



The use of OECMs in fisheries

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Advancing progress towards the European Green Deal: OECMs' implementation in the fisheries sector

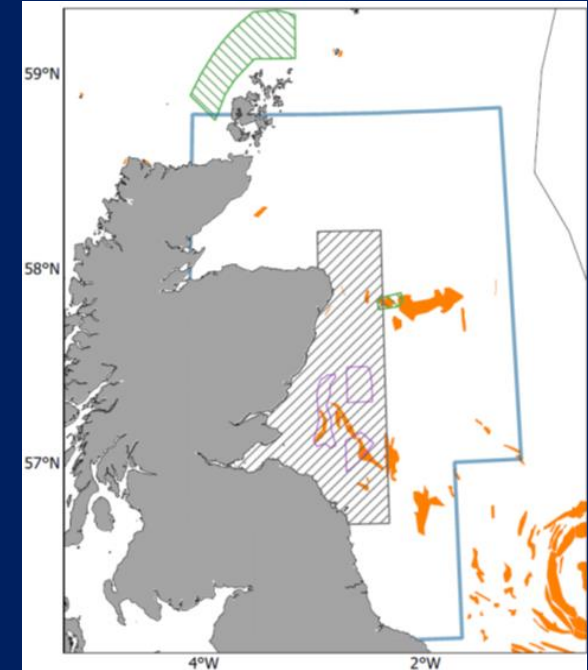
Tuesday 19 October 2021, 16:20 - 16:30



What are OECMs?

A geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in-situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values.

(CBD COP Decision 14/8, 2018).

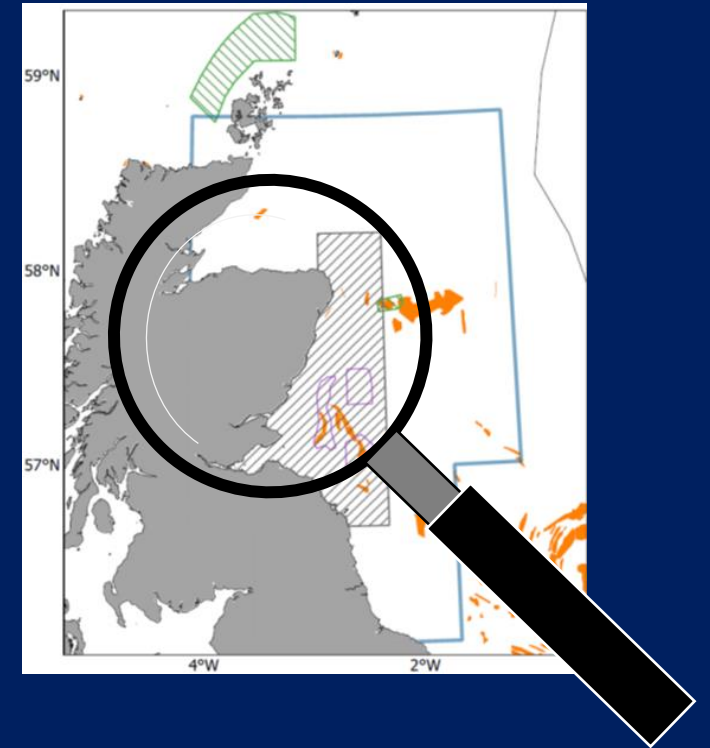


Northwestern North Sea
Sandeel Fishery Closure

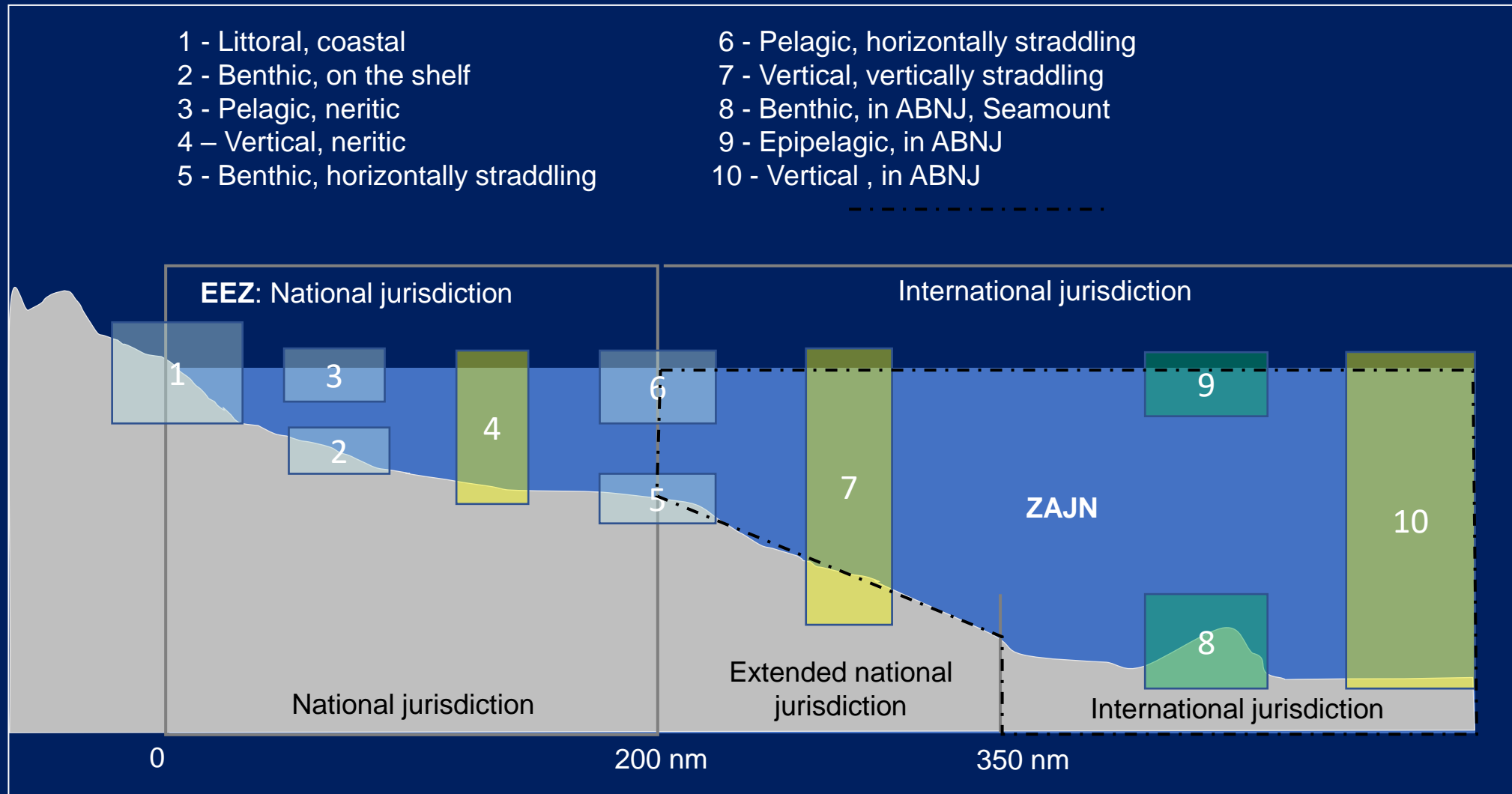
The key properties of OECMs in this definition are developed and clarified in Decision 14/8 Guiding Principles, Criteria and voluntary guidance for implementation.

Required properties for potential OECMs

1. Legal status: Not an MPA
2. Localisation: Located on a map
3. Attributes: Biodiversity values; Ecosystem services; Other locally relevant values; long-term
4. Governance : legitimate; diverse; equitable, participative; sustained
5. Management: conservation objectives; effective; sustained; participative; EAF-based; adaptive; addresses trade-offs and threats; restores damaged attributes; ensures monitoring and transparent performance assessment



Where would fishery-OECMs be located?



Why mainstream OECMs?

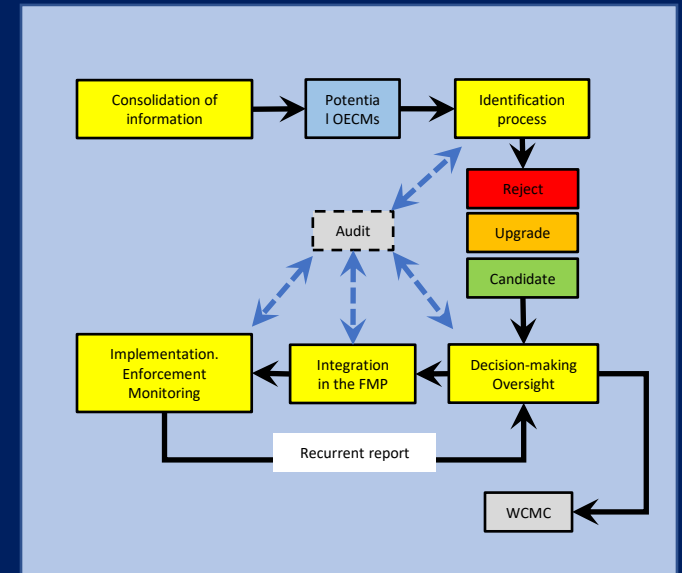
1. To assess, increase and show the biodiversity conservation co-benefits produced by ABFMs
2. To further reduce or mitigate the collateral impact of fisheries, improving the state of target and non-target species and habitats
3. To incentivize consideration of biodiversity outcomes when designing conventional ABFMs
4. To improve connectivity in regional conservation networks
5. To strengthen the Ecosystem Approach to fisheries facilitating eco-certification and eco-labelling
6. To greatly improve the likelihood of States meeting the 30% coverage target by 2030 , and
7. To repair the image of fisheries with the public and consumers



Costs and benefits will need to be carefully considered

Suggestions for the OECEM process

1. Select an incremental approach: learning while doing!
2. Start with low hanging fruits: e.g., most conservation-oriented areas
3. Mobilize/adjust available implementation resources
4. Review existing governance, legitimate authorities & participation,
5. Review collaboration with conservation and at cross-sectoral level
6. Review management plans: objectives, means & monitoring system
7. Focus on coastal fisheries: stronger collateral impact & potential
8. Focus on regional fisheries: harmonization, optimization



A lot of the needs are already covered in existing well-developed management systems

Support developing countries and small island states and IPLCs

Some implementation issues

1. Determine biodiversity attributes of concern
2. Assess current and expected biodiversity outcomes
3. Decide how much outcome is required to be an OECM?
4. Apply best possible conservation standards
5. Consider benefits and costs of using OECMs
6. Update policy and legal enabling frameworks?
7. Ensure equitable governance
8. Monitor management effectiveness
9. Ensure means of implementation (financial and human)
10. Address or strengthen cross-sectoral collaborations
11. Foster OECMs identification in RFMOs



Implementation is greatly facilitated for existing ABFMs

Implementation is intended to be flexible, adapted to local implementation conditions



Concluding remarks

- Mainstreaming OECMs in fisheries is a golden opportunity for a win-win collaboration between fisheries and biodiversity conservation, at national and regional levels
- OECMs can be implemented adding little to existing governance frameworks, processes and measures for fisheries and conservation
- Fishery-OECMs are probably the only way for most States to meet the “30x30” challenge in the ocean, at affordable political, financial and social cost
- The process has started slowly in few leading States and should be rapidly generalized, empowering coastal communities' and strengthening management partnerships with developing countries;



Thank you for your attention
Any questions?

