

Project newsletter #4

July 2026

Dear NESB project friends,

Greetings from the NESB Project Management and Communication Team! We are pleased to share the fourth edition of the NESB project newsletter, continuing our efforts to keep everyone informed, engaged, and connected with the latest project developments.

In this edition, you will find highlights of recent achievements and upcoming activities across the project's work packages:

- Discover the latest NESB project deliverables and the first project's Policy Brief;
- Read about the project's participation in EU-wide events, including European Maritime Day 2026 and the 2nd EU MSP Week and other project events;
- Take part in the survey launched by Work Package 2 on climate neutrality and Maritime Spatial Planning in the Baltic Sea Region;
- Get inspired by an interview with a young professional—an intern at Mantis Consulting—sharing her experience of contributing to the NESB project and participation at the 2nd EU MSP Week;
- **AND SAVE THE DATE** for upcoming project events and final conference on 22 April 2027!

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and wish you an inspiring and wonderful summer!

REVIEW OF LATEST PROJECT DELIVERABLES!

All project deliverables are available on the project website [section “Project results”](#).

WORK PACKAGE 2



Policy Brief “Strengthening Cooperation in the Greater North Sea: Initial Lessons for Cross-Sectoral and Cross-Border Cooperation for Maritime Spatial Planning”.

This policy brief explains the current state of cooperation within the GNSBI, shares initial lessons from ongoing dialogue between countries, and highlights practical recommendations from NESBp on how the MSP cooperation could be strengthened in the future.

[Read the Policy Brief here.](#)

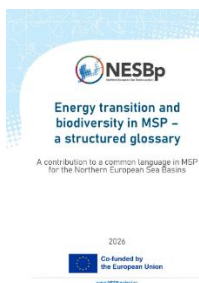


Communication material for task 2.2 *Strengthening the application of the ecosystem-based approach in the Greater North Sea and the Baltic Sea regions.*

“From Vision to Implementation: Applying the Ecosystem-Based Approach in Maritime Spatial Planning.”

[Explore this material and EBA Checklist here.](#)

WORK PACKAGE 3



Deliverable 3.1. “Energy transition and biodiversity in MSP – a structured glossary”

This glossary gives a systematic overview of terms relevant in the context of maritime spatial planning (MSP) and specialized MSP topics such as offshore energy and nature conservation.

Read the glossary [here](#).

Summary Report of the NESBp Task 3.4. *Cumulative Impact Assessment at North Sea Level:* “An assessment of the current status of Cumulative Impact Assessment activities across regional institutes and countries at Northern European Sea Basins”

Read the report [here](#).

SUMMARIES OF EVENTS

- **Synthesis workshop “Let’s Talk a common language!” (30–31 March 2026):** Workshop summary, report and presentations [here](#).
- **European Maritime Day 2026:** Summary [here](#).

LATEST PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

NESBP SHOWCASING MSP COLLABORATION AT EMD 2026 IN LIMASSOL, CYPRUS



The European Maritime Day took place in Limassol, Cyprus on 21-22 May 2026. It was the occasion to pay tribute to “maritime Europe” and put all maritime sectors and activities in the spotlight to help European citizens realise the real breadth and diversity of sea-related activities going on in Europe and encourage reflection on the crucial role the seas play in our everyday life.

More particularly, the NESB project was highlighted during this rich 2-day event, with an interactive stand providing description of the project driven by its highly active team! Along with the presentation of the project at the stand, a workshop took place challenging a panel composed of representatives from GNSBI, HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and UNEP/MAP, on **“Making the Sea-Basin Approach Work: Cooperation through MSP.”** This event was co-organized with the [MEDIGREEN](#) sister project, helping to demonstrate how EU-funded projects can foster dialogue among maritime regions.

The workshop generated rich discussion and concrete recommendations across all three sea basins. Among the key takeaways:

- The upcoming Ocean Act is a unique opportunity to clearly state what we want to achieve and why it matters. Regional cooperation should be embedded in its core, and good environmental status should be defined through a more coherent shared approach rather than country by country.

- Cross-sea-basin dialogue on shared topics such as ecosystem-based approach, multi-use, and non-EU cooperation adds clear value and should be facilitated through projects or dedicated mechanisms.
- EU projects are critical in providing technical support, knowledge, and commitment at operational level. Funding should remain available and follow a coherent, long-term approach: connected projects that build on each other, follow a strategic pipeline, and identify knowledge gaps rather than operating in isolation.

[READ FULL REPORT HERE!](#)



NESB PROJECT AT THE 2ND EU MSP WEEK



From 1 to 5 June 2026 European Commission organised the 2nd European Maritime Spatial Planning Week in Brussels, Belgium. NESB project took an active role in the week-long series of events dedicated to Maritime Spatial Planning with workshops from work package 5 on EMODnet & Maritime Safety, continuing with NESB project meeting and joint workshop with MEDIGREEN, participating at the first GNSBI stakeholder conference and concluding the week with discussions on multi-use at the ULTFARMS workshop.



Photo credit: Anaïs Dyckmans

Maritime Spatial Planning workshop on EMODnet & Maritime Safety 2 June 2026

The morning session of workshop was organised by Seascope Belgium and it examined fit-for-use of EMODnet marine data services for MSP. The workshop showcased EMODnet's offer and data services with focus on the European MSP datasets, and how they can be used by the MSP community. It opened discussions with participants about their feedback on the experience using EMODnet and recommendations for improving the fit - for- use of EMODnet data

services to support MSP-related work, as well as collect insights in data needs from MSP practitioners.

Afternoon session was dedicated to maritime safety integration in MSP, organised by SHOM. Participants examined the concept of “spatial squeeze”, the increasing competition for limited maritime space, and its relation with MSP, maritime safety and security. In 6 working groups expertise from MSP planners, practitioners and navigation safety experts was brought around the table to structure and improve understanding of spatial squeeze, what data can shed light on the growing issue of “spatial squeeze”, how to use this data, map it, and what are potential operational measures to mitigate the “spatial squeeze” impacts at sea basin level.

NESB project meeting & joint workshop with MEDIGREEN

On the 3rd of June 2026 in the morning NESB project partners had the Project Review meeting with CINEA, but the afternoon session brought together two sister projects NESBp and MEDIGREEN for joint workshops on the ecosystem-based approach (EBA), ocean governance and data & knowledge sharing.

Through the interactive workshops participants discussed the challenges and possibilities of both a top-down EBA (guidelines) as to a more bottom-up ecosystem-based approach (EBA ladder for MariParks) and examples of nature protection regarding of a direct example of EBA implementation. Through a format of future scenarios participants continued the discussion and together in groups brainstormed of how future scenarios could play out. Lastly, participants were invited to share their ideas and suggestions on what data, information and knowledge can be and should be included in the knowledge sharing platform under GNSBI.



The knowledge gathered from these workshops will be analysed by the work packages and taken into account for coming work. For NESBp specifically, this means that the EBA is considered as MSP dialogue for the WP 2, for WP 4 the EBA ladder input will be incorporated into the blueprint for a MariPark. The results of the workshop of the scenarios will be considered for further developing possible best practices and scenarios of how the GNSBI can be further developed. For WP 5, the input gathered will serve as additional information on what type of data, information and knowledge can be added to the GNSBI knowledge-sharing platform.

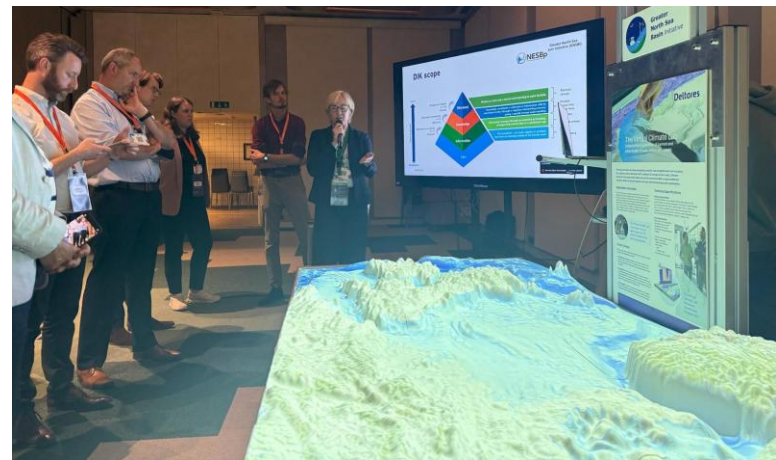
- **SUMMARY OF NESBP AND MEDIGREEN WORKSHOP [HERE](#).**

First GNSBI Stakeholder Conference, 4 June 2026

More than 130 stakeholders gathered for the first Greater North Sea Basin Initiative (GNSBI) Stakeholder Conference representing governments, industry, NGOs, academia and regional organisations with the aim to learn about GNSBI's activities and explore opportunities for cooperation on shared Greater North Sea challenges.

During the conference NESB project was actively contributing to panel discussions and parallel sessions, presenting multiple levels on how the project is facilitating the work of GNSBI and its working tracks, and potentials for future implementation of NESBp recommendations for GNSBI.

Read more about the conference and find the GNSBI song [here](#).



Multi-Use at Sea: ULTFARMS Workshop on 5 June 2026

Concluding this week, the ULTFARMS project hosted a workshop titled “Advancing Multi-Use through MSP: Governance, Gaps and Pathways to Implementation”, bringing together a diverse group of projects and initiatives working on multi-use at sea, including NESB project and the Greater North Sea Basin Initiative (GNSBI).

Read more about this workshop [here](#).



NEWS AND EVENTS

SURVEY! PARTICIPATE AND SHARE WITH YOUR NETWORK!

Just 10 minutes!



**Your knowledge and opinion
will help drive climate-neutral planning!**

**Share your perspective on MSP and climate neutrality
in the Baltic Sea Region**

Topics covered:

**offshore renewable energy, marine and coastal habitats,
climate initiatives, and future planning tools**

Work Package 2 has launched a survey about Maritime Spatial Planning and climate policies in the Baltic Sea Region. MSP practitioners and stakeholders from across the Baltic Sea Region are invited to participate and share their perspective on how MSP can support climate neutrality and climate change mitigation goals.

Go to survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/VuAREbyPQB>

The survey covers topics such as offshore renewable energy development, protection of marine and coastal habitats, successful climate-related initiatives, and future planning tools and measures needed to achieve EU climate objectives. Answers will help identify ways to strengthen the role of MSP in supporting climate neutrality across the region.

The survey is conducted by BEF Latvia and VASAB Secretariat within NESB project Work Package 2 "Ocean Governance".

Please share this survey with your network. The more responses we receive, the better we can support climate-resilient coastal planning in the Baltic Sea Region.

Thank you for your time and valuable contribution to making Baltic Sea coastal communities more resilient to climate change!

CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP IN HAMBURG



From 1 to 3 July experts, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners were gathering in Hamburg and online for the NESB project Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) Workshop, organised by work package 3 and hosted by The Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH).

The workshop aimed to strengthen collaboration within the CIA community across the Northern European Sea Basins and improve strategic alignment and knowledge exchange. Throughout the three-day programme, discussions, presentations and group work are focused on:

- exchanging experiences on the current state of play of CIA, joint ambitions, long-term needs, and sea basin strategy,
- addressing issues concerning the science-policy interface,
- identifying opportunities for more efficient coordination among countries and institutes,
- fostering new collaborations and initiatives.

Bringing together experts from countries around the North Sea and Baltic Sea, as well as representatives of regional organisations including OSPAR, HELCOM, ICES, NSEC, GNSBI the workshop provided a valuable platform to build a stronger Community of Practice for CIA and support the future application of CIA in maritime spatial planning.

INTERVIEW

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE NESB PROJECT AND EU MSP WEEK

Interview on 8 June 2026



Sara Ståhlberg has recently completed a six-month internship at Mantis Consulting, with her work contributing to Work Package 4 of the NESB project. She is currently completing her master's degree in marine sciences at Utrecht University in the Netherlands, where she also earned her Bachelor's degree in Global Sustainability Science. With an interdisciplinary academic background, Sara's main interest lies in the sustainable use of our oceans.

We met Sara at the 2nd EU MSP Week in Brussels, where she shared her insights on working with the NESB project and participating in EU-wide MSP event from the perspective of a young professional.

How did you first hear about the NESBp project, and what motivated you to apply for an internship in project?

While looking for an internship opportunity, I came across information on LinkedIn about the NESBp project kick-off meeting. I started reading about the project, and I found it really interesting because it combines both the Baltic Sea and the North Sea, which are my two homes. I grew up in Finland and now I live in the Netherlands, I wanted to bridge the gap in my knowledge between the Baltic Sea and the North Sea, and this project seemed like the perfect opportunity for me to combine the two.

My master's thesis was more focused on marine biology and marine research; therefore, I also wanted to expand my experience within another marine sector, one that is more policy-based and project-based.

What were your main responsibilities during the internship and what did you learn?

I joined the project through Mantis Consulting and worked primarily within Work Package 4 on multi-use in practice. My work focused on supporting the development of the Ecosystem-Based Approach (EBA) Ladder. My tasks included a lot of background work, such as reading literature to gain more insight into multi-use and its application in different sea basins in order to support the development of EBA Ladder. I looked into other frameworks that are very similar to the EBA Ladder to understand how they work in practice and how they could be translated into a marine perspective. I helped develop the initial criteria for the EBA Ladder by defining the detailed criteria for each of the levels and pillars of the ladder, as well as contributing to certain parts of project deliverable 4.1.

During this experience, I learned a lot about multi-use, integrative and transboundary governance within marine systems. I also gained valuable insight into how projects of this scale operate, how project partners collaborate, and how workshops and project events are used to exchange knowledge and gather input from other work packages, experts, and stakeholders.

What were your main takeaways from participating in the 2nd EU MSP Week?

I was really surprised by how welcoming and supportive all the people within the MSP and NESBp community are. During the project workshops, I was also impressed by how everyone contributed their best insights and feedback to help improve the project and achieve its objectives. I gained a better understanding of the three different sea basins and how they address similar challenges and objectives.

What do you see as the main challenges for young professionals in the field of marine science?

I think one of the main challenges is finding your own niche within marine science. Because it is such a broad field of study, there are so many different possibilities to do within marine science. Another challenge is entering the job market. As in many sectors, entry-level positions often require previous experience, which can make it difficult for young professionals to take their first steps in the field.

“

When looking back, I am thankful for the opportunity to be part of NESB project and EU MSP Week, to learn from experts across the marine sectors, and get to talk to different professionals.

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PROJECT EVENTS

16 September 2026, online

NESB project Steering Committee meeting

5 November 2026, online

Project partner meeting focusing on project deliverables

Agenda will follow

22 April 2027

SAVE THE DATE!

NESB project final conference.

More information will follow

**Follow, share and like project activities on social media networks –
LinkedIn and Bluesky.**



The NESB project



The NESB project

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