

Newsletter | February 2026



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Upcoming events

Register now for the Workshop Climate Change Effects & Maritime Spatial Planning in the North Sea and the Baltic Sea

Secure your spot now for the upcoming workshop organised by the Interreg project Norsaic, in cooperation with North Seas MSP Collaboration Group and the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group, which will take place on 9 March 2026. This workshop will explore how MSP can help tackle the impacts of climate change across both sea basins and present the latest results from current experiments and approaches. It will also feature an interactive session to identify gaps, explore collaboration opportunities, and shape recommendations.


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The 3rd edition of the European Ocean Days 2026 is coming soon!

The 3rd edition of European Ocean Days will take place from 2–6 March 2026, offering a week of interconnected sessions on key ocean topics aimed at advancing a shared vision for a sustainable, secure, and competitive ocean. The event will bring together industry, policymakers, researchers, SMEs, coastal communities, fisheries, the Mission Ocean community, and civil society, including youth. Through panels, consultations, workshops, and community activities, participants will exchange ideas, address challenges, and help shape concrete actions to support the implementation of the European Ocean Pact.


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Join the Development and Cooperation Perspectives for Marine Renewable Energy in Nouvelle-Aquitaine and Euskadi in Bayonne.

Co-organised by Aquitaine Blue Energie, Bluesign, and the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Development and Innovation Agency on 12 and 13 March in Bayonne (France), this strategic event aims to strengthen cross-border cooperation in offshore renewable energy by sharing perspectives, exchanging experience, and identifying concrete opportunities. It will be a key moment to understand regional dynamics, showcase ongoing projects, and foster industrial, port-related, and technological synergies.


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Upcoming webinar: Advancing Ecosystem-Based Marine Spatial Planning Through the MarinePlan Decision Support System

Join this webinar on 18 March and learn about the MarinePlan Decision Support System (DSS), a new tool designed to strengthen ecosystem-based approaches in MSP. The webinar will also explore key insights, practical guidance, challenges, and opportunities for improving current MSP practices. Do not miss it!


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Call for evidence

Marine Strategy Framework Directive Call for Evidence and Open Public Consultation

The European Commission has launched a public consultation and Call for Evidence as part of the upcoming revision of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). This follows the Commission's evaluation published earlier this year, which highlighted the need to strengthen the Directive's effectiveness.

The consultation seeks input from stakeholders and the wider public to support updates to the EU's main framework for protecting the marine environment. The revision aims to enhance the protection of Europe's seas, streamline implementation, and reduce administrative burden. The evaluation found that, although the MSFD set an ambitious basis for tackling pollution and unsustainable practices, it has not yet achieved "good environmental status", and improvements are required, including clearer requirements and better use of

data.

Stakeholders are invited to contribute until **9 March 2026**. The Commission will use the feedback to shape future proposals for strengthened EU marine protection rules.



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Publications

MSP Study Recap: Future Uses and Needs of the Seas



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New study available "Expert Study on Ocean Multi-use in the German Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the North and Baltic Sea"



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Explore the European Commission's report "Socio-Economic Impacts of Developing Offshore Renewable Energy"



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Explore the European Commission's "Study on the implementation by EU Member States of Directive 2014/89/EU on Maritime Spatial Planning"



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New study explores coexistence between offshore wind and fishing in the Nordic Region



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Related initiatives

Working on Maritime Spatial Planning? Share your project and get featured!

Showcase your work and be featured in our MSP project highlights. We invite you to share your project's experience, implementation, results, and the partners involved across the different sea basins. We would love to highlight your achievements.

If you would like to participate, email us at **info@maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu**.



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