

MARINE STRATEGY FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE MSFD Workshop

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Implications of the GES targets and criteria



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Structure of the presentation

- Requirements of PoM under the MSFD
- Interlinkages PoM, GES and pressures
- Types of measures and content of the PoM
- Interlinkages IA, GES and environmental targets
- Implications
- Establishment of the targets



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Requirements for the development of measures (1)

Art 13.1 - overall framework for the programme of measures.

Member States shall, in respect of each marine region or subregion concerned, identify the measures which need to be taken in order to achieve or maintain good environmental status, as determined pursuant to Article 9(1), in their marine waters.



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Requirements for the development of measures (2)

These measures shall be proposed on the basis of the initial assessment made pursuant to Article 8(1) and by reference to the environmental targets established pursuant to Article 10(1), and taking into consideration the types of measures listed in Annex VI.



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Interlinkages PoM, GES and pressures and impact

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Member States are required to identify measures that contribute to the **achievement or maintenance of GES set out in their Marine Strategies** (reference to Art. 9 (1) determination of GES) and that will **address the predominant pressures and impacts identified in the initial assessment of their marine waters** (reference to Art. 8 initial assessment).

There should be a **direct link between the proposed measures and the established national targets** (reference to Art. 10 environmental targets).



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Marine strategy

For this purpose Member States will develop and implement Marine Strategies to:

- Protect and preserve, prevent deterioration or, where practicable, restore marine ecosystems
- Prevent and reduce inputs.



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Types of measures

Art. 13.7

Member States shall indicate in their programmes of measures how the measures are to be implemented and how they will contribute to the achievement of the environmental targets established pursuant to Article 10(1).

The measures should take into consideration the types of measures set out in MSFD Annex VI

Annex VI of the MSFD provides a potential starting point to be considered but is neither a definitive nor an exhaustive way in which measures may be presented.



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Content of the MSFD Program of Measures

Based on the initial assessment and determination of good environmental status, each Member State established environmental targets to guide progress towards achieving GES in the marine environment.

To reach GES and related environmental targets, measures have to be identified in order to address human activities that have an impact on the marine environment and to improve or maintain the status of the marine environment.

Such measures can be **existing ones under EU regime or new measures under MSFD.**

Member States need to analyze the contribution that existing measures make to the achievement of each target and - if

necessary – supplement this with new measures.



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Relationship between the initial assessment, the determination of GES and environmental targets

For the initial assessment due in 2012, the Directive requires Member States to make an assessment (Art. 8), comprising:

- (a) an analysis of the essential features and characteristics and current environmental status of their waters, based on the indicative list of elements set out in Table 1 of Annex III,
- (b) an analysis of the predominant pressures and impacts, including human activity, on the environmental status of marine waters which is based on the indicative list of elements set out in Table 2 of Annex III, and
- (c) an economic and social analysis of the use of the waters and the cost of degradation of the marine environment.

The initial assessment should take account of existing data, where available.



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Implications GES, targets and indicators

- By July 2012, Member States determined the GES and established environmental targets and associated indicators which will enable progress towards achieving GES to be assessed.
- The second periodic assessment in 2018 will therefore be an assessment of progress made since the 2012 initial assessment, having regard to the objective of taking measures to achieve or maintain GES by 2020 at the latest.
- In determining GES and setting targets, it is important that the results of the initial assessment, which will be based on the indicative lists of characteristics (components of the marine ecosystems), pressures and impacts of Annex III of the Directive, are taken into account.



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Implications requiring an integrated approach (1)

The initial assessment, the determination of GES and the setting of targets, should, wherever possible, be developed in an integrated manner so that subsequent assessments can build upon and be compared with the initial assessment while providing information on progress towards achieving GES.

The Commission Decision on criteria and methodological standards on good environmental status (GES) of marine waters, adopted on 1 September 2010, contains a number of criteria and associated indicators for assessing good environmental status, in relation to the 11 descriptors of good environmental status laid down in Annex I of the Marine Directive.



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Implications requiring an integrated approach (2)

The criteria build on existing obligations and developments within the EU legislation, covering further relevant elements of the marine environment, not yet addressed in the acting policies.

The Decision is a major stepping stone to establish precise objectives for the achievement of GES within the implementation of the MSFD.

The criteria and indicators most relevant to the element(s) of Tables 1 and 2 in Annex III of the Directive (the indicative list of characteristics, pressures and impacts). This approach is summarised in Annex 3 of the Decision.



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State of the marine environment

A major challenge in the implementation of the Marine Directive is to attain the **necessary scientific knowledge** of the elements that define the state of the marine environment.

For a number of criteria and indicators the need for further development and additional scientific information has been identified.

Increasing scientific knowledge on the marine environment and its processes is required to adequately achieve the Directive's goal.

This knowledge needs to be developed, in particular, through the EU Strategy for Marine and Maritime Research (COM (2008) 534) in the framework of the IMP..



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Implications of pressure, impact and state considerations on the determination of GES and environmental targets

As defined in the Directive (Art. 3(7)), an **environmental target means a qualitative or quantitative statement on the desired condition of the different components of, and pressures and impacts on, marine waters.**

Targets and associated indicators may for instance specify the boundary (or threshold value) between an acceptable and an unacceptable condition (e.g. of a chemical level, population condition, habitat and community condition).

They should be capable of guiding progress towards achieving GES, taking into account the indicative lists of pressures and impacts set out in Table 2 of Annex III of the Directive and also the continuing application of relevant existing environmental targets laid down at national, EU or international level in respect of the same waters.



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Establishment of the targets (1)

Member States have the responsibility to determine the characteristics of GES and establish targets.

In principle, targets should, where possible, be based on the characteristics of GES and therefore should be established having regard to the GES criteria and indicators in the Commission Decision on GES criteria.

A range of different types of targets will have to be established to capture collectively the state of ecosystem components (reflecting good environmental status of ecosystem components), impacts (reflecting the need to avoid or improve an undesirable state not equivalent to GES) and pressures (reflecting the need to reduce or stabilise them).



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Establishment of the targets (2)

Targets relating to pressures and impacts can provide a pragmatic focus on **what is considered not to be a Good Environmental Status**, and therefore facilitate the monitoring of progress towards achieving GES and the identification of appropriate programmes of measures.

Particular attention is therefore likely to be needed on **targets for reductions in the intensity and spatial extent of impacts on the marine environment** in order to achieve or maintain GES



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Adapting WFD reporting to MSFD reporting needs

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Useful info for landlocked countries !!

The measures reported under the WFD KTMs in 2016 are expected to make a relevant and significant contribution to achieving the targets and GES for the MSFD, especially to address **land-based pressures** which are also affecting the marine environment.

In order to avoid reporting of relevant measures under both WFD and MSFD, the 2016 **WFD reporting guidance has been adapted to include linkages to the MSFD by means of new reporting questions that cover the MSFD.**



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Thank you!



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