



Institute for Agricultural
and Fisheries Research



Marxan workshop: Using a systematic conservation planning approach to enhance the marine spatial planning process in Europe

The overall aim of this Marxan workshop is to test the usefulness of a specific decision support tool (Marxan) to underpin and enhance the Marine Spatial Planning process (MSP) in Europe. The idea stems from the EU-FP7 project MESMA (Monitoring & Evaluation of Spatially Managed Areas, 2009-2013) in which tools were tested, a framework was developed and governance analyses were executed within nine case studies (see <http://www.mesma.org/>).

The core of this workshop is the use and evaluation of Marxan within the marine spatial (and conservation) planning process in (at least) five of the above mentioned European case studies. Currently these case studies are: the Bay of Biscay (Spain), the Skagerrak (Norway), the Strait of Sicily (Italy), the Ionian Sea (Greece) and the Belgian Part of the North Sea (Belgium).

The outcome will be a comparison paper, synthesizing the main findings of the separate case studies, by addressing the following questions:

- What are the challenges encountered across EU Member States (and associated countries) to implement MSP at the local and regional levels?
- Can Systematic Conservation Planning (SCP) in general, and specifically the decision support tool Marxan, help to overcome these challenges?

This workshop is intended for scientists involved or interested in marine spatial planning and the use of decision support tools. Knowledge of the Marxan software is required.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Day 1: Introduction to the workshop & presentations on the use of Marxan for MSP in the different case studies

Day 2 : Comparison of the results & lessons learned. Determination of the common themes, challenges and (dis)similarities in the case studies

Day 3-4 : Writing the comparison paper

Day 5 : Continue writing, summary of workshop achievements & next steps

DATE & TIME

18 - 22 April 2016, every day from 9 am to 6 pm

VENUE

VAC Virginie Loveling (near railway station Ghent-Sint-Pieters)

Koningin Maria Hendrikaplein 70

9000 Gent

Belgium

The location of the venue and some adjacent hotels can be found here:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=ziI87YInx8ds.kkshknCXSug>

WORKSHOP SUPPORTED BY

The organisation of this workshop is partly funded by the EuroMarine Network (2015 call, EM/PFB/2015.037).

<http://www.euomarinetwork.eu/call2015/>

http://www.euomarinetwork.eu/files/flyer_EuroMarine_2014_low%20resolution.pdf

MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

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