

CBD, COP 9/10 and the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI)

Working towards high seas conservation



OUTLINE

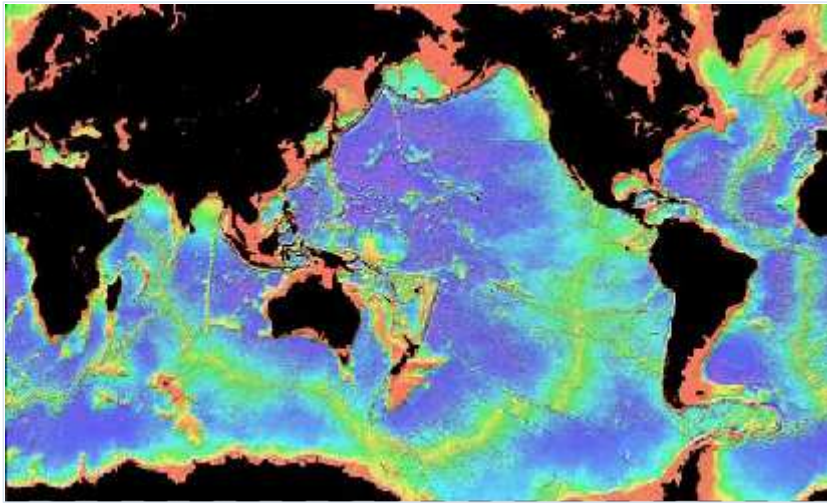
- 1. DEFINITIONS: OPEN OCEAN, DEEP SEA, HIGH SEAS,
THE AREA**
- 2. INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT**
- 3. PROTECTIVE SPATIAL MEASURES**
- 4. BARRIERS AND OBSTACLES**
- 5. GOBI**
- 6. SUMMARY**

OPEN OCEANS AND DEEP SEAS



Credit: Glen Tepke, Marine Photobank

OPEN OCEANS, DEEP SEAS AND HIGH SEAS



Credit: Scripps Institution of Oceanography, NOAA

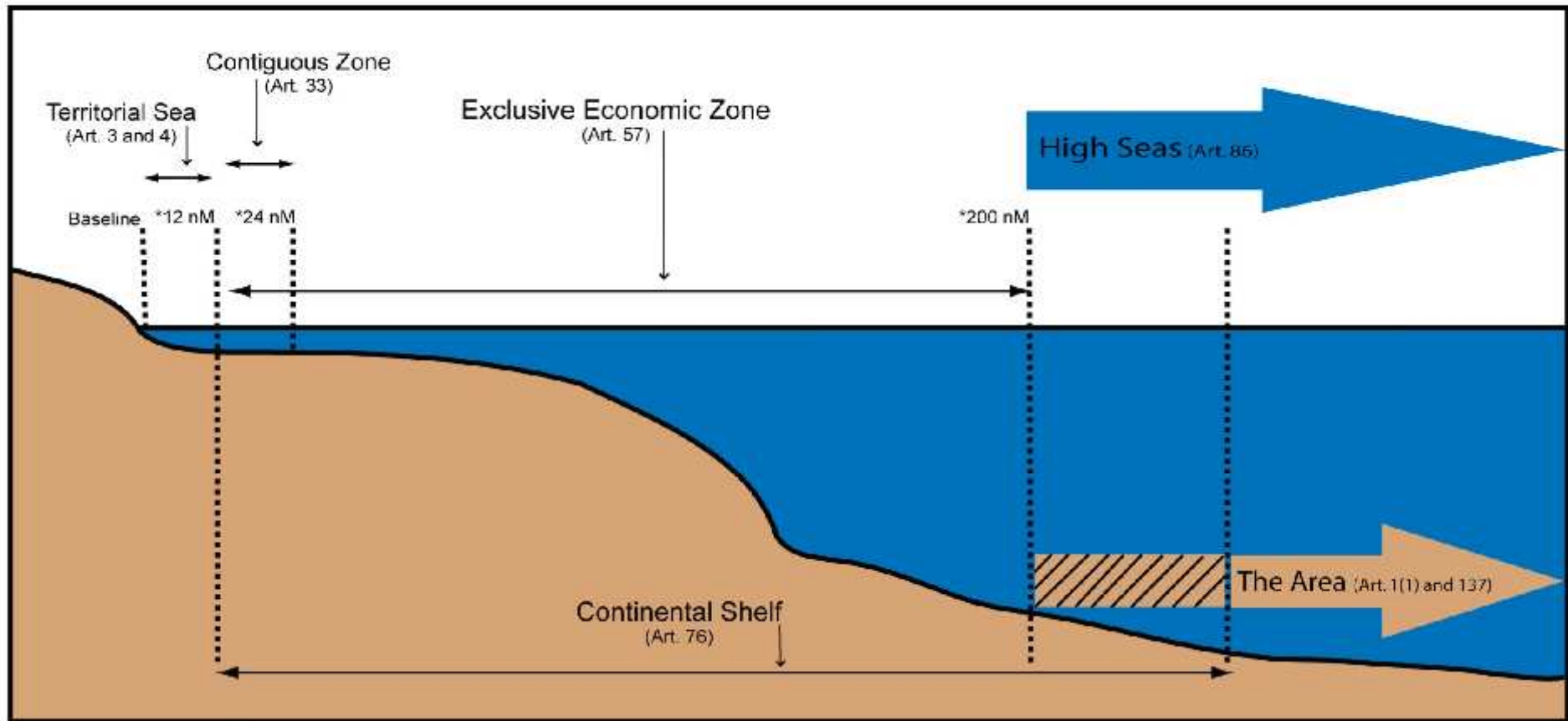
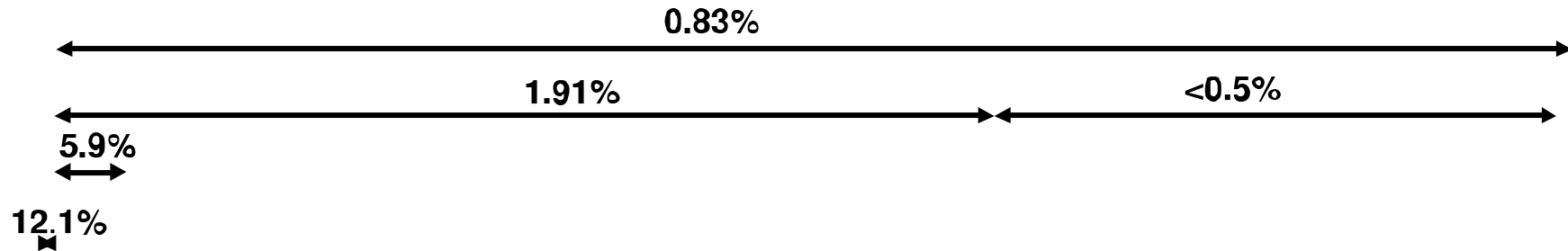


Credit: Flanders Marine Institute

Facts:

- 95 % of the global biosphere
 - major part of world's biodiversity
 - regulating role in Earth's climate
 - 64% = high seas
 - the "Area": seabed beyond legal continental shelves
-
- Pressures:
 - intensifying human uses
 - climate change
 - ocean acidification

PROGRESS TOWARDS 2012 MPA TARGETS



* up to



The Area starts at 200 nM from the baseline when the legal Continental Shelf (as defined in Art. 76) does not extend beyond that limit.

INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT



Credit: Cynthia Wong, Marine Photobank

UN CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA 1982

- **Freedom to:**

- fish
- navigate
- lay submarine cables and pipelines
- conduct marine scientific research
- construct artificial islands
- authorize vessels to fly national flag

- **Duty to:**

- conserve living marine resources
- protect and preserve marine environment
- cooperate
- control vessels and citizens
- comply with other international legal obligations

WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT JOHANNESBURG, 2002

- reduce the rate of **biodiversity** loss by 2010
- encourage the application of **ecosystem approaches** to marine management by 2010
- establish **representative marine protected area networks** by 2012
- restore depleted fish stocks to **maximum sustainable yields**, where possible by 2015
- eliminate **destructive fishing practices**

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

CBD COP 8, 2006

- **encourage the establishment of MPAs** beyond national jurisdiction
- devise new mechanisms/instruments to **achieve effective and enforceable MPAs and networks**

CBD COP 9, 2008

- adoption of **CBD criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant areas in need of protection**
- adoption of **scientific guidance** for designing representative networks of MPAs

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA)

- **UNGA Working Group, 2006 & 2008**
 - More **effective implementation** and **enforcement** of existing instruments
 - Development and use of **area-based management tools**, including designation, management and enforcement
 - Continuing and enhancing **marine scientific research** related to marine biological diversity in ABNJ
- **UNGA Resolution 61/105, 2006**
 - Adopt measures to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems from adverse impacts from **bottom fishing activities**
 - required to prevent significant adverse impacts including through **prior impact assessments and area closures**

WORLD OCEANS CONFERENCE, MANADO 2009

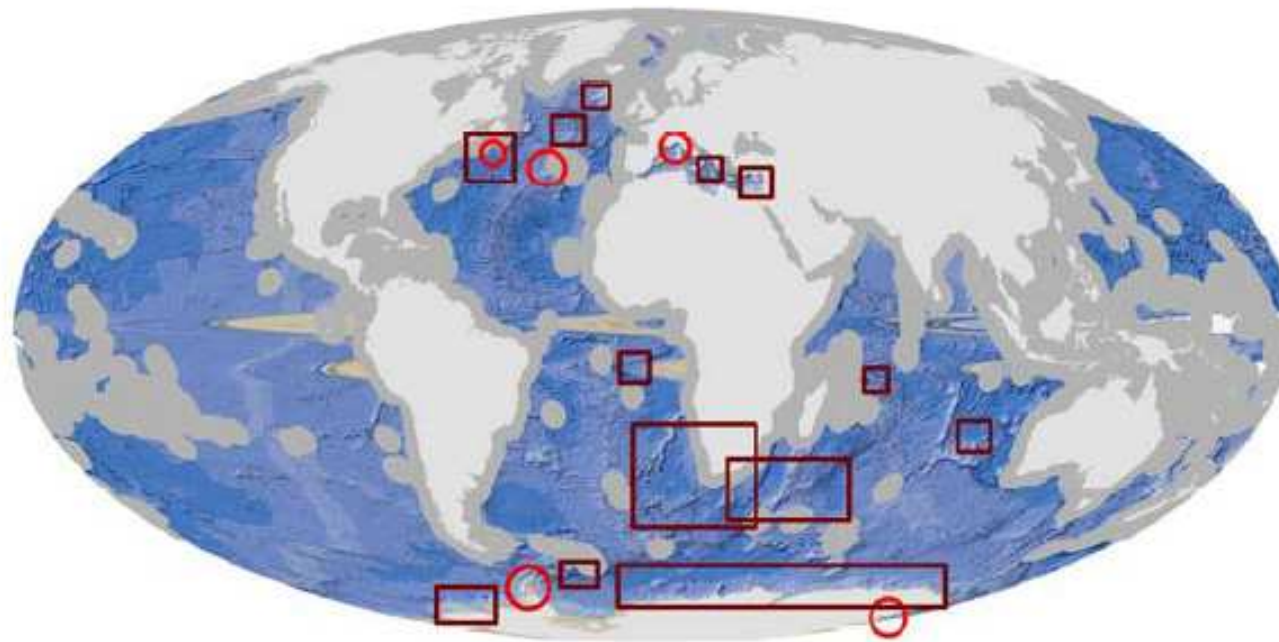
MANADO OCEAN DECLARATION

- Non-binding declaration on Climate Change and Oceans
- Resolved to further **establish** and **effectively manage** MPAs, including **representative resilient networks**
- to conserve biodiversity, sustainable livelihoods and to adapt to climate change



PROTECTIVE SPATIAL MEASURES ON THE HIGH SEAS

EXISTING HIGH SEAS PROTECTIVE SPATIAL MEASURES

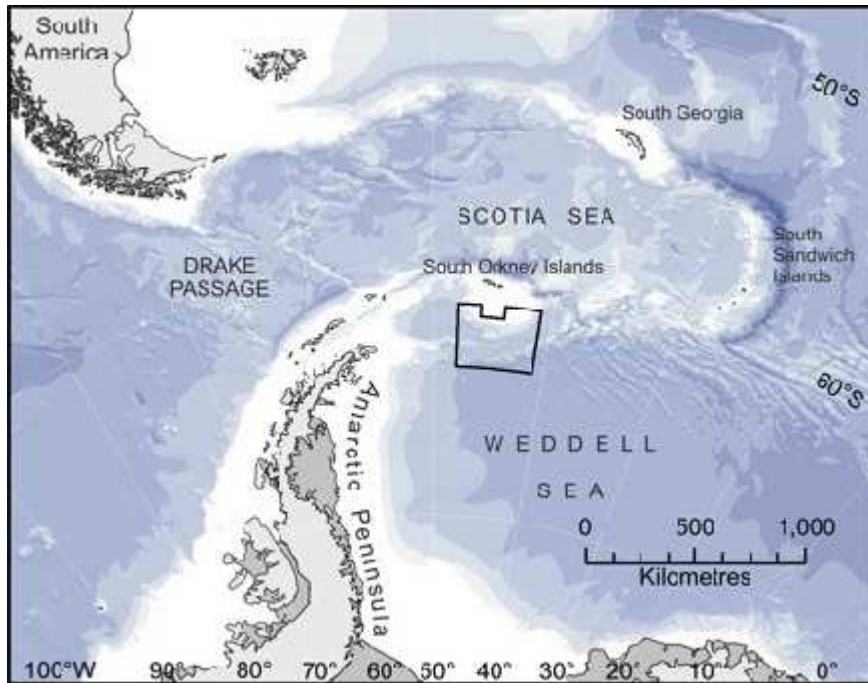


PELAGOS SANCTUARY



- for Mediterranean Marine Mammals
- in force: 2002
- 87492 km²
- Barcelona Convention (SPAMI)
- national and international waters
- 53 % on high seas
- very high levels of offshore primary productivity

SOUTH ORKNEYS



- CCAMLR adopted 2009
- First large-scale purely high seas protected area in the Southern Ocean
- Size: ~94,000 km²
- No fishing activities
- No discharge/disposal from fishing vessels
- In force: May 2010



**WORK IN
PROGRESS**

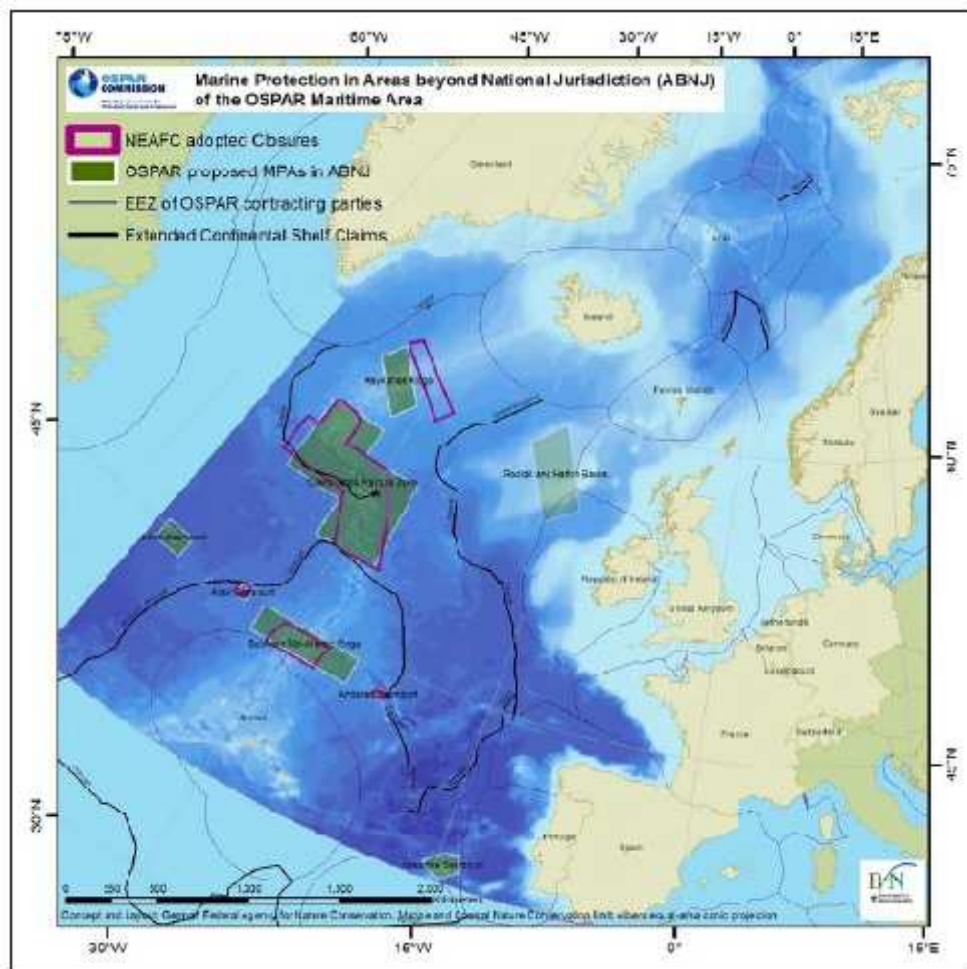
Credit: Maria Honig, Marine Photobank

PACIFIC DONUT HOLES



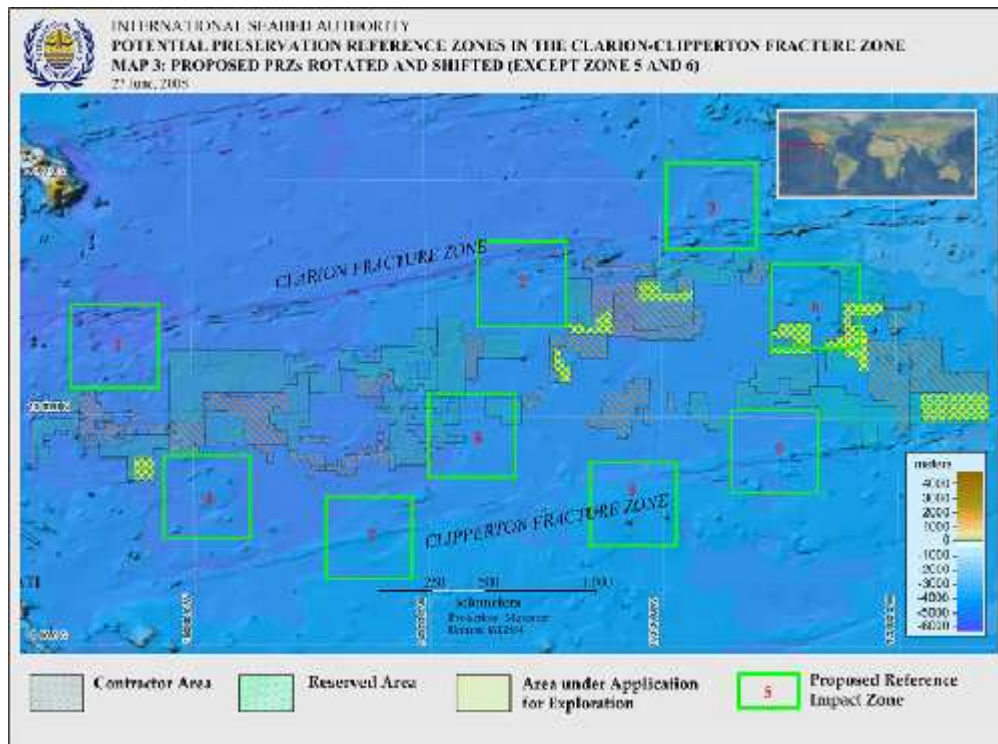
- 4 patches of high seas surrounded by countries' EEZ
- 2 fisheries closure areas (enforcement strategy)
- Trying to close 2 other ones
- Trying to convert them into MPAs

OSPAR PROPOSED MPAs in ABNJ



- OSPAR Commission; 40 % of OSPAR's maritime area are high seas
- « ecologically coherent » and « well-managed » network by 2010
- Charley Gibbs site endorsed by OSPAR 2007 “in principle” as a MPA in ABNJ
- 6 additional sites under consideration by OSPAR since 2007

CLARION-CLIPPERTON ZONE



- ISA design a network of 9 areas of particular environmental interest within the Clarion-Clipperton Zone
- represent ~30 % of the area
- select a specific area for which status is to be monitored
- promote and encourage marine scientific research

ROSS SEA



- MPA proposal submitted to Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties and CCAMLR
- open-ocean, cold-water, continental shelf and slope ecosystem
- shelf area: least affected in world by direct human activity
- unique lab for scientific research to understand effects of climate change



BARRIERS AND OBSTACLES

Credit: Lisa Morse, Marine Photobank

OBSTACLES

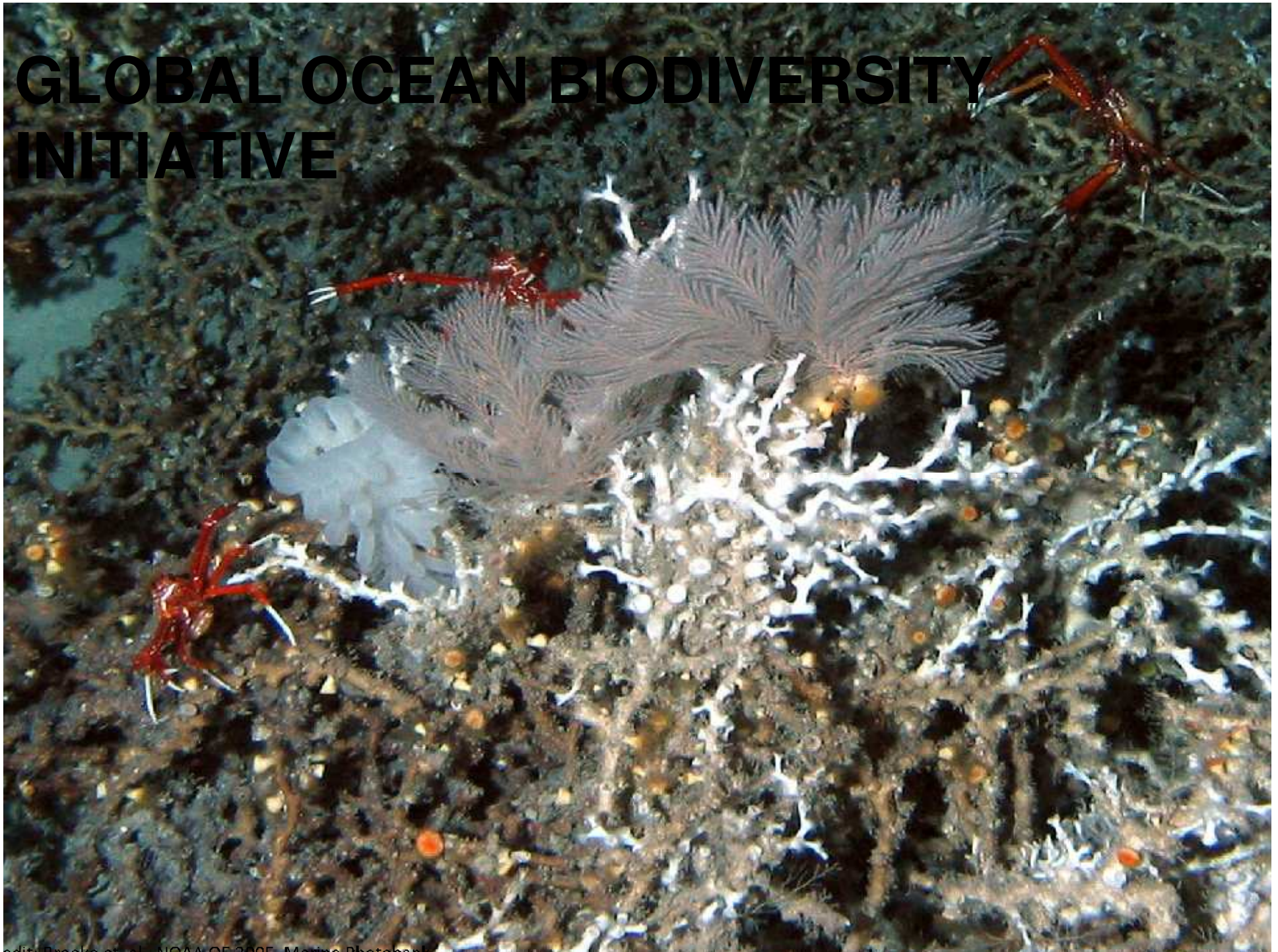
Lack of:

- scientific information
- awareness
- political will
- funds and finances
- mechanisms for recognition of sites meeting CBD criteria
- and a clear agreement on selection and management of EBSA networks

NEEDS

- more work towards the **identification** of significant areas (EBSAs) and design of representative networks
- enhanced **cooperation** and **coordination** with sectoral organisations
- agreed **global targets and objectives** to promote regional and sectoral cooperation
- **adoption of protective measures agreed on global level**
- financial **support**

GLOBAL OCEAN BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVE



INITIATIVE BACKGROUND

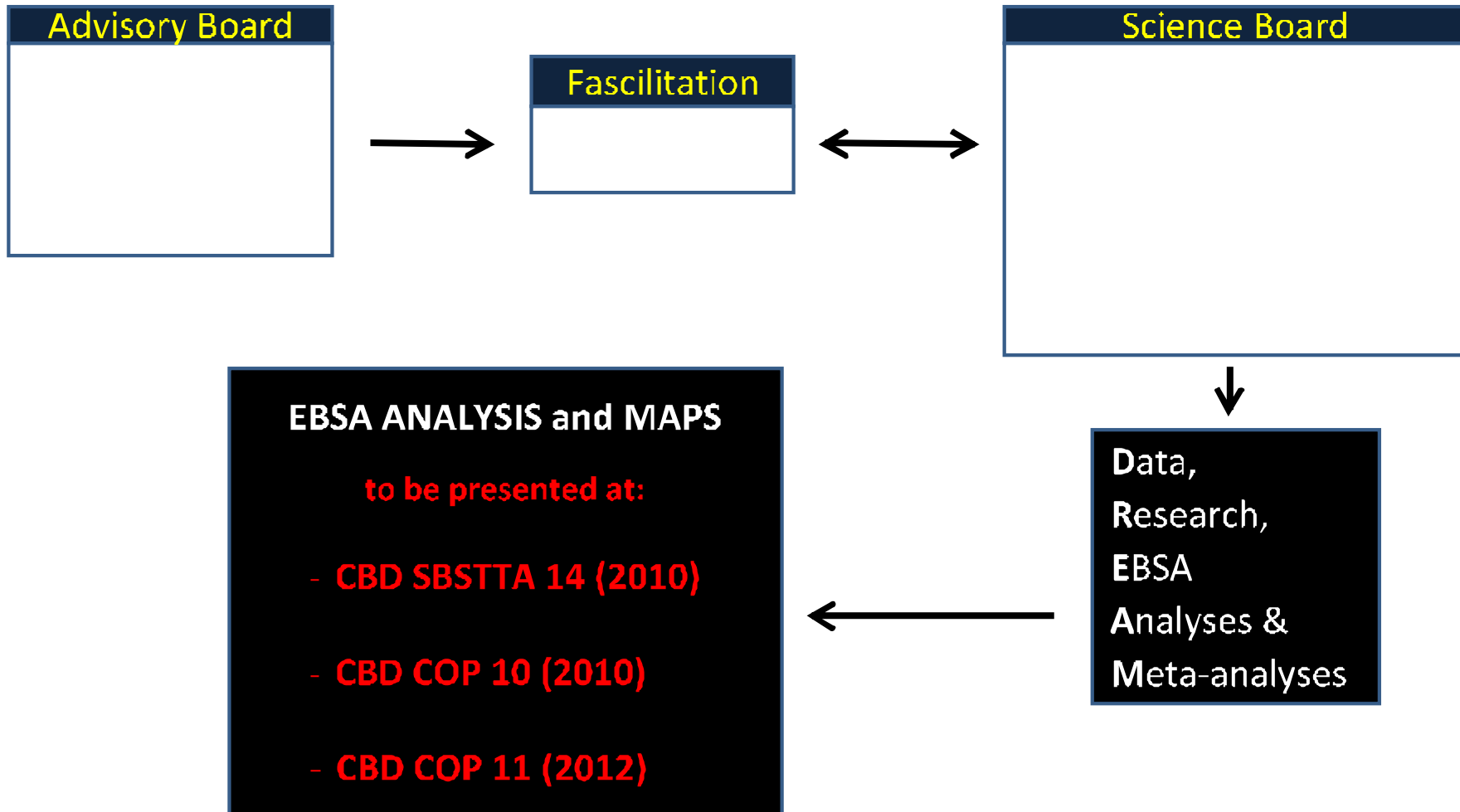
Help identify ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSA) in need of protection beyond national jurisdiction in application of the CBD EBSA criteria

- supported by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)
- funded by the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU) during the German Presidency of the CBD

CBD EBSA CRITERIA

- uniqueness or rarity
- special importance for life history of species
- importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats
- vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity, slow recovery
- biological productivity
- biological diversity
- naturalness

INITIATIVE STRUCTURE



INITIATIVE PARTNERS



CBD



Bundesamt
für Naturschutz



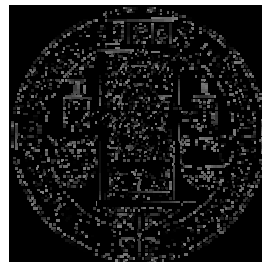
UNEP



WCMC



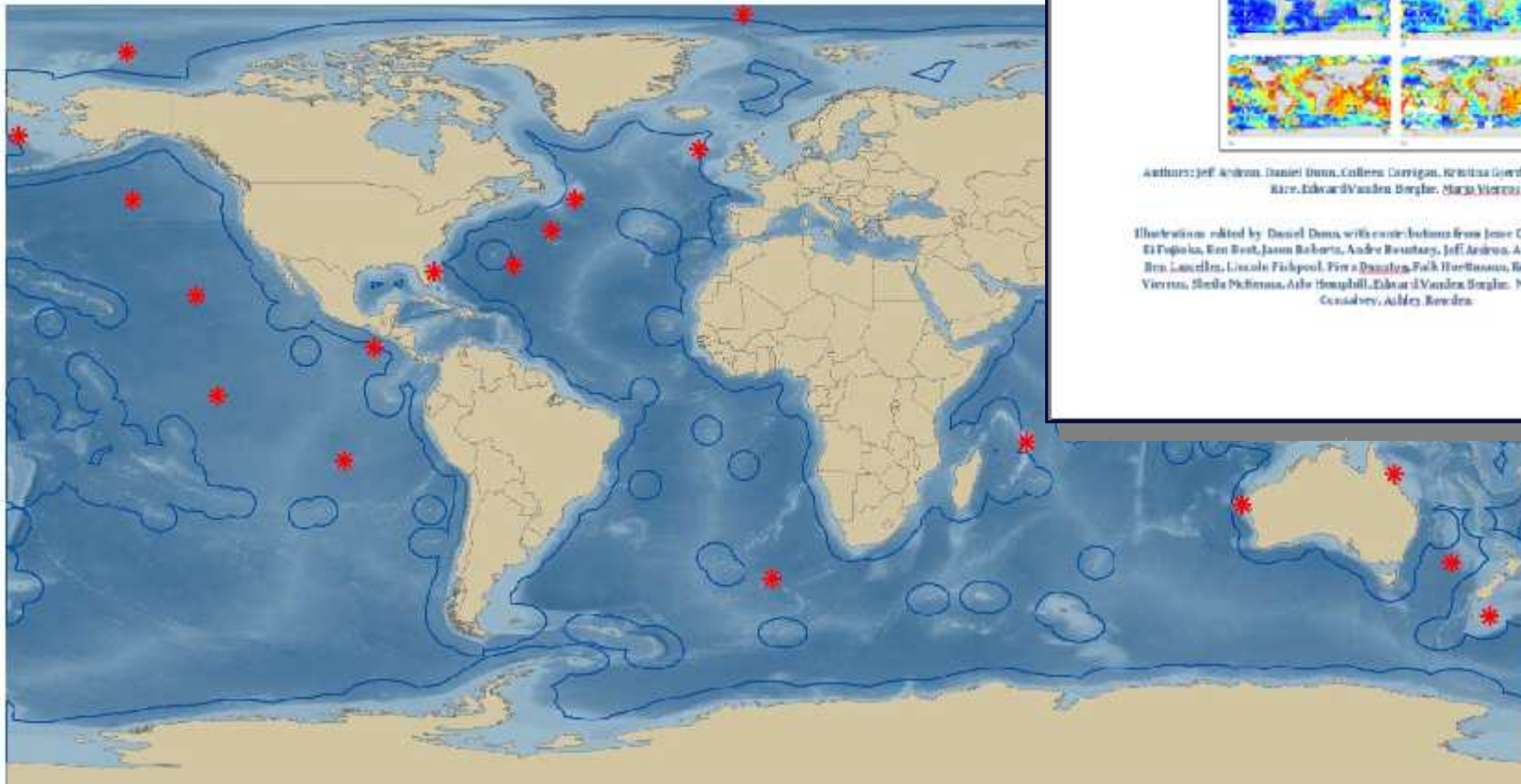
Duke University



INITIATIVE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- to establish and support a **scientific collaboration process** to assist States and relevant regional and global organisations with the **best available scientific data, tools and methods to identify EBSAs**
- to provide **illustrations** and **initial guidance** on how individual CBD EBSA criteria can be interpreted and applied
- to **engage globally scientists** to provide comments, practical assistance and advice on applying the CBD EBSA criteria and guidance
- to assist in developing **selected regional analyses** with states, relevant organisations and stakeholders

EBSA ILLUSTRATIONS



IUCN | CCMA | UNEP WCMC | GBIS | MCRI

**Defining ecologically or biologically significant areas in the open oceans and deep seas:
Analysis, tools, resources and illustrations**

A background document for the CBD expert workshop on scientific and technical guidance on the use of biogeographic classification systems and identification of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction in need of protection.

Ottawa, Canada
29 September - 2 October 2009

Authors: Jeff Aronson, Daniel Dunn, Colleen Corrigan, Kristina Gjerd, Patrick Halpin, Jake Rice, Edward Vanden Berghe, Marcj Viorroz

Illustrations: edited by Daniel Dunn, with contributions from Jesse Clerry, Fabrice N. Halpin, El Tapioala, Ken Best, Jason Roberts, Andre Rosenthal, Jeff Aronson, Anthony Lynn Harrison, Ben Landrum, Lincoln Fishpool, Piri O'Donnell, Falk Huthmann, Rictin Kuecher, Marie Viorroz, Sheila McFarlane, Aida Thompson, Edward Vanden Berghe, Makoto Clark, Michelle Cassalvey, Aubrey Rowden

CBD EXPERT WORKSHOP OTTAWA, 2009

Results regarding EBSAs:

- can be used for multiple uses, including protection
- experiences gained provide guidance on their use
- most scientific and technical lessons learned can be generalised, even if management responses vary
- information from all sources should be used, subject to quality assurance methods, and reviewed periodically
- need to promote focused regional efforts

Results will be submitted to:

- UN ad hoc informal open-ended Working Group in February 2010
- SBSTTA in May in Nairobi and CBD COP10 in October 2010

http://www.openoceansdeepseas.org/

Open Oceans Deep Seas

Home The open ocean and deep sea Ecosystems Oceans Workshop Publications Bibliography Partners

You are here

The open ocean and deep sea

The world's oceans are seriously under-protected. Most conservation efforts to date have focused on coastal and nearshore areas. It is now recognized that these efforts need to be scaled up to protect open ocean waters and deep sea habitats, including areas beyond national jurisdiction. The open ocean and deep sea are critical components of Earth's life support systems and are the world's home to a major part of the oceans—and the world's biodiversity. Yet the cumulative effect of intensifying human uses, climate change and ocean acidification threaten to undermine ecosystem resilience, biodiversity and the ecosystem services upon which we all depend. Conservation efforts in the 64% of the ocean that lies beyond national jurisdictions presents special challenges, as responsibility is dispersed amongst the many nations and stakeholder communities. Thus international cooperation and collaboration are absolutely essential.

start exploring



rare



life history



endangered



fragile



productive



diverse



natural



Done

Internet | Protected Mode | On

100%

ILLUSTRATIONS IN GOOGLE EARTH

The image is a screenshot of the Google Earth desktop application. The main window displays a satellite view of the Atlantic Ocean, centered on the Sargasso Sea. A red pin is placed in the sea, and an information window is open over it. The window has a title bar that says "Open Ocean Deep Seas" and "The Sargasso Sea". The text inside the window describes the sea as a globally unique marine ecosystem. To the right of the text is a small inset map showing the Sargasso Sea's location within the Atlantic Ocean gyre. At the bottom of the window, there are navigation links and a URL. The Google Earth interface includes a search bar, a "Fly To" section, and a "Layers" panel on the left side. The bottom of the screen shows the Google logo and the text "© 2009 Earth Engine Consortium" and "© 2009 Map Data Inc. All Rights Reserved. Europe's Finest Online Maps © 2009 Google". The coordinates at the bottom are 18°49'14.48"N - 62°25'13.47"W - elev: -2213 m and the eye altitude is 61135 km.

Google Earth

File Edit View Tools Add Help

Search

Fly To: Find Businesses Directions

Fly to a place, hotels near JFK

Placemarks

My Places

Open Ocean Deep Seas (1)

Marine Impacts

Sightseeing

Temporary Places

Layers

Primary Database

Geographic Web

Roads

3D Buildings

Street View

Borders and Labels

Traffic

Weather

Gallery

Ocean

Global Placemarks

Pieces of Interest

More

Layers

The Sargasso Sea

Criterion: Rare

Alone in supporting the center of distribution for a holopelagic (continuously pelagic) drift algal (*Sargassum* spp.) community, the Sargasso Sea is a globally unique marine ecosystem whose entire water column provides a range of critical services (e.g. habitats, migratory routes, spawning and feeding grounds) to a multitude of species, including endemic, endangered and commercially important ones. To illustrate how such an area can meet the FRSA criterion for uniqueness, information on the biological, ecological and oceanographic features of the Sargasso Sea from peer reviewed literature, technical reports and data sets were examined and compared to the four other similar regions of the ocean found within subtropical gyres. Read complete [Illustration](#)

Next: [The Saya de Malha Banks](#)

About | CDB | JCN | COME | UNEP | WCMC | MCB | DLR | MCEL
www.ocean-science.gov.uk

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© 2009 Google

18°49'14.48"N - 62°25'13.47"W - elev: -2213 m

Eye altitude: 61135 km

Google



SUMMARY

Protection of the biodiversity of OPEN OCEANS AND DEEP SEAS

- **obstacles:**
 - lack of political will, scientific information, awareness, financial support
- **opportunities for progress:**
 - new science at hand
 - increased awareness
 - increased political will
 - increased interest in regional cooperation

GLOBAL OCEAN BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVE

- long-term scientific and technical support
- will use globally accepted criteria in place
- international legal framework exists
- opportunity now to help identify priority areas for protection
- challenge today: application of criteria and identification of EBSAs
- challenge tomorrow: implementation

NEXT STEPS of GOBI

- involvement of a larger number of experts and stakeholders
- improve the capacity to evaluate and identify EBSAs
- develop methodologies for using multiple criteria methods
- further cooperate to develop regional workshops and analyses

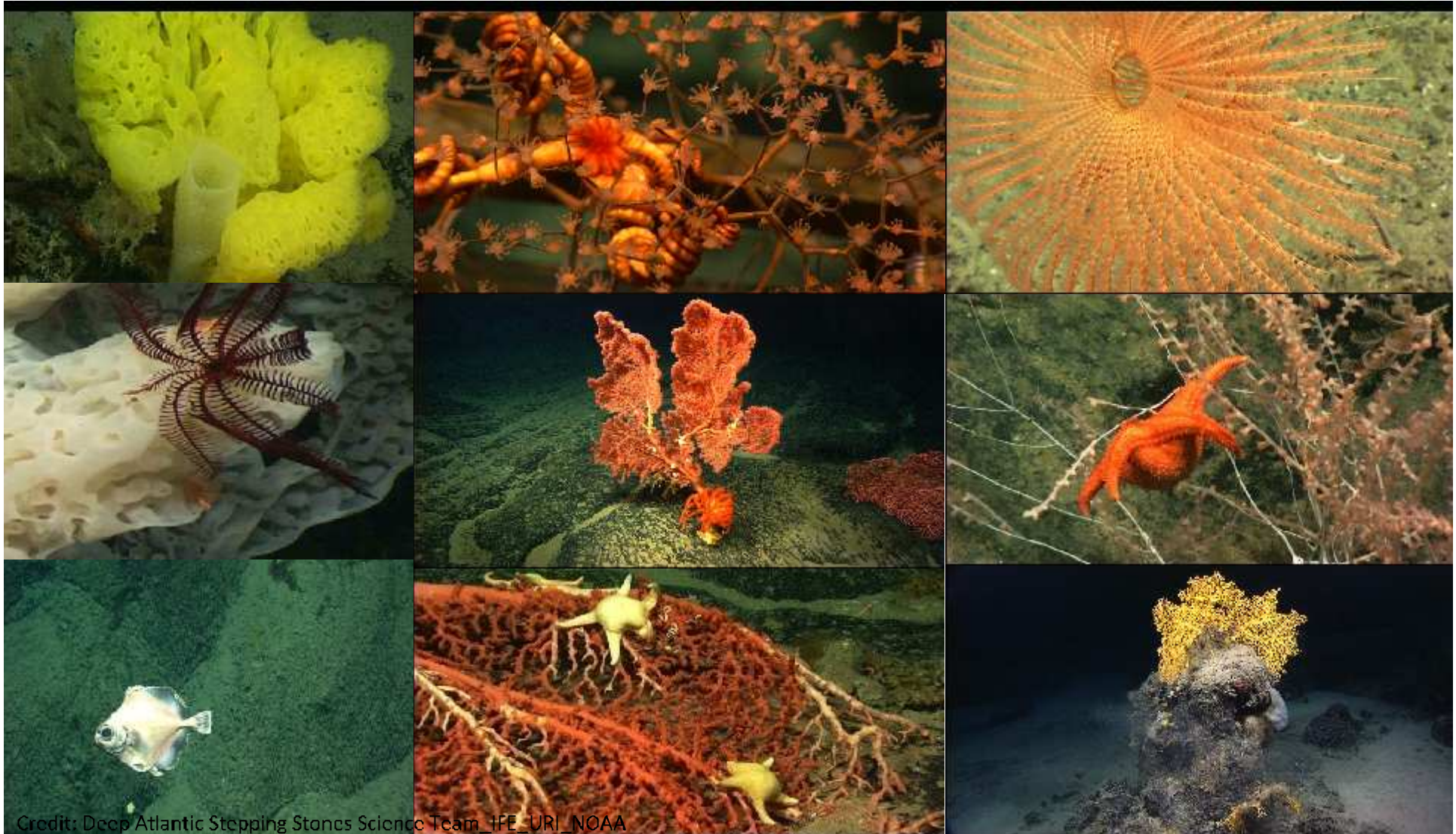
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- Carole Durussel
- Kristina Gjerde
- Anna Rulska-Domino
- and the many GOBI partners

Supported by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) with funds from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)

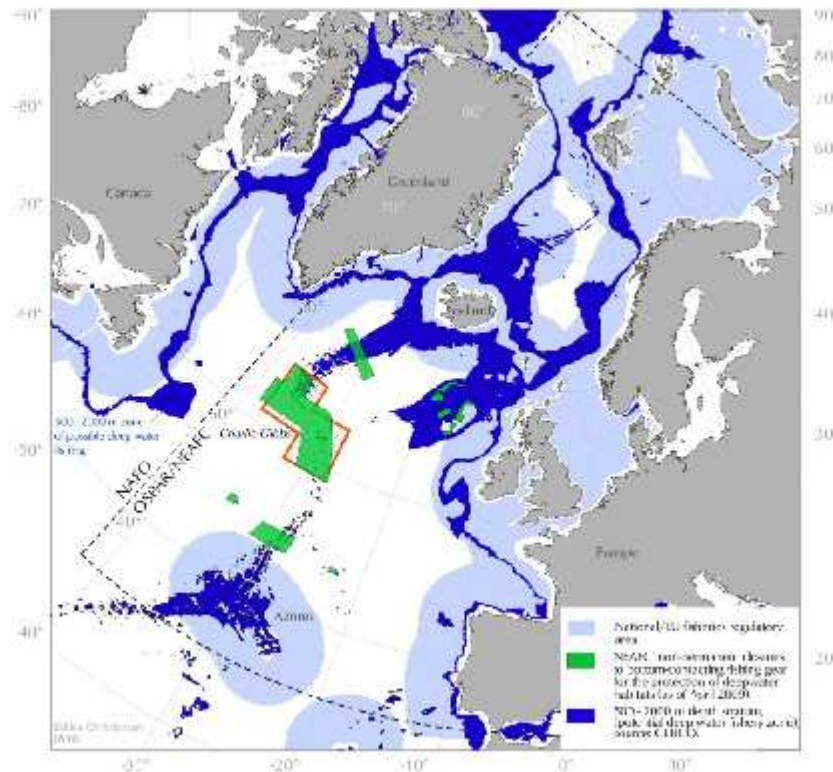


THANK YOU!



Credit: Deep Atlantic Stepping Stones Science Team, IFE, URI, NOAA

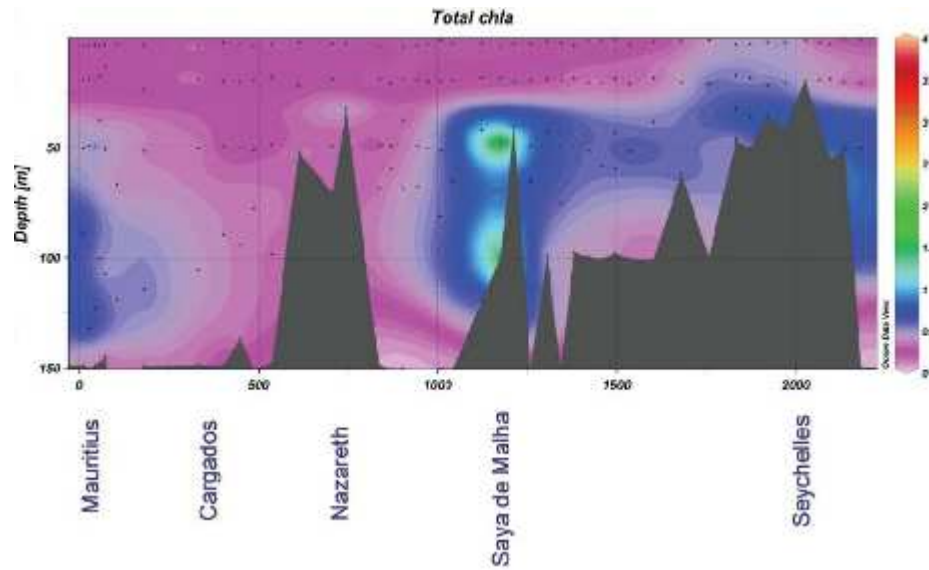
CHARLIE GIBBS FRACTURE ZONE MPA



- OSPAR Commission
- 40 % of OSPAR's maritime area in the high seas
- Site endorsed by OSPAR 2007
“in principle” as a MPA in ABNJ
- « ecologically coherent » and
« well-managed » network of
OSPAR-MPAs by 2010

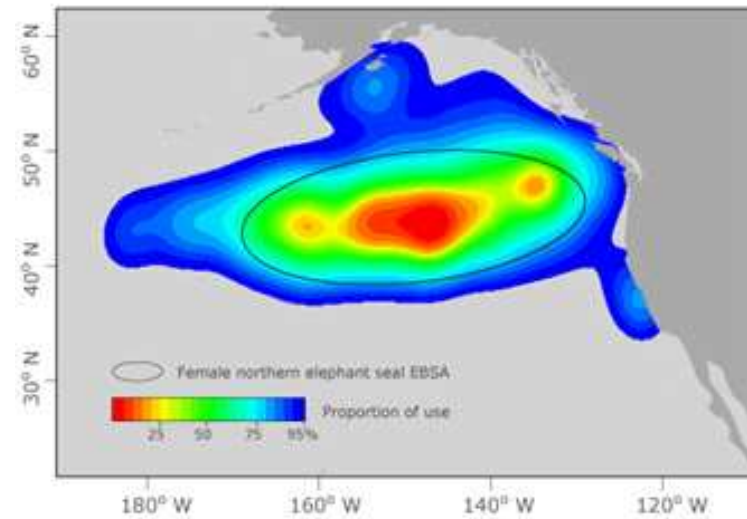
CBD EBSA CRITERIA

uniqueness or rarity



Saya de Malha Banks
Credit: Marjo Vierros, UNU/IAS

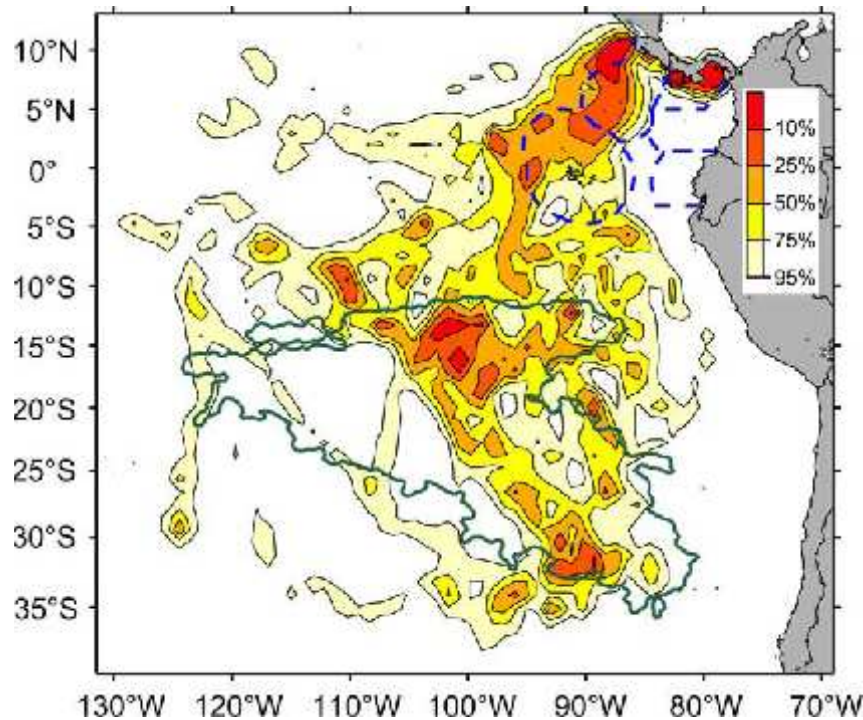
special importance
for life history of species



Northern Elephant Seals
Credit: Autumn-Lynn Harrison, UCSC/TOPP

CBD EBSA CRITERIA

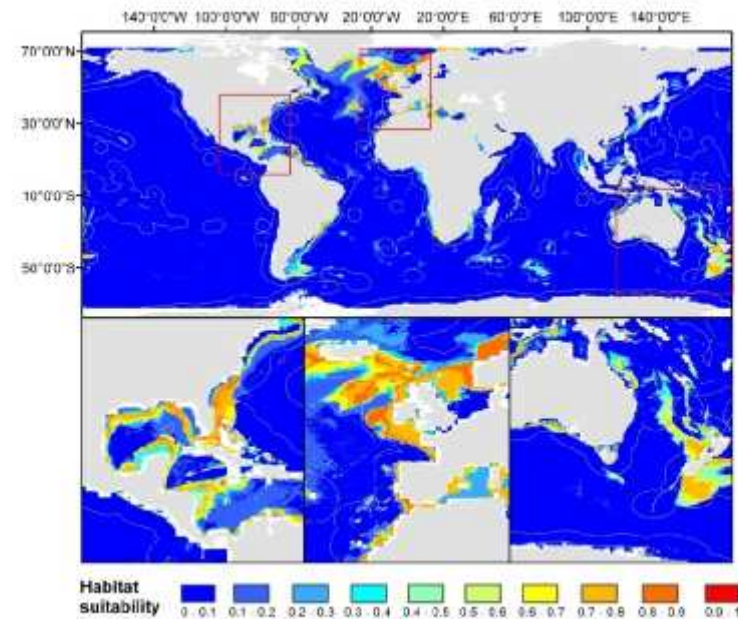
**importance for threatened,
endangered or declining
species**



Pacific Leatherback sea turtle migration corridors

Credit: Andre Boustany, MGEL

**vulnerability, fragility,
sensitivity, slow recovery**

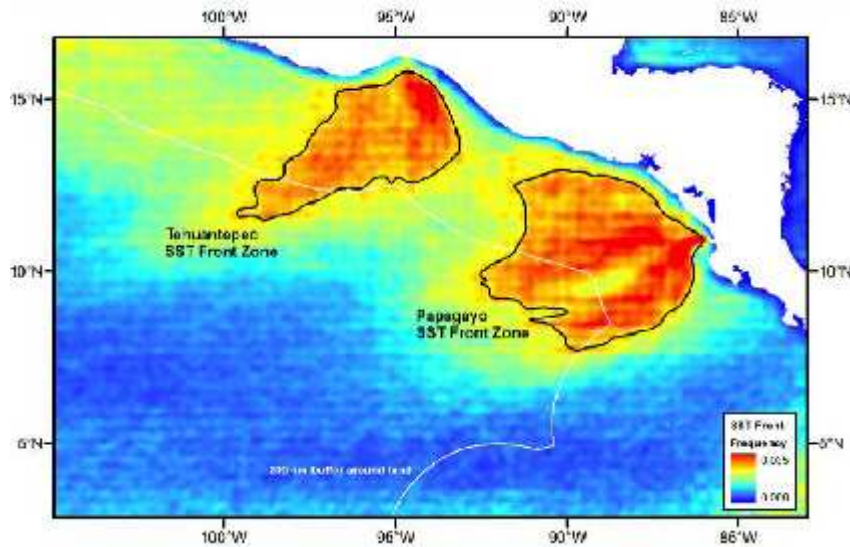


Reef forming cold-water corals

Credit: Andrew Davies, Bangor University; John Guinotte, Jeff Ardran, MCBI

CBD EBSA CRITERIA

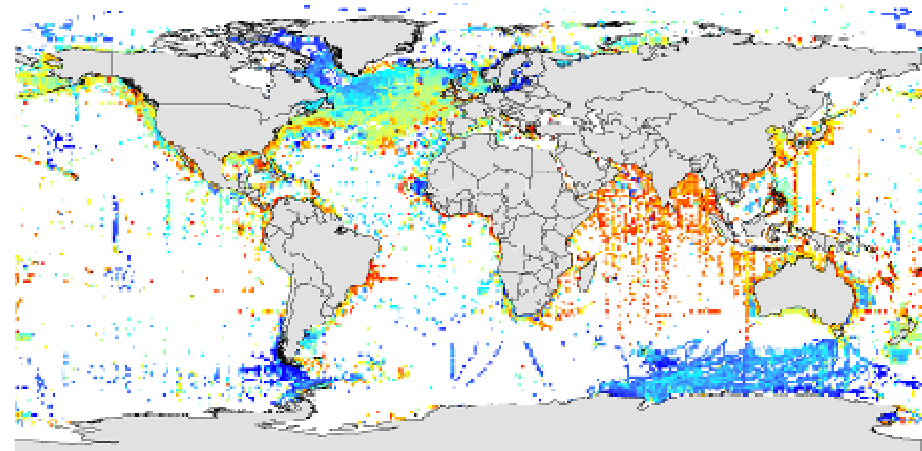
biological productivity



Sea Surface Temperature Fronts

Credit: Jason Roberts, MGEL

biological diversity

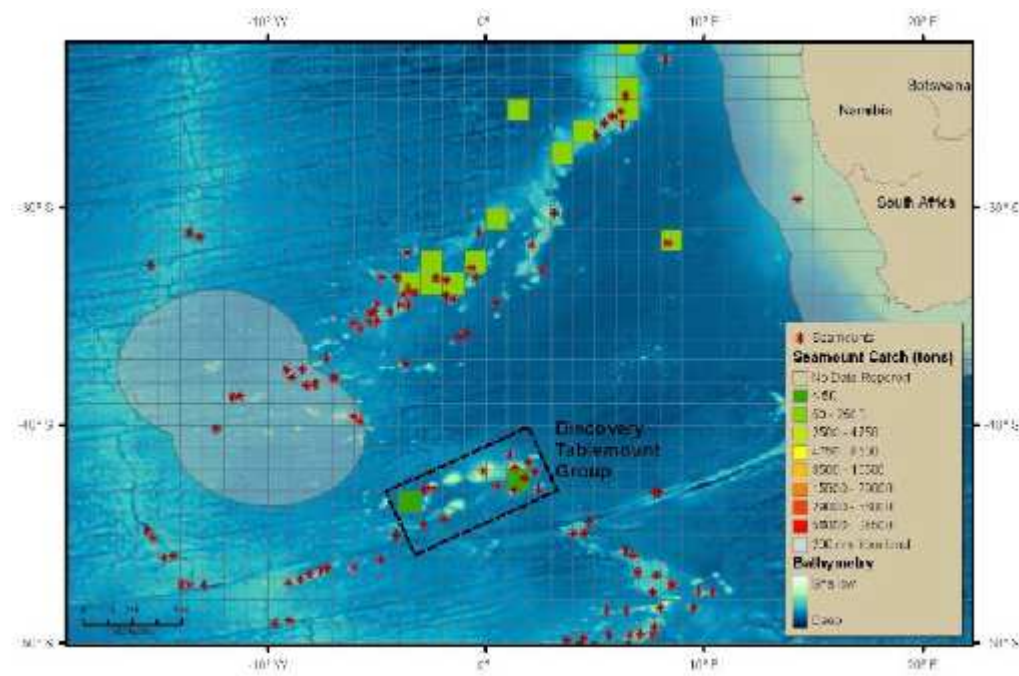


Global patterns of species diversity

Credit: Edward Vanden Berghc, OBIS

CBD EBSA CRITERIA

naturalness



South East Atlantic Seamounts

Credit: Ashley Rowden, Malcom Clarke & Mirelle Conslavey, NIWA (assembled by Jesse Cleary, MGEL)

CBD EXPERT WORKSHOP OTTAWA, 2009

- **Scientific and technical guidance:**
 - Use and further development of biogeographic classification systems
 - Identification of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction in need of protection

- **Results will be submitted to:**
 - UN ad hoc informal open-ended Working Group in February 2010
 - CBD COP10 in October 2010