

# Good practice example application of SEA in a transboundary context to Maritime Spatial Plans in the Adriatic Sea

**Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia**

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## Introduction:

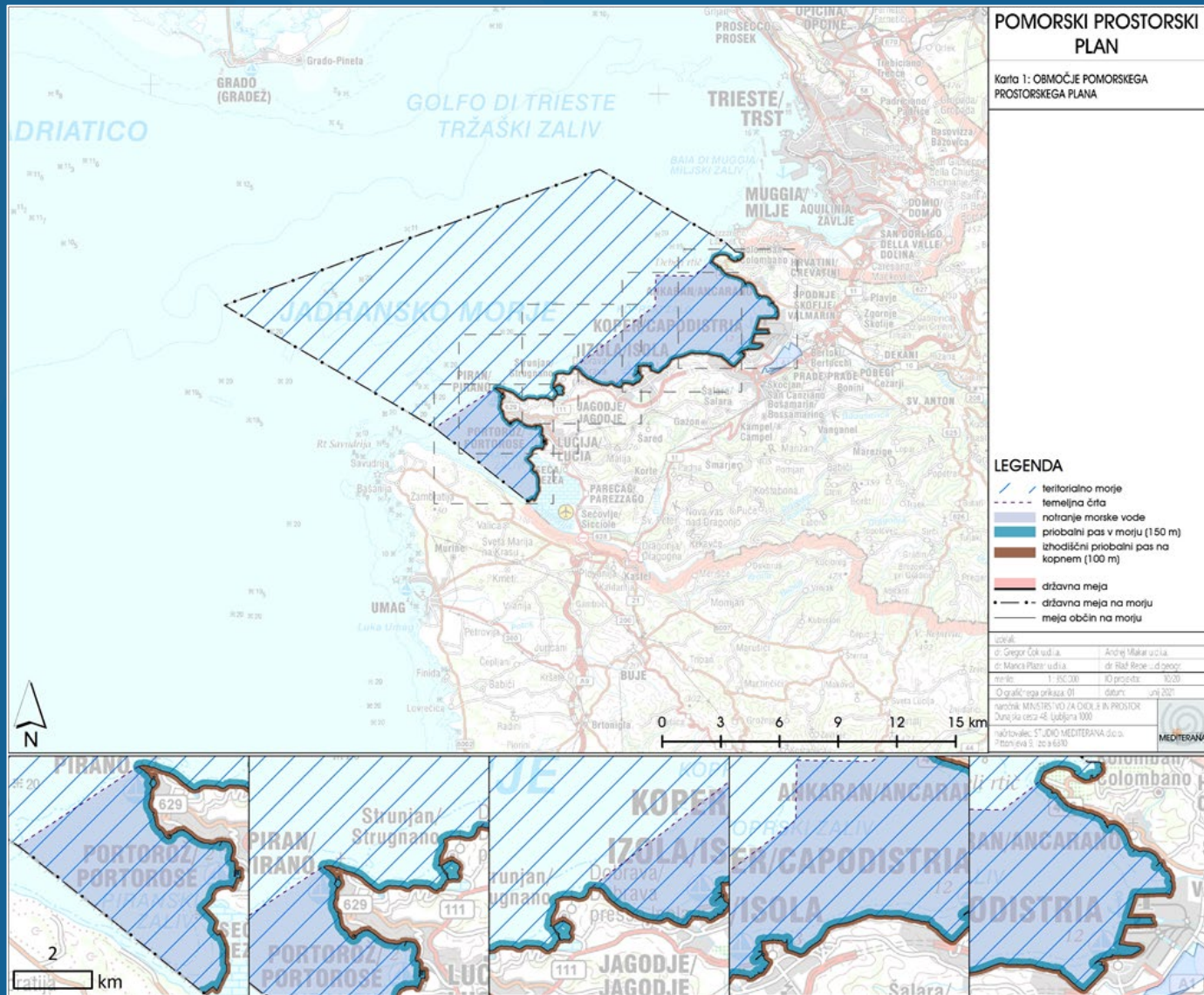
### Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia

- **Planner / plan preparer:**  
Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning  
Spatial Planning - Construction and Housing Directorate
- **Plan prepared by:**  
Studio mediterana d.o.o., U-M-A d.o.o., Manca Plazar s.p.
- **Environmental Report prepared by:**  
Zavita, svetovanje d.o.o. and DVOKUT-ECRO d.o.o.

## Planning Area:

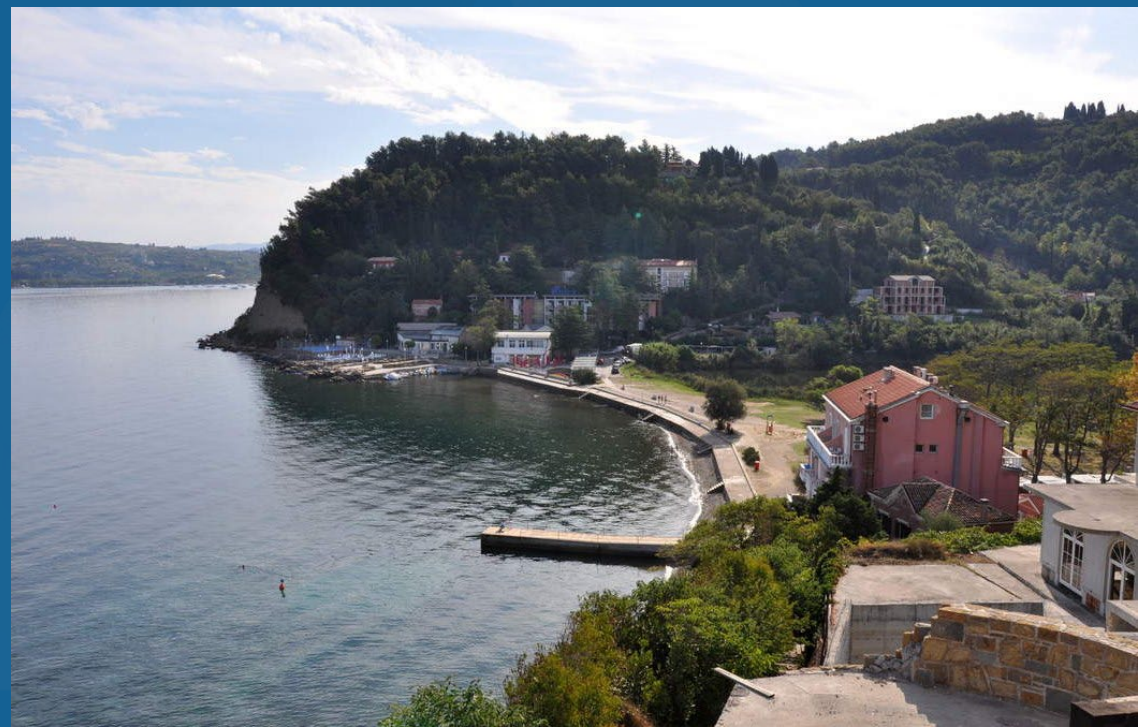
- The Maritime Spatial Plan (MSP) encompasses the territorial sea and internal waters of the Republic of Slovenia and the coastal strip. The territorial sea encompasses the sea between the baseline and the state border of the Republic of Slovenia at sea (maritime border).
- The coastal strip has been determined by considering the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean (ICZM Protocol). The coastal strip encompasses the marine and land parts.
- The marine part of the coastal strip reaches 150 meters in the direction from the coastline towards the sea.
- Coastal strip on land encompasses at least a 100-metre-wide coastal area from the boundary of the coast towards land.

# Planning Area:





# Planning Area:





# Planning Area:





# Planning Area:





## Planning Area:





## Legal framework:

- Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning
- Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in the Mediterranean / Act ratifying the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean
- Spatial Management Act (ZUreP-2)

## Legal framework:

### Strategic environmental impact assessment of the Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia

- Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programs on the environment (SEA Directive)
- Environmental Protection Act (ZVO-1)
- Spatial Management Act (ZUreP-2)
- Nature Conservation Act (ZON)
- Decree on the environmental report and a more detailed procedure for a comprehensive assessment of the effects of the implementation of plans on the environment



## Preparation and adoption process:

Starting points and key objectives  
(published on the website, June 2019)  
Application of intent

Decision on the need to carry out strategic environmental  
impact assessment (Screening, December 2019)  
published on the website

Draft of the Maritime Spatial Plan and SEA Report

Determining the quality of the SEA report (opinion on the adequacy  
of the environmental report, December 2020)

Public consultation on the Draft Maritime Spatial Plan and SEA  
Report (from 28.12.2020 to 28.2.2021; public hearing and published on website)

Drawing-up plan - the Maritime Spatial Plan, considering results  
of SEA and ER, transboundary and public consultation (February to  
May 2021)

Application for plan approval (May 2021)  
SEA decision on the acceptability of the effects (8.6.2021),  
published on the website

Governmental decision on the Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia  
(15.7.2021)

EARLY NOTIFICATION,  
points of contacts  
ITALY, CROATIA

Translation  
Documentation send to Italy and  
Croatia for comments

Transboundary public consultation  
and consultation with ministries  
and organisations

Final plan  
published  
version  
Italy  
Croatia

## Purpose and key objectives of the Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia (MSP)

- MSP is strategic document that provides spatial development guidelines for activities and use in the Slovenian sea and the coastal strip on land.
- The purpose of the MSP is to coordinate the existing and planned activities and usages at sea and in the coastal strip on land in a manner that enables creation of good environment status.
- The MSP determines the objectives and guidelines for further development of activities and use at sea in a manner that will attain sustainable spatial development, sustainable growth of maritime economics, sustainable development of maritime areas and sustainable use of sea resources.

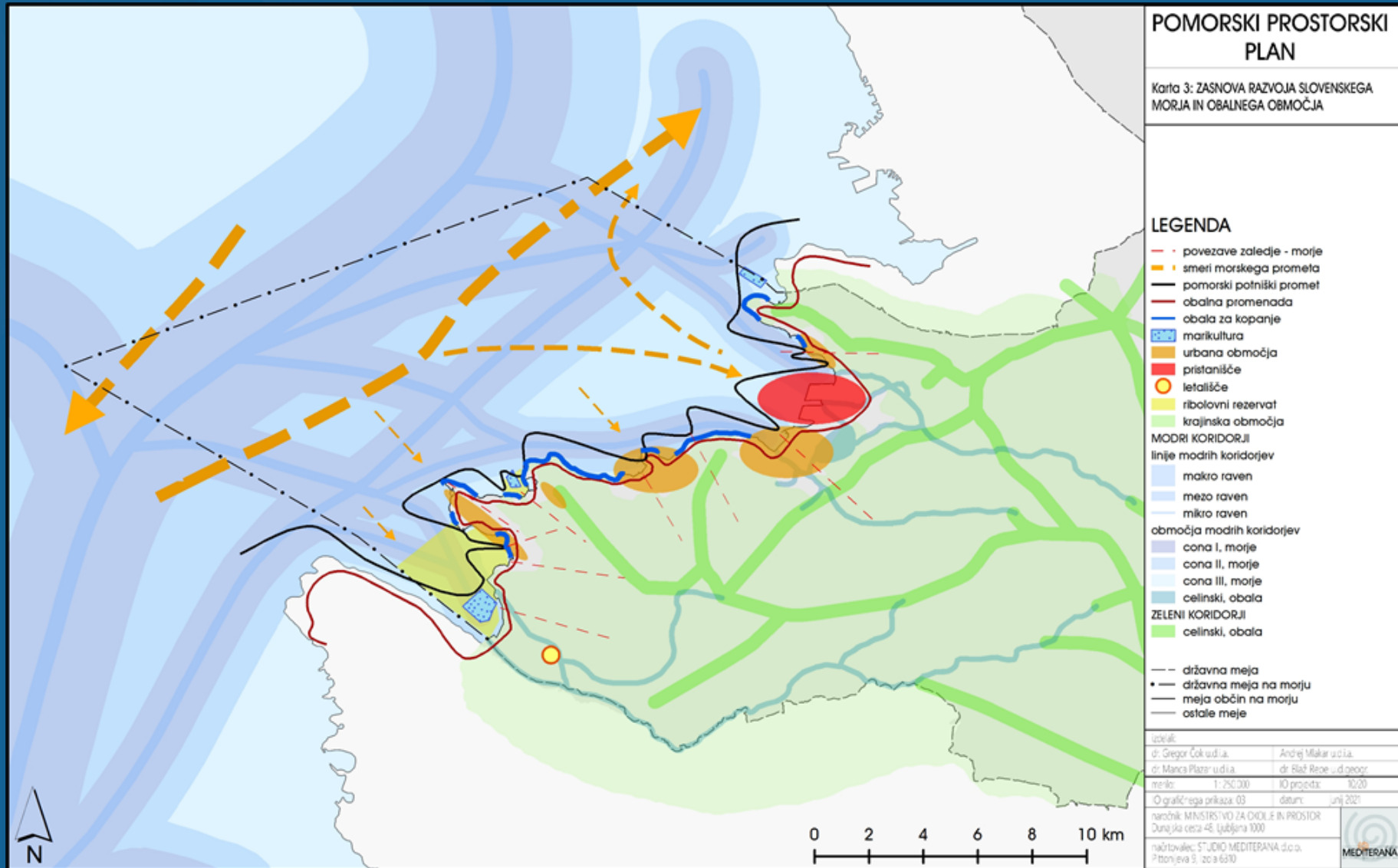


## Objectives of the Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia (MSP):

1. mariculture (development in the range of current areas, with the possibility of relocating to more suitable areas)
2. fisheries (development in the range of current areas)
3. infrastructure for the exploration, exploitation and extraction of oil, gas and other energy sources, minerals and aggregates and the production of energy from renewable sources (exploration and exploitation of offshore oil and natural gas is not allowed)
4. maritime transport routes, traffic flows and maritime transport activities
5. defense and protection against natural and other disasters
6. nature conservation and protected areas
7. mineral resources
8. scientific research
9. deployment of undersea cables and pipelines
10. tourism and recreation
11. protection of cultural heritage
12. urban development

# Concept of spatial development of the Slovenian Sea

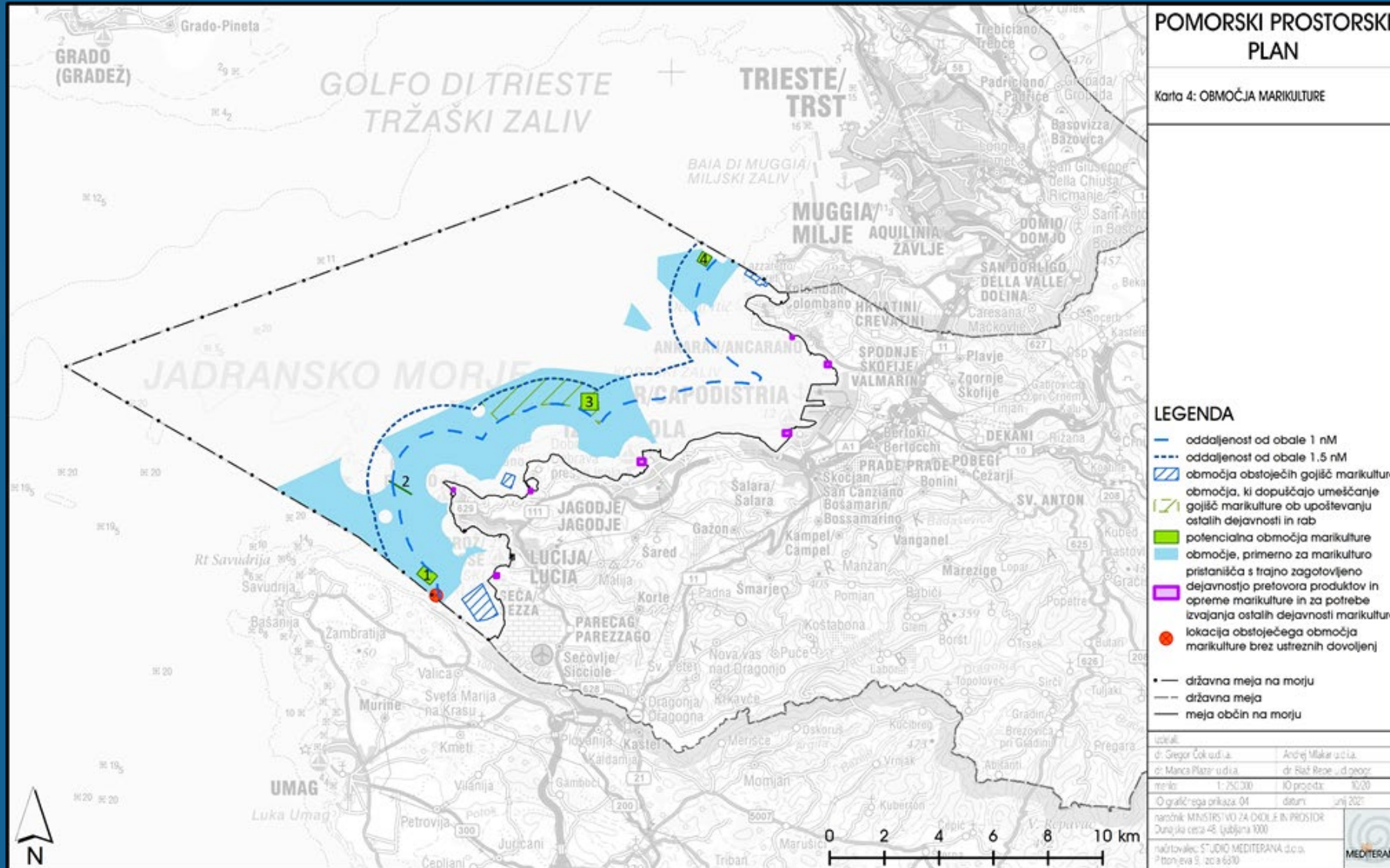
## Vision of the development of the Slovenian Sea





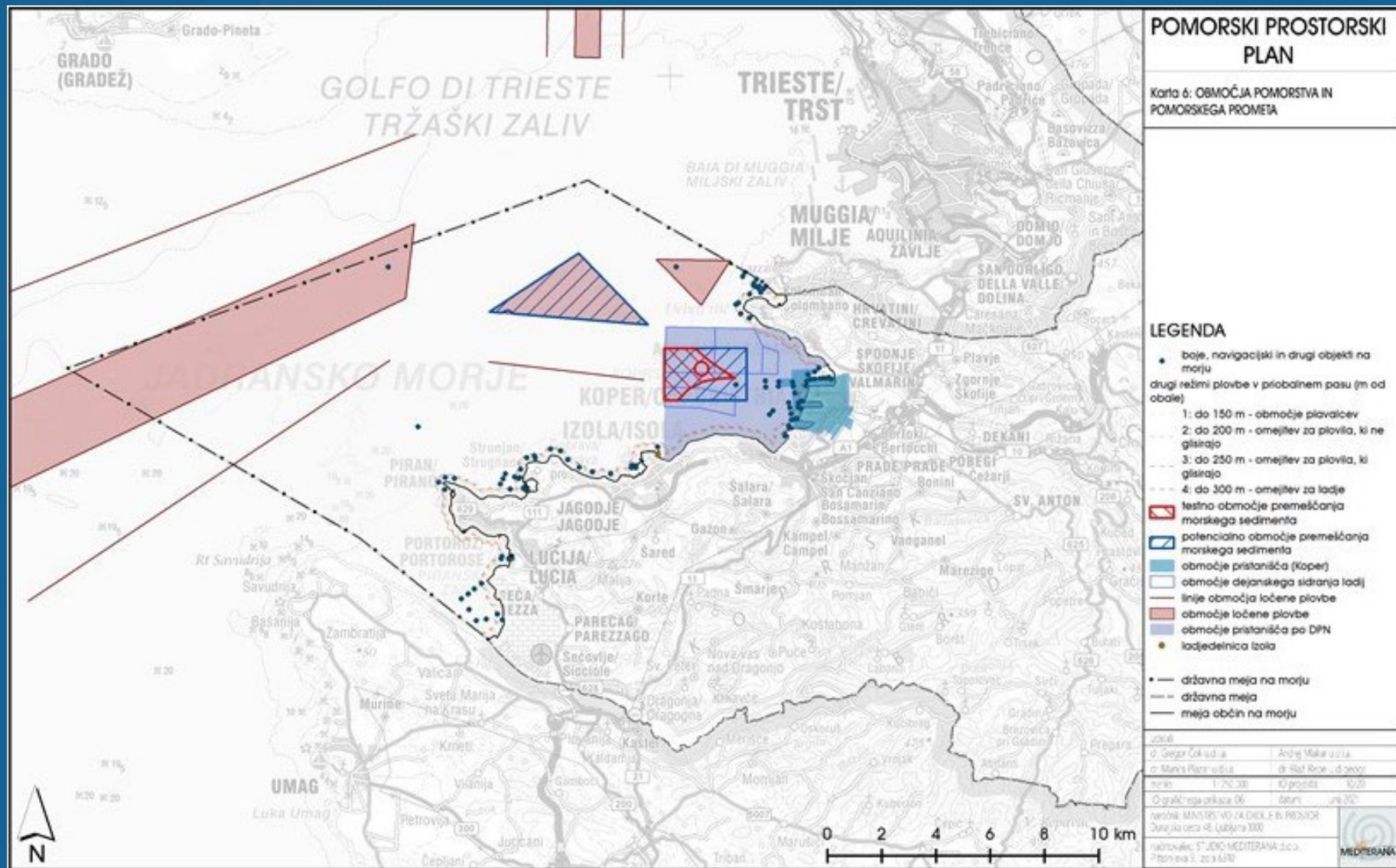
# Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia (MSP):

## Usages and activities at sea / Mariculture



# Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia (MSP):

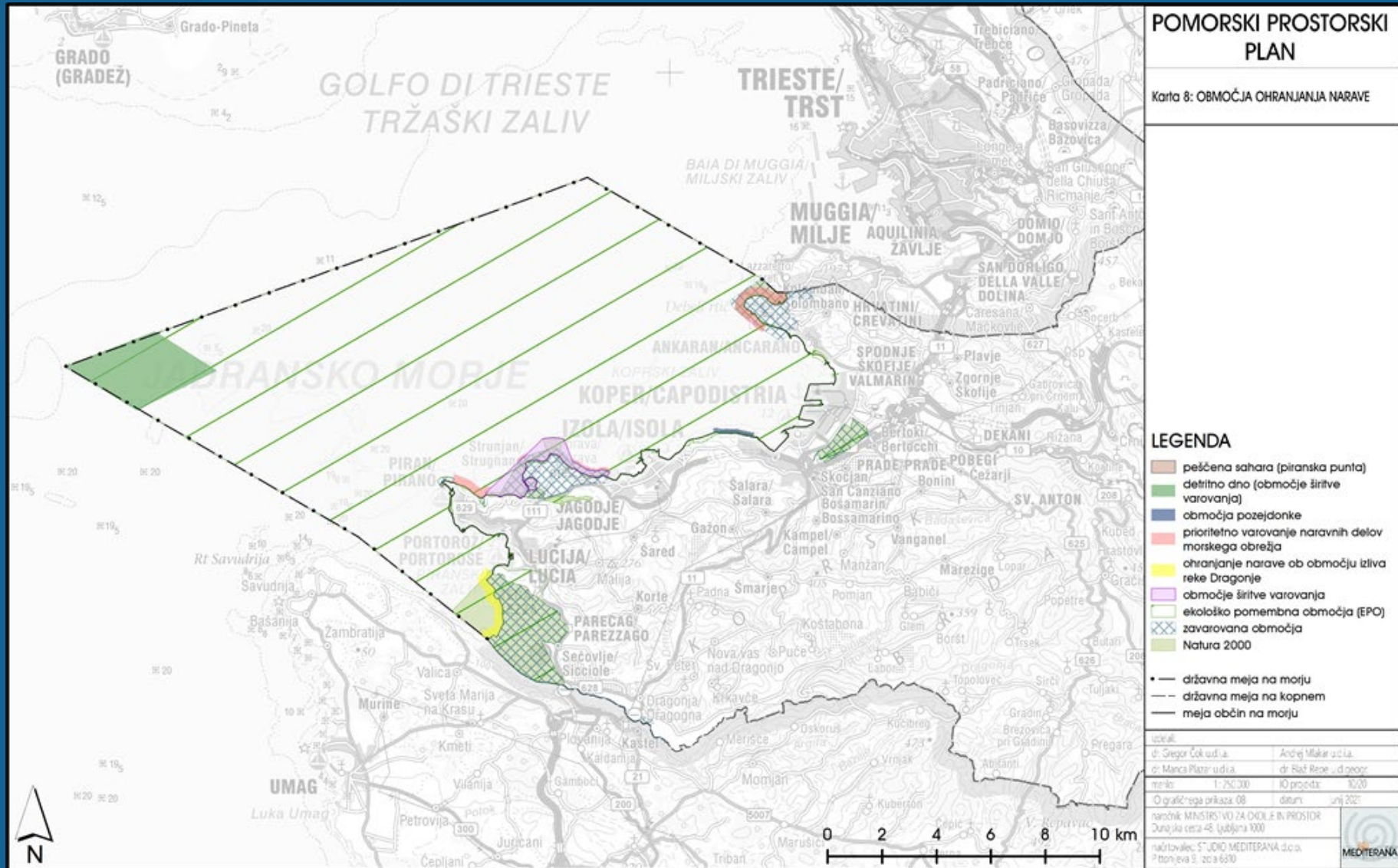
## Usages and activities at sea / Maritime transport areas





# Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia (MSP):

## Usages and activities at sea / Nature conservation protected areas



# Strategic environmental impact assessment (SEA) of the Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia

- In the SEA long-term sustainability and the environmental effects were the focus.
- The objective of the SEA was to integrate environmental aspects in the planning and decision-making that sustainable development could be promoted.
- Within the **scoping** phase, it was assessed that the implementation of the MSP could have potentially significant impacts on:
  - the marine environment,
  - nature,
  - water use,
  - occurrence of accidents,
  - human health and quality of living conditions,
  - cultural heritage and
  - landscape qualities.
- Potential **impacts** were assessed based on the extent of changes of indicators of the state of the environment, the degree of compliance with the conservation objectives or other evaluation criteria, the state of the environment, the protection of natural resources or natural values, the characteristics of population and to human health.



## Strategic environmental impact assessment (SEA) of the Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia

- **Mitigation measures are envisaged in the Environmental Report to reduce impacts** on environmental objectives. The impacts of the implementation of the MSP on environmental objectives will be non-significant, taking into account all the proposed mitigation measures. Mitigation measures were sufficiently integrated into the proposal of the MSP.
- The MSP takes into account the fact that Slovenian coastal area is a particularly vulnerable environment due to climate change, expected rise of the sea surface and a complex interconnection of activities and usages at the sea and in the coastal area.
- The MSP enables:
  - the development of individual activities and usages at the Slovenian sea and in the coastal strip in accordance with the protection regimes and developmental possibilities, as well as marine environment status;
  - the recognition, preservation or introduction of blue and green corridors as part of green infrastructure;
  - spatial development of local communities in connection with the development of activities and usages at sea and on land.

## Cross-border consultations

- Slovenia is an integral part of the Adriatic-Ionian region, in which cross-border cooperation is implemented as part of the macroregional strategy of the EU.
- Cross-border consultation was performed according to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary context (ESPOO).
- Cross-border consultations with neighboring countries Italy and Croatia enable sustainability in the area.
- Cross-border impacts of the Maritime Spatial plan of Slovenia to neighboring countries Italy and Croatia will be non-significant.
- The process of transboundary SEA should be continued with the Italian and Croatia plan in 2023/2024.



## Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia / Monitoring

- The implementation of the Maritime Spatial Plan is monitored with regard to the efficiency indicators for the implementation of this Plan and with regard to marine environment quality descriptors.
- The effectiveness of the Maritime Spatial Plan is monitored by means of indicators defined on the basis of planned activities and envisaged measures. The system of spatial indicators should be determined in greater detail.
  1. The working group for the implementation of the MSP is established not later than one year after the adoption of this plan.
  2. An inter-municipal service of the municipalities is established with the purpose of coordinated implementation of the MSP at local level.
  3. The report on effective coordination of other sectors, usages and activities at sea with the provisions of the MSP (every 4 years).

THANK YOU !