



Regional Initiatives in ABNJ

—

State of Play

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Regional organisations within a possible new international legal instrument?



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Likely that regional organisations will have a role to play in any new international instrument on ABNJ:

- Regional organisations are already part of the oceans governance landscape
- Many States recognise the need to leverage existing regional mechanisms

Which role could be given to regional organisations?

- No simple answer
- Widely depends on each element of the Package Deal

What is the potential role of regional organisations?

Elements of the “Package Deal”:

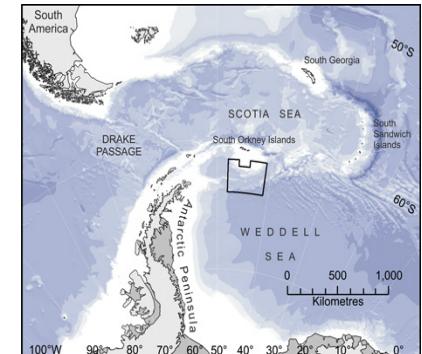
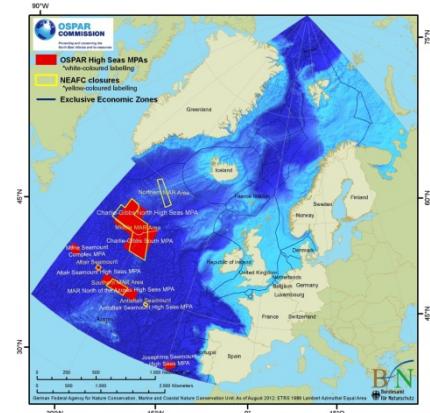
- Environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments
- Fair and equitable access to and sharing of the benefits from marine genetic resources
- Capacity-building and technology transfer
- Global framework for ABMT, incl. establishment of MPAs

- ***Which regions are currently developing initiatives in ABNJ?***
- ***What can we learn from these?***



Current initiatives:

- Regional programmes have progressively expanded their activities into ABNJ: North-East Atlantic, Mediterranean Sea, Southern Ocean
- Also Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and other bodies/initiatives (e.g. Sargasso Sea Commission) are active at a regional scale

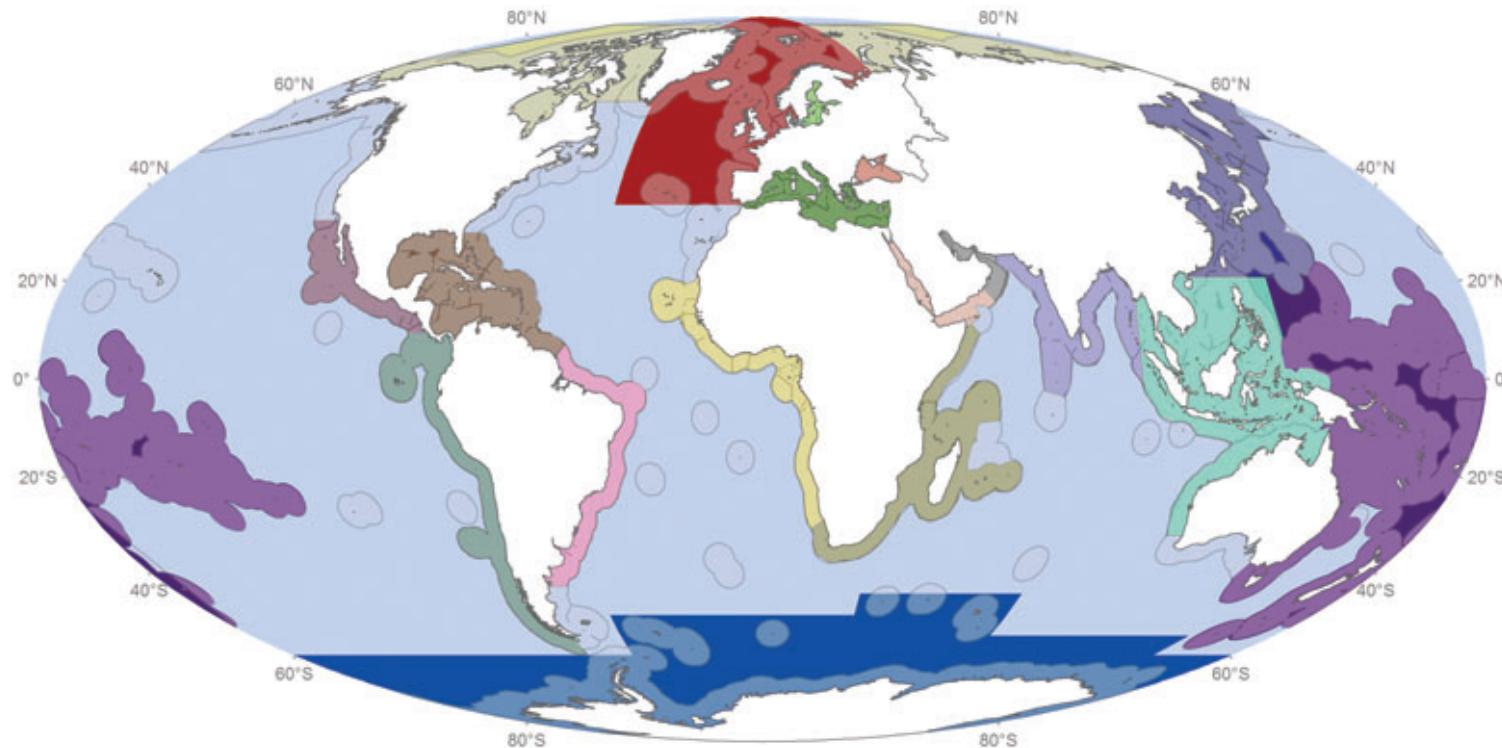


Regional Seas Conventions & Action Plans



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200nm limit

Regional seas with high seas component
Antarctic (CCAMLR)
Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention)
Pacific (Noumea Convention)
North-East Atlantic (Oslo-Paris Convention)

Regional Seas within EEZs

Arctic
Baltic
Black Sea
Caspian

East Asian Seas

Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
South Asian Seas
North East Pacific
South East Pacific
North West Pacific
Upper South-West Atlantic
ROPME Sea Area
West and Central Africa
Wider Caribbean

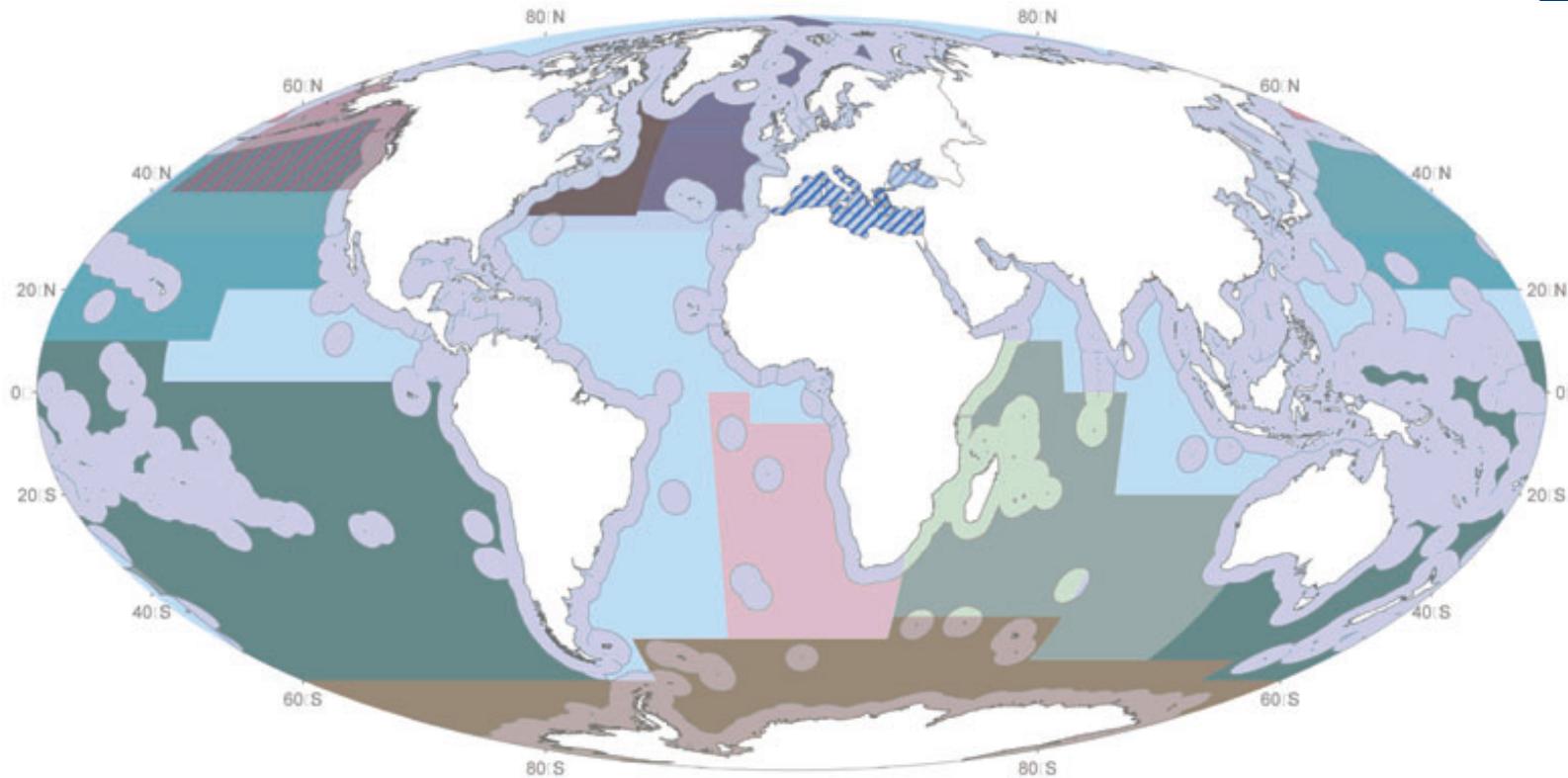
Ban et al. (2013)

Regional Fisheries Bodies



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■ 200nm limit

Non-Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations

- Conv. on Cons. of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
- Conv. on Cons. & Mgmt of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea
- General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean
- International Pacific Halibut Commission
- Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)

■ North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)

■ North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

■ South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO)

■ South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

■ South Pacific Regional Fisheries Mgmt Org

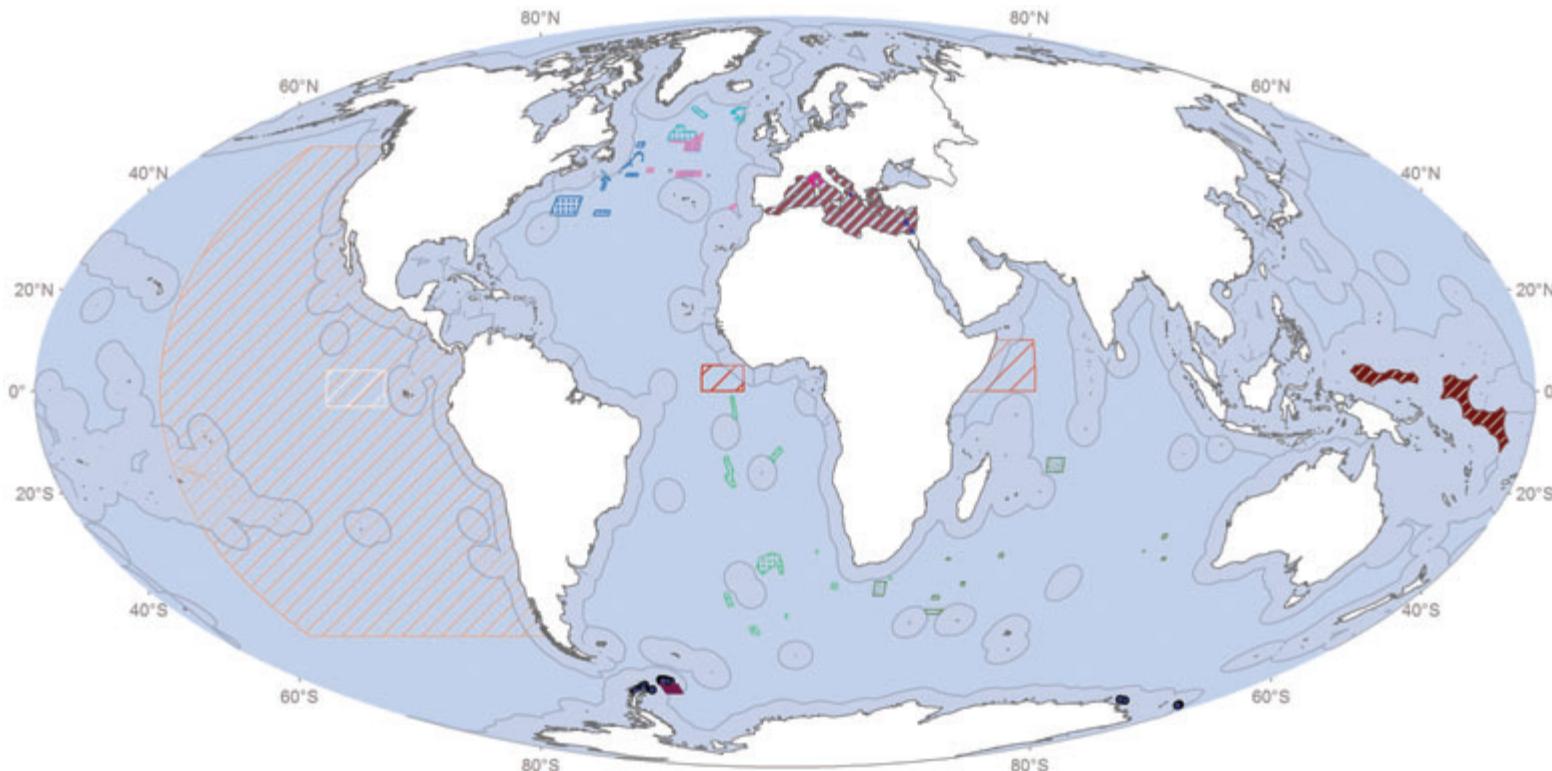
■ Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission

Ban et al. (2013)

High Seas MPAs & Fisheries Closures



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200nm limit

High seas marine protected areas
South Orkney MPA
Pelagos Sanctuary
OSPAR MPAs

Bottom fishing closures, year-round

- CCAMLR Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems
- Mediterranean closures
- NAFO closures
- NEAFC closures
- SEAF0 closures
- SIOFA voluntary closures

Pelagic fishing closures for some gears

- IATTC 1-month
- IATTC 2-month
- IOTC 1-month
- Picolo Zone 1-month
- Mediterranean 11-month
- WCPFC year-round

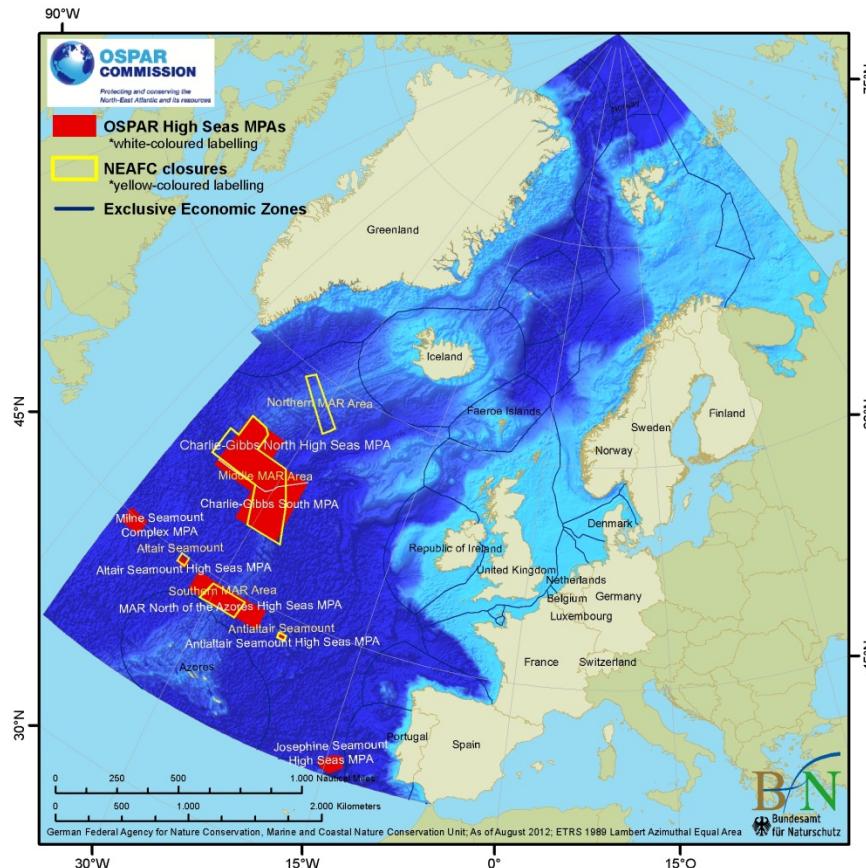
Ban et al. (2013)

OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ & NEAFC Fisheries Closures



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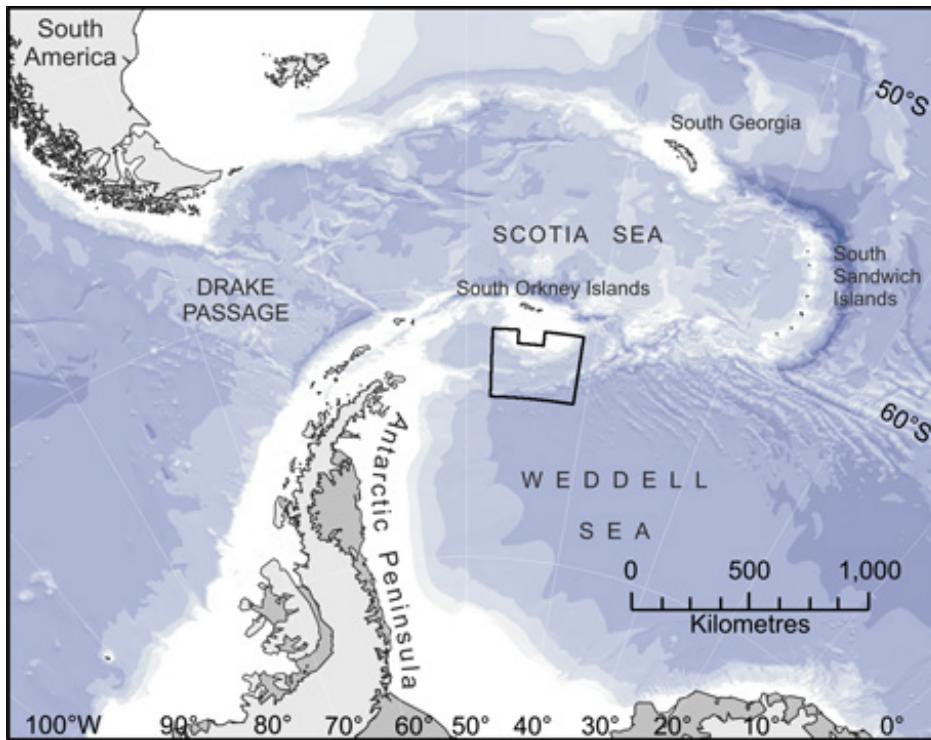
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South Orkney Marine Protected Area



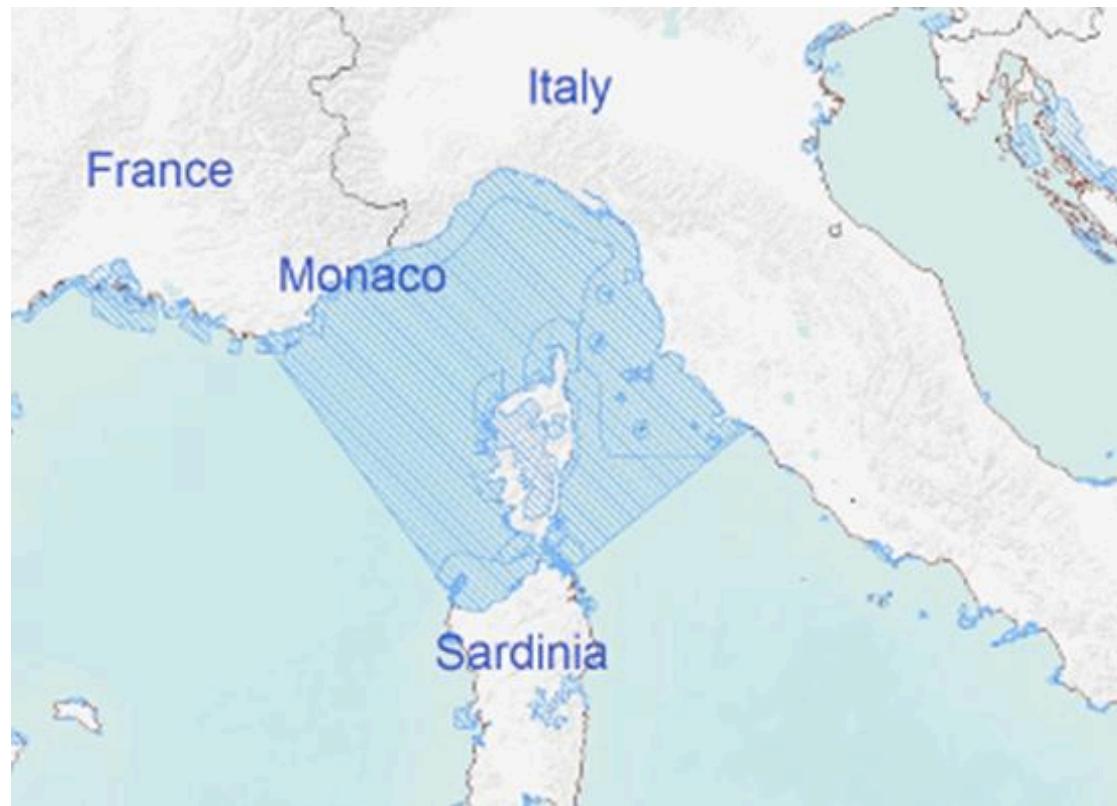
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Pelagos Sanctuary for Marine Mammals



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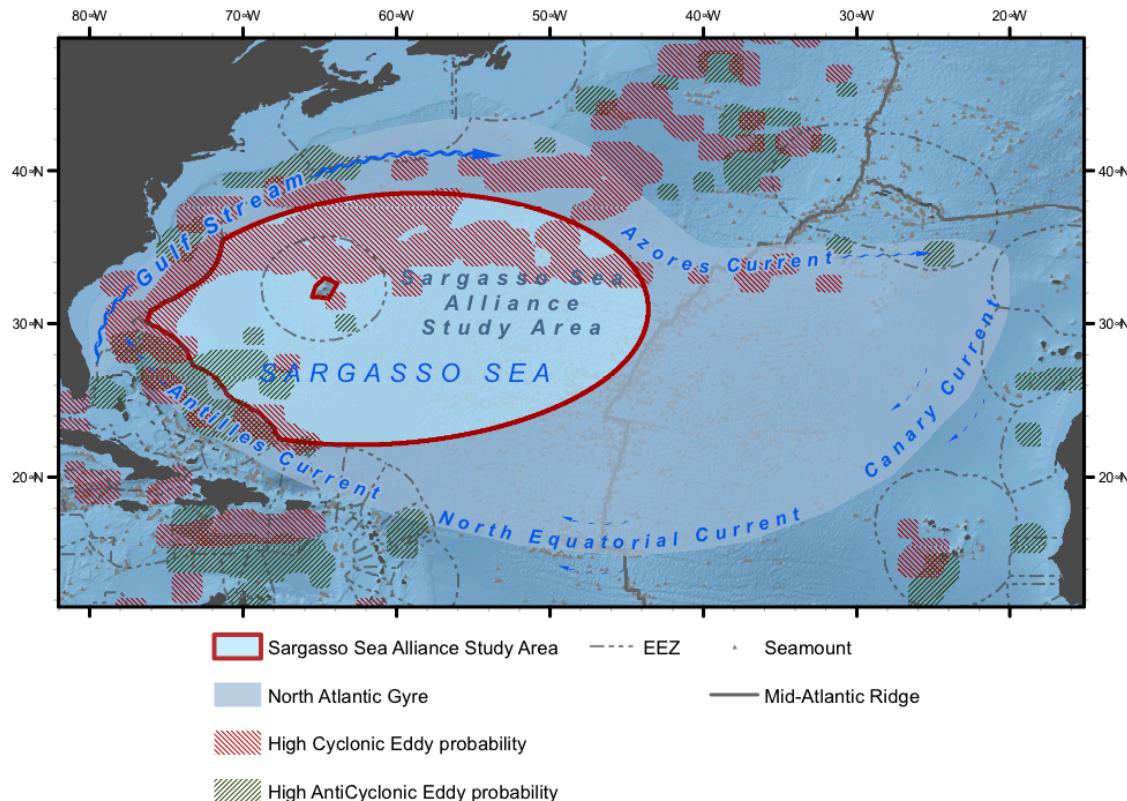


Sargasso Sea Alliance



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Other regional programmes are considering the feasibility and possible scope:

- South-East Pacific (CPPS)
- Central and Western Africa (Abidjan Convention)
- Western Indian Ocean (Nairobi Convention)
- South Pacific (Pacific Ocean Alliance)



Questions for the Working Group



"The regional seas provide an indispensable link between the national and global level of ocean policy",

Elisabeth Mann Borgese

BUT

Regional initiatives in ABNJ have largely been developed on a case-by-case basis - no process brings together regional activities and expertise from science and stakeholders

SO

What is the concrete role of regional bodies within a new legal instrument?

What needs to be done to advance current regional ocean governance in ABNJ adjacent to the Abidjan Convention area?

- A range of existing international ABMTs exist, but all are sectoral
 - Environmentally and Biologically Significant Marine Areas (CBD)
 - Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (shipping, IMO)
 - Areas of Particular Environmental Interest (mining, ISA)
 - Vulnerable Marine ecosystems & fisheries closures/management measures (RFMOs)
- Coordination and cooperation is key, but is challenging
- Limited capacity and resources
- Limited scientific knowledge regarding interconnectivity of ABNJ and local ecosystems in some regions

Opportunities

- An opportune moment for regional governance in the context of an evolving international framework
- Many of the tools we need already exist
- As seen, we can learn from the experience of existing initiatives
- Increasingly clear scientific evidence that ABNJ need to be managed and conserved

Thank you!



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