"Fishing for Space" workshop findings on MSP and Fisheries in the Baltic Sea

This document presents the findings of the "Fishing for space" workshop (14 November 2013 in Vilnius, Lithuania), organized by HELCOM in cooperation with the PartiSEApate project, Baltic Sea RAC and ICES.

Consultations and involvement of fisheries in MSP

The participation of relevant stakeholders is of the utmost importance to obtain support for a process in which they have frontloaded their knowledge and experience;

For stakeholders to participate it is important that they have the resources to do so; independent funding to increase their possibilities to attend relevant meetings and to participate on an equal footing (level playing field / fair play) with others;

The party responsible for the MSP process should:

- create a transparent process enabling participants to plan their participation in advance;
- create a clear pattern of expectations enabling parties to contribute and provide feedback in a meaningful manner;
- consider the possibility of independent facilitation during the process to assure impartial leadership.

Fisheries Data for MSP

The data and information requirements for MSP are the spatial extent, resolution and distribution of fishing activities accounting for the behavior of fishers. Data on essential fish habitats and connectivity are also required.

Data must be accessible through quality controlled harmonized systems. It is unlikely that data collection alone will provide cost effective requirements for MSP, so data and monitoring can be supplemented by modeling. The fish to be considered should be threatened and endangered species and commercially exploited species.

A lack of international access to anonymised VMS is blocking progress. The regulation (DCF) states that VMS data can be only used for "fisheries advice". This should be interpreted as fisheries management with ecosystem approach (including MSFD and MSP) at large.

More information is required for recreational fisheries and mariculture developments.

Essential fish habitats in MSP

- Essential fish habitats should be taken into account by MSP as they are valuable both for fisheries and nature conservation. Good environmental status of habitats will lead to stronger fish stocks.
- To successfully support the conservation of essential fish habitats in a marine spatial planning context, taking into account ecosystem services and their values, further integration is needed under relevant management objectives.
- The transboundary dimension of essential fish habitats is important due to the fact that most commercial species utilize both open sea and coastal zone, thus requiring integration between marine spatial planning and coastal and estuarine management.
- Data and knowledge on essential habitats should be made available/accessible among the countries, including field data, data from spatial modelling and industry data. Already available data on existing human uses, threats to and vulnerability of habitats should be extended with comprehensive maps identifying essential fish habitats, their importance for different life-stages of fish, and the ecosystem services provided by these habitats.
- Essential fish habitats should be treated as priority areas and are part of the EBM approach.

Integration of Fisheries and MSP in practice

- The involvement of the fisheries sector in MSP should be prepared and facilitated through good practices such as pilot projects, cross-border fora, discussions and data compilations.
- Fisheries spatial measures (e.g. seasonal, gear type) could be discussed as part of MSP i.a. in order to enhance fish resources.
- Synergies between fisheries and other activities and potential co-uses should be emphasised and to this end be mapped integrated into the planning process.
- Recreational fisheries need to be taken into account in MSP. Dividing recreational fisheries into commercial tourist and local population (subsistence) components might be beneficial for MSP purposes.

Other specific matters raised by stakeholders addressing area-specific pressures, e.g. chemical stress, should be taken into account on case-by-case basis.

Background, participants and organizers of the "Fishing for Space" workshop

The one day "Fishing for Space" workshop (14 November 2013 in Vilnius, Lithuania), where this document was produced, was attended by 48 participants representing different national Ministries, Industry, NGOs as well as other interested actors. Please find the background and programme of the workshop as Attachment 1.

The workshop was part-funded by technical assistance for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Horizontal Action SPATIAL (led by HELCOM & VASAB).

The workshop was co-organized by the following institutions and initiatives:

Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) www.helcom.fi

International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) www.ices.dk

Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council (RAC) www.bsrac.org

Interreg Project PartiSEApate www.partiseapate.eu

Attachment 1

FISHING FOR SPACE workshop

14 November 2013

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Vilnius, Lithuania

Where are we now?

Like in many other fields, the Baltic Sea is at the forefront of knowledge and management of sea resources including fisheries, as well as the emerging field of marine/maritime spatial planning (MSP).

The joint Baltic Sea MSP Working Group was established by the Helsinki Commission or HELCOM (HELCOM Ministerial Meeting in May 2010) and VASAB (VASAB CSPD/BSR in May 2010) in 2010 to provide a forum for the intergovernmental discussions on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Baltic Sea region. The regional MSP principles adopted in 2010 based on earlier work within HELCOM, VASAB as well as initiatives by the European Commission have provided a starting point for the discussions and policy developments within the group. A road map for further work in the region, drafted by the group, was adopted at the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 3 October 2013.

Fishing is an activity that contributes substantially to the economy and is central in the cultural heritage of the Baltic Sea. The Baltic Sea is a region which boasts the lowest number of overfished stocks in European waters. However, albeit at the forefront, Baltic fisheries are not yet entirely sustainable and not fully integrated into the overall maritime planning so there is a clear need to work more in this direction.

The importance of fisheries has been increasingly recognized in MSP. Knowledge is the necessary element that underlies all sound management decisions, but its road presents many challenges. Once knowledge is gained, the information needs to be used and often practice does not completely follow theory. The fishing sector needs to be involved in the planning process if spatial measures that affect fisheries, nature conservation and other uses of the sea are to be decided.

Why do we need this workshop?

Fishing for Space tries to close the remaining gap between the fisheries sector and the MSP sector. It does so by presenting case studies from around the Baltic and confronting them with developed cases in other seas. Then it attempts at stimulating the dialogue and underlining the common ground among all participants, with the aim of defining a road to the future.

What are we trying to accomplish?

Besides an increased cooperation network between actors involved in MSP and fisheries the workshop aims at defining an initial set of recommendations to be passed on to DG MARE's event that is to be held on the following day (15 November 2013). The aim is to create such recommendations through collaborative work.

FISHING FOR SPACE workshop

14 November 2013

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Vilnius, Lithuania

Workflow of the workshop

The aim of the workshop is to draft a 1-2 page recommendation document on MSP and fisheries, as well as to stimulate ideas for further work. The meeting is organized in two distinct discussion sessions and one final review session. The first session sets the general note of the workshop and introduces the following group work, while the second session explores one of the key topics in greater detail. The third session reviews the products of the first two and concludes the meeting.

Step I: Initial drafting

The morning session will be kicked-off with 4 keynote speeches, detailing case studies of interactions between fisheries and other sea uses.

Following that, the participants will be divided into 4 groups. Each group will be discussing one of these 4 key aspects of the interaction:

- Essential fish habitats in MSP
- Consultation of fishery stakeholders
- Seasonality in fisheries and planning (spatial + temporal dimension of MSP)
- Fishery data challenges in MSP

Each group should be formed by about 10 participants, carefully trying to increase the diversity in background composition among members of the group. Each group should elect a rapporteur, which will have the task to illustrate the group discussion results to the rest of the audience. The keynote speakers will act as moderators/leaders of the discussions.

During the summary session, we will draw common ground between all groups and start drafting the recommendations to be passed on to the next day meeting. A first draft based on these discussions will be circulated to participants in print form.

Step II: Adjustments and polishing

In the afternoon the participants will have time to reflect on the draft recommendations. In addition, Fisheries knowledge and data necessary for MSP will also be the focus of an afternoon session. The session will be kicked-off with introductions on 3 case studies addressing different ways to tackle data challenges and use them.

Following this, there will be time to comment and discuss the draft recommendations once more.

Step III: Agreement on outcome

During the last part of the meeting we will have a draft ready, both on screen and in printed form, and we will go through it for one final round of agreement as the workshop outcome.

FISHING FOR SPACE workshop

14 November 2013

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Vilnius, Lithuania

Workshop timeline

9.30 – 9.45 **Welcoming words by the organizers**

9.45 – 10.45 **Keynote speeches**

- A.H. IJlistra (Dogger bank)
- Ulf Bergström (Swedish EEZ)
- Jochen Lamp (Pomeranian Bight)
- Mark Dickey-Collas (Data challenges)

Coffee break

11.00 – 12.00 **Group work**
Participants will be divided into four work groups to discuss interactions between fisheries and MSP (backgrounds submitted in advance)

Lunch break

13.00 – 13.40 **Presentations of group work results**
Each group will elect a representative and illustrate to the audience the summary of their discussions

13.40 - 14.00 **Summary of group work and early draft of recommendations** to be passed on to the following DG Mare MSP/Fishery & Aquaculture workshop (15 November 2013)

14.00 - 14.45 **Special session on fisheries data challenges- Introductory presentations**

- Andronikos Kafas (Scotmap/Scottish EEZ)
- Wlodzimierz Grygiel (Polish EEZ)
- Robert Aps (GAP2/Estonian EEZ)

Coffee break

15.00 – 15.30 **Extended discussion on Fisheries and MSP data challenges**

15.30 – 15.45 **PartiSEApate session** Questionnaire and directions

15.45 – 16.30 **Drafting and approval of recommendations**
Final remarks

20.00 – Joint dinner for participants, keynote speakers and organizers of the "Fishing for space" meeting and DG Mare MSP/Fishery & Aquaculture workshop organizers and keynote speakers at Crowne Plaza Hotel