



EU Habitats Directive and Natura 2000:

a framework for conservation
of cetaceans and sea turtles
in the Adriatic Sea



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Nature unit

NETCET final conference
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State of nature in the EU: status and pressures

Protected areas: Marine Natura 2000 network

Species protection under Habitats Directive



EU biodiversity strategy to 2020

"Our life insurance, our natural capital"

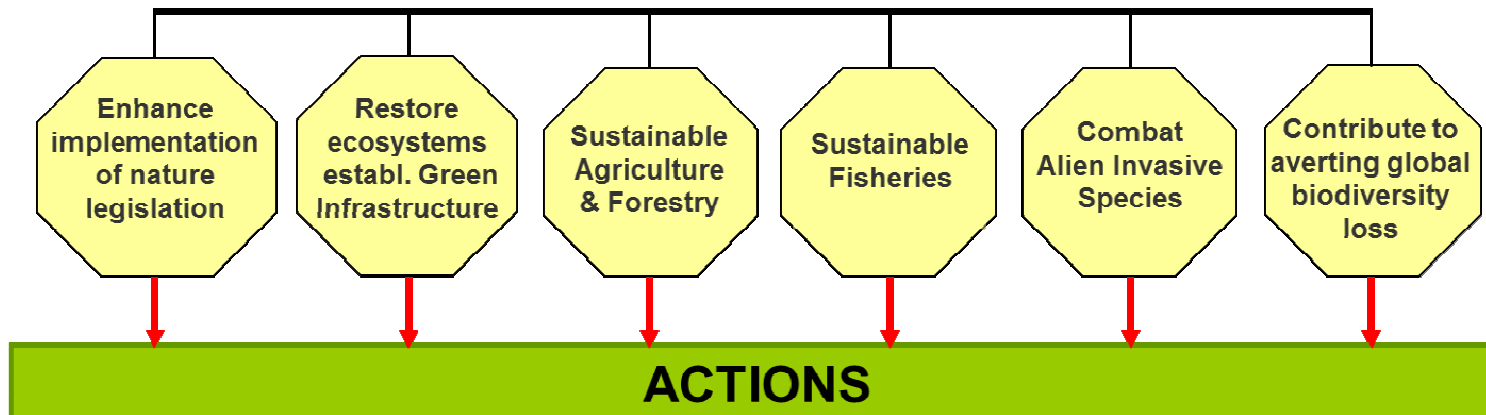
A 2050 VISION

European Union biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides – its natural capital – are protected, valued and appropriately restored.

A 2020 HEADLINE TARGET

Halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU and restore them insofar as feasible, and step up the EU's contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.

6 TARGETS





EU Biodiversity Strategy

Target 1 - Nature conservation

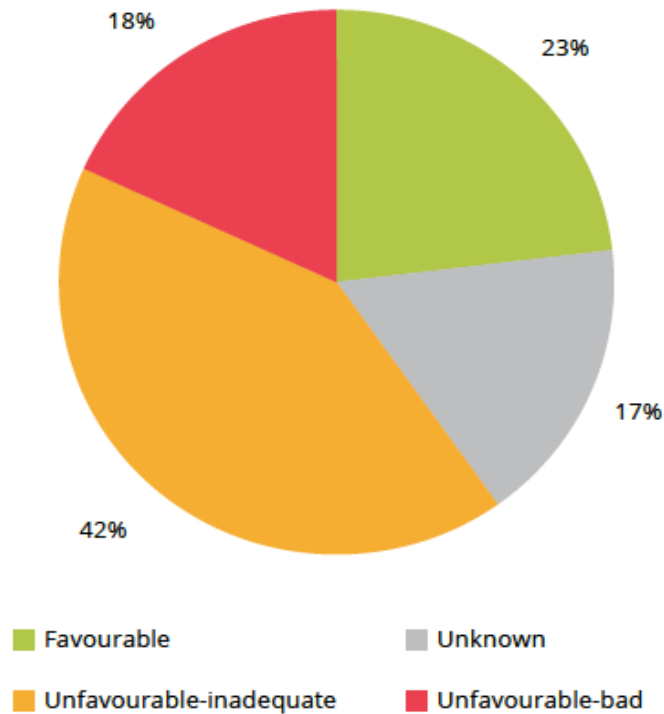
➤ *To halt the deterioration in the status of all species and habitats covered by EU nature legislation and achieve a significant and measurable improvement in their status by 2020*

- Complete the establishment of the Natura 2000 network, incl. in the marine part, and ensure good management
- Ensure adequate financing of Natura 2000 sites
- Increase stakeholder awareness and involvement and improve enforcement
- Improve and streamline monitoring and reporting

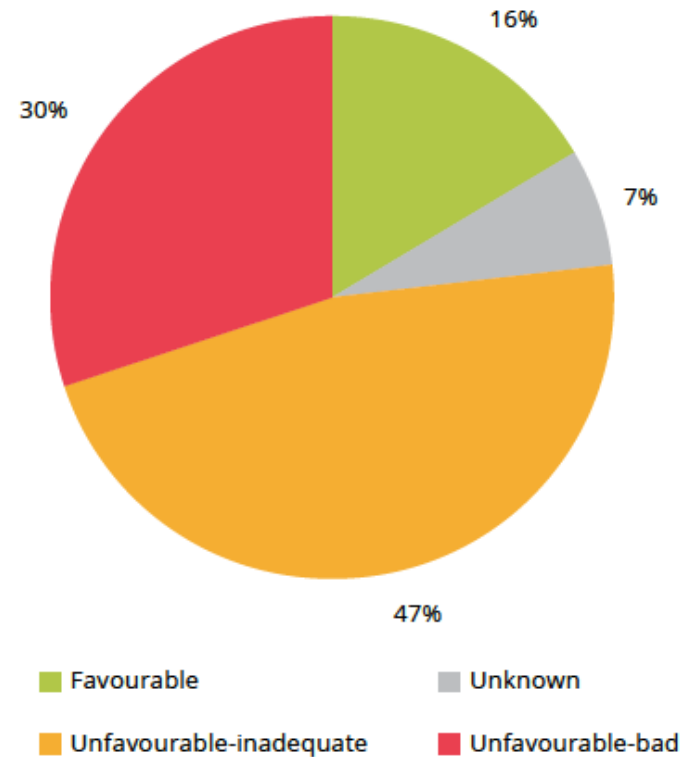
State of nature in the EU

Results from reporting under Birds and Habitats directives 2007–2012

Only one quarter of EU non-bird species has favourable conservation status, while 60% has unfavourable status



Conservation status of habitats, EU level



Conservation status of **non-bird species**, EU level

Conservation status (CS) of habitats and trends

The share of **favourable assessments** of marine habitats is **very low** and for some the status is still unknown.

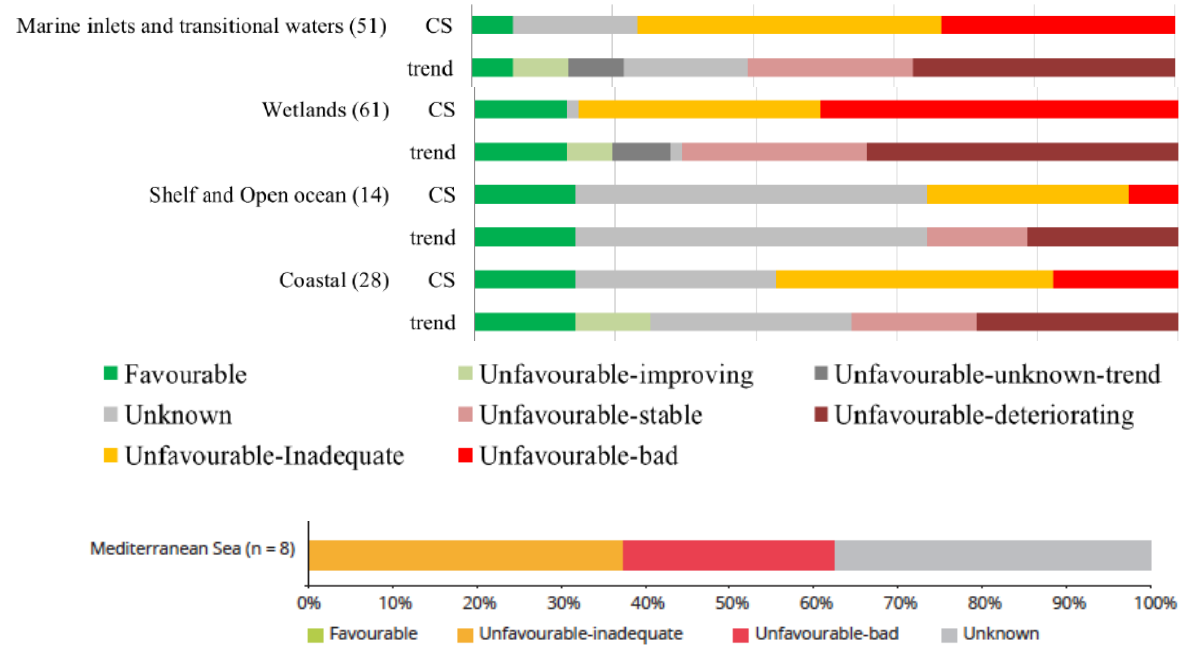
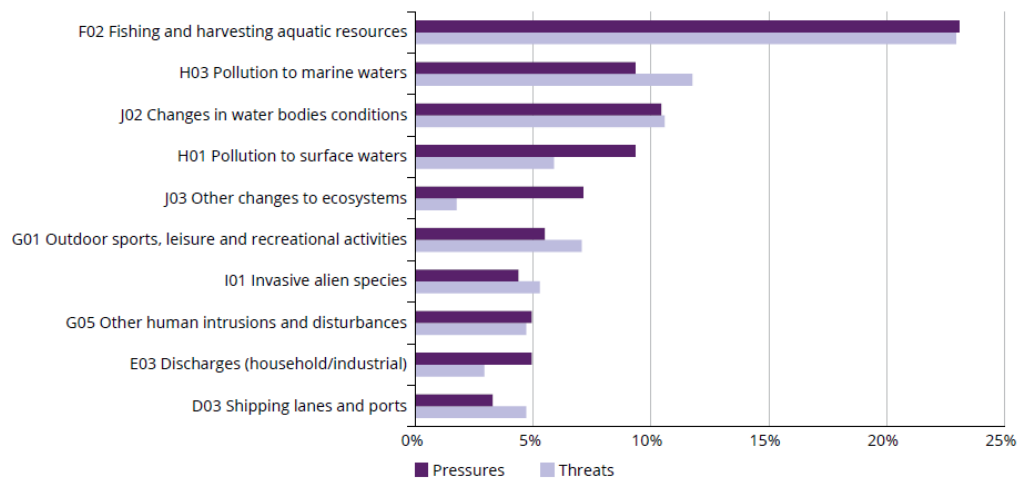
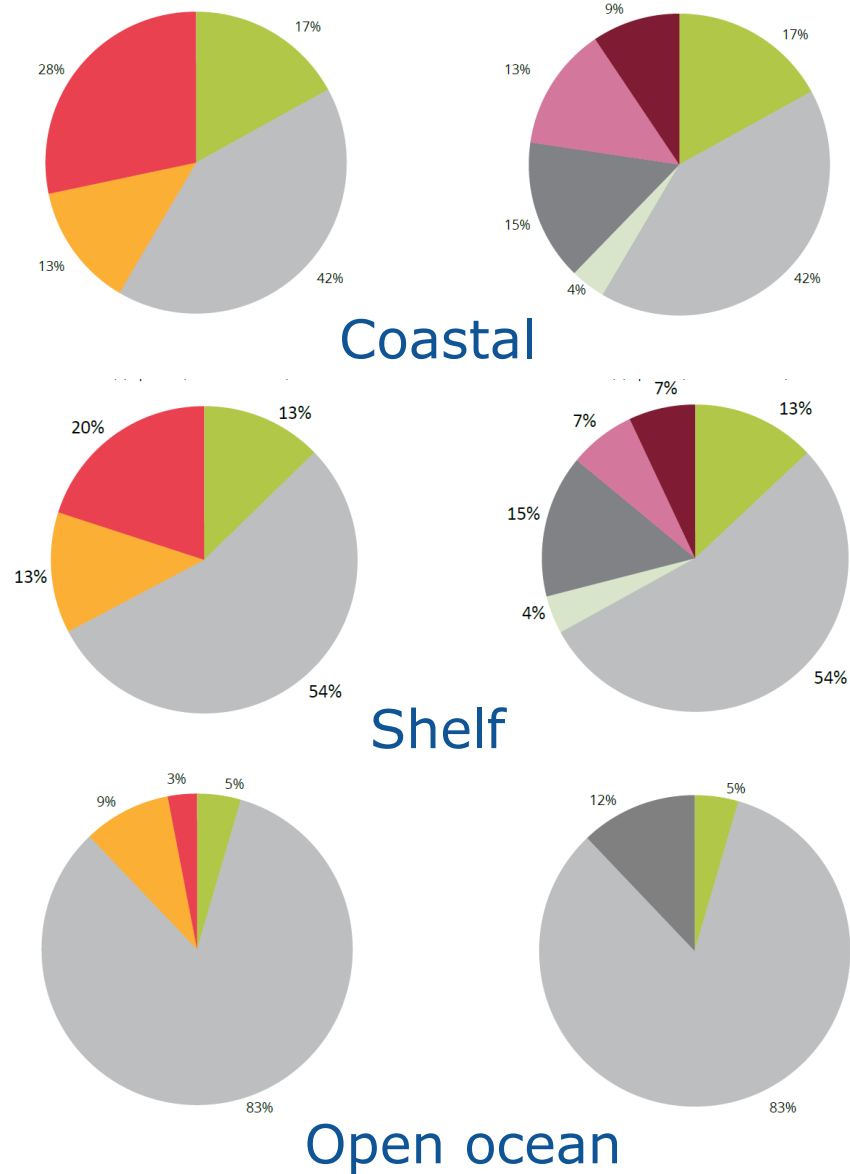


Figure 4.48 Top 10 (% of frequency) reported high-ranked pressures and threats for habitats associated with coastal ecosystem

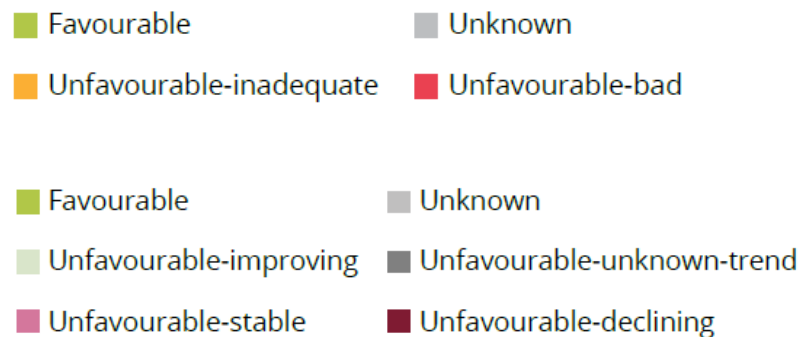


Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources is the highest ranking pressure and threat to species and habitats of coastal, shelf and open ocean areas.

Conservation status Short-term trend



Conservation status and trend of (non-bird) species associated with marine ecosystems



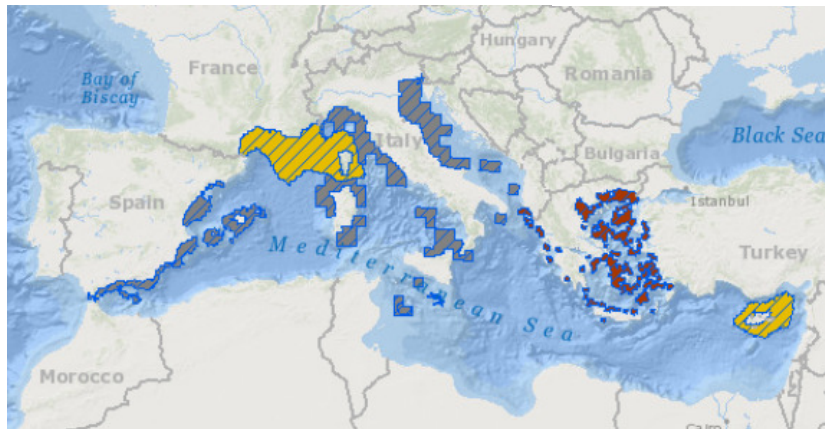
Conservation status and species distribution

MMED (32)



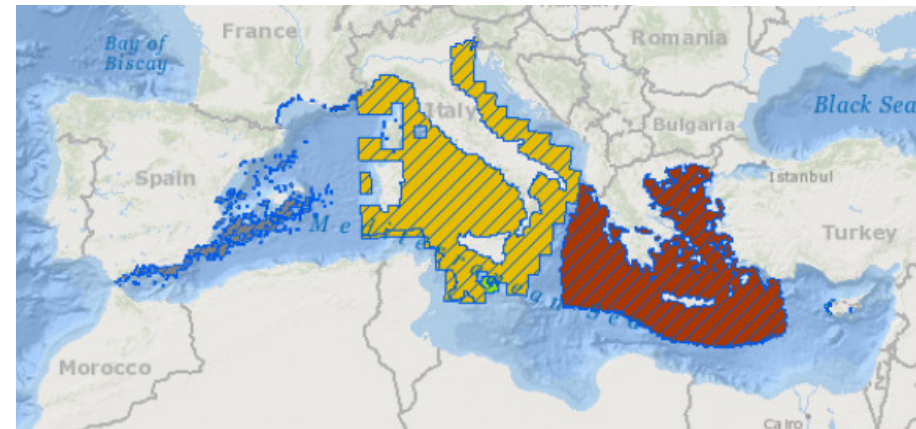
Tursiops truncatus

U2 Unfavourable-Bad



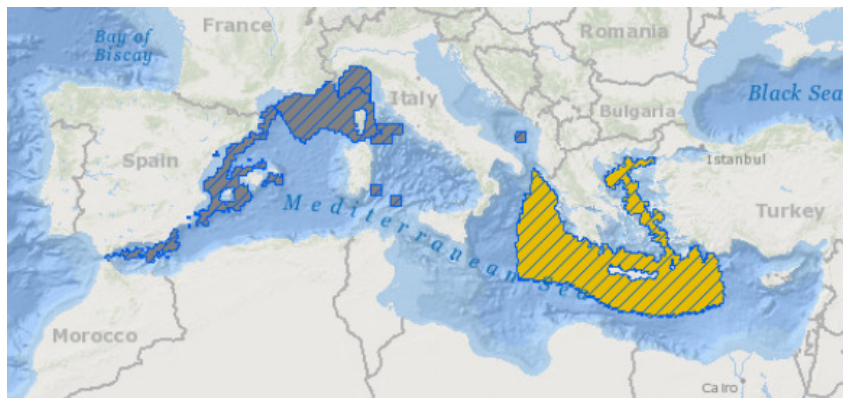
Caretta caretta

U2 Unfavourable-Bad



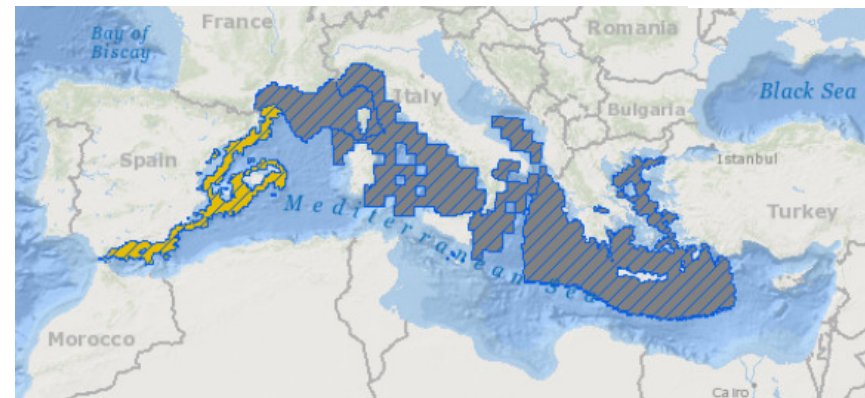
Ziphius cavirostris

U1 Unfavourable-Inadequate

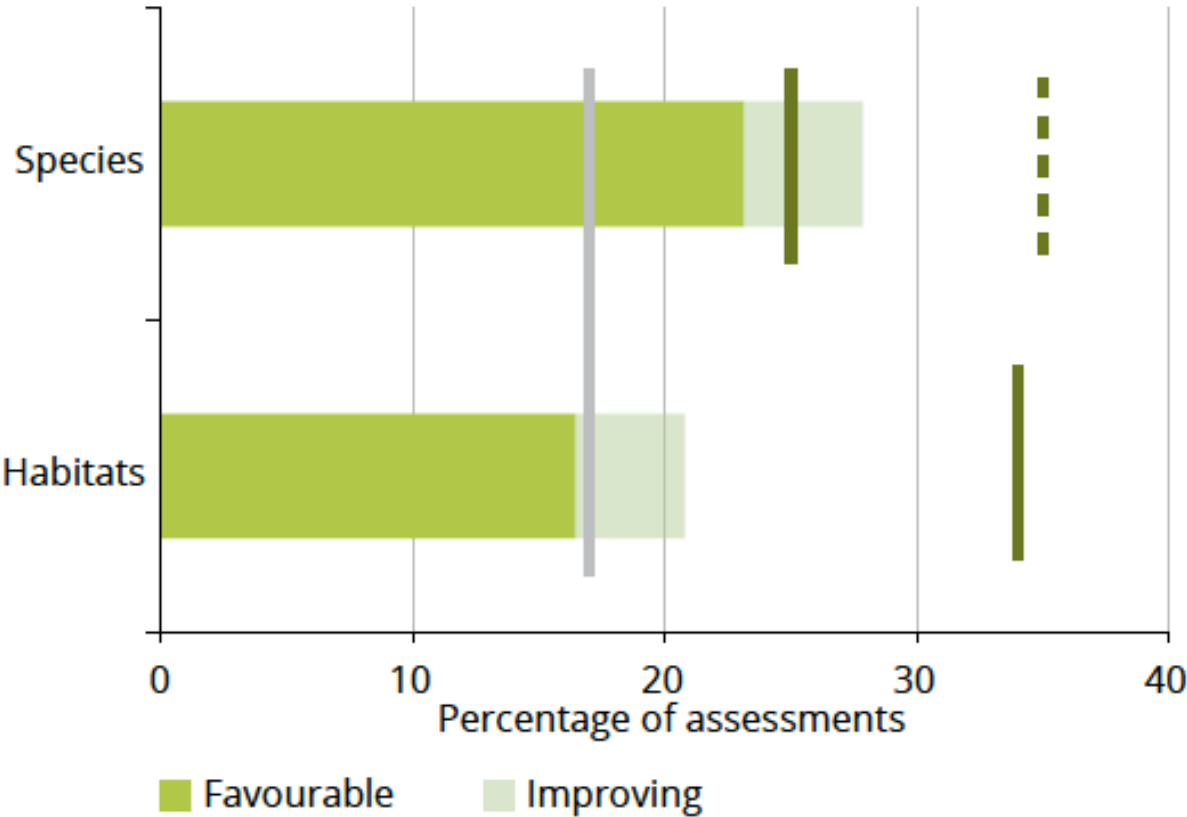


Stenella coeruleoalba

XX Unknown

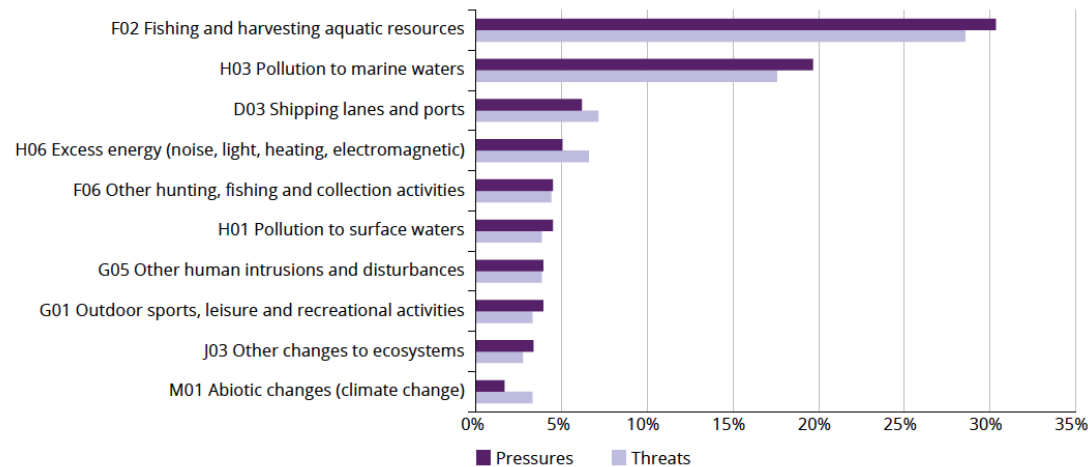


Progress to 2020 target for species and habitats



- **Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources** and **pollution of marine waters** are top two pressures/threats for species associated with coastal/shelf ecosystems

Figure 4.52 Top 10 (% of frequency) reported high-ranked pressures and threats for species (Habitats Directive) associated with shelf ecosystem



The two most common types of reported conservation measures for species are '**legal protection of habitats and species**' and '**establish protected areas/sites**'.



EU Habitats Directive:

two pillars of protection

- **Natura 2000 sites**

Tursiops truncatus, *Caretta caretta*: core areas of their habitat should be designated as **special areas of conservation** - must be protected under the Natura 2000 network and the sites managed **in accordance with the ecological requirements of the species**.

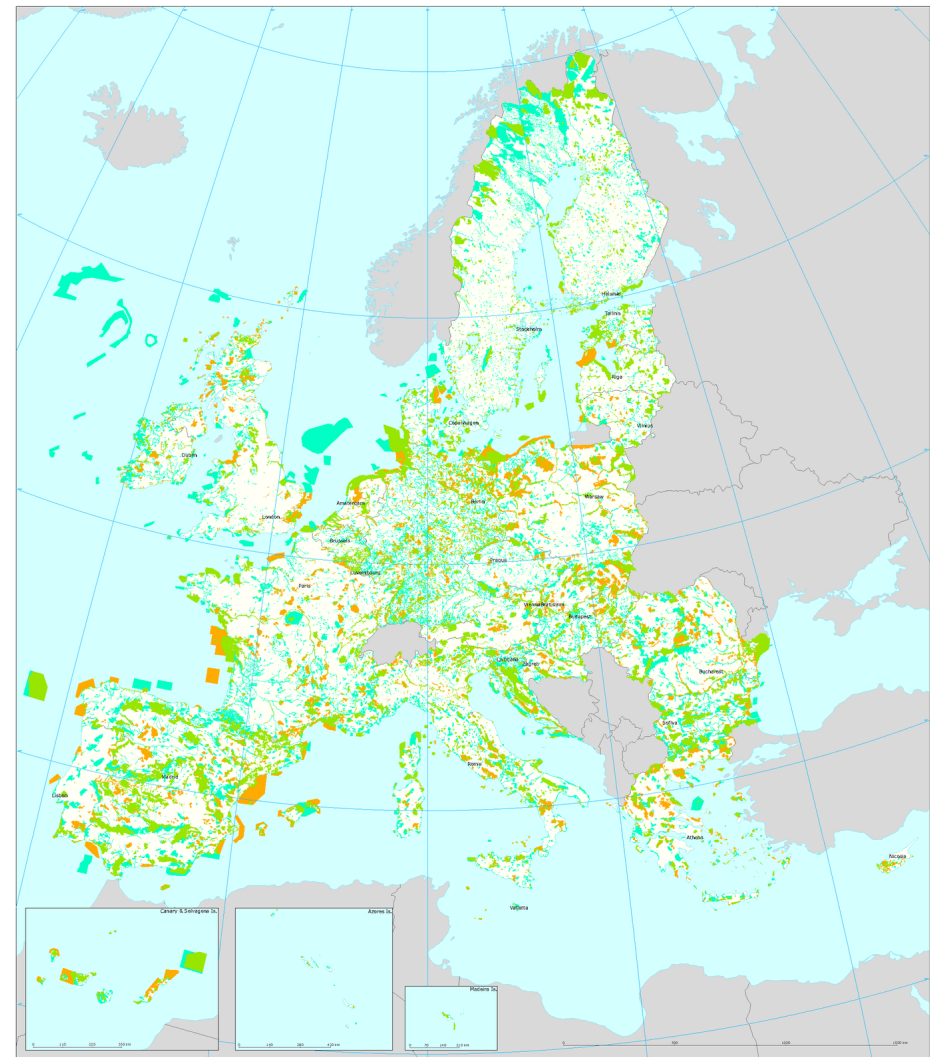
- **Strict protection of species**

A strict protection regime for all cetaceans and sea turtles must be applied **across their entire natural range** within the EU, both within and outside Natura 2000 sites.

Marine Natura 2000 Network

State of play

- More than **3000** marine sites (out of \square **27000**)
- Covers **over 5% of EU seas** (\square **300.000** km²)
- Network is not complete in the **offshore** area
- Differences across **regional seas**
- Cornerstone of EU nature protection policy: aims to ensure long-term survival of Europe's most valuable/threatened **species and habitats**
- Human activities can take place if they are compatible with **nature conservation objectives**
- Conservation measures in the sites help maintain and restore habitats and species to a **favourable conservation status**
- **Economic benefits** (whole network): 200-300 billion €/year, in the marine e.g. benefit to fish stocks (current coverage): 1,4-1,5 billion €/year



NATURA 2000
Orange: Birds Directive sites (SPA)
Green: Habitats Directive sites pSCI, SCI, SAC
Yellow: Sites - or parts of sites - belonging to both Directives

European Environment Agency 

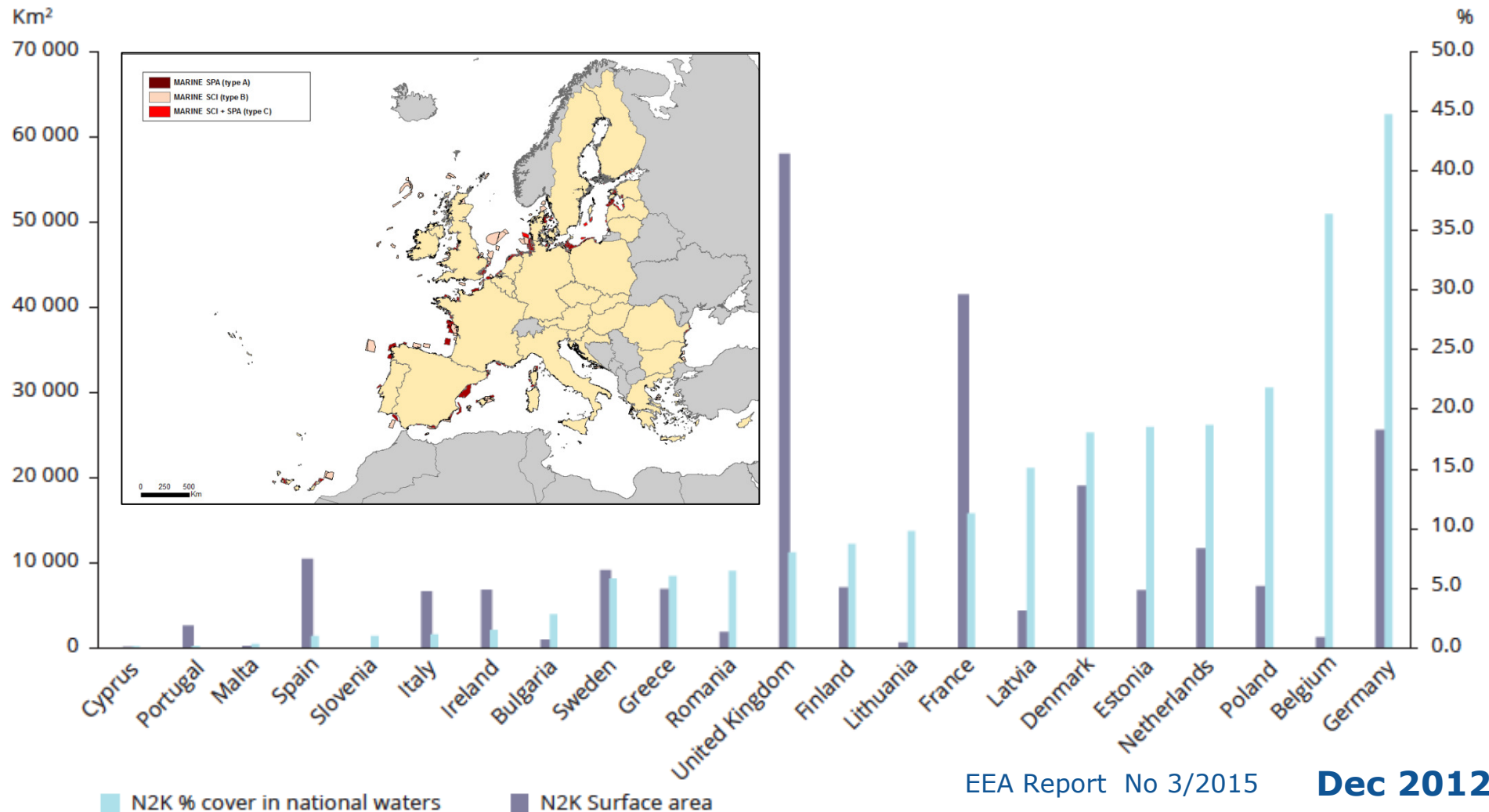
 NATURA 2000



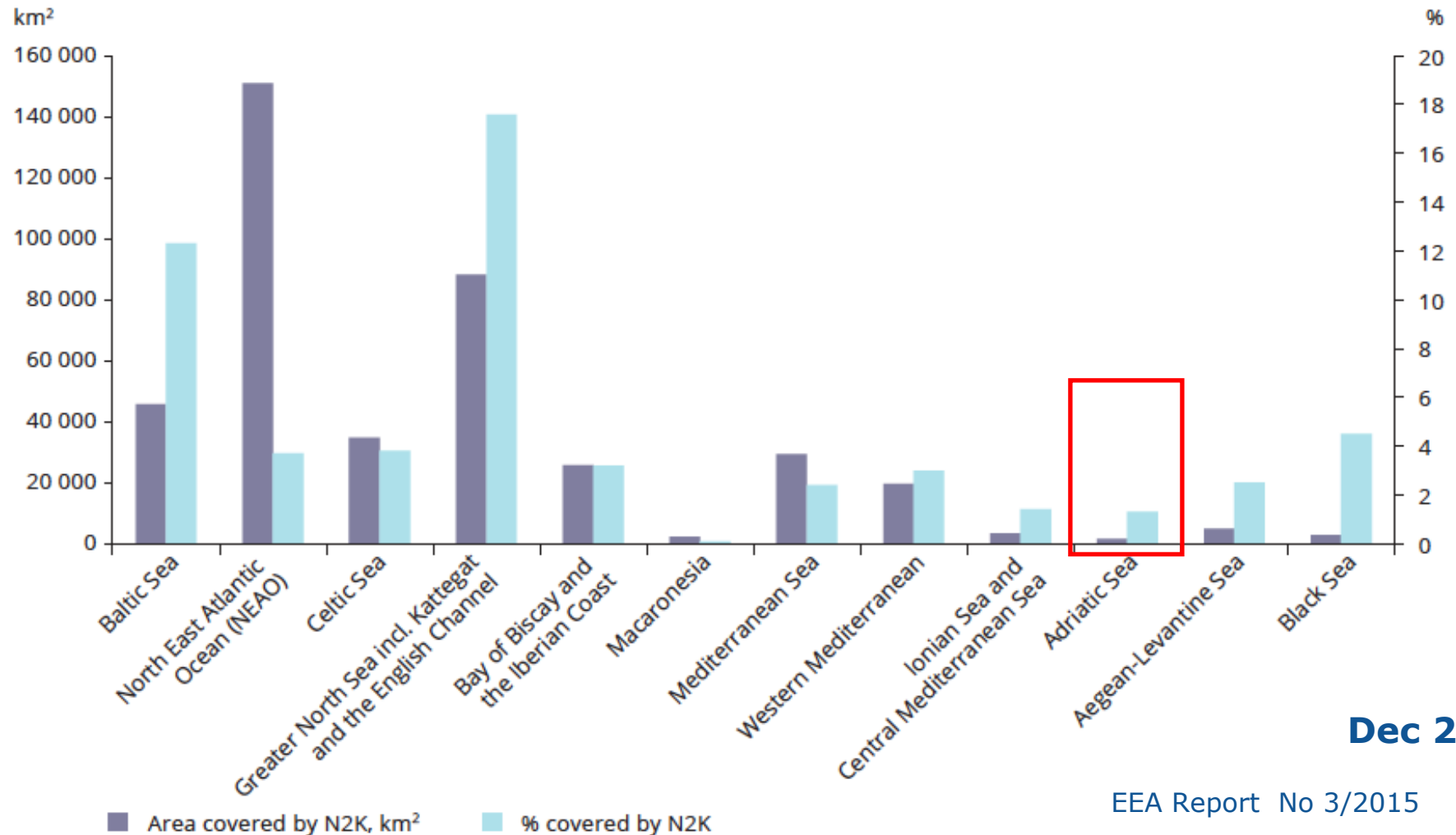
Source:
NATURA 2000 - CC BY-NC compiled from databases from the Member States.
Database compiled from data © Directorate General Environment and DG EMPL.
Version of NATURA 2000 data for Europe, updated 2016.
Responsible: European Commission DG ENV.

*Matters under UNEP/CMR 12.4(9)

Marine Natura 2000 in EU Member States



Area of regional seas covered by N2000

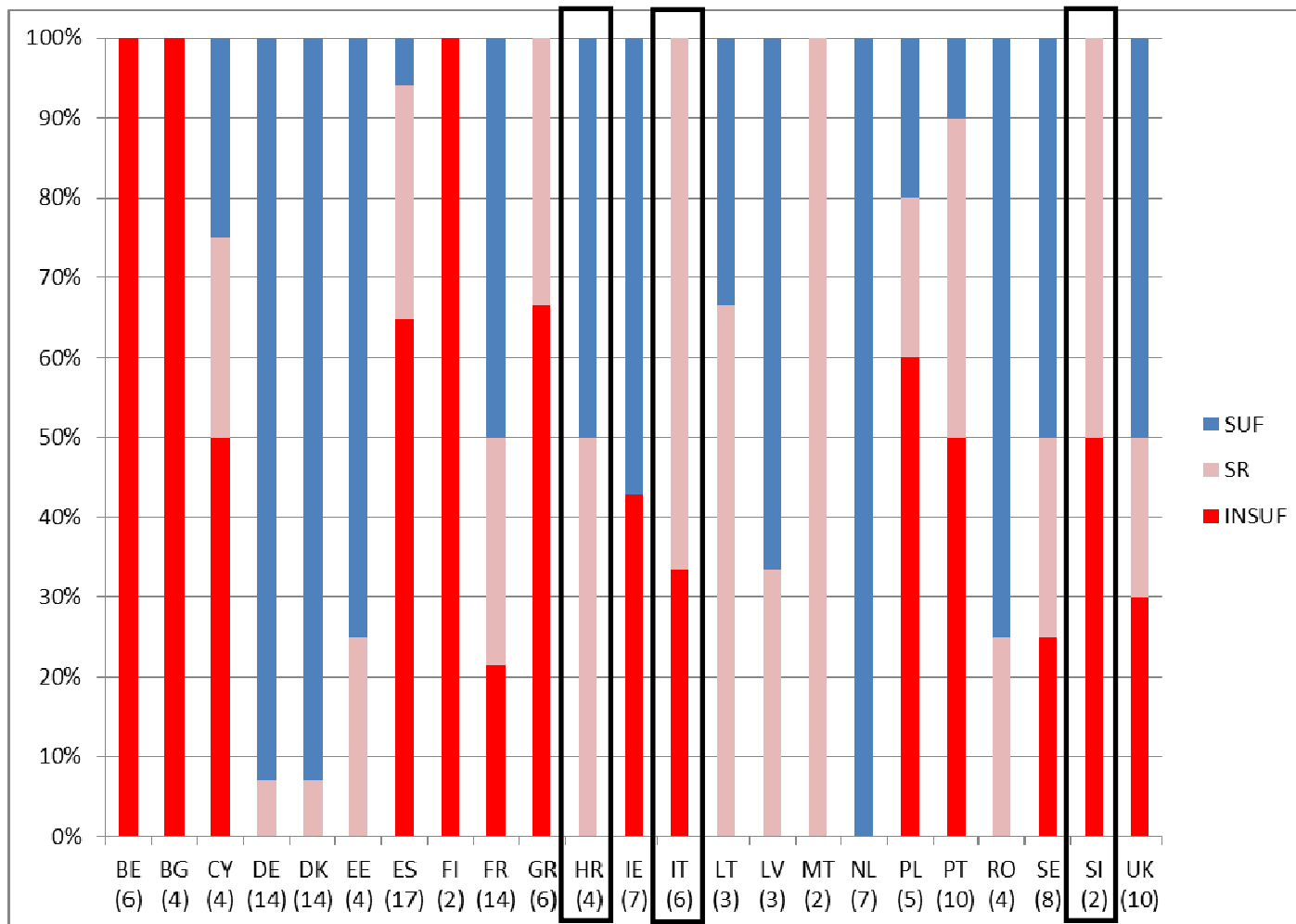


Dec 2012

Sufficiency of marine SCI network

Marine Region	Habitats			Species		
	N. Conclusions	SUF	% SUF	N. Conclusions	SUF	% SUF
Atlantic	31	16	51,61	70	38	54,29
Baltic	20	12	60,00	34	19	55,88
Mediterranean	39	17	43,59	37	8	21,62
Black Sea	8	3	37,50	8	3	37,50
Macaronesian	7	0	0,00	7	1	14,29

Sufficiency of SCIs in Member States



Dec 2014

Within all Natura 2000 sites:

❖ *Avoid damaging activities that could significantly disturb the species and/or habitats for which the site has been designated (Article 6(2)(3)(4))*



❖ *Positive measures are taken, where necessary to maintain and restore those habitats and species to a favourable conservation status in their natural range (Article 6(1))*



Many examples of coexistence between maritime activities and N2000



(European Marine Protected Areas as tools for Fisheries
management and conservation)



Management of N2000 - priorities

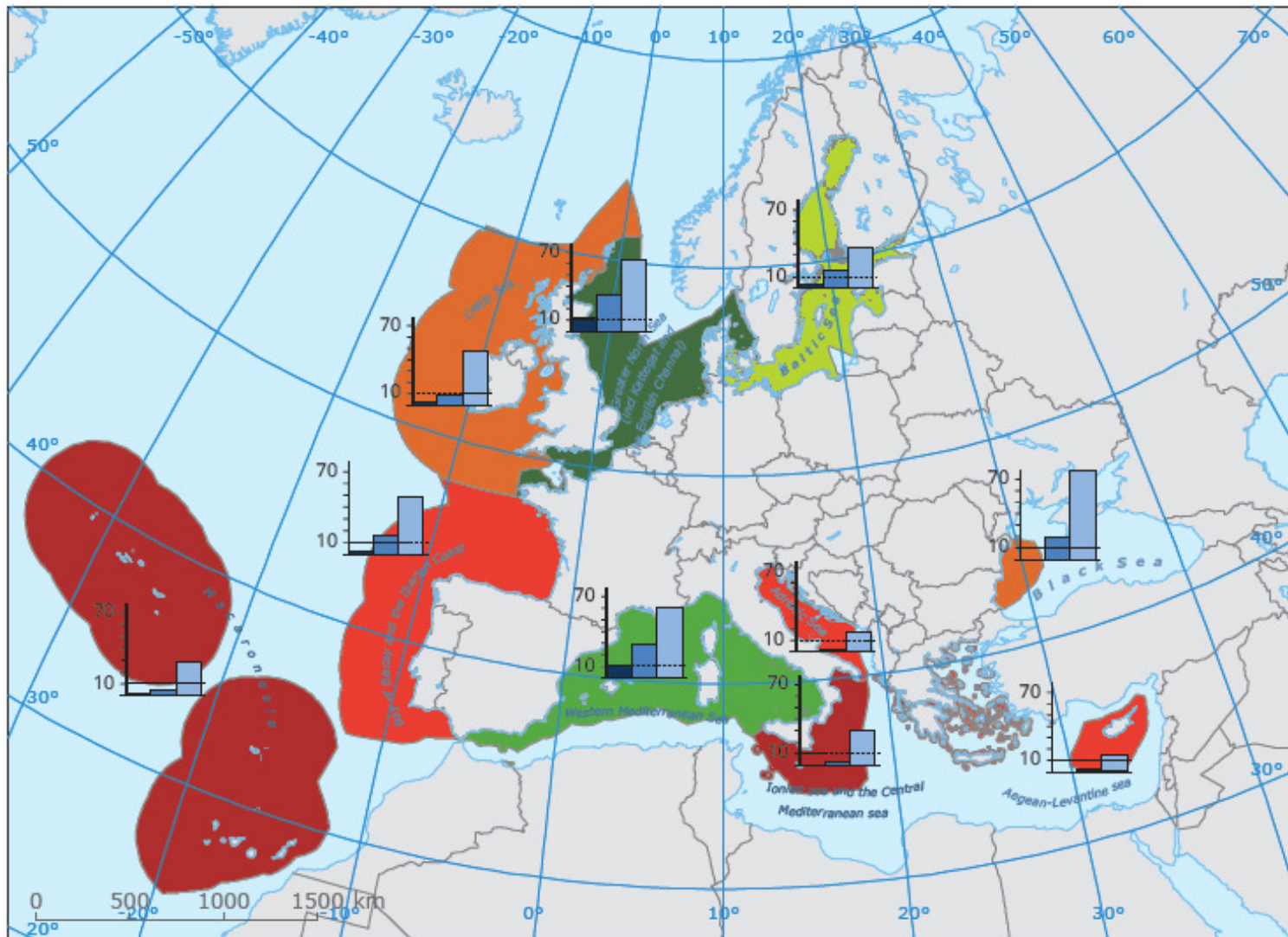
- SCI ⇒ SAC
- Setting conservation objectives
- Application of appropriate conservation measures
- Legal, statutory or contractual arrangements
- Management plans
- Full stakeholder engagement and better regional cooperation
 - EC guidance documents (N2000 and aquaculture/fisheries/ports,...)
 - Economic benefits/win-win solutions and examples of good practice

Seminars on Natura 2000 management – forum for discussions



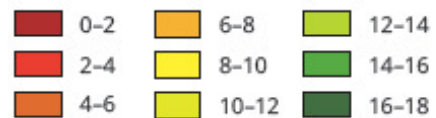
Towards a coherent MPA network in EU

- An **extensive international and EU policy framework** which supports the creation of MPAs in European seas already exists
- Marine N2000 **significantly contributes** to establishing **coherent and representative** network of MPAs
- The MSFD aims to launch measures for achieving or maintaining GES in the marine environment by 2020. The use of '**spatial protection measures**' contributing to the creation of coherent and representative networks of MPAs
- **EU Directive establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning** is to contribute to the effective management of maritime activities and the sustainable use of marine resources in the marine environment



Distance to Aichi target 11 of 10% coverage

% of MPA coverage per EEA assessment area



Difference to 10% target in near shore, coastal and offshore distance





Strict protection of species

- **A preventive character:** to avoid and prevent a number of situations that could negatively impact a species.
- **Species-by-species approach**, taking account of the specific needs of each species.
- Most species are covered by more than one annex and therefore are subject to **a combination of conservation approaches and measures**.
- Close link to **Art. 6: management of Natura 2000**



System of strict protection is prohibiting:

- all forms of **deliberate capture or killing** of specimens of these species in the wild;
 - **deliberate disturbance** of these species, particularly during the period of breeding, rearing, hibernation and migration;
 - deliberate destruction or taking of eggs from the wild;
 - **deterioration or destruction of breeding sites or resting places.**
 - the keeping, transport and sale or exchange, and offering for sale or exchange, of specimens taken from the wild
-
- **A system to monitor the incidental capture and killing** of the animal species listed in Annex IV. In the light of the information gathered, take further research or **conservation measures** as required to ensure that incidental capture and killing does not have a significant negative impact on the species concerned.

Knowledge base

- **Good knowledge** of a species (range, distribution, occurrence, biology, ecology, threats and sensitivity, conservation needs, etc.) and **regular surveillance** of its conservation status over time are essential preconditions for any meaningful **conservation strategy**.
- **Cooperation at EU level** and transboundary cooperation is essential for mobile species.

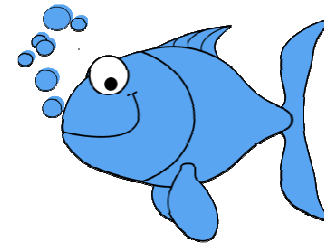


Conservation measures

- **Conservation measures** should always be **proportionate and appropriate** to the objective pursued, i.e. maintaining and restoring favourable conservation status.
- Measures must be **coherent, coordinated and effectively enforced** on the ground.
- **Guidance** (COM guidance on Article 12 HD)
- **Codes of conduct** (e.g. for seismic surveys/noise mitigation)
- **Species conservation plans** (national, regional, int.)

Addressing pressures: links to other policy areas

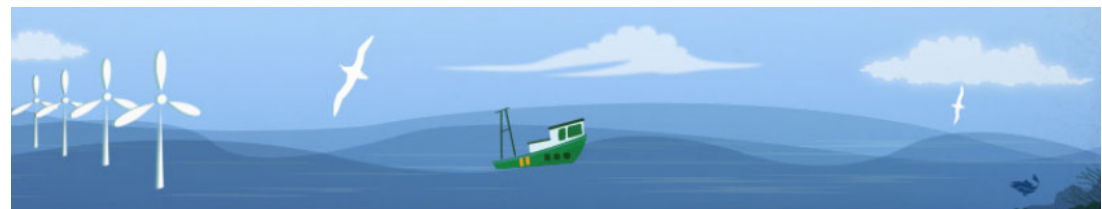
- The Common Fisheries Policy
- Incidental catch
- Fisheries measures for Natura 2000
- Data collection



- The Marine Strategy Framework Directive
- Programme of measures
- Spatial protection measures



- The Maritime Spatial Planning Directive
- Maritime spatial plans





Towards a coherent protection regime

- **Full implementation** of EU policies, strategies, Regional Sea Conventions and other international agreements + national strategies
- **Policy integration** (ecosystem approach): MSFD/BHD/WFD/MSPD/CFP, ICZM – joint measures and adaptive management
- **Financing**: 2014-2020 programming period (-EMFF), LIFE, INTERREG-MED, CBC,...

Working at regional level on Natura 2000 management – a **biogeographical process** to promote the sharing of experience, good practice and cross-border collaboration on the management of Natura 2000.



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