

Workshop on integrating an ecosystem-based approach into maritime spatial planning

27 January 2021 from 13.00 to 17.00 EET

The framework established under the Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) Directive (2014/89/EU) is “aimed at promoting the sustainable growth of maritime economies, the sustainable development of marine areas and the sustainable use of marine resources” (Art. 1(1)). In preparing and implementing their plans, Member States should apply “an ecosystem- based approach” (Art. 5(1)).

Specific attention thus is given to supporting the application of ecosystem-based approaches (EBA) in MSP to ensure the functioning of ecosystems and biodiversity are well accounted for. However, practical application of EBA remains challenging, with limited practical examples on how to make it operational in an European context. The Executive Agency for SMEs (EASME) on behalf of DG MARE has established a specific service contract to conduct a study on the concrete application of the ecosystem-based approach in MSP. The main objective is to propose feasible and practical approaches and guidelines for applying the EBA in MSP with the presently available information and a practical method or tool for evaluating, monitoring and review the application of EBA in MSP. The study is coordinated by Milieu Consulting SPRL with the following partners, ACTeon, Baltijas Vides Forums, Stichting Wageningen Research and Fresh-Thoughts Consulting GmbH.

Case studies focusing on different European regional seas are being carried out, including one case study on the Black Sea. The focus of this Black sea case study is to **investigate how the requirements and instruments of the existing legal framework address the management of (marine and coastal) ecosystems and resources**. It will look in particular at how the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), NATURA 2000 and biodiversity legislation (Habitats/Birds Directives), as well as Integrated Coastal Management (ICM), **can support and facilitate the application of EBA in MSP, including in a transboundary context**.

In this context, we are organising a **stakeholder workshop** to discuss **how best to seize the opportunities offered by the implementation of the existing policy framework to support the application of EBA in MSP in the Black Sea**.



Programme

Time	Content
12.45- 13.00	Initiation of the virtual workshop (Thomas Dworak, Fresh Thoughts)
13.00- 13.15	Welcome Celine Frank (European Commission, DG Mare) Irina Makarenko (Black Sea Commission)
13.15-13.30	Setting the scene to the workshop Tony Zamparutti, Milieu LTD & Pierre Strosser, ACTeon
13.30-14.10	Implementing existing EU policies relevant to Maritime Spatial Planning: State of Play Status of the MARSPLAN Project (Angel Gyorev, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, Bulgaria) Ecosystem approaches in the MSFD and MSP in Romania (Laura Alexandrov and Laura Boicenco, National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa") Ecosystem approach in light of the WFD - Bulgarian experience in coastal areas (Tanya Milkova, Fresh Thoughts) Ecosystem approaches in the CFP (Dimitrina Chakarova, Executive Agency of Fisheries and Aquacultures, Bulgaria)
14.10-14.25	How can the implementation of the existing policy framework help to support EBA in MSP? Status of the assessment of the current situation (Tanya Milkova, Fresh Thoughts)
14.25-14.40	Break
14.40-14.45	Introduction to the Working session (Thomas Dworak, Fresh Thoughts)
14.45-16.55	Three topics discussed guided by a set of key questions. The main aim of these discussions is to identify how best to seize opportunities offered by other policies for supporting ecosystem-based approaches in Maritime Spatial Planning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capturing the complexity of ecosystems: including ecological integrity and biodiversity, ecosystem connections, the dynamic nature of ecosystems • Giving attention to the human-ecosystem connections and integration: consider cumulative impacts, identify ecosystem services and beneficiaries, account for global socio-economic changes, account for social/economic/environmental aspects in assessments carried out to define rules for sharing space and management, ensure interdisciplinarity in science that translate biophysical and human/decision making processes.... • Organizing the MSP process: stakeholder mobilization, science-policy interface, synergies with other (sector/environmental) policy processes to deliver "integrated management" of space, coherence between the governance established and the functioning and dynamics of the human-ecological system.
16.55-17.00	Concluding remarks and next steps (Thomas Dworak, Fresh Thoughts)