EU Marine Strategy: extending water policy to European seas

Gert Verreet
European Commission – Environment Directorate-General – Water & Marine Unit

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What maritime policy for the EU?

The marine strategy will deliver the environmental pillar of the forthcoming EU maritime policy

Have your say:

http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs
EU Marine Strategy

- Adopted by the European Commission in October 2005
  - Communication
  - Proposal for a Marine Strategy Directive
  - Impact Assessment

- Institutional negotiations ongoing
1. Why an EU Marine Strategy?

2. What’s in the Strategy?

*Focus on proposed legal instrument*
Why an EU Marine Strategy?
Distribution of Earth's Water

- Saline (oceans) 97%
- Earth's water
- Freshwater 3%
- Ground water 30.1%
- Icecaps and Glaciers 68.7%
- Other 0.9%
- Surface water 0.3%
- Swamps 11%
- Lakes 87%
- Fresh surface water (liquid) 2%
Marine ecosystems play a key role for

- the Earth’s climate
- numerous other services (food, energy resources, transportation, waste absorption,...)
Increasing pressures

- increasing pressures on the marine environment
- impacts of climate change
- marine ecosystems are under threat

→ Need for an integrated approach
→ Take into account all pressures and impacts on the marine environment
Decoupling of resource use from economic growth

Decoupling of environmental impact from resource use

Economic activity (GDP)

Resource use

Environmental impact

International market price for fishmeal, 64/65% CIF Hamburg.
Knowledge gaps

- Monitoring and assessment: divergence of approaches around Europe making holistic regional assessments difficult (*this is being addressed in collaboration between actors concerned*)

- Gaps in underlying scientific knowledge for a better ecosystem understanding (*FP7 provides many opportunities for marine-targeted research*)
Governance problems

Lack of coordination and piecemeal approach

- At international level
- At EU level
- At national level
What’s in the EU Marine Strategy?
Protect our seas and oceans and ensure that human activities are carried out in a sustainable manner so that “we and future generations can enjoy and benefit from biologically diverse and dynamic oceans and seas that are safe, clean, healthy and productive”
Common principles for problems shared by the different regions

A regionalised approach based on Marine Regions and Sub-regions to capture specific problems

Knowledge and evidence-based approach

Adaptive management
Translating the vision into a legal objective:

**Achieve good environmental status (GES) of the EU’s marine waters by 2021**

- No determination at EU level but generic descriptors, for which criteria / methodological standards will be developed
- Determination will have to emerge from the work at regional level
- The Commission will review how Member States determine GES and advise
Marine Strategy Directive: Scope

- Framework needed to achieve sustainable development of marine areas.

- No concrete management measures at EU level as the strategy will have to be made operational and implemented at regional level.

- Cooperation and coordination – regional seas conventions – cooperation with non EU countries
Study on identification of marine eco-regions
Application of the ecosystem-based approach

Vision

Principles

Obligations

Global framework
Regional dimension

objectives

Actions

Agreed risk management
Desired properties

Adaptive management

Follow up, research & evaluation

Indicators And targets

« a comprehensive integrated management of human activities based on the best available scientific knowledge about the ecosystem and its dynamics, in order to identify and take action on influences which are critical to the health of the marine ecosystems, thereby achieving sustainable use of ecosystem goods and services and maintenance of ecosystem integrity »
Marine Strategy Directive: Implementation milestones

Marine Strategies to be progressively developed and implemented based on the following steps:

- **Description and assessment of current environmental status including the environmental impact of human activities** – 4 years after entry into force
- **Determination of good environmental status** – 4 years after entry into force
- **Establishment of environmental targets** – 5 years after entry into force
- **Monitoring programme** – 6 years after entry into force
- **Programme of measures towards good environmental status** – by 2016
- **Entry into operation of programmes of measures** – by 2018
- **Good environmental status** – by 2021

Strategies to be devised building upon existing programmes and activities developed in the framework of international agreements, e.g. regional seas conventions + iterative, adaptive management, i.e. regular reviews (every 6 years)
Art. 7: Initial assessment

Art. 8: Good Environmental status

descriptors, criteria, methodological standards

Art. 9: Establish targets and indicators

Art. 10: Establish monitoring programme

Art. 12: Establish programmes of measures

Implement

Results?

Art. 16: Update all
More information

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/marine.htm
http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/env/marine/library