

AREA BASED CONSERVATION MEASURES IN EUROPE



2025

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12,3% MPA coverage in Europe

0,2% of MPAs fully or highly protected

86% of MPAs under low protection or incompatible with conservation

30X10X30 EU protection targets far to be reached

MSP4BIO ANALYSIS IN SHOWS THAT

23

Case Study Sites

5

EU Sea basins covered

- Ecological conservation priorities vary significantly across sea basins and countries.
- MPAs across sea basins face a multiple anthropogenic pressures.
- Trade-offs between conservation and human activities are possible: need for true engagement and effective protection.
- Protection of ecological and cultural values (Underwater Cultural Heritage) can reinforce one another.

KEY TAKE- HOME MESSAGES

- Stronger and more effective protection is needed
- Designations fall short: slow process, low level protection, only formal stakeholder engagement
- Implementation gaps: effective management, monitoring and control, lack of resources, undermine impact
- Collaboration is key. Smart solutions: combine different spatial tools and approaches (top-down vs bottom-up), combine protection and restoration, ensure active stakeholders engagement
- Long-term strategic vision: Link protection, restoration & Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)

SCAN



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