



SEAS AT RISK

for the protection and restoration of the marine environment

The Implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive

State of play and next steps

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PART I



1. The Marine Strategy Framework Directive: main objectives

- “Framework within which 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” (Article 1(1)).
- “Protect and preserve the marine environment, prevent its deterioration or, where practicable, restore marine ecosystems” (Article 1(2)).
- Contribution to environmental policy integration in the marine sphere (Article 1(4)).



Good Environmental Status

Definition of GES – MSFD Art. 3.5

“‘Good environmental status’ means the environmental status of marine waters where these provide **ecologically diverse** and dynamic oceans and seas which are **clean, healthy and productive** within their intrinsic conditions, and the **use of the marine environment is at a level that is sustainable**, thus safeguarding the potential for uses and activities by current and future generations.”

Qualitative Descriptors (e.g.)

- Biological diversity is maintained; quality and occurrence of habitats and species abundance and distribution are normal
- Fish stocks exhibit a healthy population age and size distribution
- Sea floor integrity is at a level that ensures the structure and function of the ecosystems
- Introduction of energy, including noise, is at innocuous levels

2. The Ecosystem-based approach

- Application of an ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities.

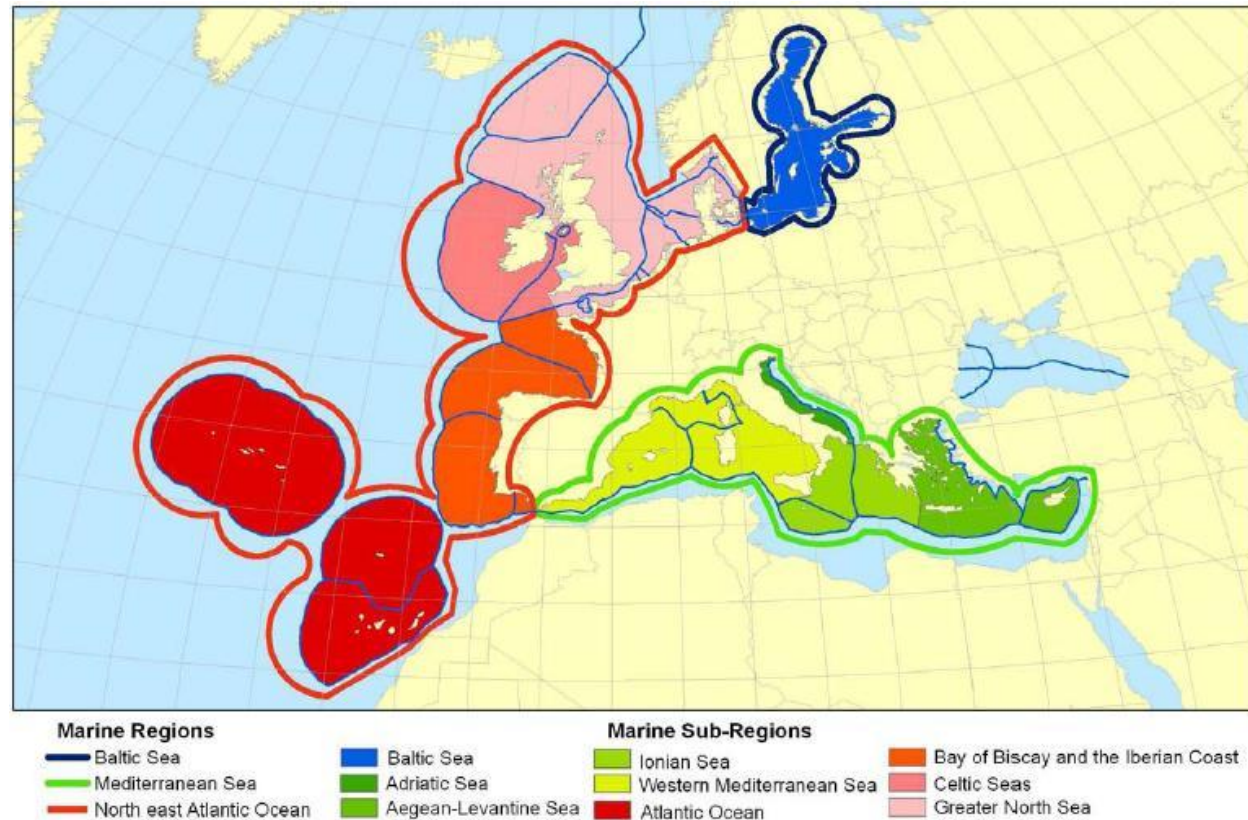
Ecosystem-based Approach – MSFD Art. 1.3

Marine strategies shall 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 is not compromised, while enabling the sustainable use of marine goods and services by present and future generations.

- Environmental “pillar” of the Integrated Maritime Policy - Sustainable use depends on the ecosystems

3. Regional approach

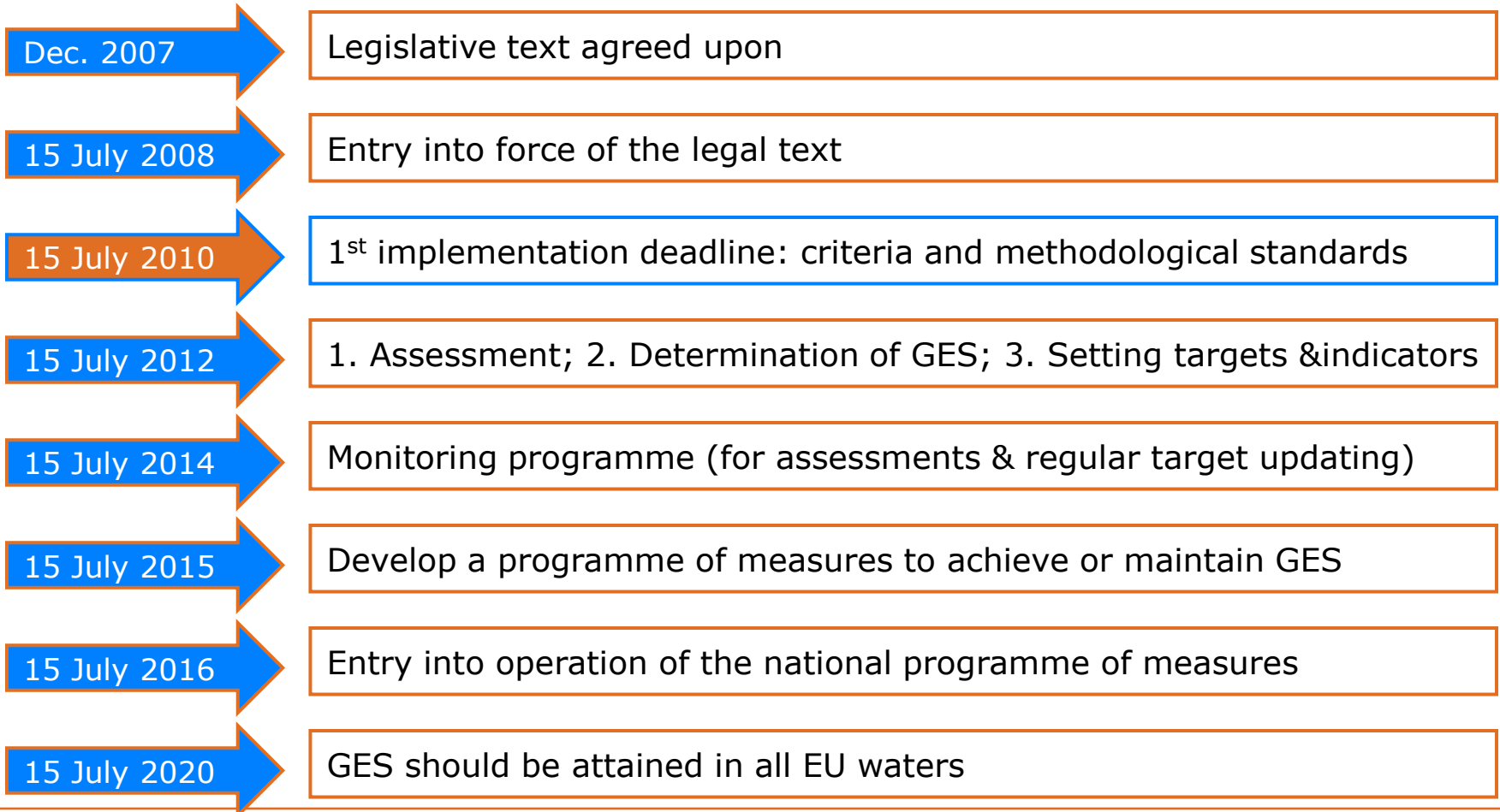
- Marine regions or sub-regions are the implementation units.
- Member States must coordinate their strategies with other Member States or third countries sharing the same marine region or sub-region
- Use should be made of existing structures, such as Regional Seas Conventions (e.g. HELCOM, OSPAR)



PART II



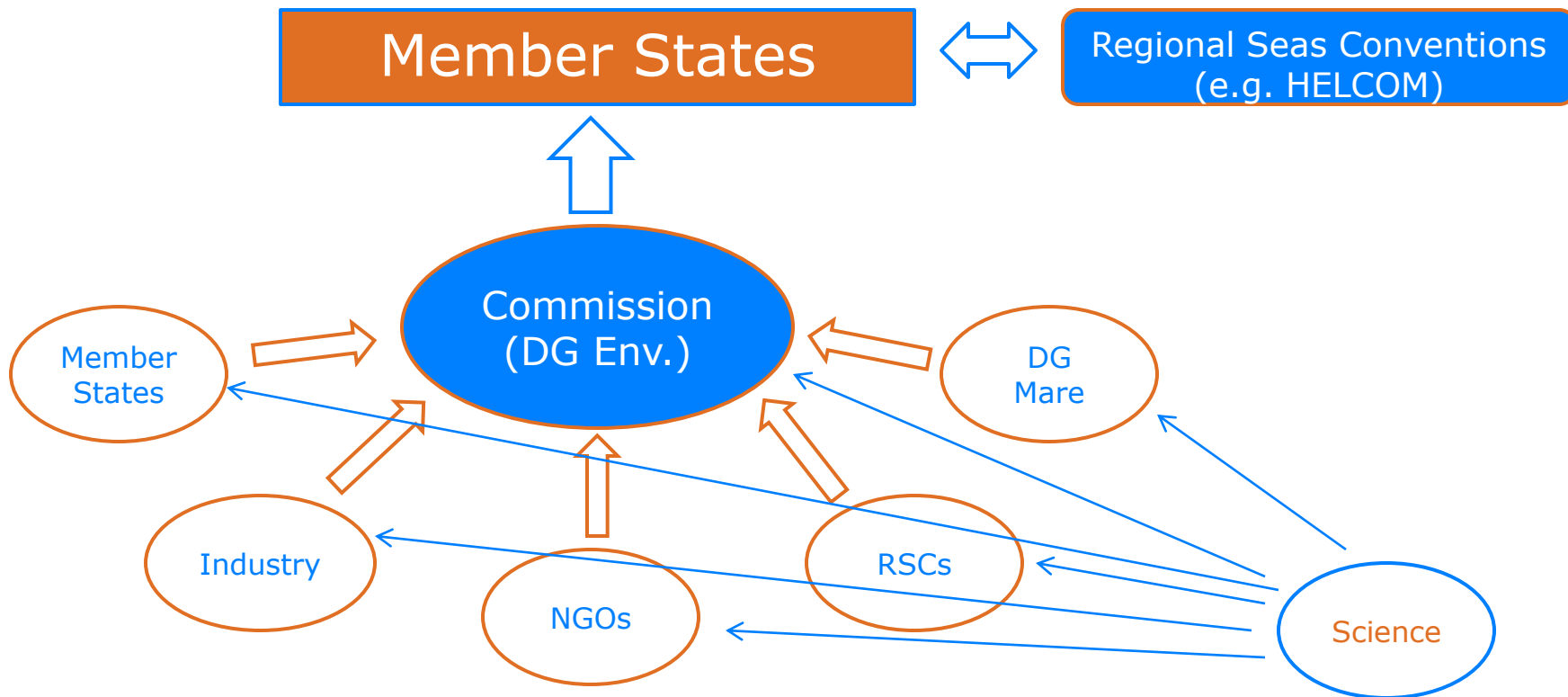
1. Where we are in the process...



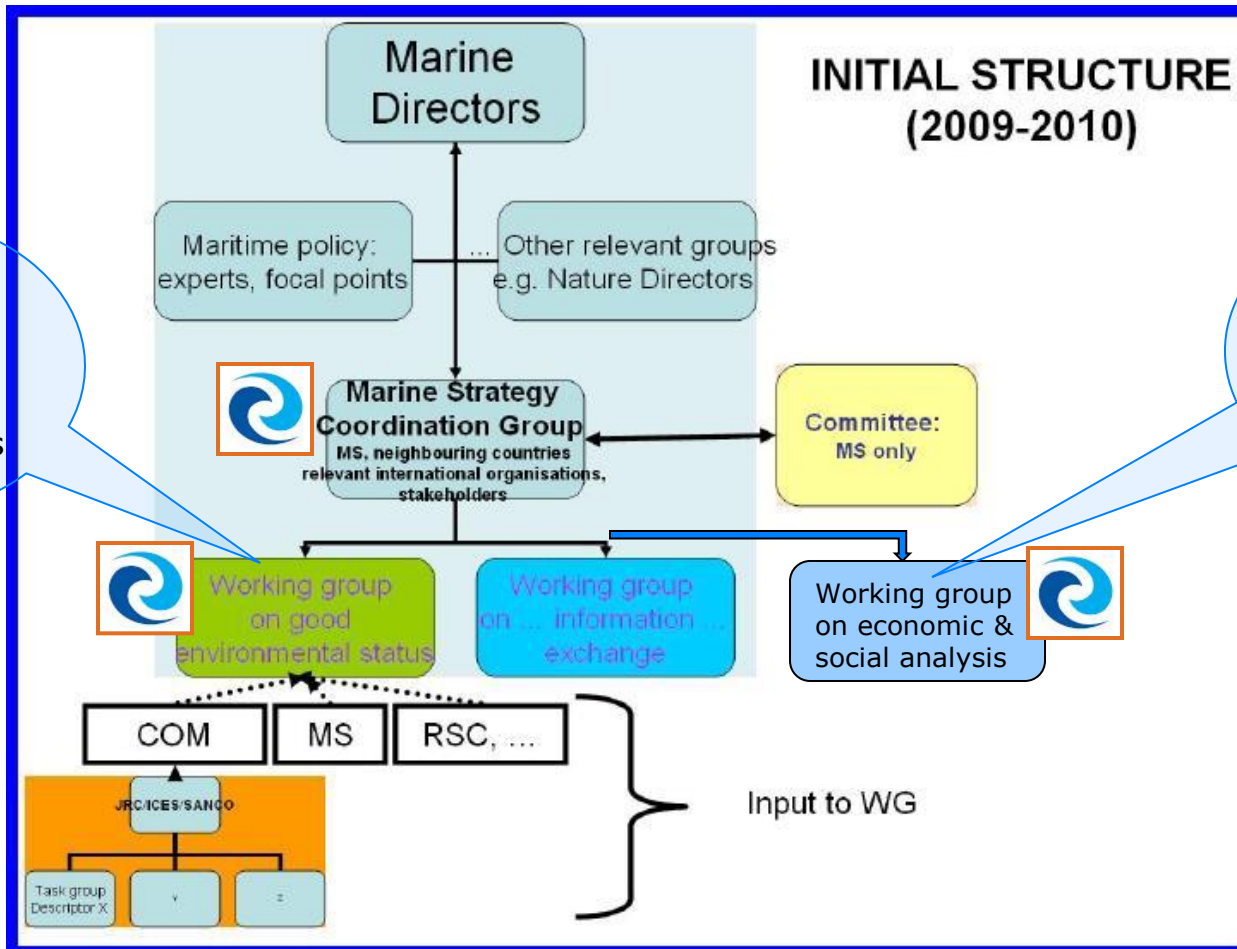
So, what should be happening now?

- Transposition into national legislation (by 15 July 2010)
- Preparation:
 - Initial assessment (by 15 July 2012)
 - Determination of GES (by 15 July 2012)
 - Environmental targets and indicators (by 15 July 2012)
 - Monitoring programme for ongoing assessment and regular updating of targets (by 15 July 2014)
- Programmes of Measures:
 - Measures needed to achieve or maintain GES
 - Must include spatial protection measures, contributing to coherent and representative networks of marine protected areas (MPAs)
 - To be developed by 2015 (at the latest) and implemented by 2016.

2. Who is involved?



Structure for Common Implementation Strategy



WG GES has so far been focusing on the criteria and standards

WG ESA is already working on socio-economic assessments

3. What are the next steps?

15 July 2012

1. Assessment; 2. Determination of GES; 3. Setting targets & indicators

Assessment:

- Initial assessment of the current environmental status of the waters concerned and the environmental pressures and impacts of human activities on the marine environment
- Economic and social analysis of the use of those waters and of the cost of degradation of the marine environment

Determination of GES

- GES shall be determined at the level of the marine region or sub-region, on the basis of the qualitative descriptors in Annex I and in reference to the initial assessment.
- The definition of GES will be done on a case by case basis, rather than being a single one for all Member States waters.

Setting targets and indicators

- On the basis of the initial assessment, Member States shall establish a comprehensive set of environmental targets and associated indicators for their marine waters so as to guide progress towards achieving GES.

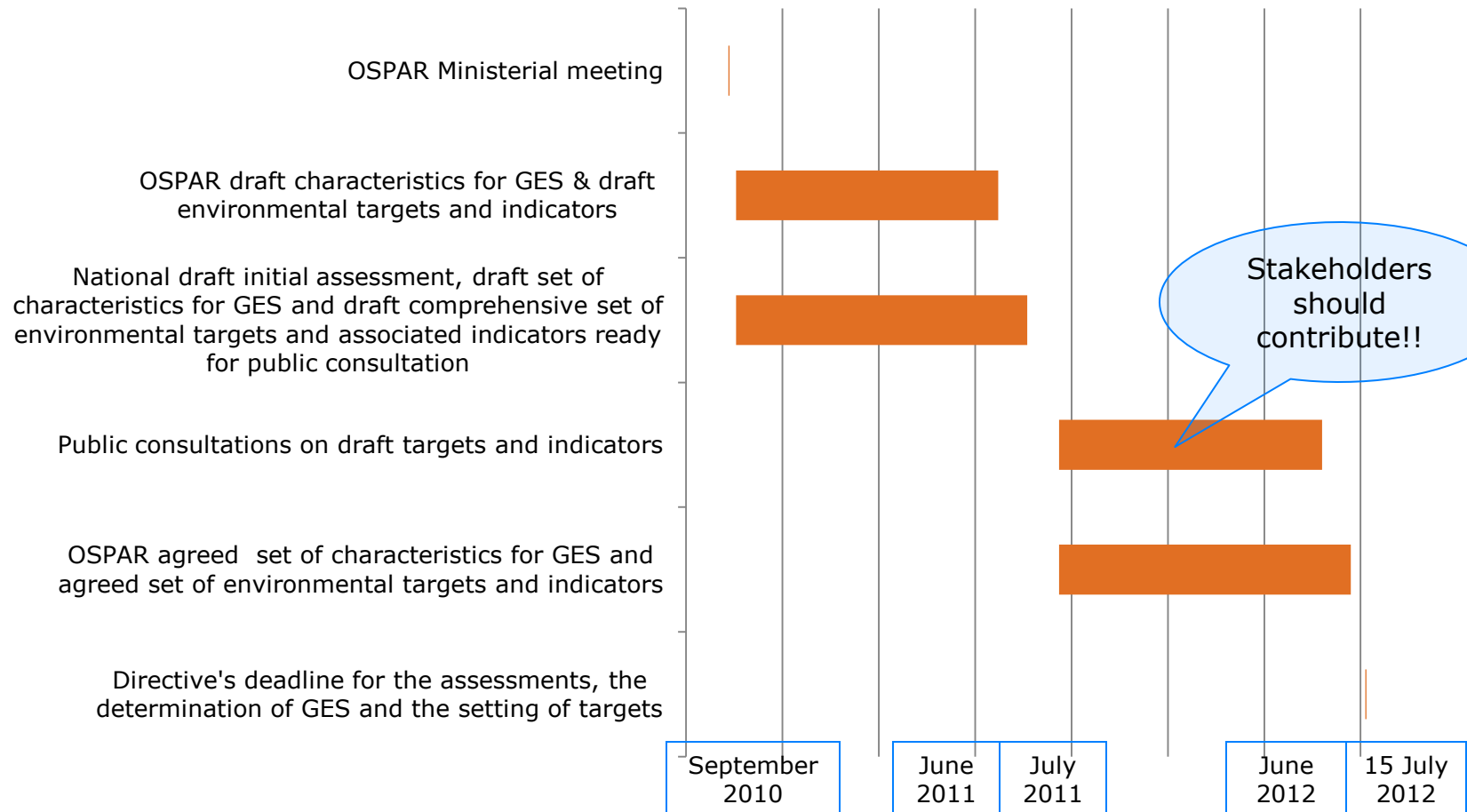
Who?

Member States
(with the support of RSCs)

How?

By reference to the annexes of the Directive and to the work of the WGs

4. Timeline of events



PART III



1. Determination of GES and target setting

- We want:
 - Ambitious environmental objectives (MSFD as environmental “pillar” of IMP and driver of CFP reform)
 - Ecosystem-based approach to description of GES and target setting (sustainable use depends on ecosystem carrying capacity)
 - *Status quo* should not be the target – reference areas, historical data, expert judgement and modelling should be used to determine reference status.
 - Integrated approach: the 11 descriptors should be seen jointly, not assessed in isolation.



2. How it can easily go wrong...



- Status quo drives the process
 - Commission decision on criteria and methodological standards
 - Fmsy
 - SSBpa
 - Mortality alone does not account for ecosystem / food web interactions (removal of keystone species)
- Targets are set according to what is “easily” achievable, and not according to what would deliver GES
- Lack of data used as excuse for lack of ambition

3. ... And how NGOs can help prevent it!

- Participate in public consultations; if they are not planned, ask your government to be involved
- Watch out for the definition of GES: this is real **Good** Environmental Status, not what is easy or cheap to achieve!
- Demand ambitious targets – fish stocks will not be healthy if we are just aiming at MSY...



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Thank you for your attention!

Questions?

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