

ICES 2013 CM/I:31 -Marine spatial planning: The multidisciplinary approach
EXTENDED ABSTRACT

**TITLE: "Integration at the round table – Marine Spatial Planning
in multi-stakeholder settings^[1]"**

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Summary

Marine spatial planning (MSP) is often considered as a pragmatic approach for the implementation of an ecosystem based management to manage marine space in a sustainable manner. Implementing MSP in an ecosystem context requires the involvement of multiple actors and stakeholders at various levels of government and society. Factors such as different governance settings (division of power between central and local governments), different economic activities and priorities accorded to them, different objectives, different spatial scales and varying levels of uncertainty all affect how integrated oceans management is achieved.

Here we compare MSP plans from Norway, Belgium and the USA to illustrate how the integration of stakeholders and levels of government differs between these countries along the dimensions mentioned above. This will indicate success factors and provide grounds for recommendations for best practices for achieving good integrated oceans management under varying circumstances.

Introduction and Materials and Methods

Development of good MSP plans require effective governance of marine space (Qui and Jones, 2013; Ehler and Douvère, 2007). Developing the appropriate measures in an integrated (ecosystem) MSP setting requires integration of concerns and interests^[2] across sectors and between levels of government.

In the following manuscript we will explore how such integration has been dealt with in three markedly different MSP plans: the Belgian MSP plan covering the whole Belgian EEZ in the North Sea, the Norwegian Integrated Management plans – three plans covering the waters under Norwegian jurisdiction and lastly the current US CMSP developments. Each case will be explored and compared and contrasted to illuminate how integration of concerns and interests varies depending on the context, and also to elucidate commonalities allowing for successful integration of different concerns and interests and hence successful governance of MSP plans.

Results and Discussion

Norway and Belgium have already implemented MSP plans for their sea areas while the US is still at a development stage at the federal level, while at the state level several states have developed MSP plans independently (eg. Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Oregon, New York and Hawaii) for their coastal environments.



Figure 1 Map of Belgium MSP area

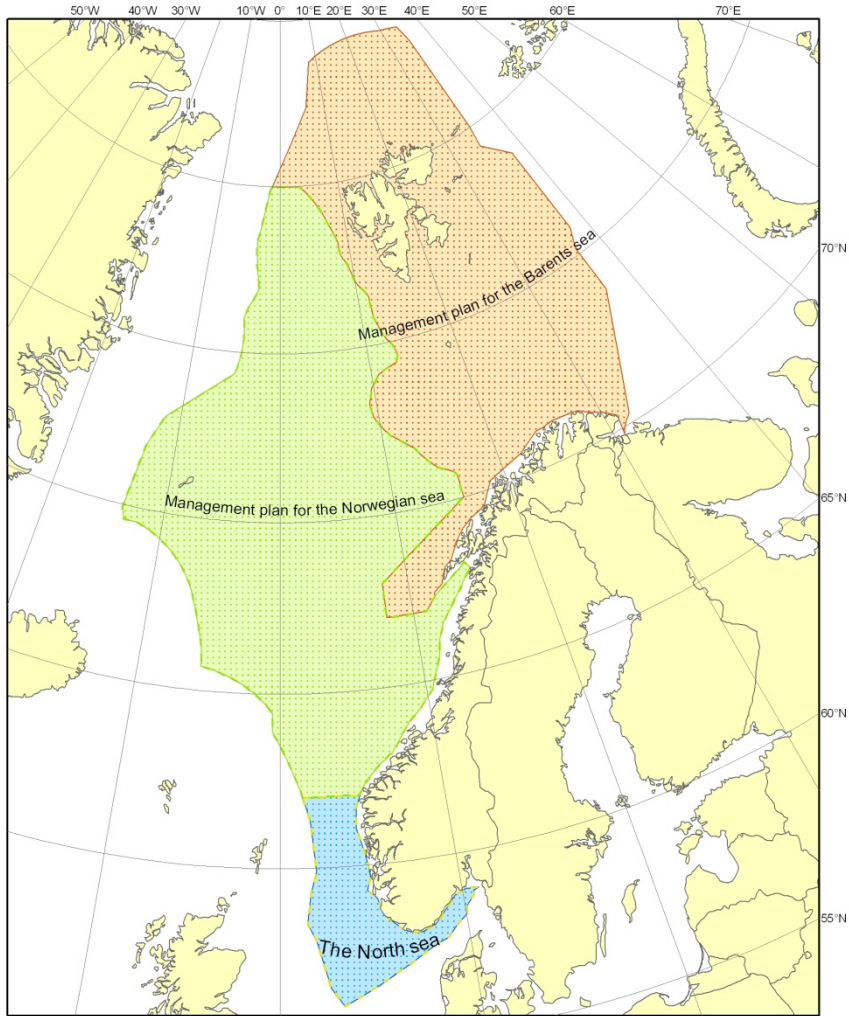


Figure 2 Map showing the Norwegian integrated management plans. Red: the Lofoten - Barents Sea, green: Norwegian Sea and yellow: North Sea – Skagerrak.

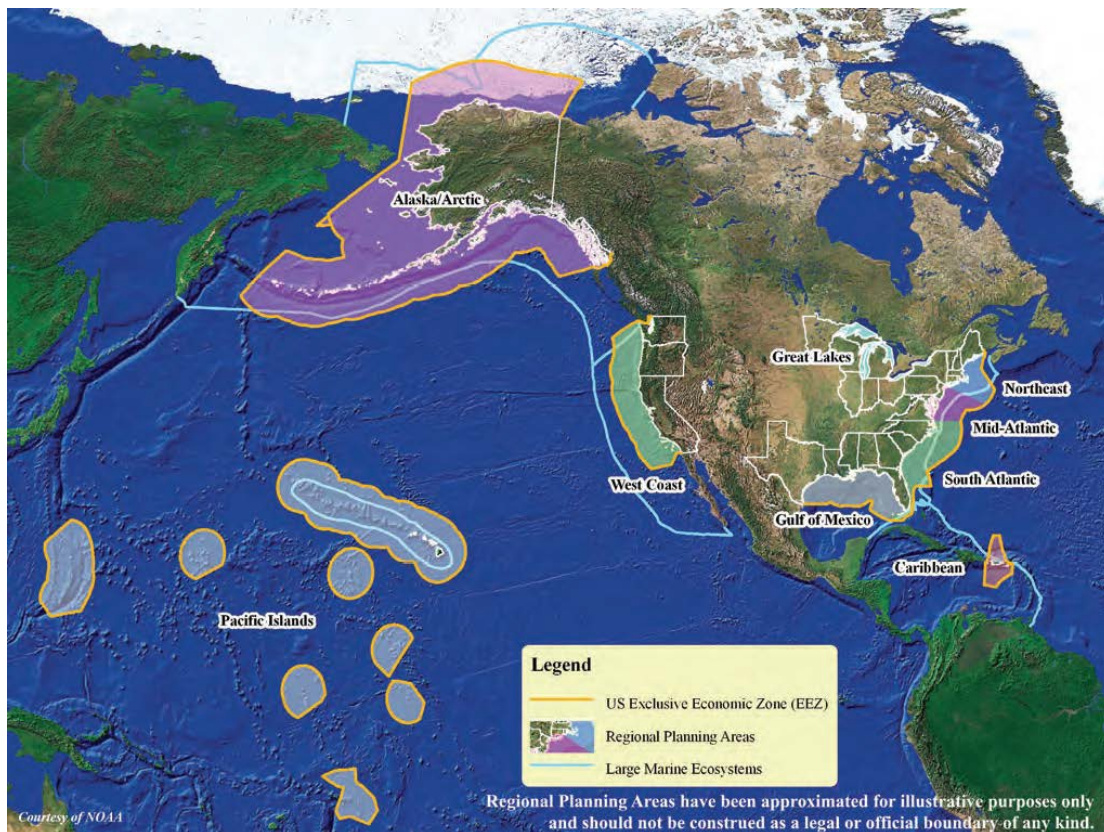


Figure 3 Map of US CMSP areas.

The integration of between sectors and levels of government vary in the three different countries depending on their governance structure, culture and traditions.

In the presentation and the full paper we will discuss these differences in greater depth in relations to :

- Governance settings
 - ♣ Division of power
- Economic activities and priorities
- Aims and objectives of plan
- Spatial scales
- Levels of uncertainty
- Resources available for planning

Commonalities making the foundation for effective integration will be discussed in relation to recommendations for improvements.

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