



The Observatory **weseayou** presents the **second report!**

The Observatory **weseayou** is the first monitoring mechanism for the implementation of Greece’s commitments for the protection of marine environment. This report outlines (a) Greece’s progress on the implementation of the **Commitments announced by the Greek Government during the 9th Our Ocean Conference** (April 2024) and (b) Greece’s compliance with key EU law obligations concerning Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

Compared to the **first report** (April 2025), minor progress is observed across all commitments. The majority of the commitments are at a very early stage, with the exception of those related to the creation of the two new national marine parks in the Ionian and South Aegean and the monitoring and early warning system for passing vessels to avoid collisions with cetaceans.

For the monitoring of the implementation progress, every commitment and legal obligation is broken down into individual steps based on the procedures set out in the relevant legislation. The assessment of the progress, as reflected in specific percentages, is based on the monitoring of these steps.

WHERE WE ARE

GREECE’S COMMITMENTS

Greece announced 21 commitments for the protection of the marine environment at the 9th Our Ocean Conference (OOC9), which was organized and hosted by Greece in Athens in April 2024.

The Observatory weseayou monitors and assesses the implementation progress of the 8 Commitments on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

PROGRESS

20% (from 15% - 04.2025)

GREECE’S OBLIGATIONS UNDER EU LAW

Greece has important obligations in relation to marine protected areas and maritime spatial planning under EU law.

Establishment of conservation measures for Natura 2000 sites	PROGRESS
	15% (from 10% - 04.2025)
Establishment of maritime spatial planning	10% (from 5% - 04.2025)

ASSESSMENT OF GREECE’S COMMITMENTS

01 BAN BOTTOM TRAWLING IN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS Banning bottom trawling within marine protected areas is a key tool for the protection of marine biodiversity, as the bottom-towed fishing gear destroys important seabed ecosystems. At the present stage, the Special Environmental Study (SES) approved for the Alonnisos Northern Sporades National Marine Park provides for a ban (trawling is already prohibited based on archaeological legislation). A ban is also provided for in the SESs of the two new national marine parks in the Ionian and the Aegean, for which the public consultation has been completed. The ban will be formally institutionalized with the issuance of presidential decrees for these marine parks.	DEADLINE 2026 & 2030 PROGRESS 20% (from 0% - 04.2025)
02 ENLARGEMENT OF THE MARINE PROTECTED AREAS NETWORK With this commitment, Greece announced the establishment of two new national marine parks in the Ionian and in the Aegean with the aim to enlarge the marine protected areas network in Greece to more than 35% of national waters (from 18.3% which is today). The procedure for the establishment of the two national marine parks is advancing in accordance with national legislation. At the present stage, the two Special Environmental Studies have been prepared and the public consultation has been completed (09.2025). However, the decision of the Ministry of the Environment to grant new rights for the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in marine areas adjacent to the planned national marine park in the Ionian and the recent completion of the relevant tender with the selection of investors (10.2025) is extremely worrying.	DEADLINE 2024 PROGRESS 40% (from 20% - 04.2025)
03 ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL MONITORING AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM The monitoring and surveillance of marine protected areas (MPAs) are key elements for their effective management. Regarding this commitment: a) The project for the supply of monitoring equipment and a monitoring system has been included in the National Recovery Plan and is currently in the process of signing the relevant contracts, and b) The preliminary phase of the implementation of the memorandum of cooperation signed between the competent Ministries, the Global Fishing Watch (GFW) organization, and the A.C. Laskaridis Foundation is in progress, with the aim of supporting the monitoring of marine protected areas through the GFW platform.	DEADLINE 2025 PROGRESS 20% (from 15% - 04.2025)
04 MARINE HABITAT MAPPING The mapping of marine habitats in all marine protected areas is a key tool for the adoption of appropriate conservation and restoration measures and the establishment of maritime spatial planning. The procedures for securing project funding are at an early stage.	DEADLINE 2027 PROGRESS 0%
05 ACTION FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF MARINE HABITATS, MIGRATORY ROUTES, AND FORAGING AREAS OF SEA TURTLES This commitment concerns the identification of the marine habitats, migratory routes and foraging areas of the sea turtles <i>Caretta caretta</i> and <i>Chelodion mydas</i> by the supply and installation of 200 satellite tags (in addition to the already existing) to sea turtles and the development of a digital decision support system. The procedures for securing project funding are at an early stage.	DEADLINE - (48 months duration) PROGRESS 0%



06 MANAGEMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING OF THE GREEK MARINE PROTECTED AREAS This commitment is related to Greece’s obligations under EU law for the establishment of conservation measures in Natura 2000 sites. In particular, it is related to the ongoing project, coordinated by the Ministry of Environment, for drafting Special Environmental Studies and the enacting of the presidential decrees and management plans for these areas. As stated below, the fulfillment of these obligations is facing significant delays.	DEADLINE 2025 PROGRESS 15% (from 10% - 04.2025)
07 RESTORATION OF 30% OF SPECIFIC MARINE HABITAT TYPES BY 2030 The establishment of restoration measures for marine habitats in Natura 2000 sites is a significant obligation under EU law (directive 92/43/EEC) while relevant provisions exist also in the national legislation. Furthermore, the new Regulation of the European Union (EU) 2024/1991 on nature restoration adopted in June 2024 includes specific objectives and obligations for the establishment of restoration measures. This project is planned to be funded by the NSRF program "Environment and Climate Change" 2021-2027 and the relevant decision is expected. Regarding the implementation of the new Regulation on nature restoration, an agreement has been signed (03.2025) between the Ministry of the Environment and the Greek Biotope Wetland Centre and implementation has commenced.	DEADLINE 2030 PROGRESS 5% (from 0% - 04.2025)
08 MONITORING AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR PASSING BY SHIPS This commitment aims at the protection of the endangered sperm whales and the tackling of a significant threat for these species: their killing and injury from collision with passing by ships (SAvE Whales). Regarding this commitment, a memorandum of cooperation has been signed and is being implemented between the Ministry of the Environment, the Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency, the organization OceanCare, and The Green Tank (06.2024). At the present stage, the planned research actions within 2025 have been completed. Furthermore, relevant reference to the early warning system for passing vessels is included in the Special Environmental Study concerning the national marine park in the Ionian.	DEADLINE 2028 PROGRESS 50% (from 15% - 04.2025)

ASSESSMENT OF GREECE’S KEY OBLIGATIONS UNDER EU LAW

ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR NATURA 2000 SITES Directives 92/43/EEC on the conservation of habitats and wild fauna and flora and 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds form the cornerstones of nature protection policy in the EU and a key element of the European Biodiversity Strategy and the 30X30 target for protected areas. Greece has designated 446 sites as part of the European ecological Natura 2000 network, 174 of which are marine or marine partially protected areas. As mentioned in the first report (April 2025), Greece has been convicted by the Court of Justice of the European Union of non-compliance with Directive 92/43/EEC (12.2020). On 18/06/2025, the European Commission sent a letter of formal notice to Greece for non-compliance with the judgment of the EU Court of Justice. The Ministry of the Environment, in order to meet its obligations under the Nature Directives and comply with the court’s decision, is implementing a project for carrying out Special Environmental Studies (SES) and enacting presidential decrees and management plans for all Natura 2000 areas. However, this project is facing significant delays - only nine (9) Special Environmental Studies have been approved (out of 23).	DEADLINE 2012 & 2024 PROGRESS 15% (from 10% - 04.2025)
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ESTABLISHMENT OF MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING (DIRECTIVE 2014/89/ EU)

[Directive 2014/89/EU](#) requires member states (including Greece) to establish integrated, cross-sectoral maritime spatial plans (MSP) by March 2021.

As mentioned in the [first report](#), in February 2025, the Court of Justice of the European Union convicted Greece for non-compliance with the directive, as it has not established marine spatial plans as required by the directive. The National Spatial Strategy for the marine area was approved in April 2025. However, this does not meet the requirements for compliance with the directive. The procedure for the establishment of the marine spatial frameworks, which essentially constitute the definition of uses within the framework of marine spatial planning and compliance with the directive, is at a very initial stage.

DEADLINE
2021

PROGRESS

10%
(from 5% - 04.2025)

ABOUT US

The Observatory weseayou is a joint initiative of **WWF Greece**, **Greenpeace** and **VouliWatch**, with the support of the environmental organisations: **Blue Marine Foundation**, **Cyclades Preservation Fund**, **the Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature**, **the Hellenic Ornithological Society**, **iSea**, **MEDASSET**, **Thalassa Foundation/Aenaos Thalassa**.

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