

7th Annual Meeting of MedGOOS

Pondering on the EU Green Paper on Maritime Policy



**Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union:
A European vision for the oceans and seas**

The Contribution of Operational Oceanography



Aldo Drago
IOI-Malta Operational Centre
University of Malta
MedGOOS Executive Secretary
aldo.drago@um.edu.mt
Tel/Fax : +356 – 21 440972

7th Annual Meeting of MedGOOS

Pondering on the EU Green Paper on Maritime Policy



Preamble to the Green Paper



- *"the problems of ocean space are closely inter-related and need to be considered as a whole"introducing the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982*

- *" Ensuring the sustainable development of the oceans requires effective coordination and cooperation"2002 Johannesburg, Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*

- Several countries, including Australia, Canada, and more recently the USA, have been developing new integrated ocean policies

- Strategic Objectives of the Commission 2005-2009 target *"an all-embracing maritime policy aimed at developing a thriving maritime economy and the full potential of sea-based activity in an environmentally sustainable manner."*

- EC has adopted a Thematic Strategy for the Marine Environment



7th Annual Meeting of MedGOOS

Pondering on the EU Green Paper on Maritime Policy



Key targets of the Green Paper



- Create synergies between sectoral policies
 - Safeguarding marine resources and optimising their economic value
- Pumping new energy into the European maritime economy
- Advance our knowledge about the sea
 - Improve maritime governance



7th Annual Meeting of MedGOOS

Pondering on the EU Green Paper on Maritime Policy



Key Principles of the Green Paper



- Monitoring the threats and mitigating hazards
 - Ecosystem-based approach
- Incentivate marine research as a multi-faceted and targeted activity
- Embrace linkages between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development
- Promote a knowledge-based society as the ingredient for growth and wealth



7th Annual Meeting of MedGOOS

Pondering on the EU Green Paper on Maritime Policy



The sea – an asset for Mediterranean states

- Population is currently 450 million - 7% of the world's population; in 1950, northern countries 2/3 of the total population, today it is only 50% and expected to be 1/4 by 2050.

- Transport, tourism and industrial infrastructures are mainly concentrated in the coastal zone



-In 2000, the Mediterranean coastal zone had 584 coastal towns, 175 million tourists (32% of international tourism), 750 yacht harbours, 286 trade ports, 248 energy plants, 238 desalinization plants, 112 airports and numerous high-traffic roads

-Tourism is currently the first foreign currency source in the Mediterranean region and its contribution to GNP can average up to 22%, as is the case for Cyprus, or 24% for Malta.

7th Annual Meeting of MedGOOS

Pondering on the EU Green Paper on Maritime Policy



The sea – an asset for Mediterranean states

- The aquaculture industry has expanded its production in a number of countries
- Over 360 million tonnes of oil are transported annually in the Mediterranean
- 30% of international maritime freight traffic and some 20 – 25% of oil maritime transport transit through the Mediterranean



- 90% of the total oil traffic is from east to west (Egypt-Gibraltar), passing between Sicily and Malta and following closely the coasts of Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco



7th Annual Meeting of MedGOOS

Pondering on the EU Green Paper on Maritime Policy



The relevance of OO...

....not just for monitoring

.....not just for research

An evolving role of OO

....provision services

.....provide knowledge for informed decisions
and support coastal/ocean policies

.....support economic activities

.....improve quality of life of citizens

.....preserve and restore healthy marine ecosystems

7th Annual Meeting of MedGOOS

Pondering on the EU Green Paper on Maritime Policy



An evolving chain.....



Integration of information

across scales: global – regional – local

across fields: climate – geophysical – fisheries - other

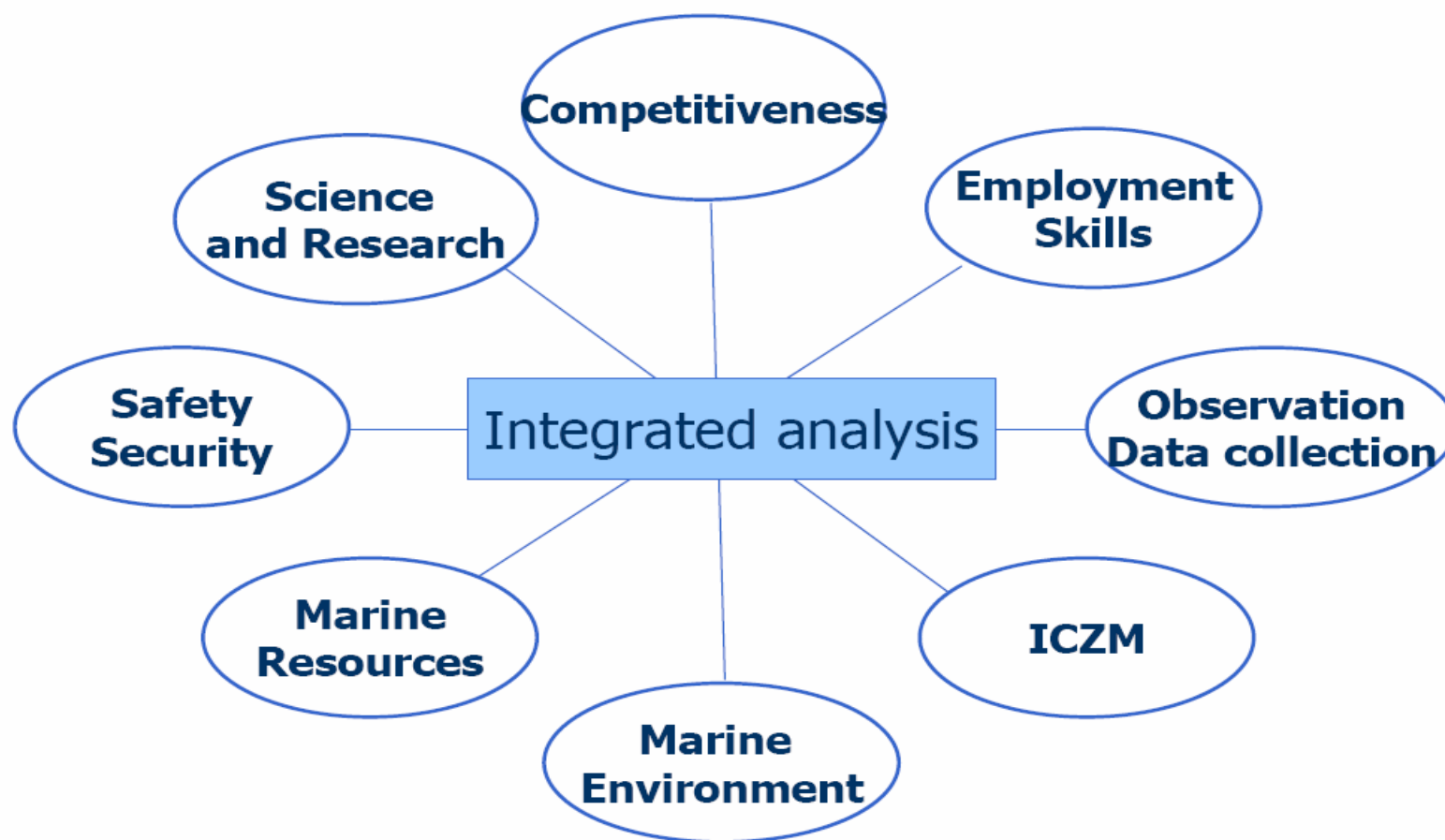
across sectors: environment – social - economical

7th Annual Meeting of MedGOOS

Pondering on the EU Green Paper on Maritime Policy



Subjects of the Green Paper



7th Annual Meeting of MedGOOS

Pondering on the EU Green Paper on Maritime Policy



Voice on OO from the Mediterranean

- Suggest how OO can provide the tools and means to achieve the goals of the policy
- Quantify the benefits relevant to the Mediterranean
.....specificity of the region
- Involvement of the non-EU riparian countries
- Provide a vision and a strategy....where we are.....where we want to go....what can be achieved...and what we need to succeed
- Give concrete answers to specific questions posed in the GP

7th Annual Meeting of MedGOOS

Pondering on the EU Green Paper on Maritime Policy



Our plan



- Prepare before 30th June 2007
- Set up an expert drafting team
- Supported by MedGOOS Secretariat which has already established links with Secretariat of Comm. Borg
- Prepare contribution jointly with MOON
- Hold a dedicated meeting to attract attention



7th Annual Meeting of MedGOOS

Pondering on the EU Green Paper on Maritime Policy



A Policy Combining

The lessons of the past



And



the promise of the future

7th Annual Meeting of MedGOOS

Pondering on the EU Green Paper on Maritime Policy



Pondering on the future....

The EU maritime vision is a challenge....

....we need the ink to write it into practice

....operational oceanography is a key element
to make it a reality