

TOURISM

SECTORAL SHEET



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This sectoral sheet is part of a series covering five key sectors of the MSP4BIO Project: **Aquaculture, Fisheries, Marine Non-Living Resources, Renewable Energy, and Tourism.**



It guides MPA managers in addressing activities through an integrated approach and helps blue economy stakeholders understand sector impacts on ecosystem services.

The sheets outline Good Management Practices to mitigate impacts and promote sustainable sector development.



Designed as a resource for policymakers, they support trade-off analysis and address user conflicts.

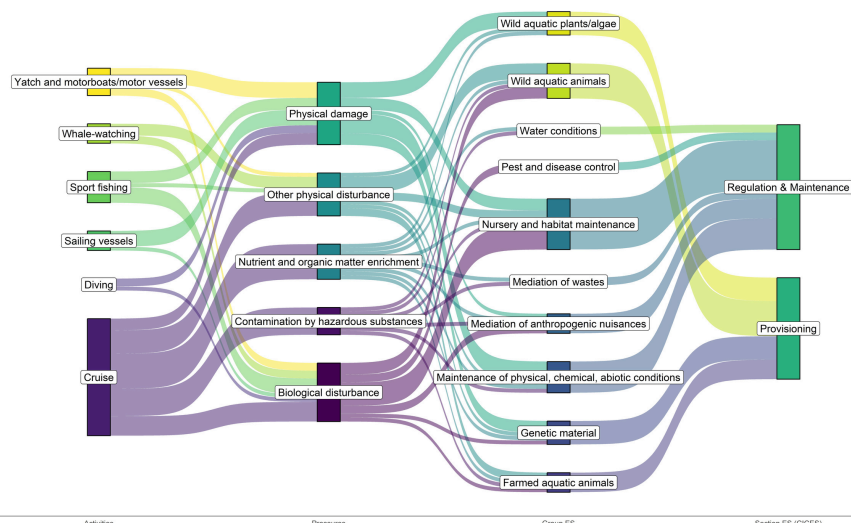
Area-based marine conservation

Tourism is a vital and growing global industry, key to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, but it poses social and environmental challenges, especially in marine protected areas (MPAs). Effective management is essential to balance revenue generation with site capacity. Some MPAs prioritize high-quality tourism and partnerships with eco-friendly operators over increasing visitor numbers.

Sustainable tourism requires stakeholder collaboration and strong leadership to ensure consensus and engagement. This document outlines key ecosystem services impacted by tourism, associated pressures, and successful management practices, offering insights for MPA managers.

Ecosystem services

- **Intellectual interactions:** Research and aesthetic experiences.
- **Physical interactions:** Sport and recreation.
- **Spiritual interactions:** Symbolic and cultural connections (e.g., national or local emblems).



The Sankey Chart shows how activities, based on the MSFD, impact ecosystem services. Key pressures—biological disturbance, physical damage, and other disturbances—affect Nursery habitats, Wild aquatic animals, and ecosystem maintenance. Urban expansion for coastal tourism, a major impact, is not included (Carranza et al., 2020).

Activities



Cruise



Sport Fishing



Yacht and motorboats



Whale Watching



Diving



Sailing vessels

The graphs below highlight key Good Management Practices (GMP) for planning tourism activities like diving, sailing, fishing, cruises, and whale watching, with examples near protected areas. Brief descriptions are included, with more details on the deliverable.



Diving

- Use mooring buoys to prevent anchor damage. Example: Coral reef, Curaçao.
- Regulate diver access with eco-friendly codes of conduct. Dive masters ensure compliance
- Encourage 'dive tag' purchases to fund conservation, e.g., research and monitoring.
- Limit yearly dives in MPAs to manage carrying capacity.
- Use divers' underwater footage for biodiversity research.
- Report dives near protected heritage sites in advance.
- Restrict diving during certain months and areas.



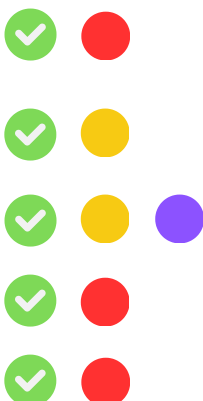
Sailing, Yachts & motorboats

- Enforce boat speed limits within MPA zones.
- Install and manage mooring buoys to prevent anchor damage.
- Promote waste management awareness among boat owners; inspect marinas.



Sport Fishing

- Regulate sport fishing to protect species, e.g., ban spear-fishing in French MPAs; line fishing in Italy and Spain requires permits.
- Set minimum catch sizes for vulnerable species.
- Promote reporting and recovery of lost fishing gear.
- Establish protection zones for small-scale fishers.
- Limit catch weight for recreational fishers.



LEGEND

- ORIENTED TOWARDS LIMITING THE ACTIVITY
- ORIENTED TO THE ACTIVITY DEVELOPMENT
- ORIENTED TO PROCESS MANAGEMENT

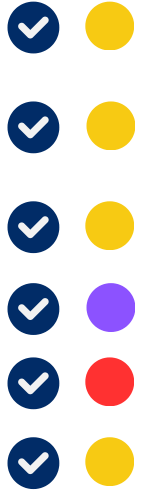
- ✓ GOOD PRACTICES FOR MPAS
- ✓ GOOD PRACTICES FOR MSP
- ORIENTED TO THE SOCIO ECOSYSTEM

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Cruise

- Use onshore renewable power to reduce emissions, e.g., Hamburg's Cruise Terminal Altona.
- Design sustainable cruise terminals with environmental and social benefits, e.g., Port of Tallinn, Estonia.
- Operate ship waste facilities for recycling and energy production.
- Apply the Environmental Ship Index (ESI) to track emissions at berth.
- Require permits for vessels in protected areas, e.g., Glacier Bay.
- Charge fees and set criteria for cruise line concessions, e.g., Glacier Bay rewards air, water, and marine conservation efforts.

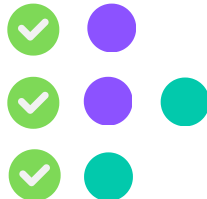


GENERAL GUIDELINES



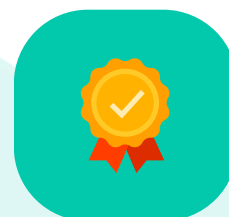
Whale Watching

- Increase public awareness and management plan development.
- Adopt environmental measures for impact reduction.
- Use 'umbrella species' to protect ecological communities.



General guidelines watercrafts

- Operate to avoid disrupting marine mammals: maintain safe speeds, keep distance (e.g., caution/no-approach zones), limit watercraft numbers, and switch off engines.
- Implement a Code of Conduct:
 1. Approach from the side/rear, not head-on or behind.
 2. Fly a whale flag to alert nearby boaters.
 3. Let animals control the encounter; respect their choice to interact or leave.
 4. Maintain a steady parallel course when animals are moving; avoid cutting across their path.



Underwater activities & licensing

- Restrict underwater activities and limit swimming with marine mammals. Ensure swimmers are accompanied by trained local guides.
- License and control disturbance activities; prohibit underwater flash photography, sound-based filming, and similar activities.



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SCAN

