

Title: Marine spatial planning in support of integrated management – tools, methods, and approaches (E)

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Marine spatial planning is receiving support from a growing number of ICES member countries as a means to develop a strategic approach to offshore ocean usage and resolve spatial conflict issues. While the concepts of integrated management (IM) and supporting marine spatial planning (MSP) are now often referred to at the policy level, there is generally only a vague and patchy understanding of how they might be practically implemented. The most obvious elements of MSP include marine protected or spatially regulated areas designed to meet one or more objectives of IM. This requires identifying and mapping marine features and processes, along with human activities and associated pressures and impacts.

The theme session aims to explore the latest thinking and developments in MSP. Contributions are therefore invited on practical examples of MSP approaches or on any of its sub-components, including:

- Role of MSP in achieving IM objectives
- Criteria for identifying, mapping and assessing (based on observations and/or predictions) cumulative impacts of multiple human activities, including theoretical developments on community sensitivity, resilience and other features of ecological significance,
- Mapping of human activities / impacts using spatially-resolved data or model predictions
- Criteria and guidelines used to design and locate MPAs to meet cross-sectoral IM objectives, i.e. not just fisheries or nature conservation objectives; included in this are theoretical considerations on interconnectivity amongst these areas
- Success stories and problem areas to avoid in practical implementation of MSP
- Examples where GIS technology has been successfully adapted and implemented to meet the requirements of one or more aspects of MSP

We are particularly interested in practical examples of marine planning or management systems or processes that bring together any combination of the above.

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