	Events and meetings such as the European Maritime Day, EU DG MARE meetings, ICZM expert meetings etc. 2011-2013

<p>b) Discuss EU initiatives as well as the need for Baltic Sea Region initiatives in the EU, especially within the context of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the horizontal action on MSP</p>	<p>Contracting States/Member Countries MSP WG</p>	<p>2010-2013</p>
<p>c) Identify fields of cooperation with BONUS and other projects and programmes</p>	<p>Contracting States/Member Countries MSP WG</p>	<p>2010-2013 Joint input of HELCOM and VASAB to the future research areas within the BONUS programme submitted to the BONUS Secretariat on the 16 December 2010</p>
<p><b>11. To propose to CSPD/BSR and HELCOM HoD and to organize together with VASAB/ HELCOM Secretariats necessary public events on maritime spatial planning</b></p>		
<p>a) Discuss the objectives, venues, cooperations and participations for Pan-Baltic Conferences and prepare a concept for them</p>	<p>MSP WG</p>	<p>2010-2013 PLAN BOTHNIA Stakeholder Conference 27 September 2011 and Final Conference May 2012 BaltSeaPlan Final Conference 12 January 2012</p>
<p>b) Send representatives of the joint working group to relevant meetings organized by global, EU, BSR or other organizations and authorities of importance for development of maritime spatial planning</p> <p>MSP WG members to report to the working group on participation in and outcome of such meetings at the HELCOM-VASAB WG meeting</p>	<p>MSP WG</p>	<p>2010-2013</p>



<b>12. To propose further activities towards next Ministerial Conferences</b>		
a) Propose a vision and decision proposals on further development of MSP (e.g. on minimum requirements, development of legal basis, revision of principles) based on progress reached so far	MSP WG	2010-2013

EU directives, policies and strategies are applicable to HELCOM and VASAB member states being also EU member states.