



Challenges in defining GES for Belgian waters: Marine biodiversity

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The diagram features a light blue background with a pattern of puzzle pieces on the left. Two overlapping circles are positioned on the left: a top circle labeled 'MSFD' and a bottom circle labeled 'Other environmental protection commitments and obligations'. The intersection of these two circles is shaded in a darker blue. To the right of these circles is a large, solid dark blue rectangle labeled 'Human activities'. Two thick, light blue double-headed arrows connect the circles to the rectangle: one arrow connects the 'MSFD' circle to the rectangle, and another connects the 'Other environmental protection commitments and obligations' circle to the rectangle.

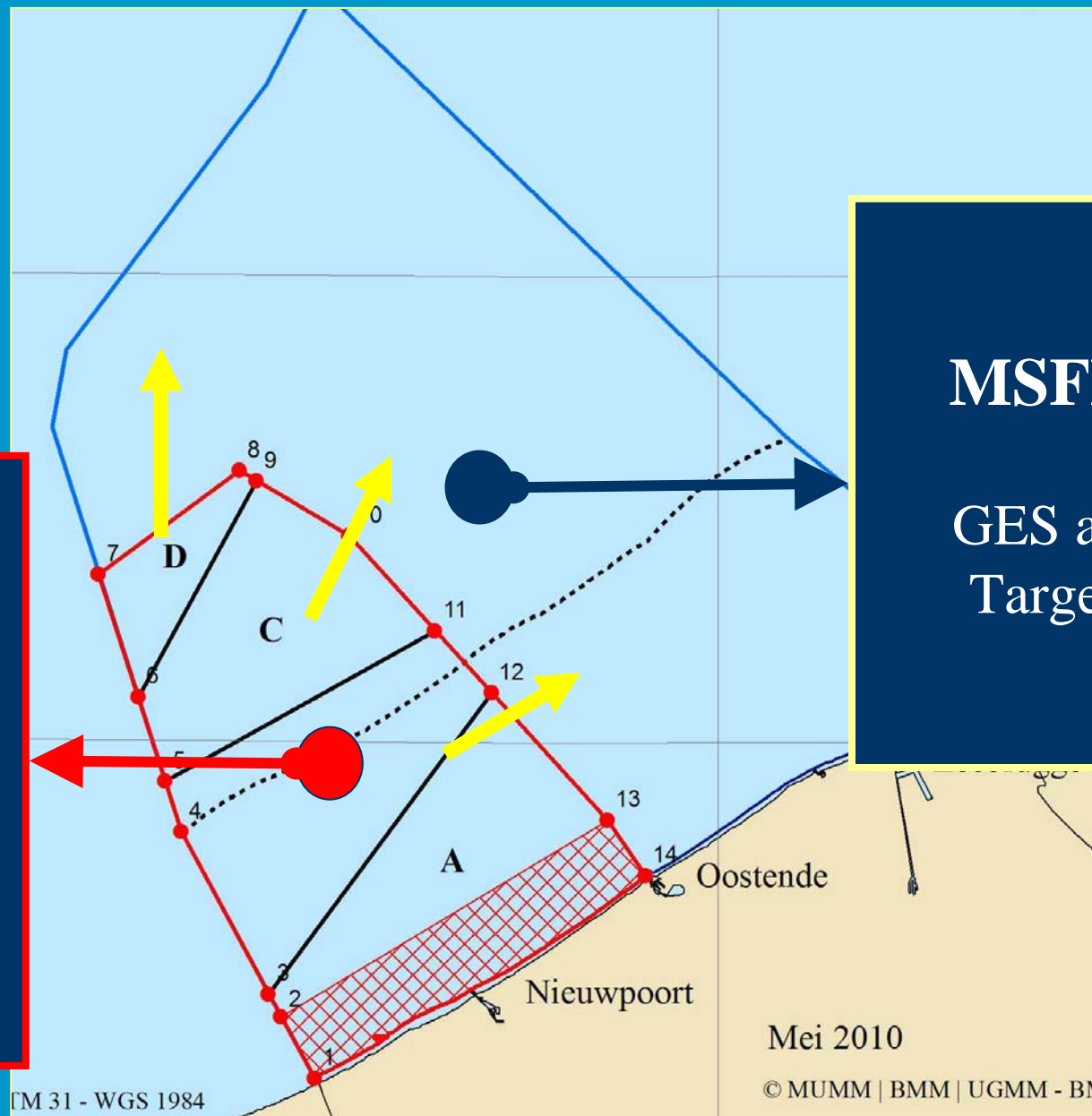
MSFD

Other environmental
protection
commitments
and obligations

Human
activities

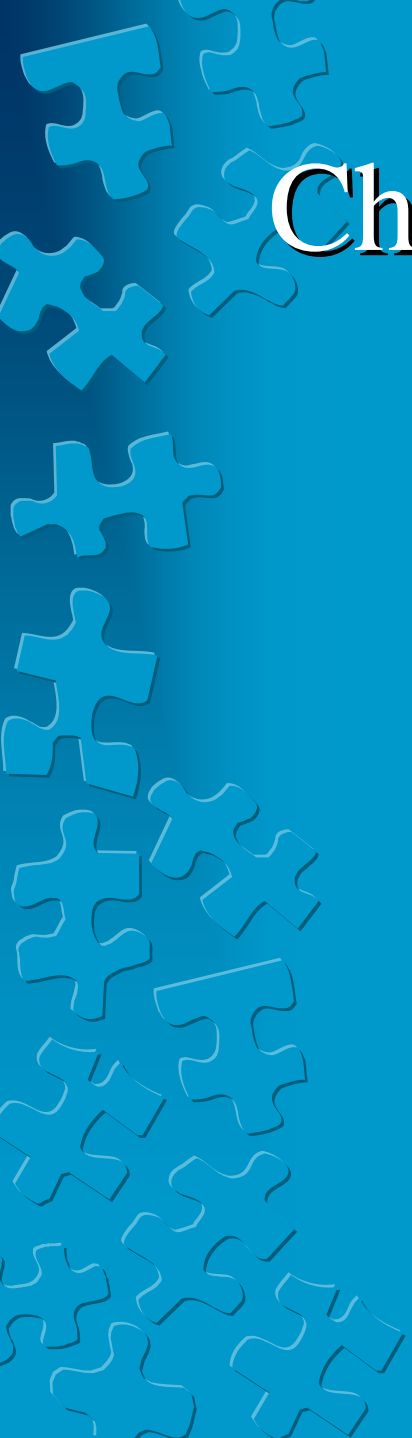
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FCS and
Conservation
objectives



MSFD:

GES and
Targets



Challenge 1: The integration of commitments and policies

MSFD

- Flexibility in decisions on implementation

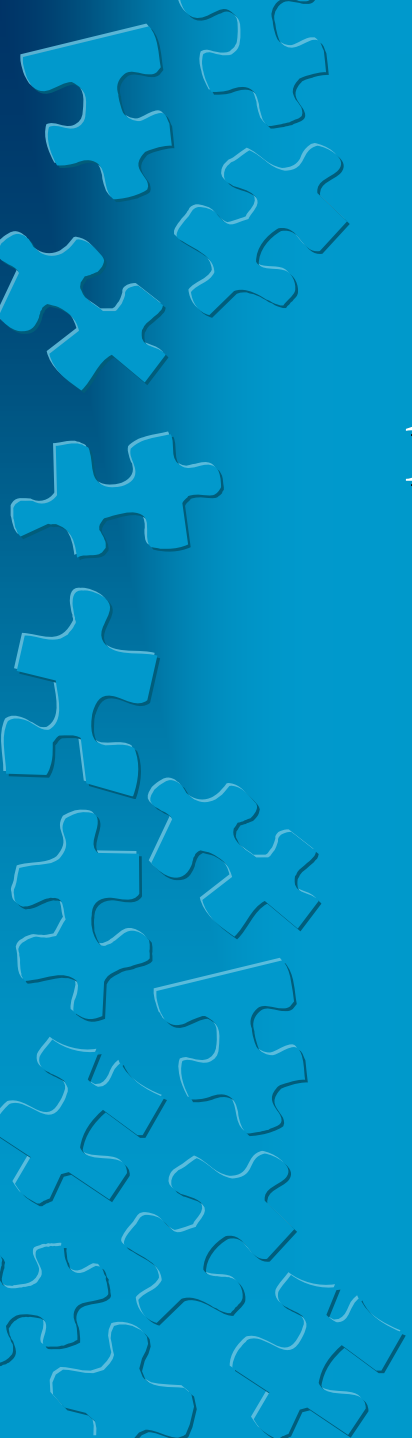


- Need for regional cooperation/coherence

Problems




- Progress: some virtually finished IA, GES, T&I
- Scale of assessment very different



Challenge 2: Reaching international coherence

GES

- Reflects the vision and ambition of MS towards the future of their marine waters
 - Is based on the ecosystem
 - Is all about the setting of baselines and targets
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- Targets need socio-economic considerations and need to be cost-effective



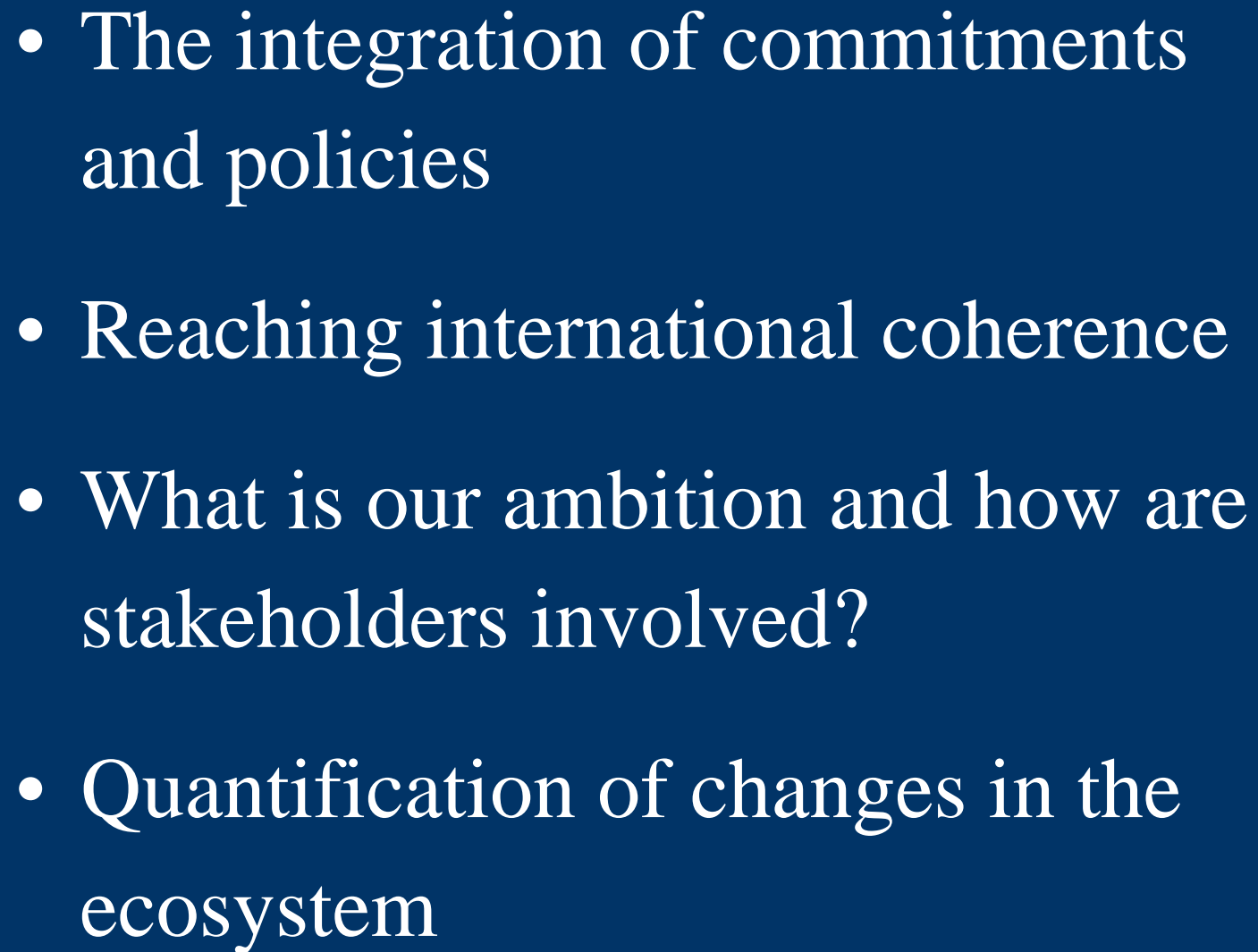
Challenge 3: What is our
ambition and how are
stakeholders involved ?

GES

- Quantification of targets for biota?
- Biological variability and natural change
- Climate change



Challenge 4: Quantification of changes in the ecosystem

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- The integration of commitments and policies
 - Reaching international coherence
 - What is our ambition and how are stakeholders involved?
 - Quantification of changes in the ecosystem



Beeldbank Oostende