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Workshop on maritime safety integration into MSP

2 June 2026
NH Bloom Hotel, Brussels

AGENDA

Location: nhow Brussels Bloom Hotel, [Rue Royale 250, 1210 Bruxelles, Belgique](#)

Duration: 3h15 from 14:00 CET

Organisers: Shom

Introduction:

The pressure surrounding the use of maritime space and its allocation and distribution among various uses has never been greater, and at the same time, more uncertain—even chaotic—depending on regional contexts (spatial congestion, climate change, hybrid warfare, geopolitical frictions, etc.). This situation therefore poses risks and threats to European maritime security, sovereignty and impacts the spatial planning of its sea-basins.

In this context, the new European maritime regulatory framework currently taking shape raises questions about the MSP's ability to serve as a geostrategic instrument that, more than ever, integrates maritime safety and security even perhaps defence. For example, how can we simultaneously reconcile energy decarbonization (a goal of the EU Green Deal), the protection of related infrastructure (e.g. OWE grid), and the competitiveness of European ports through maritime traffic routes that incorporate emerging practices (e.g. sailing cargo ships)?

This workshop aims to reflect, from a geoinformation perspective, on the integration of maritime safety (and security) aspects. This will be made within the framework of sharing maritime space between activities with fixed vs. dynamic spatiotemporal footprints in the cross-border context of a sea basin. It triggers several general questions:

- What data can shed light on the growing issue of “spatial squeeze” that underlies the zoning of national MSP initiatives for a sea basin perspective??
- How can we use this data, map it, and link the issue of “*spatial squeeze*” to the protection of marine critical infrastructures, which are proliferating at sea?
- For what purposes, and how might this translate into MSP initiatives and plans/zoning schemes to develop a common framework for understanding these challenges at a sea basin level (going beyond national issues)?

A theoretical case study will be developed to provide practical guidance on establishing a methodology for studying these issues at basin scale. It will be based on a recent scientific paper: *Offshore Wind farm and spatial squeeze: a plausible future layout for the North Sea in for 2050*[1].

This will be a collaborative and participatory workshop, drawing on the participants’ expertise. In this perspective, we propose the following schedule:

2 June 2026	
13:30	Registration
14:00	<p>Introduction</p> <p><i>Policy introduction (Invited representative TBC)</i></p> <p>Integrating maritime safety and security challenges in the MSP according the new European maritime regulatory framework</p> <p><i>Workshop framework - Shom</i></p> <p>Presentation of the workshop’s scope: definition of the “<i>spatial squeeze</i>” problematic and its relation with MSP, maritime safety and security.</p>
14:15	<p>Survey on maritime safety integration into MSP</p> <p>Survey presentation developed by Shom (dissemination started end of 2025) about the maritime safety integration in MSP at NESBp scale & first results – Discussion to highlight the following sessions</p>
14:30	<p>Methodological approach to tackle “<i>spatial squeeze</i>” impacts</p> <p>Case study presentation: perspective of OWE development in North Sea (based [1]) – Could the increased concentration of activities reliant on fixed infrastructure (e.g. OWF projects, offshore aquaculture sites) lead to a reduction in the space available for activities that depend on their ability to</p>

	<p>navigate (fisheries, maritime transport), thereby posing a significant risk to navigation and blue economy sectors development? Conversely, increasing the number of sources of threat to these infrastructures?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives of the study • Data concerns (availability, reference data, discretisation) • “<i>Spatial squeeze</i>” calculation / estimation • Aligning results with MSP plans at North Sea level
15:30	Coffee break (around 15 min)
15:45	<p>Methodological synthesis to tackle “<i>spatial squeeze</i>” impacts</p> <p>Conclusion & restitution</p>
16:15	<p>Points of consideration and link with security issues</p> <p>Identifying and discussing what could be theoretical/potential operational measures (in the best world) to mitigate the “<i>spatial squeeze</i>” impacts at sea basin level. This would address implications for maritime safety and security issues.</p>
17:00	<p>Key messages and closing</p> <p>A list of key considerations issued provided by the NESB project to improve the methodological integration of maritime risks and threats at a sea-basin level for the European Maritime Spatial Plan</p>
17:15	End

References

- [1] Waldman, S; Munro, P.; Gilmour, C.; Forster, R.M.; Russell, D.J.F. *Offshore Wind and the Spatial Squeeze: A Plausible Future Layout for the North Sea. Energies* 2026, *19*, 1339. <https://doi.org/10.3390/en19051339>



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