

The effectiveness of SEA of Swedish marine spatial plans

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Advances in European SEA & Strategic Planning



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Context

- » Legal obligation – not doing was not an option
 - Minimum requirements set in the Environmental code (e.g. scope of the assessment)

- » Informal context – expectation from stakeholders that SEA be carried out
 - SEA-positive context

Procedural

- » Choice of approach and method
 - Legislation determines 'screening' and much of 'scoping'
 - We designed 'effect assessment' method', including design of decision-support tool, and type and quality of data
 - Very limited use of scenarios – but traditional baseline – future – plan alternatives
- » Monitoring: proposal based on existing and planned marine environment monitoring programme
- » Mitigation: proposal based on existing or planned measures linked to MSFD, Swedish environmental goals, EU CFP, complemented wherever necessary
 - Important to highlight where new measures or programmes are necessary (signal to government)
- » Slightly different methods in the different SEA phases – some disconnection, but attempt to improve methodology

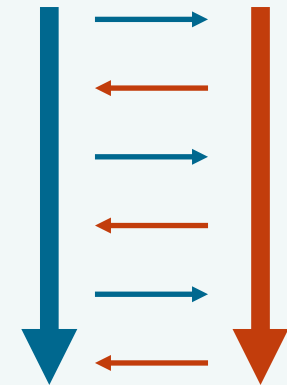
Pluralist (and legitimacy)

- » Conservative approach (comparatively weak point)
 - Consultation mostly through review of SEA report
 - Very limited engagement of external experts

- » Legitimacy/acceptance by external partners affected negatively by the chosen approach
 - Challenges associated with strategic-level assessment make acceptance more difficult
 - Use of decision-support tools poses particular challenges (assumptions, uncertainty, data)
- But legitimacy improved with time
 - Openness in treatment of external comments
 - Greater care in explaining method, assumptions and uncertainties
 - Dedicated chapter about decision-support tools used
 - Dialogue with some stakeholders

Substantive (and some 'Normative')

- » Parallel model: planning-SEA
 - Perception of purpose of SEA relative to planning – deliveries prioritised over influence on planning (?)
- » But SEA has affected planning decisions
 - SEA results treated as one among other inputs to planning
 - Some 'inputs' are a given (e.g. government decision)
 - Uncertainty of SEA results can be a dilemma for planners
- » (Normative) Difficult to say whether SEA-derived changes contribute to legal obligations and policy goals



Parallel model

Several SEAs at different times, similar SEA approach used throughout

Knowledge and learning

- » Groundbreaking work in terms of SEA methodology applied to MSP (at least for Sweden...)
 - important contribution to 'learning about SEA'

- » 'Learning from SEA'
 - the most comprehensive assessment so far of the aggregate environmental impacts of maritime activities in Swedish waters
 - relevance for other policy/mgmt processes, incl future permit reviews
 - including decision-support tool and its data
 -but only if that information and data are disseminated and used (even internally)

Transactive

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SEA of the latest MSP proposals (in Swedish):

<https://www.havochvatten.se/download/18.4705beb516f0bcf57cee066/1576514424505/miljokonsekvensbeskrivning-av-havsplaner.pdf>

Sustainability appraisal of the latest MSP proposals (also in Swedish):

<https://www.havochvatten.se/download/18.4705beb516f0bcf57cee381/1576669973588/hallbarhetsbeskrivning.pdf>

Our English site on MSP: <https://www.havochvatten.se/en/eu-and-international/marine-spatial-planning.html>

About the decision-support tool Symphony (in English): <https://www.havochvatten.se/en/eu-and-international/marine-spatial-planning/symphony---a-tool-for-ecosystem-based-marine-spatial-planning.html>

And a scientific paper on Symphony:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969720325419>

Some useful links



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