



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

# PROTECTION OF THE COASTAL STRIP IN ESTONIA

**Liina Vaher**  
Senior officer

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# SHORES AND BANKS IN ESTONIA

- LENGTH OF ESTONIAN COASTLINE IS 3780 KM
- ABOUT 1 500 LAKES AND 31 000 KM OF WATERCOURSE SHORE
- BIG VARIATIONS- SHALLOW COASTAL MEADOWS, SANDY OR SHINGLE BEACHES, CLIFFS
- A LOT OF COASTLINE STILL IN (ALMOST) NATURAL STATE
- BIG PART IS ALSO IN A NATURA 2000 NETWORK

# SHORES AND BANKS IN ESTONIA




# IMPORTANCE

- NATURAL COASTLINE AND SHORES ARE A NATIONAL TREASURE
- HABITATS AND MOVING CORRIDORS FOR WILDLIFE
- ENVIRONMENTAL HOTSPOTS
- PUBLIC INTEREST (ACCESS)
- WATER QUALITY
- LANDSCAPE
- THE GOAL TO KEEP THE STATUS QUO IS REFLECTED IN STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS



# BACKGROUND

- HELCOM RECOMMENDATION
  - VASAB RECOMMENDATION
  - EU INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
  - NATIONAL STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS
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# HISTORY

- SHORES AND BANKS PRESERVATION ACT 1994-2004
- INTEGRATED IN THE NATURE CONSERVATION ACT SINCE 2004
- PRINCIPLES HAVE BEEN THE SAME SINCE THE BEGINNING


VISION: LOCAL AUTHORITIES WILL SET THE ZONES IN THEIR COMPREHENSIVE PLANS





# THE PRINCIPLES

THE OBJECTIVE OF PROTECTION OF SHORES AND BANKS IS TO PRESERVE THE NATURAL BIOTIC COMMUNITIES PRESENT ON THE SHORES AND BANKS, TO CURB THE HARMFUL IMPACT OF HUMAN ACTIVITY, TO PROMOTE HUMAN SETTLEMENT SYSTEMS WHICH CONSIDER THE SPECIFIC CHARACTER OF THE SHORES AND BANKS, AND TO ENSURE UNRESTRICTED MOVEMENT WITHIN AND UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO THE SHORES AND COASTLINE



# THE PRINCIPLES

- THREE ZONES:

- 1) THE LIMITED MANAGEMENT ZONE- 200 M
- 2) THE BUILDING EXCLUSION ZONE- 50 M
- 3) THE WATER PROTECTION ZONE – 10 M

THE BASELINE FOR CALCULATION OF THE WIDTH OF THE ZONES IS THE BOUNDARY OF THE WATER-BODY AS ON THE BASE MAP.

THE BOUNDARY OF AN AREA OF REPEATED FLOODING ON THE SEA COAST WILL BE DETERMINED IN A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN. IF THE BOUNDARY OF AN AREA OF REPEATED FLOODING HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED, 1 METRE HIGH CONTOUR LINE IS DEEMED TO BE THE BOUNDARY OF THE AREA OF REPEATED FLOODING.



# THE PRINCIPLES- LIMITED MANAGEMENT ZONE

- WITHIN THE LIMITED MANAGEMENT ZONE IT IS PROHIBITED TO:
  - 1) LAND TREATMENT BY SEWAGE SLUDGE;
  - 2) ESTABLISHMENT OF BURIAL SITES;
  - 3) CONSTRUCTION AND EXPANSION OF FACILITIES PRESCRIBED FOR WASTE PROCESSING OR STORAGE, EXCEPT IN THE TERRITORY OF PORTS;
  - 4) EXTRACTION OF MINERAL RESOURCES;
  - 5) DRIVING A VEHICLE OUTSIDE DESIGNATED ROADS

# THE PRINCIPLES- BUILDING EXCLUSION ZONE

- IN PRINCIPLE, CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS IS PROHIBITED WITHIN THE BUILDING EXCLUSION ZONE
- EXCEPTIONS POSSIBLE WITH AND WITHOUT THE ADOPTED DETAILED OR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

# BUILDING EXCLUSION ZONE-EXEPTIONS

- A NEW BUILDING TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN THE YARD OF AN EXISTING BUILDING IN A LOW-DENSITY AREA, WHICH IS NOT LOCATED WITHIN THE WATER PROTECTION ZONE;
- ERECTION OF NEW CONSTRUCTION WORKS IN THE BUILDING EXCLUSION ZONES OF DENSELY POPULATED AREAS IN THE DIRECTION OF LAND FROM THE ESTABLISHED BUILDING LINE BETWEEN EXISTING CONSTRUCTION WORKS;
- CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKS PRESCRIBED FOR FORTIFICATION OF BANKS OR NECESSARY FOR SERVICING A BEACH
- LAND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEMS, EXCEPT FOR POLDERS;
- INITIAL EXTENSION OF EXISTING CONSTRUCTION WORKS IF THE VOLUME OF THE EXTENSION IS LESS THAN ONE THIRD OF THE CUBATURE OF THE EXISTING CONSTRUCTION WORKS;
- BOUNDARY FENCES;
- BORDER GUARD FACILITIES.

# BUILDING EXCLUSION ZONE- EXEPTIONS

EXEPTIONS ONLY WITH ADOPTED DETAILED OR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

- CONSTRUCTION WORKS RELATED TO SURFACE WATER INTAKES;
- CONSTRUCTION WORKS IN PORTS AND CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKS RELATED TO WATER TRAFFIC;
- CONSTRUCTION WORKS OF HYDROGRAPHICAL SERVICES AND MONITORING STATIONS;
- CONSTRUCTION WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH FISH FARMING;
- CONSTRUCTION WORKS OF NATIONAL DEFENCE, BORDER GUARD AND RESCUE SERVICE AUTHORITIES
- UTILITY NETWORKS AND TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE;
- BRIDGES, PUBLIC ROADS AND RAILWAYS

# BUILDING EXCLUSION ZONE

- LOCAL AUTHORITIES MAY EXTEND THE BUILDING EXCLUSION ZONE BY A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
- IT IS POSSIBLE TO REDUCE BUILDING EXCLUSION ZONE WITH THE CONSENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

# REDUCTION OF BUILDING EXCLUSION ZONE

- CONSIDERING THE OBJECTIVES FOR PROTECTION OF A SHORE OR BANK AND BASED ON THE FLORA, RELIEF, BOUNDARIES OF LAND PARCELS AND IMMOVABLES, EXISTING ROAD AND UTILITY NETWORKS AND ESTABLISHED PATTERNS OF SETTLEMENT, THE BUILDING EXCLUSION ZONE OF A SHORE OR BANK MAY BE REDUCED
- THE LOCAL AUTHORITY WILL SUBMIT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD AN APPLICATION TOGETHER WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE OR DETAILED PLAN
- THE ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD WILL ASSESS THE COMPLIANCE OF THE REDUCTION OF THE BUILDING EXCLUSION ZONE WITH THE OBJECTIVES FOR PROTECTION

# THE PRACTICE

## STATISTICS:

- 2014- 27 APPLICATIONS, 22 YES, 2 NO
- 2013- 34 APPLICATIONS, 25 YES, 4 NO
- 2012- 50 APPLICATIONS, 37 YES, 8 NO

## MAIN CONCERNS:

- SUPERVISION BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTORATE
- ILLEGAL BUILDINGS
- FINES VERY SMALL COMPARED TO OTHER EXPENCES
- AWARENESS AND WILLINGNESS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES



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# Thank you!

**Liina Vaher**

[liina.vaher@envir.ee](mailto:liina.vaher@envir.ee)

+72 63 63 887

senior officer

Nature conservation department

Estonian Ministry of the environment