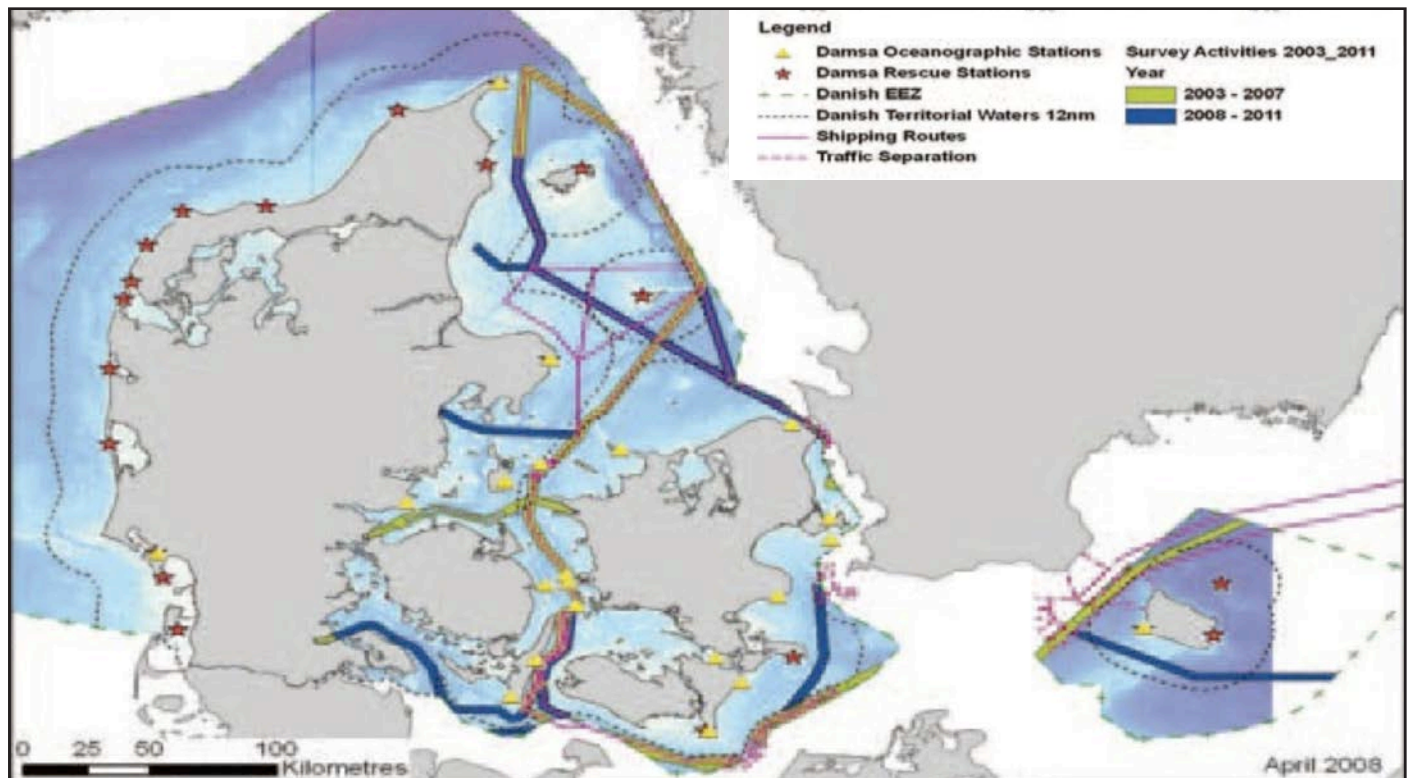


Maritime Spatial Planning in Denmark

Danish Marine Waters



Danish marine waters

- Total Danish sea area: 105 000 km²
- Marine internal waters: 3 500 km²
- Territorial sea (12 nm zone): 40 000 km²
- Exclusive Economic Zone: 61 500 km²

Governance of the Sea Space

- The Danish State is the only owner of the sea territory.
- Control of the Danish sea territory, fishing territory and continental shelf is regulated by State sovereignty over the sea.
- In Denmark, the Ministry of Transport is the responsible authority for the state's sovereignty over the sea territory if the authority to grant permission is not delegated by law to a sector ministry. This task, however, is delegated to the Danish Coastal Authority. In addition, a number of ministries are responsible for different sectors such as fishery, exploitation of raw materials, energy production, coastal protection, navigational safety, etc.

Use of the Sea Space

- The intensity of sea space use is highest of all the Baltic Sea Region countries.
- Current main uses: shipping, fishing and energy industry. The first offshore windmill farms in the Baltic Sea Region were constructed in Denmark.

Maritime Spatial Planning Legislation

- Denmark does not have a specific Planning Act for its sea space.
- In 2010 a Marine Policy Strategy was approved by the government. The strategy stresses the need for Maritime Spatial Planning.
- Denmark is preparing for Maritime Spatial Planning. In autumn 2013 all national stakeholders will discuss scenarios for MSP in Denmark.
- Sea-based activities are regulated by a large number of sectoral laws, e.g., the Marine Environment Protection Act, the Raw Materials Act, the Subsoil Act, the Continental Shelf Act, the Electricity Supply Act, the Harbour Act and the Fishery Acts.
- Consequently, authority over the coastal zone is dispersed among different sectors and different administrative levels of decision-making. The Planning Act only regulates the terrestrial part of the Danish territory. In regards to the coastal zone, activities are regulated by specific paragraphs of the Planning Act.
- The Danish Agency for Spatial and Environmental Planning (as part of the Ministry of the Environment) has overall responsibility for the Planning Act. The Agency is responsible for upholding national interests through national planning.

Maritime Spatial Plans

- Maritime spatial plans do not exist in Denmark.
- Only a non-binding transnational maritime spatial plan of strategic nature exists, prepared by research circles. The plan covers the Pomeranian Bight (<http://www.baltseaplan.eu/index.php/Pomeranian-Bight;832/1>).

Maritime Spatial Planning and Environmental Protection

- Environment Impact Assessment is compulsory for all major offshore investments.
- By law, maritime spatial plans will be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessments.

Contact Points

- The responsible authority for the transnational consultation process Ministry of Environment.
- The responsible authority for the ESPOO Convention is the Ministry of Environment.