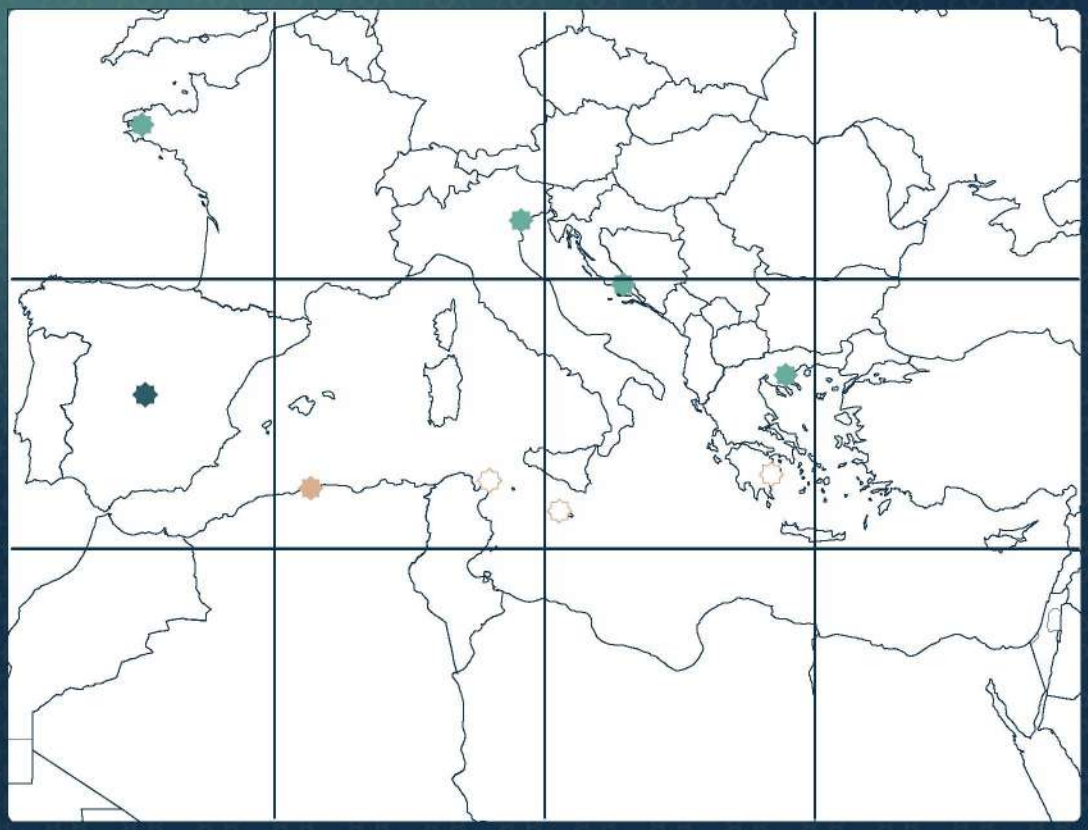

D2.1 State of play of sector-related EGD components in MSP plans of the EU MED countries

MEDIGREEN
Mediterranean approach towards a maritime European Green Deal in MSP

Co-funded by the European Union

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The work described in this report was supported by the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) of the European Union- through the Grant Agreement number 101182580, corresponding to the Call for proposal Call EMFAF-2023-PIA-MSP Type of action: EMFAF Project Grants.

DISCLAIMER

Project Full Title	Mediterranean approach towards a maritime European Green Deal in MSP
Project Acronym	MEDIGREEN
Gant Agreement Nr.	101182580
Project Website	https://mspgreen.eu/medigreen/

Deliverable Nr.	D4
Status (Final/Draft/Revised)	Draft
Work Package	WP2
Task Number	T2.1
Responsible Institute	CORILA
Author/s	M. Bocci P. Campostrini, F. Coccon, M. Masiero, A. Rosina (All CORILA); M. Papageorgiou, T. Kostopoulou (all AUTh); F. Châles, N. Alloncle (all CEREMA); E. Ramieri, E. Gissi, S. Menegon (All CNR); E. Gutiérrez-Ruiz, A. Iñigo, C. Cervera-Núñez, M.Campillos-Llanos (all IEO,CSIC); F. Carella, F. Soffietti, D. Brigolin, A. Fudoli (all IUAV); M. Marković, I. Sekovski (all PAP/RAC) Cécile Malavaud, Yannick Leroy (all SHOM)

Infographics	-
Recommended Citation	Bocci M. et al., 2025. State of play of sector-related EGD components in MSP plans of the EU MED countries. Deliverable D2.1 of MEDIGREEN project. Call EMFAF-2023-PIA-MSP, Grant Agreement number 101182580.
Dissemination Level (Public/Partnership)	Public

Document History			
Version	Date	Modification Introduced	
		Modification Reason	Modified by
Ver 1.0	02.09.2025	Draft version for partners' comments	M.Bocci
	29.09.2025	Final version after partners' comments	M.Bocci

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List of abbreviations

Acronym	Definition
ACCOBAMS	Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area
AGCI	Aspen Global Change Institute
AIS	Automatic Identification System
ARPA	Regional agency for environmental protection (Italian institution)
AZA	Allocated Zones for Aquaculture
CAMP	Coastal Area Management Programme
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CC	Climate Change
CCH	Critical Cetacean Habitat
CDPMEM	Departmental Committee of Maritime Fisheries and Marine Aquaculture (France)
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy
CINEA	Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency
CLLDG	Community-Led Local Development groups
CMF	Sea basin Maritime Council (France)
CNDP	National Commission for Public Debate (France)
CNML	National Council for the Sea and Coast (France)
CNPMEM	National Committee of Maritime Fisheries and Marine Aquaculture (France)
CRPMEM	Regional Committee of Maritime Fisheries and Marine Aquaculture (France)
DDTM	Departmental Directorates for Territories and the Sea (France)
DIRM	Interregional Directorate for the Sea (France)
DSF	Sea Basin Strategy Document (France)
EBSA	Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas
EC	European Commission
EDPA	Environment and Development Planning Act
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EFH	Essential Fish Habitats
EGD	European Green Deal
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMAs	Educational Marine Areas
EMFAF	European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
FASP	Fishing, Aquaculture and Sea Program
FRA	Fisheries Restricted Areas
FVG	Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italian Region)
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GES	Good Environmental Status
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
GIS	Geographical Information System
GSA	Geographic Sub Area
GW	Gigawatts
IBA	Important Bird Area
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IDAE	Institute for Diversification and Saving of Energy
IEO	Instituto Español de Oceanografía (Spanish Institute of Oceanography)
IMC	Ionian Sea and Central Mediterranean Sea (in the Italian MSP)
IMMA	Important Marine Mammals Area
IMP	Integrated Maritime Policy
IMTA	Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture

Acronym	Definition
INTEMARES	Integrated, innovative and participative management of the Natura 2000 Network in the Spanish marine environment
IUU	Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (fishing)
LIPU	Italian league for protection of birds
LSIs	Land-Sea Interactions
LTL	Low trophic level
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MASAF	Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forests
MDA	Malta Developers Association
MED	Mediterranean
MO	Western Mediterranean Sea (in the Italian MSP)
MPAs	Marine Protected Areas
MS	Member State
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
MSP	Maritime Spatial Planning
MSPD	Marine Spatial Planning Directive
MSY	Maximum Sustainable Yield
MW	Megawatt
N2000	Natura 2000
N2K	Natura 2000 Network
NbS	Nature-based Solutions
NECP	National Energy and Climate Plan
NEP	National Environment Policy
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NRP	National Reform Programme
NSSC	National Strategy for the Sea and Coast (France)
OECMs	Other Effective Conservation Measures
OEM	Ordenación del Espacio Marítimo (Maritime Spatial Planning, Spain)
OP	Producer Organisation
ORE	Offshore Renewable Energy
OS	Specific objective (in the Italian MSP)
OWE	Offshore Wind Energy
OWF	Offshore Wind Farm
PA	Planning Authority (Malta)
PACA	Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (France)
PADDUC	Plan d'Aménagement et de développement durable de la Corse (Sustainable Development and Planning Plan for Corsica, France)
PAMM	Action Plan for the Sea (France)
PAP	Priority Action Plan
PLAGEPOMI	Management Plan for migratory species (France)
PNACC	Plan Nacional de Adaptación al Cambio Climático (National Climate Change Adaptation Plan, Spain)
PNIEC	Plan Nacional Integrado de Energía y Clima (Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan, Spain)
PNIECC	National Energy and Climate Plan (of Italy)
PNM	Marine natural park (in the French MSPP)
POEM	Planes de Ordenación del Espacio Martítimo (MSP plan in Spanish)
POLMAR	Operational Plan for Combating Marine Pollution (France)
PPE	Programmation Pluriannuelle de l'Energie (Multiannual Energy Programming, France)
PSSA	Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas
PU	Planning Unit
RAC	Regional Activity Centre

Acronym	Definition
RAMPE	Red de Áreas Marinas Protegidas de España (Network of marine protected areas, Spain)
REPCET	Network for the Study and Monitoring of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean
SACs	Special Areas for Conservation
SCIs	Sites of Community Interest
SDAGE	Water management and planning scheme (France)
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SPAs	Special Protection Areas
SPED	Strategic Plan for the Environment and Development
SRADDET	Regional Scheme for Planning, Sustainable Development, and Territorial Equity (France)
SRDAM	Regional Scheme of Marine Aquaculture Development (France)
SSF	Small-Scale Fisheries
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
VSF	Venice Sustainability Foundation
ZAP	Zonas de Alto Potencial (Zones with high potential, Spain)
ZAPAC	Zonas de Alto Potencial para la Acuicultura (Zones with high potential for aquaculture, Spain)
ZAPER	Zonas de Alto Potencial para las Energías Renovables (Zones with high potential for renewable energy, Spain)
ZFHi	Essential Fish Habitats of importance
ZIA	Zona de Interés para la Acuicultura (Zones of interest for aquaculture, Spain)
ZICM	Zona de Interés para Cultivos Marinos (Zones of interest for marine farming, Spain)
ZUP	Zonas de Uso Prioritario (Zones of priority use, Spain)

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Extended summary

The MEDIGREEN project supports the European Green Deal (EGD) transition in the Mediterranean through Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), focusing on fisheries, aquaculture, offshore renewable energies (ORE), and nature protection. Building on the MSP-GREEN project methodology, this deliverable discusses how EU Mediterranean countries integrate EGD objectives in their MSPs, using a new sector-based approach.

The assessment applied a common analytical framework across seven EU Mediterranean countries (Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Slovenia and Spain). National factsheets were prepared by partners following a shared template, reviewed and compared through cross-country analysis, and discussed in a dedicated consortium workshop held in Venice in June 2025. While all countries show alignment with EGD objectives to some extent, the scope and depth of integration vary significantly, reflecting national specificities in MSP maturity and sectoral priorities.

The integration of EGD priorities into Mediterranean MSPs (visions, objectives, measures) shows progress across fisheries, aquaculture, offshore renewable energy (ORE), and nature protection, though with varying scope and depth. Biodiversity protection stands out as the most consistently addressed theme, supported by long-standing EU nature directives and reflected in widespread zoning of MPAs and Natura 2000 sites. By contrast, climate change mitigation is largely channelled through offshore renewable energy development, while adaptation measures and nature-based solutions remain weakly embedded. Sustainable seafood production is generally considered, not only with regards to sustainable fisheries but also with reference to present activities and future developments of aquaculture.

Zoning provisions were also assessed highlighting that the EU Mediterranean MSPs show clear spatial integration of aquaculture, offshore renewable energy, and nature protection, though with uneven emphasis across countries. Aquaculture is widely zoned, in some cases in multi-use areas; offshore renewable energy designations are advancing in some countries but remain limited in general; and nature protection emerges as the most consolidated spatial priority, with extensive coverage of marine Natura 2000 and other MPAs.

Overall, MSP processes across the Mediterranean demonstrate a strong recognition of stakeholder participation as part of a fair and just transition. However, variations remain in inclusivity, clarity of engagement frameworks, and the degree of influence stakeholders can exert on decision-making. Strengthening local participation, ensuring gender balance, and institutionalising transparent interaction plans represent key opportunities for the next planning cycle.

The review of some cross-cutting elements in MSP shows that Research and innovation are the most consistently addressed, though with varying priorities, while Education and training receive only limited attention. Cross-border cooperation remains fragmented, with some examples of joint management and regional partnerships but few structured mechanisms overall.

During the project workshop held in Venice at the end of June 2025, project partners exchanged ideas on the implementation of the EGD-related MSP measures for the four sectors. Both progress and challenges in implementing EGD-related MSP measures were highlighted. Readiness is evident in zoning tools, alignment with EU frameworks, and emerging practices such as stakeholder associations, technical groups, and nature protection projects, all showing a growing link between MSP and sustainability goals. However, implementation is hindered by insufficient data to effectively operationalise and monitor actions, weak consideration of climate adaptation, and fragmented governance. The lack of robust circular economy measures, scarce habitat restoration actions, and poor understanding of cumulative ORE impact further constrain progress. Advancements requires stronger coordination, clearer implementation

plans, strengthened enforcement mechanisms, and greater investment in knowledge development, monitoring, and stakeholder participation.

It can be concluded that MSP in the Mediterranean is progressively integrating EGD objectives, but unevenly across themes and countries. Moving forward, MSP cycles should prioritise climate adaptation and circularity, strengthen data and enforcement, improve coherence with EU sectoral policies, and set clearer standards for participation and equity. Only by addressing these gaps, MSP can fulfil its potential as a transformative instrument for delivering the EGD at sea.

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to the representatives of the MSP Competent Authorities who participated in the project workshop held in Venice from 30 June to 2 July 2025, and who reviewed the analysis of their countries' MSP presented in this report:

Cyprus: Kyriakos Aliouris and Nicolas Ioannou, Shipping Deputy Ministry

Croatia: Vesna Marohnić-Kuzmanović, Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets

Malta: Michelle Borg and Anna Dora Deguara, Planning Authority

Slovenia: Lenča Humerca Šolar, Ministry of the Natural Resources and Spatial Planning.

1 Introduction

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: fisheries, aquaculture, Offshore Renewable Energies (ORE), and nature protection, examining how MSP can promote sectoral and cross-sectoral responses. The project is structured into four work packages. Specifically, WP2 aims to support EU Mediterranean countries in advancing EGD goals at sea for the selected sectors, also developing indicators to monitor advancement towards EGD objectives. Building on the results of MSP-GREEN project, the EGD components of the Maritime Spatial plans (MSP plans) of the EU partner countries were assessed according to a new sector-based approach. Country assessments were prepared, looking for objectives, measures and related elements adopted in MSP plans to achieve EGD objectives.

1.1 Methodology

Based on the same approach adopted under the MSP-GREEN project, the occurrence of EGD components was assessed based on an **MSP-EGD nomenclature** – a list of EGD core elements that have been identified in the main policy documents related with EGD:

- The European Green Deal. COM (2019) 640 final
- A new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the EU Transforming the EU's Blue Economy for a Sustainable Future. COM (2021) 240 final
- A EU Strategy to harness the potential of offshore renewable energy for a climate neutral future. COM (2020) 741 final.
- REPowerEU Plan. COM (2022) 230 final
- A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy in accordance with the Paris Agreement (2019/2582(RSP))
- EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives. COM (2021) 380 final
- A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system. COM (2020) 381 final.
- Pathway to a Healthy Planet for All EU Action Plan: 'Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil". COM (2021) 400 final
- A new Circular Economy Action Plan for a cleaner and more competitive Europe. COM (2020) 98 final.
- Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030 COM/2021/236 final

The MSP-EGD nomenclature identifies **six EGD key topics** related with the marine environment and the maritime activities (reported here below). EGD topics are articulated into sub-topics and specific elements, as indicated in Table 1.

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

The assessment of EGD components occurring in MSP plans was undertaken considering the **four sectors of interest** for MEDIGREEN project:

- Fisheries
- Aquaculture
- Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE)
- Nature protection.

The analysis also considered how the principle of ensuring a **fair and inclusive transition** to sustainable blue economy was considered in MSP, and whether and how measures pay attention to the regions, industries and workers who will face the greatest challenges in the EGD transition. This analysis was undertaken at desk level too, based on project partner knowledge.

Finally, the analysis considered how some **cross-cutting elements**, potentially favouring EGD objectives in relation with the key sectors, are considered in the MSP plans. The following elements were considered: Research and Innovation, Education and Training, and Cross-border cooperation.

The assessment was undertaken for **seven EU countries of the Mediterranean** (Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Slovenia, Spain), based on the source documents indicated in Table 2. Document consultation was not limited to plan documents. External documents, supporting documents, Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs), communication documents and websites were also considered as sources of information. In case some aspects could not be answered, partners asked experts/stakeholders on very specific matters.

In addition to the assessment at country level of MSP plans and processes, this deliverable presents some considerations concerning the implementation of EGD-related elements from MSP plans, related to the four key sectors. Such considerations are derived from the results of the **project workshop** organised in Venice 30th June - 2nd July, 2025.

During the workshop, participants discussed how national MSPs address the implementation of EGD priorities in the four key sectors. The session began with a prioritisation exercise, where each participant identified the three most important EGD topics per sector, with the option to specify subtopics. Then, discussions took place in a world café format, with four tables—one per sector—and participants rotating between them. At each table, dialogue focused on the top-ranked topics. The exercise unfolded in two phases. First, participants examined how their national plans currently address the selected priorities, identifying both urgent actions and gaps where important EGD topics are missing. Second, they reflected on the operational aspects of implementation, considering readiness factors such as funding, stakeholder engagement, and available knowledge, as well as obstacles that limit effective integration or slow down the adoption of new measures.

1.2 Contents of the deliverable

This deliverable presents in **chapter 2** an overview of the sector-related EGD components of MSP plans, prepared on the basis of the country level assessments, focused on the key sectors of interest. The individual country assessments are reported in **Annex 1**. Country assessments were drafted based on a detailed analysis of the MSP plans contents related to the four sectors, undertaken using a set of fact-sheets structured around the MSP-EGD nomenclature, and supporting the collection of sector-related EGD elements in the various plan components (vision, objectives, measures, zoning provisions, fair and just transition elements). The factsheets compiled for the different countries are presented in **Annex 2**. **Chapter 3** discusses the results from the assessment, focusing on the synergies between the EGD objectives and the MSP provisions for the sectors. **Chapter 4** presents some elements relevant for the implementation of sector-related EGD provisions included in the MSP plans, based on the results of the project workshop conducted in Venice in June 2025. The Workshop report is included in **Annex 3**. **Chapter 5** presents the conclusions and way forward.

Table 1. MSP-EGD nomenclature: topics, sub-topics and specific elements

Code	Definition
A	**Climate change mitigation**
A.1	Renewable energy production, storage and transportation
A.1.1	Development of marine renewable energy installations
A.1.2	Development of sustainable ocean energy mix
A.1.3	Integration of renewable energy solutions with energy efficiency and other sustainable solutions
A.1.4	Multi-use of the sea space: combination including energy installations
A.1.5	Development of grid infrastructures
A.1.6	Development of innovative technologies and infrastructures
A.1.7	Coordinated, transboundary initiatives
A.2	Clean energy transition in maritime sectors
A.2.1	Initiatives towards emission reduction from ships
A.2.2	Initiatives towards emission reduction in ports or marinas
A.2.3	Initiatives towards emission reduction in other sectors considered by the Plan(s)(e.g. fishing boats)
A.3	Transformations in ports
A.3.1	Ports as energy hubs: integrated electricity provision, hydrogen and other low-carbon fuel systems
A.3.2	Use of smart digital solutions and autonomous systems in
A.4	Blue carbon sinks
A.4.1	Preserving and restoring coastal vegetation systems accumulating "blue carbon"
A.5	Knowledge-related measures
A.6	Governance-related measures
B	**Climate change adaptation**
B.1	Green Infrastructures to enhance coastal resilience
B.1.1	Green Infrastructures: Creation and maintenance of Nature-based solutions
B.2	Protection of climate-sensitive marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems, and landscapes
B.2.1	Identification of spatial and non-spatial measures addressing the impacts from climate change
B.3	Anticipation of climate change-related effects
B.3.1	Identification of climate refugia for marine species and habitats
B.3.2	Identification of areas to be used in future by specific sectors, due to climate change
B.3.3	Identification of unplanned areas to be used in future (specific uses not identified)
B.4	Knowledge-related measures
B.5	Governance-related measures

Table 1(continues)

Code	Definition
C	**Sustainable sea-food production**
C.1	Sustainable fisheries: sustainable fisheries management, including area and time-based measures
C.1.1	Improving the state of fish stocks
C.1.2	Minimize fishing impacts on vulnerable habitats
C.1.3	Minimizing bycatch and unwanted fishing
C.1.4	Combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU)(also including enhanced traceability systems)
C.1.5	Introduction and strengthening of digitalization and advanced tools for fisheries
C.1.6	Multi-use of the sea space: combination including fisheries
C.1.7	Coordinated, transboundary initiatives
C.2	Sustainable aquaculture and shellfish production
C.2.1	Development of marine aquaculture installations
C.2.2	Development of organic marine aquaculture, IMTA, low-trophic aquaculture
C.2.3	Introduction of energy savings in marine aquaculture. Including autonomous systems
C.2.4	Multi-use of the sea space: combinations including marine aquaculture
C.3	Sustainable algae production
C.3.1	Development of marine algae production
C.3.2	Multi-use of the sea space: combination including algae production
C.4	Knowledge-related measures
C.5	Governance-related measures
D	**Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration**
D.1	A coherent network of marine protected areas
D.1.1	Establishment of new or enlargement of strictly marine protected areas (10% target) and definition of strict protection
D.1.2	Establishment of new or enlargement of N2K and OECMs (30% target)
D.1.3	Identification of ecological "blue" corridors
D.1.4	Elements that improve marine connectivity (i.e. submarine canyons, artificial reef, etc.)
D.1.5	Multi-use of the sea space: combination including biodiversity and ecosystem protection
D.1.6	Coordinated, transboundary initiatives
D.2	Restoring marine and coastal ecosystems
D.2.1	Remediation of contaminated marine and / or coastal sites
D.2.2	Restoring of marine degraded ecosystems
D.3	Knowledge-related measures
D.4	Governance-related measures

Table 1(continues)

Code	Definition
E	**Blue circular economy**
E.1	Circular design
E.1.1	Circular design of boats and ships and their components
E.1.2	Circular design of fishing and aquaculture gears
E.2	Waste prevention
E.2.1	Upgrade, strengthening of waste collection systems in ports
E.2.2	Upgrade, strengthening of waste collection systems in coastal touristic sites
E.2.3	Collecting, transhipping and disposing of waste from ships and other port industries
E.3	Re-use, repair, upgrade, recycle
E.3.1	Development of vessel repairing, refitting, dismantling services in ports
E.3.2	Development of boat repairing, refitting, dismantling services in yards and marinas
E.3.3	Repairing and end-of-life recycling of fishing and aquaculture gears
E.4	Knowledge-related measures
E.5	Governance-related measures
F.	**Zero pollution**
F.1	Pollution prevention
F.1.1	Measures related to maritime traffic and ports
F.1.2	Measures related to coastal and maritime tourism
F.1.3	Measures related to fisheries and aquaculture
F.1.4	Measures related to the energy sector
F.1.5	Measures related to other land-based activities
E.2	Pollution remediation
F.2.1	Remediation of polluted sediments
F.2.2	Remediation of marine litter accumulation
F.2.3	Fishing-for-litter initiatives
F.3	Knowledge-related measures
F.4	Governance-related measures

Table 2. Source documents used to prepare country assessments.

Country	MSP plan documents	Date of adoption
Cyprus	Policy Statement on MSP National Maritime Spatial Plan – Text), maps and sectoral maps	20 December 2023
Greece	National Spatial Strategy for the Marine Space (Link to the document) Maritime Spatial Planning Framework for the North Aegean Sea (Draft document)	Adoption of the National Spatial Strategy for the Marine Space (17-04-2025)
France	Four "Documents stratégiques de façade - DSF" (Strategic sea-basin documents) for the four maritime *façades*: - DSF Mediterranean - DSF Eastern Channel – North Sea - DSFNorth Atlantic – Western Channel - DSF South Atlantic	Strategic part of the DSFs adopted in 2019 (4 October 2019 for the DSF Mediterranean), currently being revised Operational part of the DSFsI adopted in 2022 (April 2022 for the DSF Mediterranean) Each part is updated every 6 years.
Italy	Italian Maritime Spatial Plans "Tyrrhenian - Western Mediterranean" maritime area Italian Maritime Spatial Plans "Ionian - Central Mediterranean maritime area Italian Maritime Spatial Plans "Adriatic" maritime area Link to the Plans	25 September 2024
Malta	Strategic Plan for the Environment and Development (SPED)	July 2015
Slovenia	Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia (text/maps) Strategic Environmental Assessment (in Slovenian) Overview of the spatial conditions for the Slovenian part of the Adriatic Sea and coast (in Slovenian) Link to the documents	July 2021
Spain	Planes de Ordenación del Espacio Martítimo (POEM): Royal Decree of the approval of the POEM and the assessments of the 5 marine demarcations: - North-Atlantic - South-Atlantic - Levantine-Balearic - Strait and Alboran Sea - Canary	28 February 2023

2 Sector-related EGD components of MSP plans

This chapter provides an overview of how EGD topics are considered in the national MSP plans across seven Mediterranean countries: Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Slovenia, and Spain. The chapter focuses on four key maritime sectors— Fisheries, Aquaculture, ORE, and Nature Protection. The contents of the chapter were compiled based on the assessments at country level included in Annex 1. Annex 2 presents country fact sheets compiled to collect the information for the country assessments.

The chapter is organized in four sections, section 2.1 outlines how plans consider the EGD topics across their vision, objectives and measures, in relation with the four considered sectors; section 2.2 summarizes the main features of the zoning provisions, with reference to the sectors and the EGD objectives; section 2.3 presents some aspects related with the Fair & Just transition dimension of the planning provisions for the sectors; and section 2.4 illustrates some MSP plans complementary features relevant for the EGD transition: Research & Innovation, Education & Training and Cross-border cooperation.

2.1 EGD topics in MSP and key sectors

This section describes if and how the EGD topics are considered in the MSP provisions for the four key sectors, particularly in the vision, objectives and measures. The description provides a overview at EU Mediterranean level. More details are included in the country assessments collected in Annex 1 and in the factsheets of Annex 2.

2.1.1 Fisheries

IN SHORT. The way Mediterranean countries address EGD elements related to fisheries in their MSP plans shows some commonalities. Climate change mitigation is generally acknowledged, often through references to fleet decarbonisation or the promotion of fuel-efficient technologies, while adaptation strategies remain less consistently integrated. Sustainable seafood production represents a priority across most plans, though the depth of measures varies, ranging from stock assessments and habitat mapping to restrictions on specific fishing practices. Biodiversity protection is systematically considered, typically through the designation of MPAs or spatial measures targeting habitats or species, in relation to fisheries management. Circular economy initiatives and Zero pollution are addressed only sporadically and with limited scope.

Climate Change Mitigation. The French Mediterranean MSP sets a vision to decarbonize the fishing fleet by 2050 but largely relies on external policies like the WestMed Plan. It includes only one related objective (M-2) and one measure (PM-MED10), focused on awareness and incentives to reduce fuel use. Greece directly considers mitigation through the National Energy and Climate Plan. And promotes co-location with renewable energy sites. Italy also directly considers mitigation, referencing NAZ_MIS|06 (study on climate change impacts and blue carbon) and NAZ_MIS|30 (training for fishers on sustainability and fuel efficiency). Spain refers to the EU CFP compliance, but it does not set clear mitigation actions.

Climate Change Adaptation. This topic is directly considered by Greece, which integrates adaptation through zoning and habitat protections. In the North Aegean, 59 Natura 2000 sites cover about 1.14 million hectares, with adaptive measures like artificial reefs to buffer coastal erosion. Italy partially considers adaptation of the fishing sector through NAZ_MIS|06, which funds climate impact studies and vulnerability assessments, but no operational measures are yet described. Cyprus, France, Malta, Slovenia, and Spain do not include adaptation measures.

Sustainable Seafood Production. This EGD topic represents the key element for the sector. It is therefore considered across most countries but with varying depth. The MSP plan of the French Mediterranean targets the achievement of the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) for the stocks covered by the Common Fisheries Policy, risk analysis for all Natura 2000 sites, and the reduction of coastal trawling. MSP in Greece promote food security through fisheries with measures including sustainable fishing practices and designation of fishing areas. Additionally, the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea supports the control of overfishing and the combat of illegal fishing.2017/1004). The Italian MSP plans include several measures for sustainable fisheries, considering, i.e. multi-level governance to coordinate measures, minimisation of fishing impacts on vulnerable habitats, fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. MSP in Malta protects artisanal fisheries in areas like Marsaxlokk Harbour while Slovenia envisages preservation and sustainable development of fisheries as a traditional activity, introducing multi-use practices such as permitting selected fishing on shell farms and restricting fishing in environmentally sensitive zones. Spain recognises this component but in general terms, with reference to the Common Fishery Policy (CFP). Similarly, Cyprus promotes sustainable fishing by prohibiting and regulating fishing activity in MPAs.

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Protection and Restoration. This topic is considered by all the MSP plans of the countries considered for this study. In its Mediterranean waters, France restricts gangui fishing on Posidonia meadows and includes measures for bycatch reduction (e.g., for sharks and rays). Greece and Cyprus use Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRA) and MPAs to protect habitats. Italy integrates ecosystem studies and governance (NAZ_MIS|38, NAZ_MIS|39) provisions. Specially Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas for Conservation (SACs are considered in Malta for fisheries' management. The Slovenian MSP plan enforces fishing bans in some protected areas and fishing reserves and assesses the possibility for installation of the artificial reef. The Spanish plan relies on the designation of Marine Reserves of Fishing Interest as an efficient measure to maintain the sustainability of fish stocks and to promote artisanal fishing gears.

Blue Circular Economy. This topic is considered only by some countries in relation to the fishing sector. For example, the French plan considers to «support the development of a recovery and recycling sector for by-products from fisheries and aquaculture», and structure innovation efforts to produce biodegradable fishing nets. Slovenia requires port reception facilities for fishing waste and storage for end-of-life vessels. Italian MSP plans support the creation of a recovery, re-use and recycling chain for aquaculture and fishery by-products and waste. Development of a national supply chain for the recovery, dismantling, and reuse/recycling of end-of-life fishing boats, is also mentioned. The MSP plans of Greece, Malta, and Spain provide little focus on waste or circular practices related with fisheries.

Zero pollution is not targeted or only mentioned in relation to the Fisheries sector in any of the MSP plan of the considered countries.

2.1.2 Aquaculture

IN SHORT. The consideration of aquaculture within national MSP plans of the EU Mediterranean countries shows a heterogeneous integration of EGD priorities, with certain themes more consistently addressed than others. Climate change mitigation receives explicit attention only in Greece and Italy, where aquaculture is linked to the energy transition of the sector and potential synergies with offshore renewable energy, while climate change adaptation measures remain limited in scope. Sustainable seafood production emerges as a core element across most plans, though the level of detail ranges from advanced spatial planning frameworks, such as Greece's categorisation of aquaculture zones, to more general references in France and Spain. Biodiversity protection is acknowledged primarily through spatial screening and conflict avoidance with sensitive habitats, with Italy, Greece, and Malta introducing targeted studies and pilot projects to balance aquaculture growth with ecological sustainability. Circular economy provisions are incorporated by few countries, mainly through eco-design, recycling, and waste recovery measures, while zero pollution objectives are less common but addressed in some cases through low-footprint practices and waste management initiatives.

Climate Change Mitigation. Among the assessed countries, only Greece and Italy address this topic directly for the aquaculture sector. MSP plans of both countries consider energy transition in the direction of stronger efficiency of aquaculture production. They also consider the integration of aquaculture with offshore renewable energy installations to maximize energy efficiency and facilitate ORE development.

The topic of **Climate change adaptation** is addressed in relation with the need to increase the resilience of aquaculture to climate change impacts. Italy references NAZ_MIS|06 and |07 for climate and environment studies but lacks aquaculture-specific measures. Spain states that aquaculture spatial planning from a medium- and long-term perspective should be planned considering the needs for resilience, adaptation, and mitigation of climate change. France refers to the need to better support infrastructure and livestock safety and assist professionals in the face of disease/mortality threats, considering the effects of climate change. The MSPs of Cyprus, Malta and Slovenia do not address this topic.

Sustainable Seafood Production. Logically, and as in the case of fisheries, this EGD topic is key for the aquaculture sector. MSP in Cyprus supports the development of aquaculture in open-sea areas, with the intention of minimising impacts on landscape and marine environment. MSP in Greece directly considers this topic: its National Marine Spatial Strategy integrates the guidelines of the sectoral Special Spatial Plan for Aquaculture that divides aquaculture activities into four types: developed, developing, isolated, and sensitive. In the North Aegean Sea, aquaculture hubs are identified in Chios, Lesvos, and Halkidiki; shellfish farming is concentrated in the Thermaikos Gulf. Multi-trophic aquaculture (fish + algae + shellfish) and marine biotech (seaweed fuel, pharmaceuticals) are encouraged. Italy allocates 9,831 km^2 across 24 planning units, regulated through AZA processes. NAZ_MIS|07 supports environmental and socio-economic research to refine site selection. France mentions the need to support sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative and competitive aquaculture, and includes measures to plan aquaculture zones and develop integrated multi-trophic aquaculture combining fish farming and algae/shellfish cultivation. Malta maps aquaculture but emphasises conflict management, especially near ports. Slovenia acknowledges, potential algae farming and multi-use possibilities, such as combining gilthead sea bream farming near shellfish farms. Spain advocates for designing aquaculture considering new knowledge from research on marine farming, especially algae.

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Protection and Restoration. This topic is considered in the Greek MSP, which screens sites for sensitive features, avoids Posidonia meadows for aquaculture installations, and considers measures to prevent the introduction of invasive species. Italy, Malta, Slovenia and Spain also review site allocation for aquaculture in order to avoid conflicts with marine biodiversity values. Some measures of the Italian MSP plans promote studies and pilot projects focused on managing interactions between aquaculture and Natura 2000 sites, and supports the assessment of carrying capacity and ecosystem services, contributing to the ecological sustainability of aquaculture across maritime areas. MSP in France acknowledges the risks that invasive species posed to aquaculture.

Blue circular economy. Provisions related to this EGD topic are included for the aquaculture sector by some MSP plans: Italy considers better eco-design of gear/boats and build recovery/re-use/recycling chains for aquaculture & fisheries by-products as well as create an end-of-life boats recovery/dismantling network. MSP plans of Greece and France also support the sector's transition to sustainable equipment by developing recyclable and durable solutions and implementing innovative material while Slovenia enforces port waste separation.

Zero pollution. This topic is addressed in relation with aquaculture in the MSP plan of Greece, where promotion of low environmental footprint and sustainable aquaculture practices, as well as the promotion of synergies between aquaculture and ORE, not only enhances space efficiency but also aligns sustainability principles. The French MSP addresses both pollution prevention (reduction, collection, and upcycling of waste generated by the aquaculture activity) and remediation issues.

2.1.3 Offshore Renewable Energy

IN SHORT. The consideration of ORE in Mediterranean MSP plans demonstrates a relatively consistent integration of EGD priorities, though the scope and depth of measures vary across countries. Climate change mitigation is the central focus, with most analysed countries identifying or reserving areas for offshore wind and other renewable installations, thus linking spatial planning to long-term decarbonisation goals. Adaptation, by contrast, is largely absent, with only Greece making explicit reference to resilience and the use of smart networks. Synergies with other maritime sectors, such as aquaculture and fisheries, are considered to a limited extent, mainly through multi-use pilot projects and research initiatives. Biodiversity protection is addressed primarily through environmental assessments, site restrictions, and monitoring requirements, though often in a precautionary or indirect manner. Circular economy aspects are not considered, while zero pollution is only marginally integrated, mainly through references to noise reduction and substitution effect of fossil fuels with renewable energy sources.

Climate Change Mitigation. The core EGD topic for ORE is considered in the MSP plans of all the countries included in the study. In Cyprus areas are envisaged for possible future offshore energy installations, aligning spatial planning with long-term decarbonisation objectives. France directly considers ORE, targeting 4–7.5 GW in the Mediterranean from floating wind by 2050, with mapped zones like the Gulf of Lion and Fos-sur-Mer. Greece directly considers ORE, with a National Offshore Wind Program identifying several high potential areas for offshore sites (mainly beyond 5nm),, and pilot projects at Alexandroupoli and Lemnos. Italy identifies 10 planning units (5,727 km^2) related to energy activities, four of which are dedicated to ORE, including Tyrrhenian deep-water sites and Adriatic repurposed oil platforms. Moreover, NAZ_MIS|62 establishes an environmental observatory for ORE; and NAZ_MIS|63 supports wave, tidal, and solar pilots. MSP plan of Spain maps High Potential Areas for offshore wind energy (ZAPER). Malta mentions low-carbon ambitions but no designated areas. MSP in Slovenia

mentions the potential to designate areas for future exploitation of sea energy but excludes offshore wind.

Climate change adaptation is generally not considered by MSP plans in relation with this sector. The Greek draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea is an exception: it recognizes the role of ORE in the context of this topic. Additionally, the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea also encourages the use of "Smart Networks" to enhance resilience against climate-related hazards. Another measure favours the use of ORE installations to serve as green infrastructure.

Sustainable Seafood Production is considered by the draft MSP Framework for Greece in relation to synergies between ORE and aquaculture, particularly within aquaculture parks. The Italian MSP plan, with the measure NAZ_MIS|63 also encourages research and pilot projects on the integration between offshore renewable energy and fisheries and/or aquaculture through multi-use configurations.

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Protection and Restoration. This topic is considered in some MSP plans but with a limited number of provisions or indirectly. MSP in France requires all ORE projects to monitor seabird collisions and noise, and includes a measure to strengthen the consideration of species sensitivity to disturbance in offshore authorizations and local regulations. In Italy NAZ_MIS|66, states that installation of offshore wind farms is prohibited within national Marine Protected Areas. The Spanish MSP allocates space for ORE (ZAPERs) avoiding specific sensitive areas. Moreover, it addresses (measure ER 3) the potential ecosystem impacts of OWF development, indicating that projects must undergo environmental assessments, including those for cumulative impacts, and must justify siting decisions in sensitive areas, such as those within or near Natura 2000 sites.

Blue circular economy. This topic is not considered by MSP plans in relation with ORE.

Zero pollution. In the MSP plan of Cyprus this topic is indirectly addressed through the promotion of renewable energy as a cleaner alternative to fossil fuels. MSP in France includes measures related to data collection that would be needed to better understand the impacts of ORE projects on the environment and thus reduce these impacts. Both in the Italian and Spanish MSP reference is made to the need to study and minimize underwater noise pollution and impact.

2.1.4 Nature protection

IN SHORT. The integration of nature protection within Mediterranean MSP plans reflects a broad acknowledgment of its role in supporting EGD priorities. Climate change mitigation is linked to nature protection primarily through the safeguarding of blue carbon ecosystems, with Italy and France referencing seagrass beds protection and nature-based solutions, while Greece allows renewable energy deployment within MPAs under strict conditions. Adaptation measures are less developed, but Cyprus, Spain, France, and Italy include references to coastal protection, land–sea interactions, and the use of NbS to enhance resilience to climate change impacts. Sustainable seafood production is addressed through the regulation of fishing activities in sensitive areas, the promotion of selective techniques, and the strengthening of co-management schemes between small-scale fishers and protected area managers. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection is a core component of all national plans, generally operationalized through designations of MPAs, Natura 2000 sites, ecological corridors, and targeted restoration efforts, though the level of ambition and implementation detail differs. Instead, Blue circular economy aspects are absent in relation to nature protection, while Zero pollution is variably considered, with measures ranging from port waste regulation to marine litter reduction campaigns.

Climate Change Mitigation with reference to nature protection is considered in the MSP plans of Italy and Greece. The Greek draft MSP Framework permits and promotes the establishment of ORE (e.g. offshore solar panel farms and geothermal energy) within MPAs, provided that this synergy is allowed and promoted by the relevant Special Environmental Management Plans. The MSP plans of Italy address this link only partially: some objectives—such as OS_SS|02 and OS_N|05—emphasize protecting and restoring blue carbon ecosystems (e.g., seagrass, wetlands) and aligning with the EU Nature Restoration Law. NAZ_MIS|07 also proposes a study on how these plans support greenhouse gas reduction and carbon neutrality targets. Also, the French plan includes some elements in its vision only (not in the objectives or measures): the DSF vision highlights nature-based solutions (NbS) as a priority way to tackle climate change, through the growing of Posidonia seagrass beds, which are considered as blue carbon ecosystems. The Slovenian MSP plan includes a provision for protecting Posidonia too, by establishing a 100-meter coastal buffer zone between Koper and Izola. Although not explicitly linked to climate mitigation, this measure contributes to preserving carbon-sequestering marine ecosystems.

Climate change adaptation. In the MSP plan of Cyprus this topic is specifically addressed by strategic and specific goals and priorities, explicitly considering the possible consequences of climate change, sea level rise, and land-sea interactions. France and Italy consider nature-based solutions (NbS) as a priority way to enhance climate change adaptation, including through the protection and restoration of Posidonia seagrass beds, which protect coastlines from submersion and provide key habitats for fisheries and biodiversity more generally. The Spanish MSP states the need to integrate CC adaptation dimension addressing land-sea interactions and climate impact assessments for infrastructure projects, like port expansions. The plan includes measures such as ITM1 for coastal protection and EA1 for managing strategic sand deposits, supporting resilience and EGD priorities.

Sustainable seafood production: in relation with nature protection, this topic is addressed in some but not all the assessed MSP plans. The French MSP plan promotes sustainable seafood production by encouraging selective fishing techniques and supporting both professional and recreational fishers in preserving ecosystems. Its objectives focus on reducing bycatch, protecting vulnerable species (e.g., elasmobranchs, seabirds, turtles), and minimizing habitat damage (e.g., on deep-sea areas, Posidonia beds, red coral). Measures include awareness-raising, sharing best practices, innovation to reduce gear impacts, EU-level trawling regulations in Natura 2000 sites, and limiting fishing authorizations in sensitive habitats. Both the Greek National Spatial Strategy and the MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea stress the role of nature conservation and MPAs in protecting ecosystems and fish stocks to support food security. They call for specialized fishing regulations in sensitive areas to reduce impacts and emphasize maintaining marine water quality for high-quality aquaculture. The Italian MSP plans strongly support sustainable fisheries to rebuild stocks and protect biodiversity, including measures like OS_P|04 for fish recovery areas and Essential Fish Habitats. While nature protection's role in food production is mostly addressed indirectly, NAZ_MIS|35 stands out by promoting co-management agreements between small-scale fishers and protected area managers, linking conservation with sustainable fisheries. The Slovenian Plan limits fishing in sensitive areas by banning it around MPAs, restricting it on detrital sea beds, and requiring coordinated management within Natura 2000 sites. These measures aim to reduce ecological pressures and promote sustainable marine resource use.

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Protection and Restoration. Logically, this topic represents a key component of nature protection; therefore, it is addressed by all the plans. In the MSP plan of Cyprus, the topic is addressed within strategic and specific goals, priorities and spatial provisions. In the planning proposals, the MSP envisages the preservation of protected areas and ecosystems with high ecological value, including existing and proposed MPAs, artificial reefs, Natura 2000 sites, and Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs). This spatial approach indicates a clear

effort to support biodiversity and ecosystem health through designated conservation zones. The French plan emphasizes expanding and effectively managing strongly protected marine areas (targeting 5% of the French Mediterranean) to conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services. It addresses pressures such as pollution, fishing, climate change, tourism, and invasive species, and calls for biodiversity inventories and Posidonia protection. Key actions include coastal management, spatial and regulatory tools (quotas, access limits, temporary closures), and improved monitoring and enforcement. Restoration focuses on marine mammals, turtles, and shallow-water ecosystems, using measures like anchorage regulation, visitor management, innovation in fishing gear, and targeted habitat restoration. A mapping of these areas has been published but lacks detail on how to achieve the 5% goal. The Italian MSP plans place biodiversity and ecosystem protection at the core of all provisions, identifying this sector as an overarching one. They adopt an ecosystem approach to expand and connect protected areas, and integrate restoration. Measures include cross-policy working groups to identify MPAs and OECMs, developing the National Restoration Plan, improving biodiversity knowledge (e.g., habitat mapping, megafauna monitoring), and studying land-sea interaction hotspots. MSP of Malta places strong emphasis on protecting Malta's terrestrial and marine biodiversity, aligning with the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. It calls for conserving SACs, SPAs, and MPAs, safeguarding habitats and species from development, pollution, and climate change, and creating a resilient ecological network. The plan promotes ecosystem restoration, proactive management of protected sites, and ecological corridors to guide future development. In the marine context, it highlights coastal vulnerability, aims for a clean and biologically rich environment, and envisions Gozo as an ecological island. Both the Greek National Spatial Strategy and the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea emphasize maintaining good environmental status, aligning with EU goals to build a coherent MPA network. They call for anti-pollution technologies, stricter regulations for marine uses in sensitive areas, and sustainable management of activities within MPAs, including attention to land-sea interactions and cultural heritage. Measures are mainly local, set through MPA management plans (not yet fully in place), and supported by research, education, and training to improve decision-making and protect biodiversity. The Slovenian plan strongly integrates biodiversity and ecosystem protection, aiming to maintain connectivity between key terrestrial and marine areas through blue and green corridors. It promotes preserving biodiversity, restoring degraded sites, and aligning with strategic action plans. Measures include proposing new protected areas, such as an underwater sandbank and ridge, and requiring expert assessments to support cross-border seabed protection. The Spanish MSP places biodiversity protection at the core of its planning, using zoning, management criteria, and dedicated targets. It establishes two key zones: Priority Use Areas for Biodiversity Protection (covering existing MPAs) and High Potential Areas for Biodiversity Conservation (identifying valuable yet unprotected sites). Measures such as pressure analysis, marine green infrastructure, anchoring management, new MPA proposals, and a master plan for the RAMPE network strengthen this approach. While restoration is not fully integrated in this first MSP cycle, the plan promotes ecosystem resilience and aligns with EU biodiversity goals and the EGD.

Blue Circular Economy. No links between the MSP plans and this EGD topic are provided with reference to Nature protection.

Zero pollution. This topic is specifically addressed by strategic and specific goals in the MSP plan of Cyprus, as well as by priorities referring to the protection of marine waters from pollution. France promotes the development of voluntary initiatives to clean ports or beaches ("Clean Ports", "Beaches without plastic") and educational programmes. Italy and Slovenia (in the context of maritime affairs) regulate port waste and ballast water. Malta refers briefly to water quality for bathing areas, in context of pressures from land-based activities.

2.2 Sector-related spatial provisions

This paragraph describes some main features of the zoning provisions included in the MSP plans, in relation to the four sectors of interest. More details at country level and some relevant maps are included in the country assessments collected in Annex 1.

IN SHORT. Fisheries remain largely ubiquitous in marine areas, subject to specific spatial provisions and compatibility rules. Aquaculture is systematically zoned, often with forward-looking planning frameworks. ORE is emerging but still uneven, with only a few countries making clear spatial designations. Nature Protection shows the most robust and harmonised zoning, reflecting EU conservation obligations and long-term ecological targets.

2.2.1 Fisheries

Zoning for fisheries reflects very different national approaches. In the MSP plan of Cyprus, fishing is permitted throughout the maritime space, with restrictions applying only in specific prohibition zones. The MSP maps further identify fishing shelters, providing a basic spatial framework for this activity. The French MSP plan employs vocation maps to represent fisheries areas and Essential Fish Habitats, underlining the importance of this sector along the entire Mediterranean façade. The maps also link fisheries to Natura 2000 sites and MPAs, where monitoring and catch recording rules are strengthened. The Greek MSP plan adopts a more open approach, treating the whole marine space as potentially available for fisheries, but overlaying this principle with national and local restrictions. These include buffer zones around diving parks and artificial reefs, as well as horizontal restrictions on purse seine and trawl fishing, which are not permitted close to the coast, in shallow areas, or on seagrass meadows and coral habitats. The Italian MSP plans apply a detailed system of planning units (PUs), within which 64 units have been prioritised for fisheries. These cover around 94,000 km^2 and often overlap with conservation, transport, or tourism priorities, reflecting the multi-use character of the Italian approach. However, in Italy too, fisheries is allowed in all sea areas, where not formally forbidden. The Maltese MSP plan integrates fisheries into its broader coastal and marine zoning, with designated harbours, artisanal zones, and trawling areas. The Slovenian MSP plan also defines fishing zones, including reserves and areas with limitations, though without quantifying their extent. By contrast, the Spanish MSP plan does not assign spatial designations to fisheries, treating it as an "ubiquitous" activity across the marine space. Fisheries are instead considered indirectly, through compatibility rules in zones prioritised for other uses, and through the recognition of Marine Reserves of Fishing Interest under fisheries legislation.

2.2.2 Aquaculture

Aquaculture zoning is widely applied across the Mediterranean countries considered in this study, though with diverse rationales. The MSP plan of Cyprus clearly defines aquaculture areas, with maps that also include supporting infrastructure such as port facilities and research stations. The French MSP plan identifies both existing and potential aquaculture farms in its vocation maps, including areas for shellfish and finfish farming. The Greek MSP plan has one of the most structured frameworks, with a National Spatial Plan/Framework for Aquaculture dating back to 2011 (currently under revision), which divides areas into overdeveloped, developing, isolated, sensitive, and low-intensity. This categorisation guides the establishment of Aquaculture Parks. In the North Aegean, concentrations of farms are found in Euboea, Chios, Lesvos, and Halkidiki, with significant hubs such as Thermaikos Gulf for shellfish. Aquaculture is subject to exclusions in areas of seagrass, cables, maritime routes, and military zones, though it may be allowed in MPAs with restrictions. The Italian MSP plan allocates 24 planning units to

aquaculture, covering almost 10,000 km^2. These are rarely exclusive zones, but rather shared with other uses, underscoring the multi-use approach of the Italian system. Consultation with regions and integration of Allocated Zones for Aquaculture (AZAs) supported this zoning. The Maltese MSP plan incorporates aquaculture zones within its broader marine zoning, ensuring alignment with environmental protection objectives, particularly around SPAs and SACs. The Slovenian MSP plan recognises a range of aquaculture-related spaces, including existing farms, suitable new areas, and port facilities that support mariculture. Some farms operate without formal permits but are still recognised in the plan. The Spanish MSP plan establishes High Potential Areas for Aquaculture (ZAPAC), covering more than 5,500 km^2 in the Mediterranean. These areas are graded by suitability and supported by criteria to manage overlaps with biodiversity, defence, or heritage zones.

2.2.3 Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE)

Zoning for ORE reveals contrasting levels of maturity across the region. The MSP plan of Cyprus has designated a 64 km^2 investigation area for potential renewable energy development, a first step toward spatial allocation. The French MSP plan incorporates ORE into its vocation maps, identifying existing floating wind farms (~200 km^2) and potential areas for expansion, particularly in the Gulf of Lion and Fos-sur-Mer. National decisions have confirmed these priority zones, aligning spatial planning with long-term targets for 2030 and 2050. The Greek MSP plan is preparing a National Offshore Wind Parks Development Program, identifying 23 high-potential areas covering more than 2,300 km^2, largely for floating wind. Pilot sites are also foreseen in the North Aegean, with provisions to integrate ORE with aquaculture. The draft MSP Framework defines minimum siting distances from the coast, reflecting a cautious approach. The Italian MSP plan has designated 10 energy-priority planning units (5,727 km^2), of which only 4 are specifically linked to ORE. Some are located in the Adriatic, where decommissioned O&G platforms may be reused for renewable projects, while others are in deep Tyrrhenian waters for future wind installations. The Maltese MSP plan mentions low-carbon energy ambitions but does not yet identify specific spatial zones for ORE. The Slovenian MSP plan does not designate any ORE areas, though renewable technologies are mentioned as a possibility. The Spanish MSP plan has formalised High Potential Areas for Offshore Wind Energy (ZAPER), covering ~1,700 km^2 in the Mediterranean. These areas are designated based on resource, depth, and environmental criteria, with coexistence rules to ensure compatibility with fisheries, navigation, and biodiversity.

2.2.4 Nature Protection

Zoning for Nature protection is the most consistent and extensive across national MSPs. The MSP plan of Cyprus integrates Natura 2000 sites, proposed MPAs, FRAs, artificial reefs, and geosites into its maps, creating a comprehensive framework. The French MSP plan devotes significant attention to nature protection through its vocation maps, which show Natura 2000 sites (about 30% of national waters), national parks, marine reserves, and reinforced protection zones. These maps also identify key habitats such as Posidonia seagrass, coralligenous formations, and deep habitats, linking them with measures for protection and restoration. In the Greek MSP plan, an extensive marine and coastal Natura 2000 network, which includes four national parks and most of numerous wetlands, already fall within the zoning framework. Management plans are gradually being adopted to regulate uses within these areas. The Italian MSP plan has zoned a very large share of its waters for nature protection, with 157 planning units (over 280,000 km^2) designated as Priority, Limited, or Reserved uses, covering roughly half the plan area. These include existing and potentially new MPAs, Natura 2000 sites, and high ecologically valuable areas such as the Pelagos Sanctuary, EBSAs, PSSAs. Valuable areas are where new protected areas could be designated. The Maltese MSP plan aligns its zoning with the National Biodiversity Strategy, identifying MPAs, SACs, and SPAs, and promoting ecological

corridors and restoration objectives. The Slovenian MSP plan defines both current and proposed protected areas, with a strong focus on connectivity via blue and green corridors (ref. Slovenian plan, Map 2 on transboundary impacts), and restrictions on activities in ecologically sensitive zones. The Spanish MSP plan establishes a dual system: Priority Use Areas for Biodiversity Protection (including all formal MPAs and reserves) and High Potential Areas for Biodiversity Conservation (unprotected by the time the POEM was approved but ecologically valuable sites). Together, these cover roughly16% of Spanish Mediterranean waters (considering that some of these areas might overlap), ensuring that biodiversity considerations are embedded in zoning and future protection targets.

2.3 How MSP supports the Fair & Just transition of sectors towards EGD objectives

This paragraph illustrates some features of the MSP plans and processes contributing to align with the Fair and Just transition concept, advocated by the EGD. In the context of this study, this dimension has been considered as cantered around stakeholder engagement. The engagement process has been analysed considering three main aspects: Who i.e. what types of stakeholders were involved; When, i.e. phases of involvement; and How, i.e. what methods were used and what was the final result (capacity of influencing planning results). The analysis focused on the four sectors of interest for this study. An overview at the Mediterranean level is provided in the sub-section below. More details at country level are included in the country assessments presented in Annex 1 and in the factsheets of Annex 2.

IN SHORT. Overall, for stakeholder engagement practices, four patterns can be distinguished:

- Inclusive and multi-level engagement (iterative, transparent, and influential)
- Institutionally focused engagement (sectoral ministries and professional organisations dominate)
- Compliance-driven consultation (participation tied mainly to statutory procedures, with limited influence)
- Innovative practices (e.g. citizen science, national public debates) that remain rare but signal pathways for more equitable transitions.

2.3.1 WHO

Stakeholder identification. Across the Mediterranean, MSP authorities applied a variety of methods to identify stakeholders. In the MSP process of Cyprus, stakeholder lists were prepared by competent authorities and complemented by a public call, ensuring the inclusion of professional associations, civil society representatives, fisheries groups, and environmental NGOs. The French MSP plan followed a multi-layered approach: at national level, the National Council for the Sea and Coast (CNML) brought together ministries, local authorities, socio-economic actors, scientists, and NGOs, while at sea-basin level, Maritime Councils (CMF) ensured the involvement of regional actors. Citizens were also directly engaged through the large-scale public debate "*La mer en débat*" (2023–2024) on MSP. In the Greek MSP plan, stakeholders were included through the National Council for Spatial Planning, which convened representatives from ministries, municipalities, chambers of commerce and industry, unions, professional associations, NGOs, and two senior experts. In addition, public consultation was open online, supported by regional workshops. In the Italian MSP plans, stakeholders were mainly identified through ministerial and regional sectoral bodies, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forests (MASAF) for fisheries, regional offices for aquaculture, and energy operators for offshore renewables. The Maltese MSP plan was prepared with contributions from ministries, parliamentary committees, NGOs, church representatives, and developer

associations. The Slovenian MSP plan drew stakeholders into the process also via participation in EU projects such as PlanCoast, Adriplan, and SUPREME, which included municipalities, sectoral representatives, and professional publics. In Spain, the MSP engaged public authorities, fishing federations and "cofradías," aquaculture organisations, and energy companies, at different levels, though a systematic involvement of private stakeholders, especially local communities and small-scale actors was limited.

Consideration of stakeholder characteristics. The explicit consideration of stakeholder characteristics such as gender, age, or class remains limited across most MSP processes.

Local participatory initiatives. The inclusion of local participatory initiatives varies. In France, fisheries local committees (CRPMEM and CDPMEM) were directly involved through their seats in Maritime Councils, ensuring local professional knowledge was embedded in the DSF process. In Cyprus, consultation events were organised in all major cities, offering local groups a direct voice. By contrast, the Spanish MSP plan did not systematically involve Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs), despite their role in community-led local development. In other countries, evidence of such initiatives is limited or indirect, often linked to broader workshops rather than formalised structures.

Sectoral representation. Most plans ensured structured representation of key sectors. Fisheries and aquaculture stakeholders were strongly represented in the Cypriot, French, and Greek MSP plans, through professional associations, unions, and producer organisations. Offshore renewable energy interests were actively present in the French, Greek, Italian, and Spanish MSP plans, reflecting their emerging strategic importance. NGOs, conservation institutes, and research organisations were involved in France, Greece, Italy, and Malta, contributing environmental expertise and independent perspectives.

Gender balance in professions. The promotion of gender balance in maritime professions was not specifically mentioned.

2.3.2 WHEN

Phases of involvement. The phases of stakeholder involvement differ across countries. The MSP plan of Cyprus engaged stakeholders across all key phases—data collection, drafting of the Policy Statement on MSP, and preparation of the plan itself—under the 2021 Public Consultation Regulations. The French MSP plan integrated consultation at every stage: from the development of the National Strategy for the Sea and Coast (NSSC) to the elaboration and revision of the DSF documents at façade level, with the initiative "*La mer en débat*" providing a participatory platform for thousands of citizens. The Greek MSP plan organised consultations in 2022 for the National Spatial Strategy for the Marine Space with ministries, the National Council, and the public through online platforms and regional conferences; further participation is foreseen for the upcoming MSP Frameworks. In the Italian MSP plans, stakeholder input was integrated mainly during the preparation of Planning Units (PUs), through data provision and consultation with regional and ministerial bodies. The Maltese MSP plan (SPED) underwent consultation with parliamentary committees, sectoral ministries, SEA procedures, and the general public at draft stage. The Slovenian MSP plan involved stakeholders during all planing phasess, through workshops and coordination sessions. In Spain, participation took place primarily through the SEA process and selected sectoral workshops (e.g. fisheries-ORE workshop in 2021). A dedicated Stakeholder Participation Strategy (OEM7) is foreseen for the next cycle.

2.3.3 HOW

Integration of local and expert knowledge. Most countries combined scientific expertise with local knowledge, though the balance differs. The Cypriot MSP plan made a particular effort to document all proposals from local associations and civil society, evaluating them transparently.

The French MSP plan is strongly based on scientific studies (e.g. studies from the marine institute Ifremer, universities and research laboratories), complemented by detailed input from local fisheries committees and NGOs. The Greek MSP plan integrated expert and sectoral knowledge via the National Council and ministries, alongside citizen comments gathered online. In the Italian MSP plans, zoning decisions for fisheries, aquaculture, ORE, and conservation were directly informed by ministerial data, regional input, and scientific assessments. In Malta, SEA processes and public consultations brought in expertise from the ministries and NGOs. The Slovenian MSP plan embedded local and expert perspectives, also supported through EU-funded projects. In Spain, some academic contributions were considered and zoning was adjusted, but systematic integration of local community knowledge was limited.

Citizen science perspectives. Citizen science is explicitly recognised in the French MSP plan, notably through marine education areas managed in partnership with schools and through the LIFE Marha project, which involved volunteers in monitoring marine habitats. Other Member States do not refer to citizen science in their MSP processes.

Methods used in participation. Countries used a wide range of participatory methods. The Cypriot MSP plan relied on targeted consultation events in major cities and published evaluation reports. The French MSP plan employed a diverse toolkit, including national public debates, online platforms, participatory workshops, webinars, and the use of stakeholder position papers ("*cahiers d'acteurs*"). The Greek MSP plan combined formal consultations with ministries and councils with public online platforms and regional workshops. The Italian MSP plans integrated consultations through regional offices and sectoral ministries, informed by technical studies. The Maltese MSP plan included parliamentary committee sessions, SEA consultations, and public calls. The Slovenian MSP plan used workshops, meetings, and coordination sessions. The Spanish MSP plan organised sectoral workshops (notably on fisheries–ORE interactions), SEA consultations, and online submissions.

Capacity to influence decisions. The ability of stakeholders to influence final decisions varies. In the French and Cypriot MSP plans, permanent seats of fisheries committees, NGOs, and professional associations in advisory councils allowed for direct influence on strategic orientations. In the Italian and Greek MSP plans, sectoral representatives also contributed decisively through ministries, regional offices, and councils. In Spain, opportunities to contribute were present through formal consultations and some zoning adjustments were made after them, however, the influence of small-scale or local actors remained limited. In Malta, participation had more of a consultative nature, with less direct impact on final decisions.

2.4 Additional MSP elements supporting EGD transition for sectors

This section presents some elements – also included in the MSP plans - which are considered relevant to support ecological transition of sectors. Three topics are analysed: Research and Innovation; Education and Training; and Cross-border cooperation. As for the previous components of the assessment, the analysis was focused on the four sectors of interest for this study. An overview at Mediterranean level is provided in the sub-section below. More details at country level are included in the country assessments presented in Annex 1 and in the factsheets of Annex 2.

IN SHORT. Research & Innovation is the most developed dimension, though with varying depth, ranging from explicit spatial designations and sectoral measures to generic or missing references. Education & Training appears as the weakest dimension in MSP plans, largely absent or superficial, with only a few examples of structured approaches. Cross-border Cooperation is addressed inconsistently, with some countries providing structured measures, others relying on projects, and most others offering minimal or no provisions in their MSP plans.

2.4.1 Research and Innovation

The extent to which MSP plans integrate research and innovation varies considerably across countries. The MSP plan of Cyprus acknowledges research and innovation as general priorities, with areas identified for archaeological, geological, and environmental studies. More sector-specific measures are included for aquaculture, where the plan supports research and development of blue biotechnology, and for offshore renewable energy (ORE), where innovation is encouraged in carbon capture and storage. However, systematic objectives to improve the availability of high-quality maritime data are not explicitly foreseen. The French MSP plan (DSF) places stronger emphasis on research, particularly to improve understanding of ecosystem functioning and the impacts of activities such as ORE and fisheries on the environment. Innovation is channelled into promoting sustainable equipment and practices, such as selective gears and multi-trophic aquaculture, while data availability is explicitly prioritised in relation to ORE. The Greek MSP plan addresses research and innovation mainly through the National Spatial Strategy. Aquaculture receives particular attention, with promotion of blue biotechnology and marine biotechnology applications such as seaweed biofuels, Posidonia processing, and marine fungi cultivation. For ORE, the plan foresees gradual development of innovative technologies like wave energy and floating solar. Additionally,the forthcoming National Committee will centralise marine geospatial data for all sectors.The draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea does not provide sector-specific measures but favors research regarding fisheries, nature protection and monitoring of ecosystems as well as geological and archaeological research. In Italy, research and innovation are addressed through a range of targeted measures: NAZ_MIS|32 and NAZ_MIS|07 mandate studies on the impacts of offshore wind on fisheries and fish stocks, while NAZ_MIS|06 provides for climate-related assessments. For ORE, measures NAZ_MIS|61–63 cover decision support systems, environmental observatories, and pilot projects on wave, tidal, and solar energy. For nature protection, measures aim to expand monitoring programmes on megafauna and habitats (NAZ_MIS|14, NAZ_MIS|19). The Slovenian MSP plan establishes the entire marine area as a space for scientific research across multiple fields, including oceanography, hydrography, environmental protection, fisheries, and cultural heritage. Sector-specific references include research needs for fisheries and aquaculture, though innovation is less developed. The Spanish MSP plan (POEM) directly designates Priority Use and High Potential Areas for R&D&I, accompanied by objectives to strengthen scientific knowledge on ecosystem carrying capacity (Objective H.11) and align research outputs with new activities (Objective H.12). Sectoral provisions promote research in fisheries, aquaculture, and renewable energy, and encourage innovation in marine renewable technologies. By contrast, no comparable provisions are found in the Maltese MSP plan, where research and innovation are not detailed.

2.4.2 Education and Training

Education and training appear less developed than research and innovation across most plans. The MSP plan of Cyprus includes these themes under broad social cohesion objectives, aiming to improve the attractiveness of maritime professions through training, safety culture, and mobility, though without sector-specific actions. The French MSP plan embeds education and awareness-raising more systematically, targeting both maritime professionals and the public. Objectives include training to reduce accidental bycatch, promoting best practices to limit ocean pollution, and raising awareness on sustainable diving and anchoring. In the Greek MSP plan, education and training are not addressed either in the National Spatial Strategy for the Marine Space or the draft MSP Framework, across all sectors. The Italian MSP plan does include training elements: NAZ_MIS|30 foresees actions to train fisheries operators on sustainability aspects, though other sectors are not explicitly covered. In Slovenia, references to education are limited to ensuring that land-based infrastructure supports fishing and aquaculture-related education and sustainable tourism, but no specific skill development measures are foreseen.

The Spanish MSP plan does not include education or training objectives in any sector, and in the Maltese MSP plan the topic is also absent. Overall, France and Italy stand out for incorporating training measures, though at different scales, while elsewhere education-related measures remain underdeveloped.

2.4.3 Cross-border Cooperation in MSP

Cross-border cooperation is variably addressed. The MSP plan of Cyprus refers to cooperation mainly in the ORE sector, through international infrastructure such as pipelines and cables, but no provisions are made for fisheries, aquaculture, or nature protection. The French MSP plan rarely mentions cross-border cooperation, though some examples exist: collaboration with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) on deep-sea habitats, a cross-border project (SCRABBLEU) on invasive blue crab management, the MECO citizen science network, and cooperation with Italy, Monaco, and Spain on cetacean collision risks. The Greek MSP plan does not address cross-border cooperation in a structured way, though bilateral fisheries agreements exist with Italy in the Ionian Sea. The Italian MSP plan is comparatively stronger, with NAZ_MIS|38 and NAZ_MIS|39 explicitly foreseeing international and multi-level governance to manage shared fisheries resources, interactions among fishing systems, and wide-ranging species. These measures aim to enhance dialogue, prevent disputes, and support coordinated management of transboundary resources. The Slovenian MSP plan also places importance on cross-border cooperation, particularly for environmental protection and fisheries. Notably, the proposed tri-border protected area with Italy and Croatia anticipates coordinated management, supported by expert studies. In Spain, cross-border consultation was undertaken during the Strategic Environmental Assessment, but the POEM does not foresee sector-specific cooperation measures. The Maltese MSP plan does not include explicit provisions on cross-border cooperation.

3 Synergies between EGD objectives and MSP provisions for the sectors

In this section the results from the assessment are discussed in light of some key entry points related to the integration of EGD topics in MSP plans for the considered sectors. The discussion considers the degree of integration, the differences among sectors, the contribution to EGD transition provided by zoning, the space given in MSP plans to factors facilitating EGD implementation such as stakeholder engagement, research and innovation, education and training, and cross-border cooperation.

3.1 Integration of EGD objectives in MSP plans

The analysis of MSP plans across the seven EU Mediterranean countries shows that the integration of elements is uneven, with some themes consistently more developed than others.

Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration is the strongest and most consistently integrated EGD topic across all countries. Each plan embeds biodiversity as either a central pillar or a cross-cutting principle, using spatial tools such as MPAs, OECMs, and ecological corridors to maintain or restore ecological connectivity. Measures are often detailed and range from the designation of new protected areas to improved monitoring, control of invasive species, and targeted protection of habitats such as *Posidonia* meadows, coralligenous beds, or shallow-water ecosystems. Marine restoration is directly addressed in the Italian MSP plans only.

Sustainable seafood production is also widely addressed, particularly in the fisheries sector, and to a lesser degree in aquaculture. Plans highlight bycatch reduction, selective fishing techniques, habitat-sensitive regulations, and governance platforms to preserve stocks and protect vulnerable species and habitats. Several plans (France, Greece, Italy, Slovenia) restrict

trawling in sensitive areas or limit fishing around MPAs and detrital seabeds. Co-management with small-scale fishers, as in Italy, and heritage and artisanal fisheries, as in Malta and Slovenia, are also supported.

Climate change mitigation is the key topic for the ORE sector. All plans include provisions for renewable energy (except Slovenia which excludes offshore wind farms in its territorial waters), with France, Greece, Cyprus and Spain providing specific elements. These include mapped zones (e.g., Gulf of Lion, Tyrrhenian sites), explicit capacity targets (4–7.5 GW floating wind in French Mediterranean, pilot projects (wave, and solar in Greece), identification of areas for possible future offshore energy installations (In Cyprus and Spain). The Italian MSP plans include the development of a targeted study to identify suitable areas as environmental observatories. Fisheries and aquaculture integrate mitigation only partially, mainly through fuel efficiency, fleet decarbonisation measures, and energy-efficient site planning.

Climate change adaptation is less consistently covered. Greece, Italy, Cyprus and Spain show some examples of integration, often linked to nature-based solutions (NbS) and land-sea interactions. Examples include artificial reefs for coastal protection, buffers for habitats, or sand deposit management (Spain). Cyprus's MSP includes explicit adaptation goals for coastal and marine resilience.

Blue circular economy and Zero pollution are the least developed topics. Italy, France, and Slovenia include some significant elements such as end-of-life vessel dismantling and recycling of fishing gear and aquaculture by-products, and port waste facilities. France promotes "clean ports" and waste reduction programs; Malta addresses bathing water quality; Slovenia enforces port waste separation and sediment reuse. Still, these measures are often peripheral rather than strategic.

3.2 Sectors and EGD objectives

The occurrence and typology of provisions related to the four key sectors are assessed in relation to the different EGD topics. The main type of measures assumed by MSP to ensure the sector contribution to EGD objectives are described.

Nature protection is the sector where EGD topics are most comprehensively integrated. In all seven countries, biodiversity and ecosystem restoration are treated as cross-cutting principles that shape the entire planning framework. Plans emphasize the need to maintain and enhance ecological connectivity between marine and coastal habitats, using instruments like MPAs, OECMs, blue and green corridors, and buffer zones (e.g., Slovenia's 100 m Posidonia buffer). France sets ambitious targets, aiming for 5% of its Mediterranean waters to become "strongly protected areas" by 2027 and 10% by 2030, while Italy commits to protecting 30% of marine areas (10% strictly protected) by 2030 and restoring 20% of degraded sites by 2030.

Different types of measures are considered: *(i) spatial*: e.g. designation of priority and high-potential protection and conservation zones (Spain's POEM, French DSF), FRAs (Greece, Cyprus), and sandbanks and ridges (Slovenia); *(ii) regulatory*: e.g. anchoring restrictions, visitor management (e.g., whale watching, diving), gear bans in sensitive habitats (France's gangui fishing ban in Posidonia beds*); (iii) knowledge and governance*: e.g. cross-policy working groups (Italy), biodiversity inventory campaigns (France), megafauna monitoring (Italy), , France*(iv) specific actions*: e.g. marine mammal and turtle conservation, control of invasive species, restoration of shallow-water ecosystems, and targeted measures like artificial reefs, integration of the marine green infrastructure concept in MSP; *(v) related with land-sea interactions* e.g. Greece, Spain, France and Cyprus highlight the need to address terrestrial pressures near MPAs, including infrastructure impacts, pollution, and cultural landscape preservation.

Fisheries are strongly represented in the MSP plans in relation with EGD topics, particularly under the EGD theme of sustainable seafood production. All countries mention the need to rebuild stocks, reduce ecological pressures, and align fishing activities with conservation. Plans include in their provisions some key objectives related to sustainability of the sector: selective fishing, bycatch reduction, habitat protection, governance of shared stocks, and combating IUU fishing.

Different types of measures are considered: *(i) Bycatch reduction and species protection*: France prioritizes vulnerable groups (elasmobranchs, seabirds, marine mammals, turtles); innovation in gear selectivity is encouraged; *(ii) habitat protection*: Italy and France ban trawling in Posidonia beds; Slovenia prohibits fishing in the buffer zones around MPAs and limits fishing in detrital sea beds and Natura 2000 sites; *(iii) support for artisanal and heritage fisheries*: Slovenia recognizes heritage practices in the Gulf of Trieste; *(iv) awareness and innovation*: measures include campaigns, best practice sharing, training fishers on sustainable techniques; *(v) circular economy*: France, Italy, and Slovenia introduce port reception facilities, end-of-life vessel recycling, and biodegradable nets. Italy supports a recovery/recycling chain for by-products and dismantling of old boats.

EGD topics related to aquaculture are relatively less represented but still considered in most plans, especially in Greece, Italy, and Cyprus. In terms of approaches, zoning is the main one: for example, Greece's Special Spatial Plan for Aquaculture (that is taken into consideration in the MSP process) categorizes aquaculture areas (developed, developing, isolated, sensitive), with hubs in Chios, Lesvos, Halkidiki, and shellfish areas in Thermaikos Gulf. Italy designates 9,831 km^2 across 24 planning units, regulated via AZA (Allocated Zones for Aquaculture). Cyprus promotes offshore expansion to minimize coastal impacts, and France promotes the planning of aquaculture activity zones on the "vocation maps".

Different types of measures are considered: *(i) environmental measures*: site screening avoids sensitive habitats (Posidonia), and studies assess carrying capacity and ecosystem services (Italy). Greece integrates multi-trophic aquaculture (fish + algae + shellfish) to reduce impacts; *(ii) innovation and diversification*: Marine biotech (seaweed for fuel, pharmaceuticals) and algae farming are mentioned (Greece, Slovenia, Spain). Conflict mitigation is stressed near ports and urbanized areas (Malta); (iii) circular economy: Italy, and France encourage eco-design of gear, recyclable materials, and by-product reuse. Slovenia enforces port waste separation.

ORE is the sector most clearly linked to Climate change mitigation. All countries plan for renewable energy, though at different levels of ambition. Spatial allocation and targets are key approaches: the French MSP plan maps offshore wind zones (Gulf of Lion, Fos-sur-Mer), aiming for 4–7.5 GW in the French Mediterranean by 2050. The Draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea through the National Offshore Wind Program, identifies several high potential areas for offshore sites (mainly over 5nm) andpilot projects in Alexandroupoli and Lemnos. The Spanish MSP defines High Potential Areas for offshore wind energy development (ZAPER). Also, the MSP of Cyprus mentions future areas for ORE developments.

Different types of measures are considered: *(i) environmental safeguards*: Italy prohibits installations in national MPAs; France and Spain require environmental assessments, monitoring seabird collisions, underwater noise, and cumulative impacts; *(ii) innovation and multi-use*: Italy supports wave, tidal, and solar pilots; Greece and Italy explore ORE + aquaculture synergies to optimize space and infrastructure. Greece also mentions ORE infrastructure as green infrastructure or smart networks to enhance resilience; *(iii) zero pollution and ecosystem integration*: some plans mention the cleaner energy role of ORE, but few integrate principles of circular economy (e.g. equipment recycling).

Considering spatial provisions (zoning), a comparison of national approaches highlights both similarities and differences. For fisheries, zoning is comprehensive in some plans (Italy, France, Cyprus) and treated as open access in others (Greece) or left without spatial designation (Spain).

In aquaculture, zoning is consistently applied, though approaches vary: Greece, France and Spain use structured frameworks with suitability analysis, Italy combines aquaculture with other uses through multi-use planning units, while Cyprus, Malta, and Slovenia provide clear site-specific zoning. In ORE, France, Spain, and Greece have developed clear zoning frameworks, Italy identifies the need to develop a zoning study, and Cyprus, Malta, and Slovenia provide some general provisions. In nature protection, all plans give zoning a central role. Overall, zoning emerges as a central tool to reconcile sectoral development with conservation, though its depth and application differ by country and sector.

3.3 Supporting EGD implementation in maritime sectors: Fair & Just transition and other elements

The review of stakeholder engagement in MSP across Mediterranean countries shows some common patterns and some country-specific differences.

In terms of the 'Who' dimension, all plans recognise the need to involve a broad spectrum of stakeholders, ranging from ministries and professional organisations to NGOs and, in some cases, local communities. While fisheries and aquaculture sectors are consistently well represented, the systematic inclusion of small-scale actors, citizens, or local initiatives remains less evident.

Regarding the 'When' dimension, the timing of participation varies. Some MSP plans, such as those of Cyprus and France, involved stakeholders throughout all main phases of plan preparation and revision, while in other cases participation was concentrated in specific moments, such as SEA consultations or workshops. The French MSP process illustrates an advanced model of continuous and transparent engagement, while Spain is preparing a dedicated participation strategy for future planning cycles and Italy foresees it already in early implementation phases.

As for 'How' dimension, most countries combine expert and scientific knowledge with contributions from sectoral stakeholders. France demonstrates a particularly wide range of methods, including citizen participation and structured public debates, whereas other countries rely more heavily on technical consultations (with ministries, sector representatives). While many stakeholders had opportunities to contribute, the degree of actual influence on final decisions differs: in France, Cyprus, Italy, and Greece, advisory councils or sectoral committees played a clear role in shaping decisions, whereas in Malta engagement remained more consultative. This suggests that ensuring inclusivity, clarity of process, and influence on decision-making are key elements for strengthening a fair and just transition in future MSP cycles.

The analysis of some additional MSP elements, supporting EGD transition in maritime sectors, shows that Research & Innovation is quite consistently targeted by countries, although with varying levels of detail and sectoral focus. France, Italy, and Spain place strong emphasis on advancing scientific knowledge and piloting innovative technologies, while Cyprus and Greece highlight biotechnology and marine renewable development. Slovenia designates its entire marine area for scientific research, although innovation objectives are more limited. Malta's plan, mainly due to its general approach, does not provide dedicated measures in this field.

Education and training are less prominently integrated, probably because is normally considered beyond the scope of MSP (at least based on the present understanding). Only France and Italy include clear provisions, with France addressing awareness-raising for professionals and citizens, and Italy focusing on sustainability training for fishers. In other countries, references to education and training are either absent or indirect, suggesting scope for stronger integration in future planning cycles to build skills and capacity in maritime sectors.

Cross-border cooperation appears uneven. Italy and Slovenia highlight the need for shared management of transboundary resources and habitats, while France and Spain participate in targeted projects and partnerships with neighbouring countries. Cyprus mentions cooperation in relation to international infrastructure, but other sectoral references are limited. Spain and Malta include some provisions on this topic. Overall, stronger mechanisms for structured cooperation, particularly for ecosystem-based management and shared sea-basin challenges, remain a key opportunity for the next MSP cycle.

4 Moving to implementation: readiness and obstacles

This chapter presents the **results of the project workshop** held in Venice from 30th June to 2nd July 2025 (the workshop report is included in Annex 3).

The discussion started with a prioritisation exercise. With reference to the list of EGD topics and sub-topics presented in the methodology, participants were asked to indicate the 3 most important EGD topics for each of the four sectors. Participants could also indicate a specific subtopic. The discussion, organised in the form of a world cafe session, considered the four sectors, and focused on the first 1-3 topics scored. Participants identified MSP priority measures to address the EGD in each sector, along with their readiness and implementation challenges.

The results of the discussion are reported in the following section, focusing on readiness elements, and challenges or gaps for implementation.

4.1 Fisheries

The most relevant EGD objectives identified in the fisheries sector are **sustainable seafood production** and **biodiversity and habitat protection and restoration**.

4.1.1 Priority measures and readiness for implementation

Several national MSP plans already include concrete measures for fisheries management. Temporary closures are foreseen in Croatia (under the Ministry responsible for fisheries) and Greece, while destructive fishing techniques such as bottom trawling are specifically targeted. References to Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) objectives are included in Spain and France, reinforcing alignment with sustainability goals.

Spatial protection represents another key feature. In Croatia, a Fishery Restricted Area (FRA) was designated in the Jabu/Pomo Pit with support from the fishing community, while Spain emphasizes the expansion of its "Network of Marine Reserves of Fishing Interest" to regenerate resources and enhance conservation. France integrates MSP and MSFD implementation, with objectives such as identifying essential fish habitats, reducing bycatch (via best practice sharing, reporting, and innovation in gear selectivity), and regulating both professional and recreational fishing. Malta and Greece also link their plans to MSFD objectives, while Croatia reinforces alignment with the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

4.1.2 Challenges and gaps

Despite these provisions, translation into implementation remains uneven. In many cases, measures are vague or lack operational detail (e.g., Malta), and engagement with fisheries stakeholders is insufficient. This creates shortcomings in participation, knowledge sharing, and acceptance of new measures. Climate change impacts on biodiversity, including those linked to fisheries, are largely absent except in France and Greece.

Additional implementation obstacles include:

- Lack of data, particularly for small-scale fisheries;

- Resistance from the sector to conservation restrictions;
- Gaps between high-level policy objectives and practical actions;
- Institutional ambiguity over mandates, for example regarding whether MSP is the right framework for gear selection and fisheries management.

While fisheries consortia could act as intermediaries to strengthen engagement, clearer planning, stronger stakeholder involvement, and better alignment between MSP, CFP, and biodiversity objectives are still required to turn EGD priorities for this sector into practice.

4.2 Aquaculture

The aquaculture discussion focused on three main EGD topics: **sustainable seafood production** (including aquaculture and algae), **climate change adaptation**, and **blue circular economy**.

4.2.1 Priority measures and readiness for implementation

Across countries, MSP serves as a platform to integrate national and regional aquaculture plans and strategies. A central tool is the identification of Allocated Zones for Aquaculture (AZA), used in Italy, France, and Spain to optimize space, diversify activities, and facilitate operations.

France requires integration of regional aquaculture plans into MSP, with measures to list existing sites and identify new ones based on socio-economic, legal, and environmental criteria. Spain highlights strong stakeholder associations that bridge regional and national levels. Greece and Malta align MSP with national aquaculture plan / strategy, with Greece setting objectives to expand production (including algae). Cyprus is developing a scheme to designate aquaculture zones, including port facilities.

Environmental sustainability is addressed through specific measures. Italy promotes limiting aquaculture waste, with attention to plastic pollution; France raises sustainability levels via environmental certification, measures to reduce waste generated by the activity, and water pollution reduction measures; Croatia and Greece mention algae production, while Italy and Spain identify its absence as a gap. For circular economy, Italy mentions reuse and recycling of by-products, while France references Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA). Multi-use concepts, such as combining aquaculture with MPAs or offshore renewables, are mentioned in Greece and Spain.

4.2.2 Challenges and gaps

Climate change adaptation remains poorly integrated. Italy, Cyprus, and France make no mention, while Greece recognizes the challenge but lacks clear implementation pathways. Only Spain's long-term planning for the sector is cited as good practice. More broadly, defining climate impacts on aquaculture is complex, and scenario development is needed to inform MSP decisions.

Circular economy considerations are still limited. Italy lacks concrete implementation mechanisms for reuse/recycling Spain identifies obstacles to multi-use implementation (e.g., aquaculture with offshore renewables), including unclear economic benefits, legal barriers, and practical difficulties. France supports integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (e.g. combining algae cultivation with fish or shrimp farming) and highlights the need for technical and financial support to demonstrate its economic viability and environmental safety.

Overall, while MSP provides an enabling framework to consolidate aquaculture planning, insufficient integration of climate adaptation, limited innovation in circular practices, and uncertainty around multi-use feasibility hinder effective EGD implementation.

4.3 Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE)

In the ORE sector, **climate change mitigation** is the most critical EGD objective, followed by adaptation and **biodiversity and habitat protection and restoration**.

4.3.1 Priority measures and readiness for implementation

MSP plays a central role for ORE development through zoning and space allocation. Spain has already designated development areas where projects authorization process are progressing; France defined floating wind farm areas for 2030 and 2050; Italy has yet to establish clear prioritization; Greece adopted its ORE strategy only after finalizing its MSP, so proper areas are missing.

Enabling factors include quantified development objectives (e.g., France's Mediterranean target of 4-7.5 GW by 2050), the recognition that ORE planning should occur through MSP (Spain), and the establishment of technical structures, such as Italy's ORE working group tasked with producing guidelines and supporting research.

Biodiversity protection is addressed through impact assessments. France carried out detailed ORE-related studies; Spain and Italy are developing technical guidelines and observatories to improve knowledge. Italy clearly prohibits windfarms within MPAs, providing legal certainty. France and Spain, however, allow ORE projects within or near certain Natura 2000 areas. While authorizations are subject to the obligation of strict environmental evaluations and case by case analysis, this can create potential conflicts.

4.3.2 Challenges and gaps

Implementation is hindered by:

- Inconsistencies between MSP and ORE strategies (e.g., parallel but not fully integrated processes in France);
- Lack of cooperation between ministries (Italy);
- Strong opposition from stakeholders and the public (Spain), especially in small maritime spaces like in Slovenia;
- Overlaps between ORE projects and other environmental regulations.

On biodiversity and ecosystem protection, gaps remain in assessing cumulative impacts of ORE and in adequately understanding ecosystem processes. MSFD assessments are meant to inform planning but are often delayed or incomplete. Even when plans introduce mitigation measures (e.g., seabird collision prevention in France), knowledge gaps on actual impacts continue to slow progress.

Thus, while MSP supports ORE expansion and climate mitigation, challenges in institutional coordination, public acceptance, biodiversity impact assessments, and legal clarity remain significant obstacles to EGD-aligned implementation.

4.4 Nature Protection

For nature protection, the EGD priority objectives identified by project workshop participants were **biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration** and **climate change adaptation**.

4.4.1 Priority measures and readiness for implementation

MSP plans largely focus on MPA designation, often linked to EU 30x30 and 10% strict protection targets. Cyprus has created new MPAs, while Slovenia and France identify priority areas for

future designation. Greece highlights new marine parks as contributors. Spain introduces High Potential Areas for Biodiversity, applying a precautionary approach even before formal protection. Indicators and monitoring programs (Spain, Slovenia) are identified as readiness elements. In France, Marine Natural Parks, alongside other types of MPAs, are integrated into the MSP processes and contribute to the spatial organisation of marine and coastal waters

MPS plans also support biodiversity through objectives and measures beyond spatial designations. Malta promotes MPA management; France includes objectives for species, habitats, and ecosystem restoration through regulation, training, education, and R&I measures; Spain integrates conservation objectives into zoning and legally subrogates the whole MSP process to the MSFD implementation objectives. Italy foresees a restoration plan for marine areas, aligned with MSP, marking a unique case among the countries assessed.

Coherence between EU frameworks (MSP Directive, MSFD, Biodiversity Strategy, CFP) is a recurring feature. Italy even sets up a Technical Table to align these frameworks and reach 30x30 objectives. Data and governance integration are also seen as enablers: Cyprus draws on its National Data Centre, while Spain and France align MSP and MSFD processes.

4.4.2 Challenges and gaps

Persistent gaps undermine implementation. Marine data and knowledge remain limited (pelagic and benthic biodiversity in Greece, Slovenia, Cyprus, Italy, France). Operational methods to account for MPA connectivity are underdeveloped (Italy). Restoration is almost absent from most plans, with Italy and France as exceptions. OECMs are not used in all plans.

Implementation capacity is also a weakness. Croatia and Italy highlight insufficient surveillance, enforcement, and resources. France shows stronger effective protection in remote areas rather than in coastal areas which remain more impacted by various pressures. Broader engagement of NGOs and local communities is often lacking, undermining participatory governance.

On climate adaptation, Italy is preparing a dedicated study across all sectors, but in other countries climate change impacts are poorly addressed. The MSPs of France and Greece show weak integration of climate change adaptation objectives or measures, Slovenia highlights a lack of planning capacity under uncertain conditions, Cyprus faces rigid MSP cycles, and Spain and Malta lack biodiversity-related adaptation measures. The dynamic and uncertain nature of climate change continues to burden effective implementation.

In summary, MSP plans establish important readiness elements for biodiversity protection, particularly through MPA designations and integration with EU frameworks. Yet, insufficient knowledge, weak enforcement, limited restoration measures, and poor integration of climate change adaptation significantly hinder implementation of EGD priorities.

5 Conclusions

This assessment shows that the integration of EGD topics into Mediterranean MSP is uneven, with clear strengths and persistent gaps across sectors and themes. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration is the most consistently embedded element, underpinned by long-standing EU nature and marine frameworks (Habitat Directive, Birds Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive) that have translated into robust spatial provisions (MPAs, ecological corridors) and targeted measures in most MSP plans. However, restoration is still rarely operationalised, with only a few concrete examples. Overall, consideration of EGD is visible, though with varying scope and depth across sectors and countries, reflecting national specificities in MSP maturity and sectoral priorities.

Climate change mitigation enters MSP primarily via ORE allocations and targets, yet implementation is slowed by gaps in cumulative-impact assessment, delays in evidences about impacts on the marine environment, and coordination frictions between energy and environmental protection objectives. Adaptation remains weakly integrated, with few spatially explicit nature-based solutions (e.g., protection of seagrass habitats, artificial reefs, buffers, sand management)—partly reflecting MSP's difficulty in handling multi-scale, dynamic risks.

Sustainable seafood production has advanced through measures on selectivity, bycatch reduction, habitat protection and—in some contexts—co-management with small-scale fishers; nonetheless, policy–planning linkages remain partial. Given that the Common Fisheries Policy is largely EU-level and regulatory in nature, its integration in national MSP has limits, and the mandate for certain fisheries controls (e.g., gear rules) is sometimes ambiguous within MSP.

Circular economy and zero pollution appear marginal in MSP, typically considered with some specific measures (e.g., port waste facilities, gear recycling, end-of-life vessels) rather than strategic, spatially framed objectives—a pattern also reflecting the absence of clear obligations to address these themes through MSP itself.

Across all the four sectors, readiness of MSP provisions is visible in zoning tools, monitoring programs, and the creation of technical/participatory bodies; but implementation is hampered by data gaps—especially for small-scale fisheries and key biodiversity components, limited enforcement capacity, and fragmented governance and policy misalignments (e.g., MSP–ORE strategy interfaces).

The Fair & Just Transition dimension—operationalised in this study through stakeholder engagement—remains uneven. Participation models range from iterative, multi-level processes to compliance-driven consultations, with small-scale actors and local communities often under-represented. The MSP Directive sets no explicit standards for participation. Social considerations —including gender equity— are rarely addressed. Yet challenges related to social acceptability—especially around ORE siting—are significant.

Supporting elements to EGD objectives show mixed levels of maturity. Research & Innovation is relatively well reflected (ranging from decision-support and observatories to pilot technologies), whereas Education & Training is least developed. Cross-border cooperation is uneven—strong in a few cases, otherwise limited to project-based or minimal engagement.

From the results of this assessment some recommendations for the future of MSP in the Mediterranean region can be suggested, with the goal of strengthening its contribution to the EGD objectives.

This includes improving coherence among sectorial policies and between them and MSP, clarifying the interfaces between MSP, CFP, MSFD, Biodiversity Strategy, and national ORE

strategies. It is also essential to delineate the respective scope of MSP and sectoral regimes to avoid mandate ambiguity.

Integration of climate change consideration should be enhanced e.g. by mainstreaming NbS for climate change adaptation (clear criteria for seagrass habitat protection, coastal buffers, reef/biogenic structures), and strengthening mitigation with robust cumulative-impact methods and MSFD-aligned evidence for ORE.

Blue circular economy and zero-pollution objectives should be elevated from peripheral considerations to strategic objectives, supported by spatially relevant measures such as circular infrastructure nodes, clean-port networks, and end-of-life pathways for aquaculture systems and fishing gears.

Critical data gaps should be closed, such as those related to small-scale fisheries spatial effort and footprint, benthic and pelagic biodiversity, ecological connectivity, and ensuring funding for monitoring and enforcement to convert zoning and measures into tangible outcomes.

Participation standards should be established to support a Fair & Just Transition, including a fair representation of small-scale actors, transparency on influence, and gender/social criteria). Social acceptability should be addressed early the MSP process, with iterative, place-based dialogue.

Finally, cross-border governance should be strengthened for the sustainable management of shared fish stocks, the preservation of habitats and species, and other broader sea-basin challenges, shifting from ad-hoc projects towards durable, mandate-backed cooperation.

These findings will directly feed into the development of the effectiveness assessment framework and indicators under Task 2.1.2, enabling systematic evaluation of MSP performance against EGD objectives. Although this deliverable focuses on EU Member States, the results provide a valuable reference for regional dialogue and for comparisons with non-EU Mediterranean countries under WP3.

Only by addressing gaps in data, coherence, enforcement, and participation MSP will be able to fully realise its potential as a transformative instrument for delivering the European Green Deal at sea.

Annex 1 - Country assessments

A1.1 Country assessment - Cyprus

The Maritime Spatial Plan (MSP) of the Republic of Cyprus applies to the country's maritime waters, as defined by national legislation. It covers the territorial sea, the contiguous zone (specifically in relation to antiquities, in accordance with the Contiguous Zone Law and the Antiquities Law), and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and continental shelf, for uses or activities falling under the sovereign rights or jurisdiction of the Republic of Cyprus. The total marine area covered by the Plan is 111,919 km^2. The geographic scope is delineated in Map AB01 of Annex I,

The legal basis for the MSP is established under the MSP and Other Matters Law (Law 144(I)/2017), initially adopted on 13 October 2017 and later amended by Law 34(I)/2021 on 23 March 2021. This latter date marks the formal beginning of the Plan's preparation.

The Plan entered into force upon its publication in the Official Gazette on 29 December 2023. It consists of narrative text, maps by planning area, and sectoral/thematic maps.

As the first MSP cycle, the Plan is based on a Policy Statement on MSP, which serves as its strategic framework. This document, based on the vision from the Cyprus's National Strategy for an Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP), sets out the strategic goals, specific goals and socio-economic and environmental-cultural priorities, together with basic spatial guidelines. The Policy Statement was finalized by the MSP Committee following a public consultation process and was adopted by the Council of Ministers on 21 December 2021.

The MSP of Cyprus, through its Policy Statement, demonstrates alignment with the overarching objectives of the European Green Deal (COM(2019) 640 final) and other core EU policy frameworks, although it does not contain extensive direct references to specific policy documents. The Green Deal is explicitly cited under the strategic goals, stating that "planning sustainable actions is taking into account the Green Deal," and under specific goals, which call for the "utilization of marine renewable energy sources, taking into account the Green Deal of the EU for net zero emissions by 2050." Additionally, the Policy Statement highlights the importance of guiding investments in each development sector to "genuinely contribute to sustainable growth, given the new EU policies of the Green Deal and the taxonomy of investments," thereby facilitating access to EU funding mechanisms.

Among its stated strategic goals are commitments to:

- planning sustainable actions that take into account the Green Deal, circular economy principles, the need to gradually reduce reliance on fossil fuels in the energy sector, and the EU's transition to environmentally friendly technologies;
- increasing the competitiveness of marine and maritime development sectors;
- unleashing the growth potential of the Blue Economy by promoting innovation and designating marine areas for testing, verification, and demonstration of new technologies; and
- encouraging the development of new (green) technologies for the safe and sustainable exploitation of marine mineral deposits.

These priorities indicate that the MSP is strategically positioned to support the EU's transition toward a climate-neutral, resource-efficient, and innovation-driven blue economy, even though specific EU legal documents are not directly cited.

For the purposes of this assessment, the vision is drawn from the MSP Policy Statement, particularly its strategic goals, as well as relevant specific goals and priorities. Objectives are

assessed through the goals and priorities outlined in the Plan, while measures are examined based on the planning proposals included in the Plan.

1.1 Sectoral EGD-related elements in MSP plans

A description on how the key EGD topics are considered in the MSP plans is provided bellow. Each sector-related paragraph is developed per EGD topic, describing the results of the assessment undertaken with the fact-sheets. For each topic, the elements occurring in vision, objectives and measures are summarized.

1.1.1 Fisheries

In the Policy Statement on MSP, the vision for Cyprus's maritime space is briefly outlined and draws on the country's National Strategy for an IMP. This vision is operationalized through a set of strategic and specific goals, where the fisheries sector is addressed primarily under the specific goals, jointly with aquaculture.

Within the Plan's objectives, fisheries is recognised as one of the main maritime sectors, with emphasis placed on its economic and social relevance.

In terms of measures, fisheries is integrated into the spatial planning proposals, with the general provision that *"fishing activity takes place and is permitted in all geographical areas."* The Plan further acknowledges that certain prohibitions and regulations apply within MPAs. Nonetheless, no additional or sector-specific management measures are identified.

The Cyprus MSP does not explicitly address **climate change mitigation and adaptation** within the fisheries sector.

Sustainable seafood production within the fisheries sector is addressed in a general manner. The vision briefly refers to "encouraging sustainable fishing activities", a statement that is echoed under the sectoral goals, yet without further elaboration or operational detail. Under the measures, the MSP includes planning proposals that allow fishing activities across all maritime zones but indicate that prohibitions and regulations apply within MPAs.

Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration are not specifically referenced within the vision or objectives related to the fisheries sector. However, under the measures, planning proposals indicate that zoning for fisheries includes areas of existing and proposed MPAs, including sites featuring artificial reefs and designated Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs).

Blue circular economy and zero pollution are not addressed as part of the vision, objectives, or measures.

Overall, while fisheries are acknowledged as a key sector, their treatment within the Cyprus MSP remains high-level and permissive, with limited integration of EGD principles or operational detail to ensure sustainability, climate resilience, or ecosystem-based management.

1.1.2 Aquaculture

In the Policy Statement on MSP, which builds on Cyprus's National Strategy for an Integrated Maritime Policy, a brief vision is outlined and followed by strategic and specific goals. **Aquaculture** is addressed primarily under specific goals, jointly with fisheries. It is listed among the main sectoral priorities and is included in the planning proposals.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation are not addressed within the aquaculture component of the Cyprus MSP. These topics are absent from the vision, goals, and planning proposals, indicating that the sector's climate-related dimensions have not been considered.

Sustainable seafood production is addressed in the vision and goals of the Cyprus MSP. The vision highlights the aim of *"developing economically viable, environmentally compatible and socially acceptable aquaculture"*, a statement echoed under the specific goals. The goals also include *"improving the competitiveness, efficiency and productivity of Cypriot aquaculture,"* reflecting an effort to enhance both the sector's performance and sustainability. Within the planning proposals, the MSP supports the development of aquaculture in open-sea areas, with the intention of minimising impacts on the landscape and marine environment—indicating an awareness of spatial and environmental considerations in sustainable aquaculture development.

Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration, **blue circular economy**, and **zero pollution** are not specifically elaborated in relation to aquaculture within the Cyprus MSP.

Overall, while aquaculture is recognised as a strategic sector and its uses concretely addressed, it has limited incorporation of key EGD dimensions beyond sustainable production.

1.1.3 Offshore Renewable Energy

Offshore renewable energy (ORE) is addressed in the Cyprus MSP under the energy-related goals outlined in the Policy Statement. Among the specific goals, the Plan refers to the *"utilization of marine renewable energy sources, taking into account the Green Deal of the EU for net zero emissions by 2050,"* and identifies the *"development of offshore renewable energy facilities"* as a priority. ORE is included among the main sectoral goals under the broader energy sector and is reflected in the planning proposals, primarily through the *designation of an area for further investigation for the development of wind energy installations.*

Climate change mitigation is explicitly addressed under the ORE component of the Cyprus MSP. The specific goals include the *"encouragement of technology and infrastructure development for carbon capture and storage,"* while the stated priorities highlight that *"the implementation of RES projects could help reduce dependence on fossil fuels, reduce the carbon footprint and tackle climate change and its effects."* The objectives further reinforce this direction by promoting the *"utilization of marine renewable energy sources, taking into account the Green Deal of the EU for net zero emissions by 2050,"* and by encouraging the *ecological operation of ports* through the use of renewable or other sustainable energy options. In the planning proposals, the MSP envisages *areas for possible future offshore energy installations*, aligning spatial planning with long-term decarbonisation objectives.

Zero pollution is indirectly addressed through the promotion of renewable energy as a cleaner alternative to fossil fuels. While not detailed as a standalone objective, the Plan references the need to *respect environmental conditions and requirements* in the development of offshore energy installations, indicating a general intention to minimise environmental impacts.

Climate change adaptation, **sustainable seafood production**, **biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration**, and **blue circular economy** are not specifically addressed within the ORE component of the Cyprus MSP.

Overall, while climate change mitigation is clearly integrated, the broader environmental and socio-economic dimensions of ORE remain underdeveloped in the current Plan.

1.1.4 Nature Protection

Nature protection is addressed in the Cyprus MSP through its inclusion in the Policy Statement on MSP under the strategic goal of *"Protection of the Environment."* It is further reflected in the specific goals and priorities, particularly under the environmental-cultural dimension. Nature protection is listed among the main sectoral priorities and forms part of the Plan's environmental

dimension. However, the planning proposals primarily indicate relevant locations without outlining concrete measures or management actions.

While **climate change mitigation** is not explicitly considered, **climate change adaptation** is addressed under the nature protection component of the Cyprus MSP. The strategic goals set out the need for *"implementing appropriate management, prevention and adaptation practices to the effects of Climate Change and the effects of other processes, in order to enhance the resilience of coastal areas, marine ecosystems and marine activities."* Adaptation is further reflected under the environmental-cultural priorities through the *"inclusion of the effects of Climate Change."* Among the specific goals, the Plan highlights the *protection of coastal areas from erosion*, explicitly taking into account *the possible consequences of climate change, sea level rise, and land-sea interactions*, indicating an awareness of long-term coastal and ecosystem vulnerability.

Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration is clearly addressed within the environmental protection component of the Cyprus MSP. The strategic goals highlight the *"development of a coherent network of marine protected areas, based on the principle of Ecological Approach, and ensuring biodiversity with the respective ecosystem services."* This is supported by additional specific goals focused on the *"management and protection of Natura 2000 Network areas and the protection of marine endangered species and their habitats."* These commitments are further reflected in the strategic environmental-cultural priorities, which include the *"preservation of protected areas"* and the *"protection of marine and coastal landscapes."* Among the goals and priorities, the Plan consistently emphasises the need to safeguard ecologically important areas, including Natura 2000 sites. In the planning proposals, the MSP envisages the preservation of protected areas and ecosystems with high ecological value, including existing and proposed MPAs, artificial reefs, Natura 2000 sites, and Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs). This spatial approach indicates a clear effort to support biodiversity and ecosystem health through designated conservation zones.

Zero pollution is addressed under the environmental protection component of the Cyprus MSP. The strategic goals include *"addressing air and marine pollution from ships and other sources-activities,"* signalling an intent to manage pollution from both sea-based and land-based activities. This is further supported by specific goals focused on the *"control and prevention of water and soil pollution from the operation of facilities and activities and, in general, from any activity that can or tends to pollute the water and the soil, especially in the coastal area,"* as well as the goal of *"ensuring good quality of bathing waters."* Under the environmental-cultural priorities, the Plan highlights the *"protection of marine waters from pollution"* as a key concern.

Blue circular economy and **sustainable seafood production** are not reflected in the environmental protection component of the Cyprus MSP, as part of the vision, goals, or priorities.

Overall, the environmental protection component presents a strong focus on conservation, adaptation, and pollution control, while other EGD-related themes remain absent.

1.2 Zoning provisions

The zoning provisions of the Cyprus MSP reflect a broad allocation of maritime space across key sectors, with varying degrees of specificity. **Fisheries** activities are permitted throughout all maritime zones, except in areas explicitly designated as *fishing prohibition zones*. Sectoral maps also indicate the location of *fishing shelters*. **Aquaculture** is spatially defined through designated *aquaculture zones*, and the maps further identify *aquaculture port facilities*, *research stations*, and *aquaculture farms*, ensuring clarity on the sector's spatial footprint.

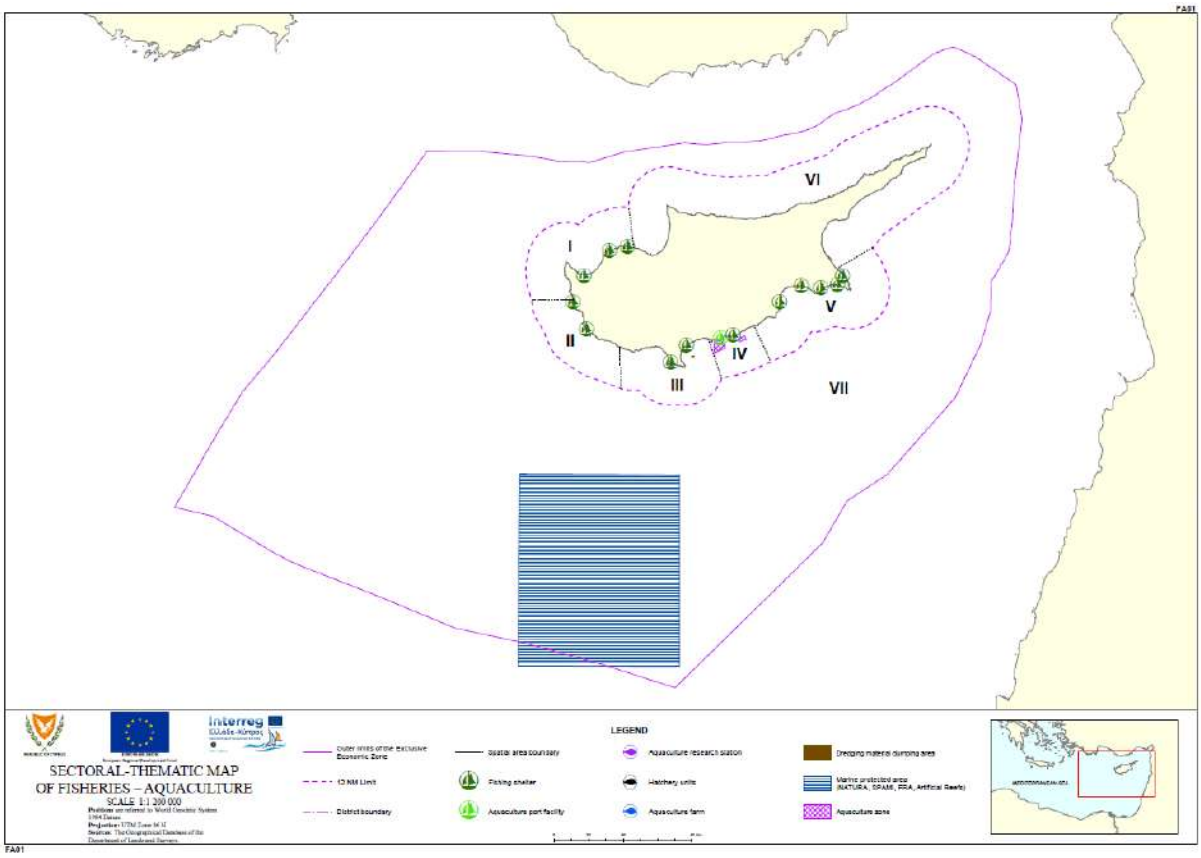


Figure 1. Overall thematic map for fisheries and aquaculture (Cyprus).

For **offshore renewable energy**, the MSP maps include an *investigation area* extending over 64 km^2, earmarked for potential development of renewable energy infrastructure.

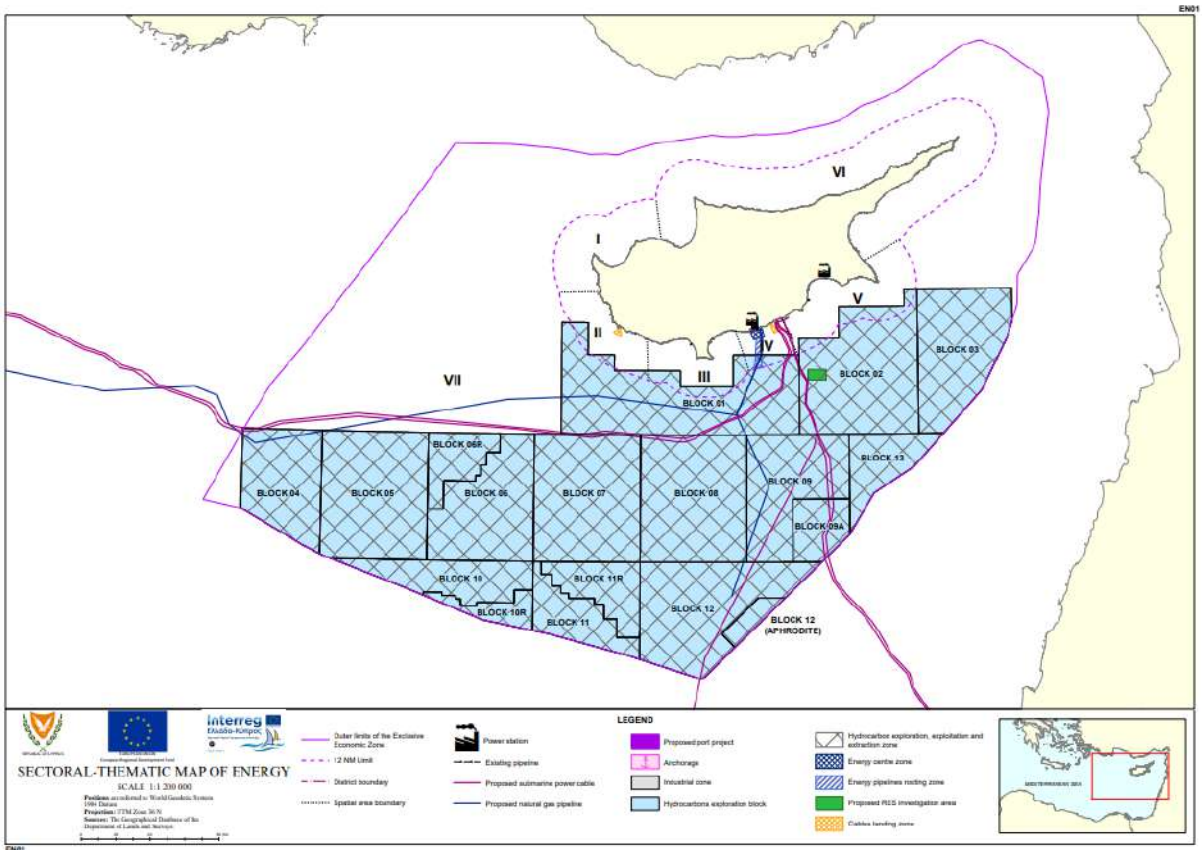


Figure 2. Sectoral map of energy (Cyprus).

In terms of **nature protection**, the MSP maps incorporate all *existing and proposed Natura 2000 areas*, along with additional spatial references such as *MPAs with artificial reefs*, *Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs)*, and *Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty / Geosites*.

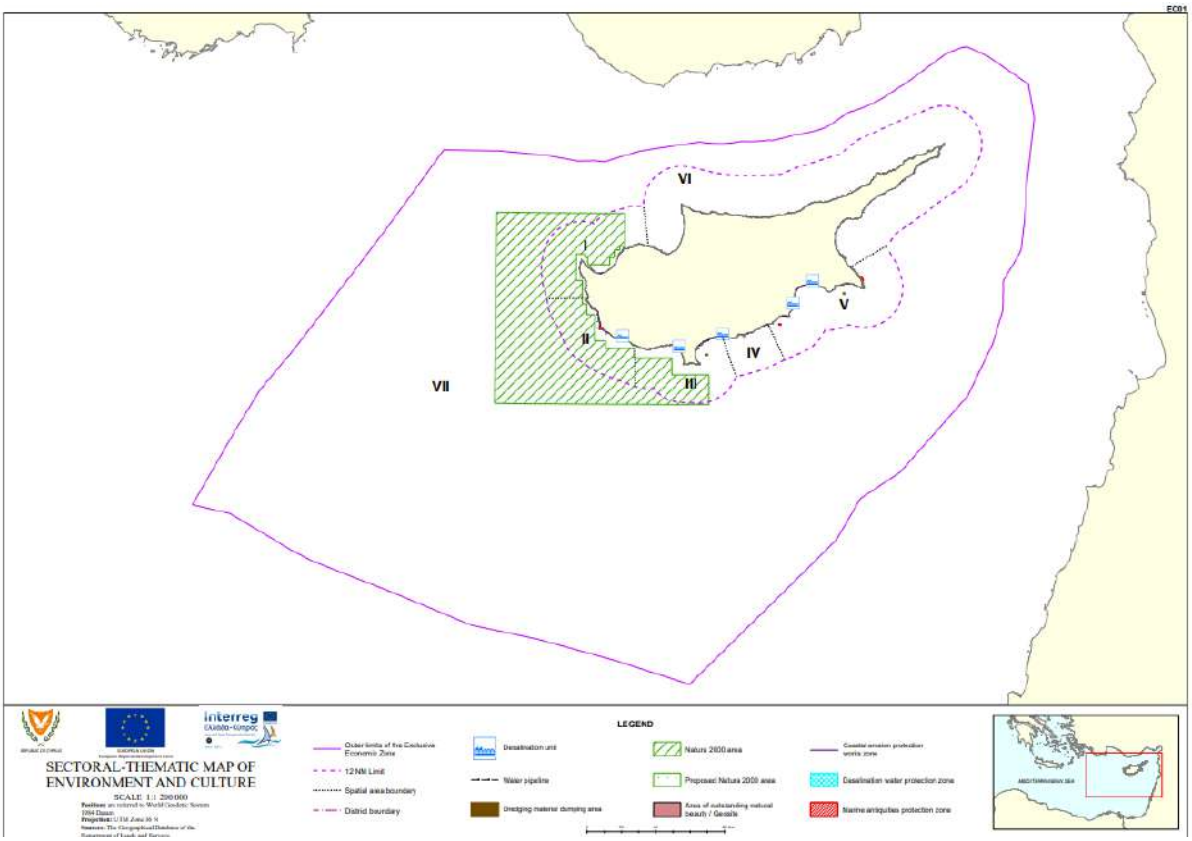


Figure 3. Overall thematic map for fisheries and environment (Cyprus).

These zoning elements provide a clear spatial framework to support sectoral development while identifying areas requiring enhanced protection.

1.3 Fair and Just Transition

Stakeholder involvement in the Cyprus MSP process was structured and inclusive, spanning all key phases: data collection, drafting of the Policy Statement on MSP, and drafting of the Plan itself. Participation was guided by the Maritime Spatial Planning (Public Consultation) Regulations of 2021 (P.I. 133/2021).

Stakeholders were identified through lists provided by competent authorities and a public call, and included professional associations, individual experts, and civil society representatives. In particular, **local fisheries groups** and **environmental NGOs** were invited to targeted consultation events held in all major cities across Cyprus. Many participants represented professional associations with deep sectoral knowledge, and several scientifically substantiated proposals were submitted.

The MSP Committee ensured transparency by publishing a report that documented all consultation proposals, their evaluation, the degree to which they were adopted, and the rationale for each decision.

1.4 Cross-cutting elements

Cross-cutting elements such as research and innovation, education and training and cross-border cooperation are partially addressed in the Plan. Their integration varies across sectors, with aquaculture and ORE receiving more focused attention compared to fisheries and nature protection.

Research and innovation are recognised as general priorities, with designated areas identified for scientific research. These include archaeological, geological, environmental, and marine biodiversity studies. However, objectives to improve the availability of reliable, high-quality ocean and maritime data are not explicitly included for any sector. In the aquaculture sector, the Plan sets more specific goals, including support for research and innovation and the development of blue biotechnology. For ORE, innovation is encouraged through goals such as maximising opportunities and supporting the development of technologies for carbon capture and storage. However, scientific research or data collection specific to ORE is not directly mentioned. In the case of fisheries and nature protection, while research is mentioned among general goals, no sector-specific measures are proposed, and there is no reference to systematic data collection.

Education and training are included under broader social cohesion objectives, aiming to enhance the attractiveness of maritime professions through appropriate training, safety culture, and mobility across sectors and regions. This objective applies equally to all four sectors but is presented in general terms, without sector-specific actions.

Cross-border cooperation is addressed only in relation to **ORE**, specifically through international cooperation on energy infrastructure such as pipelines and cables. No such specific cooperation is foreseen for fisheries, aquaculture, or nature protection.

A1.2 Country assessment - France

In France, the National Strategy for the Sea and Coast (NSSC, 2017) addresses both the requirements of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EU) and the Marine Spatial Planning Directive (2014/89/EU). At the level of the sea basins (*façades*), four MSP documents (Sea Basin Strategy - DSF) have been developed, corresponding to the four sea basins of metropolitan France (Figure 4) Specific planning documents exist for overseas territories, known as the Overseas Maritime Basin Strategy Documents.

The DSF implement the national strategy and must specify and supplement its guidelines, according to the social, economic and environmental specificities of the sea basins. The drafts of the four DSF were elaborated by the administration and discussed within the « Sea basin maritime councils (CMF)». These councils bring together representatives of the State, local authorities, maritime sector professionals, as well as users and environmental protection associations. The final versions of the plans were submitted for public consultations.

In terms of scope, the DSF apply to the waters under French jurisdictions (territorial waters and exclusive economic zones) in the four metropolitan sea basins, as well as coastal terrestrial areas (e.g. ports, coastline management), in order to ensure consistency between the sea and land in the planning process. Although the DSF Mediterranean is self-consistent, it acknowledges the existence of local or regional planning documents, as well as relevant sectoral policies.

Regarding the Mediterranean sea basin, the Prefect of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region and the Maritime Prefect for the Mediterranean are jointly responsible for ensuring the development, adoption, and implementation of the DSF Mediterranean, in collaboration with the Sea basin maritime council and with public involvement. The DSF Mediterranean contains objectives and associated measures aimed at protecting the environment, supporting the blue economy, and anticipating and managing use conflicts. As for the other sea basins, the DSF includes:

- a strategic component (adopted in 2019, currently revised by Autumn 2025), composed of:
    - a State of play: assessment of the state of the coastal and marine environment, as well as activities, challenges, needs and pressures;
    - the definition of strategic objectives (both environmental and socio-economic) and associated indicators (updated in April 2022);
- an operational component (adopted in 2022), composed of:
    - a monitoring mechanism;
    - an action plan that details measures and their implementation modalities (timeline, entities responsible for the implementation, potential sources of fundings, etc).

As the DSF must be revised every six years, its components are intended to be enriched and modified in light of improvements in available knowledge.

All maritime and coastal plans must be compatible with the DSF. These include for instance the coastal urban plans, regional and local schemes dealing with maritime and coastal stakes, or aquaculture development schemes. The DSF Mediterranean frequently mentions other policies or plans, such as the regional planning schemes and regional water schemes, the National Biodiversity Strategy 2030, sectoral fisheries or aquaculture plans, or voluntary initiatives to reduce maritime pollution. The DSF is not intended to replace sectoral policies, but to address their spatial dimension and/or to translate them in the specific context of the sea basin.

Each DSF includes a zoning of the maritime space through cartographic elements – the vocation maps. The Mediterranean DSF is divided into 30 vocation maps, each listing the measures applicable to its corresponding sub-planning unit and including a map of activities and stakes for the unit.

Since the EGD was launched in late 2019, its influence on the DSF was limited in the strategic phase: this strategic component, adopted in 2019, was developed before the EGD objectives were fully defined and therefore could not integrate them directly. However, the operational component, finalized in 2022, did take into account key aspects of the EGD, such as the development of offshore renewable energy, marine biodiversity protection and restoration, and the decarbonization of maritime activities. The DSF Mediterranean also includes a « vision 2050 » with key priority topics, including the implementation of an effective network of marine protected areas to conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as the deployment of offshore renewable energy and the sustainable management of fisheries. These elements as well as other key aspects of the DSF (objectives, measures, zoning, fair and just transition, cross-cutting elements) linked to the four MEDIGREEN sectors are described in the following sections of the document.

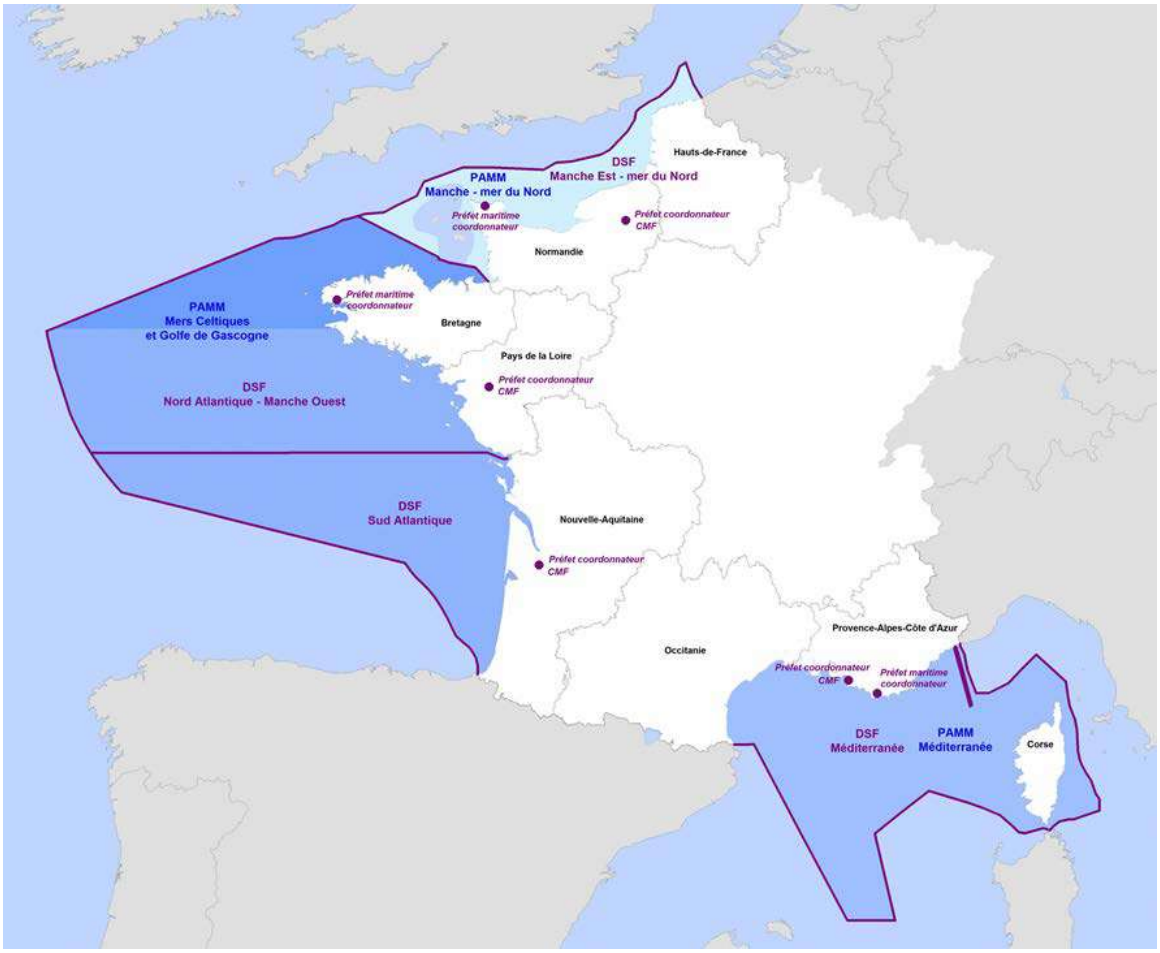


Figure 4. The four sea basins of Metropolitan France. Source: Geolittoral.

2.1 Sectoral EGD-related elements in MSP plans.

2.1.1 Fisheries

In relation to the fishery sector, the EGD topics most frequently addressed in the planning document « Sea basin Strategy of the Mediterranean » (DSF Mediterranean) mainly concern Sustainable food production and the Protection and restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity.

For the fisheries sector, among the 6 EGD topics analysed, the only topic not covered is Climate change adaptation.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation: in its vision, the DSF promotes the decarbonisation of the French fishing fleet by 2050. However, it mainly relies on other policies to do so, such as the WestMed Plan (a regional initiative launched by the European Union to promote sustainable blue economy development, cooperation, and maritime security in the Western Mediterranean region). Only one objective of the DSF addresses this topic, promoting « the decarbonisation of fishing vessels » (M-2), while one measure (« PM-MED10 ») is adopted in this direction and is only based on knowledge raising and incentive actions (sharing best practices to reduce vessel fuel consumption and providing appropriate support to fishers). The challenge of the climate change adaptation of fisheries is not addressed in the Mediterranean French plan, which could be considered as a weakness.

Sustainable food production: the vision emphasizes improving fish stocks and achieving Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) for small-scale inshore fisheries, along with reducing the coastal trawler fleet. The DSF contains numerous socio-economic and environmental objectives to preserve the fish resource and support « sustainable, resource-efficient and innovative fishing ». These objectives mainly relate to (i) the reduction and regulation of fishing efforts in marine protected areas (MPAs) and other areas (such essential fish habitats[1] of importance), (ii) the achievement of the MSY and (iii) the limitation of accidental catches. Many of the objectives are quantified, and numerous measures are set out to meet these objectives. Measures focus on (i) strengthening the protection of essential fish habitats of importance thanks to a new area-based management tool (Fisheries Functional Conservation Zone) and (ii) improving the management of both EU-regulated species (through the EU *Common Fisheries Policy CFP*), specific species (forage, diadromous migratory species in the land-sea continuum) as well as species outside EU regulations, and recreational fishing. The DSF mentions *other policies or plans* to support these objectives and measures: the legally binding EU *CFP* for the achievement of the MSY for species covered by the CFP; the *French National Biodiversity Strategy* for achieving 100% of Natura 2000 sites having an analyse « fisheries-risks »; but also voluntary initiatives for stocks not covered by international or EU regulations (e.g. *PLAGEPOMI* plans for some migratory species).

Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration: in its vision, the DSF foresees the adoption of more environmentally-fishing techniques (through the selectivity of fishing gears). With respect to this EGD topic, the DSF includes numerous objectives, focusing on bycatch and the protection of key areas and habitats. More specifically, objectives focus on (i) reducing bycatch and maximizing the survival of affected species -especially elasmobranchs, amphihaline species, seabirds, marine mammals, and turtles- and minimizing damage to sensitive parts of the food chain; (ii) avoiding or limiting the impacts of fishing activities on benthic habitats, red coral and Posidonia meadows, caused by fishing gear, abrasion, harvesting, etc. Numerous measures are associated with these objectives. Regarding by-catch, measures prioritize awareness-raising and the sharing of best practices, alongside innovation measures to reduce the impact of fishing gears. No restrictive regulation measure has been adopted to date.

Regarding the protection of habitats, measures are still indirect: they target the regulation of trawling by EU regulation (GFCM, N2000 or MSFD for example) by making recommendations to the EU commission to do so. They also target the reduction of EU fishing authorizations annually granted for gangui fishing in Posidonia seagrass beds.

Blue circular economy: the DSF includes the objective « V-3 » to encourage the creation of fishing waste collection and valorisation channels. Several measures are linked to this objective,

[1] In French, « zone fonctionnelle halieutique ».

and notably « support the development of a recovery and recycling sector for by-products from fisheries and aquaculture », and structure innovation efforts to produce biodegradable fishing nets, for instance. Cooperation between State services, Regions and public operators is defined to coordinate and fund these actions. Potential financial support could be provided by the FEAMPA.

Zero pollution: in its vision, the DSF foresees the reduction of the environmental impacts of fisheries, linked to the use of cleaner engines (to reduce atmospheric emissions). However, the few objectives linked to this topic only relate to the reduction of input and presence of macro-waste at sea from fishing activities. This through collecting in ports, and the development of initiatives that collect and upcycle fishing waste. On the coast, macro waste « should decrease by 75% ». Measures focus on supporting professionals in reducing input of waste, collecting the waste, and promoting good practices. The support to professionals is notably envisaged through advancing research and innovation towards more biodegradable fishing nets, and supporting upcycling initiatives.

Other strategies/policies/plans (for further details, see the Annex 2 Factsheet (tab FS6 at the bottom): for the 6 EGD topics analysed, the DSF does not rely directly on other strategies/policies/plans to achieve the objectives or implement actions, but sometimes mentions some policies or plans that contain similar objectives. These mainly include the regional schemes SRADDET of the regions Occitanie and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (PACA) and the regional scheme PADDUC in Corsica, the EMFAF 2021-2027 (objectives in link with those of the DSF), and the Water management and planning schemes SDAGE. Specific plans are also mentioned (e.g. the Red coral management plan). The DSF also refers to voluntary initiatives (non-legally binding) aiming at better protecting migratory species (e.g. PLAGEPOMI plans) and reducing plastic waste (« Roadmap Zero plastic waste at sea 2019-2025 »).

2.1.2 Aquaculture

In relation to the aquaculture sector, the EGD topics most addressed (by objectives and measures) in the DSF Mediterranean relate to Sustainable food production and Zero pollution. The only topic not covered is climate change mitigation. The vision only covers Sustainable food production.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation: Climate change mitigation in aquaculture is not addressed at all in the DSF. Even if threats linked to climate change (rising temperatures and water acidification that will be major challenges to the activity) is expressed in the vision, adaptation is only considered by one objective (« N-4 ») aiming at supporting professionals in the face of disease/mortality threats, that may become more frequent with the effects of climate change. However, there is no related measure corresponding to this objective.

Sustainable food production: The vision for aquaculture only covers the EGD topic of sustainable food production, but remains very general (« develop sustainable aquaculture »). The general objective « N » covers this topic through the ambition to increase the number of labelled aquaculture companies and the limitation of land artificialization due to infrastructures from this sector. Several measures are included in the DSF. They refer to: (i) the planning of aquaculture activity zones on vocation maps; (ii) making the regulatory framework clearer and more accessible for aquaculture project developers to support authorization procedures; (iii) enhancing the value of products for consumers and local territories; (iv) supporting multi-trophic aquaculture (algae and fish or shellfish mixed production) which is supposed to be more sustainable than separated activities; and (v) assisting aquaculture businesses in developing organic production and achieving the most effective and appropriate environmental certifications for the sector.

Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration: There is one objective dealing with this topic (« general objective H: Reduce the risk of introduction and development of new, non-native species »). There is no measure associated with this objective.

Blue circular economy: There is one objective (N-5) in relation to this topic, which is linked to the diversification of aquaculture activities and the development of multi-trophic aquaculture. Measures relate to both circular design and to waste prevention (in link with circular economy). Circular design related measures refer to the development of multi-trophic aquaculture to combine fish farming and the cultivation of algae and shellfish (to reduce the environmental impact of aquaculture by transforming its waste into resources for filter-feeding or detritivorous animal species and cultivated plant species grown nearby and commercially valued). Waste prevention related measures refer to supporting the development of a recovery and recycling sector for by-products from aquaculture and professional fishing activities.

Zero pollution: The DSF addresses both microbiological pollution and waste pollution related issues, through specific objectives. One aims to preserve the bacteriologic quality of coastal zones and shellfish production areas, with a quantified target (0% of monitoring points show a deterioration in microbiological quality that is not improving). The other one aims to reduce the input and presence of macro-waste at sea from fishing and aquaculture activities, uses and developments, with a target of 75% decrease in macro waste from the aquaculture and fisheries sectors compared to 2016. The DSF contains measures to address both pollution prevention and remediation issues. These measures focus on the reduction, collection, and upcycling of waste generated by the activity (structural actions to reduce and collect waste, dissemination of best practices, etc.), and support the sector's transition to sustainable equipment by developing recyclable and durable solutions and implementing innovative materials.

Other strategies/policies/plans (for further details, see the Annex « Factsheet » (tab FS6 at the bottom): While the DSF does not explicitly rely on other strategies/policies or plans to implement measures, it mentions complementary public policies that have similar objectives, mainly regarding sustainable food production. For instance, it mentions the regional planning schemes *SRADDET* of Occitanie and PACA and *PADDUC* in Corsica which include rules linked to similar objectives. The DSF also mentions the water management and planning schemes (SDAGE Rhône Méditerranée and SDAGE Corsica) which include orientations and "dispositions". The SRADDET/PADDUC and SDAGE have a legally binding scope, although their binding force varies depending on the stakeholders involved. In addition, the DSF mentions the *Water Framework Directive « Program of Measures »* that includes measures to meet the challenges of the *Bathing Water and Shellfish Water Directives*. Besides, the *Regional Scheme of Marine Aquaculture Development (SRDAM)*, is a cartographic document identified by the DSF as "an important lever for the development of the aquaculture sector". Furthermore, the DSF refers to the *National strategic plan for the development of sustainable aquaculture 2014-2020* and its objectives « 1.C Make better use of spatial planning spatial planning to enable access to suitable sites », « 3.A Sustainably exploit the aquaculture systems » and « 4.B Better valorize the products in the distribution channels ». Finally, the *EMFAF 2021-2027* is mentioned through its Strategic objectives OS 2.1 (Support aquaculture activities that are sustainable and economically viable) and OS 1.1 (Reinforce sustainable fisheries activities).

2.1.3 Offshore renewable energy

The DSF Mediterranean addresses the sector of offshore renewable energy (ORE) through a few objectives and measures, with respect to the EGD topics of climate change mitigation, biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration, and zero pollution. The Decision of October 17th, 2024 provides the mapping of the priority zones for ORE development (both over the next 10 years and by 2050). This mapping is integrated to the vocation maps of the DSF (https://geolittoral.din.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/telechargement/concertation/MED/).

Climate change mitigation: This is the only EGD topic included in the DSF vision regarding the ORE sector. The vision identifies the development of floating offshore wind farm as key to achieve carbon neutrality in 2050 in France, through a 4-7.5 GW generated by floating wind turbines in the French Mediterranean (this target is from the National strategy for the sea and coast NSSC), while avoiding the impacts of projects and the cumulative effects with other maritime uses. The objectives set out in the DSF aim to: encourage the development of commercial offshore wind farms, in link with the objectives of the *Multi-annual energy programming (PPE)*; support training needs in research / engineering / operation / maintenance; disseminate project knowledge and experience feedback to all stakeholders; and encourage research, innovation and co-use experiments in the offshore wind farms. The DSF includes *one measure*, aimed at deploying a competitive, sustainable, and well-structured commercial floating wind sector along the Mediterranean coast, with three sub-actions, including conducting spatial planning that considers various factors—such as defence, environmental concerns, maritime traffic, and grid connections—in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders.

Climate change adaptation: The DSF does not explicitly address this EGD topic for ORE.

Sustainable seafood production: The DSF does not explicitly address this EGD topic for ORE.

Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration: The DSF include *objectives* to guarantee the potential of the marine environment to host birds by preventing seabird collisions with offshore wind farm infrastructures (e.g. 100% of authorized ORE projects put in place measures allowing to monitor collision impacts, and have an assessment system in place that reduce the level of collision pressure on populations of species frequenting the wind farm). More indirectly, the DSF also identifies the need to reduce disturbance and physical loss of habitats and functional fishing areas from maritime activities. Measures aim to implement a methodology for assessing cumulative impacts in the context of offshore wind farms and to strengthen the consideration of species' sensitivity to disturbance in offshore permitting processes and local regulations.

Blue circular economy: The DSF does not explicitly address this EGD topic for ORE.

Zero pollution: Chemical contaminants and noise are the pollution issues targeted by the DSF Mediterranean for the ORE sector. Objectives include the limitation of input, transfer and remobilization of chemical contaminants at sea from offshore wind farm activity, and the reduction of underwater noise sources (indirect link with offshore wind farms), with associated quantified targets. The DSF **does not** include specific measures to prevent or reduce pollution from ORE (including noise) but it includes measures related to **data collection** that would be needed to better understand the impacts of ORE projects on the environment and thus reduce these impacts.

Other strategies/policies/plans (for further details, see the Annex « Factsheet » (tab FS6 at the bottom): The DSF indicates that the objectives of ORE development in the Mediterranean are in line with those of the *Multi-annual energy programming (PPE)*, which is legally binding in certain respects (the PPE is a strategic document that defines energy policy priorities and objectives for a 10-year period -with a review every 5 years-, enshrined in the French Energy Code, and whose implementation is accompanied by legal mechanisms that make it a binding legal framework). Besides, the DSF mentions the provisions of the *French Energy and Climate Strategy* that must be considered for the launch of new ORE projects regarding grid connections in particular (not focused on EGD objectives though).

2.1.4 Nature protection

The sector of nature protection is largely addressed in the DSF, since the document is also implementing MSFD. It contains numerous objectives and measures targeting a wide variety of marine and coastal species, habitats and ecosystems. The sector is also largely driven by the process of Strongly Protected Areas designation (5% by 2027 in the French Mediterranean

waters) to comply with the EU Biodiversity Strategy. Apart from the topic « Biodiversity and ecosystems protection and restoration », EGD topics particularly covered for this sector are Sustainable food production and Zero pollution. Moreover, the topics of climate change mitigation and adaptation are not very detailed in the DSF strategic (objectives) and operational (measures) parts, while the vision on these topics is quite extensive (and focusing on nature-based solutions), reflecting the fact that **the current content of the DSF is far from being aligned with the vision.**

Climate change mitigation: The DSF vision elaborates on this topic, however there are no associated objectives or measures. The vision highlights nature-based solutions (NbS) as a priority way to tackle climate change, through the growing of Posidonia seagrass beds, recognized as carbon sinks. This could be achieved through « the introduction of ecological anchorage areas, the de-artificialisation of the coast, stop sand nourishment on beaches, and improvements in water quality ».

Climate change adaptation: While the DSF vision elaborates on this topic, there are few objectives and measures. The vision supports nature-based solutions to address coastline retreat, as an alternative to beach re-nourishment methods, which are seen as having significant economic (high costs) and environmental impacts—particularly the smothering of posidonia meadows. These nature-based solutions include the restoration of coastal systems by preserving posidonia leaf banks, which act as natural buffers against marine submersion. One objective relates to this topic (« W: Anticipating and managing coastal risk ») with an indicator on the number of sites part of the EU Adapto+ program or covered by NbS. One measure is identified (« Put together coastal and underwater landscape observation and monitoring networks to better support strategic policies, particularly in anticipating, preserving, and assessing the effects of climate change on territories and landscapes »). It should be noted here that there are no objectives or measures that cover the need to better understand the change in species functioning, distribution and abundance linked to climate change impacts (such as sea temperature rise, acidification, change in sea current patterns, ...).

Sustainable seafood production: In its vision, the DSF foresees the adoption of more environmentally-fishing techniques (e.g. through the selectivity of fishing gears). We identified numerous objectives linked to this topic in the DSF. The objectives highlight the need to help professionals but also recreational fishers preserve resources and ecosystems. There is a focus on bycatch and the protection of key areas and habitats. More specifically, objectives focus on reducing bycatch (and collision damage to a lesser extent) and maximizing the survival of affected species -especially elasmobranchs, amphihaline species, seabirds, marine mammals, and turtles. There are objectives to minimize damage from fishing activities to specific habitats (abrasion of the deep-sea habitats and Posidonia, harvesting of red coral, etc.) and to sensitive parts of the food chain. Numerous measures are associated with these objectives. Regarding by-catch, measures prioritize awareness-raising and the sharing of best practices, alongside innovation measures to reduce the impact of fishing gears. Regarding the protection of habitats, measures target the regulation of trawling at the EU level in the coastal Natura 2000 sites for the seabed habitats, as well as the reduction of EU fishing authorizations annually granted for gangui fishing in posidonia seagrass beds.

Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration: In the vision, strongly protected areas "will cover a large proportion of marine protected areas and will ensure the conservation of biodiversity and its associated ecosystem services and cultural values". These strongly protected areas will have effective management that will help to meet international requirements to combat the erosion of biodiversity, but also to deal with local land pressures, aquatic pollution, pressure on fish stocks, the effects of climate change and the influx of tourists. The vision also mentions the development of biodiversity inventory campaigns to better characterize the Mediterranean marine biodiversity, as well as the implementation of systems to prevent the introduction of invasive species and the protection/restoration of Posidonia.

Objectives on protection (MPAs and marine connectivity) relate to: the development of strongly protected areas (5% of the French Mediterranean); the maintenance of a good state of conservation of deep canyon submarine habitats; the limitation of pressures (abrasion, extraction…) and loss of some key species or habitats (posidonia beds, vulnerable marine ecosystems, hydraulic dunes, intertidal habitats, phanerogam meadows, coralligenous reefs). The tools identified to achieve these objectives include: (i) coastal and beach management measures, such as stopping artificialization and developing sensitive anchorage areas; (ii) regulatory tools, including the use of gauges, fish quotas in specific zones, and access restrictions; (iii) spatial and temporal measures, such as temporary area closures. Measures focus on the expansion (and enforcement) of the network of strongly protected areas and educational marine areas, however there are no details on how to achieve the 5% objective. However, the mapping of the Strongly Protected Areas has been published following the Decision of October 17, 2024, and is integrated in the vocation maps of the DSF. Measures also target invasive marine species management and the improvement of the monitoring and enforcement system of the marine environment.

Regarding **restoration**, objectives focus on the restoration of marine mammals and turtles to a good state of conservation (by reducing collision and limiting human disturbance) and the restoration of the shallow water ecosystems in general. Associated measures rely primarily on the following tools: (i) regulatory measures to limit impacts on sites and activities, such as anchorage regulation, management of visits to sensitive sites (e.g., diving areas), and whale watching oversight; (ii) research and innovation, particularly on fishing gear and techniques; (iii) environmental monitoring; and (iv) targeted restoration actions adapted to local conditions.

Blue circular economy: The vision mentions the upcycling of dumping sediments. There are no objectives or measures linked to this EGD topic.

Zero pollution: The vision highlights the following major issues: (i) plastics at sea (« plastic is no more a source of pollution and biodiversity degradation, however microplastics remain a major issue »), (ii) waste (« the amount of waste entering the Mediterranean will be gradually reduced »), (iii) sulphur oxide and nitrogen oxide emission reduction, (iv) noise and light pollution from ships (« reduced to a minimum, without impact on marine fauna and flora ») and (v) tourism related pollution (« nuisances generated by leisure activities will be strictly limited »). Objectives target both pollution prevention and pollution remediation. Concerning pollution prevention, objectives cover a wide range of pollution, from the microbiological pollution of waters, noise, waste from land/sea, to chemical and atmospheric contaminants. Concerning pollution remediation, objectives mainly focus on macro-waste at sea. The voluntary charts *« Clean Ports »*, *« Plages de caractère »*, and *« Beaches without plastic waste »*, as well as certifications such as *« Active clean ports in Biodiversity »* are seen as key tools to achieve these objectives. Numerous measures are identified. They notably target: (i) the equipment of careening areas, (ii) the improvement of effluent systems and water treatment systems in lands to reduce microbiological and waste pollution, (iii) discharges management (through enforcement of the regulatory framework), (iv) the deployment of port and beach certifications, as well as (v) research and awareness raising of the general public about the causes of ocean pollution.

Other strategies/policies/plans (for further details, see the Annex « Factsheet » (tab FS6 at the bottom): While the DSF does not rely on other strategies, policies or plans to implement actions, it mentions numerous « complementary policies », such as: the regional planning schemes *SRADDET/PADDUC* (for climate change adaptation, sustainable food production, biodiversity protection and restoration, and zero pollution), the SDAGE, the *Roadmap Zero plastic at sea 2019-2025* and *port/beach charts* (for zero pollution), the *Mediterranean ecological habitat restoration strategy*, the *MSFD* (for Biodiversity protection and restoration), the *National action plan* to preserve elasmobranches and the *Anchorage management plan*. In addition, some objectives of the DSF are explicitly linked to those of the *National Biodiversity Strategy 2030*, and objectives of the DSF are in line with those of the National Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and those of the NSSC

(National Strategy for the Coast and Sea). Moreover, the DSF states that actions to conserve ecosystems and reduce anthropogenic pressures are consistent with the objectives of nature restoration, now supported by *European Regulation (EU) 2024/1992 of June 24, 2024*. Finally, the DSF mentions the *Law n°2016-1087 of 8 August 2016 for the Restoration of biodiversity, nature and landscapes* and the *French Environmental Code – Article L. 350-1 B* (with regards to actions on climate adaptation) but without elaborating on how these documents complete the DSF.

2.2 Zoning provisions

The DSF includes a zoning of the maritime space, through the "**vocation maps**", which are cartographic documents listing DSF measures applying to a given "zone" and including a map of activities and stakes for this zone. There are 30 vocation maps along the French Mediterranean coastline, as illustrated in Figure 5.

The vocation maps show, for instance (not exhaustive):

- Fisheries areas, essential fish habitats (however, the « essential fish habitats of importance» still need to be identified);
- Aquaculture farms: existing and potential sites;
- Floating offshore wind farms: existing and planned sites for development by 2030 and 2050;
- Areas of reinforced nature protection (priority areas for upcoming designation).

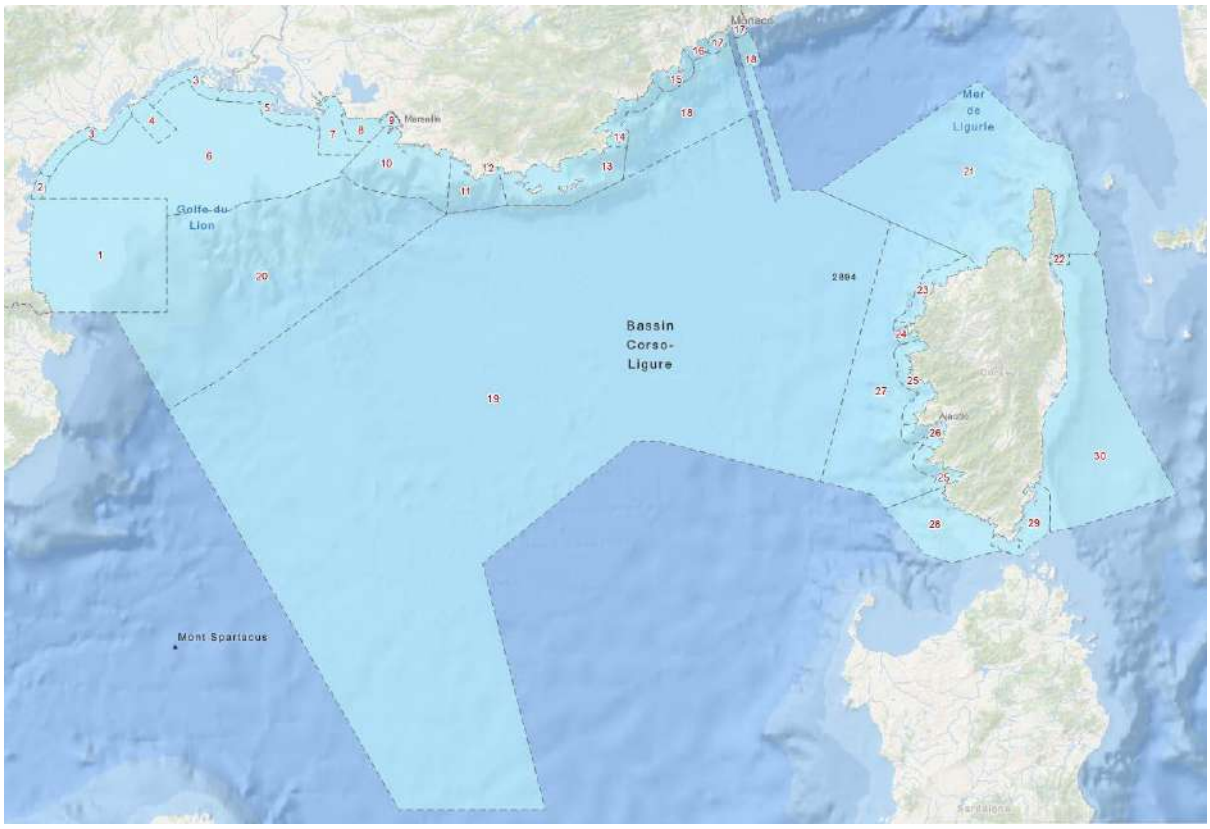


Figure 5 - The 30 vocation maps of the French Mediterranean Sea Basin. Source: CEREMA, 2024.

Figure 6 below represents an example of a vocation map, corresponding to "Zone 3 - Littoral Languedocien Ouest". We can see, for instance, shellfish farms (pink rectangles), areas of reinforced protection (green zones) or essential fish habitats (fish in blue circles).

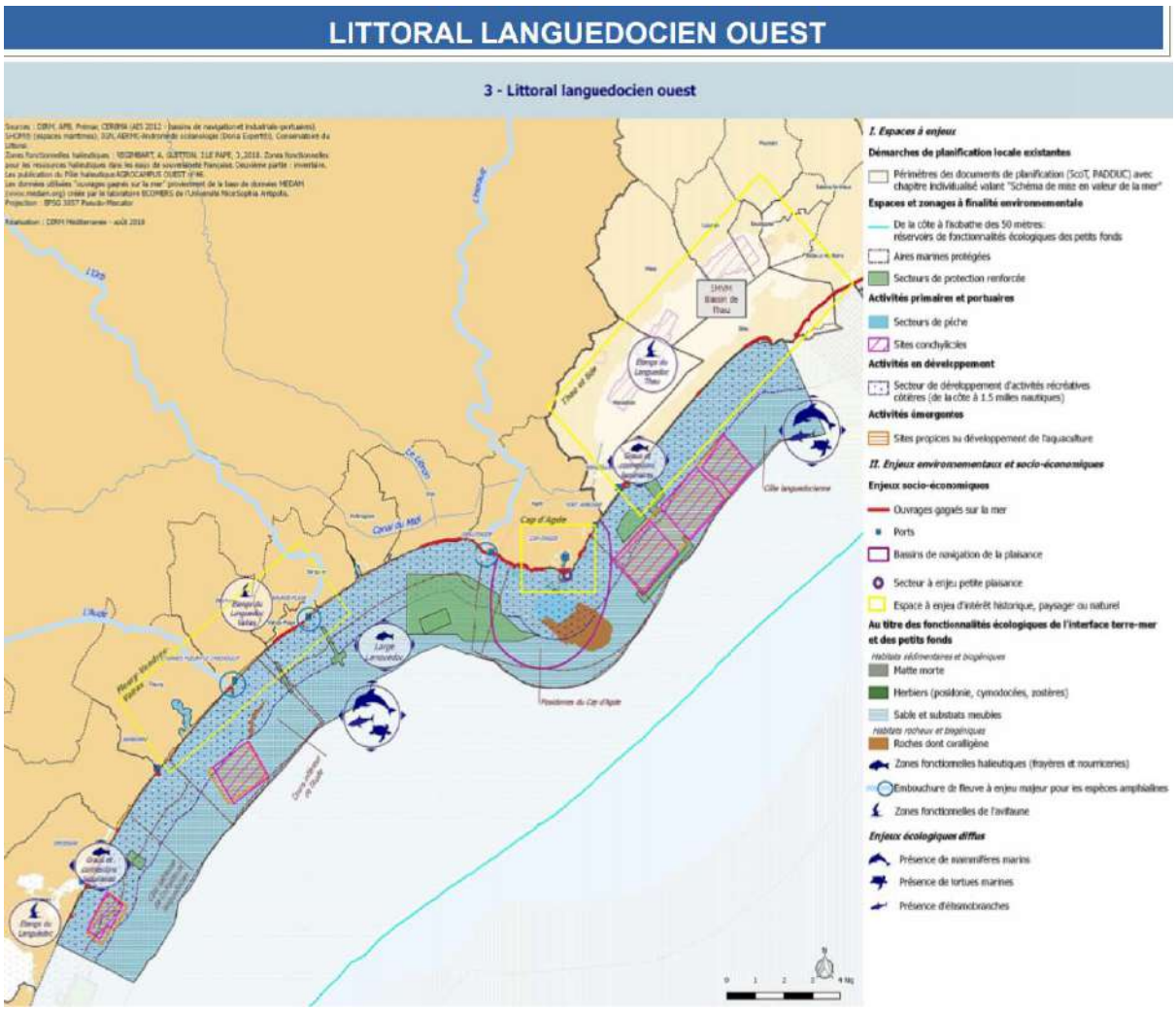


Figure 6 - Vocation map of "Zone 3 - Littoral Languedocien Ouest". Source: DSF Mediterranean, Annex 2.

2.2.1 Fisheries

There are dedicated areas corresponding to the fisheries related measures through the vocation maps, which include delimited areas showing the geographical localisation of fisheries areas, and essential fish habitat, notably.

In general, the DSF identifies both the importance to reinforce the protection of **existing** marine areas in which fisheries are managed, controlled and monitored in a sustainable way, and to create **additional** areas through **essential fish habitats of importance (ZFHi)** in particular.

More specifically:

- **All the 30 vocation maps of the Mediterranean include measures on fisheries**, illustrating the fact that this sector is of key importance all along the Mediterranean façade. For instance, the measure D03-OE02-AN1 ("Identify the priority stocks for which the local management could be improved, and implement adapted actions") is found in all 30 vocation maps, i.e., all along the façade.
- 29 out of 30 vocation zones include the measure D01-PC-OE5-AN1 that aims to reinforce the protection of ZFHi. However, these ZFHi are not defined geographically yet (the vocation maps show the essential fish habitats but not the essential fish habitats of

importance (ZFHi), which still need to be identified through the sub-action 1 "Identify and map ZFHi at an appropriate scale."

Concerning MPAs in general, the DSF sets objectives to better manage and monitor catches from recreational fishing in MPAs (the localisation of MPAs is visible on vocation maps), through objectives M8-1 and M8-2 (M8-1 target: 100% of MPAs have a tool to record the fishers in the area and declaring their catches, and M8-2 target: 100% of MPAs have an harmonized daily fish quota).

Concerning Natura 2000 sites specifically, the M1-4 target states that 100% of Natura 2000 sites have an analyse "fisheries risks". In these Natura 2000 sites, the accent is also placed on protecting the seabed habitats.

2.2.2 Aquaculture

There are areas dedicated to existing and potential aquaculture farms (shellfish farming and fish farming) through the vocation maps. **Approximately 27 over the 30 vocation maps include measures related to aquaculture.**

Existing shellfish farming sites: Some of these 27 maps include geographical delimited boundaries of existing shellfish aquaculture farms such as in some part of the following zones:

- zone 1 ("Marine Natural Park Gulf of Lion")
- zone 3 ("Littoral languedocien ouest")
- zone 6 ("Gulf of Lion Plateau")
- zone 7 ("Gulf of Lion Fos sur Mer")

Existing fish farming sites: There also are some zones showing existing sites of fish farming, such as in zone 26 ("Golfe d'Ajaccio").

Potential sites for aquaculture development: There are also vocation maps that show geographical sites suitable for shellfish aquaculture development. Such as in a few parts of:

- zone 1 ("Marine Natural Park Gulf of Lion")
- zone 3 ("Littoral languedocien ouest")
- zone 10 ("Calanques National Park")
- zone 13 ("Perimeter of the Port-Cros national Park")
- zone 14 ("Littoral Varois est")
- zone 17 ("Littoral des Alpes Maritimes")
- zone 25 ("Littoral occidental de la Corse partie nord")
- zone 26 ("Golfe d'Ajaccio").

There is no precise data available in the DSF documents regarding the surface of the aquaculture areas, including in vocation maps. We can indicate that the Bassin de Thau, which is the biggest shellfish farm of France and located in the Mediterranean, is about 75 km^2.

2.2.3 Offshore Renewable Energy

There are dedicated areas linked to ORE in vocation maps. While measures in the text do not inform on specific areas where ORE is developed or in development/going to be developed, the "vocation maps" inform where ORE areas currently exist, or where they could be developed.

On October 17, 2024, the French government published in the Official Journal its Decision following the public debate "La Mer en débat," concerning the update of the strategic components of the DSF and the mapping of priority zones for offshore wind development (both over the next 10 years and by 2050). This mapping is integrated to the vocation maps.

Potential floating wind farms: 3 out of the 30 vocation maps of the MED façade include delimited areas for potential offshore wind farms of commercial interest:

- zone 1 ("Marine Natural Park Gulf of Lion")2
- zone 6 ("Gulf of Lion Plateau")3
- zone 7 ("Gulf of Lion Fos sur Mer").

Each of these 3 zones include two measures linked to ORE: (i) EMR-MED01: Capitalize on and disseminate knowledge related to offshore floating wind energy and its environmental impact, ensuring harmonized monitoring across different projects. (ii) EMR-MED02: Develop a competitive, sustainable, and well-structured commercial floating wind sector.

Among them, zones 1 and 6 include a delimited area corresponding to an existing offshore wind farm of 100km^2 (+ pilot farms identified), while zone 7 only include a delimited potential area for ORE development, and for pilot farms.

Two additional vocation maps include measures regarding the development of ORE (EMR-MED02) but without delimited existing/potential ORE area on their map. These are:

- zone 2 ("Port la Nouvelle")
- zone 4 ("Sète").

Regarding **extension**, there are 2 existing ORE farms (floating) in the French Mediterranean, which correspond to approximately 200 km^2. The potential areas for ORE development are much higher but there is no surface number available.

2.2.4 Nature protection

On October 17th, 2024, the French government published in the Official Journal its Decision following the public debate "La Mer en débat," regarding the update of the strategic components of the DSF and the mapping of strong marine protected areas. This mapping is integrated to the vocation maps of the DSF.

When applicable, the vocation maps show the geographical location of the following elements:

- MPAs;
- Areas of reinforced nature protection;
- Isobaths of 0–50 m / 50–200 m / 200–1500 m, corresponding to reservoirs of ecological functions of shallow waters / continental shelf / slope areas;
- Sites of ecological functions and stakes of the land-sea interface and shallow coastal waters, such as seagrass meadows (posidonia, cymodocea beds), dead matte, infralittoral algae, sands, soft and detrital substrates, hard bottoms, rocky habitats, coralligenous, and the functional sites of birds and fish;
- Sites of ecological functions and stakes on the continental shelf and slopes: the site of presence of marine marine mammals, elasmobranchs, marine turtles, and canyons.

The measures outlined in the DSF text do not specify particular MPAs by name but **refer to general MPA types** (such as "Natura 2000 sites"). The vocation maps **do not indicate** the specific nature of MPAs (no distinction between Natura 2000 sites, national parks, etc.), although zones of enhanced protection are included in some vocation maps.

[2] The vocation map « zone 1 » pertain to the Gulf of Lion West (GLO) area of the Decision of October 17th, 2024, considered as a «Priority area in 2050 for the development of a project with an indicative capacity of around 1.1 GW, the contours of which will be defined by further studies, particularly environmental studies, and ongoing consultation with stakeholders».

[3] The vocation maps « zone 6 » and « zone 1 » pertain to the Gulf of Lion Center (GLC) area (Priority area for the 10-year horizon, which will be involved in the 10th offshore wind tender (AO10) and Gulf of Lion Est (GLE) area (Priority area in the 10-year horizon concerned by the subsequent competitive bidding procedure) of the Decision of October 17th, 2024, (source).

It should be noted that in the French Mediterranean façade, marine Natura 2000 sites are the most common type of MPAs (they represent about 30% the marine French Mediterranean façade (source).

There are also marine natural parks (PNM Corsica, PNM Gulf of Lion, PNM Côte Bleue) (about 10%), and marine national parks (Port-Cros and Calanques) (about 3%) which have a strong level of protection including strict reserve zones.

All 30 vocation maps for the Mediterranean façade include numerous measures aimed at protecting and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity.

Linking measures to geographical locations, thanks to vocation maps:

Measures targeting key habitats—such as Posidonia seagrass beds, coralligenous formations, red coral, and deep-sea habitats—can be associated with specific geographic locations using vocation maps, since the vocation maps show the geographical boundaries of these habitats.

Example for Posidonia: For the vocation maps containing Posidonia measures, we can make the link between the measure and the location of Posidonia on the map. We can see that Posidonia protection measures are included in the following vocation maps (non-exhaustive list): zones 23 (Balagne), zone 25 (Western coast of northern Corsica), and zone 28 (Western Bonifacio Strait), and the corresponding Posidonia sites are clearly indicated in the vocation maps (a **limit** is that it does not mean all the Posidonia presence sites will be subject to the measure though).

Total extension

In the French Mediterranean:

- total Natura 2000 sites: ~ 30 000 km^2 (13 993 for N2000 DO, and 15 523 for N2000 Habitats Directive);
- national parks: 2995 km^{2*}
- marine natural park: 10 838 km^{2*}
- natural reserve of Corsica: 814 km^{2*}
- national natural reserves: 6 km^{2*}
- Total: ~ 45 000km^2.

The area of MPAs in the French Mediterranean therefore represents about 45 000 km^2, corresponding to approximately **36% of the total maritime façade** (= DSF plan area, ~ 124 000 km^2, source: SHOM).

*this data is not available in the DSF. It was found at: https://www.amp.milieumarinfrance.fr/accueil-fr/chiffres-cles/les-chiffres-cles-rapides

2.3 Fair and just transition

The DSF itself does not contain all the above-mentioned information on stakeholder engagement: in fact, most of the information collected to inform this section "8.3. Fair and Just transition" comes from other sources (e.g., ministry or DIRM web pages).

Stakeholder participation and inclusion in the MSP processes are covered differently at national and sea basin scale.

At the **national** level, the National Strategy for the sea and coast (NSSC) considered State representatives (from ministries, maritime prefectures, DIRM MED), and the National council for the sea and the coast (CNML), which brings together representatives of the State, local authorities, socio-economic stakeholders, civil society, and the scientific community (source: https://www.mer.gouv.fr/conseil-national-de-la-mer-et-des-littoraux-cnml).

At the **sea-basin** level, the DSF (Sea basin strategic documents) are the translation of the National Strategy for the sea and coast. The Sea basin maritime councils (CMFs) have a central role in the elaboration and revision of the DSF. Citizens were involved in the development and revision of the DSF notably through the **public debate** "*La mer en débat*", held from November 2023 to April 2024. This consultation process, coordinated by the French National Commission for Public Debate (CNDP), combined an online platform, citizen workshops ('Sea Pathways,' 3D Days, webinars), public meetings, and contributions from NGOs via stakeholder position papers ('cahiers d'acteurs'). It led to the collection of over 20,000 written contributions and the participation of more than 21,000 individuals (https://www.debatpublic.fr/sites/default/files/2024-06/DSF-Compte-rendu.pdf).

To sum up, the stakeholders included in the DSF elaboration and revision processes are:

- State services (relevant ministries, prefectures, Interregional Directorate of the Mediterranean Sea DIRM, etc)
- The façade (sea basin) Maritime Council (CMF) of Mediterranean (central role) and to a lesser extent the National council for the sea and the coast (CNML) (guiding and advisory role)
- Scientific/academic organisations (e.g., universities, Ifremer, etc)
- Regions and local authorities
- Citizens more generally and their representatives (NGOs, associations, elected representatives…).
- Sectoral representatives (detail in the following sub-sections for each sector).

The national and sea basin governance levels are not isolated from each other. In particular, the CNML and the CMFs work together to ensure coherent maritime governance between the national and sea basin scales: the CMFs contribute to the implementation of the NSSC by providing regional feedback and insights, while the CNML guides the development and revision of the DSF by setting strategic directions, ensuring overall coherence, and issuing advisory opinions.

In the above sub-sections on sectors, **we focus solely on the engagement of stakeholders for the sea basin scale**, i.e., the elaboration and revision of the DSF Mediterranean.

2.3.1 Fisheries

Stakeholders involved in the elaboration and revision processes of the DSF Mediterranean: in addition to the stakeholders identified for the 4 sectors (see in the Generalities above), representatives of the fisheries sector included:

- The National Committee of Maritime Fisheries and Marine Aquaculture (CNPMEM). It is part of the National council for the sea and the coast (source: https://www.mer.gouv.fr/conseil-national-de-la-mer-et-des-littoraux-cnml).
- The Regional Committees of Maritime Fisheries and Marine Aquaculture (CRPMEM Corse, CRPMEM Occitanie, and CRPMEM PACA). They are part of the Sea basin Maritime Council (CMF).
- The Departmental committees of Maritime Fisheries and Marine Aquaculture (CDPMEM, there are 7 departmental committees for the Mediterranean). They are part of the CMF.
- Fish producer organisations (OP) such as "OP du Sud", "OP du Levant" and "Sathoan".

Regarding local participatory initiatives (such as community-led local development groups, fisheries local action groups etc.), the Regional and Departmental Committees of Maritime Fisheries and Marine Aquaculture of the French Mediterranean (the CRPMEM and CDPMEM) are

involved in the various key steps of the DSF elaboration and revision, through their involvement in the CMF (façade maritime council) notably, and through their participation in workshops and meetings.

The phases of involvement were as follows:

The representatives of the Fisheries professional sector in French Mediterranean, the regional and departmental fisheries committees (CRPMEM and CDPMEM) are included in the CMF and therefore contribute to various key phases of the DSF elaboration and revision (source: https://www.dirm.mediterranee.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/2023_02_08_compte-rendu.pdf), notably through their participation in formal meetings and technical/participatory workshops. During the public consultation phase, the fisheries local committees formulate formal advice on text projects and maps.

Scientific experts are included through technical workshops notably and provide the scientific basis for the DSF elaboration and revision more generally.

National NGOs are included notably in CNML and can therefore make their voice heard at key phases of DSF elaboration and revision (such as "France Nature Environment", source: https://www.mer.gouv.fr/conseil-national-de-la-mer-et-des-littoraux-cnml).

The general public has been mainly consulted during the consultation phase following a proposal of revised strategic part of the DSF notably through the debate "*La mer en débat*" organised by the National commission of public debate CNDP (nov 23-April 24), and from May-Aug 2025 through online consultation regarding the proposal of revised DSF.

Considering the integration of expert and local knowledge, the elaboration and revision of the DSF is based on scientific studies including relevant data, analyses and sometimes recommendations. In addition, local knowledge on fisheries was integrated through local fisheries instances (CDPMEM and CRPMEM for instance) which have detailed knowledge of local practices, ecosystems and issues. Working groups to elaborate and revise the DSF included scientific experts but also local fisheries professional stakeholders and associations.

The methods used in participation were Formal meetings (e.g. through Maritime Façade Council - CMF -, at least once a year), participatory workshops, webinars, digital tools such as online platforms for the participatory debate.

In terms of the capacity of participants to influence decisions: the CDPMEM and CRPMEM are permanent members of the consultative bodies (Façade maritime councils -CMF-) that develop and revise the DSF, which allows them to influence strategic orientations and management measures. They can make recommendations, proposals, or criticisms directly in official meetings and in public debate. The general public can participate online by giving opinions and proposals (through the debate "*La mer en débat*" notably). They can also act through associations, NGOs... However, the ability of the general public to significantly influence planning decisions can be limited due to the technical complexity and specialized nature of the subject.

2.3.2 Aquaculture

Similar to the Fisheries sector.

2.3.3 Offshore Renewable Energy

Stakeholders involved. In addition to the stakeholders identified for the 4 sectors, specific stakeholders include:

professionals of the energy sector, including (i) wind farm operators, i.e. companies that develop, build and operate offshore wind farms (e.g. EDF Renouvelables, Engie), (ii) federations such as the Syndicate of renewable energies.

fishing and aquaculture stakeholders are involved to assert their interests regarding wind farm projects, as well as environmental organisations.

Phases of involvement. In the French Mediterranean, offshore wind industry professionals have been involved throughout key stages of MSP, from the national public debates coordinated by the CNDP (La Mer en Débat 2023–2024) where they provided input on environmental and technical challenges, to thematic workshops and consultations, providing technical information and advice regarding spatial zoning decisions.

Integration of expert and local knowledge. The elaboration and revision of the DSF is based on scientific studies including relevant data, analyses and sometimes recommendations. In addition, local knowledge about offshore wind has been integrated into the DSF through stakeholder consultations, including input from local communities, fishermen, and maritime professionals. Regional workshops and the public debate "*La Mer en débat*" provided platforms for sharing on-the-ground insights about environmental, social, and economic impacts of offshore wind projects.

Methods used in participation. Similar to the other sectors.

Capacity of participants to influence decisions. The general public could participate online by giving opinions and proposals (through the public debate "*La mer en débat*" notably). They were also able to act through associations or NGOs participating in the Maritime Council (CMF). However, the ability of the general public to significantly influence planning decisions is limited due to the technical complexity and specialized nature of the subject.

2.3.4 Nature protection

Similar to the other sectors, with some additional elements.

Some key national environmental NGOs are part of the national maritime council CNML and can therefore make their voice heard in key phases of DSF elaboration and revision (such as the environmental NGO "France Nature Environment", source: https://www.mer.gouv.fr/conseil-national-de-la-mer-et-des-littoraux-cnml).

The citizen science is mentioned twice:

- through the involvement of schools in marine educated areas, which are marine areas managed in a participative way by primary schools' students (see DSF part "Species, emblematic spaces");
- through the LIFE Marha project "*Engaging citizens in the monitoring of marine habitats by launching a coordinated participatory science program*" (see DSF part "Educate, raise awareness").

2.4 Cross-cutting elements

Cross-cutting elements refer in this context to objectives or measures linked to (i) research and innovation, (ii) education and training, and (iii) cross-border cooperation.

In general, for the four sectors, the DSF Mediterranean includes numerous objectives and measures linked to research, innovation, education and training. However, there are few references to cross-border cooperation.

More specifically:

Research and innovation elements in the DSF Mediterranean mainly refer to objectives and measures that aim to improve the understanding of ecosystem functioning and the existing and potential impacts of activities (floating offshore wind farms and fisheries in particular) on the environment. In the DSF, the need to increase the availability of reliable and high-quality data is frequently mentioned regarding the ORE sector. Innovation objectives or measures mainly focus on reducing the environmental impacts of the fishery and aquaculture sectors through transitioning to sustainable equipment (e.g. more selective fishing gears) and practices (e.g. multi-trophic aquaculture, environmental labelling of aquaculture farms).

Education and training related elements target both maritime professionals and the general public. Numerous objectives and measures are included in the DSF to raise awareness among stakeholders about best practices to reduce accidental captures and ocean pollution, and develop responsible practices and activities (e.g. diving, anchorage) with limited impact on species, habitats and ecosystems more generally (e.g. marine mammals, turtles, Posidonia seagrass or Posidonia beach wrack).

Finally, even though the cooperation across different stakeholders at the scale of the sea basin (or below) is mentioned, the topic of **cross-border cooperation** is rarely mentioned in the DSF. There is one mention of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) to strengthen the consideration of the sensitivity of deep-sea habitats in the Mediterranean; a mention of a cross-border project (SCRABBLEU) for the management of the invasive blue crab; a mention of the international MECO citizen science network; and the creation of a jointly developed zone with Italy, Monaco, and Spain to tackle the issue of collision risks for cetaceans.

2.4.1 Fisheries

Cross-cutting elements for the fisheries sector mainly refer to:

Objectives and measures to **improve the biological and ecological knowledge of some commercial species or species caught accidentally**, with a focus on elasmobranches;

Objectives and measures to **reduce accidental captures**, through (i) enhanced research efforts to better characterize accidental captures, (ii) awareness-raising among professional and recreational fishers regarding best practices to reduce bycatch (identification of species, gears used, reporting of observed interactions as part of the MSFD monitoring programme), and (iii) increased research and innovation efforts to improve the selectivity of fishing gears;

With respect to the **decarbonisation** of the fishing fleet, the DSF includes only **incentive-based measures** (rather than regulatory ones), which are: "continue and structure **research and innovation** efforts to reduce the environmental impact of vessels", "**share experiences** in the field of reducing and managing the energy consumption of vessels and provide appropriate support to fishers";

One measure aims to support fishing professionals in identifying best practices to **reduce waste generated from fishing net repairs**;

We should also report the mention of an example of **cross-border cooperation illustrated by the SCRABBLEU project** ("Solutions for the valorization of the blue crab", launched in 2019), in the context of the invasive blue crab that weakens local ecosystems. The aim of the project is to promote the valorization of blue crab landings in order to encourage professionals to fish it, thereby helping to limit its impact on coastal socio-ecosystems.

2.4.2 Aquaculture

Cross-cutting elements regarding aquaculture refer to **innovative aquaculture practices to diversify activities and make them more sustainable**. For instance, a measure aims to "*support sustainable **multi-activity** involving fishing and aquaculture and **develop emerging bioeconomy***

sectors *toward a stable environmental and economic model",* through notably the support of integrated multi-trophic aquaculture projects.

In addition, the DSF includes an action to support professional shellfish farming in identifying best practices to **reduce waste** generated by shellfish farming, and promote the dissemination of associated best practices.

2.4.3 Offshore Renewable Energy

The DSF includes several measures to create, collect, and disseminate data linked to ORE. Notably, the **establishment of a National Offshore Wind Observatory is a key measure,** expected to both support data availability and foster the generation of knowledge to reduce the environmental impacts of offshore wind farms.

Besides, a measure focuses on **improving the understanding and integration of cumulative effects** of human activities and ecological carrying capacity.

2.4.4 Nature protection

The topic of nature protection in the DSF is **largely tackled through cross-cutting actions targeting education, training and research approaches.**

Regarding **research and innovation**, numerous measures related to marine and coastal nature protection in the DSF promote **the increase in research efforts to improve the characterization and understanding of species' functioning and sensitivity to disturbance**. There is notably a focus made on red coral, since its ecological status remains insufficiently understood. In addition, the production and availability of data is mentioned through actions related to research and the need to better understand the functioning of ecosystems or species, and monitor species distribution and abundance.

Innovation measures target the reduction of collision risk between cetaceans and vessels, through the development of a real-time automatic localization method to improve the efficiency and use of REPCET and a system for sharing cetacean positions that can be used at night. In addition, a measure targets the development of an **integrated app providing regulations and relevant information on protected areas for recreational boating**. This cross-cutting action is expected to significantly contribute to reducing pressures from maritime activities on coastal ecosystems (e.g. intertidal rocky habitats, seagrass beds, coralligenous reefs), and to lowering the risks of collisions with marine turtles and marine mammals.

Regarding **education and training**, the DSF includes numerous objectives and measures, **targeting both maritime professionals and the general public**.

Regarding the maritime professionals, measures target:

- (i) the reduction and reporting of accidental captures, through a better awareness raising of fishers and the sharing of best practices;
- (ii) the management of invasive species, through awareness raising of MPA managers;
- (iii) the training of professionals regarding the REPCET system to limit interactions with cetaceans;
- (iv) the sharing of best practices linked to antifouling operations;
- (v) a better response capacity to accidental marine and coastal pollution through training actions in connections with the POLMAR contacts of the Departmental Directorates for Territories and the Sea (DDTM).

Regarding the general public, measures target:

- (i) the preservation of biodiversity through awareness-raising actions for the general

public on the ecological functioning and importance of marine and coastal ecosystems, such as Posidonia;

- (ii) the development of more respectful coastal and marine nature sports and recreational activities (through information sharing, awareness raising and training, tools for knowledge-sharing, and regulation) targeting both the general public and water sport instructors. Activities targeted notably include diving, anchoring and mooring in ports and on water bodies;
- (iii) the reduction of ocean pollution from waste through (a) enhanced information and education on ocean pollution from waste for school children; a sub-action includes the rolling out of the participatory science platform "Zero Wild Waste"; and (b) the expansion of the "Plastic-Free Beach" charter initiative;
- (iv) the development of marine environmental education projects in schools, as well as the expansion of the network of Educational Marine Areas (EMAs)—small coastal zones managed by students in grades 4 to 6 under a charter-based participatory model. A sub-action focuses on strengthening the links between EMAs and MPAs, to promote alignment and mutual integration of their objectives and those of the MSFD, particularly through consistency with the MPA strategy.

A1.3 Country assessment - Greece

In Greece MSP is performed at two levels: the national and the (inter)regional. At the national level, the National Spatial Strategy for the Marine Space was adopted in April 2025 (National Gazette ΦΕΚ 227/Δ/17-4-2025). It was approved by the Council of Ministers and notified to the Parliament. At the (inter)regional level, four (4) Maritime Spatial Planning Frameworks (MSP Frameworks) will be eventually adopted. So far, only one is close to its finalisation, the one for the North Aegean Sea. This MSP Framework (for the North Aegean Sea) was prepared before the adoption of the National Spatial Strategy for the Marine Space and before the adoption of the technical specifications for the elaboration of the MSP Frameworks, therefore it needs revision to adapt to these documents. This revision will also need to consider the relevant Regional Plans for Climate Change Adaptation, the Special Management Plans referring to the MPAs located in the North Aegean Sea (pending approval), the National Offshore Wind Parks Development Programme (pending approval) as well as the Special (sectoral) Spatial Plans for Tourism, ORE and Aquaculture (currently under revision).

The information provided in the following sections derive from both documents (the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space and the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea).

3.1 Sectoral EGD-related elements in MSP plans

3.1.1 Fisheries

Fisheries constitute one of the main marine economic activities of Greece, offering many job opportunities and income, especially to coastal and insular communities. The National Spatial Strategy for the marine space integrates the vision as well as the goals for fisheries, as included in the Fishing, Aquaculture and Sea Program (FASP) 2021-2027, that fully aligns with the priorities set by the EU policies and especially the Farm to Fork Strategy. The draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea (where about 70% of the country's total catches is collected), is aligned with the National Spatial Strategy, without setting more detailed goals for this marine region.

Climate change mitigation is a key objective for fisheries, included both in the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space as well as in the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea. In particular, both documents recognise the need for a lower environmental footprint of all fishing activities. Specific measures that are included serving this objective regard: the use of environmentally friendly fishing techniques and the promotion/encouragement of synergies between fisheries and offshore renewable energy (ORE) for smarter and more efficient use of the marine space while supporting the shift to a low-carbon economy.

Adaptation of the fisheries **to the climate change effects** is central in both the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space and the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea. Both documents are aligned with the goals and measures set by the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP). Among the measures promoting climate change adaptation, the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea makes special reference to the development of green infrastructure (aiming at coastal resilience and marine connectivity) and nature-based solutions (such as artificial reefs).

Sustainable seafood production and food security is a clearly set objective in both documents (the National Spatial Strategy and the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea) and fisheries is a key sector to support this goal. The measures to this end include: fishing practices aiming at maintaining the integrity and productivity of the marine ecosystems and by association the fish stocks in the Greek seas, the use of zoning as a tool for introducing spatio-temporal restrictions for professional fishers, the improvement of the processing and marketing of fishery products to maximise the offer to the markets. The draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea also recognises the urgent need to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated

fishing through enhanced control measures and mechanisms to prevent overfishing. The draft MSP Framework also aligns with the EU Farm to Fork Strategy.

According to the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space and the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea, the growth of fisheries is promoted under a strong commitment to preserve the marine and coastal ecosystems. **Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration** is a goal that is ensured through several measures, included both in the National Spatial Strategy and the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea, such as: the designation of fishing restriction zones (aiming at rehabilitating degraded marine habitats) and the endorsement of eco-friendly fishing practices within sensitive ecosystems following sustainable development standards. Other measures included in the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea concern the development of mechanisms to prevent overfishing and to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

No specific objectives or measures related to the **blue circular economy** are included in the National Spatial Strategy or the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea, relevant to the fisheries sector.

Both documents (i.e. the National Spatial Strategy and the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea) integrate the Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and by association they favour **zero pollution** targets. Both documents recognise the need towards a lower environmental footprint of all fishing activities and also encourage environmentally friendly and sustainable practices to strengthen the larger commitment to reduce marine pollution.

3.1.2 Aquaculture

The aquaculture sector is a highly developed and dynamic part of the Greek economy, not only meeting domestic demand but also exporting the majority of its products, primarily to EU countries. Equally important is the employment in the aquaculture sector and its contribution to local development. The National Spatial Strategy for the marine space integrates the vision as well as the goals for aquaculture, as included in the Fishing, Aquaculture and Sea Program (FASP) 2021-2027, that fully aligns with the priorities set by the EU policies and especially the Farm to Fork Strategy. Moreover, the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for the Development of Aquaculture 2021-2030 states as a strategic objective the environmentally, economically and socially sustainable development of aquaculture. It also sets quantitative growth targets of an average growth of three percent (3.0%) by 2025 and five percent (5.0%) by 2030. The sector is particularly well-developed and continues to grow dynamically in the North Aegean Sea, strengthening this marine region's role within the productive system of the country.

According to the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space and the draft Marine Spatial Plan for the North Aegean Sea, the aquaculture sector can play a double role towards **climate change mitigation**. First, by promoting energy efficiency of the aquaculture sector and second, by contributing to the renewable energy production (by allowing the establishment of ORE within aquaculture zones). For example, the National Spatial Strategy encourages the development of aquaculture units for the cultivation, collection and production of biofuel from algae. On the other hand, measures included in the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea towards climate change mitigation, include the integration of aquaculture with offshore renewable energy installations (wind and solar energy), to maximize energy efficiency of the sector and at the same time improve space utilization by promoting multi-use of the marine space.

Both documents (i.e. the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space and the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea) recognize the need to strengthen the resilience of aquaculture to the impacts of climate change. While there are no specifically stated objectives about **climate change adaptation** in aquaculture, the protection of climate-sensitive marine and coastal biodiversity can be seen as aligned with aquaculture adaptation goals.

Both documents (i.e. the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space and the draft Marine Spatial Plan for the North Aegean Sea) highlight the crucial role of the aquaculture sector in ensuring **sustainable seafood production** as well as in ensuring national food security. Measures proposed by the National Spatial Strategy to support this objective include the promotion of organic aquaculture through the implementation of certification programs. On the other hand, objectives found in the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea, include the promotion of sustainable aquaculture practices as well as processing and marketing of aquaculture products, increasing the industry's competitiveness and sustainability. Measures to support these objectives by the draft MSP Framework include the energy efficiency of the sector through ORE, the finalization of zoning plans and the establishment of Aquaculture Parks as well as the promotion of the siting of new aquaculture units in uninhabited islands to avoid pressure in touristic areas.

According to the Spatial Strategy for the marine space and the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea, the aquaculture sector must grow in a way that **biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration** is ensured. The National Spatial Strategy – which is aligned with the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for the Development of Aquaculture 2021-2030 - encourages the integration of appropriate aquaculture activities in protected areas with the guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive sector, as well as the development of deep-water restoration facilities. More detailed measures introduced by the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea favor eco-friendly aquaculture practices within sensitive ecosystems following sustainable development standards, but also the restriction or regulation of aquaculture operations in ecologically sensitive areas (such as seagrass meadows of Posidonia oceanica, Landscapes of Outstanding Natural Beauty, etc), which play a vital role in maintaining marine ecosystem balance. Additionally, regarding "Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs)", the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea discourages the siting of aquaculture units in areas identified as important fishing grounds, nursery zones, fish breeding sites, and critical marine habitats. Simultaneously, the possibility for aquaculture to coexist within marine protected areas is acknowledged, provided that such development complies with existing legislative frameworks and management plans that ensure biodiversity protection. Aligning with the second objective, which focuses on the restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems, the draft MSP Framework proposes the removal of existing aquaculture units from degraded marine environments in order to encourage habitat recovery.

Objectives or measures supporting **blue circular economy** in the aquaculture sector are missing from both documents, i.e. the Spatial Strategy for the marine space and the draft Marine Spatial Plan for the North Aegean Sea.

The goal of **zero pollution** is partially integrated in the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space and the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea. A key objective for the aquaculture sector in both documents is pollution prevention. Specific measures that especially the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea includes to support this goal, regard the promotion of low environmental footprint and sustainable aquaculture practices as well as the promotion of synergies between aquaculture and ORE (such as off-shore wind farms and floating solar panels) that not only enhances space efficiency but also aligns sustainability principles, offering a pathway to lower emissions.

3.1.3 Offshore Renewable Energy

So far, the renewable energy sector in Greece is regulated by a sectoral spatial plan (the National Spatial Framework for RES) that was adopted in 2008 (National Gazette No 2464/B/03.12.2008) and is currently under revision. Additionally, after the adoption of the "National Energy and Climate Plan - NECP" in 2019 (which fully integrates the European Green Deal goals), the country set the climate goal for carbon emissions reduction by more than 56% by 2030 (compared to 2005). This is expected to be achieved through the promotion of RES over lignite with a goal to

decommission the latter completely by 2028 and expand the presence of the former from 18% to at least 35% by 2030. These objectives are further supported by national legislation such as the National Climate Law (Law 4936 of 2022) and Law 4964 of 2022 about the installation of offshore windfarms and the drat National Offshore Wind Parks Development Programme (which is fully aligned with the National Energy and Climate Plan - NECP).

Both documents (i.e. the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space and the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea) are fully aligned with the draft National Offshore Wind Parks Development Program and seek to harness the potential of ORE for a climate-neutral future and **climate change mitigation**. The goal for clean energy transition as well as independence of energy production from fossil fuels of maritime sectors (e.g. aquaculture) is especially highlighted in the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea. Following the goals set by National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP), which are integrated in both documents (i.e. the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space and the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea), the long-term goal is to reduce the greenhouse emissions at least by 55% by 2050, whilst the midterm goal for ORE (by 2030) is to contribute by 45.4% in the gross final energy consumption of the country and by 76,8% in the gross electricity consumption (of the country). Specific measures included in the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space and the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea, highlight the need to allocate ORE zones for wind farms (fixed and floating) as well as of floating solar panels. In the mid-term planning, the aim is to establish installations for the exploitation of wave and tidal energy, as well as installations oriented towards the commercial exploitation of algae for the production of biofuels. Another relevant measure also regards the development of technologies for energy storage.

Both the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space and the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea recognize the role of ORE in **climate change adaptation**. Additionally, the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea also encourages the use of "Smart Networks" to enhance resilience against climate-related hazards. Another measure favors the use of ORE installations to serve as green infrastructure (e.g. artificial reefs). Artificial reefs can promote habitat restoration, which can also help in climate adaptation goals by helping reduce wave action and erosion in coastlines.

Both documents, i.e. the National Spatial Strategy and the draft MSP Framework address indirectly the contribution of ORE into **sustainable seafood production**, by promoting synergies between fisheries, aquaculture and ORE. The draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea encourages the co-location of the aquaculture and ORE sectors to support a more robust and sustainable seafood production model. The integration of ORE installations inside aquaculture farms is promoted and presents prospects for energy self-sufficiency. Furthermore, the draft MSP Framework suggests that ORE installations could serve as artificial reefs, improving local fish stocks and promoting ecosystem recovery. Fisheries are also conditionally permitted within ORE zones, depending on site-specific management plans, optimizing the spatial and functional coexistence of ORE and seafood production activities.

Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration is not a straightforward target corelated to the ORE sector and installations. A common objective for the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space and the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea, is that the siting and installation of wind and floating solar panel parks do not disturb the ecological balance, especially within marine protected areas and they do not compromise security and national defence objectives. To support this objective, the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea sets measures that promote synergies between aquaculture and ORE, not only for resource efficiency but also for the protection and restoration of ecosystems.

No specific objectives or measures related to the **blue circular economy** are included in the National Spatial Strategy or the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea.

Zero pollution: Both documents (i.e. the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space and the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea) favour the use of ORE to reduce the environmental footprint of the energy sector, something that aligns with broader national and EU commitments for the decarbonization and the minimization of marine and coastal pollution.

3.1.4 Nature protection

Both the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space as well as the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea recognize the contribution of marine protected areas and other sensitive ecosystems to the **mitigation of the climate change effects**. To this end, and especially the draft MSP Framework permits and promotes the establishment of ORE (e.g. offshore solar panel farms and geothermal energy) within MPAs, provided that this synergy is allowed and promoted by the relevant Special Environmental Management Plans.

Respectively, both the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space as well as the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea highlight the importance of environmental protection and marine protected areas in enhancing resilience and **adaptation to the climate change effects**. Although the draft MSP Framework does not specifically list any measures, it emphasizes how crucial environment preservation is to fostering resilience by preserving biodiversity and ecosystem services.

As regards the goal of **sustainable seafood production**, both documents (i.e. the National Spatial Strategy and or the MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea) highlight the importance of nature conservation and marine protected areas (MPAs) in contributing to national food security through the safeguard of marine ecosystems, and by association of fish stocks. As a measure, both documents promote the specialization of regulations for the practice of fishing in areas of environmental interest and protected areas in order to minimize fishing impacts on vulnerable habitats. Moreover, both documents also highlight the relevance of preserving marine water quality to ensure the production of high-quality aquaculture products.

As regards **biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration**, the commitment to maintain good environmental status of marine and coastal ecosystems is emphasized in both documents (i.e. the National Spatial Strategy and or the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea). Both documents are aligned with the EU policies and goals towards building a coherent network of MPAs and biodiversity. The National Spatial Strategy for the marine space calls for the promotion of anti-pollution technologies for the protection of the sea and asks for stricter regulations regarding the practice of marine uses with MPAs and sensitive ecosystems, to minimise relevant impacts to marine ecosystems. The draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea too, prioritizes the conservation and sustainable management of existing and future activities within MPAs, aiming to preserve both natural and cultural assets. Special emphasis is also given in the land sea interactions, towards reducing the impacts of land-based uses and infrastructure found close to MPAs and sensitive ecosystems. Other objectives included in both documents regard protection against water pollution, conservation of the coastal landscape and enhancement of the cultural heritage. As regards specific measures, these should be set at the local scale, for each MPA separately. In Greece, these measures are provided by the management plans of each MPA (not yet adopted for all the MPAs of the North Aegean Sea). Finally, other knowledge-based measures included in the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea, regard the promotion of research, education and training, aiming to strengthen informed decision-making in marine and coastal zones and allow for biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration.

None of the documents (i.e. the National Spatial Strategy or the Plan for the North Aegean Sea) define a vision or objective under **blue circular economy** and nature protection. However, they indirectly support its principles through targeted measures. More specifically, the draft MSP Framework focuses on the upgrade of waste collection systems in coastal touristic areas. This

measure is part of the land-sea interactions (LSIs), emphasizing the need for sustainable wastewater management from coastal settlements and tourism-related infrastructure thus recognizing the pressure these activities place on coastal ecosystems. To this end, land-use plans are required to detail and specialize protection and management measures, ensuring that terrestrial activities do not undermine the marine and coastal ecosystems. Another measure to support blue circular economy regards the development of units for the collection and processing of dead Posidonia Oceanica meadows.

Even though not explicitly stated as a goal, both documents (i.e. the National Spatial Strategy or the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea) acknowledge the indirect but crucial role that MPAs and nature conservation have in helping to achieve **zero pollution** targets. Both documents set the goal of protection of marine waters from pollution. Apart from setting restrictions on many sea-uses within MPAs and sensitive areas, the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea, further sets restrictions for the development of industries in the coastal zone of MPAs with only some exceptions (e.g. for salt marshes and desalination facilities). Furthermore, it discourages new port installations (of any kind) in MPAs, with exceptions only for very small facilities that allow access to these areas.

3.2 Zoning provisions

3.2.1 Fisheries

The Greek marine space is by default open to fishing activity, with the exception of certain zones that restrictions apply for certain fishing techniques and practices. These zones are introduced by the Ministry for Rural Development and Food which is the competent authority for fisheries covering all parts of Greece.

As stated in the draft MSP Framework, the whole area of the North Aegean Sea could potentially be a fishing ground. As regards the exceptions, these are provided by the management plans for the existing MPAs, or by other special zones including spatio-temporal restrictions. In the North Aegean Sea, restriction zones for certain fishing practices exist in a set of areas, of varying size (in Alexandroupoli, Volos, Thessaloniki, Ierissos, Kimi, Mirina, Porto Lagos, Samothrace, Skala Atalantis and Skiathos).

Fishing restrictions also apply in areas with diving parks. There is a fifty (50) meter safety zone where fishing and navigation are prohibited, and beyond that a two hundred and fifty (250) meter buffer zone is set for controlled soft fishing practices (carried out by recreational and professional coastal fishing vessels). In areas of artificial underwater attractions, fisheries are also restricted, in a buffer zone with a fifty (50) meters perimeter.

Regarding purse seine and trawl fishing there are specific regulations for the permitted areas to limit their environmental impact. Purse seine fishing is allowed at a 300 meters distance from the coast and up to the isocontour of -50 meters. In case the -50 isocontour is met before the 300 meters distance from the shore, purse seine fishing can take place in areas that the depth is over 70% of the tool's height. Trawl fishing is not allowed within 1.5 and 3 nautical miles distance for the shore, always excluding marine areas where the depth is less than 50 meters. Additionally, fish trawling and purse seine fishing are prohibited where marine vegetation (in particular Posidonia oceanica or other marine flora). Purse seine fishing is also prohibited where coral habitats and calcareous beds are found. These restrictions are horizontal, across the country.

It should be noted that in general fishing grounds are considered areas where other sectors may be developed (e.g. ORE and underwater antiquities).

3.2.2 Aquaculture

The aquaculture sector in Greece is regulated by the National Spatial Plan/Framework for aquaculture, that was adopted in 2011 (National Gazette No 2505/B/04.11.2011) and is currently under revision. This Plan/Framework organises the aquaculture sector by introducing the following types of areas suitable for the development of aquaculture:

- Category A: Overdeveloped areas
- Category B: Developing areas
- Category C: Isolated areas with significant potential
- Category D: Sensitive areas (rich in natural and cultural resources)
- Category E: Low intensity areas

Within these categories different regulations apply. Only in Categories A to D is possible to develop Aquaculture Parks (i.e. to allow high concentration of the aquaculture activity).

In the North Aegean Sea, large concentrations of fish farms are primarily observed in the northern Euboean Gulf, Chios, Lesvos (notably in the Gulf of Geras, where significant terrestrial and marine aquaculture infrastructure exists), and in Halkidiki. According to the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Sea Program 2021–2027, Halkidiki is designated as a national hub for fish production and a key development area for the aquaculture sector, hosting a fish farm of national significance. The development of shellfish farming is also dynamic, mainly concentrated in the Thermaikos Gulf, and to a lesser extent in areas located in Halkidiki (Strymonikos Gulf) and Eastern Macedonia and Thrace Region (Kavala Gulf, Visthonia Bay).

In the North Aegean Sea, and according to the National Spatial Plan/Framework for aquaculture (of 2011), there are four (4) overdeveloped areas, eleven (11) developing areas and one (1) sensitive area. These areas are presented below (no details are provided regarding their size).

Suitable areas for aquaculture in the North Aegean Sea

Regions	**Category A** Overdeveloped areas	**Category B** Developping areas	**Cateogry D** Sensitive areas
Central Macedonia	Thermaikos Gulf Chalastra - Michaniona	Ambelos Sithonias Ierissos Strymonikos Gulf	
Central Greece	Larimna-Scorponeria Atalanti Maliakos Gulf Diavlos Oreon	Kandili (N. Euboean Gulf) Stomio	
Eastern Macedonia and Thrace		Irakleitsa – Nea Peramos Agiasma – Keramoti – Erasmio Maronia	Vistonikos Bay
North Aegean	Lagada – Kardamyla – Oinousses	Baloutsos Skalochoriou Gera Lesvou Kalloni Gulf*	

* *The draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea – opposing to the National Spatial Framework for Aquaculture - suggests that no Aquaculture Park is established in this area (in order to allow the restoration of the concerned ecosystem).*

Within the abovementioned suitable areas, two (2) Aquaculture Parks have been established with a total surface of 12.77 km^2 and six (6) are pending establishment (covering 52.94 km^2) as shown below.

Region	**Location**	**Established**	**Surface (km^2)**

Central Greece	North and South Euboean Gulf	No	22.186
	Maliakos Gulf	No	4.638
	Larymna Atalanti area	No	15.681
Central Macedonia	Pieria (Thermaikos Gulf)	Yes	12.085
	Chalkidiki (Ambelos)	Yes	0.689
	Thermaikos Gulf	No	-
North Aegean	Lesvos	No	1.911
	Chios	No	8.525

According to the existing legislation, aquaculture is prohibited in areas with Posidonia Oceanica, cables or transfer pipes, maritime routes and areas reserved for military defence. Aquaculture is permitted in MPAs, following specific restrictions ensuring the protection of the sensitive marine ecosystems. The draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea encourages the combination and synergy of aquaculture with tourism activities (e.g. agrotourism, diving etc.) and with ORE (i.e. floating solar panels).

3.2.3 Offshore Renewable Energy

The National Off-shore Wind Parks Development Program (which is pending adoption) is the one to provide regulations and guidelines for the zoning and siting of offshore wind farms in Greece. In its draft version, this National Program proposes twenty-three (23) high potential areas for the siting of Offshore Wind Parks across the Greek marine waters that cover a total area of 2,359 km^2 with an estimated capacity of 11,795 MW (11.8 GW). Out of these areas, 2,076 km^2 have been designated for floating wind turbines with an estimated capacity of 10,380 MW (10.4 GW) and 283 km^2 for fixed wind turbines with an estimated capacity of 1,415MW (1.4 GW). Moreover, this Program proposes two (2) more pilot areas in the North Aegean Sea, up to a total capacity of six hundred (600) MW (the broader marine area for the development of pilot projects is designated by Law 4964/2022, as amended by Law 5151/2024).

The draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea was drafted before the National Offshore Wind Parks Development Program (which is pending adoption), however within the draft MSP Framework it is stated that the latter will *"set the main principles for the planning, development, siting, installation and operation of offshore wind parks, as well as the mid-term and long-term capacity targets of the projects"*, thus fully incorporating its guidelines. In the National Offshore Wind Parks Development Program five (5) high potential areas for the siting of Offshore Wind Parks (additional to the two pilot projects mentioned above) are proposed.

Proposed high potential areas for the siting of Off-shore Wind Parks in the North Aegean Sea

Name	Type of installation	Surface Area (km^2)	Power (MW)
Pilot projects			
Alexandroupoli coasts	Fixed	-	-
Samothraki island	Fixed	-	-
	Subtotal	353	600
Mid-term projects (up to 2030)			
Chios	Floating	66	330
Psara	Floating	58	290
	Subtotal	124	620
Long-term projects (after 2030)			
Ag. Efstratios 1a	Fixed	50	250
Ag. Efstratios 1b	Floating	75	375
Ag. Efstratios 2	Floating	161	805
	Subtotal	286	1,430
	TOTAL	763	2,650

Source: Draft National Off-shore Wind Parks Development Program

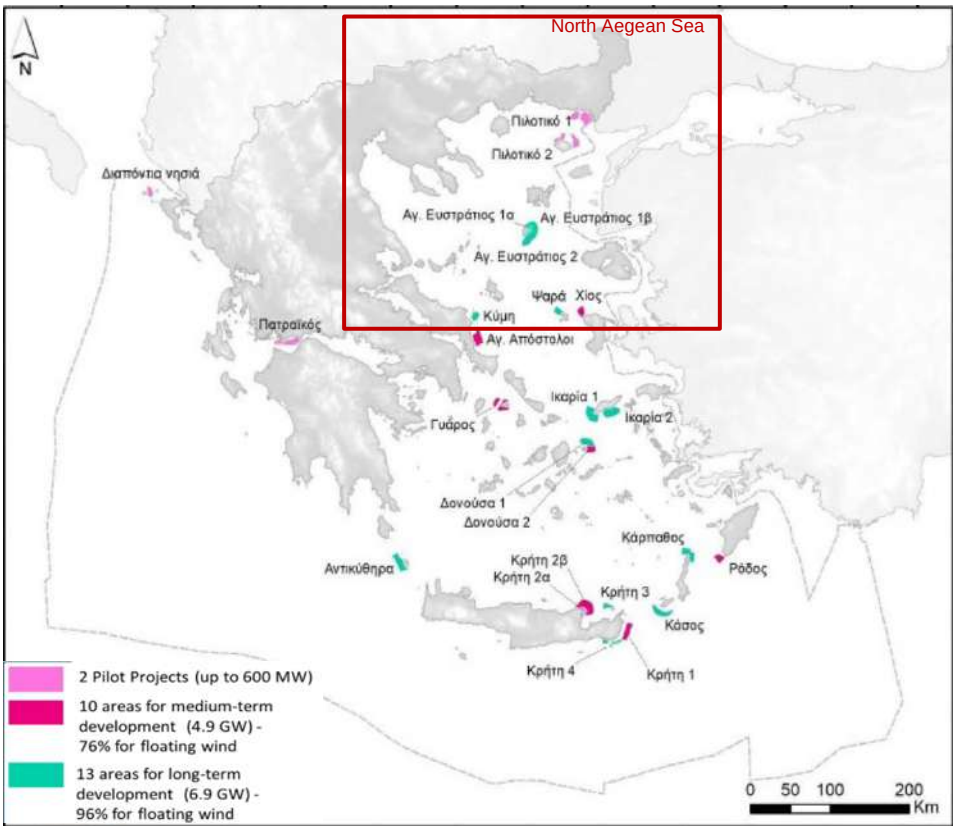


Figure 7 - Map of proposed high potential areas for the siting of Off-shore Wind Parks in the North Aegean Sea Source: Draft National Off-shore Wind Parks Development Program

As regards more detailed siting criteria, the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea (in line with the adopted Special Spatial Plan for Renewable Energy that is under revision) proposes that small-sized wind power farms are located at distances not less than 5 nautical miles. Small-sized wind power farms, in some cases, can also be located between 3 n.m. and 5 n.m. in marine zones that are not near developed tourism destinations.

Currently, there are no ORE installations in the North Aegean Sea. According to the Energy Regulatory Authority, ORE production permits have been issued in the areas of Alexandroupoli and Lemnos island. More applications for wind parks installations are under consideration for the above areas, Agios Efstratios and Kimi. As regards ORE installations other than offshore wind parks, the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea, in line with the National Strategy for the marine space, promotes the installation of solar panels. Additionally, the draft MSP Framework permits - in accordance with Law 4951/2022 - pilot installations of solar panels in the North Aegean Sea with a capacity of half (0.5 MW) to one megawatt (1 MW) per installation.

Synergies between ORE (both wind turbines and solar panels) and aquaculture are promoted by the draft MSP Framework within Aquaculture Parks for the achievement of positive combined effects. Lastly, ORE should not compromise security and national defence objectives.

3.2.4 Nature protection

Following EU and international policies, the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space – which is in accordance with the Sectoral Development Programme of the Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy – sets the goal that the Natura sites and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

should reach 30% of the total surface of the Greek Territorial Waters (whilst 10% of this area should become under strict protection status). At the national level, these percentages from 2017 onwards, amount to: 28% of terrestrial space and 22% of marine space.

The North Aegean Sea has a rich and sensitive marine ecosystem that is protected by a plethora of protection sites. Today, 59 Natura 2000 sites are located in the marine and coastal space of the North Aegean Sea, of which 33 concern SACs and 26 SPAs. More specifically, eleven (11) are located in Eastern Macedonia and Thrace Region, seventeen (17) in Central Macedonia Region, seven (7) in Thessaly Region, nine (9) in Central Greece Region and fifteen (15) in North Aegean Region. Of these areas: a) 21 are located entirely or for the most part (> 75% of their total area) within the sea, b) 6 are located to a large extent (50 - 75% of their total area) within the sea, c) 9 are located to a significant extent (25 - 50% of their total area) within the sea and d) the remaining 23 are located to a small extent (< 25% of their total area) within the sea. These occupy 10.13% (1,148,746.69 ha) of the North Aegean Sea and contain a large number of sensitive habitats such as Posidonia Oceanica.

Additionally, most of these sites are also under protection status by the Greek legislation. In the North Aegean Sea, there are four (4) National Parks. Only one of the four (Northern Sporades) falls entirely within a marine and island area, and the rest include parts of coastal areas. One hundred twenty-two (122) small wetlands are identified in the North Aegean Sea, with most of them located within a Natura 2000 protected site. Their total area amounts to 298 hectares with the smallest wetland being 0.14 hectares and the largest 13.62 hectares. The National Parks and most of the small island wetlands are located within the Natura 2000 network.

As regards the planning restrictions and regulations applied within the above mentioned MPAs, they will be included in twenty-three (23) in total management Plans that will be eventually approved in the country. In the case of North Aegean Sea, eight (8) management plans will eventually be adopted. So far only three (3) have been approved.

3.3 Fair and just transition

As mentioned in previous sections, the **National Spatial Strategy for the marine space** of Greece is the only document adopted (April 2025). As regards its consultation, it was organised in two contexts: first, between the Ministry for the Environment and Energy and the relevant Ministries (having sectoral responsibility on marine sectors) and second within the National Council for Spatial Planning (ΕΣΧ) which constitutes the supreme consultation body for the pending adoption spatial plans referring at the national and regional level. Consultations in the above contexts took place in 2022 on the basis of the final draft of the Strategy. According to the existing legislation (Law 4759/2020), the relevant Ministries involved in the consultation of the National Spatial Strategy are the ones for: Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy (with advanced role), Economy and Finance, Development and Investments, Civil Protection, National Defence, Culture, Interior, Rural Development and Food, and Tourism.

As regards the National Council for Spatial Planning, it brings together twenty (20) representatives from the following bodies: the Association of Greek Regions, the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece, the Technical Chamber of Greece, the Geotechnical Chamber of Greece, the Economic Chamber of Greece, the Hellenic Chamber of Hotels, the Greek Tourism Confederation, the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises, the Hellenic Association of Business Parks, the Hellenic Confederation of Commerce and Entrepreneurship, the Hellenic Property Federation, the General Confederation of Greek Workers, the Hellenic Confederation of Professionals, Craftsmen, and Merchants, the Union of Hellenic Chambers of Commerce, the National Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Greece, the Association of Greek Spatial Planning Engineers, the Association of Greek Planners and two NGOs. The synthesis of this Council also includes two senior experts in the field of spatial planning.

Apart from these consultations, in 2022 the National Spatial Strategy underwent consultation with the general public, through the online platform provided by the Ministry for the Environment and Energy. All comments introduced were open to the public, adding a character of transparency in the procedure. As part of the process – and in order to ensure wider participation in the public consultation process – a set of conferences/workshops were organized (in Athens, Thessaloniki, Chania and Volos). In these procedures gender equality was sought after. It is worth mentioning that due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings, workshops and conferences were limited in number.

The great majority of the input and comments provided (and especially those coming from the relevant Ministries and the National Council for Spatial Planning) were fully integrated into the adopted National Spatial Strategy for the marine space.

On the other hand, as regards the **draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea** (which is not yet finalised) no participatory procedures have taken place yet. According to the national legislation (Law 4546/2018, as amended by Law 4759/2020), all MSP Frameworks have to undergo consultation within the National Spatial Planning Council and all the Ministries having sectoral responsibility on marine sectors (see above). The final draft of the SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) of each MSP Framework is also subjected to consultation with the general public. According to the national legislation (Law 4546 of 2018, art.9) stakeholders' participation should take place at all phases of the maritime spatial planning process, under an inclusive basis.

3.3.1 Fisheries

Fishers are organised in associations both at the national and at the local level. During the drafting of the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space, the sector was represented in the official meetings of the National Council for Spatial Planning through the National Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Greece and the Geotechnical Chamber of Greece. Their interests were also communicated during the consultation between the competent authority for MSP (Ministry for the Environment and Energy) and the Ministry for Rural Development and Food. Fishers also participated in the online consultation, organized by the Ministry for the Environment and Energy. Fishers also had the opportunity to participate in the (few) workshops/conferences that were organized (e.g. in Chania, Volos, etc).

Advanced participation of fishers is expected to take place as part of the consultation procedures for the adoption of the MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea (and the rest of the Frameworks -4 in total). It should be noted though that fishers (that constitute a traditional marine profession), face many challenges in terms of influencing planning decisions.

3.3.2 Aquaculture

The aquaculture sector is also organised in associations both at the national and at the local level. Again, during the drafting of the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space, this sector was represented in the official meetings of the National Council for Spatial Planning through the National Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Greece, the Geotechnical Chamber of Greece and the Hellenic Association of Business Parks. The interests of the sector were also communicated during the consultation between the competent authority for MSP (Ministry for the Environment and Energy) and the Ministry for Rural Development and Food. Relevant stakeholders (e.g. aquaculture firms, management authorities of designated Aquaculture Parks and professionals) also had the opportunity to provide comments during the consultation period, in the online platform (provided by the Ministry for the Environment and Energy). Some of those also had the opportunity to participate in the workshops/conferences organized in a few places around Greece.

In Greece, the aquaculture sector is well established and sufficiently influential. Advanced participation of the aquaculture sector is expected to take place as part of the consultation process for the adoption of MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea (and the rest of the MSP Frameworks - 4 in total).

3.3.3 Offshore Renewable Energy

The ORE sector and the relevant firms operate at the national (and international) level and they are not organised in associations, bodies etc. During the drafting of the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space, the energy sector was represented in the official meetings of the National Council for Spatial Planning through the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises, the Hellenic Association of Business Parks. It is worth noting that the competent authority for MSP is also responsible for the energy sector (Ministry for the Environment and Energy). This means that the interests of this sector were considered early in the drafting of the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space. Moreover, there is a sectoral Spatial Plan for the development of ORE in Greece, which is under revision. Also, there is a National Off-shore wind farms Development Program, under preparation. As a result, the participation of ORE stakeholders in the consultation of the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space was very limited. In Greece, the ORE sector is upcoming and sufficiently influential.

3.3.4 Nature protection

There is a plethora of NGOs, institutes, associations, committees etc, with a focus on environmental protection, operating both at the national and at the local level. Representatives from two of them, participate in the National Council for Spatial Planning. At the same time the competent authority for MSP is also responsible for the environment (Ministry for the Environment and Energy).

During the drafting of the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space, comments on nature protection prevailed compared to all other sectors and topics. These comments were either communicated during the meetings of the National Council for Spatial Planning or during the online consultation with the general public (in the platform provided by the Ministry for the Environment and Energy). Stakeholders commenting on nature protection varied among research institutes, NGOs, public authorities, experts, etc. The competent authority for MSP worked closely with the NGOs, institutes etc. of a national range, and in many cases their recommendations were integrated in the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space.

Advanced participation of stakeholders supporting nature protection is expected in the consultation process for the adoption of the four (4) MSP Frameworks (and especially the one for the North Aegean Sea, which is close to its finalisation).

3.4 Cross-cutting elements

3.4.1 Fisheries

Research and innovation in the fisheries sector is mainly addressed by the state with the draft MSP Framework having some reference to it. Data availability and high resolution of data is one of the matters that are centrally addressed by the Greek state with the draft MSP Framework not tackling the issue. A National Committee that will be responsible for all types of geospatial data, for all sectors and marine ecosystems will be soon established for this purpose. Additionally, according to the National Spatial Strategy, the country is also committed to collect fisheries data and environmental indicators as defined Regulation 2017/1004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 establishing a Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy. The draft MSP Framework promotes research in fisheries, but no specific measures are mentioned. As regards **education and training**, they are not addressed neither in the National Spatial Strategy nor the draft MSP Framework. The same applies to **cross border**

cooperation in fisheries apart from some agreements between Greece and Italy (in the Ionian Sea).

3.4.2 Aquaculture

Research and innovation in the aquaculture sector is also mainly centrally addressed with a few mentions in the draft MSP Framework. Data availability and high resolution of data is addressed the same as the fisheries sector. Research in this sector is addressed in the National Spatial Strategy by promoting the development of marine biotechnology in order to exploit marine living organisms for the creation of innovative products and tools. This will assist to increase the development rate of blue biotechnology as well as the number of jobs. More specifically the National Spatial Strategy promotes seaweed (algae) biofuel cultivation, collection and production units; dead plant collection and processing units for Posidonia Oceanica; marine fungi cultivation, collection and processing units for the pharmaceutical industry; and deep-sea restoration units. The draft MSP Framework also favors research related to aquaculture but with no specific measures named. **Education and training** and **cross border cooperation** are not mentioned in either document regarding aquaculture.

3.4.3 Offshore Renewable Energy

Research and innovation regarding offshore renewable energy is addressed by the National Spatial Strategy. Regarding data availability and high resolution of data, the same to the other sectors also applies to ORE. As far as innovation is concerned, the National Spatial Strategy promotes the gradual development of innovative renewable energy technologies, such as wave energy and floating solar parks. **Education and training** and **cross border cooperation** are not mentioned in either document regarding ORE.

3.4.4 Nature protection

Nature protection is mentioned in both documents (the National Spatial Strategy and the draft MSP Framework) in the context of **research and innovation**. Data availability and high resolution of data is also addressed centrally, as the previous sectors. The draft MSP Framework also favors research related to nature protection and monitoring of the ecosystems, as well as geological and archaeological research but without specific measures. **Education and training** and **cross border cooperation** are not mentioned in either document regarding nature protection.

A1.4 Country assessment - Italy

4.1 Sectoral EGD-related elements in MSP plans

4.1.1 Fisheries

This sector is explicitly mentioned in the vision. Moreover, the plans include a set of strategic objectives related to fisheries and valid at the national level, within the entire spatial scope of MSP plans. Specific objectives related to fisheries at the regional level are included too, relevant for sub-areas under regional competence. Finally, the plans include a set of national measures related to this sector.

Regarding **Climate change mitigation**, the vision foresees that the MSP plans should contribute to this EGD topic mainly through the decarbonization of the maritime sectors. The topic is considered in the objectives with regard to Clean energy transition in maritime sectors (sub-topic): reference is provided to decarbonization and energy efficiency of fisheries (OS_P|01). Transformation in ports is also targeted (sub-topic): the plans intend to contribute to the promotion of alternative fuels in ports (OS_TM|02), and this would benefit the sector transition too. Several measures relevant for the sector and this topic are included in the plans, for example the ones considering Renewable energy production, storage and transportation (sub-topic) and particularly the Development of marine renewable energy installation (category of measure): NAZ_MIS|32 encourages the development of projects, studies, and research aimed at quantifying the positive and negative effects of offshore wind farm development on fishing activities and fish stocks, considering both territorial waters and offshore areas. Clean energy transition in maritime sectors (sub-topic) is considered by measures too, with reference to the Initiatives towards emission reduction in other sectors (category of measures). This is done through NAZ_MIS|30 and NAZ_MIS|31, calling for fleet modernisation actions (including energy efficiency improvements for vessels) across all fishing segments, with particular attention to small-scale artisanal fisheries. The sector is also concerned by measures targeting the sub-topic Transformation in ports by NAZ_MIS|53 and NAZ_MIS|53 calling for the realisation of infrastructures for alternative fuels recharging facilities, and electrification. Finally, the sector is also concerned with a Knowledge-related measure (sub-category) foreseeing the development of a study on the contribution of MSP plans to achieving national targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and carbon neutrality (NAZ_MIS|07).

Climate change adaptation is addressed in general by the vision, with no specific reference to the fisheries sector. No links between fisheries and climate change adaptation are mentioned in the objectives. There is only one measure relevant for the sector (also if not specific to it) under this topic: NAZ_MIS|06 foresees the development of a multisectoral study on the impact of climate change on national maritime plans and on the related adaptation measures to be considered in a medium-term evaluation of the MSP plans.

Considering **Sustainable seafood production**, the vision foresees that fisheries and aquaculture are developed sustainably and efficiently, pursuing a sustainable use of fishery resources, with the objective of protecting and rebuilding stocks and promoting the development of small-scale fisheries, also in synergy with other sectors (e.g. tourism, food and wine, local distribution chains, processing industry), to increase the product value chain. The plans include a set of strategic objectives related to this sector: sustainability of fishing activities are targeted by OS_P|01 mentioning the sustainable development of fish supply chains, OS_P|02 calling for the implementation of the European and National Management Plans; OS_P|03 dedicated to the promotion of small-scale fisheries, practised with sustainable techniques; OS_P|04 promoting the creation of areas aimed at the recovery and protection of fish stocks; OS_P|05 fostering transnational cooperation for sustainable fisheries management, and OS_P|06 promoting fighting against illegal fishing. The plans contain several measures addressing the sector and this topic, but also linked with topic. Sustainability of fisheries (sub-topic) is addressed from the

perspective of several categories of measures. NAZ_MIS|33, NAZ_MIS|34 and NAZ_MIS|38 promote sustainability of the sector in general and of small-scale fisheries in particular, e.g. through studies, education, monitoring programs and data collection, interactions between the sector and marine habitats and species. Multi-level governance systems that define and promote coordinated measures for monitoring, the sustainable management of shared fishery resources, the management of interactions between different fishing systems, and the protection of wide-ranging protected species are also promoted. Minimisation of fishing impacts on vulnerable habitats (category of measures) is promoted by NAZ_MIS|37, foreseeing an integrated evaluation of the status of Essential Fish Habitats (EFH) of main halieutic aimed at the identification of new fisheries management areas. The fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) (category of measures) is considered by NAZ_MIS|40, foreseeing co-management schemes, as well as upgrading the technology of monitoring networks. NAZ_MIS|41 targets Introduction and strengthening of digitalisation and advanced tools for fisheries (category of measures) by foreseeing studies and pilot projects to extend the use of VMS and/or AIS systems to fishery segments currently not monitored (small boats). Multi-use of the sea space (category of measures) is considered by NAZ_MIS|75 that foresees to support the development of coastal and maritime eco-tourism initiatives in a multi-use perspective, e.g. with fishing and aquaculture. Coordinated, transboundary initiatives (category of measures) are also considered: NAZ_MIS|38 aims to define and promote coordinated measures for monitoring, the sustainable management of shared fishery resources, for the protection of wide-ranging species. NAZ_MIS|39 aims to strengthen international dialogue and coordination for the management of fishing activities in international waters to prevent disputes and ensure the safe operation of Italian fisheries.

In relation to **Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration**, the vision addresses the need for a sustainable transition of fisheries in order to protect and rebuild fish stocks. Strategic objectives relevant for the sector and this topic are also considered in the plans: OS_P|02 aims at supporting the implementation of national and regional (GFCM) fishery plans, aiming also to protect priority habitats; OS_P|03 aiming to promote small-scale fisheries practiced with sustainable gears; OS_P|04 directly addresses environmental sustainability by promoting the definition of areas for stock protection and recovery. One measure is also relevant (in the category: Establishment of new or enlargement of N2K and OECMs (30% target) are also relevant): NAZ_MIS|35 promotes agreements and co-management platforms between small-scale fishers and the entities/organizations responsible for managing protected coastal and marine areas (MPAs, coastal and marine sites of the Natura 2000 Network, national or regional parks that include coastal and marine areas, etc.).

Blue circular economy is addressed in general by the vision, with no specific link to the fishery sector. However, the vision foresees that maritime activities are reorganised, exploiting the opportunities offered by the Circular Economy. Links between fisheries and this topic are identified in the objectives, cross-cutting strategic objectives of MSP plans, relative to Sustainable development. Specifically, Waste prevention (sub-topic) is considered by OS_SS|04, which encourages initiatives aimed at prevention, recovery, and recycling of marine litter, as well as valorisation of waste from fishing and aquaculture activities and their associated product supply chain, within a bio-economy framework. The plans also include some measures relevant for the sector and this topic: again, Waste prevention (sub-topic) is considered: NAZ_MIS|11 supports the creation of a recovery, re-use and recycling chain for aquaculture and fishery by-products and waste. This measure aims to be implemented in synergy with actions aimed at the environmental and socio-economic requalification of coastal industrial areas in crisis or under decommission. Reuse, repair, upgrade, recycle (sub-topic) is also considered: NAZ_MIS|12 supports the development of a national supply chain for the recovery, dismantling, and reuse/recycling of end-of-life recreational, sport, and fishing boats, wherever possible in

synergy with actions aimed at the redevelopment of declining/decommissioned coastal industrial areas and environmental remediation.

Considering **Zero pollution** the vision clearly states that all maritime sectors should have a role in the reduction of polluting emissions, waste and the introduction of alien species in the environment. Fisheries is explicitly mentioned. No links between fisheries and this topic are mentioned in the objectives. This topic is not considered by measures related to the fisheries sector.

4.1.2 Aquaculture

Aquaculture is explicitly mentioned in the vision of the plans. The Plans include a set of strategic objectives for the aquaculture sector, some framed within the broader cross-cutting principle of sustainable development. Two of these objectives are explicitly and entirely dedicated to aquaculture. In addition, the Plans define a series of specific objectives for aquaculture at the regional scale, covering most of the sub-areas under regional competence.

As in the case of fisheries, the vision states the MSP plans should contribute to **Climate change mitigation** and therefore to the decarbonization of maritime sectors. No link between aquaculture and this topic is mentioned in the objectives. Nevertheless, the plans intend to contribute to the promotion of alternative fuels in ports (OS_TM|02), and this would also support the transition of the aquaculture sector. Some measures of the plan target the sector in the context of this topic: in relation to the Clean energy transition in maritime sectors (sub-topic), NAZ_MIS|42 promotes the use of renewable energy along the aquaculture value chain. Considering Multi-use of the sea space (category of measures), NAZ_MIS|63 encourages research and pilot projects on offshore renewable energy and its potential integration with aquaculture through multi-use configurations. Considering Knowledge related measures, the plans indicate a study, NAZ_MIS|07, to be developed on the contribution of MSP plans to achieving national targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and carbon neutrality, with reference both to economic sectors and to the protection, restoration, and rehabilitation of marine ecosystems (with particular focus on so-called blue carbon ecosystems.

Regarding **Climate change adaptation**, the topic is addressed in general, with no specific link to aquaculture. Similarly, no reference to aquaculture and this topic is mentioned in the objectives. Knowledge-related measures indicate a multi-sectoral study (NAZ_MIS|06) to be developed on the impact of climate change on national maritime plans and on the related adaptation measures to be considered in a medium-term evaluation of the MSP plans.

Considering **Sustainable seafood production**, and identically to what is reported for fisheries, the vision foresees that the sector is developed sustainably and efficiently, also in synergy with other sectors (e.g. tourism, food and wine, local distribution chains, processing industry), and in order to increase the product value chain. Strategic objectives dedicated to the aquaculture sector mention sustainable aquaculture, targeting both fish and shellfish. OS_A|01 emphasises the strategic importance of the sector at European and national levels, promoting its growth through responsible planning, improved integration with other maritime and coastal activities. There is no explicit reference to algae production in the objectives, but some indirect mention: OS_A|01 promotes the growth and diversification of aquaculture, with reference to innovation and new market opportunities, which may implicitly include algae. Several measures are included in the plans, linking the sector and this EGD topic. They are related to different categories of measures: Development of marine aquaculture installations, Development of organic marine aquaculture, IMTA, low-trophic aquaculture, Multi-use of the sea space: combinations including marine aquaculture. Six measures from NAZ_MIS|42 to NAZ_MIS|47 are entirely dedicated to aquaculture and promote sustainability across the full production cycle. These include the adoption of energy-efficient and renewable energy practices, the integration of aquaculture with environmental protection objectives, the development and harmonisation

of AZA plans to ensure ecologically appropriate site selection, the support for diversification and technological innovation, and the assessment of carrying capacity and ecosystem services to align production with ecological limits. NAZ_MIS|46 encourages diversification of production and investment in innovative systems, which could include IMTA, algae production and other types of innovative cultivations (Development of marine algae production, category of measures).

In relation to **Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration**, no link between aquaculture and the topic is mentioned in the vision. Within objectives, the topic is addressed in OS_A|02, which links aquaculture development to ecosystem conservation through eco-intensification, AZA planning, and compatibility with biodiversity objectives. Several specific objectives (e.g. in MO/4, MO/7, IMC/4) reinforce this concept by promoting ecosystem-based approaches, identifying areas where intensive aquaculture should be excluded, and improving environmental monitoring. Regarding measures, some are relevant to link the sector to this EGD topic: NAZ_MIS|43 promotes studies and pilot projects focused on managing interactions between aquaculture and Natura 2000 sites, including the use of tools such as Zones of Acceptable Effect and environmental monitoring. NAZ_MIS|47 supports the assessment of carrying capacity and ecosystem services, contributing to the ecological sustainability of aquaculture across maritime areas.

Blue circular economy is addressed in general by the vision, with no specific link to the aquaculture sector. As reported in the case of fisheries, the vision foresees that maritime activities are reorganised, exploiting the opportunities offered by the Circular Economy. Links between aquaculture and this topic are identified within the cross-cutting strategic objectives relative to Sustainable development, and explicitly mentioned in the aquaculture strategic objectives. Particularly, Circular design is mentioned by OS_A|01 with elements such as promoting low-impact materials and better integration between sea-based production and land-based supply chains. As for fisheries, OS_SS|04 recommends fully seizing the economic opportunities and environmental sustainability benefits derived from the application of the circular economy in the sector. The objective encourages initiatives aimed at prevention, recovery, and recycling of marine litter, as well as valorisation of waste from fishing and aquaculture activities and their associated product supply chain, within a bio-economy framework. Reuse, repair, upgrade (sub-topic) is also considered for this sector in OS_A|01, which promotes actions to limit the generation of waste from aquaculture activities by prolonging the life-time of gears and boats. NAZ_MIS|09 aims at integrating MSP planning with the National Circular Economy Strategy and explicitly references the aquaculture sector. Regarding Waste prevention (sub-topic), NAZ_MIS|11 supports the creation of a recovery, re-use and recycling chain for aquaculture and fishery by-products and waste. This measure should be implemented in synergy with actions aimed at the environmental and socio-economic requalification of coastal industrial areas in crisis or under decommission. Regarding Reuse, repair, upgrade and recycle (sub-topic), NAZ_MIS|12 supports the development of a national supply chain for the recovery, dismantling, and reuse/recycling of end-of-life recreational, sport, and fishing boats (implicitly including also boats used for aquaculture activities), wherever possible in synergy with actions aimed at the redevelopment of declining/decommissioned coastal industrial areas and environmental remediation.

Considering **Zero pollution** the vision clearly states that all maritime sectors should have a role in the reduction of polluting emissions, waste and the introduction of alien species in the environment. Aquaculture is explicitly mentioned. Instead, no links between aquaculture and this topic are mentioned in the objectives, as well as among the measures.

4.1.3 Offshore Renewable Energy

The Italian MSP plans address the offshore renewable energy sector in their vision, through a few strategic objectives and measures. Climate change mitigation is the EGD topic mostly

considered, while others (Sustainable seafood production, Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration, and Zero Pollution) are only marginally taken into account by the MSP plans for this sector. Remaining EGD topics (Climate change adaptation, Blue circular economy) are not explicitly addressed when looking at the ORE sector.

Climate change mitigation. The MSP vision explicitly mentions the importance of supporting and accelerating the development of renewable energy at sea, also as a contribution to climate change mitigation. In line with this vision, the Italian MSP plans include two strategic objectives dealing with ORE. Objective OS_E|01 is specifically focused on the sector and aims at promoting the energy transition to renewable and low-emission sources through the development of offshore renewable energy production, in line with the EU and national decarbonization and energy transition objectives. At the national level, the reference is in particular to the National Energy and Climate Plan (PNIECC) and its targets (2.1 GW is mentioned in the MSP plans; however, this target is expected to evolve in line with the evolution of the PNIECC and sectoral plans). OS_E|1 refers to offshore wind energy and the use of other possible offshore renewable sources (wave, tidal, current and solar) and highlights the importance of ensuring proper connection for energy transportation. OS_E|4 promotes the European and regional (Mediterranean) cooperation on energy, indirectly considering also ORE. The Italian MSP plan include several measures focusing on offshore renewable energy and its sustainable contribution to climate change mitigation (in particular for the subtopic A1 on production, storage and transportation of energy): (i) development of national guidelines for the identification of suitable sites for offshore renewable energy (wind, solar, wave, and current energy) (NAZ_MIS|60) to support sectoral planning and its integration in future evolution of the MSP plans; (ii) development of a decision support system to support the different phases of offshore wind development (feasibility, design, implementation, monitoring, impact assessment, mitigation of social and environmental impacts) (NAZ_MIS|61); (iii) establishment of an observatory for monitoring the impacts of offshore wind farms on the environment and other uses (NAZ_MIS|62); (iv) initiating and supporting research and innovation activities, including through pilot projects, on offshore renewable energy production from sources other than wind (wave motion, tides and currents, solar, and the combination of different sources) (NAZ_MIS|63). Other climate change mitigation subtopics are not considered by MSP provisions for ORE. NAZ_MIS|07 is a cross-cutting knowledge-related measure, foreseeing the elaboration of a study on the evaluation of MSP contribution to climate change mitigation targets, not only focusing on energy production, but also considering carbon storage and carbon sequestration through blue carbon.

The other EGD topics are only marginally (somehow) considered, in particular through a few measures dealing with specific aspects related to the management of conflicts with other uses and/or exploitation of synergies. In terms of **sustainable seafood production**, measure NAZ_MIS|63 encourages research and pilot projects on the integration between offshore renewable energy and fisheries and/or aquaculture through multi-use configurations. (subtopics C1.6 and C2.4 on multi-use), while NAZ_MIS|65 states that offshore renewable energy installations must adopt solutions to reduce conflicts and promote, wherever possible and in compliance with safety requirements, coexistence with other uses of the sea. The same limited reference occurs for **Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration**. The link between this EGD topic and ORE is explicitly considered only in the measure NAZ_MIS|66, stating that installation of offshore wind farms is prohibited within national Marine Protected Areas, Special Protection Zones and marine areas included in national or regional parks, except micro-wind systems that may be used for self-consumption.

No ORE-related measures dealing with **Zero pollution** are included in the MSP plans. This EGD topic is mentioned in the vision, which states that all maritime sectors should have a role in the reduction of polluting emissions, waste and the introduction of alien species in the environment. Offshore activities (therefore also including ORE infrastructure) are explicitly mentioned.

4.1.4 Nature protection

As expected, provisions of the Italian MSP plans that focus on nature protection mostly contribute to the Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration topic and to several of its subtopics. While Climate change mitigation is partly considered, in particular for aspects related to the protection and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems, the MSP plans do not include specific links between nature protection and climate change adaptation. Sustainable food production and Zero Pollution are somehow addressed in MSP provisions related to nature protection. Blue circular economy is addressed in general, with no specific link to nature protection.

The link between nature protection and **climate change mitigation** is partially addressed by the Italian MSP plans. This link is not expressly mentioned in the vision, while it is directly acknowledged, for some aspects, in the strategic objectives. OS_SS|02 "Contribute to the National Strategy for Sustainable Development" makes direct reference to the protection, recovery, and restoration of the so-called blue carbon ecosystems, i.e. marine ecosystems capable of absorbing and sequestering carbon dioxide (e.g. seagrass meadows and vegetated habitats in lagoon and wetlands). This objective links to the one specifically dealing with the restoration of marine ecosystems OS_N|05 "Take into account, in the medium to long term, the process and objectives of marine ecosystem restoration, as set out in the European Nature Restoration Law". Sub-topic A.4 is also considered in the measures. NAZ_MIS|07 foresees the development of a study on the contribution of the MSP plans to achieving national targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and carbon neutrality, with reference both to economic sectors and to the protection, restoration, and rehabilitation of marine ecosystems (with particular focus on the blue carbon ecosystems).

Climate change adaptation is considered in the MSP plans' vision and objectives at a general level, without specific reference to nature protection. No nature protection-related strategic objectives focus on adaptation. Some considerations are included in a few objectives focusing on other sectors. For example, a specific reference is included in the strategic objective OS_DC|01 on coastal defences, which, among others, aims at implementing environmentally and technologically innovative solutions, such as nature-based ones. The same general approach can also be found in the pool of measures. The MSP plan do not include specific measures on the contribution of nature protection to climate change adaptation. At a more framing level, the measure NAZ_MIS|06 promotes the development of a multi-sectoral study on the impacts of climate change on the national maritime plans and on the related adaptation measures to be considered in a medium-term evaluation of the same plans.

The Italian MSP plans widely address the need for a sustainable transition of fisheries to rebuild fish stocks and enhance biodiversity protection. All strategic objectives and measures related to sustainable fisheries contribute to nature protection, for example, OS_P|04, which promoted the establishment of areas aimed at the recovery and protection of fish stocks and Essential Fish Habitats. The full package of these objectives and measures is described in the section on fisheries, while a few are also acknowledged for aquaculture. On the other hand, the contribution of nature protection to **sustainable food protection** is only considered in the plan in a general way and/or indirectly (e.g. through objectives and measures developed for sectors other than nature protection). An exception is represented by measures NAZ_MIS|35 promoting agreements and co-management platforms between small-scale fishers and the entities responsible for managing protected coastal and marine areas. This co-management approach can provide the room for the implementation of concrete actions benefiting both biodiversity conservation and sustainable fisheries.

Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration is obviously the EGD topic mostly addressed by nature protection. The Italian MSP plans recognise nature protection, together with landscape and cultural heritage preservation, as a cross-cutting, overarching principle for

all plan provisions. This is also reflected in the vision and implies that maritime activities should be developed in a way to ensure the achievement and maintenance of the good ecological status of the sea, including aspects related to nature protection. The strategic objectives address both nature protection and restoration elements. The MSP plans aim (OS_N|02) to promote the extension of EU sea protection. By the adoption of an ecosystem approach, the plans will favour the development of new protected areas, in connection with the existing ones. OS_N|05 focuses on strengthening the progressive integration of nature restoration in the MSP plans to: (i) contribute to halting ongoing nature degradation trends and help address restoration needs; (ii) support the identification of priorities for the National Environmental Restoration Plan; (iii) embed new information and guidance emerging from the Restoration Plan into the process of monitoring and adapting the plans. In these strategic objectives, reference to quantitative targets is given: (i) protection of 30% of the sea area, 10% of which is strictly protected, by 2030; (ii) restoration of 20% of degraded areas by 2030 and of all degraded areas by 2050. The MSP plans also include several measures focusing on this EG topic, as: (i) NAZ_MIS|15 – establishment of a cross-policy (MSP, MSFD, Natura 2000, fisheries) working group to identify new MPAs and OECMs and improve connectivity (subtopics D1.1, D1.2 and D1.4, with relevant implication for governance aspects as well – D4); NAZ_MIS|18 – development of the National Restoration Plan coherently with the MSP plans (subtopic D2); (iii) measures aiming to improve the knowledge on biodiversity (subtopic D3), e.g. improving the knowledge on the distribution of habitats and species relevant for the EU Restoration Law implementation (NAZ_MIS|19), monitoring of marine megafauna (NAZ_MIS 14), and a study on LSI hot-spot areas to improve their protection (NAZ_MIS|17).

Blue circular economy is addressed in general, with no specific link to nature protection. The vision foresees that maritime activities are reorganised, exploiting the opportunities offered by the Circular Economy. Some direct connection is considered by the MSP plans for **Zero pollution**. The vision states that all maritime sectors should have a role in the reduction of polluting emissions, waste and the introduction of alien species in the environment, with consequent benefit for biodiversity protection as well. Although there are no strategic objectives and measures specifically linking nature protection and zero pollution, several MSP measures refer to and integrate MSFD measures, in particular spatial ones.

4.2 Zoning provisions

The Italian plans include zoning provisions. Planning Units are identified (PU). Four typologies of PU are considered, expressing and increasing level of exclusiveness of the use(s):

G = Generic Use: Areas where all uses are developed with the same importance, with specific and reciprocal regulatory mechanisms defined or to be defined according to national and international standards or sector plans, to guarantee safety, reduce and control environmental impacts and encourage co-existence between uses.

P = Priority Use: Areas where the Plan provides indications of priority use(s) (from 1 to 3, exceptionally 4). All other uses are allowed, provided they do not conflict with priority ones.

L = Limited Use: Areas where a prevalent use is indicated. Other uses may be present, with or without specific limitations, if and to the extent they are compatible with the prevalent use (e.g. marine conservation).

R = Reserved Use: Areas reserved for a specific use. Other uses are permitted only for the needs of the reserved use or unless granted by the entity responsible for or managing the reserved use (e.g. marine defence).

4.2.1 Fisheries

The identification of PUs prioritised for fisheries (p) in the Italian MSP plans mainly relied on data provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forests (MASAF), showing the

distribution of high fishing effort levels related to GSA 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, and 19. This information was complemented by that provided by the fisheries departments of some of the coastal Regions, enabling the identification of areas of particular interest for professional fishing activities, commercial and small-scale artisanal fisheries.

In total, 64 planning units (PUs) are prioritised for fisheries, for a total area of 94.122 km2 (17.5% of the total plan area). Priority for Fisheries is rarely assigned in isolation; instead, this use frequently overlaps with other maritime uses or nature protection objectives, requiring careful spatial coordination. Notably, 17 PUs combine fisheries with nature conservation (n), signalling the importance of managing fisheries in ecologically valuable or protected areas, and ensuring compatibility with biodiversity conservation goals. Maritime transport (tm) is co-prioritised with fisheries in 20 PUs. Priority on fisheries is also combined with tourism (t) in 7 PUs, where shared space may foster opportunities for synergies, such as pesca-tourism.

Priority areas for fisheries are identified in the map of Figure 8. Fisheries are allowed elsewhere, except where forbidden by specific regulations (e.g. within areas critical for navigation, military areas, strictly protected areas of Marine Protected Areas, etc.).

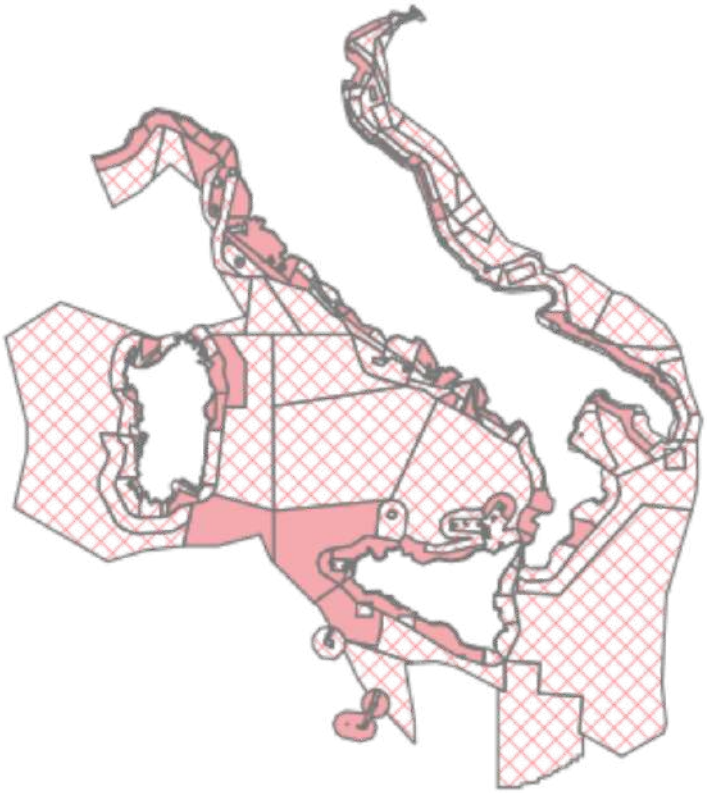


Figure 8 - Zoning for fisheries in the Italian MSP plans. Full field represents PU where fisheries are identified as a priority use. Fisheries is allowed elsewhere, except in areas where it is formally forbidden.

4.2.2 Aquaculture

The Italian MSP plans identify 24 PUs prioritised for aquaculture in areas considered highly suitable for this activity. In total, the areas prioritised for aquaculture cover an area of 9,831 km2 (1.8% of the total plan area).

These PUs were defined through consultation with coastal regional offices responsible for aquaculture (Regions have the competencies over aquaculture concession in Italy) and AZA

(Allocated Zone for Aquaculture) initiatives. In line with the national objective to promote high-quality aquaculture and support AZA identification, co-defined with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty, the MSP plans assign priority to these areas while acknowledging their interaction with other key uses. These PUs reflect a diverse spatial configuration where aquaculture is rarely assigned in isolation and often coexists with other uses, highlighting the multi-use character and the need for integrated management. Among the 24 units, only 3 PUs prioritise aquaculture alone, indicating limited areas where aquaculture does not directly interact with other maritime sectors. The remaining PUs combine aquaculture with other uses (such as fishery, tourism, maritime transport and nature and landscape), explicitly highlighting potential spatial conflicts and the need for coordinated management measures.

Priority areas for aquaculture are identified in the map of Figure 9. Aquaculture, in principle, is allowed elsewhere, except where forbidden by specific regulations.

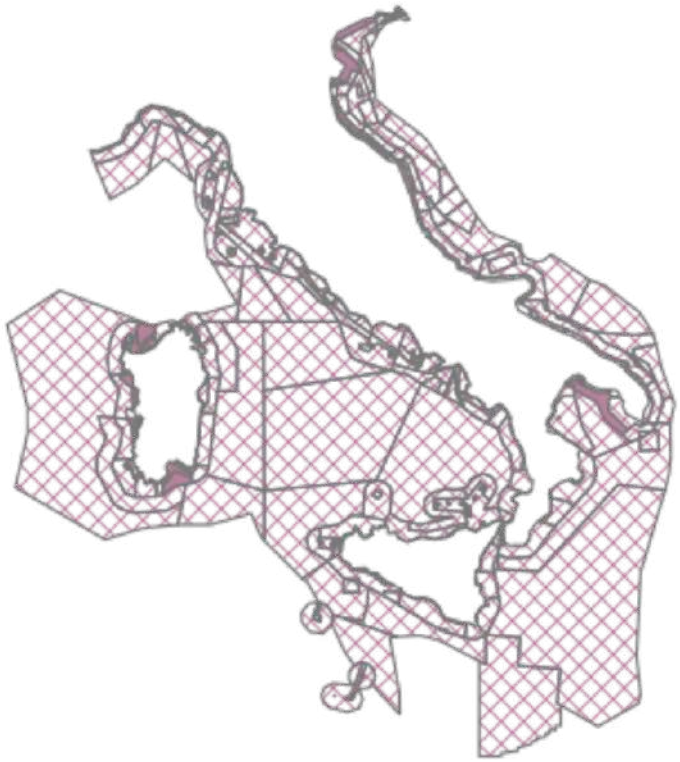


Figure 9 - Zoning for aquaculture in the Italian MSP plans. Full field represents PU where aquaculture is identified as a priority use. Aquaculture in principle is allowed elsewhere, except in areas where it is formally forbidden. Aquaculture areas in territorial waters are identified by regions.

4.2.3 Offshore Renewable Energy

The planning units (PUs) prioritised for offshore renewable energy (ORE) in the Italian MSP plans represent a very limited part of the national maritime space.

The majority of planning units prioritising energy (e) are linked to hydrocarbon cultivation, in alignment with the sector's national policies and plans. These areas currently host hydrocarbon extraction activities, with platforms, supporting structures, submarine pipelines, and marine

terminals operating under existing regulations. Among the 10 PUs where energy (e) is prioritised, covering an area of 5,727 km2 (1.05% of the total plan area), only 4 PUs specifically mention offshore renewable energy:

- In the Adriatic Sea, the PUs A/3_07 (P(e)) and A/3_11 (P(tm, e)) are prioritised for energy as they are both characterised by existing hydrocarbon extraction infrastructure (mainly gas). The detailed indications for these PUs highlight the potential for renewable energy development also through the reuse of decommissioned O&G platforms.
- In the Western Mediterranean and Tyrrhenian sea, the PUs MO/3_21 (P(energy)) and MO/3_22 (P(maritime transport, fisheries and energy)), characterised by deep waters (250–600 m) and significant distance from shore (>20 km) are identified as suitable for future offshore wind energy installations.

4.2.4 Nature protection

Based on existing knowledge of marine habitats and species distribution, valuable areas such as Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems, Essential Fish Habitats, presence of sea mountains, established conservation measures, and the spatial distribution of maritime activities, the Italian MSP plans define PUs where nature conservation is assigned as Priority (P), Limited (L), or Reserved (R) use.

The Plans do not identify new protected areas but provide guidance on where future designations could extend marine protection. Environmental and resource protection is prioritised:

- In PUs corresponding to existing or planned protected areas (e.g. national MPAs, National Parks)
- In areas under other protection regimes (e.g. Natura 2000 sites, Pelagos Sanctuary, Bonifacio PSSA, Ecological Protection Zone of the Tyrrhenian Sea);
- In some high ecological value areas (e.g. EBSA, IMMA, CCH, IBA, hard-bottom and deep habitats, iconic species occurrences).

MPA are generally defined as Reserved (R) or Limited (L) type while the other areas are defined as Priority (P) PUs.

In quantitative terms:

- 124 PUs are defined with Nature protection as priority use, for a total extension of 276.964 km2 (50.47% of the total plan area);
- 33 PUs are defined with Nature protection as limited or reserved use, for a total extension of 4.198 km2 (0.07% of the total plan area).
- In total, this accounts for 157 PUs and 281,161.9 km2.

Figure 10 - Zoning for nature protection in the Italian MSP plans. Full field represents PU where nature protection is prioritized. However, the establishment of nature protection areas is allowed elsewhere, except in areas where it is excluded by eventual, site-specific regulations.

4.3 Fair and just transition

4.3.1 Fisheries

Fisheries stakeholders were involved in different ways during the MSP process:

- Fisheries departments of coastal Regions were engaged throughout all planning phases, actively contributing to the definition of regional visions, the identification of specific objectives, the definition of regional planning units and related vocations, and the identification of regional-level measures.
- (ii) Local-level fisheries stakeholders, such as fishing cooperatives and sectoral associations, were primarily involved during the formal public consultation (15 Sept – 30 Oct 2022) by submitting observations on the draft plans. Among these, at least 16 entities were explicitly identified as fisheries cooperatives, consortia, or sectoral associations. These included both local-level fishing cooperatives (e.g., Capitan Morgan Soc. Coop, Fiordipesca Soc. Coop, Gambero Rosso Soc. Coop, Olimpia Soc. Coop, Piccola Pesca Monterosso al Mare Soc. Coop, Società Cooperativa Pescatori Imperia) and regional/national associations (e.g., Legacoop Agroalimentare, AGCI AGRITAL, CONFCOOPERATIVE FVG, FEDAGRIPESCA PUGLIA, API – Associazione Piscicoltori Italiani, Legacoop Veneto, Legacoop Liguria).

No formal engagement/communication plan was provided during the plan preparation phase. Stakeholders were informed primarily through the Competent Authority's website. Participation was mainly limited to the consultation phase, with limited guidance on engagement during earlier stages.

Coastal Regions were engaged through a series of online workshops supported by spatial representations of environmental features and marine uses in their areas, integrated with

different zoning options. In several cases, Regions also organised local discussions and meetings supported by their own GIS systems.

For the formal public consultation, only online presentations were provided at national level, and written comments were requested and received through the competent authority's website.

Socio-demographic characteristics were not explicitly considered in the stakeholder engagement process. Participation mechanisms did not include procedures or tools aimed at identifying or addressing the needs of underrepresented or disadvantaged groups, nor were gender or age dynamics within the sector explicitly acknowledged.

Local participatory initiatives in the fisheries sector—such as Community-Led Local Development groups (CLLDG) and Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs)—were only marginally considered in the Italian MSP process. Participation from the fisheries sector occurred primarily during public consultation phase. Local knowledge was integrated mainly through the involvement of Regional administrations, which provided data and sectoral insights. Expert knowledge was incorporated via the Scientific Team supporting the national MSP process. Citizen science perspectives were not explicitly considered in the planning process. The Italian MSP plans do not address gender balance in the fisheries sector or in maritime professions. The issue of gender equality, as well as the inclusion of women in any activity-related decision-making or employment, is not mentioned among the objectives, measures, or any other component of the plans.

The capacity to influence planning decisions varied across stakeholder types and phases of the process, but overall it remained limited and uneven. Regional authorities, including departments responsible for fisheries, aquaculture, energy, and environment, had the greatest influence, as they were directly involved in all operational phases of the MSP process and contributed to defining planning units, vocations, and sector-specific measures within their maritime zones.

In contrast, non-institutional stakeholders—such as fishing cooperatives, aquaculture operators, energy developers, and environmental NGOs—had the opportunity to participate primarily during the formal public consultation and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). While some feedback led to adjustments in zoning or specific measures (e.g. minor changes in planning unit vocations or clarifications in objectives), most contributions were consultative and did not result in substantial modifications to the plans.

From the feedback received during the formal public consultation, it emerged that representation of the fisheries sector was perceived as incomplete. Several stakeholders from both the small-scale and industrial fishing sectors raised concerns about the lack of direct engagement. To face this gap, the MS Italian plans include a national-level measure (NAZ_MIS|01) explicitly aimed at reinforcing stakeholder engagement across all phases of implementation, with particular attention to sectors of major social relevance such as fisheries.

4.3.2 Aquaculture

Many considerations formulated for the fisheries sector are valid for aquaculture too.

Stakeholders in aquaculture were primarily identified through regional departments responsible for fisheries and aquaculture, which were involved throughout the planning process. Additionally, during the official public consultation, sectoral associations such as Associazione Piscicoltori Italiani – API, cooperatives, and private companies operating in marine farming submitted observations.

No formal engagement/communication plan was provided. Stakeholders were informed primarily through the Competent Authority's website. Participation was mainly limited to the consultation phase, with limited guidance on engagement during earlier stages.

Coastal Regions were engaged through a series of *online workshops* supported by spatial representations of environmental features and marine uses in their areas, integrated with different zoning options. In several cases, Regions also organised local discussions and meetings supported by their own GIS systems.

During dedicated workshops with Regions, interactive participation tools such as Miro and the MSP Challenge platform were used to collect additional inputs, facilitate scenario exploration, and stimulate discussion among regional experts and planners.

For the formal public consultation, only online presentations were provided at national level, and written comments were requested and received through the competent authority's website.

Socio-demographic characteristics were not explicitly considered in the stakeholder engagement process. Participation mechanisms did not include procedures or tools aimed at identifying or addressing the needs of underrepresented or disadvantaged groups, nor were gender or age dynamics within the sector explicitly acknowledged.

Local knowledge was integrated mainly through the involvement of Regional administrations, which provided data and sectoral insights. Expert knowledge was incorporated via the Scientific Team supporting the national MSP process. Citizen science perspectives were not explicitly considered in the planning process. The Italian MSP plans do not address gender balance in the aquaculture sector or in maritime professions more broadly. The issue of gender equality, as well as the inclusion of women in any activity-related decision-making or employment, is not mentioned among the objectives, measures, or analytical components of the Plans.

4.3.3 Offshore Renewable Energy

ORE stakeholders involved in the planning process included industry associations (e.g. ANEV, Elettricità Futura), energy companies (e.g. ENI, Terna), and regional energy departments. Notably, dedicated bilateral meetings with Terna were organised during the process.

Participation during the planning phase was very limited, only dedicated bilateral meetings with Terna are recorded. During the public consultation phase, 7 entities submitted observations primarily related to the energy sector.

4.3.4 Nature protection

Nature protection stakeholders involved in MSP included regional department of the environment, Regional Agency for Environmental Prevention and Protection, Park authorities. Entities such as WWF, Legambiente, and ALTURA ODV were also involved as they submitted observations during both the MSP plans and SEA public consultation. Notably, two bilateral meetings were organised with WWF, indicating a more structured engagement.

For the nature conservation sector, stakeholder involvement occurred at different levels and phases:

(i) Regional environmental departments were actively involved throughout all phases of the MSP process. As part of the interdepartmental working groups established by the coastal Regions, they contributed to the definition of environmental priorities and for identification of visions/specific objectives/planning units/vocations/measures.

(ii) Additional stakeholder engagement occurred during the formal public consultation of the MSP plans (15 September – 30 October 2022), where several environmental NGOs and protected area managers—including WWF, LIPU, ALTURA, and the Azienda Speciale Parco di Porto Conte—submitted official observations.

(iii) In parallel, a wide range of actors participated in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) public consultation, with 34 entities contributing, including ARPAs, park authorities,

regional administrations, and conservation organisations. Notably, two bilateral meetings were held with WWF to discuss critical environmental aspects of the plans.

Local participatory initiatives in "nature conservation" were not formally arranged or systematically considered within the MSP process. However, participation was more structured during the public consultation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), where 34 entities submitted observations. These included regional environmental protection agencies (e.g., ARPA Toscana, ARPA Veneto, ARPA Puglia), park authorities, regional environmental departments, conservation NGOs such as WWF, LIPU, ALTURA, and protected area managers like the Azienda Speciale Parco di Porto Conte and the WWF-managed Saline di Trapani e Paceco. Although this ensured strong institutional engagement, grassroots and community-led nature conservation groups were not explicitly involved, and no dedicated participatory mechanisms were established to support their inclusion. Nonetheless, more structured interactions did occur with some national NGOs—two bilateral meetings were held with WWF—indicating selective but limited efforts to engage key environmental stakeholders.

Similarly to what reported for fisheries, observations received during the formal public consultation of the MSP plans and SEA emerged that representation of NGOs and environmental associations was perceived not enough sufficient.

4.4 Cross-cutting elements

4.4.1 Fisheries

Regarding **Research and innovation**, the plans (NAZ_MIS|32) encourage projects, studies, and research aimed at quantifying the positive and negative effects of offshore wind farm development on fishing activities and fish stocks, considering both territorial waters and offshore areas. Special attention should be given to different types of fishing and the impacts of the connection systems for transferring energy to land. As already mentioned in the analysis per sector reported above, a study is also foreseen (NAZ_MIS|07) on the contribution of MSP plans to achieving national targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and carbon neutrality, with reference both to economic sectors and to the protection, restoration, and rehabilitation of marine ecosystems (with particular focus on so-called blue carbon ecosystems. Also, a multi-sectoral study on the impact of climate change on national maritime plans and on the related adaptation measures to be considered in a medium-term evaluation of the MSP plans (NAZ_MIS|06).

Concerning **Education and training**, actions aimed at training operators in the fisheries sector on the sustainability aspects of professional fishing are foreseen (NAZ_MIS|30).

Cross-border cooperation on MSP is considered in the plans for this sector. Particularly, NAZ_MIS|38 foresees, within the framework of national, EU, and international cooperation initiatives (e.g., FAO-GFCM, CBD), to identify, propose, and/or strengthen multi-level governance systems (ranging from transnational to national, inter-regional, and sectoral scales) that define and promote coordinated measures for monitoring, the sustainable management of shared fishery resources, the management of interactions between different fishing systems, and the protection of wide-ranging protected species. More specifically, NAZ_MIS|39 aims to strengthen international dialogue and coordination for the management of fishing activities in international waters to prevent disputes and ensure the safe operation of Italian fisheries.

4.4.2 Aquaculture

Regarding **Research and innovation** for aquaculture, only the two cross-sectoral measures NAZ_MIS|06 and NAZ_MIS|07 related to the preparation of specific studies and already mentioned above for fisheries are included in the plans.

4.4.3 ORE

Three measures of the MSP plans address **Research and innovation** of the sector, as already described in the sectoral analysis, i.e.: (i) the development of a decision support system to support the different phases of offshore wind development, based on data and information gathered from various sources (NAZ_MIS|61); (ii) the establishment of an observatory for monitoring the impacts of offshore wind farms on the environment and other uses (NAZ_MIS|62); (iii) research and innovation activities, including through pilot projects, on offshore renewable energy production from sources other than wind (wave motion, tides and currents, solar, and the combination of different sources) (NAZ_MIS|63).

4.4.4 Nature protection

Research and innovation activities foreseen by the plans regarding nature protection include some knowledge related measures, such as Establish a monitoring program at national level for marine mega fauna (NAZ_MIS|14) and Improve knowledge on the distribution of habitats and species relevant for the implementation of the European Nature Restoration Law (NAZ_MIS|19).

A1.5 Country assessment - Malta

Malta adopted its first maritime spatial plan, the Strategic Plan for Environment and Development – SPED (2015-2020) in July 2015 in line with the EU MSP Directive, and has since focused on its implementation. Between 2020 and 2024 as part of the initial review process for the plan an internal analysis was carried out to analyze the state of implementation.

SPED is replacing the previous Structure Plan for the Maltese Islands (1992), and developed according to the legal provisions of the Environment and Development Planning Act of 2010 (EDPA). The SPED broadens the traditional focus from land-use planning into a more integrated form of spatial planning, encompassing environmental, economic, and social policy objectives. For the first time Malta's spatial plan covers both land territory and the marine area that extends up to 25 nautical miles, coinciding with the Fisheries Management Conservation Zone (adopted by Council Regulation EC No. 1967/2006), which covers an area of 11,354 km^2.

SPED's legal and policy foundations are deeply embedded in Malta's national and EU-level commitments, including the Europe 2020 Strategy, the National Reform Programme (NRP), and the National Environment Policy (NEP).

The overarching aim of SPED is to enable socio-economic growth in a manner that promotes environmental protection, social well-being, and the sustainable use of natural resources. It serves not only as a policy guide but also as the principal reference point for decision-making on development. SPED provides strategic direction through spatial organisation and seeks to resolve spatial conflicts while balancing competing land and marine uses.

The EU MSP Directive is transposed into national legislation through the subsidiary legislation (S.L.552.27) under the Development Planning Act of 2016 (Cap.552) which states that the Strategic Plan for Environment and Development (SPED), and any replacement spatial strategy, shall constitute the Maritime Spatial Plan for Malta.

Malta's competent authority for MSP is the Planning Authority (PA), under the Ministry for Gozo and Planning.

5.1 Sectoral EGD-related elements in MSP plans

A description on how the key EGD topics is considered in Malta's MSP plan is provided below. Each sector-related paragraph is developed per EGD topic, describing the results of the assessment undertaken with the fact-sheets. For each topic, the elements occuring in the vision, objectives and measures are summarized.

5.1.1 Fisheries

Fisheries are recognised in SPED as a socially and culturally significant sector, even if their direct economic contribution to the national GDP is modest. The plan acknowledges the largely artisanal character of Maltese fisheries and their historic roots in coastal communities.

Malta's surrounding waters within the 25 nautical mile Fisheries Management Conservation Zone, are strategically designated to support sustainable fishing practices. This zone not only serves as a regulatory boundary but also reflects the commitment to manage marine resources in a way that respects ecological limits and sustains traditional livelihoods.

The spatial planning framework in SPED considers fisheries a legitimate and necessary use of marine space. However, it also points to increasing competition with other sectors, such as tourism and aquaculture, necessitating integrated management to prevent spatial conflicts and overexploitation of resources.

Fisheries are considered in SPED's **Vision** for the Coastal Zone and Marine Area, which mentions that it is essential to "sustain the livelihood of the fishing community". In effect within the

Objectives, in Coastal Objective 2 (CO2) dedicated to facilitating the sustainable development and diversification of the fishing and aquaculture industries, it is emphasized that fisheries, together with aquaculture, is considered to be a major user of the coastal and marine space with the 25 nautical mile Fisheries Management Conservation Zone dedicated to sustainable fisheries. To safeguard against competing uses the SPED policy direction for the sector is to safeguard the priority use of fisheries within identified fishing grounds and fishing harbours whilst minimising environmental impacts arising from the sector.

5.1.2 Aquaculture

Aquaculture is highlighted in the SPED as a rapidly developing and space-demanding sector. The expansion of aquaculture in coastal and marine areas is addressed with caution due to its potential for conflict with other coastal users and environmental impacts.

While the plan supports the modernisation and continued operation of aquaculture, it stresses the importance of proper site selection, infrastructure integration, and regulatory oversight to ensure that growth in the sector is environmentally sustainable. The SPED recognises the need for better planning mechanisms to accommodate this sector's needs while safeguarding marine ecosystems and maintaining public access to coastal zones.

There is a call for more holistic marine spatial policy to manage aquaculture alongside fisheries, shipping, recreation, and nature protection.

The policy framework to address these is within SPED's **Objectives**, i.e. in Coastal Objective 2 (CO2) dedicated to facilitating the sustainable development and diversification of the fishing and aquaculture industries, it is emphasized that aquaculture, together with fisheries, is considered to be a major user of the coastal and marine space with the 25 nautical mile Fisheries Management Conservation Zone. In mentioned Coastal Objective, one of specific points is to facilitate the implementation of the Aquaculture Strategy.

5.1.3 Offshore Renewable Energy

While the SPED does not include detailed proposals or zoning for offshore renewable energy infrastructure, it does recognize the growing interest in renewable energy, particularly in the context of climate change mitigation, and anticipates that offshore renewables may become more relevant over time.

It suggests that future proposals for marine development—such as renewable energy generation, short-sea shipping, and new aquaculture technologies—will need to be addressed through comprehensive planning and policy instruments.

In the absence of detailed knowledge on suitable locations for offshore renewable energy infrastructure the SPED's **Vision** envisioned the potential for future development and states that "the Coastal Zone and Marine Area shall maximise the potential for sustainable socio-economic growth and renewable energy infrastructure'. Renewables in general, with no specific mention of "offshore" are highlighted in SPED's **Thematic Objective 9**, and specifically connected to climate change mitigation. Map with strategic objectives for the Coastal Zone and Marine Area 3 translates this vision and SPED TO 9 for the marine area and identifies renewable energy infrastructure as a new user within the 12nm territorial waters.

5.1.4 Nature Protection

SPED strongly emphasises the protection of Malta's natural environment and biodiversity, both on land and in the marine area. The plan integrates the objectives of Malta's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2012–2020) and sets forth policies to conserve Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

It stresses that habitats, species, cultural landscapes, and geodiversity must be safeguarded from the pressures of development, pollution, and climate change. The plan calls for a more resilient ecological network, restoration of degraded ecosystems, and proactive management of protected sites.

In the marine context, SPED highlights the vulnerability of coastal habitats and marine biodiversity to land-based pollution, climate change, and unsustainable human activities. The SPED's **Vision** for the Coastal Zone and Marine Area is for its to is to maintain a pollution-free, biologically rich, and visually striking coastal and marine environment that contributes to both ecological integrity and public enjoyment.

In SPED's **Vision** also mentioned that Gozo shall become an ecological island, and that Maltese islands should move closer to a low-carbon, green economy. The SPED Vision also highlighted that Coastal Zone and Marine Area shall play a significant enabling role for the Maltese Islands to reduce their impact on climate change and strengthen their capacity to adapt to climate change.

SPED's **Thematic Objective 8**, calls for "safeguarding protected areas including SACs, SPAs and MPAs whilst enabling activities aimed at enhancing their management objectives". SPED introduced the link to the concept of ecological corridors to support their identification and ensure that future development does not impair work to identify and safeguard them. As for the MPAs, the designation of MPAs falls under a different regulatory framework. MSP is not considered as the main instrument to designate MPAs. However, the SPED policy framework for the Coastal Zone and Marine Area was developed in congruence with the policy direction on MPAs at the time. There is also a specific point on facilitating restoration of damaged ecosystems under Thematic Objective 8.

SPED formulation was aligned with the national legal framework governing MPA designation which falls under the Environment Protection Act and its subsidiary legislation.

5.2 Zoning provisions

The SPED employs a robust zoning approach to guide the location and type of development in both terrestrial and marine spaces. The plan delineates five key spatial zones:

- Urban Area
- Rural Area
- Coastal Zone (up to 12 nautical miles)
- Marine Area (12 to 25 nautical miles)
- Gozo (as a distinct spatial and policy area)

Each zone has its own planning objectives, with the Urban Area accommodating the bulk of socio-economic development, and the Rural Area prioritized for agriculture and environmental protection. The Coastal and Marine Areas are subject to integrated planning that considers infrastructure needs, tourism, conservation, fisheries, and potential new industries. The Strategic Objective 1 for the Coastal Zone and Marine Area (CO1) establishes different zones with the relevant policy direction both for priority uses and environmental objectives. This is supported by SPED Map 3 (Marine Strategic Objectives Map) which visually represent these zones and the strategic intentions behind them. Zoning helps resolve land-use conflicts, manage spatial demands, and protect sensitive environments. Fishing harbours, zones for SSF, zones for trawling, aquaculture zones, are all considered in MSP maps. As environmental designations such as MPAs are subject to change (increase in number or extent) the SPED Map 3 focuses on the need to achieve environmental objectives including the Favourable Conservation Status of SCAs and SPAs within each zone.

5.3 Fair and Just Transition

The SPED preparation process was based on public consultations as well as consultation within the framework of the Parliamentary Committee for Environment and Development, as well as through the SEA consultation. Furthermore, the preparation of the draft SPED was supported by additional consultations with different Ministries. The draft was then subjected to public consultations where stakeholders were invited to submit their views on the documents available online. An environmental NGO (Din l-Art Helwa), the Catholic Church's Environment Commission (Kummissjoni Interdjocesana Ambjent) and the Malta Developers Association (MDA), submitted representations and expressed their views in the media with regard to the SPED.

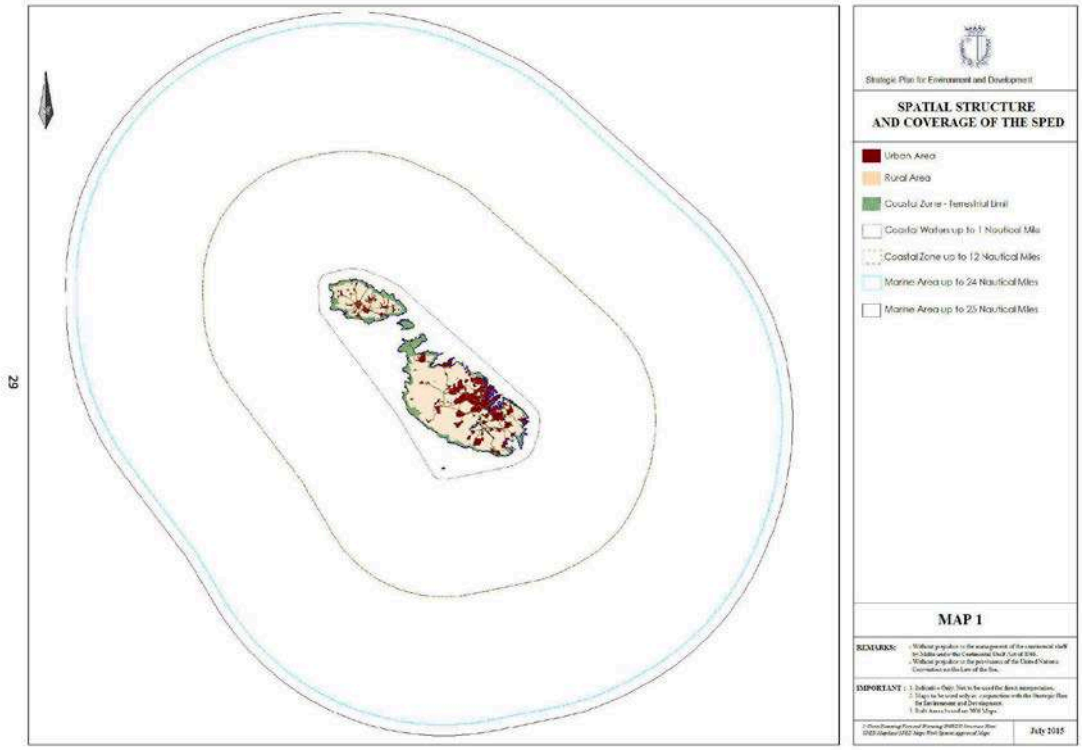


Figure 11 - Spatial structure and coverage of the SPED (Malta).

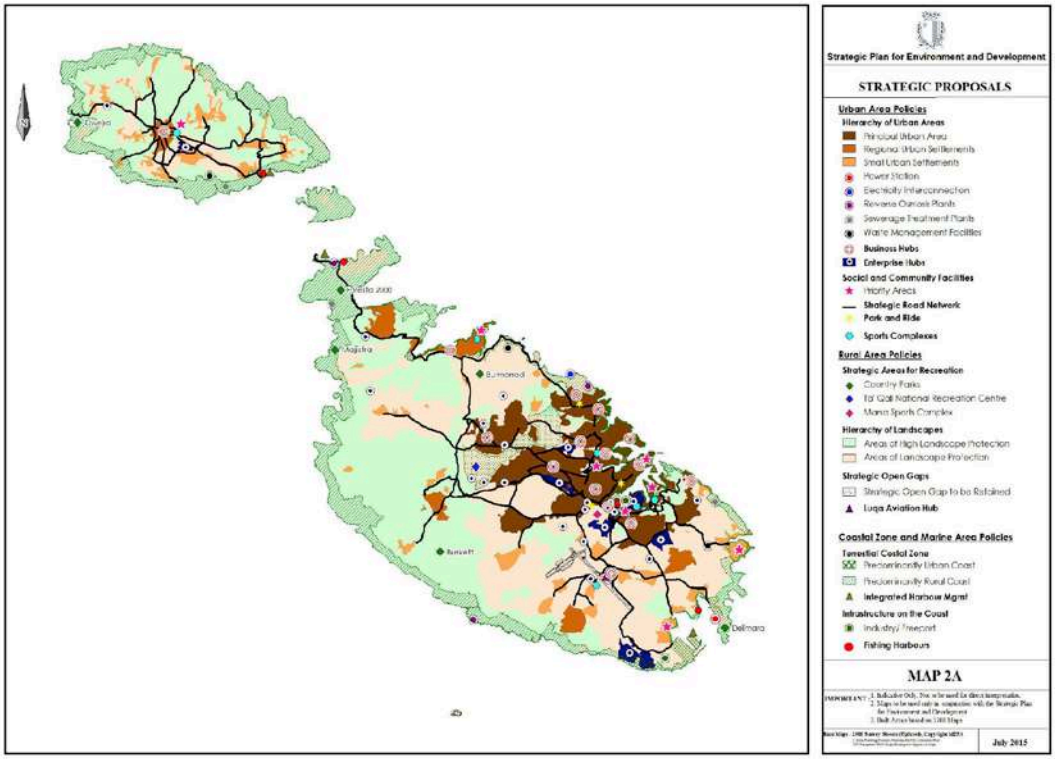


Figure 12 - Strategic proposals (Malta).

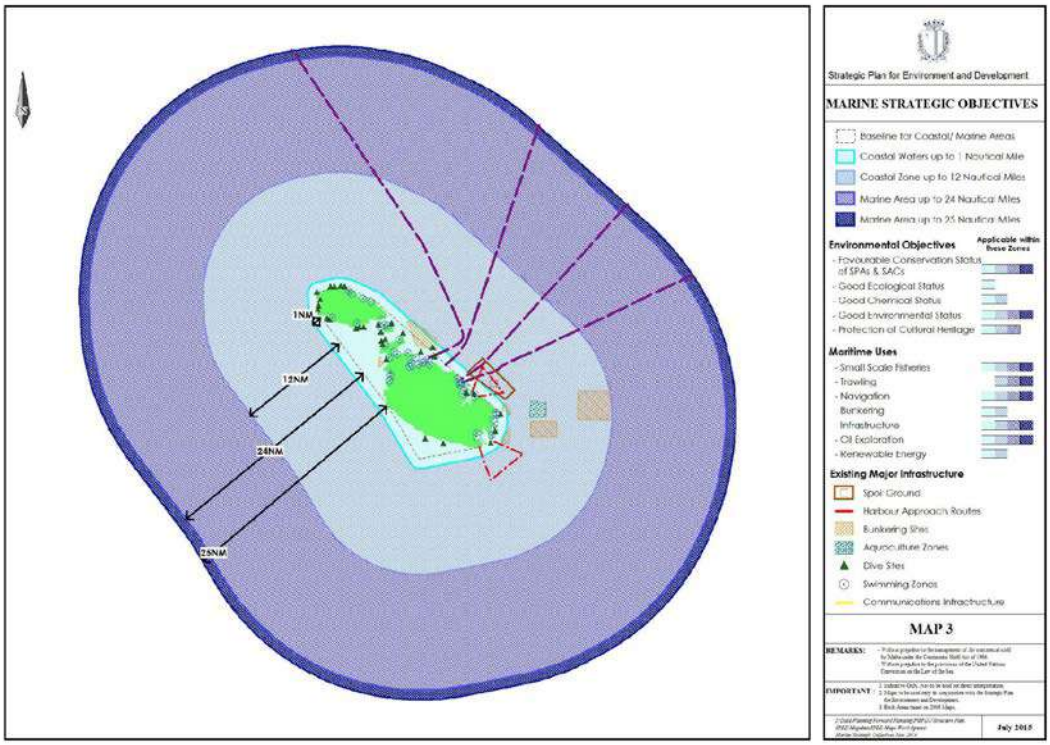


Figure 13 - Marine strategic objectives (Malta).

A1.6 Country assessment - Slovenia

Slovenia's Maritime Spatial Plan (*Pomorski prostorski plan Slovenije*), adopted in July 2021, represents the country's first legally binding MSP and covers the Slovenia part of the Adriatic Sea, including both marine waters and a defined coastal strip. The Plan applies to a total marine area of 213.2 km^2 and was developed in accordance with the Spatial Planning Act of 2017. However, preparatory activities for MSP in Slovenia began well before the adoption of the Act, building on the outcomes of UNEP/MAP CAMP Slovenia (2003) and a succession of EU-funded transnational projects—such as PlanCoast, SHAPE, ADRIPLAN, ADRIATIC+, SUPREME, and PORTODIMARE—which collectively laid the groundwork for the national MSP process.

While the Plan is self-standing and rooted in EU (MSP Directive 2014/89/EU) and national legislation and strategic frameworks, it also makes explicit references to international and EU instruments, notably the ICZM Protocol and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (Directive 2008/56/EC). It integrates a multi-scalar approach and establishes zoning provisions that are predominantly prescriptive, with mapped delineations of legal regimes and permissible uses for various maritime sectors.

Although the Plan predates the final adoption of many key EU Green Deal policy documents, it does include one direct reference to the European Green Deal (COM(2019) 640 final), highlighting biodiversity protection and ecosystem services as key commitments. Other EU policy documents relevant to the EGD—such as those on offshore renewable energy, biodiversity, blue economy, zero pollution, and circular economy—were adopted after the Plan was drafted and therefore are not explicitly referenced. Nonetheless, the Plan's emphasis on environmental protection, nature conservation, sustainable use of marine resources, and spatial coherence provides a basis for assessing sectoral alignment with EGD objectives.

The following analysis explores to what extent each sector addressed in the Slovenian MSP (e.g. fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, transport, energy, nature protection, etc.) reflects or can contribute to the implementation of European Green Deal goals. This includes consideration of biodiversity restoration, decarbonisation, circular economy, and sustainable food systems, even when direct references are absent, by assessing coherence of zoning, priorities and stated objectives with overarching EGD ambitions.

6.1 Sectoral EGD-related elements in MSP plans

The Slovenian MSP outlines sector-specific objectives and measures that intersect to varying degrees with the priorities of the EGD. This section provides an overview of how the MSP integrates EGD-related goals across four key sectors: fisheries, aquaculture, offshore renewable energy (ORE), and nature protection. The analysis considers the presence of EGD themes such as sustainable food production, biodiversity conservation, climate action, pollution prevention, and circular economy, identifying both direct references and indirect contributions.

6.1.1 Fisheries

The MSP of Slovenia explicitly includes fisheries within its objectives, focusing on the preservation and sustainable development of fisheries as a traditional activity on the Slovenian coast. These objectives are partially linked to the EGD topic of sustainable food production, particularly under sustainable fisheries. The stated aims are to increase fish stocks, enhance the added value of the activity, and support sustainable fishing, aligning partially with the broader goal of sustainable food production.

These objectives are supported by a series of prescriptive management measures, which include the annual examination of fishing eligibility (e.g. for winter mullet shoals), and assessment of fishing possibilities for species such as gilthead sea bream, as well as the regulation of farming native species for repopulation purposes and multi-use spaces, such as

permitting fishing activities on shell farms. These references suggest early steps toward integration of sustainable aquaculture and multi-use planning but remain limited in scope and detail. The Plan ensures appropriate ecological conditions for commercially valuable species traditionally present in Slovenian waters (e.g. tuna, lobster, eel, spider crab), in coordination with relevant national and regional authorities.

Further measures restrict fishing in sensitive zones such as protected areas, fishing reserves, mariculture zones, and traffic separation schemes, with details provided per area. The Plan also introduces oversight of prohibited fishing methods and a permit-based system for specific practices (e.g. fishing for gilthead sea bream on shell farms, mullet in fishing reserves). Moreover, fishing activities must be coordinated with temporary uses like sports competitions or rescue exercises, ensuring compatibility with other spatial demands. The plan also refers to the Management Plan for Marine Commercial Fishing in the Territorial and Inland Waters of the Republic of Slovenia.

Although **biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration** are not explicitly included among the fisheries-related objectives in the Slovenian MSP, several measures indirectly contribute to these goals. The Plan envisages the installation of a pilot artificial underwater structure, primarily for leisure fishing and tourism, but with potential to support marine connectivity. The artificial structure is allowed in degraded marine areas, which may generate positive environmental co-benefits in terms of ecosystem restoration, even if restoration is not directly stated as the purpose. Monitoring of impacts is foreseen, further supporting potential ecological benefits. It also identifies protected areas and fishing reserves where both commercial and recreational fishing are prohibited, contributing to reduced pressure on marine ecosystems.

While the blue **circular economy** does not explicitly appear under objectives related to the fisheries sector, it does include several operational measures that reflect its key elements. Regarding waste prevention, the Plan requires ports used for unloading and loading of fisheries and mariculture vessels to assess the availability of waste separation facilities. If needed, additional capacity must be ensured. The Plan further mandates the collection**,** separation, and proper handover of vessel-generated waste to authorized waste management providers. In terms of reuse and processing, a measure addresses the handling of waste vessels, requiring owners to ensure either their processing or removal. Temporary storage must be secured until delivery to authorized collectors. However, the Plan notes that the locations for such storage in coastal municipalities still need to be defined**.** Although these measures are basic and mostly operational, they provide a starting point for integrating circular economy practices into fisheries, particularly in terms of waste handling and end-of-life vessel management**.**

The Plan does not address **climate change mitigation or adaptation** in the fisheries context.

6.1.2 Aquaculture

Aquaculture, referred to in the Plan as mariculture, is included in a dedicated section of the objectives. While there is no explicit reference to "sustainable aquaculture" **(in relation to sustainable food production)**, the Plan indicates that environmental and social criteria are used in the selection of suitable aquaculture areas, suggesting an underlying sustainability rationale. It also includes the potential for expanding activities through the designation of additional areas for farming plant species on the seabed. Measures focus on the spatial regulation of marine aquaculture installations, defining locations and implementation conditions, as well as related land-based infrastructure necessary for supporting the activity. The Plan also touches on multi-use possibilities, such as combining gilthead sea bream farming near shellfish farms, and acknowledges potential impacts like the escape of farmed fish, indicating an awareness of operational risks.

Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration are not directly referenced in the aquaculture objectives of the Slovenian MSP. However, the Plan does require that site selection for aquaculture activities take into account several important ecological criteria, including the presence of nature conservation areas**,** biodiversity preservation**,** important marine habitats, and the living conditions of animal and plant species. One specific consideration is the need to protect blue corridors, with particular attention to key habitats for species such as the common bottlenose dolphin. These elements are addressed only as part of the criteria for identifying suitable aquaculture locations. The Plan does not include specific measures dedicated to conservation or restoration actions under aquaculture.

Blue and circular economy is not addressed within the aquaculture objectives of the Slovenian MSP. However, relevant measures are included. One measure requires that, in ports used for unloading and loading vessels for mariculture and fisheries, the availability of waste separation facilities must be assessed, and additional capacity provided if necessary. When these activities are carried out, all waste on vessels must be collected, separated at designated port collection points, and properly handled by authorized waste management operators. In addition, a measure related to reuse, repair, upgrade, and recycling is included to some extent, stating that the owner of a waste vessel must ensure its further processing or removal. Temporary storage must be arranged until the vessel is delivered to an authorized collector, although the specific locations for such storage within coastal municipalities are not defined.

Zero pollution is not included as part of the aquaculture objectives in the Slovenian MSP, but it is addressed through specific measures. The Plan allows for the implementation of measures aimed at reducing the environmental impact of marine organism farming. Additionally, it requires an initial assessment of the environmental state prior to the activity, as well as ongoing monitoring to track potential impacts.

Climate change adaptation and mitigation are not considered in the aquaculture section of the Slovenian MSP.

6.1.3 Offshore Renewable Energy

Offshore renewable energy (ORE) is addressed in the Slovenian MSP under the broader category of "energy from renewable sources," within the section titled "Facilities and infrastructure for the research, exploitation and extraction of oil, gas and other energy sources, minerals and aggregates and the generation of energy from renewable sources." **Climate change mitigation** is reflected in the objectives, which foresee the exploration of possibilities for installing infrastructure to harness renewable energy from the sea. Specifically, the Plan mentions the potential to designate areas for future exploitation of sea energy, particularly for technologies such as heat pumps that utilise temperature differences.

Development of marine renewable energy installations is supported through a measure that calls for examining the feasibility of such infrastructure, with reference to the National Energy and Climate Plan. However, the installation of offshore wind farms is explicitly prohibited.

Climate change adaptation, sustainable food production, blue circular economy, and zero pollution are not addressed in relation to ORE in the Slovenian MSP.

6.1.4 Nature Protection

Nature conservation is addressed as a dedicated topic within the Slovenian Maritime Spatial Plan, with multiple objectives and measures supporting the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems. While the Plan does not explicitly frame these actions under the European Green Deal (EGD), several elements align with its core environmental goals.

Climate change mitigation is indirectly considered within the nature conservation measures. For example, the Plan includes a provision for protecting *Posidonia oceanica* meadows—a key

blue carbon habitat—by establishing a 100-meter coastal buffer zone between Koper and Izola. Although not explicitly linked to climate mitigation, this measure contributes to preserving carbon-sequestering marine ecosystems.

In relation to **sustainable food production**, the Plan restricts fisheries in specific conservation-sensitive areas. Fishing is prohibited in buffer zones around marine protected areas (MPAs), and is limited in regions of detrital seabed. Within *Natura 2000* sites, the Plan requires coordination between the nature conservation sector and both commercial and recreational fisheries to reach consensus on allowed activities. These provisions aim to reduce pressures from fishing in ecologically valuable areas and contribute to the sustainable use of marine resources.

Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration are firmly embedded within the Plan's objectives and measures. One of the main objectives under nature conservation calls for maintaining the connectivity of all areas important for the conservation of nature at sea and on land, including green infrastructure. The urban development section further reinforces this by promoting the identification, preservation, and integration of blue and green corridors to connect core areas into a cohesive ecological network. The Plan also encourages the implementation of measures for preserving biodiversity and for restoring areas degraded by anthropogenic activities, in line with strategic biodiversity action plans. Among the measures, it foresees the proposal of new protected areas, including the potential protection of an underwater sandbank and ridge near existing MPAs. It also includes a requirement to develop expert assessments to support cross-border protection of the detrital seabed.

Zero pollution is partially addressed in the Plan. Under the objectives for maritime affairs and maritime transport, the Plan calls for the introduction of measures to prevent pollution and the spread of harmful organisms via ballast water. In the sea-use section, explicit priority is given to the protection of the naturally preserved coastline. Development in these areas is strictly prohibited, unless specifically permitted by the Plan, reinforcing efforts to maintain coastal and marine water quality.

6.2 Zoning provisions

Zoning in the Slovenian Maritime Spatial Plan is applied across several sectors, including fisheries, aquaculture, and nature protection, while no dedicated areas are identified for offshore renewable energy (ORE). The Plan outlines spatial designations and management provisions, although it does not provide explicit figures on surface area (in km^2) or percentage coverage for any of the zones in the Plan document.

For **fisheries**, the Plan defines areas where fishing is allowed, along with applicable legal regimes and restrictions. These areas are illustrated on Map 5 and include designations such as fishing reserves and zones with activity limitations. However, no quantitative data are provided on the total extent of these zones.

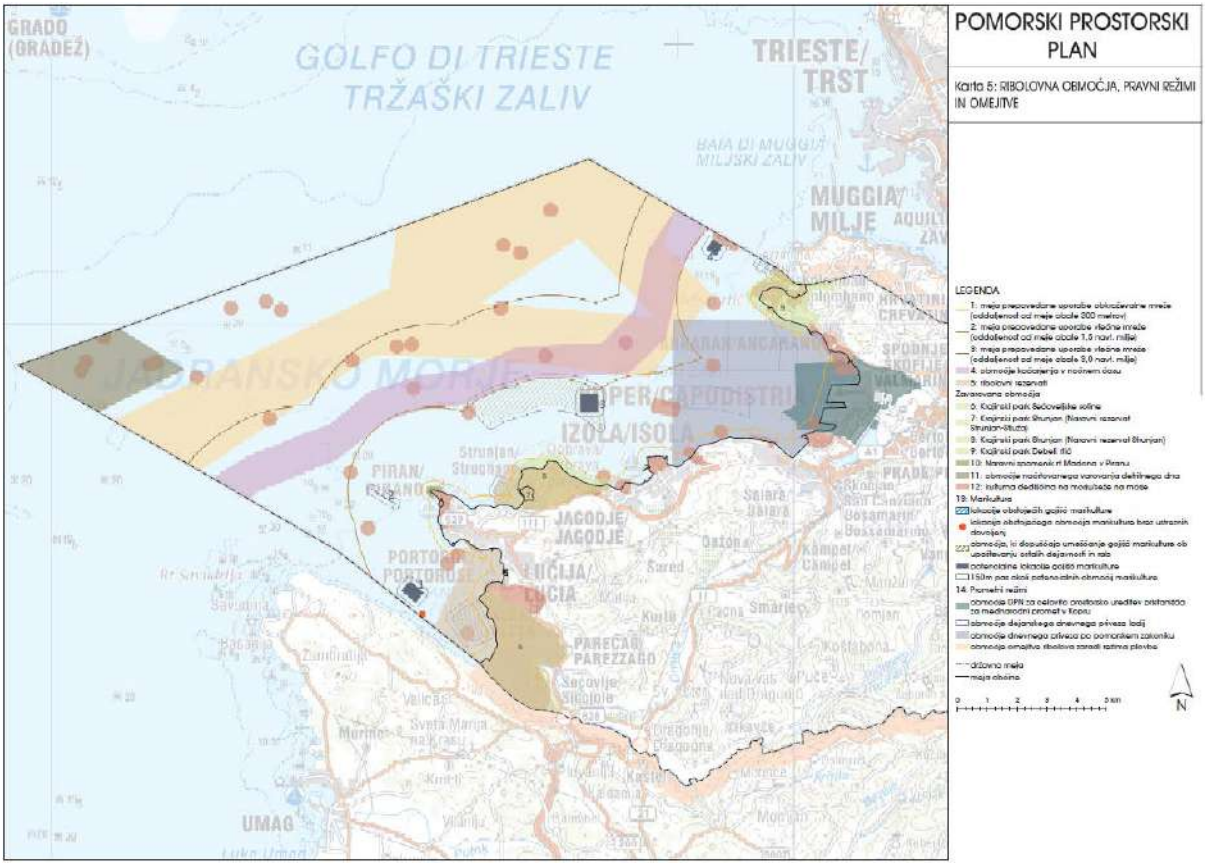


Figure 14 - Fishing zones, legal regimes and restrictions (Slovenia).

In the case of **aquaculture**, the Plan specifies multiple types of spatial designations supporting mariculture activities. These include locations of existing mariculture farms, areas identified as suitable for new farms based on compatibility with other sea uses, farms operating without formal permits, and ports supporting mariculture operations and transhipment. These areas are mapped on Map 4, yet again without indication of their total spatial coverage or share of the overall marine plan area.

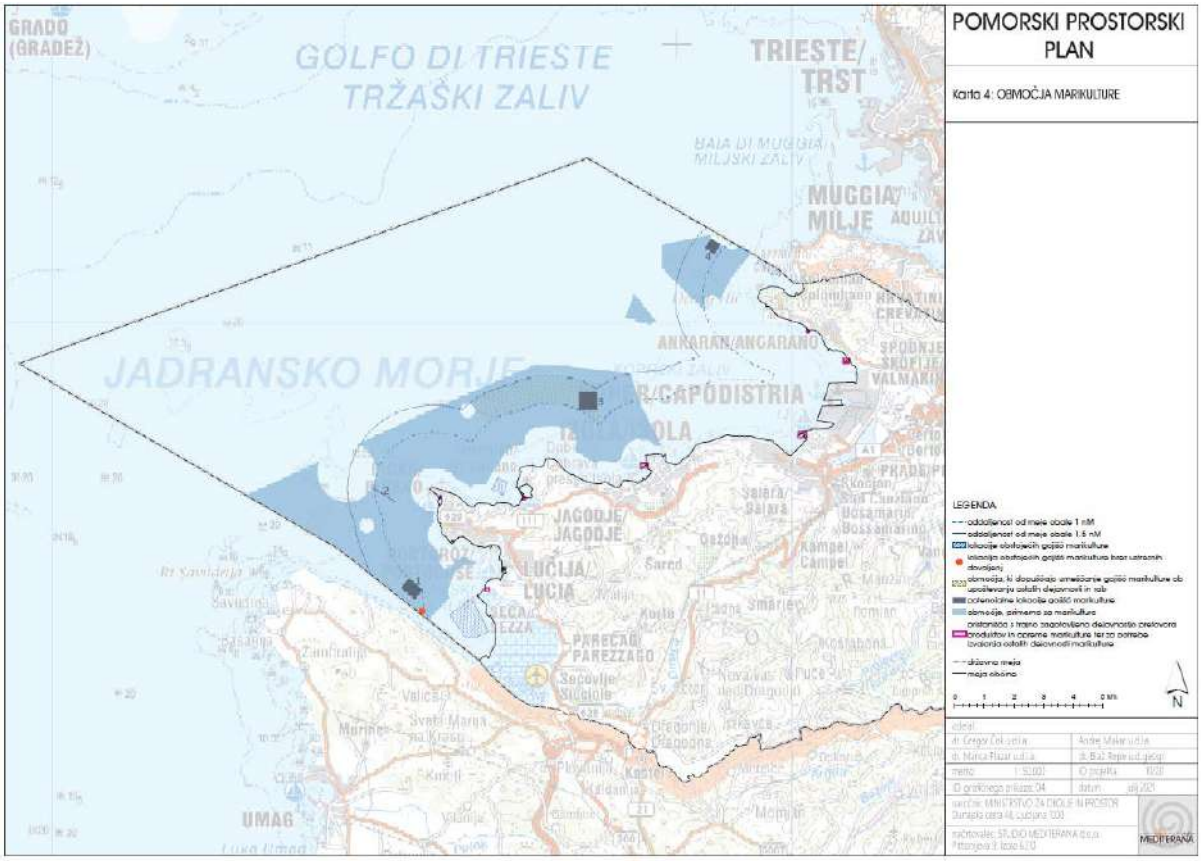


Figure 15 - Aquaculture zones (Slovenia).

For **offshore renewable energy**, the Plan does not identify any dedicated spatial areas. While the possibility of developing renewable energy infrastructure (such as for heat pump technologies) is mentioned in other sections of the Plan, no zoning is applied to support or guide such development, and no production capacity estimates are available.

In terms of **nature protection**, zoning includes both currently protected areas and zones proposed for future protection. These are presented on Map 8. The Plan does not provide specific spatial figures for these zones either, but it outlines spatial management measures that limit or prohibit uses such as fishing, anchoring, and development in ecologically sensitive areas.

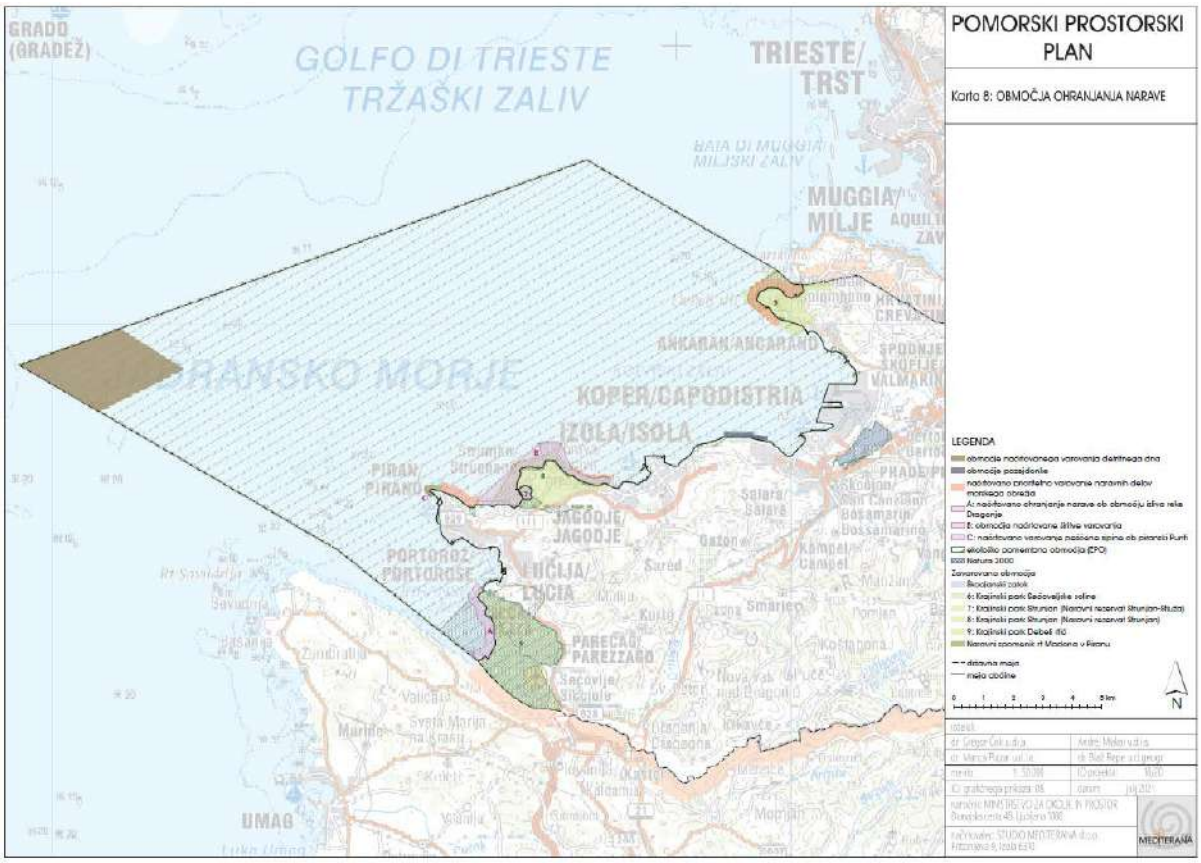


Figure 16 - Nature conservation (Slovenia).

Overall, the Plan applies zoning as a tool for managing marine space across key sectors, though it lacks quantification of designated areas. The zoning approach is functional and regulatory, but could be further strengthened to support implementation, monitoring, and alignment with European Green Deal objectives.

6.3 Fair and Just Transition

The Slovenian MSP reflects initial efforts toward inclusive planning, with stakeholder engagement carried out primarily through participation in various EU-funded projects such as PlanCoast, Adriplan, Supreme, and Portodimare, and indirectly through initiatives like CAMP Slovenia, Shape, and Adriatic+. These processes facilitated the involvement of local municipalities, sector representatives, and the professional public. Although detailed information on the specific stakeholders and sectors is not available in the Plan itself, secondary sources provide insights into the engagement process.

In the formal procedure, expert and local knowledge were both taken into account, and participatory approaches such as meetings, workshops, and coordination sessions were used during the planning phase. While the Plan does not include specific references to gender balance, social inclusion criteria, or citizen science, it shows a general commitment to stakeholder involvement and lays a basis for further development of more structured and inclusive approaches in future planning cycles.

6.4 Cross-cutting elements

Cross-cutting elements

Cross-cutting elements are addressed in the Slovenian MSP plan with varying degrees of specificity across the sectors. While scientific research is explicitly recognised and spatially integrated, other aspects such as education, innovation, and cooperation are included more selectively.

Research and innovation are comprehensively covered cross-sectoral topics in the Plan. A dedicated objective establishes the entire Slovenian marine area as an area for scientific research in multiple fields, including oceanography, hydrography, environmental protection, fisheries, and underwater cultural heritage. This overarching objective applies to all sectors.

- In the **fisheries** sector, specific measures refer to the need for scientific research in fisheries and mariculture. However, technological innovation is not addressed.
- For **aquaculture**, research is explicitly mentioned, with an emphasis on ensuring compatibility with mariculture areas, ports, and anchorages. The Plan calls for coordination of scientific research with other activities but does not explicitly promote innovation.
- There are no targeted objectives or measures to support research and innovation in the context of **offshore renewable energy** (ORE).
- The general scientific research objective also covers **nature protection**, particularly in the fields of marine pollution, biodiversity, and the ecological state of the sea.

Availability of reliable, high-quality ocean and maritime data is not addressed through direct objectives or measures, although it is implicitly linked to the research functions foreseen across the Plan.

Education and training are only briefly touched upon.

- In the context of **fisheries**, the Plan calls for the preservation or provision of necessary infrastructure on land to support fishing, education, and sustainable tourism.
- A similar reference exists under **aquaculture**, with mention of education-related infrastructure but no specific actions on skills development or vocational training.
- **ORE** and **nature protection** are not associated with any provisions related to education or maritime workforce development.

Cross-border cooperation is included in the Plan, particularly in relation to environmental protection and fisheries.

- The Plan emphasises the continuation and enhancement of cross-border and international cooperation for environmental preservation and joint management of maritime pressures, such as maritime traffic and fisheries.
- In the context of **nature protection**, the proposed designation of a protected area near the tri-border with Italy and Croatia anticipates the need for coordinated cross-border measures. The preparation of expert studies for transboundary protection is explicitly foreseen.
- No cross-border cooperation measures are defined for **aquaculture** or **ORE**.

Overall, cross-cutting themes such as research and regional cooperation are well embedded in the Plan, while education and innovation remain underdeveloped.

A1.7 Country assessment - Spain

7.1 Sectoral EGD-related elements in MSP plans

Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in Spain is regulated by the Royal Decree 363/2017, of 8 April, establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning. This Royal Decree is a legal development of the Law 41/2010, of 29 December 2010, on the protection of the marine environment that transposes the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) to the Spanish legal system. Legally, this means that MSP objectives need to be coherent with the marine strategies and the consecution of the Good Environmental Status (GES). MSP plans in Spain were approved by the Royal Decree 150/2023, of 28 February, on the approval of the maritime spatial plans (POEM for its initials in Spanish "Planes de Ordenación del Espacio Marítimo") of the five Spanish marine demarcations (or sub-regions) (*figure 1*).

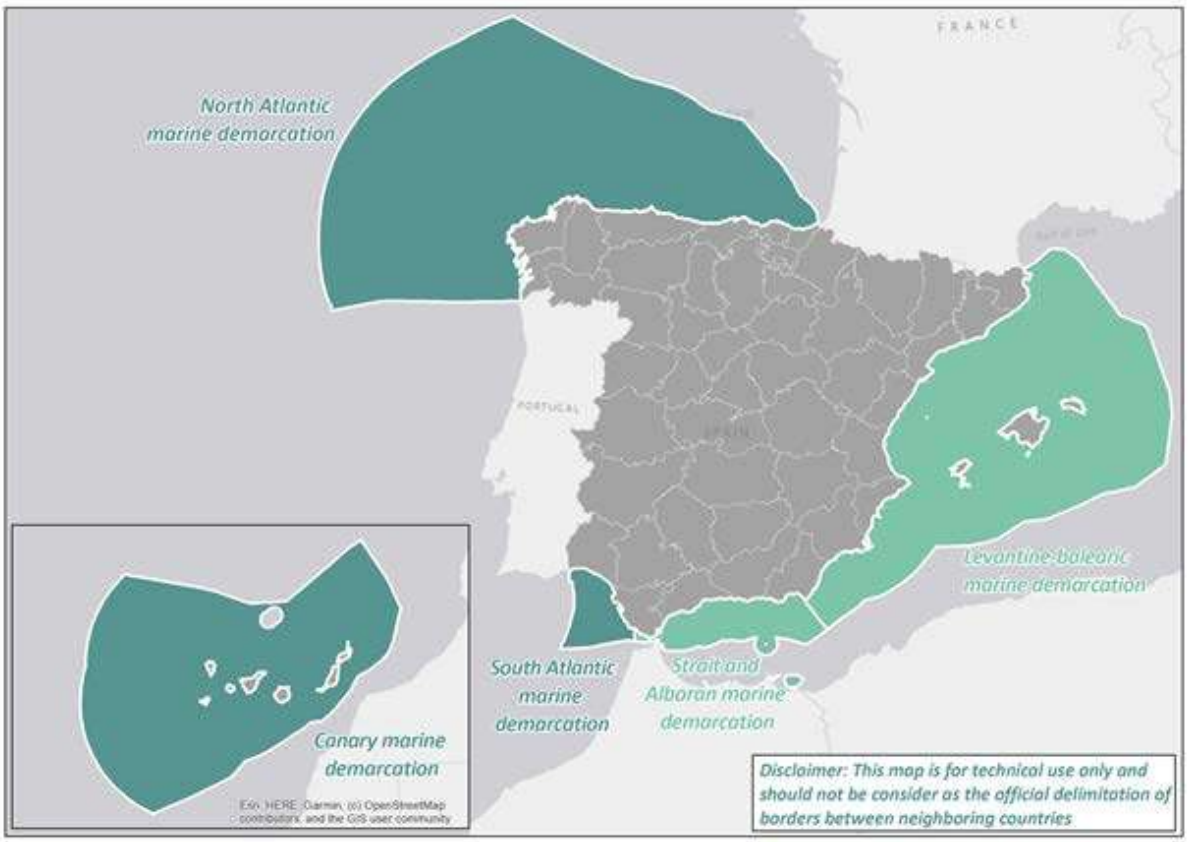


Figure 17 - The five Spanish marine demarcations, according to Law 41/2010, of 29 December 2010, on the protection of the marine environment that transposes the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) to the Spanish legal system. Light green demarcations are those located in the Mediterranean Sea, hence in the scope of the MEDIGREEN project. Source: Own elaboration (IEO, CSIC).

The competent authority for the implementation of both, MSPD and MSFD, processes is the same: the Directorate-General for the Coast and the Sea, that belongs to the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge. To steer the process, a Working Group for MSP was created in the framework of the Interministerial Commission of Marine Strategies.

The process for developing the POEM objectives in Spain started before the European Green Deal (EGD) was launched; therefore, the first cycle of the POEM considers it only partially.

The POEM is organized in a core framework document compiling objectives, measures, zoning and criteria for monitoring and evaluation to be applied in the 5 marine demarcations defined

for the MSFD implementation, two of them falling in Mediterranean waters: Levantine-Balearic and the Strait and Alboran marine demarcations.

Although the POEM is not explicitly framed around a formal "vision", its guiding principles serve as a *de facto* strategic orientation. The plans aim to promote the sustainable activity and growth of maritime sectors in a way that is compatible with respect to the values of the marine areas, the conservation of their functionality, and the sustainable use of resources.

The zoning provisions of the POEM constitute a key instrument for structuring the sustainable use of the marine space and implementing EGD objectives. The plans establish two main zoning categories: **Priority Use Areas** (in Spanish, Zonas de Uso Prioritario **(ZUP)**), which designate areas where general-interest uses must be safeguarded or prioritised (including biodiversity protection, sand deposits for beach nourishment, etc.); and **High Potential Areas** (in Spanish, Zonas de Alto Potencial **(ZAP)**), which identify areas where certain uses (such as offshore renewable energy, aquaculture, or biodiversity conservation) are particularly suitable for future development. The definition of these areas is based on a combination of environmental, technical, operational and safety criteria and is supported by a set of compatibility rules to manage spatial overlaps between uses. The POEM also includes a comprehensive suite of measures, both transversal and sector-specific, to improve the management of maritime uses and activities during the plans' implementation period (2023-2027). These measures address cumulative pressures, develop the marine green infrastructure concept, support participatory governance, and guide sectoral developments in line with sustainability objectives. Some of these measures were proposed by stakeholders and authorities through coordination and participation, while others emerged from identified needs such as improved data collection, more detailed management, and stronger governance. The categories of measures, indicated by their respective acronyms, are explained below in relation to those relevant for this study:

OEM Ordenación del Espacio Marítimo (Maritime Spatial Planning)	Corresponds to the set of cross-cutting measures that accompany and reinforce the overall management of the plan. These measures are not tied to a single sector, but rather reinforce environmental coherence, adaptive management, governance, and knowledge of the system
PB Protección de la Biodiversidad (Biodiversity Protection-related measure)	Denotes specific reinforcement measures aimed at safeguarding biodiversity and the marine protected areas network. These measures are linked to Spain' s marine conservation objectives and the European Biodiversity strategy (such as the 30% target) or other international commitments.
ER Energía Renovable (Renewable Energy-related measure)	Refers to specific measures aimed at producing renewable energy at sea, primarily offshore wind energy. These measures are designed to ensure that the deployment of renewable energies is sustainable, compatible with other uses, and produces the least possible environmental impact.
ITM Interacción Tierra-Mar (Land-Sea Interaction-LSI)	States to land-sea interactions measures and they are established to address the uses and impacts arising in the land-sea interface,to ensure integrated and coherent planning between land and sea.
EA	Areas identified within this category are defined as containing strategic sand deposits, the extraction of which may be necessary for coastal protection measures, including efforts to combat climate change. Regulations and

Extracción de Áridos (Marine aggregate extraction)	limitations are imposed on the dredging and extraction of seabed materials that have significant environmental impacts.
AC Acuicultura (Aquaculture)	Correspond to actions or measures for promoting the planning and sustainable management of aquaculture

Integration of the European Green Deal Principles in the POEM: Progress and Gaps

The POEM is deeply grounded in the strategic frameworks established under the European Green Deal (EGD) and broader EU marine and climate policies. Although the process for developing the POEM objectives in Spain started before the EGD was launched, it references the EGD as a cornerstone for guiding maritime policy towards sustainability, carbon neutrality, and ecosystem resilience. The plan's guiding principles include an ecosystem-based approach, the maintenance of the Good Environmental Status (GES), and the protection of biodiversity and marine ecosystem services, especially through its link to the Spanish Marine Strategy process. Principles such as the prevention and minimisation of environmental impacts, the promotion of coexistence of maritime uses, and the enhancement of resilience to climate change are central to the planning framework. These principles align clearly with several EGD topics, particularly biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration and climate change adaptation and mitigation. Additionally, principles promoting efficient use of marine space and the consideration of territorial cohesion and gender perspective, though still underdeveloped in practice, support the broader ambition of ensuring a fair and just transition. However, other EGD topics, such as blue circular economy and sustainable food production, are not explicitly embedded within the guiding principles, although sustainable food production is widely addressed in other sections such as measures or zoning criteria.

In strategic terms, several sectoral and cross-cutting EGD-related strategies are reflected in the POEM. Energy transition is supported through the incorporation of the EU Strategy on Offshore Renewable Energy, which sets ambitious targets, complemented by oceanic energy expansion. The POEM also reflects principles from the updated EU Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation, promoting ecosystem-based approaches to enhance resilience. Environmental and ecological dimensions of the EGD are also represented: the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 is cited in both the prologue and technical sections of the POEM. Additional alignment is seen, at least at the strategic level, with the Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) and the former EU Blue Growth strategy. At the national level, the POEM is coherent with Law 41/2010 on the protection of the marine environment, the National Energy and Climate Plan (PNIEC), the Roadmap for the development of offshore wind and marine energy in Spain, and the National Strategy for the Green Infrastructure and ecological connectivity and restoration. The Strategic Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture are also acknowledged under aquaculture-specific objectives.

However, integration of EGD topics within the POEM remains inconsistent, and significant strategic and operational gaps persist. Strategies such as the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Zero Pollution Action Plan, and the Circular Economy Action Plan have not yet been fully translated into operational measures. Circular economy principles are absent; there is no explicit mention of reuse, recycling, or waste minimisation strategies in the marine context. Quantitative objectives are generally lacking across EGD topics, reducing traceability and accountability. Restoration targets, pollution remediation, and climate adaptation infrastructure are not clearly defined or monitored within the POEM. Nevertheless, notable strengths of the plan include prioritising offshore renewable energy, with explicit spatial planning aimed at meeting national climate targets. Biodiversity protection is integrated as a cross-cutting objective, particularly through zoning measures and principles of environmental compatibility. Furthermore, stakeholder participation is formally acknowledged, laying the groundwork for a just transition.

Overall, while the POEM provides a basis aligned with key EGD objectives, advancing the integration of missing elements, particularly those related to social, economic and environmental sustainability, should be a priority in future MSP cycles.

The integration of key EGD-related topics in the POEM can be summarised as follows:

- The POEM does not present a standalone strategic goal on **climate change mitigation**. However, the plan devotes substantial attention to offshore renewable energy, in line with national targets outlined in the National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan (PNIEC) and the Roadmap for the development of offshore wind and marine energy in Spain. This includes defining areas of high potential for offshore wind development while balancing biodiversity and sectoral compatibility
- With regards to **climate change adaptation**, the POEM explicitly recognizes the need for resilience against climate change. Through the ecosystem-based approach, the plans integrate adaptation measures such as maintaining marine environmental quality and enhancing natural heritage protection. However, a concrete adaptation infrastructure (e.g., green buffers, marine connectivity elements) is not operationally defined.
- The plan includes references to sustainable development in fisheries and aquaculture, consistent with EU strategies in **sustainable food production** (e.g., the Strategic Guidelines for a more Sustainable Aquaculture 2021–2030). However, the treatment remains generic, lacking targeted measures or indicators linked to EGD targets for sustainable food systems.
- With regards to **biodiversity and ecosystem restoration**, the POEM emphasizes environmental protection and the maintenance of good environmental status as cross-cutting objectives. Marine biodiversity is addressed through zoning, measures to ensure environmental sustainability, and integration with the MSFD. However, restoration is only indirectly covered, and objectives related to blue corridors or coherent MPA networks are not clearly articulated.
- There is little explicit mention of **blue circular economy** principles in the POEM. While the overarching sustainability goal may imply efficient use of marine resources, the plan lacks specific measures or references to circular design, waste prevention, or recycling in the blue economy sectors.
- Although **pollution** is not directly tackled in the POEM, it is considered through rules that ensure activities are compatible with environmental protection goals, especially those set out in the MSFD. The plan encourages aligning land and sea discharge rules to avoid harming the health of marine waters. Sensitive natural areas, like Natura 2000 sites, are protected from certain activities, helping to reduce pollution risks. Still, there is no clear strategy or targets for achieving zero pollution.
- The POEM mandates public and private stakeholder participation in their implementation and review processes. However, it lacks detailed procedures for inclusiveness, equity, or access to data, which limits the extent to which it operationalizes a **fair and just transition.**

7.1.1 Fisheries

The POEM recognizes fisheries as a traditional and essential maritime activity, but its integration into the EGD-MSP framework remains limited in scope and specificity. One of the general objectives of the POEM is to support the sustainable development of maritime sectors, which includes fisheries. However, this objective is expressed in general terms and is not accompanied by quantitative targets or spatial designations. In fact, the POEM does not define any Priority Use Area or High Potential Area for fisheries, reflecting the widespread and mobile nature of the

activity. Instead, the plan focuses on ensuring compatibility between fisheries and other uses, particularly offshore renewable energy development and biodiversity conservation.

The fisheries activity is addressed in connection with the EU's **Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)**, aligning the POEM with overarching EU goals for sustainable resource management. The general objective of fostering sustainable maritime sectors includes language that underscores the need to act "without prejudice to the conservation, protection and enhancement of the marine environment, including resilience to the effects of climate change." However, **no fisheries-specific measures** are defined within the POEM.

The POEM establishes a series of measures aimed at improving the management of uses and activities. Some of these measures, whether proposed by stakeholders or identified during the development of the POEM, impact all sectors. Fisheries are indirectly considered through **multi-sector horizontal measures** and **governance-related measures**, as well as through **measures related to other sectors**, especially offshore renewables.

- **Multi-sector horizontal measures affecting fisheries**:
    - **OEM1**: Spatial analysis of cumulative pressures from the concentration of uses and activities.
    - **OEM2**: Prospective and socioeconomic characterization of Spanish blue economy sectors.
- **Governance and participation measures**:
    - **OEM6**: Development of a national blue economy strategy.
    - **OEM7**: Development of a long-term stakeholder engagement strategy, with special attention to sectors with strong social and local roots.
- **Sectoral measure intersecting with fisheries**:
    - **ER2**: Analysis of the fisheries sector potentially affected by offshore wind energy development in the areas proposed in the POEM.

The analysis of how the key EGD-MSP topics are addressed in relation to the fisheries sector reveals that:

Sustainable food production: Positively addressed, albeit indirectly. The POEM mentions the CFP and recognizes the importance of maintaining traditional activities such as fisheries. However, this contribution is not reinforced through spatial planning or fisheries-specific objectives or measures.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation: Indirectly acknowledged through the general objective of promoting resilience and good environmental status. Nevertheless, these topics are not translated into fisheries-specific strategies or innovation pathways.

Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration: Fisheries are required to be compatible with protected areas and biodiversity conservation objectives. Although not directly reflected in measures, the POEM refers to Marine Reserves of Fishing Interest, which are part of the Spanish Network of Marine Protected Areas (In Spanish *Red de Areas Marinas Protegidas de España* (RAMPE)), as defined in Law 41/2010 on the protection of the marine environment.

There is no explicit reference to the **Blue Circular Economy or Zero Pollution** principles in relation to the fisheries sector. Key topics such as waste reduction, gear recycling, and the valorisation of by-products are not addressed.

While fisheries are considered within the POEM framework, their role as an active contributor to the European Green Deal objectives, particularly in terms of innovation, decarbonization, and circularity, remains underdeveloped.

7.1.2 Aquaculture

The POEM explicitly addresses **aquaculture** as a sector with future potential development and spatial requirements, demonstrating greater alignment with EGD-MSP principles compared to fisheries. Aquaculture benefits from dedicated spatial designations, strategic objectives, and a suite of sector-specific and horizontal measures that collectively promote sustainable growth, climate adaptation, and spatial coherence.

As for fisheries, aquaculture is strategically integrated and supported by one of the general objectives of the POEM, namely, the promotion of sustainable development of maritime sectors. This is operationalized through the identification of **High Potential Areas for Aquaculture** (*Zonas de Alto Potencial para la Acuicultura* **(ZAPAC)**, by its Spanish acronym). These ZAPAC are marine areas designated within the POEM as particularly suitable for the development of aquaculture. These zones include both existing and prospective aquaculture areas, identified through a combination of environmental, technical, and socio-economic criteria by the regional governments. The aim is to support an orderly and sustainable expansion of the sector, ensuring compatibility with biodiversity protection and other maritime uses, through the planning and management of ZAPACs and the definition of **three specific measures**:

- **AC1**: Declaration of Areas of Interest for Aquaculture (*Zona de Interés para la Acuicultura (ZIA),* by its Spanish acronym), and Areas of Interest for Marine Farming (*Zona de Interés para Cultivos Marinos* (*ZICM),* from its Spanish acronym), by regional governments within ZAPAC.
- **AC2**: Development of planning and management instruments for these Areas of Interest for Aquaculture, including sustainability and coexistence criteria.
- **AC3**: Actions under the *Sustainable Aquaculture Development Strategy 2021–2030*, such as the identification of new areas (e.g., for offshore aquaculture), assessment of carrying capacity, climate change impact studies, and integration of new technologies.

Aquaculture is one of the sectors with designated **ZAP**, facilitating forward-looking spatial planning. The POEM encourages the development of future installations within these zones, without excluding other locations. Compatibility criteria are provided in case of spatial overlapping with areas for biodiversity, underwater cultural heritage, or national defence. For example, AC2 allows the planning instruments to include multi-use criteria and guidance on coexistence.

The analysis of how the key EGD-MSP topics are addressed in relation to the aquaculture sector reveals that:

Sustainable Seafood Production is directly addressed through zoning, policy alignment, and the strategic objective of fostering aquaculture development. Also measures as AC2 explicitly refers to sustainability criteria, and AC3 supports innovation and planning through the national strategy for sustainable aquaculture.

Climate Change Mitigation and **Adaptation** are only *partially addressed*. For example, climate resilience is indirectly considered through AC3 measure which foresees climate change impact assessments on aquaculture areas and encourages adaptive planning, but no explicit mitigation measures (e.g., decarbonization pathways) are defined.

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Protection and Restoration, appears as a criterion included for avoiding conflicts between aquaculture areas and biodiversity protection areas. For example, in case of overlapping with Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), buffer zones must be respected, and compatibility with management plans must be ensured.

As for fisheries**, Blue Circular Economy** and **Zero Pollution** are *not explicitly addressed for aquaculture.* The concept of circularity (e.g., nutrient reuse, integrated multi-trophic

aquaculture (IMTA) systems) is not mentioned in the POEM, although AC3 refers to technological innovation which could implicitly support circular models.

So, in conclusion, aquaculture represents a **proactive integration** of EGD principles into MSP in Spain. While certain topics such as circular economy and pollution prevention could be further strengthened, the sector benefits from dedicated zoning, forward-looking planning, and explicit measures aligned with EU sustainability strategies. As such, aquaculture is positioned as a key contributor to the sustainable food system in the Spanish maritime area.

7.1.3 Offshore Renewable Energy

Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE), particularly offshore wind energy, is the most developed and strategically integrated sector in the POEM with direct alignment to the EGD objectives. The plan designates **High Potential Areas for Offshore Wind Energy** (*Zonas de Alto Potencial para la Energía Eólica Marina* **(ZAPER)**, by its Spanish acronym) and includes a comprehensive set of sector-specific measures and spatial criteria. While there are clear links to climate change mitigation, opportunities remain to enhance alignment with circular economy, pollution prevention, and climate adaptation objectives.

The development of offshore wind energy is explicitly tied to the Spanish Roadmap for Offshore Wind and Marine Energy, which is part of the Strategic Energy and Climate Framework. The POEM contributes to this roadmap by providing zoning (Measure 3.1 of the Spanish Roadmap), strategic planning, and environmental compatibility provisions for offshore wind projects. The POEM defines three specific measures for the OWF sector:

- **ER1:** Analysis and modelling of the landscape impact of offshore wind energy infrastructures in Spanish waters.
- **ER2:** Analysis of the fisheries sector potentially affected by offshore wind energy development in the areas proposed in the POEM.
- **ER3:** Analysis of the potential effects of offshore wind farms on marine ecosystems.

These measures are complemented by detailed environmental and technical planning criteria within each ZAPER to ensure sustainable deployment and coexistence with other maritime activities.

The analysis of how the key EGD-MSP topics are addressed in relation to the Offshore Renewable Energy sector reveals that:

For **Climate Change Mitigation**, ORE is the core driver of the POEM. The zoning of High Potential Areas for Offshore Wind Energy supports the EU target of 60 GW by 2030 and is part of the *"Spanish Roadmap for the development of offshore wind and marine energy*". The POEM explicitly contributes to this strategic framework, with zoning serving as one of the roadmap's key implementation tools. The POEM identifies High Potential Areas for Offshore Wind Energy to determine the best potential locations for the deployment of OWF installations. ZAPER are identified to optimise technical and economic feasibility and minimise conflicts with other uses and the environment. However, there are no specific topics addressed regarding the clean energy transition. For ORE, climate change mitigation topics about Clean Energy Transition in Maritime Sectors; Port Transformation (e.g. decarbonisation or port infrastructure upgrades) or Blue Carbon are not mentioned.

Climate Change Adaptation is not specifically considered. Although the POEM promotes environmental sustainability and ecosystem resilience, no specific measures enhance adaptive capacity, such as nature-based solutions, or vulnerability assessments for ORE development areas.

Sustainable Food Production: The POEM recognizes the need to avoid negative impacts on fishing and aquaculture. Measure ER2 specifically addresses the compatibility of OWF with

existing fisheries activities. The ZAPER criteria require coexistence analysis and design considerations that prioritize small-scale and sustainable fisheries in affected areas.

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Protection and Restoration is *partially considered*. Measure ER3 addresses the potential ecosystem impacts of OWF development. Additionally, planning criteria restrict OWF development in areas with vulnerable species or priority habitats (e.g., seagrass beds, Special Protected Areas (SPAs) and in some Sites of Community Interest (SCIs)). Projects must undergo environmental assessments, including cumulative impacts, and must justify siting decisions in sensitive areas, such as those within or near Natura 2000 sites.

Blue Circular Economy: circularity concepts such as reuse, recycling, or design for dismantling are not included in the ORE provisions of the POEM.

Zero Pollution: The POEM does not address pollution prevention or remediation related to offshore wind construction or operation (e.g., sediment disturbance, chemical discharge). However, measure ER3 requires acoustic studies to address some noise pollution aspects.

7.1.4 Nature protection

Nature protection is a foundational component of the POEM reflected already since the transposition of the MSPD as a legal development of the Law 41/2010 on the protection of the marine environment. Operationally this topic is addressed through a combination of zoning designations, general criteria for activity compatibility, and dedicated measures aimed at ensuring the maintenance of marine biodiversity and ecological integrity. The POEM incorporates two types of biodiversity-related zones: **Priority Use Areas for Biodiversity Protection** and **High Potential Areas for Biodiversity Conservation**, which respectively reflect already protected areas and areas identified for their high conservation values.

The POEM establishes general coexistence criteria that apply to all marine uses, ensuring that no activity compromises the good environmental status of the marine environment. These include limits on activities in sensitive habitats and species, requirements for environmental assessments, and coordination with the Spanish Marine Strategy and Natura 2000 Network provisions. Additionally, sector-specific criteria are defined to manage interactions with biodiversity areas.

The following key measures are directly related to nature protection:

- **OEM1**: Spatial analysis of cumulative pressures resulting from concentrated maritime activities.
- **OEM3**: Definition and incorporation into the POEM of the elements that constitute the Marine Green Infrastructure.
- **OEM4**: Development of anchoring management plans for recreational vessels.
- **PB1**: Identification of new marine protected area proposals to advance the 30% protection target by 2030.
- **PB2**: Approval and development of the Master Plan for the Spanish Marine Protected Areas Network (RAMPE).

The analysis of how the key EGD-MSP topics are addressed in relation to the nature protection sector reveals that:

Climate Change Mitigation is not explicitly addressed in relation to nature protection. No nature-based climate mitigation strategies (e.g., blue carbon enhancement) are mentioned.

Climate Change Adaptation is addressed in the POEM through both strategic references and specific measures that aim to strengthen the resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems. While not framed as an independent objective under nature protection, climate adaptation is

embedded in the ecosystem-based approach that governs the entire planning framework. A key contribution is made through measure OEM3, which defines and integrates elements of the Marine Green Infrastructure into the POEM. These elements, such as seagrass meadows, submarine canyons and other nature-based solutions, are recognized not only for their ecological value but also for their role in enhancing ecosystem resilience, acting as climate refugia and supporting coastal protection against erosion and sea level rise. In addition, the POEM includes criteria related to land-sea interactions and the adaptation of coastal infrastructures: port expansions, for example, must be assessed in terms of their potential impacts on coastal dynamics and erosion, considering current and projected climate change scenarios. The POEM explicitly references and aligns with the National Plan for the Adaptation to Climate Change 2021-2030 (Plan Nacional de Adaptación al Cambio Climático (PNACC) by its Spanish acronym), ensuring coherence with national climate adaptation strategies. Two measures strengthen this link: ITM1 (National Strategic Plan for Coastal Protection considering climate change effects) and EA1 (Declaration of public maritime-terrestrial domain of those sand deposits that are considered strategic for their contribution to beach nourishment). Through these mechanisms, the POEM contributes to building adaptive capacity across marine and coastal space, promoting resilient ecosystems and sustainable uses in line with the European Green Deal's climate adaptation priorities.

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Protection and Restoration which are fully integrated into the POEM. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection represent one of POEM's most developed and cross-cutting dimensions. It is formalized in zoning, management criteria, and biodiversity and ecosystem protection targets. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection is fully integrated into the POEM, but restoration is not integrated in the first MSP cycle. The plans incorporate two zoning categories dedicated explicitly to nature protection: Priority Use Areas for Biodiversity Protection, which consolidate all officially designated marine protected areas under national, sub-national, international and EU frameworks, and High Potential Areas for Biodiversity Conservation, which identify additional zones of high ecological value not yet formally protected but recognized as essential for conservation. Compatibility criteria complement zoning instruments dedicated to nature protection to ensure that human activities are consistent with conservation objectives. Moreover, several key measures underpin this strategy: **OEM1** (cumulative pressure analysis), **OEM3** (marine green infrastructure), **OEM4** (anchoring management in sensitive benthic habitats), **PB1** (proposal of new MPAs to achieve the 30% protection target by 2030), and **PB2** (development of the Master Plan for the RAMPE network). Together, these measures ensure a proactive and integrated approach to biodiversity conservation and the spatial coherence of the MPA network. The POEM thus, positions nature protection as a central pillar of maritime spatial planning, in alignment with the European Green Deal's biodiversity objectives and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.

However, as expected, **sustainable food production** is not directly addressed in terms of nature protection. The POEM does not associate nature protection measures with sustainable fisheries or aquaculture production, with the exception of the Marine Reserves of Fishing Interest, that are part of the RAMPE.

With regards to the **blue circular economy**, there is no mention of nature protection contributing to circular design or resource recovery in marine systems.

Zero Pollution is not explicitly addressed through dedicated nature protection measures, although cumulative impact analysis (**OEM1**) may include pressures such as plastic pollution, eutrophication and underwater noise.

Nature protection is deeply embedded across all levels of action of the POEM, through zoning, measures to ensure environmental sustainability, marine spatial coherence, and forward-looking conservation planning. While biodiversity and climate adaptation are well covered, the POEM does not fully integrate the roles of nature-based solutions in climate mitigation, pollution

remediation, or circularity. Nonetheless, the protection of marine biodiversity forms one of the strongest alignments between POEM implementation and EGD principles.

7.2 Zoning provisions

The zoning approach in the Spanish POEM is one of the key planning tools to support the sustainable use of marine space. The zoning provisions define areas of the marine space where particular uses are prioritized, where potential for development is foreseen, or where conservation requirements apply. The POEM structure zoning around two main categories: **Priority Use Areas** and **High Potential Areas**, applying them differently across the different typology of sectors (of general interest or future development for certain economic sectors). The zoning integrates EGD considerations such as biodiversity protection, climate change mitigation, and sustainable food production, though not always systematically across all sectors. The POEM's zoning provisions for the four MEDIGREEN sectors, within the two Spanish marine demarcations located in the Mediterranean Sea (Levantine-Balearic and the Strait and Alboran) are available in Figure 18 and Figure 19.

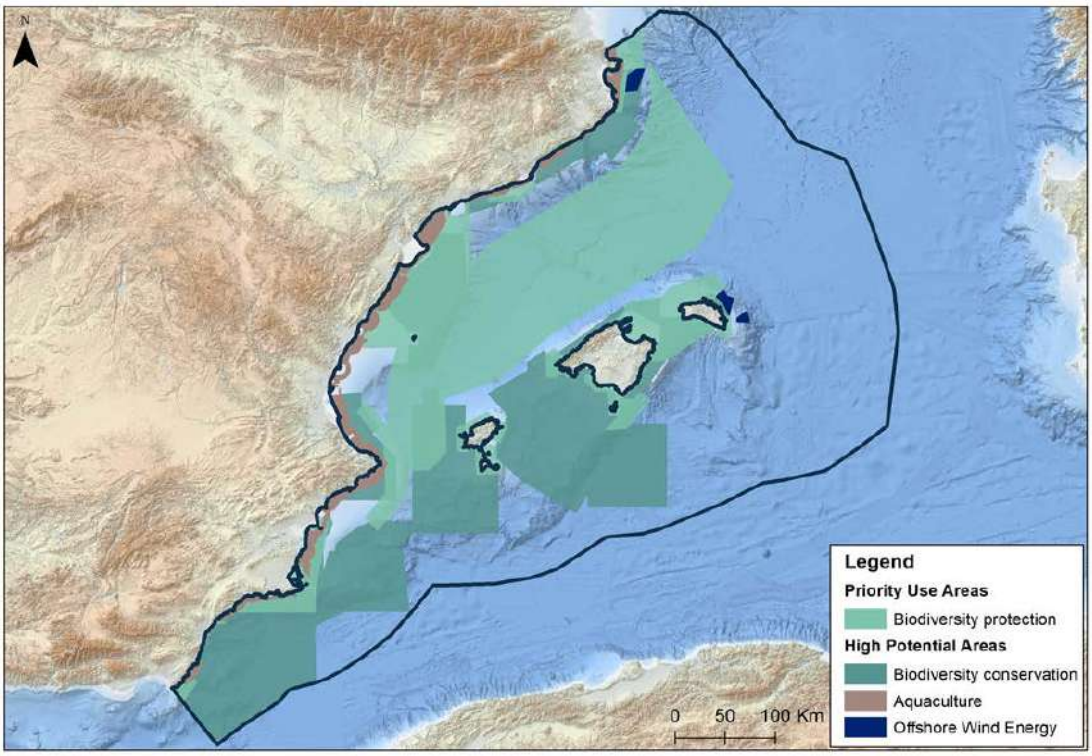


Figure 18 - Zoning provisions for the MEDIGREEN sectors in the Levantine-Balearic marine demarcation. Please note that the fisheries sector does not count on zoning within the POEM, since it is considered an ubiquitous marine activity. Source: own elaboration (IEO, CSIC). Disclaimer: This map is for technical use only and should not be considered as the official delimitation of borders between neighbouring countries.

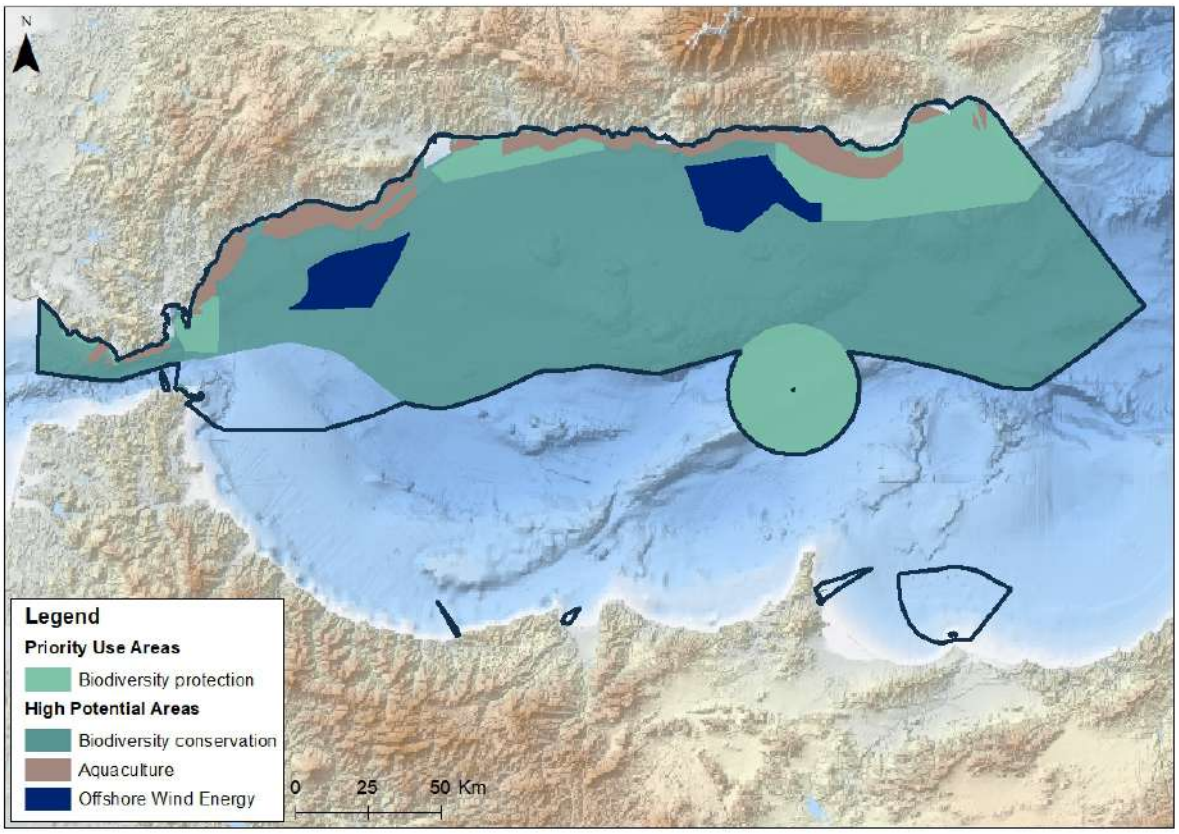


Figure 19 - Zoning provisions for the MEDIGREEN sectors in the Strait and Alboran marine demarcation. Please note that the fisheries sector does not count on zoning within the POEM, since it is considered an ubiquitous marine activity. Source: own elaboration (IEO, CSIC). Disclaimer: This map is for technical use only and should not be considered as the official delimitation of borders between neighbouring countries.

7.2.1 Fisheries

There is no specific zoning for fisheries within the POEM, as fishing is considered a "ubiquitous" activity occurring throughout the marine space. Consequently, no ZUP or ZAP are designated for this sector. However, fisheries are taken into account in the management criteria of other zones, particularly to avoid or minimize conflicts with Priority Use and High Potential Areas related to other sectors. The only zoning with relevance to fisheries are the **Marine Reserves of Fishing Interest**, which are included in the RAMPE and regulated under Law 3/2001 on Maritime State Fisheries.

Within the context of the POEM, various coexistence and compatibility criteria aim to safeguard fishing grounds, especially artisanal fisheries. In High Potential Areas for Offshore Renewable Energy, for example, planning provisions require the analysis of fishing activity and measures to foster coexistence between OWF and fishing operations.

7.2.2 Aquaculture

Aquaculture is supported by a clear spatial planning approach in the POEM. **High Potential Areas for Aquaculture (ZAPAC)** have been designated to guide future development. These areas include areas where aquaculture is already present as well as areas assessed as highly suitable for new installations, based on environmental, technical, and spatial criteria.

ZAPACs are divided into categories depending on suitability and are accompanied by criteria to manage overlapping with other uses and sectoral objectives. In cases of spatial overlap with Priority Use or High Potential Areas for Biodiversity, National Defence, Underwater Cultural

Heritage, Landscape Protection, or Aggregate Extraction, the POEM establishes guidelines to avoid conflicts and ensure biodiversity objectives are met.

The **total extension of High Potential Areas for Aquaculture** amounts to 18.372,91 km^2 across all Spanish marine demarcations, representing 1,71% of the total planning area. In the Mediterranean region (which includes two marine demarcations), these zones cover 5.592,39 km^2, equivalent to approximately 0,52% of the total[4].

7.2.3 Offshore Renewable Energy

The OWF sector has High Potential Areas and is backed by strategic and regulatory instruments. The POEM designates High Potential Areas for Marine Wind Energy (ZAPER), focusing primarily on offshore wind energy development without excluding the potential for hybridization with other renewable technologies. Also, the POEM establishes coexistence criteria for overlapping uses (e.g., fishing, biodiversity protection), technical requirements for location, and environmental monitoring protocols. ZAPERs in the POEM are designed considering, when possible, permeability and navigable access, allowing vessel transit and compatibility with fishing activity whenever possible.

The technical criteria for ZAPER designation include:

- Suitability of the wind resource (>7.5 m/s at 100 m in peninsular waters; 140 m in the Canary Islands).
- Depth <1,000 m.
- Proximity to onshore electricity grid infrastructure, when existent.
- Exclusion of areas identified as incompatible, such as marine SPAs, key areas of the Natura 2000 Network, and areas of interest for species and habitats identified within the framework of conservation processes.

The criteria also ensure compatibility with access to ports, maritime routes, and safety of navigation. ZAPERs objective is to guide the commercial development of offshore wind energy in line with Spain's Roadmap for Offshore and Marine Wind Energy.

The **total ZAPER area** amounts to 4.948,08 km^2 across the entire spatial scope of the POEM, representing 0,46% of the total planning area. In the Mediterranean region, ZAPER zones cover 1.697,60 km^2, equivalent to approximately 0,16% of the total.[1]

7.2.4 Nature protection

The POEM integrates nature protection into maritime spatial planning through a dedicated zoning framework that combines two complementary categories: Priority Use Areas for Biodiversity Protection and High Potential Areas for Biodiversity Conservation. The zoning provisions ensure that spatial coherence of the marine protected area network is maintained that areas of high ecological value are safeguarded from incompatible uses, and that biodiversity considerations are systematically embedded in spatial management decisions.

Priority Use Areas for Biodiversity Protection consolidate all officially designated MPAs established under various frameworks, including sub-national, national, regional, European (Natura 2000 Network – SACs, SCIs, SPAs), and international tools. They also include Marine Reserves of Fishing Interest, classified under the Spanish fisheries legislation. In these areas, the conservation objectives defined in the corresponding management plans prevail over all other uses, and strict criteria apply to ensure that permitted activities do not undermine ecological integrity. **High Potential Areas for Biodiversity Conservation** encompass additional

[4] *The extension of Priority Use and High Potential Areas has been calculated according to the best available information for this specifc study so the area values cannot be understood as official*

marine areas of high conservation value that are not yet formally protected but have been identified as key for future conservation efforts. These include areas highlighted through Natura 2000 gap analyses, sites under study within the LIFE IP PAF INTEMARES project (such as seabirds, sea turtles and cetacean habitats), areas of high value for benthic habitats and critical cetacean habitats recognised through international processes such as ACCOBAMS. Activities planned within these areas are subject to rigorous compatibility assessments to ensure that conservation values are upheld and that potential future designations are not compromised.

Across both zoning categories, the POEM establishes criteria to manage potential overlaps and conflicts with other uses, including aquaculture, OWE, and aggregate extraction. Where such overlaps occur, developers must provide robust justifications, and the compatibility of proposed activities must be verified through Marine Strategy Compatibility Reports.

Total area of Priority Use Areas for Biodiversity Protection: 244.887,47 km^2 across the entire Plan area, representing 22,78% of the total. In the two marine demarcations of the Mediterranean, these areas cover 95.970,80 km^2, equivalent to 8,93% of the total planning area.[5]

Total area of High Potential Areas for Biodiversity Conservation: 129.967,95 km^2 across the entire Plan area, representing 12,09% of the total. In the two Mediterranean marine demarcations, these areas cover 75.563,65 km^2, equivalent to 7,03% of the total.[2]

7.3 Fair and just transition

The principle of Fair and Just Transition requires that potential social impacts be anticipated and addressed, that vulnerable actors are supported, and that no group or region is disproportionately burdened by change. In the POEM, this dimension is acknowledged to varying degrees across sectors but is not yet fully operationalised.

While the POEM encompasses participation processes and consultation mechanisms, their contribution to a comprehensive Fair and Just Transition remains partial and inconsistent across sectors. Stakeholder participation has been largely framed within the procedural requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), rather than through a dedicated, proactive Fair and Just Transition strategy. The planned development of a Stakeholder Participation and Involvement Strategy (Measure OEM7) offers a critical opportunity to enhance inclusivity, transparency, and fairness in future MSP cycles. Important dimensions such as social justice, gender equality, and citizen science were not explicitly addressed or integrated into the planning process. Participation has been mainly limited to public authorities and sector representatives, with limited involvement of local communities and non-institutional actors. Strengthening these aspects will be essential to ensure that the transition towards a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient maritime space truly leaves no one behind.

7.3.1 Fisheries

For fisheries, stakeholder participation focused primarily on public authorities at national and regional levels, and representatives of the sector (including fishing federations and "Cofradías"). The process included a dedicated participatory online workshop (July 2021) to address potential interactions with offshore wind energy development and to seek mitigation strategies for impacts on fishing grounds. The draft POEM was opened for public consultation, and some academic inputs were integrated, furthermore, some of the ZAPER were reduced in size or removed from the plan. However, there was no formal interaction plan, and local participatory initiatives (such as Fisheries Local Action Groups, FLAGs) were not systematically engaged. Citizen science was not considered. While the sector's representatives had opportunities to

[5] *The extension of Priority Use and High Potential Areas has been calculated according to the best available information for this specific study so the area values cannot be understood as official*

provide input, the capacity to shape strategic decisions was limited. A future Stakeholder Participation Strategy (OEM7) could improve inclusivity for this sector.

It is important to mention that fisheries is one of the sectors most exposed to potential spatial conflicts arising from the implementation of the POEM. Although workshops were held to discuss interactions between offshore wind and fishing activities, no systematic assessment of the social and economic impacts on fishing communities has been carried out yet, although the implementation of measure ER2 will address this. Artisanal and small-scale fisheries, which may be particularly vulnerable, are recognised in zoning criteria, but no compensatory measures or targeted support are foreseen. Moreover, there is no framework in place to ensure that these communities are actively supported in adapting to spatial reconfigurations. Ensuring a fair transition for fisheries will require more proactive measures in future MSP cycles.

7.3.2 Aquaculture

Stakeholder participation for aquaculture mirrored that of fisheries, involving public administrations and sector representatives at national and regional levels. An information day was organised to present progress and gather views from all sectors, but no structured interaction plan was implemented. Local and expert knowledge were partially integrated through the public consultation process, which received inputs from research institutions, but community-led participation was limited. No dedicated measures addressed social or gender dimensions, and citizen science was not included. In aquaculture, as in fisheries, aspects of the Just and Fair Transition are only indirectly addressed. The designation of High Potential Areas for Aquaculture considers technical and environmental suitability, but the social implications of expanding aquaculture zones, such as potential impacts on smallholder farmers, coastal communities, or traditional uses, are not explicitly considered. No specific measures are provided to support vulnerable stakeholders in this transition. Governance measures such as the OEM7 could provide a framework to address this gap, ensuring that aquaculture development proceeds in a socially inclusive and balanced manner.

7.3.3 Offshore Renewable Energy

Regarding the stakeholder's participation, the process for Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE), especially wind energy, included the participation of the Spanish Institute for Diversification and Saving of Energy (IDAE) and large energy companies at the national level. While public consultations and some workshops were held, there was no formal interaction plan and the participation of small-scale users, local communities, and citizen science was minimal. The planning process did not systematically embed fairness or address potential distributive impacts on local communities or traditional users (e.g., fisheries or coastal communities). ORE is the sector where Fair and Just Transition concerns are most acute due to the transformative potential of large-scale wind developments on existing marine uses and coastal communities. The POEM includes criteria for coexistence with fisheries and other sectors, but no broader assessment of the distributive impacts of the transition is provided. Small-scale actors, such as local fishers or tourism operators, are likely to be disproportionately affected but are not explicitly supported through compensatory measures or inclusive transition strategies. The lack of a structured social impact assessment and the current dominance of large corporate actors in the ORE planning process further highlight this gap. Implementing OEM7 will be essential to operationalise a more just and inclusive transition in this sector.

7.3.4 Nature protection

In the Nature Protection area, the Fair and Just Transition dimension is not explicitly addressed in the POEM, however, it should be noted that MPAs designation and participative processes follow a separate thread. . Therefore, MSP in Spain integrates the MPA process through the ZUP and ZAP zonings for biodiversity and establishes some measures where MSP can support the MPA process, but it is not the framework in which each MPA designation is planned and managed.

Regarding Fair and Just Transition, although the POEM includes strong and necessary zoning measures to support biodiversity and meet conservation goals, it does not systematically address the potential social impacts—such as those affecting traditional resource users or coastal communities. These considerations, however, are incorporated in the separate MPA process.

Participation in the identification of ZAP for biodiversity conservation focused almost exclusively on public administrations with competencies in nature conservation and on technical entities supporting the MSP authority. Broader engagement of non-institutional actors (Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), scientific networks, local communities) was not systematically pursued. Although the Nature Protection strand of the POEM benefited from dedicated working groups (e.g., ad hoc group on biodiversity), participation was largely institutional and technical. The absence of a structured interaction plan and the lack of explicit attention to social justice, gender, or local knowledge dimensions further indicate that the Fair and Just Transition aspect remains underdeveloped in this sector. Moving forward, greater attention should be paid to ensuring that nature protection measures are implemented in ways that also promote social justice, equitable access to resources, and fair compensation where necessary. The development of a future Stakeholder Participation and Involvement Strategy (measure OEM7) provides an opportunity to address these gaps and enhance inclusivity and transparency in this area within the POEM.

7.4 Cross-cutting elements

Research, development and innovation (R&D&I) is foreseen in the POEM through zoning, where Priority Use and High Potential Areas for R&D&I are accompanied by measures, criteria and objectives. Two objectives address specifically this topic, H.11. and H.12. which respectively prays at "*promoting scientific knowledge to determine the carrying capacity of marine ecosystems in response for different uses and activities*" and "*coordinating the scientific knowledge generated with the implementation of new uses and activities and studies in the marine environment*".

In relation to the objectives and measures to support the research on the marine environment from a sectoral perspective, there are numerous, which have been described in previous sections. As an example, for fisheries, P.2. aims at "*achieving Maximum Sustainable Yield for commercial species populations and reducing the negative impact of fishing activities on biodiversity*".

Technological innovation is also foreseen in the planning criteria for R&D&I areas, especially for those areas in which this activity is already going on, where the facilitation of experimentation with marine renewable technologies that could be combined with R&D&I concerning other sectors, such as aquaculture or the environment, should be facilitated.

Education and training are not present in any of the plans' measures or objectives and, although the obligatory **cross-border** consultation with the neighbouring countries was executed as part of the Environmental Strategic Assessment process, no cooperation on specific sectors is foreseen in the plan.

Annex 2 - Fact-sheets supporting country assessments

A2.1 Fact sheets - Cyprus

Fact-sheet 1: General features	
Country	Cyprus
Sea Basin(s)	Mediterranean
Number of MSP Plans developed by the country	1
Titles of the Plan(s)	Maritime Spatial Plan of the Republic of Cyprus (unofficial translation)
Responsible authority	Shipping Deputy Ministry
Legal dimension of the Plan(s): e.g. legally binding/guiding, strategic, etc.	Legaly binding
Geographic scope of the Plan(s): e.g. terrestrial and marine, only marine, marine and the coastal terrestrial strip	The Maritime Spatial Plan applies to the maritime waters of the Republic of Cyprus, as defined in the Law, and includes uses or activities that take place (i) in the territorial sea, (ii) in the contiguous zone, as regards to antiquities, in accordance with the provisions of the Contiguous Zone Law and of the Antiquities Law and (iii) in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) or on the continental shelf, for uses or activities that fall within the sovereign rights or jurisdiction of the Republic of Cyprus. T
Total marine area interested by the Plan(s) (in km2)	111919 km2
Map representing the geographic scope of the Plan(s)	The scope of application of the MSPlan is shown on map AB01 of Annex I.https://www.gov.cy/media/sites/25/2024/07/AB01.pdf
Starting date for Plan(s) preparation	The MSP and other matters law (Law 144(I)/2017) was first adopted on 13.10.2017 and amended by Law 34(I)/2021 on 23.3.2021. This is (23.3.2021) deemed as the starting date for the Plan's preparation.
Date of adoption/enter into force	The Maritime Spatial Plan was approved by the Council of Ministers on 20 December 2023. It entered into force on 29 December 2023 with its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic. It consists of text, maps per special area and sectoral-thematic maps.
Round of MSP (1st cycle, 2nd cycle), starting? (specify year)	1st cycle
Additional relevant information on MSP process e.g. interim assessments, in-progress or foreseen anticipated revisions, etc.	The Plan has the Policy Statement on MSP, that is the strategic framework for MSP and the Maritime Spatial Plan. It sets the vision, priorities, goals (economic, social, cultural and environmental) and strategic guidelines of the State, taking into account the need for sustainable growth. It was finalised by the MSP Committee after a public consultation and was adopted by the Council of Ministers on 21 December 2021.

Fact-sheet 2: Operational elements	
How are the Plan(s) documents organised? Are the Plan(s) self-consistent or do they refer to other strategic documents?	Plan is self consistent. It is guided by the Policy Statement on Maritime Spatial Planning, that sets the vision, priorities and goals and strategic guidelines of the State, and the MSPlan.
Sectors and uses of the sea considered by the Plan(s) - **See below a list of sectors and sea uses**	It considers: fishery and aquaculture; coastal and marine tourism; maritime transport and port activities (under shiping-ports); energy that includes oil and gas, offshore renewable energy and submarine energy infrastructure; environment, including natural landscapes; culture, including underwater haritage and cultural landscapes; other uses that include maritime defence and marine scientific research.
Does the Plan consider a multi-scalar approach ?	No
Does the Plan include zoning of the sea space?	YES
How does the Plan distribute uses in the different zones?	Designated areas are allocated for the different uses/activities in the differnet maritime zones.
Is zoning prescriptive (i.e. "this should come here")? Is planning indicative (i.e. "this can come here")	The language of plan is relatively soft. Planning uses are shown in the map, however with the following formulation: e.g. "The current state and **proposed planning** for the maritime and coastal tourism sector are presented in..." Zoning is prescriptive but it does not a priori exclude activities or uses taking place outside their predifined zones. Also it should be pointed out that MSP is the basis for the licencing: "licensing of a use or activity in the marine waters of the Republic, requires the prior obtainment of a relevant Certificate of Compliance or Certificate of Compatibility with the Maritime Spatial Plan, issued by the Maritime Spatial Planning Committee"

SECTORS AND SEA USES	
Fishing	Together
Aquaculture (bofh finfish and shellfish)	
Coastal and maritime tourism	
Recreation	Maritime and coastal tourism
Maritime transport	these 2 together under Shiping-ports
Port activities	
Shipbuilding and repair	
Offshore renewable energy	
Oil and gas	these 3 under Energy
Cables and pipelines	
Maritime defence	"Other uses"
Marine aggregates (sand extraction for beach nourishment or construction)	
Deep sea mining	
Nature protection and restoration	Environmental dimension
Landscape protection	Cultural dimension
Underwater Cultural Heritage protection	
Scientific research	Other uses
Coastal protection	Environmental dimension
Marine industry (e.g. Blue bioeconomy and biotechnology)	
Others: to be specified	

Fact-sheet 3: Policy context

This part of the analysis is aimed to identify the main EGD related policies/strategies the Plan is based on and that have been considered to define vision/ objectives/ zoning/ measures. Check whether reference is made in the Plan(s) to the main EGD related policy documents. Describe findings.	The European Green Deal. COM(2019) 640 final	YES	Specific reference made under the Strategic goals, by saying that "Planning sustainable actions is taking into account the Green Deal…" Also, under Specific goals: - "Utilization of marine renewable energy sources, taking into account the 'Green Deal' of the EU for net zero emissions by 2050. (BE, PE) - "For the implementation of all the above General and Specific Goals, the importance of timely orientation of investments for each individual development sector is pointed out as a horizontal objective, so that they really contribute to sustainable growth, given the new EU policies of Green Deal and taxonomy of investments, and they have the potential for achieving Community funding."
Please indicate other relevant EU/International policies/strategies of relevance for the Plan(s), when linked to EGD objectives (including older versions of EU policy elements), as well as of national relevance, Describe findings.	A new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the EU Transforming the EU's Blue Economy for a Sustainable Future. COM(2021) 240 final	NO	No direct mention of policy documents, but among the strategic goals it says: "- Planning sustainable actions taking into account the Green Deal, the circular economy, the need for gradual independence from fossil fuels in the energy sector and the EU's shift to environmentally friendly technologies - Increasing the competitiveness of the marine and maritime development sectors. - Unleashing the growth potential of the Blue Economy by promoting innovations and development of marine areas for testing, verification and demonstration of innovative technologies. - Encouraging the development of new (green) technologies for safe and sustainable exploitation of marine mineral deposits"
	An EU Strategy to harness the potential of offshore renewable energy for a climate neutral future. COM(2020) 741 final.	NO	
	REPowerEU Plan. COM(2022) 230 final	NO	
	An European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy in accordance with the Paris Agreement (2019/2582(RSP))	NO	
	EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives. COM(2021) 380 final	NO	
	A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system. COM(2020) 381 final.	NO	
	Pathway to a Healthy Planet for All EU Action Plan: 'Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil". COM(2021) 400 final	NO	
	A new Circular Economy Action Plan for a cleaner and more competitive Europe. COM(2020) 98 final.	NO	
	Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030 COM/2021/236 final	NO	

Fact-sheet 4: : EGD analysis by sectors – Vision and/or strategic documents

		FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
	Is the sector considered in the vision?		As part of the document "Policy statement on MSP", vision, that stems from the Cyprus's National Strategy for an Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP), is shortly presented. Linked to the vision, strategic and specific goals are elaborated. Fisheries is presented as part of specific goals mainly. Text below refers to that section.		As part of the document "Policy statement on MSP", vision, that stems from the Cyprus's National Strategy for an Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP), is shortly presented. Linked to the vision, strategic and specific goals are elaborated. Aquaculture is presented as part of specific goals mainly. Text below refers to that section.		In the "Policy statement on MSP", under specific goals there is section on energy - renewable energy is mentioned there as "Utilization of marine renewable energy sources, taking into account the 'Green Deal' of the EU for net zero emissions by 2050". Further, among the priorities is "Development of offshore renewable energy facilities"		In the "Policy statement on MSP", strategic goals include "Protection of the Environment". Environment is also addressed within specific goals and priorities (environmental-cultural priorities).
	Is the vision for the sector linked to any of the following elements?								
	A. Climate change mitigation		No		No		Under specific goals (energy) it says: "Encourage the development of technology and infrastructure for carbon capture and storage." Within the priorities it indicates that "The implementation of RES projects could help reduce dependence on fossil fuels, reduce the carbon footprint and tackle Climate Change and its effects".	NO	
Check whether the sector is considered and eventually linked to any of the main EGD topics in the vision or in any strategic document providing guidance to the Plan(s). Describe findings. Explanation: For FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE: Is the green transition of the sector considered in the vision, by referring to any of the key EDG topics? For ORE: Is the sector's development considered in the vision, by referring to any key EDG topics? For NATURE PROTECTION: Check whether it is considered and eventually linked to any of the main EGD topics	B. Climate change adaptation		No		No		No	YES	Under strategic goals: "Implementing appropriate management, prevention and adaptation practices to the effects of Climate Change and the effects of other processes, in order to enhance the resilience of coastal areas, marine ecosystems and marine activities." Also, under priorities (environmental-cultural): "includion of effects of climate change", adressing adaptation
	C. Sustainable food production		It only states: "Encouraging sustainable fishing activities"		It says: "Developing economically viable, environmentally compatible and socially acceptable aquaculture."		No	NO	
	D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration		No		No		No	YES	Under strategic goals: "Developing a coherent network of marine protected areas, based on the principle of Ecological Approach, and ensuring biodiversity with the respective ecosystem services." Under additional specific goals: "Management and protection of Natura 2000 Network areas and protection of marine endangered species and their habitats. " Under strategic priorities (environmental-cultural): "Preservation of protected areas", also "Protection of marine and coastal landscapes".
	E. Blue circular economy		No		No		No	NO	
	F. Zero pollution		No		No		Under specific goals (energy): Utilization of marine renewable energy sources, taking into account the 'Green Deal' of the EU for net zero emissions by 2050.	YES	Under strategic goals: "Addressing air and marine pollution from ships and other sources-activities." Under additional specific goals (dealing with environment): "Control and prevention of water and soil pollution from the operation of facilities and activities and, in general, from any activity that can or tends to pollute the water and the soil, especially in the coastal area." and also "Ensuring good quality of bathing waters" Under strategic priorities (environmental-cultural): "Protection of marine waters from pollution"

ELABORATIONS BELOW REFER TO SPECIFIC GOALS PART OF THE "POLICY STATEMENT FOR MSP" THAT HAVE SECTORAL ORIENTATION

RELATION WITH OTHER STRATEGIES	**FISHERIES**		**AQUACULTURE**		**ORE**		**NATURE PROTECTION**	
A. Climate change mitigation								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
B. Climate change adaptation								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		YES	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	NO		NO		NO		YES	To National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
C. Sustainable food production								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO	Only sustainable fishing activity	NO	Not explicitly but it says "Developing economically viable, environmentally compatible and socially acceptable aquaculture"	YES or NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this	NO		NO		NO		NO	
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		YES	There are references to protection of environment, habitats, species, landscape
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this	NO		NO		NO		YES	For landscapes: European Landscape Convention
E. Blue circular economy								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this	NO		NO		NO		NO	
F. Zero pollution								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		SOMEHOW	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	NO		NO			It says "taking into account the 'Green Deal' of the EU for net zero emissions by 2050"	YES	Water Framework Directive, the Bathing Water Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Barcelona Convention

Fact-sheet 5: EGD analysis by sectors – Objectives

Check whether the sector is considered and eventually linked to any of the main EGD topics and sub-topics in the objectives of the plan(s). Describe findings.
Explanation:
For FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE: Is the green transition of the sector considered in the objectives, by referring to any of the key EDG topics and sub-topics?
For ORE: Is the sector's development considered in the objectives, by referring to any key EDG topics or sub-topics?
For NATURE PROTECTION: Check whether it is considered in the objectives and eventually linked to any of the main EGD topics and sub-topics.In the case your Plan(s) identifies different levels of objectives (e.g. strategic, specific) you can undertake the analysis for each of the levels, if appropriate.
Please specify any quantitative objectives indicated in the Plan(S), with reference to the considered sector e.g. energy production, aquaculture production, sea surface to be protected, etc.
Describe findings.

	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
Is the sector considered in the objectives?	YES	Fisheries is included among main sectors' goals and priorities. Fisheries and aquaculture are jointly presented.	YES	Aquaculture is included among main sectors' goals and priorities. Fisheries and aquaculture are jointly presented.	YES	Included among main sectors' goals and priorities, withing energy "sector".	YES	Included among main sectors' goals and priorities, as part of environmental dimension.
Are the objectives for the sector linked to any of the following elements?								
A. Climate change mitigation	NO		NO		YES		NO	
A.1 Renewable energy production, storage and transportation						"Utilization of marine renewable energy sources, taking into account the 'Green Deal' of the EU for net zero emissions by 2050."		
A.2 Clean energy transition in maritime sectors								
A.3 Transformations in ports						Promoting the ecological operation of ports ("green" ports) with the use of renewable sources or other sustainable options.		
A.4 Blue carbon storage					YES	"Encourage the development of technology and infrastructure for carbon capture and storage"		
Are quantitative objectives identified?					NO			
B. Climate change adaptation	NO		NO		NO		SOMEHOW	Among the priorities it has: Inclusion of the effects of Climate Change.
B.1 Green infrastructures to enhance coastal resilience and/or to enhance marine connectivity								
B.2 Protection of climate-sensitive marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems, and landscapes								
B.3 Anticipation of climate change-related effects								Among the goals is has: Protection of coastal areas from erosion, taking into account the possible consequences of Climate Change, the possible sea level rise, as well as the Land-Sea Interactions.
Are quantitative objectives identified?								
C. Sustainable food production	YES		YES		NO		NO	
C.1 Sustainable fisheries		Goals: "Encouraging sustainable fishing activities"						
C.2 Sustainable aquaculture (both for fish and shellfish)				Goals: "Developing economically viable, environmentally compatible and socially acceptable aquaculture." "Improving the competitiveness, efficiency and productivity of Cypriot aquaculture."				
C.3 Sustainable algae production			NO					
Are quantitative objectives identified?	NO		NO					
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration	NO		NO		NO		YES	
D.1 Elements to improve marine connectivity (e.g. among submarine canyons, reefs, etc.) and elements to achieve a coherent network of effective marine protected areas			NO				SOMEHOW	Among goals: Management and protection of Natura 2000 areas and protection of marine endangered species and their habitats. Among priorities: Preservation of Protected Areas. And Protection of coastal and marine landscapes
D.2 Restoring marine and coastal ecosystems								
Are quantitative objectives identified?								
E. Blue circular economy	NO		NO		NO			
E.1 Circular design								
E.2 Waste prevention								
E.3 Reuse, repair, upgrade, recycle								
Are quantitative objectives identified?								
F. Zero pollution	NO		NO		NO		YES	
F.1 Pollution prevention							YES	As part of goals: Control and prevention of water and soil pollution from the operation of facilities and activities and, in general, from any activity that can or tends to pollute the water and the soil, especially in the coastal area. As part of priorities: Protection of marine waters from pollution.
F.2 Pollution remediation								
Are quantitative objectives identified?								

RELATION WITH OTHER STRATEGIES	**FISHERIES**		**AQUACULTURE**		**ORE**		**NATURE PROTECTION**	
A. Climate change mitigation								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this	NO		NO		NO		NO	
B. Climate change adaptation								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this	NO		NO		NO		NO	
C. Sustainable food production								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		YES	Nature protetion
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	NO		NO		NO		NO	In the description part there are references to Habitat directive …but with no direct delegation to it
E. Blue circular economy								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this	NO		NO		NO		NO	
F. Zero pollution								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		YES	Zero emissions	YES	Control and prevention of pollution
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	NO		NO		YES	Utilization of marine renewable energy sources, taking into account the 'Green Deal' of the EU for net zero emissions by 2050	NO	In the description part there are references to WFD, MSFD, Barcelona Convention…but with no direct delegation to it

Fact-sheet 6: EGD analysis by sectors – Measures

Check whether the sector is considered in the measures of the Plan(s) and eventually linked to the main -related topics and the related categories of measures.
Please refer to Table 1 for a list of categories of measures.
Describe findings (list relevant measures by category). Additional elements can be added to the description when those indicated in Table 1 do not include the type of measures you need to indicate.

NOTE: The analysis is based on segment "planning proposals" under each sector

	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
Is the sector considered in the measures?	YES	Fishery is included in planning proposals. It indicates that "the fishing activity takes place and is permitted in all the geographical areas". In addition it says that "prohibitions and regulations for fishing activity exist" in MPAs. No additional, specific measures exist.	YES	Aquaculture is included in planning proposals		It is included in planning proposals, as part of "energy" section, mainly in terms of proposed "designation of an area for further investigation for the development of wind energy installations "	SOMEHOW	"Environmental dimension" is part of the plan with planning proposals. These are more indication of location without specific measures
Are the measures for the sector linked to any of the following elements?								
A. Climate change mitigation	NO		NO		SOMEHOW		NO	
A.1 Renewable energy production, storage and transportation						Areas for possible future offshore energy installations envisaged		
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
A.2 Clean energy transition in maritime sectors								
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
A.3 Transformations in ports								
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
A.4 Blue carbon storage								
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
B. Climate change adaptation	NO		NO		NO		NO	
B.1 Green infrastructures to enhance coastal resilience and/or to enhance marine connectivity								
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
B.2 Protection of climate-sensitive marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems, and landscapes								
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
B.3 Anticipation of climate change-related effects								
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
C. Sustainable food production	SOMEHOW		SOMEHOW		NO		NO	
C.1 Sustainable fisheries		It envisages prohibitions and regulation of fishing activity in MPAs.						
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
C.2 Sustainable aquaculture (both for fish and shellfish)			SOMEHOW	Envisages development of aquaculturein open-sea areas to minimise impacts on landscape and marine environment.				
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
C.3 Sustainable algae production			NO					
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration	SOMEHOW		NO		NO		SOMEHOW	
D.1 Elements to improve marine connectivity (e.g. among submarine canyons, reefs, etc.) and elements to achieve a coherent network of effective marine protected areas		Zoning for the sector includes existing and proposed MPAs with artificifial reefs and FRAs						Plan envisages preservation of protected areas and ecosystems with high ecological value, with existing and proposed MPAs with artificai reefs, Natura 2000 sites, and FRAs.
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
D.2 Restoring marine and coastal ecosystems								
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
E. Blue circular economy	NO		NO		NO		NO	
E.1 Circular design								
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
E.2 Waste prevention								
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
E.3 Reuse, repair, upgrade, recycle								
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
F. Zero pollution	NO		NO		SOMEHOW		NO	
F.1 Pollution prevention						It addresses the need to respect the environmental conditions/requirements		
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
F.2 Pollution remediation								
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								

RELATION WITH OTHER STRATEGIES	**FISHERIES**		**AQUACULTURE**		**ORE**		**NATURE PROTECTION**	
A. Climate change mitigation								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this	NO		NO		NO		NO	
B. Climate change adaptation								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this	NO		NO		NO		NO	
C. Sustainable food production								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	SOMEHOW	In terms of recreational fishery, it says that spatial and seasonal prohibitions are also linked to the use of specific fishing gear. "These are regulated based on fisheries legislation, as well as European and international legislation, and are incorporated into the relevant terms of professional and recreational fishing licenses."	NO		NO		NO	
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		YES	Protection and preservation of ecosystems
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this	NO		NO		NO		NO	
E. Blue circular economy								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this	NO		NO		NO		NO	
F. Zero pollution								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	NO		NO		SOMEHOW	Requirement that development and operation of instalations must comply with environmental legislation	NO	

Fact-sheet 7: Fair and just transition

Just and inclusive transition: "No one left behind" - Stakeholder participation by sectors. Describe findings

	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
WHO								
Who were considered as stakeholders and how were they identified?		Professional associations, individuals. List of stakeholders provided by competent authorities and also by public call.		Professional associations, individuals. List of stakeholders provided by competent authorities and also by public call.		Professional associations, individuals. List of stakeholders provided by competent authorities and also by public call.		Professional associations, individuals. List of stakeholders provided by competent authorities and also by public call.
Were the characteristics of the stakeholders (e.g., gender, class, ethnicity, age and/or disability) considered in stakeholder participations?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Were local participatory initiatives (such as community-led local development groups, fisheries local action groups etc.) arranged/considered?	SOMEHOW	Local fisheries groups were invited to local stakeholders consultation events in all cities of Cyprus	NO	Include description	NO	Include description	SOMEHOW	Local environmental NGOs were invited to local stakeholders consultation events in all cities of Cyprus
Was sufficient sectoral/group representation of stakeholders ensured in the planning process?	YES	Include description	YES	Include description	YES	Include description	YES	Include description
Does the Plan promote gender balance in maritime professions?		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
WHEN								
In what phase or which phases of the MSP process was stakeholder involvement organised?		Data collection, drafting of Policy Statement on MSP, drafting of Plan		Data collection, drafting of Policy Statement on MSP, drafting of Plan		Data collection, drafting of Policy Statement on MSP, drafting of Plan		Data collection, drafting of Policy Statement on MSP, drafting of Plan
Was it made clear how and at what stages stakeholders can participate in the planning process? Was there an interaction plan	YES	Stakeholders participation in MSP process is governed by the Maritime Spatial Planning (Public Consultation) Regulations of 2021 (P.I. 133/2021).	YES	Stakeholders participation in MSP process is governed by the Maritime Spatial Planning (Public Consultation) Regulations of 2021 (P.I. 133/2021).	YES	Stakeholders participation in MSP process is governed by the Maritime Spatial Planning (Public Consultation) Regulations of 2021 (P.I. 133/2021).	YES	Stakeholders participation in MSP process is governed by the Maritime Spatial Planning (Public Consultation) Regulations of 2021 (P.I. 133/2021).
HOW		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
Was the local and expert knowledge integrated?	YES	The MSP Committee published a report with all proposals that were submitted in public consultation, their evaluation and possible adoptation and the respective reasoning.	YES	The MSP Committee published a report with all proposals that were submitted in public consultation, their evaluation and possible adoptation and the respective reasoning.	YES	The MSP Committee published a report with all proposals that were submitted in public consultation, their evaluation and possible adoptation and the respective reasoning.	YES	The MSP Committee published a report with all proposals that were submitted in public consultation, their evaluation and possible adoptation and the respective reasoning.
Were citizen science perspectives considered?	YES	The MSP Committee published a report with all proposals that were submitted in public consultation, their evaluation and possible adoptation and the respective reasoning.	YES	The MSP Committee published a report with all proposals that were submitted in public consultation, their evaluation and possible adoptation and the respective reasoning.	YES	The MSP Committee published a report with all proposals that were submitted in public consultation, their evaluation and possible adoptation and the respective reasoning.	YES	The MSP Committee published a report with all proposals that were submitted in public consultation, their evaluation and possible adoptation and the respective reasoning.
What methods were used in participation (workshops, scenarios, matrixes of use and interactions etc.)?		Interactions		Interactions		Interactions		Interactions
What was the capacity of participants to influence planning decisions?		Many participants were representatives of professional associations with excellent knowledge of their sectors. Some scientifically sound and documented proposals were submitted. The MSP Committee published a report with all proposals that were submitted in public consultation, their evaluation and possible adoptation and the respective reasoning.		Many participants were representatives of professional associations with excellent knowledge of their sectors. Some scientifically sound and documented proposals were submitted. The MSP Committee published a report with all proposals that were submitted in public consultation, their evaluation and possible adoptation and the respective reasoning.		Many participants were representatives of professional associations with excellent knowledge of their sectors. Some scientifically sound and documented proposals were submitted. The MSP Committee published a report with all proposals that were submitted in public consultation, their evaluation and possible adoptation and the respective reasoning.		Many participants were representatives of professional associations with excellent knowledge of their sectors. Some scientifically sound and documented proposals were submitted. The MSP Committee published a report with all proposals that were submitted in public consultation, their evaluation and possible adoptation and the respective reasoning.

Fact-sheet 8: Cross-cutting elements

Describe findings with reference to each sector

	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
Research and innovation								
Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to increase the availability of reliable, high-quality ocean and maritime data?	NO	Increase of availability of reliable, high-quality ocean and maritime dana are not directly included in objectives and measures	NO	Increase of availability of reliable, high-quality ocean and maritime dana are not directly included in objectives and measures	NO	Increase of availability of reliable, high-quality ocean and maritime dana are not directly included in objectives and measures		Increase of availability of reliable, high-quality ocean and maritime dana are not directly included in objectives and measures
Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to support research on the marine environment?	SOMEHOW	Scientific reserch is included among goals and priorities. Also, there are designated areas fo conducting marine research. It envisages scientific research in various fields, such as in archaeology, nature and environmental protection, ecological state of the sea, fisheries, aquaculture, geology, and others.	YES	Scientific reserch is included among goals and priorities. Also, there are designated areas fo conducting marine research. It envisages scientific research in various fields, such as in archaeology, nature and environmental protection, ecological state of the sea, fisheries, aquaculture, geology, and others. Furthermore, among the specific goals of aquaculture it calls for: Supporting research and innovation in the aquaculture sector.	NO	Scientific research is envisaged for different sectors but ORE is not specifically mentions.		Scientific reserch is included among goals and priorities. Also, there are designated areas fo conducting marine research. It envisages scientific research in various fields, such as in archaeology, nature and environmental protection, ecological state of the sea, fisheries, aquaculture, geology, and others
Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to support research and technological innovation in maritime sectors?	NO		YES	Goals for aquaculture include: "Supporting research and innovation in the aquaculture sector; Supporting the development of blue biotechnology, with an equal distribution of benefits from the use of genetic resources"	YES	Goals for the energy sector include: "Maximizing innovation opportunities; Encourage the development of technology and infrastructure for carbon capture and storage."		
Education and training				Include description				
Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to address education, skill development and training in maritime professions?	SOMEHOW	Education and training is included in the strategic goals for social cohesion: "Enhancing the attractiveness of the marine and maritime professions, by providing appropriate training and promoting a safety culture in the workplace and the mobility of the workforce between sectors and between cities and/ or countries."	SOMEHOW	Education and training is included in the strategic goals for social cohesion: "Enhancing the attractiveness of the marine and maritime professions, by providing appropriate training and promoting a safety culture in the workplace and the mobility of the workforce between sectors and between cities and/ or countries."	SOMEHOW	Education and training is included in the strategic goals for social cohesion: "Enhancing the attractiveness of the marine and maritime professions, by providing appropriate training and promoting a safety culture in the workplace and the mobility of the workforce between sectors and between cities and/ or countries."	SOMEHOW	Education and training is included in the strategic goals for social cohesion: "Enhancing the attractiveness of the marine and maritime professions, by providing appropriate training and promoting a safety culture in the workplace and the mobility of the workforce between sectors and between cities and/ or countries."
Cross-border cooperation in MSP								
Is cooperation on specific sectors foreseen by the Plan(s)	NO			Include description	YES	Cross border ooperation in the framework of international energy cooperation (pipelines and cables)	NO	

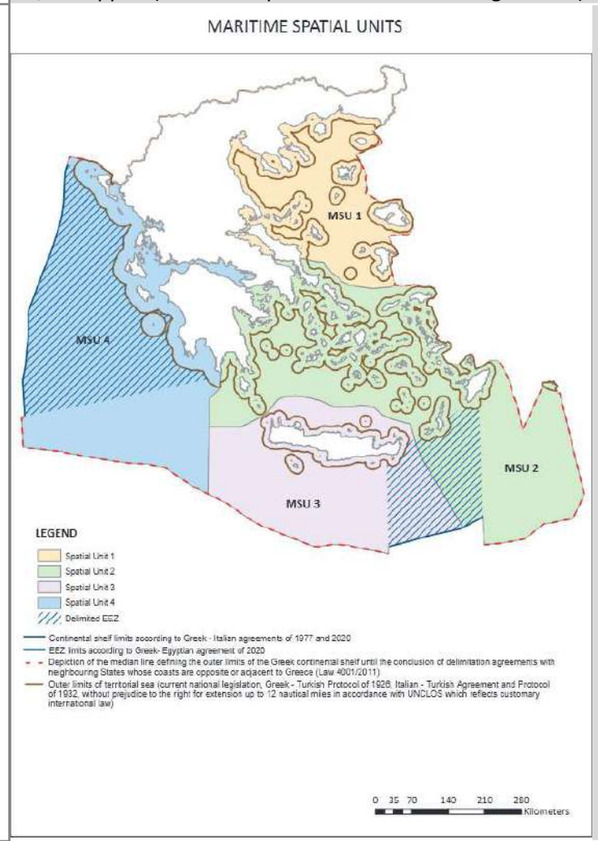
RELATION WITH OTHER STRATEGIES	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
A. Climate change mitigation								
Does the plan mention this elements explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegates to another strategy that include this element?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
B. Climate change adaptation								
Does the plan mention this elements explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegates to another strategy that include this element?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
C. Sustainable food production								
Does the plan mention this elements explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegates to another strategy that include this element?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration								
Does the plan mention this elements explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegates to another strategy that include this element?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
E. Blue circular economy								
Does the plan mention this elements explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegates to another strategy that include this element?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
F. Zero pollution								
Does the plan mention this elements explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegates to another strategy that include this element?	NO		NO		NO		NO	

Fact-sheet 9: Zoning

Provide information on identification of areas with EGD features. Describe features of these areas in terms of management of uses and measures in place. Provide total extension in km2 of each typology in the entire Plan spatial domain and the relative percentage.

FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
Dedicated areas	SOMEHOW	Dedicated areas	YES	Dedicated areas	SOMEHOW		YES or NO
Description	Fisheries is allowed in all geographical areas except zones specifically indicated as "fishing prohibition zones". Sectoral maps also include information on "fishing shelter"	Description	The maps include designated "aquaculture zones". Sectoral maps further include information on Aquaculture port facility, Aquaculture research station, Aquaculture farm (along with aquaculture zone).	Description	The maps include locations for RES investigation areas.	Description	The MSP maps include all existing and proposed Natura 2000 areas. Further, sectoral maps include MPAs with artificial reefs and FRAs, Area of outstanding natural beauty / Geosite
Total extension [km2]	Not specified in the text	Total extension [km2]		Total extension [km2]	64	Total extension [km2]	
% with respect to the total Plan area		% with respect to the total Plan area		% with respect to the total Plan area	0,06%	% with respect to the total Plan area	
				How much energy those areas are supposed to produce (if available in the plans)	NA		

A2.2 Fact sheets – Greece

Fact-sheet 1: General features	
Country	Greece
Sea Basin(s)	Mediterranean
Number of MSP Plans developed by the country	National Spatial Strategy for the Marine Space + 1 MSP Framework elaborated (3 to be developed)
Titles of the Plan(s)	Maritime Spatial Planning Framework for the North Aegean Sea (Maritime Spatial Unit 1)
Responsible authority	Ministry of Environment and Energy
Legal dimension of the Plan(s): e.g. legally binding/guiding, strategic, etc.	Legally binding, Strategic
Geographic scope of the Plan(s): e.g. terrestrial and marine, only marine, marine and the coastal terrestrial strip	Only marine
Total marine area interested by the Plan(s) (in km2)	67,000 apprx. (Maritime Spatial Unit 1 - North Aegean Sea) - Not specified for the whole country
Map representing the geographic scope of the Plan(s)	
Starting date for Plan(s) preparation	2019 - 2025 National Spatial Strategy for the Marine Space (NSSMS) 2019 (Maritime Spatial Planning Framework for the North Aegean Sea)
Date of adoption/enter into force	Strategy Adopted (National Gazette No 227/Δ/17-04-2025) + MSP Framework (pending finalisation)
Round of MSP (1st cycle, 2nd cycle), starting? (specify year)	1st cycle
Additional relevant information on MSP process e.g. interim assessments, in-progress or foreseen anticipated revisions, etc.	

Fact-sheet 2: Operational elements	
How are the Plan(s) documents organised? Are the Plan(s) self-consistent or do they refer to other strategic documents?	The draft MSP Framework refers and follows the strategic goals and objectives of the National Spatial Planning Strategy for the Marine Space (NSSMS). Furthermore it considers other relevant european and national strategic or policy documents.
Sectors and uses of the sea considered by the Plan(s) - **See below a list of sectors and sea uses**	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework have considered the sectors and uses listed below, with the latter not making a specific mention to marine aggregates. -Fishing -Aquaculture (both finfish and shellfish) -Coastal and maritime tourism -Recreation -Maritime transport -Port activities -Offshore renewable energy -Oil and gas -Cables and pipelines -Maritime defence -Marine aggregates (sand extraction for beach nourishment or construction) -Deep sea mining -Nature protection and restoration -Landscape protection -Underwater Cultural Heritage protection -Scientific research -Coastal protection -Marine industry (e.g. Blue bioeconomy and biotechnology)
Does the Plan consider a multi-scalar approach ?	The NSSMS defines four (4) Maritime Spatial Units for which a separate MSP Frameworks shall be developed. The draft MSP Framework identifies 4 Marine Developmental Zones, where sectoral priorities are being further addressed.
Does the Plan include zoning of the sea space?	YES
How does the Plan distribute uses in the different zones?	So far the draft MSP Framework introduces single-use zones (for example aquaculture, hydrocarbon exploration and fisheries)
Is zoning prescriptive (i.e. "this should come here")? Is planning indicative (i.e. "this can come here")	Both. In some cases the zones are prescriptive (e.g. for fisheries and aquaculture), in other cases they are indicative (e.g. aquaculture, hydrocarbon exploration, ORE, marine tourism)

Fact-sheet 3: Policy context

This part of the analysis is aimed to identify the main EGD related policies/strategies the Plan is based on and that have been considered to define vision/ objectives/ zoning/ measures. Check whether reference is made in the Plan(s) to the main EGD related policy documents. Describe findings.	The European Green Deal. COM(2019) 640 final	NO	The draft MSP Framwork for the North Aegean Sea does not explicitly refer to the EGD. However, most topics/sectors of the EGD are adressed by the Framework. The reference to these topics/sectors is either made directly by the Framework (e.g. for energy and climate), or indirectly (adopting goals that are set by other documents that the draft MSP Framework has considered). Such documents are: a. the National Spatial Planning Strategy for the Marine Space, which takes into account the Long Term Strategy 2050 – LTS that is in the heart of EGD. b. the National Energy and Climate Plan, which fully adopts the EGD goals set for 2030.
	A new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the EU Transforming the EU's Blue Economy for a Sustainable Future. COM(2021) 240 final	NO	The NSSMS does not specifically refer to this strategy but supports the objectives regarding blue economy through its objectives.
		YES	This document is one of the European Policy documents that were considered for the drafting of the MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea.
Please indicate other relevant EU/International policies/strategies of relevance for the Plan(s), when linked to EGD objectives (including older versions of EU policy elements), as well as of national relevance, Describe findings.	An EU Strategy to harness the potential of offshore renewable energy for a climate neutral future. COM(2020) 741 final.	NO	The NSSMS does not specifically refer to this strategy but integrates the objectives related to ORE and climate that are set by the National Energy and Climate Plan (that is in compliance with the EGD and this EU Strategy).
		YES	The draft MSP Framwork refers to the COM(2020) 741 when setting the goals for the energy sector. Also, more objectives related to ORE and climate are set by the National Energy and Climate Plan (that is in compliance with the EGD and this EU Strategy), and the draft MSP Framework is complying with.
	REPowerEU Plan. COM(2022) 230 final	NO	There is no specific mention of this document but the energy guidelines set by the NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework, which also integrate and align with the National Offshore Wind Parks Development Program, are in line with the goals of REPowerEU Plan for accelerating Europe's clean energy transition.
	An European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy in accordance with the Paris Agreement (2019/2582(RSP))	NO	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea do not directly mention the strategy but integrate its core objective as it focuses in renewable energy (i.e. ORE). The National Energy and Climate Plan (which these documents have taken into consideration) has a main climate goal of reducing carbon emissions by more than 56% by 2030 (compared to 2005). This will be achieved mainly by replacing electricity generation from lignite to renewable energy (solar and wind), with a goal to decommission the former completely by 2028 and expanding the presence of the latter from 18% to at least 35% by 2030.
	EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives. COM(2021) 380 final	NO	The draft MSP Framework does not directly mentions the strategy but good environmental status is of outmost importance through the entire Plan with regulations and guidelines for marine protected areas.
	A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system. COM(2020) 381 final.	NO	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework do not directly mention the strategy but sustainable food production is very important for the fisheries and aquaculture sector. Greece has developed the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for the Development of Aquaculture 2021-2030 that fully integrates the priorities set in the EU policies of the EGD, Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the Farm to Fork Strategy.
	Pathway to a Healthy Planet for All EU Action Plan: 'Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil". COM(2021) 400 final	NO	
	A new Circular Economy Action Plan for a cleaner and more competitive Europe. COM(2020) 98 final.	NO	The NSSMS and the MSP Framework do not directly mention the goals included here. However, these goals have been considered in the National Energy and Climate Plan, that both documents have considred.
	Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030 COM/2021/236 final	YES	This document is one of the European Policy documents that were considered for the drafting of the NSSMS.
		NO	The draft MSP Framework does not directly mention this strategy but sustainable food production is very important for the fisheries and aquaculture sector. Greece has developed the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for the Development of Aquaculture 2021-2030 that fully integrates the priorities set in the EU policies of the EGD, Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the Farm to Fork Strategy.
	National Energy and Climate Plan (National Gazette No 6983/B/2024)	YES	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework fully align with these documents.
	Long Term Strategy 2050 – LTS	YES	
	Multiannual National Strategic Plan for the Development of Aquaculture 2021-2030	YES	The NSSMS aligns with this Strategic Plan
	The EU's strategy for sustainable marine and maritime growth: Blue Growth [COM(2012) 494].	YES	This EU strategy was taken into consideration during the drafting of the MSP Framework
	Special Spatial Plan for Renewable Energy (National Gazette No 2464/B/03.12.2008 - under revision) and its draft revision	YES	Guidelines given by the Special Spatial Plans are taken into consideration when drafting the MSP Frameworks.
	Special Spatial Plan for Aquaculture (National Gazette No 2505/B/04.11.2011 - under revision)		
	Special Spatial Plan for Industry (National Gazette No 151/ΑΑΠ/13.04.2009 - under revision)		

Fact-sheet 4: : EGD analysis by sectors – Vision and/or strategic documents

Check whether the sector is considered and eventually linked to any of the main EGD topics in the vision or in any strategic document providing guidance to the Plan(s). Describe findings.
Explanation:
For FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE: Is the green transition of the sector considered in the vision, by referring to any of the key EDG topics?
For ORE: Is the sector's development considered in the vision, by referring to any key EDG topics?
For NATURE PROTECTION: Check whether it is considered and eventually linked to any of the main EGD topics

	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
Is the sector considered in the vision?	SOMEHOW	The vision of the NSSMS is to *"provide an integrated policy for the management of the Greek marine space to ensure its productivity, sustainability, biological diversity, health and safety"*. The vision does not explicitly mention each marine sector and sea use, but rather generally refers to them showcasing its integrated approach.	SOMEHOW	The vision of the NSSMS is to *"provide an integrated policy for the management of the Greek marine space to ensure its productivity, sustainability, biological diversity, health and safety"*. The vision does not explicitly mention each marine sector and sea use, but rather generally refers to them showcasing its integrated approach.	SOMEHOW	The vision of the NSSMS is to *"provide an integrated policy for the management of the Greek marine space to ensure its productivity, sustainability, biological diversity, health and safety"*. The vision does not explicitly mention each marine sector and sea use, but rather generally refers to them showcasing its integrated approach.	SOMEHOW	The vision of the NSSMS is to *"provide an integrated policy for the management of the Greek marine space to ensure its productivity, sustainability, biological diversity, health and safety"*. The vision does not explicitly mention each marine sector and sea use, but rather generally refers to them showcasing its integrated approach.
	YES	There is a vision for each of the sectors and sea uses that the draft MSP Framework considers. Fisheries is one of them.	YES	There is a vision for each of the sectors and sea uses that the draft MSP Framework considers. Aquaculture is one of them.	YES	There is a vision for each of the sectors and sea uses that the draft MSP Framework considers. ORE is one of them.	YES	There is a vision for each of the sectors and sea uses that the draft MSP Framework considers. Nature Protection is one of them.
Is the vision for the sector linked to any of the following elements?								
A. Climate change mitigation	YES	In the draft MSP Framework the contribution of all sectors to CC mitigation is clearly set.	YES	In the draft MSP Framework the contribution of all sectors to the CC mitigation is clearly set.	SOMEHOW	The draft MSP Framework is aligned with the vision that is set by the national and EU policy for ORE, as set by the National Energy and Climate Plan.	NO	The contribution of MPAs and nature protection in CC mitigation is clearly set in the vision of the draft MSP Framework.
B. Climate change adaptation	YES	Addressing the resilience of fisheries against CC is clearly named in the sector's vision of the draft MSP Framework.	YES	Addressing the resilience of aquaculture against CC is clearly named in the vision of the draft MSP Framework for the sector.	SOMEHOW	The draft MSP Framework is aligned with the vision that is set by the national an EU policy for ORE, as set by the National Energy and Climate Plan.	NO	The contribution of MPAs and nature protection is highly related to the resilience against CC impacts which the draft MSP Framework indirectly supports by the promotion of good environmental status in the sectors' vision.
C. Sustainable food production	YES	It is explicitly mentioned, in the draft MSP Framework, that food security is promoted through fisheries.	YES	It is explicitly mentioned, in the draft MSP Framework, that food security of the country is especially promoted through aquacutlure.	NO	-	SOMEHOW	The role of MPAs towards ensuring food security is indirectly set in the vision of the draft MSP Framework regarding nature protection.
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration	SOMEHOW	The sector must grow in a way that biodiversity and nature protection is ensured.	YES	The sector must grow in a way that biodiversity and nature protection is ensured.	NO	-	YES	The good environmental status of the marine and coastal ecosystem is of outmost importance in the draft MSP Framework and highlighted in the sectors' vision, setting strict regulations regarding its protection in compliance with national priorities and international targets.
E. Blue circular economy	NO	-	NO	-	NO	-	NO	-
F. Zero pollution	NO	Not clearly set in the vision of the draft MSP Framework.	NO	Not clearly set in the vision of the draft MSP Framework.	YES	In the vision of the draft MSP Framework for ORE, it is highlighted that the use of ORE towards reducing the environmental footprint of the energy sector.	NO	Not specifically mentioned in the draft MSP Framework but nature protection and MPAs indirectly contribute to the zero pollution targets.

Strategies only European or National too?

RELATION WITH OTHER STRATEGIES	**FISHERIES**		**AQUACULTURE**		**ORE**		**NATURE PROTECTION**	
A. Climate change mitigation								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	YES		YES		YES		YES	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	YES	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework follows the goals and measures set by the National Energy and Climate Plan.	YES	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework follows the goals and measures set by the National Energy and Climate Plan.	YES	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Frameworks follows the goal and measures set by the National Energy and Climate Plan.	YES	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Frameworks follows the goal and measures set by the National Energy and Climate Plan.
B. Climate change adaptation								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	YES		YES		YES		YES	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	YES	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework follows the goals and measures set by the National Energy and Climate Plan.	YES	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework follows the goals and measures set by the National Energy and Climate Plan.	YES	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework follows the goals and measures set by the National Energy and Climate Plan.	YES	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework follows the goals and measures set by the National Energy and Climate Plan.
C. Sustainable food production								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	YES		YES		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	YES	Greece has developed the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for the Development of Aquaculture 2021-2030 that fully integrates the priorities set in the EU policies of the EGD, Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the Farm to Fork Strategy which the NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework are taking into consideration.	YES	Greece has developed the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for the Development of Aquaculture 2021-2030 that fully integrates the priorities set in the EU policies of the EGD, Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the Farm to Fork Strategy which the NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework are taking into consideration.	NO		NO	
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		YES	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	NO		NO		NO		YES	Management Plans are pending adoption in the North Aegean Sea. These MPA Plans will comply with the Biodiversity Strategy 2030.
E. Blue circular economy								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
F. Zero pollution								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		YES		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	NO		NO		YES	The spatial allocation and guidelines for offshore wind parks will be given by the Offshore Wind Parks National Development Program (pending finalisation).	NO	

Fact-sheet 5: EGD analysis by sectors – Objectives	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
Is the sector considered in the objectives?	YES	General and specific objectives are set for all the sectors and sea uses that the NSSMS considers. Fisheries is one of them. There are objectives for each of the sectors and sea uses that the draft MSP Framework considers. Fisheries is one of them.	YES	General and specific objectives are set for all the sectors and sea uses that the NSSMS considers. Aquaculture is one of them. There are objectives for each of the sectors and sea uses that the draft MSP Framework considers. Aquaculture is one of them.	YES	General and specific objectives are set for all the sectors and sea uses that the NSSMS considers. ORE is one of them. There are objectives for each of the sectors and sea uses that the draft MSP Framework considers. ORE is one of them.	YES	General and specific objectives are set for all the sectors and sea uses that the NSSMS considers. Nature protection is one of them. There are objectives for each of the sectors and sea uses that the draft MSP Framework considers. Nature protection is one of them.
Are the objectives for the sector linked to any of the following elements?								
A. Climate change mitigation								
A.1 Renewable energy production, storage and transportation	YES	The draft MSP Framework promotes synergies between fisheries and ORE.	YES	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework promote the installation of aquaculture units that take into consideration the effects of climate change.	YES	According to the NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework, there is a goal for indepence of energy production from fossil fuels.		The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework promotes ORE development following the regulations for marine protected areas.
A.2 Clean energy transition in maritime sectors	NO		YES	Energy efficiency of the aquaculture sector is mentioned as one of the objectives of the NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework.	YES	According to the NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework, there is a goal for indepence of energy production from fossil fuels.	NO	
A.3 Transformations in ports	NO		NO		NO		NO	
A.4 Blue carbon storage	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Are quantitative objectives identified?	NO		NO		YES	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework, integrate the National Energy and Climate Plan's goals. The long-term goal is to reduce the greenhouse emissions at least by 55% by 2050. The midterm goal for ORE (by 2030) is to contribute by 45.4% in the gross final energy consumption of the country and by 76,8% in the gross electricity consumption (of the country).	NO	
B. Climate change adaptation								
B.1 Green infrastructures to enhance coastal resilience and/or to enhance marine connectivity	YES	Not explicitly mentioned in the objectives of the NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework, but this objective is served by measures that are mentioned in the draft MSP Framework.	NO		NO		NO	
B.2 Protection of climate-sensitive marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems, and landscapes	NO		SOMEHOW	Not explicitly mentioned in the objectives of the NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework, but this objective is served by measures that are mentioned in the NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework.	NO		NO	
B.3 Anticipation of climate change-related effects	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Are quantitative objectives identified?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
C. Sustainable food production								
C.1 Sustainable fisheries	YES	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework, promote sustainable fishing practices.	NO		YES	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework supports synergies between ORE and fisheries and aquaculture.	YES	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework considers environmental and biodiversity protection essential to safeguard fish stocks.
C.2 Sustainable aquaculture (both for fish and shellfish)			YES	The draft MSP Framework promotes sustainable aquaculture practices as well as processing and marketing of aquaculture products.	NO		YES	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework considers environmental and biodiversity protection as essential to ensure the production of quality aquaculture products.
C.3 Sustainable algae production	NO		SOMEHOW	Not explicitly mentioned in the objectives of the NSSMS, but this objective is served by measures that are mentioned in the NSSMS.	NO			
Are quantitative objectives identified?	NO		YES	The NSSMS integrates the growth targets for aquaculture by the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for the Development of Aquaculture 2021-2030 of an average growth of three percent (3.0%) by 2025 and five percent (5.0%) by 2030 of the sector	NO		NO	
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration								
D.1 A coherent network of marine protected areas	NO		YES	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework favors eco-friendly aquaculture practices within sensitive ecosystems following sustainable development standards.			SOMEHOW	Not explicitly mentioned in the objectives of the NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework. Other relevant objectives are: conservation of existing network of marine protected areas. Sustainable management of existing and future activities within the marine protected areas ensuring the conservation of the natural and cultural reserve.
D.2 Restoring marine and coastal ecosystems	YES	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework promote the implementation of management tools such as spatial restrictions on species and gear size as well as other spatio-temporal restrictions to avoid irreversible impacts on marine resources, vulnerable habitats and marine species. Additionally, they favor eco-friendly fishing practices within sensitive ecosystems following sustainable development standards.	YES	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework favor eco-friendly aquaculture practices within sensitive ecosystems following sustainable development standards. Additionally the NSSMS, aligning with the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for the Development of Aquaculture 2021-2030, encourages the development of deep-water restoration facilities.	YES	The NSSWS states that offshore wind parks should be avoided in sensitive ecosystems and all regulations regarding the protection of the environement should be followed. The draft MSP Framework states that the siting and installation of floating solar panel parks should not affect the ecological balance in the North Aegean Sea and especially in the marine protected areas	YES	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework favors the conservation of the existing habitats and their biodiversity, the protection against water pollution, the conservation of the coastal landscape and the enhancement of the cultural heritage.
Are quantitative objectives identified?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
E. Blue circular economy								
E.1 Circular design	NO		NO		NO		NO	Not explicitly mentioned in the objectives of the NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework, but this objective is served by measures that are mentioned in the draft MSP Framework.
E.2 Waste prevention	NO		NO		NO		NO	
E.3 Reuse, repair, upgrade, recycle	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Are quantitative objectives identified?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
F. Zero pollution								
F.1 Pollution prevention	NO	Not explicitly mentioned in the objectives of the NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework, but this objective is served by measures that are mentioned in the draft MSP Framework.	NO	Not explicitly mentioned in the objectives of the NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework, but this objective is served by measures that are mentioned in the draft MSP Framework.	NO		YES	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework endorses the protection of marine waters from pollution.
F.2 Pollution remediation	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Are quantitative objectives identified?	NO		NO		NO		NO	

Fact-sheet 6: EGD analysis by sectors – Measures

Check whether the sector is considered in the measures of the Plan(s) and eventually linked to the main -related topics and the related categories of measures. Please refer to Table 1 for a list of categories of measures. Describe findings (list relevant measures by category). Additional elements can be added to the description when those indicated in Table 1 do not include the type of measures you need to indicate.

	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
Is the sector considered in the measures?	YES	The NSSMS gives mainly strategic goals and guidelines but integrates some more specific measures for some of the sectors including fisheries.	YES	The NSSMS gives mainly strategic goals and guidelines but integrates some more specific measures for some of the sectors including aquaculture.	YES	The NSSMS gives mainly strategic goals and guidelines but integrates some more specific measures for some of the sectors including ORE.	YES	The NSSMS gives mainly strategic goals and guidelines but integrates some more specific measures for some of the sectors including nature protection.
	YES	There are measures for each of the sectors and sea uses that the draft MSP Framework considers. Fisheries is one of them.	YES	There are measures for each of the sectors and sea uses that the draft MSP Framework considers. Aquaculture is one of them.	YES	There are measures for each of the sectors and sea uses that the draft MSP Framework considers. ORE is one of them.	YES	There are measures for each of the sectors and sea uses that the draft MSP Framework considers. Nature protection is one of them.
Are the measures for the sector linked to any of the following elements?								
A. Climate change mitigation								
A.1 Renewable energy production, storage and transportation								
A.1.1. Development of marine renewable energy installations	NO		YES	The draft MSP Framework promotes synergies between aquaculture and ORE installations	YES	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework highlight the need to allocate ORE zones for wind farms (fixed and floating) as well as of floating solar panels.	YES	The draft MSP Framework suggests the possibility of ORE within MPAs following specific regulations
A.2.2 Development of sustainable ocean energy mix (in addition to bottom-fixed offshore wind, floating wind, thermal, wave and tidal energy, also in combination)					YES	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework highlight the need to allocate ORE zones for wind farms (fixed and floating) as well as of floating solar panels.	NO	
A.1.3 Integration of renewable energy solutions with energy efficiency and other sustainable solutions	NO		YES	ORE installations in combination with aquaculture is promoted for their energy efficiency by the draft MSP Framework.	NO		NO	
A.1.4 Multi-use of the sea space: combination including energy installations	YES	The draft MSP Framework promotes synergies between fisheries and ORE installations	YES	The draft MSP Framework promotes synergies between aquaculture and ORE installations	NO		YES	The draft MSP Framework suggests the possibility of ORE within MPAs following specific regulations
A.1.6 Development of innovative technologies and infrastructures (smart grids, hydrogen networks, carbon capture, storage and utilization, energy storage, etc.)	NO		NO		YES	The NSSMS and the MSP Framework promote the development of technologies for energy storage.	NO	
A.2 Clean energy transition in maritime sectors								
A.2.3 Initiatives towards emission reduction in other sectors considered by the Plan(s) (e.g. fishing boats)	NO		YES	The draft MSP Framework promotes low environmental footprint of aquaculture	NO		NO	
A.3 Transformations in ports	NO		NO		NO		NO	
A.4 Blue carbon storage	NO		NO		NO		NO	
B. Climate change adaptation								
B.1 Green infrastructures to enhance coastal resilience and/or to enhance marine connectivity								
B.1.1 Green Infrastructures: Creation and maintenance of Nature-based solutions (wetlands, salt marshes, seagrass meadows, maerl beds, mangroves, dunes, etc.)	YES	The draft MSP Framework promotes the development of artificial reefs (more specifically in ORE installations).	NO		YES	The draft MSP Framework promotes the development of artificial reefs in ORE. It also encourages the use of "Smart Networks" to enhance resilience against climate-related hazards	NO	
B.2 Protection of climate-sensitive marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems, and landscapes	NO		NO		NO		NO	
B.3 Anticipation of climate change-related effects	NO		NO		NO		NO	
C. Sustainable food production								
C.1 Sustainable fisheries								
C.1.1 Improving the state of fish stocks	YES	It is proposed by the NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework to designate fishing areas.	NO		YES	The draft MSP Framework suggests the use of ORE installations as artificial reefs to improve the state of fishing stocks.	NO	
C.1.2 Minimize fishing impacts on vulnerable habitats	YES	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework promotes sustainable fishing practices, as well as processing and marketing of fishery products.	NO		NO		YES	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework suggests the specialization of regulations for the practice of fishing in areas of environmental interest and protected areas.
C.1.4 Combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) (also including enhanced traceability systems)	YES	The draft MSP Framework supports the control of oversfishing and the combat of illegal fishing.	NO		NO			
C.1.6 Multi-use of the sea space: combination including fisheries	NO		NO		YES	The draft MSP Framework indicates that fisheries are conditionally allowed in areas with ORE installations, but detailed local plans for each ORE installation are the ones to set the details.	YES	Fisheries is one of the sectors that are stated as cooperative within MPAs, following specific regualtions, by the NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework.
C.2 Sustainable aquaculture (both for fish and shellfish)								
C.2.1 Development of marine aquaculture installations	NO		YES	The draft MSP Framework promotes the siting of new aquaculture units in uninhabited islands to avoid pressure in touristic areas that can also have great interest in the development of marine tourism. It also promotes the finalization/drafting of zoning plans and establishment of Aquaculture Parks in type A and B of aquaculture areas.	NO		YES	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework suggests the specialization of regulations for the practice of aquaculture in areas of environmental interest and protected areas.
C.2.2 Development of organic marine aquaculture, IMTA, low-trophic aquaculture	NO		YES	The NSSMS promotes organic aquaculture through the implementation of certification programs	NO		NO	
C.2.3 Introduction of energy savings in marine aquaculture. Including autonomous systems	NO		YES	The draft MSP Framework promotes ORE in aquaculture for the energy effeciency of the installations.	YES	ORE is promoted for the energy sufficiency of the aquaculture sector by the draft MSP Framework.	NO	
C.2.4 Multi-use of the sea space: combinations including marine aquaculture	NO		NO		YES	The draft MSP Framework recommends the development of aquaculture in combination with ORE installations	YES	Aquaculture is one of the sectors that are stated as cooperative, by the NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework, within MPAs following specific regualtions
C.3 Sustainable algae production	NO		NO		NO		NO	
C.3.1 Development of marine algae production	NO		YES	Algae production installations are supported by the NSSMS for the production of biofuels.	NO		NO	
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration								
D.1 Elements to improve marine connectivity (e.g. among submarine canyons, reefs, etc.) and elements to achieve a coherent network of effective marine protected areas								
D.1.1 Establishment of new or enlargement of strictly marine protected areas (10% target) and definition of strict protection	NO		YES	The draft MSP Framework prohibites aquaculture in areas with Posidonia oceanica and priority habitat (1120*) and restrictes it in parts of the coastal front designated as Landscapes of Outstanding Natural Beauty.	NO		NO	This goal is set by other documents.
D.1.2 Establishment of new or enlargement of N2K and OECMs (30% target)	NO		YES	The draft MSP Framework discourages the siting of aquaculture in areas with important fishing grounds, nurseries, fish breeding and habitat areas	NO		NO	This goal is set by other documents.
D.1.5 Multi-use of the sea space: combination including biodiversity and ecosystem protection	NO		YES	The draft MSP Framework states that there is the possibility of aquaculture development in marine protected areas according to the legislation and management plans.	YES	Synergies between aquaculture and ORE is also promoted for reasons of ecosystem protection by the draft MSP Framework.	YES	The draft MSP Framework proposes that the multi-use concept and sustainble organisation of uses within the MPAs should be integrated in spatialized plans at the local level.
D.1.6 Coordinated, transboundary initiatives	NO		NO		NO		YES	The draft MSP Framework considers LSIs in particular it prioritises the sustainable wastewater management from settlements and tourist facilities. Land-use plans should specialize the protection and management of land uses.
D.2 Restoring marine and coastal ecosystems					NO		NO	
D.2.2 Restoring of marine degraded ecosystems	YES	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework propose the designation of fishing restriction areas.	YES	The draft MSP Framework suggests the removal of existing aquaculture units for the restoration of the marine ecosystem	NO		NO	
D.3 Knowledge-related measures	NO		NO		NO		YES	The draft MSP Framework promotes research, information and training within protected areas, following guidelines.
E. Blue circular economy								
E.1 Circular design								
E.2.2 Upgrade, strengthening of waste collection systems in coastal touristic sites	NO		NO		NO		YES	The draft MSP Framework considers LSIs in particular it prioritises the sustainable wastewater management from settlements and tourist facilities. Land-use plans should specialize the protection and management of land uses.
E.2 Waste prevention	NO		NO		NO		NO	
E.3 Reuse, repair, upgrade, recycle	NO		NO		NO		NO	
F. Zero pollution								
F.1 Pollution prevention								
F.1.5 Measures related to other land-based activities	NO		NO		NO		YES	The draft MSP Framework, aligning with the Special Spatial Plan for Industry, restricts industry development in the coastal zone of marine protected areas, with only some exeptions (e.g. salt marshes, desalination)
F.1.3 Measures related to fisheries and aquaculture	YES	The draft MSP Framework promotes the low environmental footprint and sustainable practices	YES	The draft MSP Framework promotes the low environmental footprint and sustainable practices	YES	The NSSMS and the draft MSP Framework promote the low environmental footprint and sustainable practices by using ORE in fisheries and aquaculture.	NO	
F.1.4 Measures related to the energy sector	NO		YES	The draft MSP Framework promotes the combined siting of wind energy and solar panel installations with aquaculture	NO		NO	
F.1.1 Measures related to maritime traffic and ports	NO		NO		NO		YES	The draft MSP Framework discourages new port installations in marine protected areas of any kind, with the exeption of very small port installations for the service of these areas.
F.2 Pollution remediation	NO		NO		NO		NO	

Fact-sheet 7: Fair and just transition

Just and inclusive transition: “No one left behind” - Stakeholder participation by sectors. Describe findings

	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
WHO								
Who were considered as stakeholders and how were they identified?		In the NSSMS, the sector was represented by the Ministry for Rural Development and Food, the National Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Greece and the Geotechnical Chamber of Greece. Later on the consultation was open to the public online, giving the opportunity for everyone to be involved. A consultation has not yet been made for the MSP Framework of the North Aegean Sea		In the NSSMS, the sector was represented by the Ministry for Rural Development and Food, the National Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Greece, the Geotechnical Chamber of Greece and the Hellenic Association of Business Parks. Later on the consultation was open to the public online, giving the opportunity for everyone to be involved. A consultation has not yet been made for the MSP Framework of the North Aegean Sea		In the NSSMS, the sector was represented by the Ministry for the Environment and Energy, and the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises, the Hellenic Association of Business Parks. Later on the consultation was open to the public online, giving the opportunity for everyone to be involved. The consultation for this sector was more advanced during the drafting of the National Climate and Energy Plan. A consultation has not yet been made for the MSP Framework of the North Aegean Sea		In the NSSMS, the sector was represented by the Ministry for the Environment and Energy. Later on the consultation was open to the public online, giving the opportunity for everyone to be involved. Research institutes, NGOs, public authorities, experts, etc. commented on the draft plan. Consultations also took place before the adoption of the Special Environmental Managment Plans.A consultation has not yet been made for the MSP Framework of the North Aegean Sea.
Were the characteristics of the stakeholders (e.g., gender, class, ethnicity, age and/or disability) considered in stakeholder participations?	YES	Efforts were made to achieve inclussivity of fishers during the consultation process of the NSSMS.	YES	Efforts were made to achieve inclussivity of represetatives of this sector during the consultation process of the NSSMS.	YES	Efforts were made to achieve inclussivity of represetatives of this sector during the consultation process of the NSSMS.	YES	Efforts were made to achieve inclussivity of relevant stakeholders during the consultation process of the NSSMS.
Were local participatory initiatives (such as community-led local development groups, fisheries local action groups etc.) arranged/considered?	YES	Relevant organizations and groups commented during the online public consultation of the NSSMS. They were also invited in the WSs organised (in few cities across Greece)	YES	Before the adotpion of the NSSMS WSs were organised (in few cities across Greece).	YES	Before the adotpion of the NSSMS WSs were organised (in few cities across Greece).	YES	Before the adoption of the NSSMS WSs were organised (in few cities across Greece).
Was sufficient sectoral/group representation of stakeholders ensured in the planning process?	SOMEHOW	Very few fishers participated in the (online) consultation process of the NSSMS.	SOMEHOW	Only one group of aquaculture stakeholders participated in the (online) consultation of the NSSMS.	SOMEHOW	The consultation for this sector was more advanced during the drafting of the National Offshore Wind Parks Development Program.	YES	Groups of stakeholders supporting nature protection were by far interested in the consultation process, and made several interventions in the (online) consultation of the NSSMS.
Does the Plan promote gender balance in maritime professions?	NO	No special reference.	NO	No special reference.	NO	No special reference.	NO	No special reference.
WHEN								
In what phase or which phases of the MSP process was stakeholder involvement organised?		Stakeholders were asked to intervene after the drafting (and before the adoption) of the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space.		Stakeholders were asked to intervene after the drafting (and before the adoption) of the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space. .		Stakeholders were asked to intervene after the drafting (and before the adoption) of the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space.		Stakeholders were asked to intervene after the drafting (and before the adoption) of the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space.
Was it made clear how and at what stages stakeholders can participate in the planning process? Was there an interaction plan								
HOW								
Was the local and expert knowledge integrated?	YES	This is expected to take place as part of the consultation process for the MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea.	YES	This is expected to take place as part of the consultation process for the MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea.	YES	This is expected to take place as part of the consultation process for the MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea.	YES	This is expected to take place as part of the consultation process for the MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea.
Were citizen science perspectives considered?	YES	The same as above.	YES	The same as above.	YES	The same as above.	YES	The same as above.
What methods were used in participation (workshops, scenarios, matrixes of use and interactions etc.)?		During the drafting of the National Strategy there was a mix of tools including consultation with the sectors' representatives, workshops, conferences and online public consultation. This is also expected for the MSP Framework of the North Aegean Sea.		During the drafting of the National Strategy there was a mix of tools including consultation with the sectors' representatives, workshops, conferences and online public consultation. . This is also expected for the MSP Framework of the North Aegean Sea.		During the drafting of the National Strategy there was a mix of tools including consultation with the sectors' representatives, workshops, conferences and online public consultation. . This is also expected for the MSP Framework of the North Aegean Sea.		During the drafting of the National Strategy there was a mix of tools including consultation with the sectors' representatives, workshops, conferences and online public consultation. . This is also expected for the MSP Framework of the North Aegean Sea.
What was the capacity of participants to influence planning decisions?		The fishers, even though a traditional marine profession, face challenges regarding their influence in the decision making.		The aquaculture sector is well established and sufficiently influential.		The ORE sector is upcoming and highly influential.		The sector is represented by NGOs and other relevant bodies that are sufficiently influencial in the decision making.

Fact-sheet 8: Cross-cutting elements		FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
Describe findings with reference to each sector	**Research and innovation**								
	Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to increase the availability of reliable, high-quality ocean and maritime data?	YES	According to the NSSMS, the country is also committed to collect fisheries data and environmental indicators as defined Regulation 2017/1004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 establishing a Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy. As regards the draft MSP Framework, data availability and high resolution of data is not addressed. This matter is centrally addressed (by the Greek State). A National Committee will be soon established for this purpose. This committee will be responsible for all types of geospatial data, for all sectors and marine ecosystems.	YES	The same as for fisheries	YES	The same as for fisheries	YES	The same as for fisheries
	Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to support research on the marine environment?	NO		NO		NO		SOMEHOW	The draft MSP Framework favors research related to nature protection and monitoring of the ecosystems, also geological and archaeological research. No specific measures are named.
	Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to support research and technological innovation in maritime sectors?	SOMEHOW	The draft MSP Framework favors research related to fisheries. No specific measures are named.	SOMEHOW	The NSSMS seeks to develop marine biotechnology in order to exploit marine living organisms for the creation of innovative products and tools and to increase the rate of development of blue biotechnology and the number of jobs that can be created, such as: (a) seaweed (algea) biofuel cultivation, collection and production units; (b) dead plant collection and processing units for Posidonia Oceanica; (c) marine fungi cultivation, collection and processing units for pharmaceutical industries; and (d) deep-sea restoration units. The draft MSP Framework favors research related to aquaculture. No specific measures are named.	SOMEHOW	The NSSMS gives as a guideline the gradual development of innovative renewable energy technologies, such as wave energy and floating solar parks.	SOMEHOW	The draft MSP Framework favors research related to nature protection and monitoring of the ecosystems, also geological and archaeological research. No specific measures are named.
	Education and training								
	Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to address education, skill development and training in maritime professions?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
	Cross-border cooperation in MSP								
	Is cooperation on specific sectors foreseen by the Plan(s)	YES	Agreements for fisheries have only taken place in the Ionian Sea (with Italy)	NO		NO		NO	

Fact-sheet 9: Zoning	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
Provide information on identification of areas with EGD features. Describe features of these areas in terms of management of uses and measures in place. Provide total extension in km2 of each typology in the entire Plan spatial domain and the relative percentage.	Dedicated areas	YES	Dedicated areas	YES	Dedicated areas	YES		YES
	Description	Fisheries are practiced throughout the marine waters of Greece, with the exception of zones introducing spatio-temporal restrictions. As regards the North Aegean Sea, it could all potentially be a fishing ground. Moreover, restriction zones for certain fishing practices exist in Alexandroupoli, Volos, Thessaloniki, Ierissos, Kimi, Mirina, Porto Lagos, Samothrace, Skala Atalantis and Skiathos). Other restrictions apply to MPAs, diving parks and to specific fishing tools (e.g. purse seine, trawl fishing etc.).	Description	At the national level, aquaculture zones are introduced by the National (sectoral) Spatial Framework for the Aquaculture sector, which categoriss the Greek marine space into the following areas: - Category A: Overdeveloped areas - Category B: Developing areas - Category C: Isolated areas with significant potentials - Category D: Sensitive areas (rich in natural and cultural resources) - Category E: Low intensity areas Nor the Sectoral Plan/Framework, neither the National Spatial Strategy for the marine space includes data for the size of the above areas In the North Aegean Sea, and according to the National Spatial Plan/Framework for aquaculture (of 2011), there are four (4) overdeveloped areas, eleven (11) developing areas and one (1) sensitive area. Within these suitable areas, two (2) Aquaculture Parks have been established and six (6) are pending establishment.	Description	The high potential areas for ORE in Greece are defined by the draft National Off-shore WindParks Development Program. A relevant law also provides the prossibility to develop floating solar panels (no zoning is introduced). According to the draft National Offshore Wind Parks Development Program (which is pending adoption), in the North Aegean Sea, five (5) high potential areas for the siting of Offshore Wind Parks and two (2) for the development of pilot projects are proposed. Additionally, in line with draft National Off-shore WindParks Development Program, the siting of small-sized wind power projects is promoted at distances not less than 5 nautical miles. It is possible to install small-sized wind power projects at distances of 3 to 5 nautical miles, in sea areas that are not adjacent to important tourism destinations. Currently, there are no ORE installations in the North Aegean Sea. However, according to the Energy Regulatory Authority, ORE production permits have been issued in the marine area of Lemnos island and Alexandroupoli.	Description	Currently, there is a national project for the adoption of managment plan of the terrestianl and marine protected areas. In Greece, there are diffeeent types of nationally and internationally protected MPAs. The NSSMS integrates all these MPAs. In the North Aegean Sea, there are four National Parks. Only one of the four (Northern Sporades) falls entirely within a marine and island area, and the rest include parts of coastal areas. One hundred twenty-two (122) small wetlands are identified in the North Aegean Sea, with most of them located within a Natura 2000 protected site. Regarding Natura 2000 sites, 59 are located in the marine and coastal space of the North Aegean Sea, of which 33 concern SACs and 26 SPAs. More specifically, eleven (11) are located in Eastern Macedonia and Thrace Region, seventeen (17) in Central Macedonia Region, seven (7) in Thessaly Region, nine (9) in Central Greece Region and fifteen (15) in North Aegean Region.
	Total extension [km2]	No data are included in draft MSP Framework (nor the National Strategy) on the size of the fishing restriction zones.	Total extension [km2]	According to the sectoral National Spatial Framework for Aquaculture, in the North Aegean Sea, the following Aquaculture Parks are established: 12.77 km2 (established) 52.94 km2 (under establishment)	Total extension [km2]	According to the National off-shore Windparks Development Program, in the country it is projected to establish a total of 2,359 km2 of Offshore Wind Parks (both fixed and floating). As regards the North Aegean Sea, the same Program suggests the establishment of the following Offshore Wind Parks Pilot areas: 353 km2 High potential areas: 410 km2	Total extension [km2]	No detailed data are given in the NSSMS for the North Aegean Sea. As regards the size and surface of the Greek MPAs is approximately 23,000 km2. The draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea, does not provide sizes and surface areas for the existing MPAs. Small wetlands' total area amounts to 2.98 km2 with the smallest wetland being 0.0014 km2 and the largest 0.1362 km2.
	% with respect to the total Plan area		% with respect to the total Plan area	0,01%	% with respect to the total Plan area	1,14%	% with respect to the total Plan area	In Greece: MPAs occupy 22% of the Greek marine waters In North Aegean Sea Natura 2000 sites: apprx. 10,13%
					How much energy those areas are supposed to produce (if available in the plans)	Offshore Wind Parks in Greece Pilot areas: 600 MW High potential areas: 11,795 MW Offshore Wind Parks in the North Aegean Sea Pilot areas: 600 MW High potential areas: 2,050 MW The draft MSP Framework permits, in accordance with Law 4951/2022, pilot installations of solar panels in the North Aegean Sea with a capacity of half (0.5 MW) to one megawatt (1 MW) per installation.		

A2.3 Fact sheets - France

Fact-sheet 1: General features

Country	France
Sea Basin(s)	Mediterranean Sea Basin
Number of MSP Plans developed by the country	1 for the Mediterranean
Titles of the Plan(s)	Sea Basin Strategy of the Mediterranean (Document stratégique de façade Méditerranée, DSF)
Responsible authority	The French State, in consultation with maritime and coastal stakeholders meeting within the Maritime Facade Council (Conseil maritime de façade)
Legal dimension of the Plan(s): e.g. legally binding/guiding, strategic, etc.	According to article R219-1-7 of the French Environment Code, the Sea Basin Strategy: - sets out the guidelines of the National Strategy for the sea and the coast (Stratégie nationale pour la mer et le littoral, SNML) with regard to the economic, social and ecological issues specific to this façade; - determines the application of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/CE) and the Maritime Spatial Planning Framework Directive (2014/89/UE). The Sea Basin Strategy comprises four parts: - Part 1: Inventory of fixtures (adopted on 4 October 2019) - Part 2: Strategic objectives (partially adopted on 4 October 2019 - completed on 28 April 2022) - Part 3: Monitoring system (adopted on 20 October 2021) - Part 4: Action plan (adopted on 28 April 2022) All projects and plans at sea should be compatible.
Geographic scope of the Plan(s): e.g. terrestrial and marine, only marine, marine and the coastal terrestrial strip	Marine and the coastal terrestrial strip (a little bit more).
Total marine area interested by the Plan(s) (in km2)	124 412 km² (inland waters: 16 750 km² + territorial sea of Mediterranean Facade: 11 055 km² + territorial sea of Corsica: 10 395 km² + Exclusive Economic Zone: 86 212 km²; Source: SHOM)
Map representing the geographic scope of the Plan(s)	https://www.geolittoral.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/carte-des-vocations-en-mediterranee-a1491.html
Starting date for Plan(s) preparation	2016 (The Biodiversity Act 2016 recognises the Marine Action Plan as an integral part of the Sea Basin Strategy.)
Date of adoption/enter into force	4 October 2019 (joint signature by the façade coordinating prefects, i.e. the prefect of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region and the maritime prefect for the Mediterranean, of the Mediterranean façade strategy). Complementay action plan set up in 2022.
Round of MSP (1st cycle, 2nd cycle), starting? (specify year)	1st cycle: 2019-2025; 2nd cycle: 2026-2031
Additional relevant information on MSP process e.g. interim assessments, in-progress or foreseen anticipated revisions, etc.	The revision of the Sea Basin Strategy is currently underway. Its results will be published in the course of 2025.

Fact-sheet 2: Operational elements

How are the Plan(s) documents organised? Are the Plan (s) self-consistent or do they refer to other strategic documents?	The Sea Basin Strategy must be compatible with other plans. In the French Environment Code, article R219-1-11 states that the Sea Basin Strategy: - respects the principles and guidelines of the National Strategy for the Sea and the Coast; - is compatible with the 3 other French Sea Basin Strategies (Manche-Est-Mer du Nord, Nord-Atlantique-Manche Ouest, Sud-Atlantique); - is consistent and coordinated with the marine strategies and maritime spatial planning adopted by the other Member States for the marine region concerned (Italy and Spain); - implements the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC) and the Maritime Spatial Planning Framework Directive (2014/89/EU). The Sea Basin Strategy is legally binding with regards to the other plans and programs. The maritime plans must be compatible and the terrestrial ones have to consider it. The Sea Basin Strategy is self-consistent but it acknowledges the existence of other strategic documents and often mentions other documents ("complementary policies").
Sectors and uses of the sea considered by the Plan(s)	- Offshore renewable energy (mainly addressed by the socio-economic objective K and associated actions, which are included in the Sea Basin Strategy of Mediterranean (DSF Med) Annex 4); - Maritime transport (mainly socio-eco objective L and associated actions); - Port activities (mainly socio-eco objective L and associated actions); - Fisheries (mainly socio-eco objective M and associated actions, and EO (environmental objectives - actions); - Aquaculture - both finfish and shellfish (mainly socio-eco objective N and associated actions); - Recreation (mainly objective M and associated actions, through recreational fishing mainly); - Shipbuilding and repair (socio-eco objective P and associated actions) - Coastal and maritime tourism (mainly socio-eco objectives Q and R and associated actions); - Landscape protection (mainly socio-eco objective S and associated actions) - Coastal protection (mainly socio-eco objective W and associated actions) - Nature protection and restoration (correspond mainly to the environmental objectives and associated actions in the Sea Basin Strategy); - Scientific research (transversal/diffuse in the different topics); - Others: maritime infrastructures, underwater works, ecological engineering (socio-eco objective O and associated actions); Quotes in the state of play of the document: - Cables (Sea Basin Strategy, pages 22 and 23); - Maritime defence (page 24).
Does the Plan consider a multi-scalar approach ?	YES The plan is based on a multi-scalar approach. It gives an overall map of the uses of the Mediterranean sea basin, comprising 30 zones ("vocation maps"). At the lower level, a descriptive sheet is produced for each of these 30 zones. The descriptive sheet details the spatial distribution of existing local planning processes, areas and zoning for environmental purposes, primary and port activities, developing activities, emerging activities, socio-economic issues, ecological functions and issues at the land-sea interface, shallow waters and the continental shelf. 1st example: zone 1, perimeter of the Gulf of Lion Marine Park, corresponding to a marine protected area. The description sheet includes environmental stakes: marine mammals, elasmobranchs, sea turtles, hydraulic dunes on the edge of the continental shelf, white coral, etc. The area itself is divided in vocation zones based on the management plan of the marine park. 2nd example: zone 6, Gulf of Lion shelf. The description sheet includes the floating offshore wind farms, macro-zones with commercial offshore wind energy potential, zones with potentially dense maritime traffic, etc. https://www.dirm.mediterranee.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/def_annexe6_fiches_par_zones_0919_compresse.pdf
Does the Plan include zoning of the sea space?	YES
How does the Plan distribute uses in the different zones?	Through « vocations maps », which correspond to the cartographic translation of strategic objectives. There are 30 zones (vocation maps) for the Mediterranean. (See Appendix 6 of the Sea Basin Strategy: table of zones, https://www.dirm.mediterranee.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/la-strategie-de-facade-maritime-est-adoptee-a2892.html).
Is zoning prescriptive (i.e. "this should come here")? Is planning indicative (i.e. "this can come here")	The zoning is prescriptive for offshore wind farm planning. It will become even more prescriptive when the Sea Basin Strategy is revised. The new Sea Basin Strategy will set out the locations for calls for tenders. This will define the areas where the French State will locate offshore wind farms over the next ten years, without further public consultation. The zoning also is prescriptive regarding nature protection/restoration (e.g. MPAs) and zones of fisheries importance, which still need to be identified. Concerning the other uses, the zoning is more indicative.

Fact-sheet 3: Policy context

This part of the analysis is aimed to identify the main EGD related policies/strategies the Plan is based on and that have been considered to define vision/objectives/zoning/measures.
Check whether reference is made in the Plan(s) to the main EGD related policy documents. Describe findings.

Please indicate other relevant EU/International policies/strategies of relevance for the Plan(s), when linked to EGD objectives (including older versions of EU policy elements), as well as of national relevance, Describe findings.

	Explicitly cited?	
The European Green Deal. COM(2019) 640 final	NO	None of the French plans makes explicit reference to the EGD and its associated documents. This is mainly due to the fact that the French MSP process began before the publication of the European Green Deal. The four Sea Basin Strategies were all published before the EGD communication was available. The ongoing revision of the French MSP plans might provide an opportunity to reflect EGD elements in the new documents.
A new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the EU Transforming the EU's Blue Economy for a Sustainable Future. COM(2021) 240 final	NO	However, in its vision for 2050, the Sea Basin Strategy clearly states that it governs the 'sustainable development of the blue economy' in the Mediterranean.
An EU Strategy to harness the potential of offshore renewable energy for a climate neutral future. COM(2020) 741 final.	NO	A public debate entitled 'La Mer en débat' (The Sea in debate) has been organised for ongoing consultation on the Sea Basin Strategy, the definition of high protection zones and the deployment of offshore wind farms.
REPowerEU Plan. COM(2022) 230 final	NO	The Sea Basin Strategy does not explicitly mention REPowerEU. However, it defines the national strategy required by this EU plan, namely to end dependence on Russian fossil fuels by saving energy, diversifying supply sources and accelerating the transition to clean energy. In fact, the Sea Basin Strategy focuses on the decarbonization of energy. Its current revision will help define new offshore wind farm zones.
An European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy in accordance with the Paris Agreement (2019/2582(RSP))	NO	The Sea Basin Strategy does not explicitly mention the Paris Agreement, but it does organise one of its central principles: the policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the French Mediterranean. In particular, it calls for the decarbonisation of the Sea Basin, regarding the fishing fleet, maritime transport, port facilities and industries, and so on.
EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives. COM(2021) 380 final	NO	The Sea Basin Strategy explicitly mention this text through. However, it is the planning document for the National Sea and Coastal Strategy (SNML), which has been updated in 2024. Biodiversity is one of the SNML's 4 top priorities. The Sea Basin Strategy therefore specifies and completes its guidelines on this subject, with regard to ecological issues. The DSF highlights biodiversity in its inventory, its reminder of the indicators of 'good ecological status', its presentation of economic activities, its vision for the Mediterranean in 2050 and its environmental objectives. What's more, the current revision of the Sea Basin Strategy is being used to define zones of strict protection within marine protected areas (in addition to offshore wind farms), with a view to protecting biodiversity.
A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system. COM(2020) 381 final.	NO	The Sea Basin Strategy does not explicitly mention this text. However, it does address sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in its description of economic activities and in its vision of the Mediterranean in 2050, as well as food sovereignty.
Pathway to a Healthy Planet for All EU Action Plan: 'Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil". COM(2021) 400 final	NO	The Sea Basin Strategy does not explicitly mention this plan. However, its environmental objectives include reducing pressure on the marine environment, in particular by reducing inputs of waste, contaminants, hydrocarbons, etc. The decarbonisation of ports and maritime transport is part of this drive to achieve 'zero pollution'.
A new Circular Economy Action Plan for a cleaner and more competitive Europe. COM (2020) 98 final.	NO	The Sea Basin Strategy does not explicitly mention this plan. However, the circular economy is mentioned as one of the sustainable practices to be strengthened, and as a major innovation challenge for all players.
Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030 COM/2021/236 final	NO	The Sea Basin Strategy does not explicitly mention this plan. However, aquaculture is mentioned in the vision for the Mediterranean in 2050, but also as an important maritime employment sector, which requires ad hoc training. Support for sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative and competitive aquaculture is one of the socio-economic objectives of the Sea Basin Strategy. The corresponding areas are identified in the vocational maps.

Fact-sheet 4: EGD analysis by sectors – Vision and/or strategic documents

Check whether the sector is considered and eventually linked to any of the main EGD topics in the vision or in any strategic document providing guidance to the Plan(s). Describe findings.
Explanation:
For FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE: Is the green transition of the sector considered in the vision, by referring to any of the key EDG topics?
For ORE: Is the sector's development considered in the vision, by referring to any key EDG topics?
For NATURE PROTECTION: Check whether it is considered and eventually linked to any of the main EGD topics

	FISHERIES	AQUACULTURE	ORE	NATURE PROTECTION
Is the sector considered in the vision?	YES	YES	YES	YES
Is the vision for the sector linked to any of the following elements?				
A. Climate change mitigation	**Decarbonisation of the fishing fleet:** "As a result of the implementation of the West Med Plan since 2020 and the rising cost of energy, fishing fleets are decarbonised by 2050". ***(Source : All the text in this Excel tab FS4 is from the "Vision 2050 for the Mediterranean" incorporated as part of the Sea bassin strategy DSF Mediterranean, p.40-43).***		**Floating offshore wind farm:** "In line with its commitment, France will have just achieved carbon neutrality in 2050. In the Mediterranean, between **4 and 7.5 gigawatts (GW)** of floating wind turbines are in service, generating electricity from renewable sources. Significant progress will have been made in avoiding the impacts of these projects and the cumulative effects with other uses of the sea." "Some ports in the French Mediterranean will be specialised in floating wind turbines. Major investments will have been made by the State, local authorities and port stakeholders to support these developments."	**Port certification**: "The majority of ports will have signed up to the Clean Ports certification scheme (a european environmental certification to protect the environment and biodiversity) and its various versions, enabling virtuous practices such as ship wastewater management to become widespread.") **Growing of Posidonia seagrass beds**: "a carbon sink, they will be growing as a result of a number of combined efforts: the introduction of ecological anchorage areas, the de-artificialisation of the coast, stop sand nourishment on beaches, and improvements in water quality". (*duplicated in J7*) *(not a direct link with nature protection:)* **Decarbonisation of ports and maritime transport**: "the decarbonisation of ports and maritime transport will be sustainable in 2050. Within the Grand Port Maritime de Marseille-Fos-sur-Mer, the industrial fabric that was once seen as a major source of pollution will have undergone a green transition and a profound decarbonisation."
B. Climate change adaptation				**Limitation of coastline retreat:** "certain artificial practices to limit the retreat of the coastline will have been abandoned in 2050. In particular, the re-silting of beaches, whose environmental impacts and effects (covering and therefore decline of Posidonia meadows), in addition to their financial cost, will no longer meet the expectations of local populations and will generate economic benefits for local authorities." **Reorganisation of the coastline through soft practices such as nature-based solutions:** "certain coastal sites will have been renaturated in order to mitigate the effects of climate change and make areas more resilient. The coastal system is restored to a more natural state (in particular by maintaining the Posidonia leaf banks), enabling it to act as a bulwark against climatic risks and events, by acting as a flood expansion zone against marine submersions."
C. Sustainable food production	"By 2050, many efforts will have been made to **improve the state of fish stocks**. But the situation of certain species will continue to deteriorate, due to: 1. rising water temperatures in the Mediterranean, 2. acidification, 3. poaching, 4. overfishing." "The **reduction of the trawler fleet** along the coast will have reached an equilibrium point, both in terms available resources and company profitability." "By 2050, small-scale inshore fishing will have reached the **Maximum Sustainable Yield** for species of high economic value. It will be possible to envisage a **slow recovery of the resource**". "The increase in the price of fishery resources, in line with their increasing scarcity, and the development of direct sales channels will ensure that **fishermen continue to be fairly remunerated**."	"Efforts will have been made to **develop sustainable aquaculture**. However, rising temperatures and water acidification have proved to be major challenges, as they favor the development of pathogenic bacteria and, consequently, the spread of disease in fish farms."		**Selectivity of fishing gears**: The DSF foresees the adoption of more environmentally-fishing techniques (selectivity of fishing gears).
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration	"More **environmentally-friendly fishing techniques** have been adopted. This change has been made possible by the use of cleaner engines and, consequently, lower energy costs. As a result, the impact of fishing on the environment is more limited and fishing gear is more selective."			**Biodiversity inventory campaigns:** "conduct of such campaigns that will have enabled us to characterise precisely the Mediterranean's marine biodiversity and its functioning, thus allowing to protect the biodiversity and ecosystems sustainably." "**Management strategies implemented to better apprehend the mutation of biodiversity** due to climate change that forces species to migrate or adapt their functioning." **Invasive alien species:** "early monitoring systems are in place to prevent their introduction, thereby avoiding great damage and financial costs." **Strongly protected areas:** "strongly protected areas will cover a large proportion of marine protected areas and will ensure the conservation of biodiversity and its associated ecosystem services and cultural values. Their effective management will help to meet international requirements to combat the erosion of biodiversity, but also to deal with local land pressures, aquatic pollution, pressure on fish stocks, the effects of climate change and the influx of tourists." **Posidonia seagrass beds:** "a carbon sink, they will be growing as a result of a number of combined efforts: the introduction of ecological anchorage areas, the de-artificialisation of the coast, stop sand nourishment on beaches, and improvements in water quality."
E. Blue circular economy				**Dredging:** "the conditions for dumping sediments from dredging activities at sea will have become more restrictive in 2025. Their recovery, instead, will have been encouraged."
F. Zero pollution	**Decarbonisation of the fishing fleet**: "As a result of the implementation of the West Med Plan since 2020 and the rising cost of energy, fishing fleets are decarbonised by 2050." "More environmentally-friendly fishing techniques have been adopted. This change has been made possible by the use of cleaner engines and, consequently, lower energy costs. As a result, the impact of fishing on the environment is more limited and fishing gear is more selective."			**Plastics: "**thanks to the ban on single-use plastic in 2040 and the gradual elimination of our plastic production, plastic is no more a source of pollution and biodiversity degradation. We will have reversed the projection that there would be more plastic than fish in the Mediterranean by 2050." "**Noise and light pollution** emitted by ships will be reduced to a minimum, so as not to have any impact on marine flora and fauna." **Waste:** "No more dumps on the coasts. With the disappearance of coastal dumps and the development of waste recovery and treatment technologies, the amount of waste entering the Mediterranean will be gradually reduced. However, microplastics remain a major issue." **ECA SOx Med: "**the Mediterranean as a whole will be an area with low sulphur oxide and nitrogen oxide emissions (ECA SOx Med), which considerably reduces atmospheric pollution and helps to preserve biodiversity". **Tourism: "**by 2050, tourism in the Mediterranean will have made its ecological transition. The aim is not to attract a growing number of tourists every summer, but to offer a quality tourist experience that is accessible to all and respectful of the environment. Tourist flows will be compatible with the objectives of protecting the sites, coastline and marine environment. Over-visiting of all the emblematic sites along the coast will have been avoided, in particular by promoting sustainable tourism spread between the coast, the hinterland and the mountains. The leisure activities on offer will focus primarily on discovering Mediterranean culture and nature. **The nuisances generated by leisure activities will be strictly limited**. To meet the demands of society and the environment, the yachting industry will have undergone major technological and energy changes. By 2050, this sector will also be the focus of trans-regional cooperation with Spain and Italy. Until 2050, these ambitions will have been supported by Regional Tourism and Leisure Development Plans."

RELATION WITH OTHER STRATEGIES IN THE VISION 2050	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
A. Climate change mitigation								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	**YES**		NO		**YES**		**YES**	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	NO	No, the Sea basin Strategy (DSF) of Mediterranean does not delegate this element. However, it mentions the **West Med Plan**. NB: This ambition is also included in other plans and policies such as the The NSSC : "The **National Strategy for the Sea and Coast** (NSSC) explicitly mentions climate change mitigation as an objective. It points to offshore renewable energy (ORE), as well as energy transition in maritime sectors such as shipping, ports, or fishing. At a façade macro-planning level, climate change mitigation is mostly addressed in an indirect manner. Rather than explicitly mentioning climate change mitigation, documents often refer to energy (source: document MSP-GREEN conclusions p79/233)."	N/A	N/A	**YES**	The DSF mentions the commitment of France for 2050 carbon neutrality. This could refer to the National Strategy Low Carbone or Climate and Resilience Law. "Numerical energy targets and objectives won't be set up in the framework of establishing sea basin MSP documents, but by a national sectoral policy, the **Multiannual Energy Program** (MEP). The current MEP runs from 2019 to 2028. In the first MSP cycle, French plans only featured indicative zoning, so-called “vocation maps”. They did not establish a prescriptive distribution of space but a prioritisation of activities at sea in each sub-planning unit (vocation zones). The newly introduced obligation to map out zones prioritising a specific sector (offshore wind) in the next generation of plans therefore constitutes a major shift in the French approach to MSP" (source: MSP-GREEN report D2.1, p79-80). The ORE is a priority in very few of the 30 vocation maps of the Mediterranean sea basin.	**YES**	The DSF does not delegate but mentions the **Clean Ports certification scheme** (a european environmental certification to protect the environment and biodiversity, which is not legally binding. It is a voluntary environmental certification).
B. Climate change adaptation								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		**YES**	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NO	No.
C. Sustainable food production								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	**YES**		**YES**		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	NO	No.	NO	No.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		**YES**	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	NO	No.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NO	No.
E. Blue circular economy								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	**YES**		NO		NO		**YES**	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	NO	No.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NO	No.
F. Zero pollution								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	**YES**		NO		NO		**YES**	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	NO	No, the DSF does not delegate this element. However, it mentions the **West Med Plan**.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	SOMEHOW	The DSF does not delegate but mentions the Regional Tourism and Leisure Development Plans (which are not legally binding, but rather define strategic orientations linked to tourism).

Fact-sheet 5: EGD analysis by sectors – Objectives

Check whether the sector is considered and eventually linked to any of the main EGD topics and sub-topics in the objectives of the plan(s). Describe findings.
Explanation:
For FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE: Is the green transition of the sector considered in the objectives, by referring to any of the key EDG topics and sub-topics?
For ORE: Is the sector's development considered in the objectives, by referring to any key EDG topics or sub-topics?
For NATURE PROTECTION: Check whether it is considered in the objectives and eventually linked to any of the main EGD topics and sub-topics.In the case your Plan(s) identifies different levels of objectives (e.g. strategic, specific) you can undertake the analysis for each of the levels, if appropriate.
Please specify any quantitative objectives indicated in the Plan(S), with reference to the considered sector e.g. energy production, aquaculture production, sea surface to be protected, etc.
Describe findings.

	FISHERIES	AQUACULTURE	ORE	NATURE PROTECTION
Is the sector considered in the objectives?	YES	YES	YES	YES
Are the objectives for the sector linked to any of the following elements?				
A. Climate change mitigation				
A.1 Renewable energy production, storage and transportation	N/A	N/A	**General objective K. Develop marine renewable energies (MRE) in the Mediterranean:** **K1. Encourage the development of commercial floating wind farms, their connections and other MRE, in line with the objectives of the Multiannual energy program (PPE):** **Indicators: K1-1: Installed electricity capacity and commissioning for wind power floating (GW)** K1-2: Floating wind power capacity by tender call (GW) K1-3: Number of commercial tenders launched for floating wind farms K1-4: Electricity generation in the sea basin K1-5: Installed thermal capacity for thalassothermal energy **K2. Encourage the development of structured value chains along the coast that generate employment (floating wind turbines, ocean thermal energy, etc.), while ensuring social regulations:** K2-1: Turnover (revenue) generated by the marine renewable energy sector K2-2: Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs in the marine renewable energy sector according to the Directorate-General for Energy and Climate (DGEC) K2-3: Number of floats manufactured or assembled at dockside in the sea basin K2-4: Number of turbines integrated into the sea basin at dockside **K3. Support training for the very specific needs of the MRE value chain (research, engineering, operation, maintenance, etc.):** K3-1: Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs in research and/or training organisations **K4. Disseminate knowledge and feedback from French and foreign projects to all stakeholder:** K4-1: Number of meetings of the floating wind energy bodies of the Maritime Council for the Mediterranean Sea Basin **K5. Encourage research, technological and environmental innovation, and co-use experiments in the wind farms:** K5-1: Number of innovative projects labelled by the Pôle Mer Méditerranée in the "Energy resources" strategic action area K5-2: Number of allocated business parks subject to co-use (idem N5-1).	N/A
A.2 Clean energy transition in maritime sectors	**M2. Help professionals modernise their fleets by supporting the decarbonisation of vessels:** M2-1. Number of vessels benefiting from measures to reduce fossil fuel consumption or converted to sustainable fuels.	N/A	N/A	N/A
A.3 Transformations in ports		N/A	N/A	N/A
A.4 Blue carbon storage	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Are quantitative objectives identified?	No, objectives are not quantified (only trends like "upward trend")	N/A	K1-2 target: 3.5 GW. K1-3 target: 3 parcs. K4-1 target: 20 meetings of the Maritime Board of the Mediterranean over the cycle (specialized commission and scientific board)	N/A
B. Climate change adaptation				
B.1 Green infrastructures to enhance coastal resilience and/or to enhance marine connectivity	N/A	N/A	N/A	**Objective W: Anticipate and manage coastal risks** W3. Encourage regional implementation of the national strategy for integrated coastline management. W3-1: Number of sites monitored as part of the European Adapto+ program on the coastline or covered by Nature-based Solutions (NBS).
B.2 Protection of climate-sensitive marine and coastal	N/A	N/A	N/A	**Objective W: Anticipate and manage coastal risks**
B.3 Anticipation of climate change-related effects	N/A	**N4. Support infrastructure and livestock safety and assist professionals in the face of disease/mortality threats, taking into account the effects of climate change:** N4-1. Number of validated applications under measure 51 of the EMFF (pending concordance table at national level with EMFAF) N4-2. Microbiological quality of monitoring sites in shellfish production areas - Percentage of REMI monitoring points considered to be of good quality (microbiological control network for shellfish production areas).	N/A	**Objective W: Anticipate and manage coastal risks** W3. Encourage regional implementation of the national strategy for integrated coastline management. W3-1: Number of sites monitored as part of the European Adapto+ program on the coastline or covered by Nature-based Solutions (NBS).
Are quantitative objectives identified?	N/A	No, objectives are not quantified (only trends like "upward trend" for N4-2)	N/A	No, objectives are not quantified (only a trend "upward trend" for W3-1)
C. Sustainable food production				
C.1 Sustainable fisheries	**General Objective M: Support sustainable, resource-efficient and innovative fishing** (source: DSF Annex 4 Strategic objectives - socio-economic and transversal objectives) **M1. Help professionals preserve resources and ecosystems** **M3. Maintain and develop the fishing industry** **M4. Support initiatives to promote products:** M4-1. Number of fisheries with a Quality and Origin Identification Mark (SIQO), including public ecolabels and private labels (including MSC). **M5. Ensure that the training on offer is compatible with the needs of socio-professionals and available as close as possible to employment areas:** **M6. Improve the integration of processing activities near fishing ports or mixed ports, to encourage new facilities:** **M7. Support and modernise the downstream value chain** by ensuring an harmonized coordination between the development of short distribution channels and existing fish auctions **M8. Support recreational fishing towards reasoned and responsible practices:** M8-1. Proportion of marine protected areas equiped with a tool for registering fishermen operating within their boundaries and declaring their catches; M8-2. Proportion of marine protected areas having defined a harmonised daily catch quota. **General objective C: Preserve the fish ressources of the Gulf of Lion plateau and in coastal areas** (Source: DSF Annex 4 - Strategic objectives, Environmental Objectives): D01-PC-OE01. Maximise the survival of **elasmobranchs caught accidentally,** in particular species banned from fishing (category A) and species that are not banned from fishing but have conservation priority (categories B and C). D01-PC-OE02. Promote the **restoration** of critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable and near-threatened **elasmobranch populations** according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. D01-PC-OE03: **Adapt harvesting of amphihaline species downstream** of the saltwater limit so as to achieve or maintain good stock status, and reduce accidental catches of amphihaline species whose renewal capacity is compromised, particularly in areas of large gatherings, estuaries and estuarine plumes identified by PLAGEPOMI plans. D01-PC-OE04. **Limit catches of vulnerable and endangered species** on the Mediterranean coast. D01-PC-OE05. **Reduce all pressures that affect the extent and condition of fisheries functional areas of importance (ZFHI)** identified (spawning grounds, nursery areas, and migration routes), essential to the life cycle of fish, cephalopods and crustaceans of halieutic interest. D03-OE01. In accordance with the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), adapt fishing mortality to **achieve the maximum sustainable yield** for fish stocks covered by international and European recommendations. D03-OE02. **Adapt fishing mortality to ensure sustainable management of local stocks** for fish stocks covered in whole or in part by a national or sub-national assessment and subject to local management. D04-OE01. **Limit damage** to sensitive elements of the trophic chain in favor of restoring the resource. D04-OE03. **Maintain zero harvesting of oceanic micro-nekton** (in particular Krill, myctophidae or lanternfish, etc.). D01-PC-OE05. **Reduce all pressures** that affect the extent and condition of **fisheries functional areas of importance** identified as essential to the life cycle of fish, cephalopods and crustaceans of halieutic interest.	N/A	N/A	**M1. Help professionals preserve resources and ecosystems:** M.1-3. Number of projects that aim to improve the selectivity of fishing gears; M1-4. Percentage of Natura 2000 sites with a finalised 'fisheries risk' analysis and related measures in force; M1-5. Number of fisheries inspections carried out along the coast. **M8. Support recreational fishing towards reasoned and responsible practices:** M8-1. Proportion of marine protected areas equiped with a tool for registering fishermen operating within their boundaries and declaring their catches; M8-2. Proportion of marine protected areas having defined a harmonised daily catch quota. **General objective A: Maintain or restore biodiversity and the functionning of benthic coastal habitats:** D01-HB-OE07. Maintain a sustainable level of red coral harvesting under the influence of professional scuba fishing. **General objective C: Preserve the fish ressources of the Gulf of Lion plateau and in coastal areas:** D01-PC-OE01. Maximise the survival of elasmobranchs caught accidentally, in particular species banned from fishing (category A) and species that are not banned from fishing but have conservation priority (categories B and C); D01-PC-OE02. Promote the restoration of critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable and near-threatened elasmobranch populations according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. D01-PC-OE03: Reduce accidental catches of amphihaline species whose renewal capacity is compromised, particularly in areas of large gatherings, estuaries and estuarine plumes identified by PLAGEPOMI plans. D01-PC-OE04. Limit catches of vulnerable and endangered species on the Mediterranean coast. D04-OE01. Limit damage to sensitive elements of the trophic chain in favor of restoring the resource. **General Objective D: Maintain or restore marine mammal and turtle populations to a good state of conservation:** D01-MT-OE02. Reduce incidental catches of sea turtles and marine mammals, particularly small cetaceans. D01-MT-OE03. Reduce collisions with sea turtles and marine mammals. D01-MT-OE01. Limit human disturbance of marine mammals. **General objective E: Guarantee the potential of the marine environment to host birds: feeding, resting, reproduction, movement:** D01-OM-OE01. Reduce accidental catches of seabirds (offshore and near colonies) by longlines, set nets and small pelagic seines.
C.2 Sustainable aquaculture (both for fish and shellfish)	N/A	**General objective N: Support sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative and competitive aquaculture** N1. Enhance the value of marine aquaculture products: N1-1. Number of aquaculture companies with a label; N1-2. Number of applications validated under measure 68R of the EMFF (pending concordance table at national level with the EMFAF) (idem M7-1); N1-3. Number of applications validated under measure 69 of the EMFF (pending concordance table at national level with the EMFAF). **N2. Support the development of aquaculture and access to land and landing points, while taking care of limiting land artificialisation** **N3. Ensure the adequacy of training provision compatible with the needs of socio-professionals and available as close as possible to employment areas:** N3-1. Number of aquaculture training courses available on the coast; N3-2. Number of actions under the Mediterranean shellfish industry contract relating to the training of shellfish farmers reached. **N4. Support infrastructure and livestock safety and assist professionals in the face of disease/mortality threats, taking into account the effects of climate change:** N4-1. Number of validated applications under measure 51 of the EMFF (pending concordance table at national level with EMFAF); N4-2. Microbiological quality of monitoring sites in shellfish production areas - Percentage of REMI monitoring points considered to be of good quality (microbiological control network for shellfish production areas). **N5. Encourage research and innovation to develop new practices and cultures of endemic species:** N5-1. Number of allocated commercial parks subject to co-use (idem K5-2); N5-2. Number of integrated multi-trophic aquaculture projects.	N/A	**General objective H. Reduce the risk of introduction and development of new, non-native species:** D02-OE04. Limit the risk of dissemination of non-native species during the introduction and transfer of aquaculture species.
C.3 Sustainable algae production	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Are quantitative objectives identified?	M1-4 target: 100% of Natura2000 sites have an analyse "fisheries risks" (is a target of the National Biodiversity Strategy 2027) M8-1 target: 100% of MPAs have a tool to record the fishers in the area and declaring their catches. M8-2 target: 100% of MPAs have an harmonized daily fish quota. D01-PC-OE03 target: for eels. Eel management plan target: - 60% reduction in fishing mortality between reference years 2004-2008 (professional maritime fisheries); D03-OE01 target: Fishing mortality rate corresponding to the MSY for each stock, in application of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP); D04-OE01 target: Biomass 2026 of sardines and anchovies superior or equal to 0.33 of the maximum historical biomass (or reference CFP); D04-O303 target: 0 catch of micro-necton, based on available knowledge.	No, objectives are not quantified (only trends like "upward trend" for N2, N4-2 and N5-2).	N/A	M1-4 target: 100% of Natura2000 sites have an analysis "fisheries risks" (in accordance of the target of the National Biodiversity Strategy 2027) M8-1 target: 100% of MPAs have a tool to record the fishers in the area and declaring their catches. M8-2 target: 100% of MPAs have an harmonized daily fish quota. D01-MT-OE02 target (obj D). Mortality rate of common porpoise and common dolphin (assessed on absolute mortalities) per accidental capture and per species below 1% of the best population estimate (ASCOBANS 2000) for each species. D01-OM-OE01 (obj E): 100% of risky sectors for accidental captures of bird species have planned measures to avoid or reduce accidental captures of birds. D02-OE04 target (obj H): 100% of marine farming authorizations issued for the rearing and cultivation of exotic aquaculture species in accordance with the provisions of amended Council Regulation (EC) no. 708/2007 of June 11, 2007 concerning use of alien and locally absent species in aquaculture, and amended Council Regulation (EC) no. 535/2008.

Fact-sheet 5: EGD analysis by sectors – Objectives	FISHERIES	AQUACULTURE	ORE	NATURE PROTECTION
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration				
D.1 Elements to improve marine connectivity (e.g. among submarine canyons, reefs, etc.) and elements to achieve a coherent network of effective marine protected areas	**General objective B: Maintain a good state of conservation of deep canyon submarine habitats:** D01-HB-OE09. Avoid physical disruption of Mediterranean phanerogam meadows and coralligenous beds (due to anchoring, recreational scuba diving, bottom fishing gear, beach nourishment) D01-HB-OE10. Avoid abrasion and smothering of the areas most representative of deep-sea habitats (Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems) and reduce abrasion of specific geomorphological structures. D01-HB-OE11. Limit extraction pressure on hydraulic dunes of shell sand and avoid extraction pressure on the dunes at the top of the slope.	**General objective H. Reduce the risk of introduction and development of new, non-native species:** D02-OE04. Limit the risk of dissemination of non-native species during the introduction and transfer of aquaculture species.	N/A	**General objective A: Maintain or restore biodiversity and the functioning of coastal ecosystems:** OE-T01. Develop strongly protected areas. D07-OE03. Limit pressures and obstacles to sea-land connectivity in estuaries and coastal lagoons (indicator: % of estuaries in highly protected areas). **General objective B: Maintain a good state of conservation of deep canyon submarine habitats:** D01-HB-OE10. Limit the physical loss of **Posidonia beds** (through beach and coastal arrangements); D01-HB-OE10. Avoid abrasion and smothering of the areas most representative of **deep-sea habitats** (Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems) and reduce abrasion of specific geomorphological structures; D01-HB-OE11. Limit extraction pressure on **hydraulic dunes of shell sand** and avoid extraction pressure on the dunes at the top of the slope. D01-HB-OE03. Reduce the physical disruption caused by human presence on **rocky intertidal habitats, particular by shore fishing.** D01-HB-OE09. Avoid physical disruption of Mediterranean phanerogam meadows and coralligenous beds (due to anchoring, recreational scuba diving, bottom fishing gear, beach nourishment) D06-OE01. Limit the physical loss of habitats caused by artificialisation, from the boundary of the public maritime domain up to a depth of 20 meters. D06-OE02. Reduce the disturbance and physical loss of generic and specific habitats caused by maritime works, activities and uses. **Q5. Support the creation of sensitive anchorage areas identified by the Anchorage management Strategy.** **R1. Support coastal communities and professionals in their sustainability strategies:** R1-2: Number of measures to reduce pressure on natural areas (gauges, quotas, access restrictions, temporary area closures, etc.). R2. Ensure exemplary, reversible occupation of the Public Maritime Domain, with a view to preserving coastal ecosystems and landscapes.
D.2 Restoring marine and coastal ecosystems	**General objective A: Maintain or restore biodiversity and the functionning of benthic coastal habitats** D01-HB-OE07. Maintain a sustainable level of red coral harvesting under the influence of professional scuba fishing. **General objective C: Preserve the fish ressources of the Gulf of Lion plateau and in coastal areas:** D01-PC-OE01. Maximise the survival of elasmobranchs caught accidentally, in particular species banned from fishing (category A) and species that are not banned from fishing but have conservation priority (categories B and C); D01-PC-OE02. Promote the restoration of critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable and near-threatened elasmobranch populations according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. D01-PC-OE03: Reduce accidental catches of amphihaline species whose renewal capacity is compromised, particularly in areas of large gatherings, estuaries and estuarine plumes identified by PLAGEPOMI plans. D01-PC-OE04. Limit catches of vulnerable and endangered species on the Mediterranean coast. D04-OE01. Limit damage to sensitive elements of the trophic chain in favor of restoring the resource. **General Objective D: Maintain or restore marine mammal and turtle populations to a good state of conservation** D01-MT-OE02. Reduce incidental catches of sea turtles and marine mammals, particularly small cetaceans. **General objective E: Guarantee the potential of the marine environment to host birds: feeding, resting, reproduction, movement.** D01-OM-OE01. Reduce accidental catches of seabirds (offshore and near colonies) by longlines, set nets and small pelagic seines.	N/A	**General objective E: Guarantee the potential of the marine environment to host birds: feeding, resting, reproduction, movement:** D01-OM-OE02. Prevent seabird collisions with offshore infrastructures, particularly wind farms (application of the avoid, reduce and compensate sequence). **General objective A: Avoid significant residual impacts of turbidity on the most sensitive habitats and main functional fishing areas most sensitive to this pressure, under the influence of marine structures** […]. A2. Avoid any new development or activity (marine structures, […] modifying hydrographic conditions with a significant residual impact on the currentology and sedimentology of sea-lagoon transition zones. D06-OE02: Reduce disturbance and physical loss of generic and specific habitats associated with maritime activities and uses. (see page 26/45 Littoral 3-4 DSF).	**General Objective D: Maintain or restore marine mammal and turtle populations to a good state of conservation:** D01-MT-OE03. Reduce collisions with sea turtles and marine mammals. D01-MT-OE01. Limit human disturbance of marine mammals. **General objective E: Guarantee the potential of the marine environment to host birds: feeding, resting, reproduction, movement:** D01-OM-OE03. Avoid the loss of functional habitats for seabirds, particularly in high-stake functional sites. D01-OM-OE04. Reduce the pressure exerted by certain introduced and domesticated species on seabird breeding sites. D01-OM-OE05. Maintain or restore functional seabird habitats in coastal wetlands. The map of functional seabird habitats will be drawn up as part of the action plan for the Sea Bassin documents (DSF). D01-OM-OE06. Limit physical, noise and light disturbance of seabirds in their functional habitat zones. **Restore ecosystems (in document OE objectives p. 10/37):** A10. Optimise the ecological functions of developments/projects/works that artificialise the coastal seabed A8. Restore the coastline lenght and the coastal shallow waters that have a structural or ecological alteration, while respecting the nature of the seabed and the pre-existing coastline length, and outside any "avoid, reduce, offset" sequence.
Are quantitative objectives identified?	Target D01-HB-OE10: 0% of known specific geomorphological structures subject to bottom trawler fishing (water dunes and rocky Plateau banks). Target D01-HB-OE11: 0 new projets regarding the hydrolic (submarine) shell-sand dunes. Target D01-MT-OE02 (in Obj D): Mortality rate of common porpoise and common dolphin (assessed on absolute mortalities) per accidental capture and per species below 1% of the best population estimate (ASCOBANS 2000) for each species. Target D01-OM-OE01 (in Obj E): 100% of risky sectors for accidental captures of bird species have planned measures to avoid or reduce accidental captures of birds. Target M8-2: 100% of MPAs have an harmonized daily fish quota. Target D01-HB-OE-09: 0% of Posidonia area covered by gangui fishing.	100% of marine farming authorizations issued for the rearing and cultivation of exotic aquaculture species in accordance with the provisions of amended Council Regulation (EC) no. 708/2007 of June 11, 2007 concerning use of alien and locally absent species in aquaculture, and amended Council Regulation (EC) no. 535/2008.	Target D01-OM-OE02: 100% of authorized projects putting in place measures that allow to monitor the impacts of collision on seabirds in the wind farm, and measures to limit this impact if necessary. (p24/45 doc "Littoral" DSF): 100% of wind farm projects have an assessment system in place that reduce the level of collision pressure on populations of species frequenting the wind farm. 100% of authorized projects, after application of the sequence "avoid reduce compensate", have a residual impact on seabirds compatible with the achievement of good ecological status for each species of the project area. 0 net loss on specific habitats, as of adoption of the maritime façade Strategy, after application of the sequence "avoid reduce compensate".	Target of OE-T01: 5% of marine waters are covered by highly protected areas. **Obj A associated targets:** D06-OE01 target: Maximum 4.1 km of new artificial development authorized for the entire coastline over 6 years. For coastal bottoms between 0 and 20 m deep, 1.8 ha maximum artificialization. D06-OE02 target: 0 net losses and 0 physical disturbances to specific and generic habitats due to marine structures. **Obj B associated targets:** Target D01-HB-OE10: 0% of known specific geomorphological structures subject to bottom trawler fishing (water dunes and rocky Plateau banks) Target D01-HB-OE11: 0 new projets regarding the hydrolic (submarine) shell-sand dunes. **Obj E associated targets:** D01-OM-OE04 target: 0% of remote colonies of high-stake breeding seabirds without human occupation have introduced species with proven pressure. D01-OM-OE06 target: 0% of colonies of high-stake encountering physical, sound and light disturbances at levels that pose a risk to the long-term survival. Q5: 100/160 Strategy sites are equipped with tools to limit the pressure of anchoring on Posidonia meadows. A10 target: 100% of new approvals for development projects involving the creation of artificial features on coastal seabeds include an optimization of the project's econological role. A8 target: Two ecological restoration projects for small coastal areas. Three territorial ecological restoration schemes. D01-HB-OE-09 target: 0 new anchoring authorizations or renewals of authorizations generating seabed disturbance in marine phanerogams and corraligenous. 0% of Posidonia area covered by gangui fishing. 100% of Posidonia area are covered by highly protected areas. 100% of authorizations to refill the beaches have a pluriannual monitoring of phanerogames seagrasses.
E. Blue circular economy				
E.1 Circular design	**V3. Encourage the creation of waste collection and valorization channels:** V3-1: Number of innovative initiatives for the collection and valorization of fishing waste.	**N5. Encourage research and innovation to develop new practices and cultures of endemic species:** N5-1. Number of allocated commercial parks subject to co-use (idem K5-2); N5-2. Number of integrated multi-trophic aquaculture projects.	N/A	N/A
E.2 Waste prevention	**V3. Encourage the creation of waste collection and valorization channels:** V3-1: Number of innovative initiatives for the collection and valorization of fishing waste.	N/A	N/A	N/A
E.3 Reuse, repair, upgrade, recycle	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Are quantitative objectives identified?	V3-1 target: more than 2 initiatives	no	no	N/A
F. Zero pollution				
F.1 Pollution prevention	**Waste:** D10-OE02. Reduce the input and presence of macro-waste at sea from maritime activities, uses and developments (particularly from fishing and aquaculture). D10-OE02-ind1: Quantity of the most common macrolitter originating from fishing and shellfish farming activities on the coastline and seabed. D10-OE02-ind2: Quantity of used fishing gear collected in fishing ports.	**Microbiological pollution:** Preserve the bacteriologic quality of coastal zones (p30/35 OE document): D09-OE01. Reduce direct transfers of microbiological pollutants, in particular to swimming areas and shellfish production zones. N4-2. Microbiological quality of monitoring sites in shellfish production areas - Percentage of REMI monitoring points considered to be of good quality (microbiological control network for shellfish production areas). **Macro-waste:** D10-OE02. Reduce the input and presence of macro-waste at sea from maritime activities, uses and developments (particularly from fishing and aquaculture).	**Chemical contaminants**: D08-OE05. Limit direct inputs, transfers and remobilization of contaminants at sea linked to offshore activities other than dredging and immersion (e.g. digging the seabed for cable installation, Marine Renewable Energy, etc.) and eliminate discharges, emissions and releases of priority hazardous substances listed in appendix 10 of the Water Framework Directive. **Noise:** General objective I. Reduce underwater noise sources: D11-OE01. Reduce noise levels linked to impulsive emissions, with regard to risks of disturbance and mortality of marine mammals.	**R3: Maintain and restore the natural character of beaches:** **Quality of bathing waters:** R3-1: Number of signatories for the commitment charter Plages de caractère **Waste:** R3-2: Number of coastal cities that have signed the national charter "Beaches without plastic waste" **Objective O: Support the sustainable development of recreational activities** **Noise:** Q2. Support the development of nautical and subaquatic sports with a low immpact on the environment. Q2-2: Part of MPAs that have regulated the use of monitorized engines **General pollution**. Q3: Valorize the marinas as strategical tolls for the sustainable development of the territory Q3-1: Proportion of PACA ports signatories of the chart "Clean Ports" Q3-2: Proportion of ports certified Active Clean Port in biodiversity. General objective F. Reduce **bacteriological, chemical and atmospheric contaminants** entering the sea from watersheds. D05-OE03. Do not increase nutrient inputs in areas with little or no impact from eutrophication D08-OE01. Reduce contaminant inputs from rainwater runoff from municipalities, coastal communities and harbors D08-OE02. Reduce direct inputs of contaminants into the sea, particularly hydrocarbons from shipping and navigation. D08-OE03. Reduce discharges of liquid effluents (black water, gray water), hydrocarbon residues and hazardous substances from commercial, fishing and pleasure craft. D08-OE04 Limit the release of contaminants and non-indigenous species into the natural environment during the careening of ships (pleasure and professional) and submerged equipment. D08-OE05. Limit direct inputs, transfers and remobilization of contaminants at sea linked to offshore activities other than dredging and immersion (e.g. digging the seabed for cable installation, Marine Renewable Energy, etc.) and eliminate discharges, emissions and releases of priority hazardous substances listed in appendix 10 of the WFD. D08-OE06. Limit the input of sediment contaminants into the sea from dredging and dumping activities. D08-OE07. Reduce discharges of land-based contaminants into the sea. **Waste** : General objective G. Reduce the input and presence of waste in marine waters. D10-OE01. Reduce the input and presence of land-based macro-waste found at sea and on the coast. D10-OE03. Reduce the input and presence of micro-waste on the coast. **Noise:** General objective I. Reduce underwater noise sources. D11-OE01. Reduce noise levels linked to impulsive emissions, with regard to risks of disturbance and mortality of marine mammals.
F.2 Pollution remediation	**Waste:** V3-1: Number of innovative initiatives for the collection and valorization of **fishing waste.** D10-OE02. Reduce the input and presence of **macro-waste** at sea from maritime activities, uses and developments (particularly from fishing and aquaculture).	**Macro-waste:** D10-OE02. Reduce the input and presence of macro-waste at sea from maritime activities, uses and developments (particularly from fishing and aquaculture).	N/A	R3: Maintain and restore the natural character of beaches: **Quality of bathing waters**: R3-1: Number of signatories for the commitment charter Plages de caractère **Waste:** R3-2: Number of coastal cities that have signed the national charter "Beaches without plastic waste" **Waste**: General objective G. Reduce the input and presence of waste in marine waters. D10-OE01. Reduce the input and presence of land-based macro-waste found at sea and on the coast. D10-OE03. Reduce the input and presence of micro-waste on the coast.
Are quantitative objectives identified?	V3-1 target: more than 2 initiatives. D10-OE02 target: On the coast: 75% decrease in macro waste from the aquaculture and fisheries sectors, compared to 2016.	D09-OE01 target: 0% of REMI monitoring points on the coastline show a deterioration in microbiological quality or a deterioration that is not improving (general trend over 10 years). D10-OE02 target: On the coast: 75% decrease in macro waste from the aquaculture and fisheries sectors, compared to 2016.	D08-OE05 target: 100% of projects authorized since the adoption of the maritime facade strategy have sacrificial anodes and put in place measures to monitor the absence of significant chemical contamination of water and sediments. D11-OE01 target: 100% of projects generating impulsive emissions with a risk of disturbing or killing marine mammals have implemented measures to reduce the acoustic impact.	Target Q3-1: 100% of PACA ports are signatories of the chart "Clean Ports" Target A2, B2, C2: 100% of new approvals are for projects that have no significant residual impact following the "avoid, reduce, compensate" approach. Target 07-OE01. 0 new authorization and renewal of activities with a significant residual impact on turbidity. Target D05-OE03: 100% of rivers and streams with little or no impact from eutrophication for which there is no increase in nitrate concentrations. The same objective applies to phosphate. 100% of ports equipped with reception and treatment facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues. Target D08-OE05: 100% of projects authorized as from the adoption of the DSF have sacrificial anodes and implement measures to monitor the absence of significant chemical contamination of water and sediments. Target D10-OE01: On the coast, reduce the quantity of the most common single-use plastics by 75% compared with 2016. 50% reduction in the quantity of macro-waste excluding single-use plastics and those resulting from fishing and aquaculture activities. Target D11-OE01: 100% of projects generating impulsive emissions presenting a risk of disturbance and mortality to marine mammals and having implemented measures to reduce acoustic impact.

RELATION WITH OTHER STRATEGIES IN THE OBJECTIVES	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
A. Climate change mitigation								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	**YES**		NO		**YES**		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	NO	No. The Plan (DSF Mediterranean) does not mention any policy that would take this element into account.	N/A	N/A	**YES**	The DSF Annex 4 mentions that the objective K1 and associated targets are in line with those of the Multiannual energy program (PPE), which is legally binding in certain respects (the PPE is a strategic document that defines energy policy priorities and objectives for a 10-year period (with a review every 5 years), enshrined in the French Energy Code, and whose implementation is accompanied by legal mechanisms that make it a binding legal framework).	N/A	N/A
B. Climate change adaptation								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		**YES**		NO		SOMEHOW	The link with CC is not made explicitly.
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	N/A	N/A	NO	No	N/A	N/A	NO	No related policy
C. Sustainable food production								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	**YES**		**YES**		NO		**YES**	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	YES (does not really delegate but mentions additional policies that also address the issue)	The DSF mentions: - the **legally binding** EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) regarding the achievement of the maximum sustainable yield for fish stocks covered by international and EU recommendations (includes quantitative objectives); - The voluntary (**non legally binding**) initiatives PLAGEPOMI (plans for amphihaline species) for stocks not covered by international or EU recommendations (such as amphihaline species like eels) (includes quantitative objectives); - The legally binding French National Biodiversity Stategy that states a target of 100% of Natura2000 sites having an analyse "fisheries risks" (quantitative objective).	NO	No	N/A	N/A	**YES**	
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	**YES**		**NO**		**YES**		**YES**	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	YES (does not really delegate but mentions additional policies that also address the issue)	In the Annex 4 that includes objectives, the DSF does not mention legally binding plans/policies. It refers to PLAGEPOMI (voluntary initiatives regarding amphihaline species) that are tools that can frame and drive the action for amphihaline species.	No	No	No	No	YES	The environmental objectives of the DSF (corresponding to those of the MSFD) are adjusted during revision cycles in order to be in line with those of the National Biodiversity Strategy. Some objectives of the DSF are explicitly linked to an objective of the NBS. In addition, mention of the Anchorage management Strategy (the Strategy is a guiding framework and is not legally enforceable in itself but the the plans or regulations that stem from this strategy, once adopted through an official act, can be legally enforceable).
E. Blue circular economy								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	**YES**		**YES**		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	NO	No	No	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
F. Zero pollution								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	**YES**		**YES**		SOMEHOW		**YES**	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	NO	No	NO	No	SOMEHOW	The DSF does not delegate but refers to the EU Water Framework Directive regarding the list of priority hazardous substances that should be eliminated, but does not elaborate.	YES (does not really delegate but mentions additional policies that also address the issue)	Most of the environmental objectives (corresponding to those of the MSFD) are linked to an objective of the National Biodiversity Strategy (e.g. the objectives of the general objective G "reduce the inputs and presence of waste in the marine waters" are linked to the SNB Mesure 7 action 2 "reduce the leaks of plastics to the ocean"). More generally, to address pollution issues, the DSF does not delegate but it frequently refers to voluntary (not legally binding) initiatives that could support action, such as the Charters "Plages de caractère", "Beaches without plastic waste", "Clean Ports" (on waste and port pollution), "Active clean ports in Biodiversity" (a chart that goes further than Clean Ports by emphasizing the biodiversity protection and valorisation). In addition, the DSF refers to the EU Water Framework Directive regarding the list of priority hazardous substances that should be eliminated at sea from certain human activities.

Fact-sheet 6: EGD analysis by sectors – Measures

Check whether the sector is considered in the measures of the Plan(s) and eventually linked to the main -related topics and the related categories of measures.
Please refer to Table 1 for a list of categories of measures.
Describe findings (list relevant measures by category). Additional elements can be added to the description when those indicated in Table 1 do not include the type of measures you need to indicate.

	FISHERIES	AQUACULTURE	ORE	NATURE PROTECTION
Is the sector considered in the measures?	YES	YES	YES	YES
Are the measures for the sector linked to any of the following elements?				
A. Climate change mitigation				
A.1 Renewable energy production, storage and transportation	NA	NA	EMR-MED02: Deploy a **competitive, sustainable, and structured commercial floating wind sector** at the Mediterranean coastline level. Sub-action 1: Establish a timeline in coordination with the State and plan a volume of tenders for the Mediterranean to provide industry stakeholders with clear visibility on the future. Sub-action 2: Conduct spatial planning that takes into account various issues (defense, fishing, environment, maritime traffic, techno-economic criteria including shared grid connections…) in collaboration with all stakeholders. Sub-action 4: Prepare a network outlook document for the Mediterranean coastline, to be developed by RTE (The French Transport and Electricy Network). EMR-MED03: Assess the potential and support the development of the seawater **thermal energy sector** (thalassothermy) along the Mediterranean coastline.	NA
A.2 Clean energy transition in maritime sectors	PM-MED10: Continue and structure research and innovation efforts to **reduce the environmental impact of vessels and fishing gear.** Sub-action 3:.Share experiences in the field of reducing and managing the energy consumption of vessels, and provide appropriate support to fishers.	NA	NA	NA
A.3 Transformations in ports	NA	NA	NA	NA
A.4 Blue carbon storage	NA	NA	NA	NA
B. Climate change adaptation				
B.1 Green infrastructures to enhance coastal resilience and/or to enhance marine connectivity	NA	NA	NA	NA
B.2 Protection of climate-sensitive marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems, and landscapes	NA	NA	NA	SPP-MED01: Put together coastal and underwater landscape observation and monitoring networks to better support strategic policies, **particularly in anticipating, preserving, and assessing the effects of climate change on territories and landscapes.** Sub-action 1: Integrate a dedicated section on coastal landscape issues within departmental coastal landscape atlases. Sub-action 2: Encourage coastal inter-municipalities to undertake the development of a landscape plan prior to any planning or project, in order to integrate key spatial planning challenges. Sub-action 3: Produce maps of underwater landscapes at emblematic sites along the coastline and promote them through public outreach and communication initiatives (e.g. website, exhibitions). Sub-action 4: Coordinate, promote, and expand the initiatives "Observatoire du Paysage littoral vu depuis la mer" in each region to support policy development and to characterize the effects of climate change on landscapes.
B.3 Anticipation of climate change-related effects	NA	NA	NA	NA
C. Sustainable food production				
C.1 Sustainable fisheries	D01-PC-OE5-AN1: Strengthen the **protection of important functional fishery areas (ZFHi)**, particularly through the implementation of pilot Fishery Conservation Areas (ZCH) along each coastal sea basin. Sub-action 1: Identify and map ZFHi at an appropriate scale. Sub-action 2: Identify pressures and their effects on ZFHi. Sub-action 3: Implement pilot ZCH projects. Sub-action 4: Reduce the impact of authorised maritime activities and developments on ZFHi by supporting permitting authorities in processing authorisation requests. D01-HB-OE09-AN3: **Reduce the impact of gangui fishing on Posidonia seagrass beds** Sub-action 1: Reduce the number of European fishing authorizations (AEP) granted for gangui fishing in the Mediterranean (annual authorizations). Sub-action 2: Reduce the annual fishing effort (days at sea) by Mediterranean gangui vessels. D03-OE02-AN1: **Identify priority locally important stocks** that are not subject to EU-level management (i.e. stocks not regulated by EU Total Allowable Catches or quotas) for which management could be introduced or improved, based on their conservation status and socio-economic importance, and draft the **corresponding management plans**. D03-OE02-AN2: To adapt fishing mortality, conduct a review regarding the extension of **enforcement powers for officers operating within the marine protected area network** under the Transport Code and the Rural and Maritime Fisheries Code. D04-AN1: Contribute to improved **management of forage species harvesting** at the European level. Sub-action 1: Issue a national recommendation to the European Commission, calling for 100% of forage species to include the trophic needs of top predators in the catch levels recommended at Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) by the competent international body. Sub-action 2: Recommend to the European Commission a ban on the harvesting of micronecton forage species on the continental slope and beyond. D01-PC-OE3-AN1: Develop and implement a **national plan for diadromous migratory species** to ensure optimised management of migratory fish across the entire land-to-sea continuum. D01-PC-OE3-AN2: Prevent or reduce risks to population dynamics of diadromous species resulting from fishing activities in areas critical to these species, as a complement to existing management plans. AQUA-PM-MED06: Support **fishery and aquaculture products towards environmental certification** and enhance their value for consumers and local territories, as well as export markets. Sub-action 2: Promote existing official quality and origin labels (Protected Designation of Origin, Organic Label, Red Label, Traditional Speciality Guaranteed; …) for sustainable fishing and aquaculture to major retailers, collective catering markets, and event organizers. D01-OE03-AN1: Harmonize and reinforce the **regulation linked to recreational fisheries** and raise awareness among fishers regarding its implementation. PM-MED 11 and PM-MED 12: Ensure the conditions for **sustainable recreational fishing** at a pilot site. Define and test new tools for recording catches and tracking recreational fishers.	NA	NA	D01-OM-OE01-AN1: Identify and reduce the risks of **incidental catch for each species of Community interest.** Sub-action 1: Develop a national risk assessment methodology for impacts on the conservation status of species. Sub-action 2: Conduct risk analyses for all such species across each marine region, and enhance observation efforts in the most at-risk fisheries, areas, and periods. Sub-action 3: Test and deploy innovative measures and technologies in targeted fisheries. Sub-action 4: Adopt appropriate regulatory measures to reduce bycatch, including through regionalized procedures where necessary. 01-MT-OE02-AN1. Reduce the impact of **accidental sea turtle bycatch** through training of professional fishers and maintaining an appropriate network of care centers. Optimize the reporting of observed interactions as part of the MSFD monitoring program. D01-PC-OE01-AN2: Raise awareness and train professional and recreational fishers in identifying and handling **elasmobranchs (sharks and rays) that may be caught incidentally**, and improve reporting of such bycatch. Sub-action 3: Develop guidelines for the direct release of elasmobranchs. D01-PC-OE01-AN1: Revise the **regulations concerning elasmobranch bycatch** and, based on this, identify national and local implementation actions. Sub-action 1: Map the presence and sensitivity of different regulated elasmobranch species. Sub-action 2: Revise the regulation banning elasmobranch captures, especially by updating the limited list of species for which bycatch declarations are required. Sub-action 3: Develop management plans based on the mapped presence and sensitivity data. D01-PC-OE02-AN1: Develop and implement a **National multi-species Action Plan (NAP) for elasmobranchs.** Associated sub-actions: Include measures to assign protected species status to elasmobranchs classified as Endangered (EN) or Critically Endangered (CR) under the IUCN Red List, and for which exploitation is prohibited. D01-PC-OE03-AN1: Develop and implement a **national migratory fish action plan** for the optimized management of migratory fish species across the land-sea continuum. D01-PC-OE03-AN2: **Avoid or reduce risks to the population dynamics of amphihaline species** (migratory species that move between fresh and saltwater) caused by fishing activities in key sectors, as a complement to existing management plans. D01-HB-OE7-AN1: Strengthen knowledge on the **ecological status of red coral** in the Mediterranean and ensure its protection, if necessary. Environmental objective target: Maintain the number of red coral fishing authorizations (professional, diving) in mainland Mediterranean France and Corsica, in line with the Red Coral Management Plan. Sub-action 1: Inventory and analyze data on quantities of red coral harvested with a diameter under 7 mm. Sub-action 2: Based on the diagnostic results, update and/or strengthen the current regulatory framework. D01-HB-OE09-AN3: Reduce the impact of **gangui fishing on Posidonia seagrass beds.** Sub-action 1: Reduce the number of European fishing authorizations (AEP) granted for gangui fishing in the Mediterranean (annual authorizations). Sub-action 2: Reduce the annual fishing effort (days at sea) by Mediterranean gangui vessels. D01-HB-OE10-AN1: **Improve the consideration of the sensitivity of deep-sea habitats** in the Mediterranean. Sub-action 1: Make a recommendation to the European Commission and disseminate the French mapping of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) to support the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) in designating these areas, ensuring alignment with offshore Natura 2000 processes and the objectives of the MSFD. Sub-action 2: Submit to the European Commission a proposal for the regulation of bottom trawling on deep-sea sand dunes and of fishing activities on soft-substrate VMEs in the central Gulf of Lion and the eastern Corsican shelf. Sub-action 3: Based on the risk assessments of fishing activities within Natura 2000 sites, submit a proposal to the European Commission to regulate fishing practices in and around reef habitats within offshore Natura 2000 sites. Sub-action 4: Following risk assessments, regulate fishing activities around deep-reef habitats in coastal Natura 2000 sites (PACA region and western Corsica).
C.2 Sustainable aquaculture (both for fish and shellfish)	NA	AQUA-NAT01: **Plan aquaculture activity zones** on the vocation maps of the maritime façades. Sub-action 1: Pool the assessments of the SRDAMs at the façade level to prepare cartographic representations identifying aquaculture-related issues, which will complement the maps in the "Definition of Strategic Objectives and Indicators" section of the DSF, which will eventually replace the SRDAMs. Sub-action 2: Develop cartographic representations to complement those in the "Definition of Strategic Objectives and Indicators" section of the DSF, specifically identifying areas suitable for aquaculture, both on land and at sea. AQUA-NAT02: Support the **authorization procedures for aquaculture farm operations.** Sub-action 1: Make the regulatory framework clearer and more accessible for aquaculture project developers. AQUA-PM-MED06: **Support fishery and aquaculture products towards environmental certification** and enhance their value for consumers and local territories, as well as export markets. Sub-action 1: Assist aquaculture businesses in developing **organic production** and achieving the most effective and appropriate environmental certifications for the sector. Sub-action 2: Promote existing official quality and origin labels (Protected Designation of Origin, Organic Label, Red Label, Traditional Speciality Guaranteed; …) for sustainable fishing and aquaculture to major retailers, collective catering markets, and event organizers. AQUA-PM-MED07 (this action is further detailed in F27 regarding the synergies with algae production, and in F37 regarding its circular economy model): Support sustainable **multi-activity involving fishing and aquaculture and develop emerging bioeconomy sectors** toward a stable environmental and economic model.	NA	NA
C.3 Sustainable algae production	NA	AQUA-PM-MED07 (duplicated in F37): Support **sustainable multi-activity involving fishing and aquaculture and develop emerging bioeconomy sectors** toward a stable environmental and economic model. Sub-action 2: Support an **integrated multi-trophic aquaculture** (IMTA) project toward an environmentally stable and economically viable model. Identify development principles. The goal of IMTA is to combine fish farming with the cultivation of algae and shellfish. This method, inspired by the natural food chain, helps reduce the environmental impact of aquaculture by transforming its waste into resources for filter-feeding or detritivorous animal species and cultivated plant species grown nearby and commercially valued. Some projects have been carried out or are in the planning stage on the coast (mainly in Occitanie and Embiez). They need technical and financial support to demonstrate their economic viability and absence of environmental impact. Sub-action 3: Support an **aquaponics project toward an environmentally stable and economically viable model**. Identify development principles. Aquaponics is a production system that combines plant cultivation with the farming of fish or shrimp. These aquatic animals produce ammonia in their effluents, which is converted into nitrates by bacteria. The plants consume these nutrients for growth while filtering the fish water. This approach aims to diversify activities and develop other types of production within the bioeconomy framework. Sub-action 4: Structure and oversee projects diversifying cultivated species for blue biotechnologies (sea cucumbers, algae farming, marine worms, etc.) by developing an environmentally sound and economically stable model.	NA	NA

Fact-sheet 6: EGD analysis by sectors – Measures	FISHERIES	AQUACULTURE	ORE	NATURE PROTECTION
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration				
D.1 Elements to improve marine connectivity (e.g. among submarine canyons, reefs, etc.) and elements to achieve a coherent network of effective marine protected areas	D01-HB-OE7-AN1: Strengthen **knowledge on the ecological status of red cora**l in the Mediterranean and ensure its protection, if necessary. Environmental objective target: Maintain the number of red coral fishing authorizations (professional, diving) in mainland Mediterranean France and Corsica, in line with the Red Coral Management Plan. D01-HB-OE10-AN1: Improve the **consideration of the sensitivity of deep-sea habitats** in the Mediterranean. Sub-action 1: Make a recommendation to the European Commission and disseminate the French **mapping** of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) to support the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) in **designating these areas**, ensuring alignment with offshore Natura 2000 processes and the objectives of the MSFD. Sub-action 2: Submit to the European Commission a proposal for the regulation of bottom trawling on deep-sea sand dunes and of fishing activities on soft-substrate VMEs in the central Gulf of Lion and the eastern Corsican shelf. Sub-action 3: Based on the risk assessments of fishing activities within Natura 2000 sites, submit a proposal to the European Commission to regulate fishing practices in and around reef habitats within offshore Natura 2000 sites. Sub-action 4: Following risk assessments, regulate fishing activities around deep-reef habitats in coastal Natura 2000 sites (PACA region and western Corsica). D01-HB-OE09-AN3 (action duplicated in both D23 and J23 for its role both on the ressource and the habitat): Reduce the **impact of gangui fishing** on Posidonia seagrass beds. Sub-action 1: Reduce the number of European fishing authorisations (AEP) granted annually for gangui fishing in the Mediterranean. Sub-action 2: Reduce the annual fishing effort (days at sea) of Mediterranean gangui vessels. No action associted with objective D01-HB-OE11 on submarine dunes.	NA	AT-09: Improve the understanding and consideration of **cumulative impacts of human activities and ecological carrying capacity.** Sub-action 1: In a pilot marine protected area, define and test a methodology and a visualization tool for integrating cumulative impacts into project assessments. Sub-action 3: Apply a method for assessing cumulative impacts specifically in the context of offshore wind farms. D01-OM-OE06-AN1: Strengthen the **consideration of species sensitivity** to disturbance in offshore authorizations and local regulations (linked to Objective E2: Prevent collisions of seabirds with offshore infrastructures, particularly wind farms).	AT01: Expand the network of **strongly protected marine areas** and strengthen enforcement. AT02: Develop the **network of "educational marine areas"** (subject to approval by COPILAME). Sub-action 2: Strengthen links between Educational Marine Areas (EMAs) and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to enhance mutual integration of objectives and alignment with MSFD goals, notably through inclusion in the national Protected Areas Strategy. AT04: Improve the marine environmental **monitoring and enforcement system**. (Associated sub-actions apply.) AT06: Submit and implement a LIFE project "Mobile Marine Species." D01-HB-OE09-AN1: Implement the Mediterranean anchorage management strategy. Sub-action 1: Apply departmental decrees to implement the territorial application of Framework Order 123/2019 on anchoring in the Mediterranean. Sub-action 2: Promote and organize anchorage management in identified priority areas, particularly by renewing or establishing **Light Equipment and Mooring Zones** (Zones de Mouillage et d'Équipements Légers – ZMEL). D02-AN1: Improve the **management of non-indigenous marine species (NIS).** Sub-action 1: Identify priority NIS for regulation of their introduction and all associated uses (e.g. transit, possession, transport, trade, use, exchange, sale, or purchase of goods). Sub-action 2: Develop national management strategies for regulated NIS. Sub-action 3: Raise awareness among **MPA managers** and other coastal and marine stakeholders regarding NIS identification and management.
D.2 Restoring marine and coastal ecosystems	01-MT-OE02-AN1. Reduce the impact of **accidental sea turtle bycatch** through training of professional fishers and maintaining an appropriate network of care centers. Sub-action 1: Raise awareness among professional and recreational fishers about best practices to avoid bycatch and release turtles when caught, and optimize the reporting of observed interactions as part of the MSFD monitoring program. D01-OM-OE01-AN1:Identify and reduce **bycatch risks for each species of Community interest.** Sub-action 1: Develop a national methodology to assess risks to the favorable conservation status of species of Community interest. Sub-action 2: Conduct risk assessments for all such species at the scale of each maritime region, and enhance observation efforts in high-risk fisheries, areas, and seasons. Sub-action 3: Based on a review of existing bycatch reduction methods, test and deploy innovative measures and technologies in selected fisheries. Sub-action 4: Adopt appropriate regulatory measures to reduce bycatch, using regionalisation procedures where necessary. D01-PC-OE01-AN2 (in Ressources doc DSF): **Raise awareness and train professional and recreational fishers** in the identification and handling of accidentally caught elasmobranchs, and improve bycatch reporting. Sub-action 1: Provide training on species identification. Sub-action 2: Develop species identification guides. Sub-action 3: Draft protocols for the immediate release of elasmobranchs. D01-PC-OE01-AN1 (in Ressources doc DSF)**: Revise regulations on elasmobranch bycatch** and, based on this, identify actions to be implemented nationally and locally. Sub-action 1: Map the presence and sensitivity of regulated elasmobranch species. Sub-action 2: Revise the regulatory framework on elasmobranch catch prohibitions, particularly by updating the list of species subject to bycatch reporting. Sub-action 3: Develop management plans based on presence and sensitivity maps. D01-PC-OE02-AN1 (in Ressources doc DSF): Develop and implement a **national multi-species action plan** (NAP) for elasmobranchs. Associated sub-actions: Related to granting protected status to endangered (EN) and critically endangered (CR) elasmobranch species, as per the IUCN Red List, for which exploitation is prohibited.	NA	NA	D06-OE02-AN1: Improve the **management of Posidonia beach wrack,** balancing public acceptance with erosion management and protected species conservation. Sub-action 1: Support local authorities and managers for better wrack management. Sub-action 3: Continue public awareness campaigns to shift perception of Posidonia wrack on beaches. D01-HB-OE09-AN2: Implement the Mediterranean **sustainable diving site management strategy.** Sub-action 1: Develop knowledge, awareness, and training tools. Sub-action 2: Promote ecological anchoring solutions for dive sites. Sub-action 3: Based on the socio-economic importance of diving, define and test visitation regulation measures for sensitive sites. D01-MT-OE01-AN1: Strengthen the **regulation of nature-based recreational activities** impacting marine mammals, including commercial whale watching. Sub-action 1: Define local approach distances and conditions for marine mammals (notably within the 300-meter "cetacean caution zone"), and promote adoption through charters or, if necessary, prefectural orders. Sub-action 2: Raise public awareness of best practices for marine mammal observation. D01-MT-OE03-AN2: Reduce the risk of **ship strikes with cetaceans** along the Mediterranean coastline. Main action: Submit a proposal to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for the designation of a Particularly Vulnerable Sea Area (PSSA), co-developed with Italy, Monaco, and Spain. Associated sub-actions include: Conducting preliminary risk assessments, Advocating for the project at the EU level, Ensuring the fleet is fully equipped with REPCET (real-time cetacean position tracking), Providing training, Developing a nighttime-compatible data-sharing system. D01-OM-OE03-AN1: Develop and implement conservation tools tailored to priority **seabird species** in the marine subregion. Associated sub-actions apply. D01-OM-OE04-AN1: Monitor and take action against the presence of **introduced and domestic species at seabird breeding sites**. Associated sub-actions apply. D01-OM-OE05-AN1: Identify, maintain, and **restore mid-littoral and functional habitats for seabirds** that are degraded and/or under pressure from coastal development. Associated sub-actions apply. D01-OM-OE06-AN1: Improve the **integration of species sensitivity (seabirds, marine mammals, and sea turtles) to human disturbance in marine permits and local regulations.** Sub-actions include: Synthesizing available data on species sensitivity, Developing activity-specific guidance to minimize impacts, Establishing spatial and temporal protection measures. D06-OE02-AN2: Continue the territorial implementation of the **Mediterranean ecological habitat restoration strategy.** Sub-actions include implementing STERE – Territorial Ecological Restoration Schemes. PM-MED10: Continue and structure research and innovation efforts to **reduce the environmental impact of vessels and fishing gear.** Sub-action 4: Continue projects and equipment upgrades for vessels to use marine mammal deterrent devices (e.g. for cetaceans).

Fact-sheet 6: EGD analysis by sectors – Measures	FISHERIES	AQUACULTURE	ORE	NATURE PROTECTION
E. Blue circular economy				
E.1 Circular design	NA	AQUA-PM-MED07 (illustrates a circular economy model through transforming the waste of aquaculture to resources for algae or fish): Support sustainable **multi-activity involving fishing and aquaculture and develop emerging bioeconomy sectors** toward a stable environmental and economic model. Sub-action 2: Support an **integrated multi-trophic aquaculture** (IMTA) project toward an environmentally stable and economically viable model. Identify development principles. The goal of IMTA is to combine fish farming with the cultivation of algae and shellfish. This method, inspired by the natural food chain, helps reduce the environmental impact of aquaculture by transforming its waste into resources for filter-feeding or detritivorous animal species and cultivated plant species grown nearby and commercially valued. Some projects have been carried out or are in the planning stage on the coast (mainly in Occitanie and Embiez). They need technical and financial support to demonstrate their economic viability and absence of environmental impact. Sub-action 3: Support an aquaponics project toward an environmentally stable and economically viable model. Identify development principles. Aquaponics is a production system that combines plant cultivation with the farming of fish or shrimp. These aquatic animals produce ammonia in their effluents, which is converted into nitrates by bacteria. The plants consume these nutrients for growth while filtering the fish water. This approach aims to diversify activities and develop other types of production within the bioeconomy framework. Sub-action 4: Structure and oversee projects diversifying cultivated species for blue biotechnologies (sea cucumbers, algae farming, marine worms, etc.) by developing an environmentally sound and economically stable model. AQUA-PM-MED08: While respecting existing economic balances (notably fish auction markets) and the needs of professionals and territories, structure the distribution channels and consumption patterns of seafood products from fishing and aquaculture to **promote local, seasonal, and underutilized or lesser-known products.** Sub-action 1: Support and assist local authorities and professional organizations. Sub-action 2: Support initiatives that promote lesser-known or low-commercial-value fish species to consumers, notably by developing local processing capacities for these products. Sub-action 3: Establish sustainable protocols and solutions to enable the sale of fishery and aquaculture products during health or economic crises.	NA	NA
E.2 Waste prevention	D10-OE01-AN5: Encourage the **reduction, collection, and recovery of waste from maritime activities** and support these sectors in **transitioning to sustainable equipment**. Sub-action 3: Support the development of a recovery and recycling sector for by-products from aquaculture and professional fishing activities. Sub-action 4: Based on work conducted on establishing a management system for used fishing gear (UFG), promote the emergence of collection, processing, and recovery sectors. PM-MED10: Continue and structure **research and innovation efforts to reduce the environmental impact** of vessels and fishing gear. Sub-action 2: Continue projects and vessel equipment initiatives involving connected nets to facilitate retrieval, as well as biodegradable fishing nets or ecological fishing techniques. Provide appropriate support to fishers. D10-OE02-AN1: Sub-action 2: Facilitate **waste collection** when it is accidentally caught during fishing operations (e. g. onboard waste reception systems). Sub-action 3: Support professional fishing and shellfish farming sectors in identifying best practices to reduce waste from net mending and shellfish farming operations, and promote the dissemination of good practices.	D10-OE01-AN5: Encourage the **reduction, collection, and recovery of waste from maritime activities** and support these sectors in transitioning to sustainable equipment. Sub-action 3: Support the development of a recovery and recycling sector for by-products from aquaculture and professional fishing activities. D10-OE02-AN1: Sub-action 3: Support professional fishing and shellfish farming sectors in identifying best practices to **reduce waste from net mending and shellfish farming operations, and promote the dissemination of good practices.**	NA	NA
E.3 Reuse, repair, upgrade, recycle	NA	NA	NA	NA

Fact-sheet 6: EGD analysis by sectors – Measures	FISHERIES	AQUACULTURE	ORE	NATURE PROTECTION
F. Zero pollution				
F.1 Pollution prevention	D10-OE01-AN5: Encourage the **reduction, collection, and recovery of waste from maritime activities**, and support these sectors in transitioning to sustainable equipment. Sub-action 1: Support aquaculture operators, fishers, seafood processors, fish markets, and auction halls in reducing waste and transitioning to recyclable and sustainable equipment for seafood distribution, including the adoption of innovative materials for aquaculture and fishing activities. Sub-action 2: Structure and sustain initiatives to recover lost fishing nets when they are proven to impact marine biocenosis and/or fishery resources. D10-OE02-AN1: Sub-action 3: Support the professional fishing and shellfish farming sectors in **identifying best practices to reduce waste from net mending and shellfish farming operation**s, and promote the dissemination of these practices. PM-MED10: Continue and structure research and innovation efforts to **reduce the environmental impact of vessels and fishing gear.** Sub-action 2: Continue projects and vessel equipment programs using connected nets to facilitate recovery, as well as biodegradable fishing nets or environmentally friendly fishing techniques. Provide tailored support to fishers accordingly.	D10-OE01-AN5: Encourage the **reduction, collection, and recovery of waste generated by maritime activities**, and support the sector in transitioning to sustainable equipment. Sub-action 1: Support aquaculture farmers, fishermen, fish merchants, fish auction markets, and fish halls in reducing waste and shifting equipment toward recyclable and sustainable solutions for seafood distribution, and implement innovative materials for aquaculture and fishing activities. Sub-action 2: Structure and sustain actions aimed at removing lost nets in cases where there is a proven impact on the biocenosis and/or fishery resources. D10-OE02-AN1: Sub-action 3: Support professional fishing and shellfish farming sectors in identifying best practices to **reduce waste from fishing net repairs and shellfish farming,** and promote the dissemination of these best practices.	*The DSF does not include specific measure to prevent or reduce pollution from ORE (including noise) but it includes measures related to data collection that would be needed to understand the impacts of ORE projects on the environment and thus reduce these impacts (for more details on these measures, see excel sheet FS8 "cross-cutting").*	D08-OE04-AN1: Identify and **equip boat maintenance areas** (careening areas) in marinas, mooring zones, and boatyards with effluent treatment systems, and raise awareness among managers and users about environmentally responsible maintenance practices. Sub-action 1: Continue identifying and mapping careening areas in marinas, mooring zones, and boatyards, and update the GIS layer on the Geolittoral portal annually. Sub-action 2: Continue **equipping these careening areas with effluent treatment systems** and/or develop shared facilities, in coordination with the Water Framework Directive (WFD) programme of measures. Assess the potential for using appropriate mobile careening equipment. (Two additional sub-actions not listed here.) D10-OE01-AN1: **Prevent waste discharges upstream of wastewater and stormwater networks.** Sub-action 1: Establish a regulatory framework to prevent the release of industrial plastic nurdles into the environment. D10-OE01-AN2: **Combat waste within wastewater and stormwater networks.** D10-OE01-AN3: Identify **priority dumping sites and waste accumulation zones**, and assess financing opportunities for their **remediation.** D10-OE01-AN4: **Raise awareness, inform, and educate the public** about ocean pollution caused by waste. Sub-action 1: Support and coordinate grassroots associations working to inform and raise awareness among the general public and school audiences on marine litter issues. Sub-action 2: Deploy the participatory science platform "Zero Wild Waste". Sub-action 3: Continue and strengthen the implementation of the “Plastic-Free Beach” charter. D10-OE01-AN6: **Promote reduction, collection, and recovery of land-based waste impacting the coast and the marine environment.** D10-OE02-AN2: Continue deploying the **European “Clean Ports” and “Clean Ports Active in Biodiversity” certifications.** (Associated sub-actions apply.) LITT-MED02: Strengthen response capabilities for **accidental marine and coastal pollution.** Sub-action 1: Develop a guide for local authorities to facilitate the integration of the infra-POLMAR component (marine pollution response) into relevant Municipal Safeguard Plans (Plans Communaux de Sauvegarde). Sub-action 2: Reinforce coordination and facilitation of regional working groups. Sub-action 3: Organize theoretical and practical training in cooperation with POLMAR officers from the Departmental Directorates for Territories and the Sea (DDTM).
F.2 Pollution remediation	D10-OE01-AN5: Encourage the **reduction, collection, and recovery of waste from maritime activities**, and support these sectors in transitioning to sustainable equipment. Sub-action 1: Support aquaculture operators, fishers, seafood processors, fish markets, and auction halls in reducing waste and shifting to recyclable and sustainable equipment for seafood distribution, and promote the use of innovative materials in aquaculture and fishing activities. Sub-action 2: Structure and sustain initiatives for the removal of lost fishing nets when proven to have an impact on marine biocenosis and/or fishery resources. D10-OE02-AN1: Improve **waste management in ports and facilitate the collection of waste accidentally caught during fishing operations** (e.g. through the installation of onboard or portside reception systems). Sub-action 2: Facilitate the collection of waste accidentally caught during fishing activities. PM-MED10: Continue and structure research and innovation efforts to **reduce the environmental impact of vessels and fishing gear.** Sub-action 2: Continue projects and the equipping of vessels with connected nets to facilitate retrieval, as well as with biodegradable fishing nets or environmentally friendly fishing techniques. Provide appropriate support to fishers.	D10-OE01-AN5: Encourage the **reduction, collection, and recovery of waste** generated by maritime activities, and support the sector’s transition to sustainable equipment. Sub-action 1: Support aquaculture farmers, fishermen, fishmongers, fish auction markets, and fish halls in reducing waste and transitioning equipment towards recyclable and sustainable solutions for seafood distribution, as well as implementing innovative materials for aquaculture and fishing activities. Sub-action 2: Structure and sustain actions to remove lost nets when there is a proven impact on the biocenosis and/or fishery resources. D10-OE02-AN1: Sub-action 3: Assist professional fishing and shellfish farming sectors in identifying best practices to **reduce waste generated from fishing net repairs and shellfish farming**, and promote the dissemination of these best practices.	NA	LITT-MED02: Strengthen response capacities to **accidental pollution at sea and along the coastline.** Sub-action 1: Develop a practical guide for local authorities to promote the integration of the infra-POLMAR component (marine pollution response) into relevant Municipal Safeguard Plans (Plans Communaux de Sauvegarde). Sub-action 2: Strengthen coordination and facilitation of regional working groups. Sub-action 3: Implement training activities (both theoretical and practical) in collaboration with POLMAR correspondents from the Departmental Directorates for Territories and the Sea (DDTM).

RELATION WITH OTHER STRATEGIES IN THE MEASURES OF THE DSF MEDITERRANEAN	FISHERIES	AQUACULTURE	ORE	NATURE PROTECTION
A. Climate change mitigation				
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	SOMEHOW. Not explicitly. The DSF mentions the energetic consumption of boats but not explicitly for climate change mitigation objectives.	NO	YES	NO
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	SOMEHOW The Strategic sea basin document DSF does not delegate this element but does mention other complementary policies that have coherent general (but not specific) objectives ("become an exemplary region to face climate change", "support territories dynamics"..), such as the Regional planning, sustainable development and equality of territories (SRADDET) of the Regions Occitanie and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and the Sustainable spatial development plan PADDUC in Corsica. SRADDETs are legally binding documents: while they are not regulatory zoning tools like local urban plans, they carry a legal weigh by setting binding general rules. Other complementary policies: EMFAF 2021-2027 through OS 1.2 (improve energy efficiency and reduce CO2 emissions)	N/A	Not really: the DSF does not delegate but mentions some somplementary policies in the DSF part "Littoral 3-4", **which are not directly in link with the action**, such as the Decrete of 21 April 2020 on Multiannual Energy Program (timetable of tenders), and the French Energy and Climate Strategy ("When launching a new project, the French government will systematically consider the extension and implementation of a shared grid connection") (p36/45). The sub-action 4 of EMR-MED02 involves the elaboration of a prospective document of the grid on the Mediterranean by the French "Transport and electricity Network" in order to inform stakeholders about the grid connection challenges associated with the various location scenarios emerging from environmental and techno-economic discussions for each study area, as well as the conditions for implementing network optimization measures (p40/45).	N/A
B. Climate change adaptation				
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	No	NO	NO	SOMEHOW
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	N/A	N/A	N/A	The DSF mentions complementary policies, but which do not explicitly mention CC. These are: - At the regional level: 1) the Set of 50 rules of Objective 50 of the SRADDET of Region PACA (implement the regional Green and Blue Network and ensure the integration of ecological corridors and habitats into urban planning documents and territorial development projects); 2) Rules of SRADDET Region Occitanie (16 to 18) on 0 net artificialisation by 2040; 3) PADDUC (Corsica) through its reglementary orientations relating to the protection of the environement and the exceptional landscapes, and preserve coastal areas; and through its Schéma de mise en valeur de la mer, volet 1 - 3 ("Preserve and enhance natural heritage"). - at the national level: Law n°2016-1087 of 8 August 2016 for the Restoration of biodiversity, nature and landscapes. And French Environmental Code – Article L. 350-1 B.
C. Sustainable food production				
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	YES	YES	NO	YES
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	YES (does not really delegate but mentions additional policies that also address the element): - For action D01-PC-OE5-AN1: The DSF does not delegate the element but mentions complementary public policies, which are the Regional planning, sustainable development and equality of territories (SRADDET) of the Regions Occitanie and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and the Sustainable spatial development plan PADDUC in Corsica. SRADDETs are legally binding documents: while they are not regulatory zoning tools like local urban plans, they carry a legal weigh by setting binding general rules. - For action D01-PC-OE3-AN1 and D01-PC-OE03-AN2: The DSF does not delegate the element but mentions complementary public policies, which are: - the National migratory fish management strategy (STRANAPOMI) adopted in December 2010; - the Migratory fish management plan (PLAGEPOMI) for the Rhône Méditerranée basin, that defines orientations such as "pursue the management of fisheries" or "monitor the evolution of populations at the watershed scale"; - the Water Management and planning Schemes (SDAGE) Rhône Méditerranée, (through Fundamental Orientations such as 'continue the restoration of migratory fish migration routes') and SDAGE Corse (through its Fundamental Orientations such as 'improve ecological continuity for fish migration'). - For PM-MED10: - SRADDET; EMFAF 2021-2027 (Specific Objective OS 1.1, OS 1.2, OS 1.6); The Roadmap «Zero plastic waste at sea» 2019 - 2025, through its Action 21 ("Set up a voluntary agreement for the collection and recycling of used fishing gear"). The Roadmap is not legally binding on its own but supported by a robust framework of binding national, European and international regulations. - mention of the Transport Code and the Rural and Maritime Fisheries Code (legally bindings).	The DSF does not delegate the element but mentions complementary public policies: - which include rules linked to similar objectives: - the SRADDET of Région Occitanie (only general rules supporting the policy objectives such as "support dynamics in territories"), SRADDET Région Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (only general rules supporting the policy objectives such as "support local economy"), - the Sustainable spatial development plan PADDUC in Corsica, which has regulatory requirements "F" (in line with the "Boosting the coastal & maritime economy" objective of the Schéma de mise en valeur de la mer.) - which include orientations and "dispositions": - the Water Management and planning Schemes (SDAGE) Rhône Méditerranée, and SDAGE Corse. Associated measures of the WFD "Programmes of Measures". The WFD Program of Measures includes measures to meet the challenges of the Bathing Water and Shellfish Water Directives. The SDAGE have a legally binding scope, although their binding force varies depending on the stakeholders involved. - In link to AQUA-NAT01, mention of the SRDAM (Schéma Régional de Développement de l' Aquaculture Marine), a primarily cartographic document, as "an important lever for the development of the aquaculture sector". - Specific to the action AQUA-NAT02: The Annexes of the DSF mention additional policies: - the National strategic plan for the development of sustainable aquaculture. The 2014-2020 plan included an objective (1.C Make better use of spatial planning spatial planning to enable access to suitable sites); SRADDET, PADDUC, EMFAF 2021-2027 through its Strategic objective OS 2.1 (Support aquaculture activities that are sustainable and economically viable). The OS 2.1 of the EMFAF is legally binding within the framework of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) (EU Member States are required to align their national and regional programs with the EMFAF objectives). - Specific to AQUA-PM-MED06: EMFAF 2021-2027 (OS 1.1 "reinforce sustainable fisheries activities" and OS 2.1 "promote sustainable and economically viable aquaculture activities") and the National strategic plan for the development of sustainable aquaculture. The 2014-2020 plan included the objectives 3.A Sustainably exploit the aquaculture systems; 4.B Better valorize the products in the distribution channels. - Specific to AQUA-PM-MED08: EMFAF (ROS 2.2 "develop competitive, transparent and stable markets for fisheries and aquaculture products") and National strategic plan objectives 3.A and 4.B (see above).	N/A	The DSF does not delegate but it refers to the Monitoring program of the EU Directive `MSFD to optimize data collection in link with accidental captures. To address the issue of accidental captures, the plan also advocates for the development of reglementary measures. The DSF also refers to the creation of a multi-species National Action Plan (NAP) to preserve the elasmobranches. For action D01-PC-OE5-AN1, in addition to SRADDETs and PADDUC (Corsica): the action is linked to the Marine Development Plan (Schéma de mise en valeur de la mer in French) through Volet 1 thematical orientations that include for instance "f. create MPAs that have a fishery vocation". The DSF mentions the offshore Natura 2000 processes and the objectives of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) that should be taken into account and respected to designate Fisheries protection areas. Mentions the Red Coral Management Plan.
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration				
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	YES	NO	SOMEHOW	YES
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	The DSF does not delegate but it refers to the Monitoring program of the EU directive `MSFD to optimize data collection in link with accidental captures. To address the issue of accidental captures, the plan also advocates for the development of reglementary measures. The DSF also refers to the creation of a multi-species national action plan to preserve the elasmobranches. - For action D01-PC-OE5-AN1, in addition to SRADDETs and PADDUC (Corsica): the action is linked to the Marine Development Plan (Schéma de mise en valeur de la mer in French) through Volet 1 thematical orientations that include for instance "f. create MPAs that have a fishery vocation". - Mention of the Red Coral Management Plan (this plan is legally binding in the areas where it is implemented, but its enforceability depends on the specific regulatory framework of each territory).	N/A	Not really: the DSF does not delegate but mentions some complementary policies in the document part "Littoral 3-4", such as the Decrete of 21 April 2020 on Multiannual Energy Program, and the French Energy and Climate Strategy (p26/45).	YES (does not really delegate but mentions additional policies that also address the element): The DSF states that actions to conserve ecosystems and reduce anthropogenic pressures are consistent with the objectives of nature restoration, now supported by European Regulation (EU) 2024/1992 of June 24, 2024. In addition, the DSF includes numerous complementary policies covering marine biodiversity/ecosystems protection and restoration issues: - regional policies: through the SRADDET Region PACA (rule LD1-OBJ15 of the SRADDET to "Define guidelines and objectives that support the conservation and preservation of natural environments and biodiversity"; SRADDET Region Occitanie (rule 16 No net loss of biodiversity); Corsica PADDUC Plan (reglementary observations F and G) and its Schéma de mise en valeur de la mer; - national policies and regulations: notably the 1) Law n°2016-1087 of 8 August 2016 for the Restoration of biodiversity, nature and landscapes. 2) French Environmental Code – Article L. 350-1 B. 3) National strategy of Protected Areas (no more information). In addition, the DSF mentions the PAMM (Marine Action Plan) of the MSFD which includes the target of 30% of terrestrial and marine protection areas, including 10% in high protection for 2030. In link with habitats, the DSF mentions the Natura 2000 processes and the objectives of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). Framework Order 123/2019 on anchoring in the Mediterranean (Arrêté prefectoral n°123/2019). Mediterranean ecological habitat restoration strategy.
E. Blue circular economy				
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	YES	YES	NO	NO
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	The DSF does not delegate but mentions other policies dealing with the issue of waste from fisheries: - Regarding D10-OE02-AN1 on the management of waste accidently fished, the DSF mentions the EMFAF 2021-2027 Operational Program: Piority 1 (Art. 14.1 on reducing marine plastic pollution through the establishment of a national Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme for used fishing gear), and on circular economy measures; as well as Art. 22 addressing pollution and marine and coastal waste, including the remediation of illegal dumpsites and waste deposits, and the development of reuse systems, energy recovery, eco-design of fishing and aquaculture gear, and territorial circular economy approaches to reduce marine plastics..." (p. 43/52). - set of rules in the SRADDET Occitanie (reduce the production of waste and optimize their valorisation, rule 26: blue economy), SRADDET PACA through Obj 24 "Decline the quantitative regional objectives of prevention, recylcling and valorisation of waste". - EMFAF 2021-2027 through OS 1.1 (sustainable fisheries) and the Environmental, economic, social and employment objectives (Art. 14.1): "Reducing marine plastic pollution by establishing a national Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme for used fishing gear; facilitating investments that improve collection systems. Developing the circular economy in the fishing sector: promoting the blue bioeconomy; innovative, biodegradable, and recyclable containers with life cycle assessment; processing of co-products, by-catch, and waste." - Roadmap "Zero plastic waste at sea 2019-2025": Action 21 "implement a voluntary agreement for the collect and valorization of discarded fishing gears".	The DSF does not delegate but mentions in the complementary policies: - the National strategic plan for the development of sustainable aquaculture that includes the following objectives 3.A "Sustainably exploit the aquaculture systems" and 4.B "Better valorize the products in the distribution channels." - EMFAF 2021-2027 ROS 2.2 "Develop competitive, transparent and stable markets for fisheries and aquaculture products".	N/A	N/A
F. Zero pollution				
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	YES	YES	SOMEHOW	YES
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	The DSF does not delegate but mentions the EU fund EMFAF 2021-2027 through its Environmental, economic, social and employment objectives (Art. 14.1): "Reducing marine plastic pollution by establishing a national Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme for used fishing gear; facilitating investments that improve collection systems. Developing the circular economy in the fishing sector: promoting the blue bioeconomy; innovative, biodegradable, and recyclable containers with life cycle assessment; processing of co-products, by-catch, and waste."	*Compared to the numerous complementary existing policies incorporating measures to reduce waste from fisheries (see D69), there appear to be fewer policies addressing aquaculture waste. The DSF does not mention any such policies.*	N/A	The DSF does not delegate but mentions complementary existing policies that address pollution issues, and notably: - For AN1: SDAGE Rhone-Mediterranée (which aims to support a better knowledge of waste flow assessments and experiment devices for controlling macro-waste in wastewater and stormwater treatment systems), and SDAGE Corse (through fundamental orientation 3D Preserve ecosystems, and Disposition 3D-07 : "manage macro waste on the coast"). It also refers to the Roadmap "Zero plastic in the sea, 2019-2025" Action 4 on plastic nurdles. - For D10-OE01-AN2 on bacteriological contamination, refers to the Roadmap "Zero plastic in the sea, 2019-2025" Action 8 (carry out a geographical inventory of macro waste), Action 12 (assess macro waste in rain waters), Action 14 (experiment with devices to combat macro-waste in wastewater and stormwater treatment systems, and set up monitoring systems), Action 15 (monitor micro plastic), Action 16 (limit leakage from plastic bimedia filters). - For D10-OE02-AN2 on EU labbel "Clean ports" and "Active clean ports in biodiversity", "Zero plastic at sea 2019-2025" action 24 (increase the number of ports certified clean ports), and Plan Mer - Région PACA action4 (100% of PACA ports are certified Clean ports) and action 5 (deployment of labbelling Clean ports active in Biodiversity on a majority of clean ports). In addition, mentions the Plan de relance nautisme et plaisance adopté par la région Occitanie, regarding the ecological transition of ports and of the nautical sector. Regarding the action on reduction, collect and valorization of fishing waste (D10-OE01-AN5), the DSF refers to complementary policies such as the SRADDET: Regional councils also implement waste management policies, either through their planning documents (SRADDET) or through thematic plans (such as plastic action plans or circular economy strategies). Furthermore, in the "Zero Plastic Waste at Sea 2019–2025 Roadmap", Action 3 – Measures to combat plastic pollution along the coast and at sea – includes Action 21: the establishment of a voluntary agreement for the collection and recovery of used fishing gear. However, the deadline has passed: the target was set for 2021. An assessment was scheduled for 2020 for the fishing sector. What were the outcomes?"

Fact-sheet 7: Fair and just transition

Just and inclusive transition: “No one left behind” - Stakeholder participation by sectors.
Describe findings

	FISHERIES	AQUACULTURE	ORE	NATURE PROTECTION
WHO				
Who were considered as stakeholders and how were they identified?	Stakeholders include **State services** (relevant ministries, prefectures, Interregional Directorate of the Mediterranean Sea - DIRM -, ...), the **National council for the sea and the coast** (CNML), the **façade (sea basin) Maritime Council (CMF)** of Mediterranean, and **scientific organisations** (e.g., Ifremer). The **National Committee of Maritime Fisheries and Marine Aquaculture** (CNPMEM) is represented in the CNML (source: https://www.mer.gouv.fr/conseil-national-de-la-mer-et-des-littoraux-cnml). Stakeholders also include Regions and collectivities through the CNML and CMF. Fisheries professional stakeholders are included notably through the CNPMEM and the 3 **Regional Committees of Maritime Fisheries and Marine Aquaculture** in the Mediterranean (CRPMEM Corse, Occitanie, PACA), and the 7 Departmental committees (CDPMEM), which are part of the CMF. Stakeholders also include the **fish producer organisations** (OP) such as "OP du Sud", "OP du Levant" and "Sathoan". Stakeholders also include **citizens** more generally and their representatives (NGOs, associations, elected representatives...).	Stakeholders include **State services** (relevant ministries, prefectures, Interregional Directorate of the Mediterranean Sea - DIRM -, ...), the **National council for the sea and the coast** (CNML), the **façade (sea basin) Maritime Council (CMF)** of Mediterranean, and **scientific organisations** (e.g., Ifremer). The **National Committee of Maritime Fisheries and Marine Aquaculture** (CNPMEM) is represented in the CNML (source: https://www.mer.gouv.fr/conseil-national-de-la-mer-et-des-littoraux-cnml). Stakeholders also include Regions and collectivities through the CNML and CMF. Aquaculture professional stakeholders are included notably through the CNPMEM and the 3 **Regional Committees of Maritime Fisheries and Marine Aquaculture** in the Mediterranean (CRPMEM Corse, Occitanie, PACA), and the 7 Departmental committees (CDPMEM), which are part of the CMF. Stakeholders also include the **fish producer organisations** (OP) such as "OP du Sud", "OP du Levant" and "Sathoan". Stakeholders also include **citizens** more generally and their representatives (NGOs, associations, elected representatives...).	Stakeholders include State services (relevant ministries, prefectures, Interregional Directorate of the Mediterranean Sea - DIRM -, ...), the National council for the sea and the coast (CNML), the façade (sea basin) Maritime Council (CMF) of Mediterranean, and scientific organisations (e.g., Ifremer). Stakeholders also include Regions and collectivities through the CNML and CMF. Stakeholders also include professionals of the energy sector: Wind farm operators: companies that develop, build and operate offshore wind farms (e.g. EDF Renouvelables, Engie). Federations: such as the Syndicat des Énergies Renouvelables. Representing manufacturers in the sector. In addition, fishing and aquaculture stakeholders involved in asserting their interests with regard to wind farm projects: CDPMEM, CRPMEM, producer organisations.. Stakeholders also include citizens more generally and their representatives (NGOs (including environmental NGOs, associations, elected representatives...).	Stakeholders include State services (relevant ministries, prefectures, Interregional Directorate of the Mediterranean Sea - DIRM -, ...), the National council for the sea and the coast (CNML), the façade (sea basin) Maritime Council (CMF) of Mediterranean, the French Office for Biodiversity, and scientific organisations (e.g., Ifremer). Stakeholders also include Regions and collectivities through the CNML and CMF. Stakeholders also include citizens more generally and their representatives (NGOs such as WWF France, France Nature Environnement, ..., associations, elected representatives...).
Were the characteristics of the stakeholders (e.g., gender, class, ethnicity, age and/or disability) considered in stakeholder participations?	No information found	No information found	No information found	No information found
Were local participatory initiatives (such as community-led local development groups, fisheries local action groups etc.) arranged/considered?	Yes, the Regional and Departmental Committees of Maritime Fisheries and Marine Aquaculture of the French Mediterranean (the CRPMEM and CDPMEM) are involved in the various key steps of the DSF elaboration and revision, through their involvement in the CMF (façade maritime council) notably, and through their participation in workshops and meetings.	Yes, the Regional and Departmental Committees of Maritime Fisheries and Marine Aquaculture of the French Mediterranean (the CRPMEM and CDPMEM) are involved in the various key steps of the DSF elaboration and revision, through their involvement in the CMF (façade maritime council) notably, and through their participation in workshops and meetings.	(Inhabitants of areas where offshore renewable energy (ORE) is or could be developed were able to provide opinions and advice by participating online in the "La Mer en Débat" public consultation organized by the National Commission for Public Debate between 2023 and 2024.)	
Was sufficient sectoral/group representation of stakeholders ensured in the planning process?	No information found	No information found	No information found	No information found
Does the Plan promote gender balance in maritime professions?	No, it does not.	No, it does not.	No, it does not.	No, it does not.
WHEN				
In what phase or which phases of the MSP process was stakeholder involvement organised?	Regarding the representatives of the Fisheries professional sector in French Mediterranean, the regional and departmental fisheries committees (CRPMEM and CDPMEM) are included in the CMF and therefore contribute to various key phases of the DSF elaboration and revision (source: https://www.dirm.mediterranee.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/2023_02_08_compte-rendu.pdf), notably through their participation in formal meetings and technical/participatory workshops. During the public consultation phase, the fisheries local committees formulate formal advise on text projects and maps. Scientific experts are included through technical workshops notably and provide the scientific basis for the DSF elaboration and revision more generally. National NGOs are included notably in CNML and can therefore make their voice heard at key phases of DSF elaboration and revision (such as "France Nature Environment", source: https://www.mer.gouv.fr/conseil-national-de-la-mer-et-des-littoraux-cnml). The general public has been mainly consulted during the consultation phase following a proposal of revised strategic part of the DSF notably through the debate "La mer en débat" organised by the National commission of public debate CNDP (nov 23-April 24), and from May-Aug 2025 through online consultation regarding the proposal of revised DSF. Other (from MSP-GREEN D2.1): The participation and inclusion in the MSP processes is covered differently at a national scale and at a regional scale (façade). At national level, the National Strategy for the sea and coast (NSSC) considered State representatives (from ministries, maritime prefectures, DIRM MED), façades administrative commissions, the National council for the sea and the coast (CNML) and façade Maritime Councils (CMF) (source: MSP-GREEN D2.1 French chapter), as well as scientific organisations . Citizens (including general public, NGOs..) were only included at a regional scale for façade strategic documents (DSF) (mainly through online consultation, "citizen workshops" and public meetings), as well as CMFs, public administrations, NGOs and maritime sectors (source: MSP-GREEN D2.1 French chapter).	Regarding the representatives of the Aquaculture professional sector in the French Mediterranean, the regional and departmental fisheries and aquaculture committees (CRPMEM and CDPMEM) are included in the CMF and therefore contribute to various key phases of the DSF elaboration and revision (source: https://www.dirm.mediterranee.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/2023_02_08_compte-rendu.pdf), notably through their participation in formal meetings and participatory workshops. During the public consultation phase, these committees formulate formal advise on text projects and maps. Scientific experts are included through technical workshops notably and provide the scientific basis for the DSF elaboration and revision more generally. National NGOs are included notably in CNML and can therefore make their voice heard at key phases of DSF elaboration and revision (such as "France Nature Environment", source: https://www.mer.gouv.fr/conseil-national-de-la-mer-et-des-littoraux-cnml). The general public has been mainly consulted during the consultation phase following a proposal of revised strategic part of the DSF notably through the debate "La mer en débat" organised by the National commission of public debate CNDP (nov 23-April 24), and from May-Aug 2025 through online consultation regarding the proposal of revised DSF.	In the French Mediterranean, offshore wind industry professionals have been involved throughout key stages of DSF elaboration and revision. Their participation could be through the national public debates coordinated by the CNDP (La Mer en Débat 2023–2024), where they provided input on environmental and technical challenges. Subsequently, offshore wind stakeholders engaged in thematic workshops and consultations, providing technical information and expertise to spatial zoning decisions. Their feedback influenced the designation of priority offshore wind development areas in the updated DSF covering both near-term (10 years) and long-term (2050) planning. This structured involvement ensures that professional perspectives shape regulatory and spatial frameworks for offshore wind deployment in the Mediterranean.	Scientific experts are included through technical workshops notably and provide the scientific basis for the DSF elaboration and revision more generally. National NGOs are included notably in CNML and can therefore make their voice heard at key phases of DSF elaboration and revision (such as "France Nature Environment", source: https://www.mer.gouv.fr/conseil-national-de-la-mer-et-des-littoraux-cnml). The general public has been mainly consulted during the consultation phase following a proposal of revised strategic part of the DSF notably through the debate "La mer en débat" organised by the National commission of public debate CNDP (nov 23-April 24), and from May-Aug 2025 through online consultation regarding the proposal of revised DSF.
Was it made clear how and at what stages stakeholders can participate in the planning process? Was there an interaction plan?	Regarding the phases of public online participation and consultation, there was a specific available calendar.	Regarding the phases of public online participation and consultation, there was a specific available calendar.	Regarding the phases of public online participation and consultation, there was a specific available calendar.	Regarding the phases of public online participation and consultation, there was a specific available calendar.
HOW				
Was the local and expert knowledge integrated?	The elaboration and revision of the DSF is based on scientific studies including relevant data, analyses and sometimes recommendations. In addition, local knowledge on fisheries was integrated through local fisheries instances (CDPMEM and CRPMEM for instance) which have detailed knowledge of local practices, ecosystems and issues. Working groups to elaborate and revise the DSF included scientific experts but also local fisheries professional stakeholders and associations.	The elaboration and revision of the DSF is based on scientific studies including relevant data, analyses and sometimes recommendations. In addition, local knowledge on fisheries was integrated through local fisheries instances (CDPMEM and CRPMEM for instance) which have detailed knowledge of local practices, ecosystems and issues. Working groups to elaborate and revise the DSF included scientific experts but also local fisheries professional stakeholders and associations.	The elaboration and revision of the DSF is based on scientific studies including relevant data, analyses and sometimes recommendations. In addition, local knowledge of offshore wind issues has been integrated into the DSF through stakeholder consultations, including input from local communities, fishermen, and maritime professionals. Regional workshops and the public debate "La Mer en Débat" provided platforms for sharing on-the-ground insights about environmental, social, and economic impacts of offshore wind projects.	The elaboration and revision of the DSF is based on scientific studies including relevant data, analyses and sometimes recommendations. In addition, local knowledge of offshore wind issues has been integrated into the DSF through stakeholder consultations, including input from local communities, fishermen, and maritime professionals. Regional workshops and the public debate "La Mer en Débat" provided platforms for sharing on-the-ground insights about environmental, social, and economic impacts of offshore wind projects.
Were citizen science perspectives considered?	No information found	No information found	No information found	The citizen science is mentioned twice in the DSF Med: - through the involvement of schools in marine educated areas, which are marine areas managed in a participative way by primary schools students (in doc DSF part "Species, emblematic spaces"); - through the LIFE Marha project “Engaging citizens in the monitoring of marine habitats by launching a coordinated participatory science program” (in doc DSF part "Educate, raise awareness").
What methods were used in participation (workshops, scenarios, matrixes of use and interactions etc.)?	Formal meetings (e.g. through Maritime Façade Council - CMF -, at least once a year), participatory workshops, webinars, digital tools such as online platform for the participatory debate.	Formal meetings (e.g. through Maritime Façade Council - CMF -, at least once a year), participatory workshops, webinars, digital tools such as online platform for the participatory debate.	Participatory workshops, webinars, digital tools such as online platform for the participatory debate.	Formal meetings (e.g. through Maritime Façade Council - CMF -, at least once a year), participatory workshops, webinars, digital tools such as online platform for the participatory debate.
What was the capacity of participants to influence planning decisions?	The CDPMEM and CRPMEM are permanent members of the consultative bodies (Façade maritime councils -CMF-) that develop and revise the DSF, which allows them to influence strategic orientations and management measures. They can make recommendations, proposals, or criticisms directly in official meetings and in the public debate. The general public can participate online by giving opinions and proposals (through the debate "La mer en débat" notably). They can also act through associations, NGOs... However, the ability of the general public to significantly influence planning decisions can be limited due to the technical complexity and specialized nature of the subject.	The CDPMEM and CRPMEM are permanent members of the consultative bodies (Façade maritime councils -CMF-) that develop and revise the DSF, which allows them to influence strategic orientations and management measures. They can make recommendations, proposals, or criticisms directly in official meetings and in the public debate. The general public can participate online by giving opinions and proposals (through the debate "La mer en débat" notably). They can also act through associations, NGOs... However, the ability of the general public to significantly influence planning decisions can be limited due to the technical complexity and specialized nature of the subject.	The general public can participate online by giving opinions and proposals (through the debate "La mer en débat" notably). They can also act through associations, NGOs... However, the ability of the general public to significantly influence planning decisions can be limited due to the technical complexity and specialized nature of the subject.	The NGOs such as France Nature environnement (as well as other sector representatives such as CDPMEM and CRPMEM) are permanent members of the consultative bodies (Façade maritime councils -CMF-) that develop and revise the DSF, which allows them to influence strategic orientations and management measures. They can make recommendations, proposals, or criticisms directly in official meetings and in the public debate.The general public can participate online by giving opinions and proposals (through the debate "La mer en débat" notably). However, the ability of the general public to significantly influence planning decisions can be limited due to the technical complexity and specialized nature of the subject.

Fact-sheet 8: Cross-cutting elements

Describe findings with reference to each sector

	FISHERIES	AQUACULTURE	ORE	NATURE PROTECTION
Research and innovation				
Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to increase the availability of reliable, high-quality ocean and maritime **data**?	*No, whereas it mentions "the monitoring data on marine turtle populations are too fragmented to determine the achievement of good status, and for birds, the lack of data does not allow for an assessment of mortality caused by accidental bycatch" (p. 19/65, DSF Emblematic Species document).*	N/A	YES The DSF includes **numerous measures** to create, collect, and disseminate data related to Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE). Notably, this is addressed through the **establishment of a National Offshore Wind Observatory**, which would both support data availability and foster the generation of knowledge to reduce the environmental impacts of wind farms. Action D01-OM-OE02-AN1: Design and establish a National Offshore Wind Observatory. Sub-action 3: **Gather and disseminate existing knowledge on offshore wind energy** and provide **experience feedback** that can be shared and used by all stakeholders. Action EMR-MED01 (responding to objectives K1, K3, K4, and Environmental Objectives A): Capitalize on and disseminate knowledge relating to floating offshore wind energy and its environmental impact, ensuring a harmonized monitoring approach across projects. Sub-action 4: Disseminate knowledge on the baseline environmental conditions in the Mediterranean, floating offshore wind, and its environmental impact to the public and institutions. Action D11-OE1-AN1: Collect and disseminate data on **impulsive noise generated during industrial operations.** Sub-action 1: Make it mandatory for industries engaged in the following activities to collect impulsive noise data: blasting/explosive rock removal, seismic surveys (airgun), seismic surveys (boomer and sparker), pile driving, single-beam and multi-beam echo sounders, side-scan sonars, and pingers.	YES Action D01-OM-OE06-AN1: Sub-action: Summarize the available information on the **sensitivity of species (seabirds, marine mammals, and turtles) to disturbance.** In addition, the production and availability of data (in a lesser extent) is mentioned in actions related to research and the need to better understand the f**unctioning of ecosystems/species and monitor species distribution/abundance**.
Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to support **research on the marine environment**?	YES Action D01-PC-OE01-AN1: Sub-action 1: Map the presence and sensitivity of the various **regulated elasmobranch species.** Governance and cooperation: The action mentions the Selpal project (2014–2017), which was a collaboration between AMOP (Association Méditerranéenne des Organisations de Producteurs), scientists, and fishery professionals. It focused on the longline fleet targeting Bluefin Tuna (Thunnus thynnus) in the Gulf of Lion. The project aims to **quantify the impact of the longline fishery targeting Bluefin Tuna on sensitive species, to test measures to increase the selectivity of longlines, to mitigate negative impacts, and to improve biological and ecological knowledge of sensitive species in the Gulf of Lion.**	N/A	YES Action D01-OM-OE02-AN1: Design and implement a National Offshore Wind Observatory. Sub-action 2: Define and initiate knowledge acquisition programs aimed at limiting the impacts of marine renewable energy. Action EMR-MED01 (addressing objectives K1, K3, K4, and Environmental Objectives A): Capitalize on and disseminate knowledge related to floating offshore wind energy and **its environmental impacts, ensuring harmonized monitoring across projects.** Sub-action 2: Harmonize monitoring measures and scientific protocols across projects, as well as actions validated under the avoid-reduce-compensate (ERC) sequence. Sub-action 3: Identify knowledge gaps and data acquisition priorities and, where possible and within available resources, carry out additional studies—particularly concerning terrestrial migratory birds and bats. Action AT-09: Improve the understanding and integration of **cumulative effects of human activities and ecological carrying capacity.** Sub-action 1: In a pilot marine protected area, define and test a method as well as a visualization tool to account for cumulative effects in project assessments. Sub-action 3: Apply a method for qualifying cumulative effects in the context of offshore wind farms.	YES Action D01-HB-OE7-AN1: Strengthen knowledge regarding the **ecological status of red coral in the Mediterranean** (harvested by professional fishers) and ensure its conservation if necessary. Sub-action 1: Inventory and analyze data related to the quantities of red coral harvested with a diameter of less than 7 mm. The DPMA holds data on the quantities of harvested coral with a diameter of less than 7 mm. However, this data may not be comprehensive, and it would be appropriate to **launch an in-depth study to better understand the ecological status of red coral.** Action SPP-MED01: Put together **coastal and underwater landscape observation and monitoring networks** to better support strategic policies, particularly in anticipating, preserving, and assessing the effects of climate change on territories and landscapes. Sub-action 3: **Produce maps of underwater landscapes at emblematic sites** along the coastline and promote them through public outreach and communication initiatives (e.g. website, exhibitions).
Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to support **research and technological innovation in maritime sectors**?	YES Action PM-MED10: Continue and structure research and innovation efforts to reduce the **environmental impact of vessels and fishing gear.** Sub-action 1: Continue projects related to improving gear selectivity and reducing their impact on habitats. Strengthen collaboration with professionals in the Mediterranean (training, partnerships). Governance and cooperation: The action mentions the Selpal project (2014–2017),which aims to **quantify the impact of the longline fishery targeting Bluefin Tuna on sensitive species, to test measures to increase the selectivity of longlines, to mitigate negative impacts, and to improve biological and ecological knowledge of sensitive species in the Gulf of Lion.** Action D01-OM-OE01-AN1: Sub-action 3: Based on an assessment of bycatch reduction methods, test and deploy innovative measures and technologies in targeted fisheries. PM-MED10: Continue and structure research and innovation efforts to reduce the environmental impact of vessels and fishing gear. Sub-action 3: Share experiences in the field of reducing and managing the energy consumption of vessels, and provide appropriate support to fishers.	SOMEHOW. In MSP-GREEN conclusions for France (p88/233): "The Mediterranean plan casts the light on research and innovations for offshore renewables, aquaculture, or eco-conception of ships." However, while innovations are encouraged (through notably encouraging the **environmental labbeling of aquaculture farms**), the innovation is not technical. Only the following actions can partially/indirectly respond to the MSP-GREEN affirmation: D10-OE01-AN5: Support maritime sectors in **transitioning to sustainable equipment**. *Innovation to support the sustainable multi-trophic aquaculture but not really technical innovation*: AQUA-PM-MED07: Support sustainable multi-activity involving fishing and aquaculture and **develop emerging bioeconomy sectors** toward a stable environmental and economic model. Sub-action 2: Support an **integrated multi-trophic aquaculture** (IMTA) project toward an environmentally stable and economically viable model.	YES Action D01-OM-OE02-AN1: Design and implement a National Offshore Wind Observatory. Sub-action 2: Define and initiate knowledge acquisition programs to reduce the impacts of marine renewable energy.	YES D01-MT-OE03-AN2: Reduce the risk of collisions with cetaceans across the Mediterranean coastline […] and develop real-time automatic localization methods to improve the efficiency and use of REPCET. **Develop a system for sharing cetacean positions that can be used at night.**
Education and training				
Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to address **education, skill development and training in maritime professions**?	**YES** **Focus on bycatch:** Action D01-PC-OE01-AN2: **Raise awareness and train professional and recreational fishers in the identification and handling of elasmobranchs that may be caught as bycatch, and improve the reporting of such accidental catches.** Sub-action 1: Train in species identification. Sub-action 2: Produce identification guidebooks. Action 01-MT-OE02-AN1: Sub-action 1: **Raise awareness among commercial and recreational fishers about best practices to avoid bycatch and release captured animals, and optimize the reporting of observed interactions as part of the MSFD monitoring program.** Action D01-MT-OE02-AN1: Reduce the impact of accidental captures of marine turtles through training of fishers and the maintenance of an appropriate network of care centers. Sub-action 1: **Raise awareness among professional and recreational fishers about best practices to avoid accidental captures and to release turtles safely when captured, and optimize the reporting of observed interactions as part of the MSFD (Marine Strategy Framework Directive) monitoring program.** Sub-action 2: Ensure the maintenance and effectiveness of the marine turtle care center network, notably by training personnel involved in the marine turtle stranding response network.	YES Action D10-OE02-AN1: Sub-action 3: Support professional fishing and shellfish farming sectors in identifying best practices to **reduce waste from fishing net repairs and waste generated by shellfish farming**, and promote the dissemination of these best practices.	N/A	YES, both targeting professionals and the general public. **1) Training/awareness raising of maritime professionals:** Action 01-MT-OE02-AN1: Sub-action 1: Raise awareness among professional and recreational fishers about best practices **to avoid accidental captures and to release animals safely** in case of capture, and optimize the reporting of observed interactions as part of the MSFD (Marine Strategy Framework Directive) monitoring program. Action D02-AN1: Sub-action 3: Raise awareness among marine protected area managers and other stakeholders working in coastal and marine environments about the identification and management of **non-indigenous marine species.** Action D01-MT-OE03-AN2: Sub-action: Ensure that the entire fleet required to be equipped with the **REPCET system** is properly equipped and trained. Action D08-OE04-AN1: Raise awareness among managers and users about best practices for hull cleaning and maintenance (**antifouling operations**). LITT-MED02: Sub-action 3: Implement theoretical and practical training actions in connection with the POLMAR contacts of the Departmental Directorates for Territories and the Sea (DDTM), in order to strengthen the response capacity to **accidental marine and coastal pollution.** **2) Training/awareness raising of the general public:** D06-OE02-AN1: Sub-action 3: Continue awareness-raising actions for the general public to change perceptions of **Posidonia seagrass wrack on beaches.** D01-OM-OE06-AN2: Structure the practice of coastal and marine **nature sports and recreational activities** (through information, awareness, and regulation), with a focus on species and habitat sensitivity. Linked sub-actions include disseminating information to promote best practices, implementing spatial and temporal protection measures within a shared governance framework based on knowledge of practices and environmental sensitivity, and including a module on marine environmental awareness in the professional training of water sports instructors. D01-MT-OE01-AN1: Sub-action 2: Raise public awareness about **respectful marine mammal observation practices.** D01-HB-OE09-AN1: Sub-action 3: Strengthen awareness-raising among users of mooring areas (pleasure boaters, rental operators, etc.) in **ports and on water bodies.** D01-HB-OE09-AN2: Sub-action 1: Develop tools for knowledge-sharing, awareness, and training related to Mediterranean **diving sites.** D10-OE01-AN4: Raise awareness, inform, and educate on **ocean pollution from waste.** Sub-action 1: Support and coordinate the network of associations working on the ground to educate and raise awareness among the public and schoolchildren about marine litter. Sub-action 2: Roll out the participatory science platform “Zero Wild Waste.” Sub-action 3: Continue and expand the “Plastic-Free Beach” charter initiative. AT-02: Develop the network of **“educational marine areas”** (small coastal marine zones managed by students in grades 4–6 following a charter-based participatory model). Sub-action 2: Strengthen links between educational marine areas (EMAs) and marine protected areas (MPAs) to ensure mutual integration of their goals and those of the MSFD, notably through alignment with MPA strategy. AT-05: Implement marine **environmental education projects in primary and secondary schools.** AT-08: Launch coordinated awareness campaigns at the scale of the Mediterranean coast, tailored to the various types of issues and sea/littoral users (e.g. beachgoers, luxury yachting, and boat rental services), to encourage more environmentally respectful practices—especially in terms of **reducing pollution and protecting habitats and species.** AT-03: Develop an integrated app providing regulations and relevant information on **protected areas for recreational boating.** This cross-cutting action will significantly contribute to reducing pressures from maritime activities on coastal ecosystems (e.g. intertidal rocky habitats, seagrass beds, coralligenous reefs), and to lowering risks of collisions with marine turtles and marine mammals.
Cross-border cooperation in MSP				
Is **cooperation** on specific sectors foreseen by the Plan(s)	SOMEHOW/Indirectly. An example of cross-border cooperation is illustrated by the **SCRABBLEU project** (Solutions for the valorization of the **blue crab**, launched in 2019, with no mentioned end date), in the context of the invasive blue crab species that is weakening ecosystems. The aim is to promote the valorization of blue crab landings in order to encourage professionals to fish it, thereby helping to limit its impact on coastal socio-ecosystems. Besides, the **General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) is mentioned** in action D01-HB-OE10 to strengthen the consideration of the sensitivity of deep-sea habitats in the Mediterranean. The GFCM is a key body for the governance of fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, acting at the regional level to ensure the responsible exploitation of marine resources.	N/A	N/A	YES As part of Action D01-MT-OE03-AN2 on collision risks for cetaceans, the **creation of a jointly developed zone with Italy, Monaco, and Spain is mentioned.** Sub-action 1 involves conducting preliminary cooperative studies to prepare the designation file for a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA), which itself must be developed in close collaboration with Italy, Spain, and Monaco (ensuring the involvement of these countries at all levels – technical and political). **International MECO network** – Promotes the use of citizen science data in broader analyses at the Mediterranean basin scale. It involves several European countries, including France, Italy, and Spain.

Fact-sheet 9: Zoning

Provide information on identification of areas with EGD features. Describe features of these areas in terms of management of uses and measures in place.
Provide total extension in km2 of each typology in the entire Plan spatial domain and the relative percentage.

	FISHERIES	AQUACULTURE	ORE	NATURE PROTECTION
Dedicated areas	There are dedicated areas corresponding to the fisheries related measures through the "**vocation maps**". The vocation maps are cartographic documents listing DSF measures applying to a given "zone" and including a map of activities and stakes for this zone. The vocation maps include delimited areas showing the geographical localisation of fisheries areas, and functional fisheries zones (visible on the maps of vocation zones), notably.	There are areas dedicated to existing/or potential aquaculture farms (shellfish farming and fish farming) through the vocations maps.	There are dedicated areas linked to ORE. While measures in the text do not inform on specific areas where ORE is developed or in project of development, the "vocation maps" inform where ORE area currently exist, or where they could be developed. On October 17, 2024, the French government published in the Official Journal its Decision following the public debate “La Mer en débat,” concerning the update of the strategic components of the DSF and the mapping of priority zones for offshore wind development (both over the next 10 years and by 2050). This mapping is integrated to the vocation maps.	On October 17th, 2024, the French government published in the Official Journal its Decision following the public debate “La Mer en débat,” regarding the update of the strategic components of the DSF and the mapping of **strong marine protected areas.** This **mapping is integrated to the vocation maps of the DSF.** When they include some, the vocation maps show the localisation of: - MPAs; - areas of reinforced nature protection; - Isobaths of 0–50 m / 50–200 m / 200–1500 m, corresponding to reservoirs of ecological functions of shallow waters / continental shelf / slope areas; - Sites of ecological functions and stakes of the land-sea interface and shallow coastal waters, such as seagrass meadows (posidonia, cymodocea beds), dead matte, infralittoral algae, sands, soft and detrital substrates, hard bottoms, and rocky habitats, coralligenous, and the functional sites of birds and fish; - Sites of ecological functions and stakes on the continental shelf and slopes: the site of presence of marine marine mammals, elasmobranchs, marine tortles, and canyons.
Description	In **general,** the DSF identifies both the importance to reinforce the protection of existing marine areas in which fisheries are managed, controled and monitored in a sustainable way, and to create additional areas through essential fish habitats of importance (ZHFi) in particular. **More specifically**: - **All the 30 vocation maps of Mediterranean include measures on fisheries**, illustrating the fact that this sector is of key importance all along the Mediterranean façade. For instance, the measure D03-OE02-AN1 ("Identify the priority stocks for which the local management could be improved, and implement adapted actions") is found in all 30 vocation maps, i.e., all along the façade. - 29 out of 30 vocation zones include the measure D01-PC-OE5-AN1 that aims to **reinforce the protection of ZHFi**. However, these ZHFi are not defined geographically yet (the vocation maps show the essential fish habitats but not the essential fish habitats of importance (ZHFi), which still need to be identified through the sub-action 1 "Identify and map ZFHi at an appropriate scale." - Concerning MPAs in general, the DSF sets objectives to better manage and monitor catches from recreational fishing in MPAs (the localisation of MPAs is visible on vocation maps), through objectives M8-1 and M8-2 (M8-1 target: 100% of MPAs have a tool to record the fishers in the area and declaring their catches, and M8-2 target: 100% of MPAs have an harmonized daily fish quota). - Concerning Natura 2000 sites specifically, the M1-4 target states that 100% of Natura 2000 sites have an analyse "fisheries risks". In these Natura 2000 sites, the accent is also placed on protecting the seabed habitats.	Approximately 27 over the 30 vocation maps include measures related to aquaculture. **Existing shellfish farming sites**: Some of these 27 maps include geographical delimited boundaries of existing shellfish aquaculture farms such as in some part of the following zones: - zone 1 ("Marine Natural Park Gulf of Lion") - zone 3 ("Littoral languedocien ouest") - zone 6 ("Gulf of Lion Plateau") - zone 7 ("Gulf of Lion Fos sur Mer") **Existing fish farming sites:** There also are some zones showing existing sites of fish farming, such as in zone 26 ("Golfe d'Ajaccio"). **Potential sites for aquaculture development:** There are also vocation maps that show geographical sites suitable for shellfish aquaculture development. Such as in a few parts of: - zone 1 ("Marine Natural Park Gulf of Lion") - zone 3 ("Littoral languedocien ouest") - zone 10 ("Calanques National Park") - zone 13 ("Perimeter of the Port-Cros national Park") - zone 14 ("Littoral Varois est") - zone 17 ("Littoral des Alpes Maritimes") - zone 25 ("Littoral occidental de la Corse partie nord") - zone 26 ("Golfe d'Ajaccio").	Three of the 30 vocation maps of the MED façade include delimited areas of **potential offshore wind farms of commercial interest**. These are: - zone 1 ("Marine Natural Park Gulf of Lion") - zone 6 ("Gulf of Lion Plateau") - zone 7 ("Gulf of Lion Fos sur Mer"). Each of these 3 zones include two measures linked to ORE: (i) EMR-MED01: Capitalize on and disseminate knowledge related to offshore floating wind energy and its environmental impact, ensuring harmonized monitoring across different projects. (ii) EMR-MED02: Develop a competitive, sustainable, and well-structured commercial floating wind sector. Among them, zones 1 and 6 include a delimited area corresponding to an existing offshore wind farm of 100km² (+ pilot farms identified), while zone 7 only include a delimited potential area for ORE development, and for pilot farms. Two additional vocation maps include measures (=actions) regarding the development of ORE (EMR-MED02) but without delimited existing/potential ORE area on their map. These are: - zone 2 ("Port la Nouvelle") - zone 4 ("Sète"). (Regarding thalassothermy: the majority of the 30 vocation zones include the measure EMR-MED03 to assess the potential and development of thalassothermy.)	The measures outlined in the DSF text do not specify particular MPAs by name but **refer to general types of MPAs** (such as "Natura 2000 sites"). The vocation maps do not indicate the specific nature of MPAs (no distinction between Natura 2000 sites, national parks, etc.), although zones of enhanced protection are included in some vocation maps. In the french Mediterranean façade, marine Natura 2000 sites are the most common type of MPAs (they represent about 30% the marine FR MED façade (source: https: //www.amp.milieumarinfrance.fr/accueil-fr/chiffres-cles/les-chiffres-cles-rapides)). There are also marine natural parks (PNM Corsica, PNM Gulf of Lion, PNM Côte Bleue) (about 10%), and marine national parks (Port-Cros and Calanques) (about 3%) which have a strong level of protection including strict reserve zones. **All 30 vocation maps for the Mediterranean façade include numerous measures aimed at protecting and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity.** **Linking measures to geographical locations, thanks to vocation maps:** Measures targeting key habitats—such as posidonia seagrass beds, coralligenous formations, red coral, and deep-sea habitats—can be associated with specific geographic locations using vocation maps, since the vocation maps show the geographical boundaries of these habitats. Example for posidonia: For the vocation maps containing posidonia measures, we can make the link between the measure and the location of posidonia on the map. We can see that posidonia protection measures are included in the following vocation maps (non-exhaustive list): zones 23 (Balagne), zone 25 (Western coast of northern Corsica), and zone 28 (Western Bonifacio Strait), and the corresponding posidonia sites are clearly indicated in the vocation maps (a limit is that it does not mean all the posidonia presence sites will be subject to the measure though).
Total extension (km²)	No quantitative information on the surface area of these zones.	There is no precise data available in the DSF documents regarding the surface of the aquaculture areas, including in vocation maps. We can indicate that the Bassin de Thau, which is the biggest shellfish farm of France and located in the Mediterranean, is about 75 km².	To date, there are 2 existing ORE farms (floating), corresponding to approximatly 200 km². The potential areas for ORE development are much higher but not quantified but there is no surface number available.	(the following data was NOT available in the plan. Source: https://www.amp.milieumarinfrance.fr/accueil-fr/chiffres-cles/les-chiffres-cles-rapides): - total N2000 sites: approx 30 000 km² (13993 for N2000, DO, and 15523 for N2000, DHFF); - national parks: 2995 km² - marine natural park: 10 838 km² - reserves natural Corse: 814 km² - national natural reserve: 6 km²
% with respect to the total plan area (124 412 km² is the total area of the DSF Med (source: SHOM))	No information	No information	No information	The total area of MPAs in the French Medoterranean represents about 45 000 km², corresponding to about 36% of the plan area (DSF MED).
Other			By 2050, the government aims to reach between 4 and 7.5 gigawatts of offshore wind capacity along the French Mediterranean maritime façade.	

A2.4 Fact sheets - Italy

	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
Is the sector considered in the vision?	YES	Fisheries are explicitly mentioned in the vision	YES	Aquaculture is explicitly mentioned in the vision	YES	ORE are explicitly mentioned in the vision	YES	Nature protection is explicitly mentioned in the vision
Is the vision for the sector linked to any of the following elements?								
A. Climate change mitigation	YES	The Vision foresees the MSP Plans should contribute to climate change mitigation and therefore to the decarbonization of the maritime sectors.	YES	The Vision foresees the MSP Plans should contribute to climate change mitigation and therefore to the decarbonization of the maritime sectors.	YES	The development of renewable energy at sea is supported and accelerated in line with the EU and national decarbonization and energy transition objectives.	No	None
B. Climate change adaptation	NO	The topic is addressed in general, with no specific link to the sector	NO	The topic is addressed in general, with no specific link to the sector	NO	The topic is addressed in general, with no specific link to the sector	NO	The topic is addressed in general, with no specific link to the sector
C. Sustainable food production	YES	The Vision foresees that fisheries and aquaculture are developed in a sustainable and efficient way, pursuing a sustainable use of fishery resources, with the objective of protecting and rebuilding stocks and promoting the development of small-scale fisheries, also in synergy with other sectors (e.g. tourism, food and wine, local distribution chains, processing industry), in order to increase the product value chain	YES	"The Vision foresees that fisheries and aquaculture are developed in a sustainable and efficient way, pursuing a sustainable use of fishery resources, with the objective of protecting and rebuilding stocks and promoting the development of small-scale fisheries, also in synergy with other sectors (e.g. tourism, food and wine, local distribution chains, processing industry), in order to increase the product value chain	NO	No links between ORE and sustainable food production are mentioned in the vision	YES	The vision addresses the need for a sustainable transition of fisheries, in order to protect and rebuild stocks
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration	YES	The vision addresses the need for a sustainable transition of fisheries, in order to protect and rebuild stocks	NO	No links between aquaculture and biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration are mentioned in the vision	NO	No links between ORE and biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration are mentioned in the vision	YES	The development of maritime activities should be developed in a way to ensure the achievement and maintenance of the good ecological status of the sea. Biodiversity, together with landscape and cultural heritage are recognizedas cross-cutting, overarching principles for all plan provisions. They should be protected per se, as as an asset for tourism.
E. Blue circular economy	NO	The topic is addressed in general, with no specific link to the sector. The Vision foresees that maritime activities are reorganised, exploiting the opportunities offered by the Circular Economy.	NO	The topic is addressed in general, with no specific link to the sector. The Vision foresees that maritime activities are reorganised, exploiting the opportunities offered by the Circular Economy.	NO	The topic is addressed in general, with no specific link to the sector. The Vision foresees that maritime activities are reorganised, exploiting the opportunities offered by the Circular Economy.	NO	The topic is addressed in general, with no specific link to the sector. The Vision foresees that maritime activities are reorganised, exploiting the opportunities offered by the Circular Economy.
F. Zero pollution	YES	The Vision clearly states that all maritime sectors should have a role in the reduction of polluting emissions, waste and the introduction of alien species in the environment. Fisheries is explicitly mentioned.	YES	The Vision clearly states that all maritime sectors should have a role in the reduction of polluting emissions, waste and the introduction of alien species in the environment. Aquaculture is explicitly mentioned.	YES	The Vision clearly states that all maritime sectors should have a role in the reduction of polluting emissions, waste and the introduction of alien species in the environment. Offshore activities are explicitly mentioned.	YES	The Vision foresees that the MSP plans should guarantee achievement and maintenance of Good Environmental Status of marine waters (ex MSFD). The fight against marine pollution is linked to the concept of biodiversity protection.

Fact-sheet 5: EGD analysis by sectors – Objectives

Check whether the sector is considered and eventually linked to any of the main EGD topics and sub-topics in the objectives of the plan(s). Describe findings.
Explanation:
For FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE: Is the green transition of the sector considered in the objectives, by referring to any of the key EDG topics and sub-topics?
For ORE: Is the sector's development considered in the objectives, by referring to any key EDG topics or sub-topics?
For NATURE PROTECTION: Check whether it is considered in the objectives and eventually linked to any of the main EGD topics and sub-topics.In the case your Plan(s) identifies different levels of objectives (e.g. strategic, specific) you can undertake the analysis for each of the levels, if appropriate.
Please specify any quantitative objectives indicated in the Plan(S), with reference to the considered sector e.g. energy production, aquaculture production, sea surface to be protected, etc.
Describe findings.

	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
Is the sector considered in the objectives?	YES	The plans include a set of strategic objectives related to this sector. The plans also include specific objectives related to fisheries at regional level scale, for some of the sub-areas under regional competence.	YES	The Plans include a set of strategic objectives for the aquaculture sector, some framed within the broader cross-cutting principle of sustainable development. Two of these objectives are explicitly and entirely dedicated to aquaculture. In addition, the Plans define a series of specific objectives for aquaculture at the regional scale, covering most of the sub-areas under regional competence.	YES	The plans include a set of strategic objectives related to the marine energy sector. Some of them relate to renewable sources.		Nature protection is considered both as an overarching principle and a sea use. The name given to the sea use is "Environmental protection and natural resources". Strategic objectives are identified. The plans also include specific objectives related to fisheries at regional level, for some of the sub-areas under regional competence.
Are the objectives for the sector linked to any of the following elements?								
A. Climate change mitigation	SOMEHOW	Very partially and indirectly	NO	No links between aquaculture and climate change mitigation are mentioned in the objectives	YES	Include description	NO	No links between nature protection and climate change mitigation are mentioned in the objectives relevant for nature protection.
A.1 Renewable energy production, storage and transportation	SOMEHOW	Include description	NO	None	YES	The plans include objectives related to the development of ORE. Revance of European and regional cooperation in this field is also mentioned. OS_E|01 - Contribute to promoting the energy transition to renewable and low-emission sources through the development of offshore renewable energy production OS_E|04 - Promoting European and regional cooperation on energy	NO	None
A.2 Clean energy transition in maritime sectors	SOMEHOW	The plans make some reference to decarbonization and energy efficiency in the fisheries sector (OS_P|01)	NO	None	NO	Include description	NO	None
A.3 Transformations in ports	SOMEHOW	The plans intends to contribute to the promotion of alternative fuels in ports. This would benefit the sector transition too (OS_TM|02).	SOMEHOW	The plans intends to contribute to the promotion of alternative fuels in ports. This would benefit the sector transition too (OS_TM|02).	NO	Include description	NO	None
A.4 Blue carbon storage	NO	None	NO	None	NO	Include description	YES	The plans foster the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems that can contrbute to carbon sequestration (blue carbon) such as in partcular seagrass meadows and salt marshes. OS_SS|02 - Contribute to the National Strategy for Sustainable Development and all the related objective on Nature protection and Restoration
Are quantitative objectives identified?	NO	None	NO	None	YES	The Plans incorporates the national renewable energy provisions of the sector plan PNIEC the currently quantifies at 2.1 GW of installed power from ORE by 2023	NO	None
B. Climate change adaptation	NO	No links between fisheries and climate change adaptation are mentioned in the objectives	NO	No links between aquaculture and climate change adaptation are mentioned in the objectives	NO	No links between ORE and climate change adaptation are mentioned in the objectives	SOMEHOW	Somehow, but only indirectly, in relation with other sectors/sea uses, not specifically under the nature protection objectives.
B.1 Green infrastructures to enhance coastal resilience and/or to enhance marine connectivity	NO	None	NO	None	NO	None	SOMEHOW	This element is addressed to a certain extent under the objectives of "Coastal defence". The plans (OS_DC|01) foresee the implementation of conceptually, environmentally and technologically advanced solutions (e.g. nature-based solutions)
B.2 Protection of climate-sensitive marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems, and landscapes	NO	None	NO	None	NO	None	NO	None
B.3 Anticipation of climate change-related effects	NO	None	NO	None	NO	None	NO	None
Are quantitative objectives identified?	NO	None	NO	None	NO	None	NO	No quantitative objectives are provided
C. Sustainable food production	YES	The plans include a set of strategic objectives related to this sector. The plans also include specific objectives related to fisheries at regional level scale, for some sub-areas under regional competence.	YES	The plans include a set of strategic objectives related to this sector. Moreover, dedicated specific objectives at regional level (sub-area scale) related to aquaculture are also included.	NO	None	SOMEHOW	Somehow, but only indirectly, in relation with other sectors/sea uses, not specifically under the nature protection objectives.
C.1 Sustainable fisheries	YES	Several objectives are indicated in the plans, targeting sustainability of fishing activities: OS_P|01 - Fostering the sustainable development of fish supply chains, OS_P|02 - Promote the implementation of the provisions of the multi-year European and National Management Plans in the Geographical Sub-Areas (GSA); OS_P|03 - Promotion, development and spatial management of small-scale coastal fisheries, practised with sustainable techniques; OS_P|04 - Promote the creation of areas aimed at the recovery and protection of fish stocks and protection of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH); OS_P|05 - Foster cooperation between states in order to achieve concerted measures for the sustainable management of the activities of their respective national fisheries sectors; OS_P|06 - Control and fight against illegal fishing	NO	None	NO	None	YES	In general, all objectives related to sustainable fisheries contribute to nature protection, in particular OS_P|04 - Promote the creation of areas aimed at the recovery and protection of fish stocks and protection of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)
C.2 Sustainable aquaculture (both for fish and shellfish)	NO	None	YES	Both strategic objectives dedicate to aquaculture sector are targeting sustainable aquaculture, both for fish and shellfish. OS_A|01 emphasizes the strategic importance of the sector at European and national levels, promoting its growth through responsible planning, improved integration with other maritime and coastal activities.		Include description	NO	No links between nature protection and sustainable aquaculture are considered in the objectives
C.3 Sustainable algae production	NO	None	SOMEHOW	There is no explicit reference to algae production in the Strategic Objectives, nor specific of the MS Plans. However, there are some indirect reference to sustainable algae production. OS_A|01 promotes the growth and diversification of aquaculture, with reference to innovation and new market opportunities, which may implicitly include algae.	NO	None	NO	Algae production is not addressed in the plans
Are quantitative objectives identified?	NO	None	NO	None	NO	None	SOMEHOW	None

D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration	YES	The sustainability of fisheries is targeted in the objectives of the plans for this sector. OS_P|02 supports the implementation of national and regional (GFCM) fishery plans, aiming also to protect priority habitats; OS_P|03 aims to promote SSF practiced with sustainable gears; OS_P|04 directly addresses environmental sustainability by promoting the definition of areas for stock protection and recovery.	SOMEHOW	Biodiversity and ecosystem protection are addressed, especially in OS_A|02, which links aquaculture development to ecosystem conservation through eco-intensification, AZA planning, and compatibility with biodiversity objectives. Several specific objectives (e.g. in MO/4, MO/7, IMC/4) reinforce this by promoting ecosystem-based approaches, identifying areas where intensive aquaculture should be excluded, and improving environmental monitoring.	NO	None	YES	The topic is targeted by a specific set of strategic objectives
D.1 Elements to improve marine connectivity (e.g. among submarine canyons, reefs, etc.) and elements to achieve a coherent network of effective marine protected areas	SOMEHOW	See above	NO	None	NO	None	YES	The plans aim (OS_N|02) to promote the extension of EU sea protection to 30%, of which 10% strictly, by 2030. By the adoption of an ecosystem approach, the plans will favour the development of new protected areas, in connection with the existing ones. Strengthening the connections will contribute to completing the network of Natura 2000 sites at sea, with the consequent identification of conservation, evaluation and monitoring measures.
D.2 Restoring marine and coastal ecosystems	NO	None	NO	None	NO	None	YES	The plans aim (OS_N|05) to contribute to halting ongoing degradation trends through the actions of the plans and help address well-known restoration needs; Support the identification of priorities for the National Environmental Restoration Plan and its drafting, taking into account, among other factors, the system of sea and coastal uses and the potential pressures arising from it, maximize the long-term effectiveness and benefits of restoration interventions; Prepare to integrate new information and guidance emerging from the Restoration Plan into the process of monitoring and adapting the plans.
Are quantitative objectives identified?	NO	None	NO	None	NO	None	SOMEHOW	Reference to 30%, 10% Biodiversity, 20% Restored areas 2030 targets is given. Specific areas to meet these objective are not identified in the plans.
E. Blue circular economy	YES	Links between fisheries and circular economy are identified within the cross-cutting strategic objectives relative to Sustainable development	YES	Links between aquaculture and circular economy are identified within the cross-cutting strategic objectives relative to Sustainable development, and explicitly mentioned in the aquaculture strategic objectives, while implicitly reinforced in few specific objectives at regional level.	NO	None	NO	No links between nature protection and circular economy are considered in the objectives
E.1 Circular design	NO	None	SOMEHOW	OS_A|01 includes elements that are conceptually aligned with circular design principles, such as promoting low-impact materials and better integration between sea-based production and land-based supply chains.	NO	None	NO	None
E.2 Waste prevention	YES	OS_SS|04 - Fully seize the economic opportunities and environmental sustainability benefits derived from the application of the circular economy in the marine sector. The objectives encourage initiatives aimed at prevention, recovery, and recycling of marine litter, as well as valorization of waste from fishing and aquaculture activities and their associated product supply chain, within a bioeconomy framework.	YES	OS_SS|04 - Fully seize the economic opportunities and environmental sustainability benefits derived from the application of the circular economy in the marine sector. The objectives encourage initiatives aimed at prevention, recovery, and recycling of marine litter, as well as valorization of waste from fishing and aquaculture activities and their associated product supply chain, within a bioeconomy framework.	NO	None	NO	None
E.3 Reuse, repair, upgrade, recycle	NO	None	YES	It is explicitly addressed in OS_A|01, which promotes actions to limit the generation of waste from aquaculture activities. Among the specific objectives, (A/4)OSP_A|01 calls for the reduction of plastic use in aquaculture systems, which serves as a targeted prevention measure	NO	None	NO	None
Are quantitative objectives identified?	NO	None	NO	None	NO	None	NO	None
F. Zero pollution	NO	No links between fisheries and zero pollution are mentioned in the objectives	NO	No links between aquaculture and zero pollution are mentioned in the objectives	NO	None	SOMEHOW	No links between nature protection and zero pollution are considered in the objectives. The measures of MSFD are recalled with reference to the spatial ones.
F.1 Pollution prevention	NO	None	NO	None	NO	None	NO	None
F.2 Pollution remediation	NO	None	NO	None	NO	None	NO	None
Are quantitative objectives identified?	NO	None	NO	None	NO	None	NO	None

Fact-sheet 6: EGD analysis by sectors – Measures

Check whether the sector is considered in the measures of the Plan(s) and eventually linked to the main -related topics and the related categories of measures.
Please refer to Table 1 for a list of categories of measures.
Describe findings (list relevant measures by category).
Additional elements can be added to the description when those indicated in Table 1 do not include the type of measures you need to indicate.

	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
Is the sector considered in the measures?	YES	The plans include a set of national measures related to this sector. The plans also include specific measures related to fisheries at regional level scale, for some of the sub-areas under regional competence.	YES	The plans include a set of national measures related to this sector. The plans also include specific measures related to aquaculture at regional level scale, for some of the sub-areas under regional competence.	YES	The plans include a set of national measures related to this sector.	YES	The plans include a set of national measures related to this sector.
Are the measures for the sector linked to any of the following elements?								
A. Climate change mitigation	YES	See below	YES	See below	YES	See below	NO	None
A.1 Renewable energy production, storage and transportation	YES	*A.1.1 Develpment of marine renewable energy installation*	YES	*A.1.4 Multi-use of the sea space: combination including energy installations*	YES	*A.1.1 Development of marine renewable energy installations*	NO	None
		Encourage projects, studies, and research aimed at quantifying the positive and negative effects of offshore wind farm development on fishing activities and fish stocks, considering both territorial waters and offshore areas. Special attention should be given to different types of fishing and the connection systems for transferring energy to land (NAZ_MIS|32)		The Plans link the aquaculture sector to renewable energy production through national measures such as NAZ_MIS|42, which promotes the use of renewable energy along the aquaculture value chain. NAZ_MIS|63 further supports this connection by encouraging research and pilot projects on offshore renewable energy and its potential integration with aquaculture through multi-use configurations. However, the Plans do not explicitly address energy storage or transportation in relation to the aquaculture sector.		Develop national guidelines for the identification of suitable sites for offshore renewable energy (wind, solar, wave, and current energy) NAZ_MIS|60		
						Establish an observatory for monitoring the impacts of offshore wind farms on the environment and other uses of marine and coastal space. NAZ_MIS|62		
						A.1.2 Development of sustainable ocean energy mix		
						Develop national guidelines for the identification of suitable sites for offshore renewable energy (wind, solar, wave, and current energy) NAZ_MIS|60		
						Initiate and support research and innovation activities, including through pilot projects, on i) offshore renewable energy production from sources other than wind (wave motion, tides and currents, solar, and the combination of different sources). NAZ_MIS|63		
A.2 Clean energy transition in maritime sectors	YES	*A.2.3 Initiatives towards emission reduction in other sectors considered by the Plan(s) (e.g. fishing boats)*	YES	*A.2.3 Initiatives towards emission reduction in other sectors considered by the Plan(s) (e.g. fishing boats)*	NO	None	NO	None
		Encourage the adoption of solutions aimed at increasing energy efficiency (particularly regarding vessel energy optimization) and the use of renewable energy in the fisheries sector (NAZ_MIS|31)		The Plans link the aquaculture sector to renewable energy production through national measures such as NAZ_MIS|42, which promotes the use of renewable energy along the aquaculture value chain. NAZ_MIS|63 further supports this connection by encouraging research and pilot projects on offshore renewable energy and its potential integration with aquaculture through multi-use configurations. However, the Plans do not explicitly address energy storage or transportation in relation to the aquaculture sector.				
		Ensure adequate spatial coverage of fleet modernization actions (including energy efficiency improvements for vessels) across all fishing segments, with particular attention to small-scale artisanal fisheries. Promote appropriate conditions for the fishing sector in ports to guarantee safe and decent working conditions for operators and enhance the sector's competitiveness. (NAZ_MIS|30)						
A.3 Transformations in ports (in general)	YES	*A.3 general*	NO	None	NO	None	NO	None
		Support the development of the infrastructure needed for the growth of the sustainable fuels market: refueling infrastructure for alternative fuels and zero-emission fuel recharging facilities at the port hubs of the TEN-T network. NAZ_MIS|53						
		Implement measures to reduce energy demand in ports, particularly through the electrification of quays to enable the cold ironing process, which allows ships to switch off their engines while docked and eliminate emissions in port. NAZ_MIS|54						
A.4 Blue carbon storage	NO	None	NO	None	NO	Include description	NO	None
A.5 Knowledge-related measures	YES	Develop a study on the contribution of MSP plans to achieving national targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and carbon neutrality, with reference both to economic sectors and to the protection, restoration, and rehabilitation of marine ecosystems (with particular focus on so-called blue carbon ecosystems). NAZ_MIS|07	YES	Develop a study on the contribution of MSP plans to achieving national targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and carbon neutrality, with reference both to economic sectors and to the protection, restoration, and rehabilitation of marine ecosystems (with particular focus on so-called blue carbon ecosystems). NAZ_MIS|07	YES	Develop a study on the contribution of MSP plans to achieving national targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and carbon neutrality, with reference both to economic sectors and to the protection, restoration, and rehabilitation of marine ecosystems (with particular focus on so-called blue carbon ecosystems). NAZ_MIS|07	YES	Develop a study on the contribution of MSP plans to achieving national targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and carbon neutrality, with reference both to economic sectors and to the protection, restoration, and rehabilitation of marine ecosystems (with particular focus on so-called blue carbon ecosystems). NAZ_MIS|07

B. Climate change adaptation	SOMEHOW	See below	SOMEHOW	The Plans address climate adaptation in relation to aquaculture sector through NAZ_MIS|43 and NAZ_MIS|47, by promoting the assessment of environmental interactions and the evaluation of carrying capacity, both of which are linked for adapting aquaculture to changing marine conditions.	NO	None	SOMEHOW	See below
B.1 Green infrastructures to enhance coastal resilience and/or to enhance marine connectivity	NO	None	NO	None			NO	None
B.2 Protection of climate-sensitive marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems, and landscapes	NO	None	NO	None				
B.3 Anticipation of climate change-related effects	NO	None	NO	None				
B.4 Knowledge related measures	YES	Develop a multisectorial study on the impact of climate change on national maritime plans and on the related adaptation measures to be considered in a medium-term evaluation of the MSP plans. NAZ_MIS|06	YES	Develop a multisectorial study on the impact of climate change on national maritime plans and on the related adaptation measures to be considered in a medium-term evaluation of the MSP plans. NAZ_MIS|06	NO	None	YES	Develop a multisectorial study on the impact of climate change on national maritime plans and on the related adaptation measures to be considered in a medium-term evaluation of the MSP plans. NAZ_MIS|06
C. Sustainable food production	YES	The plans contain several measures addressing the sustainability of fisheries, also linked with A. Climate change mitigation and D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoraion	YES	The plans contain several measures addressing the sustainability of aquaculture, also linked with A. Climate change mitigation and D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoraion	NO	None	NO	None
C.1 Sustainable fisheries	YES	*C.1.1 Improving the state of fish stocks*	NO	None	NO	None	NO	None
		Support the appropriate spatial distribution of investments to align fishing capacity with the objectives of the European and national multi-annual plans for the Management of Sub-Geographical Areas (GSA), in order to contribute to the reduction of the pressure on fish stocks and promote their sustainable exploitation (NAZ_MIS|33)						
		Encourage projects, studies, and research aimed at: (i) promoting an adequate spatial presence of small-scale fisheries, (ii) enhancing its sustainability, (iii) directing actions to strengthen related skills and develop human capital, and (iv) implementing monitoring programs and data collection on small-scale coastal fisheries and recreational fisheries, as well as studies to quantify the interactions between these activities and their impact on marine habitats and species. (NAZ_MIS|34)						
		Within the framework of national, EU, and international cooperation initiatives (e.g., FAO-GFCM, CBD), identify, propose, and/or strengthen multi-level governance systems (ranging from transnational to national, inter-regional, and sectoral scales) that define and promote coordinated measures for monitoring, the sustainable management of shared fishery resources, the management of interactions between different fishing systems, and the protection of wide-ranging protected species. (NAZ_MIS|38).						
		C.1.2 Minimize fishing impacts on vulnerable habitats						
		Integrated evaluation of the status of Essential Fish Habitats (EFH) of main halieutic species, aimed at the identification of areas needing specific measures for the spatial management of fisheries and fish stocks (e.g. FRAs). This assessment - and its related periodic monitoring - should be carried out primarily within the areas with the 0-6 nautical miles from the coastline (NAZ_MIS|37).						
		C.1.4 Combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) (also including enhanced traceability systems)						
		Support and strengthen efforts to combat illegal fishing through co-management schemes, as well as by upgrading the technology of monitoring networks in all maritime areas. (NAZ_MIS|40).						
		C.1.5 ntroduction and strengthening of digitalization and advanced tools for fisheries						
		Carry out studies and pilot projects to extend the use of VMS and/or AIS systems to fishery segments currently not monitored (small boats), possibly through the adoption of low-cost technological systems (NAZ_MIS|41).						
		C.1.6 Multi-use of the sea space: combination including fisheries				*C.1.6 Multi-use of the sea space: combination including fisheries*	NO	None

		Support the development of coastal and maritime eco-tourism initiatives also in a multi-use perspective, e.g. with fishing and aquaculture) (NAZ_MIS|75).				NAZ_MIS|63 Encourages research and pilot projects on offshore renewable energy and its potential integration with fisheries through multi-use configurations. NAZ_MIS|65 Offshore renewable energy installations must adopt solutions to reduce conflicts and promote, wherever possible and in compliance with safety requirements, coexistence with other uses of the sea (for example: permeability for maritime transport, fixed-gear fishing, sand extraction for coastal protection works, offshore aquaculture facilities, managed tourism, scientific research), also by drawing on international best practices.		
		C.1.7 Coordinated, transboundary initiatives						
		Within the framework of national, EU, and international cooperation initiatives (e.g., FAO-GFCM, CBD), identify, propose, and/or strengthen multi-level governance systems (ranging from transnational to national, inter-regional, and sectoral scales) that define and promote coordinated measures for monitoring, the sustainable management of shared fishery resources, the management of interactions between different fishing systems, and the protection of wide-ranging protected species. (NAZ_MIS|38).						
		Strengthen international dialogue and coordination for the management of fishing activities in international waters to prevent disputes and ensure the safe operation of Italian fisheries. (NAZ_MIS|39).						
C.2 Sustainable aquaculture (both for fish and shellfish)	NO	None	YES	*C.2.1 Development of marine aquaculture installations* *C.2.2 Development of organic marine aquaculture, IMTA, low-trophic aquaculture* *C.2.4 Multi-use of the sea space: combinations including marine aquaculture*	YES	C.2.4 Multi-use	NO	None
	NO	None		The Plans establish a clear and comprehensive connection between the aquaculture sector and the element Sustainable aquaculture, both for fish and shellfish, through an integrated set of national and regional measures. At the national level, 6 measures from NAZ_MIS|42 to NAZ_MIS|47, which are entirely dedicated to aquaculture, promote sustainability across the full production cycle. These include the adoption of energy-efficient and renewable energy practices, the integration of aquaculture with environmental protection objectives, the development and harmonisation of AZA plans to ensure ecologically appropriate site selection, the support for diversification and technological innovation, and the assessment of carrying capacity and ecosystem services to align production with ecological limits.		NAZ_MIS|63 Encourages research and pilot projects on offshore renewable energy and its potential integration with aquaculture through multi-use configurations. NAZ_MIS|65 Offshore renewable energy installations must adopt solutions to reduce conflicts and promote, wherever possible and in compliance with safety requirements, coexistence with other uses of the sea (for example: permeability for maritime transport, fixed-gear fishing, sand extraction for coastal protection works, offshore aquaculture facilities, managed tourism, scientific research), also by drawing on international best practices.	NO	None
				C.2.2 Development of organic marine aquaculture, IMPTA, low trophic aquaculture		NAZ_MIS|63 Encourages research and pilot projects on offshore renewable energy and its potential integration with aquaculture through multi-use configurations. NAZ_MIS|65 Offshore renewable energy installations must adopt solutions to reduce conflicts and promote, wherever possible and in compliance with safety requirements, coexistence with other uses of the sea (for example: permeability for maritime transport, fixed-gear fishing, sand extraction for coastal protection works, offshore aquaculture facilities, managed tourism, scientific research), also by drawing on international best practices.		
				NAZ_MIS|46 encourages diversification of production and investment in innovative systems, which could include IMTA, algae production and other types of innovative cultivations				
C.3 Sustainable algae production	NO	None	SOMEHOW	*C.3.1 Development of marine alge production*	NO	Include description	NO	None
				NAZ_MIS|46 encourages diversification of production and investment in innovative systems, which could include IMTA, algae production and other types of innovative cultivations				
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration	YES	See below	YES	See below	SOMEHOW	See below	YES	See below
D.1 Elements to improve marine connectivity (e.g. among submarine canyons, reefs, etc.) and elements to achieve a coherent network of effective marine protected areas	YES	See below		D.1 generic	NO	None		

				The Plans address biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration in relation to the aquaculture sector, through both national and regional measures. At the national level, NAZ_MIS|43 promotes studies and pilot projects focused on managing interactions between aquaculture and Natura 2000 sites, including the use of tools such as Zones of Acceptable Effect and environmental monitoring. NAZ_MIS|47 supports the assessment of carrying capacity and ecosystem services, contributing to the ecological sustainability of aquaculture across maritime areas.				*D.1.1, D.1.2 Establish new MPAs, Estblish new OECMs*
		D.1.2 Establishment of new or enlargement of N2K and OECMs (30% target)						
		Promote agreements and co-management platforms between small-scale fishers and the entities/organizations responsible for managing protected coastal and marine areas (MPAs, coastal and marine sites of the Natura 2000 Network, national or regional parks that include coastal and marine areas, etc.). NAZ_MIS|35						
	D.1.5	*Multi-use of the sea space: combination including biodiversity and ecosystem protection*						
D.2 Restoring marine and coastal ecosystems	NO	None	NO	None	NO	None	YES	See below
								D.2.2 Restoring marine degraded ecosystems
								Prepare the National Environmental Restoration Plan, identifying priority areas for restoration and the measures and methods to be adopted, in a synergistic and complementary manner with the implementation and monitoring process of the Maritime Spatial Plans.NAZ_MIS|18
D.3 Knowledge-related measures	NO	None	NO	None	NO	None	YES	See below
								Improve knowledge on the distribution of habitats and species relevant for the implementation of the European Nature Restoration Law.
								Establish a monitoring program at national level fo marine mega fauna NAZ_MIS|14
D.4 Governace related measures	NO	None	NO	None	YES	See below	YES	See below
						Within national Marine Protected Areas, Special Protection Zones (pursuant to Ministerial Decree of October 17, 2007, Art. 5, paragraph 1), and marine areas included in national or regional parks, the installation of offshore wind farms is prohibited, with the exception of micro-wind systems that may be used for self-consumption, including the supply of energy for activities permitted within the protected area.		Establish an Technical table to identify new MPAs, N2K sites and OECMs NAZ_MIS|15
E. Blue circular economy	YES	Include description	YES	The Plans explicitly link aquaculture to Blue circular economy through national measures, particularly NAZ_MIS|09, which promotes integrating maritime spatial planning with the National Circular Economy Strategy and explicitly references the aquaculture sector. While measures specifically addressing reuse and recycling (E.3) have already been mentioned, measure NAZ_MIS|09 provides a broader strategic framework for the circular economy.	NO	None	NO	None
E.1 Circular design	NO	None	NO	None	NO	None	NO	None
E.2 Waste prevention	YES	See below	YES	Include description	NO	None	NO	None
		E.2 general		E.2 (general)				
		Support the development of a recovery, reuse, and recycling supply chain for by-products from aquaculture and professional fishing activities. NAZ_MIS|11		Support the development of a recovery, reuse, and recycling supply chain for by-products from aquaculture and professional fishing activities. NAZ_MIS|11				
		Support the creation of a recovery, re-use and recycling chain for aquaculture and fishery by-products and waste. This measure should be implemented in synergy with actions aimed at the environmental and socio-economic requalification of coastal industrial areas in crisis or under decommission (NAZ_MIS|11).		The Plans explicitly link aquaculture to the element, through national measure NAZ_MIS|11, which directly promotes the recovery, reuse, and recycling of by-products from aquaculture activities. Additionally, NAZ_MIS|09 explicitly encourages integration between the maritime spatial plans and the National Circular Economy Strategy, enhancing synergies for reuse and recycling within aquaculture value chains.				
E.3 Reuse, repair, upgrade, recycle	YES	*E.3.2 Development of boat repairing, refitting, dismantling services in yards and marinas*	YES	*E.3.2 Development of boat repairing, refitting, dismantling services in yards and marinas*	NO	None	NO	None
		Support the development of a national supply chain for the recovery, dismantling, and reuse/recycling of end-of-life recreational, sport, and fishing boats, wherever possible in synergy with actions aimed at the redevelopment of declining/decommissioned coastal industrial areas and environmental remediation. NAZ_MIS|12		Support the development of a national supply chain for the recovery, dismantling, and reuse/recycling of end-of-life recreational, sport, and fishing boats, wherever possible in synergy with actions aimed at the redevelopment of declining/decommissioned coastal industrial areas and environmental remediation. NAZ_MIS|12				
F. Zero pollution	NO				NO			
F.1 Pollution prevention	NO	None	NO	None		Include description	NO	None
F.2 Pollution remediation	NO	None	NO	None		Include description	NO	None

Fact-sheet 7: Fair and just transition

	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
WHO								
Who were considered as stakeholders and how were they identified?		From the very beginning of the MSP process, all 15 Italian coastal Regions were actively involved in the development of the plans. Each Region established inter-departmental working groups to support internal coordination, including the participation of Regional Departments responsible for fisheries and aquaculture. Additionally, during the official public consultation phase, 40 entities submitted official observations on the draft MS Italian Plans, including a significant number of organisations representing the fisheries sector. Among these: (i) at least 16 entities were explicitly identified as fisheries cooperatives, consortia, or sectoral associations; (ii) these included both local-level fishing cooperatives (e.g., Capitan Morgan Soc. Coop, Fiordipesca Soc. Coop, Gambero Rosso Soc. Coop, Olimpia Soc. Coop, Piccola Pesca Monterosso al Mare Soc. Coop, Società Cooperativa Pescatori Imperia) and regional/national associations (e.g., Legacoop Agroalimentare, AGCI AGRITAL, CONFCOOPERATIVE FVG, FEDAGRIPESCA PUGLIA, API – Associazione Piscicoltori Italiani, Legacoop Veneto, Legacoop Liguria).		Stakeholders in aquaculture were primarily identified through regional departments responsible for fisheries and aquaculture, which were involved throughout the planning process. Additionally, during the official public consultation, sectoral associations such as Associazione Piscicoltori Italiani – API, cooperatives, and private companies operating in marine farming submitted observations.		ORE stakeholders included industry associations (e.g. ANEV, Elettricità Futura), energy companies (e.g. ENI, Terna), and regional energy departments. Notably dedicated bilateral meetings with Terna were organised during the process.		Nature protection stakeholder included: regional department of the environment, Regional Agency for Environmental Prevention and Protection, Park authorities. Entities such as WWF, Legambiente, and ALTURA ODV were also involved by submitting observations during both the MS plans and SEA public consultation. Notably, two bilateral meetings were organised with WWF, indicating a more structured engagement.
Were the characteristics of the stakeholders (e.g., gender, class, ethnicity, age and/or disability) considered in stakeholder participations?	NO	These socio-demographic characteristics were not explicitly considered in the stakeholder engagement process. Participation mechanisms did not include procedures or tools aimed at identifying or addressing the needs of underrepresented or disadvantaged groups, nor were gender or age dynamics within the sector explicitly acknowledged.	NO	These socio-demographic characteristics were not explicitly considered in the stakeholder engagement process. Participation mechanisms did not include procedures or tools aimed at identifying or addressing the needs of underrepresented or disadvantaged groups, nor were gender or age dynamics within the sector explicitly acknowledged.	NO	These socio-demographic characteristics were not explicitly considered in the stakeholder engagement process. Participation mechanisms did not include procedures or tools aimed at identifying or addressing the needs of underrepresented or disadvantaged groups, nor were gender or age dynamics within the sector explicitly acknowledged.	NO	These socio-demographic characteristics were not explicitly considered in the stakeholder engagement process. Participation mechanisms did not include procedures or tools aimed at identifying or addressing the needs of underrepresented or disadvantaged groups, nor were gender or age dynamics within the sector explicitly acknowledged.
Were local participatory initiatives (such as community-led local development groups, fisheries local action groups etc.) arranged/considered?	NO	Local participatory initiatives in the fisheries sector—such as community-led local development groups and Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs)—were only marginally considered in the Italian MSP process. Participation from the fisheries sector occurred primarily during the public consultation phase. As mentioned above, approximately 16 entities representing the fisheries sector, including cooperatives, consortia, and professional associations, submitted official observations and integrated within the Plans.	NO	Similar to fisheries.	NO	Limited, except for dedicated bilateral meeting with Terna. During the public consultation phase, 7 entities submitted observations primarily related to the energy sector.	NO	Local participatory initiatives in "nature conservation" were not formally arranged or systematically considered within the MSP process. However, participation was more structured during the public consultation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), where 34 entities submitted observations. These included regional environmental protection agencies (e.g., ARPA Toscana, ARPA Veneto, ARPA Puglia), park authorities, regional environmental departments, conservation NGOs such as WWF, LIPU, ALTURA, and protected area managers like the Azienda Speciale Parco di Porto Conte and the WWF-managed Saline di Trapani e Paceco. Although this ensured strong institutional engagement, grassroots and community-led nature conservation groups were not explicitly involved, and no dedicated participatory mechanisms were established to support their inclusion. Nonetheless, more structured interactions did occur with some national NGOs—two bilateral meetings were held with WWF—indicating selective but limited efforts to engage key environmental stakeholders.
Was sufficient sectoral/group representation of stakeholders ensured in the planning process?	NO	From the feedback received during the formal public consultation, it emerged that representation of the fisheries sector was perceived as incomplete. Several stakeholders from both the small-scale and industrial fishing sectors raised concerns about the lack of direct engagement. Despite these gaps, the MS Italian plans include a national-level measure (NAZ_MIS|01) explicitly aimed at reinforcing stakeholder engagement across all phases of implementation, with particular attention to sectors of major social relevance such as fisheries.	NO	Similar to fisheries.	NO	Include description	NO	Similar to fisheries. Observations received during the formal public consultation of the MS Plans and SEA emerged that representation of NGOs and environmental associations was perceived not enough sufficient.
Does the Plan promote gender balance in maritime professions?	NO	The Italian MSP Plans do not address gender balance in the fisheries sector or in maritime professions more broadly. The issue of gender equality, as well as the inclusion of women in any activity-related decision-making or employment, is not mentioned among the objectives, measures, or analytical components of the Plans.	NO	The Italian MSP Plans do not address gender balance in the fisheries sector or in maritime professions more broadly. The issue of gender equality, as well as the inclusion of women in any activity-related decision-making or employment, is not mentioned among the objectives, measures, or analytical components of the Plans.	NO	The Italian MSP Plans do not address gender balance in the fisheries sector or in maritime professions more broadly. The issue of gender equality, as well as the inclusion of women in any activity-related decision-making or employment, is not mentioned among the objectives, measures, or analytical components of the Plans.	NO	The Italian MSP Plans do not address gender balance in the fisheries sector or in maritime professions more broadly. The issue of gender equality, as well as the inclusion of women in any activity-related decision-making or employment, is not mentioned among the objectives, measures, or analytical components of the Plans.
WHEN								

Just and inclusive transition: "No one left behind" - Stakeholder participation by sectors.
Describe findings

In what phase or which phases of the MSP process was stakeholder involvement organised?		Stakeholders were involved in different ways during the MSP process: (i) The fisheries departments of coastal Regions were continuously engaged throughout all planning phases, actively contributing to the definition of for identification of visions/specific objectives/planning units/vocations/measures (ii) Local-level fisheries stakeholders, such as fishing cooperatives and sectoral associations, were primarily involved during the formal public consultation (15 Sept – 30 Oct 2022) by submitting observations on the draft plans.		Similar to fisheries.		Similar to fisheries.		For the nature conservation sector, stakeholder involvement occurred at different levels and phases: (i) Regional environmental departments were actively involved throughout all phases of the MSP process. As part of the interdepartmental working groups established by the coastal Regions, they contributed to the definition of environmental priorities and for identification of visions/specific objectives/planning units/vocations/measures. (ii) Additional stakeholder engagement occurred during the formal public consultation of the MSP Plans (15 September – 30 October 2022), where several environmental NGOs and protected area managers—including WWF, LIPU, ALTURA, and the Azienda Speciale Parco di Porto Conte—submitted official observations. (iii) In parallel, a wide range of actors participated in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) public consultation, with 34 entities contributing, including ARPAs, park authorities, regional administrations, and conservation organisations. Notably, two bilateral meetings were held with WWF to discuss critical environmental aspects of the plans.
Was it made clear how and at what stages stakeholders can participate in the planning process? Was there an interaction plan		No formal interaction or communication plan was provided. Stakeholders were informed primarily through the Competent Authority's website. Participation was mainly limited to the consultation phase, with limited guidance on engagement during earlier stages.		No formal interaction or communication plan was provided. Stakeholders were informed primarily through the Competent Authority's website. Participation was mainly limited to the consultation phase, with limited guidance on engagement during earlier stages.		No formal interaction or communication plan was provided. Stakeholders were informed primarily through the Competent Authority's website. Participation was mainly limited to the consultation phase, with limited guidance on engagement during earlier stages.		No formal interaction or communication plan was provided. Stakeholders were informed primarily through the Competent Authority's website. Participation was mainly limited to the consultation phase, with limited guidance on engagement during earlier stages.
HOW								
Was the local and expert knowledge integrated?	YES	Local knowledge was integrated mainly through the involvement of Regional administrations, which provided data and sectoral insights. Expert knowledge was incorporated via the Scientific Team supporting the national MSP process.	YES or NO	Local knowledge was integrated mainly through the involvement of Regional administrations, which provided data and sectoral insights. Expert knowledge was incorporated via the Scientific Team supporting the national MSP process.	YES or NO	Local knowledge was integrated mainly through the involvement of Regional administrations, which provided data and sectoral insights. Expert knowledge was incorporated via the Scientific Team supporting the national MSP process.	YES or NO	Local knowledge was integrated mainly through the involvement of Regional administrations, which provided data and sectoral insights. Expert knowledge was incorporated via the Scientific Team supporting the national MSP process.
Were citizen science perspectives considered?	NO	Citizen science perspectives were not explicitly considered in the planning process.	YES or NO	Citizen science perspectives were not explicitly considered in the planning process.	YES or NO	Citizen science perspectives were not explicitly considered in the planning process.	YES or NO	Citizen science perspectives were not explicitly considered in the planning process.
What methods were used in participation (workshops, scenarios, matrixes of use and interactions etc.)?		Coastal Regions were engaged through a series of online workshops supported by spatial representations of environmental features and marine uses in their areas, integrated with different zoning options. In several cases, Regions also organised local discussions and meetings supported by their own GIS systems. During dedicated workshops with Regions, interactive participation tools such as Miro and the MSP Challenge platform were used to collect additional inputs, facilitate scenario exploration, and stimulate discussion among regional experts and planners. For the formal public consultation, only online presentations were provided at national level, and written comments were requested and received through the competent authority's website.		Coastal Regions were engaged through a series of online workshops supported by spatial representations of environmental features and marine uses in their areas, integrated with different zoning options. In several cases, Regions also organised local discussions and meetings supported by their own GIS systems. During dedicated workshops with Regions, interactive participation tools such as Miro and the MSP Challenge platform were used to collect additional inputs, facilitate scenario exploration, and stimulate discussion among regional experts and planners. For the formal public consultation, only online presentations were provided at national level, and written comments were requested and received through the competent authority's website.		Coastal Regions were engaged through a series of online workshops supported by spatial representations of environmental features and marine uses in their areas, integrated with different zoning options. In several cases, Regions also organised local discussions and meetings supported by their own GIS systems. During dedicated workshops with Regions, interactive participation tools such as Miro and the MSP Challenge platform were used to collect additional inputs, facilitate scenario exploration, and stimulate discussion among regional experts and planners. For the formal public consultation, only online presentations were provided at national level, and written comments were requested and received through the competent authority's website.		Coastal Regions were engaged through a series of online workshops supported by spatial representations of environmental features and marine uses in their areas, integrated with different zoning options. In several cases, Regions also organised local discussions and meetings supported by their own GIS systems. During dedicated workshops with Regions, interactive participation tools such as Miro and the MSP Challenge platform were used to collect additional inputs, facilitate scenario exploration, and stimulate discussion among regional experts and planners. For the formal public consultation, only online presentations were provided at national level, and written comments were requested and received through the competent authority's website.
What was the capacity of participants to influence planning decisions?		The capacity to influence planning decisions varied across stakeholder types and phases of the process, but overall it remained limited and uneven. Regional authorities, including departments responsible for fisheries, aquaculture, energy, and environment, had the greatest influence, as they were directly involved in all operational phases of the MSP process and contributed to defining planning units, vocations, and sector-specific measures within their maritime zones. In contrast, non-institutional stakeholders—such as fishing cooperatives, aquaculture operators, energy developers, and environmental NGOs—had the opportunity to participate primarily during the formal public consultation and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). While some feedback led to adjustments in zoning or specific measures (e.g. minor changes in planning unit vocations or clarifications in objectives), most contributions were consultative and did not result in substantial modifications to the plans. Targeted interactions, such as bilateral meetings with WWF or TERNA, provided more direct channels for influencing the environmental dimension, but such mechanisms were exceptional rather than systemic. Overall, the process lacked a structured approach to ensure broad and balanced influence from all sectors throughout the planning cycle.		The capacity to influence planning decisions varied across stakeholder types and phases of the process, but overall it remained limited and uneven. 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Targeted interactions, such as bilateral meetings with WWF or TERNA, provided more direct channels for influencing the environmental dimension, but such mechanisms were exceptional rather than systemic. Overall, the process lacked a structured approach to ensure broad and balanced influence from all sectors throughout the planning cycle.

Others	Develop and implement a long-term strategy for the participation and engagement of stakeholders in the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation process of maritime plans, with a view to their future updates. Particular attention will be given to sectors with strong social roots (e.g., small-scale fisheries, recreational fishing, managing bodies of protected natural areas, associations with interests related to the coastal territory and marine environment), to local administrations, and to the general public. NAZ_MIS|01	Develop and implement a long-term strategy for the participation and engagement of stakeholders in the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation process of maritime plans, with a view to their future updates. Particular attention will be given to sectors with strong social roots (e.g., small-scale fisheries, recreational fishing, managing bodies of protected natural areas, associations with interests related to the coastal territory and marine environment), to local administrations, and to the general public. NAZ_MIS|01		Develop and implement a long-term strategy for the participation and engagement of stakeholders in the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation process of maritime plans, with a view to their future updates. Particular attention will be given to sectors with strong social roots (e.g., small-scale fisheries, recreational fishing, managing bodies of protected natural areas, associations with interests related to the coastal territory and marine environment), to local administrations, and to the general public. NAZ_MIS|01
	Develop methodologies and tools for the quantitative assessment of the socio-economic effects of plan decisions, to support the adaptive management phases of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP). The assessments carried out within this activity will specifically examine the effects of the plan on the various sectors of the blue economy, as well as on certain categories of stakeholders (e.g., local communities, smaller and local economic sectors). NAZ_MIS|03	Develop methodologies and tools for the quantitative assessment of the socio-economic effects of plan decisions, to support the adaptive management phases of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP). The assessments carried out within this activity will specifically examine the effects of the plan on the various sectors of the blue economy, as well as on certain categories of stakeholders (e.g., local communities, smaller and local economic sectors). NAZ_MIS|03		Develop and implement a long-term strategy for the participation and engagement of stakeholders in the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation process of maritime plans, with a view to their future updates. Particular attention will be given to sectors with strong social roots (e.g., small-scale fisheries, recreational fishing, managing bodies of protected natural areas, associations with interests related to the coastal territory and marine environment), to local administrations, and to the general public. NAZ_MIS|01

Fact-sheet 8: Cross-cutting elements

Describe findings with reference to each sector

	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
Research and innovation								
Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to increase the availability of reliable, high-quality ocean and maritime data?	YES or NO	Include description	YES or NO	Include description	YES or NO	Include description	YES or NO	Include description
Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to support research on the marine environment?	YES or NO	Include description	YES or NO	Include description	YES or NO	Include description	YES or NO	Include description
Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to support research and technological innovation in maritime sectors?	YES	Encourage projects, studies, and research aimed at quantifying the positive and negative effects of offshore wind farm development on fishing activities and fish stocks, considering both territorial waters and offshore areas. Special attention should be given to different types of fishing and the connection systems for transferring energy to land (NAZ_MIS|32)	YES	Develop a study on the contribution of MSP plans to achieving national targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and carbon neutrality, with reference both to economic sectors and to the protection, restoration, and rehabilitation of marine ecosystems (with particular focus on so-called blue carbon ecosystems). NAZ_MIS|07	YES	Develop a study on the contribution of MSP plans to achieving national targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and carbon neutrality, with reference both to economic sectors and to the protection, restoration, and rehabilitation of marine ecosystems (with particular focus on so-called blue carbon ecosystems). NAZ_MIS|07	YES	Include descriptionDevelop a multisectorial study on the impact of climate change on national maritime plans and on the related adaptation measures to be considered in a medium-term evaluation of the MSP plans. NAZ_MIS|06
	YES	Develop a study on the contribution of MSP plans to achieving national targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and carbon neutrality, with reference both to economic sectors and to the protection, restoration, and rehabilitation of marine ecosystems (with particular focus on so-called blue		Develop a multisectorial study on the impact of climate change on national maritime plans and on the related adaptation measures to be considered in a medium-term evaluation of the MSP plans. NAZ_MIS|06				Establish a monitoring program at national level fo marine mega fauna NAZ_MIS|14
		Develop a multisectorial study on the impact of climate change on national maritime plans and on the related adaptation measures to be considered in a medium-term evaluation of the MSP plans. NAZ_MIS|06						Improve knowledge on the distribution of habitats and species relevant for the implementation of the European Nature Restoration Law.
Education and training		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to address education, skill development and training in maritime professions?	YES	Include appropriate actions aimed at training operators in the fisheries sector on the sustainability aspects of professional fishing. NAZ_MIS|30	YES or NO	Include description	YES or NO	Include description	YES or NO	Include description
Cross-border cooperation in MSP								
Is cooperation on specific sectors foreseen by the Plan(s)	YES	Within the framework of national, EU, and international cooperation initiatives (e.g., FAO-GFCM, CBD), identify, propose, and/or strengthen multi-level governance systems (ranging from transnational to national, inter-regional, and sectoral scales) that define and promote coordinated measures for monitoring, the sustainable management of shared fishery resources, the management of interactions between different fishing systems, and the protection of wide-ranging protected species. (NAZ_MIS|38).	YES or NO	Include description	YES or NO	Include description	YES or NO	Include description
Is cooperation on specific sectors foreseen by the Plan(s)	YES	Strengthen international dialogue and coordination for the management of fishing activities in international waters to prevent disputes and ensure the safe operation of Italian fisheries. (NAZ_MIS|39).						

Fact-sheet 9: Zoning

Provide information on identification of areas with EGD features. Describe features of these areas in terms of management of uses and measures in place. Provide total extension in km2 of each typology in the entire Plan spatial domain and the relative percentage.

FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
Dedicated areas	YES	Dedicated areas	YES	Dedicated areas	YES??	Dedicated areas	YES
The PUs prioritised for fisheries (p) in the Italian MSP plans mainly relies on data provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forests (MASAF), specifically with high fishing effort levels related to GSA 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, and 19. This information was complemented by cooperation between MASAF and the fisheries departments of the coastal Regions identifying areas of particular interest for professional fishing activities, commercial and small-scale artisanal fisheries. The analysis of 64 planning units (PUs) where fisheries are prioritised illustrates the complex multi-use configuration of Italian marine space and the essential need for integrated governance. Fisheries are rarely assigned in isolation; instead, they frequently overlap with other maritime uses or protection objectives, requiring careful spatial coordination. Notably, 17 PUs combine fisheries with nature conservation (n), signalling the importance of managing fisheries in ecologically valuable or protected areas to ensure compatibility with biodiversity conservation goals. Maritime transport (tm) is co-prioritised with fisheries in 20 PUs. Fisheries also coexist with tourism (t) in 7 PUs, where shared space may foster opportunities for synergies, such as pesca-tourism.		The Italian MSP plans identify 24 planning units (PUs) prioritised for aquaculture in areas considered highly suitable, based on regional Allocated Zones for Aquaculture (AZA) processes. These PUs were defined through consultation with coastal regional offices managing AZA initiatives. In line with the national objective to promote high-quality aquaculture and support AZA identification, co-defined with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty, the Plans assign priority to these areas while acknowledging their interaction with other key uses. These PUs reflect a diverse spatial configuration where aquaculture is rarely assigned in isolation and often coexists with other uses, highlighting the multi-use character and the need for integrated management. Among the 24 units, only 3 PUs prioritise aquaculture alone, indicating limited areas where aquaculture does not directly interact with other maritime sectors. The remaining PUs combine aquaculture with other uses (such as fishery, tourism, maritime transport and nature and landscape), explicitly highlighting potential spatial conflicts and the need for coordinated management measures.		The planning units (PUs) prioritised for offshore renewable energy (ORE) in the Italian MSP plans represent a limited part of the national maritime space. The majority of planning units prioritising energy (e) are predominantly linked to hydrocarbon cultivation, in alignment with national policies such as the PITESAI. These areas currently host hydrocarbon extraction activities, with platforms, support structures, submarine pipelines, and marine terminals operating under existing regulations. Among the 10 PUs where energy (e) is prioritised, only 4 PUs specifically mention offshore renewable energy as an area of interes • A/3_07 (P(e)) and A/3_11 (P(tm,e)), both characterised by existing hydrocarbon extraction infrastructure, but with potential for renewable energy development and reuse of decommissioned platforms. • MO/3_21 (P(e)) and MO/3_22 (P(tm,p,e)), characterised by deep waters (250–600 m) and significant distance from shore (>20 km), identified as suitable for future offshore wind energy installations.		Based on existing knowledge of marine habitats, biodiversity, established conservation measures, and the spatial distribution of maritime activities, the Italian MSP plans define planning units (PUs) vocating nature conservation by assigning Priority (P), Limited (L), or Reserved (R) types based on the protection status of the area. • P-type nature conservation applies to sites lacking management plans or special restrictions (e.g., Natura 2000, EBSA, PSSA), often alongside potential conflicting uses like maritime transport, fishing, or tourism to encourage coexistence and mitigation. • L or R types are assigned to existing MPAs or National Parks with management plans, aligning PU boundaries with protected area perimeters and excluding double vocations. The Plans do not create new protected areas but provide guidance on where future designations could extend marine protection. Environmental and resource protection is prioritized: 1. In PUs covering existing or planned protected areas (e.g. MPAs, National Parks); 2. In areas under other regimes (e.g. Natura 2000 sites, Pelagos Sanctuary, Bonifacio PSSA, Ecological Protection Zone of the Tyrrhenian Sea); 3. In high ecological value areas (e.g. EBSA, IMMA, CCH, IBA, hard-bottom and deep habitats, iconic species occurrences).	
94121,71 [km2] - n°65 PUs		9831,47 [km2] - n°24 PUs		5726,98 [km2] - n°10 PUs		276964,05 [km2] priority - n°124 PUs 4197,85 [km2] limited-reserved - n°33 PUs 281161,9 [km2] total - n°157 PUs	
17,15% with respect to the total Plan area		1,8% with respect to the total Plan area		1,04% with respect to the total Plan area		50,47% [km2] with respect to the total Plan area | **priority** 0,07% [km2] with respect to the total Plan area | **limited-reserved** 51,24% [km2] with respect to the total Plan area | **total**	
				How much energy those areas are supposed to produce (if available in the plans) **Not available**			

A2.5 Fact sheets - Malta

Fact-sheet 1: General features	
Country	Malta
Sea Basin(s)	Mediterranean
Number of MSP Plans developed by the country	One
Titles of the Plan(s)	Strategic Plan for Environment and Development (SPED)
Responsible authority	Planning Authority (PA) of Malta
Legal dimension of the Plan(s): e.g. legally binding/guiding, strategic, etc.	Legally binding, strategic
Geographic scope of the Plan(s): e.g. terrestrial and marine, only marine, marine and the coastal terrestrial strip	Terrestrial and marine
Total marine area interested by the Plan(s) (in km2)	SPED covers the marine waters up to the extent of 25 nautical mile limit of the Fisheries Conservation Zone (adopted by Council Regulation EC No. 1967/2006) - 11,354 sq km
Map representing the geographic scope of the Plan(s)	Yes
Starting date for Plan(s) preparation	SPED was envisaged in the Environment and Development Planning Act from 2010
Date of adoption/enter into force	Adopted by national parliament in July 2015
Round of MSP (1st cycle, 2nd cycle), starting? (specify year)	1st cyle (2014 - 2020); 1st review is in progress
Additional relevant information on MSP process e.g. interim assessments, in-progress or foreseen anticipated revisions, etc.	

Fact-sheet 2: Operational elements	
How are the Plan(s) documents organised? Are the Plan(s) self-consistent or do they refer to other strategic documents?	Entire chapter 3 of SPED refers to national policies, plans and programmes that SPED refers to (41 in total)
Sectors and uses of the sea considered by the Plan(s) - **See below a list of sectors and sea uses**	SPED extends to many "terrestrial" sectors as well. But regarding Maritime sectors it explicitally mentions - Fishing (small scale fisheries and trawling); aquaculture; maritime transport; oil and gas; renewable energy: dive sites; swimming zones; infrastructure and bunkering)
Does the Plan consider a multi-scalar approach ?	
Does the Plan include zoning of the sea space?	YES (1, 12, 24 and 25 nautical miles from the coast)
How does the Plan distribute uses in the different zones?	Yes, in particular for the 1 and 12 nautical miles from the coast) while harbour approaching routes expand further
Is zoning prescriptive (i.e. "this should come here")? Is planning indicative (i.e. "this can come here")	It is prescriptive

Fact-sheet 3: Policy context

This part of the analysis is aimed to identify the main EGD related policies/strategies the Plan is based on and that have been considered to define vision/ objectives/ zoning/ measures. Check whether reference is made in the Plan(s) to the main EGD related policy documents. Describe findings. Please indicate other relevant EU/International policies/strategies of relevance for the Plan(s), when linked to EGD objectives (including older versions of EU policy elements), as well as of national relevance, Describe findings.	The European Green Deal. COM(2019) 640 final	NO	All these policies were issued after the SPED was adopted. However, different EU directives are refferences, not in SPED; but in its Stretaegic Environmental Assssment (such as Habitats Directive, Birds Directive, MSFD…)
	A new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the EU Transforming the EU's Blue Economy for a Sustainable Future. COM(2021) 240 final		
	An EU Strategy to harness the potential of offshore renewable energy for a climate neutral future. COM(2020) 741 final.		
	REPowerEU Plan. COM(2022) 230 final		
	An European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy in accordance with the Paris Agreement (2019/2582(RSP))		
	EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives. COM(2021) 380 final		
	A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system. COM(2020) 381 final.		
	Pathway to a Healthy Planet for All EU Action Plan: 'Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil". COM(2021) 400 final		
	A new Circular Economy Action Plan for a cleaner and more competitive Europe. COM(2020) 98 final.		
	Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030 COM/2021/236 final		

Fact-sheet 4: : EGD analysis by sectors – Vision and/or strategic documents

Check whether the sector is considered and eventually linked to any of the main EGD topics in the vision or in any strategic document providing guidance to the Plan(s). Describe findings.
Explanation:
For FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE: Is the green transition of the sector considered in the vision, by referring to any of the key EDG topics?
For ORE: Is the sector's development considered in the vision, by referring to any key EDG topics?
For NATURE PROTECTION: Check whether it is considered and eventually linked to any of the main EGD topics

	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION		
Is the sector considered in the vision?	YES	In the part of the Vision that refers to Coastal Zone and Maritime Area it is mentioned that it is essential to "sustain the livelihood of the fishing community"	NO		YES	In the Vision it says that "the Coastal Zone and Marine Area shall maximise the potential for sustainable socio-economic growth and renewable energy infrastructure"	SOMEHOW	Vision states that the Coastal Zone and Marine Area shall remain rich in biodiversity and visually striking. It also mentions that Gozo shall become an ecoological island.	
Is the vision for the sector linked to any of the following elements?									
A. Climate change mitigation		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description	In the Vision is written that shall Maltese island should move closer to a low-carbon, green economy
B. Climate change adaptation		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description	In the Vision it is written that the Coastal Zone and Marine Area "shall play a significant enabling role for the Maltese Islands to reduce their impact on climate change and strengthen their capacity to adapt to climate change."
C. Sustainable food production		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description	
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description	In the Vision it is written that Maltese islands "shall halt the decline of their biodiversity". For the Coastal Zone and Marine Area it is written that it should "remain rich in biodiversity"
E. Blue circular economy		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description	Not explicitely but "zero-waste, green economy" is mentioned
F. Zero pollution		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description	In SPED's Vision it is highlighted that the Coastal Zone and Marine Area shall become pollution free

Fact-sheet 5: EGD analysis by sectors – Objectives

Check whether the sector is considered and eventually linked to any of the main EGD topics and sub-topics in the objectives of the plan(s). Describe findings.
Explanation:
For FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE: Is the green transition of the sector considered in the objectives, by referring to any of the key EDG topics and sub-topics?
For ORE: Is the sector's development considered in the objectives, by referring to any key EDG topics or sub-topics?
For NATURE PROTECTION: Check whether it is considered in the objectives and eventually linked to any of the main EGD topics and sub-topics.In the case your Plan(s) identifies different levels of objectives (e.g. strategic, specific) you can undertake the analysis for each of the levels, if appropriate.
Please specify any quantitative objectives indicated in the Plan(S), with reference to the considered sector e.g. energy production, aquaculture production, sea surface to be protected, etc.
Describe findings.

	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
Is the sector considered in the objectives?	YES	There is a specific Objective (Coastal Objective no 2) dedicated to facilitating the sustainable development and diversification of the fishing and aquaculture industries. Moreover, it is emphasized that fisheries, together with aquaculture, is considered to be a major user of the coastal and marine space with the 25 nautical mile Fisheries Management Conservation Zone dedicated to sustainable fisheries.	YES	There is a specific Objective (Coastal Objective no 2) dedicated to facilitating the sustainable development and diversification of the fishing and aquaculture industries Moreover, it is emphasized that aquaculture, together with fisheries, is considered to be a major user of the coastal and marine space with the 25 nautical mile Fisheries Management Conservation Zone dedicated to sustainable fisheries.	YES	Yes, in particular in Thematic Objective 9 (on climate change mitigation) and in Coastal Objective 1 (on prioritizing uses)	YES	SPED's Thematic Objective 8, calls for "Safeguarding protected areas including SACs, SPAs and MPAs whilst enabling activities aimed at enhancing their management objectives". SPED formulation was aligned with the national legal framework governing MPA designation which falls under the Environment Protection Act and its subsidiary legislation
Are the objectives for the sector linked to any of the following elements?								
A. Climate change mitigation	NO	Include description	NO	Include description	SOMEHOW	Yes, in Thematic Objective 9 it is specifically connected to mitigation, athough renewables in general, no specific mention of "offshore"	NO	Include description
A.1 Renewable energy production, storage and transportation		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
A.2 Clean energy transition in maritime sectors		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
A.3 Transformations in ports		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
A.4 Blue carbon storage		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
Are quantitative objectives identified?		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
B. Climate change adaptation	NO	Include description	NO	Include description	NO	Include description	NO	Include description
B.1 Green infrastructures to enhance coastal resilience and/or to enhance marine connectivity		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
B.2 Protection of climate-sensitive marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems, and landscapes		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
B.3 Anticipation of climate change-related effects		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
Are quantitative objectives identified?		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
C. Sustainable food production	NO	Include description	NO	Include description	NO	Include description	NO	Include description
C.1 Sustainable fisheries		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
C.2 Sustainable aquaculture (both for fish and shellfish)		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
C.3 Sustainable algae production		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
Are quantitative objectives identified?		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration	SOMEHOW	It is mentioned that identifying fishing grounds for fisheries whitlist minimising environmental impacts is one of priorities	NO	Include description	NO	Include description	YES	Include description
D.1 Elements to improve marine connectivity (e.g. among submarine canyons, reefs, etc.) and elements to achieve a coherent network of effective marine protected areas		Include description		Include description		Include description	SOMEHOW	SPED introduced the link to the concept of ecological corridors to support their identification and ensure that future development does not impair work to identify and safeguard them. As for the MPAs, the designation of MPAs falls under a different regulatory framework. MSP is not considered as the main instrument to designate MPAs. However, the SPED policy framework for the Coastal Zone and Marine Area was developed in congruence with the policy direction on MPAs at the time
D.2 Restoring marine and coastal ecosystems		Include description		Include description		Include description	YES	There is a specific point on facilitating restoration of damaged ecosystems under Thematic Objective 8
Are quantitative objectives identified?		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
E. Blue circular economy	NO	Include description	NO	Include description	NO	Include description	NO	Include description
E.1 Circular design		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
E.2 Waste prevention		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
E.3 Reuse, repair, upgrade, recycle		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
Are quantitative objectives identified?		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
F. Zero pollution	NO	Include description	NO	Include description	NO	Include description	NO	Include description
F.1 Pollution prevention		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
F.2 Pollution remediation		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
Are quantitative objectives identified?		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description

RELATION WITH OTHER STRATEGIES*	**FISHERIES**		**AQUACULTURE**	**One of spccific points in SPED's Coastal Objective 2 is to facilitate the implementation of the Aquaculture Strategy**	**ORE**		**NATURE PROTECTION**	
A. Climate change mitigation								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	YES or NO		YES or NO		YES or NO		YES or NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	YES or NO	If YES. Include description (what strategy, is it binding, how the element is included)	YES or NO	If YES. Include description (what strategy, is it binding, how the element is included)	YES or NO	If YES. Include description (what strategy, is it binding, how the element is included)	YES or NO	If YES. Include description (what strategy, is it binding, how the element is included)
B. Climate change adaptation								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	YES or NO		YES or NO		YES or NO		YES or NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	YES or NO	If YES. Include description (what strategy, is it binding, how the element is included)	YES or NO	If YES. Include description (what strategy, is it binding, how the element is included)	YES or NO	If YES. Include description (what strategy, is it binding, how the element is included)	YES or NO	If YES. Include description (what strategy, is it binding, how the element is included)
C. Sustainable food production								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	YES or NO		YES or NO		YES or NO		YES or NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	YES or NO	If YES. Include description (what strategy, is it binding, how the element is included)	YES or NO	If YES. Include description (what strategy, is it binding, how the element is included)	YES or NO	If YES. Include description (what strategy, is it binding, how the element is included)	YES or NO	If YES. Include description (what strategy, is it binding, how the element is included)
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	YES or NO		YES or NO		YES or NO		YES or NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	YES or NO	If YES. Include description (what strategy, is it binding, how the element is included)	YES or NO	If YES. Include description (what strategy, is it binding, how the element is included)	YES or NO	If YES. Include description (what strategy, is it binding, how the element is included)	YES or NO	If YES. Include description (what strategy, is it binding, how the element is included)
E. Blue circular economy								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	YES or NO		YES or NO		YES or NO		YES or NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	YES or NO	If YES. Include description (what strategy, is it binding, how the element is included)	YES or NO	If YES. Include description (what strategy, is it binding, how the element is included)	YES or NO	If YES. Include description (what strategy, is it binding, how the element is included)	YES or NO	If YES. Include description (what strategy, is it binding, how the element is included)
F. Zero pollution								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	YES or NO		YES or NO		YES or NO		YES or NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	YES or NO	If YES. Include description (what strategy, is it binding, how the element is included)	YES or NO	If YES. Include description (what strategy, is it binding, how the element is included)	YES or NO	If YES. Include description (what strategy, is it binding, how the element is included)	YES or NO	If YES. Include description (what strategy, is it binding, how the element is included)

*For the mentioned elements there are many strategies, plans and programme refered to in SPED. However, these are not explicitaly "criss-crossed" with the targeted sectors (Fisheries, Aquaculture, ORE, and Nature Protection).

These are:
A.Climate change mitigation
•National Renewable Energy Policy (2006)
•National Energy Policy (2012)
•National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (2011)
•National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2010)

B.Climate change adaptation
•National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2012)

C.Sustainable food production
D.Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration
•National Environment Policy (2012)
•National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2020 (2012)

E. Blue circular economy
F. Zero pollution
•Waste Management Plan for the Maltese Islands 2014-2020

Fact-sheet 6: EGD analysis by sectors – Measures

Check whether the sector is considered in the measures of the Plan(s) and eventually linked to the main -related topics and the related categories of measures.
Please refer to Table 1 for a list of categories of measures.
Describe findings (list relevant measures by category). Additional elements can be added to the description when those indicated in Table 1 do not include the type of measures you need to indicate.

	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
Is the sector considered in the measures?		In SPED there are no measurees as such, but zones delineated in forms of maps. As for fisheries, fishing harbours are mapped, but also zones of SSF and trawling.		In SPED there are no measurees as such, but zones delineated in forms of maps. As for aquaculture, aquaculture zones are mapped.		In SPED there are no measurees as such, but zones delineated in forms of maps. There is nothing specific on ORE, although Renewable energy is mentioned as potentially suitable in zone up to 12 nm..		MPAs are mapped within SPED.
Are the measures for the sector linked to any of the following elements?								
A. Climate change mitigation		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
A.1 Renewable energy production, storage and transportation		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
A.2 Clean energy transition in maritime sectors		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
A.3 Transformations in ports		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
A.4 Blue carbon storage		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
B. Climate change adaptation		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
B.1 Green infrastructures to enhance coastal resilience and/or to enhance marine connectivity		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
B.2 Protection of climate-sensitive marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems, and landscapes		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
B.3 Anticipation of climate change-related effects		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
C. Sustainable food production		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
C.1 Sustainable fisheries		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
C.2 Sustainable aquaculture (both for fish and shellfish)		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
C.3 Sustainable algae production		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
D.1 Elements to improve marine connectivity (e.g. among submarine canyons, reefs, etc.) and elements to achieve a coherent network of		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
D.2 Restoring marine and coastal ecosystems		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
E. Blue circular economy		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
E.1 Circular design		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
E.2 Waste prevention		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
E.3 Reuse, repair, upgrade, recycle		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
F. Zero pollution								
F.1 Pollution prevention		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
F.2 Pollution remediation		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								

Fact-sheet 7: Fair and just transition

Just and inclusive transition: "No one left behind" - Stakeholder participation by sectors. Describe findings

The SPED preparation process was based on public consultations as well as consultation within the framework of the Parliamentary Committee for Environment and Development, as well as through the SEA consultation. Furthermore, the preparation of the draft SPED was supported by additional consultations with different Ministries. The draft was then subjected to public consultations where stakeholders were invited to submit their views on the documents available online. An environmental NGO (Din l-Art Helwa), the Catholic Church's Environment Commission (Kummissjoni Interdjocesana Ambjent) and the Malta Developers Association (MDA), submitted representations and expressed their views in the media with regard to the SPED.
Consultation by the Environment and Resources Authority was carried out in 2019 as part of the process to define the conservation objectives and measures for the management of all of Malta's MPAs. The proposed conservation objectives and measures were issued for public consultation on 10th July 2021 – 5th September 2021. The Conservation Objections and Measures were subsequently revised, taking into consideration the feedback received from stakeholders, general public, and the European Commission.

	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
WHO								
Who were considered as stakeholders and how were they identified?		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
Were the characteristics of the stakeholders (e.g., gender, class, ethnicity, age and/or disability) considered in stakeholder participations?		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
Were local participatory initiatives (such as community-led local development groups, fisheries local action groups etc.) arranged/considered?		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
Was sufficient sectoral/group representation of stakeholders ensured in the planning process?		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
Does the Plan promote gender balance in maritime professions?		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
WHEN								
In what phase or which phases of the MSP process was stakeholder involvement organised?		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
Was it made clear how and at what stages stakeholders can participate in the planning process? Was there an interaction plan		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
HOW		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
Was the local and expert knowledge integrated?								
Were citizen science perspectives considered?		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
What methods were used in participation (workshops, scenarios, matrixes of use and interactions etc.)?		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
What was the capacity of participants to influence planning decisions?		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description

Fact-sheet 8: Cross-cutting elements

Describe findings with reference to each sector

	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
Research and innovation **In SPED it is mentioned that The Maltese Islands shall raise their potential for social and economic growth in the core sectors for development, among which is Research and Innovation**								
Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to increase the availability of reliable, high-quality ocean and maritime data?	NO	Include description	NO	Include description	NO	Include description	NO	Include description
Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to support research on the marine environment?	NO	Include description	NO	Include description	NO	Include description	NO	Include description
Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to support research and technological innovation in maritime sectors?	NO	Include description	NO	Include description	NO	Include description	NO	Include description
Education and training		Include description		Include description		Include description		Include description
Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to address education, skill development and training in maritime professions?	NO	Include description	NO	Include description	NO	Include description	NO	Include description
Cross-border cooperation in MSP								
Is cooperation on specific sectors foreseen by the Plan(s)	NO	Include description	NO	Include description	NO	Include description	NO	Include description

Fact-sheet 9: Zoning

Provide information on identification of areas with EGD features. Describe features of these areas in terms of management of uses and measures in place. Provide total extension in km2 of each typology in the entire Plan spatial domain and the relative percentage.

Extension is delineated in the maps, although there is no specific area (in km2) mentioned in the Plan. However, this would be a rellatively easy calculation for someone who has access to the raw data.

FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
Dedicated areas	YES	Dedicated areas	YES	Dedicated areas	NO		YES
Description		Description		Description			
Total extension [km2]		Total extension [km2]		Total extension [km2]			
% with respect to the total Plan area		% with respect to the total Plan area		% with respect to the total Plan area			
				How much energy those areas are supposed to produce (if available in the plans)			

A2.6 Fact sheets - Slovenia

Fact-sheet 1: General features	
Country	Slovenia
Sea Basin(s)	Mediterranean; Adriatic sub-region
Number of MSP Plans developed by the country	1
Titles of the Plan(s)	Pomorski prostorski plan Slovenije (Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia)
Responsible authority	Ministry of the Natural Resources and Spatial Planning (at the time of plan development - *Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning)*
Legal dimension of the Plan(s): e.g. legally binding/guiding, strategic, etc.	Legaly binding
Geographic scope of the Plan(s): e.g. terrestrial and marine, only marine, marine and the coastal terrestrial strip	The Maritime Spatial Plan encompasses the territorial sea and internal waters of the Republic of Slovenia and the coastal strip. - The territorial sea encompasses the sea between the baseline and the state border of the Republic of Slovenia at sea (maritime border). - The internal waters of the Republic of Slovenia encompass all ports, bays and the anchorage of the Port of Koper, which is marked by the longitude 13° 40' E and the latitude 45° 35' N. - The coastal strip has been determined by considering the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean (hereinafter referred to as: ICZM Protocol). The coastal strip encompasses the marine and land parts. o The marine part of the coastal strip reaches 150 metres in the direction from the coastline towards the sea o The land part of the coastal strip encompasses at least a 100-metre wide coastal area from the boundary of the coast towards land. The areas of valid national spatial acts, urban areas and areas of ports and marinas have been excluded from the coastal strip on land.
Total marine area interested by the Plan(s) (in km2)	Total marine area is 213.2km2 (internal waters: 46.3km2 ; territorial sea: 166.9 km2)
Map representing the geographic scope of the Plan(s)	The map is available at https://dokumenti-pis.mop.gov.si/javno/veljavni/PPP2192/1/2_graficni_del/PPP_KARTA_01_OBMOCJE_PPP_100k.pdf .
Starting date for Plan(s) preparation	The MSP is Slovenia was initiated with the adoption of the Spatial Planning Act in 2017 (OG no. 61/17 – ZUreP-2). A draft MSP (AP SPRS) was produced in early 2020.
Date of adoption/enter into force	Final MSP adoption by the Government was completed in July 2021.
Round of MSP (1st cycle, 2nd cycle), starting? (specify year)	1st cycle
Additional relevant information on MSP process e.g. interim assessments, in-progress or foreseen anticipated revisions, etc.	Monitoring process is envisaged.

Fact-sheet 2: Operational elements	
How are the Plan(s) documents organised? Are the Plan(s) self-consistent or do they refer to other strategic documents?	Plan is self consistent. Newertheless, explicit references and links to the ICZM Protocol and Directive 2008/56/EC. In addition, it says that the Plan "has been drafted in accordance with the provisions of international conventions and EU regulations and bilateral agreements in the field of maritime affairs and in accordance with strategic frameworks for development of maritime affairs, which the Republic of Slovenia determined by adopting the 1992 Resolution on Maritime Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia, the 2020 Resolution on the National Maritime Programme, and the 2016 Resolution on the National Programme for the Development of Transport, with consideration of international commitments, national legislation, valid legal and spatial acts, scientific bases of spatial planning authorities, national development documents for individual area related to sea, development starting points of local communities, coordination with stakeholders in the process and experience from numerous projects in the field of regulation of Slovenian sea and coastal area."
Sectors and uses of the sea considered by the Plan(s) - **See below a list of sectors and sea uses**	Fishery; aquaculture [mariculture in Slo]; coastal and maritime tourism, recreation [tourism, sports and recreation in Slo]; maritime transport, port activities, shipbuilding and repair, marine aggregates [all as part of maritime affairs and maritime transport in Slo; note marine aggregates for deepening the sea bed]; oil and gas, offshore renewable energy [oil and gas not permitted; wind farms not permitted; addresses renewable energy but does not refer to offshore; map not created as for other sectors]; cables and pipelines; maritime defence, coastal protection [defence and protection from natural and other disasters in Slo]; nature protection and restoration [nature conservation in Slo]; landscape protection [as part of urban development in Slo]; underwater cultural heritage [cultural heritage in Slo]; scientific research. Other include generation of energy from renewable sources (excluding offeshore wind energy), extraction of raw material (focused on salt pans) and urban development.
Does the Plan consider a multi-scalar approach ?	In a way yes, because: i) the Plan itself states that it has been developed as "the action programme for the implementation of the Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia at sea." Also, that the "content of the plan presents binding starting points for strategic and executive acts at the national, regional and local level, i.e. for implementing all activities, regimes and usages at sea, for spatial and management measures at sea and on the coastal strip on land." ii) for the narrow coastal strip (i.e. 150 m from the coastline to the sea and 100m on land, with some areas exluded) it provides additional guidelines, permissible usages and spatial intervention for 38 small spatial units. iii) Also, the plan "is intended for the future coordination of legal regimes, activities and usages at Slovenian sea and in the coastal strip on land as a binding starting point."
Does the Plan include zoning of the sea space?	YES
How does the Plan distribute uses in the different zones?	
Is zoning prescriptive (i.e. "this should come here")? Is planning indicative (i.e. "this can come here")	It is largely prescriptive. For each topic it includes legal provisions from other sectors that need to be respected (e.g. "the implementation of maritime activities is subject to..."), then it defines type of uses (with coresponding maps) (e.g. "surface areas, lines and points that mark the areas with individual legal regimes have been determined in the field of...marine transport..."), the priority of use (e.g. "...activiteis of maritime transport...is prioritiesed over fishery...") and specific regimes for uses (terms of use, restrictions and alike). In addition, it provides some more indicative guidances (e.g. "area of existing shipyard in Izola is preserved, which can be intended for the development of a passanger port...").

Please include here a textual description of how this aspect is considered. Provide examples, if the case. Provide figures or any graphical supporting element - in Annex - if the case.

SECTORS AND SEA USES

Fishing
Aquaculture (bofh finfish and shellfish)
Coastal and maritime tourism
Recreation
Maritime transport
Port activities
Shipbuilding and repair
Offshore renewable energy
Oil and gas
Cables and pipelines
Maritime defence
Marine aggregates (sand extraction for beach nourishment or construction)
Deep sea mining
Nature protection and restoration
Landscape protection
Underwater Cultural Heritage protection
Scientific research
Coastal protection
Marine industry (e.g. Blue bioeconomy and biotechnology)
Others: to be specified

Fact-sheet 3: Policy context

This part of the analysis is aimed to identify the main EGD related policies/strategies the Plan is based on and that have been considered to define vision/ objectives/ zoning/ measures.
Check whether reference is made in the Plan(s) to the main EGD related policy documents. Describe findings.

Please indicate other relevant EU/International policies/strategies of relevance for the Plan(s), when linked to EGD objectives (including older versions of EU policy elements), as well as of national relevance, Describe findings.

The European Green Deal. COM(2019) 640 final	YES	Direct reference in one place, under definitions, when describing the concept of Blue corridors. "Preserving and improving biodiversity and sustainable supply with ecosystem services is one of the commitments of the European Green Deal and a strategic guideline of the EU."
A new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the EU Transforming the EU's Blue Economy for a Sustainable Future. COM(2021) 240 final	NO	The Plan was adopted in 2021, but finalised in 2020, i.e. prior to this document
An EU Strategy to harness the potential of offshore renewable energy for a climate neutral future. COM(2020) 741 final.	NO	The Plan was probably finalised prior to the refered document. Only one reference for the renewable energy provided for National Energy and Climate Plan.
REPowerEU Plan. COM(2022) 230 final	NO	The Plan was adopted in 2021, but finalised in 2020, i.e. prior to this document
An European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy in accordance with the Paris Agreement (2019/2582(RSP))	NO	Only reference to National Energy and Climate Plan.
EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives. COM(2021) 380 final	NO	Not explicit but there is a reference to "commitments of the European Green Deal and a strategic guideline of the EU" where strategic guideline could be linked to (from the plan point of view, future) EU Biodiversity strategy that was finalised after drafting of the plan.
A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system. COM(2020) 381 final.	NO	
Pathway to a Healthy Planet for All EU Action Plan: 'Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil". COM(2021) 400 final	NO	Adopted after the plan finaly drafted
A new Circular Economy Action Plan for a cleaner and more competitive Europe. COM(2020) 98 final.	NO	
Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030 COM/2021/236 final	NO	

Fact-sheet 5: EGD analysis by sectors – Objectives

Check whether the sector is considered and eventually linked to any of the main EGD topics and sub-topics in the objectives of the plan(s). Describe findings.
Explanation:
For FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE: Is the green transition of the sector considered in the objectives, by referring to any of the key EDG topics and sub-topics?
For ORE: Is the sector's development considered in the objectives, by referring to any key EDG topics or sub-topics?
For NATURE PROTECTION: Check whether it is considered in the objectives and eventually linked to any of the main EGD topics and sub-topics.In the case your Plan(s) identifies different levels of objectives (e.g. strategic, specific) you can undertake the analysis for each of the levels, if appropriate.
Please specify any quantitative objectives indicated in the Plan(S), with reference to the considered sector e.g. energy production, aquaculture production, sea surface to be protected, etc.
Describe findings.

	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
Is the sector considered in the objectives?	YES	Fisheries is included as part of section in the objectives dedicated solely on fisheries	YES	Aquaculture is included as part of section in the objectives dedicated solely on aquaculture but indicated as mariculture	SOMEHOW	Inluded as "energy from renewable sources" within Facilities and infrastructure for the research, exploitation and extraction of oil, gas and other energy sources, minerals and aggregates and the generation of energy from renewable sources	YES	One of the Plan's topic is nature conservation
Are the objectives for the sector linked to any of the following elements?								
A. Climate change mitigation	NO		NO		SOMEHOW		NO	
A.1 Renewable energy production, storage and transportation						Exploration is envisaged for the possibilities for installing infrastructure for the use of renewable energy sources. It is possible to determine areas for future exploitation of sea energy as a renewable energy source intended for heat pump technology, where temperature difference is utilised.		
A.2 Clean energy transition in maritime sectors								
A.3 Transformations in ports								
A.4 Blue carbon storage								
Are quantitative objectives identified?								
B. Climate change adaptation	NO		NO		NO		NO	
B.1 Green infrastructures to enhance coastal resilience and/or to enhance marine connectivity								
B.2 Protection of climate-sensitive marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems, and landscapes								
B.3 Anticipation of climate change-related effects								
Are quantitative objectives identified?								
C. Sustainable food production	SOMEHOW		SOMEHOW		NO		NO	
C.1 Sustainable fisheries		"Preservation and sustainable development of fisheries as a traditional activity on the Slovenian coast is enabled..." "The objectives are to increase fish stock, the added value of the activity and to provide support for sustainable fishing"						
C.2 Sustainable aquaculture (both for fish and shellfish)				No direct reference to "sustainable aquaculture" but it indicates criteria used for selection of aquaculture areas, that include environmental and social ones.				
C.3 Sustainable algae production				There is reference to determining additional areas for "farming plant species on the seabed".				
Are quantitative objectives identified?				no				
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration	NO		SOMEHOW	no direct reference to conservation and restoration but for taking into acount criteria such as: nature conservation areas, preservation of biodiversity, important marine habitats, living conditions of animal and plant species, protection of blue corridors	NO		YES	
D.1 Elements to improve marine connectivity (e.g. among submarine canyons, reefs, etc.) and elements to achieve a coherent network of effective marine protected areas				Only reference within selection criteria for locations that include the need to protect the blue corridors, in particularly key habitat for common bottlenose dolphin.			SOMEHOW	The objective on nature conservation states: "All areas that are important for the conservation of nature at sea and on land (green infrastructure) should remain connected." Also, this is included but under section on urban development within the objectives: "Identification, preservation and introduction of blue and green corridors, used to connect individual core areas of green infrastructure into an integrated network, are planned"
D.2 Restoring marine and coastal ecosystems							SOMEHOW	In the objective it says: "Measures for preserving biodiversity and species of marine organisms listed in strategic documents and action plans for preservation of biodiversity, and measures for restoring of areas degraded by anthropogenic activities are encouraged."
Are quantitative objectives identified?								No
E. Blue circular economy	NO		NO		NO			
E.1 Circular design								
E.2 Waste prevention								
E.3 Reuse, repair, upgrade, recycle								
Are quantitative objectives identified?								
F. Zero pollution	NO		NO		NO		SOMEHOW	
F.1 Pollution prevention							SOMEHOW	Under "Maritime affairs and maritime transport" within objectives, it includes the following statement: "Measures to prevent pollution and spread harmful organisms with ballast waters should be introduced. "
F.2 Pollution remediation								
Are quantitative objectives identified?								

RELATION WITH OTHER STRATEGIES	**FISHERIES**		**AQUACULTURE**		**ORE**		**NATURE PROTECTION**	
A. Climate change mitigation								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this	NO		NO		NO		NO	
B. Climate change adaptation								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	NO		NO		SOMEHOW	The Plan indicates due consideration of the National Energy and Climate Plan	NO	
C. Sustainable food production								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	YES partly	There is explicit reference to CFP, mainly related to fish stocks	NO		NO		NO	
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		YES	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this	NO		NO		NO		NO	
E. Blue circular economy								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this	NO		NO		NO		NO	
F. Zero pollution								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this	NO		NO		NO		NO	

Fact-sheet 6: EGD analysis by sectors – Measures

Check whether the sector is considered in the measures of the Plan(s) and eventually linked to the main -related topics and the related categories of measures.
Please refer to Table 1 for a list of categories of measures.
Describe findings (list relevant measures by category). Additional elements can be added to the description when those indicated in Table 1 do not include the type of measures you need to indicate.

	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
Is the sector considered in the measures?	YES		YES		SOMEHOW	Only basic measures, but prohibiting offshore wind farms.	YES	It is included with B specific management measures.
Are the measures for the sector linked to any of the following elements?								
A. Climate change mitigation	NO		NO			Include description	SOMEHOW	
A.1 Renewable energy production, storage and transportation					SOMEHOW	Reference to A1.1 is made through the measure of "examining the possibility of installing infrastructure for the use of renewable energy sources, with due consideration of the National Energy and Climate Plan". Also, reference to heat pump technology.		
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
A.2 Clean energy transition in maritime sectors								
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
A.3 Transformations in ports								
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
A.4 Blue carbon storage							SOMEHOW	Protection of posidonia meadows envisaged (with the Chapter on sea uses) but not explicitly for climate mitigation purposes: "along the coast from Koper to Izola, a buffer zone is envisaged to protect marine meadows of Posidonia oceanica in the distance of 100 meters from the coast on its growth areas"
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
B. Climate change adaptation	NO		NO		NO		NO	
B.1 Green infrastructures to enhance coastal resilience and/or to enhance marine connectivity								
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
B.2 Protection of climate-sensitive marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems, and landscapes								
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
B.3 Anticipation of climate change-related effects								
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
C. Sustainable food production	YES		YES		NO		SOMEHOW	
C.1 Sustainable fisheries		Management measures related to **C1.1** include the following: -Each year, the eligibility and consequences of fishing winter shoals of mullet are examined -The possibility of fishing for gilthead sea bream in the areas of fishing reserves is examined -Possibilities are examined and appropriate ecological conditions are ensured at all levels (national, regional, etc.) so that it will be possible in Slovenia to fish commercially interesting species, which had been traditionally fished before (tuna, lobster, eel, European spider crab, etc.). -Possibilities are examined and everything is regulated for the farming of native species for the purpose of repopulation Specific restrictions, related to **C1.2** are given as part of "Sea-uses" part of Plan, indicating that "Fishing is restricted in protected areas, areas of fishing reserves, areas of mariculture, anchorage and traffic separation scheme areas and the area outside the corridor at night."In addition, specific details for each PA are given. Measures **somehow** related to **C1.4** indicate that "The competent authorities should supervise the prohibited fishing methods" and "The appropriate number of issued special permits (e.g. fishing for gilthead sea bream on shell farms, in the areas of fishing reserves, fishing for mullet) is determined". Mesure related to **C1.6** includes the followinG: "Fishing is mutually coordinated with temporary and time-limited usages (sport competitions, protection and rescue exercises, research projects, etc.). The provisions of this plan must be taken into account in every coordination process"				YES	Fisheries is indicated as prohibited in the buffer zones around MPAs (indicated as part of sea-use chapter). Also, fisheries is limited in the area of detrial deabed. Also , for the Natura 2000 sites "coordination needs to be performed between the nature conservation sector and the sector of commercial and leisure fishing in terms of consensus on fishing"
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
C.2 Sustainable aquaculture (both for fish and shellfish)		This aspect is somehow addressed within fishery section, through indicated possibility of farming native species for repopulation. Also, **multiuse** is lightly indicated through the measure for issuing special permits for "e.g. fishing for gilthead sea bream on shell farms".	YES	The measures deal with marine aquaculture installations (**C2.1**), i.e. locations and consitions for implementation as well as necessary land use instalations for performing the activity. Multi-use (**C2.4**) with fisheries envisaged (gilted sea bream near shell-fish farms) and escaped fish from fish farms.				
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
C.3 Sustainable algae production		No						
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration	SOMEHOW		NO		NO		YES	
D.1 Elements to improve marine connectivity (e.g. among submarine canyons, reefs, etc.) and elements to achieve a coherent network of effective marine protected areas		One specific measure envisages possibility of instaling a pilot artificial underwater structure, but its main purpose seem to be more for the leisure fishing and tourism Also, under chapter on sea uses, there are references to the protected areas where fisheries is prohibited as well as fishing reserves where commercial and recreational fishing is prohibited.						Proposals for the establishment of new protected areas. Also, reference to D1.4 with the identification of new protection of underwater sandbank and the ridge in the vicinity of already protected areas There is a requirement to prepare "expert bases with regard to cross-border protection of detrial sea bed"
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
D.2 Restoring marine and coastal ecosystems	SOMEHOW	BUT, underwater structure envisaged, i.e. allowed in the area of degraded marine environment. Eventually, it can have positive environmental co-benefit (in terms of restoration), although not specifically mentioned (specific monitoring is envisaged).						
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
E. Blue circular economy	YES		YES		NO			
E.1 Circular design								
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
E.2 Waste prevention		There is a mesure addressing E2.1: " In ports intended for unloading and loading of vessels for mariculture and fisheries, it needs to be examined whether a sufficient capacity of collection points for the separation of waste from these two activities is available, and additional capacity will be ensured, if necessary. When the activity of mariculture and fisheries is implemented, the collecting of all waste on vessels and their separation in the collection points in the port and its appropriate further handling needs to be ensured (handover to persons authorised for waste management)".		There is a mesure addressing E2.1: " In ports intended for unloading and loading of vessels for mariculture and fisheries, it needs to be examined whether a sufficient capacity of collection points for the separation of waste from these two activities is available, and additional capacity will be ensured, if necessary. When the activity of mariculture and fisheries is implemented, the collecting of all waste on vessels and their separation in the collection points in the port and its appropriate further handling needs to be ensured (handover to persons authorised for waste management)".				
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
E.3 Reuse, repair, upgrade, recycle		TO some extent point E3 has been addressed through the folloiwng measure: "The owner of a waste vessel must ensure further processing of the vessel or its removal. Temporary storage for the vessel needs to be ensured until it is delivered to an authorised collector of waste. A location for temporary storage of waste vessels needs to be determined in the area of coastal municipalities.". But the locations are not defined.		To some extent, measure related to **E3.1** is provided, but without specifiying the exact location (" The owner of a waste vessel must ensure further processing of the vessel or its removal. Temporary storage for the vessel needs to be ensured until it is delivered to an authorised collector of waste. A location for temporary storage of waste vessels needs to be determined in the area of coastal municipalities")				
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
F. Zero pollution	YES		YES				SOMEHOW	
F.1 Pollution prevention				Management measure indicate that "measures for reducing the environmental impact of farming or marine organisms are permitetd". Also, they require initial assessment of the environment state and monitoring.				In the sea use part of the Plan, there is explicit priority given to the protection of naturally preserved coastline. Furthermore it says that it is forbiden to perfom any type of development work in the naturaly preserved coastline, except for wprk that is expressly permited by this Plan.
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								
F.2 Pollution remediation		In addition to E 2.1, the same measure somehow coresponds to the F2.3 when saying "the collecting of all waste on vessels and their separation in the collection points in the port and its appropriate further handling needs to be ensured (handover to persons authorised for waste management)".						
See Table 1 for a list of elements to be searched								

RELATION WITH OTHER STRATEGIES	**FISHERIES**		**AQUACULTURE**		**ORE**		**NATURE PROTECTION**	
A. Climate change mitigation								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	NO		NO		SOMEHOW	Reference to the considerations of the National Energy and Climate Plan.	NO	
B. Climate change adaptation								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
C. Sustainable food production								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	No	The Plan does not this term explicitly, although some elements are there (see above)	NO	Some elements are there but there is no explicit term	NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?		There is reference to Management Plan for Marine Commertial Fishing in the Territorial and Inland Waters of the Republic of Slovenia (in the sea-uses chapter).	NO		NO		NO	
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		YES	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	NO		SOMEHOW	There is reference to MSFD document and monitoring related to biological parameters as well	NO		YES	Reference to "Slovenian legislation in nature protection and with the provision of EU's legal order" (in the Ch on sea uses)
E. Blue circular economy								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO	The Plan does not this term explicitly, although some elements are there (see above)	NO	Some elements are there but there is no explicit term	NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this	NO		NO		NO		NO	
F. Zero pollution								
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO	The Plan does not this term explicitly, although some elements are there (see above)	NO	No explict term but elements are there	NO		YES or NO	
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this	NO		NO		NO		YES or NO	

Fact-sheet 7: Fair and just transition

Just and inclusive transition: "No one left behind" - Stakeholder participation by sectors. Describe findings

NOTE: ALL Information from https://doi.org/10.3390/w13060754

	FISHERIES	AQUACULTURE	ORE	NATURE PROTECTION
WHO				
Who were considered as stakeholders and how were they identified?	NA	NA	NA	NA
Were the characteristics of the stakeholders (e.g., gender, class, ethnicity, age and/or disability) considered in stakeholder participations?	NA	NA	NA	NA
Were local participatory initiatives (such as community-led local development groups, fisheries local action groups etc.) arranged/considered?	Information not available in the Plan document but in the published article (2021; https://doi.org/10.3390/w13060754). There are no details, apart from info on involvement of local municipalities, representatives of economy and external professional public (no details from which sector)	Information not available in the Plan document but in the published article (2021; https://doi.org/10.3390/w13060754). There are no details, apart from info on involvement of local municipalities, representatives of economy and external professional public, no details from which sector	Information not available in the Plan document but in the published article (2021; https://doi.org/10.3390/w13060754). There are no details, apart from info on involvement of local municipalities, representatives of economy and external professional public (no details from which sector)	Information not available in the Plan document but in the published article (2021; https://doi.org/10.3390/w13060754). There are no details, apart from info on involvement of local municipalities, representatives of economy and external professional public, no details from which sector
	Information not available in the Plan document. According to the published article (2021; https://doi.org/10.3390/w13060754) sector representatives were involved thorughout the process - https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4441/13/6/754#table_body_display_water-13-00754-t008. Detailed sectoral information not available	Information not available in the Plan document. According to the published article (2021; https://doi.org/10.3390/w13060754) sector representatives were involved thorughout the process - https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4441/13/6/754#table_body_display_water-13-00754-t008. Detailed sectoral information not available	Information not available in the Plan document. According to the published article (2021; https://doi.org/10.3390/w13060754) sector representatives were involved thorughout the process - https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4441/13/6/754#table_body_display_water-13-00754-t008. Detailed sectoral information not available	Information not available in the Plan document. According to the published article (2021; https://doi.org/10.3390/w13060754) sector representatives were involved thorughout the process - https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4441/13/6/754#table_body_display_water-13-00754-t008. Detailed sectoral information not available
Does the Plan promote gender balance in maritime professions?	No	No	No	No
WHEN				
In what phase or which phases of the MSP process was stakeholder involvement organised?	Throughout the preparation process, mainly thorugh different EU projects (PlanCoast, Adriplan, Supreme, Portodimare) - indirectly in CAMP Slovenia, Shape and Adriatic+ projects	Throughout the preparation process, mainly thorugh CAMP Slovenia and different EU projects (PlanCoast, Shape, Adriplan, Adriatic+, Supreme, Portodimare)	Only in Supreme and Portodimare projects, but as "Exploration and exploitation of oil, gas and other energy sources"	Throughout the preparation process, mainly thorugh CAMP Slovenia and different EU projects (PlanCoast, Shape, Adriplan, Adriatic+, Supreme, Portodimare) -
Was it made clear how and at what stages stakeholders can participate in the planning process? Was there an interaction plan	NA	NA	NA	NA
HOW				Include description
Was the local and expert knowledge integrated?	There is infomation on the involvement of experts and local communities.	There is infomation on the involvement of experts and local communities.	There is general infomation on the involvement of experts and local communities.	There is general infomation on the involvement of experts and local communities.
Were citizen science perspectives considered?	NA	NA	NA	NA
What methods were used in participation (workshops, scenarios, matrixes of use and interactions etc.)?	Meetings, workshops, working, and coordination meetings	Meetings, workshops, working, and coordination meetings	Meetings, workshops, working, and coordination meetings	Meetings, workshops, working, and coordination meetings
What was the capacity of participants to influence planning decisions?	NA	NA	NA	NA

RELATION WITH OTHER STRATEGIES	FISHERIES	AQUACULTURE	ORE	NATURE PROTECTION
A. Climate change mitigation				
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO	NO	NO	NO
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this element?	NO	NO	NO	NO
B. Climate change adaptation				
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO	NO	NO	NO
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this	NO	NO	NO	NO
C. Sustainable food production				
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO	NO	NO	NO
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this	NO	NO	NO	NO
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration				
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO	NO	NO	NO
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this	NO	NO	NO	NO
E. Blue circular economy				
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO	NO	NO	NO
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this	NO	NO	NO	NO
F. Zero pollution				
Does the plan mention this element explicitly?	NO	NO	NO	NO
Does the MSP plan delegate to another strategy that include this	NO	NO	NO	NO

Fact-sheet 8: Cross-cutting elements

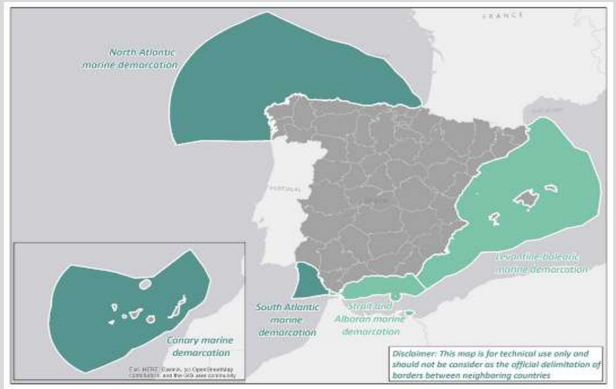
Describe findings with reference to each sector

	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
Research and innovation								
Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to increase the availability of reliable, high-quality ocean and maritime data?		Not directly, but reference to research		Not directly				Include description
Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to support research on the marine environment?		There is specific objective on scientific research: "The entire area of the Slovenian sea is an area for scientific research in the fields of oceanography, hydrography, nature and environmental protection, sea pollution, underwater noise, raising of sediment and studying of the sea bottom, underwater cultural heritage and **fishing, studying the state of fishing resources**, research on geothermal sources of energy and similar." Also, in the measures, there is specific reference to reserach "in the fisheries and mariculture "		There is specific objective on scientific research. There is reference to coordination with aquaculture areas: "The possibility of scientific research and coordination with other regimes, activities and usages, **especially with the mariculture areas**, ports and anchorages must be ensured"				In the objective on scientific research, it says: The entire area of the Slovenian sea is an area for scientific research in the fields of oceanography, hydrography, **nature and environmental protection**, sea pollution, underwater noise, raising of sediment and studying of the sea bottom, underwater cultural heritage and fishing, studying the state of fishing resources, research on geothermal sources of energy and similar."
Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to support research and technological innovation in maritime sectors?		No, on inovations. Reserch indicated above.		In the measures, there is specific reference to reserach "in the fisheries and mariculture ". Also, in the measures, it says: **"T**he implementation of scientific research should be **horizontally coordinated** with other activities, **especially areas of mariculture,** ports and anchorages. "		NA		
Education and training								Not directly
Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to address education, skill development and training in maritime professions?		In the objective on fisheries, only reference to infrastructure for education: "The necessary infrastructure for fishing, education and sustainable tourism related to fisheries needs to be provided or preserved on land."		In the objective on aquaculture there is reference to the need to secure infrastructure on land for education but no specific reference to skils etc		NA		Not directly
Cross-border cooperation in MSP								
Is cooperation on specific sectors foreseen by the Plan(s)		"Continuation and improvement of cross-border and international cooperation in the fields of research, preservation and effective and fair management of the marine environment as well as in the field of activities that cause joint pressure on the marine environment (maritime traffic, **fisheries)** needs to be ensured"		No		Include description		Proposal for protection is envisaged in "the area of the detrital seabed in the immediate vicinity of the tri-border with Italy and Croatia" that could require cross-border cooperation. In addition, it is called for the preparation of " Expert bases with regard to cross-border protection of detrital seabed are prepared".

RELATION WITH OTHER STRATEGIES	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
A. Climate change mitigation								
Does the plan mention this elements explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegates to another strategy that include this element?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
B. Climate change adaptation								
Does the plan mention this elements explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegates to another strategy that include this element?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
C. Sustainable food production								
Does the plan mention this elements explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegates to another strategy that include this element?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration								
Does the plan mention this elements explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegates to another strategy that include this element?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
E. Blue circular economy								
Does the plan mention this elements explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegates to another strategy that include this element?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
F. Zero pollution								
Does the plan mention this elements explicitly?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Does the MSP plan delegates to another strategy that include this element?	NO		NO		NO		NO	

Fact-sheet 9: Zoning	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
	Dedicated areas	YES	Dedicated areas	YES	Dedicated areas	NO		YES
Provide information on identification of areas with EGD features. Describe features of these areas in terms of management of uses and measures in place. Provide total extension in km2 of each typology in the entire Plan spatial domain and the relative percentage.	The Plan provides fishing areas, legal regimes and restrictions related to fisheries. These are shown on Map 5. There are no explicit reference to km or % or dedicated areas		The Plan provides areas and ports for mariculture activities. In particular it includes: locations of existing mariculture farms; areas that allow siting of mariculture farms by considering other activities and usages; location of existing mariculture farm without proper permits; potential locations of existing mariculture farms; areas suitable for mariculture; 6. ports where transhipment of mariculture products and equipment for the needs of other mariculture activities is permanently ensured. These are shown on Map 4. There are no explicit reference to km or % or dedicated areas		There are noexplicit locations identified.		Zoning includes protected and areas planned for protection. These are shown on Map 8. There are no explicit reference to km or % or dedicated areas	
	Total extension [km2]		Total extension [km2]		Total extension [km2]			
	% with respect to the total Plan area		% with respect to the total Plan area		% with respect to the total Plan area			
					How much energy those areas are supposed to produce (if available in the plans)			

A2.7 Fact sheets – Spain

Fact-sheet 1: General features	
Country	Spain
Sea Basin(s)	Mediterranean sea
Number of MSP Plans developed by the country	**One general plan**, with **5 sub-plans**, for each marine demarcation: North-Atlantic, South-Atlantic, Levantine-Balearic, Strait and Alboran Sea and Canary.
Titles of the Plan(s)	Planes de Ordenación del Espacio Martítimo (POEM)
Responsible authority	Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el reto demográfico, MITERD); Directorate-General for the Coast and the Sea (Dirección General de la Costa y el Mar, DGCM); Subdirectorate General of the Protection of the Sea (Subdirección General para la Protección del Mar, SGPM).
Legal dimension of the Plan(s): e.g. legally binding/guiding, strategic, etc.	**Legally binding**
Geographic scope of the Plan(s): e.g. terrestrial and marine, only marine, marine and the coastal terrestrial strip	It applies to **all Spanish marine waters**, including the seabed, subsoil and natural resources, in which the kingdom of Spain exercises sovereignty and sovereign rights over the marine environment. It also considers the coastal terrestrial strip thorough the analysis of **Land-Sea Interactions** (LSI). It does not apply to: (a) activities of defence or national security; (b) land-use and town and country planning; (c) to coastal waters, to parts thereof which are the subject of town and country planning measures, or to waters in the service area of ports.
Total marine area interested by the Plan(s) (in km2)	Total: 1.076.886,09 km2* Canary marine subdivision: 486.212,17 km2 South Atlantic marine subdivision: 14.181,12 km2 **Levantine-balearic marine subdivision: 232.869,08 km2** North Atlantic marine subdivision: 316.182,19 km2 **Straigh and Alboran marine subdivision: 27.441,53 km2** The scope of the project covers the **Mediterranean region**, which in Spain encompasses two marine demarcations: Levantine-balearic and the Strait and Alboran marine subdivisions, which together amount to a total area of approximately **260.310,61 km².**
Map representing the geographic scope of the Plan(s)	 *Disclaimer: The delimitation of the 5 Spanish marine demarcations do not correspond to the jurisdictional limits of the Spanish marine waters. They should not be considered as official delimitation with neighbouring countries
Starting date for Plan(s) preparation	With the approval of the Royal Decree 363/2017, of April 8, establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning.
Date of adoption/enter into force	Royal Decree 150/2023, of February 28, which approves the maritime spatial plans of the five Spanish marine demarcations
Round of MSP (1st cycle, 2nd cycle), starting? (specify year)	The 1st cycle started on the 28th of February, 2023 and will finish in 2027.
Additional relevant information on MSP process e.g. interim assessments, in-progress or foreseen anticipated revisions, etc.	MSP and MSFD processes are linked in Spain by the legal framework. For the development of the 2nd cycle of the MSP plans, information from the initial assessment of marine strategies currently in their 3rd cycle will be taken into account.

Fact-sheet 2: Operational elements	
How are the Plan(s) documents organised? Are the Plan(s) self-consistent or do they refer to other strategic documents?	The POEM are organized in one core document common to all planning marine demarcations and five appendix called "Diagnosis" with the information regarding maritime sectors, current situation and previsions for future or potential development for each marine demarcation. The Diagnosis chapters are published in the web of the Ministry but are not included in the Royal Decree 150/2023, of 28 February, approving the plans. The structure of the documents is the following: I. Context and scope of application a. Introduction and regulatory framework b. Methodology c. Scope of application II. Guiding principles and planning objectives a. Guiding principles and coherence b. Objectives identified in the sectoral regulations c. Objectives of the plans *III. Diagnosis (one for each marine planning subdivision, not included in the Royal Decree but published in the Minsitry's website).* IV. Maritime Spatial Planning a. Planning scheme b. Coexistence of uses and activities in maritime space c. Priority use areas d. High potential areas for different uses V. Application, assessment and monitoring of the plans a. Measures in the maritime spatial plans b. Strategic Environmental Assessment c. Monitoring of the Maritime Spatial Plans APPENDIX – Cartographic representation of zoning in each Marine Demarcation. The plans also refer to other strategic documents, especially Marine Strategy, sectoral plans/strategies/policies and MPAs management plans.
Sectors and uses of the sea considered by the Plan(s) - **See below a list of sectors and sea uses**	· Fishing · Aquaculture (bofh finfish and shellfish) · Coastal and maritime tourism · Recreation · Maritime transport · Port activities · Offshore renewable energy · Oil and gas · Cables and pipelines · Maritime defence · Marine aggregates (sand extraction for beach nourishment or construction) · Nature protection and restoration · Underwater Cultural Heritage protection · Scientific research · Coastal protection · Other: o Guarantee of freshwater supply and water supply, including desalination. o Sanitation, purification and water quality, including bathing water. o Surveillance, control and maritime security o CO2 storage areas; o Areas for the creation of artificial reefs
Does the Plan consider a multi-scalar approach ?	Due to the different oceanographic, biological and geographical conditions of each marine demarcation, 5 MSP plans were elaborated according to the Spanish demarcations considered in Law 41/2010, of December 29, 2010, for the protection of the marine environment and the application of Marine Strategies: • North Atlantic Ocean: divided in 3 MSP plans: North Atlantic, South Atlantic and Canary MSP Plans. • Mediterranean Sea: divided in 2 MSP plans: Levantine-Balearic and the Strait and Alboran MSP plans. However, the scale of marine demarcation is the only scale at which MSP plans have been elaborated at this stage.
Does the Plan include zoning of the sea space?	YES
How does the Plan distribute uses in the different zones?	The POEM maintain and incorporate the existing restrictions on uses derived from sectoral and environmental regulations and, in addition, provide general criteria to guarantee the coexistence of uses and activities while maintaining the GES. In a next step, within the management process, special relevance is given to the uses and activities of the maritime space that are considered of general interest, and that facilitate the achievement of the general interest management objectives of the POEM. To this end, the areas where uses of general interest are currently carried out have been identified, and these areas have been defined with their corresponding perimeters, granting them the category of **Priority Use Areas** (Zonas de Uso Prioritario, ZUP). Within each zone, the following aspects are established: · Provisions for the management of uses and activities that guarantee that the priority use is not compromised. · Criteria for the development of the activity and for possible situations of spatial overlapping between two or more priority use zones. · Measures, understood as actions that should be undertaken in the upcoming years to improve maritime spatial planning. **Sectors considered for Priority Use Areas**: Biodiversity protection, Extraction of aggregates for coastal protection, Cultural heritage protection, Research, development and innovation (R&D&I), National defense, and Navigational safety. In addition, in the task of promoting the sustainable development of maritime sectors, the POEM pay special attention to certain sectoral activities and activities whose future development is foreseeable, and for which to identify the most suitable maritime areas for their development it is also necessary, activities or uses that should be developed, due to their characteristics, in a certain space or set of spaces within the scope of the marine demarcation. For this purpose, **High Potential Areas** (Zonas de Alto Potencial, ZAP) have been established for different uses and activities. Several aspects have been included for this areas: · Provisions for the management of uses and activities that may favor the development of the activity within its ZAP. · Criteria for when there is overlapping among different high potential zones. · Measures, regarding those aspects in which it is considered necessary to advance in spatial planning during the coming years. All the activitiesies will have to go through their own process of authorization/declaration regardless of whether the area has been declared as high potential or not. **Sectors considered for High Potential Areas**: Biodiversity conservation, Extraction of aggregates for coastal protection, Research, development and innovation (R&D&I), Port activity, Offshore wind energy, and Marine aquaculture. *Each MSP plan for each marine demarcation has different distribution of the ZUP and ZAP depending on the distribution of uses and activities in the maritime space, the cartography available for each sector and each marine demarcation, the coexistence between sectors and sectoral policies. It means that not all ZUP and ZAP exist in all MSP plans, i.e. there is no ZAP for Offshore wind energy in the South Atlantic subregion MSP plan due to the biodiversity protection and Defence considerations.
Is zoning prescriptive (i.e. "this should come here")? Is planning indicative (i.e. "this can come here")	The POEM use a mixed approach that includes both prescriptive and indicative zoning elements: Prescriptive zoning applies to certain areas where uses are either expressly permitted, prohibited, or prioritized. For example, "Priority Use Areas" establish binding designations, such as those allocated for biodiversity protection that relate to MPAs already in place. Indicative planning is used for "High Potential Areas", where a given activity can be developed, but without exclusive rights or obligation. These areas help inform decision-making and investment planning while maintaining flexibility, particularly taking into account that additional environmental assessments or compatibility checks are needed.

Fact-sheet 3: Policy context

This part of the analysis is aimed to identify the main EGD related policies/strategies the Plan is based on and that have been considered to define vision/ objectives/ zoning/ measures. Check whether reference is made in the Plan(s) to the main EGD related policy documents. Describe findings.	The **European Green Deal**. COM(2019) 640 final	YES	POEM refer to the EGD in the section on European and international related policies, recalling the Council conclusions on a Sustainable Blue Economy: health, knowledge, prosperity, social equity, concluding that MSP should be used to achieve the ambitions of the European Green Deal.
	A new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the EU Transforming the EU's Blue Economy for a Sustainable Future. COM(2021) 240 final	SOMEHOW	In fact, the POEM consider the previous Communication regarding Blue Growth (COM(2012) 494 and the preceding "Council Conclusions on a Sustainable Blue Economy: Health, Knowledge, Prosperity, Social Equity"
Please indicate other relevant EU/International policies/strategies of relevance for the Plan(s), when linked to EGD objectives (including older versions of EU policy elements), as well as of national relevance, Describe findings.	An EU Strategy to harness the potential of offshore renewable energy for a climate neutral future. COM(2020) 741 final.	YES	It is mentioned in the section "European context: European Directive and new EU instruments", where the objective of "*increasing the capacity of wind marine energy in the EU to 60GW for 2030 and 300GW for 2050* " is explicitly mentioned, with and additional mentioned to the fact that 40 GW should come from "oceanic energy and other emerging technologies to 2050".
	REPowerEU Plan. COM(2022) 230 final	NO	Referenced in the broader context of energy transition and offshore development.
	An European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy in accordance with the Paris Agreement (2019/2582(RSP))	NO	POEM do not explicitly mention this strategy. However, in the prologue it is said that "*these plans must serve to ensure the sustainability of human activities at sea, and at the same time, facilitate the development of the maritime sectors, and the achievement of the objectives that these sectors have set themselves, with special attention to those objectives established to meet the commitments of the European Green Deal, the Paris Agreement, the European Union (EU) Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and the EU Biodiversity Strategy by 2030, among others* ."
	EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives. COM(2021) 380 final	YES	Mentioned in the prologue as stated above, and in the section of the European Context: European Directives and new EU instruments.
	A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system. COM(2020) 381 final.	NO	
	Pathway to a Healthy Planet for All EU Action Plan: 'Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil". COM(2021) 400 final	NO	
	A new Circular Economy Action Plan for a cleaner and more competitive Europe. COM(2020) 98 final.	NO	
	Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030 COM/2021/236 final	YES	Mentioned in the section "Existing objectives for the activities, uses and interests of the maritime economic sectors" as one of the identified objectives for the aquaculture sector in Spain.

Fact-sheet 4: : EGD analysis by sectors – Vision and/or strategic documents		FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
Check whether the sector is considered and eventually linked to any of the main EGD topics in the vision or in any strategic document providing guidance to the Plan(s). Describe findings. Explanation: For FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE: Is the green transition of the sector considered in the vision, by referring to any of the key EDG topics? For ORE: Is the sector's development considered in the vision, by referring to any key EDG topics? For NATURE PROTECTION: Check whether it is considered and eventually linked to any of the main EGD topics	**Is the sector considered in the vision?**	NO	The guiding principles promote the sustainable use of marine resources and compatibility with the Good Environmental Status (GES), which implicitly includes fisheries as a traditional and ongoing use of the marine space. However, there is no explicit principle specifically targeting the development or transformation of the fisheries sector.	NO	The guiding principles support the sustainable development of maritime sectors in general, and promote coexistence of uses and ecosystem-based management. Aquaculture is implicitly included as part of the sustainable use of the marine space, but is not explicitly mentioned in the principles.	NO	The guiding principles implicitly support the development of offshore renewable energy as part of the transition towards decarbonisation and climate resilience, in alignment with the broader objectives of sustainability and efficient use of marine space, however not specific guiding principle is stated for this sector.	YES	Nature protection is a core component of the POEM guiding principles. The ecosystem-based approach, maintenance of GES, biodiversity protection, and ecosystem restoration are explicitly included as key principles of the plan.
	Is the vision for the sector linked to any of the following elements?								
	A. Climate change mitigation	NO		NO		NO	The principles strongly support thedecarbonization so the development of offshore renewable energy is implicit contributing to climate change mitigation.	NO	
	B. Climate change adaptation	NO	Resilience to climate change is included as a general principle but not specifically for fisheries.	NO	The ecosystem-based approach includes resilience to climate change; adaptation is implicit but not detailed for aquaculture.	NO	Enhancement of system resilience is included in the general principles; adaptation aspects are not fully developed for ORE.	YES	Ecosystem-based approach, resilience to climate change, and marine green infrastructure are key principles.
	C. Sustainable food production	NO	Sustainable use of marine resources is encouraged, but there is no explicit focus on sustainable food production within the principles.	NO	The ecosystem-based approach supports sustainable aquaculture development, aligned with national and EU objectives, however not explicit reference to sustainable aquaculture is included.	NO	Coexistence with sustainable fisheries and aquaculture is promoted but no direct sustainable food production objective is included.	NO	
	D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration	NO	Compatibility with biodiversity protection is required, but no active restoration IS foreseen for fisheries.	NO	Compatibility with biodiversity areas is required; active restoration is not included in the vision for aquaculture.	NO	Prevention of impacts on sensitive species and habitats for all sectors is included, but no active restoration goal is defined.	YES	Biodiversity protection and ecosystem restoration are fully integrated in the guiding principles.
	E. Blue circular economy	NO		NO		NO		NO	
	F. Zero pollution	NO		NO		NO		NO	Maintenance of Good Environmental Status (GES) includes pollution-related aspects, but zero pollution is not explicitly defined as a standalone principle.

The POEM does not explicitly follows a vision but it sets "guiding principles" to promote the sustainable development of maritime sectors in a way that is compatible with respect for the values of marine areas, the conservation of their functionality, and the sustainable use of resources.
The present analysis is based exclusively on the guiding principles of the POEM (Royal Decree 150/2023, of 28th February, BOE-A-2023-5704), as they reflect the underlying vision of the plan for each sector in relation to the EGD topics, but a formal vision is absent.

Fact-sheet 5: EGD analysis by sectors – Objectives

Check whether the sector is considered and eventually linked to any of the main EGD topics and sub-topics in the objectives of the plan(s).
Describe findings.
Explanation:
For FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE: Is the green transition of the sector considered in the objectives, by referring to any of the key EDG topics and sub-topics?
For ORE: Is the sector's development considered in the objectives, by referring to any key EDG topics or sub-topics?
For NATURE PROTECTION: Check whether it is considered in the objectives and eventually linked to any of the main EGD topics and sub-topics.In the case your Plan(s) identifies different levels of objectives (e.g. strategic, specific) you can undertake the analysis for each of the levels, if appropriate.
Please specify any quantitative objectives indicated in the Plan(S), with reference to the considered sector e.g. energy production, aquaculture production, sea surface to be protected, etc.
Describe findings.

	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
Is the sector considered in the objectives?	SOMEHOW	The general objective of the POEM is to "contribute to the sustainable development of maritime sectors".	SOMEHOW	One of the general objectives of the POEM is to "contribute to the sustainable development of maritime sectors, without prejudice to the conservation, protection, and enhancement of the marine environment, including resilience to the effects of climate change".	SOMEHOW	The general objective of the POEM includes the sustainable development of maritime activities in general: *"The objective of maritime spatial plans is to promote the sustainable activity and growth of maritime sectors..."* "	SOMEHOW	The general objetive of the MSP plan includes the nature protection in its definition: "*To promote the activity and sustainable growth of maritime sectors in a way that is compatible with respect for the values of marine areas and the sustainable use of resources."*
Are the objectives for the sector linked to any of the following elements?								
A. Climate change mitigation	SOMEHOW	The general objective of contributing the sustainable development of the maritime sectors, , specifically states "*without prejudice to the conservation, protection and enhancement of the marine environment, including* ***resilience to the effects of climate change*** ".	SOMEHOW	The general objective of contributing the sustainable development of the maritime sectors, , specifically states *"without prejudice to the conservation, protection and enhancement of the marine environment, including resilience to the effects of climate change".*	SOMEHOW	The general objective of the POEMs seeks the *"compatibility with the GES achievement and maintenance and […] including the resilience to climate change effects"*	YES	According to the general objective the POEM should *"Ensure its compatibility with the achievement and maintenance of good environmental status of the marine environment, its conservation, protection and improvement, including resilience to the effects of climate change, and human health, through an ecosystem approach"*
A.1 Renewable energy production, storage and transportation	NO		NO		NO		NO	
A.2 Clean energy transition in maritime sectors	NO		NO		NO		NO	
A.3 Transformations in ports	NO		NO		NO		NO	
A.4 Blue carbon storage	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Are quantitative objectives identified?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
B. Climate change adaptation	SOMEHOW	The general objective of contributing to the sustainable development of the maritime sectors, specifically states "without prejudice to the conservation, protection and enhancement of the marine environment, including **resilience to the effects of climate change**".	SOMEHOW	The general objective of contributing to the sustainable development of the maritime sectors, specifically states "without prejudice to the conservation, protection and enhancement of the marine environment, including **resilience to the effects of climate change**".	SOMEHOW	The general objective of contributing to the sustainable development of the maritime sectors, specifically states "without prejudice to the conservation, protection and enhancement of the marine environment, including **resilience to the effects of climate change**".	SOMEHOW	The general objective of contributing to the sustainable development of the maritime sectors, specifically states "without prejudice to the conservation, protection and enhancement of the marine environment, including **resilience to the effects of climate change**".
B.1 Green infrastructures to enhance coastal resilience and/or to enhance marine connectivity	NO		NO		NO		NO	
B.2 Protection of climate-sensitive marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems, and landscapes	NO		NO		NO		NO	
B.3 Anticipation of climate change-related effects	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Are quantitative objectives identified?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
C. Sustainable food production	NO		NO		NO		NO	
C.1 Sustainable fisheries	NO		NO		NO		NO	
C.2 Sustainable aquaculture (both for fish and shellfish)	NO		NO		NO		NO	
C.3 Sustainable algae production	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Are quantitative objectives identified?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration	SOMEHOW	The general objective of contributing the sustainable development of the maritime sectors, specifically states "*without prejudice to the* ***conservation, protection and enhancement of the marine environment …***".	SOMEHOW	The general objective of contributing the sustainable development of the maritime sectors, specifically states "*without prejudice to the* ***conservation, protection and enhancement of the marine environment*** *…*".	SOMEHOW	The general objective of the POEMs consider the suistainable development of the activities"*…in a way that is c* ***ompatible with respect for the values of marine areas, the conservation of their functionality and the sustainable use of resources*** ."	SOMEHOW	The general objetive of the MSP plan includes the nature protection in its definition: "*To promote the activity and* ***sustainable growth*** *of maritime sectors in a way that is c* ***ompatible with respect for the values of marine areas and the sustainable use of resources*** ."
D.1 Elements to improve marine connectivity (e.g. among submarine canyons, reefs, etc.) and elements to achieve a coherent network of effective marine protected areas	NO		NO		NO		NO	
D.2 Restoring marine and coastal ecosystems	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Are quantitative objectives identified?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
E. Blue circular economy	NO		NO		NO		NO	
E.1 Circular design	NO		NO		NO		NO	
E.2 Waste prevention	NO		NO		NO		NO	
E.3 Reuse, repair, upgrade, recycle	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Are quantitative objectives identified?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
F. Zero pollution	NO		NO		NO		NO	
F.1 Pollution prevention	NO		NO		NO		NO	
F.2 Pollution remediation	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Are quantitative objectives identified?	NO		NO		NO		NO	

Regarding the Strategic Objectives, the POEM rely on some external strategies that compile strategic objectives in relation to some EGD Objectives.

In relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation, the POEM mention Law 7/2021, of 20 May, on Climate Change and Energy Transition that can have effects on fisheries, ORE and nature protection. For nature protection the plans also take into consideration international convections such as the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**. In the case of adaptation, the "**National Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2021-2024**" is also mentioned, specially for fisheries and nature protection. The "**Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change on the Spanish Coast**" (2017), and the **EU's new climate change adaptation strategy, 'Making Europe resilient to climate change**' are also taken into account.
Sustainable food production is not mentioned in the plan's strategic objectives, but it mentions the "**Spanish Sustainable Development Strategy**", the **"Spanish Bioeconomy Strategy Horizon 2030"** and the **"Communication on Blue Growth"** in relation to fisheries, aquaculture and the exploitation of marine resources.
In relation to the strategic objectives addressing Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration, for fisheries the plans mention **SDG 14 of the "Agenda 2030"**, and explicitly on its concrete goals: 4.4 and 4.6 which aims at regulating fishing and end overfishing in order to restore fish stocks that can produce the maximum sustainable yield in accordance with their biological characteristics and prohibiting subsidies that contribute to this. With regards to the four sectors important to note that the plans consider the general objective of the **Marine Strategies** (MSFD implementation) - to reach and preserve the Good Environmental Status (GES). This is binding as the Royal Decree that transposed the MSPD to the Spanish Legal system was approved as a legal development (lower in hierarchy) of the Law 41/2010 of Protection of the Marine Environment. For nature protection, at international level, the plan mentions "**2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",** the **Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention),** the **Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR)** and the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD**). At a European level: MSFD, Habitat and Bird Directives and, at a national level: **Law 41/2010, on the protection of the marine environment**, Law **42/2007, of 29 December, on natural heritage and biodiversity** and **Law 22/1988, of 28 July, on coasts.**

Fact-sheet 5: EGD analysis by sectors – Objectives

Check whether the sector is considered and eventually linked to any of the main EGD topics and sub-topics in the objectives of the plan(s). Describe findings.
Explanation:
For FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE: Is the green transition of the sector considered in the objectives, by referring to any of the key EDG topics and sub-topics?
For ORE: Is the sector's development considered in the objectives, by referring to any key EDG topics or sub-topics?
For NATURE PROTECTION: Check whether it is considered in the objectives and eventually linked to any of the main EGD topics and sub-topics.In the case your Plan(s) identifies different levels of objectives (e.g. strategic, specific) you can undertake the analysis for each of the levels, if appropriate.
Please specify any quantitative objectives indicated in the Plan(S), with reference to the considered sector e.g. energy production, aquaculture production, sea surface to be protected, etc.
Describe findings.

	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
Is the sector considered in the objectives?	YES	Fisheries is one of the maritime economic sectors considered for the establishment of maritime spatial planning objectives in the POEM. **Three sectorial objectives** are established for this sector. P.1. ***Minimize the impact*** *of the different human activities on fishing grounds and fishing areas, with special attention to artisanal fisheries.* P.2. *Achieve* ***Maximum Sustainable Yield*** *on commercial species populations and* ***reduce the negative impact of fishing activities on biodiversity.*** P.3. *Strengthen and* ***expand the Network of Marine Reserves of Fishing Interest*** *as a driver of conservation and regeneration of fishery resources and support for artisanal fishing.*	YES	Aquaculture is one of the maritime economic sectors considered for the establishment of maritime spatial planning objectives in the POEM. **Two sectorial objectives** are established for this sector. A.1. *Design* ***aquaculture spatial planning*** *from a medium- and long-term perspective c* ***ompatible with environmental conservation*** *and marine ecosystem protection; considering new knowledge from research on marine farming, especially algae; advances in new technologies; as well as the needs for* ***resilience, adaptation, and mitigation of climate change.*** A.2. ***Strengthen competitiveness*** *and contribute to job creation in the aquaculture sector by facilitating access to the most suitable areas and developing best practices regarding the location, sizing, and management of facilities.*	YES	The POEM mentions the "Roadmap offshore wind and marine energy in Spain" that contains specific objectives. The POEM also establish the following **two specific objectives**: *R.1. Identify the* ***areas with the greatest potential for the development of offshore wind energy*** *in each marine demarcation.* *R.2: Ensure that the spatial location of areas of greatest potential for offshore wind energy development* ***does not compromise ecosystem connectivity, especially migratory species corridors***.	YES	The marine environment, including the marine protected areas, coastal environment, and the mitigation and adaptation to the effects of climate changes are addressed in the plan through **8 general interest objective**s. MA.1. *Promote the connectivity, functionality and resilience of marine ecosystems through consideration of the* ***Marine Green Infrastructure***. MA.2. *Ensure that vulnerable and/or protected* ***habitats and species are not affected by the location of human activities*** *that require the use of marine space.* MA.3. *Ensure that plans consider the need to* ***increase the marine protected area*** *within the marine demarcation and that the activities or uses contemplated in these areas do not jeopardize their designation as protected areas.* MA.4. *Ensure that* ***human uses and activities in marine protected areas are compatible with the conservation*** *objectives of those areas.* MA.5. ***Ensure*** *that the set o* ***f current human uses and activities, along with those planned for the future***, ***do not compromise the achievement of Good Environmental Status of the marine environment***, *nor the environmental objectives of the marine strategies defined for the second cycle of marine strategies and approved by the Council of Ministers Agreement of June 7, 2019.* MA.6. ***Guarantee the integrity of the maritime-terrestrial public domain*** *for its own defense and conservation, as well as to promote the recovery of coastal areas and enhance solutions based on the functions of natural ecosystems.* MA.7. *Ensure that the* ***planned future uses and activities respect the provisions of Law 22/1988, of July 28, on coasts,*** *and do not compromise the objectives established in said regulations.* MA.8. ***Ensure the viability of the actions of general interest necessary to protect the integrity of the maritime-terrestrial public domain***, *including, among others, the study, access, and exploitation of aggregate extraction areas to be used for coastal protection works.*
Are the objectives for the sector linked to any of the following elements?								
A. Climate change mitigation	NO		YES	*A.1. Design aquaculture spatial planning from a medium- and long-term perspective considering the needs for resilience,* ***adaptation, and mitigation of climate change.***	SOMEHOW	Objectives R.1. and R.2. are related to this element	NO	
A.1 Renewable energy production, storage and transportation	NO		NO		SOMEHOW	Objective "*R.1. Identify the areas with the greatest potential for the development of offshore wind energy in each marine demarcation.*" is directly related to renewable energy production.	NO	
A.2 Clean energy transition in maritime sectors	NO		NO		NO		NO	
A.3 Transformations in ports	NO		NO		NO		NO	
A.4 Blue carbon storage	NO		NO		NO		SOMEHOW	The objective "MA.1. *Promote the connectivity, functionality and resilience of marine ecosystems through consideration of Marine Green Infrastructure*" is related to climate change mitigation
Are quantitative objectives identified?	NO		NO		SOMEHOW	The POEM refers to the "Roadmap for offshore wind and marine energy in Spain". This roadmap establishes 1 - 3 GW of Offshore Wind Energy and 40 - 60 MW of other "Marine Energies".	NO	
B. Climate change adaptation	NO		YES	*A.1. Design aquaculture spatial planning from a medium- and long-term perspective considering the needs for resilience,* ***adaptation, and mitigation of climate change.***	NO		NO	
B.1 Green infrastructures to enhance coastal resilience and/or to enhance marine connectivity	NO		NO		NO		YES	The objective "MA.1. *Promote the connectivity, functionality and resilience of marine ecosystems through consideration of Marine Green Infrastructure*" is related to climate change adaptation
B.2 Protection of climate-sensitive marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems, and landscapes	YES	P.2. *Achieve Maximum Sustainable Yield on commercial species populations and* ***reduce the negative impact of fishing activities on biodiversity***.	YES	A.1. Design aquaculture spatial planning from a medium- and long-term perspective compatible with environmental conservation and marine ecosystem protection.	SOMEHOW	*R.2: Ensure that the spatial location of areas of greatest potential for offshore wind energy development does not compromise ecosystem connectivity, especially migratory species corridors…*	SOMEHOW	The following objectives are related to biodversity and coastal protection: - MA.6. *Guarantee the integrity of the maritime-terrestrial public domain for its own defence and conservation, as well as to favour the recovery of coastal spaces and promote solutions based on the functions of natural ecosystems.* - MA.7. *Ensure that the future uses and activities contemplated respect the provisions of Law 22/1988, of 28 July, on coasts, and do not compromise the objectives set out in these regulations.* - MA.8. *To guarantee the viability of the actions of general interest necessary to protect the integrity of the maritime-terrestrial public domain, including, among others, those of study, access and exploitation of the areas of aggregate extraction to be used for coastal protection works.*
B.3 Anticipation of climate change-related effects	NO		SOMEHOW	A.1. Design aquaculture spatial planning from a medium- and long-term perspective considering the needs for resilience, adaptation, and mitigation of climate change.	NO		NO	
Are quantitative objectives identified?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
C. Sustainable food production	SOMEHOW	P.3. *Strengthen and expand the Network of Marine Reserves of Fishing Interest as a driver of conservation* ***and regeneration of fishery resources*** *and support for artisanal fishing.*	SOMEHOW	A.2. *Strengthen competitiveness and contribute to job creation in the aquaculture sector by facilitating access to the most suitable areas and developing* ***best practices*** *regarding the location, sizing, and management of facilities.*	NO		NO	
C.1 Sustainable fisheries	YES	P.2. *Achieve* ***Maximum Sustainable Yield on commercial species*** *populations*.	NO		NO		NO	
C.2 Sustainable aquaculture (both for fish and shellfish)	NO		SOMEHOW	*A.1.Design aquaculture spatial planning from a medium- and long-term perspective compatible with environmental conservation and marine ecosystem protection;.A.2. Location in the* ***most suitable areas*** *and developing* ***best practices.***	NO		NO	
C.3 Sustainable algae production	NO		YES	*A.1.Design aquaculture considering new knowledge from research on marine farming, especially algae; advances in new technologies.*	NO		NO	
Are quantitative objectives identified?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration	YES	There are two sectoral objectives addressing this topic: P.2. Achieve **Maximum Sustainable Yield** for commercial species populations and reduce the negative impact of fishing activities on biodiversity. P.3. **Strengthen and expand the Network of Marine Reserve**s of Interest to Fisheries as a driver of conservation and regeneration of fishery resources and support for artisanal fishing. Addittionally, the POEM includes horizontal cross-sectoral objectives that address nature conservation and protection: H.10. *Ensure that human activities at sea do not jeopardize the environmental status of coastal ecosystems and their natural and cultural heritage, and also ensure minimal impact on human activities*. H.11. *Promote scientific knowledge to determine the carrying capacity of marine ecosystems under different uses and activities.*	YES	There is at least one sectoral objective that relates directly to this. :*A.1. Design a spatial planning of aquaculture from a medium and long term scale approach* ***compatible with environmental conservation*** *and protection of the marine ecosystem; considering new knowledge from research on marine cultures,* ". Addittionally, the POEM includes horizontal cross-sectoral objectives that address nature conservation and protection: H.10. *Ensure that human activities at sea do not jeopardize the environmental status of coastal ecosystems and their natural and cultural heritage, and also ensure minimal impact on human activities.* H.11. *Promote scientific knowledge to determine the carrying capacity of marine ecosystems under different uses and activities.*	SOMEHOW	The POEM includes horizontal multi-sector planning objectives , the objective H.10. establish that the POEM should "*To ensure that human activities at sea do not jeopardise the environmental state of coastal ecosystems, their natural and cultural heritage, and to ensure the least possible impact on human activities at sea.*"	YES	The POEM includes 8 objectives regarding nature protection as part of the general interest planning objectives: - MA.1. Promote the connectivity, functionality and resilience of marine ecosystems through consideration of Marine Green Infrastructure. - MA.2. Ensure that vulnerable and/or protected habitats and species are not affected by the location of human activities requiring use of marine space. - MA.3. Ensure that plans address the need to increase the marine protected area in the marine demarcation and that activities or uses contemplated in these areas do not compromise their designation as protected areas. - MA.4. Ensure that human uses and activities in marine protected areas are compatible with the conservation objectives of those areas. - MA.5. To ensure that all present and planned future human uses and activities do not compromise the achievement of the Good Environmental Status of the marine environment, nor the environmental objectives of the marine strategies, defined for the second cycle of the marine strategies and approved by Agreement of the Council of Ministers on 7 June 2019. - MA.6. Guarantee the integrity of the maritime-terrestrial public domain for its own defence and conservation, as well as to favour the recovery of coastal spaces and promote solutions based on the functions of natural ecosystems. - MA.7. Ensure that the future uses and activities contemplated respect the provisions of Law 22/1988, of 28 July, on coasts, and do not compromise the objectives set out in these regulations. - MA.8. To guarantee the viability of the actions of general interest necessary to protect the integrity of the maritime-terrestrial public domain, including, among others, those of study, access and exploitation of the areas of aggregate extraction to be used for coastal protection works. And 2 horizontal multi-sector planning objectives: - H.10. Ensure that human activities at sea do not jeopardise the environmental state of coastal ecosystems, their natural and cultural heritage, and also ensure the least possible impact on the human activities carried out there. - H.11. Promote scientific knowledge to determine the carrying capacity of marine ecosystems in the face of different uses and activities.
D.1 Elements to improve marine connectivity (e.g. among submarine canyons, reefs, etc.) and elements to achieve a coherent network of effective marine protected areas	YES	P.3. *Strengthen and expand the* ***Network of Marine Reserves of Fishing Interest*** *as a driver of conservation and regeneration of fishery resources.*	NO		SOMEHOW	Objective " *R.2: Ensure that the spatial location of areas of greatest potential for offshore wind energy development does not compromise ecosystem connectivity, especially migratory species corridors..*"	YES	Objective MA.1. Promote the connectivity, functionality and resilience of marine ecosystems through consideration of Marine Green Infrastructure.
D.2 Restoring marine and coastal ecosystems	SOMEHOW	P.3. *Strengthen and expand the* ***Network of Marine Reserves of Fishing Interest*** *as a driver of conservation and* ***regeneration of fishery resources.***	NO		NO		YES	Objective MA.6. Guarantee the integrity of the maritime-terrestrial public domain for its own defence and conservation, as well as to favour the recovery of coastal spaces and promote solutions based on the functions of natural ecosystems.
Are quantitative objectives identified?	NO		NO		NO			
E. Blue circular economy	NO		NO		NO		NO	
E.1 Circular design	NO		NO		NO		NO	
E.2 Waste prevention	NO		NO		NO		NO	
E.3 Reuse, repair, upgrade, recycle	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Are quantitative objectives identified?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
F. Zero pollution	NO		NO		NO		NO	
F.1 Pollution prevention	NO		SOMEHOW	Objective A.2. especifies "*developing best practices regarding the location, sizing, and management of facilities*. Best practices in aquaculture includes waste reduction.	NO		NO	
F.2 Pollution remediation	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Are quantitative objectives identified?	NO		NO		NO		NO	

In terms of specific objetives, the POEM delegates in other strategies for some of the EGD objectives
In relation to climate change mitigation objetives, for ORE, the POEM mention in "existing objectives" those of the "**Law 7/2021, of 20 May, on Climate Change and Energy Transition"** and the **"National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan (PNIEC) 2021-2030"**. Following climate change, but now incluiding both, mitigation and adaptation, **"Law 7/2021, of 20 May, on Climate Change and Energy Transition"** which, together with the "Just Transition Strategy and the National Integrated Energy" and Climate Plan (PNIEC) 2021-2030, which make up the so-called 'Strategic Energy and Climate Framework', are mentioned for nature protection. The POEM also take into consideration the **"Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change on the Spanish Coast (2017)"**, and international Convections such as the **"United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)"**. Regarding the EU, the **"EU's new climate change adaptation strategy, 'Making Europe resilient to climate change'"** is also considered. For aquaculture climate change adaptation mechanisms, the plan explicitly refer to **Marine Strategies**' objectives. For sustainable food production objetives, the plans refer to **"The Spanish Multiannual Strategic Plan for Aquaculture 2014-2020"**, which will be replaced by the 2021-2030 plan. In the case of biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration, the plans relate to other strategies for the 4 MEDIGREEN sectors. In the case of fisheries, **"Law 41/2010, for the protection of the marine environment"**, which regulated the "Network of Marine Protected Areas of Spain", which includes the "Marine Reserves of Fishing Interest" (which are managed through Lay 3/2001 of State Maritime Fishing), is mentioned. In the case of aquaculture and ORE, MS are mentioned; and for nature protection, the POEM mention different Biodiversity policies at different levels which were taken into consideration in the plan:
- At international level: **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**; **The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention)**; **The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR)**; **The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**.
- At european level: **Marine Strategy framework directive**; **Habitats Directive 92/43/EC**; **Birds Directive 2009/147/EC.**
- At national level: **Law 41/2010, on the protection of the marine environment**; **Law 42/2007, of 29 December, on natural heritage and biodiversity**; **Law 22/1988, of 28 July, on coasts**.
In the case of Blue Circular Economy, the POEM relate to other strategies only for ORE, for which **"The Roadmap for offshore wind and marine energy in Spain"** is considered.

Fact-sheet 6: EGD analysis by sectors – Measures

Check whether the sector is considered in the measures of the Plan(s) and eventually linked to the main -related topics and the related categories of measures. Please refer to Table 1 for a list of categories of measures.
Describe findings (list relevant measures by category). Articulate considerations related to the description when those indicated in Table 1 do not include the type of measures you need to indicate.

	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
Is the sector considered in the measures?	SOMEHOW	There are not specific measures regarding fisheries within the POEM. However, it is somehow included in both "Multi-sector horizontal measures" and the measures regarding the regulation of other uses/activties. Multi-sector horizontal measures affecting fisheries: OEM3: *Spatial analysis of cumulative pressures resulting from the spatial concentration of certain uses and activities.* OEM2: *Prospective study and socioeconomic characterisation of the different sectors of the Spanish blue economy.* Governance measures addressing fisheries: OEM6: *Development of a national blue economy strategy*. OEM7: *Development of a long-term stakeholder participation and involvement strategy, with special attention to the sectors with the greatest social roots, local administrations, and the citizens.* Additionally, there is a measure regarding fisheries found in the regulation of potential areas for renewable energies: ER2: *Analysis of the fishing sector potentially affected by the development of offshore wind energy in the areas proposed in the POEM.*	YES	**Three sectoral measures** have been included in the POEM in relation to aquaculture: *AC1: Declaration of Zones of Interest: The competent regional governments (if they have not already done so) may declare Zones of Interest for Marine Farming (Zonas de Interés para Cultivos Marinos,ZICM) and Zones of Interest for Aquaculture (Zonas de interés para la acuicultura,ZIA) in the areas defined as High Potential Areas for Aquaculture (Zonas de Alto Potencial para la acuicultura,ZAPAC).* *AC2: Planning and management instruments for the declared Zones of Interest (ZIA and ZICM). These instruments determine the conditions under which these zones have been declared, establish criteria for the sustainable development of aquaculture activities, and may include criteria for the development of other activities in that area.* *AC3: Actions related to spatial planning within the framework of the "Sustainable Aquaculture Development Strategy 2021-2030". These actions at the national and/or regional level may include: studies for the identification and selection of new zones, e.g. for offshore aquaculture, and the updating of inventories of existing and future aquaculture uses. In addition, new management plans may be developed, along with carrying capacity analyses and analyses of the effects of climate change on aquaculture areas. Actions may also be implemented to incorporate new breeding technologies or monitoring systems.* Additionally, **specific measures and zoning criteria** have been designed in case ZAPAC overlap with other uses and activities, specifically : Priority Use as\and Potential Areas for Biodiversity Protection, Priority Use Areas for National Defence, Priority Use Areas for Underwater Cultural Heritage protection, Priority Use Areas for landscape protection related to the Cultural Heritage placed on the coast, and Priority Use and High Potential Areas for aggregate extraction. Additionally, there are "multi-sector horizontal measures" affecting aquaculture: OEM1: *Spatial analysis of cumulative pressures resulting from the spatial concentration of certain uses and activities.* OEM2: *Prospective study and socioeconomic characterisation of the different sectors of the Spanish blue economy.* Governance measures addressing aquaculture: OEM6: *Development of a national blue economy strategy* . OEM7: *Development of a long-term stakeholder participation and involvement strategy, with special attention to the sectors with the greatest social roots, local administrations, and the citizens* .	YES	Yes the POEM measures directly related to the sector are the following: ER1. *Analysis and modelling of the landscape impact of offshore wind energy infrastructures in Spanish waters.* ER2: *Analysis of the fisheries sector potentially affected by offshore wind energy development in the areas proposed in the POEMs.* ER3. *Analysis of the potential effects of offshore wind farms on marine ecosystems.*	YES	Yes, the POEM includes different **measures** related to nature protection and established some general **criteria** to be taken into consideration for certain sectors to ensure the coexistence of uses and activities while maintaining the good environmental status. Regarding measures the POEM stablishes the following ones: PB1: *Identification of new proposals for the declaration of marine protected areas.* *PB2: Approval and development of the Master Plan for the Spanish Marine Protected Areas Network (RAMPE).* A number of **sectoral criteria** are set out, in this line: k. Unregulated anchoring of nautical-recreational vessels that involves the placement of anchors or any other type of anchoring device on the seabed shall be avoided in areas where marine angiosperms or other benthic species included in the LESPRE or the CEEA are present. All of this taking into account that Law 42/2007, of 13 December, prohibits causing damage to these species. Likewise, this type of anchoring shall also be avoided in areas where there are elements of underwater cultural heritage that may be affected by this practice. m. In those areas identified as having a higher probability of collisions between vessels and large cetaceans, work will be carried out to establish mitigation measures to avoid such collisions, both for maritime safety and for the conservation of the species. n. The installation of linear underwater infrastructures (telecommunication or electricity cables, pipelines, etc.) will be avoided in areas where marine angiosperms or other benthic species included in the LESPRE or the CEEA are present. All of this taking into account that Law 42/2007, of 13 December, prohibits causing damage to these species. Finally, **specific criteria** are established for the location of some sectors that it is included in the zoning of High Potential Areas for the possible future development of certain sectors (i.e. OWF, Aquaculture, etc.). The POEM has included 2 types of **zoning** for biodiversity: Priority Use Areas and High Potential Areas.
Are the measures for the sector linked to any of the following elements?								
A. Climate change mitigation	NO		YES	AC3 states that "*new management plans may be developed, along with carrying capacity analyses and analyses of* ***the effects of climate change on aquaculture areas*** *".*	YES	The POEM' measures for this sector are directly related to the "*Roadmap for offshore wind and marine energy in Spain* " which is part of the "Strategic Energy and Climate Framework'. In turn, one of the measures of the Roadmap, Measure 3.1. was the *definition and approval in the POEMs of zoning for the development of offshore wind farms*. So both, the POEMs and the Roadmap are totally interlinked.	NO	
A.1 Renewable energy production, storage and transportation	NO		NO		YES	The POEM identifies High Potential Areas for Renewable Energies to identify the best potential areas for the deployment of Offshore Wind Installations, especifically it mentions A1.1: Development of marine renewable energy installations.	NO	
A.2 Clean energy transition in maritime sectors	NO		NO		NO		NO	
A.3 Transformations in ports	NO		NO		NO		NO	
A.4 Blue carbon storage	NO		NO		NO		NO	
A.5 Knowledge-related measures	NO		YES	AC3 states that "*new management plans may be developed, along with analyses of the effects of climate change on aquaculture areas*".	NO		NO	
B. Climate change adaptation	NO		SOMEHOW	AC3 states that "*new management plans may be developed, along with carrying capacity analyses and analyses of the effects of climate change on aquaculture areas*".	NO		NO	
B.1 Green infrastructures to enhance coastal resilience and/or to enhance marine connectivity	NO		NO		NO		YES	Yes, through the measure OEM3: *Definition, and incorporation in the POEM, of the set of elements that conform the marine green infrastructure*: B1.1 Green Infrastructures: Creation and maintenance of Nature-based solutions (wetlands, salt marshes, seagrass meadows, maeri beds, mangroves, dunes, etc.) would be also included.
B.2 Protection of climate-sensitive marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems, and landscapes	NO		YES	Considering the possibility of overlapping with Priority Use or Hight Potential Areas for Biodiversity conservation the zoning for aquaculture set some criteria regarding the establishment of "buffer or protection areas" for certain habitats of community interest, such as maeri beds and seagrass meadows .	NO		SOMEHOW	The POEM include criteria related to Land-Sea Interactions, indicating that: b. Expansions of port infrastructure should consider the interaction on coastal dynamics and the coastal erosion, in the current context of climate change and adaptation to it, as well as other impacts that may be caused to existing activities f. Human activities carried out at sea or on the coast shall take into account, both during their design and planning and during their implementation and, where appropriate, decommissioning, the sectoral objectives for adaptation to climate change and the lines of action set out in the National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change 2021-2030. Measures included in the POEM are related to climate change adaptation: ITM1: National Strategic Plan for the Protection of the Spanish Coast considering the Effects of Climate Change. EA1: *Declaration of a Maritime-Terrestrial Public Domain, if applicable, of those sites considered strategic for their contribution to beaches.*
B.3 Anticipation of climate change-related effects	NO		YES	AC3 states that "*new management plans may be developed, along with carrying capacity analyses and analyses of the effects of climate change on aquaculture areas*".	NO		SOMEHOW	Measure OEM3: *"Definition, and incorporation in the POEM, of the set of elements that conform the marine green infrastructure"*, includes some elements that are important for certain vulnerable species, it can be a refuge for them.
C. Sustainable food production	NO		YES	AC3: Actions related to spatial planning within the framework of the "Sustainable Aquaculture Development Strategy 2021-2030". These actions at the national and/or regional level may include: studies for the identification and selection of new zones, e.g. for offshore aquaculture, and the updating of inventories of existing and future aquaculture uses. In addition, new management plans may be developed, along with carrying capacity analyses and analyses of the effects of climate change on aquaculture areas. Actions may also be implemented to incorporate new breeding technologies or monitoring systems.	NO		NO	
C.1 Sustainable fisheries	NO		NO		SOMEHOW	With regards to the development of OWF and the evacuation routes.They shall be designed according to the following criteria, among others: "Areas important for small-scale fisheries as well as aquaculture shall be avoided as far as possible".	NO	
C.1.1. Improving the state of fish stocks	NO	This is included within the objectives, but no within the measures.	NO		SOMEHOW	The POEM includes a measure (ER2) to analize how the development of the ORE sector may impact the fisheries activities, hence indirectly , food production. Besides this measure, the POEM stablish the following criteria to apply inside the High Potential Areas for Marine Wind Energy : *With the sole purpose of facilitating the deployment of offshore wind energy for commercial exploitation, as well as guaranteeing its coexistence with other human uses and activities, the following criteria are established, without prejudice to what may be established, where appropriate, during the procedure for processing the application for authorisation of the installation and during the environmental assessment process for each project: […] Analysis of fishing activity in the area. Description of the types of fishing affected by the project and assessment of the effects depending on the type of fishing. Priority must be given to the coexistence of the wind farm with the fishing activity present in the area, with special consideration for traditional fishing gear and sustainably managed fishing grounds.*	NO	
C.1.6 Multi-use of the sea space: combination including fisheries	NO		NO		YES	Among the criteria established for the High Potential Areas for Offshore Renewable energies: g) Efforts shall be made to identify, where possible, those fishing gears that could coexist with the commercial wind farm or other renewable energies to be deployed, and in such cases, to facilitate such coexistence by the developer. h) In areas where there is evidence of relevant interaction with fishing grounds, including small-scale fisheries, options to minimise such impact shall be proposed. j) Efforts shall be made to identify the types of vessels that could sail within the space occupied by the wind farm and, in such cases, to facilitate this possibility. k) When installing commercial OWF within each zone, especially in those ZAPERs with a larger surface area, and which are arranged parallel to the coast, the necessary permeability of the ZAPERs must be facilitated, in order to guarantee the transit of vessels, especially the fishing fleet which goes out to fish from different points along the coast(3). If necessary, transit strips will be established in addition to those already provided for by the layout of the ZAPER polygons.	NO	
C.2 Sustainable aquaculture (both for fish and shellfish)	NO		YES	AC2: "*…stablish criteria for the sustainable development of aquaculture activities. ..*". C.2.1.Development of marine aquaculture installations is addressed through--> AC1: Declaration of Zones of Interest: The competent regional governments (if they have not already done so) may declare Zones of Interest for Marine Farming (Zonas de Interés para la acuicultura, ZIA) in the areas defined as High Potential Areas for Aquaculture (Zonas de Alto Potencial para la acuicultura, ZAPAC).	NO		NO	
C.2.4. Multi-use of the sea space: combination including aquaculture	NO		NO		YES	Among the criteria established for the High Potential Areas for Offshore Renewable energies: i) Efforts shall be made to identify, where possible, those forms of aquaculture that could coexist with the commercial wind farm or other renewable energies to be implemented, and in such cases, to facilitate such coexistence by the developer. j) Efforts shall be made to identify the types of vessels that could sail within the space occupied by the wind farm and, in such cases, to facilitate this possibility.	NO	
C.3 Sustainable algae production	NO		NO	Not in the measures, yes in the objectives.	NO		NO	
C.4 Knowledge-related measures	SOMEHOW	Multi-sector horizontal measures affecting fisheries: – *OEM3: Spatial analysis of cumulative pressures resulting from the spatial concentration of certain uses and activities.* – *OEM2: Prospective study and socioeconomic characterisation of the different sectors of the Spanish blue economy.* - *ER2: Analysis of the fishing sector potentially affected by the development of offshore wind energy in the areas proposed in the POEM.*	SOMEHOW	Multi-sector horizontal measures affecting aquaculture: – OEM1: Spatial analysis of cumulative pressures resulting from the spatial concentration of certain uses and activities. – OEM2: Prospective study and socioeconomic characterisation of the different sectors of the Spanish blue economy.	NO		NO	
C.5. Governance-related measures	SOMEHOW	OEM7: *Development of a long-term stakeholder participation and involvement strategy, with special attention to the sectors with the greatest social roots, local administrations, and the citizens.*	SOMEHOW	OEM7: *Development of a long-term stakeholder participation and involvement strategy, with special attention to the sectors with the greatest social roots, local administrations, and the citizens.*	SOMEHOW	OEM5: *Creation of working groups to address management issues with appropriate detail and scale.* - One of the working groups created adresses the interaction between ORE and other activities as fisheries.	NO	
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration	SOMEHOW	OEM3: *Spatial analysis of cumulative pressures resulting from the spatial concentration of certain uses and activities.*	YES	- AC3: Actions related to spatial planning within the framework of the "Sustainable Aquaculture Development Strategy 2021-2030". These actions at the national and/or regional level may include: studies for the identification and selection of new zones, e.g. for offshore aquaculture, and the updating of inventories of existing and future aquaculture uses. In addition, new management plans may be developed, along with **carrying capacity analyses** and analyses of the effects of climate change on aquaculture areas. Protection of climate-sensitive marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems, and landscapes --> Regarding the potential overlapping of High Potential Areas for Aquaculture with Priority Use or Hight Potential Areas for Biodiversity conservation some criteria regarding the establishment of "buffer or protection areas" for certain habitats of community interest, such as maeri beds and seagrass meadows" are stablished. OEM3: *Spatial analysis of cumulative pressures resulting from the spatial concentration of certain uses and activities.*	SOMEHOW	**Measure ER3**: *Analysis of the potential effects of offshore wind farms on marine ecosystems.* The zoning methodology for ORE High Potential Areas considers biodiversity protection in the following way, it would be forbidden to deploy offshore wind farms , neither floating nor fixed in the following areas: - Approved Spatial Protection Areas for birds (SPAs) on the sea or areas being researched for this purpose. - In SACs/SCIs, those areas where habitats of Community Interest (1110, 1120, 1170, 1180, 8330) are present. This presence will be established on the basis of official information and, where it does not exist or is not available, through the corresponding surveys to be carried out by the developer. - In the areas identified as valuable or of interest for habitats within the framework of the INTEMARES project - including the six areas under study within the framework of this project to be declared SCIs in the near future, specifically the underwater mountains of Mallorca, Cap Bretón, and Seco de Palos - those areas in which Habitats of Community Interest are present. This presence will be established on the basis of official information and, where it does not exist or is not available, through the corresponding surveys to be carried out by the developer. - Critical areas of species (in particular killer whales, beaked whales, sperm whales, porpoises, turtles and pilot whales)	YES	**Priority Use Areas for Biodiversity protection** in the POEM are those areas that are already protected by different tools. The POEM establish some considerations without prejudice to the provisions of management plans for marine protected areas, such as: a) In areas declared for the presence of seabirds (SPAs or other figures) in critical areas of protected species as well as, within other protected marine areas, in areas with the presence of habitats of community interest, the installation of offshore wind farms for commercial purposes shall be avoided. b) All restrictions set out in Law 42/2007 of 13 December 2007 on Natural Heritage and Biodiversity shall be applied. In particular, it is recalled that it is not permitted to supply or store fuel through the permanent anchoring of tankers in the waters within protected natural areas and Natura 2000 Network protected areas, the reception of such fuel or the supply of fuel to these tankers. **Criteria** to be applied for overlapping with other uses and activities are provided, specially for ZAPAC, areas of high potential for aggregate extraction, or ZAPER. In any case, the protection of biodiversity and the impact on the marine protected areas concerned should be the priority. **High Potential Areas for biodiversity,** which include areas that have been identified because of their high value for the protection of biodiversity, due to the presence of habitats and/or species of high conservation value, and which are not currently included in any figure of protection. These areas include those identified as being of high value for benthic habitats, for birds and cetaceans and for species of Community interest. These areas also include the criteria which indicates that in the context of the environmental assessment of projects, plans and programmes, they should be considered as areas of high potential for the conservation of biodiversity and therefore the effects of uses and activities on them should be adequately analysed. Finally, **measures** that relate to nature protection have been established in the MSP plan: - OEM3: *Definition, and incorporation in the POEM, of the set of elements that conform the marine green infrastructure of certain uses and activities* . - OEM3: *Definition, and incorporation in the POEM, of the set of elements that conform the marine green infrastructure*. - OEM4: *Development of anchoring management plans for recreational activities*. - PB1: *Identification of new proposals for the declaration of MPAs that will enable progress to be made towards the established objective of achieving the protection of 30% of the marine surface area by 2030.* - PB2: *Approval and development of the Master Plan for the Network of Marine Protected Areas of Spain (RAMPE).*
D.1 Elements to improve marine connectivity (e.g. among submarine canyons, reefs, etc.) and elements to achieve a coherent network of effective marine protected areas	NO		NO		NO		YES	OEM3: *Definition, and incorporation in the POEM, of the set of elements that conform the marine green infrastructure*. PB1: *Identification of new proposals for the declaration of marine protected areas that will enable progress to be made towards the established objective of achieving the protection of 30% of the marine surface area by 2030.* PB2: *Approval and development of the Master Plan for the Network of Marine Protected Areas of Spain (RAMPE).*
D.1.1 Establishment of new or enlargement of strictly marine protected areas (10% target) and definition of strict protection	NO		NO		NO		SOMEHOW	A coherent network of marine protected areas (this may apply also for D1.1, D1.2, D1.3, D1.4)
D.1.5. Multi-use of the sea space: combination including biodiversity and ecosystem protection	NO		NO		YES	High Potential Areas for Offshore Wind Farm (ZAPER) sometimes overlap with Priority Areas and High Potential Areas for Biodiversity Conservation, the POEM stablish criteria for those situations: In the event that a ZAPER overlaps with the priority use areas for the protection of biodiversity, its impact on the marine protected areas concerned shall be analysed. The marine strategy compatibility reports shall verify that the developer has provided such justification, without prejudice to what is established by the managing body of the site.	NO	
D.2 Restoring marine and coastal ecosystems	NO		NO		NO		SOMEHOW	OEM3: *Definition, and incorporation in the POEM, of the set of elements that conform the marine green infrastructure.*
D.3 Knowledge-related measures	NO		YES	AC3: Actions related to spatial planning within the framework of the "Sustainable Aquaculture Development Strategy 2021-2030". These actions at the national and/or regional level may include: studies for the identification and selection of new zones, e.g. for offshore aquaculture, and the updating of inventories of existing and future aquaculture uses. In addition, new management plans may be developed, along with carrying capacity analyses and analyses of the effects of climate change on aquaculture areas.	YES	Besides Measure ER3: *Analysis of the potential effects of offshore wind farms on marine ecosystems,* **c riteria** are stablished for planning inside ZAPERs, where an Environmental Impact Assessment process is required, in which aspects like the following should be considered: *"b)the projects will be carried out, within each ZAPER, in those areas where an ad-hoc prospective analysis shows that they will have the least impact on the seabird communities that occupy the area. An acoustic study will also be carried out to characterise the average background noise levels in the area, in order to contribute to the environmental monitoring of the wind farms."* *c) Offshore wind projects shall take into account the following environmental aspects for the appropriate assessment of their environmental impact, without prejudice to other relevant issues and those included in the guide provided for measure ER3: studies on avifauna and other fauna potentially affected, acoustic levels, characterisation of the marine habitats affeted by the wind infrastructure, cumulative and synergistic effects with other ORE projects, etc.* *d) in cases where ZAPER overlaps with protected marine areas of the Natura 2000 network, a detailed analysis of the technically and environmentally viable alternatives, and provide a justification of the main reasons for the solution adopted, taking into account the effects of the project on the area in question is obligatory.* *i) The evacuation routes of the electrical energy generated by the activity to the ground shall be designed according to a bionomic characterisation of the area to be crossed in order to avoid affecting habitats of Community interest or other vulnerable and/or protected benthic habitats.*	NO	
E. Blue circular economy	SOMEHOW	OEM6: *Development of a national blue economy strategy*. --> This strategy hasn't been developed yet but it may incorporate circular economy elements.	SOMEHOW	OEM6: Development of a national blue economy strategy. --> This strategy hasn't been developed yet but it may incorporate circular economy elements.	NO		NO	
E.1 Circular design	NO		NO		NO		NO	
E.2 Waste prevention	NO		NO		NO		NO	
E.3 Reuse, repair, upgrade, recycle	NO		NO		NO		NO	
F. Zero pollution	NO		NO		NO		NO	
F.1 Pollution prevention	NO		NO		NO		NO	
F.2 Pollution remediation	NO		NO		NO		NO	

Fact-sheet 7: Fair and just transition

Just and inclusive transition: "No one left behind" - Stakeholder participation by sectors.
Describe findings

	FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
WHO								
Who were considered as stakeholders and how were they identified?		Public authorities in charge of fisheries within the national and the regional governments;representatives of the sector at the national level. An information day was held with interested parties and representatives of the sectors to present the work carried out and future steps in the planning process, as well as to ask them various questions about their objectives and interests in this planning process. There is no information about the stakeholder identification process in the POEM.		Public authorities in charge of aquaculture within the national and the regional governments;representatives of the sector at the national level. An information day was held with interested parties and representatives of the sectors to present the work carried out and future steps in the planning process, as well as to ask them various questions about their objectives and interests in this planning process. There is no information about the stakeholder identification process in the POEM.		Public authorities in charge of energy within the national and the regional governmentsThe Spanish Institute for Diversification and Saving of Energy (IDEA, by its Spanish Acronym) and large enterprises at the national level.		National and regional administrations with competences in nature protection. At a technical level, 2 entities that give support to the MSP competente authority (IEO-CSIC and CEDEX) were included.
Were the characteristics of the stakeholders (e.g., gender, class, ethnicity, age and/or disability) considered in stakeholder participations?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
Were local participatory initiatives (such as community-led local development groups, fisheries local action groups etc.) arranged/considered?	SOMEHOW	On July 8, 2021, a participatory online workshop was organized with representatives of the fishing sector ("Cofradías", federations, and state and regional administrations) to discuss the possible affectation of the OWF on fishing activities and to try to reduce these impacts.	NO		NO		NO	
Was sufficient sectoral/group representation of stakeholders ensured in the planning process?	NO	"Sufficient" is difficult to evaluate	SOMEHOW	"Sufficient" is difficult to evaluate	SOMEHOW	The participation of the Spanish Institute for Diversification and Saving of Energy (IDAE) and large energy companies at the national level was evident. However, consultations with small-scale users, local communities, and citizen science were minimal.	YES	"Sufficient" is difficult to evaluate. National and regional responsibles for nature protection were engaged since the beginning. The involvement of NGOs was more scarce.
Does the Plan promote gender balance in maritime professions?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
WHEN								
In what phase or which phases of the MSP process was stakeholder involvement organised?		During public official consultations (before approval) and during the first phases of the first cycle of implementation. To begin the public participation process, a workshop was held on March 6, 2019, with stakeholders and sector representatives, where the work carried out and future steps in the planning process were presented. The stakeholders were asked about their objectives and interests in the development process. During 2020, bilateral meetings were held between the DGCM and each of the coastal Autonomous Regions. A specific online workshop with fisheries representative took place to discuss about the potential effect of OWF development in the activity. A participatory in-presence stakeholder workshop was held in 2024 to begin the revision of the first cycle of the POEM.		During public official consultations (before approval) and during the first phases of the first cycle of implementation. To begin the public participation process, a workshop was held on March 6, 2019, with stakeholders and sector representatives, where the work carried out and future steps in the planning process were presented. The stakeholders were asked about their objectives and interests in the development process. During 2020, bilateral meetings were held between the DGCM and each of the coastal Autonomous Regions. A participatory in-presence stakeholder workshop was held in 2024 to begin the revision of the first cycle of the POEM.		During public official consultations (before approval) and during the first phases of the first cycle of implementation. To begin the public participation process, a workshop was held on March 6, 2019, with stakeholders and sector representatives, where the work carried out and future steps in the planning process were presented. The stakeholders were asked about their objectives and interests in the development process. During 2020, bilateral meetings were held between the DGCM and each of the coastal Autonomous Regions. A participatory in-presence stakeholder workshop was held in 2024 to begin the revision of the first cycle of the POEM.		From the begining of the MSP process through the MSP working group at the ministerial level and, then, specifically, through the ad-hoc working group on MPAs for the development of the plans. After the POEM aproval, the interministerial MSP group is maintained, and several sub-groups have been organized to discuss issues related with nature protection. With regards to proper stakeholder engagement, during public official consultations (before approval) and during the first phases of the first cycle of implementation. To begin the public participation process, a workshop was held on March 6, 2019, with stakeholders and sector representatives, where the work carried out and future steps in the planning process were presented. The stakeholders were asked about their objectives and interests in the development process. During 2020, bilateral meetings were held between the DGCM and each of the coastal Autonomous Regions. A participatory in-presence stakeholder workshop was held in 2024 to begin the revision of the first cycle of the POEM.
Was it made clear how and at what stages stakeholders can participate in the planning process? Was there an interaction plan?	NO	There was no interaction plan. The stakeholders were consulted during the obligatory "public consultation" of the POEM Strategic Environmental Assessment process.	NO	There was no interaction plan. The stakeholders were consulted during the obligatory "public consultation" of the POEM Strategic Environmental Assessment process.	No	There wasn't an interaction plan but the POEM has a measure to develop one : Measure OEM7: *Elaboration of a stakeholder participation and involvement strategy.*	NO	There wasn't an interaction plan but the POEM has a measure to develop one : Measure OEM7: Elaboration of a stakeholder participation and involvement strategy..
HOW								
Was the local and expert knowledge integrated?	SOMEHOW	On 2021, a participatory workshop was organized with representatives of the fishing sector ("Cofradías", federations, and state and regional administrations) to discuss the possible affectation of the OWF on fishing activities and to try to reduce these impacts. In the plan, there is no information on the stakeholder identification process. Also, during the public consultation process, comments comming from Universities and other research institutions were integrated.	SOMEHOW	There is no information about the integration of local and expert knowledge integration regarding aquaculture, but during the public consultation process, comments comming from Universities and other research institutions were integrated.	SOMEHOW	There is no information about the integration of local and expert knowledge integration regarding ORE, but during the public consultation process, comments comming from Universities and other research institutions were integrated.	SOMEHOW	There is no information about the integration of local and expert knowledge integration regarding ORE, but during the public consultation process, comments comming from Universities and other research institutions were integrated.
Were citizen science perspectives considered?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
What methods were used in participation (workshops, scenarios, matrixes of use and interactions etc.)?		In-presence and online workshops and meetings (several events were held online due to covid-19) , official public participation (through the website).		In-presence and online workshops (several workshops were held online due to covid-19) , official public participation (through the website).		Online workshops , official public participation (documents in website) and during the first phase of implementation, in-presence workshops.		Meetings, workshops, working groups and informative sessions
What was the capacity of participants to influence planning decisions?		The Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITERD), Spanish MSP competent authority, held **bilateral meetings with all the coastal autonomous regions** where a detailed discussion on the uses and activities was addressed, filling in the information gaps and also discussing possible future uses, interactions between uses and activities, links with MPA, LSI, etc. Cross-border consultations with Ireland, Italy, Portugal and France were held, including online meetins. (June 2021) The draft royal decree approving the POEM for the five Spanish marine demarcations was opened for public consultation, then to the public authorities and interested parties, ministries and the Interministerial Commission on Marine Strategies. All the inputs and submissions received during the meetings, workshops and public consultations were registered and addressed when corresponded in the POEM final document. For public administrations it was accessible because the official consultation as well the environmental strategic assessment was sent formally to all entities that participate in the process. However, for other entities or general public it was only accesible through the website of the MITERD, so the participation was only possible through the website of the public consultation process. There were no notifications from the administration afterwards. For fisheries especially, some of the High Potential Areas for OWF were reduced in size or removed.		The Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITERD), Spanish MSP competent authority, held bilateral meetings with all the coastal autonomous regions where a detailed discussion on the uses and activities was addressed, filling in the information gaps and also discussing possible future uses, interactions between uses and activities, links with MPA, LSI, etc. Cross-border consultations with Ireland, Italy, Portugal and France were held, including online meetings. (June 2021) The draft royal decree approving the POEM for the five Spanish marine demarcations was opened for public consultation, then to the public authorities and interested parties, ministries and the Interministerial Commission on Marine Strategies. All the inputs and submissions received during the meetings, workshops and public consultations were registered and addressed when corresponded in the POEM final document. 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Fact-sheet 8: Cross-cutting elements

		FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
	Research and innovation								
Describe findings with reference to each sector	Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to increase the availability of reliable, high-quality ocean and maritime data?	SOMEHOW	The POEM includes objective H.11. and H.12. *"Coordinate the scientific knowledge generated with the implementation of new uses and activities and studies in the marine environment and to promote scientific knowledge to determine the carrying capacity of marine ecosystems in response to different uses and activities* ". --> Somehow because it relates to new uses, not uses in general With the POEM, a geoportal also was created to allocate all marine-related data (InfoMAR).	SOMEHOW	The POEM include objectives H.11. and H.12.: "*Coordinate the scientific knowledge generated with the implementation of new uses and activities and studies in the marine environment and to promote scientific knowledge to determine the carrying capacity of marine ecosystems in response to different uses and activities* ". --> Somehow because it relates to new uses, not uses in general. With the POEM, a geoportal also was created to allocate all marine-related data (InfoMAR).	YES	The POEM include objective H.12.: "*Coordinate the scientific knowledge generated with the implementation of* ***new uses and activities an*** *d studies in the marine environment"* With the POEM, a geoportal also was created to allocate all marine-related data (InfoMAR). .	YES	The POEM include objective H.11 "*Promote scientific knowledge to determine the carrying capacity of marine ecosystems for different uses and activities".* With the POEM, a geoportal also was created to allocate all marine-related data (InfoMAR).
	Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to support research on the marine environment?	SOMEHOW	The POEM include objective H.11 "Promote scientific knowledge to determine the carrying capacity of marine ecosystems for different uses and activities". Within the sectoral objectives:P.2. ***Achieve Maximum Sustainable Yield*** *for commercial species populations and reduce the negative impact of fishing activities on biodiversity* this require research, however it is not said splicitly.	YES	Objectives H.11. and H12 and sectorial objectives also address this: A.1. *Design aquaculture ... compatible with environmental conservation and marine ecosystem protection; considering* ***new knowledge from research on marine farming*** *, especially algae;* ***advances*** *in new technologies; as well as the needs for resilience, adaptation, and mitigation of climate change.*	SOMEHOW	Criteria established to authorize OWF deployment require studies (see FS6).	NO	
	Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to support research and technological innovation in maritime sectors?	SOMEHOW	POEM include Priority use and *High potential areas for research, development and innovation.* These areas have the same criteria: *Where possible, it will be facilitated that the testing of marine renewable technologies can be combined with R&D&I concerning other sectors, such as aquaculture and fisheries, as well as environmental research, with a particular focus on improving knowledge of the potential impacts of renewable energy infrastructures on biodiversity,* all while respecting the terms of any concessions or permits granted.	SOMEHOW	The POEM include *Priority use areas for research, development and innovation.* In these are areas the activity is already going on. Criteria for the planning in these areas : *a) Where possible, facilitate that experimentation with marine renewable technologies can be combined with R&D&I concerning other sectors, such as aquaculture or the environment, while respecting the terms of the concessions or permits granted.* POEMs also include *High potential areas for research, development and innovation.* These areas also have the same criteria: *Where possible, it will be facilitated that the testing of marine renewable technologies can be combined with R&D&I concerning other sectors, such as aquaculture and fisheries, ...",* all while respecting the terms of any concessions or permits granted. The POEMs also include Measure ZAPID-1: Identification of potential new R&D&I areas.	YES	The POEMs include *Priority use areas fo R&D&I.* Criteria for planning in these areas : *a) Where possible, facilitate that experimentation with marine renewable technologies can be combined with R&D&I concerning other sectors, such as aquaculture or the environment, while respecting the terms of the concessions or permits granted.* POEMs also include *High potential areas for R&D&I.* These areas also have the same criteria: *Where possible, it will be facilitated that the testing of marine renewable technologies can be combined with R&D&I concerning other sectors, such as aquaculture and fisheries, as well as environmental research, with a particular focus on improving knowledge of the potential impacts of renewable energy infrastructures on biodiversity,* all while respecting the terms of any concessions or permits granted. The POEMs also include Measure ZAPID-1: *Identification of potential new R&D&I areas.*	NO	
	Education and training								
	Does the Plan(s) foresee objectives and/or measures to address education, skill development and training in maritime professions?	NO		NO		NO		NO	
	Cross-border cooperation in MSP	SOMEHOW	There was a cross-border consultation with Portugal, Italy and France, before the approbal of the plans, as part of the Environmetal Strategic Assessment process. MSP transbounday projects are also mentioned as cooperation and pilot studies examples.	SOMEHOW	There was a cross-border consultation with Portugal, Italy and France, before the approbal of the plans, as part of the Environmetal Strategic Assessment process. MSP transbounday projects are also mentioned as cooperation and pilot studies examples.	SOMEHOW	There was a cross-border consultation with Portugal, Italy and France, before the approbal of the plans, as part of the Environmetal Strategic Assessment process. MSP transbounday projects are also mentioned as cooperation and pilot studies examples.	SOMEHOW	There was a cross-border consultation with Portugal, Italy and France, before the approbal of the plans, as part of the Environmetal Strategic Assessment process. MSP transbounday projects are also mentioned as cooperation and pilot studies examples.
	Is cooperation on specific sectors foreseen by the Plan(s)	SOMEHOW	Not in a cross-border manner, but cooperation among fisheries and ORE sectors is foreseen.	NO		NO		NO	

In relation to the cross-cutting issues mentioned before and regarding the EGD objectives, there are several mentions within the POEM to other strategies. The **European Green Deal** and the aim of achieving the EGD goals through the POEM is mentioned; **Agenda 2030: Towards a Spanish Sustainable Development Strategy** is referred in relation to several objectives: Marine life, zero hunger and climate action. Those are all cross-cutting elements that affect all sectors, activities, uses and values. Focusing on climate change, the **EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategy** is mentioned, as well as the **Spanish Stratregy for Science, Technology and Innovation 2021-2027** (EETI) for ORE. This last strategy is also mentioned for other topics in relation to the 4 MEDIGREEN sectors, like Sustainable food production. Lastly, the **EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030**, in relation to the sustainable development of the sectors and the biodiversity protection is also considered.

Fact-sheet 9: Zoning	FISHERIES	AQUACULTURE	ORE	NATURE PROTECTION
	Dedicated areas: NO	Dedicated areas: YES	Dedicated areas: YES	Dedicated areas: YES
Provide information on identification of areas with EGD features. Describe features of these areas in terms of management of uses and measures in place. Provide total extension in km2 of each typology in the entire Plan spatial domain and the relative percentage.	There is **no zoning for fisheries** within the POEM since it has been considered as an "ubicquitous" activity that takes place in the marine space. Nevertheless, within the criteria for the Priority Use and High Potential Areas, different measures have been considered to avoid or minimise the conflicts or the impacts over the fishing grounds and the fisheries sector, specially the artisinal one. The only zoning considered for this sector are the Marine Reserves of Fishing Interest, regulated by Laz 3/2001 of Maritime State Fisheries.	**High Potential Areas for Aquaculture** have been designated. These areas include those where aquaculture is already ocurring and areas with high suitability for the development of aquaculture conformed by the different categories established by the regional governments. Criteria to deal with overlapping with other uses and sectorial objectives have been established for these areas.	**ZAPER are the high potential areas identified defined as highly suitable for the deployment of commercial offshore wind energy**, without prejudice to the fact that such projects may include hybridisation with other offshore renewable technologies. These areas have to meet specific technical criteria They also meet the criterion of not being located in areas identified as incompatible, or as 'prohibition of installing wind power (whether pivoted or floating)' according to the criteria proposed by the Directorate General for Biodiversity, Forests and Desertification of the MITECO, such as SPAs declared at sea, SACs/SCIs, critical areas of species (especially killer whales, beaked whales, sperm whales, porpoises, turtles and pilot whales), etc.. From the point of view of interactions with shipping and port activity, ZAPER also respect the following criteria: - They do not hinder port approach routes and manoeuvrability in ports, including the waters of the service area. They are not located in areas with a high traffic density proven by AIS data. They respect the navigation channels that have been required by the Directorate General of the Merchant Navy (MITMA). These areas also establish criteria to manage overlaping with other designated areas and uses (as have been detailed in previous FS)	The POEM established 2 type of areas for biodiversity: - **Priority Use Areas for Biodiversity (ZUPB)**: they integrate all MPA established by different protecting tools from regional (autonomous communities), national, european and international policies. - **High Potential Areas for Biodiversity (ZAPB)**: areas considered to be of high value for the protection of biodiversity due to the presence of habitats and/or species of high conservation value, and which are not currently included in any figure of protection, but could be in the near future. Those identified as being of high value for benthic habitats, areas of high value for birds and cetaceans, areas of high value for species of Community interest and areas of high value for cetaceans including: ·Areas that have been identified in the framework of a process for the determination of Natura 2000 network gaps as areas of interest for species (birds, cetaceans and turtles) or marine habitats for possible designation as a protected area. ·Areas being studied in the framework of the LIFE IP PAF INTEMARES project to be declared in the near future as Special Protected Areas for birds (SPAs) or proposed as Site of Community Importance (SCIs). ·Areas identified as areas of interest for cetaceans in the framework of international bodies, such as the CCH (Critical Cetacean Habitats) of Accobams.
	Total extension [km2]: **0 km2**	Total extension [km2]: 18372,91 km2 **5592,39 km2 for the Mediterranean subregions**	Total extension [km2]: 4948,08 km2 **1697,60 km2 for the Mediterranean subregions**	Total extension [km2]: **Priority Use Areas for biodiversity:** 244.887,47 km2 (22,78%) **[Mediterranean marine subregions: 95970,80 km2]** **High Potential Areas for biodiversity**: 129.967,95 km2 (12,09%) **[Mediterranean subregions: 75563,65 km2]**
	% with respect to the total Plan area: **0%**	% with respect to the total Plan area: 1,71% across all Spanish marine demarcations **0,52% (of the total) for the Mediterranean subregions**	0,46% **0,16% (of the total) for the Mediterranean marine subregions**	% with respect to the total Plan area: **ZUPB**: 12,09% **% Mediterranean marine subregions: 7,03% (of the total)** **ZAPB**: 22,78% **% Mediterranean marine subregions: 8,93% (of the total)**
The extension of Priority Use and High Potential Areas has been calculated according to the best available information for this specifc study so the area values cannot be understood as official.				

Annex 3 - Report from the project consortium workshop

Introduction

The project workshop entitled 'Implementation of the EGD sectoral component of MSP plans: urgency, readiness, obstacles' was held in Venice, San Servolo Island, from 30th June to 2nd July 2025. The workshop feeds into the activities of Task 2.1, trough informing the preparation of deliverable D2.1.

Overall, the workshop was joined by 27 participants, including 23 full partner representatives and 4 invited representors of other EU MS countries (Cyprus, Malta, Slovenia). The list of participants is presented in **Appendix A**.

The main aim of the workshop was to exchange the preliminary results from the analysis of MSP plans considering EGD objectives and the four sectors of interest for the project (results to be included in D2.1). Attention was also given to defining a methodology for undertaking the following activities of T2.1, related to the identification of an assessment framework to monitor progresses towards EGD in MSP, as well as implementation of actions at national level (T2.2).

The agenda of the workshop is presented in **Appendix B**.

Figure 20 Participants to the MEDIGREEN workshop in Venice 30 June – 2 July 2025.

Methodology

On **Day 1** workshop activities got started with a round of short presentations and interventions to share updates on MSP process in the different countries, as well as preliminary results from the assessment of EGD components of MSP plans for the four sectors of interest of MEDIGREEN. The following **presentations/interventions** were given:

- Updates from France (CEREMA)
- Updates from France Greece (UNITH)
- Updates from France Cyprus (Competent Authority + PAP/RAC)
- Updates from France Malta (Competent Authority + PAP/RAC)
- Updates from France Slovenia Malta (Competent Authority + PAP/RAC)
- Updates from France Spain (IEO/CSIC)
- Updates from France Italy (CORILA-CNR-IUAV)
- Updates from Croatia (Competent Authority)

Figure 21 - Presentation of results of the assessment.

Afterword, the discussion was focused on sharing experience from the implementation of the EGD-sector oriented provisions, highlighting common approaches, specificities, elements of readiness, and obstacles. The discussion was preceded by a **prioritisation exercise**, where participants were asked to indicate the 3 most important EGD topics for each of the four sectors. Participants could also indicate a specific subtopic. The discussion was organised in the form of a **world cafe session**, with four discussion tables, one per sector, and participants moving along the tables.

During the world cafe, the discussion was organized around the first 1-3 topics scored, starting with the first one and continuing up to the end of the time for the slot. For each table, participants were asked to provide information on paperboards, through post it, and discuss the findings. Facilitators supported compilation and discussion. In the second and third rounds, facilitators helped participants to build on previous results.

The discussion in each round was organised in two steps: the first one on Sharing plans' contents and identification of priority approaches and gaps, the second one on the Readiness for implementation and obstacles. Some details about the guiding questions are provided here below.

Sharing plans' contents: priorities and gaps

- How do your national plans address the implementation of the identified priority EGD topics for this sector? Please identify 1-3 priority actions (the most urgent or the most important to be addressed).
- What are the EGD topics that are not addressed by your plan, but should be addressed according to your opinion?

Operationality of implementation: readiness and obstacles

- Are such actions ready to be implemented? What are their key readiness features (existing funds, good stakeholder engagement, available knowledge, ...)?
- What difficulties are encountered in a proper implementation of the approaches pointed out? What limits the integration of the topic in the plans (when gaps are identified in addressing some EGD topics)?

Figure 22 - Working tables during the world café.

On **Day 2** a **recap on Day** 1 results and a discussion on the steps towards the preparation of D2.1 took place in the morning, including sharing of tasks and timing. The rest of the day was deserved to the **field trip**. The program of the trip is included in **Appendix 3**.

Figure 23 - Recap and discussion on the way forward.

Figure 24 - Field and cultural trip (Venice Biennale).

Figure 25 - Field and cultural trip (boat trip in the Venice lagoon).

Figure 26 - Field and cultural trip (vineyard on a lagoon island).

Day 3 focused on discussing the approach to be undertaken to prepare a framework of analysis to monitor progression towards EGD objectives (in view of the preparation of D2.2).

A methodology for the development of an **assessment framework to evaluate the impact of MSP plans in achieving the EGD objectives** for the 4 sectors, gathering appropriate indicators was presented by CEREMA and discussed with the partners.

The methodology foresees a structured pathway to evaluate the contribution of MSP to EGD objectives across the Mediterranean. The first step involves gathering objectives and indicators from a wide range of sources, including national MSP plans, sectoral strategies, monitoring programmes, and relevant EU and national policies. This effort is complemented by targeted interviews with sectoral representatives to identify existing targets, the use of indicators, and perceptions of how well current frameworks respond to sectoral needs. All findings are consolidated into a common database to ensure comparability.

On this basis, a cross-analysis will be carried out to assess the coverage of EGD topics and sectors, highlight common indicators and monitoring practices, and expose significant differences or gaps between countries. The outcome will inform the development of a shared assessment framework. Indicators will be selected according to their effectiveness, measurability, and representativeness across partner countries, while additional benchmarks will be drawn from scientific literature, NGOs, and international standards to set levels of ambition.

The draft framework will then be tested through practical application, allowing partners to identify strengths, weaknesses, and lessons learned. This process will feed into the formulation of recommendations aimed at enhancing the role of MSP in advancing EGD objectives. Recommendations will focus particularly on improving governance structures, stakeholder participation, monitoring systems, and the integration of MSP with EU policies. Finally, all results, including methodology, findings, the harmonised framework, and recommendations, will be consolidated in the final deliverable.

Afterword, a **methodological approach to report on national action**s undertaken within T2.2 was presented by CEREMA and discussed with the partners.

Within MEDIGREEN, ten national actions are being carried out across four partner countries, each designed to explore concrete ways in which MSP can support EGD objectives.

To ensure consistency and comparability, each action will be documented through a set of structured factsheets. The first factsheet introduces the context and needs, outlining the state of MSP implementation, the issues to be addressed, and the relevant sectors and EGD topics. The second factsheet describes the implementation, including the methodology, governance arrangements, stakeholder involvement, and concrete results, with particular emphasis on contributions to EGD objectives and links to national or subnational MSP frameworks. The third factsheet assesses transferability and upscaling, examining the geographical scale of the challenge, enabling conditions, and affordability in terms of data, skills, and financial requirements. It also explores the potential for replication at larger scales, support by regional organizations, and benefits of cross-border or transboundary cooperation.

At the end of the workshop, the **2nd Steering Committee** of the project was held.

Figure 27 - Presentation of methodology.

Results

The results from the world cafe section are reported, which are also summarized in the main text of D2.1(chapter 4).

Working table on fisheries

The main EGD topics identified by participants in relation to the fisheries sector were sustainable seafood production and biodiversity protection and restoration. As a result, the discussion primarily focused on these two themes.

Participants shared several examples of how Maritime Spatial Plans, in their approaches, are currently incorporating EGD objectives and contributing to these goals:

Croatia: Current efforts include alignment with the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the inclusion of protected areas as defined by the ministry responsible for environmental and nature protection, and the designation of temporal closures as defined by the ministry in charge of fisheries. As a specific protection measure in the fisheries sector, a complete ban on trawl fishing has been established in part of the Jabučka kotlina/Pomo Pit FRA. The fishing community has positively accepted the measures applied so far. For the creation of future FRAs and/or zones prohibiting trawl fishing in parts of the ecological network, consensus with the fisheries sector will be essential.

Malta: The MSP recognises fisheries and aquaculture as important maritime uses. The plan makes clear reference to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and other EU fisheries regulations, and sets objectives related to the protection of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). However, gaps were noted in the specificity and clarity of the measures needed to achieve these objectives.

France: The plan (Sea Basin Strategy for the French Mediterranean) includes a range of objectives and operational tools aimed at conserving fish stocks. In particular, these include identifying essential fish habitats, reducing bycatch (notably through the sharing of best practices in identifying species and reporting bycatch, as well as innovation efforts to improve the selectivity of fishing gears), and controlling catches from both professional and recreational fishing. However, there are no objectives or measures to adapt to climate change effects on the sector.

Spain: Emphasis is placed on strengthening and expanding the "Network of Marine Reserves of Fishing Interest" as a strategy for both conservation and the regeneration of fishing resources. Reference was also made to efforts to achieve and maintain a Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) for commercial fish populations.

Greece: Fisheries is a critical sector in promoting food security. Through the sector biodiversity and fish nursery grounds protection is also endured., Several regulations regarding different fishing techniques (e.g. trawl fishing) that span from temporal to spatial measures are in place. These are mainly set by the National Legislation that the National Spatial Strategy for the Marine Space and the draft MSP Framework for the North Aegean Sea fully incorporate. No clear measures are included towards adapting to climate change, nor towards climate change mitigation. Measures promoting a blue circular economy are also missing.

Despite the presence of these objectives and measures in several national plans, participants noted that they are not always effectively translated into concrete implementation. These results in gaps that are attributable either to the vagueness or lack of detail in the plans themselves (e.g. Malta), and/or to insufficient engagement with the fisheries community during the planning and implementation phases. This includes shortcomings in knowledge sharing, participation, and stakeholder involvement.

Nonetheless, opportunities for improvement were identified. For example, fisheries consortia in some countries could serve as effective intermediaries to support broader and more meaningful engagement with local communities.

Additional obstacles to implementation were also highlighted:

- Insufficient data, particularly regarding small-scale fisheries;
- Resistance from the sector to conservation measures aimed at protecting marine ecosystems;
- Lack of alignment between high-level objectives and the operational actions required to achieve them;
- Institutional ambiguity concerning mandates and responsibilities - for instance, uncertainty about whether MSP is the appropriate framework to address issues such as gear selection.

These observations underline the need for clearer planning, stronger stakeholder engagement, and better alignment between policy goals and practical implementation in order to advance EGD priorities within the fisheries sector through MSP.

Working table on aquaculture

The ranking exercise identified three main discussion topics, namely: 1) sustainable seafood production (including sustainable aquaculture and sustainable algae production); 2) climate change adaptation; 3) blue circular economy.

The discussion first focused on relevant actions and gaps identification, covering all the three topics, with a higher attention dedicated to the first one. A common element of discussion among all countries concerned the integration of sectoral national and regional plans and strategies for aquaculture.

Italy - through identification of national and regional objectives and measures, MSP reinforced the need for a timely completion of the selection process of allocated zones for aquaculture (AZA), carried out at the regional level. MSP measures for aquaculture promote recovery, reuse and recycling of by-products for aquaculture activities. A dedicated MSP objective promotes actions to limit waste from aquaculture, with a particular reference to plastic waste. However, in terms of gaps, reference to algae production and IMTA (Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture) is still missing from MSP, and climate change adaptation elements are not considered by MSP nor by AZA plans;

Cyprus - aquaculture is clearly mentioned in the national policy strategic document, but there is a lack of measures related to circular economy in aquaculture, and concerning deep-sea aquaculture knowledge. Measurable targets for the sector are also missing. There is also a lack of climate change adaptation for the aquaculture sector in the national policy strategic document;

France - The plan outlines the following main objectives in relation to sustainable seafood production: the certification of aquaculture products is highlighted a key objective, along with the development of organic aquaculture. From a circular economy perspective, measures are included to support the development of multi-trophic aquaculture (algae-fish). Regarding gaps in the plan, mapping efforts for climate change scenarios in relation to aquaculture are missing (this may include, for instance, an identification of the zones at risk, a definition of the potential impacts on aquaculture, highly relevant for adaptation). Spain - relevant approaches include: i) design of aquaculture areas considering environmental conservation priorities; ii) the use of the best knowledge available from research; iii) integration in the national plan of the sectoral plans/strategies for aquaculture identified at the regional level. In terms of climate change adaptation, the long-term perspective used for the Spanish plan design was considered a

relevant approach. As for gaps, the reference to the need of promoting algae production is present but accompanied with no measure or specific objective.Restorative aquaculture and IMTA are missing in the plan. A tentative list of indicators for monitoring aquaculture was present in the plan but has not been implemented. How to perform the technical discussion of multi-use with ORE also deserves to be defined;

Greece - approaches include aquaculture as a critical sector, regulated on a sectorial basis. The national spatial plan is under revision. The objectives (incorporated by the MSP Framworks) include the growth of this sector, the expansion of the production (e.g. algae) and the promotion of the multi-use concept (e.g. in combination with MPAs, ORE, fisheries, etc). Climate change adaptation and mitigation goals, although considered by the Plans, ways to achieve these goals are missing. Moreover, in terms of gaps: no provisions are provided with respect to the blue circular economy in aquaculture;

Malta - MSP supports the national aquaculture strategy and identifies locations on strategic maps;

Croatia -aquaculture currently occurs in the territorial sea and inland waters. In the proposal for the MSP plan for the EEZ, it was recommended, during the SEA process, to explore the potential of algae and other low trophic level (LTL) species to reduce the sector's carbon footprint.

The second part of the discussion identified readiness elements and obstacles:

As far as sustainable seafood production is concerned, a readiness element identified (Cyprus) is the designation of aquaculture zones including the port facilities, currently under development. Similarly (France), the MSP process regarding aquaculture foresees the inventory of existing aquaculture sites and the identification of potential sites based on socio-economic, legal, and environmental criteria, with a focus on optimizing space, diversifying activities, and facilitating the establishment of aquaculture operations along the coastline. Another readiness element (Spain) is the presence of very strong stakeholder associations, connecting regions and the national level, and involving administrative and productive actors. An obstacle (Italy) is the current lack of existing algae production in the country, and as a consequence of local examples of the type of environmental interactions of this activity. Spain identified the lack of existing studies on IMTA and algae economic feasibility as an obstacle. Climate change impacts and the negative reactions of local communities were identified as obstacles by Cyprus. As concerns multi-use implementation, Spain identified 3 main obstacles, namely: the clarity of economic benefits; the potential legal limitations; the potential difficulties for realisation.

Concerning blue circular economy, readiness elements were recycling facilities on land (Cyprus), while obstacles are related to the lack of specific provisions in the plans for implementing the measures dedicated to reuse, recovery, and recycling in aquaculture (Italy).

In terms of climate change adaptation, the general obstacle identified concerns the inherent complexity of defining the impacts of climate change on aquaculture. In the case of Greece, it was highlighted that most AZAs and farms are located in bays that are deeply affected by climate change impacts. A readiness element is represented (Spain) by the multiple existing models that show how climate change effects will affect the marine environment, and applied research can build on this for understanding how aquaculture will be affected. France suggested that scenarios already implemented for planning provide a useful base for developing climate change mapping and relating it to aquaculture, however, complexity and uncertainty represent potential obstacles for making this operational.

Working table on Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE)

Climate change mitigation. Unsurprisingly, climate change mitigation is considered as the most at stake EGD topic with regard to the ORE sector. Among subtopics, energy production, storage and transportation is the most voted according to the role that MSP could play in this sector.

A crucial influence that MSP has on ORE is the allocation of space by zoning. Spain has designated development areas in its plan in which developers are already making proposals, while France has also designated development areas by 2030 and 2050 that are included in its plan. Italy still lacks clear spatial prioritisation for ORE development. Greece is in the process of addressing mid-term (2030) and long-term (2050) ORE goals on a sectoral basis (not as part of the MSP process). Enabling conditions pointed out is the existence of clear development objectives (such as the French Med target of designating 4 to 7.5 GW by 2050) and the formal statement that ORE planning should be done through MSP, such as in Spain. It should be noted that in France, MSP and ORE planning were carried out in parallel but not fully integrated, leading to some inconsistencies. Conversely, the lack of cooperation between competent authorities (ministries) in charge of MSP and ORE development is an obvious limitation.

As said previously, the existence of a proper renewable development strategy, with clearly set, quantified objectives, is an enabling condition. France, Greece or Malta mentioned the integration of such a strategy in their plans, while the Italian plan promotes an action dedicated to the elaboration of a specific strategy for ORE. Spain counts on the "Roadmap for the development of offshore wind and marine energy in Spain", to which the MSP plans refer with respect to ORE and that points out to the plan as its planning framework.

The technical support for ORE planning is also a crucial point. Italy created an ORE working group gathering State services and Region (as Spain also has). It could support the implementation of the action plan on ORE development set through the MSP plan adoption. It is aimed at producing guidelines and decision support tools for ORE planning as well as promoting research projects and observatories.

Strong objections from stakeholders and the public, along with the increasing overlapping of various regulations (environmental particularly) in limited areas such as Slovenian waters, are pointed out as severe limitations to the ORE development.

Biodiversity protection. The second most voted EGD topic was about CC adaptation. But since the related subtopics are more related to the limitation of impacts on biodiversity, with regards to CC influence, and that the third topic voted was specifically about biodiversity protection, it has been chosen to address the biodiversity protection topic.

Impact assessment is a central point with regard to this topic. Knowledge and understanding of natural processes and scarcity of empiric data from impacts are still limiting the proper evaluation of ORE environmental impacts such as in Spain or in Italy. However, actions in the plans leading to the establishment of technical guidelines to carry out analysis and observatories to collect needed data will allow to consider this aspect in the upcoming plans' updates. In France, a quite detailed impact assessment has been carried out specifically for ORE development perspectives However, it's still challenging to identify the ORE contribution to the cumulated impacts on the ecosystem in a given area prioritised for its development. In Greece, a Strategic Environmental Assessment has been drafted forthe National off-shore Wind Farms Development Program.

The Italian plan set up very clear specifications for ORE zoning with regard to environmental protection: no wind farm could be planned in any MPA. Clearliness of planning rules is definitely a positive aspect to progress toward the biodiversity protection EGD objective. The French, Spanish and Greek plans are not that specific and some ORE development areas could be designated within MPAs (N2000, for instance) or in the close vicinity, although any project should be submitted to EIA before the approval. The extensive coverage of MPA categories, such as bird N2000 areas, is a significant constraint considering ORE planning.

Several plans, such as the French one, have adopted actions aiming at lowering the environmental impacts of wind farm development (prevent seabird collisions or physical disturbance of bottom habitats…) and also at promoting research and development on this topic.

Finally, the remaining lack of knowledge on actual ORE environmental impacts, with regard to the different pressures created, is still a limitation to the establishment of measures preventing those impacts. MSFD assessments are supposed to provide information but, due to the complexity of the topic, member states have difficulties carrying them out in an adequate time to inform ORE planning.

Working table on Nature protection

The main EGD topics identified by participants in relation to nature protection were Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration and Climate change adaptation. As a result, the discussion primarily focused on these two themes.

Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration. Participants shared key elements of their plan incorporating the EGD objectives for this sector and contributing to the respective goals:

Cyprus: the MSP plan concretely contributes to enhancing marine protection by the designation of new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

Slovenia: the MSP plan clearly targets 30x30 objectives and introduces new areas for protection and strong protection regimes.

Italy: the MSP plan includes in its priority provisions the establishment of a technical table for coherent implementation of MSP, MSFD, Biodiversity, Fisheries policies to reach 30x30 target and 10% strict protection. In addition, the preparation of a Restoration plan for marine areas - coherently with MSP - is foreseen by MSP plan: this represents a singularity in the European panorama so far, being restoration almost not considered by MSP so far.

Malta: the Maltese MSP plan includes specific objectives promoting the protection and enhancement of biodiversity as well as policies supporting MPAs

Greece: MSP in Greece can rely on the availability of advanced management plans of existing MPAs that also include a multi-use approach. New marine parks recently launched, can contribute to the 30x30 objective.

Spain: the Spanish MSP plans include acquired marine environmental objectives from Marine Strategies, furthermore they establish specific zoning, objectives and measures regarding biodiversity conservation. Priority Use and High Potential Areas for biodiversity have been declared and specific criteria in case of overlapping with other uses have been established. Furthermore, Spanish MSP plans include the identification of Marine Green Infrastructure.

France: The sector of nature protection is largely addressed in the MSP plan (Sea basin Strategy of Mediterranean), since the document is also implementing the MSFD. The numerous objectives and measures included in the plan target the protection and restoration of a wide variety of marine and coastal species, habitats and ecosystems, through various tools (regulation but also training, education, and research/innovation-based measures targeting a wide range of maritime activities). The plan includes the quantified objective of 5% of Strongly Protected Areas in the French Mediterranean waters to comply with the EU Biodiversity Strategy.

Regarding gaps, a common element among the countries was recognised in the lack of marine data and knowledge - particularly on pelagic and benthic biodiversity (Greece, Slovenia, Cyprus, Italy, France), and the need to strengthen monitoring. From a methodological point of view, the lack of operational approaches to plan considering the connectivity of MPAs was indicated as a gap (Italy). On the implementation side, formal protection and questionable implementation were also highlighted (Croatia), as well as no protection of the most crowded and impacted areas,

with protection enhanced in remote areas only (France). Lack of proper resources and need for a larger engagement (NGOs, local communities) was also pointed out. Other Effective Area-Based Conservation measures (OECMs) identification are not included in the MSP plans (i.e. Spain). Restoration is not addressed in most of the plans (i.e. Spain).

Readiness elements were recognised: precise designation of areas to be protected, together with the identification of a set of indicators and the availability of a monitoring program, can be recognised as important readiness elements (Slovenia, Spain). Availability of data and governance structure - and alignment with MSFD monitoring programs (e.g. in Cyprus knowledge to design new MPAs was provided by the National Data Centre and the governance structure at the national level, Spain aligned MSP and MS processes, connecting data and governance structures, Greece, also counts on the MSFD monitoring and reporting as regards MPAs). Availability of management plans for MPAs represents a key asset for the implementation of MSP biodiversity-related measures (Greece). Research projects can support the implementation of knowledge-related actions (very relevant for nature protection) e.g. in Italy, a project testing restoration solution, a project filling some important marine biodiversity data gaps. Early and continuous stakeholder engagement is an important asset for the implementation of biodiversity-oriented measures. In Spain, the designation of High Potential Areas for Biodiversity conservation could be seen as an use of the "precautionary principle" to prevent impacts in those areas hosting high value species or habitats that have not been declared as "protected" yet.

Obstacles to implementation deal with the lack of regulation and procedures for control and surveillance, and lack of resources for such activities, resulting in the lack of respect of plan provisions on the ground (Croatia, Italy). When it comes to the scalability of pilot project results on some innovative biodiversity-related solutions, e.g. restoration, the lack of appropriate resources becomes an obstacle (Italy). Some important cross-cutting actions, such as the working tables to coordinate multi-policy actions, cannot be really effective without also including NGOs and the sectors (Italy).

Climate change adaptation. Less time was available to discuss this second priority topic. Nevertheless, some valuable actions were identified at the country level, such as the preparation of a study on the impact of climate change on MSP plans, considering the specificities of all sectors (Italy). However, climate change scenarios consideration in MSP was also pointed out among MSP plan gaps in some countries (France), as well as weak consideration of climate change impacts on the plan choices (Greece) and the lack of concrete capacity to plan under changing conditions (Slovenia). Climate change effects burden successful implementation, causing a continuous changing context which is at the same time complex and uncertain (France). At the same time, the timing of MSP plans' cycles is sometimes too rigid and impairs their adaptability (Cyprus). Measures regarding climate change adaptation for biodiversity are still a gap (i.e. Spain, Malta)

Appendix A – List of participants

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

WP2 WORKSHOP - Assessment of the EGD components of the MS plans: a discussion on the State of Play

Venice 30 June -2 July 2025, Venice (San Servolo Island), Italy

List of participants

Name	Surname	Organization	e-mail	30/06/25	01/07/25	02/07/25	Signature
INAL	Ahmed	National center for research and development of fisheries and aquaculture	inal_ahmed@yahoo.fr				
Kyriakos	Aliouris	Shipping Deputy Ministry	kaliouris@dms.gov.cy	✓	✓	✓	
Neil	Alloncle	CEREMA	neil.alloncle@cerema.fr	✓	✓	✓	
Martina	Bocci	CORILA	martina.bocci.1@gmail.com	✓	✓	✓	
Davide	Bonaldo	CNR-ISMAR	davide.bonaldo@cnr.it	✓			

* I declare that I have read the privacy policy (EU Regulation 2016/679 - GDPR)
I declare that I give consent to the publication of photos and videos where present and to the processing of personal data according to EU Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR)

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Name	Surname	Organization	e-mail	30/06/25	01/07/25	02/07/25	Signature
Michelle	Borg	Planning Authority	michelle.borg@pa.org.mt	✓	✓	✓	
Pierpaolo	Campostrini	CORILA	campostrini@corila.it		✓		
Ginevra	Capurso	ISMAR - CNR	ginevra.capurso@gmail.com	✓	✓	✓	
Fabio	Carella	Iuav	fcarella@iuav.it	✓	✓	✓	
Cristina	Cervera Núñez	Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO, CSIC)	cristina.cervera@ieo.csic.es	✓	✓	✓	
Fanny	Chales	Cerema	fanny.chales@cerema.fr	✓	✓	✓	
Francesca	Coccon	CORILA	coccon@corila.it	✓	✓	✓	
Anna	Dora Deguara	Planning Authority Malta	anna.deguara@pa.org.mt	✓	✓	✓	
Alessandra	Fudoli	IUAV	afudoli@iuav.it	✓	✓	✓	Alessandra Fudoli

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Name	Surname	Organization	e-mail	30/06/25	01/07/25	02/07/25	Signature
Elena	Gutiérrez Ruiz	IEO, CSIC	elena.gutierrez@ieo.csic.es	✓	✓	✓	
Lenča	Humerca Šolar	Ministrstvo za naravne vire in prostor	lenca.humerca-solar@gov.si	✓	✓	✓	
Theoni	Kostopoulou	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	ttkostop@plandevel.auth.gr	✓	✓	✓	
Cécile	Malavaud	Shom	cecile.malavaud@shom.fr	✓	✓	✓	
Marina	Markovic	PAPRAC	marina.markovic@paprac.org			✓	
Vesna	Marohnić-Kuzmanović	Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction, and State Assets, external expert	mkv@net.hr	✓	✓	✓	
Maddalena	Masiero	Corila	masiero@corila.it	✓	✓	✓	
Marilena	Papageorgiou	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	marpapageo@plandevel.auth.gr	✓	✓	✓	

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Name	Surname	Organization	e-mail	30/06/25	01/07/25	02/07/25	Signature
Emiliano	Ramieri	CNR ISMAR	emiliano.ramieri@cnr.it	✓	✓	✓	
Bachouche	Samir	CNRDPA	bachouche.samir@gmail.com				
Ivan	Sekovski	PAP/RAC	ivan.sekovski@paprac.org	✓	✓	✓	
Folco	Soffietti	Iuav	fsoffietti@iuav.it	✓	✓	✓	
DANIELE	BRIGOLIN	IUAV	dbv.golin@iuav.it				
MONICA	MAZZOTTA	IUAV	mmazzotta@iuav.it		✓		
ELOI	CAMÍS I REIXACH	IUAV	ecamisireixach@iuav.it		✓		

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Appendix B – Agenda of the workshop

Assessment of the EGD components of the MSP plans: a discussion on the State of Play

30th June – 2nd July 2024 – Venice (San Servolo Island), Italy

Day 1 – 30th June	
11:00 – 12:00	Cultural program (optional and free of charge): Visit to the Ocean Literacy exhibition in the Island of San Servolo https://oceanliteracycentre.org/
13:00 – 14:00	Registration
14:00 – 14:20	Welcome and introduction (CORILA, IEO/CSIC)
14:20 – 16.10	MSP plans and the European Green Deal *Presentations for sharing the results of the T2.1 analysis by country and other updates + Q&A* *All participants, by country*
16:10 – 16:30	Break + exercise in preparation of the next session
16:30 – 18:30	Implementation of the EGD sectorial component of MSP plans: urgency, readiness, obstacles *World café with 4 discussion tables: Fisheries, Aquaculture, OWE, Nature protection*
18:30 Conclusion	Description of the cultural program for Day 2 (CORILA)
19:00 ahead	Free dinner in San Servolo or in Venice
Day 2 – 1st July (see the attached Day 2 Cultural Program for more details)	
9:00 – 9:45	Recap on Day 1 and steps towards the preparation of D2.1, sharing of tasks and timing (CORILA) This session optional and it is subject to informal agreement all participants will take at the end of Day 1
10:00	Vaporetto to San Zaccaria, slow walk to Biennale of Architettura in Arsenale di Venezia
11:00 – 13:00	Visit to the Biennale. Padillion "Intelligent Venice: the oldest city of the future", a Special Project of the Venice Sustainability Foundation (VSF) realized for the Architecture Biennale 2025.
12:00 – 19:00	Boat trip in the northern lagoon of Venice with light lunch onboard
19:00 – 21:30	Dinner in Cavallino-Treporti.
21:30	Return by boat to San Servolo and Venice
Day 3 – 2nd July	
9:00 – 11:00	Towards an “EGD-performance” analysis of MSP plans (CEREMA & CORILA)
11:00 – 11:15	Break
11:15 – 12:00	National actions to strengthen the EGD components of MSP plans (SHOM & CEREMA)
12:00-13:00	MEDIGREEN STEERING COMMITTEE in hybrid form
13:00	Workshop conclusion and farewell
	For those joining MSP4BIO final conference: transfer to CNR premises in the Venice Arsenale

Appendix C – Program of the field trip

MEDiterranean approach towards a maritime European GREEN Deal in MSP - MEDIGREEN Project Workshop

WP2 WORKSHOP: Assessment of the EGD components of the MS plans: a discussion on the State of Play

Guided tour of the Biennale Architettura 2025 and technical field trip to the Lagoon of Venice Tuesday, 1st July 2025

PROGRAMME OF THE DAY

H 11:00 **Guided tour of the Biennale Architettura 2025 at the Arsenale in Venice**

Meeting point: Entrance of the Arsenale premises, near the "Meeting Point" sign (https://maps.app.goo.gl/s52WmDSsXHtu3aT56).

The guided tour will last 60 minutes, after that we will have the opportunity to visit the 'Intelligent Venice' pavilion, co-curated by Ing. Pierpaolo Campostrini, Managing Director of CORILA.

Please make sure to arrive at the meeting point at least 10 minutes before the scheduled start of the visit.

H 13:00 **Field trip to the Northern Lagoon of Venice**

Meeting point with Osvaldo boat in Riva S. Biasio in front of the Museo Storico Navale di Venezia (https://maps.app.goo.gl/PsYbaGHGZouWRer69)

Lunch, offered by CORILA, will be served on board. A bottle of water and a soft drink will be provided; however, given the high temperatures, we recommend that you bring additional water with you.

We also suggest bringing sunscreen, mosquito repellent, sunglasses, and comfortable clothing suitable for a boat trip in a lagoon environment. The boat is equipped with restroom facilities.

First stop at the Lido inlet

Pierpaolo Campostrini (CORILA) will illustrate the MOSE system, an advanced set of mobile barriers designed to protect Venice and its lagoon from high tides and flooding

Sailing through the Northern Lagoon

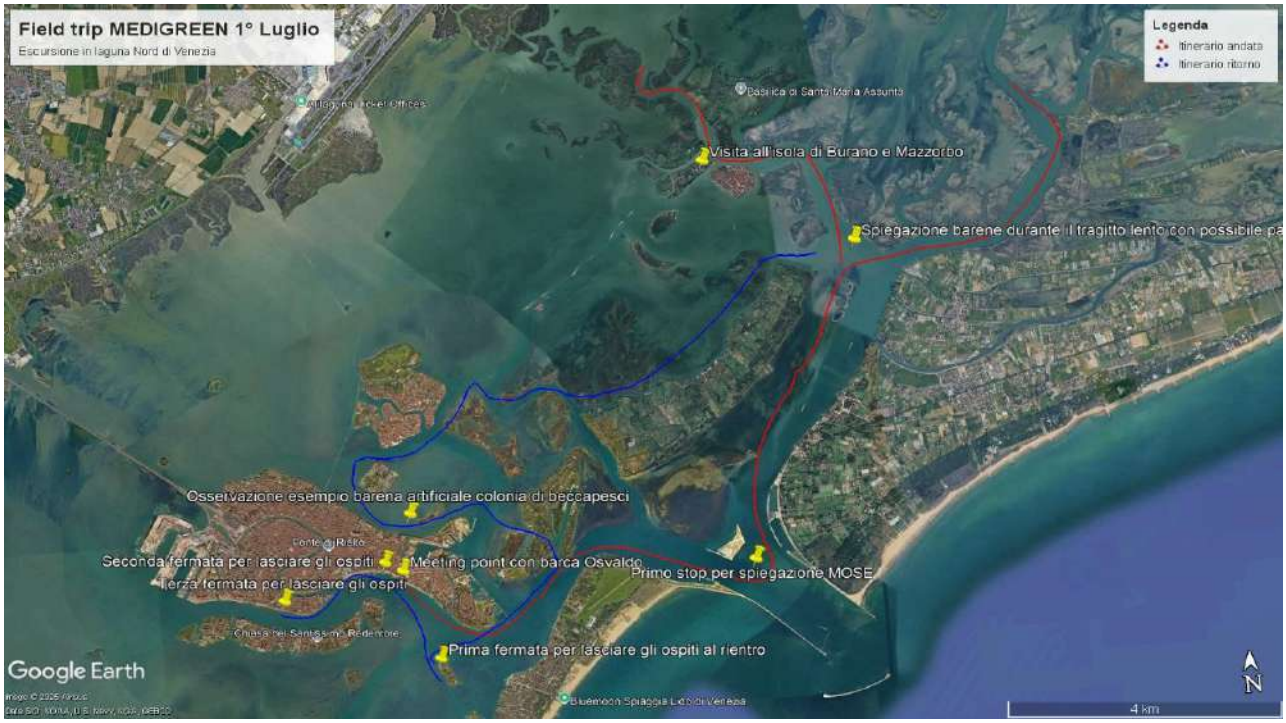
Martina Bocci and Francesca Coccon (CORILA) will present the unique ecological characteristics of the Venice Lagoon, with a focus on recent restoration interventions aimed at preserving saltmarsh habitats and enhancing biodiversity.

Second stop at We will have the opportunity to disembark and visit the beautiful and colourful the Mazzorbo islands of Mazzorbo and Burano, including the native and sustainable

Venissa and Burano vineyard, with a presentation on this innovative viticultural and eco-sustainable islands project developed on Mazzorbo Island.

H 19.00 Dinner at restaurant “Belvedere” Punta Sabbioni, Cavallino-Treporti. Dinner will be offered by CORILA.

H 21.00 Back to Venice. Foreseen three stops for leaving guests at S. Servolo island, S. Zaccaria and Zattere Gesuati


Field trip MEDIGREEN 1° Luglio
Escursione in laguna Nord di Venezia
Legenda
Itinerario andata
Itinerario ritorno
Basilica di Santa Maria Assunta
Visita all'isola di Burano e Mazzorbo
Spiegazione barene durante il tragitto lento con possibile pa
Osservazione esempio barena artificiale colonia di beccapesci
Seconda fermata per lasciare gli ospiti
Meeting point con barca Osvaldo
Terza fermata per lasciare gli ospiti
Primo stop per spiegazione MOSE
Prima fermata per lasciare gli ospiti al rientro
Google Earth
4 km
N