

Municipal Marine Spatial Planning in Sweden

SEAPLANSPACE project

- Duration: 2018-2020
- Funded by South Baltic Programme
- University of Gdansk lead partner
- Aim: Increase capacity and skills in MSP among local and regional actors in south Baltic region
- Training needs assessment, development and implementation of training programme

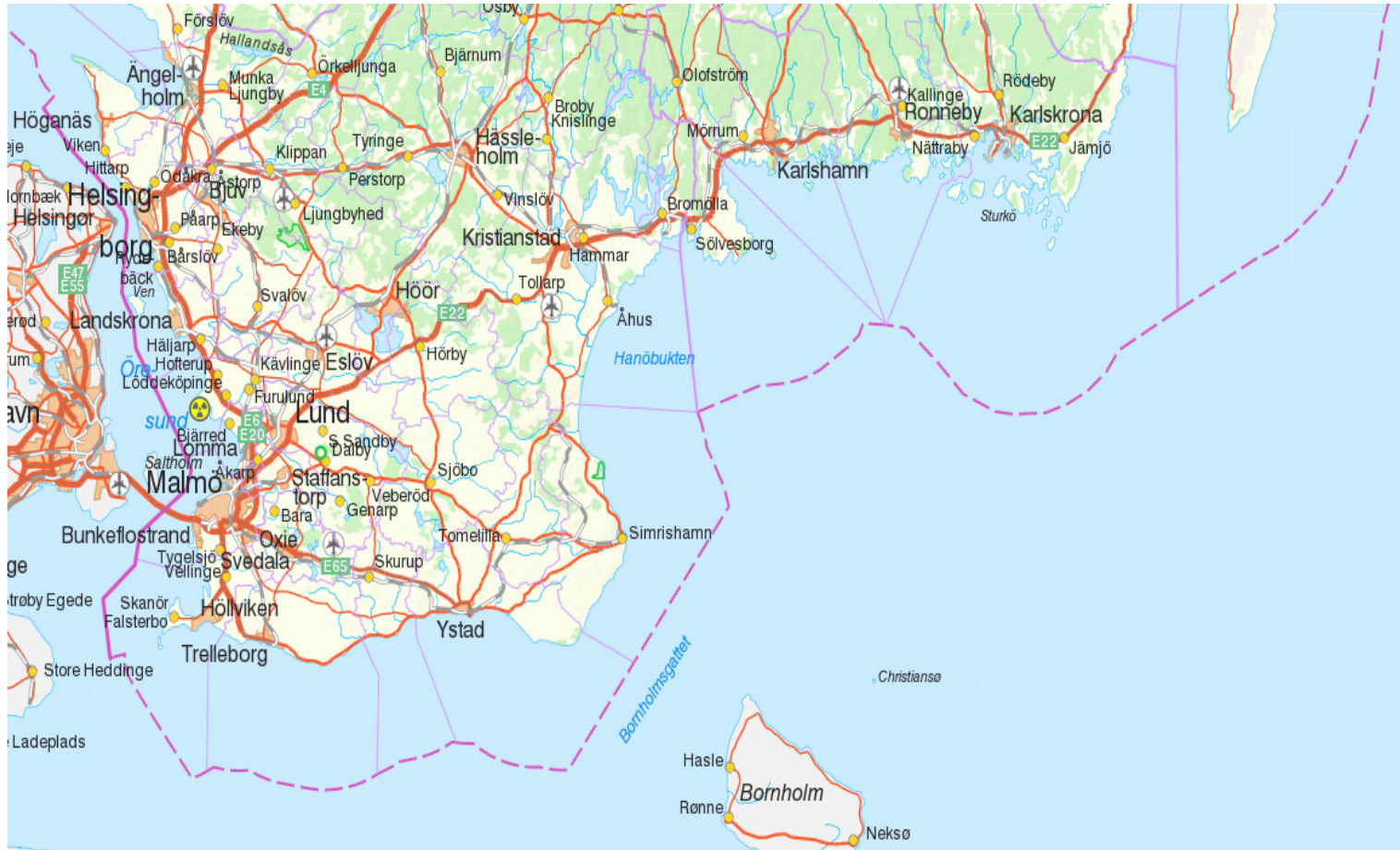


Development of national MSP in Sweden



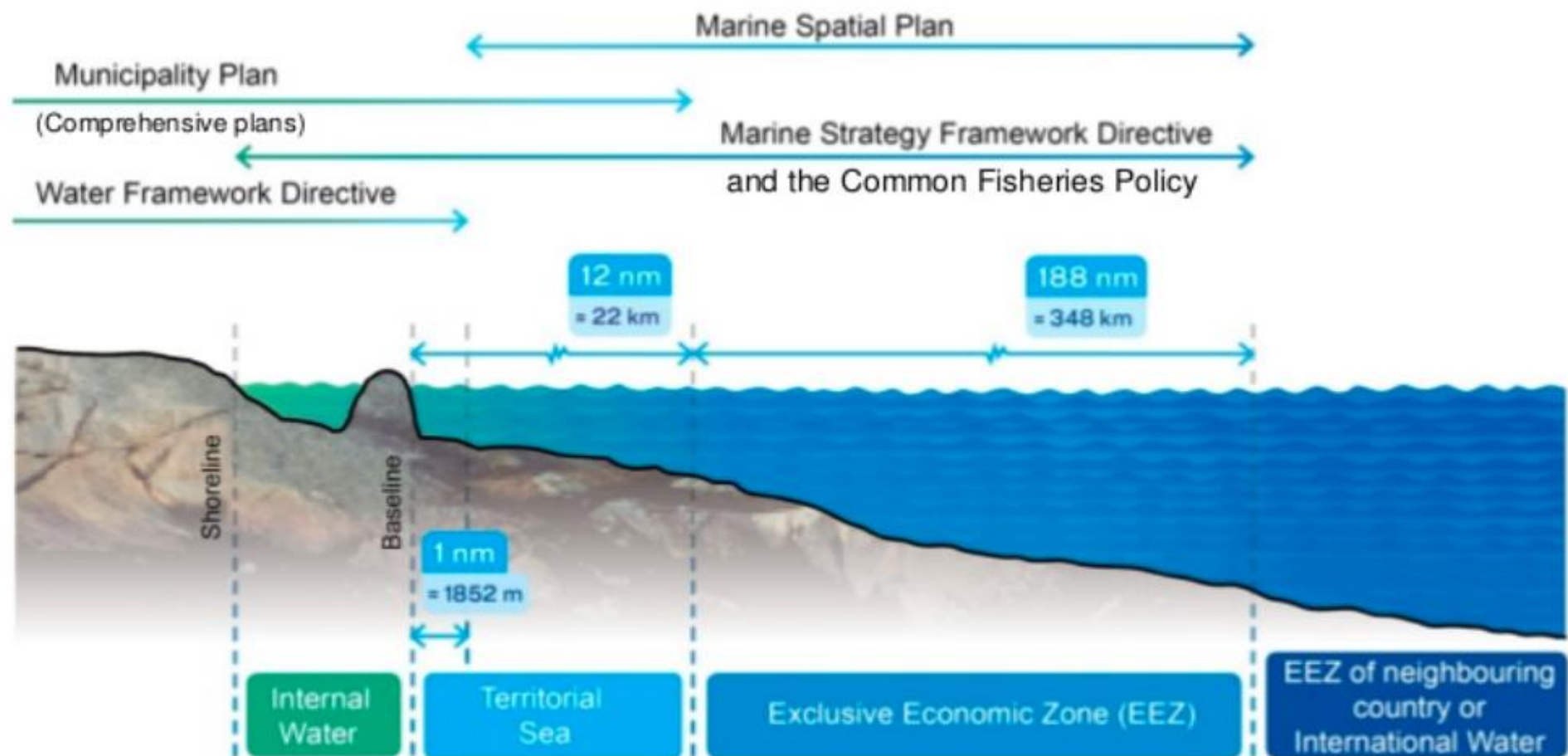
- 3 National plans
- Guiding plans
- Starts at 1NM from baseline
- Responsible national authority: Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (Swam)
- Adopted by the Government by 2021

The role of municipalities in MSP



- Municipalities responsible for spatial planning of land and sea areas within their geographical areas
- Planning and Building act
- Comprehensive plans
- National authorities rely on data input from local level in development of national MSP

Overlapping plans



Assessment of training needs in municipalities

- 29 interviews with coastal municipalities in 3 different provinces in Sweden (Skåne, Blekinge, Kalmar)
- Most interviews were done with planners
- The assessment should form the basis for a capacity building programme

Proposed topics for training

- Cultural heritage
- Differences in land and sea planning
- Stakeholder dialogue
- Marine ecosystems/connectivity
- Ecosystem services
- Successful examples of MSP plans as a reference
- Management of interest conflicts



Key findings of interviews

- The majority of the municipalities have started data collection and (some) prioritizations between interests – yet level of progress still differ much between municipalities
- Knowledge increase through learning by doing and in cooperation with other municipalities
- Some municipalities do not have a political decision to work with planning of the sea – delays the implementation



Key findings of interviews (cont.)

- Comprehensive plans are developed principally by planners. Not all municipalities have environmental strategists who can support interpretation of marine ecological values
- Most municipalities stated that their interests are underrepresented in the national MSP plans.



Conclusions

- Municipalities face a large challenge in planning a sea area that often is larger than their terrestrial area
- There's a lack of skills and knowledge in how to plan sea areas within the municipalities
- Inter-municipal planning and sharing of resources could benefit municipalities and improve implementation of ecosystembased management
- Trainings need to be flexible and adapted to the local context – one size does not fit all
- There's a need for training of both for civil servants and local politicians
- Basic training on how marine ecosystems function needed in several municipalities

