

**Marine Protected Areas Workshop
Liverpool 29th October 2008**



Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Marine Protected Areas

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Outline

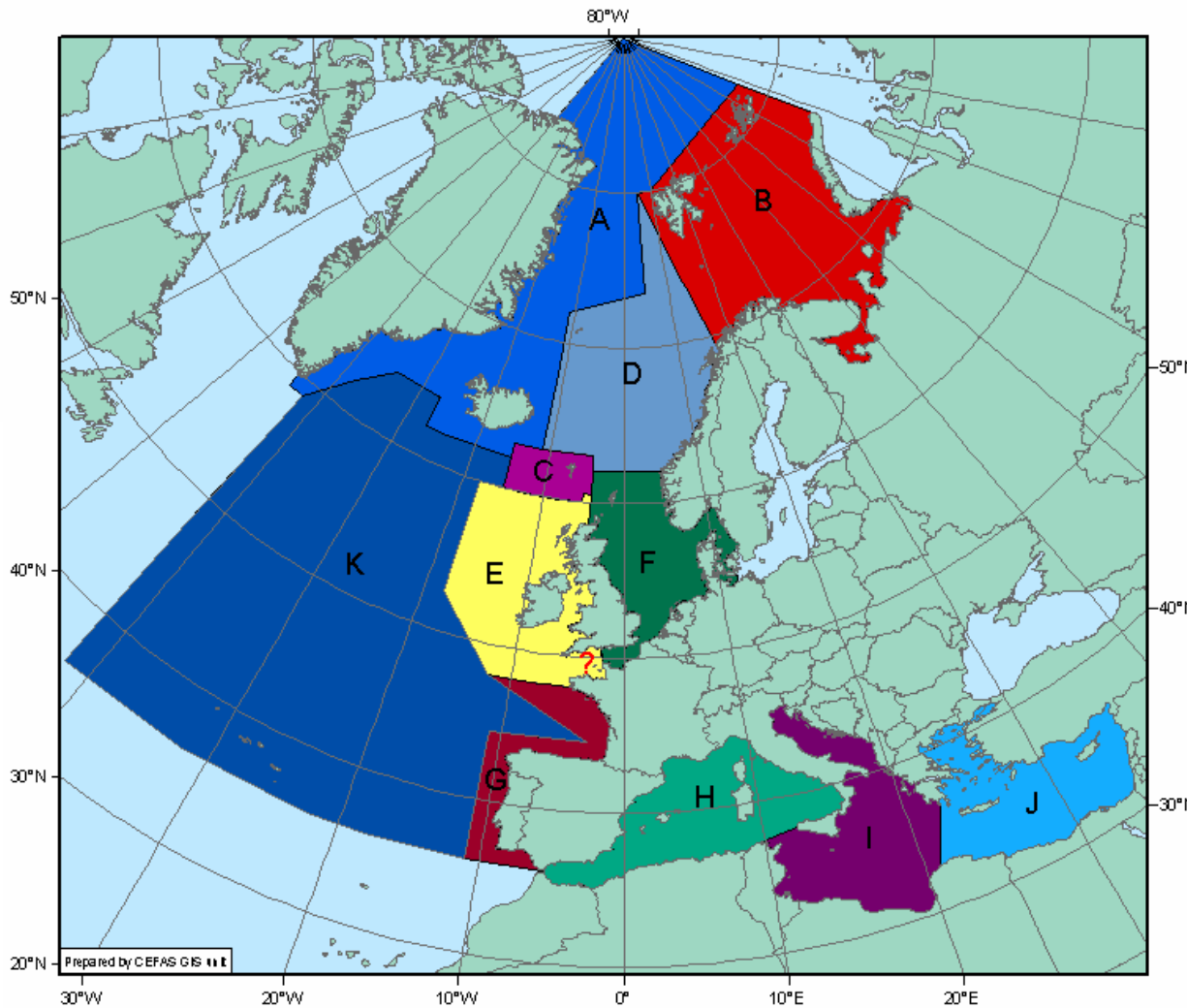
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)
 - Overview
 - Key requirements
 - UK approach
- Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
 - General considerations
 - Specific references
 - Implications
- Summary

MSFD – Purpose and objectives



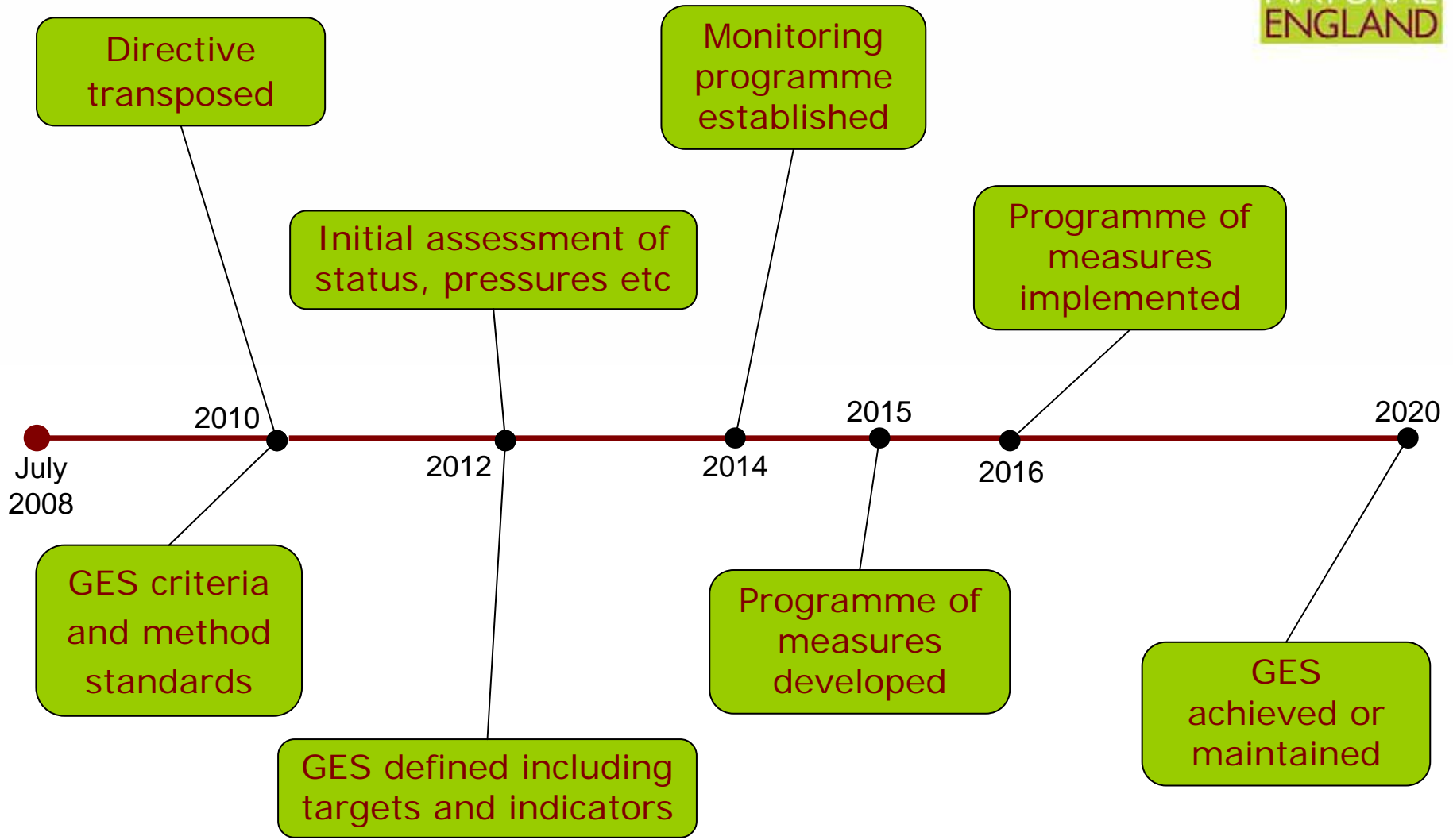
- *This directive establishes a framework within which Member States shall take the necessary measures to achieve or maintain good environmental status in the marine environment by the year 2020 at the latest*
- For this purpose Member States (MSs) will develop and implement Marine Strategies to:
 - Protect and preserve, prevent deterioration or, where practicable, restore marine ecosystems
 - Prevent and reduce inputs

Geographic coverage and regions



Member States sharing a region or subregion shall 'cooperate' to ensure a 'coherent and coordinated' approach to marine strategies

Key requirements and dates

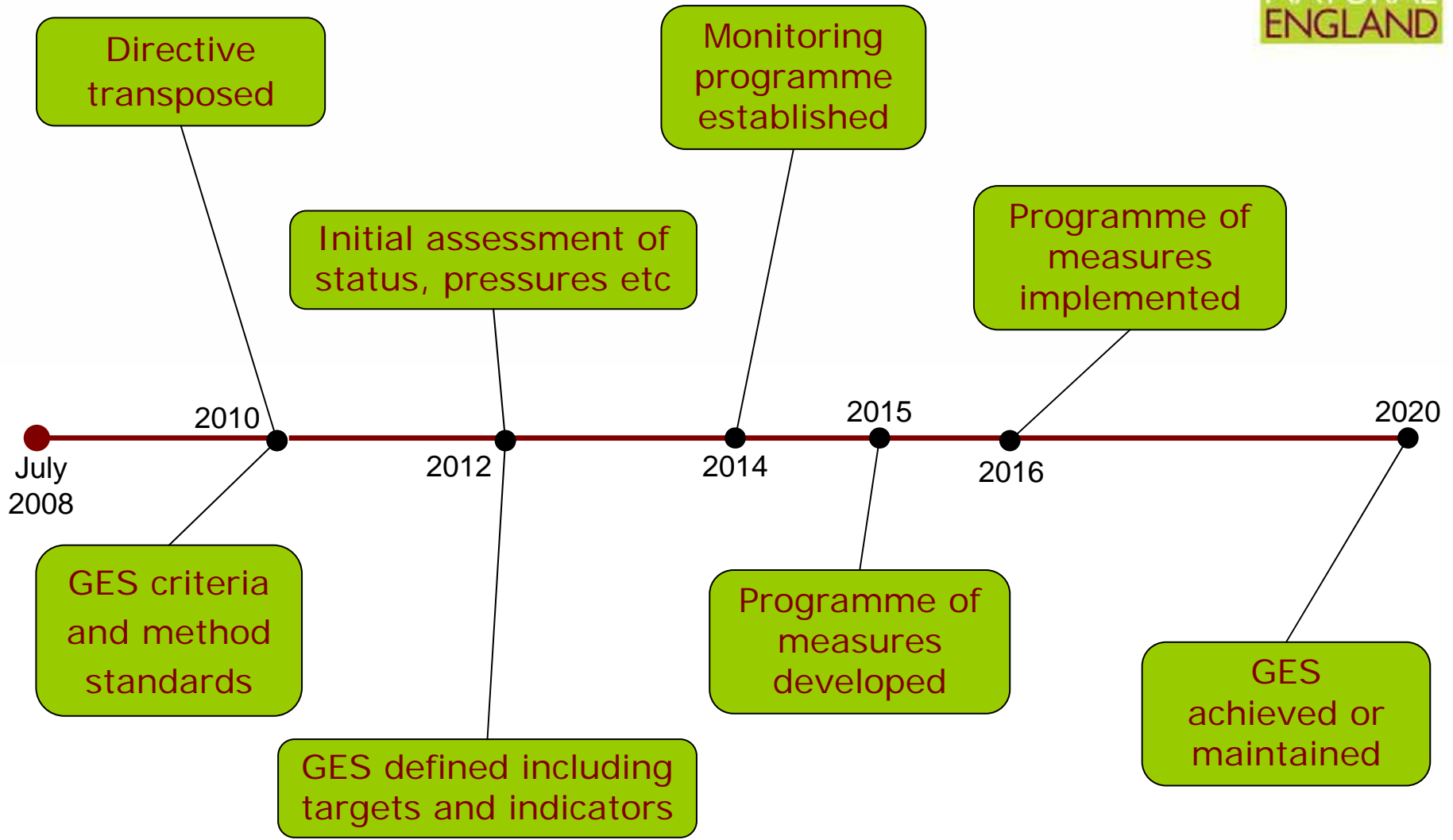


Good Environmental Status



- 11 high level qualitative descriptors, eg
 - Biological diversity is maintained
 - Exploited fish/shellfish are within safe biological limits
 - Sea-floor integrity is at a level that ensures structure and function of the ecosystems is safeguarded
 - Concentrations of contaminants are at levels not giving rise to pollution effects
- EC set up process to agree common criteria and standards for defining GES (supplement to MSFD)
 - UK workshop Nov 08
 - French Presidency conference Dec 08
- MSs determine set of characteristics for GES for their marine waters in each region/subregion

Key requirements and dates

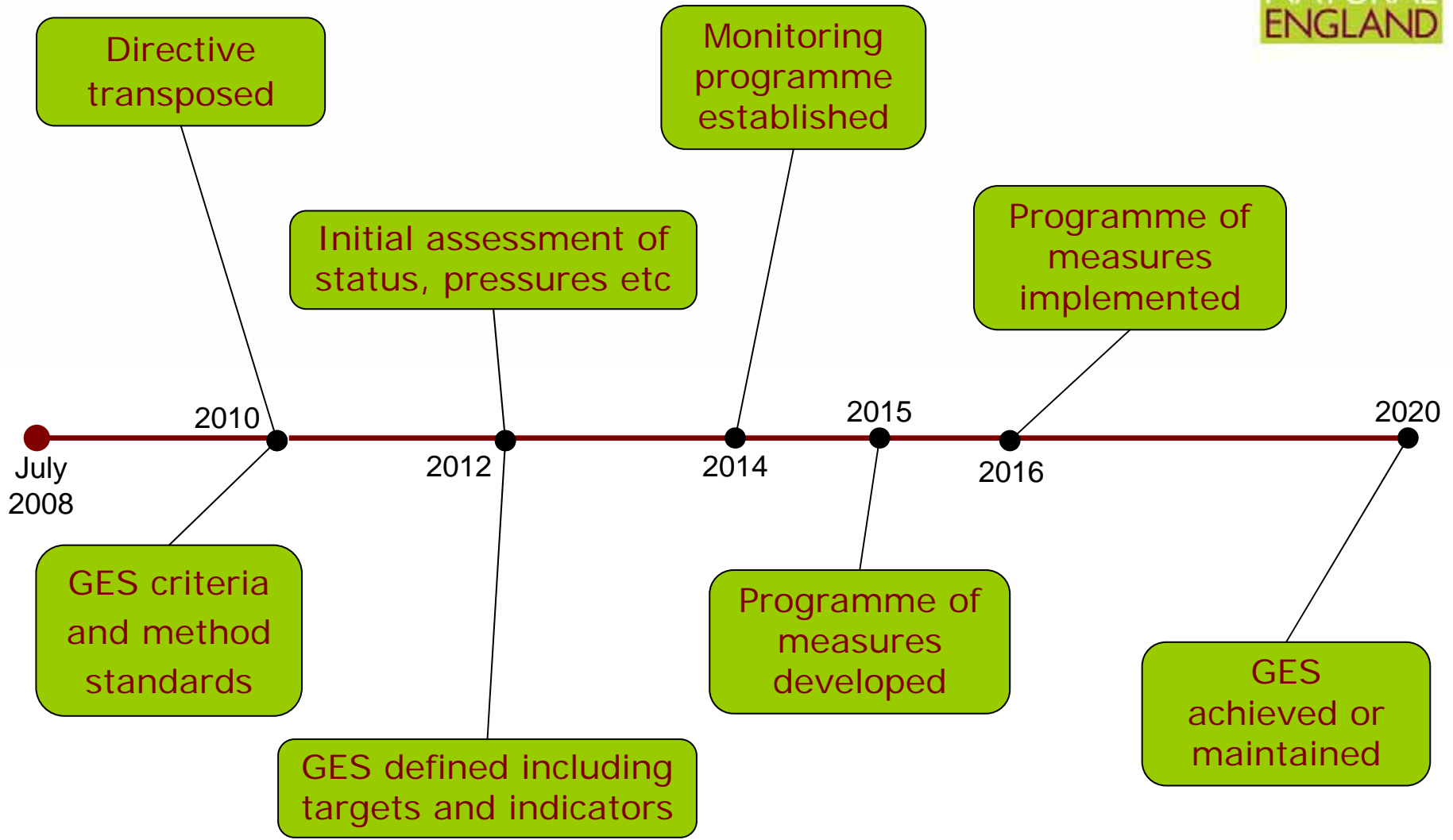


Initial Assessment



- Analysis of features and characteristics, eg
 - Physical and chemical, eg topography, nutrients
 - Habitat types, eg predominant seabed and water column
 - Biological features, eg from phytoplankton to mammals
- Pressures and impacts
 - Physical loss, eg smothering
 - Biological disturbance, eg introduction of non-natives
- Economic and social analysis of use and of cost of degradation of marine waters
- Basis for establishing targets and indicators to guide progress toward GES and establish monitoring programmes

Key requirements and dates



Programme of measures



- Devise measures based on assessment and targets, but already being considered
- Measures that could be considered are listed but none are prescribed (except one!)
- Caveats and exceptions, eg
 - Cost effective and technically feasible
 - Outside Member State's competence
 - Overriding public interest (physical characteristics)
- Recommendations for Community Action

UK Approach – “evolution”



- Initial assessment
 - Largely based on Charting Progress II with additional work on gaps, eg socio-economic analysis
 - OSPAR Quality Status Review for regional level
- Monitoring
 - Use existing significant UK monitoring activity and assess gaps (including through UKMMAS)
- Measures
 - Existing measures should contribute as far as possible, eg WFD
 - Marine Bill, eg ‘Marine Planning should play a key role in delivering the programme of measures’

Relevance of MSFD to MPAs



- General scope covering all marine waters
- Particular aspects may have an MPA dimension, eg
 - Strengthen regional cooperation
 - CFP, including review, should take account of MSFD (Recitals 39, 40)
- Supports commitments undertaken at WSSD and in Convention of Biological Diversity on global network of MPAs by 2012 (Recitals 7, 18)

Relevance of MPAs to MSFD



- Specific references
 - *The establishment of marine protected areas [including under Habitats and Birds Directives and international or regional agreements].... is an important contribution to the achievement of good environmental status under this Directive (Recital 6)*
 - Crucial to ensure the integration of conservation objectives, measures, monitoring and assessment activities for marine protected areas (Recital 21)
- Implications
 - Strong indication that MPAs designated for conservation have a role to play (see also Recital 5)
 - MPA and MSFD processes and activities to be integrated (in some way)

MPAs – measures (1)



- Measures will include *“spatial protection measures, contributing to coherent and representative networks of MPAs, adequately covering the diversity of the constituent ecosystems”* such as SACs, SPAs and MPAs agreed by the Community or Member States concerned (Article 13:4)
- Interpretation
 - Measures include MPAs (just conservation?)
 - Include any MPAs that a Member State considers contribute to network, eg MCZs (noting Marine Bill Policy Paper)

MPAs – measures (2)



- MS can request competent authority at Community or international level to consider and adopt measures where a significant impacts on the marine environment, particularly spatial protection measures, eg
 - EC and fisheries beyond 6 nmiles
 - EC in relation to activities of an adjacent Member State?
- Interpretation
 - Reinforces existing requirement for EC to act on SACs, SPAs where a case is made
 - Creates or strengthens similar requirement for MPAs designated under OSPAR or national provisions?
(noting government intention/PQ on MCZs)

MPAs – timetable



- Specific requirements
 - 2013: MSs provide information on MPAs
 - 2014: EC provide progress report on MPAs to Council and to European Parliament
- General requirements
 - 2015 (at the latest): measures developed
 - 2016: measures being implemented
- Interpretation
 - Delivery of MCZs and 2012 target timely
 - IF 2012 target slips this will be picked up by MSFD process (design and implementation) with associated consequences?

Summary – MSFD and MPAs



- General scope – MSFD critical context
- Support for commitments to MPAs
- Clear expectation that MPAs will contribute
- Specific provisions for MPAs
- Some implications require further consideration