



# **Nature conservation in coastal areas - a delicate balance -**

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# Outline of the presentation

- *EU Biodiversity policy context*
- *Natura 2000 in the marine/coastal environment*
- *Current activities/priorities*
- *Reconciling Nature conservation and socio-economic development*



# New EU biodiversity strategy to 2020

## « Our life insurance, our natural capital »

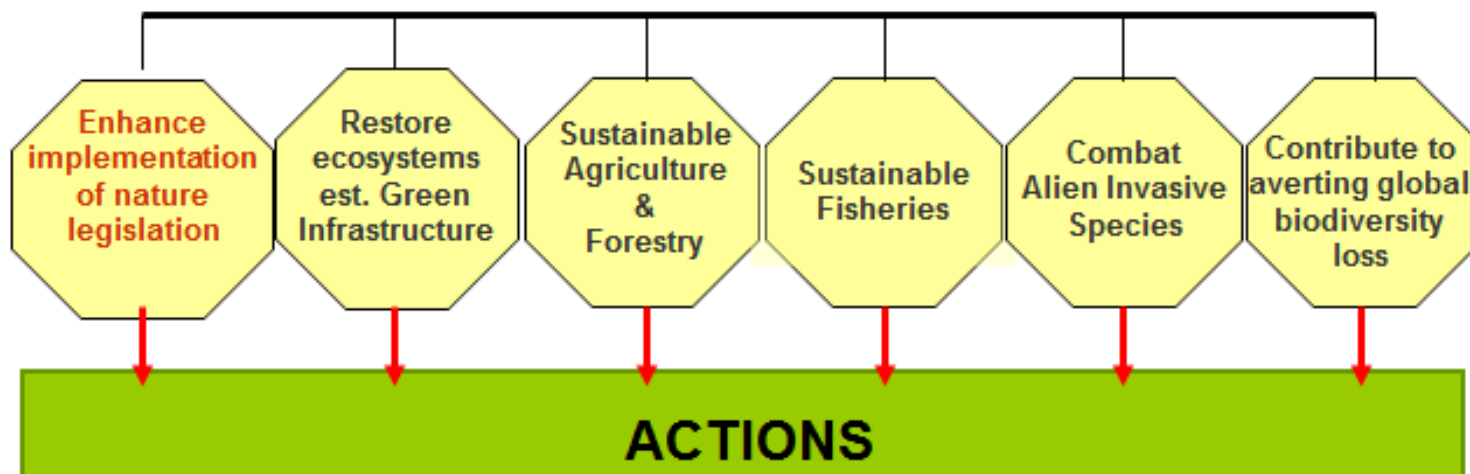
### A 2050 VISION

*European Union biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides – its natural capital – are protected, valued and appropriately restored...*

### A 2020 HEADLINE TARGET

***Halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU and restore them insofar as feasible, and step up the EU's contribution to averting global biodiversity loss***

### 6 TARGETS

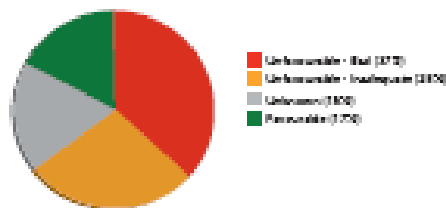


# New EU Biodiversity Strategy

## Target 1 - Nature conservation

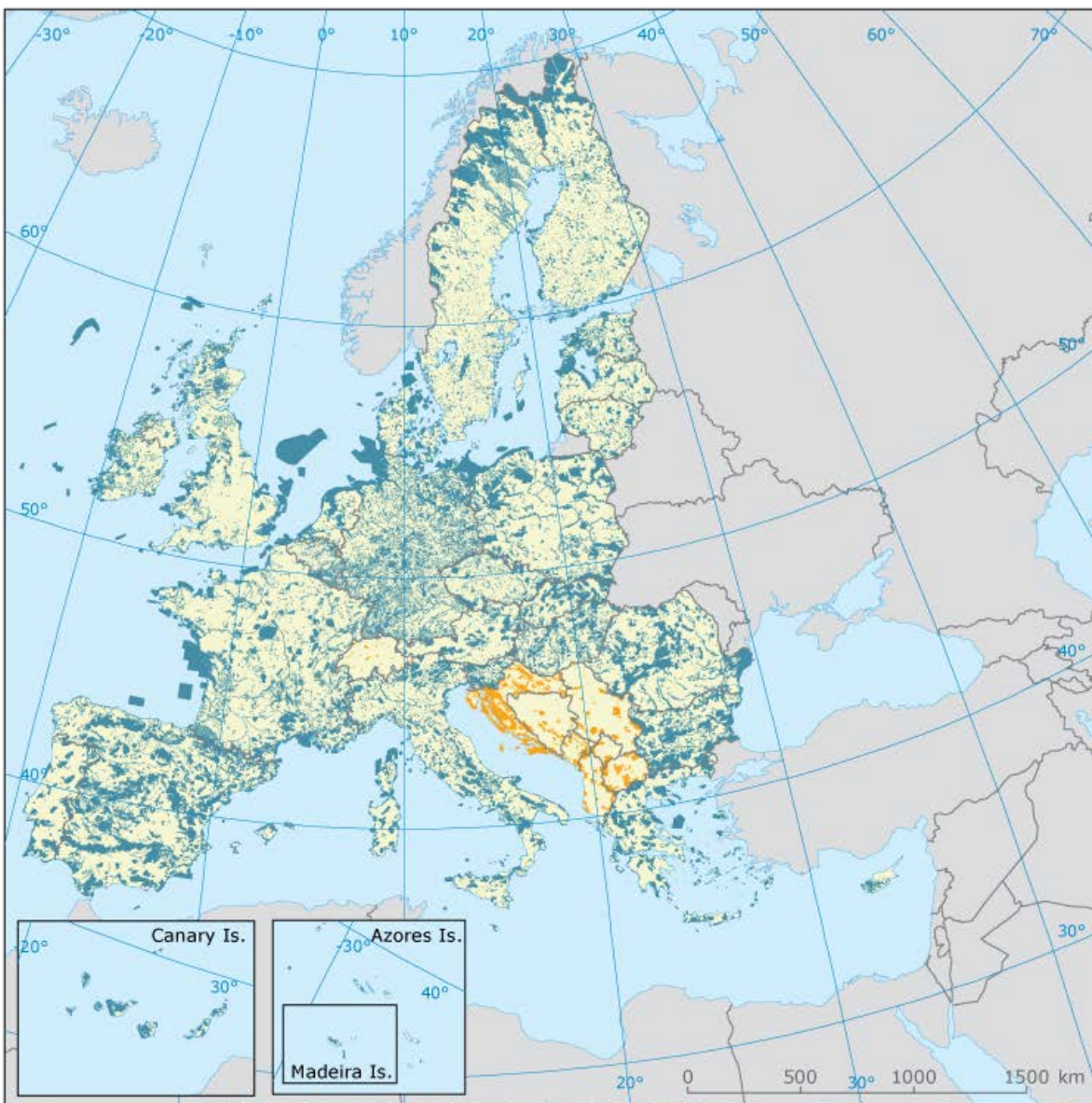
- *To halt the deterioration in the status of all species and habitats covered by EU nature legislation and achieve a significant and measurable improvement in their status by 2020*
  - Complete the establishment of the Natura 2000 network, incl. in the marine, and ensure good management
  - Ensure adequate financing of Natura 2000 sites
  - Increase stakeholder awareness and involvement and improve enforcement
  - Improve and streamline monitoring and reporting

Assessment of conservation status of habitats



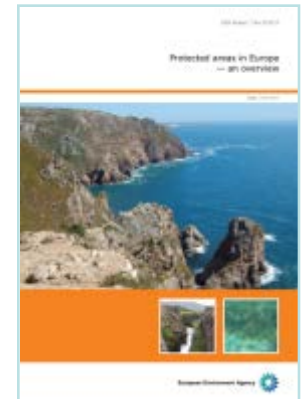
# New EU Biodiversity Strategy

- *Target 2 - Maintain and restore ecosystems and their services*
- *Target 4 – Sustainable use of marine resources*
  - Eliminate the adverse impacts on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems
    - Preserve vulnerable marine ecosystems
    - Sustainable fisheries - Eliminate discards, avoid by-catch
    - Support MSFD – MPAs, Financing



## The Natura 2000 and the Emerald Networks

- Natura 2000 sites
- Candidate Emerald sites



- 26 400 sites
- 986 000 km<sup>2</sup>
- 18 % EU land
- ~4 % EU seas
- Largest co-ordinated PA network
- Almost complete on land
- Some additional work for marine





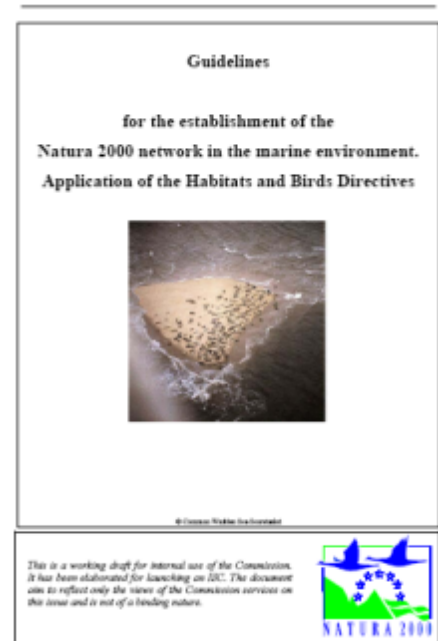
European  
Commission

# Marine Natura 2000 - background

- N2000 largely complete on land – needs to be extended in the marine, esp. offshore
- waters where Member States exercise sovereign rights: territorial waters, EEZ, other protection zones (environmental or fisheries), continental shelf
- A major contribution to preserving marine biodiversity, implementing MSFD
- A priority since 2002 (Court rulings, political commitments, marine expert group, marine guidelines, LIFE projects, fisheries measures, biogeographical seminars...)

## *Aim:*

- Significant progress in site designations by 2012
- Conservation status of marine features stabilised/improved by 2020



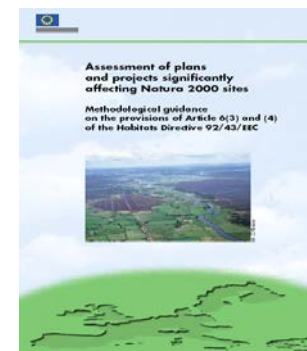
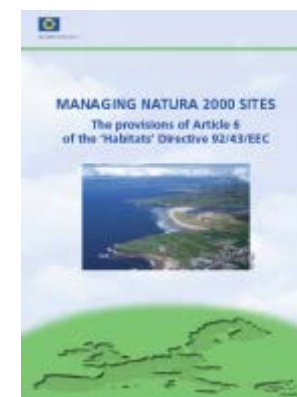
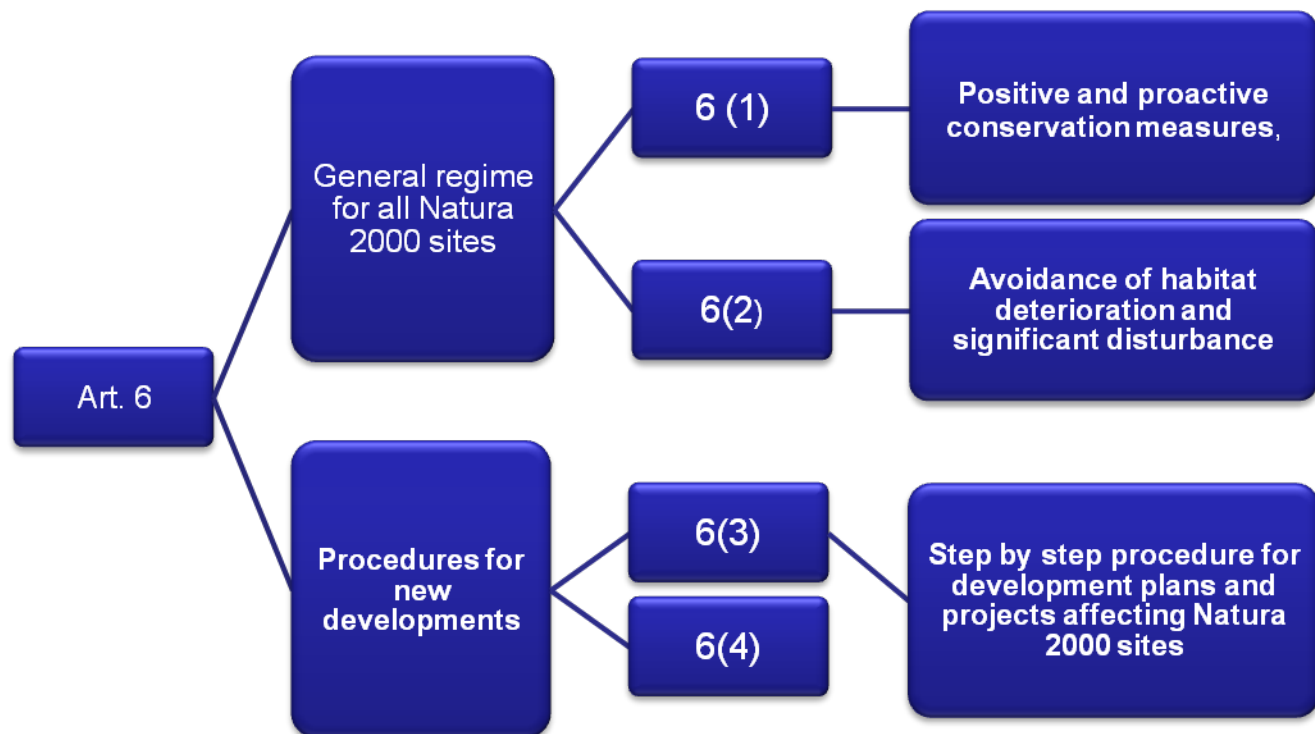


# Key protection principles of Natura 2000

- ❖ *Sites have high level of legal protection*
- ❖ *Not a system of nature reserves – management in collaboration with land owners & users*
- ❖ *Promotes sustainable development*
- ❖ *New activities/developments judged on 'case by case' basis*
- ❖ *Clear procedure for assessments & decisions*
- ❖ *Additional safeguards for priority habitats/spp*



# Protection Regime for Natura 2000



# Management of Natura 2000

- *SCI ⇒ SAC (6 year deadline overdue)*
- *Define Conservation Objectives*
- *Establish Conservation Measures*
- *Develop Management Plans, Legal, statutory or contractual arrangements*
- *Full stakeholder engagement*
- *New biogeographical Seminars on management/restoration*



# Atlantic Biogeographical Seminar

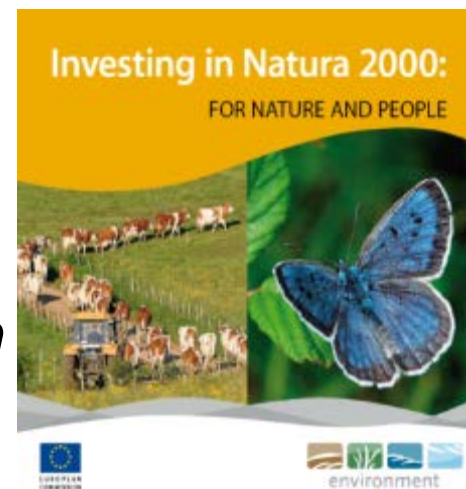
- *New process to share experience & expertise*
- *Addressing Coastal and Dunes & Estuaries*
- *Problem of large scale loss : alteration & unfavourable structure and functioning*
- *Some issues that are raised*
  - large scale habitat restoration (removal of obsolete infrastructures & beach nourishment)
  - Schemes and funds
  - ICZM, with implemented standard 'no loss of valuable coastal habitat' and with space for restoration
  - Link to WFD requirements
  - habitat creation in national/regional planning for climate change adaptation





# Strategy for Financing Natura 2000

- *Article 8 HD foresees EU co-financing*
- *Better strategic planning for financing*
- *Improved definition of Natura 2000 management requirements for targeted action*
- *Strengthening awareness of socio-economic benefits (estimated at €200-300 billion/yr)*
- *LIFE ‘integrated projects’*
- *Consider other forms of funding for Natura 2000, including innovative financing*



# European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

- Stronger focus on ecosystem based management of fisheries;
- Reducing overfishing and overcapacity and reducing direct impacts
- specific measures aiming at protecting and restoring marine biodiversity and ecosystems
  - *Support management, restoration and monitoring of Natura 2000;*
  - *other actions to protect and enhance marine biodiversity and ecosystems more generally, e.g. restoration of coastal and marine habitats in support of sustainable fish stocks*
- Promoting involvement of fishermen and other key stakeholders



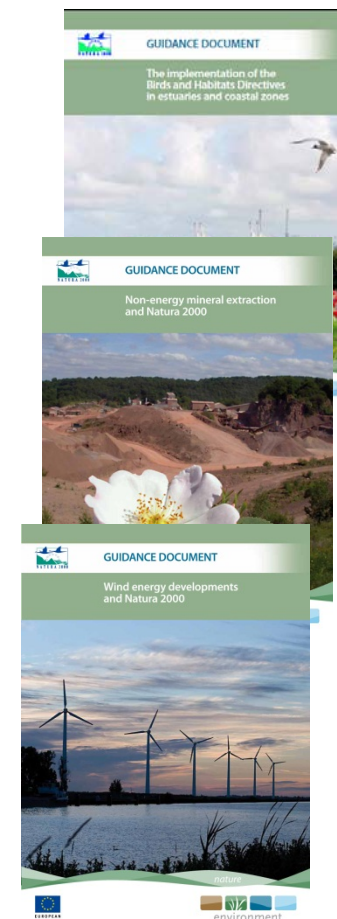
# Fisheries measures for marine N2000

- *Area closures or restrictions to fishing gear taken (eg. Darwin Mounds)*
- *2009 COM guidelines on introducing requests for fisheries management measures under CFP*
- *Ongoing work in MSs (usually with assistance from ICES) to assess pressure from fisheries and propose measures*
  - A joint proposal for the Doggerbank is under preparation by DE, NL, UK (DK also involved)
  - NL preparing proposal for its remaining coastal sites, supported by fisheries sector and NGOs
- *COM actively monitoring/supporting such initiatives, esp. cooperation among MS*



# Dealing with sectoral plans and projects

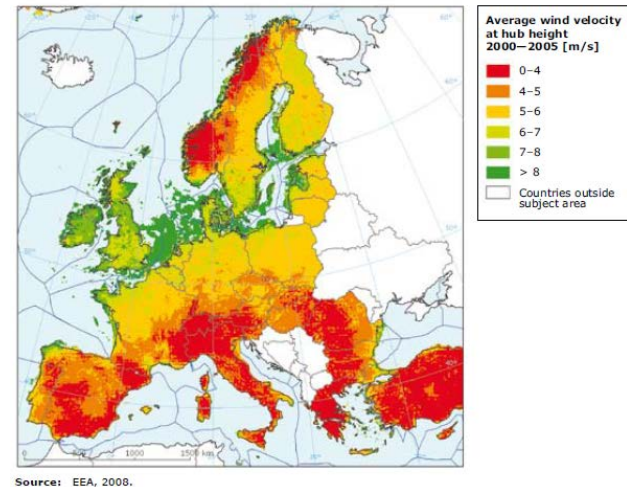
- *Problems in application of Art 6 (complaints etc)*
- *COM recognises need for pro-active approach*
- *Sectoral specific guidelines by COM Services*
- *Prepared with the assistance of Working Group (Member States, Sectors and NGOs)*
- *Focus on reconciling development activities with Natura 2000 protection + good practice*
- *Each guidance document provides:*
  - Policy & legal framework,
  - Assess evidence of risk,
  - Examines strategic approaches to AA
  - Provides advice on project level AA





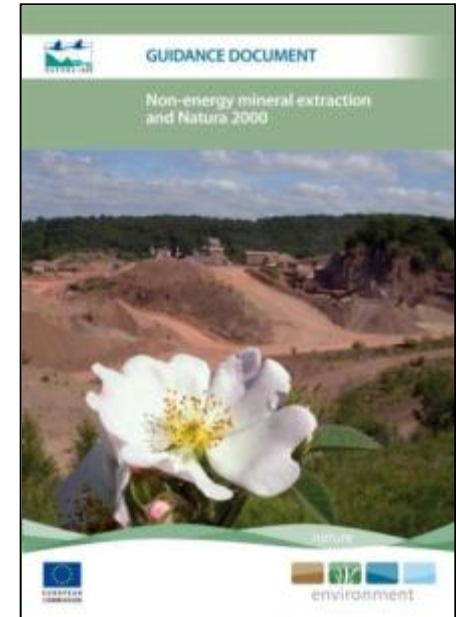
# Guidance on wind energy

- *Very significant wind energy potential*
- *Wind power not incompatible with nature*
- *Appropriate siting of farms is critical*
- *Strategic planning over a broad geographical area minimises conflicts*
- *Value of wildlife sensitivity maps*
- *Need good assessment procedures, tools and standards*
- *Measure significance of effects in the context of the conservation objectives sites*



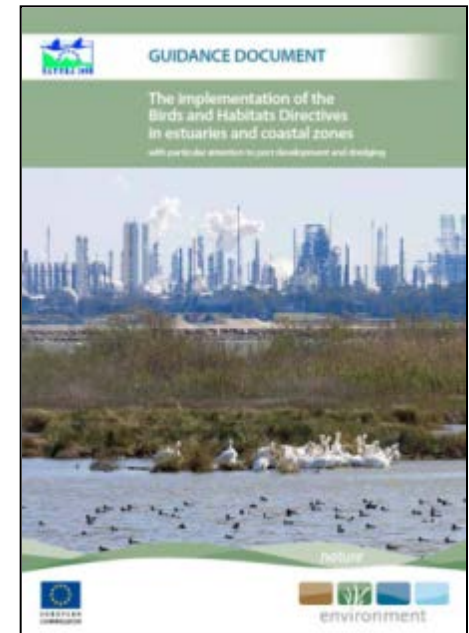
# Guidance document on Non-Energy Extractive Industries and Natura 2000

- *Triggered by Communication on Raw Materials Initiative*
- *Working Group (MS, NEEI sectors & NGOs)*
- *how extraction activities can be reconciled with Natura 2000 + good practices*
  - Examines potential effects of mines/quarries
  - recognises positive practices,
  - emphasises strategic approach,
  - provides advice on AA
- *Marine spatial planning is a key instrument to address marine aggregate extraction in a strategic manner.*



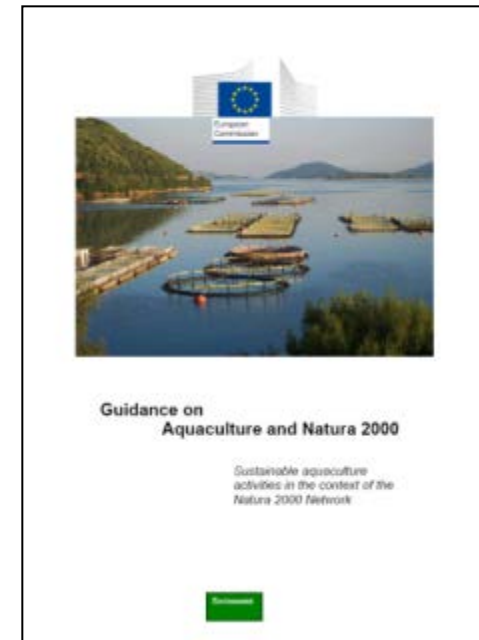
# Guidance on estuaries and coastal zones with particular regard to ports

- *Underlines highly complex/dynamic nature of estuarine systems*
- *Recognises strategic economic role of ports*
- *Emphasises ‘working with nature’*
  - Design mutually beneficial strategies
  - Prevention/avoidance preferred to compensation
  - Pre-assessments to evaluate potential for impact
  - Thorough and timely stakeholder consultation
  - Maintenance of ports & navigation access in integrated management plans for entire waterway
  - Need pre-defined monitoring scheme



# Guidance on Natura 2000 & Aquaculture

- *Triggered by need to boost sustainable development of aquaculture in EU*
- *Need to ensure level playing pitch among economic operators*
- *Underlines importance of strategic spatial planning for aquaculture (sensitivity mapping)*
- *Underlines key factors to prevent/reduce potential impacts, including:*
  - appropriate siting,
  - good management practices,
  - adequate mitigation





# Guidance on Natura 2000 & climate change

- *Natura 2000 sites "space for nature"*
- *Part of EU's "green infrastructure", including strengthening ecological connectivity (Article 10 HD)*
- *need to reduce non-climate pressures & increase resilience to climate change*
  - improving quality and condition of sites through management or restoration activities
  - reducing impact of pressures in surrounding areas
  - buffering sites
  - where appropriate, enlarge sites
- *Recognise "dynamic nature"*
- *Monitor to distinguish between natural & climate effects & management failures*



# Some Lessons

- *Socio-economic and Environmental goals not incompatible*
- *Natura 2000 is not about stopping development but ensuring sustainable use of nature*
- *Natura 2000 offers a tool for strategic spatial planning meeting conservation and societal needs*
- *Natura 2000 needs to be a participatory process & its success requires transparency, sincere dialogue & long-term commitments.*
- *Commitment of socio-economic sectors to N2000 goals must be acknowledged and rewarded*
- *Share innovation, data and experience between landowners, site users, site managers, other economic stakeholders and policy- makers within and across EU Member States – a lot of good practices around!*





**For more information, please consult:**

**[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/index_en.htm)**

**<http://ec.europa.eu/environment>**