



Which role for ecosystem service assessment and valuation in supporting Maritime Spatial Planning?

March 10, 2021 – 14h00 to 17h00 CET (online)

Announcement

Context

The framework established under the **Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)** Directive (2014/89/EU) aims at promoting the sustainable growth of maritime economies, the sustainable development of marine areas and the sustainable use of marine resources” (Art. 1(1)). In preparing and implementing their plans, Member States should apply “an ecosystem- based approach” (Art. 5(1)) so the functioning of ecosystems and biodiversity are well accounted for.

Today, experiences in the application of ecosystem-based approaches (EBA) in MSP are growing but are not yet well documented. In this context, the Executive Agency for SMEs (EASME), on behalf of DG MARE, European Commission, has set a service contract for **a study on the concrete application of EBA in MSP**. Its main objective is to assess the current state of play in the practical application of EBA in MSP, and to develop a practical method or toolbox that can support EBA applications, monitoring and evaluation.

In line with the importance given to understanding the functioning and dynamics of the Socio-Ecological System, the study is giving attention to the role the **identification, quantification and valuation of ecosystem services** can play in supporting MSP in general, and EBA in MSP in particular. A specific case study has been launched in the transboundary Northern Adriatic Sea to apply different methods and techniques for identifying, quantifying and providing monetary values for the services coastal and marine ecosystems deliver.

A workshop: what for?

An (online) workshop is organised in the context of the EBA/MSP study to investigate the potential role the **assessment of coastal and marine ecosystem services, and of their (socio-economic) importance in particular, can play in supporting MSP**. The workshop will address the following questions:

- What are **methods and tools** that can be applied to assess ecosystem services delivered by coastal and marine ecosystems and to **estimate their socio-economic importance**?
- Which **results** can these methods and tools deliver? Which **roles** can these results play – and at which step(s) of the MSP implementation process – **to support MSP and the integration of EBA in MSP**?
- What are **specific challenges, constraints and difficulties** met in applying these methods and tools – and **how can these be addressed** so results obtained can best support MSP, and EBA in MSP?





A workshop: how?

The workshop will take place on March 10th, 2021 – from 14h00 to 17h00. Organised online, the workshop will combine **presentations** and **interactive discussions** among participants. It will build in particular on the results of the valuation study carried out in the Northern Adriatic Sea under the EASME/DG MARE study, complemented by experiences in the assessment of the socio-economic values of marine ecosystem services from other marine ecosystems/regional seas.

A workshop: by whom? And with whom?

The workshop is co-organised by: 1) **ACTeon** (France), one of the partners of the Milieu-led consortium carrying out the EASME/DG MARE study; and 2) the MSP research team of the **Institute of Marine Sciences (ISMAR)** of the National Research Council of Italy, (CNR ISMAR – see www.tools4msp.eu) that has contributed to the Northern Adriatic ecosystem services assessment and valuation case study.

The workshop will be attended by around 15-20 officials, experts and stakeholders from the Mediterranean Sea Region, from other EU regional seas and from the EU level. It will bring together experts and representatives from the marine science, MSP, marine policy and socio-economic communities.

Please **register for the workshop** at the [following link!](#)

For more information, contact...

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