Maritime Spatial Planning in the EU

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Content of presentation:

- Background Maritime Spatial planning
- Achievements on MSP
- Future steps on Maritime Spatial planning and relevance to fisheries
EU Communications on Maritime Spatial planning.

- EU communication “an integrated Maritime Policy for the EU” (COM 2007)575
EU policy process: The Roadmap on MSP

- Roadmap Communication adopted on 25th November 2008
- Identifies 10 key principles for MSP in the EU
- Stimulate a wide debate on development of a common approach to MSP in Europe;
- Important delivery of the Integrated EU Maritime Policy
- Link to MSFD and Natura 2000
The 10 key-principles on MSP

Overarching principle: ecosystem approach

- Using MSP according to area and type of activity
- Defining objectives to guide MSP
- Developing MSP in a transparent manner
- Stakeholder participation
- Coordination within Member States – simplifying decision processes
- Ensuring the legal effect of national MSP
- Cross-border cooperation and consultation
- Incorporating monitoring and evaluation in the planning process
- Achieving coherence between terrestrial and maritime spatial planning
- Strong data and knowledge base
Developments on MSP in EU and other sea areas.

- Significant developments in many MS on MSP. E.g. Germany, Netherlands have already spatial plans on a legal basis.
- MSP is being developed e.g. in Portugal, UK, Sweden, Norway and Belgium.
- A joint VASAB & HELCOM MSP platform has been set up and Joint principles and ToR is agreed.
- In third countries like: US, Canada and Australia.
- UNESCO-IOC MSP Guidelines 2009
Ecosystem based management

(UNESCO/IOC Guidelines)

- Emphasizes the protection of ecosystem structure, functioning and key processes.
- Explicity accounts for interconnectedness within systems.
- Acknowledges interconnectedness among systems (land, sea, air).
- Integrates ecological, social, economic and institutional perspectives.
- Is place-based, focusing on a certain ecosystem and the human activities affecting it.
MSP is one of the tools that helps MSFD to use the ecosystem approach to reach GES.
Ecological/environmental benefits of MSP

- Ecological important areas identified
- Allocation of space for nature conservation and planning of a network of MPA’s
- Biodiversity objectives (MSFD) incorporated
- Reduction of conflicts between human uses and nature
- Insight in cumulative effects of human activities
The marine Natura 2000 network

Natura 2000 sites: 26106
Marine sites (> 5%): 2447
Offshore sites (> 5%): 101
Total marine area: 198495 km²
Total Offshore area: 63900 km²
Economic benefits of MSP

• Lower coordination cost; governmental coordination mechanisms more efficient and effective.

• Lower transaction costs: lowering:
  • search costs,
  • legal costs,
  • Administrative costs
  • Fewer conflicts
  • Enhanced investment climate: economic growth and acceleration of economic activities

The estimated effects of MSP in 2030 range from more than 400 € million- €1.8 billion due to reduction of transaction costs and from 155 € million- €1.6 billion due to acceleration of activities (e.g. wind energy and aqua-farming)
Wind farms in OSPAR area
Social benefits of MSP

- Stakeholder participation
- Identification of interests.
- Impacts (ecological, sociological and economic) of decisions on the allocation of space
- Safety of human activities at sea and on land (e.g. flood protection)
- Protection of cultural heritage
- Conservation of certain values for well being (e.g. open horizon)
Clean and safe beach, open horizon
MSP: expectations and purposes

A neutral tool in order to:

• Divide space in a proactive manner
• Prevent user-user and user-ecosystem conflicts

A way of working to:

• Facilitate sustainable development
• Find tailor made solutions in open negotiations with stakeholders
• Mutual Gains

• Management plans are needed for implementation.
Policy process: Studies on MSP

- Legal aspects of MSP – concluded
- Potential of MSP in the Mediterranean Sea
- Economic benefits of MSP
- are available on the Commission website
Policy process: Preparatory actions

- Two preparatory actions for the Baltic and the North Sea / North East Atlantic have started the end of 2010.
  - Plan Bothnia (Baltic Sea)
  - Maspnose (North Sea)
- Aim at fostering the development of cross-border cooperation aspects of MSP
- Encourage the identification of a shared sea area and develop MSP objectives
- Contributions from several MS in Sea area.
Maspnose

• Preparatory action on Maritime Spatial planning in the North Sea
• Aims to facilitate concrete, cross-border cooperation among European countries on ecosystem-based MSP.
• Participants from Netherlands, Germany, Belgium and Denmark
Policy progress next steps.

• The Progress report MSP identifies options for future steps like:
  – Non-binding options, such as exchange of best practices, cross-border projects, studies and research, guidelines and/or recommendations.
  – Legislative options for setting the common approach and cross-border cooperation.

• An Impact Assessment (on MSP is been carried out at the moment in conjunction with options to further develop ICZM)
  – This includes a public consultation, which is now online.

• Further studies under consideration (e.g. cross-border MSP In Celtic Seas and in Mediterranean Sea)

• EC will propose further action on MSP end of 2011.
How and why should NWWRAC be engaged in MSP

- Bring interest to the table when MSP is applied (stakeholder involvement)
  - Conflicting uses e.g.: wind energy, cables/pipelines, platforms, shipping, etc.
- In case of cross-border MPA’s (Natura 2000) and joint fisheries measures will be proposed (e.g. Doggersbank)
- MSFD – GES, annex VI includes also spatial and temporal distribution controls.
Thank you for your attention!