



Polish experience with Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Pilot maritime spatial plan of the Western Part of the Gulf of Gdańsk

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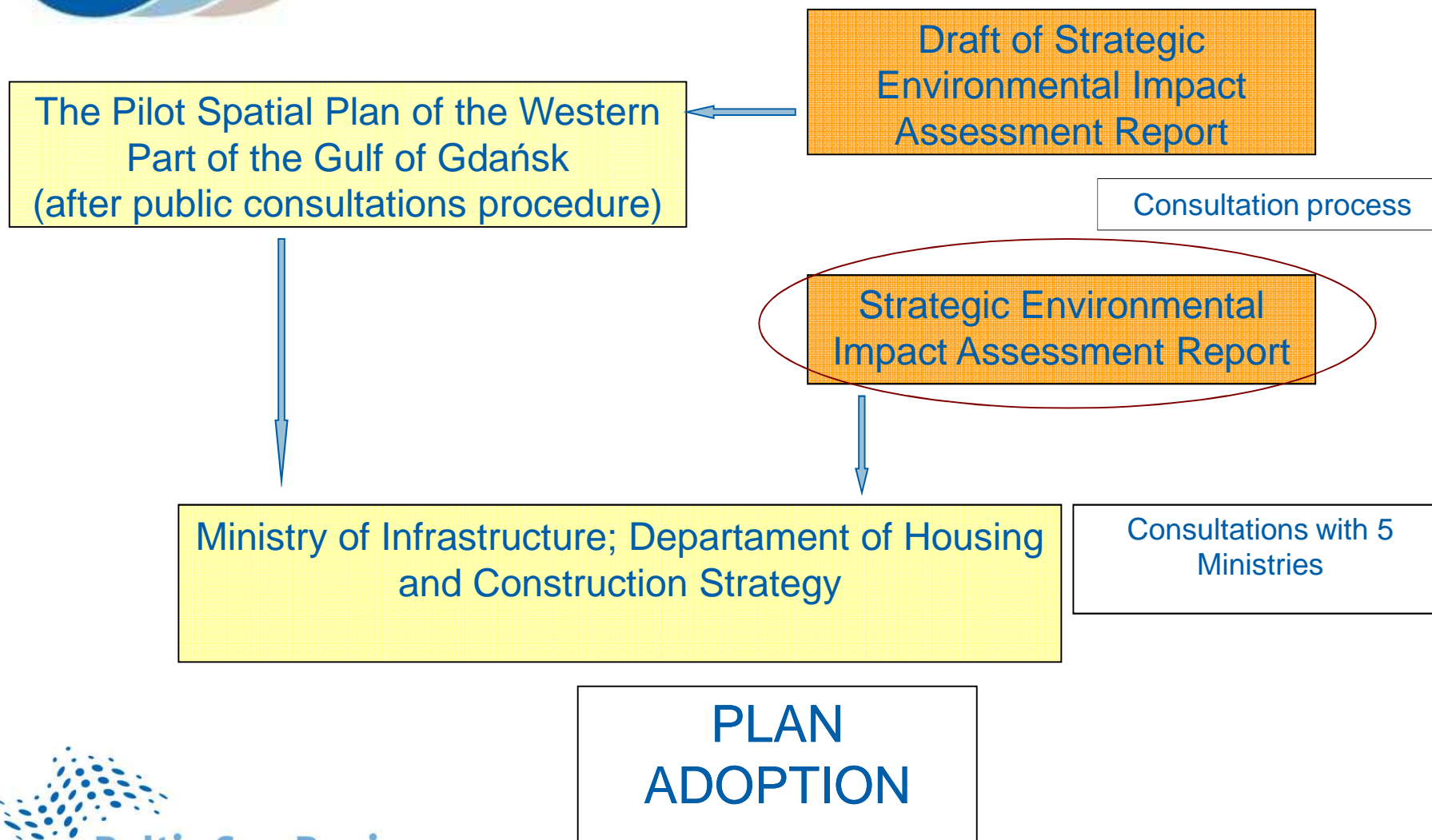


What is Strategic Environmental Assessment?

„The formalised, systematic and comprehensive process of evaluating the environmental effects of a policy, plan or programme and its alternatives, including the preparation of a written report on the findings of that evaluation, and using the findings in publicly accountable decision-making" (Therivel et al. 1992)



The main stages of the SEA process





Legislation applied to SEA

Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes' (*Journal of Laws UE of 2001, No.197, item. 30*)



The Act on Access to Public Information (Art. 46) (*Journal of Laws of 2008 No. 199, item. 1227*)

In this case, national assessment of environmental impact followed the whole procedure (no transboundary impacts were identified)



Main stages of the SEA report preparation



1. Draft of the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment Report – February 2011

Consultations I stage

Reservations

MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS March 2011

2. Draft of the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment Report – April 2011

Consultations II stage

Reservations

MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS May 2011

FINAL VERSION of the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the Pilot spatial plan of the western part of the Gulf of Gdańsk



Part-financed by the EU (European Regional Development Fund)



Consultation process

I stage:

109 comments/reservations in total

II stage:

49 comments/reservations in total



Consultation process

Main topics:

Topic 1: NON-SUFFICIENT ALTERNATIVES:

- The Plan, to a large extent (90%), sanctioned activities already existing in the area (fishing, military areas, tourism, navigation, etc.) so there are no real alternatives
- In spite of it the authors took into account the suggestions and in the final version of the report some alternatives were proposed



Consultation process

Topic 2: LACK OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON INTEGRITY OF SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA PLB220005 Puck Bay

Assessment of the impacts on the integrity of Natura 2000 area should rather consider the whole area. The Plan encompasses 60% PLB area.

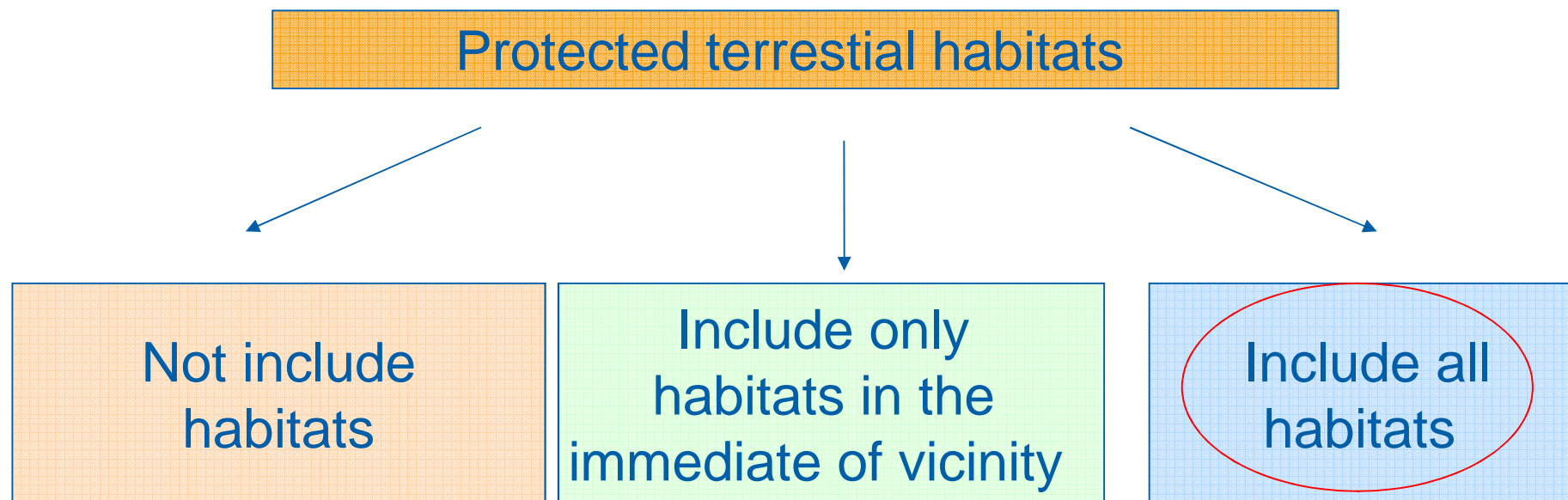


Baltic Sea Region
Programme 2007-2013



Consultation process

Topic 3: LACK OF IMPACT ASSESMENT ON THE TERRESTRIAL PROTECTED HABITATS AS WELL AS ON THE HABITATS AT THE SEA/LAND BOUNDARY



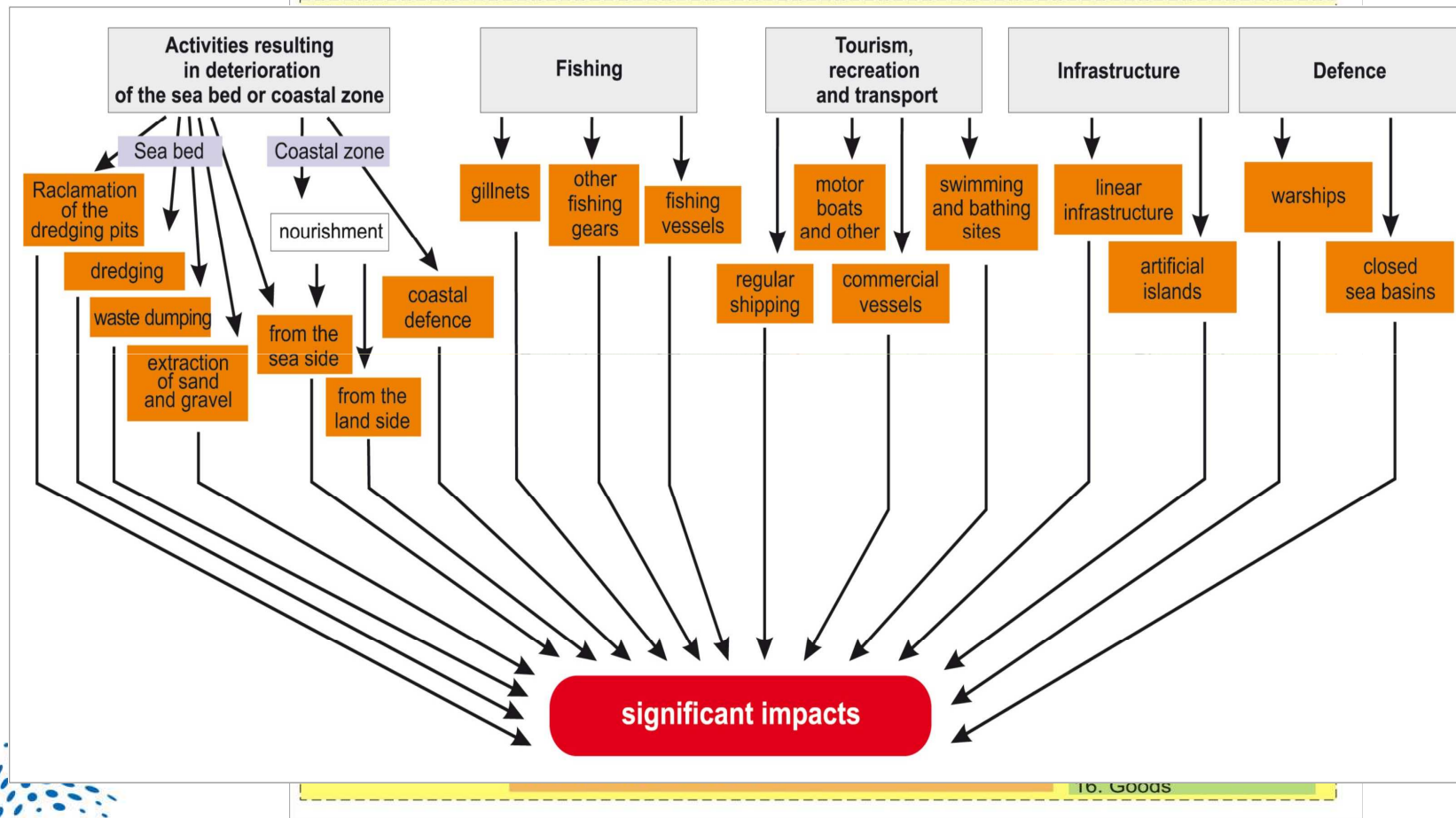


Consultation process – summary

- The most important comments were included in the final version of the document
- A considerable number of reservations regarding the Pilot spatial plan, not the SEA report, should be on the table at the stage of the Plan consultations.
- It was expected that the Plan and the Report would meet the needs and solve all problems existing in the area

Method – main approaches

Identification, analysis and assessment of potential significant impacts





Outcomes of the SEA report

- general proposals to mitigate negative impacts of activities allowed in the plan
- suggestions about correction of the plan because of some inaccuracy;
- necessary changes in the plan in order to eliminate the most acute sources of negative impacts (excluding the coastal defence measures in some parts of the coastal zone);
- recommendations concerning improvements in preparation of maritime spatial plans: regulations of a plan should apply to bigger geographical units (e.g. the entire Gulf of Gdańsk), the management plans should be prepared first, maritime spatial plans should take into consideration the requirements of such documents.



Added values of the SEA report

- it presents some propositions of amendments to existing law on SEA, e.g. to include the specificity of maritime spatial plans,
- identifies sea uses with significant effects on the environment,
- provides typology of impacts supported by clear definitions, provides a tool (matrices) for the presentation of cumulative significant impacts,
- and finally, it could be considered as a standard/template for preparing such kind of documents in the future.



THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION

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