

# EU - Strategies and objectives for the marine environment



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# EU environmental law/policy on Integrated management of human activities

- Environmental impact assessment (EIA) and Strategic environmental assessment (SEA)
- Natura 2000 network (coastal and offshore)
- Water Framework Directive (2000) to achieve good ecological status of waters by 2015
  - Applies to rivers, transitional waters and also coastal waters
- EU Recommendation on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM, 2002)
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008)

# The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56)

- In 2002, the European Parliament and the EU Council of Ministers (Member States) request the Commission to prepare a “Marine Strategy”
- Purpose: a comprehensive protection of all the seas around Europe
- In 2005, Commission proposal for new EU legislation
- In summer 2008, the European Parliament and the EU Council of Ministers agree and adopt the Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56 (MSFD)

# Objective of the Directive

This new Directive establishes a framework within which:

- the EU Member States shall take the necessary measures to achieve or maintain
- good environmental status in the marine environment
- by the year 2020 at the latest

## « Marine Strategies »

- Each EU Member State must progressively put in place its own “Marine Strategy” (action plan), consisting of several steps
- They must cooperate among themselves and also with neighbouring countries...
- ... where possible within Regional Sea Conventions



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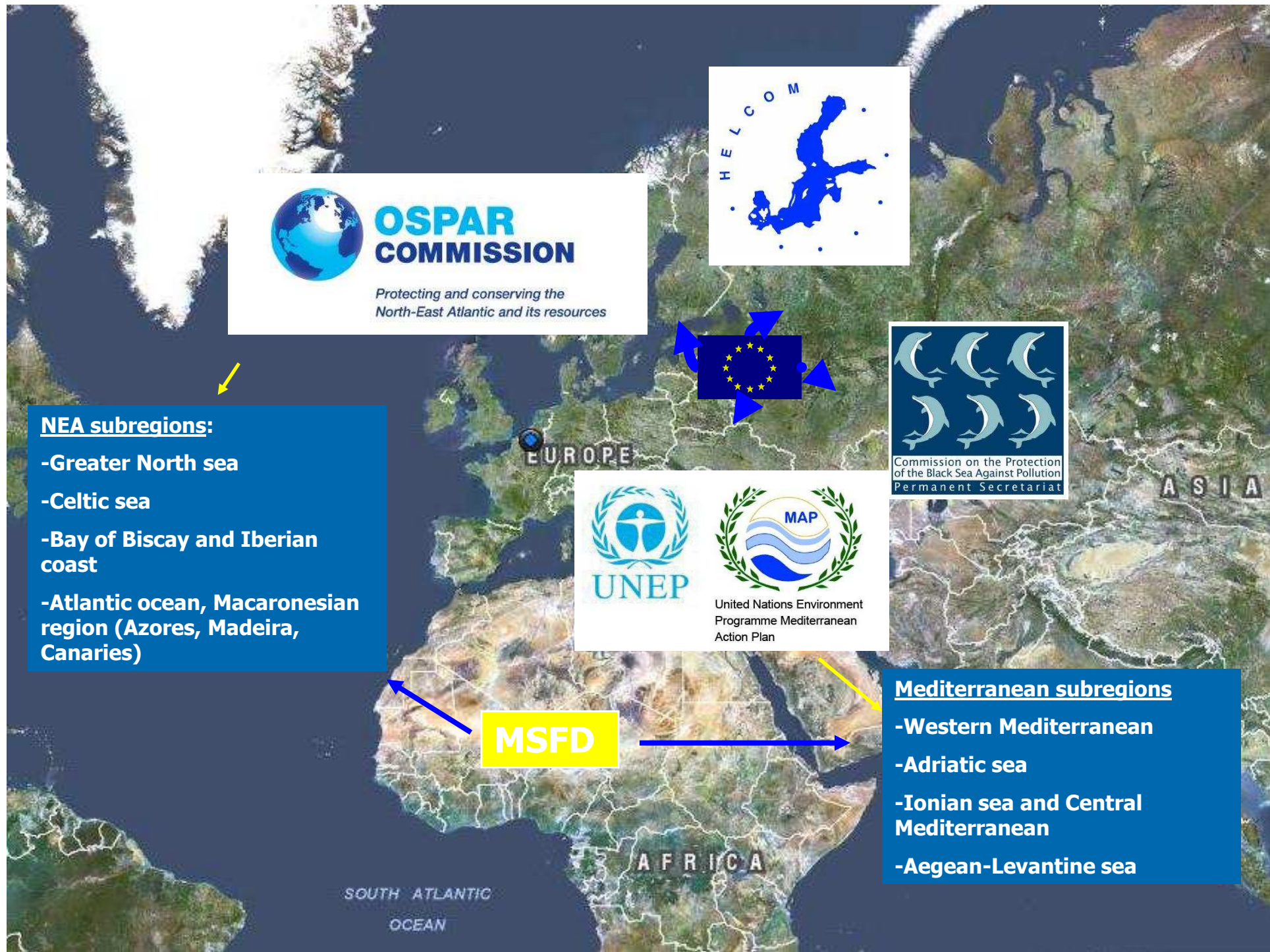
**NEA subregions:**

- Greater North sea
- Celtic sea
- Bay of Biscay and Iberian coast
- Atlantic ocean, Macaronesian region (Azores, Madeira, Canaries)

**MSFD**

**Mediterranean subregions**

- Western Mediterranean
- Adriatic sea
- Ionian sea and Central Mediterranean
- Aegean-Levantine sea



# Ecosystem approach (upfront in the Directive)

- The Marine Strategies to be developed by EU Member States will apply an ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities:
  - ensuring that the collective pressure of such activities is kept within levels compatible with the achievement of good environmental status
  - and that the capacity of marine ecosystems to respond to human-induced changes (e.g. climate change) is not compromised,
  - while enabling the sustainable use of marine goods and services by present and future generations
- Integration of environmental concerns into the different policies which have an impact on the marine environment

# Marine Strategies - Implementation milestones (1)

**EC by 15 July 2010:**

- **Criteria and methodological standards on good environmental status (“GES”) to use**

**Member States by 15 July 2012:**

- **Description and assessment of current environmental status, including the environmental impact of human activities & socio-economic analysis**
- **Determination of GES to be achieved (precise ecological objectives)**
- **Establishment of environmental targets and associated indicators**

# Marine Strategies - Implementation milestones (2)

**Member States by 15 July 2014:**

- **Monitoring programmes for all marine waters (adapted to the assessment of progress towards GES)**

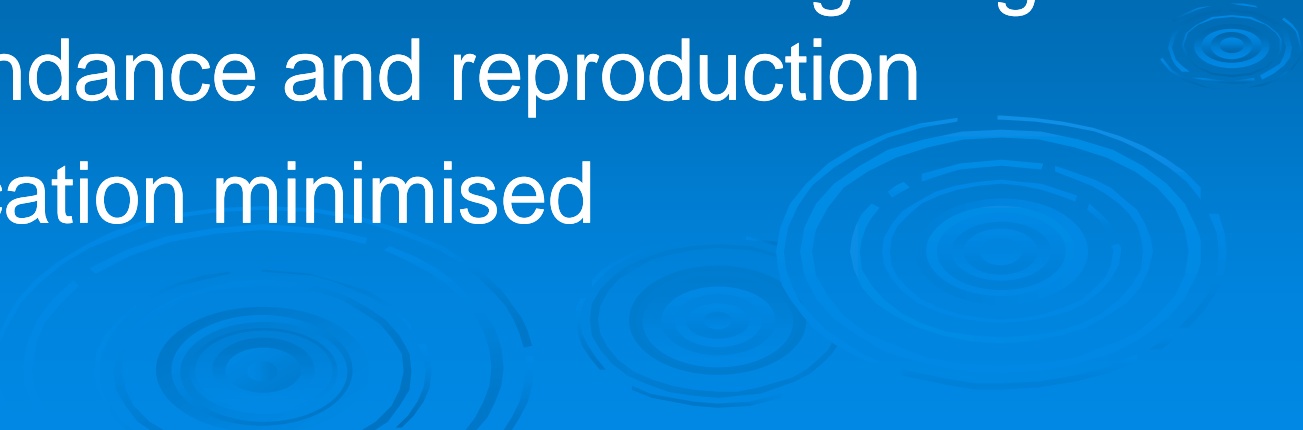
**By 2015 all Marine Strategies will culminate with:**

- **Programme of measures towards achieving GES in 2020**

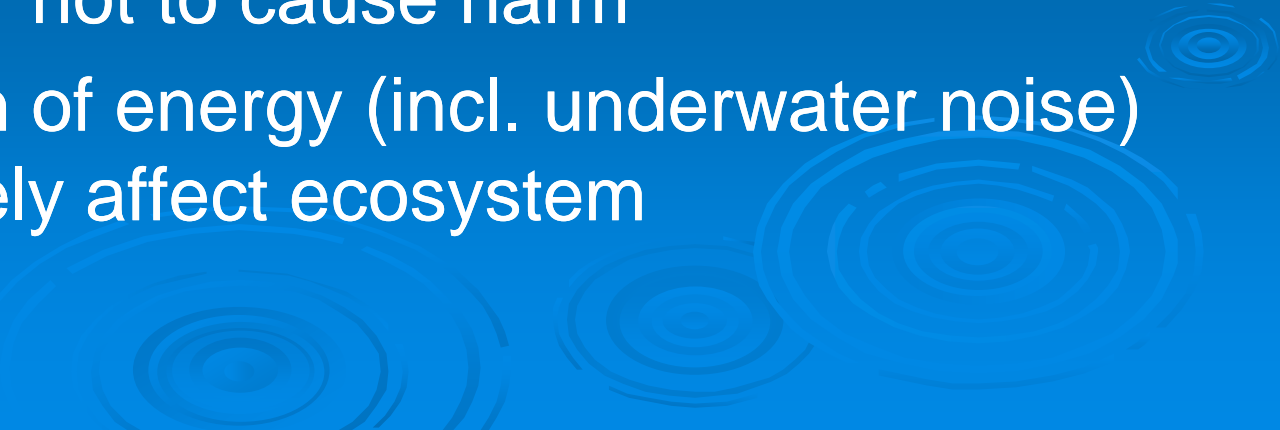
**Some key concepts:**

- **Regional approach, specific to each sea basin**
- **Building upon existing activities developed in the framework of regional seas conventions**
- **Adaptive management, with regular review (every 6 years)**

# Good Environmental Status

1. Biodiversity is maintained
  2. Non-indigenous species not adversely alter the ecosystem
  3. Population of commercial fish species healthy
  4. Elements of food webs ensuring long term abundance and reproduction
  5. Eutrophication minimised
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# Good Environmental Status

6. Sea floor integrity ensures functioning of the ecosystem
  7. Permanent alteration of hydrographical conditions not adversely affect ecosystem
  8. Concentration of contaminants give no effects
  9. Contaminants in seafood below safe levels
  10. Marine litter not to cause harm
  11. Introduction of energy (incl. underwater noise) not adversely affect ecosystem
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# Comparing MSFD/ WFD

- Both based on ecosystem approach (incl. regional approach)
- Both obligation: Good Environmental Status
- All water bodies, all impacts and threats should be tackled
- Same governance (knowledge based, monitoring and assessment)
- Difference: WFD ecological status up to 1 nM, chemical status up to limit territorial waters.

# Additional requirements MSFD to the WFD in marine waters that are of relevance to coastal management

- Biodiversity
  - Litter
  - Alien species
  - Permanent physical alterations
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# Linkages between MSFD and the Integrated Maritime Policy (“IMP”)

- The MSFD will be essential to the Integrated Maritime Policy:
  - The MSFD establishes an integrated approach to maritime activities that can contribute to IMP.
  - Its legally binding framework will benefit the development of integrated maritime tools (e.g. maritime spatial planning)
  - It provides a long term policy vision of the seas
  - Legal basis for enhanced cooperation in marine regions
  - The MSFD is the environmental pillar of the IMP

**Thank you for your attention!**

[http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/spatial\\_planning\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/spatial_planning_en.html)

