



Ympäristöministeriö
Miljöministeriet
Ministry of the Environment

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Ministry of the Environment of Estonia
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Response to the notification for the Estonian Maritime Spatial Plan

Finland has received a notification from Estonia concerning the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Estonian Maritime Spatial Plan. Finland has the possibility to participate in the assessment procedure in accordance with Article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the UN/ECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context. Along with the notification letter Finland has received the initial outline for the Estonian Maritime Spatial Plan and the memorandum of intention to conduct impact assessment. It is mentioned in the notification letter that the notification is informal and is done in an early phase of the planning process.

The Ministry of the Environment would like to inform Estonia that Finland does wish to participate in the planning procedures for the Estonian Maritime Spatial Plan and the related Strategic Environmental Assessment.

In accordance with Article 10 (4) of the SEA Protocol Finland would like to agree with Estonia on detailed arrangements to ensure that the public concerned and the authorities in Finland are informed and given an opportunity to forward their opinion on the draft programme and the environmental report within a reasonable time frame. Finland appreciates that the relevant material is going to be provided in Finnish. The Ministry of the Environment would like to propose time frame of nine weeks for the participation of the public and authorities and for the submission of comments on the draft plan and the environmental report.

The Ministry of the Environment considers linear maritime transport routes and other infrastructure connections, and the needs relating to their interoperability in the Gulf of Finland and the whole Baltic Sea as important issues. It is also important to study the impacts of the routes and connections, including the transboundary ones. Other significant themes relating to the Gulf of Finland and/or the Baltic Sea as a whole are maritime energy issues, fisheries, ecosystems, and environmental and nature protection.

Yours sincerely,

Permanent Secretary

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For information
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