

SCHEDULE 1

Definitions

PART 2

Directive definitions

The definitions contained in the Directive of expressions used in these Regulations, and which have the same meaning as in these Regulations, are as follows—

“criteria” means distinctive technical features that are closely linked to qualitative descriptors;

“environmental status” means the overall state of the environment in marine waters, taking into account the structure, function and processes of the constituent marine ecosystems together with natural physiographic, geographic, biological, geological and climatic factors, as well as physical, acoustic and chemical conditions, including those resulting from human activities inside or outside the area concerned;

“environmental target” means a qualitative or quantitative statement on the desired condition of the different components of, and pressures and impacts on, marine waters in respect of each marine region or subregion. Environmental targets are established in accordance with Article 10;

“good environmental status” means the environmental status of marine waters where these provide ecologically diverse and dynamic oceans and seas which are clean, healthy and productive within their intrinsic conditions, and the use of the marine environment is at a level that is sustainable, thus safeguarding the potential for uses and activities by current and future generations, i.e.:

- (a) the structure, functions and processes of the constituent marine ecosystems, together with the associated physiographic, geographic, geological and climatic factors, allow those ecosystems to function fully and to maintain their resilience to human-induced environmental change. Marine species and habitats are protected, human-induced decline of biodiversity is prevented and diverse biological components function in balance;
- (b) hydro-morphological, physical and chemical properties of the ecosystems, including those properties which result from human activities in the area concerned, support the ecosystems as described above. Anthropogenic inputs of substances and energy, including noise, into the marine environment do not cause pollution effects;

good environmental status shall be determined at the level of the marine region or subregion as referred to in Article 4, on the basis of the qualitative descriptors in Annex 1. Adaptive management on the basis of the ecosystem approach shall be applied with the aim of attaining good environmental status;

“marine region” means a sea region which is identified under Article 4. Marine regions and their subregions are designated for the purpose of facilitating implementation of this Directive and are determined taking into account hydrological, oceanographic and biogeographic features;

“marine strategy” means the strategy to be developed and implemented in respect of each marine region or subregion concerned as laid down in Article 5;

“pollution” means the direct or indirect introduction into the marine environment, as a result of human activity, of substances or energy, including human-induced marine underwater noise, which results or is likely to result in deleterious effects such as harm to living resources and marine ecosystems, including loss of biodiversity, hazards to human health, the hindering of marine activities, including fishing, tourism and recreation and other legitimate uses of the

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The Marine Strategy Regulations 2010, PART 2. (See end of Document for details)

sea, impairment of the quality for use of sea water and reduction of amenities or, in general,
impairment of the sustainable use of marine goods and services;

F1

F1 Words in Pt. 2 omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Marine Environment \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2018 \(S.I. 2018/1399\)](#), regs. 1, **3(13)(b)**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

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