



MINISTERIO
PARA LA TRANSICIÓN ECOLÓGICA
Y EL RETO DEMOGRÁFICO

TARGET ON PROTECTED AREAS



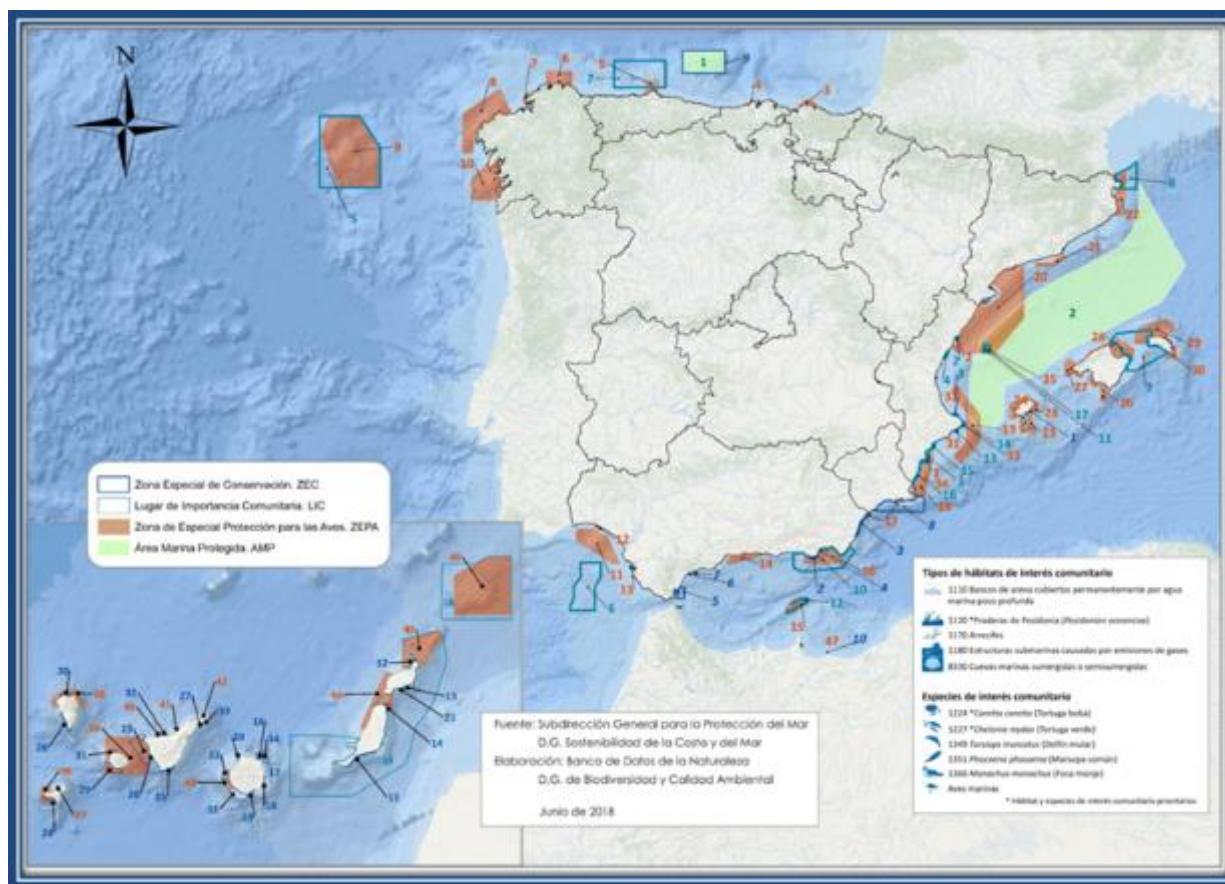
3rd biogeographical seminar for the Mediterranean and Black
Sea marine biogeographical regions

José María Rodríguez Ochagavía
Deputy Directorate on Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity
Marine Protected Areas Unit
jmrochagavia@miteco.es

Spanish contribution to EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

Key commitments EU Strategy for Biodiversity:

1. 30% of marine protection (with 10% of strict protection) of EU sea areas
2. Effectively manage all protected areas, defining clear conservation objectives and measures, and monitoring them appropriately

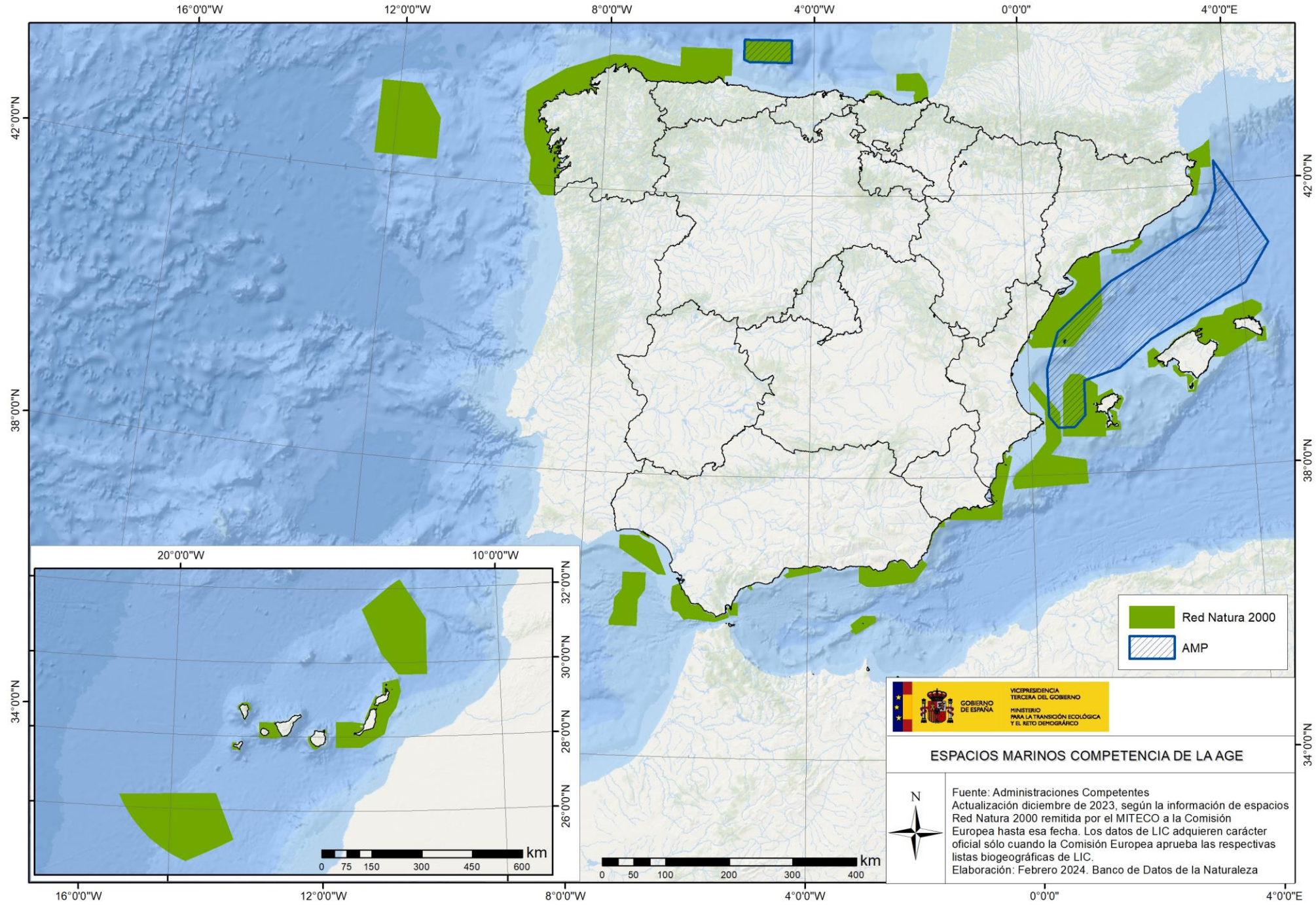


1. Protection:

- 30% of effective marine protection is a national governmental commitment since January 2020
- Spanish marine protected surface evolution:
 1% (2009) ➔ 8% (2015) ➔ 12% (2018)
21% (December 2023)
- However, less than 1% under strict protection

2. Effective management:

- Our major challenge:
 - ✓ Only a third of MPAs have an approved management plan
 - ✓ Monitoring and surveillance recently in place



Spanish contribution to EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

1. Effective protection:

- Approval of the **management plans** of all Natura 2000 sites through **participatory process** including SMART objectives and associated measures (zoning)
- Ecological **monitoring** and **surveillance** in place

2. Towards the protection of 30% by 2030: Commitment since January 2020

- **Oceanographic campaigns and surveys** to identify new marine areas to be included in Natura 2000
- **Gap analysis** has been made for the identification of proposals for potential new designation



With the support of the LIFE IP INTEMARES project

INTE**M**ARES

Spanish contribution to EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

Actions in place to contribute the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030.

Oceanographic campaigns and surveys to **identify new marine areas** to be included in Natura 2000 (6 new areas that represent **around 3%** of Spanish marine area, pending to be declared by 2024)

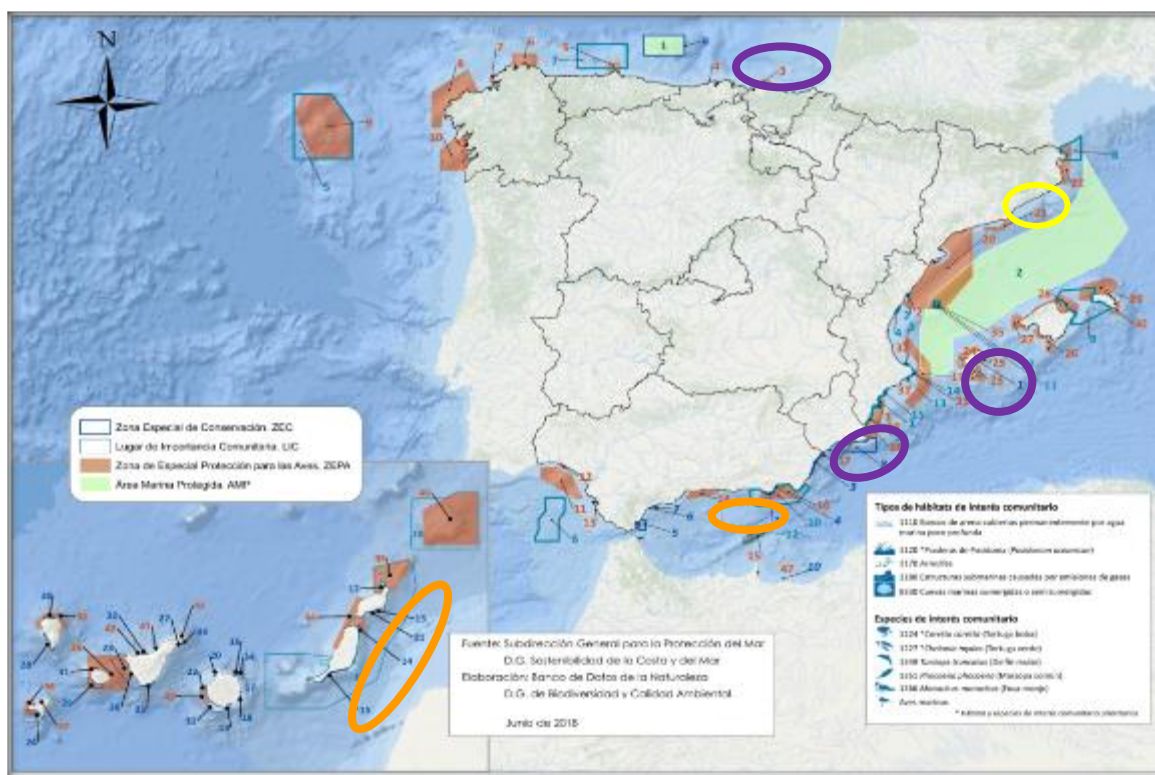



Figura	Nombre
 <p>SCI (IHC)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submarine mountains in Mallorca Channel 2. Submarine canyons from Tiñoso Cape to Palos Cape 3. Cap Breton
 <p>SCI (ISC)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eastern area of Lanzarote-Fuereventura 2. Alboran Sea's banks and gorges
 <p>SPA</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Central coast of Catalonia

Spanish contribution to EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

Actions in place to contribute the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030.

Gap analysis has been made for the identification of proposals for potential Natura 2000 sites

How?

- A. **Analysis of insufficiencies** of the marine Natura 2000 Network process
- B. **Analysis of the coherence** of the marine Natura 2000 Network
- C. **Prioritization of proposals**



Spanish contribution to EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

Actions in place to contribute the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030.

A. Analysis of insufficiencies of the marine Natura 2000 Network process

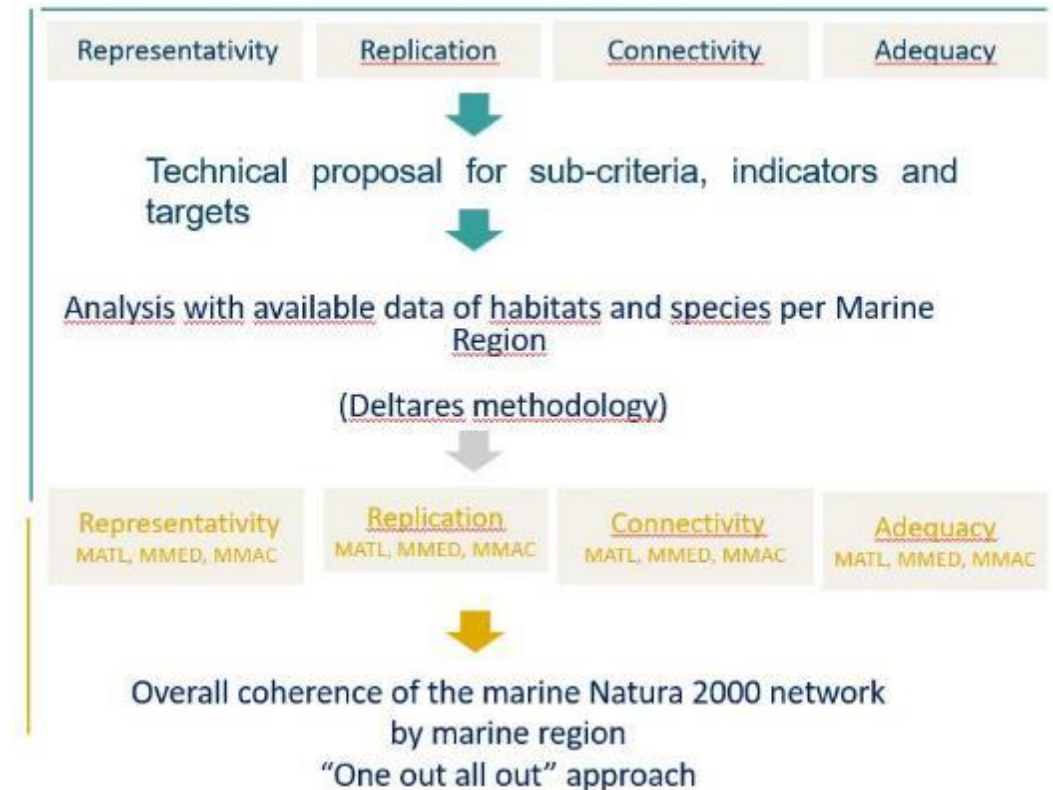
- **Starting point: conclusions** of the last **marine seminar** to assess the sufficiency of SCI, held in Malta in September 2016.
- **Science as a basis for decision-making.**
 - ✓ **4 workshops on habitats and species and a final scientific committee** (between 2018 and 2021)
 - ✓ More than **170 scientists and experts** identified concrete **104 proposals for sites** (71 SCI and 33 SPA) to be analyzed to **contribute to the target of protecting 30% of marine surface by 2030.**
 - ✓ **Scientific proposal by regions:**
 - Atlantic region: 11 SCI (2 need for improvement of knowledge) and 15 SPA (8 need for improvement of knowledge)
 - Macaronesian region: 22 SCI and 8 SPA (5 for improvement of knowledge)
 - Mediterranean region: 38 SCI (13 need for improvement of knowledge) and 10 SPA (7 need for improvement of knowledge)

Spanish contribution to EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

Actions in place to contribute the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030.

B. Analysis of the coherence of the marine Natura 2000 Network

- All the proposals** (104 from the scientific proposal and the 47 selected after the economic compatibilization study) **where under a coherence analysis.**
- It allows **identifying the extent to which the proposed sites** contribute to solving the shortcomings in achieving a coherent Natura 2000 network.
- Criteria and methodology:** on the basis of the guidelines and technical documents provided by EEA, MRCs and Deltares (2014)



Spanish contribution to EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

Actions in place to contribute the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030.

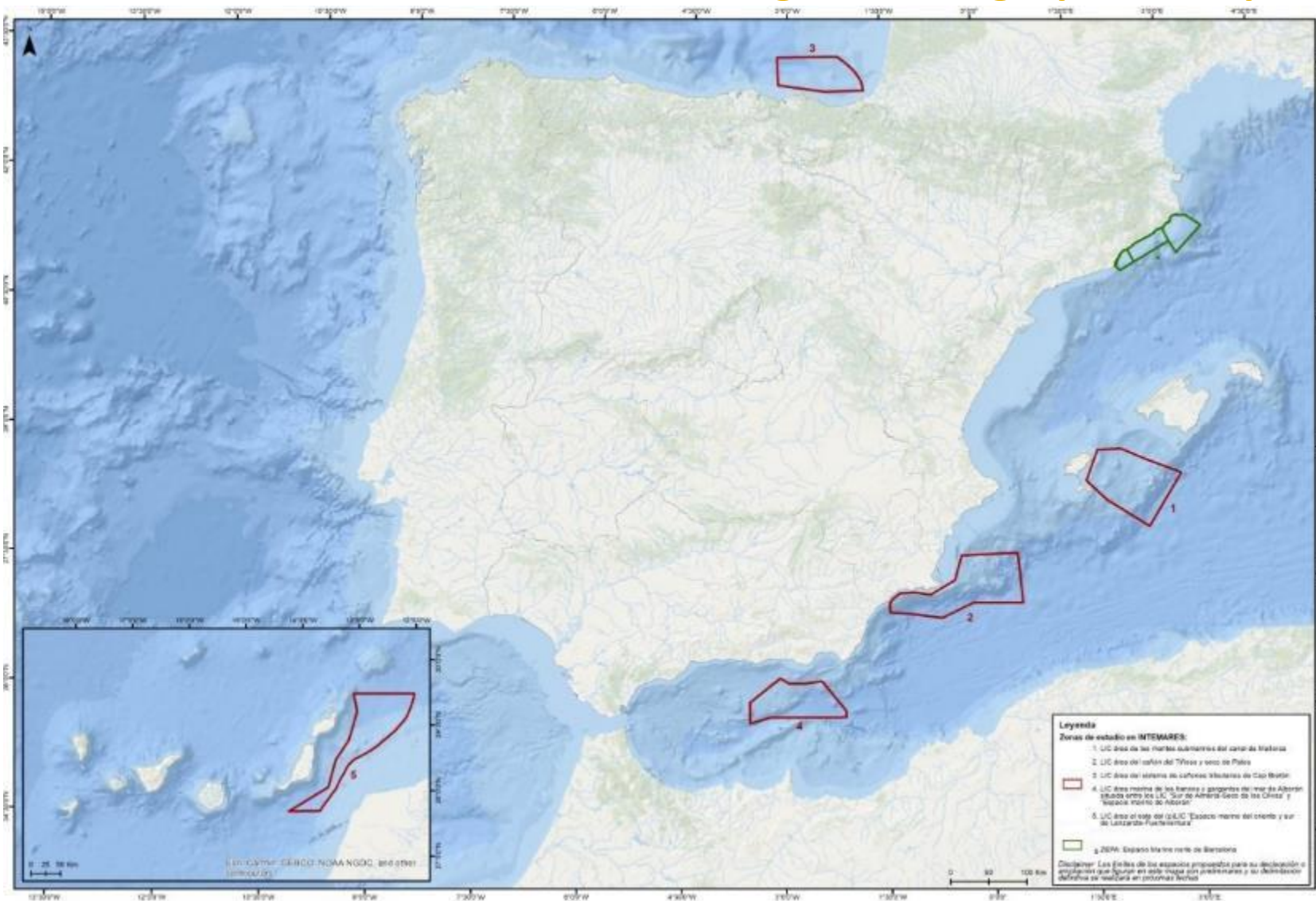
C. Prioritizations of proposals

- Finally, **7 areas** were selected as a **High Priority** → to be protected **by 2023** and representing **around 9%** of Spanish marine waters (declared in December 2023)
 - ✓ Contributing the most to achieve coherence of N2000 network
 - ✓ Geographical balance
 - ✓ With large surface areas to optimize management
 - ✓ Socioeconomic impact (specially fisheries) was little

SPANISH PLEDGES

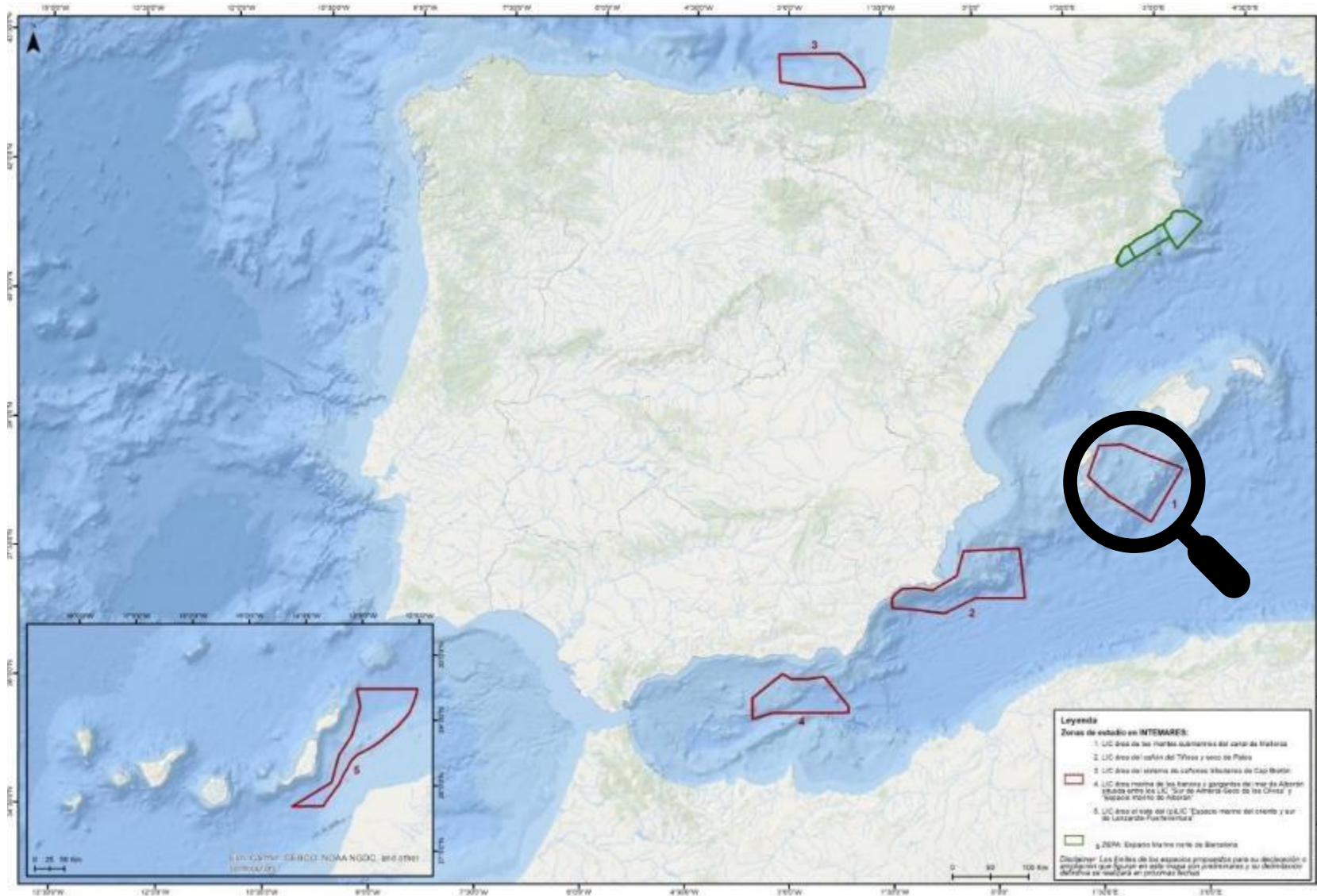


New marine areas identified through oceanographic campaigns (pending to be declared)



1. Submarine mountains in Mallorca Channel
2. Sub. canyons from Tiñoso Cape to Palos Cape
3. Cap Breton
4. Alboran Sea banks and gorges
5. Eastern area of Lanzarote-Fuerteventura
6. Central coast of Catalonia

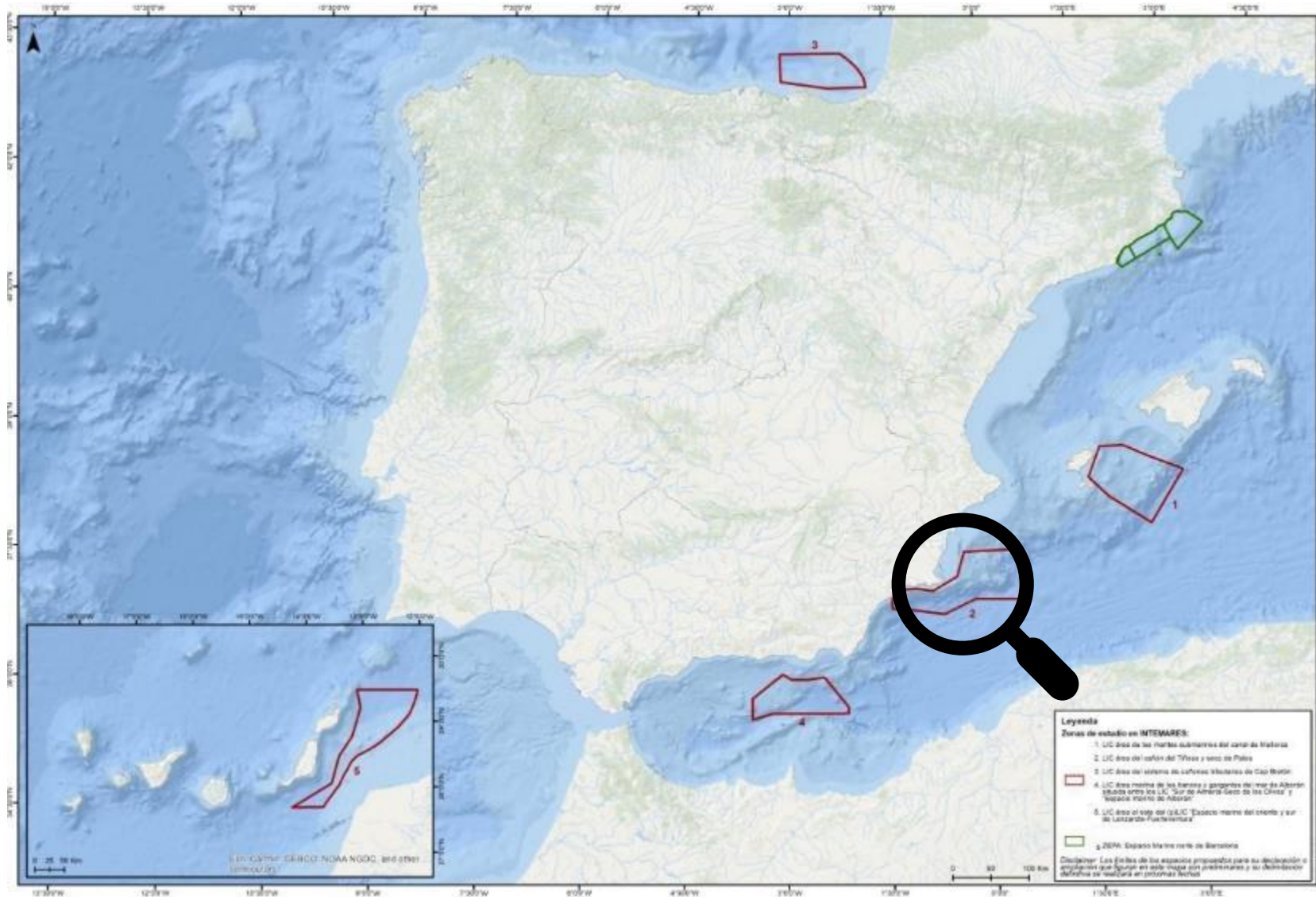
New marine areas identified through oceanographic campaigns



1. Submarine mountains in Mallorca Channel

- **612 species or taxa.** A genus and three species of sponges new to science
- **29 categories of benthic habitats.** Including the **maërl bottoms (1110)**, **corals (1170)** and **fields of pockmarks (1180)**

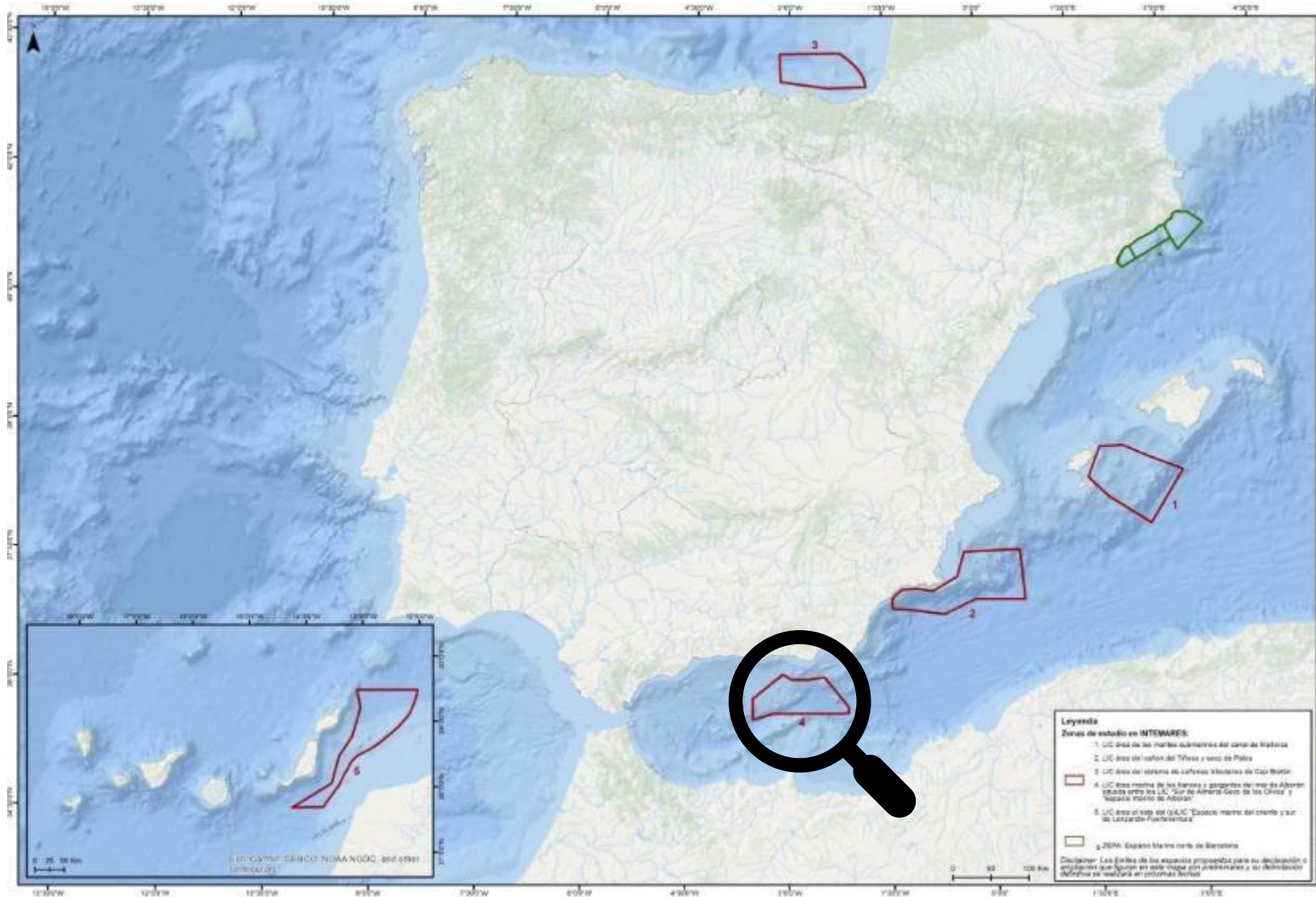
New marine areas identified through oceanographic campaigns



2. Sub. canyons from Tiñoso Cape to Palos Cape

- **483 taxa and ecological morphotypes** have been inventoried so far.
- Among them are **17 spp. listed in Annex II** (endangered or threatened) of the Barcelona Convention.
- **20 categories of benthic habitats** have been identified: **reefs (1170)**, and 6 on sedimentary ones, highlighting the *Isidella* and *Funiculina* meadows, some of which are found in the field of "pockmarks" (1180).

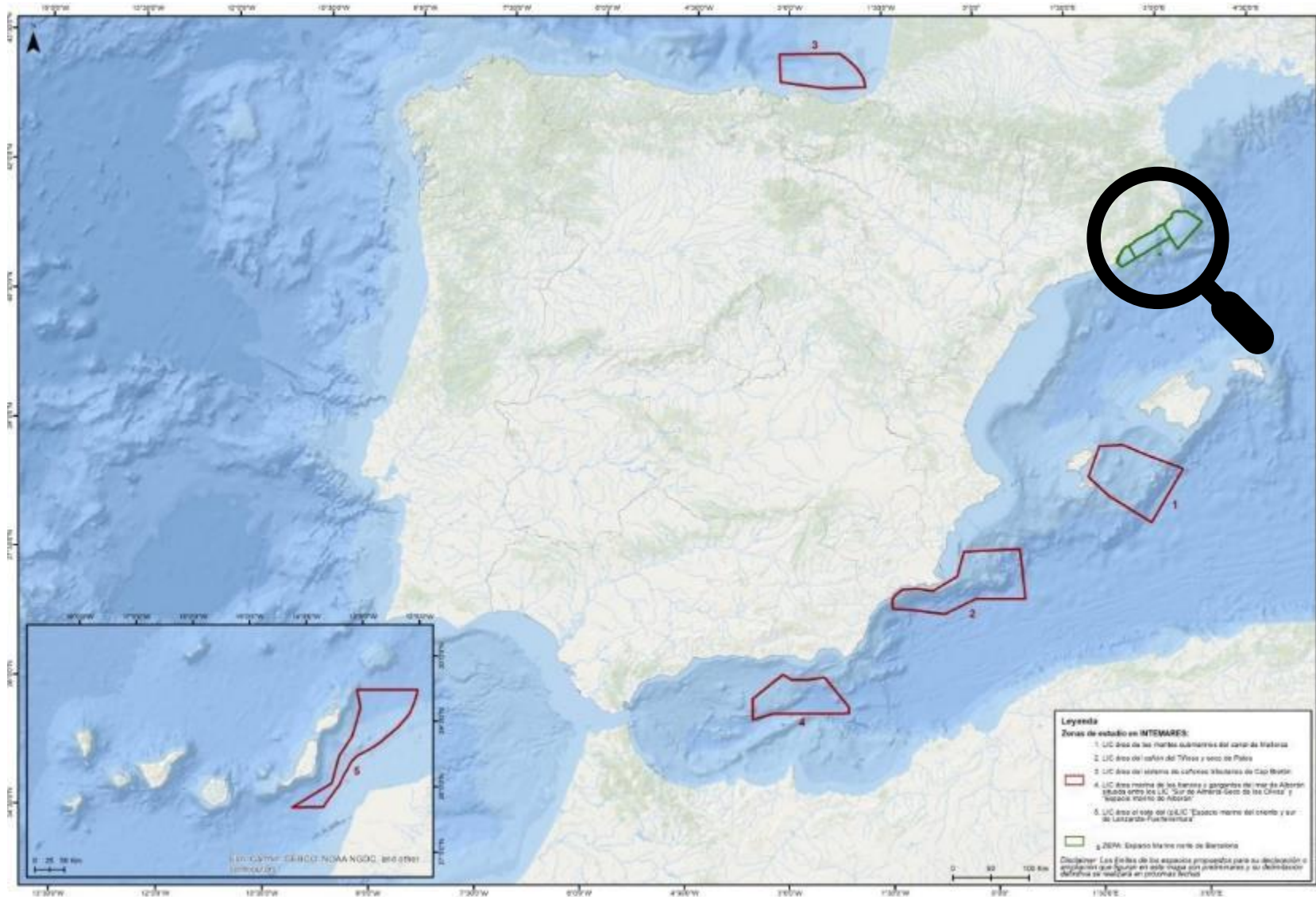
New marine areas identified through oceanographic campaigns



4. Alboran Sea banks and gorges

- Presence of **7 species of cetaceans**: bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*), striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*), Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*), pilot whale (*Globicephala melas*) (both coastal and oceanic), fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*) and Cuvier's beaked whale (*Ziphius cavirostris*).
- Abundant presence of **loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*)** because the area is an important migration channel for the species.

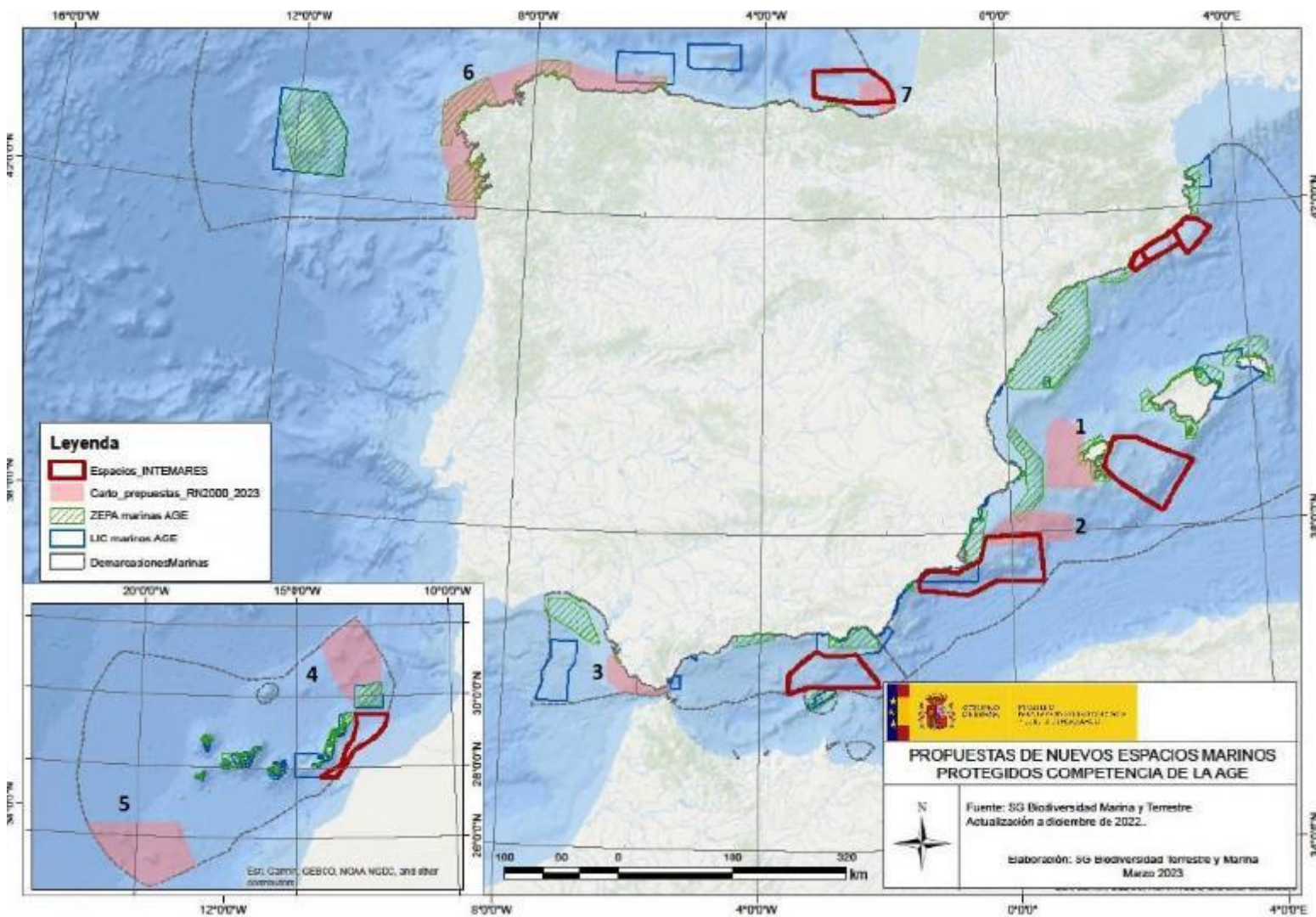
New marine areas identified through oceanographic campaigns



6. Central coast of Catalonia

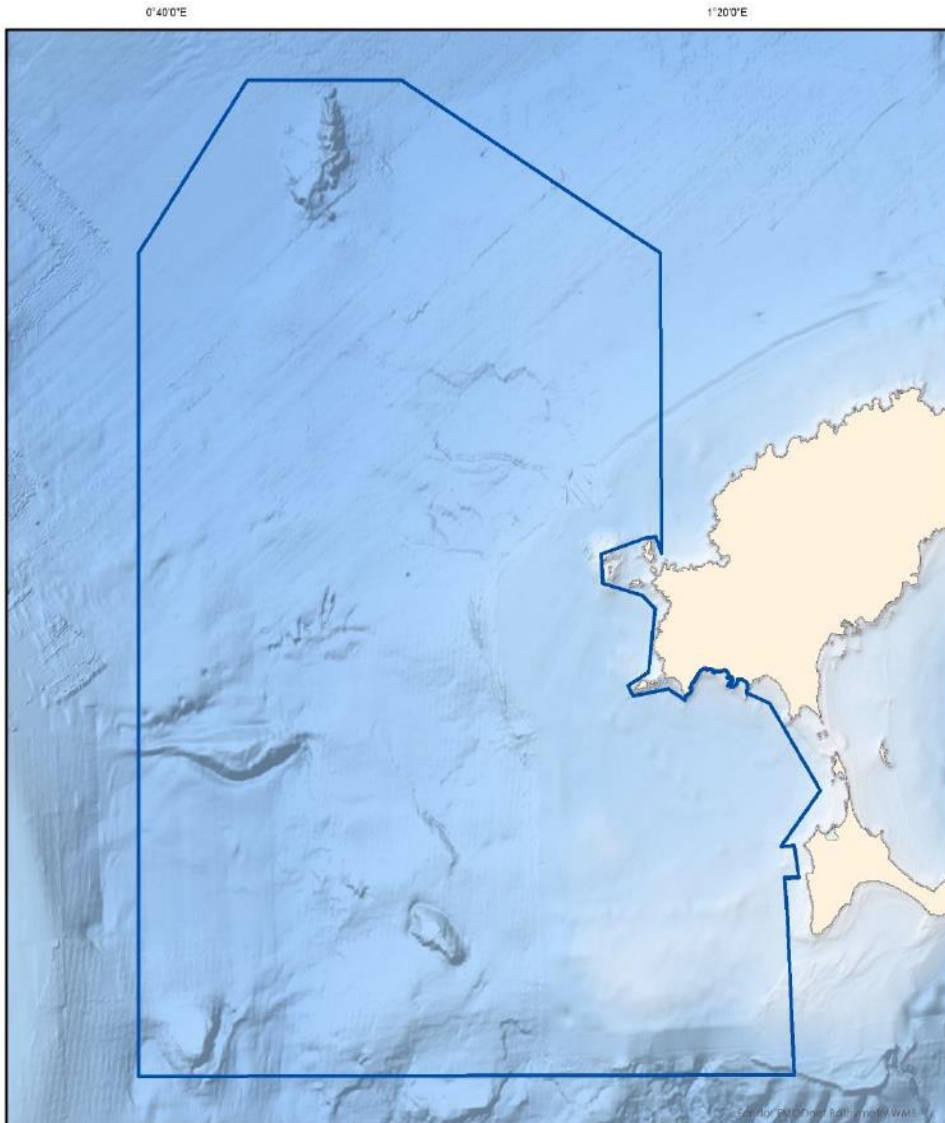
- This area has been identified as an **important feeding area for the Balearic shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*** (especially during their breeding season) **and the Mediterranean shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan***.
- It also has **concentrations of shags (*Gulosus aristotelis*) and Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea***, having been identified as a recipient of individuals of the species from the Menorca Channel area.

New marine areas identified through gap analysis (declared in December 2023)



1. Ibiza channel
2. Alicante canyons
3. Western Strait of Gibraltar
4. Submarine mountains SW Canary islands
5. Submarine mountains NE Canary islands
6. Wester Galician-cantabric migratory corridor
7. Jaizkibel – Cap Breton

New marine areas identified through gap analysis

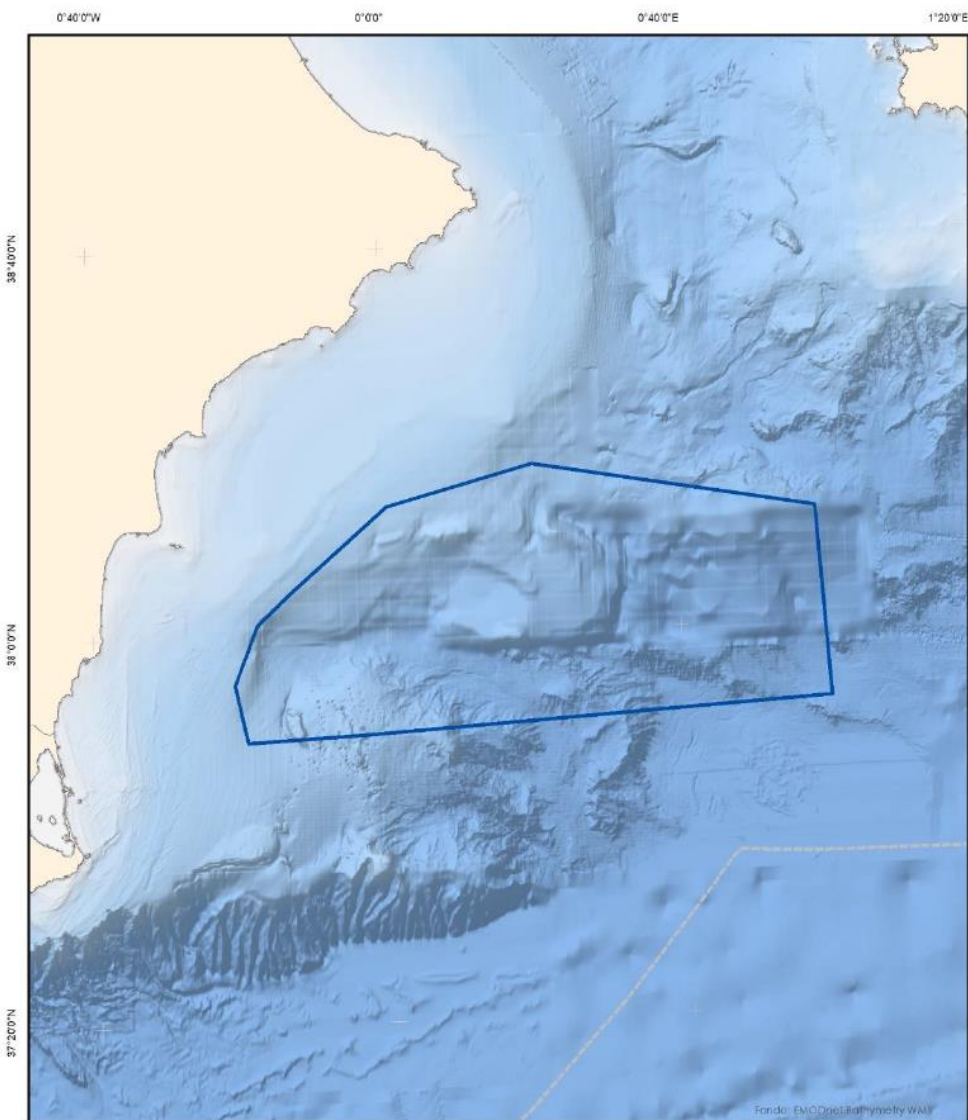


1. Ibiza channel (539.000 ha), SCI

- Large formations with the presence of several **escarpments and seamounts** containing characteristic communities such as **coral reefs (1170)**
- **Fields of pockmarks (1180)**
- **Connectivity corridor for species of community interest**, such as the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) and there are reports of the presence of the sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*)
- **“Stone Sponge Seamount”**, whose name is due to the presence of a **community of siliceous sponges** of the species *Leiodermatium pfeifferae*.



New marine areas identified through gap analysis

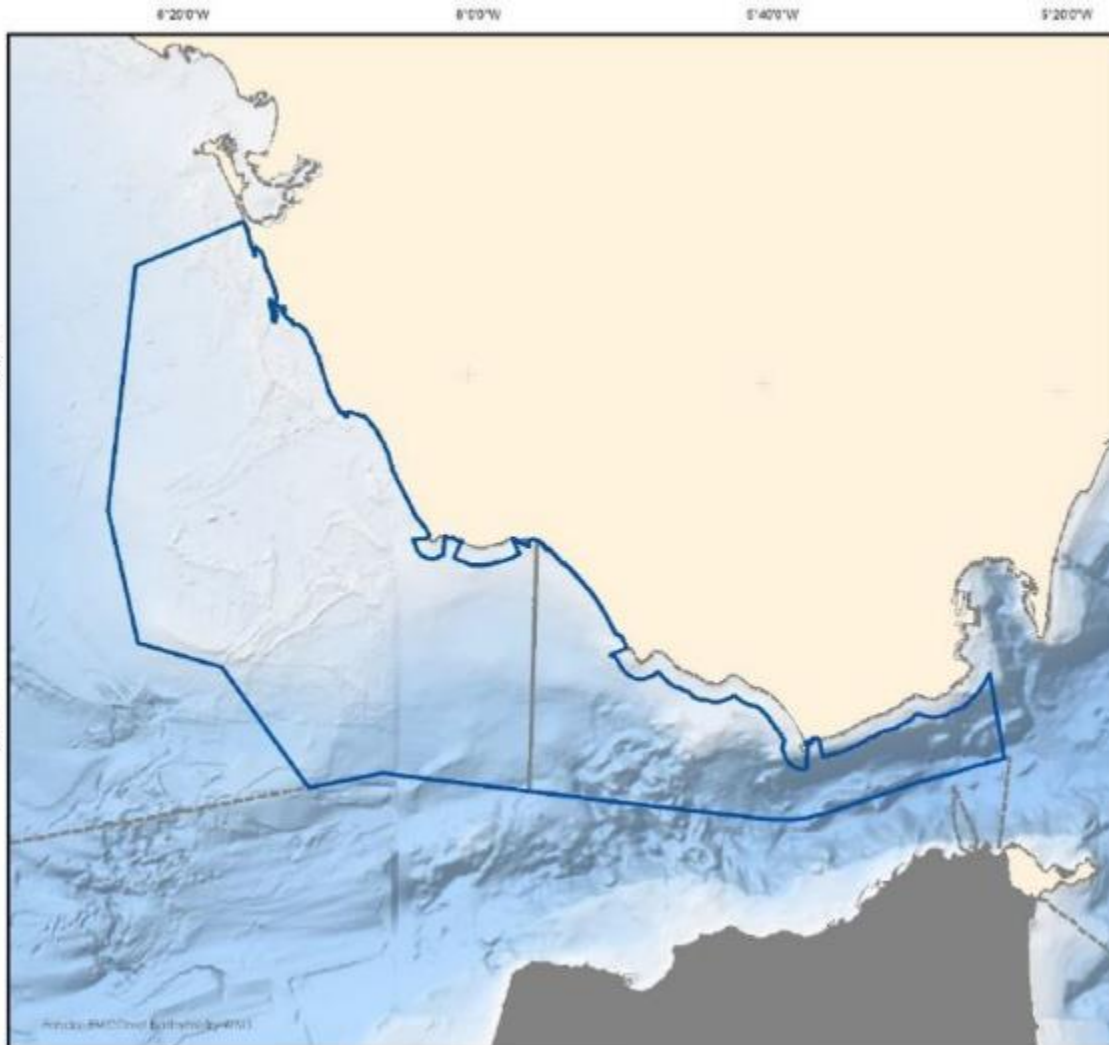


2. Alicante canyons (475.000 ha), SCI

- Large formations with the presence of several **escarpments and seamounts** containing characteristic communities such as **coral reefs (1170)**
- **Fields of pockmarks (1180)**



New marine areas identified through gap analysis

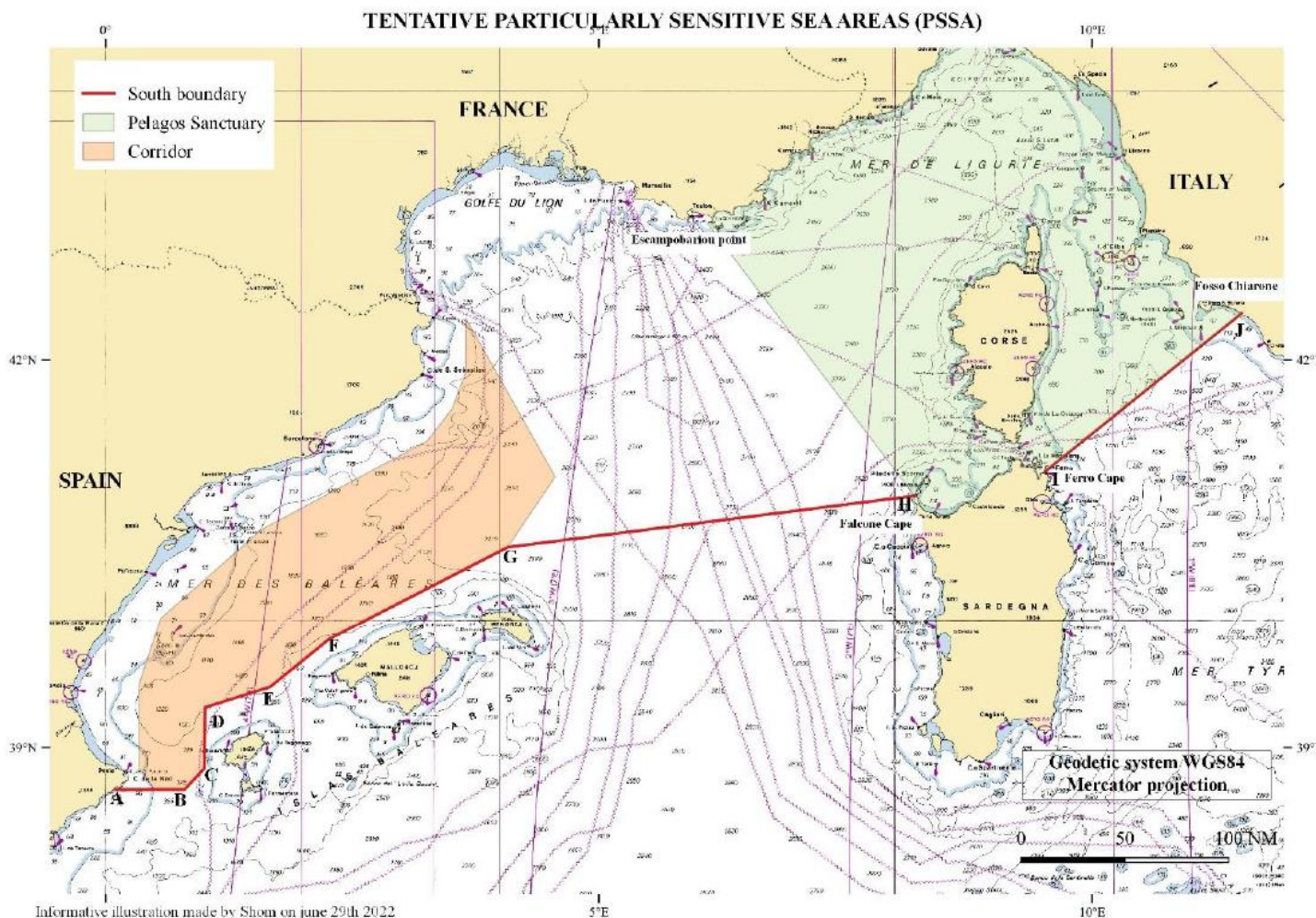


3. Western Strait of Gibraltar (200.000 ha), SCI-SPA

- **Presence of habitats:** 1170, 1180
- **Species of community interest:** loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)
- **High presence of species of marine mammals** (common dolphin, striped dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, pilot whale, sperm whale, killer whale, and fin whale).
- **Practically the entire world population of the Balearic shearwater passes through and a very important fraction of Audouin's gull (*Ichthyaetus audouinii*).** Also used by a large number of specimens of different species such as the Atlantic gannet, great skua, terns, etc.



Other marine areas



PSSA (9.349.000 ha, in Spanish marine waters)

- Overlaps important habitats for the endangered Mediterranean fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*), the endangered sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*), the vulnerable Cuvier's beaked whales (*Ziphius cavirostris*), the Habitats European Directive Annex II bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) and the endangered Risso's dolphins (*Grampus griseus*) (ACCOBAMS 2022).

Thank you!

Any questions...?

