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Project scoping for lessons learnt to apply to the Celtic Seas marine sub-region

Organisation name of contractor: Coastal and Marine Research Centre

Authors: Twomey, S. and O'Mahony, C.

Date submitted: September 2013

Coastal & Marine Research Centre
Ionad Taighde Cósta is Mara



Celtic Seas Partnership is an EC LIFE+ project delivered with the contribution of the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community. Project number: LIFE011 ENV/UK/000392



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The Celtic Seas Partnership aims to build on the lessons provided by the short-listed projects as well as projects and initiatives outlined in the Inventory (see Annex). This project is unique in that it is the first of its type to truly apply a pan-Celtic Seas approach. The Celtic Seas Partnership’s objectives are considering the entire Celtic Seas sub-region ecosystem as one planning and management space as required by the MSFD. In order to achieve this, the project is utilising a combination of the following approaches throughout its lifespan which distinguishes the Celtic Seas Partnership process from other previous and current projects and initiatives:.....	17
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Summary

The Celtic Seas Partnership is a pioneering LIFE co-financed project being delivered for and by the stakeholders of the Celtic Sea. WWF-UK, SeaWeb, University of Liverpool, Dublin Regional Authority and NERC are working in partnership to coordinate and facilitate the project, which is bringing together sea users, industry, governments and the scientific community across the Celtic Seas to find ways of working together that will help achieve healthy and sustainable seas. The project is building on the success of a previous WWF-led project, PISCES. PISCES empowered stakeholders in the Celtic Sea to develop a set of guidelines for delivering the ecosystem approach.

The Celtic Seas Partnership aims to feed lessons learnt and best practice directly into marine management at a national and European level, offering marine stakeholders the opportunity to help shape and influence how their seas will be managed in the years to come. The focus of the project

will be key European legislation that aims to conserve and protect Europe's seas while allowing sustainable use of our natural marine resources. The key activities and expected result areas include:

1. **Engagement and capacity building** through a series of meeting, conferences and country workshops from 2013-2016; sharing information and identifying best practice engagement models and mechanisms.
2. **Transboundary partnership** by the analysis of existing approaches and mechanisms and the development of best practice guidelines and recommendations.
3. **Trans-sectoral good practice** via the analysis of existing and emerging case studies in managing the needs of different sectors and the development of best practice guidelines and recommendations for co-location.
4. **Transboundary information resources** by means of the analysis of existing information resources and the development of new resources including the *Celtic Seas Web Portal* and a *Strategic Guide to Data Integration and Harmonisation*.

This project seeks to bring global experience in marine management and planning to the Celtic Seas. On behalf of WWF-UK, the Coastal and Marine Research Centre (CMRC) has been contracted to undertake a formal scoping exercise to identify lessons from a wide range of previous and current project and initiative experiences at the national, regional seas, European and global levels. An inventory of 77 projects and initiatives that are relevant with regard to the key activities proposed by the Celtic Seas Partnership has been compiled, as well as a short-list of 23 of the most pertinent projects, lessons learnt and contact names. This Project Scoping report has identified a number of synergies and collaborative opportunities from other project and initiatives in the Celtic Seas and beyond. It provides a strong starting point to clarify to stakeholders the uniqueness of the Celtic Seas Partnership project and delivers a sound baseline for the other preparatory actions (A2 Stakeholder Mapping and A3 Baseline Analysis for Marine Strategy Framework Directive Implementation) and the implementation actions. Furthermore, this report helps to avoid duplication of effort during the life-span of the project by highlighting what information pertaining to the Celtic Seas MSFD sub-region already exists.

Acronyms

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy
CMRC	Coastal and Marine Research Centre
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
DECLG	Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (Ireland)
DEFRA	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (United Kingdom)
DRA	Dublin Regional Authority
EA	Ecosystem Approach
EBM	Ecosystem-based management
EC	European Commission
EEA	European Environment Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EMODNET	European Marine Observation and Data Network
eNGO	Environmental Non Governmental Organisation
EU	European Union
GES	Good Environmental Status
GPA	Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
IC[Z]M	Integrated Coastal [Zone] Management
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
IMP	Integrated Maritime Policy
ISMF	Irish Sea Maritime Forum
JPOI	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
LICCO	Living with a Changing Coast
LOSC	Law of the Sea Convention
MARINEXUS	Mechanisms of Ecosystem Change in the Western Channel
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from ships
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
MSP	Maritime Spatial Planning

MSY	Maximum Sustainable Yield
NERC	Natural Environment Research Council
OSPAR	Oslo and Paris Conventions for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic.
PISCES	Partnership Involving Stakeholders in the Celtic Sea
RAC	Regional Advisory Council
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
REZ	Renewable Energy Zone
SAC	Special Area of Conservation (Habitats Directive)
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEO	Stakeholder Engagement Officer
SPA	Special Protection Area (Birds Directive)
TPEA	Transboundary Planning in the European Atlantic
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UK	United Kingdom
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WISE	Water Information System for Europe

Introduction

Like oceans and seas globally, the health of the marine ecosystem in the Celtic Seas is under significant threat due to a variety of external pressures. The decline in the health of our seas and the species that depend on them is also having an impact on the livelihoods of communities and industries which rely on the sea and coastline. Many of the threats facing Europe's seas require cooperation between member states to tackle them effectively. The Marine Strategy Framework Directive¹ (MSFD) was introduced by the European Commission (EC) to address this and came into force in 2008 with the overall aim to promote sustainable use of the seas. The main goal is to achieve or maintain 'Good Environmental Status' (GES) in Europe's waters by 2020.

Through the contribution of the LIFE+ financial instrument of the EC², WWF-UK are working in partnership with University of Liverpool and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) in the UK, Dublin Regional Authority (DRA) in Ireland, and SeaWeb in France to deliver the Celtic Seas Partnership (Celtic Seas Partnership) project. It aims to support the implementation of EU environmental and maritime policy, using a stakeholder-led approach to contribute to the development of marine strategies, particularly those that can contribute to the MSFD for the achievement of GES of marine waters.

The Celtic Seas Partnership project will improve policy and governance through testing, evaluating and disseminating actions and methodologies to offer best practice approaches for effective transboundary engagement based on an ecosystem approach to deliver the MSFD. The project actions will be developed by key marine stakeholders, in close collaboration with the scientific community and governments across the region. The project's overall objective is to: 'Demonstrate successful approaches and best practice through multi-stakeholder collaboration to guide practical implementation of the MSFD and contribute to GES of the Celtic Seas sub-region.

Aims and objectives

On behalf of WWF-UK, the Coastal and Marine Research Centre (CMRC) has been contracted to undertake a formal scoping exercise to identify lessons from a wide range of previous and current project experiences at the national, regional seas, European and global levels. The Project Scoping report provides a strong starting point to clarify to stakeholders the uniqueness of the Celtic Seas Partnership project. It also delivers a sound baseline for the other preparatory actions (A2 Stakeholder Mapping and A3 Baseline Analysis for MSFD Implementation) and the implementation actions. Furthermore, this report helps to avoid duplication of effort during the life-span of the project by highlighting what information pertaining to the Celtic Seas MSFD sub-region already exists.

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:164:0019:0040:EN:PDF>

² The Celtic Seas Partnership is co-financed under the LIFE+ *Environment Policy & Governance* programme which contributes to the implementation of Community environmental policy, the development of innovative environmental policy approaches, technologies, methods and instruments.

Review and analysis of outputs from other previous and on-going projects and initiatives

Inventory of the key previous and current research projects and initiatives of most relevance

The Coastal and Marine Research Centre has identified 67 projects and initiatives that are relevant with regard to the key activities proposed by the Celtic Seas Partnership. This inventory (see Annex) was compiled between February and August 2013 and includes the key multinational and national projects and initiatives funded under various EU (FP6, FP7, INTERREG, LIFE+, Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) Fund) and national funding instruments, in addition to some funded by non-governmental organisations which commenced after 2002 and were completed or still on-going in May 2013.

Methodology

The selection criteria for the research projects and relevant initiatives to be included in this inventory were the following:

- National projects or initiative- taking place within the Celtic Seas sub-region;
- Multinational projects- taking place within the North-east Atlantic sea basin and particularly within the Celtic Seas MSFD sub-region;
- Multinational projects- taking place in other European Marine regions;
- Pan-European projects- taking place in all European Marine regions;
- Starting date: from 2002 onwards with an emphasis on the most recent and current projects;
- Key theme of the project or initiative must be related to the core objectives of the Celtic Seas Partnership project and MSFD;
- Projects and initiatives that feature stakeholder participation³ through some form of involvement, consultation, collaboration or empowerment.

The research findings have been configured in an Excel spreadsheet and detailed information on each project and initiative has been categorised under the following titles:

- Name/ Acronym,
- Key objectives,
- Time-scale,
- Funding programme,
- Marine Region,
- Scale
- Stakeholder participation,
- Key outputs/ outcomes,
- Relevance to Celtic Seas Partnership activities and expected results,
- Website, and
- Key learning for the Celtic Seas Partnership.

³ As defined by [REVIT \(2007\). Stakeholder Engagement: A Toolkit. http://www.revit-nweurope.org/selfguidingtrail/27_Stakeholder_engagement_a_toolkit-2.pdf](http://www.revit-nweurope.org/selfguidingtrail/27_Stakeholder_engagement_a_toolkit-2.pdf)

Sources of data and information

The information provided in this inventory has been sourced from the following websites and publications:

- [CAMIS projects database](#)- Information resource on projects implemented in the Channel area;
- [CORDIS](#) – European Commission Framework 7 database of projects;
- [EurOcean](#) – Portal and focal point for information on marine science and technology in Europe;
- [Irish Marine Institute Projects Database](#);
- [OURCOAST](#)- Portal for exchange of experiences and best practice in coastal planning and management;
- DG Environment Database of EU-funded research projects on the marine environment⁴;
- [Towards sustainability in the Celtic Sea: A guide to implementing the ecosystem approach through the Marine Strategy Framework Directive](#) (PISCES, 2012).

Critical analysis of existing knowledge outputs and outcomes

The following section identifies the critical learning from key previous and current research projects and initiatives of most relevance to the Celtic Seas Partnership. The primary knowledge outputs and outcomes of these have been evaluated against the four expected results of the Celtic Seas Partnership by 2016:

1. *Celtic Seas Engagement and Capacity Building*: Stakeholders across the Celtic Seas are familiar with the requirements of the MSFD and are willing to cooperate and coordinate activities.
2. *Transboundary Partnership*: Transboundary governance approaches led by stakeholders demonstrate effective use of the ecosystem approach for cross-border marine management.
3. *Transboundary Sectoral Good Practice*: Best practice approaches between sectors have been developed and applied to mobilise capacity to support sustainable management of marine resources in the Celtic Seas.
4. *Transboundary Information Resources*: Techniques and methods have been developed based on scientific and local knowledge for the Celtic Seas to help monitor GES.

Short-listed projects and initiatives of most relevance to the Celtic Seas Partnership

The following short-listed projects identified in Figure 5 are of high relevance in that their principal outputs and outcomes have direct synergies with all four of the expected results of the Celtic Seas Partnership project.

⁴ Milieu Ltd and DG ENV (2012). Summary database of EU-funded research projects on the marine environment. Presented at the Sixth Meeting of the Marine Strategy Coordination Group (MSCG/6/2012/5.a), 21-22 February 2012, Brussels.

Short-listed projects and initiatives of most relevance and a summary of the key lessons for the Celtic Seas Partnership (Figure 5).

	ACRONYM/Name	Key lessons for Celtic Seas Partnership project	Contact name/ Organisation	Email
1.	Channel Arch-Manche Assembly	Extensive experience in transboundary cooperation with access to a large pool of multi-sectoral stakeholders.	<p>Florian Lebeau (Région Bretagne) Sylvie Couratin (Région Bretagne) Jamie Evans (Devon County Council)</p> <p>More contacts available at: http://www.arcmanche.com/en/contacts/</p>	<p>florian.lebeau@region-bretagne.fr s.couratin@region-bretagne.fr Jamie.evans@devon.gov.uk</p>
2.	BaltSeaPlan	Tools for transboundary MSP including web-advanced GIS tool. Recommendations for a network of Data Providers as opposed to a single data portal. The project did not reach a stage of defining appropriate processes for transboundary stakeholder involvement, this is being trialled in the follow-on project, PartiSEApate. Sectoral guidance for the Fisheries sector.	<p>Joanna Przedzrymirska (Maritime Institute-Gdańsk) Angela Schultz-Zehden (s.Pro – Sustainable projects GmbH, Germany)</p>	<p>joaprz@im.gda.pl asz@sustainable-projects.eu</p>
3.	British Irish Council	The Electricity Grids subgroup has focussed on the potential for renewable energy trading between BIC members. This has involved identifying the costs and benefits of doing so, along with the barriers. Work has also been undertaken by the Marine Energy subgroup to look at how 'joint projects' between BIC member administrations would fit into the different regulatory regimes prevailing.	<p>The Secretariat became operational on 4th January 2012 based in offices in Edinburgh. The Secretariat is jointly staffed by officials on temporary assignment from Member Administrations and comprises the UK and Irish Government Joint Heads, three Policy Officers and an Office Manager.</p> <p>Ciarán Byrne (Irish Government/ Joint Head, Secretariat) Jeremy Martin (UK Government/ Joint Head, Secretariat)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment led by UK Government, • Collaborative Spatial Planning led by NI Executive • Marine Energy led by Scottish Government 	
4.	CAMIS	Development of key governance tools including an Integrated Maritime Strategy, an Annual Forum for stakeholders, and a	Bruno Thenail (CAMIS project General Co-ordinator)	bruno.thenail@hautenormandie.fr

		Resource Centre. Information ad exchange portal, good practice guides for the economic development of ports and marinas and for marine pollution prevention and management.	Pauline Blumerel (CAMIS Project Manager)	pauline.blumerel@hautenormandie.fr
5.	Coastal Partnerships Network	Coastal Partnerships apply the 'Localism Act/ Big Society Agenda' and help to integrate policy and wider coastal initiatives within and between multiple sectors across the land-sea boundary. Bottom-up approach of many CPs used by organisations to deliver balanced and neutral stakeholder engagement.	Philippa Hoskin (Cornwall Council) Bridget Betts (Dorset Coast Forum) Pam Taylor (Solway Firth Partnership) Lorna Lander (Sefton Coast Partnership) More contacts available at: http://www.coastalpartnershipnetwork.org.uk/search/fullist.php	phoskin@cornwall.gov.uk dorset.coast@dorsetcc.gov.uk pam@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk lorna.lander@sefton.gov.uk
6.	CREAM	Model for transboundary sectoral best practice for the Mediterranean and Black Sea. Potential for its application at a Celtic Seas level.	Duxini Gabiña- Project Coordinator Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza, IAMZCIHEAM (Spain) Jordi Leonart- Scientific Coordinator-Institut de Ciències del Mar Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas	iamz@iamz.ciheam.org lleonart@icm.csic.es
7.	C-SCOPE	Creation of a Coastal Forum in Belgium, a report detailing best methodology for effective stakeholder engagement, interactive and dynamic coastal atlases developed, and map-based tool to enable general public to plan coastal activities.	Ken Buchan (Dorset Coast Forum, Dorset County Council) Bridget Betts (Dorset Coast Forum, Dorset County Council) Ness Smith (Dorset Coast Forum, Dorset County Council)	k.buchan@dorsetcc.gov.uk b.betts@dorsetcc.gov.uk ness.smith@dorsetcc.gov.uk
8.	ENCORA	Pan-European network of ICM practitioners and researchers. Particularly relevant in view of the recently proposed Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) ⁵ .	Job Dronkers Simon Claus	Job.Dronkers@deltares.nl Simon.claus@vliz.be
9.	Finding Sanctuary	Worked with stakeholders to design Marine Conservation Zones in the seas around south west England as part of a wider network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).	Tom Hooper (Project Manager)- currently the Head of Marine Policy at RSPB Alana Murphy (Planning & GIS Specialist)- currently Planning & Environment Advisor at RYA Hannah Carr (Communications Specialist)- Marine Protected Areas Adviser at JNCC	tom.hooper@rspb.org.uk environment@rya.org.uk communications@jncc.gov.uk

⁵ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2013:0133:FIN:EN:PDF>

			Project email address	
10.	Fishing for Litter	Example of coordinated efforts across sectors and best practice in sectoral action plans.	Tom Piper (Scotland) Sarah Crosbie (South West England)	info@finding-sanctuary.org tom.piper@kimo.shetland.org sarah@seafoodcornwalltraining.co.uk
11.	GAP2	Useful toolbox for effective communication of science to stakeholders and policy-makers. Information Exchange Network helping to bridge the gap between science, stakeholders and policy-makers.	Steve Mackinson (CEFAS)- UK Case Study Coordinator Barrie Deas – (Industry representative for GAP2 project)Chief Executive of the National Federation of Fishermen’s Organisations (NFFO)	steve.mackinson@cefas.co.uk barrie@nffo.org.uk
12.	Irish Sea Conservation Zones	A Regional Stakeholder Group made up of a broad cross section of sectors and people with interests in the Irish Sea was established during this process.	Gregg Whitfield (Project Coordinator)- currently Geomorphology Technical Advisor at Environment Agency	greg.whitfield@environment-agency.gov.uk
13.	Irish Sea Maritime Forum	Access to an existing network of multi-sectoral stakeholders across six jurisdictions in Ireland and the United Kingdom. There are two Working Groups, one focussing on the MSFD, and the other on MSP activities in the Irish Sea.	Sue Kidd (Founding Member)	Suekidd@liverpool.ac.uk
14.	MARMONI	Using Baltic Sea stakeholders as a 'network of active monitorers', innovative outreach methods on board transnational ferries.	Edgars Bojars (Baltic Environment Forum- Latvia)	Edgars.Bojars@bef.lv
15.	MESMA	Range of tools including a geoportal developed to support MSFD implementation through MSP. Celtic Seas was a case study covered by the project. Particularly relevant to sectoral good practice and data integration aspects of the project.	Luc Van Hoof (Project Coordinator) Gerry Sutton (CMRC) – Data Integration	luc.vanhoof@wur.nl Gerry.sutton@ucc.ie
16.	ODEMM	A host of legal and policy-type guidance documents supporting effective implementation of the MSFD.	Leonie Robinson (Uni. Of Liverpool) – Technical aspects Ronan Long (Marine Law and Ocean Policy Research Services Ltd)- Legal aspects	leonie.robinson@liv.ac.uk ronan.j.long@nuigalway.ie
17.	OURCOAST	Useful repository for summaries on status of ICM on Europe's coasts.	Robbert C. Steijn (Project Manager)	rob.steijn@arcadis.nl
18.	PartISEApate	The project is bringing transnational, national and regional stakeholders	Joanna Przedzimirska (Maritime Institute-Gdańsk)	joaprz@im.gda.pl

		together in a series of workshops (firstly in their specific sectors and then in multi-sector workshops).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as BALTSEAPLAN 	
19.	PlanBothnia	The existence of HELCOM's GIS service greatly aided the availability and compatibility of transboundary data for this project.	Hermanni Backer (Project Manager)- HELCOM Manuel Frias (Project Officer)- HELCOM	hermanni.backer@helcom.fi manuel.frias@helcom.fi
20.	PISCES	Involvement of stakeholders from a number of Member States representing maritime transport, ports, marine leisure and tourism, aquaculture, public bodies for the environment, marine aggregates, the renewable energy sector, maritime defence, and underwater cables in a stakeholder-led approach to the development of EA guidelines which will enable sectors to operate collectively and manage the Celtic Sea in a sustainable way.	Lyndsey Dodds (Project Coordinator)- WWF, currently the Celtic Seas Partnership Project Coordinator Kristian Teleki (ex President of SeaWeb and partner on PISCES)- Currently Director of Global Engagement at the Global Ocean Commission	LDodds@wwf.org.uk kristian.teleki@globaloceancommission.org
21.	Severn Estuary Partnership	Maintains an extensive contacts database of over 3000 records representing 130 organisations from diverse sectors across England and Wales. Launched a 'Strategy for the Severn Estuary' in 2001 which provides a strategic management framework. Key actor in the production of the Shoreline Management Plans for the Severn	Paul Parker (Severn Estuary Partnership)	Severn@Cardiff.ac.uk
22.	SWAN Network Ireland	Similar project to Celtic Seas Partnership but focussing on the transboundary implementation of the WFD on the island of Ireland through a bottom-up multi-sectoral approach to International River Basin Management plans by a network of eNGOs.	Sinead O'Brien (Network Coordinator)	s.obrien@swanireland.ie
23.	TPEA	Establishment of a multi-sectoral transboundary stakeholder network and GIS mapping tool in the Atlantic Area for the first time with the aim of introducing ecosystem-based MSP in the Celtic Sea and Bay of Biscay.	Stephen Jay (Project Coordinator) University of Liverpool	Stephen.jay@liverpool.ac.uk

Lessons learnt from interviews with key players in marine and maritime research

This section of the report provides a summary of a range of lessons which can be applied to the Celtic Seas Partnership have been formulated from a series of semi-structured interviews with a selection of marine experts. These interviews were conducted by the Celtic Seas Partnership Stakeholder Engagement Officers from August to September 2013 with key players in marine and maritime research from England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Ireland, Isle of Man, and other EU Member States regarding lessons learnt from current and previous initiatives in marine management. This engagement process also helped to identify suitable candidates for the Celtic Seas Partnership Expert Advisory Group⁶.

The questions have been classified in relation to the four expected key results of the Celtic Seas Partnership and broadly speaking fall into these themes:

1. Involving stakeholders and raising environmental awareness amongst stakeholders,
2. Stakeholder-led approaches and multi-sectoral partnership influencing governance and policy (especially at a transboundary level),
3. Development of best practice sectoral approaches/ sectoral action plans (especially at a transboundary level), and
4. Transboundary Information Resources and the development and application of methods for data collection to help monitor GES.

Figure 6: Four key classifications for interview questions

The following questions (mostly open-ended) were used to guide the semi-structured qualitative interviews.

1. *Involving stakeholders and raising environmental awareness amongst stakeholders*
 - To what extent is/ was this theme a feature of your project/ initiative?
 - At what stage in the project/initiative, did it commence?
 - How did you go about targeting the stakeholders?
 - What form did it take? (e.g. interviews, questionnaires, meetings, workshops, seminars, exhibitions).
 - Did you encounter any challenges or barriers with stakeholders?
 - How did you overcome these?

2. *Stakeholder-led approaches and multi-sectoral partnership influencing governance and policy (especially at a transboundary level)*

⁶ The project will seek to appoint an *Expert Advisory Group* to guide the project activities, providing feedback to the Project Core Group. Membership will be drawn from experts identified during the initial scoping phase. Representatives will be sought with the following expertise: marine Ecosystem-Based Management; EU maritime policy including Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management; transboundary governance; data gathering and analysis; stakeholder engagement; communications; leading sector representatives engaged in science/policy.

- How did you go about streamlining the engagement process across different borders/ administrations (if relevant)?
 - What sectors are/ did you engage with?
 - In terms of representation, how did you go about balancing the involvement of different interest groups?
 - Did you experience any under or over-representation by certain sectors?
 - What were the key learnings from the stakeholder involvement?
3. *Development of best practice sectoral approaches/ sectoral action plans (especially at a transboundary level)*
- Did your project examine any existing sectoral plans?
 - Could you outline any examples of best practice in particular sectors you engaged with?
 - Are you aware if any of these sectoral best practices could be applied as a Celtic Sea's level?
 - Have you come across any examples of sectoral plans that feature collaboration or coordination with other marine sectors?
4. *Transboundary information resources and the development and application or methods for data collection to help monitor GES (if relevant)*
- In what way does/did your project or initiative contributes to the advancement of new data collection techniques or data harmonisation?
 - What form did they/these take? (e.g. GIS mapping tool, decision-support tool, guidance etc.)
 - At what scale was it developed? (e.g. local, national, regional)
 - Could you outline any difficulties or challenges you encountered in terms of data collection or integration?
 - How did you overcome these and what was the end result?
5. *General Questions:*
- Project outputs often differ from expected project outputs, could you tell me what were they key learnings from your project/initiative?
 - Could you suggest any recommendations to help guide the Celtic Seas Partnership project?
 - Would you be willing and available to become a member of our Expert Advisory group?
 - If not, could you suggest an alternative individual from your project or initiative?

Gap analysis

Involving stakeholders and raising environmental awareness amongst stakeholders

The Celtic Seas Partnership will be building on the work carried out to-date by a range of existing stakeholder networks and platforms that operate at different levels throughout the Celtic Seas. Examples at a national level include the Coastal Partnerships Network in the United Kingdom, the Swan Network in Ireland. At the transboundary level, TPEA's geographic scope is the European waters of the Atlantic Ocean sea basin with five Member States including France, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and United Kingdom. However, TPEA's pilot studies are limited to the transboundary marine borders separating Ireland and Northern Ireland to the north; and Spain and Portugal to the south. Similarly, the Atlantic Forum (established by the Atlantic Arc Commission) covers all of the European Atlantic Member States and facilitates dialogue between national, regional and local authorities as well as industry and civil society. The PISCES project area focussed on the International Council for Exploration of the SEAs (ICES) areas that included part of the Celtic Seas sub-region and the Western Channel but not the waters off western Scotland or western Ireland or the Irish Sea. The work of the Irish Sea Maritime Forum spans the seven jurisdictions of the Irish Sea (including the Isle of Man) but it excludes France and the Channel Area, and the western waters off Ireland. The focus of Channel Arch- Manche Assembly and the Cross Channel Forum established through CAMIS is restricted to the geographical area made up of the British and French territories bordering or within the English Channel. The remit of the Loughs Agency's stakeholder forum is confined to the shared transboundary waters dividing Ireland with Northern Ireland to the north-west of the Celtic Seas and the east coast Irish Sea.

In terms of raising environmental awareness amongst stakeholders, the project will be drawing lessons from the toolbox produced by GAP2 and ODEMM projects in terms of tailoring the language and bridging the gap between science, stakeholders and policy-makers through effective communication of science.

The unique geographic scale that the Celtic Seas Partnership will be functioning at will be connecting, raising environmental awareness and strengthening information exchange amongst sea-users, scientists and policy makers from all of the above projects and initiatives for the first time at a Celtic Seas sub-regional scale as defined by the MSFD.

Stakeholder-led approaches and multi-sectoral partnership influencing governance and policy (especially at a transboundary level)

No appropriate mechanism presently exists for transboundary stakeholder engagement at the MSFD Celtic Seas sub-regional scale. As outlined above, a number of transboundary platforms offer an opportunity for stakeholder dialogue at various scales such as the Irish Sea, the Channel Area, the Celtic Sea ICES boundaries etc. The Celtic Seas Partnership will address this vacuum by establishing the most appropriate scale and mechanism for transboundary engagement to support delivery of ecosystem-based and integrated management. Moreover, the project has designated Stakeholder Engagement Officers (SEOs) in all six countries bordering the Celtic Seas. In addition to the focused programmes of meeting, country workshops and three international conferences, the presence of these SEOs will allow for better coordination of efforts across the entire sub-region.

One of the limitations of the BaltSeaPlan project is that it did not reach a stage of defining appropriate processes for transboundary stakeholder involvement. The follow-on project, PartiSEApate, aims to trial a model of transboundary stakeholder engagement in the Baltic Sea in the context of MSP. TPEA is currently exploring transboundary engagement strategies for MSP in two very different contexts of the European Atlantic, their recommendations will not be publically disseminated until late 2014. The Celtic Seas Partnership is filling this void by developing and testing innovative methods and tools for trans-sectoral stakeholder engagement at a transboundary sub-regional level in support of MSFD implementation.

Development of best practice sectoral approaches/ sectoral action plans at transboundary level

It is important to note that there is a dearth of information on best practice sectoral approaches and sectoral action plans especially at a transboundary level in the context of achieving GES and MSFD implementation. Projects such as COEXIST provided guidance on the interactions between fisheries and aquaculture in the Atlantic coast countries of Ireland (east coast Irish Sea) and France (Iroise Sea of the coast of Brittany) from an ecosystem- based management (EBM) perspective but not at a transboundary scale. The Fishing for Litter initiative that has been operating in Ireland, Scotland, the south-west of England, the Netherlands and Sweden have not extended their operation across borders into their neighbouring countries. Similarly, the Government-funded EAFM project in Ireland seeks to ensure the long-term health, diversity and vitality of the marine ecosystem through the application of radical new approaches to fisheries management in Irish waters. The PISCES project has conducted some very preliminary work in this area and identified a number of actions that stakeholders can make within their sectors to improve sustainability (e.g. the location and timing of activities can be altered to limit environmental impacts). The CREAM project which is taking place in the Mediterranean

The Celtic Seas Partnership will apply the lessons identified by these project and initiatives to develop practical tools for data management and produce guidelines for best practice in sectoral action plans for MSFD-related activities at a transboundary level.

Transboundary information resources and the development and application of methods for data collection to help monitor GES

A number of projects and indicatives have carried out some groundwork in the field of data management. BaltSeaPlan, C-SCOPE, CAMIS, MESMA, Finding Sanctuary, TPEA and PISCES all feature the development of some form of geo-portal or web portal for data integration and exchange at scales corresponding to the geographical context of the projects. Notably, one of the key recommendations from BaltSeaPlan is to create a network of data providers which operates around a clear set of exchange standards and procedures facilitated by one coordinating point.

The project will be analysing existing information resources (such as those mentioned above) and developing advanced resources such as the *Celtic Seas Web Portal* and the *Strategic Guide to Data Integration and Harmonisation*. The Celtic Seas Partnership will provide a unique mechanism to coordinate and share local information and scientific data across the administrative boundaries of three Member States in the sub-region.

Celtic Seas Partnership: The unique aspects of this project

The Celtic Seas Partnership aims to build on the lessons provided by the short-listed projects as well as projects and initiatives outlined in the Inventory (see Annex). This project is unique in that it is the first of its type to truly apply a pan-Celtic Seas approach. The Celtic Seas Partnership's objectives are considering the entire Celtic Seas sub-region ecosystem as one planning and management space as required by the MSFD. In order to achieve this, the project is utilising a combination of the following approaches throughout its lifespan which distinguishes the Celtic Seas Partnership process from other previous and current projects and initiatives:

Multi-stakeholder/ trans-sectoral approach

Effective and early engagement across multiple sectors in all three Member States will be integral to ensure integrated cross-border marine management. The Celtic Seas Partnership will focus on environmental solutions, with direct input throughout the process from a cross section of stakeholders in the maritime arena (including key representatives from sectors and NGOs, the scientific community and policy makers), which can be adopted in the Celtic Seas and replicated in other European marine regions.

The project will involve a focussed programme of meetings, series of conferences and country workshops for sectors across the Celtic Seas sub-region. This will allow for the sharing of information, experiences amongst stakeholders to help identify existing and develop future best practice engagement models and mechanism. It will also be analysing existing and emerging case studies in managing the needs of different sectors. Best practice guidelines and recommendations for trans-sectoral good practice (e.g. co-location of marine activities in marine planning) will be developed in collaboration with these trans-sectoral stakeholders.

Transboundary Engagement

The Celtic Seas sub-region currently lacks a governance mechanism that will facilitate stakeholder collaboration at an appropriate level. The establishment of a stakeholder platform or forum at a Celtic Seas level will act as a conduit for closer cooperation between stakeholders, scientists and governments. The Celtic Seas Partnership is employing a demonstrative approach at a transboundary, sub-regional level which is pioneering for the Celtic Seas marine region. The expected outcomes of this pilot area will demonstrate innovative ways of achieving and maintaining GES through the application of the ecosystem approach to marine management across seven administrations, in three EU Member States. The project will build on a number of existing partnerships, stakeholder fora and platforms as previously identified in the short-listed projects and inventory. Examples include the Atlantic Forum, Channel Arch-Manche Assembly, Irish Sea Conservation Zones, Loughs Agency, PISCES, the Coastal Network Partnership, the Irish Sea Maritime Forum, and TPEA. The project will be analysing a range of existing approaches and mechanisms used by these stakeholder networks to develop best practice guidelines and recommendations for transboundary engagement at the Celtic Seas sub-regional level which can be applied elsewhere.

Governance Approach

Arguably the most unique and innovative aspect of the Celtic Seas Partnership is its aspiration to combine bottom-up (stakeholder-led), cross-sectoral engagement approaches and top-down governance approaches to work in synergy, at a cross-border or sub-regional scale (as defined under the MSFD) throughout the Celtic Seas to facilitate the achievement of statutory commitments at a national level.

Policy Implementation

Through close collaboration with stakeholders through the Celtic Seas sub-region, this project will test and strengthen techniques and methods to implement EU maritime policy and specifically to support delivery of GES and overall implementation of the MSFD through the identification of barriers and solutions to overcome them.

Data Management and Exchange

Irrespective of the quality of the data and information base, Competent Authorities will always be faced with gaps throughout the MSFD implementation process. The organisation of trans-sectoral stakeholder workshops (in all six jurisdictions of the Celtic Seas sub-region early in 2014) with a focus on data gathering and exchange will help fill these existing data and information gaps. The project will also be analysing existing information resources and developing new resources such as the *Celtic Seas Web Portal* and the *Strategic Guide to Data Integration and Harmonisation*. The Celtic Seas Partnership will provide a unique mechanism to coordinate and share local information and scientific data across the administrative boundaries of three Member States in the sub-region. This will support a consistent approach to transboundary implementation of the MSFD in terms of information resources across the Celtic Seas sub-region. The project will develop strong links with EU Marine Knowledge 2020 network, as well as more localised networks such as MARINEXUS.

Outreach and dissemination

With an emphasis on the public dimension, the Celtic Seas Partnership will build on and connect existing research with policy development and widespread implementation through demonstration. The project team will extensively disseminate the research findings on successful approaches to promote their widest possible application through a series of meetings, country workshops and three Celtic Seas conferences. In addition to visible outputs such a project website⁷, a social media presence on *Twitter*⁸ and a number of reports and guidance documents, the Celtic Seas Partnership will yield a host of invisible and intangible outputs. These will include the bringing together of stakeholders and marine users with very different perspectives, backgrounds and languages at a transboundary level and generating awareness of MSFD requirements and the implications for these individuals and the organisation's the y represent.

⁷ The Celtic Sea Partnership project is now live at: <http://www.celticseaspartnership.eu/>

⁸ <https://twitter.com/celticseas>

Concluding comments

Co-financed under the LIFE+ *Environment Policy & Governance* programme, the Celtic Seas Partnership seeks to bring global experience in marine management and planning to the Celtic Seas sub-region. There are a range of projects and initiatives with potential for complementarity with the key activities and expected results of the Celtic Seas Partnership. This scoping exercise has identified a number of synergies for collaborative opportunities in addition to an evaluation of the lessons learnt from the Celtic Seas and beyond. However, despite this synergism the Celtic Seas Partnership is unique in its goal to develop mechanisms, tools and relationships to build stakeholder capacity. This will be achieved by identifying the relevant stakeholders, connecting with them and connecting them with each other through sharing their experiences and working together in support of MSFD implementation in the Celtic Seas. Moreover, this project is demonstrating a stakeholder-led approach to transboundary multi-sectoral engagement in conjunction with scientific research and extensive outreach and dissemination activities across six countries in the Celtic sub-region. This approach will contribute to the development of marine strategies for the achievement of GES across six Administrations in the three Member States bordering the Celtic Seas sub-region as defined by the MSFD.

A1.2 Inventory of the key previous and current research projects and initiatives of relevance to the Celtic Seas Partnership (July 2013)

Acronym/ Name	Key Objectives	Time-scale	Funding Programme	Marine Region	Scale	Stakeholder Participation	Key Outputs/ Outcomes	Relevance to CSP Activities and Expected Results	Website	Key Learning for CSP
Arch-Manche	To construct a methodology using archaeology, art and coastal maritime heritage to understand long-term coastal change. To develop a sustainable ICZM strategy which responds to predicted increases in coastal erosion and flooding.	2011-2014	INTERREG IVA (Manche Channel)	North-East Atlantic (Celtic Sea/ The Channel)	Regional (Transboundary)	Yes	Capacity Building for ICZM, Data Integration Management, GIS portal development.	1,2,4	http://www.hwtma.org.uk/arch-manche	
Atlantic Arc Commission	Covers five states, with over 60 million inhabitants, it advocates for its members with the EU to promote an ambitious vision for a sustainable and balanced development of the Atlantic territories. To exchange best practice, define joint positions and develop cooperation projects in association with cities, socio-professional actors, universities and other private stakeholders.	1989-present	DG Regional Policy/ INTERREG-IV Atlantic Arc Programme	North-East Atlantic	Regional (Transboundary)	Yes	Capacity Building in the form of the Atlantic Forum, EU Strategy for the Atlantic (EUSA)/ Atlantic Action Plan	1,3,4	http://arcatlantique.org/	The EUSA will require the active engagement of Member States, regions, local authorities and private industry.
Channel Arch-Manche Assembly	A voluntary network of local authorities established to promote the Channel area as a specific and a coherent entity for territorial co-operation at European Union level and to gain recognition from the European Institutions. To act as a co-operation network on maritime and coastal issues of common interest	2003-present	Government Funding	North-East Atlantic (Celtic Sea/ The Channel)	Regional (Transboundary)	Yes	Capacity Building, Governance Tools, Cross-Channel Atlas.	1,2,3,4	http://www.arcmanche.com/en/the-channel-arc/what-is-it/	Extensive experience in transboundary cooperation with access to a large pool of multi-sectoral stakeholders.
ARCOPOL	To improve accidental marine pollution prevention and improve response capacities and coordination between stakeholders of the Atlantic Area.	2009-2011	INTERREG (Atlantic Area)	North-East Atlantic	Regional (Transboundary)	Yes	A resource of available best practice, with desktop exercises and case studies available via website, Capacity Building.	1,3,4	http://arcopol.eu	A network of experts from the Atlantic Area have developed a number of operational tools (e.g. mapping, prevention systems, analysis into origins of polluting substances) which enhances environmental protection and maritime security at the European level.
BaltSeaPlan	To demonstrate integrated maritime spatial planning in practice in selected pilot areas across a transboundary region.		ERDF/ Baltic Sea Region	Baltic Sea	Regional	Yes	Integrated MSP/ICMM Plan, Transboundary Governance Mechanisms, Ecosystem Approach to marine management, MSP.	1,2,3,4	http://www.baltseaplan.eu/	
Beaufort EAFM	To examine sources of conflict in the current fisheries management structure in Ireland and ascertain whether greater participation by fishermen in management can help to resolve conflict.	2008-2015	Irish Government/ SeaChange Programme	North-East Atlantic (Celtic and Irish Sea)	National	Yes	Ecosystem Approach to marine management	3,4	http://www.beaufort-eafm.eu/	
British Irish Council (BIC)	To promote positive, practical relationships among the people of the islands of Britain and Ireland and to provide a forum for consultation and co-operation.	1998-present	Inter-governemntal funding from 8 administrations	Celtic Sea/ Irish Sea/ North Channel	Regional	Yes	Track record incollaborative spatial planning (only terrestrial to-date), Cooperation on environmental protection, New Working Group on Marine Renewable Energy	1,2,3, 4	http://www.britishirishcouncil.org/	The Electricity Grids subgroup has been focussed on the potential for renewable energy trading between BIC members. This has involved identifying the costs and benefits of doing so, along with the barriers. Work has also been undertaken by the Marine Energy subgroup to look at how 'joint projects' between BIC member administrations would fit into the different regulatory regimes prevailing.
CAMIS	To promote sustainable maritime governance of the channel area, focussing specifically on Focusing on workforce development, innovation and maritime clusters, transport and intermodality, and maritime safety.	2011-2013	INTERREG IVA (Manche Channel)	North-East Atlantic/ Channel Area	Regional	Yes	Capacity Building, Governance Tools, Information Resource, Integrated Maritime Planning	1,2,3,4	https://camis.arcmanche.eu	Development of key governance tools: Integrated Maritime Strategy, an Annual Forum for stakeholders, a Resource Centre. Information and exchange portal, good practice guides for the economic development of ports and marinas and for marine pollution prevention and management.

Coastal Partnerships Network	To seek to influence the development of ICZM strategies throughout the UK by sharing good practice and providing a collective voice for collaboration between 42 Coastal Partnerships (CPs).	2006-present	Limited Government Funding	North-East Atlantic (Celtic Sea/ Irish Sea/ The Channel), North Sea	National	Yes	Capacity Building, Governance Tools. Network of experienced coastal communication hubs with expertise in stakeholder engagement, awareness-raising and information provision.	1,2,3,4	http://www.coastalpartnershipsnetwork.org.uk/	CPs apply the 'Localism Act/ Big Society Agenda' and help to integrate policy and wider coastal initiatives within and between multiple sectors across the land-sea boundary. Bottom-up approach of many CPs used by organisations to deliver balanced and neutral stakeholder engagement.
CHARM III	Channel Integrated Approach for Marine Resource Management seeks to provide tools to improve the sustainable management of the Channel are by increase knowledge and helping to preserve the Channel's marine resources.	2008-2012	INTERREG3A (Manche Channel)	North-East Atlantic (Celtic Seas)		Yes	Capacity building for Data Management for Biodiversity (MSFD Descriptor), Ecosystem Approach to marine management	1,2,4	www.ifremer.fr/charm/index.php?	
COEXIST	To evaluate the interactions and mutual benefits between capture fisheries and aquaculture in the context of an ecosystem approach to management of human activities at different scales.	2010-2013	FP7	North-East Atlantic (Celtic Seas/ Irish Sea), Mediterranean	Regional	Yes	Ecosystem Approach to marine management	1,3,4	www.coexistproject.eu	
CONSCIENCE	To develop and test concepts, guidelines and tools for sustainable management of coastal erosion thus contributing to European ICZM policy	2007-2010	FP7	All European marine regions	European	Yes	ICZM capacity building	1,3,4	www.conscience-eu.net	
CORALFISH	To assess the interactions between corals, fish and fisheries in order to develop monitoring tools for ecosystem-based management in the deep waters of Europe and beyond.	2008-2012	FP7	North-East Atlantic and Mediterranean	Regional		Scientific Modelling, Modelling, Data Ecosystem Approach to marine management	3,4	www.eu-fp7-CoralFISH.net	
CREAM	To build capacity and establish effective collaboration network among key players in Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries and management.	2011-2014	FP7	Mediterranean and Black Sea	Regional	Yes	Collaboration network among key role players in Mediterranean, Data Collection, Ecosystem Approach to marine management	1,2,3,4	www.cream-fp7.eu	
C-SCOPE	To improve the integration of terrestrial and marine management, to achieve sustainable coastal environments and economies and facilitate the commitment of stakeholders in ICZM in England and Belgium.	2008-2011	INTERREG IVA	North-East Atlantic (Celtic Seas/The Channel)	Regional	Yes	Capacity Building, Transboundary Stakeholder Engagement/ Governance Structures, Integrated coastal and marine plans, Information Resource	1,2,3,4	http://cscope.eu	Creation of a Coastal Forum in Belgium, a report detailing best methodology for effective stakeholder engagement, interactive and dynamic coastal atlases developed, and map-based tool to enable general public to plan coastal activities.
ELME	To model the consequences of alternative scenarios for human development in post-accession Europe on the marine environment, through improved understanding of the relationship between European lifestyles and the state of marine ecosystems.	2003-2006	FP6	All European marine regions	European	Yes	Data Collection and Integration, GIS Mapping of Ecosystems, Ecosystem Approach to marine management	1,3,4	www.elme-eu.org	Many different types of information have been collated and integrated, from data on major ecological state changes affecting marine ecosystems to pressures on the environment producing these changes and the socio-economic drivers leading to these pressures. Some data have been available but large knowledge gaps exist and have been highlighted during this process.
ENCORA and ENCORA TTC	To strengthen the interaction between science, policy and practice among research institutes and coastal management organisations to spread best coastal practices throughout Europe and enhance sustainable development.	2006-2009	FP6	All European marine regions	European	Yes	ICZM capacity building, Information Exchange	1,2,3,4	www.encora.eu	

ESaTDOR	To understand land and sea interactions and to explore broadly defined territorial development opportunities and risks for Europe's maritime regions.		ESPON (ERDF)	All European marine regions	European	Yes	A tool for regional development strategies in support of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, Stakeholder' survey to identify their demand for applied research projects on territorial development, competitiveness and cohesion. Transnational Network.	1,2,4	http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_AppliedResearch/ESaTDOR.html	Europe's maritime regions have been characterised by the intensity of land-sea interactions as 'European Core', 'Regional Hub', 'Transition', 'Rural', and 'Wilderness'. Effective governance arrangements are needed at all levels to address and reconcile differences of interest between traditional and new uses of the sea, and between environmental and development interests. There is a need for continuing efforts to develop effective transnational working in support of MSP at different spatial scales.
EFF Co-location Project	To develop models for potential co-location of fisheries and wind-farm operations where risk-benefits are optimised. To bring together key stakeholders with an interest in exploring the compelling opportunities offered by co-location projects	2012-	European Fisheries Fund	North-East Atlantic (Celtic Sea/ Irish Sea)	National	Yes	Transboundary cooperation in multi-use planning. Best Practice guidance in co-location use.	1,2,4	http://www.aquafishsolutions.com/?page_id=83	Development of a co-location guidance manual on how to cultivate shellfish within a wind farm site
European Marine Board	Acts at the interface of science, science policy and maritime policy and seeks to influence and contribute to a new era in marine science and technology.	1999-present		All Marine Regions	European	Yes	Expert Working Groups on 'Oceans and Human Health' and 'Valuing Marine Ecosystems' (supporting MSFD implementation) Organiser of the biennial EurOcean Conference.	1,4	http://www.marineboard.eu/	Pan-European platform for transnational cooperation bringing together marine research stakeholders to share knowledge, identify common priorities, develop common positions and collaborate.
FAME	To monitor and track migratory seabirds in the Atlantic marine environment and to produce maps to inform the designation of MPAs	2010-2013		European Atlantic	Regional	Yes	Recommendations for MPA designation	1,3,4	www.fameproject.eu	
Finding Sanctuary	To provide recommendations for the designation of Marine Conservation Zones around England	2010-2011	UK Government	Celtic Sea (waters off the south-west of England)	National	Yes	Recommendations for MPA designation	1,2,3,4	www.finding-sanctuary.org	
Fishing for Litter	To reduce marine litter by involving one of the key stakeholders, the fishing industry.	2000-ongoing	KIMO International, Irish Government, UK Government	North Sea, Celtic Sea, Irish Sea	European	Yes	Industry-led stakeholder approach supporting the Ecosystem Approach to marine management	1,2,3,4	www.fishingforlitter.org	
GAP 2	To bring fishers, scientists and policy makers together, to work towards sustainable fisheries for the benefit of society	2011-2015	FP7	All Marine Regions	European	Yes	Methodological Toolbox for bridging the gap between science, stakeholders and policy-makers, Governance tools for Ecosystem Approach to marine management.	1,2,3,4	http://gap2.eu/	Useful toolbox for effective communication of science to stakeholders and policy-makers. Information Exchange Network helping to bridge the gap between science, stakeholders and policy-makers.
Great Barrier Reef- Plans of Management	To ensure an integrated and collaborative approach is taken by the Australian and Queensland governments to manage marine and land environments within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.	1975-present	Government Funding	Coral Sea (Australia)	National	Yes	Ecosystem Approach to marine management. Multi-sector stakeholder engagement, Data Collection, New 'Reef Water Protection Plan' launched in 2013.	1,3,4	http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/zoning-permits-and-plans/plans-of-management	The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) is advised on management issues about the Marine Park at a local level by voluntary community-based committees called Local Marine Advisory Committees (LMACs).
GIFS	To promote the cultural and socio-economic value of inshore fishing. To ensure the presence of cultural and socio-economic criteria in maritime and fishing policies. To contribute to coastal regeneration strategies and the sustainable development of communities.	2011-2014	INTERREG IVA (Manche Channel)	Celtic Seas/ The Channel	Regional	Yes	Capacity Building, Governance Tools	1,3,4	http://www.gifsproject.eu/en/	A toolbox composing 12 examples of best practice in governance and 'win-win' scenarios for stakeholders.

Global Ocean Commission	To formulate politically and technically feasible short-, medium- and long-term recommendations to address four key issues facing the high seas: overfishing; large-scale loss of habitat and biodiversity; the lack of effective management and enforcement; and deficiencies in high seas governance.		2013-present	All Marine Regions	Global	Yes	Examine key threats, challenges, and changes to the ocean in the 21st century, and identify priority issues. Review the effectiveness of the existing legal framework for the high seas in meeting the unique challenges and threats of the 21st century and beyond. Engage with interested parties around the world, including groups of people with direct interests in ocean issues as well as the general public. Make recommendations regarding cost-effective, pragmatic and politically feasible reforms of high seas governance, management and enforcement.	1,3,4	http://www.globaloceancommission.org/		
HERMIONE	To advance the knowledge base of the functioning of deep-sea ecosystems and their contribution to the production of good and services		2009-2010	FP7	North-East Atlantic, Arctic, Mediterranean	Regional	Yes	Contributing to EU environmental policy by creating a platform for discussion between stakeholders	1,2,4	www.eu-hermione.net	A major achievement of the HERMES project was the initiation of the Science Policy Panel, comprising around 35 stakeholders representing the European Commission, conservation agencies, hydrocarbon and fishing industries, together with a number of key HERMES scientists.
INDEMARES	To assist in MSFD implementation by identifying valuable areas to be designated as Natura 2000 sites		2009-2013	LIFE+	North-East Atlantic, Mediterranean	Regional	Yes	Recommendations for MPA designation, Data Collection, Stakeholder Engagement	1,4	www.indemares.es	
Irish Sea Conservation Zones	To identify and recommend marine areas for protection in the Irish Sea			UK Government	North-East Atlantic (Celtic Sea/ Irish Sea)	National	Yes	Development of Regional Stakeholder Groups, Data Collection and Integration, Recommendations for MPA designation	1,2,3,4	http://www.irishseaconservation.org.uk/	A Regional Stakeholder Group made up of a broad cross section of sectors and people with interests in the Irish Sea was established during this process.
Irish Sea Maritime Forum	To provide a broad based forum for all Irish Sea users and provide an opportunity for voices to be heard. To facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building across all administrative areas and sectors about marine planning. To facilitate sharing of data and information. To encourage and maintain political support for transnational partnership working in support of marine planning, with the aim of promoting sustainable development in the Irish Sea region, and to facilitate a more coordinated, efficient planning process for transnational issues/projects and good working relationships among Irish Sea partners.		2012-present		North-East Atlantic (Irish Sea)	Regional	Yes	Stakeholder-led multi-sectoral Forum, Ecosystem Approach to marine management	1,2,3,4	http://www.irishseamaritimeforum.org/	

Irish Sea Marine Leisure Knowledge Network	To drive and stimulate growth in the marine leisure sector on both sides of the Irish Sea through four streams of activities		INTERREG	North-East Atlantic (Celtic Sea/ Irish Sea)	Regional	Yes	Quantify the socio-economic value and the size of the marine leisure industry in the case study area. Contribute to develop an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan, Mapping of existing maritime events.	1,3,4	http://www.irish-sea.org/	
ISLES	Assessed the feasibility of creating an offshore interconnected transmission network and subsea electricity grid based on renewable energy sources off the coast of western Scotland and in the Irish Sea/North Channel area.		ERDF	North East Atlantic (Celtic Sea)	Regional	Yes	A Feasibility Study offering a blueprint for the viability of a future integrated offshore transmission network between the island of Ireland and Scotland. A detailed resource assessment has been performed to identify the energy resource availability (from Marine Renewables) within the offshore areas of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland. Intensive transboundary stakeholder consultation.	1,3,4	http://www.islesproject.eu/	Due to the cross border nature of ISLES, there are particular challenges in navigating both complex and evolving onshore / offshore planning and licensing regimes across three jurisdictions. Therefore, the necessary legislative and regulatory mechanisms in the three jurisdictions needed to be planned in a consistent joined-up manner.
JAKFISH	To examine and develop tools to effectively deal with complexity and uncertainty within participatory decision making tools in the spatial management of European fisheries.	2008-2011	FP7	Baltic, North-East Atlantic and Mediterranean	Regional	Yes	Participatory modelling and case studies, MSP, Capacity building for Governance.	1,3,4	www.jakfish.eu	
KNOWSEAS	To contribute to the scientific knowledge base and provide practical guidance for the application of the Ecosystem Approach for the sustainable development of Europe's regional seas	2009-2013	FP7	All European Marine Regions		Yes	Ecosystem Approach to marine management	1,3,4	www.knowseas.com	
LICCO	Living with a Changing Coast' seeks to improve transboundary cooperation in efforts to manage the changing coastal environments of France and England.	2011-2014	INTERREG (Manche Channel)	North-East Atlantic (Celtic Sea/The Channel)	Regional	Yes	Compendium of Best Practice for Coastal Change, Capacity building, Developing Coastal change monitoring tools	1,2	http://www.licco.eu/	Intensive community engagement with coastal communities through exhibitions and other events illustrating changes to coastal areas and future scenarios. Recommendations for policy-makers for containing and adapting to changes in coastal environment.
Loughs Agency	To provide sustainable social, economic and environmental benefits through the effective conservation, management, promotion and development of the fisheries and marine resources of the transboundary waters of Ireland and Northern Ireland.	1998-present	Irish Government & UK Government Funding	North-East Atlantic/ Celtic Sea & Irish Sea	Regional	Yes	Management, conservation, protection, improvement and development of the inland fisheries, licensing of aquaculture; and the development of marine tourism. Multi-sector stakeholder group.	1,3,4	http://www.loughs-agency.org/	The Loughs Agency hosts an Advisory Forum which is made up of almost 50 transnational representatives either from the Lough Foyle or Carlingford Lough area or who are involved in a stakeholder interest group. Areas of interest include Shellfish, Draft Netsmen, Drift Netsmen, Anglers, Fishery Owners, Tourism, Water/Sewerage, Industry, Council/Government, Port/Harbour, Environmentalists, Forestry and Agriculture.
MAIA	Five Member States bordering the European Atlantic will designate a network of Marine Protects Areas (MPAs) which will help to protect and preserve Europe's marine biodiversity.	2010-2012	INTERREG (Atlantic Area)	North-East Atlantic	Regional	Yes	Capacity building, Information Resource, Management Plans	1,2,4	http://www.maia-netwrok.org	New MPAs have been identified. A network of MPA managers has been established and is coordinated by regional, national and international authorities.

MARCOM+	To establish a sustainable and long-term pan-European forum (European Marine and Maritime Forum) to develop interactions between the research community, industry, regional authorities and civil society	2010-2012	FP7	All European Marine Regions	European	Yes	Capacity building for Governance		www.marinemaritimescienceforum.eu	The Forum constitutes a significant step forward in reduction of fragmentation in the marine/maritime sectors of the European Research Area and has contribute to developing interactions between the research community, industry, regional authorities, civil society and other stakeholders of the seas.
MAREN	To provide high quality research results, bringing together experts from a wide range of backgrounds, adding diversity to the marine renewable energy sector and providing answers to fundamental questions regarding the provision of marine renewable energy.	2008-2012	INTERREG- Atlantic Area	North-East Atlantic	Regional	Yes	information on the energy extraction potential of the Atlantic Area coastal waters and enable the prediction of both the impact of marine renewable energy devices on the environment (natural and human) and the impact of the environment on the performance of these devices	1,3,4	http://www.marenproject.eu/eng/	Compilation of SEAs, EIAs and inventory of all renewables devices in Atlantic Area.
MARINEXUS	To increase knowledge about the impact of human activities on marine ecosystems and promote awareness of the marine environment in the Western Channel	2008-2013	INTERREG (Manche Channel)	North-East Atlantic (Celtic Sea/ Western Channel)	Regional	Yes	Data collection leading to increased knowledge for a wide audience	1,4	http://www.marinexus.org/	Innovative means of outreach- Sustainable management of marine resources has been promoted to the general public on the beach and aboard the transchannel ferry; science education in schools through workshops, excursions and exhibitions.
Marine Knowledge 2020	To bring together marine data from different sources with the aim of helping industry, public authorities and researchers find the data and make more effective use of them to develop new products and services. To improve our understanding of how the seas behave.	2010-present	DG MARE	All Marine Regions	European	Yes	Marine Data Architecture/ Data Collection Framework	1,4	http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/marine_knowledge_2020/	Streamlining the collection and harmonisation of marine data at a European level.
MARINETT	To obtain a more comprehensive understanding of the research outputs generated under FP6 and FP7 marine related projects	2009-2011	FP7	All European Marine Regions	European	Yes	Technical and Scientific Cooperation	1,3,4	www.marinett.eu	
MARMONI	To develop innovative monitoring and assessment approach based on joint set of marine biodiversity indicators as well as to test in practice the monitoring and assessment techniques. The project is acting in the Baltic Sea in territorial waters and EEZ of Estonia, Latvia, Finland and Sweden and it is aiming at applying a regional approach for future marine biodiversity monitoring and cross country co-operation when assessing marine biodiversity in the Baltic Sea.		LIFE+	Baltic	Regional	Yes	Transboundary Stakeholder Network, Data Collection, Data Management, Review of Ocean Zoning tools and Species distribution modelling methods for Marine Spatial Planning, Report on biodiversity-related requirements for the MSFD	1,2,3,4	http://marmoni.balticseaportal.net/wp/	Using Baltic stakeholders as a 'network of active monitories', innovative outreach methods on board transnational ferries.
MASPNOSE	To facilitate transboundary cooperation on ecosystem-based maritime spatial planning in the North Sea	2010-2012	IMP	North-East Atlantic	Regional	Yes	Transboundary Stakeholder Engagment, Ecosystem Approach to marine management	1,3	Website no longer active, final report available at: http://documents.plant.wur.nl/imares/maspnose-final.pdf	Although this project employed a transboundary stakeholder engagement strategy, no sectoral (i.e. industry) stakeholders were engaged. Engagement was therefore very limited.
MEFEPO	To develop a decision making process to contribute to an ecosystem approach to fisheries management by integrating existing ecological knowledge in fisheries with social research	2008-2011	FP7	North-East Atlantic	Regional	Yes	Ecosystem Approach to fisheries management, Capacity building for Governance	2,3,4	www.liv.ac.uk/mefepo	

MESHAtlantic	To provide harmonised seabed habitat mapping over the coastal and shelf zones of the European Atlantic area to contribute to the implementation of the MSFD and Habitats Directive.	2010-	INTERREG- Atlantic Area	North-East Atlantic	Regional	No	Capacity building for Data Management for (Biodiversity MSFD Descriptor), Ecosystem Approach to marine management	1,2,4	www.meshatlantic.eu	A series of detailed maps of MPA sites and NATURA sites for local/regional stakeholders and a broader-scale map of the Atlantic Area seabed have been produced for the use of national and European policy-makers
MESMA	To produce guidance and tools to support implementation of the MSFD through the development of maritime spatial planning in Europe's seas	2009-2013	FP7	All European marine regions	European	Yes	Ecosystem Approach to marine management, Capacity building for Governance	1,2,3,4	www.mesma.org	
NATURA 2000 Network	The aim of the network is to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.			All European marine regions	European	Yes	Data Collection, Habitat Management	2,4	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/	
North West Coastal Forum (NWCF)	The NWCF is a multi-sector partnership bringing together coastal stakeholders from across the North West to promote and deliver sustainable management and use of our coastline.	2000-present	Limited Government Funding	North-East Atlantic (Celtic Sea/ Irish Sea)	Local	Yes	Actively involved in Commission research. Hold conferences and events, often including site visits, to highlight issues, inform stakeholders and showcase best practice. Facilitate workshops on relevant issues. Influence policy by responding to formal and informal consultations and by active participation in national policy workshops. Provide technical input and expertise to projects spearheaded by other organisations and partnerships, including work with European partners. Represent the multiple interests of the North West coast on project groups and at stakeholder meetings and by speaking at events across the UK and beyond. Produce a regular news-sheet on coastal issues	1,2,3	http://www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk/	
NWWRAC	To bring together stakeholders from across Europe, to advise the Commission on matters of fisheries management in respect of the North Western Waters - ICES areas Vb (EC waters), VI, VII. It is one of seven Regional Advisory Councils, advising on, the Baltic Sea; Mediterranean Sea; North Sea; South-western waters; Pelagic stocks; High seas/long distant water fleets.	2005-present		North-East Atlantic	Regional	Yes	Expert Working Groups of most relevance are as follows: West of Scotland - ICES areas Vb (EC) VIa, VIb - Western Approaches [WG 1], West of Ireland and Celtic Sea - ICES areas VII (except d, e & a) [WG 2], English Channel - ICES areas VIId & e [WG 3], and the Irish Sea - ICES area VIIa [WG 4]	1,4	http://www.nwwrac.org/Home/Home_Page/index.html	The PISCES project encountered challenges in their engagement with the NWWRAC in the lifetime of the project. It is essential that the CSP engage with them at an early stage to ensure their involvement.

ODEMM	To develop a set of fully-costed ecosystem management options to deliver the objectives of the MSFD, Habitats Directive and Guidelines for Integrated Approach to Maritime Policy	2010-2013	FP7	All European marine regions	European		Host of Guidance Documents including; Technical Report of the 'Current State of Knowledge on the Sustainability of European Seas', Legal aspects of ecosystem-based marine management in Europe,	1,2,3,4	www.liv.ac.uk/ODEMM	A host of legal and policy-type guidance documents supporting effective implementation of the MSFD.
OURCOAST	To support and ensure the exchange of experiences and best practices in coastal planning and management.	2009-2012	DG Environment	All European marine regions	European	Yes	ICZM Database, Comparative Analysis of coasts.	1,2,3,4	http://ec.europa.eu/ourcoast/	Useful repository for summaries on status of ICM on Europe's coasts.
PartiSEApate	To foster holistic thinking for sustainable and integrated MSP across the Baltic Sea Region.	2012-2015	ERDF/ Baltic Region	Baltic	Regional	Yes	Integrated multi-sector MSP/ICM	1,2,3,4	http://www.partiseapate.eu/	The project is bringing transnational, national and regional stakeholders together in a series of workshops (firstly in their specific sectors and then in multi-sector workshops).
PEGASO	To build on existing capacities and develop novel approaches to support integrated policies for the coastal and marine realms of the Mediterranean and Black Sea basins that are consistent with the ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean	2010-2014	FP7	Mediterranean and Black Sea	Regional	Yes	ICZM capacity building	1,2,3,4	www.pegasoproject.eu	
PISCES	To demonstrate a stakeholder-led approach to the development of practical guidelines to implement the Ecosystem Approach through the MSFD	2009-2012	LIFE+	North-East Atlantic (Celtic Seas)	Regional	Yes	Ecosystem Approach to marine management, Stakeholder-led Approach, Capacity building for Governance	1,2,3,4	www.projectpisc.es	Involvement of stakeholders from a number of Member States representing maritime transport, ports, marine leisure and tourism, aquaculture, public bodies for the environment, marine aggregates, the renewable energy sector, maritime defence, and underwater cables in a stakeholder-led approach to the development of EA guidelines which will enable sectors to operate collectively and manage the Celtic Sea in a sustainable way.
Plan Bothnia	To explore the offshore areas of the Bothnian Sea through a pilot study on transboundary maritime spatial planning	2010-2012	IMP	Baltic Sea (Bothnian Sea)	Regional	Yes	Transboundary MSP, Ecosystem Approach to Transboundary marine management	1,2,3,4	http://planbothnia.org/	The existence of HELCOM's GIS service greatly aided the availability and compatibility of transboundary data for this project.
PlanCoast	To develop suitable tools for effective integrated ICZM in the Baltic, Adriatic and Black Sea regions	2006-2008	INTERREG IIIB	Baltic, Mediterranean and Black Sea	Regional	Yes	ICZM capacity building	1,2,3	www.plancoast.eu/index.php?id=1#	
Responsible Irish Fish	To assist vessel owners achieve certification for their fish/shellfish, develop a brand to allow Irish fishermen to differentiate their products and promote Irish fish caught in a responsible manner	203-present	Fishing industry	North-East Atlantic (Celtic Sea/ Irish Sea)	National	Yes	Ecosystem Approach to marine management	1,2,	www.responsibleirishfish.ie	Industry-led voluntary approach contributing to sustainability of fisheries resources and the ecosystem approach to marine management in Ireland.
Rhode Island Ocean Special Area Management Plan	To implement ecosystem-based management strategies designed to preserve and restore ecological systems on coordination with the local municipality, government agencies and community organisations. To incorporate the best available science and amend the plan as new research and issues arise.	2008-2012	US Government	Rhode Island Sound	Local	Yes	Ecosystem Approach to marine management, Multi-pronged integrated planning tool, Multi-sector stakeholder engagement	1,2,3	http://seagrant.gso.uri.edu/oceansamp/	Ensure the public are aware of your shared efforts. Meet frequently with legislators/ policy-makers. If stakeholders are not engaged, contact them and meet them again. One-to-one meetings are most effective. Minimise use of stakeholders with dis-engaged stakeholders. Cultivate strategic partners and develop good working relationships with organisations for mutual benefit. Develop diverse communications to cater for all types of stakeholders.
SEAS-ERA	To develop a platform for developing a European integrated policy oriented structure to promote knowledge and expertise in any sea related area and make it an open forum for marine knowledge sharing	2010-2014	FP7	All European marine regions	European	Yes	Capacity building for Data Management and Information Exchange	1,4	www.seas-era.eu	

SESAME	To examine Mediterranean and Black Sea ecosystems and their abilities to provide goods and services with high societal importance, such as tourism, fisheries and ecosystem stability through conservation of biodiversity.	2006-2011	FP7	Mediterranean and Black Sea	Regional			Ecosystem Research, Multi-sector Stakeholder Engagement	1,2,3	www.sesame-ip.eu/public/SESAME-public-home	
Severn Estuary Partnership	To act as a vital facilitator for 130 organisations to ensure the sustainable management of the transboundary waters of the Severn Estuary and its surroundings, to enhance and protect the area for the benefit of the community, the environment and the economy.	1995-present	Limited Government Funding	North-East Atlantic (Celtic Sea)	Local (Transboundary)	Yes		Capacity Building, Shoreline Management Plans,	1,2,3, 4	http://www.severnestuary.net/sep/	Maintains an extensive contacts database of over 3000 records representing 130 organisations from diverse sectors across England and Wales. Launched a 'Strategy for the Severn Estuary' in 2001 which provides a strategic management framework. Key actor in the production of the Shoreline Management Plans for the Severn.
Solway Coastal Partnership	To secure an environmentally sustainable future for the Solway Firth transboundary area which allows the economy to prosper while respecting the natural and environmental features of the Firth.	1994-	Limited Government Funding	North-East Atlantic (Celtic Sea)	Local (Transboundary)	Yes		ICZM Capacity Building	1,2,3	http://solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk	Example of transboundary best practice in bottom-up stakeholder engagement. This Partnership covers a defined area that crosses a national boundary and consists of numerous agencies and organisations working together under different legal, cultural and social systems.
SPICOSA	To develop a holistic research approach for integrated assessment of coastal systems to support deliberative and decision-making processes for implementing ICZM policies	2007-2011	FP6	All European marine regions	European	Yes		ICZM capacity building	1,3	www.spicosa.eu	
STAGES	To identify and synthesise relevant existing EU research results per MSFD themes and develop a platform to make the results available for a stakeholders and policy making authorities	2012-2014	FP7	All European marine regions	European	Yes		Capacity building for Governance and Information Exchange	1,3,4	www.stagesproject.eu	This 18 month project is addressing the structural aspects of transferring knowledge from science to inform policy and decision making in support of the MSFD.
SUSTAIN	To create a fully implementable policy tool to assist coastal authorities and communities throughout Europe to deliver sustainability on Europe's coasts.	2009-2012	INTERREG IVA	Baltic, North-East Atlantic and Mediterranean	European	Yes		ICZM capacity building	1,3,4	www.sustain-eu.net	
Sustainable Shipping Initiative	To tackle some of the systematic challenges in modern shipping including: navigating a changing economic context, increased scrutiny and high expectations in terms of environmental performance, and the future of energy and climate change.	2002-Ongoing	Shipping sector and NGOs	All European marine regions (and beyond)	Global	Yes		Ecosystem Approach to marine management, Capacity building for Governance	1,3,4	www.forumforthefuture.org/project/sustainable-shipping-initiative/overview	
SWAN Network Ireland	The Sustainable Water Network (SWAN) is an umbrella network of twenty-five of Ireland's leading environmental groups working together to protect Ireland's waters by participating in the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) in Ireland.	2009-present	Government Funding	North-East Atlantic (Celtic Sea)	National	Yes		Development of International River Basin Management plans through multi-sectoral stakeholder engagement	1,2,3,4	http://www.swanireland.ie/	Similar project to CSP but focussing on the implementation of the WFD through a bottom-up multi-sectoral approach to International River Basin Management plans by a network of eNGOs.
The Green Blue	To promote the sustainable use of coastal and inland waters by boating and water sports participants		British Marine Federation and the Royal Yachting Association	North-East Atlantic (Celtic Seas)	National	Yes		Ecosystem Approach to marine management	1,2,3	www.thegreenblue.org.uk	
THESUS	To develop a systematic approach to reduce the risks to the coasts and maintain their benefits for human use together with healthy coastal habitats.	2009-2012		All European marine regions	European	Yes		ICZM capacity building and Data Management for Biodiversity (MSFD Descriptor)	1,3,4	www.thesusproject.eu	
TPEA	To deliver a commonly agreed approach to transboundary Maritime Spatial Planning and ICM in the European Atlantic region through the full involvement of stakeholders and relevant government bodies.	2012-2014	IMP	North-East Atlantic (Celtic Sea and Bay of Biscay)	Regional	Yes		Ecosystem Approach to marine management, Capacity building for Governance, Transboundary MSP/ ICM	1,2,3,4	http://www.tpeamaritime.eu/	Establishment of a multi-sectoral transboundary stakeholder network and GIS mapping tool in the Atlantic Area for the first time with the aim of introducing ecosystem-based MSP in the Celtic Sea and Bay of Biscay.

VALMER	To develop, test and refine methodologies used to quantify the economic, social and environmental values of coastal and marine ecosystems in the Western Channel	2011-2015	INTERREG (Manche Channel)	North-East Atlantic (Celtic Seas and Western Channel)	Regional	Yes	Capacity Building for evaluation of ecosystem services in England and France, Information Resource, Data Management	1,3,4	http://www.valmer.eu/	Supporting effective implementation of the MSFD through the development of an advice guidebook for decision-makers to assess and evaluate ecosystem services. Raising awareness of the incorporation of the assessment of ecosystem services in the definition of marine policies and especially 'GES'.
VECTORS	To develop integrated multi-disciplinary research-based understanding of changes in the marine environment caused by human use of the European marine environment	2011-2015	FP7	All European marine regions	European	Yes	Capacity Building, Ecosystem Approach to marine management, Governance tools, Analysis of the socio-economic impacts of human activities on oceans	1, 3,4	www.marine-vectors.eu	Supporting effective implementation of the MSFD through the examination of the impacts of change on ecosystem services and their values. Use of scenario modelling with recommendations for regional adaptive management strategies. Development of risk assessment tools and new decision support systems for multiple sectors.
WiSe Scheme	To promote responsible wildlife-watching through training, accreditation and awareness-raising			North-East Atlantic (Celtic Sea, Irish Sea, The Channel), North Sea	National		UK standard for commercial marine wildlife watching contributing to the Ecosystem Approach to marine management	1,3	http://www.wisescheme.org/	