

## **RGI expert workshop:**

# **"Developing transmission electricity grids, protecting our seas"**

**25 - 27 September 2017, Palma,  
Spain**

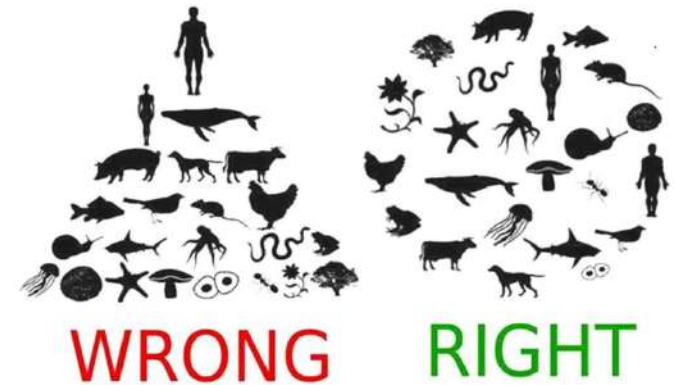


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European Commission**

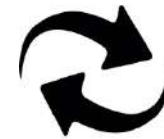
# Protection of our oceans, seas and coasts.. is it really so important?

*Anthropocentric approach* - Precious resource for humans

- Transport
- Fishing
- Tourism
- Mineral extraction
- Wind farms
- Other infrastructure



*Ethical approach* - intrinsic value





## 7<sup>th</sup> Environment Action Program

- 2020 timeframe, 2050 vision, 9 priority objectives
- Thematic objectives  
*Protect, conserve and enhance the EU's natural capital - fully implement the EU Biodiversity Strategy*

## EU Biodiversity Strategy (2011)

*Target 1 - To halt the deterioration in the status of all species and habitats covered by EU nature legislation and achieve a significant and measurable improvement in their status by 2020*

- Complete the establishment of the Natura 2000 network, incl. in the marine part, and ensure good management
- Ensure adequate financing of Natura 2000 sites
- Increase stakeholder awareness and involvement and improve enforcement
- Improve and streamline monitoring and reporting

# Natura 2000: pan-European network of protected areas based on two EU Directives

## HABITATS DIRECTIVE

National list of proposed sites (pSCI)

Sites of Community Importance (SCI)

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

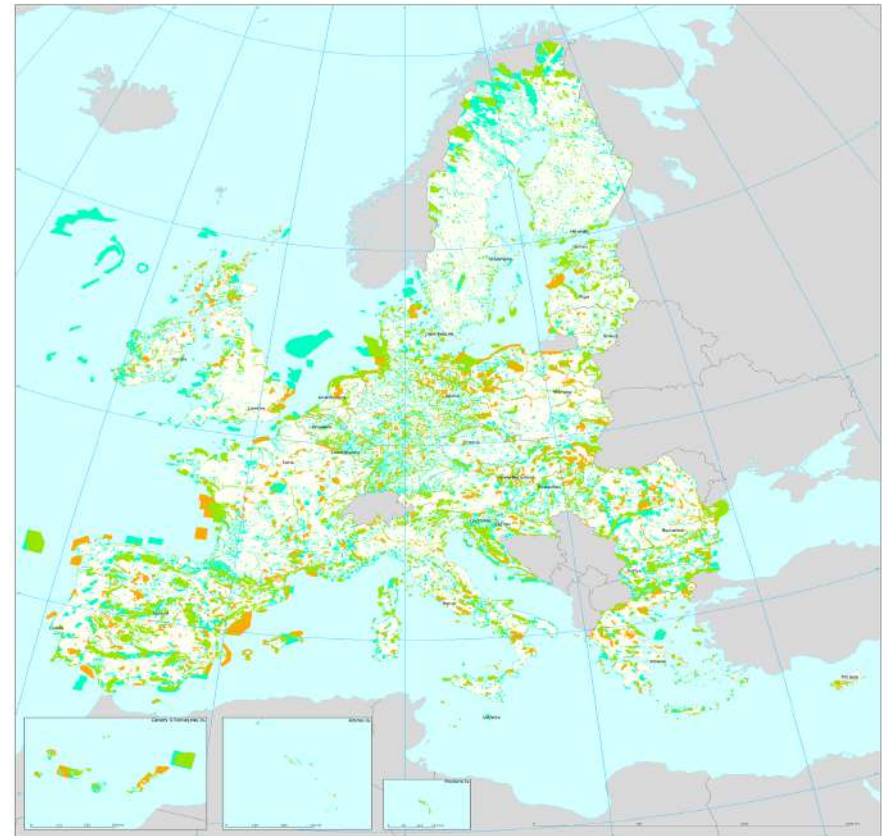
## BIRDS DIRECTIVE

Special Protection Areas (SPA)



# Marine Natura 2000 Network - State of play

- Cornerstone of EU nature protection policy: aims to ensure long-term survival of Europe's most valuable/threatened **species and habitats**
- More than **3140** marine sites (out of >27000)
- Covers **7% of EU seas** (>400.000 km<sup>2</sup>)
- Network is **not complete** in the **offshore** area
- Differences across **regional seas**
- Human activities can take place if they are compatible with **nature conservation objectives**



NATURA 2000  
 Yellow Bird's Directive sites (SPA)  
 Green Habitats Directive sites (pSIC, SCI, SAC)  
 Orange Sites - or parts of sites - belonging to both Directives

European Environment Agency



Map of the Natura 2000 network in the EU seas, compiled from designations by the Member States. The map is for information only. It does not represent the official position of the European Commission. The Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.



# Management regime for Natura 2000 sites

Member States shall take appropriate steps to **avoid**, in the special areas of conservation, the **deterioration of natural habitats and the habitats of species** as well as disturbance of the species for which the areas have been designated, in so far as such disturbance could be significant in relation to the objectives of this Directive.

Any **plan or project** not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, **the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site** concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.

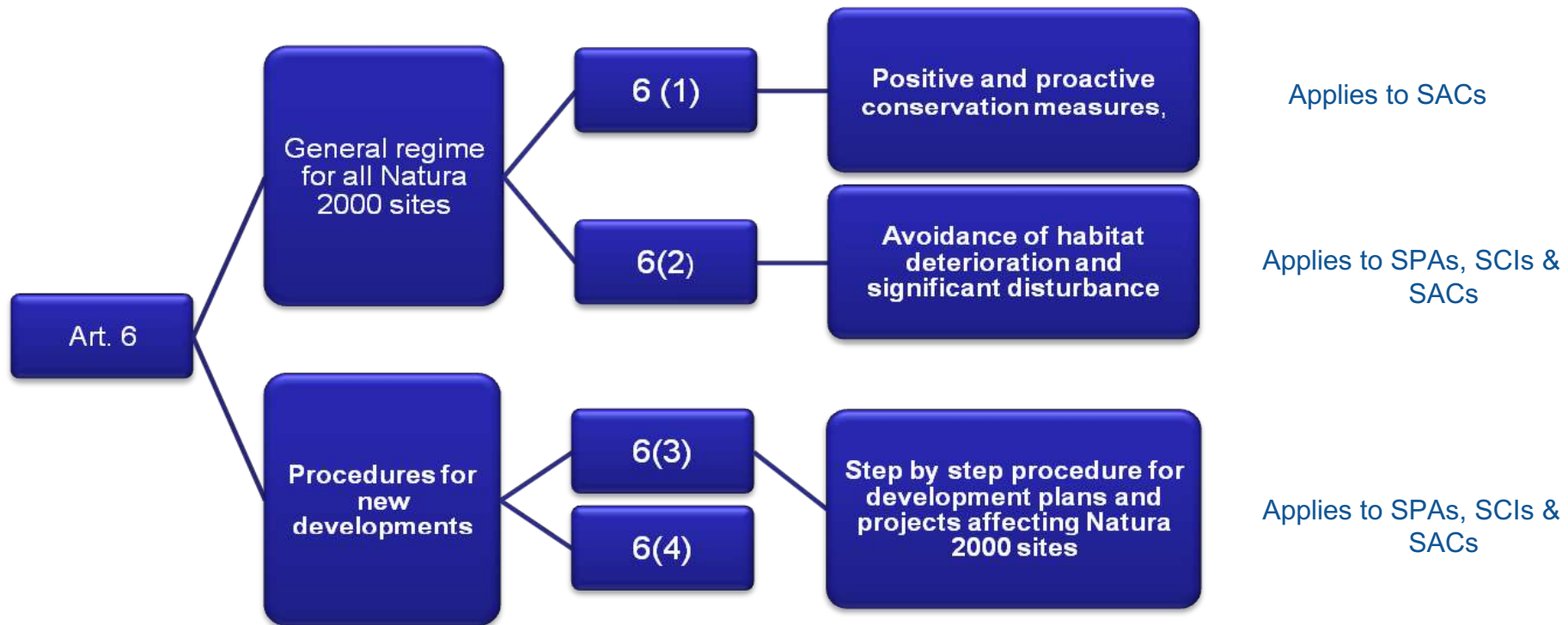


# Management regime for Natura 2000 sites

*Member States shall establish the necessary conservation measures involving, if need be, appropriate management plans specifically designed for the sites or integrated into other development plans, and appropriate statutory, administrative or contractual measures **which correspond to the ecological requirements** of the natural habitat types in Annex I and the species in Annex II present on the sites.*

- The ultimate objective is to ensure that the species and habitats reach "favourable conservation status"
- Natura 2000 sites are not strict nature reserves, activities can take place if they are compatible with nature conservation objectives
- Management is based on cooperation and partnership with land/sea users

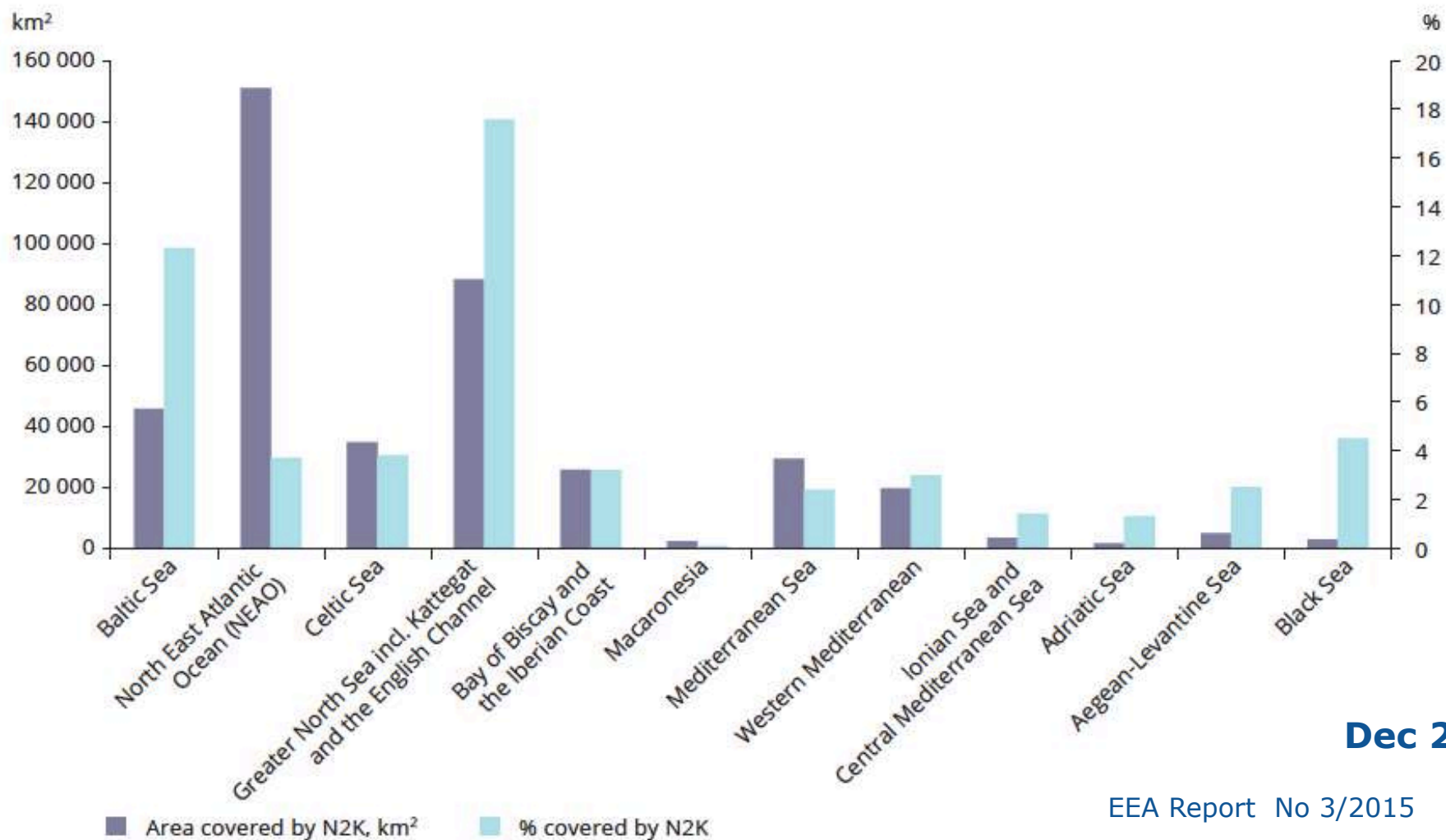
# Management regime for Natura 2000 sites



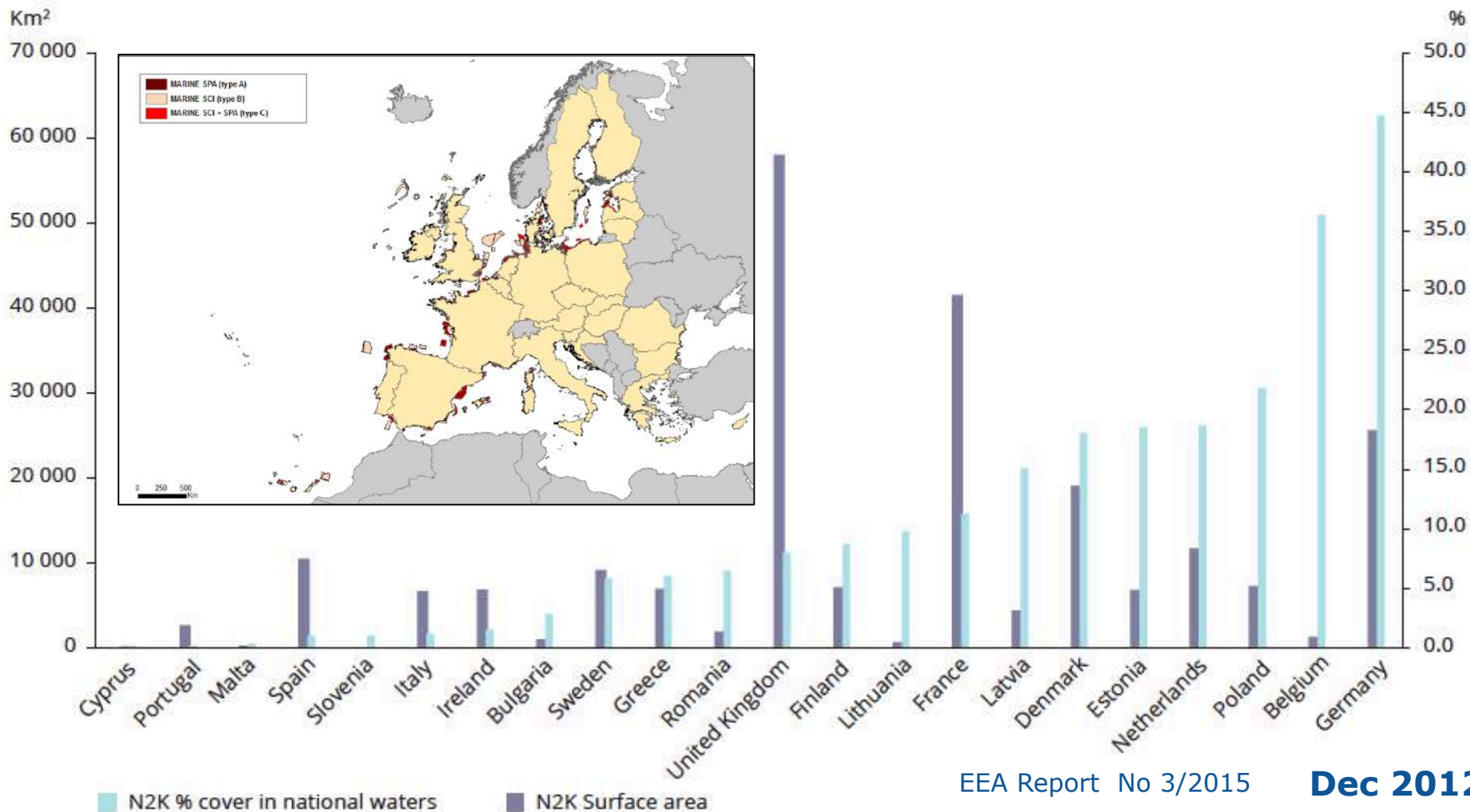
- Strong legal basis, built in flexibility
- Many years of implementation, ECJ rulings



# Area of regional seas covered by N2000



# Marine Natura 2000 in EU Member States

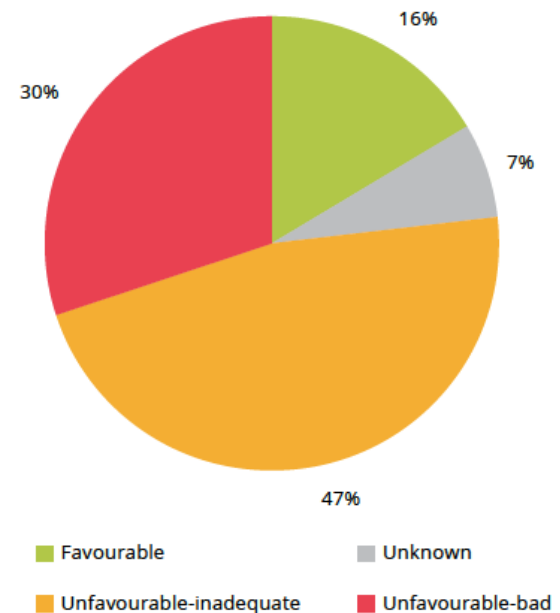
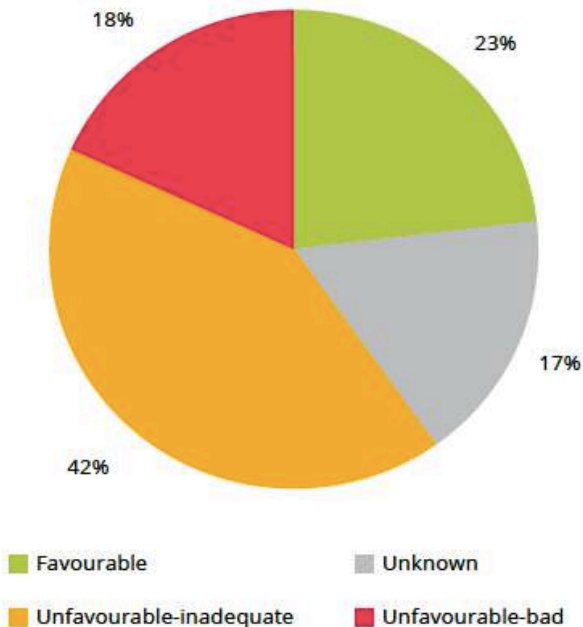


# State of nature in the EU

Results from reporting under Birds and Habitats directives 2007–2012

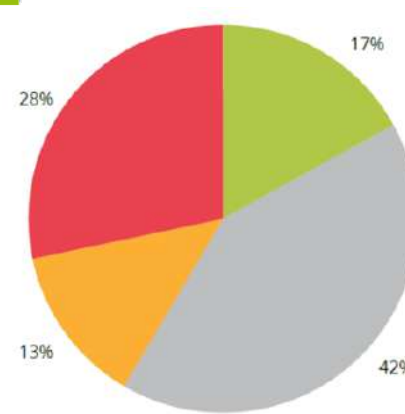
Only one quarter of protected EU (non-bird) **species** has favourable conservation status, while 60% has unfavourable status

Status of protected **habitats** in the EU: 77% unfavourable!

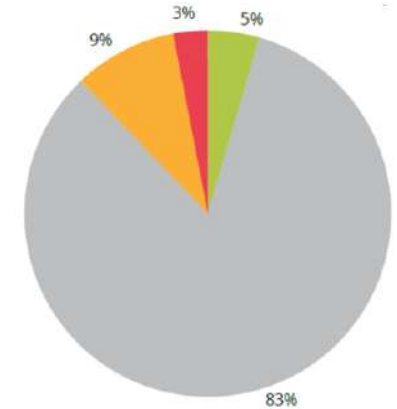


# Conservation status of (non-bird) species associated with **marine** ecosystems

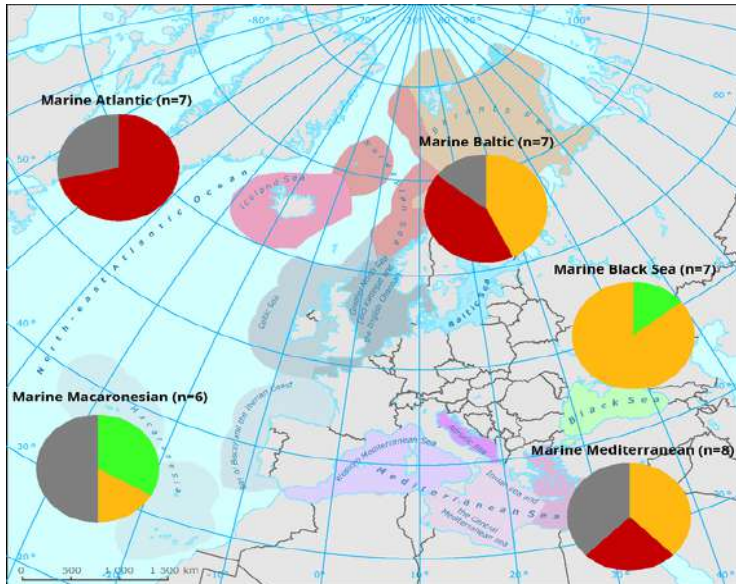
- Favourable
- Unfavourable-inadequate
- Unknown
- Unfavourable-bad



Coastal



Open ocean



Conservation status of marine habitats per biogeographic region

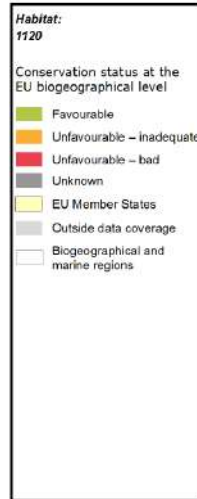
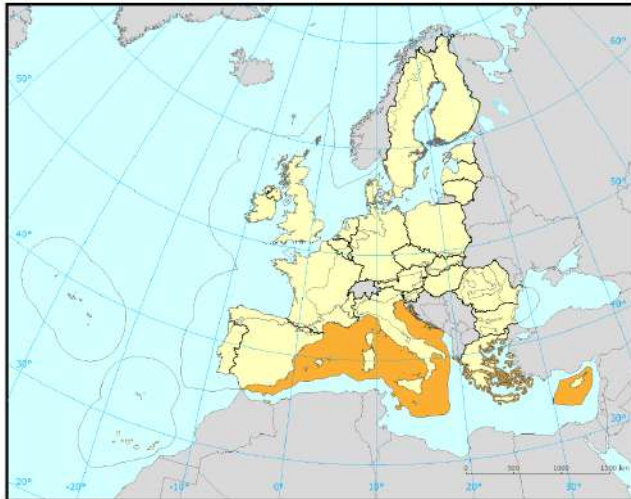
- Favourable
- Unfavourable - inadequate
- Unfavourable - bad
- Unknown

## Conservation status of marine habitats

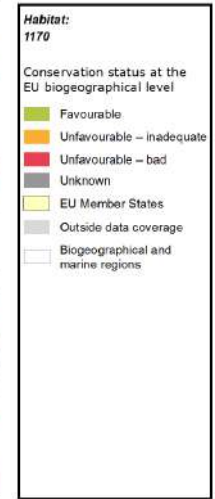
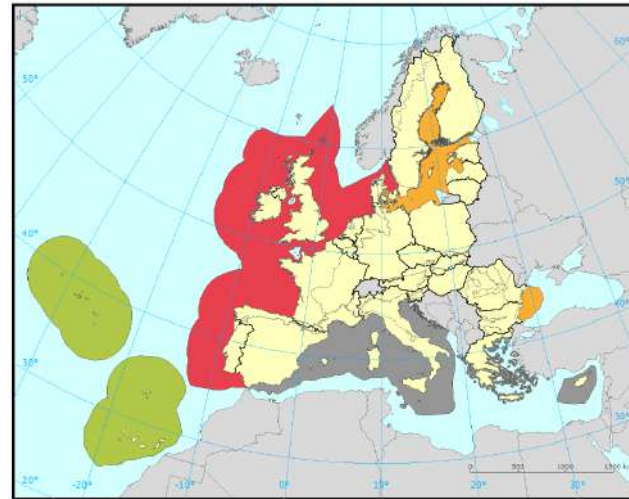


# Results from reporting under Birds and Habitats directives 2007–2012

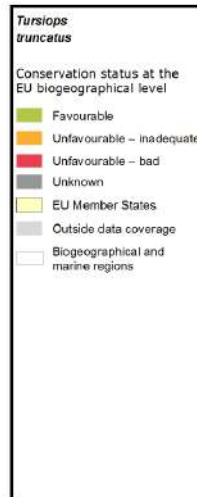
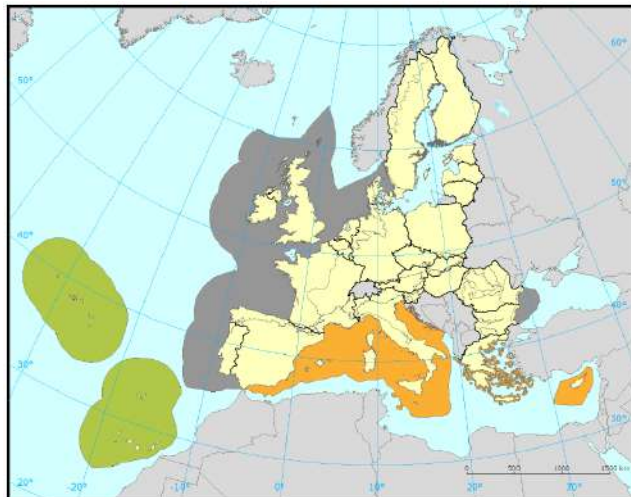
## *Posidonia oceanica* meadows



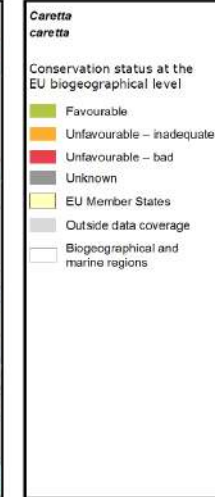
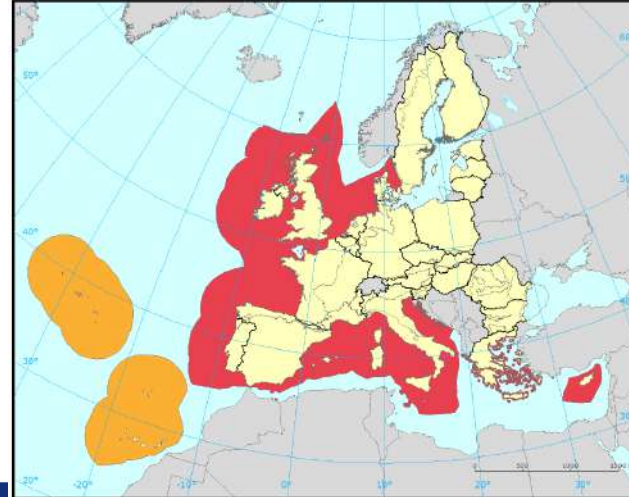
## Reefs



## *Tursiops truncatus*



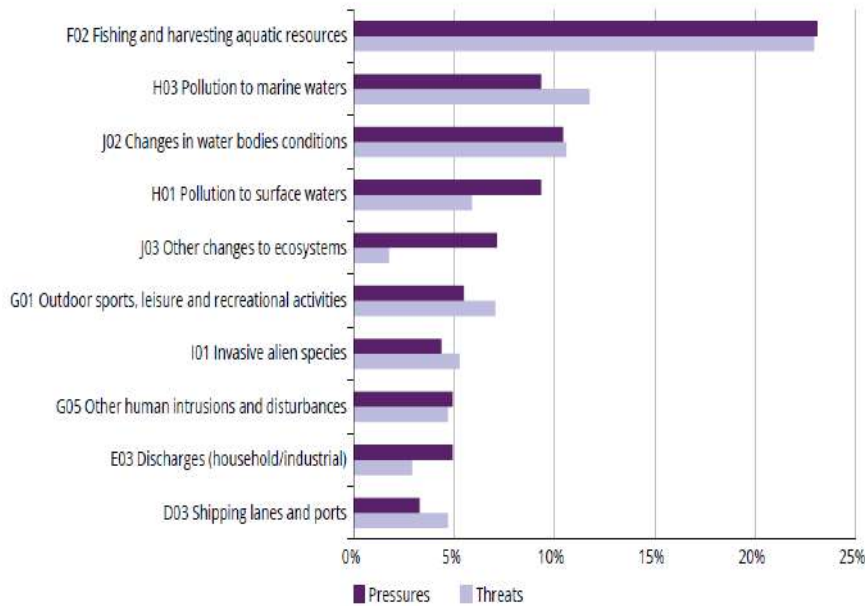
## *Caretta caretta*



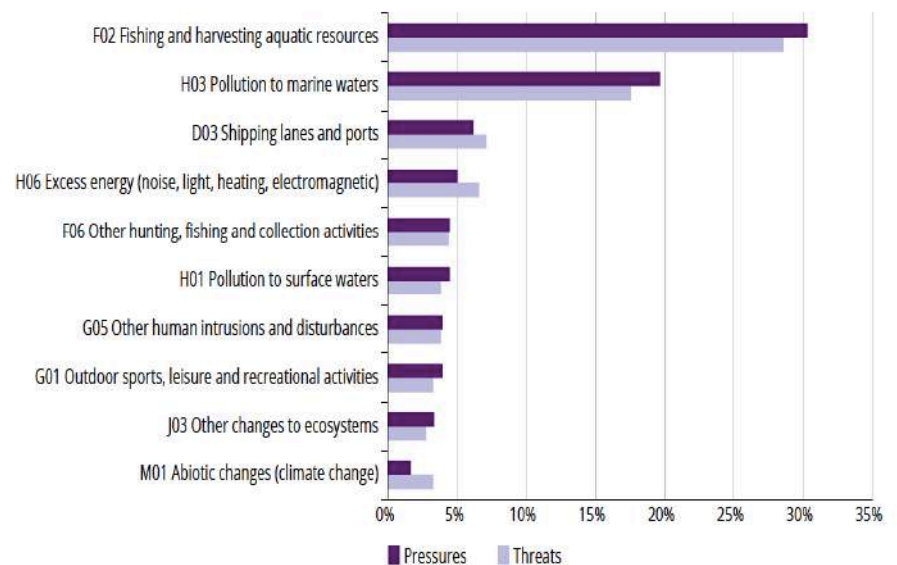
# State of nature in the EU

## Results from reporting under Birds and Habitats directives 2007–2012

**Figure 4.48** Top 10 (% of frequency) reported high-ranked pressures and threats for habitats associated with coastal ecosystem



**Figure 4.52** Top 10 (% of frequency) reported high-ranked pressures and threats for species (Habitats Directive) associated with shelf ecosystem



Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources and pollution of marine waters are top two pressures/threats for habitats and species associated with coastal/shelf ecosystems



# Nature Directives Fitness Check

Following ...

- the biggest Commission public consultation ever (> 552,000 responses)
- an extensive evidence - based Fitness Check evaluation
- a College orientation debate on 7/12/16

Conclusions in December 2016

- **Directives are fit for purpose** but fulfilling their objectives and realising their full potential depends upon greatly **improving implementation**.
- There is also a need to **increase coherence** between nature protection and socio-economic activities, and **foster engagement** with national authorities, stakeholders and citizens.



# Conclusions of Fitness check

- Too many species/habitats continue to show negative trends
- Only 50% of sites managed
- Marine Natura 2000 network incomplete
- Funding shortage
- Cases of inflexible application and permitting delays by national and local authorities
- Insufficient knowledge, awareness, engagement and cooperation
- Nature Directives require action also outside Natura 2000
- Only 11% citizens know about Natura 2000



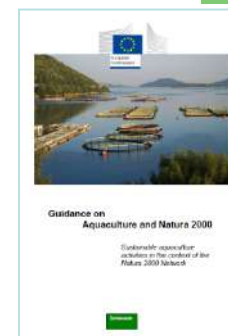
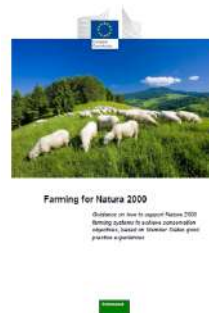
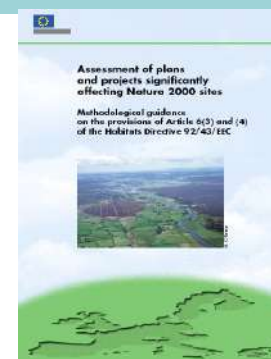
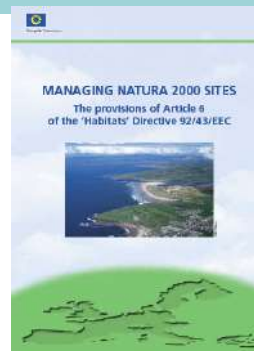


# Action plan for nature, people and the economy

- A total of 114 actions, to be accomplished by 2019 – 4 priorities:
- Improving guidance and knowledge and ensuring better coherence with broader socio-economic objectives
- Building political ownership and strengthening compliance
- Strengthening investment in Natura 2000 and improving synergies with EU funding instruments
- Better communication and outreach, engaging citizens, stakeholders and communities

# Priority A: Improve guidance and knowledge and ensure better coherence with broader socio-economic objectives

- *Update EU guidance - new sector specific guidance- all EU official languages -promote their use*
- *Support mechanism to help MS in applying permitting requirements and species protection rules*
- *Task Force and a Help Desk on Article 6 of HD*
- *Stakeholder dialogues and platforms to address conflicts with specific species*
- *Improve knowledge, through enhanced and more efficient monitoring, improve public online access to data*
- *Improve integration of ecosystems and their services into planning and decision - making*



## Priority B: Building political ownership and strengthening compliance

- *Help MS to fill the gaps in N2000 esp. marine*
  - ✓ *Best practices, co-financing of projects*
  - ✓ *dedicated meetings*
- *Bilateral meetings under the new EIR – identify needs, develop agreed roadmaps*
  - ✓ *Strategy for reaching FC status – completion of N2000*
  - ✓ *Obstacles in AA*
  - ✓ *Governance approaches- effectiveness in cooperation*
  - ✓ *Raising awareness, capacity, understanding legal requirements*
- *Focus on N2000 Biogeographical Region Process*
  - ✓ *Strengthen cooperation (seminars, trainings, platform)*
  - ✓ *Improve coherence in evaluate conservation*
- *Further development of most threatened species and habitats Action Plans*
  - ✓ *Focus on species and habitats with most unfavourable status*
  - ✓ *Review existing plans*
  - ✓ *Further support to stakeholders platforms*

## **Priority C: Strengthening investment in N2000 and improving synergies with EU funding**

Update Natura 2000 Prioritised Action Frameworks (PAFs) with MS identifying N2000 needs and priorities

Increase LIFE Nature and Biodiversity envelope for 2018-2020, focus on IPs

Promote biodiversity result-based payment schemes for farmers linked to Natura 2000 management plans

Additional funding approaches involving the private sector; promotion of private land conservation

*Improve biodiversity tracking in EU expenditure and consider biodiversity proofing of the EU funds*

## **Priority D: Better communication and outreach, engaging citizens, stakeholders and communities**

- *Strengthen communication through technology, events, etc*
- *Improve the accessibility of information (translated materials, tailored communication to selected sectors)*
- *Promote "Nature Advisory Services": local bodies (local level) to take care and advise on Natura 2000 site management*
- *Develop systems of peer review and twinning for Natura 2000 management plans and sites;*
- *Develop a benchmarking 'name and fame' system to recognise well-managed sites (e.g. green listing)*
- *Develop educational material to raise awareness on Natura 2000 requirements*

**Thank  
you!**



More information on our internet site:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/index_en.htm)