



Maritime Transport and Maritime Spatial Planning

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KEY MESSAGES

Economic importance

- Maritime industry is a cornerstone of Finnish and Estonian economy and both a heavily controlled and self-motivated industry, which cannot be easily controlled by the means of spatial planning.

Environmental aspects

- Maritime transport is the cleanest mode of transport per unit per mile and mainly operates in environmentally less vulnerable deep-water areas.
- Leisure boating should receive more attention in MSP, as it tends to operate in shallow water areas that are more sensitive to environmental impacts.

Anatomy of changes

- Changes in maritime transport are driven by changes in operation logic and demographic and technological changes, which mainly take place within the existing harbour network. The functioning of maritime transport requires ensuring that the existing routes and ports are taken as a priority in MSP.
- The operation logic of cargo and passenger transport and foreseeable changes in global trade tend to favour certain ports and certain modes of transport.
- As ports specialize and engage in global competition, changes in cargo volumes of individual ports can be rapid and hard to forecast, and reflect both on maritime and terrestrial traffic flows. Developments in port network follow demographic changes, as goods are usually delivered close to consumption hotspots.

Need for flexibility

- Concerning whole of northern Baltic Sea, functioning of the port network in times of crises can be thought of. A working maritime traffic is a basis for working port network.
- Major changes in trade routes and modes of traffic such as air and rail traffic might shift the balance between ports and change the environmental pressure map of the industry.

Maritime transport is one of the key activities in the sea space. The Blue Growth agenda and maritime spatial planning (MSP) requires maritime industry to organize and effectively cooperate in the processes, which influence their future.

Efficient, effective, sustainable and safe planning requires cross-border cooperation. In this case study we wanted to offer a platform for discussions. The key messages presented here are a result of two workshops that attracted Finnish and Estonian maritime transport professionals from the governmental institutions, industry, unions and academia.

YOUR PROPOSALS

Please help planners to better plan our future. Do you agree with the key messages? What aspects of maritime transport should be considered when planning the sea area?

New report on maritime transport in MSP:

Haanpää, S., Lees, L., Roose, M., Vuorsalo, A. (2019). Maritime transport and Maritime Spatial Planning. Plan4Blue report.

