EU Framework for Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management

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Proposal for a directive in 2013

Key point of the directive was to establish a framework for MSP and ICZM to promote:

- sustainable growth of maritime and coastal economies and
- the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources
Subsidiarity principle - a directive on ICZM would impinge upon regional and local governments’ spatial planning powers.

Estonia supported the initial proposal for the Directive, BUT ...
• Directive establishes a framework for maritime spatial planning aimed at promoting the sustainable growth of maritime economies, the sustainable development of marine areas and the sustainable use of marine resources.

• Directive shall not interfere with Member States’ competence to design and determine, within their marine waters, the extent and coverage of their maritime spatial plans. It shall not apply to town and country planning.

• Each Member State shall establish and implement maritime spatial planning. In doing so, Member States shall take into account land-sea interactions.

• In order to take into account land-sea interactions Member States may use other formal or informal processes, such as integrated coastal management. The outcome shall be reflected by Member States in their maritime spatial plans.
Estonian approach

- Estonia supported covering both – ICZM and MSP – in the directive ONLY IF Member States are free to choose the content of the plans and strategies and build up the process as they choose.

- ICZM is not only spatial planning – so you can only go so far with spatial planning.

- Estonian MSP will also cover coastal areas where and when appropriate.
In 2009 the first stage of Estonian MSP methodology was done. The main question was: is the Planning Act and other relevant regulations enough to actually carry out MSP in Estonia. The main conclusion of the methodology: the best planning level to use for MSP is county level.
Planciritavad alad territoriaalmeres

- Hiiu maakonnaga piirnev mereala
- Pärnu maakonnaga piirnev mereala
The past in Estonian MSP

During the preparation of county plans for MSP, the situation changed

July 2014 – EU Directive on maritime spatial planning

July 2015 – new planning act for Estonia which for the first time regulated MSP
Estonian MSP was initiated on 25.05.2017

Cooperation will follow in autumn 2017

Cross-border cooperation throughout the planning process

Adoption of the plan in December 2019
Main questions for MSP

- What are the links with other sea use instruments? How can and should MSP be used when making decisions on sea use?
  - Uncertain rights and obligations of local governments
  - Ecosystem approach – what? how? when?
  - Data, information, data, data ...
Thank you!

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