

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

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Content (Part I)

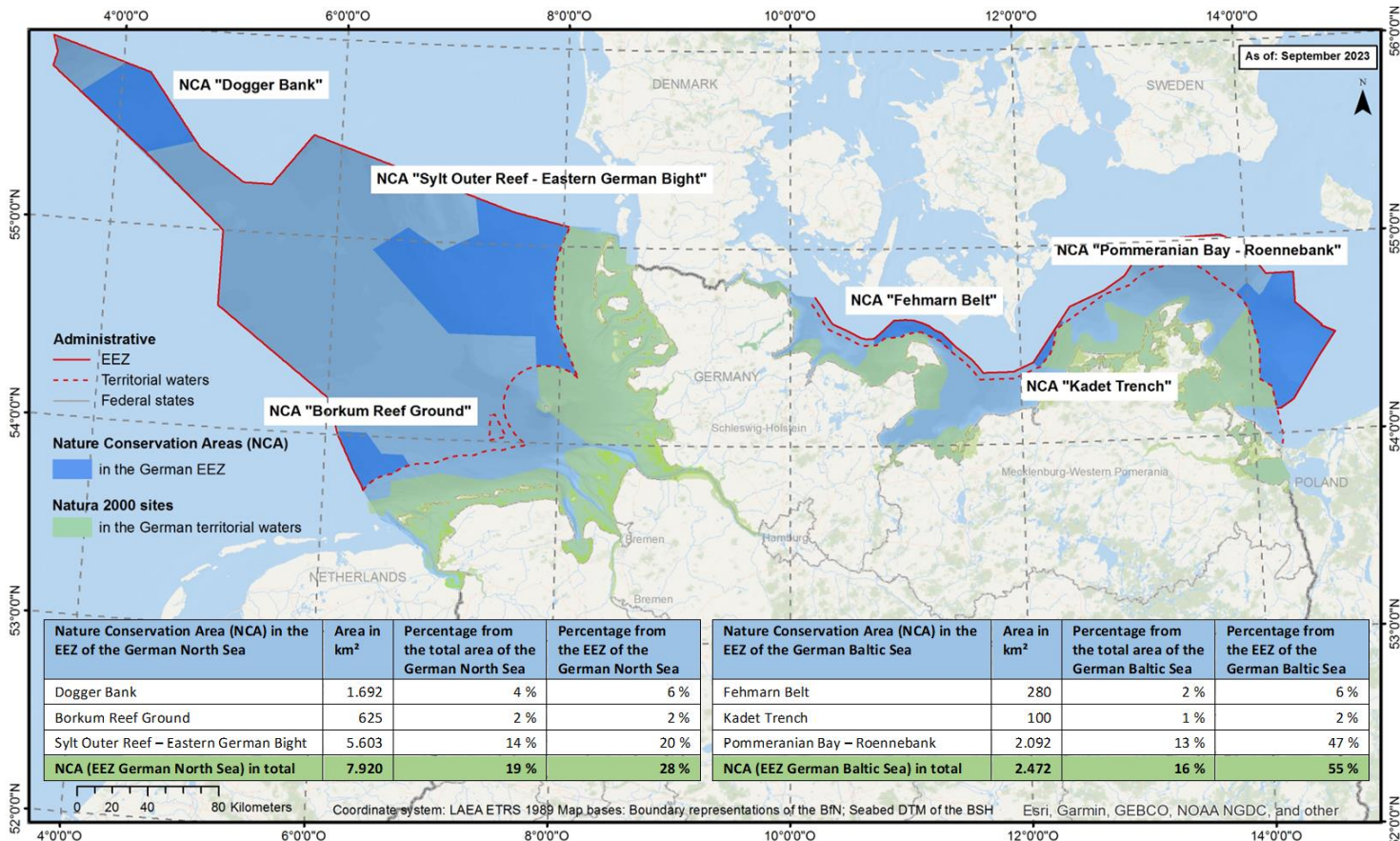
- Current situation in the German North Sea
- National Marine Working Group
- Time schedule

Content (Part II)

- Situation and process in the coastal area of Schleswig-Holstein (Baltic Sea)

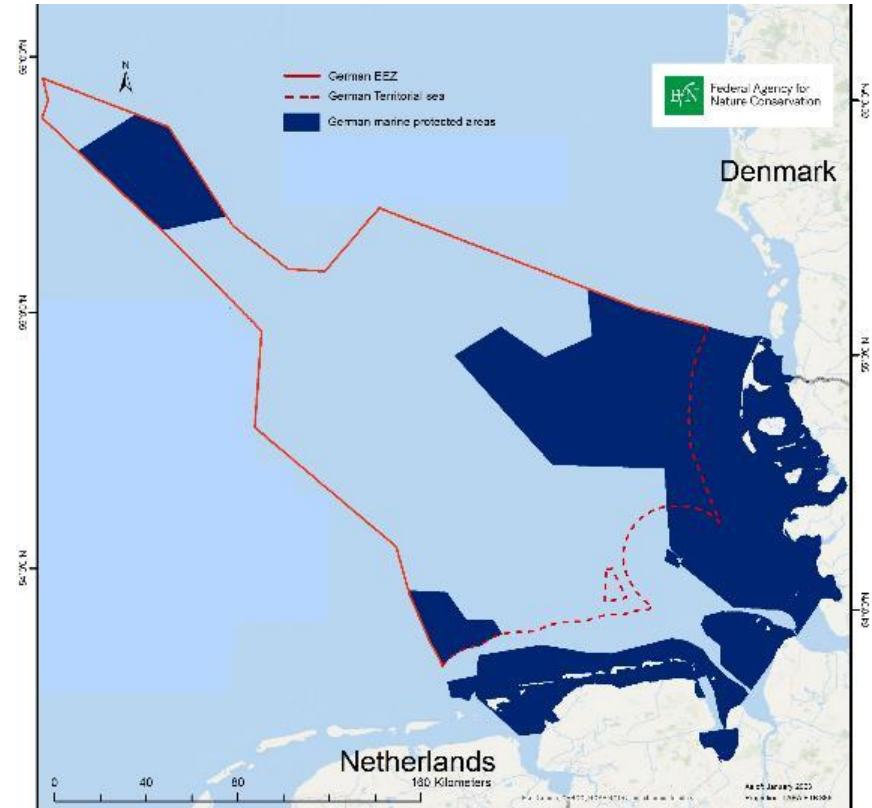


Current situation in the German North and Baltic Sea



Current Situation in the German North Sea

- Total area of MPAs:
~ 18.024 km² $\hat{=}$ 43 % of the German North Sea
=> Formally the 30 % target has been achieved,
but how effective is protection?



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

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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 and Baltic 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)



Questions

➤ What existing national designations fit the strict protection criteria?

- In the sea, existing protected area categories do not adequately reflect regulatory status
- No need for a category beyond “strict protection”
- KOM: “non intervention area” – we are looking for “**no take areas**”



Questions

➤ What criteria were/are used to select areas?

- We are looking within existing MPAs (Natura 2000 sites)
- “No-use areas” do not exist in German waters
- Activities with impacts on conservation goals and which can be excluded/regulated by national laws, e. g. recreational fisheries, aqua culture, etc.



➤ Were/are there new designations / regulations required?

- We are looking within the existing MPA setting
- Commercial fisheries – National application (CFP)
- Commercial shipping – Underwater noise reductions zones
- Coordinations with neighbouring countries, due to given procedures (CFP, IMO)
- Coordination due to KOM/Seminars?



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
- Internal progress in 2023
- Finalisation in 2024?



Action Plan 2030 for the Protection of the Baltic Sea

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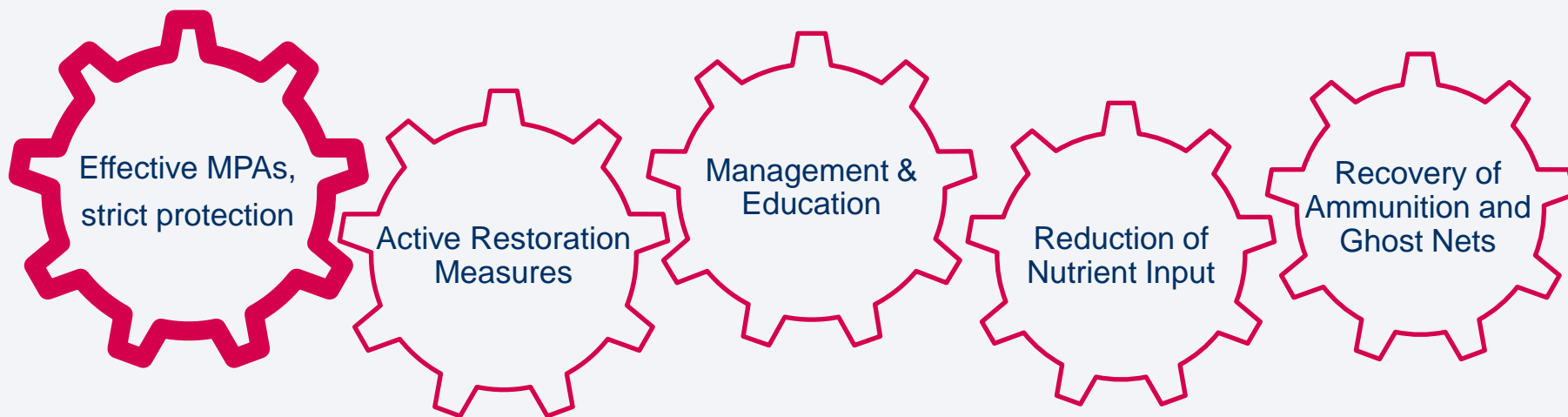
by the government of the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany



Schleswig-Holstein
Ministerium für Energiewende,
Klimaschutz, Umwelt und Natur

Action Plan 2030

Holistic Protection of the Baltic Sea



Effective marine protected Areas



Current status: about 45% of Schleswig-Holsteins Baltic Sea are covered by N2000 sites
However: none of these sites qualify as strictly protected

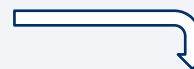
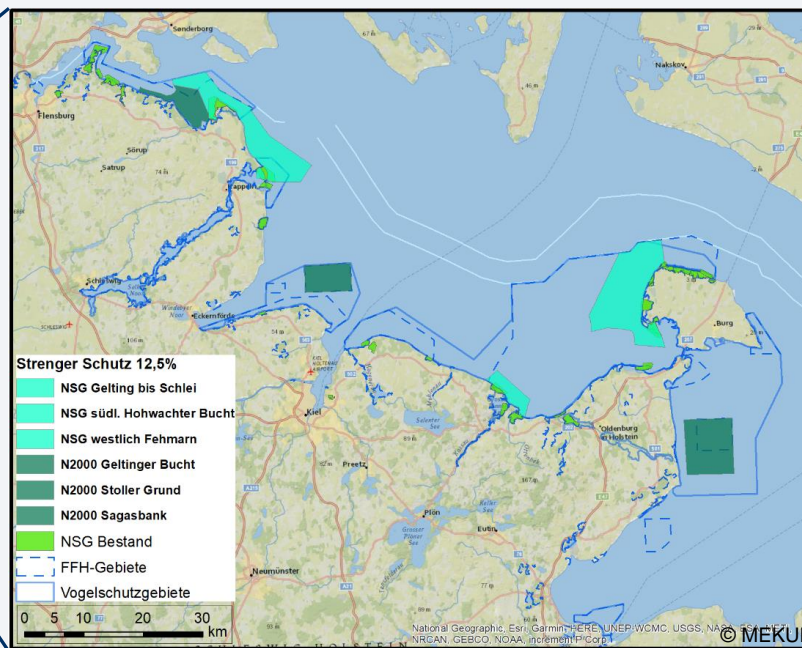
Goal: strict protection on 12,5% of SH's Baltic Sea
→ establish effective rest & recovery areas in which species and habitats are protected from direct anthropogenic impacts
→ Meet the objectives of the EU biodiversity strategy

Site selection: Focus on “biodiversity hotspots“ according to distribution of habitats & species



Effective marine protected Areas – strictly protected Areas

Strict protection on 12,5 % of SH's Baltic Sea (390 km²)



8 % in new nationally designated MPAs mainly within existing N2000 sites

4,5 % as zonation within existing N2000 sites

Effective marine protected Areas – Understanding of strict protection

Strictly protected areas are **no take areas**

- Exclusion of all fishing (active and passive fishing gear), including recreational fishing
- Exclusion of the extraction of sand and gravel, oil and gas extraction etc.

But **not no use areas**. Activities that do not impact species & habitats remain permitted. Where necessary, there will be additional regulations, e.g.

- Shipping ordinance (only possible in nationally designated MPAs), e.g.
 - regulation of water sports (kite surfing etc.) in winter during resting times of sea birds
 - Speed regulations e.g. for speed boats





Thank you!

