BALTIC 2nd FORUM MSP

W 2/2 Applying ecosystem approach (HELCOM-VASAB)

The Ecosystem Approach made simple –A Checklist Toolbox from the Baltic SCOPE-project

Jan Schmidtbauer Crona
Senior Analyst
Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management

VASAB VISION & STRATEGIES AROUND THE BALTIC SEA

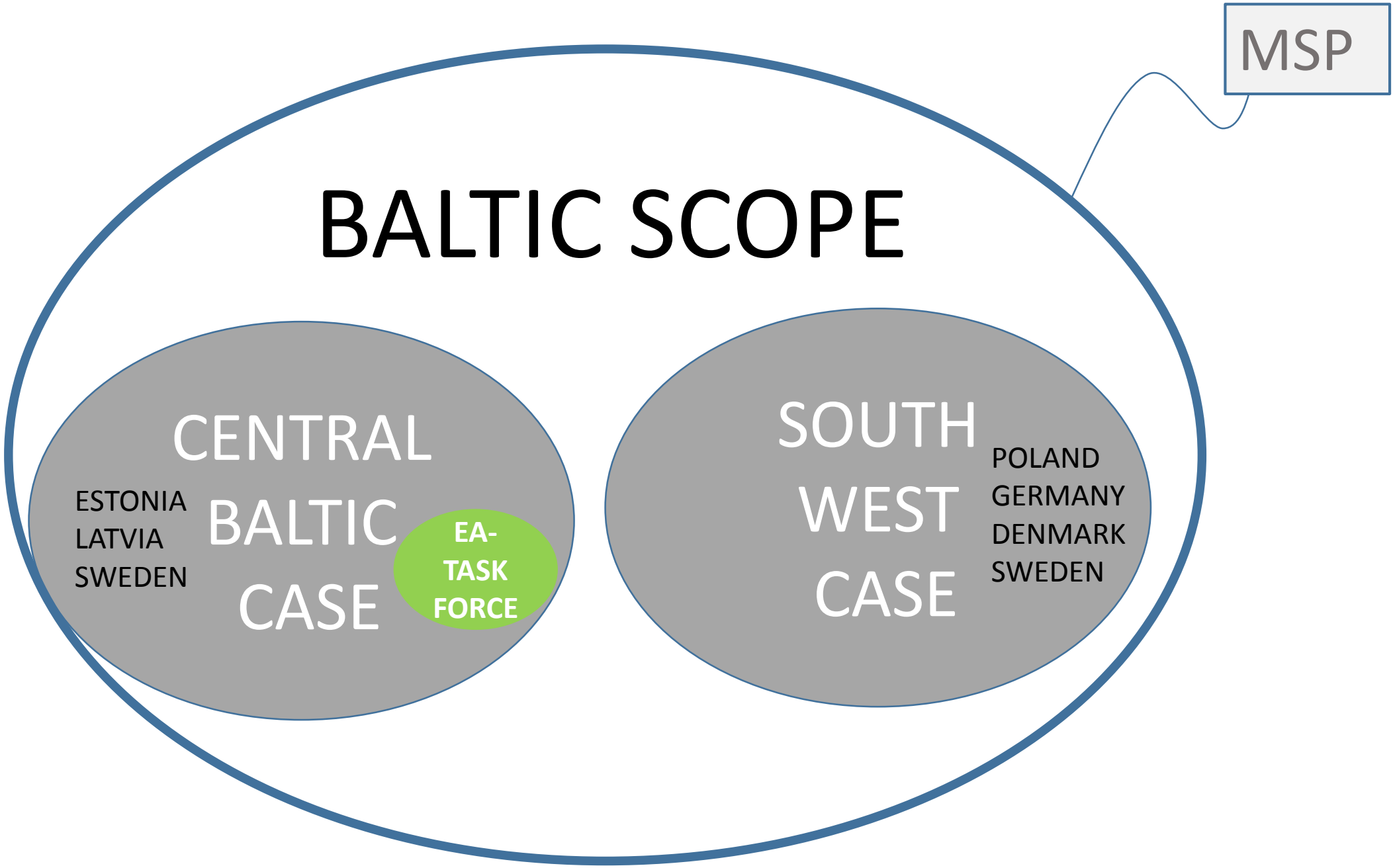
Baltic SCOPE Towards coherence and cross-border solutions in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans

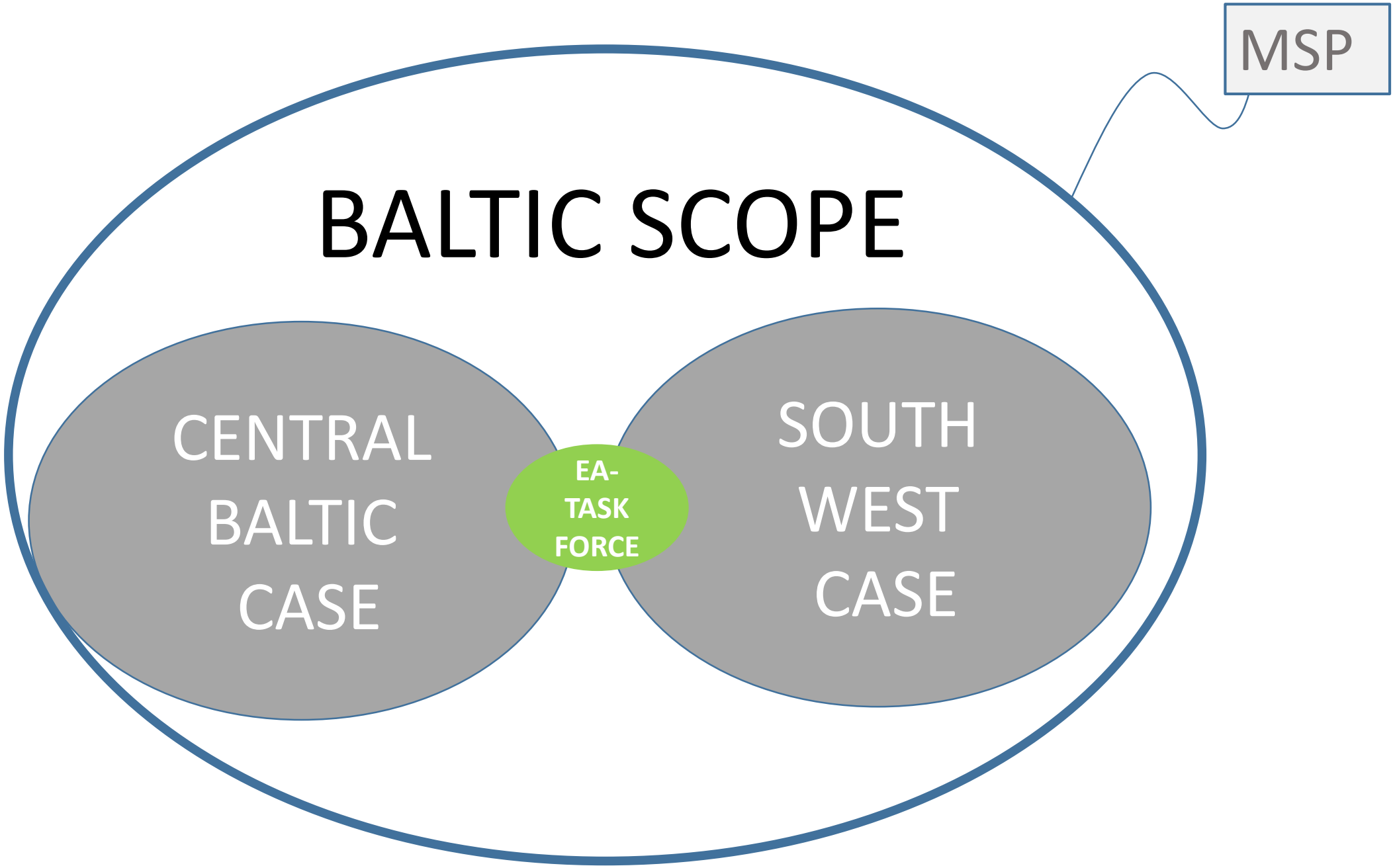
EUROPEAN UNION European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

ICES CIEM

#BalticMSP

PLEASE HELP ME! HAND ME THE TOOL!


MSP
BALTIC SCOPE
CENTRAL BALTIC CASE
ESTONIA
LATVIA
SWEDEN
EA-TASK FORCE
SOUTH WEST CASE
POLAND
GERMANY
DENMARK
SWEDEN


MSP
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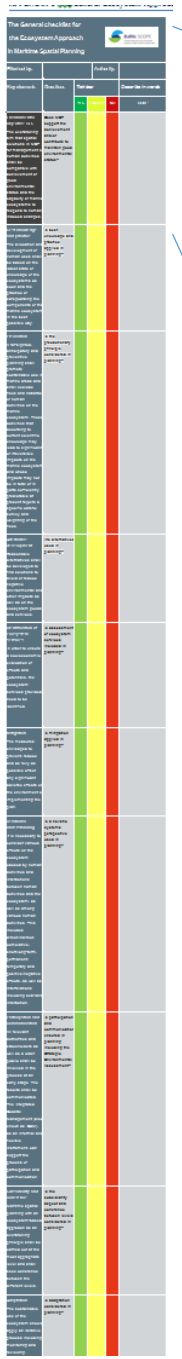
SOUTH WEST CASE

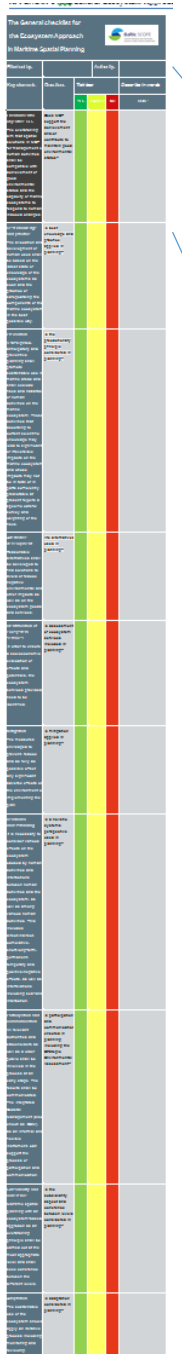
The General Checklist



The General checklist for the Ecosystem Approach in Maritime Spatial Planning

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

Filled out by:		Authority:	
Key elements	**Questions**	***Tick box***	***Describe in words***
		YES / PARTLY / NO	HOW?
Environmental objective GES The overarching aim that spatial solutions in MSP for management of human activities shall be compatible with achievement of good environmental status and the capacity of marine ecosystems to respond to human-induced changes.	Does MSP support the achievement and/or contribute to maintain good environmental status?		



Does MSP support the achievement and/or contribute to maintain good environmental status?

Key elements	Questions	*Tick box*			*Describe in words*
		YES	PARTLY	NO	HOW?
Environmental objective GES The overarching aim that spatial solutions in MSP for management of human activities shall be compatible with achievement of good environmental status and the capacity of marine ecosystems to respond to human-induced changes.	Does MSP support the achievement and/or contribute to maintain good environmental status?				

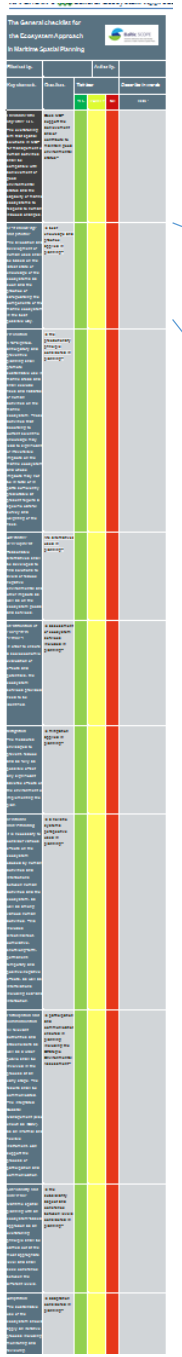
Listen to your GES

"Groove is in the GES" - Deee-lite

"My GES will go on" - Celine Dion

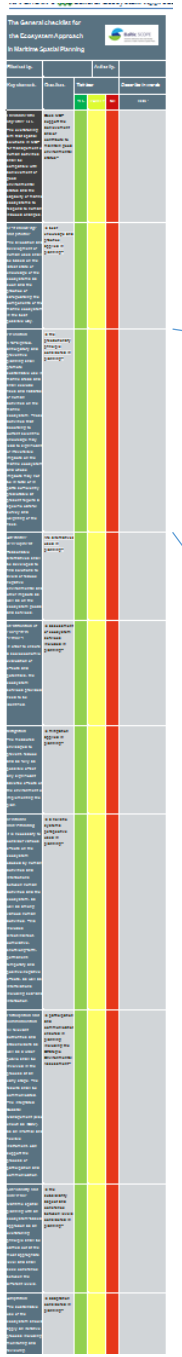
"Don't Go Breaking My GES" - Elton John & Kiki Dee

"Shape of my GES" - Sting



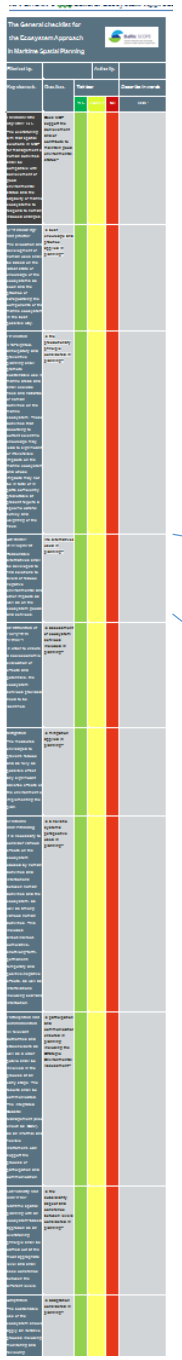
Is best knowledge and practice applied in planning?

Best knowledge and practice The allocation and development of human uses shall be based on the latest state of knowledge of the ecosystems as such and the practice of safeguarding the components of the marine ecosystem in the best possible way.	Is best knowledge and practice applied in planning?				



Is the precautionary principle considered in planning?

Precaution A far-sighted, anticipatory and preventive planning shall promote sustainable use in marine areas and shall exclude risks and hazards of human activities on the marine ecosystem. Those activities that according to current scientific knowledge may lead to significant or irreversible impacts on the marine ecosystem and whose impacts may not be in total or in parts sufficiently predictable at present require a specific careful survey and weighting of the risks.	Is the precautionary principle considered in planning?				

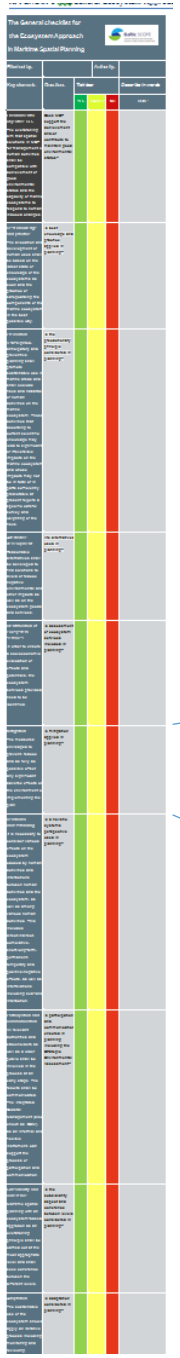


Are alternatives used in planning?

Alternative development Reasonable alternatives shall be developed to find solutions to avoid or reduce negative environmental and other impacts as well as on the ecosystem goods and services.	Are alternatives used in planning?				

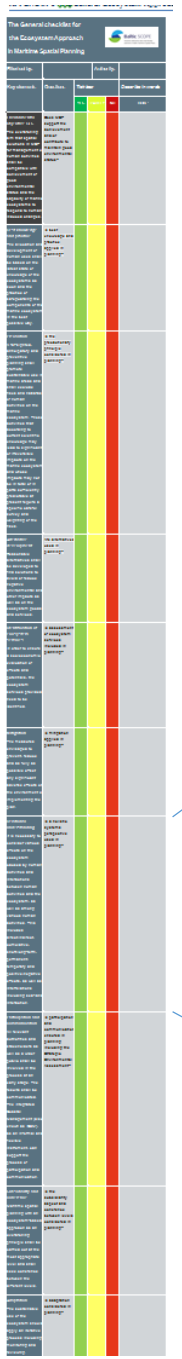
Is assessment of ecosystem services included in planning?

Identification of ecosystem services In order to ensure a socioeconomic evaluation of effects and potentials, the ecosystem services provided need to be identified.	Is assessment of ecosystem services included in planning?				



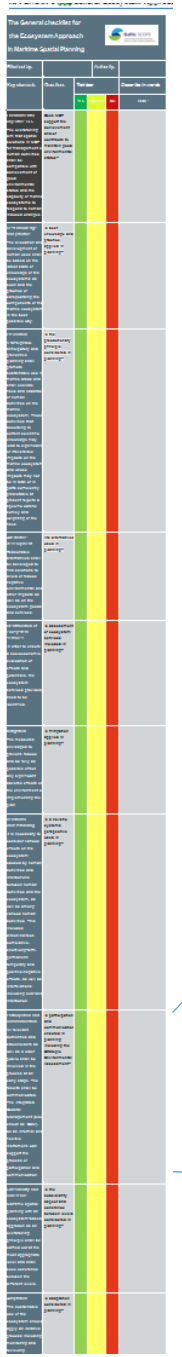
Is mitigation applied in planning?

Mitigation The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan.	Is mitigation applied in planning?				



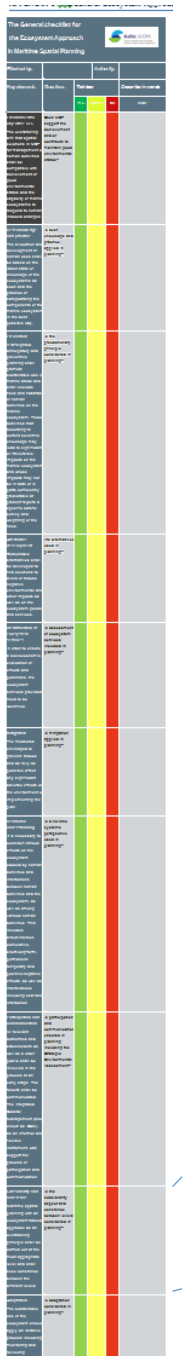
Is a holistic systems perspective used in planning?

Relational understanding It is necessary to consider various effects on the ecosystem caused by human activities and interactions between human activities and the ecosystem, as well as among various human activities. This includes direct/indirect, cumulative, short/long-term, permanent/ temporary and positive/negative effects, as well as interrelations including sea-land interaction.	Is a holistic systems perspective used in planning?				



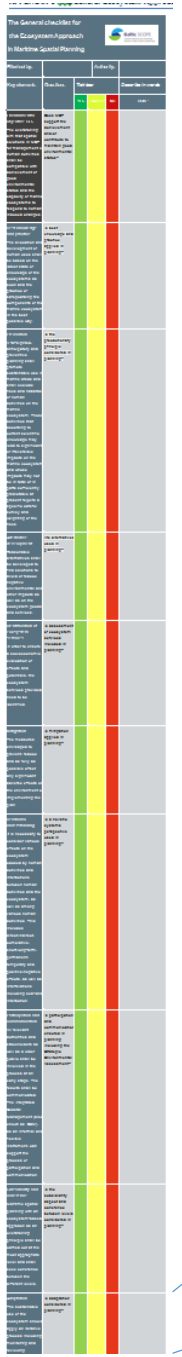
Is participation and communication ensured in planning including the Strategic Environmental Assessment?

Participation and communication All relevant authorities and stakeholders as well as a wider public shall be involved in the process at an early stage. The results shall be communicated. The Integrated Coastal Management (also known as ICZM), as an informal and flexible instrument, can support the process of participation and communication.	Is participation and communication ensured in planning including the Strategic Environmental Assessment?				

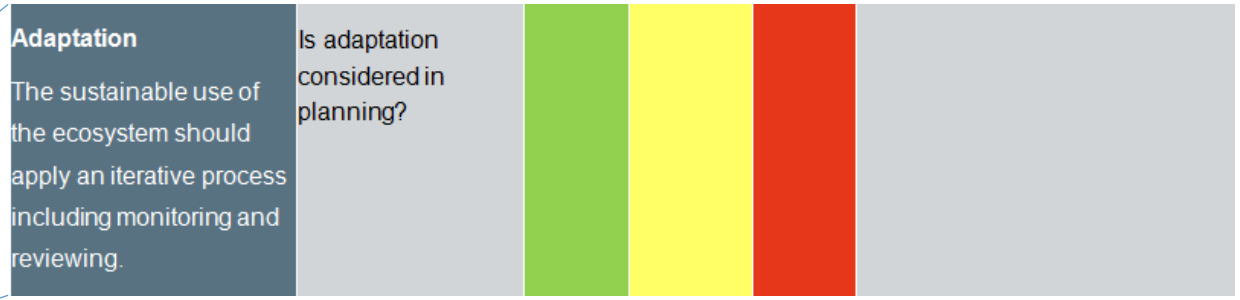


Is the subsidiarity aspect and coherence between levels considered in planning?

Subsidiarity and coherence Maritime spatial planning with an ecosystem-based approach as an overarching principle shall be carried out at the most appropriate level and shall seek coherence between the different levels.	Is the subsidiarity aspect and coherence between levels considered in planning?				



Is adaptation considered in planning?



RESULTS: Baltic Scope partners responses to the

General checklist for the Ecosystem Approach in Maritime Spatial Planning

Key elements	Questions	Answer	Conclusions
Environmental objective GES	Does MSP support the achievement and/or contribute to maintain good environmental status?	**YES** **Not Yet Denmark** Objectives for preserving of marine ecosystem and maintaining of GES are set.	NEEDED: -common indicators GES -BSR/transboundary perspective to GES
Best knowledge and practice	Is best knowledge and practice applied in planning?	**YES** **Not Yet Denmark** All countries apply comprehensive existing data collection as well as additional research / mapping/ analysis	All partners apply the best available knowledge, but is available knowledge enough? Do we have the same understanding of the best practice? No actual “best practice” yet
Precaution	Is the precautionary principle considered in planning?	**YES- Latvia, Sweden and Poland** **Partly Estonia & Germany** **Not Yet Denmark** Focus on cumulative assessments, and linked decision making with SEA for planning and EIA at project level	No really clear interpretation of the precautionary principle in MSP yet Seems to be different interpretation of the precaution principle and addressing the uncertainly

RESULTS: Baltic Scope partners responses to the

General checklist for the Ecosystem Approach in Maritime Spatial Planning

Key elements	Questions	Answer	Conclusions
Alternative development	Are alternatives used in planning?	**Yes- Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Sweden** **Partly- Germany** **Not yet Denmark** Scenarios and/or other planning alternatives	Alternatives are/will be used but in different ways and in different stages in planning
Identification of ecosystem services	Is assessment of ecosystem services included in planning?	**Yes, but in most cases method unclear** Latvia: Mapping as part of stocktaking and evaluated in SEA and Socio Economic Assessment	There is a common view that EES should be integrated in MSP.
Mitigation	Is mitigation applied in planning?	**YES** **Not Yet Denmark** Mitigation considered and SEA a tool to identify mitigation measures	There is a common view to mitigate negative impacts but need to define “mitigation” in MSP. Does it include what not to do and setting conditions for offsetting impacts.

RESULTS: Baltic Scope partners responses to the

General checklist for the Ecosystem Approach in Maritime Spatial Planning

Key elements	Questions	Answer	Conclusions
Relational understanding	Is a holistic systems perspective used in planning?	**Yes** **Partly Germany** **Not Yet Denmark** Applied by assessment of direct, indirect and cumulative impacts	SuperHolistic, multi MSP, assessment of human activities and ecosystem/cumulative effects would have to be done on a pan-Baltic scale
Participation and communication	Is participation and communication ensured in planning including the Strategic Environmental Assessment?	**Yes** **Not Yet Denmark** Stakeholder are actively engaged in MSP and SEA process in all countries	Common agreement that participation and communication should be carried out both with regard to setting planning objectives at an early stage in planning and the contents of the plans.
Subsidiarity and coherence	Is the subsidiarity aspect and coherence between levels considered in planning?	**Yes!** **Even Denmark** But the “fragmentation” of the planning system varies.	National solutions have to be applied to strengthen links between planning levels, and to address planning issues at the appropriate levels.
Adaptation	Is adaptation considered in planning?	**Yes!** The need to review the plans within a 10 year period is recognized.	Challenge for countries to have an updated plan. A question of national priorities and the requirements for reviewing the plans.

Does the General Checklist serve a purpose?

YES!

Does the General Checklist solve everything?

NO!

Is it a good start? YES!

The Planning Support Checklist

This “checklist” is actually a table to use in the planning process to identify potential synergies and conflicts and the their possible solutions. It is hence more of a guidance in planning. It was developed with the idea that it is in the actual planning where decisions on plan alternatives are taken.

SYNERGIES and CONFLICTS in relation to ENVIRONMENT

Aim: To proactively contribute to the implementation in the actual planning activities.

User/Target group: Those planning

When to use: The checklist should be used in the Maritime Spatial Planning process

Sector	Environment		
	Synergies Potential positive environmental impacts	Conflicts/Risks Potential environmental impacts	Recommendations in MSP Potential solutions
Shipping	Maritime safety will require safety distances to shore and physical infrastructure which may function as a buffer zone with regard to sensitive environment Travel through deep water routes (reduced squat effect) may, depending on the length of the route, reduce fuel consumption, thus reducing environmental and economic cost.	Intensively used shipping routes have negative impacts (disturbance, oil spills and other pollutants, noise etc.) on marine ecosystems, especially on areas of high ecological value Rerouting of shipping (e.g. Midsjö banks) may be an alternative to avoid spills of hazardous substances in sensitive environments.	• Ensure that correct safety zones are established in MSP. • Coordinate safety zones with neighboring countries. • Take into account future shipping trends and technologies • Identify, potential areas with high levels of ecological values and existing or potential protected areas according to national / international regulations • Identify shipping routes which may have negative impacts on the marine environment (protected birds, areas of high ecological value etc.). • Identify and assess possible spatial solutions. Which are the pros and cons of the alternatives? • Consider possible rerouting of ship traffic to deeper water based on energy efficiency studies. • Include the solutions in the SEA of the MSP and in the consultations with stakeholders • Inform neighbouring countries and IMO of the current MSP-discussion if relevant • Take into account current status of initiatives under development of international bodies like, inter alia, IMO, IALA, HELCOM which may influence MSP arrangements
Fisheries	Fish species are part of the marine ecosystem and depend on good environmental status (GES) of marine waters Sustainable use of fish stocks is part of a sustainable use of the seas Marine Protected Areas (MPA) - protection measures can improve fishing grounds, spawning areas, fish stocks in long term	Fishery has a major impact on fish stock of commercial fish. Fishery has changed the ecosystem in many respects over time. By-catch of fish, seals, harbour porpoise and birds may also have negative impacts. Impact on benthic habitats- Demersal trawling has potential negative impacts on benthic habitats Seals damage fishing gears and fish from fishing gear Marine Protected Areas (MPA) – can set limitations to fishing activities in short term	• Identify the possible win-win- areas for fish stock protection (spawning and nursery areas) and other ecological values. • Regulate fishing in fish spawning areas and gillnet fishing in important harbour porpoise areas • Identify possible measures to prevent trawling in sensitive coastal areas or other sensitive areas • Make sure any MPA is large enough and has functional protection (regulation of harmful activities)
Energy	Offshore Wind Farms (OWF) contribute to increase the share of renewable energy, towards fossil fuel independence and climate change mitigation. OWF can have a positive impact in biodiversity by: • creating sanctuaries for fish populations by limiting access of commercial fisheries and shipping activities • creating habitats, as artificial reefs, for benthic communities and predators including seals	Offshore Wind Farms: • Can be obstacles for migration/ access to feeding grounds of birds and bats • Their construction and dismantling works disturb certain species like harbour porpoise and may affect benthic habitats • Cable laying may damage shallow water habitats (but in most cases temporary impact) • Power cables may obstruct migration of certain magnetosensitive species • Risk of enabling migration of invasive species by introducing "stepping stone" hard bottom substrate	• Consider the long term perspective and understand OWF as an environmentally beneficial source of renewable energy • Identify areas where OWF can contribute as increasing biodiversity and protect against impact from fishing and shipping • Consider future technological improvement of OWF. Potential to combine floating OWF with protected areas • Avoid pile driving in sensitive areas and seasons • Avoid wind farms with dense positioning of turbines in important bird areas • Avoid cable trenching through sensitive bottom vegetation (sea grass) • Position cables with in-between separation to avoid synergetic electromagnetic fields • Assess cumulative effects of impacts on bird migration • Provide the most environmentally friendly solution (track option) to avoid lying down pipelines in sensitive / protected areas and plan the construction phase (which may be the most harmful to the environment) taking into account seasonal characteristics (spawning, nursery, migration periods etc. • Coordinate with neighbouring countries cross-border gates for linear infrastructure in MSP (power lines, data cables, pipelines).

The SEA-checklist (Strategic Environmental Assessment-checklist)

Aim: To contribute to harmonized SEA-application in Baltic SEA in MSP.

User/Target group: Those who order and those who carry out SEA in MSP

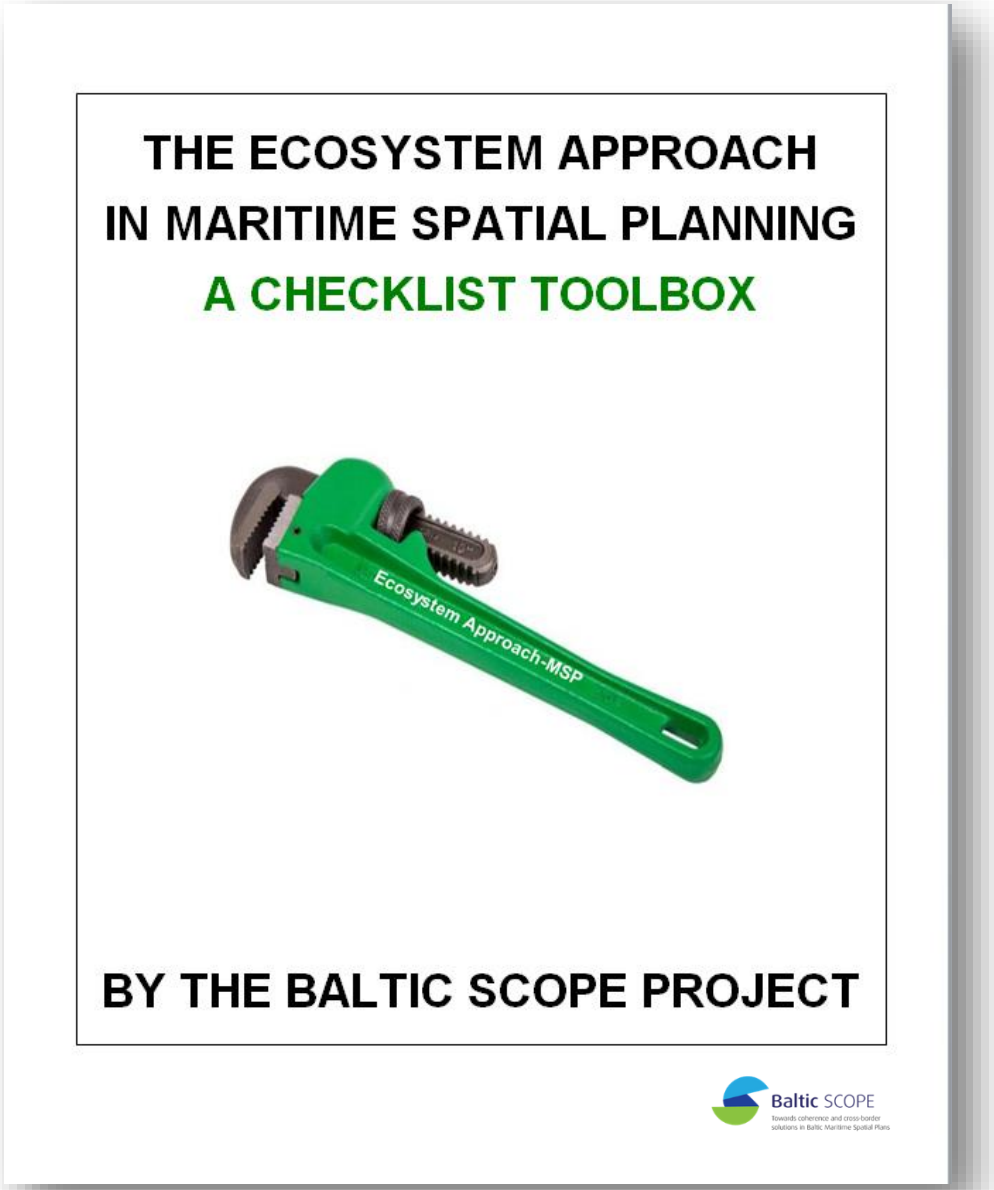
Timing: The checklist should be used while preparing for SEA and during the SEA-process as part of MSP

Input: From partners SEA-experiences, in MSP and other. Espoo consultations etc.

Checklist on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in Maritime Spatial Planning

Baltic SCOPE

Filled out by:		Authority:	
SEA Steps	**Questions**	***Tick box***	***Describe in words***
		YES / PARTLY / NO	COMMENTS
Screening Screening is the determination of whether SEA should be carried out or not. Legal requirements may require SEA for all national MSP.	Will SEA be carried out?		
Scoping Scoping involves identifying which environmental aspects are significant for the planning. That is the anthropogenic stressors and environmental receptors of concern. The predicted development of stressors over time is important (i.e. following the plan).	Is scoping carried out? Comments question: Which environmental aspects have been identified? Biodiversity Population Human health Fauna Flora Soil Water		

Read more about this in our report in March 2017

Thank You!