

The Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative and its contribution to Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs)

Looking back on five very successful years of intense cooperation between the members of GOBI and in my role as Scientific Director of Marine and Coastal Nature Conservation within the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), I am convinced that GOBI continues to supply excellent and crucial support to the global process to conserve biological diversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction. Thus, BfN has a strong interest in ensuring that GOBI's expertise is widely used and its activities further strengthened.

GOBI's main role is to support States and intergovernmental organisations to fulfill their marine conservation commitments to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Parties to CBD have agreed on targets, scientific criteria and a process of Regional Workshops to describe and identify Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs). Over the past few years a number of regional workshops, strongly supported by GOBI members, have gathered considerable momentum. This progress was also noted by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the Conservation and Sustainable use of Marine Biological Diversity Beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) under UNCLOS. The 6th meeting of this body took place in New York from 19-23 August 2013 and initiated a process towards consideration of an UNCLOS instrument to support conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ as agreed at Rio+20. It is obvious that EBSAs, described on the basis of the seven agreed CBD criteria, have the potential to inform key aspects of this debate: namely as a focus for area-based management, as a focus for environmental impact assessment, and as potential prime "start off" areas for conservation of Marine Biological Diversity.

At IMPAC3, representatives from a number of GOBI partner organisations will share their experiences in sessions considering ocean-scale ecosystems and regional approaches. For the former, challenges to implementing deep-sea MPAs (Workshop WS2D1) include identifying priority areas for protection. EBSA descriptions might inform both MPA representativity and other management measures intended to control the impacts of human activities on biodiversity. For the latter, workshops WS5C1B and WS5C1A are devoted to the High Seas. These workshops will trace the evolution of the EBSA process and outputs to date before examining how EBSAs could be applied in marine spatial planning, ecosystem-based management and monitoring. Finally, the Workshop will examine whether EBSAs could become the 'common currency' that links together existing institutions with competence in High Seas governance.

This edition of the GOBI newsletter provides context in terms of a brief overview summary of the CBD-organised Regional EBSA Workshops held to date, supported by individual area-based case studies drawn from the results of those four Regional Workshops whose outputs have already been ratified by the CBD Conference of Parties and related articles.

*Dr Henning von Nordheim, Scientific Director
Marine and Coastal Nature Conservation, BfN*



In this issue....

Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas in 2013: Gains and Gaps.....	2
International Network for Scientific Investigations of Deep-Sea Ecosystems: INDEEP Phase 2.....	3
Sargasso Sea Alliance: Leveraging an EBSA description for high seas protection.....	4
The Central American Dome: Breaking ground towards marine governance in the High Seas.....	6
Regional ecological coherence: The OSPAR MPA Network.....	8
Migratory Marine Species in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (ABNJ).....	9

Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas in 2013: Gains and Gaps

Nic Bax, Jesse Cleary, Ben Donnelly, Daniel Dunn, Piers Dunstan, M. Fuller and Pat Halpin

At 17th meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 17), 14-18 October 2013, representatives of GOBI partners CSIRO (Australia) and Duke University (USA) presented an overview of the scientific and technical contribution of describing ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) to attainment of the targets under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020¹.

It is intended that a full version of this paper will appear as a future journal article, summarising the origins, process, data and outcomes of the CBD process to define areas that meet the EBSA criteria. However, here we focus on the outputs of the 6 CBD-organised workshops that have been held to date for which CSIRO and Duke University provided the technical support (see Figure 1). The process has benefitted from advances in scientific understanding of marine biodiversity in open-ocean and deep-sea habitats. It has also incorporated global and regional-scale efforts to compile scientific data on marine biodiversity in open-ocean and deep-sea habitats. As a result the EBSA Workshops have managed to synthesise relevant biological, physical and oceanographic data. Compilations of these datasets prior to each Regional Workshop into data reports, with the

intention of providing a consistent and comprehensive core of base environmental conditions, have been fundamental to each Workshop. Additional region-specific information has then been introduced by regional experts. Despite tools such as OBIS, Aquamaps and various Marine Atlases, gaps in data availability are recognised.

Of the 92 countries attending the regional workshops, 124 defined EBSAs within their EEZs but a number of others did not wish to do so (see Table 1 and Figure 1). The North Pacific and South-Eastern Atlantic Workshop results (see GOBI Newsletter August 2013) will be considered by CBD COP12 in October 2014. Furthermore, the results from non-CBD organised workshops in the North-East Atlantic and Mediterranean have also yet to be finalised.

To date Regional EBSA Workshops have covered around 75% of the world's seas and oceans. Two further Workshops are planned to take place in spring 2014. A discussion is then needed on how to complete the global coverage and ways in which States and competent organisations can use the EBSA information.

¹ In 2010 the Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties (COP10) adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. <https://www.cbd.int/sp/>

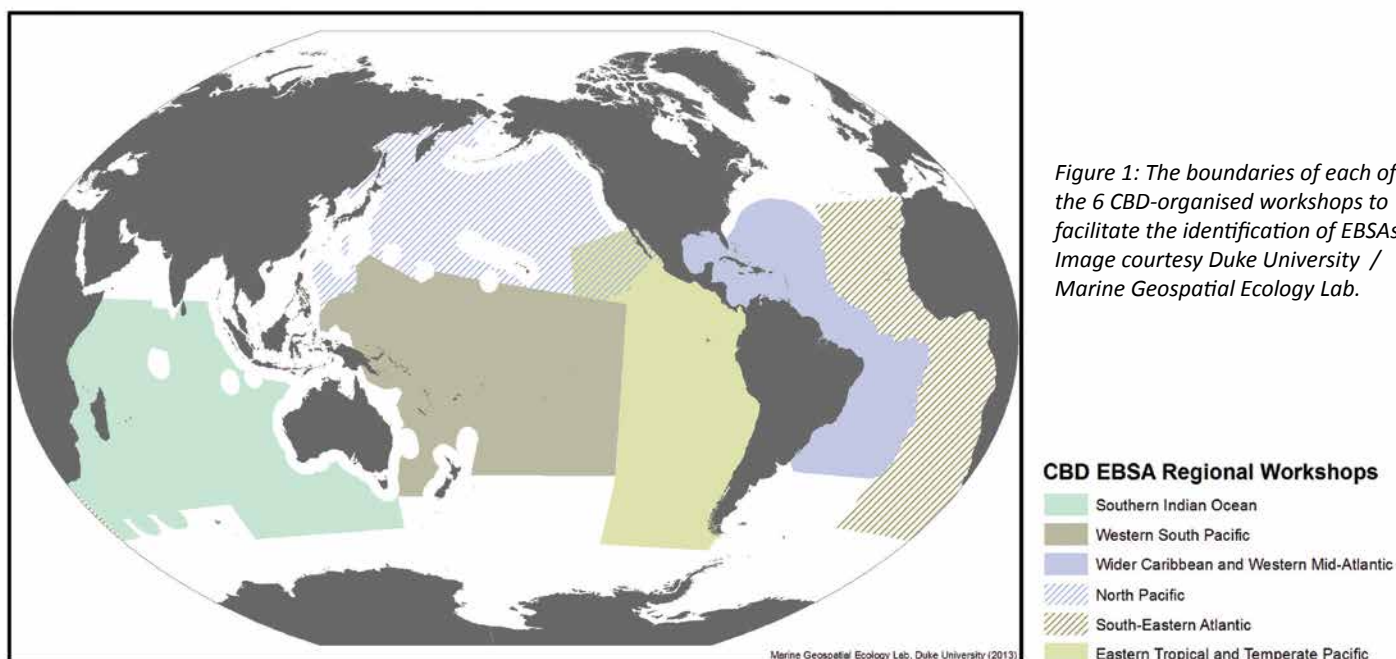


Figure 1: The boundaries of each of the 6 CBD-organised workshops to facilitate the identification of EBSAs. Image courtesy Duke University / Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab.

CBD regional workshop on EBSAs	Date	Host country	No. of countries	No. regional and international organisations involved	No. of EBSAs defined in EEZ	No. of EBSAs in more than one EEZ	No. of EBSAs overlapping EEZs and ABNJ	No. of EBSAs in ABNJ	Total number of EBSAs
W. South Pacific	Nov 2011	Fiji	15	10	15	13	7	4	26
Wider Caribbean and western mid-Atlantic	Feb 2012	Brazil	23	15	16	7	5	0	21
S. Indian Ocean	July 2012	Mauritius	16	20	26	9	4	9	39
Eastern tropical & temperate Pacific	Aug 2012	Ecuador	13	12	14	7	4	3	21
North Pacific	Feb 2013	Russia	8	7	15	0	0	5	20
SE Atlantic	April 2013	Namibia	17	15	38	16	4	3	45
Totals			92	79	124	52	24	24	172

Table 1: Summary of EBSA workshops to date

International Network for Scientific Investigations of Deep-Sea Ecosystems: INDEEP Phase 2

Eva Ramirez-Llodra



The INDEEP Office is delighted to announce that Fondation Total has approved funding to keep INDEEP's great momentum going for another 3 years, until December 2016. The

overall goal of the second phase of INDEEP is to continue advancing our knowledge of deep-sea ecosystems and to develop direct and effective communication pathways across sectors and stakeholders which are essential to the efficient management of resource use in the deep sea.

INDEEP is a unique and powerful programme as it is open to the whole community from all sectors (deep-sea research, economy, social sciences, industry, policy makers, NGOs and outreach and education groups). All interested individuals and groups can participate in INDEEP activities, under the coordination of the INDEEP Office and the Working Group (WG) leads. It is the exploitation of this enormous human

and infrastructure potential (with its associated funds) based on the core funding provided by Fondation Total (2011-2013) that made the first phase of INDEEP a genuine global success. The programme's structure and international recognition are now solid and form the base of the second phase of INDEEP.

Understanding deep-sea species diversity, distribution and ecosystem function is essential to develop guidelines and advice for a sound deep-ocean stewardship. For the second phase of INDEEP, the research necessary to address these key gaps has been organized in 4 working groups: WG1 – Taxonomy & Evolution; WG2 – Biodiversity and Biogeography; WG3 – Population Connectivity; WG4 – Ecosystem Function.

For further details on INDEEP activities visit us at www.indeep-project.org.

If you want to get involved, get in contact with the WG leads (available from website) or the Project Manager: Dr Maria Baker, mb11@noc.soton.ac.uk.

Sargasso Sea Alliance: Leveraging an EBSA description for high seas protection

David Freestone and Kate Killerlain Morrison, Sargasso Sea Alliance

Background

The Sargasso Sea is a 2 million square nautical mile ecosystem in the North Atlantic (Figure 1). The Sargassum is home to a range of endemic species and the Sargasso Sea is a major feeding and migration route for a number of threatened and endangered species including sea turtles, humpback and sperm whales, as well as for commercially important tunas and billfish. It is the only place in the world where the catadromous American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*), and European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) spawn. As the Sargasso lacks a regional treaty regime, the Sargasso Sea Alliance (SSA), formed in 2010 under the leadership of the Government of Bermuda, is seeking appropriate protection measures within the relevant existing international or regional sectoral organizations for an Area Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ). As part of a multi-faceted strategy, SSA is leveraging the 2012 description of the Sargasso Sea as an EBSA to further pursue measures at the North West Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), and considering ways that it could be used at the International Maritime Organisation (Table 1, overleaf).

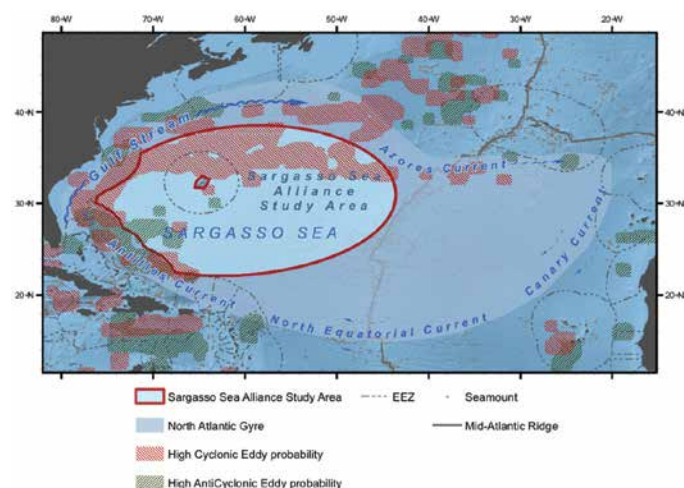


Figure 1: The Sargasso Sea EBSA. Image courtesy Sargasso Sea Alliance/Duke University Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab/Marine Conservation Institute.

Leveraging EBSA description

At the Wider Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas, 28 February - 2 March 2012, the Government of Bermuda put forward a proposal for the “description” of the Sargasso Sea as an EBSA. After further recommendation by SBSTTA, the Sargasso Sea was included in the list of areas officially “described” as EBSAs in accordance

with decision x/29 at the 11th CBD COP in October 2012. Despite the lack of legal significance, the SSA is encouraged that the information shared through the EBSA identification process may help strengthen the scientific basis for protective measures at other sectoral entities.



Sargassum Angler Fish use modified fins to move through Sargassum. Image courtesy J-P Rouja/LookBermuda.

Conceptually, a science-driven description of certain marine areas as “ecologically or biologically significant” does in theory have the potential to act as a unifying concept, which each sector could recognise and utilise in its own way. Unfortunately, in the early experience of the Sargasso Sea, while the description has certainly increased international recognition of the ecological importance of the area, the EBSAs have yet to garner tractable credibility with the sectoral organisations. Given the challenges of influencing individual organizations with an EBSA description, the SSA experience further indicates that a much longer time scale will be required to overcome the “silo effect” of fragmented governance across organizations. As the Sargasso Sea is one of the first EBSA descriptions being applied in the pursuit of sectoral measures, we serve as a useful case study for others attempting to use the “description” as a justification for improved conservation or protection measures.

Looking Ahead

As the Alliance continues to pursue sectoral actions, an inter-ministerial meeting is planned for March 2014 in Bermuda to adopt a Hamilton Declaration on Collaboration for the Conservation of the Sargasso Sea. The non-legally binding political statement would arrange a light intergovernmental process and establishes a Sargasso Sea Commission, the mandate of which is still under discussion.

For more information: www.sargassoalliance.org

Table 1. Summary of EBSA application as of October 2013

	Coverage overlap	Progress	Status
NAFO	The northern edges of the Sargasso Sea EBSA and of the Bermudian EEZ extend beyond 35°N into the Convention area	September 2012: NAFO Annual Meeting - EU proposes Resolution to take into account the available information about the Sargasso Sea and consider management measures to protect the ecosystem. Resolution not adopted due to concern that proposal was premature as CBD COP approval of EBSA designation was still pending. 2012: NAFO Commission asked Scientific Council “to comment and advise on whether the Sargasso Sea provides forage area or habitat for living marine resources that could be impacted by different types of fishing; and on whether there is a need for any management measure including a closure to protect this ecosystem.” September 2013: Scientific Council advised that “the forage areas or habitat for living marine resources that could be impacted by different types of fishing relevant to NAFO management are limited to those associated with the New England and Corner Rise Seamounts.” It proposed three measures that were then referred to the NAFO Ecosystems Committee.	September 2013: NAFO Ecosystems Committee considering proposed measures from Scientific Council
ICCAT	Entire area for management of tunas and tuna-like species	2012: Bermuda (as UK Overseas Territory) proposed recommendation at the Annual ICCAT Commission meeting citing the description of the Sargasso Sea as an EBSA by the CBD COP and requesting that the SCRS examine the data compiled on the Sargasso Sea and the impacts of fishing activity on tuna and tuna like species and on the ecosystem in the area, and that it consider the viability of establishing special conservation and management measures within the Sargasso Sea. The proposed Recommendation was strongly supported by a number of delegations, but encountered opposition from countries that appeared not to accept the significance of the 2012 CBD COP decision on EBSAs. Commission requests the SCRS to examine the available data and information concerning the Sargasso Sea and its ecological importance to tuna and tuna-like species and ecologically associated species; and to provide an update on the progress of this work in 2014 and report back to the Commission with its findings in 2015. This is the first time that the Ecosystem Sub-Committee has been asked to assess the ecological importance of a complete ecosystem like the Sargasso Sea July 2013: ICCAT SCRS Sub-Committee on Ecosystems suggests that the Sargasso Sea could be considered as a case study for implementing an Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management approach within ICCAT.	July 2013: Sub-Committee on Ecosystems continues to discuss ecosystem pilot Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) to provide Commission update on progress of work (2014) and report findings (2015).

For more information: www.sargassoalliance.org

The Central American Dome: Breaking ground towards marine governance in the High Seas

Jorge A. Jiménez, MarViva Foundation

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) is an integral, participatory and political process, developed by entities that legitimately represent the space and resource users. Its purpose is to plan and manage the uses of the sea, balancing ecologic and socioeconomic objectives.

The MarViva Foundation is promoting an innovative MSP initiative by facilitating the first multisectoral, multinational process to propose a conservation and management strategy for an oceanic area beyond the jurisdiction of five countries. With partners Mission Blue, IUCN High Seas Program, Marine Conservation Institute, and Whale and Dolphin Society, MarViva is calling the attention of government authorities, private sector, multilateral development agencies, NGOs, scientists, and the international community, to endorse and join efforts for the sustainability of the Central American Dome (CAD).

What is the Central American Dome?

The Central American Dome (also known as the Costa Rican Dome) is located in the northeastern region of the Eastern Tropical Pacific. Approximately 70% of the CAD occurs in international waters, including its core, whose mean position is near 9°N, 90°W (Figure 1). The remaining 30% extends over a portion of the Exclusive Economic Zones of the Central American countries. Cold water wells up from the deep ocean, rising to just below the warm surface layer. The winds that blow through the passes in the mountain

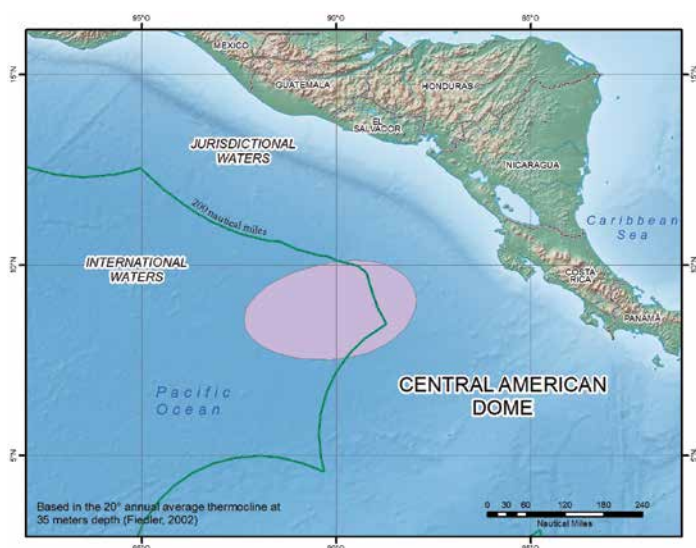


Figure 1: Location of the Central American Dome

ranges of the continent and the North Equatorial ocean currents displace the warm surface water, allowing cold, nutrient-rich water from the depths to approach the surface, generating a high concentration of phytoplankton. The boundary between the warm surface water and the cold deep water occurs at depths of only 10 to 15 meters, creating a thermocline feature that is shaped like a dome, hence the name of the area.

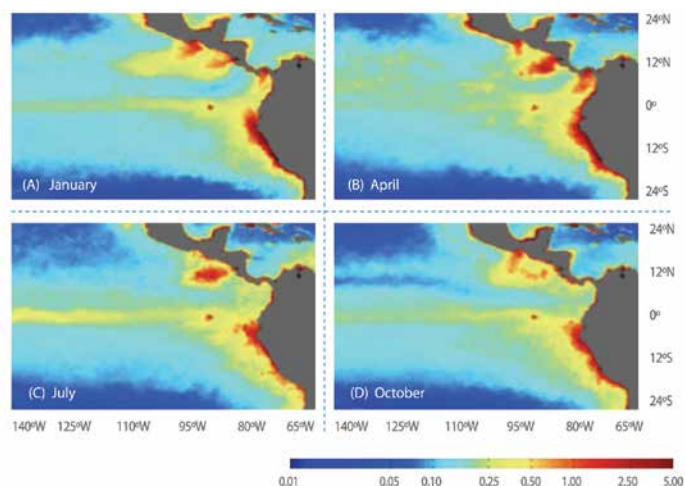


Figure 2: Seasonal fluctuations in surface chlorophyll, based on 8 years of SeaWiFS data (1997-2005). January (A), April (B), July (C) and October (D) were chosen to emphasize the seasonal differences, as indicated by the color scale.

Why is the Dome important?

Given it is one of the world's highest concentration of phytoplankton and primary productivity rates, the Central American Dome is a key site for carbon sequestration in the ocean and plays a fundamental role in the mitigation of global climate change. The high density of phytoplankton also generates the abundant zooplankton, euphausiids (krill) and squid that feed the marine ecosystem, from fish larvae to blue whales - the largest animals on the planet. The CAD is a critical habitat for these endangered cetaceans, which migrate thousands of kilometers to breed, feed, and raise their calves. In addition, the CAD provides a migration route and a potential feeding area for critically endangered leatherback turtles, as well as critical habitat for the hatchlings that leave the nesting beaches in Central America and are transported through the Dome by marine currents.

Furthermore, migratory species including billfish, dolphins, manta rays and sharks, which sustain relevant sources of income for the coastal and marine tourism industry in Central America, concentrate around the Dome to feed, as well as species of commercial interest for the international fleets, like tuna, mahi-mahi, and squid.



Figure 3: Leatherback Turtle. Image courtesy Kai Benson.

Are we affecting the Dome?

Unregulated fishing entails potential overexploitation of species of commercial value and ongoing by-catch of rays, turtles, cetaceans, birds, and others. Increasing maritime shipping generates noise and risk of collision with the individuals using the site. International planning actions that promote responsible fisheries and shipping regulations within the international waters of the Dome can mitigate these threats through the organization of human activities

in the Dome region to protect the sustainability of its habitats and ecosystems.

Joint action to manage and conserve the Dome

Safeguarding the sustainability of the high seas is an accelerating challenge of increasing worldwide concern. The United Nations has established a Working Group to study the conservation and management of these areas. The Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) has initiated a process to identify EBSAs (Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas) under which the Dome is being evaluated as potential priority site of global relevance. Regional fisheries organisations, like the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the Central American Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPESCA), gather information about these regions, which can provide justification to design measures for the responsible management of the resources within high seas fishing grounds. However, the current lack of an international legal framework, and the difficulties associated to enforcement cost and continuity hinder the feasibility of effective management and protection of ABNJ.

MarViva is leading an international, participatory process to design and recommend a consensus governance model for the high seas portion of the CAD. With our partners and the support of the JM Kaplan Fund, we have initiated a multisectoral analysis of the legal, technical, and scientific data describing the Dome and the human activities dependent on the area and its resources. The involvement of decision makers, scientific community, private sector representatives, and direct resource users in these discussions is key to establish the linkages among the high seas and the coasts, and to encourage the Central American authorities to recognize the CAD's environmental and socioeconomic value for the sustainable development

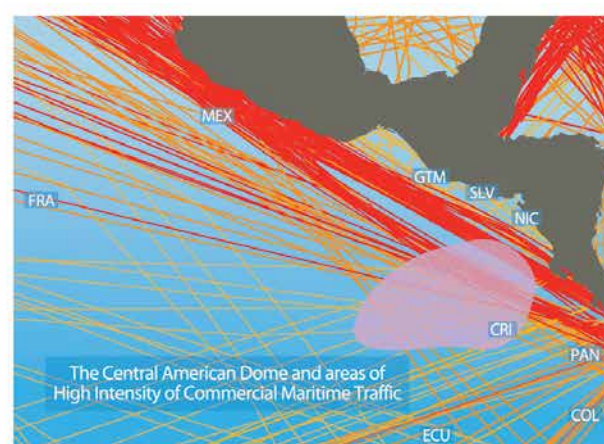
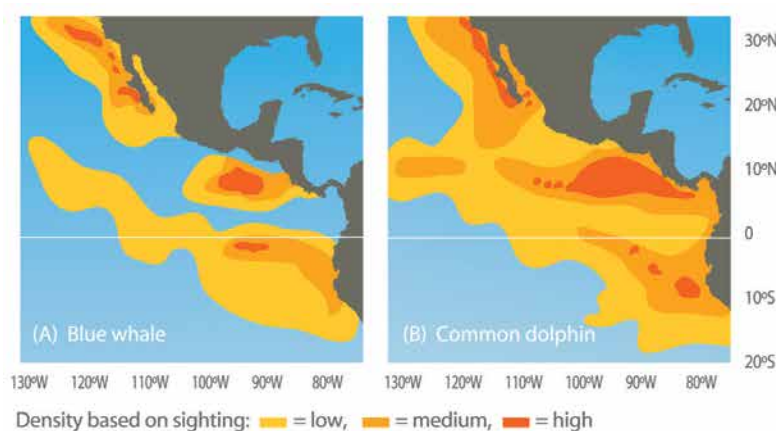


Figure 4 (left): Places for common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*) and blue whale sightings from research vessels and tuna boats in the NOAA/NMFS/SWFSC sighting database (1971-1999). Figure based on Fiedler, 2002. Figure 5 (right): High intensity of commercial shipping in the Central American Dome. The red lines indicate the highest intensity traffic. Data from the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis and the University of Santa Barbara.

of the region. The joint political commitment of these governments will leverage the advocacy efforts for the adoption of international measures addressing responsible fishing and maritime traffic in support of the conservation of the Dome as critical habitat for threatened species, and for the sustainable management of marine resources that maintain productive fisheries and tourism industries in Central America and beyond.

The involvement of the diverse stakeholders since the early stages of the assessment and discussions has generated valuable experience to advance MSP processes for the design of governance strategies for other high seas regions around the globe.

For more information, please contact:
Dr. Jorge A. Jiménez, Director General MarViva Foundation
jorge.jimenez@marviva.net



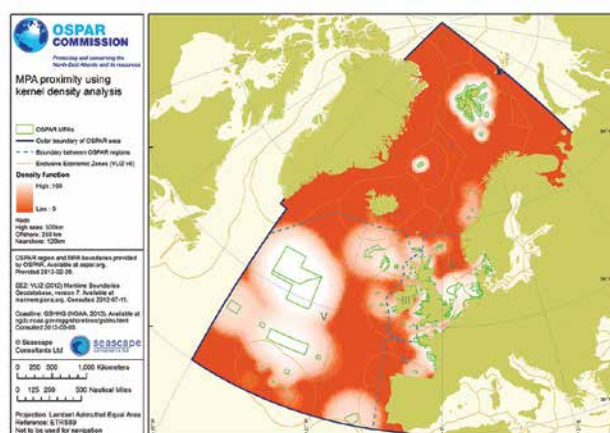
Blue whale. Image courtesy Kip Evans

Regional ecological coherence: The OSPAR MPA Network

David Johnson, Seascope Consultants Ltd

In March 2013, following up a political agreement to have an ecologically coherent marine protected area network in place by 2012, the OSPAR Commission contracted Seascope Consultants Ltd to undertake an assessment to evaluate progress towards this goal. The application of new information and innovative tests concluded that for the North-East Atlantic region, whilst the MPA network is not yet ecologically coherent, there are promising signs of ecoherence in some OSPAR Regions and sub-Regions. Ecological coherence has different facets, some of which are likely to be affected in future by climate change. Assessments of this type are hampered by lack of data but can be strengthened using predictive habitat modeling. The OSPAR maritime area comprises different and diverse Regions encompassing 10 different biogeographic provinces. It may therefore be more pragmatic to consider ecological coherence at a sub-regional scale in future. For ABNJ any further development of the MPA network is likely to be informed by EBSA descriptions. The full report is published on the OSPAR website:

www.ospar.org/documents/dbase/publications/p00619/p00619_ecological_coherence_report.pdf



Above: Map showing MPA proximity (lighter areas): coherence should consider biogeographic representation, replication, adequacy and connectivity.



Migratory Marine Species in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (ABNJ)

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

Migratory Marine Species

The survival of migratory marine species such as cetaceans, sharks, marine turtles and seabirds depends upon a range of habitats stretched across their migratory range both within and beyond the limits of national jurisdiction where they feed, rest and breed. Areas within these habitats may be lost or degraded. And when underway these migratory marine species may be subject to a variety of threats including by-catch, entanglement, underwater noise, unsustainable hunting & fishing, pollution, marine debris, and climate change driven alterations to oceanographic features and food webs.



Photo credit: Scott Portelli

How CMS Works in ABNJ

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species and Wild Animals (CMS) is the only existing global biodiversity-related treaty aiming to comprehensively address the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial, avian and marine migratory species and their habitats across their entire migratory range. It establishes the fundamental principle that its 119 contracting parties act to avoid any migratory species becoming endangered, even when the species' range includes areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (ABNJ). Twenty-seven species on CMS Appendix I and 53 species on Appendix II have ABNJ as part of their range (see species list overleaf). CMS is working to collaborate with GOBI and EBSA partners.

For migratory marine species whose range includes ABNJ CMS tools include:

National Level Action: Range State Parties are obliged to prohibit taking, and endeavor to restore habitat, remove or minimize adverse effects of obstacles to migration and reduce or control factors endangering or likely to endanger species in their marine and coastal areas listed on CMS Appendix I.

Flag Vessel Jurisdiction: A CMS Party is considered a range state for a migratory marine species when its flag vessels "take" the species in ABNJ. Parties are to report on their flag vessels when they engage in taking or are planning to take the species.

CMS Conference of Parties (COP) resolutions: CMS COP resolutions encourage CMS Party Range States – including their flag vessels in ABNJ – to minimize threats to migratory marine species with respect to by-catch, ocean noise, and adverse impacts on cetaceans. These resolutions, complemented by others addressing marine debris, ecological networks, climate change, and the CMS Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans, form a suite of measures that CMS Parties may implement individually or collectively.

CMS Agreements: CMS Parties (and non-Party Range States) conclude legally binding treaties and less formal memoranda of understanding to coordinate conservation and sustainable use measures. Seven CMS instruments apply to cetaceans, sharks, marine turtles, and albatross and petrels whose migratory range includes ABNJ. Implementation in ABNJ is premised on flag jurisdiction over vessels, either with respect to taking or other activities affecting the conservation status of the species concerned.

Collaboration with other international organisations: CMS and its family of marine-related instruments work to mainstream migratory species conservation considerations into the work programmes of other competent international organizations. CMS works with the CBD and is recognized as its lead partner on migratory species. It also works closely with CITES, FAO and the International Whaling Commission. It has been involved in the implementation of a number of range-wide GEF and bilaterally supported projects. Fisheries represent one of the most significant



threats to migratory marine species. CMS and its marine related instruments collaborate with at least seven regional fisheries management organizations operating in ABNJ, often sharing common State members.

Challenges and Opportunities

No one country or international organization can by itself ensure the conservation and sustainable use of migratory marine species across their range. Ineffective measures in one part of a range undermine those taken elsewhere, depriving individual states and the entire international community of the benefits these species provide to biodiversity and human well-being.

CMS's unique "migratory range approach" is fully consistent with the law of the sea. It provides the basis for like-minded Range States to take individual national level and flag vessel actions within and beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, and to coordinate these across the migratory range of the species concerned.

Despite its track record and flexible approach, CMS is an under-utilised tool whose implementation in relation to migratory marine species exemplifies the challenges the international community faces in crafting a way forward for biodiversity conservation in ABNJ.

CMS's experience highlights the importance of:

- Identifying migratory marine pathways, critical habitats and key threats
- Promoting coordinated efforts across a migratory range both within and beyond the limits of national jurisdiction
- Promoting connectivity and avoiding fragmentation
- Crafting geographically balanced approaches involving as many range states as possible
- States performing their existing international obligations in relation to migratory species in good faith in accordance with international law
- Increasing the reliability of flag vessel jurisdiction with respect to implementation
- Mainstreaming migratory species considerations into the work of existing international organisations
- Mobilising adequate financial and other resources to support implementation across a migratory range
- Having an active Conference of Parties and a well-resourced secretariat.

Area-based conservation measures and environmental impact assessment requirements in ABNJ under review by the United Nations General Assembly Ad Hoc Working Group on Biodiversity Beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction would support CMS efforts, if they were implemented taking into consideration the special needs of migratory marine species and complement CMS's long-standing approach. As the international community further considers next steps within the UNGA it will be critical to maintain momentum to implement and adapt existing arrangements such as CMS which already have a role to play in conserving and sustainably using biodiversity in ABNJ.

For more information, please contact:

Lyle Glowka, Executive Coordinator
Convention on Migratory Species Office - Abu Dhabi
United Nations Environment Programme
lglowka@cms.int
www.cms.int



Species on the CMS Appendices whose range includes ABNJ

Species name	Common name	App.
CETACEANS		
<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	Bowhead Whale	I
<i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i> ¹	Antarctic Minke whale	II
<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i> ^{1,2}	Sei Whale	I/II
<i>Balaenoptera edeni</i> ¹	Bryde's Whale	II
<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i> ^{1,2}	Blue Whale	I
<i>Balaenoptera musculus breviceauda</i> ¹	Pygmy Blue Whale	
<i>Balaenoptera omurai</i> ¹	Omura's Whale	II
<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i> ^{1,2}	Fin Whale	I/II
<i>Berardius bairdii</i> ¹	Baird's Beaked Whale	II
<i>Caperea marginata</i> ¹	Pygmy Right whale	II
<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>	White Whale, Beluga	II
<i>Delphinus delphis</i> ^{1,2,3}	Common Dolphin	II
<i>Eubalaena australis</i> ¹	Southern Right Whale	I
<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i> ²	Northern Right Whale	I
<i>Eubalaena japonica</i>	North Pacific Right Whale	I
<i>Grampus griseus</i> ²	Risso's Dolphin	II
<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i> ³	Northern Bottlenose Whale	II
<i>Lagenodelphis hosei</i> ¹	Fraser's Dolphin	II
<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> ^{1,2}	Humpback Whale	I
<i>Monodon monoceros</i>	Narwhal	II
<i>Orcinus orca</i> ^{1,3}	Killer Whale	II
<i>Phocoena dioptrica</i> ¹	Spectacled Porpoise	II
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> ²	Common Porpoise	II
<i>Phocoenoides dalli</i>	Dall's Porpoises	II
<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i> ^{1,2}	Sperm Whale	I/II
<i>Stenella attenuata</i> ¹	Pantropical Spotted Dolphin	II
<i>Stenella clymene</i>	Clymene Dolphin	II
<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i> ^{1,3}	Striped Dolphin	II
<i>Stenella longirostris</i> ¹	Spinner Dolphin	II
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> ²	Bottlenosed Dolphin	II
PINNIPEDS		
<i>Arctocephalus australis</i>	South American Fur Seal	II
SIRENIA		
<i>Dugong dugon</i> ⁴	Dugong	II
SEABIRDS		
<i>Diomedea amsterdamensis</i> ⁵	Amsterdam Albatross	I
<i>Diomedea antipodensis</i> ⁵	Antipodean Albatross	II
<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i> ⁵	Grey-headed Albatross	II
<i>Diomedea dabbenena</i> ⁵	Tristan Albatross	II
<i>Diomedea epomophora</i> ⁵	Royal Albatross	II
<i>Diomedea exulans</i> ⁵	Wandering Albatross	II
<i>Diomedea irrorata</i> ⁵	Waved Albatross	II
<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i> ⁵	Northern Royal Albatross	II

Species name	Common name	App.
<i>Macronectes giganteus</i> ⁵	Southern Giant Petrel	II
<i>Macronectes halli</i> ⁵	Northern Giant Petrel	II
<i>Phoebastria albatrus</i> ⁵	Short-tailed Albatross	I
<i>Phoebastria bulleri</i> ⁵	Buller's Albatross	II
<i>Phoebastria immutabilis</i> ⁵	Laysan Albatross	II
<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i> ⁵	Black-footed Albatross	II
<i>Phoebastria fusca</i> ⁵	Sooty Albatross	II
<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i> ⁵	Light-mantled Sooty Albatross	II
<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i> ⁵	White-chinned Petrel	II
<i>Procellaria cinerea</i> ⁵	Grey Petrel	II
<i>Procellaria conspicillata</i> ⁵	Spectacled Petrel	II
<i>Procellaria parkinsoni</i> ⁵	Black Petrel	II
<i>Procellaria westlandica</i> ⁵	Westland Petrel	II
<i>Pterodroma atrata</i>	Henderson Petrel	I
<i>Pterodroma cahow</i>	Cahow, Bermuda Petrel	I
<i>Pterodroma phaeopygia</i>	Dark-rumped Petrel, Hawaiian Petrel, Galapagos Petrel	I
<i>Pterodroma sandwichensis</i>	Dark-rumped Petrel, Hawaiian Petrel, Uau	I
<i>Puffinus creatopus</i>	Pink-footed Shearwater	I
<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i> ⁵	Balearic Shearwater	I
<i>Thalassarche carteri</i> ⁵	Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross	II
<i>Thalassarche cauta</i> ⁵	Shy Albatross	II
<i>Thalassarche chlororhynchos</i> ⁵	Yellow-nosed Albatross	II
<i>Thalassarche eremita</i>	Chatham Albatross	II
<i>Thalassarche impavida</i> ⁵	Campbell Albatross	II
<i>Thalassarche melanophrys</i> ⁵	Black-browed Albatross	II
<i>Thalassarche salvini</i> ⁵	Salvin's Albatross	II
<i>Thalassarche steadi</i> ⁵	White-capped Albatross	II
MARINE TURTLES		
<i>Caretta caretta</i> ^{6,7}	Loggerhead Turtle	I/II
<i>Chelonia mydas</i> ^{6,7}	Green Turtle	I/II
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> ^{6,7}	Leatherback Turtle	I/II
<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> ^{6,7}	Hawksbill Turtle	I/II
<i>Lepidochelys kempi</i> ⁷	Kemp's Ridley Turtle	I/II
<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> ^{6,7}	Ridley Turtle, Olive Ridley Turtle	I/II
SHARKS AND RAYS		
<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i> ⁸	White Shark	I/II
<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i> ⁸	Basking Shark	I/II
<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i> ⁸	Shortfin Mako Shark	II
<i>Isurus paucus</i> ⁸	Longfin Mako Shark	II
<i>Lamna nasus</i> ⁸	Porbeagle	II
<i>Manta birostris</i> ⁸	Manta Ray	I/II
<i>Rhincodon typus</i> ⁸	Whale Shark	II
<i>Squalus acanthias</i> ⁸	Spiny dogfish	II

¹ PIC: Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and Their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region

² ACCOBAMS: Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area

³ ASCOBANS: Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas

⁴ Dugong MoU: Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and Their Habitats Throughout Their Range

⁵ ACAP: Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

⁶ IOSEA: Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and Their Habitats in the Indian Ocean and South East Asia

⁷ Marine Turtles – Africa: Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa

⁸ Sharks MoU: Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks

Note: the CMS Appendices and Agreements cover only some populations for some species – see www.cms.int for details.



Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative

Working towards high seas conservation

The Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative is an international partnership advancing the scientific basis for conserving biological diversity in the deep seas and open oceans. It aims to help countries, as well as regional and global organisations, to use and develop data, tools and methodologies to identify ecologically significant areas with an initial focus on the high seas and deep seabed beyond national jurisdiction.

This initiative began in late 2008 as a collaboration amongst the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), IUCN, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Marine Conservation Institute, Census of Marine Life, Ocean Biogeographic Information System and the Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab of Duke University. The initiative continues to seek additional collaborators to help bring the best science and data to bear on the identification of ecologically significant areas beyond national jurisdiction. GOBI is facilitated by Seascope Consultants with core support from BfN.

The work under this initiative ultimately aims to help countries meet the goals adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations General Assembly resolutions, and at the three Earth Summits (Rio 1992; Johannesburg 2002; Rio 2012). These global goals relate to reducing the rate of biodiversity loss, applying ecosystem approaches, determining areas of ecological and biological significance and vulnerable marine ecosystems as well as establishing representative marine protected area networks.

Objectives

- Establish and support International scientific collaboration to assist States and relevant regional and global organizations to identify ecologically significant areas using the best available scientific data, tools, and methods.
- Provide guidance on how the CBD's scientific criteria and UN resolutions can be interpreted and applied towards management, including representative networks of marine protected areas.
- Assist in regional capacity building and developing regional analyses with relevant organisations and stakeholders.

The GOBI partnership and activities are coordinated by a Secretariat team, provided by Seascope Consultants Ltd. The Secretariat team comprises Prof. David Johnson (GOBI Coordinator), Prof. Philip Weaver (GOBI Science Coordinator) and Dr Vikki Gunn (GOBI Project Support). All three team members will be present at IMPAC3.



For more information:
Website: www.gobi.org
gobi@seascopeconsultants.co.uk