



Baltic SCOPE

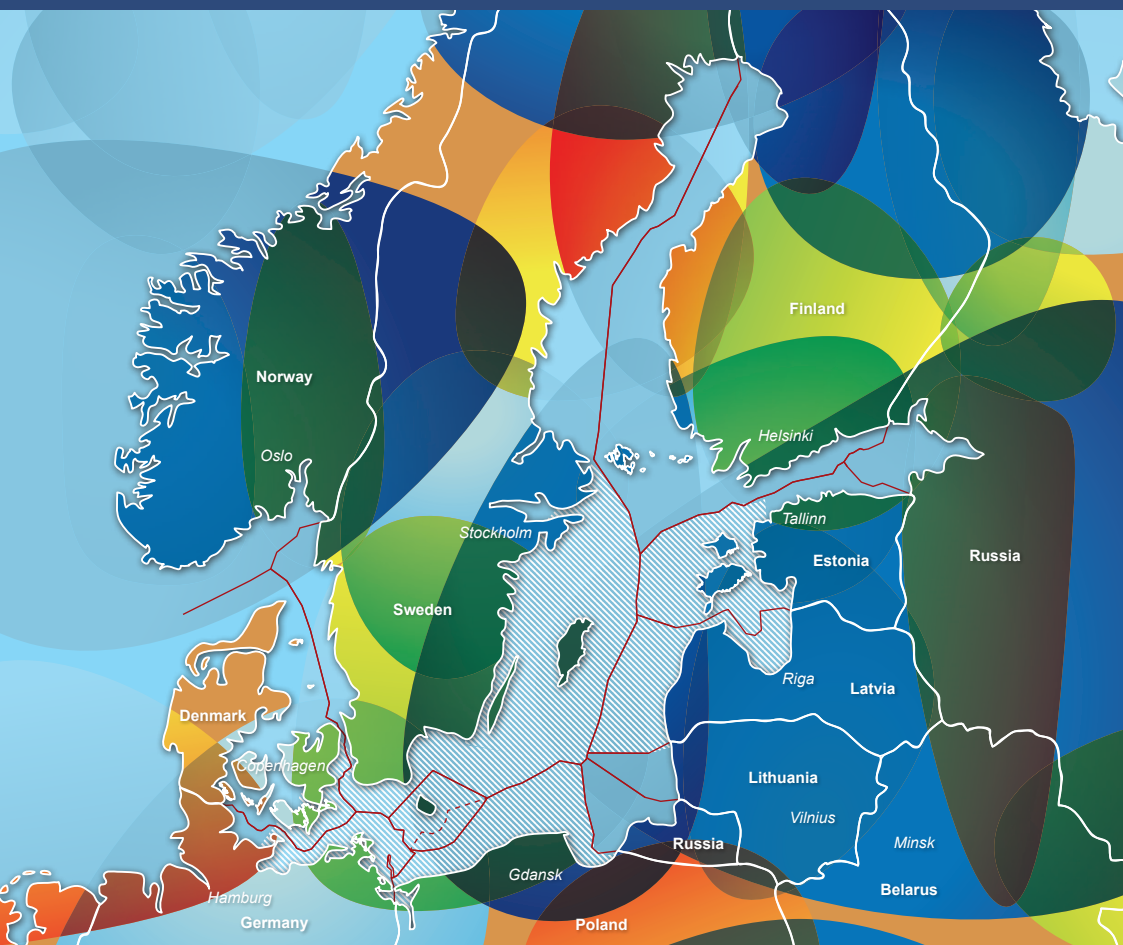
Towards coherence and cross-border
solutions in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans



EUROPEAN UNION
European Maritime
and Fisheries Fund

Recommendations

on Maritime Spatial Planning Across Borders





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**RECOMMENDATIONS ON
MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING
ACROSS BORDERS**

MARCH 2017

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RECOMMENDATIONS ON MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING ACROSS BORDERS

These are the recommendations on maritime spatial planning across borders from the Baltic SCOPE collaboration. The recommendations cover four aspects and four sectors:

Aspects

- transboundary cooperation
- processes
- planning evidence
- stakeholders and platforms

Sectors

- shipping
- fisheries
- energy
- environment

The recommendations are useful to planners, policy-makers and others dealing with maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea, and possibly beyond. Our aim is to make future work easier, more effective and efficient.



The recommendations are based firmly on our joint experience, the problems and needs we explored whilst working together towards coherence and cross-border solutions in Baltic maritime spatial plans, dealing with real issues. The recommendations were compiled in a comprehensive drafting process with all parties involved.

The sector recommendations were formulated based on input from ministries and agencies responsible for the shipping, fisheries, energy and environment sectors, along with their scientific experts on the topics.

For each recommendation, there is a named target group.

These recommendations reflect the views of the Baltic SCOPE collaboration and not necessarily the views of each separate organization in the collaboration.

*With wishes of an even better Baltic future,
The Baltic SCOPE collaboration*





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RECOMMENDATIONS

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

PROBLEMS AND NEEDS



In order to facilitate transboundary collaboration in maritime spatial planning (MSP) and for national authorities to achieve a closer alignment of their national plans, partners in the Baltic SCOPE collaboration developed four sets of recommendations, dealing with:

- Transboundary cooperation
- Process
- Planning evidence
- Stakeholders & Platforms





TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION

1. Where appropriate, planning authorities should draw attention to pan-Baltic and bilateral issues at the national political level to deal with conflicting national interests that cannot be solved through informal dialogue between planners.

Target groups: policy-makers, planning authorities and ministries

2. Planning authorities should strengthen cooperation with sectorial agencies, which act as contact points to international decision organs, including the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission - Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) and Visions and Strategies Around the Baltic Sea (VASAB) at the regional sea level, and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and The International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) at the global level.

Target group: planning authorities

3. Planning authorities should develop a more symbiotic relationship with sector authorities, and the respective sector authority should involve the planning authorities if there are spatial implications in sector negotiations across borders.

Target groups: planning authorities, maritime administrations and sector authorities

4. Develop a common policy framework that can contribute towards the initiation and development of common policy level agreements on environment-related aspects, such as renewable energy.

Target group: policy-makers

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

PROCESS



1. Ensure that sectoral authorities understand and agree with relevant MSP recommendations in order to promote the successful implementation of MSP.

Target groups: planning authorities and sector authorities

2. Map transboundary synergies and conflicts, so planners can identify which areas require special attention.

Target groups: planning authorities and maritime administrations

3. Apply experiences from conflict management in other areas to MSP.

Target groups: planning authorities and process managers

4. Apply recognized risk assessment methods.

Target group: planning authorities





PLANNING EVIDENCE

1. Apply and develop common approaches for assessing and evaluating the cumulative impact of human activities on the marine environment.

Target group: planning authorities

2. Develop guidelines or criteria for social, economic and environmental impact assessment procedures for MSP.

Target group: research

3. Develop pan-Baltic criteria, based on international guidance, outlining safety distances between offshore installations, fairways, routes and TSSs.

Target group: policy-makers

4. Establish what planning evidence is required within a transboundary context and share data widely to increase knowledge on MSP planning processes, particularly in relation to MSP projects, Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and Environmental impact assessment (EIA).

Target groups: planning authorities and data hosts

5. Include an analysis in transboundary perspective in all national MSP actions and topics.

Target group: planning authorities

6. Planning authorities should use the three checklists on the ecosystem-based approach developed in Baltic SCOPE when starting up and doing maritime spatial planning.

Target group: planning authorities

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

STAKEHOLDERS & PLATFORMS



1. Establish the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group as a permanent forum for networking and sharing knowledge and experience, to ensure close cooperation of planning authorities.

Target group: policy-makers

2. Find appropriate forms to contact and mobilize commercial stakeholders and NGOs in transboundary MSP, to enhance knowledge exchange and consultation.

Target group: planning authorities

3. Involve sectoral experts and sectoral authorities early, to avoid conflicts and obtain transboundary coherent plans.

Target group: planning authorities

4. Develop an early warning system to alert and create awareness of potential transnational conflict areas for planning authorities and sector representatives.

Target group: planning authorities

5. Organize lots of informal meetings with coffee and cake, because informal meetings are crucial in building understanding, trust and solutions.

Target group: planning authorities







**SECTORAL
RECOMMENDATIONS**

ENERGY

PROBLEMS AND NEEDS



A central problem within the energy sector is a lack of transnational coordination regarding the national planning of renewable offshore energy installations, and cumulative assessment of their potential impact on the environment and other sectors. The Baltic SCOPE collaboration identified a number of transboundary and pan-Baltic needs regarding the energy sector, including:

- the development of a Pan Baltic long-term picture on renewable offshore energy,
- the need to consider existing or approved infrastructure and plans of neighbouring countries as well as potential cumulative effects on the environment and impacts on other sectors,
- the development of cross-border gates for linear infrastructure.

In order to increase the impact of project recommendations, action is needed at the planning level and on behalf of the energy sector. The implementation of these recommendations should be considered by policy-makers and in on-going and future MSP research and development projects.





RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Develop a pan Baltic long-term picture on renewable offshore energy – needs, capacity, other sectors’ needs, impacts, etc.

Target groups: policy-makers, research, energy sector and planning authorities

2. Take into consideration existing or approved infrastructure and plans of neighbouring countries as well as the potential cumulative effects on the environment and other sectors of the combined development.

Target group: planning authorities

3. Aim to develop joint cross-border gates for linear infrastructure in MSP, such as power lines, data cables, pipelines.

Target group: planning authorities

4. Notify concerned countries early on about spatial plans and projects with transnational impact.

Target group: planning authorities



ENVIRONMENT

PROBLEMS AND NEEDS



A central challenge for the environment sector is the fragmented knowledge regarding marine conservation values and procedural and organizational gaps between management, planning and assessments at transnational, national and regional levels. The Baltic SCOPE collaboration identified a number of transboundary and pan-Baltic MSP needs regarding the environment sector, including:

- the need for common knowledge of the values of ecosystems in the Baltic Sea usable in MSP – for example green infrastructure/blue corridors,
- the need for harmonized cross-border approaches on cumulative impact assessments with reference to Good Environmental Status as defined by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive,
- the need for process integration between MSP and the management of the marine environment including the development of the MPA-network, marine protected areas network.

In order to increase the impact of project recommendations, action is needed by responsible planning and environmental authorities. The implementation of these recommendations should be considered by policy-makers and in on-going and future MSP research and development projects.





RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Map and highlight areas of high ecological value across the Baltic Sea. Create value criteria that can be harmonized across countries.

Target groups: research and development projects, HELCOM and national marine data institutions

2. Apply and develop common approaches to assess cumulative pressures and impacts of human activities on the marine environment.

Target groups: research and development projects and the HELCOM regional cumulative tool to implement marine policies

3. Improve the assessment of ecological coherence of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) network in the Baltic Sea and identify potential areas for designation of MPAs.

Target groups: research and development projects, HELCOM and national marine data institutions

4. Develop a methodology to apply Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) descriptors and indicators for assessment of impacts within MSP related SEA and EIA procedures.

Target groups: environmental authorities, HELCOM and the EU

5. Elaborate criteria to apply the precautionary principle in regulating sea uses through MSP.

Target group: planning authorities

6. Neighbouring countries should cooperate in the process of planning and in management of cross-border marine protected areas.

Target groups: planning authorities and environmental authorities

7. Provide continuous access to and build a base for comprehensive and reliable data and information, knowledge and expertise, on cross-border protected areas.

Target groups: planning authorities and the HELCOM regional MPA database

FISHERIES

PROBLEMS AND NEEDS



The Baltic Sea is one resource and we fish in it together. In Baltic SCOPE, fisheries was identified early in the process as an important transboundary issue given the diversity of target species, gears and fishing activities within the sector. Two main areas can be distinguished as transboundary spatial issues within the fisheries sector:

- **Fish Habitat:** The Baltic Sea is one resource where fish stocks nurse and spawn across national borders.
- **Fishing Activities:** The Baltic Sea is heavily fished and various perspectives and needs are defined by their relation to the habitat. All national fishing fleets are required to follow the EU's Common Fisheries Policy and have access to shared transboundary fishing grounds as long as quota restrictions placed on certain species in the area are respected.

The transboundary nature of fisheries in the Baltic Sea region has influenced the recommendations below, outlining the need for joint approaches and a consistent and transparent cross-border dialogue between key stakeholders in the fisheries sector.





RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Jointly identify essential fish habitat, including spawning, nursery and growth areas, for the whole Baltic Sea for species of interest to fisheries.

Target groups: national agencies responsible for fisheries data collection and processing, and ICES

2. Joint planning evidence of fishing activities should be provided through ICES. Discuss and agree with ICES on the methodology to improve the usability of aggregated data for national maritime spatial planning.

Target groups: policy-makers, planning authorities and the ICES Workgroup on Spatial Fisheries Data

3. Inform other countries about areas in their exclusive economic zone that are of national fishing interest to your country.

Target group: planning authorities

4. Show awareness of other countries' fisheries interests in your maritime spatial plan, such as their fishing grounds, routes and ports.

Target group: planning authorities

5. Fisheries should be considered from a dynamic perspective both over time and space, as conditions and important areas will change over time. It is also important to have a sea basin perspective in mapping and impact assessment of fisheries.

Target group: planning authorities

SHIPPING

PROBLEMS AND NEEDS



Large areas designated to offshore wind farms, and other alternative energy installations, are currently the biggest challenge in relation to the shipping sector. It is important that planners assess the potential impacts on existing marine traffic routes and navigational safety when planning new offshore developments. The Baltic SCOPE collaboration identified a number of transboundary and pan-Baltic MSP needs regarding the shipping sector, including:

- ensuring the coherence of shipping lanes centre-lines across national borders,
- utilising shared guidelines and recommendations to ensure safety at sea for shipping and navigation,
- planning authorities taking future sectorial developments into account when designating spatial needs for the respective sector.

In order to increase the impact of project recommendations, action is needed both at the planning level and on behalf of the shipping sector. The implementation of these recommendations should be considered by policy-makers and in on-going and future MSP research and development projects.





RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Countries should take each other's shipping routes into consideration in MSP and strive for cross-border coherence by aligning shipping routes at the border, using the centre-line.

Target groups: planning authorities and sector authorities

2. Cross-boundary MSP should ensure safety at sea for shipping and navigation through the integration of common safety guidelines and regulations into national plans. This should include criteria for safety distances between offshore installations and shipping routes, based on IALA-recommendations (Involvement of maritime authorities within MSP) and IALA-guidelines (Navigational Safety within Marine Spatial Planning) that are to be approved in 2017. Requirements for ensuring collision-friendly installation design should also be considered, for example for offshore turbines.

Target groups: policy-makers, planning authorities and sector authorities

3. Existing shipping lanes with major international traffic flow and IMO Routing Measures should only be rerouted when the current route is proven unsuitable; potential rerouting should be addressed in cooperation with other affected countries when of transnational concern. Upon rerouting, planners should find the best possible alternative route and take potential impacts on other sectors into account, for example fishing grounds, environmentally sensitive areas, etc.

Target groups: planning authorities and sector authorities

4. Shipping interests in MSP should be classed according to their importance in international trade, passenger routes or national significance.

Target groups: planning authorities and sector authorities

5. When carrying out traffic analysis, also take into consideration small vessels without an Automatic Identification System (AIS) or a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS).

Target groups: planning authorities and sector authorities



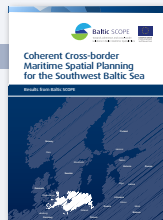


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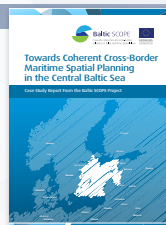
LIST OF THE PRODUCTS PREPARED DURING THE BALTIC SCOPE COLLABORATION:



Recommendations
on Maritime Spatial Planning Across Borders



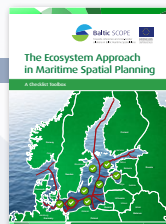
Coherent Cross-border Maritime Spatial Planning for the Southwest Baltic Sea - Results from Baltic SCOPE



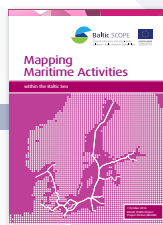
Towards Coherent Cross-Border Maritime Spatial Planning in the Central Baltic Sea - Case Study Report From the Baltic SCOPE Project



Lessons Learned: Obstacles and Enablers When Tackling the Challenges of Cross-Border Maritime Spatial Planning - Experiences from Baltic SCOPE



The Ecosystem Approach in Maritime Spatial Planning - A Checklist Toolbox



Mapping Maritime Activities within the Baltic Sea



Evaluation and Monitoring of Transboundary Aspects of Maritime Spatial Planning - a Methodological Guidance



Development of a Maritime Spatial Plan: The Latvian Recipe

Get them at www.balticscope.eu



Joint results achieved by cooperation between the authorities responsible for Maritime Spatial Planning in the Baltic Sea Region with support of regional and research organizations.

Swedish Agency
for Marine and
Water Management



Baltic SCOPE

Towards coherence and cross-border solutions in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans



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