



# Towards an MSP governance framework in the Baltic

Results from the survey of sector representatives  
and first suggestions for a pan-Baltic MSP  
governance framework





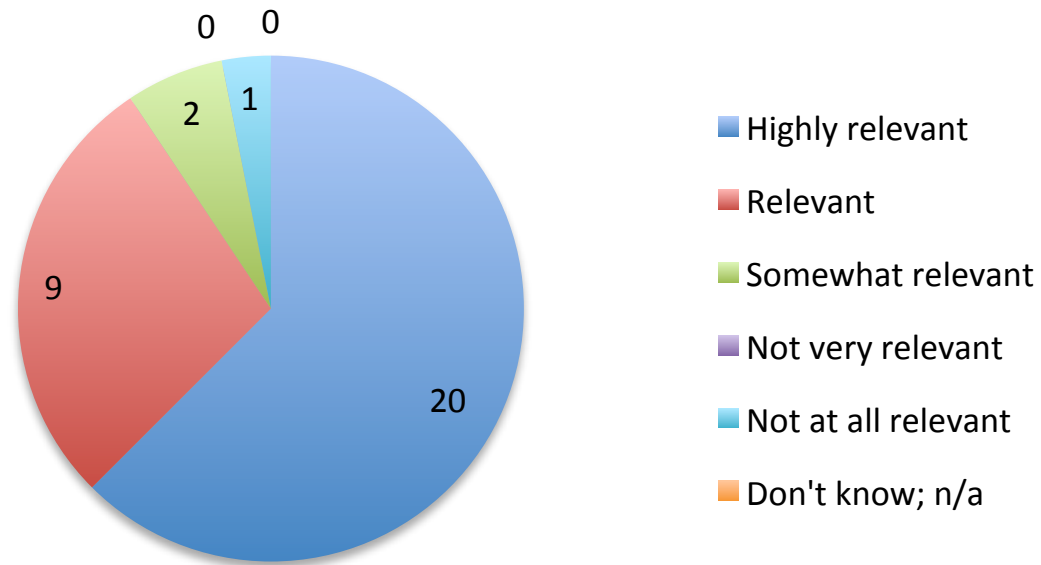
- N (Governance) = 26 (conducted by s.Pro)
- N (Sectors) = 32 (conducted by project partners and s.Pro)
- Different questions to governance and sector representatives
- **Presentation of sector representatives results**



# 1. Views of MSP generally



**How relevant do you consider MSP for your sector generally?**





## Mostly perceived as an opportunity, but could also bring costs

- A framework for consenting processes
- A tool for balancing and coordinating activities
- Can lead to better business decisions
- a good trigger for debate within the sector
- Could create more fairness
  
- Restrictive
- “Monopolised by nature conservation organisations”
- Don’t know what it means



## 2. Pan-Baltic organisation and representation in a pan-Baltic MSP dialogue

## Should there be cross-sectoral dialogue at the pan-Baltic level to discuss MSP?



### Yes (27 out of 30)

- First there should be transboundary dialogue within the sector
- Cross-sectoral dialogue possibly more relevant at bilateral level
- Question mark over success of cross-sectoral dialogue at pan-Baltic level

### Governance representatives: Unanimous yes

- Recognition of added benefits (e.g. better understanding of MSP by sectors, honest communication of needs and fears)

# Who should represent your sector in such a dialogue?



## Most sectors do not have an organised voice as yet

- Most issues are still negotiated at the national level (bilaterally at most)
- If it exists at all, the pan-Baltic sectoral dialogue is not MSP-specific
- Those that are organised internationally to some degree (at least politically): fishery, energy, ports, cultural heritage, MPAs
- Aquaculture (through projects), shipping and again energy:  
No real „organisational structure“
- Competition is an important obstacle to becoming organised
- Many sectoral issues are driven by national interests and policies





## 3. Purpose of a pan-Baltic MSP dialogue



## Should have a clear aim

- Communication of „realities“ in the sector
- Improved information exchange among sectors nationally
- Regular exchange with policy makers
- Guidelines for involving sectors in MSP
- Development of sectoral strategies
- Should be an independent science-expert body

## Governance representatives:

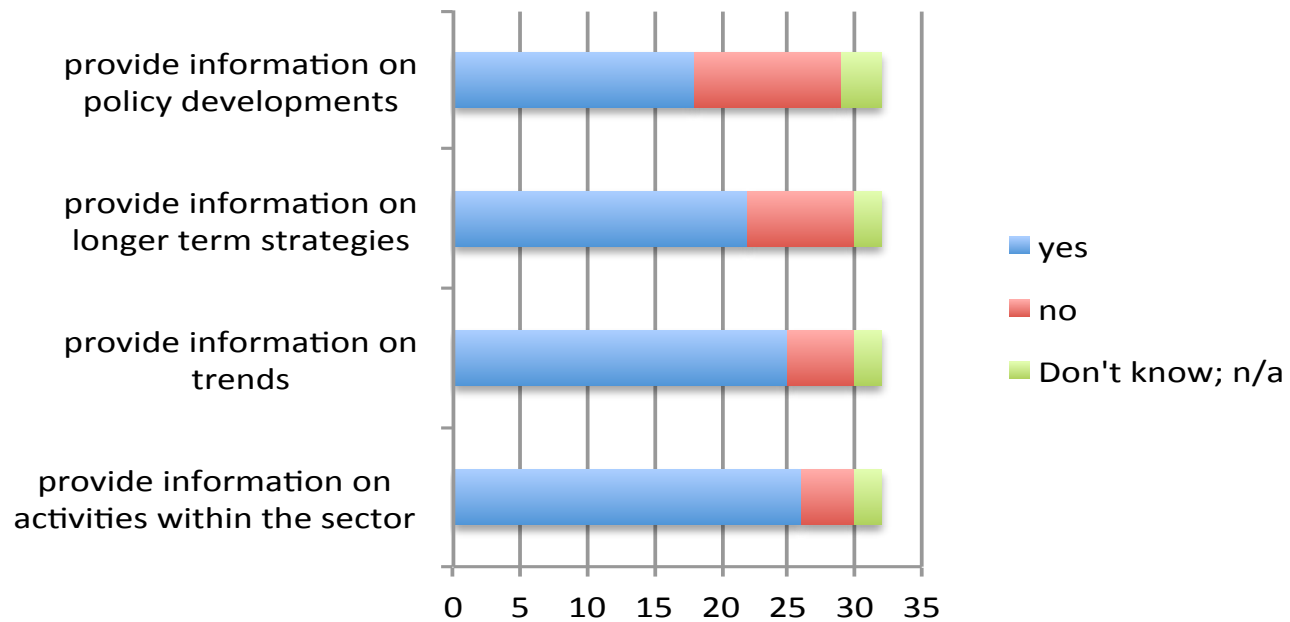
- High importance on obtaining more sectoral information (economic trends/strategies)



- Joint criteria for sharing space and „rule of play“
- Follow-through beyond guidelines
- Acknowledgement of the importance of all sectors and greater mutual understanding
- Joint projects



## What contribution would you expect to/want to make to this dialogue?



**But need to organise themselves first (a question of resources)**



## Conflicting interests

- Lack of resources (time commitment)
- Lack of understanding of the need for MSP
- Lack of clear purpose of the dialogue (could be seen as a waste of time)
- Lack of shared vision



**Not all are convinced of added value, at least not in the short term. Sectors will need convincing that they are taken seriously in this dialogue (links back to purpose)**

Benefits mentioned:

- Opportunity to be heard and to develop a joint voice for the sector
- More effective use of sea space leading to more realistic investment
- More coherent permit processes
- Inclusion of all sectors and better understanding of other positions
- Less conflicts
- Planners can develop better understanding of economic realities



## 4. Format of a pan-Baltic MSP dialogue



**Multi-level and multi-sectoral meetings that are regular but also needs-based – avoid „pointless“ meetings.**

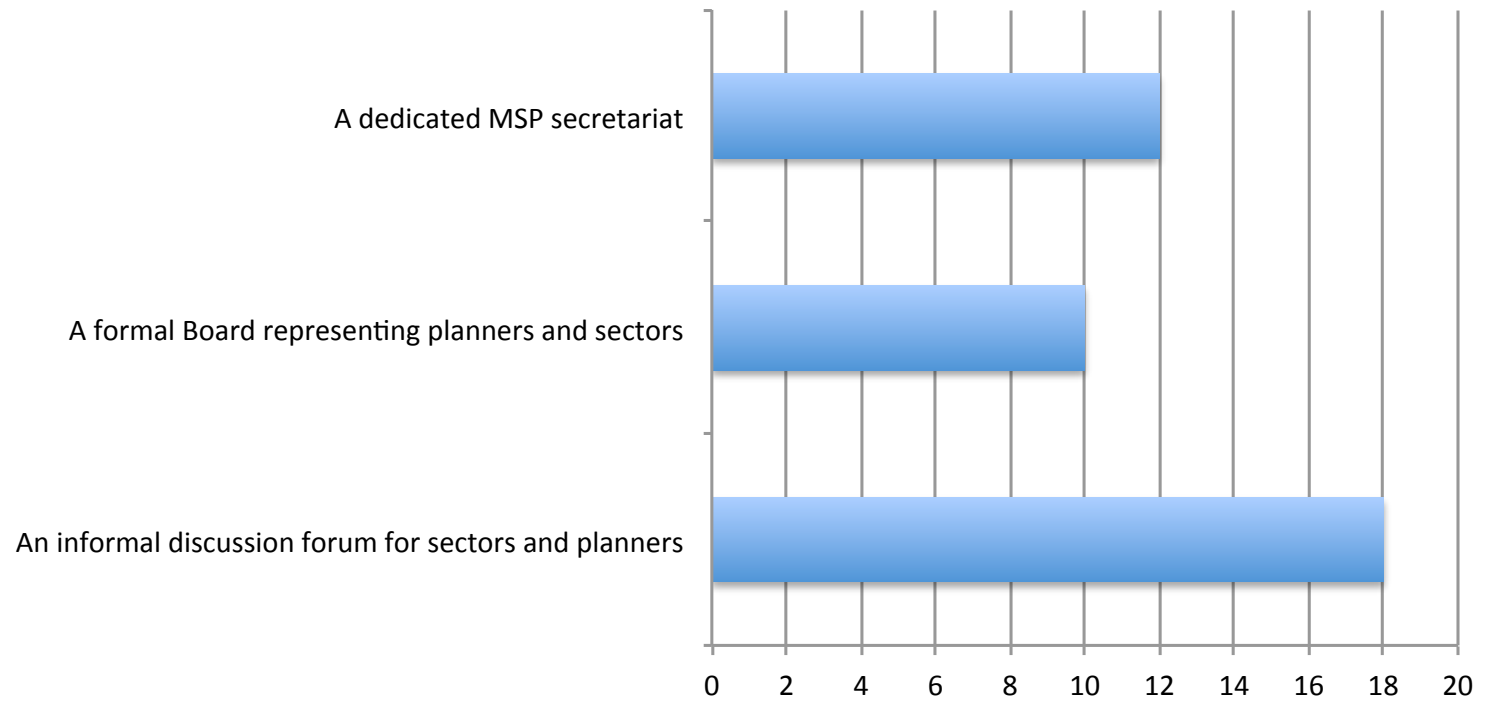
**Dialogue should be organised by competent hands.**

- Expert groups
- Conferences
- Meetings
- „living portal“





## What structures should be put in place to facilitate the above?



# What structures should be put into place to facilitate the dialogue?

## Divided opinions

- No new structures vs. a dedicated secretariat
- Consensus that coordination will be necessary
- A permanent point of contact with dedicated staff
- Informal vs formal structure: Facilitator role vs. decision-making role/delivery of results
- Consensus that HELCOM is not suitable
- Insufficient visibility of VASAB
- An independent body
- Spatial planners should coordinate



## 5. Conclusions for pan-Baltic MSP governance



- Building a pan-Baltic MSP dialogue will take time! (trust, routines, working modes)
- Building more mature degrees of cooperation: From exchange of information to strategy and implementation
- Sectors should first talk amongst themselves at the pan-Baltic level before engaging with other sectors
- Start with obvious topics and manageable tasks first
- The pan-Baltic MSP dialogue is a continuous process and not a one-off, so commitment from all partners is crucial



## **HELCOM/VASAB MSP Working Group**

- Focus on the policy level

## **VASAB**

- Main organiser of the pan-Baltic MSP dialogue

## **Expert groups**

- Composed of sector representatives, planners and experts

## **No “obvious” pan-Baltic sectoral organisations**



## **Expert groups:**

- Needs-based, ad hoc, focus on specific topics
- Deal with specific questions so that results (e.g. joint positions) can be produced within a short time
- Include sector representatives, sector experts, planners (possibly members of the HELCOM/VASAB WG) and a representative of the environment sector (ecosystem approach)
- No country representation, but issue-led representation
- Coordinated by VASAB
- Have TORs (agreed with VASAB) and set a timetable
- Results are reported back to the HELCOM/VASAB WG by the spokesperson; new issues emerging at HELCOM/VASAB level are also fed back into the groups



## **Expert groups:**

- Choose a spokesperson
- Should have some continuity with respect to members (need time to get to know one another and “grow” as a group)
- Groups and topics change, but the process remains the same
- Expert groups can decide to organise workshops, commission reports, instigate projects, or link up with existing projects
- Expert groups therefore need a budget

## **MSP conference**

- Expert groups supported by a conference every 2-3 years (in line with new developments and phases of MSP)

# Suggested themes for expert groups



## Could focus on specific topics, methods, tools etc.

- Data
- Siting decisions (criteria) in OWF and aquaculture
- MPA network
- Climate change
- Cultural heritage
- Socio-economic impacts of MSP decisions (land-sea integration)
- MSFD monitoring data integration
  
- Education for planners (MSP)
- Different approaches to MSP (just planners) – these two with international experts





- Limited experience with cross-border MSP consultation
- Unsure how to cooperate within the sector in cases of cross-border consultation
  - Informal exchange of opinions
  - Cross-border working groups
  - Topic-specific/relevance
- No consistent positions taken in cases of cross-border conflict
- Some experience with localised conflicts
- Potential benefits of cross-border consultation for sectors:
  - Development of joint positions
  - Similar demands/regulations
  - Greater efficiency
  - Making voice heard more effectively