

Implementing the EU biodiversity strategy in the German North and Baltic Seas – challenges and state of the art

Jochen Krause, Simone Eisenbarth, Axel Kreutle
Federal Agency for Nature Conservation

Progress in Marine Conservation, Stralsund, 19.09.2023

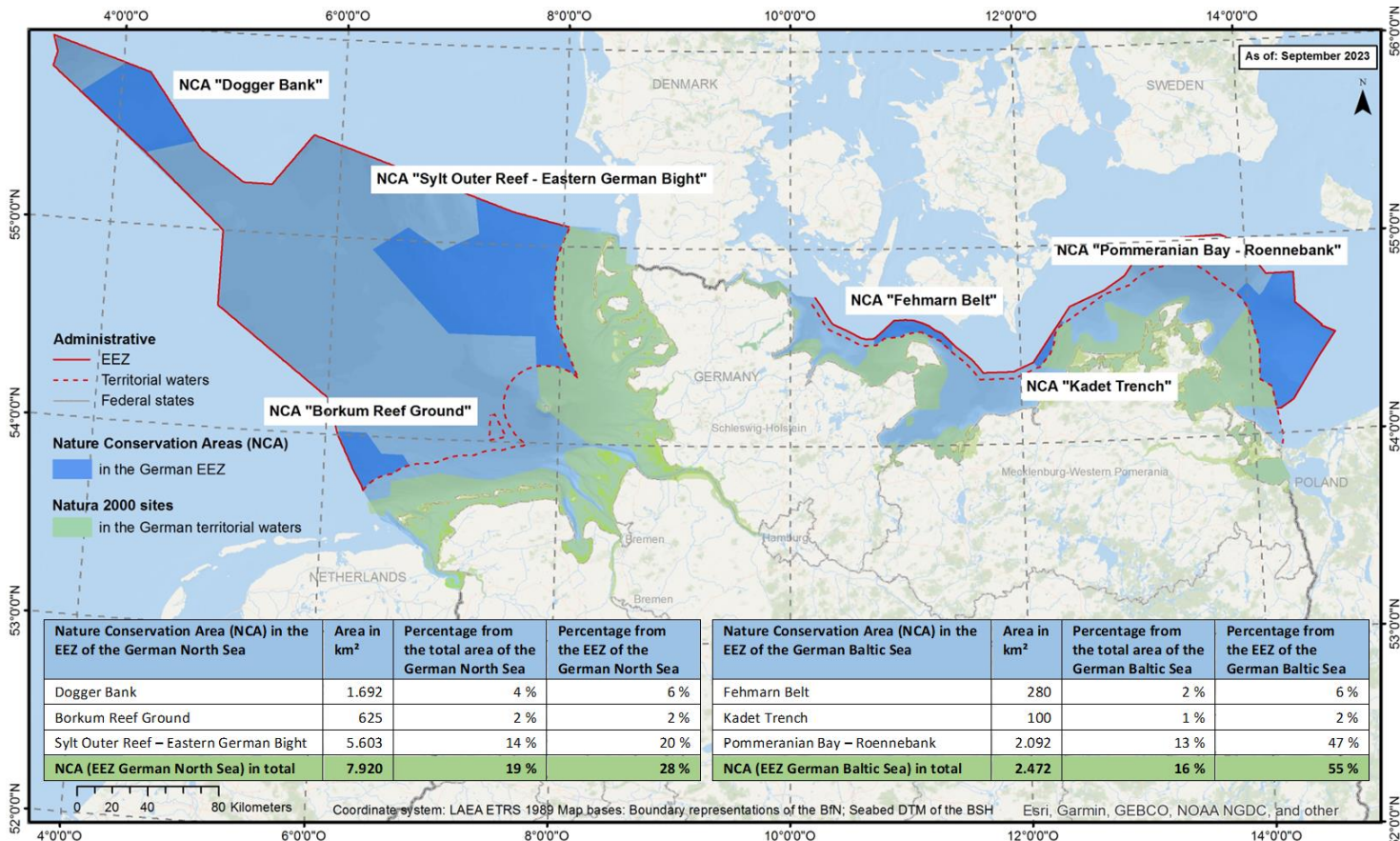


Content (Part I)

- Current situation in the German North Sea
- National Marine Working Group
- Time schedule



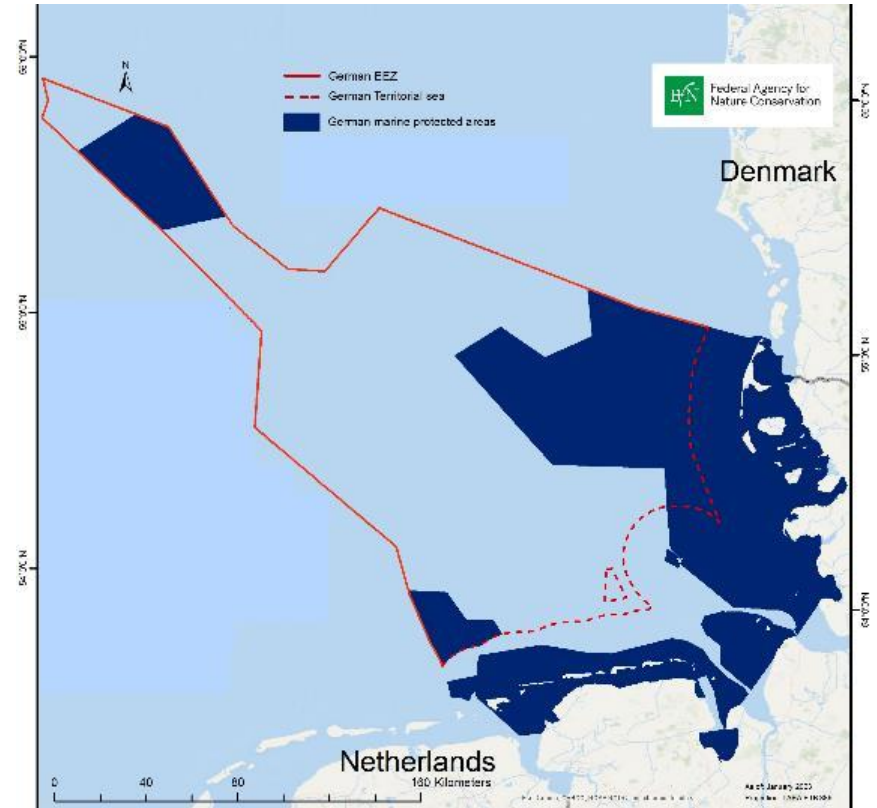
Current situation in the German North and Baltic Sea



Current Situation

- Total area of MPAs in German North Sea: approx. 18.024 km² \cong 43 % of the German North Sea

=> Formally the 30 % target has been achieved, but how effective is protection?



Management planning in EEZ MPAs



- Management planning followed a rigorous process involving
 - 1) the definition of conservation features and target states,
 - 2) the derivation of deficiencies defined as the differences between current and target states and
 - 3) the identification of stressors including a ranking based on their impact on conservation features.
- Planning concluded with a list of management measures necessary to achieve the conservation objectives

State of selected conservation features in the EEZ MPA "Sylt Outer Reef"

	target state	current state	deficit
sandbanks	B	C	-1
reefs	A	C	-2
gravel, coarse sand & shell areas	A	B	-1
harbour porpoise	A	B	-1
grey seal	B	B	0
common seal	A	B	-1

Effects on conservation features

	sandbanks	reefs	gravel, coarse sand & shell areas	fishes & lampreys	benthic feeding birds	water col. feeding birds	surface feeding birds	cetaceans	seals	total
mobile bottom contacting fishing	4	4	4	1	3	3	3	3	3	28
pelagic fisheries	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	8
gillnet fisheries	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	3	1	9
recreational fishing	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
commercial shipping	0	1	1	0	2	2	1	2	2	11
recreational boating	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
sand / gravel extraction	0	2	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	8
cables and pipelines	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	4
renewables	0	0	2	1	1	3	3	3	3	16
military exercises	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
uxo clearance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	6
research activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2

Management planning in EEZ MPAs



State of selected conservation features in the EEZ MPA "Sylt Outer Reef"

- Management planning followed a rigorous

	Effects on conservation features									total
	sandbanks	reefs	gravel, coarse sand & shell areas	fishes & lampreys	benthic feeding birds	water col. feeding birds	surface feeding birds	cetaceans	seals	
mobile bottom contacting fishing	4	4	4	1	3	3	3	3	3	28
pelagic fisheries	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	8
gillnet fisheries	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	3	1	9
recreational fishing	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
commercial shipping	0	1	1	0	2	2	1	2	2	11
recreational boating	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
sand / gravel extraction	0	2	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	8
cables and pipelines	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	4
renewables	0	0	2	1	1	3	3	3	3	16
military exercises	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
uxo clearance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	6
research activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2

- 1) the target
- 2) the difference and
- 3) the rank feature
- Plan mea cons

-1
-2
-1
-1
0
-1

Measures of high priority that need to be implemented to improve protection



	measures	National parks in territorial waters	MPAs in EEZ
shipping and water sports	update ordinance regulating shipping & water sports in NPs	++	does not apply
	update regulations for deepening navigation channels	++	does not apply
	regulate commercial shipping	+	++
	regulate wind farm service traffic	+	++
fisheries	reduce impact of shrimp fisheries further	++	+
	establish regulations via CFP	+	++
tourism	implement strategy for sustainable tourism	+	no significant impact
UXO	develop guidelines & methods for UXO clearance	+	++
offshore wind farms	regulate to avoid habitat loss & secure migration corridors	no significant impact	++
	develop minimally invasive methods for laying of cables	++	+

Main Challenges in German Waters:

- Fisheries
- Shipping
- Marine renewables
- Coastal tourism

Measures of high priority that need to be implemented to improve protection



	measures	National parks in territorial waters	MPAs in EEZ
shipping and water sports	update ordinance regulating shipping & water sports in NPs	++	does not apply
	update regulations for deepening navigation channels	++	does not apply
	regulate commercial shipping	+	++
	regulate wind farm service traffic	+	++
fisheries	reduce impact of shrimp fisheries further	++	+
	establish regulations via CFP	+	
tourism	implement strategy for sustainable tourism	+	no significant impact
UXO	develop guidelines & methods for UXO clearance	+	++
offshore wind farms	regulate to avoid habitat loss & secure migration corridors	no significant impact	++
	develop minimally invasive methods for laying of cables	++	+

Observations:

- For shipping and fisheries regulations exist in the NPs in territorial waters but require revision. In the EEZ-MPAs fisheries regulations exist since March 2023 (designation in 2004).
- Different MPAs face different stressors and thus management requires MPA-specific solutions.

Current situation in the German North Sea

30 % legally protected areas – partly fulfilled

- Target achieved in terms of **spatial extent**
 - about 45 % of the German North and Baltic Sea are already designated MPAs
- Criteria not yet fulfilled in terms of **quality** and **contents**
 - Gaps of Natura2000: **coherence** and **representativity** according to MSFD are not given yet

Implementation of MSFD measure 3-01: **Inclusion of species and biotopes that define the value of an ecosystem in national MPA ordinances** and MSFD measure UZ 3-03: **create refuge and resting areas for specific species, habitats and functions** in the North and Baltic Sea

10 % strictly protected areas – not fulfilled

- Currently almost **no non-intervention areas** in the German North and Baltic Sea



Challenges of implementing strictly protected areas

- Different administrative responsibilities in coastal seas and EEZ
- Formation of an **expert working group** with members of all relevant administrations to develop a standard procedure for identifying areas suitable for the 10 % target:
 - Consideration of **ecologically valuable areas** within the existing MPA setting
 - Coherence (also in terms of connection with adjacent MPAs, nationally and internationally) and stepping stones for species distribution
 - Feeding grounds, habitats for breeding
 - Hotspots of biodiversity and representativity
 - Compilation of existing and upcoming uses and pressures including effect and buffer zones
 - Separate search in all different administrative areas (ongoing)
 - **Burden sharing:** each administration is to fulfill the 10 % target in its own area
 - Shared GIS System of ecological values, human activities and spatial impact zones (i. e. habitat loss zones for sea birds)



Time schedule and next steps

- 2022 set up of National Marine Expert Group
- 30 % target: implementation of MSFD measures of 2018
- 10 % target:
 - national agreement on 10 % areas
 - Identification process of respective administrations bodies ongoing
- We are looking forward to the results of the marine seminars in 2023!





Thank you!

