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Societal Development Department
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Statement on the Initial outline for the Estonian Maritime Spatial Plan and the Memorandum of Intention to conduct impact assessment

SMHI welcomes the opportunity to comment on the initial outline of the Estonian Maritime Spatial Plan and focuses its comments on cross-border impacts.

The Estonian part of the Baltic Sea touches on the Eastern Gotland Basin where anoxic conditions in the deep areas have worsened in the last decades. Thus, SMHI considers it important not to encourage operations that may contribute to increased eutrophication or contamination in adjacent areas.

In particular, aquaculture, undersea mining, and dumping of excess materials are examples of activities that are prone to increase nutrient concentrations in adjacent areas. Special care must be taken so that the oxygen level in the deep areas of the Eastern Gotland Basin is not worsened.

In preparing the Maritime Spatial Plan, efforts must be made to assess the risk of relevant impacts from maritime activities to an appropriate level of detail. In addition to the already mentioned sources of expected relevant impacts, the release of nutrients and pollutants must be considered to be of similar or even higher importance.

Evaluations of the Maritime Spatial Plan should preferably include the potential influence of factors indicated by the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive through Annex III in

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1495097018132&uri=CELEX:32017L0845>

and Article 3 in

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1495097018132&uri=CELEX:32017D0848>

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Acting head Håkan Sanner has decided on this matter prepared by Jörgen Öberg, Peter Thor and Kari Eilola.

For SMHI

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Håkan Sanner', written over a horizontal line.

Håkan Sanner
Acting head, Department of Core Services