

From 100 MedNet sites to 30 jewels of the Mediterranean Sea

Following the selection process, and taking into account the aforementioned criteria, the areas put forward by Oceana for priority action are the following:



1. Xauen and Tofiño Banks/Southern Alboran Volcanoes
2. Alidade Bank and Habibbas Escarpment
3. Alicante Canyon
4. Balearic Seamounts
5. Tortosa Canyon
6. Gulf of Lion Canyons
7. Bejaia Canyon
8. Western Sardinia Canyons
9. Southern Ligurian Seamounts
10. Northern Sicilian Seamounts
11. Adventure Bank/Southern Sicily Seamounts/Urania Bank
12. Hurd Bank
13. Jarrafa Trough
14. Malta Ridge
15. Northern Adriatic
16. Bari Canyon
17. Santa María di Leuca
18. Northern Ionian Seamount
19. Southern Ionian Seamounts
20. Ptolemy Mountains
21. Glavki and Venus Banks
22. Columbo Seamount
23. Southern Aegean Seamount I
24. Cheffren Mud Volcano
25. Anaximander and Anaximenes Ridges
26. Eratosthenes Seamount
27. Nile Cold Hydrocarbon Seeps
28. Lebanon Canyons
29. Latakia Escarpment
30. Karpas Ridge

Leptosammia sp.
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The quick designation of these areas as protected would be a great advance in open sea MPA designation, as well as an improvement in the integration of regional organisations and national administrations.

For further information:

<http://oceana.org/en/eu/our-work/habitats-protection/mediterranean/mednet/overview>

OCEANA MedNet II 30 jewels of the Mediterranean Sea

Protecting the Mediterranean: an urgent need

Since its presentation in February 2011, **Oceana MedNet** has become well known in many international forums as a comprehensive and diverse proposal for a Marine Protected Area (MPA) network in the Mediterranean. This initiative would strongly promote the preservation of sea resources, as the current MPA network is poorly structured, concentrating on the Northern coast, with large protection gaps mainly in open sea, the Southern coast and the Eastern Mediterranean.

Objective: to protect 10% of the sea and prevent irreversible damage

The main objective of **Oceana MedNet** is to enable the relevant administrations to protect 10% of the Mediterranean Sea under a **coherent, representative, and effectively managed MPA network by 2020**. This percentage was established by the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) through a number of decisions: COP 7 Decision CDB VII/28 and Decision VII/30; COP 10 Decision X/2.

The creation of MPAs must be speeded up, not only to attain this objective, but also in order to prevent the irreversible loss of vulnerable and highly productive habitats, as well as that of species with a high ecological significance.

Different jurisdictions, the same strategic tool

Due to the complex jurisdictional situation in the Mediterranean Sea, open sea MPA designation is no easy task, and work must take place within the framework of international agreements or treaties. National governments and regional organisations have the unavoidable obligation of honouring their respective commitments and becoming aware of the need to protect the Mediterranean resources.



Figure 1. Oceana MedNet. 100 proposals for Mediterranean conservation

Taking this drawback into account, we are making **Oceana MedNet** available to them as a tool for the strategic planning of the Mediterranean basin. In this sense, Oceana is appealing to national authorities in order to act in an integrated way and join in a common effort in preservation policies regarding the Mediterranean Sea.

The key to success: making use of available information and establishing priorities

Thanks to the scientific information currently available, we know which areas generate the highest concentration of biological diversity and thus are candidates to protection. In this sense, a Precautionary Principle can be applied within the context the protection of the Mediterranean. We cannot keep making the mistake of delaying a protection which is really necessary using the excuse of a lack of biological information.

However, a proposal of these dimensions involves a large institutional and governmental effort. For this reason, Oceana proposes focusing efforts on a number of priority locations as established by these criteria:

- areas which are examples of figures to be protected under the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- areas of high interest for research/marine science and internationally relevant;
- areas in which proposals from various organisations overlap;
- relevant areas for the sustainable maintenance of fisheries;
- areas containing unique or unusual ecosystems;
- areas where real impacts on significant ecosystems have been documented, or where potential threats are foreseen.

