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Multi-Frame. Ocean Multi-Use Policy Recommendations

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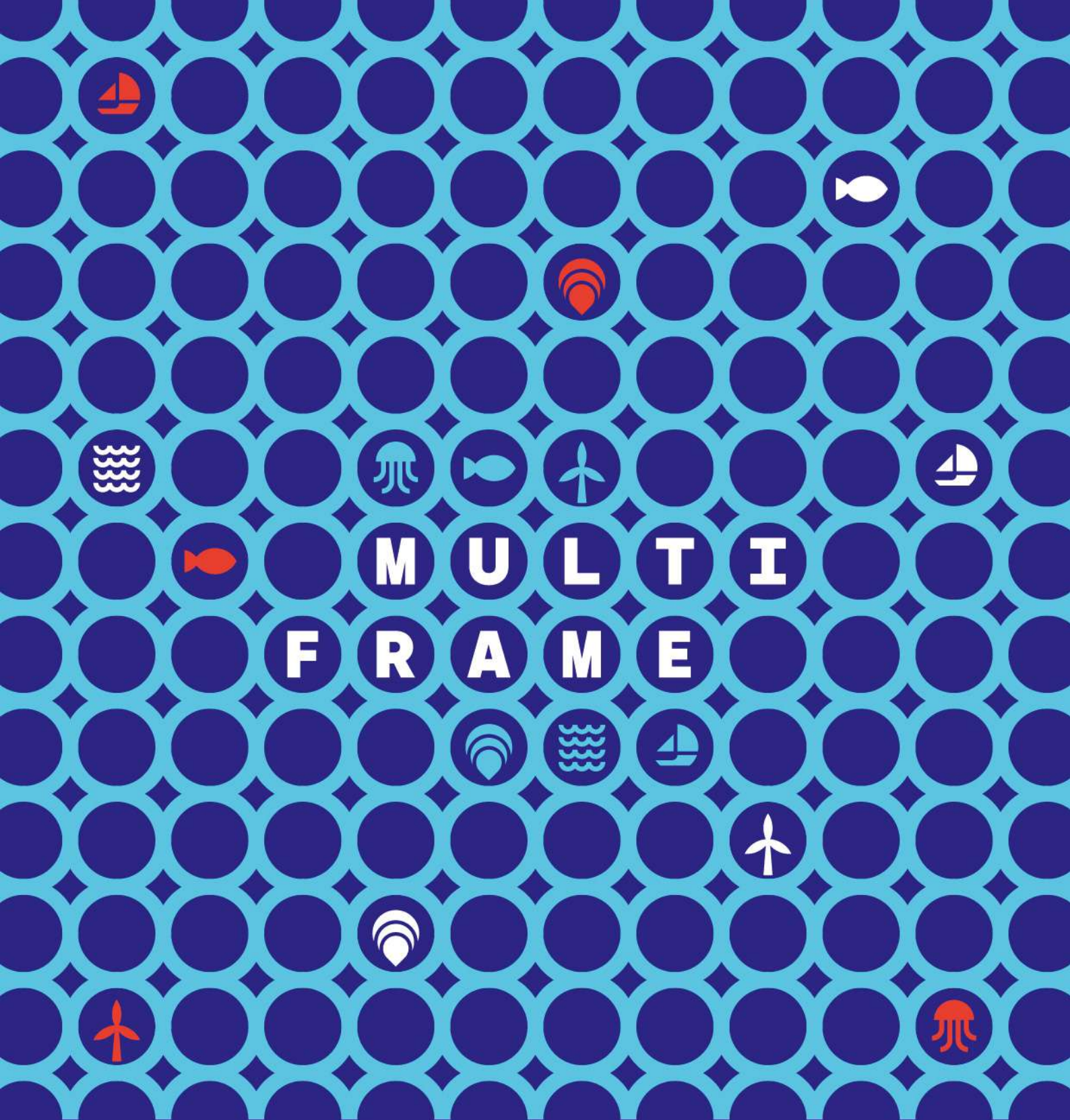
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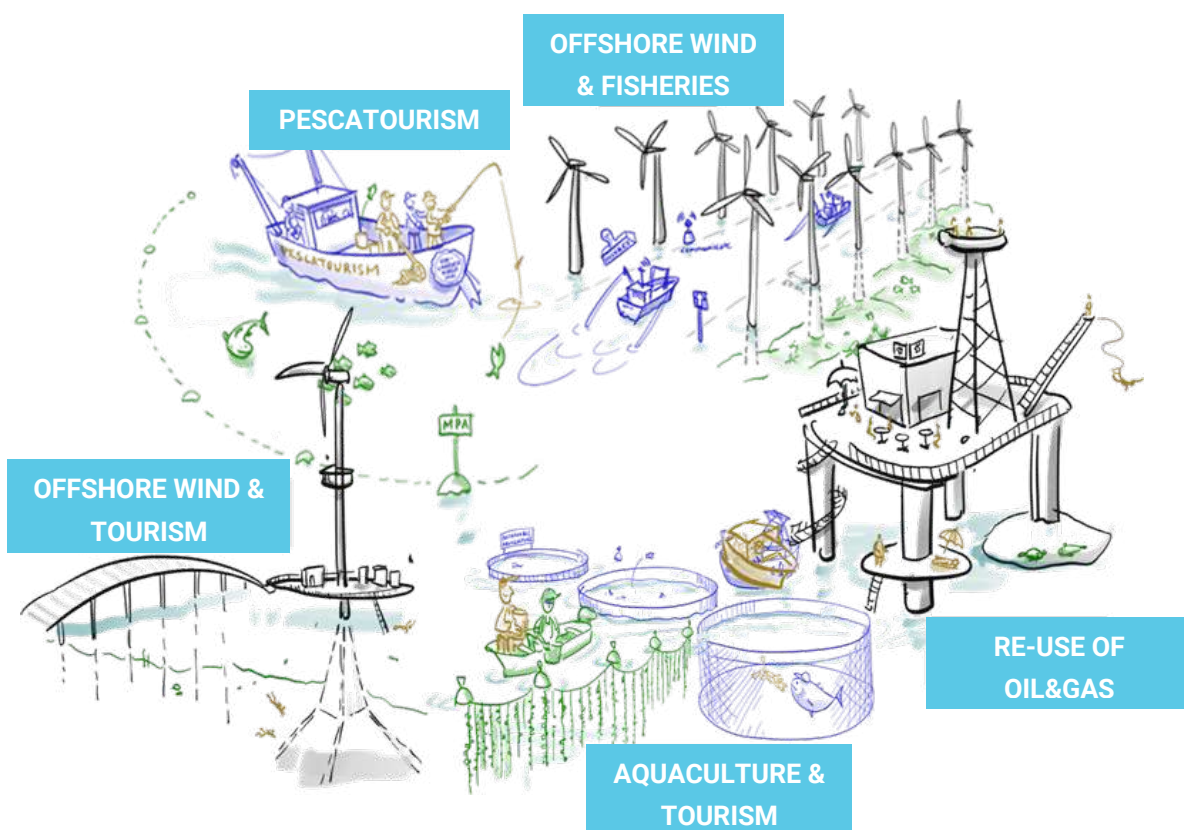
Ocean Multi-Use Policy Recommendations

Ocean multi-use refers to the **joint synergetic use of ocean space and resources** where various activities such as renewable energy production, aquaculture, shipping, tourism, and conservation can be integrated in close proximity to one another, and in a way that is mutually beneficial.

The **systems approach is critical in integrating different priorities in ocean multi-use to find solutions that are holistic and sustainable.** It enables stakeholders to consider the interconnectedness of the different activities and resources and their interactions with each other in the ocean space.

For example, renewable energy production from offshore wind farms can be combined with aquaculture activities such as seaweed cultivation, which can help to provide a sustainable source of food while also contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Similarly, conservation measures such as marine protected areas can be designed to protect and enhance biodiversity, while also supporting the sustainable use of ocean resources by other activities such as tourism and fishing.

Overall, the joint synergetic use of ocean resources through an integrated systems approach can help to **promote sustainable development, food security, and environmental protection in the ocean space, while also promoting economic growth and social well-being.**





Recognition of the multi-use concept and its integration in Marine Spatial Planning and Regulation can foster an integrated, collaborative, and just use of marine resources, aligning with energy, food, nature, and socio-economic priorities.

Key recommendations

1. Ensure clear policy, planning, and regulatory frameworks for ocean multi-use.
2. Develop and implement transparent and participatory governance frameworks that involve all relevant stakeholders, including governments, industries, NGOs, and local communities.
3. Address power imbalances and financing challenges in ocean multi-use systems.
4. Provide incentives and support for innovation and collaborative research in ocean multi-use.



MULTI-FRAME Policy Recommendations

1. Ensure clear policy, planning, and regulatory frameworks for ocean multi-use

1. **Integrate multi-use activities into coastal and marine spatial planning (MSP)** frameworks and national policies. e.g. provide clear guidance in MSP and coastal plans regarding where and what type of multi-use may be suitable (e.g. where there is a spatial squeeze)
2. **Establish clear guidelines and regulations** for the siting, development, and operation of multi-use solutions to minimize environmental impacts and ensure compatibility with other ocean uses. e.g. Clear information about the steps to get the government permits/authorisations for multi-use developments. Currently there are only licences for single entities for single activities while there is a need for multi-entity licenses.
3. **Mainstream multi-use into relevant sectoral policies** e.g. a) adapt regulation to acknowledge products coming from a multi-sectoral source such as for example seaweed from the Integrated-Multi-Trophic-Aquaculture (IMTA) source categorized and approved for food and feed use. b) incentives as part of the energy transition policies to help foster offshore wind projects' social acceptance and territorial integration through multi-use.

This can provide certainty and predictability to investors and users of marine resources.

2. Develop and implement transparent and participatory governance frameworks that involve all relevant stakeholders, including governments, industries, NGOs, and local communities.

1. **Support the authentic and relevant engagement from diverse communities** in marine planning processes, that goes beyond public hearing.
2. **Build capacity** among stakeholders to support the planning and management of multi-use activities through education, training, and knowledge-sharing programs.
3. **Foster cooperation and collaboration** among stakeholders to promote sustainable multi-use practices that balance economic development, environmental protection, and social benefits.
4. **Promote public awareness** and engagement about the benefits and risks of multi-use activities to foster social acceptance and support for these practices.

This results in a broader represented informed constituency which ensures that holistic expertise, innovation, and creativity contributes to sustainable solution-based decision-making.

3. Address power imbalances and financing challenges in ocean multi-use systems

1. **Establish financing mechanisms** that support the development of multi-use solutions, such as public-private partnerships, blue bonds, or other innovative financing models for investors and developers to encourage the adoption of multi-use solutions.
2. **Prioritize the needs of less financially-capable users**, by developing funding mechanisms such as subsidies or low-interest loans to facilitate access to capital and promote the participation of a broader range of users in multi-use activities. e.g. supporting the commercial fishing industry to shift to new gear-type technologies and do vessel modifications.

This can help to promote equity, and fairness in access to resources and opportunities for economic development.

4. Provide incentives and support for innovation and collaborative research in ocean multi-use

1. **Increase investment in research, monitoring, and evaluation programs** of multi-use activities to better understand their environmental, economic, and social impacts and inform evidence-based decision-making. e.g. especially collaborative research programs – e.g. wind farm studies by developers shared for the marine plan updates, and fishers involved in the monitoring and research activities.
2. **Provide incentives and support for the development of pilot projects**, new technologies and innovative approaches to multi-use that minimize negative impacts on the marine environment, improve the efficiency of multi-use activities and promote sustainable practices. e.g. electrifying fishing fleet so that it can charge vessels at the wind farms.
3. **Foster international cooperation and knowledge-sharing** to develop best practices and common standards for multi-use activities that ensure environmental protection, social benefits, and economic development.

This can help to improve our understanding of the impacts of multi-use, de-risk the activities, adopt best practices and inform evidence-based decision-making.

Imprint

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