The Mandate of the Regional Seas Conventions versus the Neutrality of MSP

Maritime Spatial Planning Stakeholder Conference Series

5. MSP and the Marine Environment

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Four Legally binding Conventions

• **Black Sea**: prevent, reduce and control pollution, consistent with international law.

• **Mediterranean**: promote sustainable development, protect the environment, conserve and preserve natural resources, without prejudice to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

• **Baltic Sea**: prevent and eliminate pollution in order to promote the ecological restoration, without prejudice to the Law of the Sea.

• **OSPAR**: prevent and eliminate pollution, protect maritime area against adverse effects of human activities, consistent with international law.
Maritime Spatial Planning Directive 2014/89/EU

……..aimed at promoting the sustainable growth of maritime economies, sustainable development of marine areas, sustainable use of marine resources

……..shall consider economic, social and environmental aspects to support sustainable development and growth in the maritime sector, applying an ecosystem-based approach, and to promote the coexistence of relevant activities and uses.

……..shall not affect the sovereign rights and jurisdiction derive from relevant international law, particularly Unclos.
Neutrality?

Sustainable Development
Ecosystem-based approach
Use of best available data sharing of information
Land-sea interactions?

Environmental protection and conservation
Contribute to preservation, protection and improvement of the environment
Sustainable growth maritime economies
Sustainable use of marine resources
Coexistence
Organise human activities
Example - Fishing Effort

Total kW-fishinghours/km² 2012
High: 98030.7
Low: >0
Environmental Scientist? Can GES be maintained / achieved

Planner? Is there potential to improve youth unemployment.
USE THE RIGHT TOOL FOR THE RIGHT JOB
Irish Continental Shelf Flipped