

ABSTRACT AUDIT\_ The state of the implementation of marine environmental protection measures to achieve a good environmental status by 2020.

The Audit "The State of Implementation of Marine Environmental Protection Interventions to Achieve a Good Environmental Status by 2020" assessed the implementation in Italy of the provisions of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, that aims to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) of the EU's marine waters by 2020 and to protect the resource base upon which marine-related economic and social activities depend.

This initiative, coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment and Protection of Land and Sea in partnership with the in-house company SOGESID, has also involved coastal regions through special agreements. The coastal regions received part of the resources allocated and had them transferred, mostly, to local levels of government.

From 2011 to 2019, the resources allocated to the implementation of the interventions amounted to 76.1 million Euro, of which 72.1 million were assigned and 53.4 million were actually paid.

The Audit stressed the positive results achieved and recommended for a constant monitoring of the effective implementation and effectiveness of the measures in the second six-year cycle of the Marine Strategy.

Regarding, on the other hand, the critical issues, the audit underlined that gradual decrease in the amount of funds allocated to the operation of marine protected areas risks to undermine the results that have so far been achieved.

In its conclusions, the Corte dei conti recommended that future efforts should focus on removing, as far as possible, the remaining polluting and impoverishing factors to achieve better environmental results: namely, to reduce telluric pollution due to pollutants and waste from inland waters; illicit fishing; marine litter.