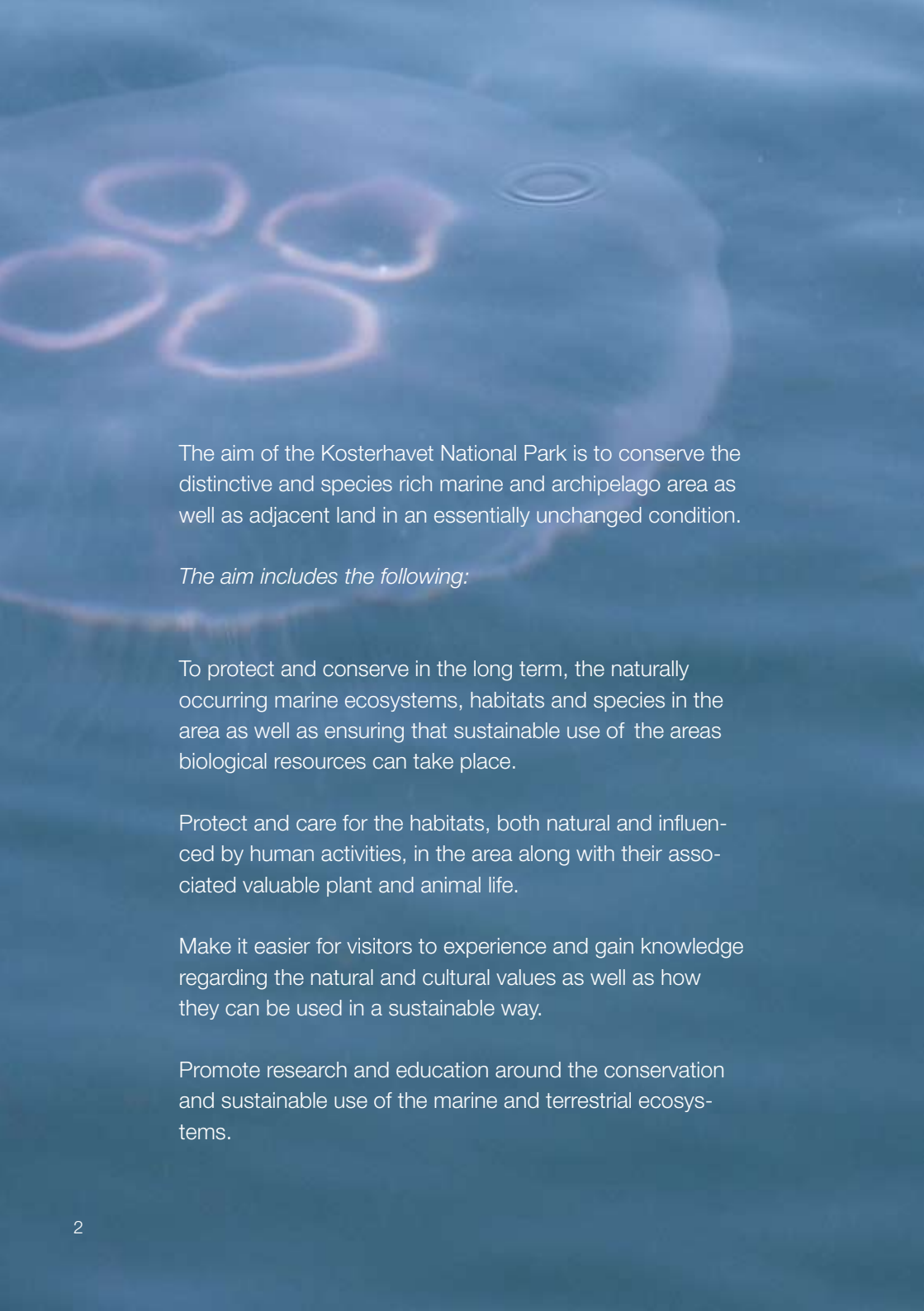


KOSTERHAVET NATIONAL PARK

A summary of resolutions - management plan - regulations





The aim of the Kosterhavet National Park is to conserve the distinctive and species rich marine and archipelago area as well as adjacent land in an essentially unchanged condition.

The aim includes the following:

To protect and conserve in the long term, the naturally occurring marine ecosystems, habitats and species in the area as well as ensuring that sustainable use of the areas biological resources can take place.

Protect and care for the habitats, both natural and influenced by human activities, in the area along with their associated valuable plant and animal life.

Make it easier for visitors to experience and gain knowledge regarding the natural and cultural values as well as how they can be used in a sustainable way.

Promote research and education around the conservation and sustainable use of the marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

Foreword

The first national parks in Sweden were created one hundred years ago. Now we are creating the first marine park – Kosterhavet National Park which will be officially opened on the 9th September 2009.

This text summarises how Kosterhavet National Park came into being, the resolutions that have been passed and by whom, as well as which regulations apply. It also contains a short summary of the very extensive management plan for the national park.

Additional information about Kosterhavet can be downloaded from www.kosterhavet.se. The complete set of regulations is available in the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency Code of Statutes NFS 2009:7. The resolutions regarding the national park, regulations and management plan apply from the 1st September 2009.

Stockholm August 2009

Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

How Kosterhavet became a national park

As early as 1989 the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency in their national park plan suggested that parts of the Koster archipelago should be set aside as a national park. Ten years earlier, the County Administrative Board had discussed the issue in various planning programmes, but it was first in connection with a review of the Koster Islands Nature Reserve at the beginning of 2000s that the issue was brought up again. Local representatives for Koster were open to a national park which could combine conservation with sustainable local development. A feasibility study was carried out and the County Administrative Board and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency began the extensive studies of the flora and fauna above and below the surface of the sea, recreation and the visitor industry as the basis for the management plan and regulations for a national park.



The only coral reef in Sweden is found in Kosterhavet. One of the conservation objectives in the management plan is that there should be a living coral reef at at least one additional site in the national park.

The first proposal for the national park was sent out in the spring of 2007 for detailed consultation to the municipalities and other interested parties in the area. The comments were worked into the document and a year later a new proposal was presented which was very positively received by all consultees. In June 2008 the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency sent a letter to the government and requested that Kosterhavet be set aside as a national park.

The government processed the request from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and proposed a bill. This was accepted by the government in December 2008 and was then presented to the parliament. The parliament processed the bill and the decision was taken on the 19th March 2009 that the government could set aside Kosterhavet as a national park. The government resolution took effect on the 17th June 2009 through a change in the National Parks Act.

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency established regulations for the national park on the 5th August 2009. On the 27th August the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency established a management plan. The regulations and management plan for Kosterhavet National Park apply from the 1st September 2009.

Management of the national park

In accordance with the National Park Act, Kosterhavet National Park will be managed by the County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland. As those responsible for the management, the County Administrative Board will set up a partnership within the County Administrative Board – the Kosterhavsdelegation. Representatives from the municipalities, community groups, commercial fishermen and other interested parties are included in this group. It is intended that the The Kosterhavsdelegation will come into force on the 1st January 2010 and will have its base at Koster.

Anders Tysklind has been appointed as director of the national park and Anita Tullrot as deputy head.

Management plan for the national park

A summary

Background

The management plan is based on detailed surveys and reviews of previous studies, as well as analysis of factors which may conceivably influence the area. There has been a dialogue with local interested parties who have contributed with ideas and comments. The basis for the marine parts of the plan has been produced by the Institute for Marine Ecology – Tjärnö, University of Göteborg, and the terrestrial parts by Naturcentrum AB in Stenungsund.

Management with monitoring

In the management plan a number of management compartments and habitats in the marine and terrestrial environments have been identified. For all of these, management objectives have been formulated and suggestions as to how the objective can be monitored, as well as one-off management activities (e.g. set out permanent mooring buoys in natural harbours) and ongoing management activities (e.g. training for tour guides).

In a similar way user objectives and monitoring of activities which are carried out within the park have been defined. This concerns for example tourism, boat and recreational activities and commercial fishing.

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency has decided to apply so called *adaptive management* in Kosterhavet National Park. This means that the environment is continuously monitored and management adjusted if the objectives are not met.

Marine habitats and management compartments

- Soft mud seabeds in shallow water (<30 m)
- Shallow rocky seabeds (<30 m)
- Deep rocky seabeds (>30 m)
- Soft mud seabeds in deep water (>30 m)
- Open water
- Coral reef
- Seal & seabirds
- Fish & shellfish



One of the factors which has been identified in the management plan which could have an impact on the area is eutrophication. The development of this will be followed, for example by surveying thread algae in the eel grass meadows.

Recreation and information

Kosterhavet is a popular location for tourists with almost 100 000 visitors per year (2006) of which many have their own boat. To make it easier for visitors to learn and understand the value of the national park, there is an interpretation plan which includes an information centre (naturum) and entrance points. Information for visitors and other users is also an important way to achieve the different objectives in the management plan. Toilets and rubbish bins will be located on islands which are popular with visitors and natural harbours.

To reduce the risk of disturbance of wildlife and sensitive seabed areas there are a number of zones with various degrees of permissibility, see the regulations and map elsewhere in this document. The zones also make it possible to provide visitors with better experiences of the countryside with peace, quiet and seclusion.

Hunting

An aspiration in the planning of Kosterhavet National Park was to have as few limitations as possible in the traditional use of the local resources. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency has therefore decided that it is compatible with the aim of the national park to allow some hunting of seabirds under the condition that the hunt is carried out in a long term sustainable way.

Fishing

Commercial and recreational fishing in the national park is regulated by the fishing legislation. Prawn fishing is carried out according to the so called Koster- Värderöfjords Agreement. This agreement includes continuing work to develop fishing equipment as well as to inform and train all who fish in the area regarding the biological value of Kosterhavet and its use.

The management plan secures the aim of the park

The management plan including the monitoring of the environmental condition of the park will ensure that the aim of the national park is fulfilled. An important condition is that cooperation with Norway and Ytre Hvaler National Park develops so that management can be harmonised. This is because the parks are adjacent to one another and visitors, as well as the water and all the organisms within, move freely between the two areas.

Regulations for Kosterhavet National Park

With the support of the first paragraph in section four of the National Park Act (1987:938) and following consultation with the County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland, the Municipalities of Tanum and Strömstad, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency prescribe the following:

A. Restrictions on the rights to use land and water within the national park

Within the national park it is forbidden to

- 1 § erect a building or other type of construction or build a jetty, quay or marina
- 2 § organise or grant the right to make a marine area available for buoy mooring
- 3 § above or under the water, ditch, dam, dredge, excavate, dump, blow up, fill in with material or in any other way damage the seabed, the ground or rock
- 4 § fell or carry out other types of forestry operations
- 5 § introduce, for the area, non-native species or populations in the process of aquaculture or the area in general
- 6 § create areas for storage or dumping
- 7 § construct a road
- 8 § run cables or pipes through the ground, water or air
- 9 § hunt or grant the right to hunt in any other way than stated in the approved management plan
- 10 § organise regular military exercises. If the need to carry out military exercises arises within the national park this should be preceded by consultation with the County Administrative Board
- 11 § spread harmful chemical or biological substances

Without permission from the County Administrative Board it is forbidden to

- 12 § carry out extensions to jetties, quays or marinas
- 13 § initiate aquaculture

B. With regard to the right to travel and visit and other regulations within the national park

Within the national park it is forbidden to

- 1 § dig up plants
- 2 § introduce non-native species or populations to the area
- 3 § bring dogs which are not on a lead
- 4 § start a fire other than at the specially designated places
- 5 § cycle or operate motor vehicles other than on roads
- 6 § take away or rearrange stones
- 7 § pick oysters
- 8 § hunt
- 9 § camp on South Koster as well as between the hours of 10.00 and 18.00 on Tenholmarna, Burholmen, Bockholmen, Store Bror between the 1st July and 15th August. In general camping is only allowed for a maximum of two days in the same place
- 10 § drag up, moor boats or lay anchor closer than 50 metres from sandy beaches. Canoes and kayaks can be dragged up onto the beaches if they do not block the swimming areas
- 11 § moor or lay anchor for more than two days in a row at the same place
- 12 § allow engines to idle and use motorised generators
- 13 § within zone A drive motorised vehicles faster than 5 knots between the 15th May and 31st August
- 14 § within zone B drive motorised vehicles other than to and from mooring sites
- 15 § within zone C disembark onto islands and islets and stay within 100 metres of islands and islets, with the exception of marked routes (this applies for the times specified in appendix 2)
- 16 § take off or land any airborne craft or fly over the area at an altitude of less than 300 metres
- 17 § within zone D lay anchor as well as use scraping or other equipment or methods which can damage the sea bed
- 18 § without the permission of the County Administrative Board undertake scientific studies or collect red-listed marine species

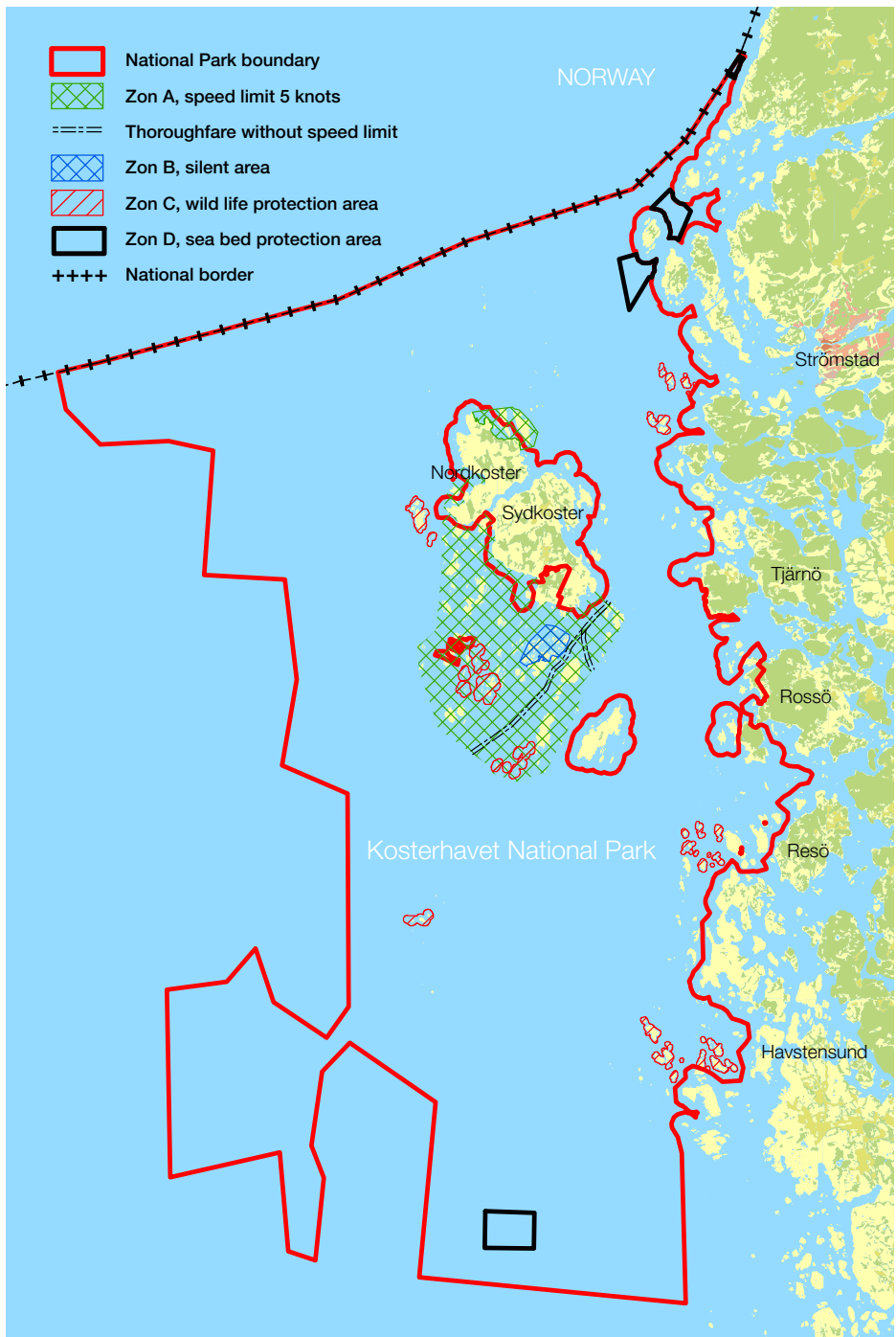
19 § organise competitions, set up camps or other organised events with more than 20 participants before consultation with the County Administrative Board

Rules with regard to the notification of exceptions from the stated regulations are given in Section Five of the National Park Act (1987:938).

C. General exceptions

Despite the above mentioned regulations in A and B it is permitted to

- erect a building or other type of construction which is required for management and which is stated in the approved management plan as well as maintain existing buildings and other facilities
- carry out maintenance dredging in connection with existing channels, harbours or jetties as well as carry out maintenance to existing lighthouses, navigation and channel markers
- the manager may construct smaller mooring facilities in natural harbours according to what is stated in the approved management plan
- the manager may carry out clearing in the woodlands and agricultural landscape according to what is stated in the approved management plan
- the manager may use working vehicles and carry out management according to the approved management plan
- maintain existing roads and road verges accessible for motor vehicles as well as maintain existing routes for power lines and cables on dry land, as well as in the water
- hunt in accordance with specific hunting agreements, and thus the hunters may have their dogs loose in connection with hunting, as well as carry out the regulation of cormorant populations between the 1st September and 31st March within the framework established by the County Administrative Board
- pick oysters in accordance with specific fishing agreements
- carry out licensed commercial fishing
- retain and maintain existing buoys for mooring at Stora Svängen and Store-Snart
- use, in the event of an emergency by officers from the emergency services, the necessary vehicles and dogs; such activities should be reported to the County Administrative Board as soon as possible, if possible in advance





On the 9th September the first marine national park in Sweden, Kosterhavet in northern Bohuslän, was officially opened. The area is the most species rich marine environment in the country with over 6000 seaweed and animals. This document describes in short how Kosterhavet National Park came into being. It also contains an overview of the very extensive management plan for the national park, and describes which regulations apply.

www.kosterhavet.se



SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY



LÄNSSTYRELSEN
VÄSTRA GÖTALANDS LÄN
County Administrative Board



EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund