Maritime Spatial Planning in the Baltic Sea

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Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area

CONVENTION
ON THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT
OF THE BALTIC SEA AREA, 1992
(HELSINKI CONVENTION)

The 1992 Helsinki Convention entered into force on 17 January 2000. This issue includes the amendments to its Annexes adopted by the Helsinki Commission in 2000, 2001, 2003 and 2007. These amendments are listed on page 43.

The 1992 Helsinki Convention entered into force on 17 January 2000

- First signed 1974
- Updated 1992
- Addressing all sources of pollution
- HELCOM is the governing body
- Regional policy-maker

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Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)

- Intergovernmental organisation

- 9 coastal countries & EU

- Marine area:
  - 415,000 km²

- Catchment area:
  - 1.72 million km²
    (4 x size of the sea area)
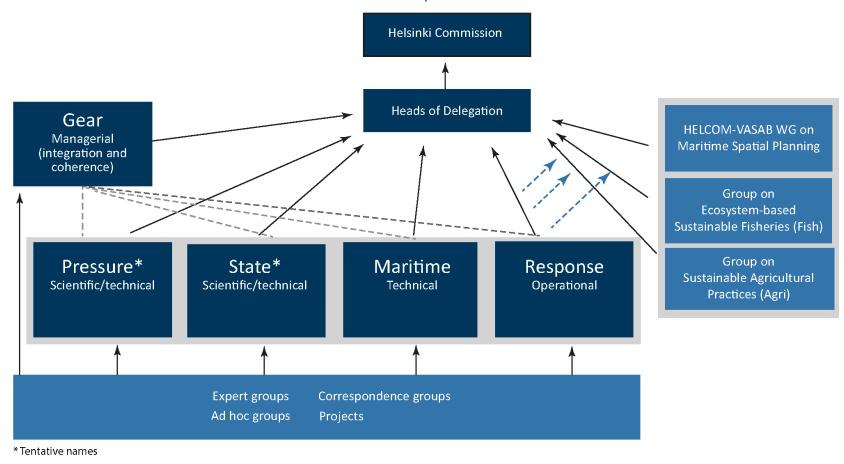 - 14 countries
  - 85 million people

Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

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Renewed HELCOM working structure
September 2014

Helsinki Commission

Heads of Delegation

Gear
Managerial (integration and coherence)

HELCOM-VASAB WG on Maritime Spatial Planning

Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries (Fish)

Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (Agri)

Pressure*
Scientific/technical

State*
Scientific/technical

Maritime
Technical

Response
Operational

Expert groups

Correspondence groups

Ad hoc groups

Projects

* Tentative names

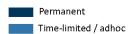## Full names of the permanent working groups

Gear = Group on the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach

State* = Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation*

Pressure* = Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area*

Maritime Working Group

Response Working Group

Permanent

Time-limited / adhoc

HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan

HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan

Helsinki Commission
Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

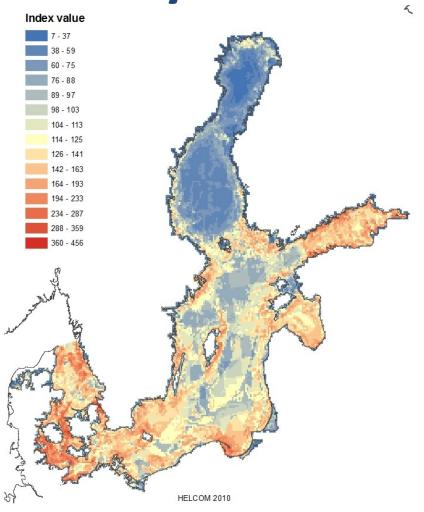**Aim: to achieve good environmental status by 2021**

- Based on an ecosystem-based approach to management of human activities

- Strategic goals and ecological objectives
    - Eutrophication
    - Hazardous substances
    - Biodiversity and nature conservation
    - Maritime activities

- Harmonized with other international agreements

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A busy sea? YES

- Shipping
- Marine Protected Areas
- Commercial fishery
- Aquaculture
- Energy production
- Oil rigs
- Extraction
- Dumping
- Pipelines
- Cables
- Recreation
- Tourism
- Cultural uses
- Military activities

- Degradation of the marine environment
- Competition for space
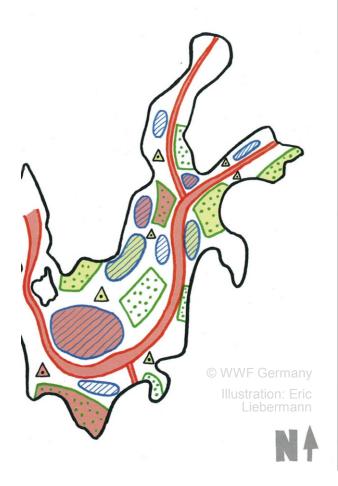- Conflicts
- Uncertain climate for investment

Index value
- 7 - 37
- 38 - 59
- 60 - 75
- 76 - 88
- 89 - 97
- 98 - 103
- 104 - 113
- 114 - 125
- 126 - 141
- 142 - 163
- 164 - 193
- 194 - 233
- 234 - 287
- 288 - 359
- 360 - 456

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What is MSP?

- **Mapping** ecological features and human activities
- **Planning** the sea – coordinating and balancing the spatial use of the sea between different sectors to know what activity, where and for how long will take place
- Creating **scenarios**
- Involvement of all **stakeholders**
- Looking into the **future**
- **Continuous**

Benefits of MSP

- **Protect the environment** – through early identification of impact and opportunities for multiple use of space.

- **Reduce conflicts** between sectors and create synergies between different activities.

- **Encourage investment** – by instilling predictability, transparency and clearer rules.

- **Increase coordination** – between administrations in each country, through the use of a single instrument to balance the development of a range of maritime activities.

- **Increase cross-border cooperation**

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Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration 2013

Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013-2020

- **to put national frameworks** for coherent Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in place by 2017;

- the ultimate goal is **to draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea region by 2020**, which are coherent across the borders and applying the ecosystem;

- to continue the work towards reaching common understanding and adopting **guidelines on ecosystem approach, transboundary consultation and public**;

- approach the development of effective and **efficient exchange of experience and knowledge** from all relevant disciplines taking into account the results from Maritime Spatial Planning practices and projects

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EU Directive for MSP (2014/89/EU)

- Adopted on 23 July **2014**
- Member States to transpose the Directive into national legislation and nominate the competent authority in charge of the implementation of MSP by **2016**
- Draw up national maritime spatial plans by **2021**

- **Ecosystem-based approach**
- **Cooperation on planning across borders is essential** - Regional Sea Conventions will have an important role

HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group

- Launched in **October 2010**
- Representatives from relevant ministries and authorities in **Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Sweden** and **European Union**
- To **ensure cooperation** for coherent regional MSP processes in the Baltic Sea

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MSP Principles

**10 Broad-Scale
MSP Principles
for the Baltic Sea**

1. Sustainable management
2. Ecosystem approach
3. Long term perspective and objectives
4. Precautionary Principle
5. Participation and Transparency
6. High quality data and information basis
7. Transnational coordination and consultation
8. Coherent terrestrial and maritime spatial planning
9. Planning adapted to characteristics and special conditions at different areas
10. Continuous planning

MSP Roadmap 2013-2020

MSP Roadmap 2013-2020

Goal: draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea Region by 2020 which are coherent across borders and apply the ecosystem approach

Guidelines

Guideline for the implementation of ecosystem-based approach in MSP

Guidelines on transboundary consultations, public participation and co-operation

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MSP Data Expert Group

- Launched in **2015**

- First meeting in October 2015

- **Members**: MSP experts/planners and Data/GIS/SDI (Spatial Data Infrastructure) experts

- **Task**: supports data, information and evidence exchange for MSP processes with regard to cross-border / trans-boundary planning issues

EUSBSR
EU STRATEGY
FOR THE BALTIC
SEA REGION

HORIZONTAL ACTION 'SPATIAL PLANNING'

- HELCOM and VASAB jointly promoting MSP in the Baltic Sea region

- Horizontal Action Spatial Planning "Encouraging the use of Maritime and Land-based Spatial Planning in all Member States around the Baltic Sea and develop a common approach for cross-border cooperation"

- Target to draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea Region by 2020/2021

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MSP and MSFD

- MSP: human uses of the marine environment (to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives)
- Contributes to achieving GES

- MSFD object to protect and preserve the marine environment
- Reach GES by 2020

Cross-references: human activities and pressures, ecosystem-based approach, adaptive management

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Thank you
for your attention!

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