



# Nature restoration law and MPAs

Vedran Nikolić, European Commission, DG Environment, Nature Conservation Unit

3<sup>rd</sup> Natura 2000 biogeographical seminar

for the Mediterranean and Black Sea marine regions

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# Nature restoration law



## A key initiative of the European Green Deal and the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030:

- **Protection** needs to be strengthened but is not enough
- Need for large scale restoration effort
- Complement and **build on existing policy framework** (BHD, MSFD, WFD)
- Focus on the **synergies between climate and nature policy**
- Key global target of the GBF

# Regulation on nature restoration

**Overarching objective**

By 2030 restoration measures cover 20% of EU's land and 20% of EU's sea area

**Restoration targets**

By 2050 – all ecosystems in need of restoration

**Implementation framework**

Co-legislators reached provisional agreement on NRL

**National  
Restoration Plans**

**Monitoring and  
Reporting**

European Parliament adopted the text in February

# Specific restoration targets

Protected  
Habitat Types  
(Annex I HD)



Habitats of  
protected  
species (BHD)



Marine  
Habitats  
(beyond HD)



Urban  
ecosystems



River  
connectivity



Pollinators



Agro-  
ecosystems



Forest  
ecosystems

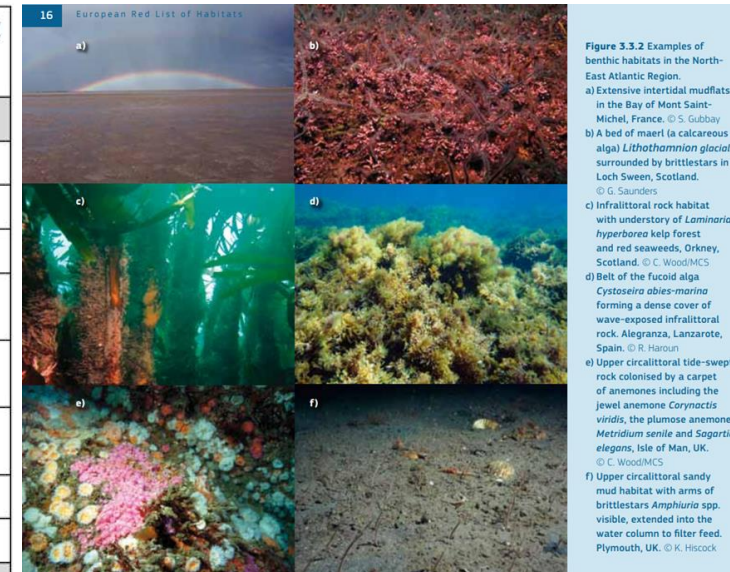


# Marine habitat types (Annex II)

1. Seagrass beds
2. Macroalgal forests
3. Shellfish beds
4. Maerl beds
5. Sponge, coral and coralligenous beds
6. Vents and seeps
7. Soft sediments (above 1000 meters of depth)

## 2. GROUP 2: MACROALGAL FORESTS

EUNIS code	EUNIS habitat type name	Related Annex I (Habitats Directive) codes
<b>Atlantic</b>		
MA123	Seaweed communities on full salinity Atlantic littoral rock	1160; 1170; 1130
MA125	Fucoids on variable salinity Atlantic littoral rock	1170; 1130
MB121	Kelp and seaweed communities on Atlantic infralittoral rock	1170; 1160
MB123	Kelp and seaweed communities on sediment-affected or disturbed Atlantic infralittoral rock	1170; 1160
MB124	Kelp communities on variable salinity Atlantic infralittoral rock	1170; 1130; 1160
MB321	Kelp and seaweed communities on Atlantic infralittoral coarse sediment	1160
MB521	Kelp and seaweed communities on Atlantic infralittoral sand	1160
MB621	Vegetated communities on Atlantic infralittoral mud	1160
<b>Baltic Sea</b>		
MA131	Baltic hydrolittoral rock and boulders characterised by perennial algae	1160; 1170; 1130; 1610; 1620
MB131	Perennial algae on Baltic infralittoral rock and boulders	1170; 1160
MB232	Baltic infralittoral bottoms characterised by shell gravel	1160; 1110
MB333	Baltic infralittoral coarse sediment characterised by perennial algae	1110; 1160
MB433	Baltic infralittoral mixed sediment characterised by perennial algae	1110; 1130; 1160; 1170
<b>Black Sea</b>		
MB144	Mytilid-dominated Black Sea exposed upper infralittoral rock with fucales	1170; 1160



**Figure 3.3.2** Examples of benthic habitats in the North-East Atlantic Region.  
a) Extensive intertidal mudflats in the Bay of Mont Saint-Michel, France. © S. Gubbay  
b) A bed of maerl (a calcareous alga) *Lithothamnion glaciale* surrounded by brittlestars in Loch Sween, Scotland. © G. Saunders  
c) Infralittoral rock habitat with understory of *Laminaria hyperborea* kelp forest and red seaweeds, Orkney, Scotland. © C. Wood/MCS  
d) Belt of the fucoid alga *Cystoseira abies-marina* forming a dense cover of wave-exposed infralittoral rock. Alegranza, Lanzarote, Spain. © R. Haroun  
e) Upper circalittoral tide-swept rock colonised by a carpet of anemones including the jewel anemone *Corynactis viridis*, the plumose anemone *Metridium senile* and *Sagartia elegans*, Isle of Man, UK. © C. Wood/MCS  
f) Upper circalittoral sandy mud habitat with arms of brittlestars *Amphirius* spp. visible, extended into the water column to filter feed. Plymouth, UK. © R. Hiscock

Source: [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/pdf/Marine\\_EU\\_red\\_list\\_report.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/pdf/Marine_EU_red_list_report.pdf)

# Marine restoration obligations

- Put in place the restoration measures necessary **to improve** to good condition areas of habitats in not good condition - gradually
- Put in place the restoration measures necessary **to re-establish** the habitats to reach the favourable reference area - gradually
- Put in place the restoration measures necessary to **improve the quality and quantity** of habitats of species listed in Art. II, IV, V HD and wild birds + Annex III of regulation (including re-establishing them) and **enhance connectivity** until sufficient quality and quantity is achieved
- Ensuring that the condition of marine habitats is known

# Marine restoration obligations and targets

Member States **shall put in place the restoration measures that are necessary to improve to good condition areas of habitat types listed in Annex II which are not in good condition**. Such measures shall be in place:

- on at least **30% by 2030** of the total area of **groups 1–6** of habitat types **that is not in good condition**,
- on at least **60% by 2040** and on at least **90% by 2050** of the area of each of the **groups 1–6** of habitat types that is not in good condition,
- on at least **two thirds of the percentage (identified below), by 2040** of the area of **group 7** of habitat types that is not in good condition,
- on a **percentage, identified in accordance with Article 11(2a), by 2050** of the area of **group 7** of habitat types that is not in good condition.

Member States shall **put in place the restoration measures that are necessary to re-establish the habitat types of groups 1-6** listed in Annex II in areas not covered by those habitat types with the aim to reach their favourable reference area. Such measures shall be in place on areas representing at least 30% of the additional overall surface needed to reach the total favourable reference area of each group of habitat types, by 2030, at least 60% of that surface by 2040, and 100% of that surface by 2050.

# Marine restoration obligations and targets

Member States shall **put in place the restoration measures for the marine habitats of species listed in Annex III and in Annexes II, IV and V to Directive 92/43/EEC and for the marine habitats of wild birds covered under Directive 2009/147/EC**, that are, in addition to the restoration measures put in place in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, necessary in order **to improve the quality and quantity of those habitats, including by reestablishing them, and to enhance connectivity**, until sufficient quality and quantity of those habitats is achieved.

The determination of the **most suitable areas for restoration measures** in accordance with paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this Article shall be based on the **best available knowledge and the latest technical and scientific progress** in determining **the condition of the habitat types** listed in Annex II, and of **the quality and quantity of the habitats of the species**.

Member States **shall ensure, by 2030 at the latest**, that **the condition is known for at least 50% of the area distributed over all habitat types listed in groups 1–6 of Annex II**. The condition of all areas of groups 1–6 of habitat types listed in Annex II shall be **known by 2040**. Member States shall also ensure, **by 2040 at the latest**, that **the condition is known for at least 50% of the area distributed over all habitat types listed in group 7 of Annex II**. The condition of all areas of group 7 of habitat types listed in Annex II shall be known by 2050.

The restoration measures referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 **shall consider the need for improved ecological coherence and connectivity between the habitat types** listed in Annex II and take into account **the ecological requirements of the species** referred to in paragraph 3 that occur in those habitat types.

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Disclaimer: provisional/shortened text



# Marine restoration obligations and targets

Member States shall prepare **national restoration plans** and carry out **the preparatory monitoring and research** needed to identify the restoration measures that are necessary to meet the targets and obligations set out in Articles 4 to 10a and to contribute to the Union's overarching objectives set out in Article 1, taking into account the latest scientific evidence.

Member states shall quantify the area that needs to be restored to reach the restoration targets set out in Articles 4 and 5 taking into account the condition of the **habitat types** referred to in Articles 4(1), 4(2), 5(1) and 5(2) and the quality and quantity of the habitats of the species referred to in Article 4(3) and Article 5(3) that are present on their territory. The quantification shall be based, amongst others, on the following information:

- (a) for each habitat type: (i) the total habitat area and a map of its current distribution; (ii) the habitat area not in good condition; (iii) the favourable reference area taking into account records of historical distribution and the projected changes to environmental conditions due to climate change; (iv) the areas most suitable for the re-establishment of habitat types in view of ongoing and projected changes to environmental conditions due to climate change;

... ..

- Non-deterioration

- Derogations

... ..

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# Links with the CFP

- Member States whose national restoration plans include **conservation measures to be adopted within the framework of the common fisheries policy must make full use of the CFP tools.**
- Where the national restoration plans include **measures that require submission of a joint recommendation through the regionalisation procedure under the CFP, Member States must initiate in a timely manner consultations with other Member States** having a direct management interest affected by these measures and the relevant Advisory Councils **to enable timely agreement on and submission of any joint recommendations.** For that purpose, they must also include in the national restoration plan the estimated timing of the consultation and the submission of the joint recommendations.
- Member States must submit the joint recommendations on the conservation measures necessary to contribute to the targets set in Article 5 at the latest 18 months before the respective target date.

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# Role of MPAs in restoration

- Areas under restoration **do not have to be protected areas**, however...
- Conservation objectives and measures in many **Natura 2000 sites and other MPAs already require restoration** of habitats.
- **Protected areas** will provide an important contribution to the restoration targets in the strategy by **creating the conditions for restoration** efforts to be successful and to ensure **no deterioration**.
- **(Strictly) protected areas have a role in marine restoration** – 30%/10% targets can help achieve obligations under NRL - first deadlines for restoration measures coincide with Biodiversity strategy 2030 targets.

# Strictly protected areas

- **Strictly protected areas will enable ecosystems to thrive** because they will create close to pristine conditions without pressures.
- Live laboratory for showing what **good condition** actually means and which **restoration methods** work best.
- **Passive restoration – let the nature recover.** However, active restoration may also be necessary (**re-establishment** of habitats).
- Success will depend on their proper **monitoring, surveillance and enforcement.**
- Demonstrate the **benefits nature can provide to society and economic sectors**, such as fisheries.

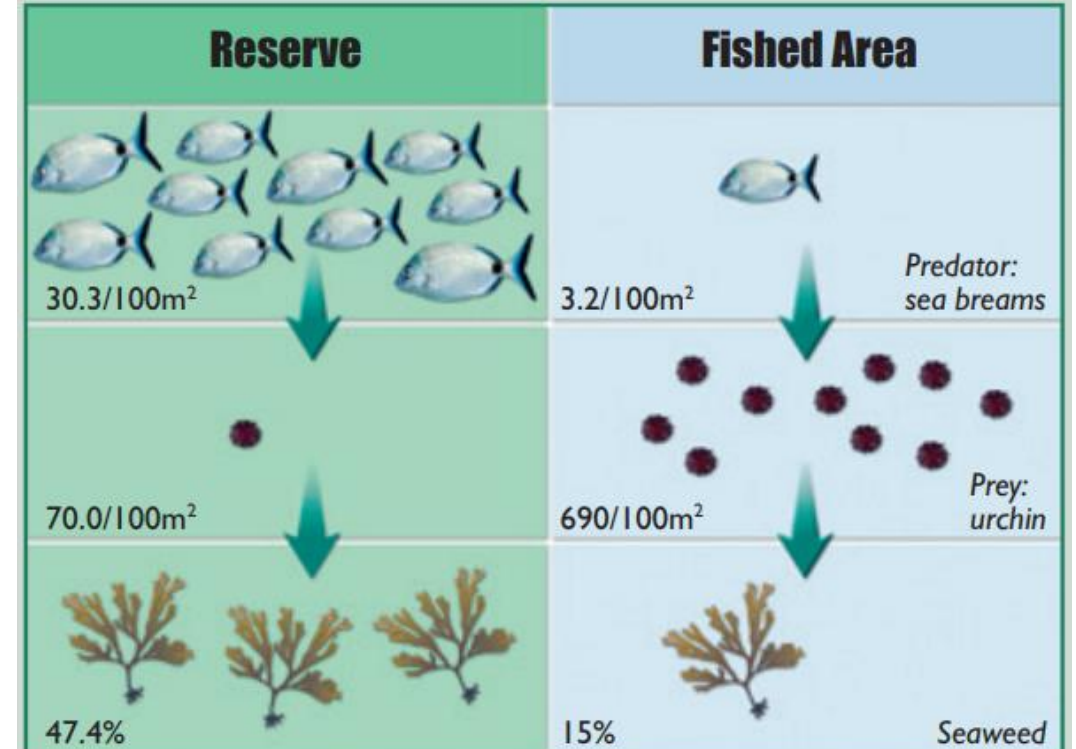
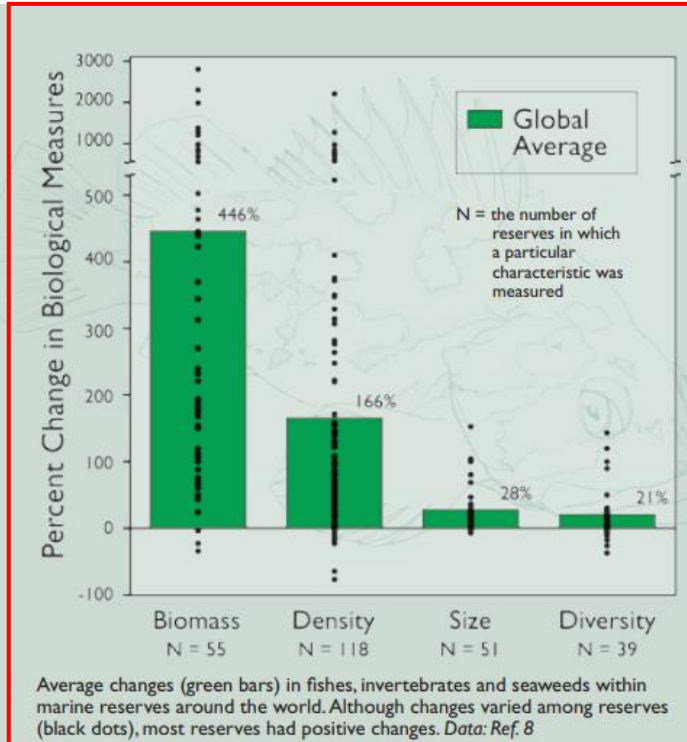
# It is already happening...

**T**ypically when a marine reserve is established, the goal is to increase the abundance and diversity of marine life inside. Scientific research shows that marine reserves consistently accomplish this goal.

## More Fishes, Shellfish, and Other Marine Life

Considerable scientific documentation—published in peer-reviewed journals—provides a clear picture of what has happened after the establishment of marine reserves.

Scientists have studied more than 150 marine reserves around the world and monitored biological changes inside the reserves. In 2006, a global review of many of these studies (see top graph) revealed that fishes, invertebrates and seaweeds have shown average increases in biomass, density, size and diversity inside marine reserves.



In the no-take reserve within the Torre Guaceto MPA in Italy, abundant sea breams keep their urchin prey in check, enabling seaweeds to flourish. Outside of the reserve, urchin barrens are common. Data: Ref. 19

# Thank you



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