



**eMSP
NBSR**

Emerging Ecosystem-based
Maritime Spatial Planning
Topics in the North and Baltic
Sea Regions



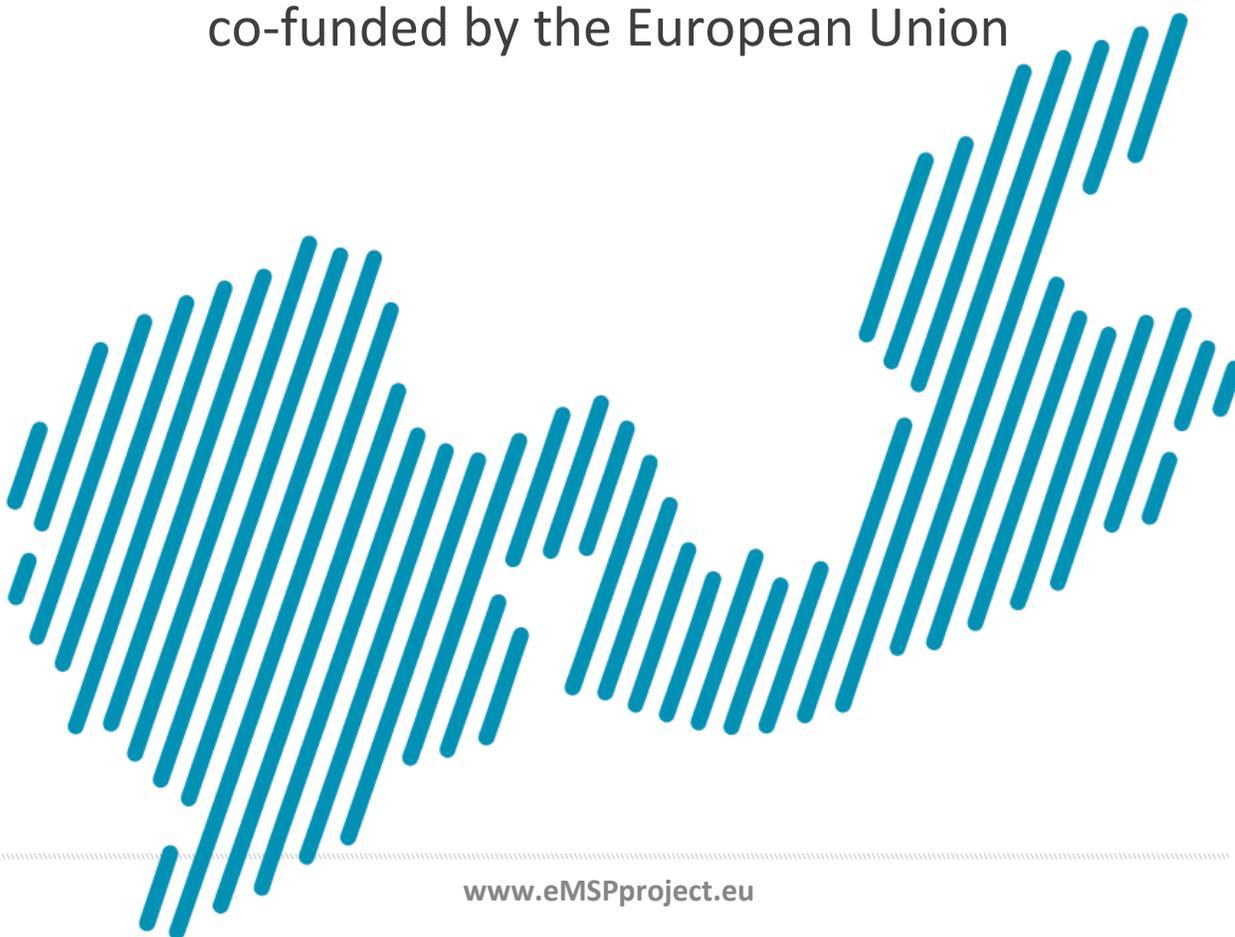
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Multi-Use in the North and Baltic Sea

Policy brief on Sustainable Blue Economy

A Maripark

eMSP NBSR project
co-funded by the European Union



Context

This document focuses on *Sustainable Blue Economy* (SBE) and especially on how we can make it happen by using Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) as a tool. Do we need to start a broader societal discussion? We divided the Sustainable Blue Economy in three components; food, nature and energy, linking with the current global transitions. In this document we zoom in on ‘nature’ under the form of Nature Inclusive Design (NID) opportunities from a multi-use point of view in the North and Baltic Sea. The ideas developed in this document are based on discussions in the community built within the [eMSP NBSR project](#). The project builds several interlinked *Communities of Practices (CoPs)*. The current document is based on the discussions during a fruitful community event in Stockholm, Sweden on the 19th of September 2023. You will find the program of the day as an annex to this document, as well as a participation list.

The results that follow out of this CoP (as well as the previous CoP’s that dealt with energy, food and nature inclusive design) are written in this (the respective) report, as well as included in our policy letter towards the European Commission – a deliverable at the end of the project, which aims at supporting the use of MSP as a tool for a Sustainable Blue Economy.

AUTHOR

Blue Cluster 2023 Kinnie De Beule, Marijn Rabaut.

CONTRIBUTORS

Nico Buytendijk, Marjoleine Karper (Netherlands Enterprise Agency), Nathalie Scheidegger (Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food quality).

Participants from the Community of Practice (cfr. Annex 2)

DISCLAIMER

The work described in Building a Community of Practice for sustainable blue economy is supported by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund of the European Union - through the Grant Agreement number 101035797 – eMSP NBSR - EMFF-MSP-2020, corresponding to the Call EMFF-MSP-2020 (Maritime Spatial Planning).

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1. Multi-use, Maripark, policy advice

Introduction: multi-use and policy advice

More than 30 participants with a strong representation from the national policy, followed by a scientific background have participated in our Community of Practice (CoP) on 19 September. The aim of this CoP was to discuss and validate the concept of multi-use and its value for the sustainable blue economy (SBE), as well as the draft version of the policy brief towards the EC. Several external MSP and SBE experts were present, amongst them also DG Mare, the Belgian MSP officer and the Nordic Innovation. The overall and future goal of the SBE from the EC point of view was presented, and the workshop highlighted the urgency of the multi-use concept within the view of the three global transitions: food, energy and biodiversity. The introduction was given by Marijn Rabaut, and stressed the findings from the previous CoPs. A common vision on the SBE for our future (2050) is needed, linking the three transitions (Food, Nature and Energy) and it can be supported by MSP and multi-use, that eventually leads to a Maripark (sustainable business area at sea). To compose this common vision EU regulations need to be linked and true cooperation is of great importance in order to succeed. Many synergies found in ocean uses lead to multi-use, and further mostly collaborative governance, regulatory support, technology development, innovative business models and funding and investment is needed. While a maripark provides a first tangible common approach, it also envisages a shared infrastructure (anchors, docking, sensors, leveraging technologies like drones, etc) which are opportunities for the innovative sectors, as well as a regulatory framework that is in line with the aim of the large infrastructure and uses and shared services (security, safety, insurance etc). Sustainable blue economy can actually be used to reach the climate and nature restoration goals and contribute to the Food, Biodiversity and Energy transitions. Multi-use should be applied as a basic principle. One can start from an offshore wind farm but the concept should also be applicable stand alone. A strategy can be that the permit period is based on the return of investment. A combination of aquaculture, wind, nature and tourism appears to be the most preferable, but each maripark ideally has its own focus, that's where flexibility in MSP is a must as well.

According to our CoP public, the most ideal combination of uses varies between all combinations. No preference can be distilled.

Reflections and developments on SBE from the European Commission

Pauline Caumont (DG Mare) briefly updates on the SBE strategy the EC is applying. The strategy has been adopted in 2021, and centralises marine spatial planning as a tool to implement all economic activities for the oceans, seas and coasts. Offshore renewable energy is obviously high on the political agenda due to the necessity of security of supply, but after this, the EU will focus on making MSP pan-European and digital. All stakeholders should be more systematically involved; hence a community of practice could be a great way for bringing all the stakeholders together. The Blue Forum for sea users has been launched in May 2023. Via slido the participants noted that the most urgent policy that should implement today is an integration of the real users of the sea, co-existence and multi-use- integration across sectors.

According to the CoP members, for a strong SBE the focus should lay on multi-use and biodiversity protection and conservation. The land-sea interaction should be taken into account, and policy integration across sectors plays an vital role, as well as clear and holistic regulations. One should not hold back to step on certain established sectors and lobby groups 'toes'.

Panel discussion: Route to a Maripark



- ❖ Pauline Caumont - *Policy Officer* - European Commission
- ❖ Jan Schmidtbauer Crona - *Senior Analyst* - Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management
- ❖ Jesse Verhalhe - *Marine Attaché* - Belgian Marine Environment Service – Maritime Spatial Planning
- ❖ Emil Gejrot - *Innovation Advisor* - Nordic Innovation
- ❖ Laura Pietilä - *Project Planner* - Finnish MSP Coordination / Regional Council of Southwest Finland

Figure 1: Panelists

The vivid panel discussion was moderated by Marjoleine Karper from RVO. It shows that sustainable blue economy should have a positive impact on nature. There should be an interaction on all levels, and all values. Ecosystem based approach is key, while we should dare to think large-scale and connect and

improve the different economic activities (with eg. multi-use), which helps mitigating the impact. From the beginning nature should be included in the design (conclusion repetition and related to our previous CoPs), as basic principle and there should be a common framework (ie a holistic approach) which relates again to the multi-use and Maripark concept. Still, a lot of work needs to be done, starting with (which is already ongoing) the adapted behavior and thinking of stakeholders. The established wind energy sector is growing fast and interferes with the playing field of traditional fisheries, and other established sectors. Tension between new and traditional sea users should be carefully assessed and addressed; A new, harmonized balance is required to move forward to an actual SBE, maybe more firm decisions are required regarding non-sustainable activities. DG Mare approaches this but still from separate departments and topics, but collaboration is improving while working in informal smaller groups. The willingness to break through traditional and separate silos is strong. To further enhance the cooperation between topics and transitions, working more closely together within forming one department, was suggested to accelerate the cooperation. This as an answer to avoid creating new and additional working groups. The Blue Forum takes action in this direction. All sectors and uses, as well as the transitions in energy, biodiversity and food need to be approached in a holistic way. Inclusiveness and supporting in the long-term, as well as sustainability are key.



Figure 2: illustration panel discussion (KDB): in order of appearance, Marjoleine, Jesse, Pauline, Emil, Laura, Jan.

Workshop

During the workshop, the participants were divided into 2 separate groups. The outcomes are compiled and reply to the questions what the importance is, for the **development of a Maripark** (a sustainable and nature-inclusive business park at sea), of **collaborative governance** and **coordination between stakeholders** (ie using communities of practices). Questions arise on the role of the wind farm operators of today. It seems their attitude is changing slowly towards multi-use and more NID. Also, a strong connection and collaboration between the offshore industry and the harbours is needed. Bridges between traditional knowledge, business and research, governance and NGO's are a must. Stakeholder engagement is stimulated through involving local communities like fisheries and applying a formal and informal dialogue. Also, change in attitude and process mechanisms in place at a government/policy making level was discussed. It is important to make clear to all parties what is in there for them and how they should contribute. Avoid stakeholder fatigue while focusing on where one could contribute the most and the most likely. Potential users should be able to start and as well scale-up their innovative ideas. Responsibility, management and several challenges are the responsibility of the manager of the park. Examples are safety, buoyancy, security, insurances, basic infra and data monitoring and management (...). An (equal) chance should be given to corporates and small scale business. To start-up the park, and to make it a success, it should be known and accepted that it is financially sustainable. Pilots and tests are needed. A strong security aspect (data, energy, internet) is needed. The added value of the multi-use in terms of for example the common services (infrastructure, monitoring and governance) should be well communicated beforehand. The private/public ownership remains a point of discussion. Maybe several constellations are an option? A strong message is given through the push for the nature restoration decade. To be implemented where possible to as a Maripark have a positive effect on the ocean. The new policy style should be a flexible one, the (public) budget needs re-organisation. The overall vision on balancing the three transitions needs open and harmonized inter basin data, one should not forget to also focus on land-sea interactions.

2. Conclusion

To obtain a sustainable blue economy with a positive effect on nature, nature-inclusive multi-use at sea is key. Many synergies found in ocean uses lead to multi-use, and further mostly collaborative governance, regulatory support, technology development, innovative business models and funding and investment is needed. While a maripark provides a first tangible common approach, it also envisages a shared infrastructure (anchors, docking, sensors, leveraging technologies like drones, etc) which are opportunities for the innovative sectors, as well as a regulatory framework that is in line with the aim of the large infrastructure and uses and shared services (security, safety, insurance etc). A Maripark encompasses all possible sea uses, aquaculture, wind, wave, solar, tourism, (...). Therefore policy and regulations should be integrated and flexible.

The current DG Mare view on SBE centralises marine spatial planning as a tool to implement all economic activities for the oceans, seas and coast. Offshore renewable energy is obviously high on the political agenda due to security of supply, but next will be focused making MSP pan-European and digital. An integration of the real users of the sea, co-existence and multi-use-integration across sectors. A Maripark can build bridges between traditional knowledge, business and research, governance and ngo's are a must. Avoid stakeholder fatigue while focusing on where one could contribute the most and the most likely.

Sustainable blue economy can actually be used to reach the climate and nature restoration goals and contribute to the Food, Biodiversity and Energy transitions. As long as biodiversity principles are centered and used from the start, where multi-use should be applied as a basic principle.

Annex 1 - Program

Policy advice on Marine Spatial Planning for a Sustainable Blue Economy

The Blue Cluster (BE), Netherlands Enterprise Agency and the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (NL) warmly welcome you to Stockholm for their final CoP meeting. Based on the insights of the discussions during earlier CoP meetings, a number of recommendations on how a Sustainable Blue Economy should look like in the North and Baltic sea area have been formulated and brought together in a policy brief to the European Commission.

Today, this policy brief will be presented so as to test the validity and to obtain input to further strengthen these during discussions and workshops.

LOGISTICS

Tuesday, Sep 19 2023 · 12 - 6pm - Royal Institute of Art, Flaggmansvägen 1, 111 49 Stockholm

AGENDA

12:00 Lunch

13:00 Welcome

13:05 Update on LS SBE, multi-use and Maripark, our policy brief towards a SBE!

Marijn Rabaut, International Marine Policy Expert at Blue Cluster

13:30 Update on SBE from DG Mare, the European Commission

Pauline Caumont, Policy Expert at DG Mare, European Commission

13:45 Panel discussion about SBE developments, global transitions, MSP and a Maripark

Marjoleine Karper, senior project manager at Dutch Enterprise Agency

14:30 Coffee!

14:45 Workshop “The success of the development of SBE requires an overall vision on the future of our oceans and seas. How do we envisage this for 2050 and beyond?”

16:45 Wrap-up and conclusions

17:15 Refreshments

Annex 2 – Participant list

Serienummer	Taal	First name	Last name	Organisation
1	en	Peter	Alnor	Danish Maritime Authority
2	en	Bérénice	Lequesne	Shom
3	en	Margarita	Vološina	VASAB Secretariat
4	en	Larry	Hildebrand	WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute
5	en	Thanos	Smanis	CLIMAZUL
6	en	Marjoleine	Karper	Rvo
7	nl	Kinnie	De Beule	De Blauwe Cluster vzw
8	en	Jan	Schmidtbauer Crona	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management
9	en	Nico	Buytendijk	RVO (Netherlands Enterprise Agency)
10	en	Nathalie	Scheidegger	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food
11	en	Johanna	Fox	WWF Baltic Programme
12	en	Fatemeh	Rezaei	University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli
13	en	Elina	Veidemane	VASAB Secretariat
14	en	Ville	Karvinen	Syke (Finnish Environment Institute)
15	en	Patrycja	ENET	European MSP Assistance Mechanism I European MSP Platform

16	en	Emil	Gejrot	Nordic Innovation
17	nl	Marijn	Rabaut	Blue Cluster
18	en	Annica	Brink	Government of Åland
19	en	Adeline	Souf	Shom
20	en	Marie	Hallberg	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management
21	nl	Jesse	Verhalle	Marine Environment Department
22	en	Pauline	CAUMONT	European Commission DG MARE
23	en	Laura	Pietilä	Regional Council of Southwest Finland
24	en	Kerstin	Bly Joyce	Nordregio
25	nl	Hannah	Matthiesen	Nordregio