

# Marine Strategy Framework Directive: *Consultation on Good Environmental Status*

## *Descriptor 2*

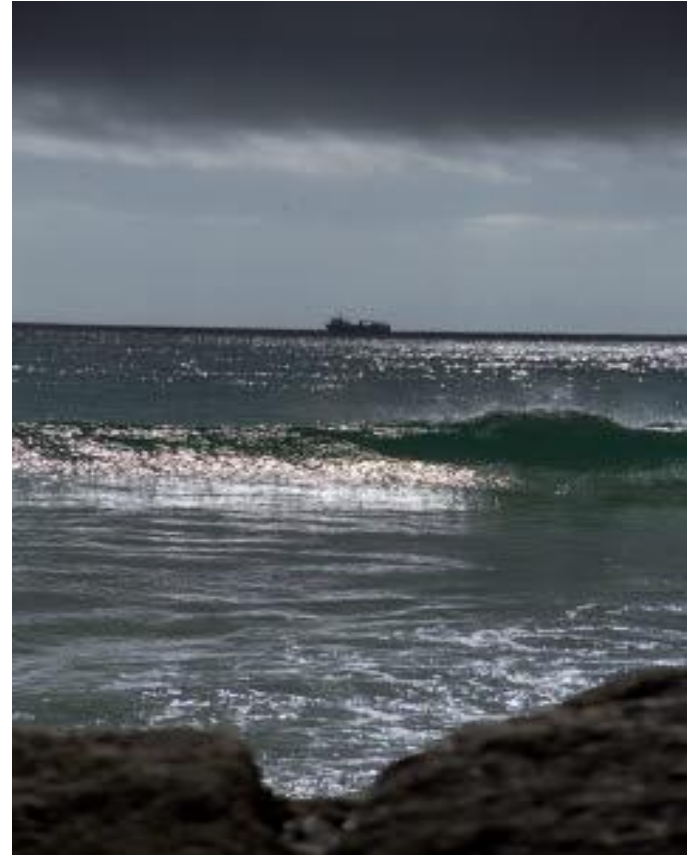
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# Focus of this presentation

- **Background to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD);**
- **UK determination of GES**
- **UK approach to developing Targets and Indicators**
- **Consultation launch**



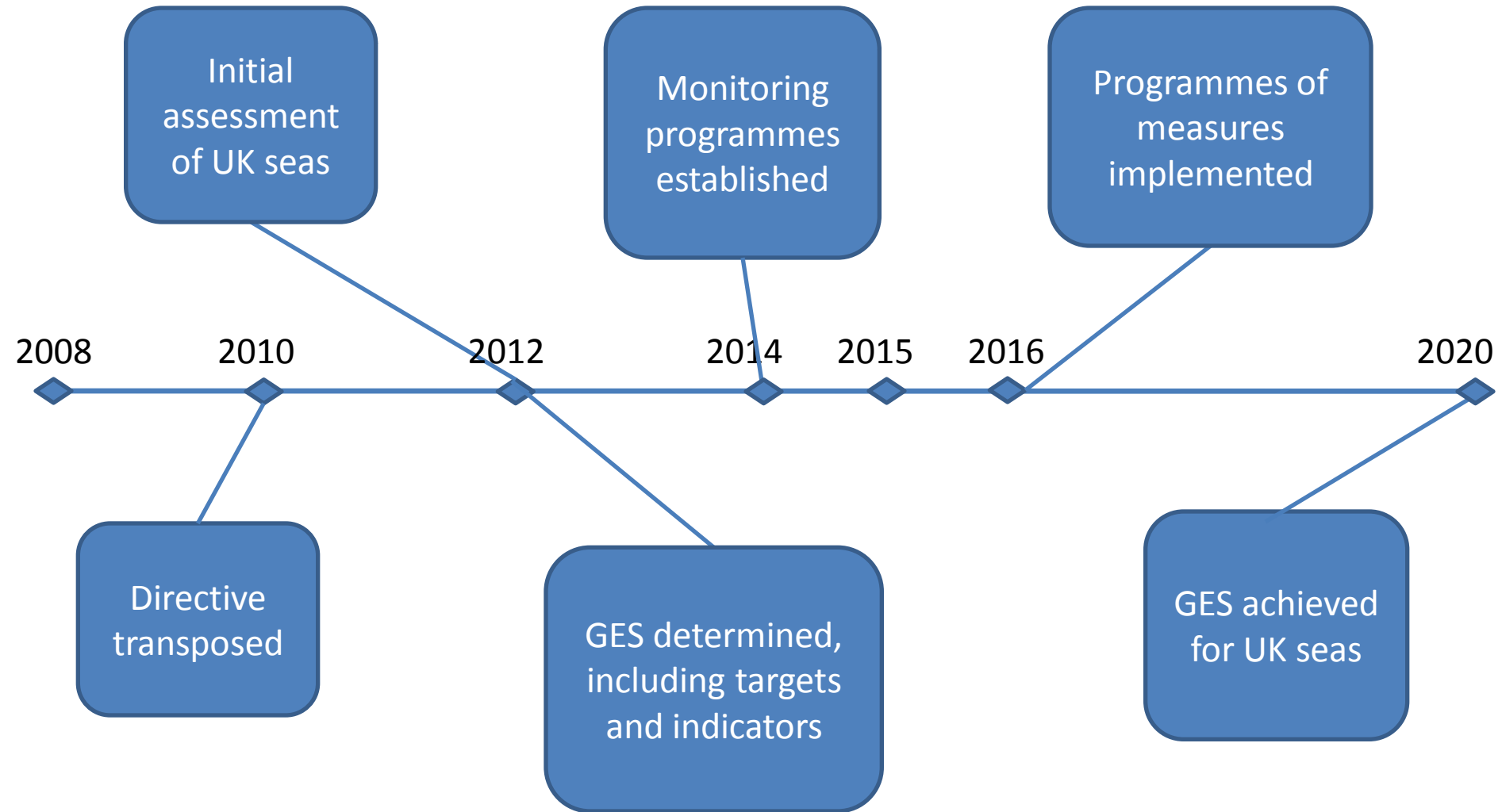
# 1: BACKGROUND

# Aims of the Directive

*For Member States to put in place measures to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status by 2020*

*Taking an ecosystem based approach to the management of human activities*

# What does the Directive commit us to?



# What does the Directive commit us to?

## *GES Descriptors from Annex I*

No.	Descriptor
1	Biological diversity
2	Non-indigenous species
3	Commercial fish & shellfish
4	Food-webs
5	Eutrophication
6	Sea-floor integrity
7	Hydrography
8	Contaminants
9	Contaminants in seafood
10	Litter
11	Energy, incl. underwater noise

# Descriptor 2 – What we have to work with

The MSFD Descriptor 2 requires that *'non-indigenous species introduced by human activities are at levels that do not adversely alter the ecosystem'*

## Commission Criteria

**2.1: *Abundance and state characterisation of non-indigenous species, in particular invasive species***

**2.2: *Environmental impact of invasive non-indigenous species***

# UK APPROACH TO GES DETERMINATION



# Determining Characteristics of GES

*‘Member States shall, in respect of each marine region or sub-region concerned, determine, for the marine waters, a set of characteristics for good environmental status on the basis of the qualitative descriptors listed in Annex 1’.*

# UK Determination of GES for NIS

*'The risk from pathways and vectors which facilitate the introduction and spread of NIS as a result of human activities is significantly reduced, leading to a reduction in the adverse impacts of Invasive Alien Species (IAS). Achievement of this will be based on an assessment of high risk areas and known pathways/vectors aiding the spread for such species'*

# UK APPROACH TO TARGETS AND INDICATORS

# Targets and Indicators


*‘Member States shall...establish a comprehensive set of environmental targets and associated indicators for their marine waters so as to guide progress towards achieving Good Environmental Status’*

# Principles for GES Target Setting

- Sufficient to achieve or maintain GES;
- Quantitative wherever possible, qualitative where not;
- Measurable – allowing for monitoring an assessment through associated indicators;
- Provide a link through to management measures wherever possible;
- Based as far as possible on existing targets in other legislation;
- Monitoring based as far as possible on existing monitoring programmes.



# Proposed GES Targets for Descriptor 2

Commission Criteria	Proposed targets
<b>2.1: <i>Abundance and state characterisation of non-indigenous species, in particular invasive species</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Reduction in the risk of introduction and spread of non native species through improved management of the main pathways and vectors.</b></li><li>• Surveillance indicator looking at the abundance and distribution of NIS in areas which are at a high risk of new introductions (with a view to being able to develop a baseline for the rate of establishment of new NIS)</li></ul>
<b>2.2: <i>Environmental impact of invasive non-indigenous species</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Species specific management plans for high risk IAS identified as already present or likely to be introduced into the UK in place by 2020.</b></li></ul>  <p>Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs</p>

# Implications of the proposals

## ***Key implications of the proposals:***

- Proposed targets are in line with the GB Non Native Species Strategy.
- Additional measures likely to be needed to achieve the targets – focussed on those industries which facilitate the introduction and spread of NIS.
- More research being carried out on key pathways of NIS introduction and spread to support development of appropriate measures.
- Additional monitoring at key locations likely to be needed.

## ***Key links to other policies and measures:***

- Any measures relating to commercial shipping would need to be applied on an international basis through the International Maritime Organization – would not plan to take unilateral measures.
- EU currently planning potential legislation on NIS.

# How well coordinated are the UK proposals with those of other Member States?

- Ongoing coordination between Member States – establishment of a technical working group within OSPAR to develop common indicators across the NE Atlantic

Potential common indicators under discussion include:

Commission Criteria	Proposed targets
<b>2.1: <i>Abundance and state characterisation of non-indigenous species, in particular invasive species</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduction /prevention /translocation of new introductions by anthropogenic activities</li><li>• New introductions on NIS towards zero</li><li>• Reduction in the risk of introductions of NIS through improved management of the main pathways/ vectors</li></ul>



# CONSULTATION ON MSFD

# MSFD Consultation - What does it cover?

- Defra and DAs launching consultation on MSFD on 27<sup>th</sup> March, covering:
  - A draft initial assessment of the state of the UK's seas.
  - Proposals for characteristics of GES for the UK's seas – these are high-level, qualitative descriptions of what GES looks like for UK waters.
  - Proposals for more detailed GES targets and indicators, through which we will measure progress towards GES.

