



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
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 Directorate D - Water, Marine Environment & Chemicals
ENV.D.2 - Marine environment & Water Industry

Joint EIONET and Member State Expert groups on Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management

11-12 September 2012
venue: European Environment Agency (EEA)
Kongens Nytorv 6, 1050, Copenhagen K, Denmark

11 September 2012

1. Opening and Introduction (13.00h)

• Aim of a joint meeting on MSP/ICZM

Trine Christiansen of EEA welcomed the participants at his combined meeting with representatives from the IMP sub-expert group on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), the expert group on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and the experts from the Environmental Information and Observation Network (EIONET). She briefly presented the EEA and Eionet.

Staffan Ekwall of DG Mare explained the overall objective of the meeting: to have a joint discussion on MSP and ICZM. What are they? How do they link? And what does this mean? The two expert groups have not met yet together. It is good to meet since there are a lot of commonalities and several differences which we hope to discuss these days.

Jeroen Casaer of DG ENV who co-chaired the day, mentioned that there is a post in DG ENV published on ICZM. A support contract for ICZM is currently in the tendering process.

2. MSP/ ICZM: connected tools

• Commission initiative on MSP/ICZM: State of Play

DG ENV and DG MARE are working on a common policy initiative for both tools (MSP and ICZM). The impact assessment is finalised and the proposal is being discussed at the administrative level with several options. The document should be ready before the end of 2012.

•Linking MSP/ICZM

- Land- sea interactions of marine and coastal activities
- Potential synergies by linking MSP/ICZM process tools
- Data sharing and management needs
- Other

A discussion paper, drafted by Leo De Vrees (ENV), had been circulated on the Land-Sea interactions in the context of MSP and ICZM and potential synergies by linking MSP /ICZM process tools. He introduced the paper which reflects on: How are ICZM and MSP physically linked together? How are the processes applied? This paper did not reflect on the possible role of the Commission or added value of a policy initiative at EU level. Three physical linkages are identified: 1) through connectivity; 2) through ecosystems; 3) through socio-economic relations.

In the process of applying ICZM and MSP some similarities can be seen: Both aim at an integrated decision and management approach, focus on sustainable development and use an ecosystem approach, use of a knowledge base and transparency in the process. There may be benefits in sharing these processes.

There are also differences between these tools: ICZM is integrated/cross sector management. It starts local and moves up and is often governed by local authorities. MSP focuses on spatial planning. It covers the sea (territorial sea and EEZ) and is most often governed by national authorities.

Discussion:

A vivid discussion started which touched upon many elements which are reflected in the discussion paper, which in short showed that there were a wide variety of views on how these policy tools were perceived:

Objectives/differences in scope: MSP is mainly on spatial planning while ICZM is broader and includes management, trying to link policies together which have an impact on the coastal zone. Land planning can but does not necessarily have to be part of ICZM. Both MSP and ICZM aim at integrated decision making.

It was recognized that indeed the **geographical scale** at which MSP is applied is much larger than ICZM. MSP would also lead to more international and transboundary cooperation.

Legal status/competent authority: It became very clear that the legal status of ICZM and MSP differ per Member State. Some MS highlighted that this was due to the fact that there was no common definition of these concepts. ICZM is applied in some MS in an informal and flexible manner to discuss issues which are relevant in a coastal zone without binding results, often in relation to a specific project. Two MS stated that this informal process can be of assistance when applying MSP. MSP with its result of a spatial map has in a number of MS a legal binding status. In some other countries, ICZM is the legal binding approach¹ while MSP is of less relevance, inter alia due to the fact that there is no EEZ established in the Mediterranean Sea.

It was suggested by one MS that there could be added value in developing an approach for **integrated sea management** at EU level in which the tools for sea and land could be applied, at choice by Member States. It was also recognized that the differences between ecosystems across Europe may result in different approaches. It would be essential to know the governance structure in the different MS for coasts and marine waters. Socio-economic aspects need more emphasis in a truly integrated decision making as they are less well covered than environmental aspects, which are assessed on the basis of EIA or SEA.

Others suggested that the need of MS will be much more on **exchange** of best practices, better arrange and deal with governance differences between ICZM and MSP, and the appliance of different funding mechanisms. Therefore some MS challenged the idea of having a legislative initiative by the Commission.

Comments made with regard to the role of the European Commission, the Commission underlined that the subsidiarity principle is of relevance and that the actual planning activities fall under the competence of MS. It is never the intention to interfere with the content of the planning process. The COM looks at the synergies and differences and, at this stage, no decisions have been made on the extent of combining ICZM and MSP.

Conclusions:

Although the application of MSP and IZM might differ, the processes applied within MSP and ICZM can be quite similar. According to the experts, the existing differences in status of MSP and ICZM between Member States and the differences in governance of those two processes may be challenging to overcome in a combined legislative initiative by the Commission. To avoid legal problems clarity is needed concerning the content, relation and the geographical scope of these two

¹ The ICZM Protocol has been ratified by the EU and therefor becomes binding to all EU mediterranean states.

processes. There would be more need to learn from the two processes in a more flexible manner and to develop best practices.

- **Green paper on Marine Knowledge: links with MSP/ICZM**

Iain Shepard of DG Mare presented the Green Paper on Marine Knowledge 2020. The public consultation on this paper started on 29 August and will last until December. 22. There are three phases identified: Phase 1 called Prototype (2009-2013), Phase 2 on low resolution data and information (2013-2016) Phase 3 with high resolution (2015-2020).

Discussion:

There were some questions raised on the ownership and the accessibility of the data which should be free to be used. There is indeed a need for less fragmented data. Already a Directive as INSPIRE aims at harmonizing data, but has to focus more on marine aspects.

There were some remarks made with regard to the level of detail of this and the dynamics/ updating of the data. How can this portal be used for MSP and ICZM purposes? Can this information really be used by the private sector or would they need much more detail. Will it be good enough to be used in licensing? Also the linkage to Regional Seas Conventions who already collect some of this data was questioned.

The Commission replied to these questions and concerns. It should be understood that this EMODNET will be a portal for making available the data and information which is provided by MS, projects, private sector. The delivery of data will be voluntary. The money is to cover the extra costs to make the information available. For MSP purposes EMODNET portal "human activities" could be very helpful.

3. Developments at Member State level/Projects

In this session, different projects are being presented.

- **Sustainability indicators for ICZM: Results of the Interreg IVC project SUSTAIN**

Patrycja Czerniak of EUCC presented the project. This project provides a scoring of sustainability indicators for local and regional authorities, which offers a process and method to evaluate authorities' sustainability performance for the purpose of improving the sustainable development and management of coastal zones. The indicators are used which represent four pillars of sustainability: governance, economics, environmental quality and social well-being. The data for the core and optional indicators is fed into a policy tool, DeCyDe-for-Sustainability. This user-friendly tool allows the indicators to be scored numerically, leading to a single numerical value being attributed to the sustainability indicator set to support the self-assessment and to determine whether an Authority is moving towards a sustainable end-point. It can be used to monitor progress in sustainability effort, but not for comparison between regions (unless the same set of indicators is used). With this tool, decision makers can predict how the existing situation can be changed, evaluate and assess a large range of actions within different policy options. Collecting the relevant data for each indicator is essential, however, the lack of data is minimised since the developed policy tool is flexible and robust enough to cope with less-than-perfect or absent data. It provides an important management tool that ensures that integrated management of Europe's coastal areas will be sustainable in a long term.

Poland suggested having a more detailed discussion in a next meeting on these sustainability indicators.

- **Protocol on ICZM in the Mediterranean: Progress and timelines**

Zeljka Skaricic of PAP/RAC, the topic centre in the Mediterranean on ICZM presented the ICZM protocol which was signed in January 2008. It was ratified by 7 Mediterranean countries and two more countries are expected to sign it soon. It entered into force per March 2011. The Action Plan for the implementation of the protocol in 2012 – 2019 was adopted by the Barcelona Convention Conference of Parties last February.

The action plan has three main objectives: (i) support the implementation of ICZM at multi levels of governance, (ii) strengthen the capacity of authorities, and (iii) promote ICZM within authorities and regions. 25th September is the annual Coast Day in the Mediterranean Sea.

A website has been developed via the Pegaso project:

http://www.pegasoproject.eu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2&Itemid=5

- **ICES activities related to MSP**

Eugene Nixon presented for ICES an overview of their MSP activities. There was a joint HELCOM/VASAB, OSPAR, ICES workshop on MSP. MSP workshops have improved the outcomes because of group participation which allowed for free discussion of issues. There are a set of habitats and pressure maps, which have been produced and are available, see <http://geo.ices.dk>. Next week 17 – 21 September is the Annual Science conference in Bergen. The working group on MSP and ICZM will meet 8-12 April 2013.

- **Pegaso project**

Francoise Breton presented the Pegaso project, which aims to support ICZM in Mediterranean and the Black Seas, as well as help bridge the gap between science and decision making.

Discussion

EEA (Trine Christiansen) reflected that the ICZM and MSP communities (interested groups) are very different than that of the MSFD who are working on defining Good Environmental Status. This GES definition will be used as a new definition of sustainability. There is the potential that new input can come from MS representatives' MSFD colleagues through increased interaction, and that this could support MSP and ICZM.

12 September 2012

The day started with an opening address by Professor McGlade, Executive Director of EEA

4. Draft Coastal report

- **EEA draft Coastal Report: presentation + discussion**

Two presentations on the EEA 2012 Coastal Report by Andrus Meiner and Johnny Reker.

Andrus Meiner of the EEA presented the concept of the 2012 Coastal Report. The goal of the report is to support policy such as ICZM and MSP, and link to climate change adaptation. The report is covering all policies in the coastal area. It follows the ecosystem approach and the principles of ICZM. It is an update and further development of the 2006 EEA Coastal report. It follows the concept of the EEA integrated spatial assessment platform and the DPSIR framework. In the report, chapter three on state, pressures and impacts is the main part of the report. The ecosystem assessment includes cumulative pressures, accounting and vulnerability. There is a need for a cross-cutting approach and for spatial information.

There will be an online review of the coastal report. Access will be provided to the two expert networks as well via EIONET.

Johnny Reker of the EEA presented the draft results of the report. The storyline of the report focuses on two aspects: the changing state of the environment (ecosystem services) and increasing human activities. Since the human population has increased so much, anthropogenic uses of and impact on the marine and coastal ecosystems have become very prominent. The report is covering the regions of the MSFD, but also some other areas (e.g. the Barents Sea). The Blue Growth initiative from the Commission is an engine to drive growth. However, the challenge is to balance priorities within the context of the MSFD: protecting ecosystem services and supporting socio-economic growth

Discussion:

There is clearly a need for an integrated approach but social issues (e.g. employment) in coastal areas are not well addresses because the information is not available (only in some studies). Also in the framework of the MSFD this kind of data is requested but not yet available.

The assessment of the policies is not the task of this report. Policy makers should find answers, triggered by the findings of this report. And this will be a dynamic process. We also understand that further economic development of maritime and coastal areas will take place. MSP and ICZM can take a role in this, but may not solve all problems.

Some detailed question with regard to the level of detail of the analysis were raised by MS and answered by the EEA.

With regard to the concern that there is overlap between what ICES, HELCOM or EEA is doing, the EEA said that it uses the SEIS principle to collect data once and use many times. EEA tries to collaborate with other bodies such as Regional sea conventions and Ices on issues of common interest. Examples are indicators on nutrients and chlorophyll, where the EEA is using the same data as OSPAR and HELCOM. EEA is engaged in the EMODNET, since the portals will provide the data to all organisations. ICES is part of the ETC ICM and EEA has collaboration with the regional sea conventions. But it was also recognized that organizations tackle things sometimes in slightly different ways for many different issues.

Finally, it was stated that the report can help MS in their MSFD initial assessments (when in time).

5. Climate Change adaptation in coastal and marine regions

• Climate-adapt webplatform: presentation

Stephane Isoard of the EEA presented the Climate-ADAPT platform (<http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu>): It's a web platform showing, what countries are doing on climate adaptation and what is going on at European level. It is developed as a European Commission initiative and launched in March. EEA is hosting and maintaining the platform.

Discussion:

The EUCC pointed out that there are the relevant results of the Interreg IVB project IMCORE with its plan to adapt to coastal climate change on the website www.coastaladaptation.eu, which could be included/linked. It became clear from the discussion that the platform does identify knowledge gaps but that no prioritization is made.

Stephane Isoard (EEA) also briefly presented two EEA reports on climate change, impacts and vulnerability. The reports will be published in November 2012 and early in 2013.

- The 2012 report is presenting 40 indicators. The Eionet review is just concluded with 500 comments received. Focus on physical impacts and societal vulnerability.
- The 2013 report is EEA' Adaptation in Europe', focussing on the policy response. Eionet review will be in mid-October. Publication in January.

• Coastal and marine adaptation to Climate Change: main challenges

Cornelia Jäger of DG CLIMA, Adaptation unit presented the European Climate Adaptation Strategy. In 2009 the Commission adapted the White paper on adaptation. The aim of the strategy is to make Europe more resilient to climate change at lowest costs.. There will be a communication on the EU Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change including a set of guidelines and standards. The Strategy will be framed around four objectives: (i) information gathering, (ii) facilitation and cooperation, (iii) mainstreaming, and (iv) public and private action and focus amongst other sectors on coastal zones, urban areas and mountains.

Thomas Dworak, consultant for DG CLIMA, presented on the feedback from participants to a questionnaire of adaptation in the coastal zone, for example a general request to include cross border issues or good practice coastal adaptation strategies in an EU guidance document as well as to receive financial support to carry out coastal erosion monitoring, research and share gathered knowledge. The project has received twelve replies so far and there is still a chance to answer.

6. Commission activities on MSP/ICZM (studies/projects)

• Contract on sharing of best practices on ICZM in a context of climate change

The contractor will make an inventory of all policies in place for ICZM etc. based on questionnaire, expert group is contact points.

- **Ourcoast: final outcomes and follow up.**

The report was distributed

- **Project on MSP in the Atlantic, including Celtic Sea and Bay of Biscay**

A consortium has been selected for the project (MSP in Atlantic). There will be another call for proposal in the Mediterranean sometime before the end of the year.

- **MSP workshops on best practices**

There will tentatively be two workshops on MSP in 2013, one in June and one in December. These will be discussed at the next meeting. Suggestions for topics on the agenda are welcome.

It was suggested to discuss the evaluation of the MSP projects MASPNOSE and PlanBotnia. It was also stated that if there is a combined proposal by the Commission, it would be better to meet together with the two communities.

The Commission plans a next meeting of the MSP expert group to be held towards the end of November.

7. Integration of MSP/ICZM

- **Discussion on need for and best ways to integrate MSP/ICZM processes**

Presentation by SE, Sten Jerdenius on PLAN BOTHNIA. The project conducted a pilot study to test MSP in the Bothnian Sea, between Sweden and Finland.

Oral presentation from BE: BE provided the state of play or current status. MSP has a legal status now, ICZM not, though there are some links and the land - sea interaction is taken into account. Currently they are having a broad consultation with stakeholders, and informally consulting neighbors. A formal domestic and transboundary consultation will follow, by applying the SEA regulation as well as by a social-economic survey.

Presentation by NL, Wim de Vries on the Delta Programme. The overall programme and coastal programme is about coastal defence, climate change, and integration of sectors and neighbouring countries. 59% of the NL is at risk of being flooded by sea or river. There are linkages between the coastal strategy and MSP, for instance in the locations where sand is reserved for coastal defence.

Oral presentation by DE, Nico Nolte on a Baltic Sea Region Programme INTERREG IVB project BaltSeaPlan) dealing with MSP in the Baltic Sea (www.baltseaplan.eu). There are already 30 reports from this project published (e.g. Draft maritime spatial plans for Baltic Sea areas, including transboundary areas, technical reports for data exchange and MSP, and for integrating fisheries into MSP).

Oral presentation by PL on the recently approved INTERREG IVB project PartiSEApate on multi-level governance in MSP in the Baltic sea. There will be a focus on transnational MSPs. The objective is to test how MSP will work with agencies responsible for MSP and develop a roadmap for the spatial vision of the Baltic. Project has just started. It is also linked to Helcom and Vasab.

- **Discussion of role of the maritime Eionet NRC in context of the MSP/ICZM process**

Trine Christiansen (EEA): Reflected how a normal Eionet meeting would be held: more data discussion and less policy debate. The next workshop will be in 2013. She asked the Eionet members how should that workshop take place and whether such a joint meeting provides added value to Eionet members in regard to work to be done at home, in the context of the MSFD.

Discussion:

A joint meeting of the different expert groups would facilitate the communication between scientists and policy makers although it is recognized that EIONET does not have a mandate to discuss policies.

8. Conclusions and next meeting

At the concluding session, questions were raised with regard to the differences applied on MSP and ICZM between the different regions. Which differences we should explore further? And if there are linkages between MSP and ICZM, what are the main bottlenecks and how to overcome those? Finally, what do we do with overlapping areas between marine and coast?

In the discussion, the COM suggested that discussion should focus on the good things of both processes and to assess what we agree on like the differences in status, scope, subsidiarity, etc.

Several Member States expressed that they are already busy implementing obligations such as N2000, WFD, MSFD, Climate change adaptation and that they already in that work use the same kind of the principles, tools and guidelines which are recommended for MSP and ICZM. What tool or guideline is used depends on the type of problems which is being addressed. It was suggested that it would be more useful if the COM focus on developing guidelines for harmonizing the involvement of the different sectors, while recognizing the differences between regions. Also exchange of best practices could be of help to MS. An inventory of the status of the sea in the different regions is needed and could be discussed in a next meeting. The main question should not be: who is in the lead, but how to cooperate. So, there is enough food for thought and discussion for more joint meetings.

Next meetings

The MSP group needs to meet 3-4 times per year because of the number of subjects to address. The next meeting will be in November in Brussels.

The next ICZM group meeting will probably be beginning of 2013. The Commission will propose a date for a joint meeting, for instance close to the date that the initiative by the Commission is available.

The EEA is thanked for hosting the meeting.

Presentations:

All presentations presented in the meeting can be consulted via following link:

<http://forum.eionet.europa.eu/nrc-maritime-national-reference-centres-maritime/library/maritime-eionet-workshop-september-11-12-2012>