



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENT
GENERAL REGULATORY AND COMPLIANCE DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM AND
THE ENVIRONMENT
DIRECTORATE OF DEREGULATION, PERMITS, LICENSES AND MONITORING

Nb. 386 Prot.
11

Tirana, on 17.01.2023

Subject: On the transboundary consultation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Maritime Spatial Management Plan of the Adriatic Maritime Area.

SECRETARY GENERAL
MINISTRY OF ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION
Address: Via Cristoforo Colombo, 44 – 00147 Roma, Italy

Tirana

Honorable,

The Ministry of Tourism and Environment of the Republic of Albania was notified on the beginning of the public consultation on the Italian Maritime Spatial Plans, on the related Strategic Environmental Assessment, and on the transboundary consultation with the neighbouring countries.

The Directorate of Deregulation, Permits, Licences and Monitoring of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment has distributed this notification and the necessary documentation provided by the competent authority of maritime spatial planning in the Republic of Italy, to the relevant institutions and groups of interest for further comments.

Kindly find below the comments and contributions of the notified institutions/groups of interest.

I. The Ministry of Tourism and Environment agrees in principle with the provided documentation and does not have any comments at this point.

II. The National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA) is responsible for the management of the National Marine Park “Karaburun - Sazan”, proclaimed by the Decision of the Council of Ministers Nb. 289, dated 28.04.2010. The area where the proposed maritime spatial management is planned is not included in or does not affect the border of the territory of the

marine protected area, according to the provided documents, and complies with the Directive 2014/89/EU, establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning.

With regards to the maritime transport element associated with this protected area, we **stress** how crucial it is to follow the IMO Guidelines during the activities carried out within this sector, in order to protect habitats and species in accordance with Law No. 81/2017 "On Protected Areas" and other national legal frameworks for environmental and nature protection. Applying all obligations resulting from ratifying the Water Convention (Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes), at the same time is necessary to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact, use transboundary waters in a reasonable and equitable way and ensure their sustainable management.

NAPA expresses its' support for continuing this procedure, following the aforementioned legal framework.

III. The Ministry of Defense expresses its' agreement with the content of the document "Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Marine Space Management Plan of Italy in the Adriatic sea area". The document "Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Italian Maritime Space Management Plan in the Adriatic Sea Area", prepared by the Ministry responsible for the Marine Infrastructure and Environment in the Republic of Italy, aims to create a clear picture for the future use of maritime space for economic benefits, increased maritime safety and prevention of activities with negative impact in the maritime area of the Adriatic.

The Plan has been drawn up and adapted in accordance with the Ionian and Central Mediterranean Marine Area Plans and the Tyrrhenian and Western Mediterranean Marine Area Plans. These plans have been developed in implementation of the EU Directive for the management of maritime spaces in the Mediterranean region. In this plan, the maritime area of the Adriatic Sea is divided into 9 sub-areas, where 6 sub-areas are part of territorial waters and 3 sub-areas are up to the maritime space with neighbouring countries (the border of the continental shelf).

The sub-area of interest between the Italian maritime space and the maritime space of our country is defined as sub-area A-9, which includes the maritime space of the Adriatic Sea from the limit of the territorial waters of Italy to the border of the separation of the continental shelf with our country. The area of interest of our country is determined by the relevant agreement on the division of the Continental Shelf between Albania and Italy, which is a reference in this plan.

The sectors/fields included in the study for each of the sub-areas are provided as follows:

- Maritime transport and ports
- Utilization of Energy resources
- Fisheries management
- Protection of the environment and natural resources

- Protection and use of deep sea sand
- Last protection of the sea and cultural heritage
- Activity in the field of security and defense

The area of interest of our country is determined by the relevant agreement on the division of the Continental Shelf between Albania and Italy, which is referenced in this plan.

IV. The Water Resources Management Agency (AMBU) agrees in principle with the provided documentation, on its' area of responsibility.

V. The National Agency for Territorial Planning (AKPT) has provided the following comments on the documentation:

- Pursuant to Law Nb. 107, dated 31.07.2014, "On Territorial Planning and Development", amended and its' following by-laws for implementation, the National Agency for Territorial Planning (AKPT), is the responsible authority for the coordination of the drafting of territorial planning documents, which are undertaken by planning authorities at the central and local level. Referring to the public consultation documents of the Strategic Environmental Assessment, for the Italian Maritime Territorial Plan, we suggest that the following subjects be taken into consideration:
- In the framework of Directive 2014/89 of the European Parliament and of the Council of the EU (23 July 2014) on establishing the framework for Maritime Spatial Planning, pt. 3 determines that: *"the drafting of maritime territorial plans is identified as a cross-sectoral political tool that allows public authorities and actors to implement an integrated and coordinated cross-border approach"*.
- The SEA of the Italian Maritime Area Plan details some tools such as the External Consistency Verification Analysis (pg. 65, Technical Report) that are used to evaluate potential impacts and points of conflict between this plan and other sectoral or inter-sectoral plans that affect sea-land interaction. We suggest that you also mention the homologous plans of neighboring countries in order to better detail the planning framework in the context of MSP (Marine Spatial Planning) as defined by Directive 2014/89 Establishing a Framework for Maritime Spatial Planning" (cited above).
- Referring to the SEA document, pg. 8, Section "Strategic Objectives", there is a citation on taking into consideration international planning documents. We suggest that regarding Albania, you take into consideration the National General Plan of the Territory (PPKT), approved by Decision Nb. 1, dated 14.06.2016 and by the Decision of the Council of Ministers Nb. 881, dated 14.12.2016; the Inter-sectoral Integrated Plan for the Coastal Zone, approved by the Decision Nb. 2 of the National Council of Territory, dated 14.06.2016.
- Referring to the SEA document, areas a/7, a/8, a/9 lie in international waters as cited in the report (pg. 348). Consequently, we suggest that the assessment of these areas takes

into account the need for international cooperation, to ensure the environmental and territorial integrity of these areas.

- In addition, we suggest taking into consideration transboundary projects that have been approved or are in the approval process, which may have an impact on the applicability of the plans, such as the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) project.

Kind regards,

SECRETARY GENERAL
LEDINA BEQIRAJ AGALLIU



CC: Mr. Gazmend TURDIU, SECRETARY GENERAL
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