



# SEAS AT RISK

for the protection and restoration of the marine environment

MPAs: between the MSFD and  
the CFP  
How to strike the right balance?

**Björn Stockhausen**

EP Intergroup, June 2016





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## MPAs: Synergies between the MSFD and the CFP

**Björn Stockhausen**

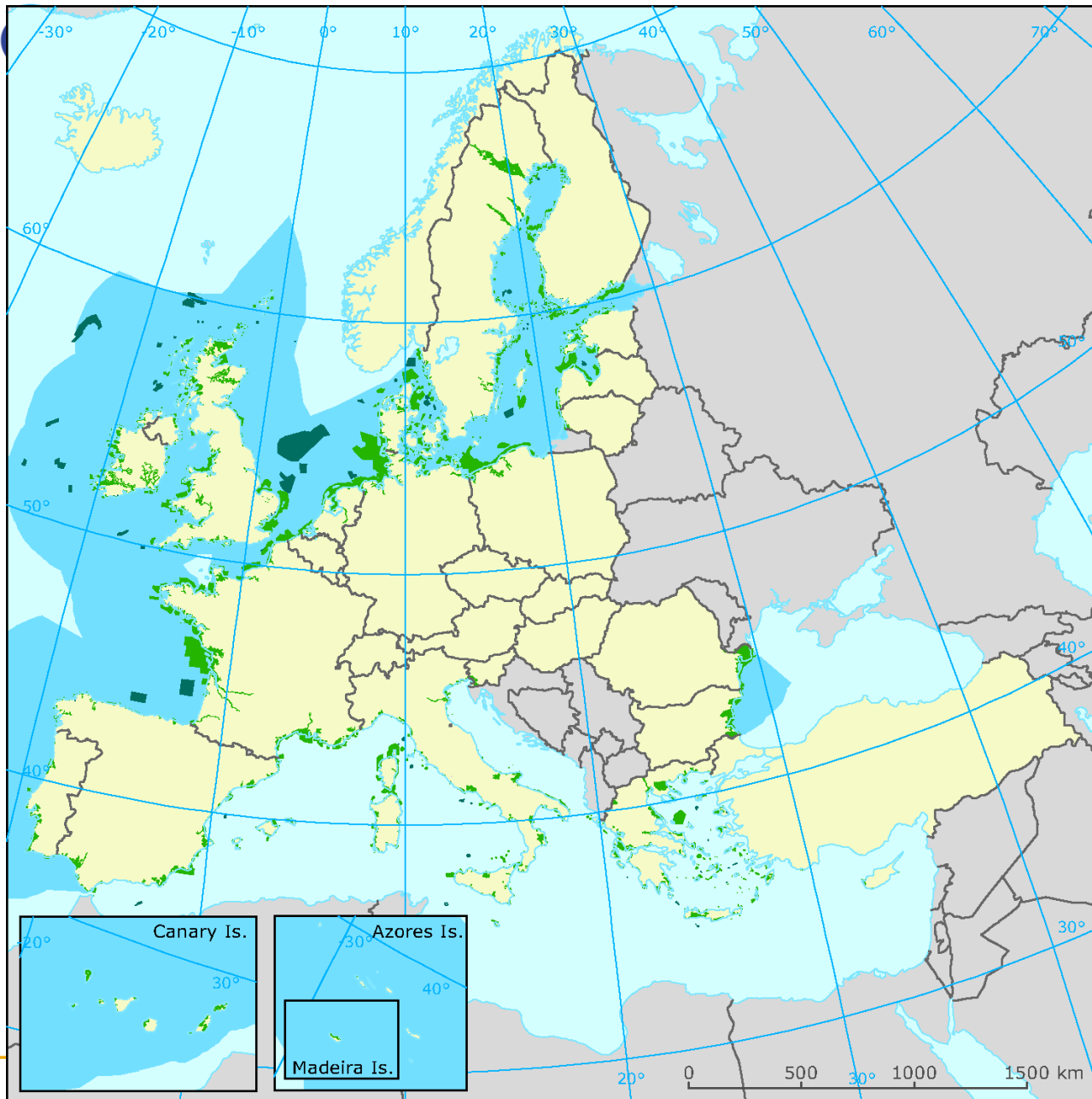
EP Intergroup, June 2016

# Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

- A framework in which human activities can be managed
- Based on ecosystem approach
- Good Environmental Status (GES) as a basis for thriving fish stocks
- MSFD and CFP strengthen each other – if implemented properly

## A coherent network of MPAs

- One of the cornerstones of achieving MSFD targets
- Descriptors
  - Seafloor integrity
  - Natural food webs
  - Biodiversity



**European marine regions  
and the coverage of  
Natura 2000 sites 2011**

- In-shore sites:  
12 nautical miles or  
less from the coast
- Off-shore sites:  
more than 12 nautical  
miles from the coast
- MSFD marine regions
- Outside data  
coverage

# MSFD - Implementation

- 2014 Commission review
- Low ambition, weak measurable targets, weak integration with other policies
- Fragmented governance

## Nature directives implementation

- Member States to designate their N2000 sites
- Identify conservation objectives
- Carry out appropriate assessments in N2K sites where fishing activity will take place
- Determine best fishery measures that should be applied to ensure the conservation of the MPAs
- Habitat Directive clearly requires site designation and implementation of measures based on scientific criteria. It does not allow activities which have a negative effect on the sites' ecosystem



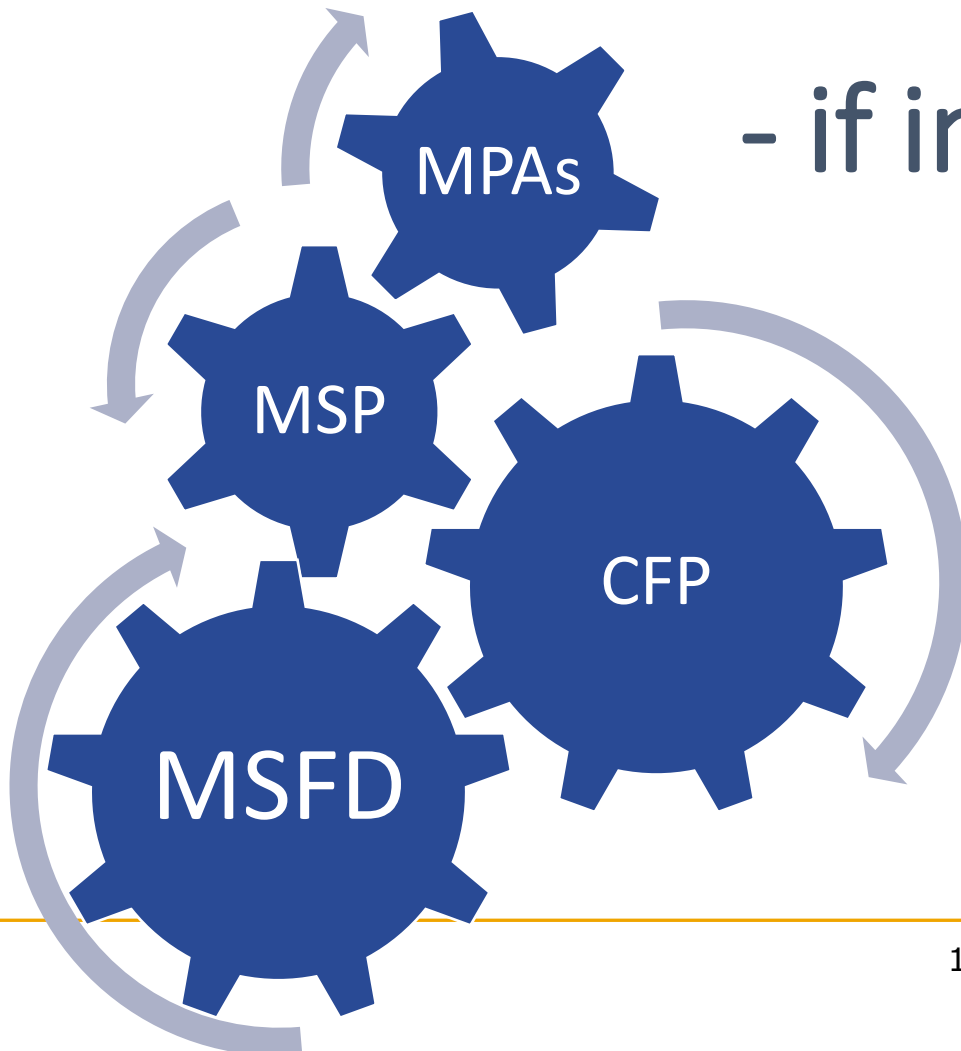
# Socio - economic benefits of MPAs

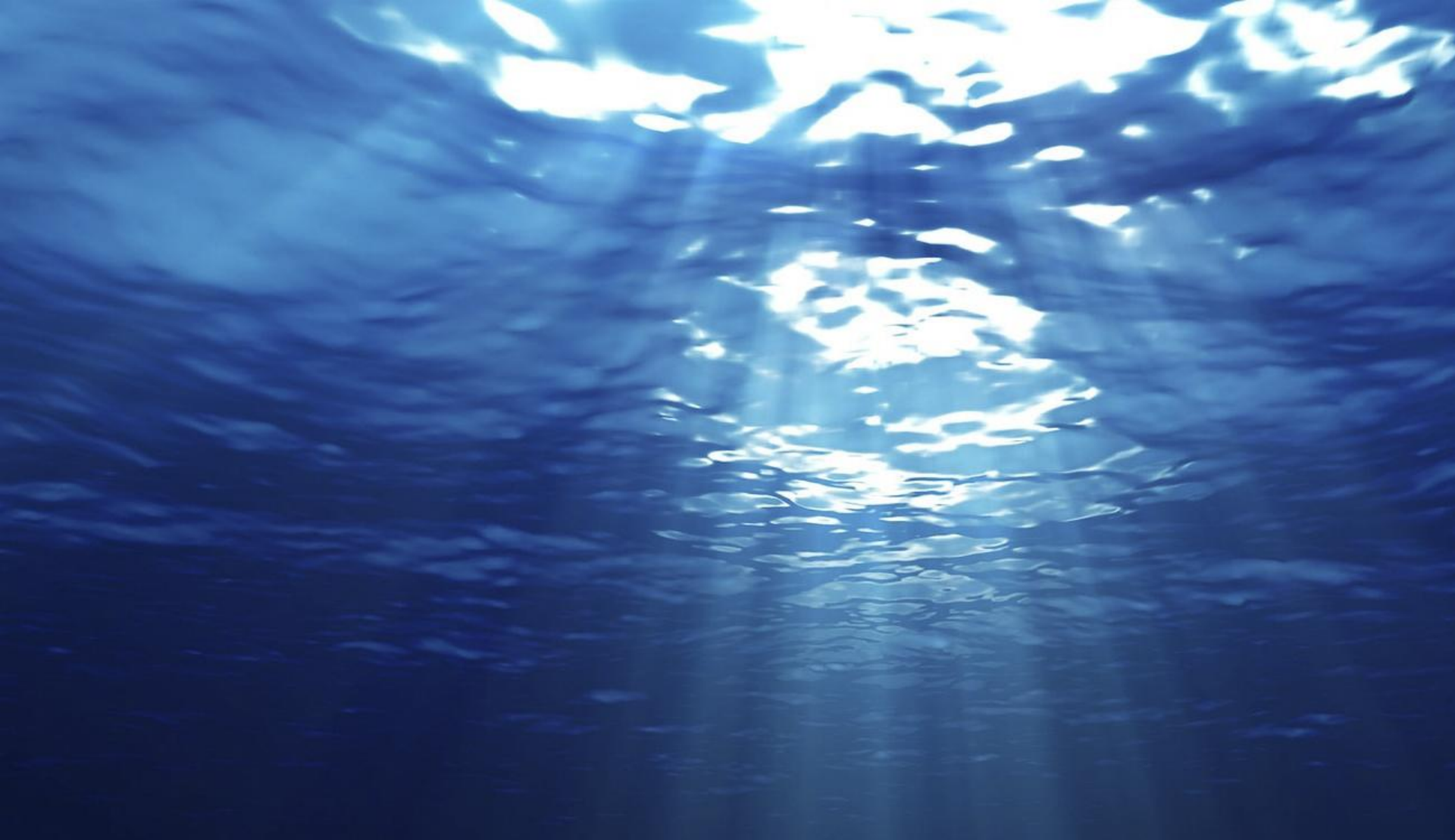
(Source: IEEP 2016)

- Food provisioning: well managed MPAs may provide protection for commercially targeted fish stocks inside the protected area as well as a certain degree of spill-over,
- Climate change mitigation: globally, marine organisms absorb around 55% of all carbon that is captured via photosynthesis
- Tourism and recreation sector opportunities: revenue gained could be used to finance the maintenance and monitoring of the protected area. Good management needed to avoid destructive impacts.
- Coastal security: MPAs help stabilise sediments and reduce erosion, creating natural protective barriers

MPAs: towards GES and thriving fish stocks

- if implemented well





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[www.seas-at-risk.org](http://www.seas-at-risk.org)

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