



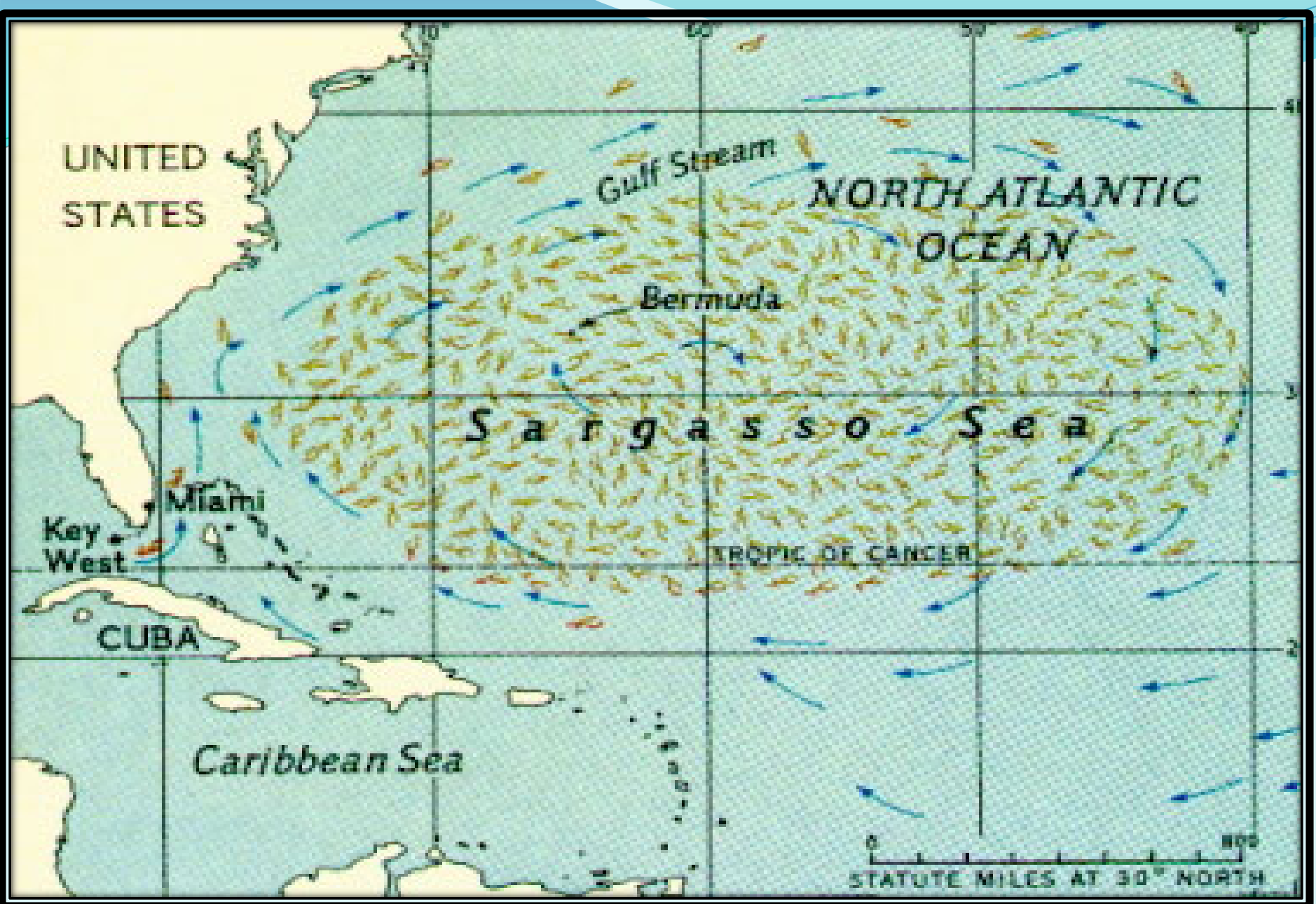
The Sargasso Sea Commission

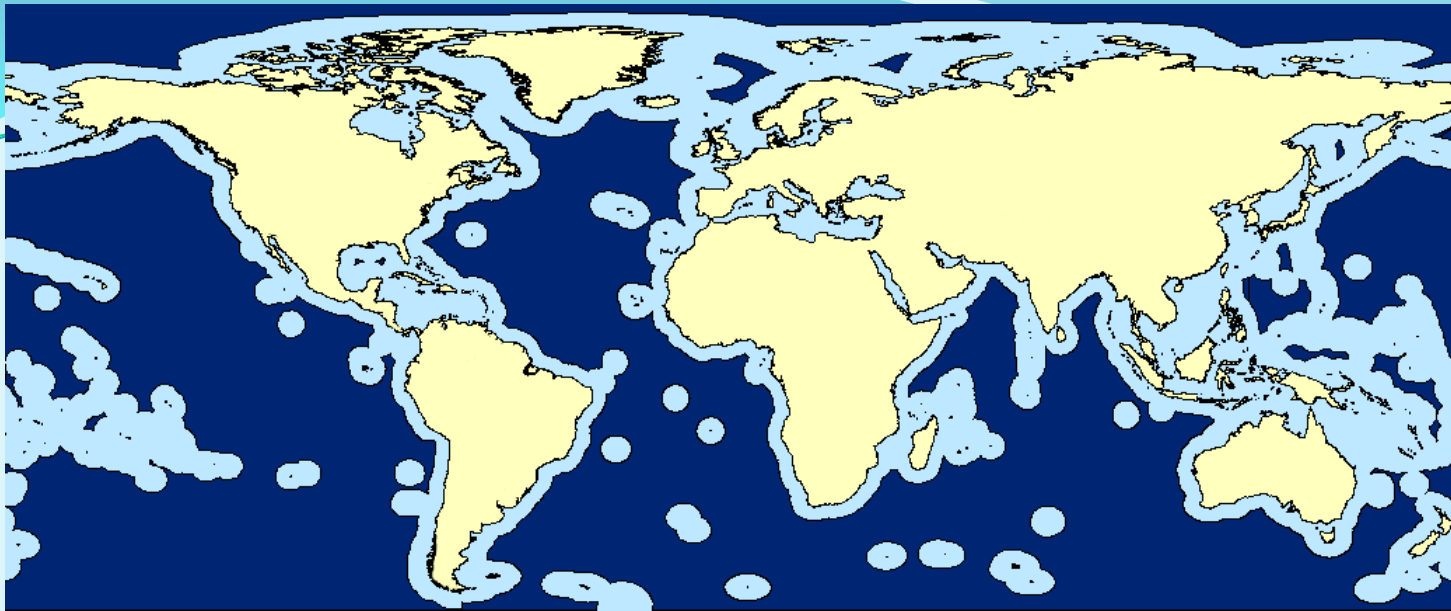
The Story so far ..

Dr. David Freestone

Executive Secretary, Sargasso Sea Commission

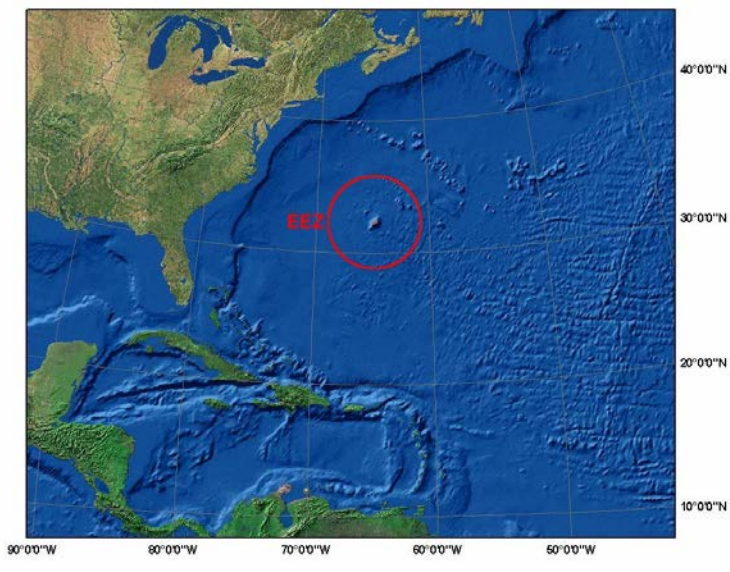
Next Steps to Strengthen Stewardship of
the Sargasso Sea
BIOS, Bermuda, 13 March 2019





**Bermuda EEZ = 464,940 sq km
or 179,514 sq. miles**

**Sargasso Sea = ~ 5 179 976 sq
km or 2 million sq. miles**

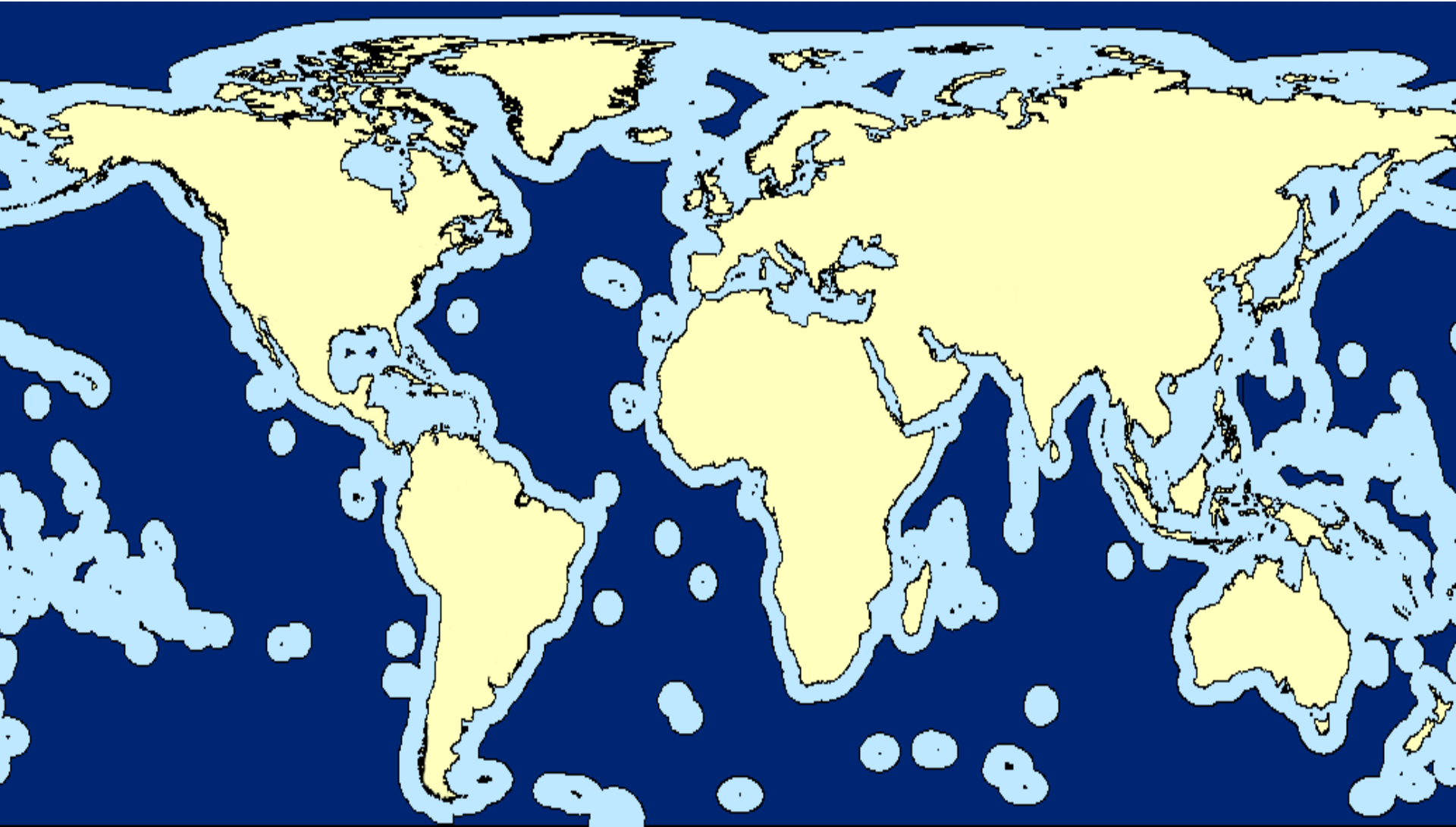


The HIGH SEAS

Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

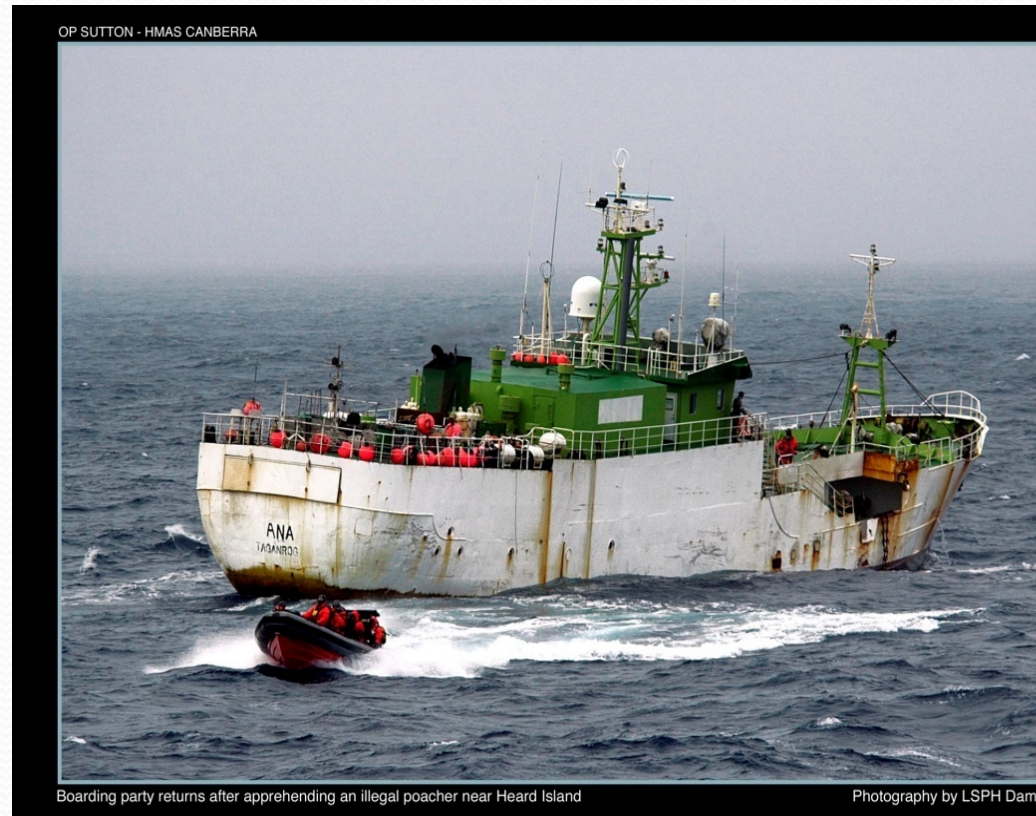
- Nearly 50% of Planet's surface
- Increasing human impact on Areas beyond National Jurisdiction
 - Increased intensity of existing activities
 - New activities
- BUT no comprehensive governance framework for Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, except for Sea bed minerals

Oceans cover >70% of the planet
>50% is High Seas

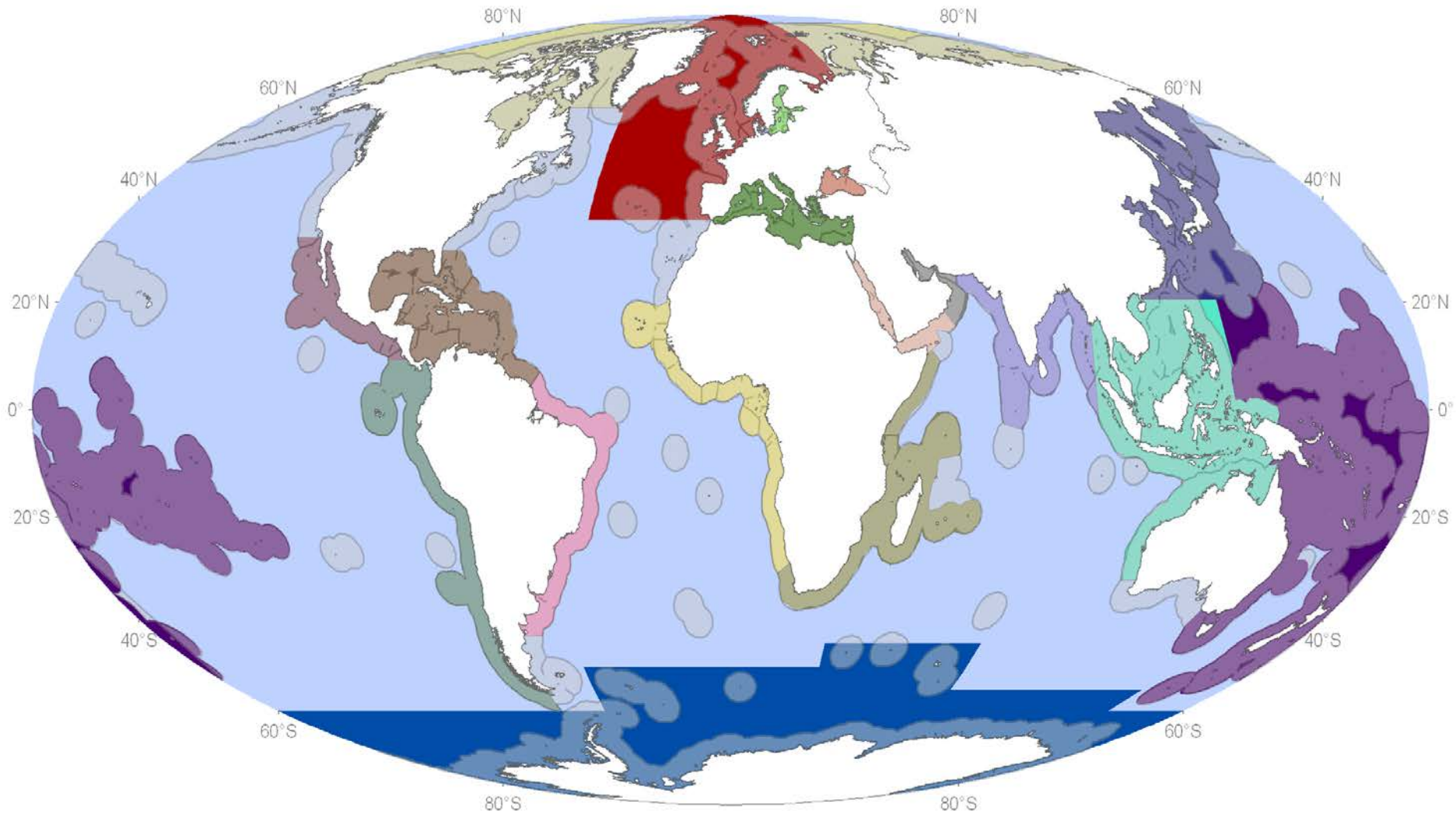


Current governance of High Seas is WEAK...

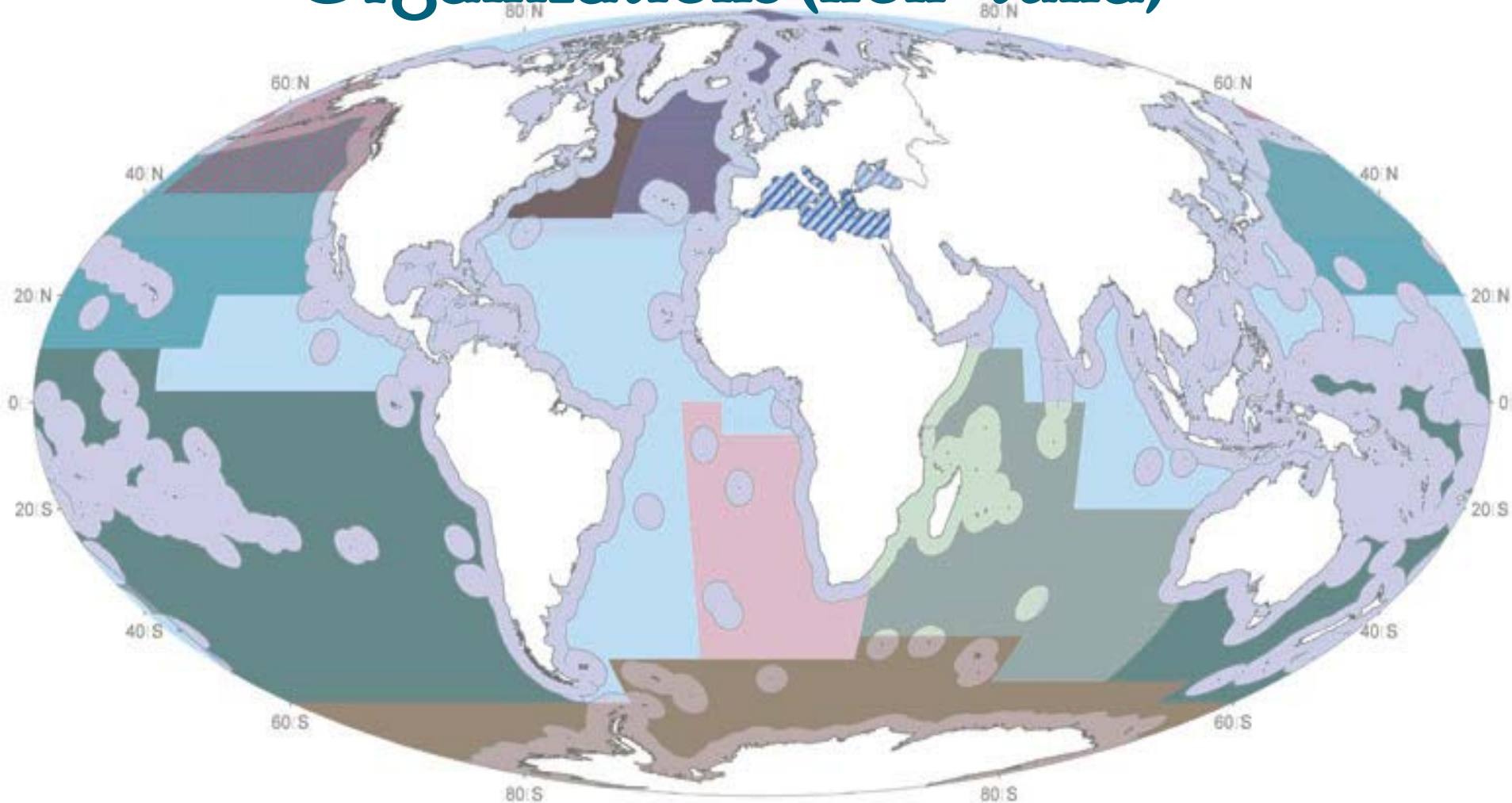
- Uncoordinated rule-making
- Poor implementation
- Weak enforcement provisions
- Many unregulated activities
- Geographic gaps in treaty frameworks



Gaps in Regional Seas Programs




Gaps in Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (non-tuna)



Aims of the Sargasso Sea Project

Led by the **Government of Bermuda** to build a network of international partners to

- Achieve **international recognition** of the global importance of the Sargasso Sea
- Work with existing international and sectoral organisations to achieve better protection for the Sargasso Sea **in accordance with the Law of the Sea Convention**
- Use this experience as an indication of what is possible and not possible under current regime for ABNJ



Why is the Sargasso Sea
important?

*"Encountered weed ...in some
places so thick that it actually
held back the ships..."*

Columbus 20th September 1492





- Unique open-ocean sargassum-based ecosystem. Mostly High Seas
- Important for life history of many species (eels, turtles, tuna, billfish, sharks, etc.)

Sargassum Natans and *S. Fluitans*





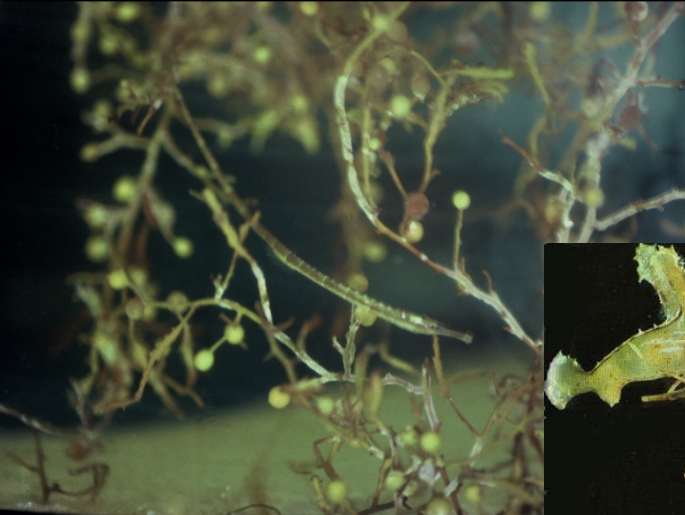
Plastic in Sargassum S Sarkis

Sargassum Endemics

145 invertebrate species live in association with Sargassum



©David Shale





Sargassum fish - JP Rouja



Sargassum Swimming Crab
NOAA



Sea horse JP Rouja

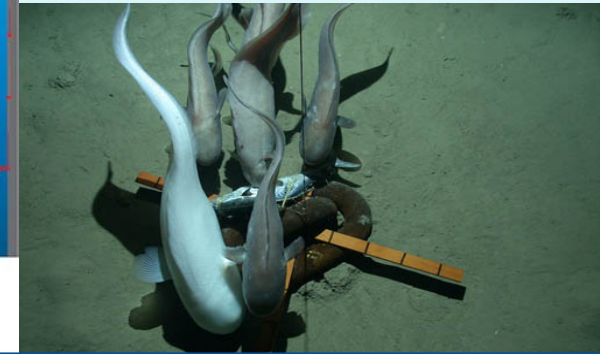
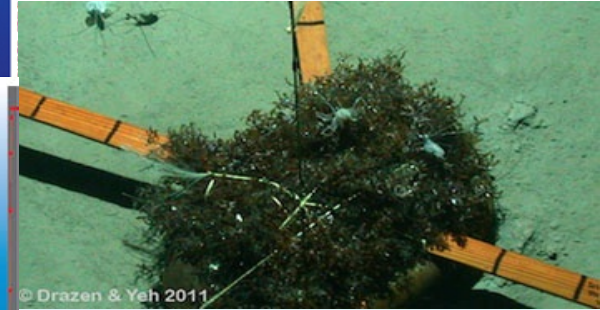
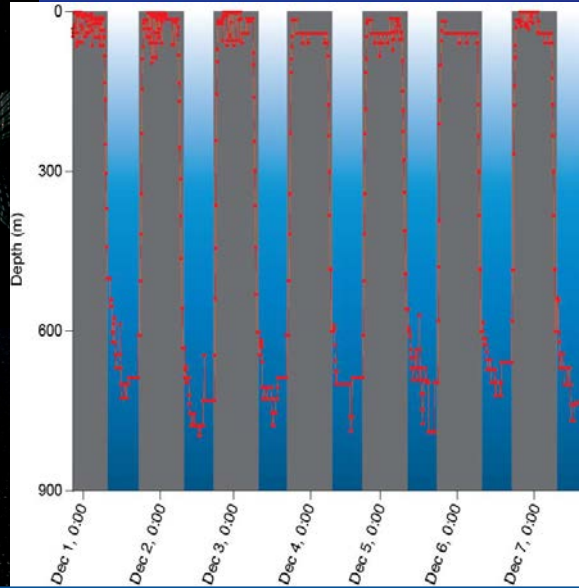
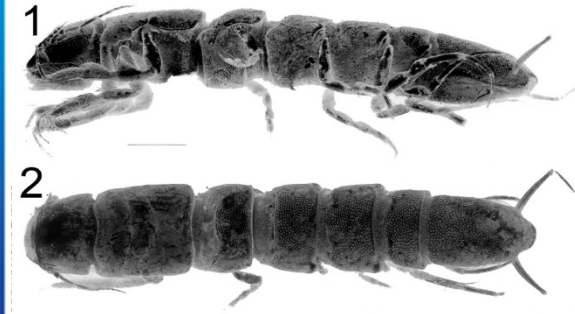
Iconic species





Humpback in Sargassum
Andrew Stephenson

Midwater and Benthic Fauna



Nursery/Feeding area: eggs/juveniles of >80 fish species occur in Sargassum





Flying fish eggs JP Rouja

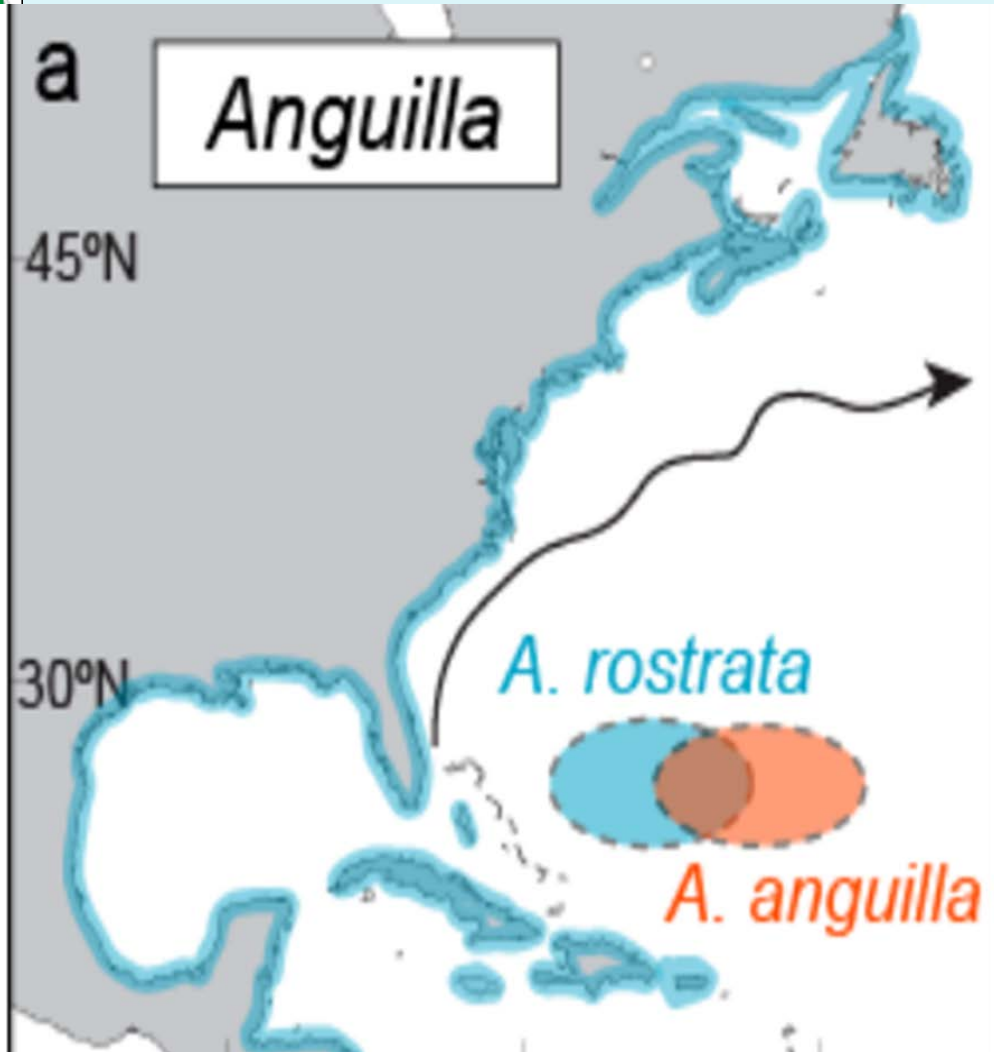
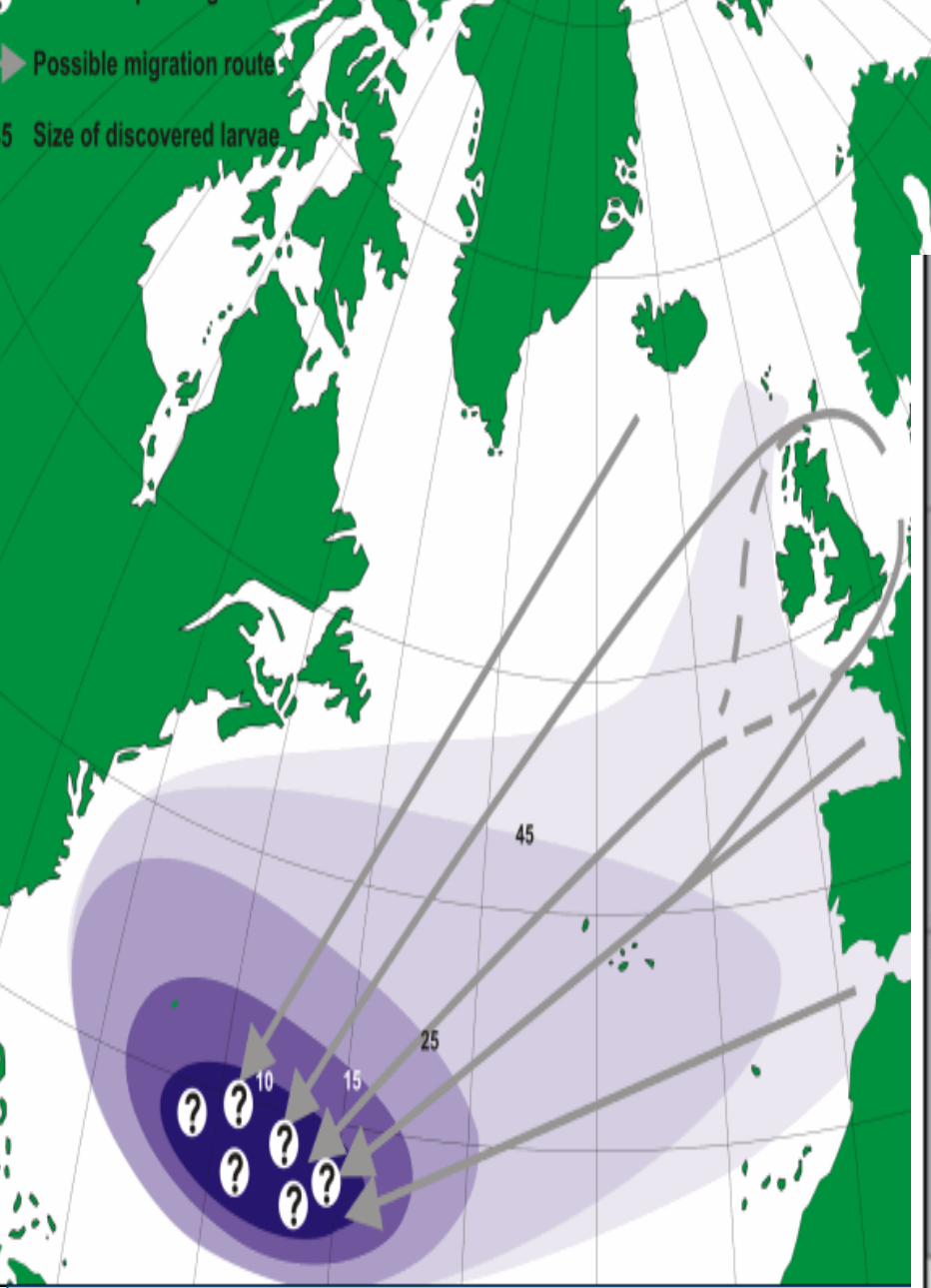


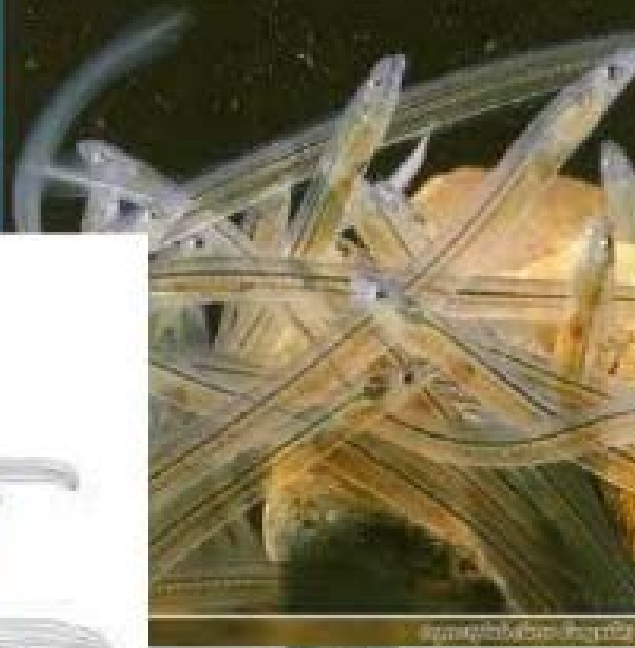
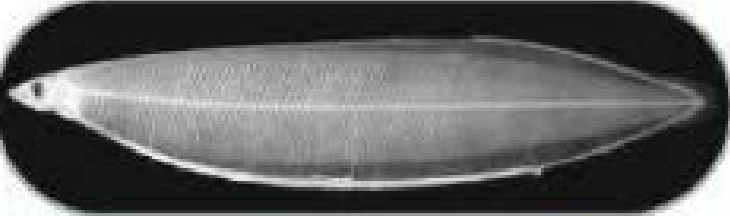
Flying fish JP Rouja



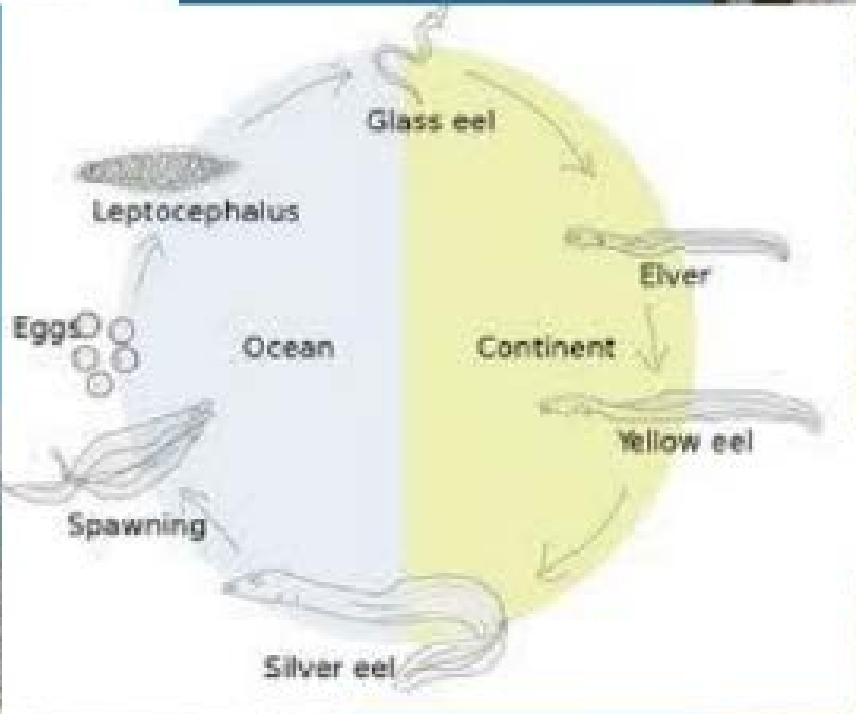
Baby Leatherbacks

Global Connections

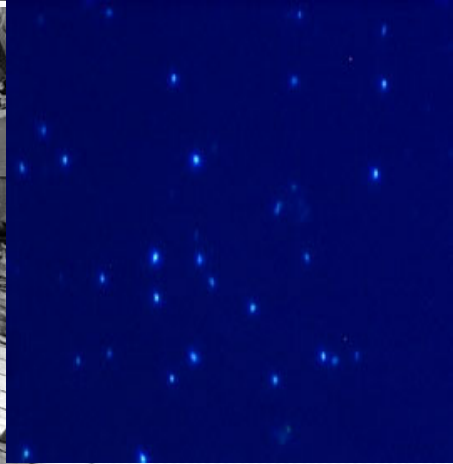




European Eel Life Cycle



Unparalleled Scientific Record



Threats

Garbage and plastics

Pollution, discharges, spills

Fishing

Sargassum harvesting

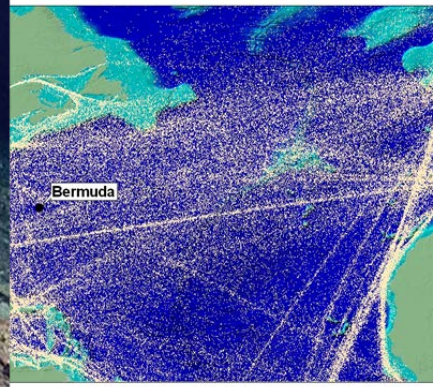
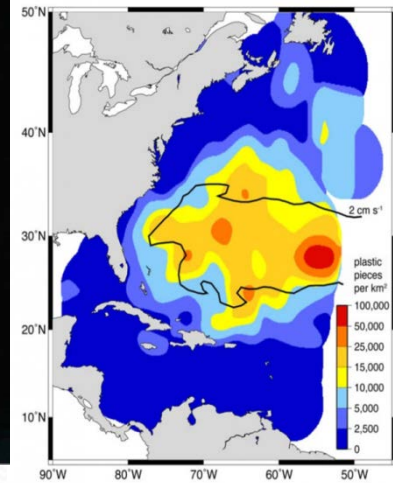
Exotic species

Climate change

Ocean Acidification

Deep sea mining

Underwater cables ?



The Hamilton Declaration
on Collaboration for the
Conservation of the
Sargasso Sea

(March 2014)



Dr. Sylvia Earle,
Co-Chair, Sargasso Sea Alliance Steering Committee

Hamilton Declaration Signatories

Governments

- Azores
- Bahamas 2016
- Bermuda
- British Virgin Islands 2016
- Canada 2016
- Cayman Islands 2017
- Dominican Republic 2018
- Monaco
- United Kingdom
- United States
- Netherlands, Sweden, South Africa,
- Turks and Caicos*

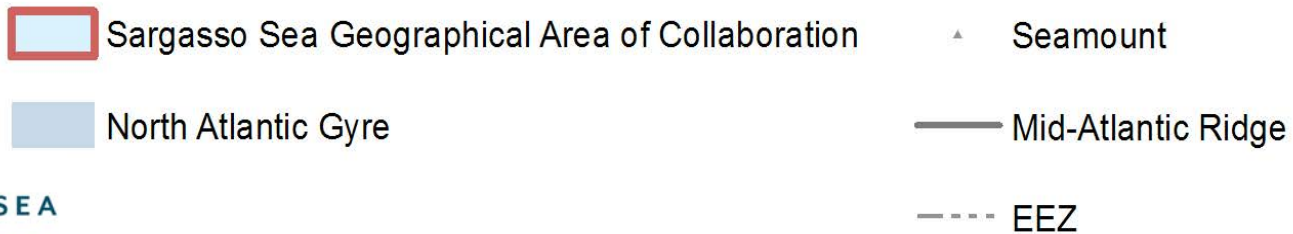
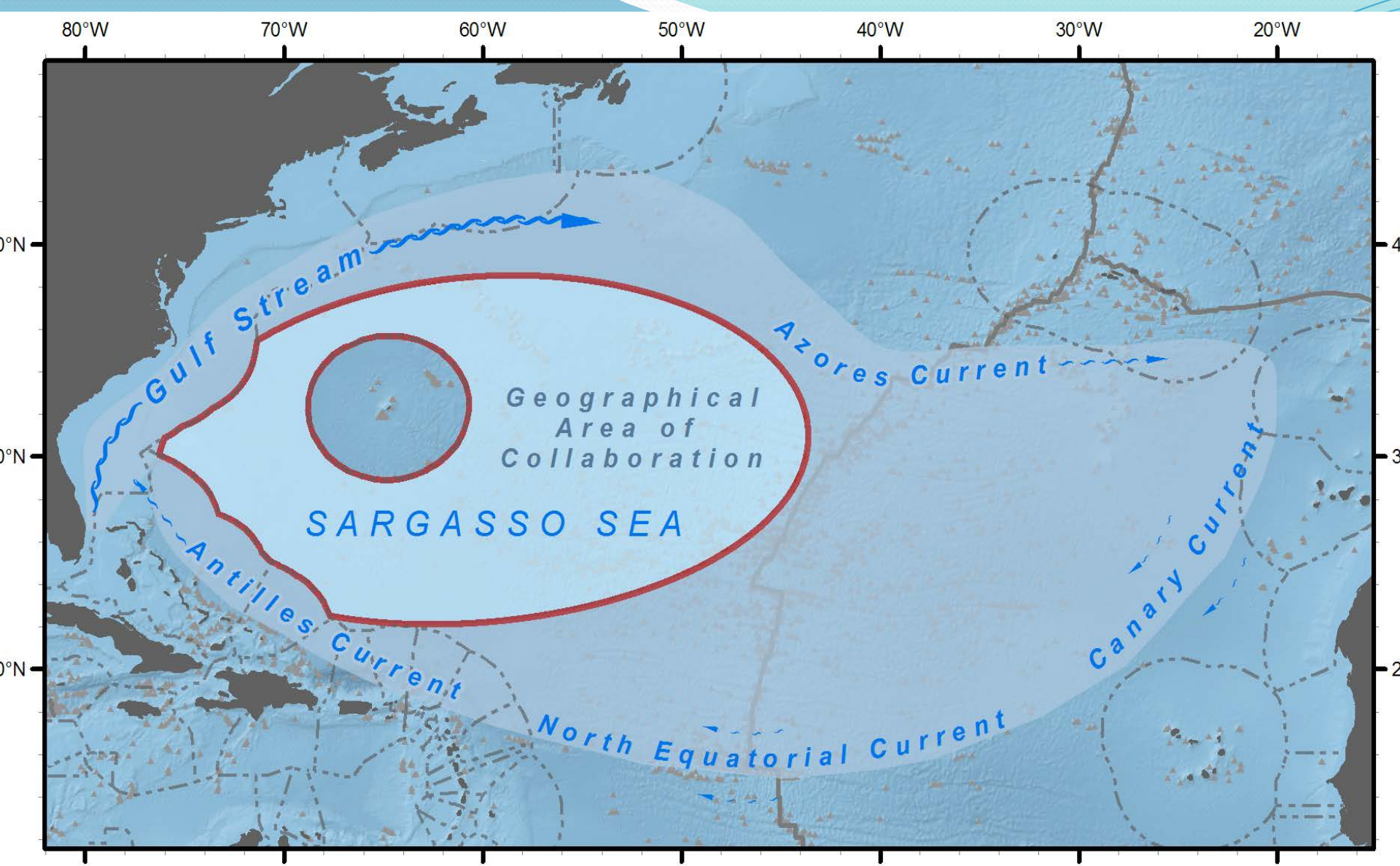
Observer Organizations

- ISA- International Seabed Authority Secretariat
- OSPAR (former Executive Secretary)
- Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat
- IUCN
- Inter-American Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Sea Turtles

* *Trinidad and Tobago
unable to attend but
supportive*

Hamilton Meeting Participants 2014





Hamilton Declaration Structure

Meeting of Signatories
(Meets as required)

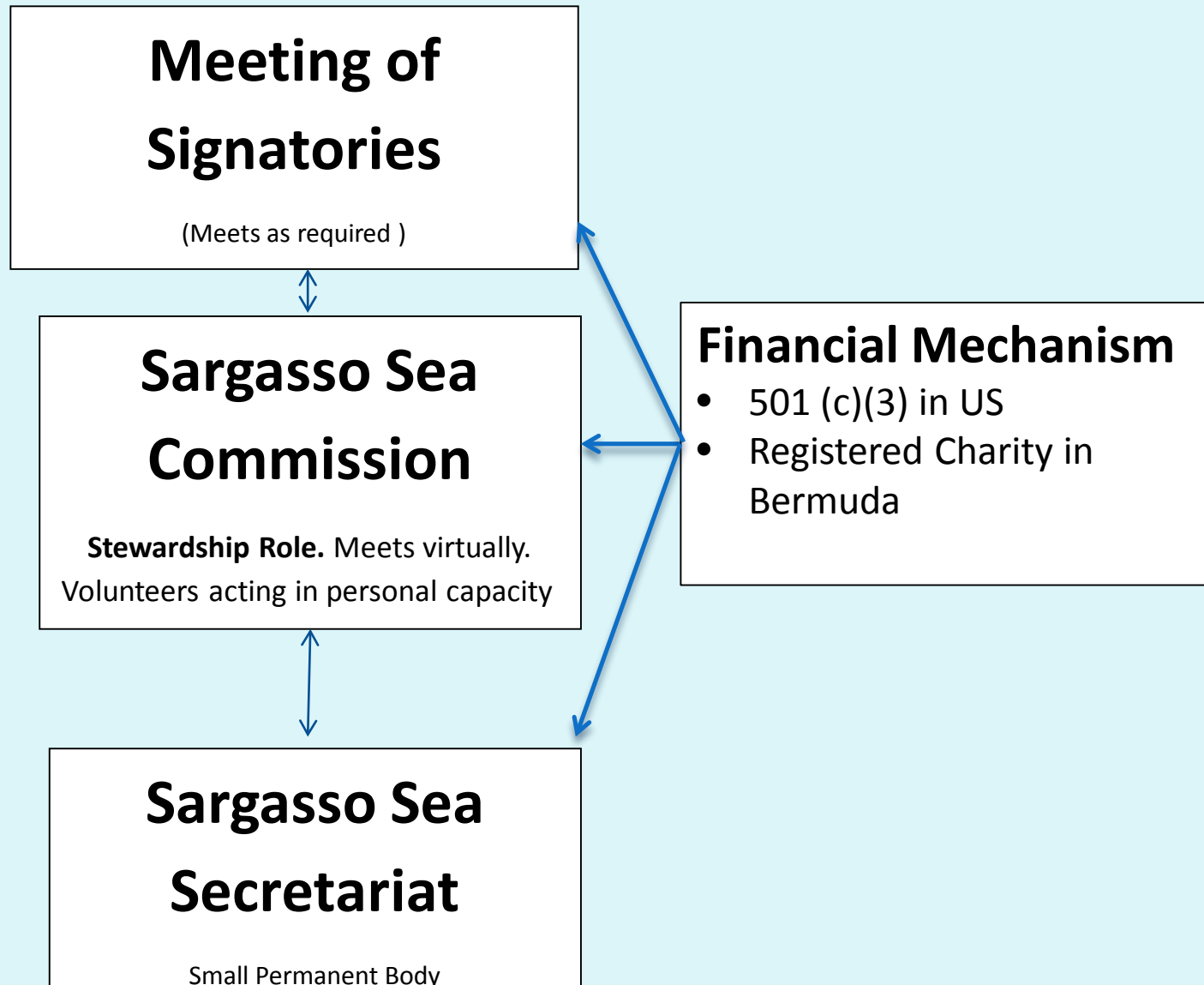


Sargasso Sea Commission
Stewardship Role. Meets virtually.
Volunteers acting in personal capacity



Sargasso Sea Secretariat
Small Permanent Body

Hamilton Declaration Structure



Meeting of Signatories

- Pursue collaboration and cooperation in furtherance of the common vision of this Declaration;
- Provide advice and guidance for the Commission in its role of promoting the conservation of the Sargasso Sea;
- Take forward proposals for protection measures to appropriate international bodies

The Sargasso Sea Commission

Role of the Sargasso Sea Commission

- Exercise a **stewardship role** for the Sargasso Sea and keep its health, productivity and resilience under continual review; and
- Develop a **work programme** and action plans for the conservation of the Sargasso Sea ecosystem

Setting up the Organization



Prof Stephen de Mora
Mark Spalding

Prof Howard Roe (Chair)
Senator Wilfred Moore

Dr Tammy Warren
Dr Billy Causey
Frederico Cardicos

Third Meeting of Signatories and Commission

The Azores, April 2017

Nine Signatories and Six Commissioners



Sargasso Sea Commission

"Over-Arching Goals"

1. Promote international recognition of the **unique ecological and biological nature and global significance** of the Sargasso Sea.
2. Encourage **scientific research** to expand existing knowledge of the Sargasso Sea ecosystem in order to further assess its health, productivity and resilience.
3. Develop proposals for submission to existing regional, sectoral and international organizations to promote the objectives of the Hamilton Declaration.

Agreed Work Programme 2016-18

1. International Recognition of the Ecological Importance of the Sargasso Sea
2. Fisheries and Fisheries Habitat Conservation
3. Impacts from International Shipping
4. Impacts to the Seafloor and Seabed
5. Conservation of Migratory Species
6. Defining Role in Data and Information Management

Collaborating Partners (21)

- Duke Marine Geospatial Ecology Laboratory
- Humpback Whale Project (Bermuda)
- Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)
- Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)
- International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC)
- International Seakeepers Society
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Mare (Portugal)
- Marine & Environmental Law Institute, Dalhousie University
- Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL)
- Mission Blue/Sylvia Earle Alliance
- Nexton/Code Blue Foundation
- Optical Oceanography Lab, College of Marine Science, University of South Florida
- Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML)
- Sea Education Association
- WWF-International
- World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)

Collaborating Partners

- UNEP Regional Seas Conventions (MOU);
 - Caribbean – collaboration on *Sargassum* strandings
 - West Africa
- OSPAR – North East Atlantic (MOU)
- University of South Florida College of Marine Science
- University of Central Florida Marine Turtle Group

- Pending:
 - University of Southern Mississippi, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
 - University of Edinburgh
 - Netherlands Ministry of Environment

Official Observer Status (3)

- International Seabed Authority (ISA)
- Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)
- Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC)

1. International Recognition of the Ecological Importance of the Sargasso Sea

Summary Science Case, 2011

Edited by Professors Dan Laffoley and Howard Roe

74 collaborators from over 10 countries and 11 science institutions

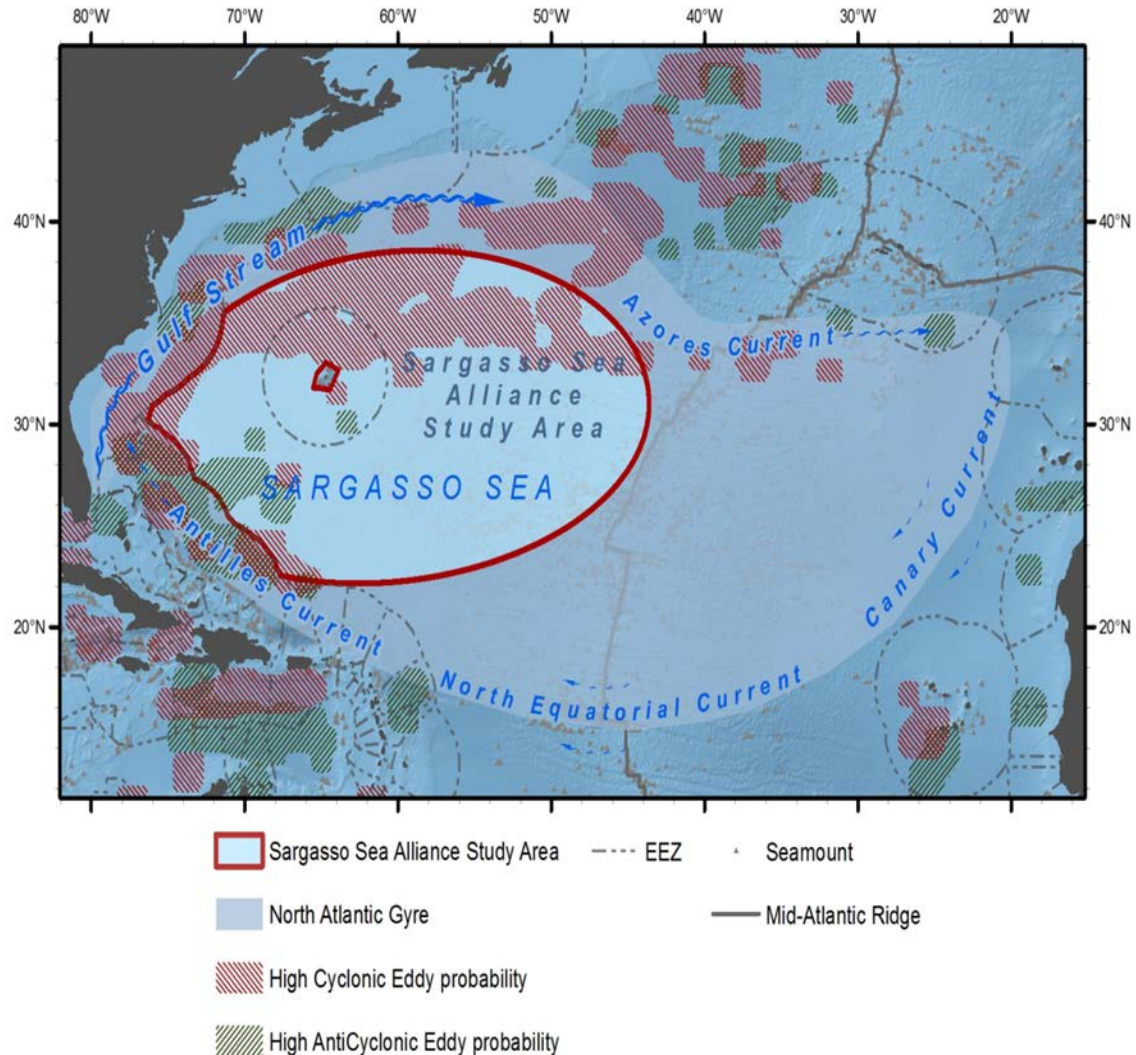
Completed and approved by Bermuda and UK Governments



Convention on Biological Diversity

EBSA Process

- “Described” at regional workshop (March 2012)
- CBD COP submitted Sargasso Sea EBSA to CBD repository
- Does not establish a MPA
- Exploring leverage opportunities



Bermuda Declares Marine Mammal Sanctuary September 2012

- 174,000 square miles
- Sister Sanctuary Agreement with US NOAA for Stellwagen Bank



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES

AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND
INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

TO COLLABORATE ON INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION,
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT
OF THE HUMPBACK WHALE

NOS Agreement Code: MOA-2012-058/8588

International Seakeepers Award September 2013



UN General Assembly Annual Omnibus Resolution on Oceans and Law of the Sea 2012-2018

Noted the efforts of the Sargasso Sea Commission – led by the Government of Bermuda – to raise awareness of the ecological significance of the Sargasso Sea;

Proposed and supported by
Bahamas, UK, US, Monaco,
South Africa



World Ocean Assessment

First 2015 and Second 2020

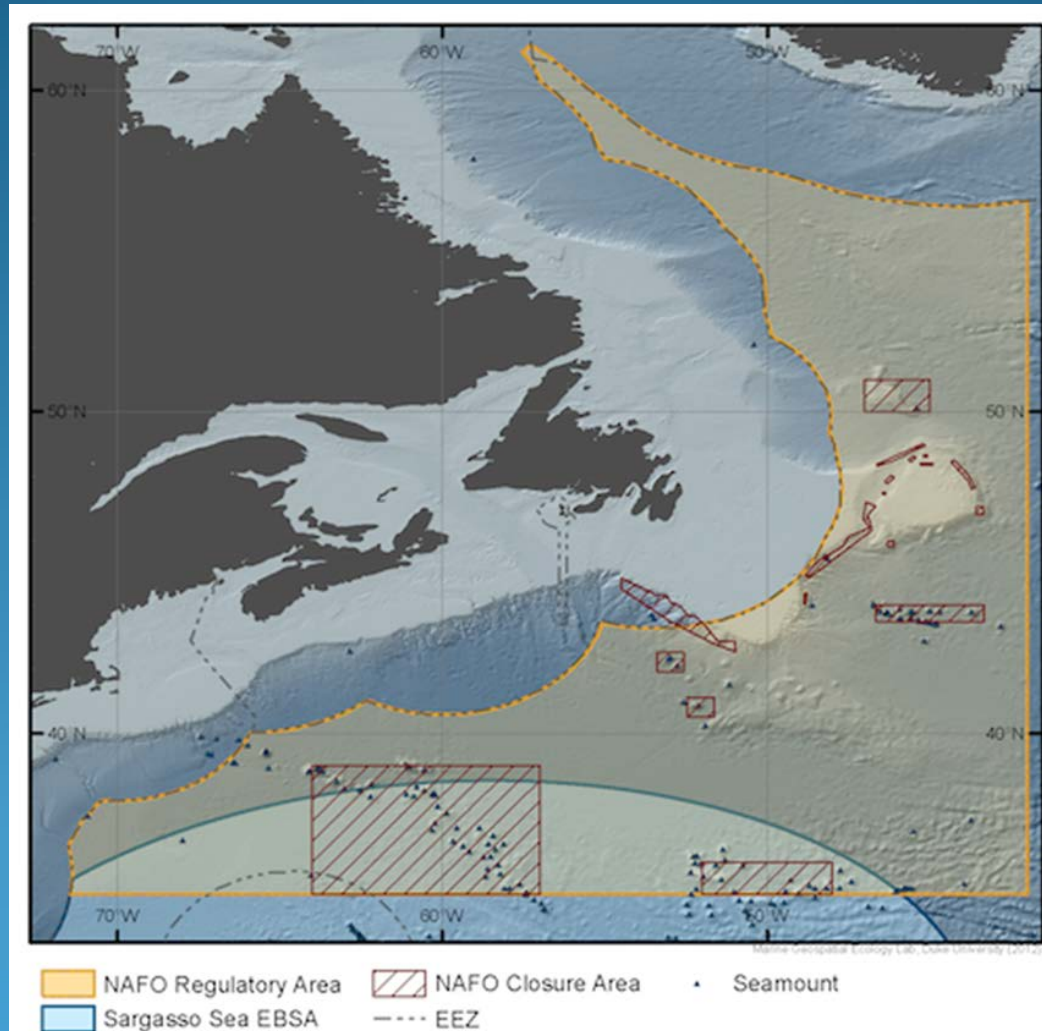
- The only named ecosystem in the United Nations Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment – First Assessment Report
- Preparing a chapter in Second Assessment
- SSC Experts: Professor Roe, Dr Warren, Dr Freestone



2. Fisheries and Fisheries Habitat Conservation

North-west Atlantic Fisheries Organization

Sargasso Sea measures under discussion

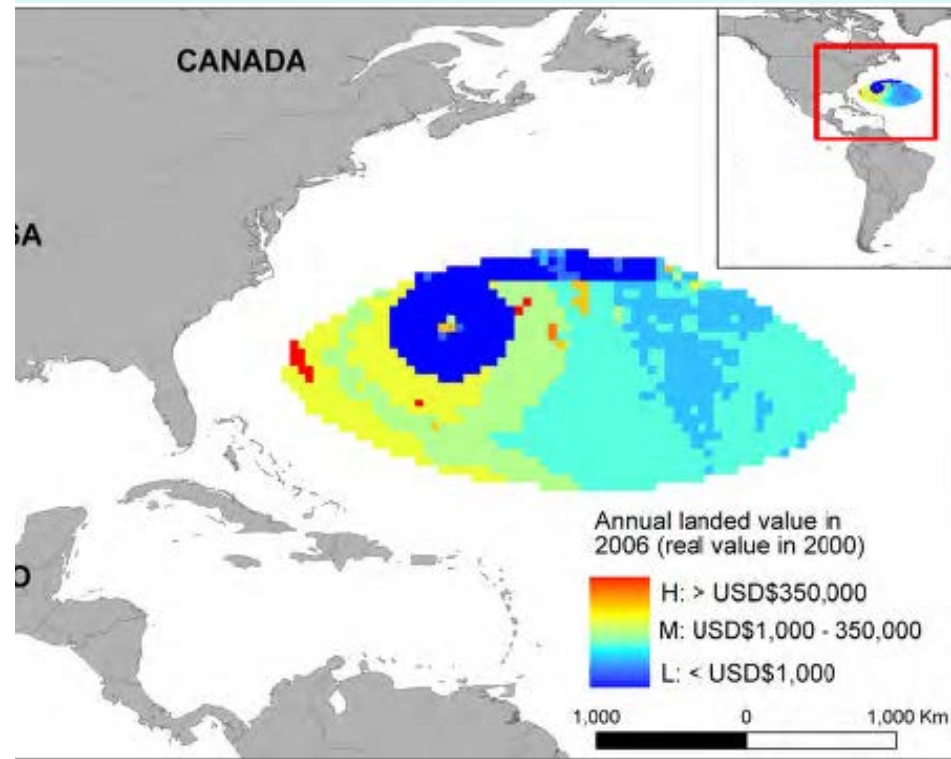
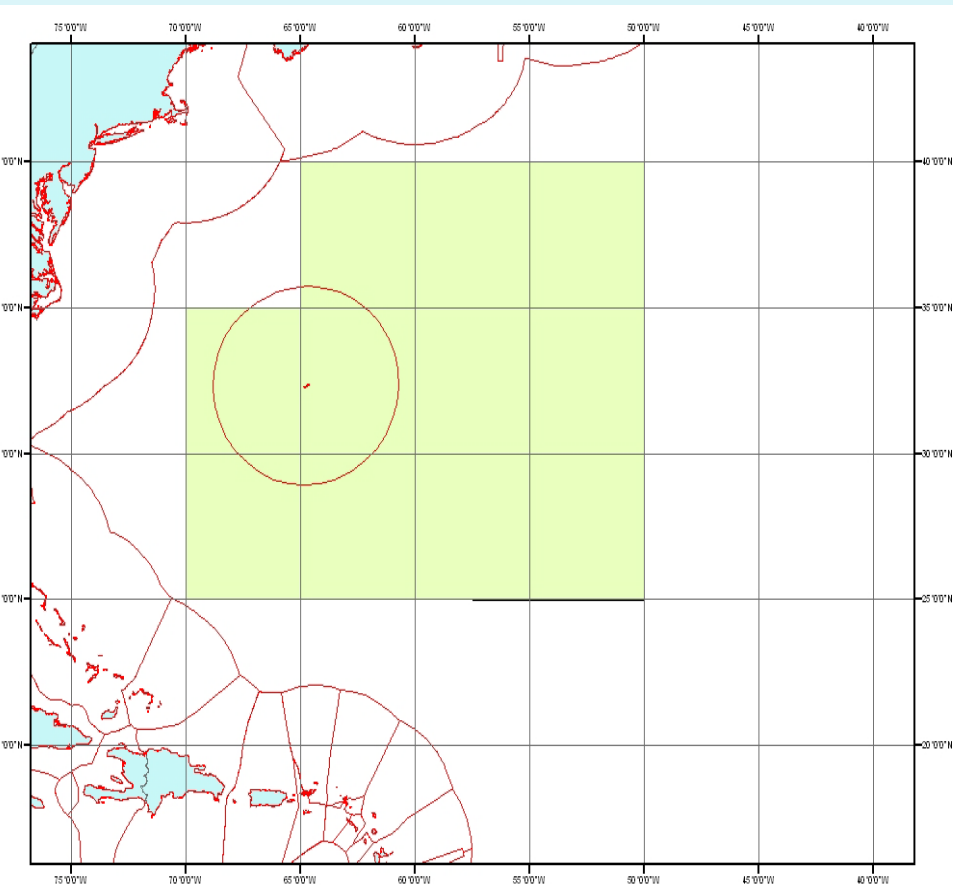


37th NAFO Annual Meeting in Halifax September 2015

Two important decisions regarding the protection of the seamounts in the northern Sargasso Sea:

1. Prohibited the use of mid-water trawling gear, or attachments, that could touch or damage the seafloor, requiring all Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem indicator species caught during mid-water trawling be reported
2. Closed all seamounts in the NAFO area completely until end of 2020 - prohibiting bottom trawling for exploratory fishing

International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas - ICCAT



ICCAT RESOLUTION 12-12

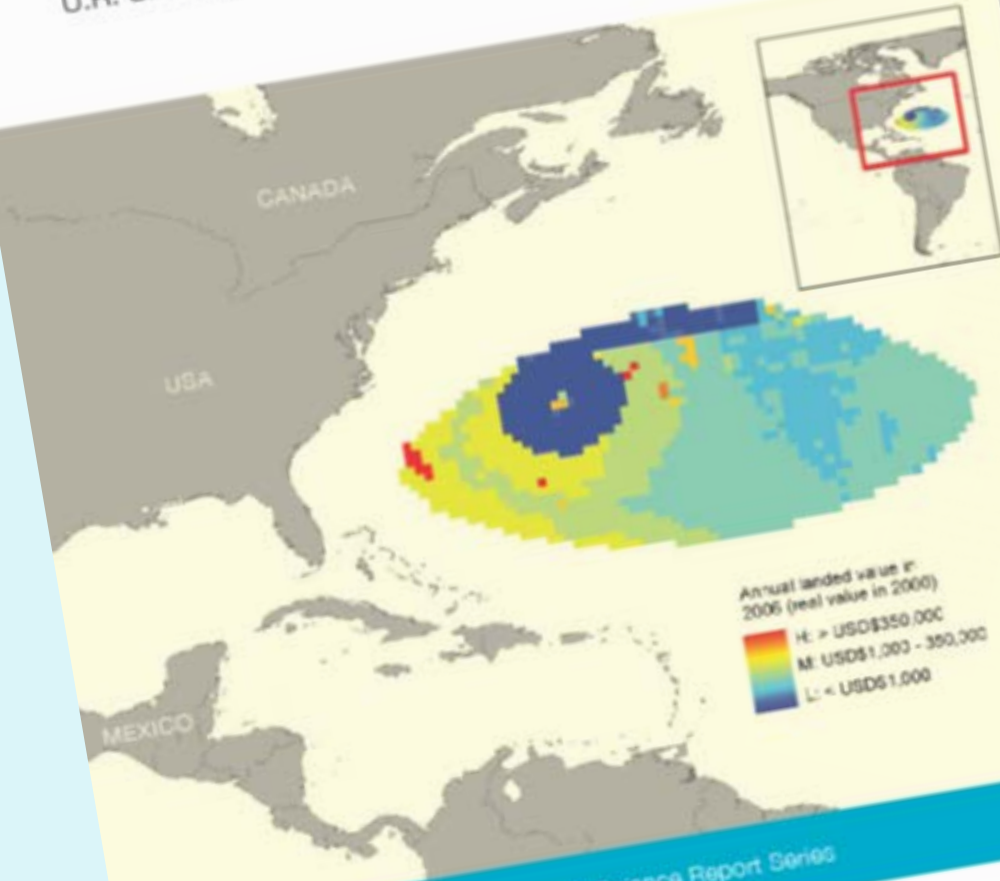
on the Sargasso Sea

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RESOLVES THAT:

1. The SCRS will examine the available data and information concerning the Sargasso Sea and its ecological importance to tuna and tuna-like species and ecologically associated species.
2. The SCRS will provide an update on the progress of this work in 2014 and report back to the Commission with its findings in 2015.

Values from the Resources of the Sargasso Sea

U.R. Sumaila, V. Vats and W. Swartz



Number 17 Sargasso Sea Alliance Science Report Series



SCRS/2013/132

INVENTORY AND ECOLOGY OF FISH SPECIES OF INTEREST TO ICCAT IN THE SARGASSO SEA

Brian E. Luckhurst

SUMMARY

This paper provides information on the biology and ecology of a total of 11 different fish species whose distributions include the Sargasso Sea. These species are divided into four groups that correspond with ICCAT species groupings: Group 1 - Principal tuna species including yellowfin tuna, albacore tuna, bigeye tuna, bluefin tuna and skipjack tuna. Group 2 - Swordfish and billfishes including blue marlin, white marlin and sailfin. Group 3 - Small tunas including wahoo, blackfin tuna, Atlantic black skipjack tuna (Little Tunny) and dolphinfish. Group 4 - Sharks including zorrofin mako, blue porbeagle, bigeye thresher and herring shark. For each species, information and data is provided on distribution, fishery landings, migration and movement patterns, reproduction, age and growth, food and feeding habits and ecology in relation to oceanographic parameters, primarily water temperature. The importance of Sargassum as essential fish habitat is discussed and is linked to the feeding habits of tunas and other pelagic predators. Flyingfishes are an important prey species in the diet of tunas and billfishes and as they are largely dependent on Sargassum mats as spawning habitat, the Sargasso Sea plays a fundamental role in the trophic...

Fish species of interest to ICCAT in the Sargasso Sea Phase 2 - Analysis of ICCAT catch time series, 1992-2011

Dr Brian Luckhurst
Report to the Sargasso Sea Alliance
November 1, 2013

The ICCAT CATDIS database provides estimates of nominal catches for the nine major tuna and tuna-like species managed by ICCAT. The data are stratified in time (quarter) and space (5x5 degree squares) and all landings catch data are reported on this spatial scale. Data extractions were made namely, Yellowfin tun swordfish using the mo not made for the three are by-catch species an total of 11 reporting squ of Bermuda's EEZ. Data squares over the 20 ye species by combin orted landings (1992 em Atlantic bluefi s summary. For t s then calculati in a separate

Report to the Sargasso Sea Alliance - Fish species of interest to ICCAT in the Sargasso Sea Phase 2 - Detailed analysis of ICCAT catch data (1992-2011).

The ICCAT CATDIS database provides estimates of nominal catches for the nine major tuna and tuna-like species managed by ICCAT. The data are stratified in time (trimester) and space (5x5 degree squares) and all longliner catch data are reported on this spatial scale. Data extractions were made for each of the six principal commercial species targeted by ICCAT, namely, Yellowfin tuna, Albacore tuna, Bigeye tuna, Bluefin tuna, Skipjack tuna and Swordfish using the most recent 20 year period of data, i.e. 1992-2011. Within the Sargasso Sea Study Area, there are a total of eleven reporting squares which are exclusively in international waters with the exception of Bermuda's EEZ (see Annex 1). Data extractions were made by country and trimester (quarter) from the 11 ICCAT reporting squares over the above 20 year period for each species. The annual catch data for each species were summarized by country, trimester and by reporting squares. For each species, the total catch by country and the corresponding proportion of the annual catch taken from the SSA Area was then calculated and expressed as a percentage with a minimum of 10% of the annual SSA Area catch was listed and all countries area (reporting squares). The ICCAT reporting entry NEI (Not Elsewhere Included) is problematic in that these catches are not associated with a specific country but many different fishing entities. As a result, only the proportion of the total SSA Area catch attributed to NEI is given. The results of these analyses are presented by species in five separate Excel files which comprise the main portion of this report. The following are brief summaries of the main findings and trends by species:

Yellowfin tuna

Catches of yellowfin in the SSA Area have been highly variable over the 20 year period of the analysis ranging from 90.82 metric tons (mt) in 1993 (Bermuda contributing almost 64% of the total) to almost 1,097 mt in 1999 (over 50% contributed by NEI). However, in most years Japan has been a major contributor to the catch with up to 74% of the annual total. The Chinese Taipei has made a consistent and significant contribution to the total catch between 20-40% of the catch while St. Vincent has contributed up to 15% of the annual total and is generally as low as 1.5-2%. Bermuda has become a significant contributor to the total catch in the 2000s, contributing up to 15% of the annual total. The following are brief summaries of the main findings and trends by species:

ICCAT RESOLUTION 16-23

on Ecosystems that are important and unique for ICCAT species

RESOLVES THAT:

1. As part of advancing the work of Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management, the SCRS will examine the available information on the trophic ecology of pelagic ecosystems that are important and unique for ICCAT species in the Convention area.
2. The SCRS will provide an update on the progress of this work in 2018 and report back to the Commission with available findings in 2019, if possible.

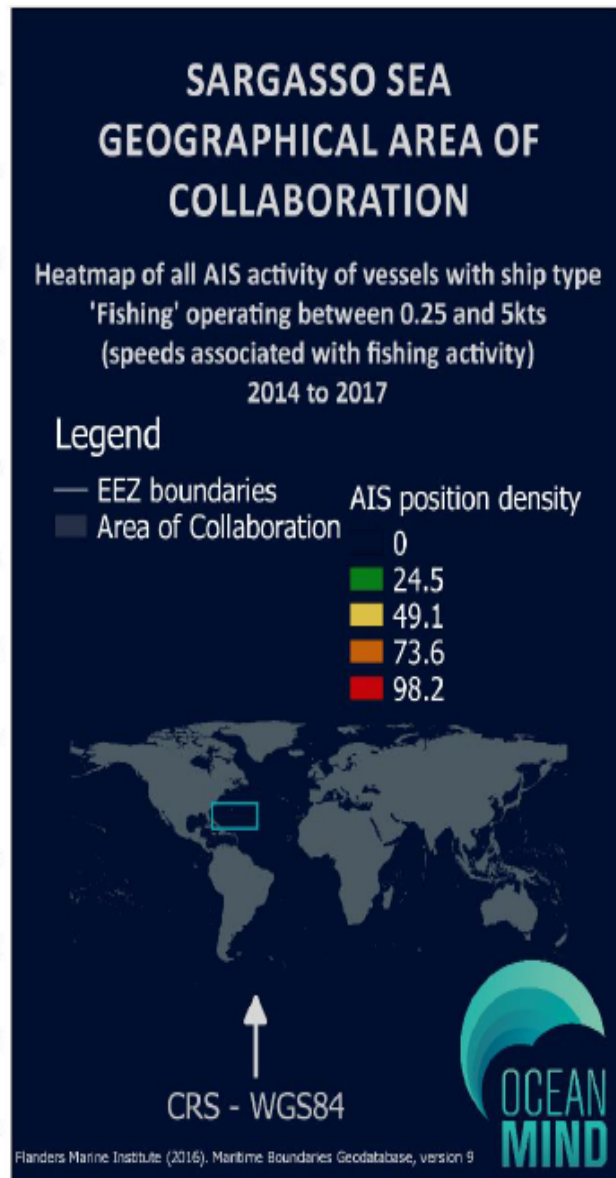
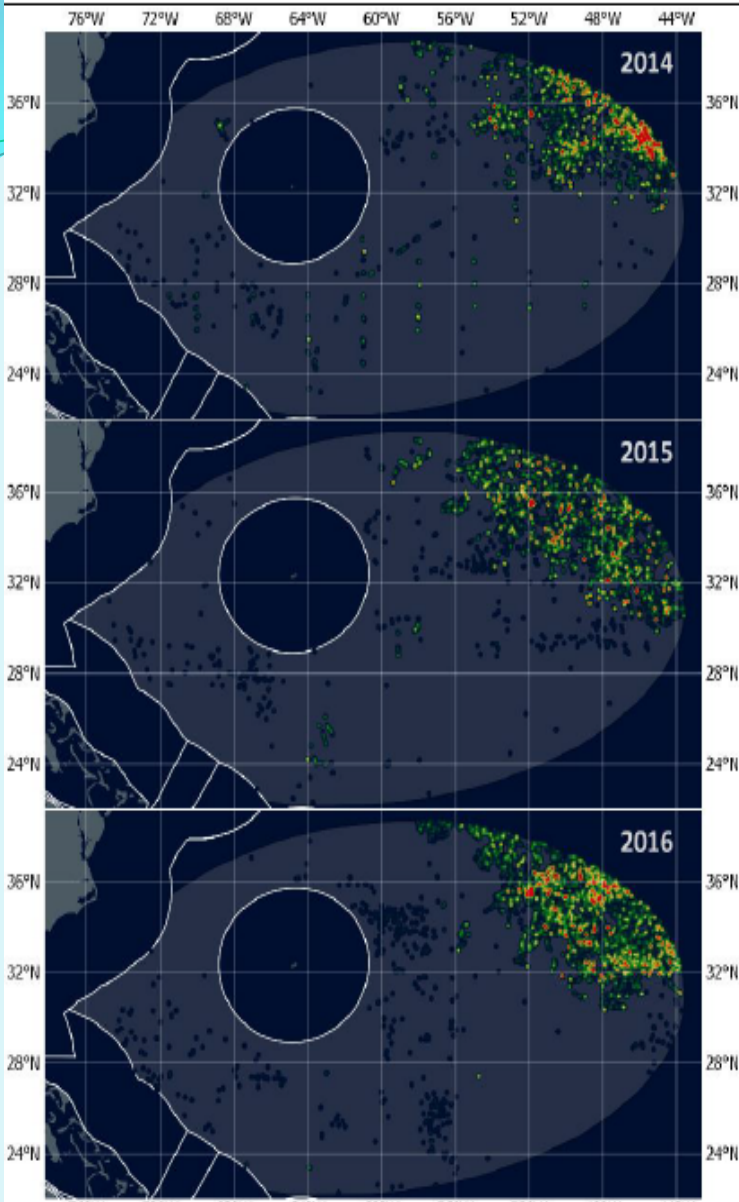
EXTENDING THE INDICATOR-BASED ECOSYSTEM REPORT CARD TO THE WHOLE ECOSYSTEM; A PRELIMINARY EXAMPLE BASED ON THE SARGASSO SEA

Laurence T. Kell¹, Brian E. Luckhurst²

SUMMARY

To facilitate the implementation of Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) the Subcommittee on Ecosystems has developed an indicator-based ecosystem report card. A main objective of this new tool is to improve dialogue between scientists and managers and increase the awareness of the state of the different ecosystem components managed by ICCAT. The Sargasso Sea is a major component of the ICCAT convention area and provides a variety of ecosystem services to ICCAT and other Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) in the Atlantic region. Ecosystem services include a variety of products such as fish for food, but also processes that regulate and maintain our environment and cultural experiences. The ecosystem report card was developed using a Driver-Pressure-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR) approach. We show how this approach can be extended to develop a common understanding of how human activities affect the Atlantic ecosystem.

AREA OF COLLABORATION – ACTIVE FISHING 2014, 2015 & 2017

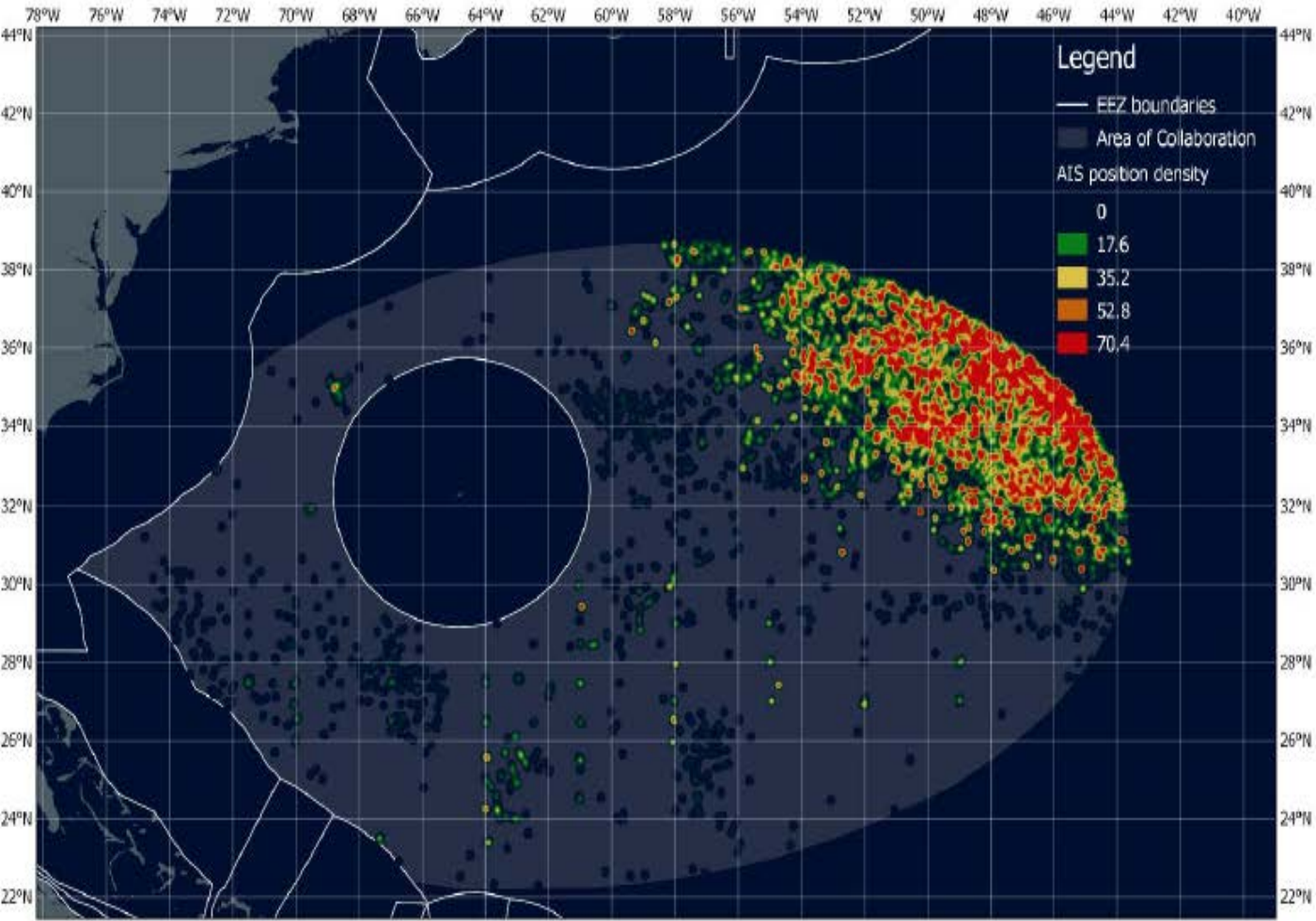


- Hotspots to the east
- Increased activity
- Fishing pressure spreads
- New areas of activity
- More defined



COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE

3-YEAR FISHING PRESSURE



East-Northeast

Other areas visible

SARGASSO SEA - GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF COLLABORATION

Heatmap of all AIS activity of vessels with ship type 'Fishing' operating between 0.25 and 5kts (speeds associated with fishing activity) 01 January 2014 - 01 January 2017



CRS - WGS84



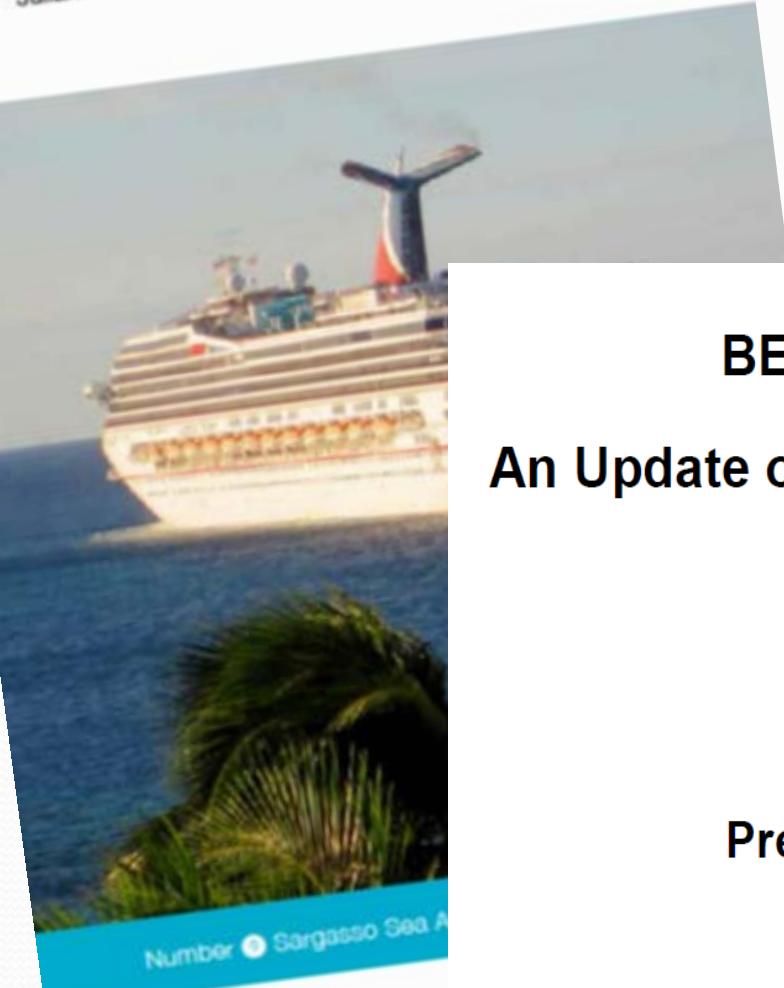
Flanders Marine Institute (2016). Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase, version 9

COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE

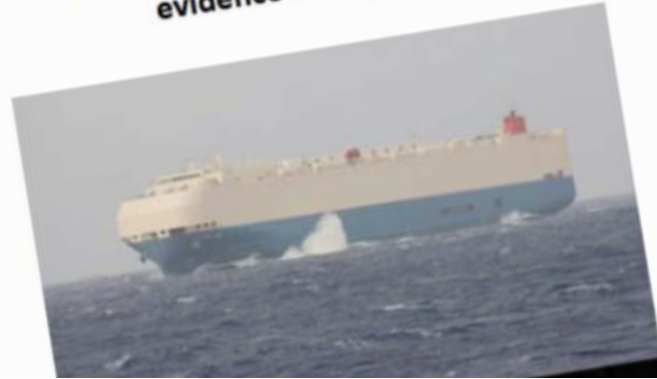


3. Impacts from International Shipping

Maritime Traffic in the Sargasso
An Analysis of International Shipping Activities
and their Potential Environmental Impacts
Julian Roberts



The Sargasso Sea Alliance
**A strategic assessment of the risks posed
by shipping to the Sargasso Sea and
evidence of impacts**



BERMUDA'S CRUISE SHIP INDUSTRY: An Update on Visiting Ships' Physical and Environmental Specifications

June 2016

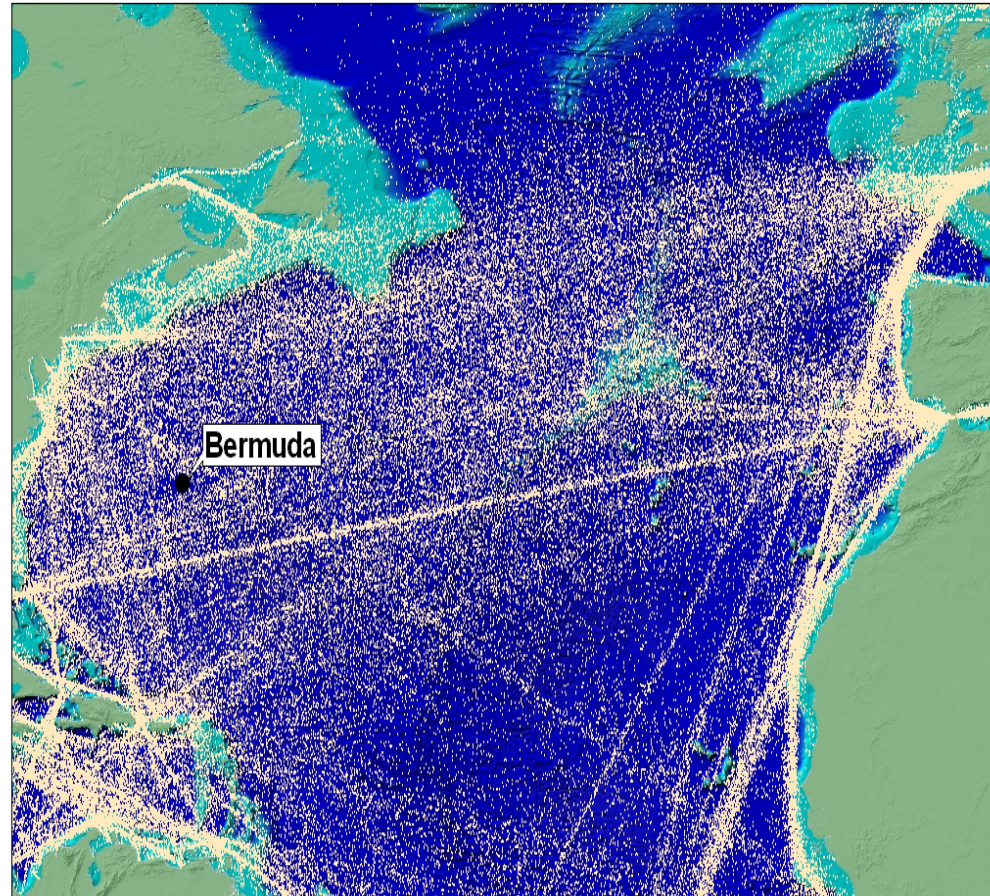
Prepared for the Sargasso Sea Commission

by

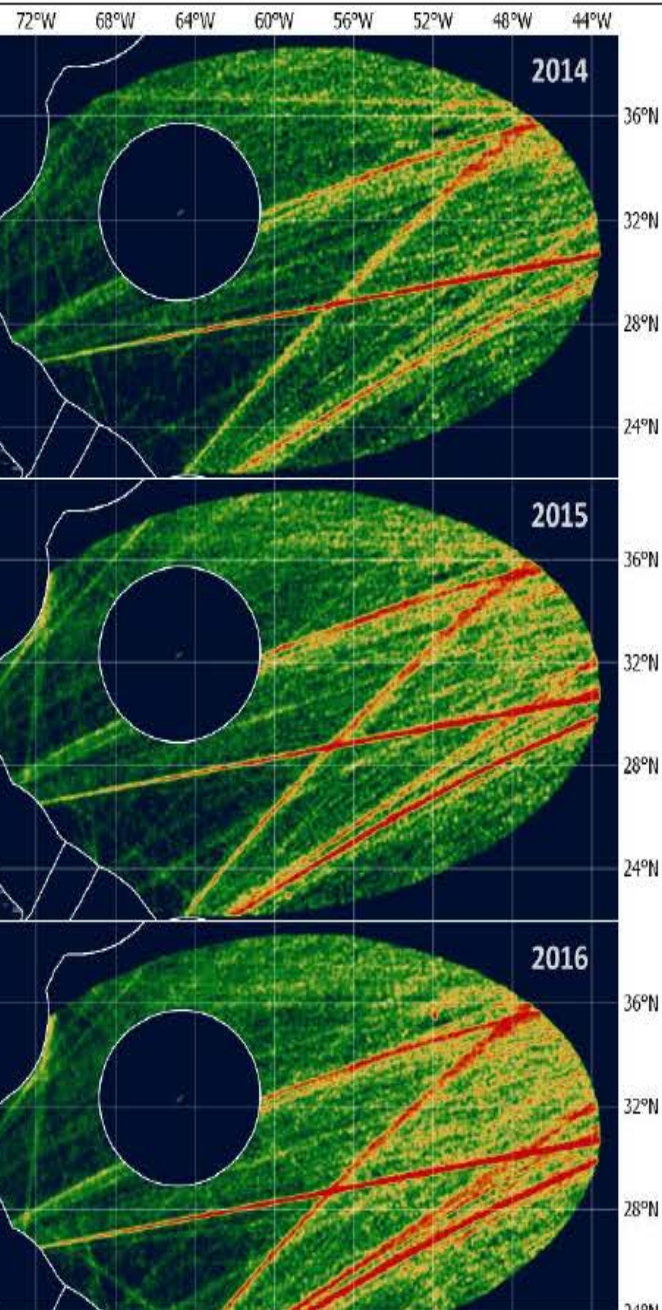
Samia Sarkis¹ and Emma Blackmore²

International Maritime Organisation

- Still discussing appropriate measures
- Possibilities are:
 - MARPOL Special Area
 - Routeing
 - Reporting
 - Ballast Water
 - Sewage



SEA OF COLLABORATION – MARITIME TRAFFIC 2014, 2015 & 2016



SARGASSO SEA GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF COLLABORATION

Heatmap of all AIS activity of vessels
2014 to 2017

Legend

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| — EEZ boundaries | AIS position density |
| ■ Area of Collaboration | 103.5 |
| | 413.6 |
| | 723.7 |
| | 1034 |
| | 1344 |



CRS - WGS84



Increased activity

Shipping lanes

- More defined
- New lanes every year



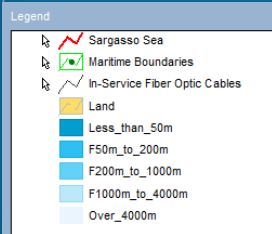
4. Impacts to the Seafloor and Seabed

Submarine Cable Industry Collaboration Workshop October 2014

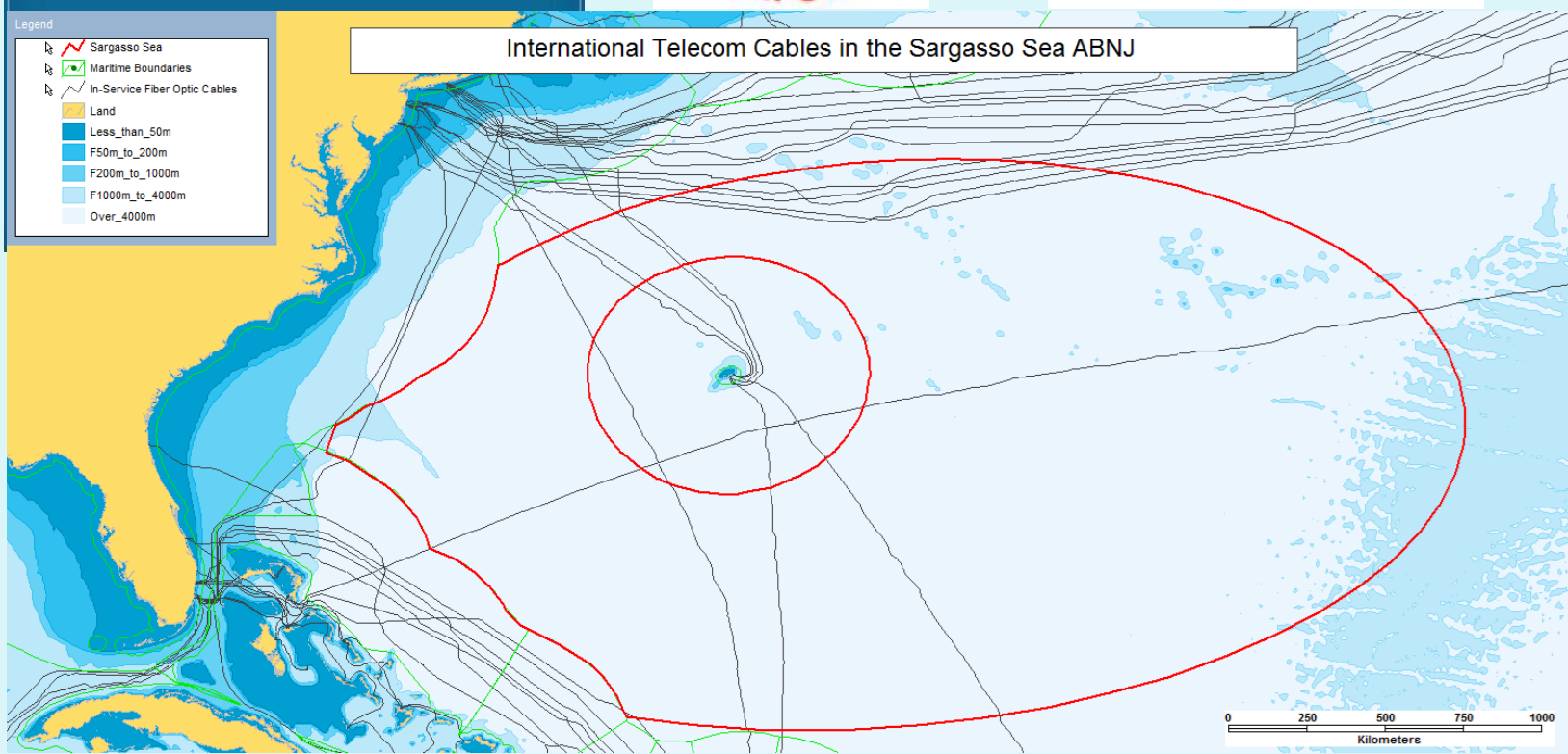
GW LAW



CIL
Centre for International Law
National University of Singapore



International Telecom Cables in the Sargasso Sea ABNJ



International Seabed Authority (ISA) Observer 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019



Sargasso Sea Commission comments on the ISA Draft Mining Regulations, Sept 2018

Sargasso Sea Commission Comments on ISA Draft Regulations

Annex

Comments of the Sargasso Sea Commission on Revised Draft Regulations on Exploitation of Mineral Resources in the Area [ISBA/24/LTC/WP.1/Rev.1](#) and [ISBA/24/C/20](#)

The Sargasso Sea Commission has the mandate of “Stewardship” of this unique open ocean ecosystem, granted by the 10 Government Signatories of the 2014 Hamilton Declaration on Collaboration for the Conservation of the Sargasso Sea. The “Area of Collaboration” of the Sargasso Sea identified by the Signatories to the Declaration is in the western basin of the North Atlantic, adjacent to the mid-Atlantic Ridge. That area comprises hydrothermal vent systems along the mid-Atlantic Ridge and their associated communities; it includes hot vent systems and the so-called Lost City -a unique area with a different minerology and ecosystem. All these biological communities are poorly known, they may provide clues to the origins of life; and their geochemistry impacts the chemical composition of the oceans worldwide. It follows that great caution is required when considering exploiting these dynamic and fragile areas.

We would therefore like to preface our comments by noting that the Authority is charged with

5. Conservation of Migratory Species

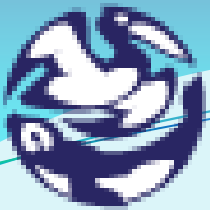
Inter - American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles



Joint Concept Note by IAC and
Sargasso Sea Commission
Secretariats on the importance of
Sargassum and the Sargasso Sea for
Atlantic Sea Turtles

Published 2015





CMS

Convention on Migratory Species

- Monaco submitted Submission for listing of *Anguilla anguilla*
- July 2014 CMS Science Council supported
- Approved at Quito CoP Nov 2014~
- 2015 Oct Workshop on American Eels ~ Maine
- 2016 Range State Meeting

European Eel Briefing Note for Sargasso Sea Alliance

Matthew Golock



Number 1 Sargasso Sea Alliance Science Report Series





Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



First Range States Workshop on the European Eel

Galway, Ireland, 13 – 14 October 2016



Regional Workshop on Eel and the Baltic Sea Convened by HelCom, CMS and Sargasso Sea Commission, Stockholm, November 2017



American Eel Range States Workshop

4-6 April, 2018



Second Meeting of European Eel Range States, 15-16 May, 2018 Malmo



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals



Second Meeting of Range States for the European Eel

Malmö, Sweden, 15-16 May 2018

UNEP/CMS/Eels2/Outcome

- Potential for international cooperation to address gaps and challenges in conservation of the European eel.
- CMS will begin consultations on setting up a cooperation mechanism for European eel conservation.
- **The proposed mechanism would, among other actions, establish measures to protect the Sargasso Sea.**

6. Defining Role in Data and Information Management

SSA Science Report Series

The Pelagic Oceanic Assemblages of the Sargasso Sea Around Bermuda
Marin V. Angel

Where is the Sargasso Sea?
A Report Submitted to the Sargasso Sea Alliance

Jeff Ardron, Pia Holpin, Jason Roberts, Jesse Cleary, Russell Moffitt, Ben Donnelly

European Eel Briefing Note for Sargasso Sea Alliance

Matthew Gollock

The Importance of the Sargasso Sea and the Offshore Waters of the Bermudian Exclusive Economic Zone to Bermudian and its People

JACQUE HARRIS

Oceanography of the Sargasso Sea: Overview of Scientific Studies

M.W. Lomas, N.R. Bates, K.N. Buck, and A.H. Knip

Notes on "Microbial productivity of the Sargasso Sea and how it compares to elsewhere" and "The role of the Sargasso Sea in carbon sequestration—better than carbon neutral?"

M.W. Lomas, N.R. Bates, K.N. Buck, and A.H. Knip

The Sargasso Sea Subtr

The Spawning and Larval Development of Both Freshwater and Marine Eels

Michael J. Miller and Reinhold Hanel

The Geology of the Sargasso Sea Alliance Study Area

Potential Non-Living Marine Resources and an Overview of the Current Territorial Claims and Coastal States Interests

Lindsay Pearson and Rosemary Edwards

Maritime Traffic in the Sargasso Sea

An Analysis of International Shipping Activities and their Potential Environmental Impact

Julian Roberts

Summary of Sea Education Association Long-term Sargasso Sea Surface Net Data

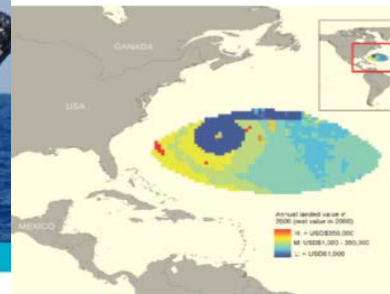
Amy N.S. Sluda

Humpback Whale Research Project, Bermuda

Andrew Stevenson

Values from the Resources of the Sargasso Sea

U.R. Sumalla, V. Vats and W. Swartz



Scholarly Literature

STANFORD ENVIRONMENTAL LAW REVIEW 2014

Place-based Dynamic Management of Large-Scale Ocean Places: Papahānaumokuākea and the Sargasso Sea

David Freestone,^{*} Ole Varmer,^A Meredith Bennett,^B T. 'Aulani Wilhelm,^C Theodore M. Beuttler,^D Jeff Ardron,^E Sara Maxwell,^F and Kate Killerlain Morrison^G

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Two Important Marine Ecosystem Regimes

1. Introduction to the establishment of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument including its dynamic nature and importance to our natural and cultural heritage
2. Introduction to the Sargasso Sea and the Sargasso Sea Alliance, including the Sea's biological and cultural importance, and dynamic nature

II. MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORKS AND CHALLENGES

- #### A. Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
1. Definition of Papahānaumokuākea
 2. Frameworks and challenges in managing Papahānaumokuākea by federal and state agencies

^{*} Executive Director, Sargasso Sea Alliance; Visiting Scholar, Environmental Law School, Washington, D.C.

^A Attorney-Advisor, International Section Office of General Counsel, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

^B Center for Ocean Solutions, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, Stanford University.

^C Superintendent, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Monument; Sloan Fellow, Graduate School of Business, Stanford University.

^D Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Oceans and Coasts Division, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

^E Senior Fellow, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Potsdam Institute for Climate Change Research, Potsdam, Germany.

^F Senior Fellow, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Potsdam Institute for Climate Change Research, Potsdam, Germany.

^G Senior Fellow, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Potsdam Institute for Climate Change Research, Potsdam, Germany.

Can existing institutions protect biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction? Experiences from two on-going processes

David Freestone^a, David Johnson^b, Jeff Ardron^{c,*}, Kate Killerlain Morrison^a, Sebastian Unger^{c.1}

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^b Seascope Consultants Ltd., Belbins Valley, Belbins, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 0PE, United Kingdom
^c Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies e.V., Berliner Strasse 130, 14467 Potsdam, Germany

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The International Journal of
Marine and Coastal Law 27 (2012) 647-655

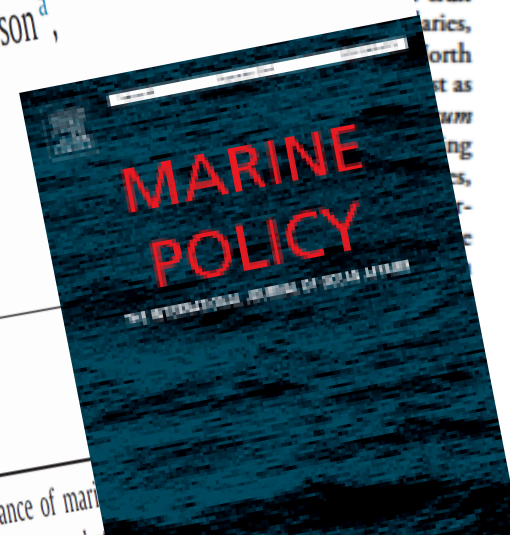
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF
MARINE
AND COASTAL
LAW
iJCLonline

Current Legal Developments The Sargasso Sea

The Sargasso Sea Alliance: Seeking to Protect the Sargasso Sea

The Sargasso Sea Alliance was formed in 2009 by the Government of Bermuda, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.

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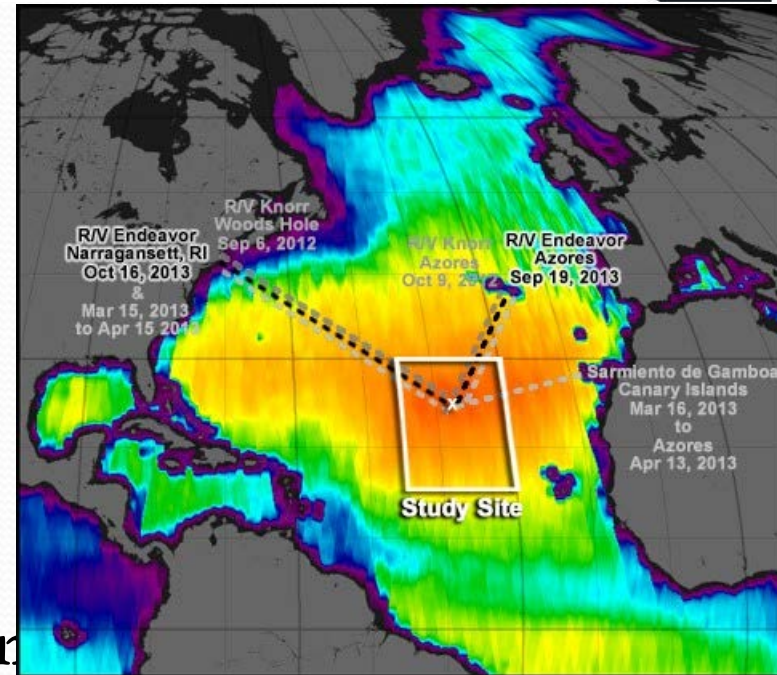
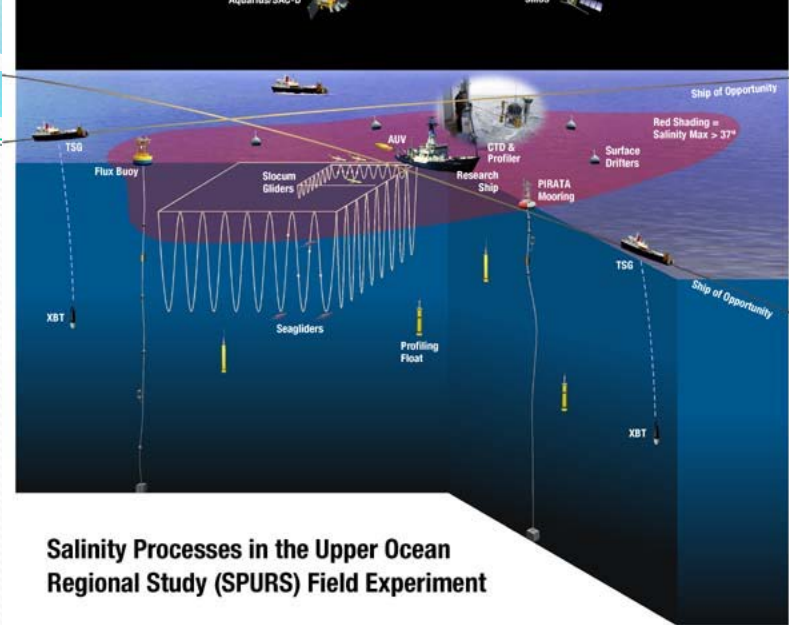
ABSTRACT

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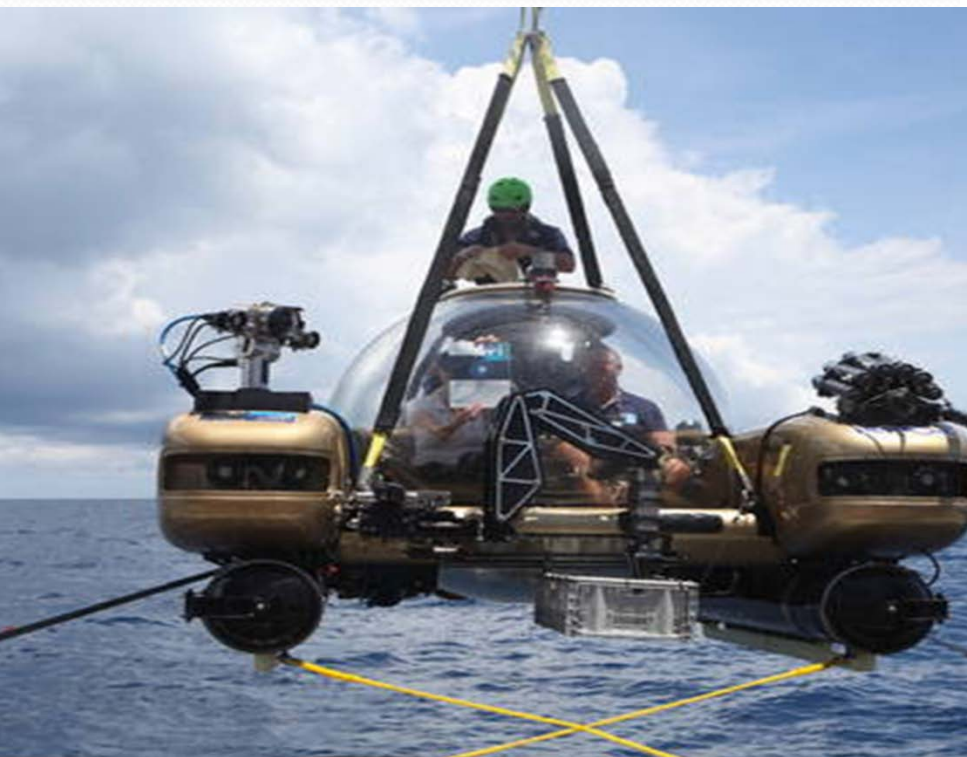
on the governance of marine

NASA project COVERAGE

- In-kind partnership project to develop initial satellite map product for Sargasso Sea
- 2017 Approved by Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS)
- Future phases other data providers on tagged animals, fishing and shipping information



UNESCO Report on possible High Seas World Heritage Sites



World Heritage reports

44



World Heritage in the High Seas:
An Idea Whose Time Has Come

What have we learned?

Sargasso Sea: Engagement with Int'l. Bodies

- **United Nations**
- **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**
- **International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)**
- **International Maritime Organization (IMO)**
- **North-west Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)**
- **European Union**
- **Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**
- **OSPAR Convention**
- **International Seabed Authority (ISA)**
- **Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)**
- **UNESCO World Heritage Convention**
- **IOC – OBIS**
- **IUCN**
- **International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC)**
- **Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles**
- **Cartagena Convention - Caribbean Regional Sea**
- **Abidjan Convention - West African Regional Sea**

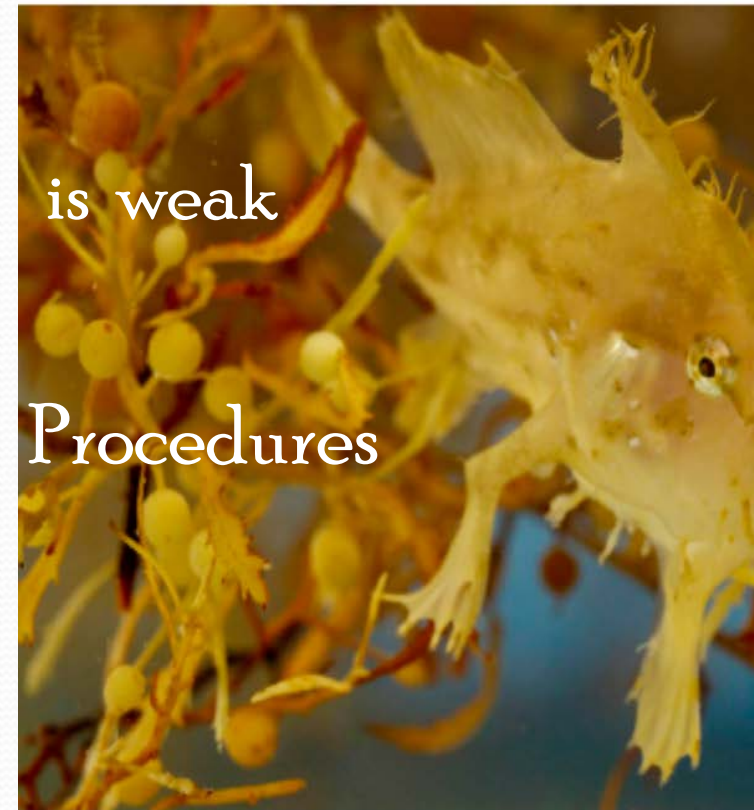
Lessons Learned ... I

- After 6 years ... This is NOT easy
- 1982 Law of the Sea Convention
- NOT been implemented
 - Poor Inter sectoral Communication
 - Between IMO, ICCAT, ISA
 - Different Languages, Skills
- Long timescales~
 - Fragmented system
 - Systemic inertia

Lessons from the Sargasso Sea

Challenges to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction

David Freestone and Kristina Gjerde



is weak

Procedures

Lessons Learned ... II

- Public-private partnerships provide a major catalyst
- Voluntary international collaboration is powerful
 - Role of Monaco with CMS.
- “Resistance to precaution”
- Need systematic ABNJ governance
- Regional and Global necessary

Lessons from the Sargasso Sea

Challenges to the conservation and sust
of marine biodiversity beyond national jur

David Freestone and Kristina Gjerde



What Next ?

2019 Ongoing Agenda

- UN BBNJ IGC New York 3 April 2019
 - Side event reporting on this meeting (DFO support)
- Third European Eel Range States meeting with CMS
 - Negotiating Meeting, Malmo Sweden, 24/25 June 2019
- Sargasso Sea Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Report
 - Kell and Luckhurst to report in 2019
- Follow-up Intergovernmental Meeting on Strengthening Stewardship of Sargasso Sea ?

Moving Beyond the Hamilton Declaration ...

- Currently considering a proposal to upgrade the Hamilton Declaration to a
 - Regional Ocean Governance Organization (ROGO)
- Concept was endorsed by the Global Oceans Commission in its first Report
- NOT to Undermine BBNJ ILBI negotiations but to complement them
- Use same agenda/framework as the UN Intergovernmental Conference

THANK YOU



For more information

www.sargassoseacommission.org