

Biodiversity Outcomes of Spatial Fisheries Measures

Implications for Other Effective Area-Based Measures

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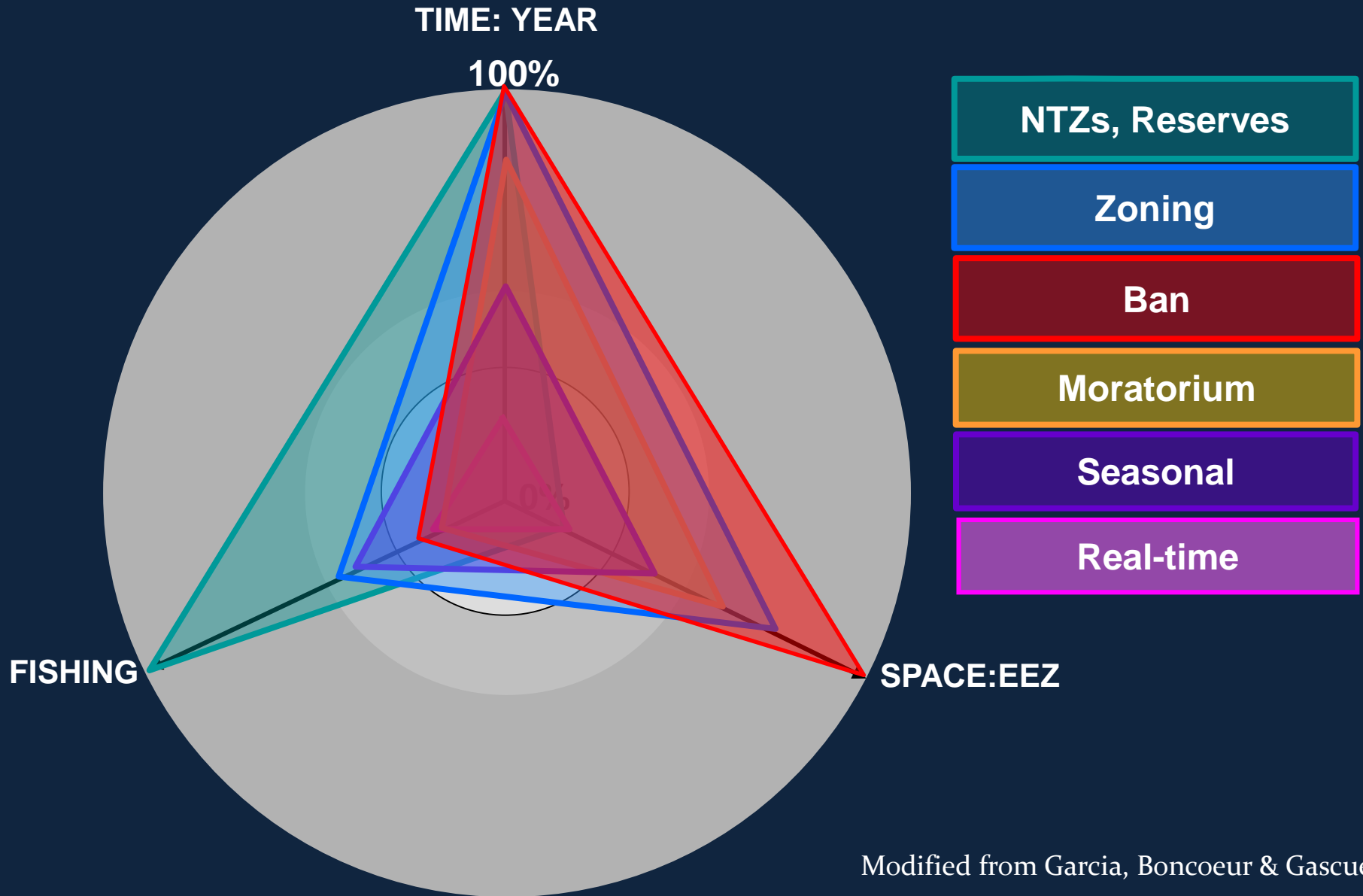
Scoping the Question

- Inclusion of OEABCM in Target 11 reflected Parties' desire to have areas additional to MPAs included in T11 reporting.
- Agreement that area-based fisheries management measures that only benefit the target species of the fishery are part of conventional fisheries management but are not consistent with intent of OEABCM
- So where between “only Target species benefit” and “no extractive use nor habitat impacts” do Area-Based Fisheries management measures become EFFECTIVE area-based conservation measures for biodiversity?

FEG was asked to prepare a Background paper for the February 2018 Workshop

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Many kinds of spatial measures can be used in fisheries



Literature review of biodiversity consequences of these measures

- a) Extensive documentation that ABFMs can effectively benefit species intended to benefit –
bycatch avoidance measures,
habitat impact avoidance measures, etc
- b) VERY little literature reporting the broad biodiversity consequences of almost ANY spatial management measures (fisheries or otherwise)
- c) Most of the little reported on broad biodiversity issues are modelling studies not field studies,
assumptions build into the models often largely determined the things the model found

Based on Literature potential criteria for OEABCMs were identified

- 1. For species that have been [depleted] ... *[there is evidence or an ecological basis to expect that area-based fisheries management] measures have or will contribute to increases in abundance and biomass ... of populations, ... or community parameters;***
- 2. For [healthy] species or populations [...] measures have or will increase the likelihood of **maintaining or safe-guarding the healthy state** of the populations or species, ...**
- 3. For marine habitats – ...- [] measures have or will **protect habitat features from degradation and allow previously disturbed biotic or biogenic features to recover ...****

Criteria - 2

- 4. For disturbed communities ... [] measures have or will contribute to improvements in community structure and increases in function ... or reduce fishing pressure ... until more complete recovery programs are in place.**
- 5. For critical or preferred habitats of target species ... [] measures make an important contribution to protecting the features of the habitat important for the species, and do not interfere with the suitability of the habitat for other species,,, and contributes to the conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats**
- 6. For priority species or habitats for conservation [] measures substantially reduced pressure of the fishery on the species or habitat, ...**

Context factors to consider when applying criteria

All evaluations should be case-by-case because: of the complex typology of ABFMs and similar ABFMs can have different consequences in different contexts

1. **EAF-basis**. Does the ABFM and its implementation fit within an Ecosystem Approach?
2. **Best scientific evidence**. including social sciences, and making full use of available indigenous and local knowledge
3. **Integration**. Does implementation of the measure integrate explicitly fisheries management and biodiversity conservation.

Context Factors (2)

- Precautionary approach. Is the measure and its implementation consistent with the Precautionary Approach (misses and false alarms)?
- Degree of protection. How fully or partially does the ABFM offer the intended protections?
- Degree of consultation: Has the full range of interested stakeholders been engaged?
- Management compatibility: Is fishery management compatible within and around the ABFM? Is it compatible with other measures applied by other economic sectors in the same area?

Implementation / Assessment

Proposals should include:

- Location & description of the area (extent, priority species & habitats,)
- Coverage provided by the measure, relative to the total relevant area
- Typical migration or movement patterns of {priority} species
- Review of specified fishery & conservation objectives (if any) and outcomes desired;
- Justification for expecting the conservation outcomes
- An assessment of current/foreseen threats to the general area (other than fishing);
- A management plan, containing (i) Objectives; (ii) Measures adopted to counter/mitigate major threats (iii) The expected outcomes