

MED-MSP-CoP

III 2025 workshop

Tuesday, 7 October 2025

10 – 13 CET

On-line

During the second 2025 MED-MSP-CoP workshop held online on May 26, 2025, the MED-MSP-CoP initiated the work of the four MED-MSP-CoP Working Groups (MSP and Fisheries, MSP and Nature Protection, MSP and Aquaculture, and MSP and Offshore Renewable Energy) and engaged the MED-MSP-CoP experts in identifying and discussing key issues of interest for each Working Group. These numerous issues were further ranked through an online survey.

This third 2025 workshop of the MED-MSP-CoP is based on the outcomes of these latest activities and aims to:

- Gather information from Working Group members about relevant sources of knowledge on the framing topic and its most selected issues (see section below). **Sources of knowledge** can include case studies, pilots, projects, manuscripts, reports, and information from formal MSP and other planning processes.
- Engage the MED-MSP-CoP experts in discussing persistent knowledge gaps relevant to each Working Group.

The results from this workshop will inform the last 2025 workshop of the MED-MSP-CoP, which will be held in Tunis on November 27th, in a hybrid format. This workshop's results will also contribute to the ongoing MEDIGREEN studies on MSP and fisheries, nature protection, aquaculture, and ORE.

Outcomes of the MED-MSP-CoP II workshop and the survey

The second workshop of the MED-MSP-CoP in 2025 focused on initiating a structured dialogue within each of the four thematic Working Groups, aimed at identifying the key challenges to be addressed in relation to MSP, the three sectors, and nature protection.

This process led to the identification and discussion of between 7 and 15 thematic issues per Working Group. For more detailed information, please refer to the [Workshop Report](#). Following the workshop, a survey was launched to prioritise these numerous issues by selecting those that, in the opinion of the Working Group members, should be addressed, taking into account the following two aspects:

- The importance of MSP's role in contributing to the sustainable development of the sector (i.e. fisheries, aquaculture, offshore wind energy, and nature protection);
- The relevance of the transboundary dimension of the topic.

The lists below present the main issues considered relevant to be addressed in each Working Group, ranked from the most to the least voted in the survey (as also shown in Figures 1–4). Those in red are the ones to be mostly considered for this III 2025 workshop.

MSP & fisheries

1. **Co-management of fisheries, in particular within MPAs**
2. **Climate change and fisheries: impacts, adaptation and mitigation**
3. **Improving fisheries and ecological data (including stock assessment and socioeconomic aspects) collection and availability, in particular in the southern Mediterranean**
4. **Supporting the sustainability of fisheries and facilitating the implementation of fisheries management policies through ecosystem-based MSP**
5. **Improving the dialogue between MSP practitioners and fisheries stakeholders at regional, sub-regional and local scales**
6. Extension and management of Fisheries Restricted Areas
7. Marine governance and policy coordination to improve the sustainability of the sector
8. MSP-related initiatives supporting small-scale fisheries (dialogue, knowledge exchange, synergies with marine conservation, etc.)
9. The way MSP can contribute to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, particularly in sensitive Mediterranean ecosystems
10. MSP support for innovation in low-impact fishing techniques

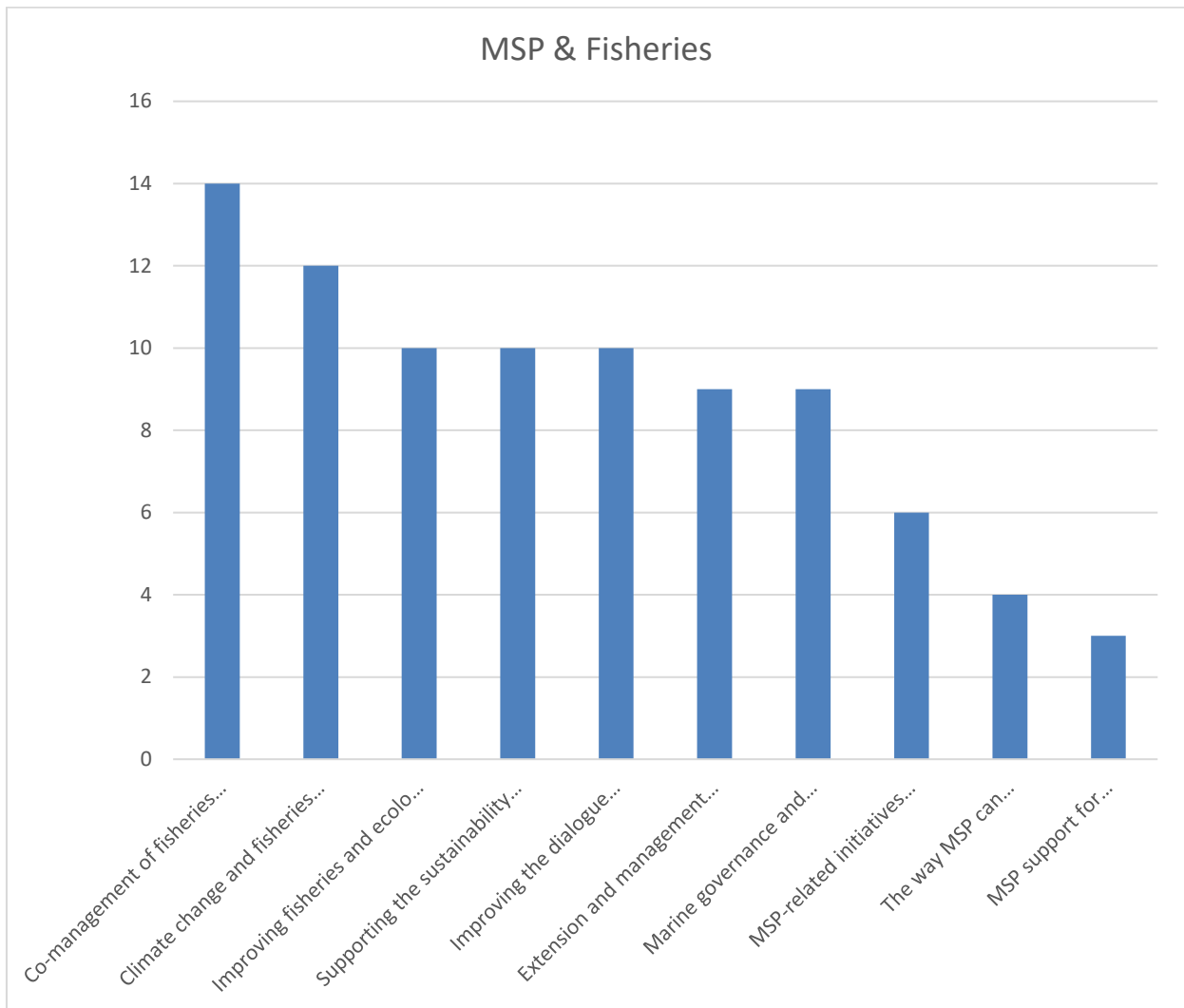


Figure 1. Result of the ranking survey on the main issues on MSP & Fisheries.

MSP & nature protection

1. Strengthening the **integration of MPAs**, MPA connectivity and ecological corridors in **MSP**
2. Assessing **cumulative impacts** of multiple sectoral activities in shared marine spaces
3. The role of MSP in **meeting the EU objectives** on biodiversity protection (including 10% of strict protection) and nature restoration
4. Integrated **climate change in nature protection** in terms of expected impact (on habitats and species) and protection needs. Using climate change impact modelling in MSP.
5. Cross-border and **transboundary MSP** for nature protection
6. Data availability and data gaps for improvement in nature protection

7. Implementing ecosystem-based management strategies that support the EGD objectives
8. Working with maritime sectors on OECM designation and management
9. Moving from paper MPAs to implemented protection
10. Integrating the human/social dimension in nature protection
11. Better designation of MPAs and other protection measures (including OECM)
12. Reinforcing the effective role of strategic environmental assessment in MSP
13. The role of MSP in supporting the sustainable management of maritime uses outside protected areas and minimising of pressures and impacts
14. Developing/implementing social criteria to assess the multiple values (e.g. relational values), belief systems and perceptions of stakeholders using and benefiting from nature
15. The importance of standardised methods for biodiversity assessment and improved data accessibility across the Mediterranean for MSP.

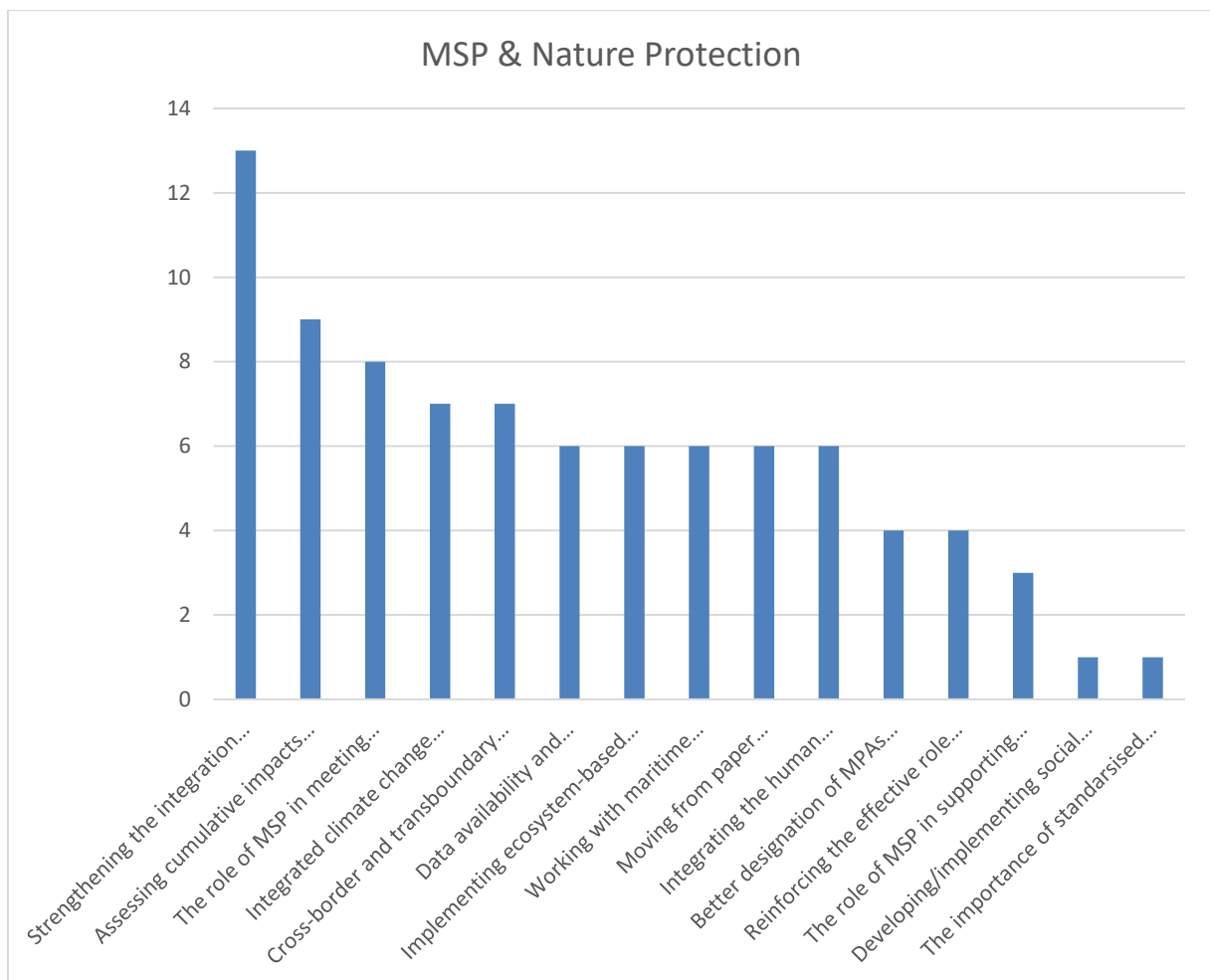


Figure 2. Result of the ranking survey on the main issues on MSP & Nature Protection.

MSP & ORE:

1. **Knowledge** needed for **ORE sustainable development** and its spatial allocation (i.e. on impacts to the marine environment, conflicts with other uses, etc.)
2. **Co-location, co-existence and multi-use**, in particular regarding nature protection
3. **Suitability maps** for ORE
4. **Regulatory and governance** challenges
5. The role of MSP in advancing ORE and meeting the EU objectives (GW)
6. Transboundary planning, cooperation and mutual learning for ORE
7. Cost-benefit analysis throughout the life cycle of renewable energy devices
8. Synergy opportunities between shipping and ORE sectors
9. Regulatory framework for facilitating a just, sustainable and effective deployment of ORE
10. Innovation

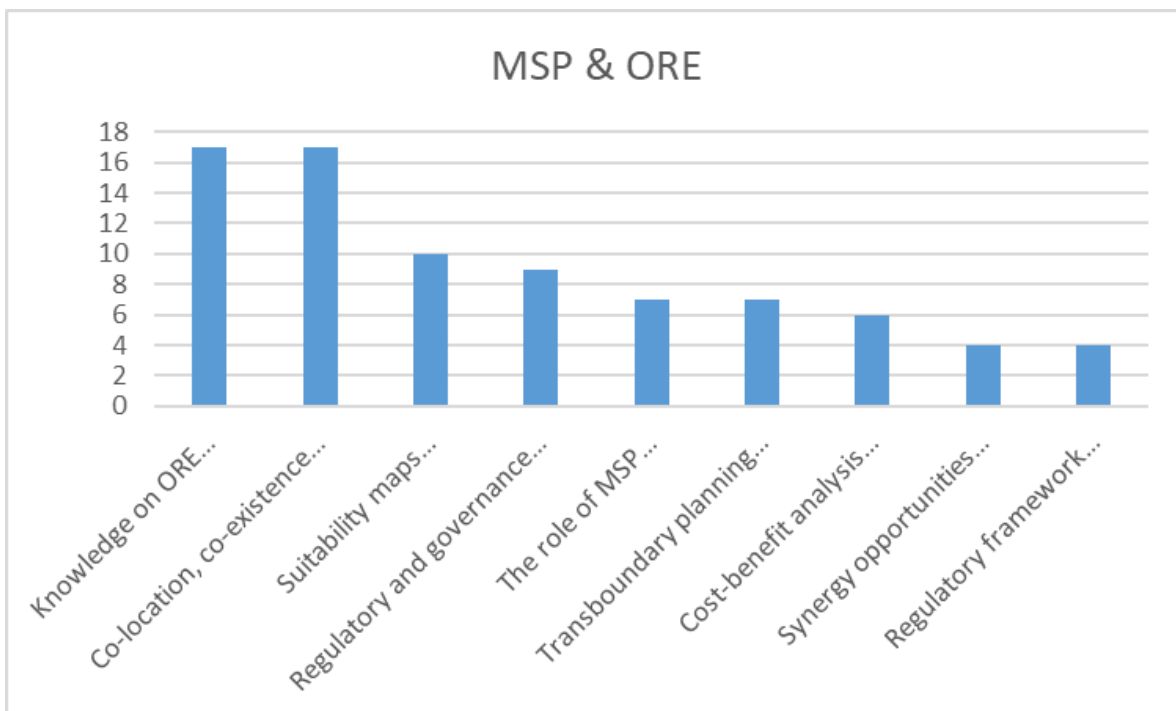


Figure 3. Result of the ranking survey on the main issues on MSP & ORE.

MSP & AQUACULTURE:

1. Interactions between **aquaculture and marine conservation**
2. **Multi-use**, including aquaculture
3. Proper **allocation of space for aquaculture** through MSP
4. Strengthening the **engagement of aquaculture stakeholders in MSP**
5. Sustainable site selection to minimise ecological disruption
6. Improving adaptation to climate change
7. Energy transition in aquaculture

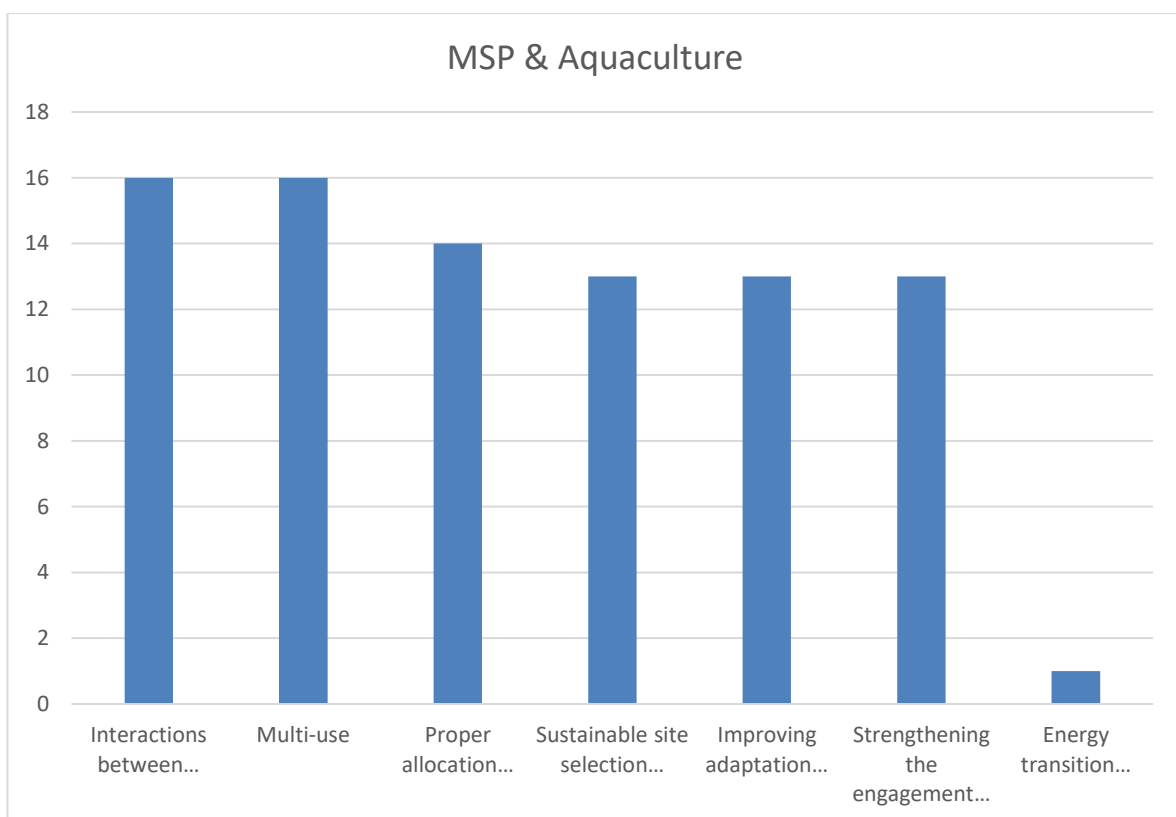


Figure 4. Result of the ranking survey on the main issues on MSP & Aquaculture.

AGENDA	
10:00 – 10:20	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Recap of the MED-MSP-CoP 2025 II workshop and presentation of the survey results, 10'</p> <p>Introducing the agenda and the expected outcome of the workshop, 5'</p> <p>Q/A session, 5'</p>
10:40 – 11:30	<p>Breakout session 1</p> <p>Participants will be divided into two rooms, one for each of the following working groups: (i) MSP and fisheries, (ii) MSP and nature protection</p> <p>In each room, participants will be invited to provide information about sources of knowledge relevant to the framing topic (MSP and fisheries or MSP and nature protection) and, in particular, for the prioritised issues (those in red above). For each source of knowledge following information will be noted through Miro and then discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Typology of source of knowledge, i.e., case studies, pilots, projects, manuscripts, reports, information from formal MSP, information for other planning processes (cross-cutting or sector-based), etc.• Short description• Issues of relevance (select one or more from those highlighted in red)• Short explanation of relevance for MSP• Short explanation of transboundary relevance• Link to more information <p>Identification and discussion of knowledge sources will last about 40'. The last 10 minutes will be dedicated to a facilitated group discussion on persistent knowledge gaps: what are the major knowledge gaps for the topic and its prioritised issues?</p>
11:30 – 11:50	<p>Coffee break</p>

11:50 – 12:40	<p>Breakout session 2</p> <p>Participants will be divided into two rooms, one for each of the following working groups: (i) MSP and aquaculture, (ii) MSP and nature protection</p> <p>In each room, participants will be invited to provide information about sources of knowledge relevant to the framing topic (MSP and fisheries or MSP and nature protection) and, in particular, for the prioritised issues (those in red above). For each source of knowledge following information will be noted through Miro and then discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Typology of source of knowledge, i.e., case studies, pilots, projects, manuscripts, reports, information from formal MSP, information for other planning processes (cross-cutting or sector-based), etc.• Short description• Issues of relevance (select one or more from those highlighted in red)• Short explanation of relevance for MSP• Short explanation of transboundary relevance• Link to more information <p>Identification and discussion of knowledge sources will last about 40'. The last 10 minutes will be dedicated to a facilitated group discussion on persistent knowledge gaps: what are the major knowledge gaps for the topic and its prioritised issues?</p>
12:40 – 13:00	<p>Concluding session</p> <p>Report for the breakout sessions</p> <p>Next steps towards Tunis workshop, November 27</p>