National environmental policy for the marine environment - Romania

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Content:

- National legislation transposing marine EU Directives;
- Institutional framework for MSFD implementation;
- Research projects relevants to WFD and MSFD implementation;
- Current status in implementing MSFD;
- The challenges in implementing MSFD.

National legislation transposing marine EU Directives

EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy:

- Water Law nr. 107/1996, updated by Law nr. 310/2004, Law nr. 112/2006, Law nr. 146/2010;
- Environment Ministry Order nr. 161/2006 “Norms on surface water quality classification to determine the ecological status of water bodies”;
- GD nr. 80/2011 for approving National management plan for Danube hidrological basin, including Black Sea coastal waters;

EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) 2008/56/CE establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy

- Law nr. 6/2011 establishing the strategy for the marine

National authorities and institutions involved in MSFD implementation (Law nr. 6/2011)

- **Competent authorities:** Ministry of the Environment
  (others: Agriculture, Transport, Coast Guard, etc.);
- **Members:**
  - National Institute for Marine Research and Development (NIMRD); (research activities of the ecological status of the marine ecosystem);
  - National Administration “Romanian Waters”;
  - Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority;
  - National Environment Protection Agency;
  - National Agency for Fishery and Aquaculture;
  - National Agency for Mineral Resources;
  - Romanian Naval Authority;
  - National Company “Maritime Harbours Administration”;
  - Public Health Directorates (coastal cities);
  - Public Administration authorities (coastal cities).

Research projects relevants to WFD and MSFD implementation

- **Study on the development of the classification systems and overall assessment of the surface waters status (rivers, lakes, transitional waters, coastal waters) as required by the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC, based on biological, chemical and hydromorphological elements;**

  - **Funding:** Ministry of Environment (2007 - 2009);
  - **Project Implementation**: National Institute for Marine Research and Development (NIMRD), Constanta (transitional and coastal waters);
  - **Description:** elaboration of the methodology for establishing reference conditions and classification of the ecological and chemical status of transitional and coastal waters;

Research projects relevants to WFD and MSFD implementation

Typology of coastal waters:

1 type of transitional water: RO_TT03 Chilia - Periboina;

2 types of coastal water: RO_CT01- sandy substrate Periboina - Cap Singol; and RO_CT02- mixt substrate Cap Singol - Vama Veche.

Reference conditions:

established for biological quality elements, based on historical data (where available) and expert judgment.

Water bodies delimitation:

5 water bodies were identified: 1 marine transitional water body (Chilia – Periboina) şi 4 coastal water bodies (2 natural Periboina – Cap Singol and Eforie Nord – Vama Veche and 2 heavily modified Cap Singol – Eforie Nord and Mangalia).

Identification of coastal pressures

Assessment of the status of coastal waters based on proposed limit values and classification methodology for biological and chemical quality elements;

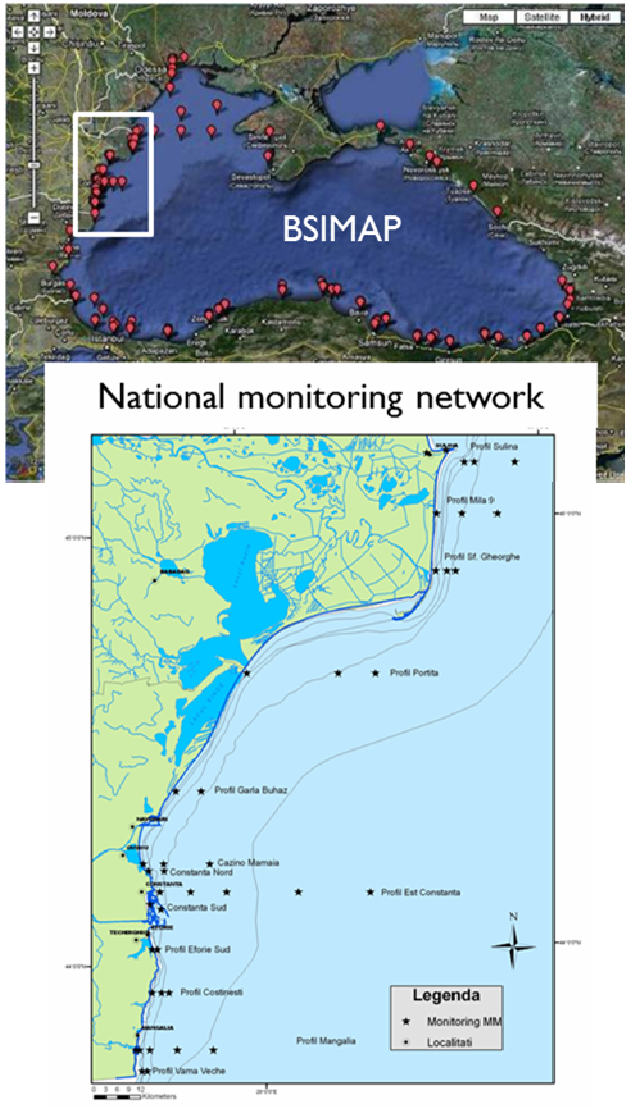
For the identification of the quality classes boundaries with respect to biological elements, the results of the intercalibration exercises between Romania and Bulgaria for the common water body were taken into consideration.

Research projects relevants to WFD and MSFD implementation

- **Study on integrated monitoring of the Black Sea marine ecosystem;**

  - **Funding:** Ministry of Environment (annually);
  - **Project Implementation**: National Institute for Marine Research and Development (NIMRD), Constanta;
  - **Description:** investigations on the spatial and temporal dynamics of physico-chemical and biological indicators in order to assess the overall quality of the marine ecosystem, under the influence of natural and anthropogenic pressures;

Marine monitoring program



The ecological and chemical status of the Romanian Black Sea transitional, coastal and marine waters is assessed on the basis of the physico-chemical and biological indicators recommended by the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/CE) and Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/CE):

➢**GENERAL PHYSICO-CHEMICAL AND EUTROPHICATION INDICATORS**

- temperature, pH, salinity, transparency, total suspended matter ;
- nutrients (P-PO4, N-NO2, N-NO3, N-NH4, N total, P total, Si-SiO4),
- dissolved oxygen and saturability, BOD5, total organic carbon (TOC),
- chlorophyll a;

➢ **CONTAMINATION INDICATORS (in water, sediments, biota):**

- total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), heavy metals, organo-chlorinated pesticides, polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs);

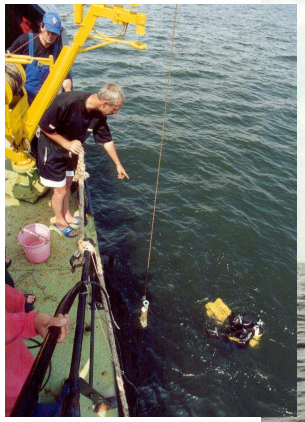
➢**BIOLOGICAL INDICATORS**

- phytoplankton, zooplankton, macrozoobenthos, phytobenthos, fish;

➢**MICROBIOLOGICAL INDICATORS**

- microbial pathogens;

Marine monitoring program



OUTPUTS:

- **Annual State of the Marine Environment Report (national and regional);**
- **Monitoring data are reported annually to the Black Sea Commission – Permanent Secretariate (BSC-PS), through the Pollution Monitoring and Assessment – Advisory Group;**
- **Chemical data are also reported annually to European Environment Agency (EEA), WISE-EIONET;**
- **Scientific support for EU Directives implementation (WFD, MSFD, Shellfish Waters, Bathing Waters).**

Research projects relevants to WFD and MSFD implementation

Relevant EU projects in which Romanian marine research institutes are involved:

- **FP7 PERSEUS "Policy-oriented marine environmental research for the Southern european seas" (2012 – 2015)**

Objective: to identify the interacting patterns of natural and human-derived pressures on the Mediterranean and Black Seas, assess their impact on marine ecosystems and, using the objectives and principles of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive as a vehicle, to design an effective and innovative research governance framework based on sound scientific knowledge.

- **DG ENV MISIS "MSFD Guiding Improvements In The Black Sea Integrated Monitoring System" (2012-2014)**

Objective: the project has been initiated as an integral part of the overall on-going process of harmonization of environmental policies and will directly assist the step-wise implementation of the MSFD and WFD in the Black Sea region.

- **Others: COCONET, CLEANSEA**, etc.

Current status in implementing MSFD

- **MSFD requirements:** Make initial assessments/identify gaps in data and information (2012), definition of Good Environmental Status for marine waters (2012), setting up environmental targets towards their achievement, identification of indicators (2012) and proposal of a monitoring programme (2014) and programme of measures to achieve GES (2015);

  - NIMRD Experts groups on 11 Qualitative Descriptors of MSFD established;
  - Overview of the existing data for marine waters in support of MSFD;

  - **Present status**:

    - working on the first draft of the “Initial assessment of the marine waters”, which should describe the current environmental status and the environmental impact of human activities;
    - the assessment methodologies are still under development, as they should be harmonized across the marine region; thus, other relevant international and regional assessments of the status of the marine environment should be reviewed and taken into account ;

The challenges in implementing MSFD

- Need to develop additional scientific understanding for assessing GES in a coherent and holistic manner;
- Relevant research results should be synthesized and passed to policy makers;
- Bridge the MSFD science-policy gap;
- Improve Scientific Knowlegde base to support MSFD implementation

Thank you for your attention!