

RFMOs and the new High Seas Treaty - The North-East Atlantic.

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Secretary of NEAFC

NEAFC



North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission

Convention Objectives



Are the High Seas a....



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Regional Expertise and Competence in ABNJ

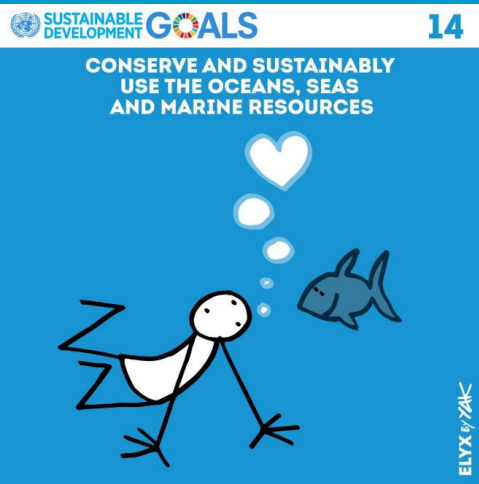


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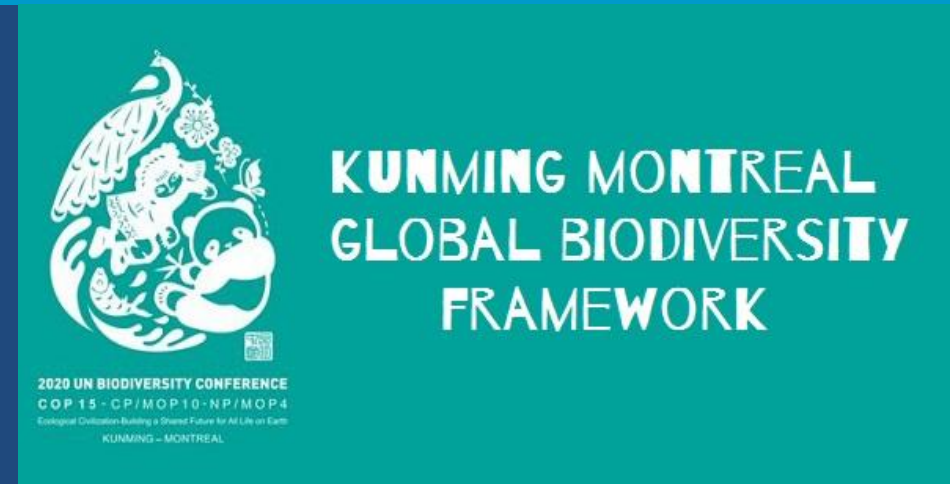


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Overarching Global Frameworks



- UNCLOS
- UN Fish Stocks Agreement
- UN Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goal 14
- CBD Global Biodiversity Framework
- And now...UNCLOS BBNJ Implementation Agreement



Not undermining....

Not undermining
does not mean
working in silos



But understanding
complementary
competences and
expertise

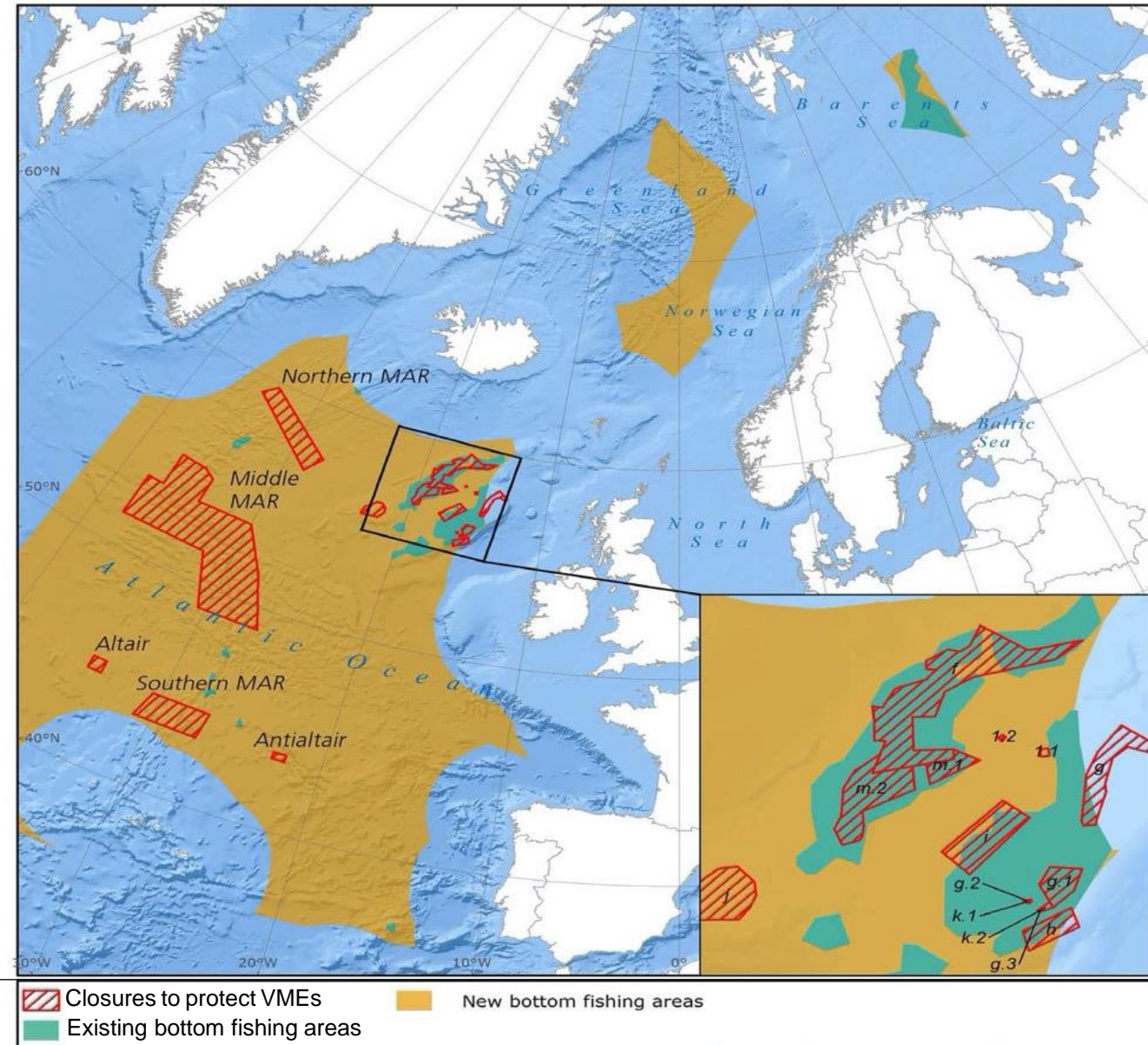


Area Based Management Tools

A binding NEAFC regulation on area management measures for the protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems

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98 % of the high seas currently restricted from bottom fishing



Informed by independent wholistic scientific advice

Precautionary Approach

Populations need to be maintained within safe biological limits - Certain that reproductive success is not impaired



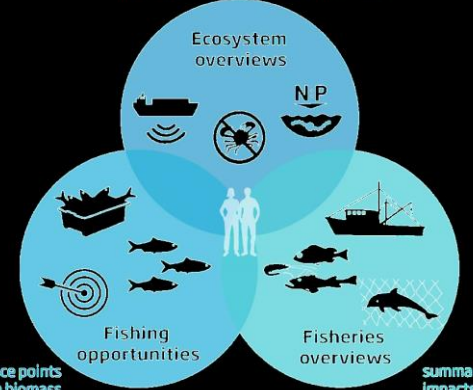
Pragmatic Ecosystem Based Management



Balancing human activities & environmental stewardship in a multiple use context.



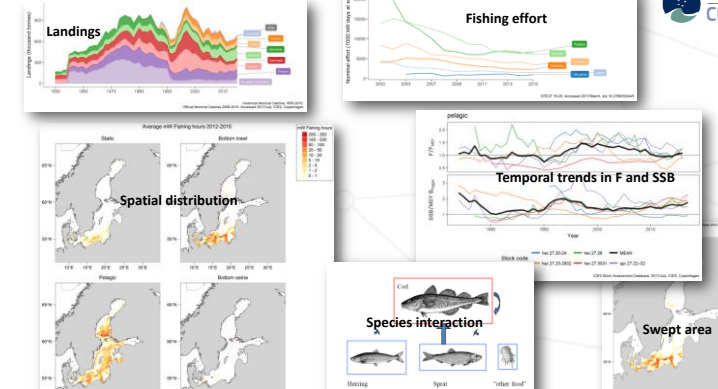
describe ecoregion context
Identify pressures & drivers
Impacts on key ecosystem components



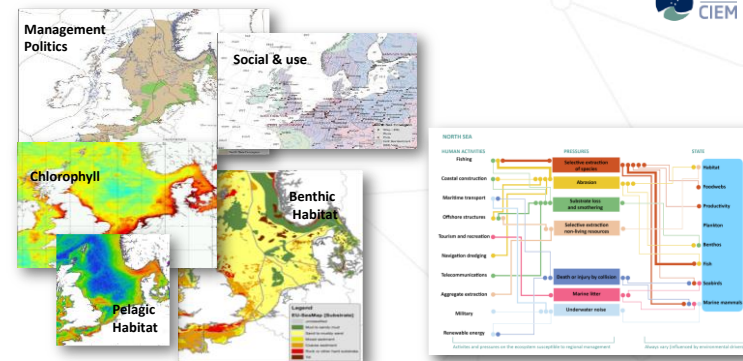
MSY options & reference points
consequences of catch on biomass
respond to changes in productivity

summarize fleet activity
Impacts of fishing & species
trade-offs between fleets

ICES Fisheries overviews



ICES Ecosystem overviews



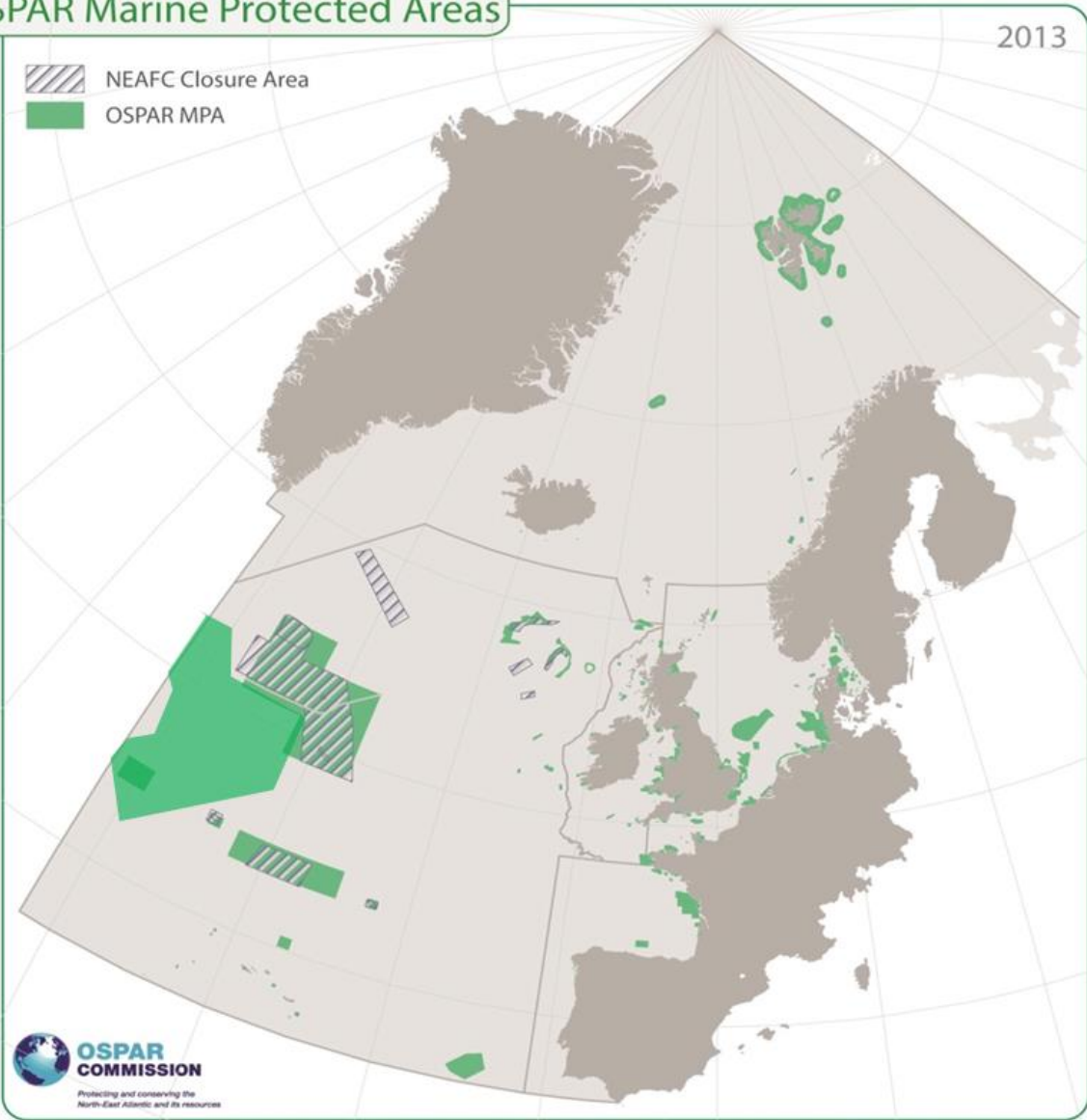
Science for sustainable seas

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 NEAFC Closure Area
 OSPAR MPA



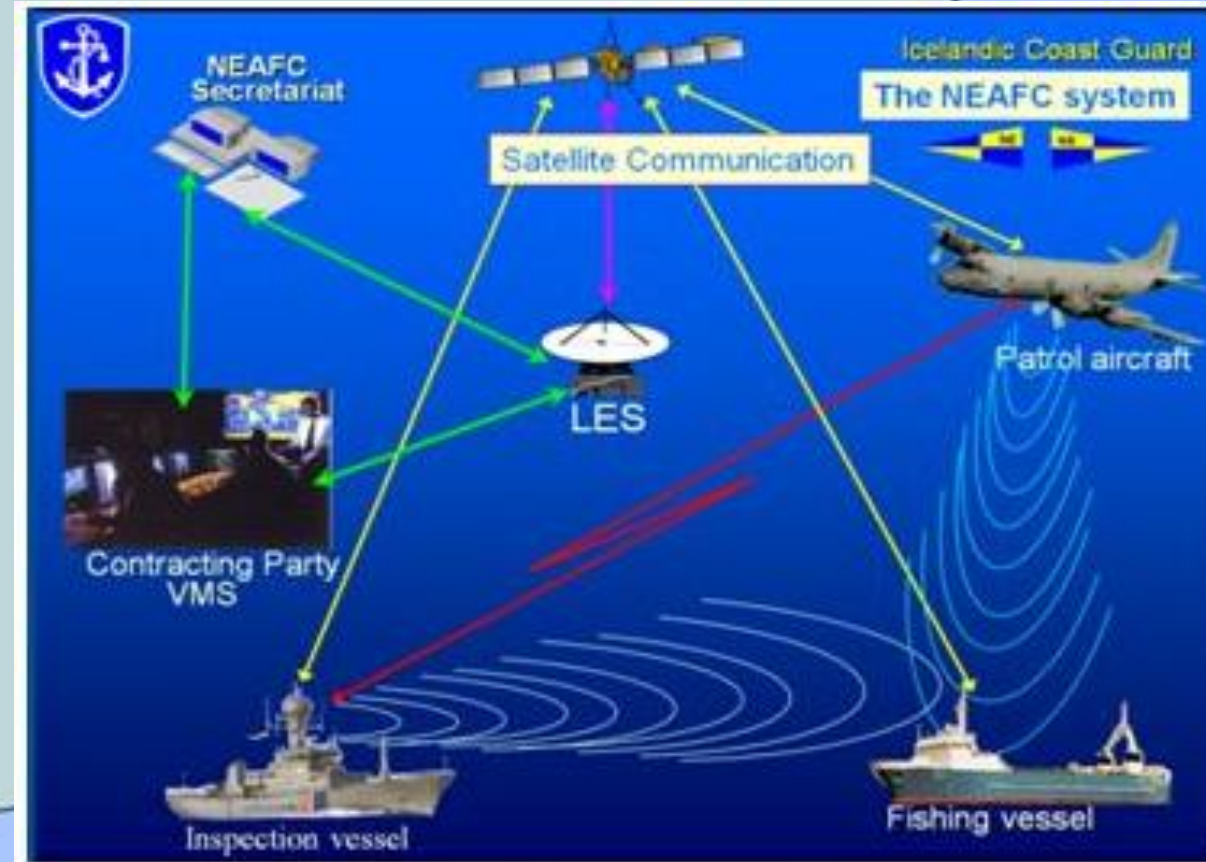
NEAFC and OSPAR meet under the Collective Arrangement

- Monitoring and assessment
- Overlap of area based designations
- Bycatch
- Ecosystem Approach
-BBNJ



Monitoring and enforcing – understanding pressures and impacts

- Vessel Monitoring System
- Port State Control
- Control of non-Contracting Parties
- Electronic Reporting System
- Automated catch and transshipment reporting
- Joint surveillance
- Inspection at Sea and Ports
- Electronic Log books



Environmental Impact Assessments

Current EIA provisions on Exploratory bottom fishing may need widening

1. **Notice of Intent** with details on data, harvest plan, gear, effort restrictions, area limits, mitigation plan, (video) gear and catch monitoring, scientific observers.
2. **Preliminary Assessment** of anticipated impacts, guided by ICES, provided to the management and science committee, PECMAS.
3. **Evaluation** by PECMAS, precautionary approach, risks of significant adverse impact on VMEs, comparison to relevant existing fisheries and based on ICES advice.
4. **Advice to the Commission** *if* exploratory bottom fishing to be approved, and any mitigation measures
5. **(if) Approved by Commission;** preference for low contact, well mapped areas, considering impacts on other organisms.
6. **Commission Review;** assess after 2 years of exploratory fishing data, before allowing fishing to be as existing activity.



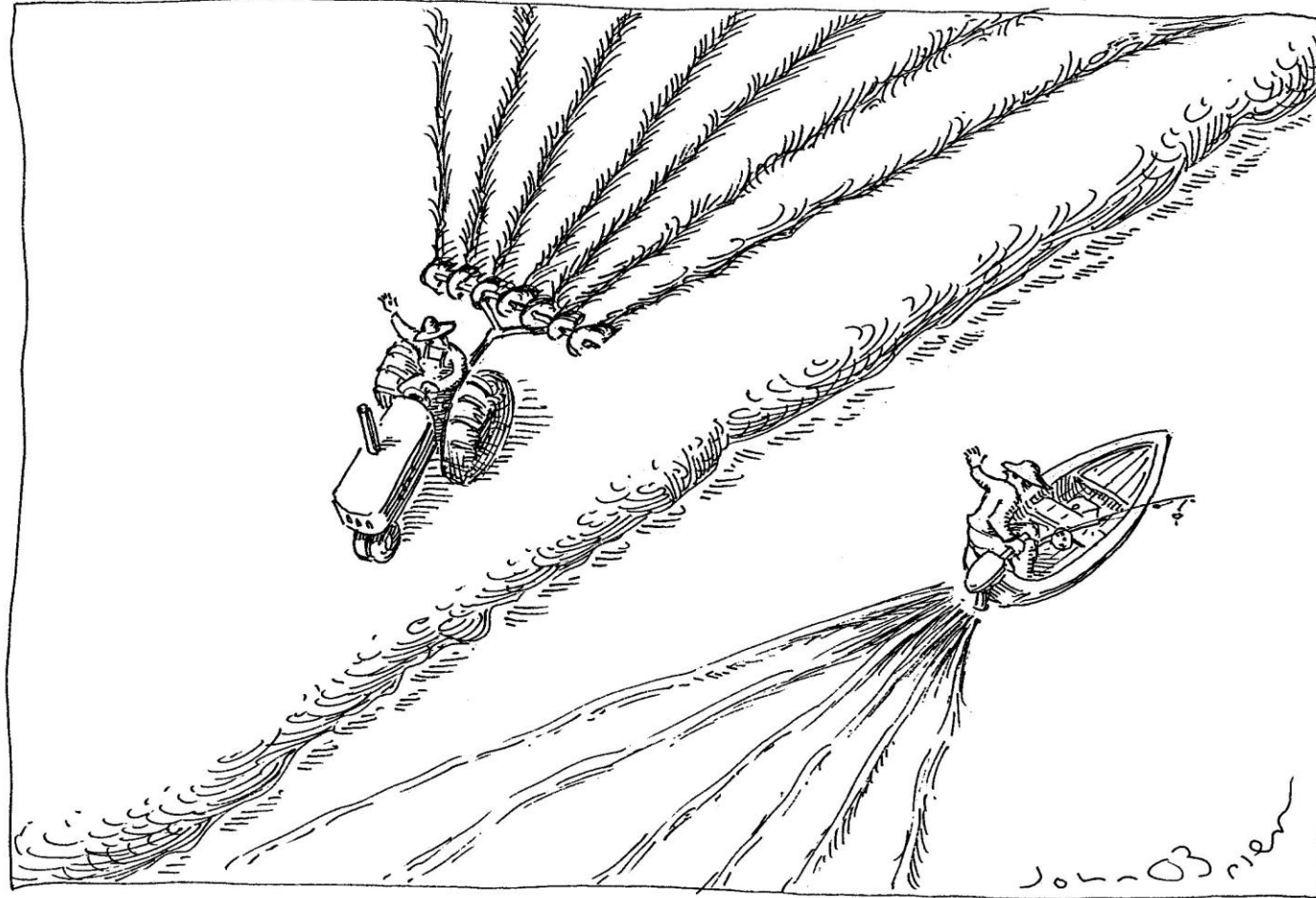
Implementing BBNJ



A lot of detail still to be resolved...



Ecosystem Approach – Balancing the pillars of sustainable development



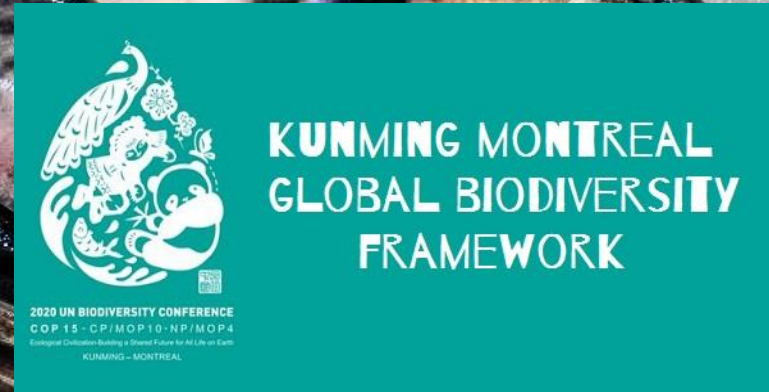
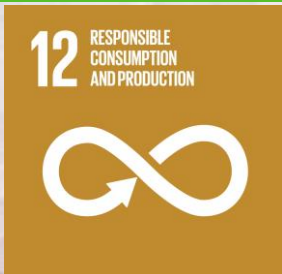
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Balancing environment, society and economics



SUSTAINABLE OCEAN INITIATIVE (SOI)

GLOBAL DIALOGUE WITH REGIONAL SEAS ORGANIZATIONS AND REGIONAL FISHERIES BODIES ON ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

SOI 세계 해양-수산 국제기구 포럼 / 26-29 September 2016 Seoul, Republic of Korea

Sponsored by RO Korea, Japan and European Commission



15 RSOs out of 18 (20 rep)

15 RFBs out of 51
(17 rep)

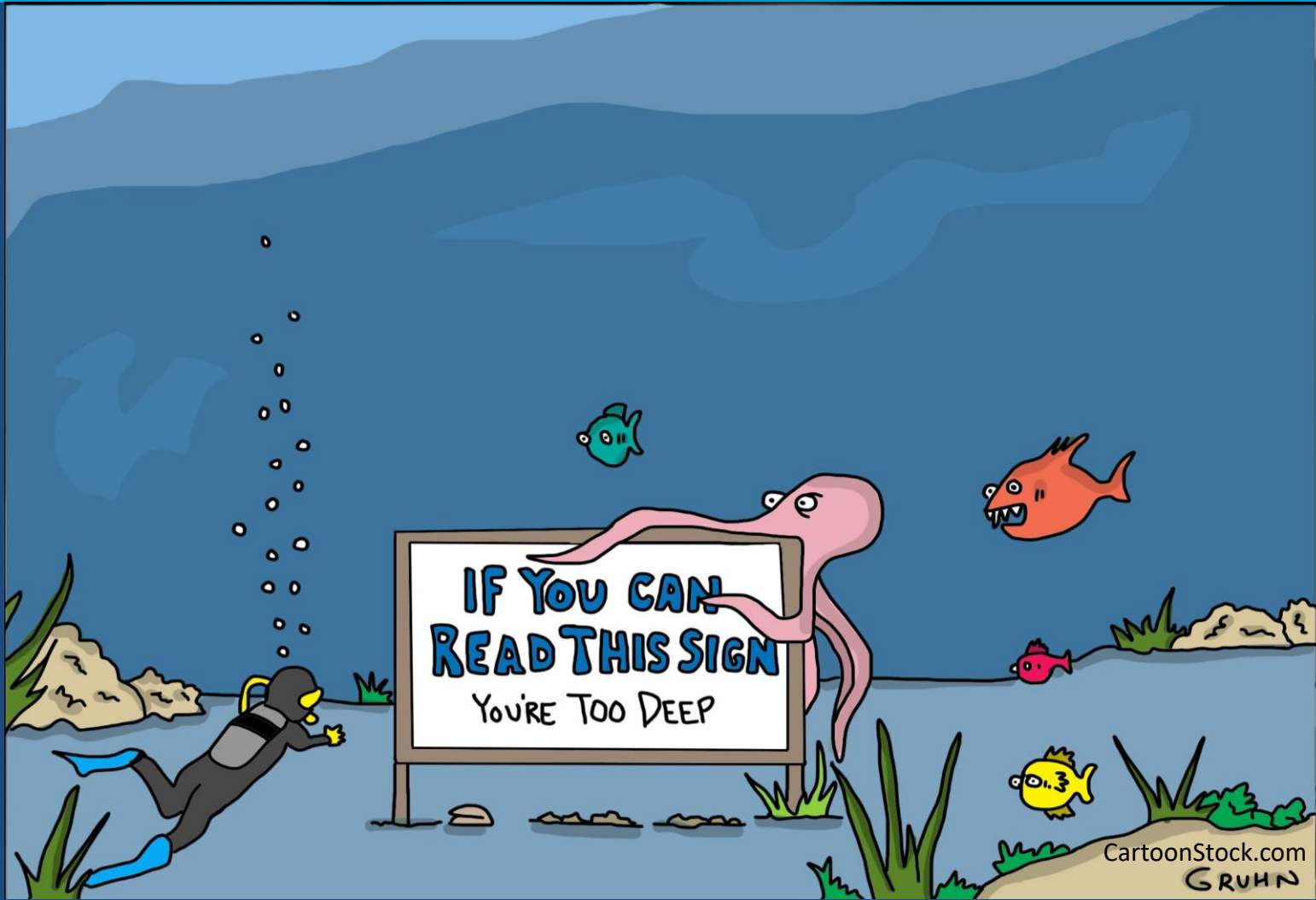
18 EU/national
gov/institutions
(53 rep)

10 UN orgs
(17 rep)

120

8 Int'l orgs
(13 rep)

Thank You..



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