

In-depth Planning

– Marine Spatial Planning in Sweden

Axel Wenblad

Senior Adviser

Former Director General Swedish Board of Fisheries



Why Marine Spatial Planning?

- Present situation:
 - The marine environment is not in a sustainable state and is in part deteriorating.
 - Claims to use the sea are increasing.
 - New uses and claims arise.
 - Urgent need for different kinds of protection.
- MSP is the main tool to allocate resources and space in the sea.
- MSP is needed to implement the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Points of Departure

- No comprehensive MSP today
- 4 out of 80 municipalities plan the territorial sea
- International law sets limits in the economic zone:
 - natural resources – full control
 - installations, research, nature protection; jurisdiction
 - contiguous zone (+12 nm); further jurisdiction



The Objectives of MSP

- Comprehensive basis for decisions on activities and protection
- Simplify licensing and management
- Predictability for operators and interested parties
- Tool for coordinated marine management
- Tool for communication and information
- Contributes to cross-border collaboration

The Form and Contents of the Plans

- Comprehensive and holistic spatial plans for the sea
 - Plan areas: Gulf of Bothnia, Baltic Sea and ‘Western seas’
 - Seawards of 1 nm from the base line
- Most suitable use of sea areas
 - Balancing different public and national interests
- Structure and function of the ecosystems - a framework condition
- Guidelines on how to use sea areas
- Various interests to be taken into consideration
- Maps, guidelines and binding provisions
- Planning on different geographical scales

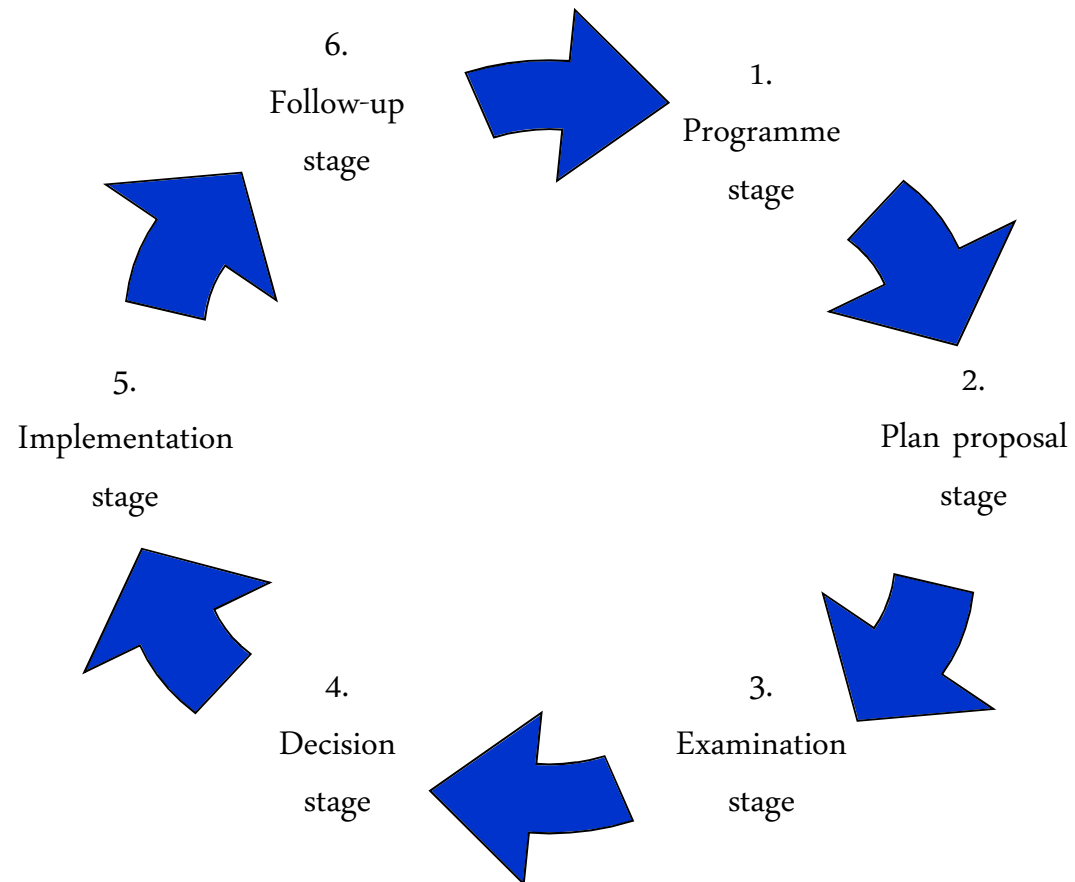
Ecosystem-based MSP

- **Cross-sectoral and holistic**
 - Sea management calls for MSP
- **Different compared to land areas**
 - Ecosystems, less predictability, lack of knowledge
 - Three dimensions; no private ownership
- **Based on the ecosystem approach**
 - Spatial planning a tool for sustainable development
 - Maintain ecosystem services; human needs
 - Preserve/restore structure and functioning of ecosystems
 - ”Framework condition for sustainable development”

Distribution of Tasks and Responsibility

- Sea and Water Management Agency lead, with support from Government County Offices
- Government agencies provide data, and participate
- Municipalities invited to participate
- Government (Cabinet) gives guidelines and adopts the plans
- Government informs Parliament

The Planning Process



Connection to Municipal Spatial Planning

- Municipal general plans comprise the whole territory and overlaps the marine spatial plan.
- National MSP must be carried out in collaboration with municipalities.
- Marine spatial plans should facilitate municipal planning of coastal and sea areas.
- Municipal plans should not be in conflict with national MSP

Legislative Proposals

- **New Act and Regulation on MSP**
- **Amendments to Environmental Code and “sectoral” legislation.**
 - Electricity and Natural Gas Acts, etc.
 - Licences must not conflict with provisions in MSP
- **Amendments to the Planning and Building Act**
 - Municipal plans should be coordinated
 - Decisions must not conflict with purpose of MSP
- **Amendments to legislation on the EEZ and continental shelf**
 - Licensing, contiguous zone, etc.
- **Amendments to instructions to agencies**
 - Provide data and participate in planning process

The way forward

- Written comments spring 2011
- New agency for Marine and Water Management July 2011
- Bill to Parliament prepared spring 2012
- Preparation of knowledge base started autumn 2011
- New legislation autumn 2012