

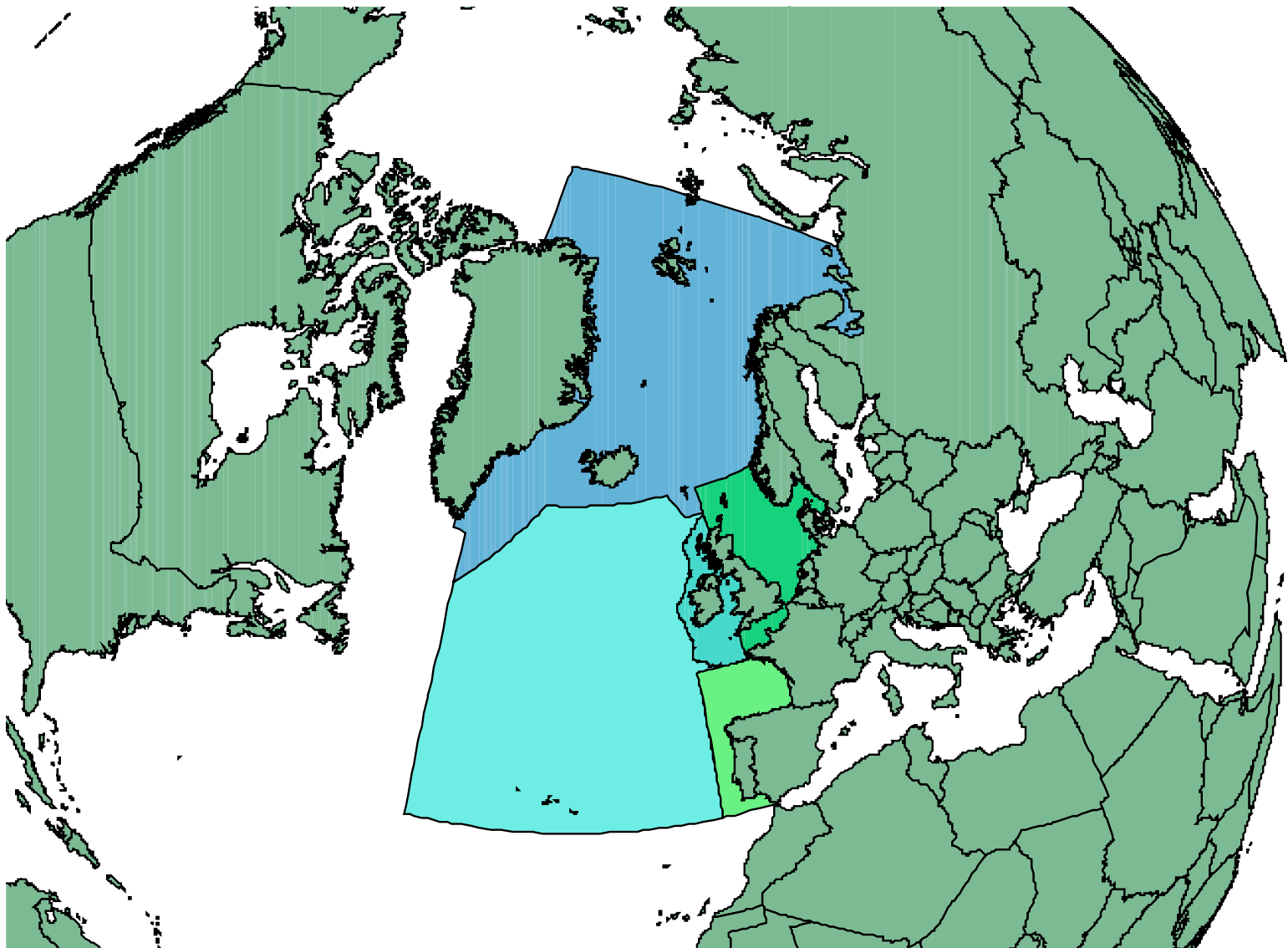
# North-East Atlantic EBSA Workshop

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Prof Dr David Johnson Co-chair OSPAR, NEAFC, CBD Regional Workshop,  
Hyerres, France 8-9 September 2011

Convention on Biological Diversity, Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 16,  
Montreal 30 April – 5 May 2012





Focus on OSPAR Regions I and V : NEAFC Regulatory Area

# Partnership with Parties, other Governments, international and regional organisations

- The North-East Atlantic Regional EBSA Workshop was jointly convened by the OSPAR Commission (OSPAR), the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) and CBD Secretariat hosted by France in September 2011
- ToR: OSPAR Maritime Area in areas beyond EEZs (200nm) agreed by OSPAR 2011 (June 2011)
- Involved Contracting Parties of both OSPAR and NEAFC; supported by OSPAR, NEAFC and CBD Secretariats; plus representatives of other relevant organisations – ICES, Census of Marine Life, Ocean Biogeographic Information System/OBIS, Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative/GOBI, HERMIONE (major European deep-sea research project)
- Representatives of NAFO, Barcelona Convention (UNEP-MAP), Abidjan Convention, Helsinki Convention invited as Observers (neighbours)

# Nomination and selection of experts

- Joint Steering Group (2 OSPAR, 2 NEAFC, CBD Secretariat, host)
- 26 invited scientists – max 40 participants. Nominations came forward through the Steering Group. Several apologies from selected scientists who could not attend
- Invitations on the basis of scientific expertise in marine biodiversity (benthic/pelagic species, habitats and ecological processes) and biogeography of the North-East Atlantic





# Collection, synthesis and mapping of scientific data / information

- Substantial background information and opportunity for participants to exchange information in advance (on-line file sharing system) hosted on the OSPAR website
- Facilitation organised including prototype data visualisation (GRID Arundal) – available data sets brought together in GIS format

# Engaging relevant scientific partners

- EBSA proposals invited pre-Workshop (potential areas exhibiting strong EBSA criteria)
- Remote video presentation from Jake Rice – CBD process, compatibility EBSAs and VMEs
- Presentations by those coordinating EBSA proposals
- Working groups used EBSA template to refine and aggregate proposals
- Consensus building process to agree outcomes





### 3 examples of applying science

Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone and Sub-Polar Frontal Zone of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge

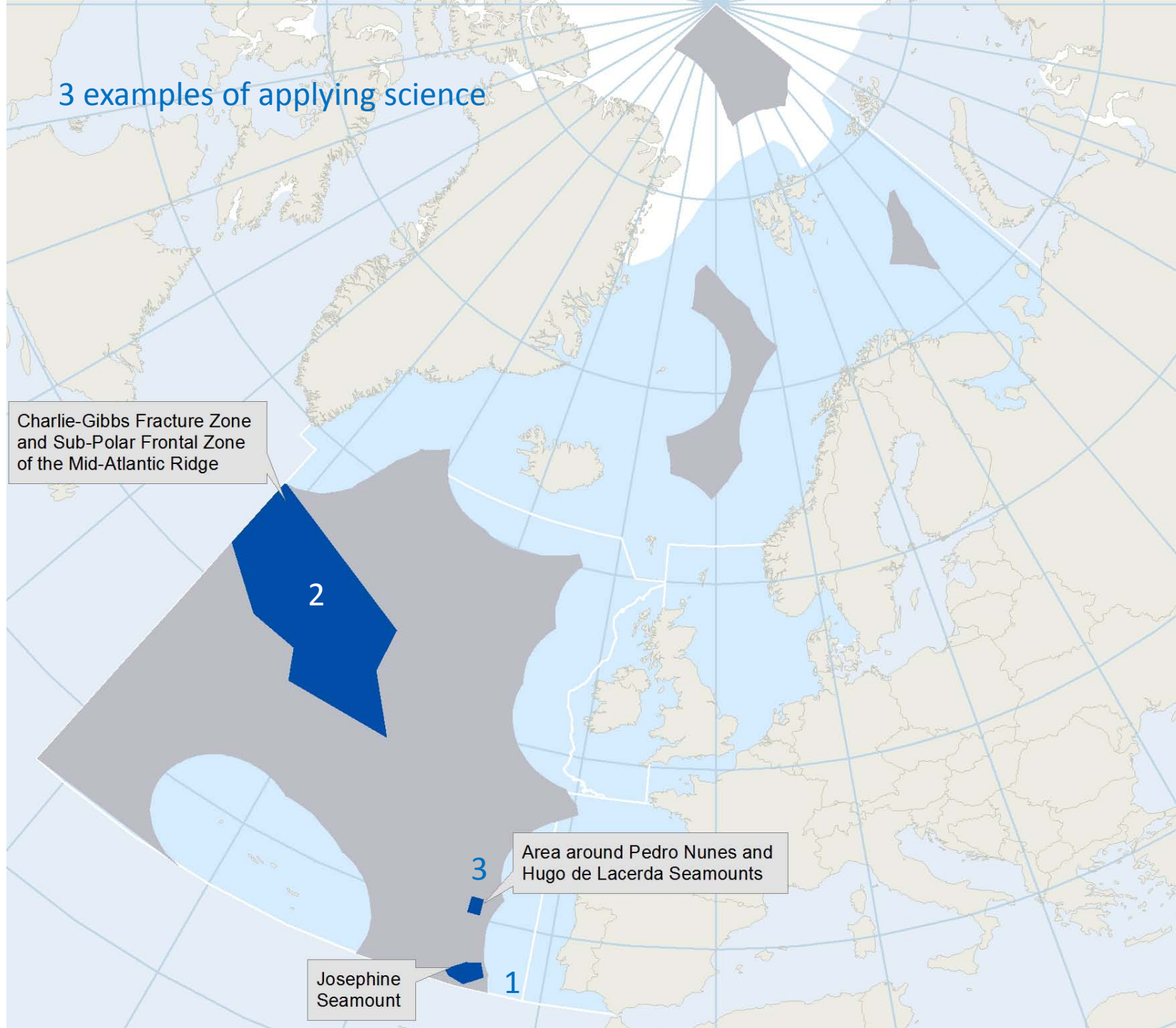
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Area around Pedro Nunes and Hugo de Lacerda Seamounts

Josephine Seamount

1



# Conclusions

- Very positive, concrete outcomes, excellent scientific collaboration
- First Workshop – breaking new ground, Regional interpretation, guided by CBD colleagues
- Timescale – rushed, trying to meet SBSTTA deadlines, timing immediately after summer break
- Scientists availability issue – clash with several cruises, apologies
- Data collection (both regional and relevant global) was a valuable exercise
- Not expensive, no additional budget – to keep costs down organised back to back with a scheduled OSPAR expert working group, one-off grants to support attendance of some scientists
- Secretariat support (2 staff) and NOAA intern invaluable (2 months of preparation)
- Glossary is important (ICES review questioned terms used)

# Process timeline and future steps

- OSPAR 2011 agreed designated High Seas MPAs to be submitted as EBSAs
- OSPAR Coordination Group (October 2011) and NEAFC Annual Meeting (November 2011) agreed joint submission of finalised Workshop report to CBD Secretariat
- OSPAR BDC 2012 (February 2012) noted Workshop as a first step, work in progress, not complete
- ICES peer review by 2 experts (delivered as a special request March 2012) – not advice and yet to be considered by Contracting Parties
- Presentation to SBSTTA 16 (April/May 2012)
- OSPAR future steps - ICG-MPA (August 2012), BDC 2013, OSPAR 2013
- NEAFC - PECMAS 2012, Annual meeting 2012