

Conference Abstracts & Biographies

3B – Making Socio-cultural Values Count: Opportunities and Challenges for Marine Spatial Planning (Part Two)

Chair: Kira Gee, Helmholtz Zentrum Geesthacht

Identifying cultural significant areas and exploring socio-cultural evidence needs for MSP: the case of traditional small-scale fisheries in the Aegean Sea

Marva Stithou, V. Vassilopoulou, V. Markantonatou, S. Kavadas, E. Gadolou
Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR), Greece

Abstract:

The coastal and marine environment generates a large number of ecosystem services (e.g., provisioning, regulating, cultural). Sites providing suitable reproductive habitat and nursery grounds contribute to the provision of food and maintenance of fisheries, which might have a small contribution to the gross domestic product (like in Greece) but which are related to cultural services that often occur together with seafood provisioning such as cultural heritage, identity, social resilience etc. In Greece fisheries are mainly characterised by a small-scale fleet, with an overall small contribution to the gross domestic product compared to for example tourism, but of relatively high socio-economic importance particularly in coastal, traditionally fisheries-dependent areas (e.g., Aegean region). The current study aims to highlight cultural significant areas where traditional small scale fisheries exist in the Aegean Sea, considering different criteria and sources of data, for maritime spatial planning purposes. Hence, it demonstrates the possibility of using spatial socio-cultural data that could potentially inform ecosystem-based maritime spatial planning that often precludes and ignores socio-cultural priorities that cannot be mapped or quantified. It is regarded that cultural heritage and identity linked to marine habitats and fisheries that they support is non-renewable, while lack of data poses a risk for services with non-tangible benefits to get less attention in marine management. Finally, the study highlights the need for further research by identifying related gaps and challenges that will enable effective decision-making. Funding for this work was provided by DG MARE (Grant Agreement SI2.721917) during PROTOMEDEA project ('Towards the establishment of Marine Protected Area Networks in the Eastern Mediterranean').

Seascape Characterisation and Marine Planning: a comparative analysis approaches in the UK

Tim A Stojanovic, University of St Andrews, UK

Abstract:

Marine plans have been prepared or under preparation for all four of the home nations of the UK: Wales, Scotland, England and Northern Ireland as of 2018. Each of the planning processes has conducted an exercise in seascape characterisation in order to develop a cultural evidence base about oceans and coasts. These studies have tended to draw upon a long heritage of approaches to characterisation from landscape architecture. The topic of seascape is also reflected as a policy field within the overarching UK Marine Policy Statement. This paper draws on content analysis and interview data to explore the grammar of seascape as reflected in these planning exercises and policy documents. The comparative analysis reveals that there are widely differing approaches to seascape characterisation between the four national regimes, which draw upon different notions of scale, function, aesthetic dimensions and the underwater world. There remain critical questions about the approaches which are being applied in this field, with room for engagement with other fields of scholarship from the arts and humanities, as well as the natural sciences. Seascape is being touted as an organising

concept to draw together a range of cultural understandings of the sea, and facilitate their consideration in decision-making processes, but the promises and methods of such an approach remain to be proven.

Negotiating Spaces of Nature and Culture at the Wadden Sea

Cormac Walsh, Hamburg University, Germany

Abstract:

Through the designation and management of areas of nature protection at the coast and at sea, nature-culture relations are renegotiated and reframed with significant implications for broader processes of coastal management and marine spatial planning. Yet the relationships between protected areas and their coastal and marine hinterlands may be interpreted articulated in very different ways. This paper draws a comparison between two neighbouring national parks located at the Wadden Sea coasts of northern Germany and southern Denmark respectively. Through qualitative interviews and interpretative policy analysis, the paper explores how the relationships between society and the sea, nature and culture are articulated and framed in the context of the two national parks. Specific focus is placed on the role of spatial boundaries in separating out and/or connecting spaces of nature and culture. The paper concludes with reflections on how nature-culture relations might be understood and framed in processes of marine spatial planning.