

OCEAN OBSERVATION

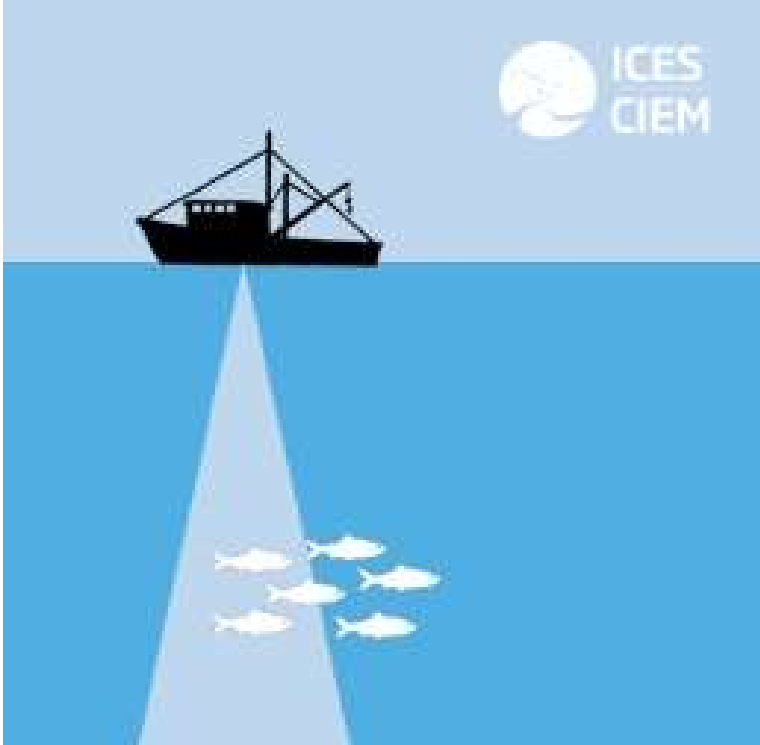
Iain Shepherd
European Commission
Directorate General for Maritime Affairs
and Fisheries

TG Data
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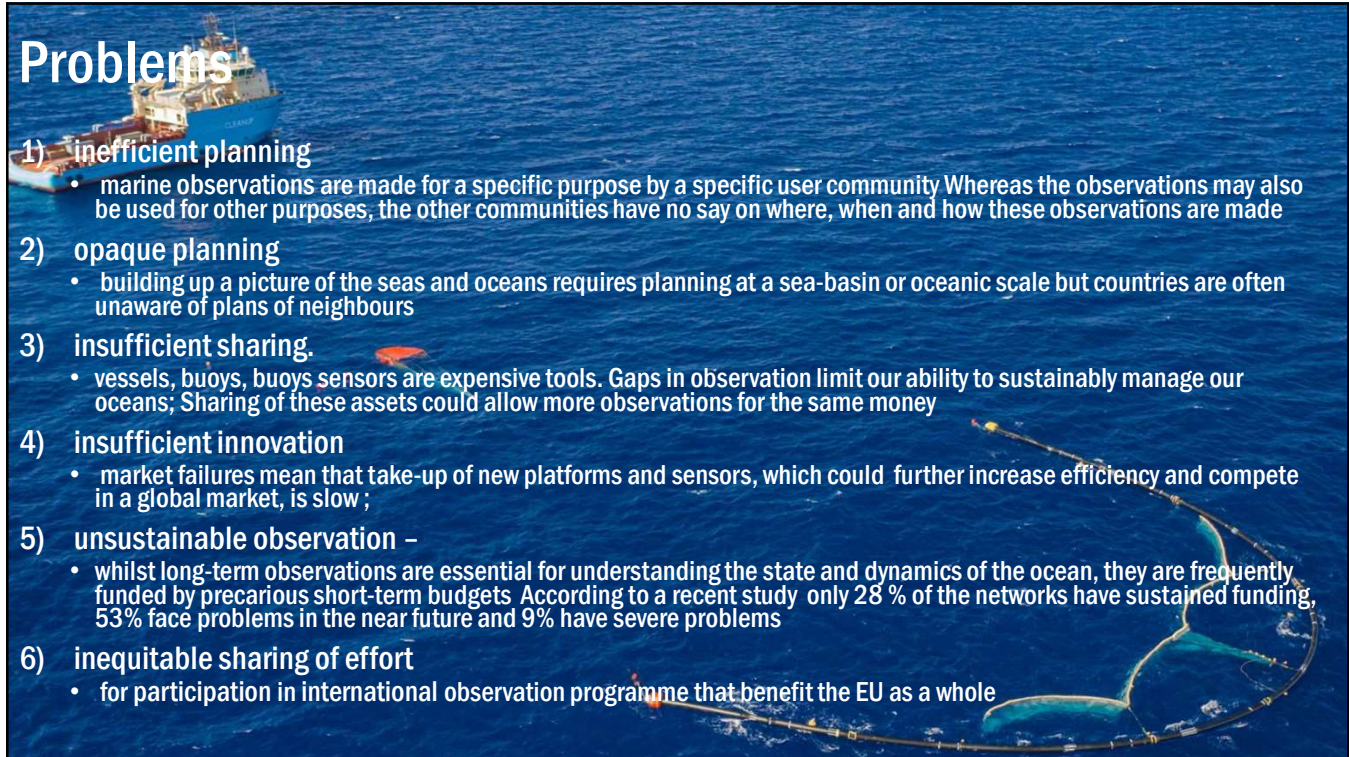
Definitions

- **observations**
 - all surveys, monitoring campaigns or sampling programmes for measuring the state and dynamics of oceans and the marine organisms that inhabit them.
- **oceans,**
 - seas and oceans including the seabed as well as the overlying water column.



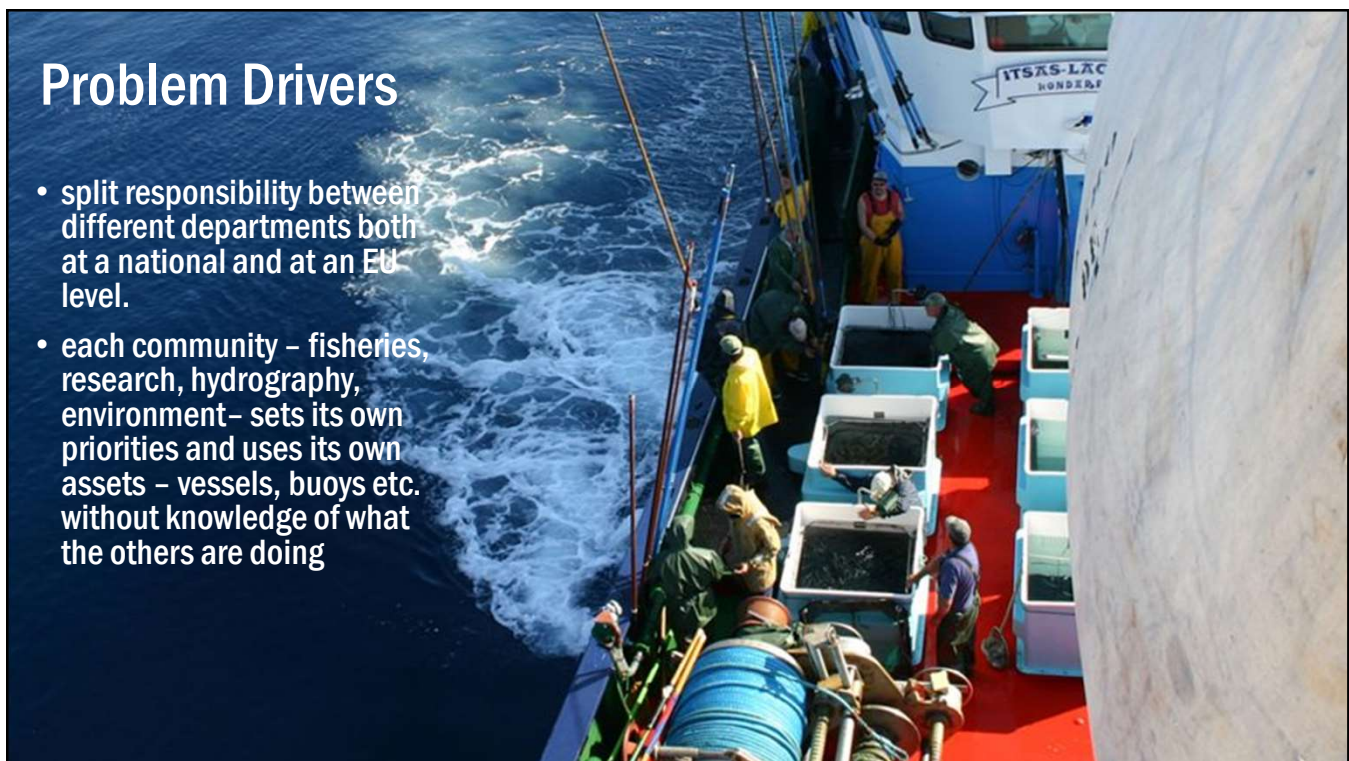
Problems

- 1) inefficient planning
 - marine observations are made for a specific purpose by a specific user community Whereas the observations may also be used for other purposes, the other communities have no say on where, when and how these observations are made
- 2) opaque planning
 - building up a picture of the seas and oceans requires planning at a sea-basin or oceanic scale but countries are often unaware of plans of neighbours
- 3) insufficient sharing.
 - vessels, buoys, buoys sensors are expensive tools. Gaps in observation limit our ability to sustainably manage our oceans; Sharing of these assets could allow more observations for the same money
- 4) insufficient innovation
 - market failures mean that take-up of new platforms and sensors, which could further increase efficiency and compete in a global market, is slow ;
- 5) unsustainable observation –
 - whilst long-term observations are essential for understanding the state and dynamics of the ocean, they are frequently funded by precarious short-term budgets According to a recent study only 28 % of the networks have sustained funding, 53% face problems in the near future and 9% have severe problems
- 6) inequitable sharing of effort
 - for participation in international observation programme that benefit the EU as a whole



Problem Drivers

- split responsibility between different departments both at a national and at an EU level.
- each community – fisheries, research, hydrography, environment – sets its own priorities and uses its own assets – vessels, buoys etc. without knowledge of what the others are doing



Options

1. baseline – no action
2. Directive
 - aiming for Member States to bring all public bodies responsible for ocean observation together to develop priorities, realise opportunities for sharing effort, speak with agreed voice at EU level and facilitate coherence at a sea-basin level.
3. the same as option 2 but through a Regulation.
 - since there would be no existing national laws to amend, this could allow a more uniform and simpler implementation.
4. the same as option 2 but through soft law
 - such as an open method of coordination
5. the same as option 2 but with EU funding
 - to support observations of common benefit

