Identifying and assessing socio-cultural impacts in Maritime Spatial Planning

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Why are social and cultural aspects important in MSP?

Attachments between people and the sea or:

What the sea means to local residents

- "The wide horizon influences the soul and physical health. Makes me feel good, away from hectic life."

- "The sea is life. It is shipping, boats and infinity. It is creation, and unpredictable, but also a calming sense of comfort."

- "The murmur of the water, the sun glittering on the water, storms and waves crashing on the shore."

- "Salty air, recuperation, nature, fish, tourism, untamed force of nature."

(North Sea coast of Schleswig-Holstein, survey by Kira Gee, see Gee 2010, 2013)

- people have an attachment to the sea (and to the areas they live in)

- people have perceptions and emotions on what happens in their area

- people are sensitive to changes in their social, cultural and ecological environment

- people are sensitive to missing transparency and processes perceived as unjust and unfair

Helmholtz-Zentrum
Geesthacht
Zentrum für Material- und Küstenforschung

What do you see?

Less CO_2?

Spoilt view?

Killed Birds?

Nature destruction?

Less Tourists?

Money?

Bright Future?

Colliding ships?

Jobs?

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And what do you feel?

Just awful!

The end of the world!

A future for my kids

A miracle of technology

Disaster!

Great!

Not nice, but necessary

Nice!

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Trade-offs as a key to evaluating impacts (of offshore wind farms as an example):

- Landscape aesthetics in the sea vs those on land: What is a loss to some is a gain to others

- Wider benefit of renewable energy generation is traded against landscape aesthetics

Offshore wind farming is both a threat and a safeguard of key cultural ecosystem services

(Gee 2013)

- The sea is a place of multiple meanings…
- The sea and what happens in it is a personal
    and social construct…
- Intangible values are relevant for people
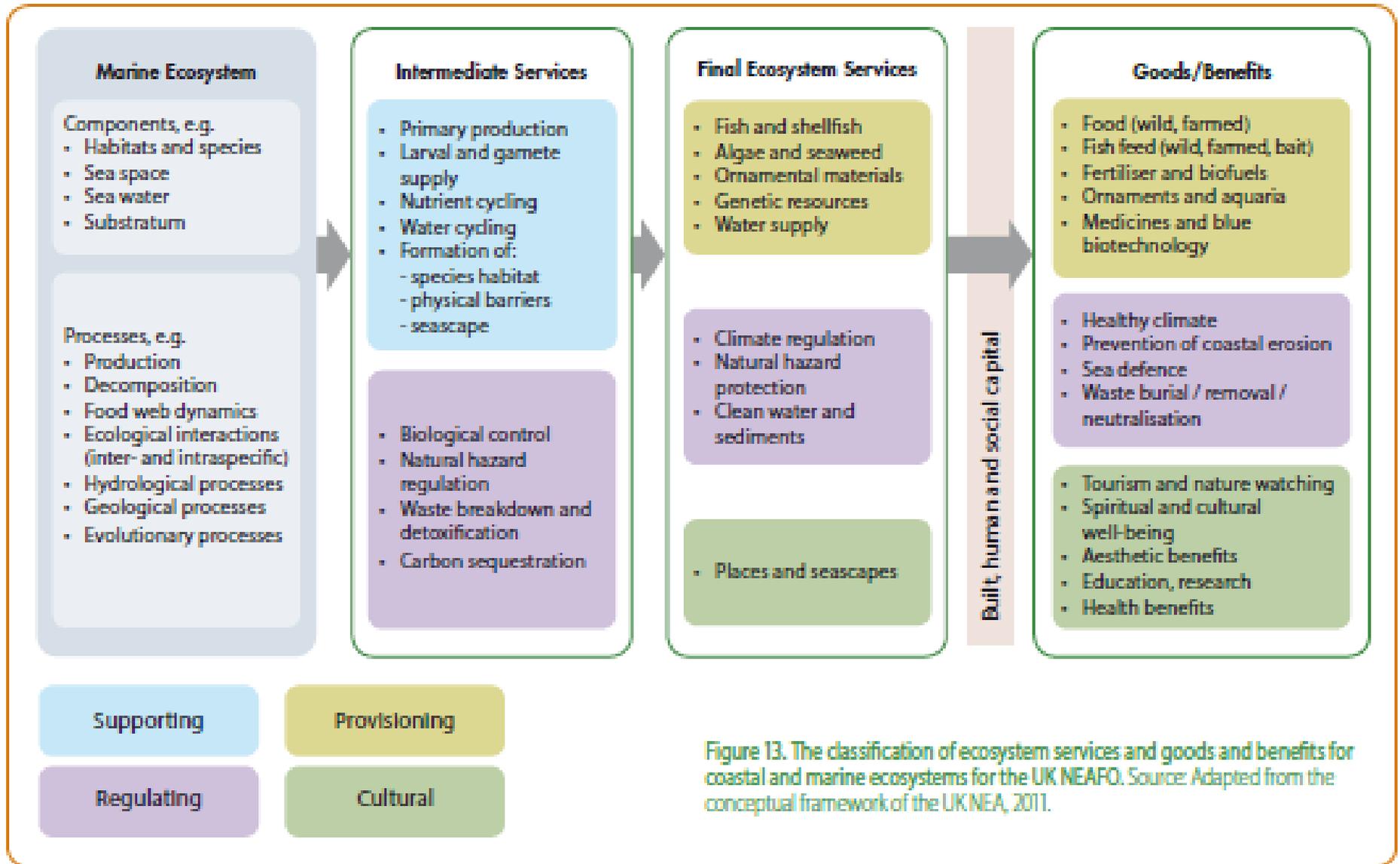
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Source: UK National Ecosystem Assessment

Figure 13. The classification of ecosystem services and goods and benefits for coastal and marine ecosystems for the UK NEAFO. Source: Adapted from the conceptual framework of the UK NEA, 2011.

Source: UK National Ecosystem Assessment

Table 2. An overview of the techniques that can be used to assess shared cultural values.

Technique		Description
Deliberative	In-depth discussion groups	Group discussions (usually 4-8 people; often repeated), during which participants shape the terms of discussion, and develop themes relevant to their own needs and priorities.
	Citizen's juries	A small cross section of the general public work together to come to a considered judgement about a stated policy issue or problem through detailed exposure to, and scrutiny of, the relevant evidence base. The group responds by providing a recommendation or 'verdict'.
	Deliberative opinion polls	A large citizen test group learns about a topic and the evolution of their views is observed. Typically, the group votes on the issues before and after an extended debate.
Analytical-deliberative	Participatory modelling	Stakeholders are involved in the design and content of analytical models that consider ecosystem services and their benefits under different spatial and temporal conditions.
	Deliberative monetary valuation	Formal methods of group deliberation are used to reach decisions about monetary values for ecosystem services. May be allied to survey-based techniques (e.g. contingent valuation or choice experiments), or use a non-econometric approach to establish monetary values (e.g. by incorporating citizen's juries).
	Deliberative multi-criteria analysis	Groups of stakeholders design formal criteria against which to judge the non-monetary and monetary costs and benefits of different management options as the basis for making a decision.
Interpretive, potentially deliberative	Participatory mapping/ GIS	A group of stakeholders consider, or create, a physical or digital map to indicate landscape features that are valuable and/or problematic. Participants may also rate or rank the importance of these features. Map layers can incorporate a range of media, including photos, video, artwork and literature.
	Storytelling	Participants tell stories about their experiences of, or in relation to, certain locations. Groups of participants may reflect on these experiences together in order to discuss shared values.
	Interviews	Participants are interviewed about their beliefs and preferences. Group interviews allow for deliberation and are similar to in-depth discussion groups. In group interviews, however, terms are set by the interviewer rather than the group.
Interpretive	Media analysis	A range of textual analysis tools (particularly content, frame and discourse analysis tools) are used on (mass) media outputs and social media content over a selected period of time.
	Desk-based cultural history study	This approach can be used to quickly scan existing literature over a specified period of time to identify values connected with the decision-making being considered. The study can cover academic and grey literature, as well as creative writing (prose and poetry). Historical analysis can deliver understanding of past value and belief conflicts that can help to better manage present issues and mitigate risks.
	Other interpretive methods	A wide range of qualitative techniques are used to study shared values, such as ethnography and participant observation, genealogy, life history methods, dramaturgical analysis, and textual analysis of various sorts including discourse, content and frame analysis.
Psychometric deliberative	Values compass	Participants consider which of their individual transcendental values are most important by ranking or rating them. They then discuss the degree to which these transcendental values are important for their community, culture or society. Transcendental values may also be ranked or rated on a group basis.
Psychometric	Subjective well-being indicators	Subjective well-being indicators are used to assess how places contribute to human well-being, and the degree to which they contribute. These indicators are highly suitable for providing quantitative non-monetary values for cultural ecosystem services.
	Other psychometric	Psychometric testing measures psychological phenomena and processes, such as knowledge, experience, attitudes, values, beliefs and norms. Psychometric models can be used to better understand the impact of deliberative processes on shared values.

An extended table, with spatial scales, time scales and resources required, can be found in WPR 6 Table 18 and the associated manual on shared values for decision-makers.

- Some cultural ecosystem services or cultural features are easier to map than others.

- The significance of the service is not related to the ease with which a service can be mapped.

- Short term variability, seasonality, spatial interdependencies, scales (societal vs community significance)

Risks when ignoring social and cultural aspects

- missing acceptance for content of the PLAN

- failure in PROCESS
  - e.g. seen as unfair -> missing transparency of why specific decisions where taken and/or unclear roles

mistrust
ignorance
resistance against implementation

Including cultural ecosystem services into planning

-> Identifying **places** of cultural importance

- **What** is valued by people?
- **Where** is it, can it be related to particular places?
- **When** is it relevant?
- To **whom** is it important?
- What **qualities** are needed to sustain it?

-> long-term need to establish a **baseline of cultural features** of importance

-> short-term requirement for assessments in critical or sensitive areas

Impact Assessment
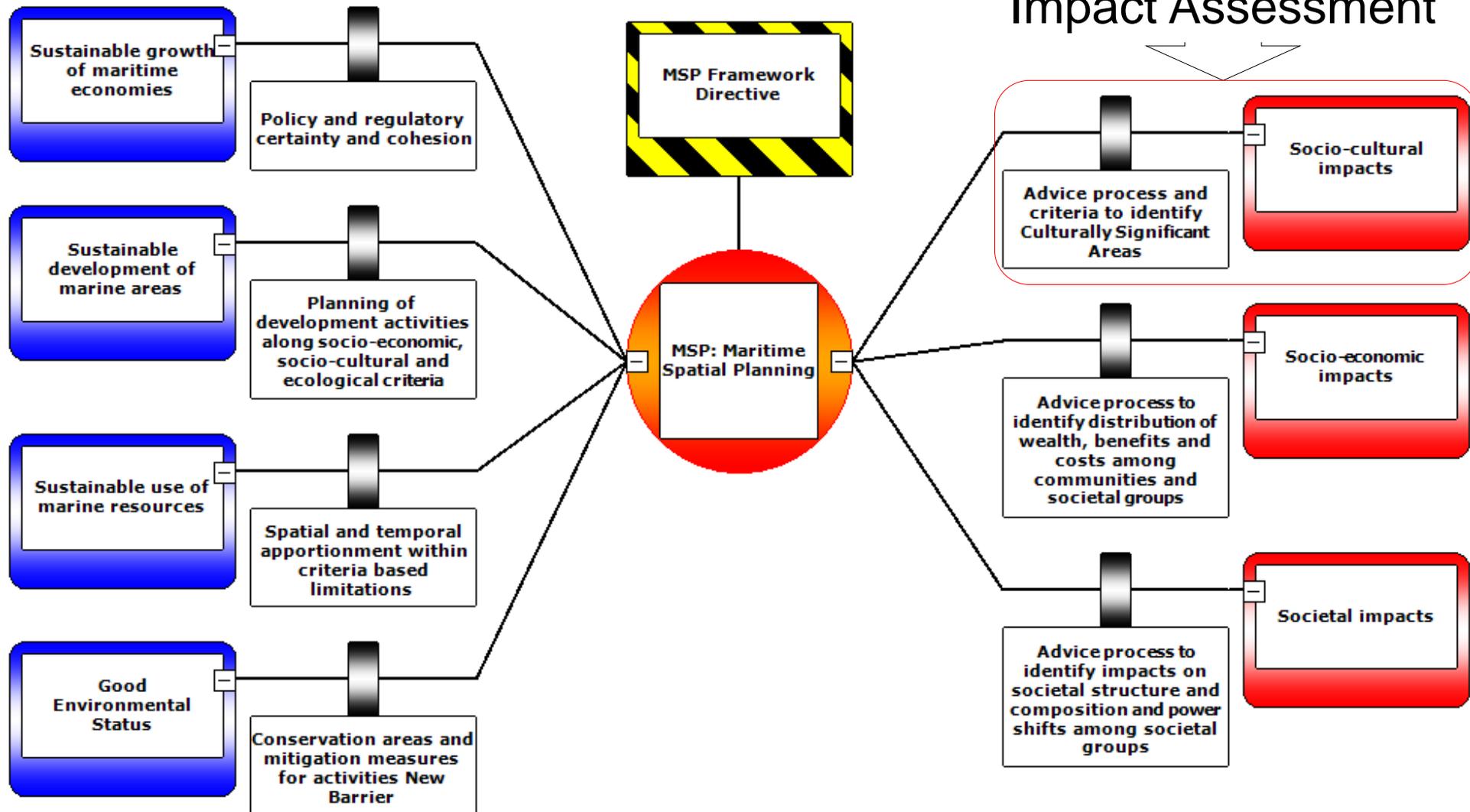
Development on territorial waters

Priority marine area for wind energy facilities
Priority marine area for wind energy facilities for test purposes
Marine area reserved for wind energy facilities
Priority area for navigation
Area reserved for navigation
Priority marine area for coastal protection
Marine area reserved for coastal protection
Marine area reserved for raw materials
Priority marine area for nature conservation and landscape management
Marine area reserved for nature conservation and landscape management

Marine area reserved for fisheries
Marine area reserved for tourism
Area reserved for line technical infrastructure
Maritime cable corridor
Extension of the cable corridor within the EEZ
Territorial waters boundary

Sea port of statewide importance
Major sea port
Site for port-related industry and business
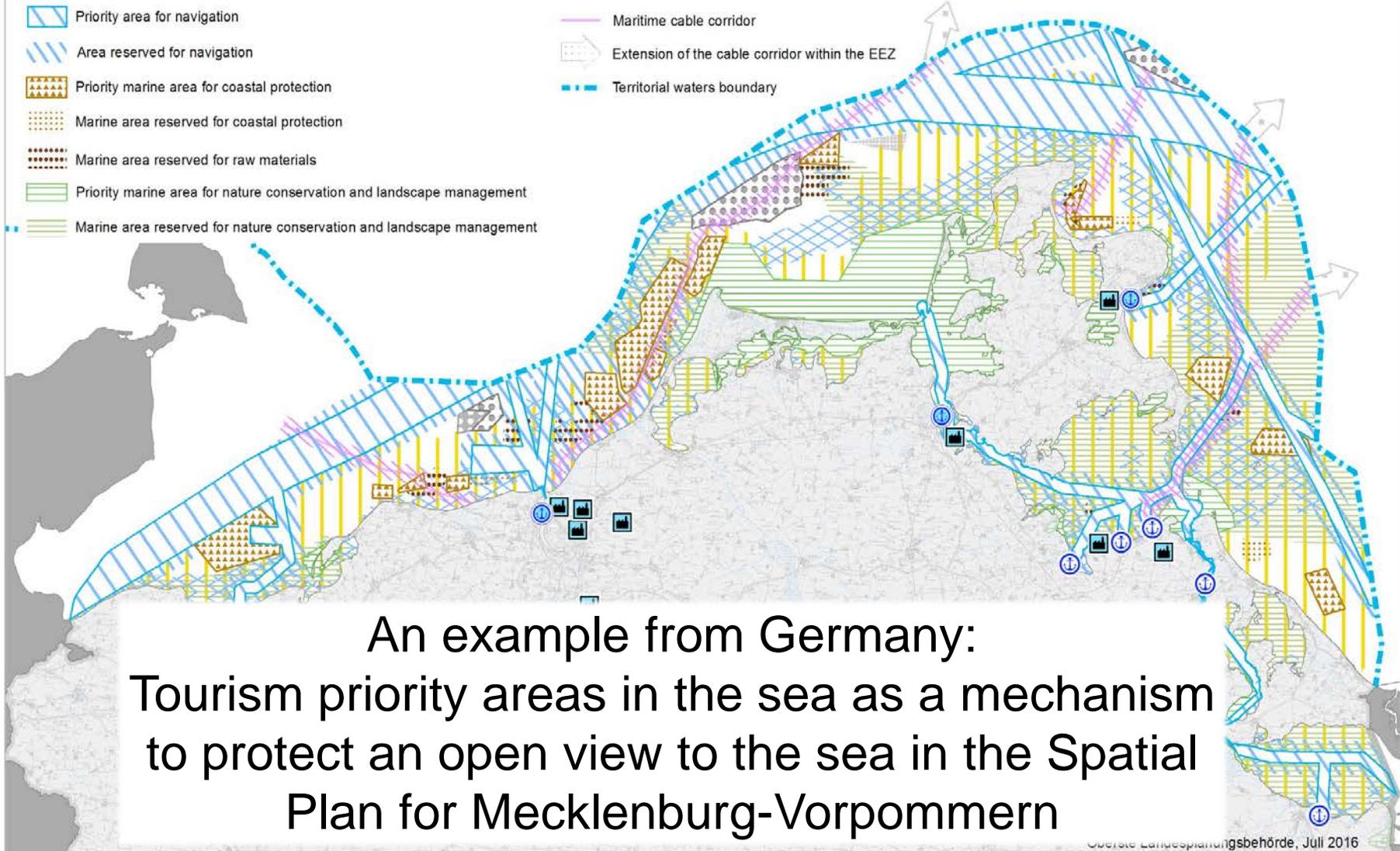
An example from Germany:
Tourism priority areas in the sea as a mechanism to protect an open view to the sea in the Spatial Plan for Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Oberste Landesplanungsbehörde, Juli 2016

Towards significance criteria for socio-cultural aspects

ICES WKCES proposal: The concept of Culturally Significant Areas (ICES 2013, Gee et al. 2017)

"An area containing a culturally significant feature, or a feature in its own right."

- Significance is based on the **cultural connection of a community** to a given area

ICES WKCES criteria for determining cultural significance

- Cultural uniqueness
- Broad cultural/community reliance
- Importance of the feature to the resilience of the social-ecological system
- Degree of tradition
- Dramatic cultural change

ICES Expert Group Report WKCES2013:

http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/SSGHIE/

2013/WKCES13.pdf

Cultural Uniqueness *(Do we have many or few?)*	Extent to which the feature/place/ activity is unique within the region or to which the same or similar features exist in the same region	1) Each instance of it is irreplaceable and distinct (e.g. burial ground, sacred site, historical or archaeological site); 2) It belongs to a culture that is distinct/cultural diversity (unique historical sub-cultures, indigenous cultures in most places); 3) It is unique in a global context though abundant locally (e.g., special type of landscape), or unique in a local context though abundant globally (e.g. a city park or recreation area)

Criteria for rating the risk from impacting on cultural significant areas: A scale of five from Extreme to Negligible

Severity	Criteria
Extreme	A permanent or long-term damage to a cultural ecosystem service that would undermine the cultural integrity of the community. The result of which would create long term loss of trust accompanied by a significant unwillingness to cooperate on marine planning issues.
Very High	An impact to a cultural ecosystem service that would require extensive additional management measures to mitigate the consequences to the cultural integrity of the community. The result of which would create significant loss of trust and strong resistance to collaborate. Agreements would not be achievable and negative impacts on other marine planning activities.

Including social and cultural aspects in MSP

→ does not prescribe that social and cultural aspects are valued higher in decision making than economic or ecological considerations

→ provides an additional layer of information in the decision making process

→ supports fairness and transparency

→ may support community engagement in the process

may increase support for implementation of the plan and reduce resistance

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