



Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

A Strategy for the North Sea Region
Gijon, 20 May 2010



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URGENCIAS

Marine biodiversity is under severe pressure:

- Habitat destruction
- Fragmentation and degradation
- Over-exploitation
- Unsustainable practices
- Invasive species
- Ocean acidification
- Pollution
- Climate change



The new Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56)

- In summer 2008, the European Parliament and the EU Council of Ministers agree and adopt the Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56 (MSFD)
- This new Directive establishes a framework within which:
 - the EU Member States shall take the necessary measures to achieve or maintain
 - good environmental status in the marine environment
 - by the year 2020 at the latest



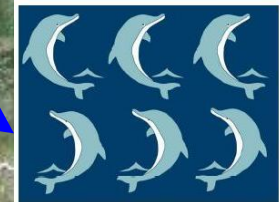
« Marine Strategies »

- Each EU Member State must progressively put in place its own “Marine Strategy” (action plan), consisting of several steps
- They must cooperate among themselves and also with neighbouring countries...
- ... where possible within Regional Sea Conventions (e.g. OSPAR, Barcelona, Helcom, Black Sea)



**OSPAR
COMMISSION**

*Protecting and conserving the
North-East Atlantic and its resources*



Commission on the Protection
of the Black Sea Against Pollution
Permanent Secretariat



United Nations Environment
Programme Mediterranean
Action Plan

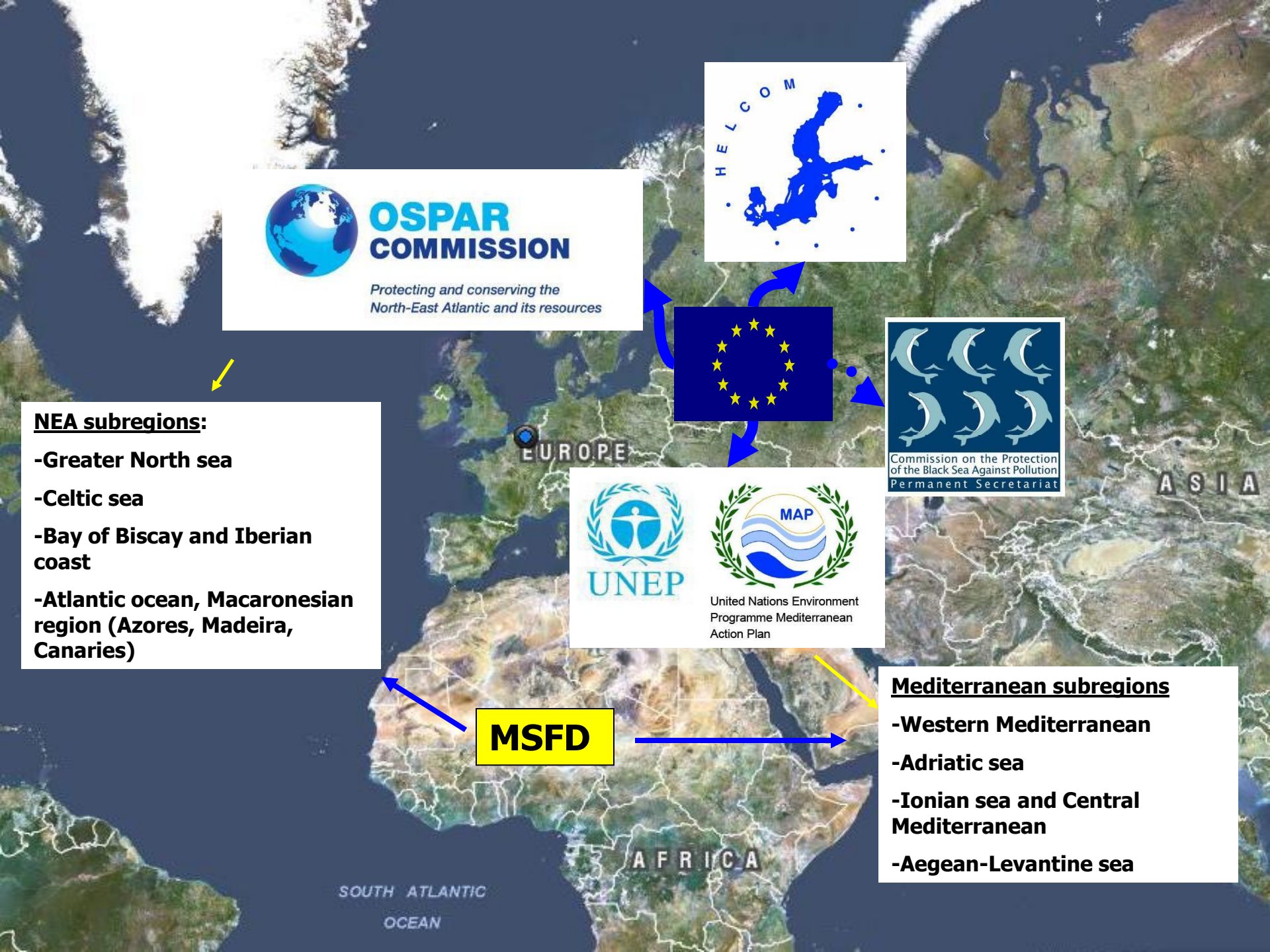
NEA subregions:

- Greater North sea
- Celtic sea
- Bay of Biscay and Iberian coast
- Atlantic ocean, Macaronesian region (Azores, Madeira, Canaries)

MSFD

Mediterranean subregions

- Western Mediterranean
- Adriatic sea
- Ionian sea and Central Mediterranean
- Aegean-Levantine sea





Marine Strategies - Implementation milestones (1)

EC by 15 July 2010:

- Criteria and methodological standards on good environmental status (“GES”) to use

Member States by 15 July 2012:

- Description and assessment of current environmental status, including the environmental impact of human activities & socio-economic analysis
- Determination of GES to be achieved (precise ecological objectives)
- Establishment of environmental targets and associated indicators



Marine Strategies - Implementation milestones (2)

Member States by 15 July 2014:

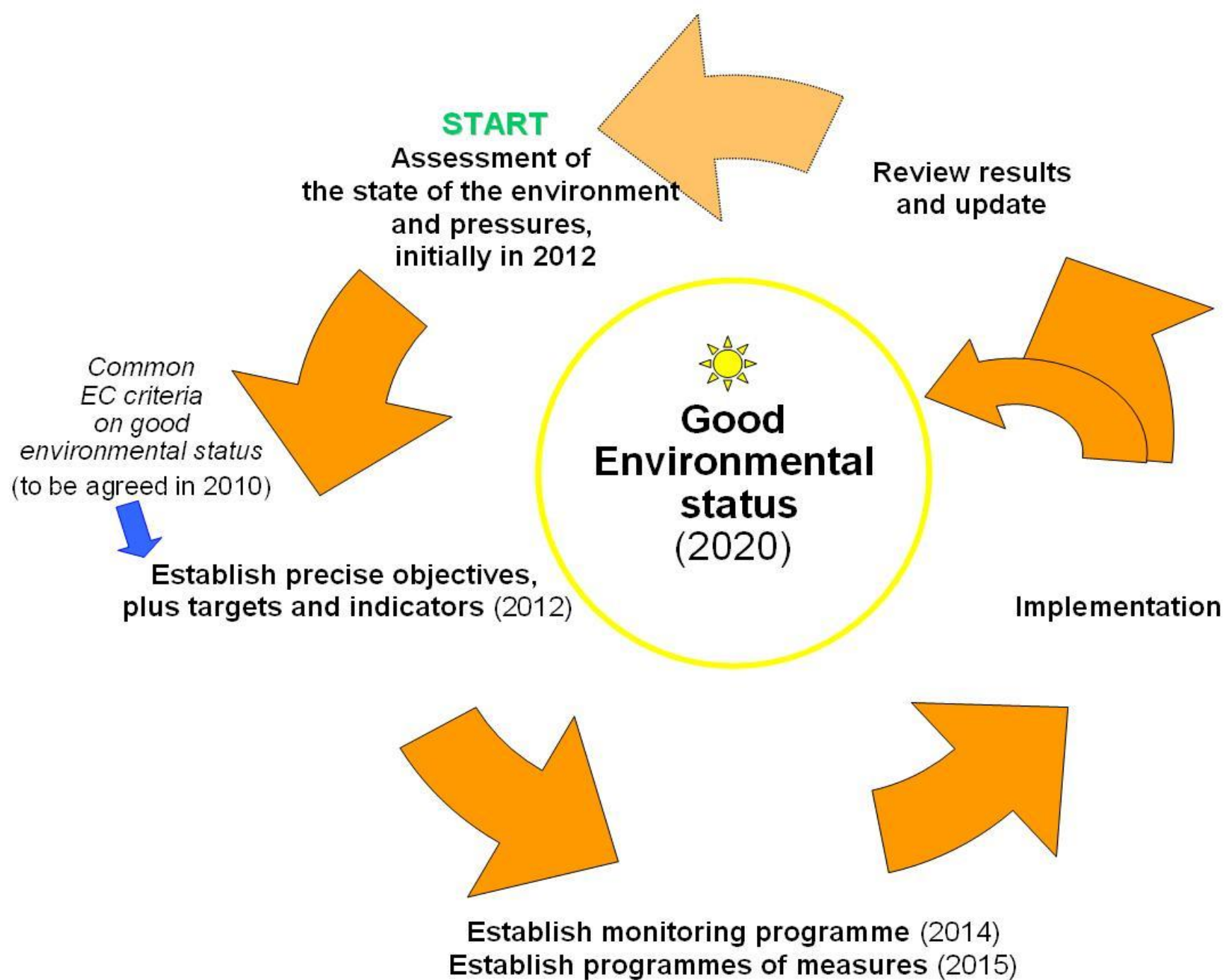
- Monitoring programmes for all marine waters (adapted to the assessment of progress towards GES)

By 2015 all Marine Strategies will culminate with:

- Programme of measures towards achieving GES in 2020
- Establishment of MPA's important contribution

Some key concepts:

- Regional approach, specific to each sea basin
- Building upon existing activities developed in the framework of regional seas conventions
- Adaptive management, with regular review (every 6 years)





Descriptors of GES

- Biological diversity
- Non-indigenous species
- Population of commercial fish/shellfish
- Elements of marine food web/reproduction
- Eutrophication
- Sea floor integrity
- Alteration of hydrographical conditions
- Contaminants
- Contaminants in seafood
- Marine litter
- Energy incl. underwater noise



MSFD and the Integrated Maritime Policy

The MSFD will be a key to the success to the Integrated Maritime Policy:

- The MSFD establishes an integrated approach to maritime activities that can contribute to IMP success
- Its legally binding framework will benefit the development of integrated maritime tools (e.g. maritime spatial planning)
- It provides a long term policy vision of the seas
- Legal basis for enhanced cooperation in marine regions
- The MSFD is the environmental pillar of the IMP



Ecosystem-based approach

- The Marine Strategies to be developed by EU Member States will apply an ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities:
 - ensuring that the collective pressure of such activities is kept within levels compatible with the achievement of good environmental status
 - and that the capacity of marine ecosystems to respond to human-induced changes (e.g. climate change) is not compromised,
 - while enabling the sustainable use of marine goods and services by present and future generations
- Integration of environmental concerns into the different policies which have an impact on the marine environment (I.e. CFP)



Steps to be taken

- 6/2010- 7/2012:
 - Post 2010 Biodiversity Strategy
 - Establishment MPA's
 - Reform CFP
 - Initial assessment MSFD
 - Determination of “GES”
 - Establishment of targets
- < 7/2014:
 - Monitoring programme
- <7/2015:
 - Programme of measures

Marine Strategy Framework Directive

achieving good environmental status
for all European marine waters

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/marine/index_en.htm



**Thank you
for your attention !**