



Symposium and North Atlantic Stakeholder Workshop – Copenhagen 18 February 2025

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AGENDA

- Stakeholder Engagement activities (10 min)
- Panel talks (40 mins)
- Facilitated Q&A and open discussion (45 min)
- Wrap-up + shared short report post-workshop (5 min)



PANEL TALKS:

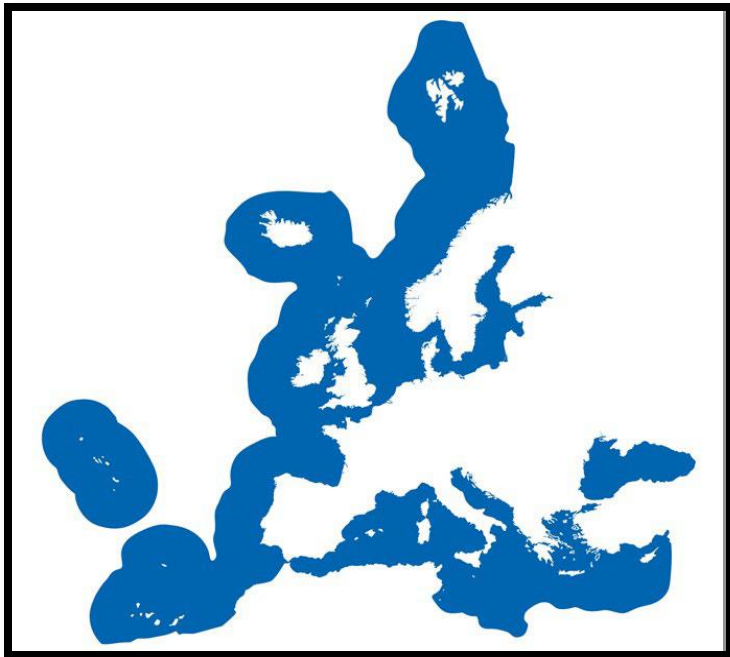
- 1) **MPAs in Ireland: science, suitability and space use** - Oliver Ó Cadhla, Ireland Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage;
- 2) **The view of fishers on MSP – a way to reduce spatial squeeze?** - Kenn Skau Fischer, Executive Committee Chair, North Sea Advisory Council;
- 3) **Reflections on MPA Network Designations and MPA Management** - Thomas Kirk Sørensen, WWF Denmark;
- 4) **Offshore wind farms and MPAs: A wind farm developer and operator's perspective** – Emma Hospes, Head of Environment, Permitting & Defence CoEx, Ørsted.

SYSTEMATIC CONSERVATION PLANNING

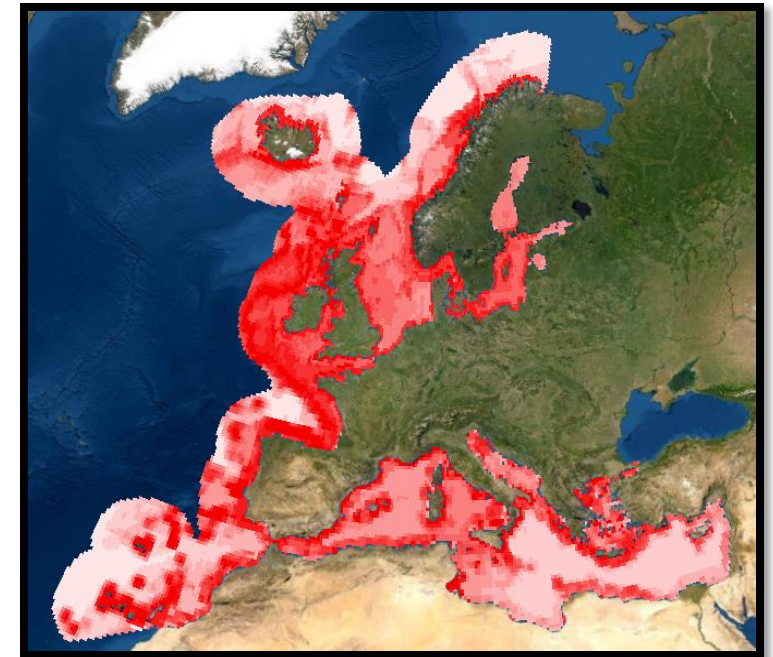
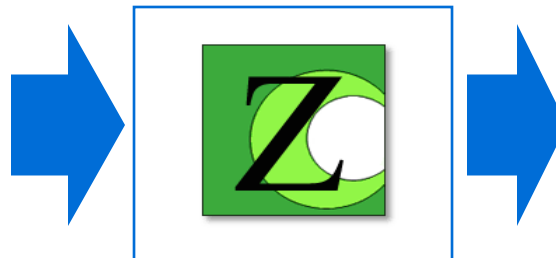
GOAL

MPA Europe is mapping the **optimal locations** for Marine Protected Areas in European seas to support **science-based** Marine Spatial Planning

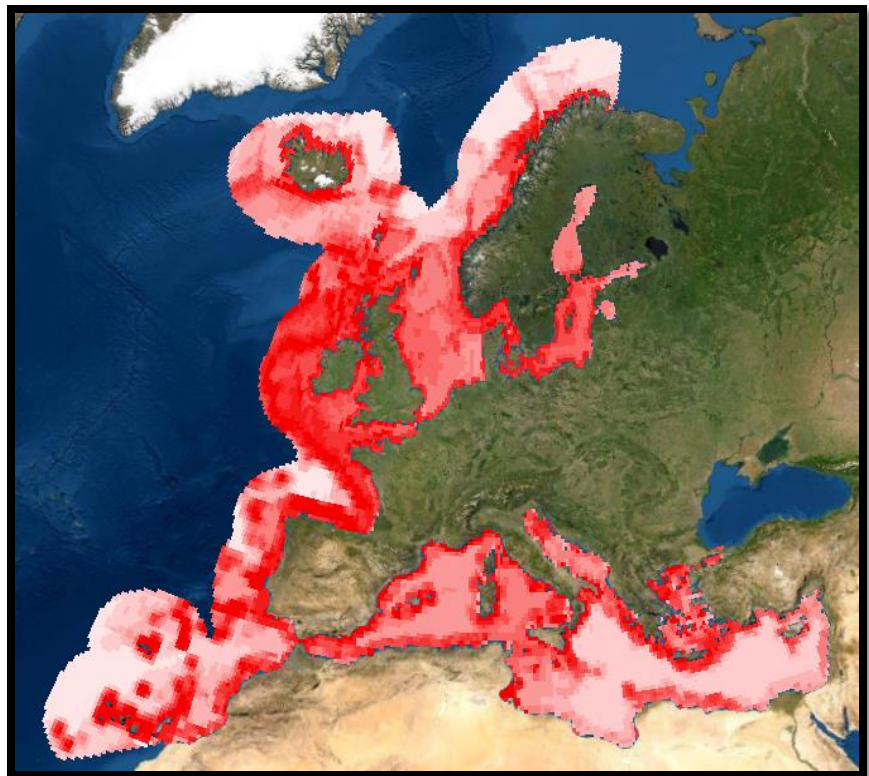
APPROACH



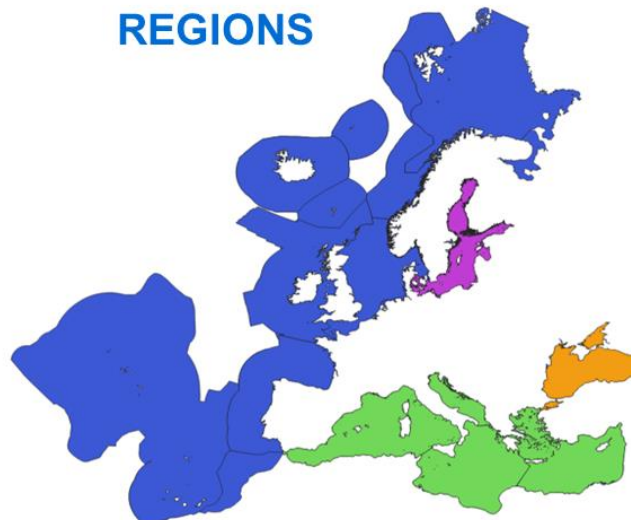
SYSTEMATIC
CONSERVATION
PLANNING (SCP)



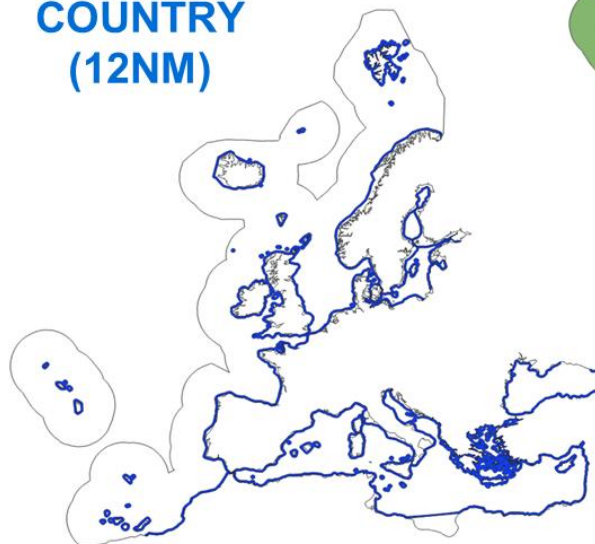
PRIORITISATION AT VARYING SPATIAL SCALES



REGIONS



COUNTRY
(12NM)

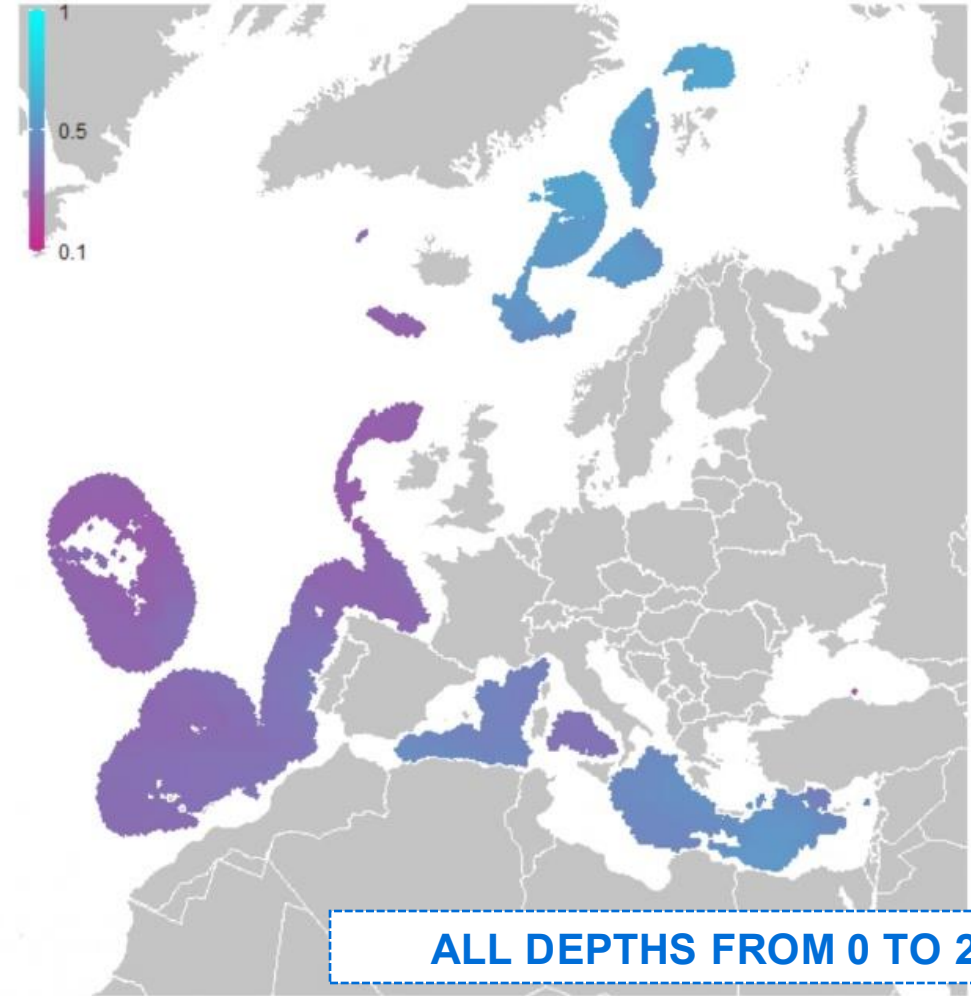
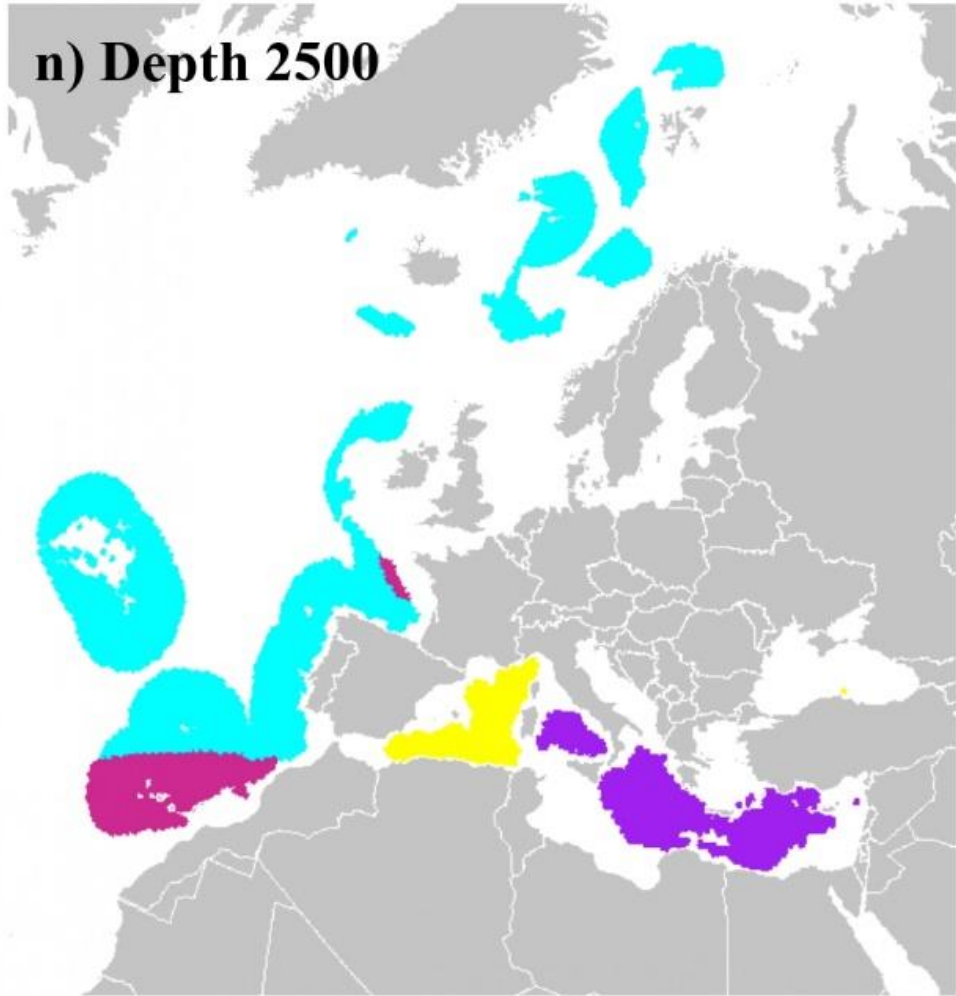


COUNTRY
(EEZ)



ECOSYSTEM CLASSIFICATION – 3D

- Cluster 1
- Cluster 2
- Cluster 3
- Cluster 4
- Cluster 5
- Cluster 6
- Cluster 7
- Cluster 8



European **depth-integrated** marine ecosystems classification estimated by k-means clustering analysis of environmental data (left) AND their assignment precision based on fuzzy logic (right)

12,000 species distribution models for all five IPCC climate change scenarios to 2050 and 2100

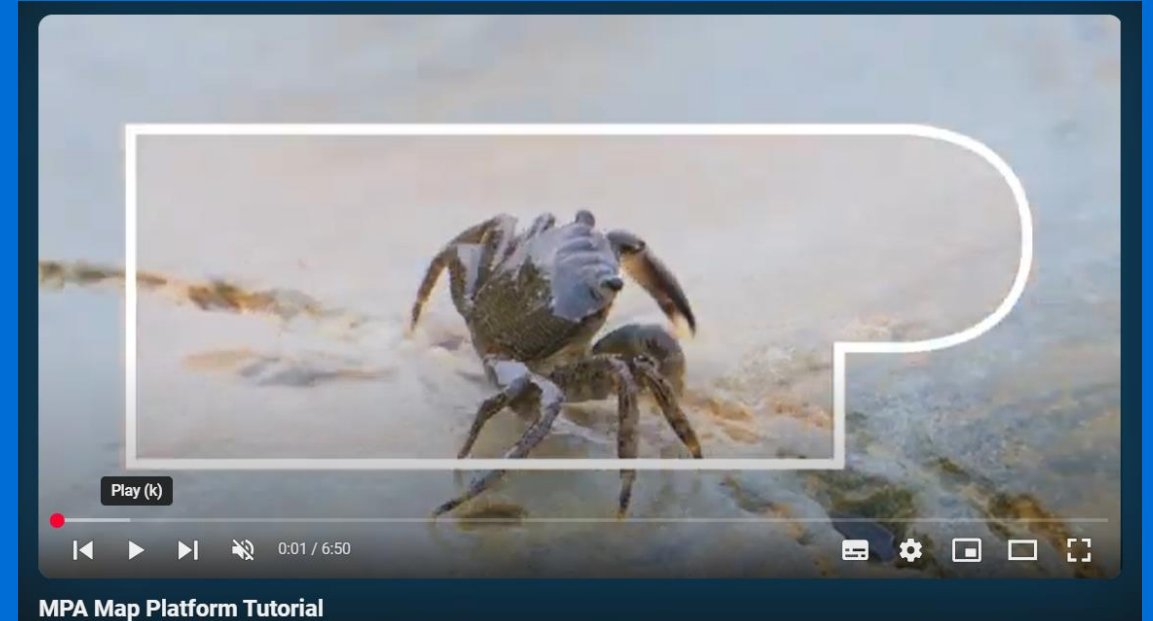
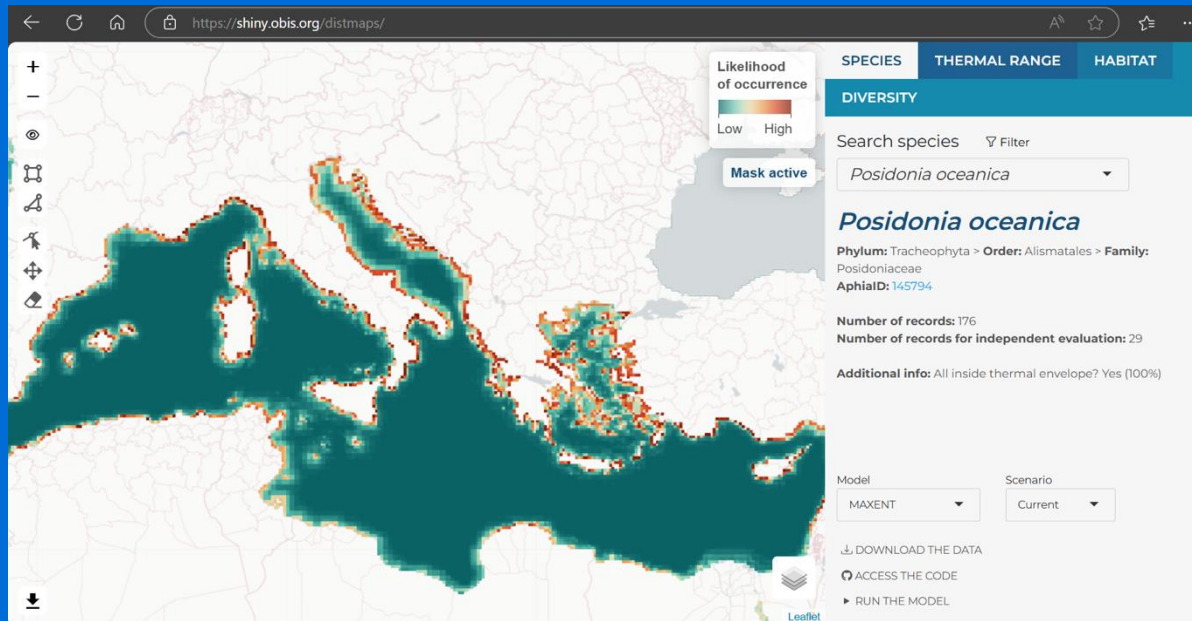
<https://shiny.obis.org/distmaps/>

https://iobis.github.io/mpaeu_docs/

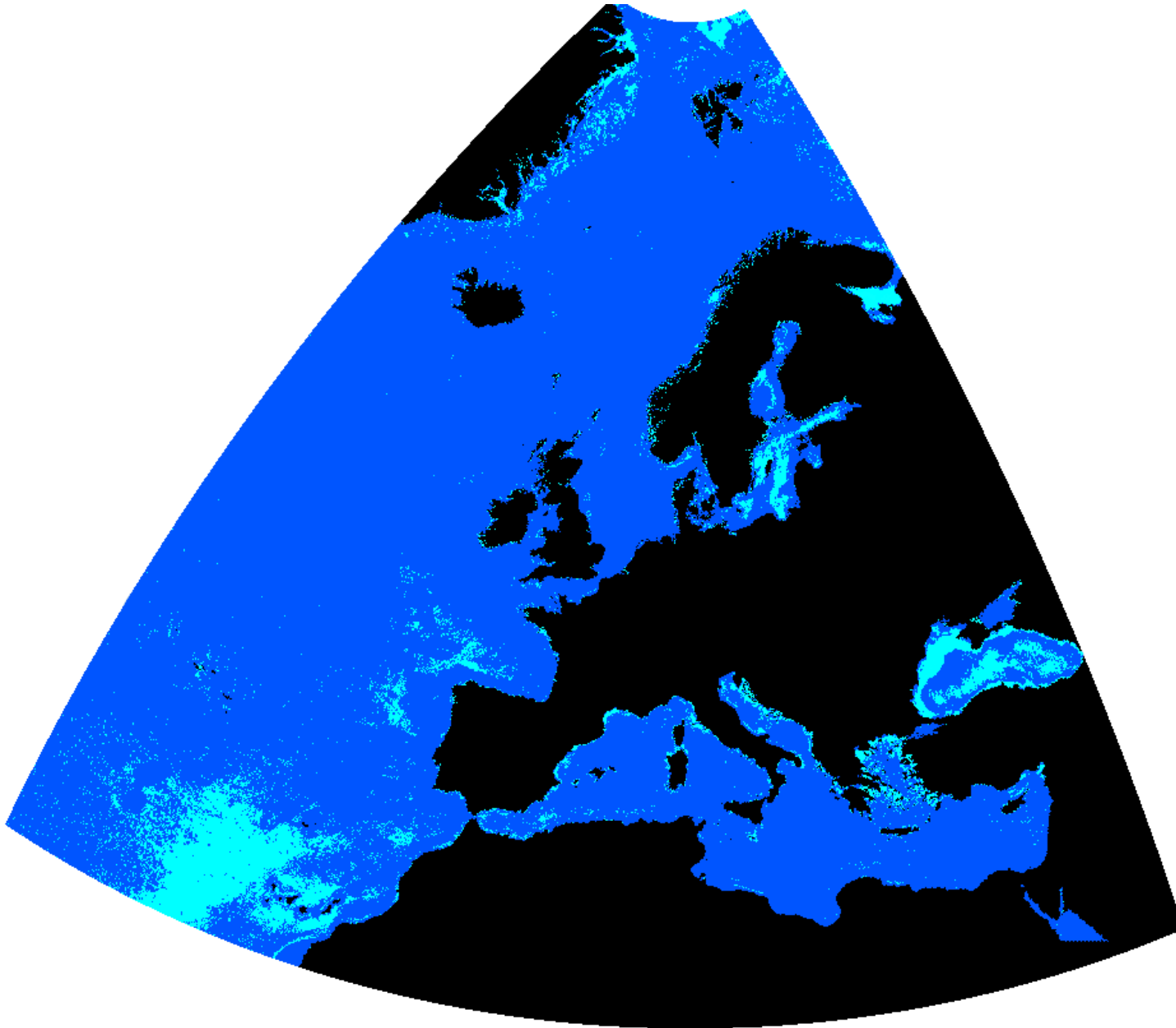
Video tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0DwqXiZVe8&t=2s>



Scan me!



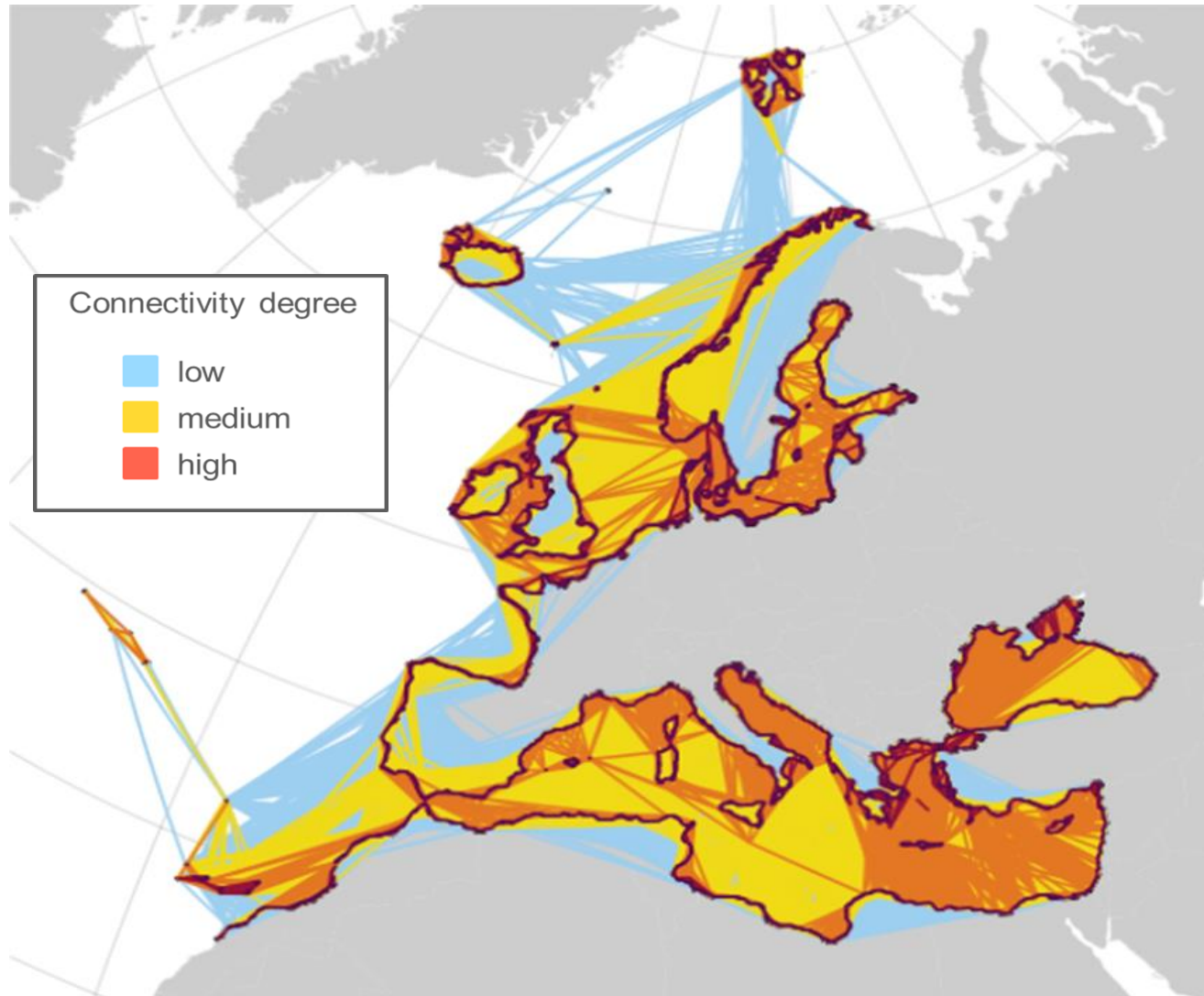
ORGANIC CARBON INDEX



Modelled
organic carbon
in the
MPA Europe organic
carbon database

More organic carbon
(**light blue**) in wave
sheltered, cold and
anoxic sediments

CONNECTIVITY MODELLING



OCEANOGRAPHIC CONNECTIVITY

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT GOALS

Enable national authorities to adopt biodiversity-inclusive and climate-smart MSP, as most countries are at revision phase;

Enable regional and national authorities to designate optimal, coherent MPA networks and strengthen existing marine protected areas;

Socialise scientific tools and approaches for wide uptake of results in case studies.



APPROACH WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Open
engagement
approach

>165
Stakeholders

No Pilots or
Test Sites

Co-design
case studies



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

ENGAGE

Share project & seek feedback;
answer FAQs



Introduce MPA Europe:
May – September 2024

INVOLVE

Stakeholders participate &
validate approaches and outputs



Regional in-person workshops in
synergy with relevant events:
February 2024 – February 2025

PARTNER

Stakeholders propose use cases



Regional case uses co-identified with
stakeholders:
January 2023 – April 2025

SHARE LEARNINGS



International conference:
July 2025, Bodø
Policy brief:
December 2025

PROJECT SCOPE AND OUTCOMES

+ How long will the project last?

+ I understand that you are working on a number of projects. How do you ensure that you have enough resources to each of them?

+ Will you be able to provide some support to the coastal communities?

+ Another experience that you have had in the past, how do you ensure that you have enough resources to each of them?

+ Will you be able to provide some support to the coastal communities?

+ Think about the recommendations that you have received from the stakeholders.

DATA ACCESS AND RESOLUTION

CASE STUDIES

+ What is the main objective of the project?

EXISTING ACTIVITIES AT SEA

+ Can you elaborate on the guidance that you have received from the stakeholders?

+ Do you also have any other activities that are ongoing, where they occur, when they occur, and how they are managed?

DATA SOURCES

+ How are you moving the data from the stakeholders to the project?

+ Will you be able to provide some support to the coastal communities?

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+ I noticed we are talking about estimating species richness, is that based on temperature and existing species, or temperature and conservation/active restoration?

+ So you are taking species data to which you add a further list of environmental data, and then overlay it with temperature modelling. Is that right?

The data sources you are using are the global data aggregators. From my previous experience I have seen a lot of data is held in national institutions and scientific organisations and they do not share it with the aggregators. Do you have the capacity or plan to consider national databases, which often do not often conform to FAIR principles, so you have to standardise the data?

+ For seabirds will the maps be built based on Important Bird Areas data, or what other data?

+ It seems you are taking into account the changing ranges of species. Does this mean that once the MPAs are designated, there is the possibility of changing the boundaries or are these set in stone?

+ You mentioned you will produce Species Distribution Models. What is the difference between EMODnet Biology and EMODnet Seabed Habitats? Do you plan to acquire new data?

CLIMATE CHANGE AND STAKEHOLDERS

+ Does the project have any specific objectives related to climate change?

+ What exactly are the objectives of the project?

+ Are you able to provide some support to the coastal communities?

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STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

BALTIC SEA REGION

Good spatial maps and species distribution models can support stakeholder consultations, when justifying new MPA boundaries, and support countries to update their marine spatial plans.



Comparison of MPA Europe's species distribution models with other models may yield further insights. MPA Europe's approach could be improved by the inclusion of absence and abundance data, and important areas for key species groups such as seabirds or mammals.



STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

BLACK SEA REGION



This work is very helpful for all the current processes in Bulgaria and Romania for MPAs - extension of them and identifying 10% strict protection. **Would it be possible to request modelling for a certain area, and if so when?**



We think your support is **most valuable at regional level**, for example in helping Bulgaria and Romania reach a common approach on the identification and designations of their Protected Areas and, within those, the 10% strictly protected cores.

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

MEDITERRANEAN SEA REGION



The MEDIGREEN team noted that marine protection could support the EGD progression of MSP, since MPAs support sustainability; provide coastal protection benefits; help mitigate climate change impacts and species sequester and store carbon.



Stakeholders welcomed the ambitious scope of the science and confirmed **groundtruthing of models with experts** and consideration of what additional filters could improve results would **improve their utility with existing datasets.**

CASE STUDIES



**MPA network
adequacy
(done)**



**Blue carbon habitats
in MPA networks
(underway)**



EMODnet



European Marine
Observation and
Data Network

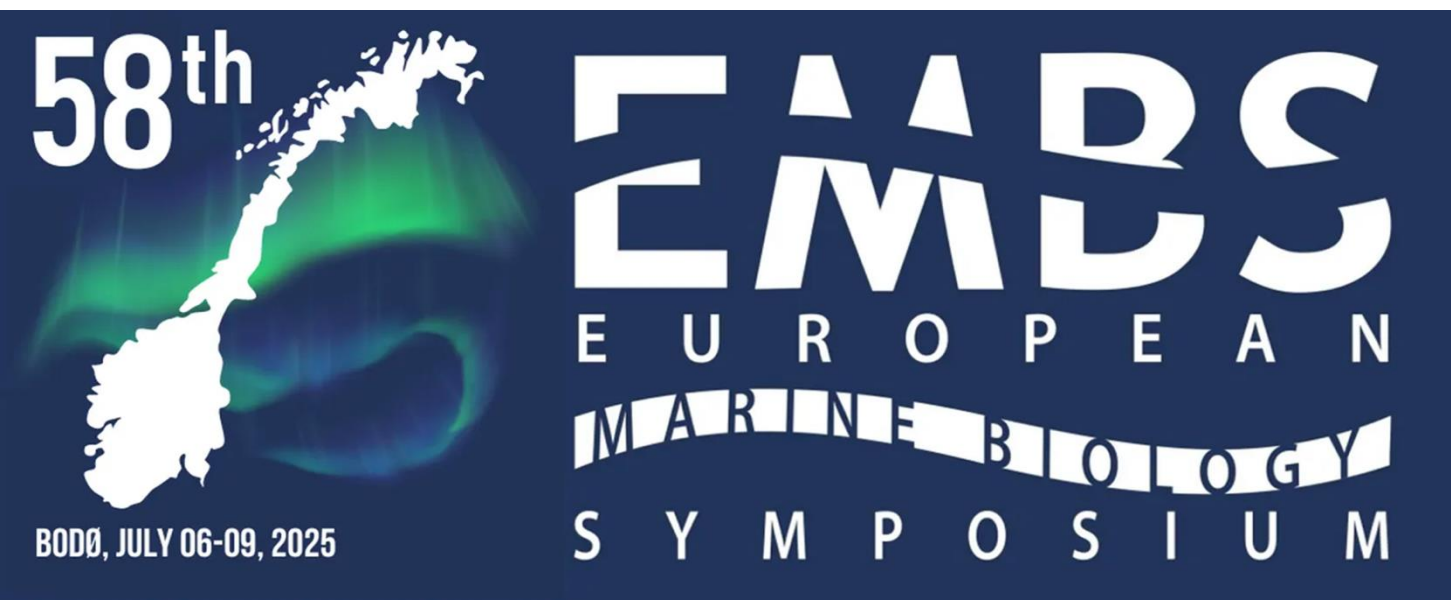
**Species'
conservation status
availability**



**Optimal expansion of
MPAs and ORE
(proposed)**



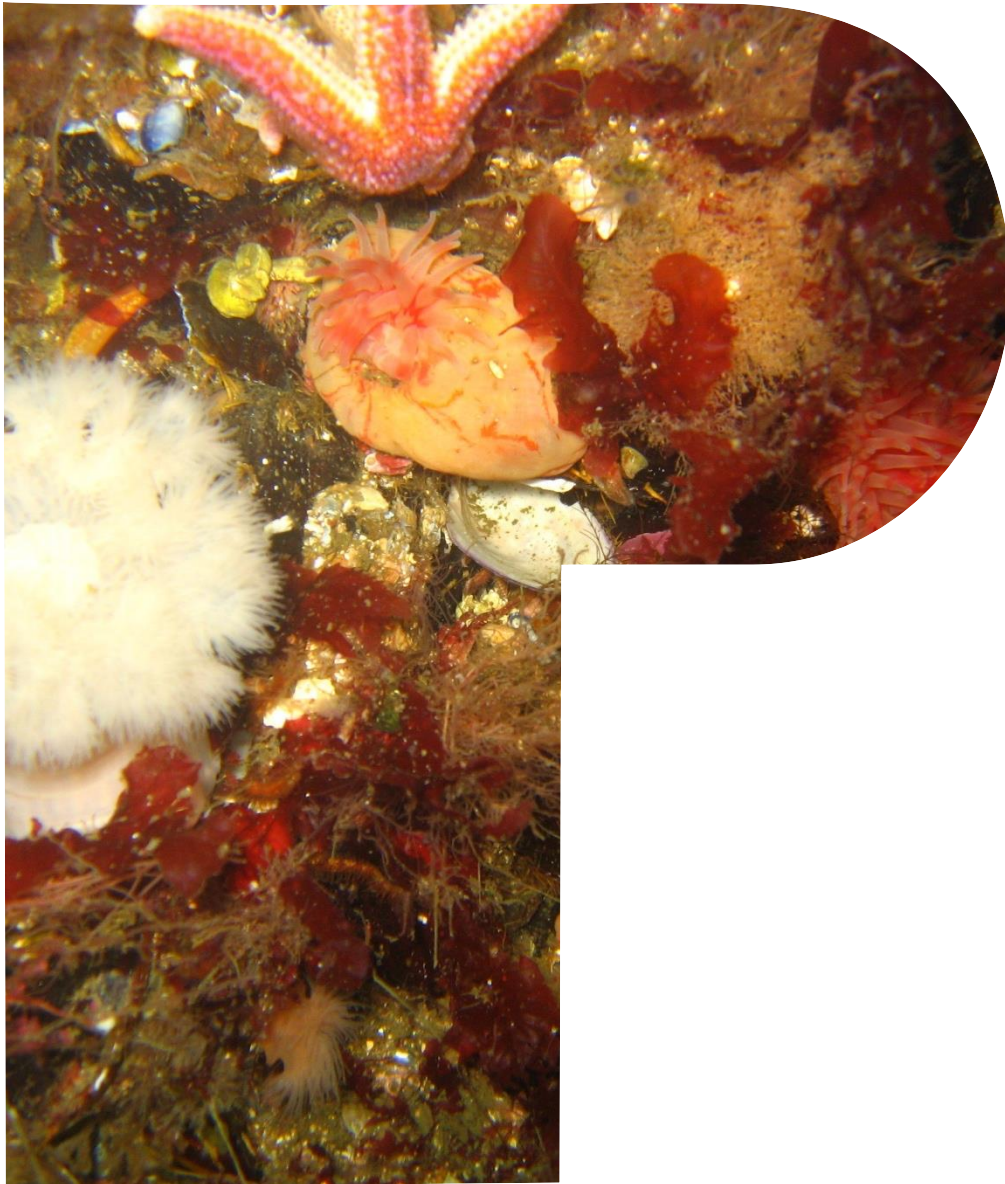
Others TBD



**WE ARE WAITING FOR
YOU IN BODØ!**



KEY POINTS FOR WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS



- ❖ How would you like to see our results used for **national, transboundary or regional marine spatial planning**?
- ❖ How would you like to see our results used for **strengthening existing marine protected areas**?
- ❖ How would you like to see our results used for **extending the network of existing marine protected areas in the region**?
- ❖ Would you like to **co-identify a use case** with us based on any of the project's results?

THANK YOU

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