

Adoption of Pärnu County Maritime Spatial Plan

Pärnu County Governor adopted Pärnu County Maritime Spatial Plan (hereinafter *The Plan*) on April 17, 2017. The plan determines the use of maritime space by taking into account diverging interests and needs of spatial development of the sea in a balanced way. The time horizon is the year 2030+.

The Plan is based on the following strategic development documents of Estonia: National Spatial Plan of Estonia 2030+, Estonian Marine Policy 2012-2020, Estonian Fisheries Strategy 2014-2020 etc. The Plan integrates the results of the SEA report which contains the environmental, social, cultural and economic considerations related to the planned activities and measures to prevent and mitigate possible adverse environmental impacts. The SEA report was approved by the supervisor Ministry of the Environment of Estonia on May 3rd, 2016. Also the feedback of the Republic of Latvia during cross-border consultations has been taken into account.

The maritime planning area is circa 2600 km². Various topics are covered in the Plan, for instance fisheries, aquaculture, marine transport (shipping, ports, roads and ice roads), tourism and recreation industry (public beaches, sailing, non-motorized nautical tourism and marine sports, also protected natural objects), cultural values and maritime archeology, renewable energy, dumping areas, external infrastructure of maritime transport, protection and maritime safety. For each topic certain principles have been determined which have to be followed in subsequent development activities, proceedings of superficies licence, carrying out impact assessments and other activities in the sea. The Plan shows functional relationships between land and sea. In addition proposals have been made to change the respective law so that local governments are given more decision-making rights regarding activities in the sea (within one mile in the sea). Also the action plan to implement the Plan is included.

The Plan consists of an explanatory text and two technical drawings. The explanatory text gives an overview of maritime spatial planning framework, the methodological basis of the planning solution and explains the planning solution by different topics.

The Plan, County Governor's order and SEA report are available on website <http://www.maavalitsus.ee/143>.