



SWEDISH  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION  
AGENCY

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Case number  
NV-09718-22

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

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

Pursuant to Article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessments in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention), 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 programs on the environment, Sweden hereby notifies our neighboring countries on the national Marine Spatial Planning process

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) is the responsible authority for submitting and receiving notifications and otherwise fulfilling obligations for environmental impact assessments in a transboundary context in Sweden, according to the Environmental Assessment Regulation (2017:966).

### **Background to and timeframe of the planning process**

The Swedish Government adopted the first marine spatial plans for the Gulf of Bothnia, the Baltic Sea, and the Skagerrak/Kattegat on 10 February 2022. The plans are in the final stage of translation to English and will be shared as soon as possible.

As part of the adoption decision, the Government also assigned the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) to start a new planning cycle aiming for the designation of new areas for offshore wind energy. The aim is to enable an additional 90 TWh annual electricity production from offshore wind in the revised marine spatial plans. The Swedish Energy Agency was tasked with coordinating the development of planning evidence relative to those new areas together with several other national agencies responsible for marine

and maritime related issues. The planning evidence must be submitted to the Swedish Government no later than 31 March 2023. SwAM will submit the revised planning proposals to Government no later than 31 December 2024.

SwAM has therefore started the revision of the current marine spatial plans. The process follows the provisions in the Swedish marine spatial planning (MSP) ordinance and includes a national consultation stage and a national review stage, as well as a transboundary consultation with Sweden's neighboring countries.

The transboundary consultation is planned to be held during autumn 2023 for a period of 12 weeks.

For more information regarding the Swedish marine spatial planning process, please see SwAM website (in Swedish only) [Ändring av havsplanerna för att möta behovet av ökad energiutvinning - Havsplanering - Havs- och vattenmyndigheten \(havochvatten.se\)](https://havochvatten.se/andring-av-havsplanerna-for-att-mota-behovet-av-okad-energiutvinning-havsplanering-havs-och-vattenmyndigheten)

### **Participating in the transboundary SEA-procedure**

Sweden is applying an extended notification for the MSP process, which includes granting neighboring countries the opportunity to send written responses to the scope of the SEA and other relevant transboundary planning issues. Sweden also invites its neighboring countries to provide relevant planning evidence. Based on previous experience with engaging our neighboring countries, SwAM hope that this approach will provide information at an early stage and contribute to the development of a coherent MSP. Sweden expects that potential issues regarding possible significant transboundary environmental impacts will be addressed in a proper manner.

The documentation, the draft plans, and the environmental reports, will be provided in electronic form. It will be sent by e-mail to the Points of Contacts for the Espoo protocol and will be available in Swedish and English. If other languages are requested, please indicate that in the response to this notification.

Sweden expects you to organize the public participation procedures in your country.

Sweden kindly requests a response **no later than 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023** regarding the following:

- Acknowledge having received this notification,
- Indicate whether your country wishes to participate in the SEA-procedure,
- Inform if there are any transboundary planning issues for SwAM to consider,
- Identify and if possible, share any potential planning evidence for SwAM to consider and use in the MSP and SEA,
- Submit any comments received from the public in your country.
- Signal any other technical details: e.g., regarding the documentation form, requests for additional languages for the translation of the non-technical summary or other information related to potential transboundary impacts.

Kindly send the response to this notification to the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency [registrator@naturvardsverket.se](mailto:registrator@naturvardsverket.se). Please indicate the case number NV-09718-22 and Swedish Marine Spatial Plans

For more information regarding the Swedish MSP and the SEA please contact:

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management  
Jan Schmidtbauer Crona, Senior analyst at the Marine Spatial Planning Unit  
E-mail: [jan.schmidtbauer.crona@havochovatten.se](mailto:jan.schmidtbauer.crona@havochovatten.se)  
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For more information regarding the Espoo-procedure in Sweden please contact:

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency  
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*This decision has been made digitally and therefore lacks signatures*

For the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Nanna Wikholm  
Head of Unit

Egon Enocksson  
Point of Contact Espoo protocol

*Enclousure*

Scoping consultation for strategic environmental assessment of revised marine spatial plans in Sweden, 2022-12-01. The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management

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*Cc:*

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Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, Jan Schmidtbauer  
Crona