



MESMA NEWSLETTER ISSUE 1 | FEB 2011

One year on the way

Started in November 2009, MESMA is now well underway.

In this first newsletter we inform you on the progress of this EU 7th framework programme. In the past year, the basic building stones for the project have been set up, which are explained in this issue.

In the coming year, 2011, we will put our insights into practice. With over 20 institutes we will work on the future of marine spatial management in Europe.

Remment ter Hofstede, project leader



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MESMA framework ready for testing

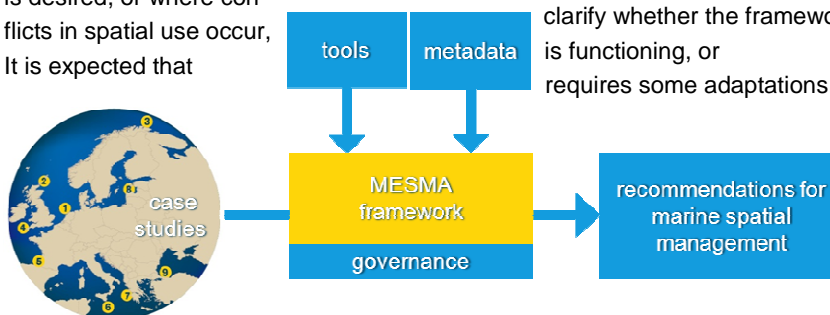
The MESMA framework, developed in 2010, is a step wise approach to systematically evaluate management plans in different (European) marine areas.

The framework should provide a clear analysis of the management situation in areas where spatial planning is in place, is desired, or where conflicts in spatial use occur. It is expected that

the framework should also prove to be a useful instrument for spatial planners, policy makers and other stakeholders.

Nine case studies serve as laboratories for testing the framework, each with their own specific setting of human uses, nature conservation targets and policies. The first 'test run' in 2011 should

clarify whether the framework is functioning, or requires some adaptations.



The challenge for 2011: Testing the MESMA framework using case studies as

Habitat catalogue and review of marine management

In 2010 we produced a voluminous catalogue describing over 60 marine habitats with special emphasis on the goods and services provided, their sensitivity to human activities, and their conservation status. This catalogue will assist the application of the MESMA framework in the case studies. We also produced an extensive review of management of marine areas.

AGENDA

22-23 Feb 2011

Training days MESMA framework, Hamburg

6-7 June 2011

ExB meeting, Delft

Nov 2011

General Assembly Meeting, Greece



Lively discussions at the General Assembly, Malta, December 2010

WWW.MESMA.ORG

MESMA is an FP7 project on monitoring and evaluation of spatially managed marine areas (2009-2013)



Marine Spatial Planning projects should join forces

MESMA would like to collaborate with other (EU) projects on marine spatial planning to support and strengthen each other in work and activities. If you see opportunities for cooperation, please contact the project coordinator Remment.terHofstede@wur.nl.

MESMA prepares a shared metadatabase on Geonetworks

Availability of data is important for Eco-system based marine spatial planning. Ideally one would like to start with a lot of data on the existing human impacts, the geographical distribution of different eco-systems and their sensitivity to human use. But the real world is not ideal. Data and databases are scattered among different institutes and governments and are difficult to find. We need searchable metadata to find and evaluate available data.

In 2011, MESMA will create a freely accessible metadata portal using Geonetwork software, which will enable online access to metadata records provided and created by project partners for the case studies. Data specialists will coordinate this important task and provide solutions for the integration of databases from different institutes.

Tools to make life easier

There are many different tools that can help us in marine spatial planning. To

construct a table, we use a saw, a hammer, screwdrivers, screws and paint. A tool for the MESMA framework can be geo-spatial mapping, monitoring, and ways to treat data (such as combining maps). We will start the inventory of these tools in 2011 and collect them in an interactive webpage.

Governance is hot!

In the European seas, spatial planning initiatives are embedded in a landscape of 'institutions', which include laws, policies, cultural norms and agreements that all interact with each other to influence governance. We map this institutional landscape in the governance stream of MESMA and analyse how different institutions can be combined and used effectively to support the achievement of marine spatial planning goals. The governance analysis runs parallel to the MESMA framework and complements it by providing in-depth analysis of the socio-economic and geo-political realities.

Case Studies as laboratories

In 2010 we carefully selected and described 9 case studies that represent 6 EU marine regions, and a range of national and international aspects of marine spatial planning. The case studies serve as laboratories for testing the MESMA framework. Later on in the project we will produce a position paper and a comparison paper based on the lessons learned.

9 MESMA case studies

1. Southern North Sea
2. Pentland Firth & Orkney Waters
3. Barents Sea & Lofoten area
4. Celtic Sea
5. Basque country continental shelf (SE Bay of Biscay)
6. Strait of Sicily
7. Inner Ionian Archipelago & adjacent gulfs
8. Baltic Sea
9. Black Sea



AIM

With the help of its stakeholders, MESMA is aiming to develop integrated management tools such as guidelines, concepts, models and tools for monitoring, evaluating and implementing Spatially Managed Areas (SMAs).

Produced by Oscar Bos & the MESMA Executive Board / Photos: sea grass: Iris Hendriks / Malta, Nephrops: Oscar Bos / MESMA design: www.totenmetontwerpen.nl. / The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement n° 226661.



MESMA case study workshop, May 2010, Ghent

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