



The bumpy road to effective marine protection in Denmark

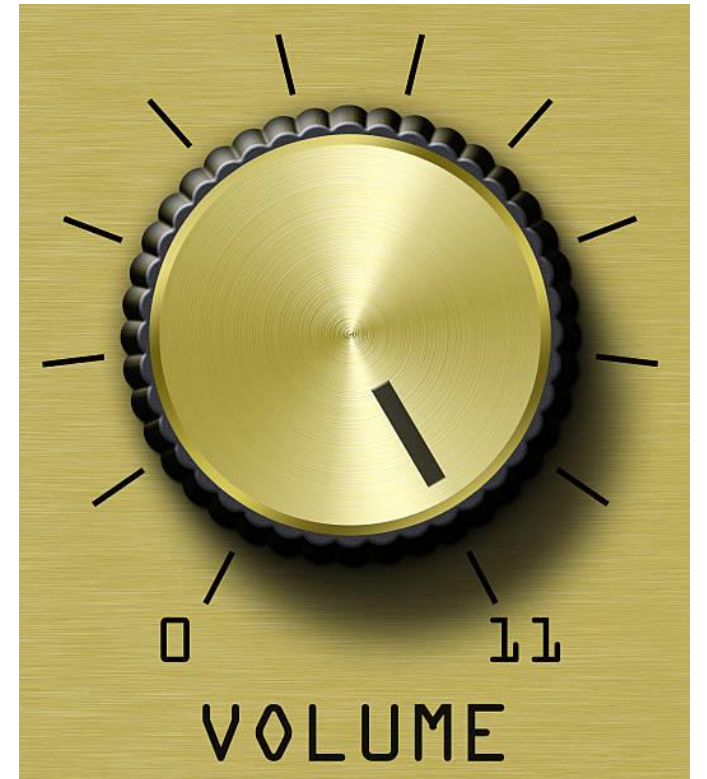
February 18, 2025

Thomas Kirk Sørensen, t.sorensen@wwf.dk

Foto: Jonas Thormar

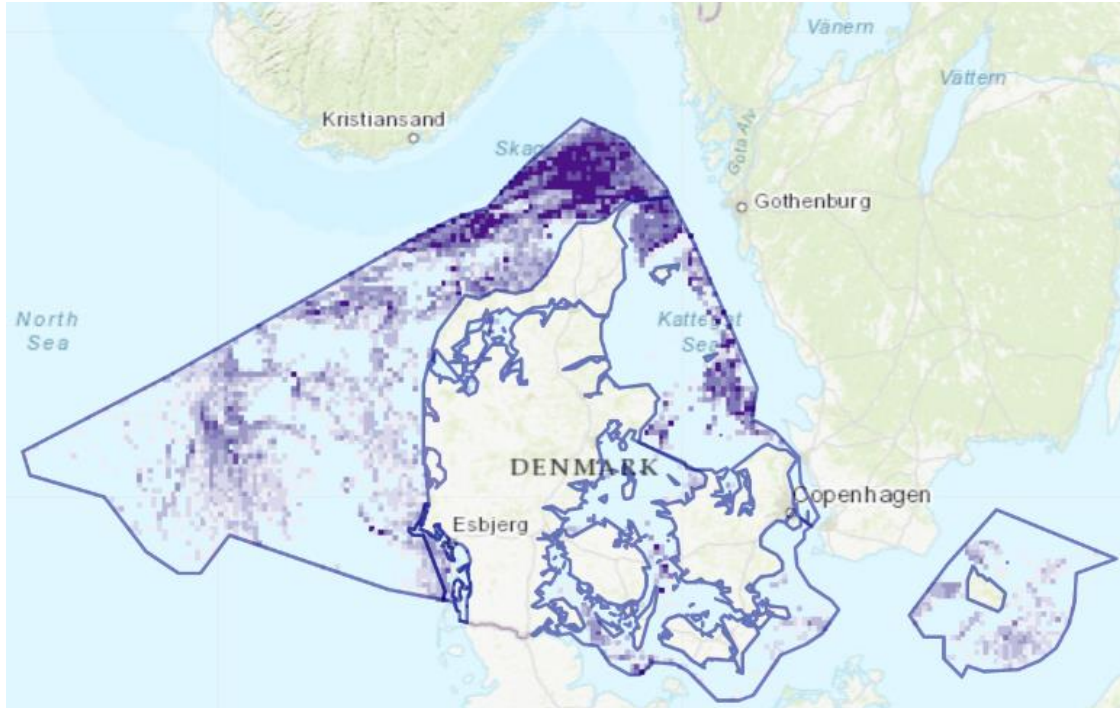


In Danish waters pressures are turned up to 11...





Mobile bottom contacting fisheries: a massive pressure on the seafloor



Danish fishery (2017-2022)

<https://ono.dtuaqua.dk/DDFAM/> (DTU Aqua)

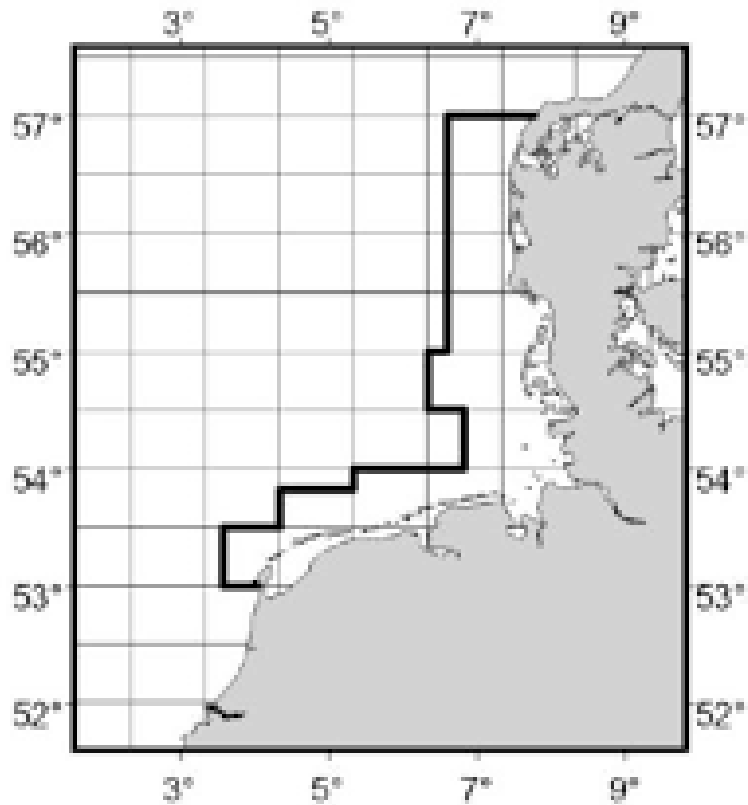
Habitat type	Habitat size (km2)	Habitat share (%)	Percentage fished (%)
Circalittoral coarse sediment	4633.24	4.4	26.02
Circalittoral mixed sediment	4956.22	4.7	28.3
Circalittoral mud	4116.29	3.9	61.14 🔴
Circalittoral rock and biogenic reef	24.23	0	23.38
Circalittoral sand	24944.64	23.9	48.42 🔴
Infralittoral coarse sediment	1004.24	1	9.34
Infralittoral mixed sediment	5882.61	5.6	4.85
Infralittoral mud	2186.86	2.1	11.2
Infralittoral rock and biogenic reef	247.65	0.2	3.22
Infralittoral sand	15000.13	14.4	11.58
Offshore circalittoral coarse sediment	1823.42	1.7	42.53
Offshore circalittoral mixed sediment	2754.75	2.6	38.82
Offshore circalittoral mud	22648.43	21.7	57.03 🔴
Offshore circalittoral rock and biogenic reef	0.36	0	0
Offshore circalittoral sand	12926.27	12.4	64.21 🔴
Unknown	533.34	0.5	1.43
Upper bathyal sediment	831.12	0.8	95.71 🔴
All combined	104513.79	100	41.57



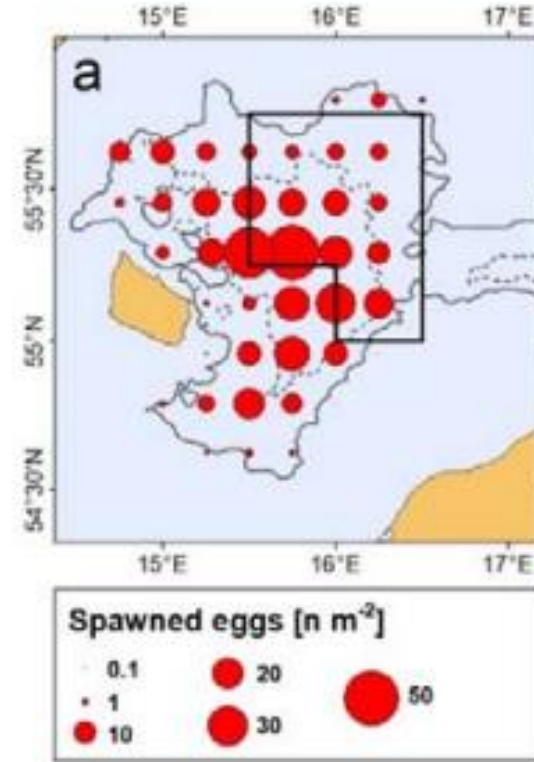
The illusion of protection



Technical measures with derogations and faults

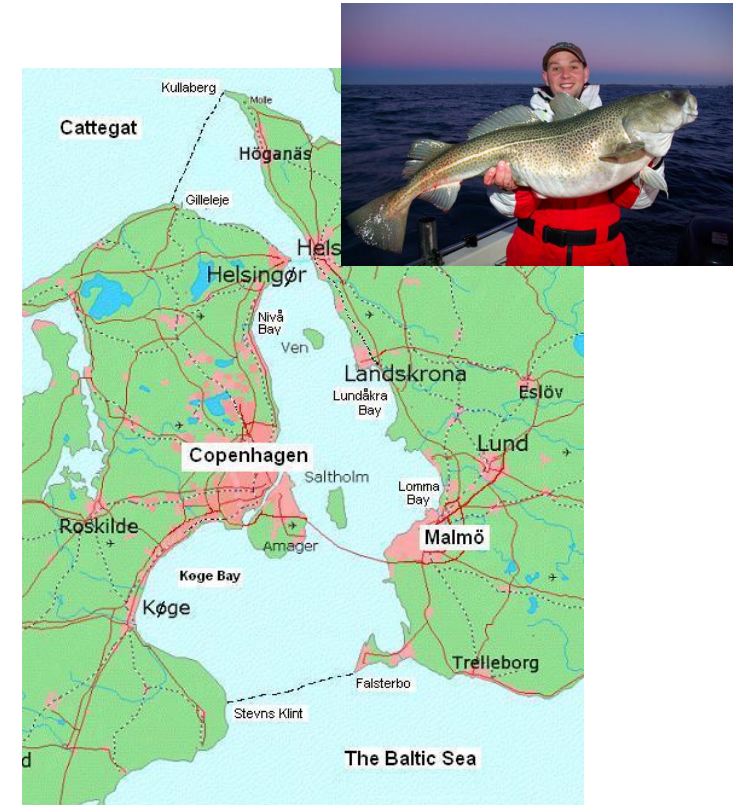


Plaice box



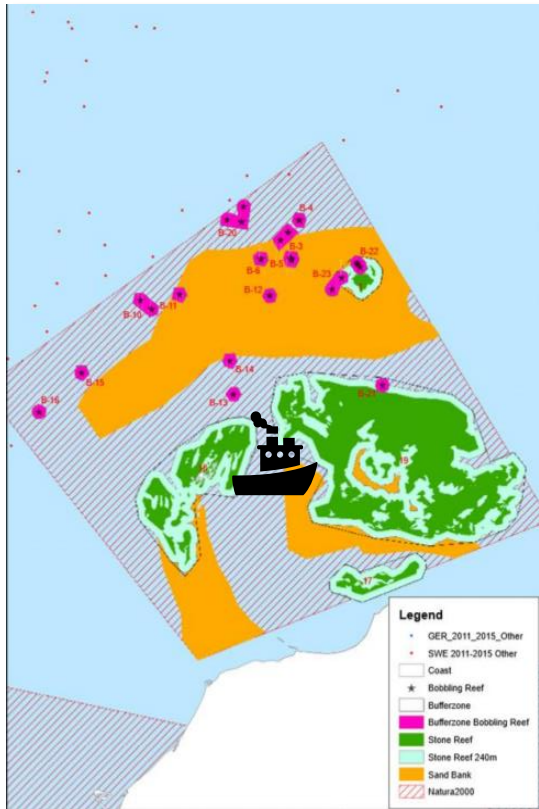
Baltic cod closure

Eero, M., Hinrichsen, H.-H., Hjelm, J., Huwer, B., Hüsey, K., Köster, F. W., Margonski, P., Plikshs, M., StorrPaulsen, M., & Zimmermann, C. (2019). Designing spawning closures can be complicated: Experience from cod in the Baltic Sea. *Ocean & Coastal Management*, 169, 129-136.

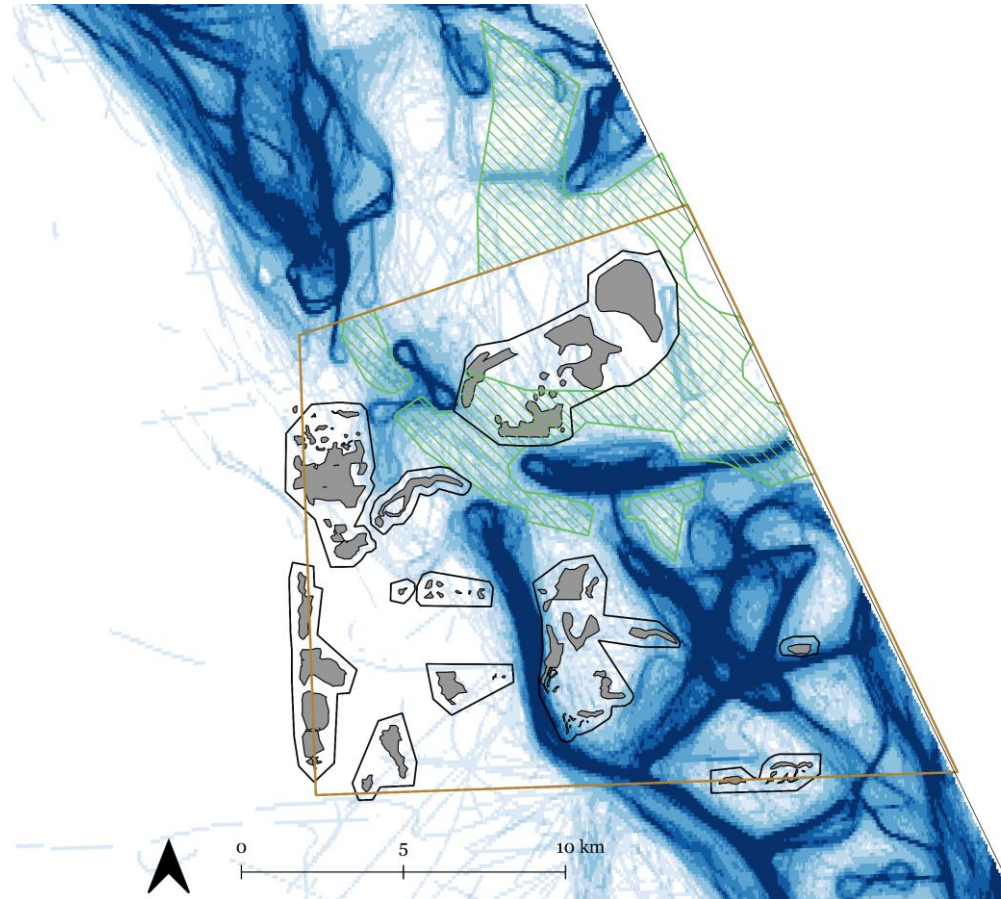


(Øresund)

Feature-based approach in Natura 2000



Læsø Trindel: 78% unprotected

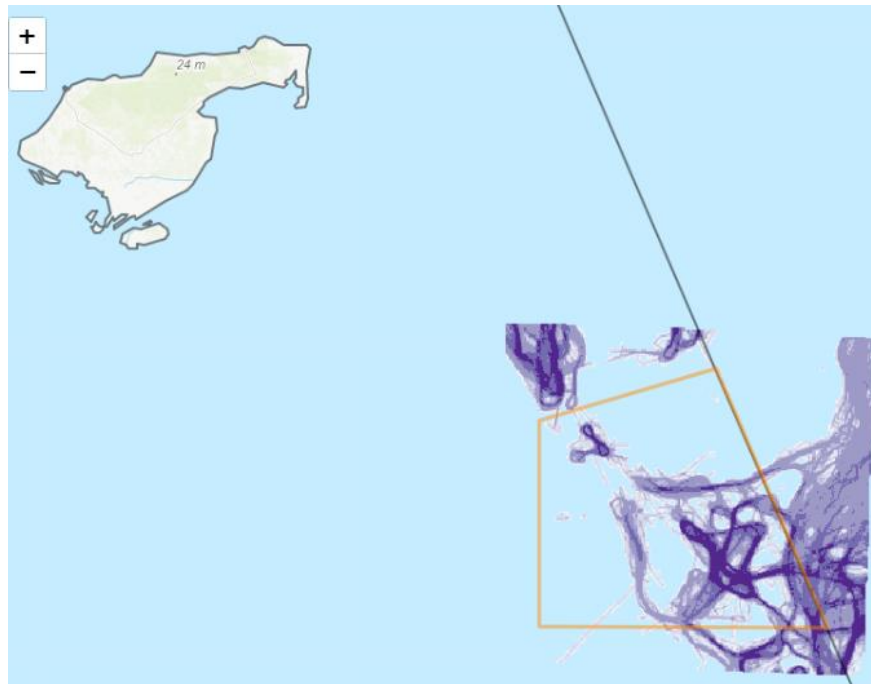
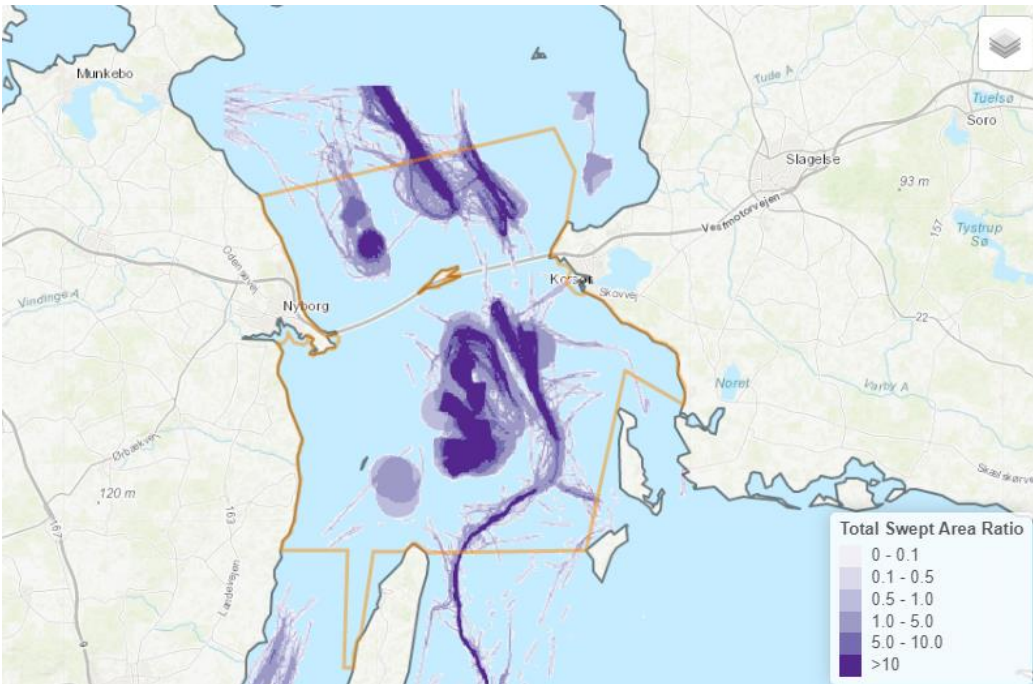
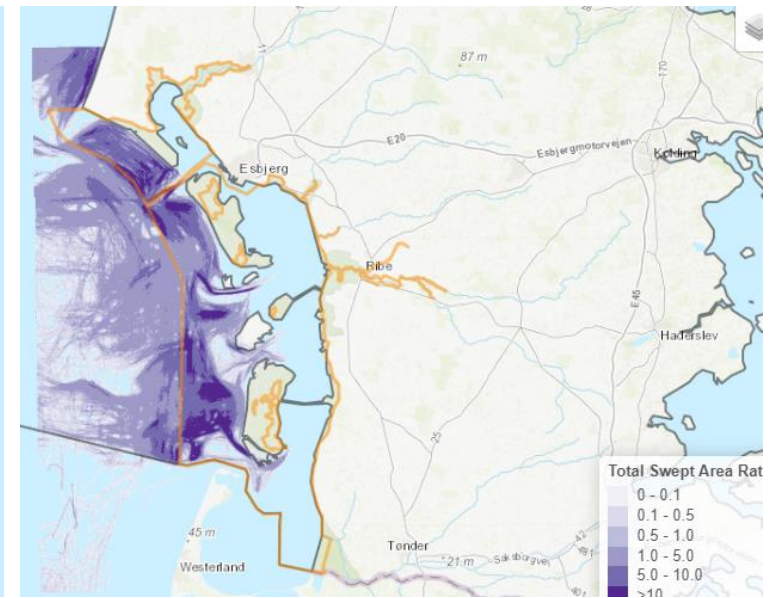
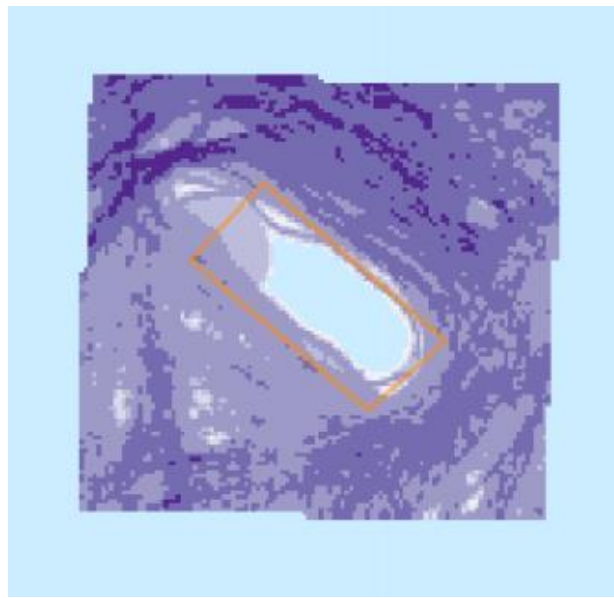
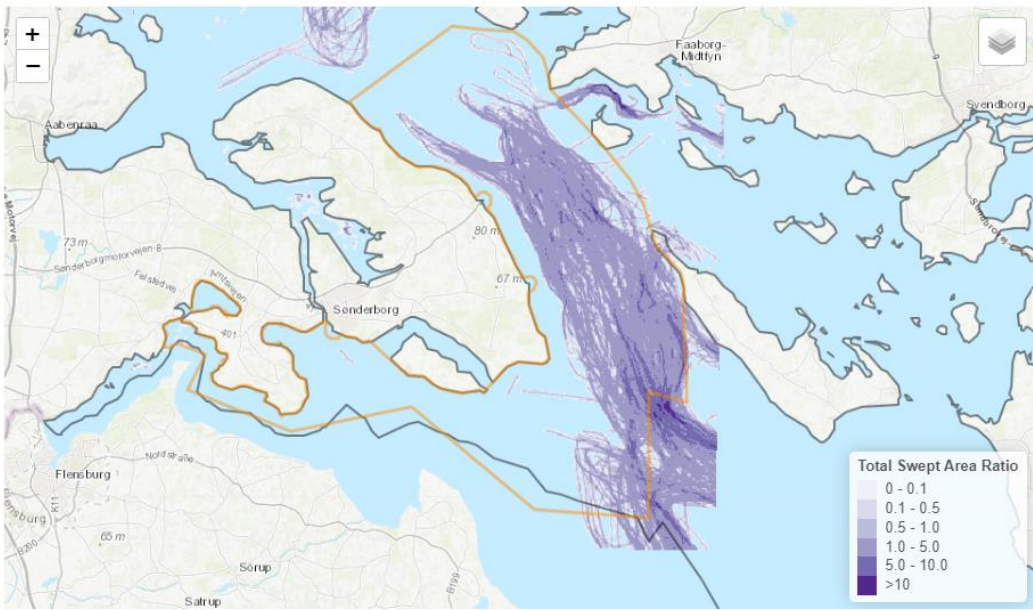


28% of the DK sea is Natura 2000.

Only specific Annex I habitat features protected.

Very large areas for birds and mammals.

Danish Biodiversity Council: only **1.9%** of DK sea effectively protected.



Bottom trawling in
Natura 2000 sites
(2018)



Revised marine spatial plan: renewable energy, CCS, aggregate extraction, more MPA's. But in the wrong order.



Havplan

Om Havplanen

Nyheder

Kontakt

Hjælp

Del

DAN

Find information til brug af siden.

Foreslåede ændringer

----- Tilføjet areal

----- Fjernet areal

100%

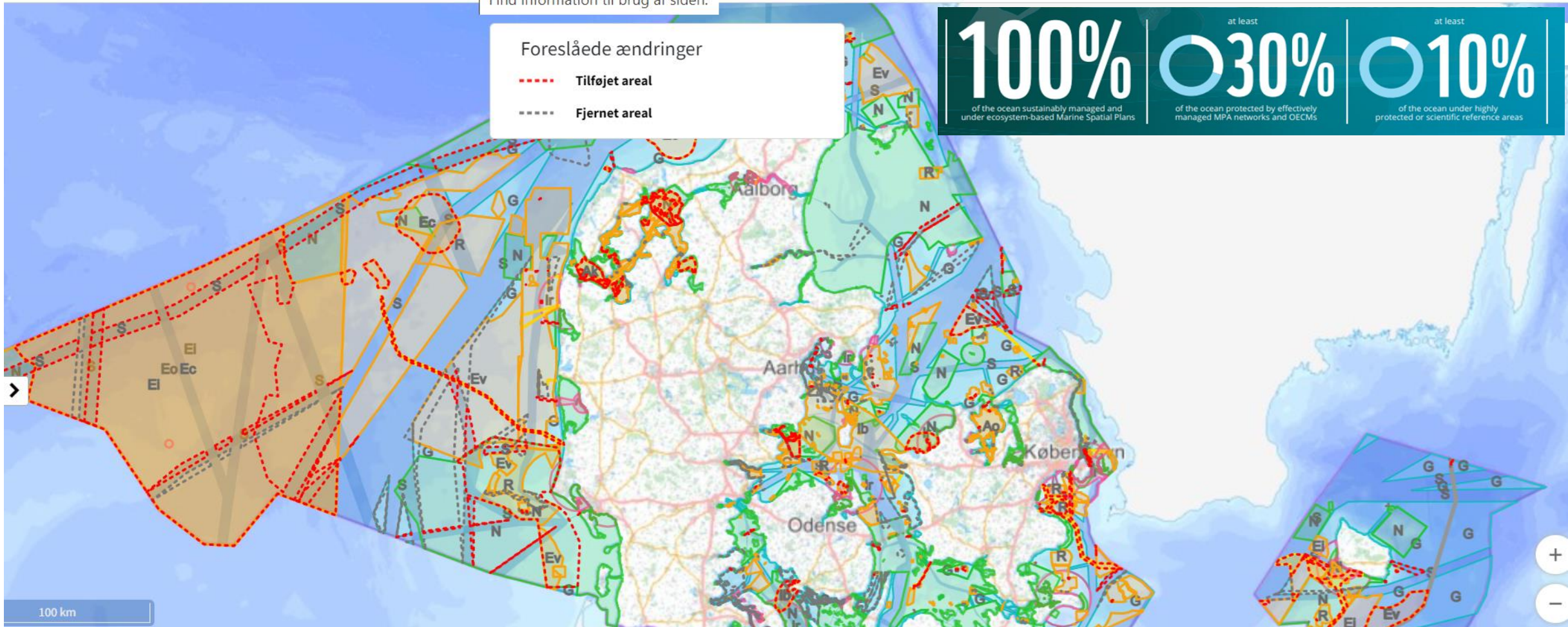
of the ocean sustainably managed and under ecosystem-based Marine Spatial Plans

at least
30%

of the ocean protected by effectively managed MPA networks and OECMs

at least
10%

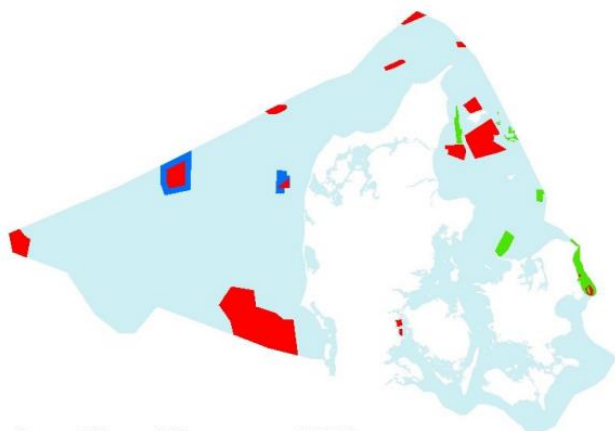
of the ocean under highly protected or scientific reference areas



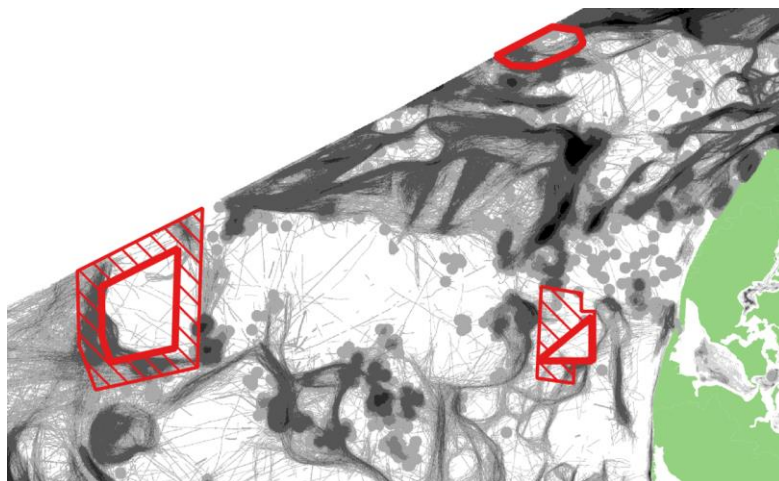
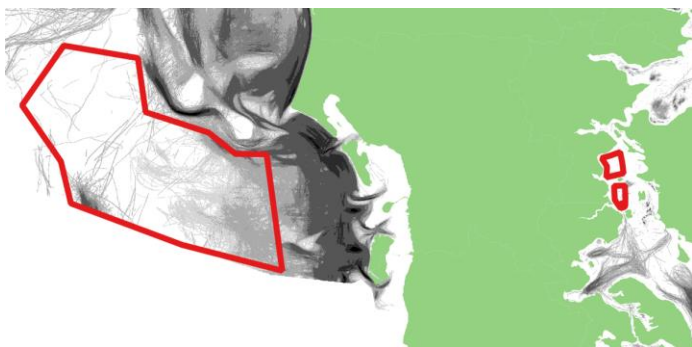
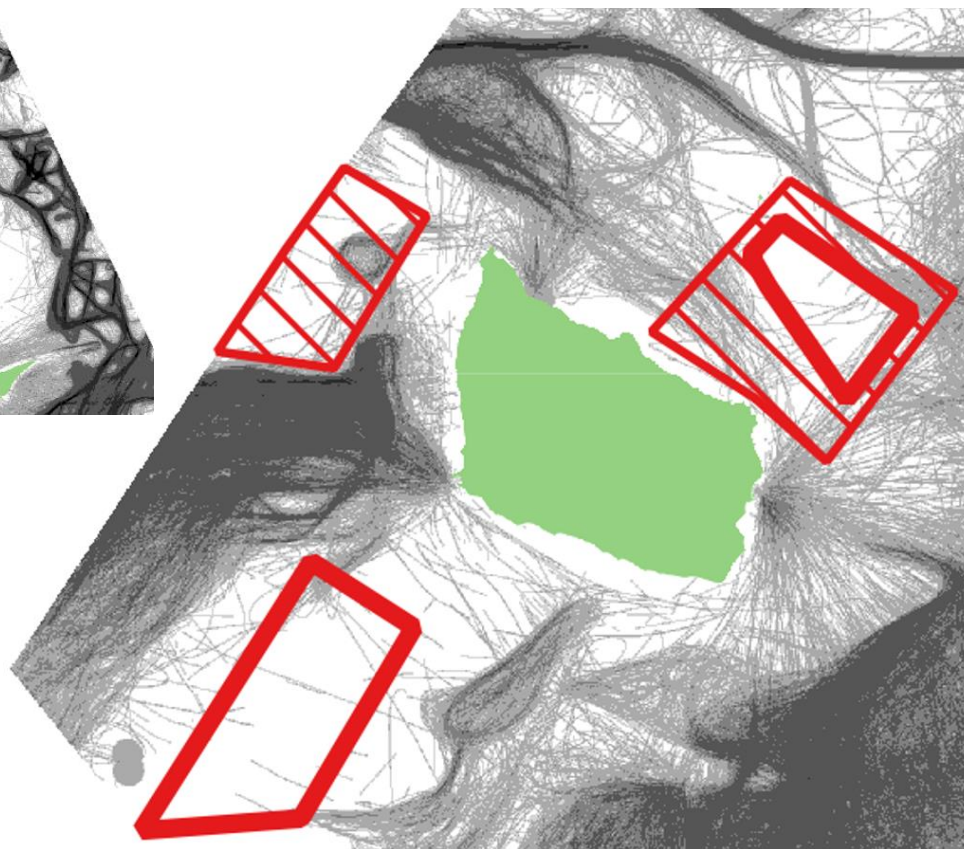


New MPAs in residual, left-over sites

- Nye strengt beskyttede havstrategiområder
- Nye almindeligt beskyttede havstrategiområder
- Eksisterende havstrategiområder

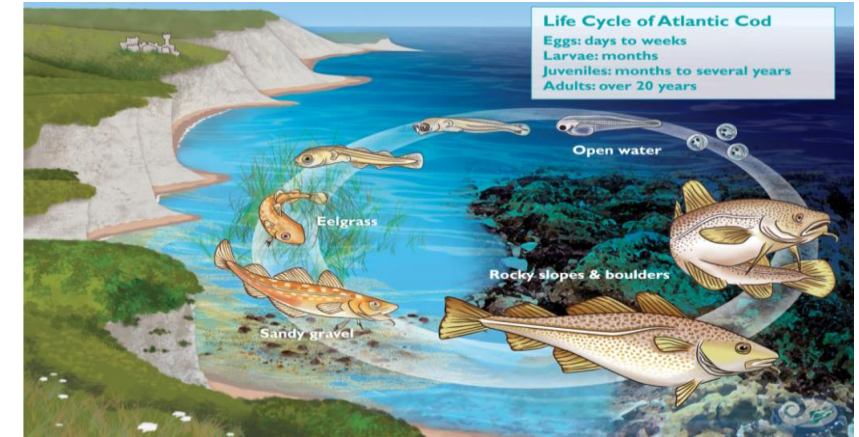
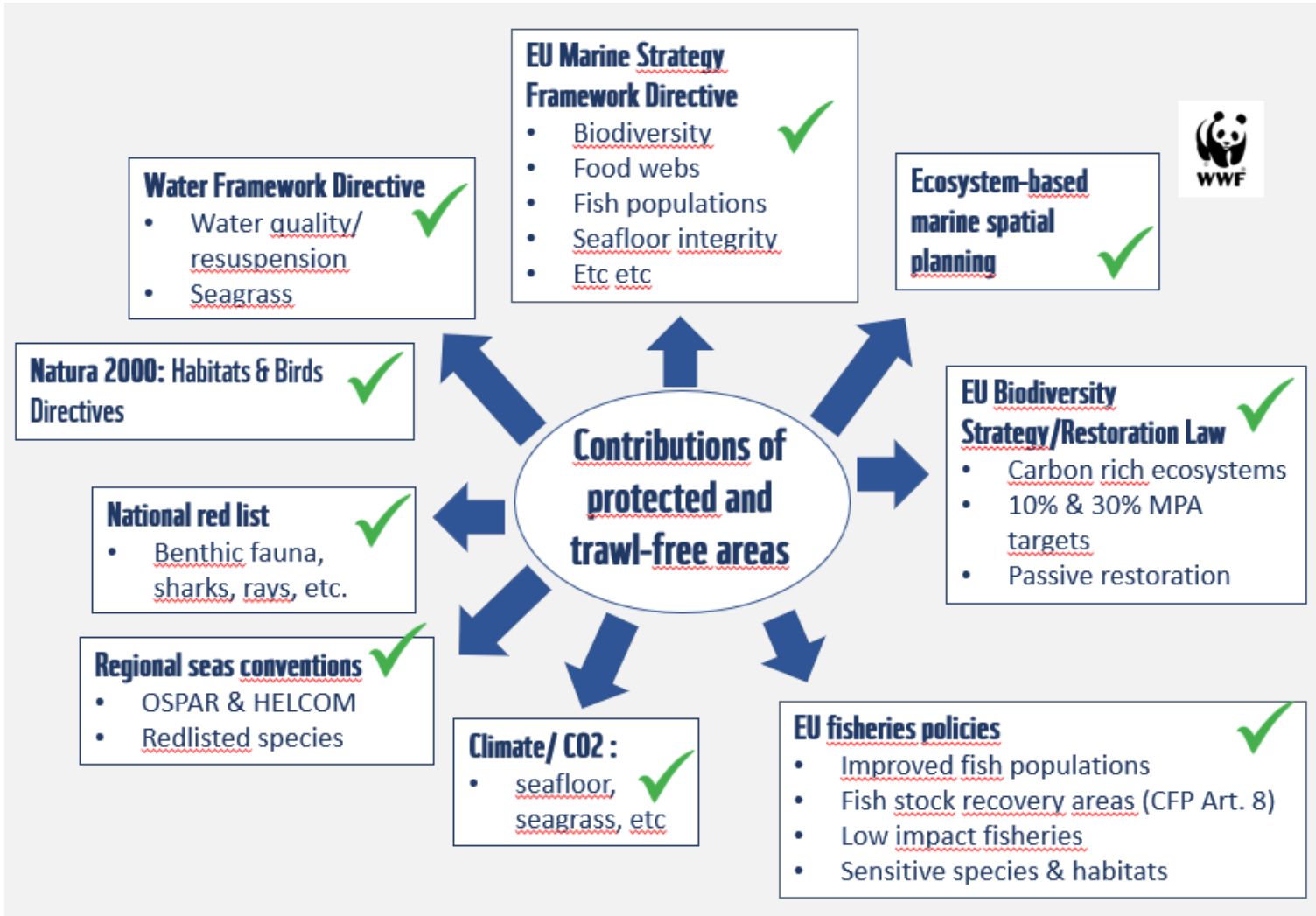


0 75 150 300 Km

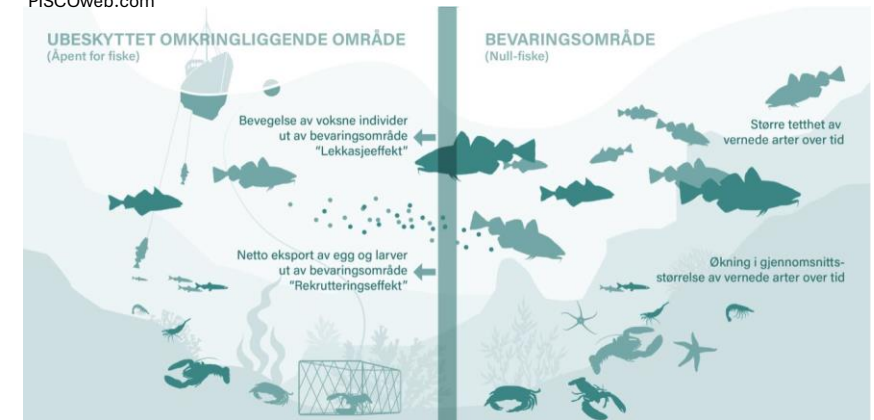




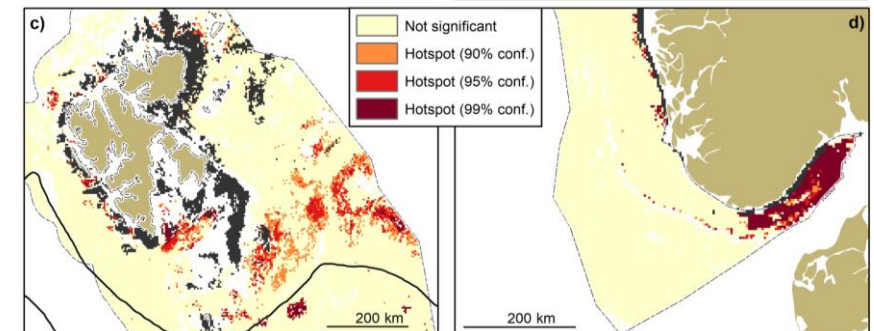
MPA's = policy multi-tools



PISCOweb.com



https://salt.nu/assets/projects/mpasyntese_review_10.12.2024_final2-1738059471.pdf



Diesing et al. 2024



Pssst...MPA's aren't working because we haven't *really* been trying!

Thanks!