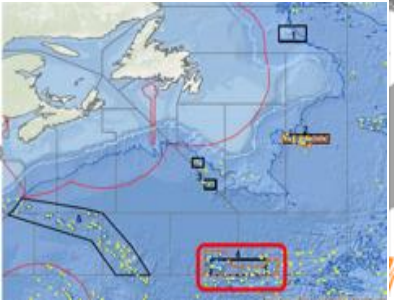
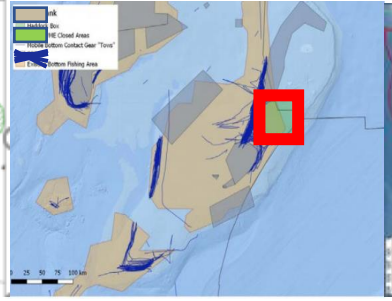
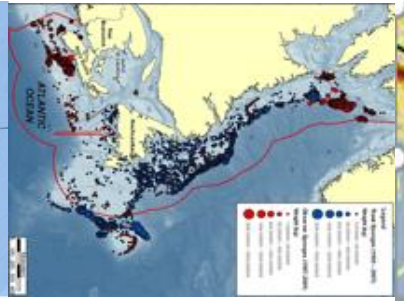
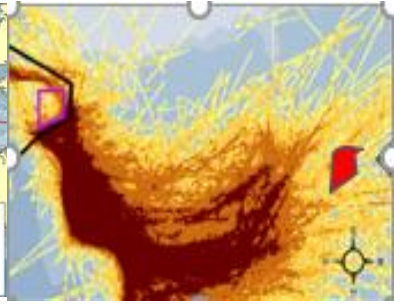


OECMs in marine capture fisheries

Lessons on OECM identification from the North Atlantic

Serge M. Garcia and Amber Himes-Cornell

Online workshop organized by IUCN-CEM-FEG in collaboration with FAO in preparation of SBSTTA 24. 19 May- 16:00-17:30 CET





Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

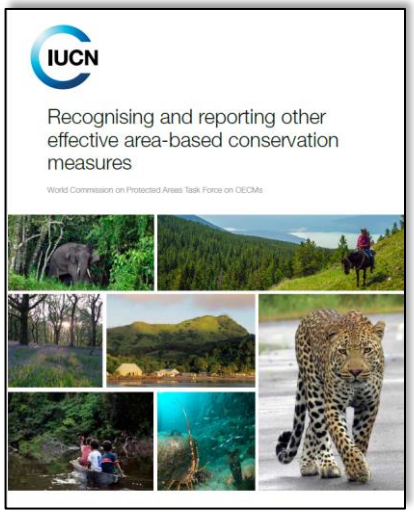
CBD/COP/DEC/14/8
30 November 2018

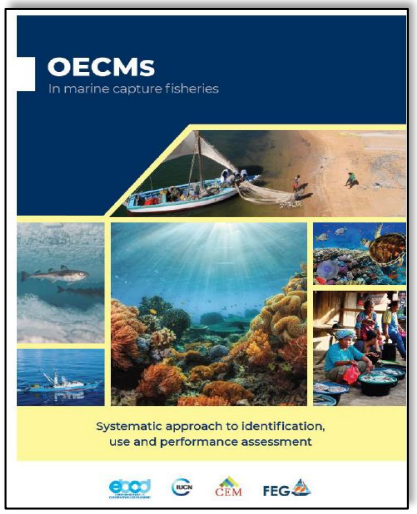
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

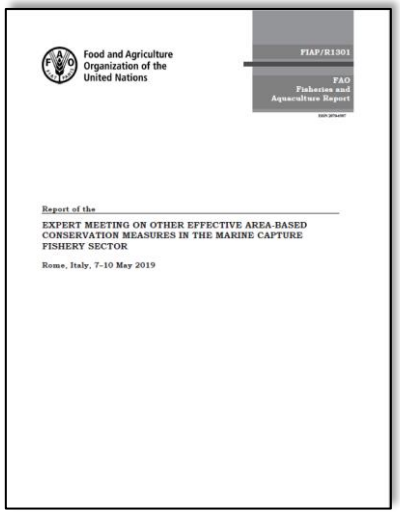
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Fourteenth meeting
Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 17-29 November 2018
Agenda item 24

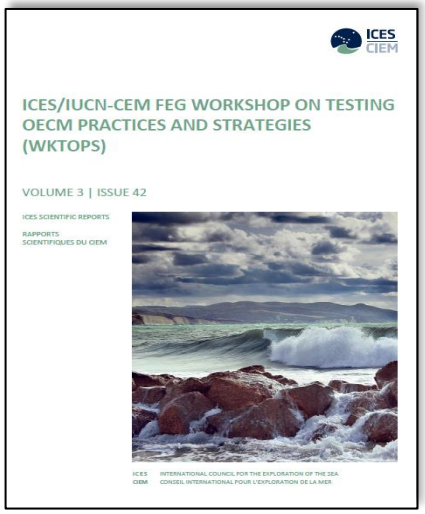
DECISION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

14/8. Protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures









Identification criteria

CRITERIA	SUB-CRITERIA
A: **The area is not currently recognized as a <u>protected area</u>** *: (CBD Art. 2)*	
B: The area is governed and managed	*B1:* ***Geographically defined*** *space: three dimensions* *B2:* ***Legitimate governance*** *authority; address equity, threats* *B3:* ***Managed****: sustained, long-term outcomes, adaptive, new threats*
C: Achieves sustained and effective contribution to in situ conservation of biodiversity	*C1:* ***Effective****: achieves sustained outcomes; threats; mechanisms, integration* *C2:* ***Sustained*** *(or likely) over long term;* *C3:* ***In situ conservation*** *of biological diversity; connectivity* *C4:* ***Information and monitoring****: description and assessment*
D: Associated ecosystem functions and services and cultural, spiritual, socioeconomic and other locally relevant values	*D1:* ***Ecosystem functions and services****; trade-offs, equity* *D2:* ***Locally relevant values****: cultural, spiritual, socioeconomic and others*

Aims of area-based fishery management

Ensure sustainability

- **Optimize exploitation of the target species:** As complement to other non-spatial measures, they protect: (i) key life stages of the target species; spawners); (ii) depleted stocks or parts of stocks during rebuilding programmes; (iii) genetic reservoirs; (iv) essential habitats; and (v) reserves of food, particularly is vulnerable communities.
- **Allocate space and resources between sub-sectors** ensuring equitable distribution of opportunity and reducing conflict, risk of gear damage and dangerous collisions.
- **Broader conservation**, e.g., providing additional protection to Protected, Endangered and Threatened (PET) species, reducing bycatch and protecting essential and vulnerable habitats

(based on Hall, 2009

Dimensions of ABFMs

MULTIPLE DIMENSIONS

- **Duration:** permanent (reserves) or temporary (real-time, seasonal, etc.)
- **Location**: may be fixed or mobile
- **Domain**: benthic, pelagic, coastal, oceanic,
- **Area**: may be the entire EEZ, the fishing ground, or part of it.
- **Activities:** may apply to all fishing or only to some gears, or some socio-economic categories
- **Governance**: centralised or not. Effective or weak

COMPLEX TERMINOLOGY

Total & permanent gear ban
Zoning
Reserve, Refugia
Vulnerable marine ecosystem (VME)
Benthic protected area (BPA)
Fishery restricted area (FRA)
Rotational closures
Ring fencing
Moratorium
Seasonal closures
Real-time closures & Move-on rules
Real-time incentives
Territorial Use Right (TURF)
Marine Managed Areas
Marine Areas of Resp. Fishing (MARF)

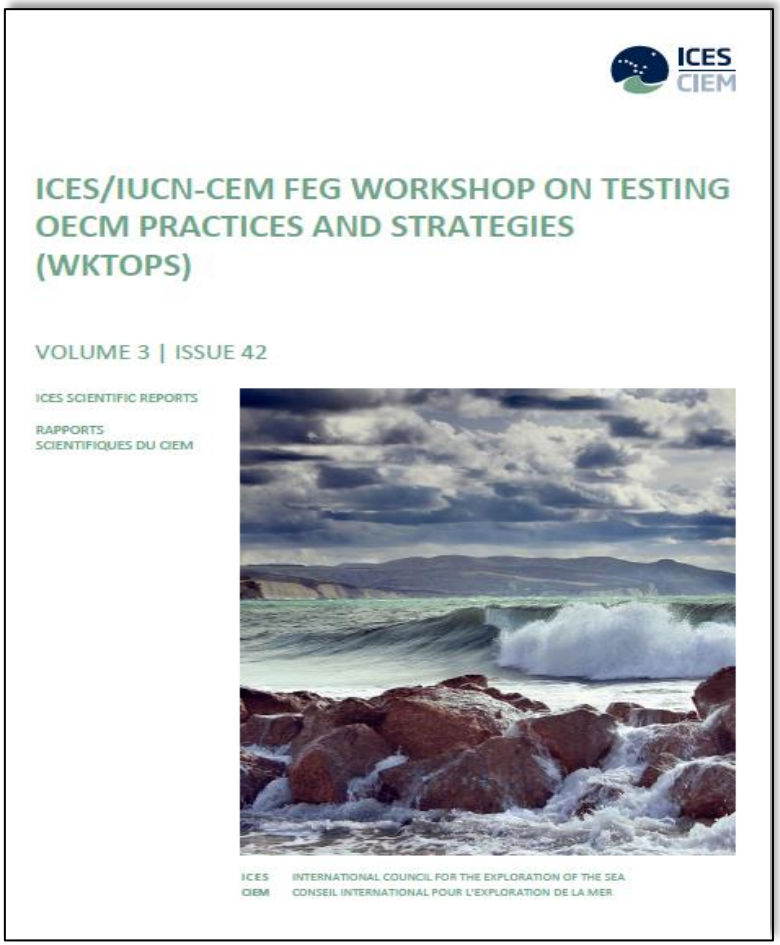
The complexity of ABFMs and their context-sensitivity impedes any generalization on their effectiveness for the fishery or for conservation

Joint ICES/IUCN-CEM-FEG Workshop on Testing OECM Practices and Strategies.

15-24 March 2021

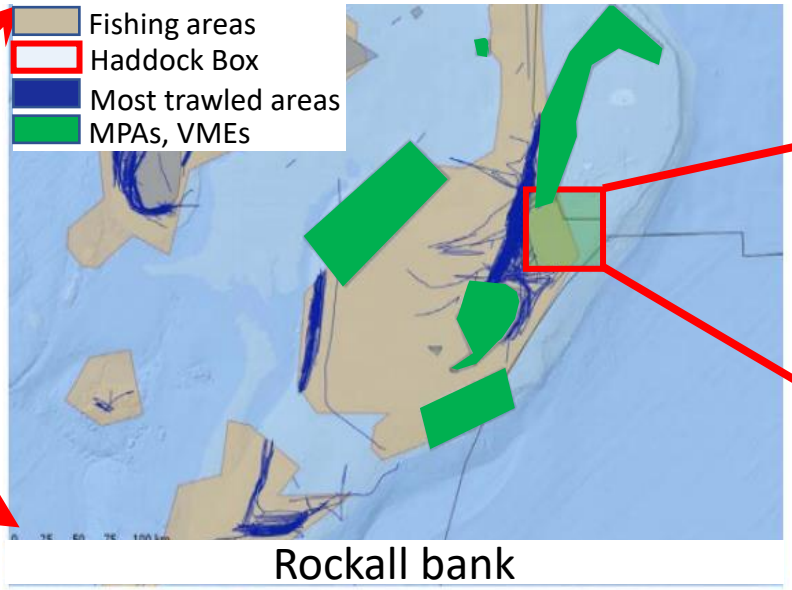
Objectives

- Consolidate and test available guidance on identification, drawing on case studies
- Identify factors affecting the evaluation
- Identify information of particular value
- Provide feed-back on available guidance

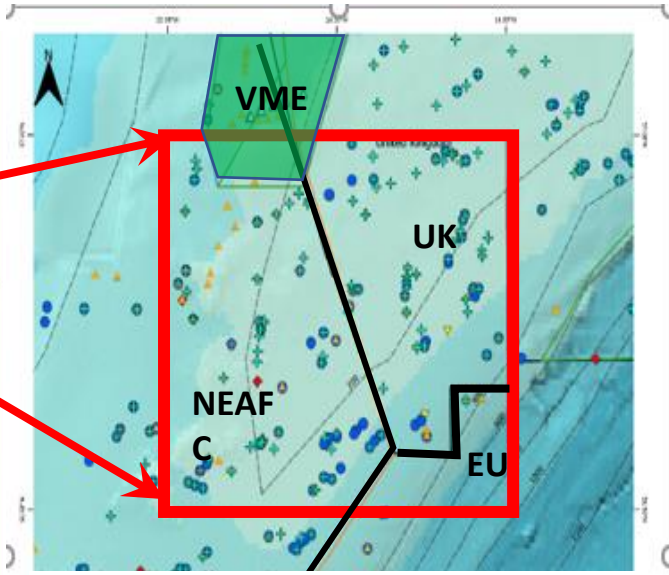


Rockall Haddock Box-NEAFC

NE Atlantic



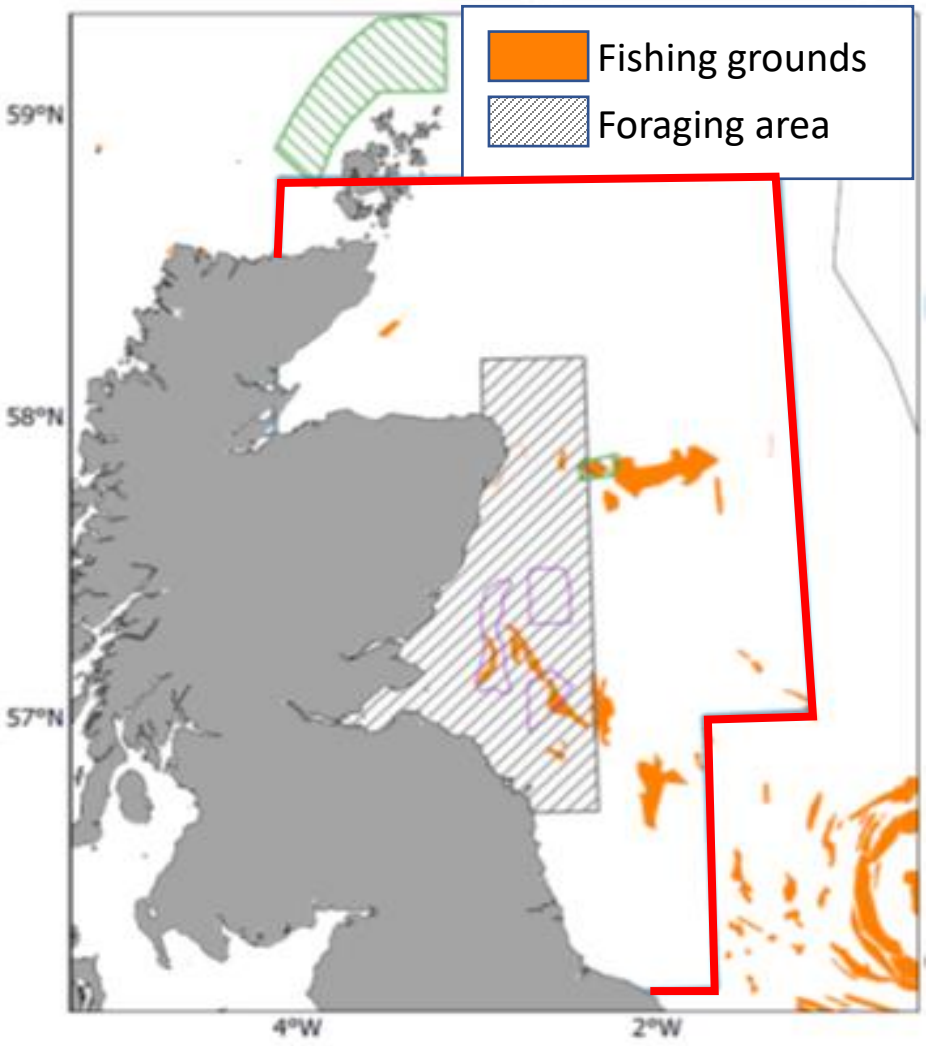
Rockall bank



Haddock Box

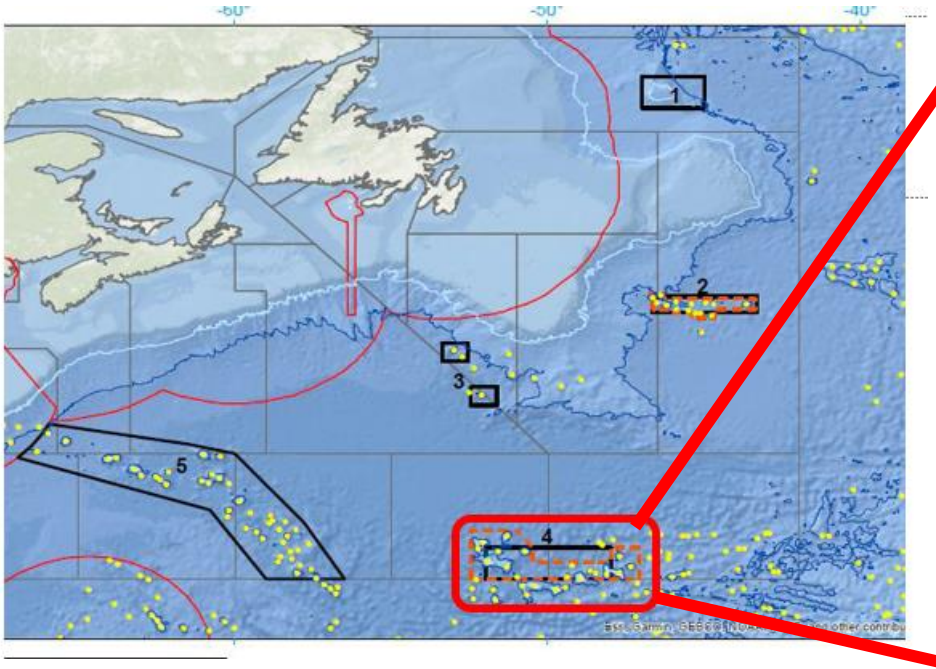
A typical measure, established primarily to optimize the Haddock fishery. But it contains and is surrounded by VMEs. Multiple jurisdictions. Impacted by climate change.

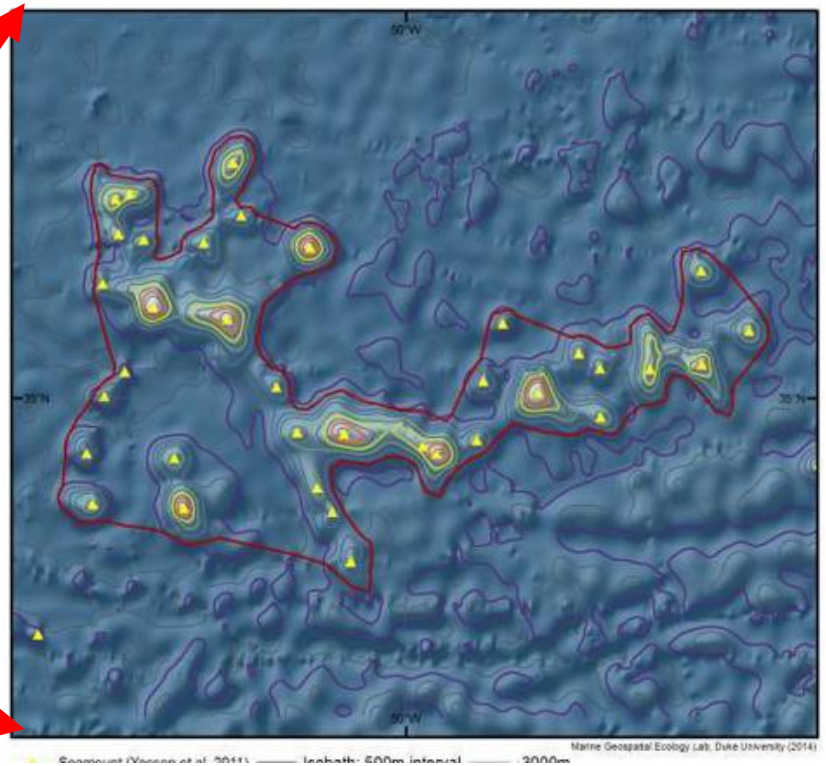
Northeast UK Sand eel closure



An ABFM established for specific (seabirds) conservation through protection of the foraging area and preys of the seabirds

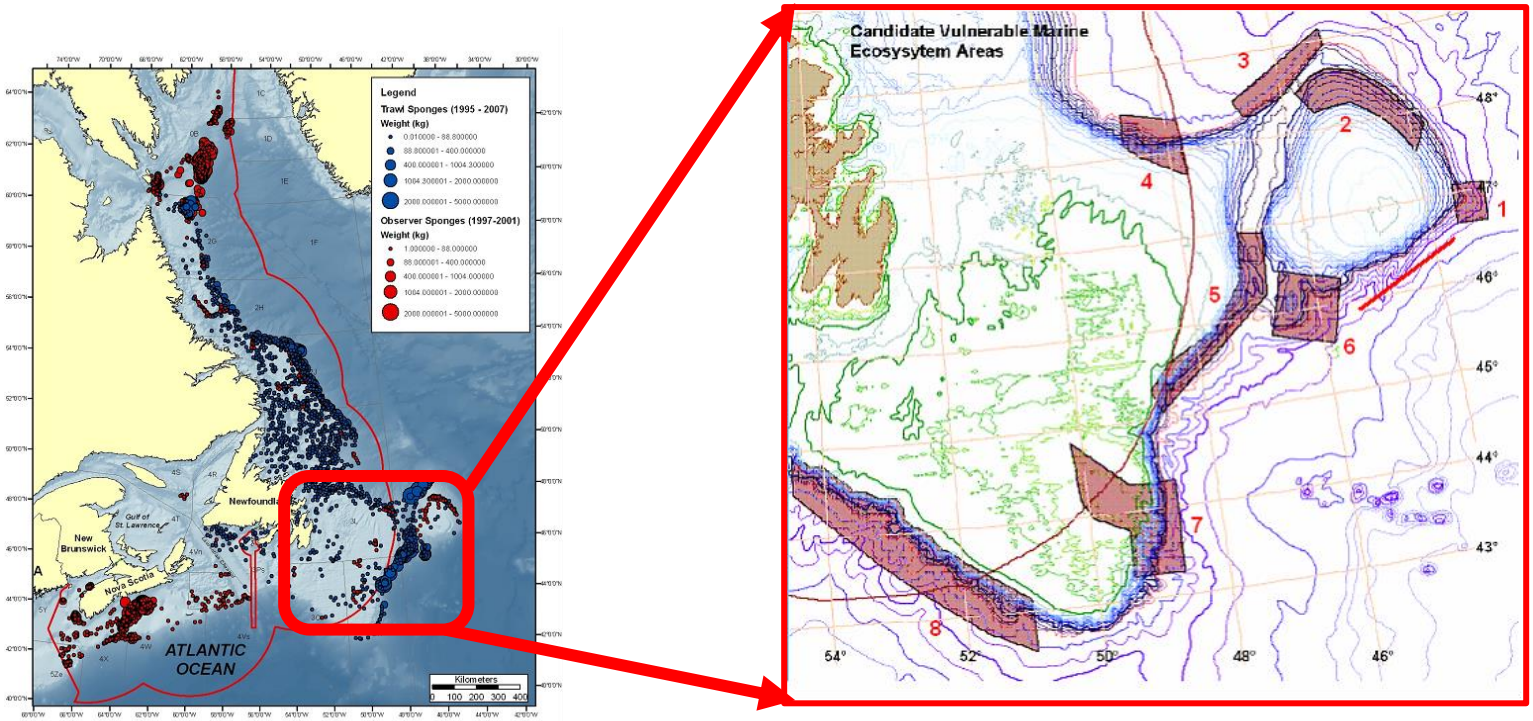
Corner Rise seamounts





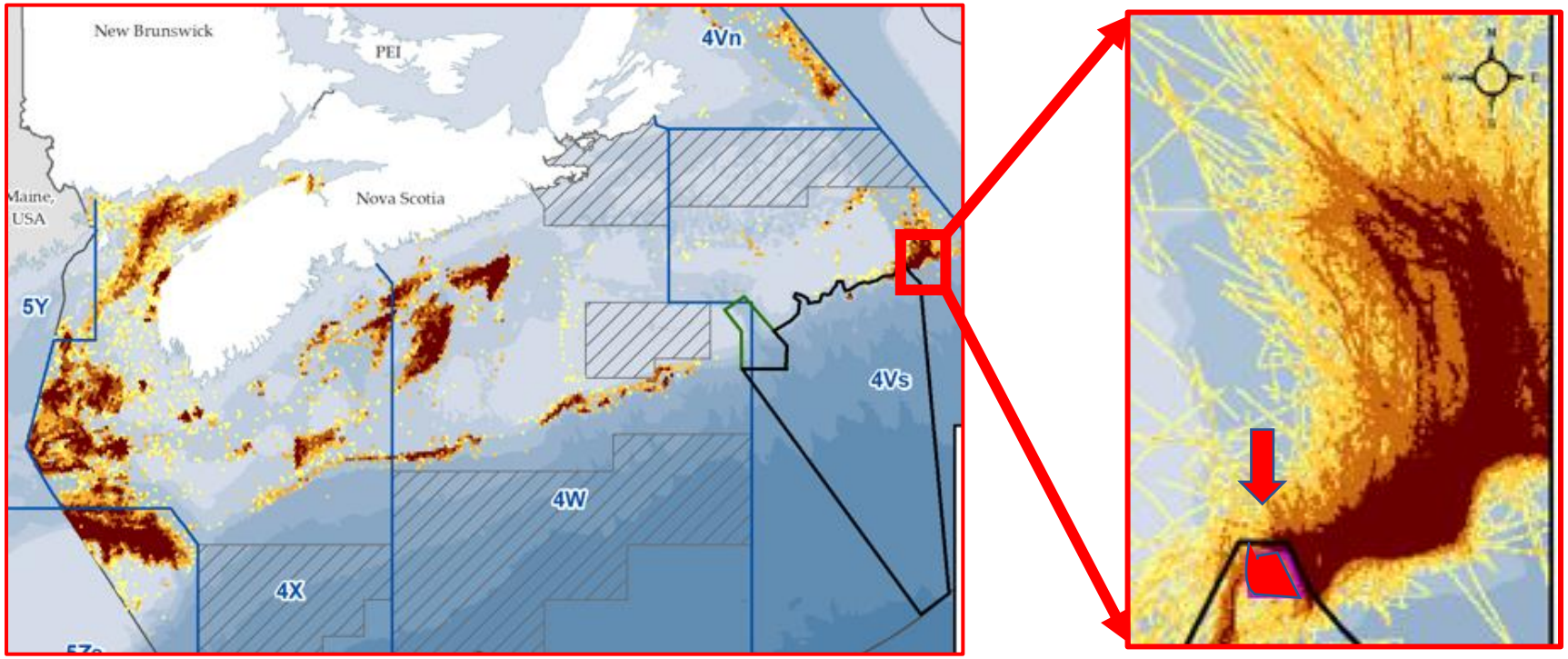
A classical deep-sea ecosystem under NAFOs ‘s jurisdiction, with well-identified biodiversity values, excessive fishing pressure. Severe measures already taken. A moratorium on fishing has recently been put in place.

NAFO Sponge VME Closed Areas
Flemish Cap and Grand Bank



An important fishing ground for Greenland Halibut with rich biodiversity values historically stressed by fishing. Well-studied and managed. Many closed areas protecting VMEs. Under regular performance review

Lophelia Coral Conservation Area



Only known living *lophelia pertusa* reef in Canadian waters. Rich in other biodiversity values. Protection and recovery are the primary objectives. Closed to bottom trawling. Potential oil, gas and cable threats. Regularly enforced & monitored.

Summary of assessments

Easy: Likely fulfilled

Unclear / incomplete

Areas considered	A	B1	B2	B3	C1	C2	C3	C4	D1	D2
	Not an MPA	geolocalized	Governed	Managed	Effective	Sustained	Con. values	Monitoring	Eco. services	Other values
Rockall Haddock box										
Sand eel closure										
Corner rise seamounts										
NAFO sponge VMEs areas										
Lophelia coral cons. areas										

General conclusion

Despite some initial difficulties in understanding fully the Criteria, all areas were found to meet the Criteria enough to warrant consideration as potential OECMs for a fuller assessment, should the appropriate jurisdiction(s) choose to move in that direction.

It should be noted, however that:

1. Case studies were pre-selected by workshop participants, not a random sample. A priori only a small proportion of existing ABFMs are likely to meet OECMs criteria.
2. The North Atlantic benefits from well developed information systems and governance even though gaps were identified e.g., in ecological social and economic information and competences. Many other regions will require capacity-building.
3. All areas produced significant biodiversity benefits, both intended and unintended and all benefited from an effective governance by a legitimate authority.
4. The compilation of information prior to the assessment was an essential factor of success, that facilitated quick screening
5. Enabling scientific and governance conditions, appeared essential for both identification and performance of OECMs

Need for specific guidance

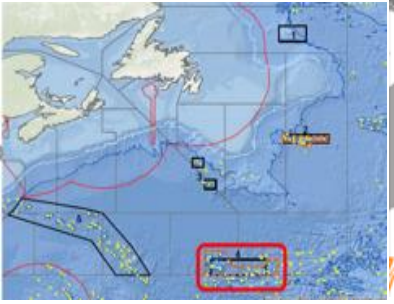
The experts called for more specific guidance regarding:

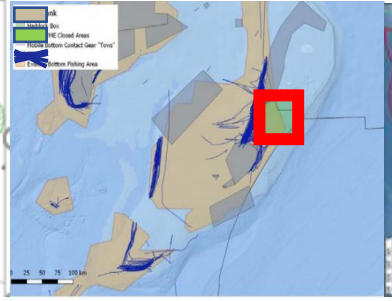
1. Interpretation of the criteria, their requirements, and relative importance
2. Level of evidence required to consider a Criteria as met (data rich vs data poor)
3. Range of multidisciplinary expertise needed to undertake the assessment (ecological and social sciences), particularly in relation to connectivity & complementarity
4. The definition of the "long-term intent: what time horizon and level of "guarantee"?
5. Arrangements needed to deal with current and potential external threats and cross sectoral cooperation
6. The use of analytical assessments vs experts' views and local knowledge (data limitations)
7. Benefits included both protection and recovery?

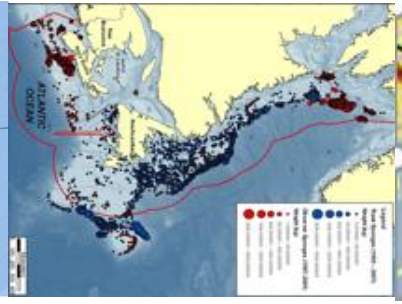
Challenges

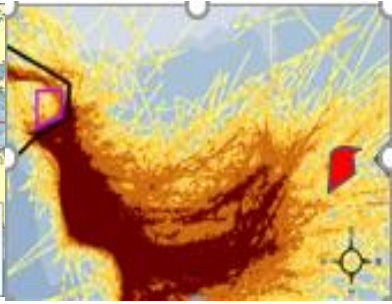
- Need to assess the situation both inside and outside the OECM
- Determining causal relationships (between threats and biodiversity)
- Assessing “effectiveness” (through measures or outcomes?)
- Addressing “equity” effectively in different contexts?
- Participation of the sector to the evaluations
- Cost of recurrent assessment for adaptive management
- Need for mobile OECMs to mitigate climate change
- How to address patchiness: numerous OECMs? Large complex OECMs? Networks (OECMs & MPAs)

The definition does not solve all the problems. As usual, collective efforts of interpretation and implementation, on the ground, will, with time generate agreed best practices









THANK YOU




FEG contributions to OECMs

- CBD Workshops (1) on MPAs and OECMs for achieving Aichi Target 11 in marine and coastal areas and **(2)** on OECMs for Achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11. Montreal, Canada, 6-9 February 2018.
  - **Background Paper**: OECMs used in marine fisheries: A Working Paper (CBD/MCB/EM/2018/1/INF/4)
- FAO-CBD-FEG Expert meeting on OECMs in the marine capture fishery sector, Rome, 17-10 May 2019
  - **Background paper**: Identification, assessment and governance of OECMs in the marine fishery sector. A background document. (www.ebcd.org/feg)
- ICES/IUCN-CEM FEG Workshop on Testing OECM Practices and Strategies (WKTOPS). Virtual. 15-24 March 2021 (https://doi.org/10.17895/icea.pub.8135
  - **Two background papers**: (1) OECMs in marine capture fisheries: briefs for policy-makers and managers; (2) OECMs in marine capture fisheries: Systematic approach for identification, use and performance assessment. https://www.ices.dk/community/groups/Pages/WKTOPS.aspx