

The value of Marine Spatial Planning to assist in the Management of Marine Ecosystems

Biodiversity Planning Forum
23-26 June 2015



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- Biodiversity Management Plans for Ecosystems
- Foreseeable Challenges in Implementing BMP's for Marine Ecosystem
- Marine Spatial Planning
- Example of a Case Study on Norway



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Biodiversity Management Plans

- S43 of NEMBA provides for the development of BMPs for species and ecosystems;
- Norms and standards for BMP were published in March 2009
- Currently no list of marine ecosystems gazetted;
- Prioritise ecosystems outside MPA's;



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Purpose and principles of BMP-Es: Ensure long term survival of the ecosystem concerned in a natural or near natural state or ecologically functional state

Principles:

Need for clear biodiversity objectives

Use of best available science

No recipe

Stakeholder engagement and enhanced collaboration

Voluntary participation



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Criteria to guide the selection of ecosystems for BMP

Two filters are used to select ecosystems for BMP-Es:

Ecosystems for which management interventions can impact positively and for which a BMP-E is thus likely to be suitable and effective.

Ecosystems of special concern, i.e listed ecosystems, CBAs; FEPAs, EBSA

❖ If an ecosystem is severely degraded-no remaining natural habitat in the ecosystem, no BMP-E. However, if intervention can rehabilitate or reverse the situation, then a BMP-E.



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Relationship of BMP-Es to other conservation tools

- Provincial spatial biodiversity plans
- Bioregional plans
- Biodiversity sector plans
- Listed ecosystems
- Integrated Development Plans
- Spatial Development Frameworks
- Environmental Management Frameworks
- Catchment Management Strategies (CMS) and Plans



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Biodiversity Management Plans for Marine Ecosystems

- Cope with change and limit cumulative impacts;
- Early detection of negative impacts;
- Implementation of mitigation measures;
- Encourage rehabilitation of areas after activities;
- Further increase the science-knowledge base for marine ecosystems;
- Science-Policy interface;
- Support the MPA Representative Network & connectivity;
- Assist in conflicts resolution while safe guarding marine environment;



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Foreseeable Challenges in Implementation

- Funding of BMP Implementation;
- No Spatial Planning;
- Monitoring Capacity:
 - Resources (Vessels, Funding etc.);
 - Skills;
 - Human capacity;
- Gaps in Data;
- Lack of integration from various users;
- Fragmentation in legislation;
- Increased activities in the ocean (over last few years);
- No determined environmental thresholds;



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Marine Spatial Planning

- Cabinet Decision in 2013;
- NEMO (May 2014);
- Escalated at the Operation Phakisa;
- National Framework on MSP;
- Scheduled for Implementation by 2019;
- Ocean's Bill (currently in draft form);
- Not immune to SPLUMA



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Purpose of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)

- Tool for decision makers to improve decision-making for the marine resources, users, and uses;
- Mainstream & Coordinate Planning in the ocean space;
- Promoting Spatial Efficiency;
- Enhancing Economic Potential;
- Promoting Balanced and Sustainable development;
- Adopt the notion of an ecosystem-based approach.

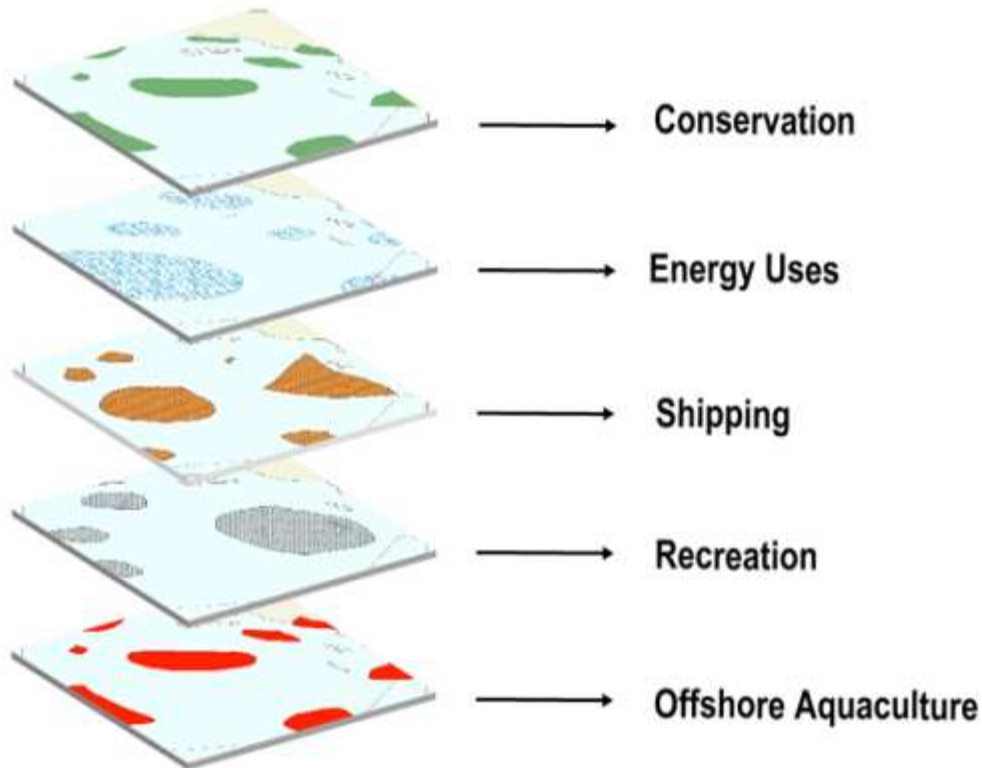


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Importance of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) for South Africa



Currently there is no overall system to guide the development, implementation, monitoring and refinement of National & Regional (Sub-National) Marine Spatial Planning Framework's and Sub Regional Marine Spatial Management Plan's in South Africa. This would lead to potential conflict, unsustainable use of ocean resources and failing to capitalize on development opportunities.

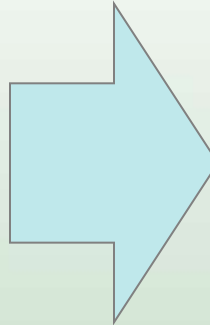
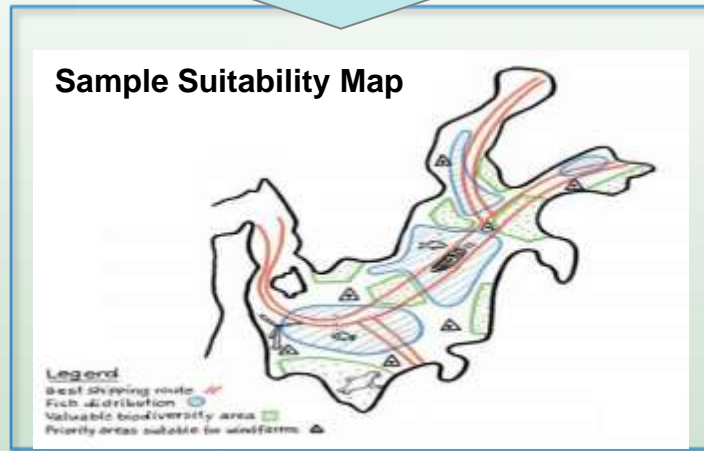
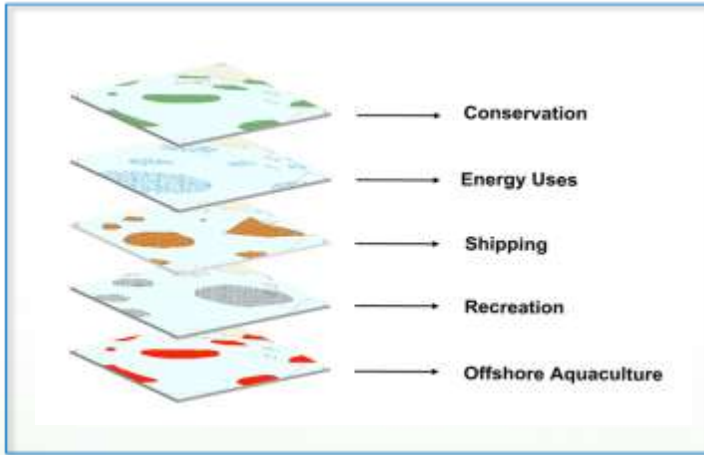


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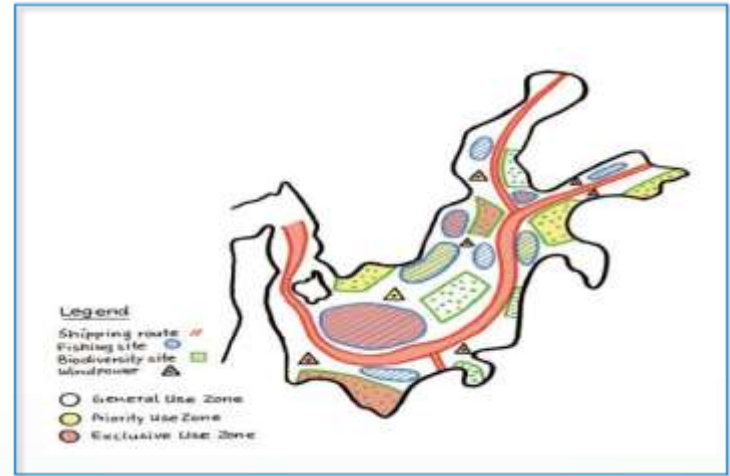
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Process for MSP



Sample Zoning Plan



Sample Conflict Map



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Strengths & Weaknesses of MSP in SA

Weakness

- Long-term binding
- Lack of methods
- Motivation & demands for Cross-sectoral work
- Strengths differs between sectors
- Political will

Strengths

- Endorsed by Parliament
- Build up knowledge base
- Regular updates & revisions
- Capacity Building
- Strategic goals based on ecosystem objectives
- Can promote Integrated Management Planning;
- Regular Monitoring & Reporting



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Benefits of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)

- Steer future investments;
- Improve integration & reduce duplication;
- Improve the speed, quality, accountability and transparency of decisions;
- Improve the effectiveness and consistency of regulatory compliance;
- Provide an improved understanding of the implications of sustainable use.



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Case Study - Norway

- Particularly biologically valuable and vulnerable areas

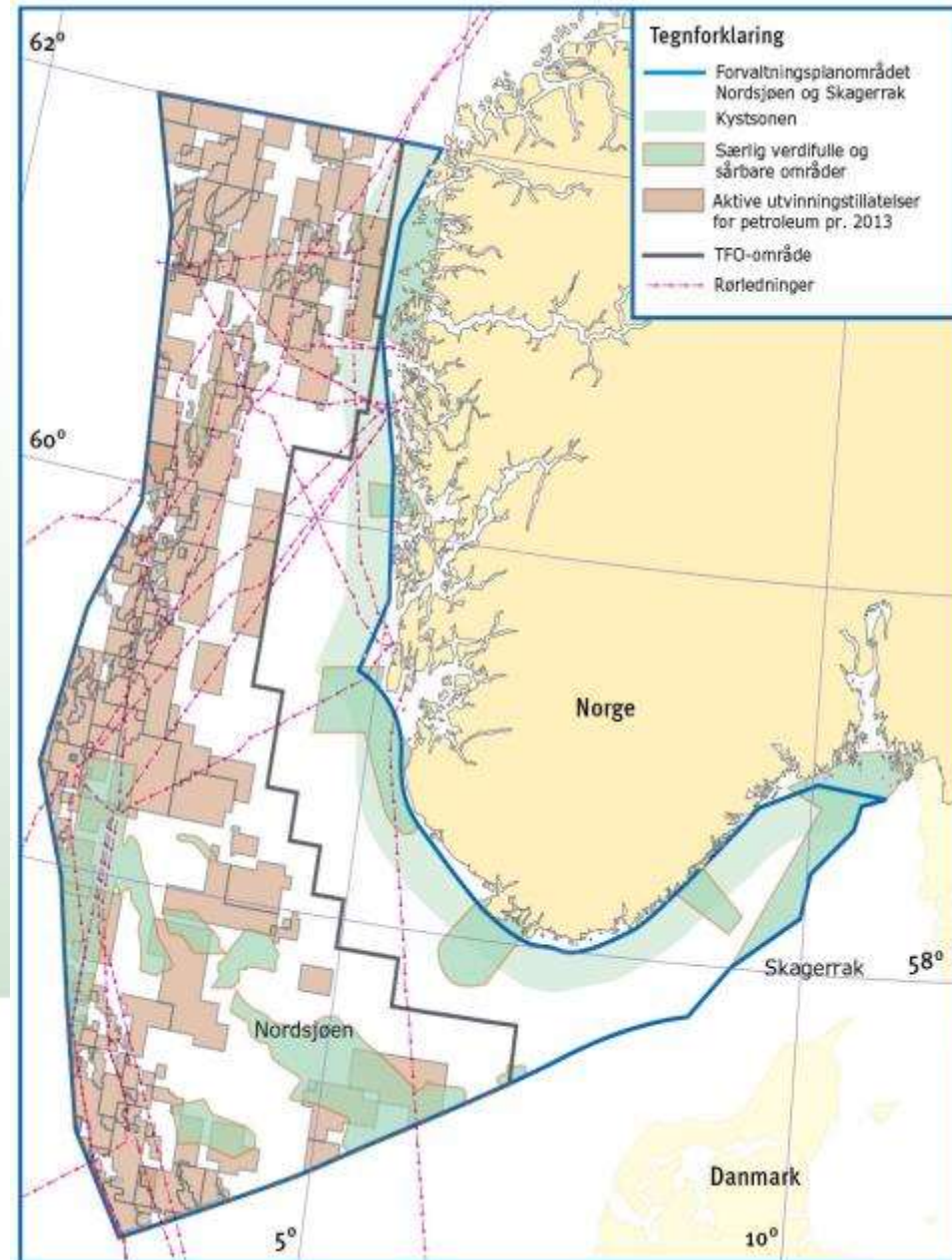


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Case Study - Norway

- Particularly valuable and vulnerable areas
- Oil and gas exploration

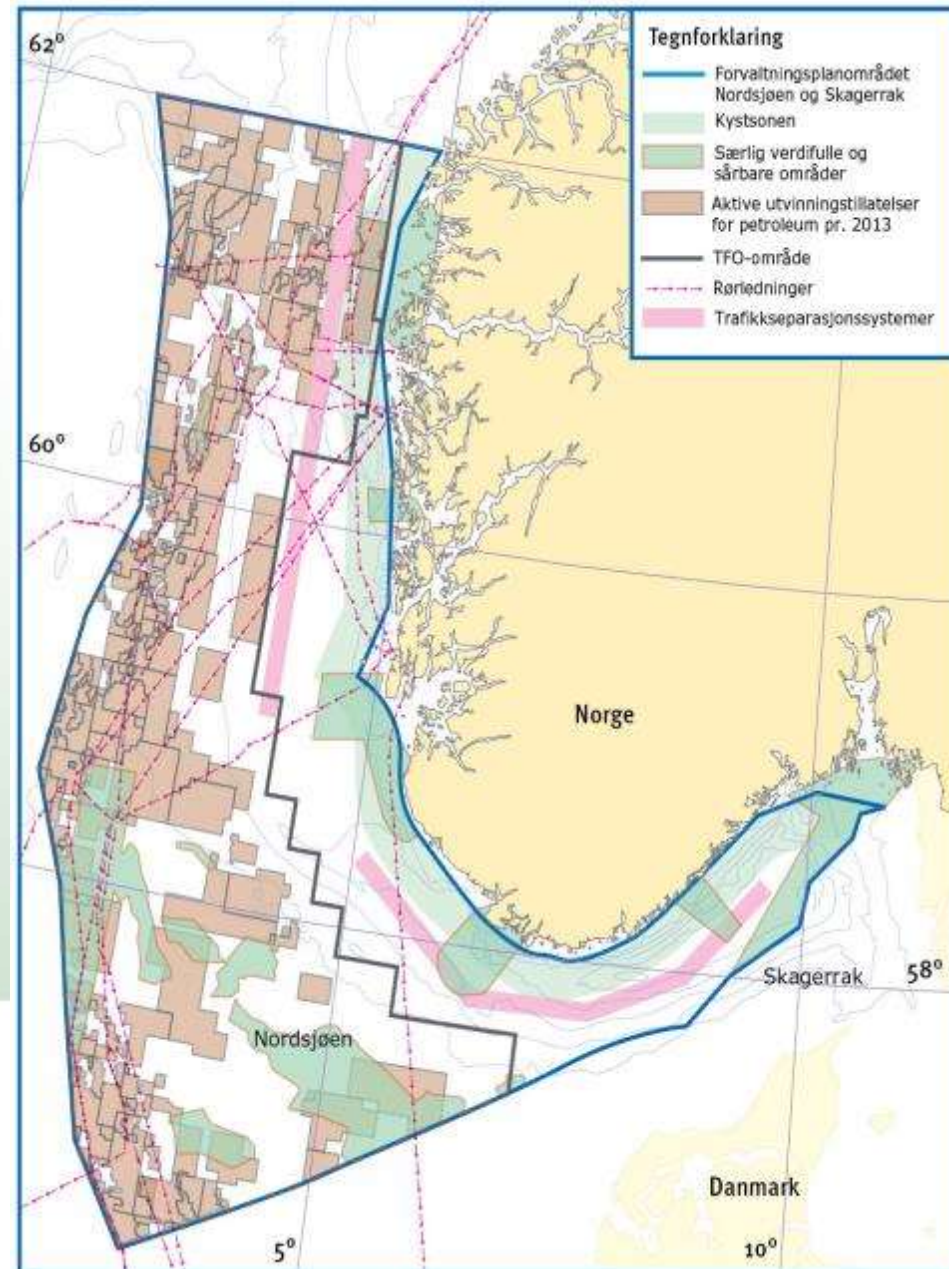


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Case Study - Norway

- Particularly valuable and vulnerable areas
- Oil and gas exploration
- Sea transport, traffic separation

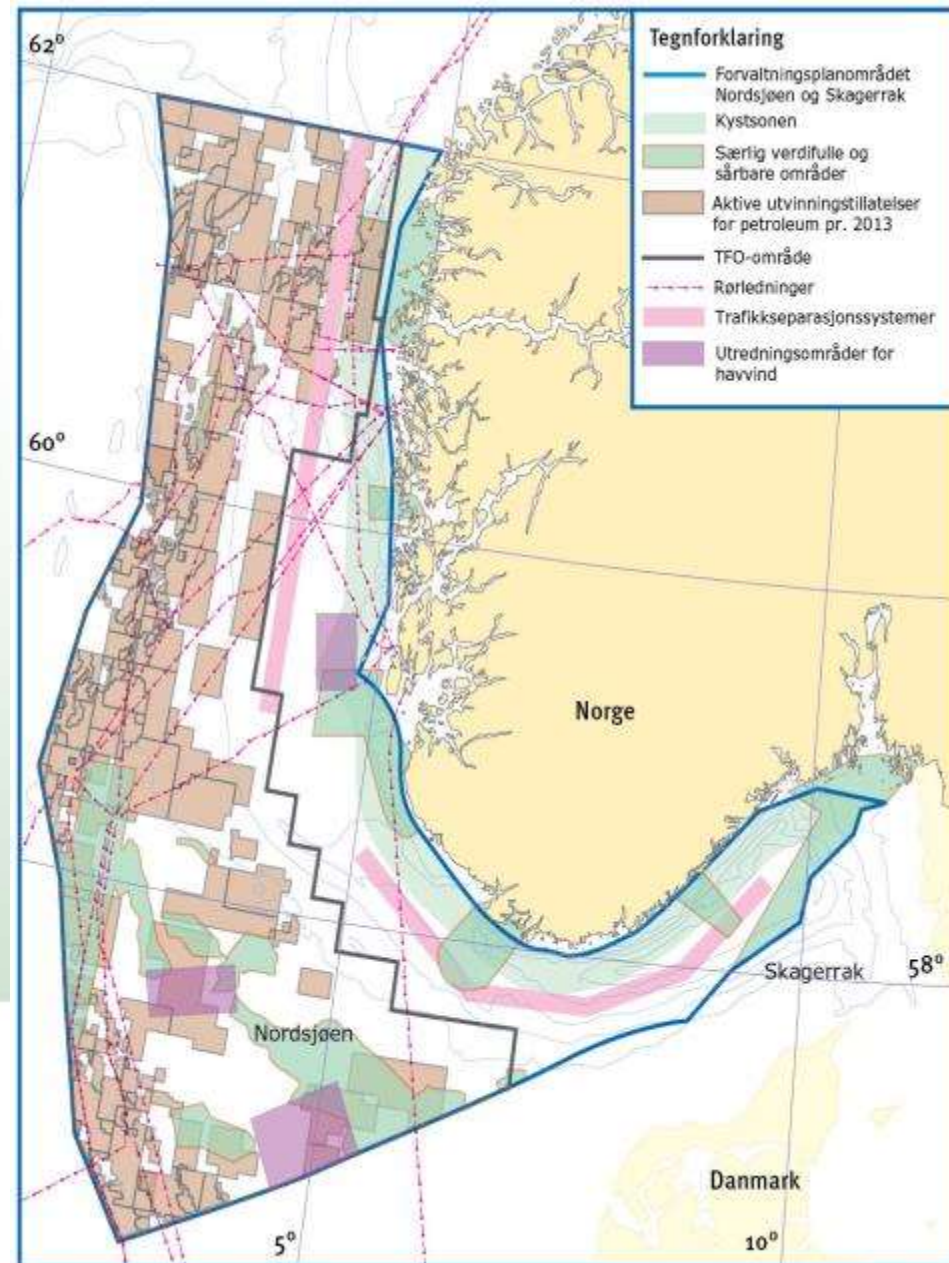


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Case Study - Norway

- Particularly valuable and vulnerable areas
- Oil and gas exploration
- Sea transport, traffic separation
- Offshore wind areas

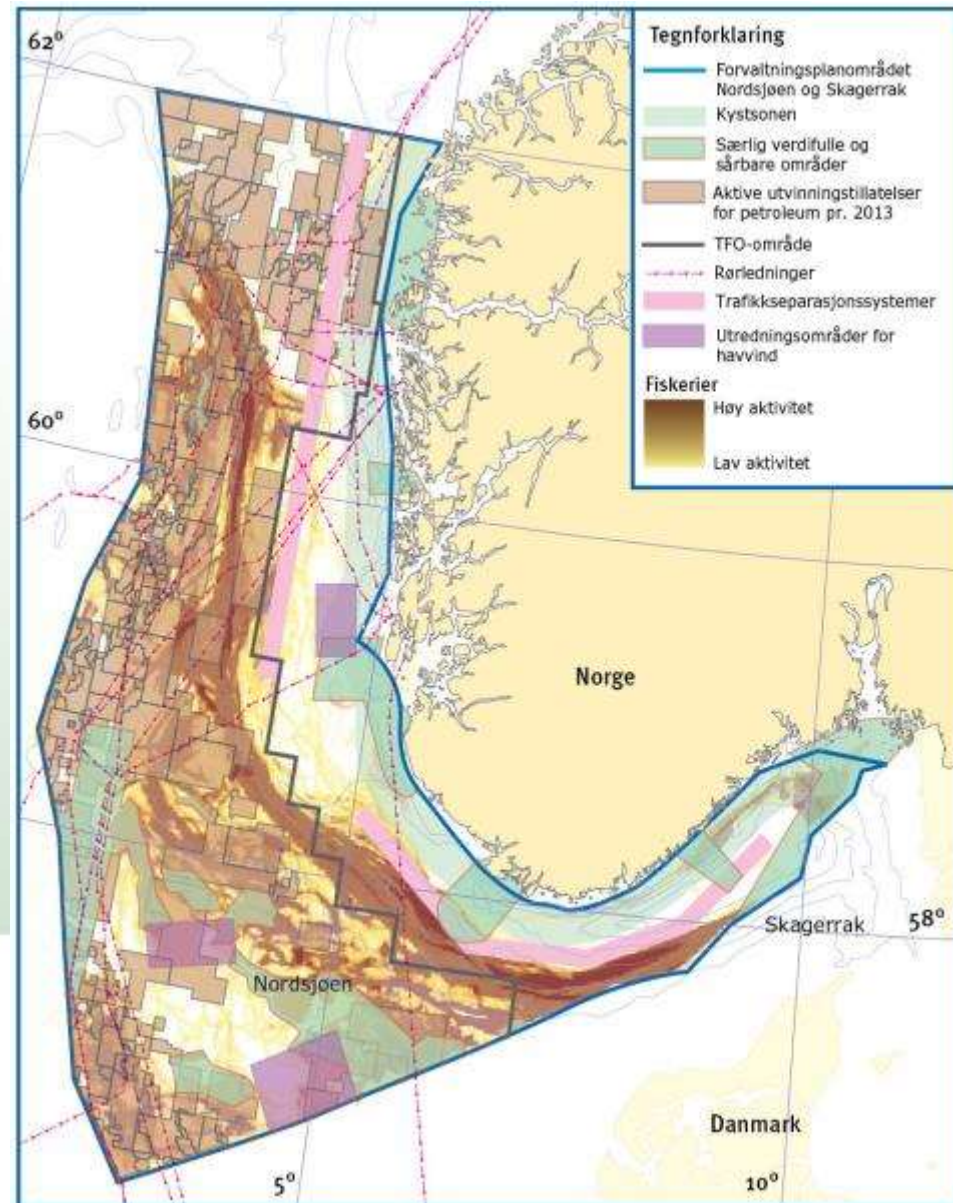


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Case Study - Norway

- Particularly valuable and vulnerable areas
- Oil and gas exploration
- Sea transport, traffic separation
- Offshore wind areas
- Fisheries



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