

# Reflection on SEA effectiveness in Latvian MSP

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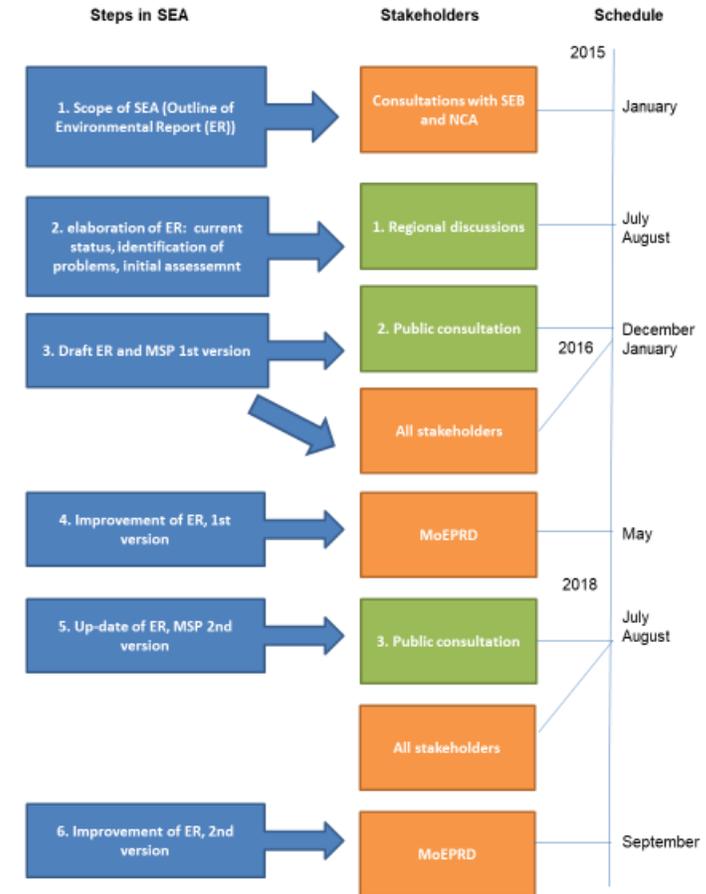
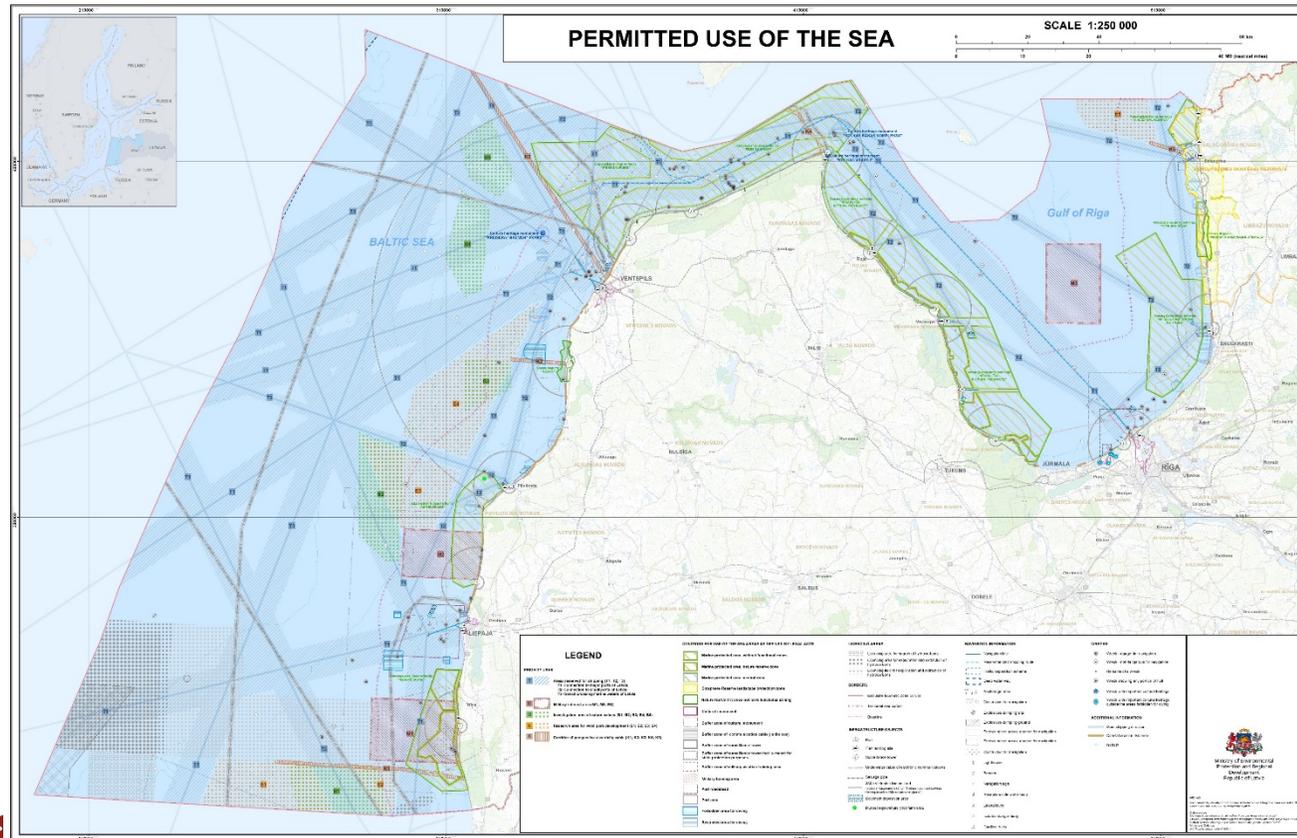
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# Context&Procedural

- EU legislation and national legislation on SEA;
  - minimum requirements for SEA (content and process) are set by the law;
  - implemented since 2004, some experience on national development documents; not so much on spatial planning document at national scale.
- Typically, the task is contracted to a environmental consulting companies whereas planning document is developed by other experts/planners (public body or consulting company)
- Development of Latvian MSP and SEA was combined tender, thus 1 consortium (lead by Baltic Environmental Forum -Latvia) was implementing both tasks

# Facts about Latvian MSP&SEA



# Pluralist

- «The plan-making process more transparent, and opens it up to a greater range of views»
- MSP involves intensively stakeholders: the first time national MSP was developed, thus the stakeholder engagement and public participation process was very important.
- Latvian Ministry of the Environmental Protection and Regional Development required that the consultant establishes the public participation strategy and involves stakeholders at early process of developing of the plan.
- The focus of Latvian MSP&SEA was on stakeholders/interested parties and not on general public. Very limited activities were target to general public.

# Substantive

- «the extent to which the plan is changed as a result of the SEA».
- True implementation of the MSP principle on the Ecosystem-based approach (EBA) helps to ensure that the MSP considers environmental, socio-economic aspects in early stage of the planning.
- SEA is another focus - particularly assess the significant negative impacts and asks for mitigation/compensatory measures.

# Normative

- «whether the SEA process achieves its ideal, normative goals»
- MSP contributes to the achievement of marine policy goals; can stimulate achieving of nature conservation goal.
- However, environmental objectives can also be contradicting – nature conservation versus climate change mitigation or adaptation measures. Thus, SEA can only draw attention on how the new plan will support the meeting environmental goals.

# Knowledge and learning

- Latvian MSP was developed for the first time and followed adopted the HELCOM-VASAB MSP principle, in the best available knowledge.
- As the MSP developing team had a strong environmental background, the importance of environmental knowledge was available for the planning process.

# Transactive

- Difficult to comment as SEA and MSP was developed very closely in the same expert team.