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Political Criteria for Evaluating Plans
Translating Plans to Action
Political Criteria

• How many years do I have
  – Results are expected within a short term: electoral gain
  – A result, means also the necessity of:
  – a broad consensus by all actors/stakeholders
  – no risk of legal challenges
  – compliance with international or regional agreements/legislation
Political Criteria

• Time required for implementation is determining the way of handling
  – can it be shortened by scientific experience, existing legislation, or has the debate started already for some years
  – or is new [framework] legislation and thus a Parliamentary procedure necessary
Political Criteria

• Need for resources
  – budget
  – human resources: staffing, consultancy
  – priority setting
Political Criteria

• Need for scientific advice
  – Immediate, based on the different existing scientific programs
  – or proposals for new [expensive] studies
Political Criteria

• Translation of scientific advice
  – Lack of interdisciplinary consensus can work counterproductive:
    . study on gravel extraction gives zone 1
    . study on offshore wind gives zone 1
    . study on best fishing grounds gives zone 1
Political Criteria

– difficult if there is no *current* problem: explain why zoning/measures are necessary

– proposals needs fine tuning: define clearly the conflicts and solutions (is a total ban really necessary or can a timely ban, during wintertime be enough)
Translating Plans to Action

• Searching for a consensus by the stakeholders
  – be transparent – no black box, where a ‘commission will decide upon the measures to be taken’
  – set a clear line from the beginning and foresee margins to discuss for example ‘historical rights’
  – search for win-win situations (zoning gives legal/economic stability on the longer term)
Translating Plans to Action

– integrate participation and access to information

– users committees, voluntary agreements can be a solution if there is a polarisation
Translating Plans to Action

• Searching for a consensus within the government
  – political composition (e.g. majority)
  – a broad acceptance on the field makes it difficult for someone to be against
  – must be in line with administrative rules as simplicity and impact on staffing/budget
Translating Plans to Action

• The legal implementation makes the work complete.
• As our economy, our nature is changing, evaluation, learning and adaptation will always be necessary
• This is for another politician …