

Multi-use MED

“Ocean multi-use in the Mediterranean: Targeting spatial efficiency in an equitable way?”

May 10th, 2021, 10:00-14:40

Introduction

The Mediterranean Sea is one of the largest semi-enclosed seas and the second-largest biodiversity hotspots in the world. The sea basin is endowed with diverse coastal and marine ecosystems supporting biodiversity and delivering many goods and services to the coastal communities, living around its shores. However, the Mediterranean Sea is facing various hazards, driven by both natural forces (e.g. climate change) and anthropogenic pressures; Despite the current negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mediterranean Sea seems to still experience the “*Blue Gold Rush*” (WWF Report, 2015) under the joined effects of various key drivers, including: the Blue Growth strategy of the European Commission pursuing the sustainable growth of maritime industries and hence the enhancement of “spatial efficiency”; trade development leading to increasing international maritime traffic; the constant development of offshore oil and gas commissioning, etc. The parallel positive growth of all sectors will generate competition over the marine space, leading to conflicts between uses and additional deterioration of marine ecosystems. Hence, maritime spatial planning in the Mediterranean is absolutely necessary in order to organise maritime activities, reduce conflict of uses and encourage economic growth and investment by supporting predictability and transparency.

Such worries about incompatible claims for ocean space, potential conflicts between emerging and traditional activities, and the pursuit of “spatial efficiency” in the marine space have generated voluminous analyses into the **Multi-use concept**. The idea to combine traditional activities and new emerging industries, e.g., offshore wind farms and mariculture, or tourism, in a multi-use perspective is considered as an opportunity of coexistence that can potentially create synergies between the different activities and rationalize operating processes in the sense of optimizing labor capacities, achieving resource savings, and thoroughly considering the environment. Furthermore, instead of single offshore utilization patterns, the creation of **multi-purpose marine areas** may generate more acceptability amongst local stakeholders but also at larger scale between sectors and through borders.

Multi-use is a complex process defined as the shared use of resources from either a sole or multiple users in close geographic vicinity in the marine space and signifies a fundamental change of paradigm, passing from the “exclusive resource rights” to “the inclusive sharing of resources by one or multiple users”. Soft MU groupings refer to “co-location” or “co-existence” of different uses when an existing infrastructure is applied without major adjustments and are mostly met in the South (e.g. in the Mediterranean), including soft and fleeting uses such as recreation, small-scale fisheries, tourism etc., whilst hard MU groupings apply to the incorporation of permanent infrastructural elements (e.g. MU platforms).

MSP has to be able to adapt to multiple considerations and understandings of the sea, fluctuating from a mere zoning to a more creative, socially and culturally sensitive process aiming to build attractive identities of sea spaces and high-quality landscapes and seascapes, including cultural ones. Hence, spatial efficiency through assemblage thinking is necessary and worth further investigation, particularly in the crowded marine areas and the insular territories of the Mediterranean. It needs to be considered from the legal, technical, environmental and governance points of view.

Objective of the webinar

This “AM EU MSP Platform” – “MSP MED” joint webinar deals with the coexistence and synergetic relationship between economic, social, environmental, and cultural components of “spatial efficiency” at sea. Through case studies, the webinar will present different points of view in building integrated and cohesive planning approaches and new management tools in MSP, including cooperation among Mediterranean EU countries and with Southern Mediterranean countries.

The MSP MED previous technical meetings’ outcomes (on marine governance, LSI, and EBM) as well as other cooperation project experiences (ADRIPLAN, SUPREME, SIMWESTMED but also HORIZON 2020 MUSES, BONUS BALTSAPACE, COEXIST, MED-PHAROS4MPAs, UNITED etc.) linked to well identified case studies will serve as background and will nurture the discussions around these questions.

Under this overall objective, this webinar will:

- Gather lessons and technical insights from the Mediterranean basin and other EU regional seas.
- Look at MSP forms of governance to support features of spatial efficiency including stakeholder participation and contextualization of management decisions.
- Make practical recommendations for possible multi-use development in the Mediterranean at different scales (local, national, transboundary).
- Discuss the regulatory aspects (legal rights, licensing etc.) of multi-use concept and practices in the Mediterranean and in other European seas.
- Present ways of assessing the different MU potentials.
- Promote the MU concept and MU solutions in the design, implementation and adaptation of MSP Plans.

The final purpose of this joint initiative is to come up with practical recommendations for decision-makers, the economic sectors, and local stakeholders in the Mediterranean.

Agenda

- **10.00 – 10.10 Welcome and Opening remarks**
 - Chris McDougall, European MSP Platform Project Coordinator
 - Pierpaolo Campostrini, MSP MED Project Coordinator

- **10.10 – 10.30 Opening keynote presentation**
 - Céline FRANK, Policy Officer, Directorate General of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission

- 10:30 – 12:00 > Parallel sessions: Case studies presentation

Parallel Session 1. Moderator: Neil Alloncle (MSP MED), Rapporteur: Yves Henocque (European MSP Platform)

Multi-use platforms for windfarm connection - Gro Waeraas de Saint Martin, Offshore wind connections at “Réseau de Transport d'Électricité, FR

The Blue Growth Farm Project - Paul Tett, George Charalambides and Giulio Brizzi

Danish United pilot from the Middelgrunden offshore wind farm and tourism - Hans Soerensen, Consultant, DK

Parallel Session 2. Moderator: Stella Kyvelou (European MSP Platform), Rapporteur: Martina Bocci (MSP MED)

Port Museum of Tricase (Lecce, Italy), Southern Adriatic Sea - Antonio Errico and Massimo Zuccaro, CIHEAM Bari, Mediterranean Agronomic Institute, IT

Assessing the potential of “Fisheries (SSF)-Tourism-Nature Conservation” Multi-use in Greece
Stella Kyvelou, Panteion University, Mathilde Konstantopoulou, Ministry of Development, Vassiliki Vassilopoulou, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, GR

“AQUAWINGS: A platform for the multi-use management of environmentally friendly aquaculture and diving recreation activities.”-UNITED H2020 Project - Ioanna Drigkopoulou, WINGS ICT Solutions

- 12:00 – 13:00 > Lunchbreak
- 13:00– 13.20 > Sessions feedback from Rapporteurs/Moderators

Rapporteurs: Neil Alloncle (MSP MED), Martina Bocci (MSP MED)

- 13:20 – 14:20 > Q&A session, discussion, adoption of the final recommendations

Coordinators - Thanos Smanis (European MSP Platform), Folco Soffietti (MSP MED)

- 14:20 – 14:40 > Concluding remarks – Key messages

Rapporteurs – Stella Kyvelou (European MSP Platform), Yves Henocque (European MSP Platform)

 [Registration link](#)

! This online event will be held on Zoom, please make sure to use the latest version of the zoom webportal or application (Desktop client or mobile app: version 5.3.0 or higher. ChromeOS: version 5.0.0 (4241.1207) or higher)