



# Findings and Recommendations from **BaltSeaPlan** with regard to **Spatial Data for MSP** and a **Baltic MSP Spatial Data Infrastructure**



## DATA AND INFORMATION FOR MSP

### A unison call for better and relevant data

#### PlanCoast Handbuch on MSP (April 2008)

- „improvement of quality, comparability and accessibility of spatial data by implementing the EU INSPIRE Directive“
- Recommends systematic information exchange and collecting data according to need

#### EU Principles on MSP (2008)

- „A strong data and knowledge base“
- „planning needs to evolve with knowledge (adaptive management)“



## DATA AND INFORMATION FOR MSP

### HELCOM/VASAB Principles on MSP (2010)

- ➔ „High Quality Data and Information Basis“
- ➔ MSP should be based on best available and up to date comprehensive information of high quality,
- ➔ to the largest extent possible to be shared by all,
- ➔ close cooperation of relevant GIS and geo-statistical databases, monitoring and research to facilitate a trans-boundary data exchange process, that could lead to harmonised pan-Baltic data and information base for planning
- ➔ Should cover historical baselines, present status as well as future projections of both environmental aspects and human activities
- ➔ Should be as comprehensive, openly accessible as possible, constantly updated, and compatible with European and Global Initiatives



## DATA AND INFORMATION FOR MSP

### Activities with regard to Marine Spatial Data within BaltSeaPlan

- ➔ Pilot Cases – stocktaking of activities, environmental and ecological features etc.
- ➔ Overview on general availability of data in the project partners countries
- ➔ Compilation of several activities data to develop current comprehensive data sets with predefined fields and attributes
- ➔ Identification of National data contact points



- Some major Questions to be answered ....

01. Quality: Is there data that meet our needs?

02. Availability: Can we get the data?

03. Usability: Can we use the data?

04. Reliability: Can we trust the data?

(BaltSeaPlan Findings, p. 48)



## 01. Quality: Is there data that meet our needs?

- Scope of available data sufficient for MSP needs (human activities, ecological / environmental features, physical environment etc.) ?
- Formats of data adequate ? (coordinate system, projection, resolution, GIS – field formats/definitions incl. language etc ...)
- Data attributes sufficient for analyses and assessments ?



## 02. Availability: Can we get the data?

- Do Institutions share their data for MSP purposes ?
- Which kind of restrictions do we face ?

## 03. Usability: Can we use the data?

- Are we allowed to use the data for MSP purposes ?
- Is the data comprehensive enough to meet our needs ?

## 04. Reliability: Can we trust the data?

- Do we have enough information to assess the reliability with regard to MSP ?



## Facilitating access to relevant data: The BaltSeaPlan MSP data recommendations\*

01. A pan-Baltic MSP data infrastructure should be created to ensure the availability of up-to-date, transferable, interoperable data and metadata. For this purpose, the INSPIRE Directive should be amended with regard to marine space and maritime features to ensure it covers aspects relevant to MSP.
02. In order to deliver the minimum level of information required for MSP, the MSP data infrastructure should be based on a specific layout. The specifications developed by BaltSeaPlan with regard to data scope, formats and technical requirements should be built on and further developed. The minimum information range for MSP can then be extended where necessary.

→ BSP attempt to define „Specifications“ (scope, content, format) could serve as examples, and have to be discussed in the light of other suggestions for sets of minimum requirements as well as experience with real data within MSP processes

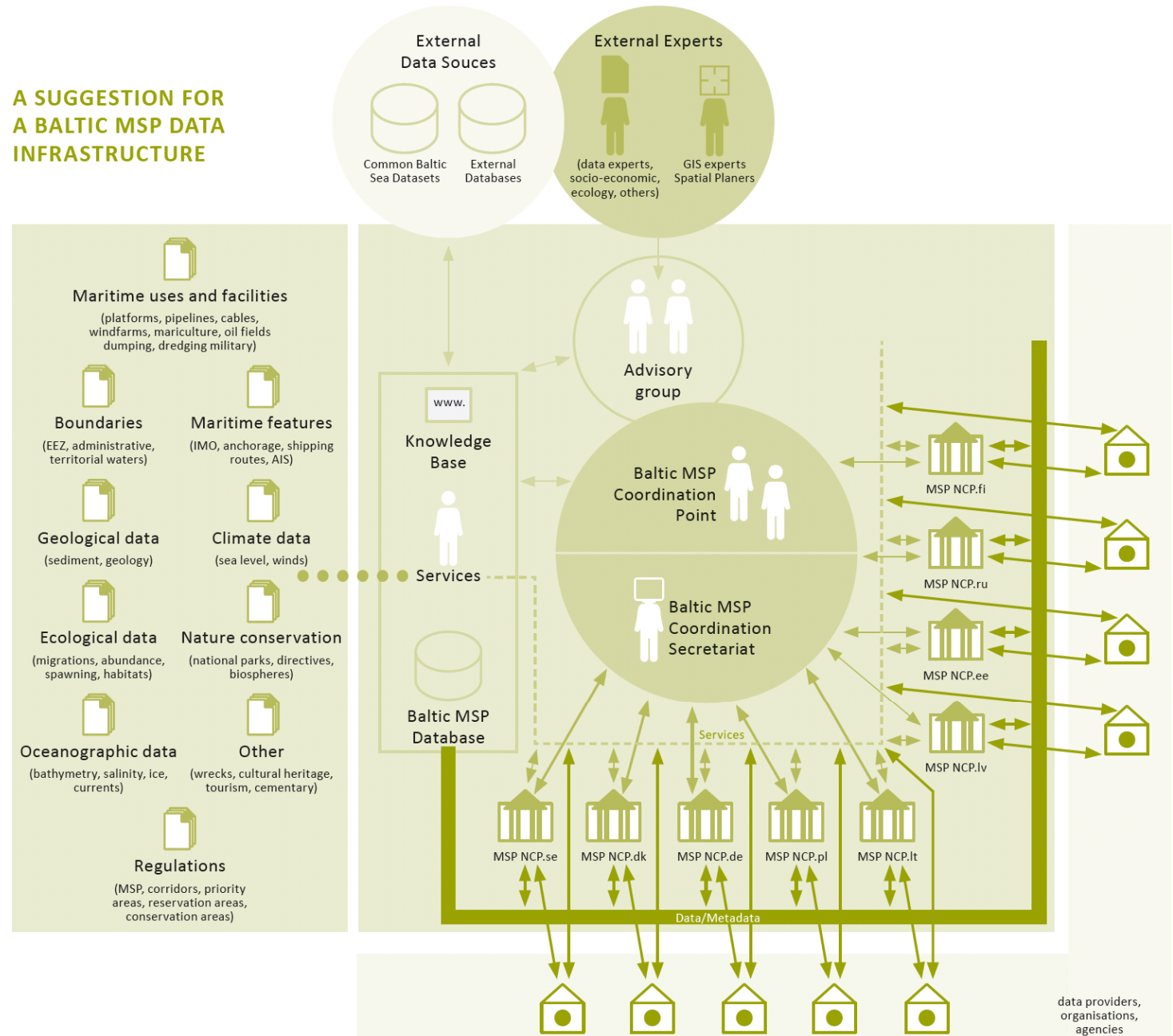
(\* as adapted in BaltSeaPlan Findings, p. 50-52)



**03.** A transnational network for MSP data exchange should be set up consisting of the following functional levels:

- A **pan-Baltic MSP Data Coordinating Group**, which is responsible for managing the Baltic MSP Infrastructure. The group would be responsible for making available pan-Baltic data sets relevant to MSP, and creating harmonised pan-Baltic data sets from national data etc.
- **National MSP Data Contact Points**, which are responsible for making national MSP relevant data available to the MSP infrastructure.
- **Regional MSP Data Points** (for larger countries or federal states), which are responsible for making regional MSP relevant data available to the MSP infrastructure in cooperation with the National Data Contact Points.
- **MSP Data Providers**, offering their data to the regional/national MSP Data Contact Points according to the set rules.

## A SUGGESTION FOR A BALTIC MSP DATA INFRASTRUCTURE



From BaltSeaPlan Report No. 20

04. Data exchange should be facilitated via a **Baltic Sea MSP data portal** which offers digital map and geo data services. These could be linked and/or integrated into individual applications. All registered users of the network would be entitled to unrestricted searching, viewing, downloading and processing of the data. In turn, they should make available any products developed on the basis of the data and/or provide their data to their respective National/Regional MSP Data Contact Point (in the agreed format).

For issues where rapid change and dynamic development can be expected, National/Regional MSP Contact Points should provide updated data sets in the data infrastructure at regular 6-month intervals. The interval for updating other data should be set as necessary.

This recommendation (intervals to be discussed maybe) also depends on the way data up-dates are being handled – e.g. BSH data sets in CONTIS are being up-dated constantly (data base in English), thus a respective current data service would be available continuously  
- e.g. when data base language is not English and there is an agreement on producing a respective English data set for the MSP data portal service



05. A permanent MSP Data Expert Group should be created to advise the Pan-Baltic Data Coordinating Group, consisting of spatial planners and GIS experts from all BSR countries. Further experts on relevant issues can be appointed and/or consulted as necessary. Its tasks should include:
- monitoring and suggesting improvements to the content of pan-Baltic data sets and the data exchange system,
  - providing a methodology for assessing data needs and suggesting ways of data management, as well as give advice on gaps to be filled,
  - ensuring links to other data networks,
  - ensuring links to the Transnational MSP Coordination Secretariat (BaltSeaPlan Vision 2030).



06. The pan-Baltic data infrastructure should draw on unrestricted data available free of charge, such as data produced during the course of statutory activities or publicly funded projects. In the case of duly restricted/commercial data, only the associated metadata and products can be made available.
07. Baltic Sea states should grant adequate financial and organisational resources for securing the implementation and maintenance of a sustainable MSP data network and infrastructure. Existing networks such as the HELCOM/VASAB working group on MSP should be considered as a starting point for building up the data exchange network.