



# Introduction and background to the Ecosystem Approach in MSP

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**It's a cake!**  
**Not a cookie!**



# What in general

The Ecosystem Approach is a **strategy** for the **integrated** management of land, water and living resources that promotes **conservation** and **sustainable use** in an **equitable** way, with the aim to ensure that human use of ecosystems is kept within the **limits of ecosystems' capacity** to regenerate with regard to their structure, dynamics and function.

Rooted in 12 principles (The “Malawi principles”) – CBD 1998



## The Ecosystem Approach

# How in general

The application of the Ecosystem Approach entails a **holistic** systems perspective on **marine ecosystem** and its interaction with **human activities**, adoption of the **precautionary** approach and **adaptive** management.

It demands a continuous development of **knowledge** on ecosystems and their use, mapping and assessment of **ecosystem services** and the values they provide as well as horizontal and vertical **participation** and **cooperation** between planners, researchers and sea use sectors.



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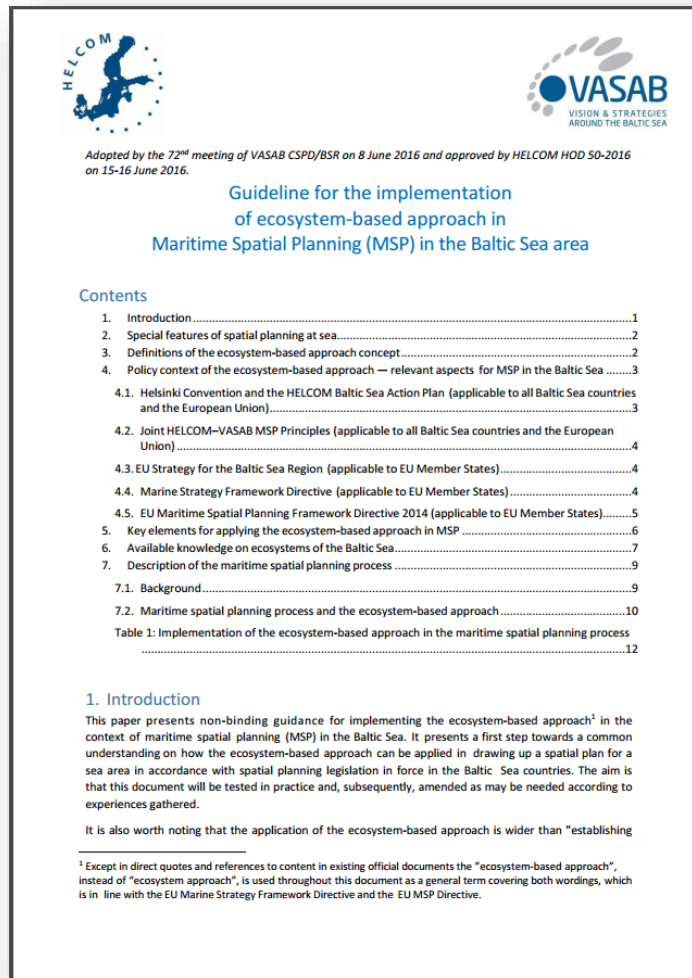
# What in MSP

*The Ecosystem Approach in MSP is a holistic approach with focus on:*

- **preserving/restoring** (structure and functioning of) **marine ecosystems**;
- maintaining **ecosystem services** to support human needs;
- providing **spatial solutions** for management of **human activities** in a way that is compatible with achievement of **good environmental status** and the capacity of marine ecosystems to respond to human-induced changes.



# How in MSP



*It is considered in the planning process through:*

Adaptations in planning process through:

- Best Knowledge and Practice
- Precaution
- Alternative development
- Identification of ecosystem services
- Mitigation
- Relational Understanding
- Participation and Communication
- Subsidiarity and Coherence
- Adaptation

*And integrated assessments*

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** which links to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA)- for projects

**Socio-economic assessment** including identification and evaluation of Ecosystem Services

# WHY



Administrative answer:

- because the MSP-directive says so  
and the MSFD does too...

**WE HAVE TO**

Other answer:

- Because it improves planning  
and we lack extra planets

**WE SHOULD**

*MSP directive: "The application of an **ecosystem-based approach** will contribute to promoting the sustainable development and growth of the maritime and coastal economies and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources."*

*MSF directive: "An **ecosystem-based approach**, whereby human activities affecting the marine environment will be managed in an integrated manner promoting conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way of oceans and seas."*