



Nordic MSP Forum 2025 Report

Roadmap and vision for Nordic MSP Cooperation 2026-2035



19.12.2025

NB: On the Nature of This Roadmap

This Roadmap presents a set of recommendations for future Nordic MSP cooperation. It recognizes that Nordic countries differ in their political mandates, planning systems and available resources. The Roadmap is non-binding in nature and is intended to provide strategic direction and inspiration for the future actions of Nordic MSP cooperation, without creating expectations of implementation of formal commitments at national level.

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1. Introduction of the Nordic MSP Forum

The Nordic MSP Forum (the Forum) was launched with a two-day workshop on 9–10 October 2025 in Turku, Finland. Funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers' Environment and Climate Program, the event gathered maritime spatial planning (MSP) experts from all Nordic countries, joined by invited specialists from several research institutions. The Forum marks the start of more structured Nordic cooperation in MSP.

It was created to address a clear need: despite shared marine challenges and close regional ties, systematic collaboration in MSP has been limited. The Forum provides a platform for planners to exchange knowledge, align practices, and explore future cooperation. The long-term goal is to establish a coherent Nordic MSP framework towards which steps were taken in the first Nordic MSP Forum by creating a common roadmap for joint activities.

By fostering dialogue and cross-border reflection, the Forum strengthens coherence in planning and enhances the Nordic countries' collective ability to respond to emerging marine and geopolitical pressures. This report outlines the Forum's background and objectives, summarizes the three thematic sessions, and presents the roadmap for future Nordic MSP cooperation.

Background and Objectives

MSP in the Nordic region is at a pivotal stage. While each country has advanced its national planning processes, structured and continuous cooperation across borders has remained limited or focused on the sea basin level of the Baltic or the North Sea. Yet the challenges facing Nordic marine areas are increasingly transboundary in nature: energy infrastructure, environmental protection, transport corridors, and data management all demand coordinated approaches.

The Nordic MSP Forum was established to respond to this recognized need for enhanced collaboration. It builds on earlier projects, networks, and ministerial processes, but represents the first dedicated platform designed specifically for planners to exchange knowledge and align practices at the Nordic level.

The Forum is firmly rooted in the broader geopolitical, ecological, and economic context. The region's marine environment is undergoing rapid and complex changes driven by the planetary triple crisis—climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution—combined with heightened geopolitical tensions and expanding demands on maritime space. Offshore wind power development, conservation, and restoration are pressing priorities that often compete for limited marine areas. In this setting, MSP plays a critical role in reconciling diverse interests and ensuring the long-term sustainability of ecosystems and their uses.

Havprogrammet, the Nordic Council of Ministers' Environment and Climate Sector Programme for marine issues, supports Nordic cooperation on sustainable ocean management by providing knowledge, data, and analytical frameworks for addressing climate change, biodiversity loss and marine pollution. Its objectives align closely with those of the Nordic MSP Forum, which offers a dedicated platform for maritime spatial planners to collaborate on cross-border MSP challenges and to develop shared approaches for ecosystem-based planning. While Havprogrammet engages researchers and policymakers at the Nordic level, the MSP Forum brings together the planners responsible for implementing maritime spatial planning in practice—creating a natural interface



between strategic knowledge development and operational planning needs. Their complementary roles and overlapping timelines present strong opportunities for joint learning, coordinated activities and strengthened Nordic cooperation in support of a flourishing, secure and sustainable marine region.

The Forum also links directly to the Nordic Council of Ministers' Vision 2030 and its goal of "A Green Nordic Region." It builds on ministerial declarations on oceans, climate, and biodiversity, as well as the Prime Ministers' Declaration on a Sustainable Marine Economy and Green Transition. By embedding itself in these political commitments, the Forum strengthens the Nordic contribution to global sustainability agendas.

The Nordic MSP Forum has clear and practical objectives:

- **Strengthening cooperation:** Establishing a collaborative platform for planners across the Nordic countries.
- **Developing shared approaches:** Promoting ecosystem-based and coordinated planning practices that address cross-border challenges.
- **Improving knowledge exchange:** Facilitating dialogue and reflection among professionals to support informed decision-making.

Concrete aims include the development of a cooperation roadmap to guide future joint activities and the organization of planner-focused workshops to sustain dialogue and capacity-building.

For participating countries and organizations, the Forum offers tangible benefits: improved cross-border coordination, greater coherence in planning practices, and enhanced ability to respond collectively to emerging marine and geopolitical pressures.

Finally, the Forum positions itself as a bridge between national MSP frameworks and international commitments. It complements national planning processes while contributing to regional and global goals such as biodiversity protection, climate resilience, and the sustainable blue economy.

Practical implementation

The Nordic MSP Forum was hosted by Coordination of the Finnish MSP Cooperation team at the Regional Council of Southwest Finland in Turku, which served as the venue of the Forum. The Coordinator of the Finnish MSP Cooperation was responsible for all pre-arrangements and acted as the main facilitator of the Forum, ensuring effective organization and moderation throughout the event.

The Forum brought together representatives from Finland, Åland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, and Denmark—together with a small group of invited experts whose specialized knowledge enriched the discussions. In total, 22 participants attended the event. The event brought together nine national and seven regional MSP representatives, four researchers, and three members of the Finnish MSP Coordination team. The list of participants is provided on the front page under Contributors.



The Forum took the form of a two-day workshop structured around four thematic sessions, as outlined in Annex 1 (Nordic MSP Forum Agenda). The first session introduced the current state of MSP in the Nordic countries, highlighting national situations, governance frameworks, distinctive features, and challenges. The second session focused on the green transition and cross border planning issues, while the third examined transboundary MSP challenges and data management, with particular attention to offshore wind power. The fourth and final session summarized the discussions and identified the necessary steps to advance cross border MSP, culminating in the creation of a roadmap for future Nordic cooperation.

The working methods employed during the Forum included group work, plenary sessions, expert presentations on key themes, and both open and structured discussions. These approaches ensured that knowledge exchange was balanced with practical reflection and collaborative problem solving. Throughout the workshop, participants actively engaged in dialogue and contributed to shaping a shared vision for Nordic MSP cooperation. To support communication and outreach, a short Nordic MSP Forum video was produced to capture key messages and perspectives (Annex 2).

2. Content of the Nordic MSP Forum

The content of the Nordic MSP Forum was organized into four sessions that structured the two-day workshop. Each session addressed a key dimension of maritime spatial planning in the Nordic region, ranging from national contexts and cooperation challenges to the green transition, transboundary issues, and data management. Together, these sessions provided a comprehensive overview of current practices, highlighted pressing cross border challenges, and laid out the groundwork for developing a shared roadmap for future cooperation.

Session 1: Maritime Spatial Planning in the Nordic Region – Governance Frameworks and Current Planning Issues

The first session focused on presenting and comparing the governance frameworks and current planning issues related to maritime spatial planning across the Nordic region. Representatives from the participating countries shared updates on the status of their national MSP processes in the North Sea, Baltic Sea, and North Atlantic, highlighting key features, opportunities, and ongoing challenges.

Varying approaches to shared objectives

During the joint discussion, participants reflected on the diversity of national contexts and planning systems, noting that while the EU MSP Directive provides a shared framework for three Nordic countries and Åland islands, its implementation and application vary significantly between countries. Despite these structural differences, several common challenges were identified — including the integration of new and traditional sea uses, ensuring security and resilience, addressing funding and resource constraints, and strengthening cross-border cooperation.

It was emphasized that emerging geopolitical and environmental pressures underline the need for joint approaches and stronger collaboration across borders. Participants agreed that although governance systems differ, the fundamental goals of MSP are shared: to enable holistic,



sustainable, and forward-looking planning. As one participant noted, *“The systems are different, but the challenges are the same.”*

The session concluded with a shared understanding that the similarities between Nordic countries outweigh their differences, and that MSP provides a common platform for tackling the region’s environmental, economic, and security-related issues together.

Challenges to Nordic MSP collaboration

Several challenges to effective Nordic MSP collaboration were identified. Participants noted that information is fragmented and difficult to use efficiently without duplicating work. Cooperation is often limited to short-term projects, highlighting the need for more permanent dialogue structures. Current funding mechanisms tend to prioritize new tools rather than supporting the continuation of proven initiatives, leading to concerns about “tool fatigue.” Data sharing has also become more difficult due to increasing security restrictions, reversing earlier progress on open data. Finally, upcoming EU level developments, such as the Ocean Pact and the Ocean Act, may strengthen sea basin cooperation, but questions remain about how countries not in the EU, such as Norway and Iceland, can be fully included, given their limited access to funding.

Ideas for future Nordic MSP collaboration

Participants outlined several ideas for what ideal future collaboration between Nordic MSP actors could look like. They emphasized the need for better access to project funding that would enable countries to jointly address shared strategic challenges, including security threats in the Baltic and Arctic regions as well as the impacts of climate change. They also highlighted the importance of hands-on cooperation on specific technical and spatial issues, such as ice and winter navigation or the cumulative impacts of offshore wind farms in areas particularly relevant to Finland and Sweden. Establishing area-based working groups, for example in the Bothnian Bay, was seen as a practical way forward.

Beyond regional or bilateral topics, participants stressed the value of consolidating a Nordic MSP Forum to discuss and address overarching themes. These themes include, for example, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Cumulative Impact Assessments (CIA), and the management of migratory species. Such a forum would provide a platform for addressing crosscutting issues that affect all Nordic countries and require coordinated approaches.

Session 2: MSP Data and Cross-Border Planning Issues in the Green Transition

The second session of the Nordic MSP Forum focused on the role of data in MSP and its significance for supporting the green transition across the Nordic region. Presentations and discussions highlighted both the strengths of Nordic marine data systems and the challenges in harmonizing and ensuring the coherence of MSP input and output data, as well as sharing them across national borders.

Scaling up and interpreting data



Participants discussed the importance of distinguishing between running a model and interpreting the results. While analytical tools such as Symphony, developed and used in Sweden, provide a valuable big-picture understanding of cumulative impacts, their results always require contextual interpretation. Sweden and Denmark have ongoing cooperation on the Symphony model, and several other countries have shown interest in adapting similar approaches.

The discussion emphasized that tools alone are not sufficient – alignment must also occur in the data itself. Even if the same model or tool were used across Nordic countries, harmonization would not be achieved unless the data quality, structure, and level of detail were comparable.

It was suggested that experts involved in national data processes across the Nordic countries could be brought together to discuss harmonization needs and opportunities in more detail.

Data harmonization and sharing

Data harmonization was recognized as one of the key challenges for effective cross-border MSP. The complexity of national data systems, varying standards, and limitations on data sharing all contribute to difficulties in aligning information across borders.

For instance, fisheries data was highlighted as a practical example where harmonization could significantly improve planning coherence. Using the same GIS datasets for shared sea areas such as the Bothnian Sea would support greater consistency between Finnish and Swedish maritime spatial plans. However, in many cases, data ownership, structural differences, and access permissions continue to pose barriers to shared use.

The Plan Bothnia (12/2010-6/2012) project was a joint effort by regional and national authorities in Sweden and Finland, and was referenced as a good example of how data collaboration can be achieved, even within these limitations.

The NordicSpatial tool was seen as a promising avenue for collaboration, especially in the early phases of cross-border planning. It could serve as a platform where countries agree to share specific datasets – for example, selected layers from Sweden, Finland, and Denmark – to enable side-by-side comparison and a wider spatial understanding of the Baltic Sea Region.

At the same time, participants noted that while platforms like HELCOM Basemaps (<https://basemaps.helcom.fi/>) and EMODnet (<https://emodnet.ec.europa.eu/en>) are useful for visualization, in practice, users often need to access original national data sources to perform deeper analyses.

Challenges in data availability and confidentiality

The sharing of data remains one of the most sensitive and complex issues. Although aggregated data (e.g., public Symphony outputs) can be shared, broader access to detailed datasets is often limited by confidentiality regulations. This restricts the ability to perform in-depth cross-border analysis.



Participants also identified knowledge gaps in certain ecological data areas, particularly related to bird populations, fish migration routes, and cumulative impacts of offshore wind energy (OWE). Addressing these gaps would require additional scientific research and coordinated data collection.

Despite these challenges, it was widely acknowledged that Nordic countries possess robust and high-quality data overall—often among the best in Europe—which provides a strong foundation for national MSP processes. The next step is to improve interoperability and collaborative use of this data at the regional and cross-border levels.

Session 3: Offshore Wind and Coexistence with Other Maritime Activities

National contexts and emerging coordination needs

The session explored the growing significance of offshore wind energy in the Nordic region and examined the challenges of integrating it with other maritime activities, particularly fisheries. It began with a round of national context sharing, during which participants outlined the current stage of offshore wind development in their respective countries. The exchange highlighted the diversity of national policy frameworks, planning processes, and coordination needs shaping offshore wind deployment across the Nordic region.

Key points shared by countries:

Denmark:

- The open-door procedure was closed in 2023. Offshore wind development in Denmark is now based on government-led tenders for designated areas, where sites are identified politically and offered through competitive tendering processes administered by the Danish Energy Agency.

Finland:

- Offshore wind development constrained in the Gulf of Finland due to military interests.
- More advanced planning in the Gulf of Bothnia, including use of Zonation analysis to identify potential offshore wind areas.
- The open-door policy for offshore wind development in the EEZ ended in 2024. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment has identified four potential offshore wind areas in the Gulf of Bothnia. After the SEA consultation in December 2025, the Government may decide to reserve a site in the EEZ for wind energy, initiate a competitive tender, and set conditions for its use.
- Finland may wish to further elaborate on how national decarbonization goals, coexistence questions, and EEZ planning processes affect future offshore wind development.

Åland:

- Ecological concerns regarding the rapid pace of the green transition.
- Challenges integrating large-scale projects such as Sunnanvind into existing MSP processes.

Sweden:

- Numerous offshore wind area allocations in MSP proposal from 2025 (not yet adopted) and numerous pending applications
- Planning remains challenging



- No political agreement on offshore wind development at present.
- Government-level decisions required for project applications, adding uncertainty to long-term planning.
- Proposal for an introduction of a tender system (auction system) for offshore wind, not yet ratified
-

Norway:

- Identification of 20 potential offshore wind areas. Three licenses granted by end 2025.
- In addition, one floating offshore wind park, Hywind Tampen, is already in operation supplying adjacent oil and gas installations with energy.
- Continued development of floating turbine technology.
- Acknowledged conflicts between offshore wind and fisheries.

Iceland:

- Offshore wind is not currently planned.
- National energy priorities remain focused on land-based solutions.

Analytical insights from expert presentations

Two expert presentations provided additional analytical depth. The first introduced the Zonation tool and the approach for identifying potential offshore wind development areas in Finnish water, undertaken within the MeriTV project (2022–2023). The second presentation, delivered by the Green Energy Meets Blue Food project (2024–2026), presented findings from literature reviews, stakeholder interaction via workshops and six Nordic case studies examining coexistence between offshore wind energy and fisheries. These analyses provided valuable insights into the spatial, ecological and socio-economic considerations that must be addressed when planning offshore wind in marine space.

Group reflections on coexistence and multi-use solutions

A structured round-table discussion enabled participants to reflect further on the national contexts and to identify broader spatial coordination challenges. Participants considered how a shared cross-border understanding of offshore wind development could be strengthened and how practical experiences of multi-use and coexistence could be exchanged more systematically. They also explored ways to improve cross-border dialogue, to address issues such as shipping and fisheries alongside offshore wind development, and to enhance stakeholder involvement. Several examples of active collaboration were shared, and opportunities for strengthened cooperation were identified.

Overall, the session demonstrated both the significant opportunities and the inherent complexities associated with solutions for sustainable coexistence at sea. The discussions underscored the need for robust spatial analyses, inclusive and well-structured stakeholder engagement, and coordinated national and regional approaches. These elements were recognized as essential for ensuring that offshore wind development can coexist sustainably with other maritime activities while contributing effectively to the Nordic region’s green transition.



3. The Way Forward – Advancing Cross-Border Maritime Spatial Planning in the Nordics

The primary objective of the Forum was twofold: to bring Nordic MSP practitioners together in person to strengthen professional connections essential for long-term cross-border collaboration, and to jointly develop a shared roadmap for future Nordic MSP cooperation.

In the fourth session of the Forum the roadmap emerged through a structured, multi-stage co-creation process. Participants began by formulating a joint long-term vision for Nordic MSP collaboration. Building on this vision, and drawing on insights from the earlier workshop sessions, they identified key themes, challenges, and strategic priorities, which were then translated into concrete actions along an indicative 10-year timeline. Each group presented its outcomes in a plenary discussion, after which facilitators synthesized the inputs into a coherent draft roadmap. This approach ensured that the final output reflects both a shared strategic direction and the practical expertise of the Forum’s participants.

Shared Vision for Nordic MSP Cooperation

The Forum participants co-created a shared vision grounded in the key challenges, gaps, and future needs identified during the preceding workshop sessions. Through collaborative reflection, they articulated their long-term ambitions for cross-border MSP in the Nordic region.

“Maritime Spatial Planning for a flourishing, secure and sustainable Nordic region”

This vision underscores the importance of collaboration across all Nordic Sea basins – the North Sea, the Baltic Sea and the North Atlantic – to ensure that MSP supports ecological sustainability, regional security and the green transition. All working groups stressed the need for strong cross-basin cooperation, continuous knowledge exchange and practical, hands-on planning collaboration that links policy frameworks with concrete planning processes.

Roadmap co-creation process

The roadmap creation session began with a brief dot-voting exercise on the results of the previous sessions. Participants used green dots for easy-to-implement actions and red dots for highly important ones, giving a quick visual snapshot of shared priorities. After the voting, the work continued in three small groups using three rotating boards, each presenting the outcomes of the three previous sessions. As the boards circulated, the groups discussed and refined the content, forming the basis of the roadmap. Finally, the teams collaborated to create a practical implementation timeline and to visualize the roadmap, outlining when and how the identified actions should be carried out.

The practical roadmap to a shared Nordic MSP vision

Nordic MSP cooperation is structured into three chronological themes over a ten-year period (Figure 1). The roadmap reflects the priorities that emerged during the co-creation process—such as strengthened coordination, shared knowledge platforms, sustainable financing, cross-basin



cooperation, integrated policy frameworks, and a realistic, phased approach to implementation. These six themes form the strategic foundation that guides the practical actions described in the roadmap.

The practical roadmap to a shared Nordic MSP vision



Figure 1 Nordic MSP Roadmap

1. Foundations for cooperation (2026–2028)

Laying the groundwork for strengthened coordination, shared knowledge, sustainable financing and coherent governance.

Securing the basis for long-term collaboration

- Ensure stable funding for Nordic MSP cooperation and establish clear working methods for joint processes, addressing the recognized need for reliable and flexible financing. The funding opportunities with the Havprogramp will be explored.
- Strengthen or formalize the Nordic MSP Forum as the main Nordic coordination platform, supported by regular online meetings and thematic or site-specific workshops.
- Embed Nordic MSP work within broader policy processes, including the EU Ocean Pact and legislative initiatives such as Ocean Act while ensuring participation opportunities for non-EU Nordic countries.
- Establish efficient communication channels and practices, and identify opportunities and needs for cooperation with existing intergovernmental bodies, such as HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG, GNSBI, and OSPAR, as well as and with the informal Planners’ Forum.

Building shared understanding and alignment



- Jointly interpret the Ocean Pact, the requirements of the forthcoming Ocean Act, and Nordic priorities to create a common strategic direction.
- Identify shared thematic priorities—climate, biodiversity, coexistence, security, cultural heritage and blue economy—that will guide subsequent thematic work.
- Clarify governance roles and the political dimension of collaboration.

Strengthening knowledge sharing and capacity

- Organize joint MSP–sector workshops (fisheries, energy, shipping, defense, nature conservation).
- Exchange best practices from national MSP cycles and pool knowledge from earlier projects (EMFAF, Interreg, NCM, Marine Programme).
- Identify data gaps that hinder cross-border alignment and cumulative impact understanding.

2. Thematic focus groups and Ocean Pact implementation (2028–2031)

Translating shared priorities into practical methods, joint analyses and improved knowledge systems—reflecting the need for a common platform, cross-basin cooperation, and thematic depth.

Advancing jointly identified topical themes

- Establish thematic focus groups to work on issues such as climate change, biodiversity including conservation and restoration, coexistence and multiuse, cumulative impacts and maritime safety and resilience—directly building on the priority of fostering regional and cross-basin collaboration.
- Develop shared analytical approaches, harmonized methods, and targeted outputs within each theme.

Operationalizing the Ocean Pact in planning processes

- Translate Ocean Pact commitments into shared planning practices, including:
 - Common principles for ecosystem-based MSP,
 - Nature restoration and climate-resilience approaches,
 - Guidance for balancing blue economy and ecological thresholds.
- Explore how Ocean Pact implementation can support alignment of national MSP cycles.

Joint knowledge and methodological development

- Develop a Nordic framework for shared data, methods and planning tools—responding directly to the identified need for a common knowledge and dissemination platform.
- Prepare cross-border analyses on ecological pressures, climate impacts, key habitats, transboundary species and human-use interactions.
- Pilot regional tools (compatibility tools, multi-use assessment, decision-support systems) and conduct selected cross-border planning exercises.



3. Integrating planning and implementation (2031–2035)

Realizing the need for basin-level thinking, coordinated governance, practical alignment of plans, and long-term, sustainable cooperation structures.

Aligning national MSP cycles

- Where feasible, synchronize national MSP timelines and improve transparency by sharing drafts early.
- Coordinate planning on offshore wind, blue-green infrastructure networks including MPAs, shipping corridors and military/restricted areas—reflecting cross-basin and regional integration needs.

Strengthening cross-sector integration

- Promote coexistence frameworks (e.g., fisheries–energy), climate-smart infrastructure, maritime safety and security considerations.
- Address emerging pressures and geopolitical developments that require coordinated regional responses.

Securing long-term cooperation structures

- Establish durable funding mechanisms through the Nordic Council of Ministers or joint financing models.
- Formalize cooperation structures to ensure continuity beyond project cycles—responding to the priority of stable financing and realistic roadmapping.
- Maintain informal bilateral channels for rapid communication and collaborative problem-solving.

Long-term outcomes (+2035): A Shared Vision for Nordic MSP

The following long-term outcomes reflect the shared vision of “*Maritime Spatial Planning for a flourishing, secure and sustainable Nordic region.*” They describe the desired state of Nordic MSP beyond 2035 and illustrate what successful implementation of the roadmap will achieve.

A fully integrated Nordic MSP space

- Harmonized or closely aligned national MSP approaches across the North Sea, the Baltic Sea and the North Atlantic.
- Coherent cross-border zoning logic and seamless regional planning processes.
- A shared and accessible Nordic marine data ecosystem enabling evidence-based and coordinated decision-making.

A sustainable, flourishing and secure Nordic marine region

- Resilient ecosystems and climate-proof maritime activities support long-term sustainability.
- Balanced development of blue economy sectors that respect ecological limits.



- Enhanced maritime safety, preparedness and security through coordinated planning and shared situational awareness.
- Reduced sectoral and cross-border conflicts, supported by strong coexistence solutions.

A strong and unified Nordic voice internationally

- Coordinated influence in Nordic sea basins, EU MSP processes and global ocean governance.
- Leadership in ecosystem-based, transboundary MSP and climate-resilient marine management.
- Recognition of the Nordic region as a model for integrated, secure and sustainable ocean governance.

4. Common reflections and next steps

The discussions across the Nordic MSP Forum demonstrated broad agreement that Nordic MSP cooperation is both necessary and timely. While the region benefits from strong national planning systems and a long tradition of collaboration, participants highlighted that future challenges—ranging from climate and biodiversity pressures to offshore wind development, maritime security and data interoperability—cannot be effectively addressed by individual countries alone. The Forum reaffirmed that added value arises not from creating new structures or tools, but from strengthening coordination, improving knowledge exchange, and making existing cooperation more coherent, predictable and purpose driven.

A recurring reflection was the need for practical, hands-on collaboration that complemented policy dialogue. Participants expressed a desire for continued exchange on technical topics—such as cumulative impacts, winter navigation, and cross-border data harmonization and coherence—as well as a stronger focus on area-based cooperation in shared sea basins. At the same time, they emphasized that cooperation must remain manageable and aligned with planners’ everyday realities, especially given growing administrative and project workloads.

The roadmap developed during the Forum provides a shared strategic direction for the next decade. It translates the jointly formulated vision— “Maritime Spatial Planning for a flourishing, secure and sustainable Nordic region”—into a phased set of actions aimed at strengthening coordination, building joint analytical capacity, enhancing cross-basin collaboration and gradually aligning planning processes. The roadmap was widely seen as a useful and flexible tool: a living framework that can be adapted as circumstances evolve, including emerging policy developments such as the EU Ocean Pact, Ocean Act and next national MSP cycles.

Looking ahead, the next Nordic MSP Forums will be key milestones for advancing this work. These gatherings will allow participants to assess progress, refine priorities, initiate thematic working groups, and further operationalize the roadmap. Between these meetings, continued dialogue, data exchange and smaller-scale collaborations will be essential for maintaining momentum and ensuring that cooperation remains both strategic and pragmatic.



Overall, the Forum confirmed a strong shared commitment to developing a more integrated Nordic MSP approach. By building on the foundations laid in Turku, Nordic countries are well positioned to strengthen cross-border coherence, ensure sustainable and secure use of their marine spaces, and reinforce their collective role in shaping future regional and international maritime spatial planning agendas.



Annexes

- Annex 1 Nordic MSP Forum Agenda
- Annex 2 Nordic MSP Forum [video](#)
- Annex 3 Photos (3) of group's roadmaps





Nordic MSP Forum 2025 Agenda

Date: 9–10 October 2025

Location: Turku, Finland (Regional Council of Southwest Finland, Linnankatu 52 B, 20100 Turku)

Thursday	
8.30	<i>Registration and Coffee</i>
9.00–9.15	Opening remarks Heidi Saaristo-Levin, Planning Director, Regional Council of Southwest Finland Mari Pohja-Mykrä, Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of the Environment Frank Hering, Chair of Finnish MSP Coordination Group
9.15–9.30	Tour de table
9.30–10.30	Session 1: Maritime Spatial Planning in the Nordic Region – Governance Frameworks and Current Planning Issues Countries' Presentations: Maritime Spatial Planning in the North Sea, Baltic Sea and North Atlantic– status, key features, opportunities and challenges (approx. 10 min per country)
10.40–11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.15–12.00	Group discussions & Conclusions: Addressing gaps and challenges in Nordic MSP collaboration – how can cross-border cooperation be further enhanced through governance and planning?
12.00–13.00	<i>Lunch</i>
13.00–14.15	Session 2: MSP Data and Cross-Border Planning Issues in the Green transition Presentations: Local knowledge and data in MSP, green transition and digital transformation (Rebecca Eriksson – Nordregio) Nordic Spatial tool supporting cross-border MSP (Mats Gulbrandsen, BarentsWatch, Norway) Countries' Presentations: MSP Data and the green transition– best practices and lessons learned
14.15–14.35	<i>Coffee break</i>
14.35–16.30	Group discussions & Conclusions: Cross-border planning issues and data management From best practices to shared planning solutions for promoting the green transition
19.00	<i>Evening gathering with dinner</i>



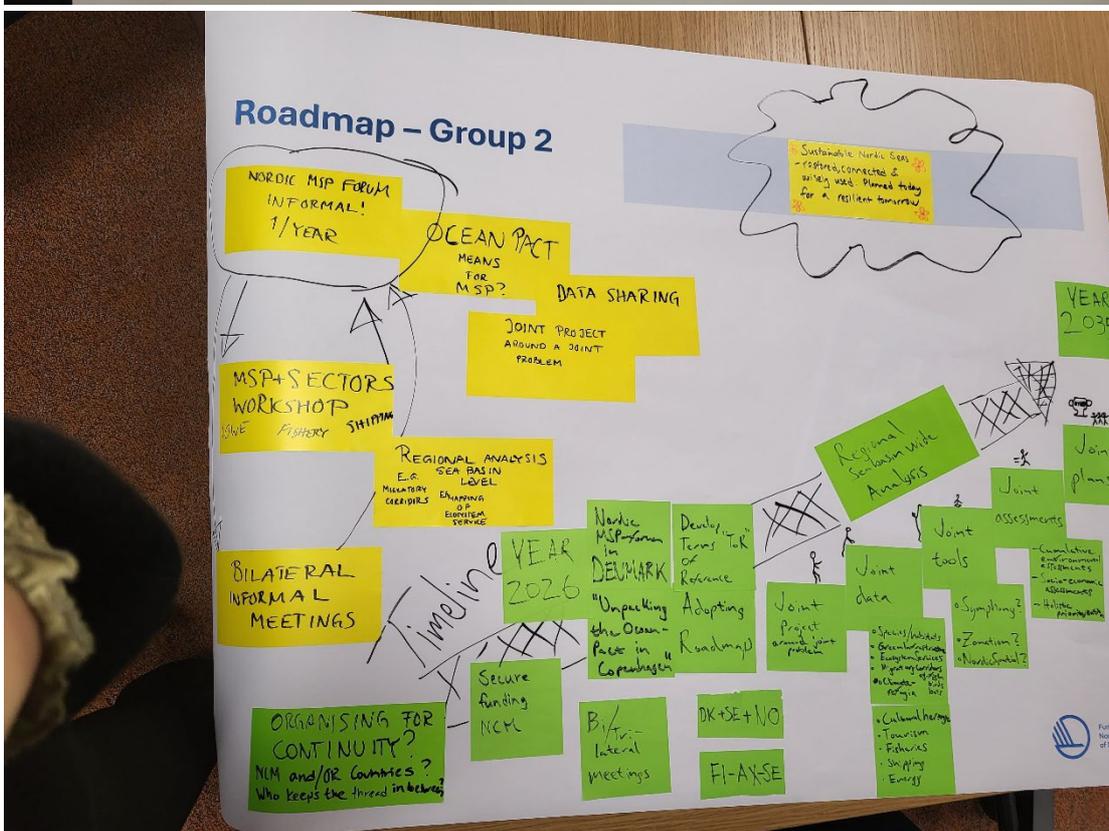
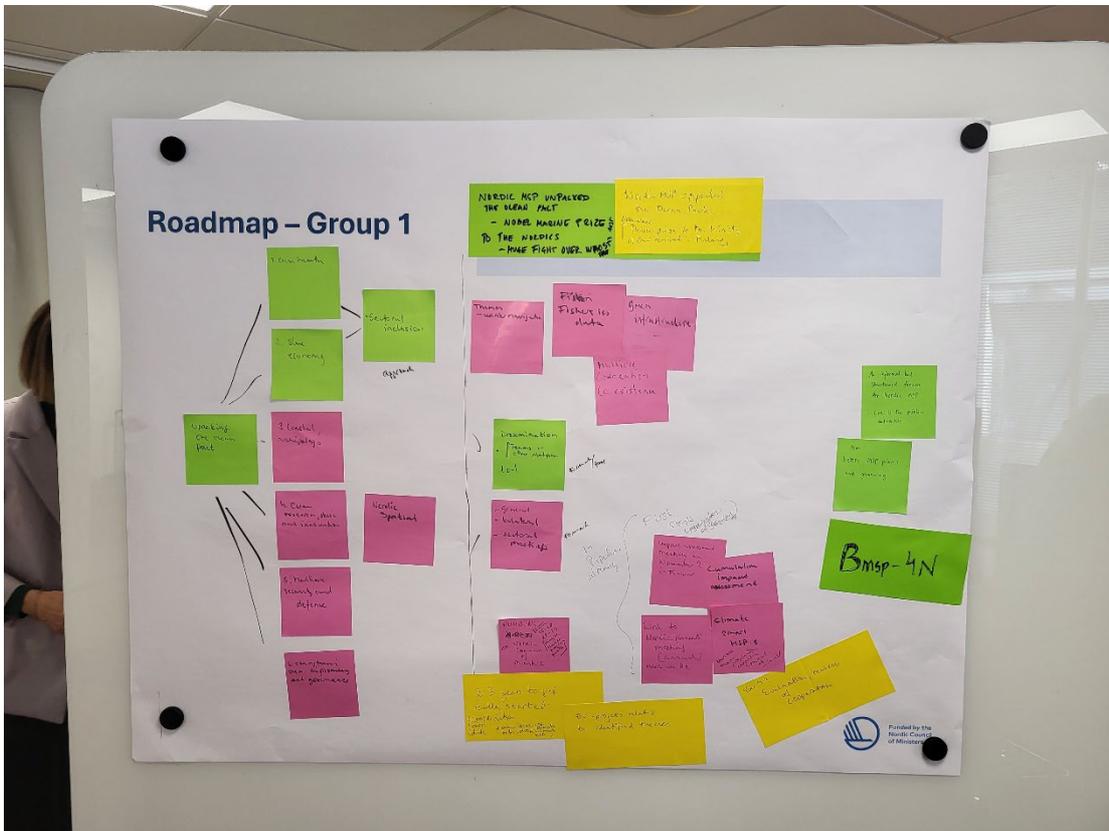


Friday	
9.00–9.10	Opening remarks for the second day Anna-Leena Seppälä, Head of Land-use Unit, Ministry of Environment Finland Essi Kärpijoki, Coordinator of MSP Cooperation
9.10–10.00	Session 3: Offshore Wind and Coexistence with Other Maritime Activities Presentations: Zonation analysis for identifying potential offshore wind areas in Finnish waters (Elina Virtanen, SYKE – MeriTV project) Coexistence between wind and fisheries – challenges and opportunities in Nordic countries (Kerstin Bly Joyce, Nordregio – Green Energy Meets Blue Food project)
10.00–10.20	<i>Coffee break</i>
10.20–12.00	Group discussions & Conclusions: Offshore wind development in the North Sea, Baltic Sea and North Atlantic– supporting sustainable development through MSP Integrating country case study insights into MSP
12.00–13.00	<i>Lunch</i>
13.00–14.30	Session 4: The Way Forward – Advancing Cross-Border Maritime Spatial Planning in the Nordics Workshop: Co-developing a roadmap for future Nordic MSP collaboration
14.30–14.50	<i>Coffee available at your convenience</i>
14.50–16.30	Continued roadmap development and final synthesis
16.30–17.00	Closing remarks





Roadmap for future Nordic MSP Cooperation – groupwork photos (3)





Roadmap – Group 3

Robust Nordic sea basins, creating jobs, lowering security and saving the seas.

MSP for a flourishing, secure & sustainable NORDIC!

Meeting and Work Structure

Nordic MSP Forum

- Contact authorities for MSP in Nordic countries
- Chairing country the same as for NCM
- 1 annual meeting in person (4-6) country updates and current issues
- additional online meetings according to need and interest
- Specific workshops / working group e.g. 2 countries

Planners Forum

- discussion on pressing issues
- important topics
- exchange experience

Topic / site-specific work

- Bottom-up planning including activities with the authorities
- OMF activities cover planning activities

Nordic perspective for the Ocean Act

Cross-border

Enhance MSP

Ocean Act

new dialogues - targets, needs

ministers - political??

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