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UNITED Project Final Event

Ocean multi-use blueprint and transferability

Date: Thursday, November 16th, 2023

This workshop revealed the Ocean Multi-Use Blueprint and clarified its practical applications. Participants gained insights from planning authorities and industry representatives regarding the adaptability of the suggested multi-use solutions. The panel discussed how the blueprint solutions could be applied in the Mission Arena Region, and beyond, and what are the key enablers.

The "Ocean Multi-Use Blueprint and Transferability" workshop provided a comprehensive overview of best practices in multi-use (MU) combinations across UNITED pilot countries and discussed their applicability across the Mission Arena Region.

The good practice examples related to the Nature Restoration, Insurance Approaches as well as the Business Models generated the most interest according to the slide engagement with the audience:



UNITED Ocean Multi-Use Blueprints

In her opening remarks, Ivana Lukic from the SUBMARINER Network for Blue Growth EEIG introduced the Ocean Multi-Use Blueprints, showcasing exemplary practices from UNITED pilot countries.

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ULTFARMS Associated regions funding for the transfer of multi-use good practice

The workshop featured an announcement by Alex Ziembra of Deltares regarding the ULTFARMS Associated Regions, highlighting open calls for funding soon to be published on the [UNITED website](#). This segment served as a valuable platform for sharing insights, fostering collaboration, and exploring the transferability of successful MU projects.

PANEL: Transferability of the multi-use solutions to the Mission Arena Region

Bettina Käppeler - German Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency

Anne Gunnäs - Swedish Lysekil municipality

Emil Gejrot - Nordic Innovation

Simon Johansson - Nordic Seafarm

Andrea Fischel - ORSTED

What are the most probable MU combinations to make a rise?

- Nature protection and energy take up the most space, necessitating a combination strategy. Additionally, an increase in aquaculture is crucial for sustainable food production.
- In Germany from a regulator's point of view a combination of multiple energy types and a focus on hydrogen generation might be promising for sites far out on sea, considerable prospects for low trophic aquaculture and nature restoration within wind farms would need gaining more political and administrative support.
- The Nordics see potential in repurposing decommissioned oil and gas rigs for MU initiatives.

Where do we need to go from here?

- For increasing MU combinations with low trophic aquaculture it is crucial to establish the right partnerships and boost biomass production, reducing reliance on Asian imports.
- A comprehensive research agenda is essential to better understand the impacts of MU and mitigate potential risks.
- Adopting a regional approach, such as aligning regulations in the Baltic region, would streamline processes for cross-border developers.

Over 50% of slido participants think that the regulation is the most pressing challenge for implementing multi-use offshore solutions.

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What is the role of MSP in MU enhancement?

- Despite a lack of immediate business cases, MSP plays a crucial role in providing legal frameworks and regulations, especially in long-term planning.
- MSP can foster collaboration between different sectors and agencies, particularly in streamlining licensing processes for MU initiatives.
- Establishing MU zones through MSP, complete with legal frameworks, insurance, and licensing processes, is a key avenue for advancement.

According to the Slido poll engagement the 'Maripark' concept where the government ensures the permits, insurance, and supporting infrastructure for multi-use development in wind farms as well as the 'Area Passport' indicating what type of multi-use can take place in a wind farm, take the most points in attendees votes as practices that could be successfully replicated in the Mission Arena Region (Norway South, Sweden West-South, Denmark East, Germany Western Baltic).

What are the main barriers to the development of MU?

- Differing opinions on whether industry or policymakers should drive change create a slow transformation.
- Challenges in obtaining insurance and addressing liability concerns hinder MU development.
- The lack of an evidence base for MU Environmental Impact Assessments fuels concerns about potential negative environmental impacts.

Based on feedback from Slido engagement with participants, it is clear that the most significant requirement for bolstering planning and regulatory efforts in the context of multi-use is more supporting evidence in three key areas: technological feasibility, environmental impacts, and economic benefits.

Conclusions: What are the most important aspects to promote MU?

- Prioritizing safety and addressing risks associated with MU activities.
- Ensuring access to and sharing of data, acknowledging that data acquisition is costly and data sharing can be a barrier.
- Providing government incentives for insurance is crucial for promoting MU initiatives.

Both Slido participants and panelists reached a consensus that aiming to establish a minimum of three operational offshore wind multi-use farms in the Baltic Sea by 2025 could be considered ambitious. However, there was a shared optimism that extending the timeline to 2028 would make such an endeavor more feasible and realistic for the region.