



# Marine Strategy Framework Directive: State of play and follow up on Art. 12 assessment

European Commission  
DG Environment  
Marine Environment and Water Industry Unit



***MISIS Project Final meeting***

***23-26 June 2014***

# The First Phase of the MSFD

**Member States had  
to report on:**

The final objective  
Good Environmental  
Status

How to get there:  
Targets

Point of departure  
initial assessment:

**Commission must  
assess and give  
guidance**



European  
Commission

# The format of the Commission assessment and guidance

## Commission report

- Summarizes main finding
- General recommendations and guidance

## Staff Working paper

- Detailed analysis
- Country fiches with recommendations per country
- Assessment per marine region
- Conclusions per descriptor and article

**Technical  
background  
reports  
(Milieu)**

**EEA  
State of  
the  
Marine  
Environ  
ment**

**JRC: in  
depth  
analysis**

# Results of the assessment

- Very comprehensive: the first time so much information is gathered on marine environment at EU level
- Public consultations and dialogue with stakeholders
- Better policy integration (water framework directive, habitats, CFP better taken into account in marine policies)
- More cooperation in Regional Sea Conventions

# Assessment of the MS reports

- Often an extensive amount of qualitative information
- Limited precise/quantifiable determination of GES and targets which will make enforceability difficult
- Majority refer to existing policies and standards (if applicable) and does not introduce additional ambition level
- No or limited coherence between MSs and between marine regions
- Variety of assessment scales (spatial, temporal) and aggregation limiting comparability and coherence of assessments
- Gaps in information and knowledge identified, but often without a clear plan to address them
- Limited analysis of pressures and impacts (e.g. accumulation of pressures) and limited links between Article 8 and Articles 9/10

# Recommendations at EU level

- *Review/revision for improved GES definition*
- *Further develop a common understanding on the obligations of Article 9 and on the assessment approaches, including assessment methods and scales, and aggregation rules*
- *Review Annex III to clearly define the elements of future assessments to ensure a more coherent and consistent approach for future assessments*
- *Develop and implement a modern and efficient data sharing information system*

# Recommendations at regional level

- *Further develop region- and ecosystem-specific criteria for GES, in particular for those descriptors or parameters where no EU legislation exists*
- *Stimulate further coordination at regional or sub-regional level between EU MS in the region*
- *Align the timetables and assessment methodologies of the regional assessments*
- *Jointly identify the gaps in knowledge and data and agree joint initiatives to close these gaps in time*



# Overview national recommendations for BG and RO

- *Improve GES definitions, including through regional cooperation*
- *Strengthen, in particular, GES definition for biodiversity*
- *Ensure that targets cover all relevant pressures*
- *Identify and address knowledge gaps (in particular related to initial assessment)*
- *Further develop assessment approaches (towards 2018)*
- *Improve consistency between GES, assessment and targets*



# Article 12 follow up in 2014

- *Regional meetings for each RSC:*
  - First reactions by MS/ questions and comments
  - Review and update determination of GES
  - Monitoring programme adjusted to identified shortcomings
  - Programme of Measures incorporating adjustment of GES
  - Technical (boundary) issues
  - Conclude on coordinated follow up actions
- *Feedback/further discussions in MSCG in May and Marine Directors in June*



# Monitoring Programmes

## 1. Reporting is due by 15 October 2014

## 2. The monitoring programmes should:

- a. Enable assessment of whether GES has been achieved, and if environmental status is improving, stable or deteriorating
- b. Enable assessment of progress towards achieving environmental targets
- c. Be coordinated, compatible, coherent, consistent and comparable
- d. Be integrated with monitoring for other EU Legislation and international agreements
- e. Provide data which are interoperable (e.g. between MS in the region) and made available (to EC/EEA)
- f. Be designed using a risk-based approach – e.g. focused on known areas of anthropogenic pressure/impacts

## **Points from Article 12 assessment (on monitoring programmes):**

- 1. Address shortcomings and gaps identified in the Initial Assessment**
- 2. Systematically use standards from EU legislation or region-specific 'common indicators'**
- 3. Review and accommodate, where appropriate, the available regional monitoring programmes**
- 4. Review and, where possible, update GES and targets, to reflect (regional) progress since 2012 reporting on Art. 9 and 10**
- 5. Update national definitions of GES, where possible, as a reference point for the monitoring programmes**



# **Regional Cooperation**

**Coherent and cost-efficient MSFD implementation will be very difficult without adequate regional and sub-regional cooperation**

**Only BG and RO have a commitment to implement MSFD but Turkey as an accession country, Ukraine and Georgia in the context of closer cooperation with EU, consider MSFD concepts and methodologies**

**A recent Black Sea Commission report highlights similarities in targets and possible synergies of measures between MSFD and Bucarest Convention**



# **Regional Cooperation**

**In particular, sub-regional collaboration of BG/RO with Turkey will be essential for BG/RO MSFD compliance**

**MISIS and the SeaBirds Project show the potential and fruits of such trilateral collaboration**

**We expect this to be taken into account, to the extent possible, including in national projects, for example the IPA-funded MSFD related projects in Turkey**



European  
Commission



Healthy Oceans – Productive Ecosystems:  
A European conference for the marine environment  
3-4 March 2014, Brussels

**Thank you for your attention**