

ICES CM 2016 L:619

Towards integration and transnational collaboration in Baltic Marine Spatial Planning – Lessons learned from the Baltic Scope project

To be submitted to ICES ASC Session L: Integration challenges in maritime spatial planning – approaches, science gaps, and communication demands

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Keywords: Baltic Sea, Baltic Scope, integration, lessons learned, Marine Spatial Planning, transnational collaboration

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) has become an important mechanism for promoting long-term sustainable use of marine areas. The *Baltic SCOPE* project, financed by DG MARE (2015-2017), brings together national planning authorities in the Baltic Sea Region (Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Estonia and Latvia) to develop solutions for common transboundary problems with the aim of better aligning national MSP. NORDREGIO (Centre for Nordic Spatial Development) has analysed the transboundary process adopted within the Baltic Scope project against five key dimensions of territorial governance: (1) coordination of actors and institutions, (2) integration of policy sectors, (3) stakeholder participation, (4) adaptation to changing contexts, and, additionally (5) maritime specificities and boundaries. Using a multi-phase mixed research design (including participant observation, semi-structured interviews, survey, and focus groups). The aim is to critically examine the transnational MSP governance approach adopted within Baltic Scope in relation to sector integration, transnational coordination, stakeholder involvement, knowledge and data sharing to help identify lessons learned relevant for both participants and a wider circle of interested parts and contribute to the discussion on good governance practices and quality management in MSP.

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