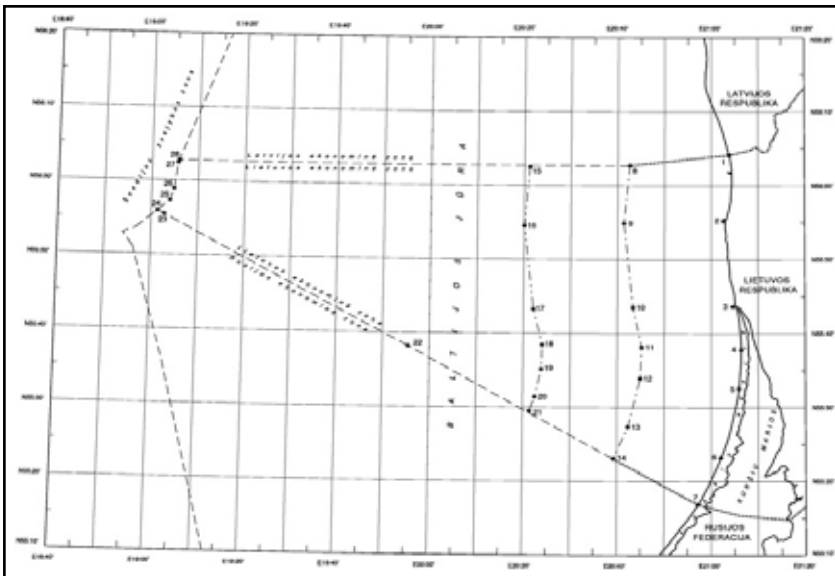




Maritime Spatial Planning in Lithuania

Lithuanian Marine Waters



Lithuanian marine waters

The Lithuanian maritime space is delimited by the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 6 December, 2004, No. 1597 and includes internal waters, territorial waters, the exclusive economic zone, the sea bottom and the soil underneath, as follows:

- Internal waters (lagoons not included): 35 km²
- Territorial waters (12-nm zone): 1 816 km²
- Exclusive economic zone including adjoining zone: 4 586 km²

Marine areas border Latvia to the north, the Russian Federation to the south (Kaliningrad oblast) and Sweden in the western part. The area within a 20 m water depth is part of the "Coastal Strip".

Governance of the Sea

- According to Art. 47 of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, the exclusive right for the Lithuanian maritime space belongs to the Republic of Lithuania (i.e. owned by the state).
- Current governance of the sea space is defined by legal acts relating to the use of the sea space and responsibilities of the Republic of Lithuania as stipulated in international legal acts in which it participates.
- The Comprehensive Plan of the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania is complemented by marine spatial solutions prepared in 2011-2013 and expected to be adopted in 2014.

Use of the Sea Space

- Current uses: a relatively small area accommodates four main navigation routes, the multi-purpose deep-water port of Klaipėda, the port of Šventoji, a UNESCO World Heritage site, Natura 2000 sites, the oil terminals in Būtingė and Klaipėda, offshore military polygons, near shore fishery bars and offshore fishing areas.
- Future uses: planned underwater high voltage electricity link to Sweden. Recently, certain areas have been investigated for offshore wind energy developments and reserved for sand extraction purposes.

Maritime Spatial Planning Legislation

- In Lithuania there is no specific legal act dealing with maritime spatial planning.
- The MSP was implemented based on the existing Law on Territorial Planning by supplementing the existing Comprehensive Plan of the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania with marine spatial solutions (both for territorial waters and the EEZ). The revised Law on Territorial Planning adopted on 27 June 2013, which came into force on 1 January 2014, includes stipulations on planning for the sea space. The same stands at different levels of planning are included in the Rules of Complex Territorial Documents Preparation adopted by the Minister of Environment Order No. D1-8 on 2 January, 2014 as an executive legal act, following the revised Law on Territorial Planning. Part of the marine space (up to 20 m isobath) falls under the regulation of the Law of the Coastal Strip.
- In addition, the Republic of Lithuania is a signatory state of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- There are more than 20 legal acts (Laws and Governmental Decrees guiding the use of the sea space.

Maritime Spatial Planning

- The Seimas (Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania), through Decree No. XI-1571 (State Gazette, 2011, Nr. 80-3902), requested complementing the existing Comprehensive Plan of the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania with the marine part. The Ministry of Environment, as organizer of the national level spatial planning document, launched the preparation of this complementary plan to cover both territorial waters and the EEZ. The MSP was completed in December 2013. After international consultations and approval by the Lithuanian Parliament the Plan will become an obligatory spatial planning document. The key planning objectives were to:
 1. Foster investments for economic development
 2. Maintain balance between good ecological status and sustainable economic development in marine areas
 3. Protect, rationally use and restore natural resources and cherish natural and cultural heritage and recreational assets
 4. Harmonize the interests of private and legal bodies, the general public, as well as municipal and national levels regarding the use of marine areas and conditions for development of different maritime activities.
- Solutions for the extension of the Comprehensive Plan were based on stipulations, demands of the legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania, MSP principles developed by the Cross-border Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, adopted by VASAB – HELCOM BSR broad scale MSP principles and followed by the actions defined in the EU Baltic Sea Region Strategy Action Plan. Further official information on the current state and the progress can be found at the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania (<http://www.am.lt/VI/index.php#r/1558>).

Maritime Spatial Planning and Environmental Protection

- Current activities related to planning for Lithuanian marine waters is in line with research concerning establishment of new and revision of existing Natura 2000 sites.
- Proposed solutions for spatial allocation of marine uses have followed a strategic environmental assessment (SEA)
- The established nature protection sites network was used as a background dataset for future planning;
- New areas for possible development of an offshore Natura 2000 network have been proposed

Contact Point

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