

# Scale matters!

## Spatial management in the Southern North Sea

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The Southern North Sea (SNS) case study is one of nine “laboratories” of the MESMA project for testing methods & tools for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of management performance in spatially managed areas (SMAs).

The heterogeneous SNS area was selected to compare marine spatial management initiatives at different spatial scales, including the associated governance institutions. Currently, no zoning plan exists on SNS scale. The four SNS subareas are diverse: inter-/transnational, national, subnational, inshore, offshore, different ecosystems, diverse biotopes...

### Research question

What can we learn from management on smaller-scales for the much larger, international Southern North Sea scale?

### Focus on three activities:

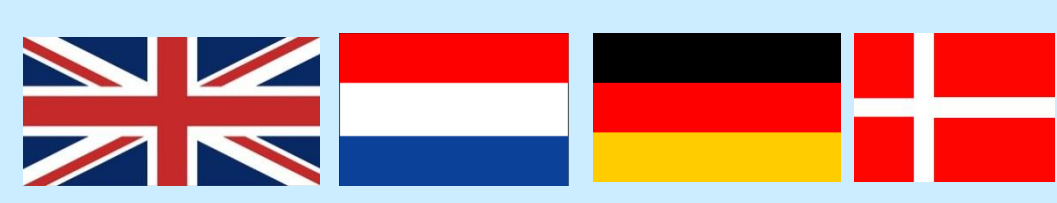
#### Fishery



#### Offshore wind



#### Nature conservation



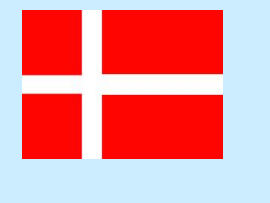
### Dogger Bank

Nature conservation, renewable energy and fisheries in the cross-border Natura 2000 area



**Focus:** Analysis of the participatory stakeholder process

**SNS-message:** Different institutional levels impede implementation of cross border management plans (here: National N2000 implementations versus EU-CFP). Member States have different priorities for the area in terms of nature conservation (N2000) and renewable energy (offshore wind) development.



### Skagerrak

Harbour porpoise protection in two DK- Natura 2000 sites



**Focus:** Analysis of conflicts between harbour porpoises and fisheries incl. innovative by-catch monitoring methods (CCTV) and participatory approach.

**SNS-message:** Is the strategy of protecting harbour porpoises in national N2000 sites sufficient to effectively conserve a species with a much larger home range?

### Belgian EEZ

Marine spatial planning (MSP) in the Belgian EEZ



**Focus:** Analysis of MSP in the Belgian EEZ. Specific question: Can good environmental status be reached in the large Belgian Natura 2000 site “Vlaamse Banken” without additional management measures?

**SNS-message:** Difficult to harmonize localized, concrete objectives with abstract and partly ambiguous international legislation.

### Wadden Sea

Nature conservation in trilateral cooperation area.



**Focus:** Analysis of cross-border monitoring and evaluation process in seal management.

**SNS-message:** Political will is prerequisite for trilateral harmonization. National approaches (even if conflicting) can be tolerated. Foundation of the successful trilateral cooperation: support by the trilateral secretariat, good communication, availability of documents and trilateral programs. The governance process is complex, and the evaluation process does not appear to be very transparent yet.

### Preliminary lessons learnt from subareas

- **Many different management ‘levels’ exist, rendering the selection of relevant spatial scales for M&E challenging**
  - boundaries of ecological, social and economic entities and institutional landscapes do not always match
- **A clear focus is needed for a manageable M&E process**
  - if focus and objectives are too broad and multi-faceted, evaluation becomes unfeasible
- **Different SMAs need different management approaches, depending on scale and objectives**
  - ecological as well as social, economic and cultural diversity call for different approaches to marine management