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Developments in cumulative impact assessment from a marine minerals extraction view

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Abstract:

With a growing intensity of marine activities, including aggregate extraction, multiple pressures are introduced to the environment causing a wide range of impacts in time and space. Worldwide substantial effort is currently made to address the assessment of cumulative impact in order to help marine management and policy and with that the EU Commission in the process of implementing the MSFD. Initiatives are undertaken to understand and develop methods to integrate multiple pressures and their impacts on multiple ecosystem components. To date no common methodology has become established but a common approach should be relevant at the geographical scale at which the MSFD operates. With a focus on marine minerals extraction, however, it will be important that measures proposed should also be proportionate and achievable on a practical level as well as appropriate to the scale at which the industry is active. This paper summarises the activities undertaken on cumulative impacts assessment in the ICES area and investigates and discusses the methods proposed with a focus on relevance to aggregate extraction policy making and legislation.

Keywords: Mineral extraction, Cumulative impacts assessment

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