

# Marine Strategy Framework Directive



Cover design: EEA  
Cover photo: © EEA  
Layout: EEA

**Legal notice**

The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the official opinions of the European Commission or other institutions of the European Union. Neither the European Environment Agency nor any person or company acting on behalf of the Agency is responsible for the use that may be made of the information contained in this report.

**Copyright notice**

© European Environment Agency, 2017

Reproduction is authorised, provided the source is acknowledged, save where otherwise stated.

Information about the European Union is available on the Internet. It can be accessed through the Europa server ([www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu)).

**Electronic publication notice**

This report has been generated automatically by the EEA Web content management system on May 26, 2019 11:30 AM.

This report is available as a website at <https://water.europa.eu/marine/policy/marine-strategy-framework-directive>. Go online to get more interactive facts and figures.

On the report web page you may download the electronic publication (EPUB) for easy reading on your preferred eBook reader.

Please consider the environment before printing.

European Environment Agency  
Kongens Nytorv 6  
1050 Copenhagen K  
Denmark  
Tel.: + 45 33 36 71 00  
Fax: + 45 33 36 71 99  
Web: [eea.europa.eu](http://eea.europa.eu)  
Enquiries: [eea.europa.eu/enquiries](http://eea.europa.eu/enquiries)

# Marine Strategy Framework Directive

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (or Marine Directive) is the first encompassing piece of EU legislation specifically aimed at the protection of the marine environment and natural resources, creating a framework for the sustainable use of our marine waters. EU legislation to protect the marine environment has been progressively implemented in many relevant areas: for instance the regulation of fisheries through the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) or the control of input of nutrients and chemicals into the water through the Water Framework Directive (WFD). These pieces of legislation, although crucial complementary tools to the protection of marine waters, contribute to the protection of the sea only from specific pressures resulting in a fragmented and sectoral approach.

To tackle this issue, the European Union adopted two instruments, the 2002 EU Recommendation on Integrated Coastal Zone Management and the 2008 Marine Strategy Framework Directive, which offer a comprehensive and integrated approach to the protection of all European coasts and marine waters.

EU Marine Policy

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/eu-coast-and-marine-policy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/eu-coast-and-marine-policy/index_en.htm)

EU Marine Strategy

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/eu-coast-and-marine-policy/marine-strategy-framework-directive/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/eu-coast-and-marine-policy/marine-strategy-framework-directive/index_en.htm)