**Planning Criteria Environment – Update 16th of April 2019**

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| Environment | Belgium | Denmark | Germany | Netherlands | Norway | Scotland | Sweden |
| Consideration of MPAs and other ecologically valuable areas in planning process | Most of the MPAs are part of the existing part  (Special Area for Conservation, Special Protection Area, National nature reserve, Special zone for seabed integrity | No current MSP plan | The needs of the marine environment are protected by provisions for marine  environmental protection included in the regulations applying to the individual uses (e.g. exclusion of offshore wind farms in Natura2000 areas) and by dedicated regulations for the protection of the marine environment | Designated Natura 2000 are part of the current MSP plan | Environmental value of Norwegian sea areas are part of existing MSP plan | 31 Nature conservation MPAs (17 territorial, 13 EEZ) and 8 historic MPAs are part of the national marine plan | Natura 2000, (planned) MPAs and areas of national interest for nature values in MSP plan |
| Role of your MSP authority in designating MPAs and other ecologically valuable areas |  |  | BSH as maritime planning authority does not designate MPAs, the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (for EEZ) and the respective ministries at state level (for TS) are responsible for designating MPAs. | The Ministry of Agriculture Nature and Food Quality is responsible for designating MPAs. | Norway does not have a MSP authority as the work is round-table. The management group identifies ecologically valuable areas, based on scientific advice. | Marine Scotland under The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 designates MPAs out to 12nm, and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 provides powers to designated out to the rest of Scottish waters. |  |
| Existing MPAs and other ecologically valuable areas in MSP | - Nature reserve  - Natura 2000  - Fishing limitation zones  - Ramsar | (- Natura 2000  - §3 Protected nature types  - National parks) | - UNESCO World Heritage site  - Nationalpark (TS)  - RAMSAR wetland (TS)  - Natura 2000 sites (SCI and SPA) (EEZ)  - Natura 2000 sites (SCI and SPA) (TS)  - Nature conservation areas (Naturschutzgebiete, NSG) (EEZ)  - Nature conservation areas(Naturschutzgebiete, NSG) (TS) | - Natura 2000 (SAC & SPA)  - Ramsar  - Plaice box (Sectorial) | - Cross-sectorial conservation measure (national park)  - Cross-sectorial conservation measure (nature reserve)  - Important wetlands / RAMSAR sites / Birds protection sites  - Ecologically or Significant Marine Areas (EBSAS) | - Natura 2000 (SAC & SPA)  - Historic MPA (HMPA)  - Demonstration & Research Marine Protected Areas (D&R MPAs)  - Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI)  - National Nature Reserve (NNR)  - Nature conservation MPA (NCMPA)  - Ramsar | - Natura 2000 (SAC & SPA)  - Nature reserve  - National park |
| Consideration of any connectivity between MPAs and other ecologically valuable areas |  |  | Connectivity between MPAs was not considered in the first plan. | These have not yet been considered as such but because of the MSFD requirement to protect the sea floor, some areas outside N2000 are going to be restricted for bottom trawling. | Connectivity was not considered in the last plan, but will be in the future | Connectivity or linkages between MPAs within the network is considered |  |
| Restrictions in MPAs and other ecologically valuable areas (no fishing, shipping etc.) | No fishing in fishing limitation zones, in other MPAs all impacts regulated | Identified pressures in Natura 2000, Any activity unless engaged in before an area became protected in protected nature types | Anthropogenic impacts such as tourism, camping, but also industrial use in national parks; defined activities in Natura 2000 and nature conservation areas, for example for NSG EEZ: relocation of dredges material, aquaculture, recreational fishing, introduction of non-indigenous species. | No bottom trawling in plaice box, direct restriction of certain activities in Natura 2000, depending on area restriction to fisheries. | Restrictions on aactivities that have an impact on MPA (reduce conservation values, change natural environment). In other valuable areas, there may also be specific restrictions to maintain the ecosystem values. E g no or reduced oil activities, no bottom trawling | MPAs are managed to conserve or recover the features within MPAs and the principle of sustainable use allows for appropriate activities to continue in the rest of the MPA. However specific activities which pose a significant risk to a protected feature will be managed. | All pressures impacting endpoints in Natura 2000 and national park, defined activities in nature reserve |
| Do you and how do you apply the EBA in your MSP? |  |  | In the current MSP, adopted in 2009, the EBA was only considered in terms of food chain interactions.  For the revision of the plan (adoption planned in 2021) there is an ongoing discussion within BSH on how to implement the EBA in a more comprehensive way. | The criteria of the MSFD for Good Environmental Status are considered as a practical approach to EBA. These criteria are applied for the assessment of the impacts of each initiative and collectively (accumulation) in a Strategic Environmental Assessment.  The starting points are the ecosystem approach and the precautionary principle. | EBA is a natural part of the Norwegian marine management. It is the basis for the process and organization of the work with the management plans. | Scotland’s National Marine Plan promotes an ecosystem approach but the current state of knowledge about many aspects of the structure and functioning of marine ecosystems limits how this principle can be translated into definitive planning policies. In particular, an EBA is applied to the management of fishing. |  |

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| Similarities | Differences | Actions |
| * MPAs are designated by environmental authorities (not MSP) * There is a communication between MPA planners and MSP planners * Processes run more or less parallel. | * In NOR the MSP authority is also the environmental planning authority (same institute, different department). * In SWE the MPAs are mostly designated by municipal governments. * NOR has PVVAs (not legally binding, but recommendation), and MPAs (legally binding, approved by king) * In some countries the communication between environmental Planners and MSP planners is easy, in others a bit more tensed. * Fishing limitations zones are in NL. * Fishing in OWF allowed in UK and DK (partly in NL) * SCOT has demonstration (art. Reefs) and research MPAs. * Connectivity key in SCOT planning process, in SWE fostered in discussion. * MPAs in SWE are in coastal regions, in GER in TS and EEZ. | * Define the meaning of fishing limitation zones in environmental report. * Better understanding of different demonstration and research MPAs. * How is connectivity included in the planning process (from a legislative point of view, as well in practice)? |