



# Thematic Strategy for the Protection and Conservation of the Marine Environment



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# Marine Package



- Adopted by the Commission on 24 October 2005
- Three documents :
  - **Communication** – COM(2005)504
  - **Marine Strategy Directive** COM(2005)505
  - **Impact Assessment** - SEC(2005)1290

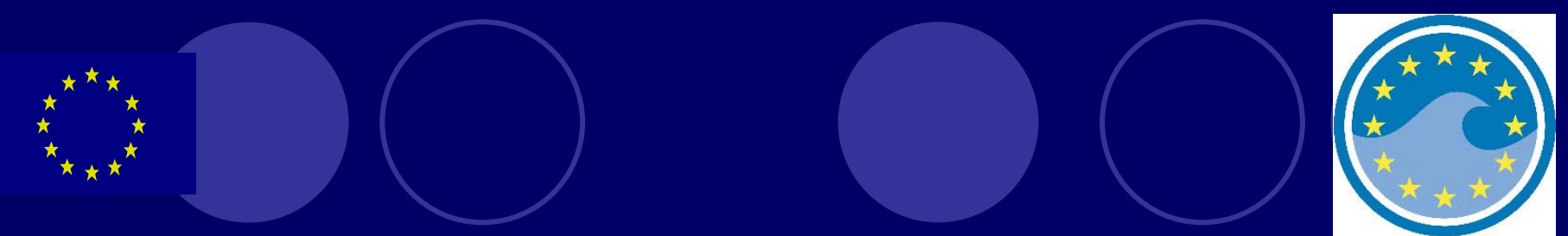


# Structure of Presentation



- 1. Why an EU Marine Strategy?**
- 2. Preparatory process**
- 3. What's in the Strategy?**
  - Focus on draft Directive
- 4. Articulation with future EU Maritime Policy**
- 5. Next steps and challenges**





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# Why an EU Marine Strategy?



# The marine environment matters



- Planet Ocean ?
- Importance of Europe's marine waters
- Key role of marine ecosystems - climate and weather patterns; numerous ecological services (carbon absorption, distribution of solar energy etc).



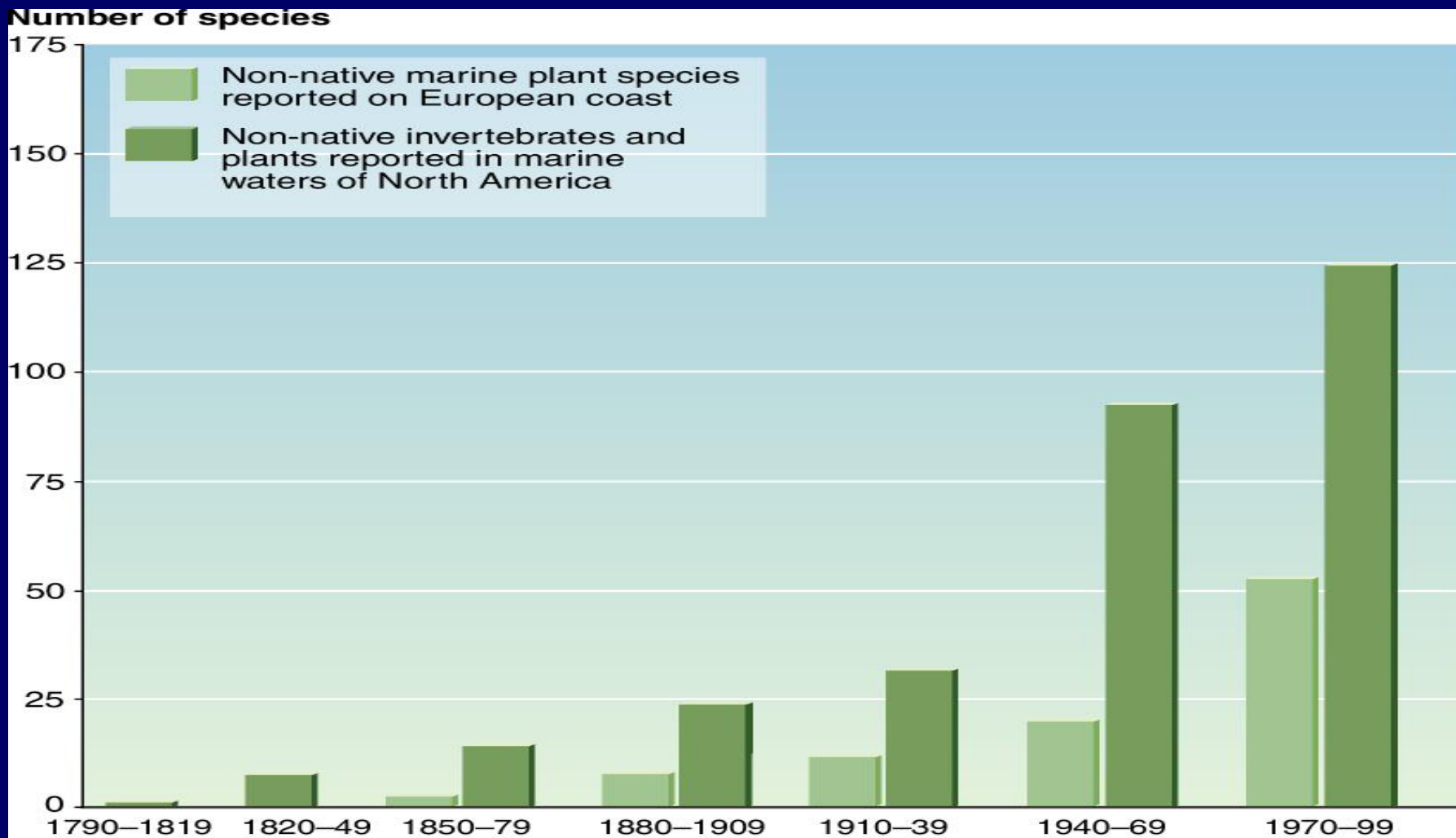
# Increasing pressures



- **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**



# Example – invasive species



Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment



# Knowledge gaps



- **Gaps in knowledge**
- **Monitoring and assessment: divergence of approaches around Europe**





# Governance problems



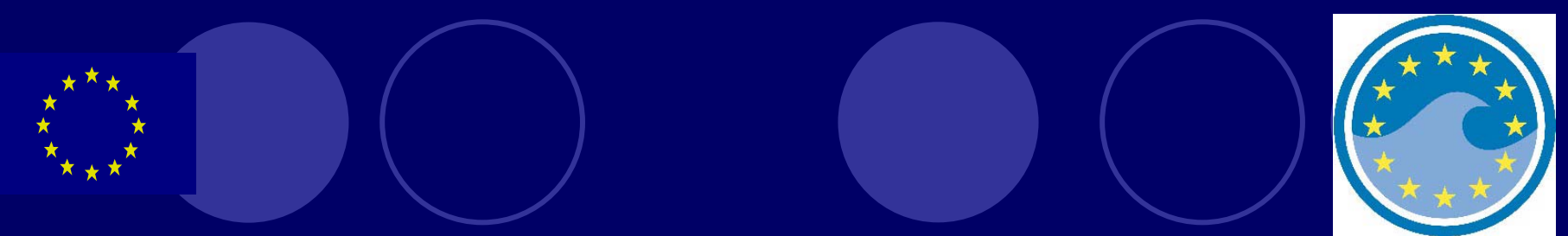
- **Lack of coordination and piecemeal approach**
  - **At international level**
  - **At EU level**
  - **At national level**



# Existing EU policy and legislation



Threat/Pressure	Legislation, policy or programme
<b>Biodiversity Decline/ Habitat Destruction</b>	* EU SDS, *Habitats Directive, *Birds Directive *Council Regulation establishing a Community system for fisheries and aquaculture, CAP,* WFD, *Draft Recommendation concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe (ICZM), *Proposed Directive amending the Recreational Craft Directive 94/25 to include noise and exhaust emission limits for engines used in recreational craft
<b>Hazardous Substances</b>	*Directive relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances (67/548) and related legislation, * Directive 76/769 relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations, Directive concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market (91/414)* Directive concerning the placing of biocidal products on the market (98/8), * Directive on pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the Community (76/464, plus daughter directives), * Directive concerning integrated pollution prevention and control (96/61, IPPC)* WFD* Chemicals Policy* Emissions legislation especially national emission ceilings
<b>Eutrophication</b>	* Nitrates Directive, *UWWT Directive,*WFD, CAP, emissions legislation/national emission ceilings
<b>Chronic Oil Pollution</b>	* Directive on port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues (2000/59)* Community Framework for cooperation in the field of accidental or deliberate marine pollution
<b>Radionuclides</b>	* Basic safety standards established under the Euratom Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community
<b>Health and Environment</b>	* Directive concerning the quality of bathing water (76/160), UWWT, Directive 91/492 on shellfish* Directive 91/493 on fish and fishery products and Directive 96/23 on monitoring of residues in food (Food Safety Framework)* Directive laying down the health conditions for the production and the placing on the market of live bivalve molluscs (91/492)* Commission Strategy with regard to Dioxins, Furans and PCB* Proposed Directive amending the Recreational Craft Directive 94/25 to include noise and exhaust emission limits for engines used in recreational craft (COM (2000) 639)* Proposal for a directive on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law (COM (2001) 139)
<b>Maritime Transport</b>	Directive 93/75 concerning minimum requirements for vessels carrying dangerous or polluting goods; Directive 94/57 on common rules and standards for ship inspection and survey organisations, Directive 95/21 concerning Port State Control; Directive 2000/59 on port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues; Directive 2001/25 on the minimum level of training of seafarers; Regulation 417/2002 on the accelerated phasing-in of double hull or equivalent



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# Preparatory Process

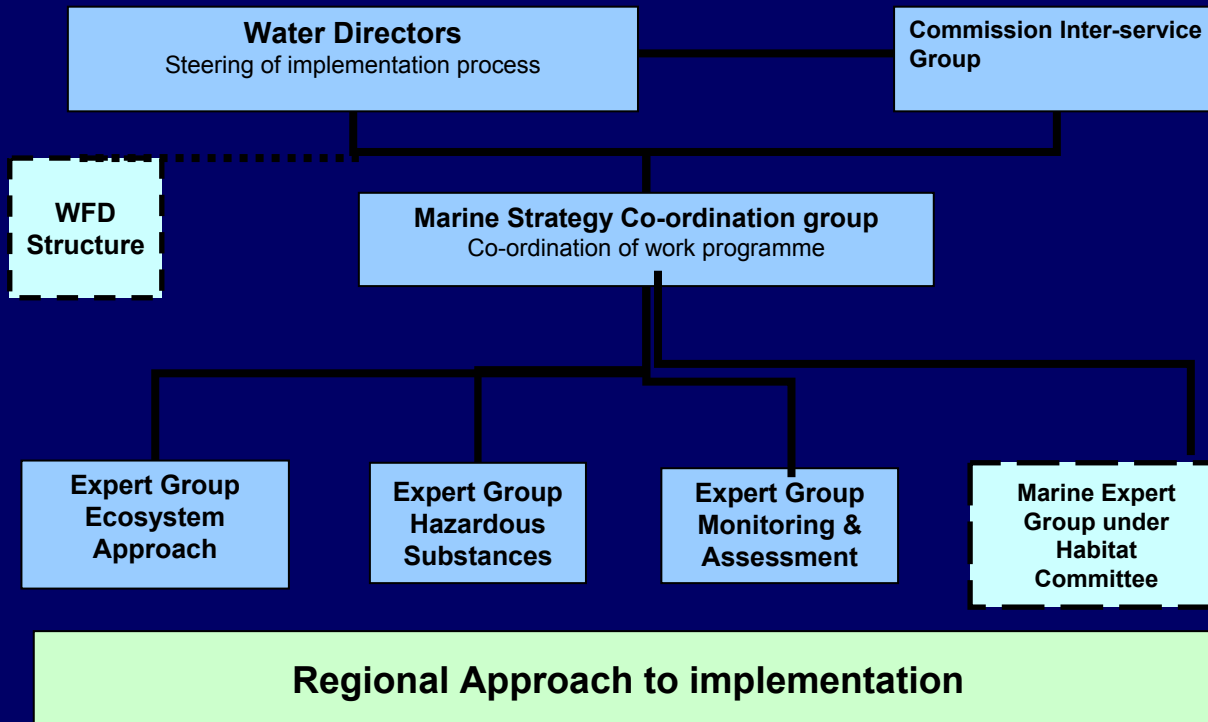


# Preparatory process



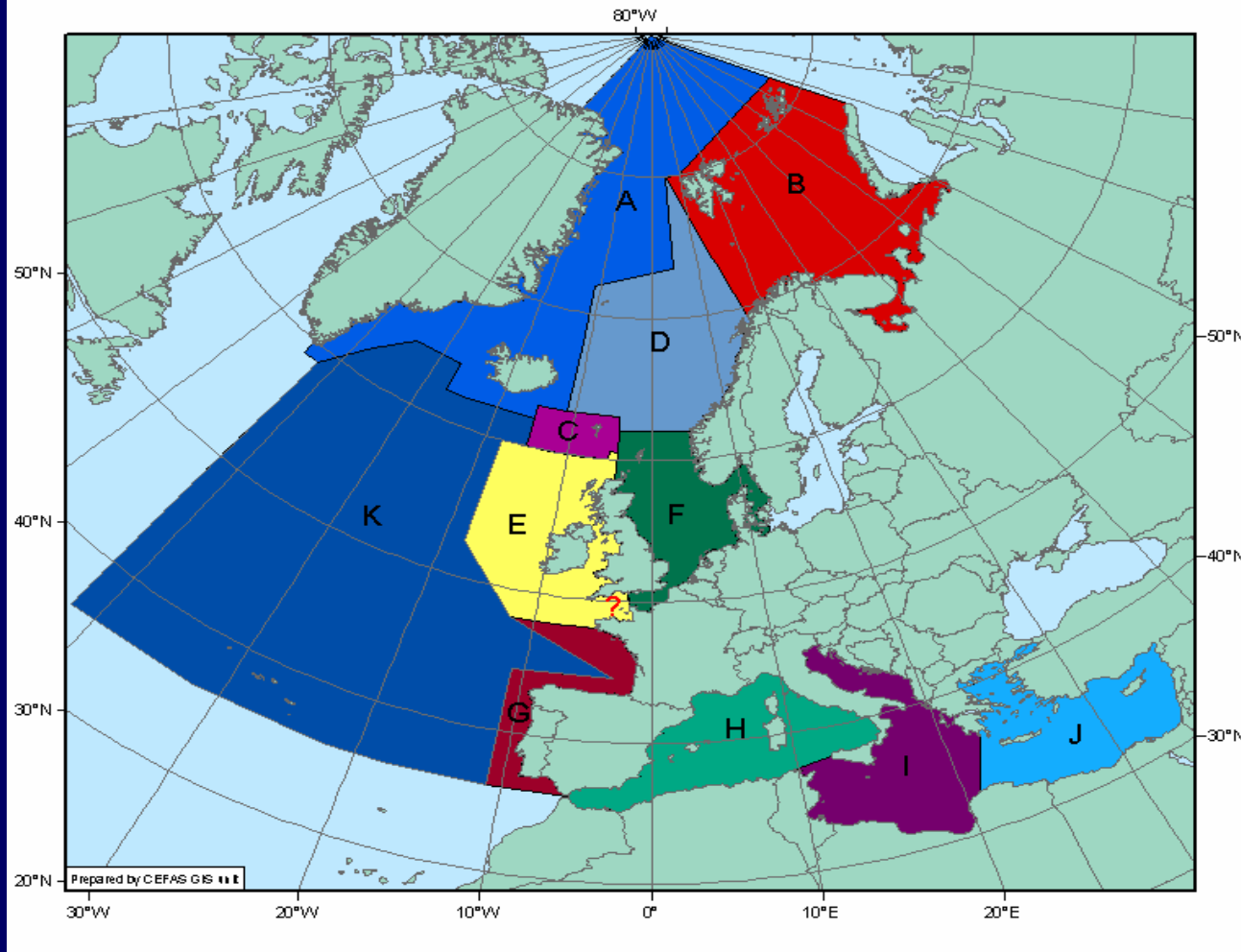
- o 6th Environment Action Programme (2002): Marine protection is one the seven thematic strategies; need for concerted policy recognised.
- o Communication 2002 “Towards a Strategy to Protect and Conserve the Marine Environment”.
- o Council Conclusions 2003 – clear mandate.
- o Council Conclusions 2004 – political guidance on finalising the strategy.
- o Stakeholder consultation conferences in 2002 and 2004, open working groups contributing all through 2002-2005. Overall agreement on the main thrust of the Strategy

# Structure of consultation process



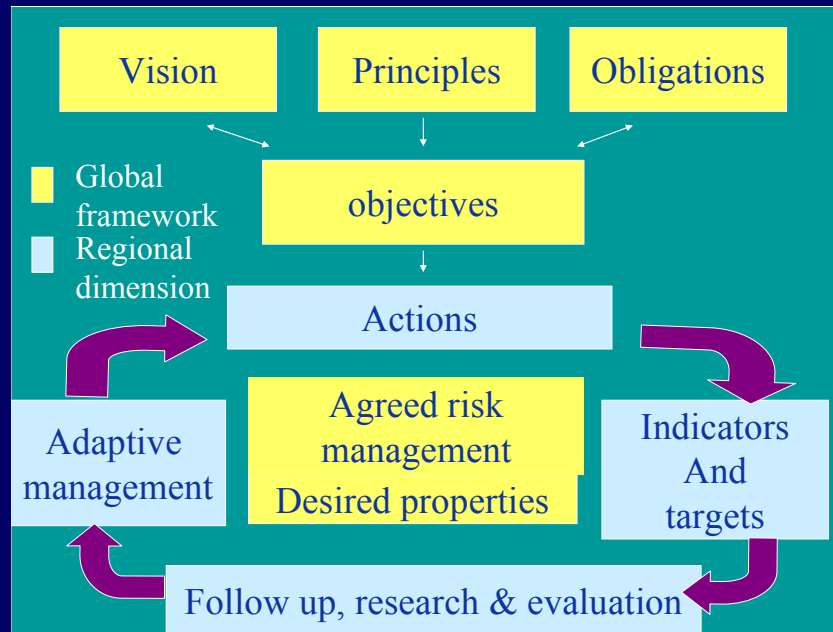


# Study on identification of marine eco-regions in Europe

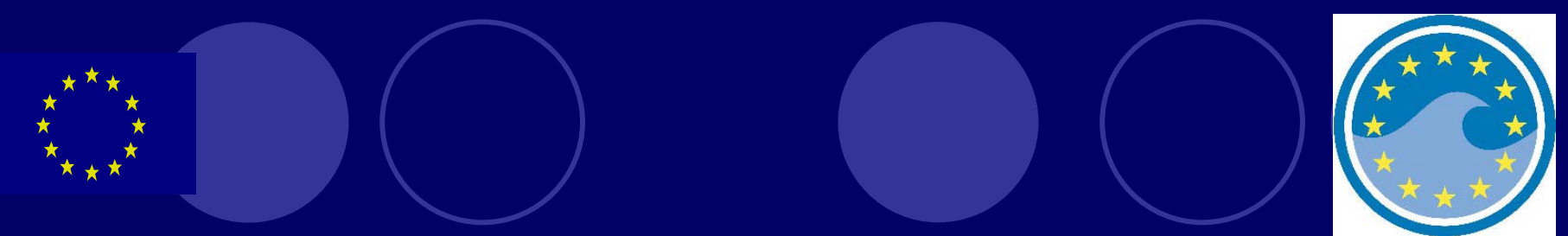




# Study on the application of the ecosystem-based approach



**Definition: comprehensive integrated management of human activities based on 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 this ecosystem**



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# What's in the Strategy?





# Vision



Protect our seas and oceans and ensure that human activities are carried out in a sustainable manner

**“we and future generations can enjoy and benefit from biologically diverse and dynamic oceans and seas that are safe, clean, healthy and productive”**



# Approach



- **Common principles for problems shared by the different regions**
- **A regionalised approach based on Marine Regions to capture specific problems**



# Marine Strategy Directive (1/5)

## Objective



**Translating the vision into a legal objective:**

**Achieve good environmental status of the EU's marine waters by 2021**

- No definition at EU level but generic descriptors will be developed
- Definition will have to emerge from the work at regional level
- The Commission will approve definitions

# Marine Strategy Directive (2/5)

## Marine Regions

### as implementation units



- North East Atlantic
- Baltic Sea
- Mediterranean Sea
  
- (Black Sea post-2007)
  
- Subregions also identified



# Marine Strategy Directive (3/5)

## 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 – role of regional seas conventions & the need to bring in third countries



# Marine Strategy Directive (4/5)

## 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 at the latest
- Determination of good environmental status – 4 years after entry into force
- Establishment of environmental targets – 5 years after entry into force at the latest
- Monitoring programme – 6 years after entry into force at the latest
- Programme of measures towards good environmental status – by 2016 at the latest
- Entry into operation of programmes of measures – by 2018 at the latest
- Strategies to be devised building upon existing programmes and activities developed in the framework of international agreements, e.g. regional seas conventions + iterative approach – adaptive management – regular reviews

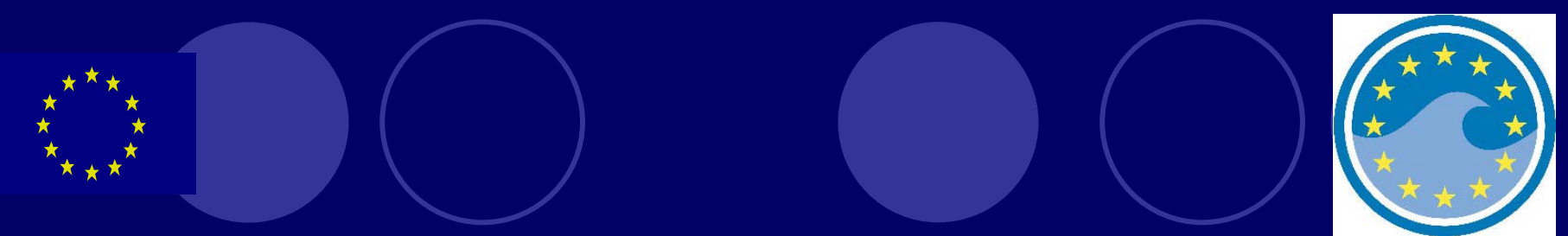


# Marine Strategy Directive (5/5)

## Special cases and situations



- Special areas
  - Action or inaction of other MS
  - Natural causes or force majeure
  - Modifications/alterations – overriding public interest
  
- Community competence



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# Articulation with the future EU Maritime Policy





# Background



- Announced by President Barroso when he took office
- Green Paper scheduled for May 2006
- Under the aegis of Commissioner Borg
- Developed by a Maritime Policy Task Force of Commissioners – including Commissioner Dimas
- Communication «Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union» adopted in March 2005



# Substance



- **Vision – « a Europe with a dynamic economy in harmony with the marine environment »**
- **Marine Strategy – « will deliver the environmental pillar of the future EU Maritime Policy »**
- **Potential for synergies**
- **Political realities**



# Comparison with other experiences (1/2)



- **Canada's Oceans policy (following Oceans Act of 1997)**

- Strategic vision – « *sustainable development of oceans resources* »
- End objective: « *establish Integrated Management Plans for all of Canada's coastal, estuarine and marine waters* »
- Integrated management planning process at regional level:
  - Defining/identifying ecosystem areas to be subject of management planning processes
  - Assessing a management area
  - Engaging affected interests
  - Developing an integrated management plan
  - Receiving endorsement of the plan
  - Implementing the plan
  - Monitoring and evaluating outcomes

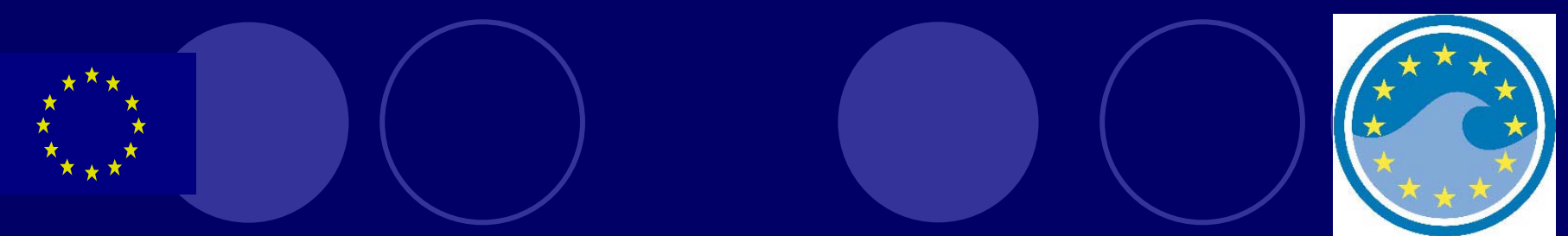
- **Australia's Oceans policy**

- Strategic vision – « *care for, understand and use our oceans wisely* » within the framework of integrated and ecosystem based planning and management for all of Australia's marine jurisdictions.
- A series of goals, principles and policy guidance
- Regional Marine Plans Steering Committees including regional stakeholders to devise regional plans based on an ecosystem-based approach

# Comparison with other experiences (2/2)

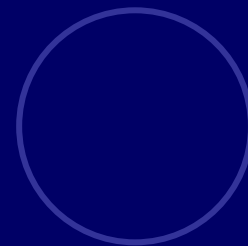
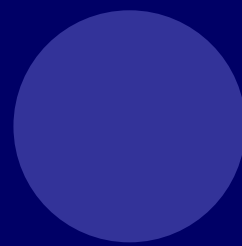
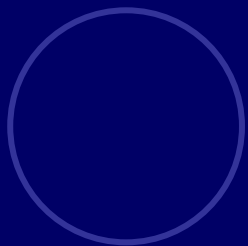
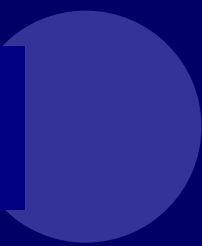


- U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy (April 2004) – follow-up to Oceans Act (2000)
  - Strategic vision: « protecting the marine environment while sustaining the vital role oceans and coasts play in our lives and national economy »
  - End objective: create a new national ocean policy framework following an ecosystem-based approach
  - Approach:
    - Improve federal leadership and coordination on oceans
      - Set-up of National Ocean Council
    - Promoting a regional approach
      - Identify regions based on eco-system boundaries
      - National Ocean Council to facilitate flexible process for creating Regional Oceans Councils
      - Assess pressures and threats to these regions
      - Regional Planning and Management to start in pilot regions



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# Next steps and challenges



- **Institutional negotiations**
- **Green Paper**
- **Funding mechanisms**
- **Continuation of stakeholder process**
- **Intensification of cooperation with Regional Seas Conventions**



# More information



<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/water/marine.htm>

<http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/env/marine/library>