



# EU LEVEL POLICY DEVELOPMENTS ON MARINE PROTECTION

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- EU policy initiatives on maritime issues – the proposed strategy Directive and Green Paper
- Run in parallel to existing legislation – habitats and water framework Directives
- Presentation will give a short overview and propose recommendations and questions relating to these

- Proposed marine strategy Directive is main instrument of the Marine Thematic Strategy – proposed October 2005.
- Still in early stages of adoption, but views of Council and Parliament are becoming known
- Likely to be significant progress on adoption during 2007

- Proposed Directive has similar approach (water status, planning, programmes of measures) to the water framework Directive, but with differences
- Member States have limited competence in some areas for ecosystem protection – especially fisheries
- Directive would provide a number of options for Member States not to take action

- Green Paper is policy at an early stage
- It assumes economic activity is largely beneficial (not always the case, e.g. shipping importing alien species)
- Looks to the proposed Directive as an environmental pillar – but need greater integration and some environmental issues are elsewhere, e.g. the CFP

- There are a number of issues that arise from the texts of the proposed Directive (including positions of the EU institutions) and the Green Paper.
- The following slides present some possible recommendations with questions to simulate discussion at this meeting

- **It is important to support the proposed Directive**
- A Directive would be positive, if limited, step in the right direction for integrated marine protection

- **Policy makers should ensure a Directive has sufficient provisions to ensure Member States will be obliged to deliver**
- Are the provisions clear enough to ensure compliance assessment?
- Is there the right balance between flexibility and prescription to ensure delivery?

- **The Directive should set out the criteria for defining ‘good environmental status’**
- This is the heart of what drives action, so should be at the heart of the legislation
- What should be the level of detail in the Directive on defining good environmental status?

- **There should be greater emphasis on integration of commitments under Regional Seas Conventions**
- What commitments are most critical in implementing environmental protection objectives?
- How should regional sea and EU objectives should be integrated?

- **It is important for renewed effort on implementation of Natura 2000**
- Is there adequate site designation in marine areas?
- How are species protection measures being taken forward?

- **There is a need for explicit reference to the CFP to tackle unsustainable fisheries**
- What are limits of ecosystem approaches by Member States with fisheries largely in EU competence?
- How can a marine strategy Directive be used to tackle problems in making the CFP sustainable?

- There is a need to ensure enhanced co-operation between Member States on marine protection
- How should this be addressed in the Directive – more than simple encouragement?
- How are Member States to develop programmes of measures that equitably distribute action between countries causing problems in the regional seas?

- **Green Paper consultation should be used to stress integration of biodiversity concerns into sectoral policies**
- What are the key linkages with sectoral policies in the Green Paper that should be emphasised?
- What should future EU maritime policy say on such integration?

- **The Green Paper consultation should be used to emphasise the need for the CFP to be a major mechanism to deliver biodiversity objectives**
- Are there changes in decision-making processes that could assist this?
- How should this relate to the future CFP review?