

The Power dynamics of Regionalization

A Marine Governance Perspective

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Symposium "Küste 2025", 17 April 2015, Hamburg



Outline presentation

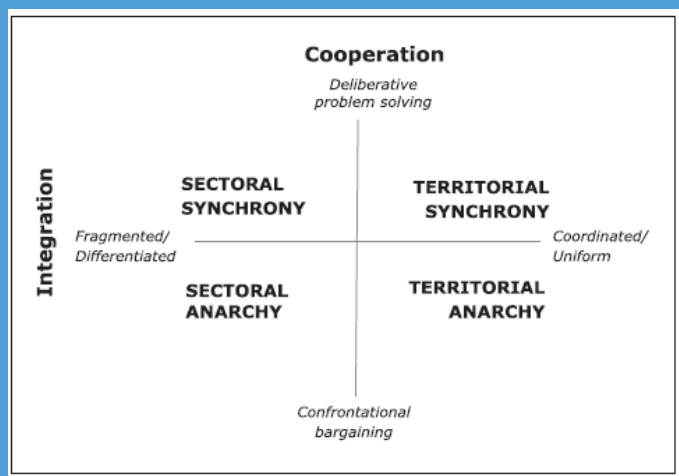
- Marine Governance
- Modes of Regionalization
- Regionalization in Marine policies
- Regionalization as power game
 - Geographical: redefining of territorial spaces
 - Political: contestation and (re)composition of political spaces
- Outline of an strategy for regional seas
 - Strong stories
 - Modes of regionalization



Marine Governance

- Power game between states, market parties and civil society organisations within a multi-level institutional setting, which results in a sharing of competences for policymaking, and a (re)definition of the rules of the game in order to govern activities at sea and control their consequences in a legitimate way.
- Ecosystem-based Marine Management (EBMM) presupposes a process of regionalization
- Regionalization is shaped by processes of cooperation and integration

Modes of regionalization



Regionalization in marine policies

- **Common Fisheries Policy**
 - Regional management solutions (LTMP), AC
- **Marine Strategy Framework Directive**
 - EBM (GES), marine (sub) regions, regional cooperation
- **Marine Spatial Planning**
 - Optimal distribution of space, deciding on conflicting spatial claims, trans-boundary cooperation

Regionalization in marine policies

is pre-dominantly about sectoral anarchy and synchrony...

... but should be about **(territorial synchrony)**:

- Spatial coordination, ordering and organising of activities (in marine regions)
- Balancing of conflicting spatial claims at the regional sea level
- Presenting a spatial perspective at the regional sea level
- Translation of different spatial claims in regional governance arrangements

Regionalization as Power Game

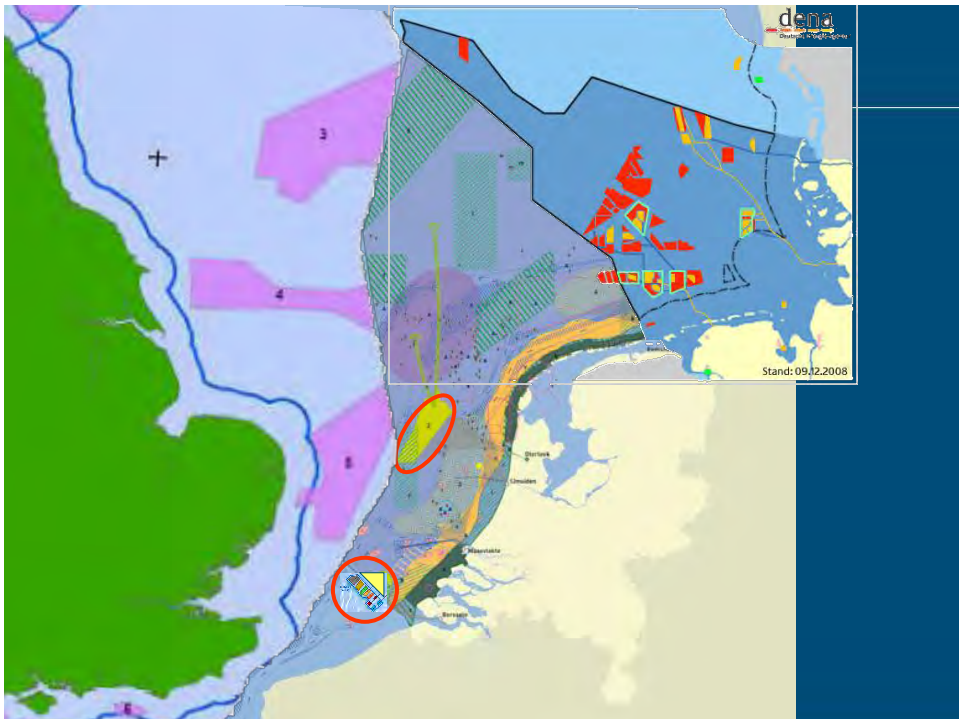
- Redefining territorial spaces and the spatial patterns of marine activities
- The contestation and (re)composition of political spaces (institutional and political rationale of regionalization)

Redefining territorial spaces and the spatial patterns of marine activities

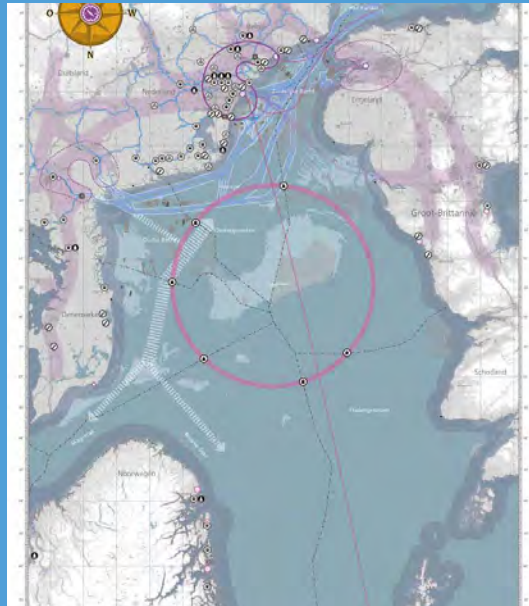
- What are the borders of marine ecosystems? How to realize EBM and how to protect marine ecosystems?
- Where to plan activities? What to do in case of conflicting spatial claims?
- Which activities could be combined (multiple use)?

The contestation and (re)composition of political spaces

- Who defines the political spaces?
- Who decides about access to decision-making and the involvement of actors (processes of inclusion and exclusion).
- How to organize regional cooperation? How to empower non-governmental actors?



...to realise EBM, a strategy of regionalization at the level of regional seas is needed, instead of (a collection of) national plans



Regionalization as strategy

- Making of spatial choices and ordering of space
 - Which spatial qualities? Which activities?
 - Connecting and combining visions, knowledge and democratic legitimacy: **strong stories as 'binding agent'**
- Political institutional innovations
 - Anchoring of visions and results in:
 - Institutional arrangements of regional cooperation and participation
 - MSFD (2008/56/EG) and MSP Directive (2014/89/EU)

Outline of strategy for regional seas: developing strong stories

- Together with neighbours developing of strong stories
 - Network of MPAs
 - Energy networks (supergrids)
 - Transport networks (land-sea connections with ports as nodes)



■ Picture source: Friends of the Supergrid

Outline of a strategy for regional seas: anchoring of stories

- Anchoring of strong stories in spatial visions and plans for regional seas
 - MSP at the level of regional seas
 - Connecting networks (programming and switching)
 - Regional cooperation
 - Exchange of *best practices*

Outline of a strategy for regional seas: building institutions

- Institutional design of regional cooperation
 - Regional Sea Convention – Plus (RSC +)
 - Advisory Alliances (representatives of maritime activities)
 - Cross-border platforms (neighbouring MSs working together on an ad hoc basis)
- Development of a combined “macro-regional” and sea-basin strategy
 - Creating “land-sea-land” or “sea-land-sea” connections
 - Land-sea development planning

What to do?

- Communicating strong stories
 - Connecting countries and maritime activities by strong stories
- Organizing regional cooperation
 - Developing a combined “macro-regional – sea-basin” strategy
 - Developing cross border platforms

Thank you!

