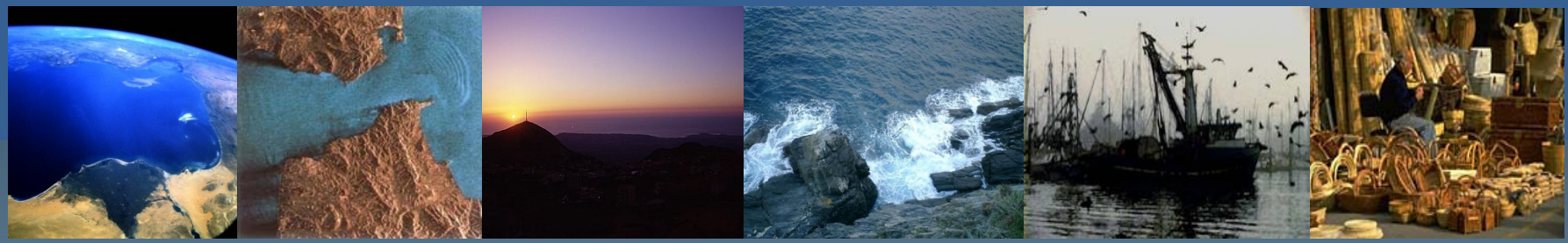
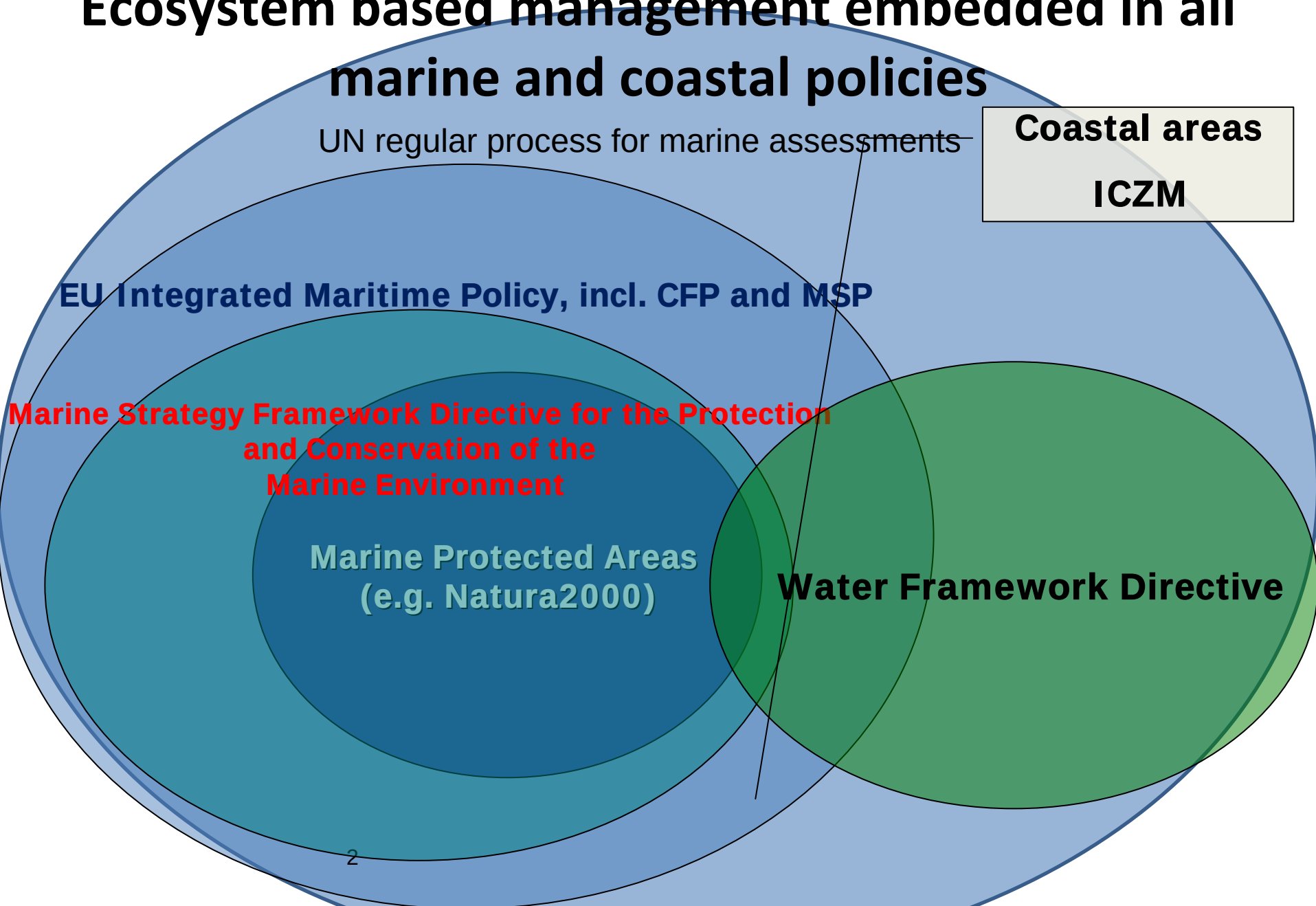


Marine and Coastal Environment

Trine Christiansen (EEA)

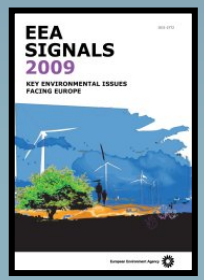
European Environment Agency

Ecosystem based management embedded in all marine and coastal policies



EEA Marine Assessments

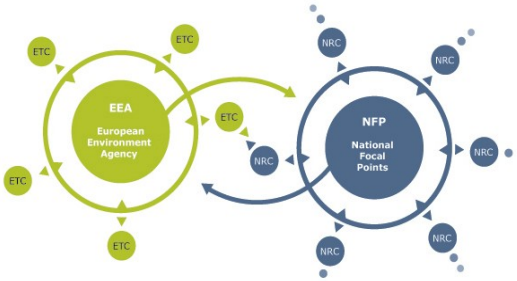
- Climate Change Impacts (2008, 2012)
- Signals (2009)
- Quality of Bathing Water (2008, 2009, 2010)
- State of the Environment (2010)
- State of Water (2012)
- State of Coasts (2012)
- Others: 10 messages on biodiversity (2010)



European Environment Agency

32 Member Countries
300 National agencies
900 Experts

EEA main tasks & tools

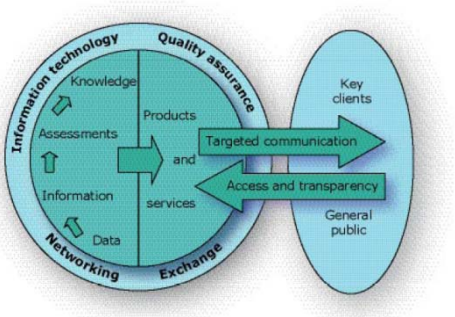


- **Networking** ➔ Development of a European Environmental Information and Observation Network (**EIONET**) and management of European Topic Centers (**ETCs**)

  www.eionet.europa.eu

- **Reporting** on the state and trends of Europe's environment ➔ E.g. tools:

  www.eionet.europa.eu/reportnet.html



- Providing **access to environmental information** ➔ **Information Systems**

  http://dataservice.eea.europa.eu/

GMES User Forum consultation process for user needs

- The User Forum will rely on extensive consultation structures to define user needs and service requirements for GMES services
- Consultation processes shall be set up at two levels: National and European
  - At National level, better networking between different user communities
  - At European level, the Commission will seek to to build consultation processes with stakeholders using existing links or networks, supported by co-ordinators such as the EEA

- The EEA could implement a consultation process building on EIONET networks
  - National Focal Points (NFP's)
  - National Reference Centre's (NRC's)

Consultation process with Eionet GMES marine example

- In January 2012 the EEA provided an opinion to NFP‘s and NRC‘s for the marine and coastal environment on the need for a more comprehensive user requirement definition process with Member States for the GMES marine service
- Invited the NFP WG GMES to come to the UF preparatory workshop for the marine service
- Invited the NRC‘s (marine and coastal) to participate in an on-line survey prepared by GISC to
  - Give an indication of their current and expected future use of the GMES marine service
  - Assess their willingness to be involved in the user requirements definition for the GMES marine service

Survey results

- Responses received from 8 countries/organisations: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Norway
- 4 out of 8 are registered users of the GMES marine service MyOcean
- While MyOcean products are not being used extensively by respondents now, the survey results indicate a stronger interest in the potential use of future GMES marine service to support information needs for marine environmental monitoring
- 7 out of 8 countries willing to participate in a consultation of user needs for GMES marine services. Why?
  - Finland: 'Would like to be more aware of the variety of MyOcean services and their quality'
  - Poland: 'As oceanographic information providers we support initiatives leading to sustainable use of any information resources'

Survey results

- Austria
  - ‘a better harmonization of freshwater and marine monitoring systems could be useful to compare/exchange expertise and gain knowledge on methods and issues related to spatio-temporal programmes and data interpretation’
- Norway
  - Not willing to participate as their data requirements are already met by national institutes. However they acknowledge that there may be other organisations in Norway that are users of the GMES marine service.

- General comment (Poland)
  - In our opinion, the information produced by MyOcean is for general information/public oriented rather than for national services acting in accordance with national regulations

Preliminary results of Eionet consultation

- The results of the survey reinforce the EEA opinion that
  - national public bodies with responsibilities for marine environmental reporting must be better engaged in the user requirements definition process for the GMES marine service
  - their information needs must be captured by a more detailed and comprehensive requirements definition process than done previously

- The EEA suggests to the User Forum to
  - Put in place a wider process to better define user needs, in sufficent detail, at Member State, regional and European level for marine environmental reporting as required by MSFD
  - A short term objective of the Forum is to agree on a precise mechanism for such a process, linked to the definition and implementation phases of the MSFD
  - Ensure an independent validation of the user needs definition process and the adequacy of the services provided