

# The EU Nature Restoration Law

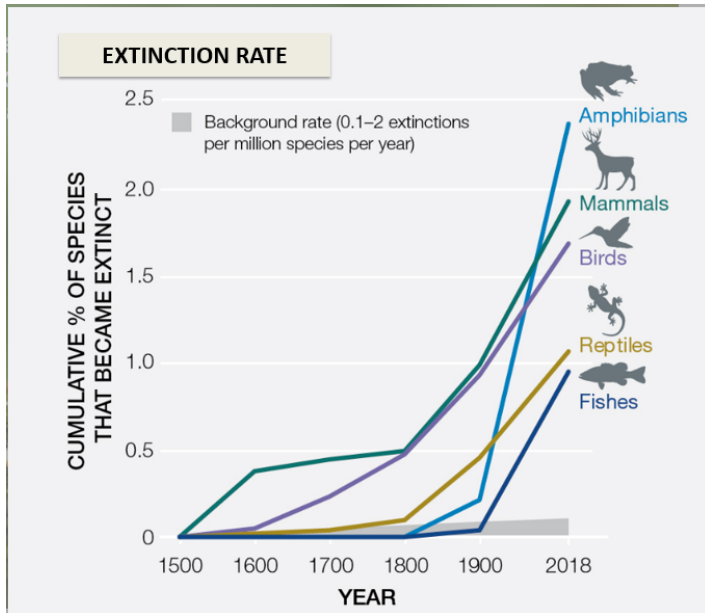
Restoring ecosystems for people, nature and the climate

European Union



# The global and EU biodiversity crisis

Biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystems, continue at an alarming rate, across the broad range of ecosystem types in the EU.

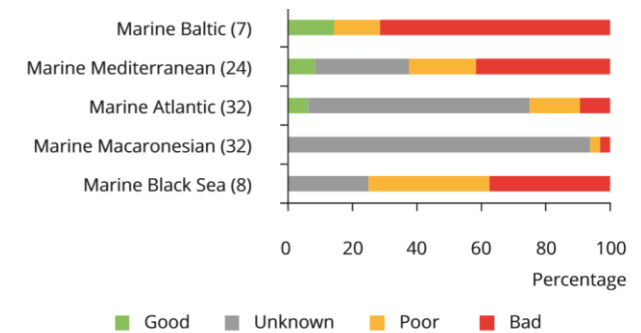


Source: IPBES Global assessment 2019

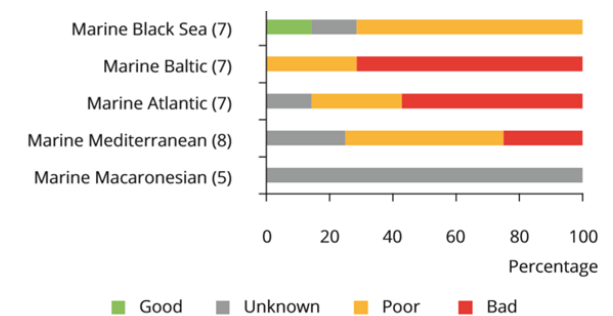


[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/pdf/Marine\\_EU\\_red\\_list\\_report.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/pdf/Marine_EU_red_list_report.pdf)

- Conservation status of protected marine species



- Conservation status of protected marine habitats





# EU proposal for a regulation on nature restoration

- A key initiative under the **European Green Deal** and the **Biodiversity Strategy for 2030**
- Continuing ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss across the EU
- Voluntary targets of the 2020 EU Biodiversity Strategy: not met
  - **Protection needs to be strengthened but is not enough**
  - **Reinforced approach is needed for restoration**
- Conclusion: The Commission needed to come forward with a proposal for **legally binding targets for nature restoration**
- The proposal was adopted on **22 June 2022**

[https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/nature-restoration-law\\_en](https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/nature-restoration-law_en)



# Nature Restoration Regulation: structure

Overarching objective (Art 1)

Restoration targets

Implementation framework

National  
Restoration Plans

Monitoring and  
Reporting



# | What is nature restoration?



‘restoration’ means... the process of actively or passively assisting the recovery of an ecosystem towards or to good condition... as a means of conserving or enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem resilience;

This includes....

- Improve condition of habitat types
- Re-establish habitat types
- Increase the quality and quantity of species habitats
- Achieve satisfactory levels of species populations
- Enhance connectivity habitat types / habitats of species



## Specific restoration targets

Protected  
Habitat Types  
(Annex I HD)



Habitats of  
protected  
species (BHD)



Marine  
Habitats  
(beyond HD)



Urban  
ecosystems



River  
connectivity



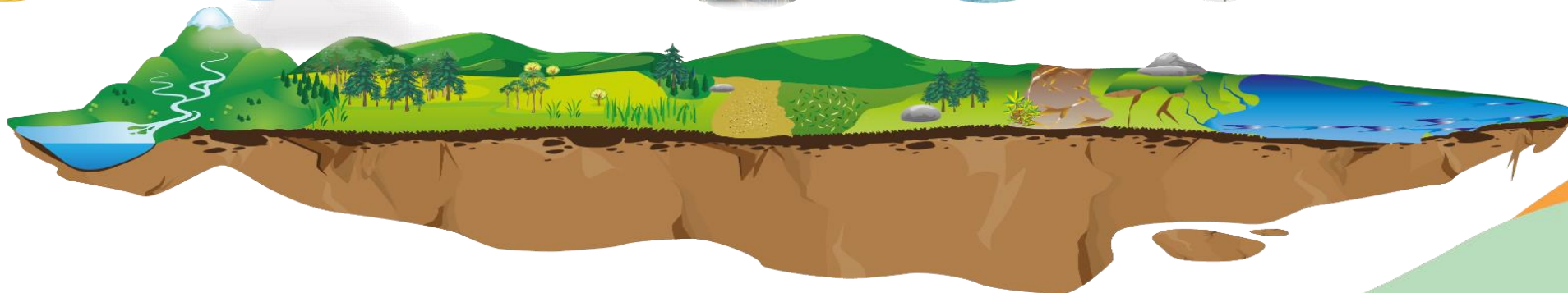
Pollinators



Agro-  
ecosystems



Forest  
ecosystems





# Marine Habitats (Article 5) - targets based on existing legislation

For marine **protected habitat types** and **habitats of species**

Based on **data available from nature directives and Marine Strategy Framework Directive** reporting

Underpinning information used:

- **habitat condition**
- **favourable reference area** of habitat types
- **quality & quantity of habitats of species**

Mix of effort based, outcome based and non-deterioration obligations



## Art. 5.1 – marine habitat types

Put in place the restoration measures necessary to improve to good condition areas of habitats in not-good condition

- ✓ ...for **groups** of habitat types: on at least **30%** by 2030, **60%** by 2040, **90%** by 2050;

## Art. 5.2 – marine habitat types

Put in place the restoration measures necessary to re-establish the habitat to reach the additional surface area needed where FRA is more than current value

- ✓ ...for **groups** of habitat types: on at least **30%** by 2030, **60%** by 2040, **100%** by 2050;





# Groups of marine habitat types (Annex II)

1. Seagrass beds
2. Macroalgal forests
3. Shellfish beds
4. Maerl beds
5. Sponge, coral and coralligenous beds
6. Vents and seeps
7. Soft sediments (above 1000 meters of depth)



# Annex II NRL

- The implementation of existing legislation (BHD, MSFD) has resulted in **few marine restoration efforts**, mainly because:
  - **No deadline** in HD to reach FCS; unrealistic deadline in MSFD.
  - Habitats **too broadly defined** which does not easily translate into **concrete restoration needs/targets**.
- We need **time-bound targets**.
- Restoration needs to happen **at the meaningful level of habitats** for which there is ecological knowledge and restoration know-how.
- List of habitat types based on **the appropriate level of latest EUNIS revision of marine habitats** and divided per marine biogeographical region.
- These habitat types are covered by **the BHD and the MSFD**.

## Art. 5.3 – habitats of marine species

Put in place the restoration measures necessary to...

- ✓ ...**improve the quality and quantity** of habitats of species of Art. II, IV, V HD, Annex III NRL and wild birds (including re-establishing them) ;
- ✓ ...**enhance connectivity**...

...until sufficient quality & quantity is achieved





# Annex III NRL

## MARINE SPECIES REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 5(3)

- (1) narrow sawfish (*Anoxypristis cuspidata*);
- (2) dwarf sawfish (*Pristis clavata*);
- (3) smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*);
- (4) largetooth sawfish (*Pristis pristis*);
- (5) green sawfish (*Pristis zijsron*);
- (6) basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) and white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*);
- (7) smooth lantern shark (*Etmopterus pusillus*);
- (8) reef manta ray (*Manta alfredi*);
- (9) giant manta ray (*Manta birostris*);
- (10) devil fish (*Mobula mobular*);
- (11) lesser Guinean devil ray (*Mobula rochebrunei*);
- (12) spinetail mobula (*Mobula japonica*);
- (13) smoothtail mobula (*Mobula thurstoni*);
- (14) longhorned mobula (*Mobula eregoodootenkee*);
- (15) Munk's devil ray (*Mobula munkiana*);
- (16) Chilean devil ray (*Mobula tarapacana*);
- (17) shortfin devil ray (*Mobula kuhlii*);
- (18) lesser devil ray (*Mobula hypostoma*);
- (19) Norwegian skate (*Raja (Dipturus) nidarosiensis*);
- (20) white skate (*Raja alba*);
- (21) guitarfishes (Rhinobatidae);
- (22) angel shark (*Squatina squatina*);
- (23) salmon (*Salmo salar*);
- (24) sea trout (*Salmo trutta*);
- (25) houting (*Coregonus oxyrhynchus*).

## Implementation framework

### National Restoration Plans

#### Preparation (Art. 11):

- Monitoring and research to identify measures for all targets
- Quantify & map restoration areas; map distribution of habitats, define condition & FRA
- Identify synergies with climate change & other plans and strategies

#### Content (Art. 12)

- Quantification of areas to be restored & their maps; Description of restoration measures, non-deterioration measures & timing for implementation: 2030, 2040, 2050
- Details on how to finance the implementation of the restoration measures → EU, national, public/private
- Public/stakeholder participation in preparing the plans

Timing (Art. 13)  
Submission of  
NRP to COM 2  
years after  
entry into force

COM  
Assessment  
(Art. 14)  
MS review  
(Art. 15)



## Implementation framework

## Monitoring and Reporting

### Member States to monitor (**Art.17**) ...

- Condition & condition trend of habitats & species habitats in restoration areas
- Area and condition of habitat types of Annex I & II
- Area and quality of species habitat

### Member States to report (**Art. 18**) ...

- Areas subject to restoration measures (yearly)
- Every 3 years: Implementation of NRP, monitoring results, maps of restoration areas, ...
- EEA to support & analyse reporting & assess progress
- Report to EP/Council every three years

Make use of electronic databases, geographic information systems, maximise use of i.a. remote sensing technologies, earth observation services...





# Some final thoughts

- Strong links with **protected area targets**, in particular with **10% strict protection**, as the restoration in the marine environment will be mainly **passive**.
- Need to **significantly step up mapping, monitoring and research**.
- Need for **regional cooperation**, including to significantly **speed up the regionalisation process for implementation of fisheries management measures** that will be needed for restoration.
- Demonstrate **benefits** to society and economic sectors.

# Thank you



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