

Enabling Sustainable Offshore Wind in the Mediterranean through Ecosystem-Based Maritime Spatial Planning

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What is Maritime Spatial Planning?



“Maritime spatial planning (MSP) is the tool to manage the use of our seas and oceans coherently and to ensure that human activities take place in an efficient, safe and sustainable way” (EC)

Why do we need it?

- To **protect the environment** by assigning protected areas, avoiding or at least reducing impacts on ecosystems
- To **reduce conflicts and creating synergies** between different activities
- To increase **cross-border cooperation** between countries
- To **encourage investment** through predictability, transparency and legal certainty

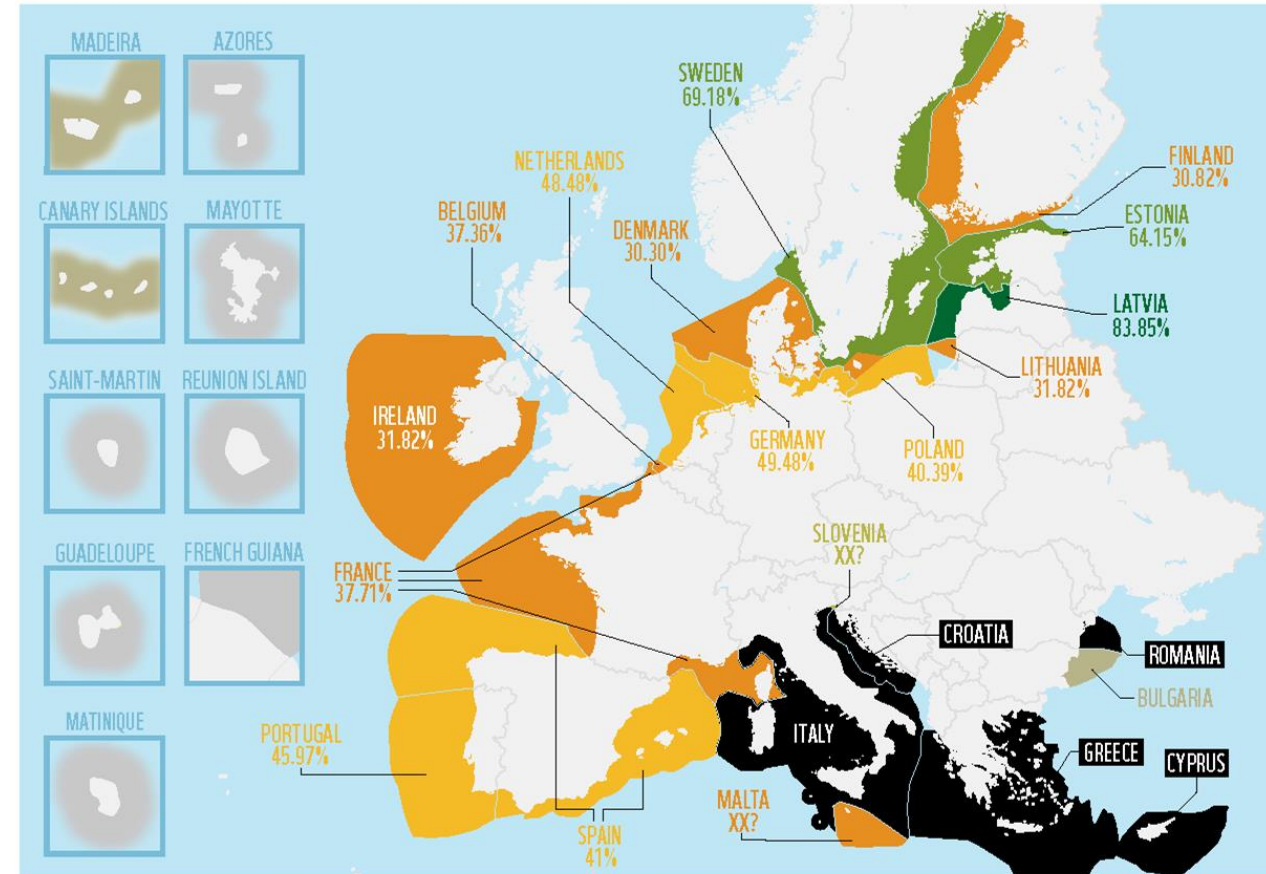
Policy Context

- EU MSP Directive
- Barcelona Convention MSP Framework ([ICZM Protocol link](#))



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What is the current implementation status?



KEY

- SCORE IN %** (Color scale from black to green)
- A national maritime spatial plan is in place and has been assessed by WWF. 100% corresponds to the complete achievement of an ecosystem-based approach to MSP
- A national maritime spatial plan is in place but has not yet been assessed by WWF
- No national maritime spatial plan in place and the country is under infringement procedures by the European Commission
- No national maritime spatial plan in place but there is an infringement procedure underway as the outermost regions have more time to comply with EU laws

Methodology - Assessment categories



INCLUSION OF NATURE

The plan accounts for integrating marine protection, limiting the expansion of at-sea activities, and considers the cumulative effects of human activities on the carrying capacity of marine ecosystems as essential components of a securing a sustainable blue economy



SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

The plan takes diverse at-sea human activities and socio-economic factors into consideration, including the Principles for a Sustainable Blue Economy⁸



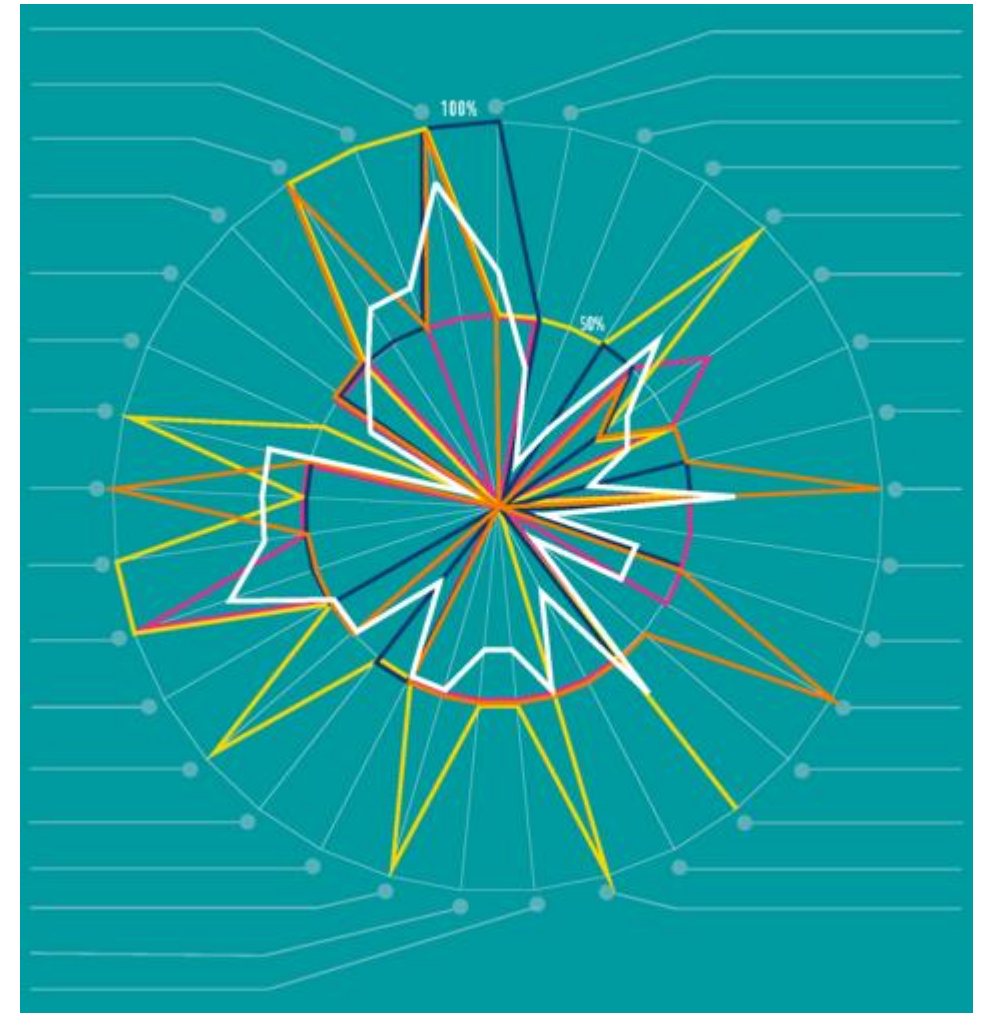
GOOD OCEAN GOVERNANCE

The plan aligns with other EU policies and designates competent authorities to manage and enforce a high-standard EBA to MSP



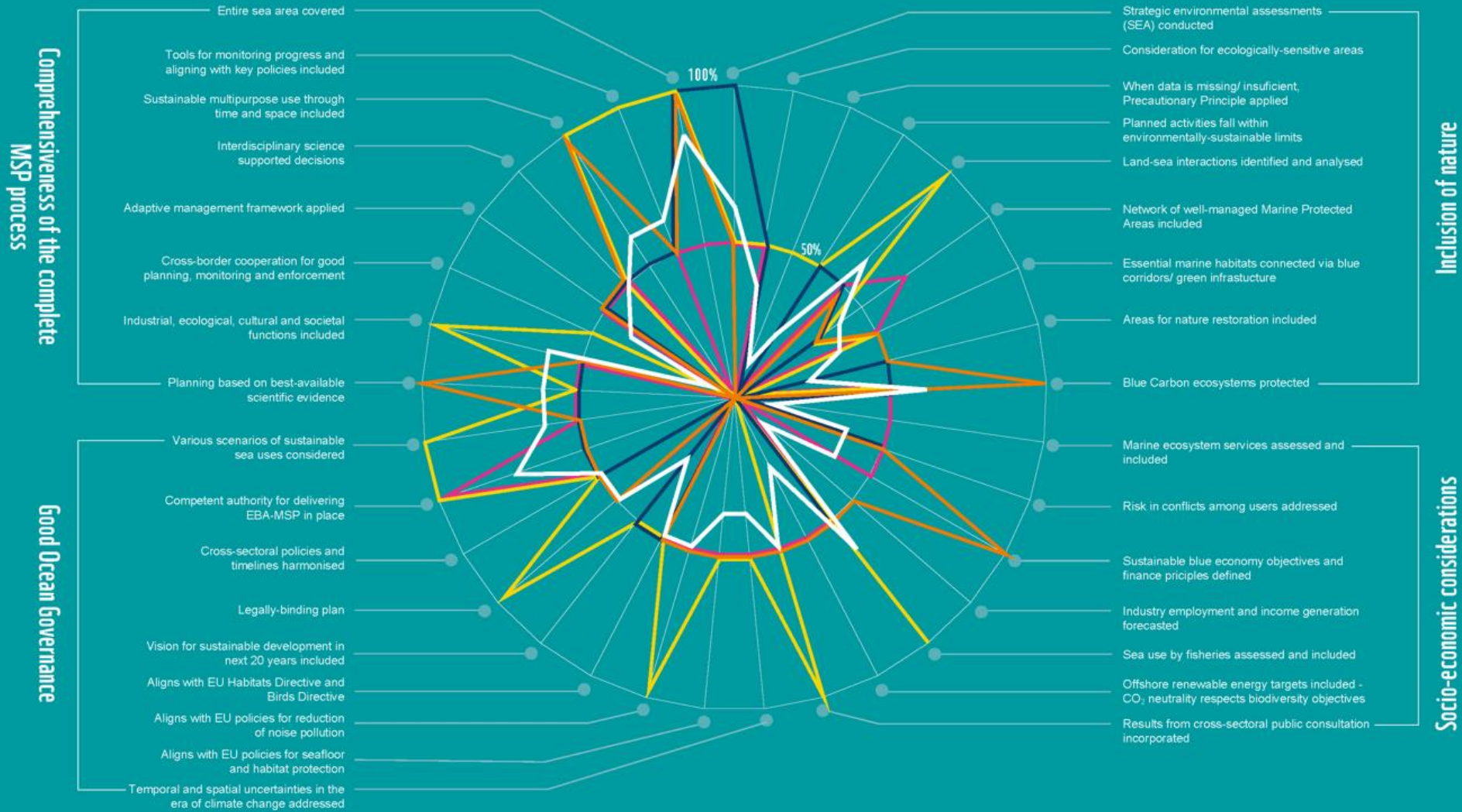
COMPREHENSIVENESS OF THE COMPLETE MSP PROCESS

The MSP process is based on the robust management of all maritime activities, including transboundary cooperation between national authorities for long-term sustainability, as well as an adaptive approach to monitoring and future planning



Implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning in the Mediterranean region

Key: — Mediterranean average — France — Malta — Slovenia — Spain



44%

Mediterranean Sea average

Based on 4 assessed countries out of 8.

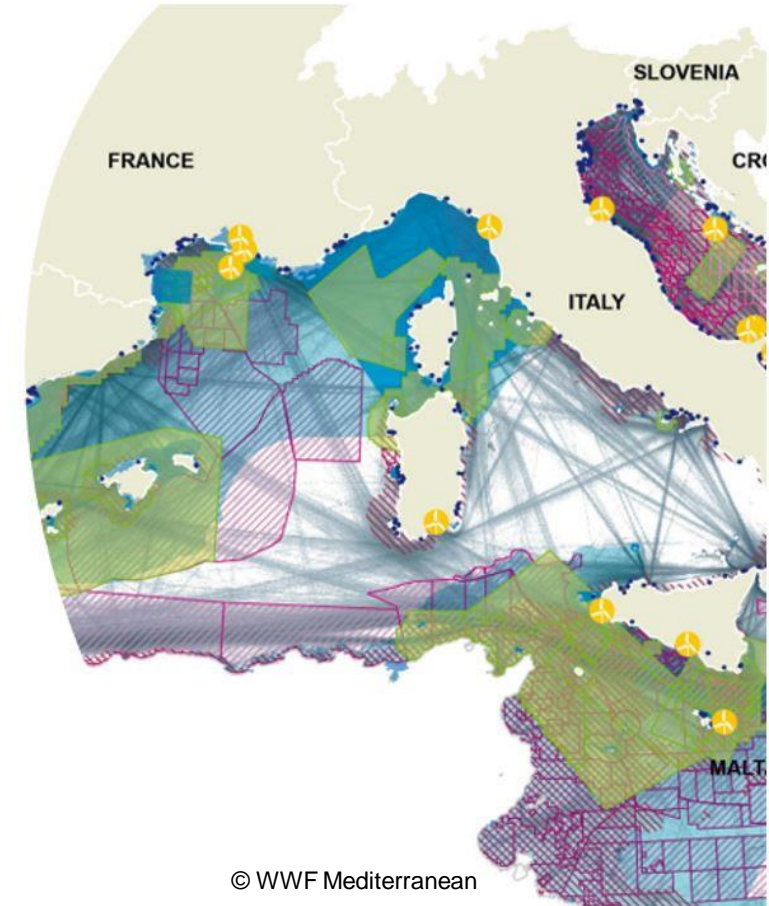
- 4 out of 8 Member States without MSP
- France and Spain designate 30% MPAs (<2% management plans)

NB: The Mediterranean score corresponds to the average of all Member States' scores. For the scores, "100%" corresponds to the complete achievement of indicator goals in that category, "50%" represents a partial achievement, and "0%" corresponds to zero achievements.

Why is MSP implementation slow in the Med?



- No sense of urgency (limited offshore wind development so far)
- Complexity of the geopolitical context (EEZ disputes etc.)
- Complexity of the socioeconomic context (tourism, coastal communities, small scale fisheries, maritime transport)
- Other priorities (oil and gas)
- Lack of data



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What next?



- **Develop, adopt and implement the missing Maritime Spatial Plans**
- Designate areas for offshore renewable energy development
- Improve engagement with the fishing and tourism sector
- Establish a well managed and well-connected network of Marine Protected Areas (in line with the Global Biodiversity Framework)
- Establish a regional (Med) MSP Working Group to exchange good practices and co-define solutions for cross boundary planning issues
- Make MSPs and related harmonized datasets public



Thank you!
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