



Environmental Research

**ABP mer**  
marine environmental research

sustainable marine environment

# Presentation Format

- Introduction to the MSFD
- Key aims and objectives
- (11) Indicators of Good Ecological Status
- Summary of study work
- Thoughts for Solent Forum Members

## Introduction

Aims and objectives

GES Indicators

Study work

Implications



# Introduction to MSFD

- Framework for marine environmental policy
- Ratified July 2008
- Has to be transposed into UK Legislation by July 2010
- Consultation on Draft Regulations October 2009-January 2010
- Further consultation between 2010 and 2016
- Responses published by 22<sup>nd</sup> April
  
- Similar approach to Water Framework Directive

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# Aims and Objectives

Requires member states to determine GES for marine waters and design and implement programmes of measures for achieving this by 2020.

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# Aims and Objectives

Through the development of a Marine Strategy

- Thematic strategy: conservation of marine ecosystems
- Include Marine Protected Areas
- Ecosystem Approach
- Sustainable use of the seas

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# Aims and Objectives

## Requirements of the Marine Strategy

- Initial assessment of GES (July 2012)
- Determination of what GES means (July 2012)
- Establish targets and Indicators for GES (July 2012)
- Establish monitoring programmes to measure progress to GES (July 2014)
- Programme of measures developed (2015)
- Programme of measures operational (2016)
- Achievement of GES (2020)

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# Good Environmental Status

*“the environmental status of marine waters where these provide ecologically diverse and dynamic oceans and seas which are clean, healthy and productive within their intrinsic conditions, and the use of the marine environment is at a level which is sustainable, thus safeguarding the potential for uses and activities by current and future generations”.*

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# GES Indicators

1. Biological diversity is maintained
2. Non-indigenous species
3. Commercial fish and shellfish in safe biological limits
4. Maine food webs maintained
5. Human induced eutrophication is minimised
6. Sea floor integrity
7. Alteration of hydrographical conditions
8. Concentrations of contaminants
9. Contaminants in fish and seafood safe
10. Marine litter
11. Introduction of energy (inc. noise)

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# Study Work

- ABPmer and Risk and Policy Analysts
- Defra and devolved administrations
- 6 month project completed Oct 2009

## *Scoping Study for Elements of the MSFD Impact Assessment Evidence Base*



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# Study Work

- Support the (Regulatory) Impact Assessment
- Scoping Study
- Reviewed existing marine legislation
- Identified strengths and weaknesses
- Developed scenarios of what GES may mean
- **Identified the management measures which may be required to meet GES**
- Identified the costs and benefits of meeting GES

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# Implications for Solent Forum

- Still considerable uncertainty
- GES still to be defined
- Initial assessment yet to be undertaken
- Unknown how will be assessed (top down/bottom up): very different outcomes
- Data gaps and overlaps between different GES

However.....

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# Implications for Solent Forum

Good news.....



- Water Quality: GES 5 (Eutrophication), 8 (contaminants) and 9 (contaminants in seafood): Robust existing legislation, little impact
- Shipping: Non-indigenous species (GES2): Robust legislation already in place, little impact
- Developments: consenting system sufficient for GES 11 noise (energy)
- Developments: few developments considered large enough to affect GES7 (hydrography)

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# Implications for Solent Forum

Bad news.....

- Fisheries: Affects GES 1 (biodiversity), 3 (fisheries) ,4 (marine food webs) and 6 (sea floor integrity)
- General: GES 10 Litter: Considerable uncertainty

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Any Questions.....?

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