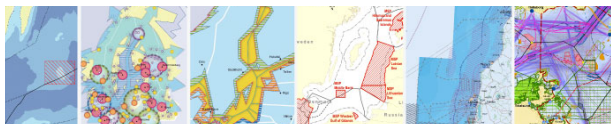




Country Fiche Latvia



1. General information



- Marine waters under Latvian jurisdiction include inland sea waters, territorial sea (12 nautical miles from the baseline) and exclusive economic zone (EEZ) waters.
- Total area of Baltic Sea waters (including Gulf of Riga) under jurisdiction of Latvia is 28,000 km².
- Baltic Sea waters under jurisdiction of Latvia border upon Lithuania, Estonia and Sweden.



1.1. Governance

Latvian marine waters are owned by the state, but the responsibility for them is divided between respective sectorial ministries (Environment, Agriculture, Transport, Economics). The Ministry of Finance on its part is responsible for the seashore (up to a depth of 20 m) owned by the state, but in relation to the seashore management and planning there is a discussion ongoing on competences of the coastal municipalities. This competence will be given to local municipalities after the draft land management law will be adopted by the Parliament (currently adopted on 2nd reading)

1.2. Contacts

MSP in general: **Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development**

Ingūna Urtāne

Director of Department of Spatial planning
Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development
Peldu iela 25
Riga, LV-1494
Phone: +371 66 016 523
e-mail: inguna.urtane@varam.gov.lv

Kristīne Rasiņa

Head of Spatial planning policy division
Department of Spatial Planning
Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development
Peldu iela 25
Riga, LV-1494
Phone: +371 66 016 559
e-mail: kristine.rasina@varam.gov.lv

Espoo contact point: **Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development**

Sandija Balka

Senior official of Environmental Quality and Waste Management division
Department of Environmental protection
Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development
Peldu iela 25
Riga, LV-1494
Phone: +371 67 026 916
e-mail: sandija.balka@varam.gov.lv

2. General information on legislation

The legal base for MSP in Latvia is the Spatial planning law, issued on 1st of December, 2011, where MSP and the deadline for starting its elaboration (by 1 January 2014) is defined, as well secondary legislation is prescribed. Regulations on the Development,



Implementation and Monitoring of Maritime Spatial Plan have been approved by the Latvian Government in 2012, which cover the content, elaboration procedure as well as implementation and monitoring procedures of MSP.

Other MSP relevant legislation:

- Marine Environment Protection and Management Law (effective as of 18 November 2010) and Law on Territorial Development Planning (effective as of 1 December 2011) state the necessity of maritime spatial planning
- National report “On the distribution of competences among authorities for maritime spatial planning” (12.04.2012. Section 40 of the Minutes of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 19), which defines responsibilities of authorities in the development of a plan, as well as states that Maritime Spatial Planning shall be developed for land/shore territory that is functionally related to the sea.
- Provisions of several international conventions and binding legal acts such as UNCLOS, Espoo Convention, Bonn Convention and EU directives (MSFD, HABITAT, BIRD, SEA, EIA), which have been transposed into national legislation.

3. General applicability (e.g. territorial Sea, EEZ, other distinctions)

The above mentioned legislation applies to the whole territory of Latvia, including territorial sea and EEZ sea waters.

4. Spatial Plans

No effective maritime spatial planning in place

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development has gained experience in maritime spatial planning through participation at different pilot projects BaltSeaPlan (<http://www.baltseaplan.eu/index.php/Latvian;839/1>), Plan Bothnia, GORWIND (<http://gorwind.msi.ttu.ee/home/info>) and PartiSeaPate.

The Law on Spatial Development Planning prescribes that maritime spatial planning shall be commenced by 1 January 2014. According to the regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 740 “Marine planning development, implementation and supervision procedure” accepted on 30 October 2012, a maritime spatial plan shall be developed by the Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology in cooperation with the Maritime Administration of Latvia. Maritime Spatial Planning will be developed taking into consideration the international liabilities of the Republic of Latvia and will be conducted in cooperation with countries, with which Latvia has a common sea border.

The national MSP shall consist of:

1. **strategic part** (including long-term development vision, strategic objectives, development guidelines and tasks)
2. **explanatory note**, which includes an assessment of the current situation, covering:
 - 2.1. relations of the marine plan to other planning documents and legislation
 - 2.2. general marine and environmental characteristics
 - 2.3. overview of marine natural and cultural resources, including landscapes
 - 2.4. information on sea uses, taking into account environmental, social and economic



aspects

2.5. marine and terrestrial functional coherence

2.6. trend analysis on marine spatial usage

3. **graphical part**, which is made up of a map on marine permitted uses and, if necessary, thematic and schematic maps

4. **description of permitted marine use**, including:

4.1. the categories and types of permitted use;

4.2. conditions for marine use of each category and types of use

The graphical part of the MSP shall be developed in WGS84 (World Geodetic System 1984) coordinate system of Mercator projection (57 °) using geodetic (elliptical) coordinates with the determination of scale 1:200 000. For the thematic plans of separate marine parts other appropriate scales may be chosen.

5. What countries want to share

N/A

6. New developments / current status

Development of MSP for all sea waters under Latvian jurisdiction was started in 2013 with the announcement of a tender for preparation of Terms of Reference for MSP by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Latvia. The actual planning process was launched on 1 January 2014, when a national MSP coordination group was established and an initial seminar on the timeline and content of national MSP was organized for the general public. In August 2014 a tender on the elaboration of a national MSP was launched and contracted consultants will be announced by the end of 2014.