

MSFD science needs of the Netherlands Priorities, international cooperation and (co)funding

Compiled by the national MSFD implementation team; Version May 2015

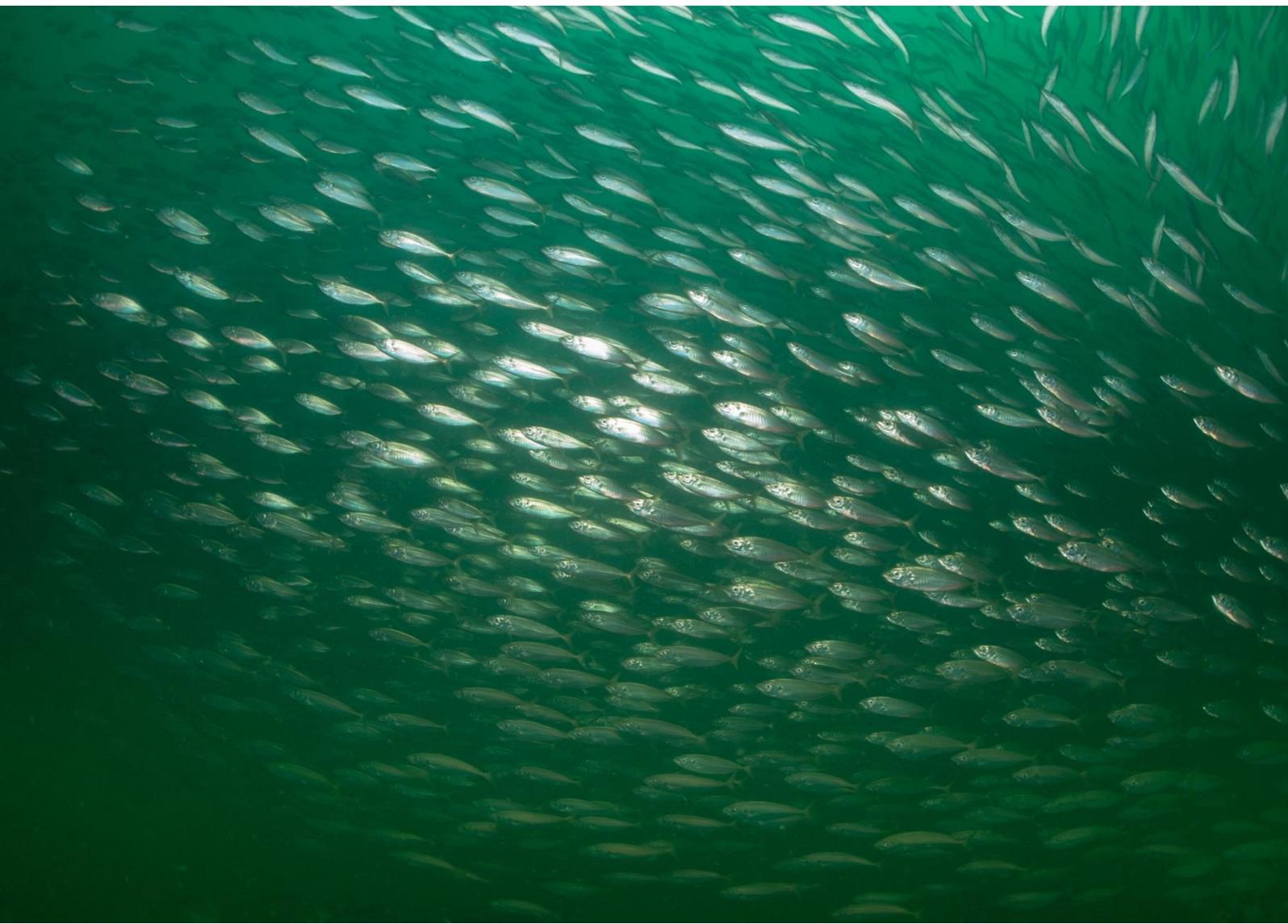


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ANNEXES

1. Initial list of North Sea policy and management science needs 2013 (separate document, in Dutch)
2. 2013 North Sea Conference priorities revised (separate document)
3. 2015 MSFD research projects IenM and EZ (in Dutch)
4. Dutch priorities and potential roles in OSPAR/MSFD context
5. Inventory of EU co-funding opportunities for the implementation of the MSFD

Note: Annex 1 consists of a large matrix. Printing can be cumbersome.

Summary

During the Dutch MSFD implementation process science needs emerged. In conjunction with other EU member states inventories have been made at the national level, in OSPAR and at European level. This document presents the main science needs from a Dutch perspective.

It describes MSFD research priorities, how these have been identified and how they can be translated to research projects, either nationally or in co-operation with neighbouring countries. Special attention is given to European funding programmes that can support these actions.

Concrete actions are summarized in the section MSFD Science programme 2015-2017: to directly support the implementation process.

Disclaimer: This document does not include complete descriptions of projects to fulfil the prioritised science needs nor are possible partnerships with neighbouring countries, international organisations and national research institutes, or universities, consultancies etcetera elaborated.

Introduction

The MSFD implementation is a knowledge-intensive process, that requires the outcomes of dedicated research. Initial research priorities have been identified in the Dutch Marine Strategy Part 1. During the successive steps of the national MSFD implementation¹ process many questions have arisen concerning the marine ecosystem of the southern part of the North Sea and its ecosystem services. Priority research needs relate to:

- 1) Marine litter
- 2) Underwater noise
- 3) Marine Protected areas
- 4) Cumulative effects of human activities
- 5) Understanding of marine ecosystems and pressures
- 6) Long-term developments such as climate change including acidification

In order to further identify these research needs and to promote dedicated research a science needs agenda for the Dutch part of the North Sea has been developed. This Agenda combines research needs for the MSFD with gaps in knowledge of related policies (e.g. Birds and Habitats Directives, Common Fisheries Policy, proposed directive on marine spatial planning) and marine management. It however focuses on MSFD research needs and lays out how to effectively address these. Mechanisms for international co-operation, primarily through OSPAR and EU MSFD CIS, together with opportunities for (EU) funding are described.

The main drivers to pursue the fulfilment of these MSFD science needs currently are the preparation of the OSPAR Intermediate Assessment (deadline 2017) and the start of the second MSFD implementation cycle (2018).

Identification and prioritisation of science needs

The MSFD science needs identified in this document have been collected in an iterative process involving interviews with all task managers of the national MSFD implementation process. These task managers do cover all the MSFD responsibilities of the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Ministry of Defence. They thoroughly understand the MSFD implementation challenges and priorities. Consultations with the national marine research institutes have been carried out in the EU North Sea Core Team².

From the interviews an initial list of science questions was compiled. These were compared with ongoing research and discussed in the EU North Sea Core Team ([Annex 1 Initial list of North Sea policy and management science needs 2013](#), in Dutch). Through continued dialogue with task managers within the national implementation network and to some extent also within relevant OSPAR groups a better understanding developed of the precise science needs and how research projects can address these. In October 2013 a prioritised list of research needs was developed and presented in the annual national North Sea Conference (Noordzeedagen). [Annex 2 NZD 2013 priorities revised](#) presents the further developed list. The current list of ongoing and planned

¹ For the national MSFD implementation have been completed: 1) The Marine Strategy for the Dutch part of the North Sea, 2012-2018, part 1; 2) The Marine Strategy for the Dutch part of the North Sea, 2012-2018, part 2, The MSFD monitoring programme and 3) The Marine Strategy for the Dutch part of the North Sea, 2012-2018, part 3, MSFD Programme of Measures.

² The following organisations are represented in the EU North Sea Core Team: IenM (DGRW, RWS/WVL and RWS/Z&D), EZ (DAK), IMARES, Deltares, NIOZ, LEI. NWO is informed on progress.

research projects that address these needs are presented in the MSFD Science Programme 2015 (Annex 3, in Dutch).

Prioritisation of science needs was achieved using the following criteria:

- **Policy deadline:** the science need should relate to a concrete MSFD requirement and associated deadline;
- **Geographical scale:** the research need is applicable at the scale of the Dutch Continental Shelf. It may also be applicable to a larger area, notably the (southern) North Sea, and co-operation with neighbouring countries should be pursued in such cases.
- **Severity:** The science need should be related to a human activity that has the potential to have an unfavourable impact in this part of the North Sea ecosystem;
- **Likelihood of success:** answering the research question should be possible and, in combination with solving other identified research questions, be sufficient to fulfil a policy need;
- **(Political) commitment:** budget should be available and arrangements with stakeholders & partners should be in place. Or: there is a view on funding opportunities and co-operation.

These criteria have been developed in conjunction with the OSPAR Science Agenda³ and the EU FP7 STAGES project⁴. The latter project has investigated the MSFD science needs for the European Commission, DG ENV.

MSFD Science programme 2015-2017

The identified MSFD science needs, (inter-)national cooperation options and the potential (co-finance options) have contributed to an overview of a national existing and future science needs. This science programme will be implemented during 2015 and following years jointly by the Ministry for Infrastructure and Environment and the Ministry of Economic Affairs. The main aim is the MSFD Intermediate assessment in 2017. The Dutch **MSFD science programme 2015-2017** is described in more detail in Annex 3.

The section below describes current and planned research per MSFD priority theme, starting from 2014. These summaries are included in the MSFD Programme of Measures (2015). Long-term planning is under development, in liaison with national research institutes, and will depend on the progress of the implementation process itself and possibilities of European co-operation. Special attention is given to cooperate with neighbouring countries within the North Sea. Other initiatives contributing to the science needs will be encouraged. The results of the projects will contribute to the Intermediate assessment in 2017, unless otherwise stated.

Litter

Within the OSPAR convention, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment contributes to the development and application of indicators, eg. for marine litter on the seafloor. Investigation of the extent of contamination by micro plastics currently receives much attention. In relation to the development of indicators for microplastics the Dutch Government concentrates on standardisation of methods for determination of concentrations in water and sediments and the effects of microplastics on marine life. The presence of micro plastics in the southern North Sea and possible damage to organisms is examined in the Interreg 2 SEAS project. Understanding sources of

³ OSPAR Commission, 2014. publication number: 642/2014.

⁴ <http://www.stagesproject.eu/>

litter and transport routes into the sea is a second point of focus. In cooperation with the river authorities knowledge about the amount of riverine litter, including microplastics, into sea is developed. At national level the effects of nano-plastics on the safety of sea-food is examined.

Underwater noise

Research is focused on the extent of the impact of underwater noise on marine ecosystems, with the aim to develop thresholds for noise and cumulative impacts in 2018. In order to understand effects of both loud impulsive sounds and background noise we need to map the levels of sound, on the basis of source information and the distribution of sound, including spatial and temporal variability. In OSPAR, the Netherlands cooperates with other North Sea countries to develop a joint monitoring programme of loud impulsive sound and background noise. Supporting research on the pressure-impact relationships is conducted, which focuses on cumulative impacts on population and ecosystem level. International cooperation is strongly preferred, in order to provide a common ground for joint assessments and, where possible, joint policy objectives, can be developed by 2018.

Protected areas

In cooperation with North Sea countries continued development of criteria for the evaluation of a network of protected areas in the North Sea will be pursued. Given the complexity of this issues results are expected after 2018. It is intended to coordinate the assessment of the environmental status of the North Sea for the 2018 MSFD assessment.

Cumulative effects of human use

The Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment contributes to the testing and application of methods for the evaluation of cumulative effects in OSPAR. This topic is high on the OSPAR science agenda.

Marine ecosystems and pressures

The Ministry of Economic Affairs continuously invests in MSFD related research and monitoring for nature, biodiversity and fisheries policy. Examples are the research for the Action Plan sharks and rays, the porpoise Conservation Plan and Natura 2000 species-and area protection. In addition, Investments are made in Increasing understanding of marine ecosystem resilience ,development of research instruments for seabed protection measures related to the Frisian Front and Central Oyster grounds. Contributions to The development of MSFD common indicators for biodiversity are coordinated in OSPAR. The Ministry of Economic Affairs develops knowledge on sustainable fishing practices, such as electrofishing, and on healthy fish stocks. The Ministry of Economic Affairs also contributed to the development of MSFD indicators for commercial fish stocks in cooperation with ICES.

Long-term developments

The Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment contributes in OSPAR to effective monitoring of acidification for improved understanding of ecosystem changes against the background of global climate change. The research agenda 'Water and Climate' (see below) includes themes such as ecosystem effects of temperature rise and ecosystem effects of increased sand extraction for coastal defence. This research focuses on a long term time scale.

International cooperation mechanisms

European Research Area-net

ERA-NET is an EC instrument under the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. The aim of ERA-NET is to co-ordinate national research programmes and to stimulate co-operation between national research councils and financing bodies. 'Common Calls' are supported by the EC, through financing of the costs for co-ordination. The research projects that follow from these initiatives are financed through national programmes.

JPI Oceans

The concept of joint programming has been introduced by the EC to implement the ERA in 2008. It aims to increase the effectiveness of the national and EU contributions to R&D by joint planning, financing and evaluation of national research programmes. In addition, joint financing of internationally co-ordinated research is stimulated.

The issues covered by joint programming are international by nature. EZ and lenM participate in the co-ordinating bodies of this JPI. In relation to the MSFD the JPI Healthy and Productive Oceans and Seas is relevant. Current JPI Pilot Initiatives address for instance multi use of fishing surveys for marine monitoring and microplastics.

Linking national and international research priorities

The development of the Dutch science needs agenda and the approaches used has influenced the OSPAR Science needs agenda (same task manager) and the EU project STAGES. It turned out that the MSFD is a significant factor in aligning and structuring science needs: all EU MS must deliver the same products at the same time and they cope with similar questions. Despite variations in local conditions due to geography, human uses and national regulations, there is a strong interest in international co-operation for policy-driven marine research.

OSPAR recently published a science needs agenda, including research priorities for all aspects of OSPAR work. These priorities were initially identified by the OSPAR Committees and their working groups and correspondence groups. The agenda serves as a communication tool to inform research networks and funding agencies on OSPAR's priorities. The list of science needs has been scrutinized for MSFD priorities by ICG-MSFD. The next step will be to further develop these needs into joint research projects, potentially using EU funding programmes. Prerequisites are the ability to share resources and provide staff to co-ordinate and support such projects, including the necessary administrative procedures in relation to EU funding.

Input by Dutch delegations to the OSPAR Committee meetings is guided by the national science needs agenda and the perceived role of the Netherlands in relation to other (neighbouring) countries, see Annex 4. Cooperation is mainly sought with countries bordering the North Sea.

The EC (DG ENV) has repeatedly invited MS to make use of EU programmes for the implementation of the MSFD, recognizing the gaps and inconsistencies identified in the Art 12 assessment and the reality of decreasing national budgets. Many of the current programmes and calls explicitly address MSFD.

Pros and cons of joint projects

It is essential that EU member states recognize the benefits of such co-operation. Using EU funding is more than a multiplier of national budgets. It brings institutes and policy makers from different countries together in a practical manner, which literally opens up windows to new knowledge and

expertise. The level of involvement can vary, from initiator and co-ordinator to (main or supporting) partner to external policy advisor.

The other side of the medal is less (national) control due to negotiations within a consortium and increased uncertainty with regard to the outcome of the project (more institutes involved, financing from different sources). There is an explicit need to stay in touch with joint projects from a policy perspective, eg. by participation in a steering group, to ensure that MSFD implementation needs are effectively being addressed by the consortium. Within OSPAR ICG-MSFD could organise this, thereby sharing the workload.

It should be noted that Dutch research institutes have achieved a relatively large share of EU funding through successful participation in winning consortia. Since the start of the MSFD the Dutch implementation team has actively participated in the EU process, which can be regarded as an advantage for effective tenders. A recent example is the EU funding of the project 'Towards a Joint Monitoring Programme for the North Sea and the Celtic Sea', which brings together almost all national institutes responsible for national monitoring of the North Sea and the Celtic Sea. Rijkswaterstaat co-ordinates this project.

Funding opportunities

National programmes

EZ funding of marine research consist of 3 parts:

- Policy support research (mostly short-term)
- Knowledge base research (medium to long-term)
- Legal research tasks, for marine issues carried out by WUR, related to the CFP and the BHD.

Under the first two budgets MSFD related research is being financed and the third budget can also contribute, owing to overlapping research needs.

IenM funding is directly from the MSFD budget, or indirectly via Rijkswaterstaat (Policy support advice and national tasks).

The Netherlands Organisation for scientific research (NWO) finances the national Sea and Coast research programme (ZKO) that stimulates national co-ordination of marine research related to coastal management, North Sea and Oceans. It has a clear focus on science for policy.

The National Water and Climate Knowledge and Innovation programme (NKWK), launched in 2015, is taking the next step in organising knowledge and expertise on water and climate issues. Businesses, governments and research institutions will cooperate in NKWK to share their knowledge and innovation to make the Netherlands water robust and climate proof.

In order to improve the science-policy interface related to the management of human uses of the North Sea, a network consisting of ministries and government funded research institutes is organized under the Interdepartmental Directors Council North Sea (IDON): Working group Knowledge North Sea. The intention is to better link long term strategic science programming to policy needs, including MSFD. This would not only focus research and enhance the use of scientific results, but also improve coherence between short term scientific advice with longer term research projects. Short term advice would then be based on and contribute to long term research and be less fragmented.

European innovation for MSFD

Within Europe several programmes exist to develop, experiment and demonstrate innovative techniques, co-operation and knowledge sharing. The European programmes do fit the MSFD science needs. European co-operation means that costs are partly covered by the Commission, knowledge is broader shared and activities are executed with more organisations. Besides financial and efficiency gains, the European projects are valuable from both a content and networking perspective. Initiatives, reports and other activities which affect European environmental policies are shared with the related running projects, allowing fast anticipation.

In general a division can be made between research (H2020), innovation (ERDF) and policy implementation experiments (LIFE). The various programmes have their priorities, funding mechanisms and procedures (see Annex 5).

Annex 5 provides concise summaries of the currently identified (co-)funding options for:

- ✓ EU Regional Funds: European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) 2014-2020
 - INTERREG VB programme NWE North West Europe
 - INTERREG V B programme NSR North Sea Region
 - The 2 seas programme
 - The Netherlands Flanders programme
 - InterReg Europe (former 4C programme)
- ✓ European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)
- ✓ EU Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)
- ✓ EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (Horizon 2020)

In addition, DG ENV uses own budget for promoting coherent implementation of the MSFD. To that extend two calls have been launched so far, in 2013 (2M€) and 2014 (2.4M€).

In order to apply successfully to European funds it is important to know the different programs, what they offer, which networks, meetings and conferences are relevant and what steps need to be taken.

There are several ways to participate. An organization can support project initiatives through a 'Letter of Support', participate as a partner, lead a part of the project (often called work package) or coordinate the project. Project coordination means being responsible for the appearance, communication and overall performance of the project. Projects can address efficiency (new techniques, joint activities), strategy (policy related) or networks (co-operation with strategic or neighbouring partners). Deciding what kind of role is the most appropriate, depends on the priority given to the project contents, the partners participating and the policy sensitiveness.

Conclusions and outlook

Based on experiences so far with the development of the MSFD science needs agenda conclusions and suggestions for future steps are:

Identification and positioning of Dutch MSFD science needs

1. A good science needs agenda relies on the ability of policy makers/advisors to think science, to imagine how science can answer their immediate and longer term questions. Vice versa, a good science needs agenda relies on scientists that understand the policy priorities and challenges.

This is an iterative process where dedicated support is required. It has successfully been organised in the Dutch MSFD implementation team.

2. The MSFD structures and focuses Member States' efforts in space and time: they need to produce the same products, meet common deadlines and must coordinate at the appropriate spatial scale. This is a strong driver for converging efforts on closing gaps in knowledge.
3. The Dutch MSFD science agenda has been developed in parallel with science agendas at the level of OSPAR and the EU. Given the MSFD framework this was a relatively straightforward process, although hampered by limited capacity of staff. It enables Dutch delegates to propose Dutch science priorities in relevant fora, therefore influencing the priorities at the international levels. Furthermore, it enables the Dutch MSFD implementation team to choose which issues can best be taken up at national level and which at international levels and with whom.

Financing and international cooperation

4. EU funding programmes are ready to support MSFD implementation. Using these programmes is stimulated by the European Commission and it can help to start up joint implementation of the MSFD. This document has brought together the main funding programmes relevant for MSFD implementation.
5. Using EU funding is more than a multiplier of national budgets. It brings institutes and policy makers from different countries together in a practical manner, which opens up windows to new knowledge and expertise. The level of involvement can vary, from initiator and co-ordinator to (main or supporting) partner to external policy advisor. The other side of the coin is less (national) control due to negotiations within a consortium and increased uncertainty with regard to the outcome of the project (more institutes involved, financing from different sources).
6. Flexibility and an innovative attitude are required to move from scientific advice organised at the national level using dedicated budgets, to advice paid and performed through international cooperation, potentially EU co-funded. This requires sharing of resources and providing staff to co-ordinate and support such projects, including the necessary administrative procedures in relation to EU funding.
7. It also requires an attitude at the ministries to enable and support EU co-funded projects, through adjustment of internal financial procedures. Rijkswaterstaat provides administrative support of EU projects through 'Bureau Brussels'.
8. Moreover, a continued effort to maintain and improve the science-policy interface is needed, through the IDON Working Group Knowledge North Sea and active involvement of policy makers/advisors in scientific projects.

Next steps

9. The MSFD science needs agenda will be updated yearly (June) on the basis of progress with the MSFD implementation.
10. Longer term planning will be pursued together with the task managers in the MSFD implementation team and using the network of the IDON Working group Knowledge North Sea. The science needs agenda will be updated accordingly.
11. The MSFD implementation team will continue to seek international collaboration, using the OSPAR network and other relevant networks (JPI Oceans) keeping an open eye to EU funding schemes.
12. The Ministries of IenM and EZ will support international cooperation using OSPAR and other networks and through policy involvement in joint projects.

ANNEX 3

KRM onderzoeksprojecten 2015

In dit overzicht zijn de KRM onderzoeksprojecten voor 2015 weergegeven per geldstroom. Per project is een omschrijving van het onderzoek gegeven en is aangegeven wat de kosten zijn en of het onderzoek wel dan niet in uitvoering is.

Geldstroom: Minlenm BOA

Geldstroom Deltares

Onderzoek microplastic (in revisie) (2015: 60 K€, 2016: 60 K€)

- Inventarisatie bestaande regionale/MSFD indicatoren voor microplastics in het mariene milieu van het Nederlandse deel van de Noordzee.
- Inventarisatie mogelijke voorkomens gebieden (hot spots) van microplastics in het mariene milieu van het Nederlandse deel van de Noordzee.
- Ontwikkeling van indicatoren voor microplastics in het mariene milieu van het Nederlandse deel van de Noordzee.

Geldstroom markt (reservering EMFF markt)

Two studies Green Deal shipping:

Eerste studie / Studie scheepsafval beheer in kleine Nederlandse zeehavens (in voorbereiding) (30 K€ incl. EU bijdrage):

- De studie moet een overzicht geven van de kwaliteit en de financiële aspecten van alle aanwezige scheepsafval inzameling voorzieningen per kleine zeehaven en in totaal.
- De studie heeft betrekking op de wijze waarop de scheepsafval inzameling geregeld is en op het functioneren van de scheepsafval inzameling met name m.b.t. huishoudelijk afval, bedrijfsmatig afval en de SFAV-afvalstroom (olie en klein gevaarlijk afval).
- De toegankelijkheid van de diverse voorzieningen in tijd en ruimte en het financiële incentive om hier gebruik van te maken wordt beschreven en geëvalueerd.
- De studie is gericht zijn op zowel het huishoudelijk en als ook het bedrijfsmatig scheepsafval afkomstig van alle schepen in de kleine zeehavens.
- De minimale kwaliteitscriteria voor scheepsafval beheer / inzameling in kleine zeehavens gaat beschreven worden.
- Onderwerp van onderzoek zijn ook de Haven Afval Plannen te zijn (literatuurstudie). Het gaat hier om een vergelijking en het identificeren van verschillen met als doel successen in een zeehaven te laten delen met andere zeehavens.
- In de studie wordt de samenwerking in de zeehaven van de havenautoriteit met de afval producerend en de bij de afval inzameling betrokken partijen duidelijk in beeld gebracht worden.
- Verder wordt, in overleg met de gebruikers van de voorzieningen, de haven organisaties en de afval inzamelaars, onderzocht worden of en hoe scheepsafval inzameling voorzieningen verbeterd kunnen worden. Kosteneffectiviteit is hierbij een aandachtspunt. Eventueel kunnen de kosten voor gebruikers en havens laag gehouden worden door meerwaarde uit afval te halen d.m.v. recycling. Eventuele additionele kosten van verbeterde voorzieningen of hun toegankelijkheid moeten in beeld gebracht worden. Deze kosten moeten zo mogelijk voor alle betrokken partijen acceptabel zijn. Bij het vaststellen van verbeterpunten dient rekening gehouden te worden met algemene verbeterpunten of verbeterpunten per specifieke kleine zeehaven.

Study into the effects of nano-plastics in the marine environment (in voorbereiding) (meerjarig in total 100 K€ incl. EU bijdrage)

- Ambitie: Het onderzoek moet inzicht geven in hoeverre in literatuur gemelde effecten van microplastics op lagere mariene organismen relevant zijn voor de Nederlandse veldsituatie.
- Onderzoeksvragen:
 - Wat is het effect van de aanwezigheid van de plastics op het functioneren van het mariene en zoetwater/estuariene ecosysteem. Mogelijke afgeleide onderzoeksvragen:
 - Wat is het fysieke effect van de aanwezigheid van de plastics
 - Wat is de invloed op de biologische beschikbaarheid van reeds in het milieu aanwezige gifstoffen (PCBs, Dioxines etc).?
 - In welke mate worden in plastics aanwezige hulpstoffen/additieven (vlamvertragers, weekmakers) opgenomen door organismen? Kunnen additieven worden doorgegeven in de voedselketen?
- Inhoud:
 - Aan de hand van een review [door RIVM]⁵ van recente literatuur, worden biologische effecten van microplastics geïdentificeerd die voor de Nederlandse veldsituatie relevant kunnen zijn. Variabelen hierin kunnen combinaties zijn het type effect, taxonomische groep, levensstadia, plastic type, deeltjesgrootte, wijze van blootstelling, etc.
 - In overleg met de opdrachtgever worden één of meerdere combinaties geïdentificeerd die nader zullen worden onderzocht. Er wordt dan ook een definitieve keuze gemaakt welke afgeleide onderzoeksvraag wordt beantwoord.
 - Dit onderzoek zal worden uitgevoerd onder controleerbare omstandigheden waarin de natuurlijke situatie zoveel mogelijk wordt benaderd. Gedacht wordt aan multi-species testen in micro- of mesocosms waarbij langere blootstellingsperioden mogelijk zijn dan in reguliere laboratorium testen. Ook de proefopzet zal in overleg met de opdrachtgever worden bepaald.

Study into the development of monitoring options for riverine litter (in voorbereiding) (meerjarig, 1200 K€ incl. EU bijdrage)

- Mondiaal gezien wordt ervan uitgegaan dat 80% van het afval in zee vanaf het land komt. Voor de Noordzee lijkt dit percentage lager te liggen. Analyse van strandafval van Nederlandse stranden laat zien dat 44% afkomstig is van bronnen op zee (scheepvaart/visserij), 30% van land (vooral strandtoerisme) en 26% is onbekend. Driekwart van het afval is plastic, zowel grotere stukken plastic als ook microplastic. De aanpak van zwerfafval in stroomgebieden is een belangrijk aangrijpingspunt voor het terugdringen van zwerfafval in zee. De ophaalregeling zwerfvuil draagt bij aan het verminderen van de hoeveelheid zwerfvuil dat in de watersystemen terecht komt omdat verzameld afval wordt afgevoerd en verwerkt.
- De ophaalregeling zwerfvuil draagt bij aan het ontwikkelen van maatregelen die leiden tot het verminderen van de hoeveelheid zwerfvuil dat in watersystemen terecht komt omdat het een samenwerkingsverband/netwerk faciliteert waardoor pilotprojecten makkelijker kunnen worden uitgevoerd.

Study into the monitoring options for operational noise mapping (in voorbereiding) (meerjarig, 300 K€ incl. EU bijdrage)

- Development and establishment of an operational noise mapping system for the North Sea, to determine ambient noise levels and trends. *(This could be part of a future coordinated monitoring program for ambient noise in the North Sea, which may be based on combined*

modelling and measuring. This may happen in the period 2015-2017, in order to provide data for the OSPAR Intermediate Assessment of 2017 and the 2018 MSFD cycle.)

Study of the measurement options of ambient noise (in voorbereiding) (meerjarig, 280 K€ incl. EU bijdrage)

- Netherlands contribution to measurements of ambient noise levels, for the coordinated monitoring program for ambient noise in the North Sea.

Study into the cumulative impact of impuls noise (in voorbereiding) (meerjarig, 280 K€ incl. EU bijdrage)

- Development of methodology to assess cumulative impact of impulsive noise sources. This will be done in international cooperation. This will happen in the period 2015-2017, in order to provide data for the OSPAR Intermediate Assessment of 2017 and the 2018 MSFD cycle.

Geldstroom markt (overig)

Kennisvergaring onderwatergeluid:

OWG impulsgeluid (in uitvoering) (42 K€)

- Deze opdracht betreft het opzetten van een monitoringprogramma voor impulsgeluid in zee dat aansluit bij een bestaand of nog op te zetten internationaal register voor impuls geluid.

Bronbeschrijving Seismiek (in uitvoering) (20 K€)

- De ontwikkeling van een methode om een beschrijving te kunnen maken van het impuls geluid als geproduceerd (door bv. airguns) bij seismisch onderzoek op zee, zodat dergelijke beschrijvingen opgeslagen kunnen worden in een register voor impulsgeluid in zee.

OSPAR ambient noise monitoring programma Noordzee ANMP (in uitvoering) (56 K€)

- De opdracht bestaat uit het operationeel maken / opzetten van een ambient-noise-monitoringsprogramma voor de Noordzee conform een eerder voorstel en via samenwerking in de OSPAR ICG Noise correspondentiegroep.

Kennisvergaring zwerfvuil:

Project TRAMP WUR Prof. Koelmans (in uitvoering) (vierjarig, 4 x 10 K€)

- Technologiestichting STW investeert in een nieuw onderzoeksproject dat in kaart brengt hoezeer de Nederlandse binnenwateren zijn vervuild met extreem kleine plasticdeeltjes. In het project gaan wetenschappers van Wageningen UR en de Universiteit Utrecht nieuwe methoden ontwikkelen om kennis over de plasticvervuiling op te bouwen. STW investeert 650.000 euro in het onderzoek. Een breed consortium van onderzoekpartners draagt 220.000 euro bij. MinlenM 4 jaar x 10 K€ zijnde 40 K€ dat door MinEZ aangevuld wordt tot 4 x 40 K€ = 160 K€).

Indicator ontwikkeling zeebodem afval (IBTS) (in uitvoering) (10 K€)

- Bij de jaarlijks door IMARES uitgevoerde IBTS vismonitoring wordt ook zeebodemaafval gemonitord om een inzicht te krijgen in het in zee aanwezige zwerfvuil qua omvang en samenstelling.
- De monitoring geschiedt volgens het ICES IBTS zwerfvuilprotocol en wel in periode 27 januari 13 februari en met het schip de Endavour.
- Bij iedere visvangsttrek wordt het mede opgevisste zwerfvuil uitgezocht en bewaard.

Alternatieven voor Pluis (VisPluisVrij) (in uitvoering) (45 K€)

- Coördinatie van het VisPluisVrij project. Dit is een indirecte onderzoek ondersteuning inhoudende:
 1. Het uitvoeren van de algehele proces- en projectcoördinatie van het project Vispluisvrij 2015 (incl. de organisatie van de hiervoor gewenste bijeenkomsten en het (laten) initiëren van de noodzakelijke acties);
 2. Het opleveren van een eindrapportage met bevindingen en aanbevelingen voor een eventueel vervolgtraject als opgedaan tijdens de proces- en projectcoördinatie .
 3. Het leveren van ondersteuning bij schrijven background document voor OSPAR Regional Action Plan Milieu actie 37 (RAP ML actie 37).

Onvoorziene onderzoeken (in voorbereiding) (40 K€ beschikbaar)

- Hiervoor zijn (is) nog geen concrete beschrijving(en) beschikbaar.

Kennisvergaring overig (cumulatie etc.):

Innovaties en ecosysteem gebruik (in voorbereiding) (25 K€ beschikbaar)

- Hiervoor zijn (is) nog geen concrete beschrijving(en) beschikbaar.

Indicatoren ontwikkeling etc. (in voorbereiding) (50 K€ beschikbaar)

- Hiervoor zijn (is) nog geen concrete beschrijving(en) beschikbaar.

Geldstroom MinlenM BOA DGMI

Onderzoeken microplastic overige bronnen (alleen in de planning) (100 K€)

- Geen omschrijving beschikbaar.

Geldstroom MinEZ uitbestedingen (alg.)

Cumulatie waaronder onderwatergeluid onderzoek seismiek (alleen in de planning) (??? K€)

- Geen omschrijving beschikbaar.
- Uitvoering afhankelijk van 2015 BO onderzoek.

Geldstroom MinEZ BO

KRM Biodiversiteits indicatoren (in uitvoering) (76 K€)

- Achtergrond: De implementatie van de Europese Kaderrichtlijn Marien is in volle gang. Doel is om in 2020 de Goede Milieutoestand te bereiken. In 2014 is het monitoringsplan KRM/N2000 gepresenteerd door Nederland in de Mariene Strategie deel 2. Dit project richt zich op het testen en verder ontwikkelen, toepassen en rapporteren over de OSPAR biodiversiteitsindicatoren (common indicators) voor de internationale Noordzee.
- Probleemstelling: Er wordt aan een aantal indicatoren gewerkt. Per indicator spelen ongeveer dezelfde zaken:
 - Verdere ontwikkeling van indicatoren
 - Testen van indicatoren met data
 - Beoordelingen van indicatoren ontwikkeld door andere landen
 - Ontwikkelen maatlatten voor indicatoren
 - Bijdrage aan rapportage over toepassing indicatoren (OSPAR Intermediate assessment)

- Projectdoelstelling: 1. Verder uitwerken, testen en toepassen en rapporteren over OSPAR common indicators M2 en M4 en FW3. 2. analyse van de impact van de door andere landen verder ontwikkelde common indicators voor de Nederlandse situatie.

Migratie zeehonden (in uitvoering) (67 K€)

- Achtergrond: Both grey and harbour seals are protected under the Habitats Directive of the EU (Appendix II). EZ is the Ministry responsible for marine mammals and habitat protection (Natura2000) in the Netherlands. As both seal species show a good recovery perspective compared to several decades ago, they were given within this framework, a national “favourable” status for population. However, grey seal and harbour seal numbers in the Dutch Delta region are not self-sustaining. A “favourable” status in the Delta area might, therefore, not hold. Seals are charismatic animals that stimulate public emotion. All decisions regarding seals could therefore be controversial. To assist management decisions, adequate and robust knowledge on the seal population, behaviour and habitats are critical.
- Probleemstelling: In the Dutch Delta region, numbers of both grey and harbour seals are increasing following a period of absence due to over-hunting. While increasing, though, grey seals have not pupped in the Delta region and the few harbour seal births there would be outweighed by the number of harbour seal deaths. Only considerable immigration of seals from other areas could explain the increase in numbers in the region. Tracking studies and the recovery of marked animals reveal some movement/ exchange of individual seals along the Dutch coast between the Delta and the Wadden Sea, but these data are not compiled. Hence, the degree of input required to sustain the groups in the Delta is not known. Anthropogenic developments in the coastal zone, such as windfarms, could influence movements of seals through the coastal zone, constraining occupation of the Delta region.
- Doelstelling: The objective of this project is to provide insight into the level of immigration of seals to Delta area and how this immigration might be influenced by human activities. As a first step, existing data will be analysed, especially the recent tracking data obtained with respect to the windfarm projects in the North Sea coastal zone.
The aims are threefold: 1. An analysis of the seal numbers for the two species: harbour and grey seals in the Delta area. 2. A study of movements of individual animals. 3. Identification of present human activities in the coastal zone.

KRM gebieden: verplaatsingseffecten Visserij (in uitvoering) (57 K€)

- Achtergrond: Het belang van kennis over het verplaatsingseffect in kader van diverse beleidsprocessen (visserijbeleid, KRM, N2000) is dat het informatie geeft irt zowel socio-economische als ecologische gevolgen buiten het maatregel-gebied. Kennisvragen zijn gerelateerd aan: Waar wijkt de visserij naar uit, hoeveel verder varen met eventueel aangepast tuig brengt immers kosten met zich mee. Alternatieve lokaties worden wellicht frequenter bevist, met wellicht andere tuigen, op andere maat vis, met ander type bijvangst, en wellicht resulterend in effecten op visbestanden en bodemleven. De effectiviteit van gebiedssluiting wordt met kennis over deze aspecten in een bredere (Noordzee) context geplaatst dan alleen de focus wat er in het maatregel gebied gebeurt (andere projecten).
- Probleemstelling: De vraag van EZ is tweeledig:
 - Wat er bekend is van deze verplaatsingseffecten na andere gebiedsbeschermingen binnen de Noord- en Waddenzee
 - Kunnen op basis daarvan scenario's worden geschetst over effecten op de ecologie elders en visserij-economie als delen van de Centrale Oestergronden of Friese Front worden gesloten?

- **Projectdoelstelling:** Doel van het project is om kennis over visserij-verplaatsingseffect te vergroten en in context te zetten van toekomstige visserijmaatregelen op het Friese Front/Centrale oestergronden (hierna: FF en CO). De doelstelling is dus tweeledig:
 - Wat was het verplaatsingsseffect op de Nederlandse Noordzee en Waddenzee in relatie tot eerdere gebieds sluitingen, en waarom was dat zo kan de kennis uit doelstelling 1, worden vertaald naar verwachtingen over het verplaatsingseffect irt sluiting op Friese front/Centrale oestergronden, en wat betekent dat kwalitatief voor de ecologische effecten dat kan hebben, en mogelijke economische impact op de visserij (nog nader te bepalen in welk detail).
 - Op basis van de resultaten kan in overleg worden gegaan met de betrokken vissers of zijn de scenario's herkennen. Deze stap is nadrukkelijk een volgende stap die buiten dit project valt, en afhankelijk zal zijn van de 1e resultaten.

Seismiek zeezoogdieren (in uitvoering) (43 K€)

- **Achtergrond:** Bij het opstellen van het soortbeschermingsplan Bruinvis in 2011 is geconstateerd dat regulering van seismisch onderzoek (EZ) aanpassing behoefde. In de Mariene strategie (MS) voor de Noordzee van de KRM is dat ook bevestigd, omdat voor seismisch onderzoek in Nederland bijna geen regels met betrekking tot onderwatergeluid worden gehanteerd (anders dan in omliggende landen). Er worden tot nu toe in vergunningen geen voorwaarden gesteld. In de MS is aangegeven dat de regels voor seismisch onderzoek, mede naar aanleiding van het Bruinvisbeschermingsplan, zullen worden aangepast. Daarvoor loopt actie bij EZ (Dré van der Elzen). Aanvullend komen er in het beleidsveld bij EZ; I&M (RWS), maar ook RVO, vragen binnen om inschatting te geven van effecten van concrete surveys. Effecten op met name Bruinvissen zullen, gezien het type geluid dat geproduceerd wordt, vergelijkbaar zijn als voor constructie windparken, maar de schaal waarop die effecten voorkomen is niet goed bekend. Over effecten in ondiep water en gevoelige soorten als bruinvissen is dat minder goed bekend. In VK is inmiddels wel onderzoek uitgevoerd naar effecten van een survey in de Moray Firth; daaruit komt een vergelijkbaar beeld als bij windenergie: verstoring, maar tijdelijk, en het advies te focussen op fourageereffecten van die verstoring. Verder is bekend uit de bronneninventarisatie voor het NCP, opgesteld door TNO voor de KRM, in 2009, dat bijdrage aan geluid door seismiek waarschijnlijk groter is dan voor windenergie. In opdracht van Rijkswaterstaat is door Arcadis in 2011 ook al een nadere inventarisatie van voorkomen van seismisch onderzoek opgesteld, met gelijk beeld.
- **Probleemstelling:** Er is (internationaal) redelijke kennis over mogelijke effecten van seismiek op diverse soorten zeezoogdieren. Ook is bekend dat geluid door seismiek een relatief grote bijdrage levert aan geluid op de Noordzee. De schaal waarop seismiek nu daadwerkelijk voorkomt op het NCP en de effecten op gevoelige soorten zoals de Bruinvis is echter niet goed bekend. Goede informatie voor beheer (vergunningen/aanpassen regelgeving) is daardoor niet beschikbaar. Ook is het niet duidelijk welke kennisleemtes er nog zijn. Deze informatie is wel urgent nodig voor de beleidsontwikkeling van de KRM en het soortbeschermingsplan Bruinvis.
- **Projectdoelstelling:** Verzamelen van relevante informatie m.b.t.:
 1. de blootstelling op het NCP (welke activiteiten, welke geluidsniveaus en –karakteristieken, hoe vaak, waar, wanneer, trends)
 2. potentiële effecten op de Bruinvis (communicatie, verstoring, verwonding etc.) en hoe verhouden deze effecten zich tot die van het heien van windparken op het NCP?
 3. Mitigatiemaatregelen (nationaal, internationaal, toekomstige ontwikkelingen, effectiviteit, bruikbaarheid bestaande protocollen zoals JNCC/Duitsland).
 4. Identificeren van korte-termijn op te lossen kennisleemtes (m.b.t. blootstelling, effecten en mitigatiemaatregelen) en aangeven hoe deze ingevuld moeten worden.

Geldstroom RWS WVL Landelijke taak (L 1880)

Geen onderzoeken.

Geldstroom RWS Zee & Delta Landelijke taak (S.001491.0026)

Geen onderzoeken.

ANNEX 4

Dutch priorities and potential roles in OSPAR/MSFD context⁶:

Item – priority (≥ 5 votes)	# X/Σ replies	Comments from CPs ⁷	NL science need	Further elaborate	EU funding? ⁸	Potential partners and NL role	NL initiative
A2. Cumulative effects – when is a change significant and when should it trigger action	6/9		NL: X- General need to support ICG-C work. NL seeks co-operation for: Assessment of suitability of the bowtie instrument for analysis and visualisation of (cross-border) cumulative effects problems	ICG-C, discussed in meeting Feb 2015	INTERREG VB programme NSR North Sea Region. 1 st call open 27/4-30/6/15 (2 stage application approach) ⁹	RWS/Imares (co-lead?) Cefas, Liverpool University, Gothenburg University	YES, ICG-C, EIHA, BDC
General biodiversity and ecosystems							
B2 Adequate monitoring and availability of pressure data including time & space resolution and biological data	7/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological data and physical pressures specifically mentioned. • At relevant temporal and spatial scale. • International (cross-sectoral) standards needed for habitats and their degradation stage and pressure accumulation and intensity levels. • Integrated and more harmonised 	NL: X- NL has an overview of pressure information and is primarily seeking pressure - state interactions (space, time, dose-response). Related to indicator development in ICG-COBAM.	EIHA, BDC/ICG-COBAM	2.H2020 ¹⁰ part III, theme 5.2.1?	EU level? NL supporting partner?	N

⁶ Based on Annex 2 of COG(2) 14/3/3-E

⁷ Cf 3rd column of Annex 1 of CoG(2) 14/3/Info.1-E

⁸ Inspired by Annex 2 of CoG(2) 14/3/Info.1-E. Updated on the basis of relevant EU websites. Suggested EU programmes may not be the most appropriate ones. Need to further investigate.

⁹ <http://www.northsearegion.eu/ivb/content/show/&tid=190>

¹⁰ http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/doc/call/h2020/common/1595115-h2020-sp-oj_en.pdf

Item – priority (≥ 5 votes)	# X/Σ replies	Comments from CPs ⁷	NL science need	Further elaborate	EU funding? ⁸	Potential partners and NL role	NL initiative
		monitoring and assessment of biodiversity needed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased coverage and reduced costs. • Make data storage and reporting cheaper. 					
B – Marine protected areas							
B8. increased assessment of the effects of human activities on MPA features	5/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important to inform management measures in MPAs • Includes monitoring 	NL: X- development of a framework and criteria for a representative and coherent network of MPAs in the North Sea	ICG-MPAs	MARE/2014/40 ¹¹ deadline for submission 31/3/2015	NL supporting partner?	YES , ICG-MPA, BDC
B10 establish reference / baseline conditions for species and habitats	8/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relates to D1, essential for T&D species / habitats where knowledge is missing. • Take into account spatial (i.e. distributional range) and temporal scales (i.e.) phenology) 	NL: X – relates to development of indicators for biodiversity	ICG-MPAs, ICG-COBAM	Project EcAprHA, EMFF ¹² , tender phase	11 partners, NL (NIOZ) supporting partner.	N, just follow
B MSFD Descriptor 1 – STAGES PROJECT							
B S4. Develop methods for considering synergistic, cumulative, and antagonistic effects of human pressures on	8/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relates to A2. • Capacity assessment tool • Needs to be specified. 	NL-X	ICG-C, ICG-COBAM	See A2		See A2

¹¹ Study on international best practices for cross-border maritime spatial planning.

¹² Submitted EMFF tender ‘Addressing gaps in biodiversity indicator development for the OSPAR Region from data to ecosystem assessment: Applying an ecosystem approach to (sub) regional habitat assessments’ (EcAprHA) (see ICG-COBAM(3) 14/3/Info.1). Focus on pelagic habitats, benthic habitats, food webs. Partners: SAHFOS (UK), MNHN (FR), CNRS-BOREA (FR), SMHI (SE), CNRS (FR), IEO (ES), JNCC (UK), BioConsult, NIOZ (NL), Cefas (UK), OSPAR Secretariat.

Item – priority (≥ 5 votes)	# X/Σ replies	Comments from CPs ⁷	NL science need	Further elaborate	EU funding? ⁸	Potential partners and NL role	NL initiative
biodiversity							
B S5. Develop methods to account for long-term consequences of human pressures on marine ecosystems especially considering climate change, and the implications of ocean acidification on ecosystems	5/9	Optimise long-term monitoring. Longer term fundamental research?	NL: X - Effective monitoring of acidification: second parameter in addition to pH (related to ongoing work under HASEC)	HASEC, BDC, OSPAR-ICES SG on Ocean Acidification	Via JPI Oceans? ¹³	?	N
B – MSFD Descriptor 6 – STAGES							
B S20. Develop methods to evaluate the risk of the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities (trawling, mining, renewable energy, etc.) on sensitive and vulnerable benthic habitats and species. This can only be undertaken with broader access to satellite location of international fleets	8/9	Relates to A2 and E2. Spatial information first priority. Needs to take into account ongoing work e.g. in UK/DE in relation to BH3. Use VMS and potentially AIS.	NL: X – follow up work of ICG-C (testing approaches for cum eff assessment)	EIHA, ICG-C, BDC, ICG-COBAM, ICG-POSH	See A2		See A2
B S21. Integrate seafloor	6/9	• Relates to B S20 and development of next generation marine models	NL: X - Important for (joint) monitoring at NS scale. JMP	ICG-COBAM,	INTERREG North Sea	NL	YES,

¹³ JPI Oceans – SRIA: Action 1 (STAB prio action3): monitoring the variability and combined effects of acidification and warming on the upper ocean layer. Action 2: Combine modelling and experimental research to understand combined effects of ocean warming and acidification on marine ecosystems.

Item – priority (≥ 5 votes)	# X/Σ replies	Comments from CPs ⁷	NL science need	Further elaborate	EU funding? ⁸	Potential partners and NL role	NL initiative
habitat sampling and biological/physical models, with appropriate ground truthing, to allow Member States to identify areas under greatest risk as a priority for management		(also applicable to D5). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Particularly helpful would be an approach that can be applied region-wide 	NS/CS: plans for follow up work to explore joint monitoring of eg. benthos, using common indicators and common assessment areas (latter: tools developed under JMP NS/CS). North Sea/Celtic Sea cooperation?	ICG-MSP, ICG-EUT?	Region Programme VB ¹⁴ 1 st call open from 27/4-30/6 2015.	supporting partner? If JMP NS/CS consortium as a basis: RWS/Imares, TI/BfN (DE), AU (DK), SLU (SE), IMR (NO), MSS/JNCC/Cefas (UK), RBINS/ILVO (BE)	ICG-COBAM, ICG-MPA, BDC
B MSFD Descriptor 10 – STAGES							
B S24. Determination of sources and fates of litter in the marine environment by the development a GIS platform and a large-scale EU wide model of litter transportation	7/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include micro and nano plastics. Further specify geographical scale and address trans-boundary issues. Identification of sources is vital to effective management measures. Build on ongoing work. 	NL: X - Development monitoring riverine litter	ICG-ML	1.EMFF: monitoring riverine litter; 2.LIFE sub programme Environment, projects that aim at prevention and reduction of marine litter or microbial contaminants (addressing also their sources)	1. NL in cooperation with river basin authorities (ongoing). 2.longer term action?	N

¹⁴ <http://www.northsearegion.eu/ivb/content/show/&tid=190>

Item – priority (≥ 5 votes)	# X/Σ replies	Comments from CPs ⁷	NL science need	Further elaborate	EU funding? ⁸	Potential partners and NL role	NL initiative
B S25. Determine the relationship between the types and amounts of marine litter in the environment and the degree of ‘harm’ caused at a population and individual level	9/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include nano- and microplastics. • Build on ongoing work (eg. TG-ML). • Develop global database with evidence of harm in marine environment 	NL: X - Study on effects nano-plastics on aquatic/marine environment	ICG-ML	1. Interreg 2 SEAS project (ongoing); EMFF (2015) 2.H2020 ¹⁵ part III, themes 2.5.2 and 2.5.3?	1.NS; national. 2.EU scale? NL to take initiative?	YES , ICG-NL, EIHA
B S27. Development of additional monitoring tools to quantify the pressure from marine litter	6/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further specify and build on ongoing work. However, TWG-ML guidance not applicable to bulk of OSPAR area. Suggestions: bottom trawling surveys, cameras on cruise ships can record floating litter • Relates to BS24-BS25-BS26. • Suggestion to organise a congress/symposium to discuss this with international experts. Cooperation will ensure a coherent vision. 	NL: X -Development of indicator for seafloor litter	ICG-ML	Not necessarily		N
B – MSFD Descriptor 11 – STAGES		<i>General: take into account results from the BIAS project (Baltic Sea noise monitoring)</i>					
B S29. Determine population effects of low- and mid-frequency impulsive noise on marine	6/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predominantly North Sea/English Channel priority; no 1 under D11 (SE). • NL in co-op with other North Sea 	NL: X – Methodology to assess cumulative impact of impulsive noise sources; - Exposure assessment tool.	ICG-Noise	NL: uses EMFF (2014-2017). No concrete plans for future projects.		N

¹⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/doc/call/h2020/common/1595115-h2020-sp-oj_en.pdf

Item – priority (≥ 5 votes)	# X/Σ replies	Comments from CPs ⁷	NL science need	Further elaborate	EU funding? ⁸	Potential partners and NL role	NL initiative
life in order to establish targets (for 2018/2021 MSFD cycle)		partners develops methodology to assess cumulative impact of impulsive noise sources, further developing exposure assessment tool (SORIANT).	Exposure tool included (standard) acoustic model for impulsive noise: SORIAN (until 2015)				
B S30. Effects of increased ambient noise levels on marine life, in order to establish targets for future MSFD cycles	6/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For future measures; build on ongoing work. Of wider geographic relevance? 	NL: X	ICG-Noise develops pilot North Sea joint monitoring programme for ambient noise	NL: EMFF; other NS CPs need EU funding to proceed, eg. http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/life2015/index.htm	RWS/TNO/Arcadis, BSH/MBBM, Cefas/MSS, RBINS, FOI (SE)	YES, ICG-Noise, EIHA
E – MSFD Descriptor 5 – OSPAR							
E1 Cost-effective monitoring of eutrophication parameters	5/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of analytical tools for integrating the data supplied from the available multiple platforms (e.g. satellite information) into coherent models that complete the information obtained “in situ” and permit re-designing the monitoring programs. 	NL: X - part of JMP NS/CS; plans for follow up work to explore use of new satellite system ¹⁶ for remote sensing of chlorophyll, to be accompanied by co-ordinated surveys for calibration. North Sea case study.	ICG-EUT, MIME; ICES request on big data handling	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> H2020 BG 16 – 2015 Coordination action to support JPIO SRIA¹⁷.; Opening Date: 25-07-2014; Deadline Date: 11-06-2015 7:00:00 OR INTERREG VB 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ifremer, RWS/Deltares, RWS, UBA/BSH ?, SMHI, RBINS, MMS, DTU 	YES, ICG-EUT, MIME, HASEC

¹⁶ The launch of the first European Space Agency (ESA) Sentinel-3 satellite is planned for late 2015. Therefore, there is the potential for further high quality satellite data suitable for work with algal blooms to become available in 2016. A second Sentinel satellite with ocean colour sensor is also planned for launch 18 months later, and a third before 2020.

¹⁷ Relates to JPIO theme ‘Science support to coastal and maritime planning and management’, Action 2 ‘Develop and implement integrated monitoring strategy for coastal observation’. Focus on cooperation of research institutes; up to 2M€ projects

Item – priority (≥ 5 votes)	# X/Σ replies	Comments from CPs ⁷	NL science need	Further elaborate	EU funding? ⁸	Potential partners and NL role	NL initiative
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider data collection and storage (e.g. EMODnet) to make assessment and reporting cheaper. 			programme North West Europe: http://www.nweurope.eu/ . First calls for proposals first half of 2015 expected.	Aqua... 2. Ifremer, RWS/Deltares, RWS, UBA/BSH ?, RBINS, MMS...	

ANNEX 5

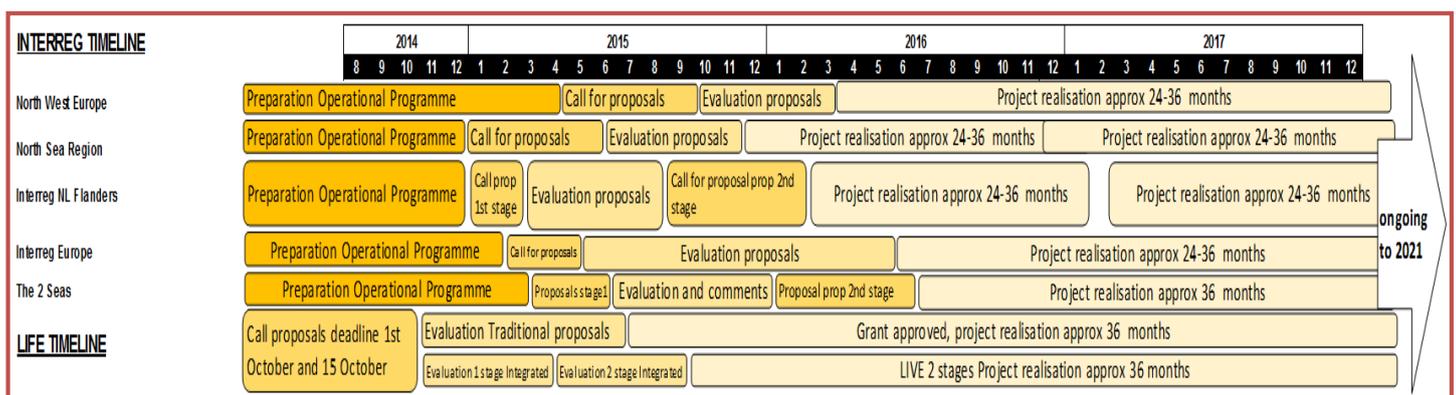
Inventory of EU co-funding opportunities for the implementation of the MSFD

Version September 2014¹⁸

Resourcefully, on behalf of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, started a concise overview of opportunities for the EU co-funding opportunities (2014-2020) for the implementation of the MSFD activities. EU-funding mechanisms, considered to be the ones most relevant to apply for by Member States concerning MSFD measures and initiatives, are:

- ✓ EU Regional Funds: European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) 2014-2020
 - INTERREG VB programme NWE North West Europe
 - INTERREGV B programme NSR North Sea Region
 - INTERREG V Programme 2 Seas
 - INTERREG V Flanders-The Netherlands
 - INTERREG Europe programme
- ✓ European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), not included.
- ✓ EU Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)
- ✓ EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (Horizon 2020)
- ✓ EU DG Maritime Affairs and Environment Call for proposals

In the following pages an overview including the details about the content, conditions and application procedure of each of the programmes are presented. We invite task managers for MSFD implementation to carefully read the characteristics of the various programmes and further explore possibilities, using the contact points for each programme.



¹⁸ Compiled by Hugo Niesing (h.niesing@resourcefully.nl) for minlenM. This information is subject to change as time progresses. Contact Lisette Enserink (lisette.enserink@rws.nl) for comments and questions.

EU Regional Funds: European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) 2014-2020

INTERREG VB Programme NWE North West Europe

North-West Europe area



INTERREG North-West Europe (NWE) is a Programme of the EU to promote the economic, environmental, social and territorial future of the North-West Europe area. It invests 400 million euros (2014-2020) of European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in activities based on the cooperation of partners from eight countries: Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Scope of projects

The 2014-2020 Programme under preparation will have a stronger thematic focus orientation on results. It will be more demanding than the previous Programme in terms of the level of collaboration. The Programme will continue to focus on concrete implementation of activities rather than research. The specific thematic focus will help to create quality projects where cooperation is key to achieving a higher and measurable impact. Projects need to deliver real solutions – tested on the ground – and push for their up-take during and after the project's lifetime.

More info: <http://www.nweurope.eu/>. Contact person NL: Ge Huismans ge.huismans@rvo.nl +31 (0) 88 6022 428 and Jacqueline Brouwer jacqueline.brouwer@rvo.nl +31 (0) 88 602 2664

Timing: First calls for proposals **first half of 2015 expected.**

Goals of Programme	Priorities	Type projects	Size projects & % funding, budget
<p>The European Union is preparing for the future. The 2014-2020 EU budget is being negotiated. In parallel, the Regulations for the Structural Funds are being developed. The European Commission's legislative package is designed to reinforce cohesion and to target EU investments on Europe's long-term goals for growth and jobs. The North-West Europe 2014-2020 Programme will focus on the</p>	<p>The NWE Member States have agreed on the following Thematic Objectives, in grey the relevancy for MSFD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening research, technological development and innovation. The Programme will invest in enhancing the capacity of the NWE territory to generate innovation, on the basis of its existing potential and quadruple helix actors. It will seek to reduce the innovation capacity gaps between regions and contribute to the implementation of the smart specialisation strategies of participating regions. 	<p>Study, process</p> <p>Investments in pilot projects.</p>	<p>Project budgets are varying between € 3 and 15 Million. Taken from NWE project database.</p> <p>ERDF contribution 50%.</p> <p>Total budget is</p>
		<p>Type partnership</p> <p>Minimum 2 partners from at least 2</p>	

<p>challenges and needs that can be effectively tackled through transnational cooperation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors. The Programme will invest in the area's climate change mitigation potential, reduction of GHG emissions, energy efficiency and the share of renewable energy sources in the consumption and production mix. • Protecting the environment and promoting energy efficiency. The Programme will invest in eco-innovation and resource efficiency. The purpose is to reduce the environmental footprint of human activity on the environment, and decouple the growth curve from the material consumption curve. 	<p>countries (with at least one of them from the NWE area)</p>	<p>€ 396 million.</p>
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INTERREG VB programme NSR North Sea Region



The 7 North Sea Region Programme countries are Sweden, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, the UK and Norway. The North Sea Region Programme focuses on encouraging and supporting transnational cooperation in the North Sea Region. In 2013, a Programme Preparation Group consisting of representatives from the seven North Sea Region countries participating in the 2007 – 2013 Programme started drafting the Cooperation Programme for 2014 – 2020. As part of the process, two public consultations were carried out among stakeholders to collect their views on the needs and potential of the region. The final draft of the Cooperation Programme, as well as Strategic Environmental Assessment and ex-ante evaluation documents, will be submitted to the

European Commission for approval by 22 September 2014. Once they are approved, the Programme secretariat will start preparations for the first call for project applications.

Scope of projects

Although there is a huge similarity with the North West Europe programme, the impression arises that in the North Sea programme the focus is more heavy on innovation and trans-nationality and to a lesser extent on implementation or large scale demonstration. Projects targeting the North Sea should aim to remove or mitigate major threats and pressures including the risk of accident, eutrophication, highly toxic pollutants and the urgent need to support fish stock recovery and preserve all parts of marine food chains. Explore the environmental limits of new and existing economic activities in the North Sea in order to provide a sound basis for sustainable Blue Growth¹⁹.

Transnational cooperation is needed especially in the areas of:

¹⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/blue_growth/

- Coordinating different user needs and planning the best locations for different activities
- Action on pollutants
- Action to preserve the breeding, spawning and feeding grounds of North Sea fish and animals

More info: <http://www.northsearegion.eu> Contact person Lidwien Slothouwer van Schipstal lidwien.slothouwer@rvo.nl + 31 88 602 7028

Timing: First calls expected around this autumn, probably around **October 2014**.

Planned events: 17-18th September, Ghent : **Transnational Project Development Seminar and Partner Search event: Getting ready for the new programme** The purpose of the seminar is to provide insights into the background and logic of the new programme and to explain the expectations new projects will have to meet in terms of content development, implementation and results orientation.

Goals of Programme	Priorities	Size projects & % funding	Type projects
The aim of the programme greater cooperation in working practices across the North Sea Region (NSR) as a way of tackling joint challenges, pooling expertise and building lasting links between businesses and institutions throughout the NSR.	Priorities, to be approved by European Commission. <u>INTERREG V NSR projects can contribute to all stages of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) implementation schedule</u>	Programme budget is € 167 million .	Innovation, both contents and process oriented. Studies, Transnational co-operation and learning and staff exchange. Investments in pilot projects. Investments in new economic models.
		Project budget are varying between € 3 and 8 Million .	
		Observed in the NSR project database. ERDF contribution 50%, 15% indirect costs flat rate.	
		Type partnership	
		Min 3 different countries Min 3 partners For successful submission it is necessary to work	

Goals of Programme	Priorities	Size projects & % funding	Type projects
		with more partners (5 – 6 countries).	

INTERREG A Programme 2 Seas(France-England-Flanders-Netherlands Cross-border Cooperation Programme)

This Cooperation Programme (CP) describes the context and priorities for maritime cross-border cooperation (CBC) between France, England, Belgium (Flanders) and the Netherlands for 2014-2020. This programme enables regional and local authorities and other types of organisations from different countries to exchange knowledge and experiences, to develop and implement pilot actions, to test the feasibility of new policies, products and services and to support investments. The programme is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The 2 Seas Programme for 2014-2020 will enlarge its eligible areas. The geographical area covered is still a maritime border along the Southern North Sea and the Channel. Adjacent areas from the 2007-2013 period are now also fully eligible. Besides, the coastal areas of the Dutch Province of Noord-Holland and a few additional English territories (Swindon, Peterborough) will join the 2 Seas Programme. The programme was prepared in close cooperation with the neighbouring maritime "France (Channel)-England" Programme. As for the previous programming period 2007-2013, all



English territories and several French territories belong to both Programme areas.

Scope of projects

The program supports two types of cooperation:

1) Regular cross-border cooperation that participants from different countries in the program area gather together to address cross-border issues and resolve in accordance with the objectives of the program priorities;

2) Strategic projects approved by the program authorities and as such are considered and essential for achieving the objectives of the program.

More info: <http://www.interreg4a-2mers.eu/en>

Timing: the process of the programme is under development and the final documents will be submitted to the European Commission for approval in July 2014.

Goals of Programme	Priorities	Type projects	Size projects & % funding & Budget
2 seas is an instrument for EU's cohesion policy. For harmonious development across the Union by strengthening its economic, social and territorial cohesion to stimulate growth in the EU regions. The policy aims primarily to reduce existing disparities between EU territories in terms of their economic and social development, and environmental sustainability, taking into account their specific territorial features and opportunities.	<p>The preparations for the operational programme are running.</p> <p>A concept strategy is available.</p> <p>This is focussing on 4 priority investment objectives and 6 goals for the period 2014-2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening research, technological development and innovation (TO1) • Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors (TO4) • Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management (TO5) • Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency (TO6) 	Cross-border cooperation and strategic projects.	<p>Total programme budget around € 256 million.</p> <p>Project budgets between € 2 and 5 million (observed database website).</p>
		<p>Type partnership</p> <p>Minimum 2 partners from at least 2 countries.</p>	

INTERREG V programme Flanders-The Netherlands

The program between the Netherlands and Flanders (Belgium) is carried out on the territory of (parts of) the **five Flemish provinces and the three southern provinces of the Netherlands**. In Flanders these are the provinces of Antwerp, East-Flanders, Flemish-Brabant, Limburg and West-Flanders and in the Netherlands the provinces of Limburg, North-Brabant and Zeeland.



Scope of projects

Flanders, the Netherlands and the eight provinces have chosen four themes accompanied by nine different specific objectives for the coming years:

- Strengthening research, technological development and innovation
- Support for energy efficiency and renewable energy
- Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency
- Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility

Meer info: <http://www.grensregio.eu>

Timing: [Over the next seven years, one call for proposals will be launched, followed by a decision in two steps. No date](#)

Goals of Programme	Priorities	Type projects	Size projects & % funding
<p>The program is still fairly conceptual. Well there is a thematic objective</p> <p>6: Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency</p>	<p>6d Protecting and restoring biodiversity, soil protection and restoration and promoting ecosystem services (including NATURA 2000 and green infrastructure)</p> <p>6f The promotion of innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, the water sector, soil or to reduce air pollution</p>	<p>Cross-border projects.</p>	<p>€ 154 million likely to be made available.</p> <p>For research and innovation will be 40% of the budget reserved. The energy and environmental priorities each get a large 20% and 10% is allocated for projects around labour.</p> <p>The program funds to 50% of the project. Additionally you can use co-financing of private investors or governments. It is not possible to support the European Interreg Flanders - combined with funding from other channels for ERDF grants or from other European programs such as Horizon 2020, LIFE + and the European Social Fund (ESF) Netherlands.</p>
		<p>Type partnership</p> <p>Minimum 2 partners from at least 2 regions FL & NL.</p>	

INTERREG V EUROPE programme

In the INTERREG EUROPE cooperation programme, partners from 30 countries - 28 member states of the European Union, Norway and Switzerland - will be able to exchange their experience and work on improving their Structural Funds and regional development policies.



Scope of projects

Two major points are relevant for interregional cooperation

1. The regulation defines two major 'goals' for ERDF: Jobs & Growth and European Territorial Cooperation. As the second goal, ETC will also have its own regulation to better reflect the specific multi-country nature of cooperation.

2. Interregional cooperation will continue to exist to "reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy".

Meer info: <http://www.interreg4c.eu/programme/2014-2020/>

Timing: First Calls for proposals expected in February 2015

Goals of Programme	Priorities	Type projects	Size projects & % funding, budget
The INTERREG EUROPE programme aims to improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs and European	<p><u>Four themes</u> were selected in order to make the best use of limited funds. The more focused the actions, the higher chances they deliver effective results, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research & innovation 2. SME competitiveness 	Public organisations from different regions in Europe work together for 3 to 5 years on a shared policy issue. An action plan , specific for each region, will ensure that the lessons learnt from the cooperation are put into action. Regional partners will monitor how far the action plans are implemented	<p><u>The total allocation for European Territorial Cooperation as a whole is EUR 10.2 billion.</u></p> <p><u>INTERREG EUROPE budget allocation is EUR 359m</u></p>
		Type partnership	

Goals of Programme	Priorities	Type projects	Size projects & % funding, budget
<p>Territorial Cooperation (ETC) programmes.</p>	<p>3. Low-carbon economy 4. Environment & resource efficiency</p>	<p>This programme helps regions perform better in the four policy fields tackled.</p> <p>Managing Authorities of Structural Funds programmes: find tried and tested measures to implement in your programme Regional/local authorities: share and implement good practices coming from across Europe Agencies, research institutes, thematic policy organisations: get involved with your policymaker and contribute to better policy implementation</p>	

EU Programme for the Environment & Climate Action: LIFE programme (covers whole EU)

The LIFE programme contributes to sustainable development and to the achievement of the objectives and targets of the Europe 2020 Strategy, the 7th Union Environmental Action Programme and other relevant EU environment and climate strategies and plans. The 'Environment' strand of the new programme covers three priority areas: environment and resource efficiency; nature and biodiversity; and environmental governance and information.

For the MSFD related projects the LIFE sub programme **Environment** is most relevant. This sub programme covers three priority areas:

- ✓ environment and resource efficiency;
- ✓ nature and biodiversity (at least 55 % of the budgetary resources);
- ✓ environmental governance and information.

LIFE projects can contribute to all stages of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) implementation schedule. More info: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/index.htm> . Contact persons: **Ms Astrid HAMER / Ms. Maaike BELD**, Tel: +31 (0)88 602 2730/7048, LIFE@rvo.nl. **Ms. Wendy OLIVIER**, TEL. +31 6 48136189, w.s.olivier@minez.nl.

Timing: The LIFE programme **call for proposals are open**

Traditional projects:

2014: Call 18 June 2014 → Submission: 16 October 2014 → Grants signed: July 2015

Integrated projects:

2014: Call 18 June 2014 → Submission Phase 1: 10 Oct. 2014 → Submission Phase 2: April 2015

Grants signed Sept. 2015

Goals of Programme	Priorities	Size projects & % funding	Type projects
Objectives of the LIFE Programme (2014-2020) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •LIFE should be used as a catalyst; •LIFE should promote implementation and integration of environment and climate objectives in other policies and Member State 	Types of Projects •At least 81% of the programme budget (approx. €2,800 million)in total. In grey relevancy for MSFD: Thematic priorities for Water, including the marine environment: activities for the implementation of the specific objectives for water set out in the Roadmap for a Resource-Efficient Europe and the 7 th Environment Action Programme, in particular activities for the implementation of the programme	Varying from 55 to 100%, depending on the type of activities Total LIFE Budget: €3,456.7 million (€2,592.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Traditional projects: best practice, innovation and demonstration projects, as well as dissemination/information projects and governance projects (similar to LIFE+) •Integrated projects: projects aiming at the implementation on a large territorial scale plans and strategies required by EU legislation in the areas of

Goals of Programme	Priorities	Size projects & % funding	Type projects
<p>practice, including mainstreaming;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Emphasis will also be placed on better governance; 	<p>of measures of Directive 2008/56/EC (MSFD) with a view to achieving good environmental status of marine waters.</p> <p>Thematic priorities for Waste: activities for the implementation of the specific objectives for waste set out in the Roadmap for a Resource-Efficient Europe and the 7th Environment Action Programme, in particular activities for the implementation and development of Union waste legislation, with particular emphasis on the first steps of the Union waste hierarchy (prevention, re-use and recycling).</p> <p>Thematic priorities for Nature: activities for the implementation of Directives 92/43/EEC and 2009/147/EC, in particular activities aimed at improving the conservation status of habitats and species, including marine habitats and species, and bird species, of Union interest.</p> <p>"(a) Information, communication and awareness raising campaigns in line with the priorities of the 7th Environment Action Programme;</p> <p>(b) Activities in support of effective control process as well as measures to promote compliance in relation to Union environmental legislation, and in support of information systems and information tools on the implementation of Union environmental legislation."</p>	<p>m for ENV, €864.2 m for CLIMA)</p>	<p>nature, water, waste, air;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Capacity building projects: financial support to the activities required to build the capacity of Member States with a view to enabling their more effective participation in LIFE. <p>Type partnership</p> <p>Proposals can be submitted per country individual.</p>

Co-financing Rates LIFE

- Traditional Nature and Biodiversity Projects: 60% co-financing but 75% for projects targeting priority habitats & species
- Integrated projects, preparatory projects and technical assistance projects: 60% co-financing
- Capacity building projects: 100%co-financing
- All other projects, i.e., traditional projects under the sub-programme of Climate Action and traditional projects under priorities Environment and Resources Efficiency and Environment Governance and information Projects in the sub-programme for Environment: 60%co-financing during the first multiannual work programme(2014-2017)

EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation HORIZON 2020

(covers whole EU)

Horizon 2020 is the largest EU Research and Innovation programme, follow-up of FP7. The sustainable exploitation of the diversity of marine life puts emphasis in 2014 on valuing marine biodiversity while 2015 will focus on the preservation and sustainable exploitation of marine ecosystems and climate change effects on marine living resources. The new offshore challenges will be tackled in 2014 through a support action (CSA) preparing potential further large –scale offshore initiatives and one initiative focused on sub-sea technologies while in 2015 a large scale initiative is planned on response to oil spill and maritime pollution. Large-scale initiative on improving ocean observation systems/technologies including novel monitoring systems for in-situ observations will be supported in 2014 as well as one activity on acoustic and imaging technologies. Several horizontal activities regarding socio-economic issues, valorising research outcomes or engaging society as well as projects targeting SMEs will be promoted in 2014. **The 2014 - 2015 Work Programme for Societal Challenge 9** is composed of three calls. Two highly cross-cutting calls on 'Sustainable Food Security' and on 'Blue Growth' (to which other parts of Horizon 2020 contribute directly and indirectly) and a call aiming at fostering an 'Innovative, Sustainable and Inclusive Bio economy'. The current Work Programme: Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the Bio-economy covers 2014 and 2015. Due to the launching phase of Horizon 2020, parts of the Work Programme that relate to 2015 (topics, dates, budget) are provided at this stage on an indicative basis only. The following Work Programme parts will be decided during 2014.

Timing: The HORIZON2020 key dates for implementation

2014: Call 11 Dec 2013 ➡ Submission phase 1: 12 March ➡ Submission phase 2: 26 June ➡
Calls are **closed!**

2015: Call 11 Dec 2013 ➡ Submission phase 1: 24 Feb. 2015 ➡ Submission phase 2: 11 June 2015 ➡
Calls are **open!**

Calls open for:

- [BG 1 – 2015](#) Improving the preservation and sustainable exploitation of Atlantic marine ecosystems
- [BG 2 – 2015](#) Forecasting and anticipating effects of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture
- [BG 7 – 2015](#) Response capacities to oil spills and marine pollutions
- [BG 16 – 2015](#) Coordination action in support of the implementation of the Joint Programming Initiative on "Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans"

Contact: Taake Manning - National NCP coordinator. Netherlands Enterprise Agency, Prinses Beatrixlaan 2, 2595 AL, DEN HAAG **Tel:** +31 (0)88 6025534 **Website:**

<http://www.agentschapnl.nl/programmas-regelingen/horizon-2020-onderzoek-en-innovatie>.

Goals of Programme	Priorities	Size projects & % funding	Type projects
<p>Blue Growth focus area aims to unlock the potential of the seas and ocean. This focus area addresses the challenge through five cross-cutting priority domains supporting the Blue Growth Agenda: valorising the diversity of marine life; sustainable harvesting of deep-sea resources; new offshore challenges; ocean observation technologies; and the socioeconomic dimension.</p>	<p>The Blue Growth Strategy is the Integrated Maritime Policy's contribution to achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, including addressing the research gaps and needs in order to support the MSFD implementation.</p>	<p>The indicative available budget for Blue Growth is €100 million from the 2014 budget, and €45 million from the 2015 budget. In total, Horizon 2020 is worth nearly €80 billion over seven years. Projects are co-financed by the EU and the participants as follows :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>research and development projects</u> the share of the EU contribution can be up to 100% of the total eligible costs; • <u>innovation projects up to 70%</u> of the costs, with the <u>exception of non-profit legal entities</u> which can receive up to 100% in these actions. • In <u>all cases indirect costs</u> will be covered by a flat rate of 25% of the direct costs. 	<p>Collaborative projects include research and development actions and innovation actions.</p> <p>Type partnership</p> <p>At least two EU MS to participate. Also third countries are eligible under conditions.</p>

DG MARITIME AFFAIRS: CALL FOR PROPOSALS: MARE / 2014 /22

Projects on Maritime Spatial Planning

Lot 3: North Sea

The main characteristic of the North Sea concerning the governance of MSP is that it gathers Member States which have already developed MSP thoroughly. Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany are the only three EU Member States where maritime spatial plans cover the entirety of the Exclusive Economic Zones. (In 2014, Belgium even produced a revised version of their marine plan.) England is implementing MSP gradually. The first plans to be finalized are the plans for the East Inshore and East Offshore areas, in the North Sea. They were published on 2 April 2014. It should be noted that Sweden has a regime for marine planning in its territorial waters and that a comprehensive MSP legislation is under discussion in their Parliament should be adopted in 2014.

From 2010 to 2012 DG MARE funded the MASPNOSE pilot projects on cross-border cooperation on MSP in the North Sea waters of Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark for the Dogger Bank and the on Belgium and the Netherlands for the Thornton Bank.

Objective of the project

The objective of the projects is to support Member States start implementing cross-border planning in their sea-basin and gather practical knowledge and experience in the implementation of MSP. Despite the ongoing activities of EU Member States in implementing MSP at national or regional level, cross-border cooperation between Member States remains limited at this point in time. This project therefore seeks to stimulate the development of a cross-border, ecosystem-based approach towards MSP on the basis of the requirements of the Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning adopted by the European Parliament and the Council.

More specifically, the objectives of this project are to:

1. Support the implementation of the Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning in Member States and in cross-border settings;
2. Launch and carry out concrete, cross-border MSP cooperation between Member States in the Black Sea, Baltic Sea and North Sea, involving at least two Member States and the relevant authorities responsible for MSP in the selected area(s);
3. Identify potential barriers and formulate recommendations on the application of MSP in cross-border areas, to the benefit of cross-border MSP application throughout the EU.

BUDGET AVAILABLE:

The total budget earmarked for the co-financing of projects is estimated at 6,370,000€.

This Call is subdivided in three lots. The budget earmarked for the co-financing of each Lot is estimated as follows:

- ✓ Lot 1, Black Sea: 2,123,000€
- ✓ Lot 2, Baltic Sea: 2,123,000€
- ✓ **Lot 3, North Sea: 2,124,000€**

PARTICIPATION: In Lot 3, the North Sea is understood as the **Greater North Sea** as defined by Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic. The project

must be managed in a Partnership where the **Partners are public authorities or bodies of at least two coastal EU Member States**. The Partnership may also include the relevant regional sea conventions as Lead Partners or Partners.

Duration: 24 months (from the award of the contract). **DEADLINE: 14/11/2014 – 16.00H**

Information available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs_fisheries/contracts_and_funding/calls_for_proposals/2014_22/index_en.htm

DG ENVIRONMENT: CALL FOR PROPOSALS: : DG ENV/MSFD Action Plans **/2014**

BEST PRACTICES FOR ACTION PLANS TO DEVELOP INTEGRATED, REGIONAL MONITORING PROGRAMMES, COORDINATED PROGRAMMES OF MEASURES AND ADDRESSING DATA AND KNOWLEDGE GAPS IN COASTAL AND MARINE WATERS

The purpose of this call for proposals is to **support the development and demonstration of (sub) regional action plans and best practices for integrated regional monitoring programmes** and coordinated programmes of measures, as well as **to address data and knowledge gaps** in marine waters. These action plans should help to implement the national and regional recommendations identified in the Commission assessment ("Article 12 Report", see footnote 2) and improve implementation in the next steps.

The call for proposals should specifically address the following objectives, in particular:

- Tackle the most relevant issues at a regional or subregional level so as to enable a systematic solution **of current gaps and shortcomings** in relation to **Articles 8, 9 and 10 of the MSFD**;
- Where necessary, develop **investment plans** (alongside project plans) in order to use the action plans as a basis to tap into other funding mechanisms with the aim of combining different financing instruments where one alone will not enable the closing of the existing gaps;
- Establish **an information management system** to allow relevant knowledge and data to be updated on a regular basis and used by the RSCs, the European Environment Agency (EEA) and other interested users for their purposes.

Beyond these identified objectives, other specific objectives can be pursued if they are directly linked to improving coherence and adequacy of MSFD implementation on (sub)regional level and if it is justified in detail on the basis of the Commission assessment.

With the above-mentioned objectives and priorities in mind, **the proposal should identify the gaps in knowledge and/or data from the Commission's assessment, for which regional or subregional action plans will be developed** and justify the selection. When implementing the project on this basis, a number of tasks should be undertaken, unless they are amended and further developed where the applicant and the Commission consider it appropriate in order to achieve the objectives of this call.

The expected **main tasks** are, in particular (non-exhaustive list):

- a. Set up working arrangements which will ensure that the respective national and regional cooperation processes will be able to contribute to and benefit from the envisaged work;
- b. Develop **first draft action plans for consultation** with relevant stakeholders and specifically for all particular issues (e.g. descriptor) identified as priority;
- c. **Implement**, as appropriate and possible, elements of these **action plans**, in particular in relation to **short-term actions**;
- d. **Establish data and information management**, including a regular update of data and information products on-line;
- e. Organise workshops, meetings etc., as appropriate, to foster (sub)regional cooperation, including the possibility to finance the participation of particular experts who are essential to address the specific gaps that are identified;
- f. Present the progress of work at and **gather input from the relevant meetings** at (sub)regional level (e.g. relevant groups established under the auspices of RSCs) and EU level (e.g. Working Groups established in the context of the MSFD implementation);
- g. Present **final action plan including recommendations** preferably coordinated at regional level, designed to rectify the identified shortcomings by 2018 at the latest.

DURATION: 15 months DEADLINE: 17 November 2014 – 17h00, Brussels

BUDGET AVAILABLE:

The call has budget of **EUR 2.460.000** and is aiming to promote regional cooperation in the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

The maximum EU funding rate under this Call for Proposals is **80%** of eligible costs per proposal. The Commission expects to fund approximately between 2 and 5 proposals (preferably in different marine regions).

The **indicative grant per project** will be between **€ 500 000 and € 1 000 000** if the proposal covers the entire region in the case of the Baltic Sea, **North East Atlantic Ocean** and Mediterranean Sea. In the case of proposals covering the Black Sea or the **subregions of the North East Atlantic Ocean** and Mediterranean Sea (see Article 4 of MSFD), the indicative grant per project will be between € 200 000 and € 400 000.

Information available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/msfd_14.htm