

Project newsletter #5

October 2026

Dear NESB project friends,

Greetings from the NESB Project Management and Communication team. We are pleased to share the fifth edition of the NESB project newsletter, bringing you the latest developments as the project continues to move towards its finalisation.

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 reports;
- Explore the summaries and key messages from workshops within the EU MSP Week in Brussels and the Cumulative Impact Assessment expert workshop in Hamburg;
- Be informed about upcoming project events, and mark your calendars for the final conference on 21-22 April 2027!
- And explore other news.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter!

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.](#)

WORK PACKAGE 3



Overview of Actions for Enhancement of Nature Conservation and Restoration in MSP

This publication analyses the nature conservation and restoration actions included in maritime spatial plans in the North and Baltic Seas, their typology and the approaches used across the two sea basins, while exploring the role of MSP in supporting marine conservation and restoration.

Read the document [here](#).

SUMMARIES OF NESB PROJECT EVENTS

- **Work package 5: Workshop “Fitness-for-use of EMODnet for MSP” and workshop “Maritime Safety Integration into MSP” (2 June 2026, Brussels):** Summary report of both workshops [here](#).
- **Work package 3: Expert Workshop on Cumulative Impact Assessments (1-3 July 2026, Hamburg):** Workshop summary report, presentations and photo gallery [here](#).

ONLINE PROJECT PARTNER MEETING ON PROJECT DELIVERABLES

On 5 November 2026, NESB project partners will come together online for the next project meeting, focusing on the project's deliverables and, importantly, to ensure our messages fit our target groups.

The meeting will help partners take a closer look at the project's target groups and consider who needs to receive which messages, at what level, and in what form. Through an interactive workshop, partners will refine the project's messages for the upcoming deliverables, while also discussing practical approaches for reaching key target groups during the remaining months of the project.

ONLINE WORKSHOP. LEARNING FROM EBA APPLICATION IN MSP IN THE BALTIC SEA: DISCUSSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE GREATER NORTH SEA BASIN COUNTRIES

19 October 2026, 15:00 – 16:40 CET



ONLINE WORKSHOP

**Learning from EBA
Application in MSP in the
Baltic Sea: Discussing
Opportunities for the
Greater North Sea Basin
Countries**

**19 OCTOBER 2026
15:00 - 16:40 CET**



The workshop will provide an opportunity to learn from the recently developed Baltic Sea experience and guidelines on the application of the EBA in MSP, exchange perspectives between the Baltic Sea and the Greater North Sea, and discuss potential opportunities, challenges and needs in the Greater North Sea context.

The workshop will include presentations on the Baltic Sea experience, practical examples of EBA application, perspectives from Greater North Sea countries, and a discussion on possible follow-up and next steps.

Workshop is organised by NESB project work packages 2 & 4.

[More information](#)

LATEST PROJECT ACTIVITIES

SUMMARY REPORT OF WORKSHOPS “FITNESS-FOR-USE OF EMODNET FOR MSP” AND “MARITIME SAFETY INTEGRATION INTO MSP”



Photo credit: Anaïs Dyckmans



During the EU MSP Week in Brussels on 2 June 2026 WP 5 organised two workshops. A detailed report summarising the discussions and outcomes is available [here](#).

Workshop “Fit-for-use of EMODnet for the MSP community” hosted by EMODnet brought together MSP practitioners and stakeholders to contribute to discussions on EMODnet's leading EU offer for MSP, hosting diverse marine environmental and human activities data and national maritime spatial plans, and EMODnet's fitness-for-use for future planning, together with policy recommendations for the MSP Directive revision.

After the EMODnet workshop, Shom hosted a workshop on "Maritime safety integration in MSP", providing an opportunity to support the organisation of the North Sea Shipping Group meeting on the same day. Results of this workshop have helped to structure the new methodology underpinning the NaviSafe tool (currently under development), designed to take into account spatial congestion risk origin through a cumulative impact calculation. Furthermore, ongoing **assessment on maritime safety integration in MSP** at sea -basin level is advancing by incorporating a legal dimension, through maritime law indicators that provide information on the dynamics of the national MSP process, whilst also informing discussions on a governance structure at the sea basin level. The evaluation of the results from surveys launched last year will enable this to be linked to the ongoing MSP processes at the NESBP level.

SUMMARY REPORT OF EXPERT WORKSHOP ON CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT



The Hamburg workshop (1-3 July 2026) confirmed a shared interest to strengthen cooperation on Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) in the Greater North Sea and Baltic Sea. Participants recognized that CIA can support more integrated, ecosystem-based and forward-looking maritime decision-making, particularly in relation to MSP, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and wider marine-policy objectives. The workshop also demonstrated that substantial expertise, data resources and methodological experience already exist across the region.

A key outcome was the recognition that greater alignment can add value where marine ecosystems, pressures and planned developments extend across national boundaries. At the same time, participants noted the importance of retaining flexibility for national contexts, mandates and decision-making processes. The shared ambition is therefore not necessarily to establish one common CIA method, but to improve mutual understanding, interoperability and the comparability of results where this is useful for cross-border cooperation.

The proposed Community of Practice (CoP) offers a practical basis for continued exchange between national authorities, regional organizations, scientists and policy advisers. It can support knowledge sharing, connect ongoing initiatives, identify common questions and facilitate targeted collaboration. The CoP should build on existing structures and complement, certainly not duplicate, established roles and responsibilities within organizations such as GNSBI, HELCOM, OSPAR, ICES and relevant MSP processes. A light, flexible and non-binding format was broadly supported, provided that it has clear priorities and delivers practical value for participants.

Read more about the workshop, explore presentations, photos and full summary [here](#).

Read article about this workshop on the GNSBI website [here](#).

FIRST NESB PROJECT POLICY BRIEF SHARED WITH THE NORTH SEA MSP COLLABORATION GROUP

The North Sea MSP Collaboration Group met in Breda, The Netherlands, on 8 September 2026, bringing together stakeholders involved in maritime spatial planning across the North Sea. The meeting also provided an opportunity for the NESB project to share the work on initial lessons for cross-sectoral and cross-border cooperation for maritime spatial planning in the policy brief on strengthening cooperation in the Greater North Sea.

Read full policy brief [here](#).

TWO MORE NESB PROJECT POLICY BRIEFS UPCOMING IN NOVEMBER 2026

- **Work package 2** works on a policy brief on enhancing the effectiveness of transboundary maritime spatial planning governance in Baltic and Greater North Sea basins.
- **Work package 4** is developing a policy brief on ecosystem-based governance in Mariparks – towards resilient and sustainable Maripark management.

NESB PROJECT'S WORK ON KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER & SHARING MOVES FORWARD

As part of the ongoing metadata harmonization task in EMODnet through the EMODnet Technical Working Group and Task Force, SSBE/EMODnet Secretariat is finalising guidelines to improve harmonization of data and data product metadata fields on 'data provenance' and 'temporal reference/resolution' following INSPIRE. A desktop scoping study is also exploring how national maritime spatial plans can be digitally represented in the **EMODnet Map Viewer**, with the aim of improving cross-border comparability and information display.

Meanwhile, **thematic story maps** are being developed by CEREMA to address the information challenges in MSP, particularly within the framework of the Data-Information-Knowledge-(Wisdom) approach. After testing, story maps will be validated and disseminated via the GNSBI knowledge-sharing platform.

MINI&W/Deltares is also progressing work on **GNSBI knowledge-sharing platform**. Following discussions in Berlin (GNSBI technical meeting) and Brussels events, the platform is being populated and its final structure developed, while tests are underway to explore its deployment on the **EDITO platform**.

MARIPARK CONCEPT PRESENTED AT OFFSHORE EXPERIENCE 2026



Photo credit: <https://offshore-experience.nl/>

On 3 September 2026, around 200 professionals, experts, policymakers, entrepreneurs and students gathered at De Kampanje in Den Helder, The Netherlands, for the fifth edition of Offshore Experience. Under the theme “Multi-Use: From Romance to Realism” this event explored how Multi-Use can contribute to a future-proof North Sea. Event was co-organised by CoP Noordzee.

During the policy panel “**From Policy to Future-Proof Multi-Use**” the Maripark concept was presented as an industrial estate at sea, where logistics, platforms, energy, maintenance and other facilities can be used by multiple activities. The concept was well received and identified as having potential, while further development is needed to explore its practical application.

The Offshore Experience demonstrated that multi-use in the North Sea is not a standalone technological issue, but a combination of spatial planning, ecology, safety, infrastructure, entrepreneurship and skills.

More about event: <https://offshore-experience.nl/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

19 October 2026, online

Workshop. Learning from EBA application in MSP in the Baltic Sea: Discussing Opportunities for the Greater North Sea Basin Countries

Organised by work packages 2 and 4.

22 October 2026, online

9TH Baltic MSP Planners' Forum

Presentation "Turning Nature Goals into Space: Lessons from NESBp Survey" at the session about nature restoration and MSP.

5 November 2026, online

Project partner meeting focusing on project deliverables

9-10 November 2026, online

HELCOM-VASAM MSP Working Group meeting

24 November 2026, online

2nd meeting of Community of Practice for inclusion of Multi-Use in MSP

Invitation only. Organised by NESB project work package 4 task 4.2.

2-3 March 2027, Antwerp, Belgium

BlueMissionBANOS 2030 5th Mission Arena

21-22 April 2027

SAVE THE DATE! NESB project final conference

More information will follow soon.

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



The NESB project



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