

The formulation of new maritime policies is a relatively new phenomenon. In the European Union the process began in 2006 (Green Book), although the initiative had been taken prior to this by some States. In Spain, it was after the adoption of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008) that the procedure began for approving the act<sup>1</sup> transposing said Directive into national law that will form the framework for formulating marine strategies, which are defined in the act as “planning instruments”.

Developing this law will require a large information base to be available both on the marine environment itself and on the activities and uses that exist in waters under Spanish jurisdiction, an area which is twice the size of emerged land. The generation of databases and the preparation of information materials will by necessity be a companion task to the development of the future law.

An Atlas for Maritime Spatial Planning is a specific contribution aimed at providing information on the way maritime space is structured territorially. As maritime spatial planning is to be implemented in a brand new area as far as territorial organisation is concerned (in short, what has come to be called “marine or maritime spatial planning”), the first requirement is the availability of a document that provides the main territorial keys to the waters under national jurisdiction.

The decision was taken to structure the Atlas according to a spatial hierarchy: from the largest territorial frame in which the State is involved in maritime and institutional terms (the European Union), to the most highly

detailed area in which planning action can be undertaken (the waters of a port or harbour). The territorial organisation scheme that provides a structure for developing the Atlas’ contents also constitutes a proposed hierarchical organisation of maritime space for any maritime policies (strategies) and management plans for said area to be developed. This proposed geography-based organisation is a first approach; a speculative exercise based in what are, in essence, the jurisdictional and politico-administrative criteria that accord it legitimacy.

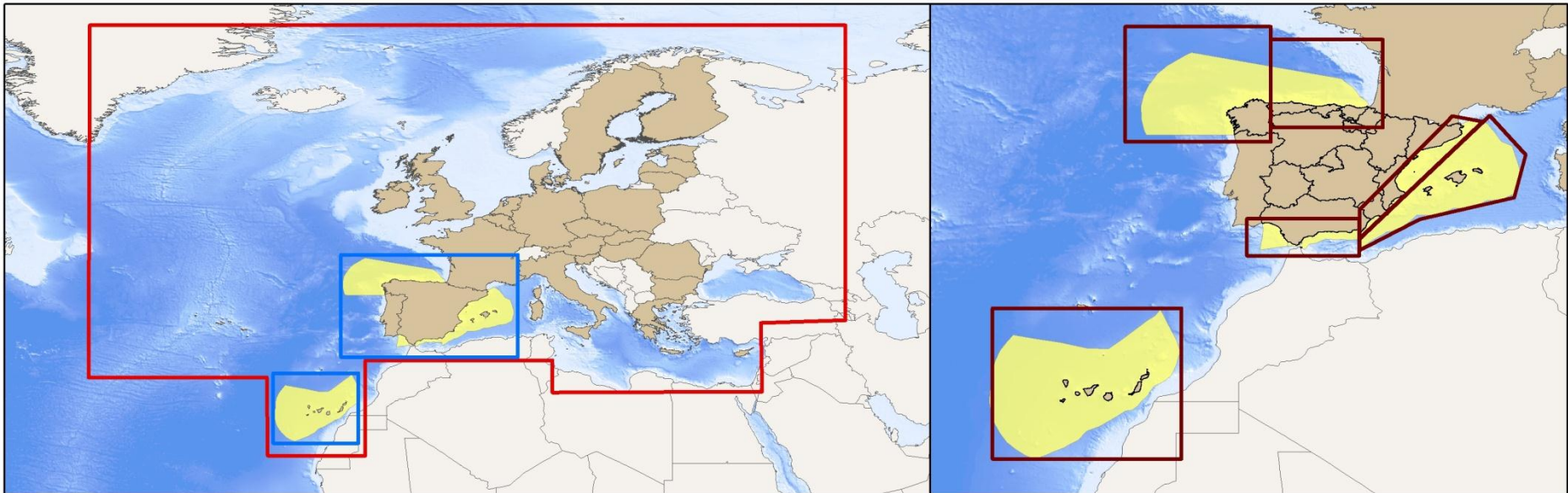
Cartography is the fundamental aim of this study and the usefulness and effectiveness of the cartography require complementary information; an attempt is made to provide this herein, in part. This is the aim of the texts that accompany each topic, whilst being mindful of the fact that both the cartographic and all other information needs to be constantly updated. This is the challenge and the limitation of products of this type which, by nature, are always unfinished. IT applications provide the opportunity for a wide range of information repositories to be consulted through the included hyperlinks; this tool has not been used to excess, but the opportunity has nonetheless been taken to provide the user with access to documents and institutional websites associated with the subject matter in each of the sections. An index, annexes with bibliographical and documentary sources and internet links complete the back-up resources for consulting this Atlas.

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<sup>1</sup> Marine Environment Protection Act (30th December, 2010)

GEOGRAPHIC SCALE	DESCRIPTION	DENOMINATION	POLITIC SCALE	EASES <sup>1</sup>	SPATIAL-POLITICAL SCALE RELATIONSHIP	MORPHOLOGIC ELEMENTS	JURISDICTIONAL SCALE	ECOSYSTEMS
<b>1:45 000 000</b>	Geographical areas subscribed to the OSPAR Convention plus directly related Spanish waters.	International scale	International Conventions	Supranational	<b>INTERNATIONAL</b>	Large ocean masses (subglobal)	Exclusive Economic Zones High seas	Large Marine Ecosystems
<b>1:35 000 000</b>	Specific geographical areas subscribed to regional maritime management conventions.	International-Regional scale	European Union Regional Conventions	Transnational	<b>EUROPEAN</b>	Ocean basins	Exclusive Economic Zones High sea	Ecoregions
<b>1:15 000 000</b>	The Spanish jurisdictional waters as a whole.	National scale	Spain	National	<b>NATIONAL</b>	Ocean sub-basins	Exclusive Economic Zones Territorial sea Internal waters	Biogeographical regions
<b>1:15 000 000</b> <b>1:2 000 000</b>	Marine subdivisions established for the Spanish jurisdictional waters as a whole.	National-Regional scale	Autonomous communities	Subnational	<b>REGIONAL</b>	Gulfs, estuaries, bays, inlets	Territorial sea Internal waters	Continental shelf and slope Seamounts Submarine canyons Marine Phanerogame prairies
<b>1:900 000</b> <b>1:300 000</b>	Marine sub-regions and subzones established in each of the national-regional scale subdivisions.	Sub-regional scale	Provinces Municipalities Counties	Subnational				
<b>1:260 000</b> <b>1:70 000</b>	Special marine planning areas and Straits subdivision ports	Local scale	Municipalities Port Authorities	Local				

EASES<sup>1</sup>: European Atlantic Social-Ecological System

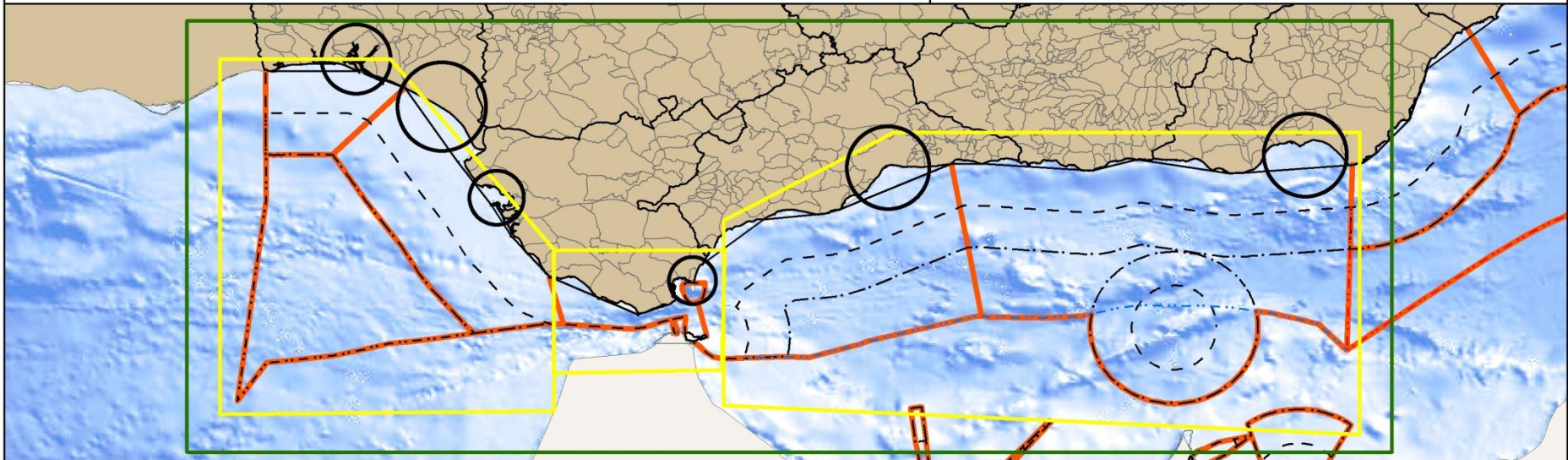


International, International-Regional and National scales

International and International-regional scope
  National scope
  Spanish jurisdictional waters

National-Regional scale

Subdivisions
  Spanish jurisdictional waters



Subregional and Local scales

Subdivision
  Subregion
  Subzones
  Local scope

Straight baselines
  Territorial sea
  Contiguous zone
  Economic exclusive zone
  Fisheries protection zone
  Continental shelf
  Subzones