



Country Fiche

Latvia

Updated January 2015

1. General information



- Marine waters under Latvian jurisdiction include inland sea waters, territorial sea (12 nautical miles from the baseline) and exclusive economic zone (EEZ) waters.
- Total area of Baltic Sea waters (including Gulf of Riga) under jurisdiction of Latvia is 28,000 km².
- The Baltic Sea waters under jurisdiction of Latvia border upon Lithuania, Estonia and Sweden.

1.1. Governance

Latvian marine waters are owned by the state, but the responsibility for them is divided between respective sectorial ministries (Environment, Agriculture, Transport, Economics). Ministry of Finance on its part possesses seashore (up to depth of 20 m) owned by the state, but in relation to the seashore management and planning there is a discussion on competencies of the coastal municipalities ongoing. This competence will be given to local municipalities after Draft Land management law will be adopted by Parliament (currently adopted on 2nd reading)

1.2. Contacts

MSP in general: **Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development**

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2. General information on legislation

The legal base for MSP in Latvia is Spatial planning law, issued on 1st of December, 2011, where MSP and the deadline for starting it's elaboration (by 1st of January, 2014) is defined, as well the secondary legislation is prescribed. Regulations on Development, Implementation and Monitoring of Maritime Spatial Plan have been approved by the

Latvian Government in 2012, where the content, elaboration procedure as well as implementation and monitoring procedures of MSP are covered.

Other MSP relevant legislation:

- Marine Environment Protection and Management Law (effective as from 18 November 2010) and Law on Territorial Development Planning (effective as from 1 December 2011) states the necessity of maritime spatial planning
- National report “On distribution of competencies among the authorities for maritime spatial planning” (12.04.2012. Section 40 of the Minutes of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 19), which defines responsibilities of the authorities in development of the plan, as well as states that the Maritime Spatial Planning shall be developed for land/shore territory that is functionally related with the sea.
- Provisions of several international conventions and binding legal acts such as UNCLOS, Espoo Convention, Bonn Convention and EU directives (MSFD, HABITAT, BIRD, SEA, EIA), which have been transposed into national legislation.

3. General applicability (e.g. territorial Sea, EEZ, other distinctions)

The above mentioned legislation applies to all territory of Latvia, including territorial sea and EEZ sea waters.

4. Spatial Plans

No effective maritime spatial planning in place

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development has gained experience in maritime spatial planning through participation at different pilot projects BaltSeaPlan (<http://www.baltseaplan.eu/index.php/Latvian;839/1>), Plan Bothnia, GORWIND (<http://gorwind.msi.ttu.ee/home/info>) and PartiSEAPate (<http://www.partiseapate.eu/>).

Law on Spatial Development Planning prescribes that maritime spatial planning shall be commenced until 1 January 2014. According to the Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 740 “Marine planning development, implementation and supervision procedure” accepted by 30 October 2012 the maritime spatial plan shall be developed by Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology in cooperation with Maritime Administration of Latvia. Maritime Spatial Planning will be developed taking into consideration the international liabilities of the Republic of Latvia and in cooperation with countries, with which Latvia has common sea border.

National MSP shall consist of:

1. **strategic part** (includes long-term development vision, strategic objectives, development guidelines and tasks).
2. **explanatory note**, which includes an assessment of the current situation, covering:
 - 2.1. relations of the marine plan to other planning documents and legislation;
 - 2.2. general marine and environmental characteristics;

- 2.3. overview of marine natural and cultural resources, including landscapes;
 - 2.4. information on the sea uses, taking into account environmental, social and economic aspects;
 - 2.5. marine and terrestrial functional coherence;
 - 2.6. trend analysis on marine spatial usage.
3. **graphical part**, which is made up of a map on marine permitted uses and, if necessary, thematic maps and schematic maps;
4. **description of permitted marine uses** that includes:
- 4.1. the categories and types of permitted use;
 - 4.2. conditions for marine use of each category and types of use

Graphical part of the MSP shall be developed in WGS84 (World Geodetic System 1984) coordinate system of Mercator projection (57 °) using geodetic (elliptical) coordinates with the determination of scale 1:200 000. For the thematic plans of separate marine parts other appropriate scale may be chosen.

5. What countries want to share

5.1. Pilot plans

Within “**BaltSeaPlan**” project a pilot plan for Latvian territorial sea and EEZ waters of Baltic Sea was elaborated. The plan was a good practice for stakeholder involvement in planning process, where during the project:

- 17 stakeholders events were held in Latvia
- 245 individuals took part at the stakeholder’s events
- ca. 450 participants took part at all events in total
- Core group of stakeholders was established (ca. 30 people).

More information on pilot plan can be found here:

<http://www.baltseaplan.eu/index.php/Latvian;839/1>

6. New developments / current status

Development of MSP for all sea waters under Latvian jurisdiction was started in 2013 with announcing by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Latvia a tender for preparation of a Terms of Reference for MSP. Actual planning process is was launched on 1st of January, 2014, when a national MSP coordination group was established and initial enlightening seminar about timeline and content of national MSP for general public was organized.

In august, 2014 tender on elaboration of National MSP was launched, which results with contracting “Baltic Environmental Forum” as consultant on 1st of January 2015.

All MSP process will be divided in 4 steps (detailed timeframe provided bellow):

- 1) Progress report on existing situation
- 2) Elaboration of development scenarios
- 3) Detailed scenarios and determination of permitted sea uses
- 4) Public consultations, including cross-border consultations and finalization of MSP project

jan.15	feb.15	mar.15	apr.15	may.2015	jun.2015	july.2015	aug.15	sep.15	okt.15	nov.15	dec.15	jan.16	feb.15
I step		II step				III step					IV step		
					Public hearing on proposed scenarious					Public hearing and cross-border consultations			