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Regions to boost National Maritime Spatial Planning
REGINA-MSP

CSIC Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas

Case study of The Region of Murcia

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The case study of the Region of Murcia is one of the eight case studies of REGINA-MSP project. It is located in the south-east coast of the Iberian Peninsula and it encompasses the Mediterranean Sea waters facing the Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia up to the edge of the continental shelf (figure 1). These waters belong to the levantine-balearic marine demarcation (DM-LEBA), one of the five marine demarcations in which the Spanish marine waters are divided under Law 41/2010 on the protection of the sea.

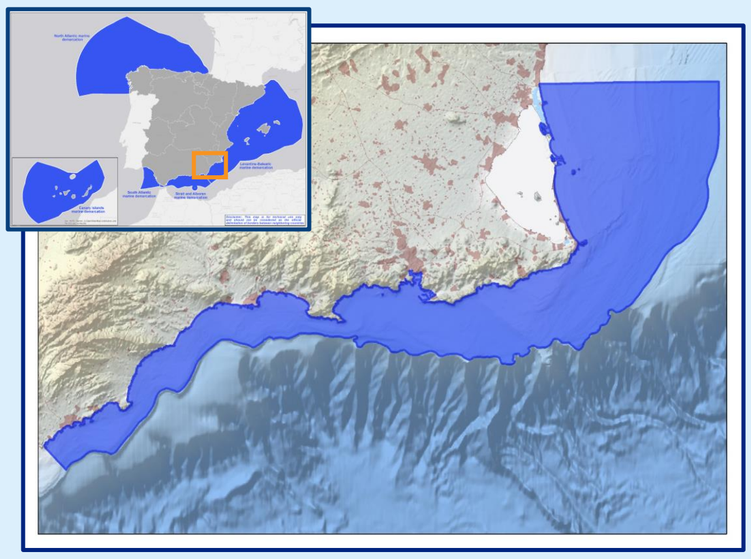


*Figure 1. Right: Case study area; Left: Spanish marine demarcations. *Disclaimer: The limits of the marine demarcations do not correspond to the jurisdictional limits of the Spanish marine waters. They should not be considered as official delimitation with neighbouring countries. Source: Own elaboration (IEO, CSIC).*

This case study is a continuation of the works started in a previous project called *MSPMED*.

The results obtained from this project have prompted to the continuation of data analysis and stakeholder engagement to implement a smart-scale MSP at the regional level, thereby enhancing the overall MSP process at the national level..

MSPMED project

Data analysis + Stakeholders' workshops

Identification of

Synergies | Conflicts | Information gaps

Recommendations

Smart-scale MSP

Topics analysed were focused on :

- **Maerl beds vs Marine aquaculture**
- **Unregulated anchorages vs Biodiversity conservation/ Underwater Cultural Heritage**

These interactions among maritime activities and uses were analysed to:

- Identify the specificities of the Region.
- Enhance the participation of stakeholders in MSP.
- Enrich the MSP process.
- Collect/validate recommendations to favour the long-term coexistence among uses/activities.

REGINA-MSP case study work was carried out based on the results of the MSPMED project

1. New cartography developed

An oceanographic campaign was held to obtain the maerl coverage in the coastal strip between Isla Grosa and Cabo de Palos-Isla Hormigas (Region of Murcia).

Updated cartography regarding anchoring and seagrass meadows was available. The UCH cartography was the same as the one used in MSPMED.

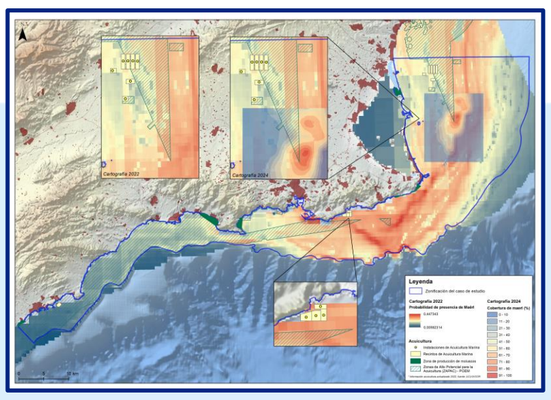


Figure 2: Map of the case study area, potential distribution of maerl habitat already available in MSPMED project, distribution of the percentage of maerl coverage in the coastal strip between Isla Grosa and Cabo de Palos-Isla Hormigas (obtained through an oceanographic campaign developed during REGINA-MSP), High Potential Areas for Aquaculture established in the Spanish MSP plans and aquaculture facilities present in the Region of Murcia. Source: IEO, CSIC.

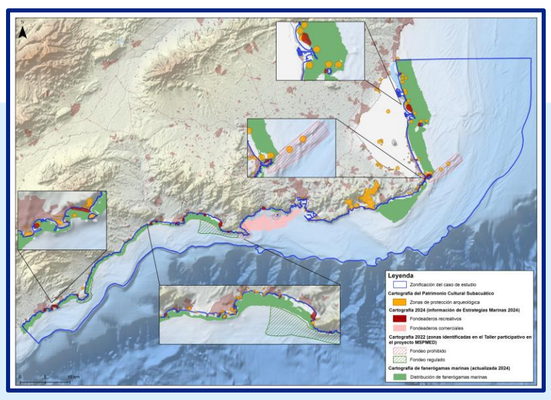


Figure 3: Map of the case study area, archaeological protection zones, cartography of recreational and commercial anchorages (marine strategies 2024), prohibited and regulated anchoring zones identified in the workshop held in the framework of MSPMED in 2022 and the cartography of marine phanerogams (updated 2024). Source: Own elaboration (IEO, CSIC).

2. Stakeholders' workshops

Validation of MSPMED recommendations

Design of regional tailored-made actions

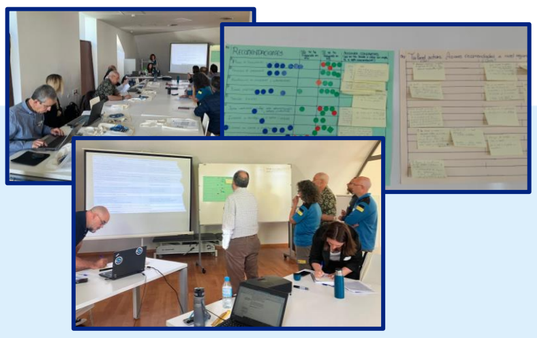


Figure 4: Participatory workshop on the interaction between marine aquaculture and maerl beds in the Region of Murcia.

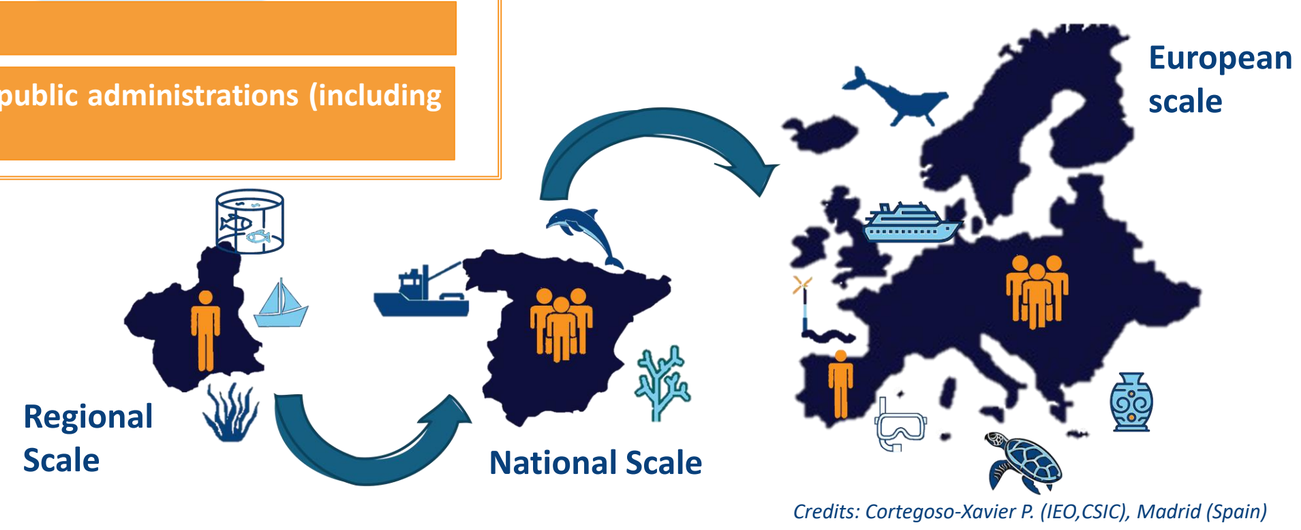
Figure 5: Participatory workshop on the interaction among unregulated anchorages, underwater cultural heritage and biodiversity conservation in the Region of Murcia.

Tailored-made actions designed for the case study of the Region of Murcia

- Long-term research on the interaction among uses
- Smart-scale information for detail planning at the regional level based on scientific research.
- Specific working groups within the Ministry MSP group to analyse interactions among uses/activities.
- Participatory governance that gives voice to all stakeholders.
- Improve coordination and communication mechanisms among different public administrations (including different departments of the same administration) and the sectors.

To achieve the long-term coexistence of uses and activities in the borderless sea while ensuring marine biodiversity conservation, it is neccessary to consider regional and local specificities. These particularities should enrich the national MSP proccesses to ultimately achieve global harmony.

ACT LOCALLY → THINK GLOBALLY



Credits: Cortegoso-Xavier P. (IEO,CSIC), Madrid (Spain)

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