

# The role of Espoo-consultations in a communicative world

-A Marine Spatial Planning example from Sweden and the Baltic Sea Region

Jan Schmidtbauer Crona  
[jan.schmidtbauer.crona@havochvatten.se](mailto:jan.schmidtbauer.crona@havochvatten.se)

Swedish Agency  
**for** Marine and  
Water Management

# Maritime/Marine Spatial Planning

## Planning **when and where human activities take place at sea**

### **Benefits of MSP (DG Mare):**

- **Reduce conflicts** between sectors and create synergies between different activities.
- **Encourage investment** – by instilling predictability, transparency and clearer rules. This will help boost the development of renewable energy sources and grids and establish Marine Protected Areas.
- **Increase coordination** – between administrations in each country, through the use of a single instrument to balance the development of a range of maritime activities. This will be simpler and cheaper.
- **Increase cross-border cooperation** – between EU countries, on cables, pipelines, shipping lanes, wind installations, etc.
- **Protect the environment** – through early identification of impacts and opportunities for multiple use of space.

# The new Swedish legislation on marine spatial planning

- Legislation from 1 September 2014
- Marine spatial plans shall contribute to sustainable development
- Guiding MSP (like Comprehensive master plan)
- Plans to be adopted by Government
- Government may adopt regulations prohibiting or limiting activities in destined geographical areas



# Geographical scope

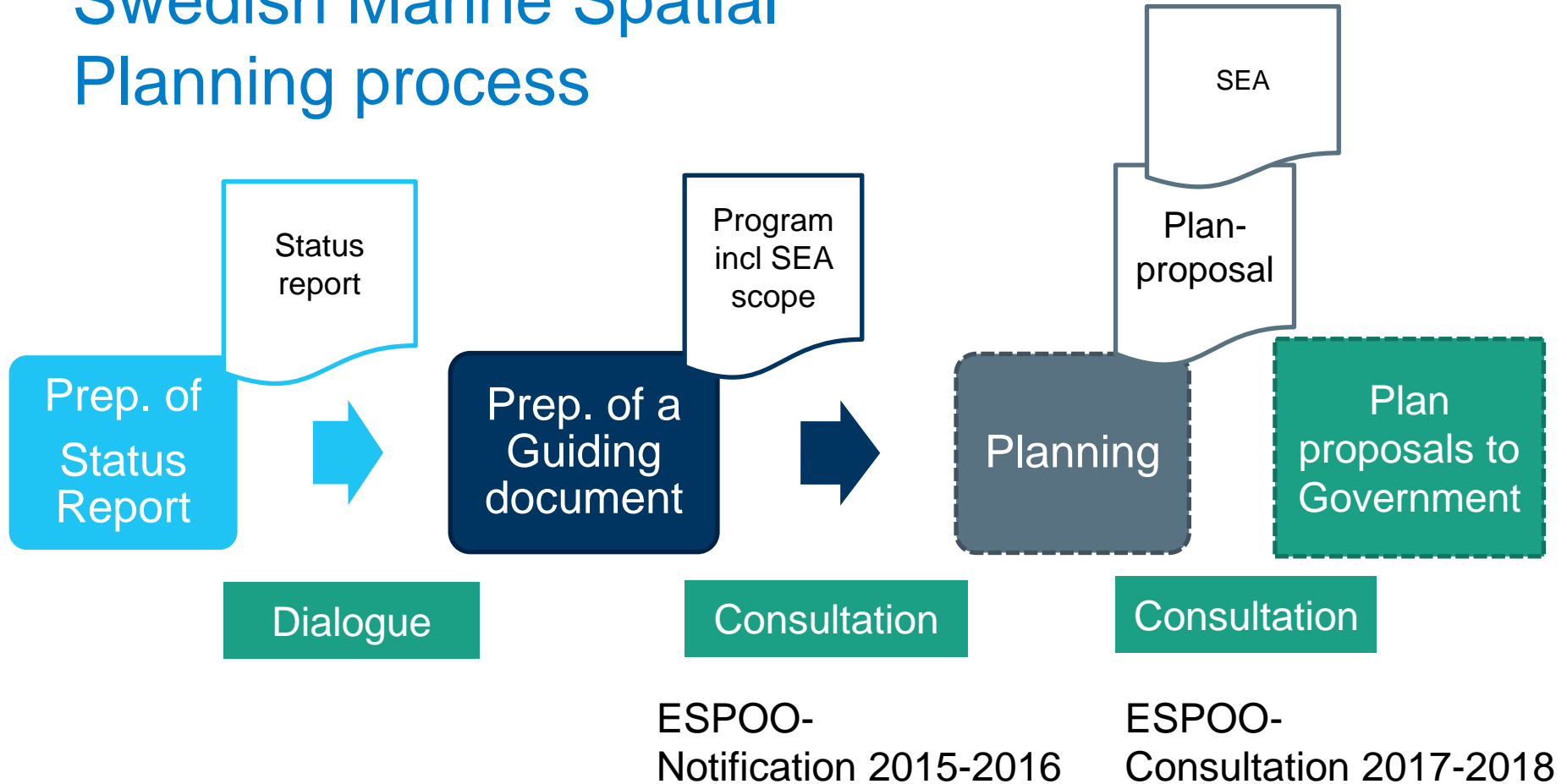
Swedish Agency  
for Marine and  
Water Management

- From one nautical mile from the baseline seawards  
incl. territorial sea and exclusive economic zone (EEZ)

Three plans:

- 1. Gulf of Bothnia,  
2. Baltic Sea proper  
3. Skagerrak/Kattegat
- Approx. 123 000 km<sup>2</sup>

# Swedish Marine Spatial Planning process



## Experience of Espoo in MSP

Espoo- consultation (SEA-protocol) should contribute to plan/programme and SEA

- Consultations at the plan stage on final plan and SEA-document is too late.
- HOW DO WE HANDLE THIS?

## Solutions

- Extend/add contents in the notification phase:  
Swedish MSP notification will include SEA-scoping and possibility for early feedback to SE.
- See Espoo in a greater communicative context
  - Espoo- an important formal consultation
  - Complemented by "informal" cooperation between neighbouring countries

# Espoo- an important formal consultation

Why important?

- Uses official “channels”
- Broadens the consultation, more authorities
- Develops an official national position
- May contribute to National cooperation/coordination (authorities may be “forced” to communicate with each other)



# Complemented by "informal" cooperation

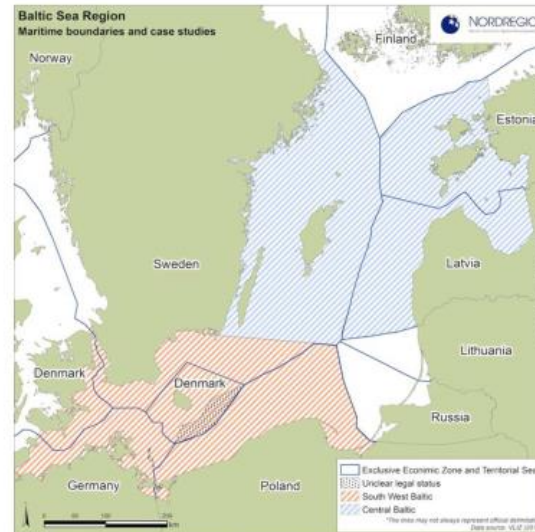
"Informal" cooperation may have many forms:

- Swedish MSP-meeting on Gotland with all neighbouring countries 11-12 September 2013-  
"Informal MSP- notification"
- EU-project cooperation, currently mainly in Baltic Scope, led by Sweden

# Baltic SCOPE

## Towards coherence and cross-border solutions in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans

(March 2015 – February 2017)



<http://www.balticscope.eu/>

## Other EU-projects

- BaltCoast (2001-2004)
- PlanCoast (2005-2008)
- BaltSeaPlan (2008-2012)
- PlanBothnia (2010-2012)
- PartiSEApate (2012-2014)
- Balt Space (2015-2017)

## Other cooperations

### HELCOM/VASAB- MSP workgroup

- Highlevel policy group
- Regular meetings (2/year)
- Principles for MSP
- Common view on the Ecosystem Approach in MSP
- Road map for MSP

# The Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013-2020

Swedish Agency  
for Marine and  
Water Management

Guidelines on:

- a) Baltic Sea regional “Guidelines on the application of **Ecosystem Approach** in transnationally coherent MSP”  
Transboundary consultations and cooperation in the field of MSP and
- b) Baltic Sea regional “Guidelines on **transboundary consultations and cooperation** in the field of MSP”.
- c) Baltic Sea regional “Guidelines on **public participation** for MSP with transboundary dimensions”

# Guidelines on transboundary consultations, public participation and co-operation

Context-ESPOO- only environment → Need to broaden scope to include economic issues etc

Baltic Sea States will start consulting neighbouring countries at the early stage in MSP

- The competent authorities inform neighbouring counterparts of their intention to start an MSP process.
- The competent authorities clearly state the intention and the nature of the MSP
- The competent authorities ask for relevant documents and any other available information from the neighbouring countries
- The competent authorities inform the neighbouring countries, once the stakeholder process begins in order to give the neighbouring country the option of installing a parallel domestic stakeholder process (or public participation) on issues of cross-border significance.

# Broader view: Espoo consultations for Marine Strategy Framework Directive's Programmes of measures

Similar view:

Espoo in a greater communicative context

- Main focus the "informal" cooperation between neighbouring countries, MSFD-workgroups etc.

Need for Espoo-consultations?

- Yes, Espoo- an important formal consultation

## Summing up

MSP

ESPOO

+

Other consultation/cooperation

PoM

MSFD - consultation/  
cooperation

+

ESPOO



# Thank you for your attention!

