



Overview of discussions at the three regional marine seminars

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Habitat groups likely to benefit most from strict protection:

Atlantic & Macaronesian Seminar	Baltic Seminar	Mediterranean & Black Sea Seminar
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pristine habitats • Fully degraded/high pressure habitats • Habitats for which we have the most data • Sensitive habitats and those with the highest restoration potential • Nursery and spawning habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High biodiversity habitats • Habitats containing immobile and site-specific species • Important habitats for migratory species • Spawning/nursery areas • Habitats not in the Habitats Directive (e.g. deep mud) • Pelagic habitats • Pristine habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitats containing long-lived, slow-maturing, colonial, endemic or localised species • Sensitive habitats (e.g. soft sediments) • Habitats containing economically important species • Nursery/spawning areas • Feeding areas • Habitats which have been actively restored • Ecosystem engineer habitats e.g. biogenic reefs

Mentioned at 2 seminars

Mentioned at 3 seminars

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Habitat types/species likely to benefit most from strict protection:

Atlantic & Macaronesian Seminar	Baltic Seminar	Mediterranean & Black Sea Seminar
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reefs • Coastal lagoons • Benthic seabed habitats (mud/sand/gravel) • Maerl beds • Deep water coral • Carbon rich ecosystems: Posidonia beds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harbour porpoise • Birds – e.g. diving ducks • Reefs • Maerl beds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posidonia beds • Turbot fish (Black Sea) • Reefs • Coastal lagoons • Red list species - Maerl beds • Flagship species e.g. seahorses • Deep water corals • Sponges

Mentioned at 2 seminars

Mentioned at 3 seminars

Mechanisms available to ensure the wider benefits of strict protection are reflected in other sectors:

- **Education/awareness**
 - Outreach and ocean literacy
 - Traditional harvesting methods
 - Socio-economic research into other sectors
 - Natural capital assessments
- **Communication**
 - Management, monitoring, and reporting
 - Demonstrate through examples the wider benefit e.g., spillover effects and controlled tourism
- **Links with other climate goals**
 - Biodiversity, conservation/restoration, and climate change measures are intertwined
 - Government Blue Carbon reports in the Paris Agreement

Ways in which strictly protected areas can be planned to also bring benefits to economic sectors such as fisheries:

- **Protect habitats or sites which are important for the health of the fishing industry**
 - E.g., spawning sites and estuaries
- **Take time to plan the protected areas effectively**
 - E.g. clear activity regulations/zones
- **Clear communication of the benefits to the fisheries sector**
 - Spillover effects
 - Deterioration of fishing grounds without protection
 - Strict protection can impact the entire life cycle of an animal
- **Monitor the impact of strict protection**
 - Report examples of successes

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Criteria and scientific evidence to be considered when planning strictly protected areas to maximise benefits to economic sectors:

Criteria	Scientific evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply network criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connectivity, Biodiversity, Representativity • Accessibility for non-destructive recreation • Potential for carbon accumulation • Political feasibility and will • Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve stakeholders • Demonstrate ecosystem service benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use existing knowledge and data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use historical data to map and model occupancy • Establish a reference portal containing information and relevant projects • Address unknowns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire full data on fisheries

Methods for improving acceptance and ensuring a broad support for strictly protected areas:

- **Communication/education**

- Communication content e.g., endangered species, why is protection needed?
- Communication source
- Communication methods e.g. art or classes for teachers to deliver in schools

- **Funding for outreach**

- **Dialogue with stakeholders throughout**

- **Zonation**

- Implementing strict protection is easier if there are alternative areas outlined in which activities are allowed.

Best practice in the regulation and enforcement of strictly protected marine areas:

- **Stakeholder engagement**
 - Northern Ireland – fishermen co-designed trawling ban
 - Spain – fishermen co-manage marine reserves
- **Monitoring**
 - France - Dynamic map of regulation per area used to view shipping movement
 - Webcams and drones for activity surveillance
- **Enforcement**
 - Danish North Sea- Fisheries rangers enforcing regulations from the ministry patrol boats.
 - Implementation of blackbox or remote electronic monitoring for fishing vessels
 - France – web application for the general public to view regulations

Bettering support trans-boundary connectivity and collaborative management of strictly protected areas across the biogeographical region:

- **Dedicated process for collaborative management and cross-border protection**
 - Member States/Regional Seas Conventions cross-border management discussion forum
 - Utilise projects such as MPA Europe as an evidence base for marine protection and management
 - The implemented mechanism should be European level
- **Relevant studies**
 - Genetic studies on species connectivity
 - Better understanding of how individual countries/authorities manage their seas
- **Better implementation of Article 11 of the Common Fisheries Policy**
 - Specific time restrictions on submitting joint recommendations

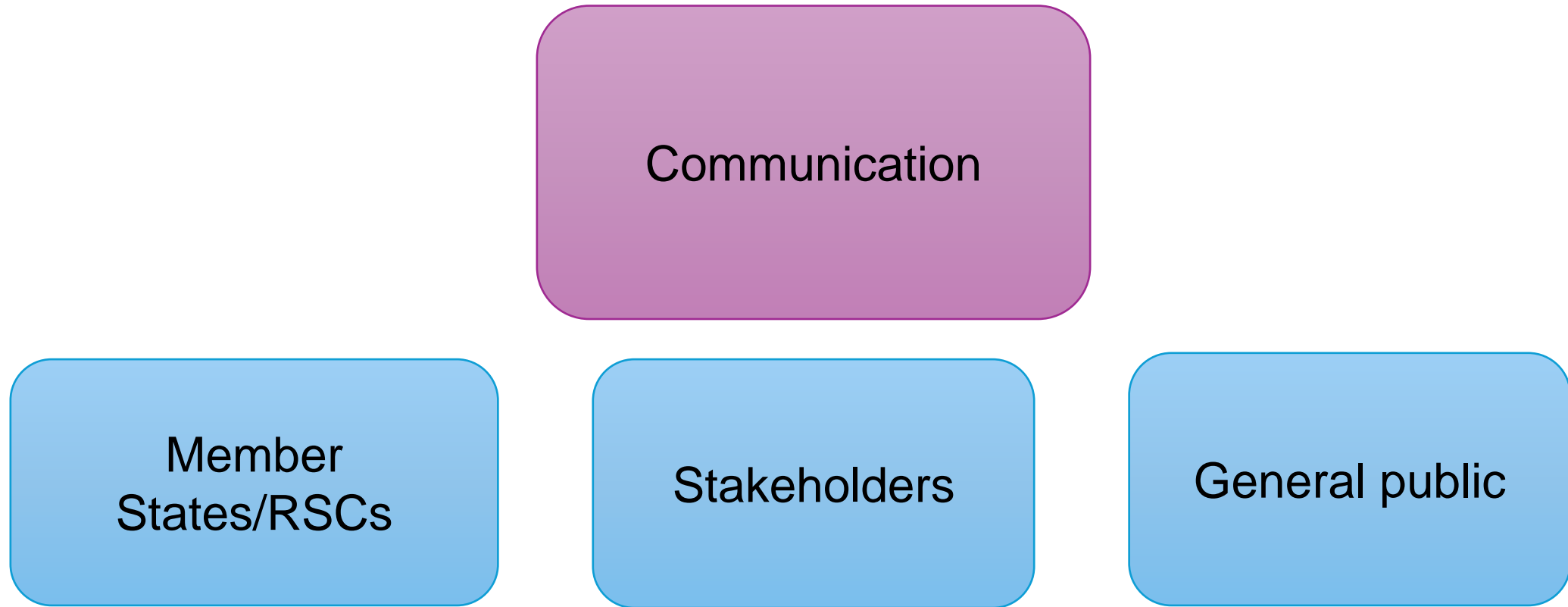
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Maerl Beds
Reefs
Nurseries/spawning
areas

Coastal Lagoons
Deep water corals
Posidonia beds

Pristine habitats
Endemic species
habitats
Sensitive habitats

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Thank you!



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