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Orientation: Integrated Management of the Sea
Specialization Area: Coastal Planning
Research Area: 3.10 Coastal zone planning. Comprehensive planning of coastal zones



PhD project: Spatial patterns for the European Atlantic basin: Mapping marine patterns, typologies and dynamics

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Summary: Sea space is increasingly occupied and leading to rising pressures on species and habitats. Marine and coastal policy framework is acknowledging the need to take into account ecosystems and use Maritime Spatial Planning as a tool for achieving a better integrated management and planning of maritime spaces. The European Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning (Directive 2014/89/EU) aims to achieve an integrated approach to marine governance, whilst securing and maintaining the healthy status of marine and coastal waters, in accordance with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (Directive 2008/56/EC). The new paradigm aiming to consider humans as integral parts of ecosystems is leaving behind the sectorial approach to activities and shifting to use patterns. These are used to classify maritime spaces and gather evidence on potentials and challenges, focusing on opportunities for the development of regions.

This research aims to develop a data informed spatial patterns model for the sea to support Maritime Spatial Planning and to contribute to the governance framework of the European Atlantic Space, using as case study, the Portuguese continental subdivision. With mapping and governance elements will be created a spatial patterns model to evaluate constraints and future challenges and produce recommendation to support governance at a regional scale in the European Atlantic sea basin.

