

German NGOs approach to Good Environmental Status



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Jochen Lamp

WWF Germany

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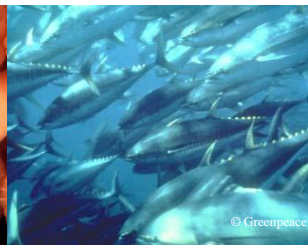
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My subjects:

- NGO involvement in the process of defining GES in Germany
- How good is good?
- General principles and shortcomings
- descriptors and





NGO Coalition



Where did we start :



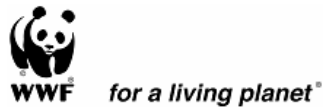
- joint positioning during the creation of the blue book and MSD /MSFD (European level)



- Joint statements during the public participation (written submissions, stakeholder hearings,...)



involved in stakeholder process but not in the GES working groups of the MS



National processes differ



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Process in Germany I



starting point: Process within the government only

WWF initiative to put GES on NGO agenda

GES working group (shared documents, internet platform)

Internal workshop:

- prepare common grounds
- define work structure and tasks

Workshop with authority participation:

- Present NGO comments and proposals
- Exchange
- Mutual update (timing, opportunities etc)



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Process in Germany II

products

- descriptor fact sheets
- Joint presentations

Dissemination and information sharing

Get back to **Europe** and regional fora (Helcom, OSPAR, ...)



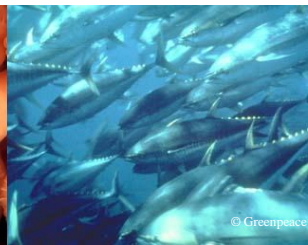
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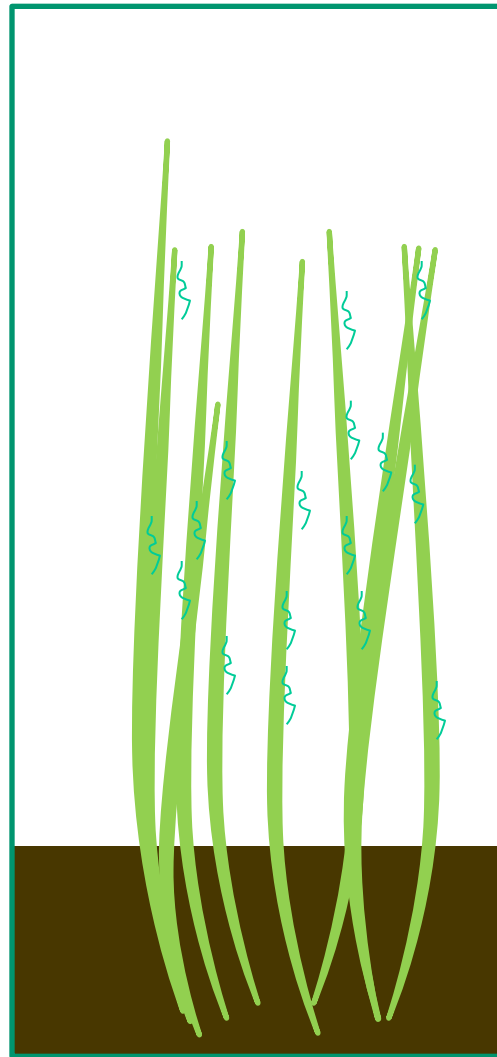
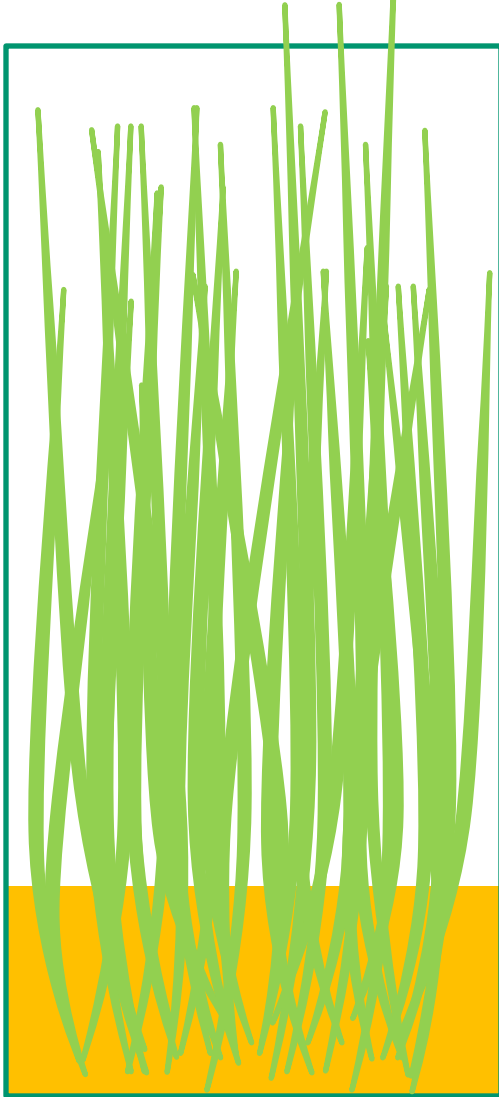


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How good is good?

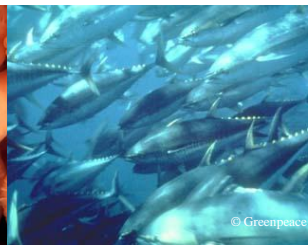


Marine governance - the bottom line

- we regulate human activities **NOT** the environment
- rights to ocean resources are conditional upon preserving the marine environment
- keep it clean
- protected area network must be completed
- not all that counts can be counted

... to protect life at sea,

we must change our lives on land



The bottom line: Good Env. Status (GES)

- no fish no sea
- no trophic decline as a result of use
- recovery to a state that provides resilience
 - *cumulative effects*
 - *broader environmental change*
- human use within limits of natural carrying-capacity
- areas of the sea are fully-protected



What's not covered?

- international waters are not covered
- GES descriptors are status and not pressure based
- protected areas are not an integral part of GES definition
- still to be established: criteria methodological standards, characteristics, targets and associated indicators



How good is good?



The point of departure

ANNEX I

Qualitative descriptors for determining good environmental status

(referred to in Articles 3(5), 9(1), 9(3) and 24)

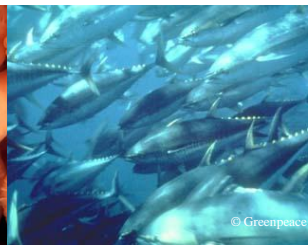
- (1) Biological diversity is maintained. The quality and occurrence of habitats and the distribution and abundance of species are in line with prevailing physiographic, geographic and climatic conditions.
- (2) Non-indigenous species introduced by human activities are at levels that do not adversely alter the ecosystems.
- (3) Populations of all commercially exploited fish and shellfish are within safe biological limits, exhibiting a population age and size distribution that is indicative of a healthy stock.
- (4) All elements of the marine food webs, to the extent that they are known, occur at normal abundance and diversity and levels capable of ensuring the long-term abundance of the species and the retention of their full reproductive capacity.
- (5) Human-induced eutrophication is minimised, especially adverse effects thereof, such as losses in biodiversity, ecosystem degradation, harmful algae blooms and oxygen deficiency in bottom waters.
- (6) Sea-floor integrity is at a level that ensures that the structure and functions of the ecosystems are safeguarded and benthic ecosystems, in particular, are not adversely affected.
- (7) Permanent alteration of hydrographical conditions does not adversely affect marine ecosystems.
- (8) Concentrations of contaminants are at levels not giving rise to pollution effects.
- (9) Contaminants in fish and other seafood for human consumption do not exceed levels established by Community legislation or other relevant standards.
- (10) Properties and quantities of marine litter do not cause harm to the coastal and marine environment.
- (11) Introduction of energy, including underwater noise, is at levels that do not adversely affect the marine environment.

GES - healthy oceans teeming with life

(D 1, 2, 3 & 4)

...relates to biodiversity, habitats, species including fish & food webs

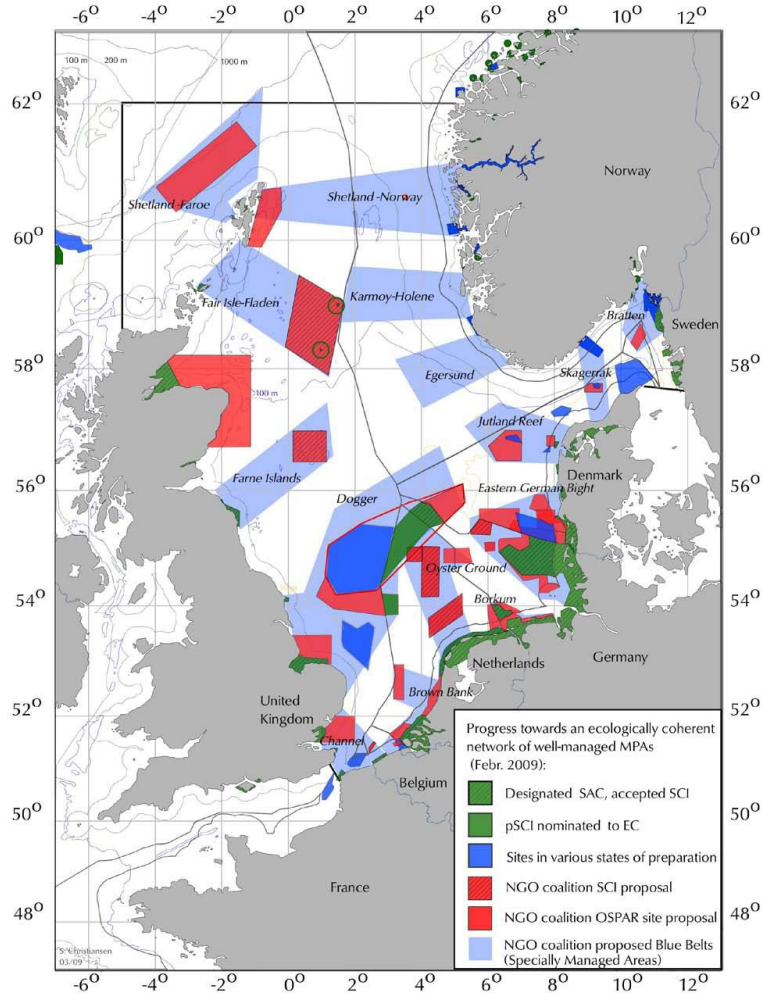
- food web, trophic status & trophic change
- indicator or keystone species
- top predators
- genetic, intra-species and functional diversity
- fish as a species not just a commodity
- go beyond MSY and SBL
- need for marine reserves, not least as control sites



Not just a story of the past



Translating GES into spatial protection

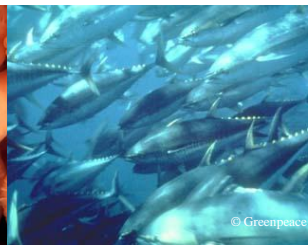


GES - seascapes protection

(D 6 & 7)

...relates to seafloor integrity & hydrographical conditions

- trawl impacts
- construction, incl. coastal defences
- aggregate and fuel/energy extraction
- change in currents
- sea level rise



GES - waters safe and sound

(D 5, 8, 9, 10 & 11)

...relates to introduction of contaminants, litter & energy

- levels of contamination and pollution in water
- effects on biota
- cumulative effects
- bio-accumulation & - magnification
- climate change interaction

... ban (or substitute) the worst, promote the best and improve the rest



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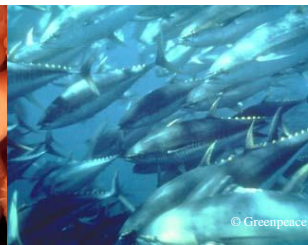
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Ecosystem Based Management

“the comprehensive integrated management of human activities based on the best available scientific knowledge about the ecosystem and its dynamics, in order to identify and take action on influences which are critical to the health of marine ecosystems, thereby achieving sustainable use of ecosystem goods and services and maintenance of ecosystem integrity”.



GES sets the standards to make Ecosystem Based Management operational I

Minimizing risks to ecosystems from human activities, Identifying impacts and developing measures and tools:

- Regulations for industry
- Best available technology
- MPAs and reference areas

EBM also means:

- precautionary principle as guiding principle
- reversing the burden of proof



GES sets the standards to make Ecosystem Based Management operational II

Decision about sea uses should

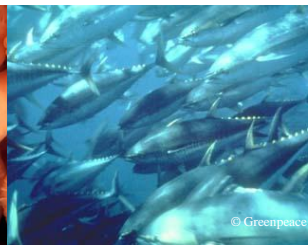
- generally follow EIA /SEA , GES-indicators, and target values,
- consider cumulative effects (SEA)

Fish and fish stocks are integral part of the ecosystem

- fishery has to be part of each evaluation and status assessments

Indicators for trends are indispensable

- sustainability indicators like ecological footprint (for sea areas)



GES is not only the gauge for the MSFD

GES should develop towards a performance standard for the management of our seas:

MSFD

Maritime Policy

Regional conventions (HELCOM HOLLAS, OSPAR EcoQS,...)

EU Common Fisheries Policy

Maritime Spatial Planning

EU Regional Seas Strategies

Sectoral and national strategies

Therefore GES has to be good!





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Thank you
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