



## Newsletter 2

June 2019

The **BONUS BASMATI** project (2017-2020) focuses on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and marine and coastal ecosystem services. It analyses governance systems in the Baltic Sea region in order to develop a transnational model for MSP. A major outcome will be a MSP tool called Baltic Explorer. It is a spatial decision-support system designed to support the MSP process around the Baltic Sea.



### Baltic Explorer implements simultaneous mapping



Baltic Explorer now enables simultaneous interactive mapping in groups. Baltic Explorer has supported real planning scenarios in two use experiments; one in Umeå with real planners in the PanBalticScope project and one in Turku with academic researchers. With Baltic Explorer, planners are able to combine different data layers as background information while simultaneously drawing and editing features as group work. With these functionalities, planners in Umeå interactively visualized and discussed optional locations for a new use, in the specific case wind farms. In Turku, Baltic Explorer was tested on different technical devices. Analyses have been initiated to learn more from these use experiments and update the Baltic Explorer platform to planners' needs. A synergy and conflict framework for marine uses has been created with a vision to implement it in Baltic Explorer.





## BONUS BASMATI case studies

The BONUS BASMATI project has three case studies that interlink the various research topics of the project closely together. Moreover, there are ongoing efforts to enable Baltic Explorer to support the case studies. The studies are progressing and the final inputs will be available during the last project year. In the meanwhile, preliminary results have been presented in international conferences, such as IMDIS 2018 and ESP 2018. The case studies will be visible also, for example, in the Baltic Sea Science Congress in Stockholm in August 2019.

### Linkages between human activities and ecosystem components

Communication support tools have been developed to help stakeholders link the ecosystem benefits and values to the ecosystem components and functions providing them. People eating the fish have little knowledge what habitats fish use for nursery, feeding, hiding to develop to full grown fish caught by fisherman. The support tool helps to identify the links between ecosystem components (algae, mussels, fish etc.), their functions and benefits humans derive from the sea (ecosystem services). In order to obtain the full spectrum of ecosystem services the human needs have to be balanced with ecosystem needs. We aim to show the stakeholders how the changes in the human activities influence the ecosystem components, shifting the balance.



Photo: Juris Aigars

### Suitable locations for mussel farms in the Baltic Sea

The aquaculture case study has applied a GIS suitability analysis to the south-western Baltic Sea to find potential locations for mussel farms. How well could the mussels grow at these locations? How many nutrients could they potentially remove? What does it mean in terms of water transparency? We investigated these questions in an ecological model developed by Aarhus University. Stayed tuned for the next BONUS BASMATI newsletter to find out about the results!

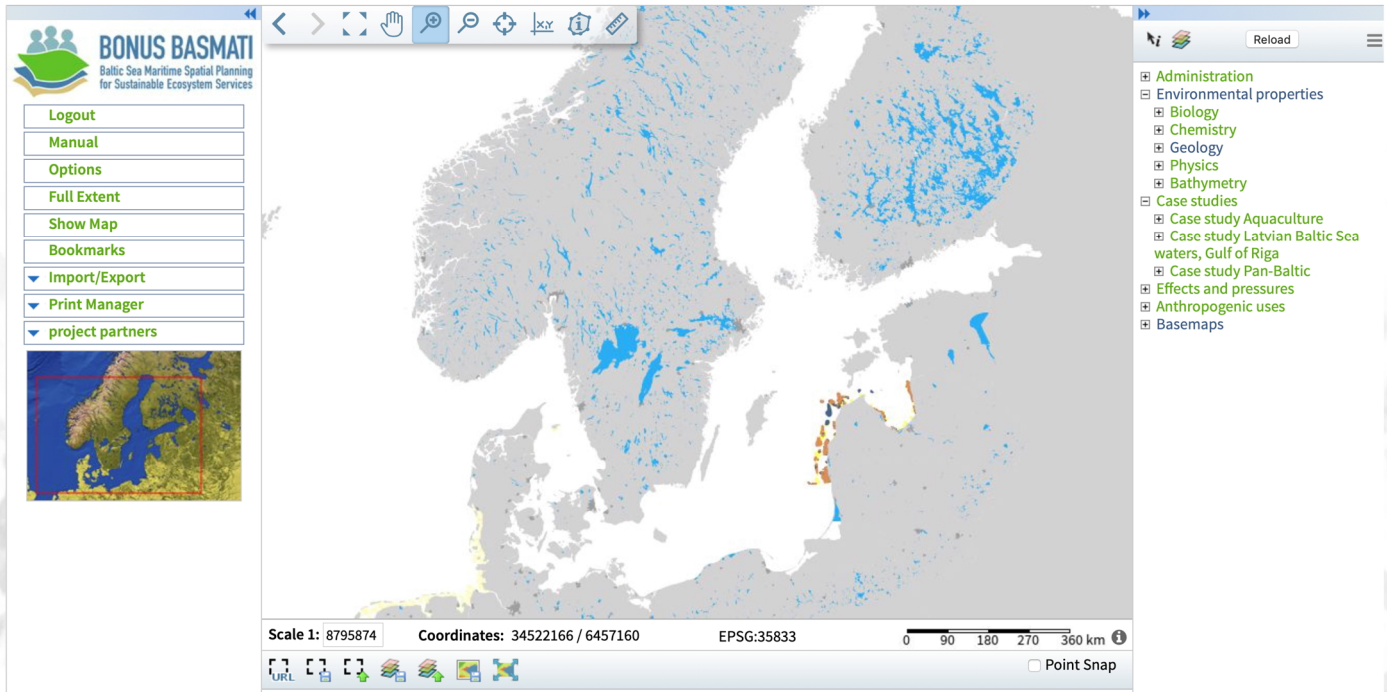


Photo: Ivars Druvietis

### Planners interviewed about stakeholder involvement

In the Pan-Baltic case study, MSP authorities and experts have been interviewed to gain understanding on the practical arrangements regarding stakeholder integration around the Baltic Sea countries. The interviewees highlighted that all the interested parties are free to participate in stakeholder activities. However, there were differences in the actual means to select and invite stakeholders in to the planning process. The case study is especially interested in business sector involvement, which will be assessed through two transnational sea use sectors, namely maritime transport and marine tourism. The expectations and perceptions of the business sector representatives are collected by online questionnaires. In addition, a local case study on the views of NGOs has been conducted.





## Marine Spatial Planning database goes online

The Baltic Sea Atlas shows data in line with the recently proposed concept on data harmonisation tailored for marine spatial planning. Key to this concept is to give structured information on the spatial and temporal dimension of data. Although the need for harmonisation of data and metadata is undebated, the application of standards to real data still poses a challenge to scientists providing data. This phenomenon was also discussed in April at EGU Vienna 2019, where the presentation of the BONUS BASMATI data harmonisation concept received high attention. The Baltic Sea Atlas is hosted by the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde and is available at:

<http://bio-50.io-warnemuende.de/iowbsa/index.php>



Photo: Harri Tolvanen





## Improving MSP impact assessment tools

Not all stakeholders are equally visible in the MSP process, and the distribution of benefits and dis-benefits of existing and new sea uses are not necessarily acknowledged. The BONUS BASMATI project has developed a framework for impact assessment that can facilitate a dialogue on these issues. It is based on a combination of the frameworks DPSIR (Driving forces, pressures, state, impact, response) and ESS (Ecosystem services).

We approach the inequalities by pointing at the benefit category of the ecosystem service classification, and ask the question: who are beneficiaries of the existing sea uses and will this change following new uses? We will test the tool in stakeholder settings later in the project. Earlier work on the framework as an assessment tool has led to an indicator pool consistently analysed for categorisation into the ecosystem service cascade: capacity, ecosystem service, benefit and value categories. In this way, the framework serves two purposes: directly for expert assessments, and as a communication tool in a stakeholder context.

## New publications about transboundary collaboration and stakeholder integration in MSP

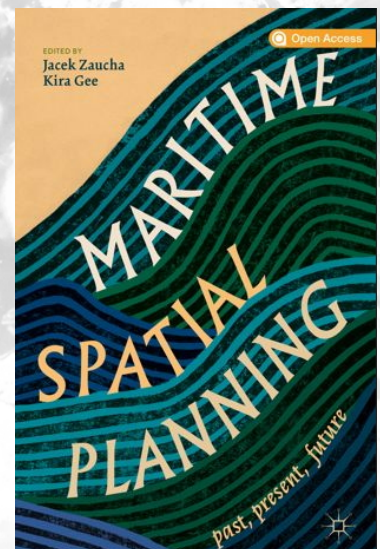
Nordregio has had the lead in producing a number of scientific publications developing the social scientific reflections on marine spatial planning further. The results are published in 3 articles in special issues of Ocean and Coastal Management and Marine Policy plus a book chapter in a new textbook on MSP. These outputs were made possible by continued fruitful and fun collaboration of scientists and policy makers in the Baltic Sea Area. They combine results from the BONUS financed research projects BaltSpace and BONUS BASMATI, and the EASME financed development projects BalticScope and PanBalticScope. The insights from the Baltic sea area have been broadened further by engaging with the global level and the study performed under the auspices of IOC-UNESCO and are now contributing to work on a joined road map between IOC-UNESCO and EU DG MARE. Stay tuned for further results from the BONUS BASMATI project on stakeholder integration, modelling and scenario tools.

Book: <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007%2F978-3-319-98696-8>

Marine Policy: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2019.03.005>

OCM: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2019.04.002>

OCM-2 in press.



*BONUS BASMATI researchers  
Andrea Morf and Michael Kull  
contributed to MSP participation  
chapter in a new book.*





### Project events

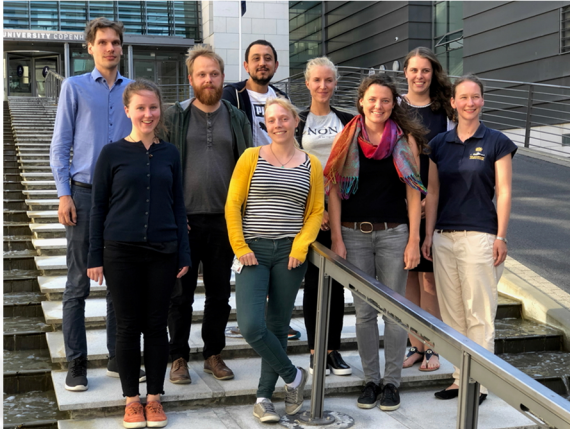


Photo: Henning Sten Hansen

#### PhD course on Spatial Decision-Support Systems

The aim of the first BONUS BASMATI PhD course was to introduce the students to various methodologies for spatial decision support, to give them an overview of existing systems, and to discuss relevant evaluation criteria and decision alternatives in MSP context.

The course took place at Aalborg University in Copenhagen on 20-22 August 2018 with 8 students (from Denmark, Finland, Germany, Lithuania and the UK).



Photo: Harri Tolvanen

#### BONUS BASMATI 3<sup>rd</sup> partner meeting

The third BONUS BASMATI partner meeting dealt much with the development of Baltic Explorer, as well as detailed WP workshops and two PhD progress presentations

The meeting was arranged at the National Land Survey of Finland on October 1 - 3 2018.



Photo: Harri Tolvanen

#### PhD course on Maritime Spatial Planning in Baltic Sea countries

The course discussed the differences between the theory and practice of MSP, the differences in MSP directive implementation, and the implications they have on the evaluation of the processes and their outcomes.

The course took place at the University of Turku on May 6 - 8 2019 with 13 students (from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, and Spain).



Photo: Meeli Roose

#### BONUS BASMATI 4<sup>th</sup> partner meeting

The BONUS BASMATI partners gathered for the 4<sup>th</sup> partner meeting to discuss the progress and future activities of the project. Most of the delegates participated also on a meeting cruise to Åland with the PhD course on the day before the meeting.

The meeting was arranged at the University of Turku on May 9 - 10 2019.





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Baltic Sea Maritime Spatial Planning  
for Sustainable Ecosystem Services

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