

# **MARINE STRATEGY FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE (MSFD) Regional Training**

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ECRAN

## **Implementation of the MSFD in France**



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# Why France? (1)

- France is a maritime nation!
- With over 11 million km<sup>2</sup> of marine waters, including its overseas territories, France has the second largest exclusive economic zone in the world.
- MSFD: transposed into the Environment Code: articles L 219-9 to L 219-18 and R 219-2 to R 219-17
- MSFD applies to zones under sovereignty or French jurisdiction, divided into 4 marine sub-regions:
  - the English Channel and North Sea,
  - the Celtic Seas,
  - the Bay of Biscay and
  - the western Mediterranean Sea.



# Why France? (2)

- France has declared an Exclusive Economic Zone of its coasts in the North Sea, the English Channel, and the Atlantic Ocean—but not the Mediterranean.
- It has declared an Ecology Protection Zone (EPZ) in the Mediterranean Sea claiming in this area jurisdiction over the protection and preservation of the marine environment, marine scientific research and the establishment and use of artificial islands, installations and structures in accordance with the Convention on the Law of the Sea (LOSC). About 10% of the world's coral reefs are under its jurisdiction.
- France, unlike the UK and the Netherlands, has not had a consistent maritime ambition. As a result, development of maritime activities has not always been a national priority and France has not devised a full-fledged maritime policy with clear objectives.
- In the environmental area, France has adopted a national strategy on biodiversity containing a specific sea action plan.



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# Responsibilities

- The Agence des Aires Marines Protégées is involved in the implementation of the directive
- **The agency is responsible for the scientific and technical coordination of the initial evaluation of the seas for the following two topics:**
- evaluation of **pressure and impact** of activities on the environment
- **economic and social analysis** of the use of our waters and the cost of damage to the marine environment.



# MSFD implementation

For each marine sub-regions, an action plan for the marine environment (PAMM) was developed and implemented, in order to achieve or maintain GES in this area by 2020 at the latest.

## The action plan for the marine environment (PAMM)



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# Marine Special Planning in France (1)

- France does have a history of using spatial planning tools that are called “schémas de mise en valeur de la mer (SMVM)” roughly translated as “sea enhancement plans”, and have existed in France for at least 30 years. In the 1960s and 1970s, planning procedures were developed in France for regional marine coastlines (e.g., in Brittany), establishing one of the first tools to help sea use planning.
- The SMVMs were designed to define long-term guidelines for the resolution of coastal conflicts, while taking into full account environmental protection needs.
- The SMVMs include coastal areas when their influence on marine areas is obvious, and on the marine side can extend to the 12 nmi limit. The procedure for implementing the SMVM includes a development phase in which elected officials and all stakeholders (sector representatives and experts) are involved, with final approval by state representatives.
- The key features of the French MSP process include: cooperation of multiple partners; adopting environmental and socio-economic principles; and seeking to set long-term guidelines to solve conflicts and find a balance between the expectations of development and the requirements of conservation



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# Marine Special Planning in France (2)

- Only four SMVMs have been approved and now exist in France (three on the Atlantic coast and one in the Mediterranean)
- MSP in France is moving forward on a sectoral rather than integrated basis, including the delineation of marine energy zones and spatial protection measures for biodiversity (marine parks).
- French stakeholders are involved in the first phase of a pilot MSP initiative through the EU-funded PISCES project ([www.projectpisc.es.eu](http://www.projectpisc.es.eu)) that covers the North-Eastern Atlantic part of the French territorial waters and the Celtic Sea.
- The French government has started its implementation the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive. There are different working groups including an **Atlantic and Mediterranean Maritime Councils**. This consultative body will be in charge of future MSP implementation in France.



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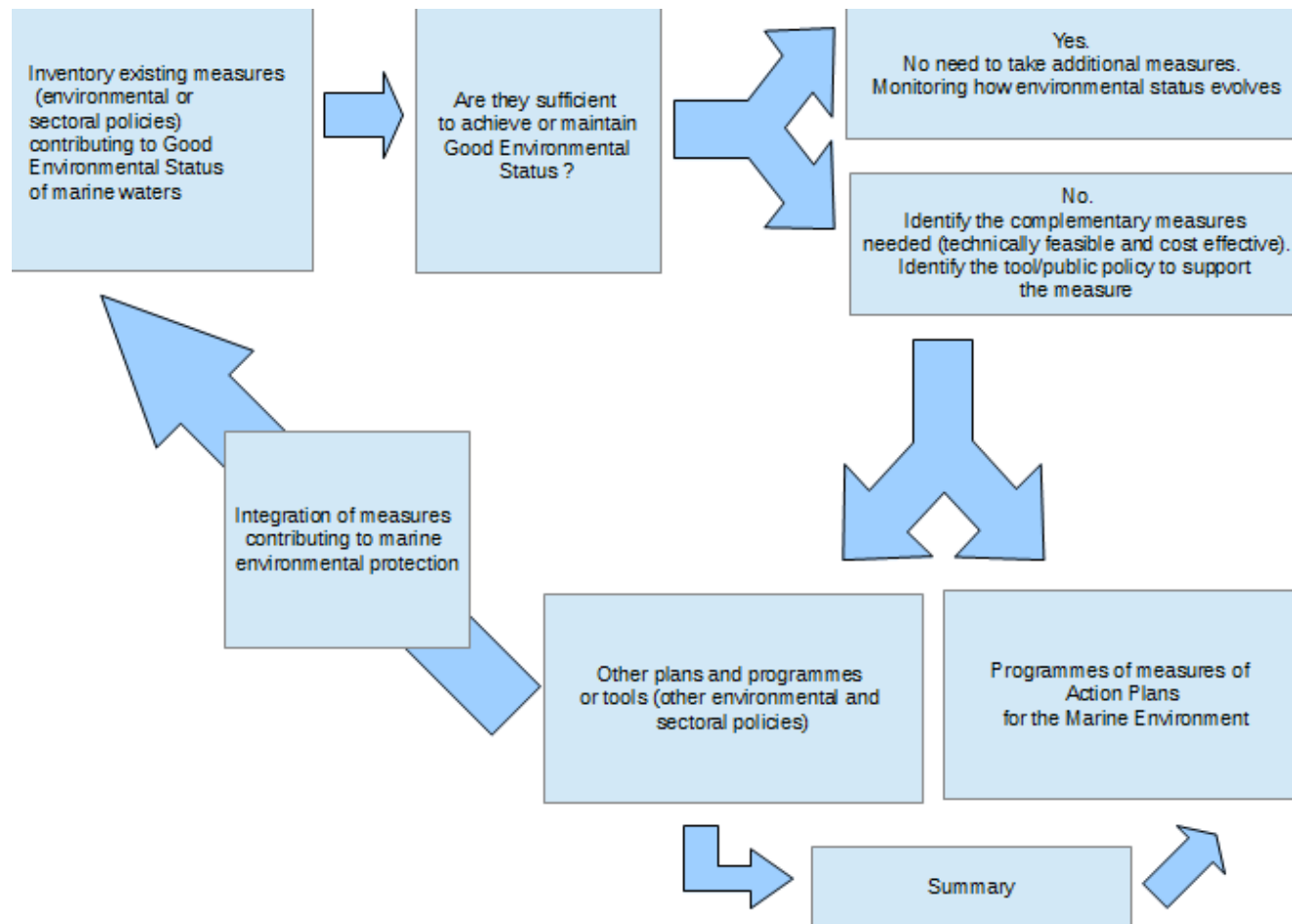


# Implementation stages

- July 2010: subdivision of marine regions – definition of criteria and methodological standards
- July 2012: initial evaluation – definition of a healthy ecological state – definition of environmental objectives
- July 2014: creation and implementation of monitoring programs
- 2015: creation of a program of measures 2016: launch of measures program
- 2020 : "healthy ecological state" objective



# Main steps for PoM



# Descriptor 5: eutrophication (1)

**Human-induced eutrophication is minimised, especially adverse effects thereof, such as losses in biodiversity, ecosystem degradation, harmful algae blooms and oxygen deficiency in bottom waters.**

## **Ecological challenges**

Eutrophication is a phenomenon characterised by an ecological imbalance caused by excessive Fertilisation. Eutrophication has significant consequences for the environmental status aquatic and marine environments.

Descriptor 5 takes account of the mechanisms leading to eutrophication in the marine environment which are: a confined water body, good radiance of algae in suspension and inputs of nutrients, coming from soil erosion by water and which exceed the site's capacity to evacuate or dilute them.

Therefore, the challenge for this descriptor is defined as **safeguarding environments and maintaining their functions, by reducing the phenomenon of eutrophication**, while ensuring the sustainable use of goods and services rendered by the ecosystem.



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# Descriptor 5: eutrophication (2)

**Environmental targets determined in 2012 consistent with the environmental objectives of the water management and development masterplans (SDAGEs)**

Maintain the zones hardly or not impacted by eutrophication.

Significantly reduce the excessive inputs of nutrients to the marine environment.

Reduce the inputs of atmospheric nitrogen (Nox) from agricultural, urban and industrial sources and those due to maritime shipping and land transport.

Continue to reduce point-source pollution from local authorities, industries and farming, in order to take account of the targets set for the receiving environment. Increasingly reduce non-point-source pollution from farming sources and limit their transfer to the aquatic environment.



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# Descriptor 5: eutrophication (3)

## Operational targets

- Safeguard areas which are hardly or not impacted by eutrophication by limiting nutrient inputs, at the source and during transfers, in the catchment areas concerned in the marine subregion
- Identify zones of proven eutrophication and the catchment basins which are the largest contributors of the main nutrient inputs from the source to the outflow.
- Continue to reduce the impact of point-source pollution on the marine environment by reinforcing the treatment of inputs from urban and industrial wastewater in the catchments which contribute most for urban areas with 2,000 population equivalents or more.

In catchment basins covered by an SAGE plan, they could be asked to determine adequate reduction targets and the schedule for achieving them.

Continue to reduce point-source pollution by better taking account of storm water discharge for collecting and treating wastewater in the catchments which contribute the most.



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# Lessons learned

Several lessons can be taken from the French experience:

- 1) the time required for the development phase of the project should be long enough to allow for full participation from marine stakeholders but not so long as to take decades (as experienced with some SMVMs);
- 2) the process needs to ensure a good representativeness and stability of stakeholders;
- 3) a balance needs to be secured of both top-down (government) and bottom-up (stakeholders) decision level inputs; and
- 4) there is a need to produce, organize and share scientific



# Thank you!



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