

Dear participant, please consider these questions as discussion points for the research Workshop and for your group discussion on the 28th-29th of May. Working group1: A+ C/ Working group2: B+C.

A: Research needs for implementation of ecosystem based approach in MSP:

1. Which are major research priorities in your field of research that can support the ecosystem based approach?
2. Ecological connectivity has a spatial and temporal dimension. What tools/models can be applied to represent these dimensions? What indicators/values can be involved?
3. What additional methods/tools/models/ measurements are needed to improve evidence on habitats heterogeneity, connectivity, spatial distribution, etc...?
4. How do today's Nature Management and Conservation targets serve their purpose if we consider ongoing ecological changes. Are present MPA valid in 20 – 100 years' time? Are there new areas that should get special attention due to their importance or uniqueness? What tools/models are needed to address such issues?
5. Which tools/ methods in your research field can be used to monitor and evaluate effects of a Marine Spatial Plan?

B: Integration of socio-economic valuation of ecosystem services into MSP

1. Which are major research priorities in your field of research that can support the ecosystem based approach?
2. Ecosystem services (ES) may be quantified by using a variety of approaches. What are implications of using economic evaluation of ES for the management of marine areas? Could the understanding of space requirements change with the application of monetary indicators? How would they change?
3. What are existing tools/models that address changes in quality and quantity of ecosystem services provided by marine biodiversity? What indicators are involved?
4. Which tools/models/ frameworks are required to address user-user or user – environment conflicts in MSP? What indicators/ values should be involved? What role can socio – economic valuation of ES play in the conflict assessment?
5. Which tools/ methods in your research field can be used to monitor and evaluate effects of a Marine Spatial Plan?

C: Availability of research data for MSP purpose

1. What kind of databases do you use for data and information management in your field of research? How can they contribute to MSP? What are gaps of these information systems?
2. What can be the contribution of specific database of economic indicators of ES to MSP? How could this data be collected/aggregated and made available to decision makers?

D: Possible research synergies and development of cross-border MSP tool

1. Where do you see possible joined methodological synergies from models/tools /frameworks presented during the session of the 28th-29th?
2. Assuming you are involved in the development of a cross – border tool for MSP with the major aim to keep sea use management coherent in cross-border context. What could be major requirements of such a prototype tool? How can socio – economic valuation of ES serve for cross-border tool development?
3. Can you define any specific pilot site where a cross-border tool would be particularly suitable and why?