

Towards a New International Agreement on High Seas Biodiversity

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71%

OF EARTH IS
COVERED BY
OCEAN

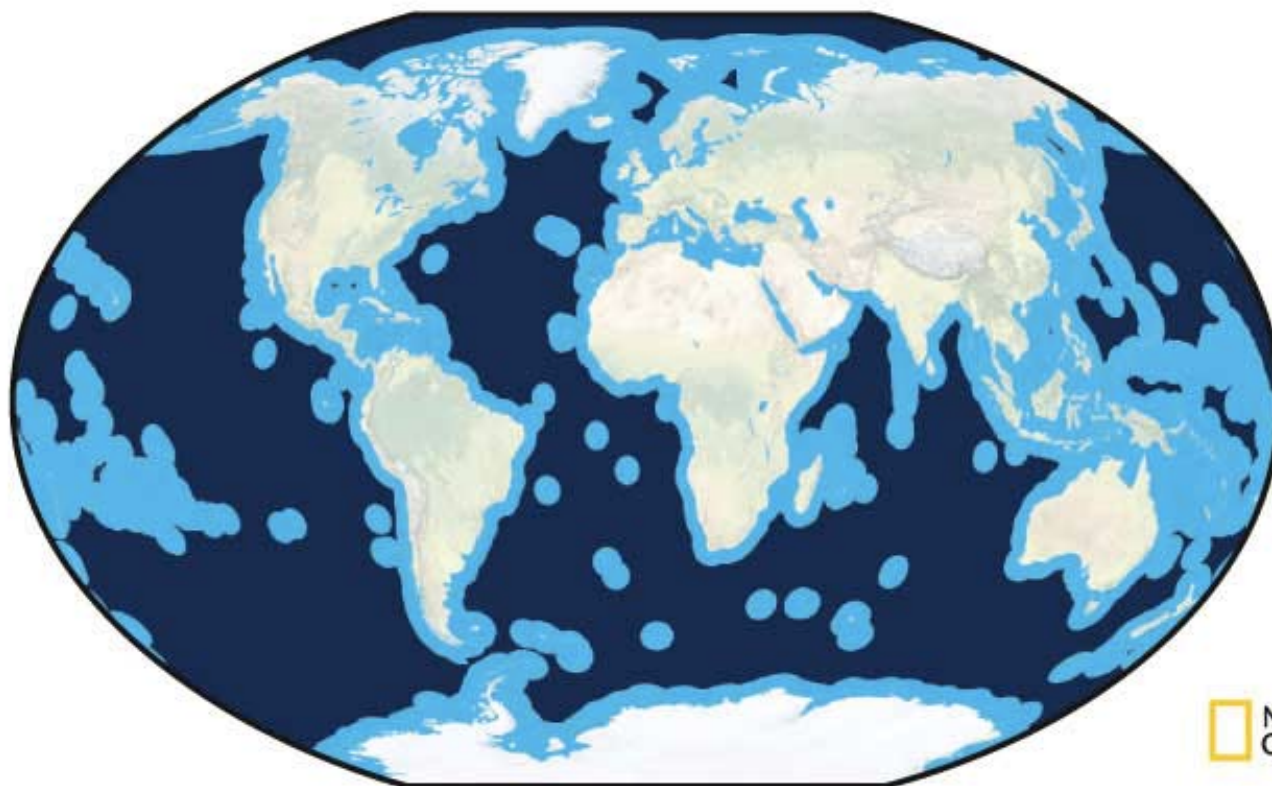
64%

OF THE OCEAN
IS CONSIDERED
THE HIGH SEAS/
INTERNATIONAL
WATERS

THE HIGH SEAS
COVER

45%

OF THE EARTH'S
SURFACE



 NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

Why?

- Significant gaps in legal framework for high seas
 - Legal gaps vs. implementation gaps
- Rapid development/intensification of activities
- Cumulative impacts



Timeline

- **2006** – Formation of the BBNJ Working Group
- **2011** – Agreement of the ‘Package Deal’
- **2012** – Rio+20 commitment
- **2014** (April & June) – BBNJ meetings
- **2015**
 - Final BBNJ meeting - January
 - UNGA – August/September

The 2011 'Package Deal'

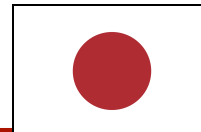
1. Marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits
2. Measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas
3. Environmental impact assessments
4. Capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology.

BBNJ meeting June 2014 – A turning point

- A strong ‘coalition of the willing’ developing
- Emergence of developing states
 - Pacific nations
 - CARICOM
 - African Union
- Inclusion of civil society
- Lots of World Cup banter



The holdouts

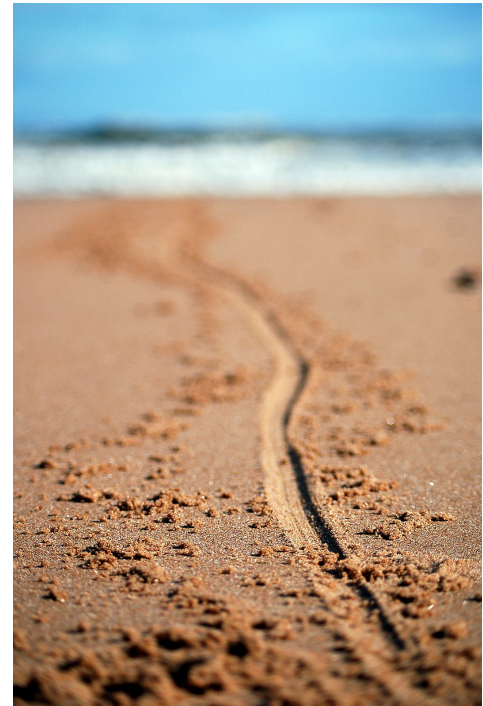


(Limited) Points of Agreement

- Maintain Rio+20 deadline
- Primacy of UNCLOS
- Package Deal
- Suspension of the 'common heritage' vs freedom debate
- Respect the mandates of existing organisations

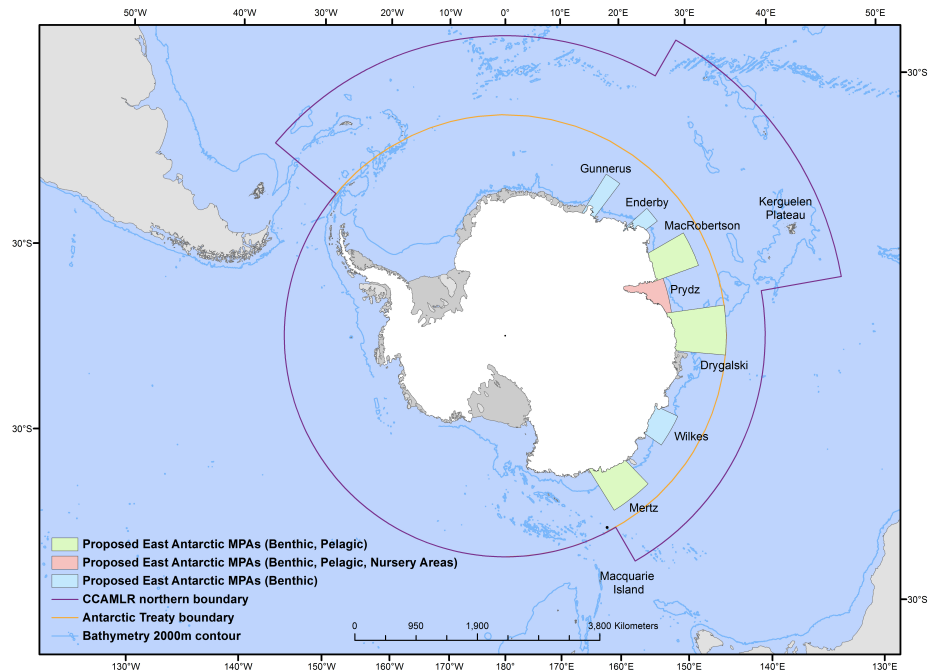
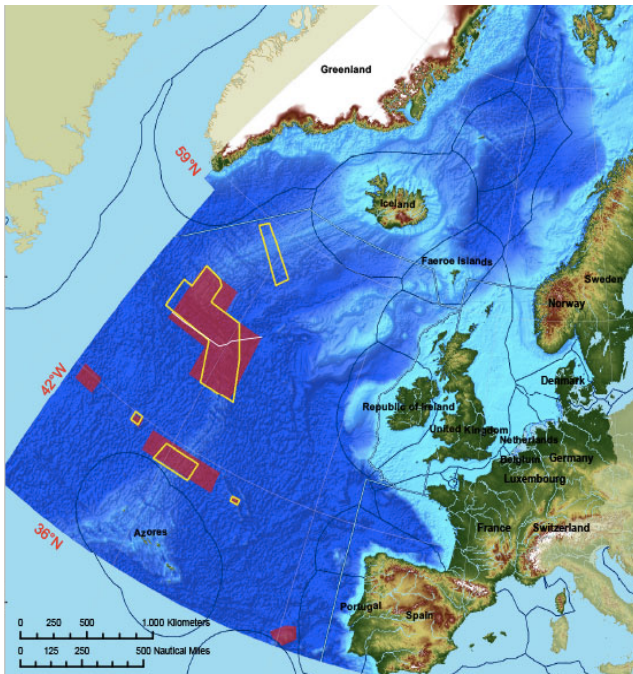
Battle Lines

- Legal gaps vs. broader vision
- Respect the mandates of existing organisations - what does this mean in practice?
 - Fisheries
- International vs. Regional
- Institutional structure
- Basically everything...



While we wait...

- Plethora of existing regional organisations
 - North Atlantic: OSPAR/NEAFC
 - Antarctic: ATS/CCAMLR
 - Sargasso Sea Commission



What's next?

- BBNJ chairs to write a 'Convergence Report'
- States to make further submissions
- Working Group in January
 - Expected to recommend to UNGA that negotiations be opened
- And for the rest of us: a long hard think...

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