

Workshop Report

Maritime Spatial Planning for Islands

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain

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Introduction

The “MSP for Islands” workshop was organised on 11 September 2018 in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain by the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission (DG MARE). This report presents the outputs of the workshop. It explores the specific features of islands, principally arising from their insularity and how these might influence MSP practice. Secondly, it considers the Blue Growth opportunities that exist in islands and the role of MSP in addressing them.

Islands vary hugely in their physical, ecological, socio-cultural and governance characteristics, but share certain features. There are over 2000 populated islands in the national jurisdictions of twenty Member States of the EU¹ and these make an important contribution to their maritime economies. These include those Outermost Regions (OR) of the EU that are islands with an active focus on developing their Blue Economies i.e. Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Réunion, Martinique, Mayotte and Saint-Martin (France), the Azores and Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain). The importance of the economies of these OR is emphasised in the study “Realising the potential of the Outermost Regions for sustainable blue growth” (EC, 2017).

A variety of experiences with MSP in islands in different contexts was presented during the workshop, from island nations such as Malta, and islands with some autonomy from mainland governments, such as Åland, Finland and Shetland, Scotland (UK). Panel and group sessions facilitated interaction between MSP practitioners and wider stakeholders, highlighting good practice and developing ideas.

A briefing paper was prepared and distributed to the participants ahead of the workshop and forms the basis for this report. The workshop programme, summary of panel discussions and presentations, as well as the participants list can be found in Annexes 1 through 3. The presentations are available here: <https://www.msp-platform.eu/events/workshop-msp-islands>



Governance arrangements in islands

The islands of the EU are of varying size and status, and MSP is, or will be, practiced differently depending on the governance structure and existing institutional arrangements. This is substantially influenced by the level of autonomy of islands in relation to a sovereign state and the geographical distance between them. These range from islands with a high level of autonomy where MSP is the responsibility of the local governmental to small islands included within broader national plans. A categorisation of islands according to their governance arrangements, and the relationship to MSP was set out to support discussion and is presented in Table 1. During the workshop, participants discussed the complexity of governance of islands and the range of potential implications for MSP, summarised in section 2.1.

¹ Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom

Status	Description and Relevance to MSP	Examples
Sovereign island states or nations	Island countries / groups of islands governed as sovereign nations. MSP is delivered centrally. Large islands may also develop MSP regionally (sub-nationally).	Malta, Cyprus, Ireland, Iceland
Autonomous island or groups of islands (archipelago provinces)	Islands which belong to a sovereign nation but have a high degree of executive power. In some cases MSP is delivered on the islands through local government structures, in others they will co-ordinate with broader regional or national planning.	Autonomous Regions of the Azores and Madeira (Portugal), Canary Islands (Spain), Åland (Finland), Balearic Islands (Spain), and other islands associated with EU Member States e.g. Overseas Territories (OT)
Semi-autonomous islands (higher degree)	Islands as regions of a sovereign nation with their own authority at municipality or council level but with a higher degree of autonomy than other sub-national regions. MSP may be delivered locally, although guided by broader national government planning.	Shetland Islands (Scotland, UK)
Semi-autonomous islands (lower degree)	Islands with island-level authority but with lower levels of autonomy. MSP may be delivered through a higher level regional / provincial or national plan, with representation from island groups.	Corsica (France), Sardinia and Sicily (Italy), Gotland (Sweden), Fehmarn (Germany), Wolin (Poland)
No official autonomy	<p>Islands of limited size / capacity / distance to the mainland to comprise a distinct government unit. These may host local communities which form different types of groups and community councils which are non-governmental. Such island communities may inform MSP via these groups which is substantially led from the associated mainland state.</p> <p>These include islands connected by a bridge or causeway, most of which are</p>	<p>Most small European islands fall into this category (e.g. the numerous islands associated with Croatia).</p> <p>Most bridged islands are in the</p>

	governed from their contiguous mainland, by the state or coastal municipality, generally considered within mainland MSP planning.	Baltic and examples include Zealand (Denmark), Tjörn (Sweden) and Krk (Croatia).
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Table 1. Categorisation of islands according to the level of autonomy and how this relates to MSP.

Section 1: Specific Features of Islands Relevant to MSP

In introducing Session 1, Helen Calado (University of the Azores) emphasised that islands vary according to a range of socio-cultural, political, geographic and ecological features. Different categorisations of island features exist and a comprehensive review of the characteristics and criteria for describing islands can be found in the Islands Directory produced for UNEP². When considering the specific challenges faced by islands, it is important not to overgeneralise as they vary greatly, according to defining features including the size of the islands compared to population size, and proportion of sea area to landmass. However, many islands share common attributes, principally associated with their insularity, which underpin and can amplify the challenges they face. In general, islands have an inextricable link to the sea, built upon long histories of interaction with it through industry, commerce and culture. Other key features of islands often include limited natural resources, small and specialized economies, high transportation costs, small populations (partisanship) and a strong influence of surrounding ocean and atmosphere.

In Session 1 of the workshop, key features of islands were discussed, across the broad categories of ‘Environmental’, ‘Social’, ‘Governance’ and ‘Economic’ aspects, noting that these are often interrelated. A summary of the discussions is presented below, with specific emphasis on how MSP could account for these features, and where MSP may be limited.

Governance Aspects

As explored in the previous section, **governance arrangements across different islands vary greatly, ranging from autonomous islands to islands with no or limited decision-making responsibilities.** The relationship between local authorities on islands and distant national governments may provide a number of challenges, which can relate to geographical distance and local capacity on the island. For example, the detail of local issues in islands is often not captured in broader, national datasets and local specificity through engaging island communities is essential. **Local priorities can only really be understood through in-depth local involvement,** and priorities may differ from the objectives of the national government, creating a clash between local and national policy. Representation of islands in MSP processes developed remotely is challenging, and needs engagement with community structures such as councils and other smaller governance units.

It is not a given that autonomy for islands is seen as desirable - there are advantages to a ‘bigger brother’ and **strong involvement of central authorities may be in some cases essential** for the delivery of sustainable development goals in islands (e.g. the French Overseas Territories). External investment guided by an overarching national or international authority is critical for islands which

² <http://islands.unep.ch/isldir.htm>

are very remote, and where action to address social and ecological challenges is contingent on economic input.

Where the sea area remains under the jurisdiction of a distant national government, their responsibility and involvement is clearly necessary. In these cases, the national government takes responsibility for resource-intensive activities such as construction of cables and pipelines, development of legislation (for example for MPA management) and enforcement, the costs of which have to otherwise be borne locally by islands with greater level of autonomy (such as the Channel Islands, Falkland Islands). While some islands, such as Madeira and the Azores, may have local capacity and expertise for planning, others are very limited in terms of human resources as well as financial capital.

For islands developing non-statutory MSP (e.g. Åland, Finland), involvement of the national government, rather than solely the municipality level, could prove beneficial in providing credibility to the plan, considering the limitations of voluntary planning due to lack of enforcement powers.

However, where authority and capacity exists, the smaller scale of planning at an island or archipelago scale may enable more effective MSP efforts, with reduced administrative complexity, greater data availability, better stakeholder engagement, etc. Further, since island systems and approaches may be more responsive and able to adapt and move more rapidly towards 'better' governance, islands can provide cases for testing different approaches to governance (and MSP), which are often more difficult to implement at larger scale.

➤ *Role of MSP*

The general role of MSP in supporting better governance in islands through promoting discussion and facilitating stakeholder debate through formal and informal mechanisms was emphasised. It can raise awareness, better understanding, dialogue, networking and trust building and develop consensus through participation and consultation. In his presentation, Manuel Ara de Oliveira (Government of Madeira) emphasised that **MSP has a critical role in linking governance and science**, as it presents an interface between knowledge development, use and application.

MSP operates across scales, and can enable decisions at the appropriate level, including ecological boundary levels, in addition to connecting local (island-level), regional, national and international governance. Transboundary and cross-border elements are important, and planning for the sea can play a positive role in developing wider territorial cohesion.

In relation to islands, **approaches will be different according to the size of the marine area included in the maritime spatial plan**. For large areas, it will not be feasible to comprehensively plan for the whole area and a nested approach is more likely, with strategic planning at broad scale and more detailed planning in areas closer to the coast (referred to by Helena Calado as the intention in Azores). Where MSP is delivered at island-scale, integration with national government can build trust and coherence in governance³.

However, **MSP is not the only governance instrument and needs to relate to other processes** such as ICZM, which is widely applied in islands of the Mediterranean. Furthermore, challenges may be encountered that are not within the remit of MSP, such as activities that occur outside the

³ <https://www.msp-platform.eu/faq/multi-scalar-approach-msp>

jurisdictional boundaries of islands or that are non-spatially explicit (e.g. fisheries). For certain archipelagos including the Canary Islands, sea areas between islands may include waters outside of 12nm and therefore the responsibility of a different (likely remote) authority.

Capacity challenges in delivering MSP on islands are a key concern, but this may be overcome through strengthening communication, networking and capacity building. European MSP programmes that support co-operation and knowledge sharing are particularly important for small islands.

Economic Aspects



The economies of islands are fundamentally linked to the marine environment, relying heavily on the sea and the activities that may take place here, with further growth planned in many regions. The large sea areas within their jurisdictions mean that marine sectors form a significant component of their associated mainland economies. A challenge in islands is that they usually host small and specialised domestic markets and economies. These can be a) vulnerable to external market fluctuations, b) limited in the opportunities to diversify, and c) provide limited potential for sector expansion. Helen Calado suggested that islands have the **“power of attraction”** in gaining interest from external parties in islands but it remains difficult to attract private investment. **The scale of market potential is limited**, whether due to low local demand (e.g. for energy and products), limited space for development in the coastal zone or limited land-based resources including space for development of associated infrastructure (e.g. ports and harbours, processing plants for aquaculture, etc.), and constrained capacity for supporting the associated value chain. Costs associated with transportation of both goods and people are higher in islands and also increase financing challenges related to maritime economic activities. Because of these issues, island economies often rely on external investment and funding, from national governments, NGOs, and other mechanisms (which can sometimes reduce local ownership over island processes).

The availability of human capital is also limited considering the demographic challenges in islands, with the loss of young skilled workers and difficulty in attracting new residents, particularly when considering the need to translocate whole families rather than individuals. Employment of local labour also needs to consider the skills available on the islands, otherwise new developments might require recruitment from elsewhere, reducing the local benefits and creating potential social problems between islanders and ‘incomers’.

Island economies are often highly dependent on tourism, and new activities and policies need to be considered carefully in view of their compatibility with this sector in particular. However, Blue Growth and visions of development also need to consider the broader opportunities beyond the large sectors of tourism and fisheries. There can be a challenge in balancing local island-specific economic ambitions with those of their associated nation state, which may be different. For example as presented by **Rachel Shucksmith (NAFC Marine Centre UHI) on marine planning in Shetland**, where there is a significant marine renewable energy resource potential, the development of the sector is driven by the UK national government national energy targets, which may not be as desirable / feasible at the island level.

It is also important to consider that 'growth' may not be the main priority in all islands, for example due to socio-ecological concerns, including those relating to 'seascape', or to prevent existing sectors declining.

➤ *Role of MSP*

In terms of economic challenges, MSP may contribute to overcoming these through providing an opportunity to take an integrated perspective across different policies in supporting sustainable marine activities and optimised use of space. Good integration with land planning is essential in order to effectively plan for Blue Economy sectors that require onshore facilities and capacity. As a framework for implementation of national policy at the local level, it frames discussion on 'bottom-up' island-relevant Blue Growth goals in relation to 'top-down' national policy. This includes facilitating stakeholder engagement on islands to identify developments of benefit to island communities in addition to serving national interests. Manuel Ara's presentation referred to this, highlighting that MSP must be supported by strategic policy, guiding investment in the Blue Economy, to build capacity for delivering MSP on Madeira.

By providing greater certainty regarding potential development, such as allocating areas for aquaculture, supportive policies and mitigating risk of conflict, MSP can encourage and direct public and private financing, such as for emergent sectors including renewable energy and biotechnology. Reduced risk provided through demonstrating coherence with other governance, through a strategic, nested and integrated process, can support economic investment. Establishing a baseline is a key aspect of MSP, and this can helpfully document current economic status, as well as other socio-ecological conditions.

MSP is proposed as being able to 'de-risk' planning applications (i.e. licensing based on Environmental Impact Assessments) for Blue Economy developments by providing a broad understanding of socio-ecological concerns and guiding development to areas of lower risk. This includes areas of reduced conflict, reduced risk of negative impacts and areas with greater potential for co-existence between sectors.

Social Aspects



Island communities face a range of social challenges and Blue Growth initiatives must consider their resilience.

The strong maritime histories of islands mean that island citizens tend to be more closely associated with the sea, which is often of great importance from cultural, economic and ecological perspectives. The traditional and local knowledge of island communities may be of great benefit to planning processes. The preservation of traditional maritime activities may also need to be considered in new policies for maritime development. Some islands are undergoing rapid change, due, for example, to the growth of mass tourism. This can create tensions with resident communities, who may find it difficult to maintain their way of life or be excluded from the prosperity generated by the influx of tourists.

Engaging island communities in MSP can be easier since there is often (although not always) a strong sense of identity and relationship to the sea,

and as Helena Calado asked, "who isn't a stakeholder on islands?" The greater exposure of islands to factors such as extreme weather events and sea level rise may also enhance awareness of such issues compared to more distant, larger

societies, providing an imperative to engage. Where MSP authorities are located on the island, connections with local stakeholders can be particularly strong and beneficial. Good relationships with local stakeholders can enable access to data and information. In Shetland, established trust with fishermen led to provision of data relating to their activity, on agreed condition of its use. On smaller islands without local governmental institutions, there can be governance structures such as councils through which islanders are represented and can engage in decision-making processes.

Data and Trust!

- Greater data use and sharing
- Allow data ownership to stay with fishermen etc
- Notice errors



Slide from Rachel Shucksmith (NAFC Marine Centre UHI, Shetland) on the role of MSP in supporting data sharing with fishermen.

However, populations on islands can be small, where issues of partisanship may affect democracy and representation of society in MSP. In addition, attitudes to the sea vary and it can't be assumed that all are motivated to engage, and since islands communities have in some cases been traditionally exploitative, there may be a need for a **"mental shift towards an attitude of stewardship"**, suggested by Michelle Borg (Malta). Demographic challenges of low or declining populations can also limit 'social capital' on islands, including the people and capacity to deliver MSP locally.

There is a strong identity and often sense of solidarity *between* islands, and even where they are subject to the policies of a mainland national sovereign authority, they may have much in common with other islands, e.g. in terms of physical geography and socio-cultural characteristics (Baldacchino et al., 2015). This has led to the establishment of networks that support interaction, knowledge-exchange and co-operation on issues facing islands and their communities, and these could provide a useful resource in providing information for, and sharing experience with MSP. Examples of these networks and organisations promoting the specific interests and requirements of islands are listed in Annex 3.

➤ *Role of MSP*

MSP can play a role in addressing social concerns by engaging effectively with island communities and prioritising activities and policies that address their needs. Effective participation in MSP may enable the empowerment of island communities and provide a mechanism for them to engage with other actors, including government, and hereby influence development throughout the process. Engagement through the MSP process can build trust between stakeholders, as identified in Åland, Finland. Through activities such as visioning, MSP may enable dialogue on what is desirable and expose conflicts which can then be addressed pre-emptively in long-term planning. MSP can facilitate and engage with regional partnerships representing the interests of islands. The strategic approach offered in MSP could facilitate the development of transport links between islands and with mainland, addressing some of the isolation issues. The role of MSP in facilitating subsidies and investment is important in supporting the development of island activities.

Environmental Aspects



The confined ecosystems of islands are fragile since they have with lower resilience than larger ecosystems with greater interaction between species. Because of historic isolation, they tend to have a number of endemic species, which are of conservation concern. Such systems are vulnerable to ecological impacts and particularly the cumulative effects of multiple onshore and offshore activities.

Island biodiversity is of local as well as global importance, since islands form part of migratory routes for far-ranging populations of cetaceans, birds, turtles, etc. and can host important nursery habitats for species of global interest, including mangroves and seagrasses.

Fisheries management is a key challenge in mitigating the local ecological effects of concern to islands, and the proliferation of invasive species is a key threat from intense shipping, which is often a key part of island economies. Terrestrial natural resources are limited and often overexploited. Pollution and waste management (water and solid) processes are difficult with limited land space, and there can be limited availability of fresh water. A projected increase in the amount of fresh water needed and the overexploitation of aquifers is a common problem on islands and it was noted during the second interactive session that the desalination of water has become a Blue Growth sector for many islands. This however does come with environmental impacts, for example from the discharge of concentrated brine back into the sea and the impact of this to marine organisms ingesting this water. Exposure to prevailing oceanic and atmospheric processes can be a risk, including to extreme weather events, as faced in the Azores. Coastal erosion, enhanced by sea level rise in some islands, presents a further threat to communities resulting in loss of land space leading to ecological and social implications. Athena Mourmouris showed in her presentation how planning in Greece was taking into account projected sea level rise in Sami / Cephalonia Islands in Greece.

Understanding of the local marine environment can be limited, particularly on islands without a tradition of data collection and research, and which rely on industry activities in surveying to support EIA processes which are localised to their interests. Addressing data gaps to support ecosystem-based planning is therefore a challenge as data collection is costly and requires local

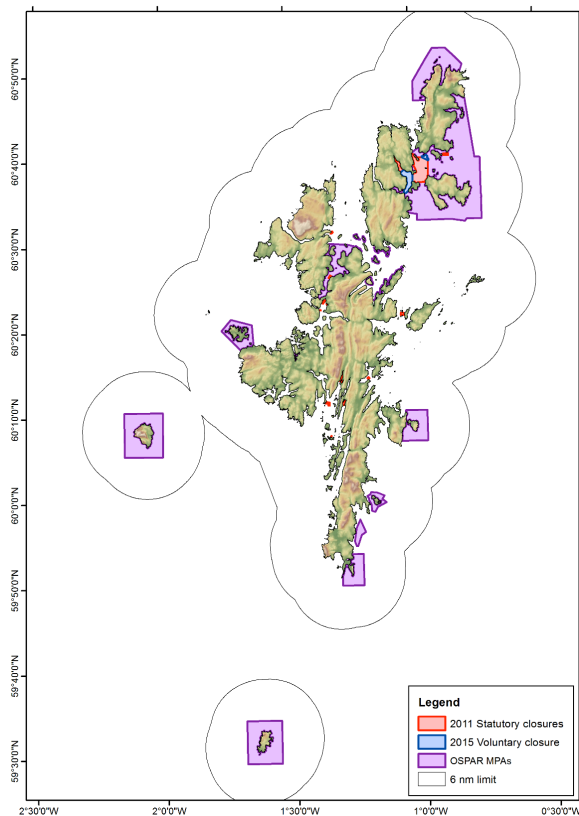
infrastructure. This is particularly challenging for islands with extensive areas of deep waters within the coastal areas, where costs of investigation are significant.

➤ **Role of MSP**

MSP is crucial in balancing Blue Economy demands and associated impacts with conservation concerns, and may provide environmental protection / enhancement through inclusion of MPAs and other measures. MSP should apply an ecosystem-approach, as per Article 1(3) of the MSFD, hence there is a legal requirement for ecological considerations to be taken into consideration. Furthermore, the focus on efficient use of space in MSP is critical for balancing ecological integrity, economic development and social interests. As presented by Rachel Shucksmith (NAFC Marine Centre UHI, Shetland), the relationship between planning authorities and the fishing industry supported by **MSP can lead to more ecologically sensitive practice**, including co-operation in establishing areas where fishing would not be undertaken, for conservation purposes (see slide below).

There are limits to what MSP can do in addressing issues related to international or global challenges, including climate change since these require multi-level and collaborative approaches at much larger scale. Islands face risks related to 'biosecurity' and invasive species, but the problem is associated with international transport and not with activities within island jurisdiction. MSP could add emphasis through policies relating to biosecurity issues and implement local controls, such as designate spatial zoning for management of ballast water discharge including monitoring.

In terms of data, **MSP can frame the need for data collection**; presenting a focus for the collation of existing information, identification of the data and information gaps and prioritising funding (which it may also attract) in addressing them.



Slide from Rachel Shucksmith's presentation (NAFC Marine Centre UHI, Shetland) showing fishing exclusion areas agreed with fishermen through MSP.

Summary on role of MSP in addressing specific features of islands

MSP has a lot to offer, although this depends on the implementation context and approach taken. Its key focus on balancing social, ecological and economic concerns through the optimisation of use of resources and space, based on participation and engagement of communities, is fundamental to addressing the needs of islands. At a simple level, while MSP is not a decision-making tool, it guides marine activities to areas of lower risk and least conflict, and influences licensing and consenting processes. The focus on accounting for land-sea interactions (LSI) in MSP⁴ has particular relevance to the case of islands and provides a focus for integration between island and marine planning. MSP is intended as an adaptable process, based on monitoring and evaluation, hence approaches should be refined based on learning.

Developed appropriately, ecosystem-based MSP should provide the basis for addressing social and ecological concerns. Ecosystem-based MSP should support effective management of coastal and marine systems, and facilitate better understanding of cumulative impacts. However, EBM is not easily understood and needs to be communicated more simply to help communication with decision-makers.

MSP is an integrated process and not just spatial allocation through 'zoning', for example in Shetland, zoning has been avoided to allow for flexibility in response to higher resolution

⁴ <https://www.msp-platform.eu/events/msp-conference-addressing-land-sea-interactions>

understanding of constraints and opportunities as they arise. Furthermore, in addition to the administrative and legal aspects of MSP, the informal processes are highly important and beneficial in enabling collaboration between stakeholders, building trust and relationships.

While it may be limited in addressing certain issues, particularly those which need to be managed at larger scales (such as climate change related effects), it provides a framework for collectively discussing a range of cross-cutting issues at a scale which may not have previously existed. The MSP process supports the co-operation and dialogue required to address many of the issues faced in islands. This includes facilitating closer co-operation with local communities, stakeholders with conservation interest, industry, etc. This serves to raise awareness of emerging conflicts, ecological issues, etc. supports collaboration in identifying what can be addressed through MSP, and enables communicating what needs to be addressed through other mechanisms.

However, MSP is one tool for governance, and there can be misleading expectations of what it can deliver. How it interacts with prevalent governance and decision-making processes is crucial.

Section 2: Blue Growth in Islands

The maritime economies of islands are crucial given the proportion of landmass relative to the often large marine areas, and the consequent heavy reliance on maritime sectors. The primary sectors of shipping, fishing, aquaculture, offshore renewable energy and tourism were discussed at the workshop during Interactive Session 2 and summarised below. The discussion supported focus on the role of MSP and does not represent a comprehensive review of Blue Growth opportunities in islands.

Shipping



Shipping is of great importance to islands, including for connectivity (e.g. with neighbouring states and mainland), and servicing the tourism sector. Many islands are 'stop overs' for cruise shipping and can benefit locally from these visitors, and understanding of potential provision of services including to other industrial shipping, such as waste disposal and bunkering facilities, could increase the value of this sector to islands.

The economic contribution from the shipping industry is a key enabling factor of other Blue Growth sectors. An integrated approach is needed to consider the associated development of ports and specialised infrastructure, including marinas, container ports, LNG facilities, transfer of oil or aquaculture products, etc. However, many islands host shipping channels within or near their jurisdictional areas which may not stop at the islands, presenting a use of space that does not necessarily benefit the islands.

MSP can support desirable growth in the contribution of this sector by engaging with ports in the early stages of planning. Port development is multi-sectoral, providing essential infrastructure for many other Blue Growth activities and represents a critical enabler for integrated planning between land and sea. Ports are often planned on a long-term basis, and engaging with this in developing an integrated future vision for MSP is critical.

Shipping activity is often incorporated in MSP simply through the inclusion of vessel traffic data (AIS), but to effectively integrate this sector into MSP, it is essential to analyse the value chains of individual sectors, to understand the relationship between ship activity and activities on the island. What drives the ship's activity; which industries are they serving and what are their needs (in terms of infrastructure, human capital, etc.)?

Fishing



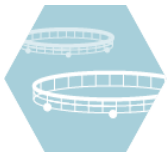
Fishing is of key importance to islands and a traditional part of island culture.

However, there is a need to develop more ecologically-sensitive fishing, for example through Marine Stewardship Council accreditation and introduction of new regulations on fishing gear. Growth of the sector is not a priority everywhere. In some areas fish stocks are stable and increasing, creating potential for investment in new boats that are more energy efficient and new fishing gear that has a lesser impact on the environment. Developing techniques for use of by-catch, or for fishing to address invasive species, are other potential innovative areas for development, along with the creation of artificial reefs as a way of increasing fish stocks and the potential for links with aquaculture (for growing 'wild' stock) and tourism (associated with the reefs). Tourism in relation to fishing is a growth area, specifically for angling and diving.

In addressing the needs of the fishing industry, MSP can protect important areas for fishing (i.e. spawning and nursery grounds) including supporting the creation of artificial reefs / multi-use - by promoting integration of fishing related interests with other developments such as offshore wind structures. MSP also has a role to play in fostering Good Environmental Status (GES) of the marine environment, which is essential for fishing activity and has a role to play in supporting MPA designations.

Capturing local knowledge of fishermen through MSP, as demonstrated through the effective engagement of fishermen in Shetland, can inform discussion about overfishing. MSP should support local artisanal fishing activity as a continuing source of local knowledge and expertise about fish ecology and fishing activity, which is key to long-term sustainable development ambitions.

Aquaculture



Across Europe, aquaculture is an expanding sector for islands, within socio-ecological constraints. Opportunities exist in technological innovation, including to enable siting installations further offshore in open sea areas to reduce pollution and visual impacts. Efforts are on-going regarding strategic planning for aquaculture, enabling the identification of locations across a broad area rather than siting individual installations. There is also a diversification of farmed species, particularly in adapting to new environmental conditions such as changing sea temperatures, which has created more suitable conditions for aquaculture in Iceland (as presented by **Ester Anna Armannsdóttir, Iceland National Planning Agency**). Macro algae cultivation for a variety of purposes is being explored for biofuels, food and cosmetics (with the latter being of highest value for lowest volume) including in Madeira). However, the human resources and research capacity can be limited on islands for advancing innovative sectors.

Fostering synergies between aquaculture and other sectors is of primary importance in islands, to address local island demands, reducing dependence on imports, while utilising resources (including offshore and onshore space) effectively. Aquaculture is conceptually feasible as a co-location opportunity, particularly with offshore wind, as is currently being explored in Gran Canaria, and to be integrated with tourism. MSP can guide multi-use and manage conflicts, thereby enhancing the potential for optimised use of space. **The Blue Biotechnology and Aquaculture Platform (BIOASIS)** project presented by Juan-Ramón Rodríguez Alemán (Society of Economic Promotion of Gran Canaria) is a multi-site solution to support scientific research, experimental and industrial development in integrated multi-use on the east coast of Gran Canaria. To support future innovation in the aquaculture sector, MSP needs to be flexible to consider opportunities which may arise based on new technologies and R&D, including ensuring sufficient space for further development.

There is some concern regarding potential conflicts with the tourism sector, due to public perception and visual impacts of aquaculture. However, in some areas this is less of a concern, for example in Gran Canaria, where the history of the sector means that people are accustomed to it and tend to value the socio-economic benefits, which include employment. In areas such as Shetland, there is very little further capacity for aquaculture, from a social and ecological

perspective, and efforts through MSP are focussing on how to optimise current activities within these constraints.

Offshore Energy



Offshore wind is of interest in islands, particularly since space on land is constrained and wind energy is facing growing public opposition onshore. However, the visual impacts of offshore wind farms need to be understood in relation to the wider seascape and potential impacts on other activities, such as tourism.

Other forms of renewable energy are also promising, although feasible only where tidal or wave energy resources exist. The renewables sector may face challenges in islands given the need for electricity transmission and other infrastructure and the likely small local demand for energy. Some islands, such as the Orkney Islands, Scotland, have hosted testing of prototype ocean energy devices given their amenable topography and have developed capacity through the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) testing facility.

In some islands, self-sufficiency in terms of energy is being pursued, principally with combinations of offshore and onshore energy sources, including solar and hydro-power (as in El Hierro, Canary Islands and the Isle of Eigg, Scotland). As technology develops, particularly in energy storage options, incorporation of offshore renewables may become more feasible. Addressing local energy demand through local renewable sources minimises vulnerability to loss of supply, such as the risk of disruption of mainland supply.

The potential (although not yet proven) for co-location of offshore wind with other sectors, such as aquaculture, is desirable in optimising the use of marine space. A further aspect of the potential of the renewable energy sector in islands is possible transshipment of liquified natural gas (LNG), to supply local demand, and also to act as a regional hub to service the wider industry.

Smaller scale developments may provide opportunities for innovative local management and community ownership of small-scale renewable energy projects. These can enhance development where local acceptance may otherwise be challenging. Supporting the 'ownership' by island communities may enhance the wider socio-economic benefits of Blue Economy activities.

MSP can facilitate sustainable offshore energy development by supporting feasibility studies to understand the resource potential and capacity needs for the range of energy supply options. Integrated planning can address compatibility and conflict between activities, and can account for concerns regarding visual impacts and prevent inappropriate development. It can provide a focus for community support of small-scale, multi-use projects such as the use of fish farm waste as biofuel.

Tourism



Tourism is often the dominant sector that contributes significantly to island economies, as in many of the Greek and Balearic islands. For Cyprus and Malta, coastal tourism contributed 69% and 75.4% of GVA respectively in 2016 (EC, 2018). Countries like Finland, Italy and Greece have particularly valuable underwater archaeology which support a significant diving industry (Ecorys, 2012). Sustainable tourism is an

identified area of Blue Growth in some islands, as is currently being promoted in Mayotte through the European Regional Development Fund (European Commission, 2017). However, the costs of transport is often very high, particularly to remote islands. .

As presented by Harry Coccossis, University of Thessaly (Greece) tourism is a very diverse sector, including mass tourism, high-profile, niche tourism and low-profile tourism (as categorised by Ecorys, 2013). This diversity presents a challenge in MSP to support policies which address each of these specifically in islands. Desirable opportunities for islands focus in particular on low volume, higher quality tourism ('less is more') which acknowledges the socio-ecological limits of islands. Examples include nature tourism, recreational fishing, diving with emblematic species and underwater cultural activities for example Åland, Finland Development of marinas can host visiting tourists from sailing and cruise ships, providing benefits to the local community.

Cruise shipping is a well-established sector contributing to many island economies, and is considered a growth area in the Blue Economy, with consequent implications on ports, marinas and coastal towns. As identified in 'Shipping', it is not always the case that islands benefit from cruise ships and considering the infrastructure and what can be offered on islands is important. Other shipping and maritime transport is essential in linking islands with the European mainland and elsewhere.

Tourism is growing quickly and is integrated throughout society in islands. Islands which used to be outside mainstream tourism are now of interest and there is a need to adapt to the opportunities and challenges, including engaging local communities.

MSP has a role in helping to achieve balance between economic activities and environmental condition, organising activities, reducing conflict, fostering synergies and multi-use and providing a regulatory framework to support activity whilst not risking displacement. It draws attention to LSIs in islands related to tourism and supports development of a vision that can promote good practices (e.g. relating to efficiency and waste management), connect stakeholders and support transnational coherence. Harry Coccossis emphasised that **islanders can "take advantage of a new policy perspective"** in MSP and the financial and human resources it enables, in developing integrated Blue Growth solutions.

Other Activities

Growth is expected in coastal protection, particularly in the defence against rising sea levels which is of high relevance to islands. Desalination is an important activity for islands where terrestrial water supplies are limited, such as in the Mediterranean (particularly Malta, Spain, Greece and Cyprus), and desalination activities are expected to increase, in Spain to double existing capacity over the next 50 years, some of which may be island-based (EC, 2018). Other strategic potential growth areas included marine monitoring, seawater desalination, research and surveillance, including of maritime traffic, pollution control, fisheries control and illegal immigration, including in the Outermost Regions and the Canary Islands (ECORYS, 2012).

Summary of role of MSP in addressing Blue Growth Opportunities

At a general level, the key aims and purpose of MSP support addressing a number of the complex challenges faced by islands. The principles of MSP should address conflicting demands, whether

aquaculture and tourism, enabling negotiation of different demands to support a diverse but balanced economy, particularly where space is limited (e.g. in Madeira). In its aim to optimise the use of marine space across broad societal requirements, it provides a framework for stimulating innovation in how to promote co-existence (use of the same sea area) and co-location (designing of infrastructure to fulfil multiple functions, such as aquaculture and offshore wind, currently still at the prototype stage. The overarching perspective taken supports addressing cumulative impacts more comprehensively than current fragmented approaches.

Integrated and ecosystem-based MSP is fundamental in supporting implementation of the Blue Economy, guiding investment, diversification of sectors, innovation and promoting co-operation between sectors. As is the basis of the Blue Economy itself, an overarching framework / perspective can support other actions for optimising resources, including sharing of capacity and infrastructure between sectors, including 'clustering'. Such positive developments, guided by an MSP framework can attract funding, e.g. EMFF for development of a range of initiatives.

Overall Summary

In summary, we acknowledged that islands are highly diverse but united in their insularity, which influences their economic, social, environmental and governance characteristics, in different ways. MSP is essential in implementing Blue Growth through managing conflict, promoting multi-use and balancing the context-specific socio-ecological needs of islands with economic opportunities. Locally developed MSP is particularly relevant in reflecting the ambitions, priorities and challenges of islands, and guiding investment into Blue Economy sector development. However, MSP is not 'the solution' since many challenges are non-spatial, outside the remit of MSP and therefore integration with other decision-making processes needs to be clear.

MSP provides an opportunity to re-think the issues facing islands, particularly regarding integration between onshore and offshore aspects. The dialogue, interaction and collaboration it supports between authorities, stakeholders and communities provides a basis for building shared understanding of the issues faced, and changing perspectives towards better integration of socio-ecological concerns and economic development. In particular at an island scale, the opportunities for learning and adaptation may present islands as 'hubs of innovation' in MSP and implementation of sustainable Blue Growth policies. This extends the learning from islands outwards to the wider MSP community.

The many islands associated with the European Union have an important contribution to make to the EU's Blue Growth strategy. While remoteness and insularity is a defining feature of many islands, and which amplifies their vulnerabilities and challenges, their role in 'connectivity' underlines their importance to transboundary processes, including as providing 'stop-overs' for shipping and migratory species, exchange of goods and people with neighbouring countries and markets. This emphasise the need for MSP to take a broad and integrated view, to maintain focus on the role of islands in the 'global' blue economy.

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Annex 1. Workshop Programme

Workshop Maritime Spatial Planning for Islands

11 September 2018, Gran Canaria (Spain)

University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Aula de Piedra
Calle Juan de Cuesada 30, 35001

This workshop provides the opportunity to explore the development of MSP in island contexts, including the specific challenges faced and the opportunities for sustainable blue growth. The particularly strong connection between island communities and the sea and the relevance of this to MSP was highlighted during the MSP Conference: Addressing Land-Sea Interactions held in St Julians, Malta, 15th-16th June 2017¹.

Due to their remoteness, and with different levels of representation in MSP processes which may be led by mainland authorities, there can be particular challenges in practicing MSP in island contexts. However, given their maritime interests, significant blue growth opportunities exist, and effective MSP should help to realise these.

We will hear about the experience of MSP in islands, including representation from islands of different status within the EU, from island nations such as Malta, to islands with some autonomy from mainland governments, such as Åland, Finland. There will be perspectives from local community groups, planning authorities and blue growth sectors with island interests. Panel and group sessions will facilitate interaction between MSP practitioners and other stakeholders, to highlight good practice and develop ideas to support the development of MSP and delivery of sustainable blue growth for islands.

The workshop will take place at the same time as the [4th ECOQAU Summer School 'Blue Innovation in Islands'](#), which will be exploring marine and ocean governance; Blue Growth in various MSP sectors; and marine conservation.

¹ <http://msp-platform.eu/events/msp-conference-addressing-land-sea-interactions>

Agenda

Workshop 'Maritime Spatial Planning for Islands'

08.30 - 09.00 Arrival and registration

09:00 - 09:20 Welcome and introduction to the MSP for Islands workshop and the ECOAQUA Summer School (DG MARE & ULPGC)

09:20- 10:15 SESSION 1 " Maritime Spatial Planning for Islands - Current Perspectives and Experience"

09:20 - 09:30 Islands context for MSP - An Introduction: Helena Calado

Moderator: Helena Calado, University of the Azores

09:30 - 10:15 Presentations

- Michelle Borg, Manager for the Green and Blue Development Unit in the Planning Authority, Malta *Sustainable Marine Planning on Islands*
- Rachel Shucksmith, NAFC Marine Centre, Shetland Islands, Scotland
- Stefan Husa, Government of Åland - *MSP in the Åland Islands, Finland*

10:15 - 10:45 Panel and Q&A

10:45 - 11:15 Coffee break

11:15 - 12:00 ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION 1 "Specific Challenges in Implementing MSP for Islands"

Building on the discussions so far regarding experience of MSP in islands, in this session participants will divide into groups and discuss the challenges that are faced in relation to MSP in islands, including whether these are unique to islands and how they differ between islands of different status. Each round table will summarise the key points raised during their discussions.

12:00 - 13:15 SESSION 2 "Blue Growth Opportunities for Islands"

Moderator: Helena Calado, University of the Azores

12:00 - 12:45 Presentations

- Harry Coccossis, University of Thessaly - *Tourism and Islands*
- Juan-Ramón Rodríguez Alemán, Society of Economic Promotion of Gran Canaria
- Ester Anna Armannsdóttir, Iceland National Planning Agency (*tbc*)

12:45 - 13:15 Panel and Q&A

13:15 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 14:45 ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS 2 "What are the particular challenges and opportunities for islands in achieving Blue Growth?"

Participants will be divided into groups to undertake facilitated group work to identify specific opportunities relating to blue growth sectors in islands, and the challenges that may be faced. Knowledge exchange between regions and sectors.

14:45 - 17:15 SESSION 3: 'Addressing the socio-economic and environmental pressures faced by Island Communities'

Moderator: Stephen Jay, EU MSP Platform

14:45 - 15:30 Presentations (Part 1)

- Manuel Ara de Oliveira, Deputy, Secretaria Regional do Ambiente e Recursos Naturais - Direção Regional do Ordenamento do Território e Ambiente on *"Experience of engaging stakeholders in the autonomous region of Madeira"*
- Andrej Abramic - University Las Palmas Gran Canaria - *Balancing maritime sector development and environmental planning, supporting socio-economic growth and ensuring environmental services (PLASMAR / MarSP)*
- Dania Abdul Malek, Director of the ETC-UMA, University of Malaga - *Ecological fragility of coastal and marine environments (from anthropogenic and global change related impacts) - the need to account for these factors in effective ecosystem-based Marine Spatial Planning.*

15:30 - 15:45 Panel and Q&A

15:45 - 16:15 Coffee Break

16:15 - 16:45 Presentations (Part 2)

- Nadou Cadic - Délégation à la mer et au littoral, France - *French overseas territories: examples of how planning will integrate (or not ...) the particular pressures facing these islands.*
- Athena Mourmouris, former Director General for the Environment, Greece - *Experiences from the Ionian Islands Pilot Project*

16:45 - 17:15 Panel and Q&A

17:15 - 17:45 Summary and workshop conclusions

18:00 - 20:00 Evening Reception

Annex 2. Summary of presentations and panel sessions

The workshop 'Maritime Spatial Planning for Islands' was hosted at the University of Las Palmas, Gran Canaria on the 11th September 2018. The workshop coincided with the [4th ECOAQUA Summer School 'Blue Innovation in Islands'](#).

An opening address was given by **Pedro Ortega Rodríguez (Regional Minister of Economy, Industry, Trade and Knowledge, Canary Islands Government)**, followed by **Professor Rafael Robaina, Rector of the University of Las Palmas, Gran Canaria** who introduced the MSP for islands workshop and the ECOAQUA Summer School (DG MARE & ULPGC), and then by Mr Sveto Stoyanov (DG MARE introducing the MSP for islands workshop and the ECOAQUA Summer School.

Angela Schultz-Zehden (Contract Lead EU MSP Platform) added a welcome and explained the context of the event in relation to the EU MSP Platform, highlighting the wealth of practices recorded on the online database and the 'active' services the Platform provides. Stephen Jay (Atlantic Focal Point EU MSP Platform) added his welcome.

Session 1 " Maritime Spatial Planning for Islands - Current Perspectives and Experience", was moderated **by Helena Calado (University of the Azores)**. After Helena's introduction and observations including "who isn't a stakeholder on islands?", authorities responsible for MSP in Malta, Shetland (Scotland) and Åland (Finland) presented their experiences, summarised below. The full presentations are available on the EU MSP Platform website as PDFs.

Michelle Borg, Manager of the Green and Blue Development Unit in the Planning Authority of Malta



Ms. Borg highlighted that islands and their communities are to a large extent defined by their surrounding seas; their history is shaped by geography. She highlighted the vulnerability of islands when dependent on import of goods, as for Malta during World War II. MSP in Malta builds on ICZM in the region and has developed a strategic perspective of planning, considering an overarching vision which balances economic activities and environmental protection. The strategic plan for Malta was approved by Parliament in 2015 and also forms the national maritime spatial plan. It addresses the maritime space up to 25nm. Malta is seeking to improve its performance in MSP, particularly with regard to data collection and management, stakeholder involvement and improved governance. The main lesson learnt is that MSP certainly helps towards sustainable marine use, yet the approach must be an adaptive one to enable the necessary capacity building for implementation.

As with other islands, they are reliant on external funding for the delivery of MSP (EMFF in this case) and local capacity issues remain in terms of human resources, administrative capacity, etc.

Integrating the perspective of islanders is critical, but it should not be assumed that island residents are engaged with the sea, and there is a challenge in that the traditional attitude is one of exploitation of the sea, with a mental shift needed to one of 'stewardship'.

Rachel Shucksmith, NAFC Marine Centre UHI, Shetland Islands, Scotland

The marine economy of Shetland is of major importance, with 22% of jobs dependent on the fisheries sector and Europe's largest oil terminal. MSP for Shetland is being developed by the North Atlantic Fisheries College (NAFC). Shetland is a semi-autonomous marine region and there is 10 years of history of



MSP in the area through pilot projects. Formal marine planning is now being developed by the Regional Marine Planning Partnership, through Scotland's regional approach to marine planning. Recent evaluation of the marine plan indicates that MSP so far has been of benefit in making data available, guiding activities and streamlining licensing processes.

A number of factors contribute to Shetland's capacity for MSP, including existing planning powers, established in 1974 in response to the development of oil and gas in the North Sea; research and human resources established to address the expanding fisheries sector (including the NAFC) which are now leading on MSP; and very good established relationships with key stakeholders and groups.

Addressing local issues has been considered successful, and the critical remaining issues facing Shetland are global challenges - e.g. climate change related or invasive species - which are not possible to address locally and require a multi-scale response. While MSP can help to overcome some marine challenges it is not the only management tool and many transboundary challenges (such as climate change) represent global challenges.

Stefan Husa, Government of Åland - MSP in Åland, Finland

As the Åland Islands are autonomous due to the autonomy act in Finland (1144:1991), the Government of Åland oversees the designation of a full-scale MSP covering the territorial seas of Åland. With a population consisting of around 30 000 citizens, a landscape of ~13 325 km² (88% of which is water), and a long history of maritime-based activities, the Åland Islands are an excellent example of how an archipelago community has always exploited the marine areas for survival. With the design of MSP to support Blue Growth and sustainable development, cultural heritage and social knowledge are key factors that are shaping the plan to fulfil the needs of the local community.



Stakeholder involvement and citizen-ownership are essential parts of designing a plan that meets the criteria of all sectors and stakeholders involved.

The contribution of islands to a mainland state can be disproportionately high due to large sea areas within their jurisdiction, for a relatively small landmass – Åland has 22% of Finland’s marine area. While able to take their own approach, coherence is seen as important, and MSP is being developed through close co-operation with the national government and is informed substantially through Baltic Sea-wide projects, including Pan Baltic Scope.

PANEL SESSION 1

Questions from the floor included **“What MSP lessons do you think planners from islands specifically can teach the wider MSP community?”** and **“Whether positive experiences in MSP were because they are islands?”** This yielded interesting discussions, particularly on the ability of islands to act as ‘test sites’ for approaches to MSP, given their greater potential to adapt more quickly. ‘Island-scale’ planning supports building of trust and relationships with stakeholders including the fishing industry, leading to better access to data and collaboration, which is less feasible at a national scale.



INTERACTIVE SESSION 1 "Specific Challenges in Implementing MSP for Islands"

Building on the discussions regarding the experience of MSP in islands, in this session participants discussed the challenges, including whether these are unique to islands and how they differ between islands of different status. The outputs of these working groups are incorporated into the main report text.





In **Session 2, the "Blue Growth Opportunities for Islands"** were discussed, including the role of MSP in addressing them. Presentations focused on tourism and biotechnology as well as the experience of Iceland MSP. The full presentations are available on the EU MSP Platform website as PDFs.

Harry Coccossis, University of Thessaly - Tourism and Islands



Maritime and coastal tourism is of great importance to islands and is a growing sector, with potential ecological consequences that may compromise the tourism itself. As a sector, it is highly diverse, including four main types (mass tourism, high-profile, niche tourism, low-profile tourism), with a varying ratio of 'volume to value'. This diversity presents challenges in MSP to support policies, which address these specifically and appropriately. MSP has a role in providing an integrated approach, balancing development with environmental objectives, providing an interface between different levels of governance, enabling participation and providing flexibility / adaptability including through monitoring and evaluation.

Mr. Coccossis referred to the Interreg [CO-EVOLVE](#) project which aims at analyzing and promoting the co-evolution of human activities and natural systems in touristic coastal areas, allowing sustainable development of touristic activities based on the principles of ICZM/MSP.

Islanders can "take advantage of a new policy perspective" in MSP and the resources it enables.

Juan-Ramón Rodríguez Alemán, Society of Economic Promotion of Gran Canaria

Mr Alemán provided workshop participants with an overview of the BIOASIS Gran Canaria, an initiative which has been set up Gran Canaria Island Council (Cabildo) through its Corporation for

the Economic Development of Gran Canaria (SPEGC), the Canary Islands Technology Institute (ITC) and the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (ULPGC), through the Spanish Algae Bank (BEA) and the Institute for Sustainable Aquaculture (IU-ECOQUA). As a hub for biotechnology and aquaculture BIOASIS is striving to remove some of the obstacles which have previously prevented businesses and entrepreneurs in these fields from growing including administrative barriers, and lack of public and or financial support. It can provide specialised training, assist with business promotion and improve research and development capacity in the sector.



BIOASIS is a multi-site platform solution with scientific research, experimental and industrial development areas situated across the east coast of Gran Canaria which will allow small businesses to receive advice from experts at various stages in their development.

Ester Anna Armannsdóttir, Iceland National Planning Agency - MSP and the National Planning Strategy

The Icelandic exclusive economic zone reaches out to 200 nautical miles from baseline, i.e. about 760 thousand square kilometers. Geographical conditions differ around the coast and some areas are better suited for activities near the coast than others. In some areas there is an increased demand for marine space, mostly due to aquaculture and tourism. Aquaculture has become feasible in the region due to warming sea temperatures. To ensure sustainable use and protection of the environment the Icelandic government has legislated Marine Spatial Planning. The new legislation provides tools to manage different uses, support sustainable development of marine use and protection of the environment.

- The National Planning Agency will prepare the regional marine plans.
- Two regional marine plans are in preparation, in the Westfjords and the Eastfjords



Marine planning in Iceland

PANEL SESSION 2

Discussions here focussed on the factors influencing aquaculture development, such as changing sea temperature which has influenced the expansion of aquaculture in Iceland, and reflections on the generally positive public perception of aquaculture in Gran Canaria, because of the historic presence of the sector and the welcome socioeconomic benefits. MSP was highlighted as a platform to re-think and discuss issues related to compatibility between sectors, including tourism and MPAs.

A question was raised regarding the different types of planning required for islands with large sea areas (such as Iceland) compared to those with smaller jurisdictions. Nested approaches, with guiding policies at large scale (such as Scottish Government's National Marine Plan), with increasing level of detail at the local scale, was proposed (as likely in the Azores), but more learning is needed from experience on the integration across different scales of governance.



INTERACTIVE SESSION 2: "What are the particular challenges and opportunities for islands in achieving Blue Growth?"

In groups, participants engaged in facilitated group work to identify specific opportunities relating to Blue Growth sectors in islands, and the challenges that may be faced. Participants reflected on the role of MSP in addressing these challenges and opportunities, and where it may be limited. The outputs of these discussions have been incorporated into the main report text.





SESSION 3

In the first part of **Session 3**, further perspectives on **“Addressing the socio-economic and environmental pressures faced by Island Communities”** were discussed and a panel discussion was moderated by Stephen Jay (Atlantic Focal Point, EU MSP Platform). Presentations focused on Madeira, MSP projects in Macaronesia as well as the ecological aspects of MSP. The full presentations are available on the EU MSP Platform website as PDFs.

Manuel Ara de Oliveira, Deputy, Secretaria Regional do Ambiente e Recursos Naturais - Direção Regional do Ordenamento do Território e Ambiente on “Experience of engaging stakeholders in the autonomous region of Madeira”

Opening with a quote from Jacob Bronowski *“There is no absolute knowledge. And those who claim it, whether they are scientists or dogmatists, open the door to tragedy. All information is imperfect. We have to treat it with humility,”* Mr. Ara de Oliveira highlighted the key role for careful use of science in MSP.

In Madeira, they believe strongly in the precautionary principle and are pioneers in Portugal regarding MPAs.

Mr. Ara de Oliveira also highlighted the importance of island biodiversity locally, but also globally because of migration routes, e.g. for birds and marine mammals.



Andrej Abramic - University Las Palmas Gran Canaria - *Balancing maritime sector development and environmental planning, supporting socio-economic growth and ensuring environmental services (PLASMAR / MarSP)*



Mr. Abramic presented two MSP projects in Macaronesia ([PLASMAR](#) and [MarSP](#) which support to organisation of stakeholder workshops, cross-border collaboration, analyzing MSP and related legislation and mapping maritime sector issues and solutions. PLASMAR presents a data collection framework, mapping data needs and collection mechanisms including Natura 2000, MSFD, EMODnet, and projects such as SniMAR, SIGmar and GRAFCAN. The

EU INSPIRE Directive was promoted as a way to ensure coherence in data in MSP, enabling harmonization of data and supporting cross-border co-operation. A data model based on INSPIRE was used to support integration of MSFD considerations into MSP, which contributes to better coherence between both requirements, and is available online.

Dania Abdul Malek, Director of the ETC-UMA, University of Malaga - *Ecological fragility of coastal and marine environments (from anthropogenic and global change related impacts) - the need to account for these factors in effective ecosystem-based MSP*

Ms Abdul Malak set out that understanding coastal and marine ecosystems is the basis for providing essential scientific advice to natural resource managers on the status and natural variability of marine habitats and species, and the associated ecosystem services they provide. The goal of ecosystem-based management (EBM) is to maintain ecosystems in a healthy, productive, and resilient condition so they can provide the services humans want and need.



MSP is a vital tool of EBM that can be directed towards a range of coastal and maritime activities. Using an EBM approach, MSP needs to account for biological, physical, economic and social interactions among the affected components of the ecosystem ensuring proper consideration towards their sustainable uses.

For island communities, Ms Abdul Malak highlighted that resource dependency is relatively higher than on the mainland, making social communities more vulnerable to resource depletion or change in access to the resource. Ensuring the application of EBM and accounting for trade-offs within ecosystems in the management of natural resources is crucial to achieve societal goals in islands, some of which may be in competition.

PANEL SESSION

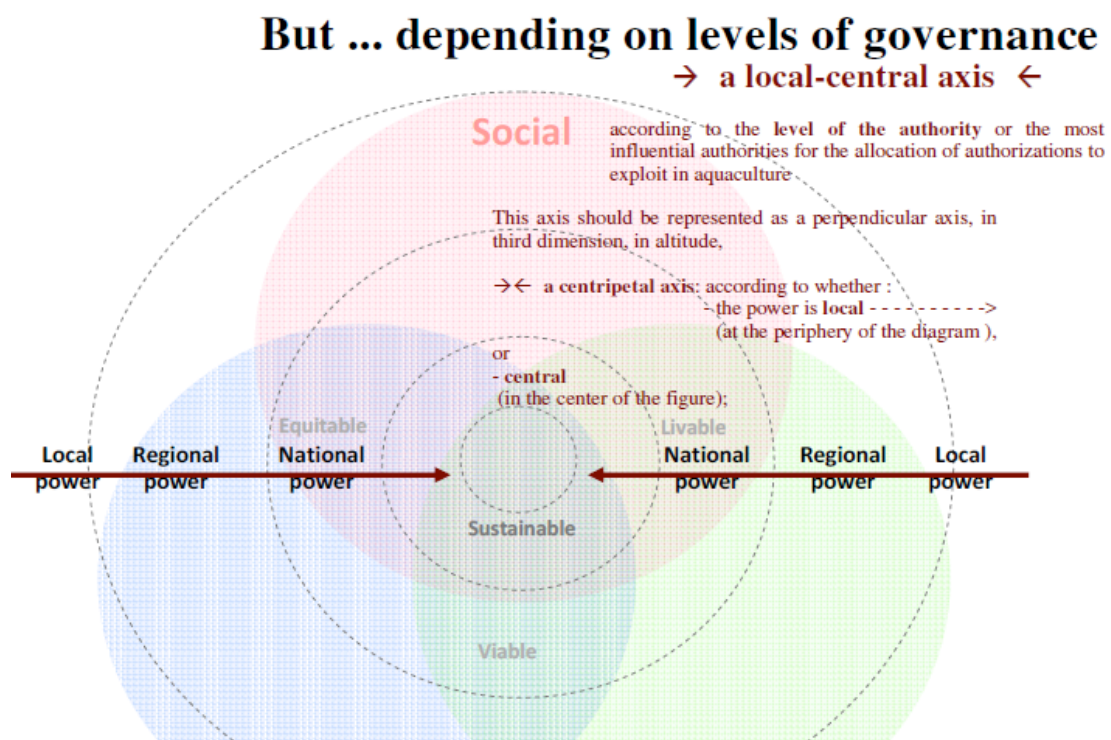
One of the participants posed the question **“What issues which came up could you solve via MSP on Madeira?”**, with a response detailing its value in guiding optimised use of limited space, guiding research with practical applicability, and providing some security to guide investment in the region. Participants also discussed **what is meant by ‘coherence’** between plans across borders, and that this can mean different things – related to data compatibility or more subjective aspects of MSP. It was highlighted that although it is a useful concept, EBM is not well understood by industry and policy makers and needs to be put into more simple terms to help communication with decision-makers.



In the second part of **Session 3**, further perspectives on **“Addressing the socio-economic and environmental pressures faced by Island Communities”** were discussed and a **panel discussion was** moderated by Stephen Jay (Atlantic Focal Point, EU MSP Platform). Presentations focused on the experience of French overseas territories and an MSP project in the Ionian Islands. The full presentations are available on the EU MSP Platform website as PDFs.

Nadou Cadic - Délégation à la mer et au littoral, France - “French overseas territories: examples of how planning will integrate (or not ...) the particular pressures facing these islands.”

Mr. Cadic highlighted experience in MSP across the French islands, including Guadeloupe and Mayotte in the Caribbean (EU Outermost Regions - OR), along with French Polynesia and New Caledonia in the South Pacific (territories of Member States outside the EU - OT). The French Government plays a different role across these islands, with greater jurisdiction and responsibility in OR islands than Overseas Territories, which has implications for MSP. In New Caledonia in particular, there is superimposition of five levels of governance, from the state government, to the local island council and commune level, with all playing a role in developments closer to shore. Clarity around respective competences needed to be made before progressing planning, such as for the marine protected area. The complex interactions between different levels of governance in



implementing development for islands was set out, and detailed below:

Four examples were presented of how different local, regional or national authorities have integrated aquaculture into the planning of the marine area, based on a grid representing the levels of governance and the sustainable development objectives. Mr. Cadic posed the final concluding question to the audience: "Is it possible to achieve sustainable development objectives in remote islands *without* strong involvement (and power) of central authorities?"

Athena Mourmouris, Honorary Director General for the Environment, Greece - *Experiences from the Ionian Islands Pilot Project*

Ms Mourmouris's presentation highlighted the major elements of the pilot project launched by PAP/RAC and carried out by some Greek experts for the Ionian Islands as a case study for the implementation of MSP in the Mediterranean. Emphasis was put on governance issues and stakeholders' involvement as well as on technical and methodological tools that could be appropriate for the case. The Ionian Islands Region has rich biodiversity, a protected Marine Park, important touristic and aquaculture activities and it proved to be a good case for studying the MSP perspectives. Experience underlined mostly the importance of policy continuity and coherence (to cover from now on also land-sea interactions), trust relations, networking, governance issues, accessibility of existing data, identification of not existing necessary information to cover the gaps, and use of appropriate tools and methodologies at regional level too.



PANEL SESSION 3

In this final session, the question posed Mr. Cadic was discussed, and whether it is possible to achieve sustainable development objectives in remote islands *without* strong involvement (and power) of central authorities. This led to debate on the relative benefits of external authorities, and highlighted the complexity of the relationship between factors such as distance between islands to the mainland, local capacity for planning, historic governance structures, etc.

CLOSING REMARKS

The event was closed by Angela Schultz-Zehden (Contract Lead EU MSP Platform), thanking everyone for their contribution to a highly stimulating workshop, which demonstrated the value and need to address islands in particular in relation to MSP. Islands are special places, with vulnerabilities which need to be considered carefully in MSP for Blue Growth. However, there are many opportunities - in Blue Growth, we can think of islands as 'small is beautiful', and look for small solutions which suit the livelihood of island communities, including the diversification of activities, sustainable tourism and community-scale renewable energy projects.

It was interesting to consider islands as 'test sites' for MSP approaches, since they are small and adaptable, with strong involvement of island communities in maritime activities and greater potential for innovation. However, the 'character' and success of MSP depends on how MSP is developed in islands, and in particular the relationship with mainland government - this can be positive and supportive especially in finance and capacity, but the potential differences in priorities between island and mainland are a challenge.

While remoteness and insularity are defining features of islands which underpin their vulnerabilities and challenges, their role in 'connectivity' underlines their role in transboundary processes, including as 'stop-overs' for shipping and migratory species, as well as connecting societies

through exchange of goods and people. This emphasises the need for MSP to take a broad and integrated view, and to maintain focus on the importance of islands in the 'global' blue economy.

11 September 2018



Las Palmas de Gran Canaria Spain



Spain



Workshop Maritime Spatial Planning for Islands

Workshop
'Maritime Spatial Planning for Islands'
List of participants
Las Palmas, Spain, 11 September 2018

SURNAME	NAME	ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
Abdul Malak	Dania	University of Malaga	Spain
Abramic	Andrej	University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria	Spain
Al-Quhali	Maher Ali	University of IUAV	Italy
Armannsdóttir	Ester Anna	National Planning Agency	Iceland
Bonsu	Prince Owusu	University of the Azores	Ghana
Borg	Michelle	Planning Authority	Malta
Cadic	Nadou	Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Énergie et de la Mer	France
Calado	Helena	University of the Azores	Portugal
Coccosis	Harry	University of Thessaly	Greece
Cordero Penín	Víctor	Cádiz University	Spain
Cosme	Marcial	IU-ECOQUA, ULPGC	Spain
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de Grunt	Lisa Simone	EU MSP Platform	EU
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Greenhill	Lucy	EU MSP Platform	EU
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Herrera Rivero	Immaculada	ULPGC / ECOAQUA	Spain
Hipólito	Cláudia	FRCT / University of the Azores	Portugal
Husa	Stefan	Government of Åland	Finland
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Jones	Hannah	EU MSP Platform	EU
Kidd	Sue	EU MSP Platform	EU
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Minuzzi Schemes	Bruno	ECOQUA	Spain
Mourmouris	Athena	Honorary Director General for the Environment	Greece
Nakoura	Victoria	Government of Canary Islands	Spain
Pegorelli Gomes	Camila	University of the Azores	Portugal
Rodriguez	Juan-Ramón	SPEGC	Spain
Schillak	Lothar	Triton Marine Science and Consult	Greece
Schultz-Zehden	Angela	EU MSP Platform	EU
Shucksmith	Rachel	NAFC Marine Centre	Scotland
Stoyanov	Svetoslav	European Commission - DG MARE	EU
Suárez	Salvador	Canary Islands Institute of Technology	Spain

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Tello	M. Olvido	Instituto Español de Oceanografía	Madrid
Torres Padrón	María Esther	University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria	Spain
Vergílio	Marta	CIBIO /InBIO, University of the Azores	Portugal
Zaucha	Jacek	EU MSP Platform	EU

Annex 4. Examples of networks and groups representing the interests of islands in Europe.

Network / Group	Description
European Small Islands Network (ESIN) https://europeansmallislands.com/	ESIN promotes the resilience of small islands and their communities, at the local level of exchange of knowledge and experience and promoting understanding of their issues in EU policies and institutions.
Global Islands Network (GIN) https://www.globalislands.net/	The Global Islands Network represents a hub that connects and coordinates efforts to help ensure a healthy and productive future for islanders worldwide.
Islands Commission of the CPMR (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe)	The Islands Commission works with European institutions and Member States to encourage special attention to islands and their specific challenges. It also aims to foster interregional cooperation between islands.
B7 Baltic Islands Network (http://www.b7.org/)	The B7 is a co-operation of islands in the Baltic Sea countries that began in 1989. The partners are Gotland (Sweden), Hiiumaa (Estonia), Rügen (Germany), Saaremaa (Estonia), Åland (autonomous region of Finland).
The Network of the Insular Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the European Union (INSULEUR) http://www.insuleur.org/pagina.php?Cod_fam=7	Based in Greece, INSULEUR oversees the close cooperation between insular Chambers of Commerce in the EU and aims to promote the economic and social development of islands in the EU.

Examples of networks and groups representing the interests of islands in Europe (to be expanded based on the workshop).

Annex 5. Examples of MSP activities applicable to islands in the EU

Examples of projects and activities underway to support MSP in islands are listed in below:

Country	MSP Project	Description
Azores (Outermost Region of Portugal)	GPS Azores : Geographical and Political Scenarios in Maritime Spatial Planning for the Azores and North Atlantic ⁵	This on-going project will analyse existing maritime governance, and, through identifying uses, conflicts and possible development scenarios, support a MSP proposal for the Azores.
Shetland Islands (Scotland)	Shetland Islands Marine Spatial Plan (NAFC, 2015)	Building on previous pilot MSP projects, the Fourth Edition of the Shetland Islands Marine Spatial Plan (SIMSP) is adopted as 'Supplementary Guidance' to the Shetland Local Development Plan. A further iteration of the MSP is underway, through the Scottish regional marine planning process.
Limassol (Cyprus)	Cross-border Cooperation for Maritime Spatial Planning Development (THAL CHOR)	While no formal MSP exists yet for Cyprus, the THAL CHOR regional pilot project analysed activities for conflicts and compatibilities in the coastal and marine areas around Limassol.
Lesvos and Rhodes (Greece)	Cross-border Cooperation for Maritime Spatial Planning Development (THAL CHOR) pilot plan for Lesvos and Rhodes	Also under the THAL CHOR project, pilot plans have been developed for the islands of Lesvos and Rhodes in Greece.
Ionian Sea (Greece)	Experiences from the Ionian Islands pilot project (part of " MSP Med - Paving the Road to MSP in the Mediterranean ").	Work undertaken to support implementation of ICZM in the Mediterranean, with specific focus on the Ionian Islands, is therefore applicable to the development of MSP.
Saaremaa and Hiiumaa (Estonia)	Towards a Pilot Maritime Spatial Plan for the Saaremaa and Hiiumaa Islands .	A pilot maritime plan was developed for the Saaremaa and Hiiumaa islands through the BaltSeaPlan project.
Åland (Finland)	PanBalticScope - Finland-Åland-Sweden Case, Åland	The MSP for Åland is being developed by the Government of Åland, through the PanBalticScope project. This builds on previous work through the

	Islands (Finland)	HELCOM-led project on planning the future of the Bothnian Sea (" Plan Bothnia ").
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Examples of MSP activities applicable to islands in the EU.