

*ECOLOGICAL BASELINES*  
*Why, how, and progress to date*

*Ross M. Wanless*

# Outline

1. Why an Ecological Baseline
2. What it looks like
3. What we've done so far

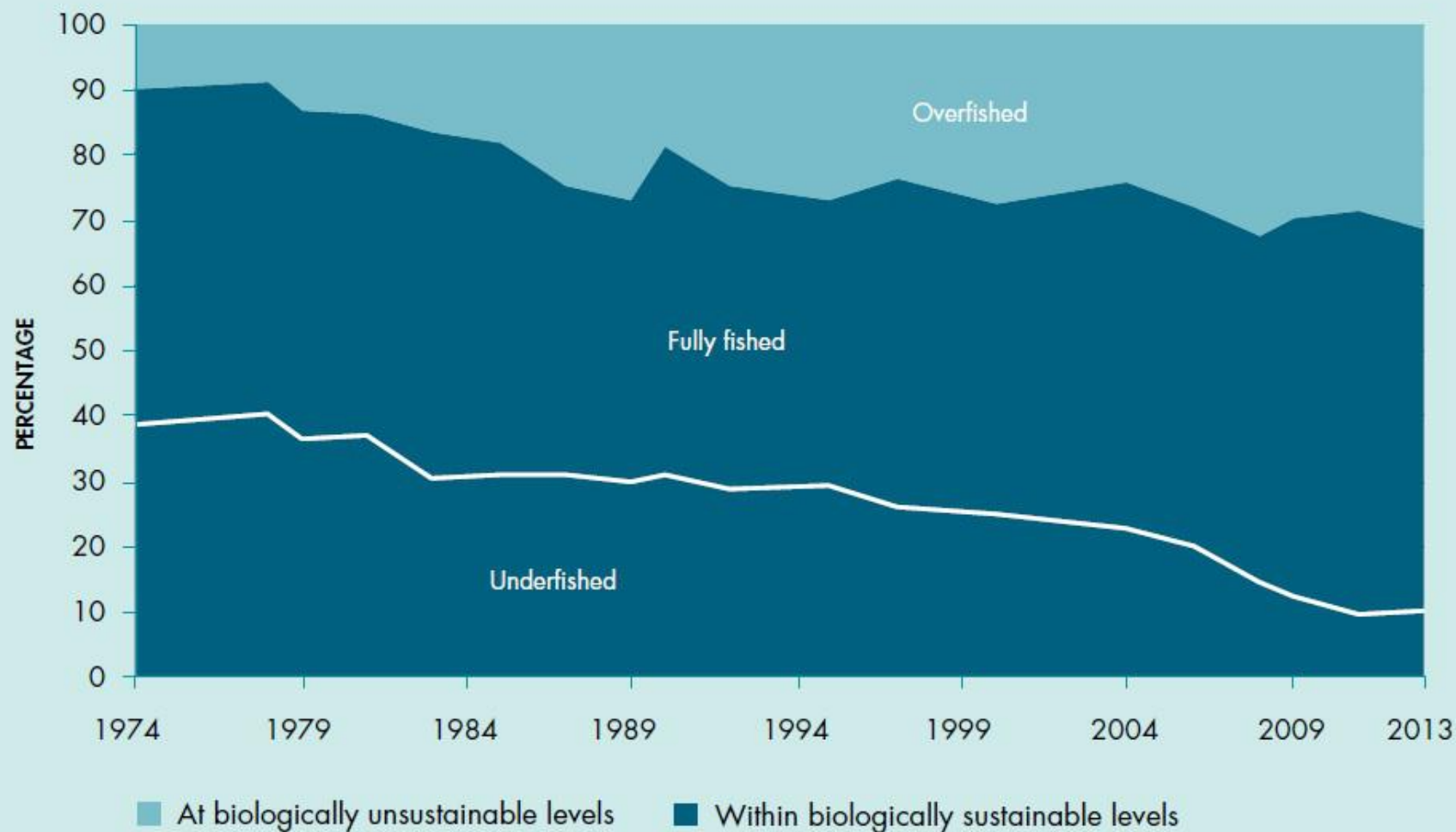


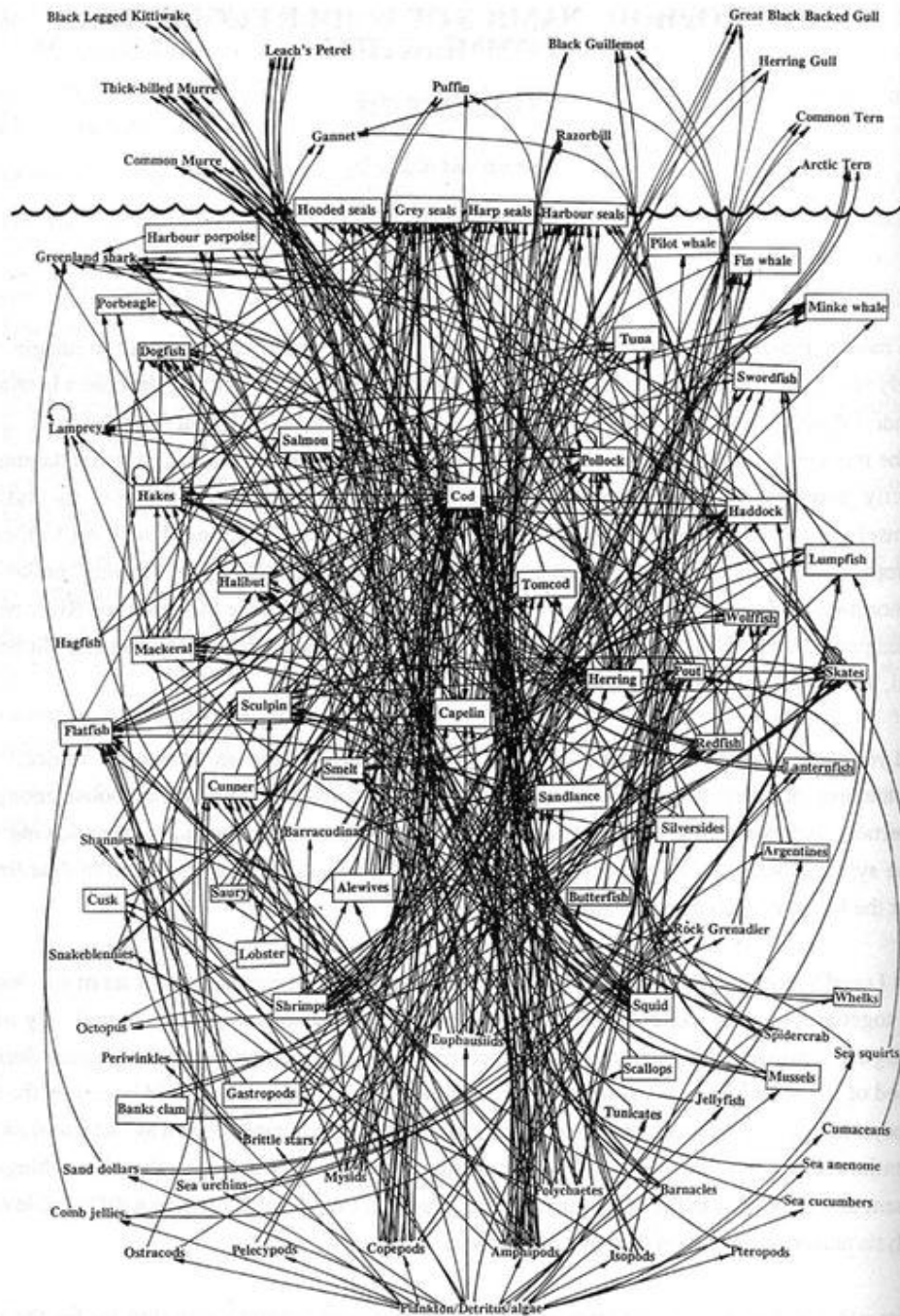
*The single biggest impact that humans have on the ocean is...*



Source: FAO SOFIA 2016: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5555e.pdf>

## GLOBAL TRENDS IN THE STATE OF WORLD MARINE FISH STOCKS SINCE 1974





# WHY?

1. Develop ecosystem-based approaches to managing High Seas (Ben Boteler: Monday)
2. Particular focus – developing an integrated (multi-agency) approach to establishing protected areas on



# Ecosystem-based approaches to managing High Seas



1. What is out there (or what do we know)?
2. What do we know we don't know (but can make an educated guess at)?
3. We have to ignore things that we have no knowledge of

# Can you conserve areas in the high seas

...if you don't know what  
is out there?

EBSAs, VMES, IBAs,  
PSSAs, etc...





# Ecological Baselines Report

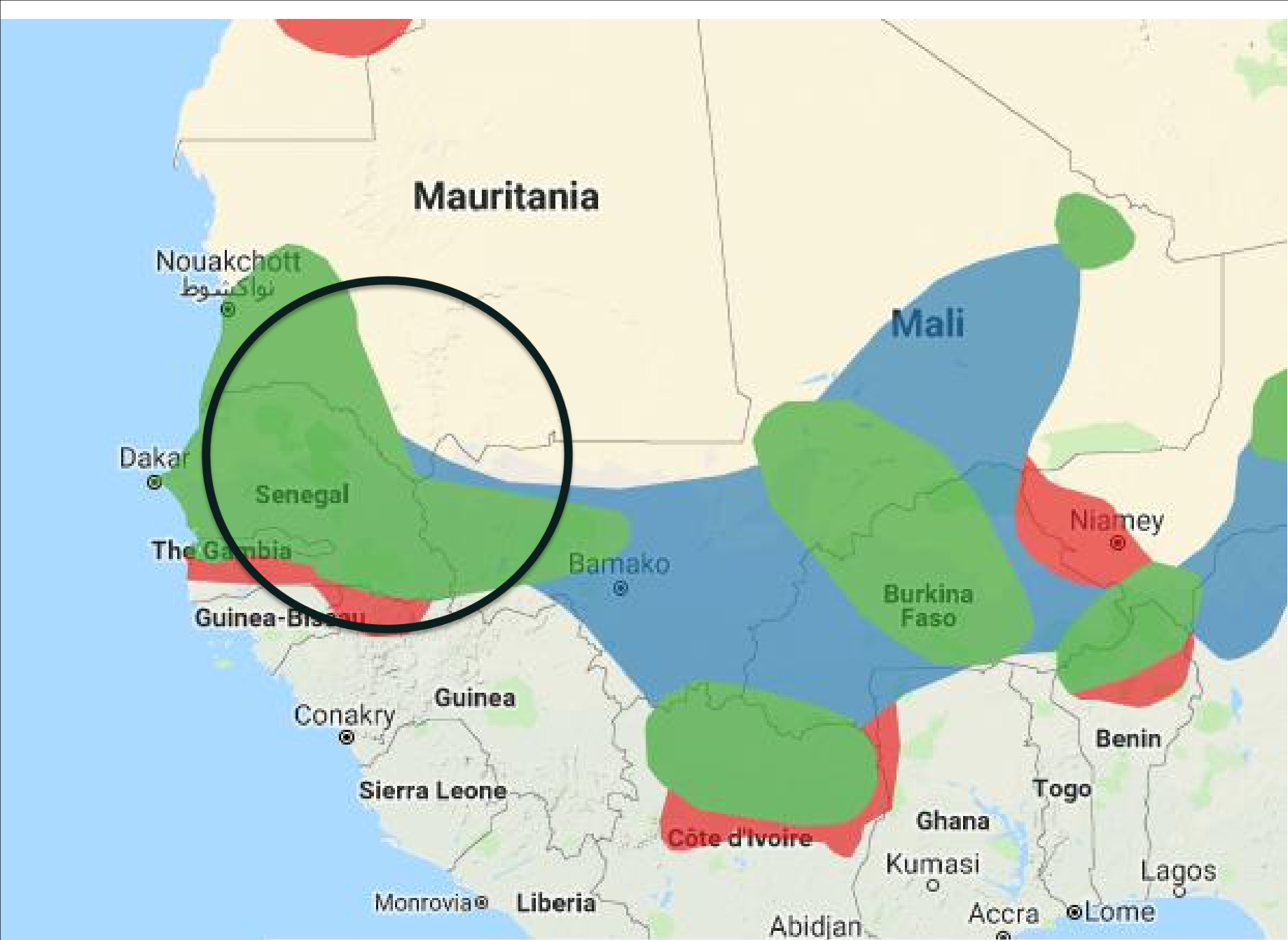


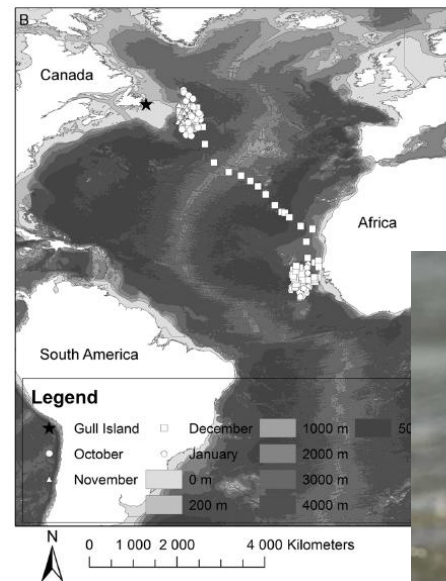
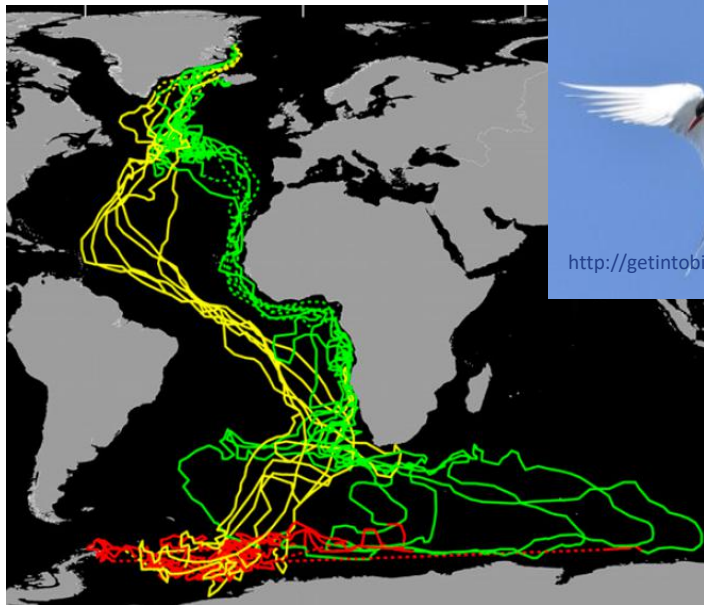
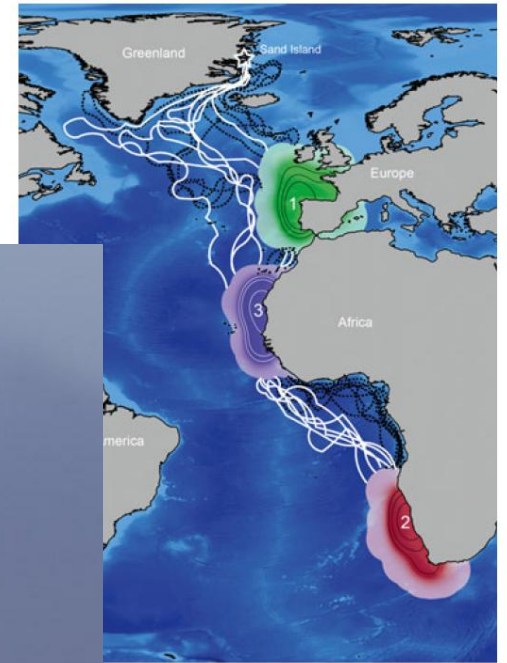
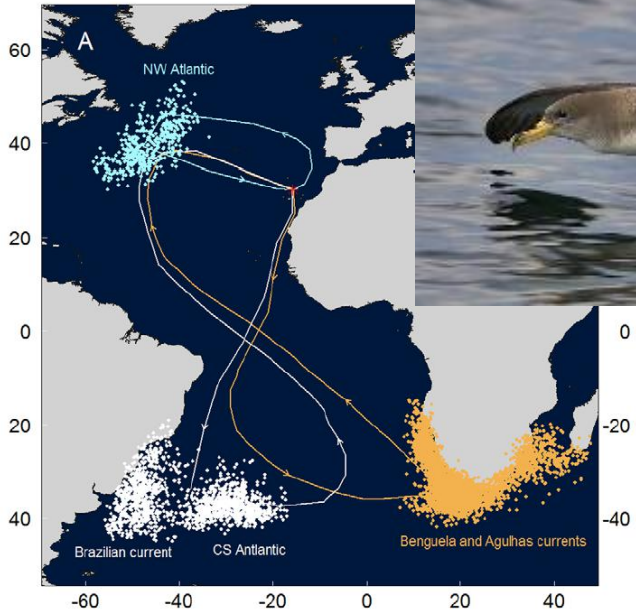
1. Desktop review of major themes, collating 'what is known' and 'what is not known'
2. Experts within the project team doing the drafting – for each region
3. No time or budget to develop new analyses or conduct primary research
4. Major themes
  - a. Pattern: sections covering geophysical and biodiversity

b. Process: threats









# Connectivity...

...between ABNJ and EEZs

- a. How biodiversity and habitats straddle boundaries
- b. How activities in ABNJ can directly threaten activities in EEZ
- c. Why protecting biodiversity, habitats, and ocean ecosystems is critical to secure national interests within EEZs

**Search results** ? 🔍

Datasets 746 [View list](#) ?

Tracks 21,537 [View list](#) ?

Contributors 181 [View list](#)

Species 113

Points 10,832,184 [Request Download](#)

[Clear criteria and get back to the initial state](#)

**Species** ? 🔍

Search by name

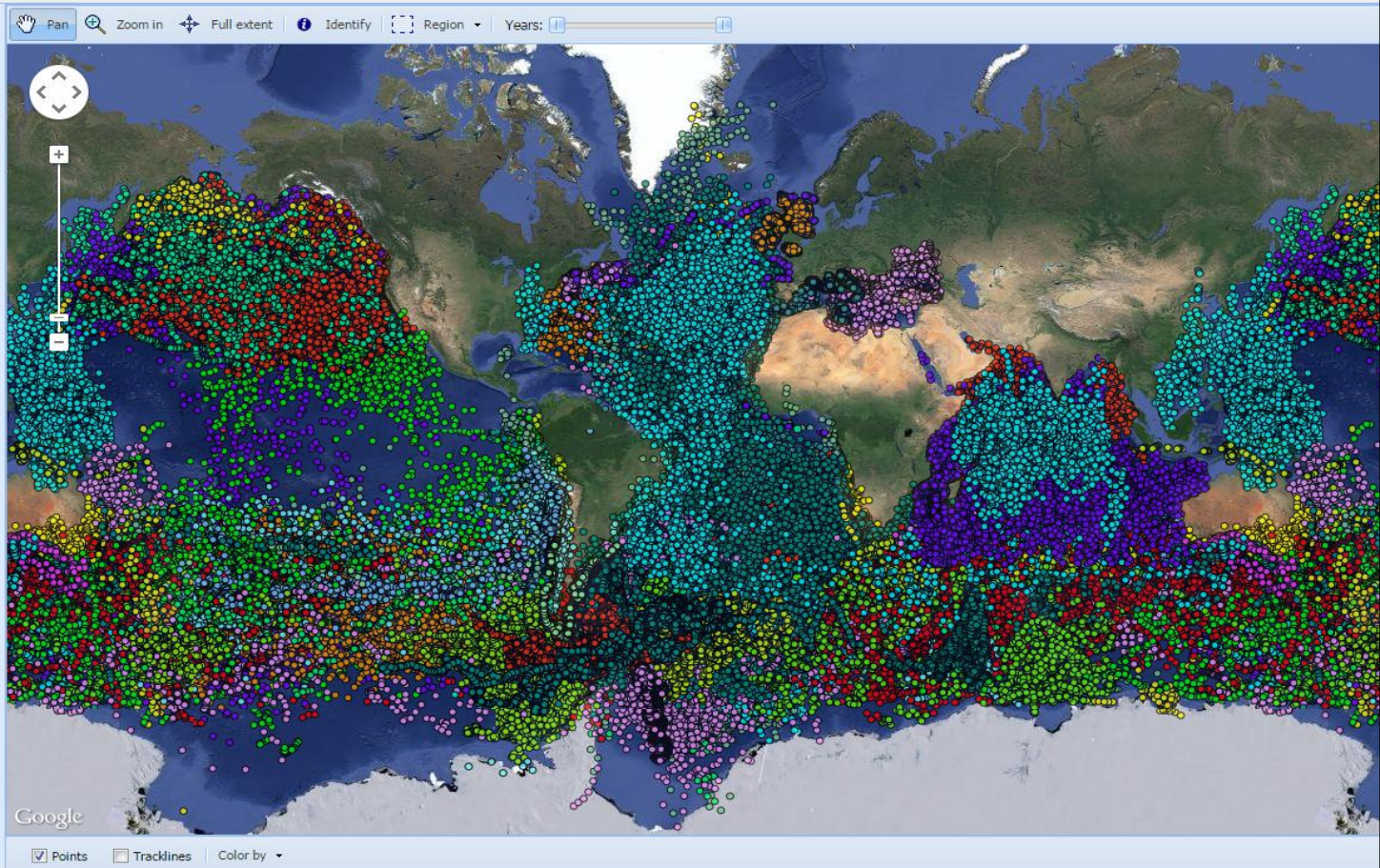
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[-]	<b>Charadriiformes (1)</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Arctic Tern <a href="#">LC</a>
[-]	<b>Phaethontiformes (2)</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Phaethon lepturus</i>	White-tailed Tropicbird <a href="#">LC</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Phaethon rubricauda</i>	Red-tailed Tropicbird <a href="#">LC</a>
[-]	<b>Procellariiformes (46) - Select all</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Ardenna carneipes</i>	Flesh-footed Shearwater <a href="#">LC</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Ardenna gravis</i>	Great Shearwater <a href="#">LC</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>	Sooty Shearwater <a href="#">NT</a>
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Calonectris leucurus</i>	Streaked Shearwater <a href="#">LC</a>

**Country / Site / Colony of deployment** ? 🔍

**Age / Status** ? 🔍

**Device** ? 🔍

**Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ)** ? 🔍



> 11 million positions; 113 species;  
180 contributors

# Process

1. Draft concept presented at 2018 Dialogue WS in Abidjan (and from S America Dialogue WS)
2. Comments and inputs taken onboard, and revised EBR report being finalised



# What next?

1. EBR report serves as a benchmark for the current status of biodiversity: what we know (so that we can start to prioritise) spatial conservation
2. Highlighting areas of biodiversity and habitat mapping that we don't know, so that those can be filled
3. It details the major threats and processes ( to help address threats holistically, etc.)

Get Directions History

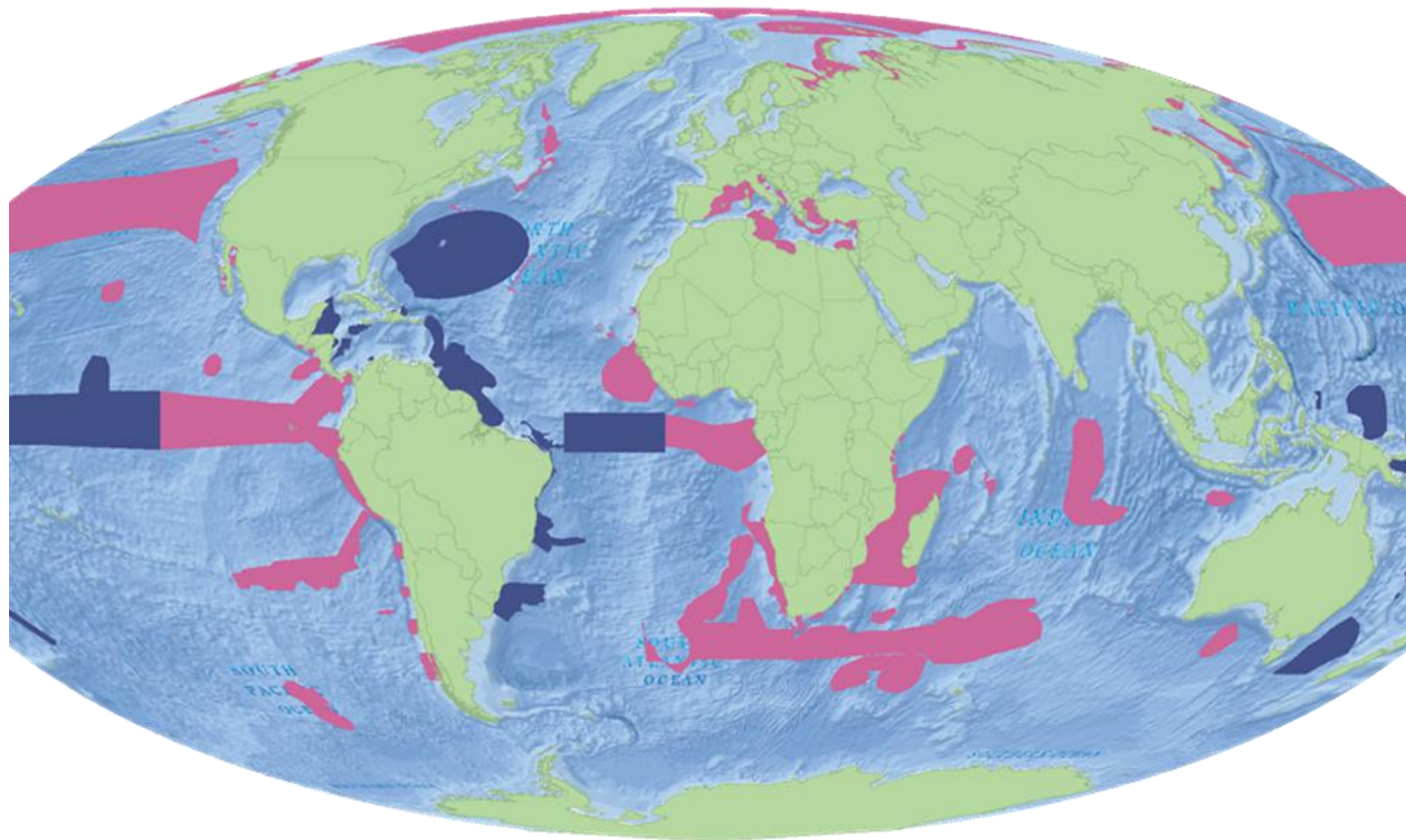
▼ Places

- My Places
- Temporary Places

Layers

- Primary Database
  - Borders and Labels
  - Places
  - Photos
  - Roads
  - 3D Buildings
  - Ocean
    - Explore the Ocean
    - ARKive Endangered Ocean Species
    - Shipwrecks
    - Census of Marine Life
    - Cousteau Ocean World
    - Marine Protected Areas
    - Dead Zones
  - Animal Tracking
  - National Geographic
  - Ocean Sports
  - Weather
  - Gallery
  - Global Awareness
  - More
  - Terrain





Year adopted     2012     2014

# What next?

1. Used as a basis for initial recommendations for ABMT focal areas
2. Targeted towards decision-makers (incl BBNJ negotiations)
3. Identifies priorities for first pass of spatial conservation and other area-based management objectives
4. Identifies threats that cannot be easily addressed by ABMT – e.g. climate change, plastic pollution, etc, linking local effects from global processes
5. Links to socio-economic assessment work under the project – cost/benefits

Thank you!  
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*Disclaimer – I've shamelessly stolen images from the internet for illustrating points*