

Interreg



EUROPEAN UNION



**TEDEN SREDOZEMSKO OBALE
IN MAKROREGIONALNIH
STRATEGIJ**
Izola, Slovenija
18. – 22. september 2023

**MEDITERRANEAN COAST
AND MACRO-REGIONAL
STRATEGIES WEEK**
Izola, Slovenia
18 – 22 September 2023

Master Plan for the contribution to the objectives of nature protection set out in the 2030 Biodiversity Strategy

Marko Starman LL.M. Senior lecturer, Mediterranean coast and macro-regional strategy week, Izola, 21. 9. 2023



KEY EU COMMITMENTS IN THE FIELD OF NATURE PROTECTION

2030 EU BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY (COM 2020/380/final)

- 1. Legally protect a minimum of 30% of the EU's land and 30% of the EU's sea area and integrate ecological corridors, as part of the true Trans-European Nature Network.**

- 2. Strictly protect at least a third of the EU's protected areas, including all remaining EU primary and old growth forest.**

- 3. Effectively manage all protected areas, defining clear conservation objectives and measures, and monitoring them appropriately.**
 - The targets relate to the EU as a whole and could be broken down according to **EU bio-geographical regions and sea basins** or at a more local level
 - EU member States should have submitted their pledges for targets to be achieved by 2030 by the end of 2022.
 - **No national pledges have been made by EU member in the region so far**



KEY EU COMMITMENTS IN THE FIELD OF NATURE PROTECTION

4. Political commitment of the member state is to contribute with protection measures to the targets is set at the **sea basin level**.

As the **Commission guidance on the protected areas targets** stresses:

➤ *...It is important to note that there is a large variation among Member States for the terrestrial coverage of Natura 2000, ranging from 8% in Denmark to 38% in Slovenia. The situation is similar for the marine coverage of Natura 2000 and the coverage of different ecosystems also varies significantly...*

The legal reasoning of shared responsibility for the coherent Natura 2000 network that was established by EU law is valid for the policy set by strategy as well.



IMPORTANCE OF THE NATURE DIRECTIVES

Within the framework of the **Birds and Habitats Directives** (hereafter called **Nature Directives**), member States are obliged to designate and manage areas to ensure the protection of the most threatened species and habitats across the EU. This network forms the “backbone” of EU nature protection in general.

- The European Commission excludes any legislative reform, by adopting a pragmatic approach, namely: even when a species is not listed in the annexes of the Directives, the NATURA 2000 network, through its umbrella effect, covers a high proportion of species of conservation concern beyond those listed in the Annexes.
- By reference to the **Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)**, the Commission stresses that it is up to member States to protect all marine species and habitats, without need to refer to each individual species (listed in the Nature Directives).



LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE MARINE STRATEGY FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

The directive aims at achieving a good environmental status for the full marine area of the EU by requiring the member States to adopt and implement strategies and programmes of action already by 2020. The requirements of the directive relate to a wide range of descriptors and criteria.

- The MSFD recognise that spatial protection measures, including MPAs, should form part of the programmes of measures required for its implementation



MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING AN INSTRUMENT FOR BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

Directive 2014/89/EU (MSP Directive) as “a process by which the relevant authorities analyse and organise human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives”.

Restrictions related to human uses can be established via the MSP Directive, which requires member States to establish and implement MSP following the ecosystem-based approach.

- These objectives represent potential synergies for marine protection and MPAs networks. Establishing ecologically coherent networks of MPAs at eco-regional and sub-regional scales is the cornerstone of MSP.
- The importance for biodiversity protection of MSP might only become fully apparent during the first review of the national marine plans.

UNEP/MAP Conceptual framework for MSP is a tool for the implementation of MSP and is considered as a tool of the ICZM Protocol available to non-EU EUSAIR States .



OTHER EFFECTIVE AREA-BASED CONSERVATION MEASURES (OECM)

- “Other effective area-based conservation measure” means “a geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the *in situ* conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and, where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values (Decision XIV/8, CBD, 2018)
- It can be inferred that “OECM” is a broad concept that includes also MPAs, but is not limited to them. *While MPAs are established exclusively for conservation purposes, OECMs, while indirectly contributing to conservation objectives, may be adopted also for other purposes.*
- **Fisheries Restricted Area (FRA)** means a “geographically defined area in which some specific fishing activities are temporarily or permanently banned or restricted in order to improve the exploitation patterns and conservation of specific stocks as well as of habitats and deep-sea ecosystems”
- **FRAs can therefore be considered as an example of OECM**



THE ADRIATIC (STATUS QUO)

The Adriatic Sea is a semi-closed basin extending from the northern continental shelf with an average depth of 35m for the southern Adriatic Pit (about 1300 m depth) and connected to the Ionian Sea through the Otranto Strait.

- plays an important role also for the large-scale dynamics of the Eastern Mediterranean, facilitating the formation of the dense water, which is the dominant component of the Eastern Mediterranean deep water.

There is a low coverage of MPAs (about 5%) and an inadequate representativity of the MPAs, mostly due to the low coverage in the Middle and South Adriatic sub-regions, whereas the North Adriatic has a MPA coverage of approximately 10%.

There is a decreasing trend in protection initiatives, from the shelf to offshore waters, indicating that the efforts of all the countries are towards shallow waters. MPAs coverage is:

- higher in the infralittoral zone (about 13%),
- low protection has been recorded in the circalittoral (about 6 %)
- no protection at all for the marine space in the bathyal zone (0.01%).



REVIEW OF LEGAL BASES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MPAS AND OECMS IN INDIVIDUAL AI STATES, OVERVIEW OF EXISTING MPAS IN EUSAIR

STATE	NATURE CONSERVATION (SOME RELEVANT LEGISLATION- LIST NOT EXHAUSTIVE)	FISHERIES (SOME RELEVANT LEGISLATION- LIST NOT EXHAUSTIVE)	MSP (SOME RELEVANT LEGISLATION- LIST NOT EXHAUSTIVE)
ALBANIA	The Protected Areas Act No. 81 of 2017	<p>Decision of the Council of Ministers (DCM) No. 701 of 12.10.2016 “on the Approval of the National Fishery Strategy 2016-2021;</p> <p>- Law on Fisheries No. 64/2012;</p> <p>- Regulation No. 1 of 7.3.2014 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration “on the Implementation of Law No. 64 of 31.5.2012 On Fisheries;</p> <p>- DCM No. 402 of 8.5.2013 “concerning Management Measures for the Sustainable Exploitation of Marine Fishery Resources”.</p>	Albania is a State Party to the ICZM Protocol to the Barcelona Convention since 2010.
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	The Nature Protection Act of 2013 (Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina)	Law on Fisheries of the Hercegovacko- Neretvanska županija-canton (2014)	Bosnia and Herzegovina has not ratified the ICZM Protocol and has not adopted yet specific legislation related to MSP, neither at the national, federal or cantonal level. See, however, in that regard
CROATIA	The Nature Protection Act of 24 June 2013	Law on marine fisheries. (2017)	Physical Planning Act ⁽²⁰¹³⁾

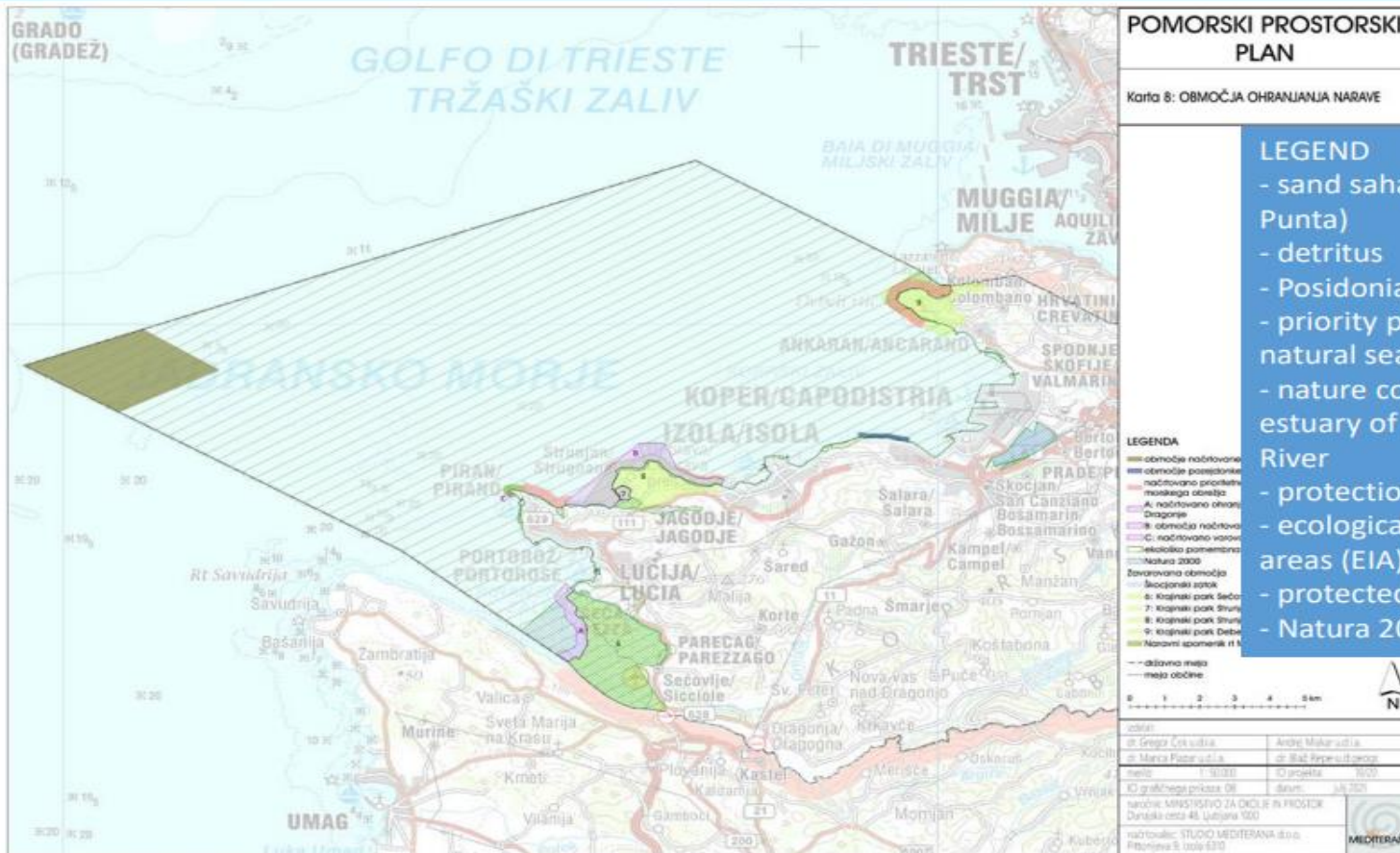
REVIEW OF LEGAL BASES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MPAS AND OECMS

GREECE	The Law for the Management Agencies of Protected Areas in Greece (No. 4519 of 8 February 2018)	<p>- Legislative Decree No. 420 introducing the Fisheries Code. (1970);</p> <p>-Law No. 1740 on the development and protection of coral formations, aquaculture and fish breeding areas (1987)</p>	Law No. 4546 transposing into Greek legislation the EU Directive 2014/89 establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning and other provisions. (2018)
ITALY	<p>- The Framework Law on Protected Areas (No. 394 of 6 December 1991);</p> <p>-National Biodiversity Strategy 2030.</p>	Legislative Decree No. 4 rearranging the national legislation on fisheries and aquaculture	Legislative Decree 17 October 2016, n. 201. Implementation of Directive 2014/89 / EU establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning.
MONTENEGRO	<p>-The Nature Protection Act of 2016,</p> <p>-Decision on declaring the protected area of the nature park "Platamuni (2021);</p> <p>- Decision declaring the protected area of Nature Park "Stari Ulcinj" (2021)</p>	<p>-Law on marine fisheries and mariculture.(2009);</p> <p>- Law amending the Law on marine fisheries and mariculture. (2015);</p> <p>-</p>	Law on spatial planning and construction of facilities (201/)
SLOVENIA	The Nature Conservation Act of 1999	Marine Fisheries Act (2006)	<p>Spatial Planning Act (2017);</p> <p>Decree on Maritime Spatial Plan Slovenia</p>

MSP OF SLOVENIA, PROPOSED MSP OF ITALY AND ŠIBENIK – KNIN COUNTY COASTAL PLAN

Map 8: NATURE CONSERVATION AREAS

- general presentation of protection regimes and restrictions
- protection expansion area



POMORSKI PROSTORSKI PLAN
 Karta 8: OBMOČJA OHRANJANJA NARAVE

- LEGENDA**
- sand sahara (Piran's Punta)
 - detritus
 - Posidonia oceanica areas
 - priority protection of natural seashore areas
 - nature conservation at the estuary of the Dragonja River
 - protection expansion area
 - ecologically important areas (EIA)
 - protected areas
 - Natura 2000

LEGENDA

- območje načrtovanja
- območje posebnosti
- načrtovano prostorno-morsko območje
- A: načrtovano ohranilo
- Dragonja
- B: območje načrtovanja
- C: načrtovano varstvo
- ekološko pomembna
- Natura 2000
- Zavarušana območja
- biocenijski park
- 6: krajinski park Seča
- 7: krajinski park Strunč
- 8: krajinski park Strunč
- 9: krajinski park Debel
- Naravni spomeniki in

0 1 2 3 4 5 km
 N

izdal	dr. Gregor Čuk s.l.	Andrej Makar s.l.
izdal	Marija Pitar s.l.	dr. Blaž Pregar s.l.
mesec	1. 2020	10. avgusta 2020
iz grafičnega prikaza	Dr.	datum: 14. 2020
narodni inštitut za okolje in prostor	Dunajska cesta 48, Ljubljana 1000	
načrtovalec: STUDIO MEDITERRAN d.o.o.	Pribonova 9, Izola 8100	

MEDITERRAN

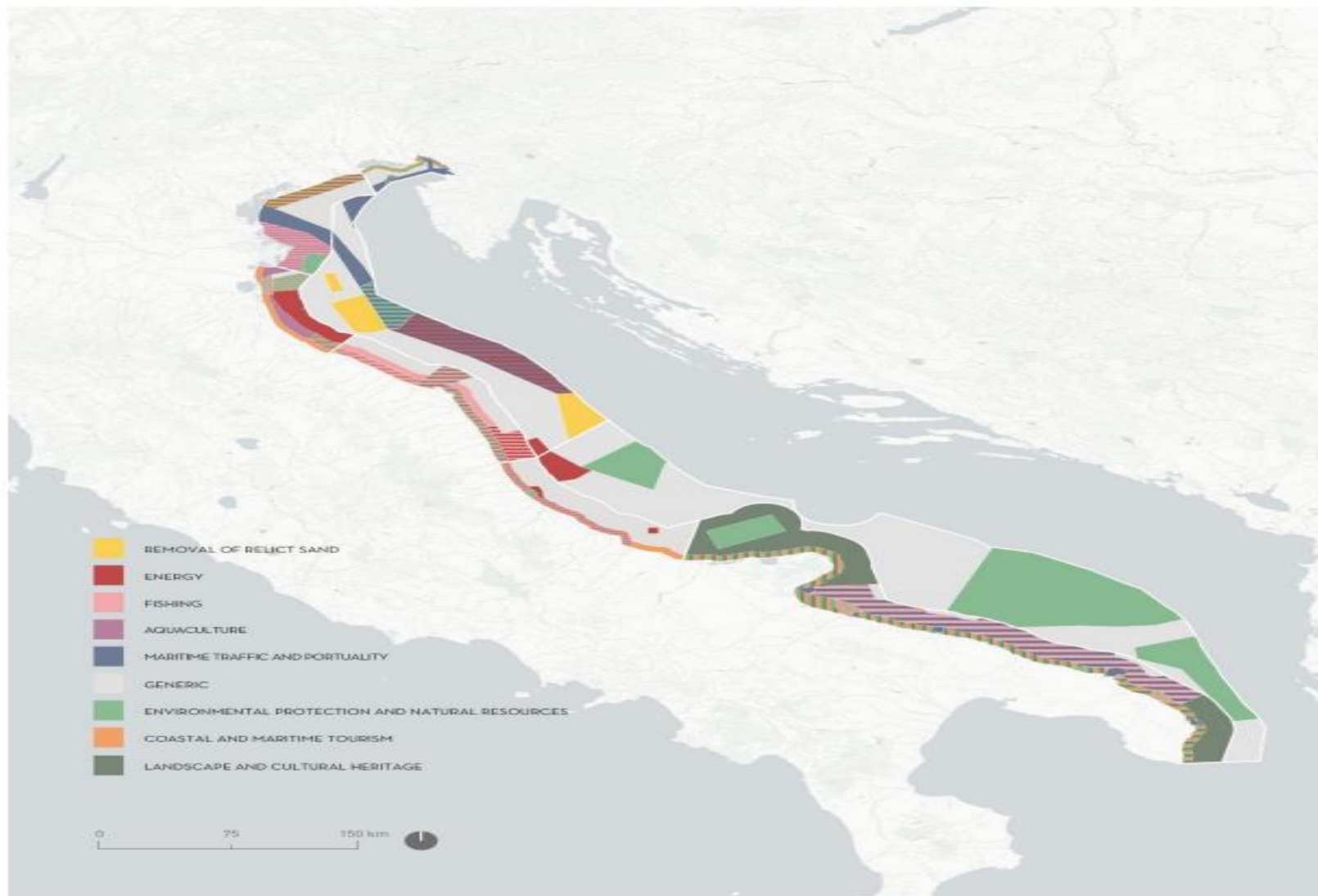


Figure 16 Planning Unit of the Maritime Area "Adriatic".



3.5 Natural systems

3.5.1 Marine biodiversity

The County's coastal zone features significant biodiversity, and for this reason some areas within it have been recognized as national parks (Kornati, Krka) and significant landscapes (the Žut-Sit island group, the Krka Landscape – lower course, and the Channel – Šibenik Harbour). Besides, nearly 20 smaller areas and micro-locations have been recognized as habitats of endangered species and included in the ecological network of the Republic of Croatia, developed in line with the protection standards for ecological networks under the EU's Natura 2020. An overview of protected areas and sites foreseen for tourist scuba-diving activities because of their significant biodiversity is given in Figure 3.5.

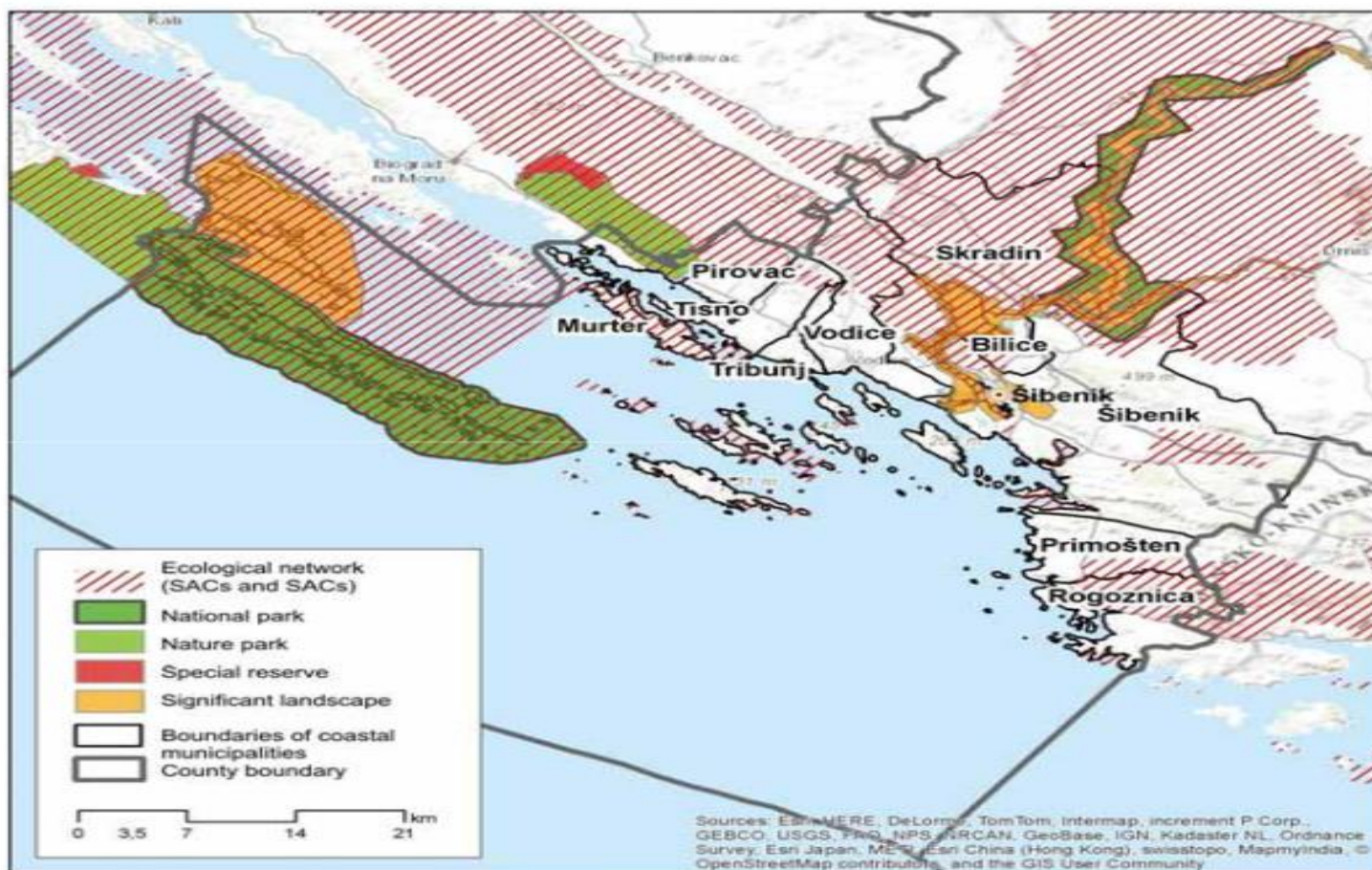


Figure 3.5: Ecological network, national parks, nature parks, special reserves and significant landscapes in the Šibenik-Knin County

ITALIAN CASE OF INTRODUCED IN THE NEW POM UNDER MARINE STRATEGY FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

Member states have rarely established **spatial measures under art. 13 (4) of MSFD**, so far, some new measures has been proposed by Italy:

- *The ban of industrial fishing within 3 NM of the coast or at depths less than 50 m*
- *In support of the implementation of environmental target 6.3 the mapping of biogenic seabed of conservation interest in waters is implemented and solutions to reduce the impacts of anchoring on protected habitats are implemented.*
- *Moratorium on recreational fishing of specimens of species of high conservation value such as groupers and corvina by non-professional recreational and underwater fisheries.*



ITALIAN INITIATIVE (DEEP SEA NATURA- MARINE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT)

Thanks to an investment of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan project, the creation of an impressive **network of deep-sea Natura 2000 sites is planned** for the protection of the habitat 1170 "rocky reef".

- The aim of this initiative is to protect the majority of the more than 80 seamounts in Italian waters, with the enforcement of the prohibition of all forms of harvesting and with the goal of strengthening the Natura 2000 network and contributing significantly to the achievement of the 10% strictly protected marine area target.
- In addition, the project includes actions to preserve and restore the integrity of benthic habitats that are biodiversity hot spots such as *Posidonia oceanica* meadows, as well as other carbon-rich ecosystems.



CURRENT EXTENT OF NATURA 2000 NETWORK & POSSIBLE EXTENSIONS



Overview: Natura 2000 gaps: relevant Habitats Directive features (species of annex II /habitat types of annex I of the Directive) in the Mediterranean region concluded at the biogeographical seminar in 2016.

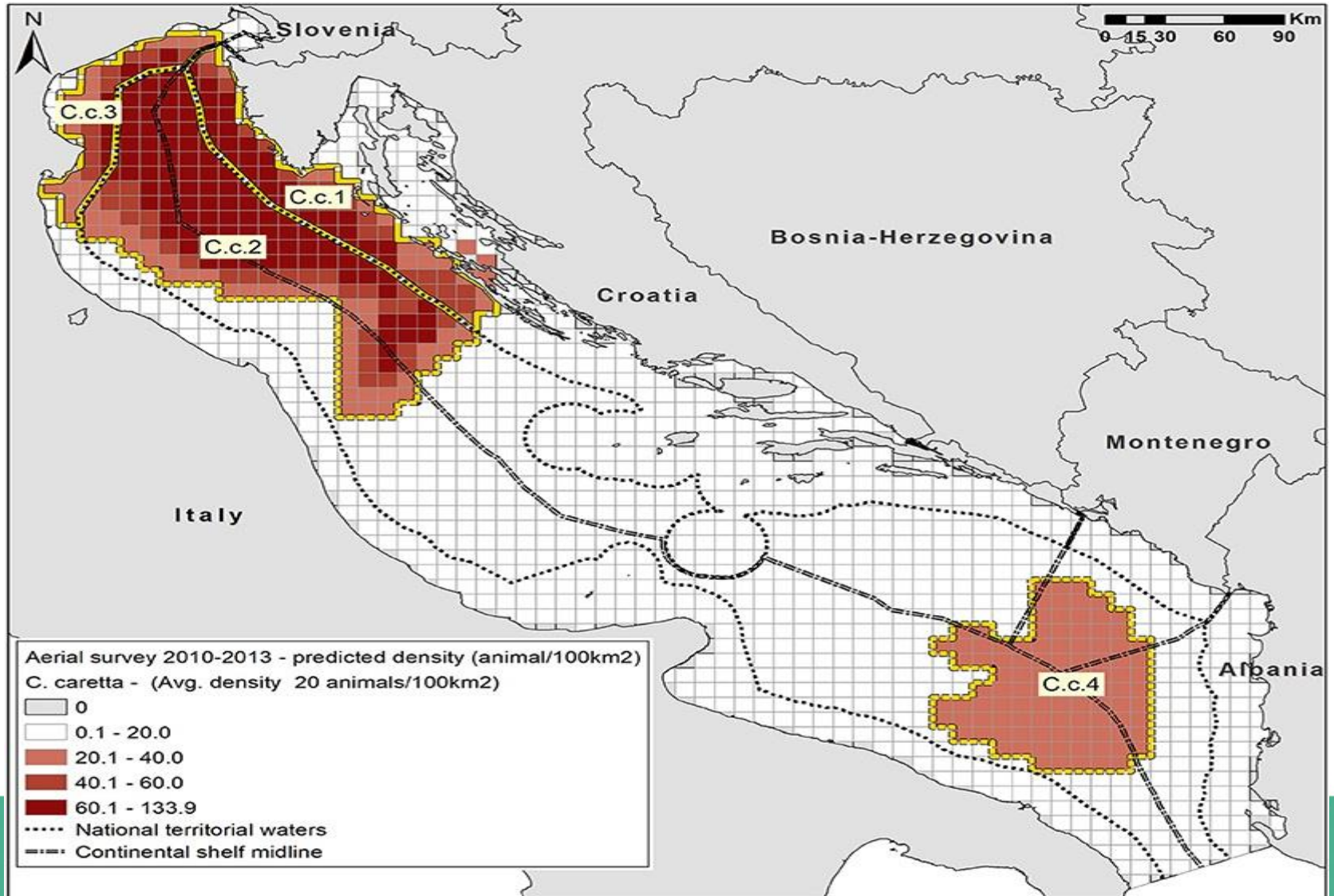
	Number of habitat types in need for further research/additional proposals of SCIs (SR/IN MOD/IN MAJ)	Habitat type	Comments
Croatia	2	*Posidonia beds (<i>Posidonion oceanicae</i>)	SR
		Reefs	SUF/SR
Italy	4	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	IN MOD/MIN
		Reefs	IN MOD
		Submarine structures made by leaking gases	IN MAJ/IN MIN
		Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	IN MOD
Greece	3	*Posidonia beds (<i>Posidonion oceanicae</i>)	IN MOD/CD
		Reefs	IN MOD
		Submarine structures made by leaking gases	IN MAJ
Slovenia	0		

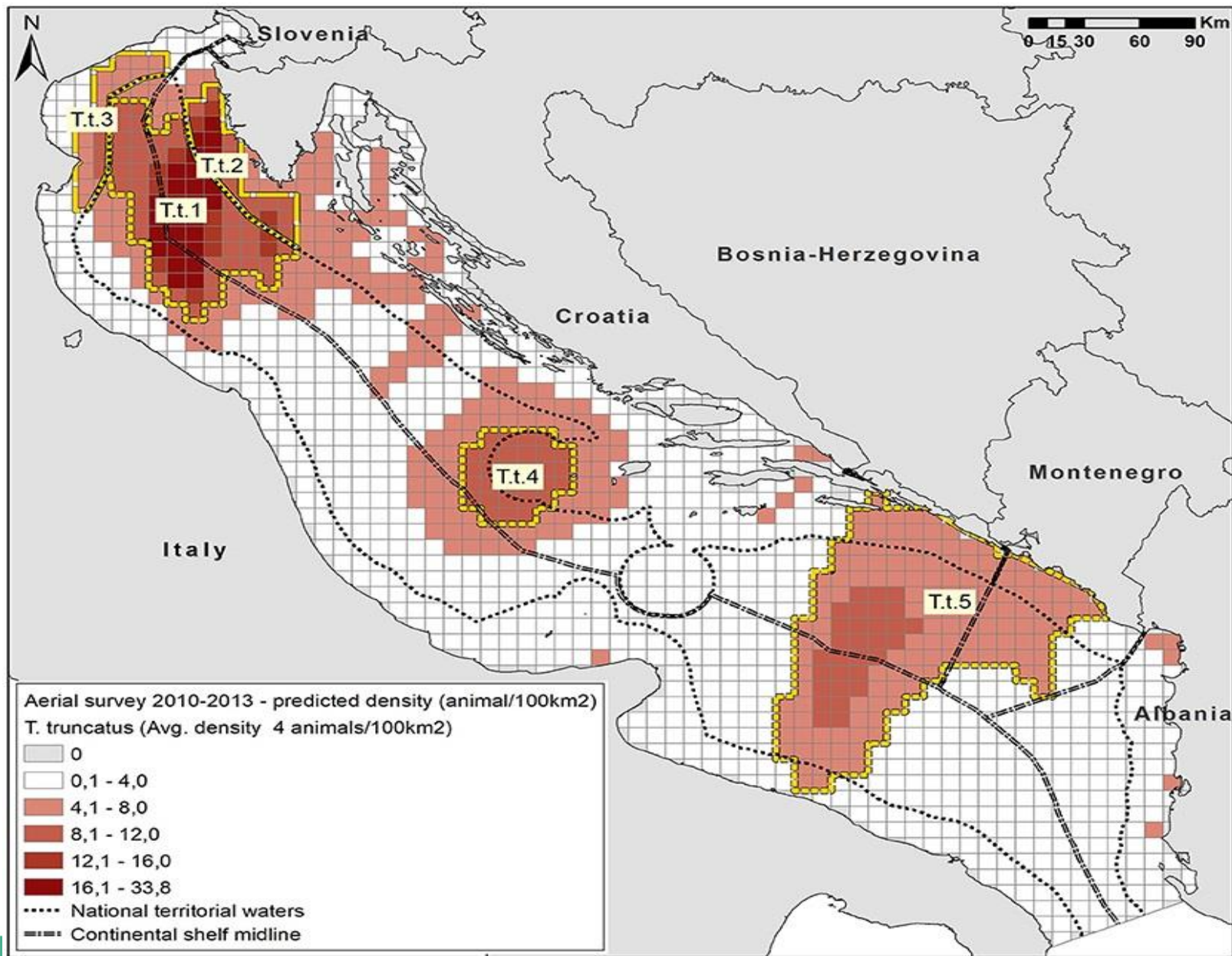


	Number of species in need for further research/additional proposals of SCIs (SR/IN MOD/IN MAJ)	Species	Comments
Croatia	2	Caretta caretta*	SR
		Tursiops truncatus	SUF/SR
Italy	5	Petromyzon marinus	SR/CD
		Lampetra fluviatilis	SR
		Caretta caretta*	IN MOD/SR
		Tursiops truncatus	IN MOD/SR
		Monachus monachus	IN MOD/CD
Greece	5	Caretta caretta*	IN MOD
		Chelonia mydas*	IN MAJ
		Tursiops truncatus	IN MOD
		Phocoena phocoena	SR
		Monachus monachus	IN MOD
Slovenia	2	Caretta caretta*	SR
		Tursiops truncatus	IN MAJ

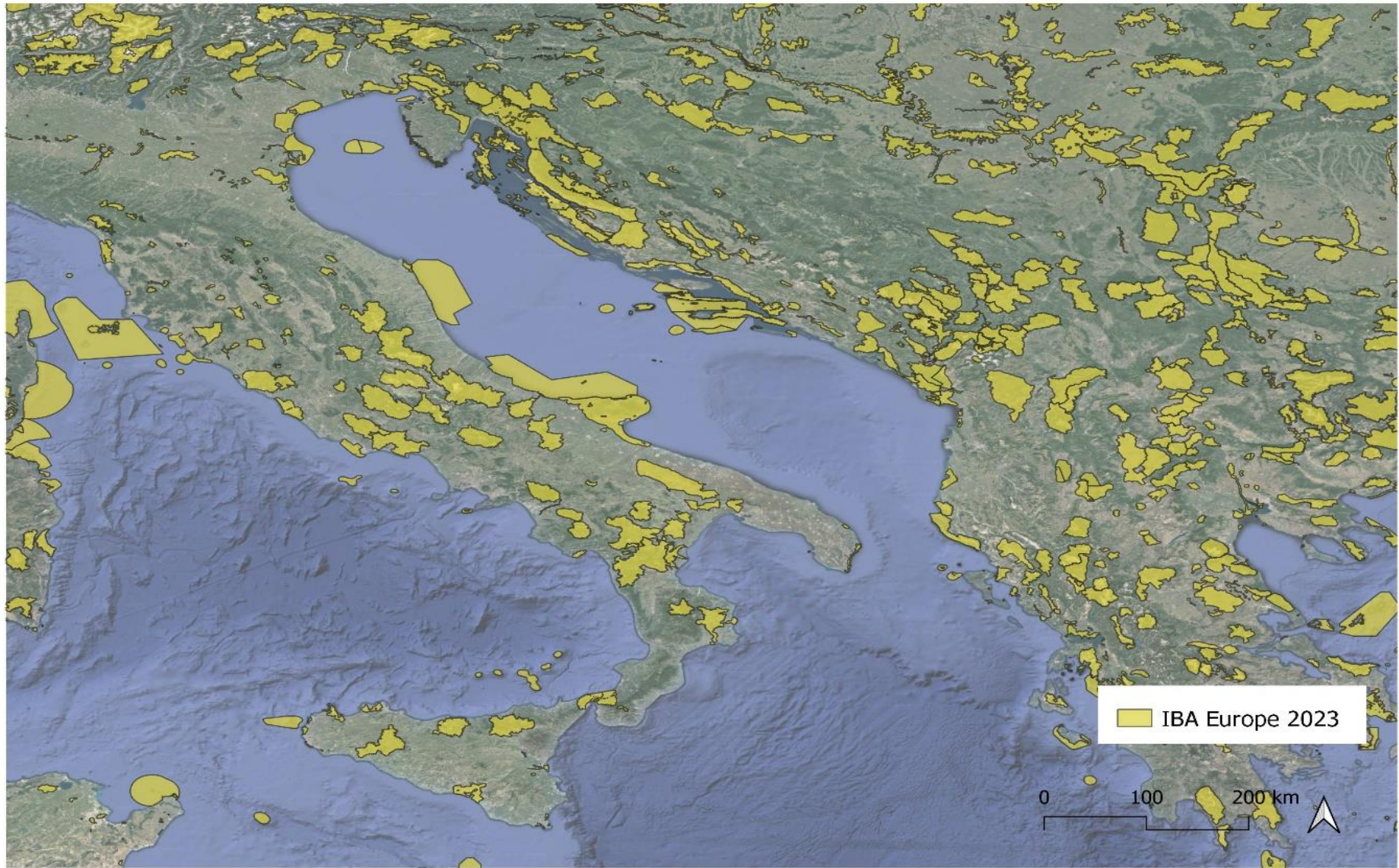


SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN PROTECTED AREAS FOR CARETTA CARETTA AND TURSIOPS TRUNCATES ARE NEEDED (THE CASE STUDY -2018)





INTERNATIONAL BIRDLIFE ASSOCIATION IN IDENTIFYING NEW IBA AREAS THAT SIGNIFICANTLY ENLARGE THE PROSPECTIVE NATURA 2000.

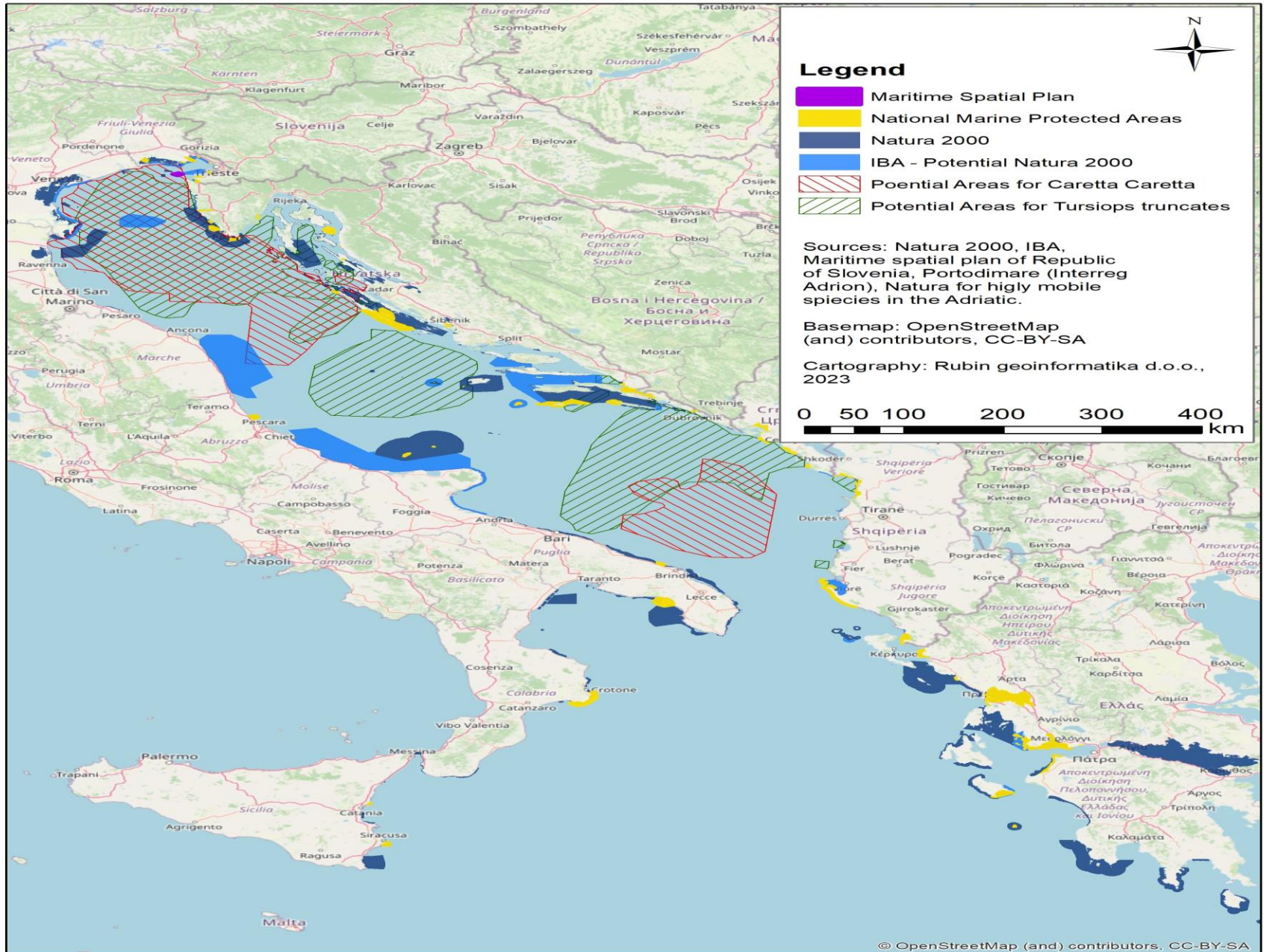


NEW IBA AREAS – THE EXTENT

Country	Name IBA	km ²
Italy	Middle Adriatic	6448,15
	Northern Adriatic IT	216,86
	Gargano Promontory and Capitanata Wetlands	2371,84
		9036,85
Croatia	Northern Adriatic CRO	251,31
	Korčulanski kanal	951,06
	Hvarski kanal	261,06
	Lastovski kanal	790,8
	Lastovsko otočje	347,42
	Pučinski otoci	246,49
	2848,14	
Albania	Karavasta Lagoon	191,26
	Narta Lagoon	196,29
	Vlora Bay, Karaburun Peninsula and Cika mountain	657,34
	1044,89	
		Total: 12929,88 km ²



EXISTING MPAs AND AREAS OF POTENTIAL DESIGNATION IN INDIVIDUAL EUSAIR MEMEBR STATES



ESTABLISHING MARINE PROTECTED AREAS, INCLUDING TRANSBOUNDARY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE BARCELONA CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS

Establishing a transboundary SPAMIs or one bigger SPAMI in the Northern and Central Adriatic (including the Jabuka/Pomo Pit area) based upon a joint proposal by Croatia, Italy and Slovenia;

- The **scientific basis for such proposals** may be found, among other, in the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, which in 2014 *identified the Northern, Central (including Jabuka/Pomo pit) and Southern Adriatic, including the Strait of Otranto area and nearby Ionian Sea, as Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)*, and also in the report presented in 2010 to the extraordinary meeting of the focal points for the Areas Protocol to the Barcelona Convention, which listed the *Northern and Central Adriatic as “priority conservation areas” and, together with Santa Maria di Leuca and Northeastern Ionian, as potential SPAMIs.*
- Following the eventual ratification of the Areas protocol by Greece, a similar move could be envisaged in the Southern Adriatic (Channel of Otranto area) and the Ionian Sea.



IDENTIFIED SPAMI's: UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.348/5, 4 June 2010 (ANNEX 3)

Adriatic Sea	<p>Northern and Central Adriatic: This portion of the Adriatic has a high natural productivity that supports an extensive food web, including sea birds, loggerhead sea turtles and several shark species. Considering the high level of degradation of the North-western Adriatic Sea, establishing a protected area in this site would require significant marine restoration effort.</p>	<p>Ecological value: Biological productivity Importance for life history Importance for threatened species</p>
--------------	---	--

Ionian Sea	<p>Santa Maria di Leuca: In addition to supporting a broad array of Mediterranean diversity, this northern extent of the Ionian has significant deep sea coral habitats.</p>	<p>Ecological value: Fragility Naturalness Importance for life history Importance for threatened species</p>
	<p>Northeastern Ionian: The northeastern Ionian Sea includes cetacean critical habitats and important nursery areas for several shark species.</p>	<p>Ecological value: Importance for life history Importance for threatened species</p>



1. NORTHERN ADRIATIC (CROATIA, ITALY, SLOVENIA)

Mitja Grbec (mitja.grbec@titusplus.com) je vpisan/-a

Location: Part of the Northern Adriatic Basin, off the coasts of Croatia, Italy, and Slovenia. The area is roughly delimited by the 9-meter isobath, encompassing the area above the straight line linking Ancona (Conero) and the island of Ilovik. The area is located in the northern part of the North Adriatic Sea Basin, with an average depth of 35 meters and is strongly influenced by the Po river plume.

It includes mobile sandy bottoms, seagrass meadows, hard bottom associations and unique rocky outcrops called "trezze" and "tegnue". The area is important for several threatened species. It hosts a population of the highest density of bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) in the Mediterranean; it is one of the most important feeding grounds in the Mediterranean of the Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*); and it is a nursery area for a number of vulnerable species (blue shark (*Prionace glauca*), sandbar shark (*Carcharinus plumbeus*), anchovies (*Engraulis encrasicolus*), etc.). The area hosts a strong diversity of benthic and pelagic habitats due to an important gradient of environmental factors from its western portion to its eastern coasts. It is also one of the most productive areas in the Mediterranean Sea.

2. JABUKA/POMO PIT (CROATIA, ITALY)

Location: The area encompassing three distinct, adjacent depressions, with maximum depths of about 270 meters. The area extends 4.5 nautical miles from the 200-meter isobath. The area encompassing the adjacent depressions, the Jabuka (or Pomo) Pit is situated in the Middle Adriatic Sea and has a maximum depth of 200 - 260 meters.

It is a sensitive and critical spawning and nursery zone for important Adriatic demersal resources, especially European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*). This area hosts the largest populations of Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) and is important especially for juveniles in the depths over 200 meters.

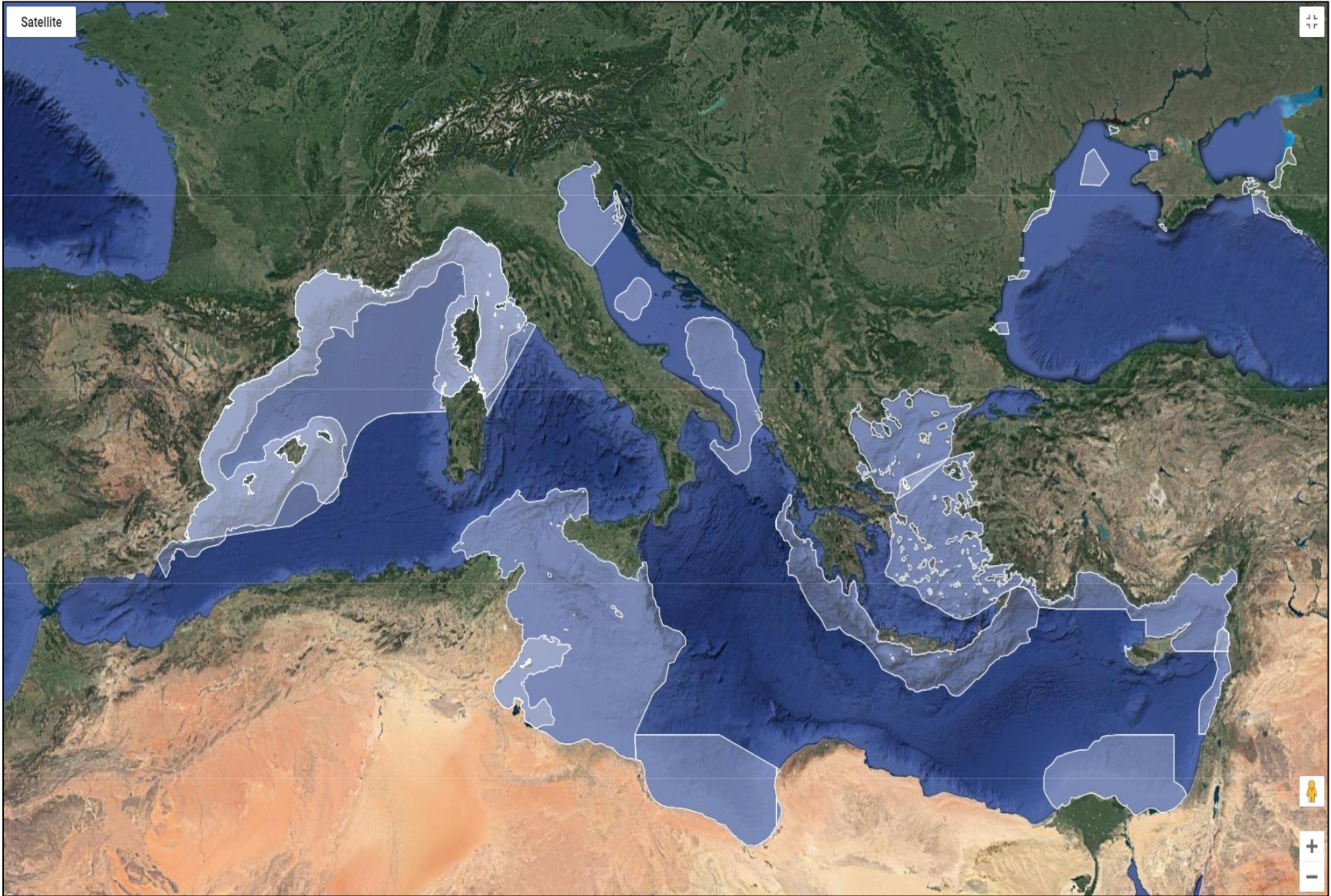
Based on available scientific data, it is a high-density area for the giant devil ray (*Mobula mobular*), an endemic species listed on Annex II SPA/BD protocol and listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List. The Pit could function as a favourable environment for some key life history stages of the porbeagle shark, and *Lamna nasus*, which is critically endangered (IUCN 2007), and both of which are listed on Annex II SPA/BD Protocol. Regarding benthic species, several types of corals can be found (*Scleractinia* and *Actiniaria*).

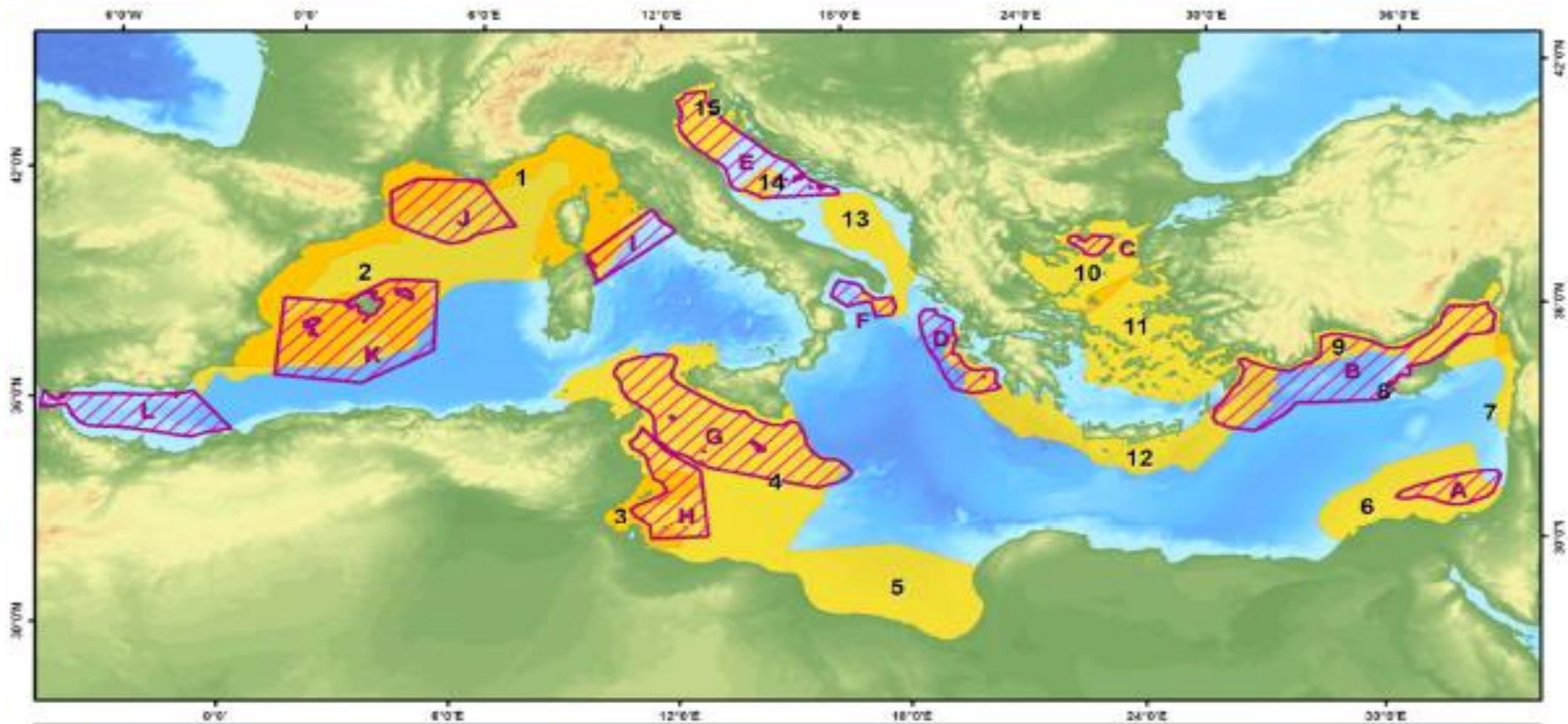
3. SOUTH ADRIATIC AND IONIAN STRAIT (ALBANIA CROATIA, ITALY, MONTENEGRO)

Location: The area is located in the centre of the southern part of the Southern Adriatic basin and in the northern part of the Ionian Sea. It includes the deepest part of the Adriatic Sea on the western side and it encompasses a coastal area in Albania (Sazani Island and Karaburun peninsula). It also covers the slopes in near Santa Maria di Leuca.

It is characterized by steep slopes, high salinity and a maximum depth ranging between 200 meters to 1500 meters. Water exchange with the Mediterranean Sea takes place through the Otranto Channel, which has a sill that is 800-meter deep. This area contains important habitats for Cuvier's beaked whales (*Ziphius cavirostris*), an Annex II species of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (Areas Protocol) in the framework of Barcelona Convention, and significant densities of other megafauna such as the giant devil ray (*Mobula mobular*), striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*), Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) and loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), all of which are listed in Annex II of the Areas Protocol. Benthos includes deep-sea cold-water coral communities and deep-sea sponge aggregations, representing important biodiversity reservoirs and contributing to the trophic recycling of organic matter. Tuna, swordfish, and sharks are also common in this area.







Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs)*

1 EBSAs

Overlapping area between EBSAs

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. North-western Mediterranean Pelagic Ecosystems | 9. North-East Levantine Sea |
| 2. North-western Mediterranean Benthic Ecosystems | 10. North Aegean Sea |
| 3. Gulf of Gabès | 11. Central Aegean Sea |
| 4. Sicilian Channel | 12. Hellenic Trench |
| 5. Gulf of Sirte | 13. South Adriatic Ionian Strait |
| 6. Nile Delta Fan | 14. Jabuka / Pomo Pit |
| 7. East Levantine Canyons (ELCA) | 15. Northern Adriatic |
| 8. Akamas and Chrysochou Bay | |

* CBD's COP 2014 (Pyeongchang, Rep. Korea)

Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs)*

SPAMI potential areas

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A. Nile Delta Region | G. Northern Strait of Sicily |
| B. Northeastern Levantine Sea | H. Southern Strait of Sicily |
| C. Thracian Sea | I. Central Tyrrhenian |
| D. Northeastern Ionian | J. Gulf of Lions Shelf and Slope |
| E. Northern and Central Adriatic | K. Southern Balearic |
| F. Santa Maria di Leuca | L. Alborán Seamounts |

* Extr. Meet of the F.P. for SPAs (Istanbul, Turkey, 2010)

LASA-ETRS-1989
GIS: RAC/SPA-S, Request, Vers. April, 2015.



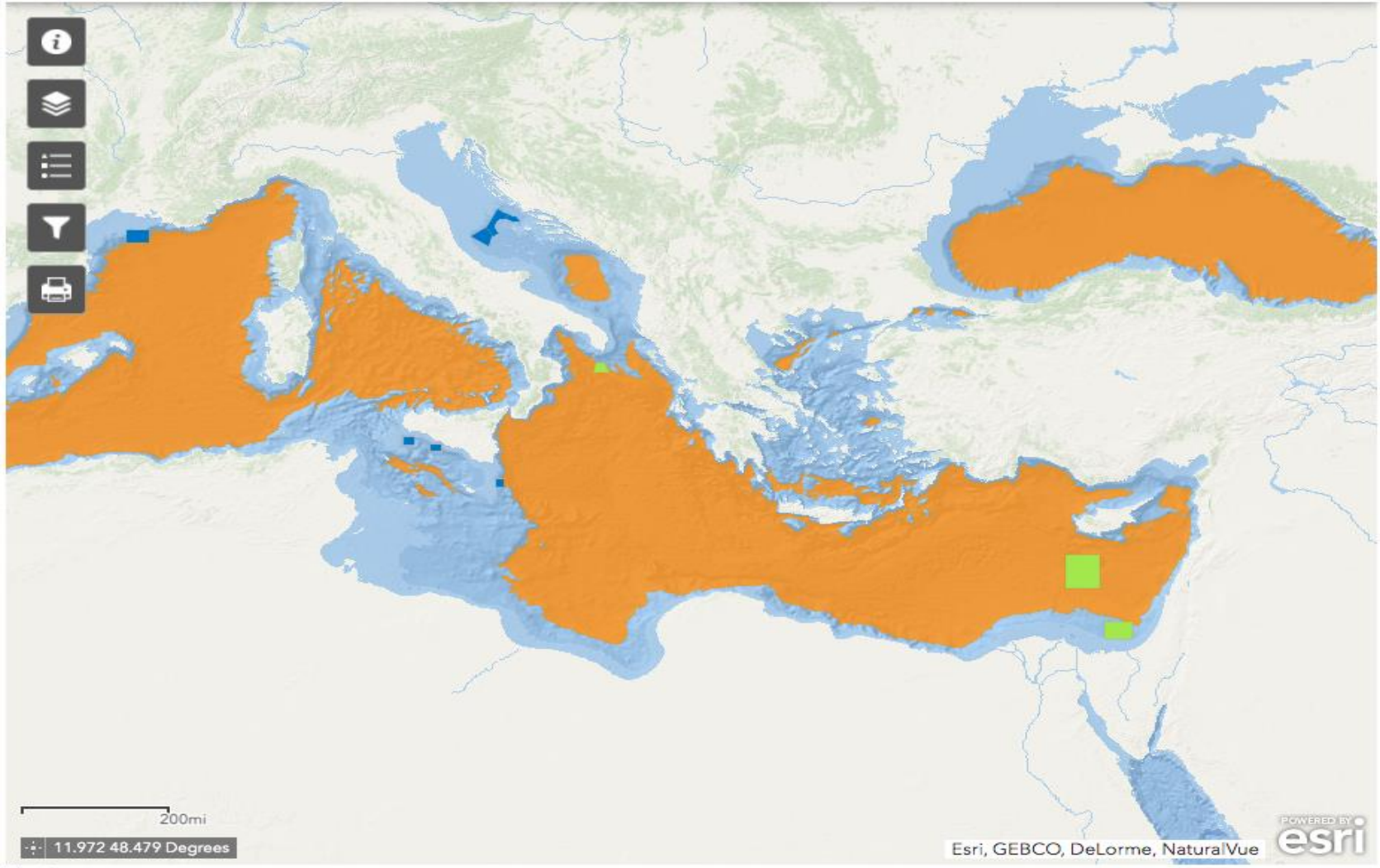
Proposed CCHs in the Adriatic and Ionian Seas (ACCOBAMS)

The Waters along east coast of the Cres-Lošinj archipelago (Croatia)	Area of special importance for the bottlenose dolphin
The Sazani Island – Karaburuni Peninsula (Albania)	Area of special importance for the common dolphin and other cetaceans
Eastern Ionian Sea and the Gulf of Corinth (Greece)	Area of special importance for the common dolphin and other cetaceans
Southwest Crete and the Hellenic Trench (Greece)	Area of special importance for the sperm whale



Since 2005, GFCM has prohibited the use of towed dredges and trawl nets at depths beyond 1000 m in the Mediterranean and Black Seas (inc. Adriatic & Ionian)

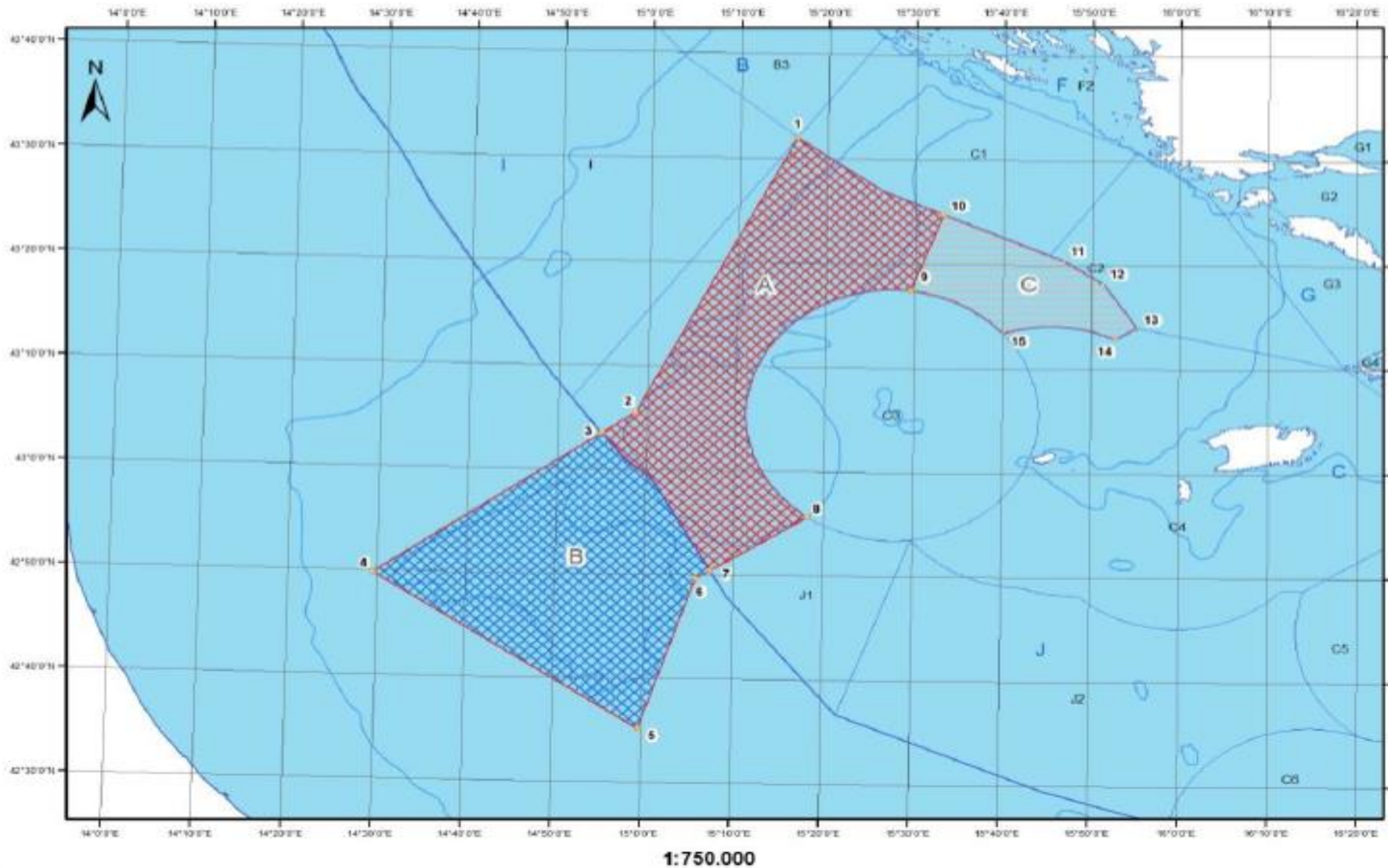
 GFCM Fisheries Restricted Areas Web Map App



POWERED BY
esri

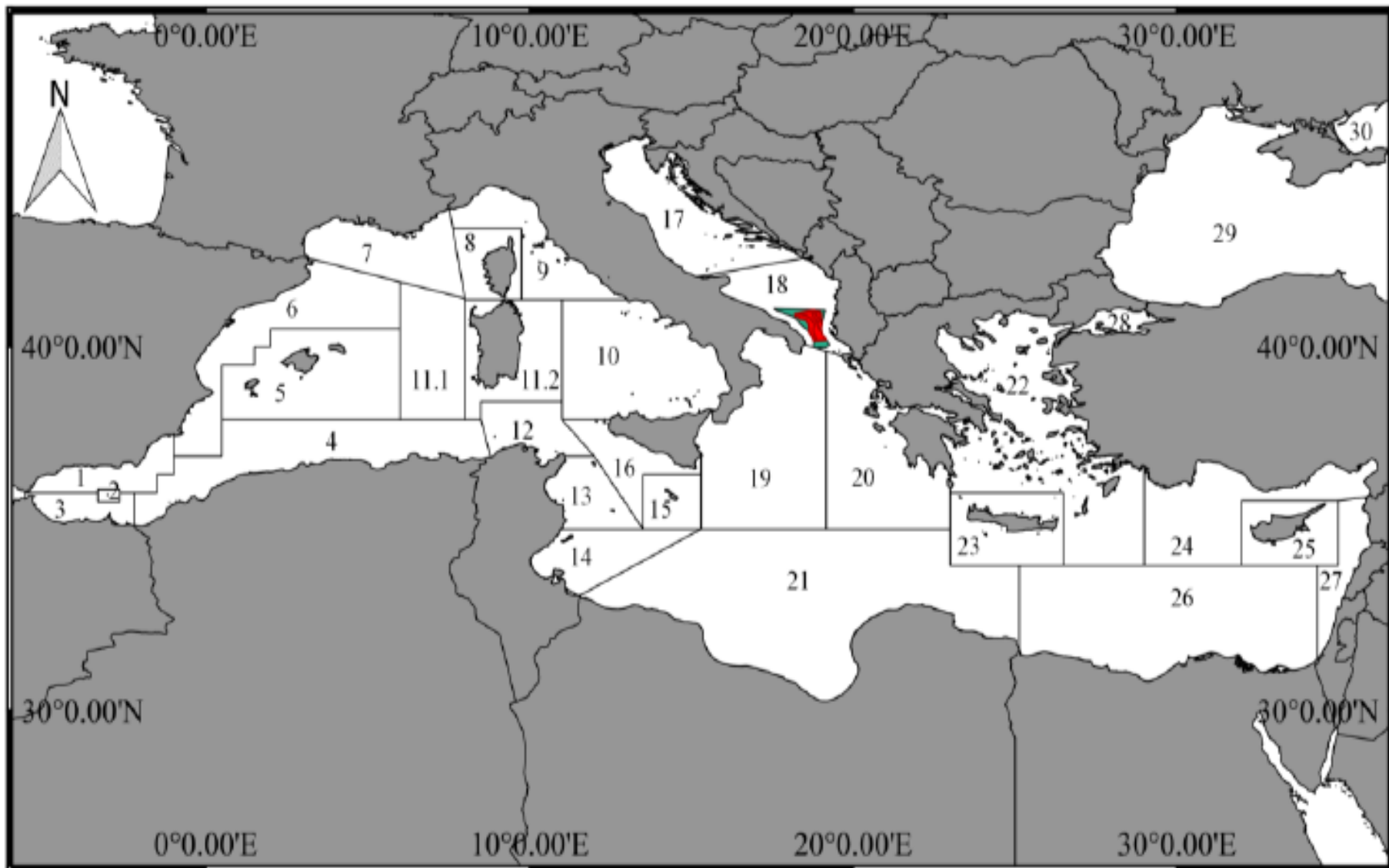
Esri, GEBCO, DeLorme, NaturalVue

Geographical coordinates of the Jabuka/Pomo Pit FRA (Adriatic Sea)



The FRA Jabuka/Pomo Pit and its zoning (A, B, C).
Source: Recommendation GFCM/41/2017/3.

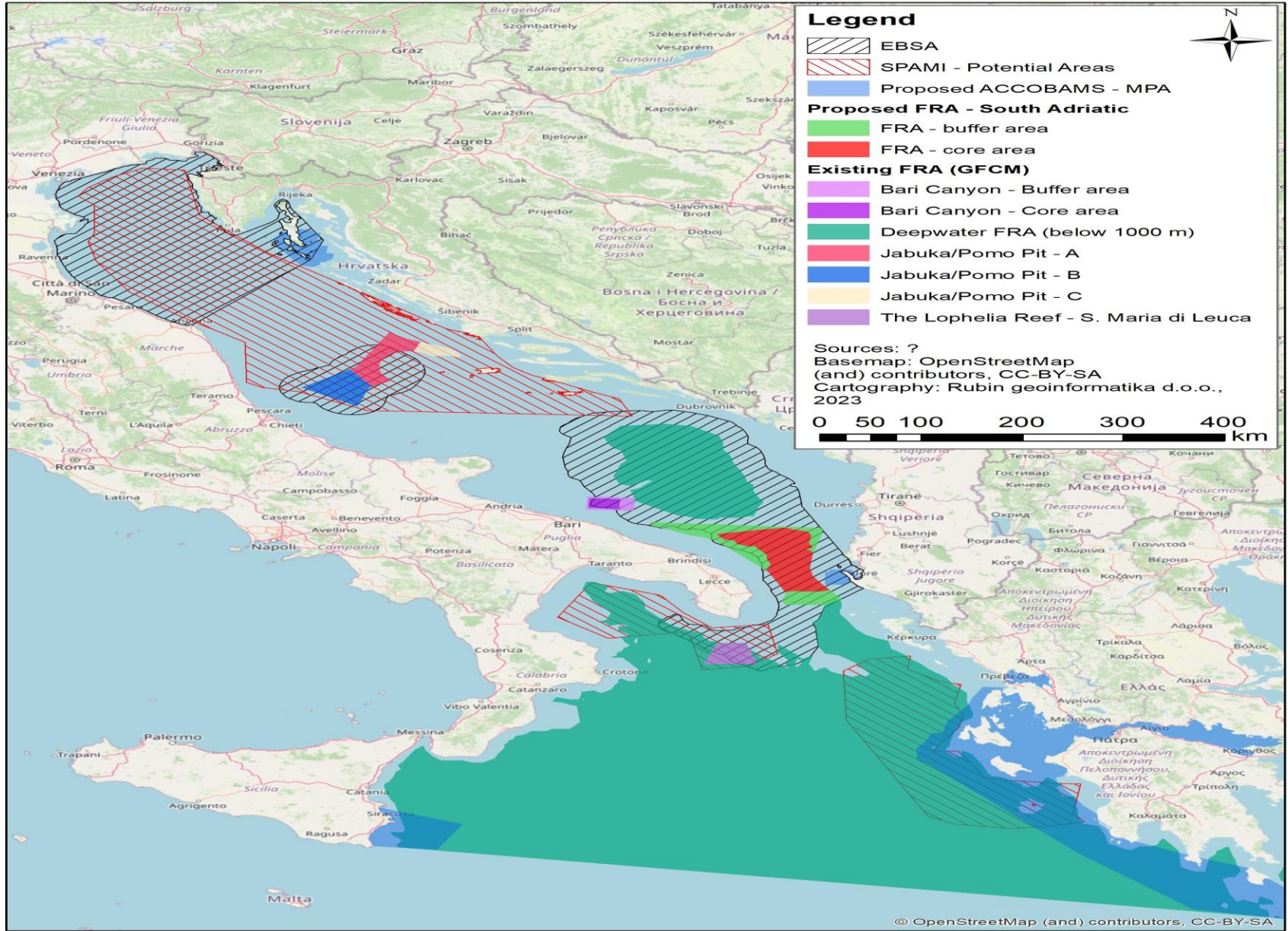




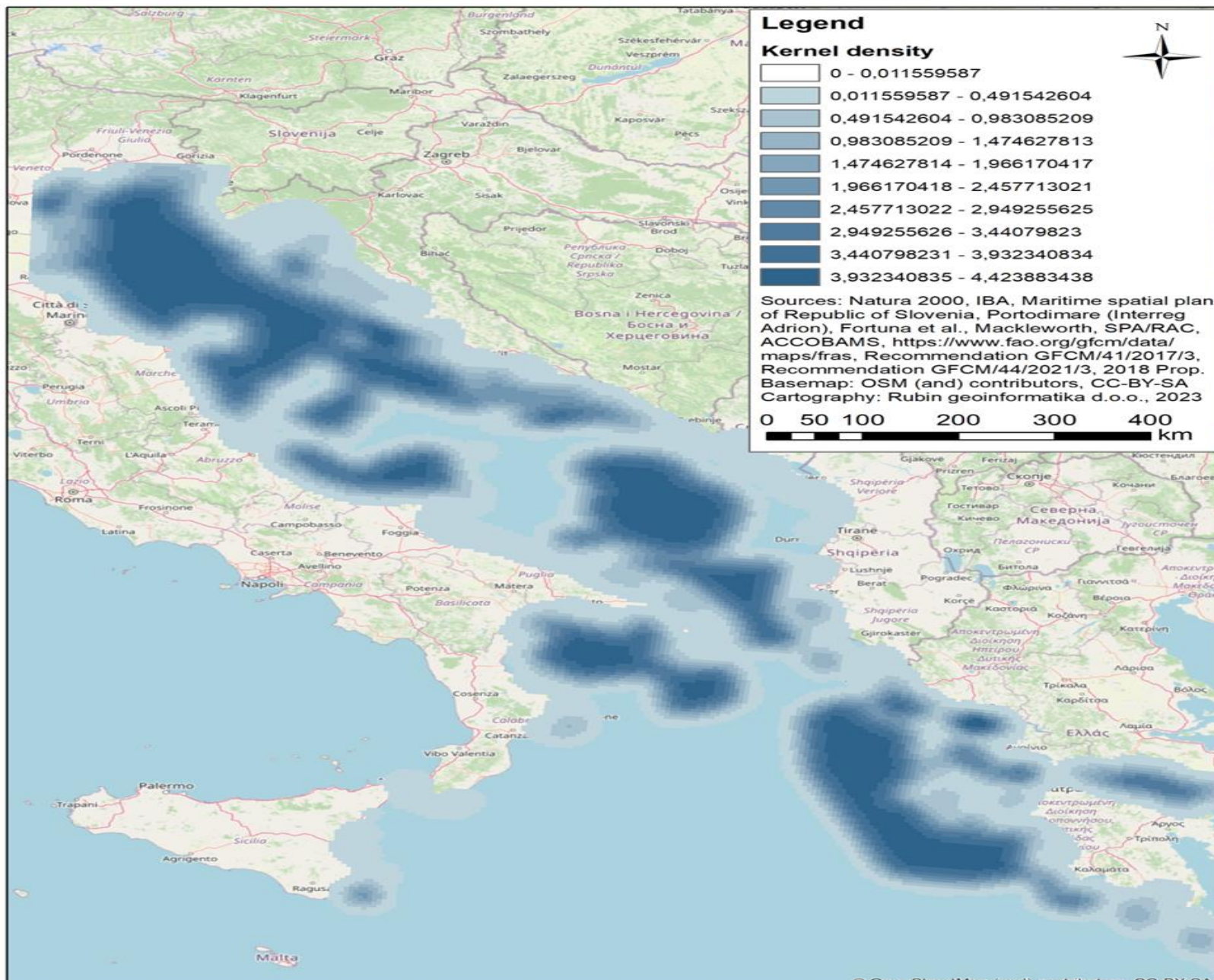
FRA proposal: Deep water essential fish habitats and sensitive habitats in the South Adriatic. Source: Proposal transmitted to the GFCM in March 2018.



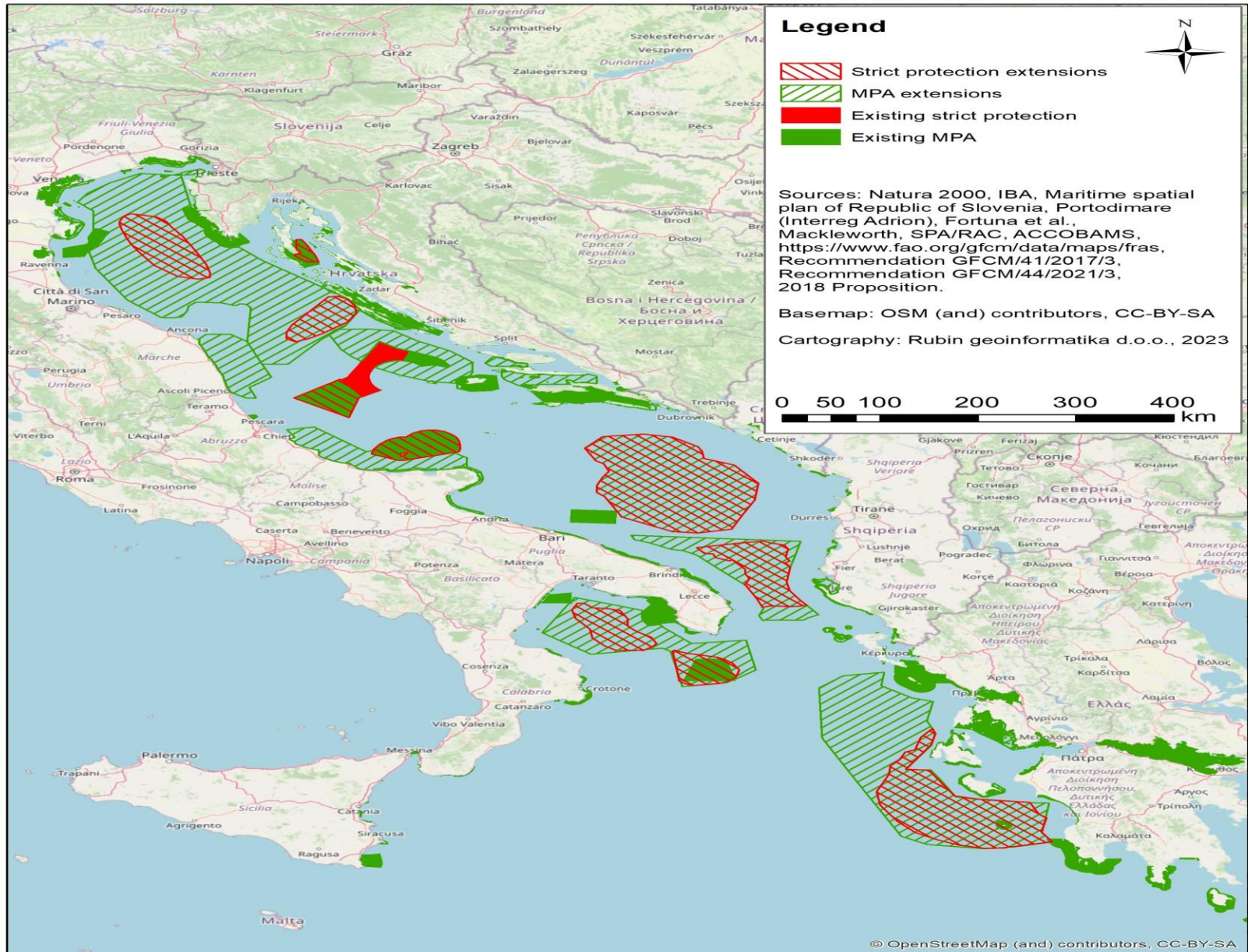
PRESENTATION OF THE EXISTING AND POTENTIAL TRANSBOUNDARY MARINE AREAS IN EUSAIR REGION



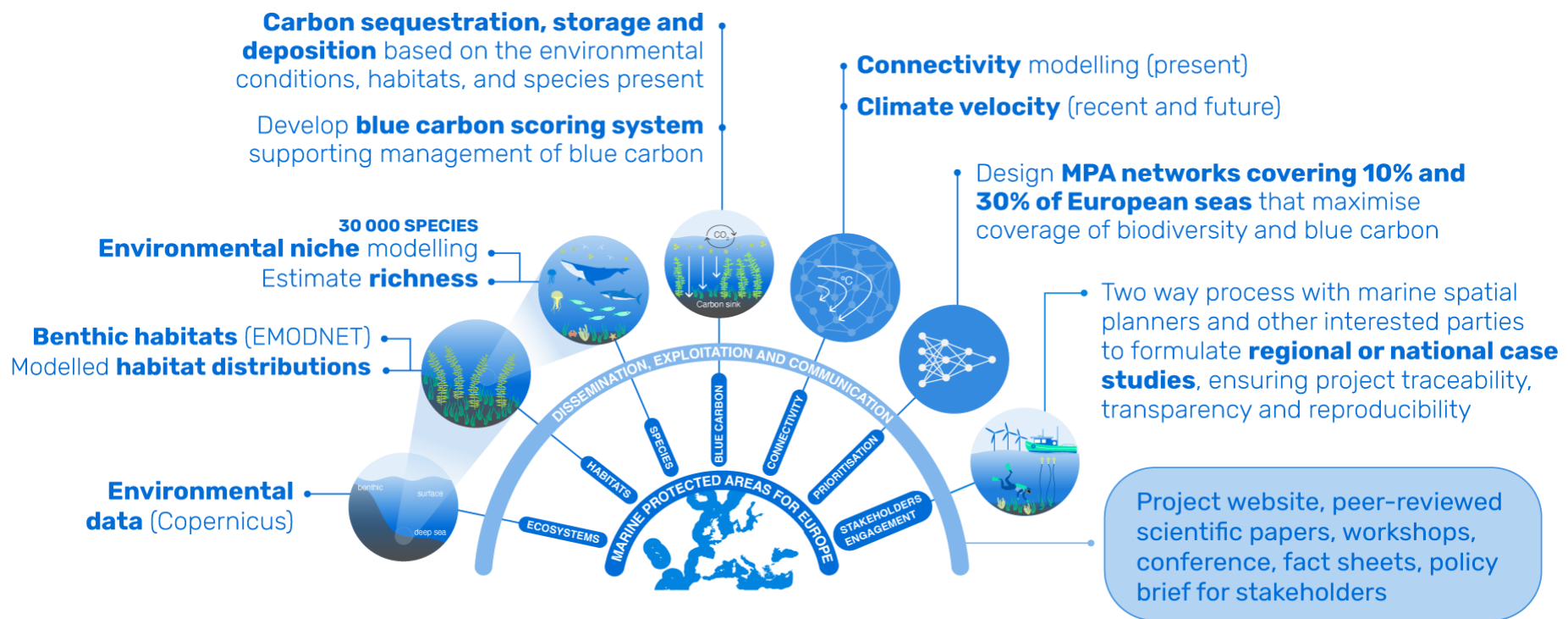
DENSITY OF EXISTING AND POTENTIAL AREAS FOR MARINE BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION IN THE PLAN



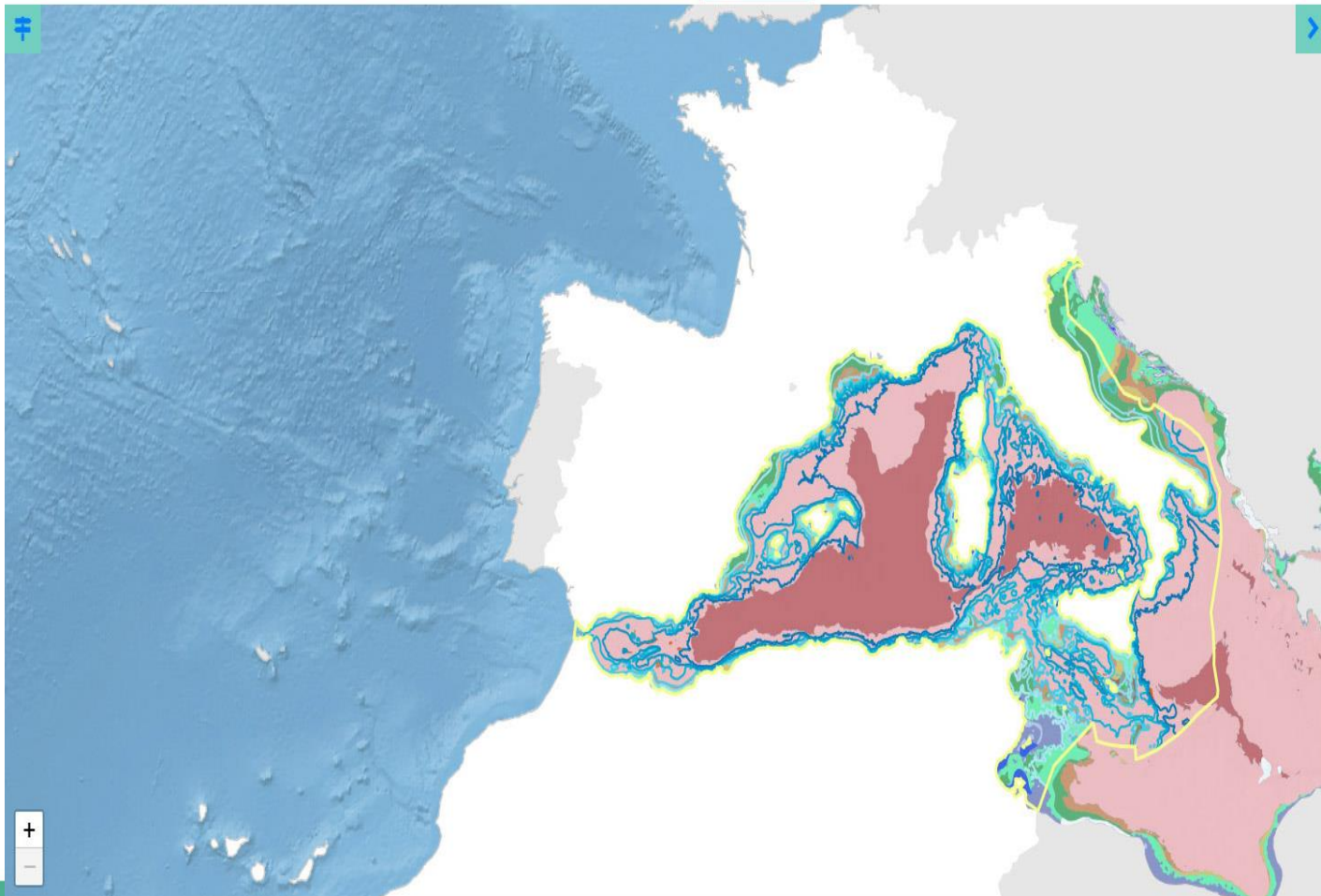
Existing marine protection and possible extensions within the region that would meet the strategy objectives



PROJECT MPA EUROPE, JANUARY 23 - APRIL 26 (mpa-europe.eu) - map optimal locations for marine protected areas (MPA) in European seas on the basis of a wholistic approach



MSPglobal is a joint initiative by UNESCO's [Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission](#) (IOC-UNESCO) and the European Commission's (DG MARE) to develop and implement international guidelines on Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning.



The Western Mediterranean region

The West Mediterranean pilot project fosters dialogue and cooperation between EU and non-EU countries to enable the development of a sustainable blue economy in the region.

Following a regional and integrated approach, the pilot project supports the development of the preplanning phase of a regional transboundary MSP. It also aims at strengthening institutional capacities and formulating regional recommendations in line with the WestMED Initiative towards the overarching goal of adopting a roadmap on transboundary MSP and a sustainable blue economy for the region. The pilot project is being implemented in seven Western Mediterranean countries: Algeria, France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia; and other countries of the Union for the Mediterranean were also invited to participate. For the purpose of the mapping exercise, the area of the pilot

