

# Marine Spatial Planning in Hellas; Recent Facts and Perspectives

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**Key words:** Spatial planning;

## SUMMARY

Marine Spatial Planning in Hellas; Recent Facts and Perspectives Chaiditsa Bolanou, MSc. Student in Department of Geodesy and Geoinformation Science, Technical University of Berlin. bolanouch@gmail.com John Kiousopoulos, Professor, Spatial Analysis Lab. Technological Educational Institute of Athens kionas@teiath.gr Abstract The increasing demand for marine resources and economic activities at sea has brought to the foreground discussions about Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). In the era of globalization, of over-population and of environmental risks, the sea is a vast field available for a plethora of uses, such as transportation, food and energy resources, strategy and defense, recreation, etc. As a result of these anthropogenic activities, the conflicts among the uses at the sea should be managed properly. In this framework, marine spatial planning is dedicated to the protection and the management of the marine environment and its ultimate goal is to achieve economic, environmental and social objectives. Several countries around the world have already begun a process of MSP, while in the European Union have been made remarkable steps for the approach of MSP through the Integrated Maritime Policy. Hellas, as it is surrounded by sea, has vital interest on the marine environment and is heavily dependent on it. Nevertheless, the marine spatial planning notion seems to be not so widespread among the Hellenic administration. Only after the establishment of the related European regulations, specific attempts are written down concerning the launching of MSP in Hellas. Indeed, the experience of many countries and the legislation of European Union can be used as guidance, after the creation of the appropriate legal and governmental background that is necessary for a marine spatial plan. This article aims to present an overview of marine policy in Hellas, and all the steps that have been achieved to this direction during the last decade. In addition, after a brief overview of the international experience, the expected difficulties and the anticipated benefits of a likely implementation of MSP in Hellas are going to be displayed in detail. The potential implication and significant role of surveying engineers is going to be fully illustrated. Special care will be given to the geopolitics hindrances and the priority of marine spatial policy among the policies of a State being for six years in recession. Keywords: Marine Spatial Planning, Marine Environment, Ecosystem Based Management, Marine Use, Surveying Engineer, Marine Policy, Hellas.