



From separate planning issues at sea to the holistic perspective of MSP – how does it affect the interest of national defence?

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The Swedish system of "National Interests"

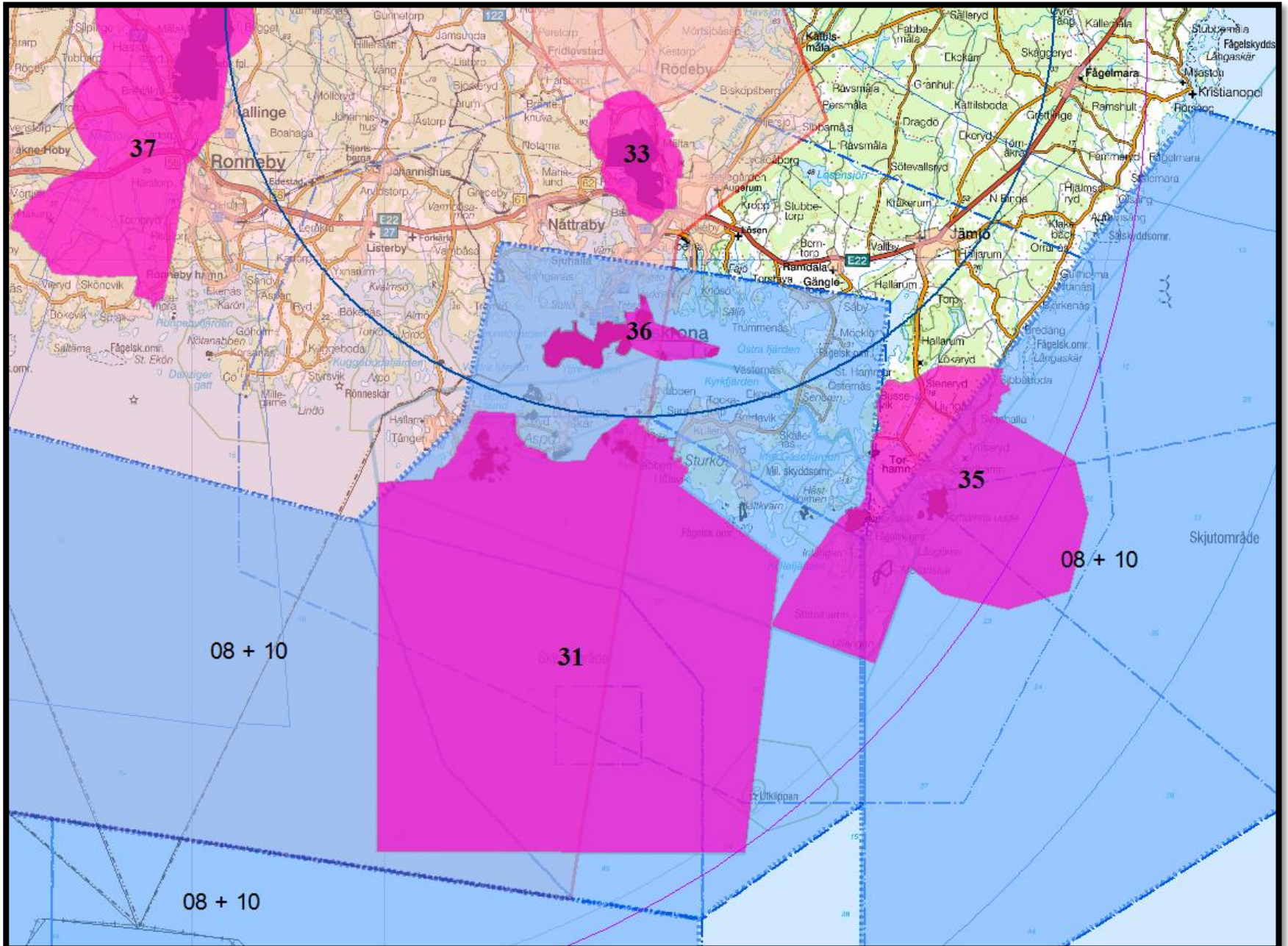
The Swedish Environmental Code state:
areas that are (identified as) of special interest for the defense sector should as far as possible be protected against arrangements that might affect these areas or interests in a negative way

Other National Interests are i.e:
important cultural environments, important natural environments, areas for energy production, important fishing areas.

It further states:
if an area is of national interest of incompatible aspects, priority should be given to the defense interest

In reality:
SAF need to carefully and systematically engage in planning processes to protect the identified areas of importance and the defense interest is not always favored in legal processes such as permit for windmills etcetera.





SAF role in MSP



The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management early invited SAF to participate in the MSP in Sweden early in the process

SAF has provided information on National Interests of defense, participated in workshops and working groups and has analyzed how other interest might affect SAF areas and interests

The most apparent conflict is the incompatibility between inflexible installations (such as windmills, aquaculture and other infrastructure) and some of SAF:s use of areas and systems at sea

We believe that an early and ongoing participation from SAF in the MSP increases the chance that our interest are respected in the planning process

Advantages, risks and difficulties

- The expected outcome is a plan that present the governments' assessment between different interests. If the plan is clear on these trade-offs, the plan will provide SAF as well as other actors with clear prerequisites (for planning) which might lead to less conflicts within spatial planning in the future.
- A risk for SAF in the MSF is that the government might, in some areas, choose to prioritize other interests at the expense of SAF:s needs, which might affect the SAF operational effect and potential.
- The major difficulties that SAF experience in the MSF planning process are:
 - to handle and communicate secret information (i.e. specific areas where windmills can affect/disturb protected secret systems such as sensors and radars)
 - to handle the planning horizon: what will be the situation in our surrounding areas in the year of 2035 or 2050?



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