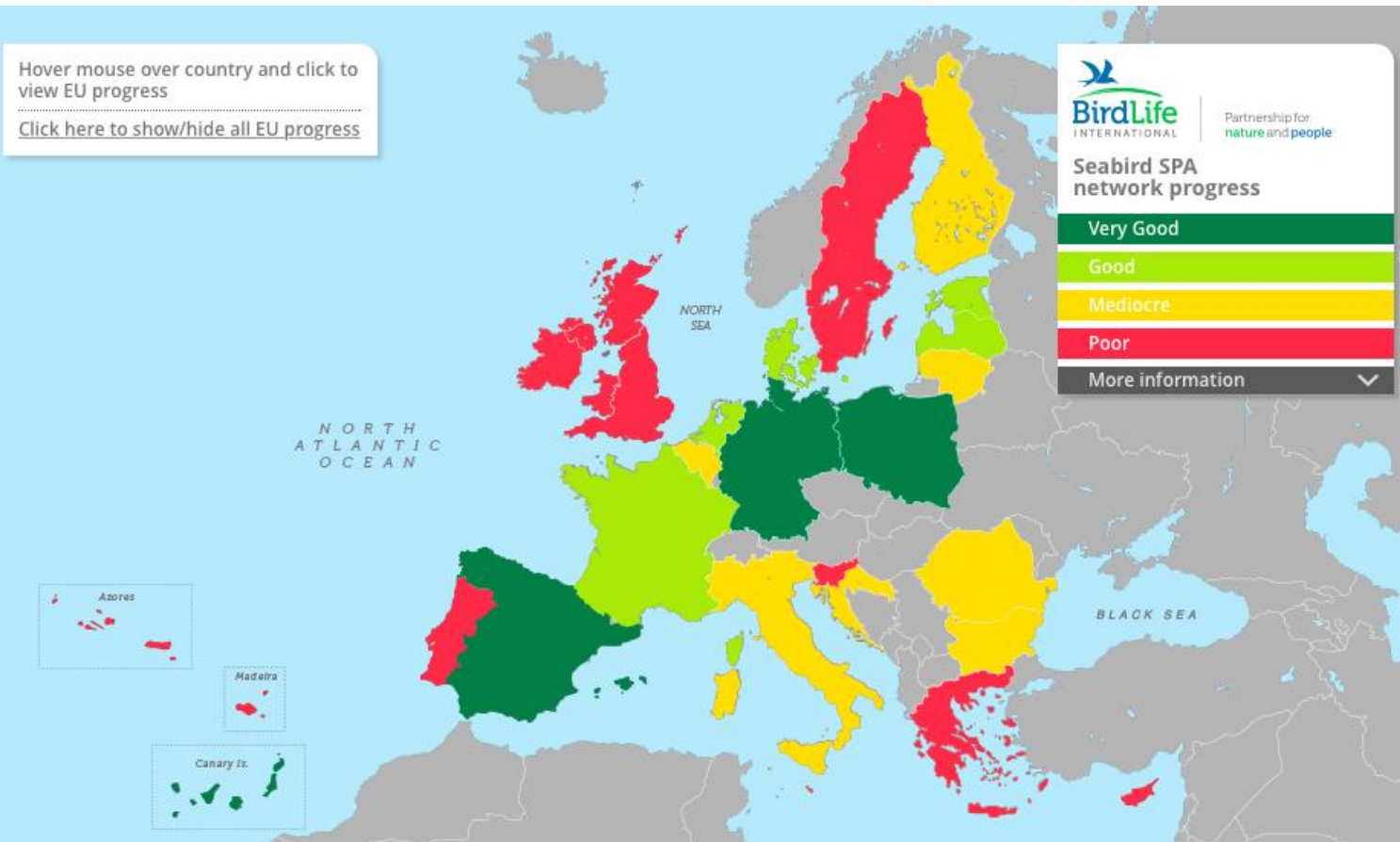


# Progress in marine SPA designation



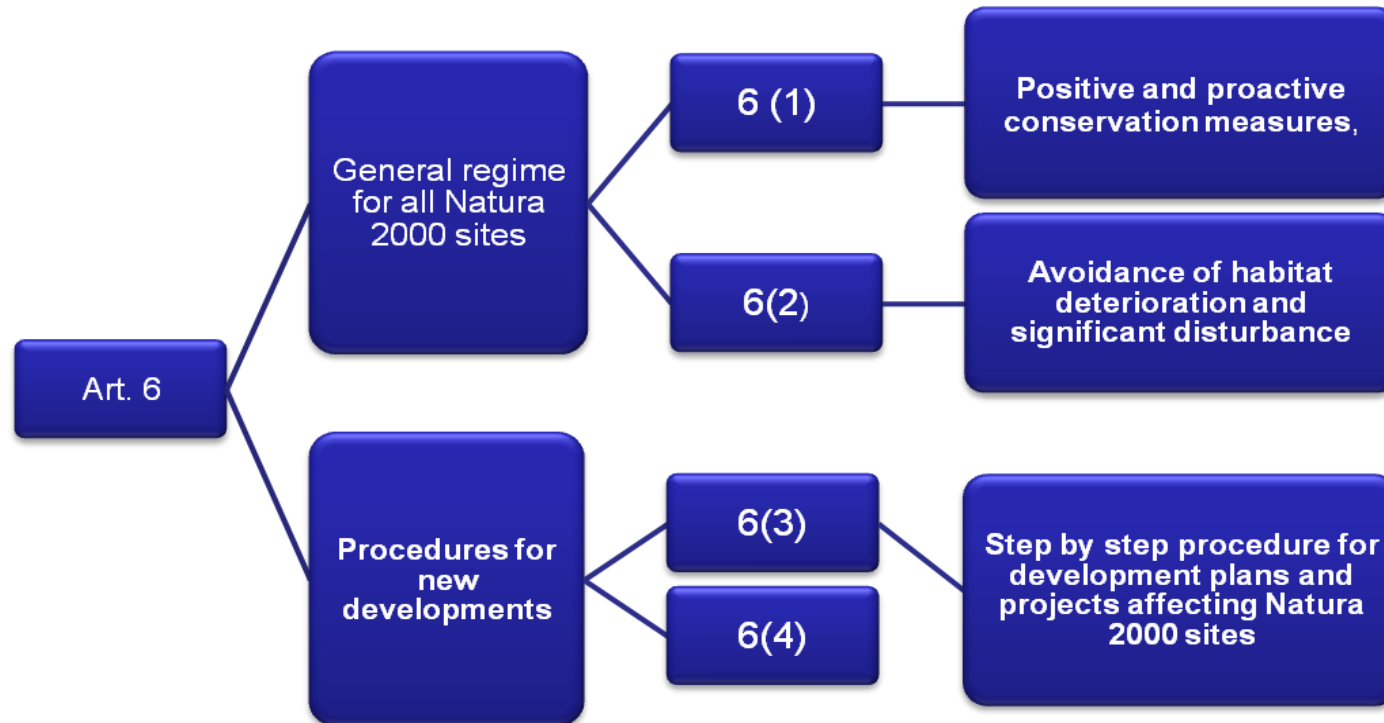
- Special Protection Areas need to be identified and classified on the basis of adequate ornithological criteria
- The inventory of Important Bird Areas published by Birdlife International contains necessary scientific evidence and can be used a basis of reference, in the absence of other relevant and scientifically valid information



## Towards a coherent MPA network in EU

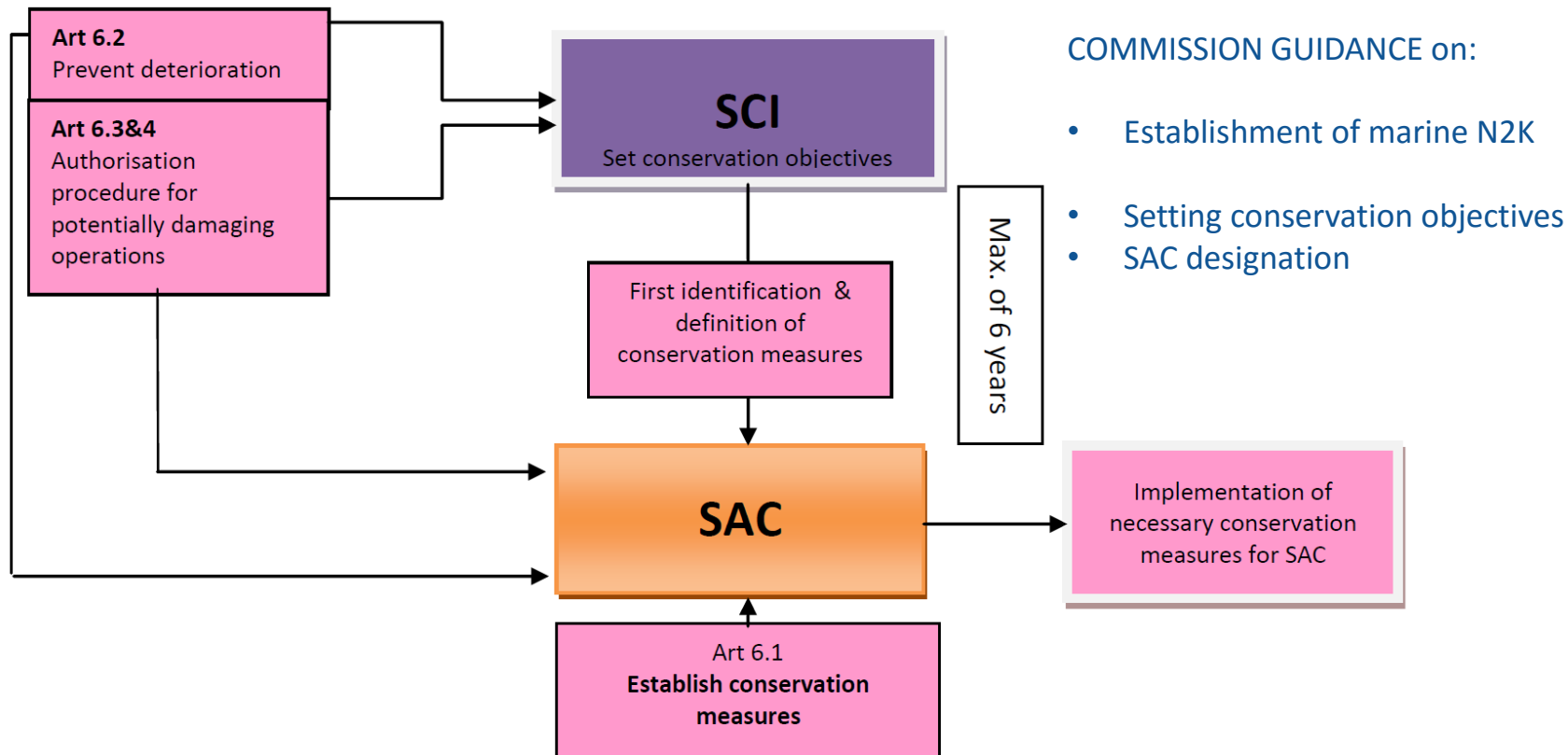
- An **extensive international and EU policy framework** which supports the creation of MPAs in European seas already exists
- Marine Natura 2000 **significantly contributes** to establishing **coherent and representative** network of MPAs in EU
- The MSFD aims to launch measures for achieving or maintaining GES in the marine environment by 2020. The use of '**spatial protection measures**' contributing to the creation of coherent and representative networks of MPAs
- **EU Directive establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning** is to contribute to the effective management of maritime activities and the sustainable use of marine resources in the marine environment (maritime spatial plans asap by 2021)

## Management regime for Natura 2000 sites



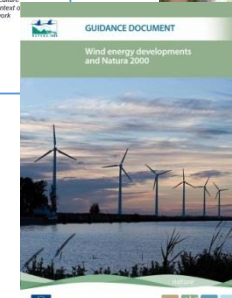
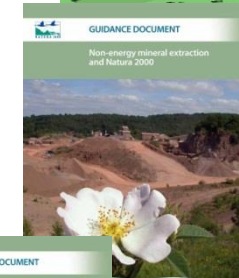
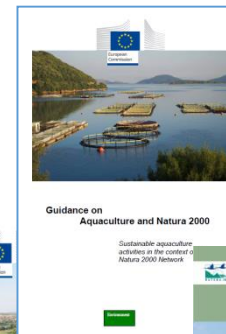
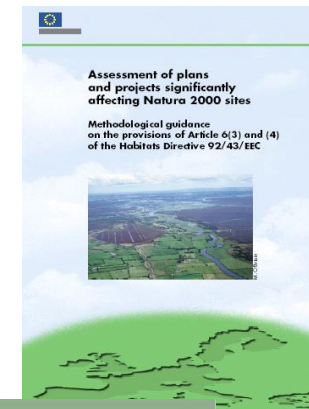
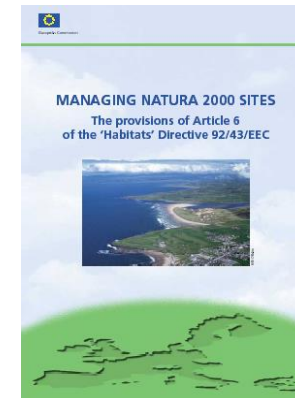
- Natura 2000 sites are not strict nature reserves
- Management is based on cooperation and partnership

# SAC designation – conservation measures



# Commission guidance documents

- ❖ 'Managing Natura 2000 sites – the provisions of Art. 6' – currently updated...
- ❖ \*NEW – [Article 6 – Rulings of the ECJ \(July 2015\)](#)
- ❖ Assessment of plans and projects: methodological guide Art 6 (3) & (4)
- ❖ Sector specific guidance:
  - ❖ Wind energy
  - ❖ Non-energy extractive industries
  - ❖ Ports and estuaries
  - ❖ Aquaculture
  - ❖ *Inland Waterways*
  - ❖ *Agriculture*
  - ❖ *Forests*
  - ❖ *Forthcoming: Energy infrastructure and hydro-power*



## Management of marine N2000 - priorities

- Setting conservation objectives
- Application of appropriate conservation measures
- Legal, statutory or contractual arrangements (SAC designation)
- Management plans as useful strategic management tools
- **Full stakeholder engagement and better regional cooperation**
  - EC guidance documents - Economic benefits/win-win solutions and examples of good practice, major contribution of LIFE projects

**Seminars on Natura 2000 management – forum for discussions, networking and cross-border cooperation**

# Kick-off marine seminar for N2000 management (France, 2015)

- **Setting conservation objectives**
  - Habitats, highly mobile species
- **Marine activities**
  - Threats and pressures from fisheries
  - Fisheries management measures
  - Other marine sectors
- **Regional integration**
  - Cross-border collaboration
  - Regional networks
  - EU financing
- **2 follow-up events in 2016**

Natura 2000 platf



The screenshot shows the 'Natura 2000 Communication Platform' website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the European Commission logo and the word 'ENVIRONMENT'. Below this is a breadcrumb trail: 'European Commission > Environment > Nature > Natura2000 > Platform'. A main menu includes 'Home', 'About us', 'Policies', 'Funding', 'Legal compliance', and 'News & outreach'. The main content area features a large image of a wetland landscape and a 'NATURA 2000' logo. A sidebar on the left contains a 'Home' button and a list of links: 'Knowledge exchange', 'Knowledge Base', 'Events calendar', 'Forum', 'News', and 'Contact & help desk'. Below this is a search bar and a section for 'UPCOMING EVENTS' listing 'Marine Biotope Mapping for Conservation Purposes', 'FP7 CleanSea Project's Marine Litter Symposium & Film Premiere', and 'World Soil Day - 2015 International Year of Soils (IYS)'. The main content area has a section for 'Natura 2000 Communication Platform' with introductory text and a 'Read more...' link. Below that is a section for 'Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process Newsletter' with text about the latest issue and a 'subscribe here' link. A 'Latest news' section at the bottom features a link for 'Results of the Dutch Nitrogen Tour 2015'. On the right side, there are two vertical banners: 'BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR EUROPE' and 'EIONET European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity'. At the bottom right, there is a 'NATURA 2000 AWARD' logo.



## Socio-economic benefits of marine Natura 2000

MPAs can offer the full range of ecosystem services

- **Provisioning** food: Support to overexploited fish stocks
- **Regulating** climate (carbon storage and sequestration)
- **Regulating** natural hazards control/mitigation
- **Cultural**: recreation and ecotourism

e.g. benefit to fish stocks (current N2000 coverage): 1,4-1,5 billion €/year, overall benefits of N2000: 200-300 billion €/year

- **Socio-Economic Benefits of the EU Marine Protected Areas** (study, EC 2016)
- Scoping study: **Measuring the benefits of marine protected areas in the context of EU's Natura 2000 network** - scoping the methodology

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/marine/docs/Marine%20N2k%20benefits.pdf>



## Improving *Posidonia* management in Natura 2000 sites (ES)

- Strong stakeholder involvement (tourism sector, fishermen,...)
- Estimating ecosystem services and economic benefits, incl. carbon storage
- Management plans



LIFE+  
posidonia andalucía

Improving *Posidonia* meadows management in Andalucía based on knowledge and participation: the utility of socio-economic studies of habitat environmental services

LIFE09/NAT/ES/000534

**Beneficiarios**  
JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA  
CONSEJERÍA DE AGRICULTURA, PESCA Y DESARROLLO RURAL  
Agencia de Gestión Agraria y Programa CONSEJERÍA DE AGRICULTURA, PESCA Y DESARROLLO RURAL  
Agencia de Medio Ambiente y Agua CONSEJERÍA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE Y ORDENACIÓN DEL TERRITORIO

**Cofinanciador**  
UICN  
Circe  
Federación Andaluza de Cofradías de Pescadores  
FEDERACIÓN ANDALUZA DE AGRICULTORES PROFESIONALES  
CEPSA

# Lyme Bay Natura 2000 site: cooperation with fishermen (UK)



The screenshot shows the website for the Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve. At the top left is the logo for Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve, featuring a crab, fish, and shellfish. To the right of the logo are social media icons for Twitter and Facebook. Further right is the text "Facilitated by:" followed by the Blue Marine Foundation logo. Below this is the text "England's coral garden" and "Conservation at its heart." A navigation menu includes "About", "Conservation & Science", "Marine Life", "People", "Reserve Seafood", "News & Events", and "Download Centre". The main content area features a large image of three fishermen on a boat. The text "ALLIANCE in Lyme Bay" is overlaid on the image. Below the image, there is a paragraph describing the alliance and a "Read More" link. At the bottom of the screenshot, there is a section titled "Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve" with a brief description of the reserve and two small landscape photos.

Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve

The Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve is a Marine Reserve in Lyme Bay in which multiple uses such as fishing are allowed as long as none are damaging to the seabed or to nature conservation.

- Full stakeholder involvement - fishermen, conservationists, regulators and scientists
- Economic benefits for fishermen
- Fragile habitats protected

## Reserve Seafood

Premium, provenance-assured, sustainable fish and shellfish responsibly sourced from well-managed stocks from Lyme Bay, on the Devon and Dorset border.

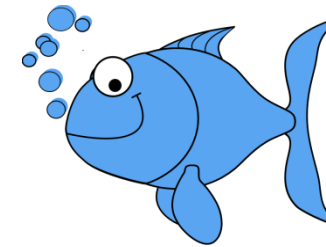
This premium product is a result of the fishermen's dedication to catch quality, the importance of traceability and the long-term sustainable future of Lyme Bay fisheries.

For more information visit:  
[www.lymebayreserve.co.uk/reserve-seafood](http://www.lymebayreserve.co.uk/reserve-seafood)



## Addressing pressures: links to other policy areas

- The Common Fisheries Policy
  - Incidental catch
  - Fisheries measures for Natura 2000
  - Data collection and technical measures
- The Marine Strategy Framework Directive
  - Programme of measures
  - Spatial protection measures
- The Maritime Spatial Planning Directive
  - Maritime spatial plans





# The "new" Common Fisheries Policy

- **Fisheries management measures** for Natura 2000 sites and other MPAs (CFP - Article 11)
  - Joint recommendations for fisheries measures – Commission delegated acts
- Completed and/or ongoing work in DK, NL, SE, UK...
- Lessons learnt:
  - The need of sound scientific knowledge and mapping of habitats to be protected.
  - The importance of close and early stakeholder involvement and transparency of procedures towards preparing joint recommendations.
  - Measures need to be proportionate and avoid discrimination.
  - The conservation objectives of the sites must be the starting point.
  - The process can be lengthy and needs therefore to be carefully planned, especially re. requirements on regionalisation under Art. 11/18 CFP.
  - Adequate monitoring is a significant challenge.

# Addressing fisheries impacts

- Supporting activities under EC Marine Expert Group:
  - Guidance: Common methodology to assess impact of fisheries on marine N2000 (2012)
  - Overview of the potential interactions and impacts of commercial fishing methods on marine habitats and species protected under the EU Habitats directive - sensitivity analysis matrices (2014)
  - Exchange of best practices
- The Commission is proposing updated Technical measures Regulation and Data collection framework regulation to align with the new CFP (and e.g. EU Seabird by-catch action plan)
- Financing opportunities under **EMFF** (monitoring, restoration, management of N2000, reducing by-catch), **LIFE+**, ...



## Information to compile for fisheries management measures (EC recommendation)

- 1) Comprehensive **description of the natural features including distribution** within the site.
- 2) Scientific rationale for the sites selection in accordance with the information provided in the Natura 2000 data form. Intrinsic value of its features. **Specific conservation objectives**.
- 3) Basis for the spatial extent of the site boundary clearly justified in terms of conservation objectives.
- 4) **Threats to habitats and species from different types of fishing gear**. List of other human activities in the area that could damage the habitats.
- 5) **Fleet activity in the area and in the region**, distribution of fleets (by nation, gear and species), and information on target and by-catch species, all over the last 3 years.
- 6) Seasonal trends in fisheries over the last 3 years.
- 7) **Proposed fisheries management measures** to maintain the habitats features in favourable condition. **Are they proportionate and enforceable?** Other conservation measures that apply to the area.
- 8) **Control measures** envisaged by the Member State, possible ecological and control buffer zones to ensure site protection and/or effective control and monitoring measures.
- 9) **Measures to monitor and assess the maintenance and/or recovery of the features** within the site.
- 10) **Coordination with neighbouring Member States** as appropriate.
- 11) Evaluation of **possible displacement of fishing effort** and impact on new areas.

# Data collection framework/EU MAP

New Data collection framework and EU Multiannual plan

COMMISSION PROPOSAL ensuring consistency with new CFP:

- Result-based management – not overprescriptive
- Simplification of the rules
- Regionalisation
- *Define WHAT needs to be collected, not HOW*
- *Cooperation between MS to draft workplans*

*Provisions to collect data on incidental catch and impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems – to be used to define necessary conservation measures*



# Technical measures regulation

History of technical measures in European fisheries legislation: numerous regulations, amendments, implementing rules - suboptimal performance, complex rules and lack of stakeholder involvement.

NEW COMMISSION PROPOSAL: ensuring consistency with new CFP and other EU policy (BHD, MSFD)

- Result-based management
- Simplification of the rules
- Regionalisation

Provisions on mitigation measures or restrictions to reduce incidental catch and impact on marine ecosystems

## Towards a coherent protection regime

- **Full implementation** of all EU policies, strategies, Regional Sea Conventions (Barcelona) and other international agreements + national and regional strategies (EUSAIR)
- **Policy integration** (ecosystem approach): MSFD/BHD/WFD/MSPD/CFP, ICZM – joint measures and adaptive management
- **Financing** (monitoring, restoration, management of N2000, reducing by-catch): ESIF 2014-2020 (-EMFF), LIFE+, INTERREG,...

## The importance of cross-border cooperation

SE-FI: Collaboration across the Gulf of Bothnia for improved management of MPAs

**European territorial cooperation**  
**Cross-border cooperation**  
**(INTERREG IV A)**

**Program: Botnia-Atlantica**

**SeaGIS 2.0**  
seagis.org

*Gränsöverskridande samarbete över fjäll och hav*



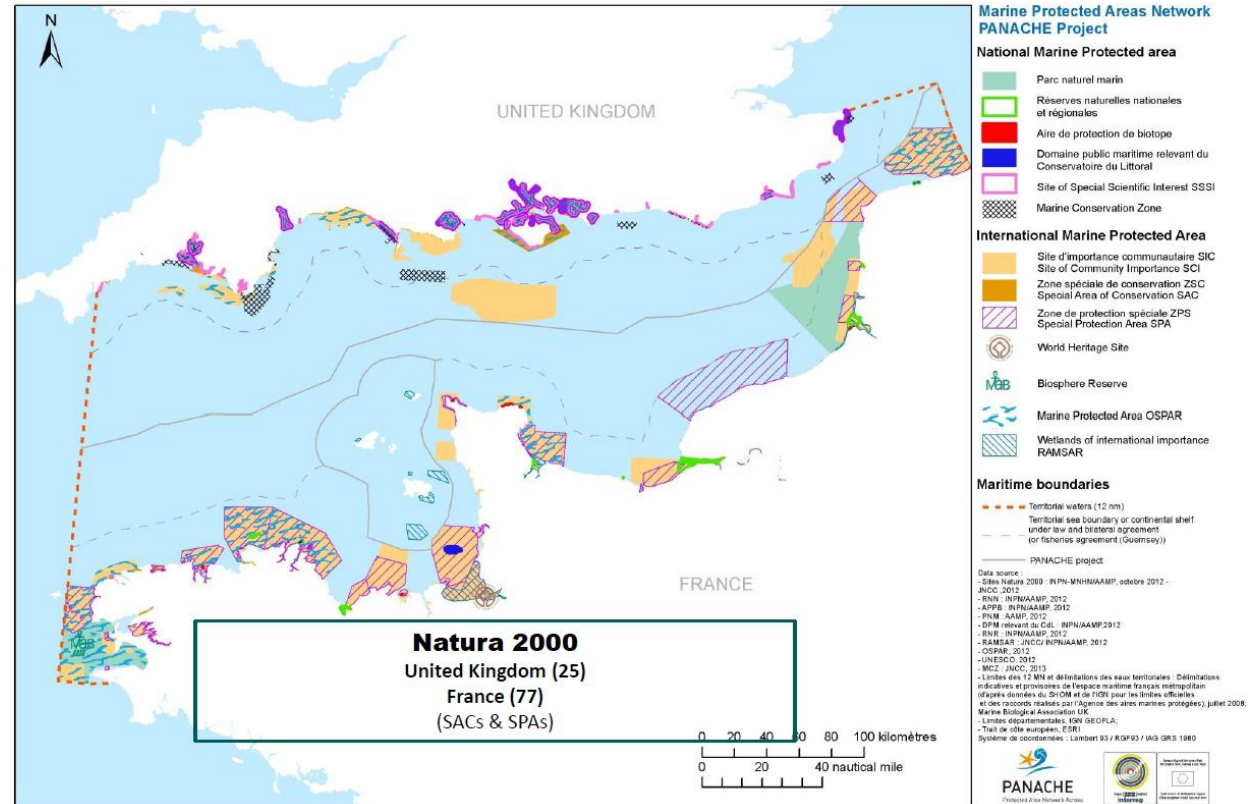
EUROPEISKA  
UNIONEN  
Europeiska regionala  
utvecklingsfonden



- joint habitat mapping
- development of planning and ecological tools

## FR-UK: PANACHE project (Protected Area Network Across the CHannel Ecosystem)

- joint project between France and UK
- development of coherent management plans for MPAs in the Channel.
- preparing an inventory of MPA management plans, measures and indicators, identify best practices of management and defining operational tools (e.g. common glossary, management plans).



# Towards a new understanding

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## **Use of our seas must respect ecological boundaries to protect and value its potential for present and future generations**

- Policy ambitions for economic growth of maritime activities must be aligned with policy targets for securing healthy, clean and productive seas.
- Healthy oceans and productive ecosystems will also require fundamental shifts in the systems that fulfil our societal needs and in the way we use ecosystem services.
- True cooperation among all stakeholders and wider societal engagement will be crucial to support this transition.

EEA

**Marine messages**

Our seas, our future — moving towards a new understanding

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)