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subsidiary body on scientific, technical and technological advice

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Item 8 of the provisional agenda

**COMPILATION OF SUBMISSIONS ON experiences in the Implementation of Marine Spatial Planning**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

1. In decision XIII/9, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity encouraged Parties to apply marine spatial planning in areas within their jurisdiction or enhance existing marine spatial planning initiatives. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary and invited relevant organizations, in particular the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Maritime Organization, regional seas conventions and action plans and regional fisheries bodies to support the national implementation of marine spatial planning.
2. Pursuant to this request, the Executive Secretary issued notification 2017-083, dated 31 August 2017, requesting information on experiences in in the implementation of marine spatial planning.
3. Submissions were received in response to this notification from Brazil, Germany, European Union, Finland, France, Sweden, Iraq, Mexico, Oman, Peru, Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) and Indigenous Peoples’ and Community Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCA) Consortium. The submissions received in response to the notification were collated, compiled and synthesized in the attached table describing various activities undertaken by Parties and relevant organizations related to marine spatial planning.

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| **Gov./Org.** | **Title** | **Scale/Scope** | **Description** |
| **Brazil** | Submission of information on experiences in the implementation of marine spatial planning | National | * **Working Group on the Shared Use of the Marine Environment (GT-UCAM) –** Created by the Interministerial Commission for the Resources of the Sea (CIRM) through Resolution No. 01/2013, the Workshop Group’s objectives are to: (i) legitimize the issue of the shared use of the marine environment in the country; (ii) analyze the institutional legal and regulatory frameworks related to the shared use of the marine environment; and (iii) raise, analyze and propose Marine Spatial Planning guidelines, tools and methodologies for implementation at the national level. To this end, two working subgroups were set up, respectively, to achieve objectives (ii) and (iii). * **Training courses** – The Brazilian Ministry of Environment (MMA) implemented a course on MSP aimed at about 30 members of the GT-UCAM in 2014. * **Priority Areas for Conservation, Sustainable Use and Benefit Sharing of Brazilian Biodiversity** – The rules for the identification of Priority Areas, within the scope of the Ministry of Ministry of Environment, were established by the Decree No. 5,092/2004 and the CONABIO (National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity) Deliberation No. 39/2005. The criteria for identification of conservation targets for Priority Areas include biodiversity objects, sustainable use objects, and persistence and processes objects. The first process to identify priority areas, including the priority areas for coastal and marine zone, was carried out between 1998 and 2000, and the areas were updated in 2006 and 2007 as defined in MMA Ordinance No. 9/2007. In addition to areas of biological importance, the methodology used also identified and mapped the main threats to conservation targets, including threats such as oil and gas activities, fishing, urbanization, among others. In 2014, MMA began to review the Priority Areas of the Coastal and Marine Zone, which is expected to be finalized in 2018. The second process of updating priority areas of the Coastal and Marine zone is underway since 2017.3 * **Data management and information system** – In 2015, the Ministry of the Environment initiated negotiations with the Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovations and Communications (MCTIC) in order to improve the methodology used in the processes of updating priority areas for conservation, in the framework of the Brazilian Biodiversity Information System – SIBBr (an online platform that gathers the Brazilian biodiversity and that provides a national infrastructure of data and biodiversity contents for the Brazilian society). In this way, the processes for updating priority areas will use the Decision Support Module (MAD), whose objective is to facilitate the integration of free access to data and the use of information on Brazilian biodiversity. This will provide tools and enable a favorable environment for online participatory consultations with specialists, management and storage of all data and qualified information produced and used during the process of updating priority areas, and integration with other SIBBr computational tools to optimize the process of obtaining data for analyses, among others. * **Marine and Coastal Protected Areas Project (GEF-Mar) –** The project aims to increase the protection of Brazilian marine and coastal biodiversity to 5% of the territorial sea by means of conservation areas; increase biodiversity protection by at least 9,300 km² in coastal and marine areas; and identify, design and prepare for implementation of at least two financial mechanisms, capable of contributing to the long-term sustainability of coastal and marine protected areas. The Global Environment Facility – GEF approved the proposal presented by the Brazilian government in partnership with Funbio for its GEF-Mar program. * **Integrated Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Protection and Management Project (TerraMar)** – The project aims to ensure coherent territorial environmental planning and integrated management of the coastal and marine zone, operating in the APA Costa dos Corais - PE region and in the Abrolhos Marine National Park - BA. It will also support Brazil in meeting the Aichi Biodiversity Goals, especially Goals 2 – Integrating biodiversity values ​​into development, 6 – Sustainable fisheries, 10 – Reduction of impacts on coral reefs, and 11 – Expansion and consolidation of the coastal and marine zone conservation system. This project will also elaborate a pilot using the MarZone methodology to promote territorial planning in one of the TerraMar regions. |
| Global | * **Training –** In 2014, MMA held the International Seminar on Integrated Planning of the Marine Space with the participation of approximately 130 people. * **International forums on MSP –** In 2017, MMA took part in the Blue Planning in Practice (GIZ) course in Vilm, Germany, and in the II International Conference on Marine Spatial Planning in Paris, France. |
| **Germany** | Marine Spatial Planning in the German Exclusive Economic Zone of the North and Baltic Seas – Nature Conservation Objectives and Principles | National | * **MSP in the German EEZ –** Nature conservation requirements for spatial planning in the EEZ demand that the spatial arrangement has to: 1) Live up to the mandate of Art. 20a GG regarding safeguarding the natural assets; 2)Take into consideration the special importance of the large-scale and barrier-free natural region as well as its various dimensions and interdependencies; 3) Support the endeavours regarding preservation of biological diversity and regarding establishment of a network of marine protected areas (MPAs) as well as to keep open appropriate developmental options; and 4) Consider the precautionary principle. * **Priority areas for the marine nature in the North Sea and Baltic Sea EEZ under the Habitats Directive** – A pre-eminent importance for nature conservation is attached to the relevant habitat types and species commensurate with the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) registered with the Commission. As a result, the following Natura 2000 sites are to be safeguarded as priority areas for the marine nature in the North Sea EEZ: “Borkum Reef Ground” (DE 2104-301), “Dogger Bank” (DE 1003-301), and “Sylt Outer Reef” (DE 1209-301). In the Baltic Sea, “Adler Ground” (DE 2104-301), “Fehmarn Belt” (DE 1322-301), “Kadet Trench” (DE 1339-301), “Pomeranian Bay with Odra Bank” (DE 1652-301), and “Western Rønne Bank” (DE 1249-301) are to be safeguarded as priority areas. * **Priority areas for the marine nature in the North Sea and Baltic Sea EEZ under the Birts Directive**– A pre-eminent importance for nature conservation is attached to the relevant species commensurate with the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). The following area has been registered and declared a nature protection area under German law, and this area is to be safeguarded as a priority area for the marine nature in the North Sea EEZ: “Eastern German Bight” (DE 1011-401). In the Baltic Sea, “Pomeranian Bay” (DE 1552-401) is to be safeguarded as a priority. * **Areas with special importance for bird migration over the German EEZ –** In the North Sea, the coastal side of the German Bight, an imaginary line which runs from Denmark’s westernmost point – “Blåvands Huk” – at a 45° angle to the Dutch island “Texel”, is of special importance for nature conservation for the bird migration over the North Sea on account of the assumed broad-front migration. In the Baltic Sea, “Fehmarn-Lolland” and “Rügen-Schonen” are areas of special importance for bird migration. Outside of these areas (in both North and Baltic Seas) with wind parks already approved or in the course of the approval procedure as well as outside the spatial planning priority areas and suitability areas for wind energy use, this region is to be kept free of effects impairing the bird migration, especially in order to preserve continuous migratory corridors. * **Areas with special importance for benthic communities in the German EEZ** – On account of representative and compacted occurrence of OSPAR and Red List species and according to habitats to be protected by OSPAR in well preserved conditions for the individual habitats and species, a special importance for nature conservation and special ecological cross-linking function (see also Art. 10 Habitats Directive) is attached to the benthic communities in the North Sea for the following areas: 1) Southern Mud Bank; 2) Central Elbe Glacial Valley; and 3) Central North Sea. A special importance for nature conservation is also attached to the submergence band with compacted occurrence of Red List species (compare Baltic Sea list) outside the registered NATURA 2000 sites with regard to the benthic communities in the Baltic Sea in the following areas: 1) Bay of Kiel; 2) Bay of Mecklenburg; and 3) Northern Darß. |
| **European Union** | EU and its Member States’ submission of information on experiences in the implementation of marine spatial planning | Regional | * **Directive 2014/89/EU –** This Directive establishes a framework for maritime spatial planning for the EU and its Member States. It provides guidance on the implementation of the ecosystem approach which requires maritime spatial planning to apply ecosystem-based approach as referred to in Article 1(3) of Directive 2008/56/EC. Member States have until 2021 to establish their maritime spatial plans under the Directive 2014/89/EU. * **Member State Expert Group on marine spatial planning** – This Group was established as an informal forum of national experts and observers with aim to provide expertise in relation to the implementation of the MSP Directive. Its objective is to provide advice to the European Commission on all aspects of maritime spatial planning and to coordinate activities of the European Commission and of the EU Member States to support the implementation of MSP. The Expert Group also gives special attention to the exchange of experiences on the implementation of ecosystem based marine spatial planning. * **European MSP Platform** – This is an Assistance Mechanism for MSP launched in 2016 to provide administrative and technical support to EU countries in implementing the MSP legislation. |
| Global | * **Joint Roadmap to accelerated Maritime/Marine Spatial Planning process worldwide –** Following the Joint International MSP conference organized by the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission (DG MARE) together with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO), this Roadmap was adopted in 2017. This Roadmap is focused on ecosystem-based marine spatial planning and includes priority to develop a set of international guidelines on trans-boundary cooperation on MSP. The elaboration of these guidelines will be supported by two international cross-border MSP pilot projects in 2018 – one in the Mediterranean between the EU and non EU Member States and one in the South Pacific – to strengthen transboundary MSP globally. |
| **Finland** | Submission of information on experiences in the implementation of marine spatial planning | National | * **Maritime spatial plans on Territorial Waters and on the EEZ –** Eight Coastal Regional Councils are in charge of drafting maritime spatial plans on Territorial Waters and on the EEZ by March 2021. So far, there is no MSP but three plans are currently in pipeline: * One for the Northern Bothnian Sea, the Quark and the Bothnian Bay drafted by the Regional Councils of Lappi, Pohjois-Pohjanmaa, Keski-Pohjanmaa and Pohjanmaa; * One for the Southern Bothnian Sea and the Archipelago Sea drafted by the Regional Councils of Satakunta and South-Western Finland; * and one for the Gulf of Finland drafted by the Regional Councils of Uusimaa and Kymenlaakso,   Additionally, there will be an MSP Plan for Åland Island, to be developed according to separate planning legislation.   * **Finnish Maritime Portal –** The Finnish Environment Institute will develop this Portal during the next two years to support planning and provide the platform serving as an information source and a communication tool. Maritime spatial planning will be one of the significant themes of the Portal. * **Finnish Inventory Programme for the Underwater Marine Environment (VELMU) –** VELMU provides crucial information for plans and the Finnish Maritime Portal will have access to VELMU inventory data. |
| **France** | Mise en place de la planification spatiale maritime en France -  Une approche intégrée basée sur la connaissance et la dynamique de l’écosystème marin | National | * **Documents Stratégiques de Façades (DSF) -** La France élabore des DSFs qui intègrent les exigences de la Directive cadre sur la planification de l’espace maritime (DCPEM) et celles de la Directive cadre stratégie pour le milieu marin (DCSMM). Ces documents stratégiques répondent aux enjeux socio-économiques de la croissance bleue affichés par la politique maritime intégrée de l’Union européenne et repris dans la Stratégie nationale pour la mer et le littoral (SNML – décret 2017-222 du 23 février 2017). Les DSF s’articulent en deux volets : * «Stratégie maritime de façade », dont la mise en œuvre est prévue d’ici mars 2019, comporte :   + Une situation de l’existant, sur le plan socio-économique et environnemental;   + Une stratégie d’action et la caractérisation des vocations de la façade. * La phrase opérationnelle des DSF, dont la mise en œuvre est prévue d’ici 2021, comporte :   + Un programme de suivi qui intégrera les programmes de surveillance de la DCSMM/PAMM;   + Un plan d’action qui intégrera les programmes de mesures de la DCSMM/PAMM. * **Les plans d’action pour le milieu marin (PAMM) –** Focus sur la DCSMM et ses outils de mise en œuvre en France sont les PAMM. La DCSMM et donc les PAMM visent l’atteinte du Bon état écologique des eaux marines (BEE). * Un groupe de travail sur le suivi de la planification, regroupant les instances ayant travaillé sur le PAMM et celles participant à la construction des DSF, est en cours de constitution. |
| **Sweden** | Submission of information on experiences in the implementation of marine spatial planning by Sweden | National | * **Legislation for national marine spatial planning in Sweden –** This legislation has been in place since September 2014 and an additional section was added in chapter 4 of the environmental Code that stipulates there shall be three marine spatial plans: Bothnian Bay, Baltic Sea, Wester Waters (Skagerrak/Kattegatt) covering the area one nautical mile from the baseline seawards, including the EEZ. * **Marine Spatial Planning Ordinance (2015:400)** – The Ordinance regulates the process of MSP and contains provisions on geographical boundaries, the content of the marine spatial plans, the responsibility for preparation, consultation and cooperation in the proposal process, and monitoring and review. The main focus of the planning is that marine resources should be used in a way that allows maritime industries to develop and grow while preserving and restoring ecosystems. * **Plan and Building Act (2010:900) –** This Act regulates the responsibilities and mandate for the municipalities to plan land and water including the territorial sea, indicating a geographical overlap between the national marine spatial plans (the Environmental Code) and the municipal comprehensive plans (Plan and Building Act). * **Swedish national maritime strategy** – Adopted in 2015, this Strategy contains the Government’s vision for the development of the maritime sector, based on three equal perspectives: a balanced marine environment; competitive maritime industries; and attractive coastal areas. The Strategy constitutes an instrument for implementing a Swedish integrated maritime policy. * **Green infrastructure in MSP** – Currently SwAM is exploring how to use the concept of green infrastructure having the potential to add a landscape perspective in MSP. The concept of green infrastructure (or similar approaches) could be helpful in solving the challenge often faced within MSP on how to integrate environmental considerations with other aspects in the planning. * **The Symphony method** –The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) is using a method called ‘Symphony’ which enables MSP to account for the spatially confined cumulative impact from all concurrent human activities in an area on a representation of all present ecosystem values. With the method the marine planners can quickly and straightforwardly assess the cumulative (total) environmental impact of a drafted plan and use the results to modify the plans where needed, in dialogue with involved stakeholders. |
| Regional | * **Cooperation within the Baltic Sea and North Sea region** – Sweden is actively participating in formal regional cooperation such as the HELCOM-VASAB Joint Working Group on MSP in the Baltic Sea or within the EU Commission Expert Group on MSP. * **The Baltic SCOPE Project** – The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) has headed this project with the aim to enhance better coordination of cross-border planning issues, such as environment, shipping, commercial fishing and energy extraction and electricity transmission. |
| **Iraq** | Port Sector in the Republic of Iraq | National | * **Environmental protection in port land areas and waters –** Private terminal operators or other agencies located in the port are required to take necessary action to prevent pollution in coastal areas around the port. Implementation of environmental management measures should be clearly stated in the environmental impact assessment (EIA) and incorporated into the contract with General Company for Ports of Iraq (GCPI). An EIA report is required when developing and operating a terminal and should include an Environmental Management Plan and Waste Management Plan. |
| **Mexico** | Submission of information on experiences in the implementation of MSP | National | * **MSP as an instrument of the Mexican Environmental Policy** – The MSP concept in Mexico was defined in 1996 and its principles include: * Transparency through effective communication on ongoing activities and results of the process; * Establishment of strong scientific basis through technical studies for the analysis of present and future conditions; * Adaptation through a continuous monitoring and evaluation of the objectives and strategies in place; and * Participatory process through agreements, committees, and public consultations. * **National Policy for Oceans and Coast of the Inter-Ministerial Commission for the Sustainable Development of Coast and Seas of Mexico (CIMARES)** – MSP is part of its agenda along with integral spatial planning, ocean health and economic competitiveness, among others. * **MSP in Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) –** Since 2003, MSP has been a rigorous public policy process with a planning study included. In the last 14 years, Mexico has practiced this process for 4 major LMEs with different oceanographic, biodiversity, socio-economic and governance features: the Gulf of California, the Northern Pacific, the Gulf of Mexico, and the tropical South-Central Pacific. Two LME planning processes have been decreed and are currently being implemented in: * The Gulf of California: The process adopted a more scientific approach and aimed to address the continuing spatial conflicts among the tourism, conservation and fishery sectors. Following a coordination agreement, establishment of decision making committees, and the installation of a dynamic environmental log for the planning process, the proposal was adopted and decreed as the first federal MSP process. * The Gulf of Mexico: The exercise in this area considered the explicit interaction between terrestrial and marine ecologic and economic processes. It was linked to the GEF-project of the Gulf of Mexico LME. |
| **Oman** | Submissions of information on experiences in the implementation of MSP | National | * **Installing boat anchors –** The ministry has installed a number of buoyant anchors in Bandar Al Khiran and Bandar Al Jassa as well as A’ddimanyat for the protection of coral reefs from the damage of boat anchors. * **Conservation of mangroves –** Since 2001, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs, in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), has implemented plantation of mangrove seedlings. About 670,000 seedlings by the end of April 2017 in 32 sites along the coast of the Sultanatc. The project aims to plant one million mangroves by the end of 2022. |
| **Peru** | Submission of information on experiences in the implementation of MSP | National | * **Capacity-building on MSP –** Peru elaborated a pilot project on MSP, with Ministry of Environment (MINAM), NOAA, GEF Humboldft project, and UNDP, to promote creation and implementation of tools, plans and programmes for integrated management of marine and coastal areas based on the Decreto Supremo No. 014-2011-MINAM. This pilot project ended prior to the planning process. * Workshop in 2013: *II Taller : PEMC :* *Implementaci ón de los Criterios Establecidos para el Diseño de Gestión en Sitios Pilotos* * Workshop in 2015: *I Curso – Taller de PEMC* aimed to revise and discuss the concepts of MSP, and develop methodologies to acquire, systemize and analyze the information. * Workshop in 2016: this workshop aimed to validate in a participatory manner the definition and identification of the criteria, scope and points of reference obtained in the 2013 workshop above (*II Taller: PEMC: Implementaci ón de los Criterios Establecidos para el Diseño de Gestión en Sitios Pilotos)* * Some findings:   + MSP is a new concept for Peru and in-situ applications of MSP has hardly been done. The results of these workshops have demonstrated a need to adequately plan towards a future application, allowing the identification and validation of scope and variables for the analysis of information obtained.   + Effective networking and communication between institutions is essential in promoting collective efforts. Cooperation is a key to success.   + Successful implementation of MSP requires standardization of criteria and concepts of regulatory frameworks. |
| Regional | * **SPINCAM III project –** The objective of this project is to support the establishment of a permanent framework on capacity building, which will allow the adoption of decisions on the integrated coastal management and MSP at the local, national and regional levels. This project aims to discuss trans-border issues in each country in the region and facilitate the creation a new framework that will enable the institutionalization of the project as well as the process of implementing marine and coastal management and MSP with a regional focus. The expected results are: * Institutionalization of marine and coastal management to improve the regional networks dedicated to marine and coastal issues; * Development of regional strategies on MSP; * Development of monitoring system and support tools for decision-making process; * Reduction of technical gaps in countries related to capacity building; * Strengthening of communication and participatory process. |
| **HELCOM** | Experiences in the implementation of MSP in the Baltic Sea | Regional | * **Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group –** This Group is a regional platform for cooperation among the Baltic Sea Region countries for coherent regional MSP processes in the Baltic Sea. Its mandate has been prolonged by HELCOM HOD 50-2016 and 72nd VASAB CSPD/BSR Meeting. The Baltic Sea Region Maritime Spatial Planning Data Expert Sub-group was established in 2015 under this Working Group to support data, information and evidence exchange for MSP processes with regard to cross-border/transboundary planning issues. The Working Group also acts as a steering group for the Horizontal Action Spatial Planning under the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). * **BaltSeaPlan (2009-2012) –** This € 3.7 million project supported the introduction of Integrated Maritime Spatial Planning and preparation of National Maritime Strategies within Baltic Sea Region. * **Plan Bothnia Project (2010-2012) –** The project was a a Baltic Sea MSP “preparatory action” funded by EU Commission DG MARE (budget 0,5 M EUR ) under the EU Integrated Maritime Policy. The project held five meetings with partners and invited participants focusing on different steps needed to reach the final goal- the pilot plan for the Bothnian Sea. * **Fishing for Space workshop (2013) –** This workshop aimed at bringing together fisheries and maritime spatial planning sectors to discuss a common future, mainly focusing on the Baltic Sea basin. * **PartiSEApate (2012-2014) –** PartiSEApate is a multi-level governance approach in MSP throughout the Baltic Sea region. This project was aimed to develop a pan-Baltic approach to those topics whose spatial dimension transcends national borders and to develop a concept for an MSP institutional framework and governance model which provides input to policy decisions. * **Baltic SCOPE project (2015-2017) –** In this project, MSP authorities and Regional Sea Organisations in the Baltic Sea Area came together for the first time to find the planning solutions to transboundary issues and improve the Maritime Spatial Planning processes. The main goal was to come up with common solutions of the cross-border maritime planning leading to greater alignment of national plans. To achieve the goal, two MSP cases were performed, encompassing the Baltic Sea’s southwest area, which affects Sweden, Denmark, Germany, and Poland, and the marine area between Estonia, Latvia, and Sweden. Both case studies focused on how shipping traffic, energy production, fishing, and environment function in these areas and how they can compromise. * **Baltic LINes project (2016-2019) –** The project aims at increasing transnational coherence of shipping routes and energy corridors in MSP by creating coherent linear infrastructures in Baltic maritime spatial plans. * **Pan-Baltic SCOPE project (2018-2019) –** Pan Baltic SCOPE is a new MSP-project in the Baltic Sea Region, which will start in January 2018 led by Sweden. Financed by EU, its objective is to achieve coherent national maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea region and to build lasting macro-region mechanisms for cross-border cooperation. |
| **ICCA (Indigenous Peoples’ and Community Conserved Areas and Territories) Consortium** | ICCA Submission of information | National | * **Marine Areas of Responsible Fishing in Costa Rica –** These are community based marine and indigenous peoples territories where power and decision-making efforts are shared with the government. Fishers’ rules and customary uses of their marine territories along with areas identified using participatory mapping processes are being considered in parallel to other types of knowledge and recognized by government agencies. * **UN-Equator and PRCM (Regional Partnership for Coastal and Marine Conservation) –** In Senegal, they created an association with local fishermen in response to a degraded environment. This allows them to review and implement local traditional practices for the enforcement of their marine zoning and management plan, which includes sacred areas where no fishing is allowed, areas for non-motorized fishing techniques and areas where only locals can harvest. By bringing together both traditional and modern state practices for governance and management, they have demonstrated successes for both the ecosystems and local livelihoods. All the mobilisation and engagement of the fishermen and their community were held without any project or donors behind the people. * **Marine and Coastal Areas for Indigenous People (MCAIP) in Chile –** In 2008, Chile passed the regulation that creates MCAIP. In 2015, Chile started to grant under a rights-based approach, the firsts marine and coastal areas to indigenous communities in south-central region that aims to recover and manage their marine resources with a community-based planning approach. |
| Coastal and Indigenous community access to marine resources and the ocean: a policy imperative for Canada – Nathan J. Bennett et al. (2018) | N/A | * Access for coastal and indigenous communities should be a priority consideration in all policies and decision-making processes related to fisheries and the ocean in Canada. * **Recommended actions:** * Ensuring access is transparently considered in all ocean-related decisions; * Supporting research to fill knowledge gaps on access to enable effective responses; * Making data accessible and including communities in decision-making that grants or restricts access to adjacent marine resources and spaces; * Ensuring updated laws, policies and planning processes explicitly incorporate access considerations; and * Identifying and prioritizing actions to maintain and increase access. |
| Ocean grabbing – Bennett, Govan and Satterfield (2015) | N/A | * This paper provides a definition and gives examples of reallocations of marine resources or spaces that might constitute “ocean grabbing”. It also offers a tentative framework for evaluating whether marine conservation, management or development is ocean grabbing and proposes an agenda for future research. It argues that rapid enclosure of marine spaces through implementing the results of ocean zoning or marine spatial planning processes might constitute ocean grabbing. |
| Community Conserved Areas: A review of status & needs in Melnaesia and Polynesia – Govan (2009) | Regional | * Melanesia and Polynesia have seen an impressive increase in the number of marine protected areas over the last decade almost entirely due to the implementation or recognition of Community Conserved Areas (CCA) based on regional specificities of traditional tenure and governance mechanisms. * Large investments and institutionalization of CCAs may undermine their sustainability by decreasing their self-reliance or even introducing excessive dependencies such as on incentives or external policing. * The challenge for policy-makers, scientists, government and non-government institutions is to move beyond the emphasis on protected areas in isolation and support and promote this de-centralized Island way as a vital foundation in a truly regional approach to Integrated Island Management that can address the pressing issues associated with sustaining the region’s biodiversity and livelihoods. * **Recommendations:** * *Tenure and traditional governance*: The success of local management approaches hinges largely on traditional tenure and governance systems. Great care should be taken before undermining or reforming these systems which appear vital to sustainable environmental management in the region. * *Characterize and defend local and cultural approaches*: CCAs have developed and re-appeared in response to local needs and culture and may often have characteristics such as small size, periodic opening and location determined by social rather than biological factors. These characteristics may require clarification to international bodies before international definitions of protected areas or conservation can be assumed to be regionally applicable. * *Careful scrutiny of international definitions and concepts for regional relevance*: The unique attributes of the region combined with the difficulties of engaging in international fora suggest that great care should be exercised by nations and implementers before assuming that commonly accepted approaches are applicable. * *Improve and enhance participatory processes*: Ongoing evaluation of techniques and processes used to promote and support community management should be performed. Issues that may need particular attention include community involvement and empowerment, development of appropriate mixes of traditional and national governance and marine tenure in Western Melanesia. * *Integrated island management as the goal:* The adaptive management processes central to many CCAs should be built on to include ecosystem wide (particularly terrestrial) and sustainable development issues and incorporate climate change adaptation and resilience. These processes should be available to any and all communities interested in managing sustainable development. * *Enabling environment:* Institutions and legislation will need to develop in a fashion more supportive of community initiative towards sustainable management of resources and remove bureaucratic bottle-necks currently insurmountable by communities. * *Enhancing the role of government:* Future support should seek to consolidate the long term role of the various levels government in supporting and coordinating local marine resource management. * *Multi-sector integration in practice:* Fisheries and environmental sectors will need to put into practice effective and on the ground collaboration to support communities in achieving local and national sustainable development priorities. Legislation for inshore fisheries, protected areas and wider environmental management will need to be improved in tandem. * *Cost effectiveness:* High priority should be placed on cost-effectiveness of environmental management approaches and maximizing the range of livelihood benefits for such approaches to be feasible strategies for government. * *Strengthen and adapt national and sub-national policy and institutional frameworks* in support of Integrated Island Management based on community driven adaptive management. * *Avoid raising unrealistic expectations:* Unrealistically promoting the benefits of MPAs or providing “incentives” are common strategies despite the lack of demonstrable long term success. |
| Participatory zoning and management planning for Nayband marine-coastal national  park- experiences and lesson learned - Iran | National | * The proximity of oil and gas industries to Nayband Marine-Coastal National Park was one of the main environmental concerns for local communities of the region. This national park is part of the ICCA of Nayband coastal communities which is also recently recognized as an ecologically or biologically significant area (EBSA) by the Convention on biological Diversity. Thus, the elaboration of a plan for co-management of Nayband national park was suggested by all the stakeholders and right-holders of the region. * **Participatory Zoning Workshop –** This workshop was held in April 2015 in the Nayband National Park organized and facilitated by Cenesta. This was the first of its kind held in Iran with the participation of all stakeholders and right-holders. The main outcome of the workshop was the zonation of Nayband National Park which was recognized by all the participating stakeholders. |
| Securing economic, social and cultural rights of small-scale and artisanal fisherworkers and fishing communities – Chandrika Sharma (ICSF) | N/A | * This paper provides concrete proposals for securing social, economic and cultural rights of small-scale fishing communities. The paper also draws attention to the challenges that will need to be overcome in adopting and implementing a human rights approach to fisheries and fishing communities. * Unique social and cultural dimensions of fisheries and fishing communities, as well as associated traditional knowledge systems and institutions, could have an important role in the equitable and sustainable development of the sector if they were better recognized. * Activities and management measures that diminish the economic and so­cial rights of fishers should not be considered. For example, conservation initia­tives such as marine protected areas must be redesigned when they unjustly deny small-scale fishers access to their fishing grounds and settlements. |

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