Guiding the Application of an Ecosystem-Based Approach in Maritime Spatial Planning
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WHAT IS AN ECOSYSTEM-BASED APPROACH OR EBA?

- Representative stakeholders
- Knowledge transfer at the science-policy interface
- Include main actors
- Adaptive management including monitoring
- Consider all sectoral activities and their pressures
- Capture the benefits of the ecosystem services supplied
- Balance socio-economic and environmental goals
- Accounting for exogenous societal drivers

ORGANISING THE MSP PROCESS WITH REGARD TO GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

INCORPORATING HUMAN ACTIVITIES AND THEIR SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

CAPTURING THE INTEGRITY, FUNCTIONING AND DYNAMICS OF MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

- Ecosystem interactions
- Appropriate level of detail
- Ecosystem boundaries and spatio-temporal scale
- Exogenous environmental drivers
WHY IS EBA IMPORTANT FOR MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING (MSP)?

Clear added-value and benefits

EBA is also ... a legal obligation in the EU

Directive 2014/89/EU establishes a framework for maritime spatial planning and calls for an Ecosystem-Based Approach to address trade-offs between ecosystem protection and socio-economic developments, as well as deliver sustainable growth of maritime economies, sustainable development of marine areas and sustainable use of marine resources.
WHEN TO ADDRESS ECOSYSTEMS IN MSP?

**1. Defining**
- Key policy objectives and other societal goals
- Appropriate boundaries
- Defining the social-ecological system

**2. Developing**
- Building a knowledge base
- Integrity and functioning of the ecosystem and its capacity to supply services
- Human activities and their pressures
- Appropriate level of detail
- Quality of the information and consequences for the analyses

**3. Assessing**
- Selection of methods and tools
- Cover environmental, social and economic dimensions
- Acknowledge confidence/uncertainty

**4. Implementing**
- Consider precautionary approach to address uncertainty
- Integration with other management plans
- Follow an adaptive management approach with appropriate monitoring

**5. Following up**
- Evaluate the implementation of EBA in MSP
- Analyse ecological and societal impacts
- Initiating additional adaptive management cycles

**Governance & Stakeholder Mobilisation**
- Representative stakeholders
- Knowledge transfer at the science-policy interface
- Include main actors
- Adaptive management including monitoring

**WHEN TO ADDRESS ECOSYSTEMS IN MSP?**

- Selection of methods and tools
- Cover environmental, social and economic dimensions
- Acknowledge confidence/uncertainty
HOW CAN I DO IT IN PRACTICE?
Make smart use of what existing EU policy and legislation requires and delivers

REGULATORY AND STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

- Green Deal:
  - EU Policy goals
  - Sustainable coastal goals
  - Sustainable fisheries goals
  - SEA: Defining: check EBA policy goals
  - Developing: review EBA information base
  - Assessing: assess plan alternatives; review tools; identify indicators

- MSFD:
  - State and pressures on marine ecosystems, protected sites, ecosystem services (plus socio-economic assessment of maritime activities from MSFD)
  - LSI data & information
  - Fisheries areas and state of resources

- Nature directives:
  - Management plans and measures
  - Actions for sustainable coastal dev.
  - Actions for sustainable fisheries

- WFD:
  - Environmental impact assessments, costs & benefits, ecosystem service values

- ICZM:
  - Monitoring of fisheries

- CFP & EMF(A)F:
  - Monitoring the state of and pressures on marine ecosystems, protected sites
  - Actions for sustainable fisheries

- SEA/EIA:
  - Assessments providing input to MSP evaluation and review
  - EIA: Assess projects
  - Gather & analyse new data

Governance & Stakeholder Mobilization (Scale of Engagement)

- Marine facade
- Natural site(s)
- River basin
- Coastal territory
- Fish. man. Area
- Maritime area
- Project scale

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HOW CAN I DO IT IN PRACTICE?

Tools can help addressing EBA

- ECOLOGICAL
- SCIENCE DISCIPLINE?
- SOCIO-ECONOMIC

- GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE
- CUMULATIVE IMPACTS ASSESSMENTS
- MENTAL MODEL
- COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS
- ECOSYSTEM SERVICES
- VALUATION TECHNIQUES
BEFORE JUMPING INTO THE (MARINE) WATER...

Read the practical guidelines co-developed in the context of the MSP & EBA study

An introduction to the **concepts and principles** that are key to an Ecosystem-Based Approach, stressing why EBA is important for MSP and the benefits it can deliver.

How the **EU regulatory framework** help, e.g. in the definition of (marine) environmental objectives, the assessment of economic activities and their pressures, or the design of your stakeholder process.

How to support EBA in each of the five **steps of the MSP process**, including by applying specific tools and methods that help understanding the functioning of the wire social-ecological marine system.
BEFORE JUMPING INTO THE (MARINE) WATER...

Other guidance can help

More insights can be found in the available literature, including other guidance documents that address MSP and EBA in MSP such as:

- UN Environment/MAP, Conceptual Framework for Marine Spatial Planning in the Mediterranean, 2018
- Pan Baltic Scope, EBA in MSP—a SEA inclusive handbook, 2019
- WWF, Guidance paper: Ecosystem based Maritime Spatial Planning in Europe and how to assess it, 2021

This is only a selection, there is much more “out there”!
BEFORE JUMPING INTO THE (MARINE) WATER...

Be inspired by EBA in practice

- Baltic Sea - Nature based solutions
- North Sea - Developing mental models to support integration
- Massachussets - Iterative planning and adaptive management
- Black Sea - Support from existing policies (WFD, MSFD, CFP...)
- Mediterranean Sea - Ecosystem service valuation
TIME TO START!

Ready to discover the challenges of sharing marine waters and space?

When embarking on this process, think...

- AMBITIOUSLY
- SYNERGIES
- ITERATIVELY
- BEYOND ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES
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Wishing you a safe EBA in MSP journey!