

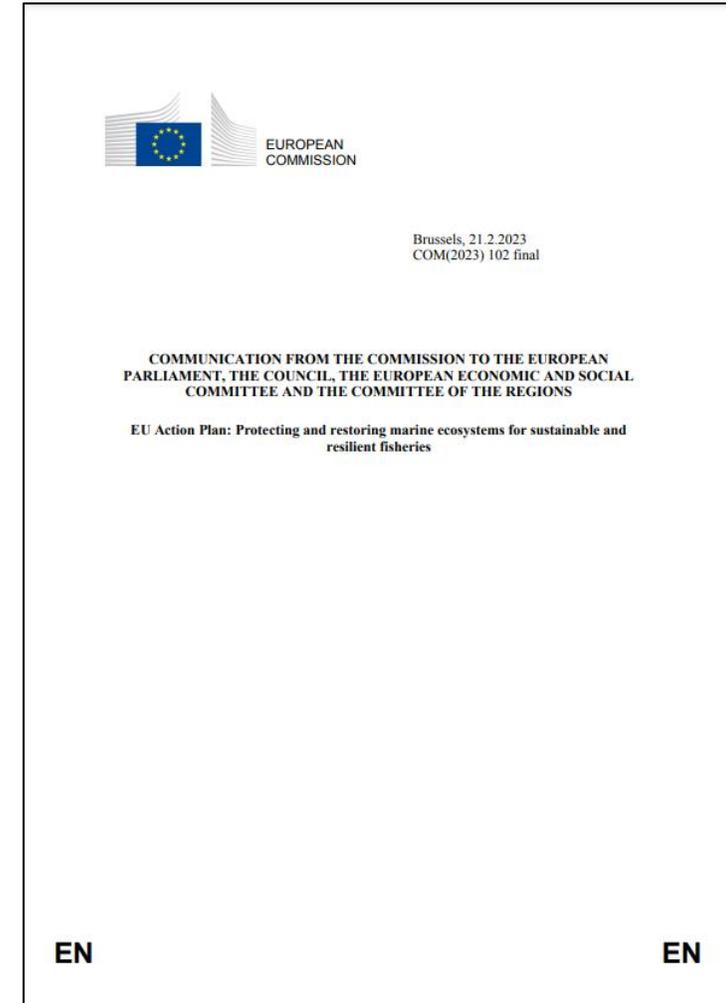
Action Plan to conserve fisheries resources and protect marine ecosystems – an introduction

Sasa Raicevich - ISPRA

MEDAC Meeting 19 Aprile 2023

EU action plan:

Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries



https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/policy/common-fisheries-policy-cfp/action-plan-protecting-and-restoring-marine-ecosystems-sustainable-and-resilient-fisheries_en

Why the action plan

- State of seas & sustainability of fisheries
- Bring “nature back into our lives”
- Bridge fisheries and environment worlds
- Builds on existing framework

Actions for sustainable and resilient fisheries, aquaculture and marine ecosystems

21 February 2023
#EUGreenDeal

Main objectives



Continue rebuilding fish stocks to sustainable levels → long-term fish availability and prosperity for fishers and communities.



Reduce environmental and climate impacts of fisheries and aquaculture activities → protecting 30% of the EU's seas, with 10% being strictly protected by 2030 as defined by the EU Biodiversity Strategy.



Increase the sector's energy efficiency to become more resilient, less dependent on fossil fuels and climate-neutral by 2050.

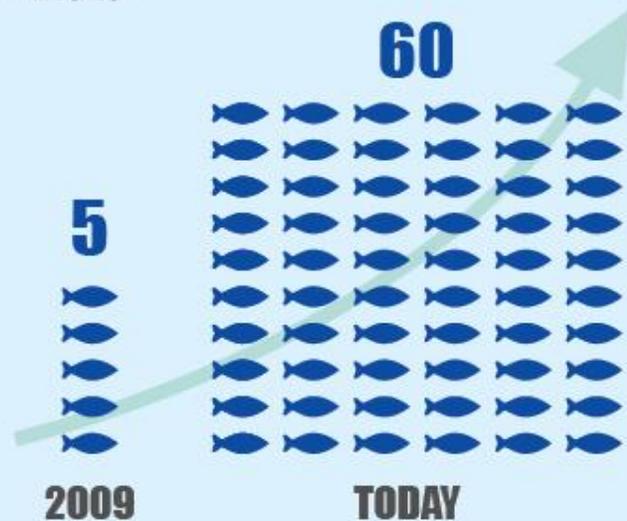


Make the fishing profession more attractive.

Why do we need to act?

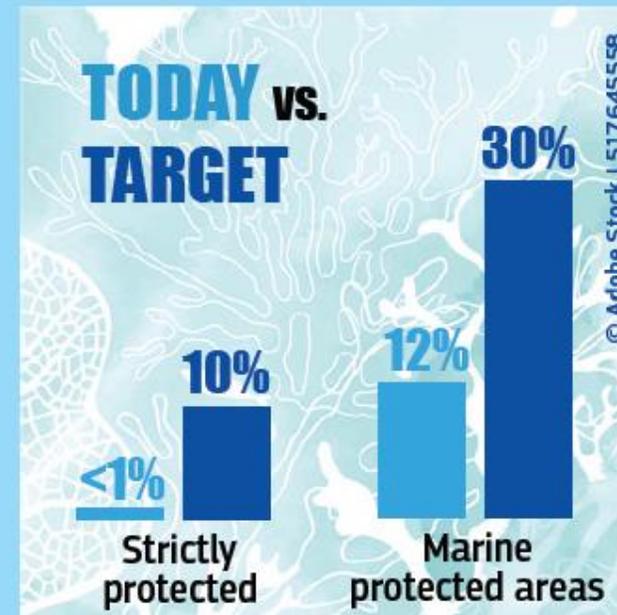
Fish stocks harvested sustainably in the EU

Thanks to the common fisheries policy, more fish stocks are harvested sustainably, but more effort is needed.



Maritime Affairs
and Fisheries

EU seas



Some areas of the EU seas are protected but this is not enough to address widespread biodiversity loss.

The fisheries sector is highly dependent on fossil fuels and vulnerable to fluctuations in fuel prices.

For every **€0.10** increase in fuel prices, **↑**

the annual gross profits in the entire EU fisheries sector drops by over

€185 m **↓**

The sector emitted **5.2 million tonnes of CO₂** in 2019, which is still too much.

EU fishing fleet workers



Workers on EU fishing fleets are ageing and it is necessary to make the profession attractive to younger generations.

Key measures

- **'Fisheries and Oceans Pact'** to fully implement the common fisheries policy and **work on a common vision for the future together** with national authorities, fishers, producer organisations, regional advisory Councils, and scientists.
- Reach the **maximum sustainable yield** (MSY) objective in all sea basins.
- **More transparency** on the criteria used for allocation of fishing opportunities (quotas) at national level.
- Start EU-wide participatory foresight project on **'Fishers of the Future'**.
- Phase out mobile bottom fishing in all Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) by 2030 to **reduce impact on seabed**.
- Use **innovative solutions to fish more selectively** and mitigate impact of incidental catches on sensitive species.
- **Build bridges between fisheries and environmental authorities** through a joint group.
- Set up an **Energy Transition Partnership** to address the sector's energy transition challenges with all stakeholders.
- Provide guidance to the sector on **available financing tools for the take-up of new energy technologies**.

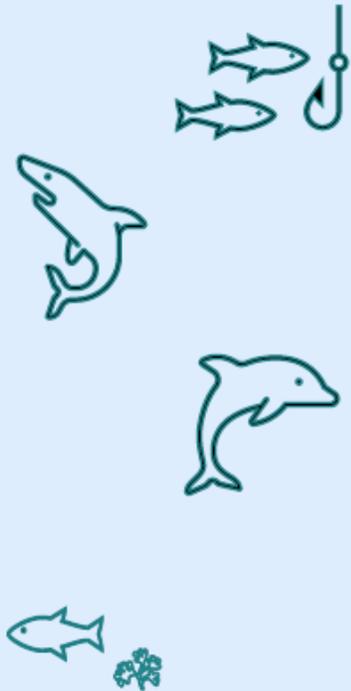
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Contents of the action plan

- Improve gear selectivity & address bycatch of sensitive species
- Protect the seabed
- Transition & knowledge
- Governance

Why?

Sensitive or threatened species are at risk



How?

- New, innovative techniques to boost selectivity
- Set limits for incidental bycatch
- Gradual approach
 - **2023** → harbour porpoise (Baltic & Black Seas, Iberian Atlantic) & common dolphin (Bay of Biscay)
 - **2024** → angel sharks, common skate, guitarfish, Maltese skate, great white shark, sand tiger shark, smalltooth sand tiger shark, spiny butterfly ray, sturgeons, marine turtles, Balearic shearwater and Mediterranean monk seal
 - **2030** → remaining sensitive marine species
- Improve the protection of the European eel



Why?

Essential habitats



Fish nurseries & spawning areas



carbon sink

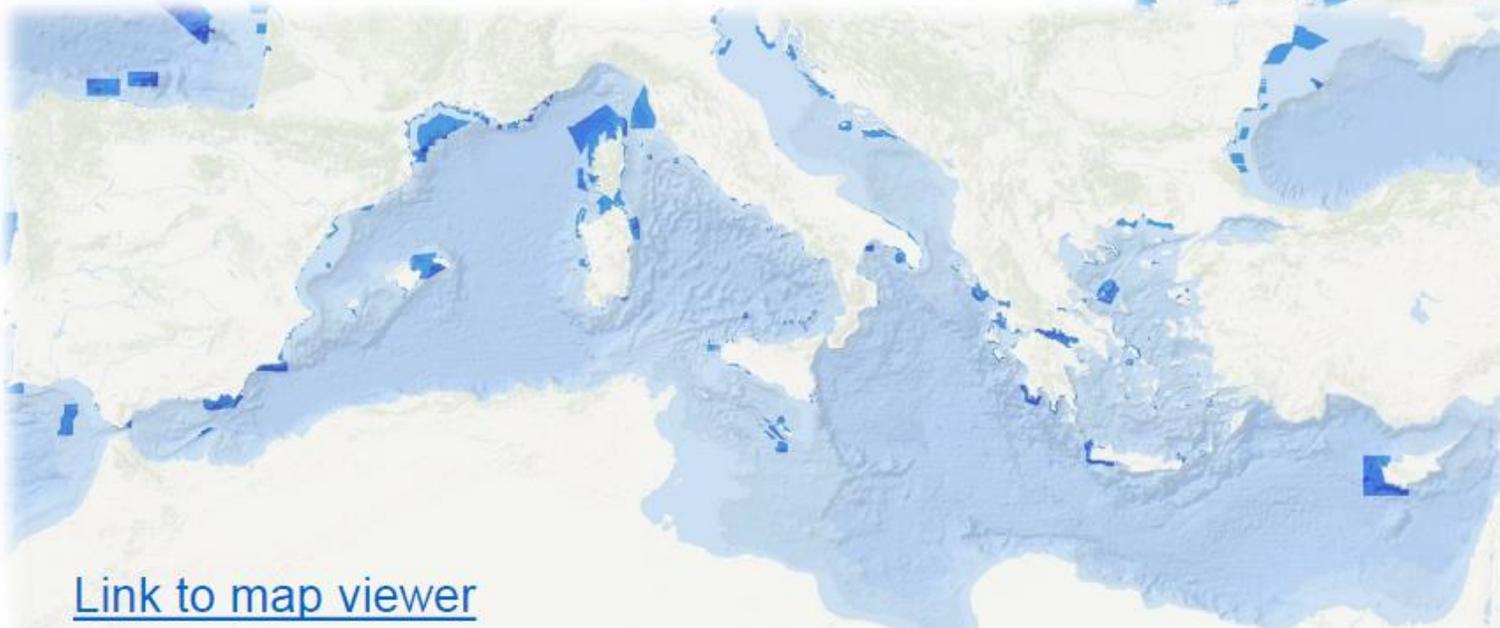


How?

- Mid-2023 → Set limits for extent of seabed lost or adversely affected under environmental law
- Gradually phase out bottom fishing in all MPAs by 2030:
 - **March 2024** → national measures/joint recommendations for all Natura 2000 sites under Habitats Directive (HD) protecting the seabed & sites under the HD protecting marine species
 - **March 2024** → outline for all MPAs & describe detailed measures for at least 20% of each Member State's marine waters
 - **2030** → all MPAs, existing and new ones

Where to start?

*Natura 2000 sites
protecting the seabed
and marine species
(Habitats Directive)*



To accompany fishers:

- Actions in the CFP & Energy transition Communications
- EU funding available
- Further data collection, research & innovation

[Link to map viewer](#)

Governance and process

Measures

→ Measures for priority species
→ Phasing out bottom fishing in Natura 2000 sites protecting the habitats and species (Habitats Directive)

→ Bottom fishing phased out in all MPAs
→ Protect remaining sensitive species

2023

2024

2030

Governance

New special group established

Member States' roadmaps prepared & delivered

Implementation of Member State's roadmaps

Mid-term review Biodiversity strategy → assess action plan progress

Converging processes

Biodiversity Strategy 2030: 10% and 30%
(Other effective Conservation Measures)

Ongoing process of Maritime Spatial
Planning

N2K network

Fisheries Restricted Areas

MSFD Descriptor 6 Threshold Values

Available tools

EMODNET

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

About ▾ Data Services ▾ Solutions ▾ Themes ▾ Community Pages ▾ Atlas of the Seas ▾ EU-China ▾ News & Events ▾

Home

ONE OCEAN, ONE EMODNET

The new Central Portal unites all EMODnet thematic marine data services into a single access point.

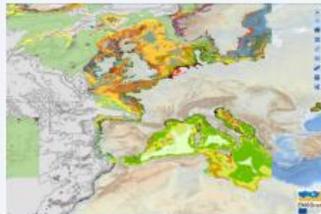
Find out what it can do for you!

NEW FOR 2023



EMODnet
European Marine Observation and Data Network

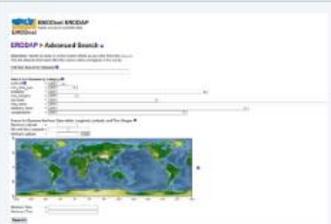
EMODnet Map Viewer



EMODnet Data Products Catalogue
Dive into the EMODnet Data Products Catalogue.



EMODnet ERDDAP



Major remarks

Necessary to participate to these processes to ensure the knowledge base includes sectorial vision

National level responsible for implementing many of the measures (e.g. selecting OECM, etc.)

Major threat (and opportunity) relates to the need of aligning parallel processes, the action plan goes in this direction (e.g. env. and fisheries experts working together).

Sources

Documentation on the Action Plan. https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/policy/common-fisheries-policy-cfp/action-plan-protecting-and-restoring-marine-ecosystems-sustainable-and-resilient-fisheries_en

Presentation from the Commission at TG SEABED 15 (Patterson)

Grazie

www.isprambiente.gov.it/it