BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

I. SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: T13d

Can minimum requirements for Nature-based solutions support the implementation and reduce risks of greenwashing in EU marine and coastal environments?

Hosts:

	Name	Organisation	E-mail
Host:	Christian Riisager-Simonsen	Technical University of Denmark, National Institute of Aquatic Resources	chrii@aqua.dtu.dk
Co-host(s):	Louise Flensborg	Technical University of Denmark, National Institute of Aquatic Resources	loufl@aqua.dtu.dk
	Johanna Schumacher	Leibniz-Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemuende	johanna.schumacher@io-warnemuende.de

Abstract:

In recent years, Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) have emerged as tools to foster sustainable development and addressing social, economic and environmental challenges simultaneously, due to their delivery of various ecosystem services. Despite their promise, uncertainties in their scope, effectiveness, and access to finance hinder their widespread deployment.

In the context of marine and coastal ecosystems, the implementation of NbS faces additional complexities due to diverse stakeholder perceptions, varying interpretations of the concept, and potential risks of coming into conflict with different policies. This is further enhanced by a lack of relevant implementation standards, which leaves NbS vulnerable to misuse and greenwashing allegations. To address these challenges, the Horizon project TRANSEATION aims to develop environmental minimum requirements for marine and coastal NbS. These requirements will provide much-needed clarity and guidance to stakeholders involved in NbS implementation from consultancies to investors. To advance this work, this 'Solution forum' invites participants at ESP

to help identify how anticipated impacts or trade-offs between on ecosystem services from NbS should be documented at a minimum at different project phases, to reduce the risk of greenwashing and guide deployment.

The aim will be to outine a paper on "how to account for ecosystem services in different project phases of marine and coastal NbS deployment".

The project will set the scene by providing the first insights from previous expert workshops, interviews, literature reviews, and policy analysis on the development of environmental standards and minimum criteria, enabling participants to understand how the requirements might be used in the future. The workshop will end, with next steps, including how the draft requirements will feed into future work on building rating systems for marine and coastal structures.

Goals and objectives of the session:

Identify what the main risks are for poor implementation of proposed NbS in marine and coastal contexts at different project phases

Identify what would be relevant minimum requirements for ES accounting in projects related to the deployment of marine and coastal NbS at different project phases

Identify what the relevant and realistic level of ES impact documentation would be for different actors at different project phases (i.e. planning, construction, operation, decommissioning).

Planned output / Deliverables:

Paper submitted to the journal 'Nature-Based Solutions (Elsevier)' with the tentative title: How to account for ecosystem services in different project phases when deploying marine and coastal NbS

II. SESSION PROGRAM

Room: Expert Street 7

Date of session: 18th of November 2024

Time of session: 11:00-12:30

Timetable speakers

Time	First name	Surname	Organization	Title of presentation
10	Christian	Riisager-Simonsen	DTU Aqua	Intro to session, its aims and expected outcomes

Time	First name	Surname	Organization	Title of presentation
		What are the risks for poor implementation of proposed NbS		
5	Christian	Riisager-Simonsen	DTU Aqua	What drives the implementation of proposed marine NbS
10	Johanna	Schumacher	IOW	Lessons from the systems approach, examples of risks
30			Group work	Risks at different project phases
		Minimum requirements as a potential solution - but which?		
10	Christian	Riisager-Simonsen,	DTU Aqua	The TRANSEATION project's hunt for relevant minimum requirements for marine and coastal NbS
10	Louise C.	Flensborg	DTU Aqua	What can we learn from a systematic literature review
10	Christian	Riisager-Simonsen,	DTU Aqua	What do the stakeholders think preliminary results from a systematic stakeholder engagement process
45			Group work	What minimum requirements for ES accounting at different project phases could be relevant when deploying NbS?
15	*Christian*	*Riisager-Simonsen,*	*DTU Aqua*	Next steps - for the TRANSEATION project and the outlined position paper
	Christian	*Riisager-Simonsen,*	*DTU Aqua*	Final wrap to be or not be a NbS online survey

III. ABSTRACTS

The first author is the presenting author unless indicated otherwise.

1. Minimum requirements for Nature-based solutions in EU marine and coastal environments

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In recent years, Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) have emerged as tools to foster sustainable development and addressing social, economic and environmental challenges simultaneously, due to their delivery of various ecosystem services. Despite their promise, uncertainties in their scope, effectiveness, and access to finance hinder their widespread deployment. In the context of marine and coastal ecosystems, the implementation of NbS faces additional complexities due to diverse stakeholder perceptions, varying interpretations of the concept, and potential risks of coming into conflict with different policies. This is further enhanced by a lack of relevant implementation standards, which leaves NbS vulnerable to misuse and greenwashing allegations. To address these challenges, the Horizon project TRANSEATION aims to develop environmental minimum requirements for marine and coastal NbS. These requirements will provide much-needed clarity and guidance to stakeholders involved in NbS implementation from consultancies to investors. To advance this work, this 'Solution forum' and presentation invites participants at ESP to help identify how anticipated impacts or trade-offs between on ecosystem services from NbS should be documented at a minimum at different project phases, to reduce the risk of greenwashing and guide deployment. The project will set the scene by providing the first insights from previous expert workshops, interviews, literature reviews, and policy analysis on the development of environmental standards and minimum criteria, enabling participants to understand how the requirements might be used in the future. The workshop will end, with next steps, including how the draft requirements will feed into future work on building rating systems for marine and coastal structures.

Keywords: Nature Based solutions, Standards, Sustainability, Marine and coastal structures