Maritime Spatial Planning in the German EEZ

Dr. Markus Salomon
German Advisory Council on the Environment (SRU), Berlin
1. Ministry for transport, building and urban development: responsible for setting up Maritime Spatial Plans (MSP) for the German EEZ.

2. The legal basis for MSP have been put in place with the introduction of the Federal Spatial Planning Act in 2004.

3. The MSP for the German Baltic Sea and North Sea came into effect in 2009.

4. Germany is the first European country which established MSP.
The dominant uses of the German EEZ which are regulated:

1. Shipping
2. Exploitation of non-living resources
3. Pipelines and submarine cables
4. Marine scientific research
5. Energy production (wind energy)
6. Fisheries and mariculture

Not regulated:

1. Military use
2. Leisure and tourism
3. Bridge (Fehmarn Belt crossing)
4. Ammunition dump sites
The German EEZ of the North and Baltic Sea

5 guidelines for spatial development

1. Safeguarding and strengthening of maritime traffic
2. Strengthening economic capacity through orderly spatial development
3. Promotion of offshore wind energy use
4. Long-term sustainable use of the features and potentials of the EEZ through reversible uses, efficient use of space and priority of specific marine uses
5. Safeguarding the natural environment by avoiding disruption and pollution of the marine environment
Steering effect

Via the definition of:

1. **Priority areas**: in this areas one use is given priority over other uses
2. **Reservation areas**: special importance is attached to certain uses (other uses are not ruled out per se)
3. **Suitability areas**: areas particular suitable for certain uses (these uses might be ruled out elsewhere)
1. Shipping

Shipping routes are priority or reservation areas

(UNCLOS: freedom of navigation for all States)

The definition of international shipping routes lies in the hand of the IMO

Use of wind energy is excluded in these areas
2. Exploitation of non-living resources

Is asked to take care of cables and pipelines, to take account to sites of cultural heritage and to avoid endangering the ease and safety of shipping.

Furthermore, the best environmental technique defined by the OSPAR Commission and HELCOM shall be take into account.
3. Fisheries

Traditional branch of industry

No restriction of fisheries via spatial plans (exclusive competence of the EU to regulate fisheries)

The fisheries sectors is only asked to take account to cultural heritages sites (wrecks).
Regulation of the different uses

4. Wind energy

5 priority areas in the North Sea and 2 in the Baltic Sea

Do not ruled out the use of wind energy outside these areas

Wind turbines must not exceed a hight of 125 m

Turbines have to be dismantled and decommissioned after their use

No construction of offshore wind energy installations in Natura 2000 sights
5. Protection of marine areas

Principles for the protection of the marine environment are formulated.

Marine protected areas are included in MPAs for information only.

Only the construction of offshore windfarms is excluded in MPAs.
Germany has designated 10 protected areas in its EEZ (32% of its EEZ).

The 2 birds santuaries were notified by the European Commission in 2005.

The 8 Habitats Directive areas were established by the European Commission in 2007.

Germany is legally obliged to take conservation measures in these Natura 2000 sites.

Until now no management plans for human activities in these areas could be established.
Monitoring in the German EEZ

Monitoring obligations

Impacts on the environment have to be analysed with in the framework of the project related monitoring (extraction of non-living resources and offshore wind energy)

National monitoring programmes (MARNET from BSH…)

From the Conventions for the protection of the marine regions (HELCOM and OSPAR-Convention)

From the Marine Strategy Framework Directive

From the Habitat and Birds Directive
It is essential to provide resources and instruments to monitor fishery measures in Natura 2000 sites

One possibility: satellite-based vessel monitoring systems (for huge vessels)
1. To our opinion the steering potential of spatial planning in the German EEZ should be expanded.

2. Marine protection and other use interests should be treated on an equal way.

3. We urgently need management plans for our MPAs.
Many thanks for your attention!

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