

# Towards better management of the Baltic Sea through marine spatial planning



## BALANCE End Conference

25-26 October 2007

Copenhagen, Denmark

The Conference is expected to catch the attention of marine environmental decision-makers, administrators, NGOs, and scientists.

### Registration fee:

Please register via [balance@sns.dk](mailto:balance@sns.dk) before the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2007

- Early registration (limited to 75 persons): 0 €
- BALANCE participants (75 persons): 0 €
- Others: 100 € incl. VAT

The overall aim of the Conference is to present and discuss the results of BALANCE which is a Baltic Sea-wide project funded by BSR INTERREG IIIB (July 2005 - December 2007). The Conference will focus on marine landscapes & habitats, coherence and representativity of the Baltic MPA network, the "Blue corridor" concept, case-studies, and guidance on how to manage marine areas in general and Marine Protected Areas in particular. Special emphasis will be put on stakeholder involvement and how best to link science and policy.

The objectives of BALANCE or in full "Baltic Sea Management – Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Ecosystem through Spatial Planning" are to:

1. Develop trans-national marine spatial planning tools and an agreed template for marine management planning and decision-making. It will be based on 4 trans-national pilot areas demonstrating the environmental value of habitat maps and marine spatial planning (exemplified through two zoning plans). The tools and zoning plans integrates biological, geological and oceanographic data (e.g. by broad scale marine landscape maps and habitat maps) with local knowledge from stakeholders;
2. Develop the "Blue corridor" concept and promote "Blue corridors" between protected sites adding spatial development dimensions to the implementation of EU Directives; and
3. Assess whether the Baltic Sea network of Marine Protected Areas is ecological coherent and adequately represents and protects a continuum of landscapes and habitats or not.

The spatial planning tools, sometimes referred to as the BALANCE Toolbox, include:

- Baltic Sea-wide marine landscapes presented in GIS maps and analysed by the site selection software MARXAN for the entire Baltic Sea region;
- A holistic approach to marine habitat mapping integrating data on benthic, pelagic and fish habitats in four trans-national pilot areas;
- Development of habitat models for areas with little biological information;
- templates for zoning plans in two pilot areas, including planning guidelines and criteria to evaluate management success;
- Meta-database and BALANCE Data Portal for Baltic Sea marine data, outlining data formats, techniques and data availability for use by stakeholders in future planning; and
- Development of agreed protocols for habitat mapping based on intercalibration of existing national protocols, ensuring compatible data for future trans-national mapping.



BALANCE is part-financed by the European Union via BSR INTERREG IIIB.

Information about BALANCE and the Conference can be found at <http://www.balance-eu.org>.

Read more about **The Danish National Museum** at <http://www.natmus.dk>.