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Note that this document was submitted after the established deadline. It will be decided by the Meeting whether the document can be discussed or is postponed to the next meeting.

Background

Germany has finalised revision of the Maritime Spatial Plans for the EEZ in the North and Baltic Sea from 2009.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information on the updated 2021 Maritime Spatial Plan for the German EEZ in the North and Baltic Sea. Further information is provided in the updated Country Fiche.

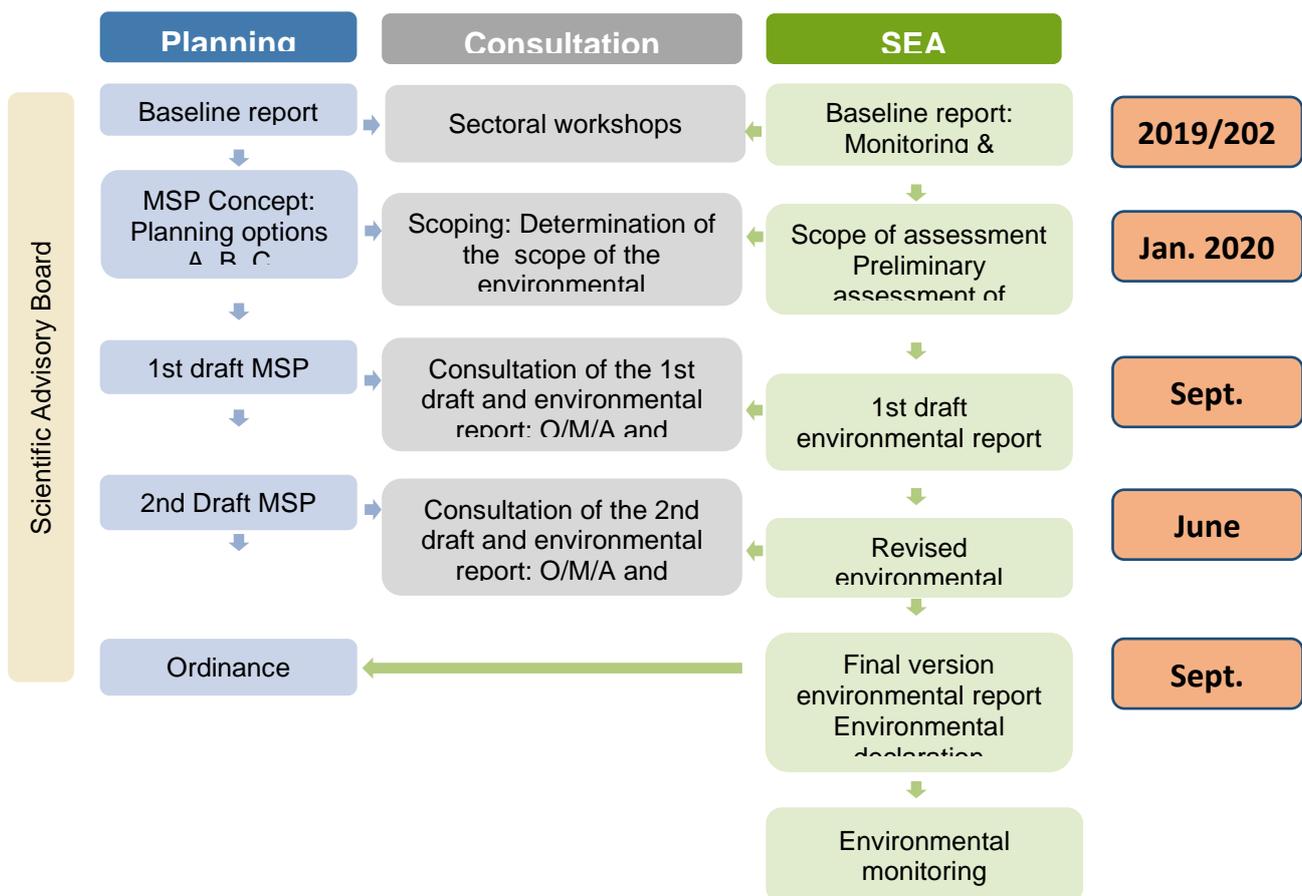
Updated MSP (2021) for the German EEZ in the North and Baltic Sea

When Germany started updating the maritime spatial plans for the German EEZ in the North Sea and Baltic Sea in 2019, it was able to draw on ten years of experience in implementing the first plans published in 2009, as well as newly introduced sectoral spatial planning and extensive exchange and cooperation with its neighbours in a number of specific MSP projects in the Baltic and North Seas.

Planning process

As one of the first actions when starting the process of revision of the MSPs a scientific advisory board was established in early 2018, providing valuable input and always keeping a critical eye on the activities and outcomes of the planning process and procedures. The actual planning process started with preparation of a comprehensive evaluation and baseline report in 2019, looking back at the MSPs from 2009, their implementation e.g. through licensing for infrastructure or other activities, assessing appropriateness of the designations in relation to the guidelines and intended steering effects, and outlining the current legal, administrative and economic framework, as well as ecological conditions. Building on this, requirements for the new planning process and the planning issues to be considered were developed.

From the start the planning process was supported by a scientific advisory board.



Transboundary consultation

Transboundary consultation started in the preparatory phase of the MSP process, when the concept for the revision was presented in early 2020, outlining three planning options with different focus each. This was being given into transnational consultation in parallel with initiating the ESPOO procedure. Formal consultation stages for the first and second draft plan again comprised the opportunity of submitting comments as well as take part in a transboundary stakeholder meeting (see annex). In turn Germany took part in the consultation on maritime spatial plans of its neighbours, and sought to point out potential (spatial) conflict issues.

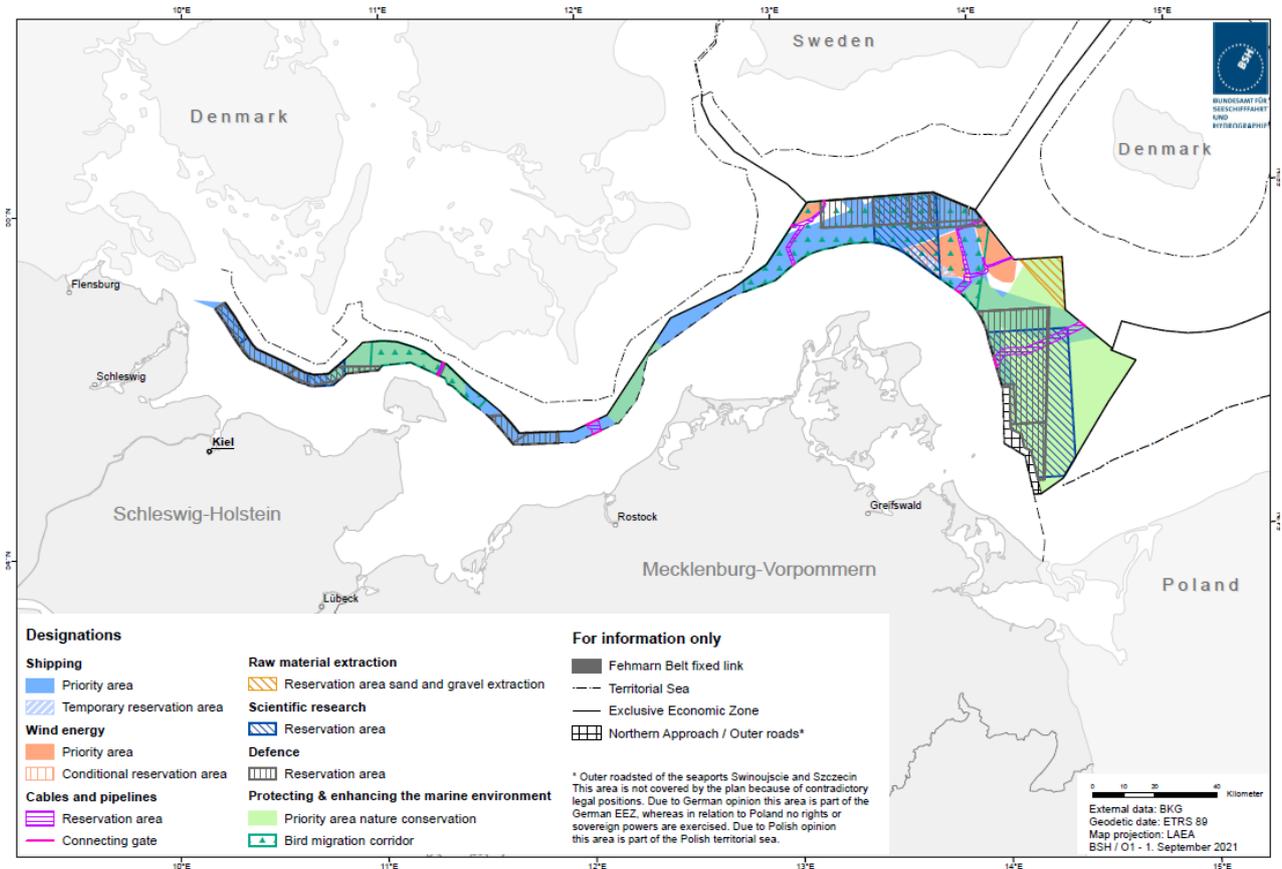
Plan objectives

Overall objectives of the plan are reflected in the vision outlined in chapter 1. “Using and preserving the sea in all its diversity” shall be the overarching goal, thus contributing to a healthy sea and space for biodiversity, climate protection, and provide a wide range of ecosystem services. Maritime resources shall be responsibly used, as basis of sustainable marine economy, and prosperity for present and future generations, with a focus on climate-friendly technologies such as offshore wind energy and other renewable energies and supporting national and international climate targets, while also providing for “traditional” uses such as shipping, fishery, recreation etc.

Plan content

The Baltic Sea Part of the revised MSP (planning scale 1:400.000):

Maritime Spatial Plan for the German exclusive economic zone in the North Sea and the Baltic Sea - Map Baltic Sea



In comparison to the 2009 plans major changes with regard to spatial regulations comprise:

- Spatial designations for nature protection (in the Baltic Sea: priority areas nature protection), and bird migration areas being referred to in textual regulation for offshore wind.
- Slightly amended shipping routes, designated in full width as priority areas

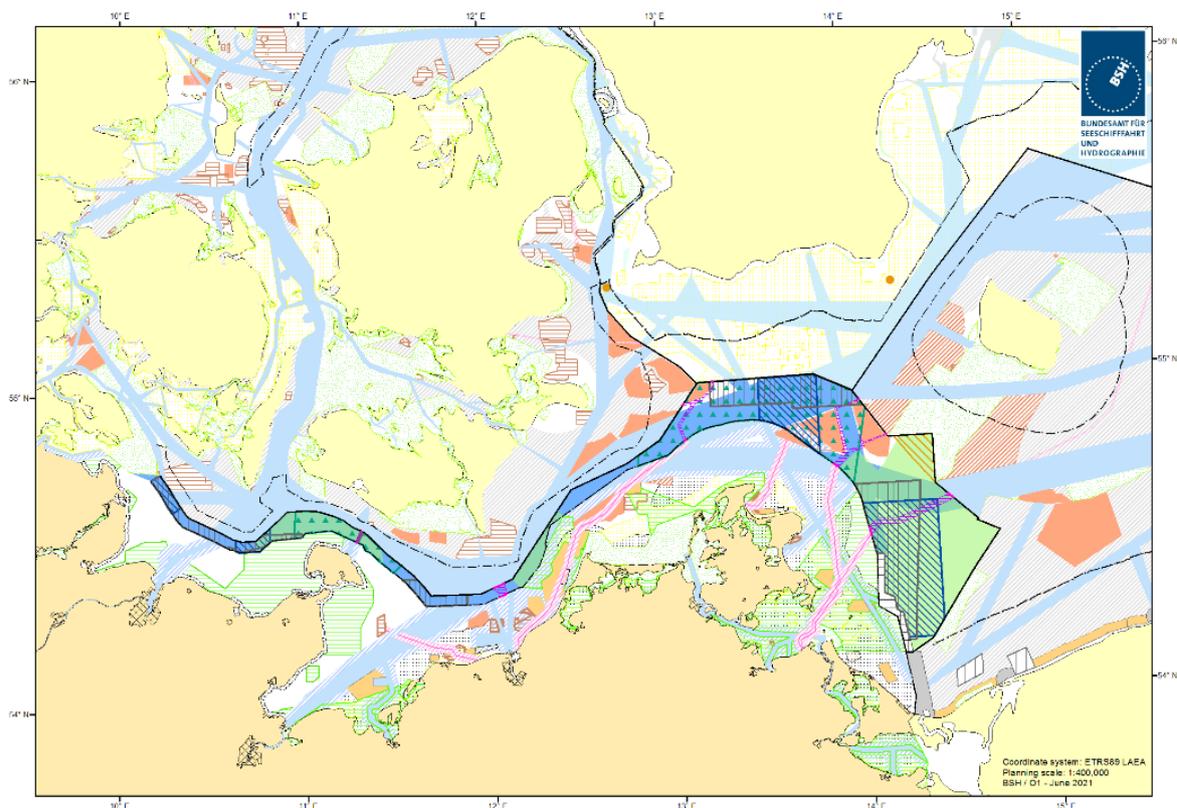
- Extended spatial designations for offshore wind energy (priority areas)
- Designation of cable corridors / linear infrastructure as reserved areas
- Designation of areas for mineral extraction as reserved areas
- Amended areas for scientific (fishery) research (reserved areas)
- Designation of military training areas as reserved areas
- Additional temporary and conditional areas for shipping / offshore wind

Coherence with neighbouring plans

Coherence addresses the harmonisation with other maritime spatial plans of the German coastal federal states as well as those of neighbouring countries. In this context, coherence is mainly understood as “functional coherence” in line with the preliminary results of the discussions of the topic within HELCOM-VASAB. It aims to develop spatial plans to minimise mismatches, support achievement of common environmental goals and enhance synergies when possible.

The alignment of shipping designations in the territorial sea and the EEZ as well as corridors for linear infrastructure, such as energy cables and pipelines, were of particular importance.

During the revision process discussions were conducted with the coastal federal states in Germany to harmonise spatial designations in the plans. During the regular international consultation of the draft plans questions of coherence were addressed. The map below shows, i.a., the alignment of shipping routes as a result of cross-boundary discussions.



German MSP 2021, Baltic Sea (draft, with MSPs/draft MSPs Schleswig-Holstein, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, SE, PL, DK – June 2021)

Ecosystem based approach

An EBA concept was developed in the beginning of the planning process. The concept is based on the HELCOM-VASAB EBA guideline key principles. These principles were related to the plan and its content as well as the planning process. The SEAs and the MSP were developed in co-evolution, wherein the SEAs as interfaces ensured the application of the EBA in the plan.

The concept documents which EBA key principles were applied in which designations. Furthermore, as some of the key principles were not solidly applicable in the current state, the concept shows future development needs.

As part of the revision process, a communication and participation concept was developed and intensively implemented at an early stage. This summarises the application of the EBA in plan and process.

Documents

All documents are available for download in the German language on the BSH website:

https://www.bsh.de/EN/TOPICS/Offshore/Maritime_spatial_planning/Maritime_Spatial_Plan_2021/maritime-spatial-plan-2021_node.html

Publication of the translated documents in the English, Polish and Danish language is intended by the end of November at the same website.

Data

The spatial designations in the plan are available for download via:
https://www.geoseaportal.de/atomfeeds/Raumordnungsplan_AWZ_en.xml

A WMS is accessible via the GeoSeaPortal, a WFS for download of spatial data via the geoseaportal will be made available soon:

<https://www.geoseaportal.de/mapapps/resources/apps/meeresnutzung/index.html?lang=en&stateId=bf15c809-2780-4ee4-95c8-0927805ee4bb>

Further information on MSP in Germany: Country Fiche Germany (rev. Nov. 2021)

Annex:

Revision of the MSPs for the German EEZ in the North and Baltic Sea: International Consultation

Phase	Documents (translated):	Published:	Submission of comments until:	International Consultation Meeting:
Early Consultation Initial Espoo consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Concept: three planning options (maps and text document) • Scoping: Draft scope of the environmental assessment 	10.03.2020	07.04.2021	23.04.2021
First Draft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Draft - plan document, plan map, environmental reports 	04.12.2020	15.01.2021	27.01.2021
Second Draft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd Draft - plan document, plan map, environmental reports 	04.06.2021	30.06.2021	15.06.2021
Plan adopted and set into force (01.09.2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback on international comments on draft plans received • Final versions: Ordinance, plan document and map, summary environmental statement, environmental reports 	November 2021	./.	./.