D1.2 Opening Conference

MEDIGREEN
Mediterranean approach towards a maritime European Green Deal in MSP

Co-funded by the European Union

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1 General information

The Opening Conference of the MEDIGREEN project was envisioned not only as a dissemination event of the objectives of the project but also as a first step to engage stakeholders from the MEDIGREEN sectors in discussions regarding the main project research questions: How Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) can help to integrate the European Green Deal (EGD) objectives in these sectors? What are the main challenges and limitations at a Mediterranean region scale?

Synergies were found with the MPA Europe project, which lead to the organization of its Mediterranean Stakeholder Workshop back-to-back with the MEDIGREEN Opening Conference, as part of one of its working sessions.

The event involved more than 120 people, of which, 57 assisted in person to the Real Jardín Botánico (RJB-CSIC) in Madrid, Spain (list of *in-presence* participants can be found in Annex). A full day of discussions were introduced by the "origin" of the EGD-MSP research initiative (MSP-GREEN), the objectives of MEDIGREEN and the regional initiatives already working on MSP in the Mediterranean. This introduction was followed by one specific working session for each of the MEDIGREEN "sectors": Offshore Renewable Energies (ORE), fisheries, aquaculture and nature protection.

2 Reporting

The event was structured into several sections.

Institutional welcoming greetings were given by representatives of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), the Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO-CSIC), DG-MARE from the European Commission, and the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITECO) of Spain.

After that, an introductory session put into context the origins of the project and set the connections to other relevant initiatives in the Mediterranean region. After that, 4 working sessions followed, aiming to discuss the research topics of the project. The three first sessions shared the same structure: the chair introduced the topic and two inspiring presentations set the scene for the posterior discussion. The discussion part was divided into two parts: first, questions to the invited speakers (by audience online and in the room); second, two pre-defined questions were launched to the audience and the speakers:

- How can MSP help the sector in the Mediterranean to address the challenges to achieve the EGD targets?
- What does MSP need or lack to help the sector achieve EGD targets, what are its limitations?

The last session was dedicated to the MPA Europe Mediterranean Stakeholder Workshop, that, corresponds to the nature protection topic in the MEDIGREEN project. This session showcased the results of the MPA Europe project so far and delved around their usability in decision making.

Next sections include main highlights from each session (for further information, full presentations can be found in the annex). Besides interactions in the room, more than 40 participants engaged asking questions and/or answering the Slido app polls.

2.1 Introductory session

2.1.1 From European to regional EGD-MSP

This session aimed to show the connections between MSP-GREEN and MEDIGREEN projects, and how the results of the first one will be tailored to the Mediterranean Region and specifically to the sectors of MEDIGREEN concern.

MSP-GREEN main outcomes - *Pierpaolo Campostrini, Project Coordinator, Corila*

MSP-GREEN had as an aim aligning Maritime Spatial Plans with the European Green Deal (EGD). As such, it developed a structured EGD-MSP nomenclature that was used to perform a desk analysis of MSP in 7 countries, complemented by stakeholder interviews. It identified valuable practices and designed new actions to address gaps in MSP plans for better alignment with EGD goals.

The project also identified challenges and provided recommendations to enhance multi-use governance, policy integration, data and tools, cross-sector collaboration and for improving communication of maritime EGD to stakeholders.

MEDIGREEN project - *Cristina Cervera-Núñez, Project Coordinator, IEO(CSIC)*

MEDIGREEN builds on MSP-GREEN and focuses on integrating the EGD objectives into MSP in the Mediterranean Region, focusing on four "sectors": fisheries, aquaculture, offshore renewable energy and nature protection. An assessment and diverse studies will be conducted at national and regional levels for this purpose, counting on the engagement of the Mediterranean Maritime Spatial Planning Community of Practice (MED-MSP-CoP).

The project also aims to identify the socio-cultural implications of the sectors, and the public perception towards them. This shall help to improve information exchanges, ensuring communication of data, concepts and ideas to different audiences. The project will also plan exchanges with the North and Baltic Sea basins through its sister project, Northern European Sea Basins project (NESBp), and with the Black Sea.

2.1.2 Synergies and relevant regional initiatives

The Mediterranean MSP Community of Practice - *Emiliano Ramieri, MED-MSP-CoP co-chair*

The MED-MSP-CoP is a technical voluntary group fostering collaboration on MSP across the Mediterranean Sea. Its key objectives are the North-South and East- West cooperation to address common challenges and strengthening MSP as an enabler for sustainable blue economy and marine protection, and providing recommendations to achieve a unified Mediterranean approach.

The work of the MED-MSP-CoP during its two first years since it was launched, in 2023, has been focused on (1) exchanges of experiences in the form of "Webinairs", and (2). the identification of the main challenges and the provision of possible solutions coming from ongoing or past

projects. For those challenges that have been identified as unresolved, the design of new solutions is now being discussed as well as the way of capitalizing project results. This stream of action has required the organization of workshops (online and hybrid) and the drafting of different documents.

MEDIGREEN will provide support to the MED-MSP-CoP during the lifespan of the project as a technical secretariat, organizing workshops and contributing to regional cooperation efforts. UNEP/MAP and Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) are observers of the initiative.

MSP in the Barcelona Convention - *Marina Markovic, PAP/RAC*

The Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention adopted the Conceptual Framework for Implementing Marine Spatial Planning in the Mediterranean in the COP23 Decision IG.26/10. This Decision also requests the establishment of a dedicated working group for MSP and encourages cooperation with other Mediterranean initiatives and partners and the use of the MSP Workspace. The Decision also mentions the cooperation with the MED-MSP-CoP.

MSP under the Barcelona Convention focuses on land-sea interactions, climate action, ecosystem-based approaches and governance improvement. Next steps include the contribution of the MSP working group in the update of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) by 2025.

Fostering the Med MSP process: UfM SBE policy framework and support - *Adriana Salazar, Union for the Mediterranean*

UfM is committed to foster MSP, regional cooperation and sustainable investment in the Mediterranean. It offers support to its 43 member countries on these matters. The UfM Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy (SBE) accounts for ten priorities among which, MSP and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) are included. A Roadmap was elaborated to implement the Ministerial Declaration on SBE. This Roadmap identifies gaps, opportunities and funding needs for MSP and blue economy initiatives

UfM participates in other initiatives as the Blue Mediterranean Partnership (BMP) and develops technical workshops, stakeholder engagement and policy recommendations to align MSP with the Sustainable Blue Economy. UfM was also at the inception of the MED-MSP-CoP and it acts as an observer of the initiative.

2.2 Working sessions

2.2.1 Working session 1: Offshore Renewable Energies & EGD-MSP

Chair of the session: *Xavier Guillou, DG-MARE*

Xavier Guillou introduced the topic pointing out that the ORE sector is arriving to the Mediterranean Sea, however, the "entry cost" in terms of knowledge, installations and dialogue should be considered. This is really represented in the revision of the EU Members regional objectives for ORE, which is already a planning process in which EU Member States (MS) every year should indicate their non-binding capacity deployment by 2030, 2040 and 2050. The Mediterranean Sea is expected to hold approximately 2,5 GW by 2030.

Main takeaways from the presentations can be found below; for further information refer to the Annex.

NESBp project and its activities on energy transition and biodiversity - *Marjoleine Nascimento da Silva, Karper, NESBp Coordinator*

NESBp (Northern European Sea Basin Project) is the "sister" project of MEDIGREEN, co-funded also under the EMFAF program with a duration of 30 months too. It includes 20 partners across six countries. Its objectives revolve around strengthening ecosystem-based MSP and align planning approaches across North and Baltic Seas, addressing cumulative impacts, promoting multi-use (MU) concepts, including Mariparks, improving governance structures and cross-border cooperation for sustainable energy transition and biodiversity protection.

In order to reach these targets, NESBp will provide practical tools and methods for policy makers to enhance MSP. It will also strengthen knowledge-sharing platforms to support decision-making and facilitate the implementation of an ecosystem-based approach in MSP.

The Med OCEaN Coalition - *Cristina Simioli, Renewable Grid Initiative*

The OCEaN is a coalition of grid operators, wind power companies and civil society organizations (i.e. NGOs) working together for a green energy transition in Europe. It focuses on offshore wind (OW), grid infrastructure and nature-inclusive solutions to balance renewable energy expansion with marine ecosystem protection. This collaboration was born when developers realized that the "bottleneck" of OW development was the grid system. The Med OCEaN coalition was established in 2023 to support the development of the offshore wind sector in the Mediterranean, which progress has been slower due to the region's characteristics.

Key actions of the OCEaN Coalition are advocating for regularly updated MSP that align with OW targets and biodiversity protection goals, for a cross-border network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and emphasizing the importance of continuous marine data collection, multi-use planning, and stakeholder involvement in MSP.

Floating wind energy technology, which is essential for this sea basin, is still in a pre-commercial phase and carries greater uncertainty regarding dynamic cables, floating substations and improved port facilities. Regulatory uncertainty, rising costs and supply chain constraints pose challenges to scaling up offshore wind in the Mediterranean. Some recommendations can be highlighted from this presentation:

- There is a need for clear, long-term policies to attract investment and balance environmental and socio-economic factors.
- Increase funding for research and Innovation is key, specifically for floating wind technology, cost reduction and environmental impact mitigation.
- Strengthen engagement and collaboration between governments, industry and environmental groups for balanced project development and shared learning is a must.

Points of discussion

- Some questions to the panellists aimed to deep more on how both initiatives approached biodiversity conservation. A general reflection was discussed regarding the effectiveness of Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) in MSP to assess potential impacts of renewable energies. Also, there is a need of clarity with respect to conservation objectives but also enforcement of measures (i.e., MPAs) to understand exactly what is compatible or not with the development of offshore renewable energies.
- With regards to the concept of multi-use, Mariparks were put in the table as a way to

operationalize it. In the same sense, compatibility of fishery practices with Offshore Wind Farms (OWF) was questioned. Passive fishing indeed is possible in some areas (e.g., in the Netherlands). For other type of fishing practices there are ongoing projects assessing this issue, that will depend on both the fishing gear but also on how the OWF is built and deployed. Some projects are also exploring the possibility of readapting the fishing vessels to other activities, as the maintenance of wind farms. The importance of identifying areas with lesser risk of interaction was mentioned.

- Regarding the southern shore of the Mediterranean, there is a clear willingness to have exchanges regarding the Coalition.

Take away messages from the session

MSP can help the sector in addressing challenges to achieve the EGD targets and providing a medium, long-term planning including the investing in technology, equipment and systems. At the strategic level it could also help setting realistic targets in line with the marine space and resources available. It can also take into consideration the planning of the grid connections and balance conflict of uses, as the Mediterranean Sea suffering increasing pressure from various sectors.

MSP can allocate the adequate space for the development of the activity with an intersectoral approach, that is, not only looking at the most suitable area for the sector development but also avoiding biodiversity sensitive areas and conflicts with other uses. MSP as such, is a powerful tool because it comprises all sectors in a single plan, giving the opportunity to be a platform for multiuse identifying and operationalize multi use areas in the plans.

MSP can and should foster the dialogue and sharing of perspectives/good practices, as well as promote sharing of accurate data and common guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). MSP can also integrate climate change considerations and cumulative effects.

On the other hand, MSP may have some weaknesses when it comes to implement some of the needed actions. Its limitations sometimes have to do with the way the process is structure in each country but, in general, there are some commonalities. There is a need for a stronger stakeholder engagement from the beginning of the process (i.e., in this case, fisheries and grid operators), including co-construction, dialogue and exchange of data. There is also a need to have a continuous and active exchange of data between sectors, but also more accurate information regarding impacts on biodiversity and fisheries. MSP should include better mitigation strategies and proper cumulative impacts and conflicts assessment.

There are also limitations that go over the scope of MS: the integration with other policies and among them or the knowledge gaps related to (cumulative) impacts on the short, medium and long terms. Finally, MSP sometimes lacks the power to really drive sectors and to make decisions that at the end are in hand of the sectoral competent authorities. Some of these limitations relate to the need of political will.

2.2.2 Working session 2: Fisheries & EGD-MSP

Chair of the session: *Lobna Boudaya, Sfax University*

Lobna Boudaya introduced the session explaining the relation between the fisheries sector and the EGD. In this context, fisheries are at the intersection of economy, social and environmental challenges. This sector plays a pivotal role in ensuring food security and at the same time it faces

challenges, such as overfishing, climate change impact and habitat loss; all these issues need coordinated actions.

Main takeaways from the presentations can be found below, for further information refer to the Annex.

Fishing in the Mediterranean: status, trends, main challenges, and MEDAC's role in facilitating integration of fisheries in maritime spatial planning - *Marco Costantini, Coordinator of the Mediterranean Advisory Council (MEDAC)*

The fishing sector in the Mediterranean faces socioeconomic and environmental challenges, requiring integration with the EGD and MSP. There is a need for sustainable fisheries management while balancing conservation goals.

MEDAC acts as an advisory body to the European Commission (EC) and Member States (MSs) on fisheries management and conservation. It could facilitate the integration of fisheries into MSP by addressing sectoral concerns and proposing solutions. The Council includes professional fishers, industry representatives, NGOs and policymakers operating through 5 permanent Working Groups (WG), one of them in EGD, and 5 Focus Groups (FG). The MEDAC engages in policy discussions, data collection and impact analysis to support sustainable fisheries and advocates for stakeholder involvement in MSP processes to ensure balanced decision-making.

The small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean, what approach for maritime spatial planning - *Aomar Bourhim, Blue Economy and MSP Consultant*

Small Scale Fisheries (SSF) in the Mediterranean provides significant employment (60% of jobs in the sector) and is crucial for food security. Despite its socio-economic value, SSF faces low incomes, policy and governance fragmentation and environmental challenges. Besides those challenges, when integrating SSF into MSP, another one arises: spatial mapping of SSF activities is complex, as many vessels remain untracked.

There is a need to develop methodologies for mapping SSF within MSP, improving data sharing using open-source geospatial tools, strengthen cross-border cooperation for fisheries governance and enhance economic conditions and social protections for SSF workers. Harmonizing MSP frameworks across the Mediterranean countries is essential for sustainable fisheries as well as cooperation through UNESCO-IOC, the WestMED initiative and UfM, among others. The experience with artificial reefs in Morocco can be shared as a lesson learnt regarding SSF, in terms of improving nursery fish areas and consequently fishing catches.

Points of discussion

- MEDIGREEN aims to develop a study about how MSP could support the fisheries sector towards EGD targets, one question regarded the results expected for such activity. The expectation is to have different scenarios in which actors could contribute with information (if available). MEDAC could serve as a platform to reach stakeholders and test the studies, collecting feedback.

- There was a lot of interest in knowing more about MEDAC role in different aspects (i.e. establishment of Fisheries Restricted Areas by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM); connection of MEDAC with the south Mediterranean, with Fisheries and Aquaculture Monitoring, Evaluation and Local Support Network (FAMENET), and the EU Energy Transition Partnership).
- MEDAC aims to increase much more the dialogue between the offshore energy sector and the fisheries sector, in particular with respect to a pilot project in Port-la-Nouvelle (France).
- Dealing with the diverse spectrum of typologies of fisheries is challenging and depends widely on the country. Spain is a very good example with the "Cofradías", well organized fisher groups at different levels; however, other countries in the Mediterranean do not have this system so it can be more difficult to reach all typologies of fishers. Nevertheless, within MEDAC there is the possibility to interact with other platforms as *Friends of SSF* of GFCM. In summary, to really engage the sector, time and effort should be invested, because it is challenging.
- Whitin the GFCM the are the SSF forums, four events a year, dedicated to different topics, for fishermen all over the Mediterranean, a "training for trainers". There could be the possibility to organize one of these forums regarding MSP.
- To reach a homogeneous regional perspective for MSP is key in the Mediterranean. We should use existing platforms and strategies (i.e., UfM and its Ministerial Declaration, UNEP/MAP and its MSP Working Group,) to set common priorities. Also capitalizing in the work developed by past initiatives as MSPglobal (Western Mediterranean Pilot Project recommendations, in order to preserve or reach sustainable fishing stocks and preserve the Mediterranean marine environment.

Take away messages from the session

MSP can be seen as tool for fishers to protect fishing grounds, but in most cases their perception is that MSP allows other sectors to impact their activity. Therefore, clear communication of MSP objectives, dialogue and stakeholder engagement to get all sectors at the same table to mediate around conflicts and interests and to develop a common view, arises again as a key element. In the case of the fisheries sector, it is important to keep in mind that it is a very diverse activity so it is essential to choose your interlocutor right, to be sure you get the views of all the fishing fleet segments.

A specific focus requires SSF, as expressed by speakers. This segment of the fisheries sector is not so well organized, making it more difficult to engage. Moreover, data about their spatial distribution is scarce or inexistent, making it difficult for MSP to account on them in zoning exercises. In this sense, MSP could support the spatial characterization of this part of the fisheries sector by developing methodologies and create a clear understanding of fishing grounds.

MSP may lack a governance system to "govern" the engagement with stakeholders, a clear formal mechanism to plan and manage the interaction with stakeholders. Ocean literacy is also key for this engagement. If stakeholders do not understand the process, it is difficult that they are willing to participate appropriately in it. The promotion of maritime clusters is also important for improving the engagement of maritime sectors.

Finally, it is important to highlight that although the ecosystem-based approach concept is considered in MSP plans, few cases have been fully operationalized.

2.2.3 Working session 3: Aquaculture & EGD-MSP

Chair of the session: ***Samir Bachouche, National Center for Researvh and Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture.***

Samir Bachouche introduced the topic of discussion for this session highlighting the importance of aquaculture for food security but also for economic development. In terms of the aquaculture sector and spatial planning, it is very important to avoid conflict of uses; thus, it is important to discuss about the challenges but also the opportunities for the sector in the framework of MSP.

Main takeaways from the presentations can be found below, for more information refer to the Annex.

Regional perspective on MSP: ***highlights on the Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture - Linda Fourdain, General Fisheries Commission of the Mediterranean (GFCM).***

Aquaculture in the Mediterranean contributes significantly to food security, employment (97.000+ jobs) and economic revenue ($10.8 billion). The sector faces challenges like climate change, pollution, and habitat degradation. Given these facts, the GFCM 2030 Strategy focuses on responsible investment, environmental sustainability and improved perception of aquaculture. Ecosystem-based and science-driven solutions are needed to reduce environmental impact, promote innovation, and enhance animal welfare.

Allocated Zones for Aquaculture (AZA) help integrate aquaculture into MSP, ensuring sustainable development while reducing conflicts with other maritime activities. Innovative technologies, climate-resilient species and MSP are key to mitigate climate-relate risks in aquaculture. Proactive measures are needed to address rising temperatures, extreme weather and disease outbreaks. For that, governments, stakeholders, and policymakers must work together to enhance governance, improve sustainability practices and strengthen resilience in the aquaculture sector.

Aquaculture, Marine Spatial Planning & European Green Deal Transition - ***David Bassett, European Aquaculture and Technology & Innovation Platform (EAtiP).***

When talking about the EGD, aquaculture is crucial for decarbonization, biodiversity protection, and circular economy principles. However, the sector faces challenges as conflicting interests with other marine activities, regulatory complexity at national and international levels, data gaps and climate change impacts and stakeholder engagement to align diverse interests.

The opportunities of aquaculture within MSP are diverse: multi-use, combining aquaculture with offshore wind farms, tourism, marine conservation and research, repurposing oil & gas platforms for seafood production, and social licence as a way to further integrate aquaculture into a co-managed aquatic environment to build a sense of legitimacy. Some recommendations derived from this presentation are: the need to enhance regulatory coherence, stakeholder participation and access to marine space and the need to promote cross-border cooperation and sustainable blue economy practices.

Points of discussion

- Some questions regarded to how AZA take or are going to consider climate change and MSP in relation to new developments and the adaptability of AZA tools. AZA process was designed for the Mediterranean and the Black seas but it was then tailored to every

country, so the parameters may diver. Therefore, the process is "elastic", it can be adapted, also considering climate change; optimal thresholds may change depending on the species and several other factors.

- The AZA process includes stakeholder engagement, which was also of interest for the audience. AZA implementation involves competent authorities, academia and producers. In specific areas depending on specific conflicts, other sectors are inlcuded in the dialogue to discuss the parameters and find a common solution. AZA management plans should be revised at least every two years (including the participatory part), which sometimes is challenging for some local authorities that lack the technical capacity and resources to do it.
- With regards to types of aquacultures, algae-based aquaculture was mentioned and raised the question as if the demand and spatial allocation was different to that of the fish-based aquaculture. As for fisheries, in aquaculture there are different systems and types, which may vary also its spatial allocation and demand. Therefore, there could be differences in terms of location, coastal or offshore, but also in terms of footprint. The concept of integrated multi-trophic aquaculture appears here as an opportunity for algae-cultivation in association with shellfish and fin-fish. This idea could be expanded to Zonal Integrated Multitrophic Aquaculture (ZIMPTA).
- Cumulative impacts and monitoring of aquaculture systems were discussed. Within the Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism of the European Commission, there are guidelines for environmental performance, including best practices and cases study.
- Regarding stakeholder engagement, as for fisheries, there is a great variety of producers that range from big enterprisers to artisanal producers, which make difficult the process of engagement. In any case, access to space and licensing are considered by the industry the main barriers to the development of the sector.
- With regards to licensing, the case of algae being produced for fuel to produce energy was commented as an issue as the licensing procedures were carried out as for "food" which slower the process and also lowers the value. The lack of information and knowledge about this issue was pointed out.

Take away messages from the session

MSP and Allocated Zones for Aquaculture (AZA) are forward-looking planning tools with a strong governance component. They can play a crucial role in integrating climate change adaptation into the sector, ensuring long-term sustainability.

MSP's inherent consideration of Land-Sea Interactions (LSI) presents an opportunity to rethink food production within the framework of the European Green Deal (EGD). This includes exploring synergies between aquaculture and agriculture, such as using aquaculture products for fertilizers and animal feed.

Despite its potential, MSP faces several challenges in supporting the sector's alignment with EGD objectives. Data and quality gaps limit effective planning, while insufficient knowledge of environmental impacts remains a concern. Additionally, a lack of technical capacity hinders proper sector planning and management.

Transparent communication and better identification of synergies between projects and initiatives are essential to strengthening MSP's effectiveness in the aquaculture sector. However, MSP currently lacks a clear vision and a full understanding of aquaculture's potential. Addressing this gap is critical to unlocking the sector's role in sustainable food production and climate adaptation.

2.2.4 Working session 4: Nature protection – MPA Europe Mediterranean stakeholder workshop

Chairs of the session: Thanos Smanis and Belinda Bramley, *Stakeholder Engagement Co-leads, MPA Europe Project*.

Main takeaways from the presentation can be found below, for more information refer to the Annex. MPA Europe developed its own report of this session as the MPA Europe Mediterranean stakeholder workshop. For more information, please refer to the project's website: https://mpa-europe.eu/

Presentation of MPA Europe approach and results to date - *Anna Maria Addamo (Nord University), Silas Principe (Ocean Biodiversity Information System, OBIS, IOC-UNESCO), Thanos Smanis (CLIMAZUL) & Belinda Bramley (CLIMAZUL)*

This project aims to identify priority areas for biodiversity conservation and blue carbon storage. The project approach is based on Systematic Conservation Planning (SCP): data-driven methods used to optimize MPA placement. It identifies carbon-rich marine habitats to support climate mitigation efforts, uses advanced models to understand marine environments and species migration patterns and predicts species shifts and climate velocity to inform conservation planning.

The project follows an open engagement approach to involve policymakers, researchers, and local communities, and considers MSP as an enabler, reducing conflicts, fostering cooperation and integrating marine and land policies. MPA Europe activities align with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the Nature Restoration Law.

Discussion and take away messages from the session

Questions and discussion of this section revolved around the usability of MPA Europe project analysis in MPA planning and MSP, so how this analysis can be used for informing MPA network and MSP planning and what are the uncertainties associated. Audience provided comments regarding the criteria and methodology used. There were also discussions about how to disseminate the results and engage with local communities, as for instance, in some cases fishers still resits to MPAs when it has been proved that MPAs provide benefits to fisheries even if they are not designed to protect fish stocks.

Detailed results will be collected in the report of the MPA Europe Mediterranean Stakeholder workshop (https://mpa-europe.eu/)

For its part, MEDIGREEN considers nature protection as another "sector" of study acknowledging that it is not and it does not "behave" as a traditional economic sector. In this regard, the project will try to evaluate whether or not the MSP plans could be considered efficient towards EGD objectives for natural protection at the national and regional scales. In this regard, there are several ways of looking at it:

(1) MSP as the support that can give for the development of this "sector", directly related to one of the EGD objectives: *Is MSP considering the zoning of conservation areas?*
(2) MSP as the support that can balance in a way the protection of biodiversity while fostering the sustainable development of maritime sectors: *Is MSP considering protection when allocating space for other activities potentially impactful?*
(3) The other way to look at the nature protection "sector" within MSP is – *can we count on this "activity" to support the progression towards the EGD of the plan?* For instance, to use MPAs to support fish stocks in a climate change scenario; coastal protection, etc.

In this sense there is room for collaboration with MPA Europe projects results, to assess how they can be used.

3 Concluding reflection

Many of the asked questions remained unanswered due to the lack of time or because they still need to be investigated. These questions represent in many cases the basis for MEDIGREEN work in the medium and long terms, giving the project specific aspects (identified by experts and stakeholders) in which to focus its activities during the lifespan of the project.

Although each session was dedicated to one particular sector, in general, there were some common comments that kept appearing in many of them. MSP allows for a **long-term planning** and can help allocating the proper space for activities, avoiding biodiversity sensitive areas and conflicts with other uses, thus, supporting the sectors in reaching EGD objectives in an integrative way, not competing with each other. MSP can also foster **dialogue** and the sharing of perspectives and good practices in the interest of reaching common objectives and managing conflicting interests. This point is essential, especially in a case as particular as that of the Mediterranean Sea, where there are many different policies according to the high number of countries and its organizational diversity (i.e. EU MS and non-EU countries). MSP could be used to establish different cooperation and coordination channels (such as the MED-MSP-CoP) and to foster the identification of a common regional view for sea matters.

Despite the many opportunities identified for MSP to support these sectors towards EGD targets, there are still limitations and challenges to be overcome. **Stakeholder engagement** is again identified as one of the most important aspects and also one of the main weaknesses within the different MSP plans nowadays. Related somehow to this, another takeaway message would be that we need to stop working in silos. The limited communication does not only affect the private sectors, it also involves people working on research and regional initiatives on MSP, fisheries, aquaculture, nature protection, ORE and climate change. An improved dialogue could support better exchange of data and knowledge, that will inform better the MSP plans.

These needs must be overcome, and the MEDIGREEN opening conference showed that the willingness is there. Now is the time to push MSP forward at the regional level, strengthening stakeholder engagement, data-sharing, and cross-sectoral coordination. By fostering

cooperation and a common vision, MSP can become a key tool for sustainable maritime development in the Mediterranean.

ANNEX I – AGENDA

MEDIGREEN Opening Conference & MPA Europe Mediterranean Stakeholders Workshop

Tuesday, January 28th, 2025

Real Jardín Botánico – RJB-CSIC

Calle Claudio Moyano 1, Madrid (Spain)

Connection link: https://conectaha.csic.es/b/cri-rax-dr0-poc

The Spanish Institute of Oceanography, IEO(CSIC), as project coordinator of MEDIGREEN project, is pleased to invite you to the Opening Conference of the project, organized jointly with the MPA Europe Mediterranean Stakeholders Workshop. The event will take place at the Real Jardín Botánico – CSIC (RJB-CSIC) in Madrid and will present the objectives and activities of both projects, fostering collaboration among stakeholders and thus starting exchanges on the topic of concern for both projects.

The MEDIGREEN project aims to support the European Green Deal (EGD) transition in the Mediterranean through Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP). It focuses on 4 key sectors: Offshore Renewable Energies (ORE), fisheries, aquaculture, and nature protection, examining how MSP can promote sectoral and cross-sectoral responses to the EGD objectives. The project considers the Mediterranean's unique ecological, socio-economic, and governance features, involving EU Member States (MS) and non-EU countries. Its goal is to strengthen EGD actions in MSP, foster regional cooperation, and align with other initiatives, like the Mediterranean MSP Community of Practice (MED-MSP-CoP), while exploring the non-economic values of maritime sectors.

The MPA Europe project (Improved science-based maritime spatial planning and identification of marine protected areas), 2023-2026, contributes to the science-based designation of marine protected areas (MPAs) and science-based MSP, by mapping the optimal locations for MPAs in Europe's seas. The project takes an inter-disciplinary approach by using holistic measures of biodiversity to encompass variation within and between species and of ecosystems (including many environmental variables), as well as carbon cycle dynamics and climate change scenarios. During the workshop MPA Europe's approach and results will be presented; stakeholders will be invited to reflect on them and propose use cases. A discussion will be facilitated on how the results, maps and online atlas can be used to strengthen existing MPAs, extend networks of MPAs in the Mediterranean and be integrated into science-based MSP. Outcomes from the discussion will be shared in a workshop report and be reflected in a Policy Brief in 2025.

Agenda

Tuesday 28th January, 2025

Floor coordinator: Cristina Cervera-Núñez, IEO(CSIC)

8:30 – 9:00	**Registration**
9:00 – 9:30	**Welcome addresses** ○ Isabel Díaz - *Deputy Vice-President for International Cooperation, Spanish National Research Council (CSIC).* ○ María del Carmen García Martínez - *Director of the Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO,CSIC).* ○ Eleni Hatziyanni - *Policy Officer in Blue Economy Sectors, Aquaculture and Maritime Spatial Planning, DG-MARE, European Commission.* ○ Marta Martínez Gil - *Deputy Assistant Director, Directorate-General for the Coast and the Sea (DGCM), Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge.*
9:30 – 10:30	**From European to regional EGD-MSP** ○ MSP-GREEN main outcomes - *Pierpaolo Campostrini, Project Coordinator, Corila.* ○ MEDIGREEN project - *Cristina Cervera-Núñez, Project Coordinator, IEO(CSIC).* **Synergies and relevant regional initiatives** ○ The MSP Community of Practice in the Mediterranean - *Emiliano Ramieri, MED-MSP-CoP co-chair.* ○ MSP in the Barcelona Convention - *Marina Markovic, PAP/RAC.* ○ Fostering the Med MSP process: UfM SBE policy framework and support - *Adriana Salazar, Union for the Mediterranean* **Q&A**
10:30 – 11:00	**Coffee break**

11:00 – 12:15	**Working session 1: Offshore Renewable Energies & EGD-MSP** Chair of the session: Xavier Guillou, *DG-MARE* Inspiring presentations: ○ NESBp project and its activities on energy transition and biodiversity - *Marjoleine Nascimento da Silva, Karper, NESBp Coordinator.* ○ The Med OCEaN Coalition - *Cristina Simioli, Renewable Grid Initiative.* *Q&A* *Interactive discussion*
12:15 – 13:30	**Working session 2: Fisheries & EGD-MSP** Chair of the session: Lobna Boudaya, *Sfax University.* Inspiring presentations: ○ Fishing in the Mediterranean: status, trends, main challenges, and MEDAC's role in facilitating integration of fisheries in maritime spatial planning - *Marco Costantini, Coordinator of the Mediterranean Advisory Council (MEDAC).* ○ The small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean, what approach for maritime spatial planning - *Aomar Bourhim, Blue Economy and MSP Consultant.* *Q&A* *Interactive discussion*
13:30 – 14:30	**Lunch**

14:30 – 15:45	**Working session 3: Aquaculture & EGD-MSP** Chair of the session: Samir Bachouche, *National Center for Research and Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture.* Inspiring presentations: ○ Regional perspective on MSP: highlights on the Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture - *Linda Fourdain, General Fisheries Commission of the Mediterranean (GFCM).* ○ Aquaculture, Marine Spatial Planning & European Green Deal Transition - *David Bassett, European Aquaculture and Technology & Innovation Platform (EAtiP).* *Q&A* *Interactive discussion*
15:45 – 16:00	**Comfort break**
16:00 – 17:45	**Working session 4: Nature protection – MPA Europe Mediterranean stakeholder workshop** Chairs of the session: Thanos Smanis and Belinda Bramley, *Stakeholder Engagement Co-leads, MPA Europe Project.* ○ Presentation of MPA Europe approach and results to date: • *Anna Maria Addamo (Nord University)* • *Silas Principe (Ocean Biodiversity Information System, OBIS, IOC-UNESCO)* • *Thanos Smanis (CLIMAZUL)* • *Belinda Bramley (CLIMAZUL)* *Q&A* *Interactive discussion*
17:45 – 18:00	**Conclusions & farewell**
18:00 – 20:00	**Networking cocktail**

ANNEX II – PRESENTATIONS

Opening Conference, 28/01/25

MSP-GREEN: Project outcomes

Pierpaolo Campostrini,
Director of CORILA
Project Coordinator

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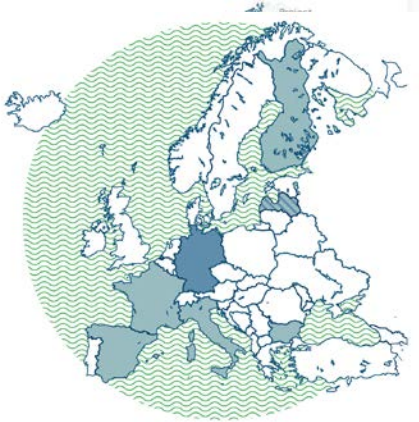
MSP-GREEN

7 countries: Italy, France, Spain, Fnland, Latvia, Gulgaria and Germany. 12 Partners. From 2022 to 2024. 5 Sea Basins



Project ambition

MSP-GREEN worked to contribute aligning maritime spatial plans to the ambition of the EGD by **creating a framework for plans as marine enablers of the EGD**.

The framework provides a cross-cutting approach to those **EGD key topics** relevant for marine environment and sustainable transition of blue economy.

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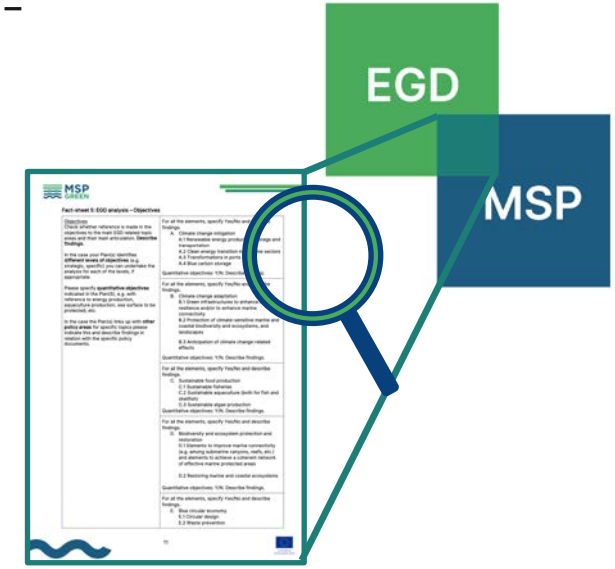
Results: A structured nomenclature

Creating an analytical framework using the EGD-MSP nomenclature

→ Thematic fact sheets to guide the work

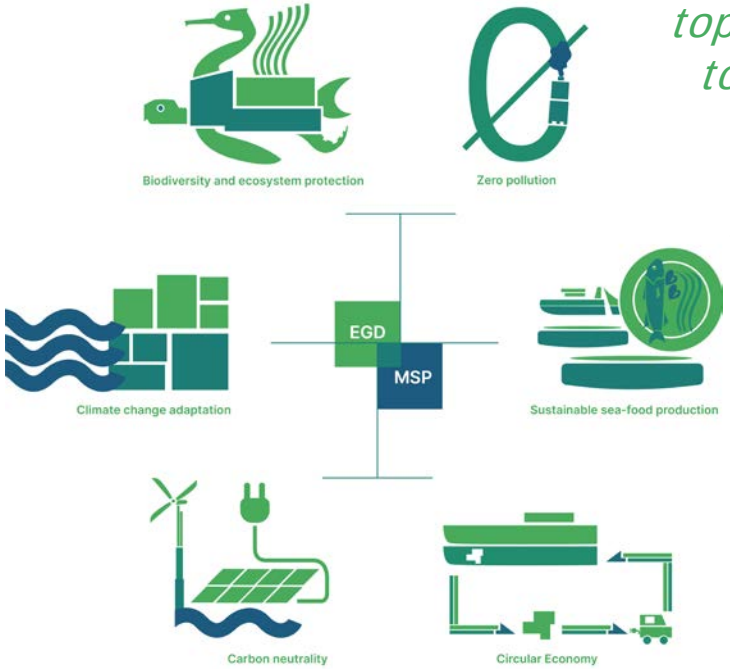
→ Visions, objectives and measures



Desk analysis of 7 MS plans
Bulgaria, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia and Spain

Semi-structured interviews to complement the results

Results: A structured nomenclature



List of topics, sub-topics and more detailed elements

A. Climate change mitigation
B. Climate change adaptation
C. Sustainable sea-food production
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration
E. Blue circular economy
F. Zero pollution

+ Fair and just transition

Leave no one and no place behind

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Results: A stronger MSP contribution to the EGD

How?

Sharing Valuable Practices (VP) for boosting the Green Deal through MSP

↓

Actions that MSP **plans and processes** are taking towards EGD objectives

Designing New Actions (NA) to foster MSP contribution to the Green Deal

↓

To cover **gaps** identified in the MSP plans and processes

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Results: New actions to foster MSP contribution to EGD

- These actions **target** essential **gaps** identified in the analysis of the plans. They also provide **solutions** to overcome some aspects of the identified **challenges**.

- Nature of NA varies, from concrete actions directly implemented by competent authorities, to the design of actions for the supporting of the process, including those that start addressing certain present needs and are validated by the Cas.

12 New actions

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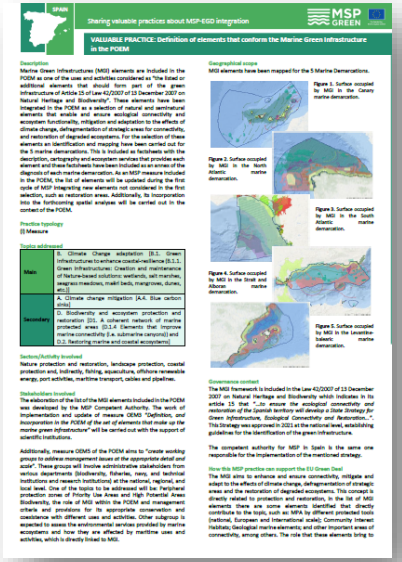
Results: Valuable practices of MSP contribution to EGD

An existing practice at national level (measure, zoning, process-related approach) that deals with contents and/or processes elements aiming at **strengthening the integration of EGD components in MSP**, and that partners considered relevant to showcase from their national experiences.

VPs are **concrete examples** which might be a source of **inspiration** for others (capitalisation) but they can also showcase unsuccessful experiences to learn from.


Sharing valuable practices about MSP-EGD integration

VALUABLE PRACTICE: Definition of elements that conform the Marine Green Infrastructure in the POEM

21 Valuable practices

Results: challenges in integrating EGD in MSP identified

1. Spatial competition for EGD driven-developments due to limited availability of sea space
2. Lack of specific EGD-related marine and maritime data, data fragmentation and limited data interoperability
3. Difficulties to project in the future over the medium and long term, in line with EGD development needs
4. Geographic and legal scope and mandate of MSP at the national level
5. Lack of cooperation between relevant authorities and contrasting objectives when dealing with EGD
6. MSP process limitations: lack of resources, time or participation
7. Ensuring fairness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement
8. EGD-relevant land-sea interaction in MSP

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Integrating the European Green Deal into MSP

A holistic approach to spatial needs, compatibility of uses and land-sea interaction

Challenge Many EGD objectives require space to unfold, but European seas are already very busy. Increased compatibility and collaboration are needed to attain sectoral targets and find space for new activities alongside traditional ones. Furthermore, blue economy sectors are dependent on support functions at land, terrestrial and marine ecosystems span over the coastline and climate change impacts multiple flows across the interface. Such land-sea interactions need to be better considered in MSP.

Descriptions of challenges in integrating the European Green Deal (EGD) into MSP were composed in the MSP-GREEN project. Additionally, a set of new actions that have the potential to support the implementation of some aspects of the EGD in MSP were identified and designed. Leaning on the new actions, some solutions to the challenges are presented here.

More detailed information is included in MSP-GREEN Deliverable N°3.2: New actions fostering MSP contribution to Green Deal report of the MSP-GREEN project.

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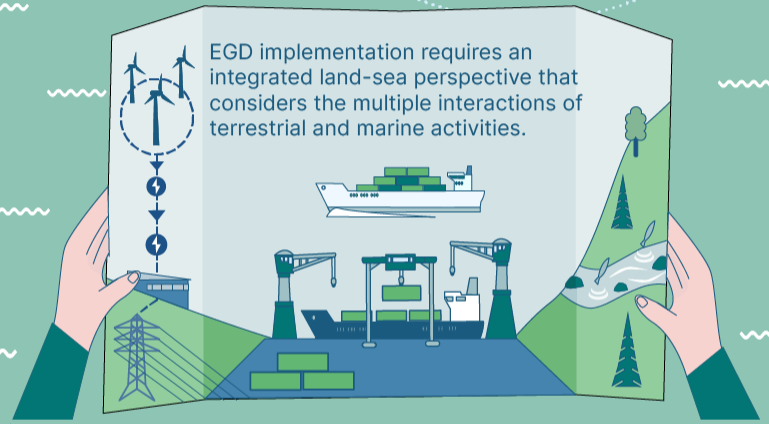
Trade-offs analysis can help prioritise among competing uses and the environment.

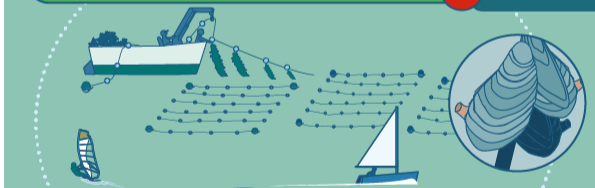
Multi-use of sea areas is a promising approach to address challenges arising from limited space for furthering multiple EGD objectives. Its potential lies in combining different uses and synergies while removing pressure for certain trade-offs.

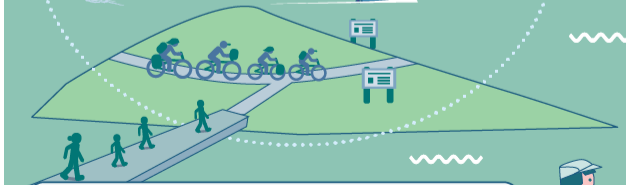


EGD implementation requires an integrated land-sea perspective that considers the multiple interactions of terrestrial and marine activities.

The Bulgarian new action explores the potential of offshore aquaculture areas and their integration in MSP to support sustainable development of shellfish aquaculture. The action addresses spatial needs and compatibility of maritime sectors.

New action!





The French new action supports consideration of land-sea interaction through investigation of opportunities and challenges in reusing dredged material on land and simultaneously advances a circular blue economy perspective in MSP.

New action!

Cross-sector collaboration and innovative solutions help coordinate new EGD related activities such as offshore wind energy with traditional ones in already busy sea areas.

Results: key message

Valuable Practices and New Actions illustrate **the potential of MSP** to support the EGD's goals, particularly in **CC mitigation**, **sustainable food production** and **biodiversity protection and restoration**. Its success depends on adaptability, collaboration and continuous monitoring.

Many Valuable Practices and New Actions can be adapted for use in other regions beyond the countries they were designed for. **In general, this collective work reinforced the value of exchange, mutual learning, transferability and capitalization.**

Recommendations on how to strengthen the integration of EGD maritime components into MSP

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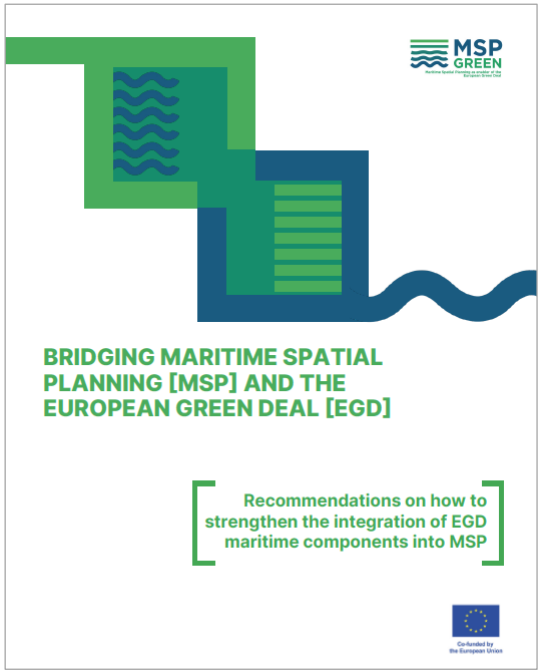
Results: Reccomendations



Target users are Institutions, organisations and experts working in MSP at:

- EU
- National
- Sea Basin
- Sub-national

Recommendations to make the MS plans the marine enablers of the EGD transition

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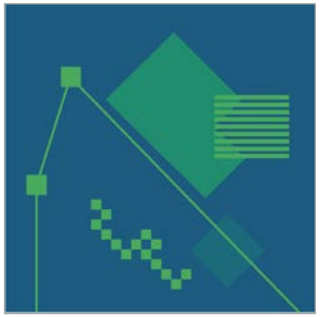
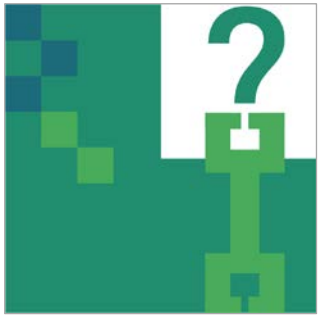
EGD-MSP-focused cross-cutting recommendations

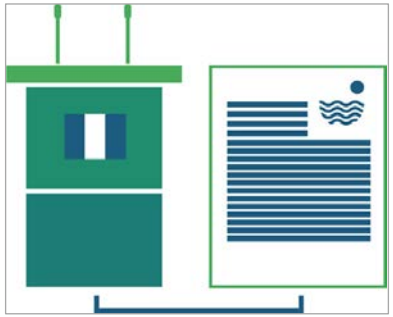


Processes and approaches

Multi-use



Data and tools



Governance and policy integration

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EGD-MSP-focused cross-cutting recommendations

[CC-PA1]

TARGET USER

TIMING **1-3Y** ▲

1-3Y ◔

The importance of the EGD and how MSP can contribute to its implementation should be broadly communicated to MSP planners and stakeholders as an opportunity (through infographics, geo-stories, videos, other visual products, communication briefs, etc.; see for example the Communicating MSP guidance). Communication should break down the EGD into clear maritime spatial goals and use examples to show how EGD objectives can be translated into a comprehensive planning framework. Targeted communication can support those working in MSP in better acknowledging and implementing maritime EGD components and objectives. Based on this, MSP planners should recognise the **EGD objectives and tasks that can be directly supported by MSP** - focusing on country specificities - and **those where synergies with other policies need to be sought**.

[CC-GP5]

TARGET USER

▲ **1-3Y** TIMING

◔ **3-5Y**

EGD implementation can be facilitated by greater coherence of MS plans within sea basins. Plans should strive to achieve at least functional coherence for EGD objectives, but also strategic coherence for their overall aims and visions. Regular consultation and coordination among planners of the same sea basin help to ensure plans take account of any new EGD-driven demand coherently. This can make use of existing mechanisms such as the EU Member State Expert Group on MSP, mechanisms set in the frame of sea-basin conventions, macro-regional strategies, and other regional initiatives, but also thematic cross-border projects and Community of Practices.

EGD topic-based recommendations

EGD-topic recommendations

Blue circular economy

MSP-GREEN ASSESSMENT OF MS PLANS IN A NUTSHELL

Whether and how MS plans address blue circular economy depends on their scope and mandate, including the degree of integration of MSP with relevant policies at the national level, such as those covering circular economy at large or recycling. As a result, the MS plans assessed address the blue circular economy in different ways. Some plans cover the topic both at a strategic and an operational level, with explicit references and dedicated objectives and measures. Others consider the topic only to some extent or indirectly, either through generic mentions only or by addressing some specific blue economy sectors or segments. Some plans have not identified any connection between MSP and the circular economy. While blue circular economy might at first seem out of scope for MSP, the plans that do consider the topic, as well as the new practices explored by MSP-GREEN partners, demonstrate that MSP could actually play an important role in contributing to this EGD topic. Further research should be conducted on the integration of MSP and the blue circular economy.

There are various opportunities for MSP to encourage the development of a sustainable blue circular economy, although some innovative and lateral thinking may be required. Where possible, **MSP should seek to prepare the ground for suitable licencing decisions by defining targeted sector-specific measures. MSP can also foster consideration of a sustainable blue circular economy more broadly, e.g. by enhancing the understanding of value chains across the land-sea interface.**

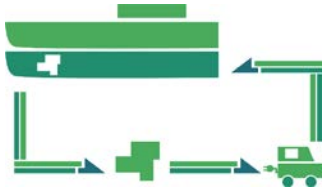
[BCE1]

TARGET USER

TIMING **1-3Y** ▲

3-5Y ◖

MSP should seek stronger links with circular economy and blue economy strategies, both at the EU and national levels, and promote their development where they are not available yet. This will promote policy integration, assist MSP in setting suitable priorities and promote an understanding of the requirements of a blue circular economy that is locally appropriate and economically, environmentally and socially sustainable. **Specific spatial measures supporting the blue circular economy should be identified and included in MS plans.** MSP should work closely with terrestrial planning to support relevant circular economic activities, such as using biological products from the sea, using waste from seafood production, re-using sea shells in construction, encouraging IMTA [SFP3], re-using ghost nets collected by fishers, promoting vessel and boat repair and refitting, etc.



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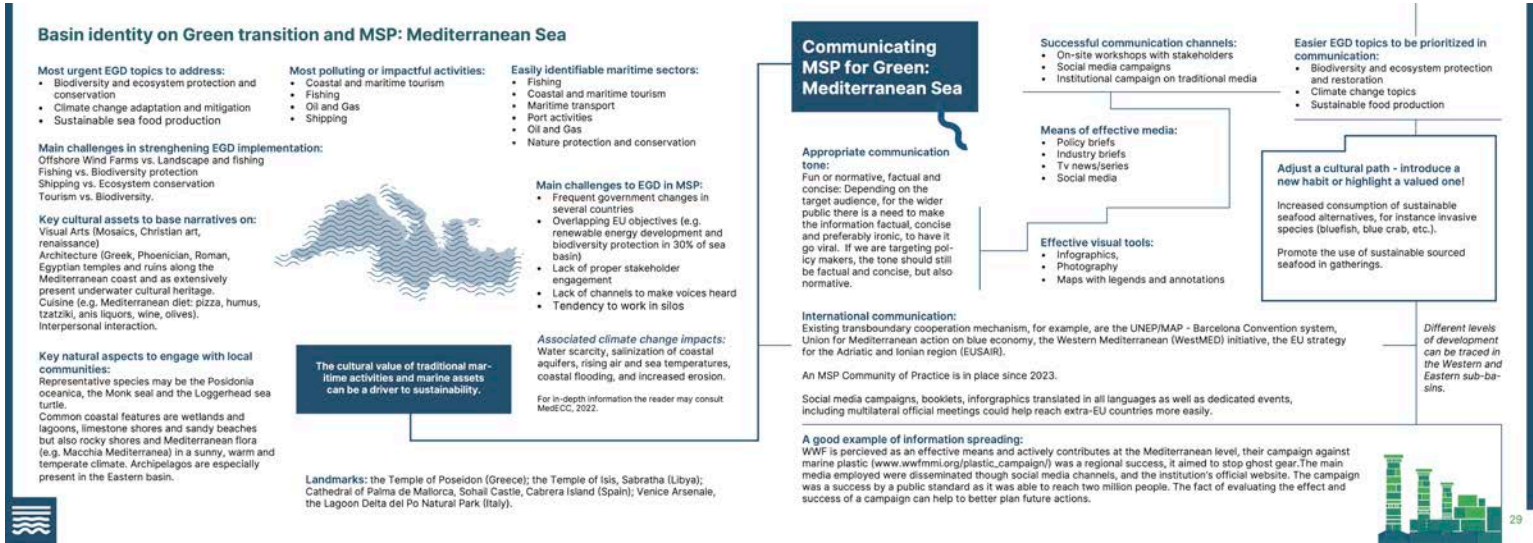
Results: advancing communication of maritime EGD

The communication activities went beyond dissemination of project activities with original research on how to communicate the maritime dimension of the EGD in all involved basins, including the Mediterranean.



Results: how to access them

11 Deliverables, including 2 policy briefs and the recommendations

Numerous communication materials

ALL AVAILABLE AT msp-green.eu

https://mspgreen.eu/results/

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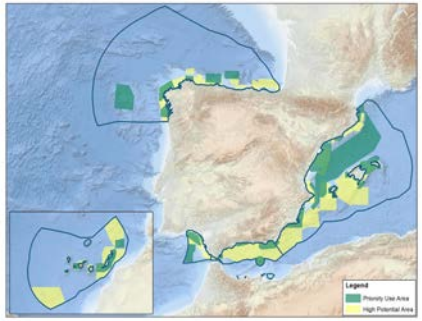
Results: Learning between countries

Exchange of Valuable Practices

Identification and design of New Actions

Discussion on challenges of implementing EGD in MSP

Reinforced cooperation



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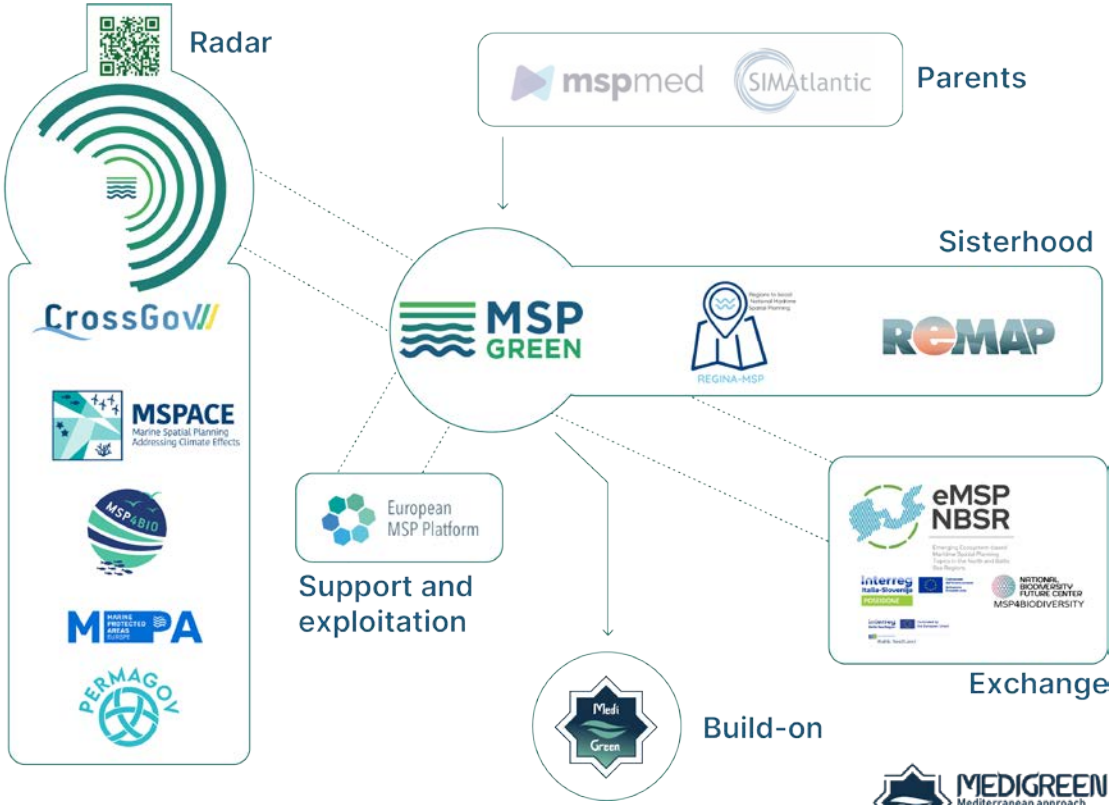
Results: a reinforced network of initiatives

Collaboration

With other projects

And EU initiatives



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Results: paving the way to new projects

The MSP-GREEN team is extremely proud that MEDIGREEN will capitalize the work performed during the previous two years, including the cooperation between sea basins.

campostrini@corila.it

Thank you!
¡Gracias!
Grazie!
Merci !
Ευχαριστώ!
!شكراً
Hvala!
Grazzi!

بتمويل مشترك من
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MEDIGREEN opening conference
28th January 2025

MEDiterranean approach towards a maritime European GREEN deal in MSP

Cristina Cervera Núñez
Mónica Campillos Llanos
Elena Gutiérrez Ruiz
Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO,CSIC)

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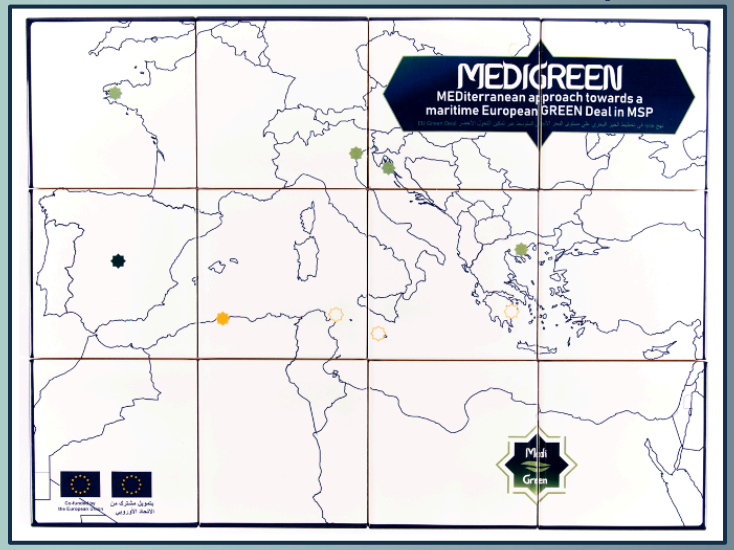
From MSP-GREEN to MEDIGREEN

November 2022 – October 2024

November 2024 - April 2027



MEDIGREEN in a nutshell

Duration: 30 months (1 November 2024 – 30 April 2027)
Call: EMFAF-2023-PIA-MSP
Budget: 1.998.142.46 €

Coordinator:

CSIC
Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas

Partners:

CORILA
PAP/RAC
République Française – Liberté Égalité Fraternité
Cerema – Imat & territoires de demain
CNRDPA
SHOM – L'océan en référence
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Affiliated Entities:

IUAV – Università Iuav di Venezia
CNR ISMAR – Istituto di Scienze Marine

Associated Partners:

Planning Authority
University of Sfax – Tunisia
Panteion University

Advisory Committee

Kira Gee
Kyriakos Aliouris
Michele Quesada da Silva

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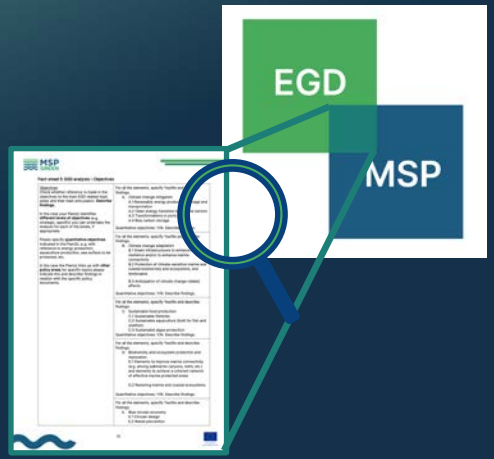
How MSP in the Mediterranean takes into account the EGD...

...for fisheries, aquaculture, renewable energies & nature protection?



+

Greece and Malta

How we can monitor MSP efficiency to progress towards EGD objectives on the 4 key sectors?

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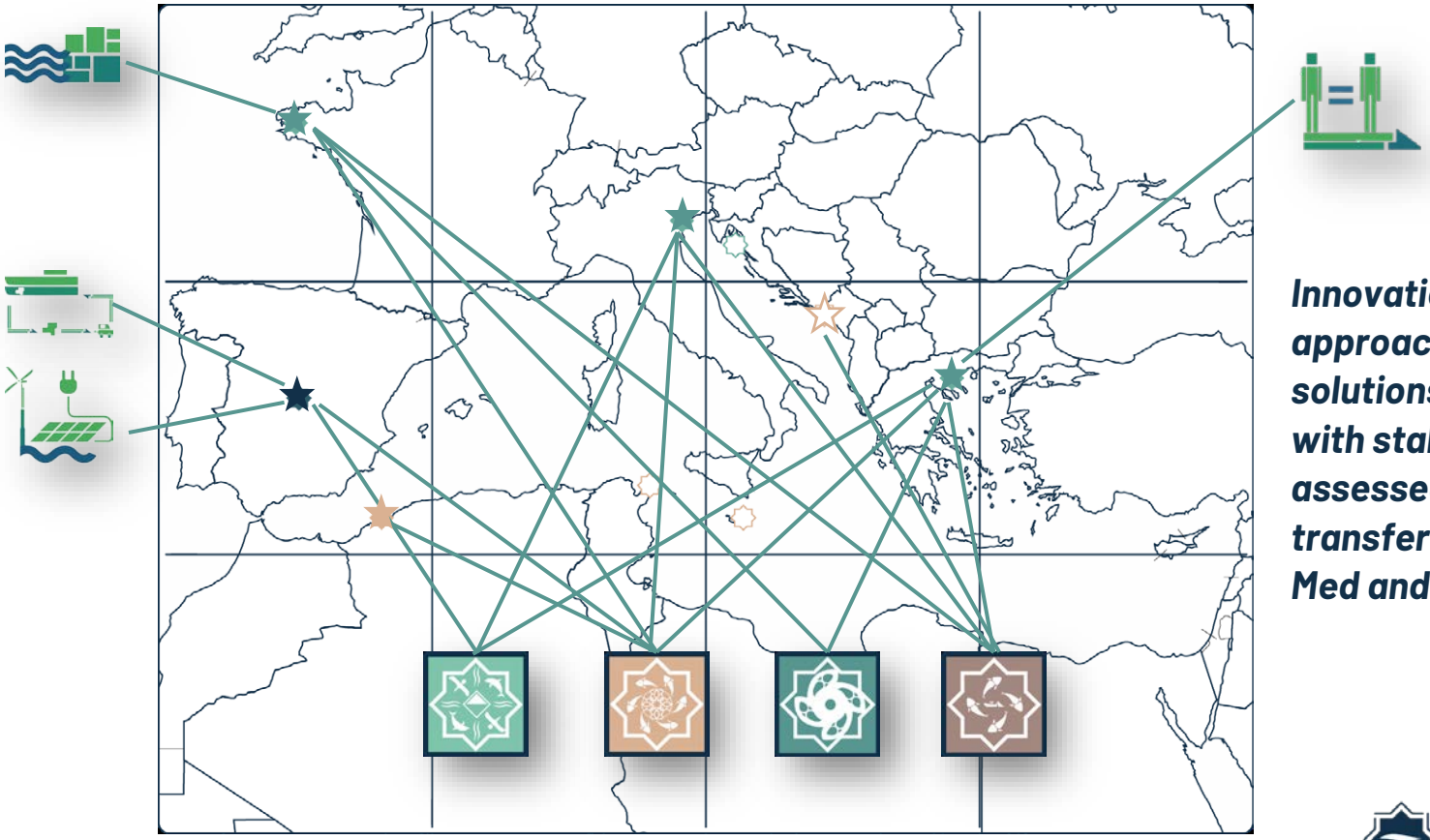
National actions



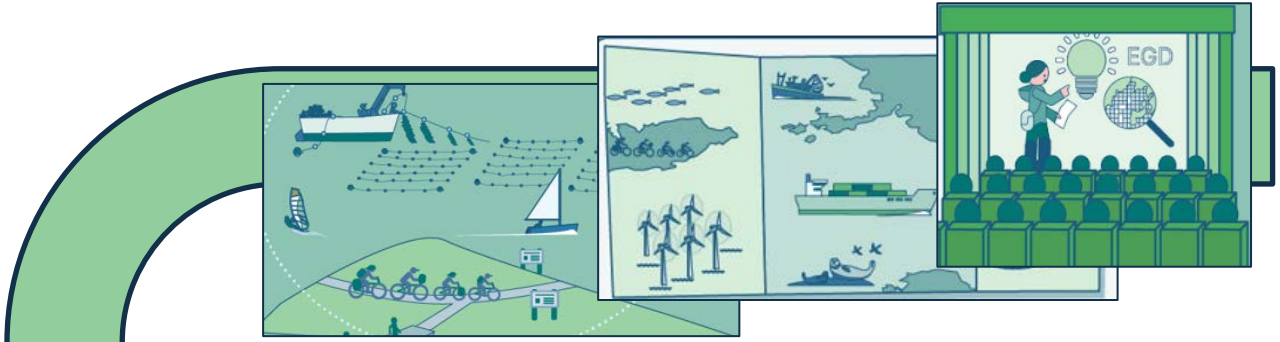
Innovation on approaches, planning solutions, co-creation with stakeholders to be assessed for transferability to the Med and beyond.

Greening the MED through MSP: a regional ambition

4 technical studies about the **role of MSP for sustainable development in the Mediterranean** considering:

- *Current status and trends*
- *Scenarios (climate change or development of other uses) that may affect the sector development*
- *Environmental implications (e.g. constraints, impacts, co-benefits)*
- *Socio-economic implications (e.g. benefits, social acceptance)*
- *Future potential scenarios*
- *Knowledge and technological gaps*
- *Policy drivers and policy obstacles*
- *Governance aspects*

Communication for all



Beyond translating languages, to fully communicate data, information, concepts, ideas...

Through MEDIGREEN's communication plan

... to reach to everybody's language

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Greening the MED through MSP: maritime culture and exchanges

How the public value them?

What are the socio-cultural implications of these sectors in the Med?

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Exchanges beyond borders

NESBP

Northern European Sea Basins project

GeoEcoMar®

National Institute for Research and Development of Marine Geology and Geo-Ecology

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We also want to exchange with you!

www.medigreenproject.eu

Newsletter: **registration is now open**

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https://bsky.app/profile/medigreen.bsky.social

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cristina.cervera@ieo.csic.es

Thank you!
¡Gracias!
Grazie!
Merci !
Ευχαριστώ!
شكراً!
Hvala!
Grazzi!

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The MSP Community of Practice in the Mediterranean

Emiliano Ramieri (CNR ISMAR), MED-MSP-CoP Co-chair

MEDIGREEN Opening Conference & MPA Europe Mediterranean Stakeholders Workshop – 28 January 2025

European MSP Platform

WESTMED blue economy initiative

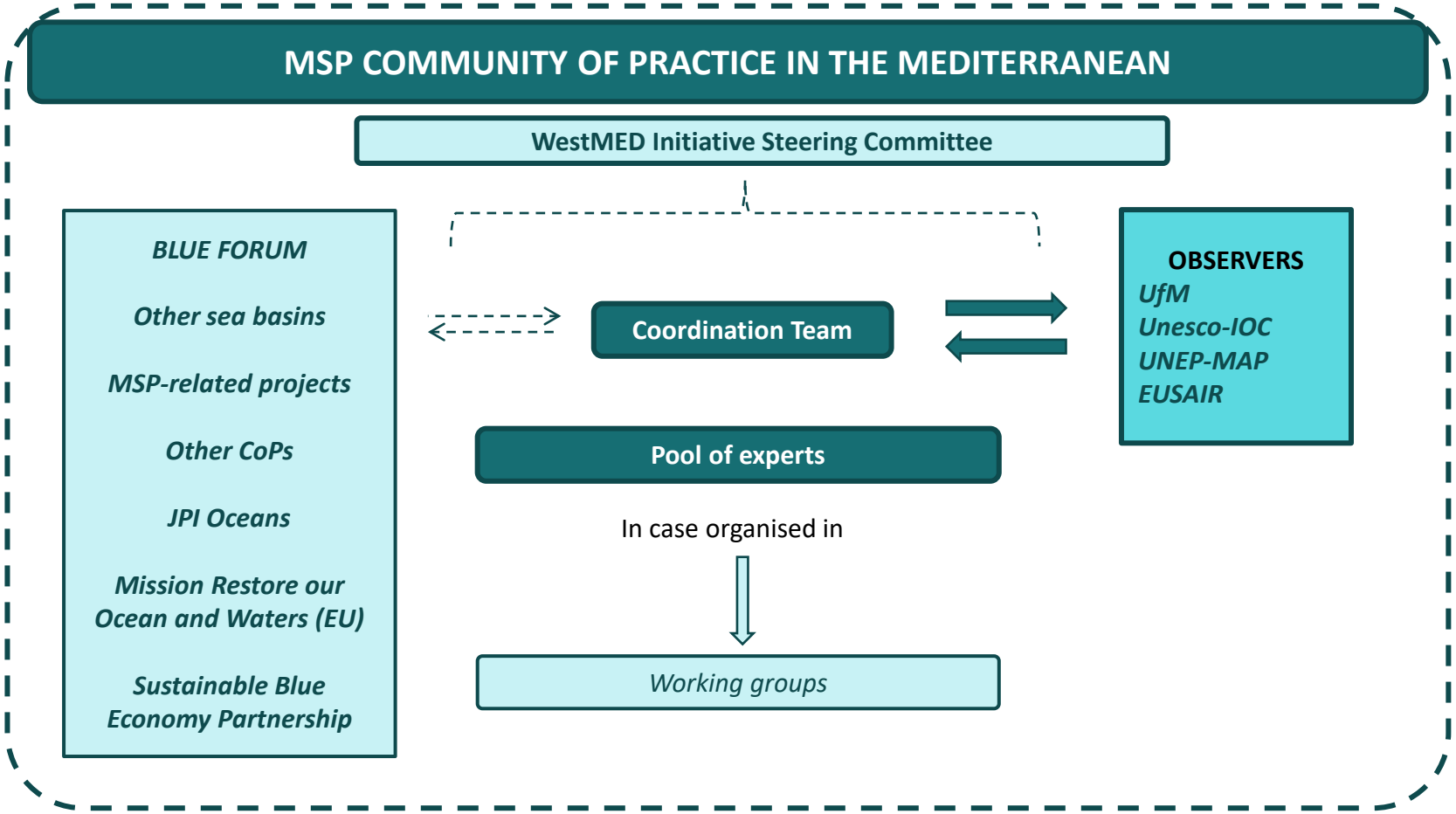
What we are

*"[…] group of **people** who share a **common concern**, a set of **problems**, or an **interest** in a topic and who **come together** to fulfil both individual and **group goals**. […] they often focus on **sharing best practices** and creating new knowledge **to advance a domain of professional practice**."*

The objectives of the MED-MSP-CoP

- **Create a permanent** communication and **dialogue across borders** among experts on MSP to exchange knowledge and experiences and to reach a shared perspective on topics of common interest
- **Enhance cooperation** between the north and the south and the west and the east of the Mediterranean sea on common MSP challenges and opportunities
- **Share practices and knowledge** about how to use MSP as an enabler for sustainable blue economy and improved protection of the marine environment
- Provide **recommendations** for a coherent implementation of MSP in the Mediterranean

What is who



It is a technical group: participation is open, inclusive and totally **voluntary**

CoP members provide a technical contribution and **do not represent countries or institutions**

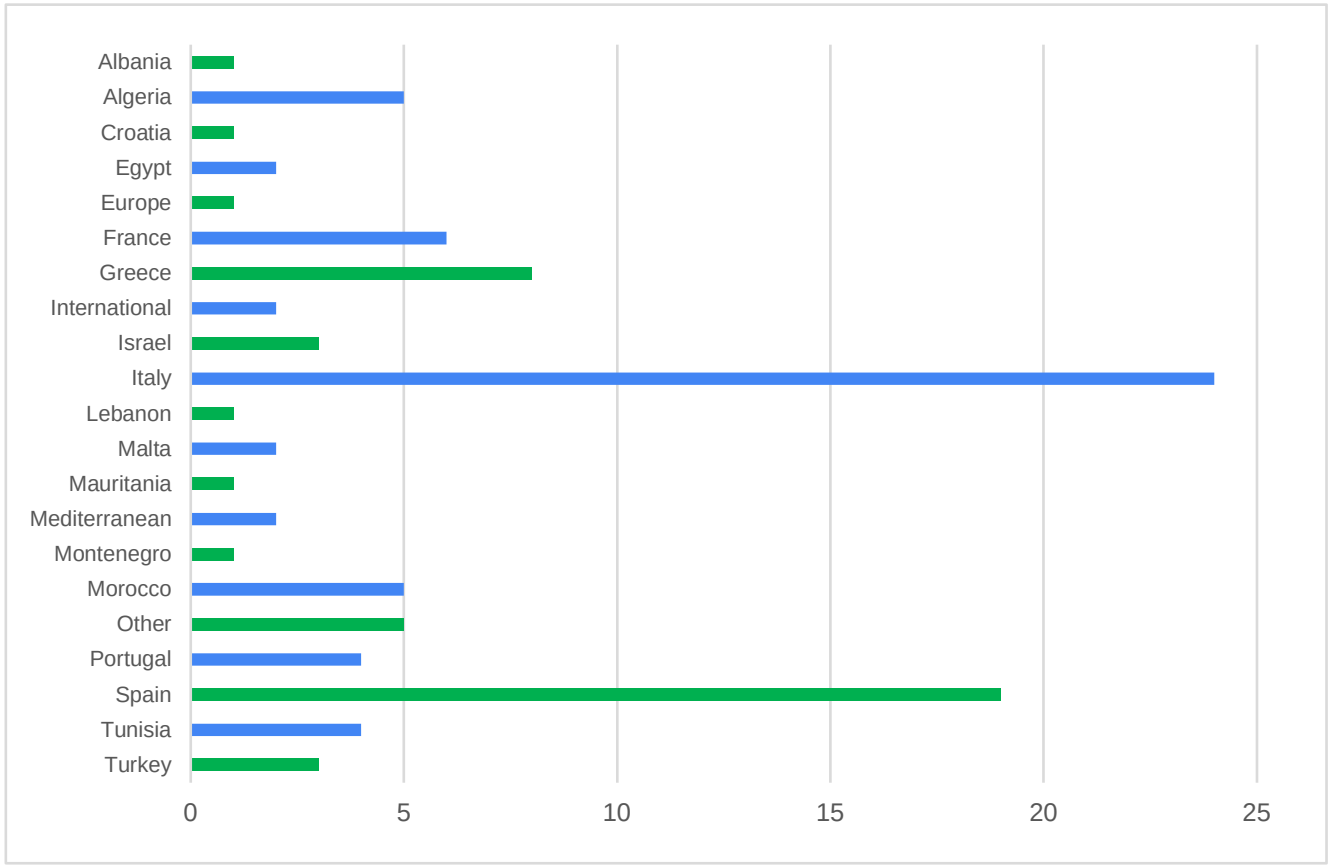
Develop **interactions and synergies** with existing and upcoming **MSP projects**

The process is OPEN!!!!!!

European MSP Platform

WESTMED blue economy initiative

The MED-MSP-CoP today



15+2 countries and a few “others”

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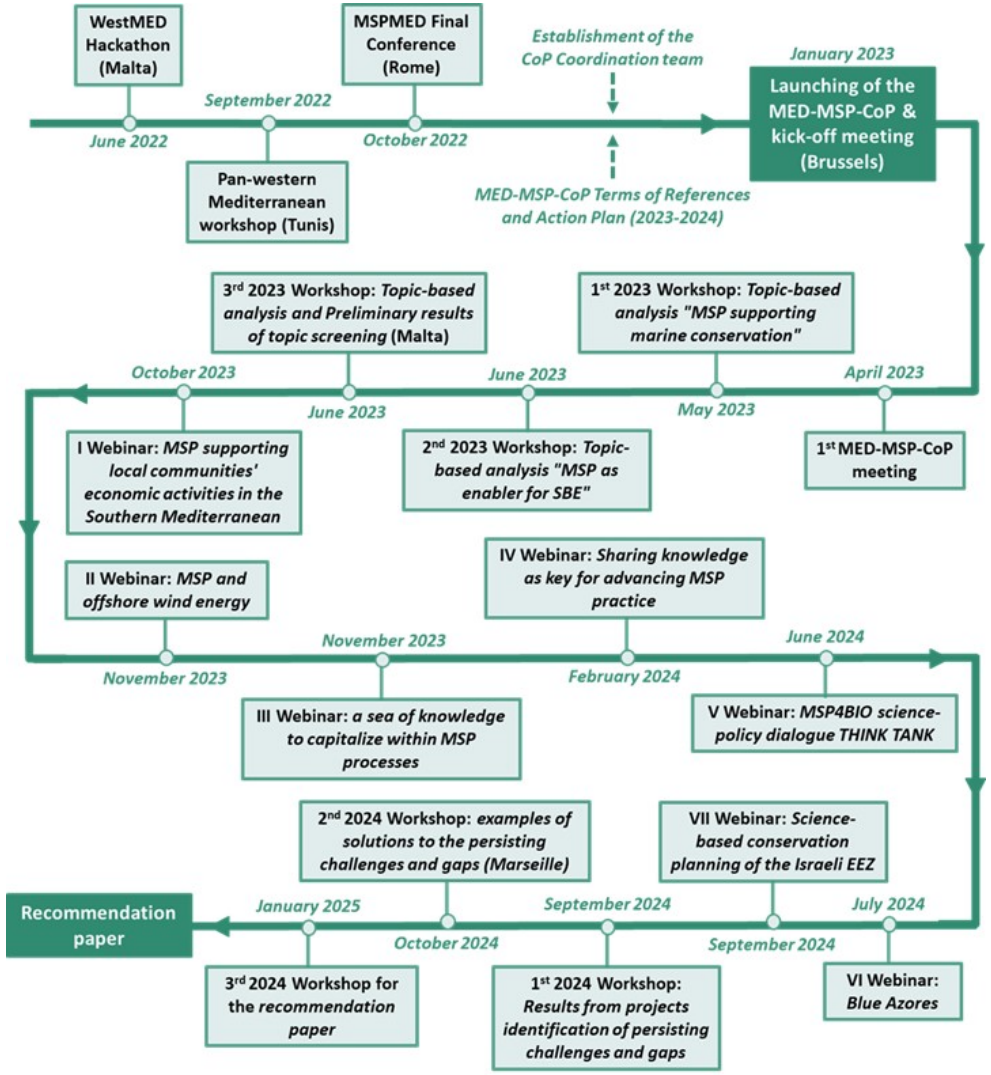
WESTMED blue economy initiative

2 years of activities in a nutshell



European MSP Platform

WESTMED blue economy initiative

- MSP in general
- MSP and EBM
- **MSP and Sustainable Blue Economy**
- MSP and EGD
- MSP and Stakeholder Engagement
- MSP and IZCM
- MSP and Capacity Building
- MSP and MPAs
- Transboundary cooperation in MSP
- MSP and CC
- Governance in MSP
- Data and tools

CNR ISMAR ISTITUTO DI SCIENZE MARINE

European MSP Platform

WESTMED blue economy initiative

2 years of activities in a nutshell

Topic analysis
Main challenges for MSP

Project screening
Available solutions

Cross Analysis

Involvement of maritime sectors in environmental management

Recommendations
Example of solutions to address challenges
Further actions: more detailed analysis, new projects, capitalisation opportunities, training, etc.

MSP as a strategic framework for SBE

MEDIGREEN and the MED-MSP-CoP

Task 3.3 Engaging the MED-MSP-CoP to promote MSP as an enabler of EGD at the Mediterranean scale

Support the MED-MSP-CoP through the establishment of a technical secretariat

Engage the MED-MSP-CoP in discussing the role of MSP in supporting the EGD transition of the 4 sectors and providing input to Task 3.2 studies

Organize two in-presence workshops of the MED-MSP-CoP back-to-back with Task 3.1 ones

Produce a MED-MSP-CoP position paper

Promote MED-MSP-CoP activities linked to MEDIGREEN in initiatives developed by regional and sub-regional cooperation mechanisms

The discussion starts tomorrow!

Let’s keep building together

MSP in the BARCELONA CONVENTION

PLAN SMART FROM THE START

Marina Markovic

msp.iczmplatform.org

PAP/RAC

UN environment programme

Mediterranean Action Plan
Barcelona Convention

ICZM PROTOCOL REQUIREMENTS

ARTICLE 18

- Formulation of coastal strategies
- Formulation of **coastal plans** and programmes
- They can be self-standing or integrated in other plans
- Define allocation of use of the respective marine and land parts of the coastal zone

COP23: Decision IG.26/10 - Conceptual Framework for Implementing Marine Spatial Planning in the Mediterranean

Conceptual Framework for implementing MSP in the Mediterranean

Establishment of the working group for MSP

Cooperation with other partners/initiatives i the Mediterranean

Application of tools, also through utilisation of MSP Workspace

- 2018 / 2023
- To introduce MSP in the framework of the Barcelona convention
- MSP as the main process/tool for ICZM in the marine part
- To provide a common context for the implementation of MSP in the Mediterranean

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Use the Ecosystem Approach to shape policy and action

Marine spatial plans must use the **Ecosystem Approach** as the guiding principle for all policy development and implementation undertaken under the auspices of the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention system.

Want to introduce healthy marine and coastal ecosystems into your guiding principles for policy and development?

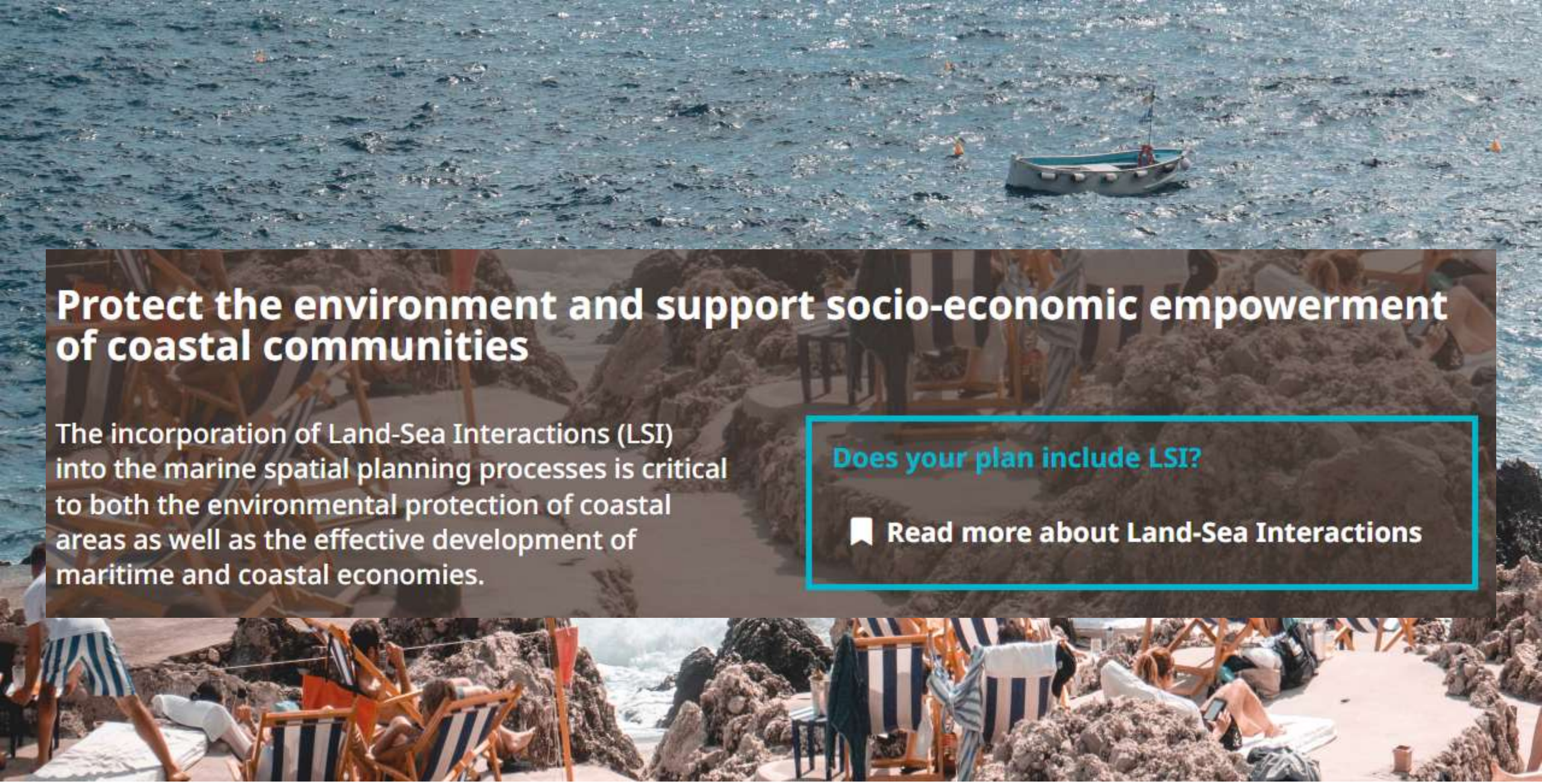
Read more about Ecosystem Approach

Protect marine ecosystems, resources and coastal communities from climate change

The Mediterranean is a hot spot for climate change, with higher increases in water temperatures than other oceanic areas, and with fundamental implications for biodiversity, essential marine resources, the safety of coastal communities and for ecosystems. Marine spatial plans must play an integral part in dealing with these challenges along with promoting actions to contribute to adaptation and mitigation goals.

Does your MSP plan support climate action?

Read more about Climate Action



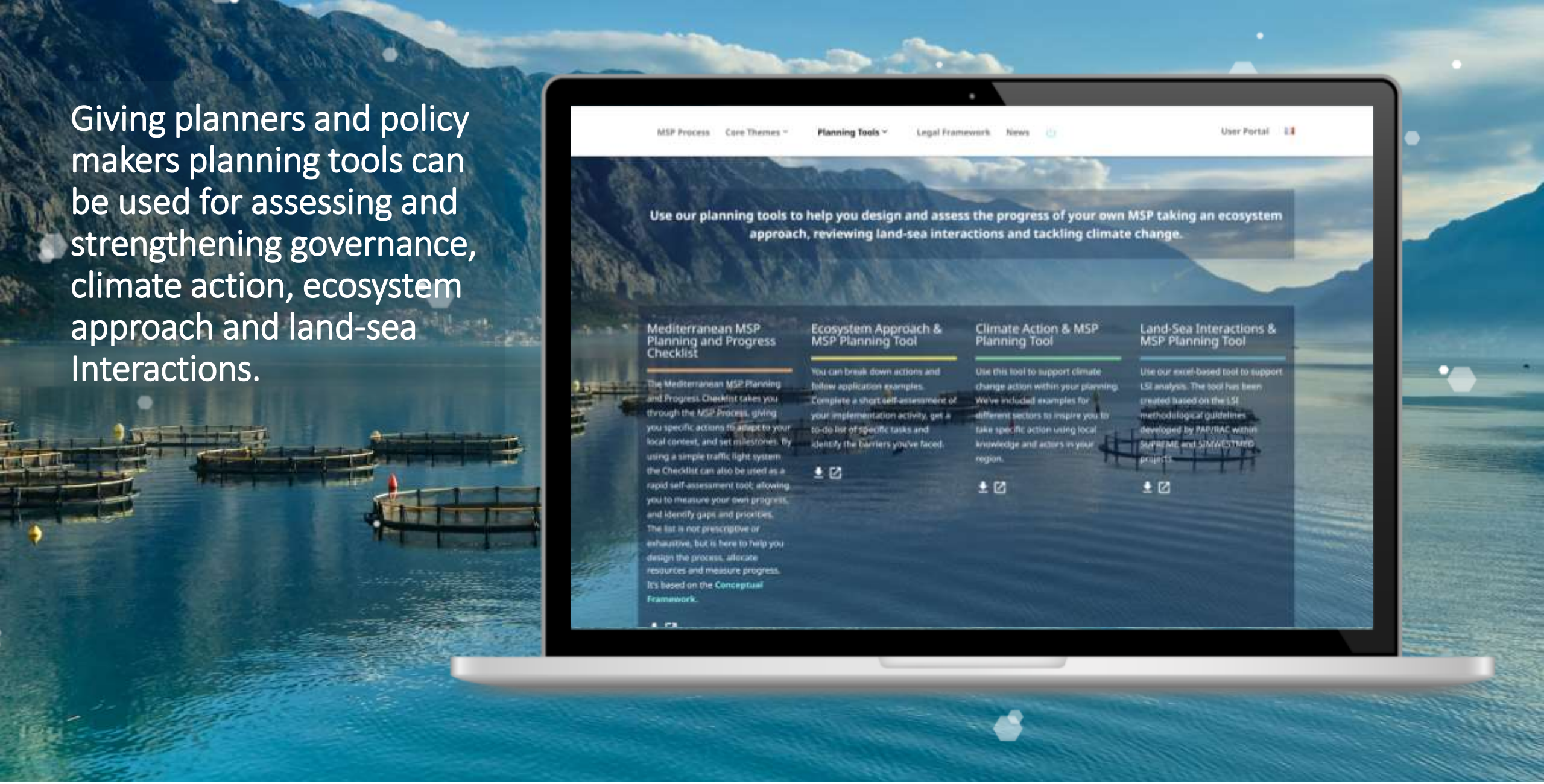
Protect the environment and support socio-economic empowerment of coastal communities

The incorporation of Land-Sea Interactions (LSI) into the marine spatial planning processes is critical to both the environmental protection of coastal areas as well as the effective development of maritime and coastal economies.

Does your plan include LSI?

Read more about Land-Sea Interactions

Giving planners and policy makers planning tools can be used for assessing and strengthening governance, climate action, ecosystem approach and land-sea Interactions.



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PAP/RAC
UN environment programme
Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention

MSP working group

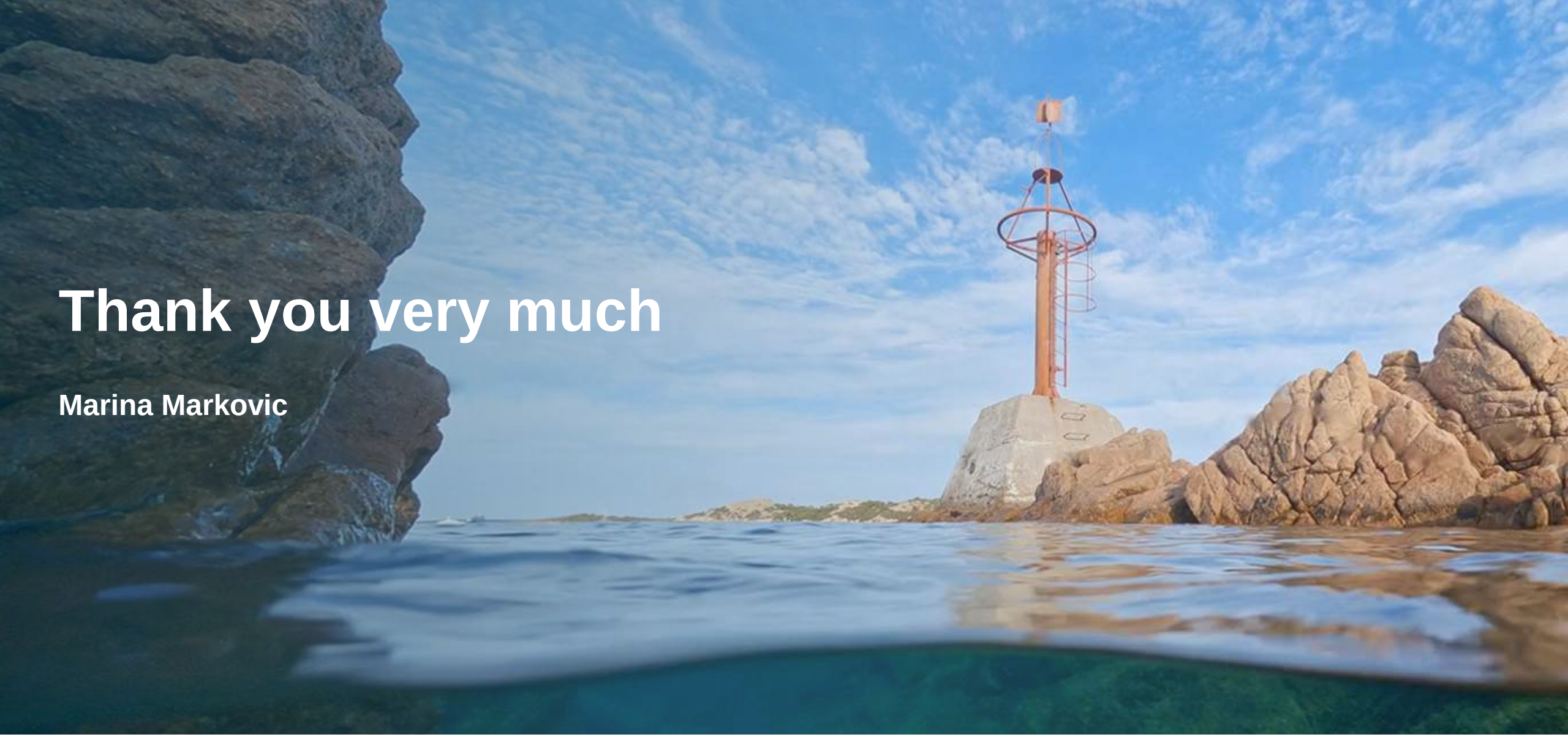
Process under development

Support the update of the MSSD

- 2 out of 3 meetings
- by May 2025
- informal

Support MSP process in the BC

- formal



Thank you very much

Marina Markovic

@PAP_RAC
#mspworkspace
msp.iczmplatform.org

PAP/RAC

UN environment programme

Mediterranean Action Plan
Barcelona Convention

Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
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Alessandra Sensi – Head of Sector; Environment, Green and Blue Economy
Adriana Salazar – Blue Economy Expert

Water, Environment, and Blue Economy Division
Union for the Mediterranean

Fostering the Med MSP process: UfM SBE policy framework and support

MEDIGREEN Opening conference; MPA Europe Mediterranean Stakeholders workshop & MED-MSP-CoP workshop (28-29 January , Madrid & online)

The UfM at a glance

Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
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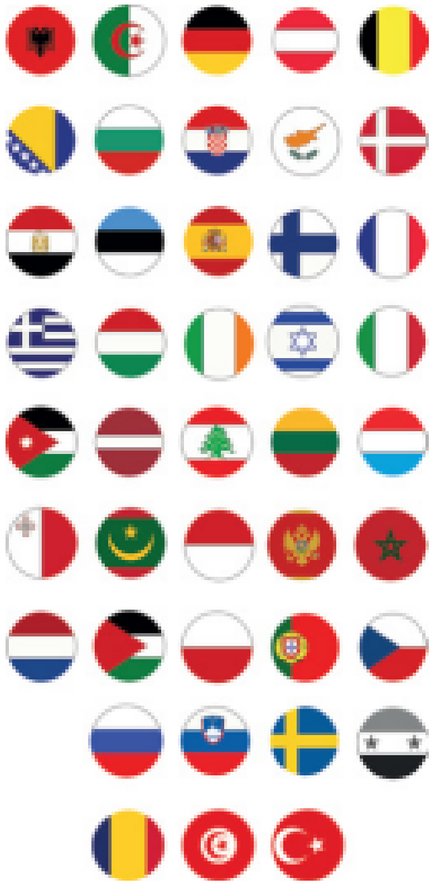
*Mission to enhance **cooperation, dialogue, integration, stability, and sustainable development at regional level** through the implementation of concrete projects and initiatives with tangible impacts*



43 Members

27 EU members and 16 Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries. Their Senior Officials meet regularly to oversee and coordinate the activities of the UfM.

2 Co-Presidents

The EU and Jordan have assumed the Northern and Southern co-presidency since 2012, embodying the UfM principle of co-ownership.

1 Secretariat

Based in Barcelona, the Secretariat is the operational platform of the UfM.

2ND UfM MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY

(2nd FEBRUARY 2021)

10 Ministerial priorities:

1. Governance & the future of sea basin strategies
2. Marine research, innovation, skills, careers & employment
3. Sustainable food from the sea: fisheries & aquaculture
4. Sustainable, climate-neutral & zero-pollution maritime transport & ports
5. Interactions between ML & the blue economy
6. Coastal & maritime tourism
7. MSP&ICZM
8. Marine Renewable Energy
9. Maritime Safety & Security
10. Sustainable Investments

UfM Blue Economy Roadmap

Following the adoption of the **2021 UfM Ministerial on SBE**, UfM Co-Presidency, Secretariat, and UfM countries agree to elaborate a Roadmap for the implementation of the Ministerial

- ✓ **Landmark document** in the region
- ✓ Overview and analysis of **joint needs, gaps and opportunities for future support, funding, and implementation by Ministerial priority +** Sketching out of ongoing initiatives, programmes, and projects
- ✓ Potential avenues for future cooperation (promising pathways, processes and actions) that can be launched and scaled-up in the **short, medium, and longer term**
- ✓ **Results-based Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation System**

2030GreenerMed
UfM AGENDA FOR A GREENER MEDITERRANEAN

TOWARDS 2030: AGENDA FOR A GREENER MED

Contributing to Achieving the Environmental SDGs in the Mediterranean

(2030GreenerMed)

THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

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The UfM Secretariat is co-funded by the EUROPEAN UNION

MAIN AXES

2030GreenerMed
AGENDA FOR A GREENER MEDITERRANEAN

Support the transition towards a Green, Circular and Socially Inclusive Economy, based on sustainable consumption and production practices and nature-based solutions.

Prevent and reduce pollution on land, air, and sea.

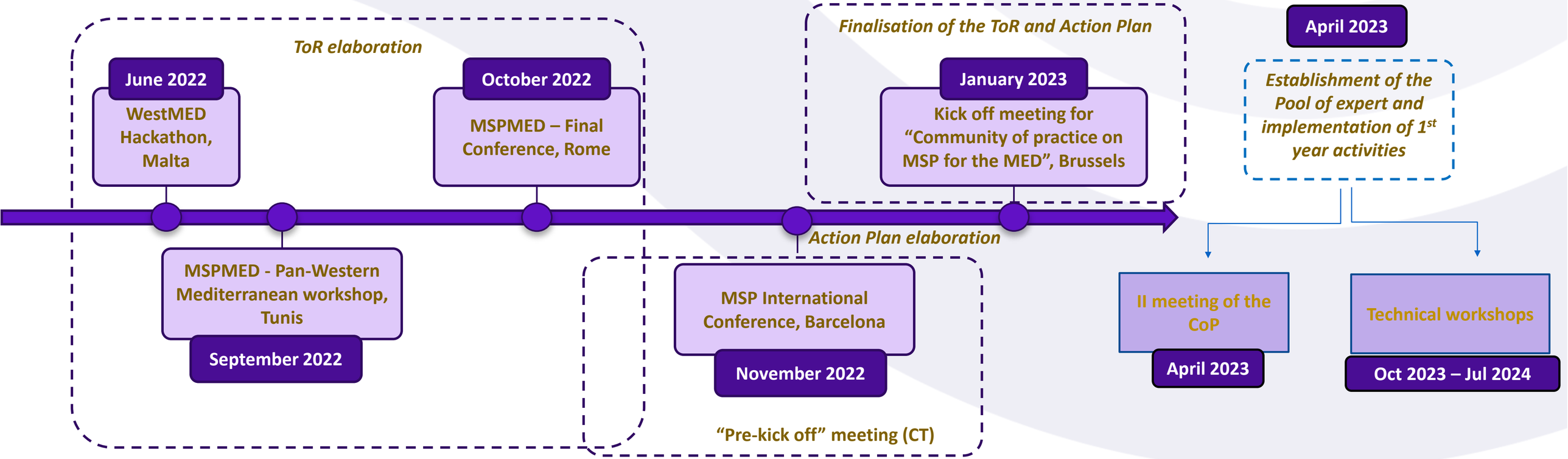
Protect, preserve, manage, and restore natural resources in the Mediterranean region within an integrated ecosystem approach, including terrestrial, marine, and coastal dimensions.

Governance & the future of sea basin strategies

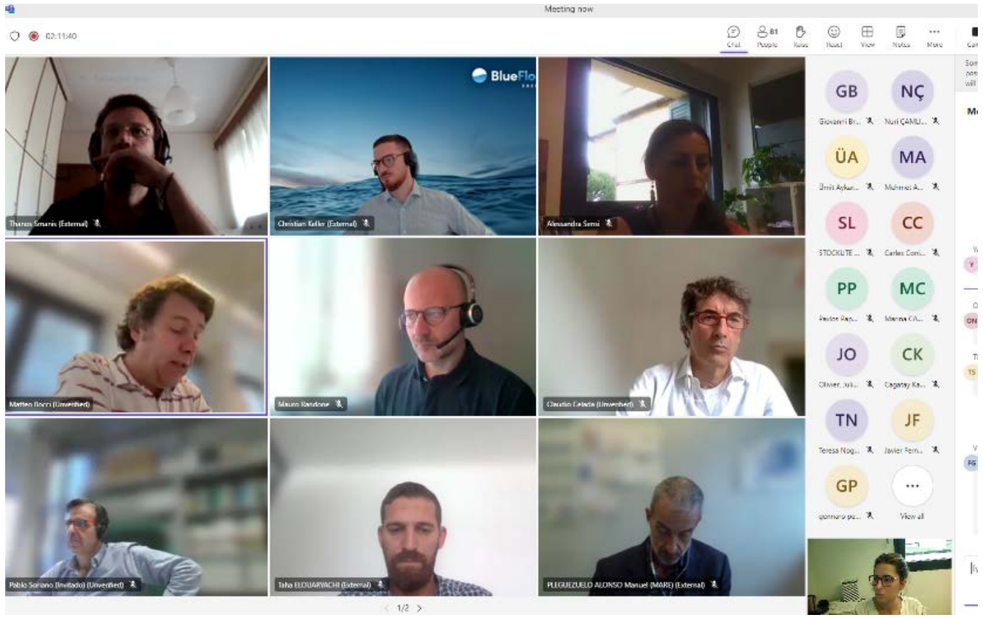
- ✓ Ongoing coordination with the WestMED Initiative (WestMED Ministerial & Stakeholder Conferences, Steering Committees, Hackathons, Technical Groups…)
- ✓ 14th, 15th, & 16th meetings of the UfM Regional Platform on SBE (October 2023, June 2024, October 2024) + 17th

What is the MED MSP Community of Practice ?

"[…] group of people who share a common concern, a set of problems, or an interest in a topic and who come together to fulfil both individual and group goals. […] they often focus on sharing best practices and creating new knowledge to advance a domain of professional practice."



Marine Renewable Energies



UfM Webinar

Fostering the Sustainable Development of Marine Renewable Energy (MRE) through effective Licensing and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)

12:00-14:00h CET

July 1st, 2024

europa.eu European Union

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The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

german cooperation

Implemented by giz

MEDITERRANEAN GREEN WEEK

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OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

With the financial support of
Sweden
Sverige

14-16 MAY 2024 / ISTANBUL, TÜRKIYE

Coastal & maritime tourism

- ✓ Giz supported UfM Webinar
- ✓ Interreg inter-programme coordination mechanism on sustainable tourism

NEW SYNERGIES AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

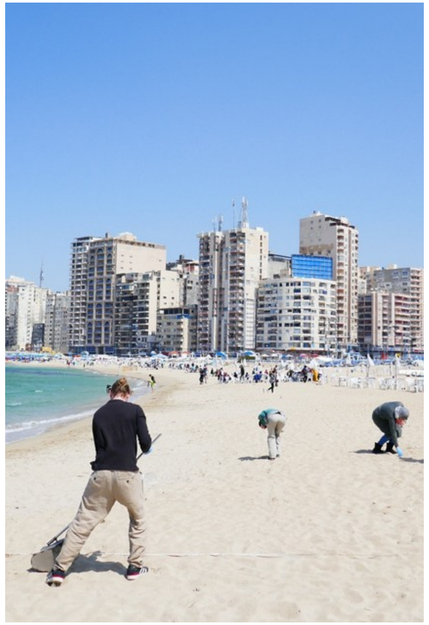
Though a Multiprogramme Coordination Mechanism

Interreg Co-funded by the European Union Euro-MED Marittimo-IT FR-Maritime NEXT MED

TOUMALI
PREVENTION OF MARINE LITTER

"Contribution of sustainable waste management systems in the tourism sector for the protection of marine ecosystems"

1. Coordination with stakeholders & Data analysis
2. Development of Solid Waste Management concepts
3. Extended Sector Responsibility
4. Implementation of SW and ML reduction concepts
5. Beach monitoring & clean-ups
6. Dissemination awareness raising & Capacity building



Universität Rostock Traditio et Innovatio · adelphi · BLACKFOREST SOLUTIONS · econnexions · LANDBELL GROUP · IOW · Marrakech · Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport

Supported by: Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety & zug ZUKUNFT UMWELT GESELLSCHAFT

A project labelled by the UfM · Union for the Mediterranean · Union pour la Méditerranée · الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط

TOUMALI PREVENTION OF MARINE LITTER

Plastic Busters Initiative
North + South

- ✓ From monitoring & assessment to prevention & mitigation (micro + macro)
- ✓ 3 financing rounds supporting the overall process
- ✓ Labelled by the UfM in 2016

SC results valid beyond MPAs

PLASTIC BUSTERS MPAs, Interreg Med-financed
(Italy, France, Spain, Greece, Albania, Croatia, Slovenia)

"COMMON" (Coastal mgmt. & monitoring network to track ML) CBC-financed

CAPITALIZATION PB CAP CBC-financed (2022)
(Egypt, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Spain and Tunisia)

Knowledge transfer to integrate EbA into ICZM

PLASTIC BUSTERS

Interreg Mediterranean

PLASTIC BUSTERS MPAs

ENI CBCMED Cooperating across borders in the Mediterranean

Project funded by the EUROPEAN UNION

REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

COMMON

Sponsored by

FINCANTIERI

CANTIERE NAVALE VITTORIA

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UfM landmark publication on Advancing towards SBE in the MED (3rd Edition)

Blue Economy Sectors

Cross-Cutting Themes

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Engagement in key international ocean-related processes, UNOC-3

- ✓ UfM-lead SBE Session
- ✓ Med Day, UNOC-3 (Nice, 10 June)

UN OCEAN CONFERENCE NICE 2025 FRANCE

Naciones Unidas | 2025 UN OCEAN CONFERENCE June 2025, France

BLUE MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP (BMP)

A new multi-donor and multi-partner financial instrument to support Sustainable Blue Economy in the Mediterranean region

AFD

cdp

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

European Commission

European Investment Bank

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

KFW

Sida
SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY

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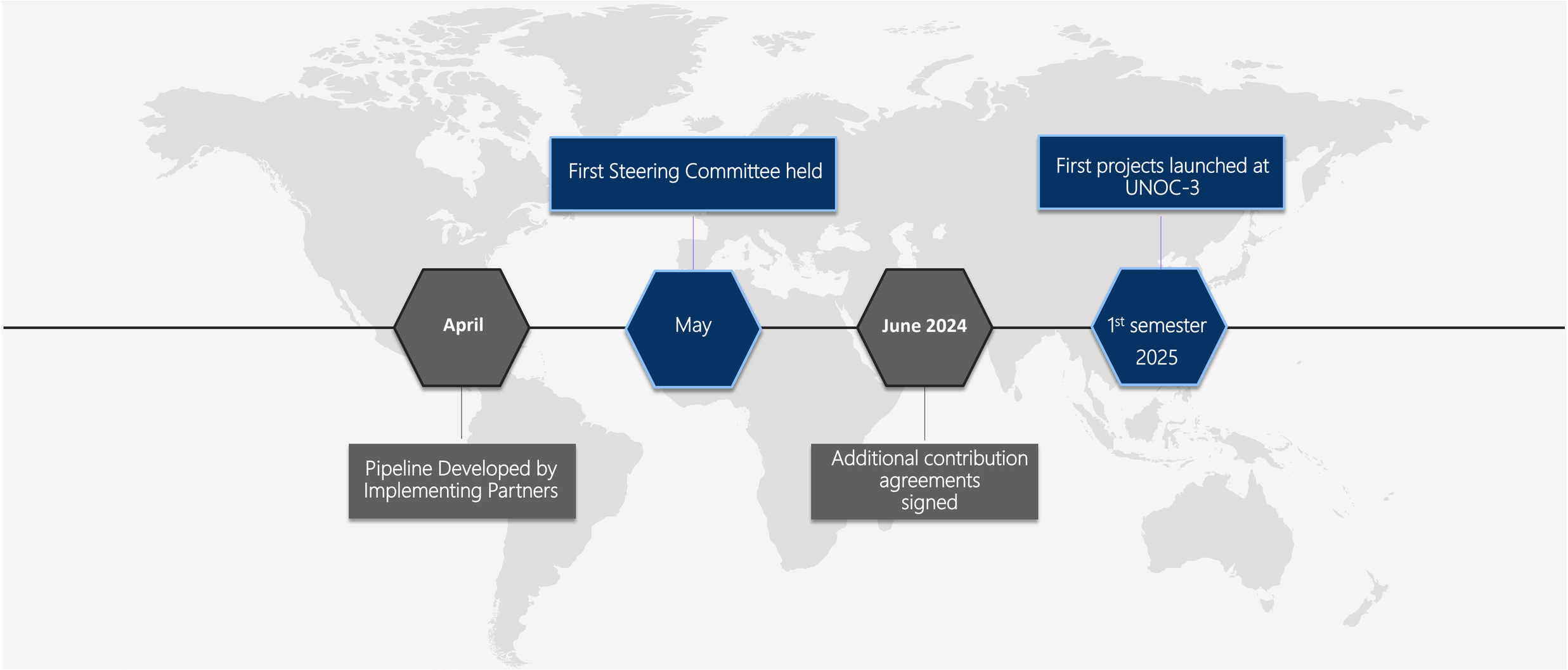
MINISTERIO PARA LA TRANSICIÓN ECOLÓGICA

Timeline


First Steering Committee held
First projects launched at UNOC-3
April
May
June 2024
1st semester 2025
Pipeline Developed by Implementing Partners
Additional contribution agreements signed

Sustainable Blue Economy

2nd UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE
ON SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY

OUTCOMES AND MAIN MESSAGES

The UfM Secretariat is co-funded by the EUROPEAN UNION

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THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

- ✓ **350+** Med SBE Stakeholders over 1.5 days
- ✓ **Plenary Sessions + 11 Parallel Multi-stakeholder Workshops** in line with the priorities of the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on SBE
  - ✓ *State-of-the-art & Stock-taking of progress achieved*
  - ✓ *Joint challenges and transformative tools and pathways for the SD of the sectors and activities of the Med SBE*
  - ✓ *Feeding the UfM SBE Roadmap and the related next steps*
  - ✓ *Setting the path towards future deliberations at political level*
- ✓ **Outcomes and Main Messages** available on MedBESP

2ND UFM STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONONOMY 2024

European Union

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The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Sweden
Sverige

GRAPHIC RECORDING by @ BLANCHE ILLUSTRATES

Mediterranean Blue Economy Stakeholder Platform

Photo: Envato

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Home | About | Blue Economy Framework | Blue Economy Community | Funding Blue Economy | Resources | News & Events | Contact & Join us

Who we are | Our goals | Engage

SFS-MED Webinar: Blue Transformation: strategies and actions for m

On March 20, 2024, the Union for the Mediterranean co-organized a webinar on sustainable blue agri-food systems in the Mediterranean, under the framework (...) Read more.

Latest News

View all news | Upload your News

The European MSP Platform

Discover the European Maritime Spatial Planning Platform - Find out how this information and communication gateway offers support to all EU Member States(...) Read more

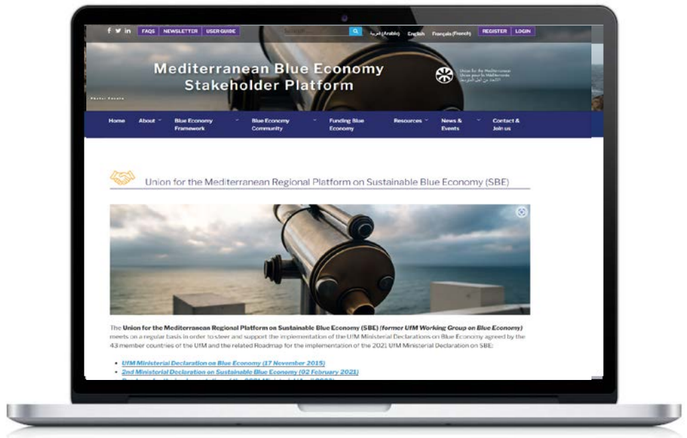
Calendar

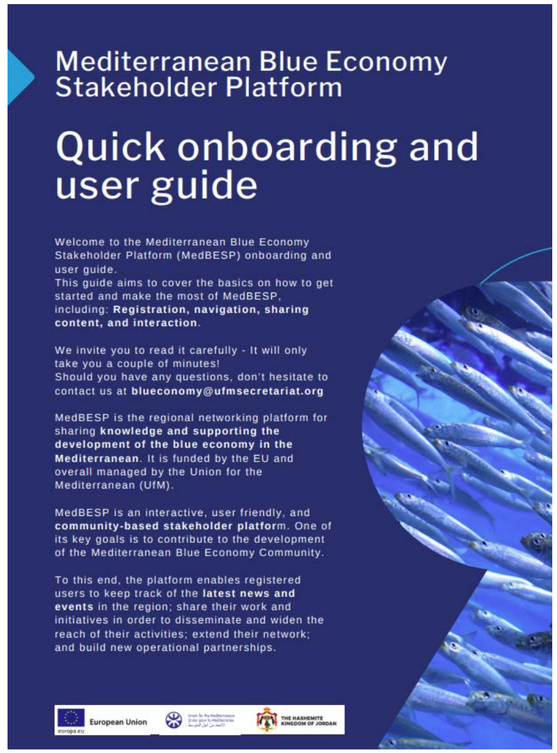
« **May** 2024 »

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Add your event | View All

https://medblueconomyplatform.org/





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Thank you!
Merci !
شكراً

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Adriana Salazar
Sustainable Blue Economy Expert
adriana.salazar@ufmsecretariat.org

Northern European Sea Basin project (NESBp)

Marjoleine Nascimento da Silva

Project coordinator NESBp

Co-funded by the European Union

About the project

Project number: 101196969
EU Call: EMFAF -2024-PIA-MSP
Overall budget: €3.083.140,95
Grant: € 2.466.512,48

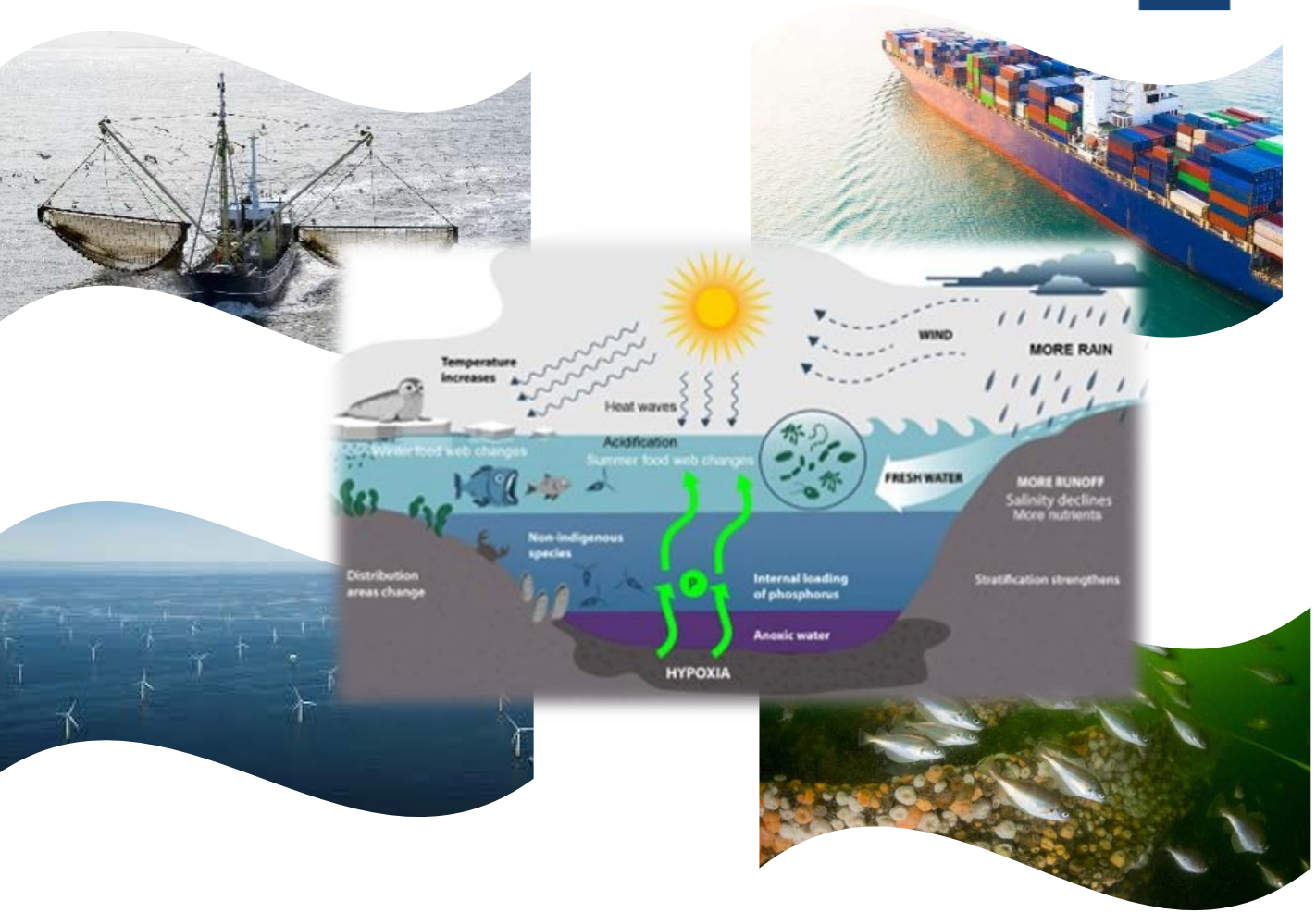
Start date: 15 November 2024
End date : 14 May 2027
Duration: 30 months

Beneficiaries:

Public organisations, research institutions, transnational organisations & business (consultancy)

20 partners, 6 countries,
4 transnational organisations/networks

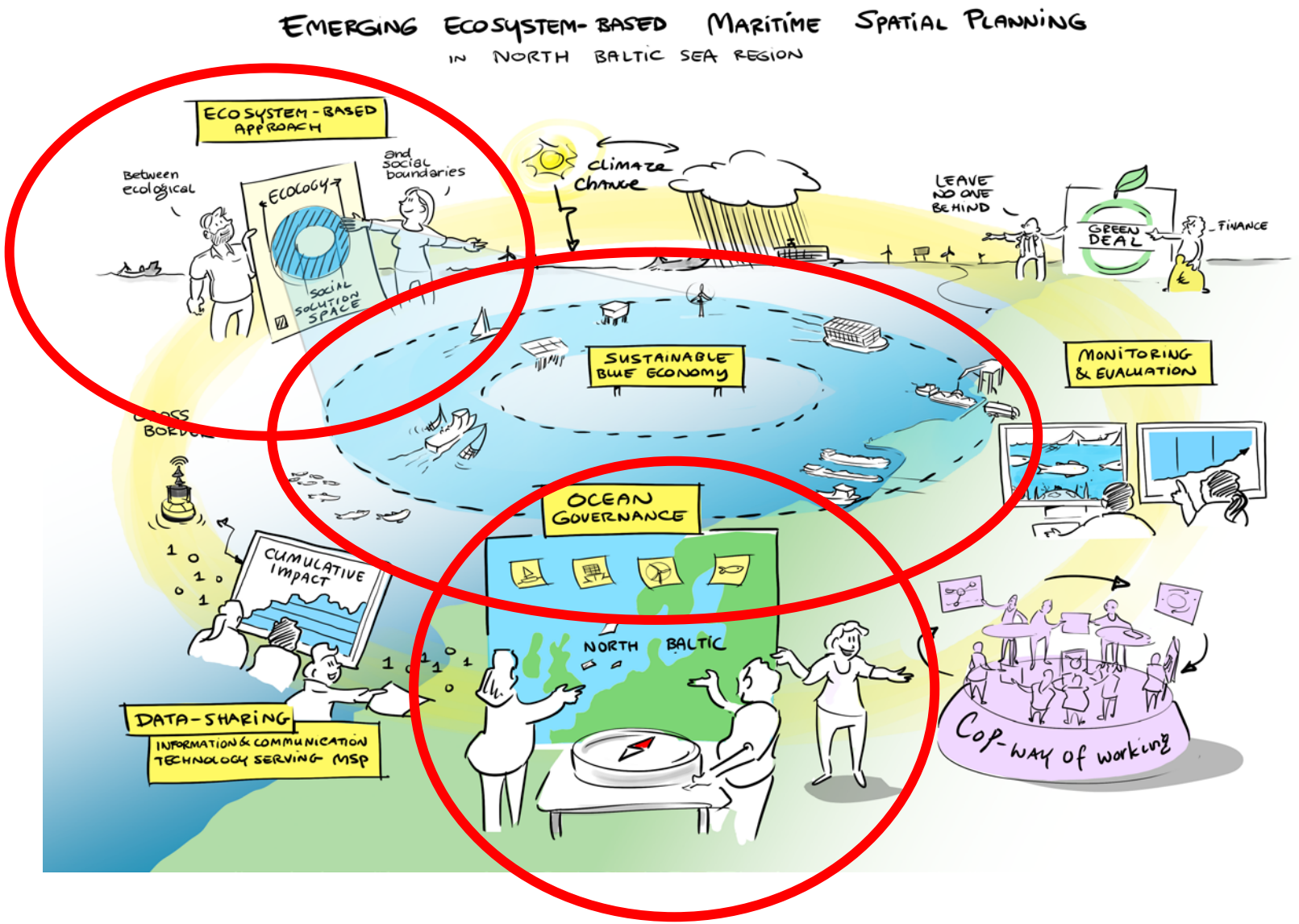
Co-funded by the European Union



EU vision for climate neutrality and sustainability

- Climate change mitigation and geopolitical tensions / strategic independence (energy transition);
- Countering biodiversity loss, strengthening the marine ecosystem;
- Sustainable food production (fishing, aqua/mari-culture);
- Clean and safe operations at sea (shipping, and more widely the sustainable blue economy).

Co-funded by
the European Union

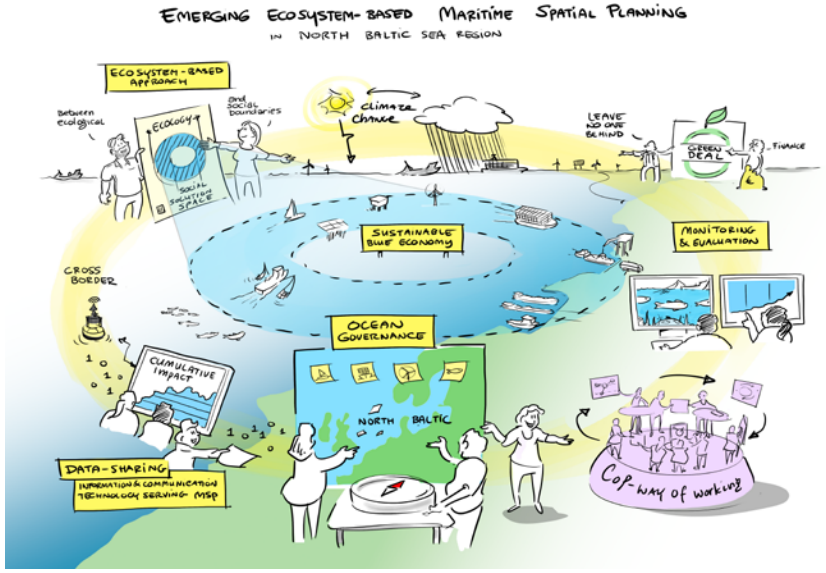


More information:
[Results – eMSP NBSR]

Objectives NESBp

Build on eMSP NBSR groundwork and support GNSBI, facilitate cooperations between NS & BS through GNSBI and HELCOM-VASAB by:

- Promote an ecosystem based approach to the MSP's of the countries
- Cater for cumulative impacts of ocean stressors
- Make the MSP's more aligned
- Investiga and mitigga cumulative impacts of human activities at sea and at sea basin level
- Share best practices of MU (concept Maripark)
- Facilitate and support knowledge and data sharing



Co-funded by the European Union

Work Packages (content related)

Ocean governance

- Enhance (multi-level) governance in the Greather North Sea and Baltic Sea regions
- Support development of an integrated and ecosystem-based governance in the Greater North Sea Basin
- Review current mechanisms for cooperation and collaboration on MSP related governance in the BSR/GNSR and explore their further development

Energy transition and biodiversity in MSP

- Provide concrete methodological recommendations for the application of ecosystem-based approach in MSP (incl cumulative impacts)
- Concrete methods for sustainable energy transition and protection of biodiversity
- Facilitate application of ecosystem-based approach in MSP, providing concrete recommendations

Multi-use in practice: From mariparks to basinscale Multi-Use

- Utilizing specific findings to propose how existing policy frameworks can be effectively utilized and, where necessary, revised to facilitate the sustainable development of MU at sea.
- The Maripark concept serves as a valuable tool for identifying the limitations within current governance and policy systems, ultimately guiding the establishment of sustainable multi-use area

Knowledge transfer & sharing

- Provide key information (data that has been processed) as evidence to underpin “sound knowledge” (understanding of the information acquired) with the development to support different profiles of stakeholders involved in the MSP processes

+ Working in and advancing Community of Practice approach within MSP

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WP 3

Ambitions

- Provide concrete methodological recommendations for the application of **ecosystem-based approach** in MSP with a focus on the most urgent issue of maritime development - how are cumulative effects addressed.

- Support planners and policy makers with the state of knowledge and concrete methods for the **sustainable energy transition and protection of biodiversity** in MSP based on experiences in the North and Baltic Seas.

- Facilitate the application of ecosystem-based approach in MSP providing concrete recommendations for future nature restoration efforts at sea

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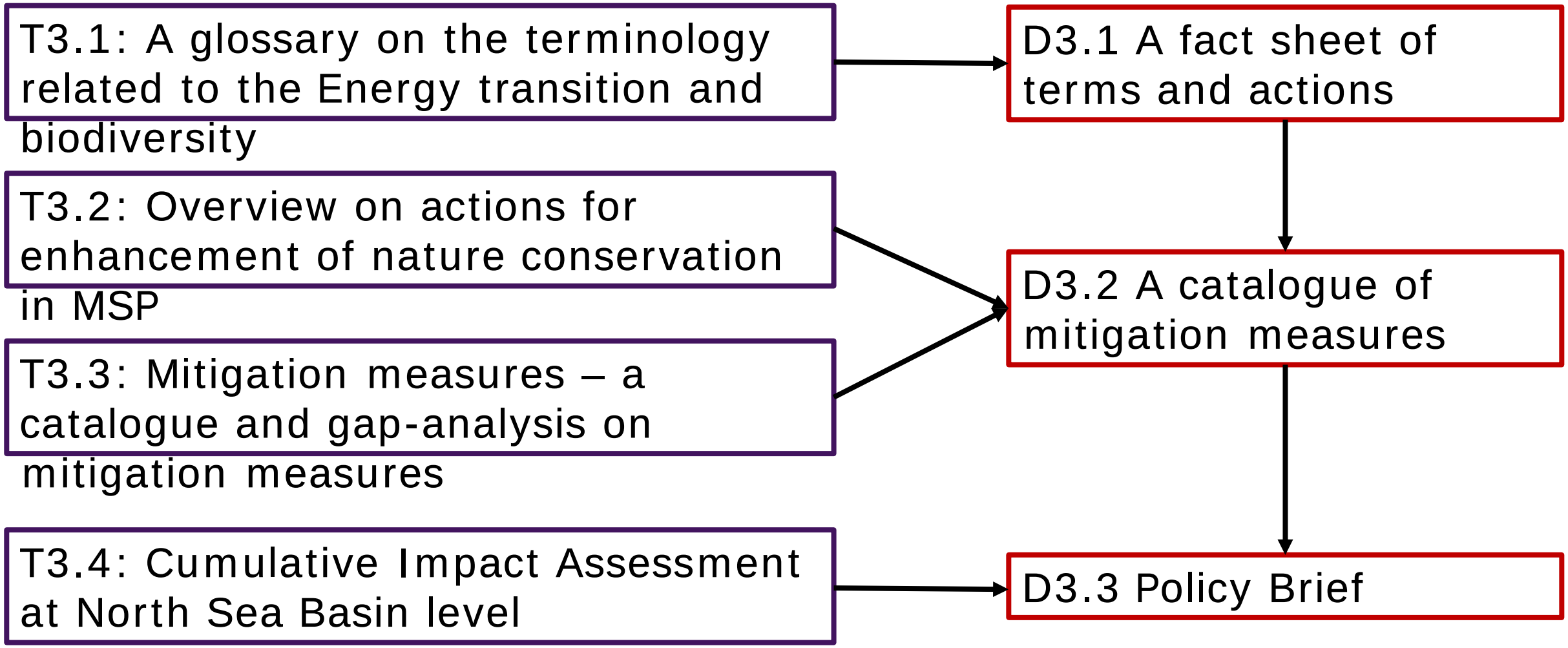
Tasks vs deliverables



Co-funded by the European Union

WP 4

deliverable
milestone

Way forward

Maripark in MSP as tool for Basin scale Multi-use

Locations/partners: NL & BE, (D)

Developing **governance framework** in relation to EBA and permitting (Mantis, IMDC, BC) policy brief, ecosystem performance workshop

Integration and **synergies of economic** activities: blueprint (BC, LNV, BSH, Mantis) blueprint (report)

Data sharing to facilitate adaptive management in NL BE Mariparks, base: blueprint (Shom, SUB, IMDC) Maripark data sharing and EMP for Mariparks (2 reports)

Scenario building for Mariparks (ORG, SUB, Mantis, IMDC, BC) scenarios, 4 work benches

Upscaling of **MU to sea basin** level (SUB, ORG, Mantis, IMDC, BC) policy analysis (report), series of workshops in support of GNSBI MU track

Co-funded by
the European Union

Co-funded by
the European Union

Thank you!

For questions and more information about NESBp:

Marjoleine.karper@rvo.nl

ocean

Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature

Our Members

12 Grid Operators
18 Wind Power Companies
19 Civil Society Organisations

Collaborating for a green Europe!

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Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature

NORTH & BALTIC SEAS

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Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

NORTH AND BALTIC SEAS

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

WHAT WE DO

Facilitate open forum for discussion

Identify and fill knowledge gaps

Find solutions & innovative practices

Advocate for OW, grids & nature

ocean
Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature

MSP

Submit and regularly update MSPs* to reflect renewables and biodiversity targets in line with the updated NECPs**.

Implement an ecosystem-based approach to MSP to support the achievement of Good Environmental Status of the sea.

Establish an ecologically coherent cross-border network of effectively managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)***.

Collect marine data continuously to guide responsive and adaptive decision-making.

Consider multi-use in offshore wind farms from the early planning stages.

Improve stakeholder participation in MSP.

Enable cross-border collaboration.

*MSP Status: France new 2025, Italy 2024, Spain 2023, Portugal 2019.

**OW Targets: France 1,5 GW vs 4 GW by 2030 (18 GW by 2035), Italy 30 MW (bottom fix) vs 2,1 GW by 2030, Spain 2MW vs 3 GW by 2030, Portugal 25 MW vs 2 GW by 2030.

***Protection and Restoration Targets: MSs due to reach 30% of MPAs by 2030, 20% of restoration on land and at sea by 2030 (Restoration Plans due in 2026) and define OECMs.

Technology and related aspects: floating

bottom-fix

80 mitigation measures in North & Baltic seas

Nature enhancement, restoration projects

≠

floating

Experience across Europe: limited capacity in Norway and Scotland (~ 34 GW bottom-fix, ~ 180 MW floating).

Progress towards full commercialisation: spar-buoy and semi-submersible in pre-commercial stage

Critical role of test sites: France, Spain, Portugal

Environmental impacts: promising, but limited experience

Ongoing research and innovation: EU funded projects, R&D from industry

Key supporting infrastructure: ports and grids (dynamic cables and floating substations).

TSO role: TSO build (France), Developer build (Italy), not defined (Portugal, Spain).

Overall state of OW: supply chain constraints, rising costs, political uncertainty.

Auctions: France planned 8,4-9,2 GW (2 GW in the Med), Italy first tender 2025 (bottom-fix) tbc, Spain first tender 2025 tbc, Portugal first tender 2025 tbc. Different use of non-price criteria.

Conclusions for a nature-friendly offshore development in the Mediterranean

Regulatory Certainty

Clear, long-term and stable regulatory frameworks are critical to attract investments and enable better projects that consider environmental and socio-economic aspects (e.g., non-price criteria in offshore auctions).

Research and Development (R&D)

Further support for innovation is needed to advance floating technologies, reduce costs, and address challenges such as grid connections and environmental impacts.

Stakeholder Collaborations

Engagement with governments, industry, communities, academia and environmental organisations ensures balanced and inclusive project development.

Cross-Basin Collaborations

Enhanced cooperation across the basin fosters shared learning and promotes solutions that benefit both energy generation and nature protection and restoration.

Learn more on our website

ocean
Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature

Register for our events mailing list

MEDIGREEN Opening Conference & MPA Europe Mediterranean Stakeholders Workshop – Jan 28th, 2025

MEDAC
MEDITERRANEAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

Fishing in the Mediterranean: status, trends, main challenges, and MEDAC's role in facilitating integration of fisheries in maritime spatial planning (EGD-MSP)

Co-founded by the European Union

Fishing in the Mediterranean
Status, trends, main challenges

SNAPSHOT OF FISHERIES

SPECIAL EDITION 2023

IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE BLACK SEA

Despite a reduction in landings and jobs, fisheries make a significant contribution to food production, livelihoods and the economy.

84 200
vessels

87% operate in the Mediterranean Sea and **13%** operate in the Black Sea

82% of the fleet is composed of small-scale vessels

500 000
jobs along the value chain

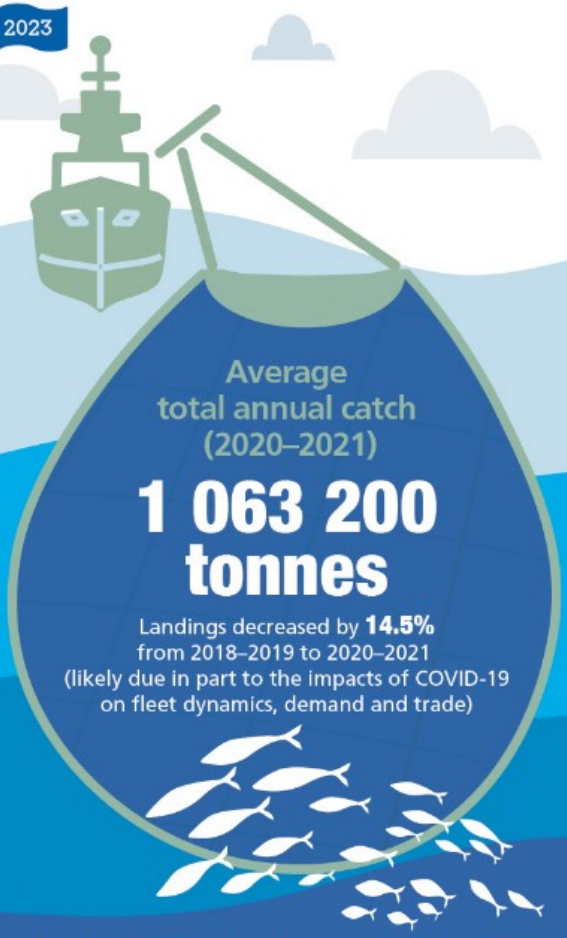
183 000 jobs are on board vessels

Job numbers decreased by **6%** in 2020–2021

USD 3 billion
annual revenue

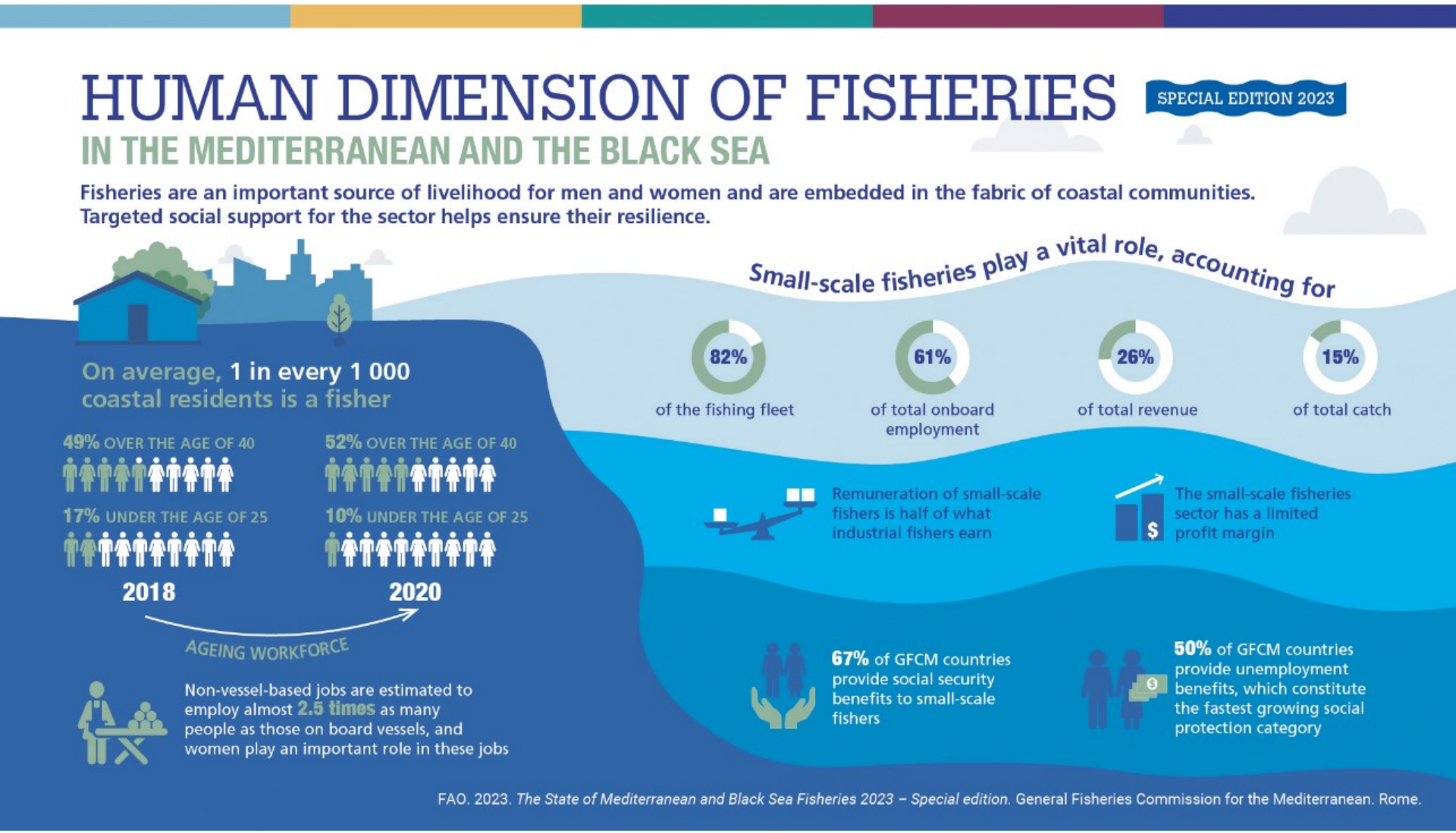
USD **7.8 billion** is the estimated total contribution to the regional economy

Revenue increased by **1%** in 2020-2021

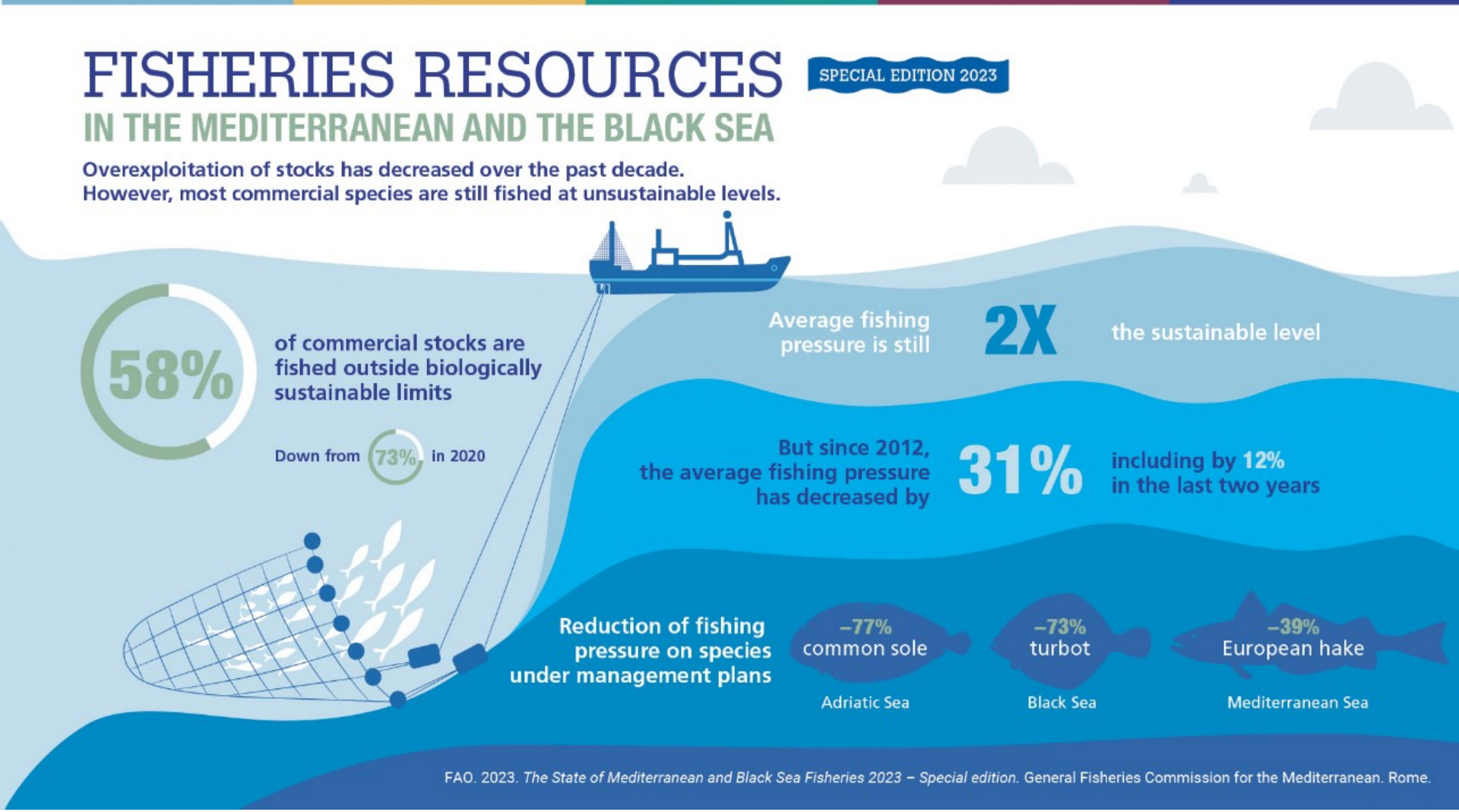


FAO. 2023. *The State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries 2023 – Special edition.* General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. Rome.

Fishing in the Mediterranean
Status, trends, main challenges



Fishing in the Mediterranean
Status, trends, main challenges



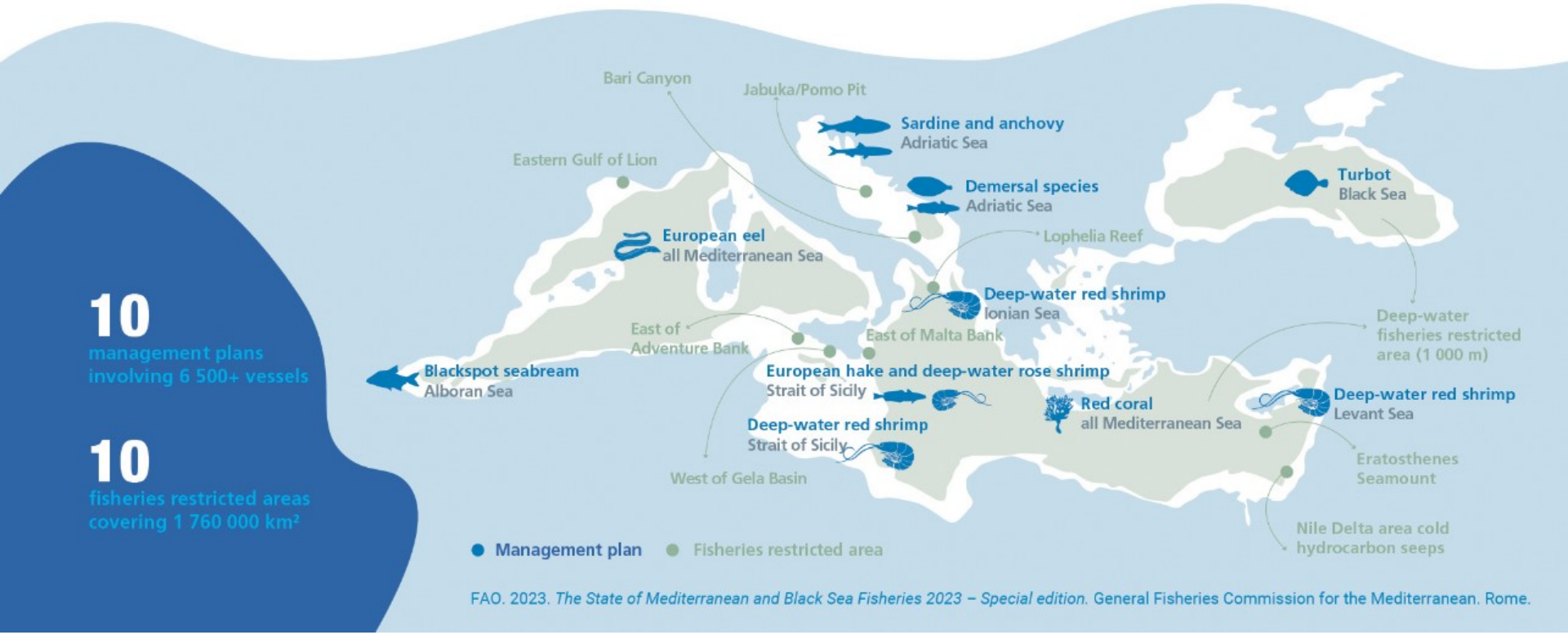
Fishing in the Mediterranean
Status, trends, main challenges

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

SPECIAL EDITION 2023

IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE BLACK SEA

A regional governance framework is providing tangible results in reducing unsustainable fishing pressure on key species, but it needs to be extended and enhanced to achieve greater sustainability.



FAO. 2023. *The State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries 2023 – Special edition.* General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. Rome.

MEDAC's role in facilitating integration of fisheries in EGD-MSP

Article 44 of the EU Common Fishery Policy (Reg.1380/2013)

Tasks of Advisory Councils

[…] *2.* ***Advisory Councils may:***

a) ***submit recommendations and suggestions*** *on matters relating to the management of fisheries and the socioeconomic and conservation aspects of fisheries and aquaculture* ***to the Commission and to the Member State concerned****, and, in particular, recommendations on how to simplify rules on fisheries management;*

(b) inform the Commission and Member States of ***problems relating to the management and the socio-economic and conservation aspects*** *of fisheries and, where appropriate, of aquaculture in their geographical area or field of competence and propose solutions to overcome those problems;*

(c) ***contribute, in close cooperation with scientists, to the collection, supply and analysis of data necessary for the development of conservation measures. […]***

MEDAC
MEDITERRANEAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

Co-founded by the European Union

MEDAC structure and ties

The MEDAC workplan on the key topics is annually agreed with EC and approved by MEDAC members

47 MEDAC members

5 Working Groups and 5 Focus Groups

WGs: CFP, large pelagics, Recreational Fisheries, SSF, socioeconomic impact, **EGD**

FGs: Adriatic Sea, West Med, Strait of Sicily, Equal opportunities, East Med

Executive Committee

Shared advice to EC and MSs
on the future of fishery in the Mediterranean

(by consensus or by majority including minority statements)

MEDAC structure and ties

MEDAC
MEDITERRANEAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

Co-founded by the European Union

European Commission (DG MARE – DG ENVI)

GFCM General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

SSF

Professional fishers

Industrial fishery

Processing, marketing and trade unions

MEDAC

Recreational Sector

Women associations

NGOs

Since 2022, organizations representing or having direct or indirect economic interests linked to the **use of the marine environment or maritime space** other than commercial fishing, aquaculture or the processing, marketing, distribution and retail of seafood can be AC members EC DEL.REG.(EU)2022/204 of 8 Dec 2021

MEDAC
MEDITERRANEAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

Co-founded by the European Union

The stakeholders involvement

Working Groups are established on a permanent basis and have the role of assisting the Executive Committee in the preparation of the opinions and joint recommendations.

- WG 1: Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (Regionalization, discards management plans, multiannial management plans)
- WG 2: Big Pelagic Fishes (BFT-E - SWO-MED and other species ICCAT)
- **WG 3: Green Deal**
- WG 4: Recreational Fisheries
- WG 5: Small-Scale Fisheries and Socio-Economic Impact

Focus groups are set up for a specific purpose, their duration is limited.

- Focus Group on Adriatic Sea (IT, SI, HR)
- Focus Group on Western Mediterranean (IT, FR, ES)
- Focus Group on the Strait of Sicily (IT, MT)
- Focus Group on Equal Opportunities
- Focus Group Eastern Mediterranean (CY, GR)

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MEDITERRANEAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

Co-founded by the European Union

The stakeholders involvement

26 February 2025

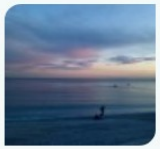
WG3-february 2025

26 February 2025

FG Strait of Sicily- february 2025

26 February 2025

FG EastMed- february 2025



25 February 2025

WG4- february 2025

25 February 2025

General Assembly-2025

25 February 2025

WG1- february 2025

25 February 2025

FG WestMed- February 2025

24 February 2025

SEAWISE Regional Review Workshop with MEDAC

MEDAC
MEDITERRANEAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

Co-founded by the European Union

The MEDAC contribution

n.med-ac.eu/pareri_lettere.php

advice and letters

2024
advice and letters

- MEDAC advice on pagellus bogaraveo in the GSAs 1-2-3
- MEDAC contribution- EC Consultation mid term evaluation EMFAF
- MEDAC contribuion on EC Consultation on the allocation on FOs (art.17)
- MEDAC contribution EC Consultation of stakeholders on social data in fisheries
- MEDAC advice on demersal fisheries in the Strait of Sicily in view of the GFCM/SAC SRC Central Mediterranean
- MEDAC advice on Marine Recreational Fishery (MRF)

MEDAC contribution on the current management measures in the Central

MEDAC contribution on the current management measures in the Western Mediterranean

AC contribution on the
nt management
sures in the Eastern

MEDAC ADVICE ON ENERGY TRANSITION
Meeting on the Decarbonization of the fishing industry (WKDECA)

Medac advice on
fishery managemer

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

Brussels
MARE/A2/CF

Subject: Reply to the opinion on a lack of engagement of MEDAC members in Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) processes

Dear Antonio Marzoa Notlevsen,

I would like to thank you for sharing the results of your survey and consultations regarding MEDAC members' involvement in national Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) processes and EU-funded MSP projects.

As requested by the MSP Directive (MSPD) (1), through their maritime spatial plans, Member States shall aim to contribute to the sustainable development of their energy

MEDAC advice on Management Strategy Evaluation (WGMSE) on Adriatic small pelagics
Session 1: preparatory meeting on methods

MEDIGREEN Opening Conference & MPA Europe Mediterranean Stakeholders Workshop – Jan 28th, 2025

MEDAC
MEDITERRANEAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

Co-founded by the European Union

For further info
segreteria@med-ac.eu

'The small scale fisheries in the Mediterranean what approach for maritime spatial planning?'

By: Aomar BOURHIM
Blue Economy, Maritime spatial planning, and Ocean literacy Consultant
bourhim12@gmail.com

MSPMED CoP

September 28th, 2025

SMALL SCALE FISHERIES - WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN?

As it is the case in the Mediterranean sea basin, Small scale fisheries (SSF) is defined by (FAO, 2018a) as a traditional fishing performed by family units rather than commercial units, using a relatively small amount of capital and energy, and carrying out short fishing trips close to coasts and mainly for local consumption. This activity is considered as a category of capture fishery that generally present some of the following characteristics:

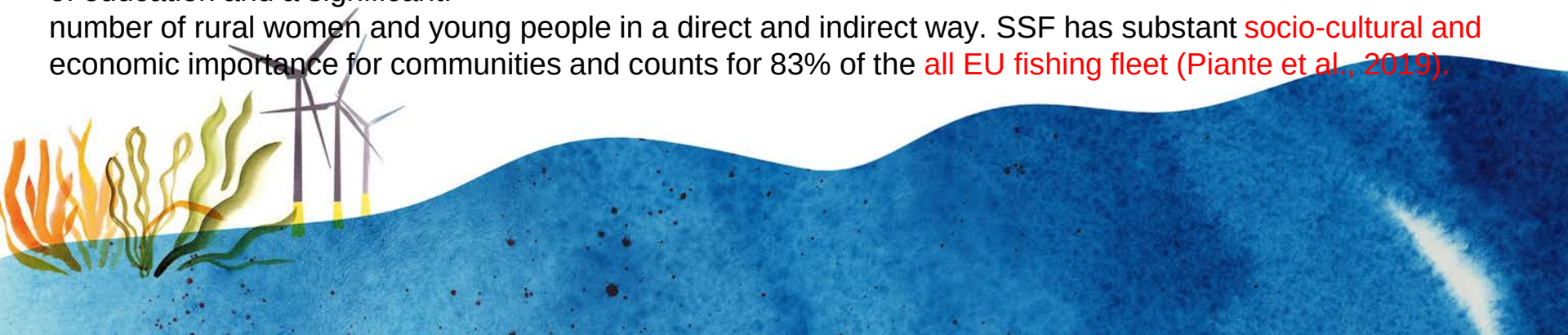
(i) Low capital investment;
(ii) High labour activities often family or community-based;
(iii) No vessel or small size vessel (lt; 5-12m and lt; 2-10 GT);
(iv) Relatively low production, which is household consumed or locally and directly sold and;
(v) Operating close to the shoreline on a single day basis.

SMALL SCALE FISHERIES - WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN?

Small-scale fishing provides almost half of the world's seafood catches. It brings together fishing activities considered among the most selective, contributes to food security and represents considerable employment opportunities. Currently, and as has always been the case, the artisanal sector predominates in the fishing fleet in the region of the Mediterranean sea basin and the Black Sea, if we consider the number of people who live on it and the number of ships. In this area, artisanal fishing represents nearly 60% of jobs. Furthermore, artisanal fishing represents 82% of fishing units and 59% of jobs. It also employs the largest number of young people, but small-scale fishermen generally earn less than half the salary of fishermen in the industrial fleet, according to the (FAO, 2022).

In addition to activities relating to direct access to fisheries, SSF or artisanal fishing also includes participants in ancillary activities such as shipyards, the value chain and the assembly and repair of fishing gear. This important activity from an economic and social point of view involves people of various age groups and levels of education and a significant.

number of rural women and young people in a direct and indirect way. SSF has substant socio-cultural and economic importance for communities and counts for 83% of the all EU fishing fleet (Piante et al., 2019).

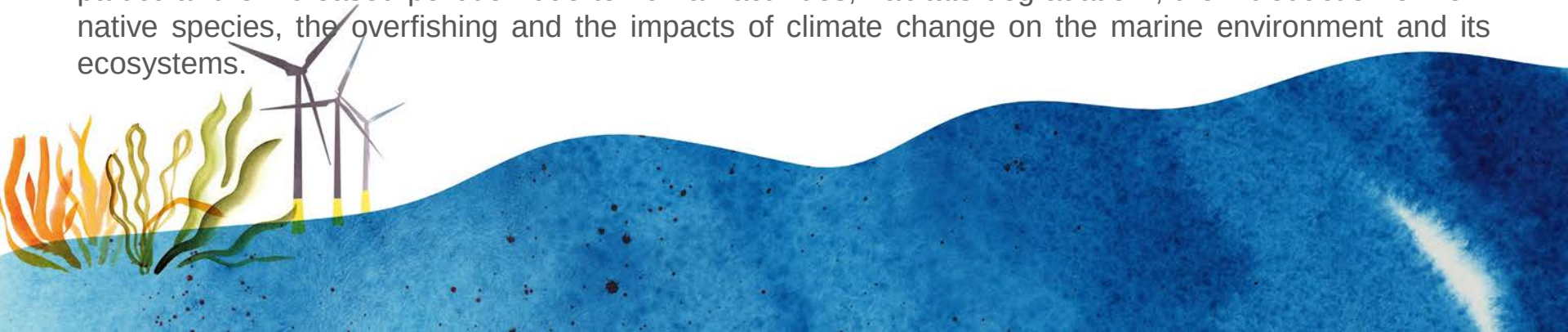


AQUACULTURE AND FISHING UNDER THE PRISM OF THE BLUE ECONOMY

The Mediterranean case

Fisheries and aquaculture are important drivers of the blue economy in the Mediterranean. They provide essential coastal livelihoods as well as an often substantial access to food, as part of the “Mediterranean diet”. Despite relatively low economic output fishing and aquaculture compared to others sectors of activity in the region (for example tourism, oil and gas exploration), annual production offers employment opportunities to several hundred thousands of people.

Fishing and aquaculture supply local markets, regional and international seafood intended for human consumption, and therefore offer indirect benefits that preserve the social fabric of many coastal communities. Multiple factors threaten fisheries sustainability and Mediterranean aquaculture, in particular the increased pollution due to human activities, habitats degradation , the introduction of non-native species, the overfishing and the impacts of climate change on the marine environment and its ecosystems.



SMALL SCALE FISHERIES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING AND THE BLUE ECONOMY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN – CHALLENGES (1)

Marine spatial planning (MSP) is defined by European Directive 2014/89/EU asking coastal Member States of the European Union to present their “process of analysis and organisation of marine activities with the aim of achieving economic, social and environmental objectives”. MSP is also being developed beyond European Union waters. As of August 2018, around 70 countries were preparing or had drafted their MSPs at various scales (IOC-UNESCO 2022). The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) and the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) adopted in March 2017 a joint roadmap to accelerate maritime/marine spatial planning processes in the whole world.

The Mediterranean is reaching a point of no return due to overfishing, marine pollution, rising sea levels and warming waters. Homes in coastal areas (including fishing villages and their landing points are increasingly being swept away by floods and coastal erosion as cities continue to expand even as rising sea levels threaten their existence.

SMALL SCALE FISHERIES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING AND THE BLUE ECONOMY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN – CHALLENGES (2)

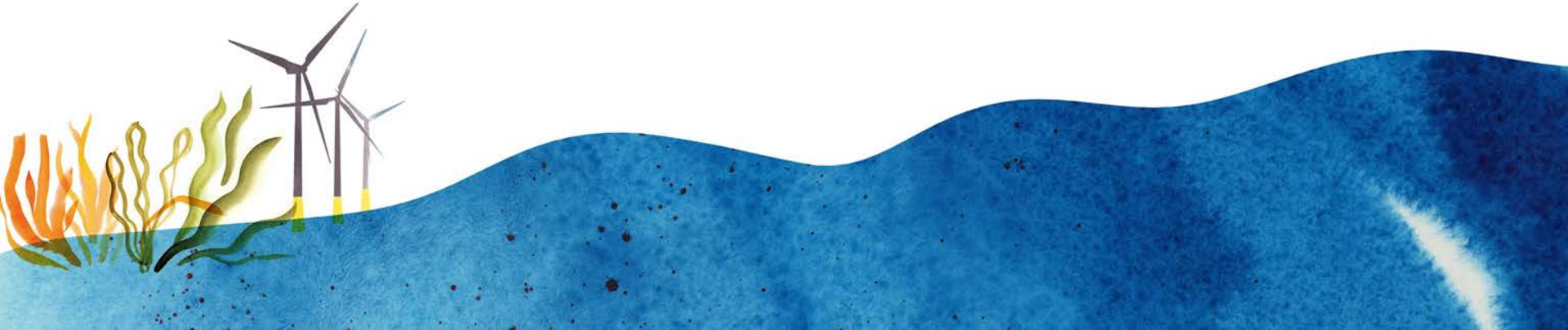
To maximise the coexistence of fisheries with the other various BE sectors, it is important to facilitate the integration of fishermen into the planning process. Although to date the sector has been critical about the development of MSP (in those countries in which MSP is in place), due to the risks of spatial rearrangement they anticipated, most fishermen now seem convinced of the need to participate actively in the process. This is a need recognized by all the political leaders in charge of the process. That said, governance in the fishing sector is more fragmented, federated both by geographical area and by gear type. This makes it more difficult for the sector to speak with one voice. In this respect, planning must ensure the inclusion of all fishing stakeholders, and once again in particular small-scale fishing, for instance by establishing permanent consultation processes. These discussion-spaces could also be used to provide information about alternative employment opportunities for fishers.

SMALL SCALE FISHERIES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING AND THE BLUE ECONOMY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN – CHALLENGES (3)

There is a need to acknowledge also the different realities of the Mediterranean sea. The management policy of the fishing sector in the different countries is unfortunately not the same at the level of all the Mediterranean countries. In general the European Union manages the stocks and the fleet of fish in a relatively coherent manner in member countries both in terms of space and allocated quantities through the Common Fisheries Policy. The non-EU countries have however not put in place common mechanisms for a cross-border policy of marine resources management or MSP, which advocates the principles of a sustainable blue economy, despite the existence of various initiatives, and commissions, which aim for a healthy Mediterranean and marine ecosystems (WestMED, UfM, CGPM Barcelona convention, MSP global IOC UNESCO project, etc.).

SMALL SCALE FISHERIES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING AND THE BLUE ECONOMY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN – CHALLENGES (4)

Besides the difficulty in engaging the sector, another challenge arises. The spatial characterization of a mobile activity is complex, making it difficult to consider their spatial needs in the plans. The major challenge in SSF mapping relies on the vessels that are below 12 m and therefore remain untracked and largely unmonitored. In the last decade multiple efforts of the scientific community have focused on the development of multidisciplinary methodologies to better map the distribution of SSF across different geo-spatial scales



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY ACTIONS (1)

In order to be able to integrate the category of artisanal fishing (SSF) into the sustainable blue economy initiative and the frame of maritime spatial planning, the following recommendations can be made effective, particularly in terms of:

- Develop and test methodological best practices for the mapping of SSF at MSP at relevant spatial scales and validate it to support decision making.
- Explore application of the open source and Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR) geospatial datasets from national and Mediterranean Sea Basin, relevant geospatial repositories (e.g. EMODNet, Copernicus Marine Data and Services, etc.) for the mapping of SSF activities.
- Characterization of SSF in MSP in partnership with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) through regional approach and exchanges.

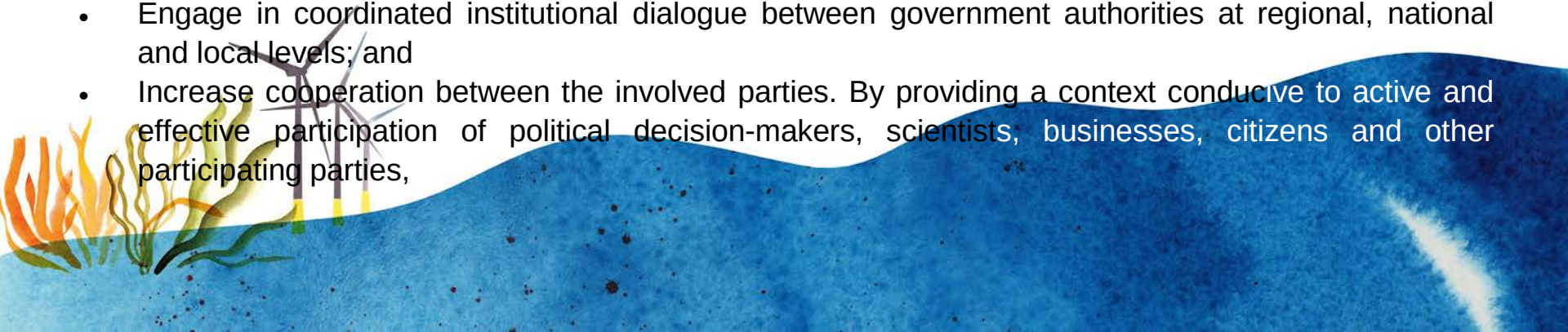
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY ACTIONS (2)

- Improvement of the living and working conditions of artisanal fishing sailors
- Increase in economic performance of artisanal fishing
- Improvement of the quality and valorization of fishing catches
- Organisation and supervision of the profession
- Stability, concentration, organisation, and security of sailors and their property as well as their families
- Social and medical coverage for fishermen
- Pure and perfect competition
- Improved income
- Creation of wealth
- Development of formal marketing of fishing catches
- Fight against intermediaries, monopoly and oligopoly
- Fight against poverty
- Proximity to the administration
- Exports, drainage of currencies, improvement of payment and trade balances
- Set up of maritime clusters
- Gendermainstraming and women involvement
- Ocean literacy

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Mediterranean is a particularly sensitive sea area in this respect, it is important to emphasise the need to have a common policy for the management of blue economy activities paying attention to the creation of specific spaces dedicated to small scale fisheries and artisanal fishing in the planning process. There is also the need to implement a common approach to the preservation of ecosystems, marine life and species that exist there enabling better endorse the recommendations agreed within the various bodies and initiatives of this basin. As such, the riparian countries have an interest in working together referring to MSP IOC-UNESCO recommendations and FAO blue ports framework, Westmed initiative and UfM Ministerial declaration so as to:

- Develop guidelines on cross-border MSP;
- Raise awareness among government authorities and parties of the importance of MSP;
- Engage in coordinated institutional dialogue between government authorities at regional, national and local levels; and
- Increase cooperation between the involved parties. By providing a context conducive to active and effective participation of political decision-makers, scientists, businesses, citizens and other participating parties,



MOROCCAN MODEL AND OCEAN GOVERNANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING

A favorable context for the commitment of Mediterranean countries towards a sustainable and resilient blue economy

Due to its geostrategic location on the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean, Morocco is at the heart of regional strategies around maritime spatial planning and the Blue Economy. By being a member of the UfM and through its strategic partnerships with the European Union within the framework of the neighborhood policy, Morocco has benefited from scientific support for the evaluation of its Blue Economy potential in the framework of MSP Global IOC UNESCO, UfM Actions, Blue MED, MEDFish4ever, PMI-MED, MEDPAN and the WESTMED initiative where Morocco held the co-presidency for 2019 and 2020.,

Coastal fishing boat mainly made
of wood with the exception of a few steel ships.

Canoes designed primarily from wood or polyester.
Outboard motor with prime mover (PM).

High Sea fishing trawler: Cephalopod freezer trawler
catch a range of species including octopus etc...

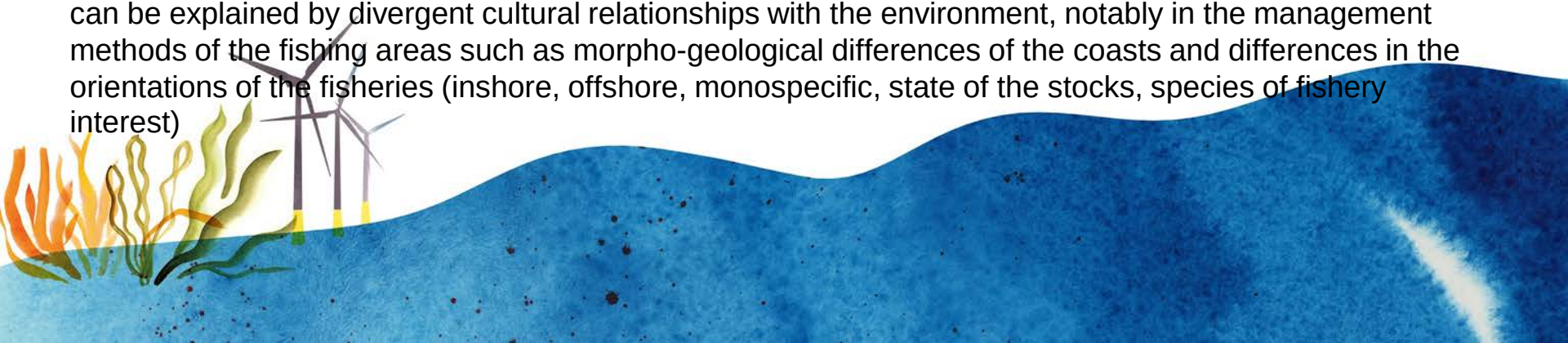
PLANNING FOR FISHING VILAGES AND ARTIFICIAL REEFS TO RESTORE MARINE ECOSYSTEM IN SMALL SCALE FISHERIES AREAS

The Mediterranean and Atlantic Moroccan coast

Artificial reef, an evolving marine environment management tool

Among the coastal development tools intended worldwide for the management and the restoration of marine environments and ecosystems, artificial reefs whose use was initiated in Japan in the 17th century as aggregating fish system.

From a spatial point of view, Artificial reefs sites may be very heterogeneous from one coastline to another, with a high degree of diversity both in the Mediterranean and in the Atlantic. These variations can be explained by divergent cultural relationships with the environment, notably in the management methods of the fishing areas such as morpho-geological differences of the coasts and differences in the orientations of the fisheries (inshore, offshore, monospecific, state of the stocks, species of fishery interest)



MOROCCAN MARITIME CAPITAL AND COASTLINE

The evaluation of Moroccan maritime and coastal capital focuses on the following axes:

Natural capital:
natural heritage natural resources and maritime and coastal space

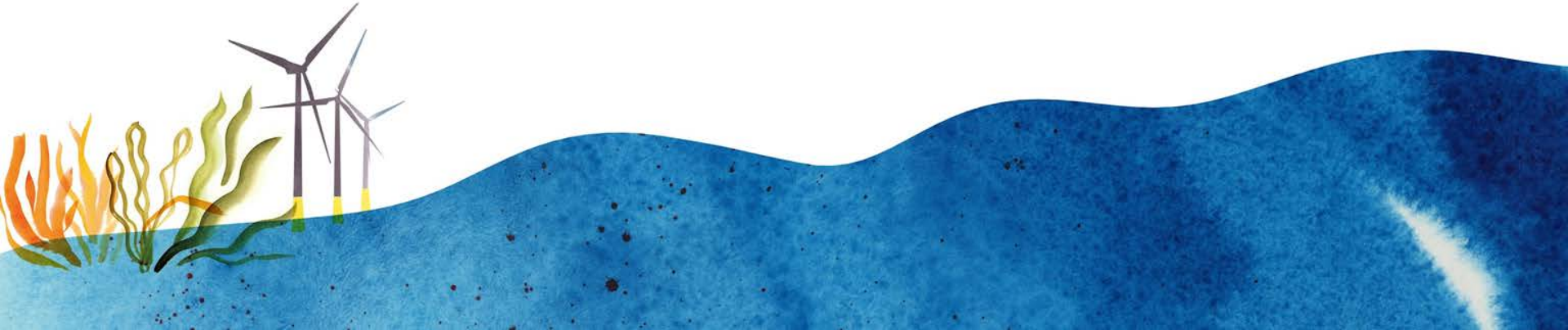
Product capital:
Financial capital Infrastructure and services

Human capital:
Knowledge, culture and heritage, governance, laws and institutions

CHALLENGES WHILE PLANNING FOR ARTIFICIAL REEFS

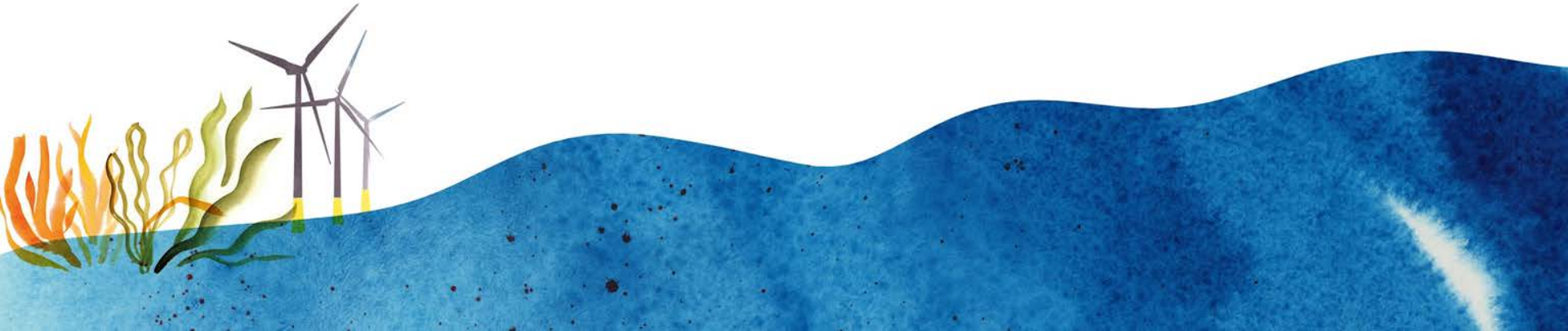
Difficulties for Marine Spatial Planning in general appear when we try to understand the social, economic, environmental and governance objectives of sustainable development with a political and legal vision. This is what quite often requires the carrying out of a public inquiry to better understand these imperatives and avoid objections or disagreements with and/or within stakeholders.

The development of Artificial reefs culture now and in the future is imperatively dependent on the palpable implementation of marine spatial planning that takes into account both the national and regional context. This planning allows the framing and management of areas suitable for the immersion of reefs structures



LEGAL MSP FRAMEWORK FOR IMMERSION OF ARTIFICIAL REEFS

In order to implement real marine spatial planning, there should be a solid national legal and regulatory framework that governs all planning, capable of ensuring the development and management of acceptable artificial reefs. Such a framework must guarantee the protection of rights and obligations, particularly those relating to coastal rights, and provide a clear definition of the roles and obligations of all stakeholders and users in order to minimize collisions, divergences and negative impacts.



CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

In general, MSP for the promotion of artificial reefs is generally perceived as being an exclusively national process, cross-border cooperation is also essential to ensure homogeneous and coordinated MSP strategies at the level of all coastal areas and marine / maritime regions.

This is one of the objectives expected by the WestMED initiative but also by the global MSP IOC UNESCO project. This requires cooperation on three levels, namely:

-**The methodological level** (complementary and coherent methods, data sharing, sharing of experiences and approaches, matrix transfer of experiences),

-**The strategic level** (common long, medium and short term vision)

-**The level of implementation or execution** (planning of marine border zones and overlapping spaces, etc.).

Why all these levels? A significant number of issues and challenges can impact Artificial reefs projects such as maritime transport operations and safety, conservation and sustainable management of straddling fish stocks, protection of biodiversity and marine ecosystems, aliens species, the fight against marine pollution the IUU and harmful telluric effluents, the future development of offshore renewable energy such as wind turbines, etc.. **These elements may have a dimension which goes beyond the territory of the country and therefore require the adoption of a concerted regional approach.**

SELECTION CRITERIA OF THE DISPOSAL OF ARTIFICIAL REEFS

- Sea ground nature : sandy , hard bottom , flat bottom
- Depth: 10-50 m
- Location: -be close to the rocky area -be close to the port and fishing village – existance of breeding Fishery
- Current: moderate speed
- Professional organization : good and functional

OCEANOGRAPHIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH

- Development of a bathymetric map
- Development of a sedimentary facies map
- Measuring current and tide (dead and living water)
- Wildlife bentic evaluation -fauna and flora of the area-
- Measurements of the water quality of the area and
- the identification of potential sources of pollution

UTILITIES OF ARTIFICIAL REEFS IN THE AREA OF MANAGEMENT OF FISHERY RESOURCES

➢Artificial reefs provide :

- Fisheries management means , solves conflicts between fishermen
- Enables the sharing of fishing space and living resources
- The improvement of the concept of federated fishermen

➢Artificial reefs are used to support artisanal fisheries "small scale ", which favor more selective techniques (line Fishing, longline and pots)

➢ Artificial reefs are an integrated management tools within for the coastal strip and for most efficient coastal resources, with the establishment of marine protected areas. MPAs

KEYWORDS OF THE PROJECT

Participative Approach

Artisanale Approach

Integrated management of fishing vilages

ARTIFICIAL REEFS TYPES

Anti - trawling Blocks

Octopus Habitat and Nursery

Octopus Juvenile Shelter

PILES OF GABIONS

ENRICHMENT BLOCK OF PRODUCTION

ANTI TRAWLING BLOCK FOR PROTECTION

OCTOPUS POTS

MAKING PRODUCTION BLOCKS

①

②

③

④

⑤

⑥

MAKING ANTI TRAWLING BLOCKS

①

②

③—1.1

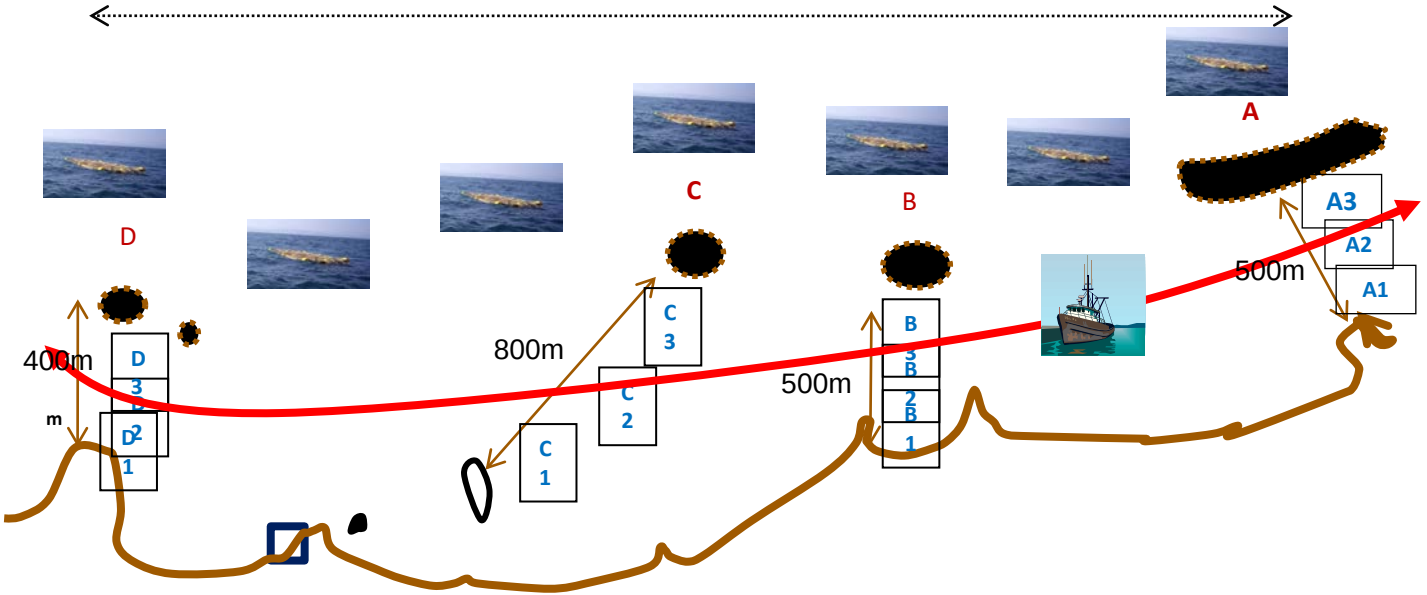
③-1.2

③—2.1

③-2.2

STORAGE AREA BEFORE LOADING

SCHEMATIC ARRANGEMENT OF ARTIFICIAL REEFS IN CALA IRIS FISHING VILLAGE

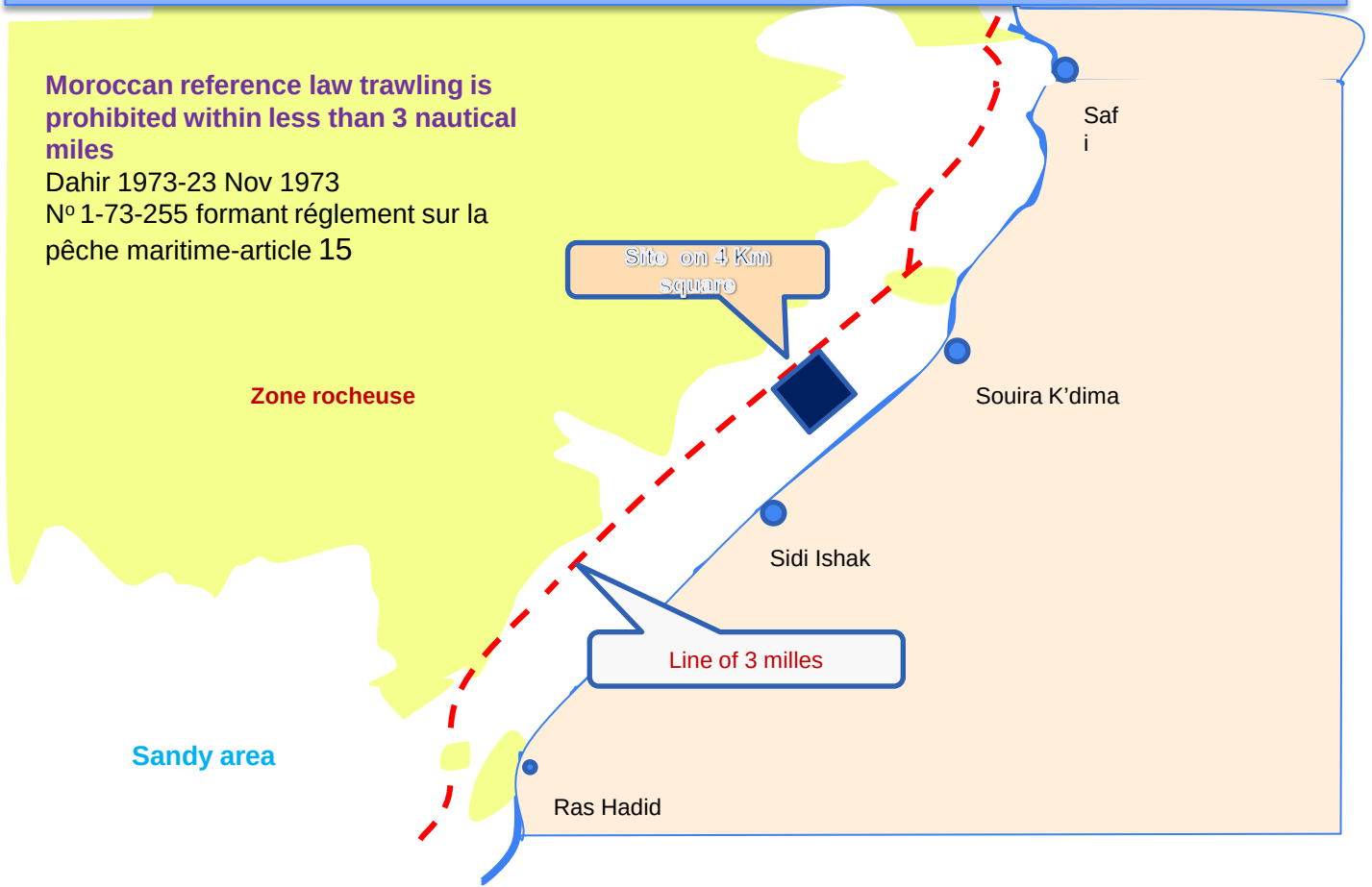


Rocky area

A2 – B2 : 1,18km
B2 – C2 : 1,37km
C2 – D2 : 2,23km
A2 – Port Cala Iris : 4,34km


île de Cala Iris
الجزيرة الكبيرة
isla mayor
Îlot de
Cala Iris
Marabout Sidi
Ahmed al Yallishi
Île Iris
Port de Cala-Iris
Camping Amis
de Cala Iris
Almarsa
Ighaniman
Plage Cala-Iris
مكان لتخييم
Terrain de camping
Camping caravane/
Abdel/Zaki
P5205
Cala iris-كالا إيريس
P5205
Bienvenue aux iris
Booking.com · Hôtels
Sent-Nature-Cala-Iris
Cala iris
Google
Calques

SITE OF THE DUMPING OF ARTIFICIAL REEFS ON THE ATLANTIC OCEAN




L'île sacrée
R301
Monte Kédima
R301
Restaurant
Forteresse d'Agouz
R301
PHARMACIE SAISSI
حي الأمل
L'Arganier Solitaire
حي السعادة
حي التقدم
Souiriya
R301
مصطاف
الصورية
Google
Souiria Beach

6 MONTHS LATER

BIOHUTS AS TOOL FOR RESTORING MARINE ECOSYSTEMS IN PORTS

Blue ports initiative

THE MARITIME SPACE

The maritime space in Morocco includes several overlapping activities, such as:
Fishing areas
Aquaculture areas
Tourist areas
Areas for exploration, exploitation and extraction of oil, gas, minerals and aggregates;
Maritime routes and maritime traffic flows;
Submarine pipelines and cables;
Nature conservation sites “Marine Protected Areas”,
Marine cultural heritage;
Military zones
The scientific research, …

NATIONAL COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

PNAL

Integrate artisanal fishing into its economic and social fabric, by:

- **Setting up reception infrastructure Improving**
- **living and working conditions Stability,**
- **organization and security**

VDP (FV) and PDA (MLP) construction program

Halieutis Strategy

- 3 axes
- 5 ideas
- 16 projects

Factors determining the choice of a VDP or PDA

- the social
- The economic
- The preservation of the resources

THE LIMITS OF VDP AND PDA

1-Absence of common definitions of PDA/VDP

- Technical definition
- Administrative definition
- Legal definition

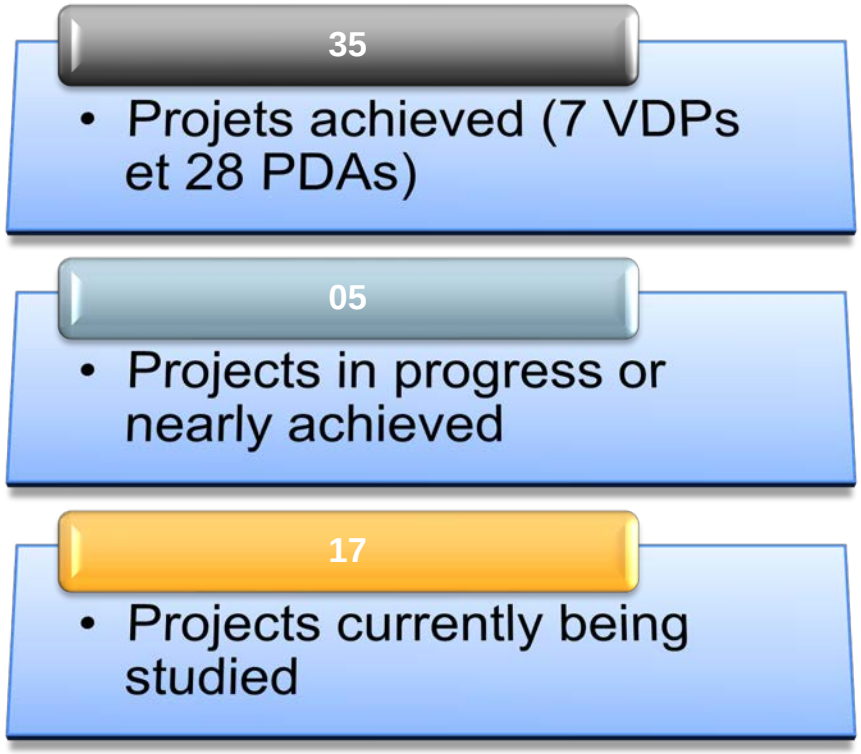
2-Legal frame of the Project

3-Impact on the environnent

- Condemnation of beaches
- Limitation of sea view
- Risk of destruction in the event of a strong storm
- Modification of marine current regimes
- Sliding and destabilization of land (during earthworks)
- Brakes on the flow of external water
- Risk of water and soil pollution
- Dredging (influences the marine environment)
- Water table
- Food chain
- Increased traffic and air pollution
- Operationalization

ACHIEVEMENTS

more than 70 artisanal fishing sites on the Moroccan coast.



ACHIEVED PROJECTS

VDPs

- VDP FNIDEQ

- VDP CHMAALA

- VDP CALA IRIS

- VDP IMESSOUANE

- VDP SIDI HSSAIN

- VDP SOUIRIA KDIMA

ACHIEVED PROJECTS

PDAs

- PDA KAA SRASS

- PDA MARTIL

- PDA MY BOUSELHAM

- PDA BOUZNIKA

- PDA IMMI OUADDAR

- PDA SIDI BOULFDAIL

THE MARINE PROTECTED AREAS AND THE ARTIFICIAL REEFS

The MPAs established in Morocco are category VI “Protected Areas for the management of natural resources” of the IUCN. These are marine protected areas managed primarily for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems.

THANK YOU

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

Regional perspective on MSP: highlights on the Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture

Linda Fourdain, GFCM Secretariat

MEDIGREEN OPENING CONFERENCE

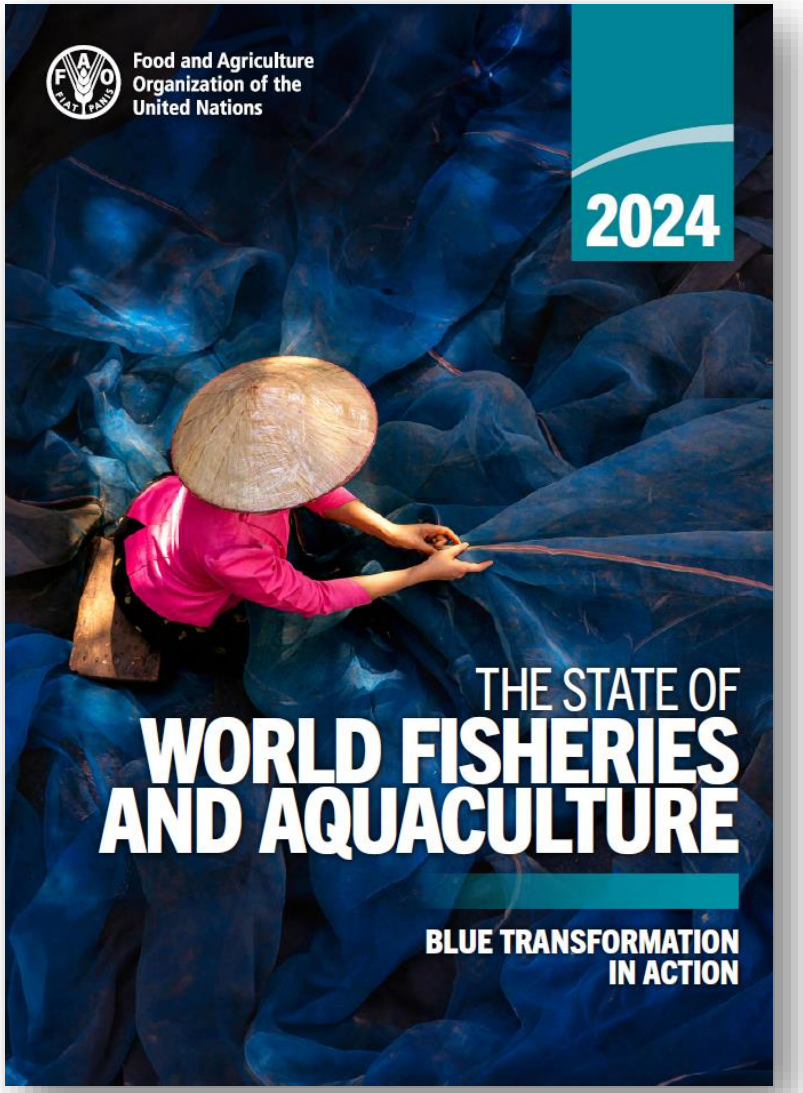
MEDIGREEN - Mediterranean approach towards a maritime European Green Deal in MSP

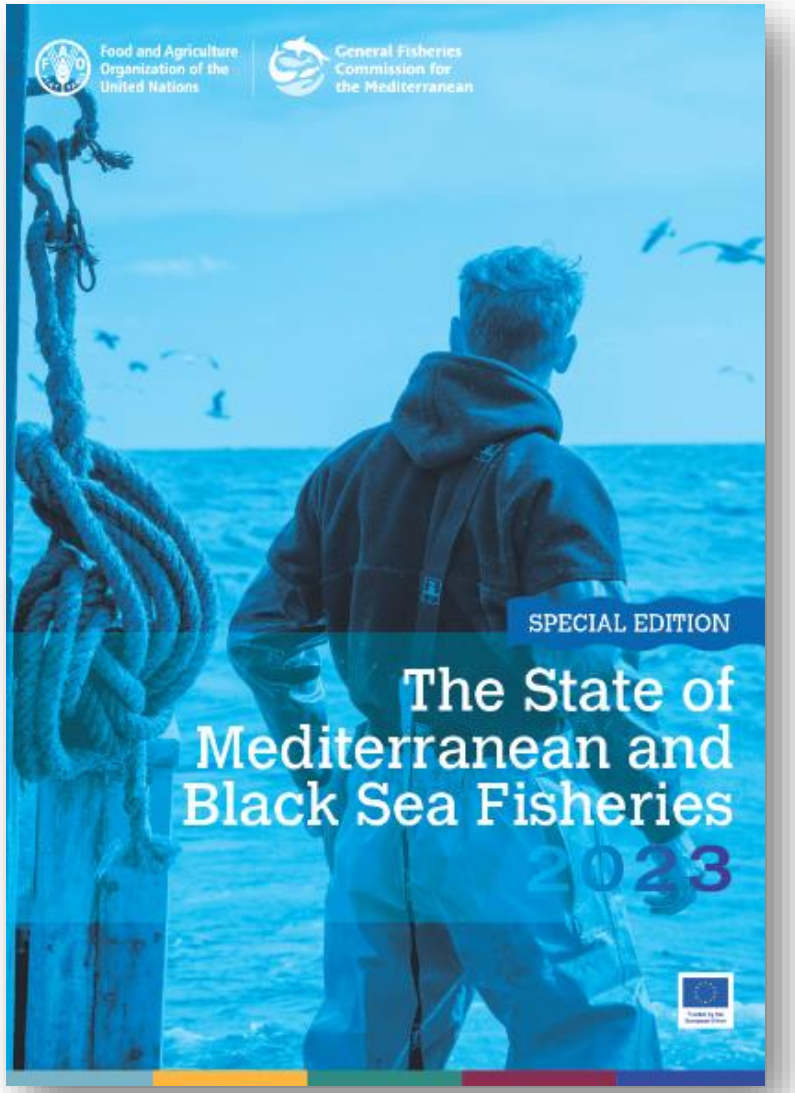
28 January 2025

Two flagship publications

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

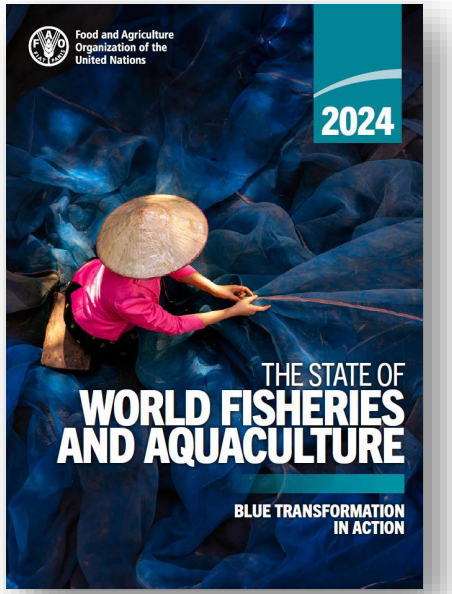




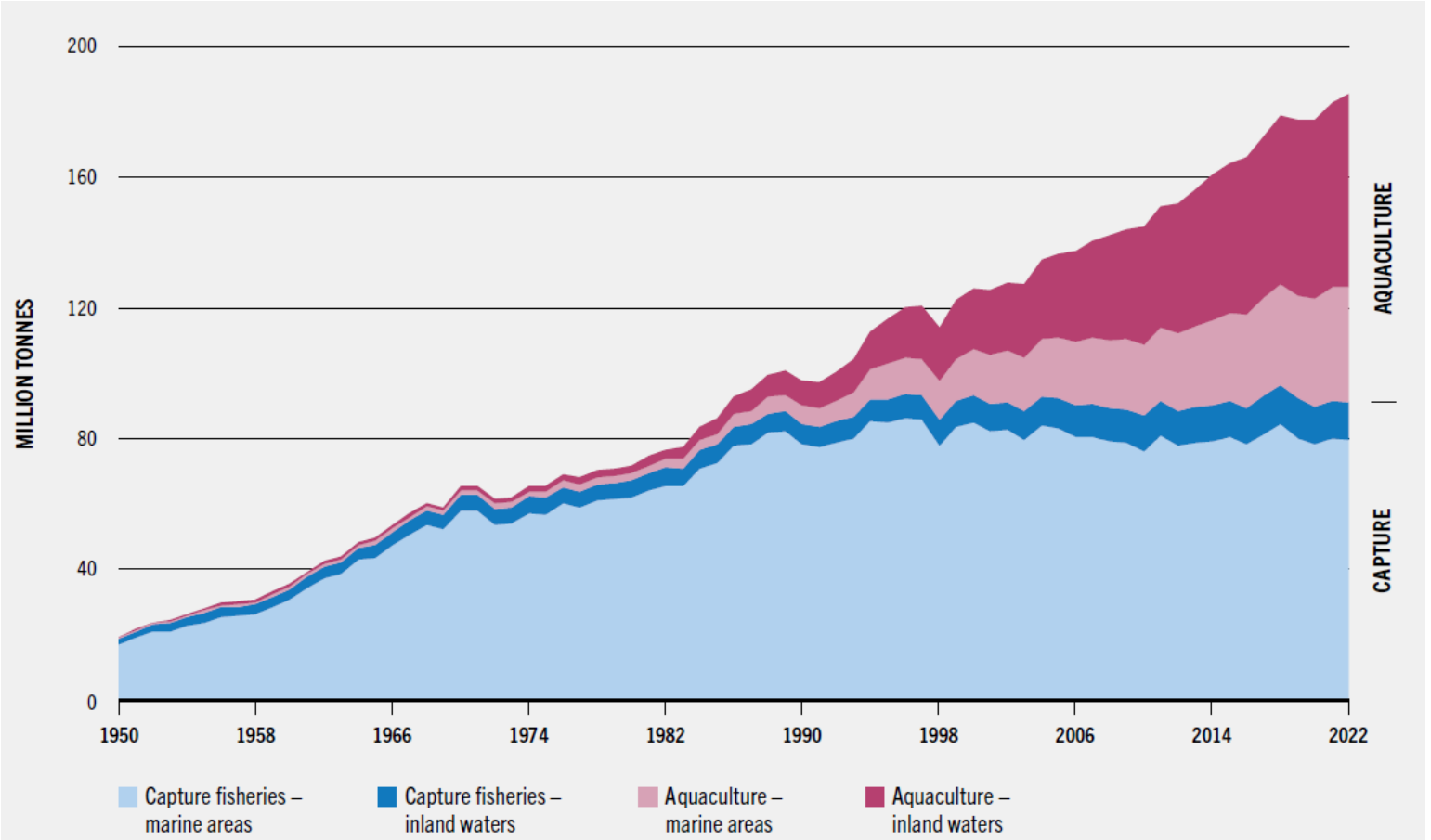
The State of world fisheries and aquaculture

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean



World fisheries and aquaculture production of aquatic animals



NOTES: Aquatic animals excluding aquatic mammals, crocodiles, alligators, caimans, aquatic products (corals, pearls, shells and sponges) and algae. Data expressed in live weight equivalent.

SOURCE: FAO. 2024. FishStat: Global production by production source 1950–2022. [Accessed on 29 March 2024]. In: FishStatJ. Available at: www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstatj. Licence: CC-BY-4.0.

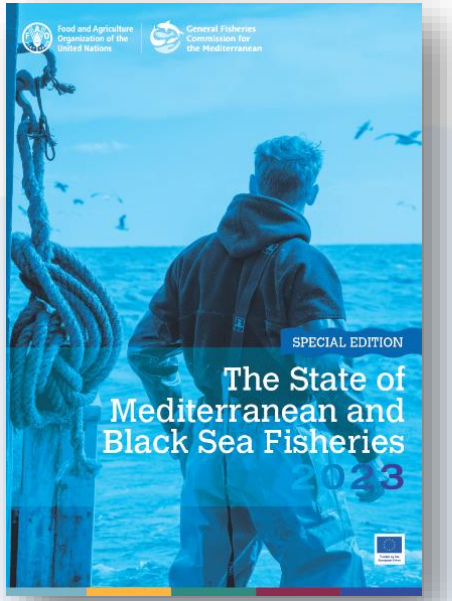
94

91

State of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean



Revenue

USD 4.9 billion

Jobs

97 000+

Directly employed

17.9%

of jobs held by women

Total aquaculture production

24% from marine water

6% from brackish water

70% from inland

Marine and brackish water aquaculture production

870 000 tonnes

3 299 000 tonnes

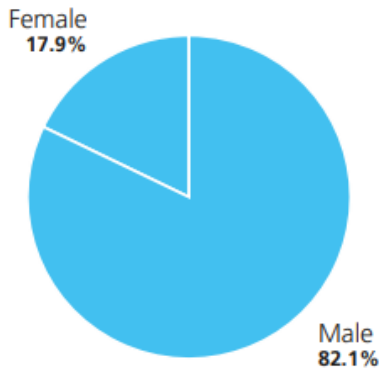
USD 10.8 billion

Trends in aquaculture

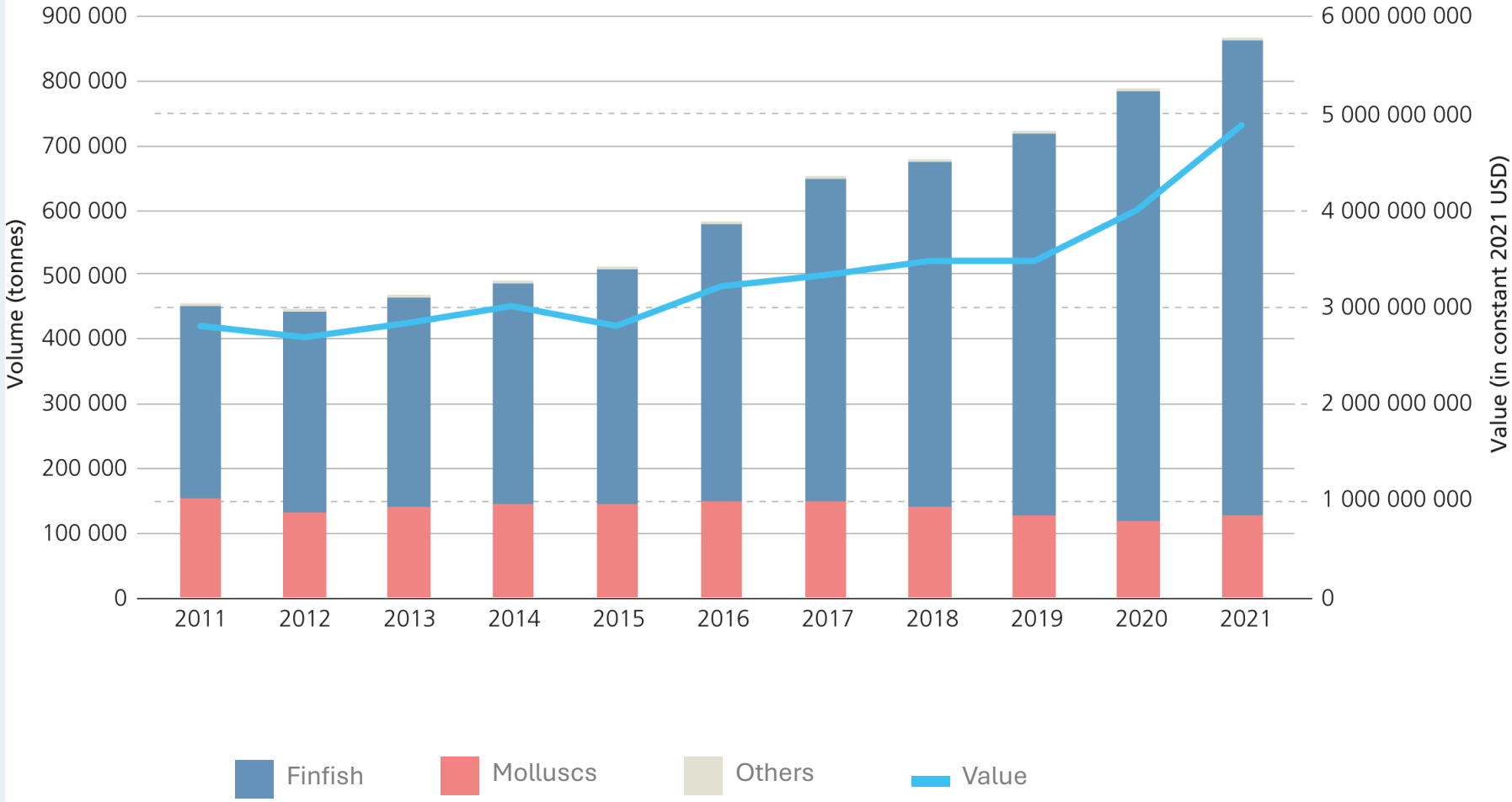
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

Percentage by gender of direct employment in the aquaculture sector in Mediterranean and Black Sea countries transmitting gender-disaggregated data



Total annual volume and revenue of aquaculture production

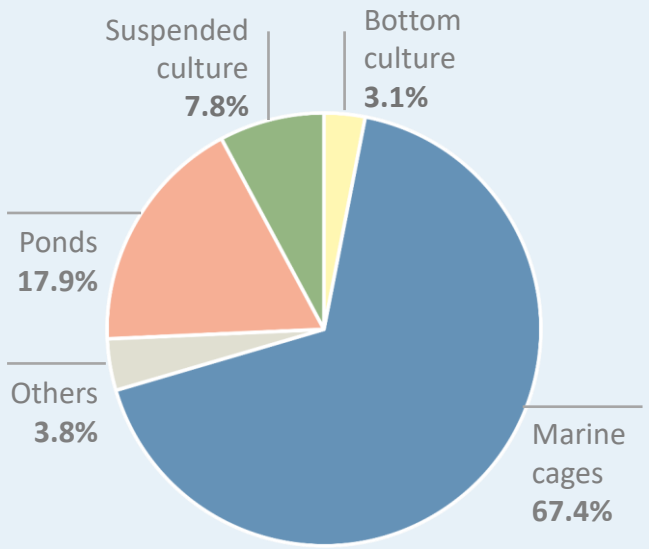


Aquaculture methods and species

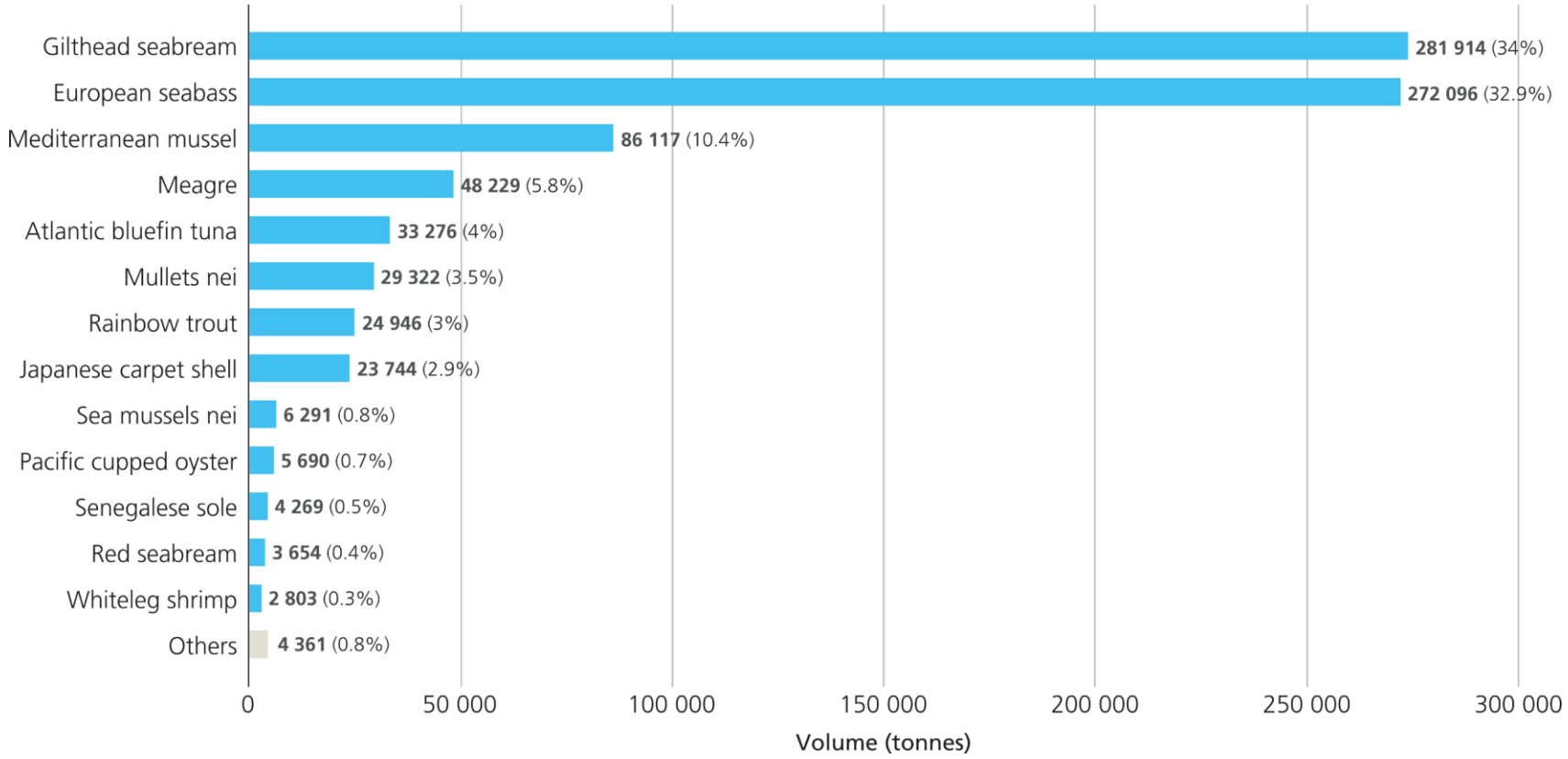
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

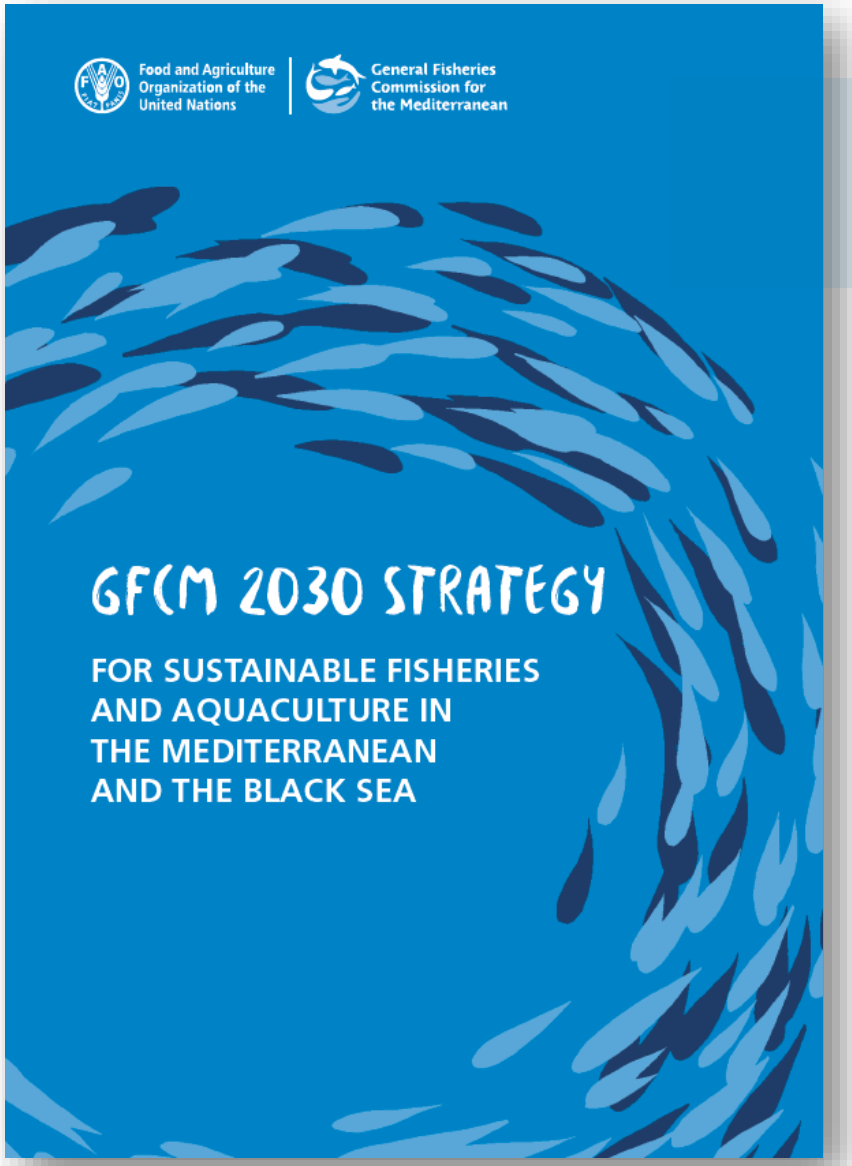
Relative contributions of production methods to total aquaculture production



Annual aquaculture production by main species reared



GFCM 2030 Strategy



Target 3 Aquaculture: A sustainable and resilient sector growing to its full potential

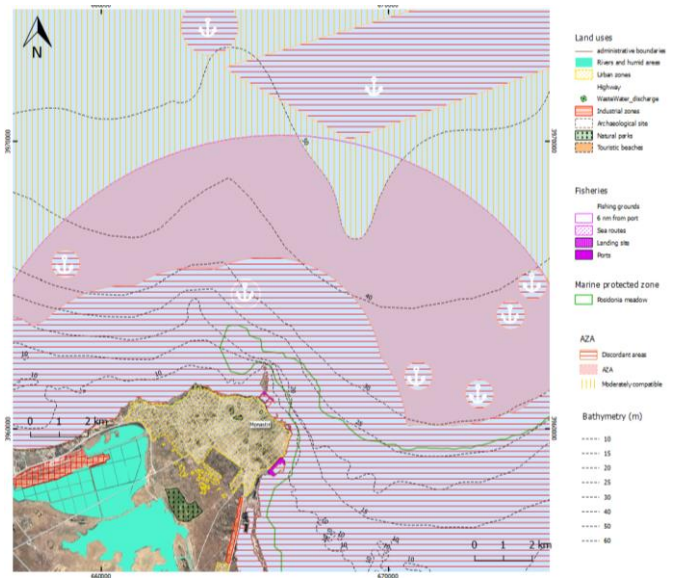
Target 3 ensures the **sustainable development** of the **aquaculture** sector and its contribution to **sustainable food systems**, working towards its **resilience against global challenges** such as climate change and pollution. Its achievement is supported by four expected outputs:

1. Efficient governance promoted in support of responsible investment
2. Practices supporting the sustainability of the aquaculture industry promoted
3. Perception of aquaculture improved
4. Technology and information systems maximized

Output 2: Promoting practices in support of a sustainable aquaculture industry

Promotes the blue transformation of aquaculture using ecosystem-based, science-driven solutions, focusing on reducing environmental impact, addressing climate change, enhancing animal welfare, and promoting innovation and diversification.

- Improve the footprint of the aquaculture industry through applied research and capacity building, focussing on responsible practices and state-of-the-art techniques.
- Continue to promote allocated zones for aquaculture within marine spatial planning tools, through increased technical assistance.
- Promote environmentally friendly blue farming systems in Mediterranean lagoons in order to protect their valuable ecosystems and cultural heritage.



Allocated zones for aquaculture (AZA)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

Resolution GFCM/36/2012/1

Areas resulting from a zoning process of physical planning in which there is **no negative interferences** with other activities or users and where **environmental** conditions allow the development of the activity. Even if these areas are declared of **priority use** for aquaculture, other activities can be implemented within AZA. It involves the **coordination** among different authorities and is based on a **participatory approach**

ECONOMIC

Local economic development

ENVIRONMENT

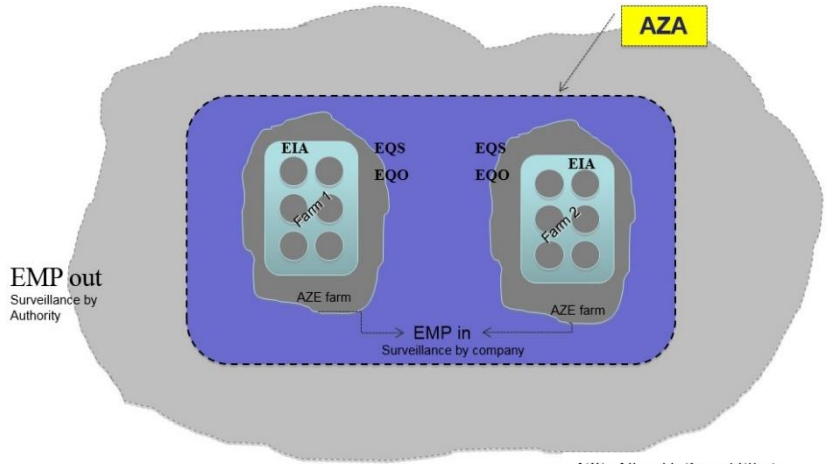
Reduced impacts on the environment

GOVERNANCE

Better dialogue and coordination

SOCIAL

Enhanced food security and social acceptability



AZE: Allowable Zone of Effects
EQO: Environmental Quality Objectives
EMP: Environmental Monitoring Programme
EQS: Environmental Quality Standards
EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment

Cross-border + Cross-sector

Management approach

AZA represents a valuable tool enabling to frame aquaculture activities into MSP

Technical assistance and capacity-building on AZA

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

Workshops and trainings

A virtual seminar on aquaculture and marine spatial planning (MSP)

Online courses on the use of GIS in the establishment of AZA

Module 1: Spatial information and representation

Module 2: Planning for sustainable aquaculture development

Course on the use of GIS during the international symposium on fisheries and aquatic sciences (SOFAS 22 and 23)

Joint GFCM/RECOFI workshop on allocated zones for aquaculture

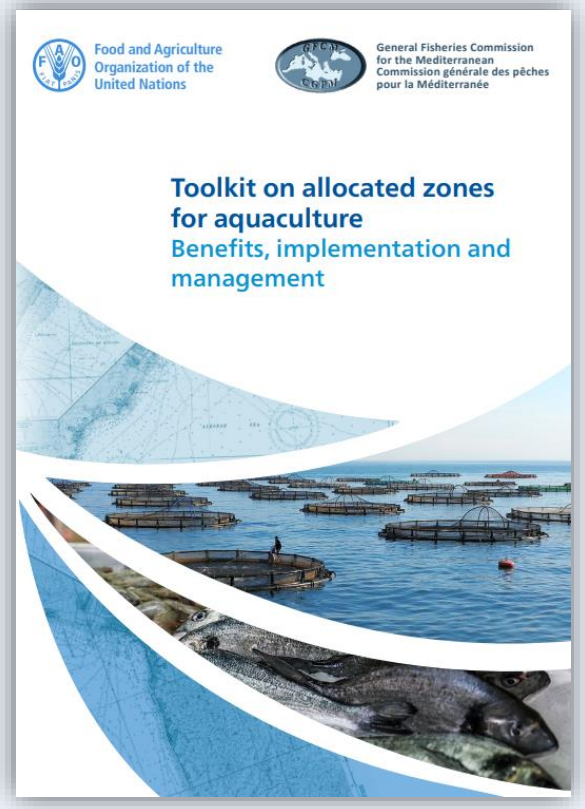
Advanced Specialised Course on Sustainable Development of Coastal Communities at the Tricase branch of CIHEAM-Bari

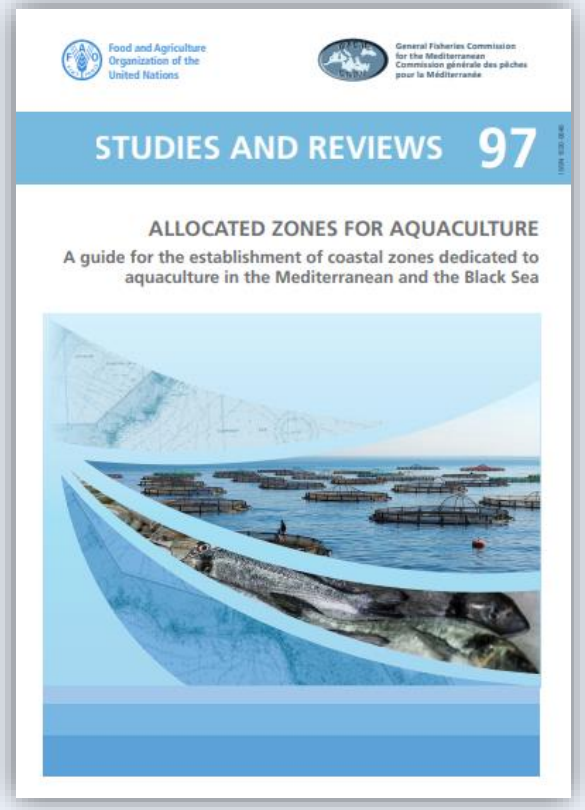
+ 300 participants

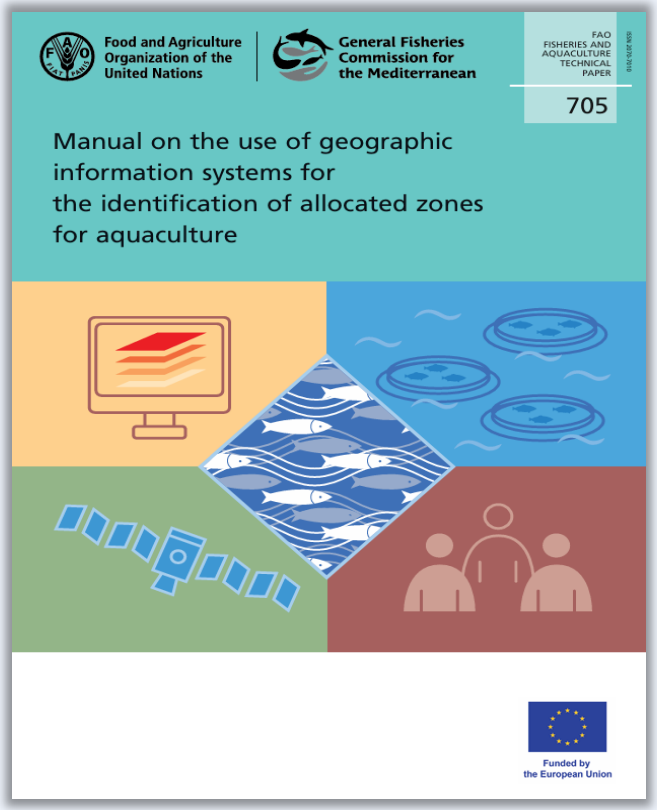
Technical assistance and capacity-building on AZA

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean







Technical assistance and capacity-building on AZA

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CONFERENCE

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

4-5 December 2024

Panel 4: Building resilient aquaculture in the face of a changing climate

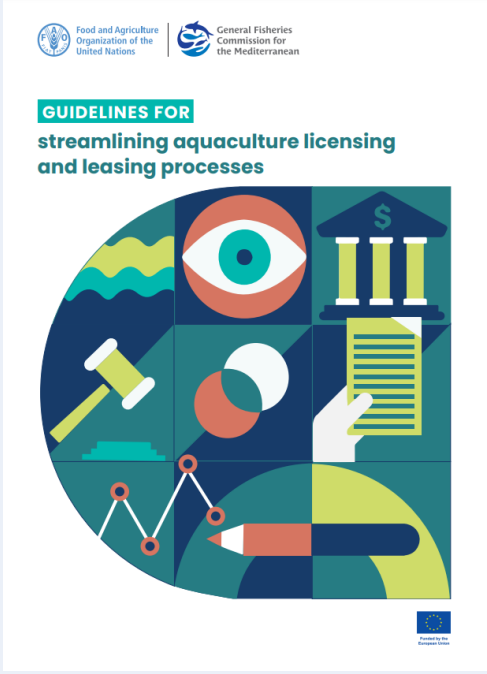
Aquaculture must proactively address challenges, such as temperature increase, extreme weather events, habitats degradation and disease outbreaks driven by climate change.

The use of innovative technologies, climate-resilient species and **MSP**, including **AZAs**, are essential strategies to mitigate climate-related risks and enhance aquaculture resilience in the region.

GFCM guidelines

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean



Thank you for your attention

Linda Fourdain, GFCM Secretariat

@UN_FAO_GFCM

www.FAO.org/GFCM

MEDIGREEN
Mediterranean approach towards a maritime European Green Deal in MSP

Co-funded by the European Union

European Aquaculture
Technology and Innovation Platform

Aquaculture, Marine Spatial Planning & European Green Deal Transition

David Bassett
General Secretary - EATiP

28 January 2025

www.eatip.eu

Who are we?

Innovation
Technology
Collective Interest
Collaboration
Collective Knowledge
Safe and healthy seafood
Future of Aquaculture

- One of 39 European Technology Platforms
- ETPs identify Strategic Research & Innovation Agendas for given industry sectors.

- Multi Actor, Industry led, entire value chain
- Finfish, Shellfish, Algae
- Marine, FW
- National / Regional Mirror Platforms
- TSSP – S3 Strategy

- SRIA & Recommendations
- Communication, Dissemination, Exploitation
- www.eatip.eu

Engagement with Marine Spatial Planning

MSP GREEN
Maritime Spatial Planning as enabler of the European Green Deal

opernicus
Europe's eyes on Earth

EMODnet
European Marine Observation and Data Network

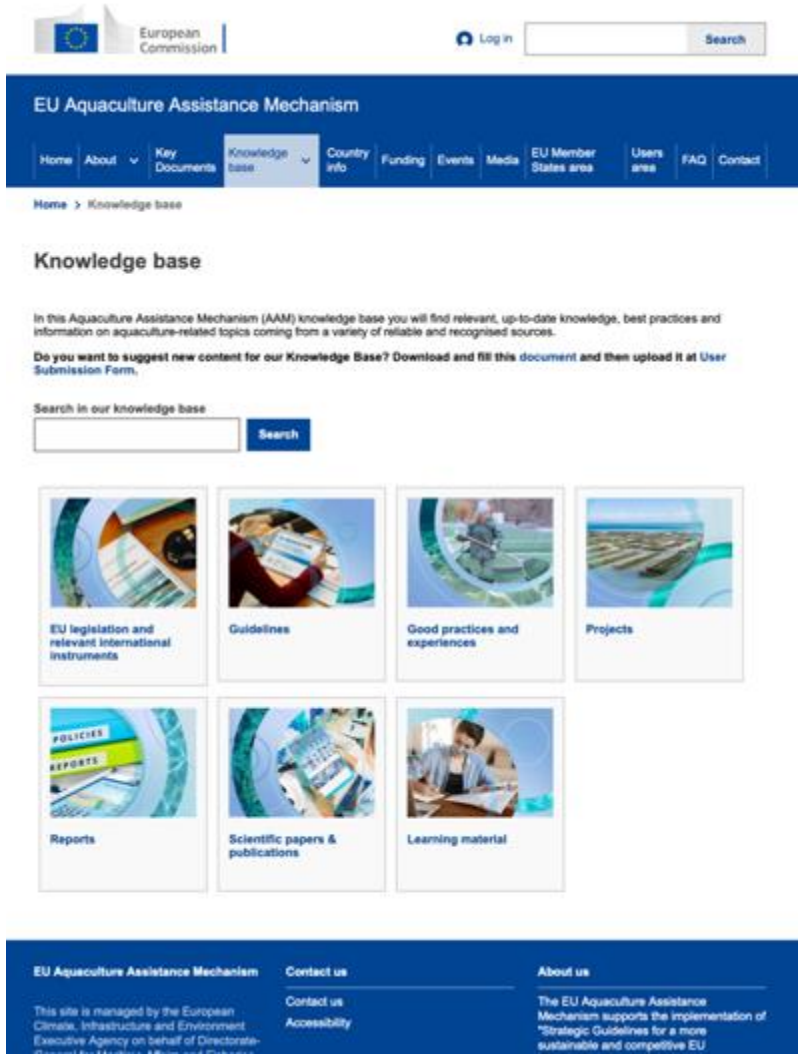
European MSP Platform

European Commission

OLAMUR

- Previous project engagement: MSP Green
- Engagement with linked networks and organisations
- Role of modelling and data
- Horizon / Mission consideration of Marine Multi Use (e.g. RWE / Aquaculture)
- Innovation within regulatory control and access to space
- Relevance to the Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism (AAM) & Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC)

COM (2021) 236: **Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism**



- Stakeholder calls for improved information on research project knowledge outputs.
- Summary resources, fact sheets, all easily accessible to interested stakeholders.

AAM Knowledge Base helps to address this.

Regulation, Guidelines, Good Practices, Projects, Reports, Papers and Publications, Learning Material.

EC Staff Working Document on Access to Space:

https://aquaculture.ec.europa.eu/key-documents/access-space

Please:

- Look it up!
- Register for with the AAM site / newsletter.

Challenges for the Aquaculture Sector in achieving EGD Targets

Sectoral Structure:

Highly diverse, with 80% of European APBs considered micro businesses.

Economic Viability:

Balancing economic viability with environmental sustainability is essential. This includes managing costs associated with sustainable practices and ensuring market competitiveness & profitability.

Decarbonisation:

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from aquaculture operations including Energy Transition & efficiency.

Circular Economy:

Implementing circular economy practices, such as waste reduction, recycling, and resource efficiency.

Biodiversity Protection:

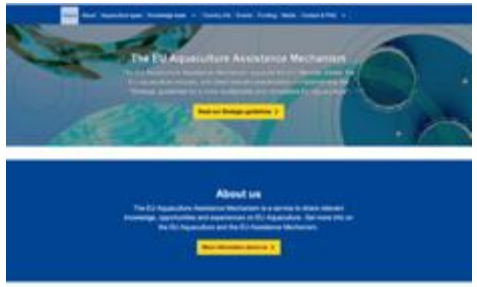
Ensuring that aquaculture activities do not harm marine biodiversity is crucial.

Regulatory Compliance:

Navigating the complex regulatory landscape and ensuring compliance with environmental standards can be challenging.

Innovation and Technology:
Developing and adopting innovative technologies that support sustainable aquaculture production requires both human resource and investment.

Aspects of Marine Spatial Planning for Aquaculture



Need to balance the development of aquaculture with the EGD objectives of sustainability, climate neutrality, and biodiversity protection. Key priorities include:

Sustainable Aquaculture Development:
Ensuring that aquaculture practices are environmentally sustainable, minimise impacts on marine ecosystems, & promote the use of innovative, eco-friendly technologies

Climate Neutrality:
Aligning aquaculture activities with the goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2050. Reducing GGE from aquaculture operations and enhancing carbon sequestration.

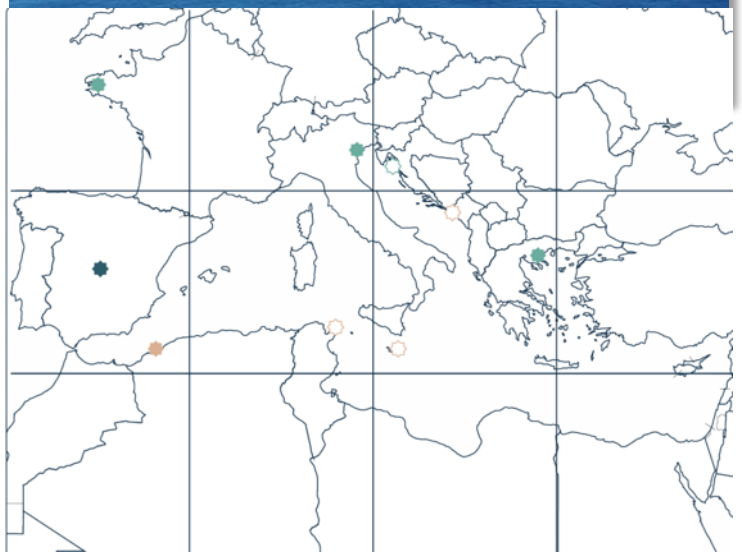
Biodiversity Protection:
Protecting marine biodiversity by designating marine protected areas and ensuring that aquaculture does not negatively impact sensitive habitats and species

Efficient Use of Marine Space:
Optimising the use of marine space to avoid conflicts between different maritime activities, such as tourism and energy and ensuring suitable siting.

Stakeholder Engagement:
Involving local communities, industry stakeholders, environmental organisations and regulators in the planning process. Building social licence.

Data Sharing and Cooperation:
Promoting the sharing of data and best practices among Mediterranean countries to enhance the effectiveness of MSP and support transnational cooperation

Challenges for Aquaculture relating to MSP:



- **Conflicting Interests**: Balancing the needs of different marine users, such as fisheries, tourism, shipping, and conservation, can be difficult! A lack of fairness, equity and incentive to collaborate.
- **Environmental Impact**: Ensuring that aquaculture practices do not impact marine ecosystems.
- **Regulatory Complexity**: Navigating the complex regulatory frameworks at local, national, and international levels can be challenging. Harmonising these regulations to support sustainable aquaculture is essential
- **Data Availability**: Effective MSP requires comprehensive and up-to-date data on marine environments and human activities. However, data gaps and inconsistencies exist…
- **Climate Change**: Addressing (and predicting) the impacts of climate change, such as rising sea temperatures and ocean acidification, on aquaculture operations is a significant challenge
- **Stakeholder Engagement**: Involving all relevant stakeholders, including local communities, industry representatives, and environmental groups, often with opposing points of view.
- **Economic Viability**: Ensuring that aquaculture operations are economically viable while meeting environmental and social standards can be challenging.

Opportunities for Aquaculture under MSP:

Marine Multi-Use (MU) in the Mediterranean offers several opportunities to enhance aquaculture and support the wider blue economy

Aquaculture and Renewable Energy: Integrating aquaculture facilities with offshore wind farms (RWE) (c.f. Horizon Europe / Mission Ocean funded projects.)

Aquaculture, Marine Conservation and Tourism: Aquaculture can be integrated into tourism activities (including within MPAs) demonstrating wider aspects of the blue economy to interested stakeholders (see 5 below)

Oil & Gas Platforms and Aquaculture: Repurposing decommissioned oil and gas platforms for aquaculture can provide new opportunities for seafood production while reducing the environmental impact of platform removal

Marine Research and Education: Creating multi-use zones that support marine research, education, and public awareness can promote sustainable marine management and foster a greater understanding of both the blue economy and marine ecosystems

Social Licence: Further integration of aquaculture into a co-managed aquatic environment will continue to build a sense of legitimacy and presence in a maturing blue economy.

- European Ocean Pact

EUROPEAN BLUE FORUM | Building Europe's Blue Community

Understanding aquaculture within marine spatial planning (MSP) agro-ecology & land use.

Understanding blue/green interactions – more than just aquatic food production:

- Marine multiuse – integration of energy and low trophic aquaculture
- (Significant) implications for (large scale) MSP
- Aquaculture production in terms of enabling agricultural set aside & green deal targets
- Eco-system services of aquaculture (FW ponds, habitat, biodiversity, restoration, NbS)
- Land based, RAS farming / terrestrial water resource implications.
- Aquaponics and urban farming

MEDIGREEN
Mediterranean approach towards a maritime European Green Deal in MSP

Co-funded by the European Union

European Aquaculture
Technology and Innovation Platform

Contact: **David Bassett**
General Secretary
david@eatip.eu

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS EUROPE

MPA

PI: Mark J. Costello, Nord University (NORD, Norway)

MPA Europe Mediterranean Regional Stakeholder workshop

In collaboration with

Medi Green

Tuesday, January 28th, 2025; Real Jardín Botánico - CSIC

The MPA Europe project is co-funded by the European Union under the Horizon Europe program (grant agreement no. 101059988)

Co-funded by the European Union

UK Research and Innovation

OUTLINE

- MPA Europe goals and results to date (25 min)
- Q&A session (15 min)
- OPEN DISCUSSION (60 min)
- Wrap-up (5 min) + shared short report post-workshop

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS EUROPE

MPA Europe: Goals and Results to date

Anna M. Addamo, Nord University (Norway)
Silas C. Principe, UNESCO/IOC (Belgium)
Belinda Bramley and Thanos Smanis CLIMAZUL (Greece)

The MPA Europe project is co-funded by the European Union under the Horizon Europe program (grant agreement no. 101059988)

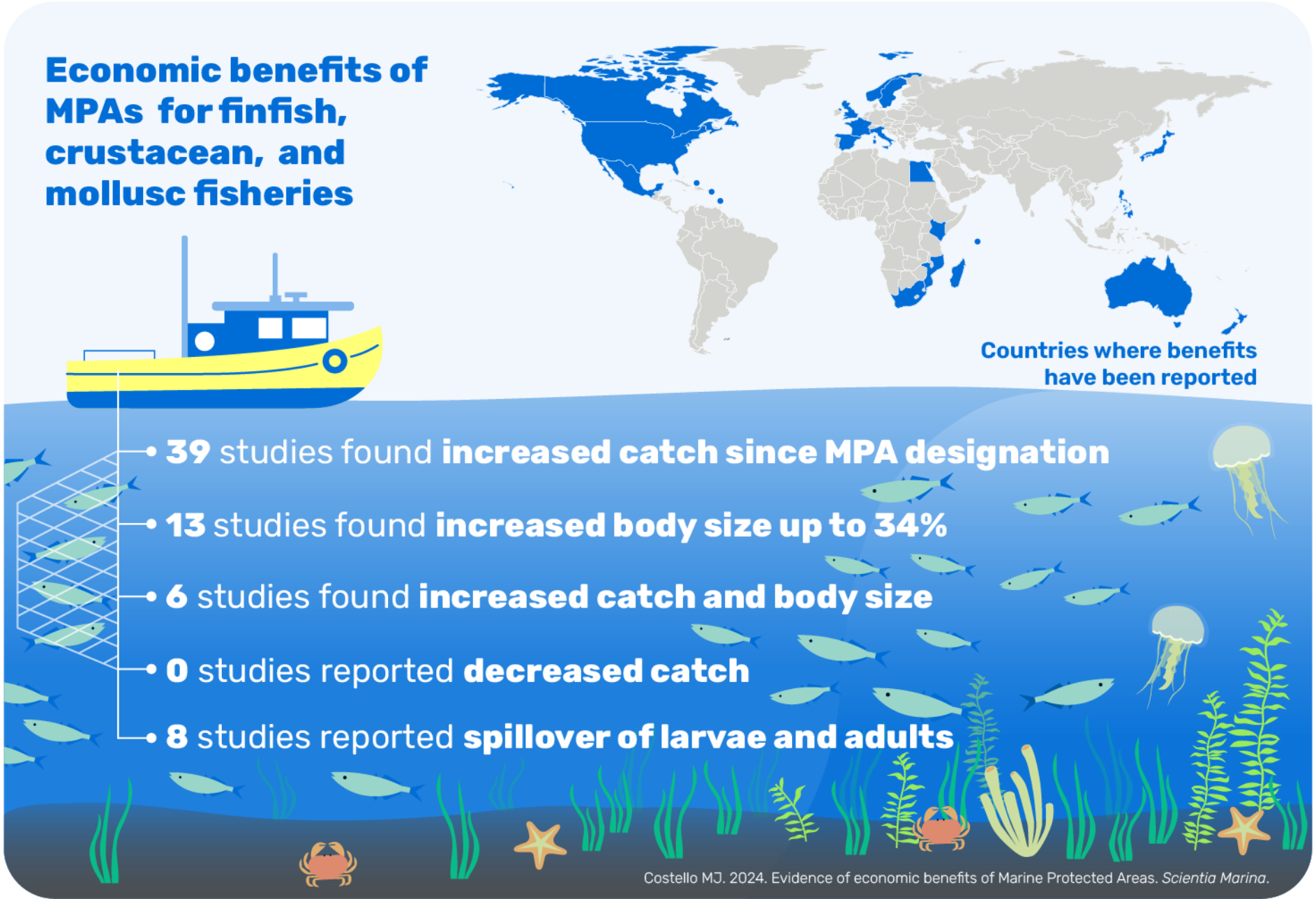
Co-funded by the European Union

UK Research and Innovation

PROJECT BACKGROUND

New review of science literature on MPA effects on fisheries found examples from 25 countries.

No indications of any fishery loss due to MPA anywhere.



PROJECT STUDY AREA & MAIN GOAL

MPA EUROPE IS MAPPING THE OPTIMAL LOCATIONS FOR MARINE PROTECTED AREAS IN EUROPEAN SEAS TO SUPPORT SCIENCE-BASED MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING

PROJECT TARGETS

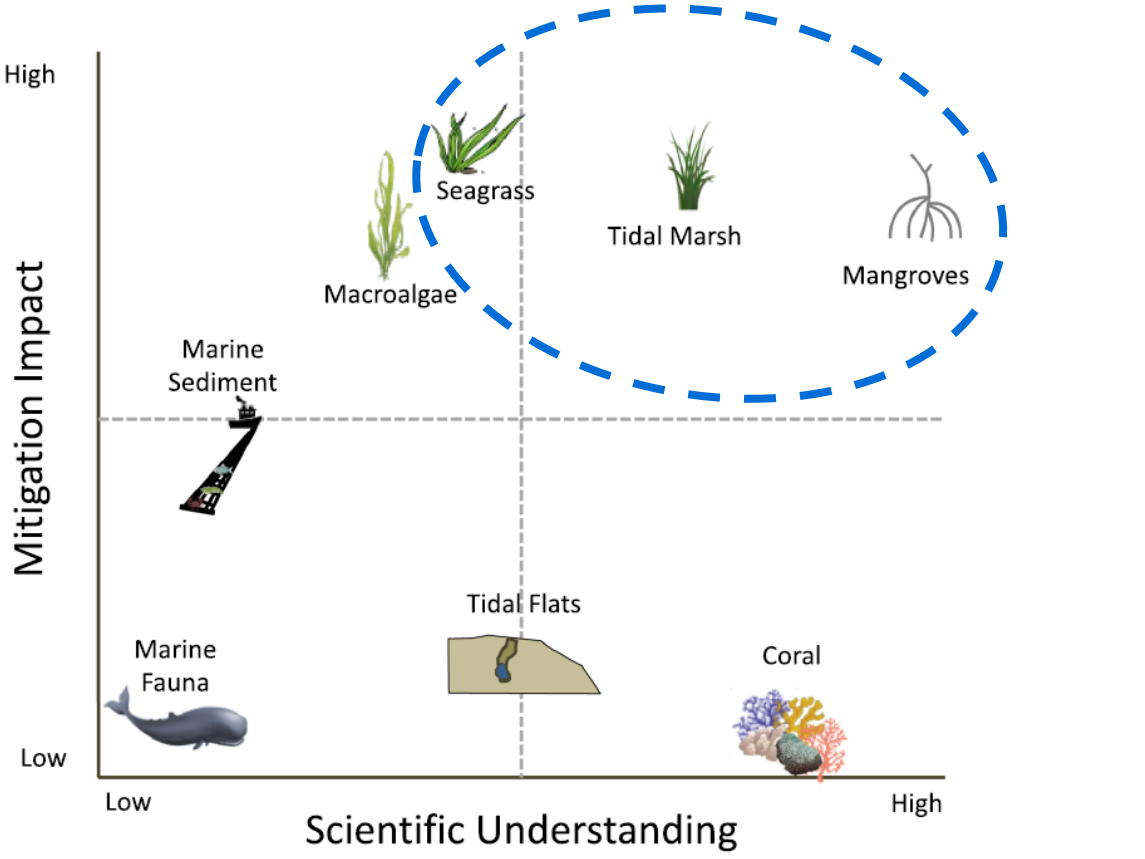
BIODIVERSITY

BLUE CARBON

IPCC definition: "**all biologically-driven carbon fluxes and storage in marine systems** that are amenable to management".

Management of Blue Carbon (BC): Protection and restoration of BC habitats and associated C-sinks require information on BC location, size and associated drivers.

CLASSIC BLUE CARBON HABITATS



Howard et al. 2023

IPCC = Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

PROJECT COMPONENTS

Carbon sequestration, storage and deposition based on the environmental conditions, habitats, and species present

Develop **blue carbon scoring system** supporting management of blue carbon

Connectivity modelling (present)

Climate velocity (recent and future)

Design **MPA networks covering 10% and 30% of European seas** that maximise coverage of biodiversity and blue carbon

30 000 SPECIES

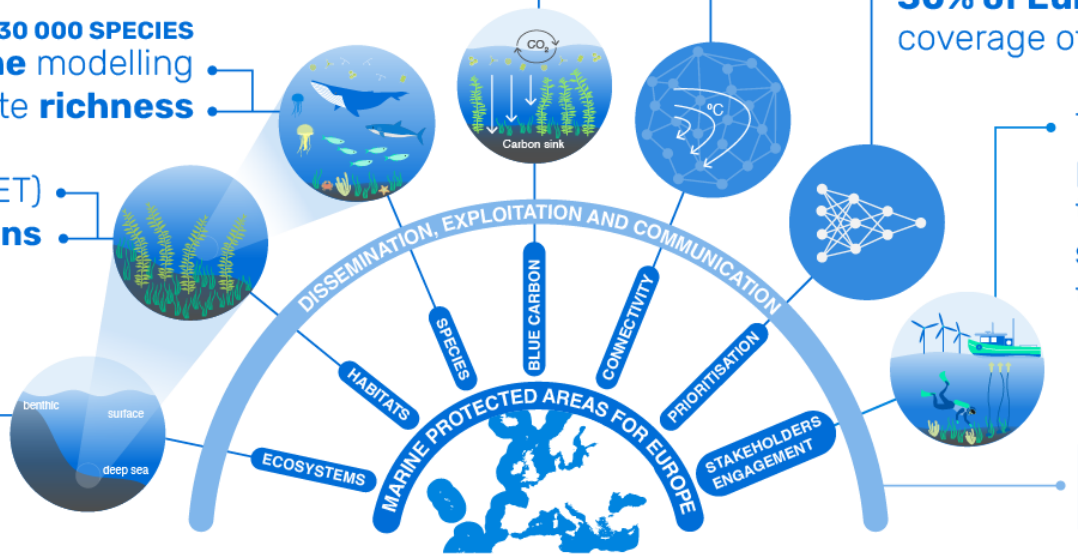
Environmental niche modelling

Estimate **richness**

Benthic habitats (EMODNET)

Modelled **habitat distributions**

Environmental data (Copernicus)



Two way process with marine spatial planners and other interested parties to formulate **regional or national case studies**, ensuring project traceability, transparency and reproducibility

Project website, peer-reviewed scientific papers, workshops, conference, fact sheets, policy brief for stakeholders

PROJECT APPROACH

SYSTEMATIC CONSERVATION PLANNING (SCP)

Standardised and
complete data layers

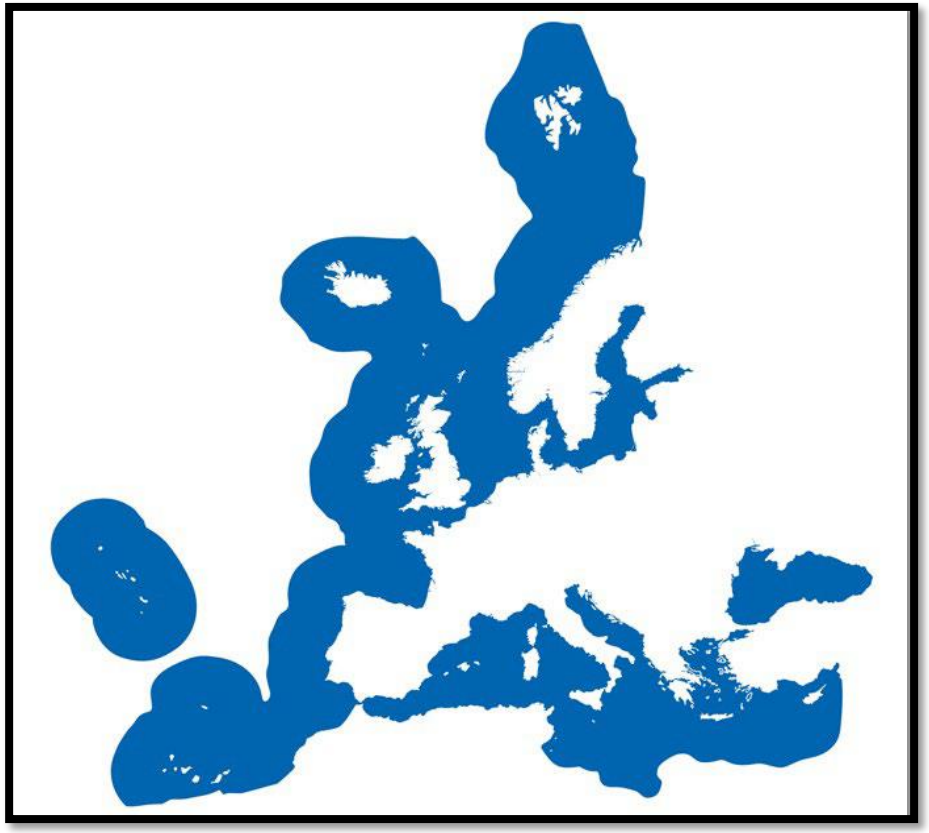
- SPECIES
- HABITATS
- ECOSYSTEMS
- BLUE CARBON
- CONNECTIVITY

MPA EUROPE PROPOSE PRIORITY AREAS TO PROTECT
(A) BIODIVERSITY AND
(B) BLUE CARBON

PROJECT APPROACH

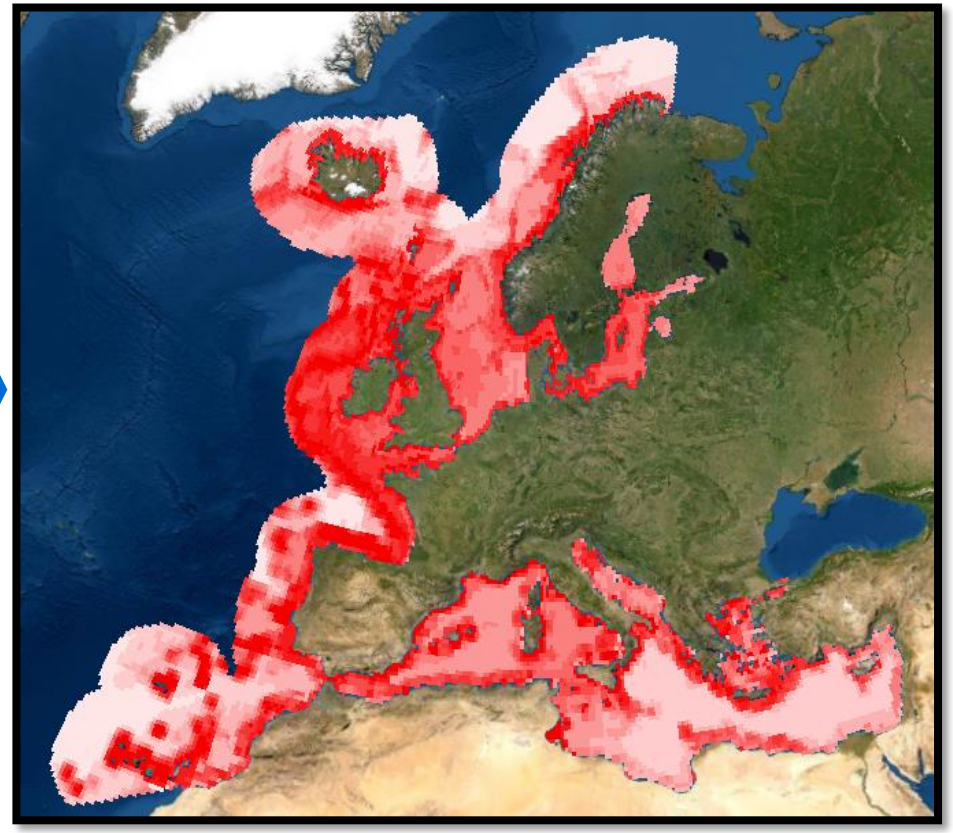
SYSTEMATIC CONSERVATION PLANNING (SCP)

Standardised and complete data layers



© MPA Europe

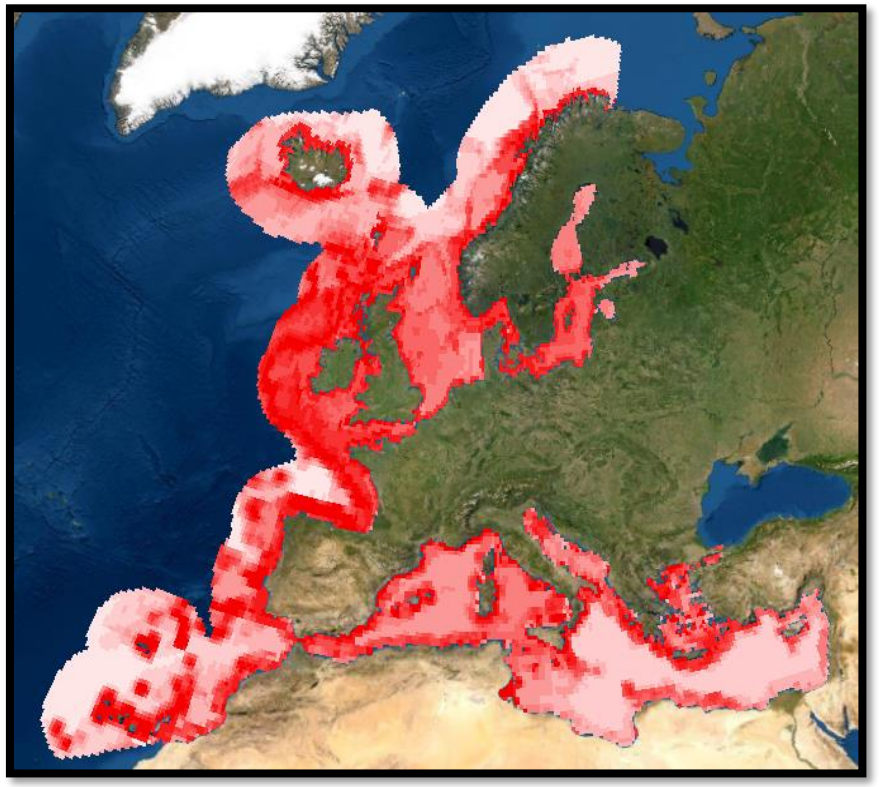
Example of prioritised areas (**darker** red = **higher** priority)

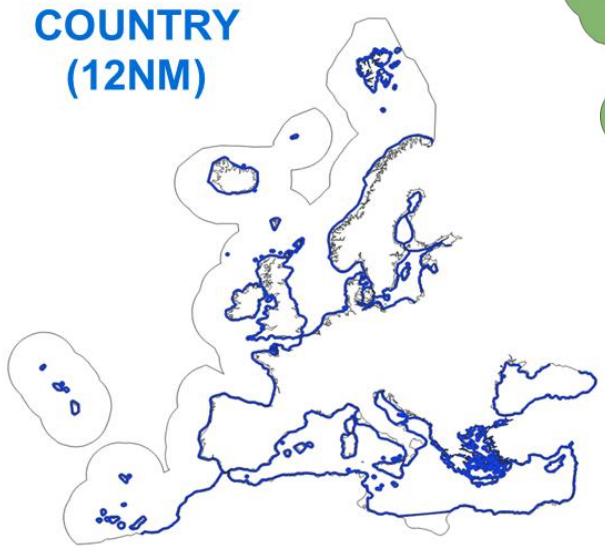


© MPA Europe

PROJECT APPROACH

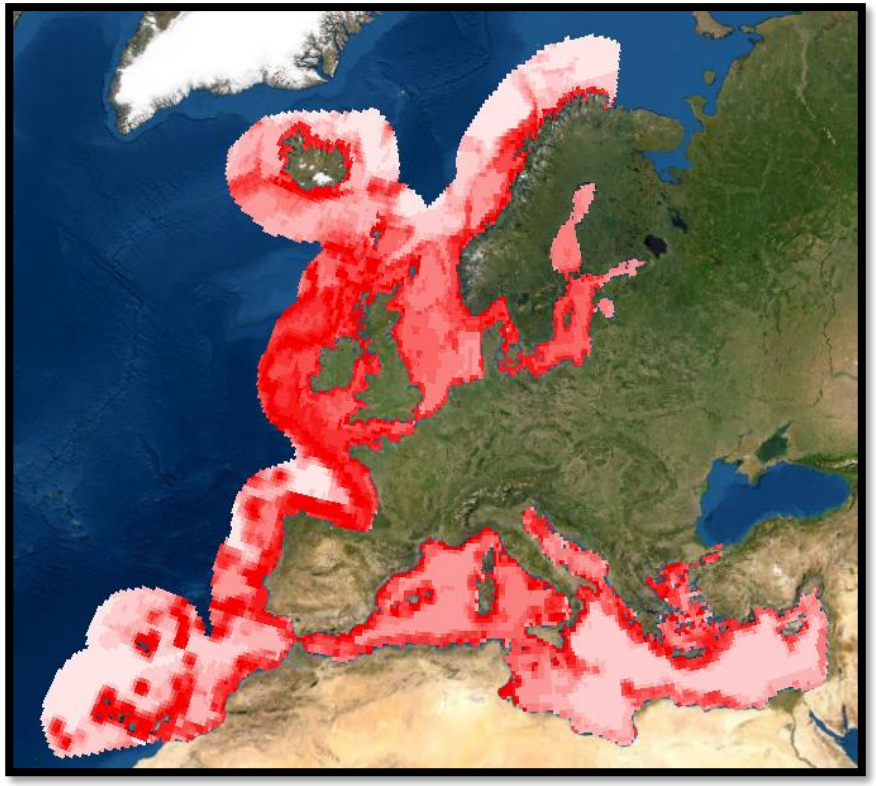
PRIORITIZATION

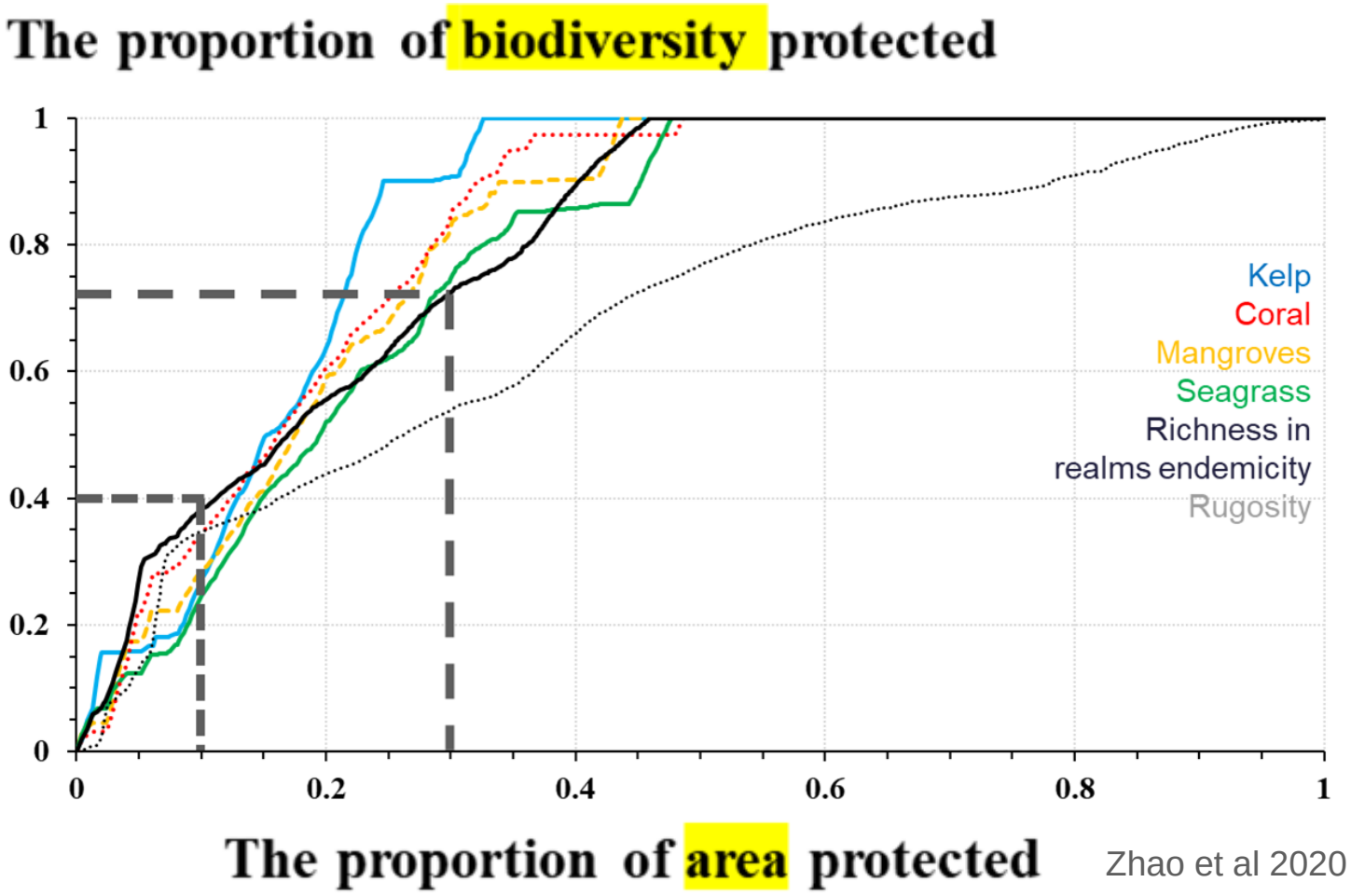




PROJECT APPROACH

PRIORITIZATION

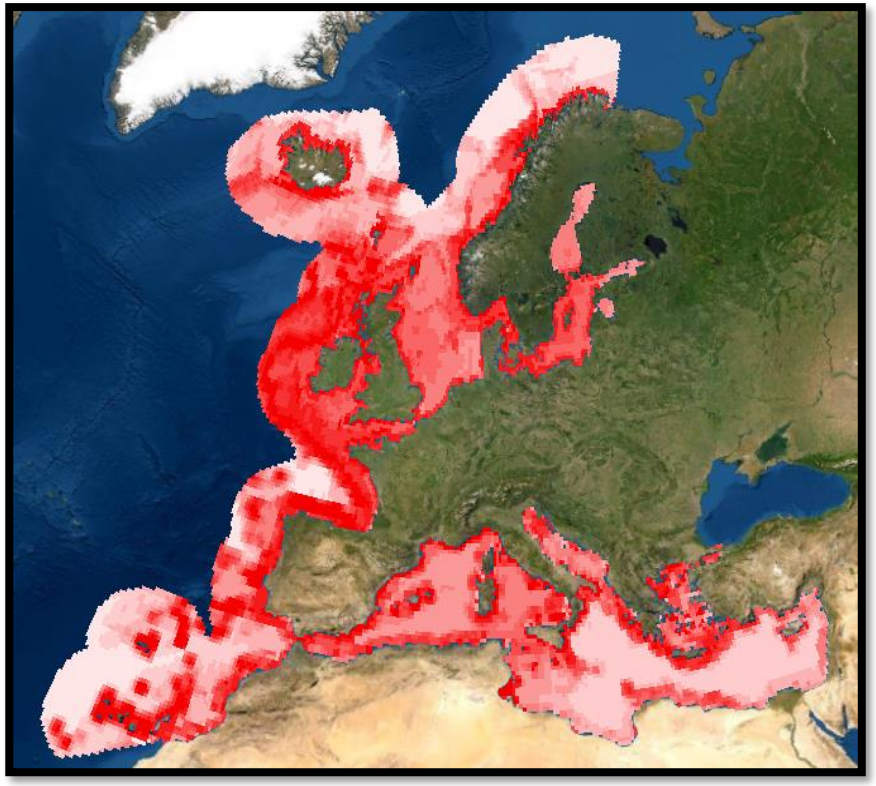


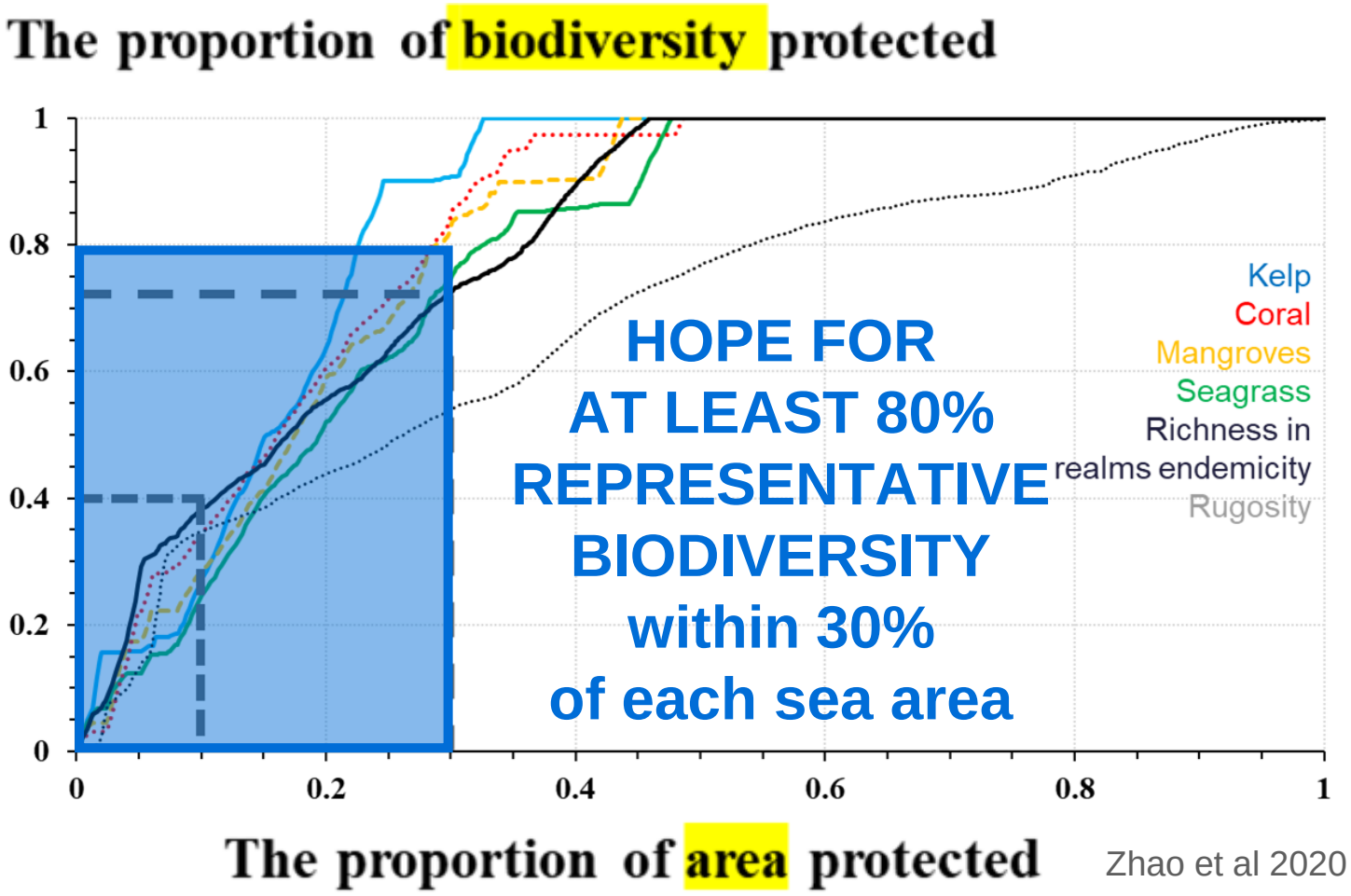


Zhao et al 2020

PROJECT APPROACH

PRIORITIZATION

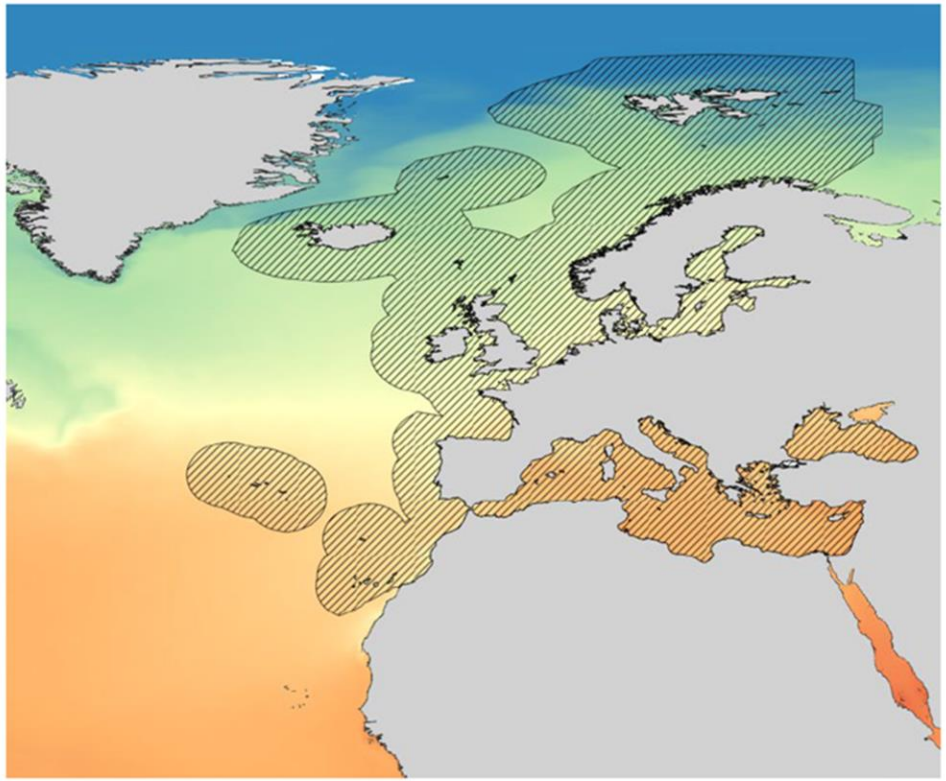




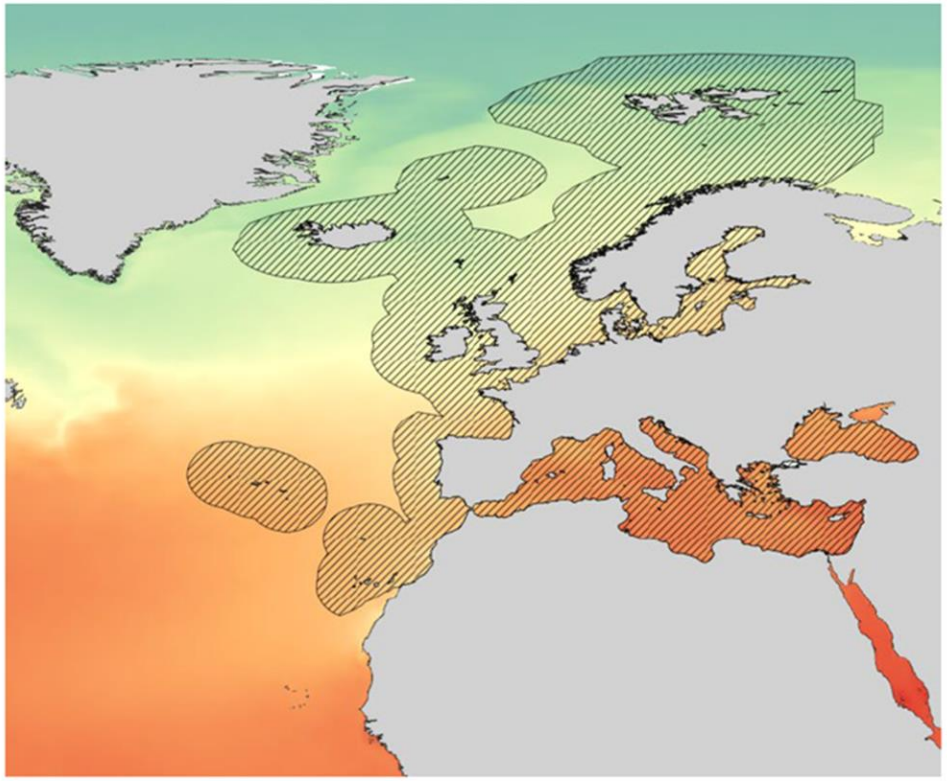
Zhao et al 2020

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

Variable
Temperature
Salinity
Sea Ice Cover
Sea Ice Thickness
Sea Water Velocity
Mixed Layer Depth
Diffuse Attenuation Coefficient
PAR
PAR at bottom
Oxygen
pH
Iron
Phosphate
Nitrate
Silicate
Total phytoplankton
Chlorophyll
Topographic (slope)
Topographic (roughness)
EMODnet Bathymetry
Sedimentation Rates
Seabed Substrates
Distance to coast
Distance to closest port



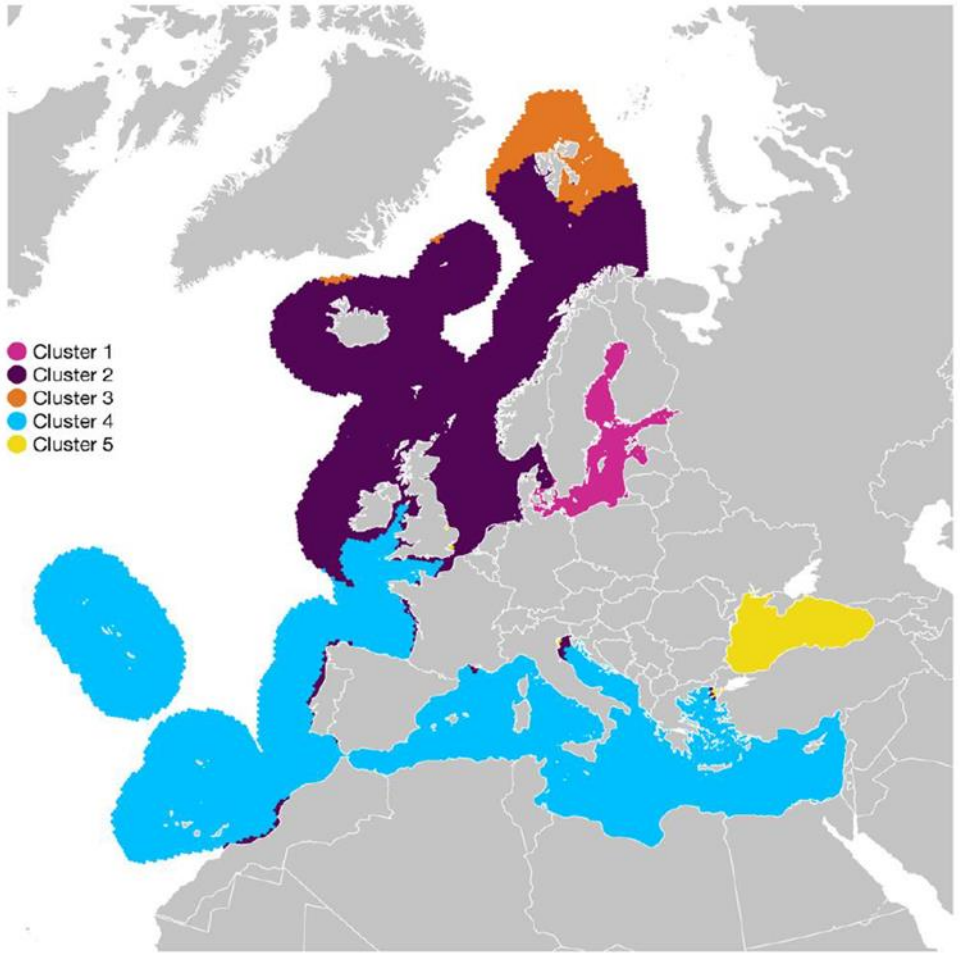
Present-day sea surface temperature



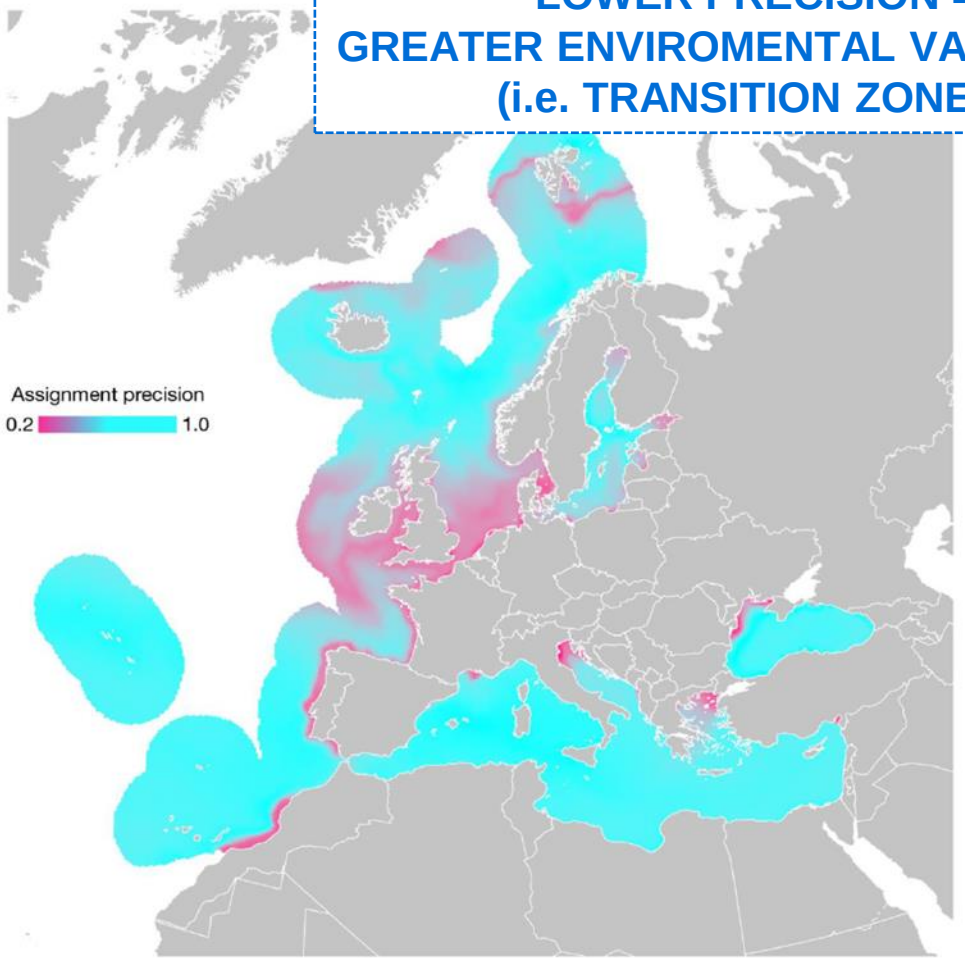
Future (decade 2090) sea surface temperature

Example of data layer produced for the European Seas from **BioOracle**.
Colour gradients reflect spatial differences in °C from today (left) to 2090 (right)

ECOSYSTEM CLASSIFICATION – SEA SURFACE

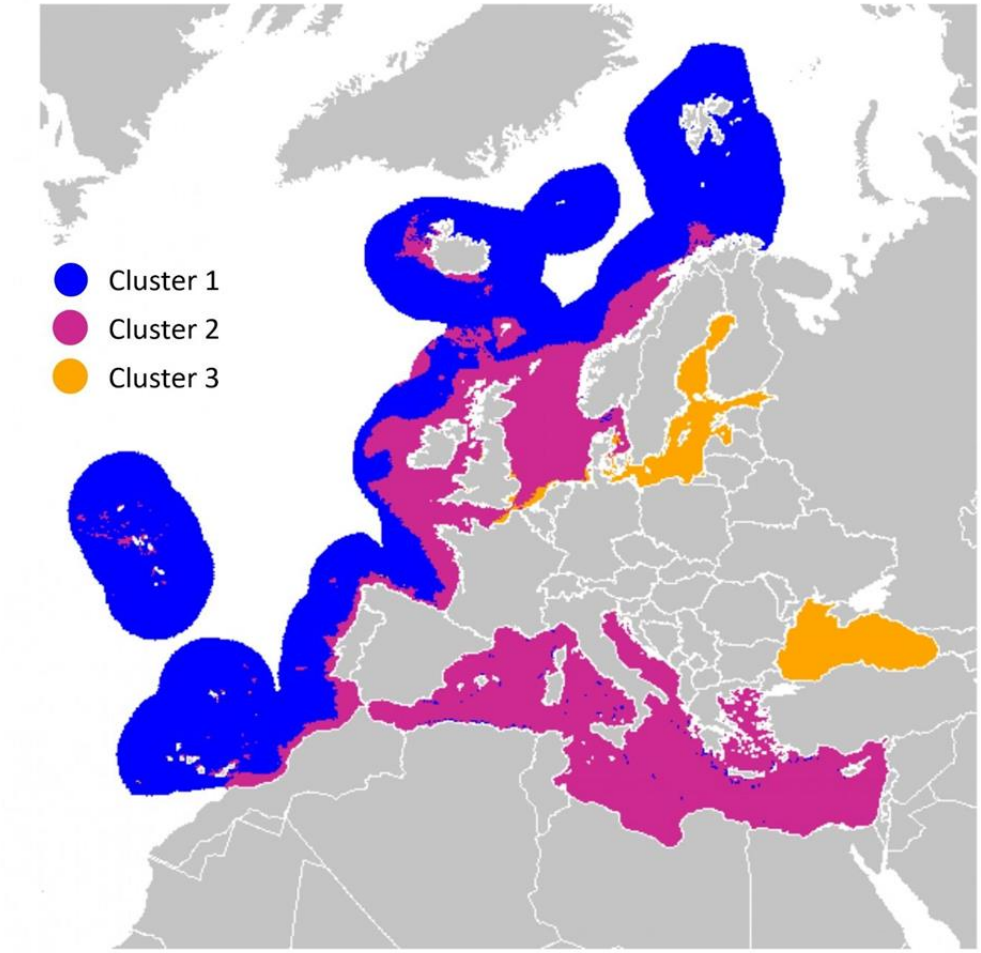


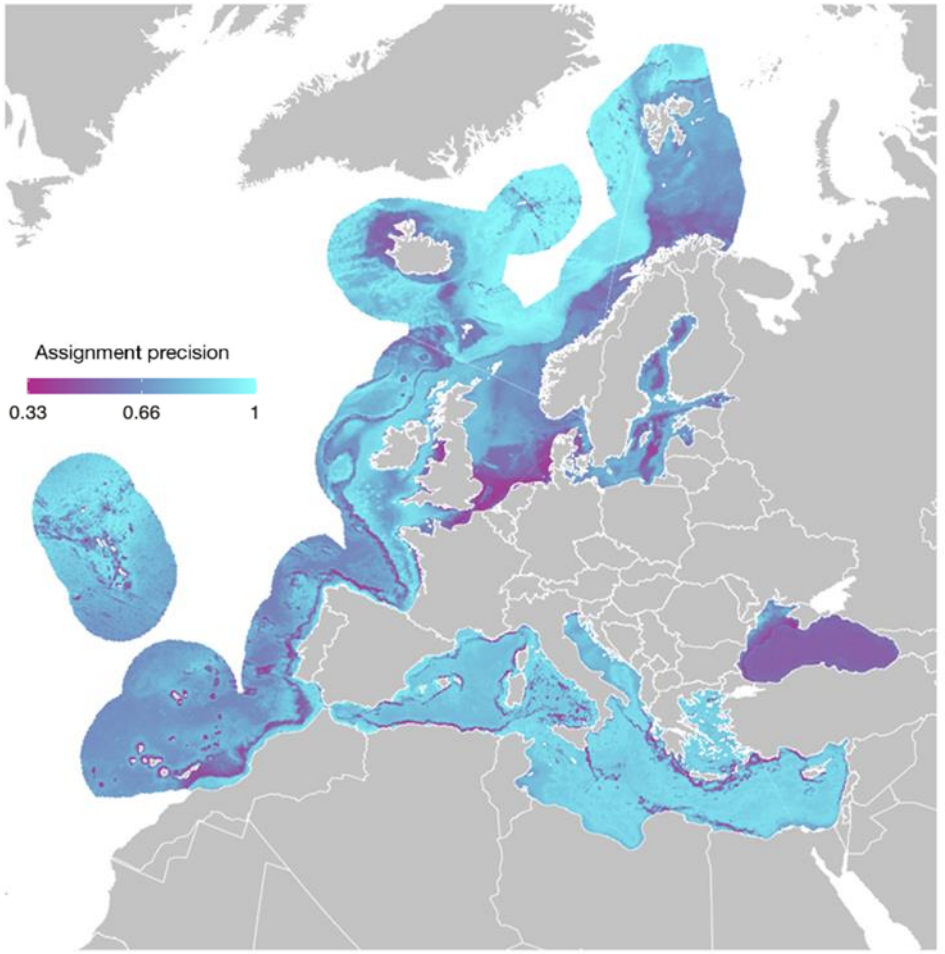
LOWER PRECISION =
GREATER ENVIROMENTAL VARIABILITY
(i.e. TRANSITION ZONES)



European marine ecosystems of **surface waters** estimated by k-means clustering analysis of environmental data (left) AND clustering assignment precision based on fuzzy logic (right)

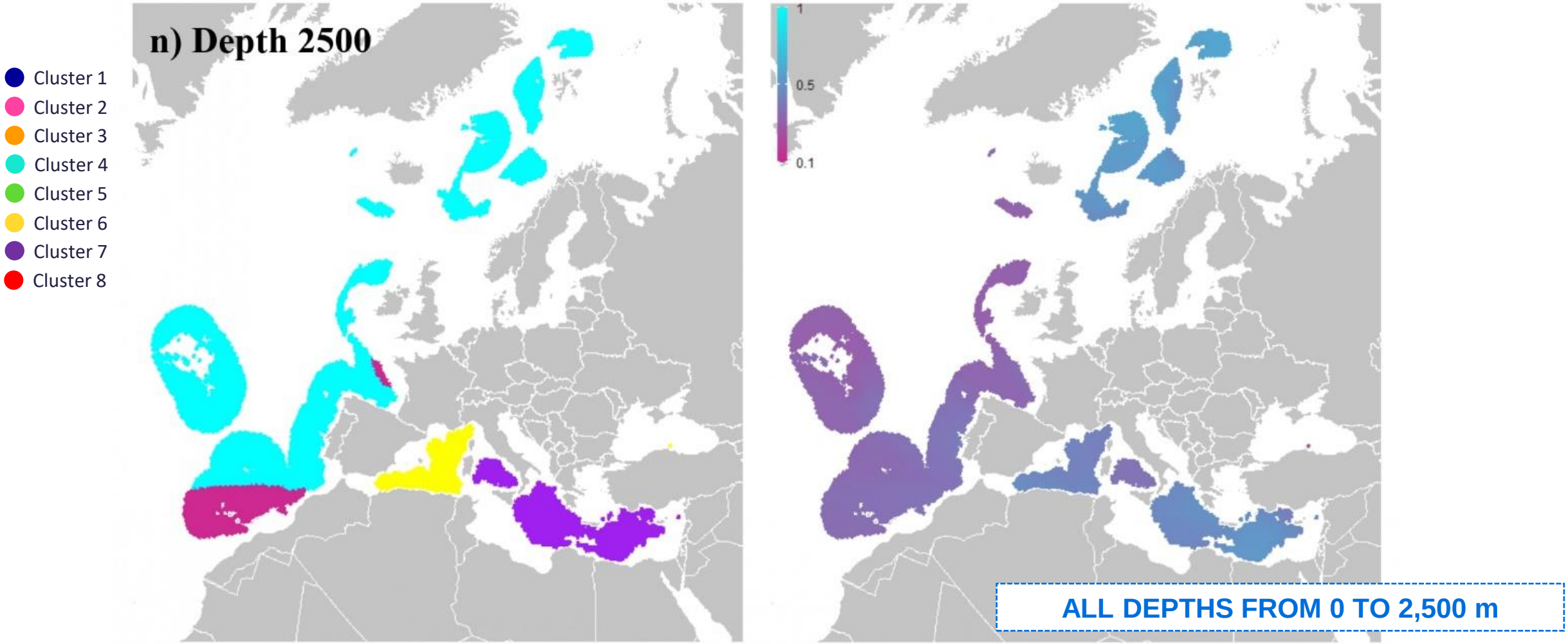
ECOSYSTEM CLASSIFICATION – NEAR SEABED





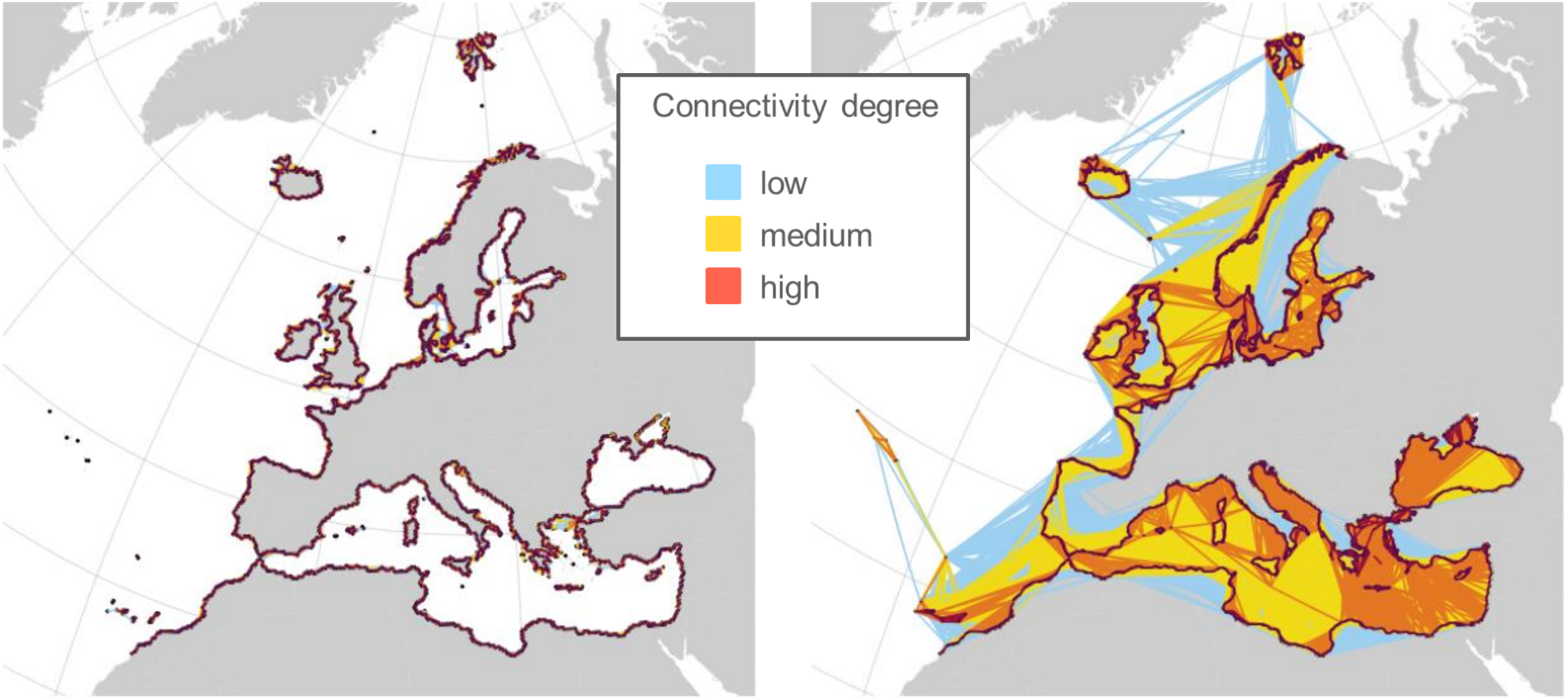
European marine ecosystems of **near seabed** estimated by k-means clustering analysis of environmental data (left) AND clustering assignment precision based on fuzzy logic (right)

ECOSYSTEM CLASSIFICATION – 3D



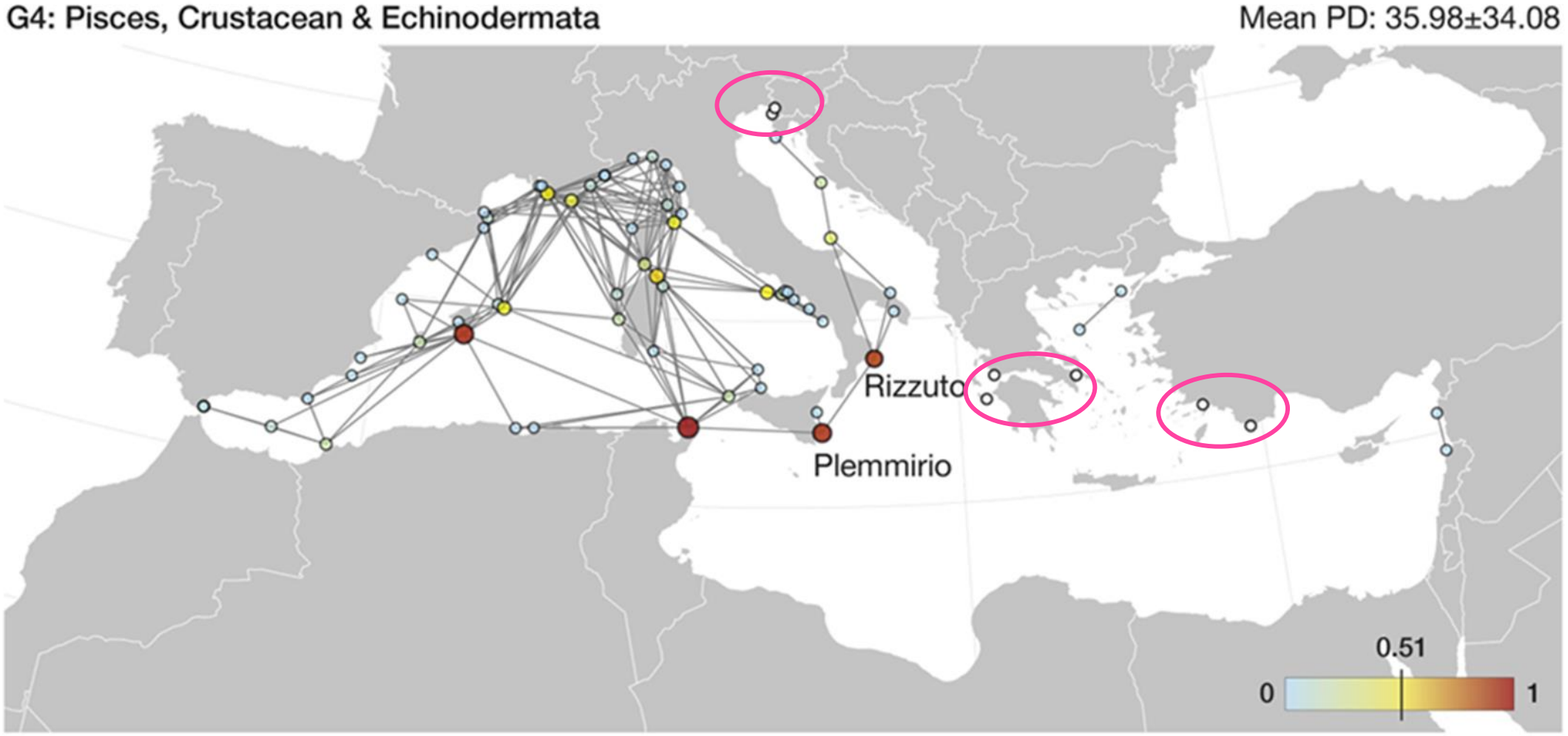
European **depth-integrated** marine ecosystems classification estimated by k-means clustering analysis of environmental data (left) AND their assignment precision based on fuzzy logic (right)

OCEANOGRAPHIC CONNECTIVITY



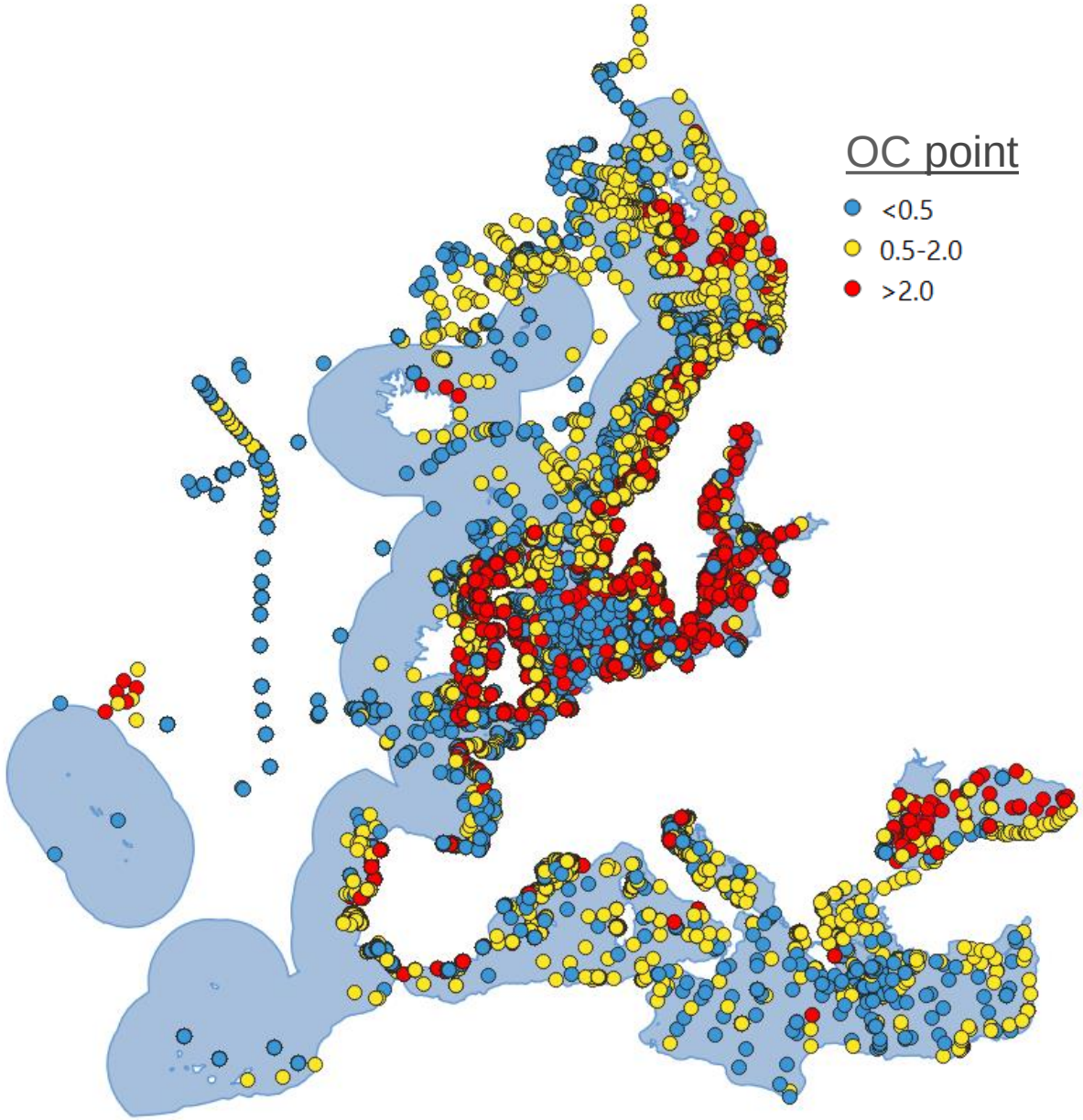
Connectivity and centrality (data not shown) for species with **5-day (left),** 10-day, 20-day, 40-day, 60-day, 120-day and **180-day (right)** propagule duration

OCEANOGRAPHIC CONNECTIVITY



Key connectivity hubs in the Mediterranean marine reserve network.
Isolated reserves are shown in white.

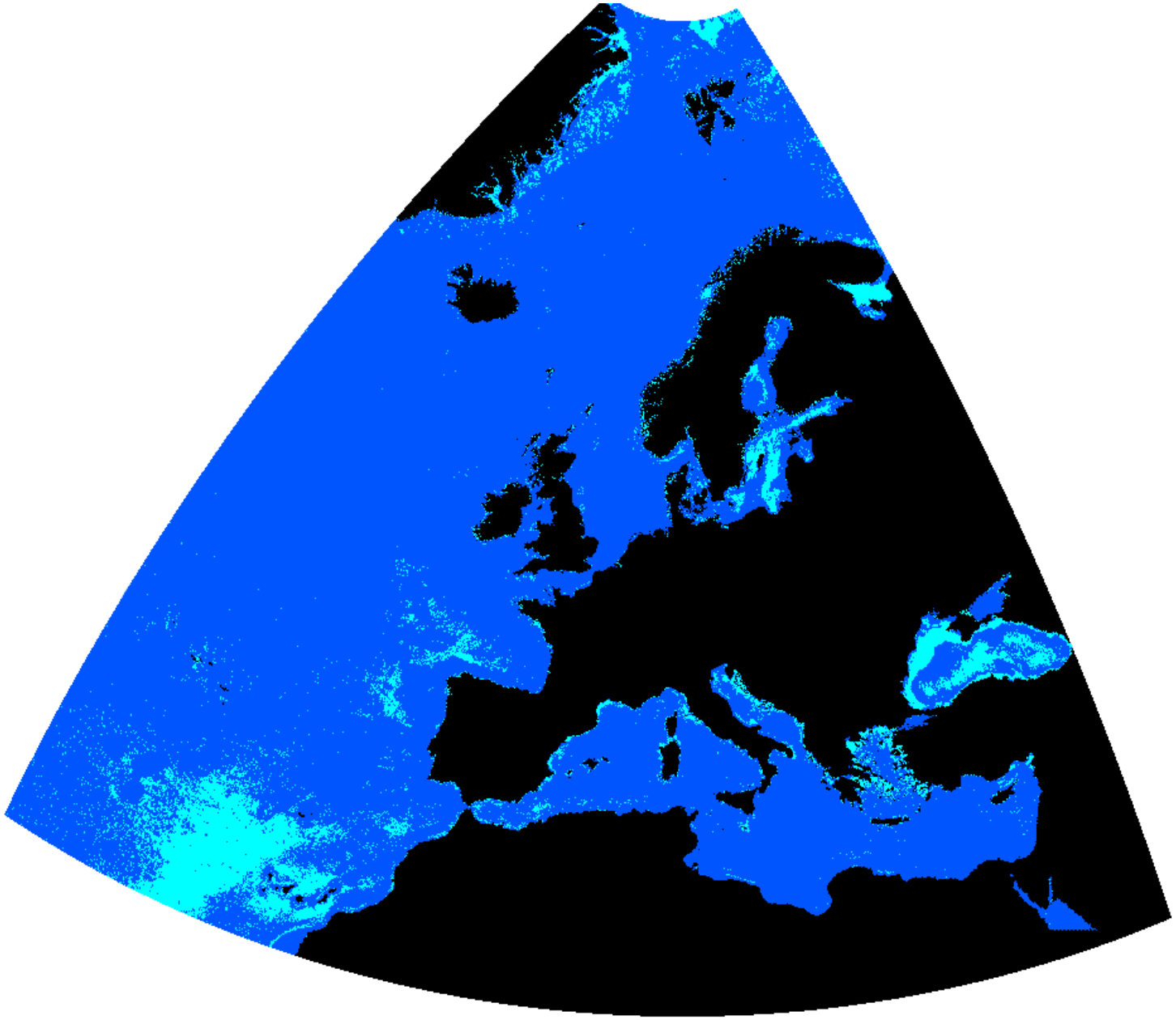
BLUE CARBON DATA



61,000 sample data points
(update December 2024)

Spatial coverage of **organic carbon content (%OC)** in marine sediment (for **biogenic & non-biogenic habitats** (EUNIS definition) at European scale (and beyond)

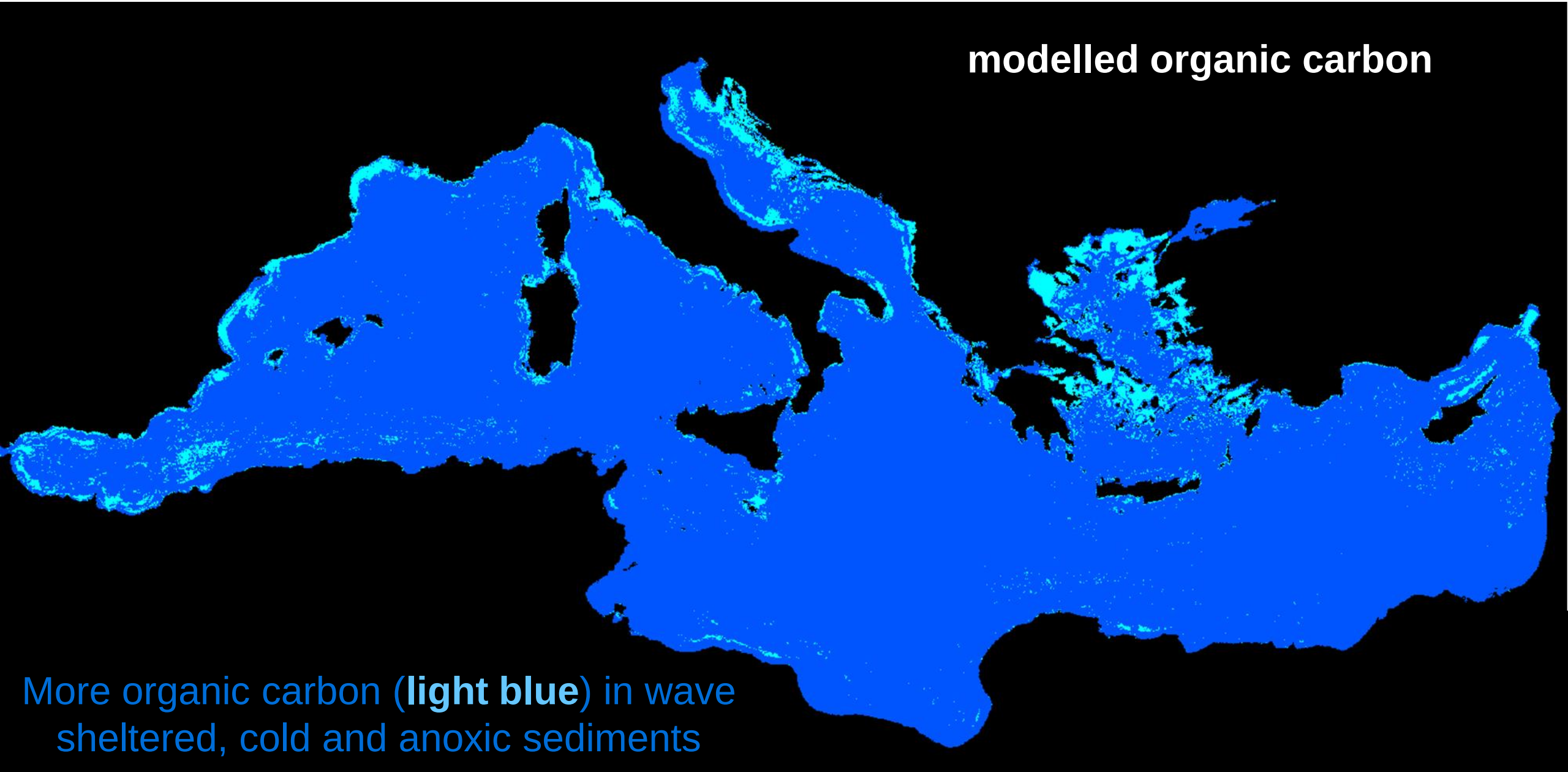
ORGANIC CARBON INDEX



Modelled
organic carbon
in the
MPA Europe organic
carbon database

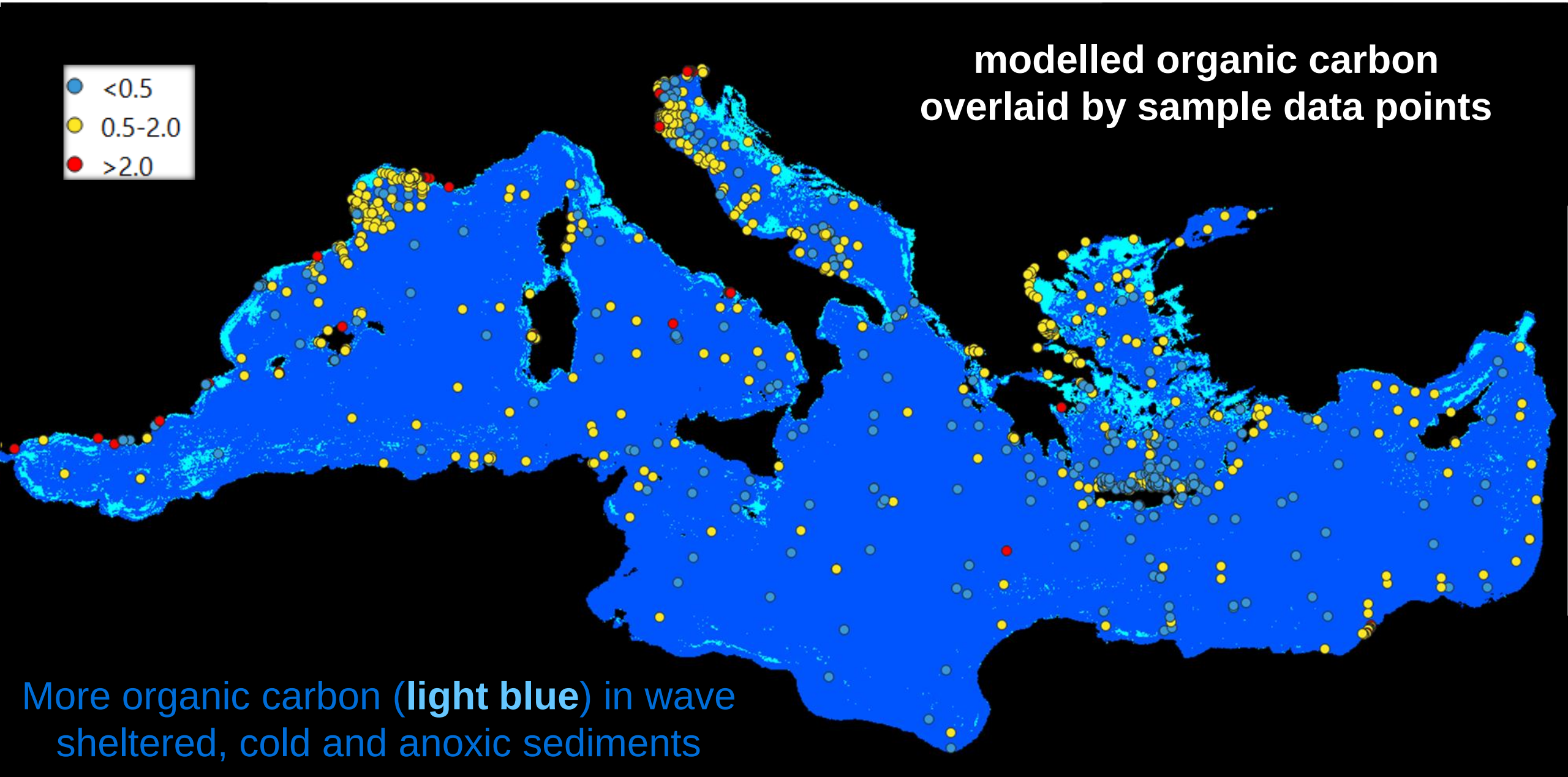
More organic carbon
(**light blue**) in wave
sheltered, cold and
anoxic sediments

OCI - CLOSE UP OF MEDITERRANEAN SEA



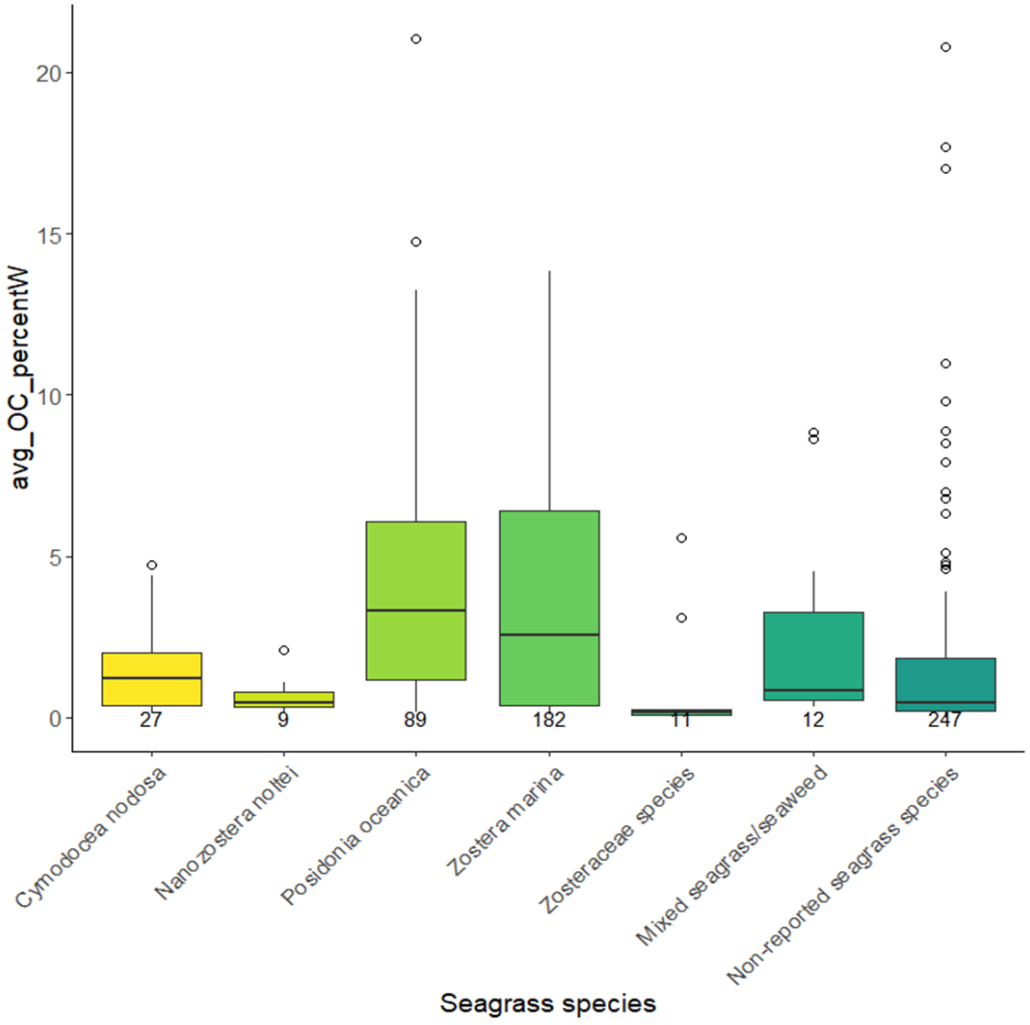
More organic carbon (**light blue**) in wave sheltered, cold and anoxic sediments

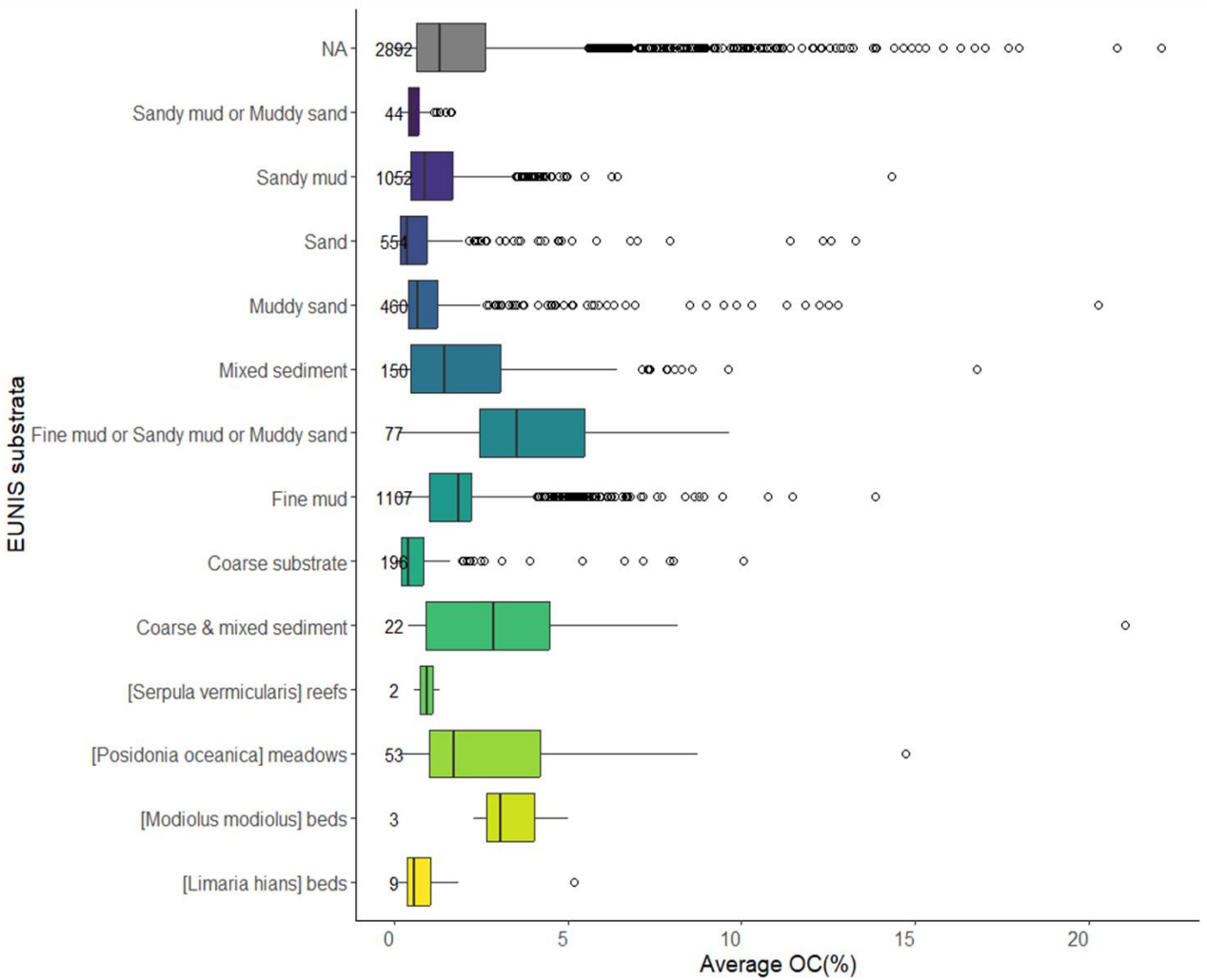
OCI - CLOSE UP OF MEDITERRANEAN SEA



More organic carbon (**light blue**) in wave sheltered, cold and anoxic sediments

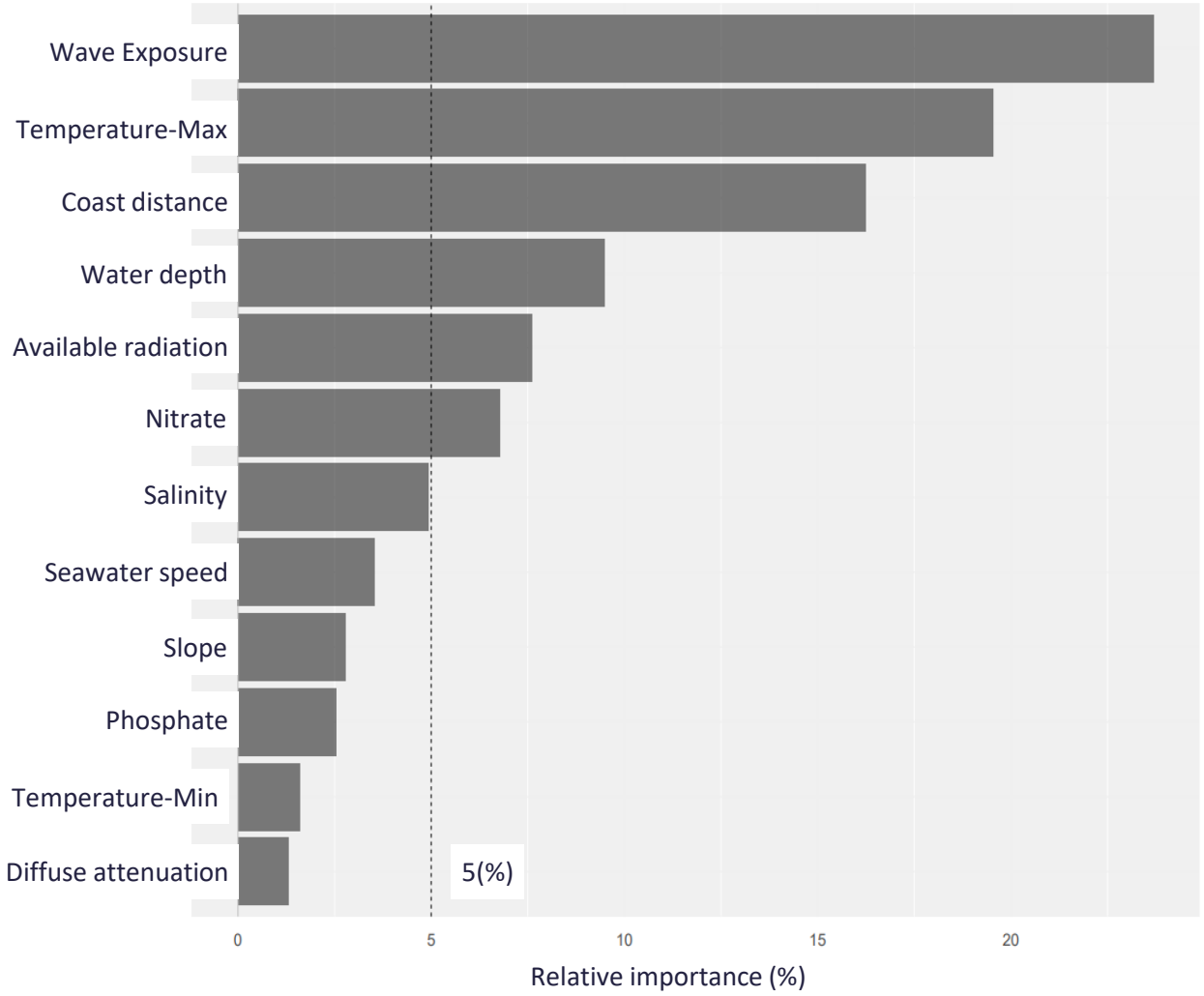
OC within & beyond BIOGENIC habitats

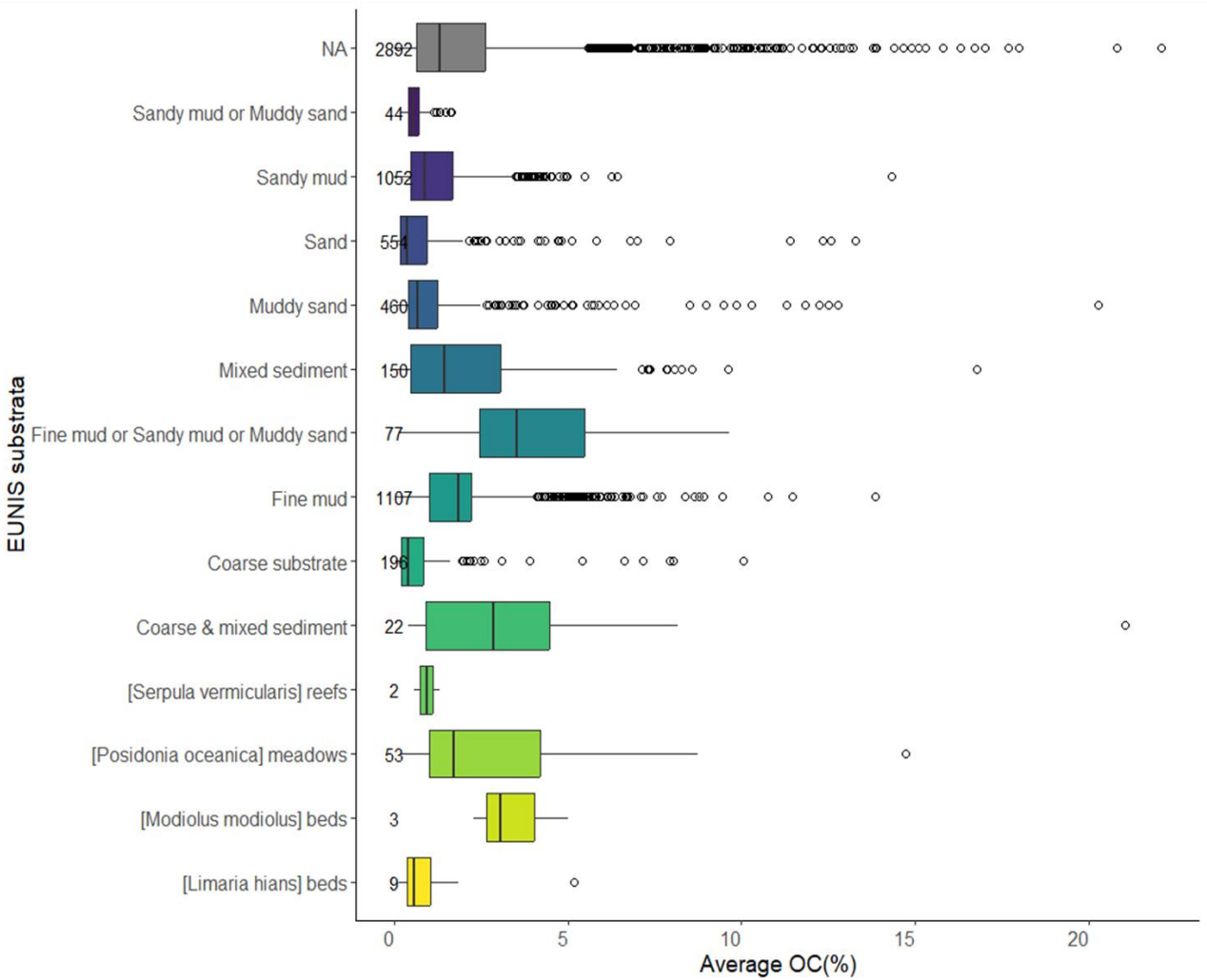




Organic carbon content (%OC) in seagrass species (left), marine sediment (EUNIS definition) (right), AND the importance of environmental predictor in describing the OC (right)

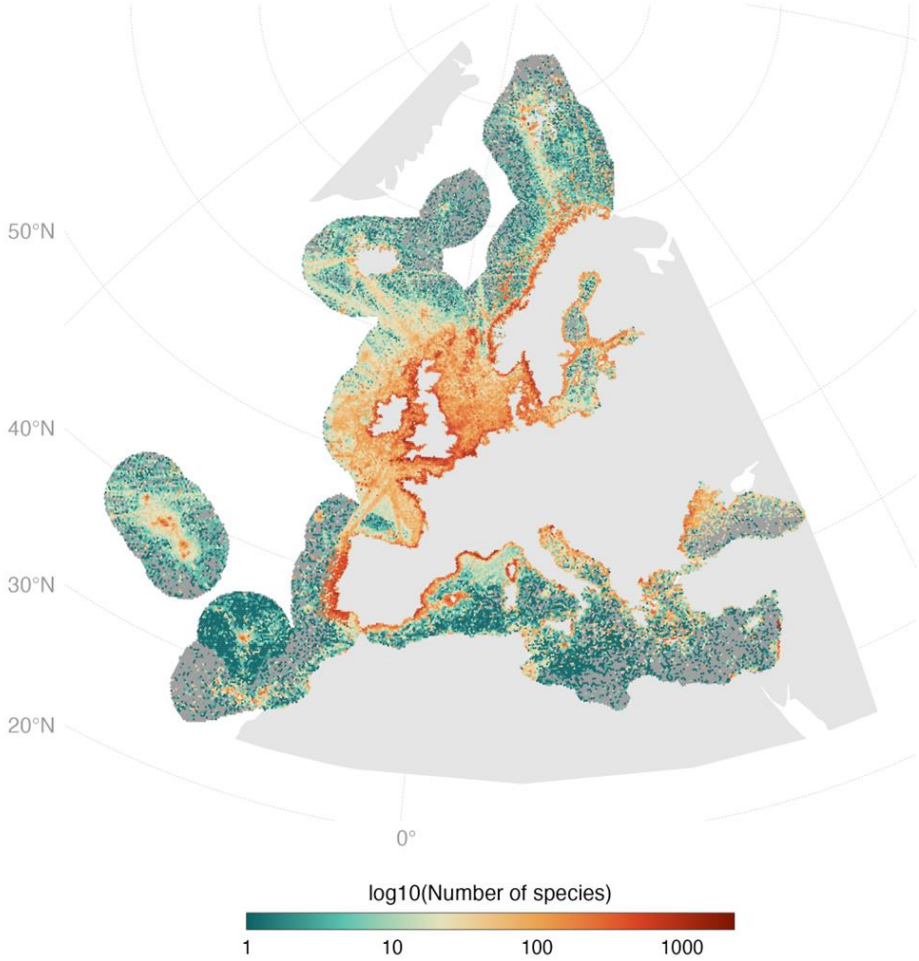
OC within & beyond BIOGENIC habitats

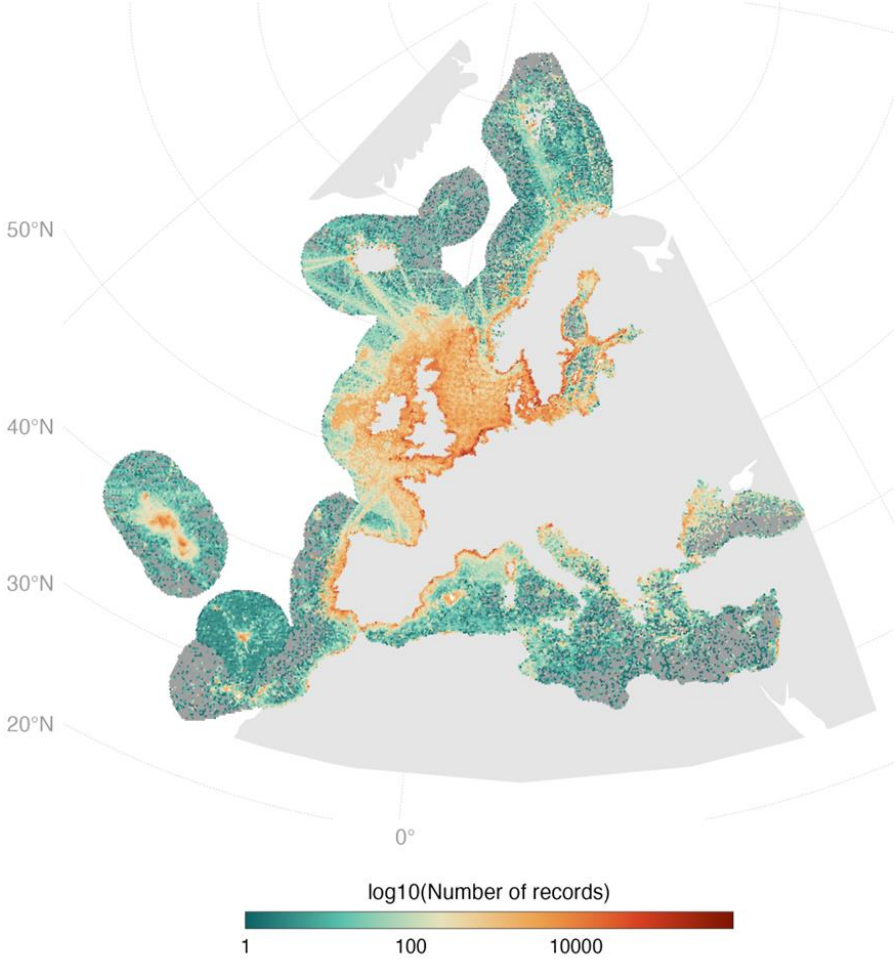




Organic carbon content (%OC) in seagrass species (left), marine sediment (EUNIS definition) (right), AND the importance of environmental predictor in describing the OC (right)

SPECIES DISTRIBUTION DATA





SOURCE OF ADDITIONAL SPECIES DATASETS (into OBIS)

- Peer
- BioTIME
- GBIF
- Dryad
- Literature
- …

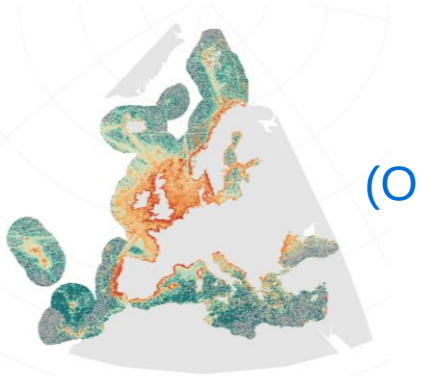
GBIF Global Biodiversity Information Facility

DRYAD

Marine species distribution data available in **OBIS**, including ~ 30,000 species (left) AND > 67,000,000 records (right)

SPECIES & HABITAT DISTRIBUTION MODELLING

Biodiversity & Environmental data



Species occurence

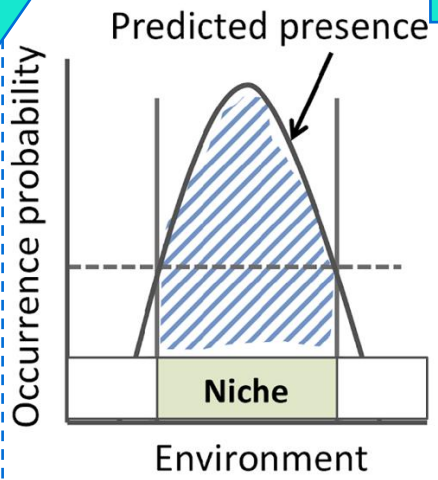
(OBIS + GBIF)

(BioORACLE v3)

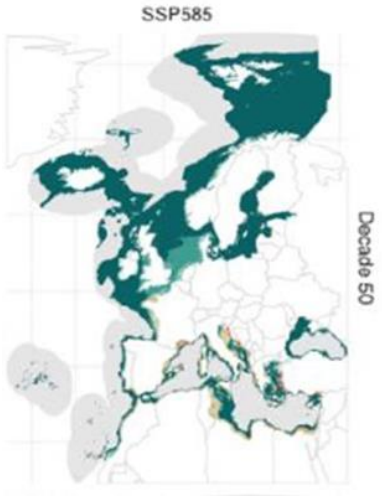
Sea Surface Temperature

SDMs

$$\text{logit}(\pi_i) = \alpha + \sum_{j=1}^{p} \beta_j X_{ij}$$



Prediciting potential distribution



Five CMIP6 scenarios (SSP1- SSP5)

Two periods (2050 / 2100)

Distribution maps for ~12,000 marine species from Europe

Biogenic habitat maps, based on SDMs

Conservation status of species and habitats **(Red List)**

Species range shifts

MARINE SPECIES AND HABITATS MAPS

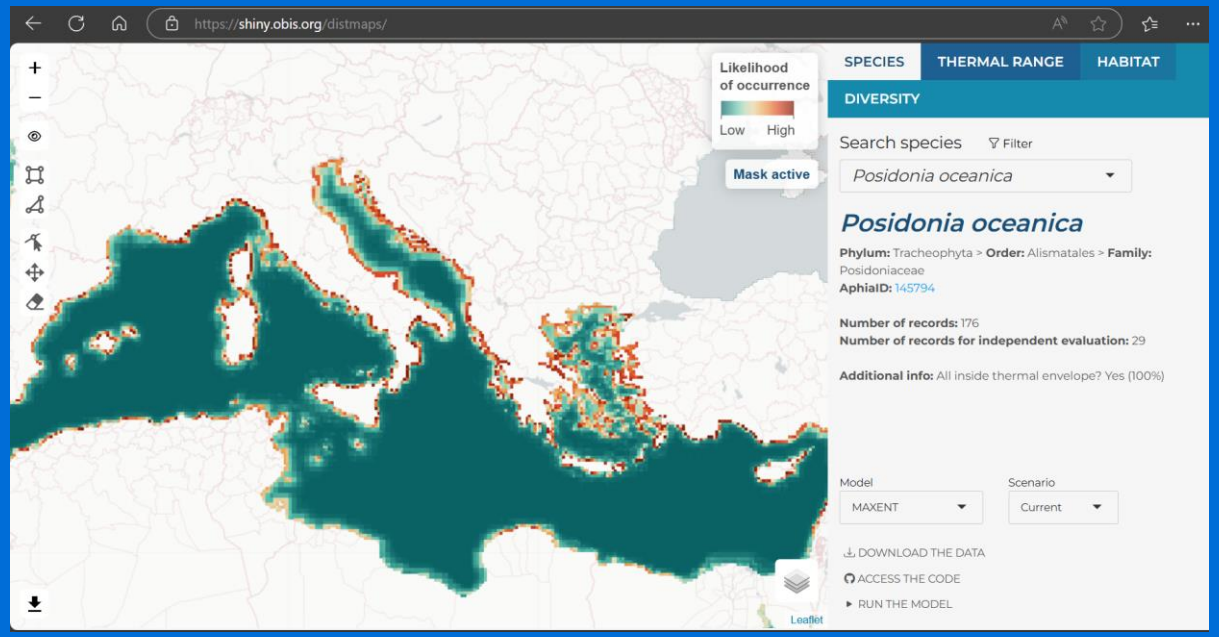
12,000 species distribution models for all five IPCC climate change scenarios to 2050 and 2100

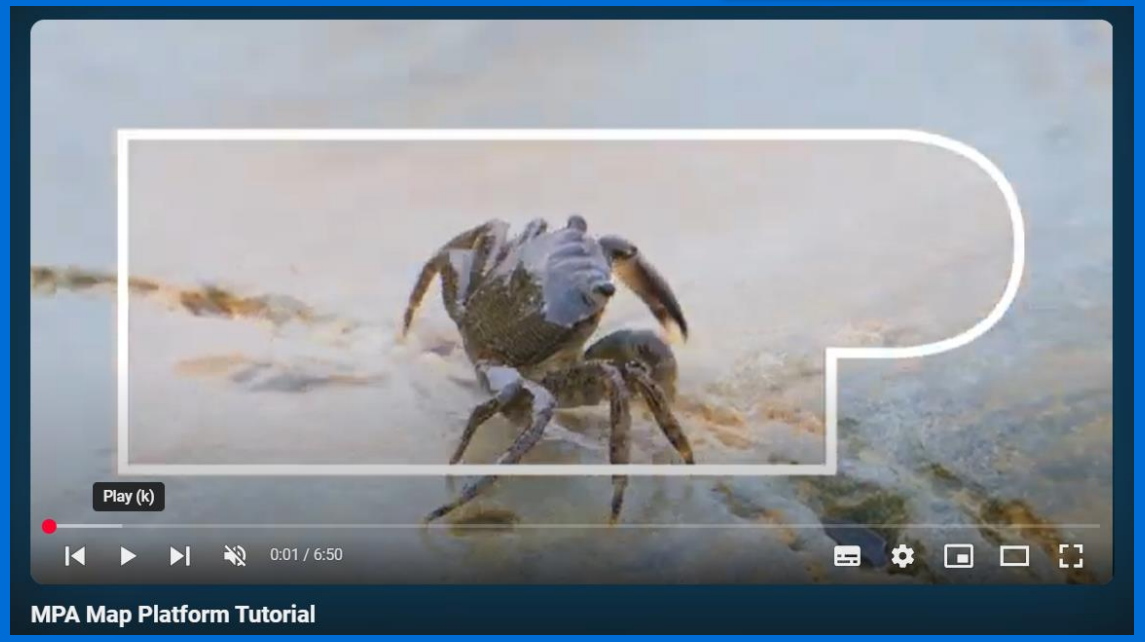
https://shiny.obis.org/distmaps/

https://iobis.github.io/mpaeu_docs/

Video tutorial: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0DwqXiZVe8&t=2s

Scan me!

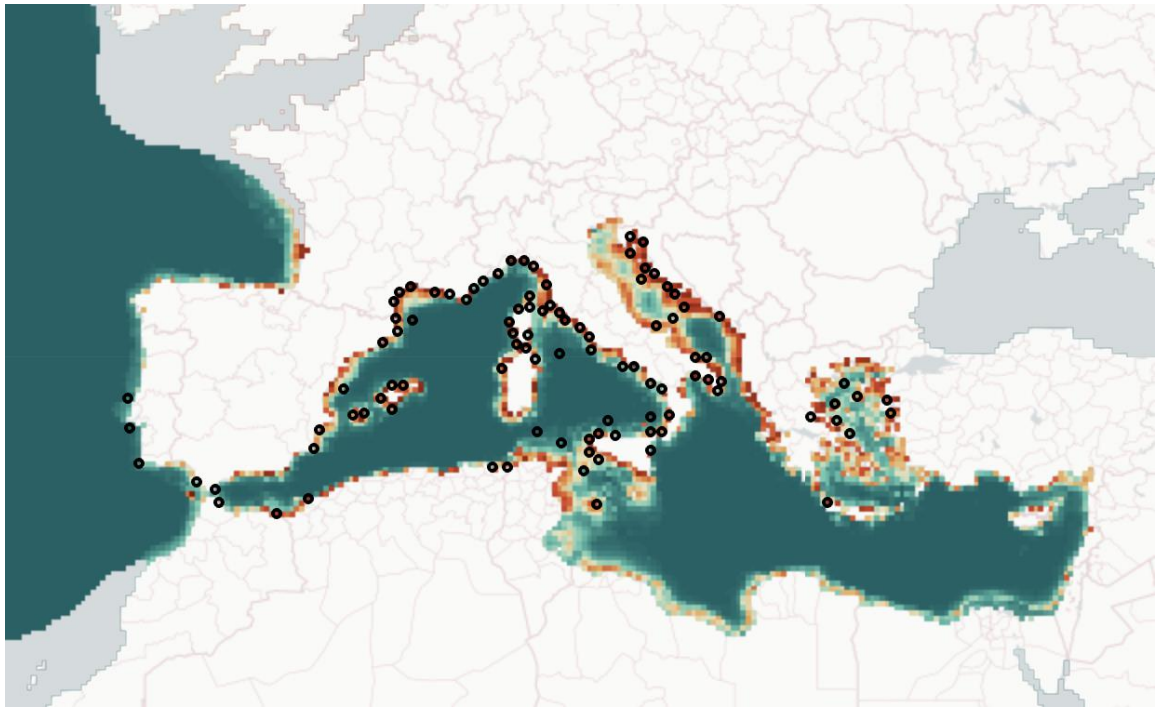




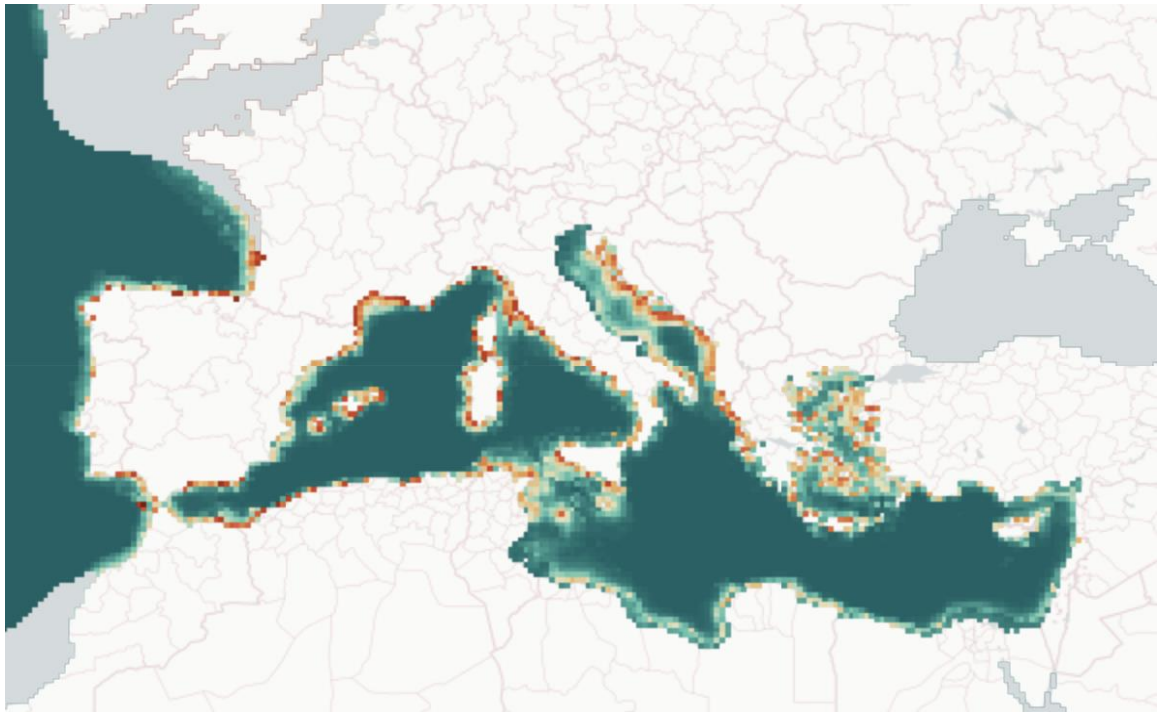
SPECIES & HABITAT DISTRIBUTION MODELLING

7065 species occurring in the Mediterranean were modeled

DISTRIBUTION MAP FOR *Paramuricea clavata*

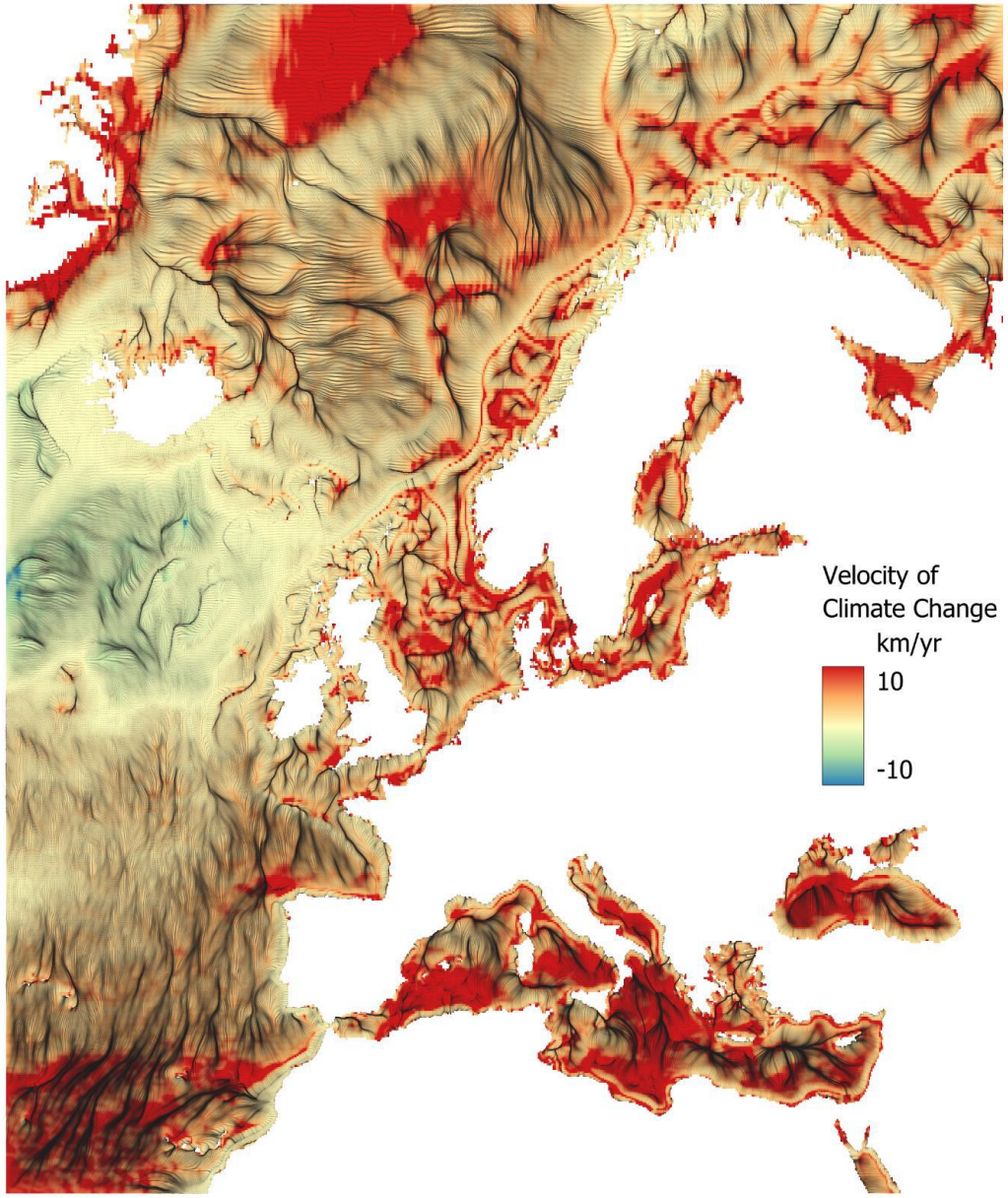


Current



SSP3 - 2100

CLIMATE VELOCITY MAP

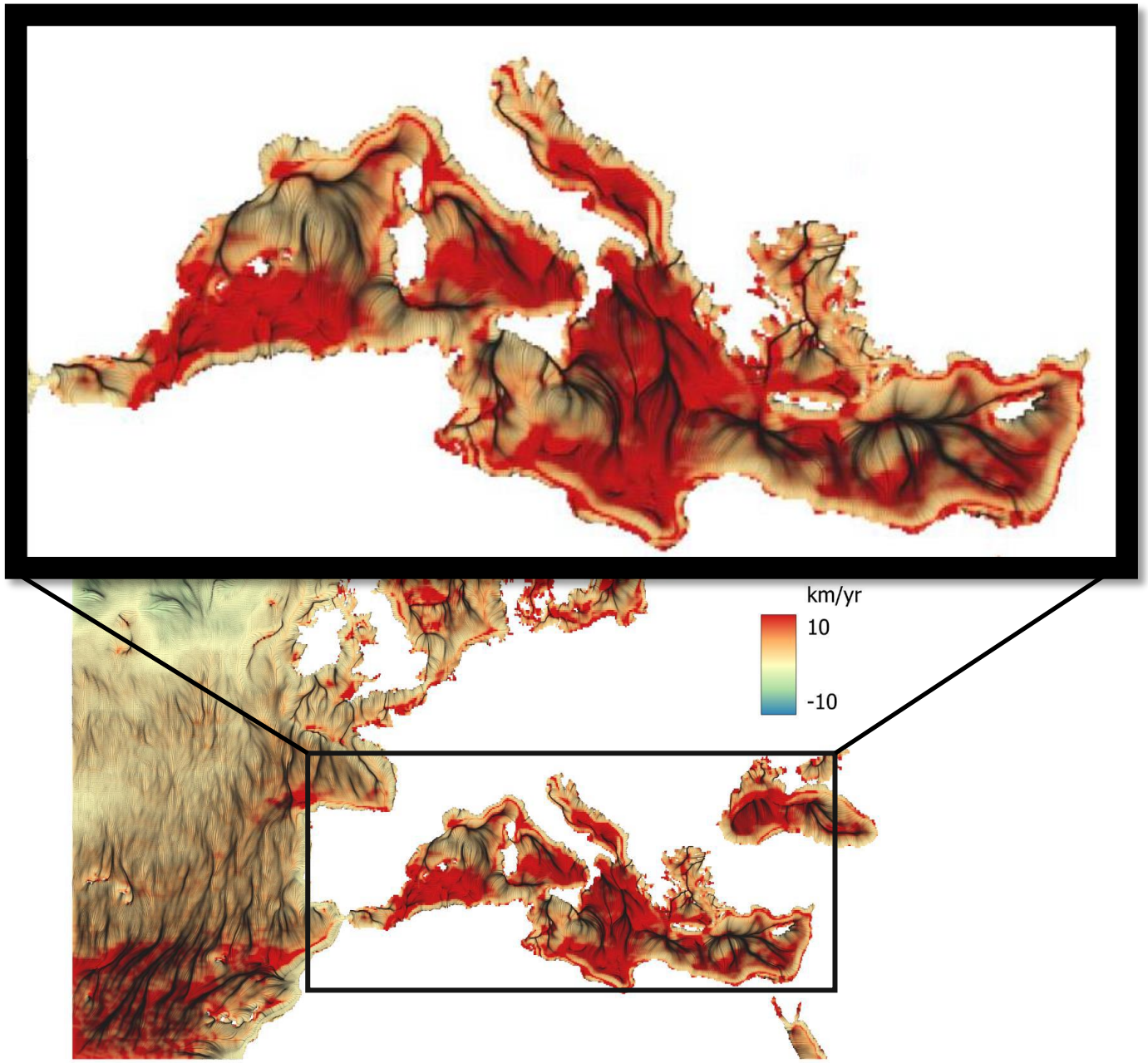


Velocity of projected climate change for sea surface temperature in European seas (SSP370 – 2050).

Magnitude of climate velocity (v):

- red (high (v)),
- yellow (low or zero (v))
- green to blue (negative (v) i.e. cold temperature).

CLIMATE VELOCITY MAP



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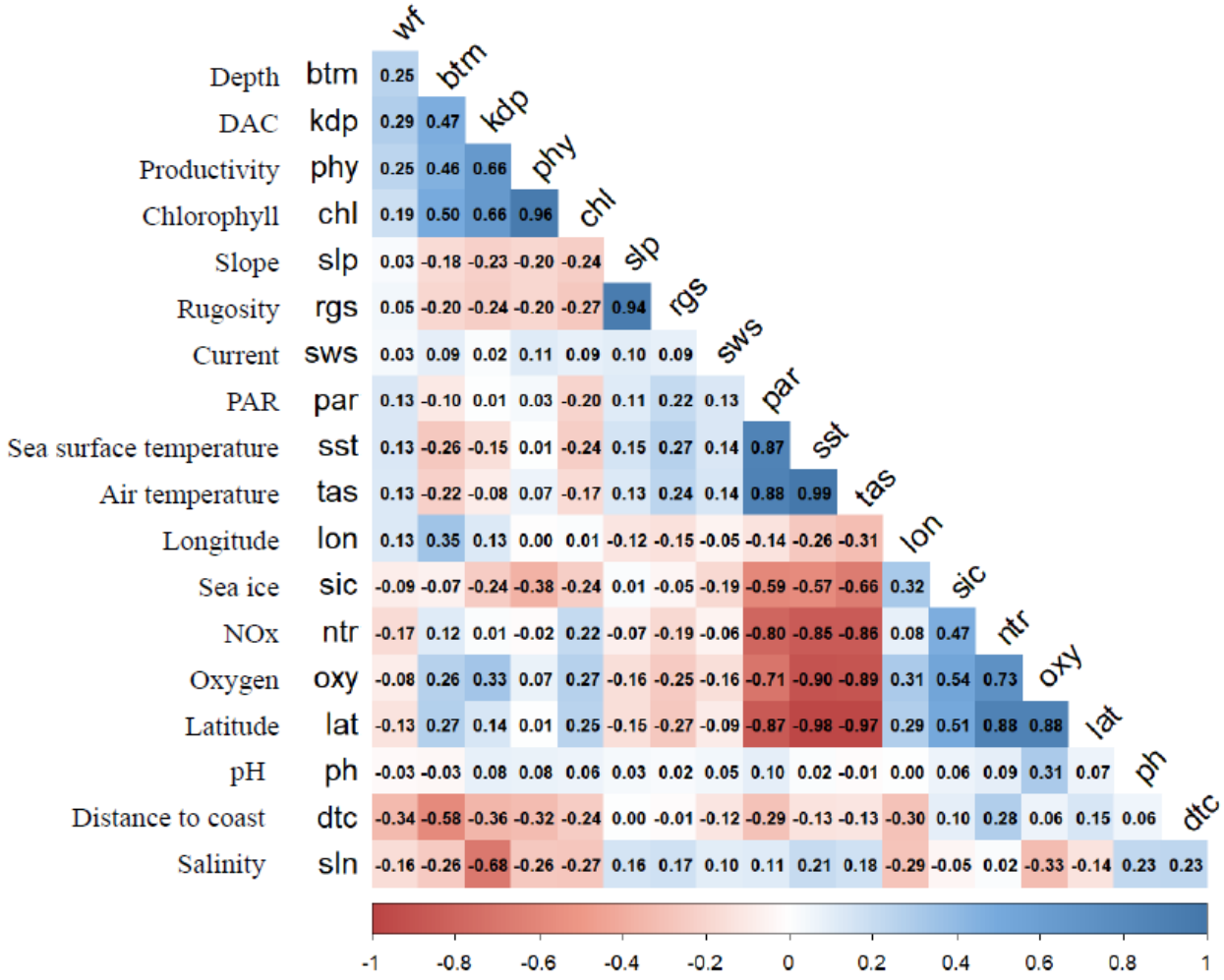
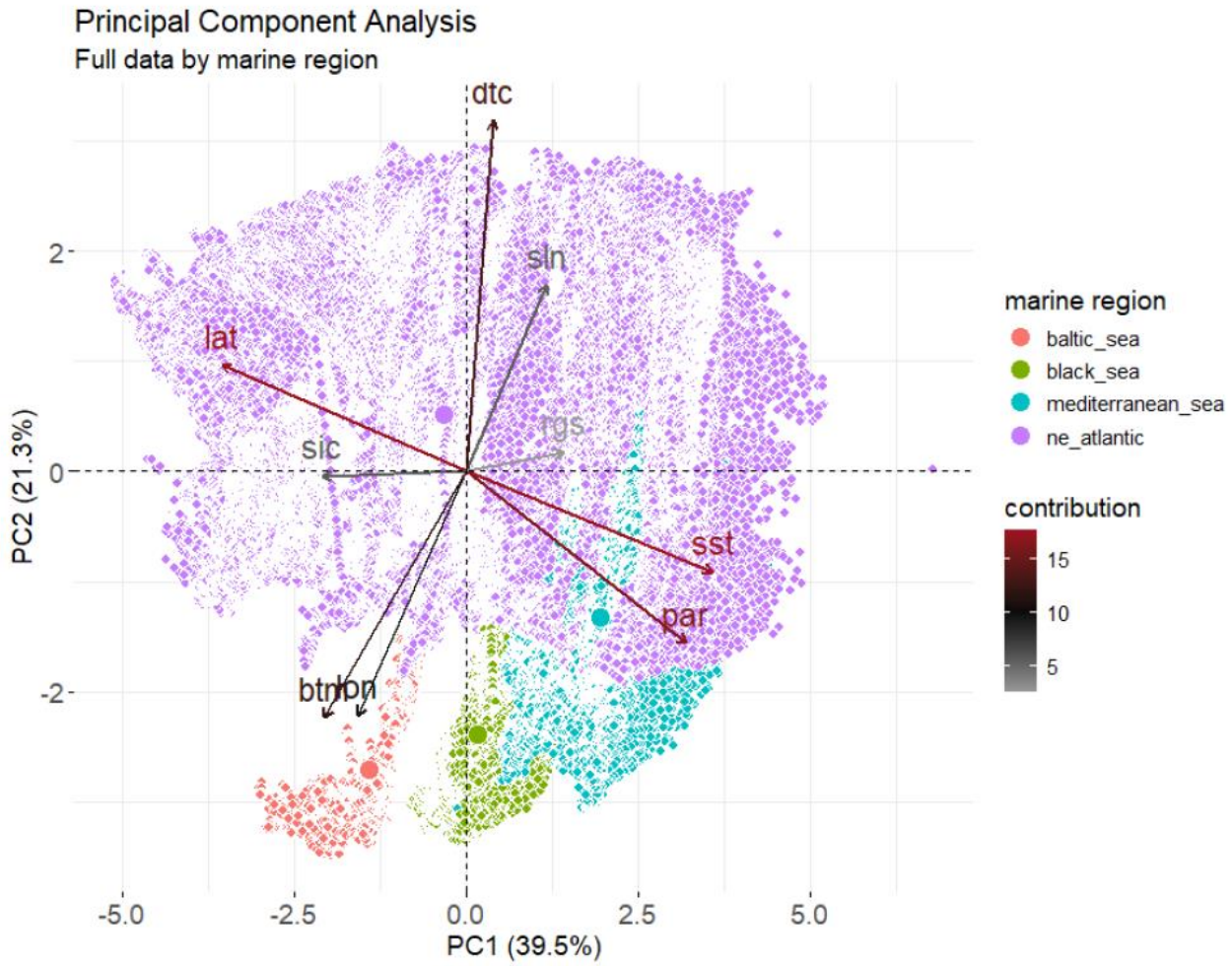
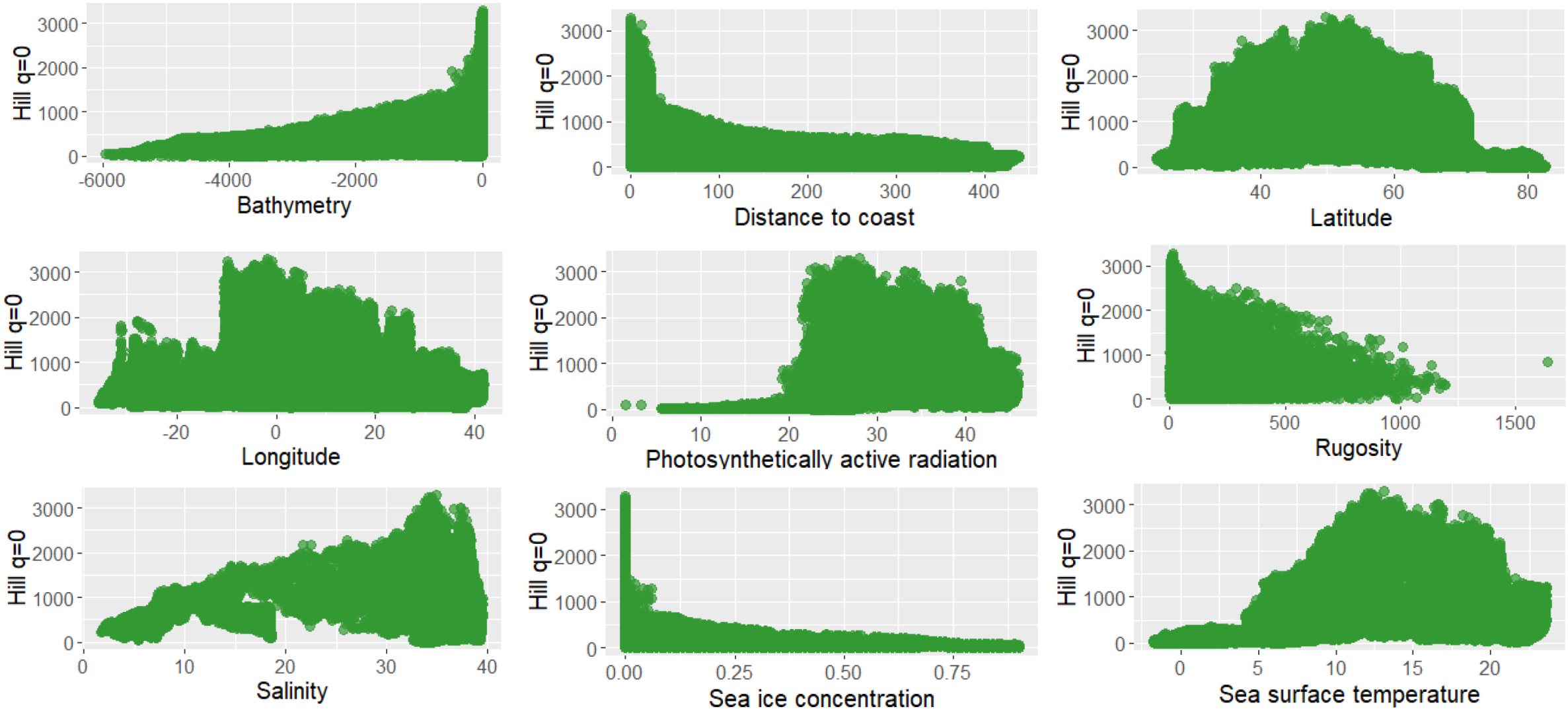
RELATIONSHIP BIODIVERSITY & ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITION





Sea surface temperature (sst) and photosynthetically active radiation (par), and latitude (lat) have a positive and negative relationship to PC1, respectively

RELATIONSHIP BIODIVERSITY & ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITION



Comparison between diversity metrics Hill q=0 (left) and environmental variables

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS EUROPE

MPA Europe: Stakeholder engagement

Belinda Bramley and Thanos Smanis CLIMAZUL (Greece)

The MPA Europe project is co-funded by the European Union under the Horizon Europe program (grant agreement no. 101059988)

Co-funded by the European Union

UK Research and Innovation

MSP IN EUROPE

Key benefits of **MSP** include:

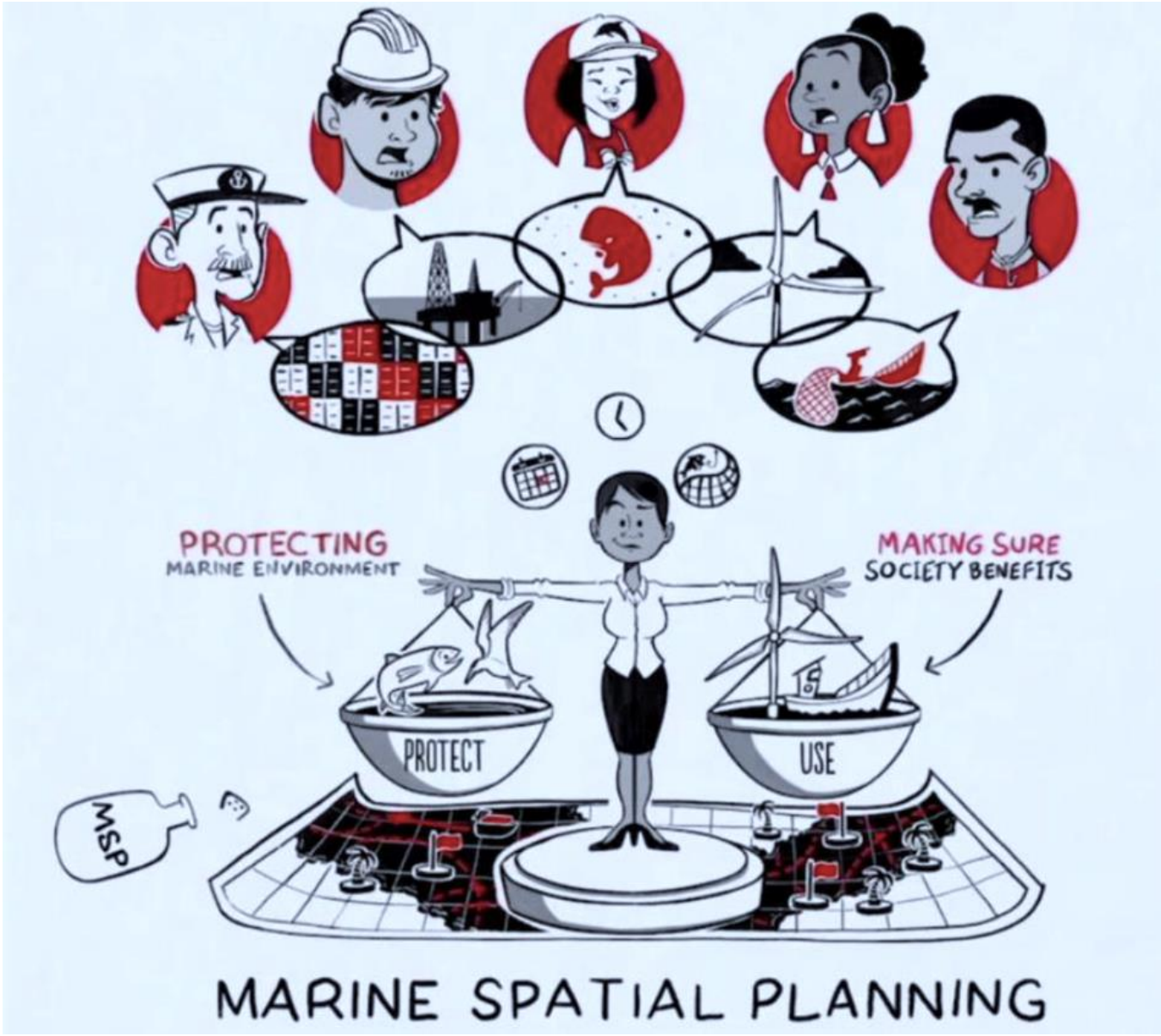
- **Reduction of conflicts**
- **Creation of synergies**
- **Increased cross-border cooperation** between countries to develop energy grids, shipping lanes, pipelines, submarine cables and other activities, **but also to develop coherent networks of protected areas**
- It's a **National Process**

Considerations:

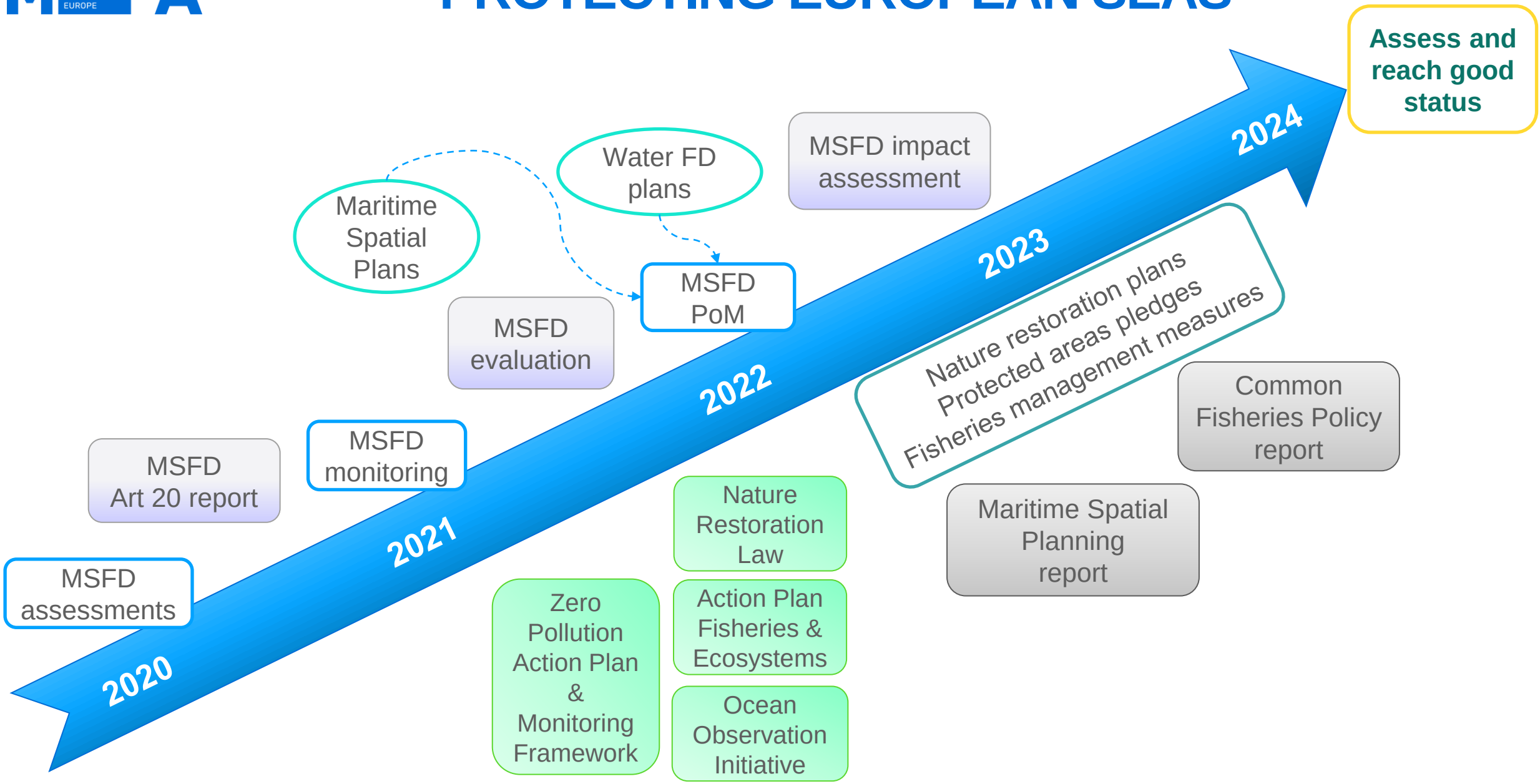
- MSP responsible authorities most of the times **different** from ministries responsible for MPAs
- Climate change leads to the redistribution of marine biodiversity and human activities, which affects MSP process.

MSP AS AN ENABLER….

- For **comprehensive dialogue** between stakeholders
- As a pivotal tool to support implementation of a strategic vision for a **sustainable BE** which integrates marine and land policies
- To engage all the stakeholders (including citizens) to become aware of marine and maritime issues by putting on the map the **potential futures for the use**
- To reduce monopolistic approach of existing maritime sectors on the common good
- To identify and to solve conflicts in space allocation including the time dimension
- To support innovation and develop BE as a key contribution for national and EU economy for local development for established and emerging sectors



PROTECTING EUROPEAN SEAS



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT THROUGHOUT

- Key policy objectives and other societal goals
- Appropriate boundaries
- Defining the social-ecological system

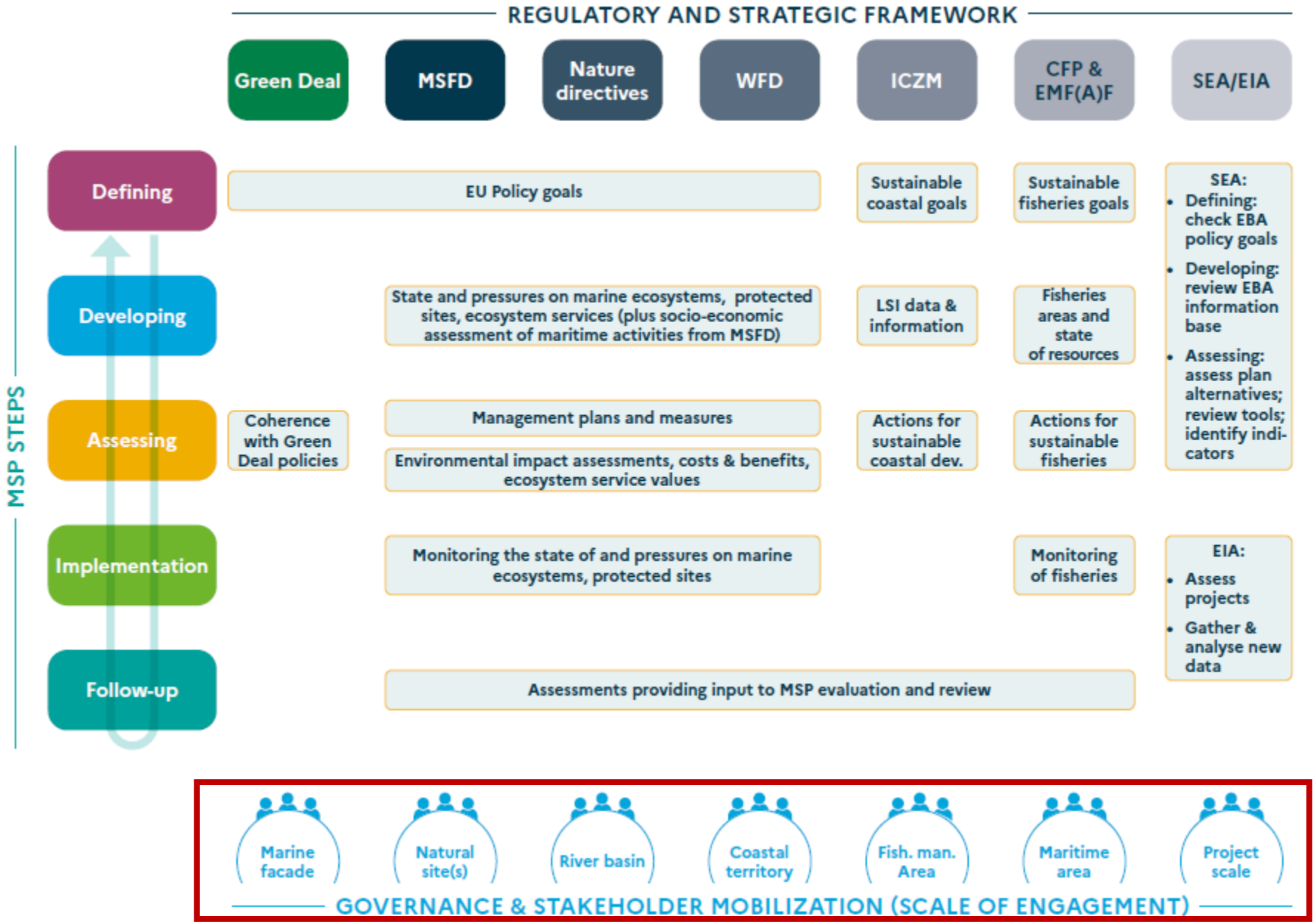
- Building a knowledge base
- integrity and functioning of the ecosystem and its capacity to supply services
- human activities and their pressures
- Appropriate level of detail
- Quality of the information and consequences for the analyses

- Selection of methods and Tools
- Cover environmental, social and economic dimensions.
- Acknowledge confidence/uncertainty

- Consider precautionary approach to address uncertainty
- Integration with other management plans
- Follow an adaptive management approach with appropriate monitoring

- Evaluate the implementation of EBA in MSP
- Analyse ecological and societal impacts
- Initiating additional adaptive management cycles

MULTILEVEL AND MULTISECTORIAL ENGAGEMENT



Complex process to mobilize different groups of stakeholders

…AND WHY

© EU MSP PLATFORM INFOGRAPHICS

PROJECT WP6 - OTHER WPs CONNECTION

Improve the science basis for national authorities to include marine areas in **climate change mitigation and marine spatial plans and design optimal MPAs** including expanding Special Areas of Conservation and increasing levels of protection in existing areas

Carbon sequestration, storage and deposition based on the environmental conditions, habitats, and species present

Develop **blue carbon scoring system** supporting management of blue carbon

Connectivity modelling (present)

Climate velocity (recent and future)

Design **MPA networks covering 10% and 30% of European seas** that maximise coverage of biodiversity and blue carbon

30 000 SPECIES

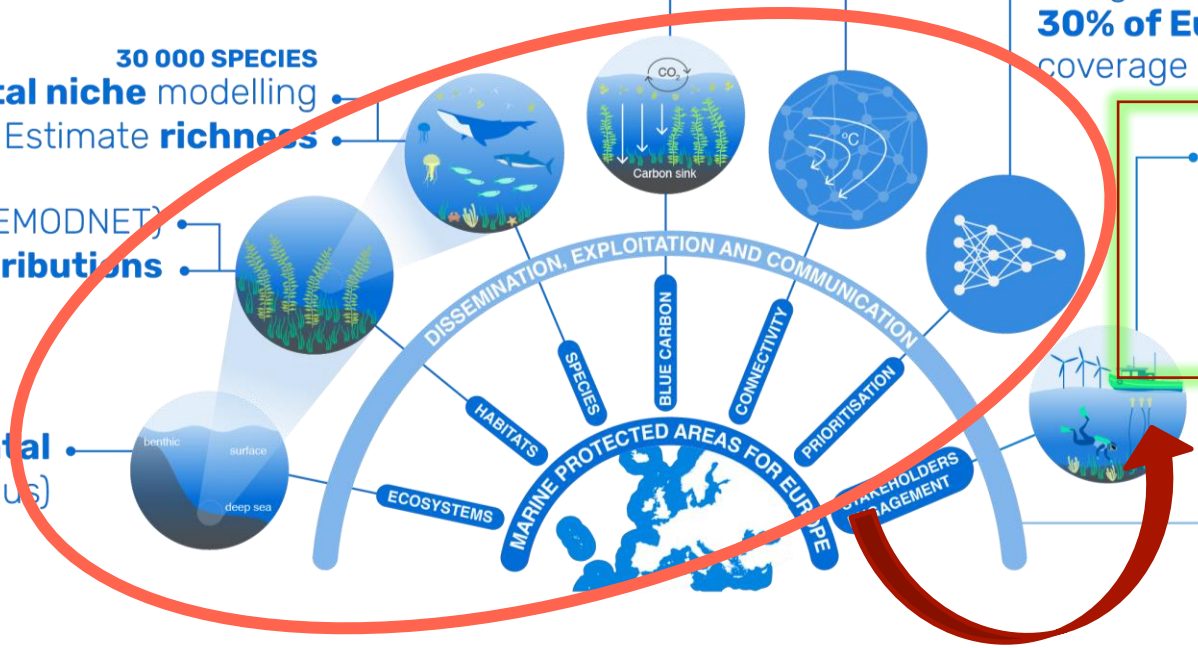
Environmental niche modelling

Estimate **richness**

Benthic habitats (EMODNET)

Modelled **habitat distributions**

Environmental data (Copernicus)



Two way process with marine spatial planners and other interested parties to formulate **regional or national case studies**, ensuring project traceability, transparency and reproducibility

Project website, peer-reviewed scientific papers, workshops, conference, fact sheets, policy brief for stakeholders

STAKEHOLDERS

Open engagement approach

>165 Stakeholders

No Pilots or Test Sites

Co-design case studies (UN Ocean Decade)

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

ENGAGE
Share project & seek feedback; answer FAQs

Introduce MPA Europe:
May – September 2024

INVOLVE
Stakeholders participate & validate approaches and outputs

Regional in-person workshops in synergy with relevant events:
February 2024 – February 2025

PARTNER
Stakeholders propose use cases

Regional case uses co-identified with stakeholders:
January 2023 – April 2025

SHARE LEARNINGS

International conference:
July 2025, Bodø
Policy brief:
December 2025

INITIAL STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK - FAQs

PROJECT SCOPE AND OUTCOMES

DATA ACCESS AND RESOLUTION

CASE STUDIES

EXISTING ACTIVITIES AT SEA

DATA SOURCES

+ I noticed we are talking about estimating species richness, is that based on temperature and existing species, or temperature and conservation/active restoration?
+ So you are taking species data to which you add a further list of environmental data, and then overlay it with temperature modelling. Is that right?
+ The data sources you are using are the global data aggregators. From my previous experience I have seen a lot of data is held in national institutions and scientific organisations and they do not share it with the aggregators. Do you have the capacity or plan to consider national databases, which often do not often conform to FAIR principles, so you have to standardise the data?
+ For seabirds will the maps be built based on Important Bird Areas data, or what other data?
+ It seems you are taking into account the changing ranges of species. Does this mean that once the MPAs are designated, there is the possibility of changing the boundaries or are these set in stone?
+ You mentioned you will produce Species Distribution Models. What is the difference between EMODnet Biology and EMODnet Seabed Habitats? Do you plan to acquire new data?

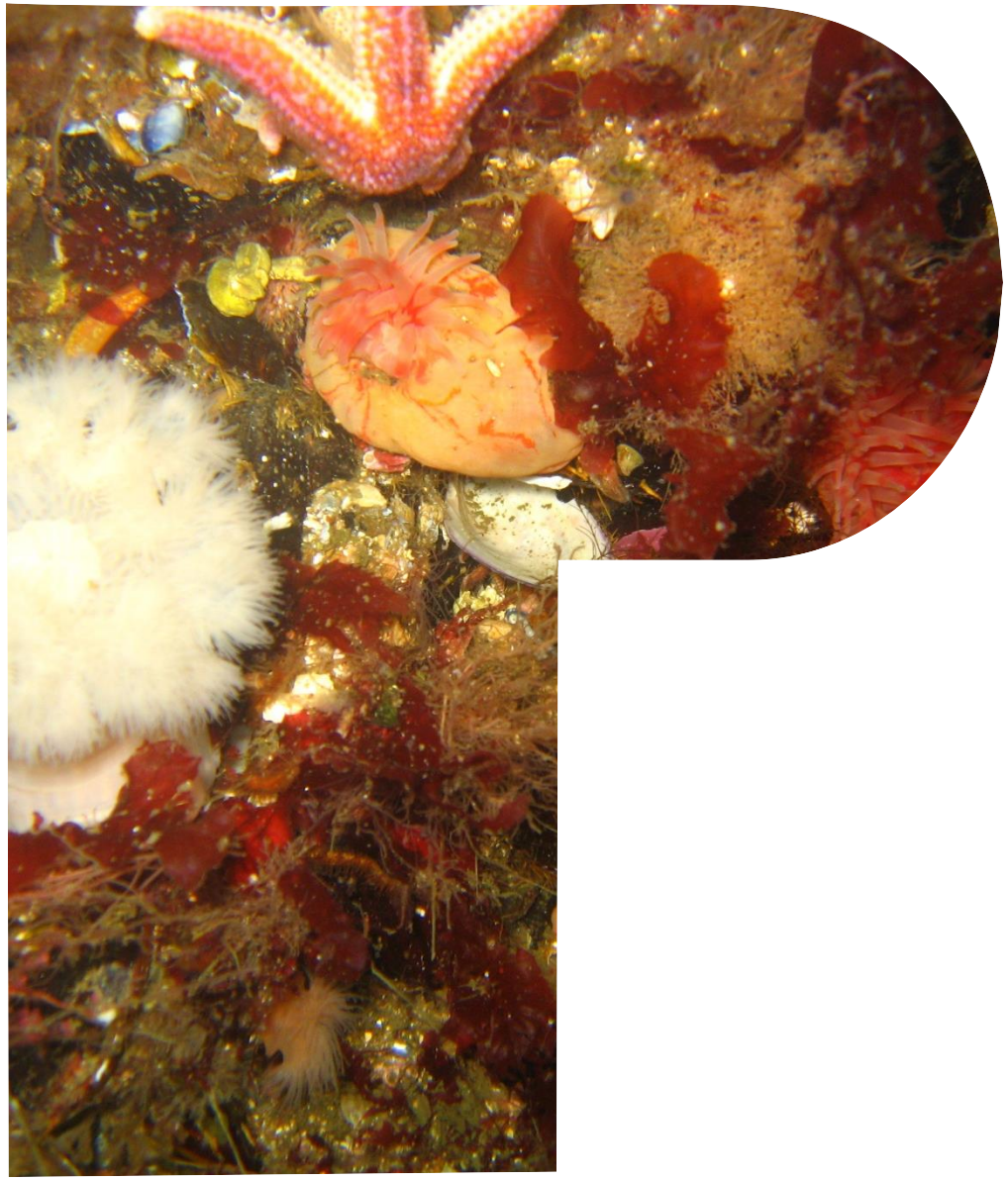
OTHER

STAKEH

CLIMAT

THE BL

KEY POINTS FOR WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS



- How would you like to see our results used **for national, transboundary or regional marine spatial planning**?
- How would you like to see our results used **for strengthening existing marine protected areas**?
- How would you like to see our results used **for extending the network of existing marine protected areas in the region**?
- Would you like to **co-identify a use case** with us based on any of the project's results?

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

BALTIC SEA REGION

MPA Europe's approach could be **improved by the inclusion of absence and abundance data, and important areas for key species groups** such as seabirds or mammals.

Good spatial maps and species distribution models **can support stakeholder consultations,** when justifying new MPA boundaries, and support countries to update their marine spatial plans.

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

BLACK SEA REGION

This work is very helpful for all the current processes in Bulgaria and Romania for MPAs. **Would it be possible to request modelling for a certain area**, and if so when?

We think your support is **most valuable at regional level,** for example in helping Bulgaria and Romania reach a common approach on the identification and designations of their Protected Areas and, within those, the 10% strictly protected cores.

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS IN 2025

MEDITERRANEAN WORKSHOP
28th January 2025, Madrid, with MEDIGREEN

NORTH ATLANTIC WORKSHOP & MPA EUROPE SYMPOSIUM
18th February 2025, Copenhagen, with EEA

CASE STUDIES

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS EUROPE

European Environment Agency

Blue carbon habitats in MPA networks (underway)

Optimal expansion of MPAs and ORE (proposed)

WWF

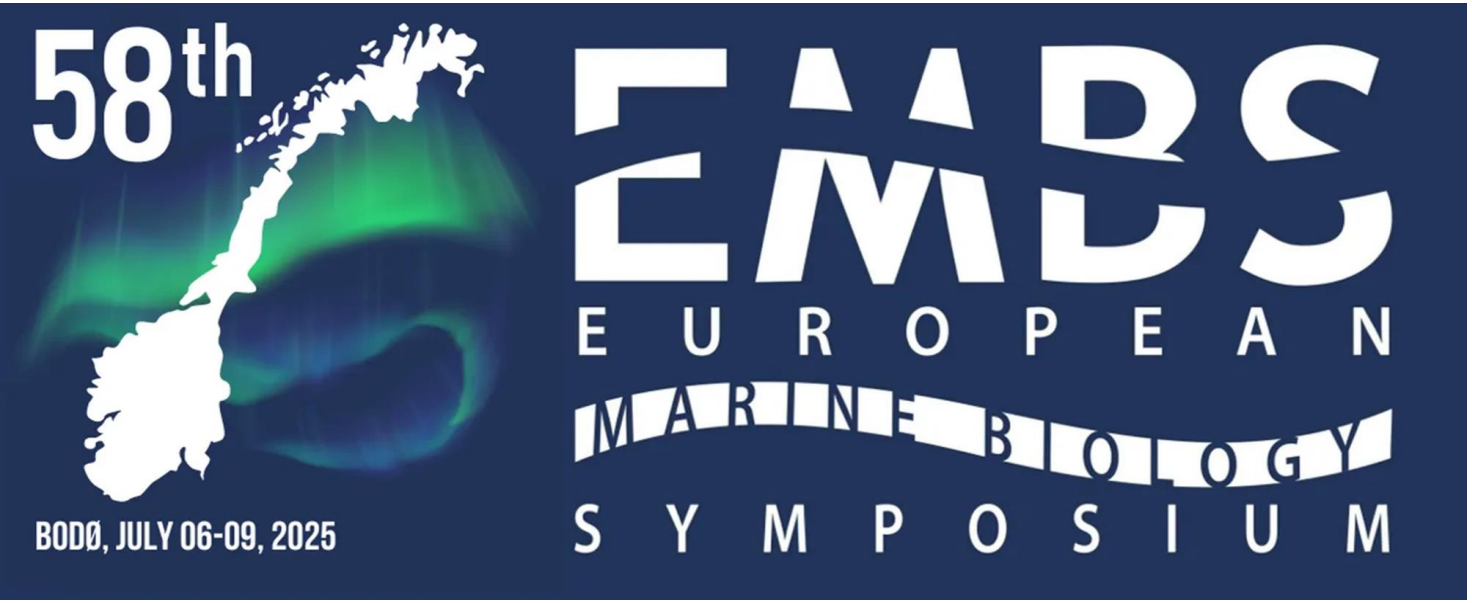
MPA network adequacy (underway)

European MSP Platform

Species app & video tutorial for MSP community (underway)

? **Others TBD**

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



WE ARE WAITING FOR YOU IN BODØ!

THANK YOU

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ANNEX III – LIST OF IN-PRESENCE PARTICIPANTS

MEDIGREEN Opening Conference & MPA Europe Mediterranean Stakeholders Workshop – In-presence participant's list

28th January, 2025

	Name	Surname	Institution
1	Ana	Correa-Peña	IEO, CSIC
2	Andrea	Pierhl	IEO(CSIC)
3	Antonio	di Cintio	MEDREACT
4	Aurora	Mesa-Fraile	MITECO
5	Barbara	Bauer	European Topic Centre University of Malaga
6	Beatriz	Fernandez	IEO
7	Belinda	Bramely	MPA Europe - Climazul
8	Carmen	Herrero	CSIC (Spanish Research Council)
9	Cécile	Malavaud	SHOM
10	Céline	Hostiou	CEREMA
11	Cristina	Cervera-Núñez	IEO, CSIC
12	Cristina	Simioli	Renewables Grid Initiative

13	David	Bassett	European Aquaculture Technology & Innovation Platform
14	Eleni	Hatziyanni	DG MARE (EC)
15	Emiliano	Ramieri	CNR-ISMAR
16	Enrique	del Olmo Gancedo	AEE (Asociación Empresarial Eólica)
17	Fabio	Carella	Iuav University of Venice
18	Folco	Soffietti	IUAV
19	Francesca	Coccon	CORILA
20	Francesco	Musco	Università Iuav di Venezia
21	Ginevra	Capurso	CNR-ISMAR
22	Giulia	Balestracci	Eco-union
23	Isabel	Díaz	CSIC (Spanish Research Council)
24	Ivan	Sekovski	PAP-RAC
25	Lassad	Neifar	University of Sfax
26	Linda	Fourdain	GFCM/FAO
27	Lobna	Boudaya	University of Sfax
28	Lucía	Arranz	IEO(CSIC)

29	Mar	Otero	European Topic Center-Universidad de Malaga
30	Marco	Costantini	Medac (wwf/coordinator GL3)
31	María	Gómez-Ballesteros	IEO, CSIC
32	Marilena	Papageorgiou	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
33	Marina	Markovic	PAP-RAC
34	Marjoleine	Nascimento da Silva-Karper	Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)
35	Marta	Martínez-Gil Pardo de Vera	MITECO
36	Marta	Pascual	EU MSP Platform
37	Martina	Bocci	CORILNA
38	Natalia	Sánchez-Coppel	General Secretariat of Fisheries - Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Spain)
39	Neil	Alloncle	CEREMA
40	Óscar	Esparza-Alaminos	WWF Spain
41	Patricia	Ureña	ASOCIACION CHELONIA
42	Paula	Valcarce	IEO, CSIC
43	Pierpaolo	Campostrini	CORILA
44	Pierre-Maxime	Giora	French Directorate General for Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture

45	Rafael	Sardá	CSIC (Spanish Research Council)
46	Raquel	López	General Secretariat of Fisheries - Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Spain)
47	Reda	Neveu	MedPAN
48	Samir	Bachouche	Centre National de Recherche et de Developpement de la Peche et de l'Aquaculture (CNRDPA)
49	Sara	García-Morales Hurtado	MARE-ARNET/University of Lisbon
50	Silas	Principe	OBIS/IODE/IOC/UNESCO
51	Silu	Yang	CSIC (Spanish Research Council)
52	Stella	Kyvelou-Chiotini	PUSPS
53	Thanos	Smanis	Climazul
54	Theoni	Kostopoulou	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
55	Vesna	Marohnić-Kuzmanović	Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction and state Assets (Croatia)
56	Xavier	Guillou	DG MARE (EC)
57	Yannick	Leroy	SHOM