



SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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 NV-07187-15

To point of contact in
 Finland
 Estonia
 Latvia
 Lithuania
 Russian Federation
 Poland
 Germany
 Denmark
 Norway

Notification of the national Swedish Marine Spatial Plans for the Gulf of Bothnia, the Baltic Sea and the Skagerrak/Kattegat.

In accordance with Article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and to Article 7 of the Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, Sweden hereby notifies our neighboring countries on the national Marine Spatial Planning process.

Sweden sends this notification in an early and non-mandatory phase of the planning process (informal notification).

The legislative background

Legislation on national Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) which was added to the Swedish Environmental Code last year went into force on the 1st September 2014. A Governmental Ordinance was authorized on the 15th July 2015 which sets the framework for the marine spatial planning process and stakeholders to be involved. The Ordinance specifies that the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) shall develop and propose three national Marine Spatial Plans, which according to the Environmental Code includes the territorial sea and the EEZ but excludes the coastal zone (starting one nautical mile from the baseline). The three plans should cover the marine areas: The Gulf of Bothnia, the Baltic Sea (proper) and the Skagerrak/Kattegat on the west coast.

The marine spatial plans and associated regulations are adopted by the Government.

The purpose of the planning

The main purpose of the planning is to clarify how the various marine areas can be used. The marine spatial plans shall provide guidance to public authorities and municipalities in the planning and review of claims for the use of the areas covered by the plans. The plans shall reflect the state's overall view of how the marine areas are to be managed and used in the future. They shall also specify areas of national interest in accordance with Chapter 3 of the Environmental Code and when incompatible purposes prioritize between interests and other public interests of material significance. SwAM shall apply an ecosystem approach in its work.

The timeframe for the national Marine Spatial Planning process and the formal Espoo-notification

Sweden is applying an informal extended notification for MSP by including an opportunity for neighboring countries to give written response to the scope of the SEA and other relevant transboundary planning issues as part of the notification process. Based on experience we hope that this approach will provide information at an early stage and contribute to coherent MSP in which issues regarding potential significant environmental impacts are addressed in a proper manner.

After the preparation of proposals for the marine spatial plans and the preliminary environmental impact statements, the consultation on the proposals and the impact statements are planned to take place in 2017 or 2018 depending on the development of the MSP process. Consultations will most likely be held simultaneously for the three plans.

At the same time the Espoo-consultations are planned to take place. A summary of each plan and SEA-documents will be translated to the languages of the countries taking part in the Espoo-consultations.

Background document

SwAM has developed a document with a proposal for the direction of the Swedish MSP including the scope of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). This document is made available for comments to Swedish stakeholders between the 1st September 2015 and the 1st of March 2016. An English version of the MSP direction document is attached and also available at SwAM: <https://www.havochvatten.se/download/18.21aefcd7150f8b6c38fc67a1/1448899234136/proposal-for-direction-of-marine-spatial-planning.pdf>

The document includes the following information:

- MSP-policy framework
- MSP-planning process
- MSP-direction including goals and strategies
- SEA- scope

SwAM has in its preparations for MSP produced the report “Marine Spatial Planning – Current status 2014” in cooperation with relevant national authorities and regional administrative boards. The document provides a broad background to the forthcoming planning activities and is available for download in English at:

<https://www.havochvatten.se/en/swam/eu--international/marine-spatial-planning.html>

Sweden kindly asks the addressed Parties to respond until 2nd March 2016 at the latest and

- acknowledge the receipt of the notification
- indicate whether your country intends to participate in the SEA-procedure
- indicate for which of the Swedish marine spatial plans, the Skagerrak/Kattegat, the Baltic Sea, the Gulf of Bothnia do you want to take part in Espoo-consultation in 2017/2018?
- confirm if a timeframe of 12 weeks will be sufficient for the public participation and transmission of comments in the consultation phase
- provide comments concerning the SEA-scope. Do you have any response for SwAM regarding the scope of the SEA?
- Other transboundary planning issues. Do you have any response for SwAM to consider regarding other transboundary planning issues?

Kindly send the answer to this notification in electronic form to Swedish Environmental Protection Agency Registrator@naturvardsverket.se. Please indicate the case number NV-07187-15 and Swedish Marine Spatial Plans.

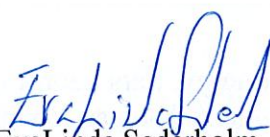
For more information about the Swedish Marine Spatial Plans and the SEA please contact:

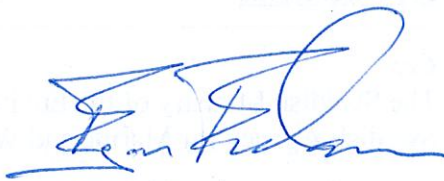
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For the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency


EvaLinda Sederholm
Head of Section


Egon Enocksson

Please notice, this notification is only sent by e-mail. If anyone needs a printed notification or document please send a request, see contact information above.

Enclosures:

Proposal for the Direction of the Marine Spatial Planning and the Scope of the Environmental Assessment. Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management.

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