Framework for Follow-up of Marine Spatial Plans

Overall description of the work process



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Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management

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Foreword

Marine spatial planning is an important tool for achieving sustainable social development and Sweden's environmental objectives, particularly the environmental quality objective "A Balanced Marine Environment and a Living Coast and Archipelago." Structured monitoring contributes to increasingly better marine spatial plans that serve as guidance for achieving these objectives.

In 2022, the government adopted Sweden's first marine spatial plans for the Gulf of Bothnia, the Baltic Sea, and the Skagerrak and Kattegat. These plans provide guidance on the use of marine areas. The process of developing proposals for maritime spatial plans, led by the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, involves a wide range of stakeholders who contribute background information and feedback. These stakeholders represent industry and interest groups, research and academia, municipalities, regions, county administrative boards, national authorities, and neighbouring countries.

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management must stay informed on an ongoing basis about developments in the relevant areas and, as needed or at least every eight years, develop new proposals to ensure that the marine spatial plan remains up to date and can fulfil its purpose. As proposals for marine spatial plans are developed, a strategic environmental assessment is also integrated, including requirements for follow-up and monitoring. Therefore, the monitoring of maritime spatial plans is an important part of the maritime spatial planning and environmental assessment process.

With this framework, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management aims to provide an overall description of how the monitoring of maritime spatial plans is intended to function.

Thomas Klein

Head of Department

Summary

Sweden’s seas are facing major changes. New demands on marine resources are emerging, while the need to protect the marine environment and create long-term sustainable solutions is becoming increasingly urgent. Marine spatial plans are an important tool for balancing these interests and creating the conditions for sustainable development in our marine areas. To ensure that the plans remain relevant and serve as an effective support for future decisions, structured and regular monitoring is required.

This framework describes how the monitoring of Sweden’s maritime spatial plans is intended to be carried out. The purpose is to establish a common structure for tracking how the maritime spatial plans are used, what effects they have, and how the external environment changes over time. The monitoring process is intended to help keep the maritime spatial plans up to date, identify any environmental impacts early on, and ensure that new knowledge can be incorporated into future planning cycles.

The framework is based on two complementary components: ongoing monitoring and in-depth monitoring. Ongoing monitoring focuses on monitoring external developments, changing conditions, and how the marine spatial plans are used in planning and permitting processes. In-depth monitoring is conducted at longer intervals and aims to analyse the plans’ impacts, goal achievement, and significant environmental impacts, as well as to assess the need for revisions.

The monitoring process includes, among other things, tracking developments in the use of the sea, its environmental condition, climate impacts, governance, and the implementation of maritime spatial plans. The work also involves analysing social, economic, and environmental impacts, as well as how maritime spatial plans contribute to societal goals and sustainable development.

A key premise is that marine spatial planning is a long-term, learning-based process. The development of the marine environment is influenced by many factors simultaneously, ranging from climate change and technological advancements to international legislation and municipal planning. Therefore, the monitoring must be conducted in close collaboration between government agencies, county administrative boards, regions, municipalities, the research community, the business sector, and other relevant stakeholders. Collaboration and participation in the monitoring process are also expected to yield coordination benefits and provide knowledge and data valuable for municipal and regional planning as well as other forms of management.

The framework is intended to contribute to a more adaptive and knowledge-based marine spatial planning process, in which experience and new insights gradually strengthen the planning of Sweden’s marine areas. Clear and coordinated monitoring creates better conditions for the sustainable use of marine resources, the protection of marine environments, and long-term sustainable development for society as a whole.

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1 Starting points and purpose

The Swedish maritime spatial plans provide guidance to government agencies and municipalities in planning and reviewing applications for the use of marine areas. The objective is to contribute to long-term sustainable development. The marine spatial plans are intended to help achieve and maintain good environmental status in the marine environment, ensure that marine resources are used sustainably so that marine-related industries can develop, and promote coexistence between different activities and areas of use. An ecosystem-based approach shall be applied in this work.

This framework is intended to serve as a support for efforts to monitor marine spatial plans. It is primarily aimed at the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management and the stakeholders who participate in and contribute to marine spatial planning efforts. Since the framework describes a part of the planning process that may be relevant to maritime spatial planning in a broader sense, it may also be of interest to a wider audience and, by extension, to everyone affected by the maritime spatial plans. As the monitoring work is carried out and developed, there may be a need to reassess and update this framework.

1.1 Legislation

The Environmental Code and the Marine Spatial Planning Ordinance contain the governing requirements for the monitoring of marine spatial plans.

1.1.1 Marine Spatial Planning Directive

The EU's Framework Directive on Marine Spatial Planning (2014/89/EU) has been transposed into Swedish law through the Environmental Code and the Marine Spatial Planning Ordinance. The directive stipulates that *Member States shall review their marine spatial plans when they deem it appropriate, but at least every ten years.*

1.1.2 Marine Spatial Planning Ordinance

The Marine Spatial Planning Ordinance (2015:400) regulates the design and development of Sweden's marine spatial plans. Section 21 stipulates that *once a marine spatial plan has been adopted by the government, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management must keep itself informed on an ongoing basis of developments in the relevant areas and, as needed or at least every eight years, prepare new proposals to ensure that the marine spatial plan remains up to date and can fulfil its purpose.*

1.1.3 Environmental Code

Chapter 4, Section 10 of the Environmental Code (1998:808) sets forth, among other things, the purpose of the marine spatial plans and their geographical boundaries. The Environmental Code also regulates the requirements for strategic environmental assessments and environmental impact statements. Marine spatial plans are subject to the requirement for strategic environmental assessments pursuant to Section 2, second paragraph, of the Environmental Assessment Ordinance (2017:966). This entails a requirement for follow-up pursuant to Chapter 6, Section 19, of the Environmental Code. The decision-making authority must obtain information regarding the

significant environmental impacts that the implementation of the plan will actually entail. This must be done so that the authority becomes aware of such significant environmental impacts at an early stage.

1.2 About follow-up on marine spatial plans

Monitoring of marine spatial plans has not yet been conducted in Sweden. Some experience can be drawn from the monitoring of municipal and regional planning or other types of major plans or programs. Some guidance is also available for follow-up of such plans[1]. Internationally, there are both guidelines and examples of how other countries approach follow-up in the context of marine spatial planning[2]. A checklist has been developed to assess the cross-border consistency among marine spatial plans in the Baltic Sea region[3]. There are several scientific articles on the theory and practice of follow-up on marine spatial plans, as well as on existing monitoring programs[4].

When it comes to evaluating spatial plans, it is common to distinguish between evaluating goal achievement (conformance) and evaluating how well the plan communicates intentions for the future and how it produces the desired effects through its use in and influence on other plans and policies (performance)[5]. Which approach is used depends on the type of objectives in the plan. In strategic planning, it is more common to evaluate the plan's performance. In more directly prescriptive planning with clear quantitative objectives, it is more common to evaluate conformance with the objectives. It is also possible to use both evaluation approaches to capture the full scope of a plan's impacts.

One challenge in assessing the impacts of a marine spatial plan is that changes in, for example, the marine environment or in the use of the sea also depend on factors that fall outside the scope of the marine spatial plan. Changes may result from natural processes in the marine environment, decisions made in adjacent sectoral management, technological developments, or economic conditions (e.g., market trends or financing opportunities). A change may also occur long after the plan has been adopted, making it difficult to attribute it to the plan and its implementation.

1.2.1 Regarding the monitoring of significant environmental impacts

The purpose of environmental assessments is to integrate environmental considerations into planning and decision-making in order to promote sustainable development. The planning and environmental assessment processes are interlinked and integrated so that plans can be designed as effectively as possible and contribute to the goal of promoting sustainable development.

Follow-up and monitoring can be viewed as part of the environmental assessment process and provide a basis for understanding the state of the environment when developing a new plan and when implementing the plan. It is primarily the significant environmental impacts that should be monitored. It is appropriate and resource-efficient to coordinate monitoring with other plan-related

[1] See the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning - Planning and Building Act (PBL) *Process för översiktsplanering och strategisk miljöbedömning*

[2] See e.g., eMSP (2023) *MSP in a sea of change – aim for better and connected plans*, Capacity4MSP (2022) *Implementation and M&E Mechanisms for MSPs in the Baltic Sea Region*, IOC UNESCO (2021) *MSPglobal International Guide on Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning* and EU Commission (2018) Maritime Spatial Planning for Blue Growth

[3] HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG (2022). *Voluntary guidance for assessment of cross-border coherence in Maritime Spatial Planning*

[4] See e.g., Carneiro, G, (2013), Cormier, R, et.al. (2015) and van den Burg, S.W.K. et al. (2023)

[5] Pan Baltic Scope (2019) *Monitoring and Evaluation of Maritime Spatial Planning. Cases of Latvia and Poland as examples*

monitoring activities and to use existing monitoring and surveillance systems where appropriate. The extent and level of detail required for monitoring depend, among other things, on how environmentally disruptive the implementation of a plan is expected to be. In cases where the environmental impact is assessed as minor, the need for follow-up is generally less than if the plan could not be adapted to avoid environmental impacts. However, there is always a need to monitor and track any unforeseen environmental impacts that the implementation of the plan may cause. An environmental impact statement includes a description of the measures planned for monitoring and tracking the significant environmental impacts resulting from the implementation of the plan[6].

1.3 Purpose

The framework for follow-up of marine spatial plans describes the process for periodic monitoring activities. The purpose of the framework is to guide the monitoring of marine spatial plans in order to facilitate and prepare for the next planning cycle, as well as to support the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management in meeting the statutory requirements for monitoring.

Based on the framework, developments are to be followed up in the areas that affect and are affected by the marine spatial plans—that is, the conditions that influence the plans and the contexts in which they operate. The follow-up also covers the implementation of the plans, their achievement of objectives, and their social, economic, and environmental impacts. It is intended to ensure that there is knowledge regarding the significant environmental impacts that the implementation of the plans actually entails.

Follow-up of the plans is essential for identifying the need for new marine spatial plans, so that they can remain up-to-date and fulfil their objectives. Since the overarching objective of marine spatial plans is to contribute to long-term sustainable development, it is reasonable for the follow-up to include the social, economic, and environmental impacts of the plans. Understanding and monitoring the implementation of the plans is a crucial part of assessing their impacts and determining whether the plans remain relevant and fulfil their objectives. This monitoring provides essential information for designing new plans as effectively as possible.

The framework is intended to contribute to:

- To apply an **ecosystem-based approach**[7] to marine spatial planning by monitoring the significant environmental impacts of the marine spatial plan, strengthening broad participation in marine spatial planning, and contributing to new knowledge about the sustainable use of the ocean.
- Enabling **adaptive management** through a structured monitoring process capable of identifying and addressing a changing reality.
- Promoting a **learning process** and the development of knowledge regarding marine spatial planning by building expertise on the marine spatial planning process and planning documentation that can be fed back into relevant processes and shared with relevant stakeholders.

[6] Swedish Environmental Protection Agency guidance on SEA *Strategisk miljöbedömning – miljöbedömning för planer och program*

[7] See Förslag till ändrade havsplaner för Bottniska viken, Östersjön och Västerhavet 2025 p.8

- To raise awareness and enable the **participation** of relevant stakeholders in ongoing marine spatial planning efforts.
- To **clarify** the **marine spatial planning process** by ensuring the framework highlights how follow-up work is conducted.
- To enable **long-term resource planning** internally and for stakeholders affected by the marine spatial plans.
- To **streamline follow-up work** and marine spatial planning in general.

1.4 Starting points and principles for follow-up

Follow-up of Swedish marine spatial plans under this framework shall take into account the following principles:

- **Focus on following-up the "performance" of the plans and tracking external developments in the early stages**
  Swedish marine spatial plans are guiding documents that allow for the prohibition or restriction of measures or activities through regulations. As such, the marine spatial plans serve as a framework or basis for other political and administrative decisions rather than action plans with concrete and directly applicable measures. Follow-up should therefore help to understand how the marine spatial plans are applied and what results this leads to. External follow-up is an important part of this process and is essential for continuously tracking developments in the relevant areas. This, in turn, creates better opportunities to evaluate the degree to which objectives are met and the resulting impacts.

- **Consistency with Follow-up and Planning under the Planning and Building Act, the Environmental Code, and International Standards**
  To enhance understanding and facilitate the follow-up of marine spatial plans, it is desirable to ensure consistency with the follow-up of similar plans and programs both in Sweden and within an international marine spatial planning context.

- **Awareness, Participation, and Transparency**
  The marine spatial planning process is designed to foster collaboration among various stakeholders and enables affected parties to participate in various ways. This should also be reflected in the work of follow-up of marine spatial plans.

- **Resource Efficiency and Coordination with Other Initiatives**
  The follow-up of marine spatial plans should be carried out in a resource-efficient manner by coordinating with work within other processes and initiatives. Examples include work in marine environmental management, marine area protection, and cooperation within OSPAR, HELCOM, and VASAB; see Chapter 6 for more details.

- **Digitalisation and development**
  Follow-up efforts need to be developed to operate in an increasingly digital environment and keep pace with the broader trend toward digitalised marine spatial planning.

1.5 Implementation and follow-up of the marine spatial plan in a broader context

The marine spatial plan is implemented and takes effect in various contexts and amongst different stakeholders;

- in strategic management, which focuses on planning,
- in operational management, which focuses on implementation and the granting of permits, and
- in the use of the sea, water and land.

This can be illustrated by saying that the marine spatial plan creates ‘ripples on the water’. At the same time, there are many external factors that also influence these contexts simultaneously. These include, for example, global trends, changes in society and the environment, and new international legislation or agreements.

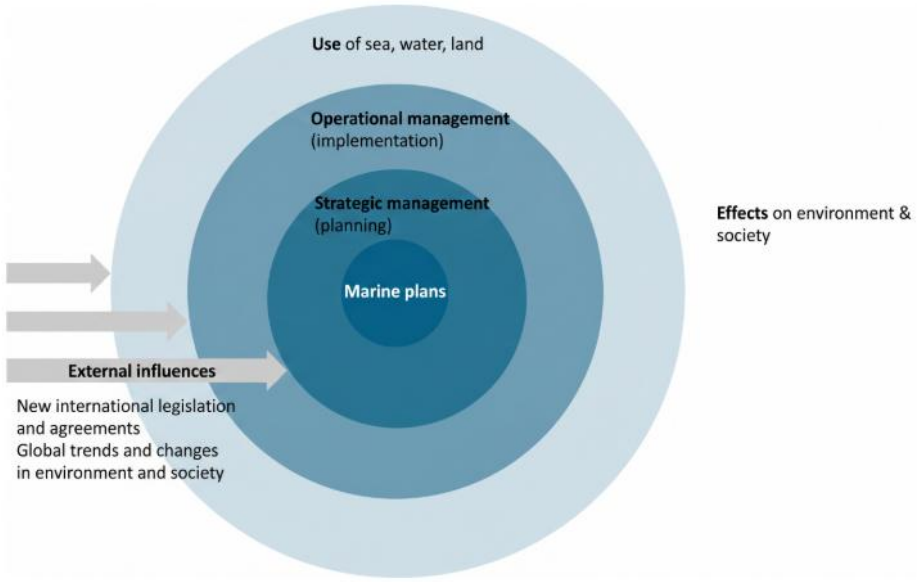


Figure 1. Ripple effects – the plan’s effect. Illustration made by the Swedish Institute for the Marine Environment.

Similarly, activities and implementation within other policy areas also have effects and create ripple effects. The combined effects on the environment and society thus stem from various policy areas that interact with one another, as well as from external factors. Taken together, this illustrates the importance of taking a holistic view and understanding the role and implementation of marine spatial plans within the broader context during the monitoring process.

1.6 Delimitation

The framework provides a basis for how the follow-up of marine spatial plans is to be carried out and coordinated over time. The approach for each follow-up initiative needs to be planned and communicated in greater detail in terms of content, working methods and timeframe.

If necessary to achieve the objective of a marine spatial plan, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management shall, in accordance with Section 16 of the Marine Spatial Planning Ordinance (2015:400), make proposals for regulations prohibiting or restricting activities or measures within a marine spatial planning area as specified in Chapter 4, Section 10 of the

Environmental Code. As the marine spatial plans adopted to date have not been linked to any such regulations, this framework does not address the monitoring of such regulations either. However, the follow-up process may identify a need for such regulations. Future follow-up may need to be developed in this respect should such regulations become relevant.

1.7 Development of the framework

This framework has been developed by the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management through a working group within the Marine Spatial Planning unit. Expert support for this work has been provided by the Institute for Marine Environment at the University of Gothenburg. Local authorities, regions, county administrative boards, central government agencies, industry and interest groups, and universities have been consulted via a consultation process.

Whilst the framework was being developed, the marine spatial planning process was evaluated on two occasions. The results of these evaluations have been taken into account in the design of this framework and in future follow-up work.

2 The marine spatial planning process

Marine spatial planning is an iterative process that takes place in cycles over several years. Through a series of stages, marine spatial planning progresses from gathering information and analysing the current situation, trends, objectives and impacts to decisions on the spatial and temporal conditions governing the use of Sweden's marine areas. Impacts are assessed on the basis of various alternatives and cover social, economic and environmental aspects. Dialogue takes place continuously with relevant stakeholders, and formal dialogues are held through consultation and review procedures. The marine spatial plans are the result of the planning and impact assessment process, at the end of which the Government adopts the plans. The plans are then implemented. Under the Marine Spatial Planning Ordinance (2015:400), the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management is required to follow-up the adopted plans and create new proposals for marine spatial plans as and when necessary, or at least every eight years. The need to propose new plans may be assessed on the basis of the results of the follow-up or other factors. Follow-up work may also continue in parallel with the development of new proposals for marine spatial plans. Continuous efforts are required to gather and evaluate new knowledge so that it can be utilised in future marine spatial plans.

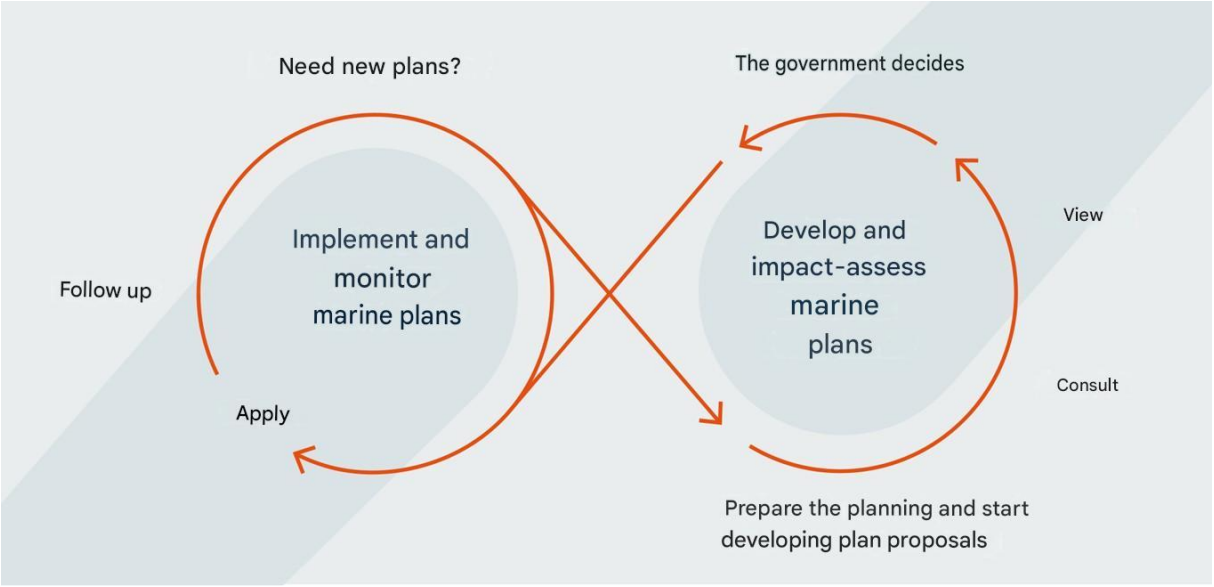


Figure 2. The cyclical marine spatial planning process. Illustration produced by SwAM. Illustration concept from the Process for General Planning and Strategic Environmental Assessment by the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning.

2.1 Time-related aspects

Given that proposals for new marine spatial plans are to be made as and when required, there is no fixed timeframe for this work. However, as proposals must be made at least every eight years, a more structured timeline can be drawn up to provide an overview of the work. Once the Government has decided on the marine spatial plans, the intention is that the follow-up work will continue for approximately 4–5 years, in parallel with the plans being implemented and utilised. Thereafter, work will commence on creating and carrying out impact assessments for new proposals for marine spatial plans over a period of approximately 3 years, on which the Government will then decide. The follow-up work can be integrated into the process of drawing up new proposals for marine spatial plans. After that, the process begins again.

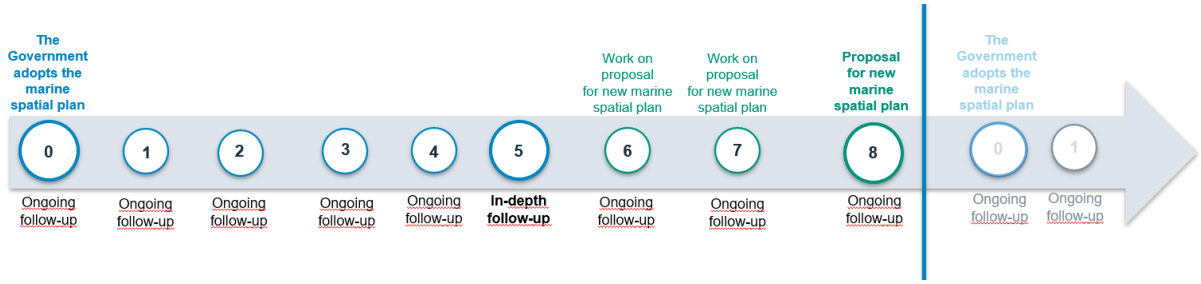


Figure 3. Schematic time schedule of the marine spatial planning and follow-up process.

3 The plans' impact logic as a starting point

Concepts based on theory of change are used as a starting point for follow-up of the implementation, target achievement and impacts of marine spatial plans, but these have been adapted to suit marine spatial planning. In addition to the impact logic of marine spatial planning, developments depend on a wide range of other interacting factors, as described above in sections 1.2 and 1.5.

A. Direct effects: the direct results and outcomes of the work carried out in the marine spatial planning process and of the adopted marine spatial plans.

B. Consequential effects: the results and outcomes of the implementation of marine spatial plans. These often occur in the short or medium term.

C. Consequences: long- or very long-term effects that are often based on a number of actions resulting from the implementation of marine spatial plans and dependent on other changes in society and the environment.



Figure 4. Impact logic. The marine spatial plan enables direct impacts that contribute to secondary effects, which in turn lead to consequences.

The further down the impact chain, the more difficult it becomes to trace the plan's contribution to the consequences. This is an important observation for the follow-up process: whilst direct effects and some secondary effects can be monitored through observations and the collection of supporting data, conclusions about long-term effects and consequences are the result of inductive reasoning, where the reasoning can be supplemented with other observations and assertions in order to draw conclusions about the plan's consequences. An important aspect of this work is to distinguish between what are the effects of the plans and what is attributable to other factors, whether the plans lead to unintended effects, and whether there are factors that hinder or support certain effects. Effects may also arise outside the marine spatial planning area; for example, in the coastal zone and in neighbouring countries. Marine spatial plans may also result in 'diverting' effects, i.e. where something is avoided. An important aspect to bear in mind is that effects may be assessed differently by different stakeholders but should be related to the objectives of the marine spatial plans.

The table below sets out the impact logic of the marine spatial plan through non-exhaustive examples based on three of the marine spatial planning objectives.

Table 1. Example of effect logic from three of the marine spatial planning goals (non-exhaustive example).

	Example of *Energy transaction and renewable energy production at sea*	**Example of *Marine green infrastructure and support of ecosystem services***	**Example of *Regional development, recreation and conservation of cultural environments* with focus only on the cultural environment**
Marine spatial plan	Areas for offshore energy extraction and infrastructure needs are specified in the plan.	Areas for nature are specified in the plan.	Areas for cultural environment are specified in the plan.
	Guidance to enable coexistence is set out in the plan.	Areas with special consideration for high natural values are specified in the plan.	Areas with special consideration for high cultural environmental values are specified in the plan.
	Guidance regarding goals, planning assumptions and consequences is provided in the plan.	Guidance to enable coexistence is set out in the plan.	Guidance to enable coexistence is set out in the plan.
		Guidance regarding goals, planning assumptions and consequences is provided in the plan.	Guidance regarding goals, planning assumptions and consequences is provided in the plan.
Direct effects	Overviews and common starting points regarding the conditions for offshore wind power in different sea areas are created at several levels in society and among several actors.	Overview and increased understanding of marine natural values, ecosystem services, biodiversity and green infrastructure are created at multiple levels in society and among multiple actors.	Översikt och ökad förståelse för kulturmiljövärden, både marina och landbaserade som samspelar med användningar inom havsplanen, skapas på flera nivåer i samhället och hos flera aktörer.
	Sector planning for energy, like other sectors, will receive clear basis and guidance to interact with.	Marine management will receive clear guidance and support to interact with, and for example, area protection, fishing regulations, restoration measures, etc. will be introduced where they have a positive effect.	Marine management will receive clear support and guidance to interact with.
	Areas and conditions for offshore wind power are specified in municipal master plans.	Areas and conditions for nature conservation are specified in municipal master plans.	Areas and conditions for cultural environment conservation are specified in municipal master plans.
	Permit processes for energy extraction facilities are carried out based on the plan's guidance, in areas deemed suitable and avoided in less suitable areas.	Permit processes for activities receive clear guidance and data to enable adaptation to reduce negative impacts, compensation, synergies or coexistence with natural values or to steer activities away from unsuitable areas.	Permit processes for activities receive clear guidance and data to enable adaptation to reduce negative impacts, synergies or coexistence with cultural environmental values or to steer activities away from unsuitable areas.
			Consultations with the county administrative board and permit procedures according to the Cultural Environment Act begin early.
Secondary effects	Wind turbines and infrastructure are installed.	Marine natural values are restored, compensated, protected and developed.	Visual impact on land-based cultural heritage values is avoided or reduced, as is direct impact on, for example, remains and wrecks.
	Sea-based energy is being extracted.		
Consequences	The impact of the installed infrastructure and the extracted	Impact on, for example, climate (ability to store carbon,	Impact on the cultural environment, public health,

	Example of *Energy transaction and renewable energy production at sea*	Example of *Marine green infrastructure and support of ecosystem services*	Example of *Regional development, recreation and conservation of cultural environments* with focus only on the cultural environment
	energy on, for example, the climate, environment, cultural environment, labour market, national economy, and more.	protection of climate refuges), biodiversity, socio-economics (increased ecosystem services, fish stocks), outdoor recreation and public health, etc.	outdoor life, ecosystem services, etc.
	Significant environmental impact, for example unacceptable noise impact on porpoises during construction.	Goal achievement, for example, planning goals for a good marine environment, sustainable development, green infrastructure, promotion of ecosystem services, Good Environmental Status, Agenda 2030, environmental quality goals, biodiversity goals.	Goal achievement, for example planning goals for sustainable development and preservation of cultural environment values, national cultural environment goals, Agenda 2030, environmental quality goals.
	Goal achievement, e.g. planning goals for energy transfer and renewable electricity production in the sea and energy policy goals, climate goals, Agenda 2030.		
Other reasons	Example of indirect effect: displacement of fishing that may be re-established in alternative locations with potentially more positive or negative consequences.	Continued major challenges in achieving good environmental status in the sea – the coastal zone is important as are conditions on land that affect the sea. How can marine planning contribute or are other measures/integration needed?	Challenging to assess indirect impacts on land-based cultural environments from offshore installations. Continued methodological development and dialogue are needed.
	Examples of other factors with greater impact: the guidance on energy in marine spatial plans and municipal plans does not lead to establishments due to not being cost-effective at the current time.	Several coastal marine areas lack planning - how can municipal planning be strengthened?	

3.1 Impact logic for follow-up on significant environmental impact

Follow-up of significant environmental impacts is carried out in conjunction with the other follow-up activities undertaken under the framework. Work on methodological descriptions, follow-up criteria and indicators should be further developed at the start of the follow-up process. The impact assessment of previous draft marine spatial plans sets out the starting points for determining which environmental impacts need to be followed-up and how. Environmental impacts include, for example, habitat loss for marine mammals, fish and seabirds, and the loss of seabed habitats as a result of the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of offshore wind farms, as well as sand extraction. These guidelines relate, for example, to the relevant criteria and indicators within the Marine Strategy Framework Directive for each environmental impact, as well as measures to prevent, avoid, mitigate or remedy adverse environmental impacts. Follow-up of the significant environmental impacts of marine spatial plans should be guided by focusing on the following three issues:

1. **How has the use of marine areas changed?**
   Identify which uses of the sea have been introduced or altered during the analysis period. This refers, for example, to activities requiring a licence that have been introduced, the establishment of protected areas, the use of marine areas for shipping, or fisheries regulations.

2. **What environmental impact have these changes had?**
   The follow-up of environmental effects is carried out partly through environmental monitoring under the Marine Environment Ordinance and partly by assessing the environmental effects of the changed uses in the marine area. In order to assess the environmental impact of the changed uses, a review should be carried out sector by sector. A cumulative perspective is also necessary to analyse how different environmental impacts interact. To obtain as accurate a picture as possible of activities requiring a permit, actual permits and data from their monitoring programmes should be analysed.

3. **What environmental impact can be attributed to the guidance set out in the marine spatial plan, and is that environmental impact significant?**
   The aim is to determine the extent to which the guidance provided by the marine spatial plan and its implementation have contributed to changes in the use of the marine area, resulting in significant environmental impacts. The analysis should be carried out in two stages: 1. What environmental impacts can be attributed to the guidance provided by the marine spatial plan? 2. Are the environmental impacts significant?

One outcome of the analysis may also be the identification of land uses that have given rise to environmental impacts but have not been guided by the marine spatial plan. Such environmental impacts should therefore not be included in the marine spatial plan’s significant environmental impact, but may nevertheless give rise to new policy decisions in the next planning cycle. Significant positive effects of the marine spatial plan’s guidance may arise in cases where the plan has steered uses away from unsuitable areas. Such effects should also be captured in the follow-up, as should unforeseen and indirect effects.

4 What should be followed-up and when

4.1 Aspects to follow-up and evaluate

The follow-up process is intended to identify factors relevant to the relevance, application, achievement of objectives, consequences and significant environmental impacts of the marine spatial plans, including with a view to their forthcoming revision. Several aspects can be followed-up on an ongoing basis, such as how certain activities are carried out at sea, how the marine spatial plan is applied in planning and permit assessments, and how objectives, strategies and legislation are developing. For other aspects, such as environmental status and pressure on the marine environment, ongoing monitoring is possible in some cases, but not always. The follow-up covers conditions both in Sweden and internationally and relates to short-term changes and longer-term trends. The aspects described below aim, in part, to capture the context in which the marine spatial plans operate, primarily through sections 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 below. They also aim to capture the effects and consequences of the planning in accordance with the impact logic presented above; this is done primarily through sections 4.1.3 and 4.1.5. Furthermore, an evaluation of the process is covered in section 4.1.4. In reality, however, the boundaries between the different categories are not clear-cut, and certain aspects may recur across several categories. One example is municipal planning, which constitutes both context – by providing important preconditions for marine spatial planning – and an effect – in that the marine spatial plan serves as a guide for municipal planning. The categories set out are therefore a simplification.

4.1.1 Public governance

- New or amended objectives, strategies, plans and other policy documents (at local, regional, national and international levels)
- New or amended legislation (national, international)
- Marine spatial planning in neighbouring countries, including the implementation and monitoring of marine spatial plans

Changes in planning, governance and objectives, as well as planning in neighbouring countries, should be monitored on an ongoing basis in order to identify new circumstances within the context in which the marine spatial plans operate. More in-depth follow-up is required in the event of major changes, in order to assess the relevance of the marine spatial plans in relation to the changed external environment.

4.1.2 Sea use and its environmental status

- New or changed uses of the marine area
- New or changed claims, including national interests
- Environmental status and environmental impact
- Climate aspects

Follow-up of changes in the use of the sea is important for understanding the changing conditions affecting planning; it then provides a basis for follow-up and evaluating the guidance and implementation of the plans, as well as, in the long term, the plans' impacts, achievement of objectives and significant environmental effects. Changing demands are an important part of

follow-up the external environment and should be monitored on an ongoing basis. The environmental status of the sea is primarily monitored under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and, as far as possible, needs to be linked to the guidance and implementation of marine spatial plans. The environmental status of the sea and its environmental impacts also need to be followed up on an ongoing basis as new evidence becomes available. Follow-up and developing new knowledge bases on climate change, its consequences, and mitigation and adaptation strategies is relevant to marine spatial planning. Long-term development trends and emerging demands also need to be identified and taken into account.

4.1.3 Marine spatial plans as guidance and their application

- Planning (local, regional)
- Assessment of claims
- Guidance and supporting documentation for administration
- Appropriateness/Fit-for-use, usability and accessibility of marine spatial plans

Information on the application of marine spatial plans in municipal and regional planning, in licensing processes and in administration should be gathered on an ongoing basis so that, through in-depth follow-up, an evaluation can be carried out and an understanding gained of how the marine spatial planning tool functions and to what extent the guidance provided by the marine spatial plans is having an impact. Municipal and regional planning, as well as regional development strategies, also provide important information regarding local and regional needs and need to be monitored as part of an external environment analysis. Permitting processes are also important planning tools for the use of the sea.

4.1.4 Marine spatial planning process

- The implementation and effectiveness of marine spatial planning, follow-up and participatory processes

It is important to specifically monitor and evaluate how the planning and follow-up processes are designed, so that these processes can be improved and made as effective as possible, and to ensure adequate participation by stakeholders.

4.1.5 Consequences of the implementation of marine spatial plans and the achievement of objectives

- Significant environmental impact
- Economic, social and environmental consequences
- Contribution to the achievement of objectives

The environmental, economic and social impacts of the marine spatial plans need to be assessed and discussed as part of an in-depth follow-up, in which data on the implementation of the plans, together with data on changes in the use and state of the sea – including from an ecosystem services perspective – form an important basis. Similarly, consideration needs to be given to whether and how the marine spatial plans contribute to the achievement of societal and planning objectives. The current marine spatial plan contains a description of the planning objectives and other relevant societal objectives[8]. For the follow-up of significant environmental impacts, it is

[8] See Proposals for amended marine spatial plans, 2025

essential to analyse which environmental effects can be attributed to the plans and whether those environmental impacts are significant.

4.2 Ongoing and in-depth follow-up

4.2.1 Ongoing follow-up

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management needs to keep itself regularly informed of developments in the relevant areas so that it can identify at an early stage the need to create new proposals for marine spatial plans. The aim of ongoing follow-up is to ensure that marine spatial plans remain up to date and are able to fulfil their objectives.

Ongoing follow-up should focus on identifying new or changing demands, conditions and uses relating to marine spatial planning, as well as the application of the marine spatial plans. The need for new knowledge bases or the development of existing ones must be identified during this work.

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management plans and coordinates the follow-up. With the assistance of central government agencies, county administrative boards and other stakeholders, the Agency collects the supporting data exemplified in Appendix A: Follow-up Schedule. The collaboration group for the follow-up of marine spatial plans contributes to this work. See Chapter 6 for further details on roles and responsibilities.

The results of the follow-up should be compiled on an ongoing basis and made available on the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management's website.

4.2.2 In-depth follow-up

An in-depth follow-up may be carried out less frequently to analyse and evaluate developments in the relevant areas, the implementation of the plan and its consequences, including significant environmental impacts. The in-depth review should place greater emphasis on evaluation than the ongoing monitoring. Once the marine spatial plans have been applied in planning, the licensing process and management, there is a delay before any effects become apparent. Some effects are immediately visible, whilst others cannot be assessed until much later. It is therefore more appropriate to follow up the consequences over the longer term. In-depth follow-up is therefore primarily carried out once per planning cycle, prior to the start of the development of new proposals, but may be carried out more frequently if deemed necessary and feasible in terms of resources.

The in-depth follow-up should focus on:

- analysing the plan's relevance in the light of new or changing requirements, conditions and uses
- evaluating the marine spatial planning process, of which the participatory process forms a part
- addressing questions regarding how the marine spatial plan is applied and how the guidance works
- assessing the plan's impacts and the extent to which its objectives are being met
- generating knowledge about the significant environmental impacts resulting from the plan.

The approach to in-depth follow-up needs to be developed in light of findings that emerge during the course of the work and advances in knowledge both in Sweden and internationally. The assessment of the plans' impacts and the extent to which their objectives are met depends, for example, on how they are implemented. Annex A, 'Follow-up Schedule', provides examples of supporting documentation that may be used for the follow-up. The approach is developed and described prior to each in-depth follow-up exercise.

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management plans and coordinates the follow-up. With the assistance of central government agencies, county administrative boards and other stakeholders, the Agency collects the supporting documentation illustrated in Annex A: Follow-up Schedule. The collaborative group for the follow-up of marine spatial plans contributes to this work. Other relevant stakeholders and the reference group for the follow-up of marine spatial plans are invited to submit comments and, where necessary, provide supporting documentation. See Chapter 6 for further details on roles and responsibilities.

The results of the in-depth follow-up should be compiled and made available on the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management's website.

4.2.3 Overview of the aspects that should be followed up when

The figure below provides an overview of the main aspects that should be followed up and when. A more detailed account can be found in Appendix A: Follow-up Schedule.

FOLLOW-UP ASPECT	ONGOING FOLLOW-UP	IN-DEPTH FOLLOW-UP
Public governance	X	X
Sea use and its environmental status	X	X
Guidance and application	X	X
Marine spatial planning process		X
Consequences and achievement of objectives		X

Figure 5. Overview of aspects that mainly should be followed up in an ongoing and in-depth follow-up, respectively.

5 Participation, stakeholders and the preparation of planning evidence

Under the Marine Spatial Planning Ordinance (2015:400), the marine spatial planning process is designed to facilitate collaboration between various stakeholders and enables those affected to participate in various ways. Several central government agencies and county administrative boards collaborate in particular with the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management and provide input for marine spatial planning; see Sections 5–8 of the Ordinance. Planning by local authorities and regions provides important input, not least to ensure that the interaction between sea and land and the management of the coastal zone function effectively. The follow-up work requires ongoing engagement, which forms the basis for the development of new marine spatial plans so that they can be designed as effectively as possible. Cooperation and participation in the follow-up work can yield several coordination benefits and are expected to contribute to knowledge and data that are valuable for municipal and regional planning, as well as other forms of management. The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management proposes that marine planning contact persons be invited to join a cooperation group to contribute to the follow-up work. A reference group could also be linked to the work to provide views and input.

5.1 Roles and responsibilities

5.1.1 Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management is responsible for follow-up of marine spatial plans and coordinates the process of producing the necessary background information and analyses. The Agency also coordinates the work of the cooperation group and the reference group.

5.1.2 Collaboration group for follow-up of marine spatial plans

The collaboration group contribute to:

- coordination of follow-up
- quality assurance of follow-up
- development of methods for follow-up work
- follow-up of knowledge development in the field
- preparation of supporting documentation for follow-up
- progress reviews on the implementation of marine spatial plans
- communication on marine spatial planning within their organisations and monitoring of relevant internal processes

The collaboration group is proposed to consist of contact points for marine spatial planning from:

- Coordinating county administrative boards: Kalmar, Västernorrland, Västra Götaland (which coordinates all coastal county administrative boards)

- Central government agencies: the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, the Swedish Energy Agency, the Swedish Armed Forces, the Swedish Board of Agriculture, the Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the Swedish National Heritage Board, the Sami Parliament, the Swedish Maritime Administration, Statistics Sweden, Svenska kraftnät, the Geological Survey of Sweden, the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, the Swedish Transport Administration and the Swedish Transport Agency.
- Swedish municipalities and regions
- Representatives from research and academia
- Representatives from municipalities and regions
- Representatives from sector and interest organisations

It is proposed that the collaboration group meet approximately twice a year or as required. Meetings may be held online. When dealing with specific issues or in response to other needs, parts of the collaboration group may be involved. For example, the already established cross-sectoral reference group. The collaboration group is expected to participate using its own budget or, alternatively, the county administrative boards' marine spatial planning grants.

5.1.3 Advisory group

An advisory group may be linked to the work and given the opportunity to provide feedback and submit background material.

The advisory group may consist of representatives who are not members of the collaboration group, from, for example, regions and local authorities, central government bodies, industry and interest organisations, and universities and colleges. When dealing with specific issues or in response to other needs, parts of the advisory group or separate advisory groups may be engaged.

5.2 Development of supporting material

Both ongoing and in-depth follow-up of marine spatial plans requires the preparation of supporting documentation. This may involve compiling existing documentation or producing new material. It is proposed that parts of this work be carried out both on a sectoral and regional basis, with various authorities and county administrative boards contributing to different aspects. An ongoing, for example annual, report serves as a basis for the ongoing follow-up of marine spatial plans, with a focus on external follow-up and implementation issues. An in-depth report serves as a basis for the in-depth follow-up, with a greater focus on the analysis of external developments and implementation issues, as well as on target achievement and consequences. See Appendix A, Follow-up Schedule, for examples of supporting documentation and implementation.

The approach and scope for the preparation of supporting documentation need to be specified in greater detail and further developed with the support of the collaboration group prior to the work being carried out. The starting point should be to build on existing supporting documentation as far as possible and to focus on the documentation deemed to be essential.

5.2.1 Sector-specific supporting material

It is proposed that central government agencies provide sector-specific input. For certain issues, it may be appropriate for agencies to cooperate or consult with one another.

Table 2. Agencies and respective sector-specific supporting material.

Agency	Collaborate with	Sector
Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning	SwAM/County Administrative Board	Planning and land use issues
Swedish Energy Agency	Svenska kraftnät/County Administrative Board	Energy
Swedish Armed Forces		Defence – military
SwAM	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency/County Administrative Board	Recreation
SwAM	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	Environmental monitoring and research
SwAM	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency/County Administrative Board	Nature conservation
SwAM	Swedish Board of Agriculture/County Administrative Board	Commercial fishing
Swedish Board of Agriculture	County Administrative Board	Aquaculture
Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency	Relevant emergency agencies/County Administrative Board	Defence - civil
Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency	County Administrative Board	Risk and security
Swedish Post and Telecom Authority		Electronic communications
Swedish National Heritage Board	County Administrative Board/ Expert museums	Cultural heritage
Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute		Climate, hydrography, oceanography, etc.
Geological Survey of Sweden	Swedish Geotechnical Institute	Geology, storage and extraction of materials
Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth	Regions	Regional development
Swedish Transport Administration	Swedish Transport Agency/Swedish Maritime Administration/Transport analysis	Transports

5.2.2 Regional supporting material

It is proposed that coastal county administrative boards contribute regional reports to serve as a basis for ongoing follow-up. The regional input may cover all aspects of follow-up. The coordinating county administrative boards will coordinate the work and produce a detailed regional report for each marine spatial planning area in preparation for the in-depth follow-up. The documentation includes, amongst other things, municipal and regional plans as well as regional development strategies. The roles and organisation of the county administrative boards' marine spatial planning remit are described in more detail in the Memorandum on Marine Spatial

Planning[9] and are further elaborated through annual operational planning in collaboration with the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management.

Table 3. Coordinating county administrative boards and respective plan area.

Coordinating County Administrative Board	Plan area
Kalmar	Baltic Sea
Västernorrland	Gulf of Bothnia
Västra Götaland	Skagerrak and Kattegat

5.3 Communication

Throughout the follow-up process, there is communication and collaboration between the collaboration group and the wider reference group. Summaries of the follow-up work are published and made available to anyone who wishes to access the material. The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management is responsible for communication regarding the follow-up.

5.4 Resource and needs of expertise

Marine spatial planning, which includes follow-up, is an ongoing process that requires continuous resources in the form of staff with broad expertise and funding. The work is more intensive and resource-intensive during the preparation of draft plans and the in-depth follow-up phase. The follow-up work is expected to ease the burden of drawing up new marine spatial plans, as up-to-date supporting data and assessments will be more readily available.

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management carries out ongoing marine spatial planning work. Staff and funding need to be available over time. Several parts of the agency are involved, including the preparation and management of supporting data, data management and communication, as well as consultation on assessment issues.

It is proposed that the collaboration group participate in both the preparation and management of relevant supporting data, as well as in the assessment of this data and in collaboration. Continuous engagement with marine spatial planning contact persons is therefore deemed necessary for participation in the collaboration group, and the respective authorities need to allocate adequate resources for this. The continuity and the arrangement involving contact persons are expected to help build and maintain expertise over time.

The reference group’s resource requirements are more limited and not as continuous.

[9] Memorandum on Marine Spatial Planning Roles and organisation for County Administrative Boards’ Marine Spatial Planning assignment 2021-09-24 – approved in the Urban Development Network (Samhällsbyggnadsnätverket).

6 Interactions with other processes

There are several processes and activities that can play an important role in the follow-up of marine spatial plans. There may be a need for coordination so that these processes can be adapted to enable synergies between them to be developed and utilised.

6.1 Municipal and regional planning

Municipal planning covers the whole of Sweden's territory, i.e. both land areas and marine areas (within the territorial sea). Regional planning is in place in some regions. This planning generates a knowledge base and sets out policy positions on the use of these areas, which are important for the sustainable development of the coastal zone and for the formulation of the national marine spatial plans. In the follow-up of the marine spatial plans, this information needs to be gathered. The follow-up also needs to analyse how the national marine spatial plans are actually used in municipal and regional planning in order to understand how their application works and to assess the consequences resulting from their application. Local authorities' comprehensive plans must be up to date, and the local council must address changes in planning conditions in a planning strategy at the start of each term of office.

6.2 Sweden's marine strategy in marine environmental management

Marine environmental management under the EU's Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC) is carried out in a series of stages. Each management period lasts six years. The Directive covers all marine waters within the EU, including the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). In the coastal zone, it overlaps with the Water Framework Directive.

The management cycle involves:

- assess environmental status (initial assessment)
- defining what constitutes good environmental status (SwAM regulations)
- establishing environmental quality standards and indicators (SwAM regulations)
- developing programmes for monitoring the marine environment (monitoring programmes)
- and, where necessary, measures to achieve or maintain good environmental status (action programmes).

Sweden's initial assessment under the Marine Environment Regulation sets out the current state of the environment, as well as an economic and social analysis of the use of marine waters and the cost to society should the state of the environment deteriorate. The assessment provides an important basis that may influence the guidance in future marine spatial plans and the follow-up of such plans, enabling consideration of any changes attributable to the plans' guidance and of any significant environmental impacts.

Since 2021, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management has been working to develop regional ecosystem-based marine management. Ecosystem-based management should be characterised by a holistic approach to the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems. The southern Bothnian Sea, the Stockholm archipelago and 8+ fjords in Bohuslän are pilot areas

and have developed parallel frameworks for how to implement ecosystem-based marine management in practice.

6.3 Water resource management

The EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) has been transposed into Swedish law through the Water Management Ordinance and extends one nautical mile from the baseline. The Water Management Authority is responsible for the management of the coastal zone, which primarily involves assessing ecological status, setting quality objectives and drawing up programmes of measures. Coastal ecosystems are affected by land-based activities, but also by factors originating in offshore waters. The links between the coast and the open sea are significant, and therefore the trade-offs and management measures taken in the open sea – for example, within the framework of marine spatial planning – have consequences for the ecological status of coastal waters.

6.4 Work with protected areas

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management works on marine area protection in a number of different ways. Among other things, the Agency has developed a framework of guiding principles for marine area protection, aimed at supporting the development of a more ecologically representative, coherent and functional network of effectively managed marine protected areas in Sweden. The framework and methodology are set out in regional plans drawn up by the relevant coastal county administrative boards. Other work includes, amongst other things, area protection under international conventions, marine nature reserves, marine national parks and fisheries management in protected areas. There are important synergies between area protection and marine spatial planning, where area protection provides a key basis whilst marine spatial planning can contribute knowledge and guidance for the establishment of future protected areas.

6.5 Nature Restoration Regulation

The overarching aim of the EU's Nature Restoration Regulation is to ensure that nature recovers, becomes resilient to change and is rich in biodiversity. This is to be achieved by restoring ecosystems, habitat types and habitats for listed species. Swedish authorities are working on drafting a proposal for a national nature restoration plan, which will clarify the measures needed and planned to achieve the objectives of the Regulation. The plan will also describe how competing objectives are to be managed. The Government decides on how the work is to be organised. The background information and measures planned as part of the restoration work provide relevant input for marine spatial planning.

6.6 Environmental monitoring

The purpose of environmental monitoring is to describe the state of the environment, to show whether environmental quality objectives are being met and to warn of disturbances in the environment. Environmental monitoring is long-term, which is why measurements are often needed over long periods of time to be able to see whether a change is caused by human influence or is a natural variation.

The environmental monitoring program for the coast and sea provides data for descriptions of large-scale impacts, primarily with regard to eutrophication, metals and environmental toxins and

biodiversity. The website www.sverigesvattenmiljo.se presents status reports, trends and other data related to environmental monitoring.

6.7 Follow-up on environmental objectives

The environmental objectives describe the desired state of Sweden's environment, decided by the Parliament more than 25 years ago. They constitute the direction of Sweden's environmental work and the aquatic objectives constitute the direction of SwAM's work. See also www.sverigesmiljomal.se/miljomalen/. Various EU directives and corresponding national implementations are tools used to achieve the objectives. The marine spatial plans shall contribute to long-term sustainable development. They shall combine economic policy objectives, social objectives and environmental objectives.

The Swedish environmental objectives are followed up annually at national and regional level. An in-depth evaluation is also carried out every four years. The in-depth evaluation assesses whether the adopted instruments and the measures taken are sufficient to achieve the good environment that the generational objective, together with the environmental and milestone objectives, describes. It also contains analyses of synergies and conflicts in environmental work as well as assessments and forecasts for the generational objective and the environmental objectives. The report shows whether there is a need to change existing instruments or introduce new instruments and measures.

The follow-up of the environmental objectives generates supporting material and data that is essential to relate to the follow-up of the marine spatial plans, especially in connection with the assessment of their goal achievement.

6.8 International marine spatial planning collaborations

There are many international collaborations and projects in marine spatial planning. These collaborations generate continuous knowledge development in the field. Many collaborations within the EU also aim to increase coherence between different countries' marine spatial plans. For the follow-up work, it is relevant to follow these processes as part of the external follow-up and specifically linked to the development of methods and practices for the follow-up of marine spatial plans. Examples are the HELCOM-VASAB Marine Spatial Planning Working Group, the EU Commission's expert group focusing on marine spatial planning, the Working Group on Marine Spatial Planning and Coastal Zone Management (WGMPCZM) within the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), UNESCO's Marine Spatial Planning Global Initiative, the marine spatial planning forums North Seas MSP Collaboration Group and MSP Planners' forum in the Baltic Region, the Greater North Sea Basin Initiative (GNSBI) and current marine spatial planning projects.

Macro-regional strategies and their follow-ups are also relevant, such as the EU's Baltic Sea Strategy, especially the horizontal measure *Spatial Planning* (*Fysisk planering*), and the Baltic Sea (Environment) Action Plan.

6.9 Digitalisation

There are many processes underway that aim to manage information more digitally. Examples include work under the EU's INSPIRE directive with provisions on the establishment of an

infrastructure for geodata, the national geodata platform, the County Administrative Boards' planning catalogue and central authorities' work on digitising the urban planning process. The follow-up work needs to be developed to be managed in an increasingly digital environment and to follow the development of digitised marine planning in general.

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Appendix A Follow-up schedule

Aspect category	Aspect	Accounting for ongoing follow-up	Supporting material for ongoing follow-up	Actor in ongoing follow-up	Accounting for in-depth follow-up	Supporting material for in-depth follow-up	Actor in in-depth follow-up
Governance	New or changed plans, goals, strategies, plans and other governing documents (municipal, regional, national and international)	Overview		SwAM with support from central authorities and the county administrative board	Analysis: Consistency with marine plans, as well as conflicts of objectives, need for actualisation	Ongoing overviews. Sectoral and regional support material and data produced by central authorities and the county administrative board	SwAM with support from central authorities (sectoral basis) and the county administrative board (regional basis)
	New or changed legislation (national, international)	Overview		SwAM with support from central authorities	Analysis: Consistency with marine plans, as well as conflicts of objectives, need for actualisation	Ongoing overviews	SwAM with support from central authorities and county administrative board
	Neighbouring countries' marine planning including application and follow-up of marine plans	Overview including geographical information	Marine spatial plans, proposals for marine plans, Espoo consultation, Country fiche Helcom-VASAB MSP WG	SwAM with support from neighbouring countries	Analysis: Consistency with Sweden's marine spatial plans, need for actualisation	Ongoing overview. Neighbouring marine spatial plans	SwAM with support from central authorities, county administrative board and neighbouring countries
Use and environmental condition of the sea	Ongoing and decided future uses	Overview including statistics and geographical information	Official statistics, reporting data collection regulations, environmental law matters (permit matters), etc.	SwAM with support from central authorities and county administrative boards	Analysis: Uses in relation to the marine spatial plans and new/changed claims, need for actualisation	Ongoing overview Sectoral and regional support material and data produced by central authorities and county administrative board For example, updated material on valuable fishing, GIS-analysis of traffic intensity, supporting material	SwAM with support from central authorities (sectoral basis) and the county administrative board (regional basis). Coordination with other actors

Aspect category	Aspect	Accounting for ongoing follow-up	Supporting material for ongoing follow-up	Actor in ongoing follow-up	Accounting for in-depth follow-up	Supporting material for in-depth follow-up	Actor in in-depth follow-up
						on recreation and cultural environment	
	New or changed claims including national interest claims	Overview including statistics and geographical information	Decisions on national interest claims, environmental law matters (permit matters), sector development	SwAM with support from central authorities and county administrative board Coordination with industry and interest organisations	Analysis of claims in relation to the marine spatial plans and ongoing/decided future uses, need for actualisation	Ongoing overview Sectoral and regional supporting material and data produced by central authorities and county administrative board For example, updated material on valuable fishing, GIS-analysis of traffic intensity, supporting material on recreation and cultural environment	SwAM with support from central authorities and the county administrative board. Coordination with other actors
	Environmental status and environmental impact. Climate aspects	Not ongoing	Not ongoing	Not ongoing	Overview including statistics and geographical information. Analysis: Need for revision based on environmental status, environmental impact and climate aspects	Marine strategy including initial assessment. Symphony, Supporting material and data from water management	SwAM with support from central authorities and county administrative board. Coordination with other actors
Marine spatial plans as guidance and their application	Planning (municipal, regional)	Overview including statistics, geographical information	Master plans, regional plans	SwAM with support from the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning and the County Administrative Board	Analysis: Municipal/regional planning in relation to marine spatial plans including identification of need for developed guidance	Regional supporting material produced by the County Administrative Board	SwAM with support from the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning and the County Administrative Board (regional planning evidence)
	Review of claims	Overview including statistics	Decisions in permit cases (government, court or county administrative boards)	SwAM with support from central authorities and county administrative board	Analysis: The marine spatial plans application in permit reviews and need for developed guidance	Ongoing overviews	SwAM with support from central authorities and county administrative board

Aspect category	Aspect	Accounting for ongoing follow-up	Supporting material for ongoing follow-up	Actor in ongoing follow-up	Accounting for in-depth follow-up	Supporting material for in-depth follow-up	Actor in in-depth follow-up
	Guidance and support in management	Overview	Reporting by central authorities and county administrative boards	SwAM with support from central authorities and county administrative board	Analysis: The marine spatial plans' application in management and identification of need for developed guidance. For example, how the guidance on special consideration of high nature values has been handled or used as a basis	Ongoing overview	SwAM with support from central authorities and county administrative board
	Suitability, usability and accessibility	Overview	Observations based on the use of web maps for marine spatial plans	SwAM with support from the collaboration group	Analysis: The suitability, usability and accessibility of the marine spatial plan	Survey/workshop with actors/stakeholders. Other analyses in in-depth follow-up	SwAM with support from collaboration group
Marine spatial planning process	Implementation and effectiveness of the marine spatial planning, follow-up and participation processes	Not ongoing	Not ongoing	Not ongoing	Analysis and evaluation of the process	Evaluation report. Participating actors in the marine spatial planning process contribute experiences and input through, for example, interviews and surveys	SwAM that can hire external expertise. Several actors contribute
Consequences of the marine spatial plans' application and goal achievements	Significant environmental impact	Overview of assessment of significant environmental impact in environmental impact statements from licensed activities	Environmental impact assessments	SwAM with support from central authorities and county administrative board	Analysis: Significant environmental impact of the marine spatial plan guidance. The analysis should be based on how the marine spatial plan guidance has affected how the use of the marine areas has changed, what environmental impact the changes have had, including how different	Status assessments within the Marine Environment Directive, Helcom and OSPAR. Symphony. Permits for activities; data from control programs Annual overviews of use and other analyses in in-depth follow-up	SwAM with support from central authorities and county administrative board

Aspect category	Aspect	Accounting for ongoing follow-up	Supporting material for ongoing follow-up	Actor in ongoing follow-up	Accounting for in-depth follow-up	Supporting material for in-depth follow-up	Actor in in-depth follow-up
					environmental effects interact (cumulatively) and whether the environmental impact is significant		
	Economic, social and environmental consequences	Not ongoing	Not ongoing	Not ongoing	Analysis: Evaluation and reasoning about which environmental, economic and social consequences, including ecosystem service perspectives, can be derived from the application of the marine spatial plans	Official statistics. Other analyses in in-depth follow-up on the application of the plans and changed use and condition of the sea including assessment of significant environmental impact	SwAM with support from central authorities and county administrative board
	Contribution to goal achievement	Not ongoing	Not ongoing	Not ongoing	Analysis: The marine spatial plan's contribution to societal goals and planning objectives based on its application	Reporting of global goals. Environmental goal follow-up. Other analyses in in-depth follow-up	SwAM with support from central authorities and county administrative board

Framework for Follow-up of Marine Spatial Plans

We work for living seas and water

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, SwAM, is an environmental government agency tasked to protect, restore and ensure sustainable use of freshwater resources and seas including fisheries management, now and for future generations.

Swedish Agency
for Marine and
Water Management