



Vides pārraudzības valsts birojs

Environment State Bureau of the Republic of Latvia

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Riga

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Regarding transboundary consultation on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Maritime Spatial Plan (MSP) of the Republic of Latvia

We would like to thank the Estonian Ministry of the Environment for the organised consultation on the 1st version of the SEA of the MSP of the Republic of Latvia that took place early 2016. We acknowledge received comments in the letter of 01 March 2016, No 7-12/16/519-8.

The Environment Report and MSP of Latvia have been reviewed and amended in response to comments received during national and transboundary consultations. Herewith we would like to inform how the documents have taken into account the comments submitted by Estonia.

1. Comment of the Health Board of Estonia

In case of Latvian and Lithuanian seawater pollution (e.g. leakage from vessels), it should be taken into account that the pollution could also be carried into Estonian territorial sea currents. Therefore, the actions and measures to prevent pollution transmission should be implemented.

Response of Latvia

A number of legal and practical measures have already been endorsed in the country therefore MSP does not address directly actions preventing pollution transmissions. Latvia has developed the National Preparedness, Response and Cooperation plan for combating incidents caused by oil, dangerous and hazardous substances pollution at sea. The plan regulates the procedure how state and municipalities act in case of an unexpected leakage of oil, dangerous and hazardous substances at sea, announcement of alarm, prevention of pollution, control of situation, incident command and procedure on response actions in case of incidents. The plan shall be enforced in case of any incident at sea causing or threatening with pollution Latvian waters outside the port areas. The plan has been developed according to Latvian legislation, as well as Helsinki Convention and related documents, OPRC Convention and OPRC-HNS protocol, MARPOL convention and International Convention Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties, 1969.

2. Comment of the Health Board

The nutrient content of seawater (particularly phosphorus) influences the algal bloom caused by the potentially toxic cyanobacteria. In case of seasonable wind conditions the open sea algal bloom may be carried to the beach. Toxins resulting from the degradation of algae may have adverse impact to the health of humans and domestic animals. Therefore in developing the maritime space it should be taken into account that the planned activities do not increase the nutrient content of seawater (particularly phosphorous).

Response of Latvia

2nd version of the Latvian MSP does not anticipate increasing nutrient content in the sea. There is no plan or identified sites to establish aquaculture by 2030. The MSP includes recommendations that shall be considered if a development of marine aquaculture would be initiated.

3. Comment of the Ministry of the Environment

Ministry of the Environment would like to draw your attention on the fact that the Gulf of Riga is an important herring area for trawlers. Therefore we ask the respective material to be amended. It should be clearly said in the documentation that the fishing area for trawlers is defined for fishing only and activities which could interfere fishing are not allowed. Additionally the maps should be supplemented with fishing areas for trawlers which are not influenced by other planned activities.

Response of Latvia

We would like to clarify that the MSP does not contain any new restriction related to trawling of pelagic fish (incl. herring). In contrarily, fishing has been recognised as the priority interest within the development of MSP for Latvia. Due to herring being pelagic specie the whole marine area has been recognised as important for fishing pelagic species. The MSP has also recognised that traditional activities (fishery, shipping, tourism) activities can co-exist in space. To increase a clarity of the unspecified areas, the MSP has introduced a new category of the permitted sea use which is called as “general uses of the sea” meaning that all activities (incl. fishery, tourism and recreation, research, etc.) are admissible as long as they are not against legal requirements and does not cause significant impact on environment. In order to launch new type of sea use a developer shall obey existing legal procedures on proposing an area of interest, receive a licence for investigation, to perform EIA and to receive a licence for utilisation of buildings or use of earth subterranean depths in the sea.

We would like to inform that during the last two years Latvian Ministry of the Environmental Protection and Regional Development continued consultations and dialogue with key stakeholders to enhance the prepared 1st version of MSP. As the result, we have elaborated 2nd version of MSP and updated the Environmental Report.

Herewith we are sending to you a copy of the Summary of the 2nd version of Latvian MSP and the summary of the 2nd version Environmental Report. The full versions of the documents (in Latvian) are available at http://www.varam.gov.lv/lat/lidzd/sab_aps/?doc=26281. We would like to ask you to submit the written comments not later than **10 September, 2018** to the following addresses: Vides aizsardzības un reģionālās attīstības ministrija, Peldu iela 25, Rīga, LV - 1494, e-mail - pasts@varam.gov.lv and Vides pārraudzības valsts birojs, Rūpniecības iela 23, Rīga, LV - 1045, e-mail - vpvb@vpvb.gov.lv.

We also recognise importance of the consultations with neighbouring countries in the frame of the Baltic Sea regional projects – “Baltic LINes”, “Baltic SCOPE” and “Pan Baltic Scope”. These projects have provided opportunity for communication and coordination of various interests as well allowed to share information and knowledge.

We look forward to further cooperation in the frame of the ongoing or up-coming cross-border marine projects.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact

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Please see attached documents:

1. Summary of Maritime Spatial Plan 2030;
2. Summary of Environmental report, 2nd version;
3. Map of “Permitted use of the sea”.

The map “Permitted use of the sea” is also available at the link below

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1l7f8uFpooHXcnz37zGOurR5hi1JPmrLm/view>

Yours sincerely,



Arnolds Lukševics

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