

Regions to boost  
National Maritime  
Spatial Planning

## Case study of the Region of Murcia in the framework of MSPMED project

REGINA-MSP  
Opening conference

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IEO(CSIC)



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03/01/2023

**Brest**

# MSPMED project - Towards the operational implementation of MSP in our common Mediterranean Sea



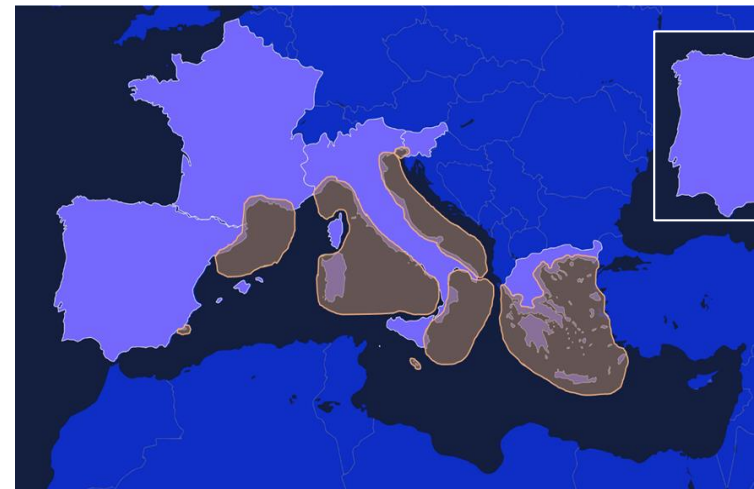
## ▶ Two main objectives

- Support Member States within the implementation of MSP directive (2014/89/EU Directive – Maritime Spatial Planning)
- Promote transboundary cooperation in the establishment of Maritime Spatial Planning

## ▶ Workpackages

- WP1: Coordination & Management
- **WP2: *Setting-up of Maritime Spatial Plans***
- WP3: Data use and sharing
- WP4: Cooperation among Member States and Third Countries
- WP5: Communication & Dissemination

Support the establishment and implementation of Maritime Spatial Plans by pilot case studies



Case study of the Gulf of Lions

Case study of the Region of Murcia



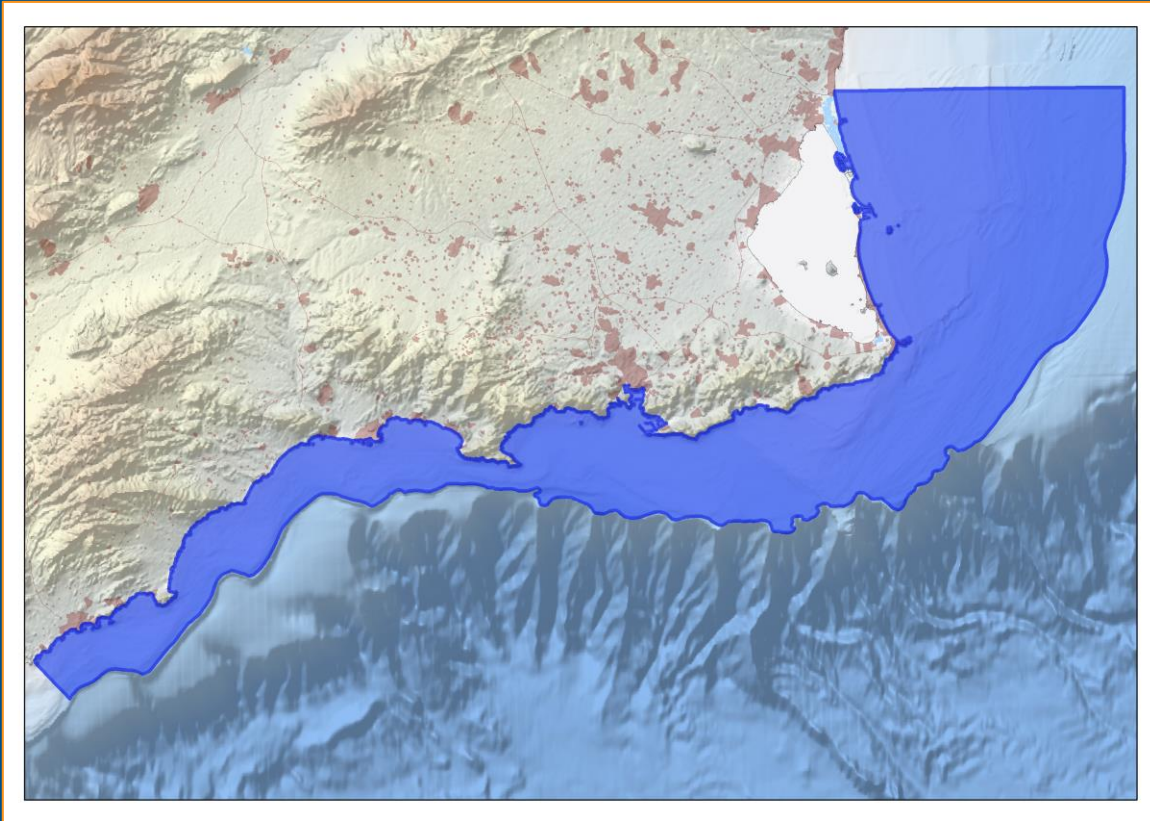
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# Case study of the Region of Murcia



## *Case study area*

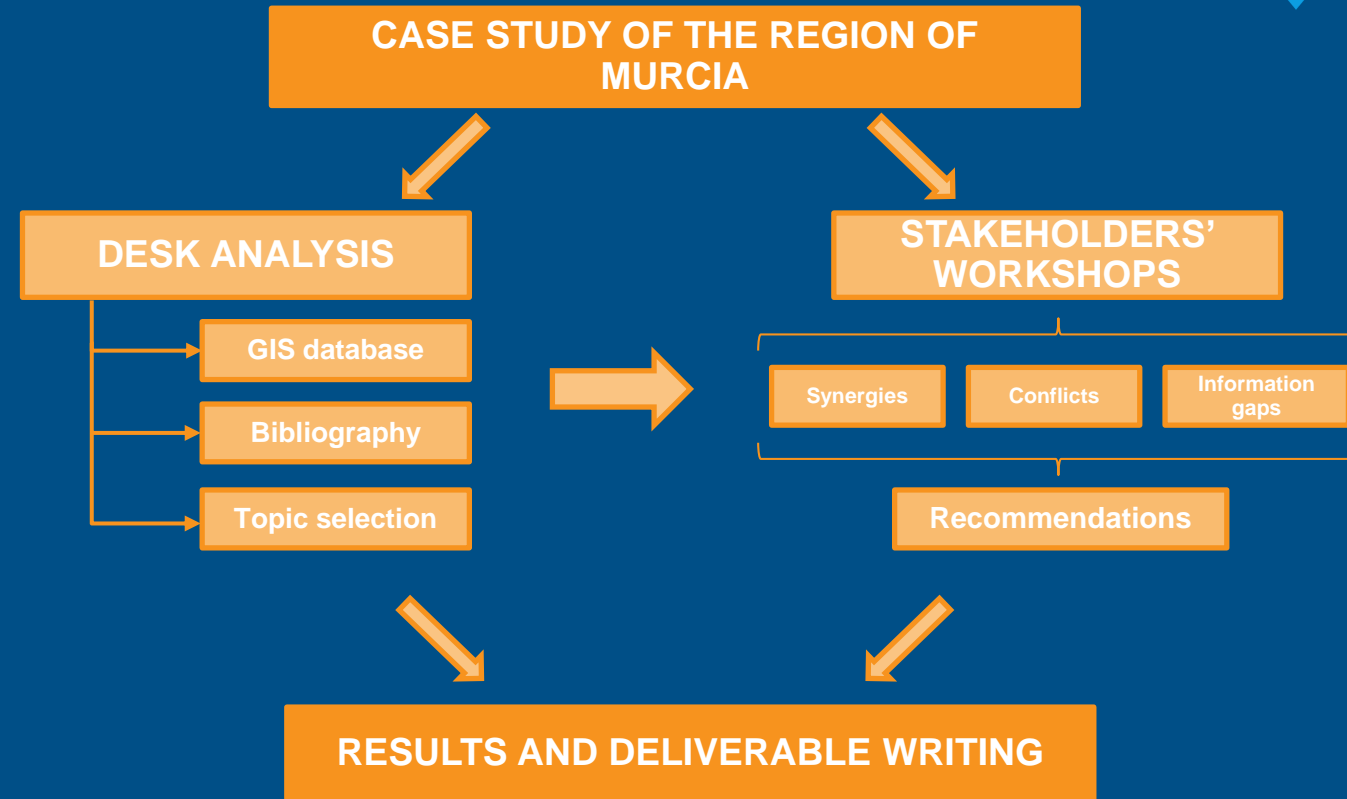
- Located on the southeast coast of the Iberian Peninsula.
- These waters belong to the levantine-balearic marine demarcation (MS and MSP plan).
- The area has a high demand of marine space for specific maritime activities and uses, which could enter into conflict with marine conservation.

# Case study of the Region of Murcia



## Objetives

- To analyse the **current uses and activities** occurring in the marine waters of the Region of Murcia through the elaboration of a **GIS geodatabase** by selecting some of these maritime uses in order to assess possible **conflicts, synergies and information gaps**.
- To organize **local stakeholders' workshops** on the topics selected in order to **identify conflicts, synergies and information gaps** and to obtain **recommendations** that could be used in the MSP national process.



# Case study of the Region of Murcia

## Selection of topics

### 1. Analysis of potential topics to be addressed in the case study

- Analysis of the draft MSP plans (specifically the Levantine-balearic MSP plan)
- Uses and activities analysis → GIS database

TOPICS PROPOSED
a. Maërl beds - aquaculture
b. Expansion of the Escombreras dock - Construction of a new harbour in the Gorguel bay area
c. Contamination in Portmán Bay - coastal environment
d. Unregulated anchorages - biodiversity conservation and underwater cultural heritage

### 2. Discussion with the CA to select the topics to be analysed in the workshops

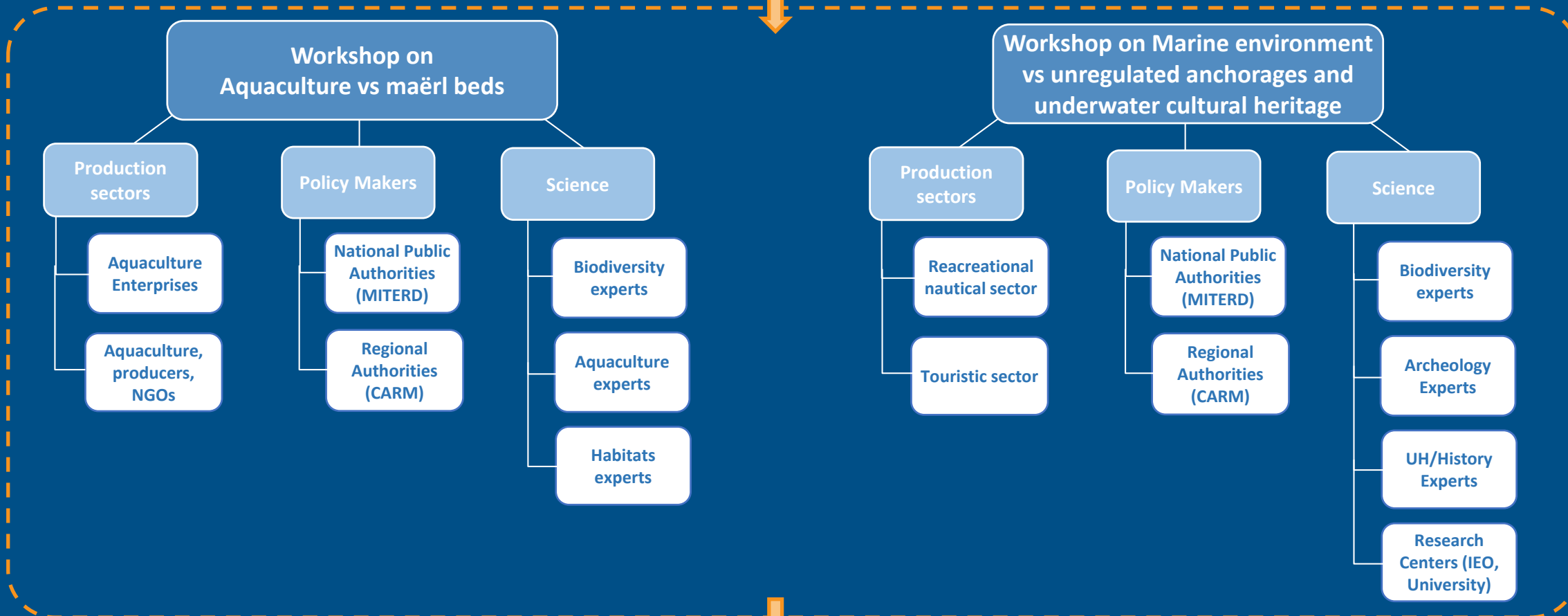
- Topic 1: Interactions between maërl beds and marine aquaculture
- Topic 2: Interactions between unregulated anchorages and biodiversity conservation and underwater cultural heritage



# Case study of the Region of Murcia



Stakeholder mapping exercise for each workshop



Invitation to the workshops



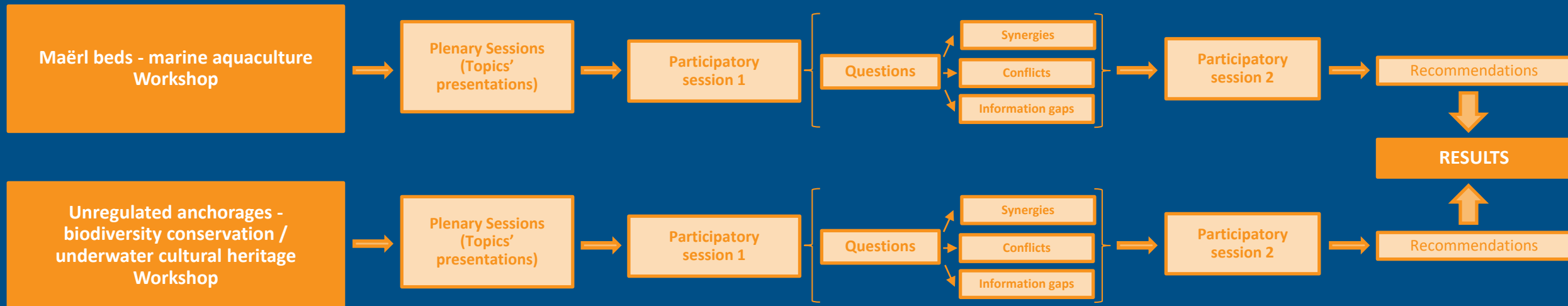


# Case study of the Region of Murcia



## Methodology of the workshops

- To establish a dialogue between the sectors involved in order to identify possible conflicts, synergies and information gaps.
- To obtain a series of recommendations to favour a better spatial and temporal use of the case study area, and the coexistence of the uses and to establish recommendations that could be useful in the MSP plan.



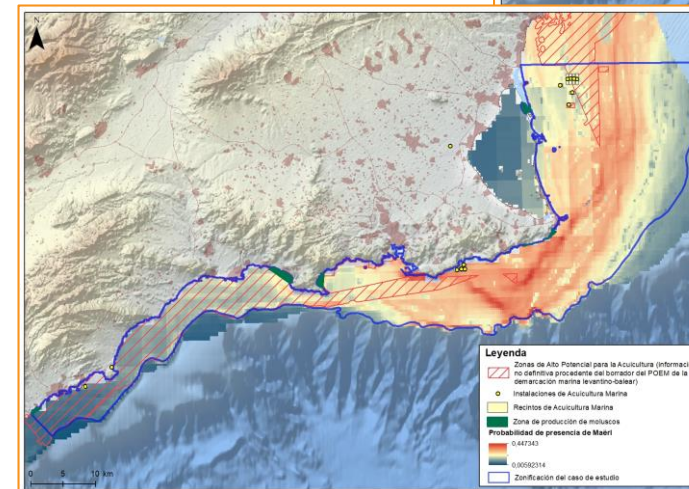
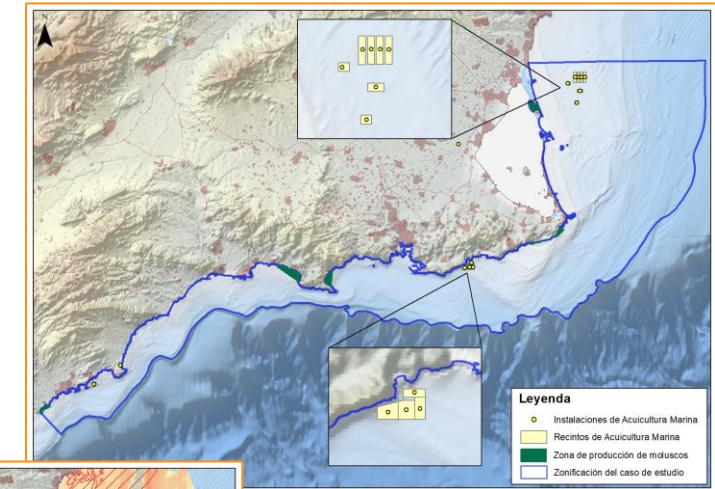
# Technical workshop on the interaction between aquaculture and maërl beds



▷ Held on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022 in San Pedro del Pinatar (Murcia)

## ▷ Interactions

- Aquaculture has become one of the sectors with the greatest projection and socio-economic importance in the Region of Murcia.
- Waste substances generated in aquaculture farms modify and degenerate the maërl beds.
- Maërl beds are fragile ecosystems formed by calcareous red algae need sunlight to survive.
- The presence of waste substances increases the turbidity at-sea.



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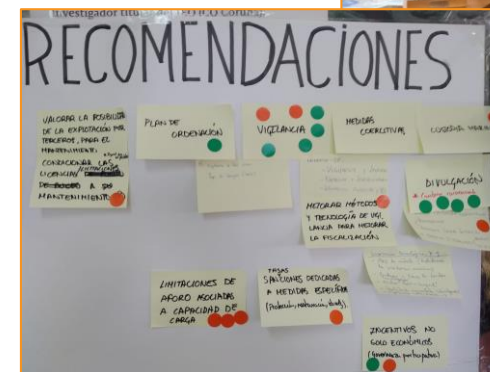
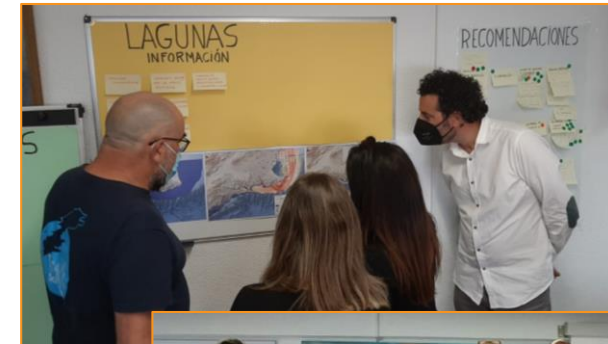


# Technical workshop on the interaction between aquaculture and mäerl beds



## ► Main results

- Need of a sensible use of the precautionary principle, fueled by more investment in science to facilitate its implementation.
- Standardization in methodology and knowledge as a key aspect in order to speak under the same criteria and limits.
- Importance of technological development in the sector, so that it becomes a more sustainable sector and the importance of surveillance of the activities and monitoring of real models contrasted at an experimental level.



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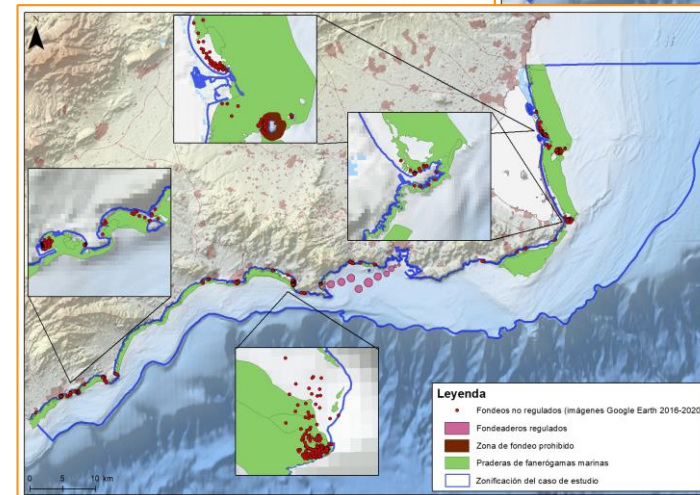
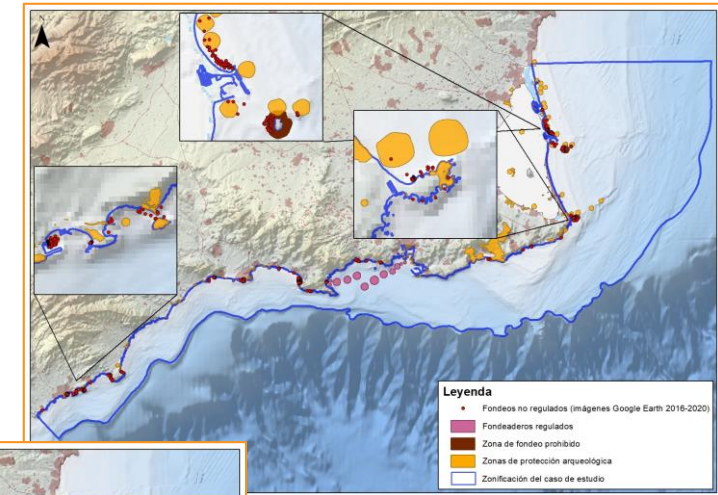
# Technical workshop on the interaction between unregulated anchorages, biodiversity conservation and underwater cultural heritage



▷ Held on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022 in San Pedro del Pinatar (Murcia)

## ▷ Interactions

- Unregulated anchorages could put at risk the Good Environmental Status (BEA) of habitats and species of community interest, especially during summer season in the Region of Murcia.
- The archaeological remains that can be found in these waters are numerous and have a high cultural value, than could be affected by unregulated anchorages.



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# Technical workshop on the interaction between unregulated anchorages, biodiversity conservation and underwater cultural heritage



## ► Main results

- Need for outreach campaigns as a basis for the protection of our natural and cultural heritage, as well as the need for a surveillance plan to ensure its preservation.
- Urgency of a management plan for anchoring.
- Need for effective inter-administrative coordination and communication with the sectors.



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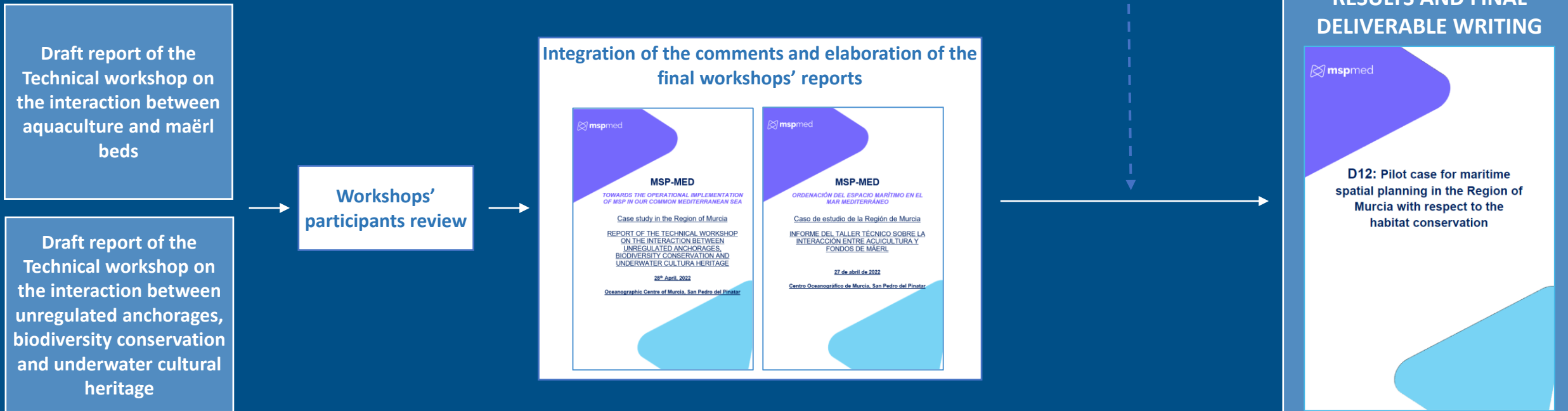


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# Case study of the Region of Murcia

*Feedback from stakeholders after the workshops and elaboration of the final deliverable of the case study*

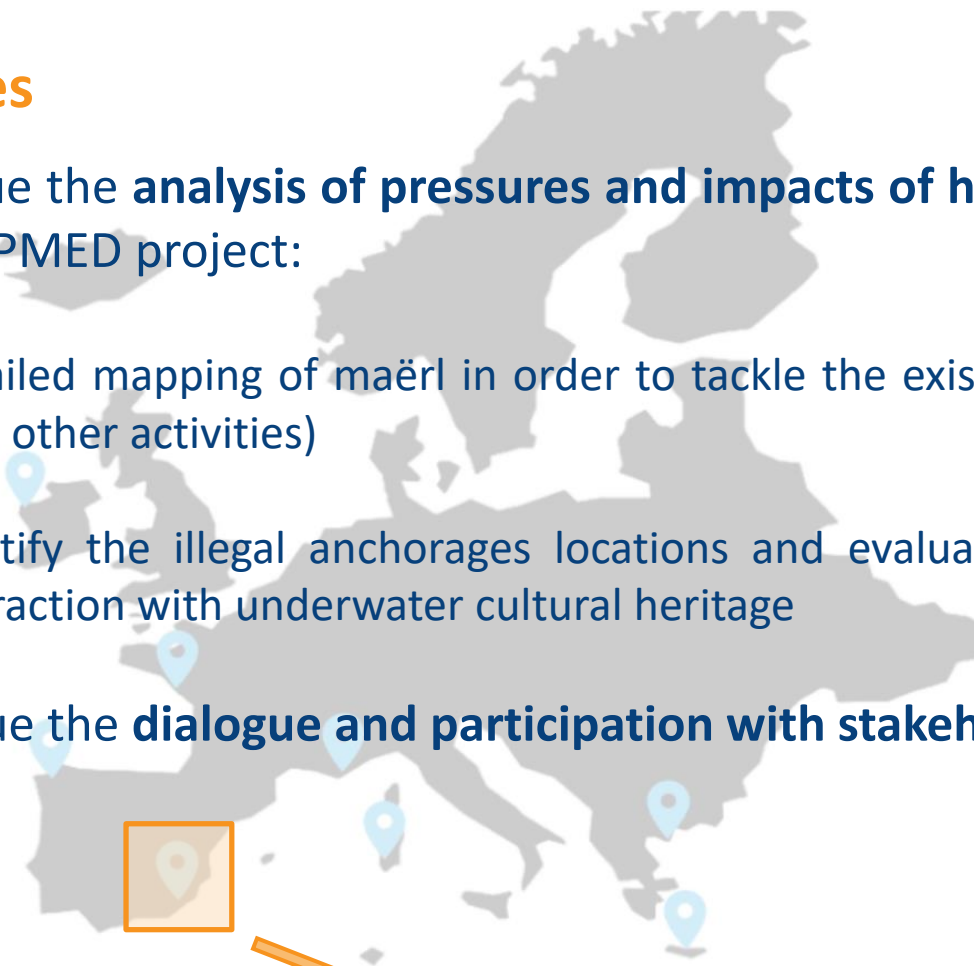


# Case study of the Region of Murcia in REGINA-MSP project



## ► Objectives

- Continue the **analysis of pressures and impacts of human activities** in the Region of Murcia started in the MSPMED project:
  - Detailed mapping of maërl in order to tackle the existing conflicts with marine aquaculture (and potentially with other activities)
  - Identify the illegal anchorages locations and evaluate the pressures to the marine environment and its interaction with underwater cultural heritage
- Continue the **dialogue and participation with stakeholders** identified in MSPMED project.



*Detail and small-scale planning*



# Contacts

# Thank you!

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