

21 November 2012

Seabed mapping for identification of VMEs in the high seas:

Contribution to the management of deep-sea fisheries in the north Atlantic

Pablo Durán Muñoz¹ & Mar Sacau²

ECOVUL/ARPA¹, NEREIDA² Projects

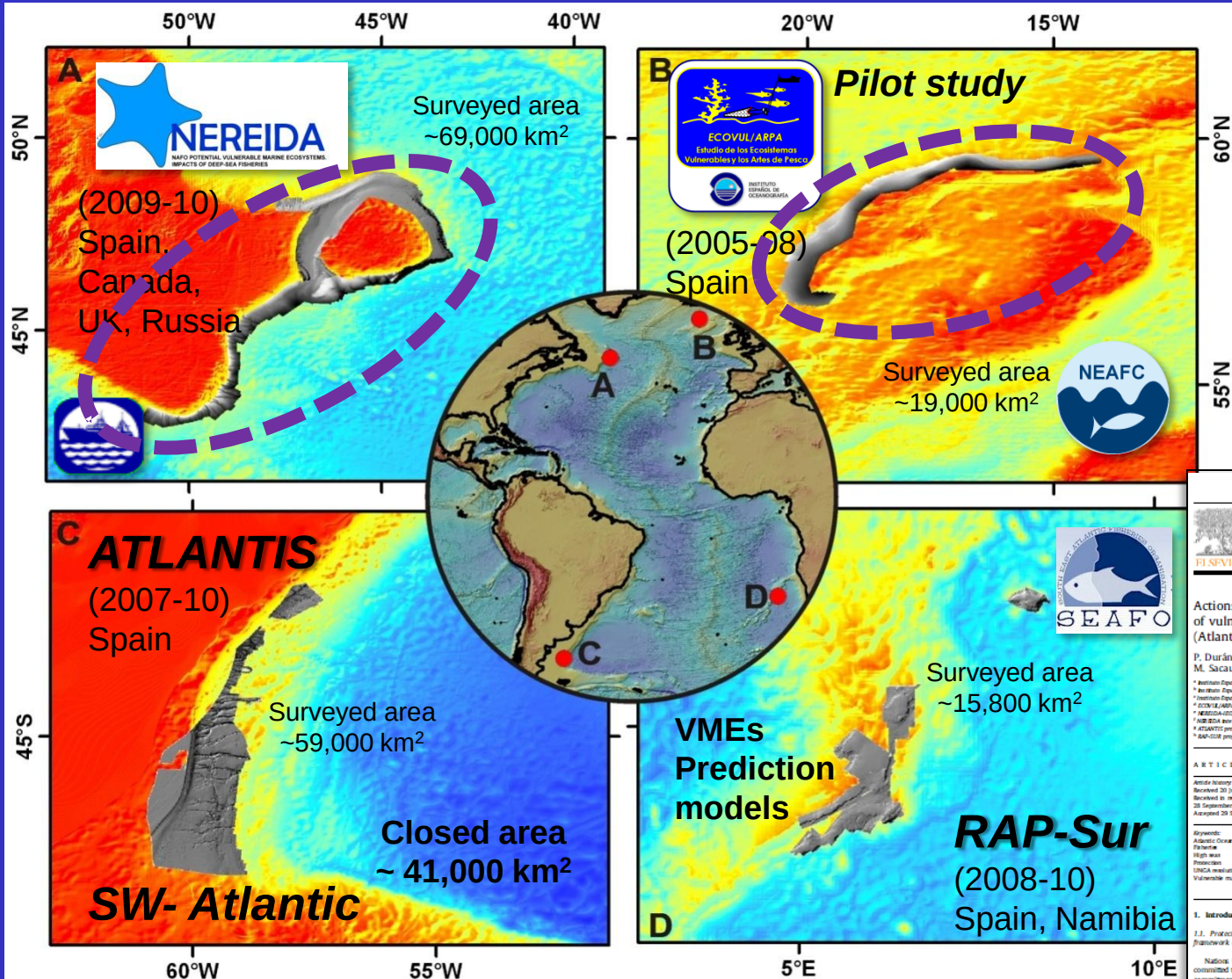
Instituto Español de Oceanografía

Programa de Pesquerías Lejanas

Centro Oceanográfico de Vigo

ESPAÑA

INTRODUCTION: Recent surveys



4 projects
focused on
high seas
fisheries

Source: Weaver *et al.*, 2011

UNGA resolution 66/68 (2011): Recognized the utility of the seabed mapping programmes (paragraph 131)!!

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Actions taken by fishing Nations towards identification and protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems in the high seas: The Spanish case (Atlantic Ocean)

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^e ECOVUL/ARPA project
^f MEDSEA2010 project
^g VMESEA international programme
^h ATLANTIS project
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ABSTRACT

In reply to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on sustainable fisheries, Spain, either by itself or in collaboration with other Nations, has been carrying out studies on vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) in the high seas of the Atlantic Ocean (areas beyond national jurisdiction) since 2005. Such studies provide advice to the Spanish Government, the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and the European Union. This paper presents the multidisciplinary methodology used and summarizes the following management results: (i) contribution to identification of cold-water corals and provision of evidence to close at least (~30,000 km²) of the Western Bank (NE Atlantic) to bottom fishing; (ii) compilation of an international data base to identify VMEs on the seafloor of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland, Porcupine Trench, and Flemish Cap (NW Atlantic) and to indicate areas currently closed to fishing; (iii) improvement of knowledge about deep-sea ecosystems on Walvis Ridge and adjacent seamounts (S Atlantic) as a pilot project for implementation in this region; and (iv) identification of VMEs and closure of area (~40,000 km²) on the high seas of the SW Atlantic. Also discussed are progress and challenges related to identifying and protecting VMEs.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems within the framework of the United Nations

Nations with high sea bottom fishing fleets, such as Spain, are committed to protecting vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs). Such commitment is derived from the mandate of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolutions 5925 (1), 610105 (2) and 6472 (1) on sustainable fisheries, and was implemented from 2004 to 2010. These Resolutions urge fishing Nations and the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) to identify and protect VMEs, and also to assess the impact of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas (areas beyond national jurisdiction). Progress on identification and conservation of VMEs within the framework of the UNGA, especially of cold-water corals and sponges, was evident right from the start of the process. There are, however, other issues that still need to be defined and dealt with. A workshop was held in September 2011, at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York, to discuss (i) the implementation of Resolutions 6105 and 6472, especially the paragraphs related to adverse deep-sea fisheries impacts on VMEs, and (ii) the actions considered essential to avoid such adverse impacts. The objectives of the workshop were: (i) to review the experience of Nations and the RFMOs; (ii) to evaluate progress, difficulties experienced and future needs; and (iii) to lay the foundations for a new draft Resolution on sustainable fishing. The results from Spanish research on VMEs in the high seas were presented at the New York workshop.

1.2. Spanish research on VMEs and international collaboration

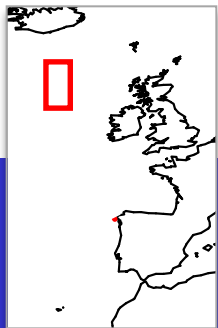
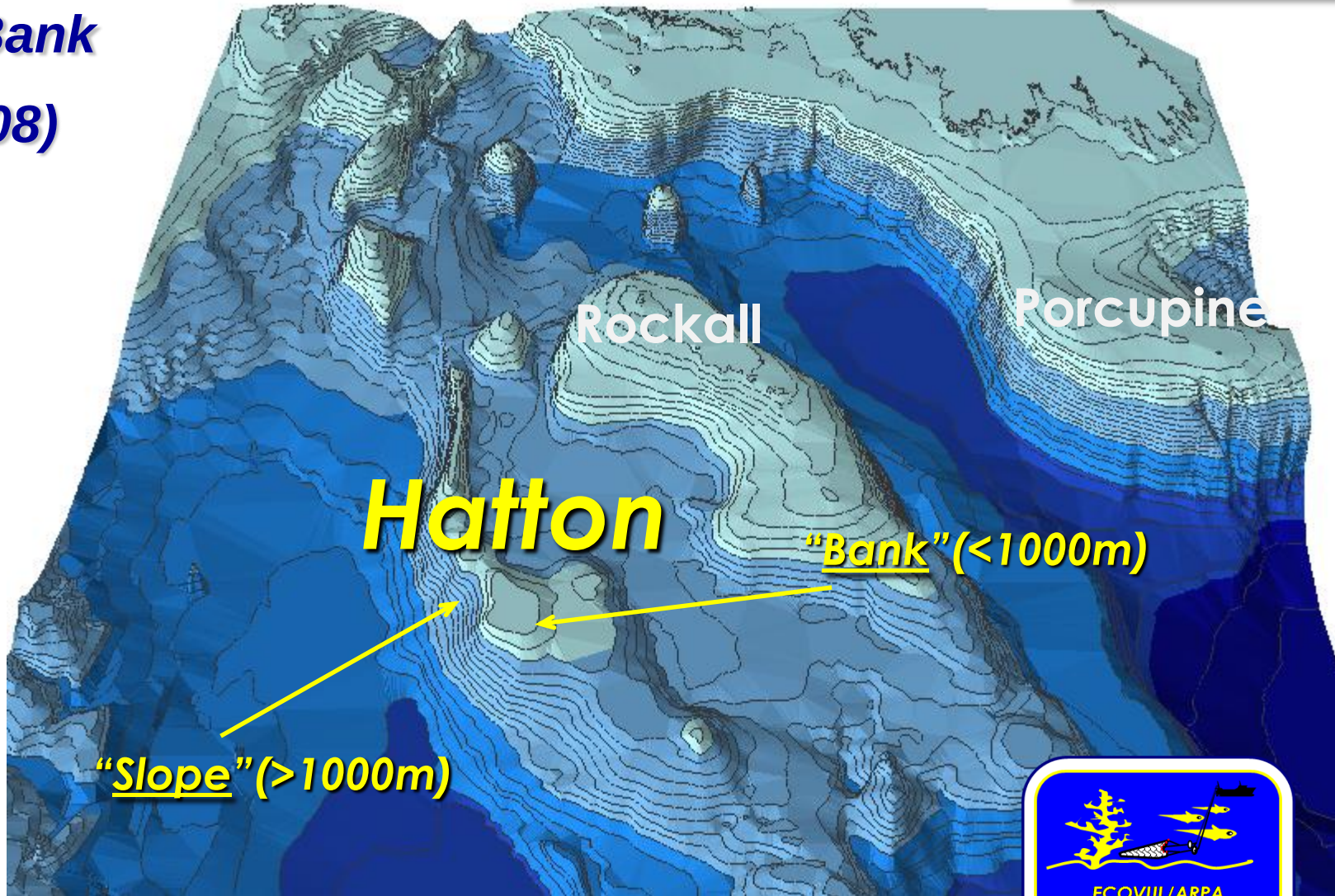
In 2005, Spain began research into high seas VMEs as a reply to the UNGA and the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC).

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doi:10.1016/j.marpol.2011.09.005

ECOVUL/ARPA: Study area

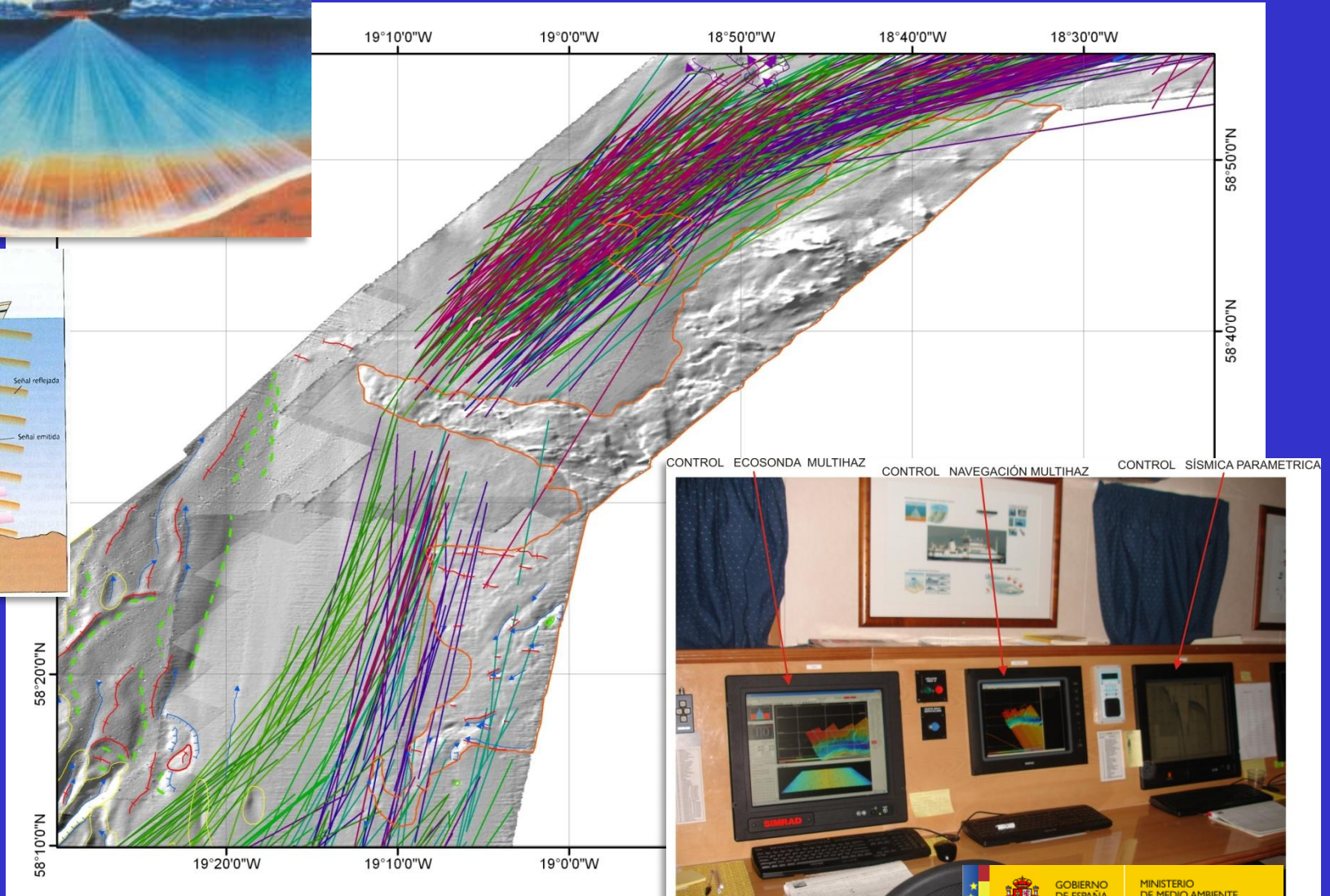
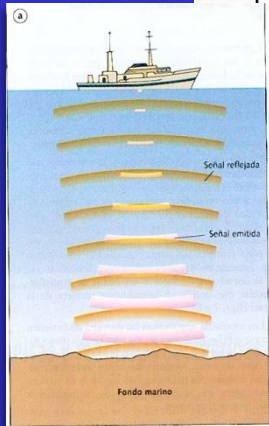
Hatton Bank (2005-2008)



NE Atlantic
High seas (NEAFC Regulatory Area)



MULTIDISCIPLINARY PILOT STUDY

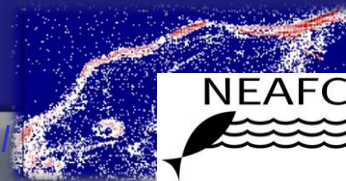


MULTIDISCIPLINARY PILOT STUDY

Observers (1996-2006)



Commercial
trawl



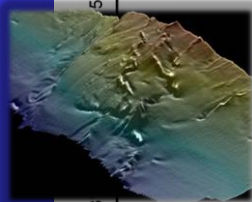
Graphics of VMS

Commercial longline

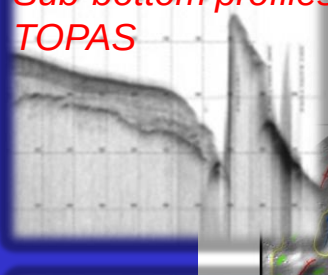


Three cooperative
surveys
(2005-2008)

Multibeam



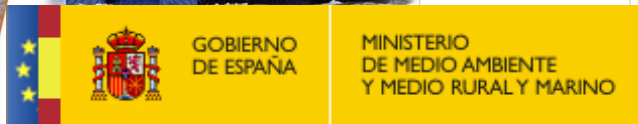
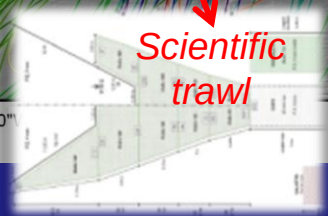
Sub-bottom profiles
TOPAS



Boxcorer



Scientific
trawl



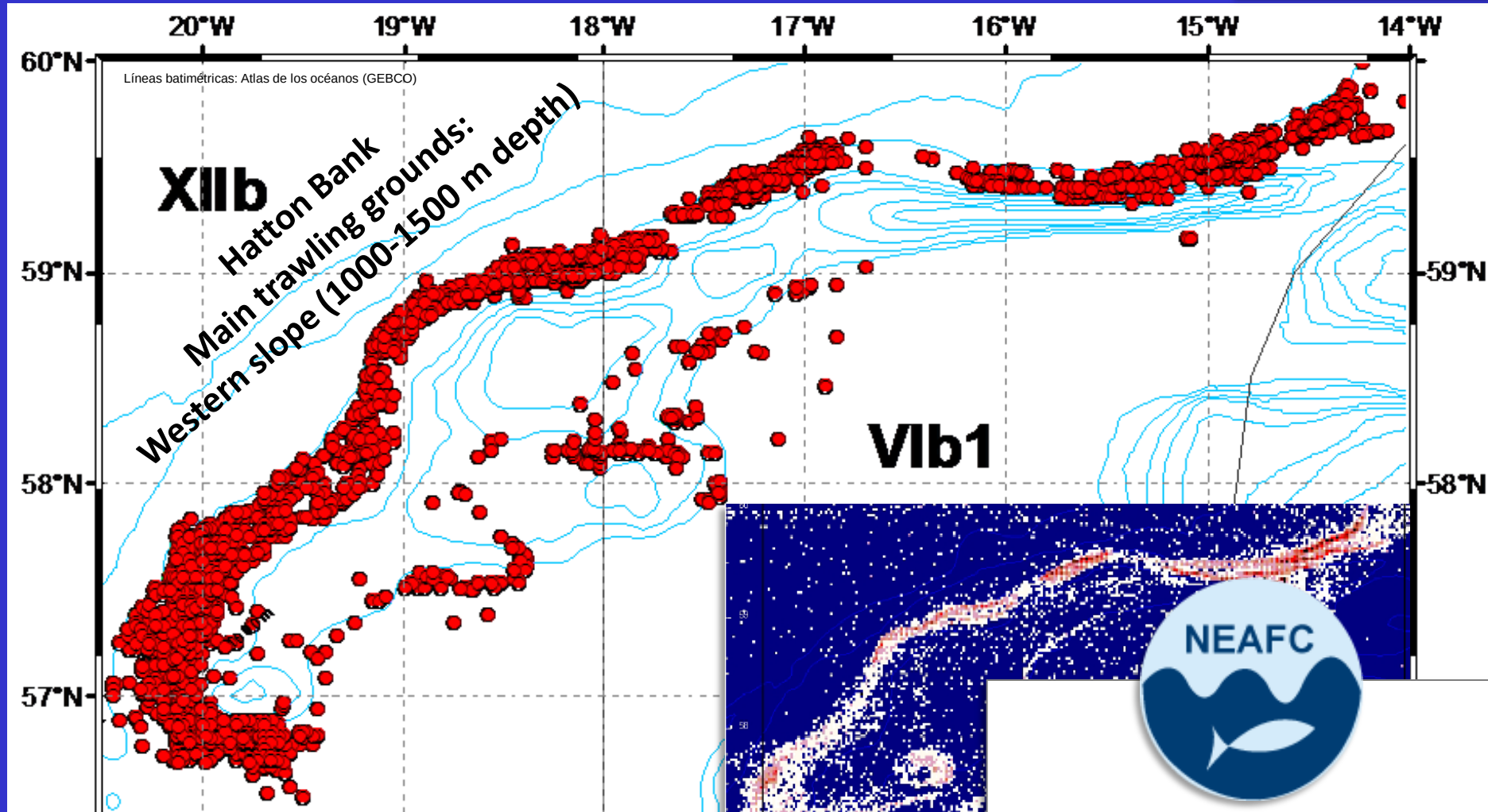
Three
multidisciplinary
surveys
(2005-2007)



Dredge



ECOVUL/ARPA: Fishery footprint?



Seabed mapping for selecting cold-water coral protection areas on Hatton Bank, Northeast Atlantic

P. Durán Muñoz, M. Sayago-Gil, J. Cristobo, S. Parra, A. Serrano, V. Díaz del Río, T. Patrocínio, M. Sacau, F. J. Murillo, D. Palomino, and L. M. Fernández-Salas

Durán Muñoz, P., Sayago-Gil, M., Cristobo, J., Parra, A., Serrano, V., Díaz del Río, T., Patrocínio, T., Sacau, M., Murillo, F. J., Palomino, D., and Fernández-Salas, L. M. 2009. Seabed mapping for selecting cold-water coral protection areas on Hatton Bank, Northeast Atlantic. - ICES Journal of Marine Science, 66: 2013–2025.

Research into vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) on the high seas and the impacts of bottom fishing and *ad hoc* management measures are high priority today thanks to UN General Assembly Resolution 61/105. An interdisciplinary methodology (specifically



International VMS

2002-2006

Source: ICES, 2007

ECOVUL/ARPA: Seabed?

Geo-Mar Lett
DOI 10.1007/s00367-009-0163-5

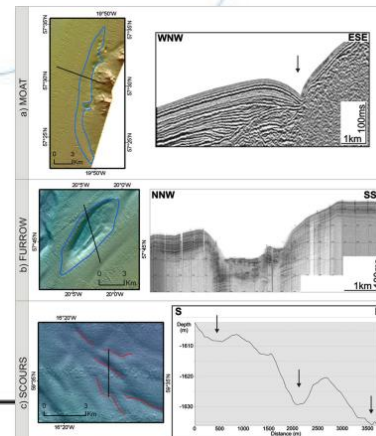
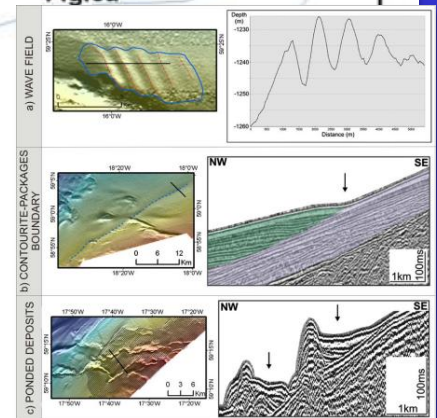
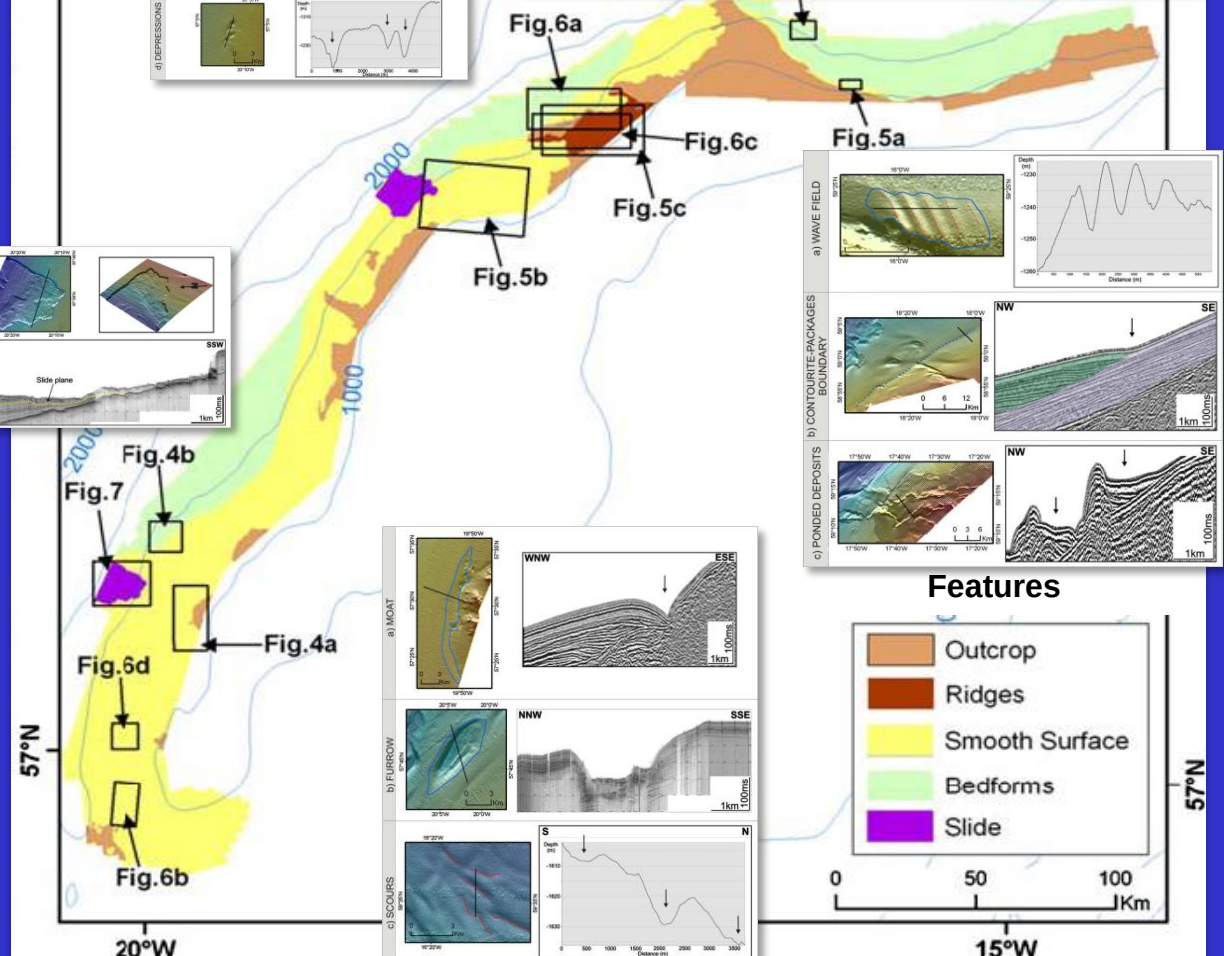
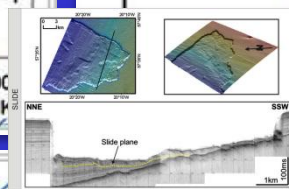
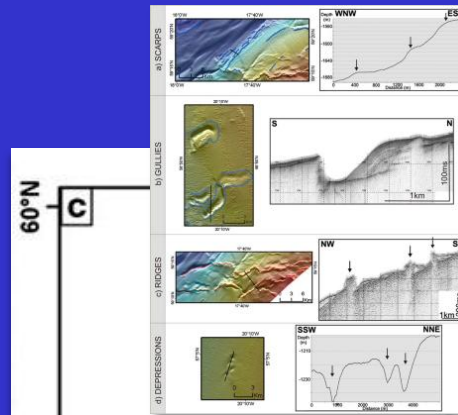
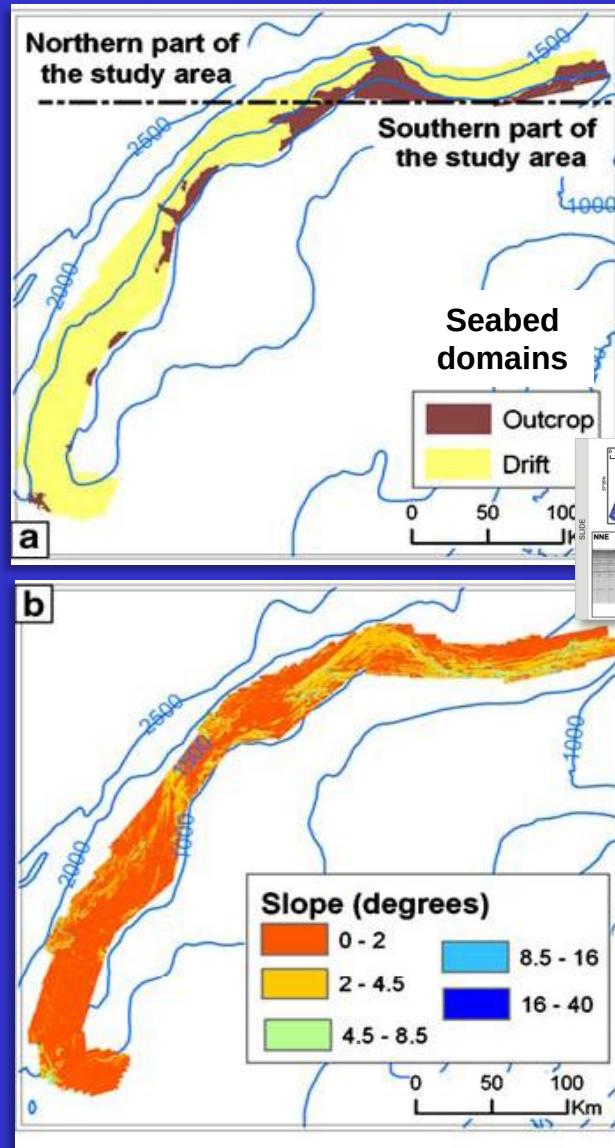
ORIGINAL

Evidence for current-controlled morphology along the western slope of Hatton Bank (Rockall Plateau, NE Atlantic Ocean)

Miriam Sayago-Gil · David Long · Kenneth Hitchen ·
Victor Díaz-del-Río · Luis Miguel Fernández-Salas ·
Pablo Durán-Muñoz

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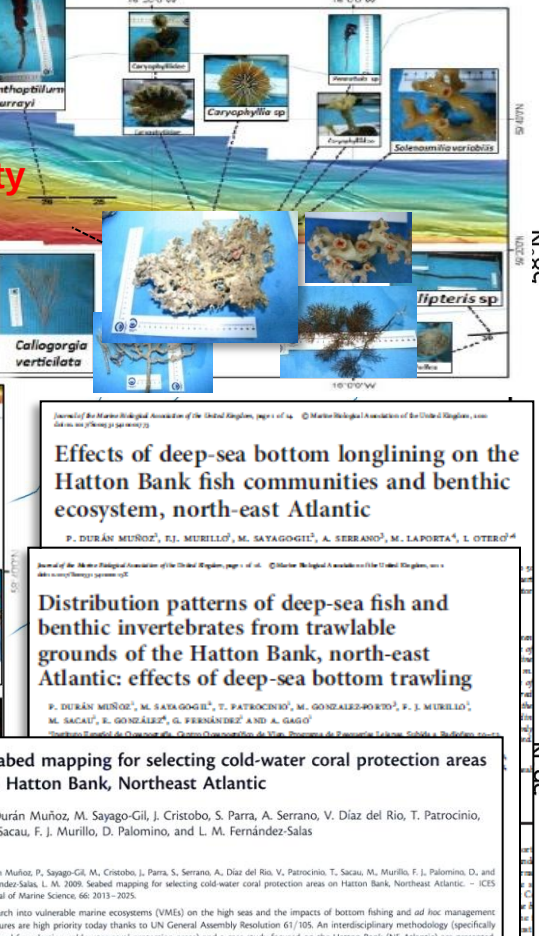
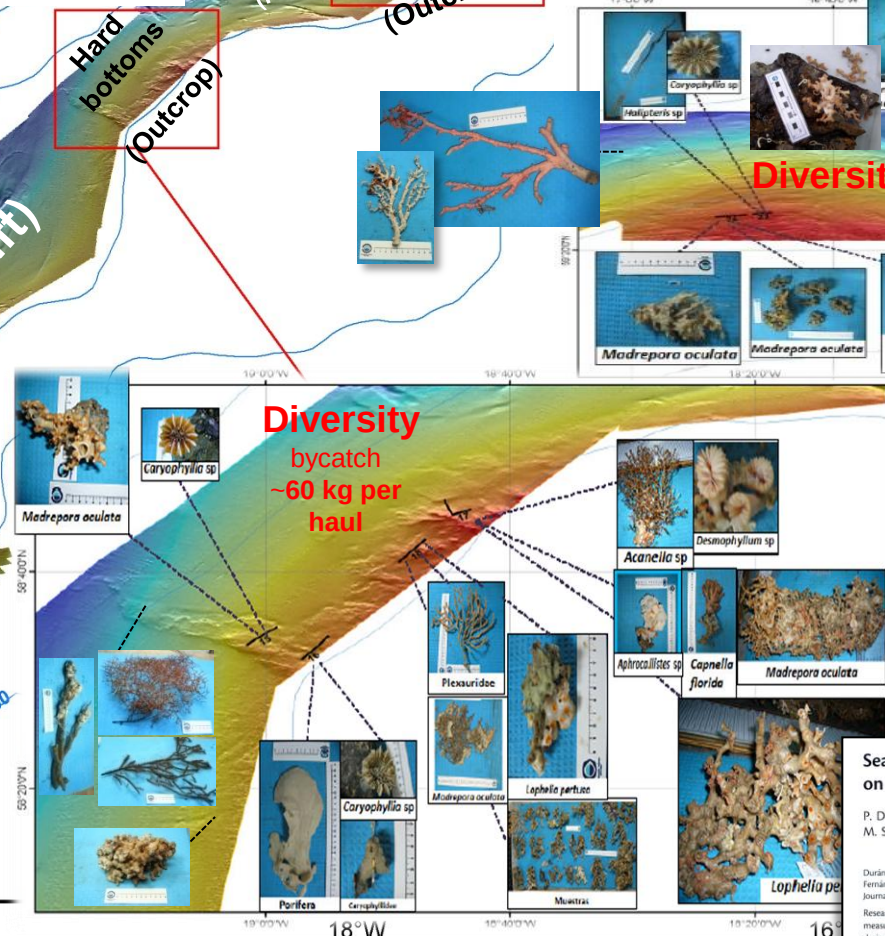
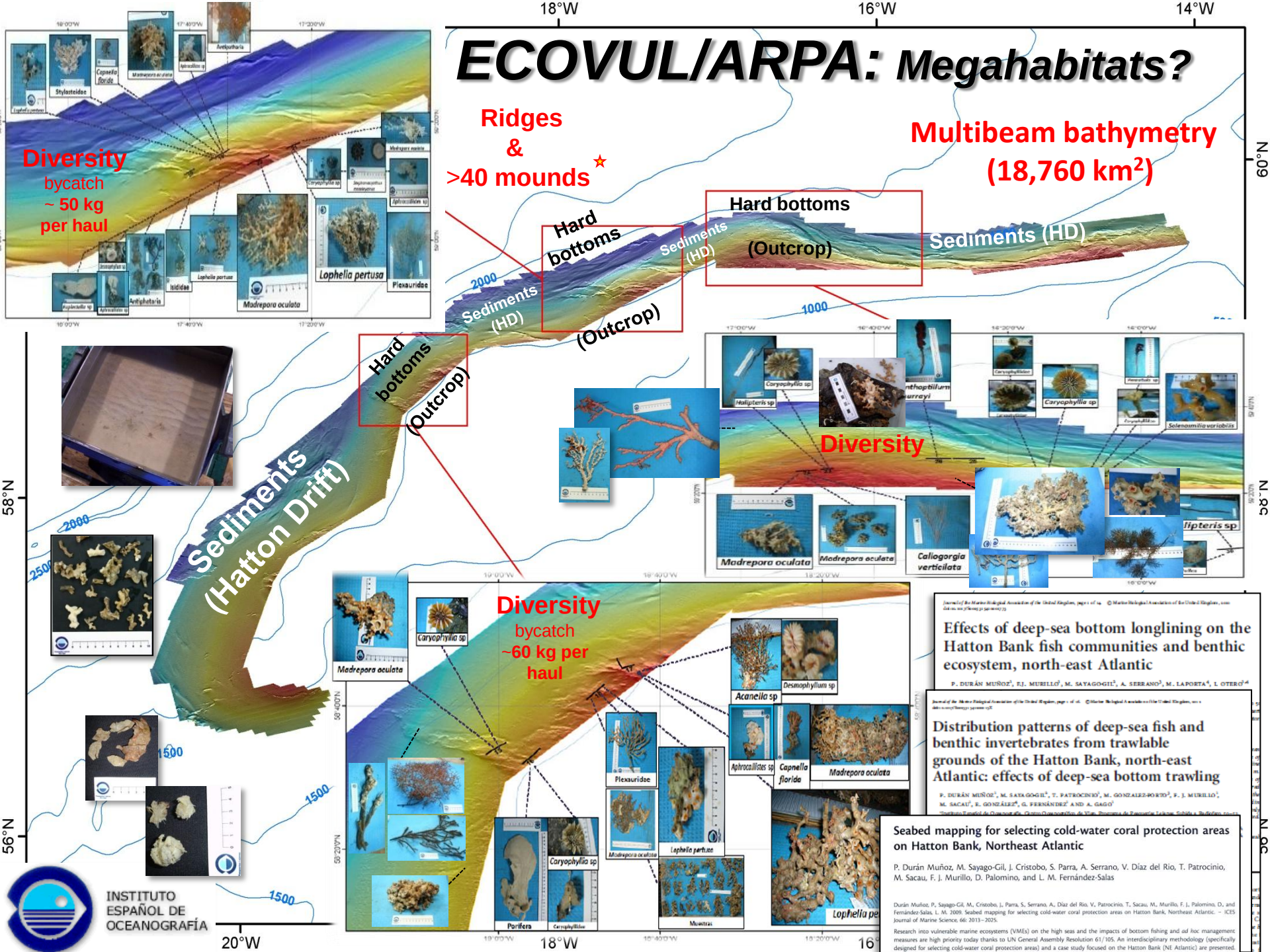
Abstract A multibeam bathymetric and high- (airgun and sparker) to very high-resolution (Topas) seismic study of sediment waves, edges of contourite deposits, p... deposits, scarp, gullies, ridges, depressions, slide



ECOVUL/ARPA: Megahabitats?

Ridges
&
>40 mounds*

Multibeam bathymetry
(18,760 km²)



Effects of deep-sea bottom longlining on the Hatton Bank fish communities and benthic ecosystem, north-east Atlantic

P. DURÁN MUÑOZ¹, F.J. MURILLO², M. SAYAGO-GIL³, A. SERRANO³, M. LAPOERTA⁴, I. OTERO⁴

Distribution patterns of deep-sea fish and benthic invertebrates from trawlable grounds of the Hatton Bank, north-east Atlantic: effects of deep-sea bottom trawling

P. DURÁN MUÑOZ¹, M. SAYAGO-GIL³, T. PATROCINIO², M. GONZÁLEZ-PORTO², F. J. MURILLO², M. SACAU¹, R. GONZÁLEZ¹, G. FERNÁNDEZ AHO¹ AND A. GAGO¹

Seabed mapping for selecting cold-water coral protection areas on Hatton Bank, Northeast Atlantic

P. Durán Muñoz, M. Sayago-Gil, J. Cristóbal, S. Parra, A. Serrano, V. Díaz del Río, T. Patrocinio, M. Sacau, F. J. Murillo, D. Palomino, and L. M. Fernández-Salas

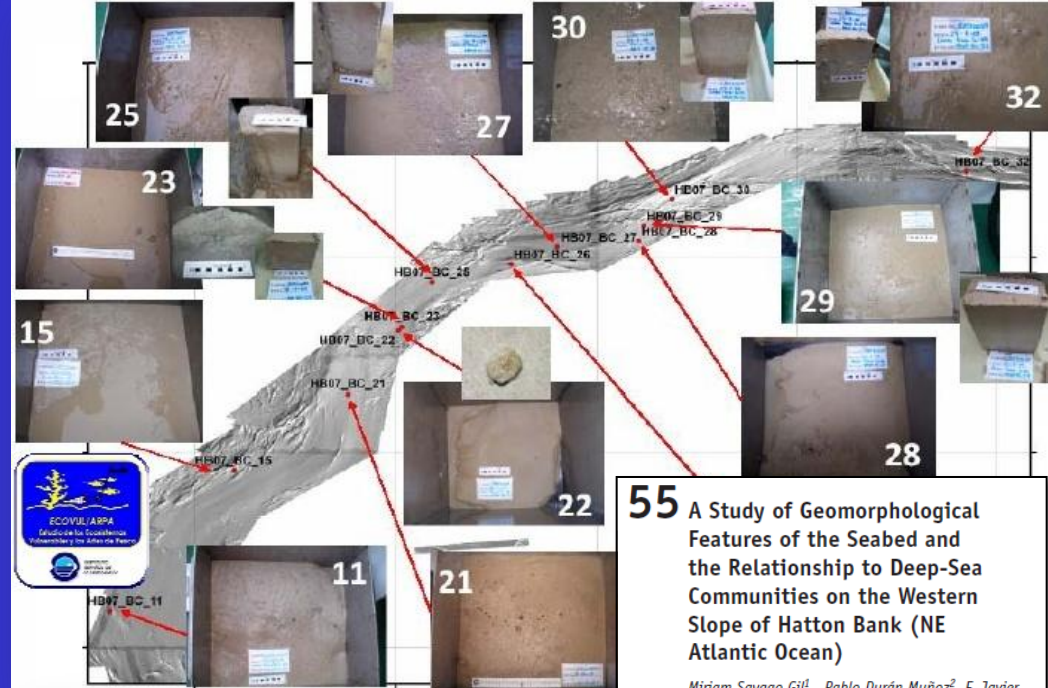
Durán Muñoz, P. Sayago-Gil, M. Cristóbal, S. Parra, A. Serrano, A. Díaz del Río, V. Patrocinio, T. Sacau, M. Murillo, F. J. Palomino, D. and Fernández-Salas, L. M. 2009. Seabed mapping for selecting cold-water coral protection areas on Hatton Bank, Northeast Atlantic. - ICES Journal of Marine Science 66: 2013-2025.

Hatton Drift:

- Flat and soft seabed (sedimentary drift; sand; mud)
- Nowadays extensive coral reef structures are unlikely to occur
- Easy to trawl: Intensive trawling since 1990'

Hatton Outcrop:

- Uneven and hard seabed (rocky outcrop; ridges; carbonate mounds*; basalts)
- Not / slightly covered by sediments (sediment traps)
- Coral diversity (reefs; gardens)
- Difícult to trawl: few trawling
Feasible to static fishing gears (e.g. longlines)



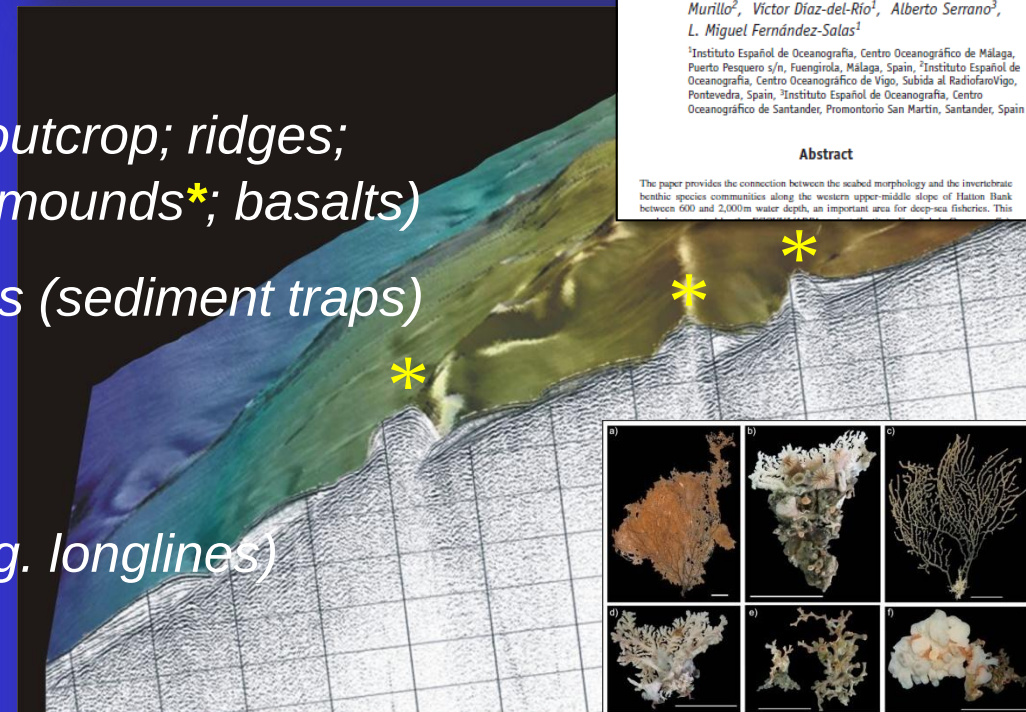
55 A Study of Geomorphological Features of the Seabed and the Relationship to Deep-Sea Communities on the Western Slope of Hatton Bank (NE Atlantic Ocean)

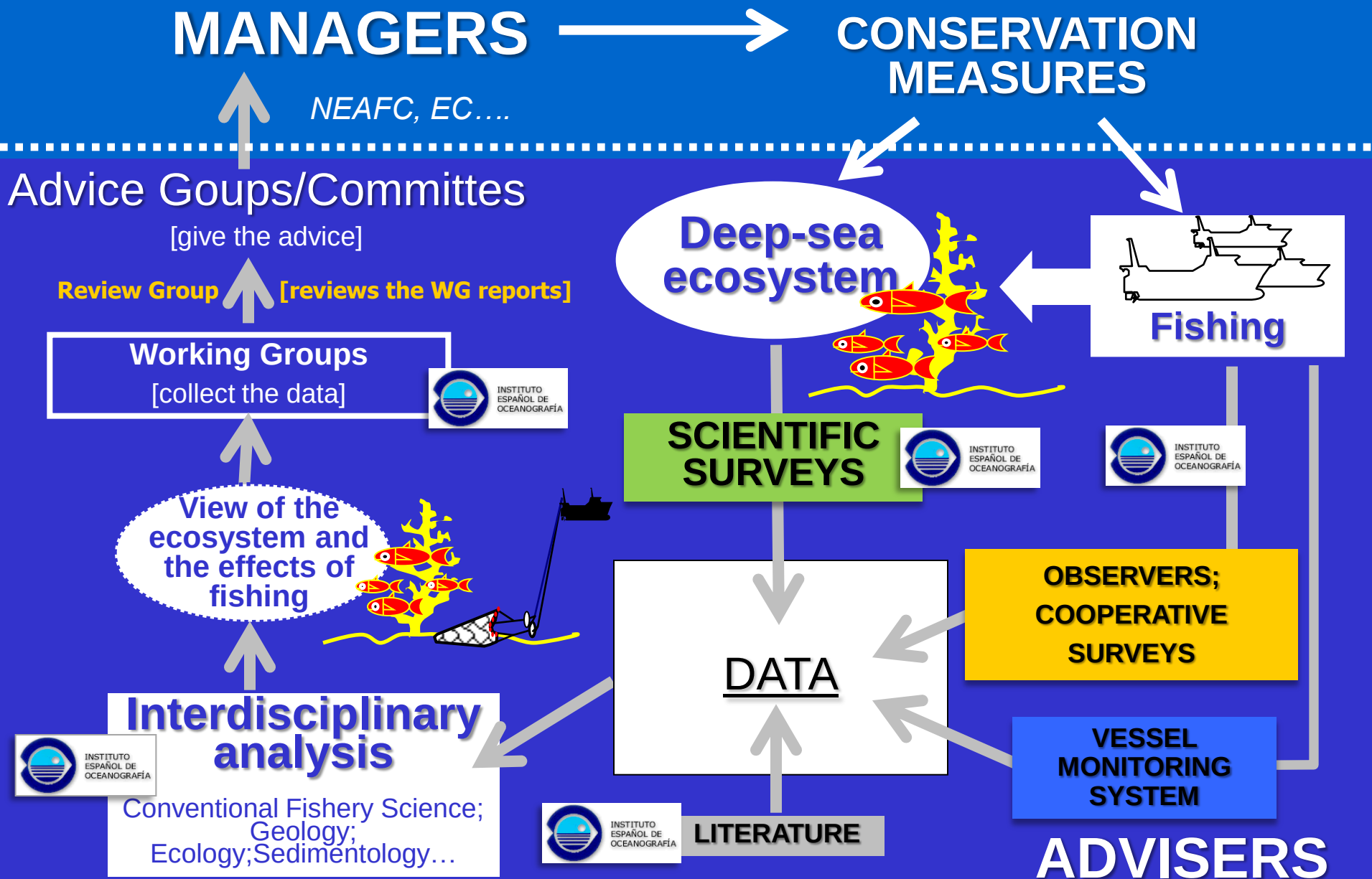
Miriam Sayago-Gil¹, Pablo Durán-Muñoz², F. Javier Murillo², Víctor Díaz-del-Río¹, Alberto Serrano³, L. Miguel Fernández-Salas¹

¹Instituto Español de Oceanografía, Centro Oceanográfico de Málaga, Puerto Pesquero s/n, Fuengirola, Málaga, Spain, ²Instituto Español de Oceanografía, Centro Oceanográfico de Vigo, Subida al Radiofaro/Vigo, Pontevedra, Spain, ³Instituto Español de Oceanografía, Centro Oceanográfico de Santander, Promontorio San Martín, Santander, Spain

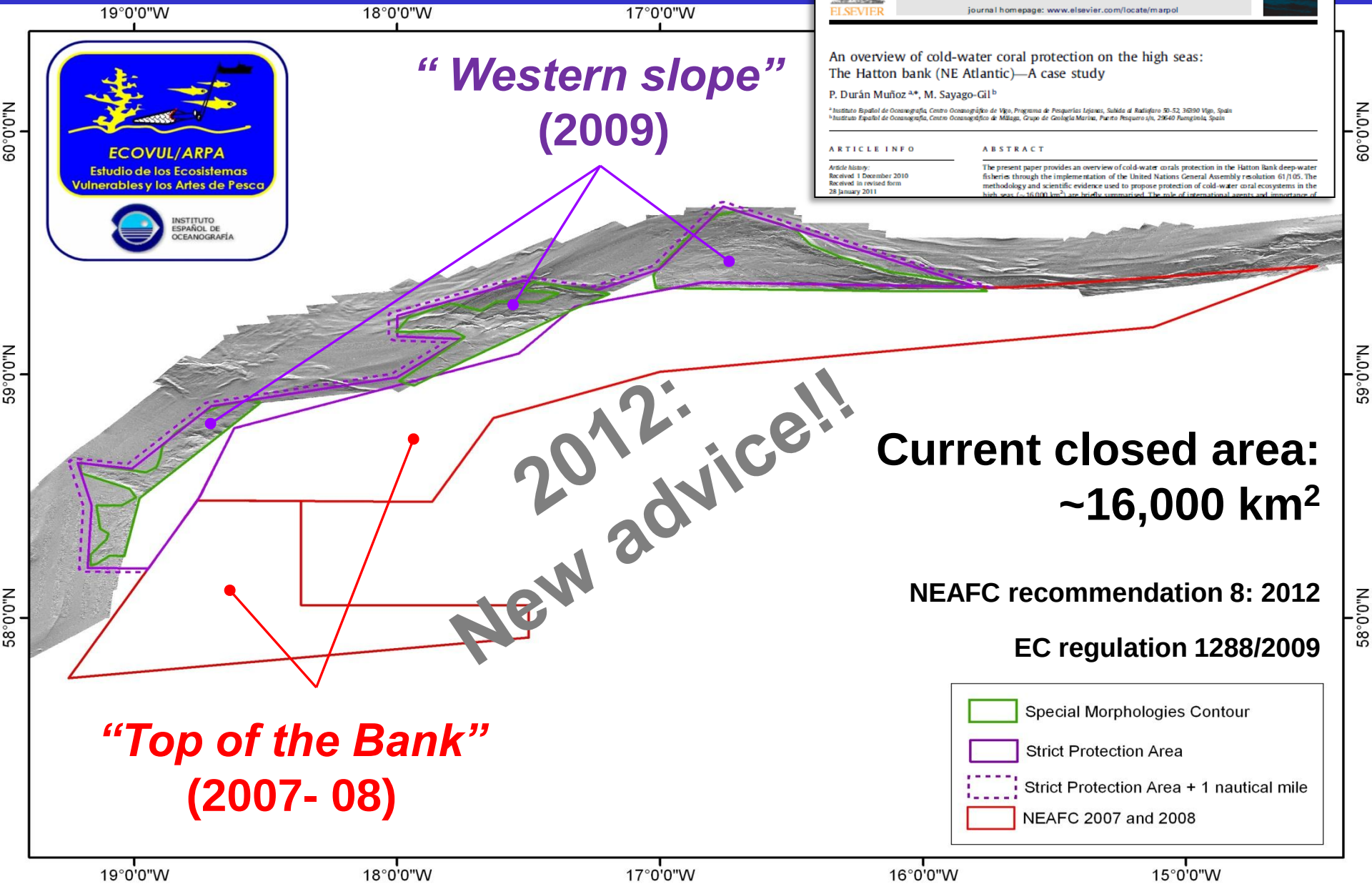
Abstract

The paper provides the connection between the seabed morphology and the invertebrate benthic species communities along the western upper-middle slope of Hatton Bank between 600 and 2,000m water depth, an important area for deep-sea fisheries. This





CURRENT SITUATION: Management measures



**“Western slope”
(2009)**

**Current closed area:
~16,000 km²**

NEAFC recommendation 8: 2012

EC regulation 1288/2009

-  Special Morphologies Contour
-  Strict Protection Area
-  Strict Protection Area + 1 nautical mile
-  NEAFC 2007 and 2008

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journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/marpol

**An overview of cold-water coral protection on the high seas:
The Hatton bank (NE Atlantic)—A case study**

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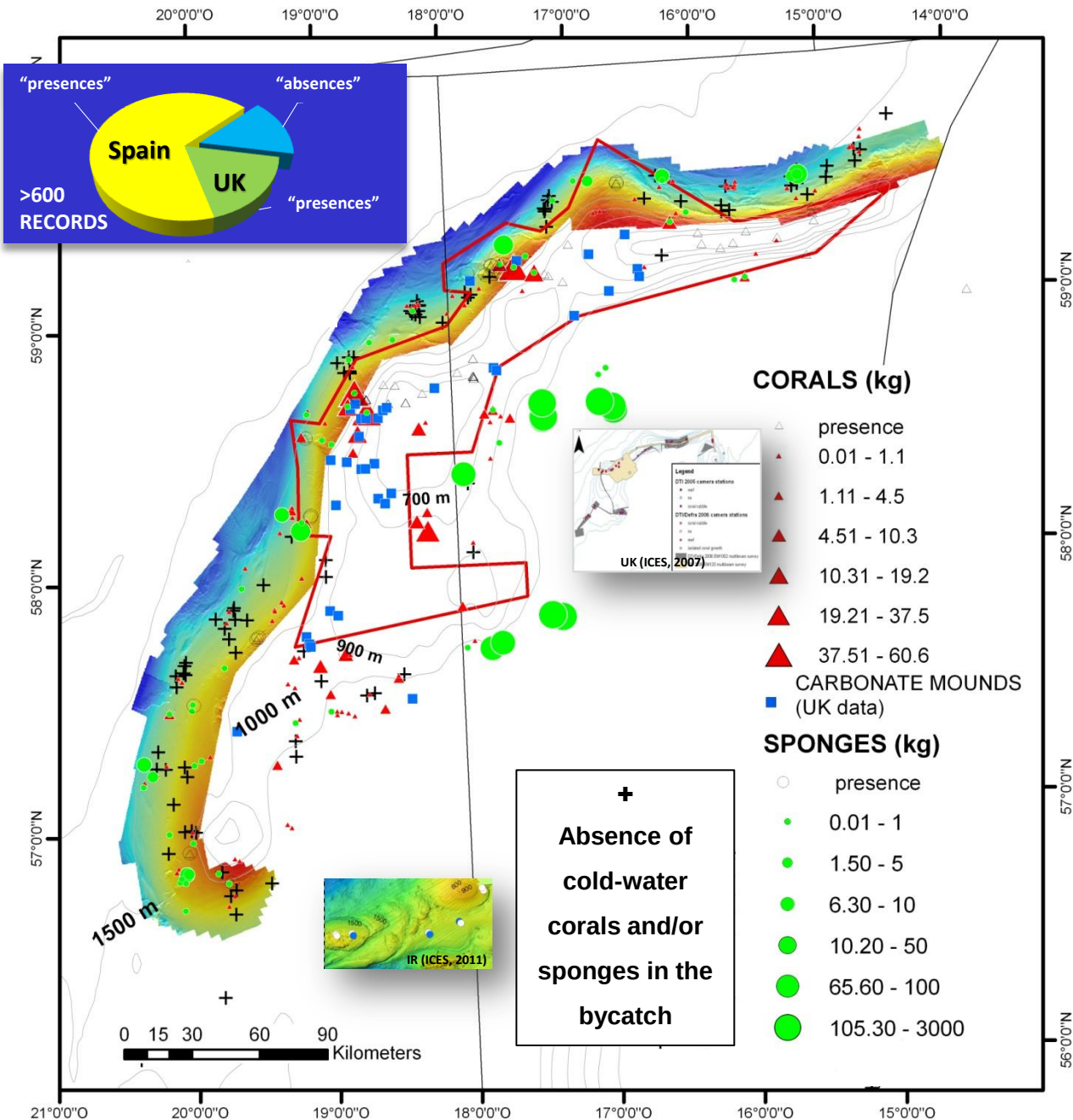
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ABSTRACT

The present paper provides an overview of cold-water corals protection in the Hatton Bank deep-water fisheries through the implementation of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 61/105. The methodology and scientific evidence used to propose protection of cold-water coral ecosystems in the high seas (~16,000 km²) are briefly summarized. The role of international agents and importance of



CURRENT SITUATION: Data



HATTON BANK (March 2012)

• ICES DATABASE

[Established in 2012]

Corals & sponges (in a broad sense),
mounds, etc;

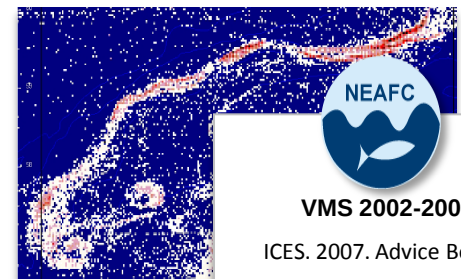
"Absences" of corals / sponges

• MAPS

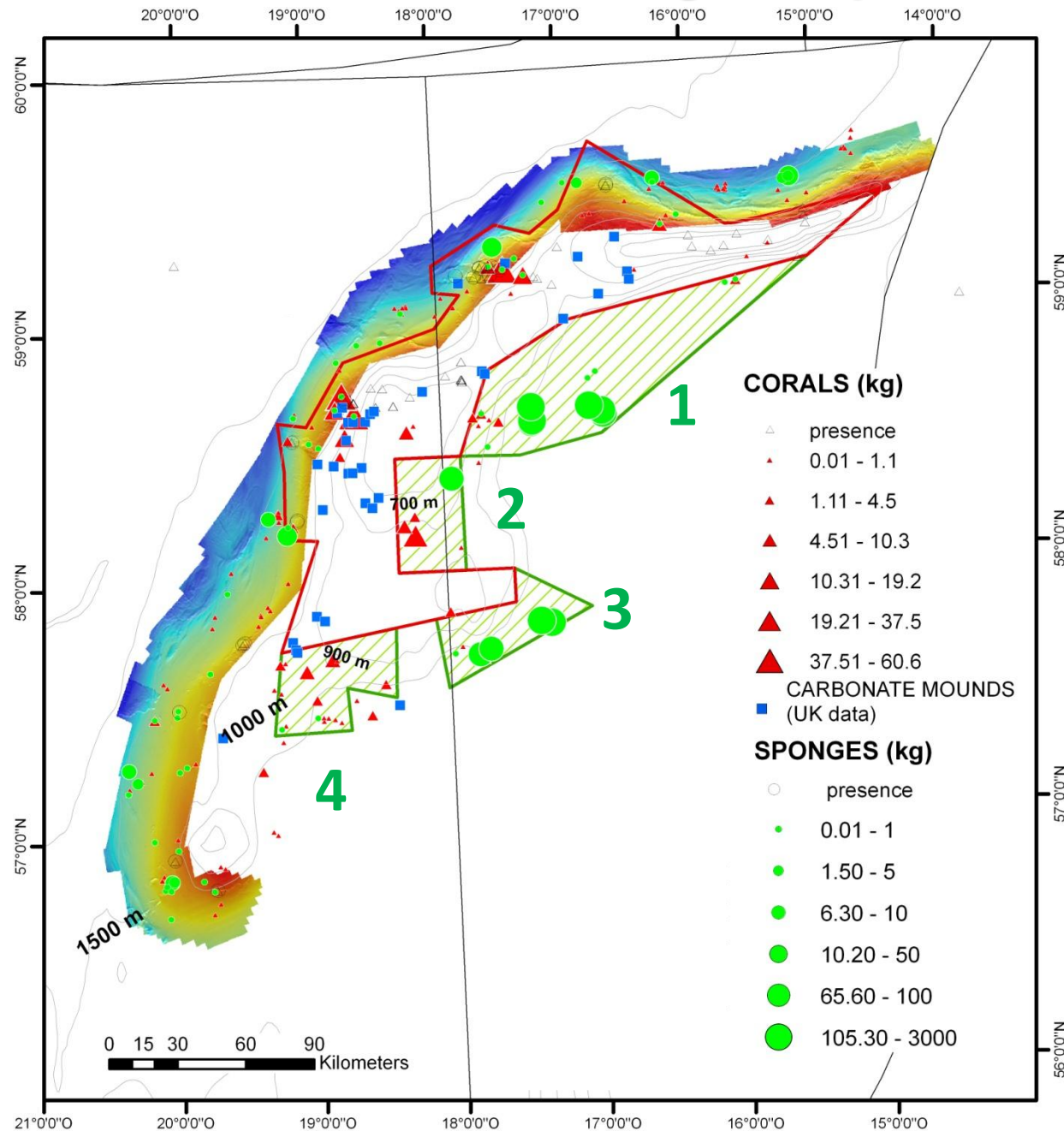
Multibeam bathymetry (images)

• FISHING

e.g. VMS not updated

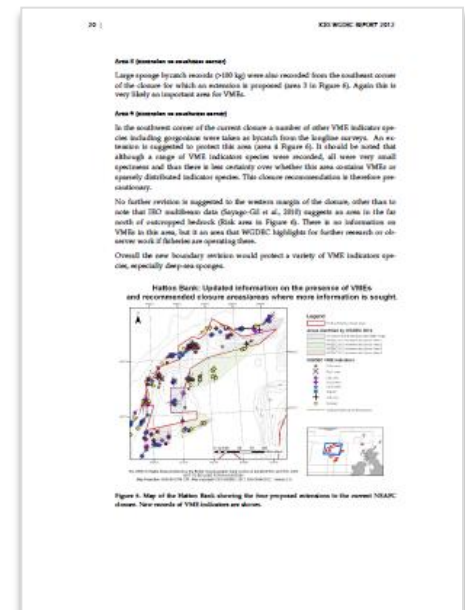


ADVICE 2012: Working Group

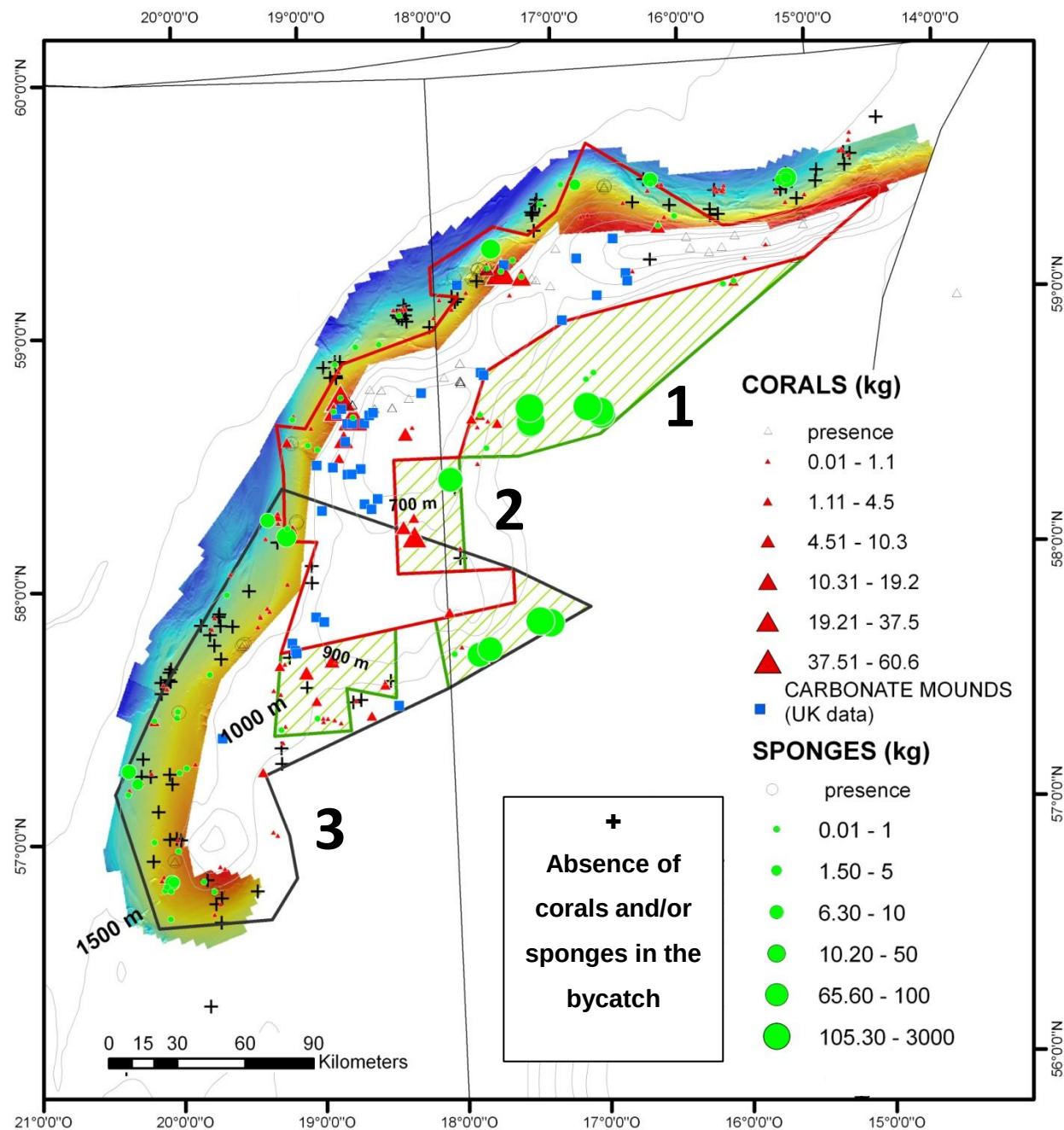


ICES-NAFO WGDEC (March 2012)

- Area 1: Sponge grounds
- Area 2: Corals & sponges
- Area 3: Sponge grounds
- Area 4: Corals



ADVICE 2012: ICES



ICES (June 2012)

- **Area 1: sponge grounds**
- **Area 2: corals & sponges**
- **Area 3: corals & sponges**

Figure 1.5.4.1.4 Map of the Hatter Bank closed area showing the three proposed area extensions (grey areas 1-3) to the current 1000m depth contour (pink area). Records of VMS indicators are shown.

Table 1.5.4.1.4 Extension area 1 that joins to the existing Hatter Bank closed area

Point Number	Latitude (decimal)	Longitude (decimal)
1	58.20	-17.51
2	58.56	-17.79
3	58.40	-17.42
4	58.30	-17.87
5	58.83	-17.63
6	59.02	-17.00

Table 1.5.4.1.5 Extension area 2 that joins to the existing Hatter Bank closed area

Point Number	Latitude (decimal)	Longitude (decimal)
1	58.50	-17.87
2	58.05	-17.86
3	58.05	-18.36
4	58.50	-18.36

Station	BC	CC	GO	LC	SP	SF	SG	SC
A05-L107		0.01						
A05-L109		0.01						
A05-L111		0.01						
A05-L112		0.01						
A05-L113		0.1					1.7	
A05-L169				0.1			6.4	
A05-L171		0.4						
A05-L19							1.5	
A05-L198		0.01						
A05-L201				0.1				
A05-L202		0.01		0.1				
A05-L203		0.01						
A05-L231	0.01			0.1				0.1
A05-L234							0.7	
A05-L29							0.9	
A05-L33				0.01				
A05-L61							6.3	
A05-L63							0.2	
A05-L64		0.01					0.1	
A05-L65		0.01						
A05-L76		0.2					2.8	
A05-L77							25.1	0.6
A05-L78				0.01				0.1
A05-L81		0.1						
HB05-L10				0.01			0.1	
HB05-L12				0.01			0.01	
HB05-L13			0.01				0.01	1.6
HB05-L9				0.01				
HB07-DB-03							+	
HB07-DB-05	+	+					+	
HB07-DB-06	+			+			+	
HB07-L3				0.01			0.01	
HB07-L4							0.01	
HB07-L5							0.01	
HB07-L6							0.01	
HB07-L7				0.01				



Existing fishing area

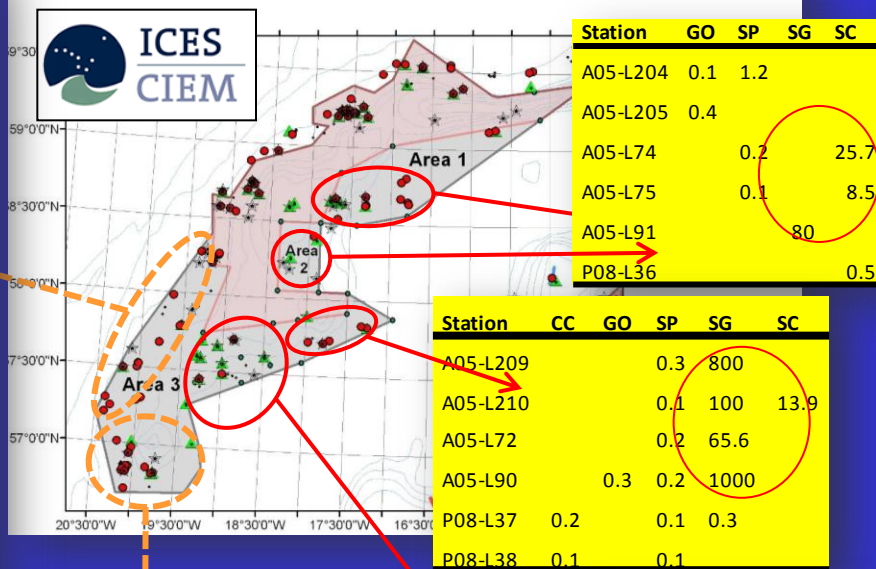
Mapped area
(Hatton Drift)

bycatch of indicators (low)

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Thresholds (ICES, 2012)
240–560 kg (sponges)
18–42 kg (live corals)

Hatton Bank closed area - ICES revised boundary proposal 2012



Station	GO	SP	SG	SC
A05-L204	0.1	1.2		
A05-L205	0.4			
A05-L74		0.2	25.7	
A05-L75		0.1	8.5	
A05-L91			80	
P08-L36				0.5

Station	CC	GO	SP	SG	SC
A05-L209			0.3	800	
A05-L210			0.1	100	13.9
A05-L72			0.2	65.6	
A05-L90		0.3	0.2	1000	
P08-L37	0.2		0.1	0.3	
P08-L38	0.1		0.1		

Station	BC	CC	GO	LC	SP	SF	SG	SC
A05-L132							0.4	
A05-L172							1	
A05-L20					1			
A05-L233		0.01						
A05-L83							8	
A05-L85					0.1			
HB05-L14							0.01	0.01
HB05-L15					0.01			
HB06-DB-02	+	+	+	+			+	+
HB06-L2			0.01			0.01	0.01	
HB06-L3							0.01	
HB07-DB-01							+	+
HB07-L1							0.01	
HB07-L2							0.01	
P05-L20		0.01						
P05-L21	0.01	0.01						0.4
P05-L25			0.1					
P08-L10	0.01	0.01						
P08-L9		0.1	0.01					

Station	BC	CC	GO	LC	SP	SG	SC
A05-L211			0.8		0.2	0.4	
A05-L212					0.1		
A05-L213					0.1		
A05-L214			2.2		0.1		
A05-L71					0.4		
P05-L27		0.2	3.5		0.6	3.4	
P05-L28		0.1			0.1		
P05-L29		0.5	1.5		0.2	2.1	
P05-L30		0.01			0.01		
P05-L31		0.1				1.8	
P05-L33					0.1		
P05-L34					0.2		
P05-L35					0.2		
P05-L36		0.01	0.01		0.4	0.1	
P05-L37		0.01	0.5				0.01
P05-L38		0.01			0.01		
P05-L42		0.2	1.6		0.2		
P05-L43		0.2	0.1		0.1		
P08-L11		0.1					
P08-L12		0.2	0.01			0.1	0.01
P08-L13							0.01
P08-L14	0.01				0	4.5	

Station	CC	GO	SP	SF	SG	SC
A05-L100			0.2		106.4	
A05-L206		0.01	1			0.2
A05-L207		0.1	0.5		404	
A05-L208			0.2		3000	
A05-L95		0.7	0.1			1.2
A05-L96		0.01	0.1			0.8
A05-L97			0.1		105.3	0.1
A05-L98			0.2		130.7	
A05-L99			0.1		283.5	
P05-L61	0.1		0.01			3
P05-L62					0.3	
P05-L63						1.1
P08-L29	0.3	0.3	0.9		1	
P08-L30			0.2		0.1	
			0.01	0.01	0.7	
			0.01		0.4	
			0.3			0.4
					0.2	2.1

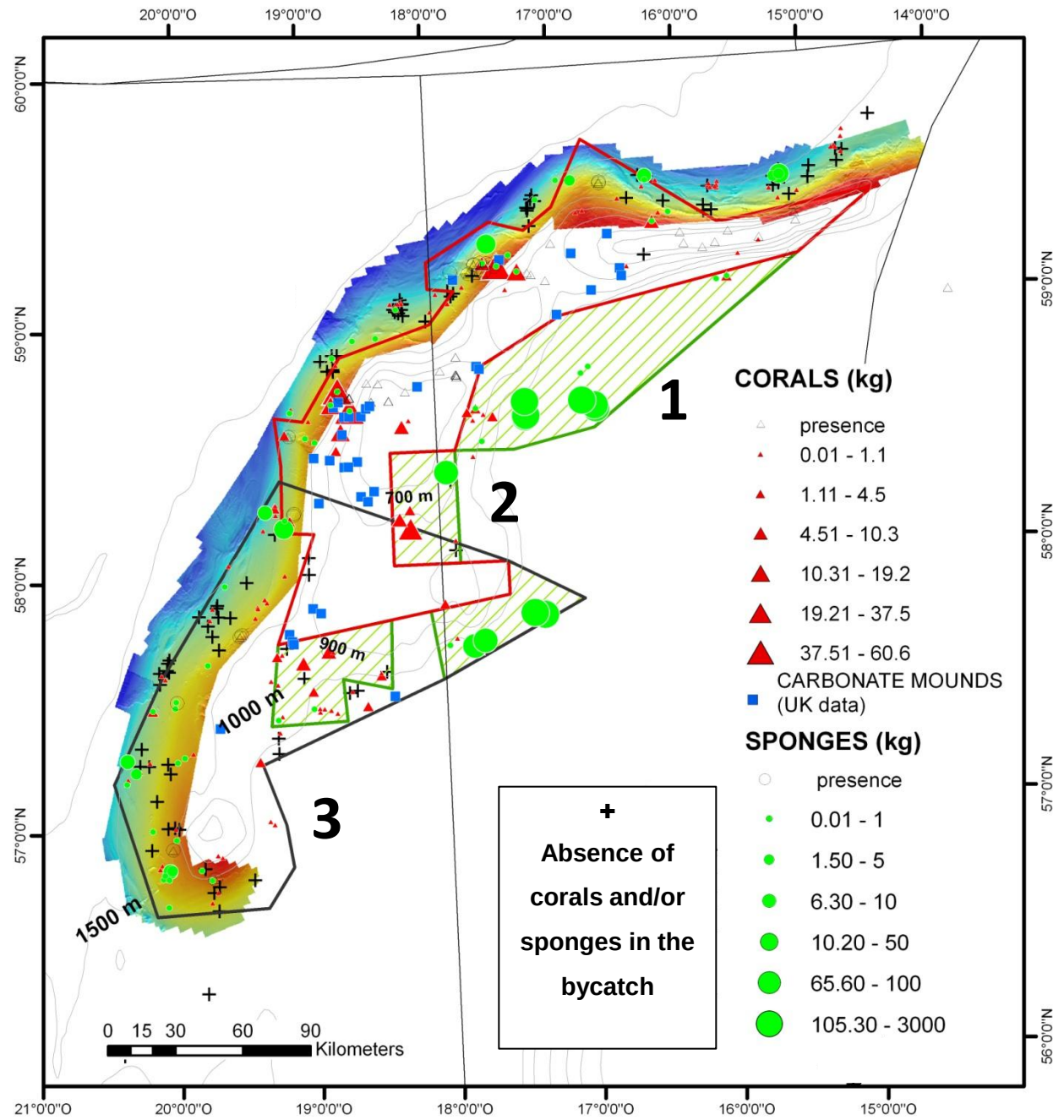
Data sources (2005-08) EU (Spain)

P	Commercial longline
A	Commercial trawl
HB-L	Scientific trawl
HB-DB	Scientific dredge

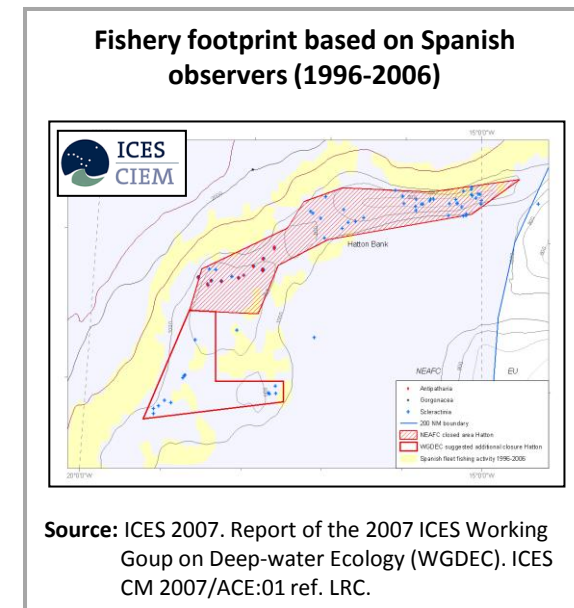
Bycatch (Kg)

BC	Black corals
CC	Cup corals
GO	Gorgonians
LC	Lace corals
SP	Sea pens
SF	Soft corals
SG	Sponges
SC	Stony corals

OTHER DATA

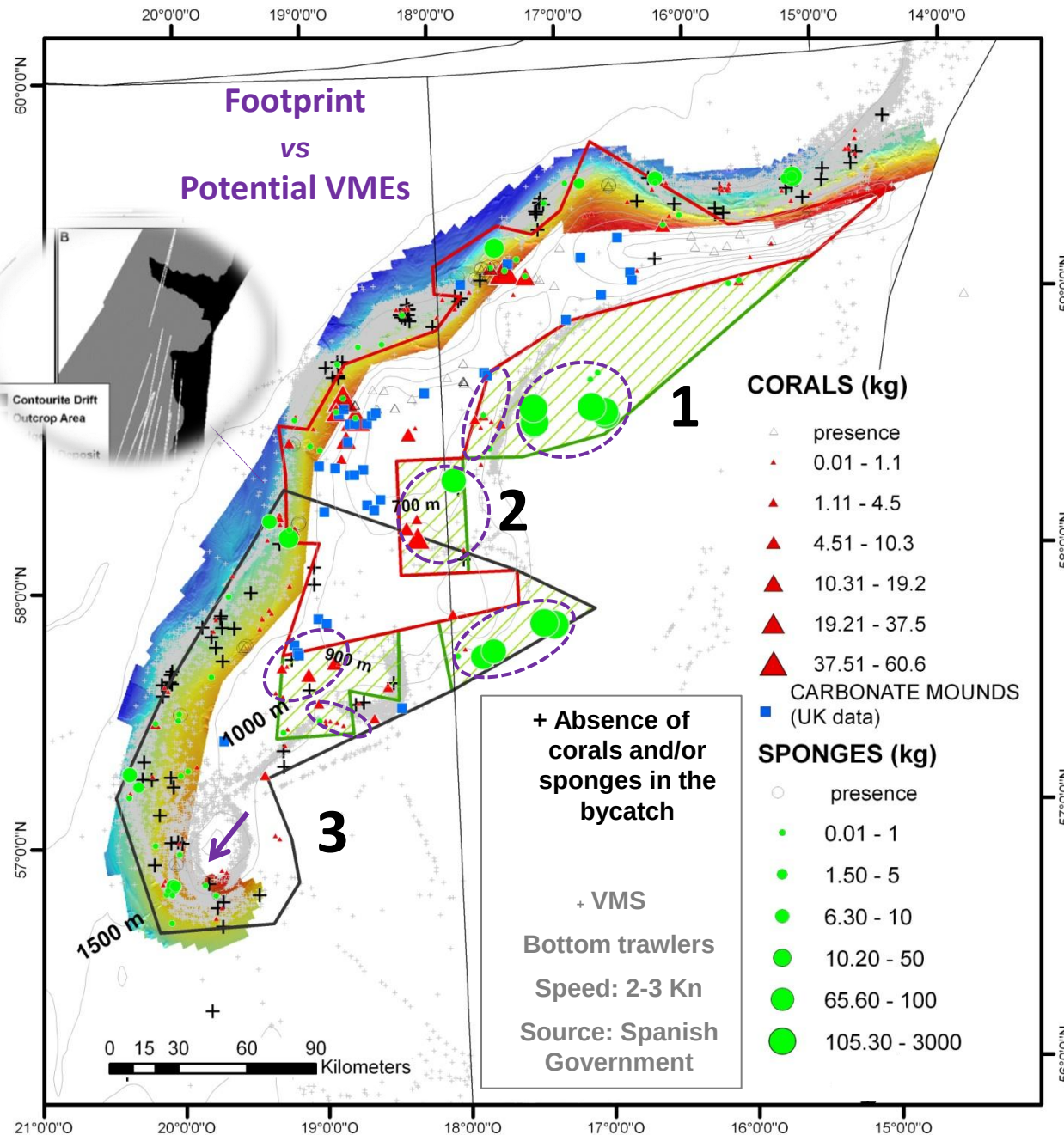


INSTITUTO
ESPAÑOL DE
OCEANOGRAFÍA



OTHER DATA

**Footprint
vs
Potential VMEs**



HATTON BANK

Recent fishery footprint
(Spain)

2007-2011

Besides bycatch of corals and sponges, other data are important to produce the advice about closed areas:

- Effort data (e.g. VMS);
- Mapping data (e.g. multibeam);
- Surveys;
- Absence data

NW Atlantic: NEREIDA Project (2009-2010)

Nafo pot**E**ncial vulne**R**able marine **E**cosystems.
Impacts of **D**ee**p**-se**A** fisheries

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME LEAD BY SPAIN

Spain

SGM-Secretaría General del Mar. Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Medio Rural Marino
IEO-Instituto Español de Oceanografía. Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad

Canada

Geological Survey of Canada. Natural Resources
Canadian Hydrographic Service. Fisheries and Oceans
Ecosystem Research Division. Fisheries and Oceans

UK

CEFAS-Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science

Russia

Russian Academy of Sciences. P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology.



R/V Miguel Oliver

NEREIDA: Study area & surveys

6 MULTIDISCIPLINARY SURVEYS

368 Box Corer
105 dredges
414 CTD

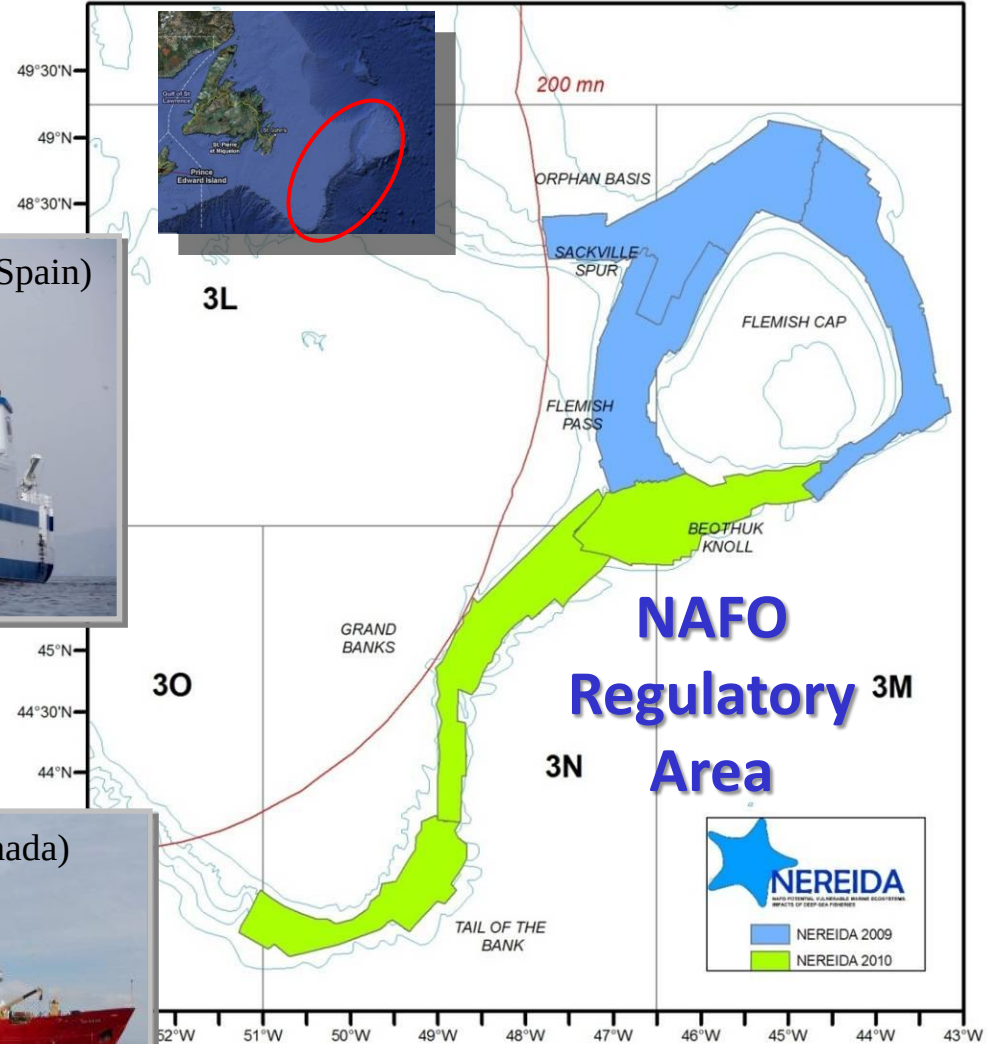
RV Miguel Oliver - SGM (Spain)



2 VISUAL SURVEYS

2143 photos
116 hr (video)

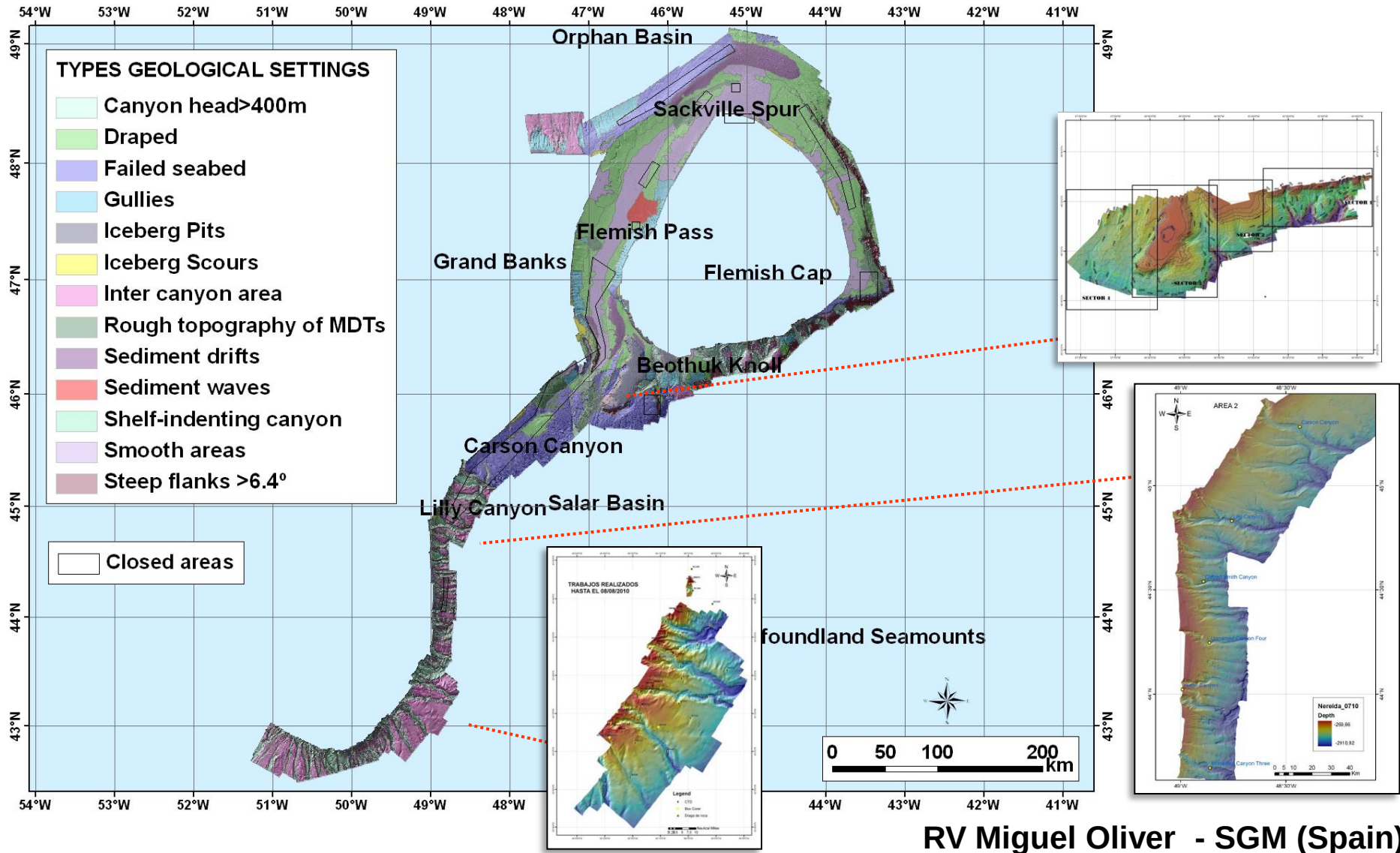
RV Hudson - DFO (Canada)



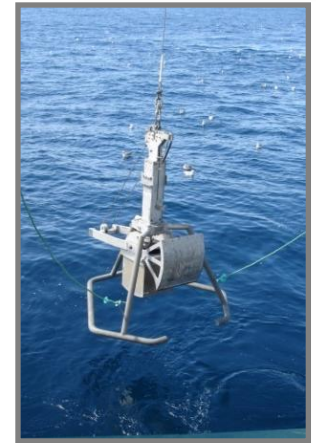
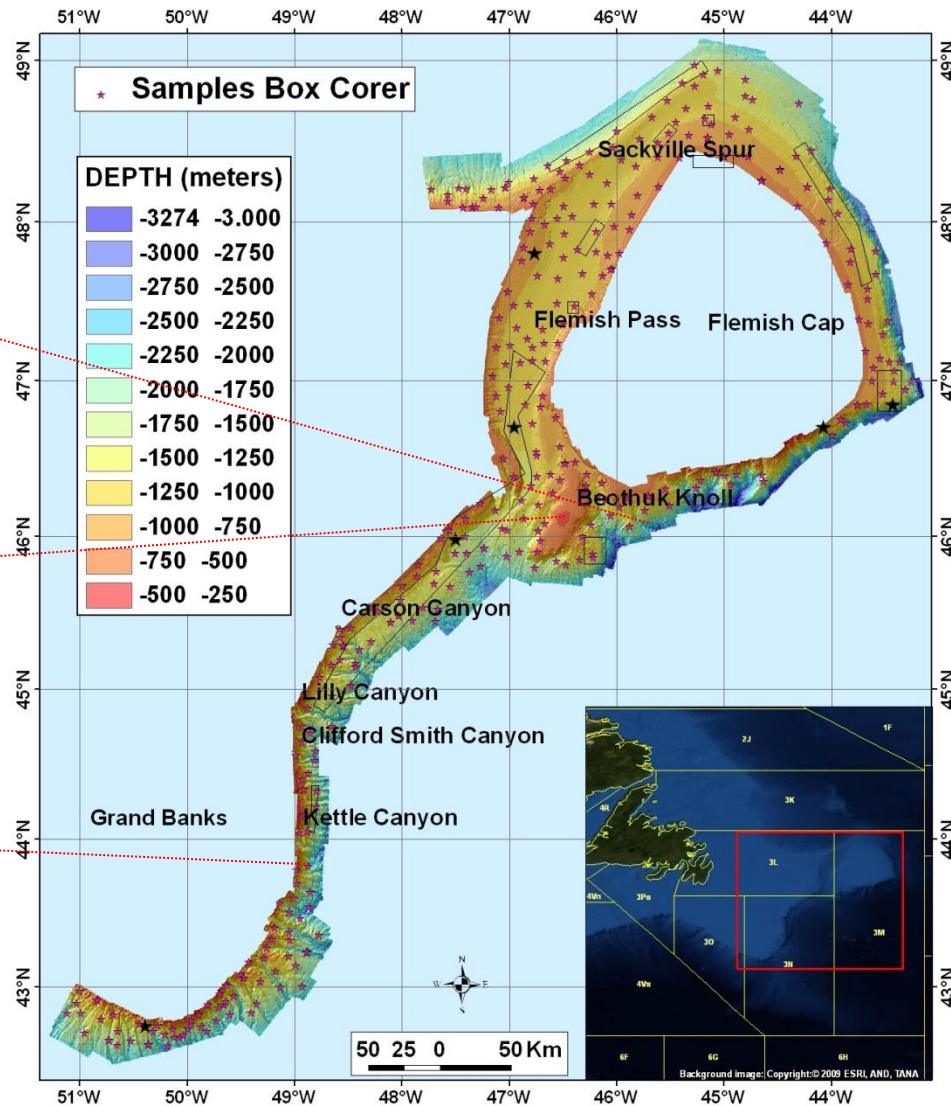
Total surveyed area: ~69.000 km²

NEREIDA: Seabed maps

Multibeam bathymetry (68,950 km²) & Sub-bottom profiles (28,113 km)



NEREIDA: Box Corer

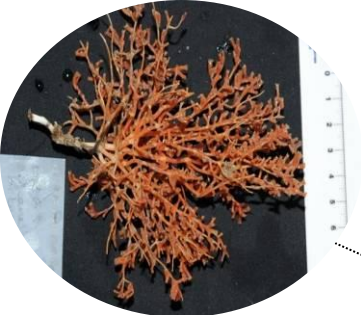


368 samples

RV Miguel Oliver - SGM (Spain)

NEREIDA: Dredges

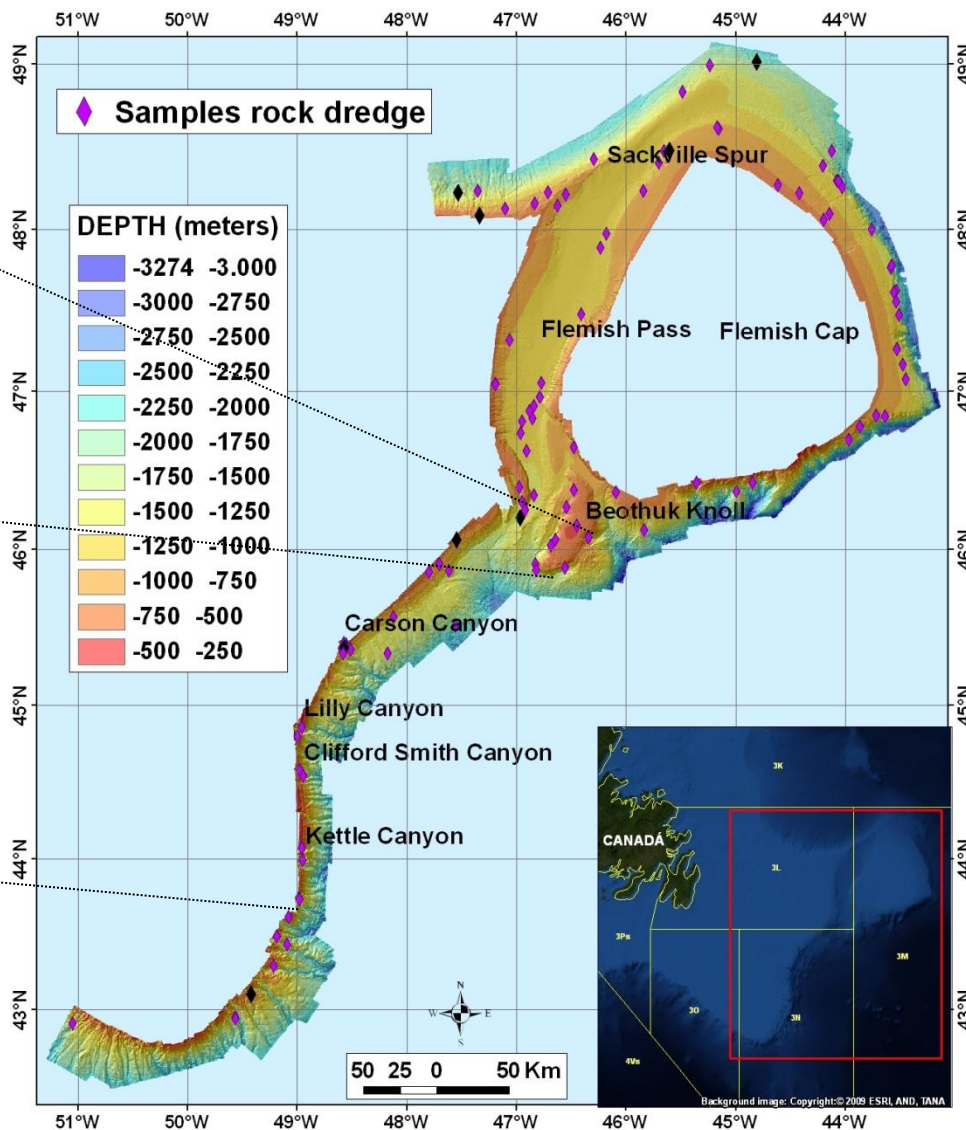
Acanella arbuscula



Geodia macandrewi



Mediaster bairdi

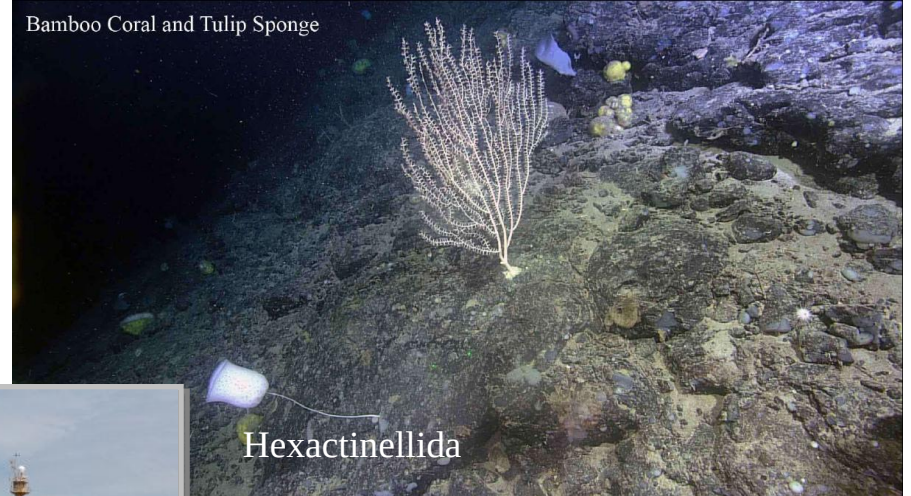
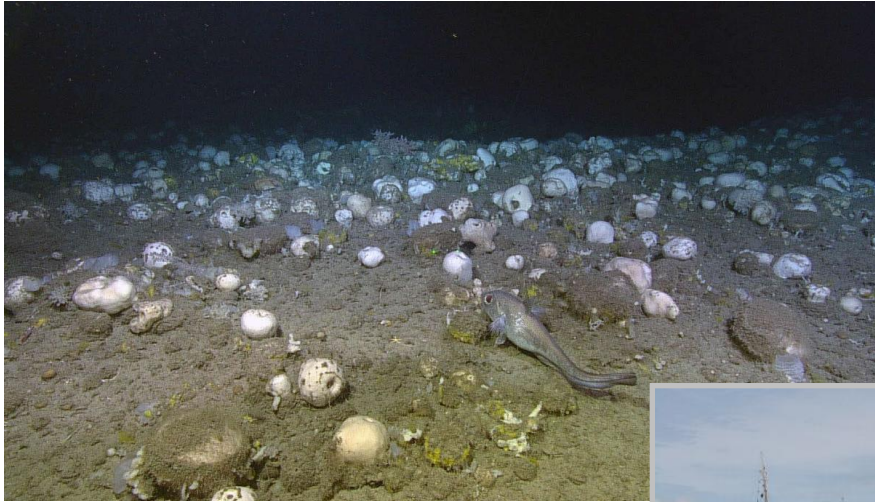


105 samples

RV Miguel Oliver - SGM (Spain)

NEREIDA: visual surveys

Photos (2,143) & Video footage (116 hr)



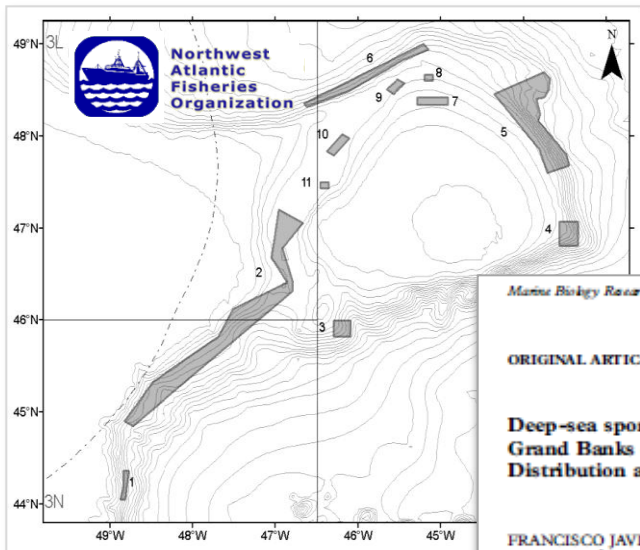
RV Hudson - DFO (Canada)

NEREIDA: Management measures

2009 - 2010

NAFO closed 11 areas identified by
groundfish surveys
(UE, Spain and Canada)

Protection of “concentrations”
of corals/sponges



“Significant catches”

Large gorgonians = 2 kg

Small gorgonians = 0.2 kg

Seapens = 1.6 kg

Sponges = 75 kg



CURRENT SITUATION

11 closed areas

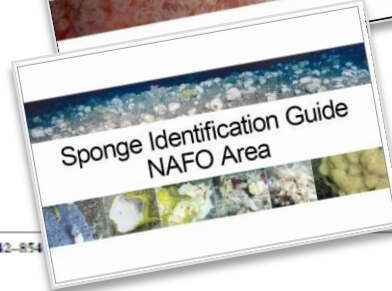
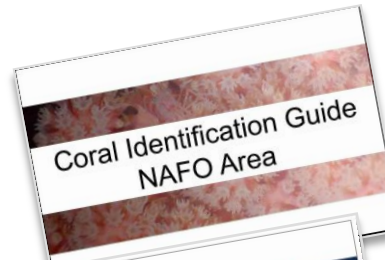
~ 8,500 km²

(Review: December 2014)



UTILITY

- Suitability of the current closed areas?
- Refine the boundaries?
- New areas?



Marine Biology Research, 2012; 8: 842-854

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Deep-sea sponge grounds of the Flemish Cap, Flemish Pass and the Grand Banks of Newfoundland (Northwest Atlantic Ocean): Distribution and species composition

FRANCISCO JAVIER MURILLO^{1*}, PABLO DURÁN MUÑOZ², JAVIER CRISTOBO², PILAR RÍOS³, CONCEPCIÓN GONZÁLEZ³, ELLEN KENCHINGTON³ & ALBERTO SERRANO⁴

ICES Journal of Marine Science (2011), 68(2), 319–352. doi:10.1093/icesjms/fsq071

Distribution of deep-water corals of the Flemish Cap, Flemish Pass, and the Grand Banks of Newfoundland (Northwest Atlantic Ocean): interaction with fishing activities

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²INGU, Museo de Océano, Zamora, 12, Apartado 3223, 20113 Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain

³Instituto Español de Oceanografía, Centro Oceanográfico de Santander, Prebentorio San Martín s/n, 39004 Santander, Spain

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Conclusions

- UNGA resolution 66/68 adopted in 2011, has recognized the utility of seabed mapping programmes for the management of high seas fisheries (VMEs protection areas);
- In recent years, several multidisciplinary mapping programmes have been developed in the Atlantic Ocean;
- Such programmes have resulted in the identification of VMEs within the NEAFC & NAFO Regulatory Areas (as well as within other high seas areas) and in the adoption of conservation and management measures to prevent SAIs on such ecosystems (in accordance with paragraph 119b of UNGA resolution 64/72):



NEAFC Recommendation 8:2012 - EC Regulation 1288/2009

Hatton Bank closed area (~ 16,000 km²)

NAFO Enforcement measures



Grand Banks, Flemish Pass & Flemish Cap closed areas (~ 8,500 km²)

Spanish regulations

SW Atlantic closed area (~ 41,000 km²)



- Some Nations are making efforts to compile information with the aim to feed the new international databases on VMEs indicators (e.g.: 2012 ICES coral/sponge Database; NAFO coral/sponge Database);
- Bycatch data (coral and sponges) are insufficient to produce the advice about closed areas: fishing effort (e.g. VMS), mapping data (e.g. multibeam), surveys and “absence” data are also recommended.

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IEO (Spanish Ministry of Economy & Competitiveness), **SGM-SGP** (Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Environment), **EU**.

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- **ECOVUL/ARPA**
- **NEREIDA**
- **ATLANTIS**
- **RAP-SUR**
- **SGM-SGP**
- **BGS (UK), IPIMAR (Portugal), UVigo (Spain), NatMIRC (Namibia).**



& Crews of the research vessels and SGM staff on board (RV Vizconde de Eza & RV Miguel Oliver), observers and fishers: they help us to collect the data.

