

Authority Services

30.5.2025

SYKE/2025/1192

Points of Contact in
Denmark,
Estonia,
Germany,
Latvia,
Lithuania,
Poland, and
Sweden.

Notification of a preliminary draft plan or programme with potentially significant environmental effects - Article 10 para. 1 of the SEA Protocol concerning the Maritime Spatial Plan for Finland

In accordance with Article 10, Paragraph 1 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (the SEA protocol) to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessments in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and with Article 7 of the Directive 2001/24/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, Finland hereby notifies Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden on the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the revision of the Maritime Spatial Plan (MSP) for Finland. Attached to this letter is a document containing information on the revision of the MSP for Finland and initiation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Information on the Maritime Spatial Plan for Finland

The Maritime Spatial Plan for Finland 2030 entered into force in December 2020. The plan is formed of three separate plans prepared and adopted regionally in three planning areas. Together they cover all of Finland's coastal and marine areas. Each planning area is responsible for preparing their own maritime spatial plan. The three plans are prepared in close collaboration between all Finnish coastal Regional Councils. The three areas are: 1. Gulf of Finland, 2. Archipelago Sea and Southern Bothnian Sea, and 3. Northern Bothnian Sea, Quark and Bay of Bothnia.

Due to changes in the marine operating environment since the adoption of the plans, a need for revision has been identified. The changes are for example renewal of the EU regulations, increase of the marine energy production targets, climate issues becoming increasingly important, and the growing significance of maritime transport and maritime areas for security of supply and general safety. The revision work takes place between 2024-2027. The revised plans are expected to be adopted at the end of 2027. The Regional Council of Southwest Finland is responsible for the coordination of the Finnish Maritime Spatial Planning Cooperation.

The Åland Islands are responsible for drafting the maritime spatial plan for their own region, based on a decision by the Government of Åland. The Åland Islands' maritime spatial plan will be consulted separately.



The SEA procedure

In Finland, the environmental impacts of certain types of plans and programmes must be assessed pursuant to the Act on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (200/2005). In the second round of Finnish maritime spatial planning, a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) will be carried out as part of the preparation of the plan. The SEA will describe and assess the direct, indirect, cumulative, long-term and short-term impacts of the plan, while the focus of the assessment will be on the significant impacts identified.

An international consultation will be held in accordance with the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) and the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention). Both a national and an international consultation will take place simultaneously in 2027.

Coordination of the Finnish MSP cooperation has prepared consultation document describing the planned stages of the maritime spatial plan update and strategic environmental assessment. For more information, please contact Essi Kärpijoki (Coordinator of MSP Cooperation, essi.karpijoki@varsinais-suomi.fi) or Frank Hering (Chair, Planning Director, Regional Council of Kymenlaakso, frank.hering@kymenlaakso.fi). In addition, the current Maritime spatial plan for Finland 2030 can be found on this website: meriskenaariot.info/merialuesuunnitelma/en/merialuesuunnitelma-english/.

Participation in the procedure

Please send the response by email to the Register Office of the Finnish Environment Institute (kirjaamo@syke.fi) and transboundaryEIA.SEA@syke.fi by **14 July 2025 at the latest** and:

- acknowledge the receipt of the preliminary notification,
- indicate whether your country is likely to be affected by the upcoming plan and wishes to participate in the consultation procedure (and which planning area it concerns),
- submit any observations concerning the attached document containing information on the initiation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment and the consultation on the Assessment
- identify and if possible, share any potential planning evidence for the Coordination of the Finnish MSP cooperation to be considered and used in the MSP and SEA,

Please let us know in which language you would like to receive the draft environmental report (other than English or Swedish). Please indicate our reference number **SYKE/2025/1192** in your response.

Head of Services

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p.p. Service development director

Heli Karjalainen

Senior Officer,
Point of Contact to the Espoo Convention
and the Protocol on SEA

Julianna Reunanen



This document has been electronically signed. The electronic signatures can be verified from the register office of the Finnish Environment Institute.

Attachment	Revision of the Maritime Spatial Plan for Finland and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
For information	Ministry for Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Environment

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