

Spatial planning of a moving target

Marine Spatial Planning and adaptation to climate change

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Outline

- Marine Spatial Planning
- Moving target for MSP
- Approaches for 'climate proofing' of MSP
- Soft or hard law?

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)

- An emerging approach
 - UN
 - EU – directive or recommendation?
 - Baltic Sea – HELCOM/VASAB working group
 - National initiatives
- Aims
 - To protect marine environments (ecosystem approach)
 - To enhance ‘marine economies’ (Blue Growth)
 - Integrated planning
 - Coordination
 - Conflict resolution
 - Predictability
 - Mentioned as a tool for adapting to the climate change



Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)

- Strategic plan for developing (and protecting) a marine area
- Zoning of marine space
 - a map



Moving target for MSP

- MARISPLAN - Marine Spatial Planning in a Changing Climate
- Changes in the Baltic Sea
 - Increase of nutrient concentrations
 - Decrease in salinity
 - Rise of water temperature
 - Rise of sea level→ Moving environment for the spatial plans
- Changing uses of marine space
 - Increasing shipping
 - Increasing tourism
 - Energy production
 - New ones?→ Changing contents for the spatial plans

Approaches for 'climate proofing' of MSP

- Adaptation planning
 - Starting point: the harms (and benefits) brought by the CC
- 'Adaptation tipping points' (Kwadijk et al. 2010)
 - Starting point: the policy goals
 - "How much climate change can we cope with?"
 - Boundary conditions for achieving the stated policy goals
 - Possible paths beyond failing points of the current strategies
 - For MSP context:
 - "How much [other developments] can we cope with?"
 - Towards robust strategies

Soft or hard law?

- To what extent should MSP and Climate Change Adaptation be formalised?
 - A directive for MSP?
 - A strategy for adaptation in the making at EU level, some national climate laws include general provisions for adaptation
- Lessons from adaptive management:
 - Need to deal with uncertainty
 - Learning processes are essential
 - Scale and context matter
- ➔ Suggests need for flexible legal solutions encouraging experimentation and exploration;
- ➔ Caveat: completely voluntary solutions may lead to haphazard progress (cf ICZM recommendation of the EU), which may be good for an exploratory phase, but cannot deliver general solution to adaptation in marine systems.