



Marine Strategy Framework Directive:

implementation process at EU level

Gert Verreet – submitted to EMECO meeting - June 2009



Marine Strategies - Implementation milestones



Preparatory phase: the EU Member States must progressively develop Marine Strategies in several steps.

By 15 July 2012:

- **Description and assessment of current environmental status, including the environmental impact of human activities**
- **Determination of good environmental status**
- **Establishment of environmental targets and associated indicators**

By 15 July 2014:

- **Monitoring programme**



Marine Strategies - Implementation milestones



Marine Strategies will culminate with:

- Programme of measures towards good environmental status – by 2015
- Achieve Good Environmental Status – by 2020

Some key concepts:

- Regional approach, specific to each sea basin
- Building upon existing activities developed in the framework of regional seas conventions
- Adaptive management, with regular review (every 6 years)
- Art. 19 specific provisions on data access



Ecosystem approach



- Marine Strategies shall apply an ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities:
 - ensuring that the collective pressure of such activities is kept within levels compatible with the achievement of good environmental status
 - and that the capacity of marine ecosystems to respond to human-induced changes is not compromised,
 - while enabling the sustainable use of marine goods and services by present and future generations.
- Integration of environmental concerns into the different policies which have an impact on the marine environment
- Multiple pressures from multiple activities -> consideration of the system as a whole



Work at different levels, with strong emphasis on co-operation in « Regions »



Strategy elements	Art. 8	Art. 9	Art. 10	Art. 11	Art. 13
	Initial Assessment	Determining 'good environmental status'	Setting environmental targets and indicators	Monitoring Programme	Programme of Measures
National level	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Regional level	XX	XX	X ?	XX	X ?
EU-wide	X: 'social and economic' aspects	XX: common criteria and methods	X ?	-	X ?
XX: common reporting (data, information and knowledge sharing across countries and regions)					



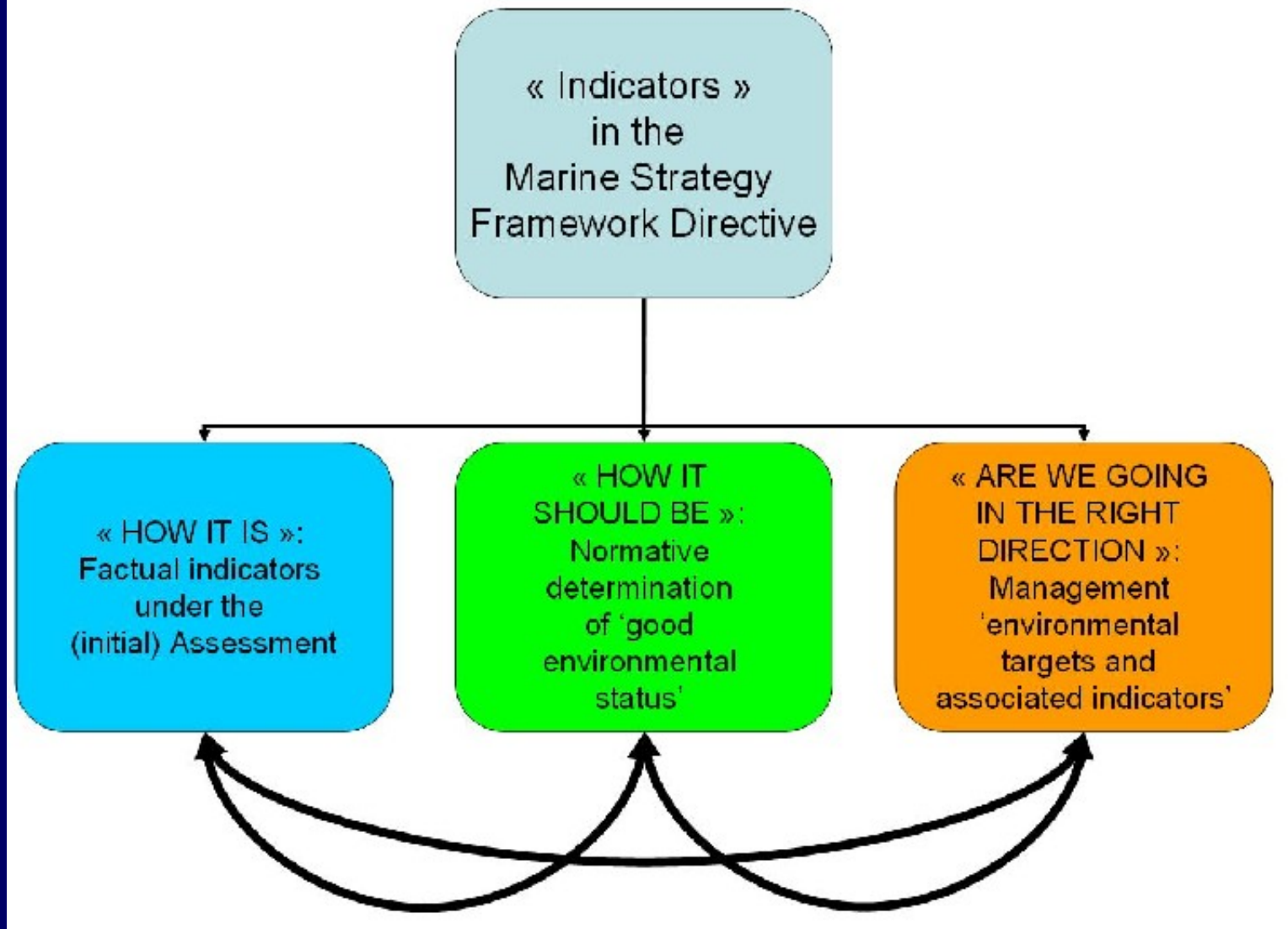
Big needs for information support, e.g.:



- The 'initial assessment' needs all up-to-date information on state, pressures, impacts.
- The assessments will have a regional component (regional seas) + more detailed zoom on national issues.
- Other information need to inform marine strategies at national, (sub-) regional, regional and EU-level, including setting up the most cost-effective measures.



Art. 8, 9, 10 MSFD





How it should be: ongoing work on descriptors of GES



JRC and ICES work for the EC to provide scientific and technical basis for criteria and methodological standards for the Good Environmental Status (GES) descriptors:

- 1- biodiversity JRC
- 2 - non-indigenous species JRC
- 3 - fish populations JRC and ICES (co-lead)
- 4 - food web ICES
- 5 - eutrophication JRC
- 6 - sea-floor ICES
- 8 – contaminants (vs. effects) JRC
- 9 - contaminants (vs. food standards) DG Health and Consumers (DG SANCO)
- 11 - energy (noise) ICES

Not yet covered

- 7 - hydrographics
- 10 – litter [an arrangement is under development with Member States]



Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS)



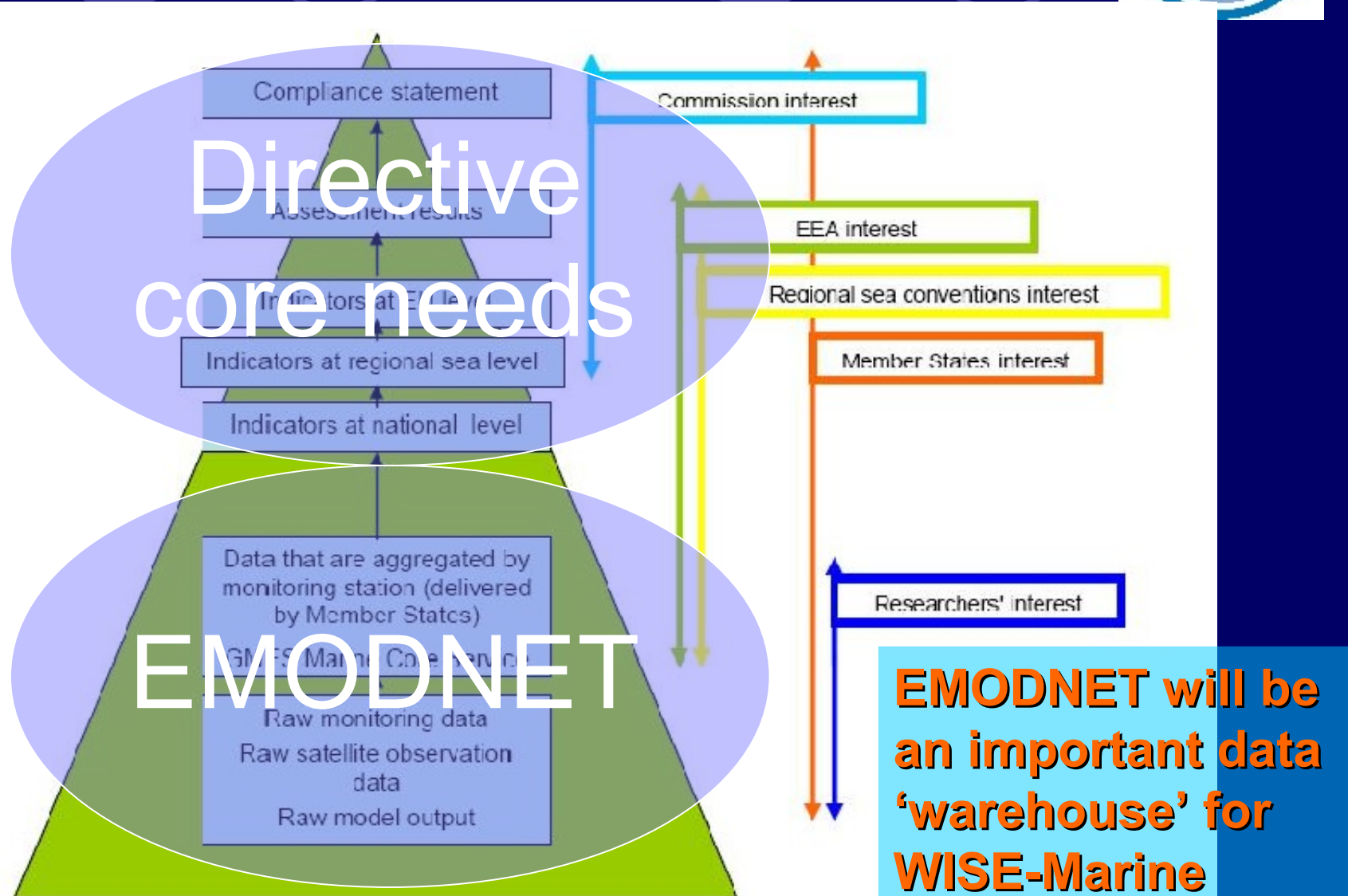
The Water Information System for Europe, WISE (left), online since 2007, is a thematic area of SEIS. It is a platform for data and information sharing for all EU water legislation.

The Commission intends to extend WISE to cover the marine Directive needs (hence: WISE-Marine).





Simplified data-to-info pyramid for WISE-Marine





Marine Directors

Maritime policy: experts, focal points

... Other relevant groups e.g. Nature Directors

Marine Strategy Coordination Group
MS, neighbouring countries relevant international organisations, stakeholders

Committee: MS only

Working group on good environmental status

Working group on ... information ... exchange

COM MS RSC, ...

Input to WG



INITIAL STRUCTURE (2009-2010)



« Environmental pillar »



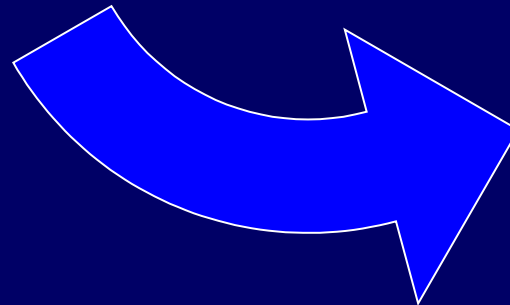
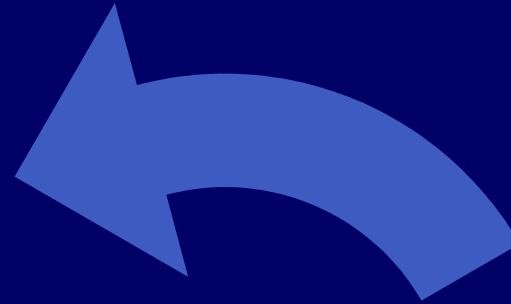
Enhanced data & information basis

Enhanced research basis

Maritime sector development & innovation, including sustainability (e.g. shipping, renewable energy)

Maritime Policy

Marine Strategy Framework Directive



Marine Strategy Framework Directive

achieving good environmental status
for all European marine waters

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/marine/index_en.htm



Thank you
for your attention