

Identifying an Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measure

North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission

Dr. Darius Campbell
Secretary of NEAFC

NEAFC



North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission

NEAFC Objectives



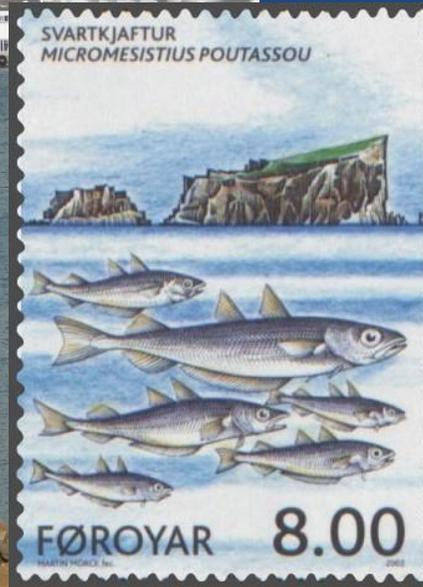
“to ensure the long-term conservation and optimum utilisation of the fishery resources in its Convention Area, providing sustainable economic, environmental and social benefits”



Convention Objectives



Economic and Social importance



Contracting Parties:

- Denmark in respect of Faroes and Greenland
- European Union
- Iceland
- Norway
- Russian Federation
- United Kingdom



The Commission shall in particular:



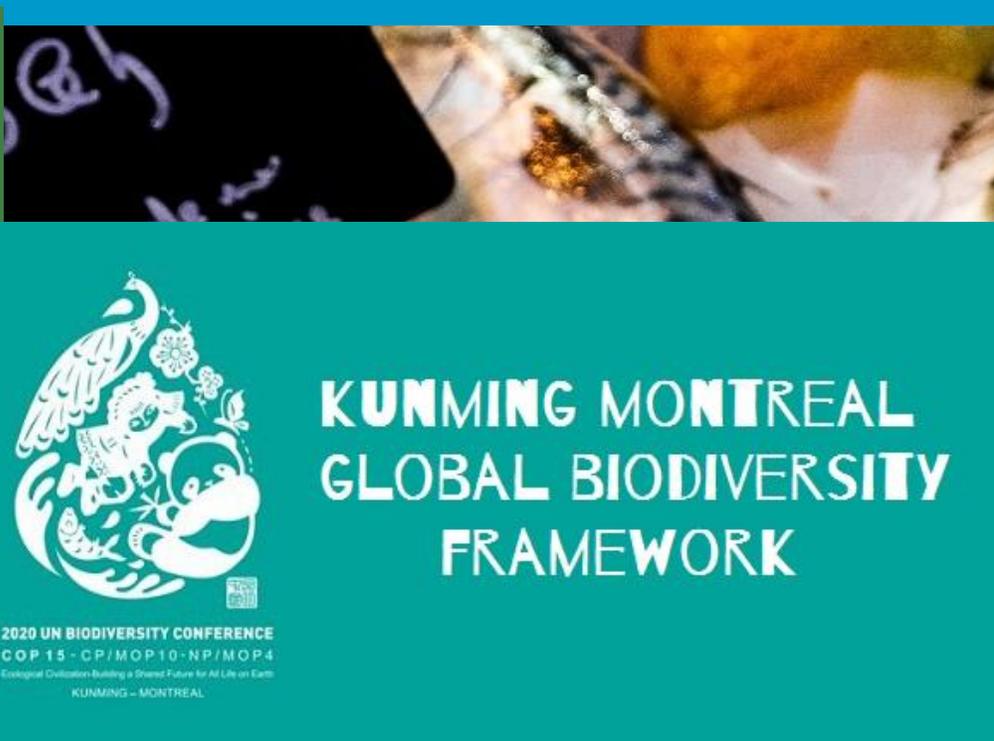
take due account of the impact of fisheries on other species and marine ecosystems... adopt... conservation and management measures that address the need to minimise harmful impacts...

take due account of the need to conserve marine biological diversity...



Photo Linda Snook / Wikimedia Commons

Balancing environment, society and economics



Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMS)



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Considering area-based measures as OECMs

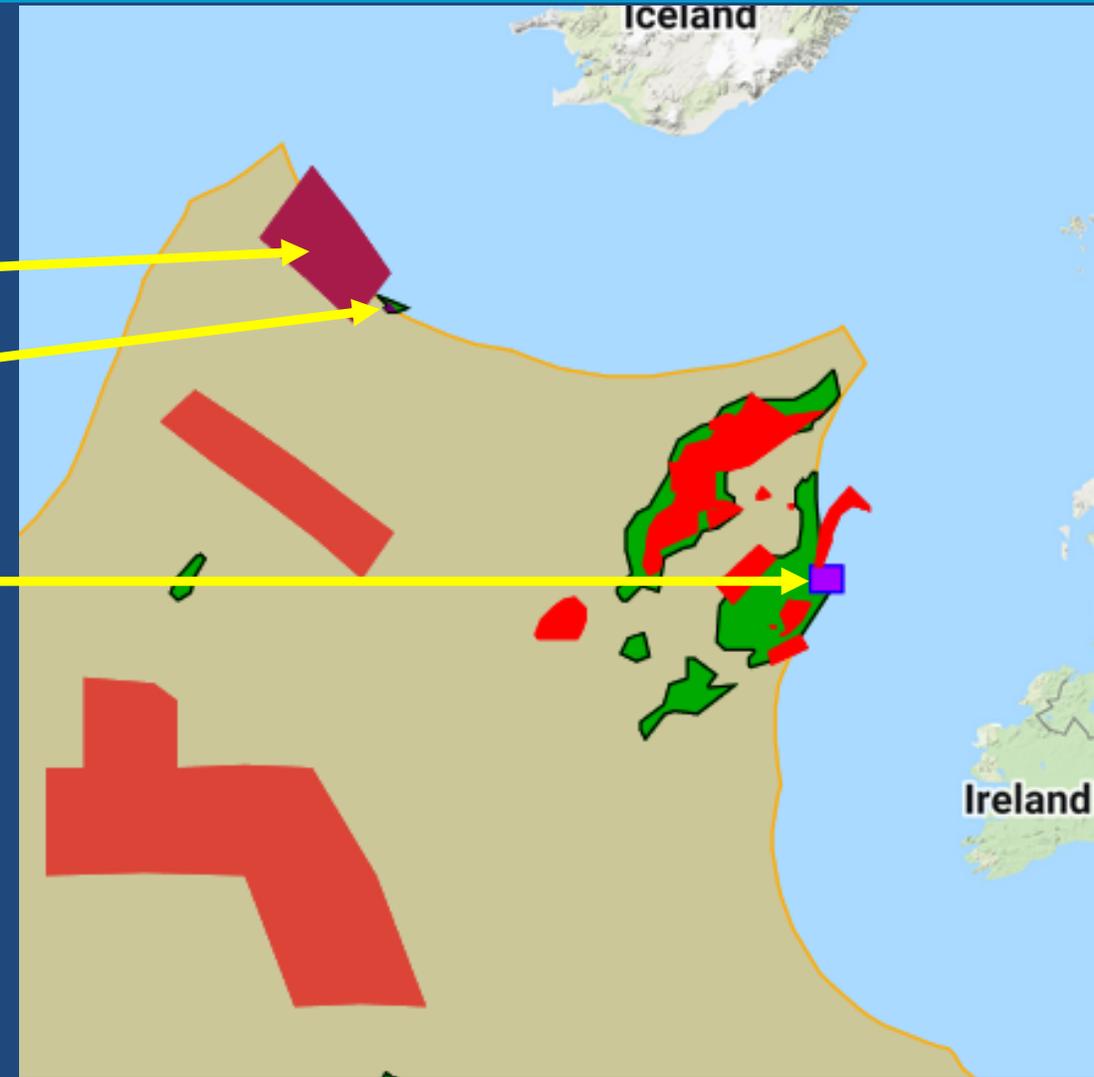
Irminger Sea redfish closure 2022-2024

Blue ling closure

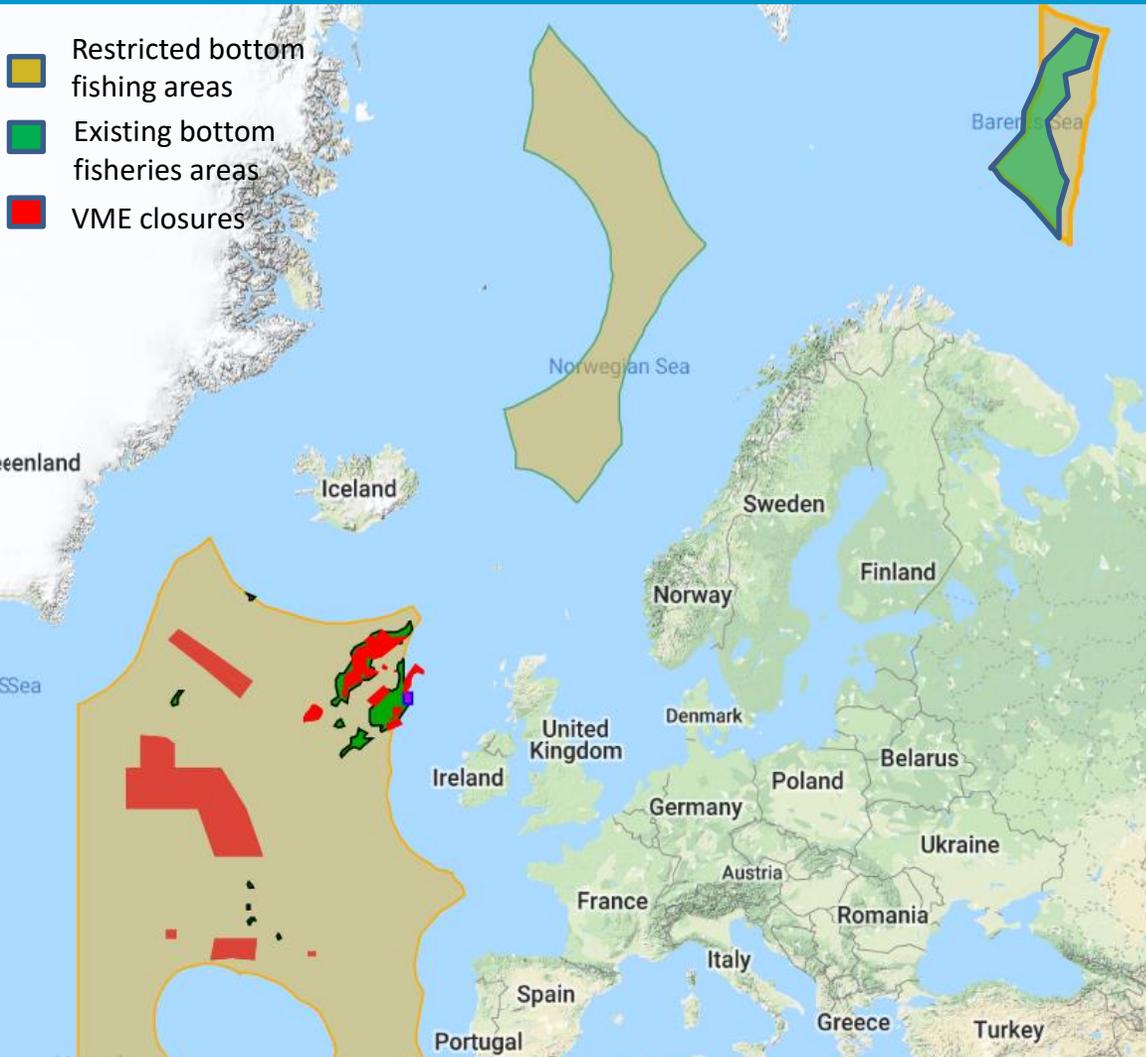
Rockall haddock box

Gill net ban in less than 200m

VME Recommendation



An area-based measure on conservation of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems



- Continued fishing in existing bottom-fisheries areas – (green -2%)
- VME Bottom fishing closures (red – 7%)
- Restricted bottom fishing areas - (buff -90%).



Filling in the OECM Template

OECM template closed areas draft V3
Previously PECMAS 2023-02-05 Annex

Template for Scientific and Other Information to Evaluate NEAFC VME Closed Areas as Potential Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)

Title/Name of the area:

Area management measures for the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) in the NEAFC Regulatory Area - Areas Closed to Bottom Fisheries for the protection of VMEs.

Prepared by:

NEAFC Ad Hoc Working Group on OECMs and the Permanent Committee on Management and Science (PECMAS).

Institution(s) in charge of assessing OECMs:

North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)

Abstract

This NEAFC area-based measure, under legally binding Recommendation (19/2014), is a closure of certain areas to all bottom contact fishing gears to prevent significant adverse impacts of fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) known to occur or likely to occur in the NEAFC Regulatory Area. NEAFC Recommendation (19/2014) also contains another area-based measure known as restricted fishing areas and regulations related to it. This measure is not assessed here.

NEAFC considers that the areas closed to bottom fisheries meets the OECM criteria as contained in Decision 14/2018 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Location

This OECM designation relates to the areas closed for the protection of VMEs under NEAFC Recommendation 19/2014 under international waters in the NEAFC Regulatory Area.

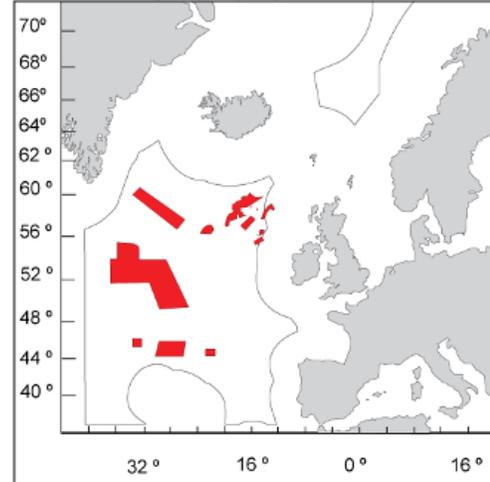
The distribution of the NEAFC areas closed to bottom fishing for the protection of VMEs is reported in Figure 1 (red areas in the map below). These areas of closures also overlap with Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) designated under the OSPAR Commission. The OSPAR MPAs are binding on all NEAFC Contracting Parties except the Russian Federation by means of their contracting party status in OSPAR. The Russian Federation is not a Contracting Party of OSPAR. The OECM criteria do not allow OECM to be designated in the same spatial (2-dimensional) area as MPAs, see Figure 2 for overlaps between the OSPAR and NEAFC measures. Figure 3 shows those areas closed to bottom fishing for the protection of VMEs that lie outside the OSPAR MPAs and can hence be recognised as OECMs. It should be noted however, that the OSPAR MPAs do not confer protection via fisheries measures, but the underlying NEAFC measures to protect VMEs nevertheless provide protection within the MPAs. This interaction between OSPAR and NEAFC measures is described in a separate narrative [see xi]. The narrative can also cover other issues arising from the three-dimensional nature of the sea versus the terrestrial more two-dimensional approach that seems to lie behind the CBD OECM criteria and the reporting system.

RM (Standard)

1/

OECM template closed areas draft V3
Previously PECMAS 2023-02-05 Annex

Figure 1: Area closures for the protection of VMEs from in the NEAFC Regulatory Area (in red)



RM (Standard)

2/

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Figure 2: NEAFC areas closed for the protection of VMEs showing overlap with OSPAR MPAs

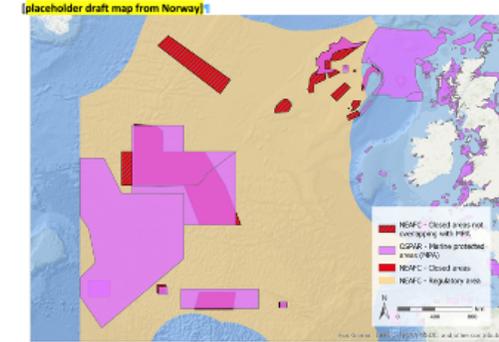
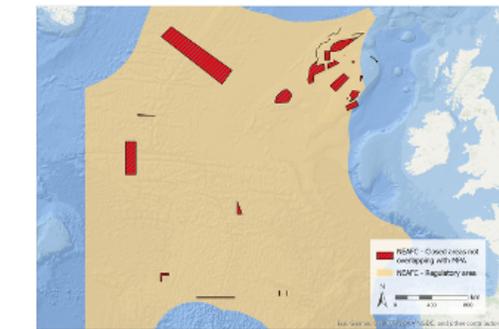


Figure 3: NEAFC areas closed for the protection of VMEs not overlapping with OSPAR MPAs



RM (Standard)

3/

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Geomorphological features of the northeast Atlantic include the major ocean basins with their vast abyssal plains, the Mid-Atlantic Ridge (MAR), and the generally wide continental shelves of the Eurasian continent and Greenland (Figure 4). The continental shelves are mostly within Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs). The subareas beyond national jurisdiction comprise 3 000-4 000 m deep basins and portions of the MAR in the north Atlantic proper and in the Norwegian-Greenland Seas. Other major features of the MAR are the ridge-associated seamount complexes and islands (Azores,

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Identify pressures and threats on biodiversity

(Inventory of known or reasonably foreseeable pressures and threats on biodiversity features, their nature, scale and source, and the range of societal and ecological values attached to the components.)

ICES prepares an Ecosystem Overview for the Oceanic Northeast Atlantic ecoregion (see figure

OECM template closed areas draft V3
Previously PECMAS 2023-02-05 Annex

ICES Ecosystem Overview, Oceanic Northeast Atlantic ecoregion (12 December 2019) quote below:

Pressures

The Oceanic Northeast Atlantic ecosystem currently and historically has fewer human activities than other



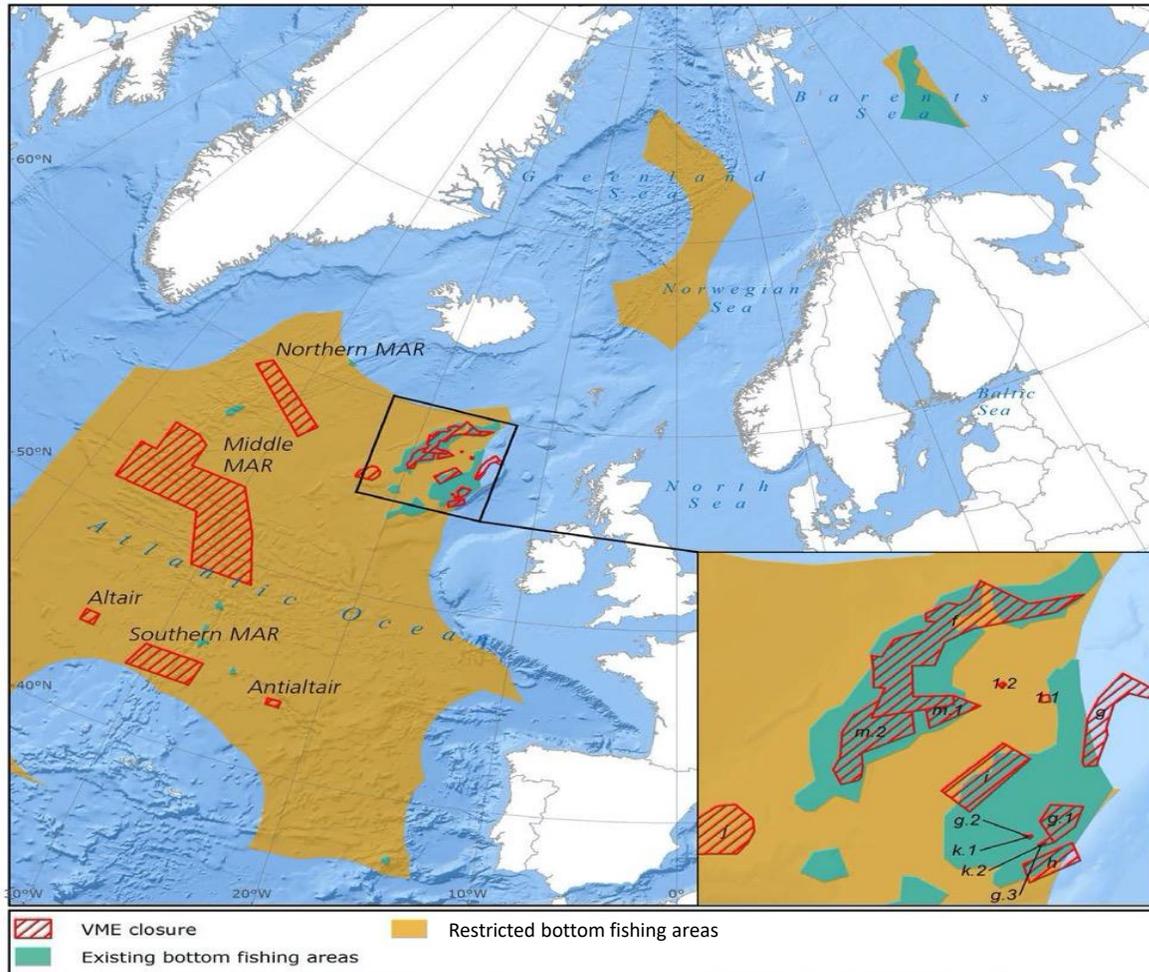


Other activities and competent authorities
– not so many in the high seas?



Photo: IFREMER

Recommendation 19:2014 on area management measures for the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems in the NEAFC Regulatory Area



- Continued fishing in (green) existing bottom-fisheries areas
- VME Bottom fishing closures (red)
- Restricted bottom fishing areas - (buff)
- Annex 5: indicator species and physical elements
- Protocol for exploratory fishing.

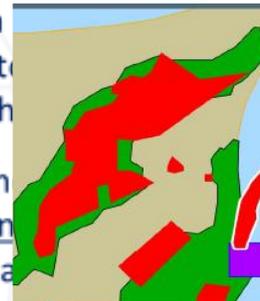


Annual advice and 5-yearly Renewals - ICES

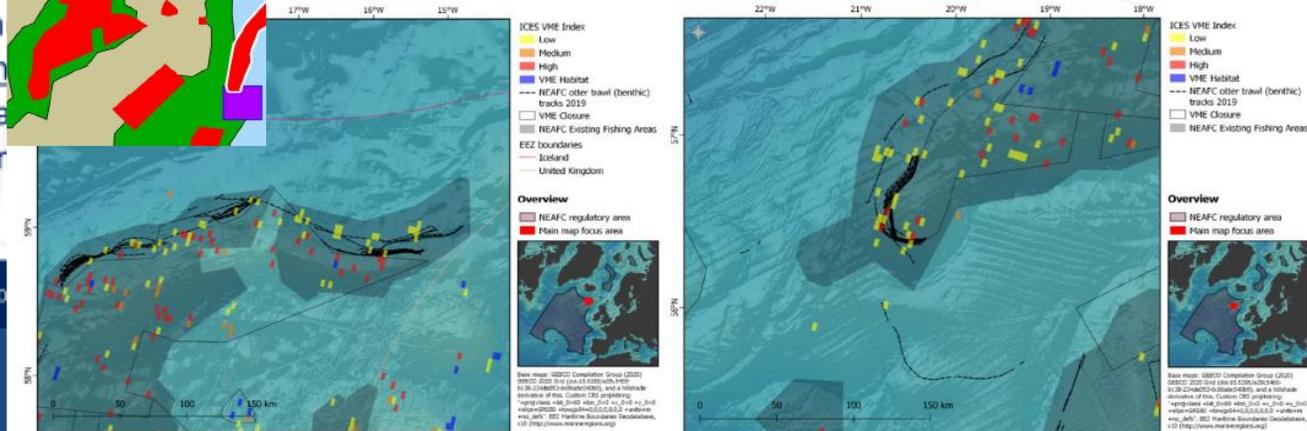
New information regarding vulnerable habitats in NEAFC Regulatory Area.



- ICES advises to maintain the existing closed areas to protect VMEs. No additions to, or extensions of, the existing closed areas to protect VMEs are advised at this time.
- ICES notes that bottom-fishing activity was observed in a VME closure area on 2020 and occurred outside of the existing NEAFC bottom-fishing areas on Hatton Bank NEAFC Regulatory Area 3 in the Barents Sea. (based on current analytical methods)
- ICES advises that any bottom-contact fishing on VME habitats using static or mobile contacting gears will result in damage to these habitats and poses a risk of significant impacts (as described by FAO [2009]). The inclusion of gear code in the daily catch data would greatly improve the VMS data and understanding of potential adverse impacts from bottom-fishing activity on VMEs.



Hatton Bank Closures

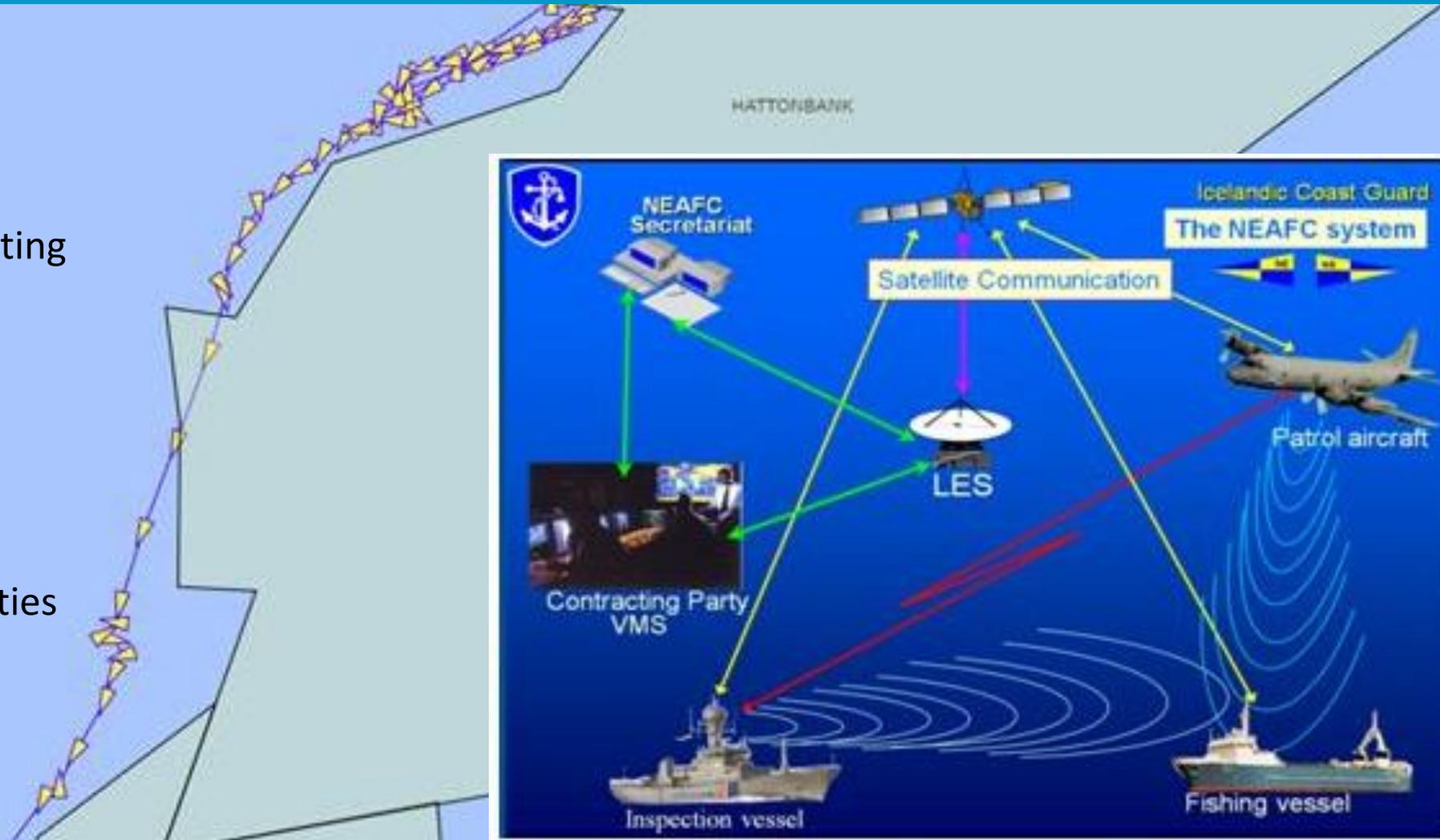


- Minor infringements occurred in and near the Hatton Bank closures

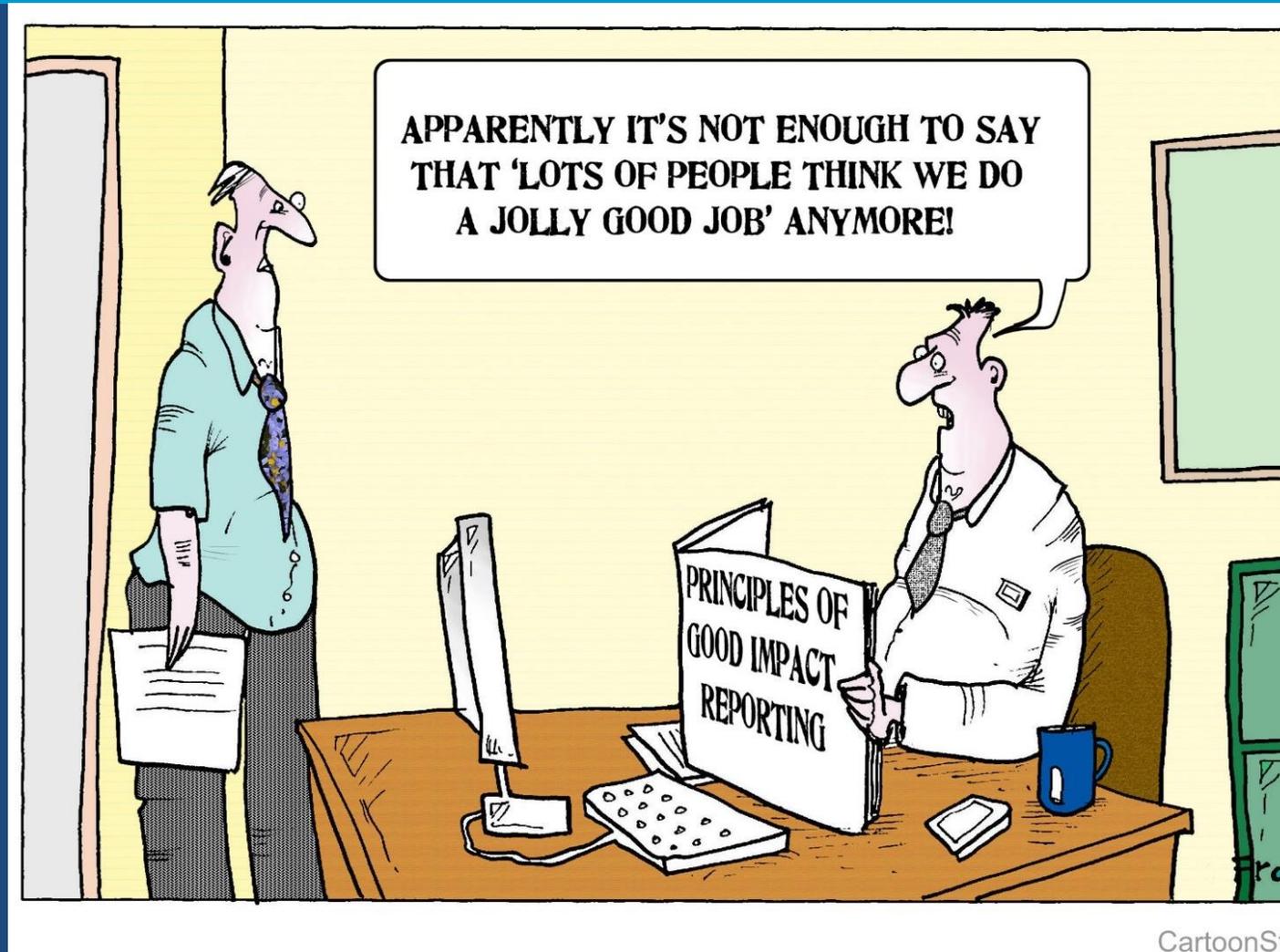


Management and Monitoring of Pressure

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



Monitoring of Biodiversity/Impacts



ICES advice on benefits of measures

Specific Location Name Following NEAFC (Location Code)	Biodiversity Attribute					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Mid Atlantic VME Closures (1)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Middle MAR Area (Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone and sub-Polar Frontal Region) (1a)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Southern MAR Area (1b)	✓	✓			✓	✓
Northern MAR Area (1c)	✓	✓			✓	✓
Antialtair Seamount (1d)	✓	✓			✓	✓
Altair Seamount (1e)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Rockall Haddock box (2)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Hatton Rockall VME Closures (3)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hatton Bank 2, Area 2 (3a)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Hatton Bank 2, Area 1 (3b)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Hatton–Rockall Basin, Area 1 (3c)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Hatton–Rockall Basin, Area 2 (3d)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Southwest Rockall Bank 2 (3e)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Southwest Rockall Bank 1 (3f)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Edora’s Bank (3g)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
West Rockall Mounds (3h)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Logachev Mounds (3i)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Rockall Bank; South-West Rockall (Empress of Britain Bank), Area 3 (3j)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Rockall Bank; South-West Rockall (Empress of Britain Bank) Area 2 (3k)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Rockall Bank; South-West Rockall (Empress of Britain Bank) Area 1 (3l)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Rockall Bank; North West Rockall (3m)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Hatton Bank (3n)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Irminger Sea Redfish Closure (4)		✓	✓		✓	✓

How long is a long-term benefit?



ICES Ecosystem overviews- Oceanic North East Atlantic

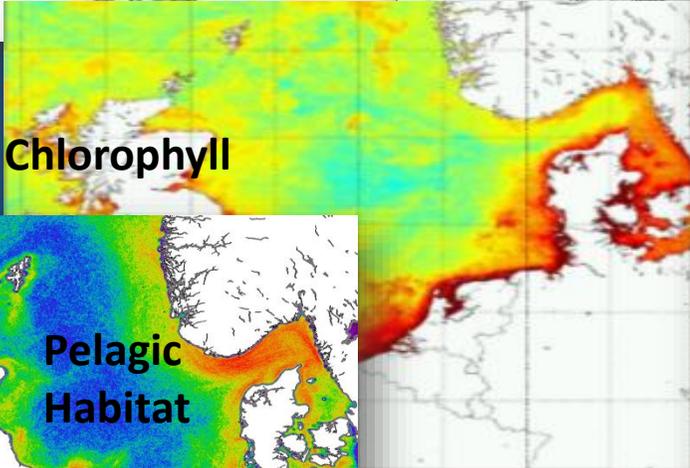
Management
Politics



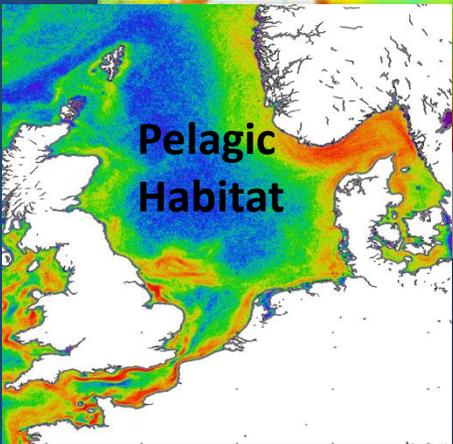
Social & use



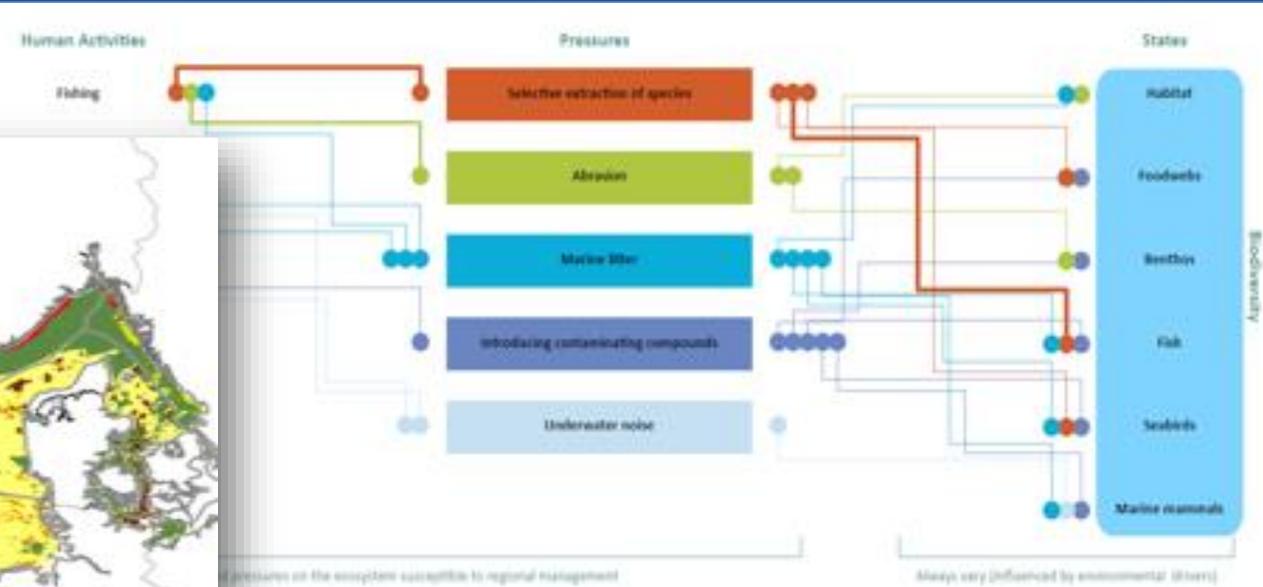
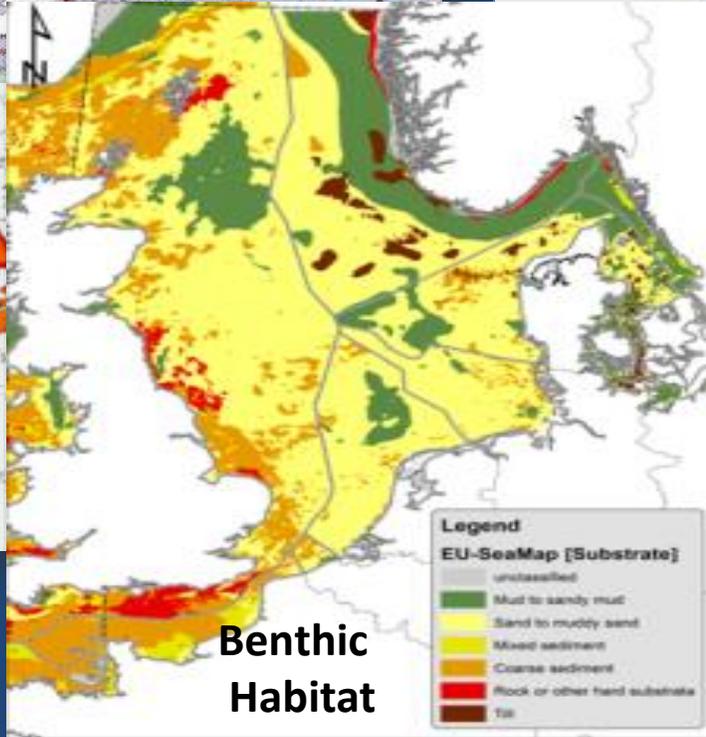
Chlorophyll



Pelagic
Habitat



Benthic
Habitat

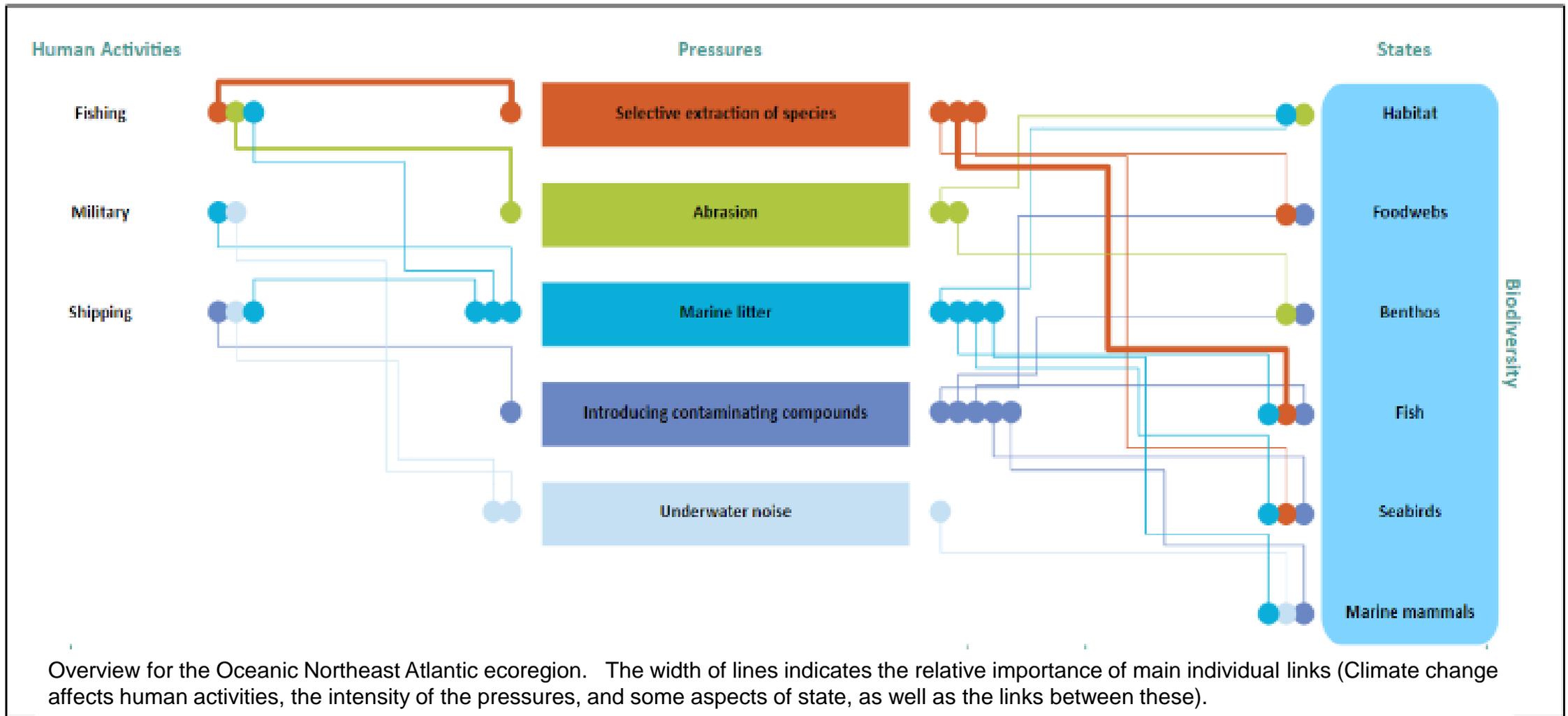


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ICES Ecosystem overviews – pressures and threats



IMO, ISA and OSPAR

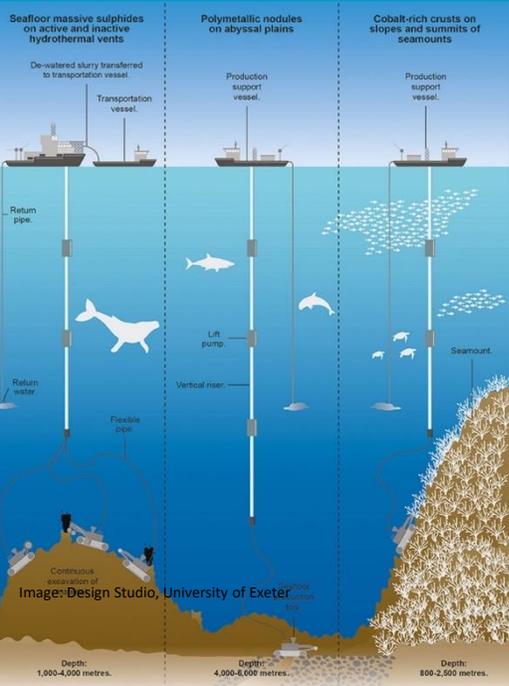
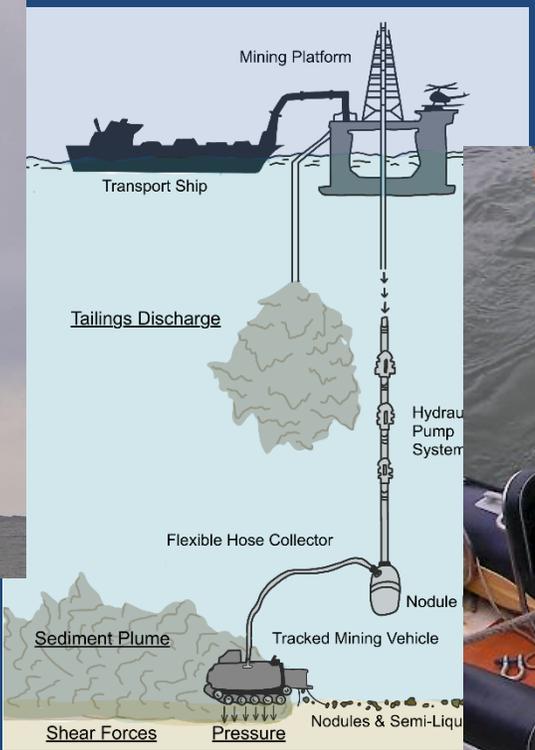


Image: Design Studio, University of Exeter



Image: Kees Torn, Wikicommons



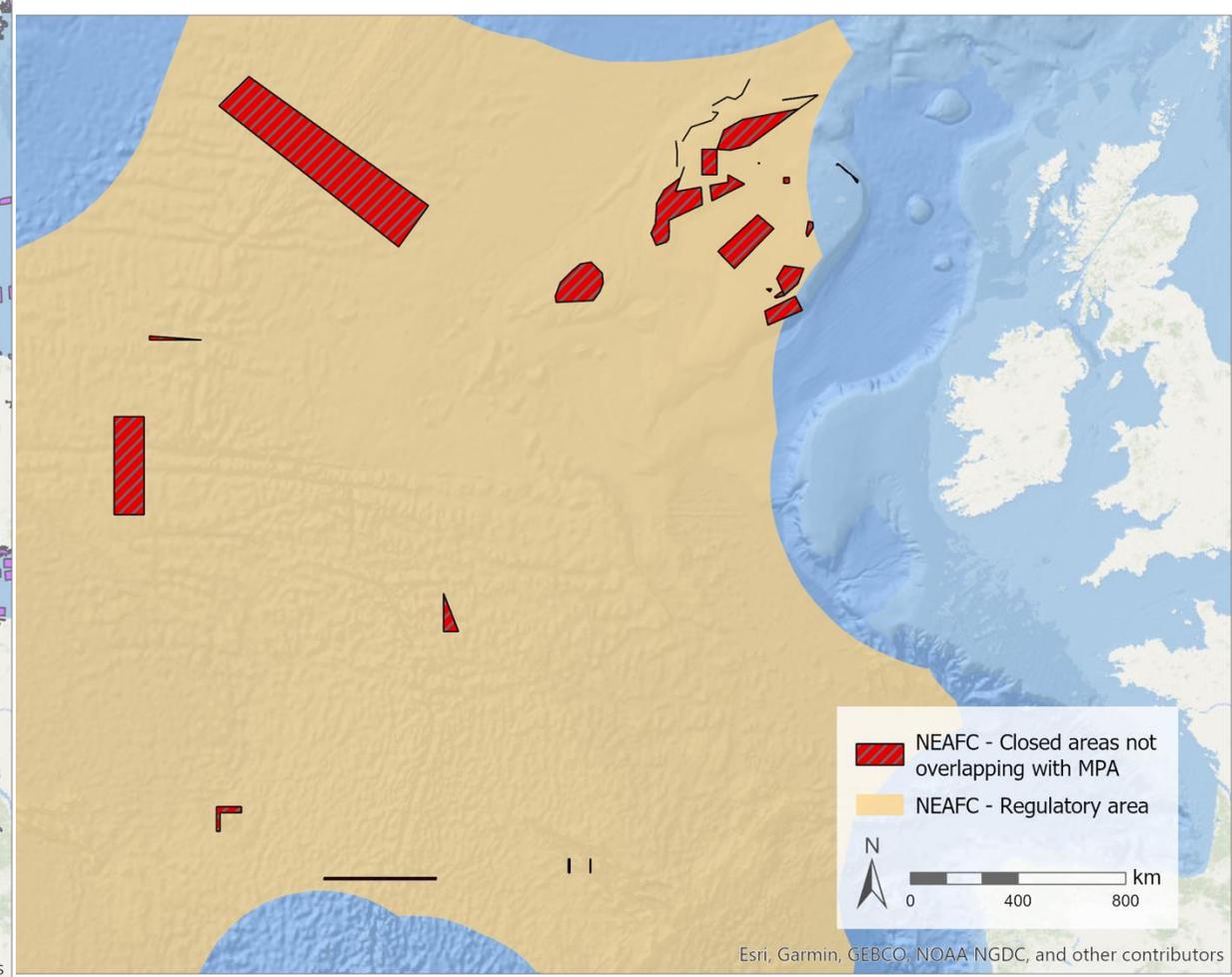
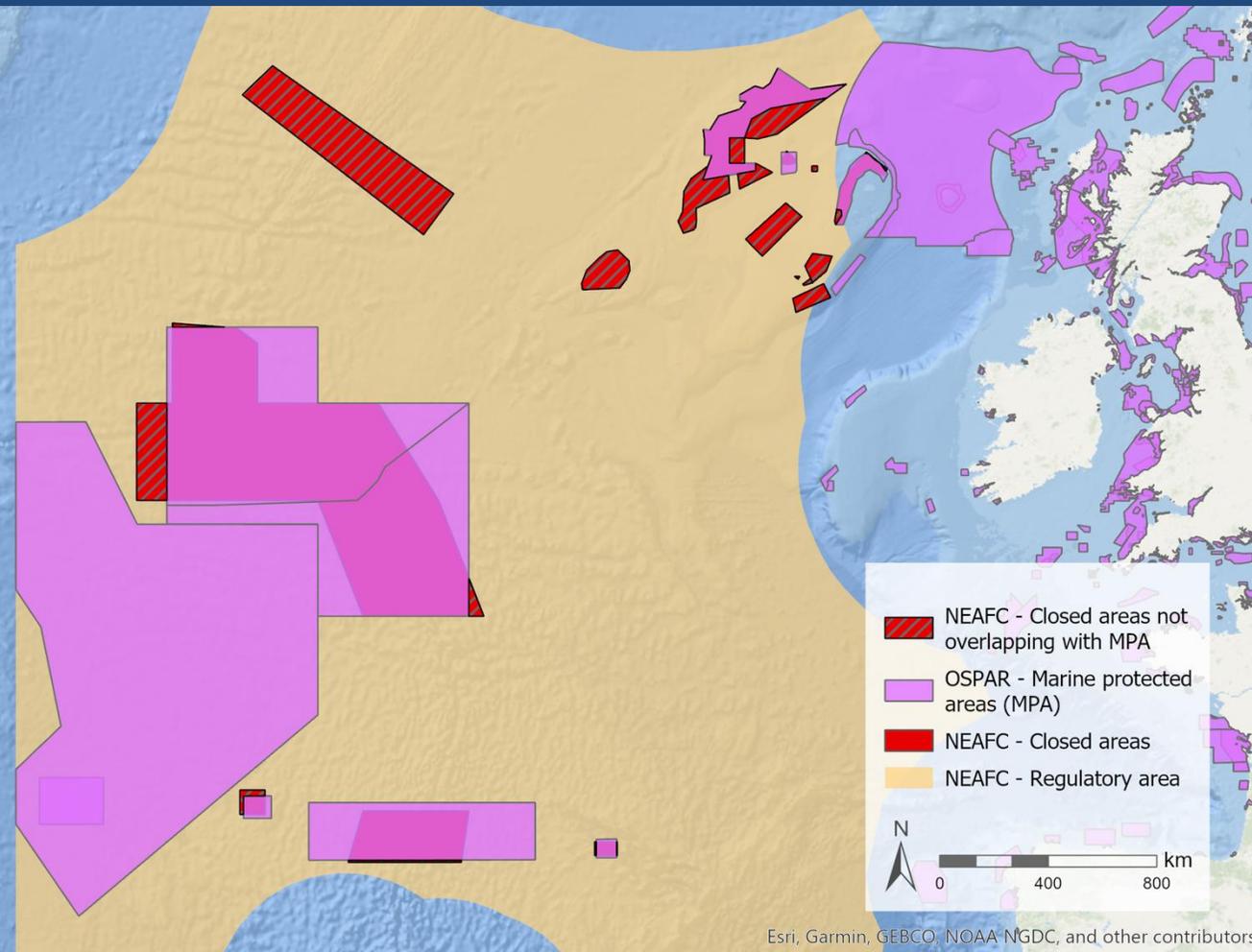
Dynamic cooperation in management of the oceans



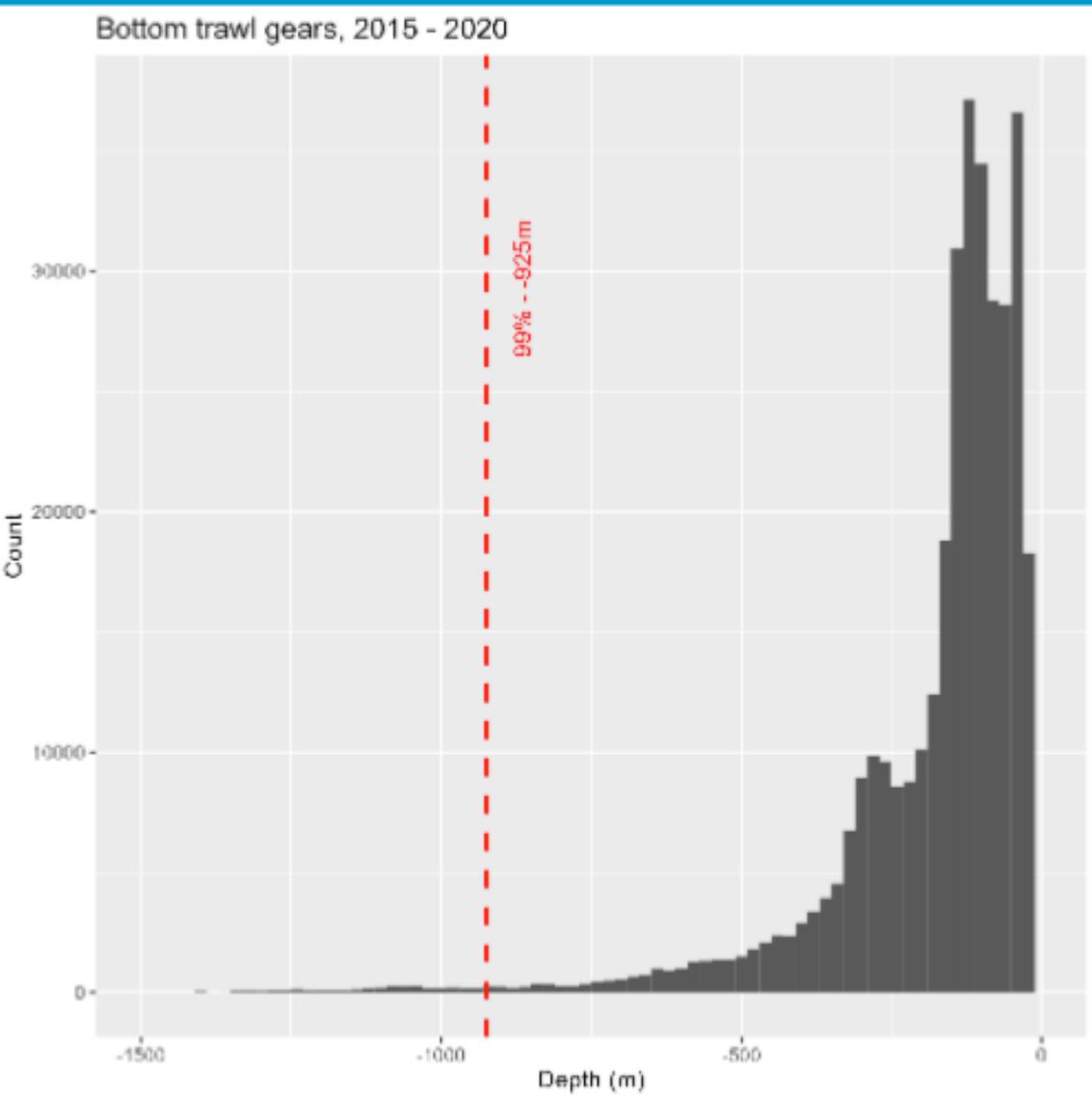
NEAFC

Image from Gameloft/Playing4thePlanet.org

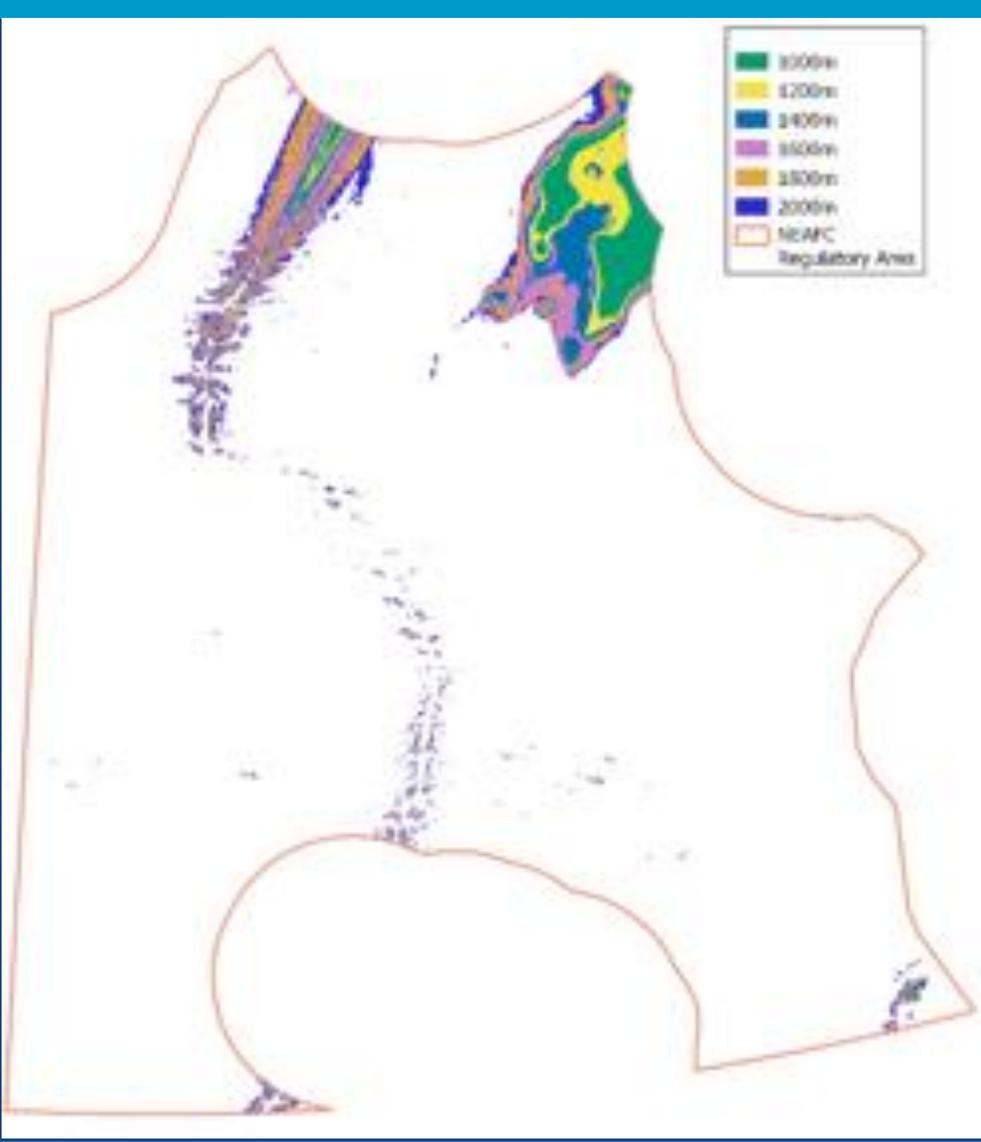
Overlap of measures, sectors and information



Not overstating benefits of restricted bottom fishing areas



ICES advice on
depth of fishing
gears ...
and bathymetry of
NEAFC Regulatory
Area

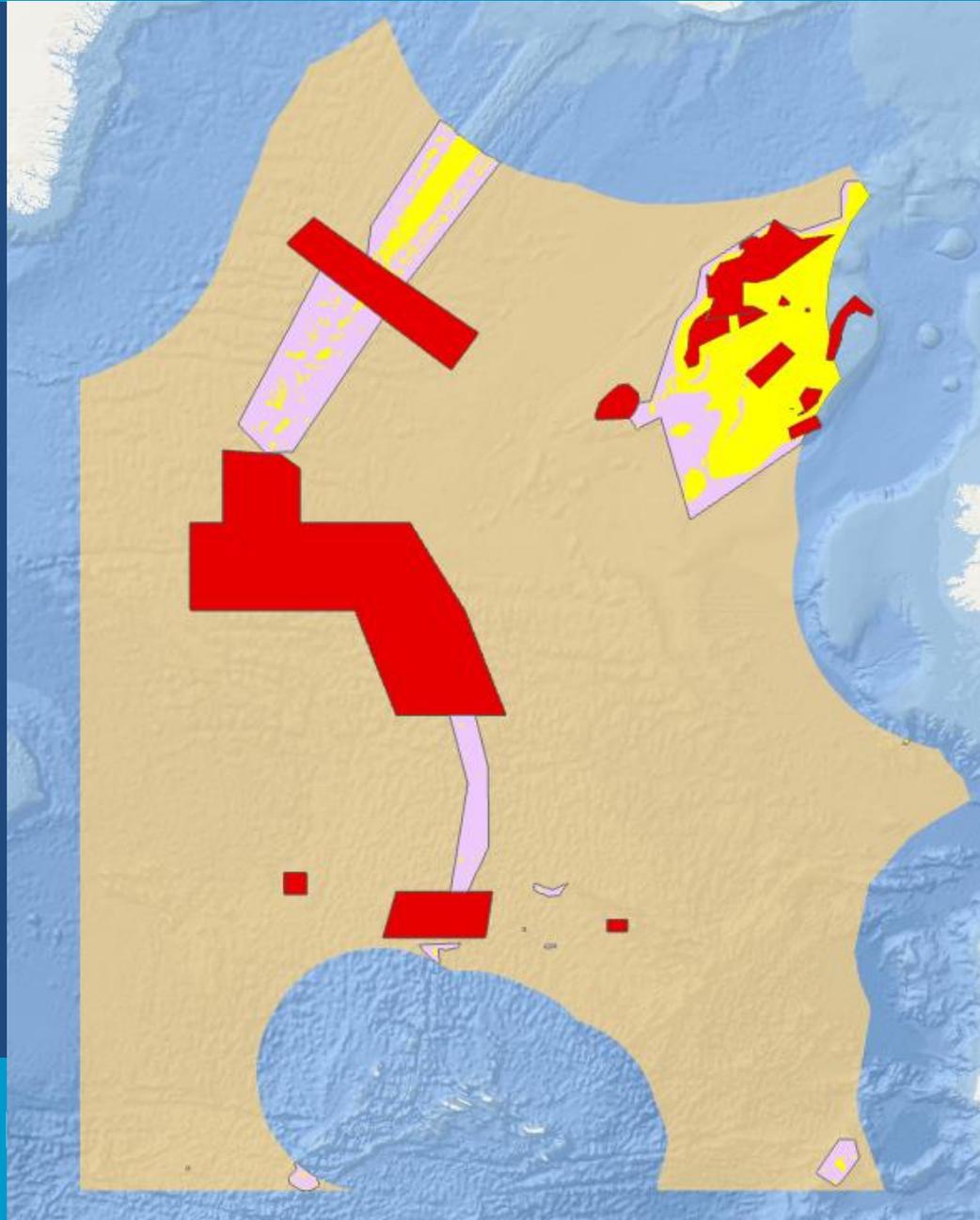


Not overstating benefits of restricted bottom fishing areas

Potential OECM identification based on restricted bottom fishing areas at a depth shallower than 1400m

Yellow: Areas shallower than 1400m (max fishing depth)

Lilac: Potential Restricted Area OECM outlines

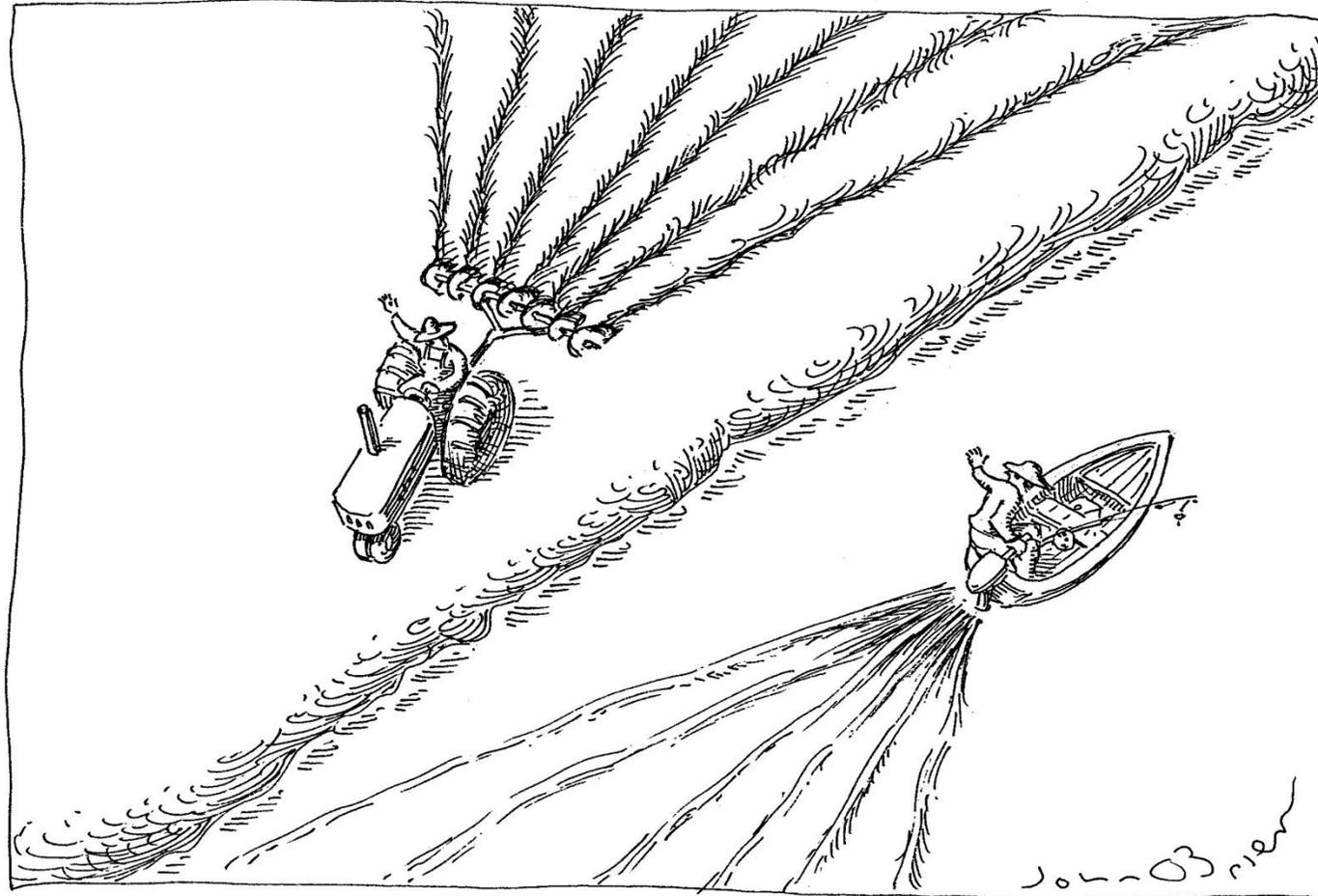


Ask ICES - biodiversity attributes for just the <1400m areas?

Specific Location Name Following NEAFC (Location Code)	Biodiversity Attribute					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Mid Atlantic VME Closures (1)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Middle MAR Area (Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone and sub-Polar Frontal Region) (1a)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
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Altair Seamount (1e)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
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Rockall Bank; South-West Rockall (Empress of Britain Bank) Area 1 (3l)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Rockall Bank; North West Rockall (3m)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Hatton Bank (3n)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Irminger Sea Redfish Closure (4)		✓	✓		✓	✓



Consulting local communities?



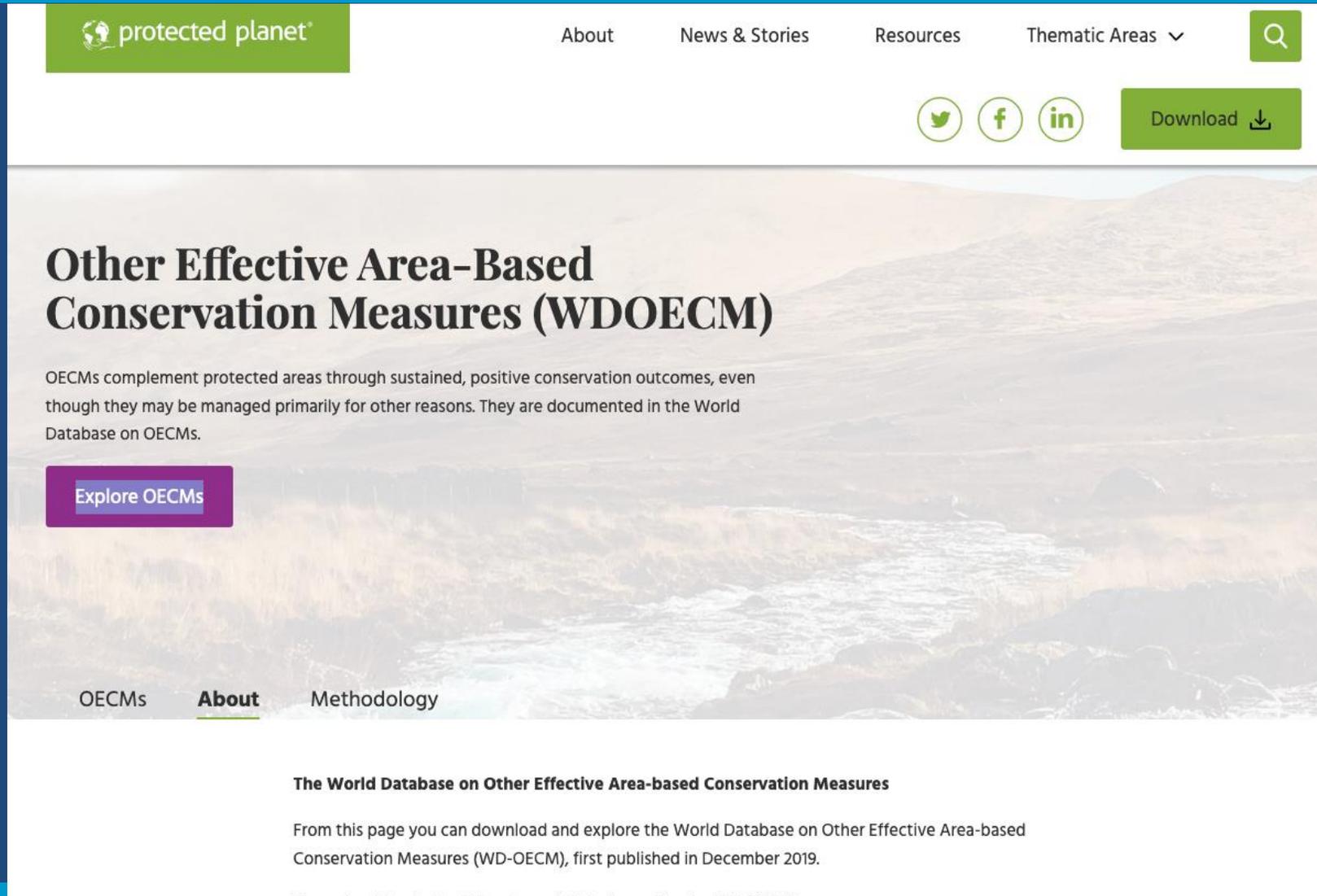
CartoonStock.com

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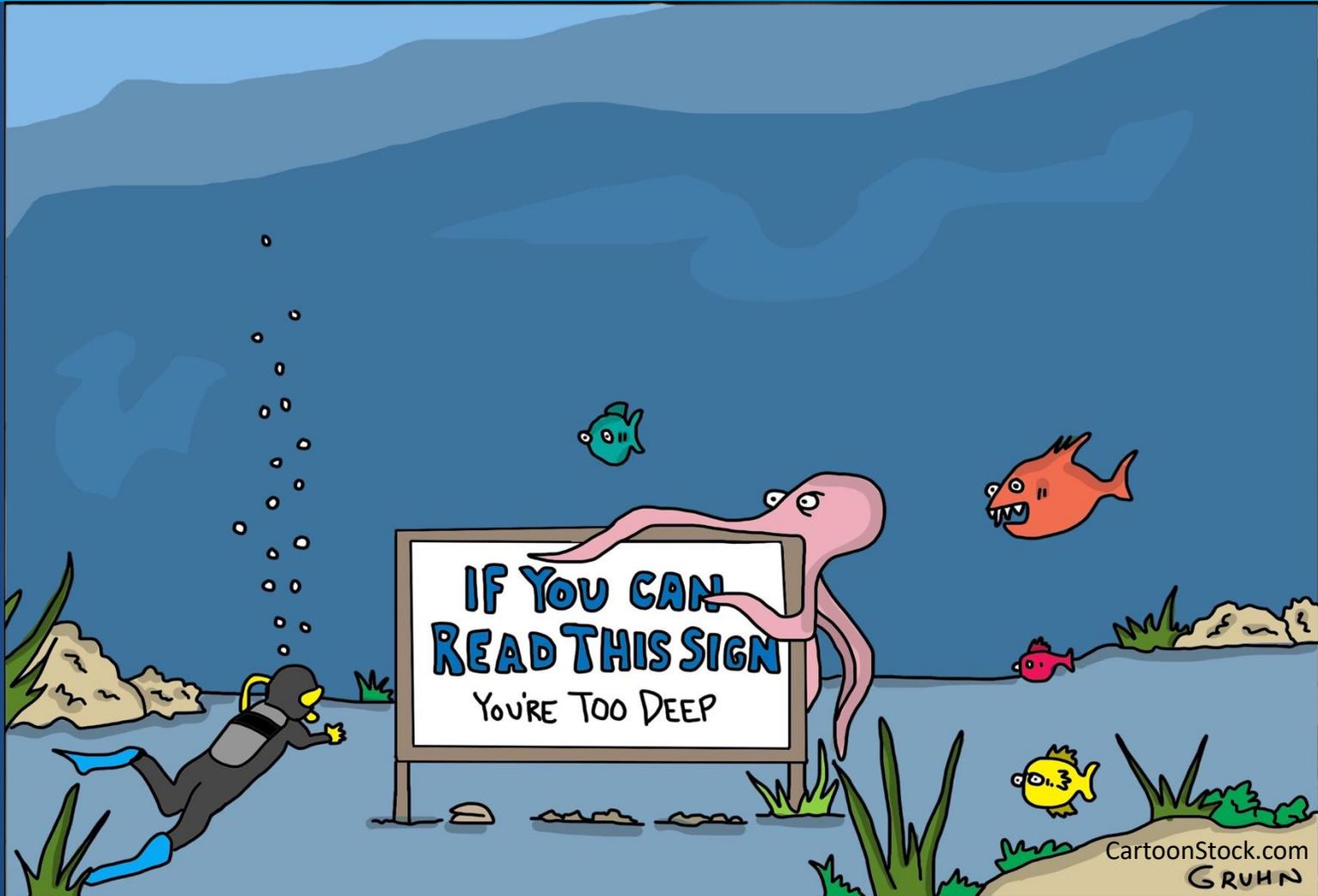
The last step - reporting...



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Protected Planet website. The logo 'protected planet' is on the left. Navigation links include 'About', 'News & Stories', 'Resources', and 'Thematic Areas' with a dropdown arrow. A search icon is on the right. Below the navigation bar are social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn, and a green 'Download' button with a download icon. The main content area features a large background image of a river flowing through a hilly landscape. The title 'Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (WDOECM)' is prominently displayed. Below the title is a short paragraph explaining that OECMs complement protected areas through sustained, positive conservation outcomes. A purple button labeled 'Explore OECMs' is positioned below the text. At the bottom of the main content area, there is a breadcrumb trail: 'OECMs' > 'About' (underlined) > 'Methodology'. Below this is a section titled 'The World Database on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures' with a sub-header. The text below states: 'From this page you can download and explore the World Database on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (WD-OECM), first published in December 2019.'



Thank You..



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