

Regional Initiatives in ABNJ

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State of Play

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Regional organisations within a possible new international legal instrument?



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
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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
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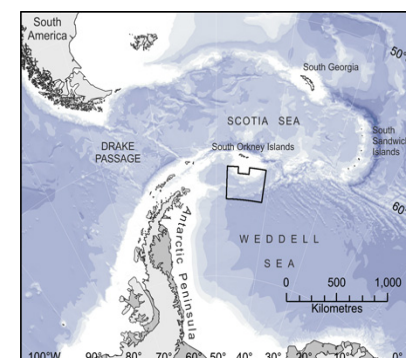
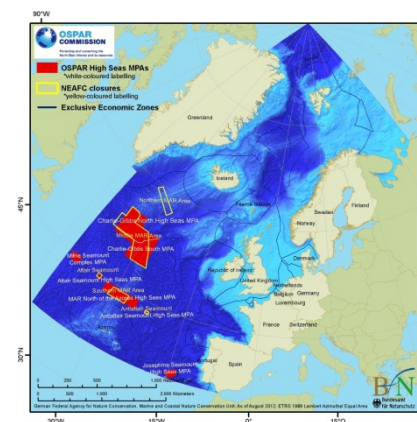


- ***Which regions are currently developing initiatives in ABNJ?***
 - ***What can we learn from these?***
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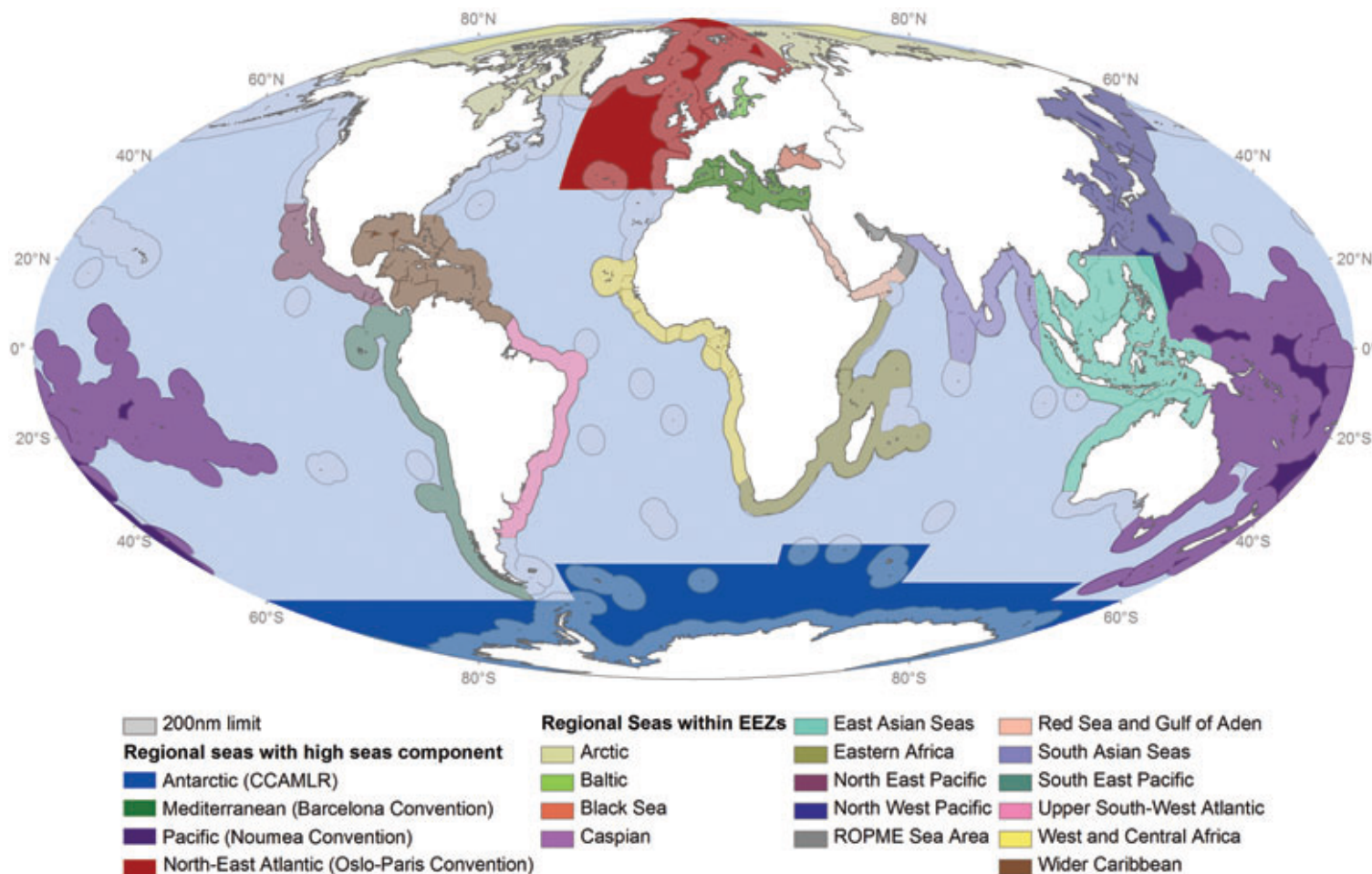


Current initiatives:

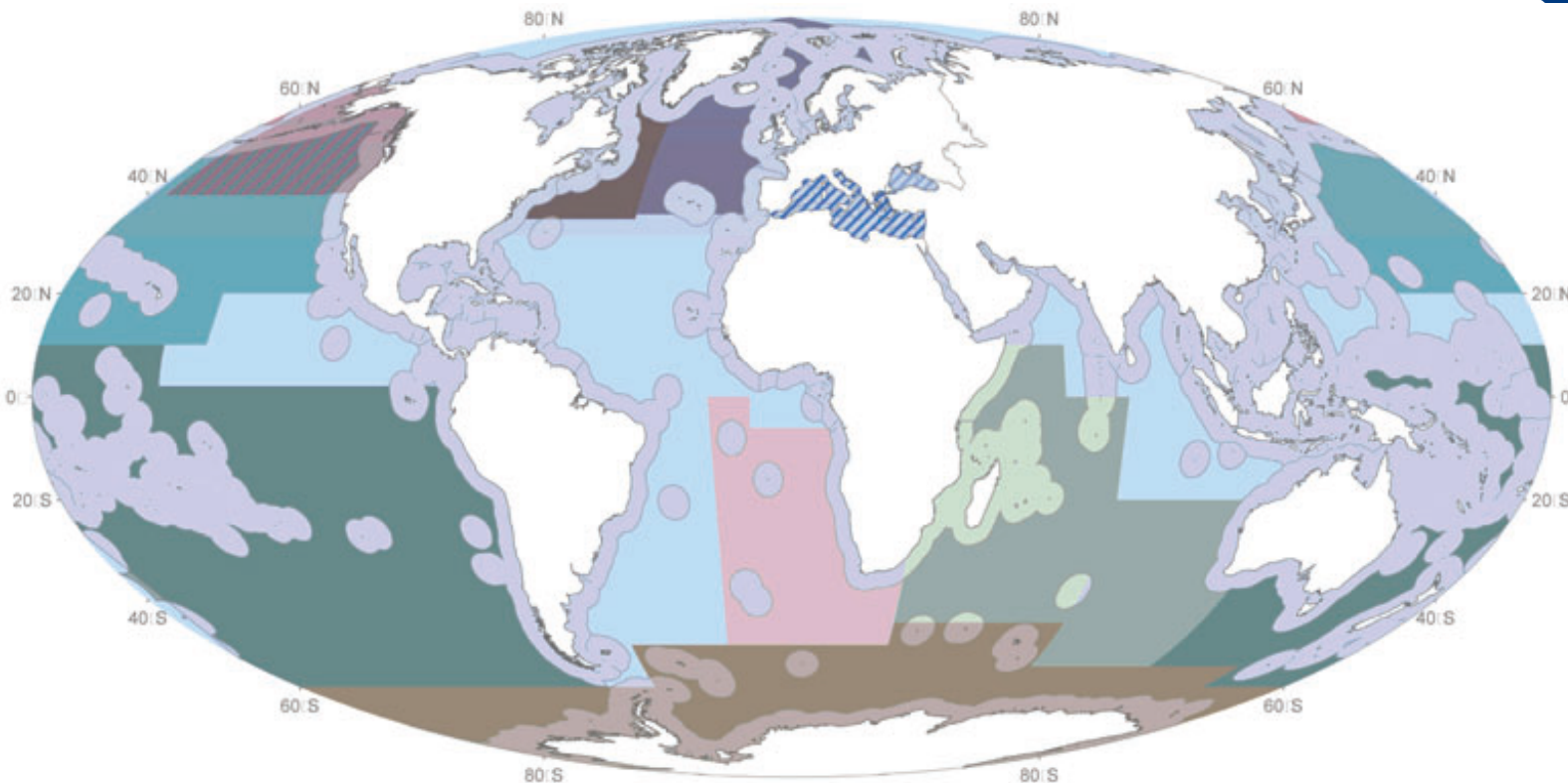
- Regional programmes have progressively expanded their activities into ABNJ: North-East Atlantic, Mediterranean Sea, Southern Ocean
- Also Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and other bodies/initiatives (e.g. Sargasso Sea Commission) are active at a regional scale



Regional Seas Conventions & Action Plans



Regional Fisheries Bodies



200nm limit

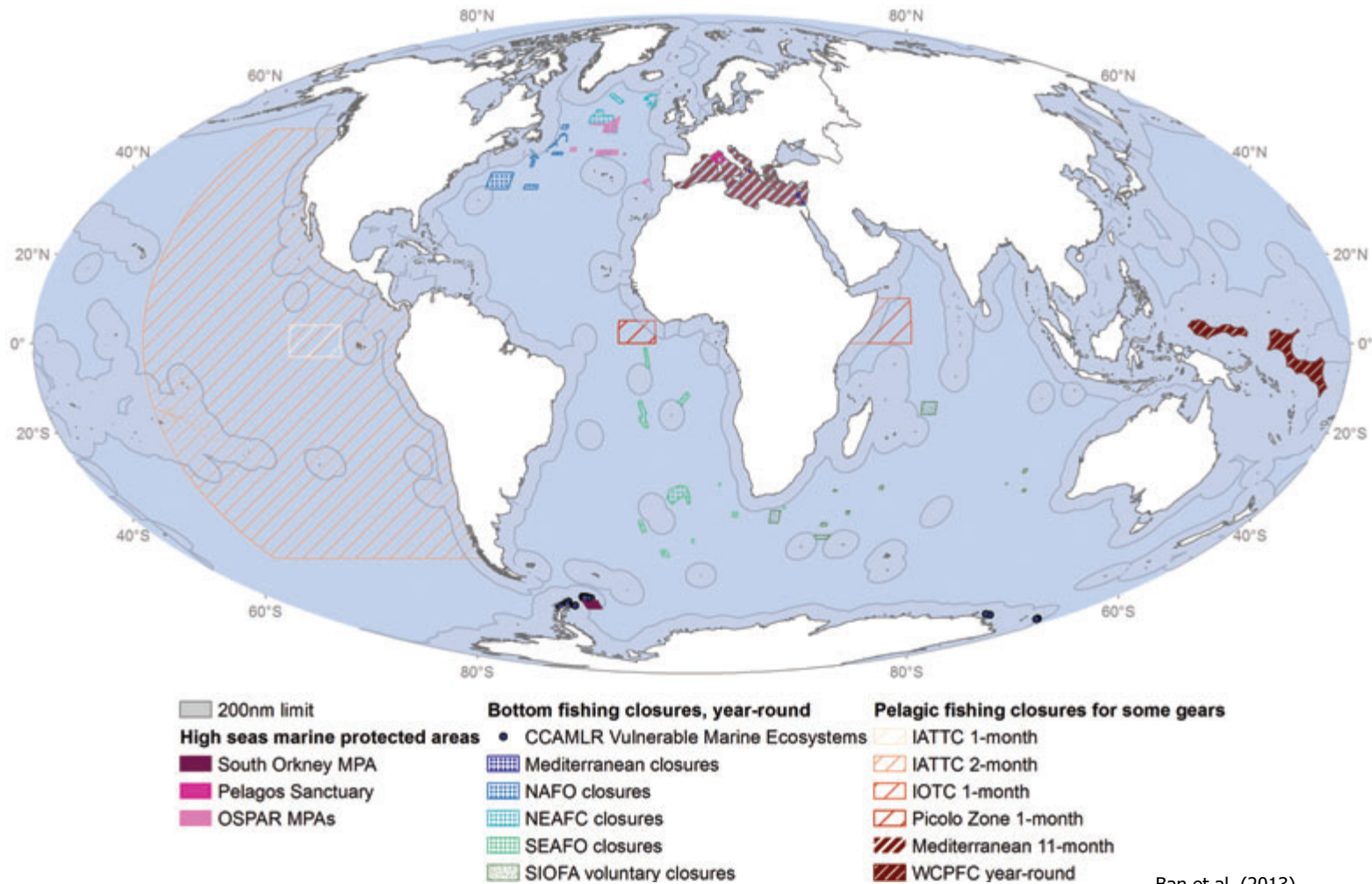
Non-Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations

- 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

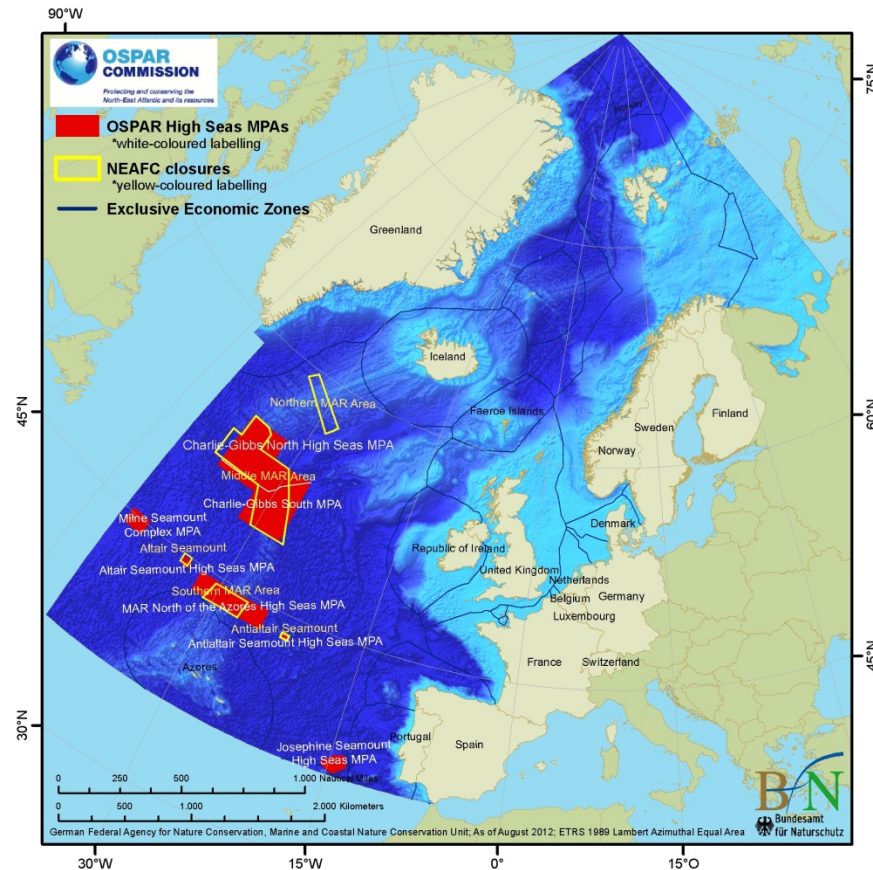
Ban et al. (2013)

High Seas MPAs & Fisheries Closures

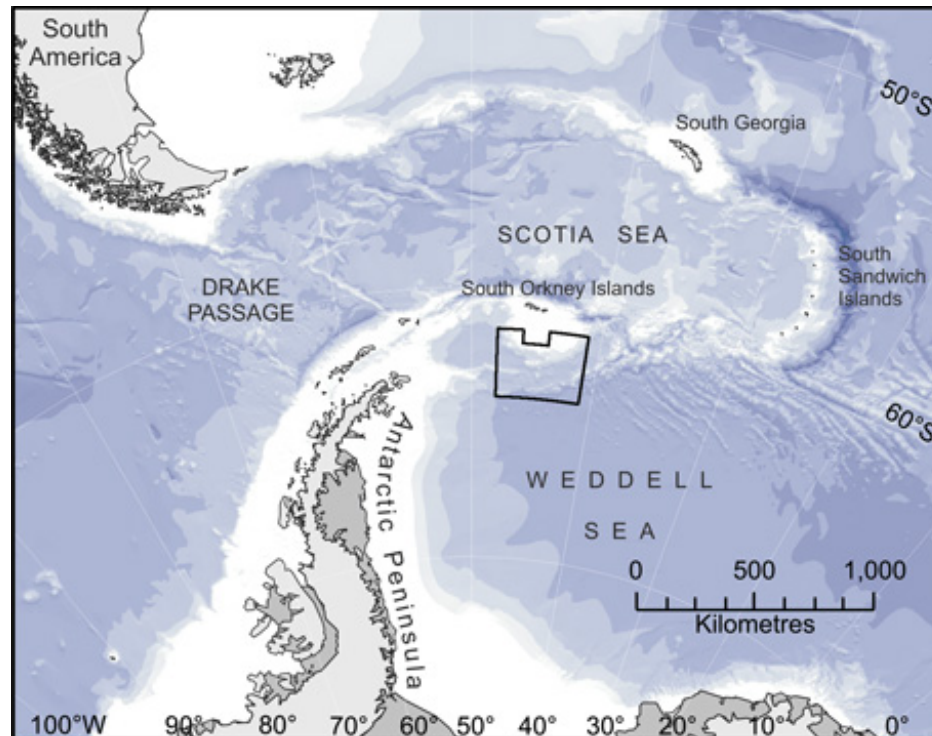


Ban et al. (2013)

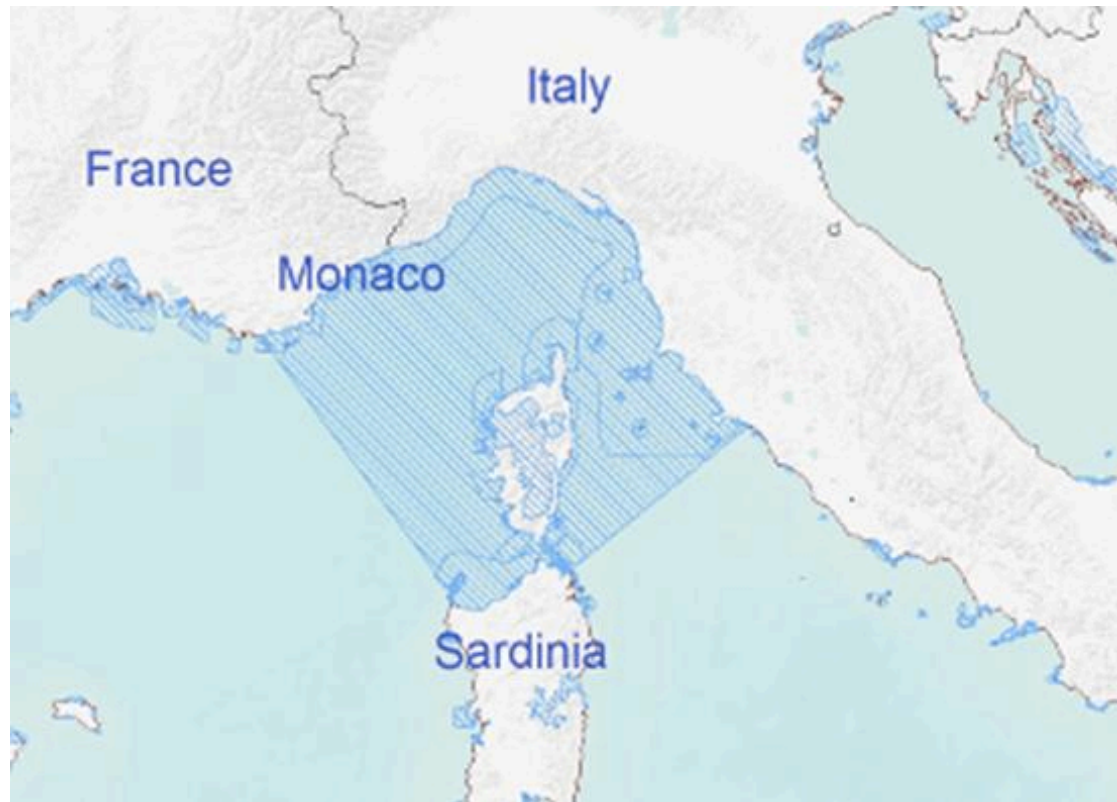
OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ & NEAFC Fisheries Closures



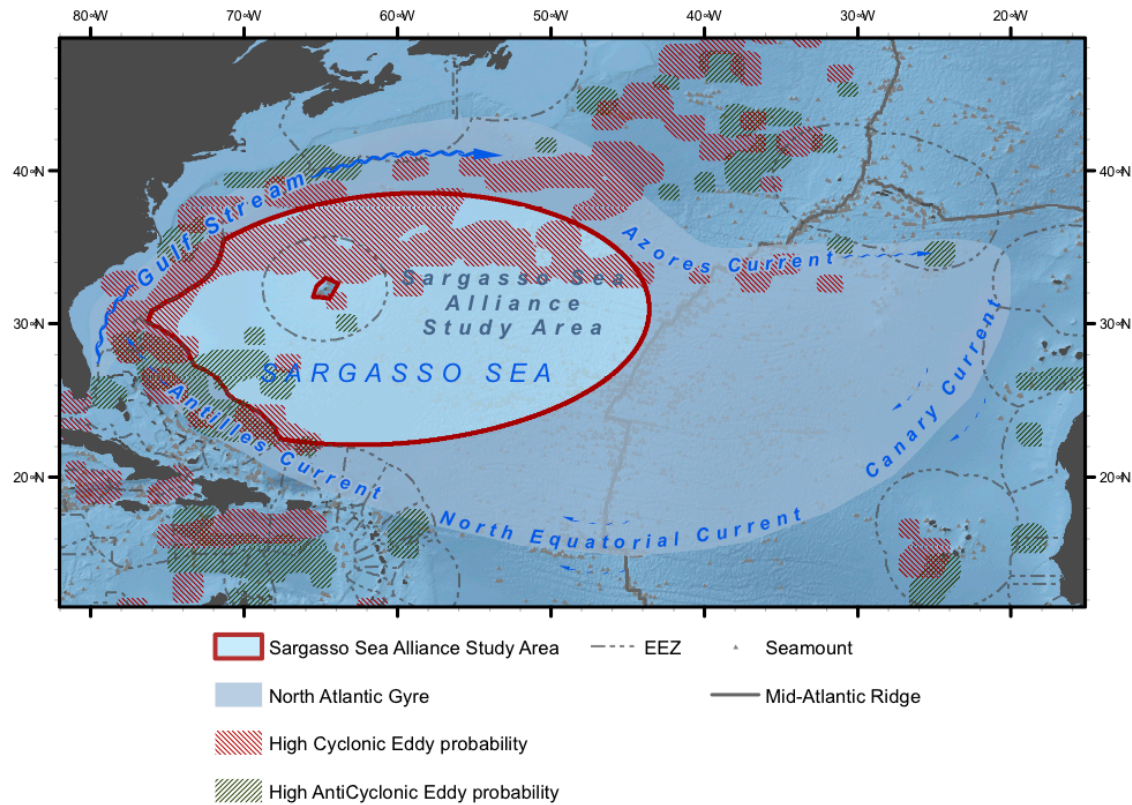
South Orkney Marine Protected Area



Pelagos Sanctuary for Marine Mammals



Sargasso Sea Alliance





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)





"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



- 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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