

## Ocean Multi-Use Policy, Planning and Regulation Knowledge Transfer Session: Outcomes and Findings

On January 24th, 2023, a virtual workshop was held to discuss the results of the UNITED Ocean Multi-Use Pilots and engage in interactive discussions with 45 fellow planners, regulators, and decision-makers.

The session aimed to share knowledge and experiences and provide advice on renewable energy planning processes and guidelines. Key outcomes and findings were presented by the leaders of the UNITED Ocean Multi-Use Pilots.

Whereas EU Member States in majority are in favor of stimulating multi-use of the ocean, there are some (institutional) hinderances to the development of multi-use such as the lack of access to proper insurance, cumbersome licensing procedures, uncertainty of the decommissioning phase and lack of clear rules for multi-use.

### Insurance Challenges Remain Unsolved

One of the main challenges faced by multi-use developers is the lack of interest from insurance companies and high insurance premiums. The best chances for obtaining insurance are if the company has a good track record with the insurance company and all the necessary technical drawings and risk assessments are in place. However, it was stressed that public regulators need to get involved in better communication between insurance companies and regulators. The lack of understanding between the two parties has created a problem for future developers.

### Test Zones for Multi-Use Testing Needed

To address this challenge, it was suggested that marine planners should include test zones in their spatial plans where multi-use can be tested on a larger scale. Regulators and other authorities can ensure that insurance is in place, risks have been assessed, and the necessary environmental assessments and permits are obtained. This would incentivize multi-use approaches, allowing commercial-scale testing to be conducted in a safe environment and generate further evidence on the feasibility of the system.

### Combined Permitting and Environmental Assessment Procedures Encouraged

The experts also emphasized the importance of clear multi-use regulation and improved planning predictability. Regulators were encouraged to develop combined permitting and environmental assessment procedures to explicitly encourage multi-use. Currently, permitting is done on a single sector basis, but this combined approach would streamline the process and make it easier for multi-use projects to get off the ground.

### Ocean Multi-Use Should Be Considered in the Design Stage

It was emphasized that ocean multi-use should be considered at the design stage of offshore wind farms to ensure that all necessary certifications, permits, assessments, and insurance are obtained jointly. It is difficult to add something to the wind farm once the permits and insurance are already in place.

### Multi-Use Considerations Must Take into Account Fisheries and Restrictions

To ensure that multi-use makes sense in the given space, it is important to consider the existing fisheries and restrictions within wind farms. For example, it may make sense to include aquaculture in wind farms only if fishing is not allowed. However, if fishing is allowed, aquaculture creates competition and may not be a feasible option.

## European Public Funded Research and Innovation Projects Have an Impact

Finally, it was noted that European public funded research and innovation projects have had a significant impact on the industry. The Ocean Multi-Use Action Plan from the MUSES project has been used as inspiration for the preparation of many spatial plans and further pilot projects, including those under United, Equinor, and ULTFARMS.

In conclusion, the Ocean Multi-Use Policy, Planning and Regulation Online Session provided valuable insights into the current state of the industry and identified key challenges and solutions. The session provided a platform for planners, regulators, and decision-makers to share their experiences and learn from each other to make a real impact on the future of ocean energy.

### Announcements

A report on the regulation and policy recommendations from UNITED pilots will be published soon on the website [www.h2020united.eu](http://www.h2020united.eu)

To stay up to date, participants are encouraged to sign up for the UNITED newsletter: <https://www.h2020united.eu/newsletter>

To in the loop with major advancements in ocean multi-use follow the twitter account of the new pilot project @ULTFARMS

## Selection of poll answers

**How much consideration is given to potential multi-use opportunities in the marine spatial plan of your country?**

- ☐ None
- ☐ Some, mainly as a high-level recommendation
- ☐ A lot, multi-use opportunities are actively pursued and i...

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None	10% (3)
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<b>Some, mainly as a high-level recommendation</b>	<b>73% (22)</b>
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A lot, multi-use opportunities are actively pursued and incorporated into the plan	16% (5)
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## What category are you representing? (multiple answer possible)

- ☐ Marine Spatial Planning
- ☐ Renewable energy permitting
- ☐ Research or academia
- ☐ Aquaculture or fishery
- ☐ NGO
- ☐ Other

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<b>Marine Spatial Planning</b>	<b>47% (19)</b>
Renewable energy permitting	7% (3)
Research or academia	17% (7)
Aquaculture or fishery	5% (2)
NGO	10% (4)
Other	12% (5)

## How well do you think the current regulatory framework for offshore wind development accommodates for multi-use opportunities?

- ☐ Not well
- ☐ Somewhat well
- ☐ Very well

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<b>Not well</b>	<b>79% (23)</b>
Somewhat well	20% (6)
Very well	0% (0)