



*Merestä on kaikille – Havet är för alla*  
*The Sea is for everyone*

**Maritime Spatial Planning Interaction  
Plan 2024–2027**



Co-funded by  
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# Maritime Spatial Planning Interaction Plan

This interaction plan describes what maritime spatial planning entails, how it is carried out and what kind of interaction takes place between the authorities and stakeholders involved during the planning process.

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# What is maritime spatial planning?

The purpose of maritime spatial planning is to promote the sustainable development and growth of the different uses of the marine area, the sustainable use of its natural resources and the achievement of good environmental status of the marine environment. Maritime spatial planning examines the marine environment as a whole, taking into account the interaction between land and sea. The Maritime Spatial Plan is based on reconciling a sustainable blue economy with the interests of different stakeholders in marine areas.

The Maritime Spatial Plan takes into account various themes and stakeholders, including the energy sector, maritime transport (incl. ports), fishing and aquaculture, extractive industries, maritime industries, blue biotechnology, cultural heritage, tourism and recreation, as well as the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment. The needs relating to national defence and the special characteristics of the marine areas are also taken into account.

Maritime spatial planning deals with various cross-cutting themes, such as the European Green Deal, climate-smart maritime spatial planning, marine multiuse, national security and security of supply.

In maritime spatial planning, the marine area is examined as a whole, including the land-sea interactions. Maritime spatial planning is linked to the goals and measures of Finland's Coastal Strategy. Both aim to promote vibrant coastal communities and sustainable use of coastal area.

***In maritime spatial planning, a shared vision for sustainable use of the marine area is developed among maritime stakeholders.***

***The goal of marine spatial planning is a healthy, productive, and safe sea.***

***Planning together for the future!***

## Principles of maritime spatial planning\*:

- Sustainable development
- Ecosystem approach
- Long-term perspective and objectives
- The precautionary principle
- Participation and transparency
- High-quality data and information basis
- Transnational coordination and consultation
- Coherent terrestrial and maritime spatial planning
- Planning adapted to the characteristics and special conditions of different areas
- Continuous planning

\*) HELCOM-VASAB General Principles for Maritime Spatial Planning.  
<https://helcom.fi/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/HELCOM-VASAB-MSP-Principles.pdf>

Read more about maritime spatial planning:  
[www.merialuesuunnittelu.fi/en/](http://www.merialuesuunnittelu.fi/en/)

# What is an interaction plan?

This interaction plan has been prepared **in support of the second maritime spatial planning round 2023–2027**. Various stakeholders have been involved in the preparation of the interaction plan through questionnaires and interviews.

The interaction plan has been developed for **all participants in the maritime spatial planning process and provides an overview of maritime spatial planning and the opportunities for participation at different stages of the planning process**. The interaction plan contains general information on the importance of interaction, when and how to participate in the interaction events and how to influence the planning process. The interaction plan also explains who is affected by maritime spatial planning, how interaction will support Europe's green development goals and who to contact during the planning process.

## The interaction plan:

- Explains the role and purpose of the Maritime Spatial Plan and why it is being produced.
- Ensures the accessibility, availability and transparency of the planning material.
- Enables timely participation and influence.
- Ensures that interaction is mutually compatible, motivating and engaging for both planners and stakeholders.



# Why is the planning interactive?

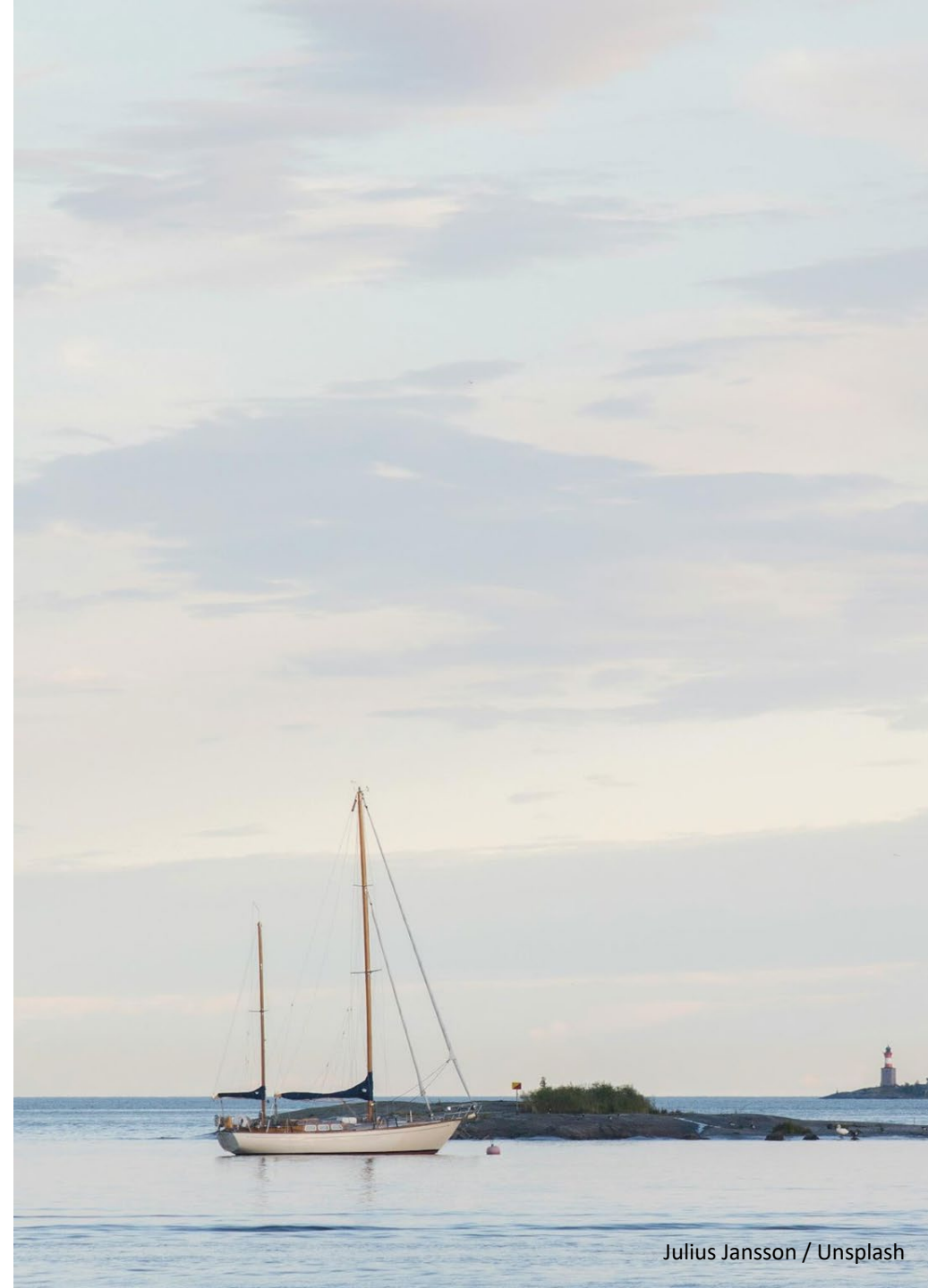
**The Regional Councils** are responsible for the preparation of maritime spatial plans. **The Ministry of the Environment** is responsible for the general development and guidance of maritime spatial planning, as well as cooperation with other countries.

**Maritime spatial planning is carried out in close cooperation with stakeholders, which is why interaction is an important part of the planning process.** All authorities and entities whose areas of competence are covered by the maritime spatial plan have the opportunity to participate in its preparation. Formed under the leadership of the Regional Councils, maritime spatial plans reflect a **common vision** on the future sustainable use of the marine area. In Finland, maritime spatial planning is regulated under Section 8a of the **Land Use and Building Act**.

## *Section 67c Participation and opinions*

*The Regional Councils must organise the preparation of the maritime spatial plan in such a way that the authorities and entities whose areas of competence are covered by the plan have the opportunity to participate in its preparation. The Regional Councils must seek the opinion of the authorities and entities whose competencies or functions are substantially affected by the plan. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs must be consulted on the EEZ.*

*The parties other than those referred to in subsection 1 must be given the opportunity to consult the preparatory material and to express their views on it by publishing a notice on the Internet. At least 30 days must be allowed for the submission of comments.*





# Who is affected by the planning?

The Maritime Spatial Plan is a **strategic vision** for the sustainable use of the marine space and the promotion of a healthy marine environment, **developed in partnership with stakeholders**. The plan will identify in general terms the potential for multiple uses of the maritime areas and support **the coordination of maritime activities**. The key themes and stakeholders include the energy sector, maritime transport (including ports), fishing and aquaculture, extractive industries, maritime industries, blue biotechnology, cultural heritage, tourism and recreation, as well as the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment. The needs relating to national defence and the special characteristics of the marine areas are also taken into account.

Due to the **coordinating nature** of the Maritime Spatial Plan, **the measures are developed through extensive interaction** between MSP practitioners, experts and marine stakeholders.

At national level, there is an **inter-ministerial cooperation group**, which is steered by the Ministry of the Environment. The of MSP coordination leads the **sectoral contact person network**, which includes maritime authorities, research institutions, and organizations advocating for and developing stakeholder interests.

## MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING STAKEHOLDERS

- **Regional development and planning:** Regional Councils, municipalities, business organisations, companies, Metsähallitus (state-owned forestry company), etc.
- **Energy sector:** companies and interest groups (energy production, transmission and storage), etc.
- **Fisheries:** public authorities, interest groups, developers and entrepreneurs such as fishing regions, professional fishermen, fish farmers, fishing ports, etc.
- **Extractive industries:** entrepreneurs, organisations, etc.
- **International actors:** EU's marine areas; Baltic Sea countries, especially Sweden and Estonia; etc.
- **Cultural heritage:** National Board of Antiquities, regional museums, other museums, organisations, etc.
- **National defence:** Defence Forces and the Finnish Border Guard
- **Tourism:** entrepreneurs, municipalities and developers, etc.
- **Maritime transport:** Finnish Transport Infrastructure Agency, Traficom and other authorities and stakeholders
- **Maritime industry:** industry, logistics, etc.
- **Protection and conservation:** nature conservation and environmental organisations, Metsähallitus, etc.
- **Research and educational institutions:** Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE), Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), universities, Finnish Meteorological Institute, Archipelago Research Institute, Geological Survey of Finland (GTK), Kotka Maritime Research Centre, etc.
- **Ownership and administration of water and land areas:** e.g. Metsähallitus, VEALO, Landowners' Organization, MTK
- **Public authorities:** ministries, ELY Centres and municipal representatives, etc.
- **Recreation:** marine nature, recreational fishing and hunting, boating, residents, cottagers, organisations, municipalities, service providers

# What are the maritime spatial planning areas?

In Finland, there is one maritime spatial plan that has been developed in three parts in collaboration among the eight coastal regional councils.

- **Gulf of Finland** (Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council and Regional Council of Kymenlaakso)
- **Archipelago Sea and Southern Bothnian Sea** (Regional Council of Southwest Finland and Regional Council of Satakunta)
- **Northern Bothnian Sea, Quark and Bay of Bothnia** (Regional Council of Ostrobothnia, Regional Council of Central Ostrobothnia, Council of Oulu Region and Regional Council of Lapland).

The Regional Council of Southwest Finland is responsible for the coordination of the Finnish Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) Cooperation. Referred to as **MSP Coordination** in this document.

The Åland Islands are responsible for drafting the maritime spatial plan for their own region, based on a decision by the Government of Åland.

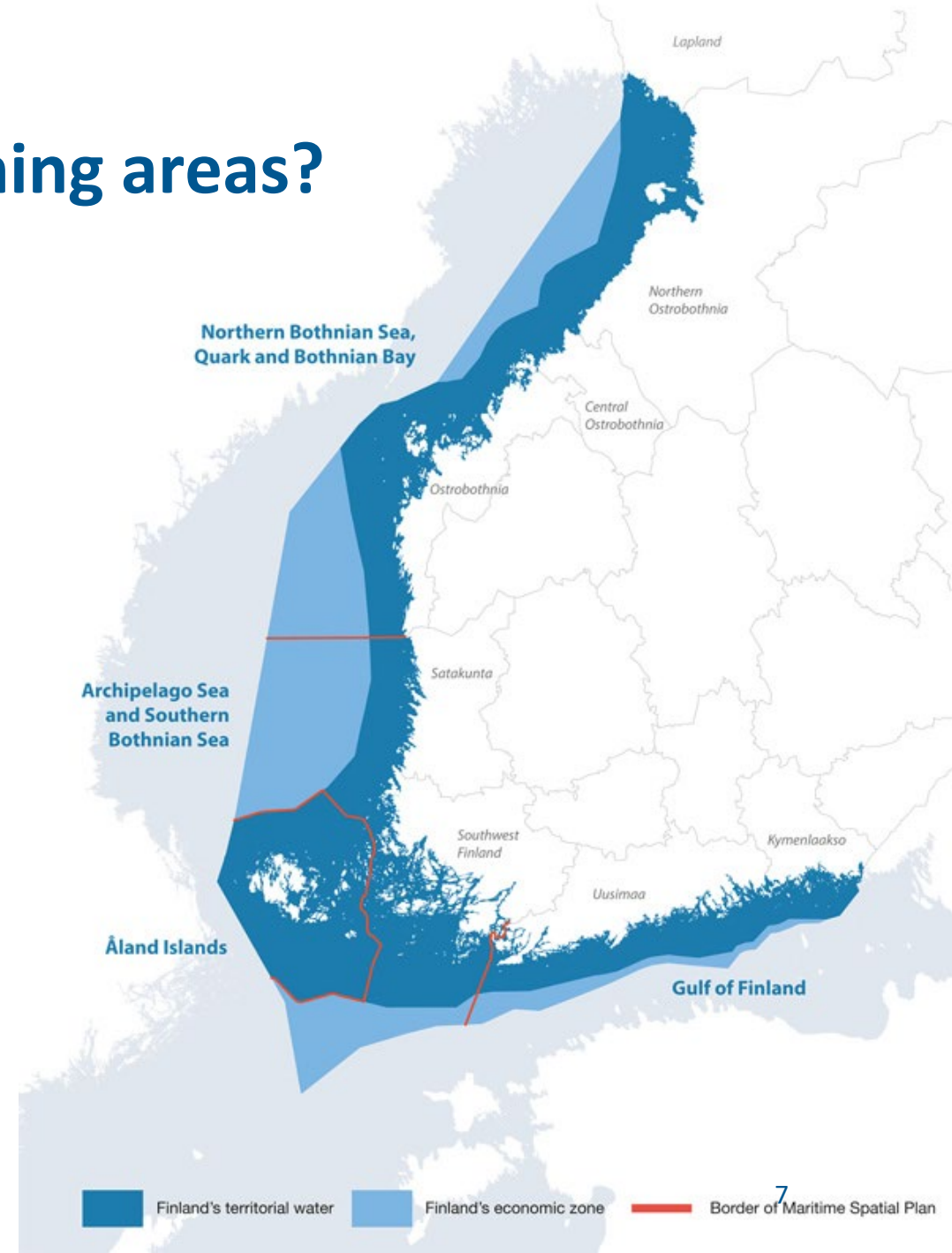
See the current Finland's Maritime Spatial Plan 2030 at: [www.merialuesuunnitelma.fi](http://www.merialuesuunnitelma.fi) (FI, SV and EN)

Section 8a of the Finnish Land Use and Building Act provides for the preparation of a Maritime Spatial Plan as follows:

## **67 b §**

### ***Preparation and adoption of the Maritime Spatial Plan***

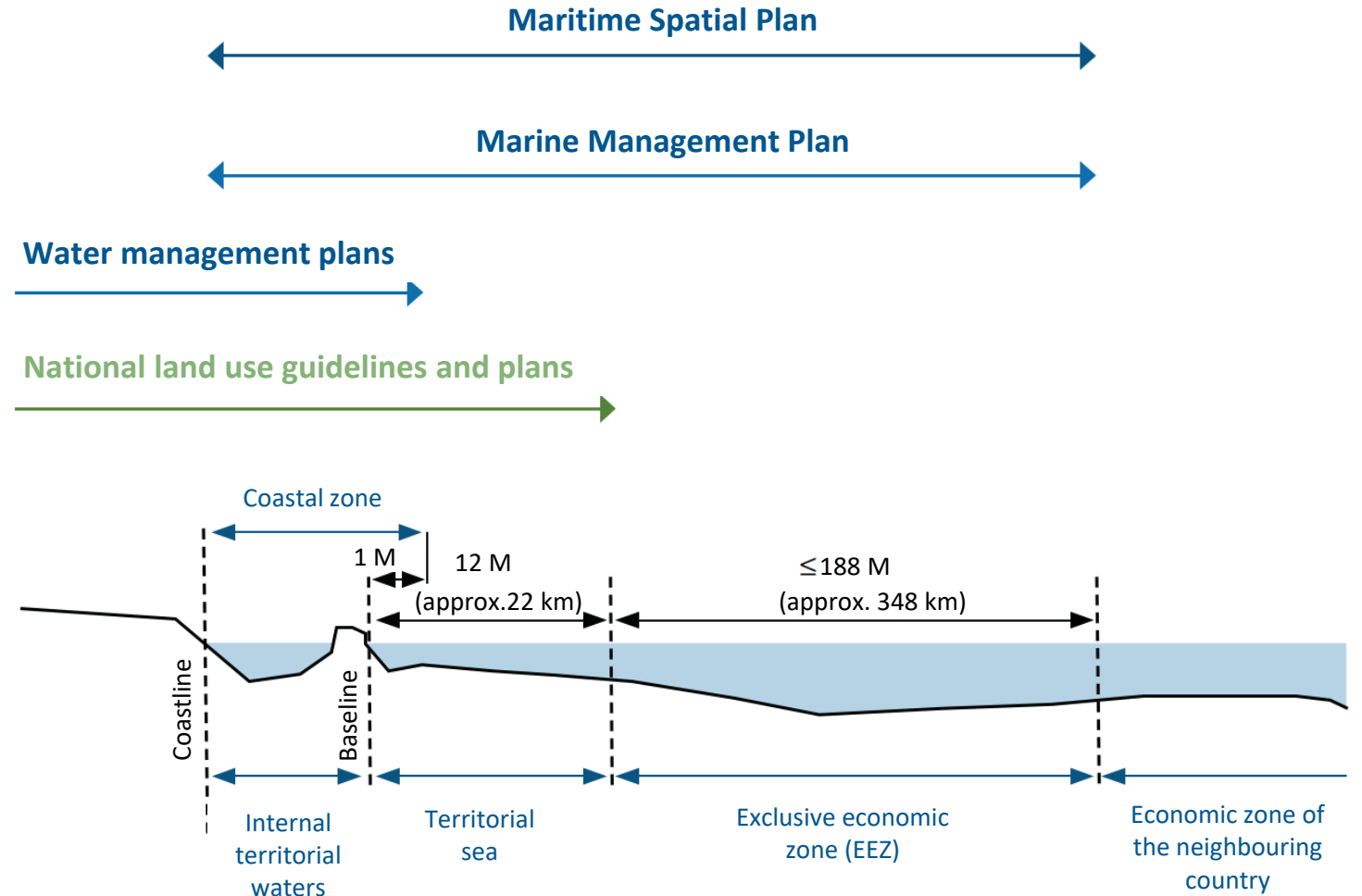
*The Maritime Spatial Plan is drawn up for Finland's territorial waters and the EEZ. The responsibility for the preparation and approval of Finland's Maritime Spatial Plan rests with the Regional Councils whose territory includes territorial waters. The Regional Councils should prepare the Maritime Spatial Plan in cooperation, and regional plans should be coordinated.*



# Which areas are covered by maritime spatial planning?

Maritime spatial plan in Finland covers **territorial waters and the exclusive economic zone.**

Planning area starts from the coastline.





# What is the impact of the Maritime Spatial Plan?

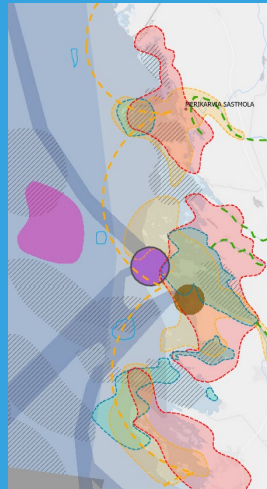
The Maritime Spatial Plan is **strategic and general** in nature:

- The plan has **indirect steering impacts**; as a spatial planning tool, it supports regional planning and development by providing information on the potential and constraints of maritime industries and the marine environment.
- **The impact of the plan arises by virtue of the planning process**, in other words through the common understanding reached by the stakeholder groups, as well as through commitment to and perceived ownership of the plan.
- Its **effectiveness also stems from its links to national, regional and sectoral policies and strategies**. The plan also supports the objectives of regional development programmes and their implementation, regional land use planning, regional development projects, as well as natural resource plans and other maritime management plans.

## Maritime Spatial Plan

Territorial waters and the economic zone, prepared by the Regional Councils

Strategic



## Regional plan

Includes territorial waters, prepared by the Regional Councils

Legally binding



## Master plan

Includes territorial waters, prepared by the Municipalities

Legally binding



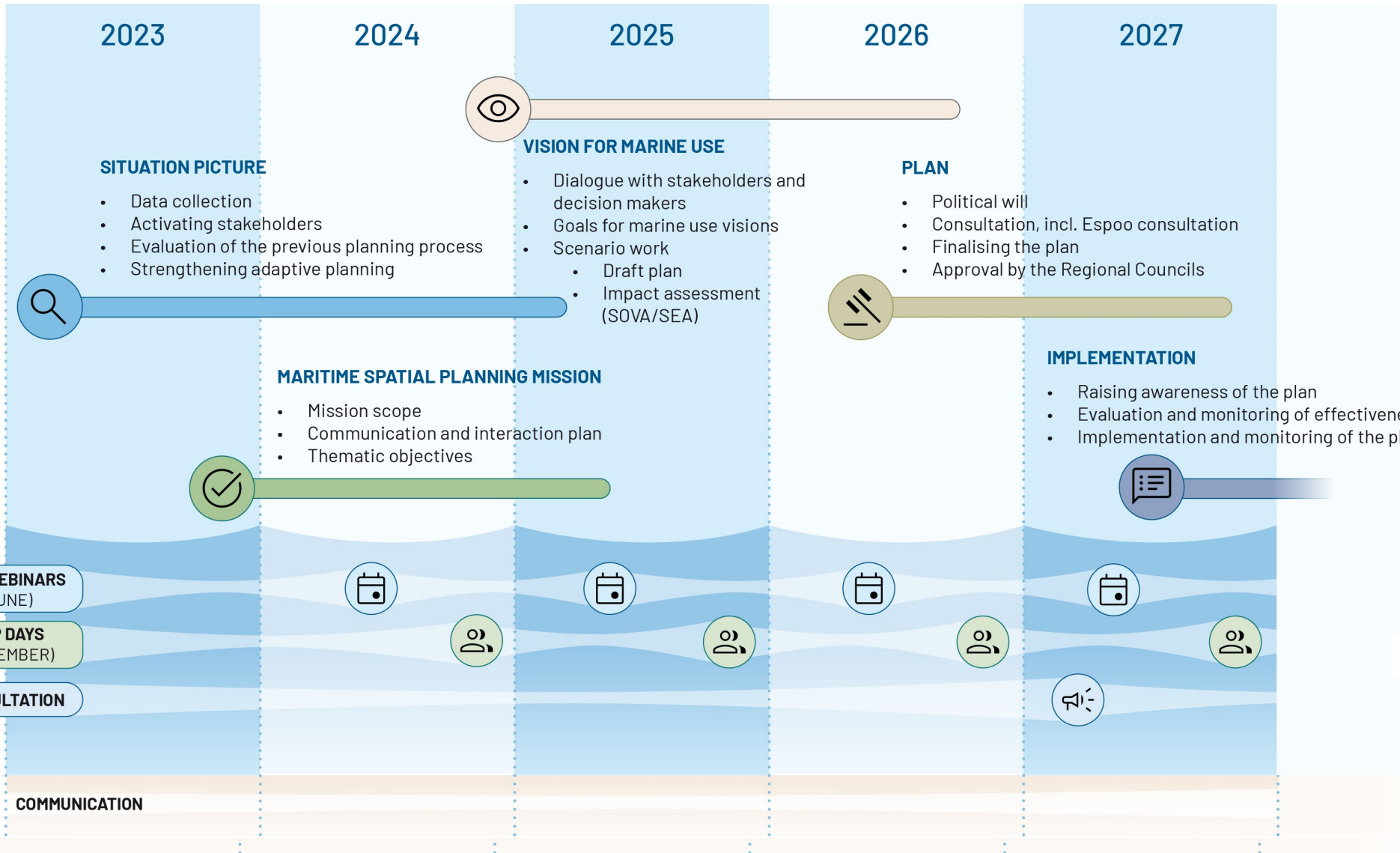
# How are the maritime spatial plans progressing and where are the points of interaction?

Maritime spatial planning follows an ecosystem approach, which puts **participatory planning and communication at the heart of the planning process**. The MSP process relies on a strong **collaborative or participatory approach** between MSP practitioners, experts and stakeholders. Collaborative interaction is reflected in the development of maritime spatial plans through a wide range of interaction events and activities, and a continuous dialogue between the different stakeholders throughout the process.

Interaction events will be organized in all five planning phases between **2023 and 2027**. The general steps of the planning process and the **annual interaction events are presented on the next page**. The annual events will provide more detailed information about the progress of the plans and the upcoming interaction events. The success of the interaction is monitored and evaluated as part of the process.



# How are the maritime spatial plans progressing and where are the points of interaction?



Open MSP Cooperation network

[www.merialuesuunnittelu.fi/en/](http://www.merialuesuunnittelu.fi/en/)



# How can you participate and make a difference?

The maritime spatial planning process, or MSP, involves a wide range of marine stakeholders, experts and authorities through various means of interaction and communication. Below is a list of different ways to participate and contribute to maritime spatial planning. Keep up to date by following MSP-FI's social media channels.



## MSP Days

The MSP Days is an information and networking event for stakeholders, experts and authorities who are key players in the maritime spatial planning process. The event will provide an opportunity to present your own MSP activities and projects to other participants. The MSP Days takes place every year in the last week of November and features a varying maritime theme. The event is organised by the MSP Coordination and the coastal Regional Councils. Invitations to the event will be sent by email.



## MSP webinars

MSP webinars discuss past and current measures and the possible next steps in maritime spatial planning. The webinars are held annually in June, and they are open to all. You can ask any questions you have at the event. The event is organised by the MSP Coordination. You can get more information on the webinars on MSP's social media channels or by subscribing to MSP's newsletter.



## MSP Projects

To strengthen the knowledge base and build networks in maritime spatial planning, surveys are implemented, and participation in several international MSP projects is undertaken. Workshops and meetings are organized as part of these projects, and support to innovation and piloting is given. By participating in these activities, you can influence the content of MSP. Information about events is communicated through newsletters and social media.



# How can you participate and make a difference?@



## Maritime spatial planning workshops and consultations

The MSP Coordination and the coastal Regional Councils organise national, regional and local MSP workshops and consultations with authorities, experts and stakeholders to prepare the *Vision for Marine Use* during the period from December 2024 to May 2025.



## MSP interaction forums

MSP interaction forums are thematic and targeted national and regional workshops within the MSP process. The workshop series will take place in autumn 2025 as part of preparing the *Vision for Marine Use*. Workshops will be organised by the MSP Coordination and the coastal Regional Councils.



## Consultation rounds

The consultation rounds are targeted at public authorities, maritime stakeholders and expert organisations and will run in early 2027. Participatory consultation is targeted at everyone affected by the plan and it is held earlier during the preparation of the *Vision for Marine Use* and draft Plan. The consultation rounds will be organised by the MSP Coordination and the coastal Regional Councils.

**You can also join the MSP cooperation network, which is open to all, by filling in the form on [this link](#).** As a member of the network, you will receive up-to-date information on maritime spatial planning news, studies and upcoming events.



A network of cooperation open  
to all

[www.merialuesuunnittelu.fi/en/](http://www.merialuesuunnittelu.fi/en/)



# How does interaction support the European Green Deal (EGD) objectives?

Maritime spatial planning measures will support the green transition at sea in line with the objectives of the EU programme. The interaction in maritime spatial planning will strongly reflect the EGD's **just transition**, i.e. ensuring equality, equity, fair treatment and empowerment of different stakeholders and regions.

**Other EGD issues to be considered in maritime spatial planning include:**

- Mitigating climate change
- Adapting to climate change
- Sustainable marine food production
- Protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems
- Blue circular economy
- Promoting zero pollution

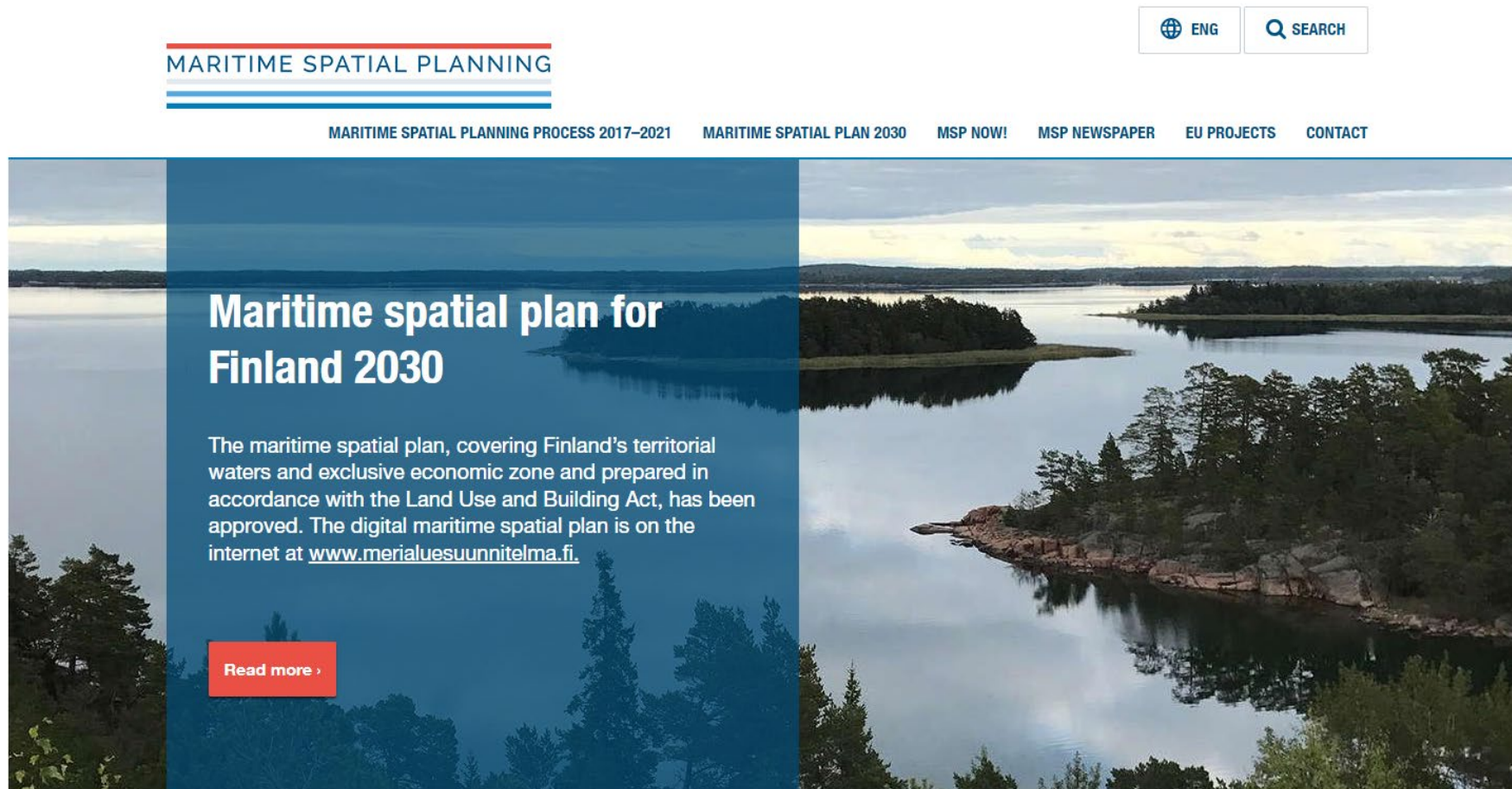
The marine environment must be used sustainably to safeguard the wellbeing of marine nature and the marine environment, and thus to ensure the availability of marine resources for current and future generations.



# Who can you contact?

For up-to-date contact information on maritime spatial planning, click here:

<https://www.merialuesuunnittelu.fi/en/314/>





[www.merialuesuunnitelma.fi](http://www.merialuesuunnitelma.fi)  
[www.merialuesuunnittelu.fi/en/](http://www.merialuesuunnittelu.fi/en/)

