

Emerging tensions between blue growth and good environmental status

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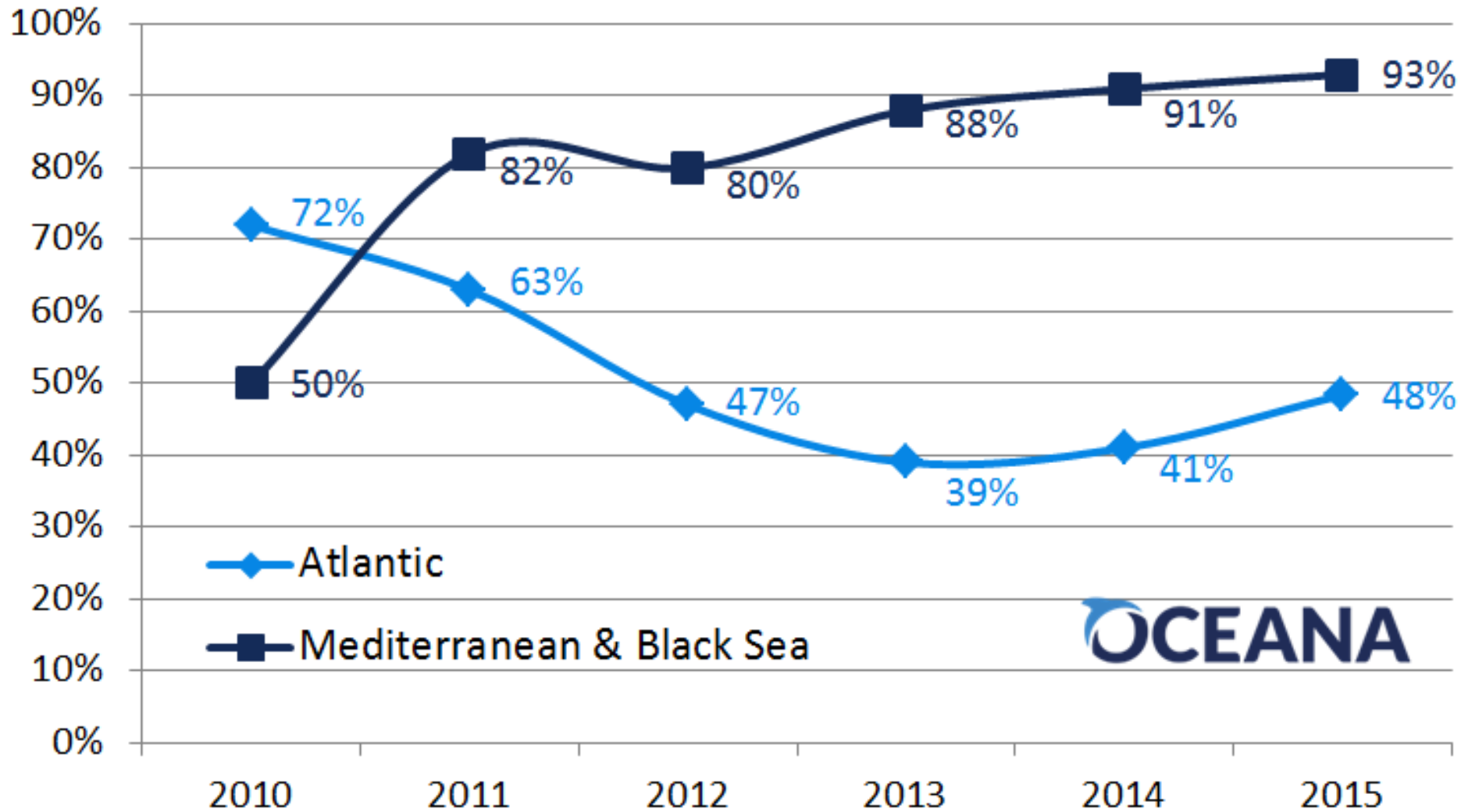
Slides @PJSJones & www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/~PJones
Also see <http://tinyurl.com/BGorGESblog>

Marine *Natura 2000* network of MPAs covers just 4% of EU seas, whilst MPAs protected under national law cover another 1.9% of EU seas, a total of 5.9%

“Across all of Europe's regional seas, marine biodiversity is in poor condition: only **7% of marine species assessments** and **9% of marine habitat assessments** indicate favourable conservation status”



Percentage of overfished stocks



TACs still being set in excess of ICES advice: 7% higher in 2015
(Carpenter et al [2016](#))

DIRECTIVE 2008/56/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of 17 June 2008

establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive)

In the face of these worrying trends, and with the **deadline for restoring Europe's seas to Good Environmental Status by 2020** under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD 2008) looming, it would be reasonable to assume that the European Commission's maritime policies would be **steered towards marine conservation priorities** as a matter of urgency

Unfortunately, this is far from the case, in fact the policies seem to be **veering off course towards blue growth**, as indicated by some recent developments:



Maritime Affairs Fisheries

Blue growth

-  Aquaculture
-  Coastal tourism
-  Blue biotechnology
-  Ocean energy
-  Seabed mining

DIRECTIVES

DIRECTIVE 2014/89/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAM
of 23 July 2014

establishing a framework for maritime s

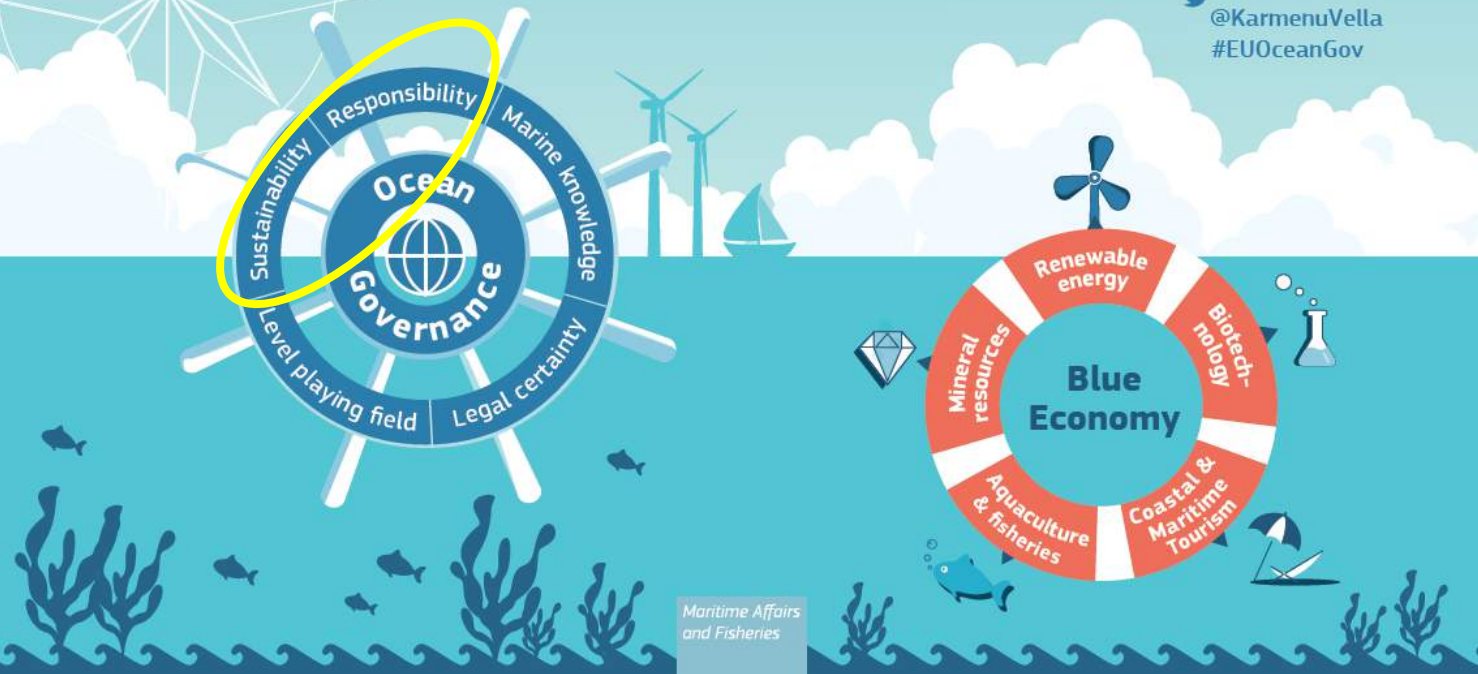
Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (2014),-

- Reduce conflicts
- Encourage investment
- Increase coordination
- Increase cross-border cooperation
- Protect the environment – “through early identification of impact and opportunities for multiple use of space”

Our Oceans

Ocean Governance listening tour

@KarmenuVella
#EUOceanGov



Maritime Affairs
and Fisheries

Spot the
Environment!

EC's recent public consultation on ocean governance appears to be more focused on promoting the growth of & increasing the sectoral diversity of the maritime economy of European countries (i.e. **blue growth**) rather than on **restoring marine biodiversity and protecting the marine environment**



Jean-Claude Juncker,
President-elect of the European Commission

Mission letter

Brussels, 10 September 2014

Karmenu Vella

**Commissioner for Environment,
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries**

Dear Karmenu,

“EU has a well-developed environment policy with a rather complete and mature legal framework.. ‘Blue Growth’ approach in the field of maritime affairs and fisheries should be further developed by mobilising emerging and innovative industries”



Jyrki Katainen
Vice President for
Jobs, Growth,
Investment and
Competitiveness



Karmenu VELLA
Commissioner for
Environment,
Maritime affairs
and Fisheries

DG MARE



DG Environment



Living well, within
the limits of our planet
7th Environment Action Programme



COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC

of 21 May 1992

on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

DIRECTIVE 2009/147/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of 30 November 2009

on the conservation of wild birds

“Continuing to overhaul the existing environmental legislative framework to make it fit for purpose. In the first part of the mandate, I would ask you to carry out an in-depth evaluation of the Birds and Habitats directives and assess the potential for merging them into a more modern piece of legislation”

Fitness Check consultation received more than 500,000 replies, predominantly supporting the maintenance or strengthening of these directives, though “evident that the results reflect, to a large extent, the responses proposed by the Nature Alert campaign”

Ecosystem-Based Marine Spatial Planning (Marine Strategy Framework Directive - MSFD)

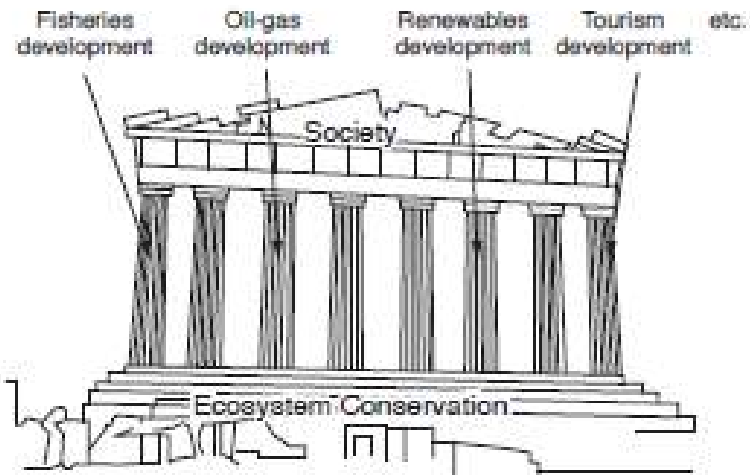


Integrated-Use Maritime Spatial Planning (Maritime Spatial Planning Directive - MSPD)

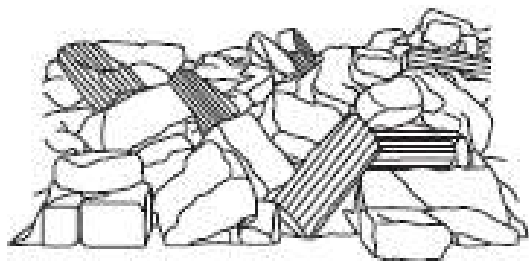
- Longer-term priorities
- Conservation is the basis for sustainable development
- MPAs as foundation of EBM
- MSP as a mechanism for achieving ‘**good environmental status**’ (GES) by 2020
- DG Environment

- Shorter-term priorities (GDP)
- Economic growth is the basis for sustainable development
- MPAs as a ‘sectoral use’
- MSP as a mechanism for achieving ‘**blue growth**’
- DG MARE

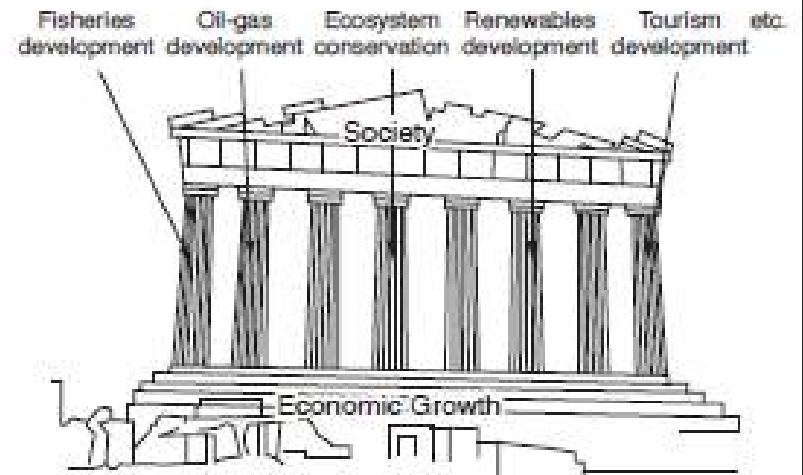
Ecosystem based MSP - hard sustainability



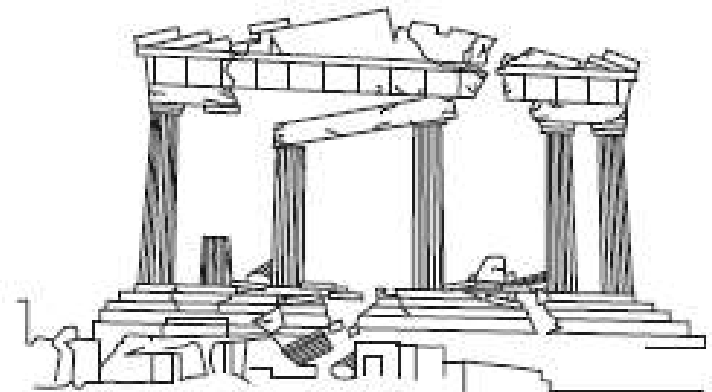
If ecosystems collapse.....



Integrated use MSP - soft sustainability



If economic sectors and growth collapse.....



Ecosystem-Based Marine Spatial Planning (MSFD)



Integrated-Use Maritime Spatial Planning (IMP)

➤ Longer-term priorities

➤ Conservation is the basis for sustainable development

➤ MPAs as the foundation of EBM

➤ MSP as a mechanism for achieving 'good environmental status'

➤ DG Environment

➤ Shorter-term priorities (GDP)

➤ Economic growth is the basis for sustainable development

➤ MPAs as a 'sectoral use'

➤ MSP as a mechanism for achieving 'blue growth'

➤ DG MARE

Qiu & Jones (2013) www.tinyurl.com/BGorGES

Ecosystem-Based Marine Spatial Planning (MSFD)



Integrated-Use Maritime Spatial Planning (IMP/MSPD)



➤ Longer-term priorities

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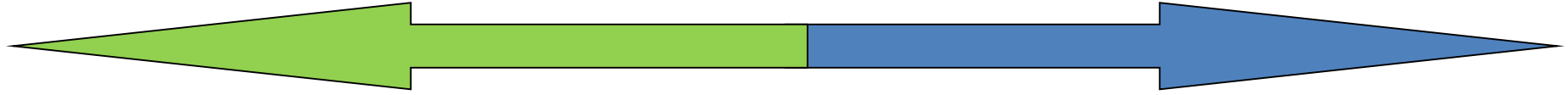


Concludes that "a closer coupling between our ambitions for **'Blue Growth'** and **'productive'** seas on one hand and our ambitions for **'healthy'** and **'clean'** seas on the other is needed"



***Ecosystem-Based
Marine Spatial
Planning (MSFD)***

***Integrated-Use
Maritime Spatial
Planning (IMP/MSPD)***



➤ Longer-term priorities

➤ Conservation is the basis for sustainable development

➤ MPAs as the foundation of EBM

➤ MSP as a mechanism for achieving 'good environmental status'

➤ DG Environment

➤ Shorter-term priorities (GDP)

➤ Economic growth is the basis for sustainable development

➤ MPAs as a 'sectoral use'

➤ MSP as a mechanism for achieving 'blue growth'

➤ DG MARE

Marine Strategy Framework Directive

Economic development activities can go ahead for “**reasons of overriding public interest which outweigh the negative impact on the environment**”, though such activities should not “preclude or compromise the achievement of GES” (Article 14)



Maritime Spatial Planning Directive

“Member States shall consider economic, social and environmental aspects to support sustainable development and growth in the maritime sector, applying an ecosystem- based approach, and to promote the coexistence of relevant activities and uses” (Article 5)



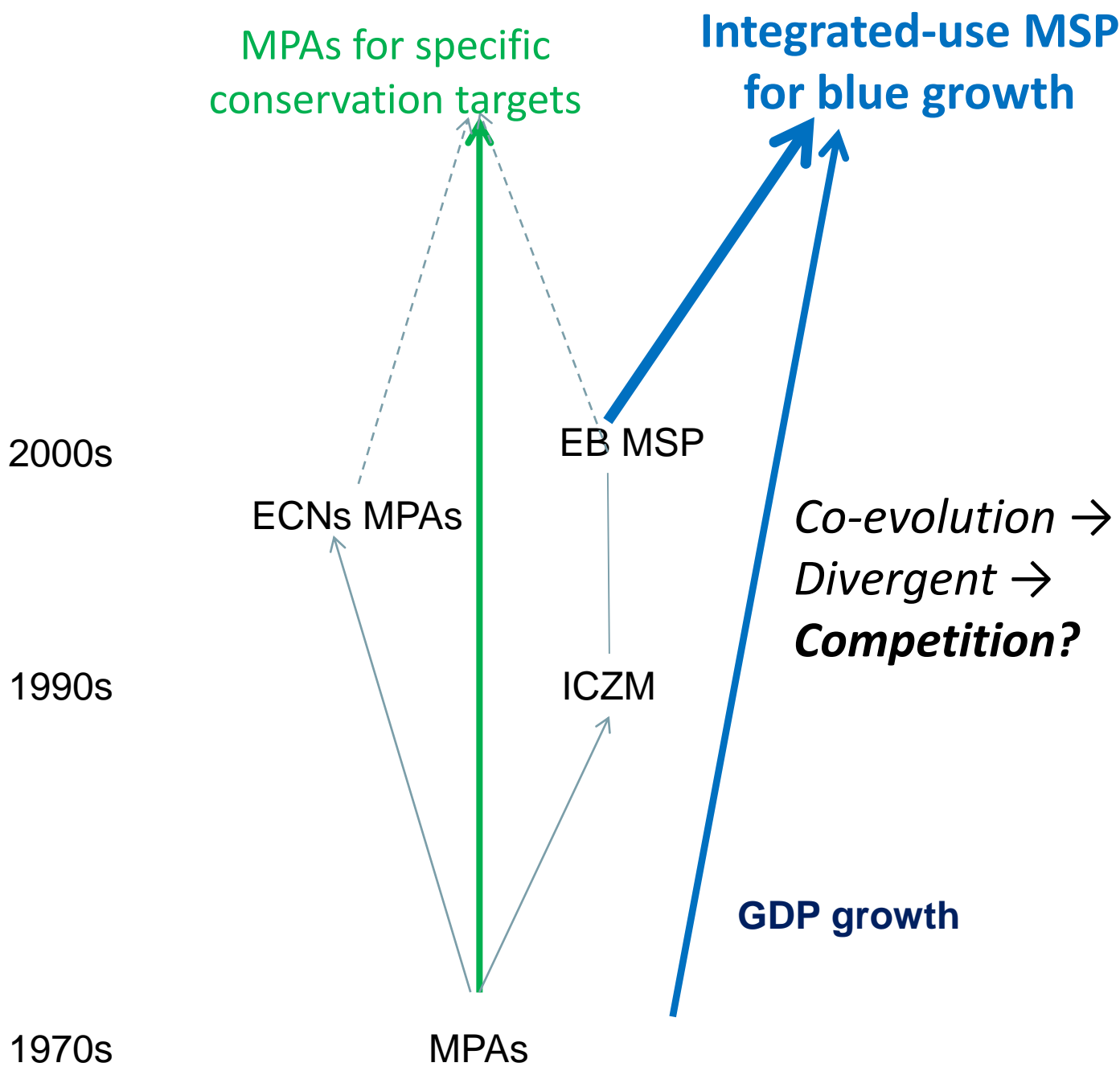
In reality, is 'blue growth' the objective that other objectives have to be integrated with?

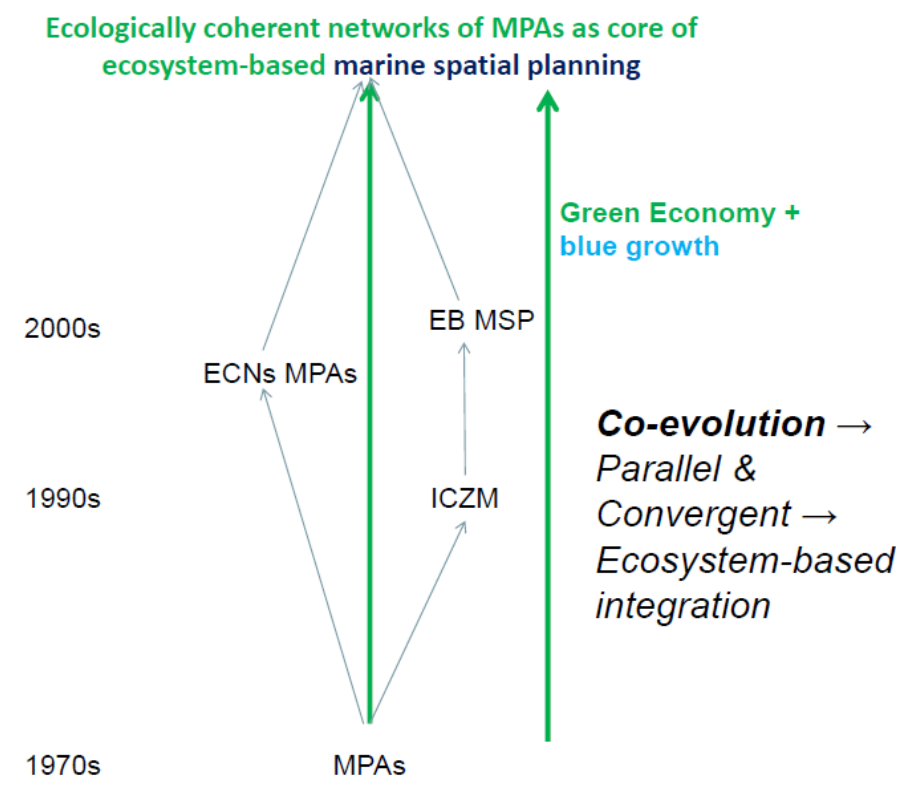
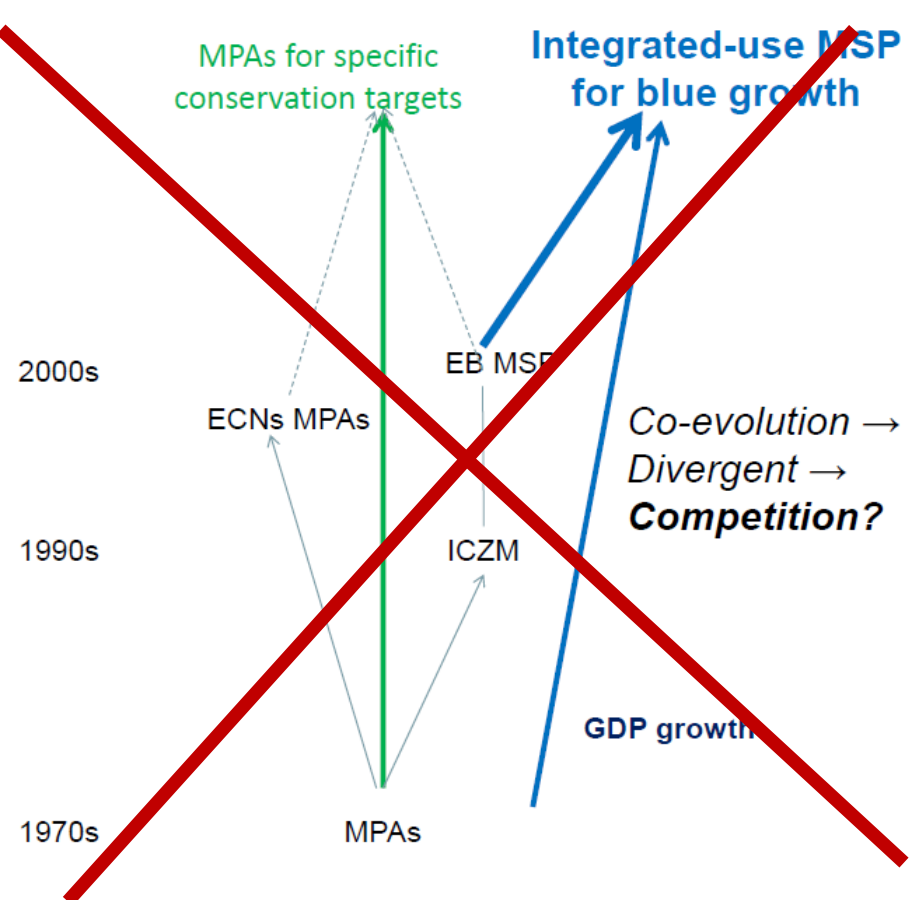
or is 'good environmental status' the objective that other objectives have to be integrated with?



How can integrated-use MSP and ecosystem-based MSP be reconciled and integration achieved?

Risk that MSP could mainly become a vehicle for blue growth and continued declines in ecosystem integrity and resilience?





Need to ensure that MSP **coevolves and converges** with MPAs and wider environmental protection measures to achieve a balance between **marine ecosystem protection** and **maritime blue growth**

... and that integrated-use MSP does not become a **competitor and diverge** from an ecosystem-based approach, as ecosystem-based MSP can provide for both **blue growth** and **good environmental status**