

Main messages from the Initial Assessment and Targets for the Good Environmental Status

- Finland

Juha-Markku Leppänen

Marine Research Center
Finnish Environment Institute



MARMONI Seminar:

“Stakeholders as important actors in Marine Strategy
Framework Directive implementation: from decision makers to
general public”

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The Finnish Marine Strategy

- MSFD was transposed in the same act as the WFD
- Additional decree to designate responsible actors
- One Strategy covering the whole sea area of Finland
- Åland Island makes it own Marine Strategy
 - Geographical assessment units are used depending on the topic (mainly WPD unit in the coast, HELCOM sub-basin division in the open sea)
 - Geographic highlighting may be used in the POM
- Article 8, 9 and 10 Reports are ready
- Adoption by the Government is still pending
- Current work
 - Revision of the monitoring programmes are going on
 - Planning of the POM has started
- Organization
 - National Expert Group -> POM Group
 - Coordination Group



The Finnish Initial Assessment

- No new analysis were carried out for the 2012 Initial Assessment
- State classification was based on:
 - WFD ecological and chemical status (coast)
 - HD & BD conservation status of species and habitats
 - HELCOM Assessments of Eutrophication, hazardous substances, biodiversity, maritime activities & HOLAS report (pen sea)
 - ICES reports of commercial fish stocks



Major impacts

Main 'findings'

Differences in eutrophication classification between HELCOM and the national WFD classification

D1: Biodiversity		Several endangered species and habitats and ecosystem services
D2: Alien species		27 established species, 7 classified as harmful, 9 as locally or potentially harmful
D3: Commercial fish		Lack of knowledge? Herring and sprat + Cod - / + Salmon - / +
D4: Food webs		Marked structural changes
D5: Eutrophication		Bothnian Bay (Bothnian Sea) only eutrophied in some coastal areas
D6: Benthic integrity		Physical disturbances – only local O ₂ depletion problem in the Gulf of Finland
D7: Hydrography		Only very local problems
D8: Contaminants		TBT, dioxins, furans
D9: Contaminants in fish		Dioxins, PCB
D10: Noise		?
D11: Litter		?

Lack of knowledge

GES (Art. 9)

Finland used the "qualitative option" in determination of GES:
"How the ecosystem components will look like when the GES has been reached"

Criteria level description of GES

- D1, Biodiversity, Species distribution
 - *"Spatial distribution of species correspond to their natural distribution, their populations are thriving, and the water quality and the use of marine resources do not threaten the long-term survival of species, populations and communities"*
- D5, Eutropication, Nutrient levels
 - *"The anthropogenic inputs of nutrients and their concentrations are at levels causing neither direct nor indirect negative effects in the marine environment"*



Targets (Art. 10)

- **State targets** – related to state indicators
- **General targets** – basis for the POM
 - *Eutrophication* does not cause harmful effects
 - *Hazardous substances* do not harm the marine ecosystem or prevent human consumption of fish or game animals
 - *Conservation status* of all native species is favourable and their long-term sustainability is guaranteed
 - Improvement of *maritime safety* and minimising the environmental effects of shipping
 - Use of *marine resources* is sustainable
 - Promoting the use of *marine spatial planning*
- **Operational targets**
 - Mainly based on relevant *existing programmes of measures*



Targets (Art. 10)

Currently mainly state targets

Pressure targets will be set when the POM will be made

Quantitative or qualitative

D1, Biodiversity, Species distribution

1. Conservation status of the marine directive species is favourable
 2. The number of species and stocks classified as endangered by HELCOM is decreasing
 3. The natural distribution of seals is guaranteed and their conservation status is favourable and the amount of by-catch do not threaten the populations
- Indicators
 - Distribution of seals
 - Number of threatened population of marine species
 - Number of marine species at favourable conservation status
 - Macrozoobentos index

Targets (Art. 10)

- **D5, Eutrophication, Nutrient levels**

1. *Nutrient inputs* to the sea are decreased according to the RBMPs making possible achievement of good ecological status of the coastal waters and are lower than maximum allowable inputs in the HELCOM BSAP
2. *Concentrations of nutrients* in the coastal areas are lower than the boundary between good and moderate status according to the RBMPs and in the open sea according to what decided in HELCOM

- **Indicators**

- Annual *waterborne inputs* of phosphorus and nitrogen
- Annual *airborne inputs* of phosphorus and nitrogen
- Concentrations of phosphorus, nitrogen and silicate



Additional questions

1. What is the gap between the current state by descriptor and GES?
2. Reaching the target – what are consequences for sectors impacting the sea? Where measures would be needed to achieve GES/targets?
 - to be defined in the POM
3. What are costs related to degradation of the marine environment?
 - Not defined yet

D1: Biodiversity	Red
D2: Alien species	Red
D3: Commercial fish	Yellow
D4: Food webs	Red
D5: Eutrophication	Red
D6: Benthic integrity	Yellow
D7: Hydrography	Green
D8: Contaminants	Red
D9: Contaminants in fish	Red
D10: Noise	Grey
D11: Litter	Grey



Thank you