



**eMSP
NBSR**

Emerging Ecosystem-based
Maritime Spatial Planning
Topics in the North and Baltic
Sea Regions

Funded by: European Maritime and Fisheries Fund managed by CINEA
Project duration: 30 months: September 2021 – February 2024



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

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HELCOM



Aim of the project

The project will enable **MSP authorities and policymakers from the North and Baltic Sea Regions to reflect:**

- on current MSP practices, especially the MSP implementation,
- to learn effectively from each other,
- to collectively identify future problems and solutions.
- on ambitions and challenges for MSP stemming from policy developments under the EU Green Deal and other related EU initiatives.

Lead partner: Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)

Project partners:

Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the **Netherlands** (MINLNV)

Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management of the Netherlands (MIN IenW)

Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency of **Germany** (BSH)

Gdynia Maritime University (GMU) **Poland**

Danish Maritime Authority (DMA)

Regional Council of Southwest **Finland** (FI RCSW)

Government of **Åland** (FI GA)

Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM)

French Naval Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service (SHOM)

De Blauwe Cluster (BC) **Belgium**

The Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM)

VASAB Secretariat

Nordregio

Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)



Project topics

The project will generate new knowledge that is relevant for the North and Baltic Sea Region in **five key emerging topics** (project learning strands), each addressed by two cross cutting issues – **climate change and the EU Green Deal**

1. Ocean governance
2. Ecosystem-based approach
3. Sustainable blue economy
4. Monitoring and evaluation
5. Data sharing, ICT serving MSP



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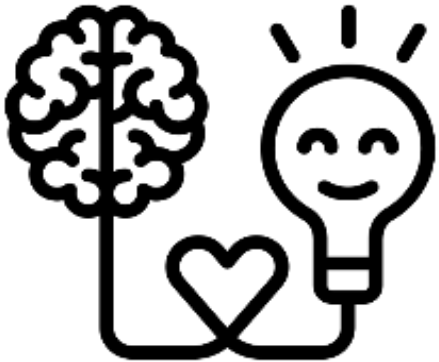
Learning Strand on Ecosystem-based approach in maritime spatial planning





Goal - Our Passion

We love Mother Earth and, especially our seas. We love dialogue and deliberation. We love systematic approaches and synergies. We love ecosystem services. We love creative solutions. We love sustainability. We love MSP. We think about the future.



The main goal of the LS is to enhance the ecosystem-based approach in MSP through:

- investigation of good practices,**
- further development of international legal and policy framework and**
- distribution of relevant knowledge for the North and Baltic Sea regions.**

How existing environmental legal and policy framework influences the development of national MSP?

- Reflection of various policies in national MSPs and their impact on the plans.
- Integration of principles, goals and targets set by international treaties in MSP.
- Public participatory process.

What is the environmental impact of MSPs?

- Evaluation of environmental impacts or anticipated mitigation effect of national MSPs.
- Assessment of MSP role in the achievement of Baltic Sea and North Sea environmental goals.
- Analysis of the role of environmental impact assessment in the drawing of national MSPs.
- Planning solutions of the highest anticipated environmental effect.

What is in future?

- Potential influence of the EU Green Deal priorities related to the environment.
- Ecosystem accounting & ecosystem services – national and transboundary application.
- Accounting for sustainable blue economy (SBE) targets in the application of EBA in MSP.





Objectives - Our Mission

We want to strengthen ecosystem-based MSP, see better integration of environmental considerations in actual planning, and promote synergies to protect the environment assuring sustainable social and economic development through MSP



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- A review of ecosystem-based approach application in national MSPs to reveal challenges and compile good practices.
- Identification of gaps in the existing international legal and policy framework which can be filled in based on the practical application of EBA in maritime spatial plans.
- Develop concrete recommendations supporting international legal and policy framework for application of EBA in maritime spatial planning, e.g. EBA guidelines, common ground for Strategic Environmental Assessment-framework.
- Establishing a framework for continuous science and policy dialog and mutual knowledge exchange in the North Sea and Baltic Sea regions.

Our case study baby “Casey”

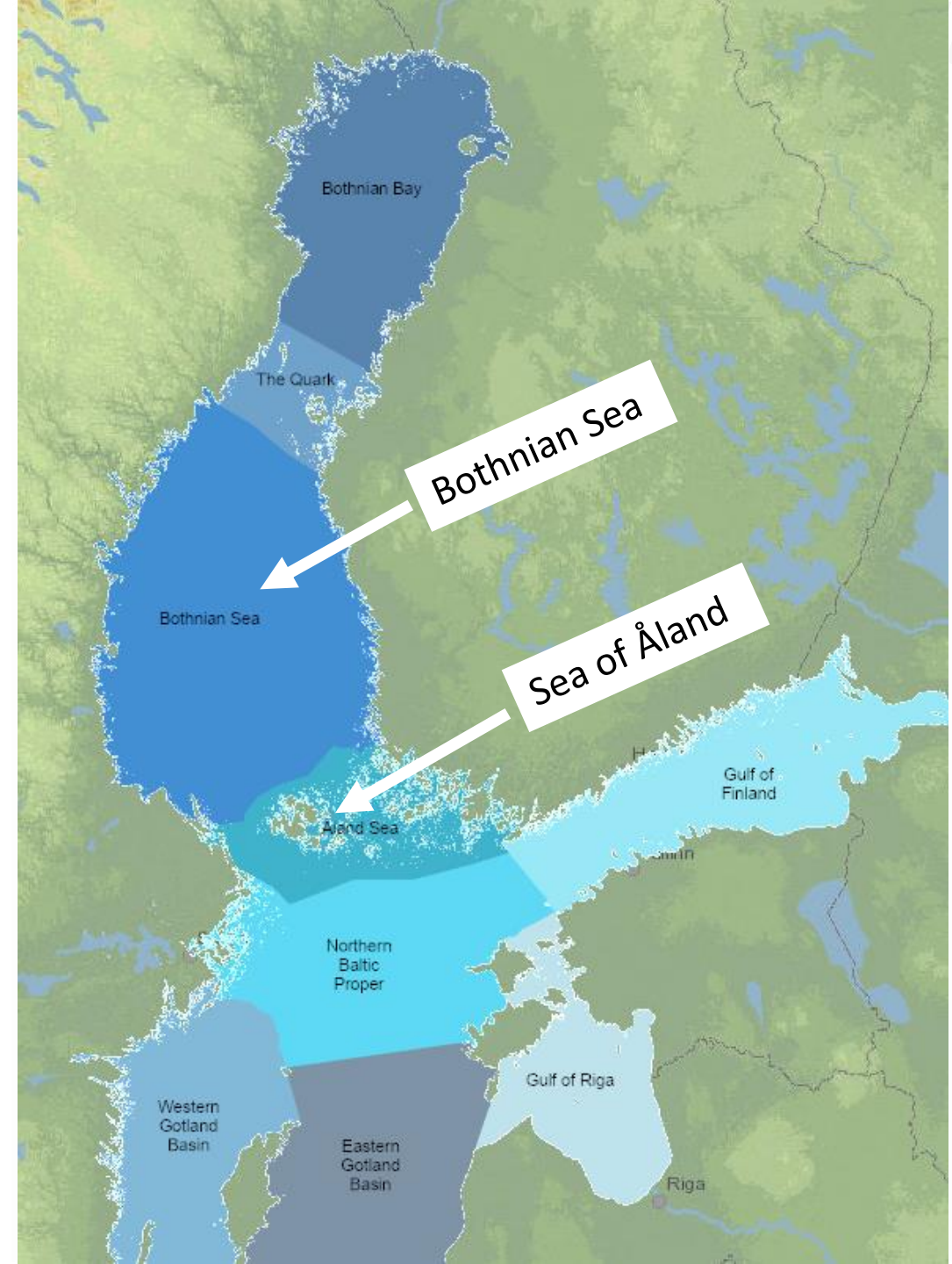
“Casey” complements theoretical investigation illustrating good EBA practices compiled from North Sea and Baltic Sea regions.



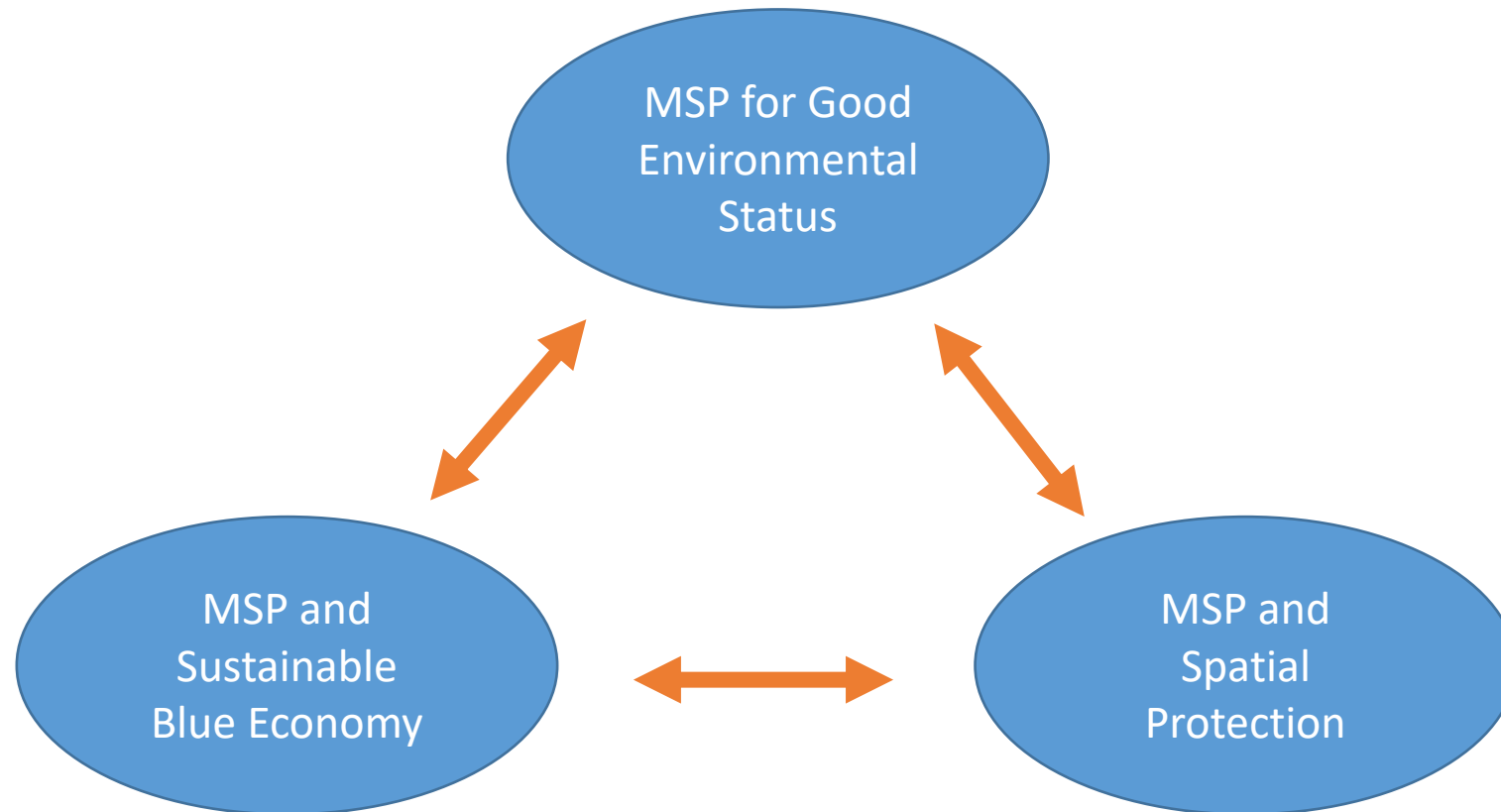
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Geographical scope

- Main areas for testing of tools are the Bothnian Sea and the Sea of Åland
- Concepts may be tested in other areas



Three interlinked sub-cases



- Utilizing available (Helcom HOLAS III) data and testing the functionality of existing environmental indicators in impact assessment of MSP
- Linking to indicators and showing how planning scenarios may affect indicators and how plan activities contribute in relation to indicators
- Developing ideas on how MSP can contribute to environmental targets

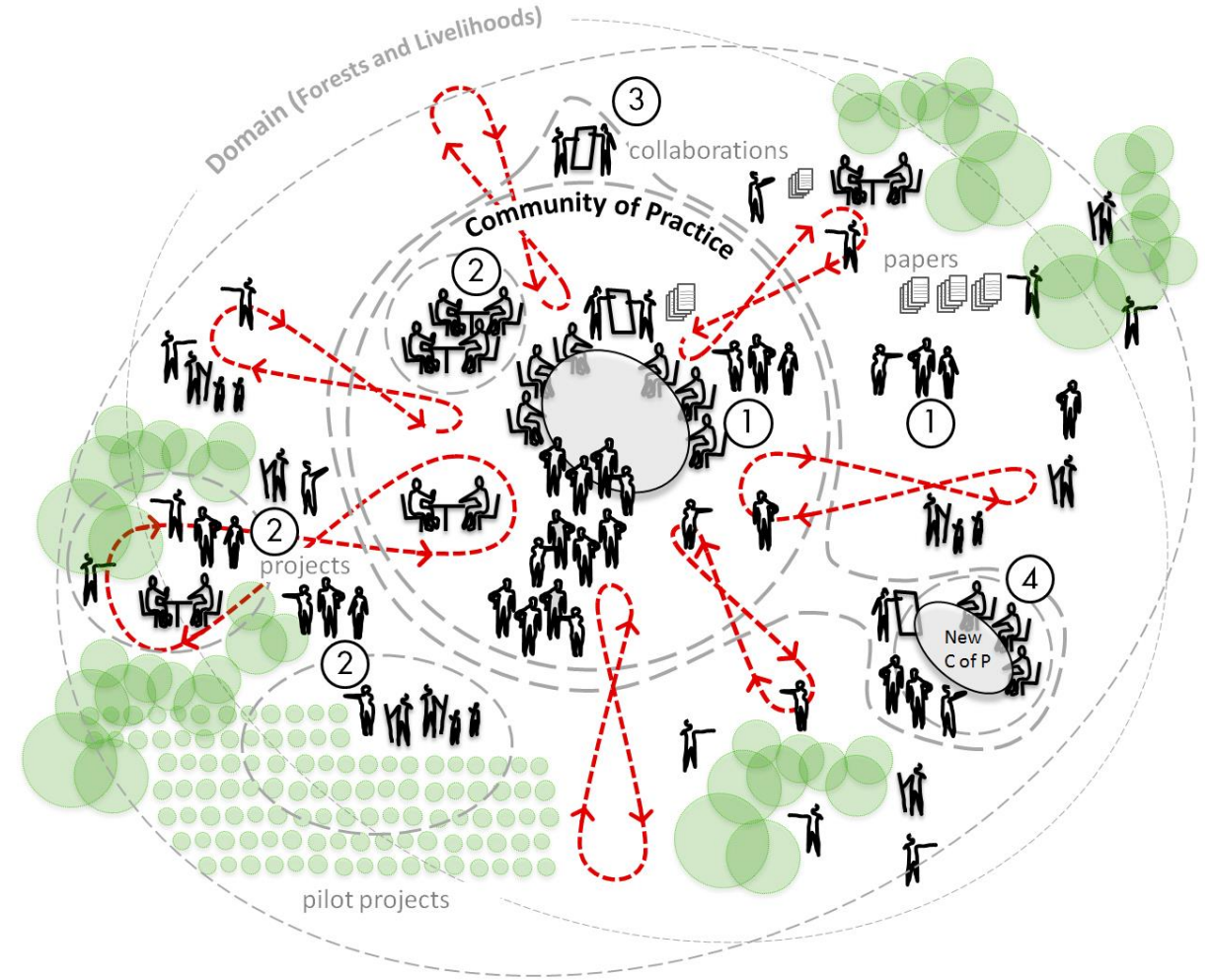
- Assessing potential effects of different development scenarios in a transboundary context
- Identifying opportunities for synergistic sustainable use of the sea based on ecosystem services data
- Developing ideas on coherent strategic environmental assessments in MSP

- Developing the understanding between the MSP and MPA communities on the relationship between MSP and spatial protection
- Show-casing examples of how MSP can contribute to spatial conservation objectives
- Defining synergies and conflicts in relation to sectors

Our Means – Community of Practice

a **dialog platform** lasting throughout the whole project implementation period and beyond

time-bound drafting groups to develop concrete project deliverables





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Thanks
and

Welcome to our community of practice



Swedish Agency
for Marine and
Water Management

