

ICES WG Marine Planning Coastal Zone Management: MSP & CC

*EU MSP Platform workshop on Climate-smart Maritime
Spatial Planning (MSP) for Future Uses/Needs of the Seas*

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Science for sustainable seas

ICES Working Group on Marine Planning and Coastal Zone Management - WGMPCZM



Chairs:

Talya ten Brink, USA

Kira Gee, Germany

Malena Ripken, Germany

Membership:

18 countries

70 members

58 different organisations

Cross-border, (Atlantic, Arctic, North Sea & Baltic Sea)

Interdisciplinary group, different specialisations, sector perspectives

Terms of reference (2023-2025):

ToR a: Developments and trends in MSP/CZM

ToR b: Incorporating conservation & restoration into MSP

ToR c: Implementing climate-smart MSP

ToR d: Spatial planning requirements for large scale offshore wind & hydrogen scenarios

ToR e: Education and training in MSP & CZM

ToR f: Addressing social considerations in MSP

ToR C: Implementing climate-smart MSP

ToR Leads: Ana Queiros, UK and Caitriona Nic Aonghusa, IE

Known issues:

- (i) adaptation and mitigation as main pathways
- (ii) differing time scales between policy and user needs
- (iii) adaptive, flexible MSP
- (iv) the need for solutions from plan to implementation
- (v) coexistence and offshore wind as a mitigating solution

Aim

Explore how MSP can be used as a mechanism to implement climate action, supporting **adaptation** and **mitigation**.

Deliverables

1. Workshop and product to inform next steps; **conference session** on MSP addressing CC (ICES ASC 2024); a **scientific paper** based on the results.
2. Improved understanding of how climate change is addressed in the implementation of marine plans globally.
3. A framework to inform the implementation of climate smart plans – links to MSPglobal/IOC UNESCO.

MSP as an opportunity to deliver ocean climate action

Roles of MSP in delivering climate action:

- advice to, or regulation of, the sharing of marine space by different maritime activities;
- setting out priorities in space use;
- encouraging the protection of natural capital, ecosystem services, and societal goods and benefits; in harmony with diverse policies and broader development and environmental goals.

MSP as an opportunity to deliver ocean climate action

Examples of climate change mitigation in MSP plans:

- Offshore renewable energies
- Shipping route optimization
- Habitat protection, restoration and management as carbon sinks

Examples of climate change adaptation:

- Coastal defence
- Shipping route adaptation (longer term)
- Identification of climate refugia, e.g. for fish stocks and other habitats ...

Existing and emerging tools and approaches

- E.g. MSPACE DSS; anticipating changes in habitats and species distribution

Key issues for climate-smart MSP

POLICY:

- Integration between climate policies within plans and climate change policy;
- Policy integration across the land-sea interface, including MSP and licencing;
- Coherence: A regional seas approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation;

PLANNING:

- Competing sectoral goals rather than complementary (such as expanding offshore renewables and biodiversity restoration);

Key issues for climate-smart MSP

DATA AND EVIDENCE

- Data and expertise needed from a wide range of disciplines and institutions (e.g. natural and social sciences, modelling, economics, policy);
- Issues of scale and usability of climate change evidence in climate-smart planning;
- Scepticism about climate modelling evidence and its uncertainty;
- Channels of communication (e.g. collaborative fora/science-policy);
- Gaps between data needs (practice) and data provision (research).

Closing the science-practice gap: knowledge needs for planners

Current knowledge needs to make MSP more climate-smart:

- assessments of the economic, environmental and social **impacts of climate change** on a marine planning area;
- **cumulative impact assessments** to support climate change adaptation;
- clearer **priorities for conservation** within marine planning areas (e.g. biodiversity, carbon sequestration, fish stocks);
- better understanding of the **displacement** of existing human activities within the planning area resulting from climate change;
- Future **impacts of offshore renewables**;
- Where to place future **suitable/priority areas** for protected areas, offshore renewables, shipping etc to avoid impacts on high carbon areas and facilitate adaptation.

Closing the science-practice gap: The role of science

Modelling will be increasingly important to consider the impacts of CC, adaptation and mitigation (e.g. ORE development),

E.g. MSPACE (UK): uses climate modelling data to map the sensitivity and resilience of marine areas to climate change for different climate scenarios – translates this into climate-ready spatial advice for marine planning, e.g. on where to locate climate refugia.

BUT:

- Different models generate different types of knowledge and have different uncertainties – both need to be communicated to planners
- A combination of climate refuge identification and cumulative pressure analysis would help planners to identify management options
- Modelling results **only serve as inputs for planning discussions** alongside other evidence

Steps to make CC a consistent theme in MSP

- **PLANNING:** Consider climate change evidence at the beginning – e.g. anticipating climate-driven changes in marine biodiversity, changes in ecosystem services etc.
- **EVALUATION:** Incorporate climate change evidence into the MSP monitoring, evaluation and adaptation – work towards appropriate indicators
- **BALANCE:** Balance climate change objectives and other sectoral objectives, and understand trade-offs and options for co-existence or multi-use through consideration of appropriate evidence
- **DATA:** Share transboundary information, validate climate modelling data, consider data resolution, assess model projection uncertainty and ensure access to data and monitoring capability.
- **PLATFORMS:** Facilitate co-development and community of practice initiatives

Steps to make CC a consistent theme in MSP

But also:

- Understand the **legal scope** for a plan to deliver climate action (e.g. in multi-level governance contexts)
- Understand that incorporating climate-smartness in MSP visions and objectives will depend on **Government priorities**.
- Greater efforts in **science-policy collaboration** are needed to accelerate the delivery of climate actions through MSP
- Within existing governance structures, it is still proving difficult to make climate change a **cross-cutting issue**.
- Unclear when climate change adaptation can be viewed as an opportunity and how MSP can contribute to **fair and just transition** when, where, at what scale and with what end goal in mind, especially since not all pressures experienced by communities are related to climate change.

Thank you



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