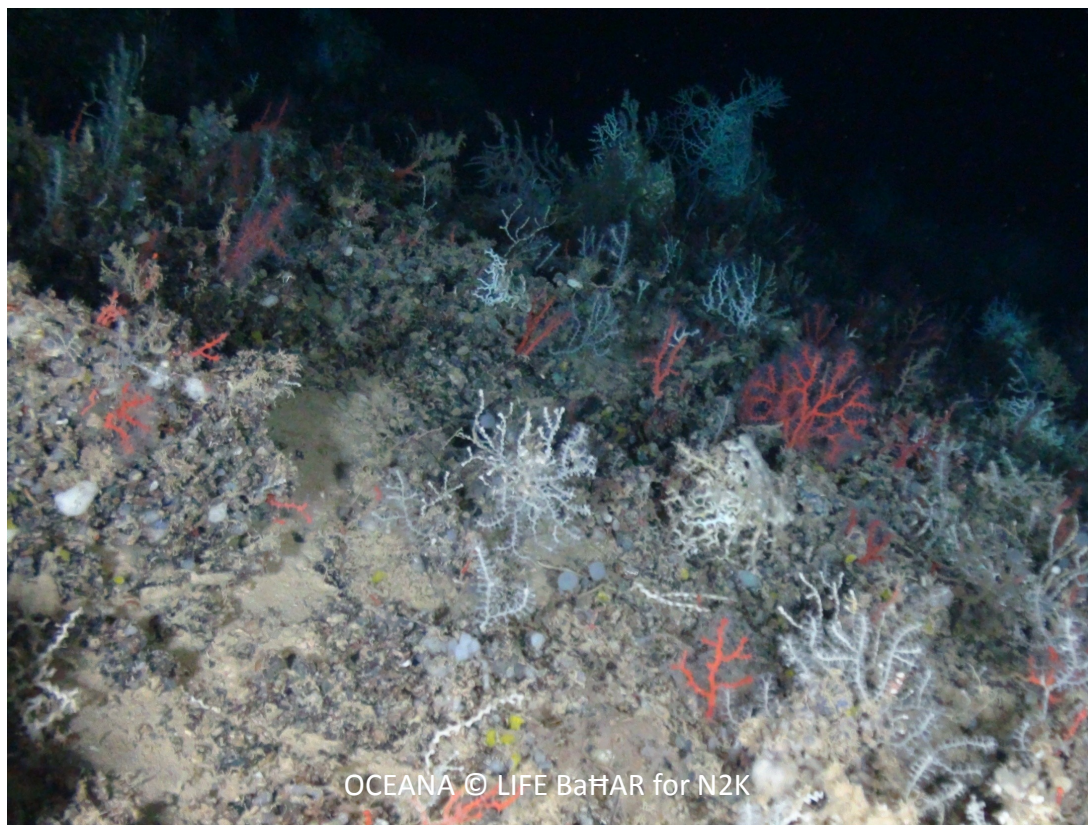


# LIFE BaĦAR MPAs



OCEANA © LIFE BaĦAR for N2K



*Christopher Cousin*  
21 November 2017



MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT,  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

OCEANA



UNIVERSITY OF MALTA  
Faculty of Science  
Department of Biology

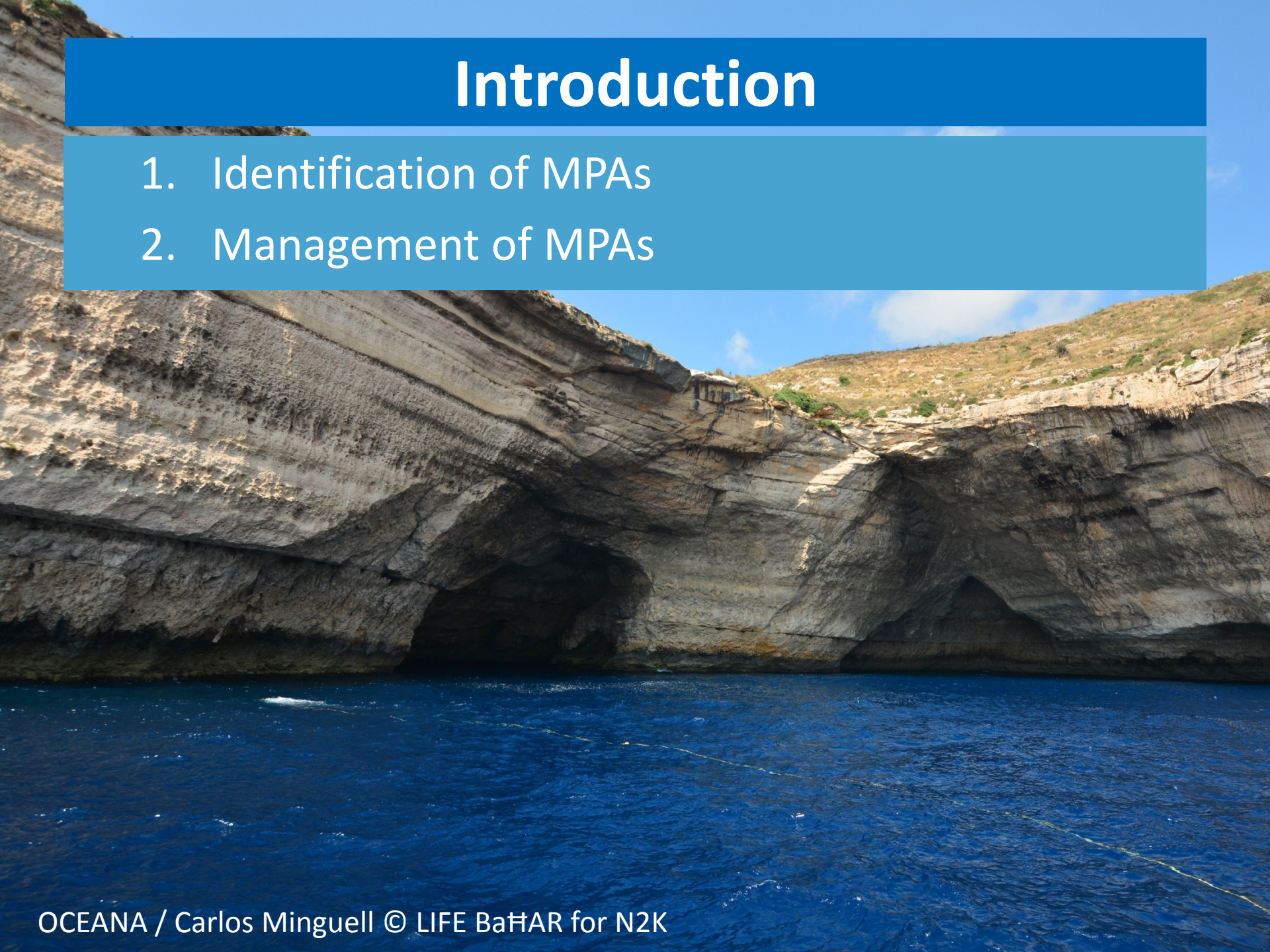


PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT FOR AGRICULTURE,  
FISHERIES AND ANIMAL RIGHTS

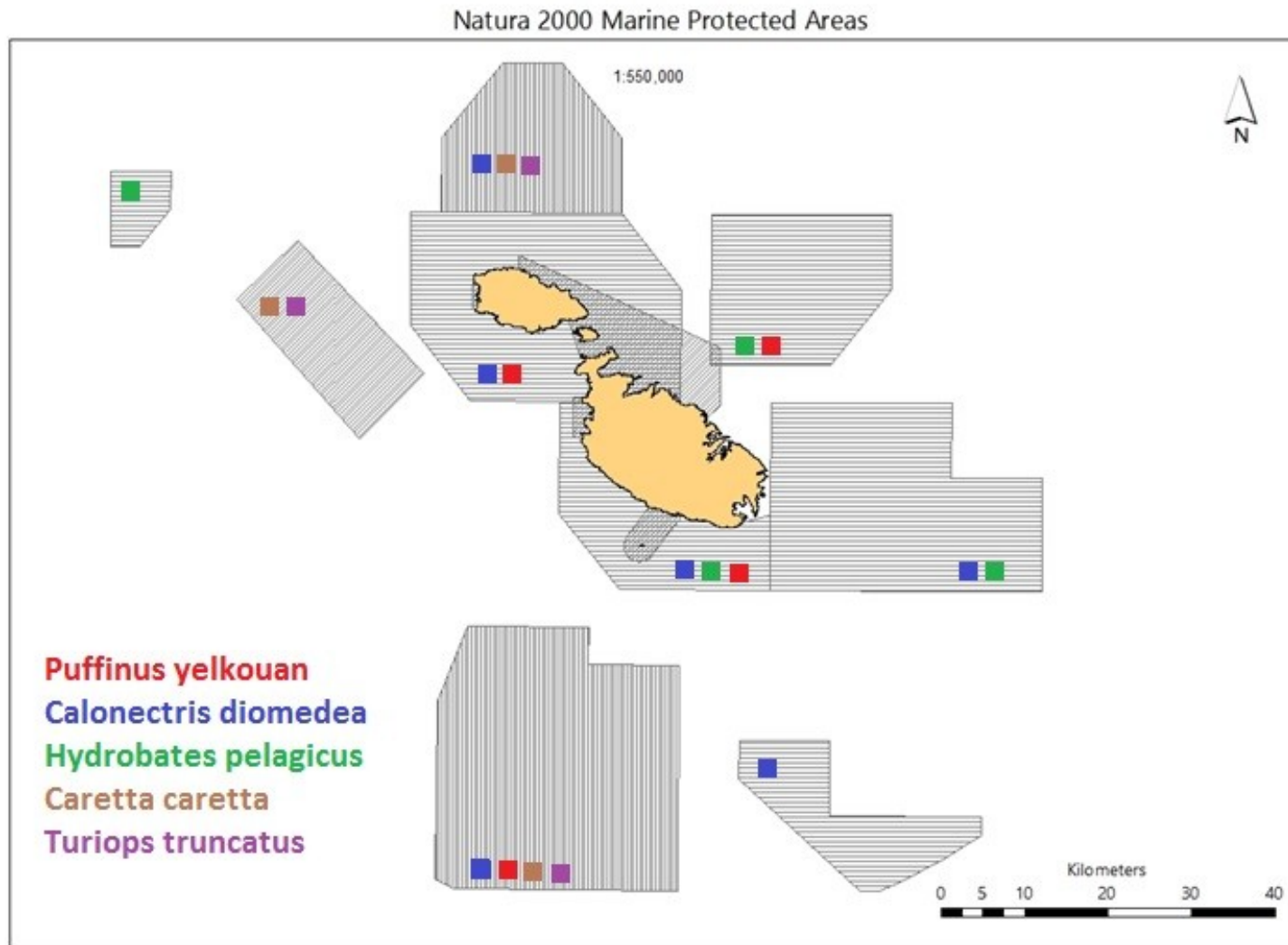


# Introduction

1. Identification of MPAs
2. Management of MPAs



# Existing Situation





# Identification

- Identification
  - EU Habitats Directive
  - Scientific process
  - Annex I habitats: reefs and caves
- MPAs = pSCIs
  - Proposed sites of community importance



# Details

## **National lists**

- Exhaustive
- Representative: Size & numbers
- Deadline

## **Sites Proposed**

- Selected according to criteria in Annex III (Habitats Directive)
- Representativity
- Not taking account of economic considerations

## **Appropriate Assessment**

- Projects likely to have a significant effect on the site

## **Sites Proposed**

- Appropriate protective measures to maintain the ecological characteristics
- No interventions which incur the risk of seriously compromising the ecological characteristics of sites

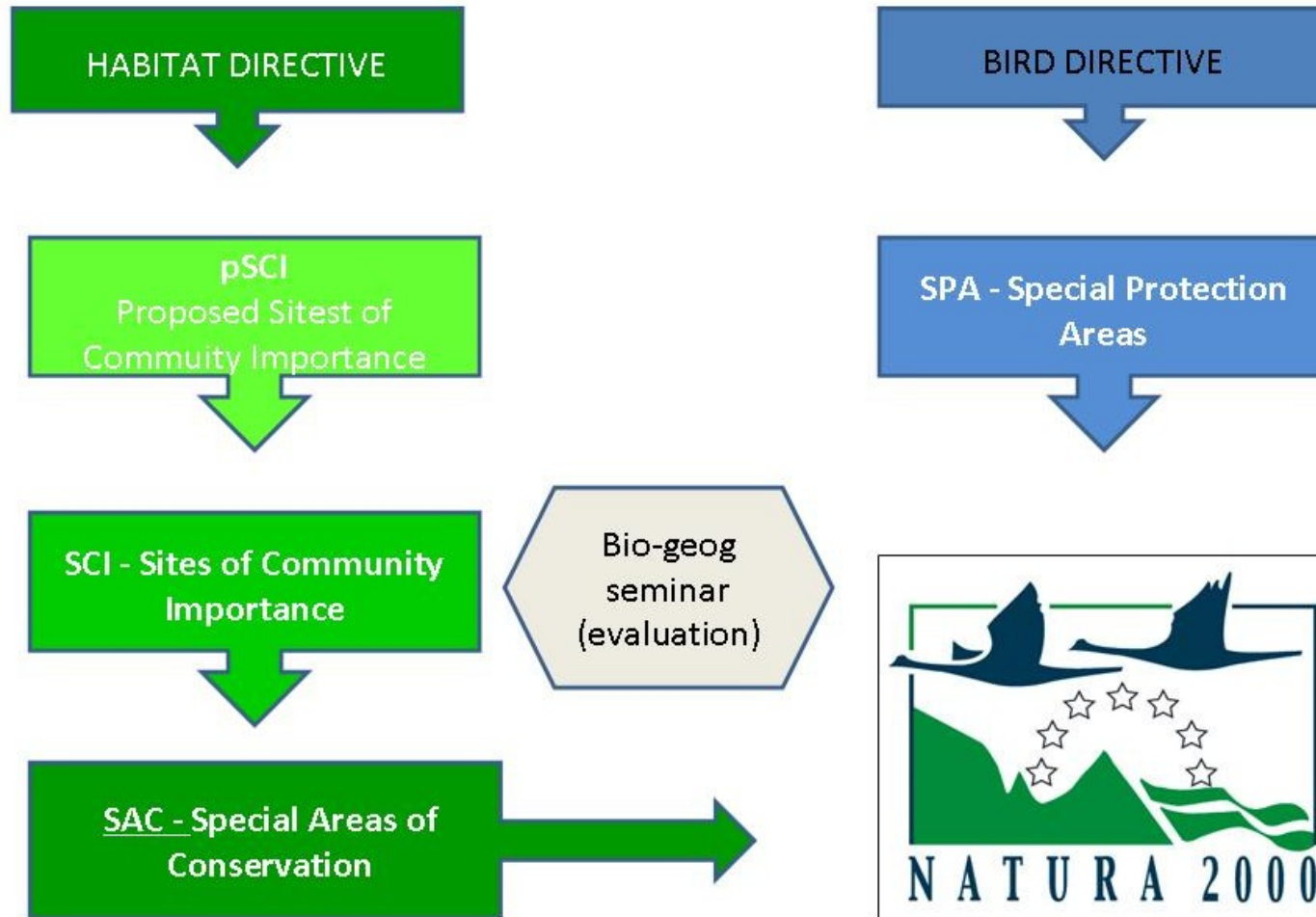


# Designation

- National process
  - Preparation of documentation
  - Administrative process
- Presentation to EU Commission
  - Biogeographic seminar
  - Publication of list of proposed sites

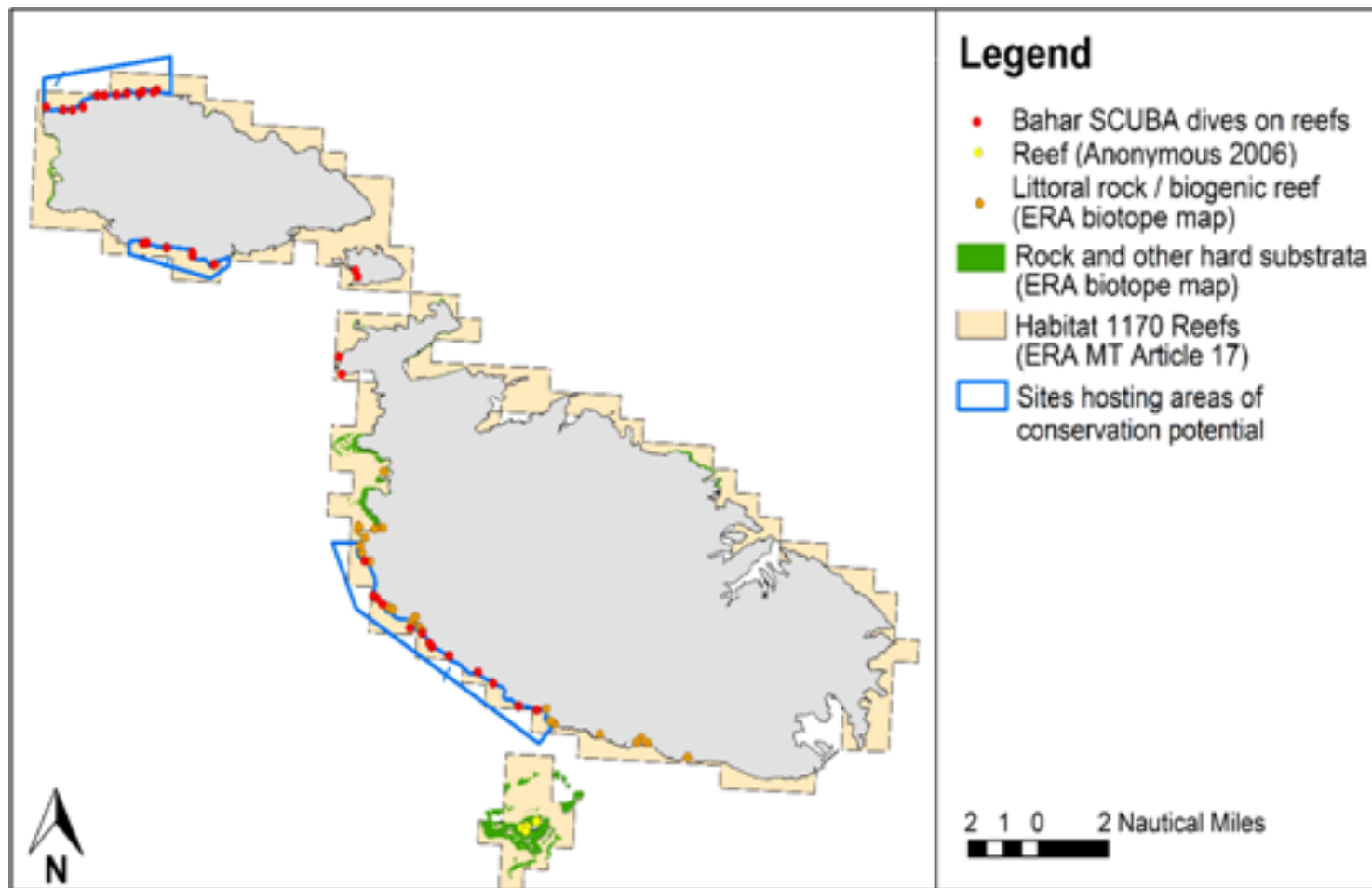


# The EU Process



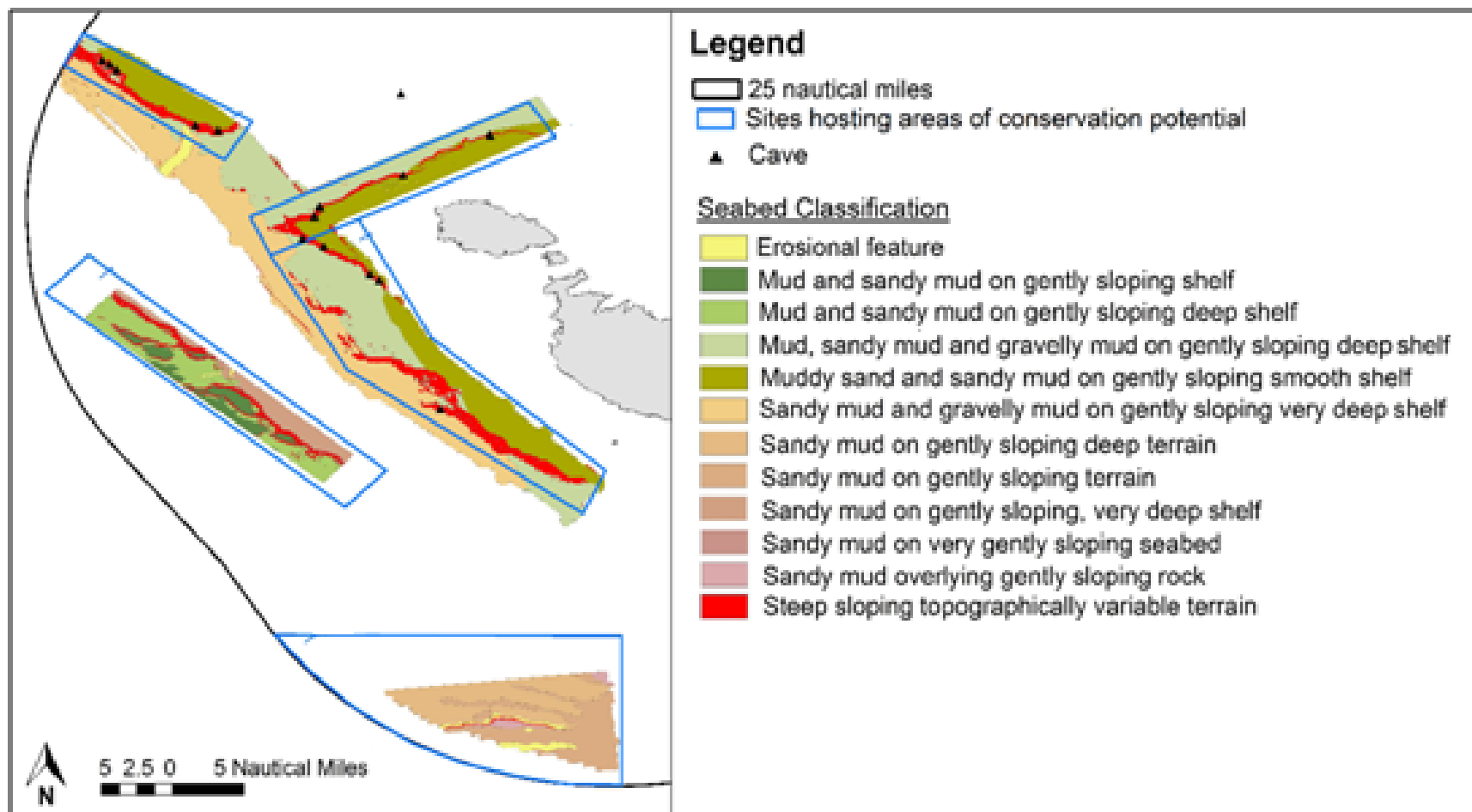
<http://ngonatura2000.blogspot.be/2010/07/natura-2000-protection-of-european.html>

# Inshore Areas





# Offshore Areas



# Actions





# Management

- **Socio-economic considerations**
  - Public and inter-ministerial consultation
- **Requirements of the protected features**
  - To maintain or improve ecological status
- **Identification of pressures and threats**
  - SWOT
- **Dynamic approach**
  - Regular monitoring and review

# Conservation Objectives

- **Statutory document**
  - Conservation orders
  - Management plans...
- **Features**
- **Attributes**
  - Area
  - Quality
  - Associated species
- **Target: short- and long-term**
- **Involvement of stakeholders**
- **Realistic (financial, practical and social)**
- **Guide the management measures**



# Need for Measures

- ERA leading authority
- Legal requirement
- Efficacy of MPA
- Addressing pressures and threats
- Environmental benefits
- Ecosystem services
- Public and stakeholder perception

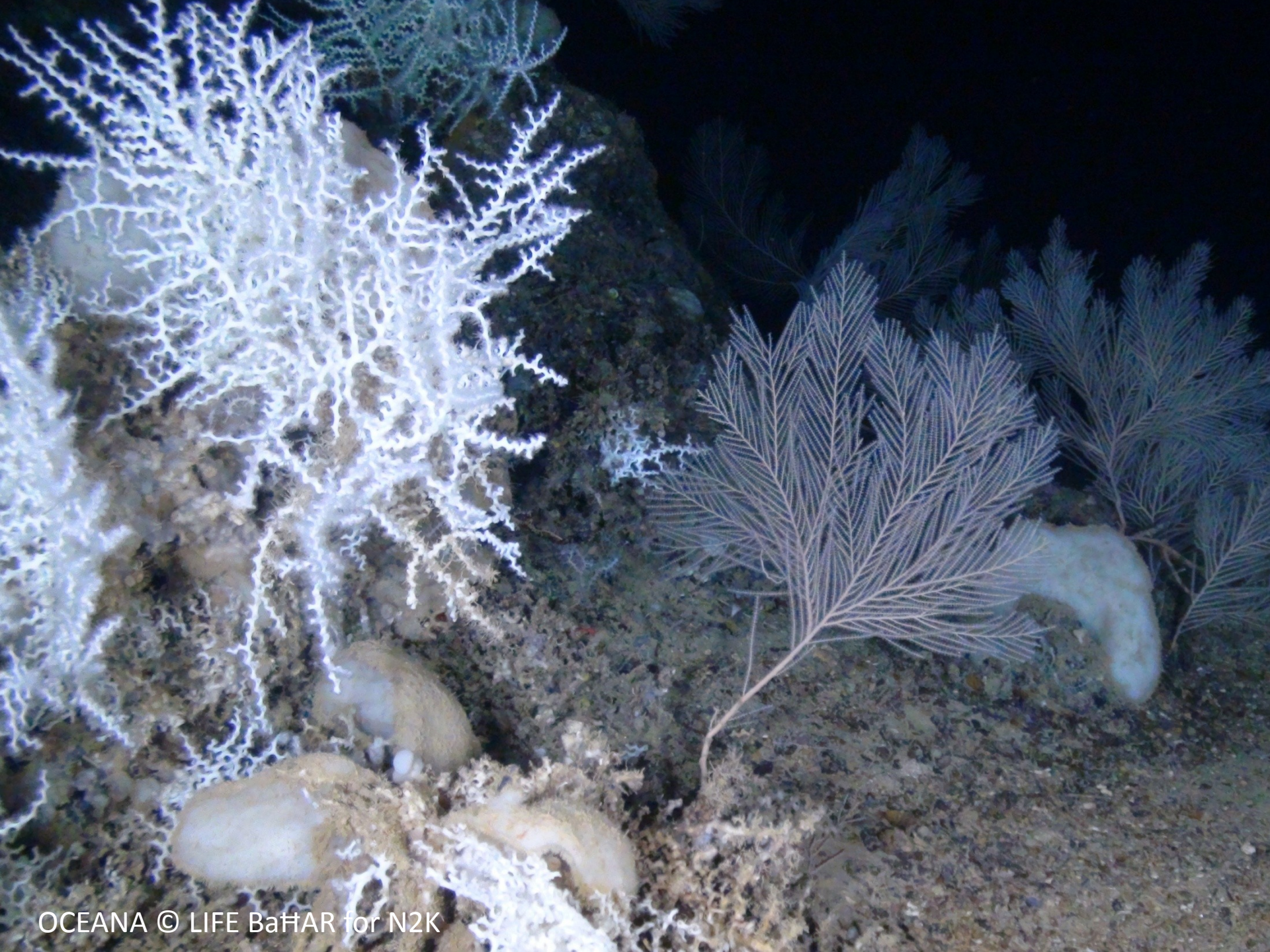


# Features



OCEANA © LIFE BaHAR for N2K





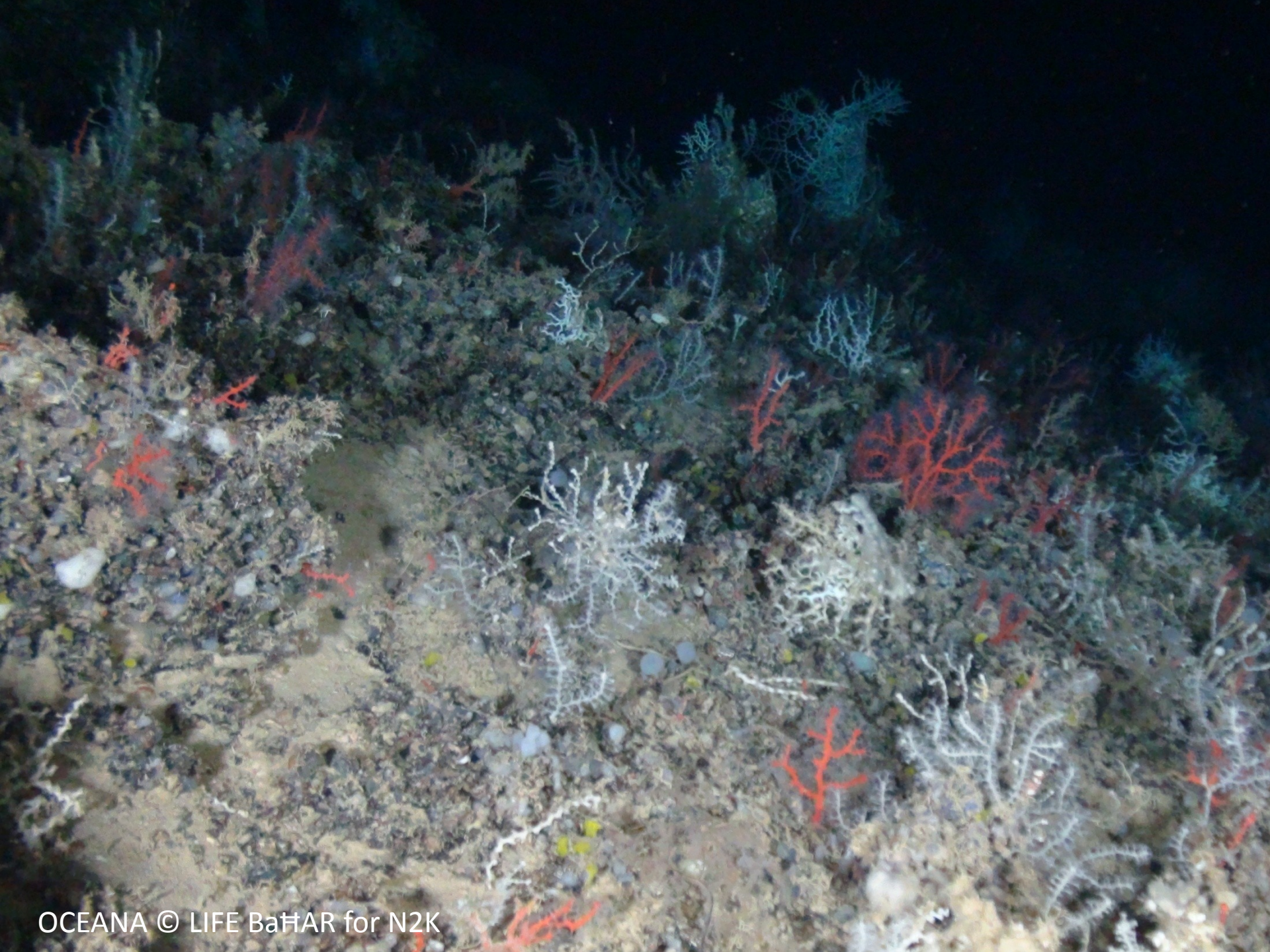
















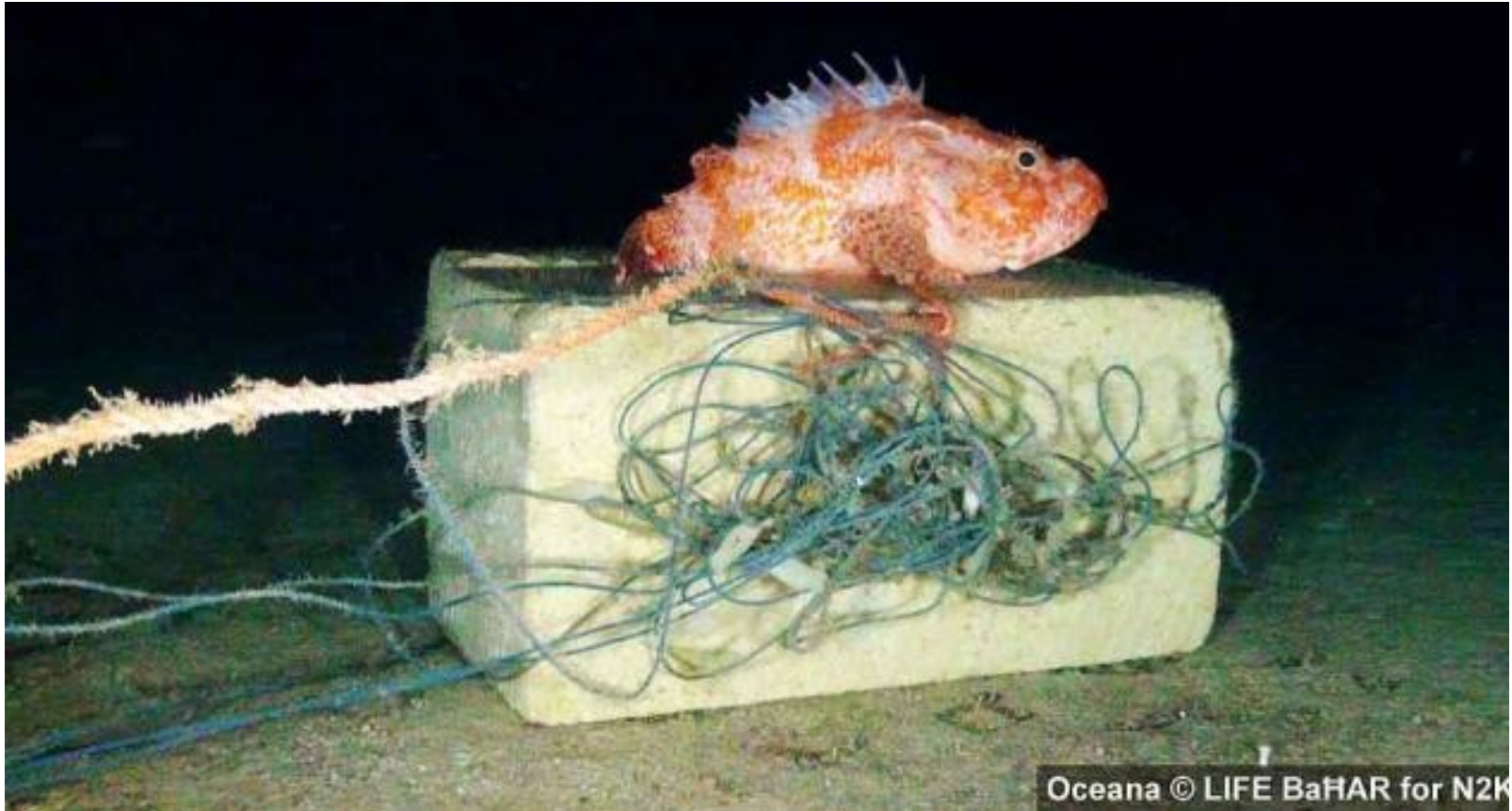


# Benefits of Natura 2000 sites

- Protection of habitats and species
- A useful tool against the decline of coastal fish resources
- Beneficial for tourism industry
- Used to improve synergies between marine environmental protection, fishery management, diving activities and recreational activities



# Threats and Pressures









OCEANA © LIFE BaHAR for N2K



OCEANA/Carlos Minguell © LIFE BaHAR for N2K





Oceana © LIFE BaHAR for N2K

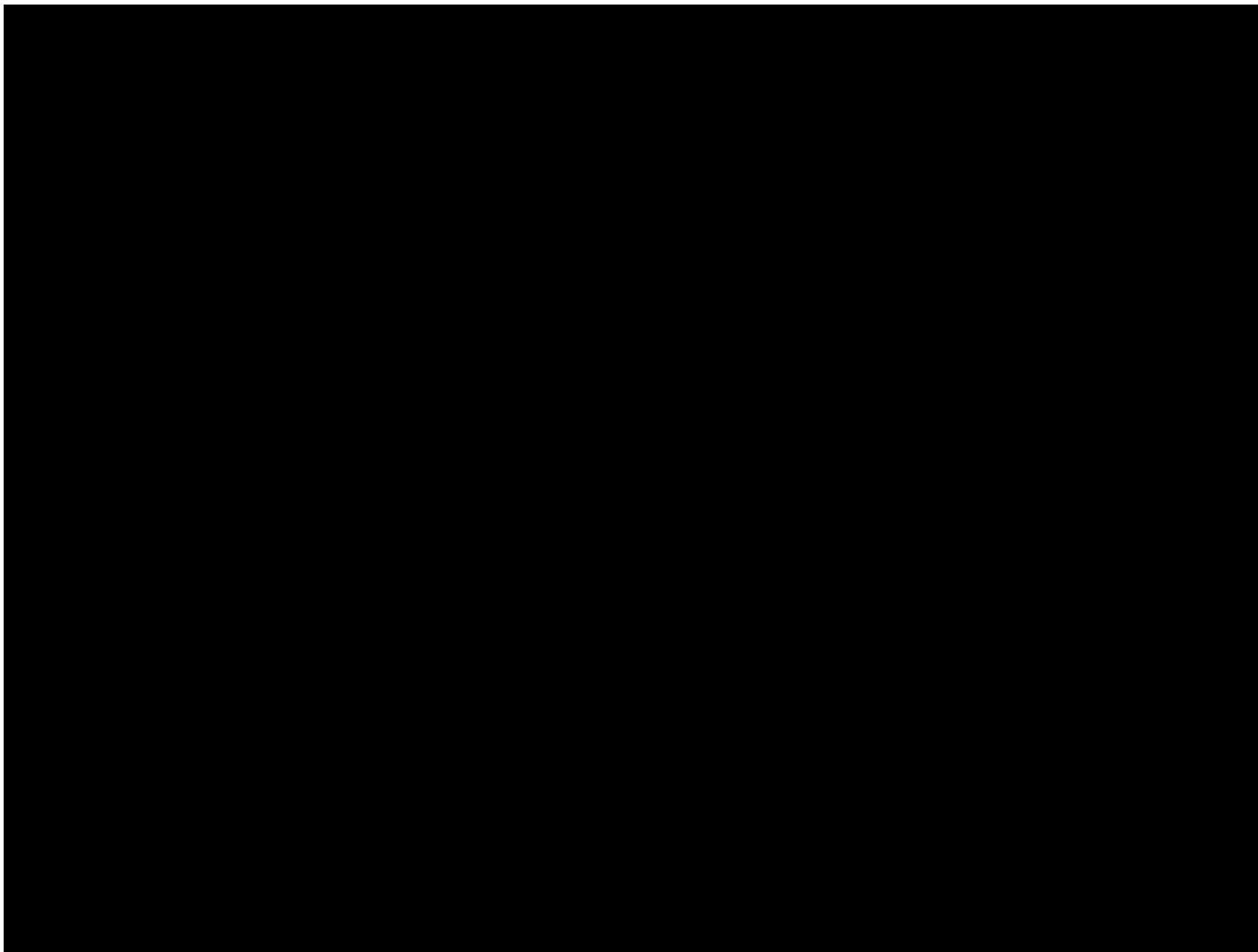


Oceana © LIFE BaHAR for N2K

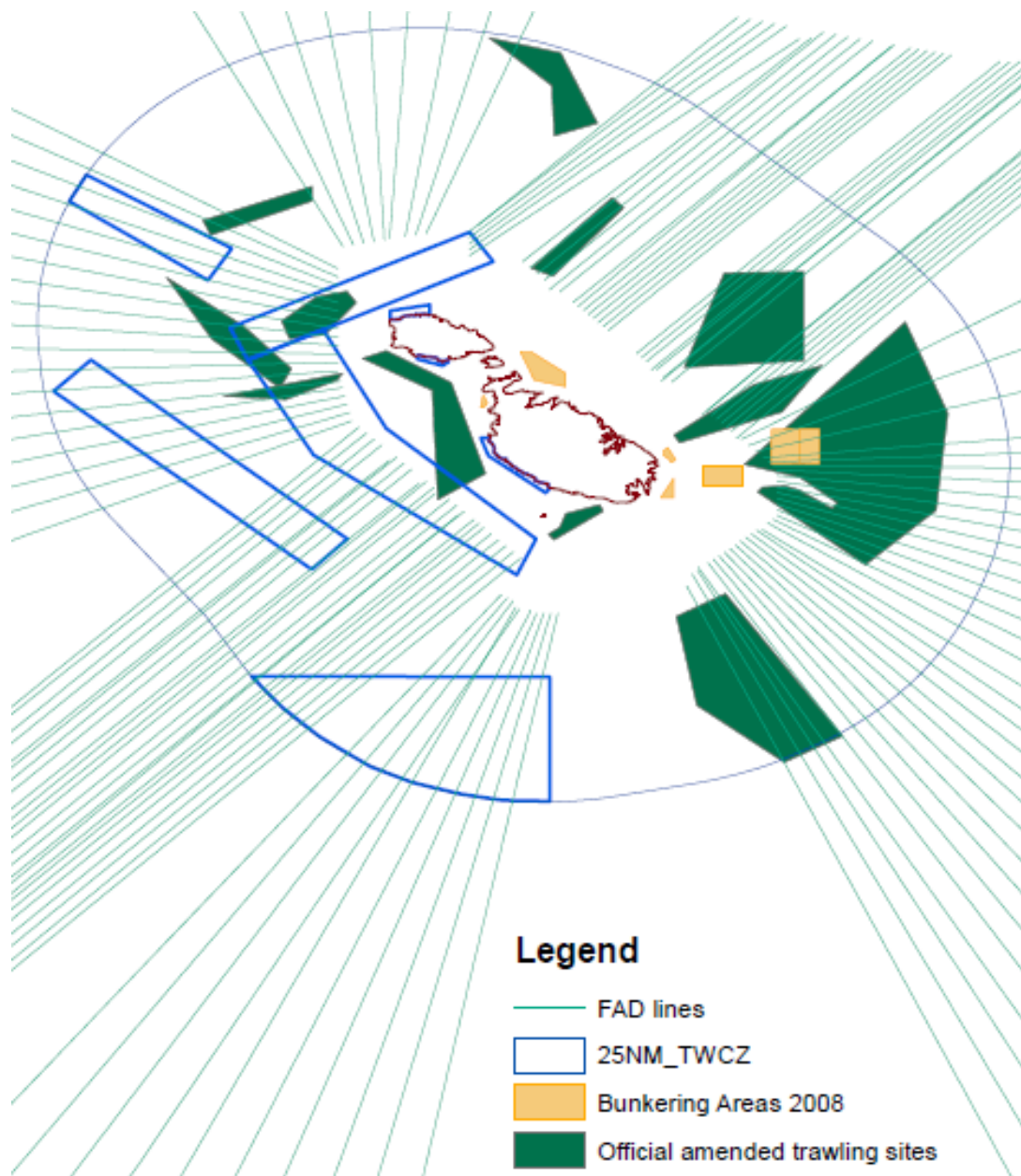


Oceana © LIFE BaHAR for N2K









### Legend

- FAD lines
- 25NM\_TWCZ
- Bunkering Areas 2008
- Official amended trawling sites



# Management Measures

- Leads to the adoption of a number of actions
- May be specific for pressures or features
  - Implementation of management measures
  - Explore involvement of stakeholders
  - Appropriate protection of the environment
- Indirect benefits
  - Studies to fill in knowledge gaps
  - Education and awareness raising; visitor management
  - Improved visitor experience



# Conclusion



- ERA: [www.era.org.mt](http://www.era.org.mt)
- Email: [info@era.org.mt](mailto:info@era.org.mt)