Coordinating maritime spatial planning and regional land use planning: the Finnish Experience

Tiina Tihlman Ministry of the Environment FINLAND
Finnish coastal municipalities

- Municipalities have the planning mandate
- Territorial waters are part of the area of coastal municipalities
- A regional council is the region's statutory joint municipal authority; every local authority must be a member of a regional council.
- The autonomous province of Åland Islands off the southwest coast of Finland is also a region.
Hierarchy of land use plans

- **Regional land use plan**
  - Approved by Regional Council
  - legally guiding

- **Local master plan**
  - Approved by local authority
  - legally guiding

- **Local detailed plan**
  - Approved by local authority

**National Land Use Guidelines** (approved by the Council of State)
Regional land use plans

Sets out a general framework for the more detailed local plans

Must promote the implementation of the national land use guidelines

Special attention is paid to:
- structure of the region
- sustainability of land use, transport, technical services, natural resources
- region's businesses
- protection of landscape, natural values, and cultural heritage
- recreation

Participation and assessment schemes are drawn up at the start of the planning process, to define how citizens, organizations and other interest groups can contribute to the whole process.

Fulfills also the requirements of MSP, but implemented only on Territorial waters.
Statutory functions of a Regional Council

- Regional Development
  Strategies for 20-30 years

- Regional Land Use Plans
  For 10-20 years

- Regional Programmes
  For 3-5 years
Role and added value of the maritime spatial plans to existing plans?

- Larger planning areas including EEZ
- Wider cooperation and participation; internationally, nationally and on planning areas
- New knowledge and information
- Pays attention to sea area and its potentials; boosting blue growth
- Ecosystem approach
- Coherence with other MSP’s on the same sea area

Benefits planning and development / other plans
Maritime spatial planning areas of Finland

- The Gulf of Finland
- The Archipelago Sea and the Southern Bothnian Sea
- The Northern Bothnian Sea, the Quark and the Bothnian Bay
- Åland
Objectives of maritime spatial planning in Finnish legislation

Promote sustainable development and growth on maritime areas, sustainable use of maritime resources and good state of waters.

Sectors, which especially should be viewed

- Energy
- Shipping
- Fishery and aquaculture
- Tourism and recreation
- Preservation, improvement and protection of the environment and nature

Attention should be paid to characteristics of the sea area, land-sea interaction and to the needs of defence.
Drafting maritime spatial plans

- Coastal regional councils draft and approves the plans.
- Maritime spatial plans will not be legally binding.
- Plans cover territorial waters and the Economical Zone.
- Cooperation, participation and informing of planning plays key roles.
- Plans should be coherent, general level plans.
- Ministry of the Environment is in charge for general development and guidance of MSP and of cooperation with neighbouring countries.
- State is responsible of the EEZ; Opinion of MSP on EEZ must be asked from the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs.
National coordination

National Coordination Group of Coastal Regional Councils and the Ministry of the Environment

MSP legislation gives a lot of flexibility for implementation; Planning is developed in the National Coordination Group.

National MSP network in internet

Planning started on three planning areas.

National Maritime Portal is developed; data and information for planning will be available in the portal.

Plans will be drafted jointly in the Maritime Portal.
Thank you for your attention!