The Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs is the department in charge of the technical work towards transposition of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. In order to guide this task, a working group has been established within the Ministry, with members from the General Secretariat for the Sea and the Ministry’s legal experts. This working group finished the first draft of the text planned as transposition of the Directive, called “Marine Environment Protection Bill”, on May 12th. The text now has to be distributed to other Ministerial departments in order to receive their input. Once the text has been agreed upon within the national government, it will be presented to the Autonomous Communities and the working group on coastal and marine issues of the Environment Advisory Council (NGOs). When a consensus has been reached, the text will have to undergo the prescriptive Parliament and Senate readings before it is approved and published.

Apart from the transposition of the MSFD, the Marine Environment Protection Bill will include legal provisions on the following matters:

- Basic criteria for marine planning
- The Spanish Network of Marine Protected Areas
- Provisions on dumping at sea
- Access to marine genetic resources

The general outline of the Bill is this:

**TITLE I: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- Article 1. Subject matter
- Article 2. Scope
- Article 3. Marine regions, subregions and demarcations
- Article 4. The Marine Public Domain
- Article 5. Use and occupation of the Marine Public Domain
- Article 6. Criteria for marine planning

**TITLE II: MARINE STRATEGIES**

**Chapter I.- Definition**

- Article 7. Marine strategies

**Chapter II.- Elaboration**

- Section 1: Assessment, determination of good environmental status, establishment of targets and monitoring programmes
- Article 8. Assessment
Article 9. Determination of good environmental status
Article 10. Establishment of environmental targets
Article 11. Monitoring programmes

Section 2: Programmes of measures
Article 12. Programmes of measures
Article 13. Inspiring principles
Article 14. Content
Article 15. Compliance reports
Article 16. Urgent measures

Chapter III: Exceptions
Article 17. Temporary exception of marine strategies
Article 18. Non-fulfilment of targets
Article 19. Inexistence of significant risk and disproportionate costs

Chapter IV: Updating
Article 20. Updating

TITLE III: SPAIN’S NETWORK OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS
Article 21. Creation of Spain’s Network of Marine Protected Areas
Article 22. Objectives of Spain’s Network of Marine Protected Areas
Article 23. Types of areas included in the Network
Article 24. Designation and management of Marine Protected Areas
Article 25. Functions of the Central Government

TITLE IV: ACCESS TO MARINE GENETIC RESOURCES
Article 26. Access to marine genetic resources

TITLE V: DUMPING AT SEA
Article 27. Land-based dumping
Article 28. Dumping of wastes and other matter
Article 29. Incineration at sea
Article 30. Exceptions
Article 31. Placement of materials on the sea floor

TITLE VI: INFORMATION, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, COORDINATION AND COOPERATION
Article 32. Public consultation and information
Article 33. Intergovernmental coordination
Article 34. National coordination
Article 35. Regional cooperation

TITLE VII: INFRINGEMENTS AND PENALTIES
Article 36. Infringements and penalties

ANNEX I: MARINE DEMARCATIONS
ANNEX II: QUALITATIVE DESCRIPTORS FOR DETERMINING GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

ANNEX III: INDICATIVE LISTS OF CHARACTERISTICS, PRESSURES AND IMPACTS

ANNEX IV: INDICATIVE LIST OF CHARACTERISTICS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR SETTING ENVIRONMENTAL TARGETS

ANNEX V: MONITORING PROGRAMMES

ANNEX VI: PROGRAMMES OF MEASURES

Spain is planning to subdivide subregions into “Marine Demarcations”, in order to allow for specificities of our marine waters. A Marine Strategy will have to be developed for each of these Demarcations. Here is an indicative map of Spain’s Marine Demarcations. (Very important note: this is a draft map that will be subject to consensus with neighbouring Member States)