

PROJECT 101184396
ERASMUS-SPORT-2024



ReSea Sports

Good practices report

D1.1 - "REGENERATIVE SEA SPORTS Methodology"



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This document is a compilation of all the good practices studied in the deliverable D1.1 “REGENERATIVE SEA SPORTS Methodology”.

Inventory conceptualisation & identification

Case studies

1. Wilderness Scotland

Website: Wilderness Scotland

Country: UK (Scotland)

Wilderness Scotland is an adventure travel company that has embedded sustainability into its core operations with very clear information provided on their website. Their sustainability policy encompasses reducing carbon emissions, promoting local conservation efforts, and supporting community-based tourism. They utilize eco-friendly transportation options, minimize waste, and educate clients on environmental stewardship.

They collaborate with local conservation organisations to protect natural habitats and wildlife and have initiatives to promote and support reforestation projects, wildlife monitoring, and local economies through sustainable tourism practices. The company has received numerous awards and certifications for its commitment to sustainability, making it a leader in the adventure travel industry.

2. GreenKayak

Website: <https://www.greenkayak.org/>

Country: Denmark

GreenKayak is an innovative organisation that combines kayaking with environmental activism and is based in Denmark. They offer free kayak rentals in exchange for participants collecting trash from waterways. This unique approach promotes outdoor recreation while actively contributing to cleaning up rivers and lakes but also offers no cost low cost solutions to engaging people with nature and healthy outdoor activities.

It partners with local businesses and municipalities to expand their reach and impact and their model has successfully engaged the public in environmental conservation and raised awareness about water pollution. Their efforts have resulted in 84653 people volunteering using GreenKayak and the removal of 134 tons of waste from aquatic environments. Their approach demonstrates how sports can be leveraged for environmental activism.



3. Surf Clube de Viana

Website: <https://www.surfviana.com/>

Country: Portugal

Surf Clube de Viana is a surf school and club that integrates sustainability into its core values. They focus on environmental education, beach clean-ups, and sustainable surf tourism. The club promotes the use of eco-friendly surfboards and equipment and has implemented measures to reduce their carbon footprint. They are accredited by STOKE which is the Sustainable Tourism and Outdoors Kit for Evaluation, the world's first sustainability certification body with standards built specifically for surf and ski tourism operators.

Surf Clube de Viana collaborates extensively with local environmental organisations to protect coastal ecosystems and marine life but also with community organisations to provide enhanced opportunities for older people and people with disabilities. Their commitment to sustainability has made them a leader in the surf community, fostering a stronger culture of environmental awareness within the surf community.

4. Preseli Adventure

Website: <https://www.preseliventure.co.uk/>

Country: UK (Wales)

Preseli Adventure is an outdoor adventure company that prioritises many aspects of sustainability in its operations. They have a clear focus on reducing their environmental impact through eco-friendly practices, such as using renewable energy, minimising waste, and promoting sustainable tourism. Preseli Adventure engages in conservation efforts, including habitat restoration and wildlife protection and have strong focus on the education of their clients regarding environmental stewardship and sustainable practices. Their commitments to the local natural environment and global climate action is an excellent example of how sustainable and regenerative practices can be embedded in an outdoor sport coastal provider.

5. Killary Adventure Centre

Website: <https://killaryadventure.com/en/environment>

Country: Ireland

Killary Adventure Centre is an outdoor adventure company that showcases how it integrates sustainability into its operations by being a certified "B-Corporation" company. They focus on reducing their environmental impact through eco-friendly practices, such as using renewable energy, minimising waste, utilising reed bed (nature based solutions for waste water) and promoting environmentally sensitive activities.

Killary Adventure Centre engages in practical conservation efforts, including habitat restoration within their site and wildlife protection. They also provide a strong focus on educating clients on environmental issues and sustainable practices. Killary Adventure Centre's initiatives have been recognised within Ireland and they have won a number of small business awards for their sustainable practices.



6. Les Glénans

Website: <https://www.glenans.asso.fr/nos-valeurs>

Country: France

Les Glénans is a renowned sailing school in France that has integrated sustainability into its core values and operations. Founded in 1947, the organisation is dedicated to promoting sailing while preserving the marine environment. Les Glénans has implemented a comprehensive sustainability policy that includes reducing carbon emissions, minimising waste, having a zero single use plastic policy and promoting eco-friendly practices among its members and students.

Their initiatives include using renewable energy sources and so use 100% renewable energy to power their facilities and promoting the use of eco-friendly sailing equipment. Les Glénans also engages in environmental education, teaching students about the importance of marine conservation and sustainable sailing practices.

Les Glénans collaborates with local environmental organisations to support conservation efforts and raise awareness about the impact of human activities on marine environments and they organise regular beach clean-ups and participate in marine conservation projects to protect coastal ecosystems.

7. Kayak Lanzarote

Website: <https://www.kayaklanzarote.com/english/index.php>

Country: Spain

Case Study: Kayak Lanzarote is a water sports company based in Lanzarote, Spain, that focuses on sustainable kayaking and eco-tourism. Right from their foundation in 2014, the organisation is dedicated to preserving the natural beauty of Lanzarote's coastal and marine environments while providing exciting and educational kayaking experiences.

Kayak Lanzarote has implemented several sustainability initiatives to minimise their environmental impact. They provide filtered water to try and reduce the reliance on single use plastics, use eco-friendly kayaks made from recycled materials and promote responsible kayaking practices among their clients. The company organises regular beach clean-ups and participates in marine conservation projects to protect local ecosystems.

Environmental education is a key component of Kayak Lanzarote's operations. They offer guided tours that include information about the local flora and fauna, the importance of marine conservation, and the impact of human activities on coastal environments as well as information on the local cultural heritage.

Kayak Lanzarote collaborates with local environmental organisations to support conservation efforts and underwent training by Fundación Biodiversidad, which is attached to the Ministry of Ecological Transition.



8. The Ocean Race

Website: <https://www.theoceanrace.com/>

The Ocean Race is a premier sailing competition that has made significant strides in promoting sustainability. The race organizers have implemented a comprehensive sustainability strategy that includes reducing carbon emissions, minimizing waste, and promoting ocean conservation. They have partnered with various environmental organisations to raise awareness about marine pollution and the importance of protecting ocean ecosystems as well as a strong focus on ocean literacy.

One of the key initiatives of the Ocean Race is the use of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, to support race operations. The race also promotes waste reduction and responsible resource use and has also supported scientific research on water quality through sample collection.

9. World Surf League (WSL) – One Ocean Campaign

Website: <https://www.worldsurfleague.com/wsloneocean>

The World Surf League (WSL) launched the One Ocean campaign; an initiative focused on ocean conservation and sustainability along with its subsidiary partner WSL Pure aimed at protecting the ocean to preserve the future of surfing for generations to come. One Ocean engages fans and hosts event-based local impact projects throughout the WSL Championship Tour season with WSL PURE grantee organisations. WSL PURE funds ocean protection around the world through a grant program for grassroots nonprofits focused on WSL priorities of coastal restoration and conservation, eliminating plastic and taking climate action. The campaign has been very successful in mobilizing and empowering the surfing community to take action for ocean conservation.

10. The WiSe Scheme: A Model for Sustainable Activity Providers

Website: <https://www.wisescheme.org/>

The WiSe (Wildlife Safe) Scheme is a UK-based national training program designed to promote best practices around marine and coastal wildlife to minimize disturbance. This initiative serves as an exemplary model for how activity providers can integrate environmental sensitivity into their operations, ensuring that their activities are responsible and contribute positively to conservation efforts.

Background The WiSe Scheme was established to address the growing need for responsible wildlife watching and marine activities to help protect wildlife that may be vulnerable to disturbance from human activities. The scheme aims to educate and certify individuals, businesses, and organisations on how to interact with marine wildlife in a manner that respects their natural behaviours and habitats.

Sustainability Initiatives The WiSe Scheme has implemented several key initiatives that make it a standout example of behaviour management in the activity provider sector:

1. **Education and Training** The core of the WiSe Scheme is its comprehensive training program. The scheme offers expert-led courses that provide participants with the knowledge and skills needed to act responsibly around marine and coastal wildlife. These courses cover



a wide range of topics, including species identification, understanding wildlife behaviour, and the impact of human activities on marine ecosystems.

2. Codes of Conduct The WiSe Scheme has developed detailed Codes of Conduct in line with government Marine Wildlife Codes. These codes provide clear guidelines on how to interact with marine wildlife safely and sustainably. All WiSe-trained individuals agree to abide by these best practice codes, which help to standardize responsible behaviour across the industry. This commitment to following established guidelines ensures that interactions with wildlife are conducted in a way that minimises disturbance and promotes conservation.

3. Community Engagement The WiSe Scheme actively engages with local communities and stakeholders to promote sustainable practices. By involving local businesses, tour operators, and marine professionals, the scheme fosters a collaborative approach to conservation. This community engagement helps to build a network of responsible activity providers who are committed to protecting marine wildlife and their habitats.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation The WiSe Scheme places a strong emphasis on monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of its initiatives. Regular assessments are conducted to ensure that certified individuals and organisations are adhering to the Codes of Conduct and maintaining high standards of sustainability. This continuous evaluation process helps to identify areas for improvement and ensures that the scheme remains effective in promoting responsible wildlife watching.

5. Public Awareness Raising public awareness about the importance of sustainable marine activities is a key component of the WiSe Scheme. The scheme provides educational resources and information to the general public, encouraging them to support responsible activity providers and make informed choices when engaging in marine activities. By increasing public awareness, the WiSe Scheme helps to create a culture of sustainability that extends beyond the certified individuals and organisations.

6. Impact and Recognition The WiSe Scheme has had a significant impact on promoting sustainability within the marine activity sector. Thousands of operators and marine professionals have attended WiSe courses, leading to a widespread adoption of best practices. The scheme has been recognized for its contributions to marine conservation and has received support from various environmental organisations and government agencies. Through education, adherence to Codes of Conduct, community engagement, monitoring, and public awareness, the scheme ensures that marine activities are conducted responsibly and contribute to the protection of marine wildlife. As a model for sustainable activity providers, the WiSe Scheme demonstrates that it is possible to enjoy and benefit from marine activities while safeguarding the environment for future generations.



Policies

1. “Tourism in the EU: sustainability as a driver for long-term competitiveness”

Adopted on 27/02/2025 The European Economic and Social Committee:

- Emphasises that the transition to sustainable tourism should be accelerated and regenerative tourism strategies must be implemented to ensure that regions highly specialised in tourism can fully contribute to boosting the EU’s competitiveness through tourism. Regenerative tourism goes further than sustainable tourism: it uses practices designed to restore and strengthen natural, social and economic capital, with a positive and lasting impact on destinations and communities; recommends that the new EU legislative cycle should promote tourism policies that include active regeneration objectives and take into account how all the components of a tourist destination are interconnected: ecosystems, communities, the local economy and visitors;
- proposes developing clear guidelines and concrete measures to accelerate the transition to a tourism model centred around active regeneration and social value in the framework of the sustainable tourism strategy. This strategy should be accompanied by appropriate funding and research programmes, as well as social and training policies to ensure that it is implemented effectively;
- stresses that training and upskilling employees in sustainability and the circular economy is key to increasing job quality and attracting and retaining the talent needed to make the transition to regenerative tourism possible and viable. To achieve these objectives, efforts should be made to involve consumers more. The combination of economic incentives, accessible models and strategies to encourage year-round tourism is key to involving them more widely and more effectively.

2. Scotland Outlook 2030

Scotland Outlook 2030 is a bold new approach that will see tourism act positively in the common interest of Scotland’s communities, businesses and everyone who visits and stays in the country. It recognises that the role of tourism has changed as a result of our climate crisis, advances in technology, EU exit and changes in consumer behaviour which is reflected in the demands of today’s traveller. Tourism is no longer just about tourists; it’s about people. Success means more than numbers; it’s about enrichment and prosperity for residents and our visitors. Tourism can and will benefit every person who lives in Scotland, visits Scotland and works in Scotland. That is the vision of 21st century tourism.

Key Objectives:

World Leadership in Tourism: Establish Scotland as a pioneer in sustainable and



responsible tourism.

- Economic Growth: Enhance the value of tourism to Scotland's economy.
- Community Benefits: Ensure tourism positively impacts local communities.
- Environmental Responsibility: Promote sustainable practices to protect Scotland's natural and cultural heritage.

Strategic Actions:

- Focus on People: Invest in skills development and create opportunities for those working in tourism.
- Support Thriving Places: Develop infrastructure and services to enhance visitor experiences while supporting local communities.

3. Ireland Tourism Policy Framework 2025–2030 The Ireland Tourism Policy Framework 2025–2030, introduced on November 6, 2024, by the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media, Catherine Martin TD, aims to harmonize economic growth with environmental and social sustainability. This policy was developed through extensive engagement with tourism stakeholders and public consultation Key

Objectives:

1. Sustainability: Establish a baseline figure for tourism-associated emissions and set specific emission reduction and biodiversity targets.
2. Economic Growth: Achieve an average annual 5.6% growth in revenue from overseas visitors and domestic tourism.
3. Quality Employment: Ensure quality, year-round jobs nationwide.
4. Environmental Responsibility: Reduce average carbon emissions associated with each visitor bed night by 60%

Strategic Actions:

- Tourism Leadership Group: Establish a group to oversee the implementation of the policy objectives.
 - Regional Distribution: Promote balanced regional distribution of tourism to ensure all areas benefit.
 - Food-Based Offerings: Grow Ireland's food-based offerings for visitors.
 - Waste Reduction: Minimize the environmental footprint of holidays by reducing waste
- Implementation: The framework includes 61 policy proposals across environmental, economic, and social pillars. It aims to make Ireland a world-class and sustainable destination by balancing growth with sustainability. This policy framework is designed to ensure a resilient and flourishing tourism sector in Ireland by 2030.



4. Catalonia's Responsible Tourism Roadmap

Catalonia's Responsible Tourism Roadmap outlines 67 initiatives aimed at promoting sustainability and inclusion within the tourism sector. This roadmap is a strategic response to the significant changes and challenges faced by the tourism industry, emphasizing the need for a more sustainable, inclusive, and balanced tourism model Key Objectives:

1. **Environmentally Sustainable Tourism:** Focus on reducing environmental impact and promoting eco-friendly practices. This includes initiatives to protect natural resources, reduce carbon emissions, and promote biodiversity
2. **Socially Just Tourism:** Ensure that tourism benefits all members of society, promoting social inclusion and equity. This involves supporting local communities, enhancing accessibility, and improving working conditions within the tourism sector
3. **Territorially Balanced Tourism:** Promote a balanced distribution of tourism across different regions to avoid over-tourism in popular areas and ensure that all regions benefit from tourism activities
4. **Innovation in Tourism:** Encourage innovation and adaptation to new visitor trends, leveraging technology to enhance the tourism experience and improve sustainability

Strategic Actions:

- **Environmental Initiatives:** Implement 23 initiatives focused on environmental sustainability, including waste reduction, energy efficiency, and conservation efforts
 - **Social Initiatives:** Develop 19 initiatives aimed at promoting social justice, such as community engagement, cultural preservation, and inclusive tourism practices
 - **Regional Initiatives:** Launch 13 initiatives to ensure territorial balance, including promoting lesser-known destinations and supporting regional tourism infrastructure
 - **Innovative Initiatives:** Introduce 12 initiatives to foster innovation, such as digital transformation, smart tourism solutions, and research and development
- Implementation: The roadmap is the result of collective participation and consensus among various stakeholders, including government entities, businesses, and local communities. It aims to create a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient tourism sector in Catalonia by 2030



5. Strategy for Development and Transformation in Finnish Tourism, 2015–2025

Introduction: The Strategy for Development and Transformation in Finnish Tourism, 2015–2025, was introduced by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland. This strategic plan aims to position Finland as the leading tourist destination in Northern Europe by 2025.

Key Objectives:

1. **Strengthening Cooperation:** Enhance theme-based cooperation between tourist centers and networks of tourism enterprises. This includes new initiatives in product development, sales, and marketing
2. **Competitive Offerings:** Develop comprehensive and competitive tourism offerings by integrating tourism with other fields
3. **Effective Marketing:** Increase the effectiveness of marketing activities and make travel services easier to purchase
4. **Operational Environment:** Create a competitive operational environment that supports growth and renewal in the tourism sector
5. **Accessibility:** Improve accessibility to ensure easy travel to and within Finland

Strategic Actions:

- **Finrelax:** Position Finland as a top destination for wellbeing tourism
- **Finnish Archipelago:** Promote the Finnish archipelago internationally

Implementation: The strategy includes various measures to promote the achievement of these objectives, supported by financial instruments within the administrative branch of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment.

6. The Tiaki Promise

is a national initiative in New Zealand that encourages both residents and visitors to care for the country, protect nature, and respect local communities. It embodies the principles of regenerative tourism by promoting environmental stewardship and cultural respect

Key Objectives:

1. **Protect Nature:** Encourage actions that preserve and enhance New Zealand's natural environment. This includes minimizing waste, conserving resources, and protecting wildlife
2. **Respect Culture:** Promote understanding and respect for Māori culture and traditions. This involves engaging with local communities and honoring cultural heritage
3. **Travel Safely:** Ensure safe travel practices that protect both visitors and locals. This includes driving carefully, being prepared for outdoor activities, and following safety guidelines



Strategic Actions:

- **Environmental Stewardship:** Act as guardians of the land, sea, and nature by treading lightly and leaving no trace
- **Cultural Respect:** Travel with an open heart and mind, respecting the culture and local communities
- **Safety and Preparedness:** Show care and consideration for all, ensuring safe and responsible travel

Implementation: The Tiaki Promise is a shared commitment among various stakeholders, including government entities, tourism businesses, and local communities. It aims to create a sustainable and respectful tourism experience for everyone visiting New Zealand. This initiative highlights New Zealand's dedication to preserving its natural beauty and cultural heritage while promoting responsible tourism practices.

7. Hawaii Regenerative Tourism Bill

On June 29, 2024, Governor Josh Green signed Senate Bill 2659 into law, incorporating regenerative tourism frameworks into the Hawai'i State Planning Act. This landmark legislation aims to transform Hawaii's tourism industry by promoting sustainability, cultural preservation, and economic diversification

Key Objectives:

1. **Environmental Sustainability:** Reduce the ecological footprint of the visitor industry by implementing policies that decrease impacts on beaches, reefs, and ocean life
2. **Cultural Preservation:** Support community efforts to protect cultural and natural resources, ensuring that sensitive areas are safeguarded from excessive visitor traffic
3. **Economic Diversification:** Engage more local businesses in the tourism value chain and support other economic sectors to reduce Hawaii's dependence on tourism
4. **Community Empowerment:** Offer capacity-building opportunities, job training, and education to enhance career mobility within the visitor industry

Strategic Actions:

- **Regenerative Framework:** Integrate regenerative tourism principles into the Hawai'i State Planning Act and the state's Tourism Functional Plan
- **Support for Local Communities:** Empower local communities to protect their cultural and natural heritage while benefiting economically from tourism
- **Sustainable Practices:** Implement policies that promote sustainable tourism practices, such as waste reduction and energy efficiency
- **Implementation:** The bill was championed by the Native Hawaiian Caucus and supported by various stakeholders, including legislative leaders, community proponents, and the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA). It represents a collaborative effort to create a thriving, diverse, and resilient tourism industry that prioritizes the well-



being of Hawaii's communities and cultural heritage

This legislation marks a significant step towards a more sustainable and regenerative tourism model in Hawaii, ensuring long-term benefits for both the environment and local communities.

8. The Strategic Tourism Plan for Italy 2023–2027

The plan aims to transform the tourism sector by focusing on sustainability, innovation, and global cooperation. This plan is designed to enhance the competitiveness and resilience of Italy's tourism industry while adapting to global trends and challenges.

Key Objectives:

1. **Sustainability:** Promote environmentally friendly tourism practices to protect Italy's cultural and natural heritage.
2. **Innovation:** Leverage digital technologies to improve tourism services and marketing.
3. **Economic Growth:** Strengthen the competitiveness of the tourism sector and diversify offerings.
4. **Inclusivity:** Ensure tourism benefits all regions and communities, including lesser-known destinations.
5. **Resilience:** Build a tourism industry that can adapt to global challenges, such as climate change and economic shifts.

Strategic Actions:

1. **Green Transition:** Implement policies to support sustainable tourism and ecological practices.
2. **Digital Transformation:** Invest in technology to enhance visitor experiences and streamline operations.
3. **Community Engagement:** Collaborate with local communities to promote cultural and regional tourism.
4. **Skill Development:** Provide training programs to improve career opportunities in the tourism sector.
5. **Global Cooperation:** Foster international partnerships to boost Italy's appeal as a global tourism destination.

This strategic plan aims to create a resilient, competitive, and sustainable tourism industry in Italy by 2027.

9. Destination France, a plan to reclaim market shares and transition the tourism industry

In June 2021, the President of the Republic announced a recovery plan to revitalize French tourism after the crisis and to support its renewal and ecological transition. While the COVID crisis had a major impact on tourism, it also brought an opportunity to highlight its structural challenges and ramp up certain trends.



The plan is backed by a budget of €1.9 billion and steered by the Minister of Tourism. This 10-year roadmap sets the course for the development and transition of the tourism sector. The aim is to consolidate France's position as the world's leading tourist destination and to make it the foremost destination for sustainable tourism. French tourism is on a path to generating excellence, growth and jobs based on a more sustainable, resilient, qualitative model corresponding with the expectations of today's consumers in France and all over the world. Destination France ambitions focus on 20 measures in five strategic areas:

- Attracting and recovering talent
- Strengthening the resilience of the sector and supporting the quality of the offer
- Promoting and developing tourism assets in France
- Meeting the challenges of ecological transition
- Promoting France as a destination and consolidating its market share

Key Objectives:

1. **Reclaim Market Share:** Strengthen France's global appeal and competitiveness in the tourism industry.
2. **Sustainability:** Transition to a more sustainable tourism model that aligns with ecological and social goals.
3. **Economic Growth:** Boost the tourism sector's contribution to the French economy.
4. **Resilience:** Build a tourism industry capable of adapting to global challenges, such as climate change and economic shifts.
5. **Cultural and Regional Promotion:** Highlight France's diverse cultural and natural assets to attract a wide range of visitors.

Strategic Actions:

1. **Talent Development:** Enhance the attractiveness of tourism-related professions through training and career opportunities.
2. **Quality Improvement:** Invest in infrastructure and services to elevate the quality of tourism offerings.
3. **Sustainable Practices:** Promote eco-friendly tourism initiatives and reduce the industry's environmental footprint.
4. **Digital Transformation:** Leverage technology to improve visitor experiences and streamline operations.
5. **Global Marketing:** Strengthen international promotional campaigns to attract tourists and investors.

The plan is supported by a significant budget and involves collaboration between public and private sectors to achieve its ambitious goals.



10. The Journey to Decarbonisation of the Canary Islands Destination

The Canary Islands have embarked on an ambitious journey towards decarbonisation, aiming to transform their tourism sector and overall energy landscape to achieve climate neutrality. This report outlines the key strategies, milestones, and future goals in this endeavour.

Is a forward-thinking initiative aimed at transforming the Canary Islands into a sustainable tourism model while addressing climate change.

Key Objectives:

1. **Halve CO2 Emissions by 2030:** Commit to reducing carbon emissions significantly in alignment with the Glasgow Declaration.
2. **Achieve Climate Neutrality by 2050:** Transition to a tourism model that eliminates the carbon footprint across the value chain.
3. **Promote Sustainability:** Integrate ecological practices into tourism to protect the islands' natural beauty and biodiversity.
4. **Support Local Businesses:** Empower businesses to adopt sustainable practices and contribute to the decarbonization effort.

Strategic Actions:

1. **Climate Action Master Plan:** Provide tools and guidance for businesses to measure and reduce their carbon footprint.
2. **Regenerate Ecosystems:** Focus on restoring and protecting the islands' natural habitats.
3. **Collaborate with Stakeholders:** Work with private companies, local communities, and international organizations to achieve climate goals.
4. **Digital Tools for Decarbonization:** Introduce innovative solutions to help businesses assess and diminish their environmental impact.

This initiative underscores the Canary Islands' commitment to leading the way in sustainable tourism.



Integrated Management & Governance Methodology

Best Practices from existing governance structures

Examining successful governance structures from various sectors—including sea sports, coastal tourism, and broader regenerative/sustainable projects—provides valuable insights into effective strategies.

1. Strangford Lough and Lecale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Marine Protected Area (MPA)

Strangford Lough is the largest sea lough in the British Isles, designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and a Marine Protected Area (MPA) (Strangford Lough, n.d.). The governance of this area is overseen by a Partnership, led by a local authority and guided by Terms of Reference, which outlines the collaborative relationship between members. This Partnership includes representatives from the sport and recreation sector (sailing, rowing, and canoeing clubs). Their commitment to conservation and enhancement is detailed in a five-year Management Action Plan.

2. South Arran Marine Protected Area (Scotland)

This MPA, established in 2014, is spearheaded by the Community Of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST), focusing on community-driven marine recovery (COAST, n.d.). Its mission involves empowering communities, influencing policy, and supporting the local marine economy. The area is managed through community-led efforts that emphasize stakeholder engagement and scientific research, promoting sustainable fishing and supporting recreational activities such as sea angling, kayaking, and diving.

3. Azores Marine Protected Area Network (Portugal)

In 2024, the Azores established the largest Marine Protected Area (MPA) network in the North Atlantic, covering nearly 287,000 square kilometres (Blue Azores, n.d.). The governance model for this extensive MPA network emphasizes science-based decisions and transparent collaboration. The Regional Government of the Azores initiated a stakeholder engagement process to involve communities, fishermen, tourism operators, scientists, and local communities directly in the planning and management processes, sharing their interests and knowledge. This participatory approach balances ecological preservation with economic activities.

4. National Marine Park of Zakynthos (Greece)

The National Park of Zakynthos, founded in 1999, has all the characteristics of a Mediterranean ecosystem, with a main purpose of protecting specific fauna like Loggerhead turtles and Mediterranean Monk Seals (Zanteisland.com, n.d.). The park employs a bottom-up governance approach focused on integrating conservation with local society. Local



stakeholders are actively engaged in monitoring, surveillance, and developing ecotourism codes of conduct. This collaborative management ensures tourism activities, including marine excursions, are conducted sustainably, aligning economic interests with conservation goals.

5. Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park (Germany)

The Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park is part of the Wadden Sea UNESCO World Heritage Site and the largest continuous area of mudflats in the world (Waddensea World Heritage, n.d.). The park integrates conservation with traditional uses like fishing and tourism through a cooperative approach. The park administration collaborates with local communities, fishermen, and tourism operators to manage activities via voluntary agreements. This strategy enhances local support, ensuring that recreational activities such as mudflat hiking and boat excursions are conducted in harmony with conservation objectives.

6. Cabrera Archipelago Maritime-Terrestrial National Park (Spain)

Established in 1991, the Cabrera Archipelago Maritime-Terrestrial National Park is Spain's first maritime-terrestrial national park, encompassing the entire Cabrera Archipelago south of Mallorca (Illes Balears Travel, n.d.). Managed by the Balearic Islands' regional government in coordination with Spain's National Parks Autonomous Agency, the park's governance is guided by a "Master Plan for Use and Management" (PRUG). This plan outlines permitted activities and conservation strategies, ensuring that outdoor recreation activities—including hiking, diving, and boating—are limited and strictly regulated to minimize human impact on sensitive ecosystems. The governance ensures sustainable management of tourism and recreational activities.

Best practices & case studies in stakeholder participation

Examining successful examples of stakeholder participation from various marine and coastal sectors provides valuable insights for regenerative sea sports.

1. MedPAN – Mediterranean Protected Areas Network

MedPAN, the Mediterranean Protected Areas Network, operates across EU and non-EU countries in the Mediterranean Region. It employs a collaborative network approach, fostering participatory management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) at a collaborative and consultative level of engagement (MedPAN, n.d.). Key stakeholders involved include MPA managers, local communities, NGOs, scientists, fishers, tourism operators, and public



authorities. MedPAN has enhanced the management effectiveness of MPAs by promoting stakeholder involvement, knowledge sharing, and capacity building across the Mediterranean, leading to more sustainable and inclusive marine conservation efforts (MedPAN, n.d.). Incentives for stakeholder involvement include access to funding opportunities, technical support, training programs, and a platform for sharing best practices. Challenges like varying levels of stakeholder engagement and resource limitations were addressed by providing tailored support, facilitating workshops, and promoting inclusive governance models.

2. Baltic Stakeholder Dialogues – Coalition Clean Baltic

The Baltic Stakeholder Dialogues, organized by Coalition Clean Baltic in the Baltic Sea Region, utilize stakeholder dialogues and participatory workshops for consultative and collaborative engagement (Coalition Clean Baltic, n.d.). Key stakeholders involved are local communities, NGOs, governmental agencies, fishers, and tourism operators. These dialogues have facilitated mutual understanding among stakeholders, leading to more coherent coastal policies and improved marine conservation strategies in the region (Coalition Clean Baltic, n.d.). Incentives for involvement include opportunities to influence policy decisions, share local knowledge, and collaborate on sustainable initiatives. Barriers such as language differences and varying national policies were mitigated through multilingual resources and harmonized policy frameworks.

3. Plymouth Sound National Marine Park – United Kingdom

The Plymouth Sound National Marine Park in the United Kingdom established a multi-stakeholder governance board, fostering a collaborative and co-decision-making level of engagement (Plymouth Sound National Marine Park, n.d.). Key stakeholders involved include local government, the Royal Navy, environmental NGOs, academic institutions, tourism operators, and community groups. This inclusive governance structure has fostered a sense of ownership among stakeholders, leading to enhanced marine conservation efforts and increased public engagement with the marine environment (Plymouth Sound National Marine Park, n.d.; Blue Marine Foundation, n.d.). Incentives for stakeholder involvement include influence over park management decisions, opportunities for community-led initiatives, and promotion of sustainable economic activities. Initial skepticism about the park's impact was addressed through transparent communication, community events, and demonstrations of tangible benefits.

4. Sanniang Bay, Guangxi, China

In Sanniang Bay, Guangxi, China, a multi-stakeholder platform was formed involving villagers, researchers, NGOs, and local authorities (Song et al., 2023). This community-led approach established a fishery conservation group and integrated scientific monitoring into local practices. Incentives included monthly subsidies for beach patrols and support for eco-tourism



initiatives (Song et al., 2023). Barriers were addressed by conducting community surveys, focus groups, and educational programs to build trust and awareness.

5. Ningaloo Coast, Australia

The Ningaloo Coast in Australia adopted a whole-of-community approach with broad stakeholder engagement through workshops and consultations (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, n.d.). This process generated over 200 proposed reef management actions, with 140 forming the backbone of their Resilience Strategy. Incentives involved empowering community involvement in management and fostering partnerships for ongoing stewardship. Barriers were addressed by ensuring all stakeholders had opportunities to voice opinions and see their input reflected in decisions (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, n.d.).

6. Gili Trawangan, Indonesia

Gili Trawangan, Indonesia, implemented participatory coastal management involving villagers, tourists, and local government (Bachtiar, 2015). This approach resulted in strict rules to protect coral reef ecosystems and regulate sustainable marine tourism. Incentives included promoting local economic growth through sustainable tourism practices. Barriers were addressed through collaboration with NGOs and the private sector to enforce regulations and educate stakeholders (Bachtiar, 2015).

Best Practices in policy and regulatory frameworks

We looked at several regulatory frameworks at the EU and national levels that are relevant for the governance of regenerative sea sports.

1. Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) – 2008/56/EC

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (Directive 2008/56/EC) sets up a common framework for EU marine environmental policy, aiming to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) of marine waters by 2020. This directive focuses on promoting sustainable use and protecting the marine environment (European Parliament and the Council, 2008). Key regulatory principles include ecosystem-based management, which requires all measures to consider the structure, function, and productivity of marine ecosystems; adaptive management, meaning national strategies must be regularly reviewed and adjusted; and



integration and coordination across Member States and policy areas like Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP).

For enforcement, each Member State must prepare a national Marine Strategy that includes an initial environmental assessment, a definition of GES, environmental targets, monitoring programs, and a program of measures (European Parliament and the Council, 2008). Regular reports are submitted to the European Commission. The directive supports sustainability by requiring the integration of environmental objectives into all human activities, including marine recreation and sports, encouraging Member States to balance ecological health with economic and social uses of marine space.

2. EU Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)

The EU Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) is a strategic policy framework aiming for a more coherent approach to maritime issues through increased coordination across different sectors like transport, environment, fisheries, and tourism (European Commission, n.d.-c; European Commission, n.d.-d). It promotes sustainability and economic growth through key cross-cutting policies.

One important policy is **Blue Growth**, which supports innovation and job creation in sectors like coastal tourism and offshore energy, aligning with the EU's strategy for smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth. **Marine Data and Knowledge** promotes European and international cooperation and open access to data to support science-based ocean governance (European Commission, n.d.-d). **Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)** addresses the increasing demands for marine space, focusing on strategic planning, zoning, and ecosystem-based management of marine areas. **Integrated Maritime Surveillance** improves efficiency by enhancing data sharing among maritime authorities. Finally, **Sea Basin Strategies** offer tailored approaches for different regions like the Atlantic Ocean, Baltic Sea, Mediterranean Sea, and Black Sea, promoting cooperation and research.

The IMP is relevant to ReSea because it offers a strategic framework that integrates environmental, economic, and spatial planning aspects. Its focus on stakeholder coordination, MSP, and sustainable use is highly relevant for developing multi-actor governance models in regenerative sea sports. Data sharing and regional cooperation frameworks can support monitoring, innovation, and responsible access to marine spaces.

3. Natura 2000 Marine Network – Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)

The Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) establishes the Natura 2000 Marine Network, a legally binding directive at the EU level aimed at protecting habitats and species of EU importance through a coherent network of protected areas (European Commission, n.d.-e). Key principles include biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and maintaining ecological integrity.



Enforcement involves implementing site-specific management plans and conducting environmental impact assessments (EIAs) for activities, along with ongoing monitoring and reporting. The directive balances human activities, like recreation and sports, with strict conservation requirements to protect vulnerable habitats and species. Challenges often arise from conflicts between conservation goals and users such as fisheries and tourism operators, and some areas suffer from under-resourced management and enforcement. This directive directly regulates spatial and activity-based restrictions on water sports within protected Natura 2000 marine sites, providing a legal framework for sustainable and regenerative sports governance in sensitive marine environments.

4. Spanish Coastal Law – Law 22/1988 and its Amendment Law 2/2013

The Spanish Coastal Law (Ley de Costas) regulates the use, protection, and public access to Spain's coastal and maritime-terrestrial zone (DPMT) (Boletín Oficial del Estado, 2013). The 2013 amendment aimed to improve legal clarity and facilitate sustainable coastal development and address climate change risks. The law emphasizes the public ownership of beaches and coastal waters, restricting permanent constructions and private uses in the DPMT. It introduced a system of administrative concessions and focuses on environmental protection and adaptation to climate change (Boletín Oficial del Estado, 2013).

Enforcement is managed by the Ministry for the Ecological Transition (MITECO) with regional coordination, involving strict licensing for infrastructure and sanctions for non-compliance. The law promotes low-impact and reversible uses and requires environmental compatibility for concessions, including those for sports clubs.

Critical challenges exist, such as legal uncertainty for sports clubs and coastal associations due to complex concession renewals. Traditional beach-based sports infrastructure often faces difficulties in complying with the law. The bureaucratic complexity and slow concession process hinder adaptation to seasonal or regenerative sport activities. Conflicts also arise between environmental protection and public access to recreation and sport.

The Coastal Law shapes the legal feasibility of many regenerative water sports practices. While it ensures environmental integrity and public access, its rigid and complex administrative framework often discourages innovation and limits the development of beach-based sports clubs. Future governance models should explore more flexible, participatory, and adaptive regulatory approaches for these actors.

5. Marine Spatial Planning Plan (POEM) – Spain 2023

The POEM (Plan de Ordenación del Espacio Marítimo) is Spain's official Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) instrument, developed in compliance with EU Directive 2014/89/EU (Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico, n.d.). Its main goal is to plan and coordinate human activities in the marine environment to ensure ecological sustainability, coexistence of uses, and efficient use of maritime space.



Key principles include rational and sustainable use of maritime space, applying an ecosystem-based approach, and ensuring compatibility of uses like fishing, tourism, sports, and conservation. Activities must adhere to precautionary and preventive principles. The POEM is legally binding for national public authorities and requires inter-ministerial coordination, including mandatory compatibility assessments for new projects.

The plan integrates sustainability by identifying priority conservation areas and restricting incompatible uses. It designates zones for sustainable economic activities, including non-motorised sea sports and ecotourism. Challenges include complex multi-level governance coordination, limited awareness and participation from sectors like small-scale maritime sports operators, and enforcement gaps (Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico, n.d.). The risk of zoning rigidity may limit the flexibility needed for innovative or regenerative marine sports.

The POEM is a fundamental regulatory and planning framework for the governance of regenerative marine sports in Spain. It offers legal recognition and spatial planning for sustainable water-based activities, integrating biodiversity conservation and long-term ecosystem health. However, its top-down approach and limited inclusion of sports clubs and local actors highlight the need for improved participatory mechanisms in future revisions. ReSea can use POEM to advocate for adaptive, stakeholder-inclusive governance models that align recreation, tourism, and environmental goals in coastal areas.

Best practices in conflict resolution in governance

We have examined several best practices in conflict resolution within governance, which offer valuable insights for regenerative sea sports.

1. BIODIVERSA - Small-scale fisheries and co-management schemes

The BIODIVERSA project addressed conflicts between short-term fishing profits (economic) and long-term biodiversity conservation (environmental), along with institutional conflicts related to policy implementation and weak stakeholder engagement (BIODIVERSA, n.d.). Social conflicts also arose from differing stakeholder perceptions regarding conservation versus exploitation.

The primary resolution method was **participatory decision-making** and informal mediation led by local leaders. This approach was effective because inclusive stakeholder participation built trust and reduced resistance to regulations. Co-management fostered a sense of ownership, increasing compliance and constructive conflict resolution. Long-term outcomes showed that active participation in monitoring and enforcement, combined with strong local leadership, sustained cooperation, even in low-collaboration contexts.



2. BLUE4ALL PROJECT

The BLUE4ALL project managed conflicts related to balancing marine protection with sustainable use of resources (economic vs. environmental), institutional coordination, and social concerns from local industries affected by new zoning regulations (BLUE4ALL PROJECT, n.d.-a).

The project used **participatory decision-making** through consultations and workshops to co-develop the zoning plan. This inclusive approach reduced tensions by ensuring transparency, building trust, and facilitating dialogue-based conflict resolution, which is preferred over top-down solutions. The long-term governance outcomes include sustainable resource management, strengthened institutions, improved stakeholder collaboration, and greater social equity.

3. Multi-Stakeholder Networks and ICT Tools (Spain)

This initiative focused on institutional conflicts arising from regulatory barriers and fragmented collaboration in the blue biotechnology sector in Spain, and social conflicts due to low public awareness (MDPI, 2024).

The resolution methods involved **participatory decision-making** via the BBHub network and the **collaborative digital tools** like the ICT Matchmaking Tool. These platforms facilitated dialogue and co-creation of solutions, promoting collaborative governance and avoiding top-down approaches. The project's effectiveness is shown in inclusive stakeholder engagement and collaborative problem-solving, which address institutional barriers. Long-term outcomes include a more sustainable and collaborative sector, stronger institutions, and increased public support for the technologies.

4. Tikanga, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Marine Governance (New Zealand)

This project addressed deep **institutional conflicts** between indigenous Māori governance and Western legal systems, as well as **social conflicts** over historical marginalization and disputes regarding marine resource management (Sustainable Seas Challenge, n.d.).

Resolution relied on **participatory decision-making** and **collaborative governance**, integrating Tikanga Māori and Treaty principles into formal structures. Facilitated dialogues served as mediation. The effectiveness stemmed from recognizing Māori governance principles, which built trust and addressed historical grievances. The long-term governance outcomes include a more inclusive and equitable system, promoting environmental stewardship through Māori principles like *kaitiakitanga* and empowering Māori communities.



5. PEMALM, Marine Litter Monitoring (Brazil)

PEMALM addressed **environmental conflicts** related to marine litter and **institutional conflicts** among various stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and the private sector, by harmonizing their goals (MDPI, 2023; ResearchGate, 2023).

The key methods were **stakeholder analysis** and **participatory decision-making**, fostering a collaborative governance environment. This approach was effective in reducing tensions and building trust by actively engaging stakeholders from the beginning. Long-term governance outcomes include enhanced collaboration and more effective environmental governance in the reduction of marine litter.