

Marine Strategy Framework Directive : Overview

Regional training

18 - 20 May 2015, Istanbul

ECRAN - XXXXX

HANDOUT 2

Key objective of the MSFD

The key objective of the MSFD is to achieve "good environmental status" (GES) for all marine waters by 2020 - Article 1(1).

GES is laid down only in general terms in the Directive (Appendix 1) by making reference to 11 descriptors.

Steps

Perform a comprehensive **initial assessment** (Article 8 and specified in Appendix III):

- analysis of the essential features and characteristics of the marine waters
- assessment of the current environmental status and the predominant pressures and impacts
- economic and social analysis of the uses of the marine environment and the resulting costs of degradation
- **GES and targets** - identification of **environmental targets** and their associated indicators which are operational tools to lay down the basis for the preparation of the programmes on monitoring and measures.

The key tool for the achievement of the MSFD goals is the **Programme of Measures** (PoMs) (Article 13) which must be established by 2015.

Cooperation

The implementation of the MSFD is challenging and requires cooperation within and between

the marine regions, EU Member States, EEA and Candidate countries, international organisations including the Regional Sea Conventions and relevant stakeholders and NGOs.