

Workshop on Vulnerabilities and Risks to Culturally Significant Areas (WKVCSA)

2017/2/HAPISG05 A Workshop on Vulnerabilities and Risks to Culturally Significant Areas (WKVCSA), chaired by Andreas Kannen*, Germany, and Kira Gee*, Germany, will meet in Geesthacht, Germany, 6–9 February 2018 to:

- a) Identify socio-cultural features and values relevant in Culturally Significant Areas;
- b) Analyse existing frameworks for risk management and adapt them to Culturally Significant Areas;
- c) Develop a classification scheme and generic checklist for vulnerabilities related to socio-cultural features and values.

Background

Despite the growing recognition of their importance, immaterial cultural values associated with the sea still tend to be neglected in marine spatial planning (MSP). This socio-cultural evidence gap is due to inherent difficulties in defining and eliciting cultural values, but also to difficulties in linking cultural values to specific places, thus enabling an area-based approach to management. In 2013 WKCES developed the concept of Culturally Significant Areas (CSA) to take a step towards closing this evidence gap. Follow-up activities included WKCCMSP in February 2016 as well as an ICES organised workshop at the 2nd Conference on Maritime Spatial Planning in Riga in November 2016 on the CSA approach. A scientific paper outlining and further developing the approach was published in early 2017 (Gee, K., Kannen, A., Adlam, R., Brooks, C., Chapman, M., Cormier, R., Fischer, C., Fletcher, S., Gubbins, M., Shucksmith, R., Shellock, R. (2017): Identifying culturally significant areas for marine spatial planning. *Ocean and Coastal Management*, Volume 136, 1 February 2017, Pages 139-147).

WKVCSA aims to take the CSA approach one step further towards operational applicability by developing a generic framework for vulnerability and risk assessment in CSAs. After identifying socio-cultural features and values that make up CSAs in practice (ToR a), WKVCSA will analyse the EBSA (Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas) framework, using it as a basis for developing a similar risk and vulnerability assessment approach for Culturally Significant Areas (ToR b). Based on this, ToR c is to develop a classification scheme and generic checklist for vulnerabilities related to socio-cultural features and values in order to enable their recognition in marine planning and management. Furthermore, WKVCSA will feed into and inform WKMCSA (see separate resolution), both contributing to significant ToRs in WGMPCZM.

WKVCSA will report by 15 March 2018 (via HAPISG) for the attention of SCICOM.

Supporting information

Priority	WKVCSA is a direct outcome of the work in WGMPCZM linking with WKQAMSP2012, WKQAMSP2013, WKQAMSP2014, WKQAMSP2015, WKQAMSP2016 and aspects of the Bow-Tie analysis discussed in WKRASM2012, WKRASM2013, WKRASM2014, WKRASM2015 and WKPASM 2015. The WK will further the scientific knowledge base for MSP and direct support work in WGMPCZM.
Scientific justification	Despite the growing recognition of their importance, immaterial cultural values associated with the sea still tend to be neglected in marine spatial planning (MSP). This socio-cultural evidence gap is due to inherent difficulties in defining and eliciting cultural values, but also to difficulties in linking cultural values to specific places, thus enabling an area-based approach to management. Through the activities of WGMPCZM, WKQAMSP2012, WKQAMSP2013, WKQAMSP2014, WKQAMSP2015, WKQAMSP2016, ICES has initiated first steps, which contribute to overcome this evidence gap. WKVCSA (together with WKMCSA) will develop the CSA approach further and therefore

	contribute to further developing MSP.
Resource requirements	None from ICES except secretariat support. Facilities supplied by HZG.
Participants	We expect between 10 – 15 participants (a mix of practitioners and scientists with the relevant theoretical and methodological background) to be invited on base of their specific expertise in socio-cultural and policy contexts in marine and coastal areas.
Secretariat facilities	Help with setting up and managing the sharepoint site and registration page.
Financial	None, the workshop will be hosted by HZG.
Linkages to advisory committees	Development of the science base for MSP in ICES is directly relevant to ACOM and several ACOM EGs and initiatives, as it is for SCICOM EGs and ICES activities related to SDG 14.
Linkages to other committees or groups	WKVCSA is directly relevant to WGMPCZM .
Linkages to other organizations	OSPAR, HELCOM, VASAB, EU, UNESCO/IOC and national agencies with MSP and coastal management responsibility as well as organisations dealing with SDG 14.