The Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning
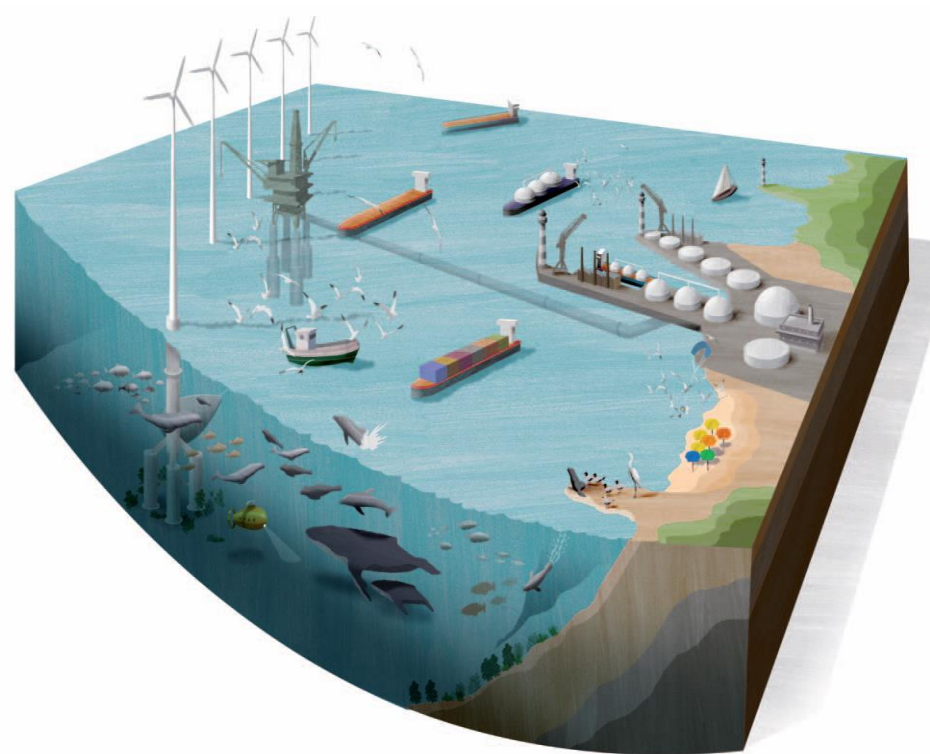
**Juan RONCO ZAPATERO
DG MARE, European Commission**

BONUS BALTICAPP regional workshop on the use of ecological–economic research to support and improve marine policy implementation in the Baltic Sea region

Stockholm, 29-30 March 2017

Why is MSP a priority for Europe?

✓ *Reduce conflicts on access to maritime space*

✓ *Reduce cumulative impact of maritime activities on the environment*

✓ *Reduce co-ordination costs for public authorities*

✓ *Improve certainty and predictability for private investments*

DIRECTIVES

DIRECTIVE 2014/89/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of 23 July 2014

establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Articles 43(2), 100(2), 192(1), and 194(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee [1],

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions [2],

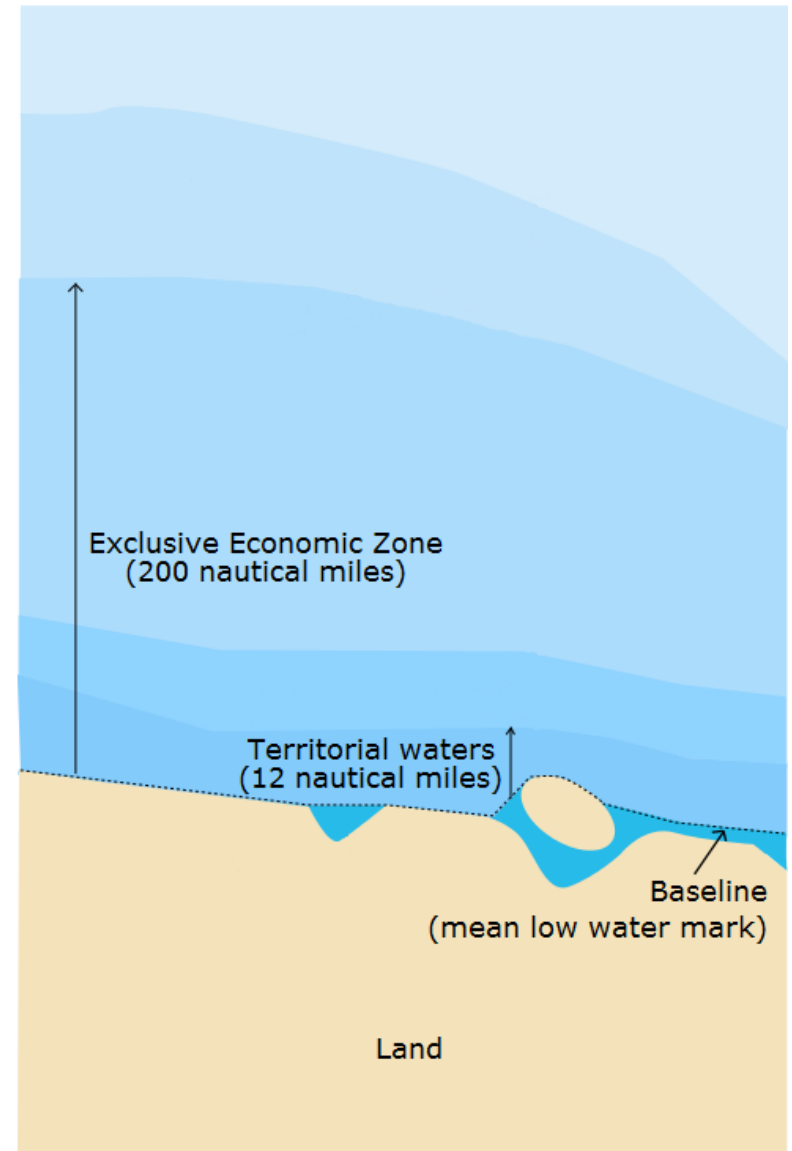Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure [3],

Timing

September 2014: Entry into force

2016: Transposition (process) and Designation Competent Authorities

2021: Establishment of plans in all marine waters of MS

Geographical coverage

MSP: Marine waters cover coastal waters, territorial sea and EEZ.

Exclusive Economic Zone
(200 nautical miles)

Territorial waters
(12 nautical miles)

Baseline
(mean low water mark)

Land

Maritime Affairs

Key requirements of the MSPD

1. Involve stakeholders
2. Develop cross-border cooperation
3. Apply an ecosystem-based approach
4. Use the best available data and share information
5. Take into account land-sea interaction
6. Promote the coexistence of activities
7. Review plans at least every 10 years

Maritime Affairs

MSP/MSFD Areas of joint interest

- More efficient & sustainable management of marine resources

  ✓ Ecosystem based approach

  ✓ "Land/sea interactions"

  ✓ Sound data for decision making

  ✓ Data exchange & management

  ✓ Engagement of stakeholders

  ✓ Cross-border cooperation

MSFD

WFD

MSP

European Commission

Maritime Affairs

MSP Directive
Implementation Support Strategy

- **Tools:**
  a. **expert group**
  b. **assistance mechanism**
  c. **funding projects**

- **Priorities:**
  - **capacity building**
  - **cross-border cooperation**

a. Member States Expert Group on MSP

- *Exchange of best practices and update on transposition/ implementation in each MS and at sea-basin scale*

- *Guidance on technical issues: (WP 2017)*
  - Ecosystem-based approach
  - Links between land planning and marine planning
  - Data collection, use of data and identification of knowledge gaps 2016
  - Mechanism for cross-border cooperation
  - Common approach to Third Country involvement
  - Cross-sectorial cooperation 2014/2015/2016 - continued
  - Best practices in monitoring
  - Public participation

Maritime Affairs

b. Assistance mechanism: EU MSP Platform

▪Technical support for Member States

- Disseminate practical information and gather best practices in a practical way: **Website Platform**
- **Focal Points** for the different Sea-basins to be able to answer Member States/NGOs/Industries' questions at short notice.

▪Studies (2017)

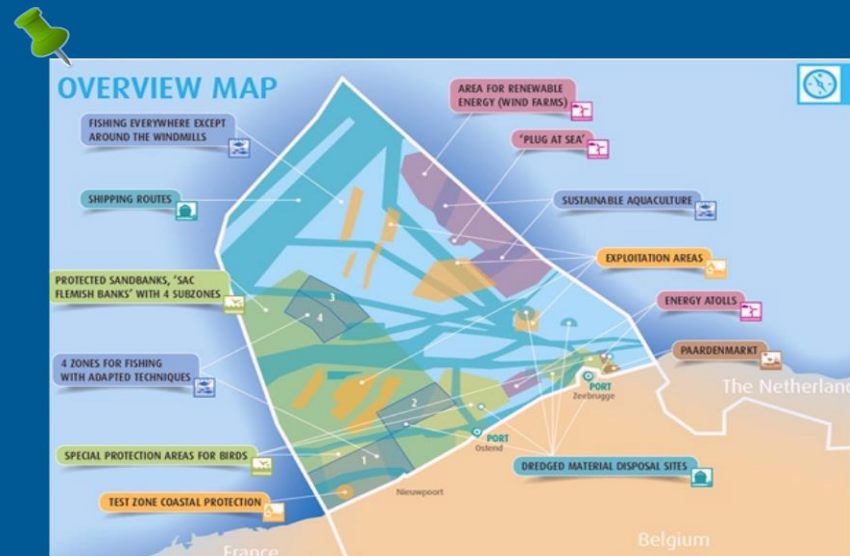- where a gap in knowledge has been identified by the Commission and the expert group. (MSP and Blue Growth)

•Workshops and Conferences

- June 2017(WS on Land Sea Interactions)
- October 2017 (MSP and Blue Growth)
- December 2017 (MSP cross border projects)

Maritime Affairs

c. Cross-border projects (EU)

Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)
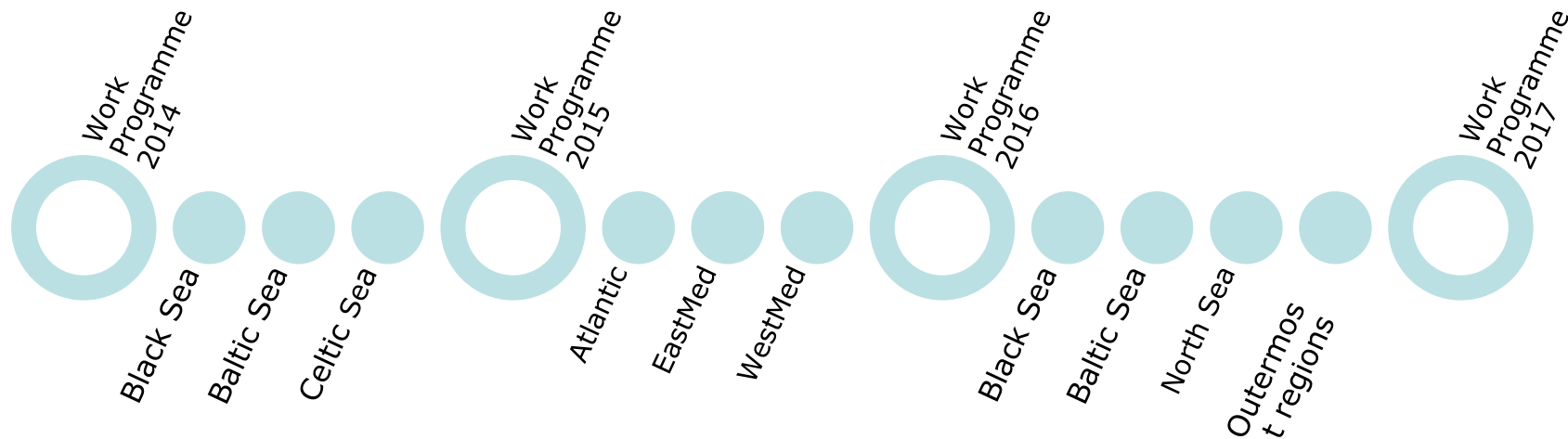
Cooperation projects

Assistance to MS to transpose directive

Priorities

- **Support the work of competent authorities** and/or inter-ministerial bodies in charge of developing and implementing maritime spatial plans; **Involvement of planning authorities** or bodies appointed to act on behalf of.

- **Develop a vision for the sea basin**: Use a scenario-based method which should allow identifying and evaluating future potential uses, needs and maritime spatial development options.

- Ensure an **effective engagement with and participation of stakeholders** in the design and implementation of MSP processes;

- Support the coherent **application of an ecosystem-based approach and the integration of land-sea interactions**;

- Develop, review and/or implement a monitoring and evaluation framework designed to ensure effective and sustainable use of maritime spaces;

- Make use of the best available data and information by encouraging sharing of information.

European Commission

MSP cross-border projects

- Work Programme 2014
  - Black Sea
  - Baltic Sea
  - Celtic Sea
- Work Programme 2015
  - Atlantic
  - EastMed
  - WestMed
- Work Programme 2016
  - Black Sea
  - Baltic Sea
  - North Sea
  - Outermost regions
- Work Programme 2017

MSP Plans established at the latest 31 March 2021

Maritime Affairs

MSP Data Study

- *"Evaluation of data and knowledge gaps to implement MSP"*

- **Commissioned by DG MARE to the EU MSP Platform**

- **Completed end 2016, to be published soon**

- **Key findings in three areas**

  1. **Data and information needs**
  2. **Transboundary exchange of data**
  3. **Role of pan-European initiatives**

MSP Data Study: data and information needs

… strongly depend on type of planning being carried out

… similarities

- **countries are trying to do similar things: stocktaking, conflict analysis, drawing up plan, planning for the future.**
- **each step needs different inputs and types of data / information.**
- **countries are confident with stocktaking and descriptive part of MSP status quo assessments.**
- **data categories currently used by MSP planners show many similarities.**
- **second generation plans tend to be more ambitious, focus on broader range of evidence.**

MSP Data Study: data and information needs

... differences

- scope of activities and sea uses, weight given to each sector in terms of diversity of data specified.

- level of importance given to data issues.

... need for socio-economic data to go into MSP

- data is badly compartmented, how to distinguish between terrestrial and marine data?

... socio-cultural information almost entirely lacking

- tools and guidance on how to practically factor in value of ecosystems

MSP Data Study: data and information needs

... linking MFSD and MSP data efforts

- makes sense to explicitly link MSP with MSFD
- ensures MSP is based on sound environmental evidence
- MSP can contribute to achieving objectives of MSFD
- basis for implementing Ecosystem Based Approach

... moving from descriptive to strategic evidence

- demand for actual data for MSP overestimated.
- building strategic evidence base.
- not what data but how to aggregate and interpret data

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MSP Data Study: data and information needs

... common information gaps

- analysis of commercial fisheries information ...
- cultural heritage and nature conservation ...
- recreation and tourism ...
- strategic assessment of cumulative effects
- co-existence for marine planning and marine licensing
- impact assessments and sustainability appraisals
- impact displacement of activities over time
- relationships between uses and ecosystems
- assessing cause and effect, accumulation of impacts, risks
- ecosystem service assessments
- implementing full ecosystem approach

MSP Data Study: data and information needs

...relevant ongoing projects / initiatives

- BaltCoast(2015 –2018)
- BaltSpace(2015 –2018)
- Baltic Scope (2015 –2017)
- BalticLINEs(2016 –2019)
- SmartSea(2016 –2021)
- VELMU Finland (2013 -...)
- SeaGIS(2015 –2018)
- HELCOM/VASAB MSP Data Group (2015 –2016 ...)

- NorthSEE(2016 –2019)
- SIMCelt(2016 –2017)
- SIMNorAt(2017 –2018)
- SNIMarProject (2016 -??)
- SIMWestMed(2017 –2018)
- RITMARE (2012 –2016)
- MARSPLAN (2015 –2017)
- EMODnetSea Basin Checkpoints (2015 –2017)

MSP Data Study: data and information needs

... need for spatial evaluation tools & exchange of practices

- **assessment, impact and conflict analysis**
- **spatial dimension of future trends**
- **future scenario planning**

... why are existing tools developed in projects not used?

- **not fit for purpose for 'real' MSP planners**
- **not known to MSP planners**
- **potential scope not communicated sufficiently**

MSP Data Study: transboundary data exchange

transboundary data needs are different to national MSP data needs

- **different scope**

- **coherence across boundaries, data harmonisation**

- **language issues, political agreement**

- **cooperation between local and regional interest groups, high level of trust**

MSP Data Study: transboundary data exchange

... relevant ongoing projects / initiatives

- **BalticLINEs(2016 –2019)**

- **NorthSEE(2016 –2019)**

- **SIMCelt(2016 –2017)**

- **SIMNorAt(2017 –2018)**

- **SIMWestMed(2017 –2018)**

- **Marsplan(2015 –2017)**

- **HELCOM/VASAB MSP Data Expert Sub Group (2015 –2016 ...)**

- **EMODnetSea Basin Checkpoints (2015 –2017)**

- **DCF (2008 -....)**

- **CISE (2014 –2017**

Maritime Affairs

MSP Data Study: pan-european initiatives

EMODnet Sea Basin Checkpoints

- **Fitness for purpose of existing marine services to solve particular commercial and policy challenges which are relevant to MSP data:**

  - **wind farm siting**

  - **marine protected areas**

  - **oil platform leak**

  - **climate and coastal protection**

  - **fisheries management**

  - **marine environmental management**

  - **river inputs to coastal environment**

  - **Data Adequacy Reports (DARs):**

    - **Mediterranean and North Sea –available**

    - **Baltic and Black Sea –in review**

    - **Atlantic –submission pending**

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MSP Data Study: pan-european initiatives

- **Most MSP data themes can be mapped directly onto INSPIRE data themes, but some exceptions:**

  - **Fishing; Renewable energies; Tourism; Ports; Spatial policy**
  - **Economic data not considered**

- **As MSP evolves, newer, more complex data categories will evolve which cannot be catered for within INSPIRE:**

  - **Promote exchange of knowledge between MSP and INSPIRE, e.g. similar to MSFD and INSPIRE through Marine Pilot project.**
  - **Add MSP themes to INSPIRE and/or expand definitions of INSPIRE data themes for MSP purposes?**
  - **INSPIRE isn't everything: consider complementary initiatives for transboundary spatial needs for MSP, e.g. EMODnet, DCF, CISE …**

Thank you for your attention

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More background information at:

http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/maritime_spatial_planning/index_en.htm

European Commission