

# Programme of measures of the Estonian marine strategy 2016-2020

## Summary

According to the European Union's Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD, 2008/56/EC), all member states have to establish and implement the programme of measures to achieve or maintain good environmental status of the marine areas by 2020. Programme of measures has to enter into operation at the latest by the year 2016. In Estonia the requirement to compile marine strategy's programme of measures is established in the Water Act (§ 34<sup>9</sup>) and in the national development plan „Estonian maritime policy 2012-2020“ adopted by the Government in 2012. The composed programme of measures (PoM) covers the whole Estonian marine area, including internal waters, territorial sea and exclusive economic zone.

When compiling Estonian PoM the environmental status of our marine area was analysed, environmental targets ensuring the achievement of GES were specified and pressures affecting the environmental status were described together with their possible changes until 2020. The measures already implemented and those which implementation has been planned (in the frames of other regulations), were analysed and based on a gap analysis additional measures were proposed for achieving GES. The cost efficiency and impact of proposed new measures were assessed. This work resulted in the current PoM, which has taken into account the feedback from the consultations with the stakeholder groups.

PoM consists of its aim, relevant background (including the description of Estonian marine area and its status, analysis of pressures, environmental targets, the link between PoM and other programmes of measures, including river basin management plans, and the methodological basis for compiling the PoM), description of measures (with their reasoning and knowledge gaps) grouped by the GES descriptors, the summary of the social and economic analysis, and the proposal for establishing exceptions. The proposed measures are described taking into account the recommendations of the European Commission and HELCOM, and the appropriate reporting formats. Details on the responsible parties, other involved parties, and the timeframe for implementing the measures are described.

Estonian marine strategy PoM takes into account the already established development plans and their implementation plans and the proposed new measures are additional to the already implemented and planned measures. The majority of the measures in the implementation phase are described in the following documents:

- River basin management plans. Programme of measures 2015-2021. Eastern Estonian water district. Western Estonian water district. Koiva water district.
- European Maritime and Fisheries Fund – Operational Programme for Estonia 2014-2020.
- Internal security development plan 2015-2020 and its programme of measures.
- National waste management plan 2014-2020 and its implementation plan 2014-2017.
- Environmental protection development plan until 2020 and its measures.

The main problems in the Baltic Sea marine environment, including in Estonian marine areas, are, similarly to the earlier analyses, eutrophication and the pollution by contaminants. The primary

sources for nutrient and contaminant load originate from the mainland and therefore the majority of measures for their management are described in the river basin management plan PoM. Measures to avoid oil pollution and to enhance the response capability of pollution incidents in the marine environment are described in the internal security development plan. Measures concerning fishing/fisheries pressures are implemented in the majority in the frames of European Maritime and Fisheries Fund operational plan 2014-2020. In the fields of biodiversity and non-indigenous species, the appropriate measures are implemented in the frames of the Environmental protection development plan until 2020.

Estonian marine strategies PoM's new measures are the following:

Measure nr	MSFD GES descriptor	Estonian PoM's 2016-2020 new measures	Implementation period
1	D1 (D4, D6)	Developing a network of marine protected areas in Estonian EEZ	2017–2020
2	D1 (D5)	Compiling regional aquaculture plans to manage possible environmental pressures	2016–2020
3	D2	Increasing knowledge on non-indigenous species and the management of their relocation	2017–2020
4	D2	Ratification and implementation of the International Convention For The Control And Management Of Ships' Ballast Water And Sediments (BWMC), and participating in the regional information system	2017–2020
5	D3, D1	Developing regional fishing restrictions and updating the size limits of commercial fish	2016–2020
6*	D3, D2	Supporting the marketing/the use of limited value fish	2016–2020
7	D3	Adjusting the fishing load according to GES conditions	2016–2020
8	D3, D10	Application of electronic reporting system for fishing efforts (gears) to better control fishing and avoid abandoning of fishing gear	2016–2020
9	D5	Creating the readiness to use liquefied natural gas (LNG) as ship fuel	2016–2020
10	D5, D8, D10	Management of direct discharges of stormwater to minimise the load of nutrients, contaminants and litter	2016–2020
11	D8	Enhancing the ability to respond to accidental oil pollution	2016–2020
12	D8	Managing environmental risks concerning bunkering at sea	2015–2017
13	D10	Developing an action plan for managing marine litter in harbours, including the litter related to fishing	2016–2020
14	D10	Environmental awareness raising regarding marine litter and preventing plastic packages entering the sea	2016–2020
15	D10	Compiling action plans at local municipality level on marine litter and implementing them to decrease the amount of marine litter	2016–2020
16	D11	Creating a registry of impulsive sounds	2016–2020

\* At present, this measure is already under implementation; however, it is kept as a new measure not to revise the structure of the present document (numbers of measures) and strategic environment impact assessment

Proposed new measures are necessary to achieve the specified environmental targets, listed in the PoM, by 2020. At the same time, it is clear, that it's not possible to achieve GES concerning eutrophication and contaminants due to natural conditions which are linked to the limited water exchange between the Baltic Sea and the rest of the ocean. Therefore, it is proposed in the PoM to propose an exception, allowed by MSFD, on not achieving GES concerning eutrophication and contaminants. In parallel, it is suggested to conduct the relevant research to get advice for implementation of additional measures in the future when new knowledge on sources, pathways and

biogeochemical processes related to the release of harmful substances from the sediments are available. In addition, with high probability the environmental target on achieving historical distributional range of ringed seals cannot be achieved by 2020 due to the climatic change induced decrease in ice cover extent in the area.

The PoM was compiled by a consortium consisting of experts in the fields of marine environment and social-economic analysis (SEI Tallinn, TUT Marine Systems Institute and Institute of Economics, UT Estonian Marine Institute). Representatives from Estonian Fund for Nature, Environmental Agency, Police and Border Guard Board, Estonian Maritime Administration, Geological Survey of Estonia, Estonian Environmental Research Centre, Environmental Board, and Environmental Inspectorate also took part in the work. The draft PoM was discussed with the representatives of the Estonian Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Rural Affairs, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Finance, and Ministry of Interior and presented from September 23<sup>rd</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> in 2015 at public discussions in counties adjacent to the Baltic Sea, and in Tartu.

The Estonian PoM was compiled with the support of European Economic Area Finance mechanism 2009-2014 programme „Integrated marine and inland water management“.