



Maritime Spatial Planning: Achieving Common Principles in the EU



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Content of presentation:

- Context: “the integrated maritime policy”
- Maritime Spatial planning
 - ★ Process and outcome of the workshops
- Future steps on Maritime Spatial planning



The EU Integrated Maritime Policy

- Green paper on IMP (2006)
- The “Blue Paper” – action plan 2007
- Covers different issues and activities – tools for integrated policy:
 - ★ Maritime Spatial Planning
 - ★ European network for maritime surveillance
 - ★ Maritime Data collection



Why do we need management of marine space?

- Increased activities on and new uses of European coasts and seas
- Growing competition for limited marine space
- Growing pressure on the environment





Arguments for a European approach to MSP

- Increasing number of EU Member States use MSP
- Strengthen the competitiveness of EU's maritime economy
- Provide reliable planning framework for the Internal Market
- Build on the ecosystem-based approach – useful tool for implementing the Marine Strategy Framework Directive
- Encourage cross-border cooperation
- Coordinate sectoral approaches and reducing the costs of non-coordination
- Facilitate common understanding of MSP



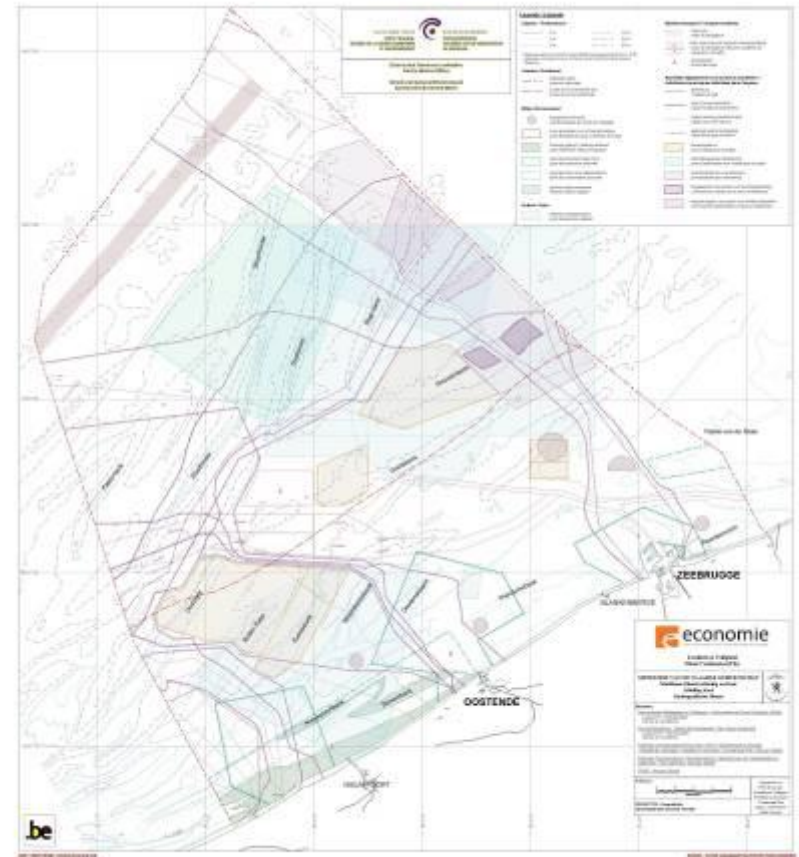
Context

- The Global level: United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is the basis.
- Regional level: regional sea conventions, HELCOM, OSPAR develop activities on MSP (e.g., consultation procedure, joint map)
- Barcelona Convention: protocol on ICZM
- Relation with other relevant EU legislation or policy: Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Natura 2000, Water Framework Directive, Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, ICZM recommendation.



Current practices – some examples

- **Germany, Belgium, Netherlands and Norway** – Zoning and management maritime plans with legal implications
- **UK, Scotland** – marine and coastal act (2009)
- **Sweden** - currently working on MSP
- **Poland** – Pilot Project on MSP
- **Portugal** – draft MSP





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





Policy process: Workshops

Series of 4 workshops to discuss the key principles of the Roadmap:

1. Kick-off conference in Brussels 26 February - more than 130 participants from Member States and maritime sectors
2. Workshop in Ispra (Italy) 23-24 April
3. Workshop in the Azores 2-3 July
4. Final workshop and concluding conference in Stockholm 2 October





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





Example of messages from the workshops on 4 of the 10 key-principles

- Defining objectives to guide MSP
- Cross-Border Cooperation and Consultation
- Using MSP according to area and type of activity
- Stakeholder participation



Defining Objectives to Guide MSP

- To start with broad visions and general objectives have the benefit that they allow more space for negotiations, but eventually they must be specified in order to be useful for drafting and implementing a plan.
- Setting objectives for MSP, like MSP itself, should be seen as a process beginning with an agreement on overall strategic objectives which are defined in a later stage by operational, i.e. clearly measurable and quantitative, objectives/targets.
- Objectives should be based on a long term perspective and be future oriented.



Cross-Border Cooperation and Consultation

- All activities will benefit from cross border MSP.
- Communication with neighboring countries should take place at an early stage of the process.
- Making cross border plans for specific sea regions is important; it can be helpful if Member States have a plan at national level first, preferably developed in a parallel and comparable way in that area.
- Monitoring and evaluation also benefit from cross border cooperation
- A strong political will for cooperation is needed, political problems between countries might make cross border cooperation difficult.



Using MSP according to area and type of activity

- MSP must take all area specificity into account such as: size, density and character of maritime uses, environmental aspects, but also administrative and political structures.
- An open debate among different maritime sectors active in the area has to be established in order to identify conflicts and means of coexistence between the sectors.



Stakeholder participation

- Involve all stakeholders at an early stage and look for synergies and innovation
- Goals and benefits of the process must be clear
- Understand the motives of the participants and have clarity of roles and responsibilities.
- For the process to be workable, stakeholders should bring their interests into the discussions but not firm positions in order to find common grounds
- Foresee enough time for stakeholder involvement (process will be longer)
- Encourage interaction between different stakeholders, and not just between policy-makers and stakeholders



More information on the messages from the workshop on the key –principles on the DG Mare Website.

http://ec.europa.eu//maritimeaffairs/spatial_planning



EU Policy process: other general studies on MSP

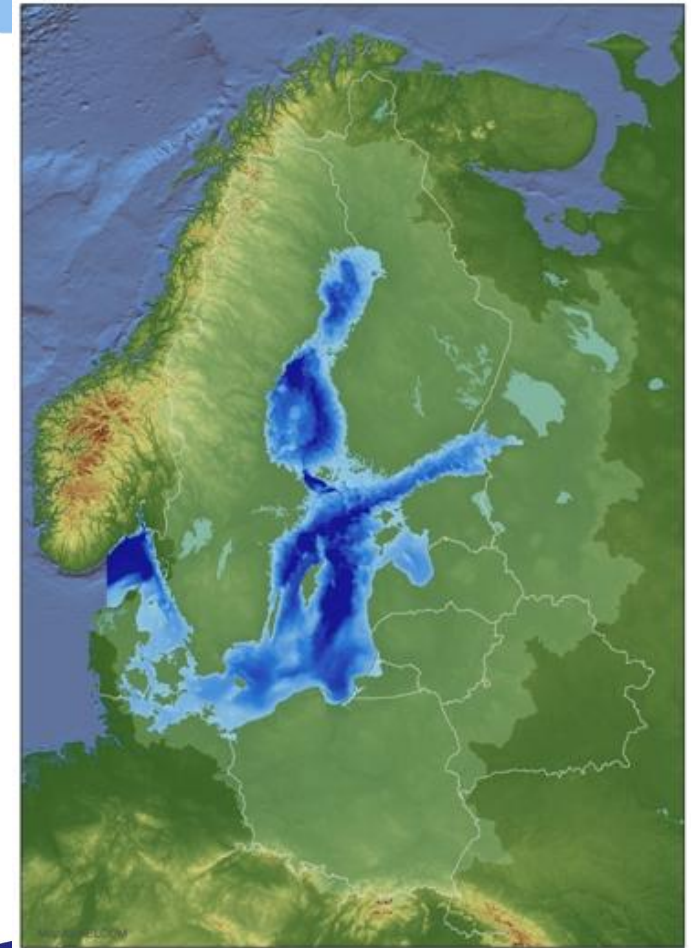
- Legal aspects of MSP – concluded (is available on the Commission website)
- Economic benefits of MSP (results on the web mid July 2010)
- Potential of MSP in the Mediterranean. (October 2010)





Policy process: Preparatory actions

- Two preparatory actions are foreseen for the Baltic and the North Sea / North East Atlantic.
 - ★ Proposals are at the moment evaluated
 - ★ Aim at fostering the development of cross-border cooperation aspects of MSP
 - ★ Encourage the identification of a shared sea area and develop MSP objectives





Policy process: Next steps

- Progress report from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament (mid 2010)
- Impact Assessment on options for how to proceed with MSP in an EU context. Timing: Foreseen for 1st quarter 2011
- Will build on the debate in the workshops, the experience gained through the preparatory actions and the results of the studies conducted so far, as well as other MSP experiences.

