

Marine Spatial Planning Experiences from Sweden & the Baltic Sea

Policy and institutional frameworks

Stakeholder engagement

Challenges

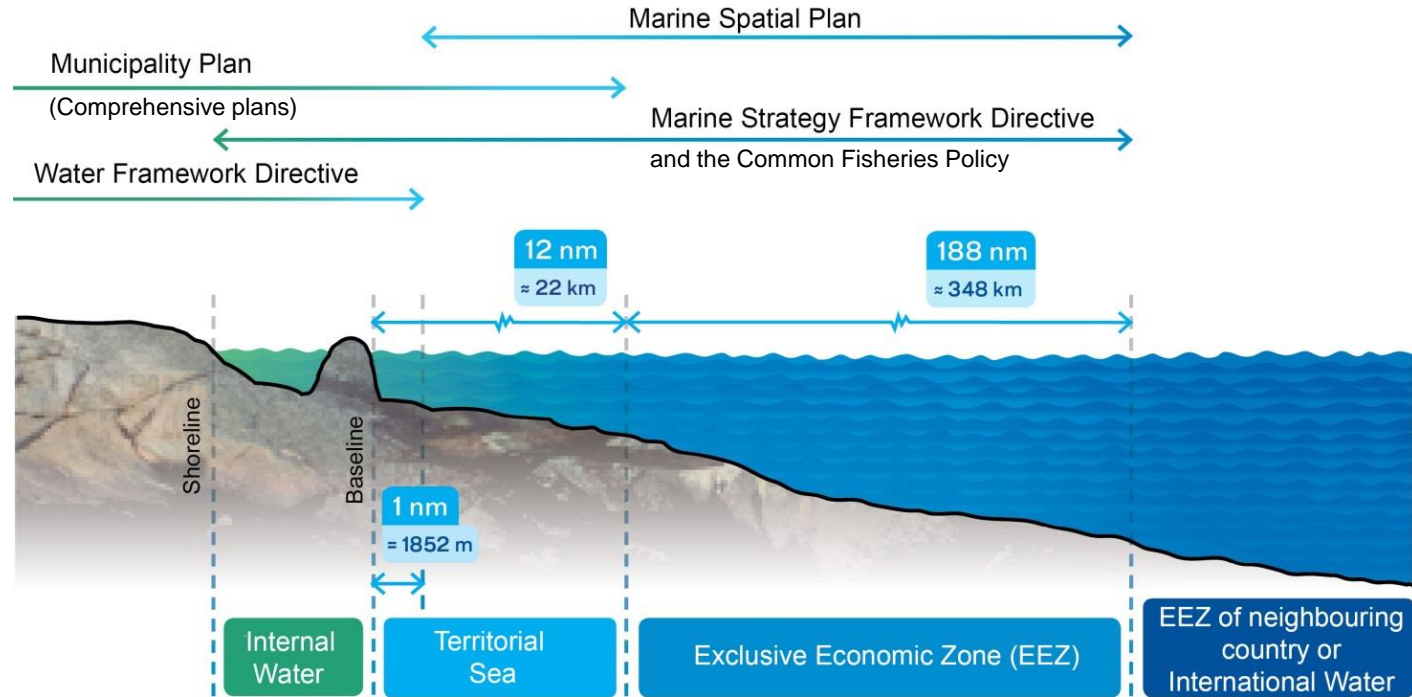
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Swedish Agency
for Marine and
Water Management

EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive 2014 – a framework for European MSP

- MSP a tool for implementing the EU's integrated maritime policy
- Blue growth + good environmental status ► sustainable development and growth in the maritime sectors, while applying the ecosystem approach
- Important to consider the coastal zone and land – sea interaction
- Broad participation of stakeholders
- Cross-border cooperation
- Revision at least every ten years

Boundaries for MSP



- Different MSP boundaries affecting the EU MSP Directive relating to planning of the coastal zone
- Overlapping plans in Swedish MSP

European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

- The first macro-regional strategy in Europe, approved in 2009
- Agreement between the Member States of the EU and the European Commission to strengthen cooperation between the countries bordering the Baltic Sea. Objectives:

Saving the sea

Connecting the region

Increasing prosperity



Enablers in the Baltic Sea Region

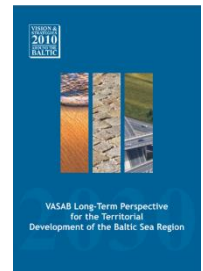
HELCOM

- Regional sea convention laying the basis for MSP
- Leads the work for a shared view on the status of the marine environment and the main pressures at a sea basin scale
- Developing and agreeing on common actions to manage human activities – *Baltic Sea Action Plan*



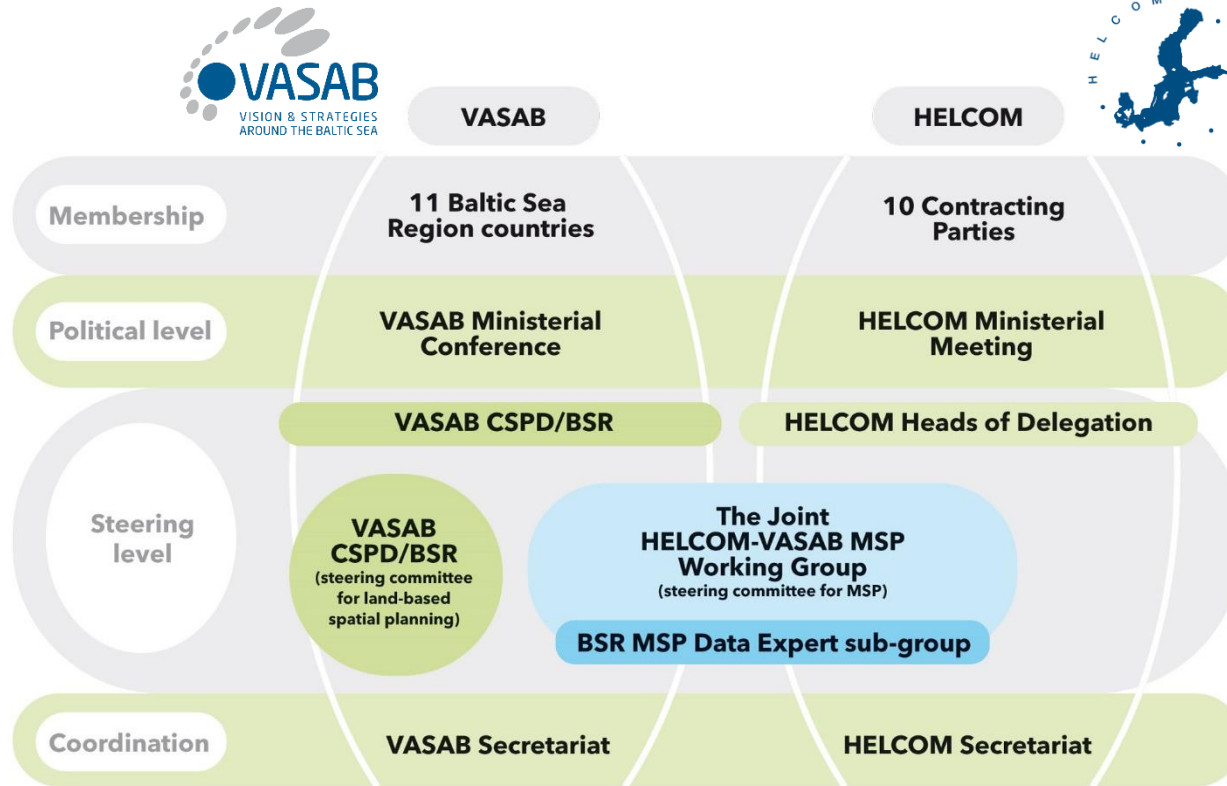
VASAB

- Vision and strategies around the Baltic Sea – intergovernmental multilateral co-operation of 11 countries of the Baltic Sea Region in spatial planning and development
- *Long Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region* – an effort to define important challenges with trans-national relevance and to illustrate how to deal with them



Enablers in the Baltic Sea Region

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- VASAB and HELCOM are jointly coordinators of the EUSBSR Horizontal Action “Spatial Planning” including MSP



Baltic Sea MSP cooperation



2010 – Policy level cooperation:
Helcom/Vasab joint MSP working group

- MSP Principles
- Regional Baltic MSP roadmap 2013 – 2020
- Guidelines for the implementation of the ecosystem approach in MSP
- Guidelines on transboundary consultations, public participation and co-operation
- ▶ 2020 – MSP coherent across borders and based on the ecosystem approach

Regional Baltic MSP roadmap

2013 – 2020

Steps included in the roadmap

1. Intergovernmental cooperation on MSP
2. Public participation
3. Ecosystem approach in MSP
4. Information and data for MSP
5. Education for MSP
6. National and Baltic Sea regional frameworks for MSP
7. Evaluation and follow-up

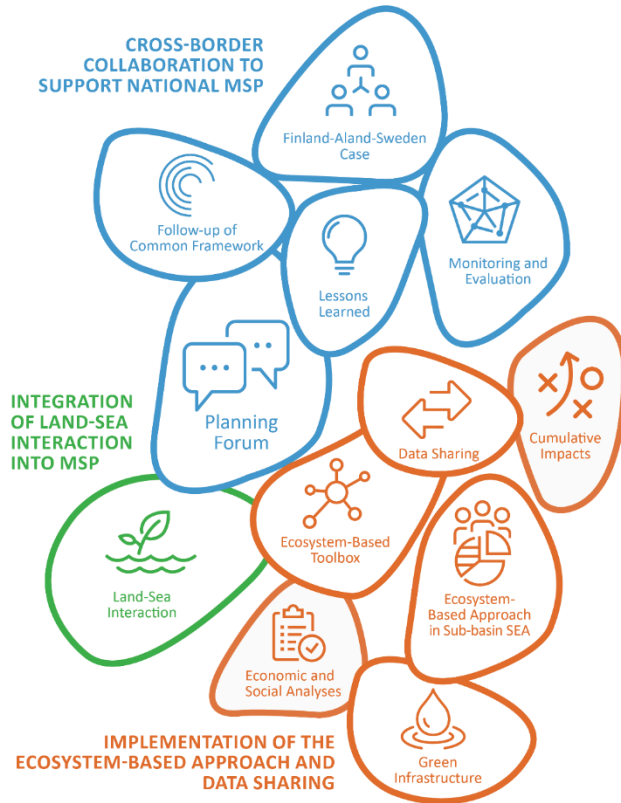
Marine Spatial Planning in the Baltic Sea Region

Characterised by multilevel cooperation for the shared Baltic Sea

- Policy level
 - National representatives in Baltic HELCOM/VASAB joint MSP Working Group
 - National representatives in European MSP Expert Group
- Project driven ▶ experience building for planning authorities and stakeholders:



Pan Baltic Scope MSP Project



- Supporting implementation of the EU MSP Directive
- Building upon previous work and filling the gaps – working on the recommendations from Baltic SCOPE
- Share best practices and build new knowledge
- Develop tools and approaches at pan-Baltic level
- Concrete cross-border activities
- Planning Forum – our central platform for collaboration

Challenges in the Baltic Sea

- MSP in an already existing marine governance system
- Coordination – different time schedules (but with the same target year)
- Sovereign nations with domestic targets, goals, priorities and interests
- Different planning systems (from strategic and guiding to detailed and binding)
- Not aligned data and information
- Unsolved issues



Stakeholder engagement

- The MSP projects gives the opportunity for cooperation and informal dialogue with all neighboring countries

Baltic SCOPE

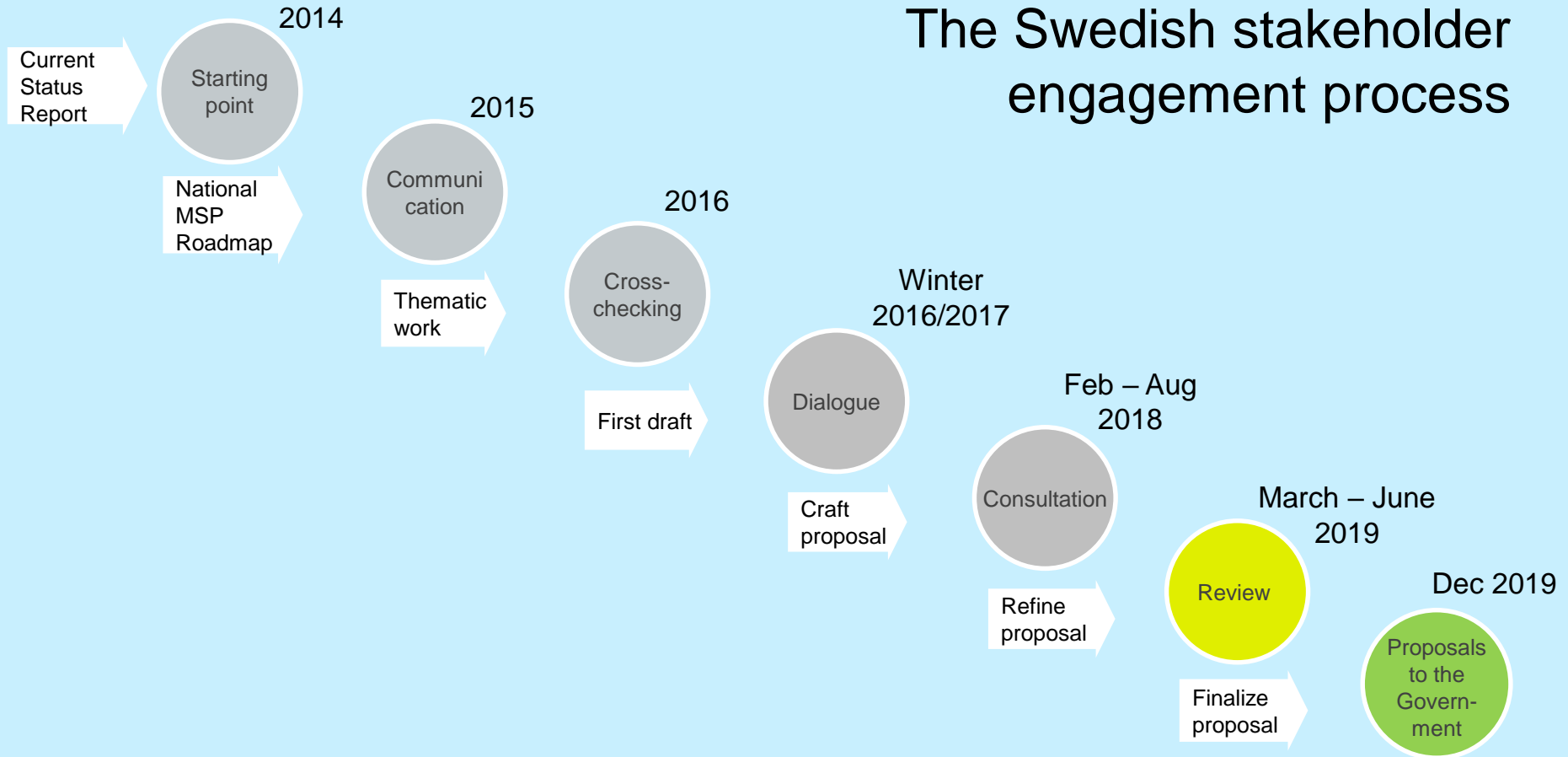
- A thematic, process-oriented approach focusing on four main sector areas: energy, environment, fisheries and shipping
- Emphasis on involving sector stakeholders outside the project in an interactive manner
 - in topical work and analysis of cross-sector interactions
 - in exploring how national stakeholders can be mobilized and involved in transboundary MSP

Stakeholder engagement

- Formal consultation with neighbors in accordance with HELCOM-VASAB guidelines on transboundary consultations
- Communication of impact assessment is necessary for stakeholder engagement
- Analysis of ecosystem services – a bridge between environmental impact assessment and socio-economic analysis



The Swedish stakeholder engagement process



Some challenges in the MSP process

- The future perspective – how to make visionary and future-oriented plans with the existing conditions (ongoing management, legal conditions)
- To develop and anchor a new planning system
- To design the documents in an easily understandable way, to easily describe complex relationships
- Successful communication of the implications and consequences of the plans – crucial for MSP to serve as a good basis for political decisions

Some challenges in impact assessment

- It is a challenge to develop impact assessments for strategic planning at a national, cross-border and transnational scale, with major uncertainties
- To assess both local effects and potential impacts at a wide geographical scale
- Impacts on land or in the sea – the system analysis
- To design true reference alternatives
- The environmental impact that comes from land, to explain and capture what MSP can affect, the spatial aspect of MSP

Some more Swedish MSP experiences

- Early draft plans for early dialogue (prior to formal consultation) is effective to create commitment and preparation for upcoming consultation
- Everything cannot be solved in the first planning cycle – identify issues that need to be investigated and which should be dealt with in the next round
- Find the right way and level to describe the consequences of the plan proposals
- The authority responsible for MSP needs to have an active planning group – it is the meeting and exchange with stakeholders that generate a substantial part of the planning

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