

North Atlantic and Mediterranean

Major issues and Challenges (common with differences)

- ❑ Taking EA/EBA from theory to implementation (fisheries = leading example, e.g. NAFO roadmap), need to further develop common fisheries/biodiversity agendas
- ❑ Understanding risk in ABNJ – releasing information
- ❑ Political will – making ABNJ a priority for governments
- ❑ Institutional frameworks are relatively advanced but still tensions and dynamics (e.g. Med legal uncertainty, mixed jurisdictions)
- ❑ Capacity imbalances (at national levels within regions)
- ❑ Complexity of baseline data albeit rel. few human activities
- ❑ Communication and inclusion (better national coordination)
- ❑ Control and enforcement (but MCS good examples)



Knowledge and information that exists

- ❑ Good relative to many other regions, examples of long-term series of high quality data
- ❑ Depends on specifics – what and what for?
- ❑ Sufficient strategic information to understand trends e.g. long-term pollution data
- ❑ BUT datasets we have are not necessarily relevant to issues in ABNJ
- ❑ Quality and Quality Assurance: strength of ICES and Scientific Committees of RFMOs
- ❑ Track record of monitoring and assessment to inform decision-making
- ❑ Resources to take advantage of global datasets

Best practices (can projects be viewed as best practices?)

- ❑ Institutional framework – ability to make binding hard law (RFMO / RSC Decisions and Recommendations, UNEP MAP?) + improving synergy towards common strategies
- ❑ EU Directives – targets, standards, guidance – MSFD, MSP Directive, Atlantic Strategy and Action Plan
- ❑ Establishing science case – e.g. Sargasso Sea long-term data series, NAFO/NEAFC datasets, OSPAR QSR
- ❑ Empowering stakeholders (e.g. long line fishers) ABNJ?
- ❑ Maintaining sustainable fish stocks, recovering fish populations, reduction in IUU
- ❑ Long-term management plans (e.g. ACCOBAMS plan)
- ❑ Proactive precautionary approaches – VMEs, MPAs, SPAMI (discussion re precautionary principle)



Gaps to be addressed

- ❑ Sustainable and stable funding (more for less is expected)
- ❑ Specific data requirements and data collection (e.g. human uses other than fisheries, deep-sea habitats and species, socio-economic data, invasive species, Med VMEs)
- ❑ Modeling cumulative impacts
- ❑ Comprehensive legal regime and implementation of existing measures
- ❑ Fisheries specific: reaching agreement on allocations and future allocations
- ❑ Communication and coordination within administrations as well as between
- ❑ MSP in ABNJ

Future activities and Research (regionality)

- ❑ Devising joint funding strategies and understanding the scope of financial instruments
- ❑ Strengthen inter-sectoral cooperation/collaboration. For example, use of inter-operable databases promoting joint working (cf. NAFO and NEAFC/OSPAR)
- ❑ Development of the legal framework – both existing and new – acknowledging these regions are already in a relatively strong position
- ❑ Stronger integration building future scenarios e.g. making use of EBSA descriptions
- ❑ What does ecosystem function and structure look like?
What is the biodiversity norm cf. MSY?

