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*Towards a 2020 full compliance of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Issues and current status*

*Jordi Sandalinas, LL.M, PhDc*

*jordisandalinas@gmail.com*



## I. Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Overview

- Obliges Member States to reach a **Good Environmental Status** (GES) of the EU's marine waters by 2020 at the latest (Article 1).

**protect** and preserve the marine environment,

**prevent** its deterioration or restore marine ecosystems

**prevent and reduce** inputs in the marine environment to ensure that there are no significant impacts on or risks to marine biodiversity, marine ecosystems, human health or legitimate uses of the sea.

**Affects all marine waters and coastal waters, the seabed and subsoil** on the seaward side of the baseline from which the extent of territorial waters is measured extending to the outmost reach of the area where a Member State has and/or exercises jurisdictional rights,



I. Marine Strategy Framework Directive (cont): “the environmental column of the EU Integrated Maritime Policy “





## I. Marine Strategy Framework Directive. (cont)

- *Each Member State shall, in respect of each marine region or subregion concerned, develop a marine strategy Status (Article 5)*
- *Obligation to comply with the **Good Environmental Status** (Article 9) as described in Annex I and Annex III of the MSFD.*
- ***Monitoring Programs:** to comply with the regulations and the procedures established by the MSFD in order to achieve the goal set by 2020.*
- *Sponsored by the **Community Financial Instruments** (Article 22)*



## *I. Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Annex III example*

<p>Physical and chemical features</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Topography and bathymetry of the seabed,</li> <li>— annual and seasonal temperature regime and ice cover, current velocity, upwelling, wave exposure, mixing characteristics, turbidity, residence time,</li> <li>— spatial and temporal distribution of salinity,</li> <li>— spatial and temporal distribution of nutrients (DIN, TN, DIP, TP, TOC) and oxygen,</li> <li>— pH, pCO<sub>2</sub> profiles or equivalent information used to measure marine acidification.</li> </ul>
<p>Systematic and/or intentional release of substances</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Introduction of other substances, whether solid, liquid or gas, in marine waters, resulting from their systematic and/or intentional release into the marine environment, as permitted in accordance with other Community legislation and/or international conventions.</li> </ul>
<p>Nutrient and organic matter enrichment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Inputs of fertilisers and other nitrogen — and phosphorus-rich substances (e.g. from point and diffuse sources, including agriculture, aquaculture, atmospheric deposition),</li> <li>— inputs of organic matter (e.g. sewers, mariculture, riverine inputs).</li> </ul>
<p>Biological disturbance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Introduction of microbial pathogens,</li> <li>— introduction of non-indigenous species and translocations,</li> <li>— selective extraction of species, including incidental non-target catches (e.g. by commercial and recreational fishing).</li> </ul>



## II. The first phase of implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC). The 2014 Study Report.

- Studies the “Directive’s set of 11 qualitative descriptors of the marine environment (e.g. biodiversity, non-indigenous species, fish, health of food webs, contaminants, litter, underwater noise”. GES is still unmet.
- 39% of stocks in the Northeast Atlantic / 88% in the Mediterranean Black Seas are overfished
- Levels of nutrients and certain hazardous substances are overall still above acceptable limits. Oxygen depletion, as a result of nutrient pollution, is serious in the Baltic and Black seas.
- In the North Sea, over 90% of Fulmar sea birds have plastic in their stomach and on average 712 items of litter are found on 100m stretch of beach on the Atlantic Coast.
- Climate change, though not directly assessed under the MSFD, also contributes to the further degradation of marine ecosystems.



### III. Current Status (2017 - 2018)

- *Copernicus Interaction with MSFD. Effective tool to integrate raw data and determine salinity, biochemistry, sea temperature, currents, etc...*
- *Report from the Commission assessing Member States' monitoring programmes under the MSFD OJ. January 2017. Evaluates progression status of EU Member*
- *2017 New Commission Decision on Good Environmental Status (EU) 2017/848 of 17 May 2017. New criteria. Example: Newly-introduced non-indigenous species = the number of non-indigenous species newly introduced via human activity, in the 6-year assessment period and a list of those species*
- *Annex III MSFD amended by Commission Directive (EU) 2017/845 of 17 May 2017. Example: New standards related to Species groups (Note 4) of marine birds, mammals, reptiles, fish and cephalopods of the marine region or subregion.*
- *Next Commission Report to be delivered by 2018.*

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