

MARINE STRATEGY FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE (MSFD) Regional Training

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ECRAN

**Links between MSFD and WFD.
Interactions, overlaps and
potential area for closer coordination**



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Structure of the presentation

- **Key issues**
- **Links between WFD and MSFD**
- **MSFD – GES steps**
- **MSFD – conceptual approach**
- **Objectives and overlaps**
- **Main differences**



MSFD – key issues

EU Marine Directors have recognised the need to align the implementation of WFD and MSFD closely in **cooperation with stakeholders**

MSFD: framework for the integrated marine protection and management, taking into account all pressures on the whole marine ecosystems

Main goal of the MSFD: to achieve Good Environmental Status of EU marine waters by 2020.

GES: “The environmental status of marine waters where these provide ecologically diverse and dynamic oceans and seas which are clean, healthy and productive” Art 3

MSFD: requires that MS with marine territories put in place a **program of measures** to achieve and maintain GES within a defined timeframe and according to eleven key descriptors of environmental status.

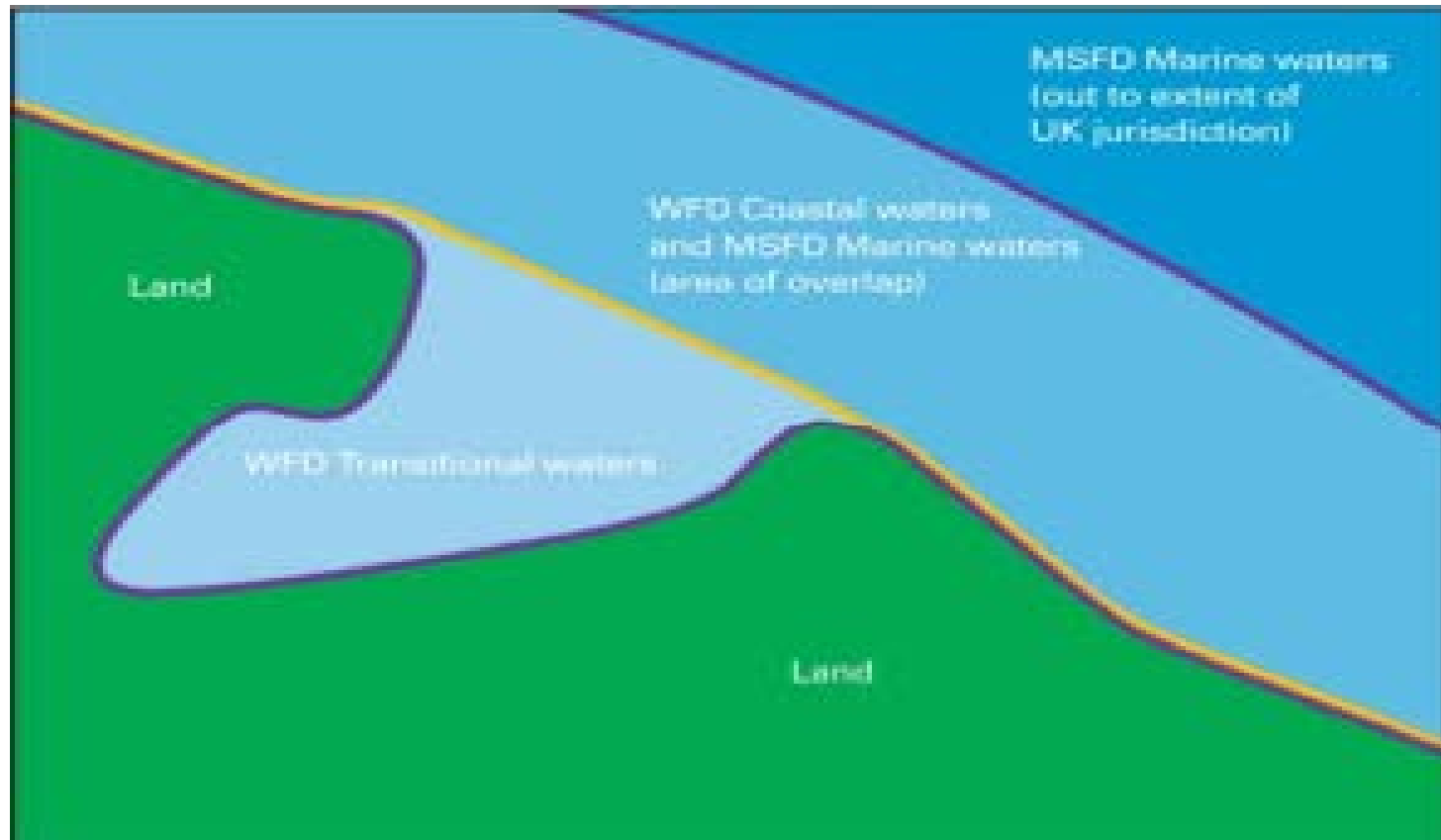


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Links between the MSFD and WFD (1)



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Links between the MSFD and WFD (2)

- Main opportunities offered through joint implementation for reaching WFD objectives
- MSFD Initial assessment – WFD Art 5
- Determination of GES (MSFD) and environmental objectives (WFD)
- Identification of environmental targets and related indicators (MSFD) and environmental objectives and estimation of anticipated effects of measures (WFD)
- Program of measures to achieve GES (MSFD) and Program of measures to meet the WFD objectives
- National transposition of MSFD and WFD
- Main activities at the national level
- Joint implementation requirements
- Timeline, reporting



MSFD vs WFD / GEnS vs GES

GEnS

“The environmental status of marine waters where these provide ecologically diverse and dynamic oceans and seas which are clean, healthy and productive within their intrinsic conditions, and the **use of the marine environment is at a level that is sustainable**, thus safeguarding the potential for **uses and activities** by current and future generations”

GES

“the status of a body of surface water, so classified in accordance with Annex V”

(Annex V sets out detailed Descriptors for all water Body types for different taxa, chemistry, etc.)



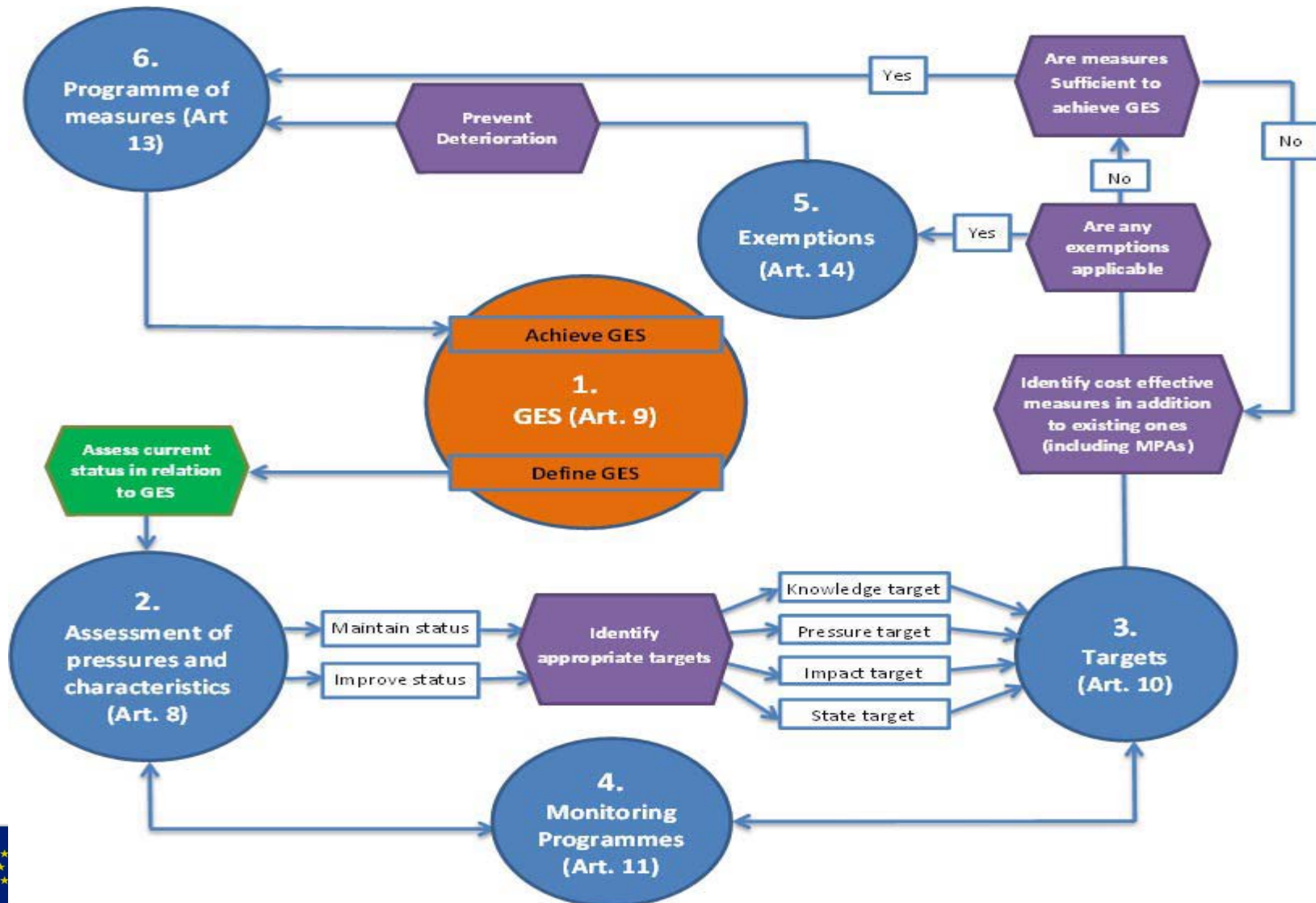
Steps towards GES by 2020



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MSFD: EC conceptual framework



MSFD and WFD: objectives and overlaps

Strong links between MSFD – WFD

MSFD and WFD have **comparable objectives**:

- MSFD focused on the achievement of GES in marine waters
- WFD aiming to achieve Good Ecological and Good Chemical Status
- There are some **significant areas of overlap**, particularly in relation to:
 - chemical quality
 - the effects of nutrient enrichment (eutrophication) and
 - aspects of ecological quality and hydromorphological quality.



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Main differences (1)

— The **scope** of GES under MSFD is broader, covering a greater range of biodiversity components and pressures which are not included for coastal water bodies under the WFD.

These include noise, litter, most commercial fish species and some other aspects of biodiversity

— The **assessment scales** are also different, with MSFD requiring the achievement of GES at the level of the **relevant subregions** whereas the WFD assesses the chemical and ecological status of **each individual coastal water body**.



MSFD vs WFD: Boundaries

- WFD applies up to 1 nautical mile from the land – defined as „coastal waters”.
- MSFD applies to other marine waters in the sovereignty of the Member States.
- For coastal waters the MSFD applies only if it adds new elements to the WFD



Main differences (2)

—Different **approaches to protecting the marine environment**.

WFD – assessing individual quality of each part separately

MSFD – a holistic, functional approach, focusing on a set of 11 descriptors which, taken together, articulate GES.

—**Ecosystem based approach**: MSFD, International Sea Conventions (protocols), Common Fishery Policy, ICZM, Integrated Maritime Policy

—**Integrated approach** to achieve environmental protection: WFD (Bathing Waters, Dangerous Substances/EQS)

— The MSFD explicitly recognises the overlaps with WFD and makes it clear that in coastal waters, MSFD is only intended to apply to those aspects of GES which are not already covered by WFD (e.g. noise, litter, aspects of biodiversity).



Main differences (3)

- **Measures** being taken as part of the WFD implementation will play a major role in ensuring GES for contaminants (Descriptor 8) and eutrophication (Descriptor 5).
- The **WFD plus the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive**, through marine licensing, need to be assessed to see if the GES for hydrographic conditions (Descriptor 7) across seas is achieved.



MSFD vs WFD: timeline

For the WFD it is obligatory for Member States to achieve good ecological status (GES).

Effectively, they have 3 river basin planning periods to do this, i.e. until 2027.

For the MSFD it is obligatory for Member States to achieve good environmental Status (GEnS).

This must be done by 2020 (but is somewhat less expensive than GES).



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Marine litter



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Thank you!



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