



Demarcation prior to preparation of an environmental assessment of a proposal for new protected marine-strategy areas in the North Sea and in the Baltic Sea around Bornholm.

The Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark hereby requests input for demarcation prior to the preparation of an environmental assessment of proposed new protected marine-strategy areas in the North Sea and in the Baltic Sea around Bornholm.

Marine protected areas

Marine protected areas aim to protect nature and contribute to the overall target of good status of the seas in the Directive.

The programme of measures under Denmark's Marine Strategy I (2012) states that there must be an assessment of whether there is a need to designate additional marine protected areas in the North Sea (excl. the Kattegat) and the central Baltic Sea region.¹ The first part of Marine Strategy II (2019) includes an environmental target that Denmark must assess the need for supplementary marine protected areas or other initiatives in the North Sea and the Baltic Sea.

In connection with the upcoming programme of measures under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark therefore expects to designate new protected marine-strategy areas in the North Sea and in the Baltic Sea around Bornholm. The demarcation is shown in illustration 1.

The proposal

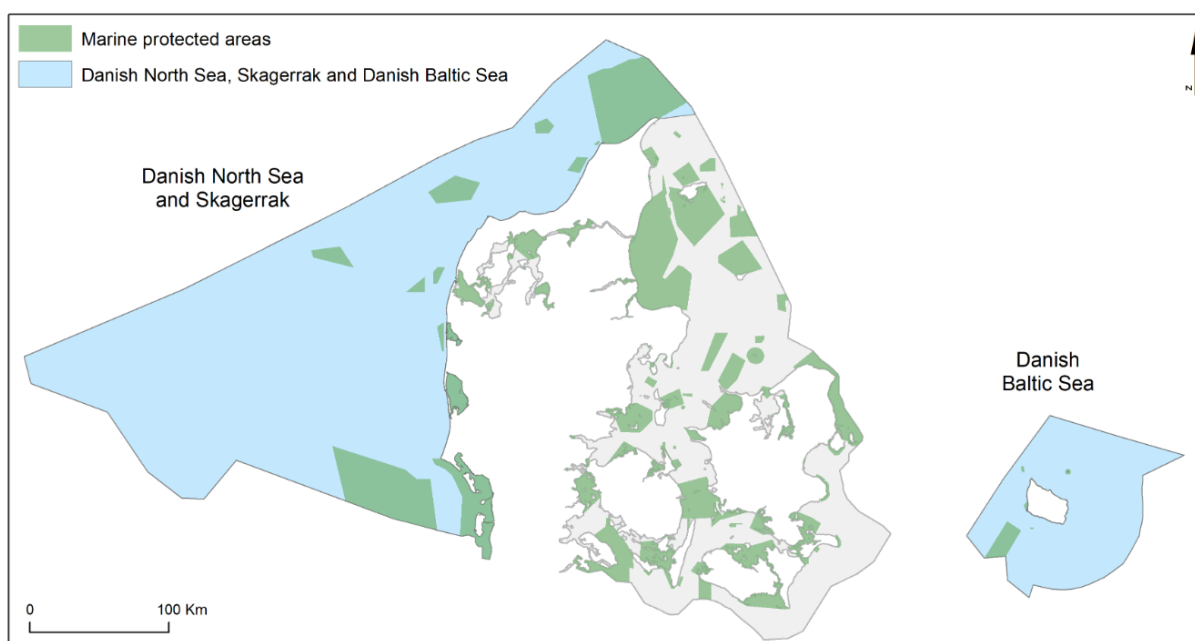
The proposed demarcation of the specific areas is under preparation and for this reason the specific plan cannot be enclosed.

¹<https://mst.dk/natur-vand/vandmiljoe/havet/havmiljoe/danmarks-havstrategi/indsatsprogram/>

However, none of the areas are expected to be closer than approx. 750 m to the coast. It is expected that new protected areas will be designated and that there will be an improvement in the protection of existing marine protected areas.

Restrictions are expected for a number of activities that may negatively affect nature (life on the seabed and/or in the water column) in the areas. These restrictions could be a ban on fishing with bottom-towed gear, new fixed installations, extracting marine resources, dredging, aquaculture, etc. Restrictions could also include a ban on other fishing with other bottom-towed gear.

Illustration 1: Demarcation of the North Sea (including the Skagerrak) and the Baltic Sea around Bornholm.



Possibility for input

The Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark will be preparing the demarcation for the future environmental assessment with affected countries **from 5 October 2020 to 21 October 2020**. In this connection, the affected countries can propose which aspects within their area of authority need to be clarified and assessed in the environmental report. Moreover, they can propose alternative solutions that should be included in the environmental report and in the Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark's considerations. Thus the demarcation does not allow for proposals for the actual marine protected areas, but is only an opportunity to validate the basis of the related environmental report before it is prepared.

Background for the proposal

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive² obliges EU Member States to prepare marine strategies to achieve good environmental status by 2020.

A marine strategy consists of three parts. The first part contains a description of good environmental status, assessment of status and environmental targets. The second part consists of a monitoring programme, and the third part consists of a programme of measures. The marine strategies are updated every six years.

Programme of measures

The programmes of measures must contain the measures which need to be taken in order to achieve or maintain good environmental status. The programmes of measures must include spatial protection measures contributing to coherent and representative networks of marine protected areas, adequately covering the diversity of the constituent ecosystems. Moreover, when drawing up the programme of measures, due consideration must be given to sustainable development and, in particular, to the social and economic impacts of the measures envisaged.

The overall programme of measures will be submitted separately for consultation at a later stage. This demarcation of environmental assessment therefore only covers the designation of new protected marine-strategy areas in the North Sea and in the Baltic Sea around Bornholm.

State of the marine environment

The purpose of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive is to achieve a good status in the marine environment. The initial analysis for Denmark's Marine Strategy II showed that good status in the Danish marine environment has generally not been achieved.

The initial analysis is available (in Danish) on the Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark's website:

https://mfvm.dk/fileadmin/user_upload/MFVM/Natur/Havstrategi/HSII_foerste_del_-_endelig_udgave.pdf.

The background report for the socioeconomic analysis is also available (in Danish) on the Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark's website:

https://mfvm.dk/fileadmin/user_upload/MFVM/Natur/Havstrategi/Sociooekonomisk_analyse.pdf.

² See Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive)

The revised monitoring programme for Denmark's Marine Strategy II was published in July 2020. The monitoring programme is available (in Danish) on the Danish EPA's website: <https://mst.dk/media/198773/dhs-ii-overvaagningsprogram.pdf>.

Submitting comments

If you wish to participate in the environmental assessment process or you have comments on the transboundary environmental effects described in the attached Demarcation Report and which will be examined in the environmental report, please send your request for participation or comments by no later than 21 October 2020 to Espoo@mst.dk with file number: 2020-48523.

Kind regards

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