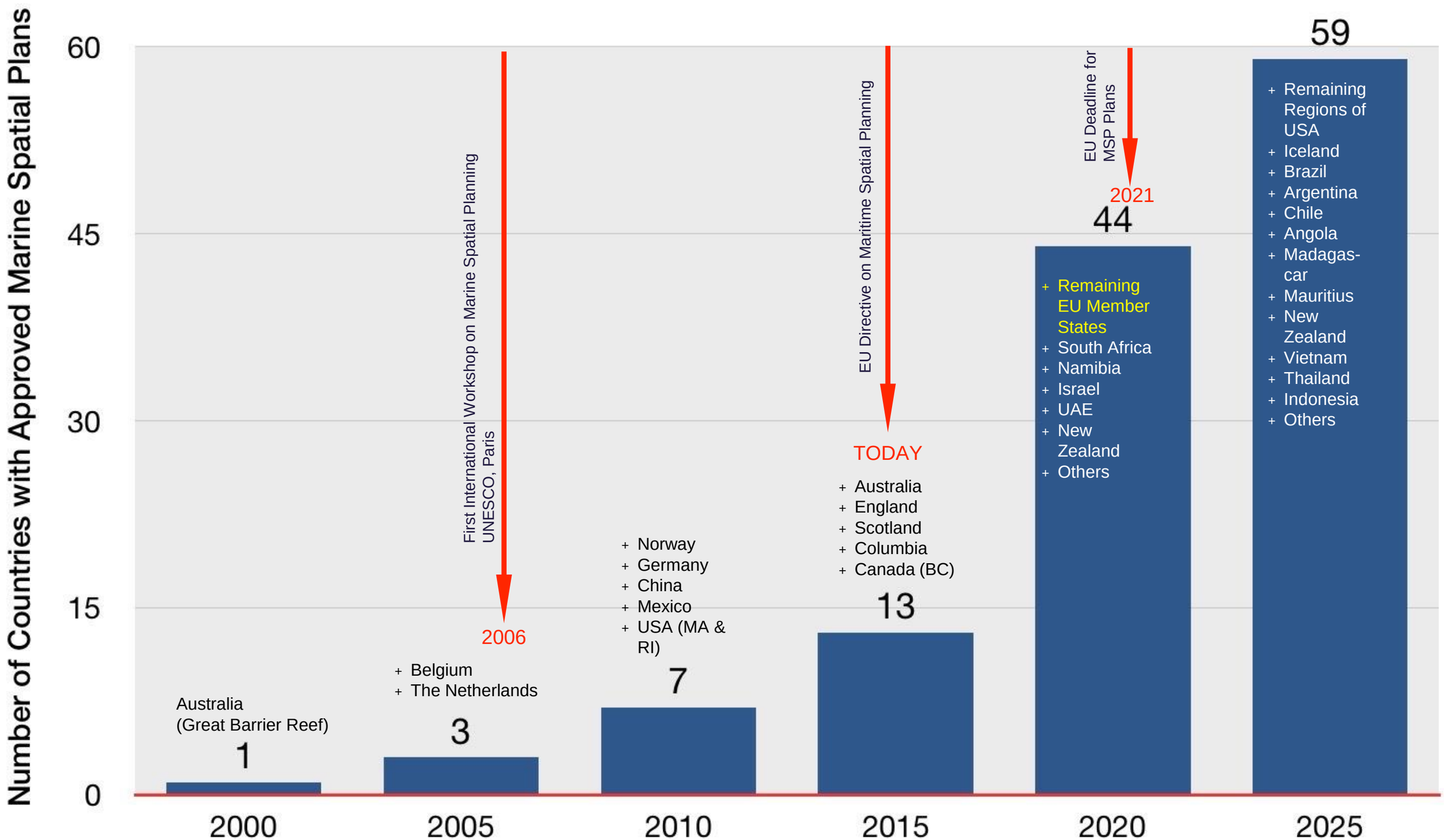
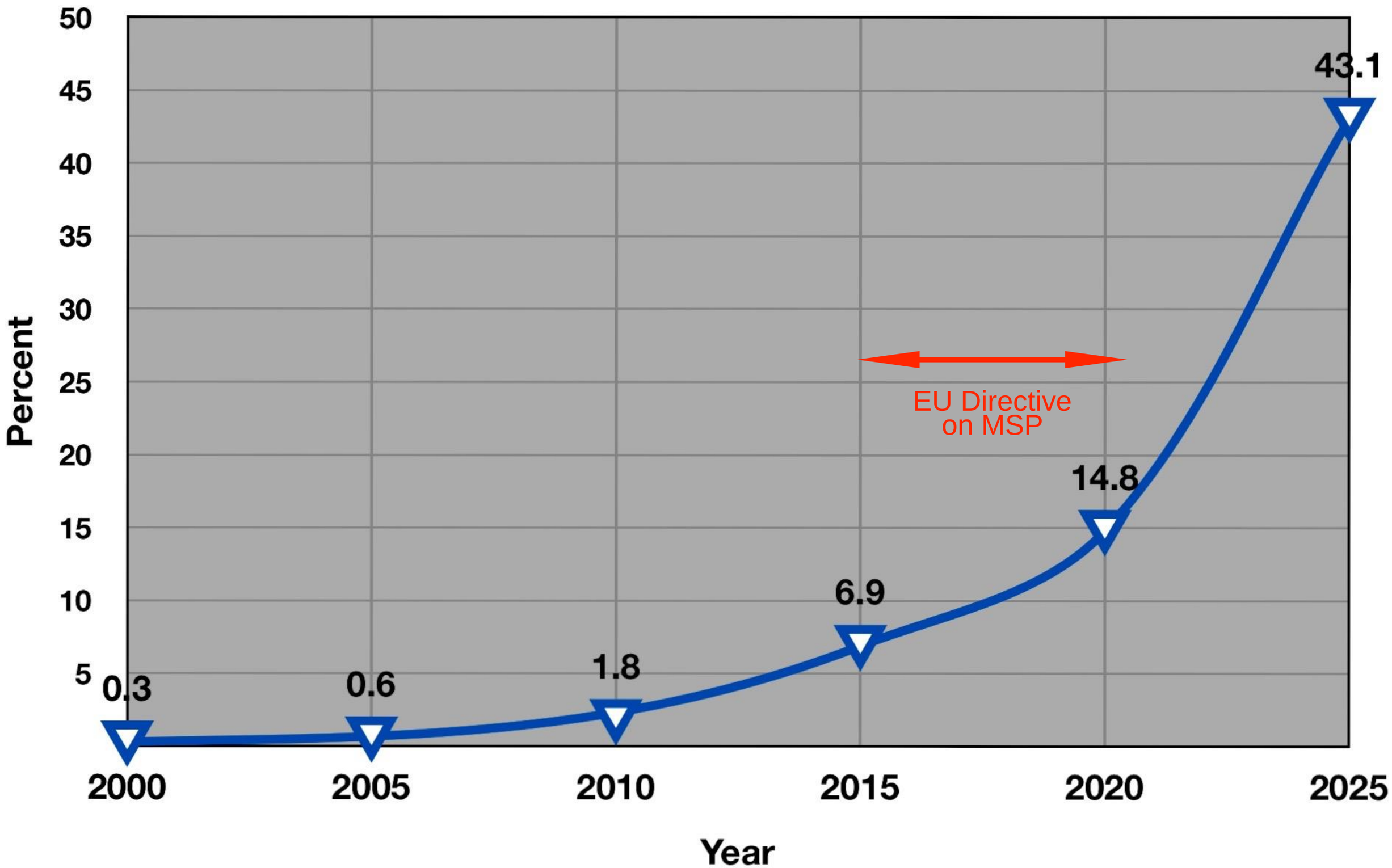
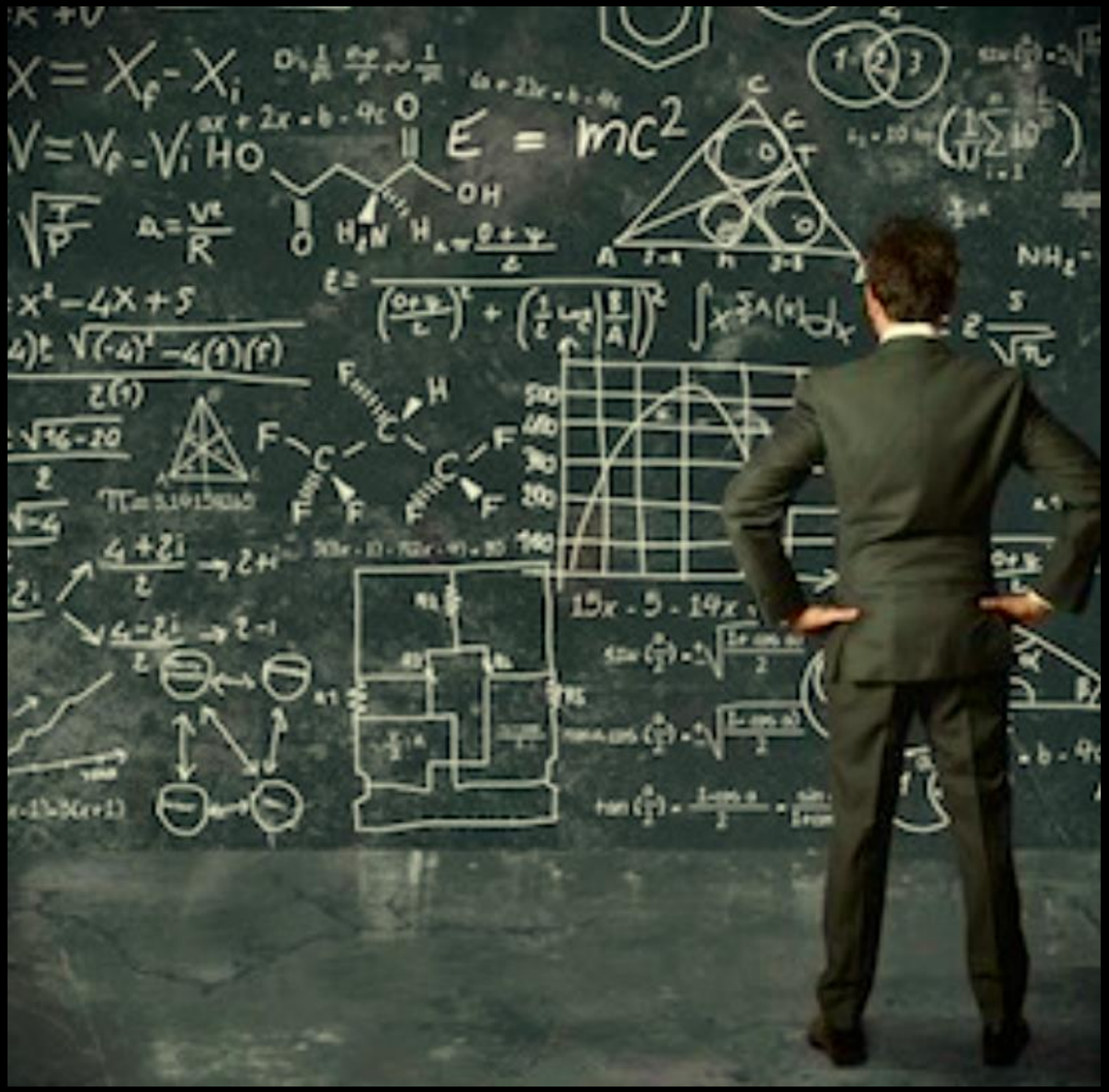
Number of Countries with Government-Approved Marine Spatial Plans



Percent of Area of World EEZs Covered by Approved Marine Spatial Plans



What Is Maritime Spatial Planning?



Maritime Spatial Planning

"…[A] process by which the relevant Member State's authorities analyse and organise human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic, and social objectives."

Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning, 2014

Marine Spatial Planning

"A public process of analysing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas to achieve social, economic, and ecological objectives that have been specified through a political process."

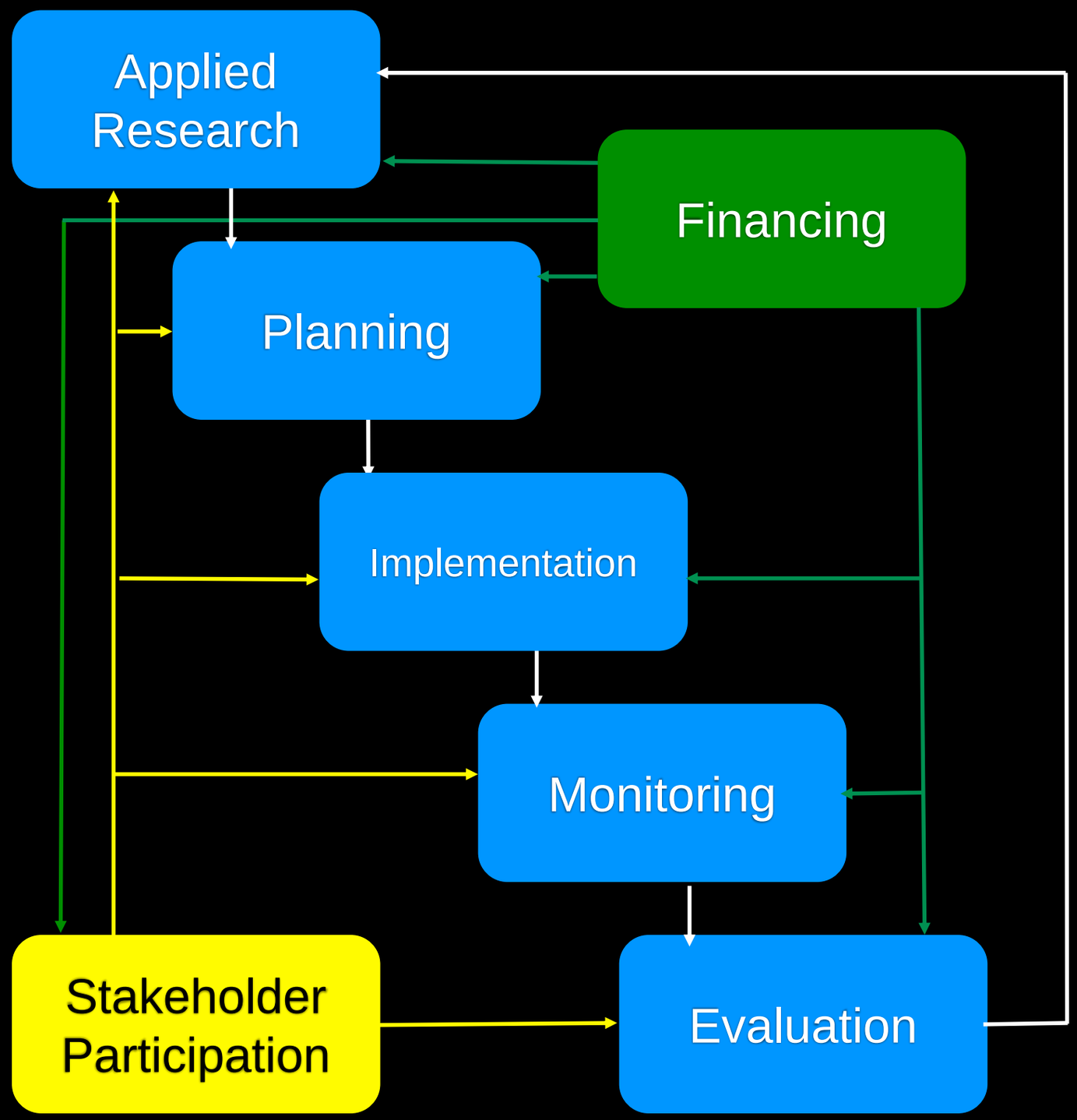
Visions for a Sea Change, 2007
(UNESCO's First International Workshop on MSP)

Maritime Spatial Planning Is **NOT**

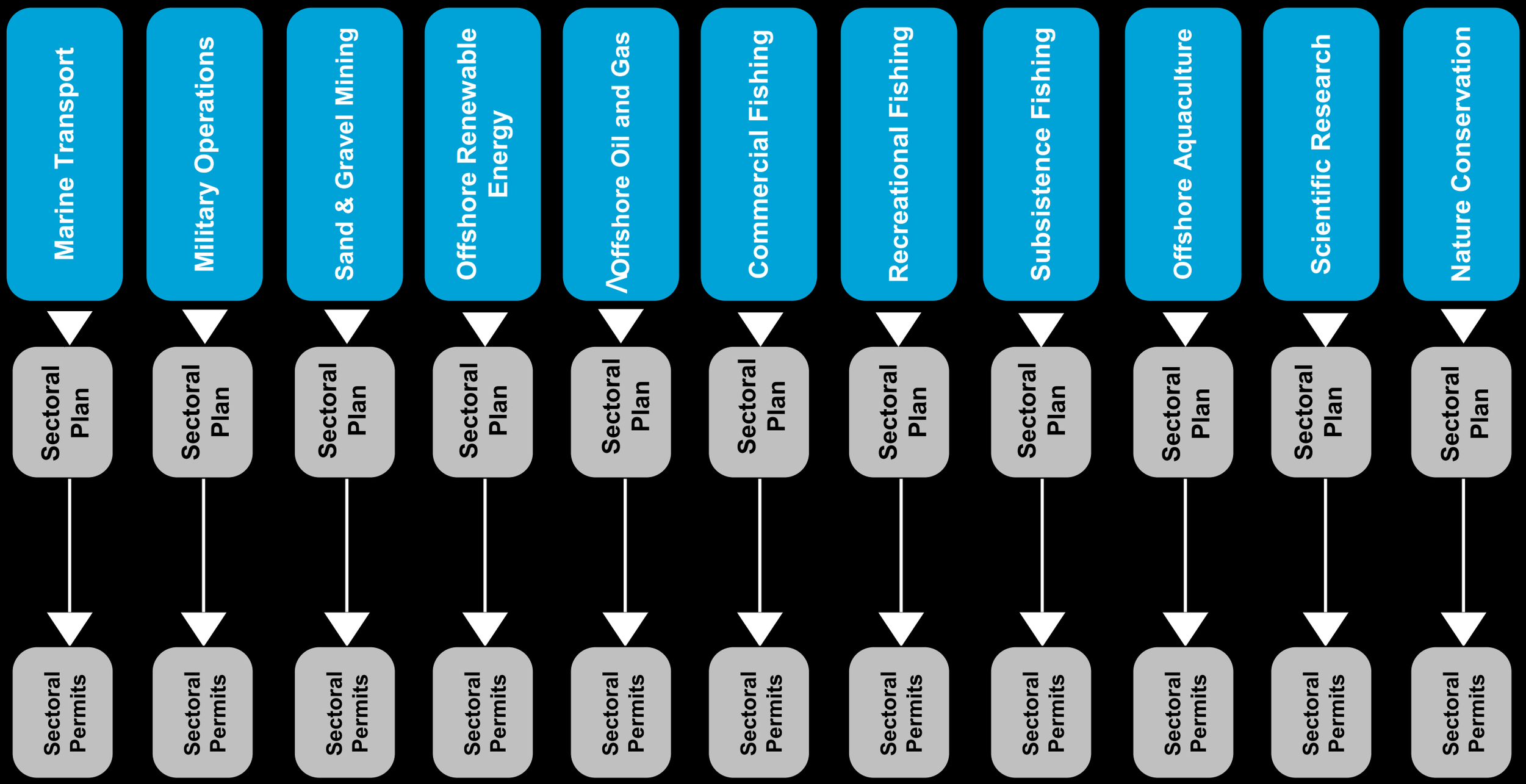
Marine Conservation Planning
Environmental Protection Planning
Economic Development Planning
Fisheries Management Planning
Cultural Heritage Planning
Tourism Planning
Offshore Energy Development Planning

MSP analyses and integrates the
spatial and temporal management actions
of single-sector plans into
one cross-sector comprehensive plan
for a marine area

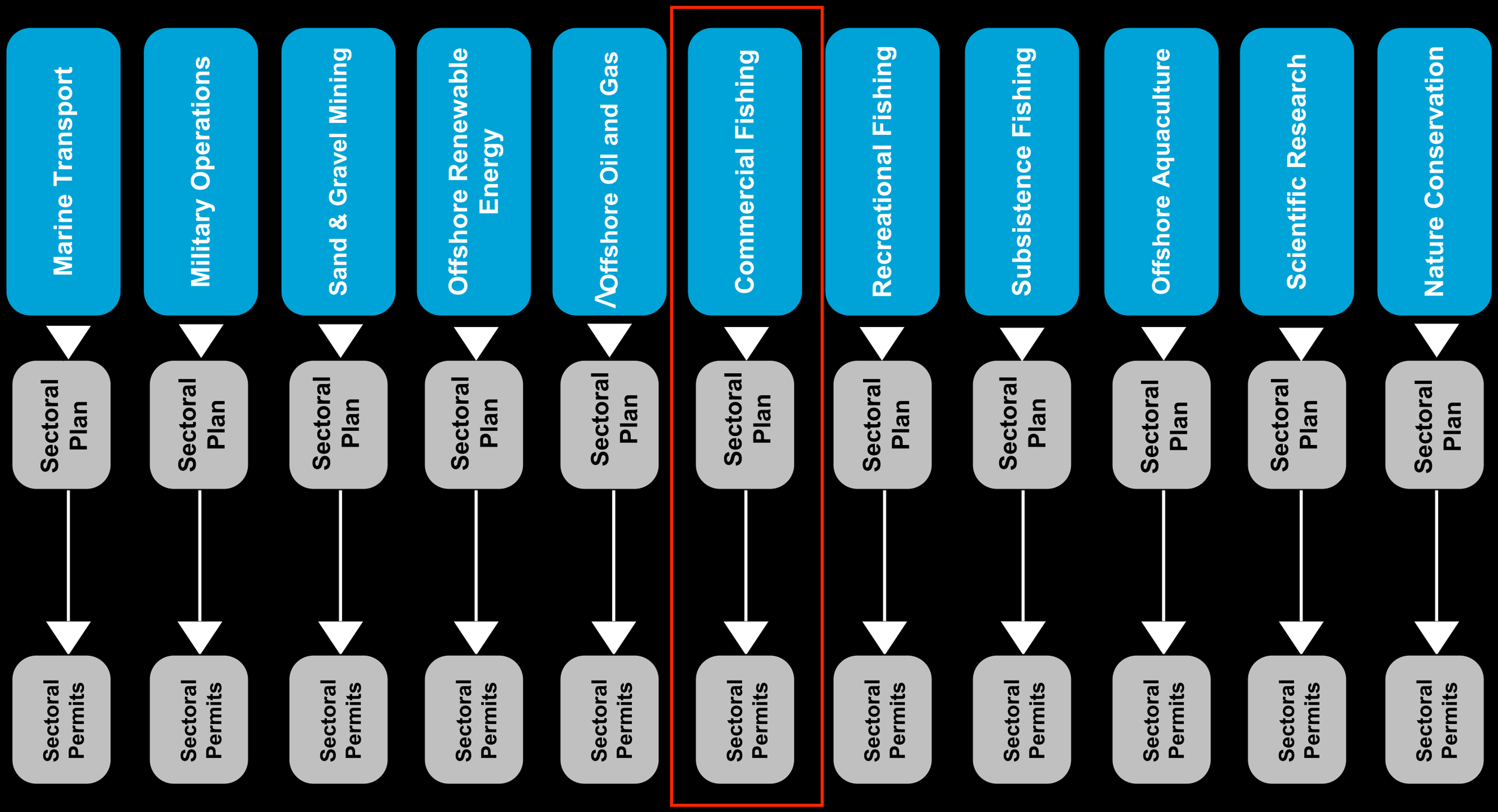
Not Only Planning



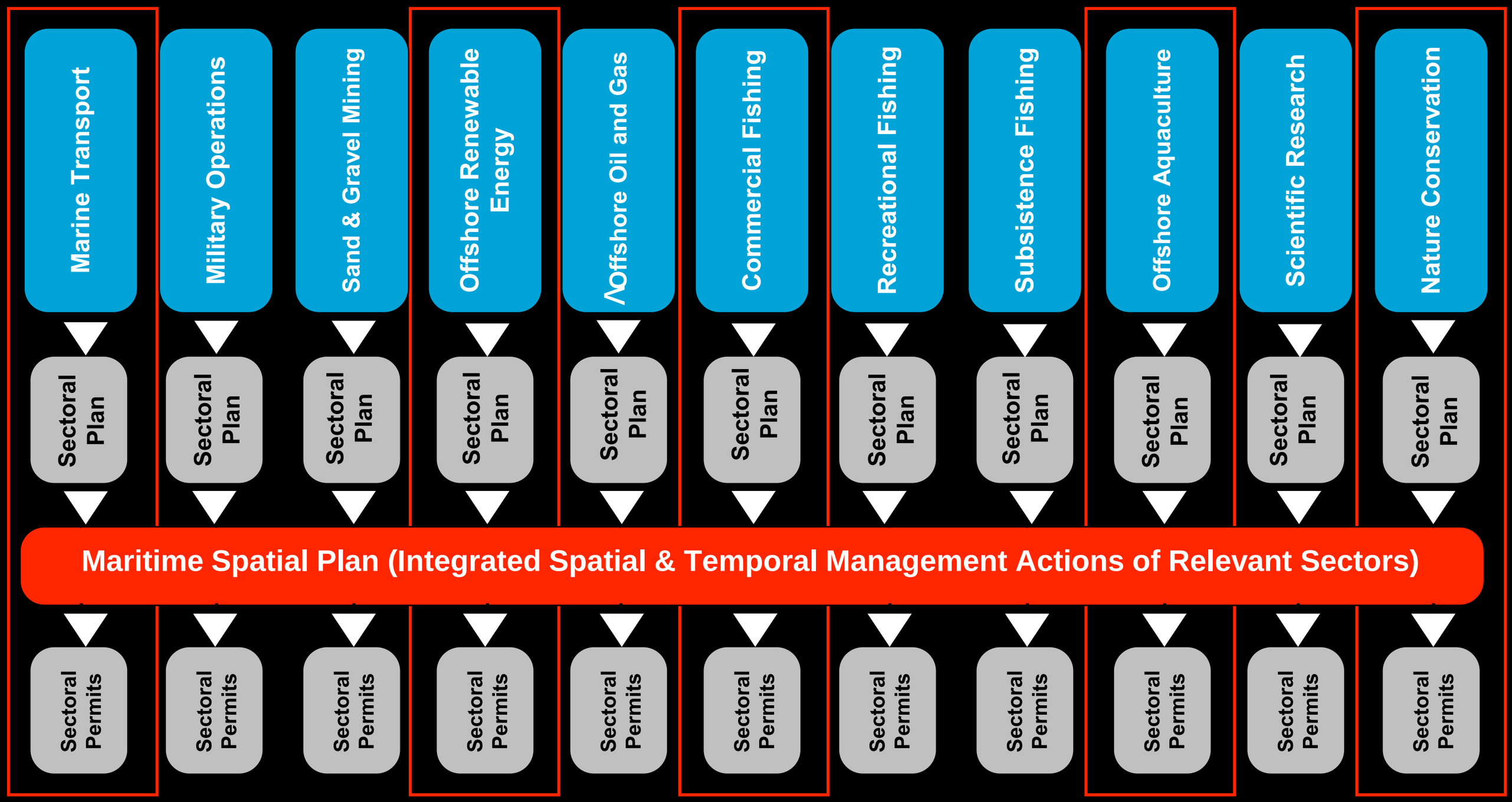
Single-Sector Maritime Planning



Single-Sector Maritime Planning



Multi-Sector Maritime Planning



Four Fundamental Questions of **Maritime Spatial Planning**

Where Are We Now?
Where Do We Want to Be?
How Do We Get There?
What Have We Accomplished?

Categories of **Management Actions**

INPUT ACTIONS: management actions that specify the ***inputs*** to human activities • *Limitations on fishing activity and capacity* • *Limitations on shipping vessel size or horsepower* • *Limitations on the amount of fertilizers and pesticides applied to agricultural lands*	**OUTPUT ACTIONS:** management actions that specify the ***outputs*** of human activities • *Limitations on the amount of pollutants discharged to the marine environment* • *Limitations on allowable catch and by-catch* • *Tonnage limitations on sand and gravel extraction*
PROCESS ACTIONS: management actions that specify the ***nature of the process*** of human activities • *Specification of fishing gear type, mesh size* • *Specification of "best available technology" or "best environmental practice"* • *Specification of level of waste treatment technology*	**SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL ACTIONS:** management actions that specify ***where and when human activities can occur*** • *Specification of areas closed to fishing or energy development* • *Designation of areas for specific uses, e.g., wind farms, military operations, sand and gravel extraction, waste disposal* • *Designation of marine protected areas*

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Clearly, MSP cannot do everything.
It cannot implement
all of the requirements of the
Marine Strategy Framework Directive

It can be used to integrate the
spatial and temporal management actions
of any Marine Strategy,
including the “program of measures”
required by the WSFD

It can be used to identify
spatial and temporal
conflicts and compatibilities
across human uses

It can be used to assess
cumulative effects
of multiple human uses

It can be used to begin
implementation of an
ecosystem approach

“I never said
it would be easy,
I only said
it would be worth it.”

May West
1993-1980
American actress, singer,
and playwright

Charles N. Ehler
President
Ocean Visions Consulting

Senior Consultant
Intergovernmental Oceanographic
Commission, UNESCO
Paris, France

Thank you

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