



MPAs: between the MSFD and the CFP: how to strike the right balance

Ernesto Penas Lado

Director "Policy Development and Coordination"

Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Marianne Wenning

Director "Quality of Life, Water & Air"

Directorate-General for Environment

Balance of competences

- Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)
 - **Shared competence: Both the EU and Member States can adopt legally binding acts, but MS can do so only where the EU has not exercised its competence or has explicitly ceased to do so.**
- Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)
 - **EU alone is able to legislate and adopt binding acts. Member States may do so only if empowered by the EU to implement these acts.**
- We present a brief synopsis of objectives, overlaps and synergies, and state of play on MPAs



CFP Principal objectives

The Common Fisheries Policy objectives are to:

- 1) Make fishing and aquaculture environmentally sustainable and achieve economic, social and employment benefits and contribute to food supplies.
- 2) Be precautionary, and manage so as to obtain the highest yields from exploited fish stocks.
- 3) Implement the ecosystem approach

CFP Specific objectives

- a) Gradually eliminate discards
- b) Make best use of unwanted catches
- c) Provide for economically viable industries
- d) adjust fishing capacity
- e) develop aquaculture
- f) contribute to a fair standard of living
- g) contribute to efficient internal market
- h) take account of both consumers and producers
- i) promote coastal fishing
- j) be coherent with environmental legislation in particular with achieving a good environmental status by 2020 according to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive**

Making both policies work

Similarities:

Both policies aim at ecological sustainability and the ecosystem approach.

Differences:

CFP is centralised and manages fish stocks

MSFD is decentralised and covers all human impacts including fishing

Joining up the policies - Objectives

- 1) Both CFP and MSFD aim at sustainability of the marine environment and the ecosystem approach.
- 2) The specific objectives of the CFP are closely aligned on sustainability for fishing activities. CFP objectives are a **necessary component** of the MSFD.
- 3) The MSFD looks at sustainability in a wider context: it includes e.g. pollution, gravel and sand extraction, hydrographical impacts and is therefore a **necessary complement** to the CFP in ensuring sustainability.

MSFD objectives & features

Achieve "Good Environmental Status" (GES) by 2020

Healthy, clean & productive seas

Make sustainable use of the EU's seas

Joining up the policies - MPAs

MSFD strategies
(GES, targets, monitoring, measures)

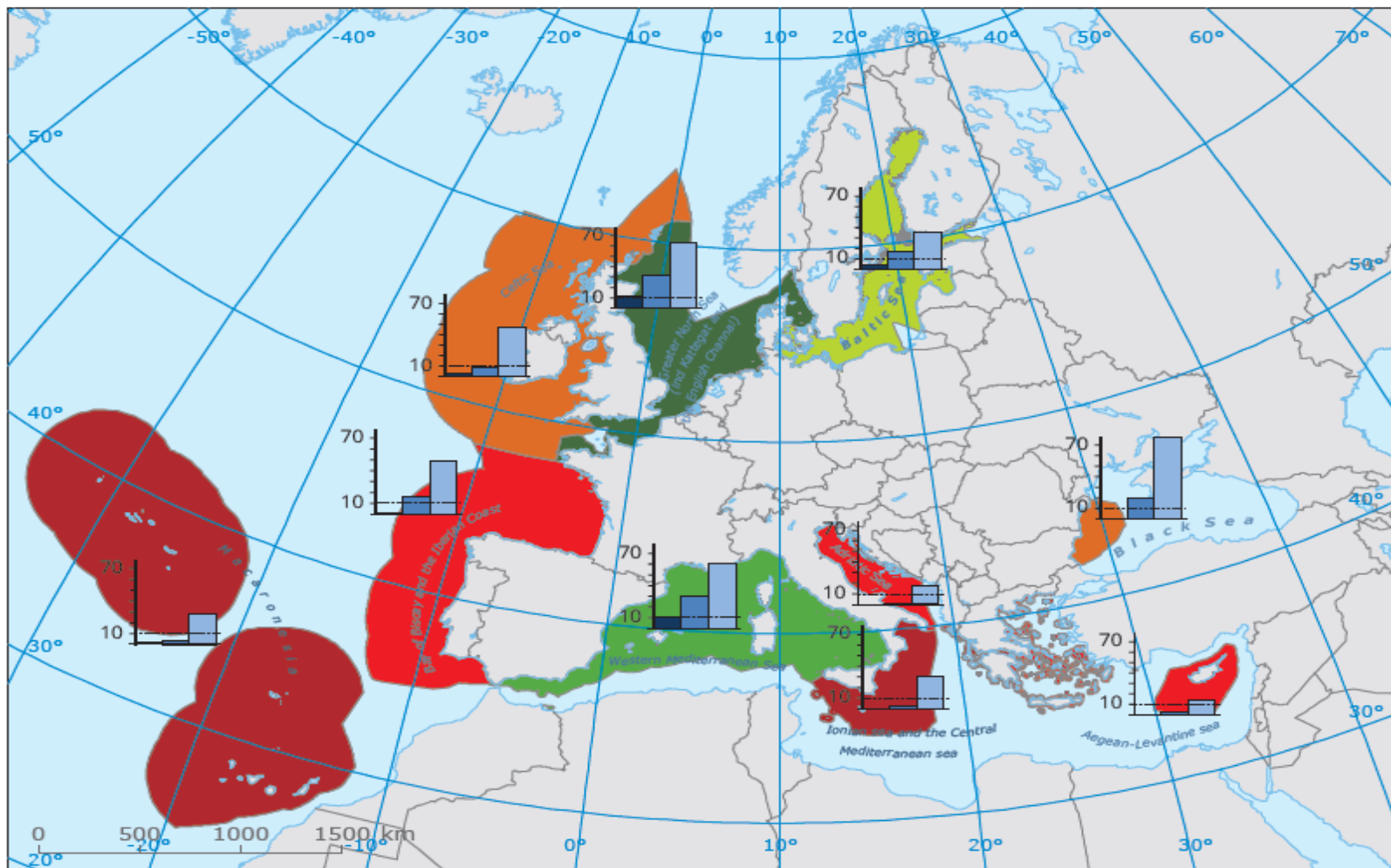
Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)



MSFD & CFP

Map 7.1

Percentage cover of MPA networks in Europe's regional seas, including sites designated under Natura 2000, RSCs and national legislation



Distance to Aichi target 11 of 10% coverage

% of MPA coverage per EEA assessment area



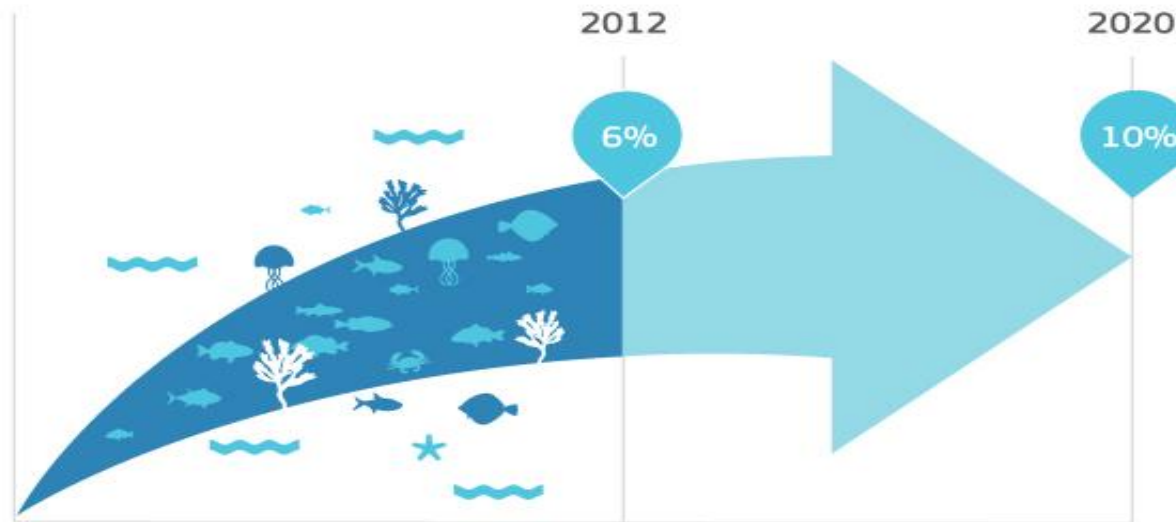
Difference to 10% target in near shore, coastal and offshore distance





European
Commission

HOW MUCH OF OUR MARINE WATERS ARE PROTECTED AREAS?



Marine
protected
areas



Approximate size of



Germany



Approximate size of



+ UK



+ Romania



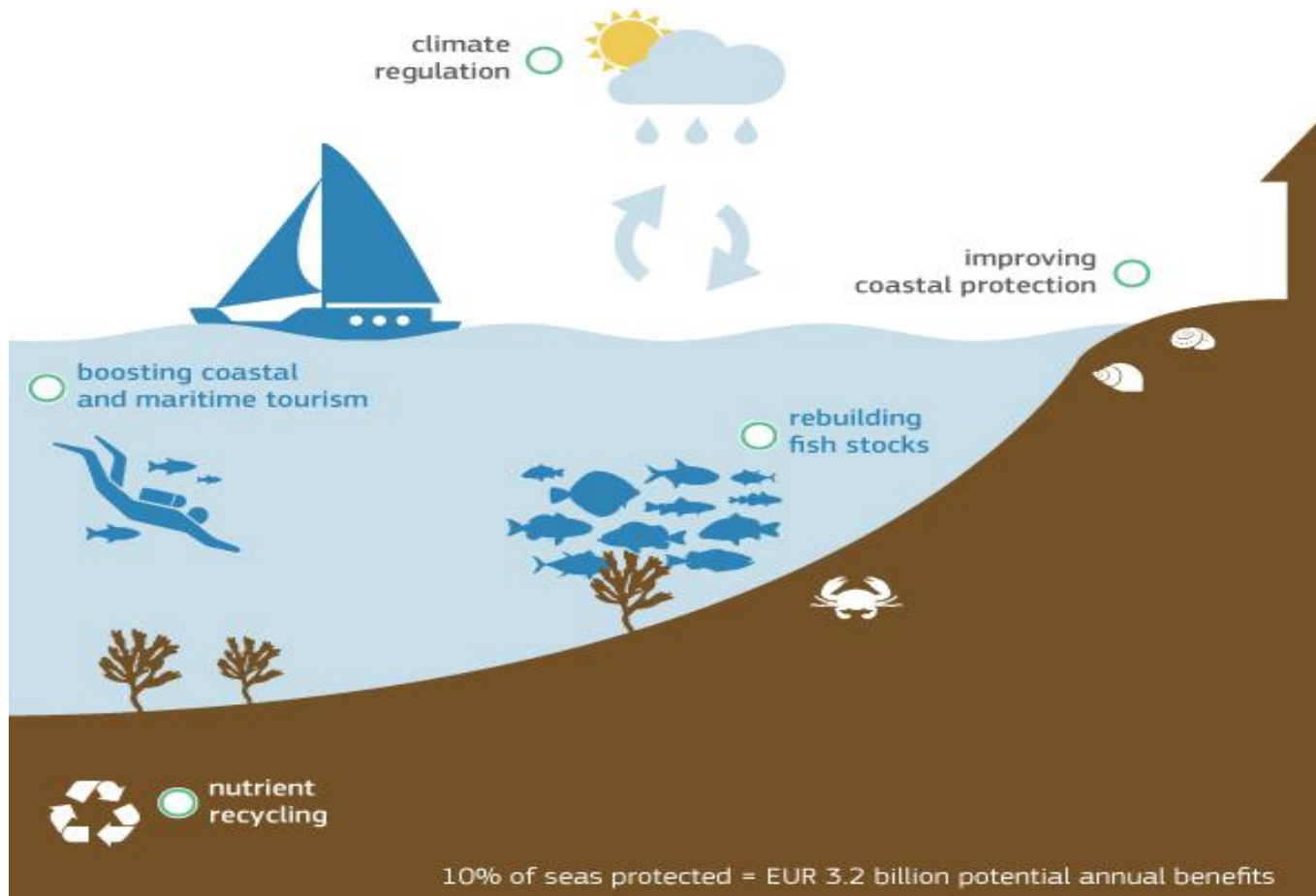
+ Austria



European
Commission

THE HEALTHIER OUR SEAS, THE MORE BENEFITS WE GET FROM THEM

Marine protected areas =
healthier marine ecosystems + socio-economic benefits

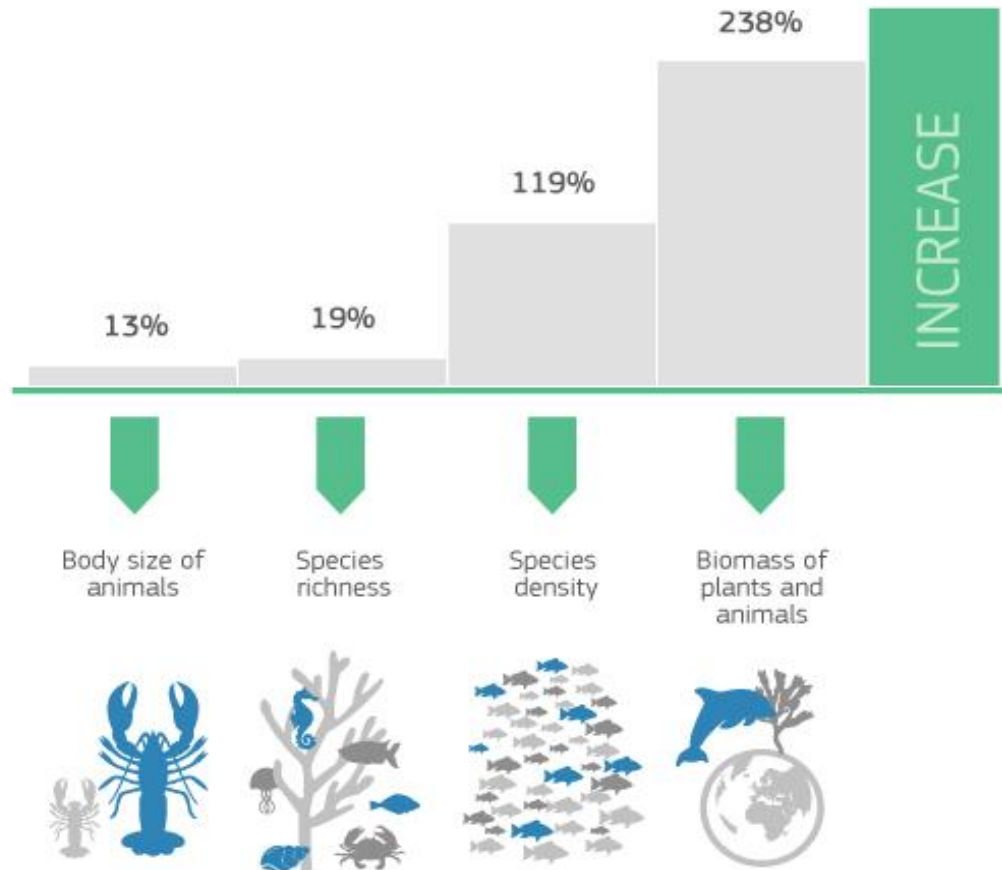




European
Commission

POSITIVE ECOLOGICAL EFFECTS

Marine protected areas = positive ecological effects



Summary

There is no legal hierarchy between MSFD and CFP; neither prevails over the other.

MPAs cannot prevent Member States from fully exploiting their quotas under the CFP

Full exploitation of quotas cannot mean that the MSFD has no added value.

The two policies must not undermine each other.