Maritime spatial planning and offshore energy – restrictions?

Kristīne Kedo
Head of Spatial Planning Policy Unit
Spatial Planning Department
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Why do we plan the sea?

✓ **Reduce conflicts** between sectors and create synergies between different activities

✓ **Encourage investment** – by creating predictability, transparency and clearer rules

✓ **Increase cross-border cooperation** – between EU countries to develop different activities

✓ **Protect the environment** – through early identification of impact and opportunities for multiple use of space
Elaboration of First Latvian MSP draft

**When:** from January 2015 - May 2016

**Overall aim:**

Balanced and integrated use of the space of the sea that promotes economic growth of maritime sectors, welfare of coastal inhabitants as well as viable marine ecosystem.
First Draft of Latvian MSP
MSP objectives for offshore energy:

✓ Use of offshore energy **shall be promoted** by reserving a sufficient area for this kind of maritime use;

✓ At the same time offshore renewable energy **shall not harm the viability of the marine ecosystem** or cause substantial losses to other marine resources or users of the marine space.
Offshore Wind Parks (OWP): conditions and MSP solutions by 2030

Areas to be avoided due to conflicts with other maritime interests:

- National security:
  - Protection zones around the surveillance towers
  - Military training areas
  - Explosive dumping grounds

- Shipping safety:
  - Priority areas for shipping and port roadheads

- Extraction of hydrocarbons:
  - Licensing area for exploration and extraction

- Nature conservation:
  - Areas important for protection of benthic habitats
  - Areas important for migratory bird species
  - Fish spawning and nursery areas (up to 10 m depth)

- Fishery:
  - Areas important for bottom trawling

Entire Territorial Sea shall be avoided due to national security, fishery, nature conservation and cultural heritage interests

Areas with suitable natural conditions:

- Areas where, at the height of 100 m, wind speed is at least 9 m/s (20 km from the coast in the Baltic Proper)
- Up to 30–50 m depth (depending on technology)

Legend:

- Areas where OWP should be avoided
- Areas not suitable for OWP due to natural conditions
- Areas potentially available for OWP
- Priority areas for OWP as defined by MSP
- Perspective electricity cables

Data source: MSP 1 draft, MoEFRD
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<th>Port areas</th>
<th>Dumping sites</th>
<th>Military training polygons</th>
<th>Coastal fisheries</th>
<th>Deep-sea trawling in open sea</th>
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Most suitable places for offshore energy

The total area of the OWFs required to achieve the capacity of 850 MW is 130–140 km²
Project BalticSCOPE – new level of cooperation
How the process is organized now?

Submission to the responsible ministry with proposal to determine an area in the sea

Government takes the decision

Ministry of Economics

Ministry of Agriculture

Evaluation

Preparation for decision

Cabinet Regulations No. 631 „Construction Regulations for Structures in the Internal Waters, Territorial Waters and Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Latvia”

Ministry of Economics starts the tender process for issuing the licence in area of interest
How it will be improved?

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Submission to the responsible ministry with proposal to determine an area in the sea

Maritime Spatial Plan

Ministry of Economics

Ministry of Agriculture

Government takes the decision

Evaluation

Preparation for decision

Ministry of Economics starts the tender process for issuing the licence in area of interest
How MSP will be applied?

✓ A guidance document - involve weighing incompatible interests against each other, or adjustments that may be required of an operation in order for it to coexist with another use in an area.

✓ The plan provides predictability for companies developing or engaging in maritime activities
Thank you for your attention!

Contact details:
E-mail: kristine.kedo@varam.gov.lv
Phone: +371 67026 558