

Workshop Maritime Spatial Planning for Islands

11 September 2018, Gran Canaria (Spain)

University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Aula de Piedra
Calle Juan de Cuesada 30, 35001

This workshop provides the opportunity to explore the development of MSP in island contexts, including the specific challenges faced and the opportunities for sustainable blue growth. The particularly strong connection between island communities and the sea and the relevance of this to MSP was highlighted during the MSP Conference: Addressing Land-Sea Interactions held in St Julians, Malta, 15th-16th June 2017¹.

Due to their remoteness, and with different levels of representation in MSP processes which may be led by mainland authorities, there can be particular challenges in practicing MSP in island contexts. However, given their maritime interests, significant blue growth opportunities exist, and effective MSP should help to realise these.

We will hear about the experience of MSP in islands, including representation from islands of different status within the EU, from island nations such as Malta, to islands with some autonomy from mainland governments, such as Åland, Finland. There will be perspectives from local community groups, planning authorities and blue growth sectors with island interests. Panel and group sessions will facilitate interaction between MSP practitioners and other stakeholders, to highlight good practice and develop ideas to support the development of MSP and delivery of sustainable blue growth for islands.

The workshop will take place at the same time as the [4th ECOQAU Summer School 'Blue Innovation in Islands'](#), which will be exploring marine and ocean governance; Blue Growth in various MSP sectors; and marine conservation.

¹ <http://msp-platform.eu/events/msp-conference-addressing-land-sea-interactions>

Agenda

Workshop 'Maritime Spatial Planning for Islands'

08.30 - 09.00 Arrival and registration

09:00 - 09:20 Welcome and introduction to the MSP for Islands workshop and the ECOAQUA Summer School (DG MARE & ULPGC)

09:20- 10:15 SESSION 1 " Maritime Spatial Planning for Islands - Current Perspectives and Experience"

09:20 - 09:30 Islands context for MSP - An Introduction: Helena Calado

Moderator: Helena Calado, University of the Azores

09:30 - 10:15 Presentations

- Michelle Borg, Manager for the Green and Blue Development Unit in the Planning Authority, Malta *Sustainable Marine Planning on Islands*
- Rachel Shucksmith, NAFC Marine Centre, Shetland Islands, Scotland
- Stefan Husa, Government of Åland - *MSP in the Åland Islands, Finland*

10:15 - 10:45 Panel and Q&A

10:45 - 11:15 Coffee break

11:15 - 12:00 ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION 1 "Specific Challenges in Implementing MSP for Islands"

Building on the discussions so far regarding experience of MSP in islands, in this session participants will divide into groups and discuss the challenges that are faced in relation to MSP in islands, including whether these are unique to islands and how they differ between islands of different status. Each round table will summarise the key points raised during their discussions.

12:00 - 13:15 SESSION 2 "Blue Growth Opportunities for Islands"

Moderator: Helena Calado, University of the Azores

12:00 - 12:45 Presentations

- Harry Coccossis, University of Thessaly - *Tourism and Islands*
- Juan-Ramón Rodríguez Alemán, Society of Economic Promotion of Gran Canaria
- Ester Anna Armannsdóttir, Iceland National Planning Agency (*tbc*)

12:45 - 13:15 Panel and Q&A

13:15 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 14:45 ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS 2 "What are the particular challenges and opportunities for islands in achieving Blue Growth?"

Participants will be divided into groups to undertake facilitated group work to identify specific opportunities relating to blue growth sectors in islands, and the challenges that may be faced. Knowledge exchange between regions and sectors.

14:45 - 17:15 SESSION 3: 'Addressing the socio-economic and environmental pressures faced by Island Communities'

Moderator: Stephen Jay, EU MSP Platform

14:45 - 15:30 Presentations (Part 1)

- Manuel Ara de Oliveira, Deputy, Secretaria Regional do Ambiente e Recursos Naturais - Direção Regional do Ordenamento do Território e Ambiente on *"Experience of engaging stakeholders in the autonomous region of Madeira"*
- Andrej Abramic - University Las Palmas Gran Canaria - *Balancing maritime sector development and environmental planning, supporting socio-economic growth and ensuring environmental services (PLASMAR / MarSP)*
- Dania Abdul Malek, Director of the ETC-UMA, University of Malaga - *Ecological fragility of coastal and marine environments (from anthropogenic and global change related impacts) - the need to account for these factors in effective ecosystem-based Marine Spatial Planning.*

15:30 - 15:45 Panel and Q&A

15:45 - 16:15 Coffee Break

16:15 - 16:45 Presentations (Part 2)

- Nadou Cadic - Délégation à la mer et au littoral, France - *French overseas territories: examples of how planning will integrate (or not ...) the particular pressures facing these islands.*
- Athena Mourmouris, former Director General for the Environment, Greece - *Experiences from the Ionian Islands Pilot Project*

16:45 - 17:15 Panel and Q&A

17:15 - 17:45 Summary and workshop conclusions

18:00 - 20:00 Evening Reception