



OECMs in marine capture fisheries: implementation issues

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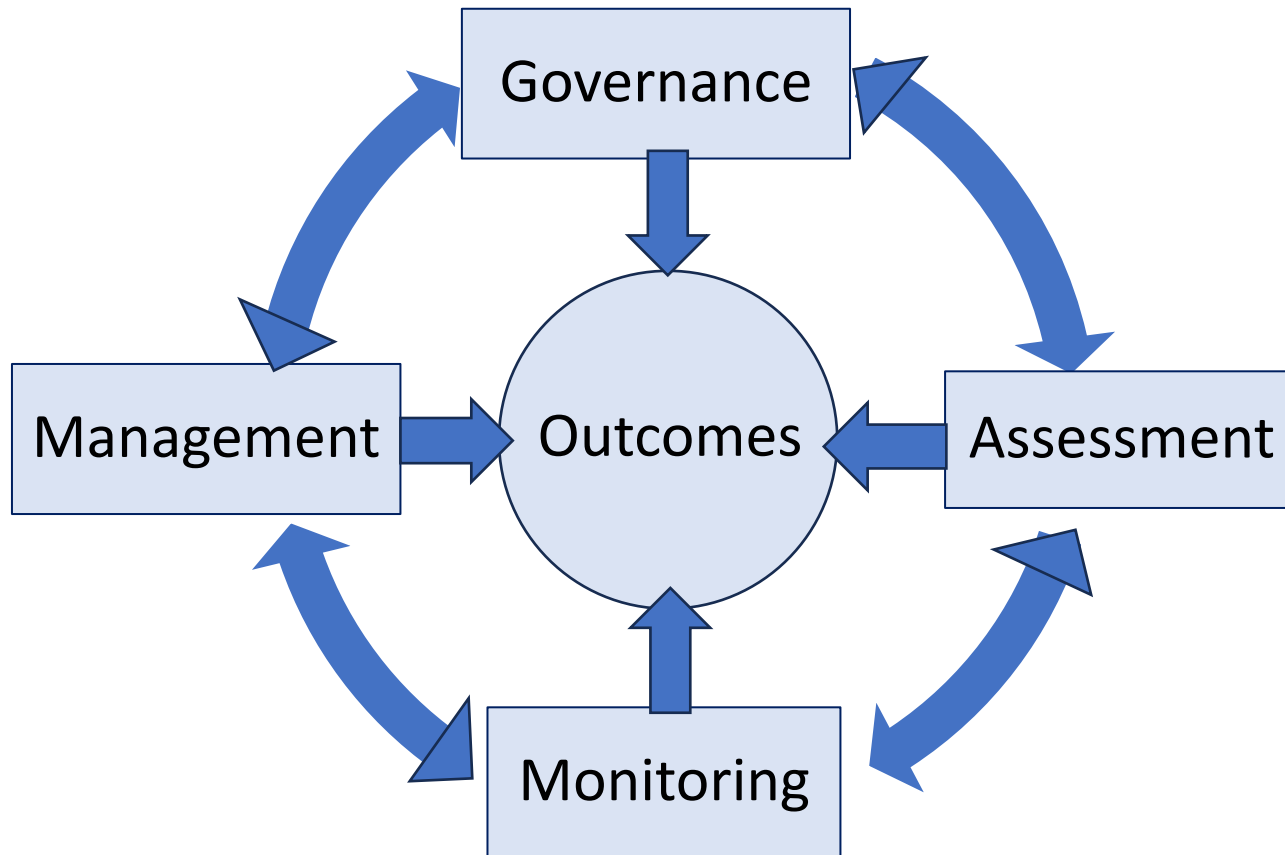


Why mainstream OECMs in fisheries?

1. **A CBD requirement for all sectors;**
2. Conservation co-benefits of fisheries management
3. Resources diversity, productivity, and resilience
4. Reduce /eliminate collateral impact
5. Improve connectivity & synergy
6. Sustainable livelihoods and food security
7. Stronger Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
8. Enhanced fisheries/conservation dialogue
9. Global conservation goals

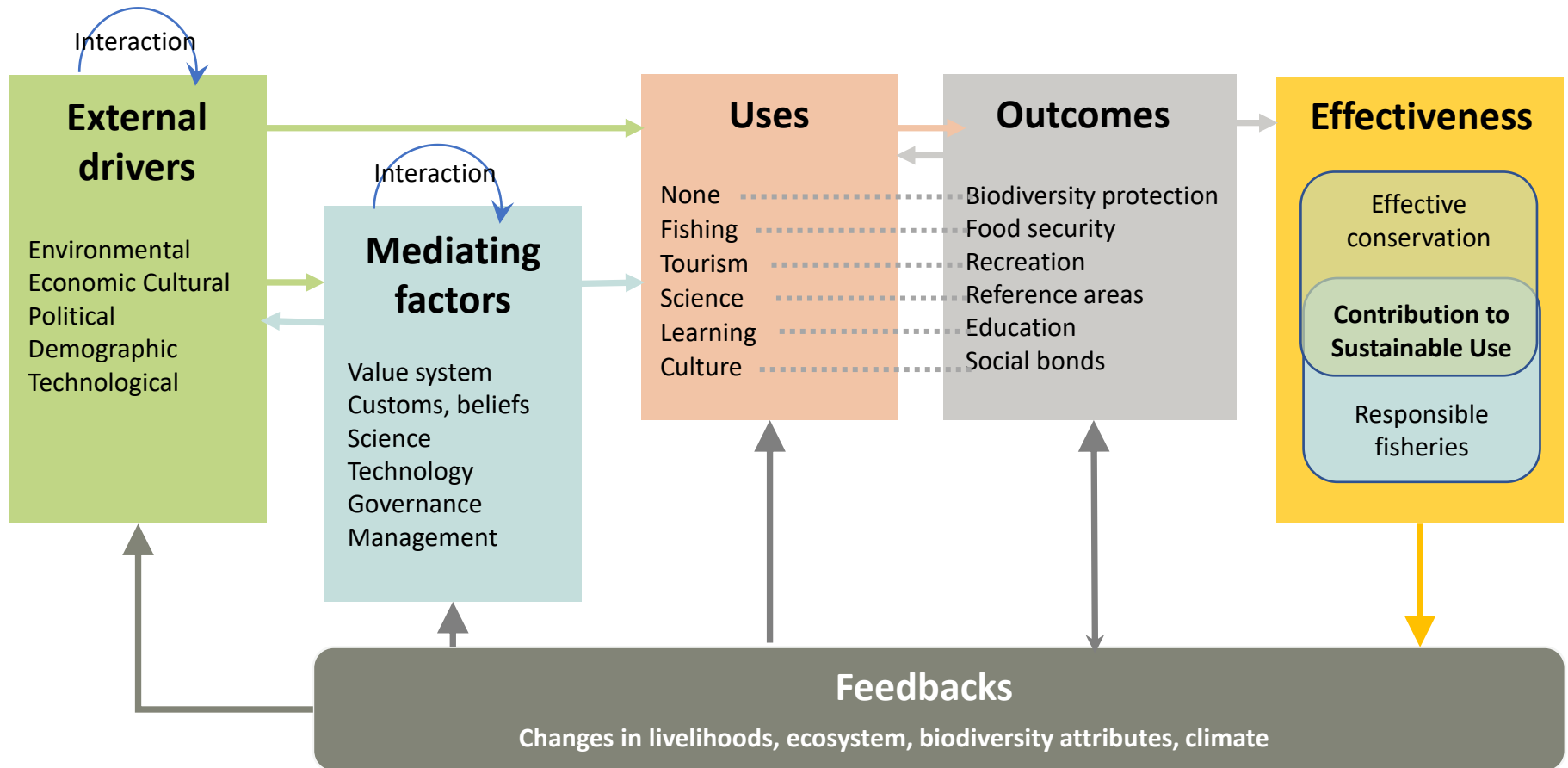


Cross-connected issues





The core issue: effectiveness



Adapted from IPBES, 2022



Examples of common issues

1. Central role of national enabling frameworks
2. Participative and equitable governance: Identification of stakeholder, inclusive processes, decentralization of authority, local values.
3. Adequation of implementation means and capacity to ambitions
4. Need for deterrent enforcement
5. Equitable allocation of space, resources, benefits & costs among users
6. Importance of cross-sectoral coordination
7. Data limitations and mobilization of local knowledge
8. Need for multidisciplinary assessments
9. Decision-making under uncertainty and risk.

These issues affect also MPAs and natural resources management in general

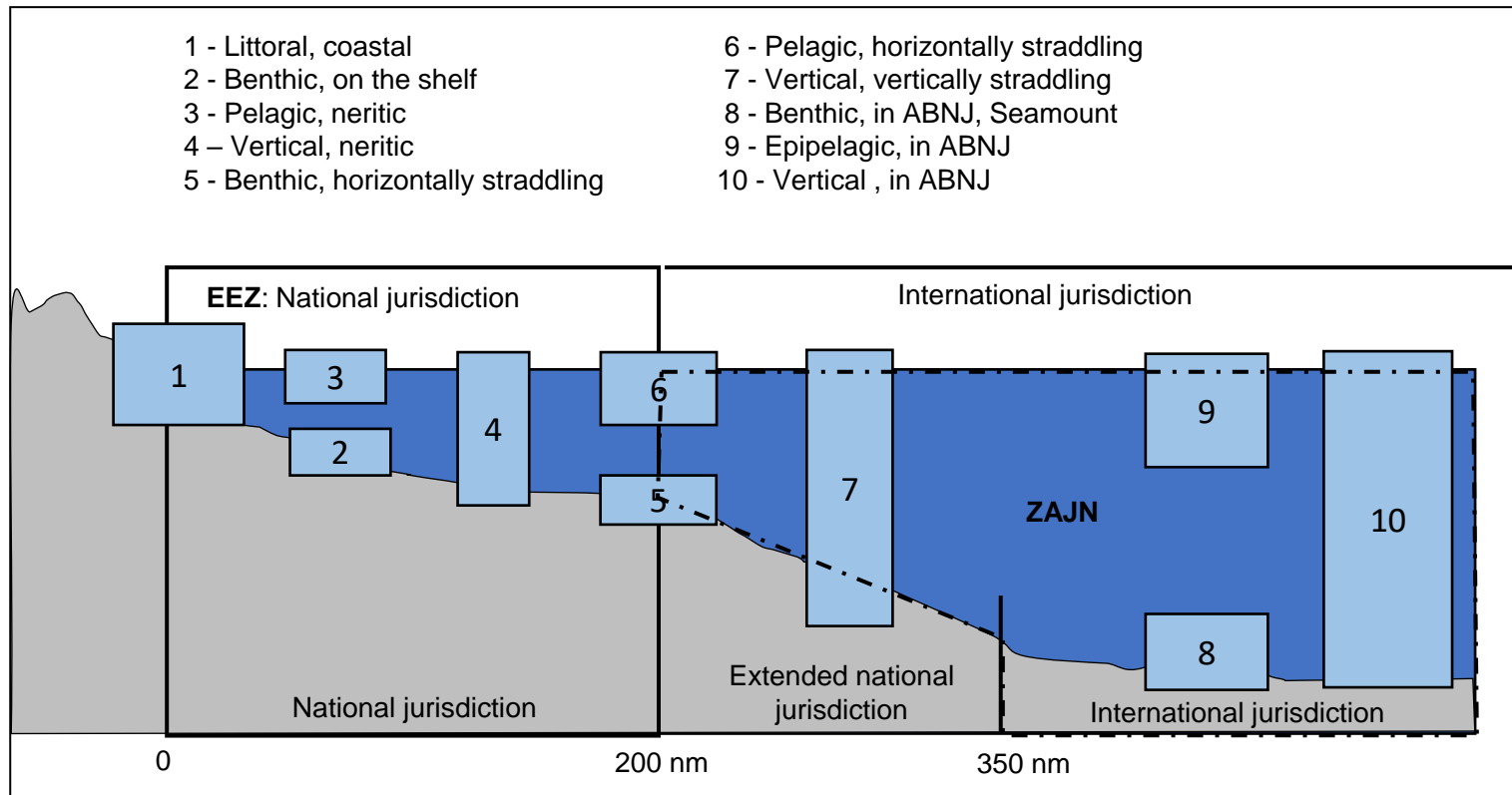


Some marine fisheries “specifics”

1. Water mass opacity and depth
2. Fluid & variable environment
3. Large mobile ocean structures
4. Complex life cycles & species distribution
5. Multiple trophic chains
6. Depth contains most of the biomass
7. Particularly complex cause-effect relations
8. High diversity of domains and jurisdictions
9. Fleets operational range may be local, regional, or global
10. They operate in all ocean domains
11. They sustain local to global food security



Potential location of fishery-OECMs





Governance issues

1. Enabling frameworks
2. Inclusive processes
3. Equitable governance
4. Legitimate authorities
5. Central and traditional institutions
6. Long-term intent
7. Cross-sectoral collaboration
8. RFMOs and OECMs
9. RSCs and RFMOs
10. OECMs in industrial fishing



OECMs and the UNFSA

1. UNFSA and CBD have similar goals and are complementary
2. Both share a concern about threats on biodiversity
3. Both call on the Ecosystem Approach and ABMTs
4. Potential Fishery-OECMs have been found in RFMOs' areas.
5. **State Parties to the CBD and the UNFSA can therefore propose to the their RFMOs to identify OECMs among existing ABFMs or to create new ones.**



OECM management issues

1. Flexibility in OECM criteria
2. Size of expected outcomes
3. Long-term management
4. Compliance & Equity
5. Adaptability to change
6. Adjusting means to ambitions
8. Balancing the dual roles
9. Obligation of effectiveness
10. The depth dimension
11. Integrating measures in and out
12. Costs & benefits of OECM
13. Adding monitoring & enforcement



Monitoring & assessment issues

1. Operational means:
2. Biodiversity features of concern
3. Additional measures needed
4. Biodiversity benefits
5. Mobilizing social sciences
6. Scoring complex criteria
7. Diversity and level of evidence
8. Cause-effect relations
9. Indicators and reference values.
10. Data-poor/confidentiality situations
11. Outcomes in and out of OECMs
12. Future threats and contingency plans
13. Recurrent performance assessment
14. Addressing connectivity, representation, complementarity, ecosystem services and functions; and other locally relevant values.

These issues are not specific to fishery-OECMs and affect already most fisheries management and conservation systems



In brief

1. Mainstreaming fishery-OECMs is offers **win-win opportunities**
2. **Some ABFMs already protect biodiversity** and ecosystem services and functions
3. **Stocks and ecosystem overfishing** support the concern about “paper OECMs”.
4. But **CBD Decision** calls on all sectors using natural resources to contribute
5. The **case-by-case identification process** is feasible and can be effective
6. **Numerous issues emerge** in the process, often already addressed in EAF
7. **In weakly managed areas**, capacity-building and collaborations are is required.
8. **In well-managed areas**, only a marginal additional effort might be needed.
9. Fishery-OECMs will help **meeting the “30x30” challenge** in the ocean
10. **The process has started** but needs speeding up.



Any questions?





Additional considerations

At strategic level, difficulties emerge in Fishery-OECMs identification because of:

1. The lack of experience in OECMs identification and management in most countries and particularly in marine areas and in the fishery sector.
2. A reciprocal and diffused lack of trust between fisheries and conservation actors. This leads some fishery people to consider OECMs and stealth-MPAS, and some conservation experts to consider fishery OECMs as paper OECMs used in a “greening process”.
3. However, following the CBD Criteria, the recommended case-by-case approach can properly identify potential fishery-OECMs as shown in regional workshops.
4. However, in areas of weak governance and chronic overfishing, the emergence of robust OECMs is unlikely without a drastic upgrading of the management system.
5. If OECMs were integrated in the MSC criteria, there would be an independent **verification procedures of OECMs effectiveness**.



Positive factors in EU waters

1. The common fishery management area, system, and policy, is a guarantee of coordination and coherence within fisheries and hopefully across them.
2. A good level of coordination of fisheries management and environmental conservation at the Commission level, e.g., in the Natura 2000 network
3. Natura 2000 areas are biodiversity rich, science-based, with good policy support. Allowing some fishing, they may be potential fishery-OECM?
4. The existence of ICES and its large assessment and advisory capacity in both fishery and environmental matters is an important asset
5. Within European waters, regional collaboration is active e.g., within the Regional Advisory Councils. between Regional Seas Conventions and RFMOs

Negative factors

1. Implementation of environmental measures are left to member States, potentially complicating implementation of Fishery OECMs which, because of their dual purpose may fall under a “mixed responsibility”.
2. The relatively low involvement of the fishery sector in the plans towards the Blue Economy.



OECMs conservation standards

1. Fishery OECMs are just starting the implementation process at different speeds in different areas. As the process unfolds, **guidelines** are being developed within the FAO framework.
2. The CBD Decision provides the basis for OECMs conservation standards i.e.: a definition, 4 criteria, and many sub-criteria with voluntary, non exhaustive elements of evidence. Specific indicators and related means of verification, and targets (corresponding to objectives) will be progressively developed with time, tuned to the various ecological, socio-economic, jurisdictional and sectoral contexts. The Marine Stewardship Council, which has formalized the standards of sustainable use in fisheries might play a role also as an independent assurance of performance, integrating OECMs (and the state of biodiversity) in its sustainability criteria.

Implementation is greatly facilitated for existing ABFMs

Implementation is intended to be flexible, adapted to local implementation conditions