



# EU action plan: Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries

# Why this action plan?

- **State of seas**
- **Sustainability of fisheries**
- **Bridge fisheries and environment worlds**
- **Builds on existing legislative framework for both areas**

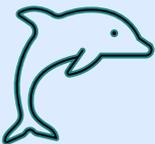
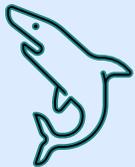
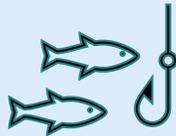
# What is in the action plan?

- Improve **gear selectivity** & address **bycatch** of **sensitive species** 
- Protect the **seabed** 
- **Transition & knowledge** 
- **Governance** 

# Gear selectivity and sensitive species

## Why?

Sensitive or threatened species are at risk



## How?

- New, innovative techniques to boost selectivity
- Set limits for incidental bycatch
- Gradual approach
  - **2023** → harbour porpoise (Baltic & Black Seas), Iberian Atlantic & common dolphin (Bay of Biscay)
  - **2024** → angel sharks, common skate, guitarfish, Maltese skate, great white shark, sand tiger shark, smalltooth sand tiger shark, spiny butterfly ray, sturgeons, marine turtles, Balearic shearwater and Mediterranean monk seal
  - **2030** → remaining sensitive marine species
- Improve the protection of the European eel

# Protecting the seabed

## Why?

Essential habitats



Fish nurseries & spawning areas



carbon sink

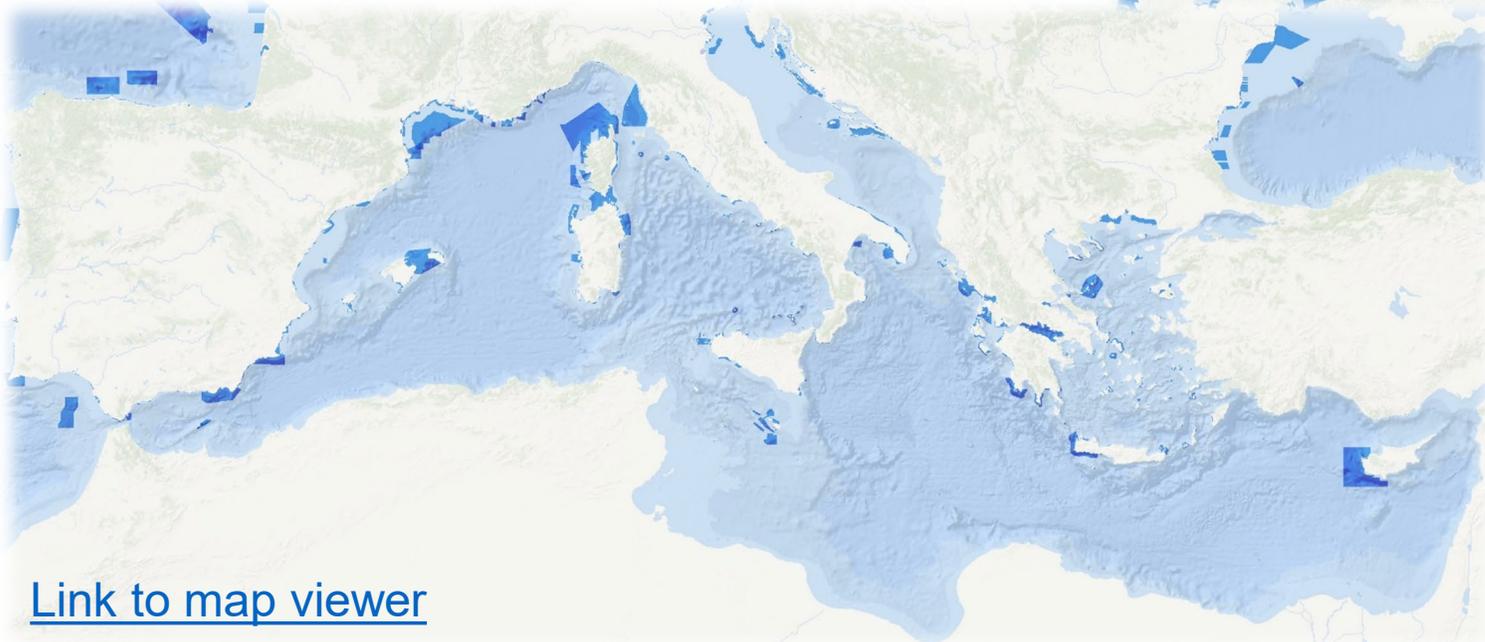
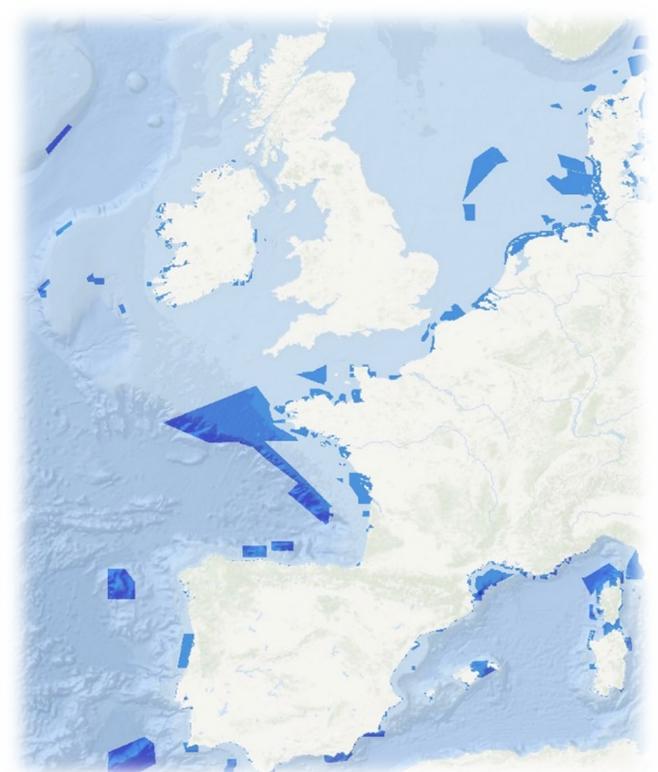


## How?

- Mid-2023 → Set limits for extent of seabed lost or adversely affected under environmental law
- Gradually phase out mobile bottom fishing in all Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) by 2030:
  - **March 2024** → national measures/joint recommendations for all Natura 2000 sites under Habitats Directive protecting the seabed & marine species
  - **March 2024** → outline for all MPAs & describe detailed measures for at least 20% of each Member State's marine waters
- **2030** → all MPAs, existing and new ones

# Where to start?

*Natura 2000 sites  
protecting the seabed  
and marine species  
(Habitats directive)*



[Link to map viewer](#)

## *To accompany fishers:*

- Actions in the CFP & Energy transition Communications
- EU funding available
- Further data collection, research & innovation

# EU funding to support a smooth transition

## What?

EMFAF programmes for 2021-2027 have set a high **ambition for sustainable and resilient fisheries**

➤ need to translate it into **actions delivering concrete results**

Public support **empowers solutions** from Member States and stakeholders

➤ need for **collaboration** to design impactful projects

## How?

- **Contribute to the sustainable management of fisheries and marine resources:**
  - **collect scientific data** to design fisheries conservation measures and establish and manage MPAs
  - **design and implement innovative solutions** to improve gear selectivity, avoid incidental by-catch of sensitive species and lower the impact of fishing on marine ecosystems and habitats
  - **manage fishing fleets** towards a balance between their capacity and the available resources
  - **control fishing activities** to enforce the CFP, prevent illegal fishing and foster a culture of compliance
- **Facilitate a gradual phasing out of mobile bottom fishing in MPAs**
  - **support collective strategies** to organise the phasing out smoothly with all the stakeholders concerned
  - **assess the socio-economic impact**, by taking into account each specific situation
  - **identify business alternatives** (e.g. diversification to other gear or areas, or to other economic sectors)
  - **provide individual advisory services and training programmes** to facilitate the transition

# Governance and process

## Measures

→ Measures for priority species  
→ Phasing out mobile bottom fishing in Natura 2000 sites with seabed conservation objectives (Habitats Directive)

→ Mobile bottom fishing phased out in all MPAs  
→ Protect remaining sensitive species

2023

2024

2030

## Governance

New special group established

Member States' roadmaps prepared & delivered

Implementation of Member States' roadmaps

Mid-term review Biodiversity strategy --> assess action plan progress

# Thank you



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