

From the land to the sea – The making of the French maritime policy. OPRF,

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Launched at the end of May 2007, the first phase of the so-called “Grenelle Environment Round Table”, ended up in October 2007. This large national consultation has started a process for an overall environmental review and a shift in strategy in regard to issues like fighting climate change, protecting and managing biodiversity and natural environments, protecting health and the environment while promoting economic growth, and developing an ecologically-responsible democracy.

Following the screening and gathering of more than 200 proposals in all domains, a second building phase started in December 2007 in order to specify these proposals as regards their technical and financial feasibility and to elaborate the content of a first Grenelle Act which was submitted to the Parliament in July 2008 and adopted in June 2009.

Among the 32 steering committees, one was devoted to the integrated management of the seas and the coasts under national jurisdiction (COMOP 12). This committee was chaired by a Member of Parliament and composed of about fifteen members representing a number of public agencies, socio-professional organizations, and regional governments. It is comprised of the working groups covering the topics of governance and integrated management, fisheries, and impact of land-based pollutions.

Taking into consideration the European framework, the committee built up an overall governance and planning scheme, the detail of which is given in its final report (COMOP 12, 2008). Most of its recommendations have since then been included into the second Grenelle Environment Act that should be enacted by the end of 2009:

- *Strategic planning* : management requires the definition of a vision, principles and objectives for planning at an appropriate scale. Maritime strategic planning is used as a benchmark for maritime activities development and environmental protection. The national ecosystem-based vision and framework should be developed as a National Maritime Strategy for the Coast and the Sea, which then should allow more specific regional strategic plans to be prepared by local stakeholders and decision-makers in collaboration with the State.
- *Governance* : management of the coast and the sea, a common good, should concern all stakeholders, public and private ; new forms of governance should be set up at appropriate scales from national to local level : at national level there should be a National Coastal and Marine Board (following the existing National Coastal Board) ; at the inter-regional level, there should be Regional Coastal and Marine Boards for each of the selected marine eco-regions or maritime basins.

- *Funding* : beyond the need to maintain the existing resources for the management of the sea, the COMOP 12 emphasized the need for a funding instrument and mechanism devoted to the maritime activities and related programmes or projects. This funding would be sourced on maritime activities taxes (licenses) as well as water taxes through corresponding water agencies and would take the name of National Fund for Management of the Coast and the Sea.

Since then, these principles and goals, soon to be confirmed by the law, have been further developed in the frame of the Grenelle of the Sea which will last till the end of 2009.