



# SEAS AT RISK

for the protection and restoration of the marine environment

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## MSP implementation

**EEAC Working Group Marine and Water Affairs, 31 May 2016**

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# Joint NGO position



- MSP is about sustainable development not just growth – Good Environmental Status is core
- Environment is not a sector – it is an essential life support system
- MSP= integration of sector planning within ecosystem carrying capacity
- Ecosystem based approach is key
- As is scientific basis, precautionary principle, polluter pays principle
- The establishment of a coherent and well-managed network of coastal and marine protected areas should not be further delayed by the Directive

# MSP Directive

- take into account land-sea interactions;
- take into account environmental, economic and social aspects, as well as safety aspects;
- apply an ecosystem based approach;
- aim to promote coherence between maritime spatial planning and the resulting plan or plans and other processes, such as integrated coastal management or equivalent formal or informal practices;
- ensure the involvement of stakeholders;
- organise the use of the best available data;
- ensure trans-boundary cooperation between Member States (ensuring maritime spatial plans are consistent and coherent across the marine regions concerned); and
- promote cooperation with third countries.

# EC initiatives in support of implementation

- Series of sectoral workshops + leaflets
- MS expert group on MSP
- MSP online platform for sharing of experiences
- Evaluation of data and knowledge gaps to implement MSP - Overview of past and current MSP projects with data/ information initiatives
- Call for proposals to support the launch and implementation of concrete, cross-border cooperation initiatives
- Horizon 2020
  
- + initiatives by HELCOM, OSPAR

# Implementation- our concerns

- MSP Directive implementation & governance processes grounded in Blue Growth strategy
- Directive weak on environment – strong link with MSFD, N2000, WFD,... needed
- Weak implementation of MSFD, N2000...
- Integrated Coastal Management dropped out of the Directive: land-sea link?
- Governance: fragmented responsibilities, MSFD and MSP often in different ministries, sector by sector approach prevails
- Coordination at regional sea level? Role of Regional Sea Conventions? Cooperation between MSs?
- Ecosystem based approach?
- Guidance by EC?
- Data needs – sector data?
- Knowledge gaps?
- Cumulative effects?
- Strategic environmental assessment?
- Stakeholder involvement and public participation – how to link various processes?

# MSP and MPAs

- The establishment of a coherent and well-managed network of coastal and marine protected areas should not be further delayed by the Directive!
- Designation delayed - 5.9% of European seas designated as MPA, most are paper parks (lacking management measures), few off shore designations
- Habitats and Birds Directives: designation on science based criteria
- Habitats Directive Art 6: management measures + Appropriate Assessment = central role for the precautionary approach
- How can MSP be conducted effectively if MPAs are not designated yet or management measures have not been established?

## 12 case studies around Europe

- MSP'ing is often focused on achieving specific sectoral objectives, related to nationally important strategic priorities, and might better be termed 'strategic sectoral planning'.
- MSP'ing processes tend to be complex, fragmented and emergent on an ad hoc basis, rather than cyclical, adaptive and prescribed on an a priori basis.
- Top-down processes tend to dominate, more participative platforms tending to be 'disconnected by design' from executive decision-making.
- Blue growth is the dominant overall priority, often aligned with strategic sectoral priorities, despite growing indications that the target for Good Environmental Status (GES) by 2020 is unlikely to be met.
- This is consistent with growing concerns about the tensions between the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Directive Establishing a Framework for Maritime Spatial Planning.
- The realities of how MSP'ing is working contrast with widely recognised concepts and ideals as to how MSP'ing should work, as integrated-use MSP'ing based on political expedience and blue growth priorities is diverging from and potentially competing with ecosystem-based MSP'ing , including marine protected area networks, based on GES priorities.
- A more empirical approach should be taken to MSP'ing research, whereby conceptual approaches which integrate sustainable blue growth and GES co-evolve with marine spatial planning practices through critical analyses of whether the realities of MSP'ing are consistent with these concepts.
- *Source> Peter JS Jones (2016), Marine spatial planning in reality: Introduction to case studies and discussion of findings*



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