

# Baltic Sea Region cooperation in Maritime Spatial Planning - HELCOM/VASAB



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**Swedish Ministry of the Environment – HELCOM/VASAB MSP Group**

Baltic Sea Region subregional workshop  
Espoo 31 March to 1 April 2011

# VASAB



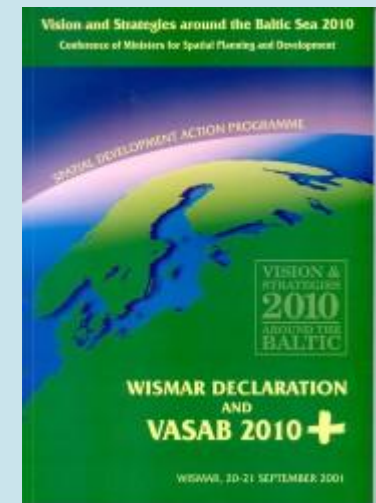
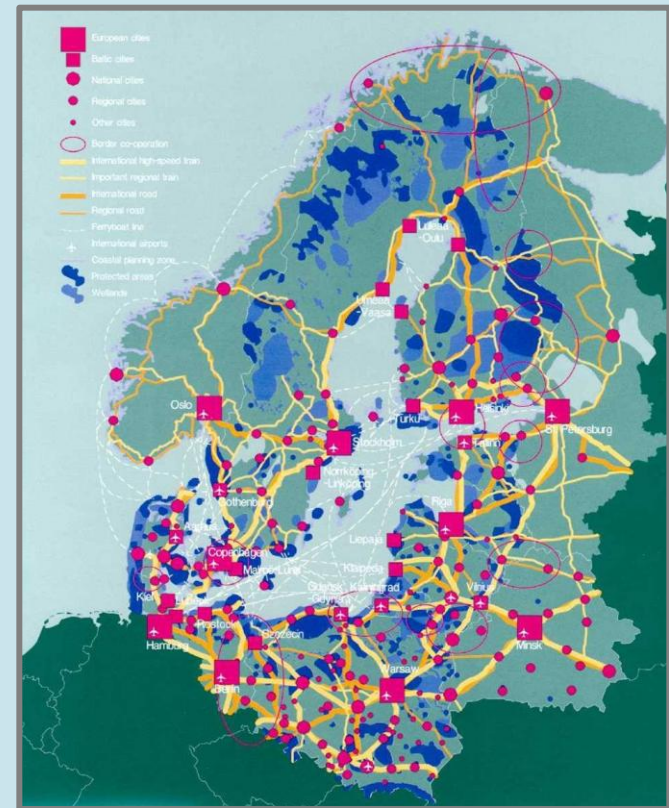
Intergovernmental network founded in 1992 to promote cooperation on spatial planning and development in the Baltic Sea Region

*11 Member countries:*

Belarus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Latvia, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden

*Main mission:*

- Prepare policy options for the territorial development of the Region
- Provide a forum for exchange of know-how on spatial planning and development



# HELCOM



- Roots in early international scientific concern on marine environment
- The Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, 1974 and 1992
- Governing body is the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission – HELCOM
- Regional policy maker and bridge between science and policy
  - Recommendations, Ministerial Declarations,
  - Input to International processes (IMO, EU)
- 10 Contracting Parties – 9 BSS and EU



# Development of Maritime Spatial Planning in the Region

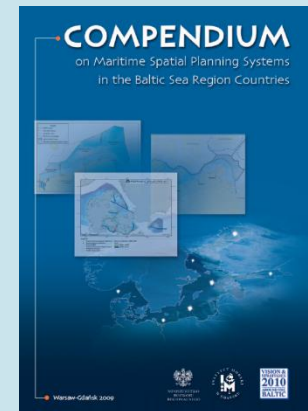
2002 BALTCOAST project: examples on plans and recommendations for planning



2004/5 Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Niedersachsen adopt plans covering territorial sea

2007 VASAB WG on Sea use planning and ICZM is formed  
HELCOM BSAP on work on principles for MSP

2009 - Germany adopts plans for Exclusive Economic Zone  
- VASAB Compendium on MSP in BSR countries  
- BaltSeaPlan project launched



2010 - Joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG formed  
- EU preparatory action in Baltic Sea: Plan Bothnia project  
- Swedish Committee on MSP proposes new legislation



# State of play for MSP in the Region

- *Improving the severe environmental situation in the Baltic Sea*
- *Increasing and competing uses of the sea – windmills etc.*
- *Ad hoc licensing*
- *No coherent picture of interests and protection needs*
- *No planning in territorial waters or Exclusive Economic zone for most countries*

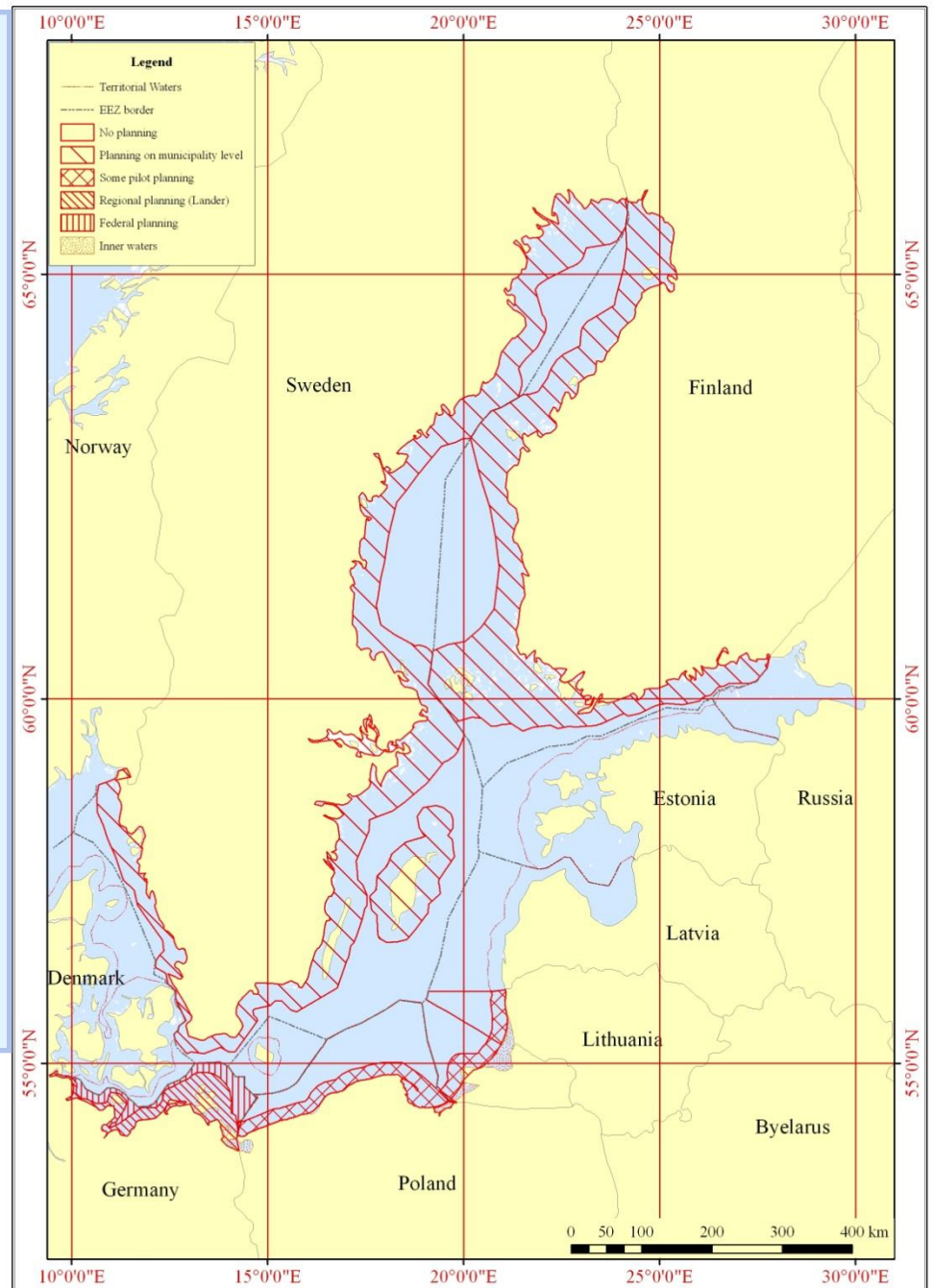


# Baltic Sea MSP situation

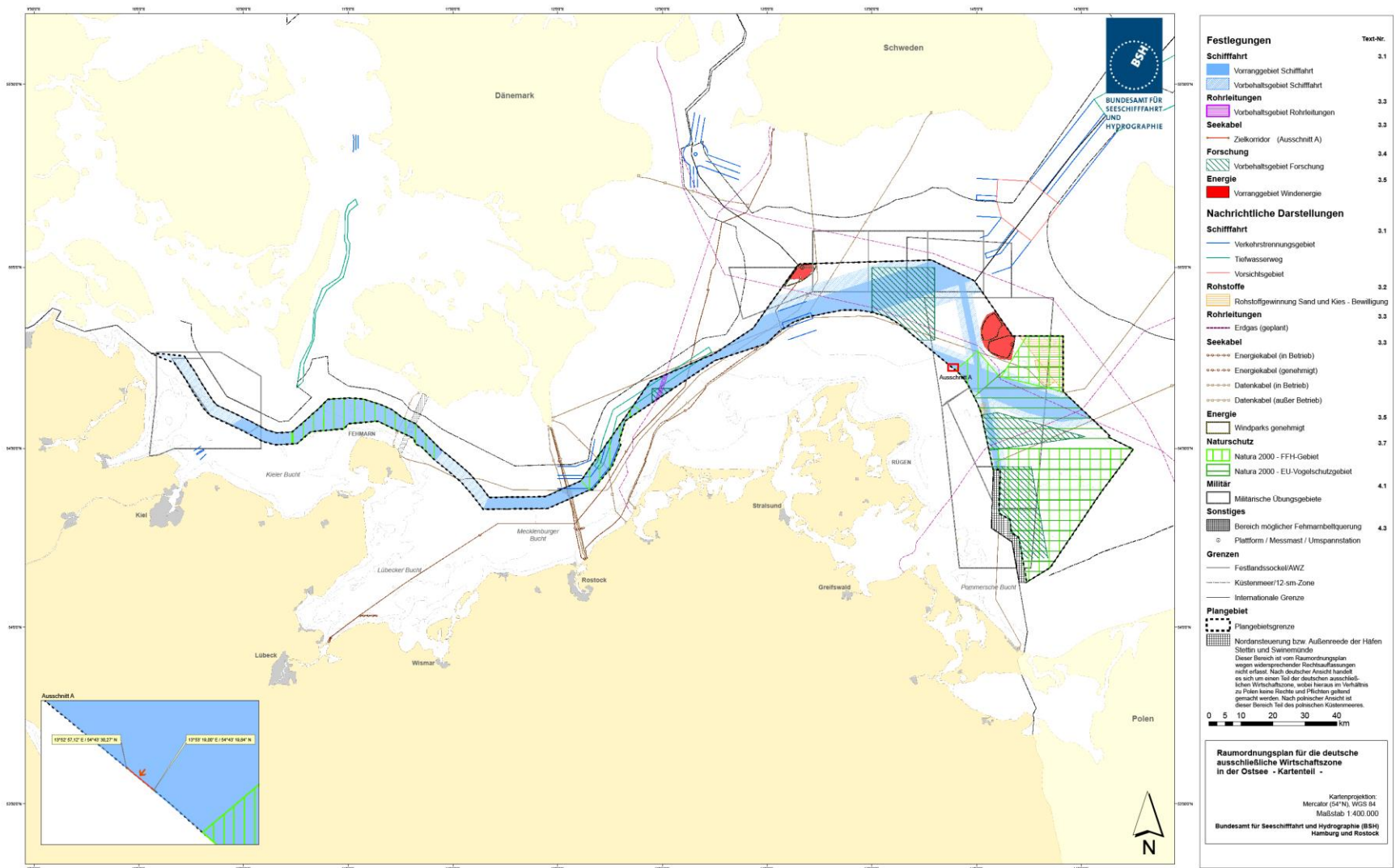
Big differences between  
Baltic Sea States concerning:

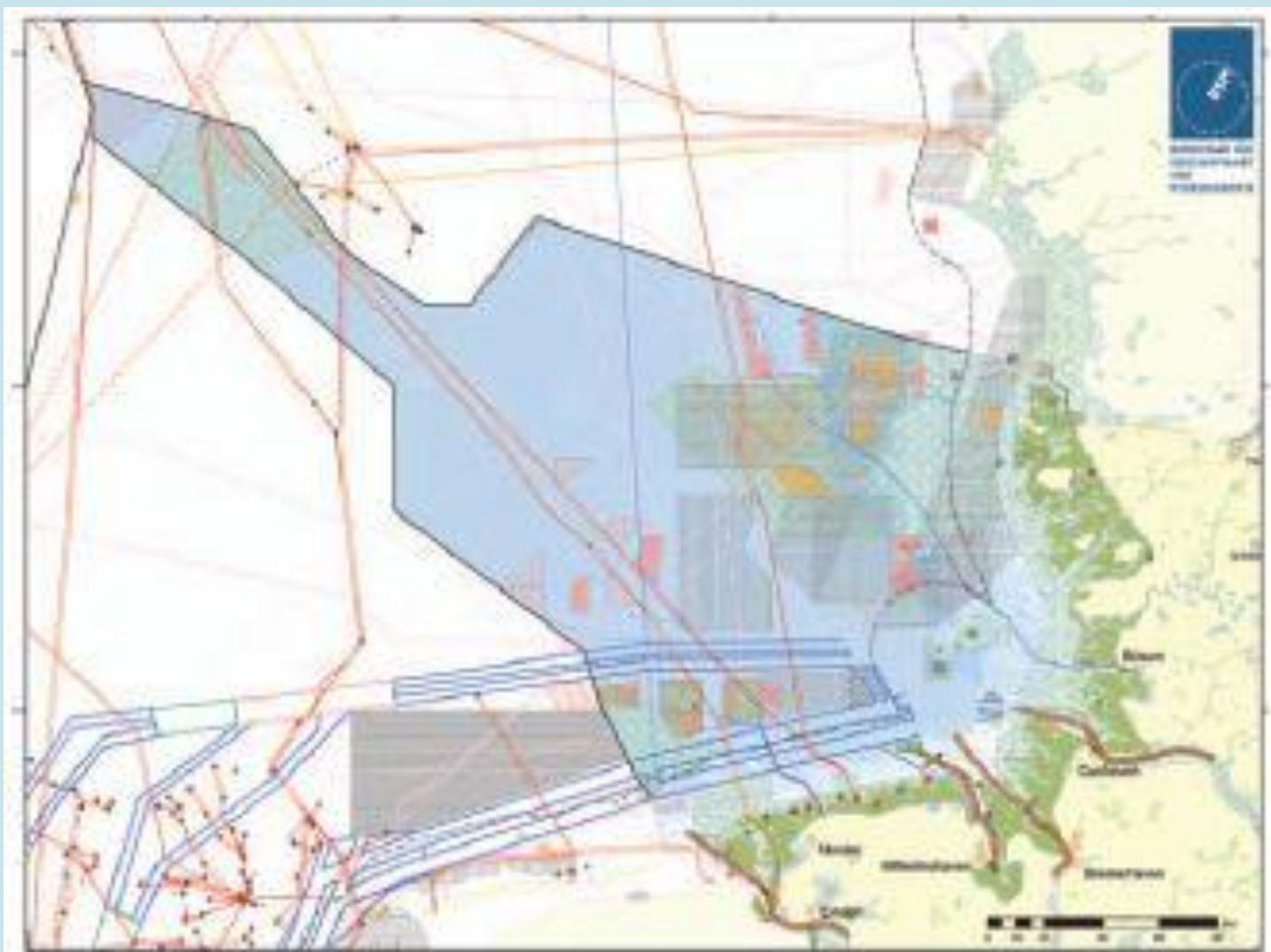
- state of developed MSP
- experience of MSP
- size and character of sea area

Different challenges for Maritime  
Spatial Planning



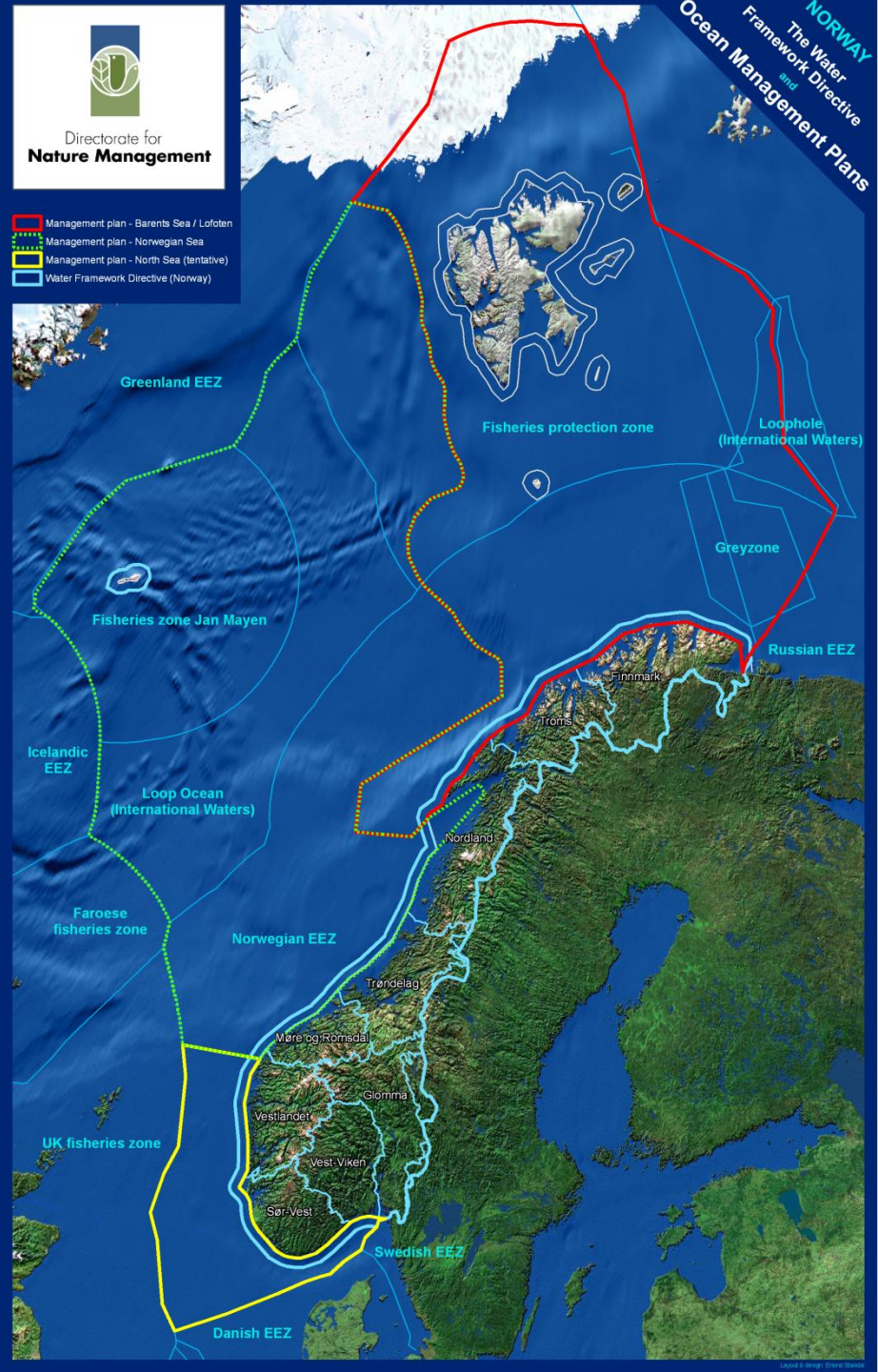
# Raumordnungsplan für die deutsche ausschließliche Wirtschaftszone in der Ostsee - Kartenteil -





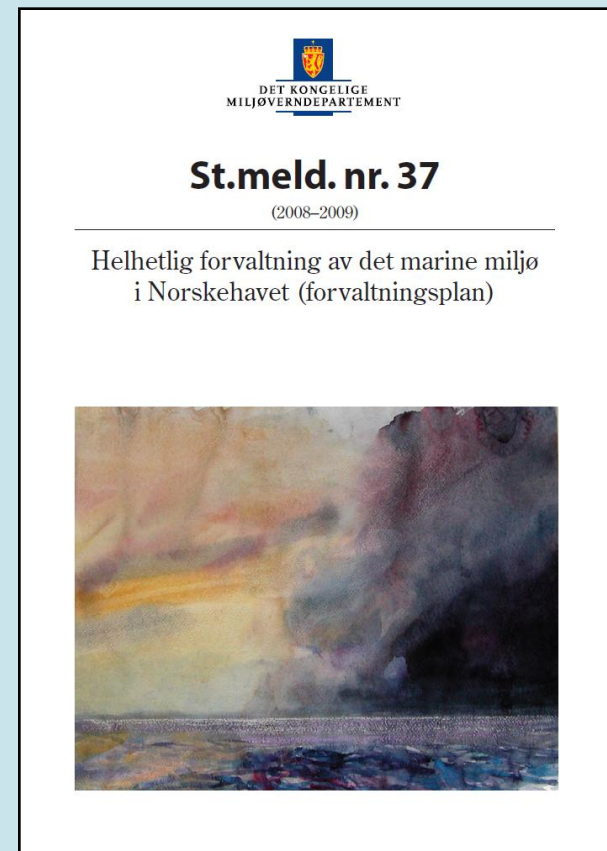
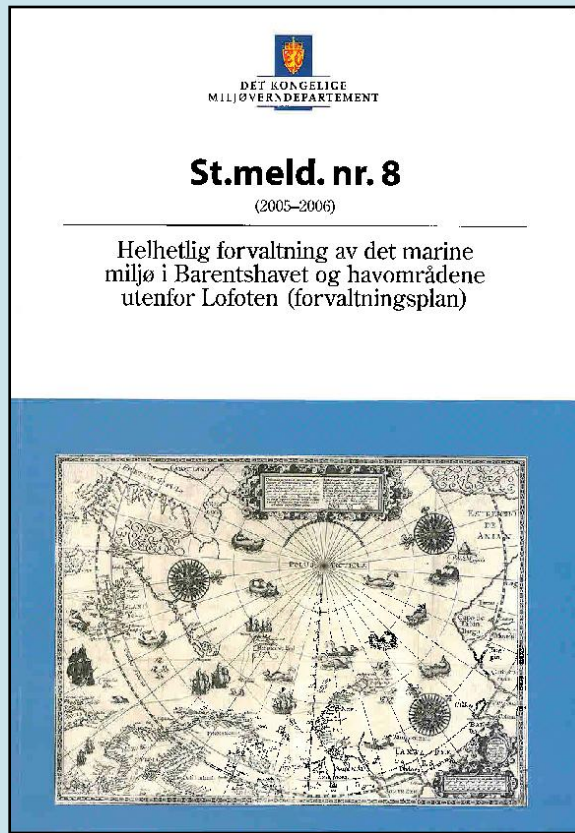


# Norwegian Sea Areas

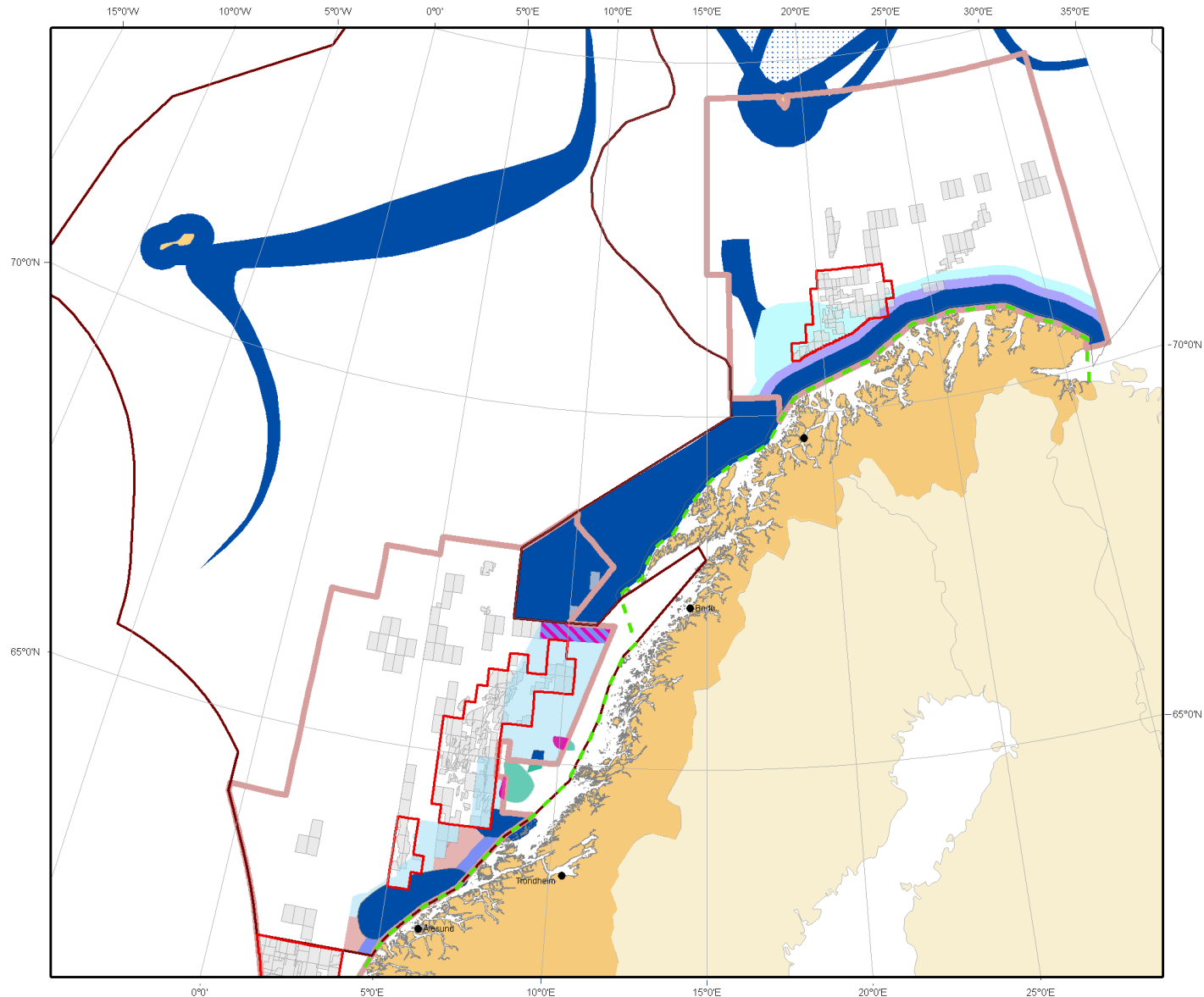


# White Papers to the Parliament

- *Management plan Barents Sea – Lofoten (2006)*
- *Management plan Norwegian Sea (2009)*



# ***New Framework for Petroleum Activities***



Source: Norwegian Ministry of the Environment

# HELCOM and VASAB MSP cooperation

- Both organisations had decided to set up working groups on maritime spatial planning
- A common group was formed and has met twice
- Two chairmen and two vice chairmen from each organisation, all BSS and EU-commission take part
- Drafted maritime spatial planning principles and mandate which were adopted by both organisations
- The only formal regional sea MSP group in Europe

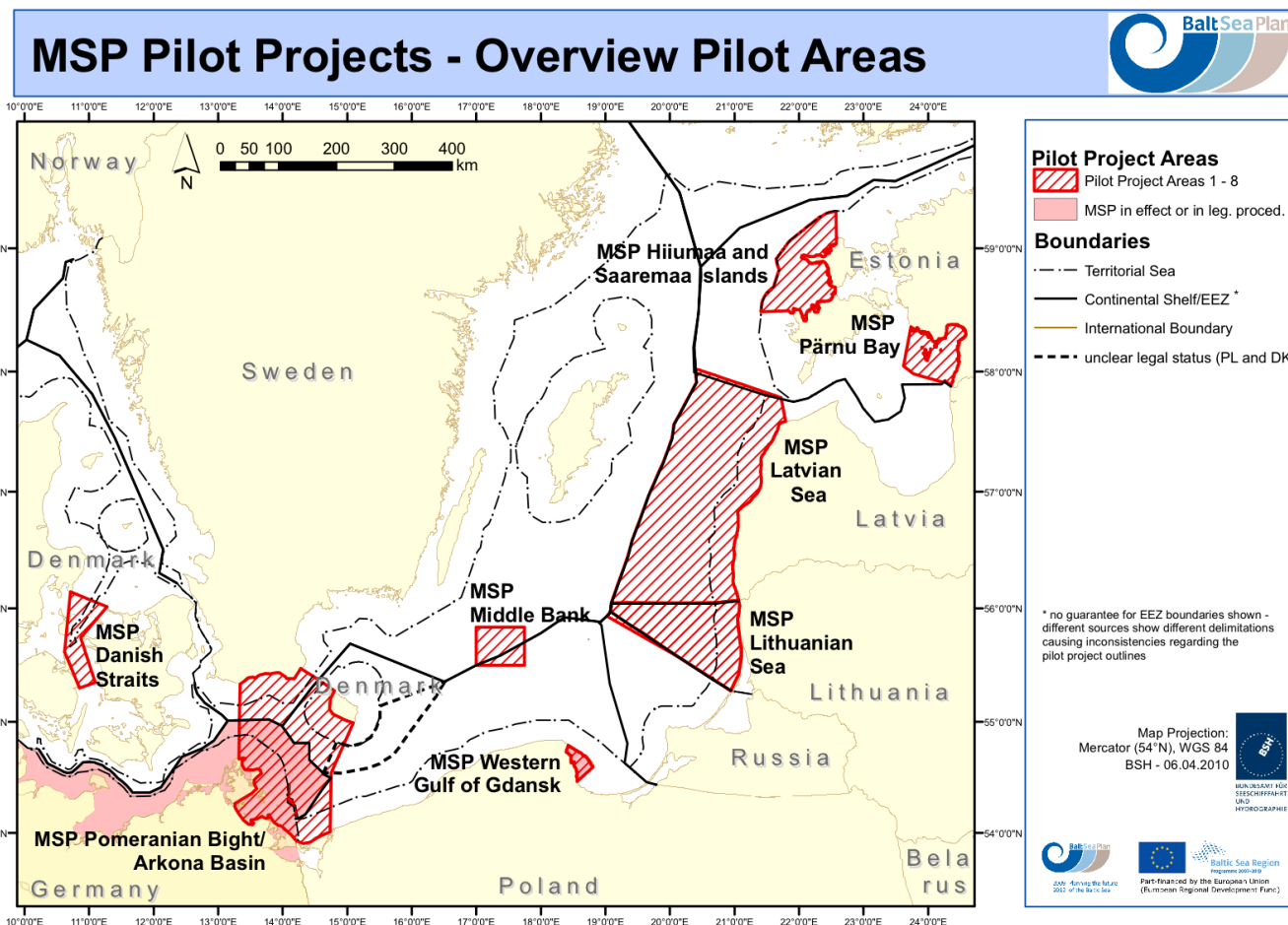


# Baltic Sea Maritime Spatial Planning Principles

- 1. Sustainable Management**
- 2. Ecosystem Approach**
- 3. Long Term Perspective and Objectives**
- 4. Precautionary Principle**
- 5. Participation and Transparency**
- 6. High Quality Data and Information Basis**
- 7. Transnational Coordination and Consultation**
- 8. Coherent Terrestrial and Maritime Spatial Planning**
- 9. Planning Adaptive to Characteristic and Spatial Conditions at different Areas**
- 10. Continuous Planning**

# BaltSeaPlan project

The BaltSeaPlan project (2009-2012) is jointly carried out by 14 partners from Germany, Poland, Sweden, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia to develop, introduce and implement Maritime Spatial Planning throughout the BSR in a coherent manner



[www.baltseaplan.eu](http://www.baltseaplan.eu)

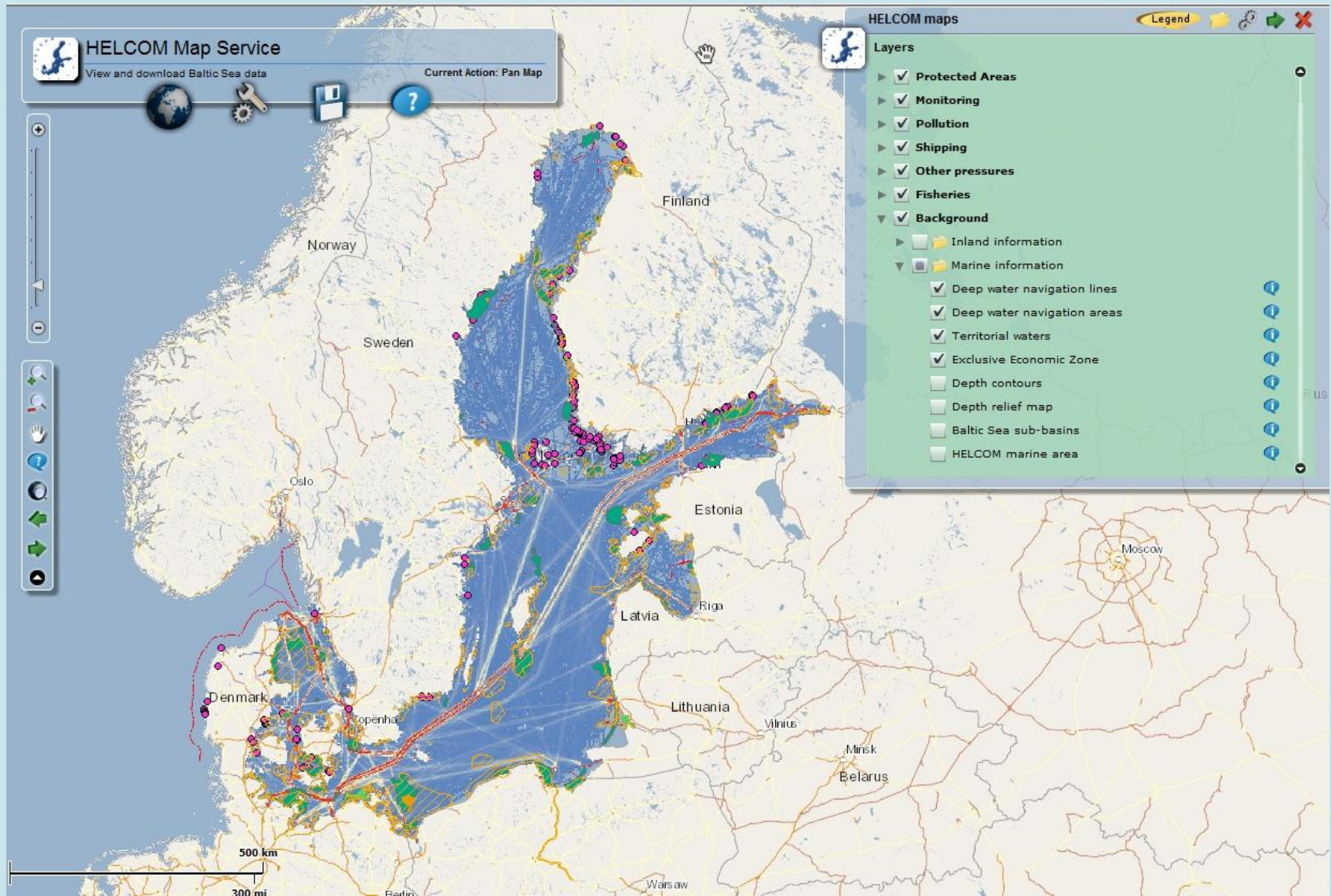
# PLAN BOTHNIA

- PLAN BOTHNIA is an EU funded MSP “preparatory action”
- Maritime planning cooperation between Sweden and Finland
- Aim to produce a pilot plan for whole Bothnian Sea
- Lead by HELCOM, SE-FIN authorities partners, involvement of regions
- Will run 18 months till late spring 2012

[www.planbothnia.org](http://www.planbothnia.org)



# HELCOM GIS www services





# The commission on Marine spatial planning in Swedish waters

- Proposed in Dec 2010 a new law on Marine Spatial Planning
- A new national state marine plan for all Swedish waters outside 1 nautical mile outside baseline
- Ecosystem based – coordination with EU MSFD
- Drafted by new Agency for Marine and Water Management and adopted by Government
- Intended for authorities and municipalities
- Plan should guide, direct or be binding for decisions on uses of sea areas

*A Marine Spatial Plan should  
be elaborated for each of  
the three areas*

*Gulf of Bothnia*

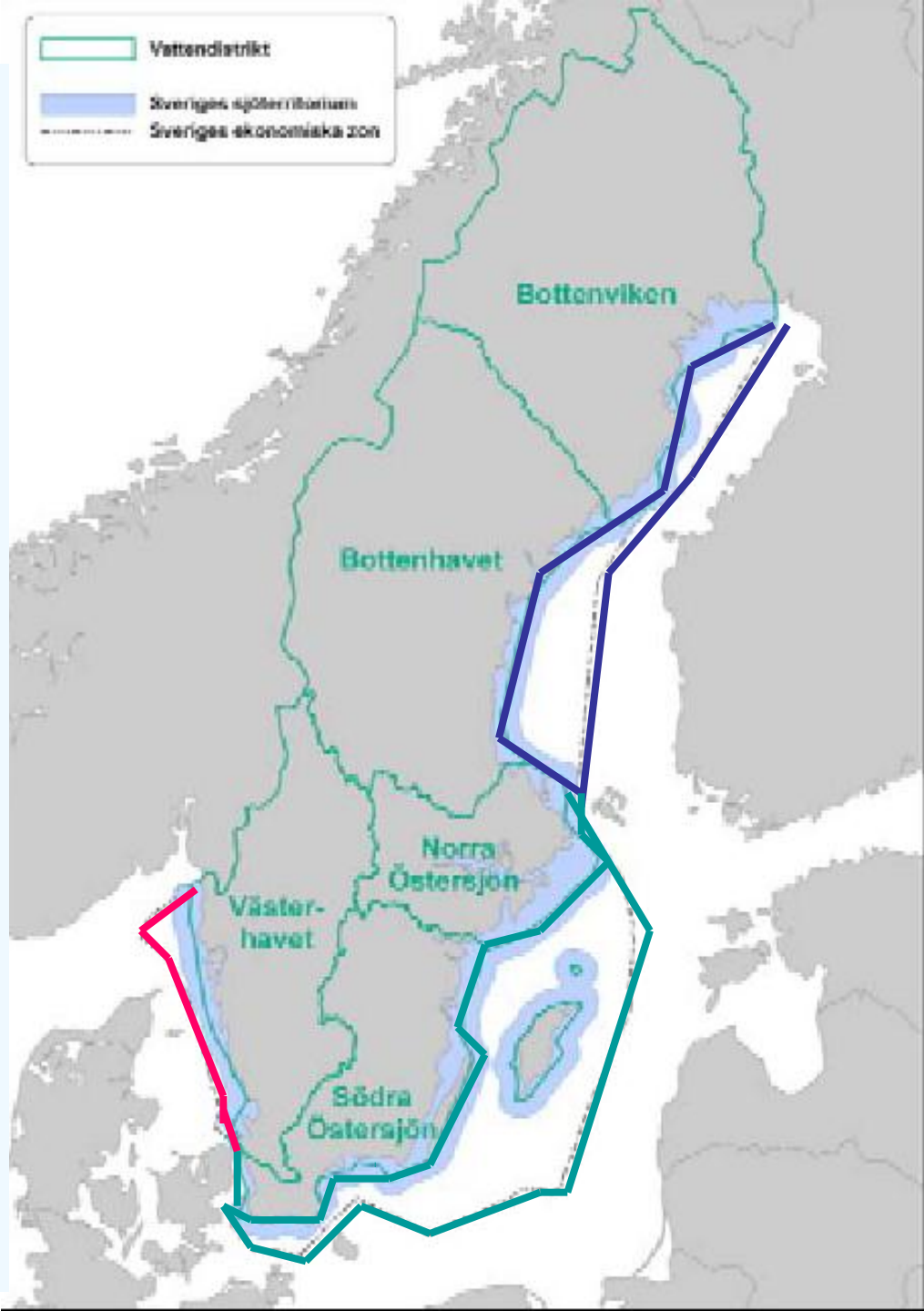
*Baltic Sea proper*

*Skagerrak and Kattegatt*

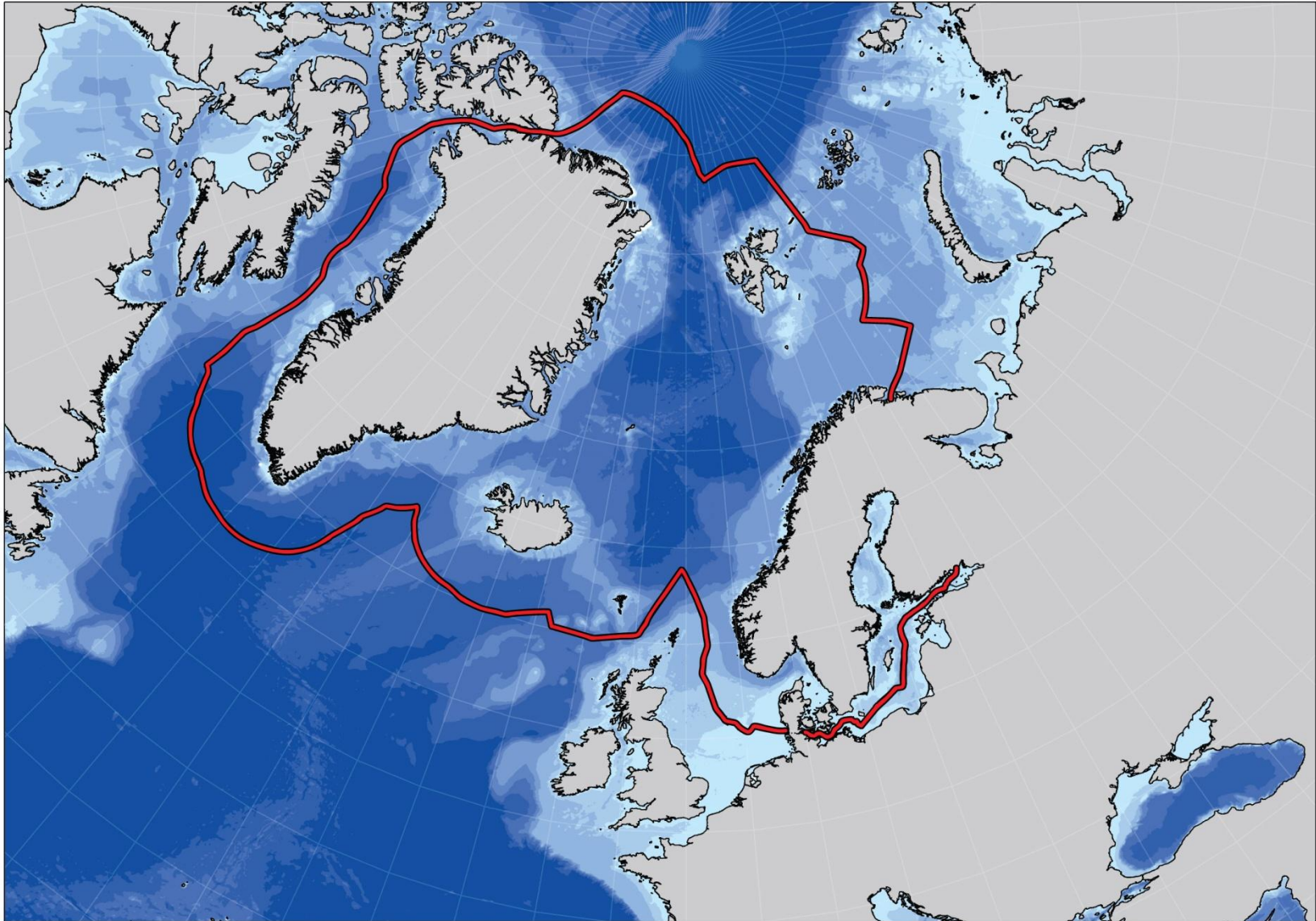
*Cooperation with neighbouring countries  
(9!) when drafting the plan*

*Next steps:*

*Government bill in autumn,  
new legislation summer 2012*



# Nordic Council of Ministers – MSP group



*Thank you for your attention!*

