




Introducing the Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning

Dr. Sylvain Gambert
European Commission
DG MARE

6th Meeting between the European Commission and the International Hydrographic Organisation
25 June 2014, Amsterdam




Maritime Spatial Planning

- Organising when and where human activities take place at sea.
- Draw up plans which identify the most efficient and sustainable use (current and future) of maritime space.
- A transparent process based on stakeholder involvement.
- Multi-sector: reconciliation of concurrent human activities and their impact on the marine environment.




Why is MSP a priority for Europe?

- Problem 1:** Unsustainable use of maritime space
- Problem 2:** Increasing conflict on access to maritime space
- Problem 3:** Lack of legal certainty
- Problem 4:** Limited cross-border cooperation





2013 Legislative Proposal

Brussels, 12.3.2013
COM(2013) 133 final
2013/0074 (COD)

Proposal for a
DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal management

(SWD(2013) 64 final)
(SWD(2013) 65 final)



Obligations of the Directive

Set-up the plans

- Set up maritime spatial plans which identify the spatial and temporal distribution of existing and future activities, uses in the marine waters
- Set up Competent Authorities

Public participation


- Public information from an early stage and participation of relevant stakeholders, authorities, and public concerned




Objectives of Maritime Spatial Plans

1. Apply an **ecosystem-based approach**
2. Contribute to the preservation, protection and improvement of the **environment**
3. Contribute to the **sustainable development** of:
 - energy sectors at sea
 - maritime transport
 - fisheries and aquaculture
4. Member States can pursue **additional objectives** (*tourism, raw materials...*)
5. Promote the **co-existence** of relevant activities and uses



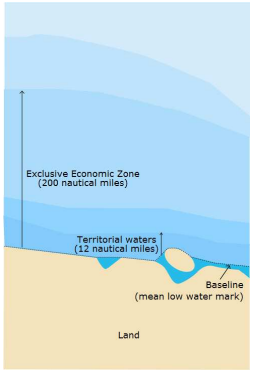


Geographical coverage

MSP: Marine waters cover coastal waters, territorial sea and EEZ.

Timing

2016: Transposition and Competent Authorities
2021: Establishment of plans in all marine waters of MS



Maritime Affairs




Links between land and sea

- Take into account land-sea interactions when developing MSP and promote coherence between MSP and Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

1. Physical and ecosystemic interactions
2. Social and economic interactions



Maritime Affairs



Cross-border cooperation


Cooperation between Member States

- Member States sharing a sea should cooperate to ensure that their MSP are coherent and coordinated
- Means of cooperation are left to Member States to decide.

Cooperation with third countries

- Cooperate with third countries on their actions with regard to maritime spatial planning (where geopolitically possible).

Maritime Affairs




Sharing of data and information

“Member States to use best available data and organise the sharing of information”

- a. Environmental, social and economic data
- a. Physical data about marine waters

Directive mentions the INSPIRE Directive and EMODnet of which Member States should make best use.

Maritime Affairs



Georeferenced data needs for MSP

Hydrographic data:

- » Shoreline configuration
- » Bathymetry
- » Sea bottom composition
- » Tides and currents
- » Physical property of the water column


Biological/ecosystem data: habitats, species...

Administrative context:

- » Local, regional boundaries/competence, EEZ delimitation...
- » Designated areas and regulations (IMO, MPAs...)

Human activities (present, planned, potential)

Maritime Affairs



EMODnet: human activities geoportal

Activity	Geographic type	Attributes
Aggregate extraction	Points	Gravel extracted per year, area of activity
Commercial/recreational shipping	Grid	Average number of vessels per year, by grid cell
Cultural heritage	Points	Information on underwater settlements, wrecks, etc.
Dredging	Points	Status (years operational), purpose
Fisheries zones	Polygons	ICES and FAO nomenclature
Hydrocarbon extraction	Points	Status, purpose, and type of hydrocarbon
Major ports (traffic)	Points	Traffic of goods, passengers and vessels
Mariculture	Points	Species of fish and shellfish; production tonnage by year
Ocean energy facilities	Points	type (tide, wave, thermal gradient etc), status (planned, under construction, operational)
Pipelines and cables	Lines	Types of cable or pipeline, width
Protected areas	Polygons	Legal basis for protection
Waste disposal	Points	Status (years operational)
Wind farms	Points	number of turbines, generation capacity, status
Other forms of area management	Polygons, lines	National or international legal basis

Maritime Affairs



Challenges of data use for MSP

- **Knowledge gaps:** economic activities, cumulative impacts and interactions of human activities on the marine ecosystem, links between offshore and onshore functions...
- **Lack of data quality:** accuracy, updating, scale, metadata lacking sufficient information...
- **Restrictions on data access:** data needs to be purchased, commercial value of data, lack of legal status...
- **Fragmentation and sectorialisation** of marine data.
- **Lack of spatial attribution:** marine mammals/fish, annual cycles, sea space carrying capacity...
- **Legal responsibility** for MSP

Maritime Affairs



Making it planner friendly

Main purpose of data collection is to assess current patterns of use, focusing on spatial needs and future spatial demands. It is necessary to translate the complexity of the environmental information to be used for planning purposes.

Initiatives and projects aimed at providing unified marine databases (EMODnet, WiseMarine, ICES GeoPortal...), but none serves explicitly MSP purposes. Issues include:

- » Too large scale for MSP
- » Metadata of only limited application for MSP purposes
- » Too sector specific, too ecosystem/environment specific

Maritime Affairs



Making best use of data

Maritime Spatial Planning requires more than sound data/databases, it needs adequate and efficient methods of:

- Spatial analysis
- Impact assessment, risk assessment, vulnerability assessment
- Modelling and scenario building to prepare and support planning decisions
- Habitat/ecosystem services valuation

Maritime Affairs



Data and information sharing at cross-border level

- Common priorities for scope of data sharing, focussing on issues of transboundary relevance?
- Sea-basin Spatial Data Infrastructures?
- Common data standards for data exchange?
- Fill gap with regard to relevant socio-economic data?
- Sufficient information in the metadata for MSP?
- Addressing legal hurdles for the use of shared data?

Maritime Affairs

Thank you for your attention

sylvain.gambert@ec.europa.eu

More background information at:

http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/maritime_spatial_planning/index_en.htm

