



# Co-Location Coffee: An Interactive Event about Multi-use at Sea

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# What is Multi-use at sea?

## Why is it important for Nordic Economic Growth?

Multi-use at sea refers to the intentional clustering of multiple, often competing, marine activities in close geographic proximity, such as the combination of fisheries and eco-tourism, aquaculture and offshore energy installations, as well as many other combinations. Multi-use at sea is a promising model to ensure a truly sustainable blue economy based on optimising the use of ocean space and fostering collaboration for both environmental and economic benefits.

On August 10th, 2023, the Iceland Ocean Cluster and the Centre for the Ocean and the Arctic hosted a Co-Location Coffee on Multi-use at sea as the first step of “Hack the Ocean – a Multi-Use Hackathon” project, designed to help solve some of the key Nordic challenges in the field of multi-use at sea. This interactive online event gave an opportunity for key actors across the offshore sector to learn more about the Nordic region opportunities and challenges in multi-use at sea concept from experts on the topic. Participants were also directly involved in discussion on the priorities and future of multi-use at sea. Together, they identified key challenges that should be addressed during the Multi-use at sea Hackathon, which will be held October 5th-6th in Reykjavík, Iceland. Three main questions guided this collaborative brainstorming:

- What are the biggest challenges to combining multiple activities in the Nordic ocean space?
- What tools or support actions would facilitate the growth of Multi-Use at Sea in the Nordics?
- What steps could be taken to ensure this new sector develops in an environmentally sustainable way?

This report provides a summary on the outcomes of the Co-location Coffee as a building block for the October “Multi-use at Sea Hackathon”.

# What are the biggest challenges to combining multiple activities in the Nordic ocean space?

## Market and Regulatory Barriers to Investment

The creation of offshore multi-use parks requires considerable upfront investment costs. This, coupled with legal hurdles and market regulations, can discourage initial risk-taking by industries.

## Competition over Cooperation?

Unhealthy competition and conflict of interests among industries represent inherent challenges posed by the intentional clustering of multiple, often competing, marine activities in close geographic proximity.

## Lack of Knowledge Facilitation and Clear Business Models

Knowledge and skills training on the multi-use at sea framework is a prerequisite for effective industrial symbiosis. Industries still lack clear business models for engaging in marine co-location.

# What tools or support actions would facilitate the growth of Multi-Use at Sea in the Nordics?

## Strong Policy Commitments and Market Incentives

National governments should support Multi-Use at Sea projects as part of their sustainable development strategies, including through facilitating access to funding for infrastructure building and R&D.

## Partnership Facilitation Through Collaboration Platforms

Intermediaries, such as business cluster, are to play a key role not only in facilitating mutually beneficial collaboration between industries, but also to reinforce partnership with public agencies and involve civil society.

## Business Models and Demonstration Parks

A “handbook” for industries offering guidance on how to establish and run a co-location hub is needed to bridge the barriers to engaging in Multi-Use at Sea projects. This includes setting up demonstration parks and sharing good practices.

# What steps could be taken to ensure this new sector develops in an environmentally sustainable way?

## Developing Sustainability Strategies in Business Planning

Sustainability should be the goal and driving force of co-location business models. The combination of industries within multi-use parks has to be adapted to each local setting, which include the business context and environmental conditions.

## Ensuring Regular, Transparent Monitoring and Evaluation

Environmental monitoring could be a mandatory part of co-location business models, through both regular environmental impact assessments by industries themselves, as well as third party evaluation, including through certification schemes.

## Focusing on Knowledge Dissemination and Sharing of Good Practices

Increased education and access to information on the benefits and steps to implement environmental sustainability practices in industries would help make it the most competitive business strategy by default.