

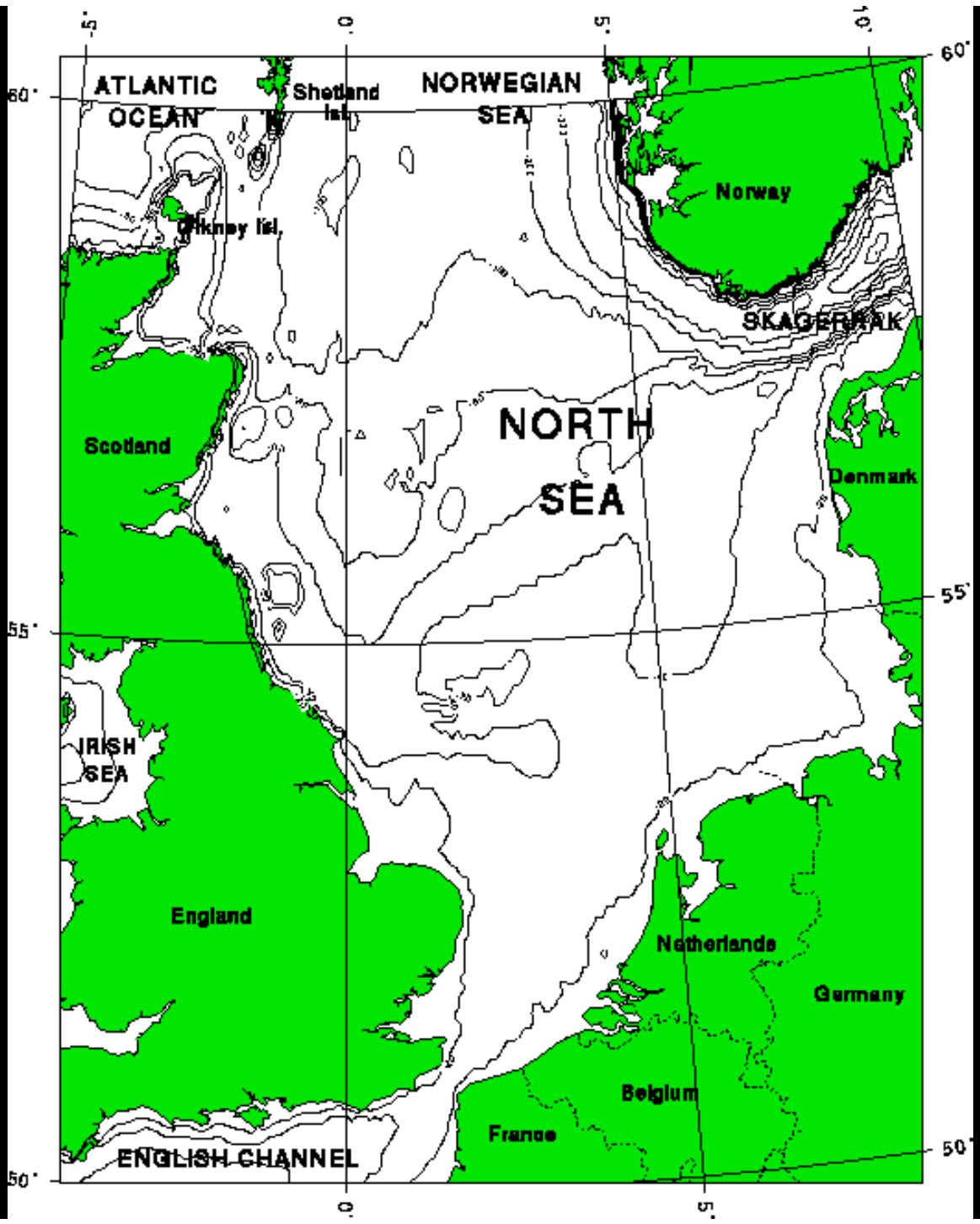
**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**

# **Precautionary Principle**

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## *Precautionary Principle:*

- The principle directs that action should be taken to correct a problem as soon as there is evidence that harm may occur, not after the harm has already occurred.
- In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities.
- first introduced in 1984 at the First International Conference on Protection of the North Sea.



# *Prevention is better than cure*

- The precautionary principle emanates from the wish to protect Man and nature, even if there is no certain scientific evidence of the extent and cause of the environmental problem

# Important components of precautionary principle

- 1. *The principle of preventive action.* This applies where a particular environmental change agent is known, on the basis of existing scientific research, to create a hazard, even though the hazard may not yet be fully assessed.
- 2. *The principle of playing safe.* This applies where the scientific prognosis cannot be proven, but where long-term danger is likely. The persistent and big-accumulative chemicals are usually controlled on this basis.
- 3. *The principle of environmental insurance.* Here the workings of environmental systems are not fully understood, so it is regarded as vital to protect the capacity of such systems to cope with further change.
- 4. *The principle of intrinsic bequest.* Increasingly society wants to bequeath in trust for future generations, the functioning of integral life-support systems.

## ***Polluter-Pays Principle:***

- those who pollute the environment must pay for the damages they have caused.
- originated in the 1970's when members of OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development)
- the Polluter-Pays Principle is only a payment method designed to finance pollution control activities, it cannot guarantee efficiency or cost effectiveness in environmental protection.

## ***13 Scope of the Polluter-Pays Principle:***

- to achieve and maintain a cleaner environment. The polluter-pays principle is particularly valid for and an appropriate remedy to victims of damage from environmentally harmful activities.

# ***Problems associated with the Implementation of the Polluter-Pays Principle:***

- poverty is one of the causes of environmental deterioration and a clean environment is beyond the reach of the poor. Given the tendency for poor to pollute, the Polluter-Pays Principle will burden the poor in order to create a better environment for the rich to enjoy.

## ***The Beneficiary-Pays Principle:***

- The Polluter-Pays Principle requires the poor commuters using public buses to pay a higher charge in order to finance cleaner and less smoky bus exhaust emission so that everyone can enjoy cleaner air. The alternative Beneficiary-Pays Principle argues that cleaner and less smoky buses should, instead, be financed by all the city residents and not just bus commuters since, after all, everyone will benefit from clean air.