

OCEANA MedNet

A complementary approach for the
Mediterranean N2000 in open and deep sea

Acronyms

- BAP.** Biodiversity Action Plan
 - CBD.** Convention on Biological Diversity
 - CFP.** Common Fisheries Policy
 - COP.** Contracting Parties
 - EBA.** Ecosystem Based Approach
 - EEA.** European Environment Agency
 - EC.** European Commission
 - EP.** European Parliament
 - GES.** Good Environmental Status
 - GEBCO.** General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans
 - IUCN.** International Union for Conservation of Nature
 - MPA.** Marine Protected Areas
 - MS.** Member States
 - MSFD.** Marine Strategy Framework Directive
 - N2000.** Natura 2000
 - RAC/SPA.** Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas
 - SBSTTA.** Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
 - SAC.** Special Areas of Conservation
 - SCI.** Site of Community Importance
 - SPAMI.** Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance
 - UNCLOS.** United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
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Contents

Executive Summary	02
International Commitments for Marine Conservation in Europe	03
Convention on Biological Diversity: The Aichi Targets	03
Barcelona Convention	04
European Directives: Habitats and Marine Strategy Framework Directives	04
Habitats Directive	05
Marine Strategy Framework Directive	06
The need for EC action	07
N2000 in the Mediterranean Sea: an improvement is needed	08
Oceana MedNet: a complement to marine N2000	11
MedNet Jewels: areas requiring priority actions	12
Oceana Recommendations	15
Annex I. Guiding questions for setting Aichi national targets	16
Credits	17

Executive Summary

The Mediterranean Sea is regarded as a biodiversity hotspot and a global priority conservation area. Despite this, it remains under serious threat (overexploited fishing stocks, pollution, habitats destruction, etc.) and by contrast, the current MPA network covers only a minimum percentage of its total surface.

This MPA network is neither comprehensive nor representative, as most of the protected areas are located in the north coast and near the shoreline and protect only a few of most significant habitats. Furthermore, deep sea and open sea ecosystems are not well represented and remain consequently unprotected and unmanaged.

Oceana, in its work towards a healthier, better-managed and cleaner Mediterranean Sea, brings a comprehensive proposal to complement the existing MPA network and the N2000 in this sea.

According to United Nations Convention on The Law of the Sea, protecting and preserving the marine environment is a “General Obligation” of the States and “the right for exploiting their natural resources pursuant their environmental policies and in accordance with their duty for protection” (UNCLOS Part XII. Art.192; Art.193). The CBD establishes that protection of the world’s seas and oceans must be increased at least to 10%. To date, the marine surface protected globally is barely 1% and the situation in the Mediterranean Sea is no different.

“States have the general obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment”. Art. 192 UNCLOS

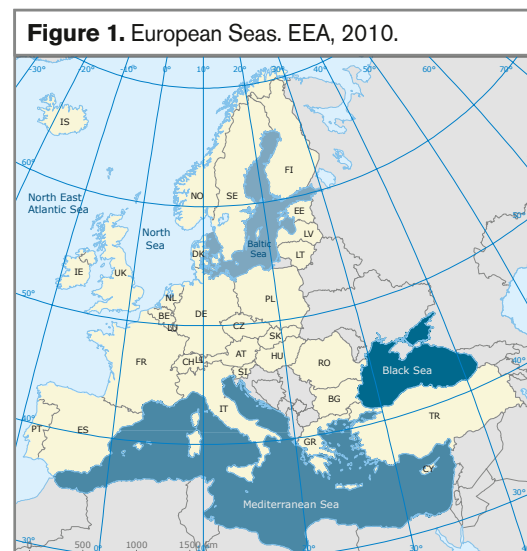
The EU Parliament recently adopted a resolution on the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy, which recognizes the urgent need for MS to ensure the process of designating N2000 sites by 2012 and highlights the need to step up efforts to protect oceans and marine environments. In this sense, the contribution of European MS towards the 10% target will predominantly depend on MPA designations under the N2000 tool.

This must be equally reflected as a priority to reach the Good Environmental Status in marine and coastal waters pursued by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Additionally, designating MPAs will help to comply with commitments at Mediterranean and international levels.

The EU has substantial legislation requiring efforts in marine conservation. It is no longer acceptable to keep delaying protection measures using the “made-up” excuse of a lack of biological knowledge. 2012 is the 20th anniversary of the Habitats Directive and a time to celebrate the positive development of the network on land. Yet ***how long should we wait to celebrate the same success for European seas under N2000?***

This document summarizes the international commitments of the EU and its MS with regards to marine conservation, and shows how the existing gaps in protection of the Mediterranean Sea can be addressed. Thanks to the available scientific information, important areas such as canyons, seamounts or cold seeps, which generate high productivity and biological diversity, are known and it is therefore possible to locate candidates for protection.

Oceana MedNet is also proposed as a strategic tool for improving the marine N2000 covering the open and deep sea gap. A set of recommendations is also provided at the end of the document.



International Commitments for Marine Conservation in Europe

Convention on Biological Diversity: The Aichi Targets

Under the mandate of the CBD for marine and coastal environment protection, the European Commission must carry out Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The specific objective addressing protected areas is as follows:

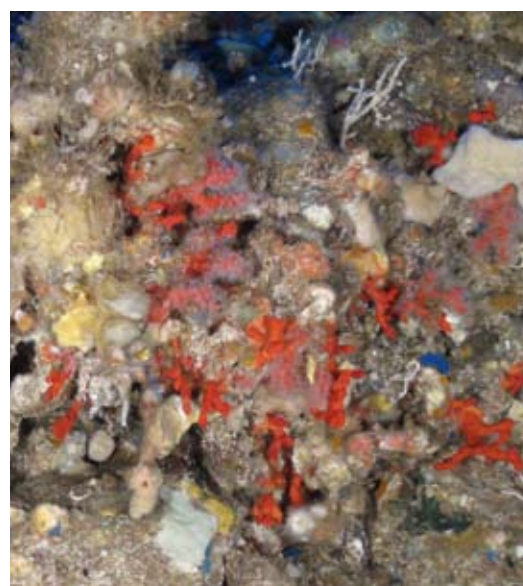
AICHI Target 11

By 2020, at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water, and 10% of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

Reaching the target means major efforts have to be undertaken, that include speeding up MPA designation process in upcoming years. In this sense, the CBD has developed a set of quick guides for its implementation (see Annex I) explaining several of the conditions needed to meet the target:

- increase protected area to 10%
- include areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, such as areas high in species richness or threatened species, threatened biomes and habitats;
- be ecologically representative, including at least 10% of each ecoregion within the each country;
- be effectively and equitably managed
- be well-connected

In 2004, that target was established to be reached by 2012, however during the 10th COP meeting of the CBD (Nagoya, 2010) it was decided to postpone the deadline to 2020 (Decision X/2) ignoring that conservation measures avoid the continuous degradation of marine ecosystems.



Red coral (*Corallium rubrum*) colonies. © OCEANA

The CBD was signed at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. At the present time (Rio+20), the guidelines described for chapter 17 on the Protection of the oceans are still pending and have not been satisfactory globally. The world therefor remains on an unsustainable track despite hundreds of internationally agreed goals and objectives.

The target in CBD decision VII/28 of establishing by 2012 'a global network of comprehensive, representative and effectively managed national and regional protected areas' remains a considerable challenge and requires considerable concerted efforts from countries, also at European level.

European Environment Agency, 2010
10 messages for 2010. Protected areas

To comply successfully with Target 11, effective management at the end of the designation process is necessary. So the establishment of ecologically important areas by MS within their jurisdictional areas should take place urgently, as large periods of time are needed to obtain the most adequate management measures on MPAs.

Barcelona Convention

Being one of the 22 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, the EC signed the Paris Declaration (see Figure 2) at the last COP meeting to the convention (February, 2012). With this statement, the Parties reaffirmed their willingness to reach the 10% target in the Mediterranean.

Figure 2. Abstract of Paris Declaration in relation to take measures to make the Mediterranean a clean, healthy and productive sea with conserved biodiversity and ecosystems

PARIS DECLARATION

Parties to the Barcelona Convention declared that they are resolved to:

- by reaffirming our political commitments to protection and sustainable development of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal zones **through an ecosystem approach to the management of human activities**, to be implemented by stages in regular cycles;
- by **developing, a coherent, well-managed network of coastal and marine protected areas in the Mediterranean, including on the high seas**, in accordance with United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and **implementing the Aichi Plan of Action** adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity, **in particular to meet the target of 10 percent of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean by 2020**;
- by **reinforcing regional cooperation for the scientific evaluation of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas**, in relation to the global work under the Convention on Biological Diversity and by the United Nations General Assembly;

Within this context the project entitled “*Project for establishing SPAMIs in open seas, including the deep sea*” is being implemented by the RAC/SPA and has been funded by the EC (DG Environment). The project aims to identify potential sites to be declared as SPAMIs. The synthesis report on the work carried out has been submitted to the CBD SBSTTA as agreed by the Contracting Parties at the last COP meeting (*Decision IG.20/7. Conservation of sites of particular ecological interest in the Mediterranean*). The process of defining Mediterranean EBSAs finished in 2010 and so far, 10 priority areas have been identified as EBSAs following the CBD criteria. Despite the efforts invested, no particular actions have been taken yet and no specific sites have been identified or proposed to be designated as a new SPAMI in open sea.

European Directives: Habitats and Marine Strategy Framework Directives

In addition to the aforementioned international commitments, MS also have to comply with obligations imposed by the European legal framework linked to the marine environment: **Habitats Directive** (92/43/EEC) and **Marine Strategy Framework Directive** (2008/56/EC). Thus, MS must assume the requests to protect European waters within their jurisdiction using tools for marine conservation and protection.

Both Directives have cross-cutting and interconnected elements as various requirements under Habitats Directive can contribute to developing marine strategies of the MSFD (e.g. spatial protection measures).

Figure 3. Marine EBSAs identified in the Mediterranean Sea (UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA, 2010).



Habitats Directive

In 1992, when the Habitats Directive was adopted, MS began to submit their contributions to the Mediterranean MPA network. Since then, the N2000 network has expanded to marine environment. However, it is still scarce and not representative of Mediterranean habitats and species because the progress on SCI designation in marine environment has been slower than for terrestrial (see Figure 4).

Figure 4. Marine and terrestrial surface evolution on SCIs (N2000 Barometer).

SCI surface (km ²)		
Year	Terrestrial	Marine
2005	469,665	76,150
2006	475,893	76,300
2007	547,111	79,759
2008	568,463	87,505
2009	585,533	131,459
2010	586,092	132,923
2011	583,888	149,732

In response to that slowed process, DG Environment published “Guidelines for the establishment of the Natura 2000 network in the marine environment” (May, 2007). This work, despite not being binding, is aimed at reviewing the applicability of marine habitat definitions to offshore environment as a basis for extending the network of protected areas across all the maritime areas where MS exercise jurisdiction. Also, a general manual for habitats was published including marine elements: Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats (EUR 27, July 2007).

Marine N2000 in the Mediterranean Sea is scarce and not representative of habitats and species that it hosts

In 2007, the IUCN also presented a report titled “Countdown 2010 for Marine Ecosystems” aimed at halting biodiversity loss in Europe. “Key Messages for Enhancing

Marine Conservation” were presented and some of them may be highlighted as follows:

- In the offshore area, there are advantages to considering the designation of relatively large sites, rather than many small sites.
- In identifying the marine N2000 sites, there is also a need to apply the precautionary principle more widely in order to balance the need for urgent protection with the scarcity of economic resources for carrying out full research campaigns.
- Where it is not possible to gather enough scientific information to identify sites, particularly for large offshore areas, MS should work together and with the Commission to develop a positive approach and ambitious timetable for completing the N2000 network in those areas.

Precautionary Approach implementation at sea is needed to complete N2000

Even with manuals and guidelines published, in 2009 over 17 % of EU land had been designated as N2000 sites, while the marine counterpart of the network is still in development. Furthermore, deep sea habitats, such as *Lophelia pertusa* and *Madrepora oculata* reefs (habitat 1170) or pockmarks (habitat 1180), specifically mentioned in the documents remain unrepresented within the Mediterranean N2000.

In 2011, at the EU level only 5 % of SCIs are marine sites (see Figure 5) not only due to some uncertainty concerning the application of the Directive at sea, but also in part because open sea MPA designations can require international collaboration, especially in the Mediterranean Sea.

Figure 5. Natura 2000 Barometer. January 2011 updating.

SCIs 2011	N°	%	Surface (km ²)	%
Land	22,584	95%	583,888	80%
Marine	1,247	5%	149,732	20%
Total	23,831		733,620	



Angular rough shark (*Oxynotus centrina*). © OCEANA

As a conclusion, despite the repeated assessments and expert workshops on N2000 showing the gaps and providing input on how to improve the network at sea, the marine coverage of the European network remains being insufficient up to date.

Today only 5% of SCIs proposed correspond to marine N2000 sites

Marine Strategy Framework Directive

The Marine Strategy, adopted in 2008, requires the application of an ecosystem-based approach to managing human activities that impact the marine environment. The MSFD aims to achieve the Good Environmental Status of EU seas by 2020, and in its article 13.4, calls for MS to include in their “Programmes of Measures” the establishment of MPAs, which should contribute to a representative and coherent network. Thus, the Directive recognizes the importance of MPAs and their contribution to the creation of networks in line with Article 8 of the CBD.

By 2013 at the latest, MS shall make publicly available, with respect to each marine region or subregion, relevant information on their progress in establishing of spatial protection measures and contributing to comprehensive networks of MPAs, such as SACs pursuant to the Habitats Directive.

By later 2013, Member States shall make publicly available the progress on spatial protection measures

The Directive explicitly acknowledges that all types of spatial protection measures, ranging from N2000 to MPAs designated under regional seas convention or national laws, will contribute to the GES objective. This gives more flexibility to EU MS to use the full range of tools available at the Mediterranean level to develop coherent and representative MPAs networks.

At the Mediterranean level, the EC and Member States must comply with:

- **10% AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGET 11 to the Convention on Biological Diversity;**
- **The Paris Declaration to the BARCELONA CONVENTION by reaffirming the 10% target;**
- **HABITATS DIRECTIVE to reach a comprehensive N2000 network at sea;**
- **MARINE STRATEGY FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE to reach Good Environmental Status**

The Need For EC action

According to the Thematic Assessment for marine and coastal environment of the European Environment Agency (SOER, 2010), Mediterranean Sea ecosystems, including the deep sea, are subject to multiple types of heavy pressures. On the other hand, the 2012 EP resolution “*Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020*” deplored the “delay in designating of marine N2000 sites” and the “EU failure to achieve the initial 2010 biodiversity target”.

Regarding fisheries, the current state of Mediterranean fish stocks is alarming compared to other European Seas. For years, scientific advice has been repeatedly ignored (see Figure 6). In a recent Communication, the European Commission, based on the best available science, pointed out that 80% of the Mediterranean stocks are overfished, so clear actions and policies are obviously needed to phase out overfishing and guarantee the sustainable exploitation of resources (see Figure 7).

The Mediterranean Sea is not only an overexploited and mismanaged area, but is also facing many other threats: habitat destruction, pollution, marine debris,

in addition to impacts derived from climate change, such as acidification or sea water temperature rise.

MPA benefits have been described and proven globally. A suitable MPA management in damaged areas turns them into biodiversity reservoirs that nourish fish stocks, mitigate climate change impacts and also generate economic benefits for nearby communities among others. Consequently, an adequate and well-planned network of MPAs at the European or national scale can contribute to the sustainable use of biodiversity, minimizing the adverse effect from anthropogenic impacts. This includes a complete and well-connected MPA network which covers pelagic and deep sea ecosystems and also ensures genetic exchange.

However, the connectivity between protected areas within the present marine N2000 network hardly exists. In addition and according to “Seas for Life” (2011), where marine species and habitat types have been assessed, the majority was found to be in unfavorable or unknown condition; only 10% of habitats and 2% of species were in good condition.

Figure 6. Fish stocks status (EEA, 2008).

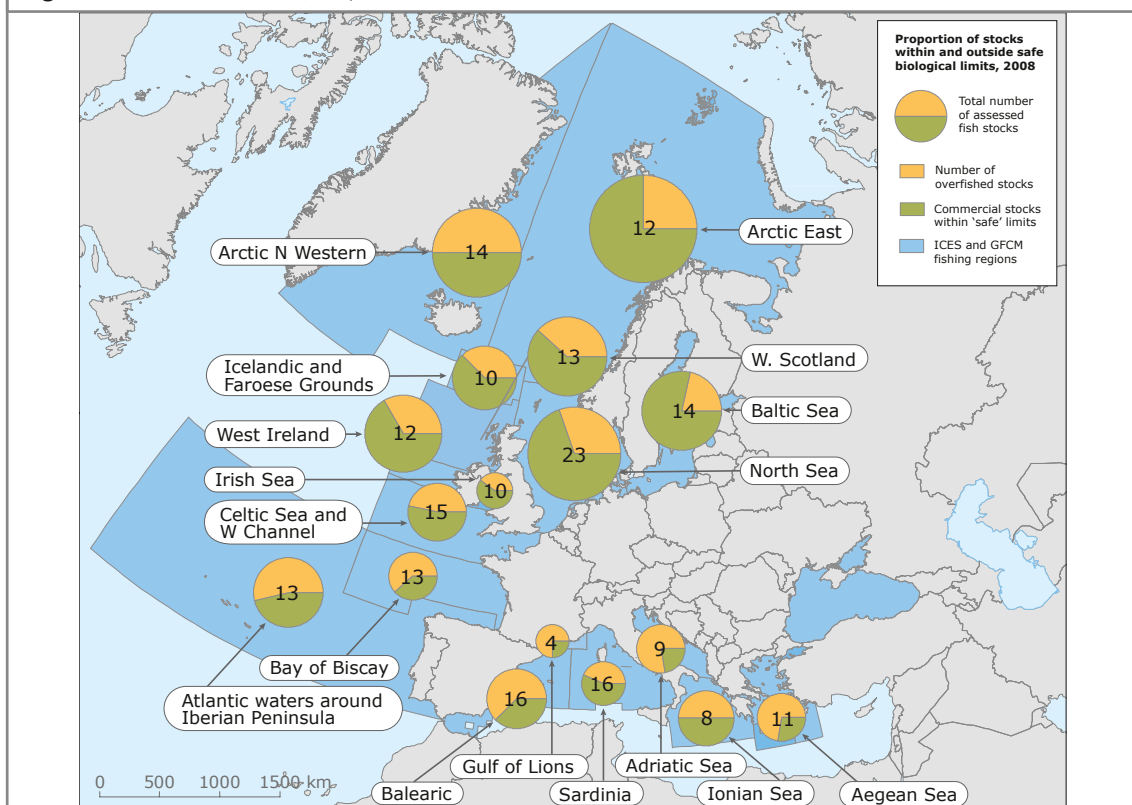


Figure 7. Consultation on Fishing Opportunities for 2007-2012.

Fishing opportunities for...	Key remarks on mediterranean stocks
2013	80% of the resources studied are overfished and some are at low levels. The number and quality of assessments, though still geographically unbalanced and not regular over time have continued to increase, and now cover more than 100 stocks from 27 species; however only 63% of evaluated stocks have been classified according to MSY criteria. The status of 37% of stocks remains unknown. As these assessments have only recently begun and not all of the stocks are assessed every year, it is not possible to use these data to look at the development of the state of the stocks over time.
2012	82% of the resources are overfished and some are depleted to low levels. The percentage of overfished stocks is still too high and there can be no room for complacency: more efforts are needed to phase out overfishing.
2011	60% of assessed stocks were outside of safe biological limits and 54% were overfished . NOTE: Assessments for only 16 out of 102 candidate species (not including the elasmobranches, tunas and tunas like species) are available.
2010	The Commission considers that the implementation of the Mediterranean regulation is still less than satisfactory, even in those parts eliciting a bottom-up approach like the national management plans and the provision of relevant information to establish a network of fishing protected areas . Work will continue to prepare Community long term management plans and to promote this approach, together with other conservation actions and specific measures on monitoring and control within the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).
2009	In the Mediterranean Sea the only TAC at present is the one for Bluefin tuna. In 2008, work will focus on the implementation of the Mediterranean Regulation (1967/2006) especially concerning the establishment of long term management plans and the designation of fisheries protected areas . It is worrying that the Member States have accumulated considerable delays in implementing this Regulation. Serious shortcomings in compliance must be overcome urgently. The Commission will follow up these matters closely during 2008. Scientific advice concerning stocks and fisheries assessments will be sought from STECF. This will help improve scientific capability, for example in the GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) context.
2008	The Commission will discuss the implementation of fisheries management measures in the Mediterranean Sea with stakeholders and Member States. Where there is agreement that an early adoption of measures would be beneficial
2007*	For deep-sea species , a separate proposal will be presented in September 2006. The Commission supports a progressive approach to returning stocks to sustainable conditions based on scientific advice. However, for deep-sea stocks the scope for graduality is limited because of their vulnerability to over-fishing and the very slow. The Commission believes that reducing the TACs more gradually than this would carry an unacceptable risk of long-term damage to the deep-sea ecosystem rates of stock recovery. CONCLUSION: While this policy approach is applicable to Community stocks, similar principles should guide the Community's actions in Regional Fisheries Organizations and in bilateral agreements. Here too, the development of long-term management measures should be a priority.

(*) No especial mention of Mediterranean stocks

N2000 in the Mediterranean Sea: an improvement is needed

The “Marine Mediterranean Seminar” on N2000, which took place in Brindisi (Italy) in 2010, established that five marine habitat types and eleven marine species listed in Annexes of the Habitats Directive exist in the

Mediterranean region. By 2010, around 500 SCIs had been nominated in the region (see Figure 8), covering over 21,000 km². That area represents around 0.8% of the Mediterranean Sea total surface (see Figure 9).

N2000 covers around 0.8% of the Mediterranean Sea and is highly insufficient to represent marine habitats and species of community interest

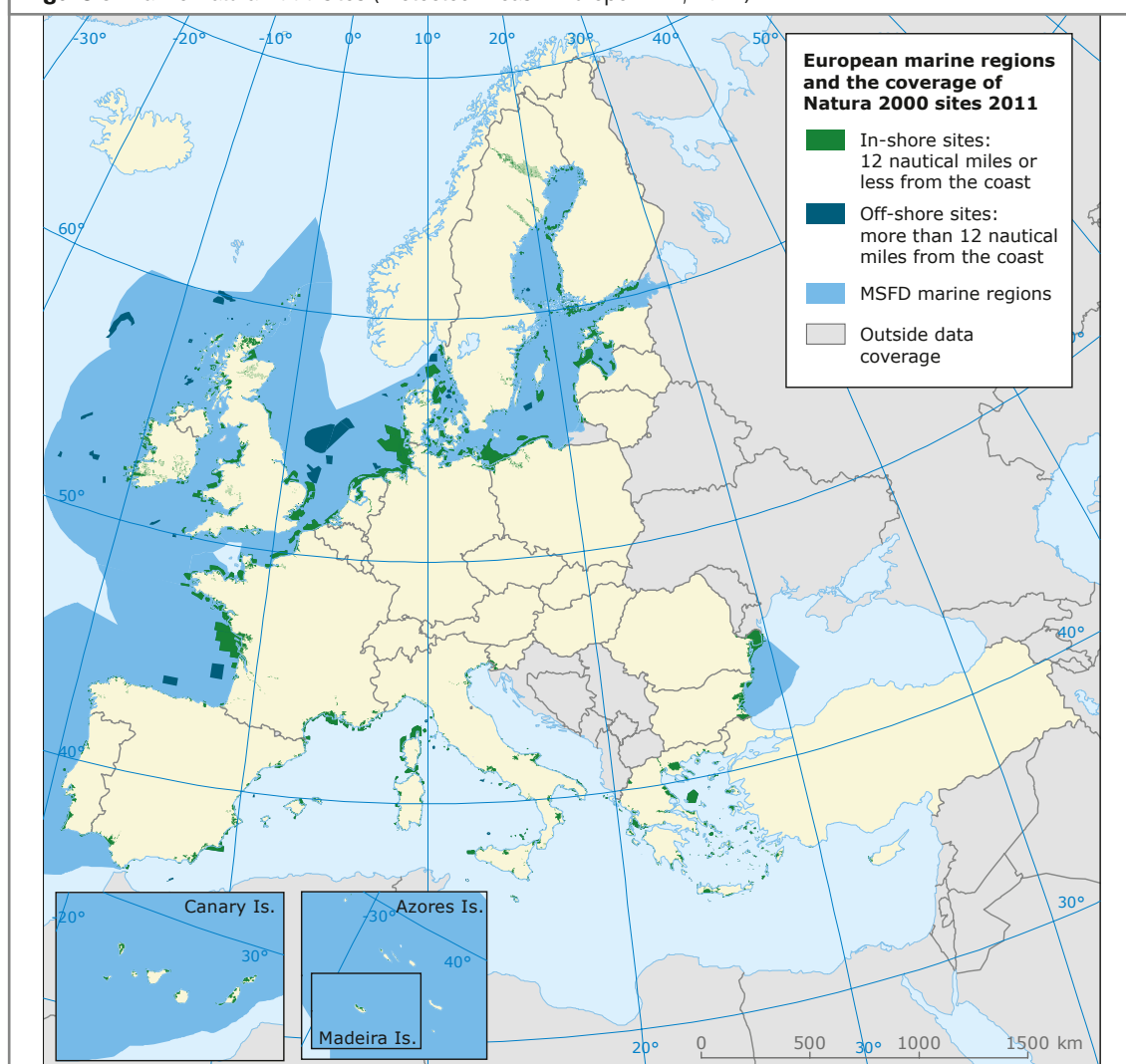
The last Mediterranean region assessment (2010) revealed that less than 5% of “priority” marine species and less than 10% of “priority” marine habitats had a “Favourable Conservation Status”. Furthermore, it was concluded that N2000 is highly insufficient to represent marine habitats and species of community interest. A poor knowledge of the marine environment was evident given the overwhelming majority of features whose status is assessed as ‘unknown’. In 2011, the

situation did not improve substantially even at the EU level (see Figure 10).

Figure 8. Number of SCIs proposed by MS in the Mediterranean region (Marine N2000 Seminar, 2010).

Member State	N° of SCIs
Cyprus	7
France	38
Greece	109
Italy	250
Malta	3
Slovenia	1
Spain	93
UK	1
TOTAL	502

Figure 9. Marine Natura 2000 sites (Protected Areas in Europe. EEA, 2012).



SCIs designation has been irregular as it depends on each Member State (see Figure 8). Thus, a clear imbalance has resulted between northern Seas (e.g. Baltic, Irish, and North Sea) and the Mediterranean basin (see Figure 9). In addition, vast differences exist between countries regarding N2000 implementation at sea (see Figure 10).

To date SCIs and SACs in the Mediterranean are concentrated near the coast, in likely response to the occurrence of habitat 1120, “*Posidonia oceanica*” and a small representation of 1170 “Reefs” or 1180 “Submarine structures made by leaking gases”. Analyzing the last update of the N2000 EUNIS database (end 2011), there was only a single SCI in the Mediterranean region protecting habitat type 1180 (site ES6120032 “Estrecho Oriental” nominated by Spain).

Figure 10. Proposed SCIs for Mediterranean MS.

Member State	N° Total SCIs (marine and terrestrial)	Marine SCI area (km ²)
Cyprus	6	129
France*	134	27,521
Greece	-	6,573
Italy	165	2,781
Malta	1	8
Slovenia	-	0
Spain*	96	7,900
UK*	62	26,322

(*) SCIs from Atlantic region have been also considered (N2000 Barometer, 2012).

According to the EEA report on Protected Areas in Europe (2012), the explanation for the gap in offshore N2000 designations is probably several-fold, but three reasons are apparent:

1.° Offshore designations had been put, mostly, on hold until the court case against the UK on the geographical extent of the Habitats Directive was resolved in 2005

with the judgement that the Habitats Directive should be implemented within the entire EEZ.

2.° 1170 “Reefs” are one of the few habitats mentioned within Annex I of the Habitats Directive that exist offshore (though sandbanks and submarine structures made by leaking gas also may occur far from the shore) making the Directive unsuitable for designation of larger offshore MPAs in deep waters.

3.° The knowledge of the distribution of benthic habitats in deeper, offshore waters is, despite huge efforts by individual Member States, still patchy, making a formal designation process difficult and costly compared to surveys in coastal waters or at land.



Cold water coral *Madrepora oculata* and *Pagurus arrosor* inside *Ranella olearia*. © OCEANA

According to the “*Guidelines for Marine N2000 implementation*”, many interesting underwater features such as seamounts, escarpments or canyons could be included into the network as they commonly host habitats classified as type 1170. Other examples for including new sites into N2000 are pockmarks and cold seeps categorized as habitat type 1180. Taking into account these considerations, a future

enlargement of Natura 2000 towards open sea may follow those criteria. These mentioned features are also in line with EBSA criteria and CBD examples of features in need of protection (UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/IX/20).

Deep-sea habitats corresponding to 1170 and 1180 types are not well-represented in the Mediterranean N2000

Oceana MedNet: a complement to marine N2000

MedNet is Oceana’s MPA proposal for the entire Mediterranean basin. It addresses gaps in the existing MPA network, mainly in open and deep sea. MedNet purposes a contribution to protect at least 10% of the Mediterranean Sea through a well-connected and coherent MPA network using a precautionary approach and following international recommendations and commitments. To that end, vulnerable ecosystems and areas of high ecological value have been identified based on the best available information in a continuous documentation process.

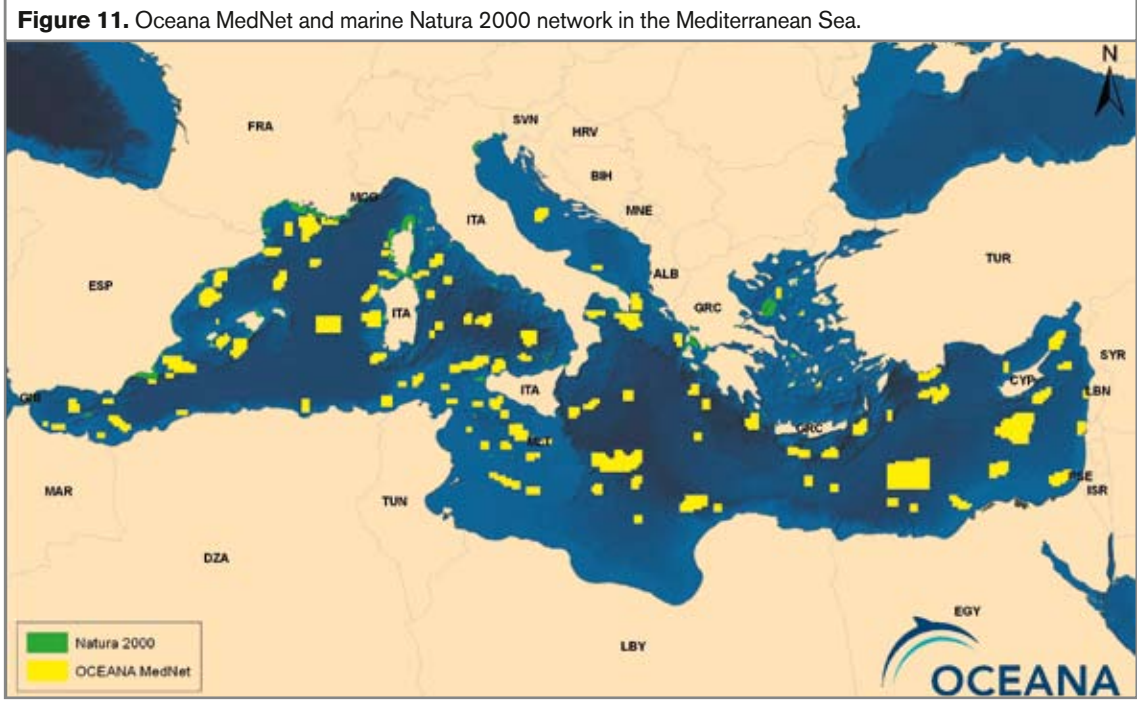
Oceana MedNet would contribute to reaching the 10% CBD target in the Mediterranean Sea complementing the marine N2000 network

with the coastal characteristic of the existing marine N2000 make MedNet a practical and useful strategic tool to spatially complement the N2000 network (see Figure 11). It is also necessary to highlight that MedNet has been designed taking into account the principal Mediterranean circulation patterns to allow for the connectivity of the network.

The proposal was presented in early 2011 and has been welcomed by many international forums, scientific conferences and organizations related to marine conservation in the Mediterranean Sea.

Oceana MedNet contains 100 sites which can be considered for a precautionary approach implementation. Trying to be realistic with the real political situation, Oceana has chosen 30 sites as starting point for priority actions. Those sites have been named **“The Mediterranean Jewels”** (see Figure 12).

The insufficient coverage, the low representativeness of open sea ecosystems together



MedNet Jewels: areas requiring priority actions

MedNet Jewels sites have been selected because they are:

- areas which are examples of features to be protected under the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- areas of high interest for research/marine science and those which are internationally relevant;
- areas where proposals from various organizations overlap;
- areas relevant to 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.

In addition, according to the references consulted, guidelines and manuals, most of these 'Jewels' could also be theoretically included as N2000 sites because they contain or are distribution areas for species or habitats from Annexes of the Directive (see Figure 13). Many other key species have been considered in MedNet as they function as: high value commercial species, Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems, Threatened or Endangered, or even listed under other relevant conventions such as CITES, Barcelona Convention, ACCOBAMS, OSPAR Commission, etc. Some of these species are as follows:

• Corals

Leiopathes glaberrima, *Lophelia pertusa*, *Madrepora oculata*, *Paramuricea* sp., *Isidella elongata*

• Crustaceans

Aristeus antennatus, *Palinurus elephas*

• Cephalopods

Illex coindetii

• Fish

Xiphias gladius, *Thunnus alalunga*, *Thunnus thynnus*, *Lophius* sp., *Merluccius merluccius*, *Mullus barbatus*, *Phycis blennoides*

• Sharks and rays

Carcharhinus brachyurus, *Carcharodon carcharias*, *Cetorhinus maximus*, *Prionace glauca*, *Centroscymnus coelolepis*, *Scyliorhinus canicula*, *Raja asterias*, *Raja clavata*, *Rhinobatos rhinobatos*

• Cetaceans

Balaenoptera physalus, *Physeter macrocephalus*, *Stenella coeruleoalba*, *Ziphius cavirostris*

MedNet was designed systematically using the relief of the sea bottom as a primary tool (General Bathymetric chart of the Oceans-GEBCO). Most of the features correspond to geomorphological underwater features such as submarine canyons, seamounts, escarpments or trenches among others. These features are generally recognized as highly productive areas, as they concentrate key species and habitats allowing the occurrence of targeting fisheries.

Figure 12. MedNet Jewels selected by Oceana.

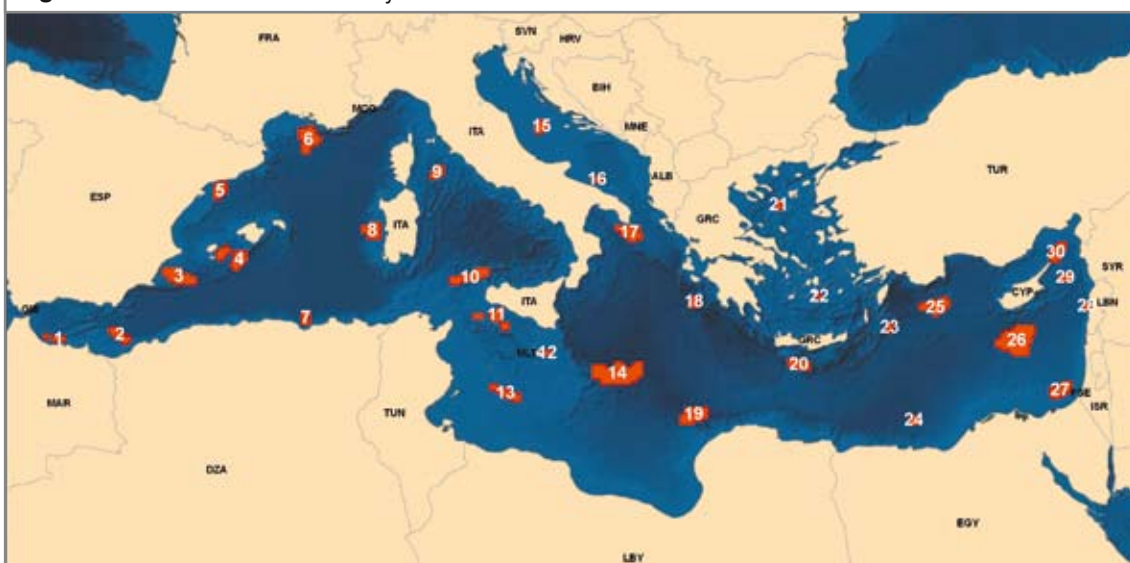


Figure 13. Marine species and habitats from Directive Annexes which may occur in MedNet Jewels.

Specie/Habitat	MedNet Jewels
Specie 1224 <i>Caretta caretta</i>	Alidade Bank and Habibbas Escarpment (2); Alicante Canyon(3); Balearic Seamounts (4); Tortosa Canyon (5); Urania Bank (11), Southern Sicily Seamounts (11); Adventure Bank (11); Hurd Bank (12); Jarrafa Trough (13); Malta Ridge (14); Northern Adriatic (15); Eratosthenes Seamount (26); Nile Cold Hydrocarbon Seeps (27); Latakia Escarpment (29); Karpas Ridge (30)
Specie 1227 <i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Jarrafa Trough (13); Eratosthenes Seamount (26); Nile Cold Hydrocarbon Seeps (27); Latakia Escarpment (29); Karpas Ridge (30)
Specie 1349 <i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Southern Alboran Volcanoes (1); Xauen and Tofiño Banks (1); Alidade Bank and Habibbas Escarpment (2); Northern Ionian Seamount (18)
Specie 1366 <i>Monachus monachus</i>	Alidade Bank and Habibbas Escarpment (2); Bejaia Canyon (7); Glavki and Venus Banks (21); Columbo Seamount (22); Southern Aegean Seamount I (23)
Habitat 1170 Reefs	Xauen and Tofiño Banks (1); Alidade Bank and Habibbas Escarpment (2); Alicante Canyon (3); Balearic Seamounts (4); Tortosa Canyon (5); Gulf of Lion Canyons (6); Bejaia Canyon (7); Western Sardinia Canyons (8); Southern Ligurian Seamounts (9); Northern Sicilian Seamounts (10); Adventure Bank (11); Urania Bank (11); Southern Sicily Seamounts (11); Hurd Bank (12); Jarrafa Trough (13); Malta Ridge (14); Bari Canyon (16); Santa Maria di Leuca (17); Northern Ionian Seamount (18); Southern Ionian Seamounts (19); Ptolemy Mountains (20); Glavki and Venus Banks (21); Columbo Seamount (22); Southern Aegean Seamount I (23); Anaximenes Ridge (25); Anaximander ridge (25); Eratosthenes Seamount (26); Latakia Escarpment (29); Karpas Ridge (30)
Habitat 1180 Submarine structures made by leaking gases	Southern Alboran Volcanoes (1); Balearic Seamounts (4); Southern Sicily Seamounts (11); Santa Maria di Leuca (17); Southern Ionian Seamounts (19); Columbo Seamount (22); Cheffren Mud Volcano (24); Nile Cold Hydrocarbon Seeps (27)



Monkfish (*Lophius* sp.) semi-buried. © OCEANA

Figure 14. MedNet Jewels and Mediterranean EBSAs.

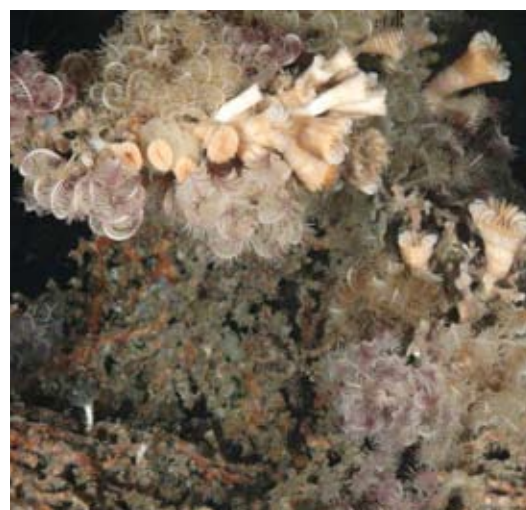


Finally, given the overlap between MedNet Jewels and the EBSAs described under SPAMIs project (*Project for supporting the establishment of SPAMIs in open seas, including the deep seas, UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.348/3 rev.1*), several sites can be identified to move forward in the short term with protecting the Mediterranean:

- (1) Xauen and Tofiño Banks
- (2) Alidade Bank and Habibbas Escarpment
- (3) Alicante Canyon
- (4) Balearic Seamounts
- (5) Tortosa Canyon
- (6) Gulf of Lion Canyons
- (8) Western Sardinia Canyons Seamounts and Adventure Bank
- (9) Southern Ligurian Seamounts
- (10) Northern Sicilian Seamounts
- (11) Urania Bank, Southern Sicily Seamounts and Adventure Bank
- (12) Hurd Bank
- (13) Jarrafa Trough
- (14) Malta Ridge
- (15) Northern Adriatic
- (17) Santa María di Leuca
- (18) Northern Ionian Seamount
- (21) Glavki and Venus Banks
- (23) Southern Aegean Seamount I
- (25) Anaximander and Anaximenes Ridges

- (26) Eratosthenes Seamount
- (27) Nile Cold Hydrocarbon Seeps
- (28) Lebanon Canyons
- (29) Latakia Escarpment
- (30) Karpas Ridge

Using MedNet to speed up N2000 or SPAMIs designations would constitute a step forward for Mediterranean open sea conservation as part of efforts to reach the 10% CBD target. A substantial improvement of several aspects and better fisheries management in line with the Common Fisheries Policy, the EU Integrated Maritime Policy or the EU Neighborhood Policy (integration of regional organizations and national administrations) would also be a critical step forward.



Corals (*Desmophyllum dianthus*) and crinoids (*Leptometra phallangium*) of the deep sea. © OCEANA

Oceana Recommendations

- BEARING IN MIND that Member States hardly contribute to Mediterranean Sea protection, which currently stands at only 0.8% of its marine surface;
- BEING AWARE that new designations of marine N2000 sites with adequate management measures in place, could contribute significantly to marine biodiversity protection in Europe;
- RECALLING several EU policies related to the marine environment - including the Habitats Directive, the MSFD, the Common Fisheries Policy and the EU biodiversity Strategy to 2020;

OCEANA STRONGLY and URGENTLY RECOMMENDS the European Commission to encourage and guide Member States to:

- Speed up the N2000 sites designation process, in order to reach the 10% CBD target, focusing mainly in the open sea;
- Include deep sea habitats and species to improve the ecological coherence of the marine N2000 network;
- Use N2000 marine designations as tools for mitigation/adaptation the impacts of climate change in the Mediterranean Sea;
- Accelerate the designation of Sites of Community Importance and implement management plans and measures for Special Areas of Conservation pursuant to article 4 and 6 of the Habitats Directive.
- Report “de facto” progress of MPAs designation by the end of 2013 pursuant to article 13.6 of Marine Strategy Framework Directive;
- Take into account scientific recommendations for fisheries, paying special attention to vulnerable marine habitats (Essential Fish Habitats and Sensitive Habitats);
- Take integrated action and policy decision together with regional bodies to build a coherent Natura 2000 network, representative and comprehensive at the European and Mediterranean levels;
- Develop integrated urgent actions together with regional bodies in the Mediterranean Sea for open sea protection measures.
- Apply a precautionary approach at sea particularly in the offshore areas;
- Implement conservation measures under the Habitats Directive as they should be part of the Programme of Measures to meet the requirements of MSFD and therefore will help deliver more integrated policy and planning;
- Mobilize additional financial resources for programs to improve the knowledge of deep-sea ecosystems;
- Ensure no loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, mainly for those species and habitats affected by destructive fishing gear;

Annex I. Guiding questions for setting Aichi national targets

- **What is the current extent of protected areas on land and in marine areas, (1) overall, and (2) by ecoregion?** Do these figures include effective indigenous and community conserved areas?
- **What areas of importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services are not currently protected?** What areas are under-represented (Gap analysis)? Which habitats are declining the quickest? Which habitats have little left? Consider the areas that need to be protected from local, national and global perspectives.
- **How effective are existing protected areas?** How can management effectiveness be improved?
- **What are the opportunities and constraints to expanding protected areas, generally and by eco-region?** How may these justify higher or lower figures for the national target than for the global target? What are the potential ecological, economical, and social costs and benefits of additional protected areas and how these could be shared?
- **Who are the stakeholders, including indigenous and local communities, that may be affected?** How can they be involved and their needs addressed? What are the trade-offs to consider?
- **What additional resources (financial, human and technical) will be required to reach the national target that is set?** How can additional funds be raised? What are possible funding sources?

Note that, given the particular national circumstances, national targets may be more specific and more precise than the global target. Targets should be ambitious but realistic; moving beyond business as usual will require additional effort and additional resources.

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