



## MSFD regions and subregions - version 2, Oct. 2022

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) is implemented through an ecosystem-based approach, requiring cooperation amongst Member States and non-EU states sharing a marine region or subregion. For this purpose, MSFD Article 4 lists the following four marine regions: the Baltic Sea, the North-east Atlantic Ocean, the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea. Two of these regions are further divided into four subregions each:

North-east Atlantic Ocean:

- The Greater North Sea, including the Kattegat, and the English Channel;
- The Celtic Seas;
- The Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast;
- Macaronesia.

Mediterranean Sea:

- The Western Mediterranean Sea;
- The Adriatic Sea;
- The Ionian Sea and the Central Mediterranean Sea;
- The Aegean-Levantine Sea.

The present map provides the spatial extent of MSFD regions and subregions, as agreed by the MSFD Committee in November 2016. It is provided in ESRI Geodatabase and ESRI shape format, and OGC Geopackage formats.

## Simple

### Identification info

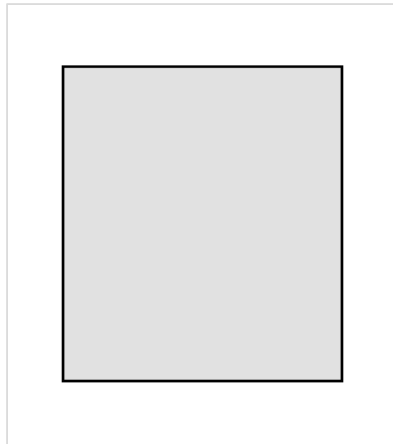
<b>Date (Creation)</b>	2022-09-28												
<b>Date (Publication)</b>	2022-10-14												
<b>Edition</b>	02.00												
<b>Citation identifier</b>	eea_v_3035_100_k_msfd-regions-subregions_p_2016-now_v02_r00												
<b>Citation identifier</b>	DAT-281-en												
<b>Point of contact</b>	<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>Organisation</th> <th>Individual</th> <th>Electronic mail address</th> <th>Website</th> <th>Role</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>European Environment Agency</td> <td></td> <td>sdi@eea.europa.eu</td> <td><a href="http://www.eea.europa.eu">http://www.eea.europa.eu</a></td> <td>Point of contact</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Organisation	Individual	Electronic mail address	Website	Role	European Environment Agency		sdi@eea.europa.eu	<a href="http://www.eea.europa.eu">http://www.eea.europa.eu</a>	Point of contact		
Organisation	Individual	Electronic mail address	Website	Role									
European Environment Agency		sdi@eea.europa.eu	<a href="http://www.eea.europa.eu">http://www.eea.europa.eu</a>	Point of contact									
<b>Spatial representation type</b>	Vector												

### Spatial resolution

### Equivalent scale

<b>Denominator</b>	100000
<b>Topic category</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment</li> <li>• Geoscientific information</li> <li>• Oceans</li> <li>• Boundaries</li> </ul>

Extent



## Temporal extent

<b>Time period</b>	2016-11-01
<b>Extent</b>	
<b>Maintenance and update frequency</b>	As needed
<a href="#">GEMET - INSPIRE themes, version 1.0</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Geographical names</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Bio-geographical regions</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Sea regions</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Area management/restriction/regulation zones and reporting units</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Oceanographic geographical features</a></li> </ul>
<a href="#">GEMET</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">marine environment</a></li> </ul>
<a href="#">Continents, countries, sea regions of the world.</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ionian Sea</li> <li>• Aegean Sea</li> <li>• Black Sea</li> <li>• Northeast Atlantic Ocean (40W)</li> <li>• Baltic Sea</li> <li>• Bay of Biscay</li> <li>• Adriatic Sea</li> <li>• Mediterranean Sea</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Spatial scope</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">European</a></li> </ul>
<a href="#">EEA topics</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Water</a></li> </ul>

## Resource constraints

<b>Access constraints</b>	Other restrictions
<b>Other constraints</b>	The map should not be understood as representing international marine borders. To this end, the following disclaimer should always accompany the map: "This map serves as a working tool only and shall not be considered as an official or legally-binding map representing marine borders in accordance with international laws. This map shall be used without prejudice to the agreements that will be concluded between Member States or between Member States and non-EU states in respect of their marine borders.". No limitations to public access License CC-BY 4.0 ( <a href="https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/">https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/</a> ). Copyright holder: European Environment Agency (EEA).
<b>Other constraints</b>	<a href="#">no limitations to public access</a>

## Resource constraints

<b>Use constraints</b>	Other restrictions
<b>Other constraints</b>	License CC-BY 4.0 ( <a href="https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/">https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/</a> ). Copyright holder: European Environment Agency (EEA).
<b>Language</b>	English

## Distribution Information

<b>Distribution format</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GDB</li> <li>• Geopackage</li> <li>• SHP</li> </ul>
<b>OnLine resource</b>	<a href="https://sdi.eea.europa.eu/webdav/datastore/public/eea_v_3035_100_k_msfd-regions-subregions_p_2016-now_v02_r00">https://sdi.eea.europa.eu/webdav/datastore/public/eea_v_3035_100_k_msfd-regions-subregions_p_2016-now_v02_r00</a> GPKG, GDB and SHP format
<b>OnLine resource</b>	<a href="#">Direct download</a>
<b>OnLine resource</b>	<a href="https://water.discomap.eea.europa.eu/arcgis/services/Marine/MSFD_regions_and_subregions/MapServer/WMServer?request=GetCapabilities&amp;service=WMS">https://water.discomap.eea.europa.eu/arcgis/services/Marine/MSFD_regions_and_subregions/MapServer/WMServer?request=GetCapabilities&amp;service=WMS</a>
<b>OnLine resource</b>	<a href="https://water.discomap.eea.europa.eu/arcgis/rest/services/Marine/MSFD_regions_and_subregions/MapServer">https://water.discomap.eea.europa.eu/arcgis/rest/services/Marine/MSFD_regions_and_subregions/MapServer</a>

## Data quality info

<b>Hierarchy level</b>	Dataset
------------------------	---------

## Report

### Result

<b>Title</b>	Commission Regulation (EU) No 1089/2010 of 23 November 2010 implementing Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards interoperability of spatial data sets and services
<b>Date (Publication)</b>	2010-12-08
<b>Explanation</b>	See the referenced specification

## Resource lineage

<b>Statement</b>	<p>The present map provides the spatial extent of the regions and subregions defined under the MSFD.</p> <p>The delineation of the marine regions and subregions under the MSFD was developed over the period 2010-2016 through the MSFD Common Implementation Strategy, supported by the EEA and the ETC-ICM. The map was adopted by EU Member States in the MSFD Committee in November 2016. The basis for the boundaries between the marine regions and subregions is described in an EEA report (Jensen, H.M, Panagiotidis, P. &amp; Reker, J. 2017. Delineation of the MSFD Article 4 marine regions and subregions. Version 1.0 EEA, Copenhagen).</p> <p>The landward boundary of all regions and subregions has used the "EEA coastline for analysis" (see <a href="https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/eea-coastline-for-analysis-2">https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/eea-coastline-for-analysis-2</a>); this is a practical solution because the MSFD inner boundary formally follows that defined for coastal waters under the Water Framework Directive, for which a consistent boundary is not yet available for all reporting countries.</p> <p>Therefore, since it includes the delineation of marine regions and subregions agreed under the MSFD, the present map should take into account the following:</p> <p>a. The marine regions and subregions defined under the MSFD are intended for the sole purpose of supporting the implementation of the MSFD by Member States, stakeholders and the European Commission and its agencies.</p>
------------------	---

- b. The present map provides boundaries of the marine regions and subregions as listed in MSFD Article 4.
- c. The map is not intended to provide boundaries of the marine waters of Member States. This means that the map does not represent the geographic scope of application of the MSFD as the MSFD only applies to Member States' marine waters, which are understood to lie within the marine regions and subregions. Further, in those areas of Member States' marine waters, the map makes no distinction between the jurisdiction over both the water column and the seabed or only the seabed.
- d. As such the map should not be understood as representing international marine borders. To this end, the following disclaimer will accompany the map: "This map serves as a working tool only and shall not be considered as an official or legally-binding map representing marine borders in accordance with international laws. This map shall be used without prejudice to the agreements that will be concluded between Member States or between Member States and non-EU states in respect of their marine borders."
- e. As they are not intended to provide boundaries of Member States' marine waters, the landward boundaries used do not constitute the formal boundary of these marine waters, but instead use a harmonised coastline boundary for cartographic consistency.
- f. In the North-east Atlantic Ocean region, the outer boundary of the Celtic Seas, Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast and Macaronesia subregions is intended to fully encompass the marine waters of the relevant EU Member States. This includes the Continental Shelf areas where these extend beyond Exclusive Economic Zones. For the North-east Atlantic Ocean region, the boundaries shown in the present map include those Continental Shelf areas which have so far been reported by the Member States concerned. As and when Member States report modifications to the boundaries of their marine waters, such as further Continental Shelf areas following conclusions under UNCLOS processes, the map should be updated.
- g. Notwithstanding the need to update the map on the basis of point (f), the boundaries of the MSFD marine regions and subregions should be periodically reviewed to ensure they serve the purposes of the MSFD, and in particular an ecosystem-based approach to management of the marine environment. Such review should be undertaken in advance of the periodic updates of Article 8 and take into account the latest scientific evidence on the characteristics of the marine ecosystems, as reflected in MSFD Art. 3(2).

This map is an updated version of one of the layers in "Europe Seas - version 1, Dec. 2018" dataset. This map includes MSFD regions and subregions with a total of 10 units (8 subregions and 2 regions). The following MSFD regions/subregions are included:

- Adriatic Sea
- Aegean-Levantine Sea
- Baltic Sea
- Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast
- Black Sea
- Celtic Seas
- Greater North Sea, incl. the Kattegat, and the English Channel
- Ionian Sea and the Central Mediterranean Sea
- Macaronesia
- Western Mediterranean Sea.

The map does not include dissolved (aggregated) MSFD-region polygons for the Black Sea, North-east Atlantic Ocean, and Mediterranean Sea. The extent of the map is EU27 (following Brexit, United Kingdom marine waters have been excluded).

Hierarchy level	Dataset
Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">EEA coastline for analysis (polygon) - version 3.0, March 2017</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Europe's Seas - version 1, Dec. 2018</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">EEA Marine waters for analysis - INTERNAL VERSION, Oct. 2022</a></li> </ul>

## Reference System Information

### Reference System Information

Code	<a href="#">EPSG:3035</a>
------	---------------------------

## Metadata

Metadata identifier	a60e171d-e2a8-4dc5-a765-c2bdbdbd6ce6
Language	English
Character encoding	UTF8
Contact	<b>Electronic</b>

**Organisation**  
European Environment Agency

**Individual**

**mail address**  
sdi@eea.europa.eu

**Website Role**  
Point of contact

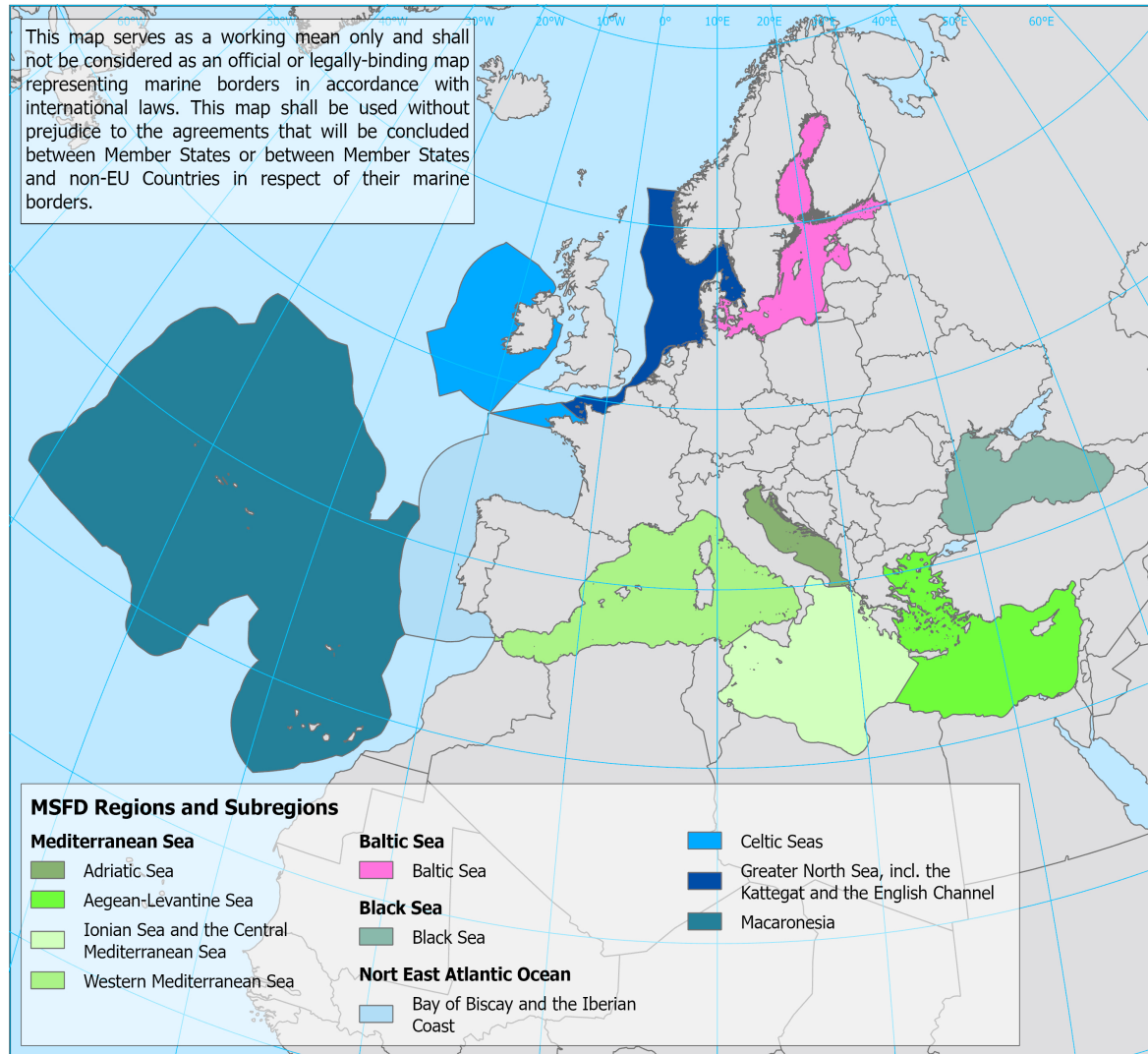
## Type of resource

<b>Resource type</b>	Dataset
<b>Metadata linkage</b>	<a href="https://sdi.eea.europa.eu/catalogue/srv/api/records/a60e171d-e2a8-4dc5-a765-c2bdabdbdce6">https://sdi.eea.europa.eu/catalogue/srv/api/records/a60e171d-e2a8-4dc5-a765-c2bdabdbdce6</a>
<b>Date info (Creation)</b>	2022-06-22T13:54:45.227Z
<b>Date info (Revision)</b>	2025-11-10T14:45:10.460555Z

## Metadata standard

<b>Title</b>	ISO 19115/19139
<b>Edition</b>	1.0

## Overviews



Provided by

