

MAIN POLICY DRIVERS

Joint Programming Initiative Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans

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JPI Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans

Main Policy Drivers

The Joint Programming Initiative on “Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans” addresses, in a coherent way, a set of issues of grand political, societal and economic importance at Pan-European but also global level.

Main Policy drivers

- ✓ The **EU Integrated Maritime Policy** (COM (2007) 575 final) pursues several objectives related to a sustainable and integrated management of maritime activities. It calls for a strong science base to support these objectives which is echoed in the **EU Marine and Maritime Research Strategy** (COM (2008) 534 final).
- ✓ The **Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD - Directive 2008/56/EC)** provides a legal obligation to define a Good Environmental Status (GES) for all European regional seas by July 2012, and reach it by July 2020. The definition of the GES, based on the ecosystem approach, is a huge scientific challenge, which embraces all kinds of pressures on the marine environment, some of which are poorly known (like litter, noise or invasive species). The MSFD is a strong political driver for a JPI in this field. Many pressures identified in the MSFD are related to marine biodiversity. In fact, it is the first time that an EU legal instrument puts legal obligations to identify and mitigate pressures on biodiversity, in line with the **Convention on Biological diversity** (CBD UN2010) and the global commitment to reverse the decline of biodiversity.
- ✓ Fish stocks are managed at EU level, in the framework of the **Common Fisheries Policy (CFP -Council Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002)**, which is in the process of being reformed to ensure sustainability of EU fisheries through the implementation of management measures based on an ecosystems approach. . This will require a better knowledge of the functioning of marine ecosystems and the interactions between fishing and marine ecosystems. A JPI on “Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans” would be timely in that regard.
- ✓ The European Strategy for Marine and Maritime Research (COM (2008) 534 final) aims to achieve a better integration between marine and maritime research by improving the interactions between sectors through a set of measures to develop new capacity-building, integration across disciplines and synergies with and between MS, regions and industry sectors. The Strategy identified major gaps and cross-cutting issues and set up a set of actions to be implemented in the forthcoming years. Among these actions, **the Strategy foresees the implementation of a JPI in the field of Marine and Maritime Research** to foster synergies among MS with a view to further advance in the ERA development.
- ✓ The **UN** has launched a **global assessment for the marine environment**. This started with a so-called “assessment of assessments” which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in August 2009 and the decision to launch the global assessment, coordinated by UNEP and the IOC, is expected by the end of this year. There is therefore global drive to assess and mitigate the pressures on the marine environment

and it is appropriate that Europe, which has been at the forefront of environmental policies takes the lead in this area.

- ✓ Another global political driver is the continuous need to further improve the knowledge of **climate change to mitigate its impact and devise adaptation measures**, particularly on coastal areas as foreseen in the Integrated Maritime Policy (COM (2007) 575 final). A JPI on “Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans” will contribute strictly to respond to this need.
- ✓ The **EU commitments to reduce CO2 emissions** by 20% and increase to 20% the share of electricity produced by renewables (DIRECTIVE 2009/28/EC of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending and subsequently repealing Directives 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC), is also a driver to pursue research to boost offshore wind energy and other marine renewable energy sources.
- ✓ **EU’s agenda 2020** puts a strong focus on the bio-economy as a key source of growth and jobs for the future. In that regard, our seas and oceans with vast resources and their largely unexplored biodiversity provide a high potential field that would be developed in the framework of this JPI. Innovation union and resource efficient Europe.

Other relevant policy drivers for the JPI:

- ✓ **Water Framework Directive (WFD)**. [Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy](#).
- ✓ **Habitats Directive**. Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.
- ✓ **The World Summit on Sustainable Development**, WSSD or Earth Summit 2002 (Johannesburg, 26 August to 4 September).
- ✓ United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (**UNCLOS**, entered into force on November 16, 1994).
- ✓ **The Mediterranean Action Plan** of the United Nation Environmental Programme (UNEP/MAP) 1995 (MAP II).
- ✓ **HELCOM** (Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, 1992 - entered into force in 2000).
- ✓ **OSPAR** ([Convention for the Protection of the marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic](#), 1992 - entered into force in 1998).
- ✓ **The Barcelona Convention** ([Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols](#), 1995).
- ✓ **The Bucharest Convention** (Convention on the protection of the Black Sea against pollution and its Protocols, 1992, entered into force in 1994).

- ✓ **ACCOBAMS** (Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area, 2001).
- ✓ **REGULATION (EC) No 178/2002** OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety.
- ✓ A new **Animal Health Strategy for the European Union** (2007-2013) where “Prevention is better than cure”, COM (2007) 539 final.
- ✓ **Building a sustainable future for aquaculture.** A new impetus for the Strategy for the Sustainable Development of European Aquaculture, COM (2009) 162.
- ✓ **Maritime Spatial Planning in the EU** - Achievements and future Development, COM (2010) 771 final.
- ✓ Report to the European Parliament and the Council: **An evaluation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in Europe**, COM (2007) 308 final.
- ✓ **COUNCIL DECISION (2010/631/EU)** of 13 September 2010 concerning the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean.
- ✓ **Marine Knowledge 2020.** Marine data and observation for smart and sustainable growth, COM (2010) 461 final.
- ✓ **Green paper towards a secure, sustainable and competitive European energy network** COM (2008) 782 final.
- ✓ **20 20 by 2020 Europe's climate change opportunity**, COM (2008) 30 final.
- ✓ **An Energy Policy for Europe**, COM (2007) 1 final.
- ✓ **Strategic goals and recommendations for the EU's maritime transport policy until 2018**, COM (2009) 8 final.
- ✓ **Towards an enhanced market oversight framework for the EU Emissions Trading Scheme** COM (2010) 796 final.
- ✓ **Tackling the challenges in commodity markets and on raw materials**, COM (2011) 25
- ✓ **The raw materials initiative**-meeting our critical needs for growth and jobs in Europe, COM (2008) 699 final.
- ✓ **EU Arctic Policy**, COM (2008)763.