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MPA corridor design game

3M team

The **MPA-CN** to have a workshop at the

UNOC 2025 – METEOR side event

- Wednesday June 11th, 2025 at METEOR ship

CONCEPT

The **MPA corridor design** game is developed to make people discuss what is the best setup for creating an MPA corridor with the datasets and information given.

There is no right or wrong answer necessarily, just different weighting. A group might go for an approach heavily pro ecosystem conservation, while another team might put more weight to the standing of the different stakeholder groups.

SETUP

- The audience will be **divided in groups** and a **folder** will be given to them with the exact **same information and a map** of the area where they need to design their corridor.
- Each group will then proceed to consider all elements and **discuss** where the corridor should be set up and why.

Participating projects

Context

- An ocean area – not relevant where
- **Assess** all pieces of data
- **Consider** the pressures, context, ecological values
- **Decide** which areas of the map you would protect, how and if you would connect them or not
- **Draw** on the map your areas and justify at the end of the workshop

PRESSURES

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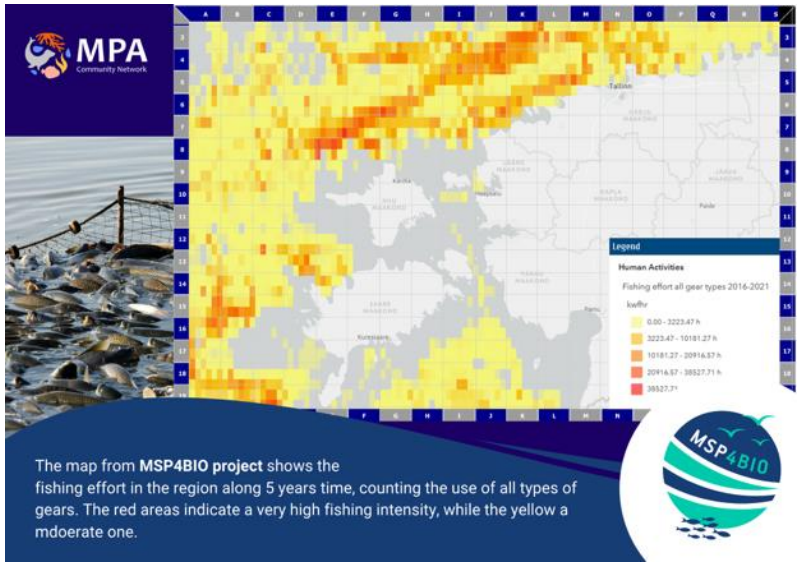
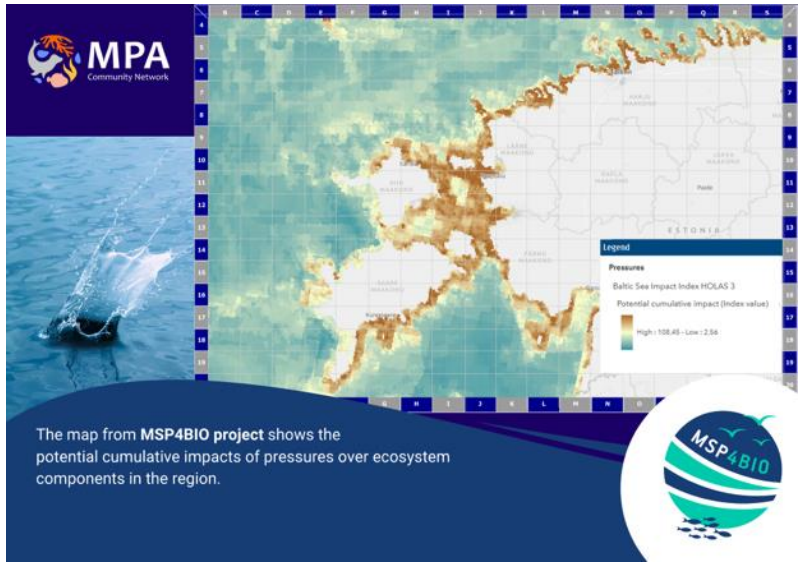
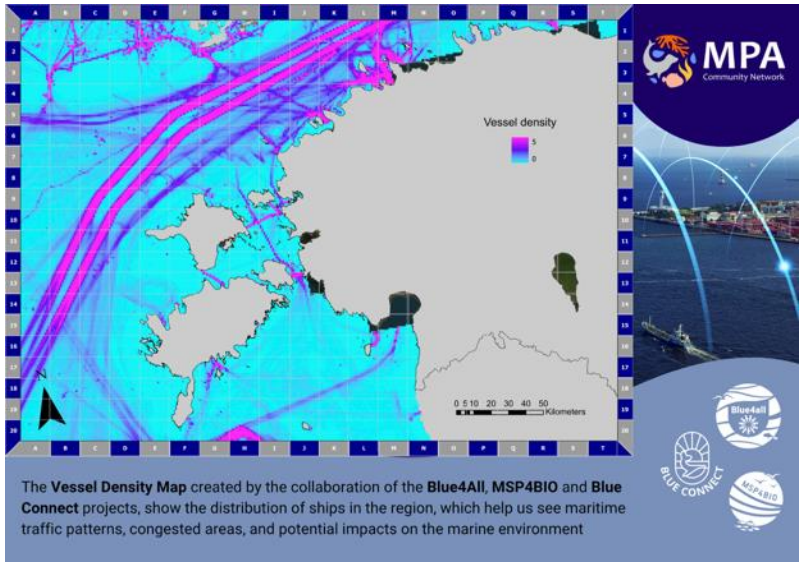


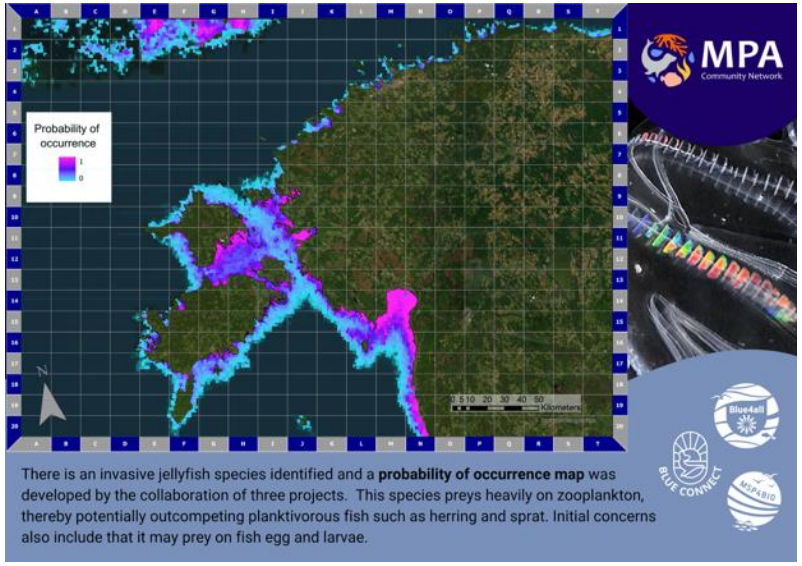
The map from **MSP4BIO project** shows the fishing effort in the region along 5 years time, counting the use of all types of gears. The red areas indicate a very high fishing intensity, while the yellow a mdoerate one.



The map from **MSP4BIO project** shows the potential cumulative impacts of pressures over ecosystem components in the region.

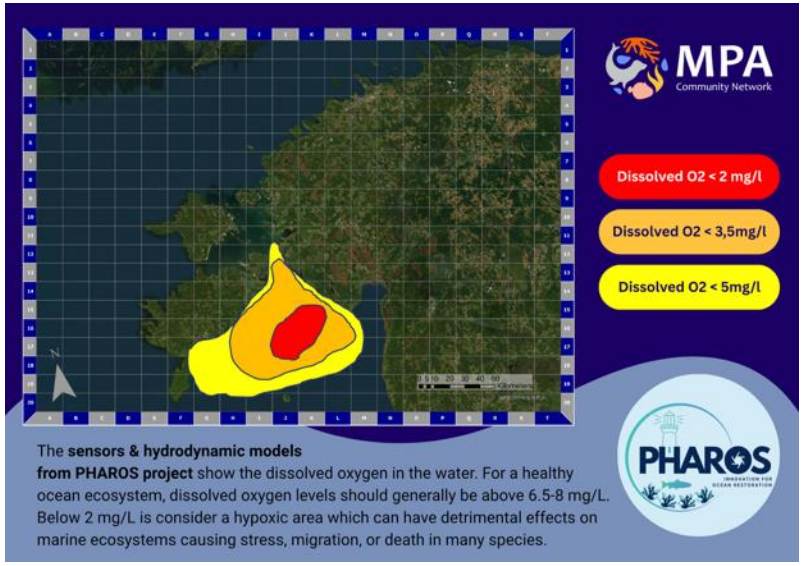


The **Vessel Density Map** created by the collaboration of the **Blue4All**, **MSP4BIO** and **Blue Connect** projects, show the distribution of ships in the region, which help us see maritime traffic patterns, congested areas, and potential impacts on the marine environment

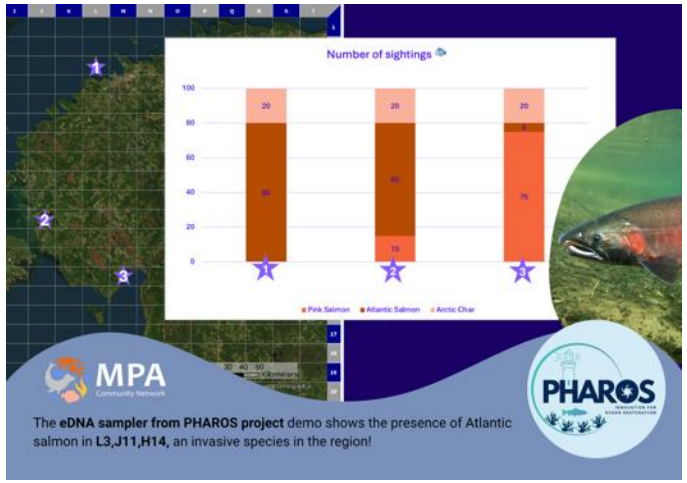


There is an invasive jellyfish species identified and a **probability of occurrence map** was developed by the collaboration of three projects. This species preys heavily on zooplankton, thereby potentially outcompeting planktivorous fish such as herring and sprat. Initial concerns also include that it may prey on fish egg and larvae.

The **MINKA Living Lab Platform** from **PHAROS project** which is fed through the work of citizen scientists, showed an Invasive Fish Species in **N20**.



The **sensors & hydrodynamic models from PHAROS project** show the dissolved oxygen in the water. For a healthy ocean ecosystem, dissolved oxygen levels should generally be above 6.5-8 mg/L. Below 2 mg/L is consider a hypoxic area which can have detrimental effects on marine ecosystems causing stress, migration, or death in many species.


Number of sightings
100
80
60
40
20
0
20
20
20
80
65
15
75
5
1
2
3
Pink Salmon
Atlantic Salmon
Arctic Char
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The eDNA sampler from PHAROS project demo shows the presence of Atlantic salmon in L3,J11,H14, an invasive species in the region!

CONTEXT

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Desired MPA Management Plan measures

- Map out important, ecologically unified reef distribution and expand conservation area
- Prohibit direct human activities around the reef
- People are permitted in the MPA and are allowed to fish at a small scale.
- Heavy vessel traffic not allowed
- General measures to reduce eutrophication
- Measures for the prevention, detection, elimination, of invasive species
- Measures to protect marine mammals
- Measures for improving ecosystem's health

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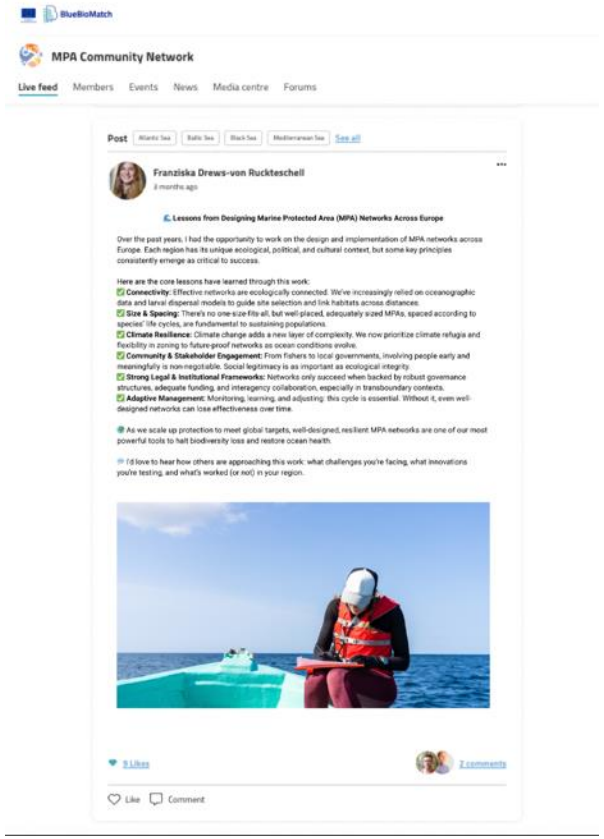
Enough is enough. We deserve better!

We have recently learned that policymakers are considering turning some of our most important fishing areas into Marine Protected Areas. These waters are not just lines on a map, they are the lifeblood of our communities, our heritage, and our livelihoods.
We cannot stand by while decisions are made without properly consulting those who depend on these areas the most. We are calling on all fishers, families, and supporters of our industry to join us in protest. Let us make our voices heard and protect our right to fish sustainably and responsibly.

Stand up for your future!
Join the protest!

June 25th, 3pm



ECOLOGICAL VALUES

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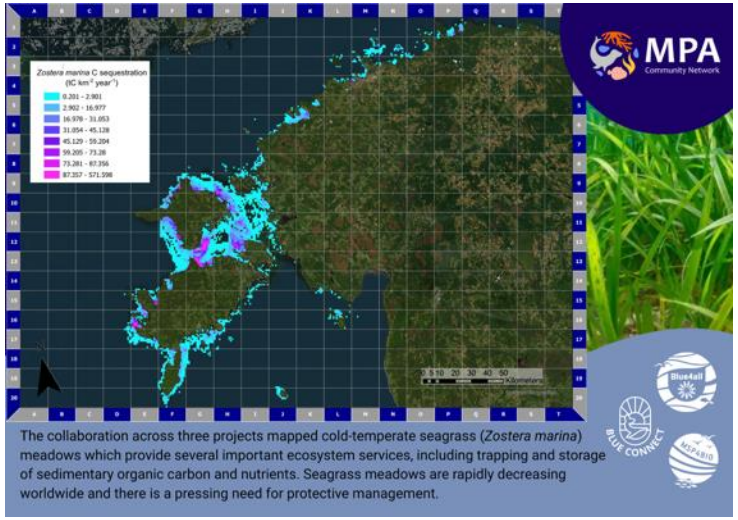
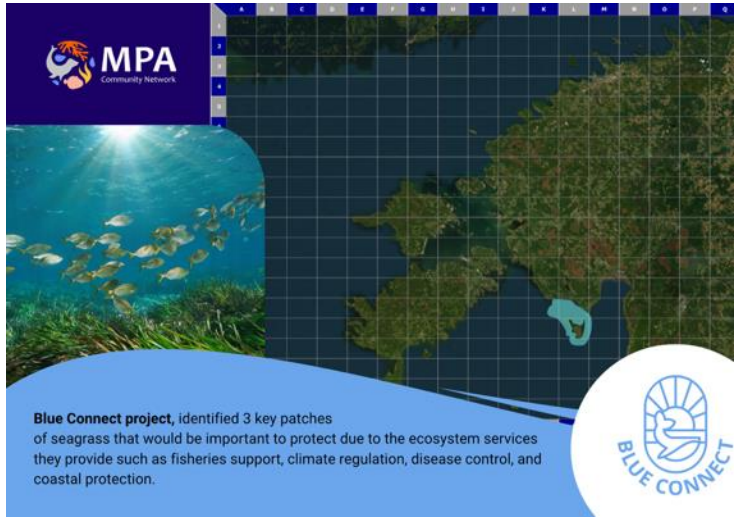
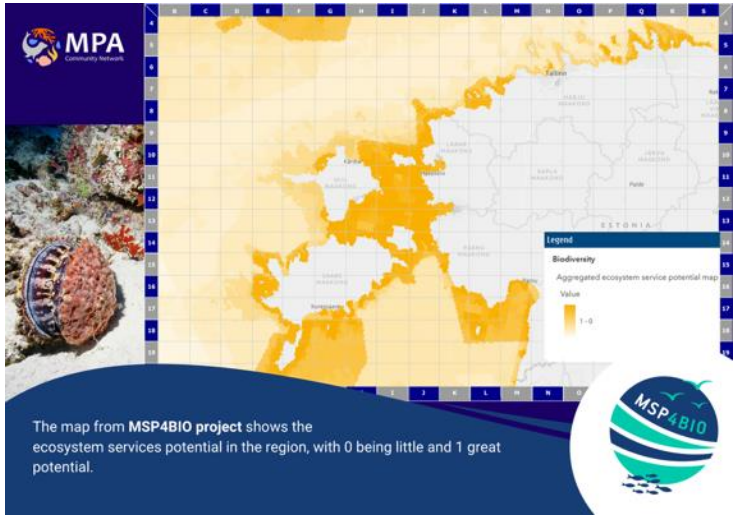
Low-cost video cameras from **BioProtect project** were deployed from fishing vessels as part of the BioProtect project. Video obtained in areas **A9** and **B8** recorded the presence of cold-water coral reefs supporting multiple species including fish of commercial value.



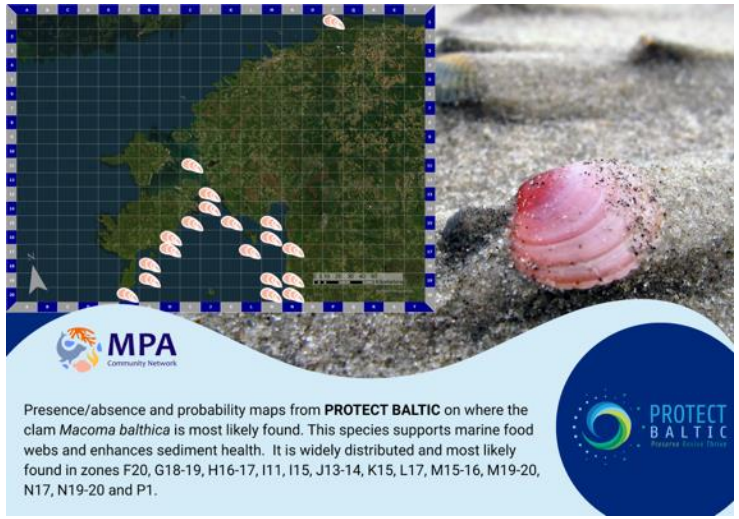
The collaboration across three projects mapped cold-temperate seagrass (*Zostera marina*) meadows which provide several important ecosystem services, including trapping and storage of sedimentary organic carbon and nutrients. Seagrass meadows are rapidly decreasing worldwide and there is a pressing need for protective management.



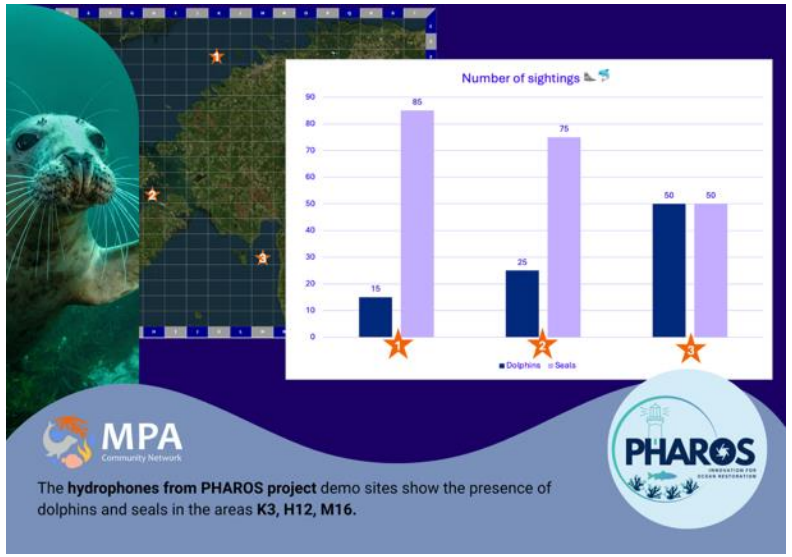
Blue Connect project, identified 3 key patches of seagrass that would be important to protect due to the ecosystem services they provide such as fisheries support, climate regulation, disease control, and coastal protection.



The map from **MSP4BIO project** shows the ecosystem services potential in the region, with 0 being little and 1 great potential.



Presence/absence and probability maps from **PROTECT BALTIC** on where the clam *Macoma balthica* is most likely found. This species supports marine food webs and enhances sediment health. It is widely distributed and most likely found in zones F20, G18-19, H16-17, I11, I15, J13-14, K15, L17, M15-16, M19-20, N17, N19-20 and P1.



The **hydrophones from PHAROS project** demo sites show the presence of dolphins and seals in the areas **K3, H12, M16.**

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Thank you!

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https://mpacommunity.network/