NWWRAC Marine Spatial Planning Horizontal Working Group Bilbao, 14 April 2011

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Overview

- Definition of MSP
- Characteristics for effective MSP
- Legal & policy drivers
- Need for MSP & EU Action
- Challenge for fisheries
- Fisheries related objectives for MSP
- The way forward




Definition of Marine Spatial Planning

Marine Spatial Planning is a public process of analysing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic, and social objectives that are usually specified through a political process

UNESCO IOC 2009




Characteristics of Effective Marine Spatial Planning

- Ecosystem-based, balancing ecological, economic, and social goals and objectives toward sustainable development
- Integrated, across sectors and agencies, and among levels of government
- Place-based or area-based
- Adaptive, capable of learning from experience
- Strategic and anticipatory, focused on the long-term
- Participatory, stakeholders actively involved in the process




Legal and Policy Drivers for MSP

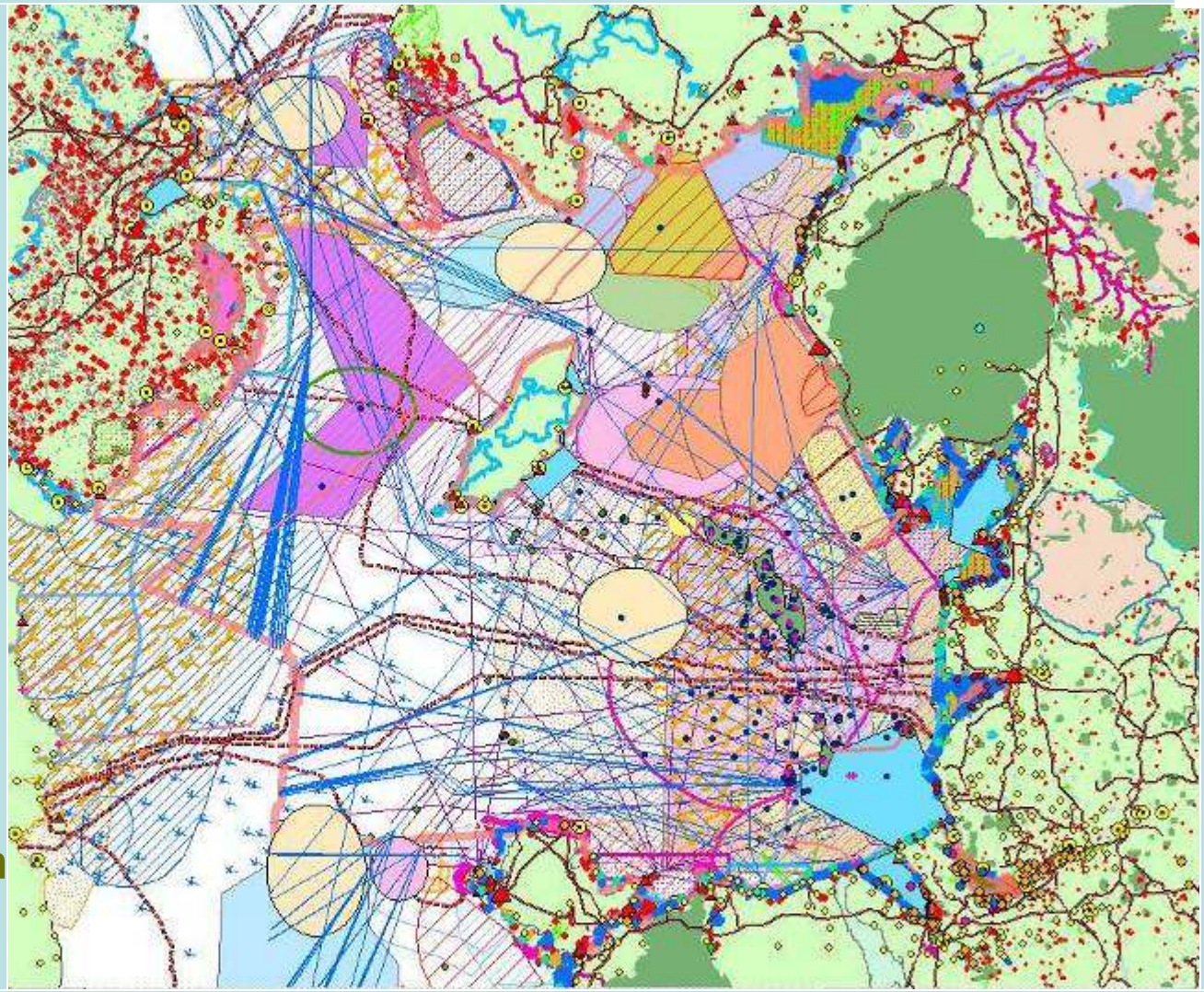
- EU Integrated Maritime Policy
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive
- Water Framework Directive
- Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive
- CFP
- Regional Conventions, e.g. OSPAR
- EU ICZM Recommendation
- Communication on MSP in the EU & Roadmap for MSP
- Commission Impact Assessment on MSP and ICZM
- National legislation




Why Do We Need MSP?

COMPETING CLAIMS Maritime Policy

- Land use
- Tourism
- Oil &Gas
- Mariculture
- Coastal Defence
- Ports & Navigation
- Military Activities
- Culture
- Conservation
- Dredging & Disposal
- Submarine Cables



- Fishing
- Renewable Energy
- Marine Recreation
- Mineral Extraction

Other Reasons for Marine Spatial Planning

- Provide a vision and consistent direction for the utilisation of marine space
- Make efficient use of marine resources
- Setting priorities
- Protect nature and reduce fragmentation of marine habitats
- Create & stimulate opportunities for new users of marine areas
- Co-ordinate actions and investments in space and time
- Avoid duplication of effort
- Streamline consenting decisions and transparency
- Ensure co-ordination between neighbouring jurisdictions




A Forum For Conflict Resolution?

The Challenge for Fisheries

- Fisheries as a spatial resource
- Unique spatial footprint – ubiquitous, seasonal & subject to stock fluctuations
- Sensitivity to environmental change
- Species distribution & patterns of exploitation
- Uncertainty is endemic
- Future spatial needs?
- Multi-faceted activity – coherent industry view difficult?




Spatial Approach to Fisheries Management

- TACs and Quotas set for ICES areas
- Closed areas – protection of spawning / nursery grounds
- Long term management plans
- Regional variations in technical conservation measures
- Regional Advisory Councils
- Mapping of fishing effort




Fisheries Related Objectives for MSP

- Promote sustainable use of living resources of the sea
- Assist in the rebuilding of depleted fish stocks
- Provide security for existing fishing grounds and systems of resource allocation
- Identification and protection of essential fish habitats
- Ensure flexibility to allow for changing environmental / economic circumstances
- Consideration of proposals likely to affect the industry
- Support plans & policies for creating an efficient, profitable and sustainable industry
- Recognise the economic & social contribution to communities




The Way Forward

- Implications of MSP for fisheries
- Response / contribution to Commission's MSP initiative
- How does the NWWRAC wish to engage?
- What do we want out of the process?
- Identification of best practice
- Communication with other sectors
- Mapping priority areas of fishing interest
- Provision of data / identification of data gaps