

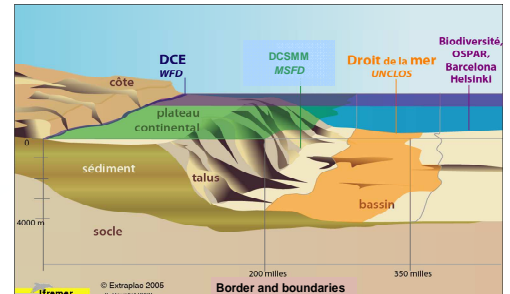
The Marine Strategy Framework Directive : towards an ecosystem-based approach to achieve Good Environmental Status of European seas

C. Belot¹, M. le Stum¹, P. Camus¹, J. Paillet², L.P. Balay¹, J. Perceley³, L. Dallem³, J. Baudrier¹,

➤ The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

Published in June 2008, the MSFD defines a global European policy to protect the environment of marine waters under the jurisdiction of Member States. It also introduces the fundamental concept of **good ecological status (GES) of European seas, to be reached by 2020.**

Following an ambitious approach, the directive applies to the marine waters off the coast and covers a wide thematic scope including physics, chemistry, habitats and biodiversity, marine resources, water quality and chemical contamination, marine litter, and noise pollution, from surface to bottom and subsoil.



Coverage of European legislations

➤ Towards an ecosystem-based approach

The MSFD promotes an ecosystem-based management of the seas. Member states should no longer deal with human activities on a sectorial basis but implement a comprehensive assessment, based on the observation of the marine ecosystem, of the pressures and impacts as well as on the economic and social analysis of the marine environment.

The application of the ecosystem-based approach is a core aspiration that is reflected in OSPAR's vision. Delivering the objectives of OSPAR Strategies through the concept of ecological Quality Objectives (EcoQOs) will contribute to achieve this aspiration.

The MSFD shall contribute to make all approaches consistent, and aim to ensure the integration of environmental concerns into the different policies, agreements and management measures which have an impact on the marine environment.

➤ 2012 Targets



Good Environmental Status

Member States must determine for marine waters the characteristics of good environmental status on the basis of 11 qualitative descriptors, which will be associated to specific criteria and indicators:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| D1 biological diversity | D7 hydrographical conditions |
| D2 non-indigenous species | D8 contaminants in the environment |
| D3 exploited species | D9 contamination in seafood |
| D4 marine food web | D10 marine litter |
| D5 eutrophication | D11 energy and underwater noise. |
| D6 seafloor integrity | |



The Initial Assessment : *state of the art and gaps in knowledge.*

The initial assessment shall take account of existing data where available and of relevant assessments which have been made pursuant to the existing Community legislation. It will comprise the following elements :

- ❖ Analysis of the specificities and essential characteristics of marine waters,
- ❖ Analysis of the main pressures (particularly human activities at sea and land-based pollution), and related impacts,
- ❖ An economic and social analysis of the use of those waters and of the cost of degradation of the marine environment.

➤ Prospects and collaborations

The first step of the implementation of the MSFD : the initial assessment, due in 2012, requires a constructive cooperation between Member States bordering the same sub region. It represents a new challenge and encourages the sharing of knowledge and existing tools between Member States. The 2010 Quality Status Report of the OSPAR Convention shall help to contribute to it.

1: Ifremer 2: Agence des Aires Marines Protégées
3: Ministère de l'Ecologie, de l'Energie, du Développement Durable et de la Mer