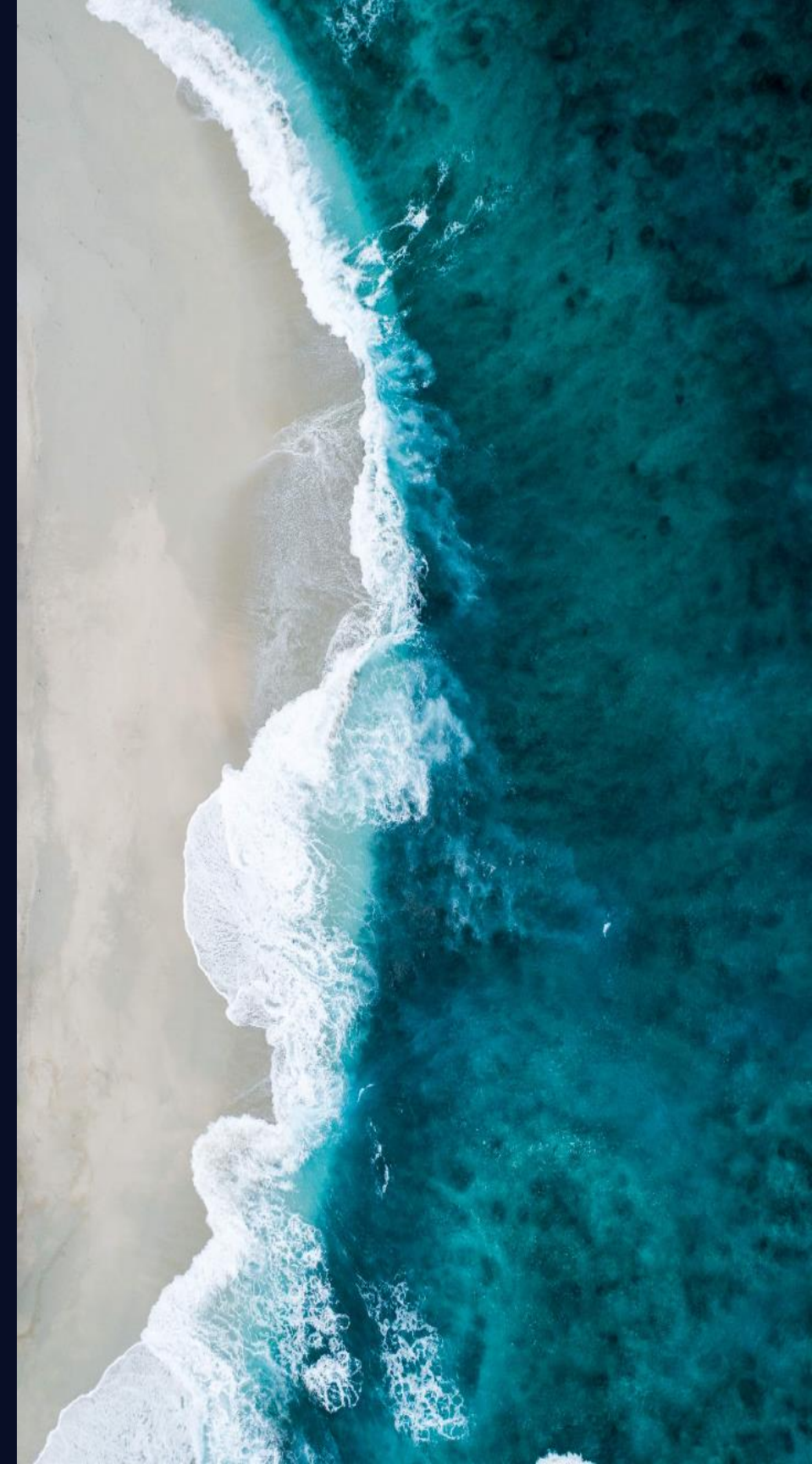


# Marine protected areas pledges

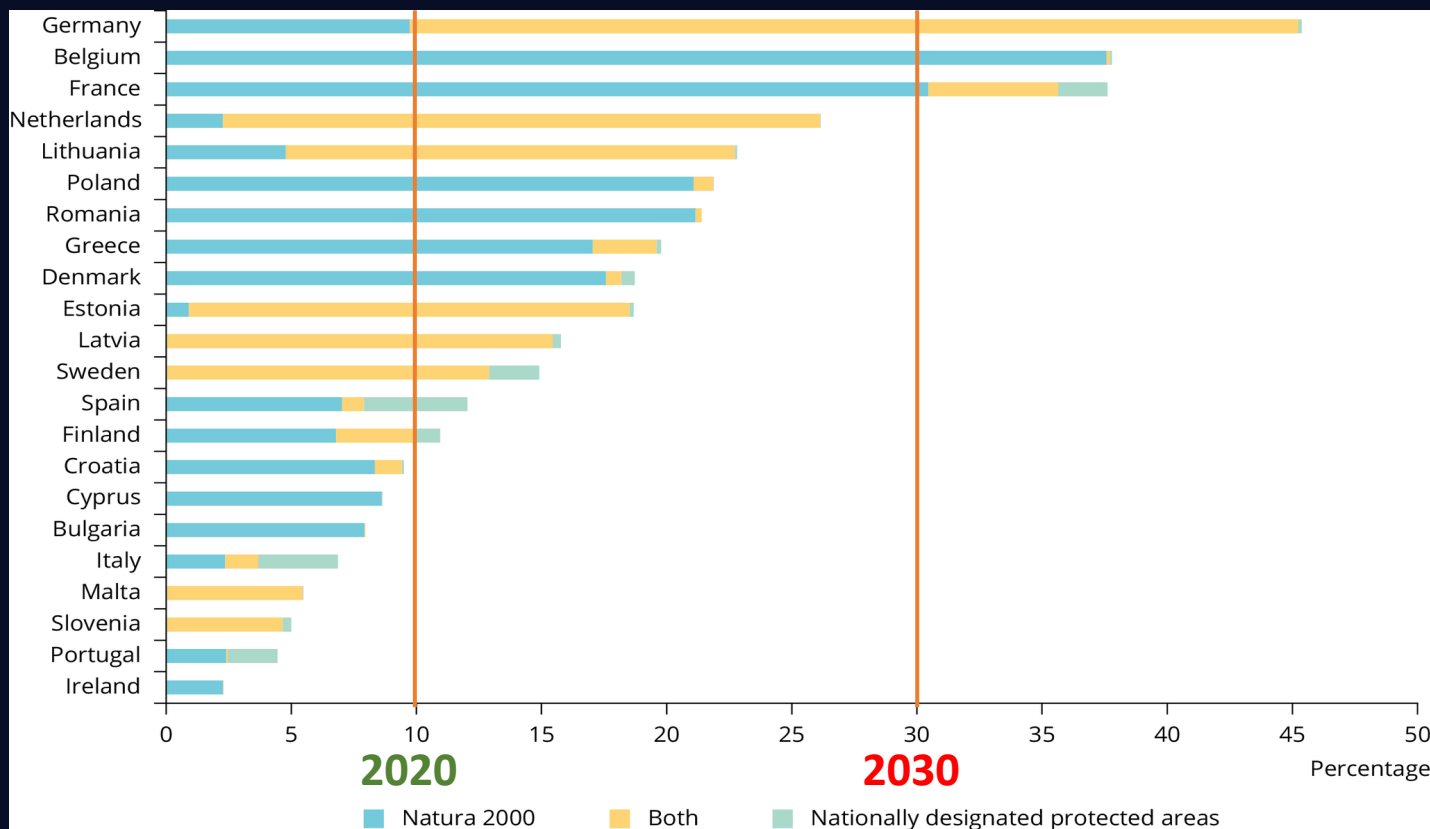
Where are we – overview and distance to target  
Preliminary analysis – Mediterranean and Black Sea regions

12-14<sup>th</sup> March 2024, Biogeographic Seminar, Palais de Pharo, Marseilles, France

Johnny Reker & Mette Lund, European Environment Agency



# Overview Marine Protected Areas per Country - current dataflows



## EEA supports annual data reporting for:

- Natura 2000 sites
- Nationally designated areas (NatDA)
- Remains important that countries report national sites through NatDA for future updates and QA

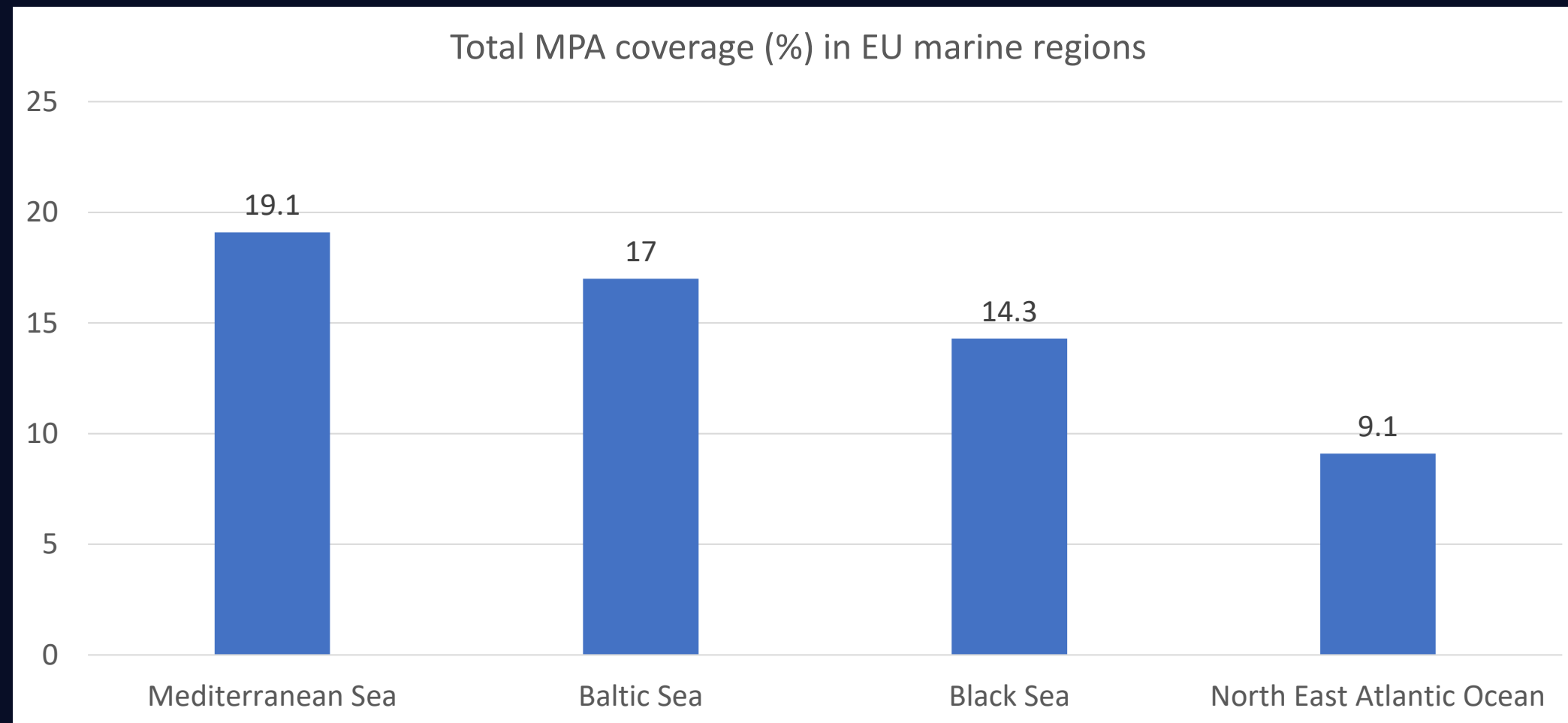
This information is compiled to produce statistics on protected areas coverage at EU, biogeographical and marine regions, and MS level (e.g. the EEA MPA indicator)

All RSCs sites (except 6 OSPAR in High Seas) are either Natura 2000 or nationally designated sites

The MPA coverage objective of 10% was met in 2020, but EU still need to improve on effective management

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/ims/marine-protected-areas-in-europes-seas>  
Based on Natura 2000 data reported by December 2020 and Nationally designated areas in March 2021

# Overview coverage of MPAs per marine region – baseline before pledge process

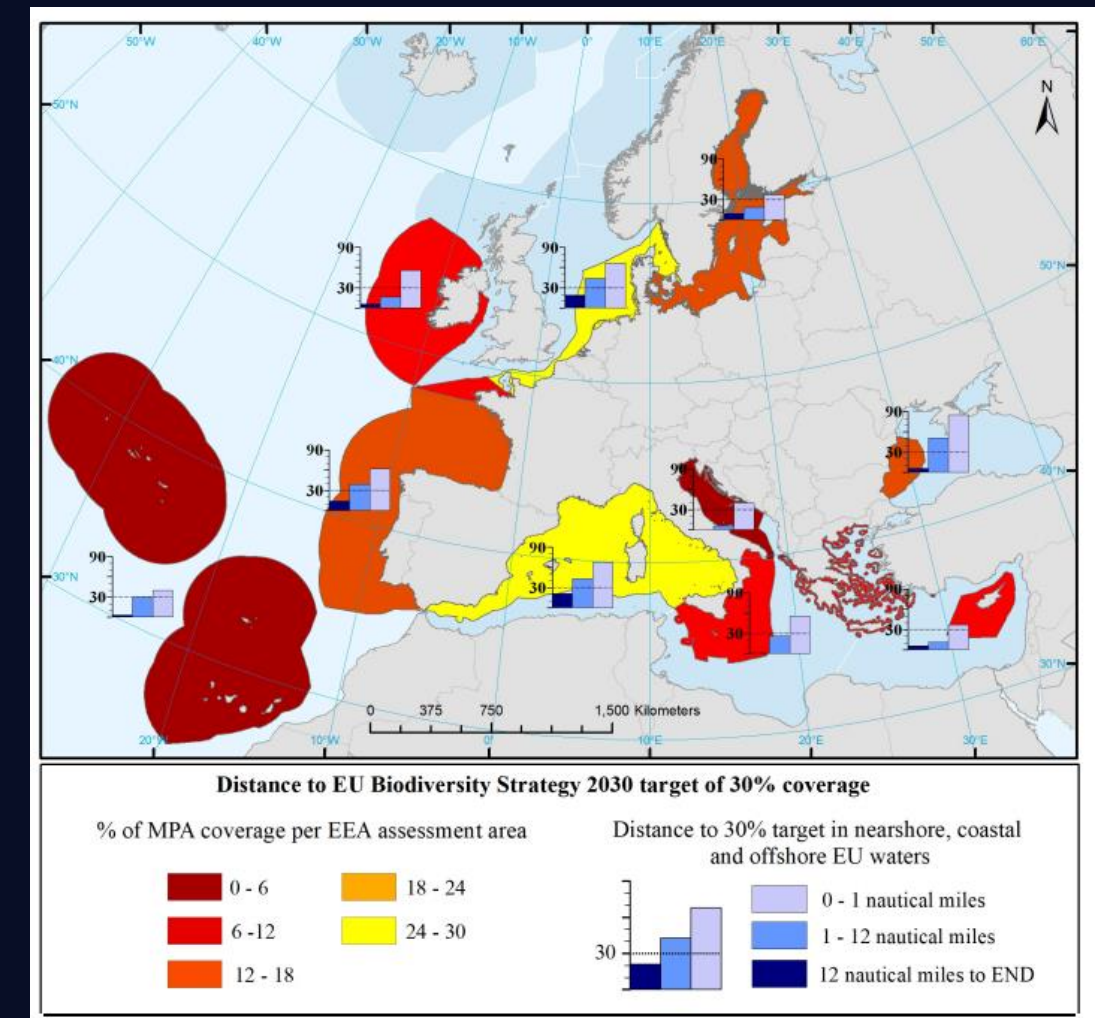


Based on Natura 2000 data reported by December 2020 and Nationally designated areas  
March 2021 – will be updated summer 2024

# Distance to target per marine region – baseline before pledge process

MPA assessment area marine regions and sub regions (EU)	% of 0-1 NM zone covered by MPAs	% of 1-12 NM zone covered by MPAs	% of 12 NM-END zone covered by MPAs
Baltic Sea	37	18	9
North East Atlantic Ocean	60	33	7
Celtic Sea	56	16	6
Greater North Sea	67	44	19
Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast	62	39	14
Macaronesia	40	30	3
Mediterranean Sea	49	27	14
Western Mediterranean	68	43	21
Ionian Sea and Central Mediterranean Sea	56	26	1
Adriatic Sea	40	6	0
Aegean-Levantine Sea	37	11	6
Black Sea	85	51	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>8</b>

Distance to the 30% coverage target of the EU Biodiversity Strategy



# Pledges for the 2030 protected areas target



European Union



Reportnet 3 > Dataflows > Dataflow

 Login



## Biodiversity pledges - protected areas

Biodiversity pledges - protected areas

 Download schema/s info

# Structure and content of the pledges

## General information

- Protected areas extent per biogeographical/marine region – current and expected area by 2030 (1.1)
- OECMs extent per biogeographical/marine region – current and expected by 2030 (1.2)
- Area under strict protection per biogeographical/marine region – current and expected by 2030 (1.3)
- Explanation of the coherence of the network (1.4)

## Existing nationally designated areas reported in NatDA which should be counted toward the 30% target

- Per designation type (2.1) or individual sites (2.2)

## Existing OECMs reported in CDDA should be counted toward the 30% target

- None reported (3)

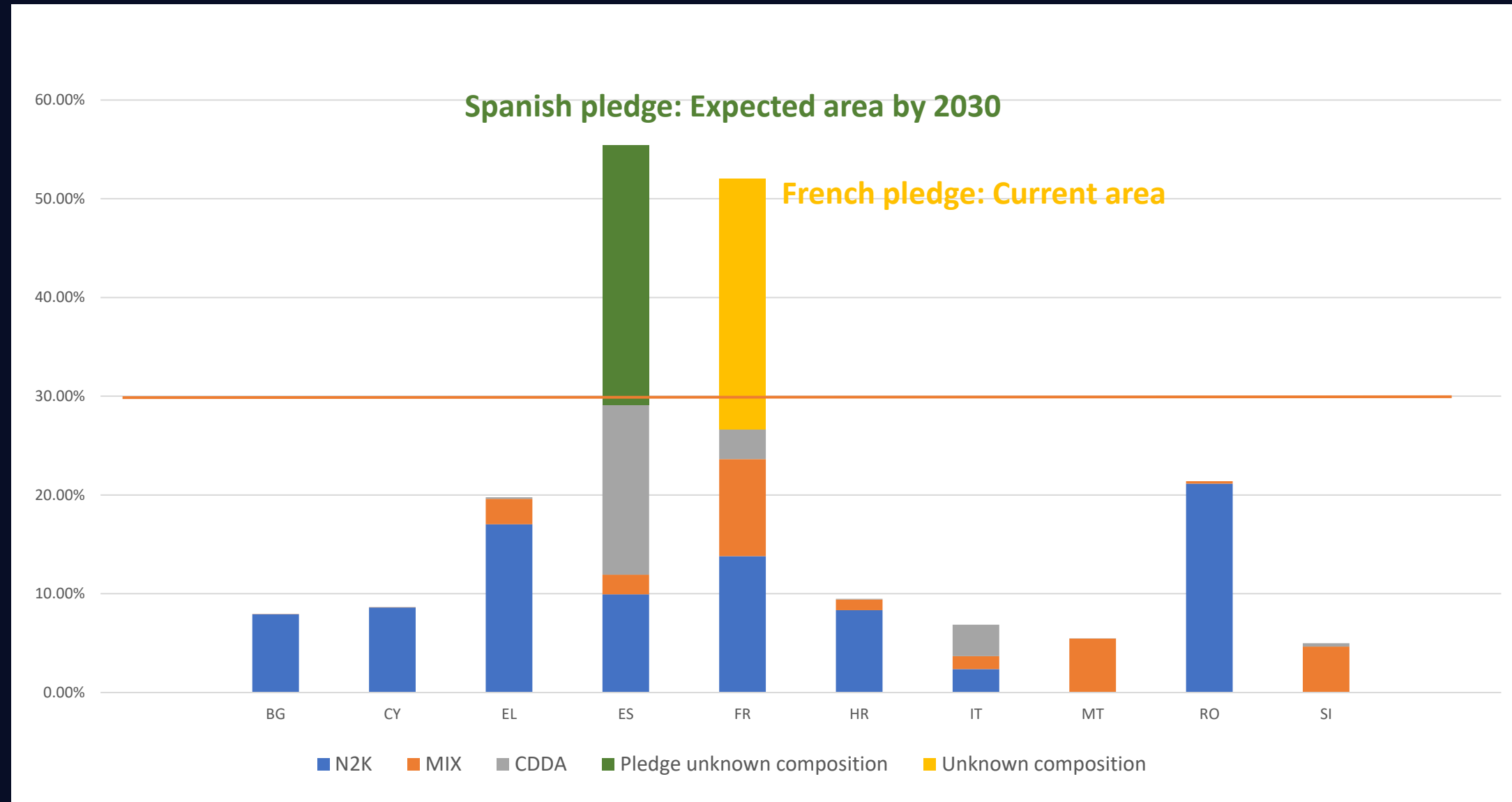
## Existing nationally designated areas or Natura 2000 sites which should be counted towards the 10% strict target

- Per designation type (4.1) or individual sites (4.2)

## Pledges for future designation of protected areas and OECMs (5)

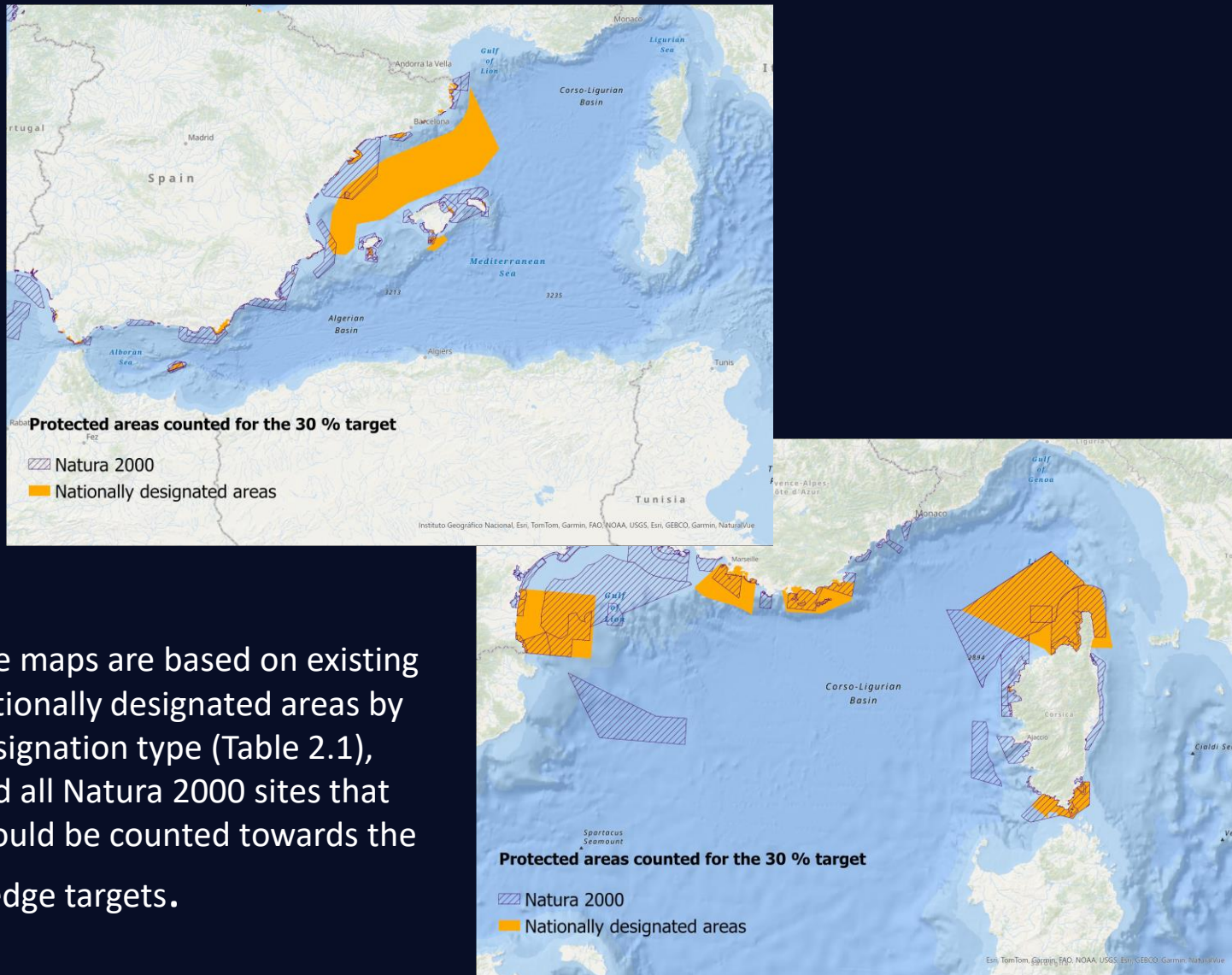


# MPA coverage in the Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea – status and with ES pledge



Based on Natura 2000 data reported by December 2020 and Nationally designated areas March 2021, and information reported by Spain and France in the pledge (Table 1.1).

# Pledges towards the 30% protected areas target - existing areas



The maps are based on existing nationally designated areas by designation type (Table 2.1), and all Natura 2000 sites that should be counted towards the pledge targets.

## Spain

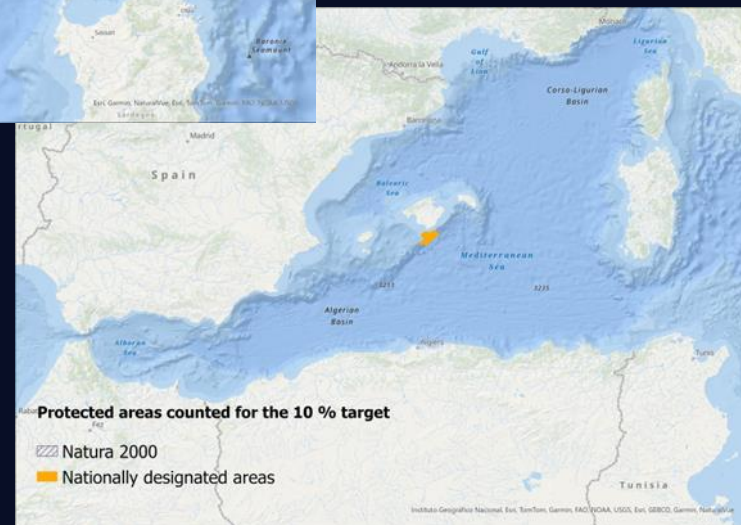
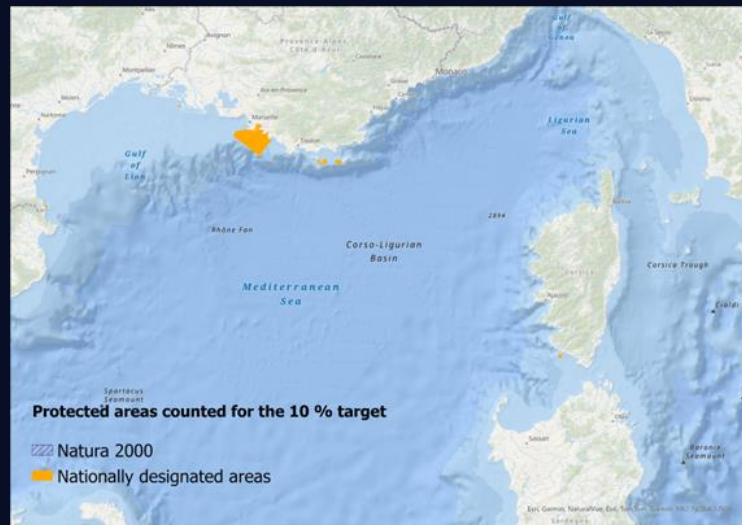
- Existing MPAs counting towards the 30% target
- 29 designation types reported (Table 2.1)
- Please log in and click Release button again to make the data public
- <https://reportnet.europa.eu/public/dataflow/703>

## France

- Existing MPAs counting towards the 30% target
- 17 designation types reported (Table 2.1)
- Bottom-up process is being implemented
- Please consider if pledge information should continue to be restricted (log in and remove tick for Restricted)



# Pledges towards the 10% strict protection target - existing areas



## France

- 11 strict protection designation types (Table 4.1)
- No individual strictly protected sites reported yet (Table 4.2)
- Current area of strictly protected 112 km<sup>2</sup> (Table 1.3)

## Spain

- 4 strict protection designation types (Table 4.1)
- 200 sites with some strict protection (Table 4.2)
- 45 sites with no strict protection? (Table 4.2)
- Current area of strictly protected 1305 km<sup>2</sup> (Table 1.3)

The maps are based on nationally designated sites by designation type (Table 4.1) and, individual national designations and Natura 2000 sites (Table 4.2).

Difficult for EEA to calculate/validate % cover of 'Strict protection' sites/areas correctly without geospatial information as overlaps cannot be identified.

# Additional information – PSSA extended



<https://wwwcdn.imo.org/>

## To note on the PSSA

To protect cetaceans from international shipping, a particularly sensitive sea area (PSSA) in the North-West Mediterranean Sea has been designated 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

It includes a set of voluntary protective measures for cetaceans and is intended for commercial ships and pleasure yachts of >300 Gross Tonnage.

The PSSA is not included in EEA statistics for MPA coverage because effects on marine biodiversity, in general, will be difficult to document compared to other areas.

Could perhaps be considered an MSFD art 13 'spatial protection measure' supporting the achievement of GES?

EEA needs to consider how to handle OECMs in MPA indicator/statistics

# Next steps



- New EEA statistics on protected areas are being undertaken in early 2024 based on the Natura 2000 dataset and Nationally designated areas reported in 2023
- Will consider how to use information from the pledges and outcomes from the biogeographic seminars
- Will consider how to spatially link pledges and EEA MPA indicator information (GIS information would help)
- EU nature protection and maritime spatial planning, in general, would benefit from reporting geospatial information of 'strict protected areas' considering the current push for developing offshore wind energy in the coastal zone
- Dashboards – to be published and updated gradually when new pledges are submitted
- Please keep reporting nationally designated sites (and GIS of strictly protected areas) to inform progress toward targets



Thank you

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