



*3rd biogeographical seminar for the Mediterranean and Black Sea marine biogeographical regions
12-14 March 2024, Marseille, France*

Protected area targets European strategies and the Italian scenario

Marseille - March 12 2024

2030 EUROPEAN BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY - MAIN TARGETS






a) Create a European Network of Protected Areas:

- at least 30% of the land area and marine environment must be protected through effectively managed protected areas;
- at least 10% of the land area and marine environment must be strictly protected (the areas with the greatest biodiversity, starting from MPAs and Natura 2000 sites);

b) European nature restoration plan

SPATIAL AREA of reference - Italian Waters



-  Territorial waters boundaries
-  Southern limit of the western marine Ecological Protection Zone (EPZ)
-  Future EEZ - Potential extension

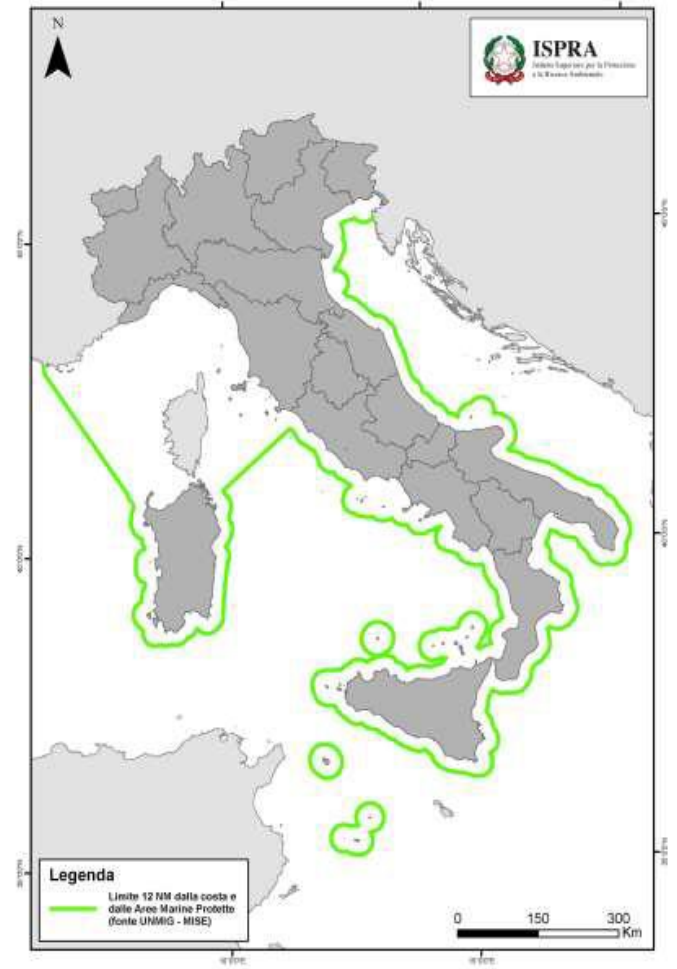


Objective: Protect at least 30% of the marine environment



Principal measures in place in Italy that can be classified as OECMs (Other Effective Conservation Measures)

- **D.L. Prestigiacomo (22/06/2012 n° 83)** which “... for the protection of the environment and the ecosystem ... prohibit prospecting, exploration as well as the cultivation of liquid and gas hydrocarbons at sea ... in the sea areas located within 12 miles from the coastlines along the entire national coastal perimeter and from the outer perimeter of the above-mentioned protected marine and coastal areas ... ” as revised by the new **D.L. 18/11/2022, no. 176 'Urgent support measures in the energy sector and public finance'**.
- **The ban of industrial fishing within 3 mn of the coast or at depths less than 50 m**

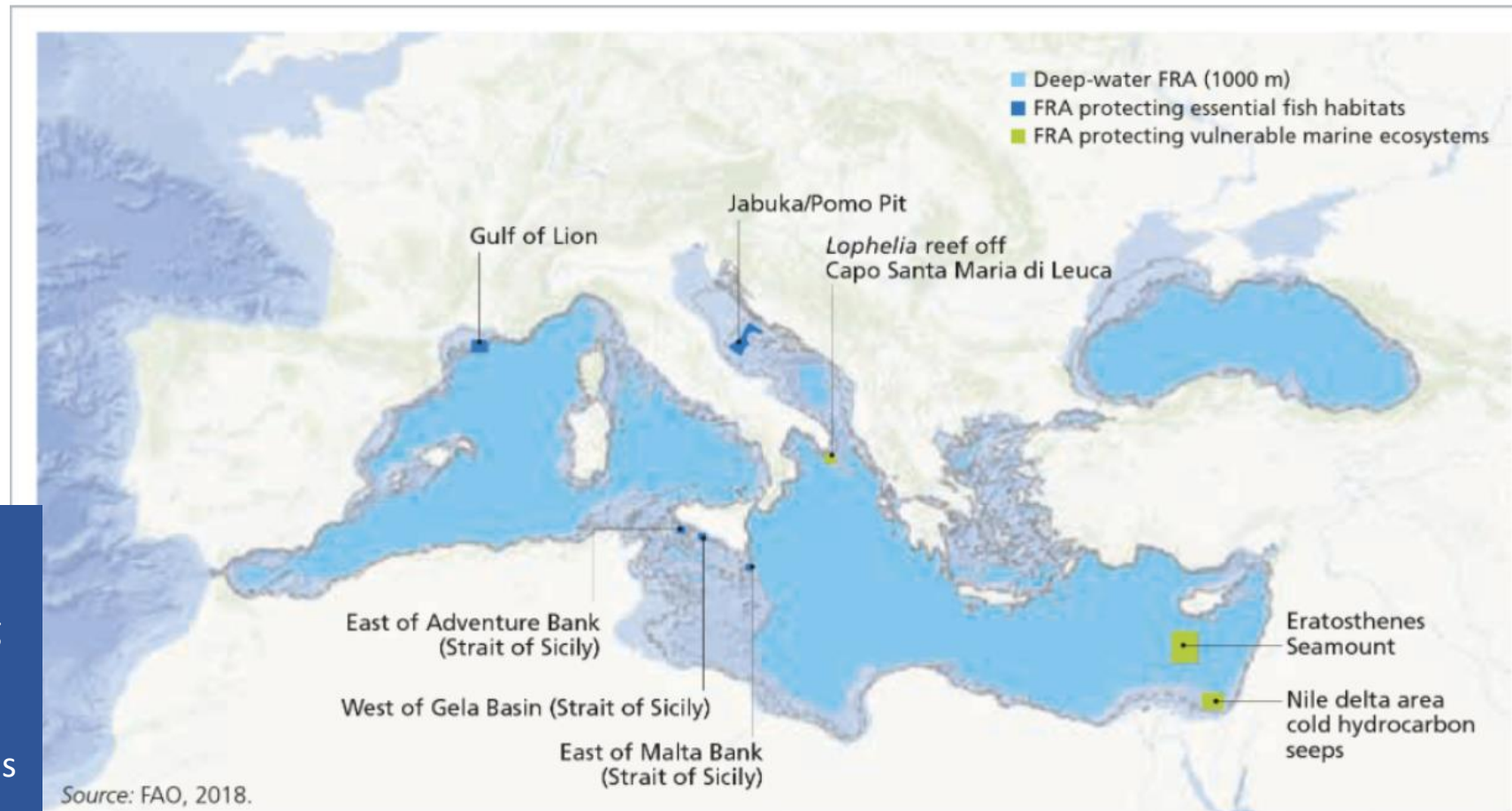


Objective: Protect at least 30% of the marine environment.

Main FAO measures in the Mediterranean that could be classified as OECMs: fishing restricted areas (FRAs):

- **FRA in areas hosting Essential Fish Habitats (EFHs), some of which are in close proximity to Italian waters (Jabuka/Pomo Pit, off Santa Maria di Leuca and two in the Sicilian Channel);**
- **Trawling prohibition at depths beyond 1,000 meters-declared in 2005 by the GFCM-FAO, to protect benthic marine habitats (VMEs) and the slow-growing fish living in that areas;**

MAP OF GFCM FISHERIES RESTRICTED AREAS



FAO, 2022
 A handbook for identifying, evaluating and reporting other effective area-based conservation measures in marine fisheries

Target 10% : Strict protection of at least 10% of the marine waters

Considering the European context, it is proposed that the term 'strictly protected' be recognised when all forms of industrial fishing are prohibited (trawling, purse-seining, hydraulic dredges)

Italy could achieve this target considering:

- **The national MPAs, so as to:**
 - give new impetus to the establishment of new MPAs (now 31 and more than 53 are planned),
 - expand the perimeters and update the zoning of those already established,
 - identify and apply new ways of fruition of the marine environment more sustainable;
- **The NATURA2000 Sites where industrial fishing is forbidden;**
- **By establishing new protected marine sites of the high seas, beyond 12 nautical miles, to protect seamounts (habitat 1170), applying specific management measures, starting from the ban of industrial fishing.**



PNRR Marine Ecosystem Restoration Project - MASE and ISPRA

Designed to address the following NEEDS

CBD's Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework

Respond to the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030:

- Protect 30% of national seas,
- Strict Protect 10% of national seas,
- **Nature Restoration Plan,**

Enhance national marine ecosystem observation systems

Expand knowledge on benthic habitats of conservation interest in order to define and implement restoration actions



PNRR Marine Ecosystem Restoration Project - MASE and ISPRA



Targets

- Mapping 90% of marine habitats of conservation interest (By 2026);
- Reinforcement of the national marine research and monitoring system in Italy with the involvement of key actors (Public Administrations, Research Institutions, CCPPs, MPAs, MMIs, etc.);

Interventions

- Implement non-stationary and *in situ* marine and marine-coastal ecosystem observation systems;
- **Mapping** coastal and **deep-sea marine habitats of conservation interest**;
- Implementing ecological restoration activities of benthic habitats through passive and active measures;

Circalittoral and bathyal hard-bottom marine species and habitats of conservation interest - Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) - Habitat 1170

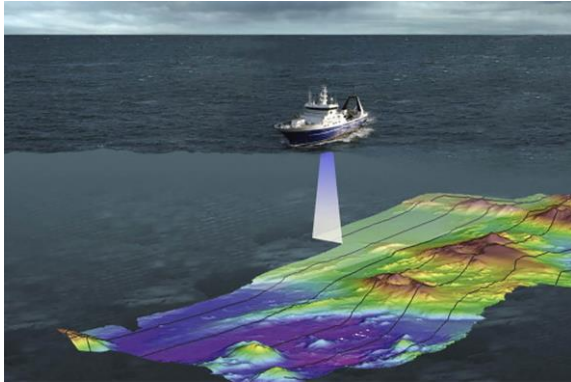


National-scale mapping of 79 submarine mountains and circalittoral and bathyal rock outcrops



National-scale mapping of seamounts and circalittoral and bathyal rock outcrops

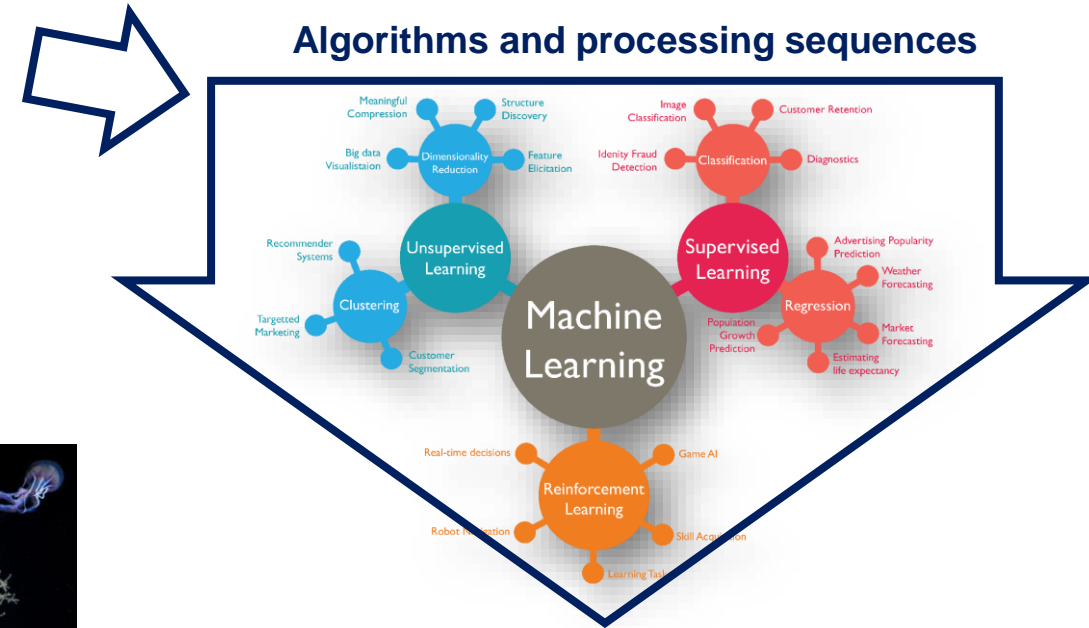
Multibeam



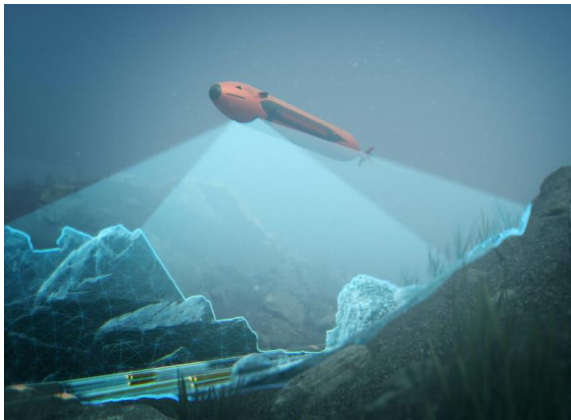
Ground Truth in situ ROV



Algorithms and processing sequences



AUV



Verità a mare



Integrated habitat mapping technologies
Characterization of benthic assemblages
of conservation interest
to create a network of deep-sea N2k sites to
protect the Habitats Directive Reef - 1170

Thank you

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