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**Integrating Quality Management into the Maritime Spatial Planning processes:
Estonian Case**

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According to EU Directive establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning (MSP) the Member States should consider economic, social and environmental aspects to support sustainable development and growth in the maritime sector, applying an ecosystem-based approach, and to promote the coexistence of relevant activities and uses. This study considers the MSP as an ecosystem based, strategic, anticipatory and participatory, integrated and adaptive iterative process. Although adaptive approach requires continuous monitoring and quality evaluation of the MSP process performance little research has been conducted on how such performance monitoring and quality evaluation can lead to meaningful results. This paper attempts to demonstrate the conceptual potential of the Quality Management System (QMS) implementation with regard to integration of Estonian Baltic Sea fisheries into the MSP processes including transboundary aspects. Bow-tie analysis is successfully used to organize and visualize the essential elements of risk and to evaluate the various spatial and temporal risk management measures that are implemented to prevent the undesired events or to mitigate their consequences. Issue is exemplified by analysis of planning preparatory processes framed under EU MARE/2014/22 project “Towards coherence and cross-border solutions in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans (Baltic SCOPE)”. It is shown that practical implementation of QMS is enabling planners and stakeholders to integrate the monitoring and quality evaluation functions directly into the actual adaptive MSP processes. Based on QMS feedback information analysis the changes in MSP quality management actions accompanied with necessary reallocation of resources are decided and planning process continues.

Keywords: Maritime Spatial Planning, Quality Management System, Baltic Sea fishery, performance monitoring, quality evaluation.

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