



## Maritime Spatial Planning Country Profile

Cyprus

# Contacts

## MSP in general

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# Background Information

## Basic facts on Marine Waters



— Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) — Territorial Sea

The marine waters of the Republic of Cyprus, as defined in the Marine Strategy Law (No.18(I)/2011), include the waters, the seabed and subsoil on the seaward side of the baselines from which the extent of territorial sea is measured, extending to the outmost reach of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). They also include the coastal waters, as defined in the Protection and Management of Waters Law (No.13(I)/2004), namely the surface water on the landward side of a line, every point of which is at a distance of one nautical mile on the seaward side from the nearest point of the baseline, extending where appropriate up to the outer limit of transitional waters.

The maritime zones of the Republic of Cyprus consist of the territorial sea, the contiguous zone, the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and the continental shelf. The legislation governing the maritime zones of the Republic of Cyprus is based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) of 1982, which was ratified by Cyprus in 1988.

According to the Territorial Sea Law (45 of 1964, as amended), the Republic of Cyprus, established a territorial sea of 12 nautical miles, as measured from its baselines, as those were established by the Republic in 1993 and formally submitted to the United Nations in compliance with the deposit obligations pursuant to UNCLOS. In 2004, Cyprus declared a contiguous zone up to 24 nautical miles as measured from the baselines (Contiguous Zone Law - No. 63(I)/2004) and an EEZ, the limits of which are defined in accordance with the principle of the median line/equidistance between the coasts of Cyprus and the opposite states (Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf Law (No. 64(I)/2004, as amended). The Republic of Cyprus, also, asserts its inherent rights over its continental shelf in relation to the same marine area, through the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf Law. The Republic of Cyprus concluded bilateral agreements concerning the delimitation of the EEZ with Egypt (2003), Lebanon (2007) and Israel (2010), based on the internationally accepted principle of the median line/equidistance and in accordance with the UNCLOS.

The terrestrial area of the island is about 9.251 km<sup>2</sup> while the EEZ and continental shelf covers 98.240 km<sup>2</sup>. The geographical location and the massive area of Cyprus's EEZ and continental shelf, compared to its land size, are two very important reasons for the formation of a precise and global MSP.

## Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) authorities and legislation

### General

#### Planning on national level

The MSP Law (Law 144(I)/2017), which transposed the MSP Directive 2014/89/EU, was approved by the House of Representatives in October 2017. It was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic on 13.10.2017. The Law 144(I)/2017 has been amended<sup>1</sup> by the MSP (Amended) Law of 2021 (Law 34(I)/2021). The Law 34(I)/2021 was approved by the House of Representatives in March 2021 and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic on 23 March 2021.

The Maritime Spatial Plan (MSPlan) of Cyprus was approved by the Council of Ministers on 20 December 2023 and published on the Official Gazette of the Republic on 29 December 2023 (Gazette No. 5844, Supplement III (I), P.I. 427/2023). It consists of text, maps per spatial area and sectoral-thematic maps. The MSPlan takes into account the main priorities, goals and strategic guidelines for the marine waters of the Republic, as defined in the Policy Statement on MSP which was adopted by the Council of Ministers on 21 December 2021.

#### National MSP authority

The Shipping Deputy Minister to the President is the MSP competent authority, which is responsible for coordinating the necessary actions for MSP implementation.

#### Planning on regional level

There is no planning at regional level, the MSPlan is at national level.

#### Regional MSP authority

MSP is a national level process in Cyprus. No regional MSP authority has been nominated.

### Details

The MSP Law (Law 144(I)/2017 as amended) defines the responsibilities and the role of various institutions involved in MSP implementation, and establishes the **Shipping Deputy Minister** to the President **as the competent authority**. It clarifies the development and approval of MSPlan and sets the provisions for licencing of uses and activities at sea. In addition to defining the competent authority, it establishes an **MSP Committee involving 15 members** (from different ministries, departments and services of the Government) which oversees amongst others the preparation of the draft MSPlan. As far as MSP is concerned, this Committee has replaced the Working Group on MSP and ICZM, created in 2013, which however remains in place for issues dealing with integrated coastal zone management. The Law also identifies an Interministerial Committee (involving 8 Ministers and Deputy Ministers) as the body responsible for the preliminary approval of the MSPlan and establishes that the Council of Ministers is in charge of the final approval of the MSPlan.

Also, at the national level, the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment has the overall responsibility for formulating and coordinating the environmental policy.

The Ministry of the Interior is responsible for the land-use and spatial planning. Terrestrial spatial plans are developed at three levels, namely the Island Plan, the Local Plans and the Area Schemes. The coastal zone is not a unified planning area. Therefore, there is no separate institutional or land-use planning framework specifically pertaining to the coastal areas. Coastal land-use zones form part of several development plans applying to different local administrative areas. Moreover, there is no single legal or functional planning definition of the coastal zone or the coastal area.

## Overview of MSP-related uses and issues

EUNETMAR (2014) identifies the 7 largest marine/maritime sectors and stakes for Cyprus which are:

#### Deep-sea shipping

It is the second largest blue activity of the country. Cyprus's maritime landscape comprises three main sea ports and two smaller domestic ports; Larnaca and Limassol serve the largest percentage of sea cargo. Cyprus has the third largest fleet

<sup>1</sup> The amendment Law 34(I)/2021 mainly concerns the transfer of all powers and responsibilities for Maritime Spatial Planning from the Minister of Transport, Communications and Works as per the relevant provisions of the basic Law 144(I)/2017, to the Shipping Deputy Minister to the President.

within the European Union and is classified as the 10th largest merchant fleet globally and the largest third-party ship management centre in Europe (Johnson et al., 2018).

#### **Securing fresh water supply**

The sector developed during the last years after the severe drought problems of the island. Cyprus faces the problem of limited water resources, which became more intense in the 1990's due to drought. At the same time, there is excess demand for drinking water consumption and for use in agricultural activities. Part of the demand is satisfied by the operation of five desalination plants. The development of desalination units presents positive growth rated mostly due to the number of implemented projects for securing uninterrupted supply of water both for human consumption and commercial reasons.

#### **Marine aquaculture**

Mariculture is the main type of aquaculture in Cyprus and it is carried out along the southern coast of the island. Major species cultivated are gilthead seabream and European seabass. In terms of geography, the activity is mostly concentrated in the eastern part of Limassol. It is an important activity in Cyprus showing increased rates of growth during the last 10 years. Moreover, a spatial planning study was developed by the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research for the identification of candidate sea areas for the establishment of marine aquaculture zones, to mitigate problems and ensure a sustainable future for the sector. Based on the results of the study, the MSPlan includes three aquaculture zones along the southern coast of Cyprus (outside Limassol port and in the Vasiliko-Zygi sea area).

The creation of official mariculture zones avoids competition for space with other maritime activities and this certainty improves the investment climate.

#### **Coastal tourism**

It ranks first among the largest economic sectors in Cyprus, with significant contribution to national GDP (around 15% of GDP). Cyprus is a major tourism destination in Europe and especially in the Mediterranean area.

#### **Cruise tourism**

Cyprus is among the major ports of call in Eastern Mediterranean. It serves the European cruise industry mostly as destination market. In 2023, one of the world's largest cruise companies has opened a regional office in Limassol, to support its ship operations and the further development of its Eastern Mediterranean business.

#### **Off-shore energy**

The development of oil and gas in Cyprus's waters is quite important due to recent discoveries of hydrocarbons, and especially gas, implying additional exploration is likely in the near future. Cyprus and Egypt have signed a Framework Agreement for the development of cross median line hydrocarbon resources. In 2019, 9 exploratory licences were delivered by the Cyprus Government.

The government of Cyprus has plans to build an onshore energy centre in the Vasiliko-Moni area, which will include facilities for the import, storage of strategic and operational stocks, management, distribution and export of oil products, as well as facilities for the import, storage and regasification of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). The Vasilikos Energy Centre is expected to significantly increase maritime traffic in the area.

#### **Protection of the Marine Environment**

14 Natura 2000 sites (coastal and marine) are defined in Cyprus, 4 Special Protected Areas (SPA), 4 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and 6 which are both SPA and SAC. This accounts to a total of 293,17 km<sup>2</sup> of coastal area and 8.543,94 km<sup>2</sup> of marine area which is protected under the provisions of the "Nature and wildlife protection and management law" (N.153(I)/2003), which is the transposition of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and under the "The Protection and Management of Wild Birds and Game Law" (L. 152(I)/2003), which is the transposition of the Birds Directive (MOA, 2024)

# Maritime Spatial Plans

## Progress

The “Strategy of Cyprus for a National Integrated Maritime Policy – Vision: Sustainable Use and Development of the Seas of Cyprus” was approved by the Council of Ministers in August 2014, following public consultation in late 2013. In the context of the Strategy, MSP, ICZM and MSFD are all mentioned as horizontal tools for achieving its goals. The work on Integrated Maritime Policy is led by the Shipping Deputy Ministry that chairs the Coordination Group on IMP. The group has developed a draft IMP Integrated Action Plan that has been submitted to the IMP Interministerial Committee for approval and then to the Council of Ministers for final approval.

The preparatory work on MSP was delegated, by a decision of the Council of Ministers to the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works (Department of Merchant Shipping) in July 2012. In 2015, the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works (Department of Merchant Shipping), coordinated the Interreg IV Cross-border Cooperation Program “Greece-Cyprus 2007-2013” project THAL-CHOR, that aimed at developing MSP methodology and its pilot implementation for the preparation of maritime spatial plans in selected areas of Cyprus and Greece, through cooperation among the two countries. Those general objectives were pursued in the second project THAL-CHOR 2, under the Interreg V-A Cooperation Program “Greece-Cyprus 2014-2020”, coordinated by the Shipping Deputy Ministry, which assisted Cyprus to prepare its draft national MSPlan.

The Policy Statement on MSP is the strategic framework for MSP and the preparation of the MSPlan in the marine waters of the Republic of Cyprus. It identifies the main priorities, goals and strategic guidelines for the marine waters aiming towards sustainable growth. The Policy Statement on MSP was approved by the Council of Ministers on 21 December 2021. It was prepared by the MSP Committee and finalised following an official and wide public consultation with the relevant stakeholders and the public, completed in mid-July 2021 (according to the Maritime Spatial Planning (Public Consultation) Regulations of 2021 (P.I. 133/2021)).

On 20 December 2023, the MSPlan for the marine waters of the Republic of Cyprus was approved by the Council of Ministers and published on the Official Gazette of the Republic on 29 December 2023 (Gazette No. 5844, Supplement III (I), P.I. 427/2023).

The draft MSPlan was prepared and finalised by the MSP Committee, based on the results of an official and wide public consultation with the relevant stakeholders and the public, completed in the end of May 2022, and the conditions/ terms imposed on the approval of the SEA by the Environmental Authority on 4 December 2023.

The MSPlan consists of text, maps per geographical spatial area and sectoral-thematic maps (i.e. fisheries – aquaculture, energy, shipping – ports, maritime and coastal tourism and environment and culture). Seven (7) geographical spatial areas have been defined for the marine waters of Cyprus, based on criteria such as common developmental characteristics, types of uses and activities, and observed conflicts. It is noted that these boundaries do not relate to or imply the boundaries of any maritime zone of the Republic of Cyprus.

## Existing Maritime Spatial Plans

Since the 29<sup>th</sup> of December 2023 (Gazette No. 5844, Supplement III (I), P.I. 427/2023), there is a legally binding Maritime Spatial Plan for Cyprus.

# Aspects of the MSP process

## Sustainable development and growth in the maritime sector

The IMP Strategy of Cyprus entitled: “Strategy of Cyprus for a National Integrated Maritime Policy” was approved by the Council of Ministers in August 2014. The Vision of the Strategy is “Sustainable Use and Development of the Seas of Cyprus”.

A National Policy Statement on Maritime Spatial Planning in line with the relevant provisions of the Law 144(I)/2017, as amended, was approved by the Council of Ministers in December 2021.

The Policy Statement on MSP is the strategic framework for MSP and the preparation of the MSPlan in the marine waters of the Republic of Cyprus. It identifies the main priorities, goals and strategic guidelines for the marine waters aiming towards sustainable growth.

Cyprus is also part of the Union for the Mediterranean ([UfM](#)), which has been supporting or leading numerous regional and national initiatives for the Blue Economy for over a decade and which organizes the UfM [Regional Stakeholders' Conference on the Blue Economy](#).



### Ecosystem-based approach (EBA)

One of the main objectives of the MSPlan is the implementation of the ecosystem approach to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES). Towards this goal, the indicators of MSFD for GES will also be used for monitoring the MSPlan. Based on the provisions of MSFD, the marine waters of Cyprus have been evaluated to be in a good environmental status and the aim is to maintain or even improve this status.

14 Natura 2000 sites (coastal and marine) are defined in Cyprus, 4 Special Protected Areas (SPA), 4 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and 6 which are both SPA and SAC. This accounts to a total of 293,17 km<sup>2</sup> of coastal area and 8.543,94 km<sup>2</sup> of marine area which is protected under the provisions of the “Nature and wildlife protection and management law” (N.153(I)/2003), which is the transposition of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and under the “The Protection and Management of Wild Birds and Game Law” (L. 152(I)/2003), which is the transposition of the Birds Directive (MOA, 2024). Legal provisions for setting up Marine Protected Areas can be found in: Protection and Management of Nature and Wildlife Law of 2003-2012 and Fisheries Law.

Appropriate mapping of sensitive areas was conducted and fully incorporated in the MSPlan, in the form of Natura 2000 network, proposed Natura 2000 sites, SPAMI, FRA, artificial reefs and sites of community importance. Also, nitrate pollution areas and poseidonia meadows areas have been mapped. All Natura 2000 sites are regulated and designated as a priority in the case of multi-use areas in the MSPlan. In fact, the MSPlan provides that no other activities can take place in the Natura 2000 sites other than those allowed in their management plans.

A study was recently carried out from the competent Authority (Department of Fisheries and Marine Research) for the designation of new Natura 2000 sites, aiming to increase connectivity and coherence between existing Natura 2000 network. As a result, two (2) new proposed Natura 2000 sites were designated in the MSPlan.

Cyprus was a partner of the [PHAROS4MPAs](#) project (2017-2020) which aims at enhancing management effectiveness and networking for Mediterranean MPAs, in order to contribute to the conservation of marine biodiversity and natural ecosystems, taking into account the complex ensemble of human activities developed within the Blue Growth perspective and their interaction with protected areas and marine ecosystems.

In 2017-2019 Cyprus was part of the [PANACeA Project](#). The objective of PANACeA was to streamline networking and management efforts in Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as a mechanism to enhance nature conservation and protection in the region. The project aimed to ensure synergies between relevant Mediterranean stakeholders – including managers, policymakers, socio-economic actors, civil society and the scientific community – and to increase the visibility and impacts of their projects' results towards common identified strategic targets.

The [project CREAM](#) also dealt with the establishment of a research network for promotion of an Ecosystem-based approach to fisheries.

Also, the [project PERSEUS](#) was a research project that assessed the dual impact of human activity and natural pressures on the Mediterranean and Black Seas. PERSEUS merged natural and socio-economic sciences to predict the long-term effects of these pressures on marine ecosystems.





## Resilience of climate change impacts

To implement Cyprus's International and European obligations, the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment (Department of the Environment) took over the coordination of efforts for the development of the National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change. In the first phase, under the Life+ co-funded [project CYPADAPT](#), future climate changes were estimated, related impacts have been evaluated, and possible adaptation actions were proposed. The project defines different fields of adaptation, including coastal zones and fisheries and aquaculture. CYPADAPT was then followed by a specific study to assess the categorization of risks due to climate change. With the completion of the above-mentioned studies and following public and individual consultations with all relevant stakeholders, the National Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation was formulated and approved by the Ministerial Council in 2017. The implementation of the Strategy aims at enhancing the adaptation capacity of Cyprus to observed and projected climate change, as well as to effectively prevent and address the negative impacts of climate change. A relevant Action Plan has been prepared for the implementation of the National Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation, which includes a series of medium-term actions expected to be implemented by various Ministries, Departments and/or Services.

Also, the [COASTANCE project](#) (2009-2012) was implemented within the European MED programme. Its main aim was to develop practical tools (technical/administrative) to manage the coastal zone adaptation to Climate Change. The project focused on those constituents of coastal protection action, such as coastal risks, flooding and erosion, territorial action plans for coastal protection management and guidelines for environmental impacts studies focused on coastal protection works and plans.

Furthermore, the protection of coastlines from the impacts of climate change is one of the targets and priorities of the MSPlan, which includes coastal erosion protection works zones. Measures for specific zones have not been included in the MSPlan as currently the competent Authority is undertaking specific studies for vulnerable areas.



## Land-sea interactions

Land-sea interactions are important in Cyprus, considering the numerous coastal activities, including tourism which contributes significantly to the economy, and Cyprus is historically committed to ICZM process. As early as the 1990's, the Tourism Policy (under the Hotel Accommodation Law and the Town and Country Planning Law – Countryside Policy) designated a "zone" of 3 km. from the coastline for the purpose of regulating tourism development.

The Foreshore Protection Law of 1960 defines the "foreshore" as "all lands within 100 yards (91,44 m) of the high water mark". The foreshore area is public property falling under the jurisdiction of this Law. As such, it is an area, which can be privately or publicly owned and leased accordingly. In addition, the same Law specifies that the competent authority has the right to define any area of the foreshore or adjacent to it, within which no building of any kind shall be erected, the so-called Foreshore Protection Zone.

Land-sea interactions were analysed and discussed throughout the MSP process, including the consultation and planning processes. More specifically, density maps and 'heat' maps of conflicts between land and sea activities were created, analysed and taken into account. Measures were decided (as part of the MSPlan) in the cases/ areas where land-sea conflicts exist, resulting in the designation of a cables landing zone, an energy pipelines routing zone, an aquaculture zone in proximity to a planned aquaculture port facilities, swimming and recreation zones in front of tourist areas, port activities zone and pleasure craft infrastructure zone.

Furthermore, the competent ICZM Authority (Department of Environment) is a member of the MSP Committee and thus a close cooperation is ensured.



## Stakeholder Involvement

Cyprus has prepared and undertaken public consultation on a draft Strategy for Integrated Maritime Policy in late 2013. The Strategy entitled: "Strategy of Cyprus for a National Integrated Maritime Policy - Vision: Sustainable Use and Development of the Seas of Cyprus" was approved by the Council of Ministers on 22 August 2014. Stakeholders were also consulted during the preparation of the draft MSP Law transposing the EU MSP Directive.

Stakeholder involvement was taken into account in the framework of the THAL-CHOR and THAL-CHOR 2 projects where results of the conflict analysis were shared with local stakeholders, so they understand pressures from different conflicts.

The involvement of all stakeholders and the public was pursued throughout the MSP process, in a fully transparent manner, governed by the Maritime Spatial Planning (Public Consultation) Regulations of 2021 (P.I. 133/2021) which was approved by the House of Representatives on 11 March 2021 and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic on 26 March 2021.



An official and wide public consultation on the draft National Policy Statement on Maritime Spatial Planning, with all the relevant stakeholders and the public was conducted between 14 May 2021 and 14 July 2021. The draft Policy Statement, as well as the special study entitled "Study for the Policy Statement on Maritime Spatial Planning" on which the Policy Statement is based, were easily accessible through the Shipping Deputy Ministry's website and input was received either in writing or electronically (email). All comments, suggestions and opinions received during the public consultation were taken into account by the MSP Committee when finalizing the Policy Statement. The MSP Committee published a document with these comments, suggestions and opinions, where it also explained the reasoning for the Committee's decisions.

The same consultation process was also followed for the draft MSPlan, between 31 March 2022 and 31 May 2022. Presentations of the draft MSPlan were given with physical presence in all cities of the country and were addressed to all the relevant stakeholders and the public. Promotional activities took place in order to engage people and encourage their participation in the public consultation. All documents including the sectoral-thematic maps of stocktaking and the maps of the MSPlan were easily accessible through the Shipping Deputy Ministry's website and input was received either in writing or electronically (email). All the comments, suggestions and opinions received during the public consultation were taken into account by the MSP Committee when finalizing the MSPlan. The MSP Committee published a document with these comments, suggestions and opinions, where it also explained the reasoning for the Committee's decisions.

Stakeholders were also consulted during the SEA process in accordance with the relevant environmental legislation. Their participation to the public consultation was encouraged by both the MSP Committee and the environmental Authority.



### Co-existence of uses

Analyses from the [THAL-CHOR project](#) revealed a high concentration of activities near the Limassol district and around the ports of Cyprus. Over 60 sea and land activities were analysed for conflicts and compatibilities as part of THAL-CHOR (Hadjimitsis et al., 2015b, c).

Capitalising on the [THAL-CHOR project](#), the analyses was extended to cover all the marine waters of Cyprus during the THAL-CHOR 2 project. A conflict matrix, as well as density maps and 'heat' maps of conflicts between maritime activities were created, analysed and taken into account throughout the MSP process. These include conflicts in all three dimensions of seawater, addressing activities on the sea bed, in the water column and on the surface.

One of the main priorities of the MSPlan is the maximum coexistence of different uses or activities aiming towards a viable and sustainable development. The above-mentioned analysis was taken into account during the preparation of the MSPlan, which provides for specific measures to reduce conflicts where possible and promote coexistence of different uses and activities. For example, the MSPlan provides for the displacement of two aquaculture units that are currently in conflict with the proposed energy centre zone, to be moved into one of the proposed aquaculture zones, as many accidents have taken place, including the destruction of aquaculture cages/ infrastructure by ships. Another example is the establishment of cables landing zones in order to avoid any accidents, for example by anchorage on cables.

The MSPlan also includes multi-use areas, for example coexistence of the energy centre with maritime transport, of tourism with cultural heritage and military zones with maritime transport.



### Trans-boundary cooperation

Cyprus promotes transboundary cooperation through actions with regard to MSP in the relevant marine region and in accordance with international law and conventions, such as by using existing international forums or regional institutional cooperation, including the mechanisms and structures provided by the Barcelona Convention and the Union for the Mediterranean ([UfM](#)).

Transboundary cooperation between Cyprus and neighbouring countries has been implemented also through various European projects, workshops and initiatives.

For example, a close transboundary cooperation with Greece was established through the THAL-CHOR and THAL-CHOR 2 projects. The cooperation includes the sharing of information, experiences, best practices and common mapping of transboundary maritime activities, like maritime transportation routes and cables.

Furthermore, Cyprus participated in the workshop "[Managing transboundary impacts in priority areas](#)" in the framework of the [PANACeA Project \(2017-2019\)](#), which gathered countries of the east and west Mediterranean.



## Use of best available data

Within the PEGASO Project (2010-2014), a [Spatial data Infrastructure](#) (SDI) was developed, as a distributed data sharing infrastructure made up of GeoNodes composed of three main components: a Map Viewer, a Data Catalogue and a Map Atlas. Thanks to the SDI metadata, services and datasets related to PEGASO project are shared and can be used by end users in a standardized, harmonized and interoperable way. A wide range of spatial information on the Mediterranean and Black sea region is made available through the SDI, covering a wide range of topics addressing ICZM issues at different geographical scales.

Furthermore, within the context of the THAL-CHOR (2014-2015) and THAL-CHOR 2 (2018-2023) projects, a [web-GIS service](#) was developed to map relevant maritime uses in the overall EEZ of Cyprus, including a detailed view on the coastal and marine areas of Cyprus. The web-GIS service was used to analyse and dynamically visualise conflicting interactions and derive density activity maps and/or conflicts maps. Moreover, during the projects, the web-GIS service was made available via the projects' websites upon request by the users to share results and support stakeholder engagement.

The MSPlan is based on the best-available data, including current and forecasted maritime activities. Specific studies were undertaken during the MSPlan's drafting to collect data and close some data gaps, including data collected through the THAL-CHOR and THAL-CHOR 2 projects. For example, for the offshore wind and wave potential and for hydrography. A process for continuous collection of new data has been established through the national MSP Committee. The Department of Lands and Surveys (DLS) is the competent Authority for the maintenance of the National Hydrographic Database and a member of the MSP Committee. New data that is collected by any member of the MSP Committee or any other institution or organisation, must be submitted to the DLS. All available data including the MSPlan are visualised in the geo-portal site of the DLS, at <https://portal.dls.moi.gov.cy/en/>.

## Coherence with other processes

### Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

The Marine Strategy Law of 2011 (No.18(I)/2011) transposed the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) into the national legislation of Cyprus. The Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (DFMR) is the competent authority for the implementation of the MSFD, and it participates in all the activities for the implementation of the MSFD at the EU level (committees, working groups, etc.). DFMR implemented the first phase concerning MSFD Articles 8, 9 and 10 in 2011-2012. The process was completed with the submission of the relevant reports to the EC in 2012:

- An Initial [Assessment report of the marine environment of Cyprus](#), consisting of Part I (Characteristics), Part II (Pressures and Impacts) and Part III (Economic and Social Parameters),
- A report on the determination of Good Environmental Status, and
- A report on Environmental Targets and associated indicators

DFMR submitted the Monitoring Program in October 2014 along with maps of marine waters of the Republic of Cyprus in GIS format, according to the EC instructions. Revised versions of above reports were re-submitted in August 2014, following the instructions received by the European Commission based on the review of the reports previously submitted in 2012. The Program of Measures was submitted in August 2016, according to the implementation of article 11 and article 13 of the MSFD.

On 31 July 2018, the Commission adopted its report assessing these programmes, identifying whether they constitute an appropriate framework within the requirements of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and whether they address the pressures that the EU seas and oceans are facing. The Commission concluded that concerning Cyprus, not all pressures are covered properly by the measures. The Commission therefore provides recommendations to Member States to guide them in accordance with Article 16 of the Directive.

The second Assessment report of the marine environment of Cyprus, concerning an update of Articles 8, 9, And 10 of the MSFD submitted to the EC in September 2019.

### Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)

In 2006-2008 Cyprus participated with the PAP/RAC to a [Coastal Area Management Programme \(CAMP\)](#) project. It addressed problems and issues of sustainable development in coastal areas with a view to improving further existing policies and practices. Within the broad island-wide scope of CAMP Cyprus, a local spatial dimension was incorporated, through the Larnaca Pilot Case Study Application Project.

The provisions of the [ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean](#) (2008) are implemented due to its ratification by the EU (legally binding for EU Institutions and Member States). An existing piece of planning legislation guides development and exercises regulatory controls for the coastal area. Parallel policies for the management of coastal resources (fisheries, marine

habitats, water, agriculture, tourism, liquid and solid wastes, road traffic, etc.) are formulated and implemented by separate competent authorities under their own legal and administrative framework. When competing activities or policies occur and the conflict cannot be resolved through the planning mechanisms, the case is ultimately submitted to the Council of Ministers for a decision. ICZM, like MSP, is mentioned as a tool in the National Strategy for Integrated Maritime Policy.

In 2013 the “Working Group on Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management” was established. With the approval of the MSP law (Law 114(I) of 2017), this Working Group has been replaced by the established MSP Committee as far as MSP implementation is concerned. However, the Working Group remains in place to support ICZM.

In 2018, the National ICZM Strategy and Action Plan were approved by the Department of Environment and determined for a period of ten years (2018-2028). The main purpose of the Strategy is to integrate policies and management bodies across sectors in coastal zones, with the aim of ensuring the sustainable use of coastal resources.

### Strategic Environmental Assessment

The EIA Law (No. 102(I)/2005), transposing the Directive 2001/42/EC, imposes to assess offshore public and private projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location, and are made subject to a requirement for development consent.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) study, including also an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study, was prepared for the draft MSPlan and submitted to the Environmental Authority in July 2023. The SEA was approved by the Environmental Authority on 4 December 2023.

### Cooperation with third countries

Cyprus is a contracting party to the [Barcelona Convention](#) and its Protocols. The Convention is implemented through the [Mediterranean Action Plan \(MAP\)](#), of which Cyprus is a stakeholder, under the aegis of the UN-Environment.

Cyprus is also part of the Union for the Mediterranean ([UfM](#)), which has been supporting or leading numerous regional and national initiatives.

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## Relevant legislative acts

- Various documents related with UNCLOS application in Cyprus are available at the following link:

<http://www.un.org/depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/STATEFILES/CYP.htm>

- Links to the Legislation of the Republic of Cyprus, addressed by sectors can be found at the following link:

<http://cyprus.gov.cy/portal/portal.nsf/gwp.getCategory?OpenForm&SectionId=government&CategoryId=Legislations&SectionId=none&print=0&lang=en>

- All MSP legislation is available in the website of the Shipping Deputy Ministry at the following link:

<https://www.dms.gov.cy/dms/shipping.nsf/All/40BC0A99BA0D986CC225876F002FCA70?OpenDocument>

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