

Presentation of the study



European
MSP Platform



Developed by the European MSP Platform under the Assistance Mechanism for the Implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning, the study provides guidelines on how MSP can help Member States deliver sustainable Blue Growth.

The study examines different practices, approaches and lessons learned that may help Member States with developing sustainable Blue Growth for their maritime economies. The study provides practical guidance with regard to three key questions:

- 1) How to develop a vision for maritime space that can be effectively used in MSP?
- 2) What kind of future trends impact on sector development and how do they influence the MSP process?
- 3) How can MSP authorities monitor whether they are on the right track with their MSP objectives?

These three aspects have been developed as stand-alone documents along with an overarching report.

The report is available online at the EU Bookshop and at www.msp-platform.eu/faq/msp-blue-growth

The EU MSP Platform

A service for Member States to share relevant knowledge and experiences on Maritime Spatial Planning

With the adoption of the EU Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning (2014/89/EU), all coastal EU Member States are required to prepare cross-sectoral maritime spatial plans by 2021. The European MSP Platform draws together MSP knowledge and expertise from across Europe and makes it available in a web-based, implementation-oriented format at www.msp-platform.eu. It serves as the information gateway and exchange forum for all involved in MSP throughout Europe to access existing and forthcoming resources. Services provided by the EU MSP Platform include:

- Focal points in each of the European sea-basins act as personal contacts and liaison offices.
- Studies enhance MSP implementation and contribute to the collective knowledge based.
- Workshops and conferences facilitate active knowledge exchange and generation between MSP practitioners.

Financed by the European Commission under the EMFF, the European MSP Platform is a result of the MSP Assistance Mechanism implemented by EASME on behalf of DG MARE. It acts as the central exchange forum for the rich knowledge generated in past, current and upcoming MSP processes and projects.

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Publication: Study on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) for Blue Growth

How to plan for
sustainable blue
economies

Handbook for developing Visions in MSP

Sector fiches

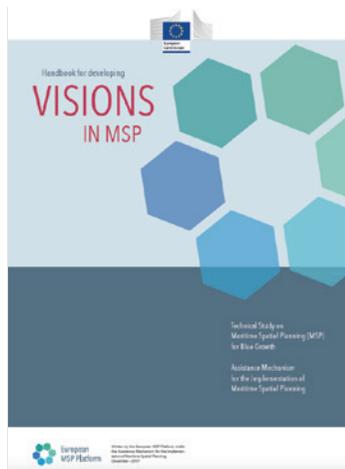
Handbook on MSP Indicators Development

How to develop a vision for maritime space that can be effectively used in MSP?

The purpose of the handbook is to assist planners in developing their own vision, as well as assisting those who wish to prepare the terms of reference for facilitating a vision process.

The handbook provides quick and easy access to relevant tools and methods that were used in vision processes across Europe. It indicates a range of possibilities for working with visions, showcasing options and ideas, rather than being prescriptive.

The handbook has developed a decision-making framework including 'First-level' decisions, such as temporal scope or available skills and resources, and 'Second-level decisions' (building blocks), which are the main steps and elements of the process.



What kind of future trends impact on sector developments and how do they influence the MSP process?

Nine sector fiches, prepared as part of this study, suggest how to best consider the expected development in terms of spatial requirements of each maritime sector during the MSP processes. They point to an extraordinary diversity of spatial implications of each sector given their spatial characteristics, planning time horizons and implications of technological change.

The fiches offer a set of concrete recommendations on how both planners as well as sectors may inform each other to create MSP solutions, unlocking Blue Growth potentials in a sustainable manner.

Maritime sectors covered by the study:

- Offshore wind energy
- Oil and gas
- Tidal and wave
- Cables and pipelines
- Coastal and maritime tourism
- Fishing
- Marine aggregates and marine mining
- Marine aquaculture
- Shipping and ports

msp-platform.eu/sectors

How can MSP authorities monitor whether MSP processes are on the right track in relation to promoting sustainable 'Blue Growth'?

To monitor the MSP processes and their effect on Blue Growth, MSP authorities may define objectives and develop appropriate indicators to track the achievement of these objectives.

However, linking MSP and Blue Growth via indicators is not straightforward. The handbook, prepared as part of this study, intends to help MSP authorities in the definition of objectives, and provides suggestions for the development of an appropriate indicator framework linking MSP processes and Blue Growth.

The handbook describes the indicator development in three main steps, and provides examples and checklists that MSP authorities may apply. These steps include:

- Defining SMART objectives (for the planning process and for the outcomes)
- Developing indicators (to measure progress towards objectives)
- Monitoring (and reporting of indicators)

