



Introductory seminar for the pledge and review process in the marine biogeographical regions

9 and 10 December 2021 – 09:00-13:00 (CET) – Online (MS Teams)

Final programme

Day 1 (9 Dec. 2021) – Targets on protected areas		
Time	Topics	Speakers
08.45-9.00	Opening online channel for participants to test access to the session Meeting link	
9:00-9:10	Opening and welcome.	Nicola Notaro, chair (Head of the Nature Protection Unit, ENV D3)
9:10-9:15	Housekeeping (use of Mentimeter and chat).	Team supporting the Natura 2000 biogeographical process
9:15-9:35	The protected areas targets in the context of the EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030: role, guidance, criteria and format for the pledges.	Joaquim Capitão (ENV D3)
9:35-9:45	Questions from participants.	
9:45-10:00	OECMs in the marine context.	Ellen Kenchington (Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Maritimes Region), International Council for the Exploration of the Sea)
10:00-10:10	Questions from participants.	
10:10-10:25	Baseline for protected areas and distance to targets.	Johnny Reker (EEA)
10:25-10:35	Questions from participants.	
10:35-10:50	Break	
10:50-11:40	Invited presentations and interventions	Finland, Ireland, Portugal and Spain
11:40-11:45	Housekeeping (organisation of breakout sessions).	Team supporting the Natura 2000 biogeographical process
11:45-13:00	Discussions in 3 break-out rooms (by marine regions: Baltic, Atlantic and Macaronesian, Mediterranean and Black Sea):	Facilitators: Irene Bouwma Paul Goriup Diana Pungar Rui Rufino Theo van der Sluis Richard White
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the existing MPA network Improve coherence of the network Identify and develop strictly protected areas 	
	If time allows:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure adequate management of protected areas 	
	Break out room 1: Baltic region Meeting link	
	Break out room 2: Atlantic and Macaronesian regions Meeting link	
	Break out room 3: Mediterranean and Black Sea regions Meeting link	
13:00	Day 1 closes	



Topics, aims and prompt questions for discussions in biogeographical break-out groups on day 1 (9 Dec. 2021)– Targets on protected areas

Complete the existing MPA network

AIM: Plan actions that will help identify priority features and areas to be protected.

- *What existing information or methods, especially scientific, can be used to define new areas for designation?*
- *What other information relating to designation of additional areas have you found useful?*

Improve coherence of the network

AIMS: Identify the tools and actions we need to mobilise to assess and improve coherence and connectivity of the network; define the steps we need to take at regional sea level to achieve this.

- *How are you assessing coherence in your MPA network?*
- *What needs or opportunities are there for co-operation about assessment of MPA networks across national boundaries?*

Identify and develop strictly protected areas

AIMS: Discuss how principles of strict protection apply in real life: how to identify and increase the number of strictly protected areas examples; show, discuss and expand the range of examples available to all.

- *Which species or habitats are likely to benefit most from strict protection?*
- *What are the main benefits of strictly protected areas for different stakeholders ('win-win' opportunities)?*

(If time allows) Ensure adequate management of protected areas

AIM: Exchange examples of best practice in MPA management.

- *How are you going to monitor and ensure effective management of MPAs in your network?*
- *What opportunities exist for co-operation in addressing management challenges, especially for wide-ranging species or where pressures are transboundary?*



Day 2 (10 Dec. 2021) – Conservation status improvement target		
Time	Topics	Speakers
08.45-9.00	Opening online channel for participants to test access to the session Meeting link	
9:00-9:10	Opening and welcome.	Nicola Notaro, chair (Head of the Nature Protection Unit, ENV D3)
9:10-9:15	Housekeeping.	Team supporting the Natura 2000 biogeographical process
9:15-9:35	The non-deterioration and 30% status improvement target in the context of the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030: context, guidance, criteria and format for the pledges.	Frank Vassen (ENV D3)
9:35-9:45	Questions from participants.	
9:45-10:00	Baseline and distance to target: conservation status and synergies with other policies.	Carlos Romao (EEA)
10:00-10:10	Questions from participants.	
10:10-10:45	Invited presentations and interventions.	Birdlife and Finland
10:45-11:00	Break.	
11:00-12:30	Discussions in 3 break-out rooms (by marine regions: Baltic, Atlantic and Macaronesian, Mediterranean and Black Sea): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the target species and habitats Reduce the unknowns Plan and harvest the benefits of strictly protected areas for status improvement Identify resources and foster synergies with other policy areas Organise regional cooperation on non-deterioration and status improvement 	Facilitators: Irene Bouwma Paul Goriup Diana Pungar Rui Rufino Theo van der Sluis Richard White
	Break out room 1: Baltic region Meeting link	
	Break out room 2: Atlantic and Macaronesian regions Meeting link	
	Break out room 3: Mediterranean and Black Sea regions Meeting link	
12:30-13:00	Closing plenary: first feedback on outcomes, next steps under the pledge and review process.	Nicola Notaro, chair (Head of the Nature Protection Unit, ENV D3)



Topics, aims and prompt questions for discussions in biogeographical break-out groups on day 2 (10 Dec. 2021) – Conservation status improvement target

Identify the target species and habitats

AIMS: Select the shared marine species and habitats for which we want to work jointly to create knowledge and/or status improvement and agree how.

- Which marine species and habitats could Member States select for the improvement target?
- Should there be a coordination between Member States in this selection exercise?

Reduce the unknowns

AIM: Agree on the cooperation we will put in place to improve monitoring the populations we share.

- *What actions would be required to reduce the unknowns in the status and trends of marine habitats and species?*
- *Is there a need for transnational cooperation for reducing the unknowns?*

Plan and harvest the benefits of strictly protected areas for status improvement

AIM: Identify the potential effect of the planned increase in strict protection on conservation statuses.

- *To what extent could the target for improving the status of marine habitats and species be achieved through strict protection?*
- *Can we identify those habitats and species whose conservation status would benefit from new strictly protected areas?*
- What are the necessary cooperations?

Identify resources and foster synergies with other policy areas

AIM: Identify synergies with other measures (e.g. climate change mitigation and adaptation, river restoration, Common Fisheries Policy) and opportunities to access additional resources.

- *Are there any positive experiences in the Member States in terms of identifying and mobilising resources for marine habitats and species that are worth sharing?*
- *Are there any positive experiences in the Member States in terms of using synergies with other policy areas that are worth sharing?*
- *If not, what would be needed to make use of potential synergies?*

(Wrap-up) Organise regional cooperation on non-deterioration and status improvement

AIM: Sum up and extend perspectives for cooperation at regional sea level

- *What do you see as the convenient context for these discussions?*
- *Do you see this work being taken forward by regional sea conventions?*
- *Where else might be appropriate?*