

How to use the results?

The cumulative impact assessment can help the planner communicate how the plan may influence on the presence of environmental pressures, and how it may impact on species and habitats.

Understanding cumulative impacts is important for screening baseline conditions in the initial planning phase, and for supporting planning decisions when comparing different alternatives.

Assessment results at the overarching level can indicate priorities for further analyses and management consideration, or analyses can be aimed to give more specific results for aspects of key concern.

More info and tools

www.panbalticscope.eu



About Pan Baltic Scope

Co-funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, the Pan Baltic Scope project (2018-2019) is an international collaboration of planning authorities and regional organizations, created to strengthen the knowledge and enhance transboundary cooperation in maritime spatial planning (MSP).

What Pan Baltic Scope wants to achieve



Coherent national maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea region.

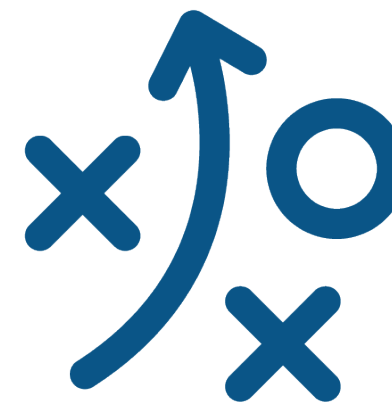
Project partners

Under the lead of the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management



Cumulative impact assessments for better MSP

Tools to support sustainable maritime spatial planning (MSP)



Co-funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

Why cumulative impact assessments?

Some pressures on the Baltic Sea might seem minor when considered in isolation. But when added up, they might cause intolerable impacts on biodiversity, the health of species and habitats, and also restrict our prospects for our own well-being.

Cumulative impact assessments make it possible to understand the combined effects on the environment from different human activities taken together.

In maritime spatial planning (MSP), evaluation of cumulative impacts is both a necessity and a way to support long-term sustainability in alignment with the approach of ecosystem-based management.

Since many human activities, pressures and species are widely dispersed, transboundary analyses of the cumulative impacts are important.

Pan Baltic Scope and cumulative impact assessments

The activity on cumulative impacts in Pan Baltic Scope aims to improve coherence among countries in how cumulative impacts are assessed in connection to MSP.

The work in Pan Baltic Scope brings available cumulative impact assessment tools and approaches to the planners' table.

In the context of MSP, cumulative impact assessments are helpful to provide a holistic and systematic evaluation of different planning options. The cumulative impact assessment can depict current conditions under which the planning takes place, evaluate potential environmental impacts of the plan and help compare different planning scenarios.

Tool development: analyses to address cumulative impacts

The BSII Cumulative Impact Assessment Toolbox (BSII CAT) was developed in Pan Baltic Scope **to further facilitate regionally coherent assessment approaches**. The toolbox helps to calculate the Baltic Sea Impact Index (BSII) and the Baltic Sea Pressure Index (BSPI). It also supports the mapping and impact assessment of areas with high ecological value or high potential provision of ecosystem services.

Case studies

The toolbox was tested in two case studies. The first case study assessed cumulative impacts on the environment under **different scenarios for offshore wind farm development** at the scale of the Baltic Sea region.

The second case study focused on **approaches to assess green infrastructure**. In MSP, it is often relevant to consider impacts on species and habitats of particular concern. For example, maintaining green infrastructure can be an explicit objective of the plan.

