

Impact Report: EMB Position Paper 18 MPA Networks

1. Introduction

1a. Overview



Publication reference: Olsen EM, Johnson D, Weaver P, Goñi R, Ribeiro MC, Rabaut M, Macpherson E, Pelletier D, Fonseca L, Katsanevakis S, Zaharia T (2013). Achieving Ecologically Coherent MPA Networks in Europe: Science Needs and Priorities. Marine Board Position Paper 18. Larkin, KE and McDonough N (Eds.). European Marine Board, Ostend, Belgium.

Working Group: The European Marine Board Working Group on Marine Protected Areas (WG MPA) was chaired by Esben Moland Olsen (IMR, Norway). A list of the 11 WG members and EMB Secretariat facilitators is provided on the EMB [website](#). The EMB WG MPAs held 4 meetings between March 2010 and October 2011.

Publication date: April 2013.

Summary¹: Political drivers to halt the loss of marine biodiversity have led to an increase in Marine Protected Areas with global coverage estimated to be 8.3 million km² in 2012 and rising². However, the establishment of MPAs in Europe has lagged behind terrestrial equivalents and has taken place in an *ad hoc* and largely uncoordinated way. In position paper 18, the European Marine Board presents ten scientific priorities for MPA management, calling for urgent action to inform, engage and empower stakeholders in planning connected networks of MPAs.

Launch: European Maritime Day 2013 in Valletta, Malta, on 22 May 2013 at a stakeholder workshop titled 'Striking the right balance between MPAs and nautical tourism' co-organized with European Boating Industry and MedPAN network (see further details below).

Photo: Prof. Esben Olsen (EMB WG MPA Chair) and Kate Larkin (EMB Secretariat) at EMD2013 in Valletta, Malta.



¹ See EMB PP18 Press release for more information

http://www.marineboard.eu/images/MPA_PP_PRESS_RELEASE_MarineBoard_17May2013.pdf

² <http://www.nature.org/newsfeatures/pressreleases/tnc-marine-policy-brief-2012.pdf>

1b. Pre-publication : Communication strategy and stakeholder engagement

The communication strategy was developed throughout the Working Group life-time and included consultation with WG members for input on key messages, target audiences and channels for dissemination. Key components to the communication and impact strategy are summarized below:

- Press release prepared by the EMB Secretariat in collaboration with ESF Communications;
- Position Paper launch at European Maritime Day 2013, 22 May 2013, Malta;
- Electronic dissemination of paper in June 2013 to around 1,700 stakeholders including WG members, EMB Delegates and Alternates, targeted list by WG MPAs and wider list by EMB Secretariat;
- Hard copy dissemination to WG members, key stakeholders and at targeted events (May 2013 and ongoing) e.g. relevant conferences, meetings and initiatives (particularly at international, European levels);
- Oral presentations by WG members at relevant conferences and meetings;
- Monitoring of uptake and impact up to two years after publication including dedicated web searches (EMB Secretariat, ESF communications) and gathering feedback from stakeholders.



Working Group members, March 2011, Leuven

Stakeholder engagement during Position Paper preparation: To seek stakeholder perspectives for the Position Paper, WG members designed a feedback form and identified target stakeholders from national authorities (agencies, ministries) in charge of MPA management. The consultation was launched in October 2010 and stakeholder responses provided key information on MPA development at National level. Further stakeholders were also identified including the Regional Sea Conventions as key targets developing and coordinating regional strategies for MPAs and

MPA networks, and the European Commission; specifically, DG Environment with respect to Natura 2000 and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and DG MARE with respect to Marine and Maritime Spatial Planning.

WG observers: A number of external stakeholders were invited to attend WG MPA meetings to add further perspectives. Official observers were Luis Valdes (IOC), Ahmet Kideys (Black Sea Commission) and Hermanni Bakker (HELCOM). Additional experts who attended a WG MPA meeting included Jean-Pierre Feral (EMB European Scientific Diving Panel, CNRS, France), Beth Stocker (Joint Nature Conservation Committee, UK), Thomas Rammelt (North Sea Foundation, NL), Juan-Pablo Pertierra (EC - DG Environment), Salvatore Arico (IOC) and Fanny Douvere (IOC).

Editorial and review process: External editorial consultancy was provided by David Johnson of Seascope Consultants Ltd (former Executive Secretary of OSPAR and a leading expert in global ocean policy). External reviews were provided between January – March 2013 by Tundi Agardy, Executive Director, Sound Seas. The content of Position Paper 18 was also subject to internal review, editorial support and approval by the European Marine Board member organizations.

2. Output

2a. The Launch, presentations and conference booths

The Launch: EMB Position Paper 18 was launched at European Maritime Day 2013 in Valletta, Malta, on May 21 & 22, 2013. With a focus on sustainable maritime and coastal tourism, EMD2013 attracted the attention of the European and the Mediterranean Maritime community with 847



Press release

Marine Protected Area networks hold the key to resilient marine ecosystems

A new Marine Board Position Paper presents key scientific priorities for MPA management and calls for the rapid implementation of MPA networks in Europe.

participants who attended the 27 sessions of the Conference. The EMB Secretariat prepared a press release³ in collaboration with ESF Communications, launched in advance of the EMD 2013 workshop. The press release was posted together with the full Position Paper 18 on the EMB and ESF websites and distributed via ESF media channels and EMB media contacts.

EMD 2013 Workshop: Striking the right balance between marine protected areas and nautical tourism in the Mediterranean Sea⁴: The official launch of EMB Position Paper 18 took place on 22 May 2013 at a EMD 2013 stakeholder workshop co-organised with the European Boating Industry and the MedPAN network of Mediterranean MPA managers. Following an introduction by Kate Larkin of the EMB Secretariat, Esben Moland Olsen, IMR, Norway, Chair of the European Marine Board Working Group MPAs, launched Position Paper 18 in his presentation *Science needs and priorities for achieving Ecologically Coherent MPA networks in Europe*. The workshop brought together a range of marine and maritime stakeholders highlighting the possible impacts of MPA development on nautical activities and boating tourism.



Photo (left): EMB Secretariat present Position Paper 18 to Mrs. Lowri Evans (Director-General, Directorate General for maritime affairs and fisheries, European Commission) at EMD 2013. *From left to right: Kate Larkin (EMB Secretariat), Lowri Evans (DG MARE) and Niall McDonough (EMB Executive Secretary).*

Photo (right): EMB Position Paper 18 launch at EMD 2013 workshop on MPAs and nautical tourism. *From left to right: Kate Larkin (EMB Secretariat), Esben Moland Olsen (Chair, EMB WG MPAs, IMR Norway), Foteini-Nikoletta Vernardaki (DG MARE) and Kostas Nittis (Chair, EMB).*

³ http://www.marineboard.eu/images/MPA_PP_PRESS_RELEASE_MarineBoard_17May2013.pdf

⁴ <http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/maritimeday/en/striking-right-balance-between-marine-protected-areas-and-nautical-tourism-mediterranean-sea>

Presentations: Following the launch, the Position Paper was presented at a number of conferences and meetings by WG members and related stakeholders. These included:

- The European Marine Board Communications Panel – Bergen 23 April 2013. WG MPAs Chair Esben Olsen presented the position paper to EMBCP members.
- IMPAC 3 – Third International Marine Protected Area Congress, 21-27 October 2013, Marseille. WG member Phil Weaver presented the Position Paper in a Plenary Address on Day 2.
- The 4th Bi-annual Black Sea Scientific Conference “Black Sea -Challenges Towards Good Environmental Status“ (28 – 30 October 2013, Constanta, Romania), organized by the Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat (BSC PS), NIMRD and Ministry of Environment Romania. Presentation by WG member Dr. Tania Zaharia (National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa", Romania).
- Second training programme on the Sustainable Development and Governance of the Caspian Sea (part of the International Ocean Institute's Global Training Programme), 31 march - 11 April 2014. David Johnson presented position paper 18.
- Marine Expert Group meeting on 6 May 2014 on “*How to assess coherence and representativity of networks of marine protected areas*” attended by WG member Marijn Rabaut (North Sea policy advisor for Bart Tommelein, previously North Sea advisor for Johan Vande Lanotte, Belgium and university of Ghent).
- Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) 18th meeting of the Subsidiary Body of Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), Montreal, Canada, 23-28 June 2014. Position Paper external editor David Johnson attended this meeting of open-ended intergovernmental scientific advisory body to CBD.
- International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC2014) in Glasgow, August 2014, Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI) symposium. Phil Weaver and David Johnson attended the Congress – 45 copies sent to conference for dissemination.
- World Parks Congress, Sydney Australia, 12-17 November 2014 – Jan Ekebom, Finland and Marta Chantal Ribeiro attended. MPA PP was discussed in a session on 17 November from 14:30-15:00 at the Ocean Pavillion.
- Oceans of Tomorrow meeting, 27 November 2014, Brussels. EMB Delegate Ferdinando Boero presented on MPA related issues including the CoCoNet project and promoted the EMB position paper 18 in his presentation.
- Portsmouth University UK, MSc in Integrated Coastal Management (Feb 2014, Feb 2015); David Johnson presented position paper 18 in masters level lectures.



b. Dissemination

Electronic dissemination: The final Position Paper 18 was published on 18 April 2013. The electronic version was sent to WG members and to EMB member organizations in advance of the EMB Spring Plenary meeting on 24-25 April 2013 in Bergen, Norway. Following the official launch at EMD2013, the EMB Secretariat also conducted a targeted e-dissemination of EMB Position Paper 18. On 14 June 2013 an email announcement (including e-version and full press release) was sent to 677 contacts across Europe. Stakeholders included a targeted list of contacts identified by the WG and EMB Secretariat as having specific involvement/interest in the MPA PP. These included the European Commission (DG Research and Innovation, DG Mare, DG Environment); European agencies and networks; the European Environment Agency; Regional Sea Conventions including OSPAR, HELCOM, Black Sea Commission; UNEP-MAP; Regional and European projects e.g. BONUS, MedPAN, CoCoNet, PERSEUS; national policy makers and MPA managers and implementing agencies, e.g. French Marine Protected Areas Agency; International organizations such as the Global Ocean Commission and World Wildlife Fund; and Media contacts e.g. Pan European networks.

Printing and hard copy dissemination: In April 2013 EMB ordered a first print run of 1,200 copies of Position Paper 18. Following wide dissemination a second print run of 530 copies was ordered in August 2014. 1,053 hard copies of Position Paper 18 were disseminated between April 2013 and March 2015 (673 in 2013, 350 in 2014 and 30 in 2015). This included targeted postage by the EMB Secretariat (e.g. WG MPA members, external reviewers, additional contributors, EMB member organizations, the European Commission). The EMB Secretariat and WG MPA members were also proactive in identifying relevant meetings and conferences of interest (spanning national, regional, European and international) and arranging delivery of hard copies for dissemination. A summary is presented below of the hard copy dissemination:

- European Marine Board member organizations;
- European Marine Board Working Group MPA members, additional contributors and external reviewers;
- European Marine Board Communications Panel (EMBCP), 23 April 2013, Bergen Norway;
- European Marine Board (EMB) Spring Plenary meeting 2013, 24-25 April 2013, Bergen, Norway;
- European Maritime Day 2013 (Position Paper 18 launch in stakeholder workshop);
- NFIV launch and EurOCEAN 2014, 20 June 2013, Brussels;
- Third International Marine Protected Area Congress (IMPAC 3), 21-27 October 2013, Marseille. Including dissemination to the French Marine Protected Areas Agency ;
- CoCoNet project (Towards Coast to Coast networks of Marine protected Areas) request for project partners and related meetings;
- Spanish network of marine reserves for fisheries Silvia Revenga Martínez de Pazos, request in February 2014;
- European Commission Marine Expert Group meeting, 6 May 2014, Brussels;
- Convention on Biological Diversity 18th SBSSTA meeting, 23-28 June 2014, Montreal, Canada (position paper + 100 press releases);
- Markku Viitasalo, Research professor, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) and Jan Ekebon, Senior Advisor (Marine), Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services, Vantaa, Finland. Copies

were also disseminated to the Finnish Environment institute) and Ministry of the environment (on request following interaction for BONUS MPA project);

- International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC2014), August 2014;
- World Parks Congress, Sydney Australia, 12-17 November 2014;
- Oceans of Tomorrow meeting, 27 November 2014, Brussels;
- Marine Spatial Planning conference, 27 November 2014, Venice;
- Network of Marine Protected Area managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), request in February 2015;
- VLIZ Young scientists day 2015, 20 February 2015, Brugge.

3. Uptake (national/regional/European/International)

3b. Re-active: tracking, quotations, desktop search, etc.

The EMB Secretariat actively tracked uptake at national, regional, European and international levels throughout the two-year impact reporting period (May 2013 to March 2015). Media coverage reports tracking website references and uploads were produced by ESF Communications to document online references to EMB Position Paper 18. A full list is presented in Annex 1 of this report. In summary, website references included national EMB member organization websites,



national government departments with regional, European and International MPA initiatives e.g. MedPAN, CoCoNet, *Training Network for Monitoring Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MMMPA)*, European marine networks e.g. JPI-Oceans, wider European stakeholders e.g. European Boating Industry and international fora including MPA news (Washington, U.S.A.). The MedPAN network also made reference to EMB position paper 18 on social media via Facebook.

In addition, the position paper was uploaded to online repositories. This included the Institute for Environment and Sustainability, Joint Research Centre, European Commission⁵, and the OpenAire online research network, making research outputs available across all disciplines (a FP7 and Horizon 2020 infrastructure to support the EC's open data policy).



ResearchGate is an online social network dedicated to science and research. It is a useful platform to upload, disseminate and communicate scientific publications, allowing tracking of viewings, downloads and citations for the paper. In June 2013 WG member Marta Chantal Ribeiro uploaded position paper 18 to ResearchGate. On 13 April 2015 the ResearchGate page for WG MPA Chair and position paper 18 lead author Esben Moland Olsen showed 174 views, 161 downloads and 1 citation⁶ for the EMB position paper 18.

⁵ <http://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/111111111/29207>

⁶ Costello, M.J. 2014. Long live Marine Reserves: A review of experiences and benefits. *Biological Conservation* 176: 289-296

3b. Pro-active tracking: questionnaire, targeted events

Questionnaire: In Autumn 2013 the EMB Secretariat produced a questionnaire targeted at Working Group members and key national stakeholders to seek feedback on the Position Paper and to monitor impact, particularly at a national level. This was re-launched together with pro-active reminders to seek feedback at regular intervals throughout the impact reporting period.

- Science: Was the EMB paper referenced in peer-reviewed publications? (*specify full reference and publication status if not yet published e.g. in press*)
- Research funding: Are there examples of the MPA networks paper informing research agendas/calls at National /other levels?
- Education: Is the MPA PP useful as a teaching resource? (*which programmes, country etc*)
- Policy: Was the MPA PP useful for National MPA planning/design? (*e.g. National Marine Spatial Planning, Consultations on Marine reserves*)
- Media: Was the MPA PP referred to in websites, blogs, articles, press releases ? *Examples of National media hits (in multiple languages) are welcomed!*
- Conferences: Have you presented/disseminated MPA PP at conferences ?
- Other: Was the MPA PP disseminated to other fora, such as Regional Sea Conventions, MPA projects?

A number of responses were received with national updates, summarized in the section below on national uptake.

Targeted events and uptake

International Uptake

At an international level, external editor David Johnson put the EMB Secretariat in contact with the Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). As a result the EMB Secretariat had a skype call with the CBD Secretariat (Jihyn Lee, Johany Martinez, Joe Appiot and Jacqueline Grekin) in advance of the 18th meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body of Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in Montreal, Canada on 23-28 June 2014. EMB Position paper 18 was noted as very relevant to inform future developments in MPA (and wider conservation area) design, particularly with reference to informing regional CBD workshops on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSA)⁷ and for providing science needs and priorities to inform implementation plans to reach Aichi Target 11 which states that by 2020 at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

⁷ <http://www.cbd.int/ebsa/resources?tab=workshop-reports>
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European Uptake

The publication of EMB position paper 18 in April 2013 was timely with respect to informing national planning of MPA provisions under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). The MSFD aims to achieve Good Environmental Status for the marine environment in European waters by 2020. According to Art. 13(4) of the MSFD, Member States need to include into their programmes of measures “*spatial protection measures, contributing to coherent and representative networks of marine protected areas, adequately covering the diversity of the constituent ecosystems, such as special areas of conservation pursuant to the Habitat Directive, special protection areas pursuant to the Birds Directive, and marine protected area as agreed by the Community or Member States concerned in the framework of international or regional agreements to which they are parties.*”

In addition, position paper 18 was of interest to a number of European projects focused on MPAs and the EMB Secretariat interacted with coordinators and partners of these projects to disseminate and promote uptake of the key messages of position paper 18. A key example is CoCoNet (Towards coast to coast networks of marine protected areas coupled with sea-based energy potential)⁸ including interaction with Ferdinando Boero as EMB delegate, coordinator of COCONET and coordinator for the national reserves council of Italy.

1. **EMB WG MPA expert advice to the European Commission Marine Expert Group and citation of EMB Position Paper 18 in the final report: *Analysis and comparison of criteria used by Member States for establishing coherent, adequate and representative networks of marine protected areas***⁹.

In 2014 the European Commission’s Marine Expert Group (MEG) - established under the Habitats and Birds Directives - held meetings to develop provisions on MPAs. On 6 May 2014 the European Commission (DG Environment, Marine Environment and Industrial Water – C2) hosted a Marine Expert Group meeting on “*How to assess coherence and representativity of networks of marine*



protected areas?” The European Marine Board was invited to attend and WG member Marijn Rabaut (North Sea policy advisor for Bart Tommelein, previously North Sea advisor for Johan Vande Lanotte, Belgium) represented the EMB WG MPAs. The EMB Secretariat organized postage of 40 copies of Position Paper 18 to the event which was attended by international MPA experts. The meeting discussed a draft technical report titled “*Analysis and comparison of criteria used by Member States for establishing coherent, adequate and representative networks of marine protected areas.*”¹⁰



⁸ <http://www.coconet-fp7.eu/>

⁹ [https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/9f747277-529b-4ee9-8765-](https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/9f747277-529b-4ee9-8765-6407f577adad/Analysis%20and%20comparison%20of%20criteria%20used%20by%20Member%20States%20for%20establishing%20coherents.pdf)

[6407f577adad/Analysis%20and%20comparison%20of%20criteria%20used%20by%20Member%20States%20for%20establishing%20coherents.pdf](https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/9f747277-529b-4ee9-8765-6407f577adad/Analysis%20and%20comparison%20of%20criteria%20used%20by%20Member%20States%20for%20establishing%20coherents.pdf)

This was prepared by the consortium of Deltares, AZTI, SYKE and HCMR on behalf of the European Commission, as part of the service request "to develop the harmonised methodology for the evaluation by the European Commission of the coherence, adequacy and representativity of the EU networks of MPAs." **The MEG report content takes into consideration many of the key recommendations of EMB position paper 18 and EMB position paper 18 was cited in the final report** (see [report](#), p1 background, p9 section 3.3.1. on coherence, p12 section 3.3.3. on representativity).

This is an important uptake, taking into account MEG is the main advisory group on issues related to MPAs for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. The impact of this report and the references to position paper 18 therein are likely to have a wider impact, particularly at national level as member states continue to develop MSFD programmes of measures and MPA provisions and marine spatial plans. Sending feedback to EMB following the meeting, WG member Marijn Rabaut reported, "*The EMB MPA PP was received with interest by around 35 persons. International examples were given e.g. Australia, Canada and then a lot of breakout discussion on how to best plan the European scale.*" On 30-31 October 2014 the MEG held a further meeting to discuss Natura 2000, MSFD Article 21 and related MPA provisions. This was attended by David Diaz Vinolas (IEO, Spain) on behalf of WG member Raquel Goni. The meeting agenda included further preparation of the European Commission's MSFD Article 21 report on MPAs and the methodology to assess coherence and representativity of MPA networks.

2. European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC) Environment Steering Panel for preparation of a report on "Marine sustainability in changing oceans and seas" with a section dedicated to MPA networks and citations to EMB position papers

EMB vice-Chairs Tarmo Soomere, Ricardo Santos and Delegate Ferdinando Boero are on the European Academies Science Advisory Council Environment Steering Panel (EASAC ESP). On 5 December 2013 in Rome, the EASAC council endorsed a EASAC ESP project on marine sustainability with a key focus on Marine Protection Areas, the ecosystem approach and potential interactions with the biological sustainability of fisheries. Thanks to EMB representation on EASAC ESP, the EMB position paper 18 was distributed to EASAC ESP members at a meeting in Prague on 26 October 2014. In communication with EMB members of the Working Group on Marine Sustainability, the



EMB Secretariat has learned a report is in final stages of preparation¹¹ and that it contains a section (6) dedicated to MPA networks which strongly reflect the EMB position paper 18 recommendations (e.g. connectivity, observatories/monitoring, habitat mapping). It also includes multiple citations to EMB Navigating the Future IV. The published report should be available by the end of Spring 2015.

Photo: EASAC ESP on marine sustainability: Drafting meeting, 26 October 2014, Prague.

¹¹ <http://www.easac.eu/environment/current-projects.html>
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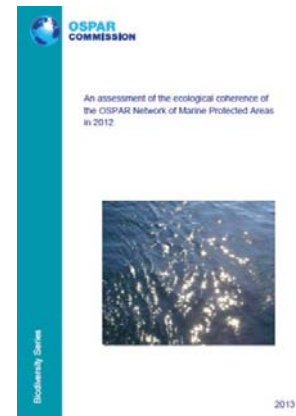
Regional uptake

At Regional level, dissemination and uptake largely took place through the Regional Sea Conventions and through regional projects. Some examples are provided below.

Baltic Sea: In March 2014 the EMB Secretariat received a request from Markku Viitasalo, Research professor at the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) for a support letter from EMB for a BONUS project proposal MPA2020 - Integrated spatial planning tools for efficient marine protection in the Baltic Sea", a research consortium for BONUS <http://www.bonusportal.org/ses> Theme "Maritime Spatial Planning." The project was not funded but continued interaction led to further dissemination of position paper 18 and insights in Finland and the Baltic region. In addition, the position paper was reported to the BONUS community for potential uptake in North Sea and Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning.

North-east Atlantic: A citation was made to position paper 18 in a report for the OSPAR Commission MPA network Ecological Coherence evaluation.¹² This was an important uptake of key position paper recommendations that was distributed to the 15 national governments of the western coasts and catchments of Europe, working with the European Union to cooperate to protect the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic.

In addition a further citation was noted in a regional case study publication by Johnson et al. (2014)¹³ on ecologically coherent MPAs in the North-east Atlantic. The citation of EMB Position Paper 18 was noted as "Scientific guidance for selecting areas to establish representative networks of MPAs, including in open ocean waters and deep-sea habitats, was adopted by CBD COP9 in 2008 (COP9/20 Annex 2) and the importance of science-based design of MPA networks involving ecological mapping is summarized by Olsen et al. (2013)."



Mediterranean Sea : MedPAN (Network of marine protected area managers in the Mediterranean) which is a network of more than 80 institutions and NGOs that either have direct responsibility for managing Marine Protected Areas (MPA) or are involved in the development of MPAs in the Mediterranean. The EMB Secretariat interacted with the MedPAN Coordinator and Secretariat to disseminate position paper 18 for partners and for MedPAN network regional experience-sharing workshops e.g. 25-28

¹² Johnson, D. et al. 2013. An assessment of the ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas in 2012. Report for the OSPAR Commission, Biodiversity Series http://www.ospar.org/documents/dbase/publications/p00619/p00619_ecological_coherence_report.pdf

¹³ Johnson, D., Ardron, J., Billett, D., Hooper, T., Mullier, T., Chaniotis, P., Ponge, B., Corcoran, E. 2014. When is a marine protected area ecologically coherent? A case study from the North-east Atlantic. Aquatic Conservation. Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems 24 (Suppl. 2) 44-58.

November 2014, Tirana, Albania. A core part of MedPAN's mission is to finance a small projects scheme that aims to help MPAs provide a sustainable protection of biodiversity, while ensuring the sustainable economic development of human based activities. These small projects provide direct support to MPA managers for the implementation of concrete actions, which will improve management effectiveness, test pilot schemes or put in place tools that can be useful to other MPAs¹⁴.

Black Sea: Working Group member Tania Zaharia (National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa", Romania) promoted position paper 18 at the 4th Bi-annual Black Sea Scientific Conference "Black Sea -Challenges Towards Good Environmental Status" (28 – 30 October 2013, Constanta, Romania), organized by the Black Sea Commission Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat (BSC PS), NIMRD and Ministry of Environment Romania."

National uptake

Belgium: "In March 2014 Belgium adopted its first legally binding Marine Spatial Plan (Royal Decree of 20 March 2014, published in the Official Journal 28 March 2014). No extra MPAs are foreseen but the MSP plan is expected to create improved coordination of existing areas with environmental conservation e.g. Flemish Banks." Marijn Rabaut, WG MPA member (North Sea policy advisor for Bart Tommelein, previously North Sea advisor for Johan Vande Lanotte, Belgium)

Italy: In February 2015 a request was received from Carlo Ciabarra representing ASsociazione nuovo Saline, an Italian team of environmentalists, asking for information on creating a MPA in their region. The EMB Secretariat communicated key messages from the EMB position paper 18 to national stakeholders including a focus on developments in the Pelagos Sanctuary, northwest Mediterranean, an MPA for Marine Mammals established by France, Italy and Monaco.

Norway: "In Norway, there is now a process towards establishing several new coastal MPAs (including no-take zones). They might be operative in about 2-3 years, but it's still early in the process and nothing is really sure yet. However, I am involved and try to push some of the ideas/points we made in our report." Esben Olsen, WG MPA Chair (IMR, Norway)

Romania: "The MPA position paper is useful as a teaching resource with distribution to the "Ovidius" University - Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, Constanta, Romania to be used for the students (biology and ecology specializations). For policy, the position paper was used by the National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa", Constanta, Romania – custodian of the Marine Reserve Vama Veche – 2 Mai (ROSCI0269) to develop the Management Plan (draft form, a long process). I presented position paper 18 at the 4th Bi-annual Black Sea Scientific Conference "Black Sea -Challenges Towards Good Environmental Status" (28 – 30 October 2013, Constanta, Romania), organized by the Black Sea Commission Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat (BSC PS), NIMRD and Ministry of Environment Romania." Tania Zaharia, WG member (National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa", Romania).

Spain: "The MPA PP was sent to the Spanish network of marine reserves for fisheries managed by the Secretariat for Fisheries..... Now there are 10 marine reserves, with rangers in place and with no take zones and fished mainly by the artisanal fishers. These are case studies of ecosystem approach in

¹⁴ <http://www.medpan.org/en/call-for-small-projects>
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fisheries www.reservasmarinas.net." Silvia Revenga Martínez de Pazos, Spanish network of marine reserves for fisheries, Madrid, Spain.

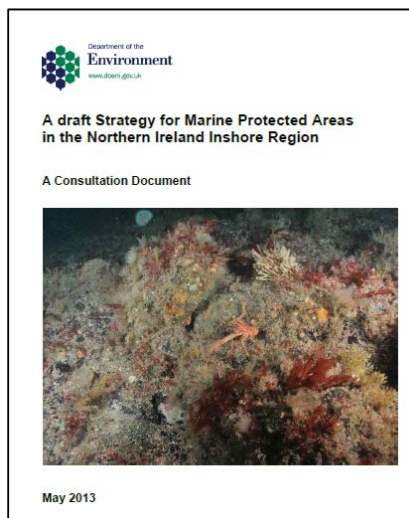
Portugal: "CIIMAR and the Portuguese public administration are aware of the publication, because I shared few copies with them. And yes, EMB position paper 18 [MPAs] will influence the marine management plans in Portugal. In 2014 a Law is foreseen establishing the legal framework for the MSP in Portugal." Marta Chantal, WG MPA member

UK: In February 2013 EMB Delegate Jacky Wood updated the EMB Secretariat of a UK consultation on MPAs, which received over 10,000 responses. As a result the EMB Secretariat were in contact with Carole Kelley (DEFRA) to communicate the EMB position paper 18 key messages. External editor David Johnson also recently noted the UK currently have a consultation on the second tranche of Marine Conservation Zones (Defra, deadline 24 April 2015).

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/marine/tranche2mczs>

In addition the position paper was cited in a number of UK government reports and scientific publications including:

- UK JNCC Report No. 518 JNCC's advice on scientific questions raised in relation to offshore waters during the 2013 Marine Scotland consultation on Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), p.33 reference regarding Connectivity.
http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/JNCC_518_webA.pdf
- Scottish National Heritage Commissioned Report No. 747:
http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned_reports/747.pdf
- Northern Ireland Department of the Environment: A draft Strategy for Marine Protected Areas in the Northern Ireland Inshore Region
http://www.doeni.gov.uk/marine_nature_conservation_marine_protected_areas_strategy.pdf
- Scientific peer reviewed publication: Hanley, N., Hynes, S., Jobstvogt, N., Paterson, D.M. (in review). Economic valuation of marine and coastal ecosystems: Is it currently fit for purpose? Environmental Economics.



Two examples of National strategies and management plans for MPAs (in UK and Romania respectively) where stakeholders noted citations and related uptake of EMB position paper 18 key messages.

Finland: In January 2015, Finland designated 11 new marine and coastal protected areas with high biological diversity as HELCOM marine protected areas (MPA) in Finland¹⁵. Key contacts for dissemination in Finland were Markku Viitasalo, Research professor, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) and Jan Ekebom, Senior Advisor (Marine), Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services, Vantaa, Finland, who disseminated the position paper 18 to the November 2014: Parks & Wildlife Finland (November 2014), VELMU, Finnish national marine biodiversity inventory programme (100-140 participants) (December 2014) and the Finnish Environment institute) and Ministry of the environment. *"I can only echo Markku and say that we here at the NHS have used (and still will use) the Marine Board position paper on MPAs. It is a good publication and it was nicely timed. We have, so far, not referred to this publication but we probably do this when we report on one of our internal projects or when cooperating on MPAs with HELCOM. Finland leads HELCOM's work on MPAs and we will for instance present our work at the upcoming IUCN's World Parks Congress in Sydney in November. I can in our discussion bring up that the MB has recently produced this position paper and say that this is useful for our work. Because it is true. It is useful!"* Jan Ekebom, Senior Advisor (Marine), Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services, P.O.Box 94 (Vernissakatu 4), 01301 Vantaa, Finland.

4. Impact

There are no known European Horizon 2020 (H2020) calls or funded projects directly related to MPAs. However there are calls that relate to Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) that might, in due course, inform establishment of MPAs (e.g. H2020 Blue Growth 1 – 2015 Improving the preservation and sustainable exploitation of Atlantic marine ecosystems).

However the communication and uptake of EMB position paper 18 into key European reports such as the European Commission Marine Expert Group report *"Analysis and comparison of criteria used by Member States for establishing coherent, adequate and representative networks of marine protected areas"*¹⁶ is expected to have a longer-lasting impact as a key reference document for national MPA managers when designing and implementing MPAs (see more information in European uptake section above). In addition, there was a strong uptake of position paper 18 recommendations in the report European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC) Environment Steering Panel on marine sustainability report on "Marine sustainability in changing oceans and seas." The impact of this is that the key recommendations from the EMB WG MPAs will be strengthened in a separate report from the academic community.

The implementation of MPA design and management is largely a national competency and the position paper may, therefore, have further impact informing research agendas and providing scientific expert advice and recommendations for MPA planning. This process is ongoing as many member states and associated countries continue to develop their programmes of measure for MSFD and national marine spatial plans. It is therefore anticipated that EMB position paper 18 will be a useful resource for education and MPA management planning into the future.

¹⁵ <http://www.paneuropeannetworks.com/environment/finland-expands-marine-protected-areas/>

5. Lessons learnt

The Marine Protected Area policy landscape in Europe, and indeed at national, regional, European and international levels is continuously changing. In addition, the level of development of national MPA provisions and wider Maritime Spatial Plans is very variable across European member states and associated countries. This was a challenge for the Working Group in terms of documenting the breadth of activity and keeping the information updated and timely throughout the process. The launch, associated press release and active hard copy and e-dissemination process were successful in communicating the position paper to a wide range of stakeholders. However, now that EMB has a twitter account, future position papers could be promoted and distributed more widely through social media and through further online tools including electronic books. This may also help maintain and incentivize the engagement of WG members to continue actively promoting the position paper after publication.

6. Summary and Conclusions

Position paper 18 was timely to communicate science needs and priorities for MPA network design and to add to the momentum in Europe for the establishment of MPAs, largely driven by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the need to develop national programmes of measures, including spatial protection measures contributing to coherent and representative networks of MPAs. The ten scientific priorities for MPA management presented in EMB position paper 18 were well received by the European scientific and MPA management community with clear uptake at national, regional and international levels including references to position paper 18 in key meetings and reports at multiple geographical levels. Presentations of position paper 18 at MPA conferences and meetings (e.g. IMCC2014, World Parks Congress) has also further communicated the messages to inform, engage and empower stakeholders in planning connected networks of MPAs. Ongoing uptake and impact is expected since many Member States and associated countries continue to develop their National MPA management plans in the context of MSFD programmes of measures, Maritime Spatial Planning strategies and in a drive to reach international targets such as the Aichi 11 target for 10% of the coastal and marine environment to have effective protection by 2020.

Annex 1: Media Coverage Report by ESF



EMB position paper 18:

Achieving Ecologically Coherent MPA Networks in Europe: Science Needs and Priorities

Media coverage

Noodls – 29/11/2013

<http://www.noodls.com/viewNoodl/21149791/ieo---instituto-espa241ol-de-oceanograf237a/expertos-europeos-definen-las-prioridades-cient237ficas-p>

Marine Institute – 24/06/2013

<http://www.marine.ie/home/aboutus/newsroom/news/ChartingacourseforEuropeanMarineScienceTechnologyandInnovation.htm>

Centre Oceanogràfic de Balears - 31 July 2013

<http://www.ba.ieo.es/ultimas-publicaciones/1321-achieving-ecologically-coherent-mpa-networks-in-europe-science-needs-and-priorities>

European Commission - 2013

<http://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/111111111/29207>

MedPan - 20/08/2013

<http://www.medpan.org/actualites-scientifiques/-/blogs/achieving-ecologically-coherent-mpa-networks-in-europe-science-needs-and-priorities>

Universités Marines - 21/06/2013

<http://www.universites-marines.fr/en/achieving-ecologically-coherent-mpa-network-in-europe-science-needs-and-priorities>

Maia - 2013

http://www.maia-network.org/homepage/news/520_1068/these_publications_may_interest_you_have_a_look

Ciimar – 10/06/2013

http://www.ciimar.up.pt/news_details.php?id=40

Diversitas - 2013

<http://www.diversitas-international.org/resources/news/news-2013/publication-european-marine-board-position-paper-18>

Coinatlantic - 2013

<http://coinatlantic.ca/index.php/indicators-and-icom/publications>

NOC Association Newsletter - May 2013

<http://noc.ac.uk/f/content/downloads/2013/NOC%20Association%20Newsletter%20May%202013.pdf>

MMMPA – 2013

<http://www.mmmpa.eu/publications.asp>

The Library

<http://www.ohiooad.org/wraCiXHwYVTx9KS>

Open Channels - July 2013

<http://openchannels.org/news/mpa-news/notes-news-impac3-update-sponge-closures-bermuda-caribbean-mediterranean-private-mpas>

JNCC – May 2014

http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/JNCC_518_webA.pdf

MPA News – July 2013

<http://depts.washington.edu/mpanews/MPA133.htm>

European Boating Industry

<http://www.europeanboatingindustry.eu/news/news-archive>

Scottish Natural Heritage – May 2014

http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned_reports/747.pdf

Frontiers

<http://www.frontiersin.org/Profile/PublicationDetails.aspx?PubId=24100398&tab=2>

AG, 03/11/2014

Books - 2014

https://books.google.fr/books?id=cRNUBAAAQBAJ&pg=PA268&lpg=PA268&dq=Position+paper+18:+Achieving+Ecologically+Coherent+MPA+Networks+in+Europe:+Science+Priorities+and+Needs&source=bl&ots=pwkVocsv_&sig=yy8kEmZ03RW_EZESjPwknPoWx0A&hl=en&sa=X&ei=NDUJVZaPKIPhalPjgugG&ved=0CDkQ6AEwBA#v=onepage&q=Position%20paper%2018%3A%20Achieving%20Ecologically%20Coherent%20MPA%20Networks%20in%20Europe%3A%20Science%20Priorities%20and%20Needs&f=false

Books - 2014

https://books.google.fr/books?id=B_exAwAAQBAJ&pg=PA368&lpg=PA368&dq=Position+paper+18:+Achieving+Ecologically+Coherent+MPA+Networks+in+Europe:+Science+Priorities+and+Needs&source=bl&ots=Zn1nXm5HmM&sig=tU-akfNnevVO2uPbe9U2At1MKQc&hl=en&sa=X&ei=NDUJVZaPKIPhalPjgugG&ved=0CDwQ6AEwBQ#v=onepage&q=Position%20paper%2018%3A%20Achieving%20Ecologically%20Coherent%20MPA%20Networks%20in%20Europe%3A%20Science%20Priorities%20and%20Needs&f=false

Yalaphc – November 2014

<http://www.yalaphc.net/readbook/position-paper-18-achieving-ecologically-coherent-mpa-Tsl.html>

Academia - 2015

http://www.academia.edu/9062611/Diverging_Strategies_to_Planning_an_Ecologically_Coherent_Network_of_MPAs_in_the_North_Sea_The_Roles_of_Advocacy_Evidence_and_Pragmatism_in_the_Face_of_Uncertainty

St. Andrews - 2014

<http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/media/dept-of-geography-and-sustainable-development/pdf-s/DP%202014-11%20Hanley,%20Hynes%20et%20al.pdf>

Cost

<http://www.google.fr/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=17&ved=0CEQQFjAGOAo&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cost.eu%2Fdownload%2F43937&ei=KT4JVazeK8aAU96fgdAO&usg=AFQjCNHJ3ayAXflnzEh9-eKkJajDAFUahQ&bvm=bv.88198703,d.d24>

MedPan

<https://www.facebook.com/MedPAN.network>

Springer

http://download.springer.com/static/pdf/39/bbm%253A978-3-319-10957-2%252F1.pdf?auth66=1426673413_2cd88f05e63462bc0fe450b92a21bbed&ext=.pdf

Vliz – April 2014

http://www.google.fr/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=20&ved=0CFAQFjAJAo&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.vliz.be%2Fimisdocs%2Fpublications%2F263896.pdf&ei=KT4JVazeK8aAU96fgdAO&usg=AFQjCNE4olxSsJN2lOcspFO3fcX_G_NyZg

MPA News – July 2013

<http://depts.washington.edu/mpanews/MPA133.htm>

2013

<http://uk.whales.org/sites/default/files/making-space-for-uk-porpoises-dolphins-and-whales.pdf>

Bookslite – November 2014

<https://www.bookslite.org/docs-list/achieving-tabe-success-in-reading/>

May 2013

http://www.doeni.gov.uk/marine_nature_conservation_mpa_strategy.pdf

http://www.webmeets.com/files/papers/wcere/2014/1375/Site%20choice_Hynes%20EARE.pdf

AG, 18/03/2015