



European window on MPAs and their social dimensions

- with a fisheries emphasis

MPA Policy Day
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Policy objectives - EU Sustainable Development Strategy

- **Environmental protection**
 - Safeguard the earth's capacity to life in all its diversity, respect the limits of the planet's natural resources and ensure a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment. Prevent and reduce pollution and promote sustainable consumption and production to break the link between economic growth and environmental degradation
- **Social equity and cohesion**
 - Promote a democratic, socially inclusive, cohesive, healthy, safe and just society with respect for fundamental rights and cultural diversity that creates equal opportunities and combats discrimination in all its forms.
- **Economic prosperity**
 - Promote a prosperous, innovative, knowledge-rich, competitive and eco-efficient economy which provides high living standards and full and high-quality employment throughout the European Union.
- **Meeting our international responsibilities**
 - Encourage the establishment and defend the stability of democratic institutions across the world, based on peace, security and freedom. Actively promote sustainable development worldwide and ensure that the European Union's internal and external policies are consistent with global sustainable development and its international commitments.



Policies with a marine MPA element

- **Biodiversity**
 - **Habitat Directive – Natura 2000**
- **Common Fisheries Policy**
 - **Closed areas**
- **Maritime Policy – marine spatial planning**
- **Environment – indirect spatial impact**
 - **Marine Strategy**
 - **Water Framework Directive**
- **Sustainable Development Strategy renewed (2006) – ‘Member States should complete the Natura 2000 network, including designation of marine areas’**

**To facilitate
(and thus speed up)
the process...**

Guidelines

**for the establishment of the
Natura 2000 network in the marine environment.
Application of the Habitats and Birds Directives**



Photo : © Common Wadden Sea Secretariat

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This document aims to reflect the views of the Commission services on this issue and is not of a binding nature.





Objectives of MPAs

- **Conservation: ‘To ensure bio-diversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora’ (Habitats Directive)**
 - ‘to maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora’
 - while taking ‘account of economic, social and cultural requirements’
- **Sector interest fisheries:**
 - **Fisheries impact on environment: Reduce fisheries impacts on sensitive habitats or species (CFP: ecosystem approach)**
 - **Fisheries productivity: Improve exploitation pattern on targeted fish stocks (CFP: sustainable fisheries)**



Social interaction - MPAs

- **Anthropogenic impacts in MPAs**
- **Societal effects of MPAs**



Antropogenic impacts on MPAs

MPAs are not no-activity zones

Result obligation: conserve natural habitats and fauna and flora

Identification of conflicts and management measures

- No regulation required
- Zonation
- Regulation

Users	Site B									
	Habitats		Species				Other elements of conservation concerns but not listed in EC Directives			
	reefs	leaking gasses	Cetaceans	Birds eating Fish	Birds eating Benthos	Phoca vitulina	Large fish	Large molluscs	Natural physical processes	Some other selected species
SPACE										
windmills				?						
Harbours										
Art. islands										
Oil and gas expl										
Shipping channels										
Pipelines/cables										
Military practice										
Tidal energy										
POLLUTION										
Oil										
Chemical										
Eutrophication										
FISHERIES										
Bottom trawling									?	
Shell fishery/dredging										
Collection biogenic structures										
Collection manganese knolls etc										
Pelagic fishery										
Seines, driftnet, line fisheries										
Set nets										
Whaling										
MINING/DREDGING										
Sand mining										
Gravel mining										
Channel dredging										
DISTURBANCE										
Shipping										
Sesmic surveys.										
Pipelines										
Cables (magnetic fields)										

not relevant (grey)
 no impact (white)
 easy regulation (yellow)
 zoning of activity (blue)
 conflict -> regulation (red)



Fisheries impacts

- **Removal of target species** **R**
- **Removals/killing of non-target species** **R**
- **Physical habitat impact** **Z/R**
- **Modification of ecosystem functioning – trophic structure, genetics** **R**
- **Pollution – noise, ghost nets** **Z/R**



MPA social impacts

- **Relating to immediate objectives**
 - **Conservation, biodiversity (Habitats Directive)**
 - **Maintain productivity of living resources (CFP)**
- **Indirect effects**
 - **Displacement or discontinuation of economic activities**
 - **Emergence of new economic opportunities**



Requirements to consider social impacts

- **Natura 2000 process addresses immediate objectives explicitly.**
- **Natura 2000 process not formally required to address indirect effects**
 - **MS process under guidance of directive - requirement for public hearing process but not formal requirement for impact assessment including social and economic issues**
- **CFP closures formally required to be based on public consultation and to consider social impacts**

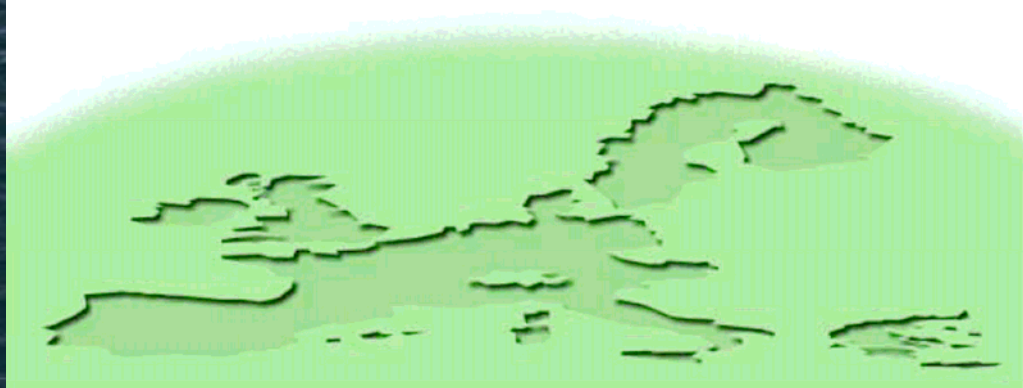


Management plans

No formal
requirement to
assess social
impacts or for
public hearing

MANAGING NATURA 2000 SITES

The provisions of Article 6
of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC





Coherence

- **Network of representative habitats?**
- **MS to propose, Commission to coordinate and ensure coherence**
- **Are sufficient mechanisms in place to ensure an overall coherent and representative network?**



Common Fisheries Policy closed areas

Closed areas under the Common Fisheries Policy:

- **Protect sensitive habitats or species**
 - Example – closures on cold-water coral areas
- **Reduce impact on ecosystem functioning**
 - Example – closure for sandeel fisheries within the feeding range of seabird colonies
- **improve the productivity of fish stocks**
 - Protect juveniles – example plaice box
 - Avoid catching non-target species – example Norway pout box
 - Evaluations of the effects of this kind of closed areas have not been able to demonstrate any effect
 - Future: move towards real time closures as an instrument in results-based management



Social considerations in CFP closed area decisions

- **The CFP is a COMMON policy – implemented through Commission proposals subject to Impact Assessment**
- **Impact assessments (environmental, social, economic) are now mandatory for all Commission proposals of consequence to citizens**
 - Integral part of decision process
 - Based on consultations with stakeholders
 - Options and impacts
 - On that basis, preferred option leading to proposal
- **Recent requirement – fully in force from 1 Jan 2007**
- **Future real time closures: based on industry cooperation – identification, peer pressure in implementation**



Governance

- **Top – down processes dominate although consultation increasingly required**
- **Fisheries:**
 - **Permanent bodies for consultation established (Regional Advisory Committees)**
 - **Change to results-based management? May delegate some responsibility for closed areas to stakeholders**
- **Social and economic impacts assessments may not be formally required and when they are they may be seen by stakeholders as a formal technocratic exercise**
- **The process through which social and economic considerations are integrated into decisions is important**



European Commission
DG Fisheries and Maritime Affairs

