



Leveraging Maritime Spatial Planning for Nature- and People-Positive offshore wind development

Ana Miljanović Rusan
Manager – Offshore Energy & Nature, RGI





GINGR Navigator No. 1

Maritime Spatial Planning

*Discussion paper on leveraging Maritime
Spatial Planning for Nature-Positive
offshore wind development*

November 2024 • Madlie le Bihan & Ana Miljanović Rusan



GINGR
Global Initiative for Nature,
Grids and Renewables



Checklist for Nature and People-Positive Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)



Principle

Create a regulatory and governance framework which supports the implementation of MSP.

- ☐ Map relevant regulatory frameworks for MSP in your context. Review existing global, regional and national regulations and, if necessary, develop a new one.
- ☐ Establish a clear 'one-stop shop' authority which will be responsible for development, implementation, evaluation and adaptation of MSP.
- ☐ Ensure coordination between the MSP authority and other connected and relevant governance bodies.



Principle

Have a clear long-term perspective on offshore wind deployment.

- ☐ Set clear targets for offshore wind energy and grid infrastructure deployment which your national government intends to achieve by 2030, 2040 and 2050. Make sure there is sufficient space allocated.



Principle

Have a data management strategy which supports data collection, standardisation and reusability.

- ☐ During data collection, use different sources such as existing scientific studies, government sources, local knowledge and, where appropriate, direct field measurements.
- ☐ Once collected, make data accessible or available through existing international repositories and initiatives.
- ☐ Ensure the data is harmonised to ensure (re)usability.
- ☐ Involve stakeholders to define the boundaries and scale of MSP, obtain environmental and social information and prioritise data needs. Jointly define criteria for MSP post-implementation evaluation.



Principle

Integrate the ecosystem-based approach into MSP.

- ☐ Conduct Strategic Environmental Assessment in parallel with MSP.
- ☐ Conduct Cumulative Impact Assessment using the most fitting available tool.
- ☐ Site offshore wind and grid infrastructure in a way that avoids the most valuable habitats.
- ☐ Dedicate space for active and passive nature restoration activities. These spaces should be of substantial size and well connected amongst each other.
- ☐ Dedicate space to act as climate refugia.



Principle

Integrate the just transition approach into MSP.

- ☐ Prepare a clear stakeholder engagement strategy detailing the timeline of stakeholder engagement and the type of stakeholders that will be included in the planning process.
- ☐ Conduct multi-use opportunity mapping.
- ☐ Take time to understand community needs and adjust your MSP accordingly.



Principle

Adapt your MSP as needed.

- ☐ Monitor the successes and failures of your MSP based on criteria agreed with stakeholders during the initial planning process.
- ☐ Evaluate MSP against agreed criteria and adjust as necessary.

Our Members



11 Grid Operators
19 Wind Power Companies
20 Civil Society Organisations

*Collaborating for a
green Europe!*



NORTH & BALTIC SEAS



MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Important clarifications

Nature-Positive MSP:

- Avoids damaging ecosystems
- Actively contributes to the **restoration** of biodiversity

People-Positive MSP:

- Inclusion of local communities in decision-making
- Addressing the social impacts of large-scale infrastructure
- Delivering **long-term benefits** of energy transition



Tools

Nature-Positive MSP

- Strategic Environmental Assessment
- Cumulative Impact Assessment
- Cross-border and transboundary cooperation
- Dedicating space for nature recovery
- Siting offshore wind and grid with nature in mind

People-Positive MSP

- Stakeholder engagement
- Multisectoral approach
- Energy justice:
 - Procedural
 - Recognitional
 - Distributional
 - Restorative



Tools

Nature-Positive MSP

- Strategic Environmental Assessment
- **Cumulative Impact Assessment**
- Cross-border and transboundary cooperation
- Dedicating space for nature recovery
- **Siting offshore wind and grid with nature in mind**

People-Positive MSP

- Stakeholder engagement
- Multisectoral approach
- **Energy justice:**
 - Procedural
 - Recognitional
 - Distributional
 - Restorative



Nature-positive MSP – Tools, example

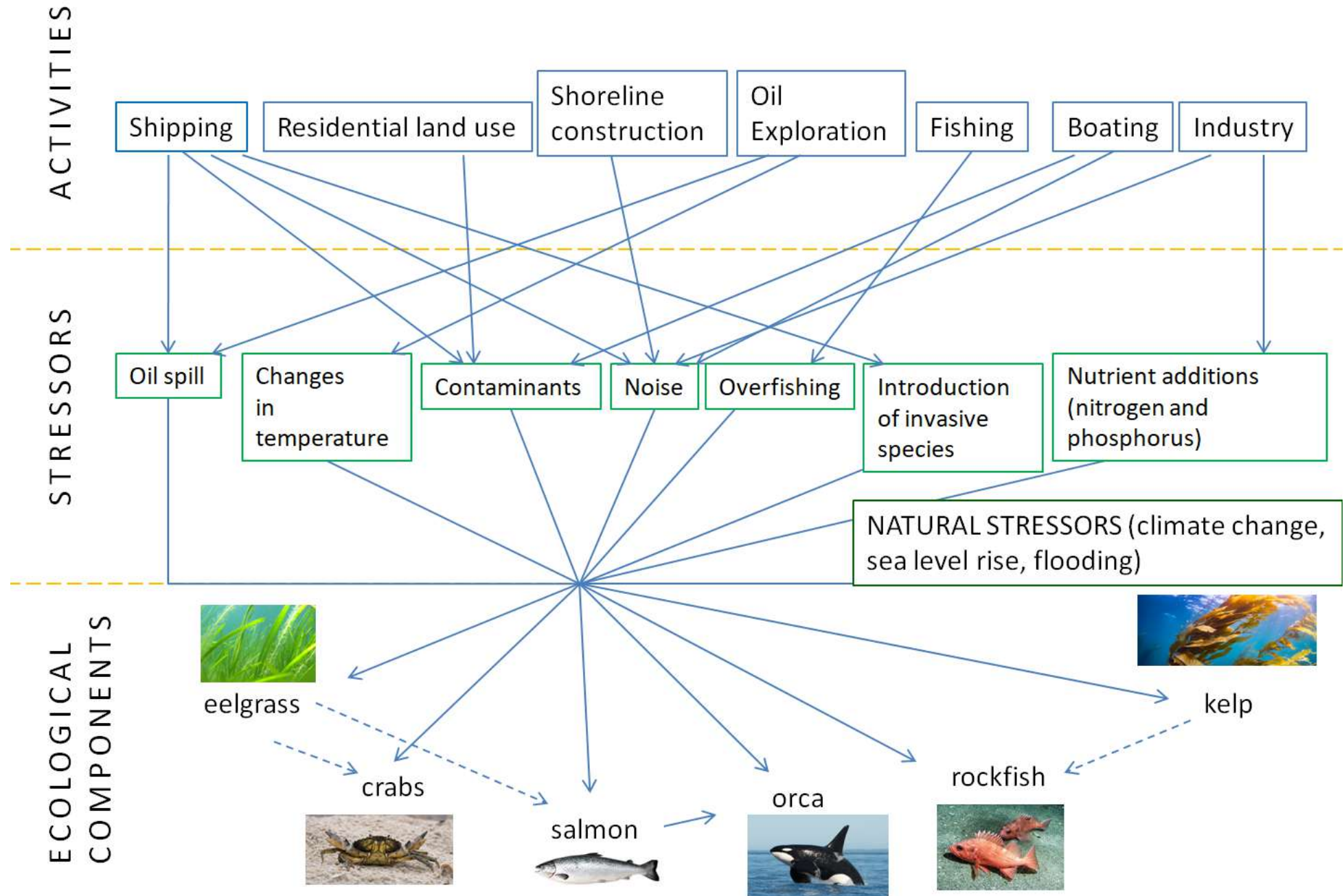
Strategic Environmental Assessment

- *Procedure to assess the environmental impact of a program, **plan** or policy*
- Result:
Environmental report with broad geographical coverage and long-term focus

Cumulative Impact Assessment

Cumulative Impacts are total impacts resulting from the successive, incremental, and/or combined effects of a project when added to other existing, planned and/or reasonable anticipated future projects, as well as background pressures (International Finance Corporation).





Challenges:

- Data availability
- Baseline definition
- Interaction between activities and stressors
- Incorporating uncertainties
- Choosing appropriate spatial and temporal scale
- Significance determination

Table 3: Overview of available CIA tools with their geographical scope

Name	Geographical scope
EcolImpactMapper	Various areas including the eastern North Sea, the Baltic Sea, the Mediterranean, and Black Sea.
Tools4MSP	Tested for Adriatic-Ionian sub-basin but can be deployed to any research area around the globe.
Symphony	Developed for Sweden but can be transferred to other countries.
Mytilus	Applied on Baltic Sea level but it can be applied in any geographic sea area.
SEANERGY	Baltic Sea
Baltic Sea Impact Index (BSII)	Baltic Sea
PlanWise4Blue	National level (Estonia)
MSP Challenge Simulation Platform	North Sea, Baltic Sea and Firth of Clyde
CUMULEO	Northeast Atlantic
Interim Population Consequence Of Disturbance (iPCOD)	The UK
Disturbance Effects Of Noise On The Harbor Porpoise Population In The North Sea (DEPONS)	North Sea
HARMONY Project – North Sea Impact Index (NSII)	Denmark, Germany, Norway, and Sweden
DESEASION	Northeast Atlantic
Options For Delivering Ecosystem-Based Marine Management (ODEMM) Project	tested in all European marine regions

Source: Le Bihan & Miljanović Rusan (2024)

Nature-positive MSP – Tools, example



Siting of OWF & grid infrastructure

MSP -Trying to identify optimal locations:

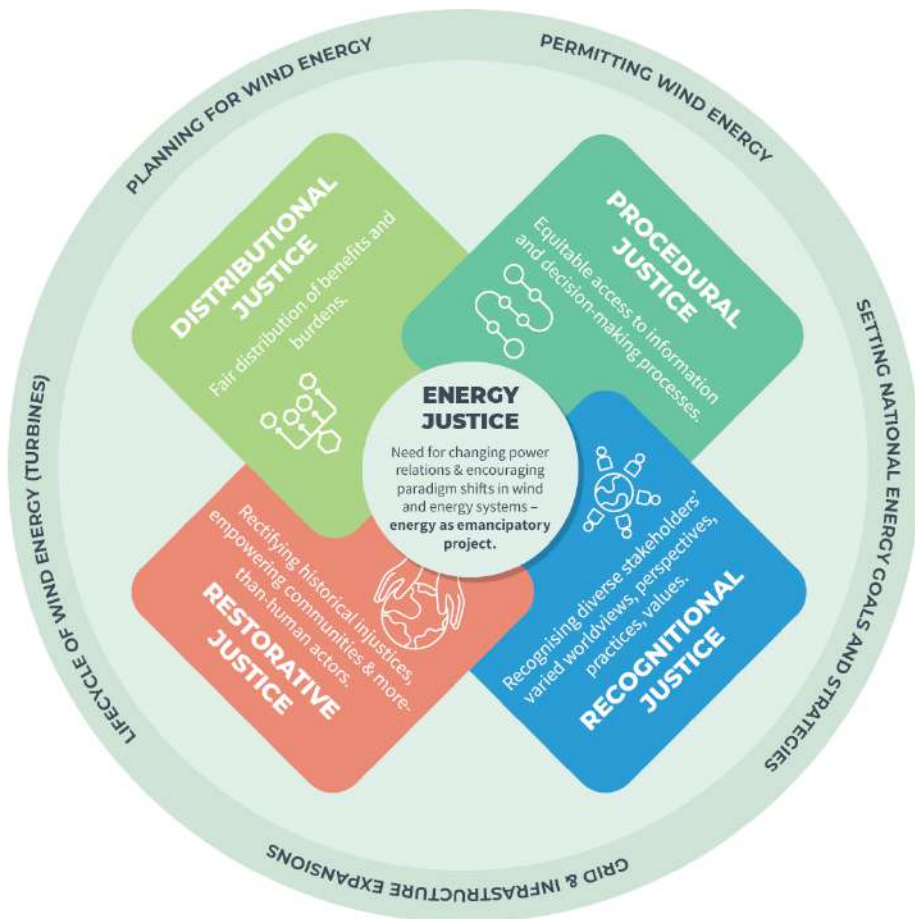
- Maximum electricity generation
- Minimising conflicts with other sectors
- **Protecting the environment**



Source: UNEP-WCMC (Introduction to sensitivity mapping, [link](#))



People-Positive MSP – Tools, example



Energy justice

- Address social impacts
- Respect local context
- Communicate and create local benefits
- Build trust through stakeholder engagement

Source: JustWind4All project, [link](#)





Thank you for your attention.

Ana Miljanović Rusan, Renewables Grid Initiative

ana@renewables-grid.eu

