



**Connecting
— Seas —**

*NorthSEE – Baltic LINES
MSP conference*

The role of ‘Regions’ in North Sea MSP

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13 February, 2019

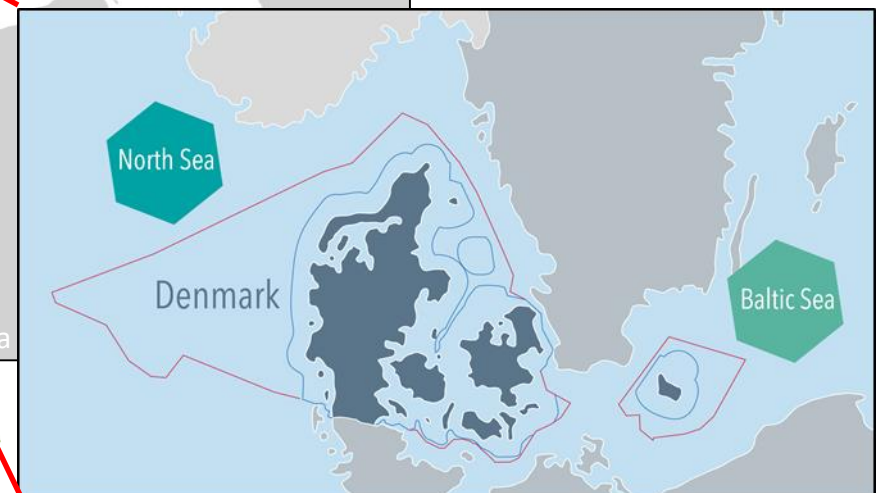
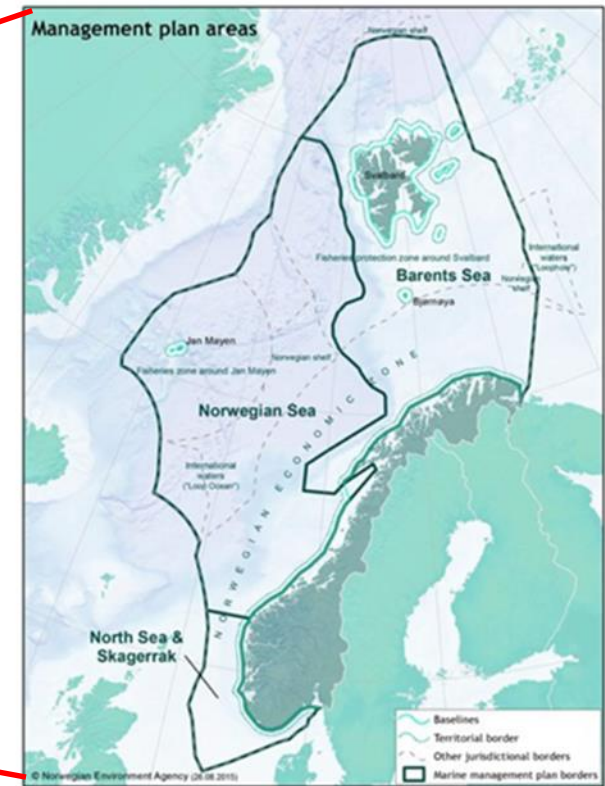
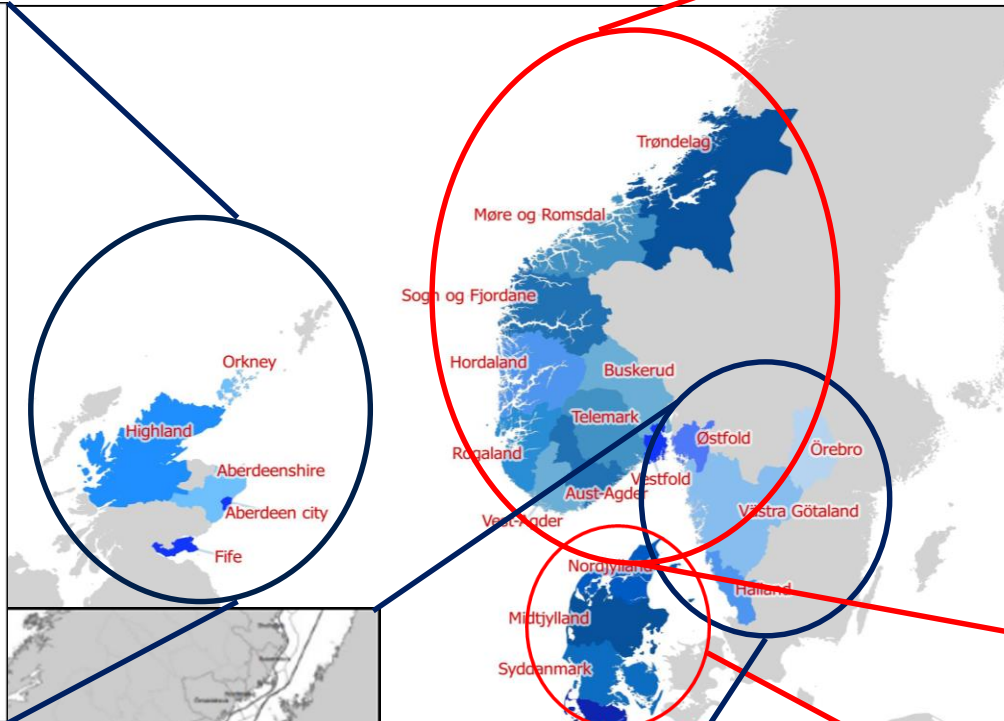
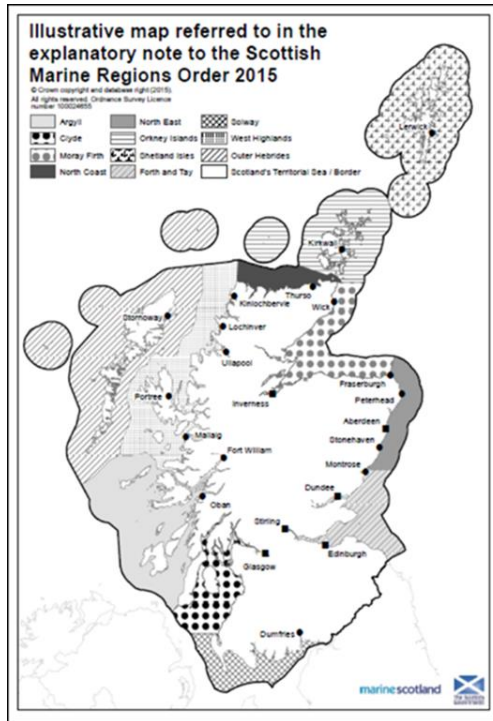




NorthSEE Interreg project 2016 – 2019

- Cross-border and transboundary MSP with particular focus on:
 - Shipping
 - Energy
 - Ecology
- Role of 'Regions' in MSP to add context to marine planning work
 - MSP at different stages at national and sub-national levels
 - Clarify roles and interests of sub-national actors in MSP at all levels
- What's needed for these actors to participate effectively in emerging MSP processes?

'Regions': many and varied!



MSP in North Sea countries

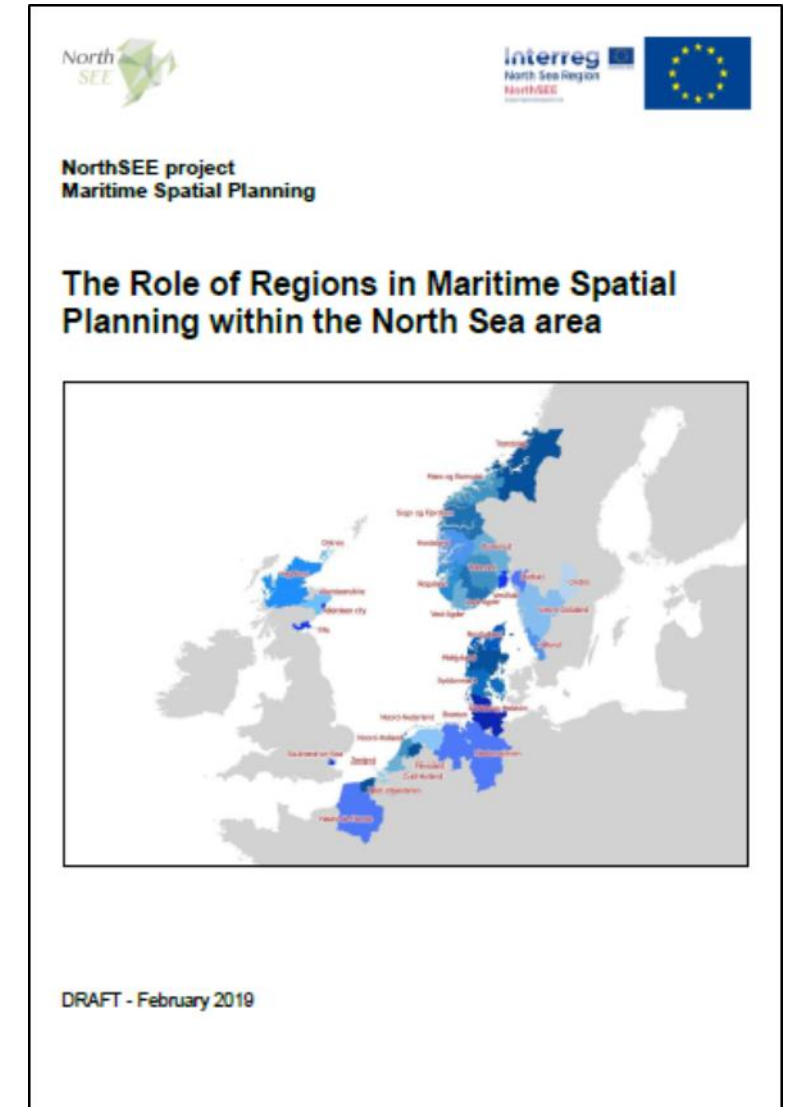
- No single approach - even within countries! 
- Pre/post MSP Directive – different drivers & timescales evident

- Sub-national approach to spatial planning evident: mainly terrestrial but some marine examples too

- Relationship of Regions to national MSP Authority:
 - National approach can be perceived as ‘top-down’, centralised and lacking recognition of local priorities
 - Frustration!

Draft report in preparation

- “Regions” = ?
 - Eurostat NUTS criteria are a starting point but national divisions for MSP don’t always match up
- Consider role of “local authorities” in MSP
 - Also known as Provinces, Councils, Municipalities, etc.
 - N.B. Not the same things and operating at different levels across sea basin
- Consideration of previous/current role in planning in coastal and offshore areas (if any)
- Drawing on experiences gained so far
- Case studies: Shetland (Scotland) plus another
- Tools to address identified challenges



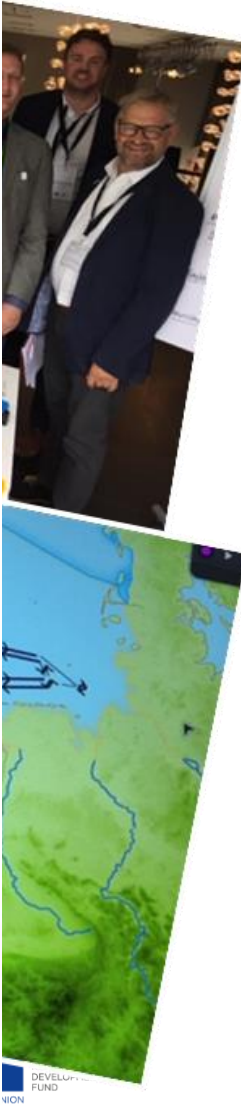
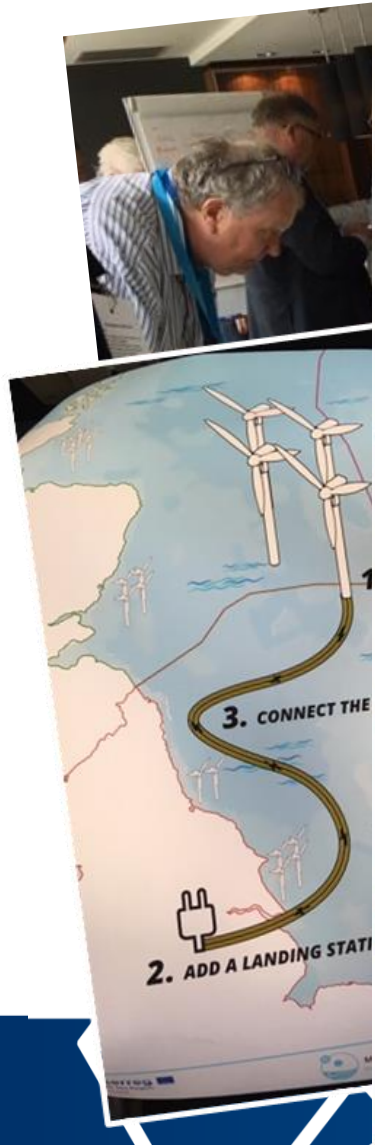
Preliminary findings & suggestions

- Complex picture:
 - MSP is not always well understood or at top of Regional bodies' priorities ∴ opportunities for engagement missed?
- Early MSP Plans & review of processes offer opportunities for 'lessons learned':
 - Iterative process to facilitate greater involvement over time
- Use existing representation mechanisms better
 - Sub-national, National & Supra-national
 - Identify links between MSP & regional interests: land/sea interactions, policy alignment, etc.
 - Exchange of knowledge & experience

Tools to address challenges

- What do North Sea Regions need to be better able to participate in Maritime Spatial Planning?
 - Direct engagement with national process, if currently lacking?
 - Clear explanation of roles & priorities? (In both directions)
 - Better understanding of where Regions fit in national picture?
 - National forum for exchange of ideas & views?
 - International forum to facilitate transboundary MSP?
 - Resources? (Human, financial, legislation, goodwill)
 - Capacity-building?
 - Time? RE-INVESTMENT in human capital over time

MSP Challenge!





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