



MEDAC meeting

4th - 5th November – GL3

Agenda 4th November

9,30-11, 30

- Opening remarks by the coordinator
- Adoption of the agenda
- Approval of the minutes of the WG3 hybrid meeting held in Athens (20 June 2024)
- Marine Spatial Planning (MSP):
- a) Presentation of the new EU MSP platform study: “**Future uses/needs of the seas: Integration of climate-smart trends and new technologies in maritime spatial planning**”
- b) Results of “**A Decade of European Maritime Spatial Planning – Stakeholder Conference**” 22nd October 2024 - Marseille, France

11,30-11,45: Break

Agenda 4th November

11,45-13,30

- c) Presentation of the: "**Maritime Spatial Planning Through the Years: Insights of a Decade of EMFF and EMFAF Funded Projects**" (Christina Christoforou Livani & -Cristina Cervera Nuñez- EU MSP Platform)
- d) Presentation of the **Marine Protected Area (MPA)** project (Belinda Bramley- Europe MPA)

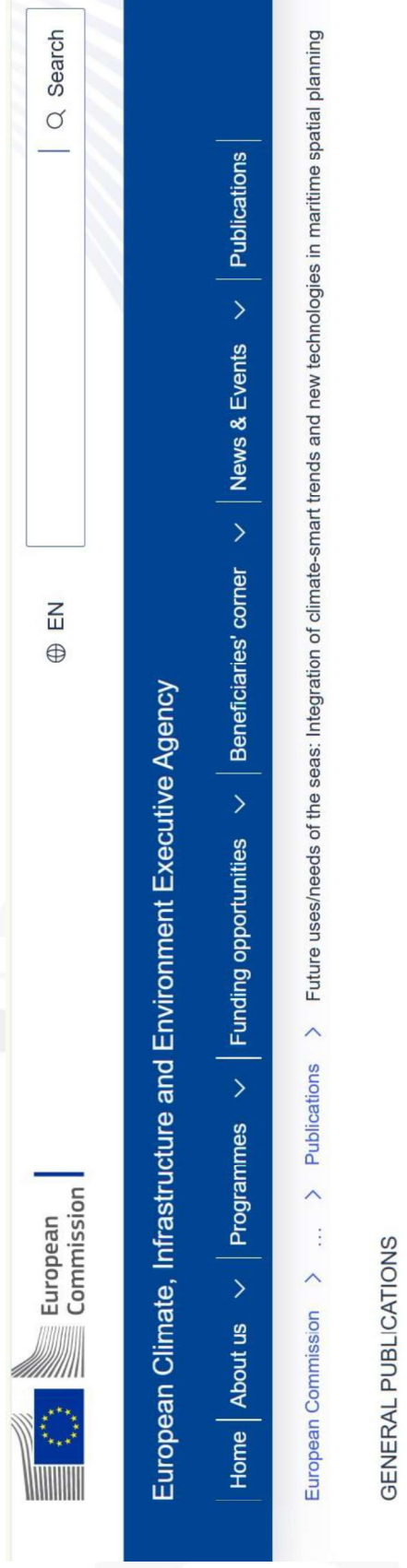
13,30-14,30: lunch break

14,30:17,30

- e) Update of the new adopted **MSP Italian Plan** - (Andrea Barbanti CNR)
- f) Presentation of the project **BEYOND** Interreg Italy-Croatia - Offshore Wind Farms in the Adriatic Sea: designing OWF (Offshore Wind Power) model primarily focused on overall health of marine ecosystem- (IRENA)
- g) Understanding the interactions between ecosystem, fisheries, aquaculture and offshore wind farms: the **BEYOND** contribution (Simone Libralato OGS)
- Updates of the [project Decarbonyt](http://www.msp-ed.ac.eu)

Marine Spatial Planning

- **Future uses/needs of the seas: Integration of climate-smart trends and new technologies in maritime spatial planning**
- https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/publications/future-usesneeds-seas-integration-climate-smart-trends-and-new-technologies-maritime-spatial_en



The screenshot shows the European Commission website. At the top left, there are logos for the European Union and the European Commission. Below these is the text 'European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency'. A navigation menu includes 'Home', 'About us', 'Programmes', 'Funding opportunities', 'Beneficiaries' corner', 'News & Events', and 'Publications'. A search bar is located at the top right. The main content area displays the title 'Future uses/needs of the seas: Integration of climate-smart trends and new technologies in maritime spatial planning' under the heading 'GENERAL PUBLICATIONS'.

Future uses/needs of the seas: Integration of climate-smart trends and new technologies in maritime spatial planning

Background Technical Study

www.med-ac.eu

Future uses/needs of the seas: Integration of climate-smart trends and new technologies in maritime spatial planning (1)

- **Integration of Climate-Smart Trends in Maritime Planning:** The European Green Deal and Sustainable Blue Economy require integrating climate-smart technologies and trends into maritime spatial planning (MSP) and related national frameworks to address climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.
- **Challenges in Maritime Activities:** Maritime sectors face spatial congestion and competition due to the rapid growth of offshore renewable energy infrastructure and other activities, emphasizing the need for efficient spatial planning.
- **Impact of Climate Change on Seas:** The European Climate Risk Assessment highlights key risks such as coastal erosion, ecosystem changes, and declining marine biodiversity, all of which significantly affect the blue economy.
- **MSP Directive and Climate Goals:** The EU MSP Directive identifies climate change as a critical threat, urging member states to incorporate long-term mitigation and adaptation strategies into maritime planning to align with the European Green Deal.

Future uses/needs of the seas: Integration of climate-smart trends and new technologies in maritime spatial planning (2)

- **Emerging Ocean-Related Technologies:** Advances in ocean-based technologies, including renewable energy and climate-smart innovations, are crucial for sustainable blue economies and achieving low-carbon pathways.
- **Focus on Blue Carbon Ecosystems:** The study emphasizes the role of ecosystems like seagrass beds and salt marshes as nature-based solutions for climate mitigation and resilience, though broader conservation areas like MPAs are not extensively discussed.
- **Assessment of Climate-Smart Trends and Technologies:** The study evaluates how member states integrate climate-smart innovations into MSPs, examining the current and future adoption of emerging maritime technologies and their socio-economic implications.
- **Regional and National Overviews:** Insights are drawn from national plans and strategies, highlighting the importance of aligning local maritime actions with EU-wide objectives for sustainable and resilient marine and coastal development.

Mediterranean (1)

- **Incomplete MSP Adoption in the Mediterranean:** Not all Mediterranean Sea Member States have implemented maritime spatial plans (MSPs).
- **Political Framework for Sustainability:** Key frameworks like the Mediterranean Action Plan, Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, and the Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy guide sustainable development for the region under the Union for the Mediterranean.
- **Focus on Environment and Socio-Economic Growth:** Strategies prioritize environmental investment to ensure sustainable job creation, socio-economic development, and long-term prosperity for current and future generations.
- **Key Objectives for Sustainability:** Addressing climate change, transitioning to a green and blue economy, and improving governance are central goals for achieving sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

Table 4. Mediterranean Sea Basin climate-smart emerging sectors and future developments

Mediterranean Sea basin <i>The sea basin is characterised by the maritime activities: tourism, shipping, port activities</i> <i>The key issues are: coastal erosion, energy production, nature, pollution, environmentally sustainable sea-based activities</i>	Offshore renewables	Offshore hydrogen	CCS	Adaptation	Desalinisation
Climate change considerations: adaptation					
Current climate-smart actions (now to short-term)	v			v	v
Future climate-smart actions (mid- to long-term)	v	v	v	v	v
Strategy/Action plans: Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD, 2016-2025), Ministerial declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy (2021) integrated in the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Barcelona Convention, Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) and its 11 Ecological Objectives, UNEP/MAP Conceptual Framework for ICZM/Marine Spatial Planning (ICZM Protocol articulated with MSP), The Protocol on the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources (2006), Initiative for the sustainable development of the Blue Economy in the Western Mediterranean (WestMED), Community of Practice on MSP for the Mediterranean					

Mediterranean (3) - Emerging climate-smart sectors

- **Offshore renewable energy**
- **Offshore hydrogen productions and storage**
- **CCS**
- **Adaptation – Blue carbon**
- **Aquaculture:** Mediterranean marine fish aquaculture, particularly seabass and seabream, faces stagnating productivity, prompting EU-funded projects like MedAID and PerformFISH to address technical, environmental, and market challenges through innovative tools, value chain integration, and improved governance, while exploring synergies with renewable energy through initiatives like MEDAQUA for sustainable and competitive sector growth.
- **Desalination**

Mediterranean (4) - Specific climate-smart future developments

- **floating offshore windfarms**
- **coastal adaptation for securing tourism services**
- **desalination on a bigger scale and innovative approaches of coupling desalination and water reuse to supply freshwater for a large share of the population around the Mediterranean and irrigation**

Future uses/needs of the seas: Conclusions 1

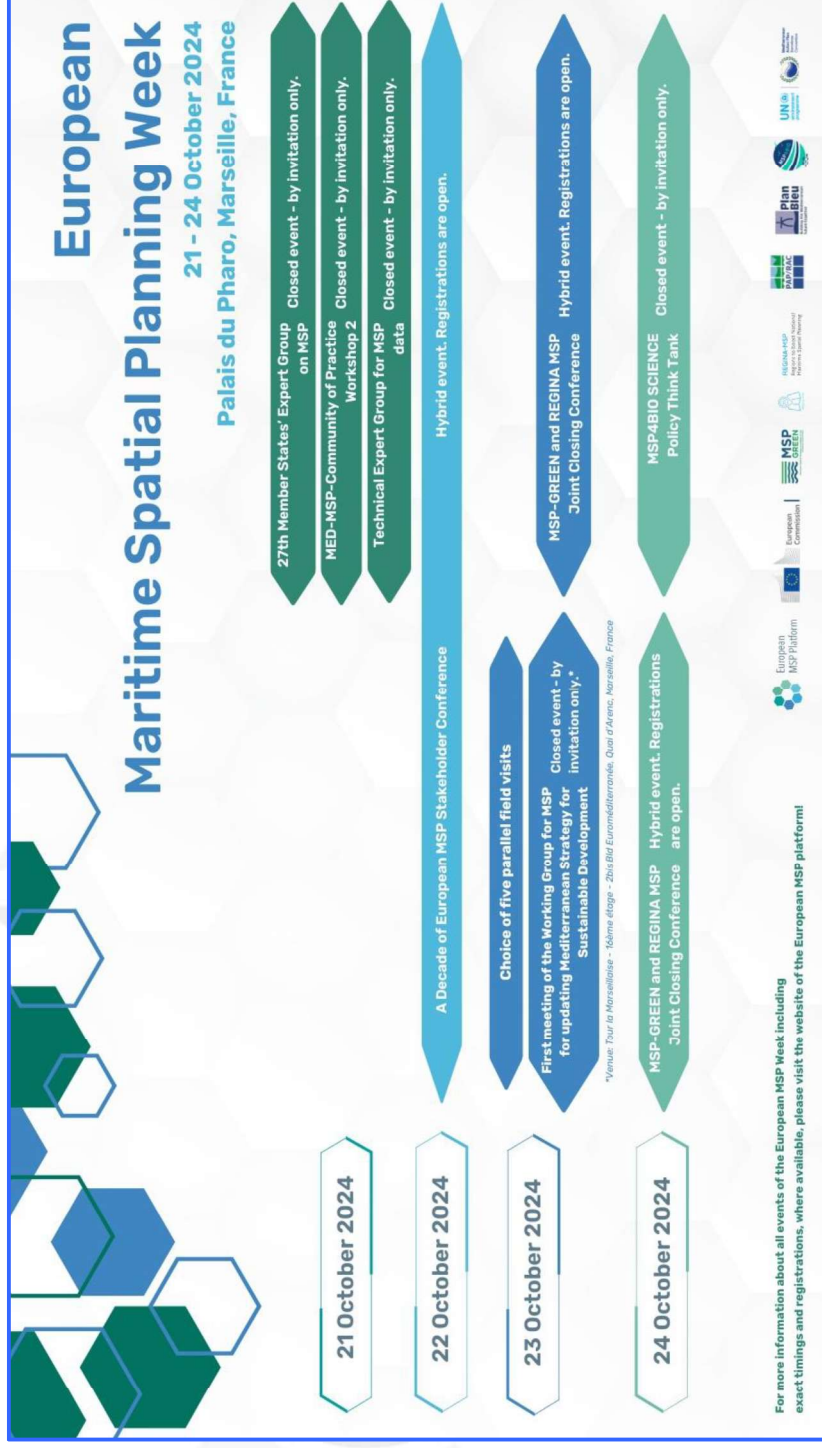
- the document focuses on **assessing how climate-smart trends and emerging technologies are integrated into maritime spatial planning (MSP)**. It examines the evolving needs and uses of marine spaces in Europe, emphasizing sustainable development, climate change mitigation, and adaptation.
- **The study evaluates current practices, highlights gaps, and suggests approaches for incorporating innovations like offshore renewable energy, blue carbon ecosystems, and other ocean-based technologies into MSP frameworks, aligning them with broader environmental, economic, and social goals.**
- **Fisheries???**

Future uses/needs of the seas: Conclusions 2

- **the document does not focus extensively on fisheries.**
- While it may touch on sustainable practices and technologies relevant to the broader blue economy, its primary emphasis lies on **integrating climate-smart trends, renewable energy technologies, and other innovative uses into maritime spatial planning.**
- **Fisheries technology and management are not examined in depth, as the document focuses on emerging uses and areas where space allocation is uncertain or evolving, rather than established sectors like fisheries.**

Marine Spatial Planning

- **A Decade of European Maritime Spatial Planning – Stakeholder Conference"22nd October 2024 - Marseille, France**
- <https://maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu/events/european-msp-week>




European Maritime Spatial Planning Week
21 - 24 October 2024
Palais du Pharo, Marseille, France

Date	Event	Registration Status
21 October 2024	27th Member States' Expert Group on MSP MED-MSP-Community of Practice Workshop 2 Technical Expert Group for MSP data	Closed event - by invitation only.
22 October 2024	A Decade of European MSP Stakeholder Conference	Hybrid event. Registrations are open.
23 October 2024	Choice of five parallel field visits First meeting of the Working Group for MSP for updating Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development	Closed event - by invitation only.*
24 October 2024	MSP-GREEN and REGINA MSP Joint Closing Conference MSP-GREEN and REGINA MSP Joint Closing Conference	Hybrid event. Registrations are open.
24 October 2024	MSP4BIO SCIENCE Policy Think Tank	Closed event - by invitation only.

*Venue: Tour la Marseillaise - "Isème Atège" - Zibidat EuroMéditerranée, Quai d'Arenc, Marseille, France

For more information about all events of the European MSP Week including exact timings and registrations, where available, please visit the website of the European MSP platform!



MSP Week

A Decade of European Maritime Spatial Planning – Stakeholder Conference" took place on October 22, 2024, in Marseille, France. Organized by the European Commission (DG MARE), this conference marks ten years since the adoption of the Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) Directive. It aimed at evaluating the progress made, share experiences, and address challenges in maritime spatial planning across Europe.

Key topics included:

1. Lessons learned over the past decade regarding the MSP Directive.
2. **Enhancing regional cooperation and cross-border coordination in MSP.**
3. The integration of innovative technologies.
4. Aligning MSP with sustainability goals under the European Green Deal and broader climate-smart policies

MSP Week

Session 1 – Navigate the Waves: A decade of experience with the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive

Over the past decade, MSP has advanced as a politically guided, stakeholder-driven tool, integrating ecosystem-based approaches, land-sea interactions, and climate considerations. However, full implementation of the ecosystem approach and precautionary principles remains challenging.

Main Challenges and Areas for Improvement:

- **Transboundary Cooperation:** Aligning MSP priorities across Member States and neighboring countries remains complex, especially due to geopolitical factors. Strengthening sea basin strategies is necessary.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** **Effective engagement, particularly with underrepresented groups like fishers, needs improvement. Tools like stakeholder mapping, digital platforms, and local consultations can enhance participation.**
- **Biodiversity and Climate Change:** Cumulative human impacts continue to threaten marine biodiversity

Future Directions:

Early stakeholder engagement, improved inter-agency cooperation, and co-creation of MSP were emphasized. The forthcoming **European Ocean Pact** is expected to enhance data-sharing and coordination, key for advancing MSP's socio-economic and environmental objectives.

MSP Week

Session 2 – Enhancing Regional Cooperation: Innovation in Maritime Spatial Planning

- **Fisheries Interactions:** Developing long-term strategies for fisheries co-existence with other marine uses.
- **Nature Protection:** Collaborating with all stakeholders to identify gaps in effective ecological preservation
- **Comprehensive maps:** Demands for maps have sparked valuable discussions, especially in areas with overlapping uses and ambitions.

Future Directions for Cross-Basin MSP Collaboration:

- **Strategic Planning:** **National plans currently lack a strategic, long-term perspective**, particularly in the spatially, economically, and ecologically constrained seas
- **Holistic Approach:** Effective MSP requires a cross-sectoral, holistic approach, aligning with the MSFD and integrating various sectors within shared working groups. However, **limited governance capacity poses challenges.**

MSP Week

Session 3 – MSP Progress and Future Directions (1)

- **Fisheries-Specific Considerations: Spatial pressures on fisheries, particularly from offshore energy, require better integration within MSP. Fisheries organizations, through Advisory Councils (ACs), are eager to participate in discussions also on mapping of fishing activities.**
- **Climate Change:** Developing sustainable strategies for climate adaptation and mitigating impacts on marine ecosystems is essential, particularly as some sectors and communities are more vulnerable and require strengthened resilience. This is the goal behind the upcoming **Ocean Pact**, expected in 2025.
- **Data Gaps:** Existing gaps in data, particularly regarding ocean observations and human activities at sea, do exist.
- **Biodiversity and Climate Change:** Expanding data collection on biodiversity is key to tracking resilience and meeting climate goals.
- **Fisheries Data: Integrating fisheries data into MSP is challenging due to regional differences in data collection.**
- **Pragmatic Approach to Data:** Need to act on available data rather than waiting for perfect datasets.

MSP Week

Session 3 – MSP Progress and Future Directions (2)

- **MSP** should support sectoral transitions to renewable energy, **sustainable fisheries**, and climate resilience within the European Green Deal.
- **Coexistence and Spatial Conflicts: Collaboration across nations is needed to manage spatial trade-offs effectively.**
- **Ocean Pact Expectations:** Need to go beyond a mere statement and deliver clear commitments, backed by robust stakeholder involvement.
- **Mapping and Priority of Fisheries:** In current MSP, fisheries are constrained to zones left unclaimed by other sectors. **On the contrary, MSP should reserve areas for fisheries to ensure food security and marine resource sustainability.**
- **Flexible MSP plans for Climate Change: MSP must adapt to changing fish stocks** and rising sea levels through climate-smart planning and continuous monitoring.



MORE INFORMATION:

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