



The Sound water co-operation – DK/SE

1. Policy Objective & Theme

- SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES: Sound use of resources and promotion of less resource intensive processes/products
- SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH: Developing Europe's regional seas sustainably; Balancing economic, social, cultural development whilst enhancing environment

2. Key approaches

- Participation
- Knowledge based
- Ecosystems based
- Socio-economic

3. Experiences that can be exchanged

The Sound Water organization has managed to gather all municipalities and regions on both sides of the Öresund in a joint effort to promote and conserve the marine environment. The fact that it builds its results on local expertise from both Sweden and Denmark gives it a particular strength.

4. Overview of the case

The Sound Water Cooperation is an organization working for a healthy marine environment in the Sound. The organization is based on an agreement made in 1995 between Swedish and Danish municipalities, counties and provinces surrounding the Sound. The agreement is a continuation of the Swedish-Danish cooperation that has existed for 50 years, first as the Sound water committee (1960-1974) and then as the Sound commission (1974-1993). What's unique about the organization is perhaps that it is built up by all municipalities and regions bordering the Sound and therefore gathers local hands-on expertise about the sound in one place. As its representatives are civil servants from their respective municipality/region it also allows the organization to set up goals and priorities for a healthy marine environment in the Sound that later can be translated into practical action through the municipalities/regions.

5. Context and Objectives

a) Context

The population around the Sound is app. 2.5 million inhabitants, 700.000 living on the Swedish side and 1.8 million on the Danish side. On the Swedish side eight municipalities are bordering the Sound and nine on the Danish side. In addition, Region Skåne and the County administration board of Skåne are bordering the Sound on the Swedish side, the latter being a state representative authority in the region and the former the elected governing body of the region. On the Danish side Region Sjælland and the Capital Region is also bordering the Sound.

Geographically, the Sound consists both of bays with shallow water and areas centrally in the Sound of a depth of between 30 and 50 metres. In the shallow bays, the bottom consists of sand and the water comes from the Baltic – and has a low level of salinity. In the deeper areas, the bottom often consists of silt/clay and the salinity is high. To a minor extent, there are also reefs, mussel banks and exposed rock bottom. Between Amager and Malmö, a shelf runs transversely across the sound and has a water depth of less than 10 metres. This shelf, the Drogden/Limhamn shelf, generally prevents seabed water of high salinity from the northern area of the sound from passing further into the Baltic.

b) Objectives

The objective of the cooperation is to act for a healthy marine environment in the Sound by case studies into and examinations of the marine environment of the Sound. More specifically the organization should:

- Describe the state of the marine environment of the Sound in order to provide a solid knowledge platform for future water management measures.
- Describe emissions and the supply of nutrient salts and toxic substances into the Sound, and also describe conditions and activities in marine and coastal regions which affect the marine environment of the Sound.
- Address problems relating to major conurbations, harbour areas and load from shipping in the Sound.
- Formulate environmental targets for the marine environment of the Sound.
- Identify those factors (both inside and outside the area of the Sound) which prevent environmental targets from being achieved and provide a basis for remedying the problems.
- Disseminate knowledge and promote an exchange of experiences regarding protection of recipients and management techniques for parties involved.

6. Implementation of the ICZM Approach (i.e. management, tools, resources)

a) Management

The Sound Water Organisation is divided into a working group and a steering committee. A joint secretariat is located at the municipality of Copenhagen. Financing comes mainly from the organization's partners but some activities have also been financed through EU Interreg project.

b) ICZM tool

The latest Cooperation agreement from 2006 provides the main ICZM tools applied for the Sound water co-operation. The Sound Water Organisation carries out activities in a range of different areas. It works as an information source on results produced by external actors but also carries out certain studies itself. Among the most recent once reports Environmental status of the Sound, Fish in the Sound and Physical disturbances in the Sound could be mentioned. The organization has its on working program with priorities for the marine environment which then usually is executed by the municipalities participating in the organization.

7. Cost and resources

Complete costing is not available

8. Effectiveness (i.e. were the foreseen goals/objectives of the work reached?)

The strength of the Sound Water Cooperation lies among other issues in the historically long term cooperation between local and regional actors on both sides of the Sound. In addition to this the organization also gains strength by the fact that it is built up by local actors with hands-on knowledge of the area.

9. Success and Fail factors

It's difficult to point out any immediate failures of the Sound Water Cooperation. It is de facto the only cross-border organization that gathers all Swedish and Danish municipalities surrounding the Sound plus the Region and province of Skåne /Själland. However a change of status of the organization into a more governing body of the Sound would improve the possibilities of managing the marine environment in the Sound.

10. Unforeseen outcomes

None as yet

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13. Sources

No published sources available

14. Relevance for cross-border management of transitional waters

The Sound is a relatively shallow area; the threshold between the Sound and the Baltic Sea is located in the southern part of the Sound and has two furrows at a depth of eight meters. Circulation in the Kattegat/Sound is influenced by exchanges with neighboring seas (the Skagerrak, the Belt Sea, and the Baltic Sea) and depends on meteorological forcing; tides are much weaker here than in the southern North Sea. It is only given certain meteorological situations that water of a high level of salinity from the Kattegatt is capable of passing over the shelf and into the Baltic. The Sound is a rather specific, yet critically important transitional water body linking the Baltic Sea with the North Sea. Therefore, the relevance of the case study showing the success of the trawling ban on the reinforcement of environmental integrity in a dynamic transitional water body is rather high.