



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.

