



#### Introduction and background to the Ecosystem Approach in MSP

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**#BalticMSP** 

## 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 humaninduced changes.



### How in MSP



#### 1. Introduction

This paper presents non-binding guidance for implementing the ecosystem-based approach<sup>1</sup> in the context of maritime spatial planning (MSP) in the Baltic Sea. It presents a first step towards a common understanding on how the ecosystem-based approach can be applied in drawing up a spatial plan for a sea area in accordance with spatial planning legislation in force in the Baltic Sea countries. The aim is that this document will be tested in practice and, subsequently, amended as may be needed according to experience gathered.

It is also worth noting that the application of the ecosystem-based approach is wider than "establishing

<sup>1</sup> Except in direct quotes and references to content in existing official documents the "ecosystem-based approach", instead of "ecosystem approach", is used throughout this document as a general term covering both wordings, which is in line with the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the EU MSP Directive.

#### *It is considered in the planning process through:* Adaptations in planning process through:

Baltic SCOPE

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

- 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



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### 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."