Newsletter | October 2026

European Commission

European MSP Platform

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Keep up to date with the latest developments in Maritime Spatial Planning through the EU MSP Platform website exploring the latest news and events calendar to discover new resources, upcoming opportunities and ways to engage with the MSP community.

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Latest news

Towards eHILUCS 2.0: Advancing the Harmonisation of Marine and Coastal Uses in Europe

Experts gathered in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria in September 2026 to advance eHILUCS 2.0, the classification system used to harmonise marine and coastal use data across Europe. The updated framework will improve data interoperability, consistency and alignment with international standards, supporting better-informed planning and decision-making for Europe's seas and coasts. By strengthening the foundations of the European MSP data layer, eHILUCS 2.0 will help advance sustainable marine management and the blue economy.

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Upcoming events

Save the date: The 7th EU Blue Parks Community Workshop

The EU Blue Parks Community Workshop, "From science to practice: co-creating effective MPAs to meet the EU marine protection targets", is organising its 7th edition on 16 November 2026 (13:30–17:30 CET) in Bruges, Belgium. It will bring together Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) managers, policymakers, researchers and stakeholders to explore practical tools, solutions and lessons learned from EU-funded projects that support the effective management of MPAs. The event will focus on accelerating the uptake of innovative approaches and contributing to the goals of the EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030. Do not miss it!

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Date | 16/11/2026

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Save the date for the 7th World Conference on Marine Biodiversity (WCMB 2026)

The 7th edition of the WCMB is taking place in Bruges, Belgium, from 17–20 November 2026. Held under the theme "The marine biodiversity insights we need, for the ocean we want", the conference will bring together policymakers, scientists, conservation practitioners, industry representatives and other stakeholders to discuss the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity. Endorsed as a UN Ocean Decade Event, WCMB 2026 will provide a key platform to reflect on progress made towards the objectives of the UN Ocean Decade and to identify priorities for the years ahead.

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Date | 17/11/2026 - 20/11/2026

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Save the date: 4th International Conference on Maritime/Marine Spatial Planning

From **1 to 3 June 2027** at UNESCO's Building (Paris, France), Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) authorities, international organisations, experts, and stakeholders from around the world will come together to share knowledge and explore the future of MSP. Mark your calendar for this big event organised by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and the European Commission. More information coming soon.

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Date | 01/06/2027 - 06/06/2027

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Funding and calls

Call for Expressions of Interest: Atlantic Ocean Regional Portfolio

The Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership has launched a Call for Expressions of Interest to establish an Atlantic Ocean Regional Portfolio of Projects focused on "Addressing Atlantic Ocean Coastal Resilience in Practice." This initiative aims to bring together ongoing projects tackling similar challenges across the Atlantic region, fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, visibility, and impact at sea-basin level. This Portfolio will run from 2027 to 2029 and will receive endorsement from the UN Ocean Decade. Projects funded through national, regional, or European programmes are encouraged to apply. The call is open until **28 October 2026 (15:00 CET)**.

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Publications

New OCEaN Report: Stakeholder Engagement in Offshore Wind and Grid Planning

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New HELCOM-VASAB report on implementing the MSP Roadmap 2030

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ISSN: 2600-0881