

Maritime facts and figures



European Commission

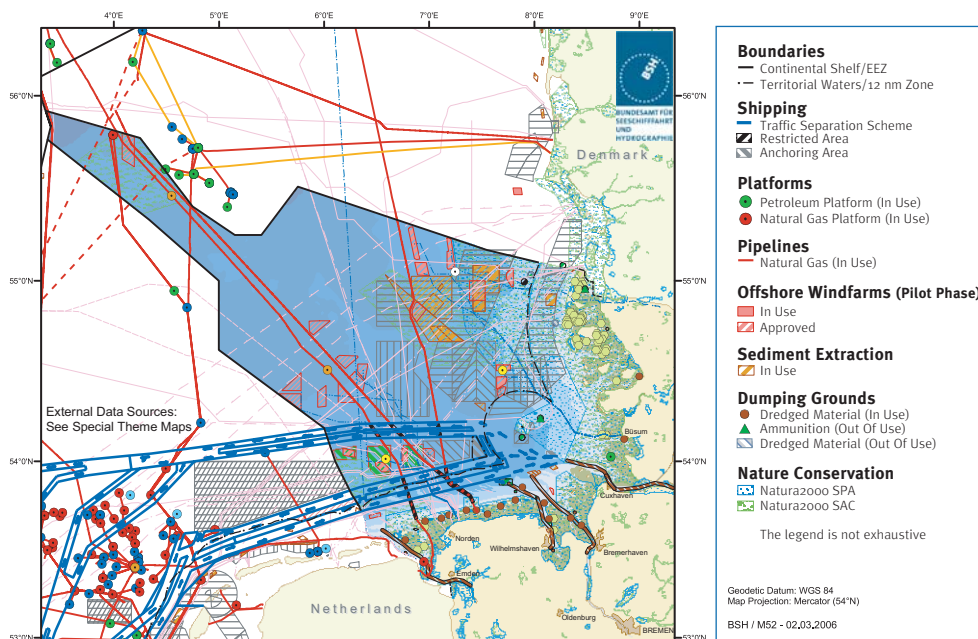


<http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs>

WHY LOOK AT THE OCEANS IN AN INTEGRATED MANNER?

So far, EU policies on maritime transport, industry, coastal regions, offshore energy, fisheries, the marine environment and other relevant areas have been developed separately. Of course, there has been an effort to ensure their impact on each other was taken into account. But no one was looking at the broader links between them. No one was examining in a systematic manner how these policies could be combined to reinforce each other. And yet, activities on oceans and seas are increasing so much that the conflicting uses of the oceans are becoming more difficult to manage as can be seen below:

North Sea: Existing and Prospective Uses and Nature Conservation



With permission from the *Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie*.

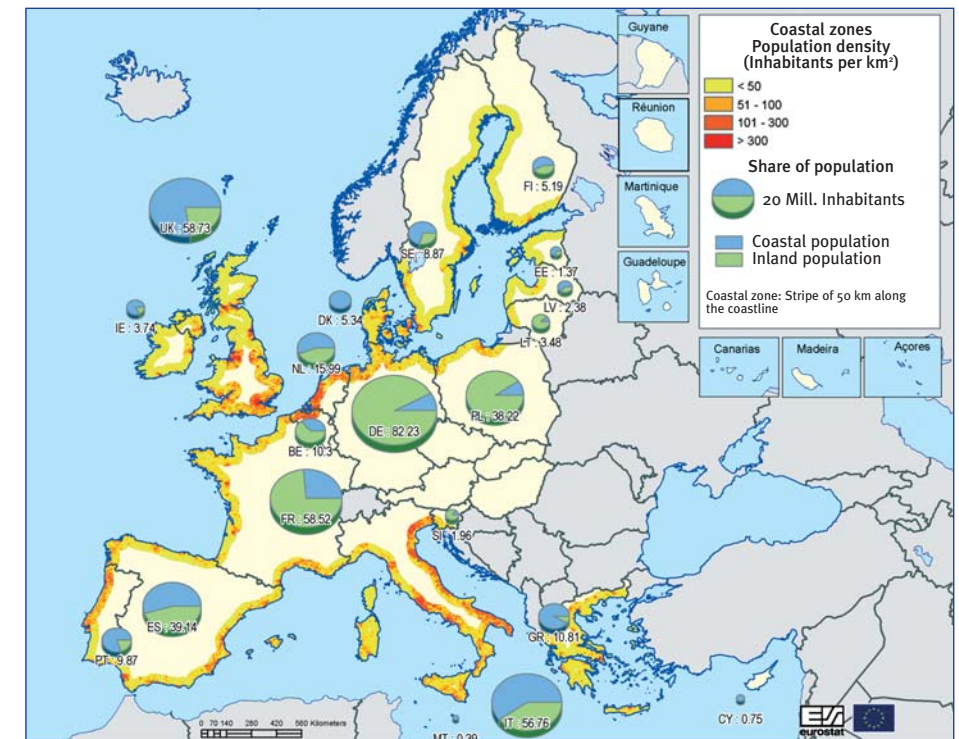
It is now time to bring all these elements together and forge a new vision for the management of our relations with the oceans. The Green Paper examines how this can be done in order to provide the best possible framework to forge this vision.

GEOGRAPHY AND POPULATION

From the earliest times, the oceans and seas have played a leading role in the development of European culture, economy, identity and history.

Did you know?

- The continent of Europe is surrounded by four seas: the Mediterranean, the Baltic, the North Sea and the Black Sea; and by two oceans: the Atlantic and the Arctic.
- Europe's Outermost Regions result in areas of Europe also being surrounded by the Caribbean Sea and the Indian Ocean.
- The maritime surface areas under the jurisdiction of the Member States are larger than the total land area of the European Union.
- The European Union has a coastline of 68 000 km – that is over 3 times longer than that of the US and almost 2 times that of Russia.
- No European resident lives more than 700 km away from the coast.
- Almost half of the Union's population lives less than 50 km from the sea, although the population is concentrated in urban areas along the coast.



Statistical data: Eurostat — Database: REGIO
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Cartography: Eurostat — GISCO

COASTAL REGIONS

As coastal regions become more attractive, increased attention will need to be paid to the attendant risks such as pollution, floods and coastal erosion and how they may be avoided. A preventative approach and innovative planning are required.

Did you know?

- Maritime Regions account for over 40 % of Europe's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- Europe has an estimated 8-10 million anglers fishing for sport or pleasure at sea with a related industry of 8-10 billion Euros.



- The sea is Europe's most popular holiday destination: among European holiday makers, 63 % choose the sea as their holiday destination.
- Europe has clean beaches: of the 14 000 coastal bathing areas monitored by the EU, 96.7 % comply with the mandatory values set out in the European Directive on bathing water.
- There are an estimated 3 000 coastal marinas in the EU with an associated 1 000 000 berths.
- EU public expenditure dedicated to coastline protection against the risk of erosion and flooding will average €5.4 billion a year for the period 1990-2020.

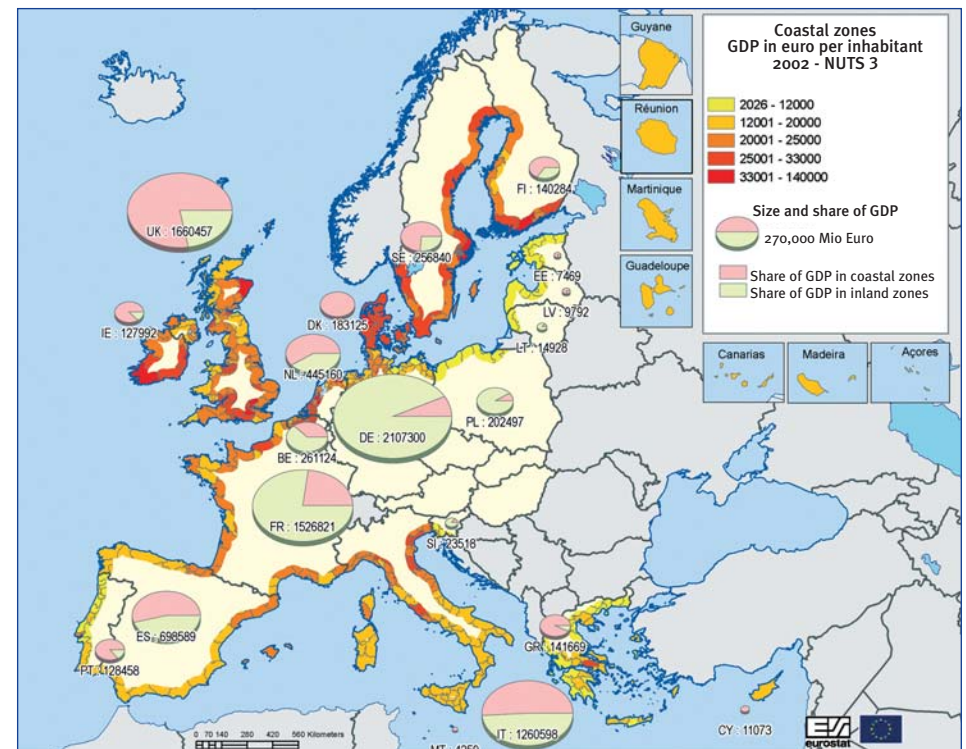


THE MARITIME ECONOMY

Given its export-based economy, the increase in global and regional trade volumes and its geographical circumstances, the EU has a vital interest in the competitiveness of shipping, shipbuilding, marine equipment and port industries.

Did you know?

- Between 3 and 5 % of Europe's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is estimated to be generated from sea-related industries and services, without including the value of raw materials, such as oil, fish or gas.
- Almost 90 % of the EU's external trade and over 40 % of its internal trade are transported by sea.
- 3.5 billion tonnes of cargo per year and 350 million passengers pass through the 1 200 European seaports.
- Europe's leadership in shipping is beyond any doubt with 40 % of the world fleet.
- Aquaculture accounts for 19 % of the Union's total fisheries production. By 2030, aquaculture will provide more than half of the fish consumed worldwide.



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One estimate of turnover of maritime sectors excluding tourism is the following:

2004	World value in € Mio	European value in € Mio	European value in percentage of the world value
Shipping & Transport	342 743	151 137	44.1%
Marine Tourism Activities	168 189	71 812	42.7%
Offshore Oil & Gas	91 146	19 112	20.9%
Fish/Seafood Processing	79 859	8 241	10.3%
Marine Equipment	72 871	16 675	22.9%
Fishing	55 983	4 758	8.5%
Shipbuilding	37 746	13 143	34.8%
Ports	25 017	10 478	41.9%
Marine Aquaculture	23 876	3 483	14.6%
Cruise Industry	12 000	2 365	19.7%
Research & Development	10 629	3 273	30.8%
Seaweed	5 988	n/a*	n/a
Marine Commerce	6 840	2 736	40.0%
Marine IT	3 570	1 382	38.7%
Minerals & Aggregates	2 741	1 344	49.0%
Renewable Energy	128	121	94.5%
Marine Biotechnology	2 190	n/a	n/a
Submarine Telecoms	1 126	185	16.4%
Ocean Survey	2 013	538	26.7%
Education & Training	1 537	n/a	n/a

*n/a: non applicable.

Source: Marine Industries Global Market Analysis. Irish Marine Institute, 2005.

GOVERNANCE

The current fragmentation into sectoral policies makes it difficult to reconcile competing uses of the oceans and seas and to define priorities. This can result in the adoption of conflicting measures, which in turn have negative consequences on the marine environment, may impose disproportionate constraints on competing maritime activities, or may limit the benefits which could be drawn from new activities.

Did you know?

- Within the United Nations system, there are 12 Organisations involved in maritime policy making.
- The European Community and its Member States are parties to more than 100 multilateral agreements relating to Maritime Affairs.
- 7 Commissioners from the European Commission responsible for different policy areas direct a common Task Force to look at the oceans and seas in an integrated fashion.



From left: Commissioner for the Environment Stavros Dimas, Commissioner for Science and Research Janez Potočnik, Commissioner for Transport Jacques Barrot, Commissioner for Regional Policy Danuta Hübner, Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs Joe Borg, Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry Günter Verheugen, Commissioner for Energy Andris Piebalgs.

- At the European level, there are 6 agencies dealing with matters related to the seas; FRONTEX (the European agency for the management of operational cooperation at the external borders of the Member States), European Defence Agency, European Space Agency, European Maritime Safety Agency, Community Fisheries Control Agency, and the European Environment Agency.
- There are many examples of bilateral cooperation between individual Member States.
- The responsibilities for different maritime activities on coastal waters are attributed and coordinated differently within Member State governments.

THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

The preservation of the marine environment is key to improving the EU's competitiveness, long-term growth and employment and it is important for life on earth.

Did you know?

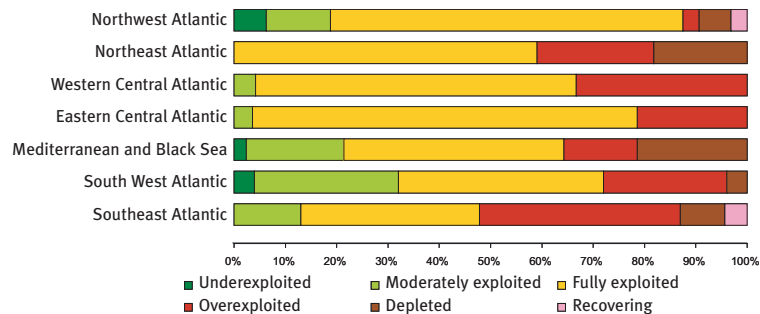
- Over 70 % of the Earth's surface is covered in water, with an estimated volume of around 1 360 000 000 cubic kilometres. Over 97 % of all water is found in oceans.
- As a result of global climate change, mean sea level will rise between 9 cm and 88 cm by 2100 as compared to 2000.
- Half of Europe's wetlands are expected to disappear by 2020.



“The Zwin, Knokke-Heist, Belgium (photo by Kris Struyf).”

- The beaches of the Amana reserve in the French Guiana are home to half the world's leatherback turtles.
- On the basis of the latest scientific assessments made by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), Community fish stocks are being fished at between two to five times more than the level that would provide the maximum sustainable yield from those stocks.

State of exploitation of marine fishery resources



Source: FAO, The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2004.

- In 2003 there were 4 116 registered Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) covering over 1.6 million square kms all over the world. This represents less than 0.5 % of the seas and oceans.
- A deterioration of the marine environment is leading to widespread algal blooms in the Baltic.



Satellite Picture of Algal Bloom in the Baltic — June 2005.

MARITIME HERITAGE

There is much to be gained by encouraging a sense of common identity among all those who earn their living from maritime activities or whose quality of life is significantly connected to the sea. This can foster a better understanding of the complex relationships involved and of the importance of the seas for human life.

Did you know?

- The MOSS (Monitoring, Safeguarding and Visualizing North-European Shipwreck Sites) project aims to increase an interest in European common underwater cultural heritage and to encourage the public to protect this heritage. The project acts as an underwater window to four significant European shipwrecks located in the waters of the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, and Finland.
- Opened on 23 April 2000, “Escal Atlantic” is the centrepiece of the Saint-Nazaire “Ville-Port” project, designed to educate local people about the town’s maritime past. An old submarine has been converted into a museum where visitors can take a virtual tour on board.

Eric the Red (950-1003)

was the first European to sail to Greenland.

Jacques Cartier (1491-1557) & John Cabot (1450-1499)

are credited as the modern discoverers of Canada.

Christopher Columbus (1451-1506)

is regarded as the modern discoverer of America.

Amerigo Vespucci (1454-1512)

was the first to realize that America was a separate continent.

Vasco da Gama (1469-1524)

was the first person to sail directly from Europe to India.

Ferdinand Magellan (1480-1521)

led the first expedition that sailed around the Earth.

Vitus Jonassen Bering (1681-1741)

found a sea route around Siberia to China.

James Cook (1728-1779)

explored the Pacific Ocean where he charted accurate maps.



The sea was a challenging environment in the 17th Century when Johann Sigmund Wurffbain sailed to the East Indies. It still offers us exciting challenges today.

In practical terms

How can you get a copy of the Green Paper?

The Green Paper is available in the twenty official languages of the European Union. You can get a copy:

- From the web site of DG Fisheries and Maritime Affairs:
<http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs>
- By requesting it from:
European Commission
DG Fisheries and Maritime Affairs
Maritime Policy Task Force
B-1049 Brussels

How can you make your views known?

Send your comments to:

- European Commission
DG Fisheries and Maritime Affairs
Maritime Policy Task Force
B-1049 Brussels
- Or to the following e-mail address:
ec-maritime-green-paper@ec.europa.eu

