



Update on Maritime Spatial Planning

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*Xavier GUILLOU
Maritime spatial planning and
marine renewable energy
European Commission – DG MARE*

Maritime Spatial Planning : Directive (2014/89/EU), 20 plans adopted out of 22



EU support: 30 regional and cross-border **projects** – EUR 40+ million (EMFAF)

MS experts group, knowledge sharing: [EU MSP platform](#) – European Blue Forum for sea users –
Compendium of multiple uses at sea, international cooperation with IOC UNESCO

Ocean Pact and MSP: 30% marine protected areas by 2030, 88 GW offshore wind, co-existence with fishing

MSP related policy and initiatives in the Mediterranean Sea

- Ocean Pact
- Seabasin strategies
- Regional Sea Convention (Barcelona Convention)

MED MSP Community of Practices
(+100 members)

MEDIGREEN project (focus on
fisheries, aquaculture, offshore
renewables, nature conservation)

Offshore Coalition for Energy and
Nature (Med OCEaN)



The European Ocean Pact

The European Union is an Ocean Union

EU: the world's largest collective maritime area



25 million km²

Exclusive Economic Zone

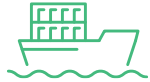


40% of EU population living within **50 km of the sea**

EU critical interests in maritime matters



70 000 km
coastline



Maritime routes carry **74%** of the EU's external trade



Undersea cables for **99%** of inter-continental internet traffic

EU blue economy powerhouse



5 million jobs



€250 billion in Gross Value Added



Traditional, new and emerging sectors



Restorative and regenerative practices

Triple planetary crisis impact on the ocean



Biodiversity loss



Climate change



Pollution

Six priorities

- 1 Ocean health
- 2 Blue economy
- 3 Coastal communities
- 4 Research and innovation
- 5 Maritime security
- 6 EU ocean diplomacy

A vibrant underwater scene featuring a diverse coral reef. In the foreground, there are large, branching corals in shades of red, orange, and yellow. Numerous small, silvery fish are swimming in the clear blue water above the reef. The background is a deep blue, suggesting the open ocean.

1

Protecting and restoring ocean health

- Revision of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive
- European blue carbon reserves
- Encourage Member States in designation and management of marine protected areas



2

Boosting sustainable competitiveness of the blue economy

- Industrial Maritime and EU Ports Strategies
- Sustainable Tourism Strategy
- Evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy
- Vision for Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Blue Generational Renewal Strategy



3

Supporting coastal, island communities and outermost regions

- Coastal Communities Development and Resilience Strategy
- Consultation on a New Strategy for EU Islands
- Updated strategy for outermost regions



4

Advancing ocean research, knowledge, skills and innovation

- EU Ocean Observation Initiative
- Operationalisation of the European Digital Twin Ocean by 2030 as contribution to the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainability
- European Ocean Research & Innovation Strategy
- Establish an EU Ocean Youth and Intergenerational Ambassador Network





5

Enhancing maritime security and defence as a prerequisite

- Unexploded Ordnance : Strategy for cutting-edge detection and disposal technologies
- Enhancing cooperation in the Arctic
- Pilot program for a European unmanned drone fleet for real-time monitoring of maritime activities.
- Maritime cooperation in upcoming new Strategic and Comprehensive Partnerships with partner countries in North-Africa and the Middle East



Strengthening EU ocean diplomacy and international rules-based governance.

- Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) : Swift ratification and implementation; EUR40 million contribution to the Global Ocean Programme
- Piloting of an International Platform for Ocean Sustainability (IPOS)
- Championing protected zones in Southern Ocean
- World Trade Organisation - Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies: Entry into force and implementation
- Mandatory use of the digitalised EU catch certification scheme from January 2026 (IT CATCH)
- Strategic approach to EU fisheries external action



Guiding principles for implementation

**Source-to-sea
approach**

**Precautionary
principle**

**Ecosystem
based
approach**

**Best available
scientific
advice**

Strengthened Governance Framework

- 1 Ocean Act:** by 2026 that will build on a revision of the MSP Directive
Ocean Board: stakeholders supporting the Commission in implementation
Ocean Pact dashboard: to monitor and report progress
- 2 Working together at regional level**
- 3 Financial support**

Next on maritime spatial planning

Implementation dialogue with EU Commissioner KADIS on 1 July

Report on the implementation of the MSP Directive in 2026

Seabasin cooperation: North Sea (GNSBI), Baltic, Mediterranean sea and Atlantic: political initiatives and projects

On-going revision by EU member States and public consultation: NL, FR, SP...

Need to coordinate objectives for 2030 and beyond: nature conservation and restoration, offshore renewables including grid, co-existence, maritime security

Revision of legislation => application of better regulation principles on evaluation, impact assessment, public consultation