



**MEDAC**

MEDITERRANEAN  
A D V I S O R Y  
C O U N C I L

MEDAC meeting

GL3

9<sup>th</sup> April 2024

# Questionnaire on MSP and role of MEDAC

**Few questionnaire were received. Anyhow, they were sufficient to extrapolate some conclusions**

Section 1: Participation in MSP Processes

**Have you been actively engaged in national Marine Spatial Planning processes or EU-funded MSP projects in your country?**

- 50% Yes
- 25% No
- 25% Not sure

**To what extent have your opinions and suggestions been taken into account and incorporated into the decision-making processes of the MSP initiatives?**

- 25% Minimally engaged
- 75% Not engaged at all

# Questionnaire on MSP and role of MEDAC

## Section 2: Perspectives on Engagement and Contributions

**In your opinion, why do you think MEDAC (through its members or via the Secretariat/Presidency) should be actively invited and engaged in the Marine Spatial Planning processes or projects?**

- In-depth knowledge of local fishing grounds (100%)
- Insights into seasonal variations and migratory patterns of marine species (100%)
- Understanding of potential conflicts with other maritime activities (100%)
- Identification of key areas for sustainable fishing practices (66%)
- Mitigation of potential negative impacts on fishing livelihoods (66%)

# Questionnaire on MSP and role of MEDAC

## Section 2: Perspectives on Engagement and Contributions

**Considering your experience and expertise in your sector, what do you believe could be the MEDAC valuable contributions to Marine Spatial Planning initiatives?**

- Identification of productive fishing areas (40%)
- Knowledge of critical marine habitats and nurseries (40%)
- Awareness of potential collision zones with maritime traffic (40%)
- Insights into traditional and sustainable fishing practices (100%)
- Suggestions for minimizing the impact on fishing livelihoods (100%)

# Proposal of a letter to be sent to the EC relative to MEDAC participation in MSP processes

## **DRAFT INTRO**

- MEDAC has recently conducted a survey among their members to assess their involvement in national Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) processes and EU-funded MSP projects.
- Regrettably, the findings reveal a concerning and consistent lack of engagement among MEDAC members in both national and European initiatives related to MSP.
- The survey results indicate that MEDAC members representatives have not been actively involved or consulted in the decision-making processes of national MSP initiatives or EU-funded MSP projects.
- This lack of engagement has left MEDAC members, as primary stakeholders in the maritime sector, feeling marginalized and disregarded in matters that directly impact their livelihoods, their values and the natural resources they depend on.

# Proposal of a letter to be sent to the EC relative to MEDAC participation in MSP processes

## **DRAFT SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS**

- Only very few MEDAC members reported active engagement in national MSP processes.
- None of the respondents felt their opinions were properly taken into account or adopted in the decision-making process related to MSP.
- MEDAC members possess knowledge and practical experience concerning the marine environment, including seasonal variations, migratory patterns of marine species, and potential conflicts with other maritime activities. This valuable expertise has not been tapped into, despite the potential benefits it could bring to the success and sustainability of MSP initiatives.

# Proposal of a letter to be sent to the EC relative to MEDAC participation in MSP processes

## DRAFT CONCLUSION

- MEDAC members suggest the European Commission to take action to solve this oversight. We believe that involving MEDAC members in MSP processes is crucial for the effective and sustainable management of maritime activities. Our constituency is eager to contribute to the development of marine spatial plans that balance MSP objectives with the needs of the fishing industry.
- ***Specific Requests:***
  1. Establish mechanisms to ensure active participation of MEDAC members in national and EU-funded MSP initiatives,
  2. So as to incorporate the knowledge and expertise of MEDAC members into the decision-making processes related to MSP.



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**MORE INFORMATION:**

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