

**DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Methodology Note Selection Maritime Clusters,  
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The methodology adopted considers just a geographic criteria to select the two national clusters for further and insight analyses. With this criteria it is identified two clusters in Portugal, “Porto” and “Lisboa”. It’s with concern that we see some important areas that have close relation with these ones, in terms of blue growth, out of this analysis. Aveiro, in the Centro region, has an important port, an university with work in the ocean field and it’s in close relation with Porto. On the north coast it is important to consider Leixões port and also maritime activities in Viana do Castelo. In the South coast of Lisbon we should consider an important port, Sines, and the close relations to Setúbal and Lisbon ports. Also important is Algarve region, even more if we consider ecosystem services, apart from provision services, and also other services, such as cultural and regulating ones. Not considering this part of the blue growth can lead to conclusions that could be bias. It’s also important to consider the autonomous regions Madeira and Azores that live in close relationship with the ocean and have important capacities and differentiation capabilities regarding blue growth.

In conclusion, we agreed with the criteria used but it should be complemented with field work on the relations between the stakeholders and the human/economic activities. In a globalized world, many activities depends on networking and enterprises divide their functions all over the world (the design can be made on Europe, for example, and some parts on Asia, and others on South America...). Future maritime activities, mainly the ones that relies on R&D, such as biotechnologies or the exploitation of mineral resources, will depend, in the majority of cases, on the cooperation between several countries, or multinational companies, that operate around the world. All these aspects are strongly dependent on communication and information systems, which are also an important horizontal component of the blue growth. Having said so, it seems to us that the use of the geographic criteria has the only one is very limited. That criteria should be enlarged.