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**Ecosystem based approach in MSP development – Latvian case study**

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Latvia recently started Development of Maritime spatial planning (MSP) and process applies to all Latvian Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone waters. Environmental information plays an essential role in the contents of MSP. The functioning of marine ecosystems depends on its structure, diversity and integrity and every sub-basin of the Baltic Sea it is different. The ecosystem based approach is principle that should be taken into account to develop MSP. For assessment of MSP on marine nature values a marine ecosystem map is developed in accordance with HELCOM Underwater Biotope and habitat (HELCOM HUB) classification system. Depending on the biological survey of the station spatial disposition density in different marine areas, habitats were defined to a different degree of detail. As a result, during development of MSP was prepared a map for the habitats of distribution. The next step is evaluate each habitat provided ecosystem services and make a mapping of whole Latvian marine waters. To ensure the implementation of the ecosystem approach in MSP development examples from Latvian case study will be discussed.

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