The HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan and Marine Spatial Planning

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The Baltic Sea – Our common responsibility.
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- Introduction
- HELCOM Ecosystem-based approach to integrated management
- Marine Spatial Planning as a specific issue
A healthy marine environment

- Not only a resource base
- Intrinsic value as a global common good, indispensable to life itself
- Safeguards long term ecosystem functions
- Provides the full economic potential of marine areas
HELCOM Ecosystem Approach

- Ecosystem as the point of departure
- Overall vision, with clear environmental objectives and targets → basis for environmental requirements
- Best (not perfect) scientific knowledge
- Integrated management of human activities needed for implementation
- Ecosystem characteristics – regional Baltic approach
Helcom Baltic Sea Action Plan
15 November 2007

- Builds upon the ecosystem approach
  - Shared vision,
  - Goals, ecological objectives and targets for four priority areas
  - Specifies concrete actions
  - For nutrient pollution includes quantitative national emission targets
The spatial challenge

- Multiple uses of the marine environment
  - Limited space & competing uses
  - Increased interest in underwater resources and space
- How to safeguard environmental objectives and targets in all this?
- Which issues are of regional relevance?
Maritime activities and areas important to the ecosystem
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Regional Marine Spatial Planning?

- Joint long term spatial management of offshore/transboundary activities requiring:
  - Concrete spatial problems
  - Clarification of diverse regimes (UNCLOS, IMO regulations, EU directives and HELCOM measures)
  - Regional (opposed to national) collection of spatial information (GIS)
  - An end-user (HELCOM?)
Existing policy framework

- MPAs - HELCOM RECOMMENDATION 15/5 (1994)
- Maritime Traffic – HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration (2001)
- HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan:
  - Develop by 2010, as well as test, apply and evaluate by 2012, in co-operation with other relevant international bodies, broad-scale, cross-sectoral, marine spatial planning principles based on the Ecosystem Approach
  - Recommendation 28E/9 on development of broad-scale marine spatial planning principles
- EU Maritime Policy (Blue Book)
  - National implementation of integrated marine spatial planning
  - 2008: proposed guidelines for national policies and development of a road map for marine spatial planning
Needs: Regional spatial data

- More focus on regional statistics with a spatial dimension is needed
- E.g. European database initiatives (SEIS including WISE etc) are ways to correct this, but nevertheless focused on status environment?
- Indicators of socio-economic development and environmental status should be shown in the same information system!
Future perspectives

• Possible integrated regional scale system of spatial allocation ("zoning") providing:
  – Joint framework for planning diverse issues e.g. Marine Protected Areas and IMO Routing Measures

• Based on a future set of joint regional principles (HELCOM BSAP, VASAB, EU Maritime Strategy)

• Transparent participatory process
Conclusions

• Marine Spatial Planning implements the ecosystem approach
• Implies coherent spatial management beyond present-day focus on single issues (MPAs, IMO routeing measures)
• Needs regional spatially relevant information (HELCOM AIS)
• Needs an identified user
• One policy tool among others
Thank you

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