Building MSP frameworks to enable Blue Growth

Lunchtime side event, Tuesday 4 September 2018, 1:15 - 2:45pm, Conference Room 12

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) is an Area Based Management Tool that could be included in a new Implementing Agreement for biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction. Challenges for MSP in ABNJ include the need for international cooperation and articulation with the national plans being developed by adjacent States.

This side event will highlight the legal and governance issues associated with MSP and some more practical aspects that could contribute to MSP processes. It will recognise challenges posed by Blue Growth, the need for evidence-based, inclusive marine spatial plans, and related capacity building requirements.

Co-chairs:

Ambassador Serge Segura, Ambassadeur chargé des océans, France

David Johnson, ATLAS Project

Speakers:

Daniela Diz, University of Strathclyde

Julien Barbière, IOC-UNESCO

Susanna Fuller, Oceans North

Biliana Cicin-Sain, Global Ocean Forum

Glen Wright, IDDRI

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A trans-Atlantic assessment and deep-water ecosystem-based spatial management plan for Europe: The ATLAS Project

Changing environmental conditions and human activities have major impacts on the distribution and sustainability of living marine resources. This poses a serious challenge to the business and policy communities seeking to balance societal needs with environmental sustainability. Large-scale ocean observation is needed to improve our understanding of how deep ocean ecosystems function, their roles as reservoirs of biodiversity and genetic resources, and their health under future scenarios of climate change and human use.

The ATLAS project will provide essential new knowledge of deep-ocean ecosystems in the North Atlantic. This ambitious project will explore the world of deep-sea habitats (200-2000m water depth) where the greatest gaps in our understanding lie and certain populations and ecosystems are under pressure.

Key objectives of the project are to i) advance our understanding of deep Atlantic marine ecosystems and populations; ii) improve our capacity to monitor, model and predict shifts in deep-water ecosystems and populations; iii) transform new data, tools and understanding into effective ocean governance, and iv) scenario-test and develop science-led, cost-effective adaptive management strategies that stimulate Blue Growth.

The results of the project will inform and facilitate stakeholder agreement on relevant science-led marine policy and regulation to ensure good ecosystem management and sustainable resource exploitation. We believe this is of direct relevance to the discussions of the Intergovernmental Conference convened under General Assembly resolution 72/249, and the expected outcomes of ATLAS will have relevance for all seas and oceans.

ATLAS at a glance

Duration: May 2016 – April 2020

Funding: € 9.1 million from the EU's H2020 programme

Consortium: 24 partners across 10 EU countries, US and Canada

Coordinator: Prof. Murray Roberts, University of Edinburgh, UK

Expected impacts: Pioneering innovation in modelling, predicting, and monitoring of marine ecosystems, as well as policy implementation:

- New basin-scale models
- Better predictions
- Cost-effective robust monitoring
- Stronger policy implementation
- Dynamic science communication

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