

Coastal and ocean policies: converging
towards an integrated maritime policy

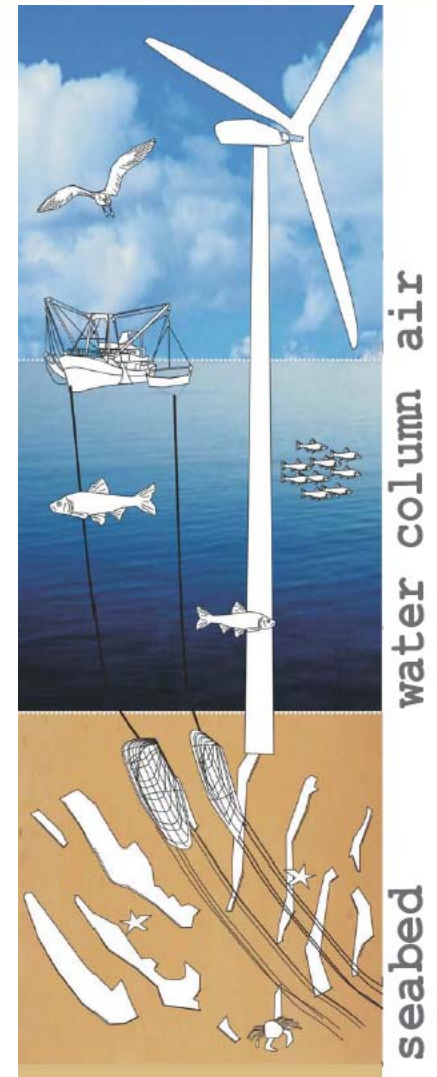
***Challenges for Integrated Marine and
Coastal Spatial Planning: the Belgian MSP
case***

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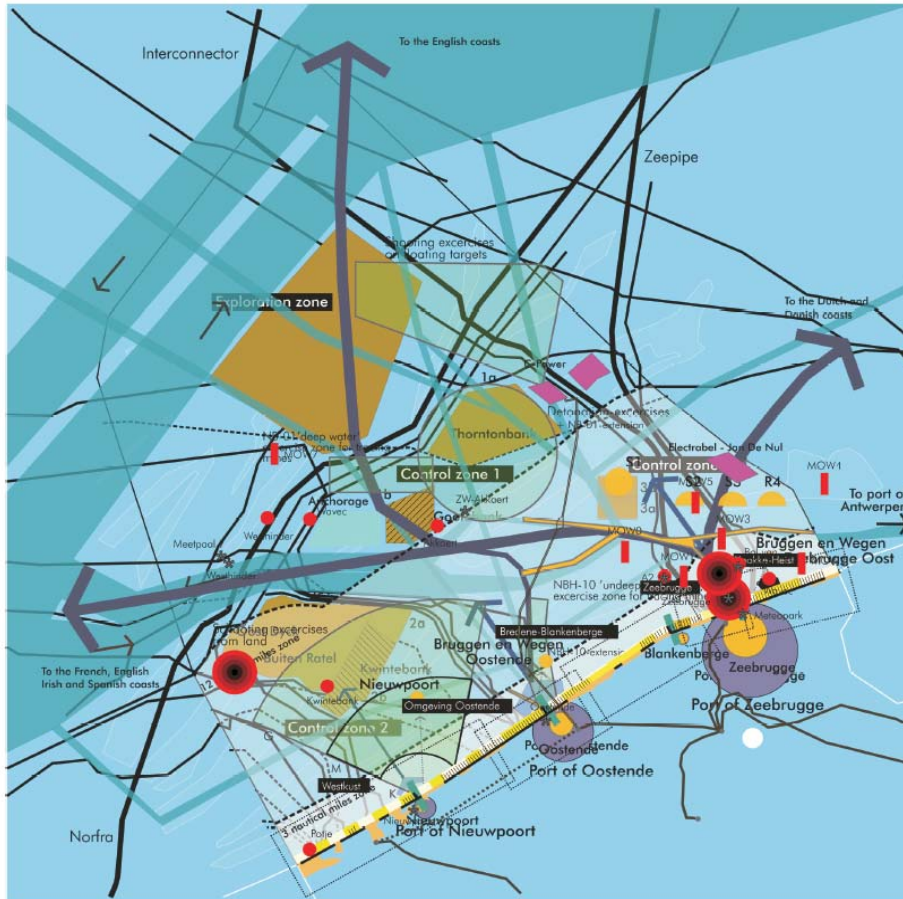
WHAT IS MSP?

It is a public process of analyzing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives that are usually specified through a political process

(Ehler & Douvère, MSP: A Step by Step Approach, UNESCO, 2009)



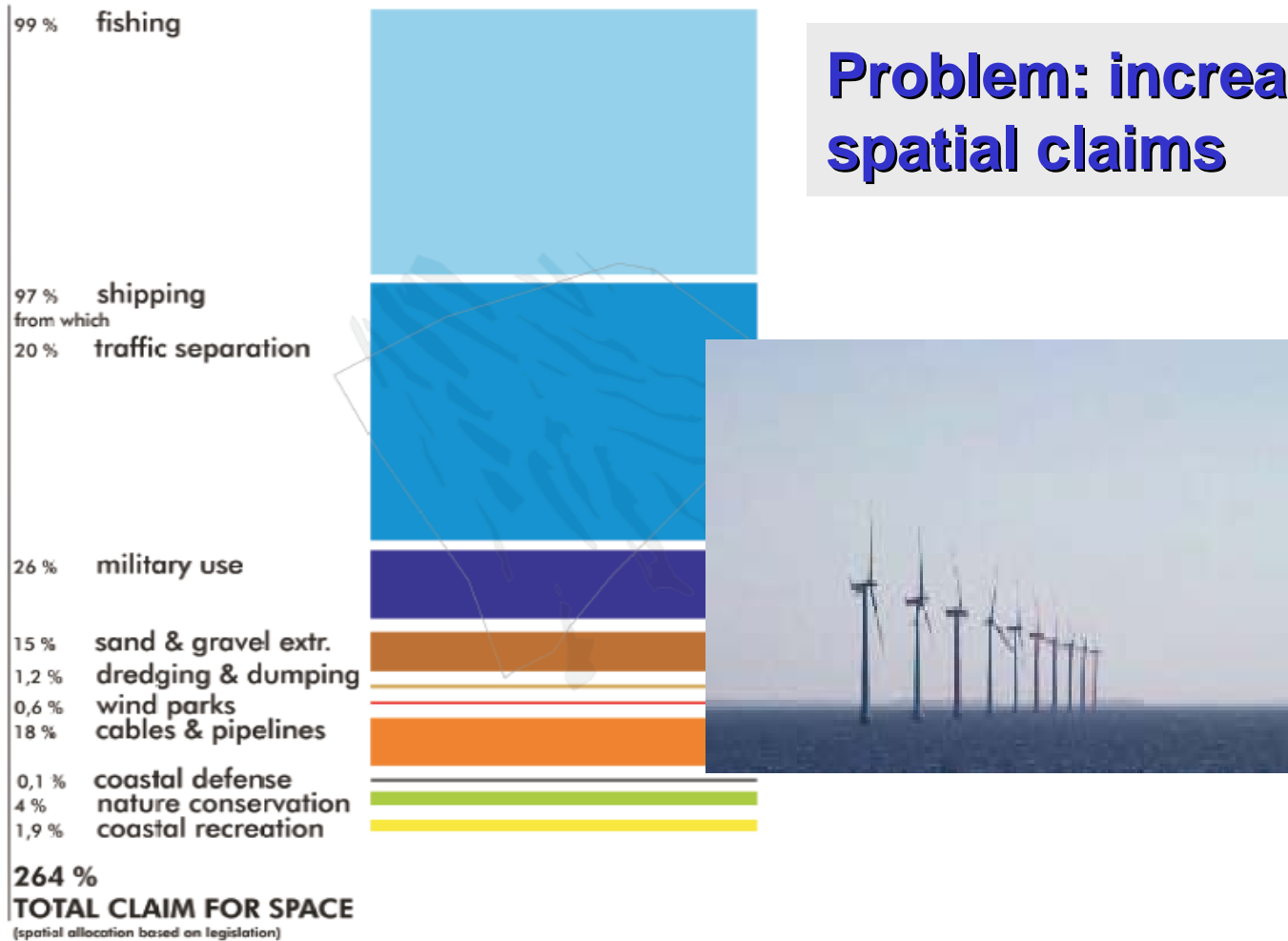
Why MSP?



Map III.1.1.d. 'Mare Liberum': all uses of the BPNS in an overlay
 (cables and pipelines, sand and gravel extraction, shipping, fishing, military use, dredging and dumping of dredge disposal, tourism and recreation, coastal defense, windparks, survey and monitoring)
 (Map: Maritime Institute - Gent University)

- Bring order in chaos
- Visualize information-conflicts
- Identify gaps in scientific knowledge
- A management tool for ICZM
- Facilitate stakeholder & public participation
- Stimulate ecosystem approach
- Allocate/manage new activities
- Assess effects/impacts of multiple activities (cumulative effects)

Problem: increased spatial claims



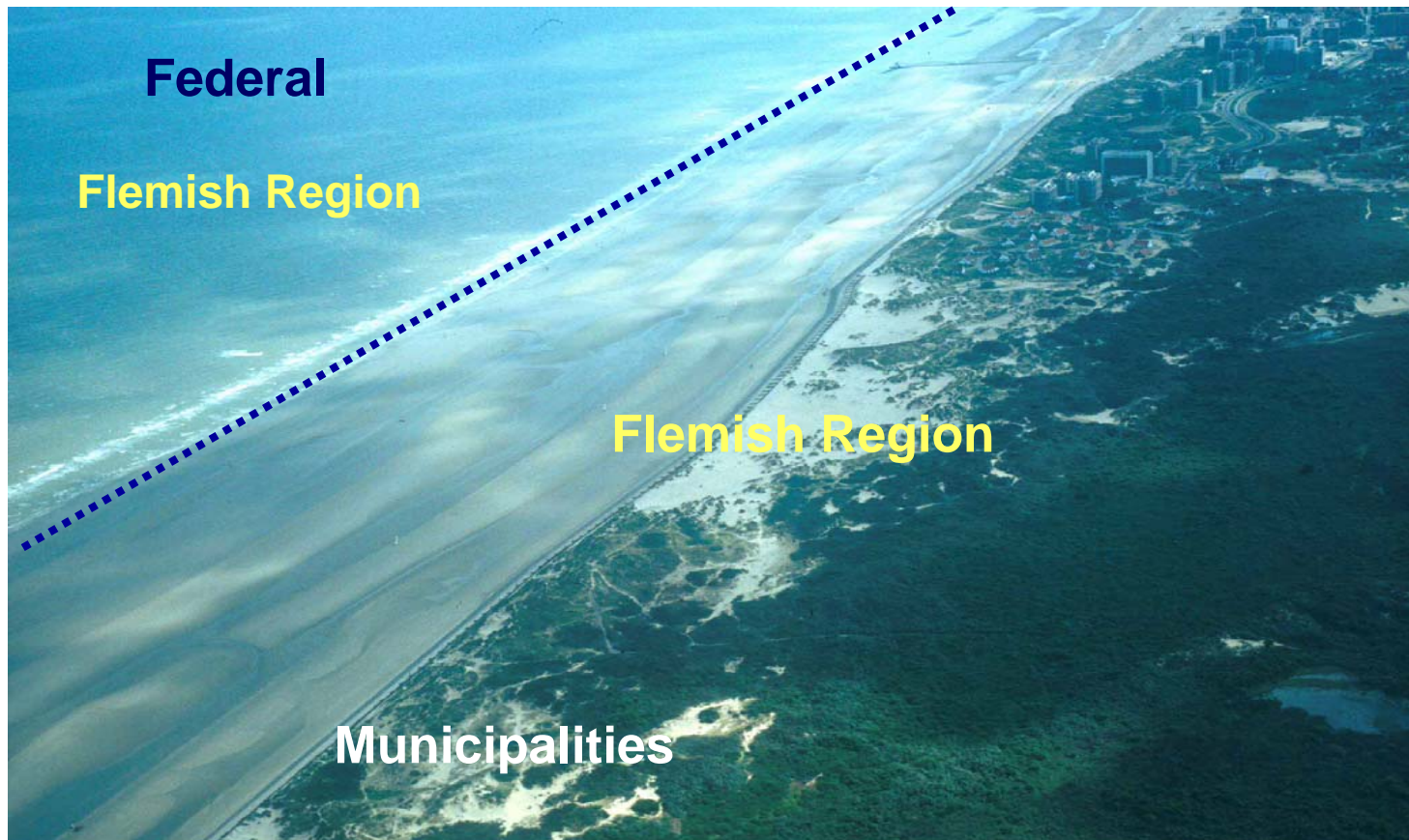
Challenges for Marine & Coastal Spatial Planning

- The Commission Communication "Roadmap for Maritime Spatial Planning: Achieving common principles in the EU" (25 November 2008) identified 10 principles for MSP:
 1. Use MSP according to area & type of activity (no need to cover whole EEZ?)
 2. Define objectives to guide MSP
 3. Develop MSP in a transparent manner
 4. Stakeholder participation
 5. Coordination with MS – simplify decision process
 6. Ensure legal effect of national MSP
 7. Cross border co-operation and consultation
 8. Incorporation of monitoring and evaluation in the planning process
 9. Coherence between MSP and ICZM
 10. A strong data and knowledge base

Challenges for MSP

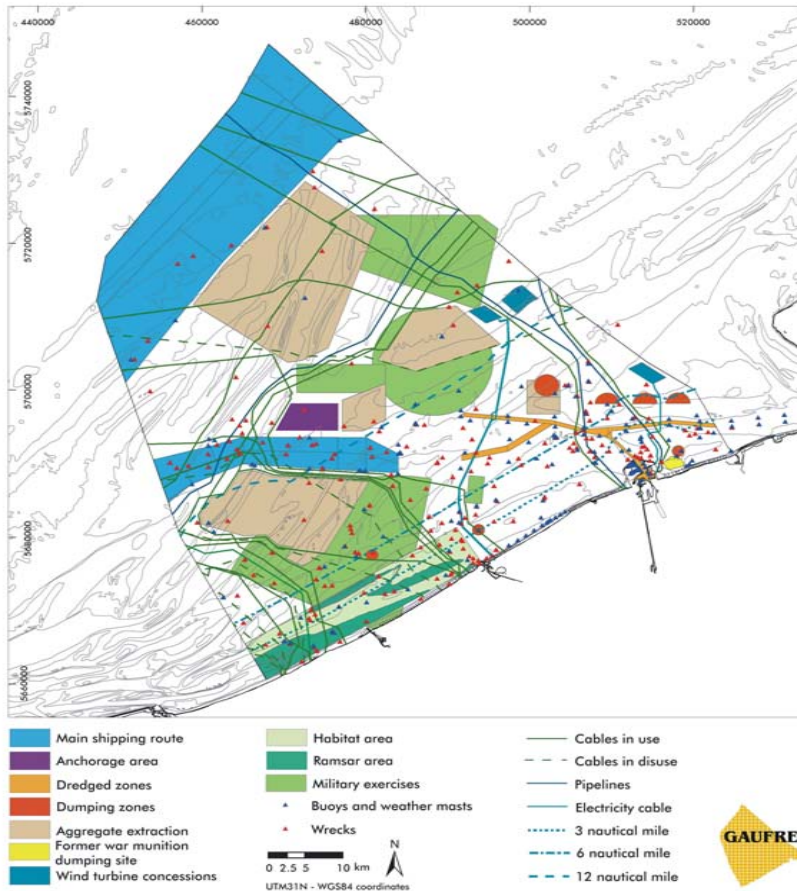
1. scientific (GES 2020 MSFD)
2. land-sea interaction (linking MSP with ICZM)
3. adaptation (e.g. climate change effects)
4. administrative & legal (permits)
5. integration of fisheries in MSP
6. cross boundary (Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008 ?)

Belgium: admin. and legal complexities



Challenge: co-operate with neighboring countries





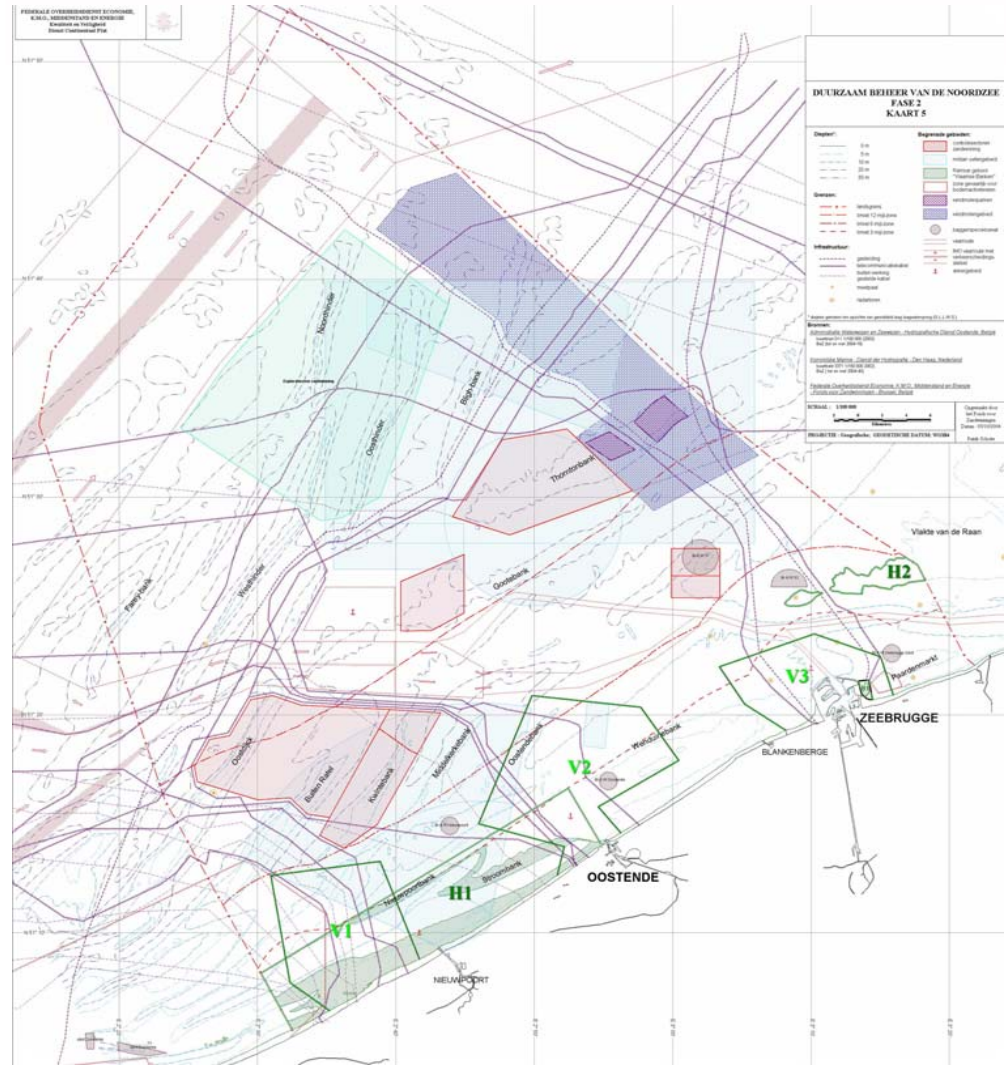
Original data source: cfr. all spatial distribution maps
Map preparation: RCMG - Ghent University

May 2005

Belgian MSP today

- EU en int. policies: 2012 network of MPAs
- Sea activities have legal base
- Availability of resources
- Safety & maintenance are priorities
- Dominance of economics
- No holistic spatial planning **process** – ad hoc allocation of activities + protected areas in a plan ...
- No statutory basis
- Lack of adaptation scenario's

Masterplan BPNS



Potential benefits of Belgian MSP today

- Reduce conflicts among uses and users by establishing priorities
- Provide more certainty to the private sector when they plan new investments
- Promote efficient use of space and resources
- Reduce environmental impacts of activities at sea
- Promote sustainable management
- Promote ecosystem-based management for new activities
- Reallocate or prohibit activities detrimental to biodiversity and ecosystems
- Improve decision-making processes

How to start MSP?

- Identify scientific gaps and improve scientific knowledge: use precautionary approach
- Develop visions
- Translate visions into scenarios and decision rules
- Use stakeholder participation to discuss scenarios and decision rules
- Discuss visions and scenarios with neighboring countries potentially involved
- Allow the public to participate in the development of visions, scenarios and decision rules