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### **Swedish response in relation to the notification of stage 2 regarding the Estonian maritime spatial planning (MSP) process.**

In accordance with Article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Sweden received a notification from the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Estonia regarding the MSP process. Swedish authorities, NGO's and the public were invited to examine and make comments to the draft plan and the most important associated impacts.

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) has the responsibility to fulfill the obligation under the Espoo Convention and the protocol in sending and receiving notifications. SEPA gives the following response to the notification:

- Sweden acknowledge the receipt of the notification
- Sweden wants to participate in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) procedure of the Estonian MSP
- Sweden sends all comments received during the consultation in Sweden regarding the proposed draft of Estonian MSP

### **Consultation in Sweden**

The consultation that SEPA has performed in Sweden has been carried out as followed: The notification and the attached initial outline for the Estonian MSP have been circulated for considerations to 11 central-government agencies, 3 comity administrative boards, 2 institutes, 2 producer organizations and 3 non-governmental environmental organizations. The documents have also been available on the SEPA website <https://www.naturvardsverket.se/Stod-i-miljoarbetet/Remisser-och-Yttranden/Remisser/Planer-i-vara-grannlander---Esbokonventionen/Havsplan-for-Estlands-havsomrade/>. The consultation period lasted from 24 May to 10 July.

### **Consultations comments received**

SEPA has no responsibility to evaluate the consultations received in the context of the Swedish national consultation procedure with a view to presenting an overall Swedish position. For a comprehensive view of the consultations, we refer to the enclosed statements received. A brief summary of the statements is included below, please note

that the summary is written on behalf of the SEPA and not the body to which a proposal is referred for consideration

*The County Administrative Board of Stockholm:* Based on the draft plan the board states it is not clear to what extent protected areas are combined with fishing regulations, which is increasingly recommended in Swedish protected areas, especially where there are fish spawning grounds. Since protecting spawning grounds not only benefit the fishing industry, but also the ecosystem itself, the Estonian marine spatial plan would probably gain clarity from including spawning grounds as part of the network of protected areas. The board notes that the Estonian marine spatial plan does not include (or plan to) any other closed areas for fishing than spawning grounds and would like to bring attention to what consequences that can bring. Lastly the board point out that they are concerned about the lack of guidelines and requirements regarding introducing non-native species or genetically modified species in the sea.

*The Swedish Board of Agriculture:* The board states that the comments are made based on their responsibility for promoting Swedish professional fishing. The comments focus on two different sections. Regarding section 5.1.4 the board notes that in the preliminary impact assessment in the fishing sector (page 17 in the draft of the MSP) it is noted that pollutants accumulate in the fat tissue of fish and these can have a negative impact on health. Regarding section 5.5.4 the board finds that the impact assessment in the draft MSP submitted for comments does not include any expected effects related to commercial fishing of wind energy development areas.

*The Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI):* SMHI notes that the draft plan now provides detailed guidelines and requirements for sustainable use of the Estonian marine areas in all relevant fields. Hence, the SMHI has no further suggestions to the proposed draft

*The Swedish Transport Administration:* The administration wants to stress the importance of accessibility in the sea traffic route between Stockholm and the Gulf of Riga which is described in the Swedish Maritime Spatial Plan. Especially when assessing and making decisions concerning the locations of offshore wind farms upon overlap with sea traffic areas. Furthermore, the Swedish Transport Administration appreciates the collaboration regarding maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea area. It is of great importance for the continuity of the sea traffic in the region.

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For the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency  
*As the decision has been made electronically there is no need for signatures*

Christian Haglund  
Head of Unit

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Cc

The Ministry of the Environment and Energy, Anna Berglund

Enclosures, statements from:

The County Administrative Board of Stockholm  
The Swedish Board of Agriculture  
The Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute  
The Swedish Transport Administration