






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

# Why this action plan?

- State of seas & sustainability of fisheries
- Bring “nature back into our lives”
- Bridge fisheries and environment worlds
- Builds on existing framework

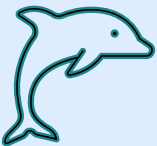
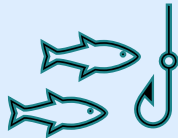
# What is in the action plan?

- 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

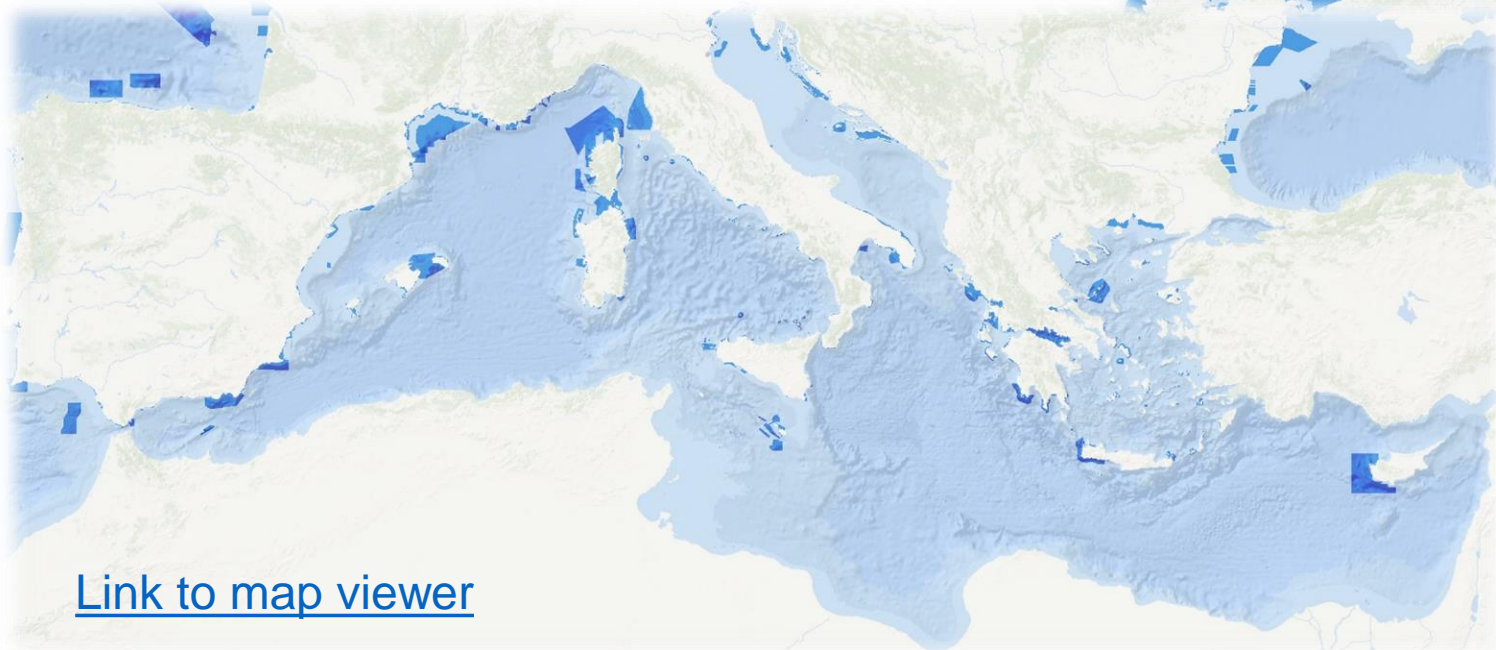
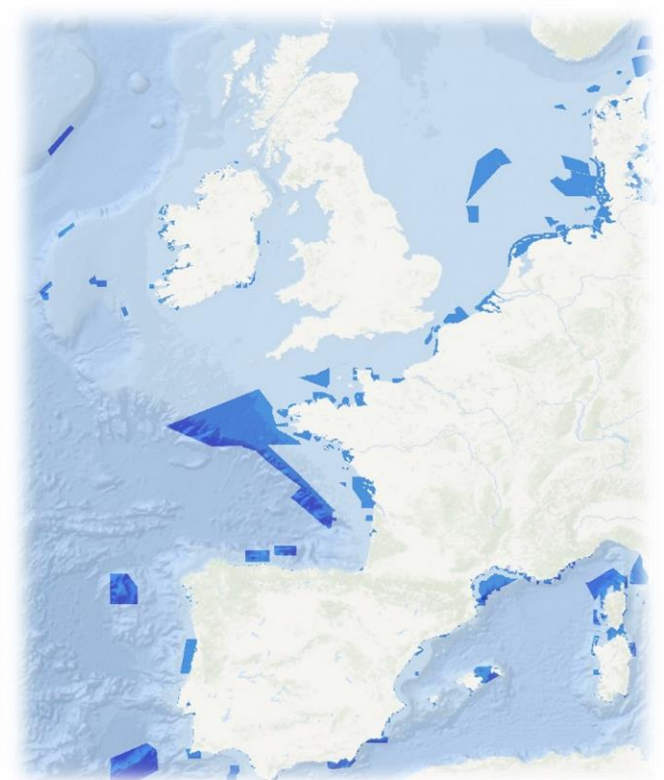


## How?

- Mid-2023 → Set limits for extent of seabed lost or adversely affected under environmental law
- Gradually phase out bottom fishing in all 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

# Governance and process

## Measures

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

→ 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 State's roadmaps

Mid-term review Biodiversity strategy → assess action plan progress

# Thank you



© European Union 2023

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

