ESTONIAN MARITIME SPATIAL PLAN

MSP

Guiding strategic spatial development at the state level

VISION

THE ESTONIAN MARINE AREA HAS GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS, DIVERSE AND BALANCED USE, AND PROMOTES THE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH OF A BLUE ECONOMY.

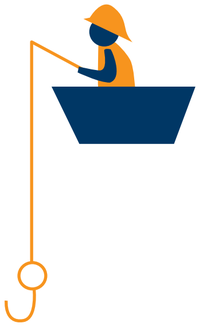
The increasingly diverse use of the maritime area necessitates accommodating a variety of activities into the marine space. The plan facilitates combined use - conscious joint use of the maritime area within a single marine space, to reduce spatial pressure on the marine area. The use of the marine area must be diversified, favoring activities that are more suited to the region. The maritime area is used as a public good.

The primary focus is placed on new uses like aquaculture and wind energy production. The solution is based on environmental considerations, ecosystem services-based approach and the best available knowledge. In the plan, guidelines and requirements are given for the next phases for every marine use. Thematic map layers are also provided. The plan is mandatory to follow when applying for superficies licenses.

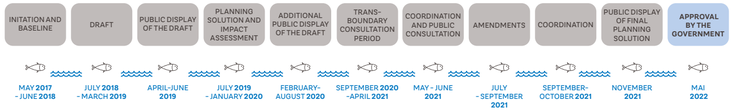
Marine uses and topics covered in MSP:

- Fisheries
- Aquaculture (fish farming, shellfish- and algae farming)
- Maritime transport
- Maritime rescue and guarding the state border
- Renewable energy production
- Seabed infrastructure
- Marine tourism and recreation
- Protected natural objects
- Marine culture
- Cultural heritage (historic ship wrecks)
- National defence
- Mineral resources
- Dumping
- Permanent connections
  (bridges or tunnels between Tallinn-Helsinki; mainland – Saaremaa island)
- Land-sea interactions

The aim is to enhance the positive synergies between different uses. Combining wind energy production and aquaculture is one example, where the use of wind turbine areas for fish and/or shellfish farming allows saving costs and directing farms deeper into the sea.

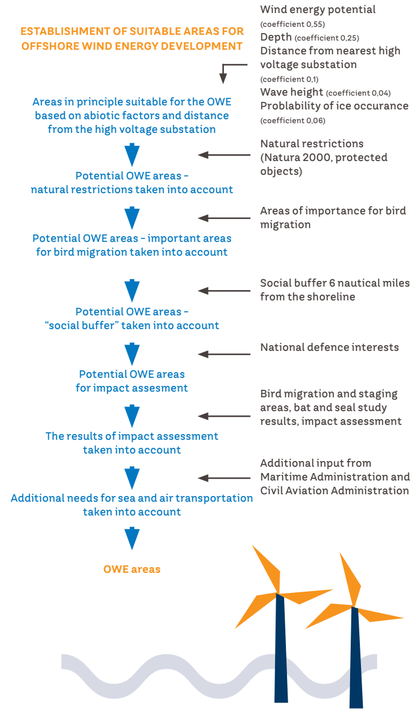


Planning and impact assessment time table

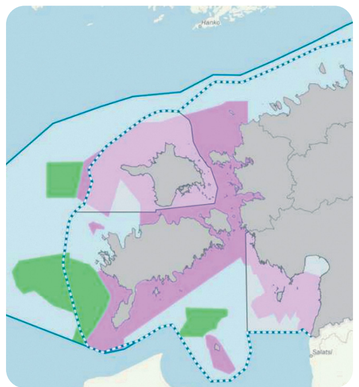


Estonian marine area must be used to produce renewable energy to minimize the environmental impact of the energy sector, strengthen energy security, and increase the competitiveness of the economy. In the near future, the focus will be on developing wind energy. In the longer term, it is expedient to consider wider opportunities for renewable energy production (e.g., hydrogen, solar and wave energy) throughout the Estonian marine area.

To find suitable locations for wind energy production areas, step-by-step spatial analysis was performed:



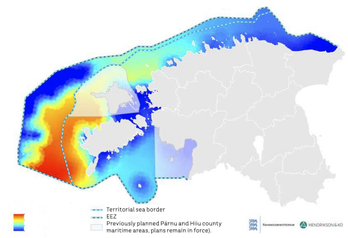
During the planning process extended strategic impact assessment was carried out, integrating traditional natural environment-centered approach with the assessment of the social (including health), cultural, and economic impacts. The assessment was fully integrated into the planning process. The strategic environmental assessment has a significant impact on the decisionmaking process only in this way, from specifying the original objectives of the plan up to the implementation of the decisions and monitoring of the actual effects.



Sensitive areas for birds (purple and light purple in Hiiu and Pärnu previously approved county plan areas) and more suitable areas for wind energy production (green) based on the "Analysis of bird staging areas" Estonian Ornithological Society, 2019

Numerous surveys were conducted to support the planning process, including seals, aquaculture potential, economic impact of the use of marine resources, bats and birds stopping places and migration (spatial data directly used in deciding the location of wind energy production areas).

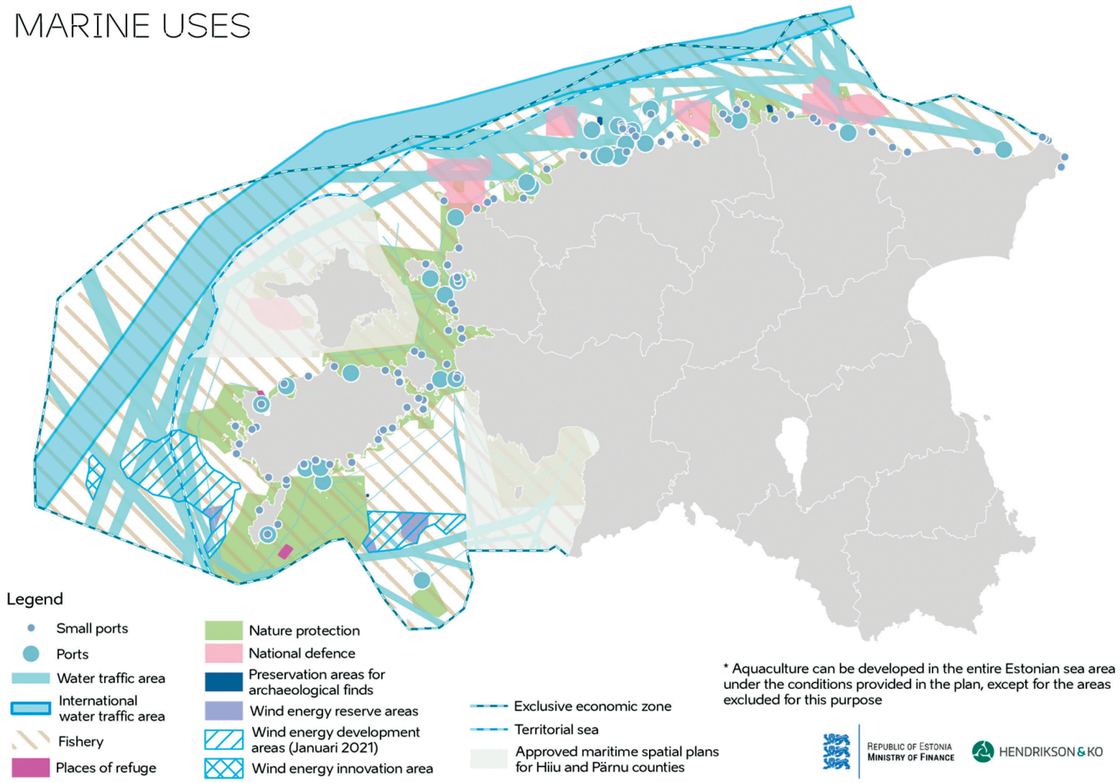
NATURAL GROWTH POTENTIAL OF SHELLFISH



The meaning and values of maritime culture were mapped during the workshops with coastal communities. The results helped the planning team to compose a meaningful planning solution.

MAPPING THE MEANING AND VALUES OF MARITIME CULTURE

MARINE USES



Planning and impact assessment team:
Ministry of Finance, Department of Spatial Planning; consultants from Hendrikson&Ko Ltd; University of Tartu (Dep. Of Geography, Marine Institute, Center for Applied Research in Social Sciences); University of Tallinn and Roheline Rada Ltd.

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