

IOC Circular Letter No 3016
(Available in English, French, and Spanish)

IOC/VH/JB/MQ/ir
26 November 2024

To : Official National Coordinating Bodies for Liaison with the IOC (Member States)
C.c. : Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
National Commissions for UNESCO in IOC Member States

Subject: Request for updated information on the status of marine spatial planning (MSP) in 2024

The [IOC Medium-Term Strategy 2022–2029](#) adopted by the IOC Assembly at its 31st session in June 2021, calls for IOC to assist Member States in developing the necessary capacity and ecosystem-based management tools and in particular Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). This call is reiterated in the [IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023–2030](#).

Since 2017, as part of its MSPglobal initiative, the IOC Secretariat has been conducting a global survey aimed at compiling information on the national status of MSP. The 2022 survey has generated information that has been extremely useful for: (i) updating and creating new [country profiles](#) on the IOC MSPglobal website, which is an internationally recognized knowledge platform on MSP; (ii) identifying case studies for MSPglobal [publications](#) and [trainings](#); and (iii) developing assessments on MSP worldwide as part of the *IOC State of the Ocean Report* (StOR, [2022](#), [2024](#)). In addition, the results of the survey, including the identification of competent national authorities, are an essential source of information to guide the organisation of IOC MSP activities in collaboration with national, regional and international actors in this field.

As the field of marine spatial planning is constantly and rapidly evolving, I am inviting Member States to provide new and updated information on the status of MSP in their countries.

Whilst recognising that the IOC national focal points are not always leading MSP activities at national level, we invite you to share and compile the survey in close consultation with the national competent authority responsible for MSP.

Member States providing information for the first time will have their detailed profile created on the MSPglobal website. Member States who contributed to the 2022 survey are invited to update their information by responding to the survey proposed today.

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The survey is available in three languages at the following addresses:

- English: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024MSPsurvey-en>
- Spanish: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024MSPsurvey-es>
- French: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024MSPsurvey-fr>

The results of this survey will be of great use to the Secretariat in carrying out its tasks, in the context of the “Joint Roadmap to accelerate Maritime/Marine Spatial Processes worldwide” ([MSProadmap](#)) adopted in 2017 and updated in 2022 by UNESCO-IOC and the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), as well as tracking implementation of target 2 of SDG 14 of the 2030 Agenda, which aims to “*sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts by strengthening resilience and taking action for their restoration in order to achieve a healthy and productive ocean*”.

With this letter, you are kindly invited to complete the online survey by 10 January 2025 at the latest. If you have any questions about this survey, please do not hesitate to ask for clarification or additional information to the MSPglobal Coordinator: m.quesada-da-silva@unesco.org.

I look forward to your active engagement and participation in achieving the important international goals mentioned above, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

Vidar Helgesen
Executive Secretary