

Legal grounds for preparation and adoption of plan

Preparation of the *Maritime Spatial Plan of Internal Sea Waters, Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone in scale of 1: 200 000* (hereinafter: *Plan*) results from the provisions of the Act of 21 March 1991 on the marine areas of the Republic of Poland and maritime administration (Journal of Laws of 2018, item 2214 as amended). This Act implements the *Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning*, pursuant to which the EU Member States are obliged to prepare the maritime spatial plans (hereinafter: Directive 2014/89/EU) to the Polish legislation.

The *Plan* includes all internal waters, territorial sea and exclusive economic zone under the jurisdiction of the Polish maritime administration, excluding waters of seaports and of three lagoons, for which the plans in higher scale will be prepared in order to embrace specific matters therein. The *Plan* aims at supporting sustainable development of marine areas including among others by identification of the areas and determination of coexistence of different methods of marine spatial planning in order to create spatial order. The *Plan* shall be adopted by the Council of Ministers by means of a regulation and will act as a tool for the Minister competent for maritime economy to assess the requests submitted in the procedure determining compliance of the planned investments with the provisions of the marine spatial plan.

Pursuant to Article 46(1)(1) of the Act of 3 October 2008 *on sharing information about the environment and its protection, public participation in environmental protection and environmental impact assessment* (Journal of Laws of 2018 item 2081 as amended), the draft *Plan* is subject to strategic environmental assessment. In addition, the *Plan* is also covered by the strategic environmental assessment in transboundary context initiated in accordance with national legislation at the stage of already prepared official draft *Plan*.

Schedule of works on draft *Maritime Spatial Plan of Internal Sea Waters, Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone in scale of 1: 200 000* along with procedure of strategic environmental assessment in transboundary context

- 1. Commencement of works on draft *Plan* - collection of comments and conclusions in the country and abroad (August 2016 – October 2016)**
 - first international consultation meeting under Directive 2014/89/EU on 18-19 October 2016
- 2. Initial draft *Plan* – consultations (July 2017)**
 - second international consultation meeting under Directive 2014/89/EU on 6-7 November 2017
- 3. Subsequent working versions of draft *Plan* along with environmental report – expressing opinion/agreeing/consulting in the country and abroad (January 2018 – August 2018)**
 - third international consultation meeting under Directive 2014/89/EU on 4-5 June 2019

4. Official version of draft *Plan* along with environmental report – expressing opinion/agreeing/consulting in the country and abroad (July 2019)

5. Transboundary consultations under the Strategic Protocol to the Espoo Convention

December 2019

- information to Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Lithuania, Finland, Latvia and Estonia on the planned strategic environmental assessment for draft *Plan*

February 2020

- notification of Germany, Denmark and Sweden

February 2020 – April 2020

- written transboundary consultations (7 weeks) under the Strategic Protocol

May 2020 – June 2020

- opportunity to participate in the inter-governmental expert meeting within transboundary consultations

June 2020 – August 2020

- analysis of submitted comments and remarks within transboundary consultations

6. Draft *Plan* submitted to the Minister competent for maritime economy for adoption by means of a regulation (3Q 2020)

1Q 2020

- transmission of the adopted strategic document along with summary and translation to the states participating in the transboundary environmental impact assessment

Authorities of the Polish Party participating in the procedure of strategic environmental assessment in transboundary context

1. Maritime Office in Gdynia – authority responsible for performance of strategic environmental assessment
2. General Director for Environmental Protection – authority coordinating the procedure of environmental assessment in transboundary context