Fisheries as integral part of MSP – first steps

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Towards Fisheries as integral part of MSP

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Is fishery spatially relevant?

- **Spatial claim with the longest tradition** — comparable with shipping
- **Occupies all sea areas**
- **Strong impact on other sea users and functions**
- **Variety of gear types and specific sea uses** (fixed gear to temporal, surface to bottom)
Does Fishery conflict with other claims for space?

• Shipping/dredging/dumping
• Mineral extraction
• Pipelines/cables
• Nature conservation
• Wind power
Physical alterations of habitats by fishery:

Bottom trawling vs. fragile structures of fish habitats:

- Pipelines bring in hard sediment structures
- Dredging may destroy spawning habitats
- Changes of turbidity

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Active removal of species from the ecosystem

- Overfishing
- Bycatch/Discard
- Change in food-chain
- Harbour porpoise-bycatch
Internal competition

- Between cod and sprat fisheries
- Small scale vs. large scale gear
- Professional vs. leisure fishing
- Fishery vs. Aquaculture
- Nature Conservation MPAs

With other sea uses:
- Wind energy
- Etc.

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But why is fisheries not part of MSP yet?

• The traditional paradigm “freedom of the sea”
• No spatial ownership /tragedy of the commons
• EU Common Fisheries Policy deals with the issue exclusively
• Reluctance to change in authorities and with fishermen
Is there no need for a change?

- Exploding sea uses
- EU demands from MSFD
- Securing fish habitats
- EU Natura 2000 directives
- Shrinking economic share
- Fisheries role shifts from food supply to tradition
Things have started to change

- EU MSP directive (include fisheries and aquaculture)
- Common fisheries reform
- EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive
- EU and Helcom projects and workshops
- Planning schemes and MSP plans in some countries
Tools are available – stocktaking

- Maps and data (VMS, AIS, Habitat maps)
- Concept of essential fish habitats
- fishermen‘s own data

Areas with special functions for fish
Tools for planning

- Existent fisheries management tools (spawning areas, temporal closures, gear type closures)
- Decision support tools
- Experiences to deal with fisheries vs. Nature conservation, or vs. Offshore wind

Suitability layers, left: species and habitats inside N2000 areas, right: important fish areas and wind power (preliminary data)
AIS/VMS Analysis

- Speed
- Pattern
- Bathymetry
- Wind&Wave
- Ports & EEZ
- VMEs, MPAs, LMEs
- Trade context
- Transshipment
- AIS on/off statistics
Tools for monitoring /transparency

Globally tested AIS equipment for small vessels

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How translate into practice : MSP Plans

• Putting fisheries claims on the maps: priority areas and restriction areas
• Define criteria
• Define management options for spatial fishing regulations (Gear type, temporal, size, professional vs. Leisure,...)

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Translate into management measure

Designation within the sector: Fisheries
- Gear type
- Small scale/large scale
- Temporal
- Professional vs leisure

Designations to protect living ressource
- spawning habitats
- Larvae drifting corridors
- Wintering areas etc.

Legal tools already exist in the fisheries management toolbox.

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Example Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, GER

2nd planning cycle MSP plan
Approved 2016
Fisheries included as reservation zone however: the original essential recruitment habitats (protection of fish)
was changed to fisheries areas (exploitation of fish)
Conclusions

• Fisheries is on the way of integration
• Tools and data are becoming more spatial
• Fisheries stakeholders are coming to the table
• There is still need to differentiate between area designations/zoning
  that protect the fish stocks (from fisheries pressure)
• And those that protect the fisheries from other sea uses.
• The legal basis has broadened (N2000, MSP Directive, GES)
• Interpretation and fine-tuning can be done at the sectoral management which has also to be spatial
Thank you!!!

Further reading:
www.panda.org/baltic
www.baltseaplan.eu

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