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BASQUE RESEARCH
& TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE

15th March 2023



Bringing marine nature back to our lives – the role of science
Organised by VELMU – the Finnish Inventory Programme for Underwater Marine Diversity*

14-15 March 2023, Helsinki, Finland
Venue: Paasitorni, Paasivuorenkatu 5A

Maritime Spatial Planning, blue economy and ecosystem-based management, reconciling them to achieve good environmental status at sea

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(with strong inputs from Mike Elliott, University of Hull)

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Marine Research Division

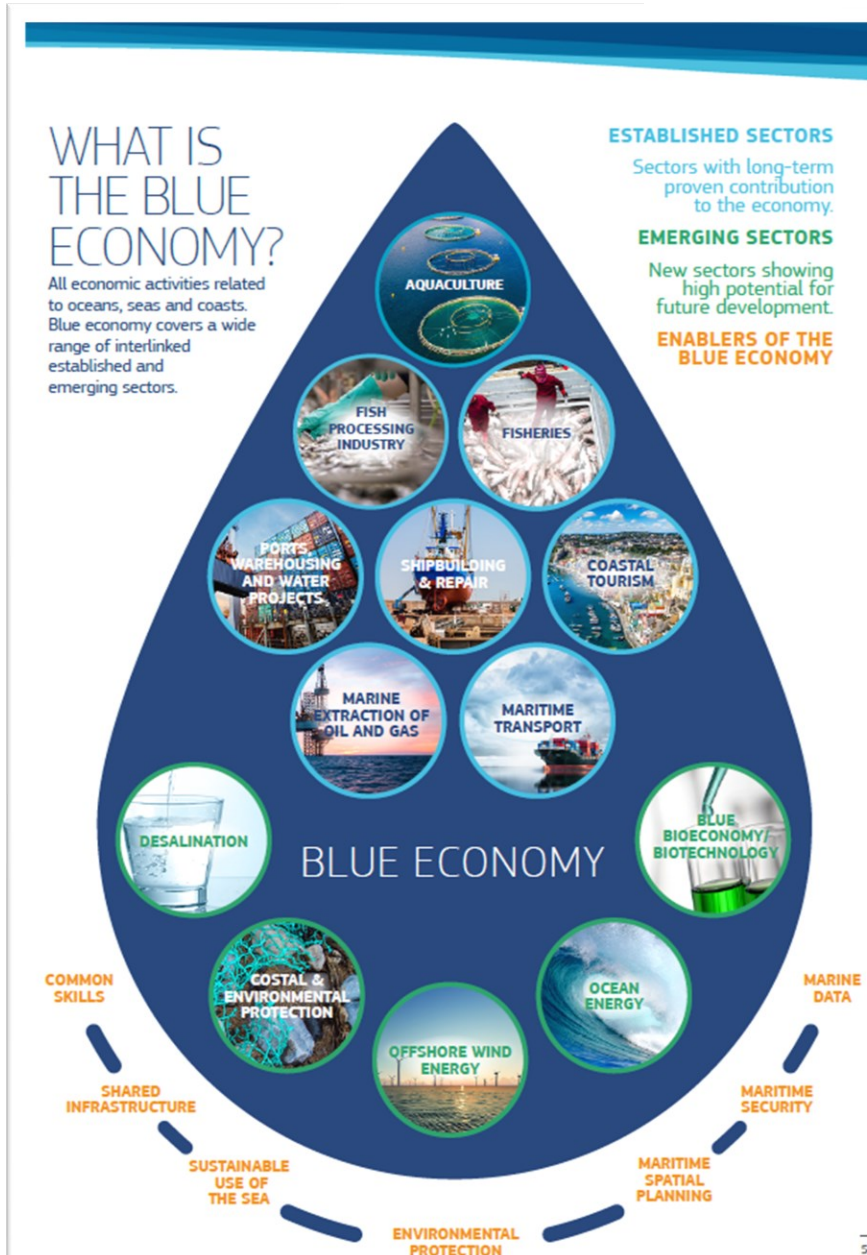
AZTI





Blue Economy represents 1.5% of the total European Gross Domestic Product, has a turnover of around €667 billion, generates €184 billion in added value and provides jobs for 4.45 million people in Europe

<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/156eecd-d7eb-11ec-a95f-01aa75ed71a1>



other **sectors of the blue economy** crucial for value & jobs



Transport
(cargo & ferry)



Fisheries



Offshore oil & gas

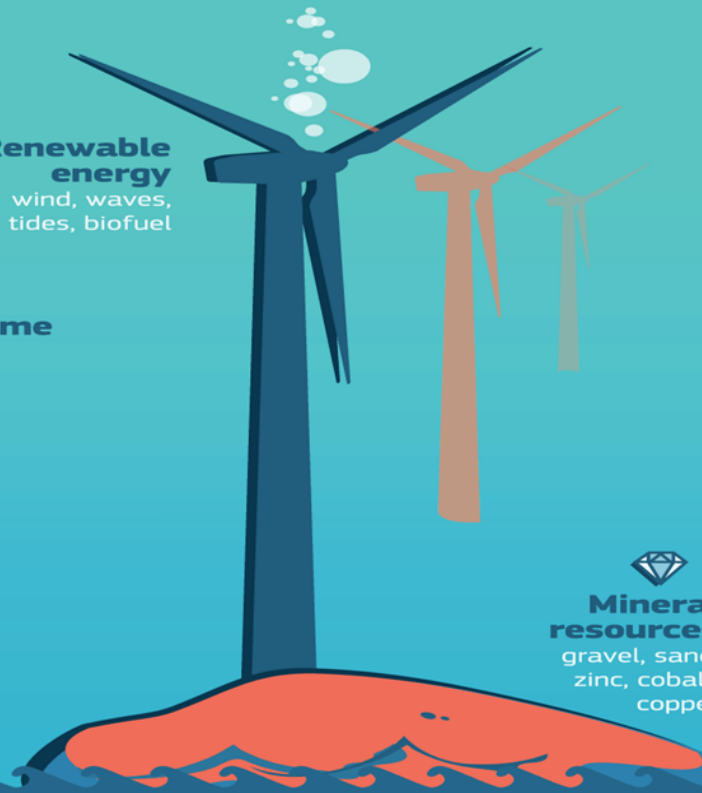


The **5** Blue Growth sectors

 **Biotechnology**
medicines,
industrial enzymes



 **Renewable
energy**
wind, waves,
tides, biofuel



 **Coastal & Maritime
Tourism**
coastal tourism,
cruise tourism,
yachting

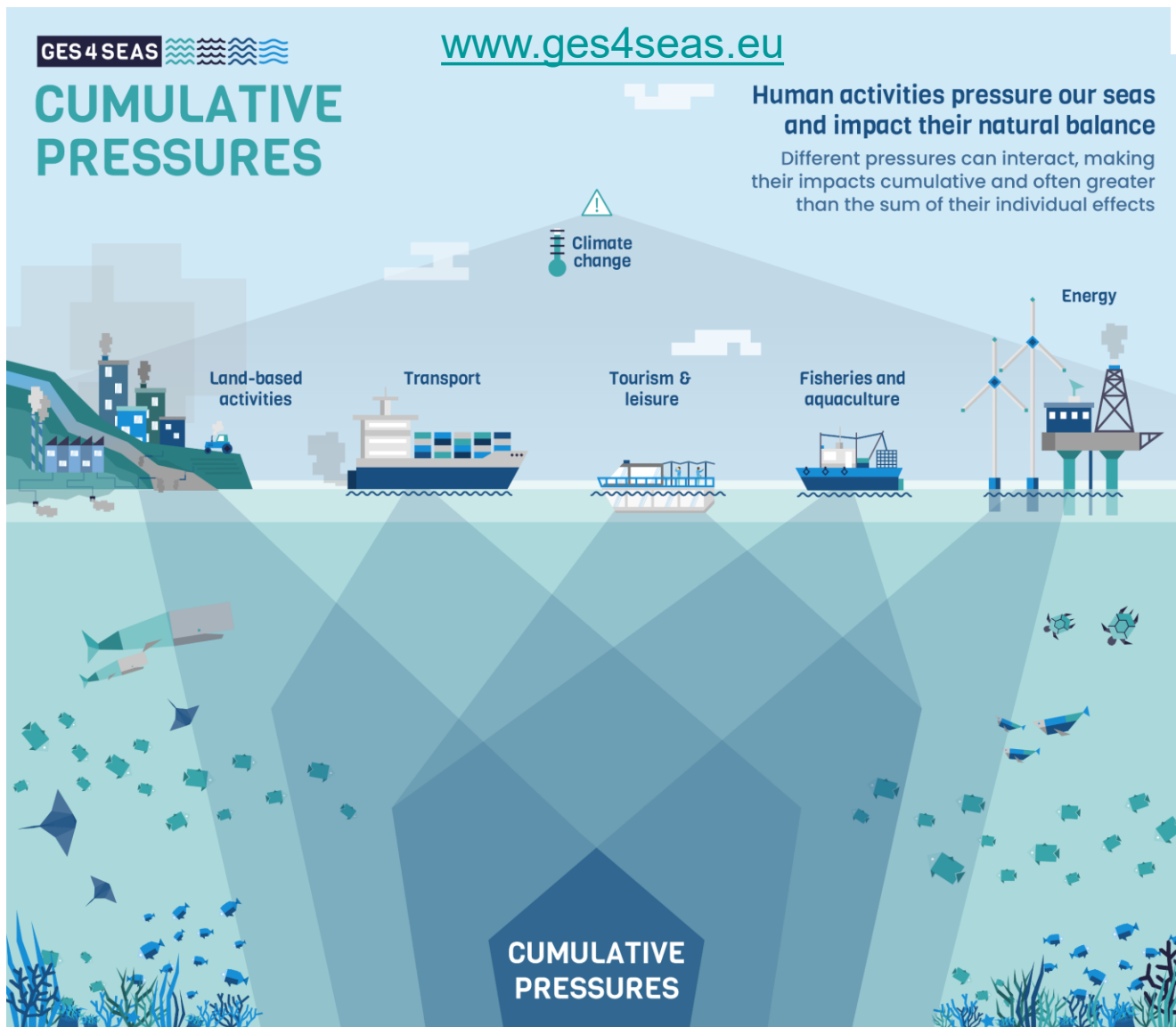
 **Aquaculture**
farming of fish,
shellfish, marine plants



 **Mineral
resources**
gravel, sand,
zinc, cobalt,
copper

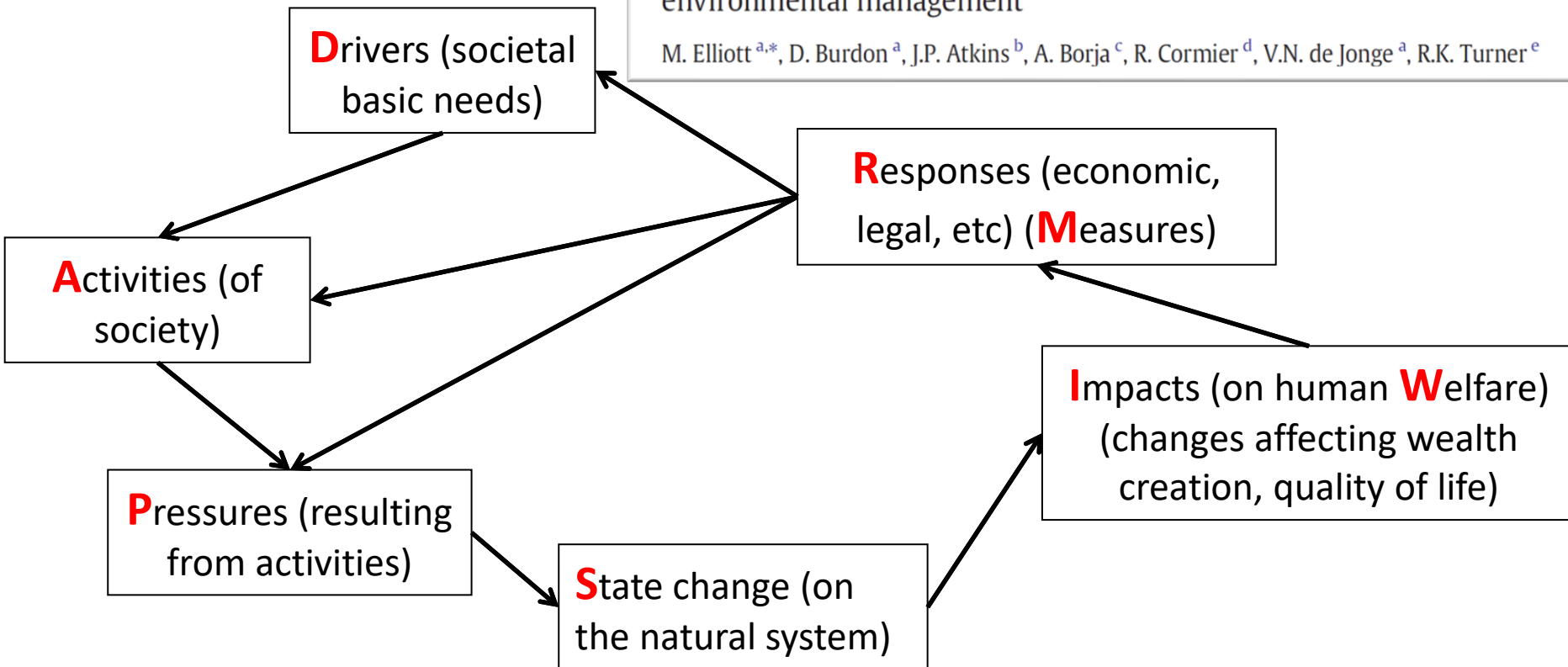
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

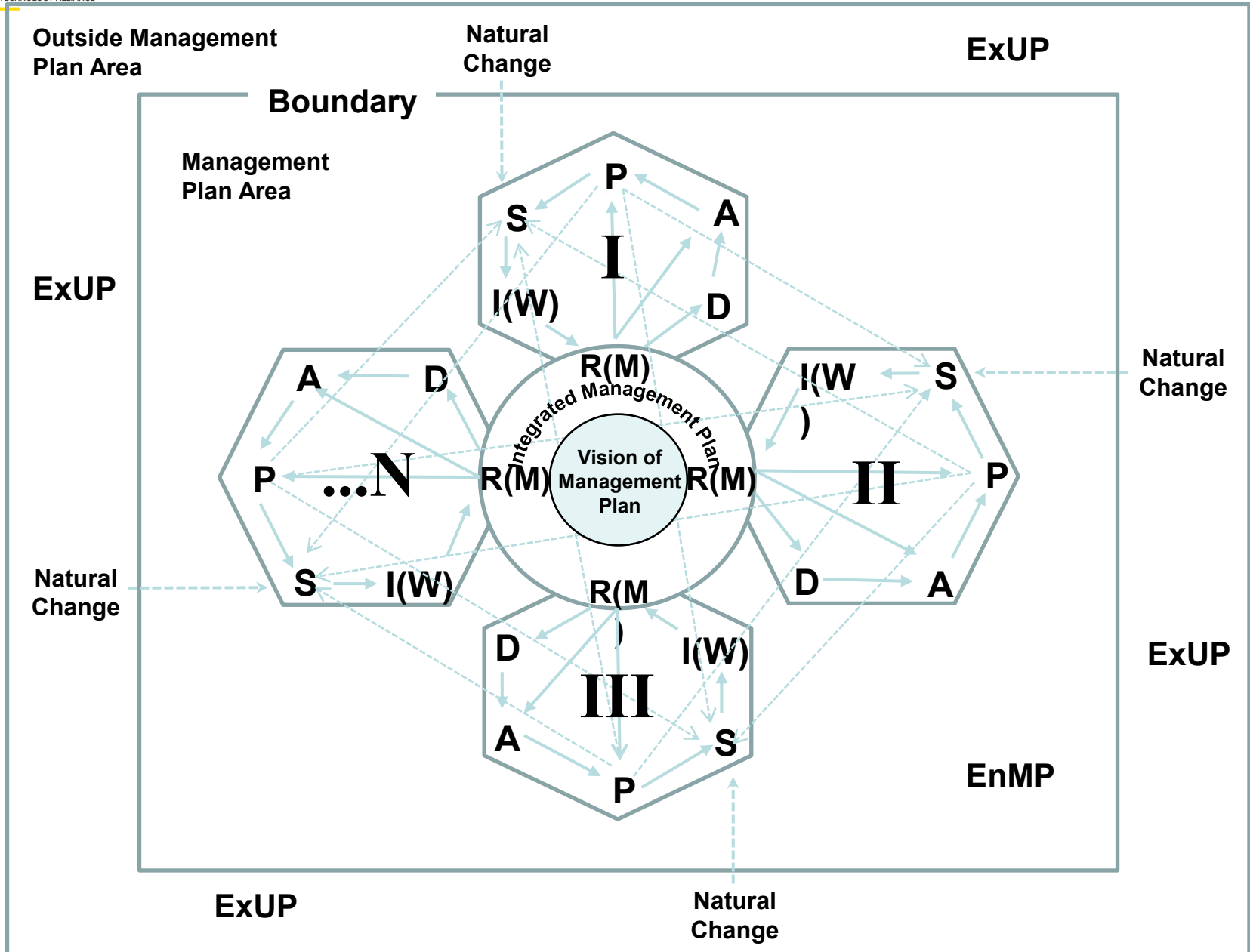
1 NO POVERTY 	2 ZERO HUNGER 	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	5 GENDER EQUALITY 	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 
13 CLIMATE ACTION 	14 LIFE BELOW WATER 	15 LIFE ON LAND 	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

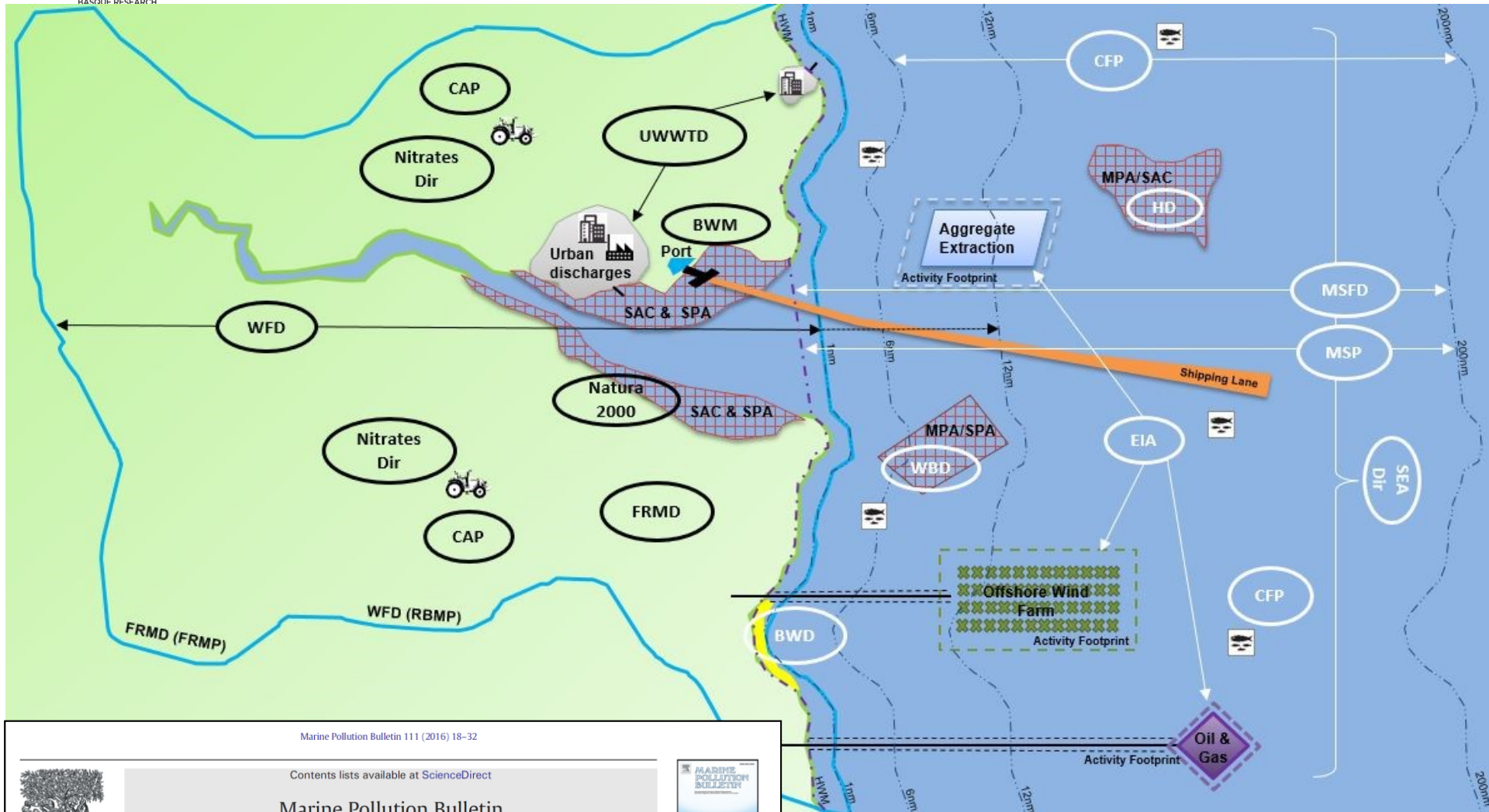


Acknowledging and assessing cumulative pressures is key to inform decision-making and protecting our seas

DAPSI(W)R(M) framework







Marine Pollution Bulletin 111 (2016) 18–32

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Marine Pollution Bulletin

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/marpolbul



ELSEVIER



Review

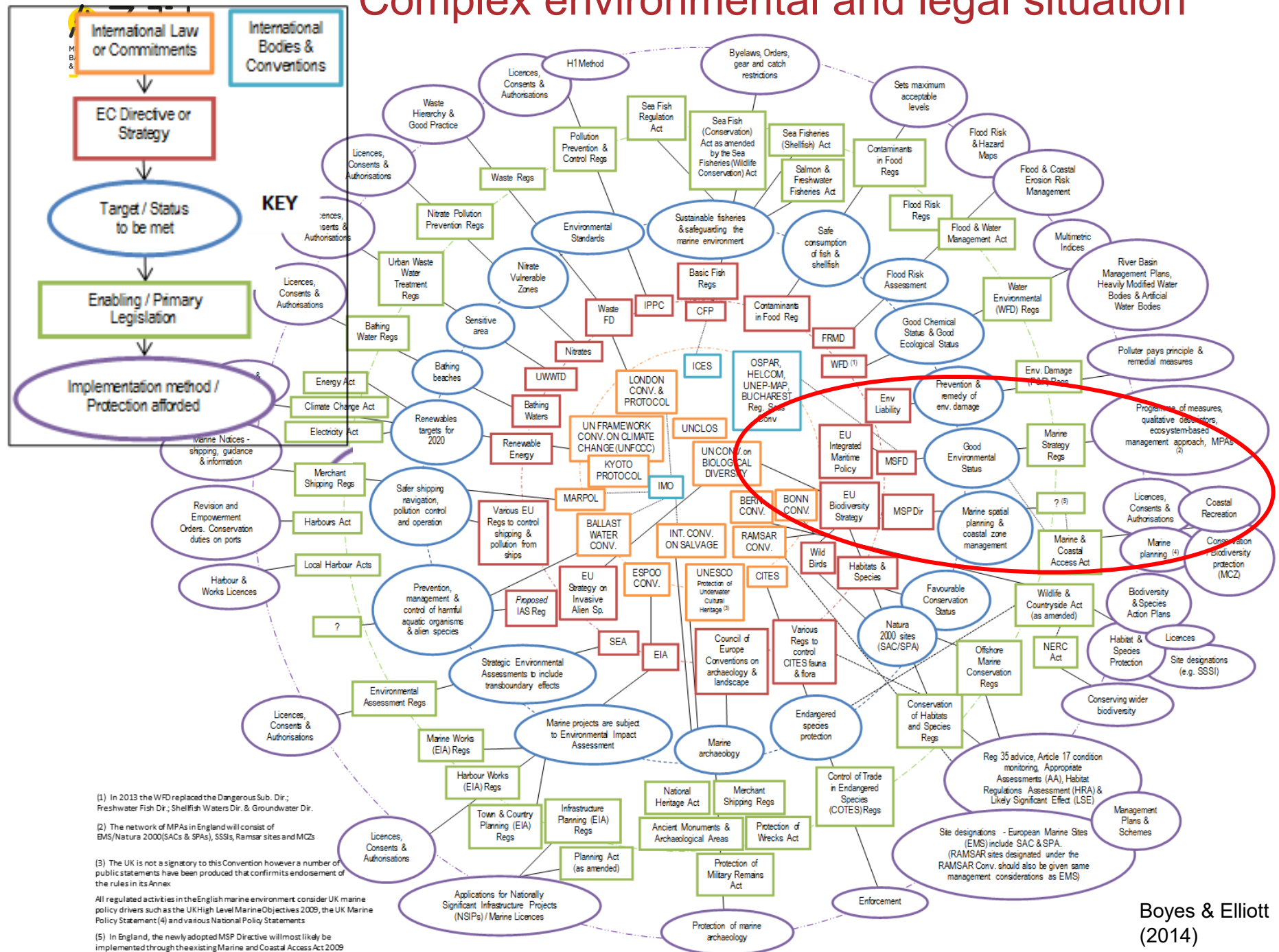
Is existing legislation fit-for-purpose to achieve Good Environmental Status in European seas?

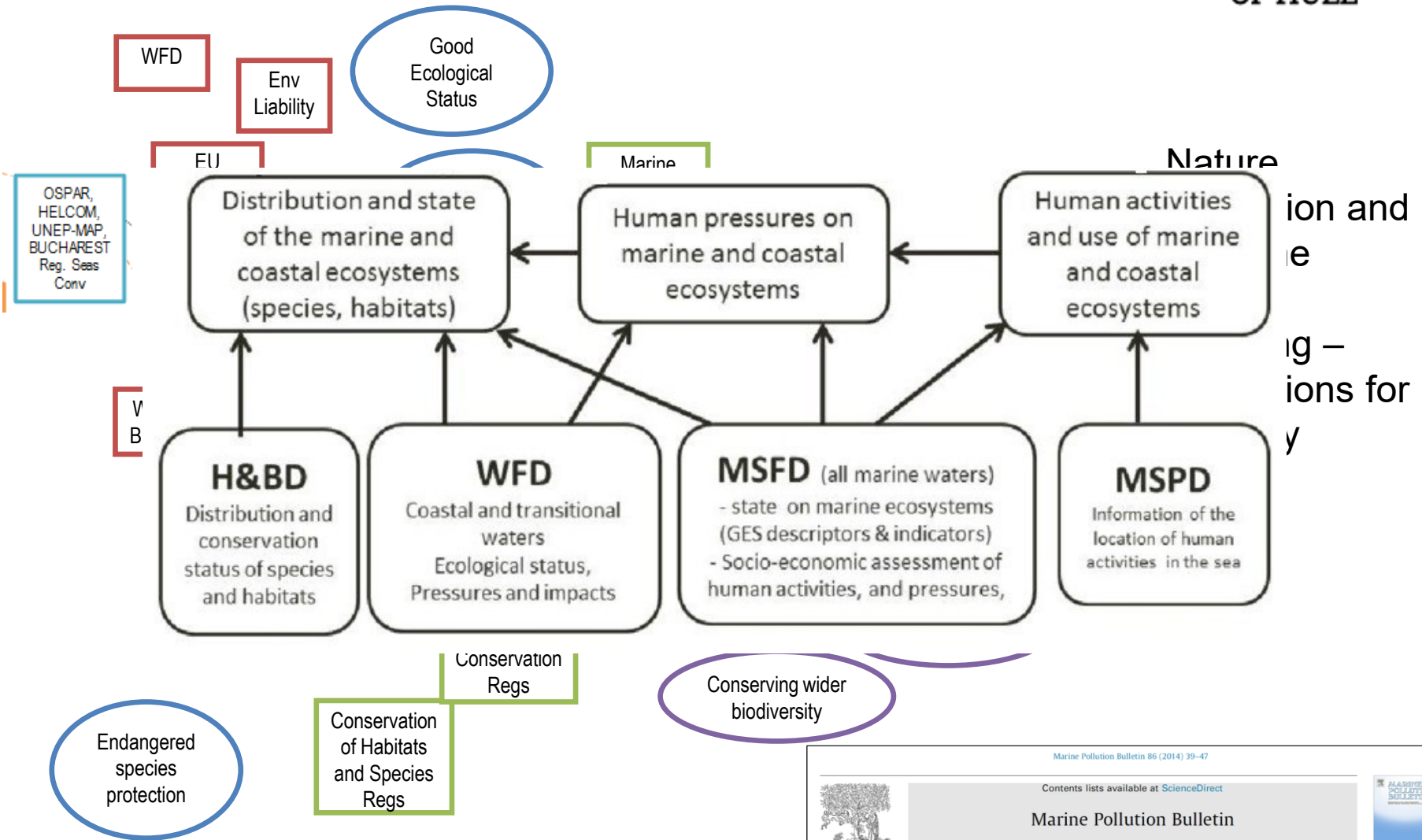
Suzanne J. Boyes^{a,*}, Michael Elliott^a, Arantza Murillas-Maza^b, Nadia Papadopoulou^c, Maria C. Uyarra^b



Geographical scope and competencies of EU legislation

Complex environmental and legal situation





Marine Pollution Bulletin 86 (2014) 39–47

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect



Marine Pollution Bulletin

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/marpolbul

Viewpoint

Marine legislation – The ultimate ‘horrendogram’: International law, European directives & national implementation

Suzanne J. Boyes*, Michael Elliott

- Where are the **problems** & What **changes** do they cause?
- What is the **impact** of these on ecosystem structure and functioning?
- What are **the repercussions for ecosystem valuation** based on economy-ecology interactions?
- What are the **future environmental changes** and economic futures (e.g. Blue Economy)?
- What **governance framework** is there, what do stakeholders need?
- What **can we do** about the problems?
- Where are the **risks** and how to address them now and in the future (Blue Economy, climate change)?
- What are the **governance** successes, failures and implications?

Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD, 2008/56/EC) (the marine environmental quality directive!)

- **Aim:** ‘to promote sustainable use of the seas and conserve marine ecosystems’
- Achieve **Good Environmental Status** (GES), by 2020 (2026)
- The concept of **environmental status** accommodates the structure, function and processes of the marine ecosystems together with natural physiographic, geographic and climatic factors, as well as physical and chemical conditions including those **resulting from human activities** in the area concerned

cetaceans



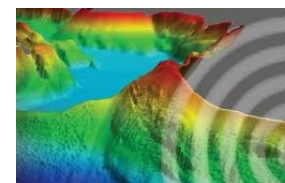
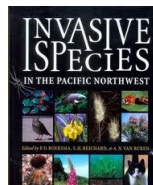
seabirds



Fishes



Qualitative Descriptors



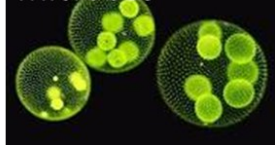
The ecosystem-based approach

‘A comprehensive **integrated management** of **human activities** based on the best available **scientific knowledge** about the ecosystem and its **dynamics**, in order to identify and take action on influences which are critical to the **health** of the marine ecosystems, thereby achieving **sustainable use** of ecosystem **goods and services** and maintenance of **ecosystem integrity**.’



Phytoplankton

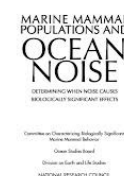
Microbes



Fishing

Eutrophication

Hydrography



Pollution

Litter

Energy/noise

Framework Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP, 2014/89/EU) *(the marine blue economy directive!)*



Competition for maritime space has highlighted the need to manage seas more coherently and sustainably

- **Aim:** “the sustainable growth of maritime and coastal economies and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources”.
- MSP is about **planning when and where human activities take place at sea** – to ensure these are as efficient and sustainable as possible.
 - **ensure** a coordinated approach to MSP throughout Europe;
 - **enable** the efficient and smooth application of MSP in cross-border marine areas;
 - to **favour** the development of maritime activities; and
 - the **protection** of the marine environment based on a common framework

There is only one big idea in
marine management:
*how to maintain and protect
ecological structure and
functioning while at the same
time allowing the system to
produce sustainable ecosystem
services from which we derive
societal benefits.*

“clean, healthy, safe, productive, biologically diverse marine and coastal environments, managed to meet the long-term needs of people and nature”

In other words: “to look after the natural stuff and deliver the human stuff”



To be **successful**, management measures or responses to changes resulting from human activities should be (so-called **10 tenets**):

- Ecologically sustainable
- Technologically feasible
- Economically viable
- Socially desirable/tolerable
- Legally permissible
- Administratively achievable
- Politically expedient
- Ethically defensible (morally correct)
- Culturally inclusive
- Effectively communicable

(I would add equity and justice)

Marine Pollution Bulletin 62 (2011) 651–665



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Marine Pollution Bulletin

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/marpolbul



Editorial

Marine science and management means tackling exogenic unmanaged pressures and endogenic managed pressures – A numbered guide

Marine Pollution Bulletin 74 (2013) 1–5



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Marine Pollution Bulletin

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/marpolbul



Editorial

The 10-tenets for integrated, successful and sustainable marine management

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & POLICY 51 (2015) 181–191



Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

ScienceDirect

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/envsci



The 10-tenets of adaptive management and sustainability: An holistic framework for understanding and managing the socio-ecological system



Steve Barnard ^{*}, Michael Elliott

FAQ - What are the *benefits* of MSP for the environment? How is the proposal related to the MSFD?

- MSP will *improve the implementation* of environmental legislation in Europe and secure the link between coastal and maritime activities
- The MSFD *specifically refers* to MSP as a key implementation tool which is designed to *properly manage* and reduce the *cumulative impact* of all maritime activities in a given sea area.
- This will help Member States to *reach good environmental status* of their waters by 2020 (2026).
- Through the MSFD, Member States have the obligation to *establish a coherent network* of Marine Protected Areas.
- *Cooperation on planning across borders is essential* to reach that goal.
- The Directive will also help to reach the EU Biodiversity Strategy objective to cover *30% of marine waters with designated protected areas* (more ambitious than SDG), and now also with the High Seas Treaty.

Does MSP mean an activity is allowed:

- where the developer wants it to be?
- where the regulator wants it to be?
- where all the stakeholders want it to be?
- where it can be?
- where it should be?
- where there is any space left for it?

Or

- where the assimilative capacity of the system can accommodate it?(*)

(* and, if not, then will the environmental regulator say it cannot be allowed but the finance minister say it has to be allowed!!!)?



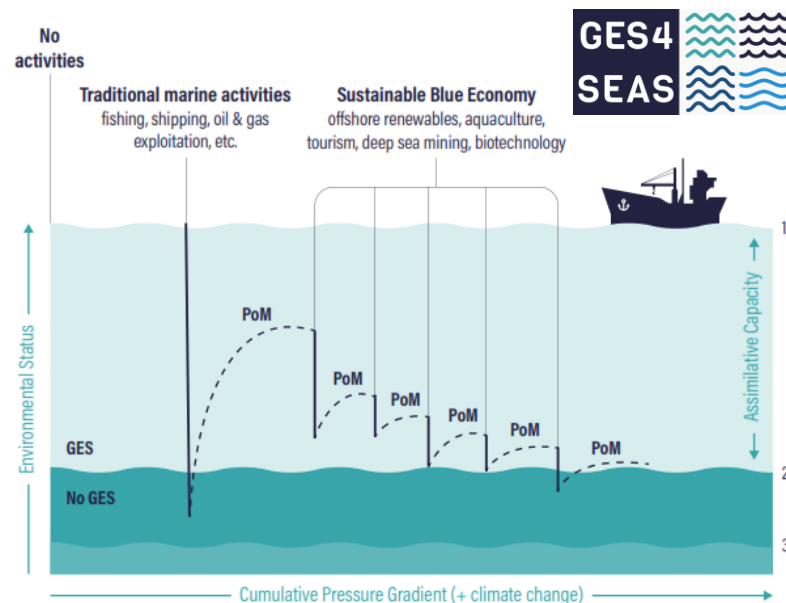
“I suppose I’ll be the one to mention the elephant in the room.”

	Previously	Proposed
Assimilative capacity	the ability of a body of water to assimilate a contaminant without showing adverse changes	the amount of an activity or activities allowed in a body of water before it adversely affects the quality
Carrying capacity	the amount of biota (e.g. number of birds or fishes) that a given habitat can support	the ability of a body of water to support a given amount of activity or activities or ecological component

Borja et al., 2022. Applying the China's marine resource-environment carrying capacity and spatial development suitability approach to the Bay of Biscay (North-East Atlantic). *Frontiers in Marine Science*, **9**: [10.3389/fmars.2022.972448](https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2022.972448).

Assumptions:

- That an area has a **finite environmental quality status** which is intact in the pristine state and then decreases with each activity permitted;
- That an area has an **assimilative capacity** to absorb the effects of an activity;
- That the reduction in environmental quality status and assimilative capacity in an area **depends on the precise activity**, its spatial and temporal **footprint**, and the cumulative and in-combination effects;
- That these also depend on any **mitigation and/or compensation measures** performed on any components/ habitat, and on the particular descriptor in question;
- That the environmental quality status and the **assimilative capacity is regained** with mitigation or compensation;
- **That GES can still be achieved with the permitted activities in place.**
- **(but be careful with tipping-points!)**



Marine Pollution Bulletin 76 (2013) 16–27

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Viewpoint

Good Environmental Status of marine ecosystems: What is it and how do we know when we have attained it?

Angel Borja^{a,*}, Mike Elliott^b, Jesper H. Andersen^c, Ana C. Cardoso^d, Jacob Carstensen^e, João G. Ferreira^d, Anna-Stiina Heiskanen^f, João C. Marques^g, João M. Neto^f, Heliana Teixeira^g, Laura Usitalo^e, Maria C. Ilvarra^h, Nikolaos Zamboulas^g

Marine Pollution Bulletin 60 (2010) 2175–2186

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ELSEVIER

Viewpoint

Marine management – Towards an integrated implementation of the European Marine Strategy Framework and the Water Framework Directives

Angel Borja^{a,*}, Mike Elliott^b, Jacob Carstensen^c, Anna-Stiina Heiskanen^d, Wouter van de Bund^e

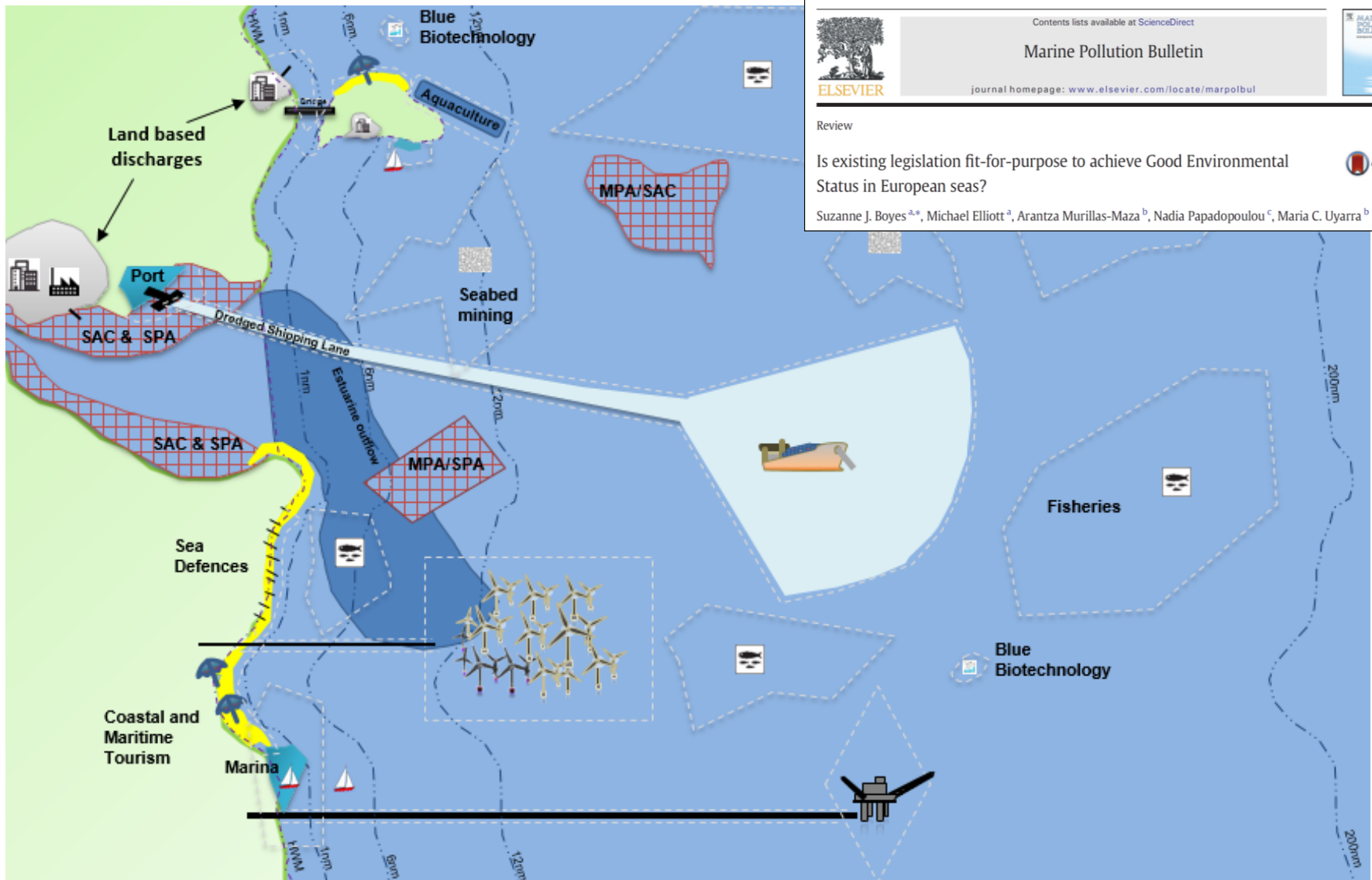


Review

Is existing legislation fit-for-purpose to achieve Good Environmental Status in European seas?



Suzanne J. Boyes^{a,*}, Michael Elliott^a, Arantza Murillas-Maza^b, Nadia Papadopoulou^c, Maria C. Uyarra^b



Challenge – to merge environmental quality management (e.g. MSFD) with maritime spatial planning and Blue Economy initiatives (e.g. MSPD)

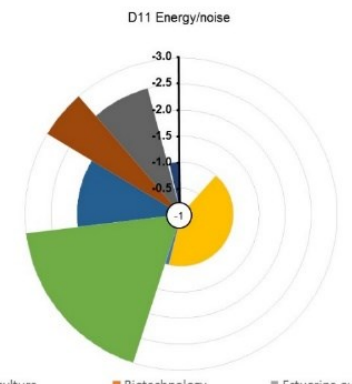
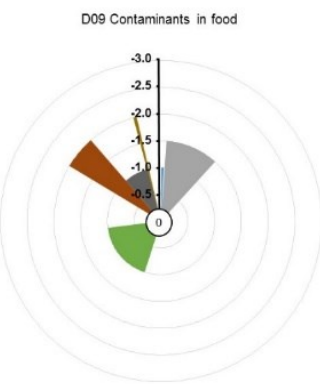
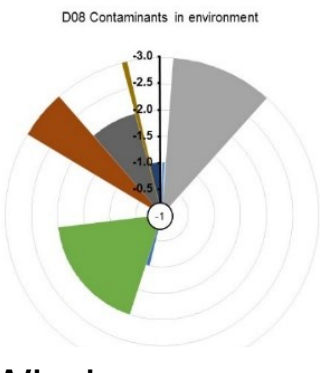
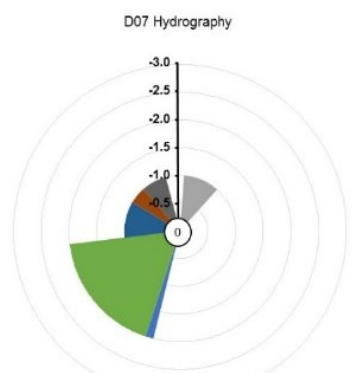
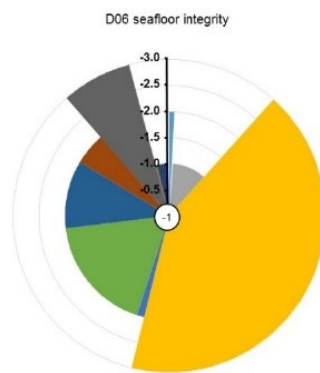
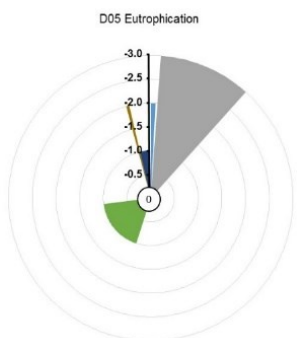
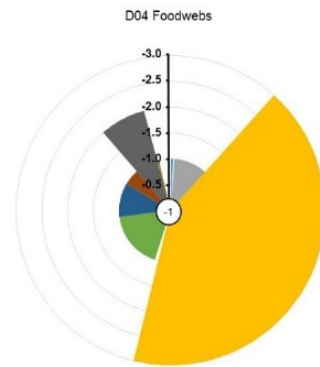
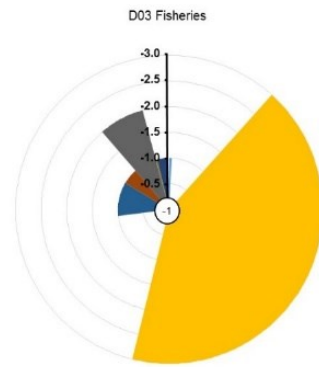
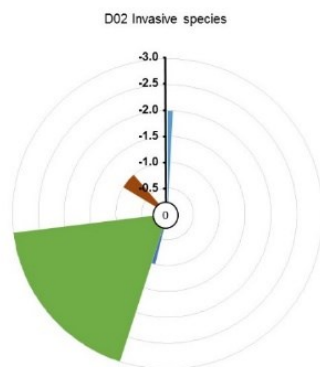
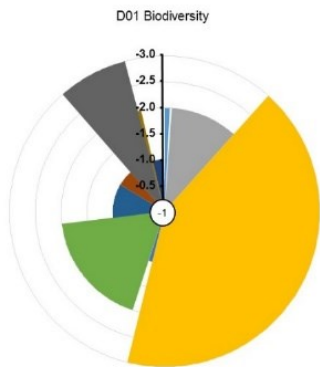
Calculation of impact of activities and their footprints as a % of the whole marine area

Activity	Area (%)
Fisheries	14.8
Navigation and ports	6.4
Offshore energy (including cables)	3.7
Estuarine outflow (from mouth of estuary) (*)	3.7
Seabed Mining	2.4
Oil and gas (including pipelines)	1.8
Tourism/recreation	1.2
Infrastructure (bridges, groynes, sea-defences)	0.3
Aquaculture	0.3
Shore-based discharges	0.3
Biotechnology	0.1
Total Area (%)	34.9

(* a pressure rather than an activity but used here as a surrogate for the net result of all discharges (diffuse and point source) to the catchment)

Blue Economy + Mature activities

MSFD descriptors	Median values (50th percentiles)											Overall confidence in responses for given descriptor (across all activities)
	Aquaculture	Biotechnology	Estuarine outflow	Fisheries	Infrastructure	Navigation and ports	Offshore energy	Oil and gas	Seabed Mining	Shore-based discharges	Tourism /recreation	
D01 Biodiversity	-2	0	-2	-3	-1	-2	1	-1	-3	-2	-1	2.5
D02 Invasive species	-2	0	0	0	-1	-3	0	-1	0	0	0	2
D03 Fisheries	-1	0	0	-3	0	0	1	-1	-2	-1	-1	2
D04 Foodwebs	-1	0	-1	-3	0	-1	1	-1	-2	-1	0	2
D05 Eutrophication	-2	0	-3	0	0	-1	0	0	0	-2	-1	2
D06 seafloor integrity	-2	0	-1	-3	-2	-2	-2	-2	-3	-1	-1	3
D07 Hydrography	0	0	-1	0	-2	-2	-1	-1	-1	0	0	1.5
D08 Contaminants in environment	-1	0	-3	0	-1	-2	0	-3	-2	-3	-1	2
D09 Contaminants in food	-1	0	-1.5	0	0	-1	0	-2	-1	-2	0	1
D10 Litter	-1	0	-2	-1	-1	-2	0	-1	0	-2	-3	2
D11 Energy/noise	0	0	0	-1	-1	-3	-2	-3	-2.5	0	-1	2
Overall confidence in responses for given activity (across all descriptors)	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	



Windroses: median score of the activity effect levels on each Descriptor (the central value represents the overall median score, calculated across all activities)



Overview of Integrative Assessment of Marine Systems: The Ecosystem Approach in Practice

Angel Borja^{1*}, Michael Elliott², Jesper H. Andersen³, Torsten Berg⁴, Jacob Carstensen⁵, Benjamin S. Halpern^{6,7,8}, Anna-Stiina Heiskanen⁹, Samuli Korpinen⁹, Julia S. Stewart Lowndes⁷, Georg Martin¹⁰ and Naiara Rodriguez-Ezpeleta¹

DEVOTES
www.devotes-project.eu
Development of innovative tools for understanding marine biodiversity and assessing good environmental status



NEAT

(Nested Environmental status Assessment Tool)

www.devotes-project.eu/neat



Descriptor/Indicator	Worst	Bad/ Poor	Poor/ Mod	Mod/ Good	Good/ High	Best	Source
D3: Commercial Fish							
F/F _{msy} (for 341 stocks)	15	5	2	1	0.5	0	Froese et al. (2018)
B/B _{msy} (for 341 stocks)	0	0.25	0.5	1	1.5	2	Froese et al. (2018)
D5: Eutrophication							
90th Percentile Chlorophyll ($\mu\text{g l}^{-1}$)							
Baltic	20			2.49	1.83	0	European Commission (2018)
Adriatic	20			4	1.7	0	European Commission (2018)
Balearic/Sardinia	20			1.89	1.18	0	European Commission (2018)
Gulf of Lions	20			3.5	1.92	0	European Commission (2018)
Cyprus/Aegean/Ionian/Black Sea	20			0.53	0.29	0	European Commission (2018)
North-East Atlantic	20			1.52	1.18	0	European Commission (2018)
D8: Contaminants							
Anthracene ($\mu\text{g l}^{-1}$)	10	0.9	0.3	0.1		0	European Commission (2013)
Fluoranthene ($\mu\text{g l}^{-1}$)	10	0.057	0.019	0.0063		0	European Commission (2013)
Naphthalene ($\mu\text{g l}^{-1}$)	100	18	6	2		0	European Commission (2013)
Cadmium ($\mu\text{g l}^{-1}$)	10	1.8	0.6	0.2		0	European Commission (2013)
Nickel ($\mu\text{g l}^{-1}$)	1000	77.4	25.8	8.6		0	European Commission (2013)
Lead ($\mu\text{g l}^{-1}$)	100	11.7	3.9	1.3		0	European Commission (2013)

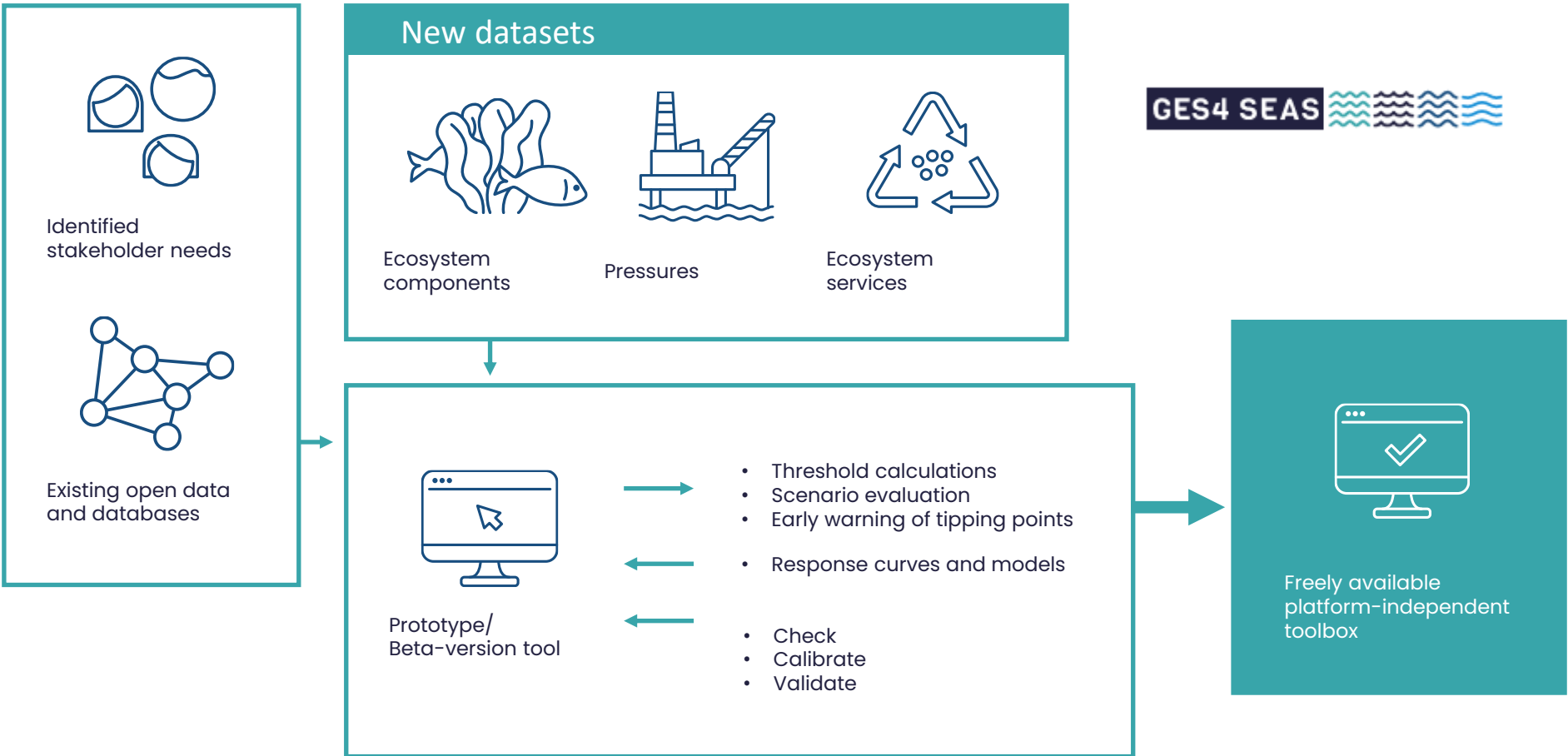




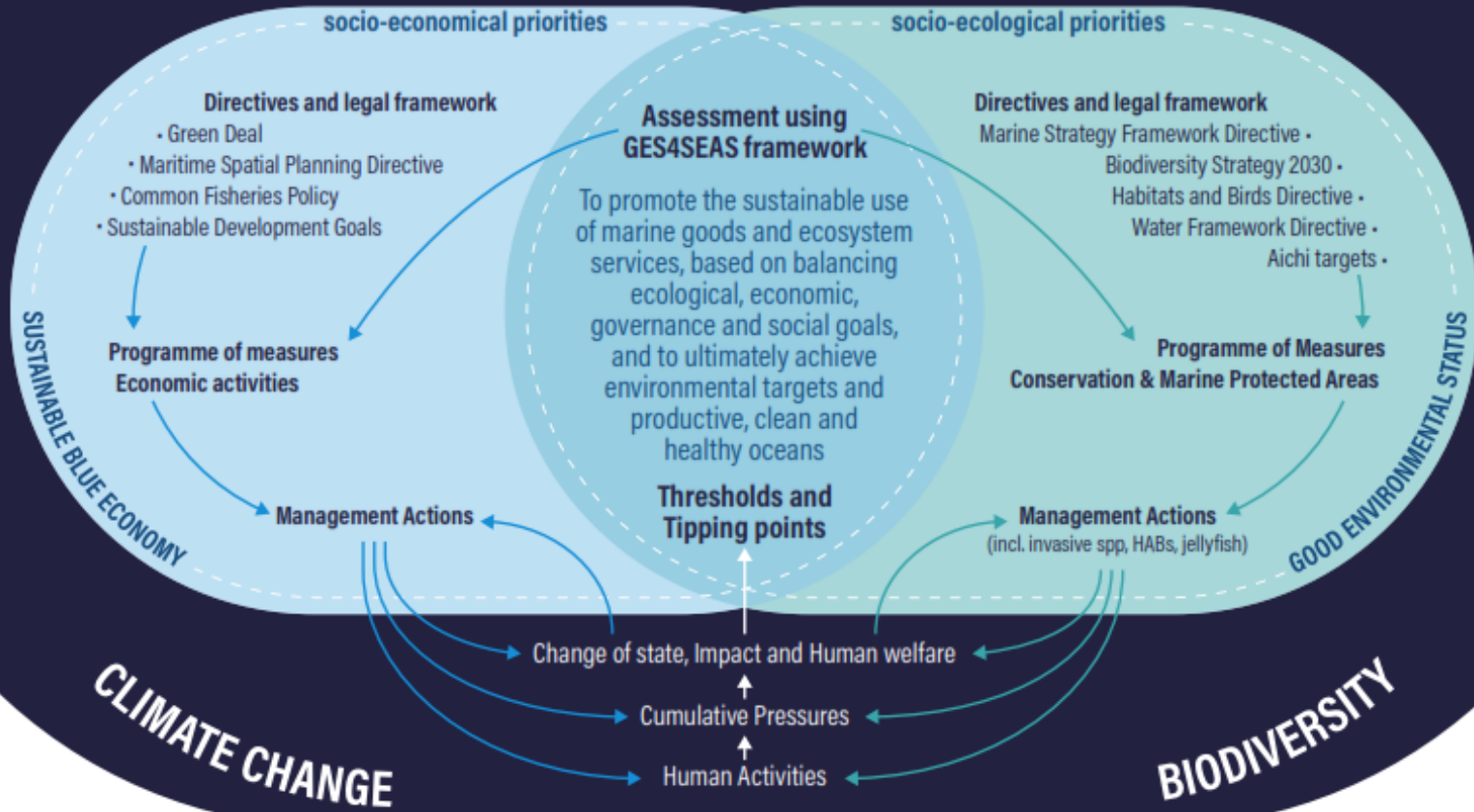
Weighting by SAU area												Without weighting by SAU area						
Spatial Assessment Units	Area (km ²)	SAU weight	NEAT value	Confid.	Ecosystem component & Descriptor					Habitat & Descriptor		Area	SAU weight	NEAT value	Confid.	Habitat & Descriptor		
					WC	Phyto.	Fish	Moll.	Crust.	Com Fish	Pelagic					Dem/Ben	(%)	Pelagic
					D8	D5	D3	D3	D3	D3	D3, D5, D8	D3						
EUROPE	15,833,850	0.000	0.586	99.9	0.857	0.871	0.514	0.466	0.429	0.511	0.660	0.468	1	0.000	0.612	100.0	0.656	0.457
Baltic Sea	392,215	0.012	0.577	99.3	0.631	0.418	0.528			0.528	0.577	0.574	1	0.063	0.638	100.0	0.647	0.574
North East Atlantic	12,447,708	0.393	0.603	85.1	0.982	0.874	0.517		0.541	0.518	0.691	0.480	1	0.083	0.626	100.0	0.712	0.494
No-MSFD	6,072,926	0.000	0.606	100.0	0.998	0.777	0.544		0.678	0.549	0.701	0.511	1	0.000	0.591	80.6	0.660	0.522
Barents Sea	1,619,945	0.051	0.648	100.0			0.641		0.772	0.663	0.592	0.704	1	0.017	0.648	100.0	0.592	0.704
Faroes	192,399	0.006	0.565	99.8		0.827	0.477			0.477	0.598	0.531	1	0.017	0.565	100.0	0.598	0.531
Greenland Sea	1,331,774	0.042	0.526	99.9		0.815	0.468			0.449	0.684	0.368	1	0.017	0.526	100.0	0.684	0.368
Iceland Sea	384,436	0.012	0.590	66.5		0.641	0.604		0.325	0.584	0.628	0.552	1	0.017	0.590	65.0	0.628	0.552
Norwegian Sea	2,544,373	0.080	0.627	100.0	0.998	0.755	0.503			0.503	0.799	0.456	1	0.017	0.627	100.0	0.799	0.456
MSFD	6,374,782	0.000	0.793	68.4	0.971	0.889	0.538		0.284	0.533	0.859	0.507	1	0.000	0.783	100.0	0.846	0.510
Greater North Sea	654,330	0.010	0.762	99.1	0.976	0.612	0.550		0.378	0.544	0.829	0.560	1	0.005	0.824	100.0	0.862	0.560
Celtic Seas & Rockall	949,453	0.015	0.774	99.6	0.972	0.829	0.549		0.486	0.554	0.874	0.471	1	0.005	0.855	100.0	0.910	0.471
BoB & Iberian coast	803,349	0.025	0.545	99.8	0.754	0.892	0.540		0.129	0.526	0.587	0.501	1	0.010	0.648	100.0	0.697	0.501
Macaronesia	3,967,649	0.000	0.853	99.2		0.891	0.514			0.514	0.891	0.514	1	0.000	0.806	67.2	0.903	0.514
Azores	795,788	0.025	0.727	100.0		0.939	0.514			0.514	0.939	0.514	1	0.010	0.727	100.0	0.939	0.514
Rest Macaronesia	3,171,862	0.100	0.885	99.9		0.885					0.885		1	0.010	0.885	100.0	0.885	
Mediterranean Sea	2,520,033	0.080	0.513	100.0	0.893	0.944	0.513	0.466	0.315	0.495	0.561	0.383	1	0.050	0.613	100.0	0.682	0.389
Western Mediterranean	844,630	0.000	0.435	100.0	0.639	0.956	0.413	0.420	0.382	0.410	0.486	0.383	1	0.000	0.494	100.0	0.551	0.381
Balearic Sea	468,191	0.015	0.442	100.0	0.530	0.949	0.431	0.374	0.382	0.421	0.508	0.376	1	0.008	0.486	97.9	0.523	0.376
Lions Gulf	62,702	0.002	0.438	100.0		0.967	0.418	0.393	0.393	0.413	0.500	0.376	1	0.017	0.438	100.0	0.500	0.376
Sardinia	313,737	0.010	0.423	100.0	0.698	0.964	0.382	0.454	0.382	0.392	0.451	0.394	1	0.008	0.558	99.6	0.612	0.394
Ionian Sea & Central Med	846,345	0.026	0.414	100.0	0.909	0.921	0.393	0.447	0.380	0.397	0.444	0.383	1	0.025	0.659	100.0	0.751	0.383
Adriatic Sea	98,666	0.002	0.558	100.0	0.786	0.976	0.447	0.466	0.473	0.454	0.638	0.417	1	0.017	0.680	86.3	0.732	0.417
Aegean-Levantine Sea	730,392	0.012	0.464	100.0	0.951	0.943	0.346	0.487	0.200	0.376	0.641	0.382	1	0.017	0.647	100.0	0.843	0.388
Aegean Sea	286,427	0.002	0.701	100.0	0.974	0.917	0.411	0.535	0.388	0.418	0.796	0.417	1	0.004	0.833	100.0	0.892	0.417
Cyprus	443,965	0.006	0.423	100.0	0.883	0.945	0.323	0.300		0.321	0.507	0.319	1	0.006	0.713	100.0	0.792	0.319
Black Sea	473,894	0.015	0.534	100.0	0.689	0.597	0.367			0.367	0.595	0.353	1	0.063	0.572	99.3	0.604	0.353



Linking pressure and status assessment with the capacity to supply ecosystem services into a unifying holistic framework and nested toolbox



Within the climate change context, the impacts of multiple stressors on coastal and marine biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and its services (including climate change adaptation and mitigation, resilience and human health) must be assessed and predicted using adaptive **ecosystem-based approaches**



A summary: Grand Challenges (to be addressed):

- Ensure **competent** authorities are the same for MSFD and MSPD or ensure good coordination if they are different
- Ensure **Ecosystem Based MSP**
- Ensure within and between Member States transborder **coordination**
- Resolve **jurisdiction** areas (e.g. Directive limits)
- **Implementation** using Regional Seas Conventions and **harmonise** assessments
- **Encompassing national to global frameworks** (e.g. SDGs)
- Determine if each activity affects each descriptor in different ways and has different spatial and temporal **footprints**
- **Determine cumulative and in-combination pressures and impacts**
- Determine how much **assimilative capacity** can you use (amount of activity allowed) before breaching GES
- **Reframe (and rename) Blue Growth** under Sustainable Blue Economy principles and Sustainable Development Goals
- Determine whether Blue Economy or GES-achievement takes **precedence**
- **Investment in conservation as precondition for Blue Economy**

- **Is it possible to reconcile the objectives** of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Marine Spatial Planning Directive?
- **Yes, if:**
 - **Monitoring** is adequately designed, coordinated within the same eco-region and using adequate resources
 - **Conservation is full part of Blue Economy** debate
 - Any activity at sea is subjected to **adequate evaluation of pressures and impacts** produced, together with an investigation of its interaction with other activities
 - These **activities are planned** taking into account the **assimilative capacity** of the system, not focusing on growth but **on sustainability and well-being**
 - Adequate quantitative **targets are set** for indicators of good environmental status, and **methods are harmonized** across geographies
 - **Integrative assessments** are undertaken regularly, based upon the best knowledge available (e.g. NEAT)
 - **Socio-ecological marine ecosystems are consider in a holistic way**, including humans as part of the system,
 - **GES is the ultimate measure of Blue Economy's success**

Innovative and practical tools for monitoring and assessing multiple human pressures in marine systems

Summer school, 5th to 7th June 2023, San Sebastián (Spain)

Drones



Spatial Planning



eDNA



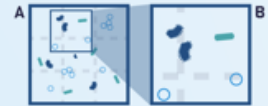
Integrative assessment tools



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Land-based activities



Climate change

Shipping



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Fisheries and aquaculture



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