Feedback on MSP process and stakeholders’ engagement - views from the Baltic Sea

Opening Conference Regina-MSP
1st of March 2023

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The **Finnish Maritime Spatial Plan 2030** consists of three maritime spatial plans in three planning areas.

Planning was done in collaboration with eight coastal regional councils.

The planning solutions were made in comprehensive and wide-ranging collaboration with stakeholders along the entire coast, and they take into consideration the special characteristics of each area.

**Regional Council of Southwest Finland coordinates the MSP cooperation in Finland**

The three maritime spatial plans were approved separately by the assemblies of each coastal regional councils by December 2020.

Most of the MSP-area (territorial waters) is covered by binding regional and municipal land use plans.

- maritime themes not in a very active role
MARITIME SPATIAL PLAN 2030 FOR FINLAND
All digital – www.merialuesuunnitelma.fi
MARITIME SPATIAL PLAN, territorial waters and EEZ, Responsible authority Regional Councils

REGIONAL LAND USE PLAN, covers territorial waters, responsible authority Regional Councils

LOCAL MASTER PLAN, covers territorial waters, responsible authority Municipalities
POLICY FRAMEWORK AND SITUATIONAL PICTURE - Sustainable Blue Economy in the Archipelago Sea and Southern Bothnian Sea report: Situational picture of the blue economy, 2018 (in Finnish)

Storymaps to inform wider public of the current situation
https://www.merialuesuunnittelu.fi/en/situational-picture-material-and-reports/
SCENARIO PHASE – COLLABORATIVE PLANNING

What are scenarios?
Scenarios are holistic descriptions of possible and alternative future operating environments.

Why scenarios?
Scenarios form a context against which policies and strategies can be tested in advance.

Scenario process is a good way to facilitate a multidisciplinary discussion and tackle complex issues.

Scenarios - key change factors

- Condition of the marine environment
- Environmental attitudes
- Climate change
- Urbanization
- Security situation
- Maritime sectors

VISION PHASE = MSP CO-CREATION OF KNOWLEDGE

Bridging social capital

Shared understanding of socio-ecological systems

Shared vision for marine areas up to 2030 and 2050

Practical way of adopting Ecosystem-Based Approach in MSP

Practical way of taking Land-Sea Interactions into account and plan from the shoreline.

Essential in order to have coherent planning among coastal regional councils and to meet regional maritime stakeholders’ needs.

Natural resource conflict mitigation

Maritime Spatial Plan for Finland 2030:
” The maritime spatial plan identifies the needs of the marine environment and the wellbeing of maritime actors equally, without placing sectors in an order of importance. The maritime sectors examined have different societal and community values, which the plan seeks to foster.”
MSP & EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL
Fair green transition that leaves no one and no place behind

European Green Deal (2019)
• Biodiversity protection
• Carbon neutrality
• Sustainable sea food production
• Climate Change adaptation
• Zero pollution
• Circular economy

MSP – MSFD - WFD
EU Biodiversity strategy ’30 by 30’
Nature Restoration Law
Climate-smart MSP
Climate change hot spots and bright spots to identify refugia for marine species
Need to increase cross-border coherence in MSP
Ecological connections such as migratory fish and birds, bats, blue-green-infrastructure
Cumulative impacts
The role of the CPMR in MSP

Conclusions on the role played by regions in the MSP projects, e.g.

• Regions can act as facilitator, driven-force, arena for stakeholder engagement

• There is a common willingness among CPMR regions to be informed and involved in MSP process

• There is a need for capacity building and sharing experiences

• The disparities in the involvement of regional authorities in MSP depends on national implementation processes and regulatory powers and competencies
Thank you!

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