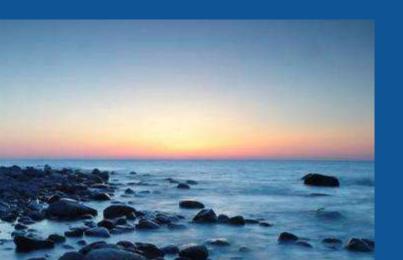


European Commission

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



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 subregional 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





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

Thank you for your attention