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Summary Protocol for the International Meeting

on the

**„Concept for revision of the spatial plans for the
German exclusive economic zone of the North Sea and Baltic Sea“**

Thursday, 23 April 2020
10:00 am – 13:00 pm (CEST)
Online-Conference

1. Welcome and Introduction

- Welcome by Kai Trümpler, Head of Unit Spatial Planning at BSH. This early and informal international consultation should serve to present the concept for the revision of the German MSP and to get feedback from the neighbouring countries for the preparation of the first draft plan
- The translated concept with three planning options were sent upfront and can be found on the BSH website
- BSH offered bilateral meetings on specific issues in the next months
- Participants agreed to a recording of the meeting

2. Concept for Revision of the German EEZ MSPs

- Presentation by Ulrich Scheffler (BSH) on the general approach, timeline and the three planning options to facilitate the preparation of a first draft of a revised MSP for the North and Baltic Sea EEZ. The three planning options focus on A) traditional use, B) climate protection, and C) nature protection
- Clarification on spatial designations and regulations (question by Jan Schmidtbauer Crona, SE): Due to national regulations, BSH cannot make spatial designations for all sectors or topics, e.g. for military training areas. Functions and areas are defined where possible and regulations for the sector itself and other uses related to it are set. One example is underwater cultural heritage: we did not identify areas but regulate for other uses how to consider heritage, e.g. during the construction of offshore wind farms (OWF). There are different reasons for defining regulations.
- Clarification on regulations for fisheries (question by Juan Ronco Zapatero, EU): For fisheries, no areas are designated, but fishing is allowed in the whole EEZ except for OWF areas. Discussions on possible changes in this regulation are ongoing.

- Clarification on safety distances of OWF (question by Ewa Cernohorska, PL): The safety distance for navigation is ensured in all planning options. OWF are only allowed in designated areas for energy.
- Clarification on Natura2000 sites, designated areas for nature protection and the overlapping of planning categories (question by Jacek Zaucha, PL): All Natura2000 sites are also formally protected under national law and are designated areas for nature protection. In planning options B and C, these areas are priority areas for nature protection. Different categories are possible if the functional coherence is given, e.g. with shipping and nature protection.
- Clarification on the Northern approach to Świnoujście (question by Jacek Zaucha, PL): There are no changes to the current map representation of the Northern approach.

3. Planning Issues and Proposed Designations

Shipping

- Presentation by Dominic Plug (BSH) on spatial designations and regulations for shipping, analysis of AIS data and changes in designated traffic routes in the North Sea
- Question on safety issues regarding shipping and planned OWF (question by Leo de Vrees, NL): The Netherlands are planning to designate areas for wind energy close to the German-Dutch border and the shipping routes and safety distances should be coherent. The Dutch areas are still under internal discussion. BSH proposes to discuss traffic routes and safety assessments in the North Sea shipping group (confirmed by Joris Brouwers, NL) as the plans under development set long-term regulations. In the German concept, priority areas for wind farms will most likely be constructed until 2035, reservation areas later on and there is hardly any capacity for more areas to come. The Netherlands propose to not only discuss shipping but also planned OWF and nature protection in the area.
- Question on safety aspects regarding shipping and cables and pipelines (question by Ewa Cernohorska, PL): Can the safety of navigation be ensured and the safe access to Świnoujście port even with new pipelines such as the Nord Stream pipeline? BSH is not aiming at changing the status quo and was informed by colleagues from the Świnoujście port authority that the pipeline and associated measurements will not cause any problems to the safety of navigation. BSH notes the request and will forward it to the Federal Ministry of the Interior mandated with spatial planning.
- Question on the information basis behind the maps (question by Juan Ronco Zapatero, EU): BSH received the shapefiles from project contacts in the North and Baltic Sea.
- Clarification on safety zones for shipping routes SO6 and OWF (question by Marta Konik, PL): Are the safety zones for shipping routes ensured for the areas for offshore wind energy O-1 and O-2 in the Baltic Sea? PL calculated a required width of the shipping route of 4 nm. BSH ensures that planned OWF will keep the safety distance to existing shipping routes. The width of the shipping lanes are the same as in the MSP 2009. BSH will provide shapefile with the designations and will check again the distances. Poland will share the calculations made on the safety distances.

Offshore Wind Energy

- Presentation by Hanno Salecker (BSH) on spatial designations and regulations for offshore wind energy, the current offshore situation, site development plan (FEP 2019) and potential capacity

- Question on designated areas for wind energy and nature protection (question by Jan Schmidtbauer Crona, SE): What are the differences in the planning options regarding the weighing of ecological values? What are ecological reasons to reduce the OWF capacity? BSH has considered sensitive habitats for divers in the North Sea even outside formally protected nature reserves in plan option C. Besides, the category of future use follows the precautionary approach in light of weak data availability in areas further offshore. In the Baltic Sea, the reservation area O-2 means that there is potential for offshore wind energy but we also follow the discussions on the migration corridor for birds from Germany to Sweden. Reservation areas are a less strong signal as it is easier to designate concrete sites for OWF and to get a licence in priority areas. Decisions on single OWF are not taken at MSP level.
- Clarification on the plan options (question by Joost Vermeulen, NL): When will a decision on the plan options be made? BSH will come up with a draft plan in summer 2020 and it will be a synthesis out of the three presented plan options. In addition, feedback from national and international consultation will be fed into the draft plan.

Cables and Pipelines

- Presentation by Hanno Salecker (BSH) on spatial designations and regulations for cables and pipelines. The detailed sectoral planning is conducted in the site development plan.
- Clarification on cables for OWF (question by Triin Lepland, EE): For the German EEZ, it is not the OWF operator planning the grid connection. BSH is designating the cable system concurrently to the offshore wind energy planning by defining how, where, and when the OWF is connected to the land in the site development plan. Transmission system operators realize the cables and have to stick to the designated corridors.

Nature Protection

- Presentation by Annika Koch (BSH) on spatial designations and regulations for nature protection, the current situation, Natura2000 sites and areas with ecological functions for sensitive species, such as main distribution areas and migration corridors.
- Clarification on reservation area for harbour porpoises (question by Leo de Vrees, NL): BSH is defining such an area in the North Sea due to its seasonal importance and due to the need for mitigation measures, such as for pile driving. With regard to cumulative effects, BSH will also consider plans in neighbouring countries.
- Question on nature protection, management, and the consequences of designating a priority area for nature protection (question by Jan Schmidtbauer Crona, SE): BSH is designating additional areas for nature protection and defining additional measures in the MSP. From national stakeholders even more areas are requested to be designated, but for now, we do not have evidence that more areas can be designated. Besides, there is strong political will to reach offshore energy targets and we already protect more than 30% of the EEZ.
- Clarification on the exact areas of the areas for nature protection (question by Marta Konik, PL): BSH is designating the national marine nature reserves in their current extent, Natura2000 areas are the same as the ones reported to the commission.
- Clarification on restricted uses in areas for nature protection (question by Ewa Cernohorska, PL): The current regulations are applied as in the example of dredging of route SO6. This measure is not precluded at MSP level but needs an application and impact assessment at project level.

- Clarification on the overlap of the protected area bordering Poland (question by Katarzyna Krzywda, PL): The protected area is not covering the roadstead, this is just a mapping problem. We will not include the area in this way in the draft plan.

Further planning issues

- Presentation by Ulrich Scheffler (BSH) on spatial designations and regulations for [resource extraction](#).
- Presentation by Ulrich Scheffler (BSH) on regulations for [defence](#) and the display of training areas in the MSP
- Presentation by Bettina Käppeler (BSH) on regulations for [fisheries](#), the current situation and discussions on multi-use and possible areas for designation.
- Presentation by Bettina Käppeler (BSH) on regulations for [aquaculture](#) and discussions how this can be subject to MSP.
- Clarification on the demand for aquaculture (question by Xavier Guillou, EU): Developers have not yet applied for aquaculture installations, we are only discussing the opportunity.
- Clarification on the binding character of regulations (question by Juan Ronco Zapatero, EU): The regulations in the adopted MSP are binding for other authorities, not directly for the public or developers.
- Presentation by Bettina Käppeler (BSH) on spatial designations and regulations for [marine research](#).
- Presentation by Bettina Käppeler (BSH) on regulations for [leisure and tourism](#).
- Clarification on the general rule for the passage of wind farms by small vessels (question by Leo de Vrees, NL): BSH is defining small vessels according to international regulations by the length of up to 24 m. If there are formal arguments to allow bigger ships, as discussed in the Netherlands, BSH is interested in the evaluation of such an approach in the shipping group.

General questions and written comments

- Clarification on the SEA (question by Leo de Vrees, NL): will the plan options be assessed in the SEA? BSH will base the draft environmental report on the draft plan. In a first step, we have made an estimation on environmental aspects that allows a rough comparison and assessment of alternatives to complement the concept.
- Clarification on the SEA and the time horizon of the plan (question by Leo de Vrees, NL): The assessment of environmental effects of OWF development will consider all planned and built OWF, also in the neighbouring countries. The plan horizon are the years 2035-2040.
- Question on the evaluation of the first plan (question by Elin Celik, SE and comment by Jacek Zaucha, PL and Marta Konik, PL): BSH has conducted a qualitative evaluation of the first MSP. This status report (Statusbericht) is available in German only. We are considering to translate this report into English later this year. https://www.bsh.de/DE/THEMEN/Offshore/Meeresraumplanung/Fortschreibung/fortschreibung-raumordnung_node.html
- Clarification on the preliminary assessment of environmental aspects (question by Jan Schmidbauer Crona, SE): the assessment and comparison table of the three planning options complements the concept. The comparison is made from high altitude, without detailed assessments but is considering possible mitigation measures. A social-economical assessment is not yet planned.
- Clarification on reaching the climate targets (question by Elena Medagli, EU): The current national climate targets can be reached with all plan options, but we will consider further political targets.

- Clarification on the preferred plan (question by Joost van Vermeulen, NL): It is none of the presented plan options, but a new plan (plan D), the draft plan.

4. Further Planning Steps / Subsequent Coordination Meetings etc.

- BSH will share the presentation and document the meeting with a short summary
- We offer to hold bilateral meetings in the next months.
- The international consultation will be held in late 2020.

Thank you and End of Meeting

Participants International Meeting

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| Kai Trümpler | BSH | Germany |
| Bettina Käppeler | BSH | Germany |
| Ulrich Scheffler | BSH | Germany |
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| Hanno Salecker | BSH | Germany |
| Annika Koch | BSH | Germany |
| Philipp Arndt | BSH | Germany |
| Ann Kristin Forstmann | BSH | Germany |
| Lukas Wienholt | BSH | Germany |
| Marie Dahmen | BSH | Germany |
| Malena Ripken | Universität Oldenburg (NorthSEE) | Germany |
| Kristina Beiter | Danish Maritime Authority | Denmark |
| Anders Boe-Hansen | Danish Maritime Authority | Denmark |
| Joost Vermeulen | Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy | Netherlands |
| Joris Brouwers | Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment | Netherlands |
| Tina Kelder | Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment | Netherlands |
| Jeremy Stroo | Rijkswaterstaat | Netherlands |
| Leo de Vrees | Rijkswaterstaat | Netherlands |
| Jeroen Van Overloop | Federal Public Service Mobility and Transport, DG Shipping | Belgium |
| Clare McCarty | Marine Management Organisation | UK / England |
| Conor McCabe | Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government | Ireland |
| Martin O'Meara | Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government | Ireland |
| Kristine Kedo | Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development | Latvia |
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| Liene Gaujeniete | VASAB | Latvia |
| Kristina Veidemane | Baltic Environmental Forum - Latvia | Latvia |
| Triin Lepland | Ministry of Finance Spatial Planning Department Tallinn | Estonia |
| Egon Enocksson | Swedish Environmental Protection Agency | Sweden |
| Jan Schmidtbauer Crona | Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management | Sweden |
| Elin Celik | Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management | Sweden |
| Tiina Tihlman | Finnish Ministry for the Environment | Finland |
| Katarzyna Krzywda | Ministry for Marine Economy and Inland Navigation | Poland |
| Natalia Zając | Ministry for Marine Economy and Inland Navigation | Poland |
| Agnieszka Szrajner | Ministry of State Assets | Poland |

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|---------------------|--|--------|
| Natalia Ściegosz | Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy | Poland |
| Andrzej Tymorek | PSE SA, Polish Transmission System Operator | Poland |
| Marta Konik | Maritime Office Szczecin | Poland |
| Joanna Kolbiarz | Maritime Office Szczecin | Poland |
| Andrzej Zych | Maritime Office Szczecin | Poland |
| Ewa Černohorská | Szczecin and Swinoujscie Seaports Authority SA | Poland |
| Jacek Zaucha | Maritime Institute in University of Gdansk | Poland |
| Magdalena Matczak | Maritime Institute in University of Gdansk | Poland |
| Zuzanna Majewska | General Directorate Warsaw | Poland |
| Juan Ronco Zapatero | European Commission, DG MARE | EU |
| Patrycja Enet | MSP-Platform, North Sea MSP Focal Point | EU |
| Elena Medagli | European Commission, DG MARE (national expert) | EU |
| Celine Frank | European Commission, DG MARE | EU |
| Xavier Guillou | European Commission, DG MARE | EU |