



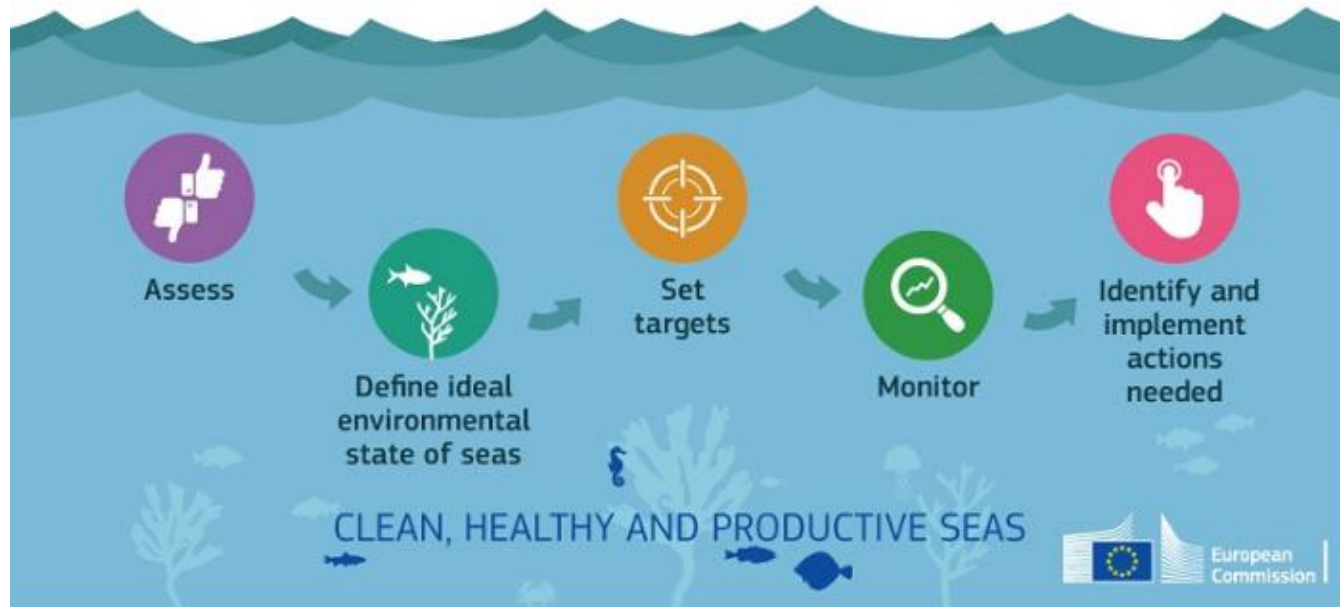
# **Technical assessment MSFD Monitoring programmes: Mediterranean regional report**

**CORMON Biodiversity meeting, 28/02-01/03/2017, Madrid**

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# Marine Strategy Framework Directive

How EU Member States develop marine strategies



# Monitoring programmes



Brussels, 16.1.2017  
COM(2017) 3 final

REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND  
THE COUNCIL

assessing Member States' monitoring programmes under the Marine Strategy  
Framework Directive

{SWD(2017) 1 final}

EN

EN



Member States were required to establish and implement monitoring programmes by July 2014 and to notify them to the Commission

On 16 January 2017, the Commission adopted a report assessing monitoring programmes submitted by most MS in 2014 and 2015 to verify compliance with the Directive

# Regional coherence

Member States' monitoring programmes were also assessed in terms of their regional coherence, within the regions defined in Article 4 of the Directive

The assessment revealed a moderate to high degree of coherence within the Member States of the Black Sea, North-East Atlantic Ocean and Baltic Sea regions respectively and a low to moderate degree in the Mediterranean Sea region

\*Greece, Malta and UK (for Gibraltar) had not reported at the time of the assessment, and are not included in the regional report published



# Methodology

## **Coherence assessment:**

- Compares the content of the Member States' reporting
- Does not examine the adequacy of the monitoring programmes in relation to GES and targets
- Focuses on the comparability of the elements monitored and the way they are monitored

In particular, comparability of:

- ✓ Elements monitored (e.g. species, habitats, substances, hydrographical characteristics, types of litter/noise, etc.)
- ✓ Parameters monitored (e.g. abundance, distribution, concentrations, number of items, etc.)
- ✓ Spatial scope of the monitoring (e.g. only on the coast, in defined geographical areas, etc.)
- ✓ Temporal frequency of the monitoring (e.g. yearly, 3-monthly, etc.)

Coordination among Member States of the same region and with the relevant Regional Sea Convention



# Coverage over time - GES

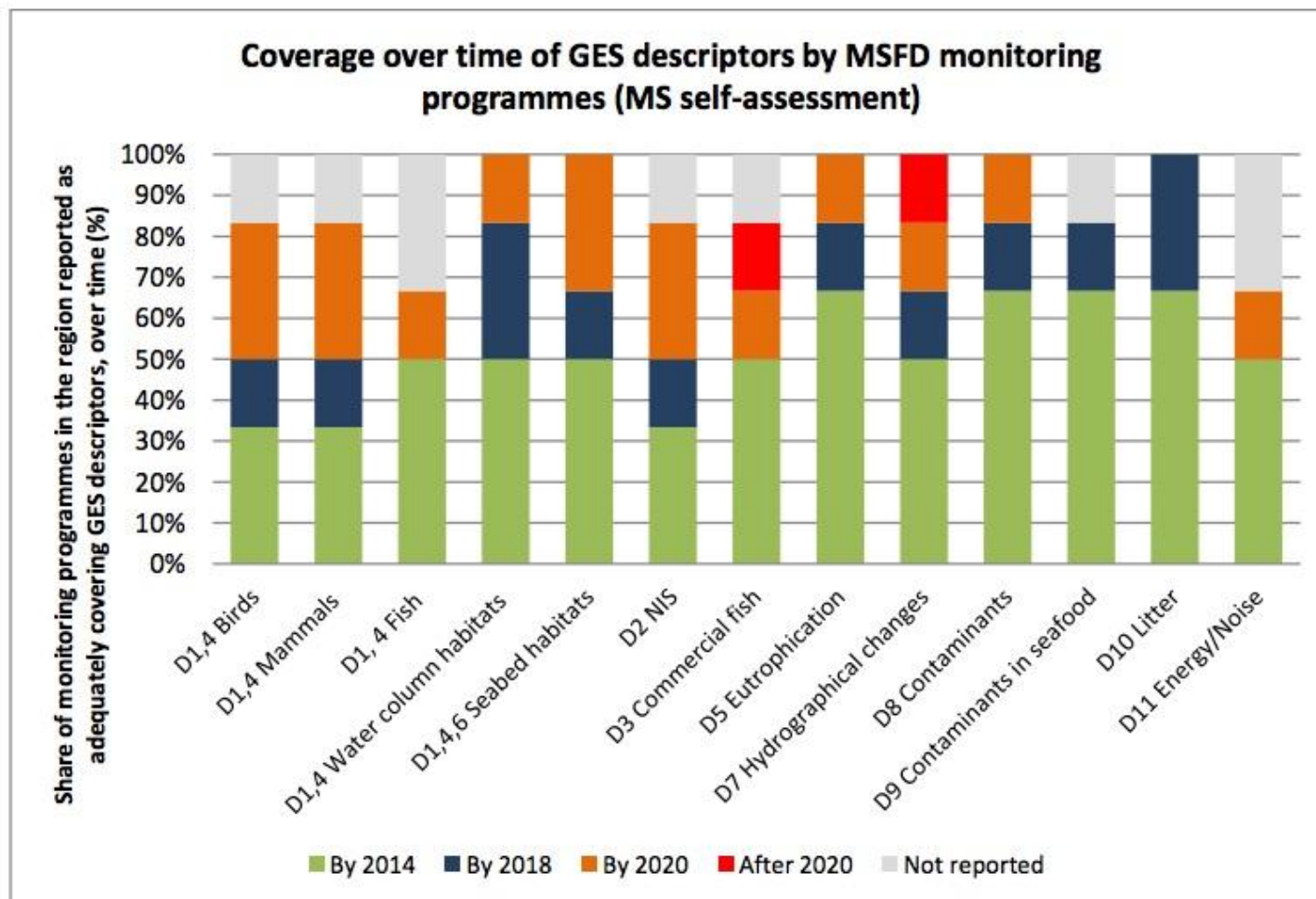


Figure 2 Coverage of GES descriptors by the monitoring programmes over time in the Mediterranean marine region



# Coverage over time - Targets

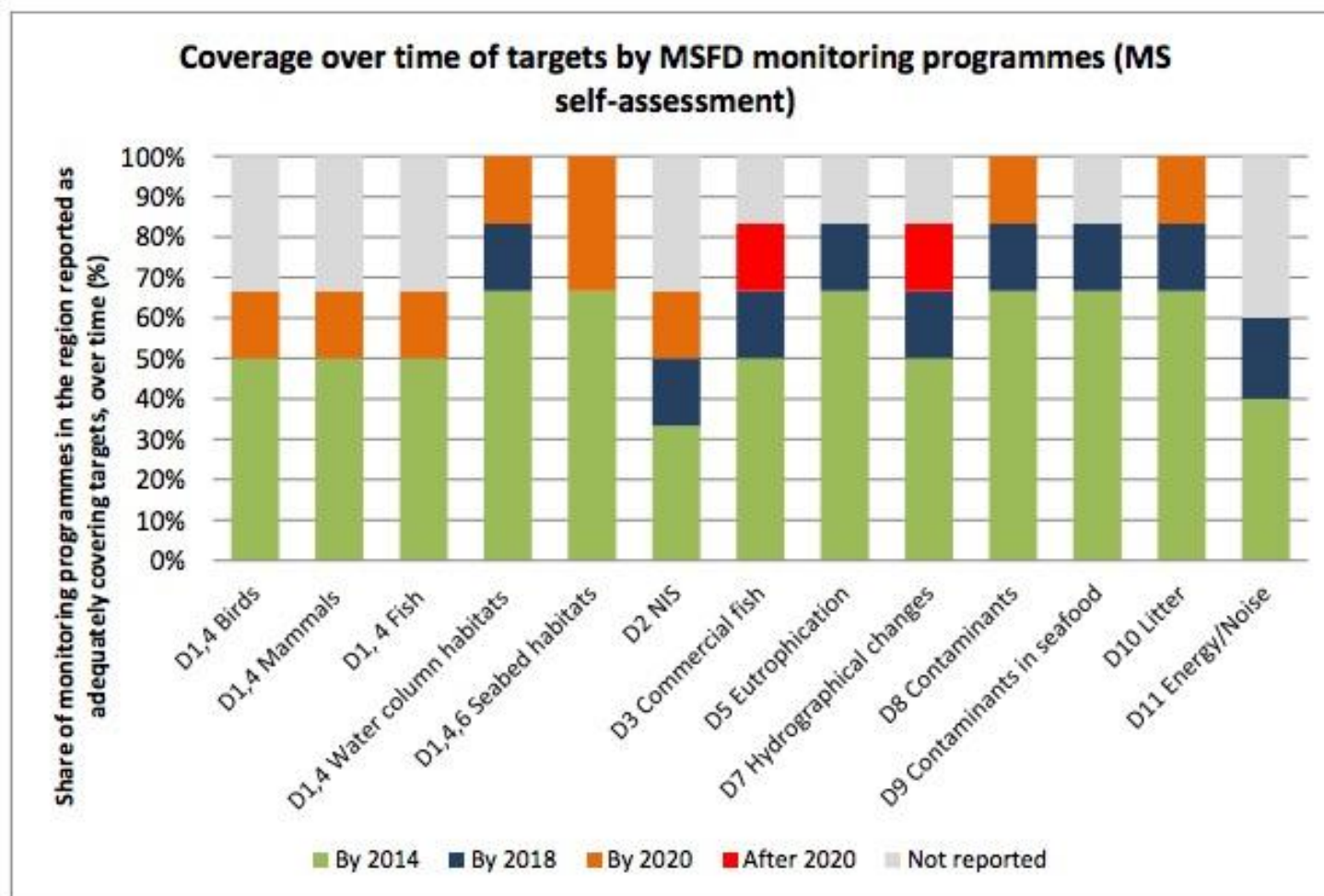


Figure 3 Coverage of targets by monitoring programmes over time in the Mediterranean marine region



# Spatial scope of monitoring

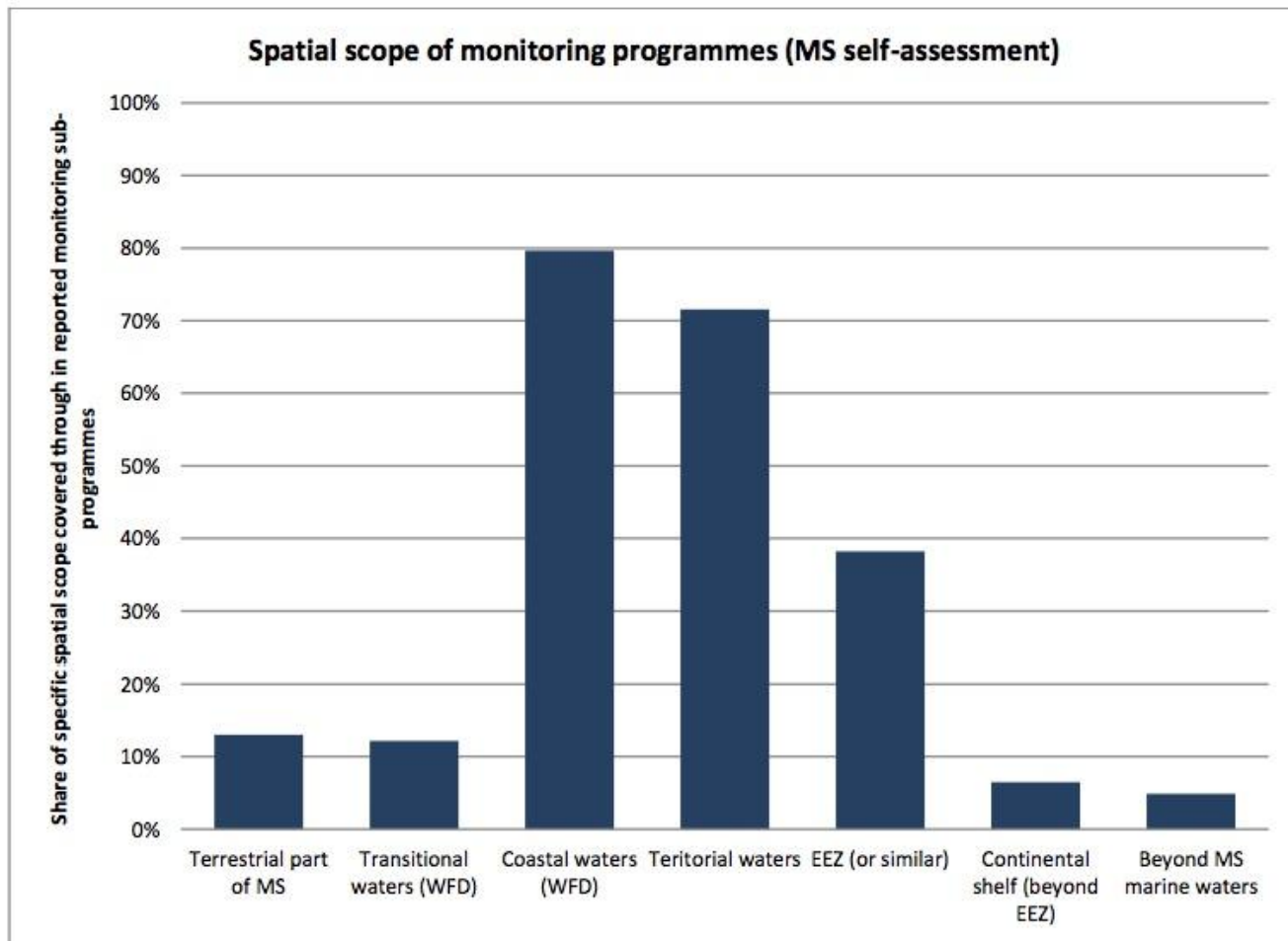
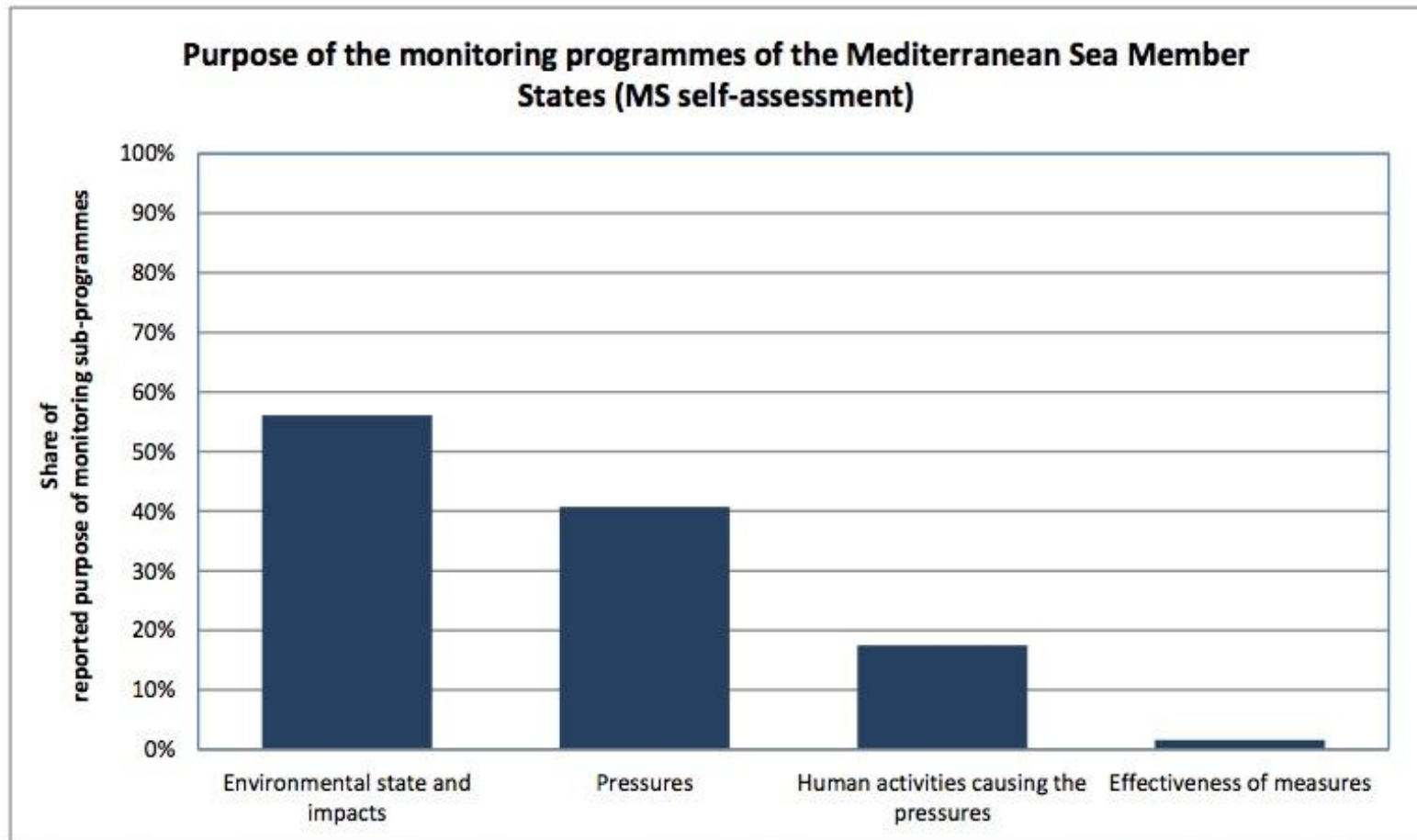


Figure 4 Spatial scope of the Mediterranean marine region monitoring sub-programmes

# Purpose of monitoring



**Figure 5 Purpose of the monitoring sub-programmes of the Mediterranean marine region Member States (MS self-assessment)**

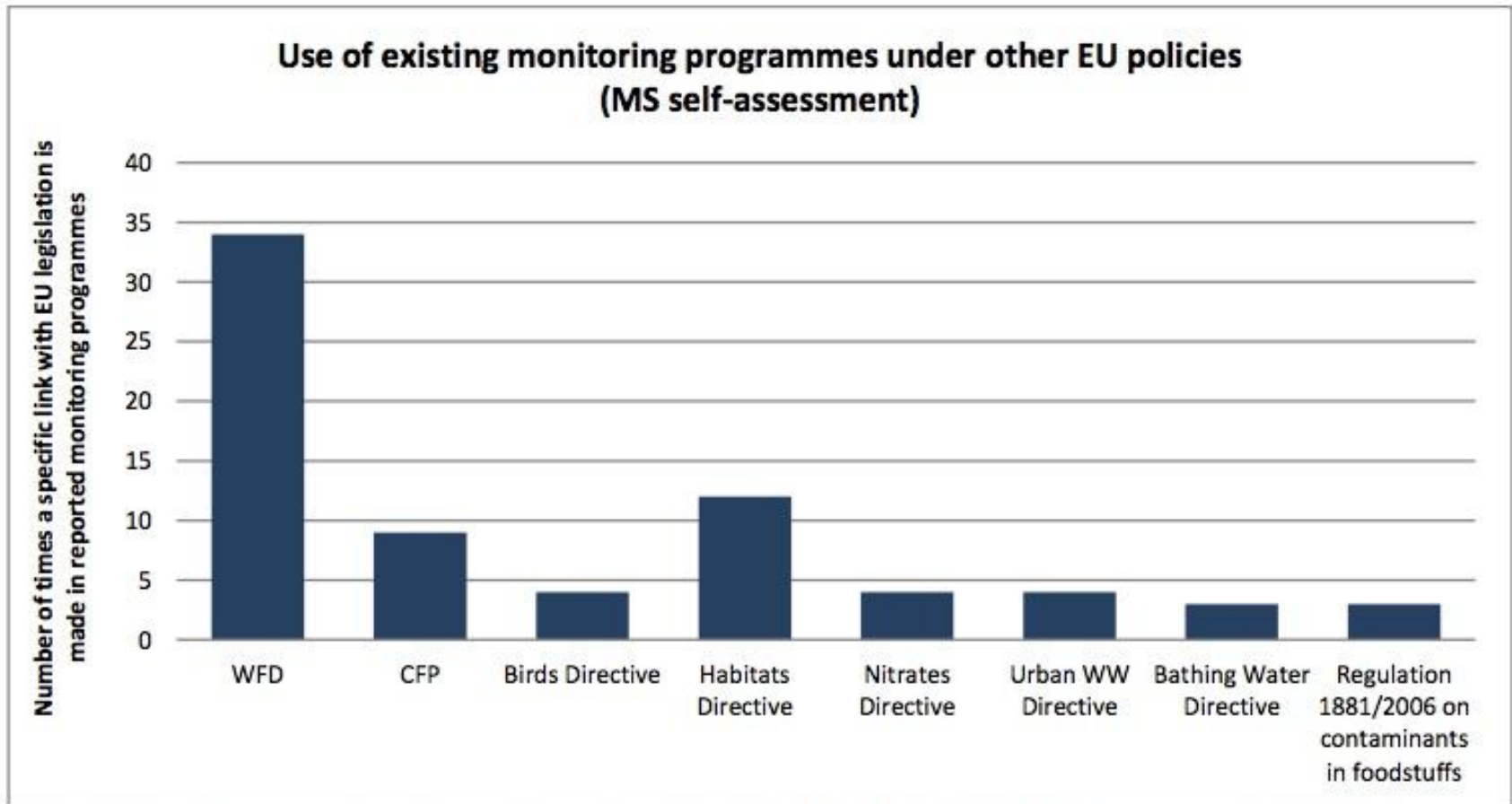
# Coverage of activities and measures



## Not covered:

- extraction of living resources (seaweed and other sea-based food harvesting;
- extraction of genetic resources/bioprospecting/maerl),
- defence activities, and
- dumping of unwanted munitions

# Links to other monitoring programmes

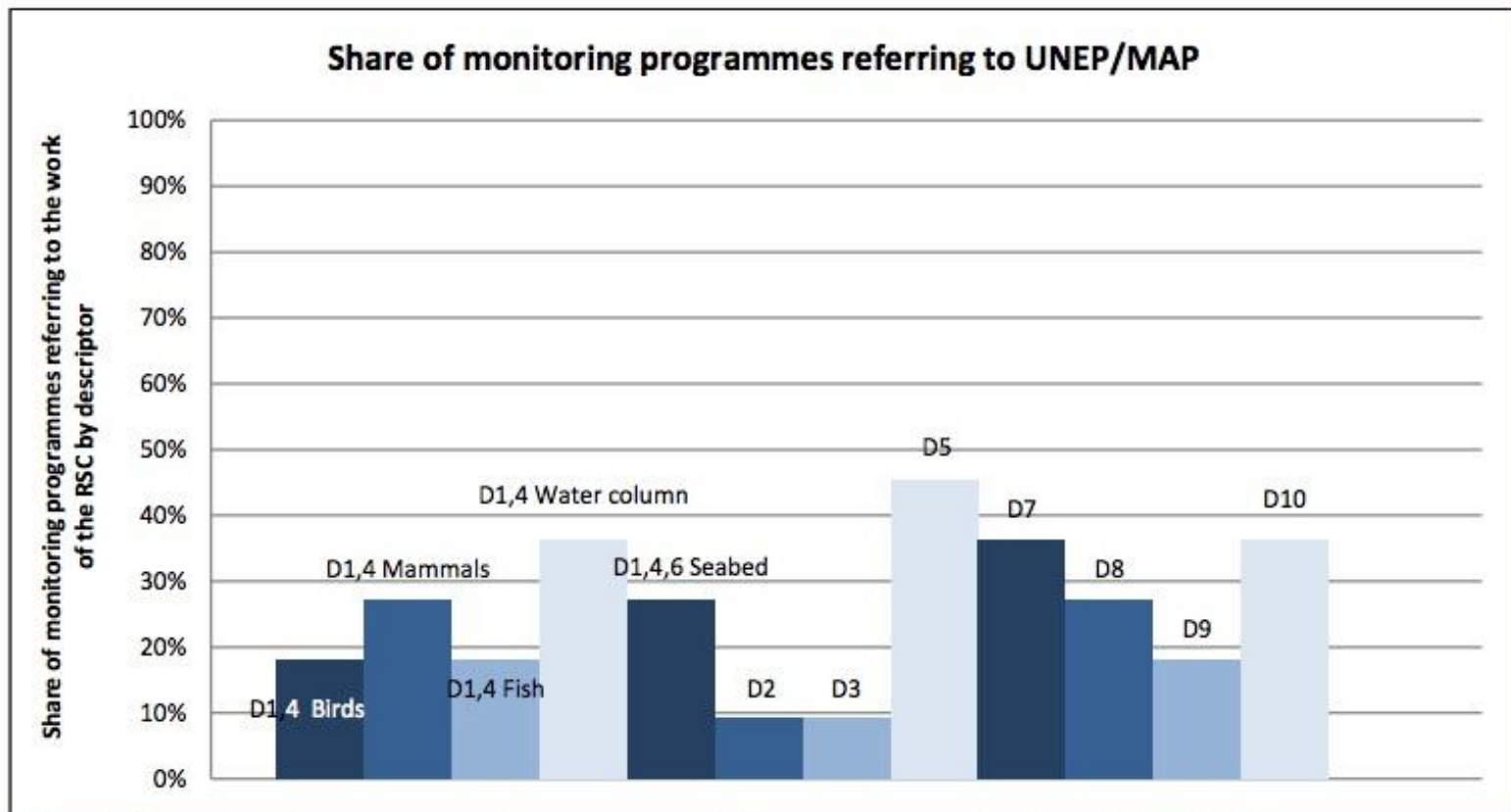


**Figure 8 Use of existing monitoring programmes under other EU policies in the Mediterranean Member States' MSFD monitoring programmes**

## Reference to UNEP/MAP

- Overall, all Mediterranean Member States make references to standards agreed in the framework of their Regional Sea Convention, UNEP/MAP for the MSFD monitoring programmes
- There is no single descriptor where all six of the Member States make links with UNEP/MAP
- In addition, some Member States also refer to additional RSC's in the context of some descriptors or to GFCM
- References to UNEP/MAP monitoring are not prominent in all descriptors
- Links with the RSC are especially low in D2 and D3 and totally absent in the case of D11
- The descriptor to which UNEP/MAP is linked the most is D5, followed by D10 and D1, 4 – Water column habitats

# Reference to UNEP/MAP



**Figure 9 Share of Mediterranean marine region monitoring programmes referring to UNEP/MAP**

# Summary of coherence assessment

Descriptor	Coherence assessment	Justification
D1, 4 Birds	Medium	<p>Similar species monitored for birds for half of the countries</p> <p>Core set of parameters monitored by most countries; only 2 countries cover pressures</p> <p>Monitoring at least yearly in all countries</p> <p>All countries refer to Birds Directive, two refer to UNEP/MAP, two refer to international bird surveys</p>
D1, 4 Mammals & reptiles	Medium	<p>Some species covered by all or most of the countries</p> <p>Common core set of parameters</p> <p>Coastal and territorial waters covered by all countries</p> <p>Two MS monitoring beyond their marine waters</p>
D1, 4 Fish & cephalopods	High	<p>Based on CFP for commercial fish species (same parameters, spatial &amp; temporal scope)</p> <p>Limited details provided on the monitoring of non-commercial species</p>
D1, 4 Water column habitats	Medium	<p>Two types of habitats monitored by a majority of MS (zooplankton &amp; phytoplankton)</p> <p>Only two countries looking at abiotic conditions</p> <p>Coastal and territorial waters covered by all countries; Varied temporal scope</p> <p>Differences in extensiveness of programmes</p>
D1, 4, 6 Seabed habitats	Medium	<p>Seabed monitoring based mostly on WFD and HD but different typologies used, making comparison difficult</p> <p>Two types of habitats/communities monitored by all MS</p> <p>Core set of parameters monitored by all MS; only 3 MS monitor pressures (fisheries)</p> <p>Monitoring mostly in coastal waters, more limited offshore</p> <p>Varied temporal scopes</p>



# Summary of coherence assessment

D2	Low	<p>No details provided on specific species monitored, comparison difficult</p> <p>Core set of parameters monitored but no details on how monitoring will take place</p> <p>Less than half of the MS will cover offshore waters</p> <p>Temporal frequencies are species-dependent</p> <p>Most MS link to UNEP/MAP and half also to WFD</p>
D3	High	<p>Monitoring based on DCF and MEDITS for all MS</p> <p>Several MS make use of MEDIAS</p> <p>Some MS have incorporated national programmes</p> <p>Similar spatial and temporal scopes</p> <p>Three countries monitoring recreational fisheries</p>
D5	Medium	<p>Two types of elements monitored by all countries and another three monitored by most MS have different approaches to eutrophication-monitoring</p> <p>Not all MS provide information on spatial scope, but most cover coastal waters</p> <p>Temporal frequencies are element-dependent and vary</p> <p>Half of the MS link to UNEP/MAP and WFD, and more than half to the UWWT Directive</p>
D7	Medium	<p>Core set of physical features monitored by most MS</p> <p>Similar types of pressures monitored for large-scale events</p> <p>Coherence higher for monitoring large-scale than small-scale events</p> <p>Only three MS refer to the use of EIAs for the monitoring of small-scale events</p> <p>More than half of the MS link to UNEP/MAP</p>

# Summary of coherence assessment

D8	Medium	<p>Core set of substances monitored in water and biota – not many MS report monitoring in sediment</p> <p>Only three countries to monitor biological effects but all but one monitor acute pollution events</p> <p>Similar spatial scopes; half of the MS report monitoring beyond their marine waters</p> <p>Diverging temporal frequencies</p> <p>Three MS follow OSPAR guidelines in the Mediterranean region, all MS link to WFD monitoring</p>
D9	High	<p>Core set of substances from Regulation 1881/2006 monitored in biota</p> <p>All MS report to be sampling on commercially important species but only one MS reports specific species used</p> <p>Almost no reporting on traceability</p> <p>Limited information reported on spatial and temporal scopes but fairly consistent</p> <p>All MS link to Regulation 1881/2006, only two link to UNEP/MAP</p>
D10	High	<p>A core set of elements monitored by the majority of MS (beach and seafloor litter)</p> <p>Half of the MS monitor impacts on biota and litter in the water column</p> <p>Lack of information on spatial scopes but monitoring effort focused on coastlines</p> <p>All MS refer to UNEP/MAP approach</p>
D11	Medium	<p>Lack of information reported by most MS in the region, making comparison difficult</p> <p>Majority of MS monitor impulsive/acute noise but lack of reporting on the parameters used</p> <p>Half of MS monitor continuous and ambient noise</p> <p>Similar spatial scope but diverging temporal frequencies</p> <p>Majority of MS link to MSFD Technical Subgroup guidelines</p>

# Conclusions

- ❖ Member States have generally referred to regional coordination in their monitoring programmes, in particular by using indicators and standards agreed by the Regional Sea Conventions to assess environmental status under the MSFD.
- ❖ The assessment revealed a moderate to high degree of coherence within the Member States of the Black Sea, North-East Atlantic Ocean and Baltic Sea regions respectively and a low to moderate degree in the Mediterranean Sea region.
- ❖ Member States in the Mediterranean Sea region need to develop more consistent monitoring through regional efforts for a number of descriptors, such as in the case of non-indigenous species (Descriptor 2) and underwater noise (Descriptor 11).

# **Thank you for your attention**

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