



EU biodiversity strategy for 2030 in the European seas

Bringing nature back into our lives

Inter-AC meeting - 5 May 2021

DG Environment

*Unit C2 - Marine environment
& water industry*

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

Bringing nature back into our lives

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<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1590574123338&uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0380>

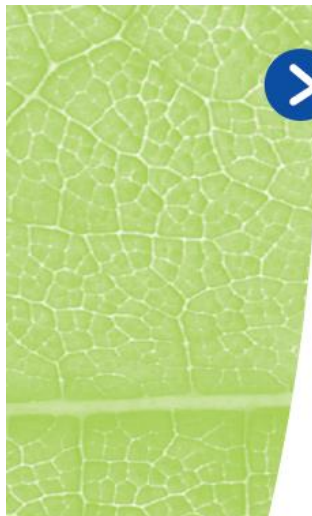
EU Green Deal

- It is the EU plan to make the economy sustainable. It plans to turn climate and environmental challenges into opportunities and make the transition just and inclusive for all
- The Green Deal comprises several initiatives: Farm to fork, Circular economy action plan, Zero pollution action plan, **Biodiversity strategy** (and others)
- The **biodiversity strategy aims to protect and restore nature**. It applies equally in EU waters and on land



Biodiversity strategy: equal treatment land/marine

ON LAND	AT SEA
Less impact on the environment (organic agriculture)	Less impact on the environment (more selective fishing)
More protection for sensitive species (pollinators)	More protection for sensitive species (decrease bycatch)
Restoring forests (3 billion trees planted)	Restoring marine forests (seagrasses and kelp)



Establish protected areas for at least:



30%
of land in
Europe



30%
of sea in
Europe

Biodiversity strategy: key points for EU waters

- Protect 30% of EU waters (10%: strictly) and manage protected areas
- Restore degraded EU marine ecosystems (restoration targets this year)
- Action plan to conserve fisheries resources & protect marine ecosystems
- Reduce negative impact (bycatch, seabed)
- All pressures must decrease, including pollution (nutrients, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, wastewater, plastics, etc.), deep-sea mining, invasive alien species

Fisheries in the EU biodiversity strategy



Protect 30% of
EU seas

10% of which
strictly protected



Reduce damage
to seabed



Reduce by-
catch of
sensitive
species



Fish sustainably
(fully implement
the CFP)

Biodiversity strategy: protected areas

- Biodiversity continues degrading so protection and restoration efforts must increase: we will **widen our network of protected areas** (Trans-European Nature Network and ecological corridors)
- At least 30% of the sea should be protected in the EU (currently: 12%)
- 10% of EU waters should be strictly protected (priority: biodiversity ‘hotspots’)

Protected area: EU state of play

MPA assessment area regions and sub-regions	% surface area cover all MPAs
Baltic Sea	16.8
North East Atlantic Ocean	9.0
Celtic Sea	8.1
Greater North Sea incl. Kattegat & English Channel	28.2
Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast	16.5
Macaronesia	3.6
Mediterranean Sea	18.7
Western Mediterranean Sea	27.4
Ionian Sea and Central Mediterranean Sea	7.7
Adriatic Sea	5.8
Aegean-Levantine Sea	11.5
Black Sea	14.3
Total	12.0

State of play (end 2019)

MPAs – 12%

Strict protection – less than 1%



Protected areas: who does what?

European Commission

- By 2021, in agreement with Member States, puts forward **criteria and guidance** for:
 - identification and designation of additional protected areas
 - definition of “strict protection”
 - appropriate management planning
- By 2024, the Commission will assess whether EU is on track to meet its 2030 targets

Member States

- **identify potential areas to be protected**
- **designate additional protected areas** to complete the Natura 2000 network and/or under national/regional protection schemes
- **By 2023, demonstrate significant progress** in coverage by new protected areas and integrating ecological corridors
- By 2024, put in place the necessary governance systems and resources to ensure all protected areas are adequately managed

Biodiversity strategy: EU nature restoration plan

- Objective: restore EU ecosystems (land and sea)
- Commission proposal for legally binding EU nature restoration targets in 2021
- Reach the objective by strengthening and using synergies with the current legal framework for nature restoration (Birds and Habitats directives, Marine strategy framework directive, Water framework directive)
- Ensure no deterioration in conservation trends and status of all protected habitats and species by 2030

Biodiversity strategy: governance

- Full implementation of the EU law: environment & fisheries
- Commit to BBNJ agreement by 2020
- Zero tolerance for IUU and combat overfishing
- Deep-sea mining: apply precautionary principle

Thank you