

Newsletter | March 2026

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Upcoming events

Workshop on Marine Data for Maritime Spatial Planning

Secure your seat online for the upcoming Workshop on Marine Data for Maritime Spatial Planning, taking place on 31 March 2026. Held within the framework of the EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive, the workshop will explore how to manage increasingly busy marine spaces and support science-based decision-making in MSP.


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Navigating MSP Tools: the new TEG webinar series

The Technical Expert Group on Data for MSP has launched a new series of practical webinars showcasing how tools developed under the ReMAP project can support Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) across the EU. Each session is led by a technical expert, translating complex data and methodologies into actionable insights for practitioners, planners, and policymakers.

The first webinar, *"From Blue Economy to Blue Planning: Integrating Socioeconomic Values in MSP"* took place on Monday 23 March. A summary will be available soon on the European MSP Platform.

Two further sessions are scheduled. Discover more and access full details via the link below.


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Open call

Call for evidence to support the revision of the Water Framework Directive (WFD)

The initiative is relevant to a wide range of stakeholders, including businesses in the critical raw materials value chain, civil society organisations, water management companies, and national or regional authorities involved in permitting and WFD compliance. For the MSP community, this revision is worth following closely: coastal and transitional waters fall within the scope of the WFD, and any changes to how water quality standards are defined and applied may have implications for maritime spatial planning processes and the blue economy more broadly. The feedback period is **open until 14 April 2026**.


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Call for proposals: Supporting Maritime Spatial Planning in the Atlantic and Black Sea

The European Commission has launched a new call for proposals under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF). The call aims to support innovative solutions addressing the challenges faced by EU Member States in the Atlantic and Black Sea when implementing, monitoring or revising their Maritime Spatial Plans. Proposals may be **submitted until 15 April 2026 at 17:00 (CEST)**. All details on eligibility and key dates are available via the link below.


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Publications

Study Recap #1 Future Uses and Needs of the Seas

Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) is an EU framework that coordinates activities at sea, such as energy, shipping, fisheries and conservation, in a sustainable way. By reducing conflicts between uses, it supports investment while protecting marine ecosystems, and it encourages cooperation between countries sharing sea basins. As a result, MSP plays a key role in advancing EU priorities such as renewable energy and biodiversity, ensuring a more efficient and balanced use of Europe's marine space.

Read the full study recap via the link below.



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Study Recap #2 "Enabling Maritime Spatial Planning: Enhancing Stakeholder Participation – Lessons from MSP Delivery to Date".

Stakeholder engagement is a central element of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), ensuring that diverse interests and knowledge are considered throughout the process. Effective engagement improves decision-making, builds trust and supports the implementation of plans, especially when it takes place early and continuously. Approaches vary across countries, but clear objectives, transparency and tailored methods are essential. Overall, meaningful participation strengthens MSP outcomes by balancing interests and enhancing cooperation. Read more in the full study.

Read the full study recap via the link below.



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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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Save the date

Save the date for European Maritime Spatial Planning week!

The dates for the second edition of European MSP Week have been announced. Join us in Brussels from **1 to 5 June** for a week dedicated to maritime spatial planning, bringing together projects and initiatives from across Europe. The programme will feature a variety of events organised by EU-funded projects, as well as the very first Great North Sea Basin Initiative Stakeholder Conference! Stay tuned to the EU MSP Platform for further details in the coming weeks!

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