

Maritime Spatial Planning Forum

Global Meets Regional



Navigating social-ecological complexity and uncertainty in MSP Lessons from adaptive governance

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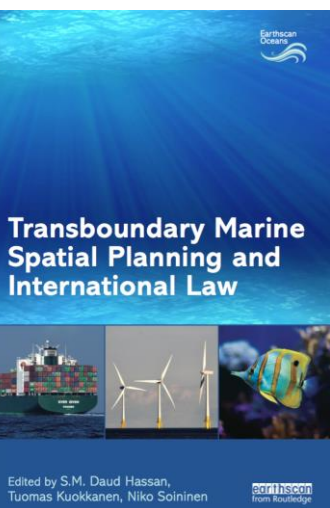


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MSP as a utopia: coherent master plans for all human action at sea

”What MSP is promising, then, is a new future-oriented planning process, which takes into account all the sectors related to the governance of marine issues and allocates marine space both geographically and temporally for different purposes (interests), which are deemed politically desirable.” (Soininen & Hassan, p. 5)



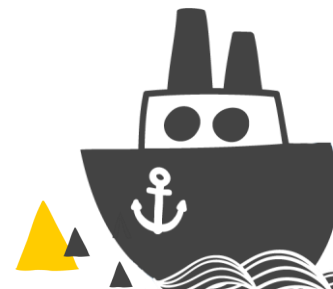
- + Integrating sectors and levels
- + Platform for wide public participation
- + Functioning science/policy interface
- + Implementing international and EU law, e.g. precaution & sustainability
- + Certainty for investors
- + [...]





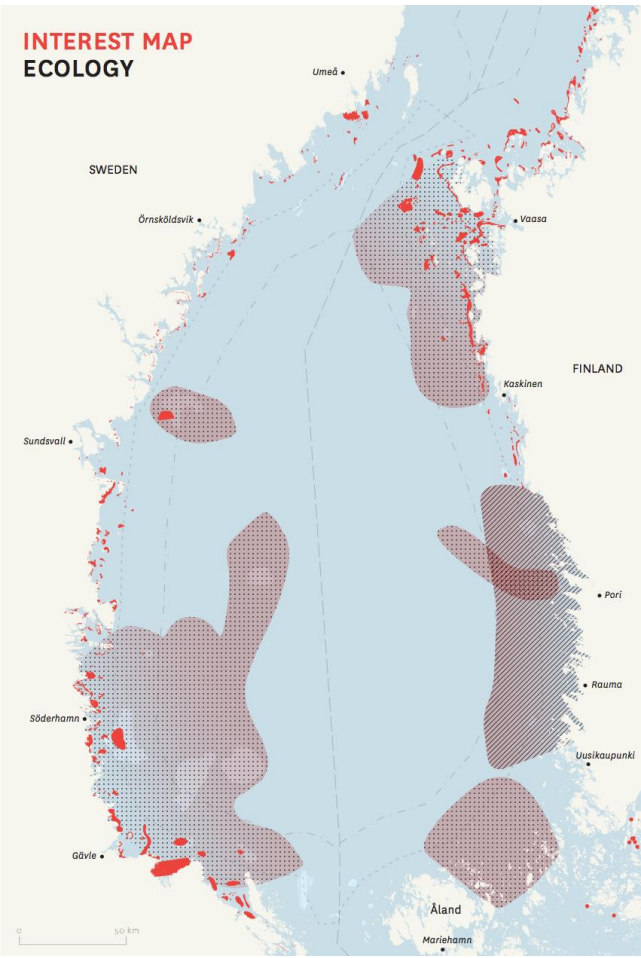
MSP as a utopia?

- Green paper (COM (2006) 275)
 - Growing demand for space → increasing conflicts between uses
- Blue book (COM (2007) 575)
 - Call for integrated decision making in the marine domain → MSP in a key role
- MSP Roadmap (COM (2008) 791)
 - 10 MSP principles: e.g. clear objectives, coherence of planning instruments, legally binding
- Communication from the commission (COM (2010) 771)
- MSP directive proposal (COM (2013) 133)
- Committee of the Regions opinion (C 356/124)
- MSP directive (2014/89/EU)

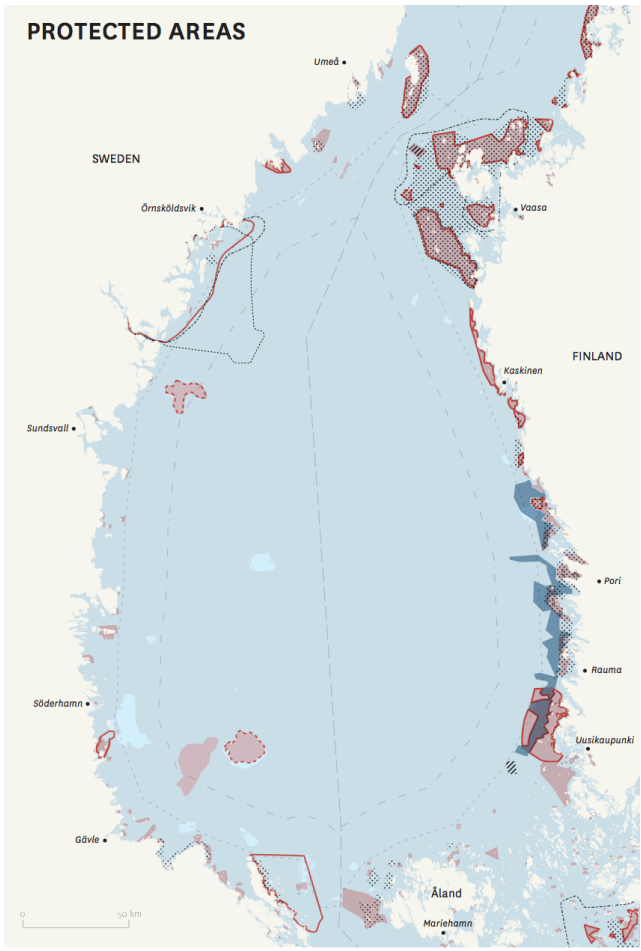




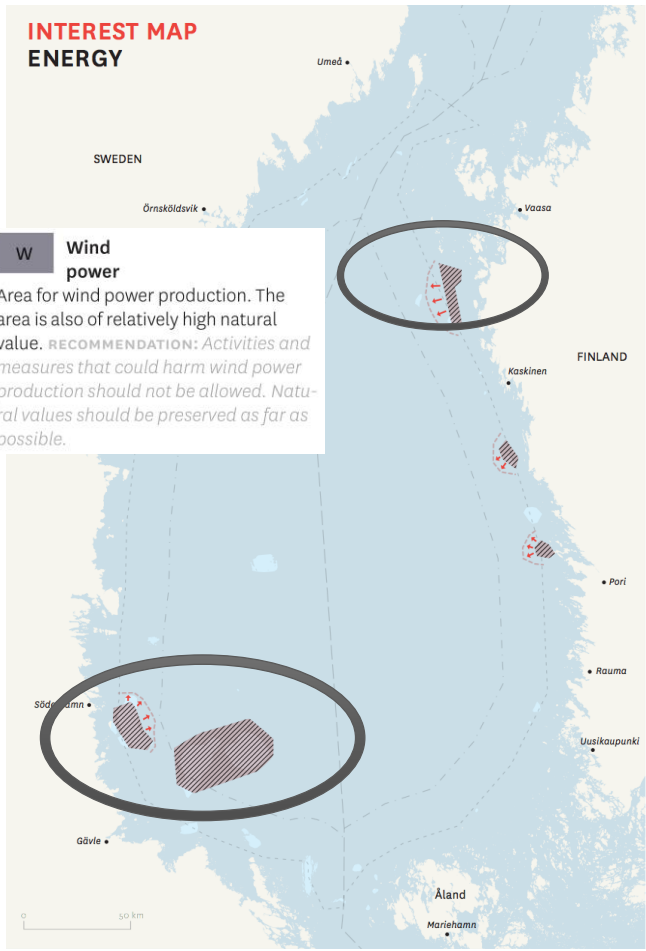
MSP as a utopia?



- Identified spawning areas
- Areas with high upwelling
- General areas of special ecological interest
- Shallow banks, high ecological value



- Natura 2000 sites
- Important bird areas
- Swedish National Interest
- UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE
- Seal protected areas
- Bothnian Sea National Park
- Baltic Sea Protected Area, designated
- Baltic Sea Protected Area, designated with management plan



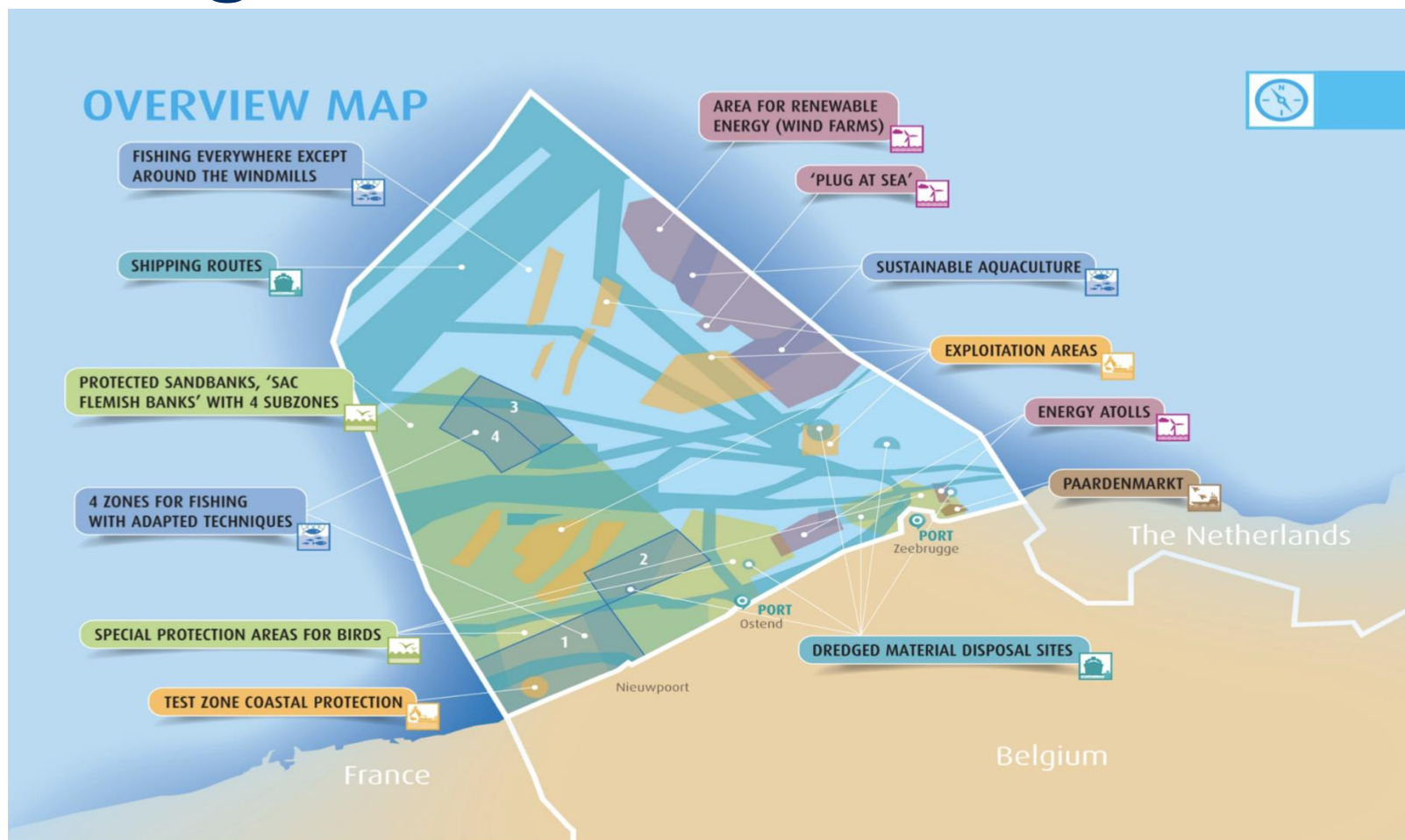
W Wind power
Area for wind power production. The area is also of relatively high natural value. *RECOMMENDATION: Activities and measures that could harm wind power production should not be allowed. Natural values should be preserved as far as possible.*

- Potential interest, < 20 years
- Possible future expansion
- Banks





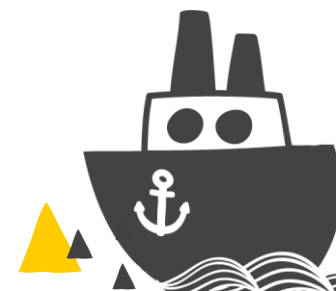
MSP as an apology: complexity, fragmentation and contestation



https://www.msp-platform.eu/sites/default/files/20180529_workshopreport_mspinsmallseaspaces.pdf

Figure 5. Belgium MSP Plan. Presentation by Steven Vandenborre

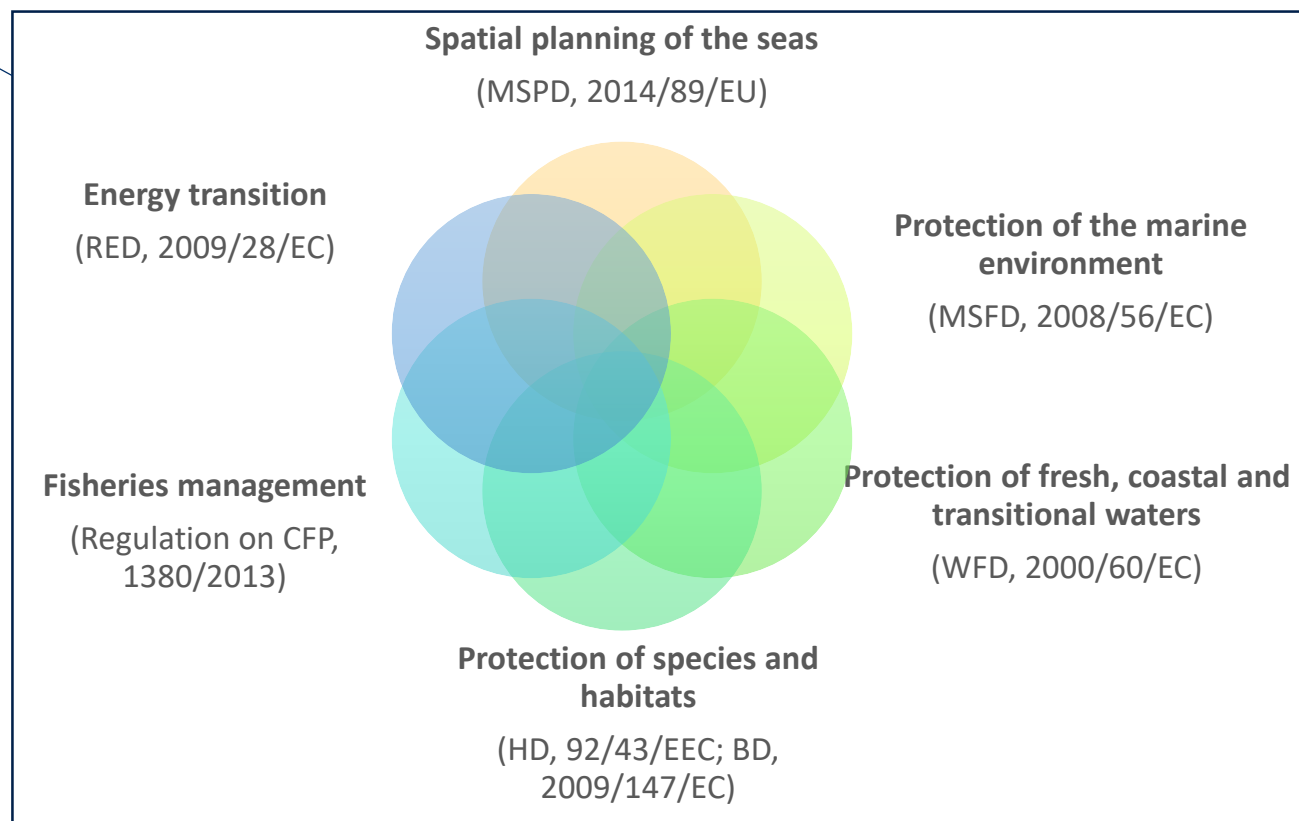
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MSP as an apology: instrument complex

International law
& policy



National law
& policy

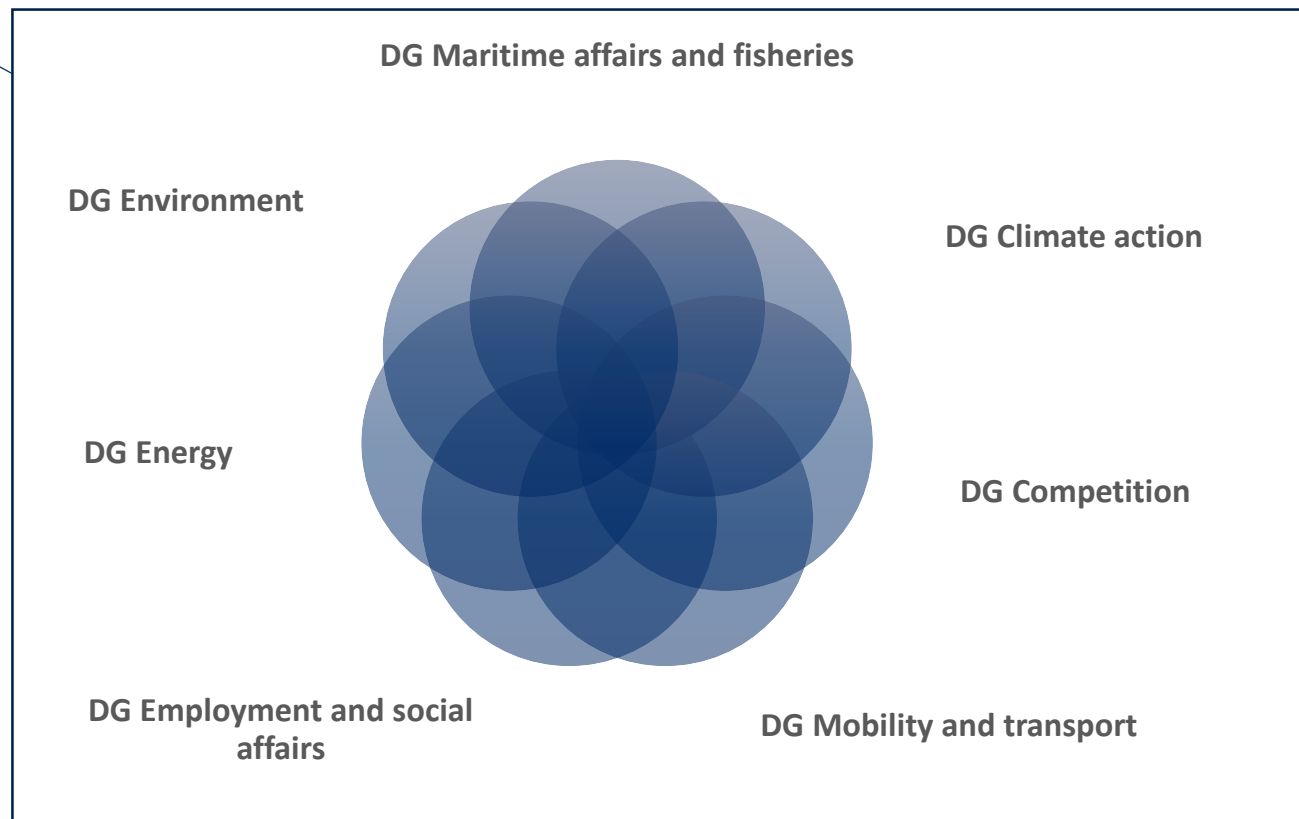
Sub-national law
& policy





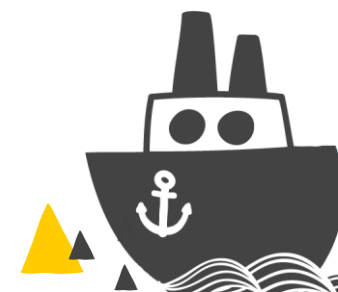
MSP as an apology: complex authority

International law
& policy



National law
& policy

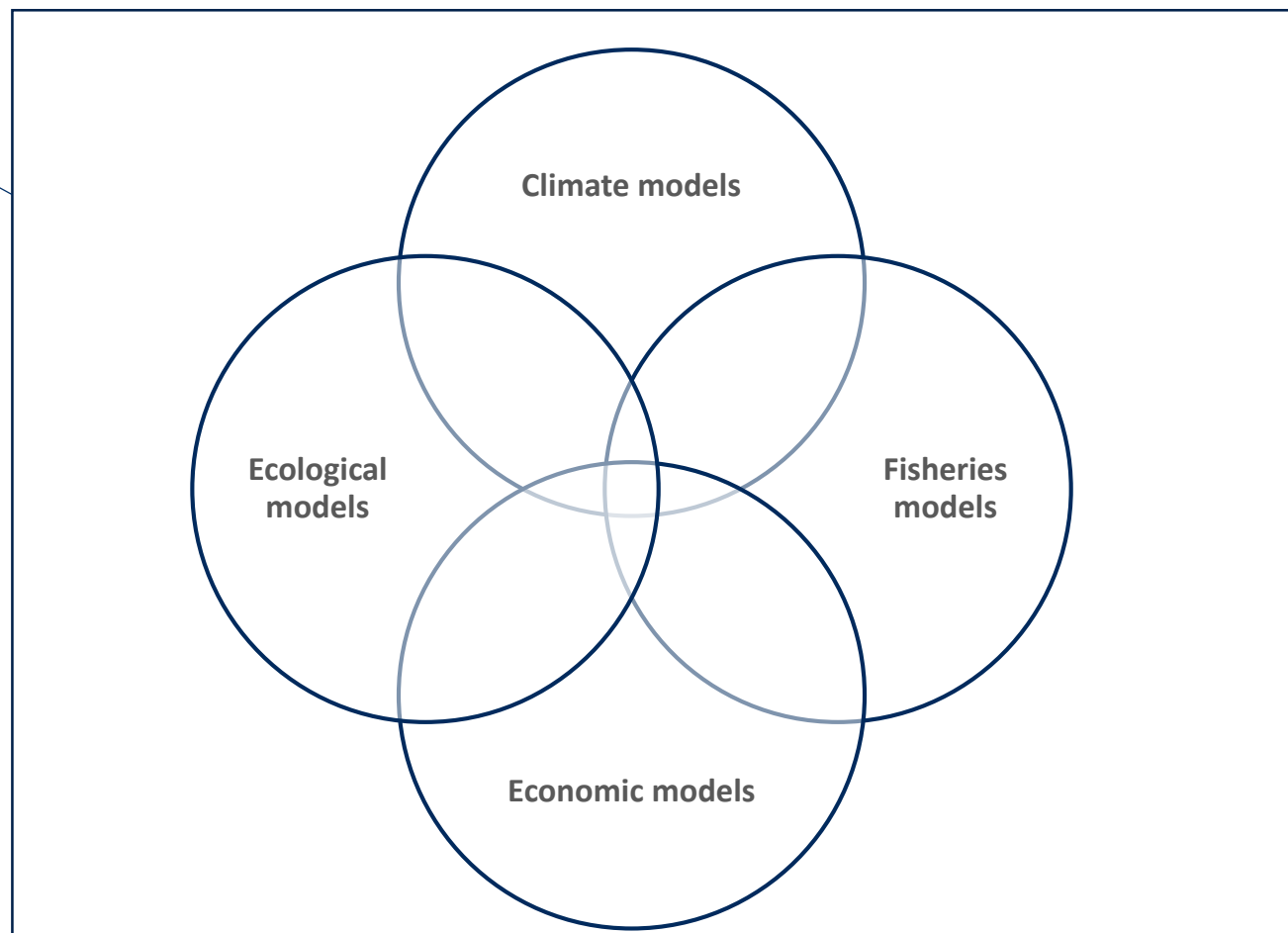
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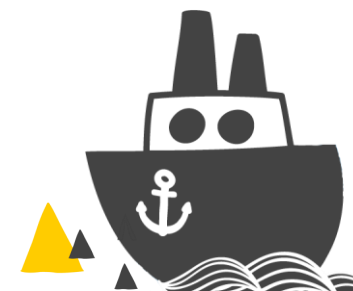
MSP as an apology: complex science

Global level



National level

Sub-national level





MSP between utopia and apology: problem typology



SIMPLE problems

- Defining the problem is straightforward
 - Scientific certainty
 - Coherent values & legal frameworks
- = **Rational solutions possible**



COMPLEX-SYSTEMIC problems

- Defining the problem is tricky
 - Scientific complexity
 - Complex values & legal frameworks
- = **Rational solutions possible if systemic interconnections are uncovered**



WICKED problems

- Defining *the* problem is impossible
 - Fundamental scientific uncertainty
 - Fundamentally contested values & legal frameworks
- = **No rational solutions; but problems can be made better or worse**





MSP between utopia and apology: adaptive governance

**Adaptive management and
planning**

**Polycentric governance
Collaborative governance**

Adaptive governance

“a range of interactions between actors, networks, organizations, and institutions emerging in pursuit of a desired state for social-ecological systems.”





MSP between utopia and apology: Lessons for MSP

1. **No silver bullets: it's all about the process** (getting the cross-sectoral, multi-level & public/private governance complex to talk)
2. **Facilitating bounded contestation**
 - Securing scientific expertise for informing what is known and what is not
 - Securing legal expertise for drawing institutional, procedural and substantive boundaries for MSP
3. **Adapting MSPs to evolving science, policy and law**
4. **Accepting that getting results takes time and are not easy to measure**



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Thank you!



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