



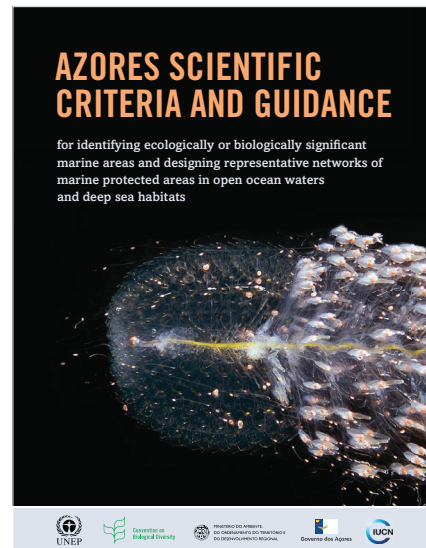
Lines of Sargassum in the Sargasso Sea, NOAA

Example of a candidate EBSA

The creation and population of an inventory of EBSAs requires that the CBD collects information on candidate EBSAs. What might a candidate EBSA look like? What information might be required to propose an area as a candidate EBSA?

To answer these questions, GOBI reworked some of the methodological illustrations submitted as part of our background document to the CBD Expert Workshop on Ecological Criteria and Biogeographic Classification Systems for Marine Areas in Need of Protection, held in Ottawa in 2009, as examples of candidate EBSAs. Here we present an example of candidate EBSA, the Sargasso Sea (figure 1), and some views of what a tool to automate and standardise the submission process might look like (figures 2 and 3). We also outline some categories of information that will be critical to collect to inform the decision on whether to include an area as an EBSA.

In Annex I of COP 9 Decision IX/20 the Parties to the CBD adopted a set of seven scientific criteria to identify ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSAs) in need of protection in the global marine realm. Any proposal of candidate EBSAs would need to indicate the degree to which the site met each of the criteria (see figure 2). It would also require some degree of explanation of how the site meets the criteria (e.g. the short description in figure 1).



Guidelines on the application of the criteria developed by the Ottawa Expert Workshop can be found on the CBD (www.cbd.int) and GOBI (www.GOBI.org) websites.

Facilitating the submission of a candidate EBSAs: The Sargasso Sea

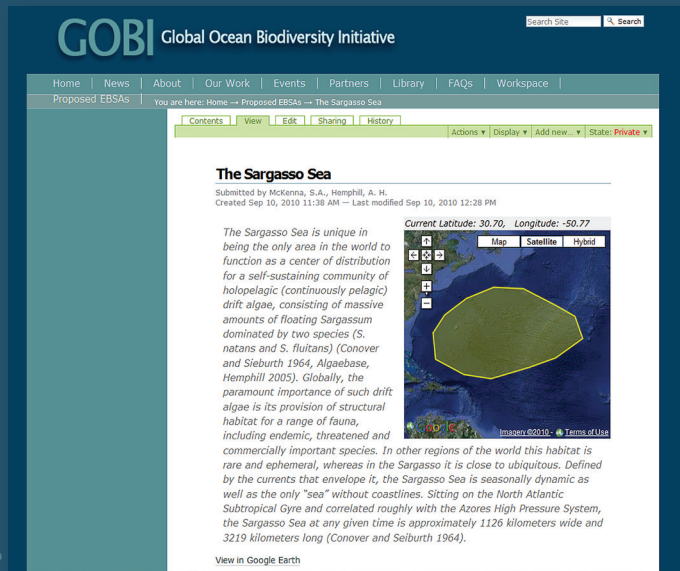


Figure 1

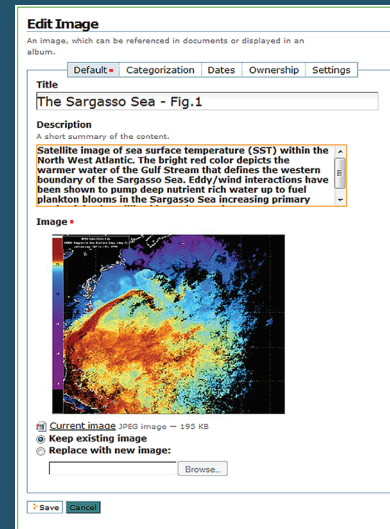


Figure 3

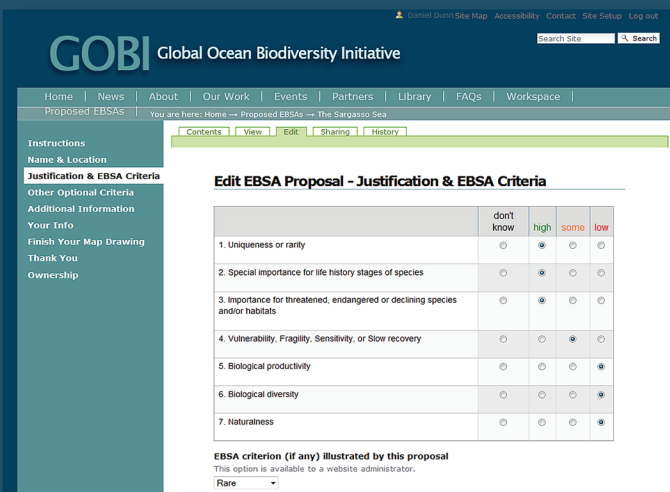


Figure 2

Another important aspect of any submission would be the delineation of the candidate EBSA. As such, a user-friendly, online mapping tool and feature editor (e.g. the map inset in figure 1) would be an essential part of facilitating the submission of candidate EBSAs. Collection of (or linking to) metadata on the data sources used to identify the area, as well as related figures (e.g. figure 3) and scientific literature would also be critical. Other considerations might include evaluating the importance of the site to network criteria (see Annex II of COP 9 Decision IX/20), practical considerations, and information about the submitter.

Additional examples of candidate EBSAs available for view on www.GOBi.org:

- The Saya de Malha Banks
- The North Pacific Transition Zone Chlorophyll Front
- The White Shark Café (in the Eastern Tropical Pacific)
- The South Pacific Gyre
- Areas of importance to Antipodean Albatross' in the Tasman Sea
- Examples of areas of importance for Cold Water Corals
- Areas beyond national jurisdiction on the Coast Rica Dome
- The Discovery Tablemount group