

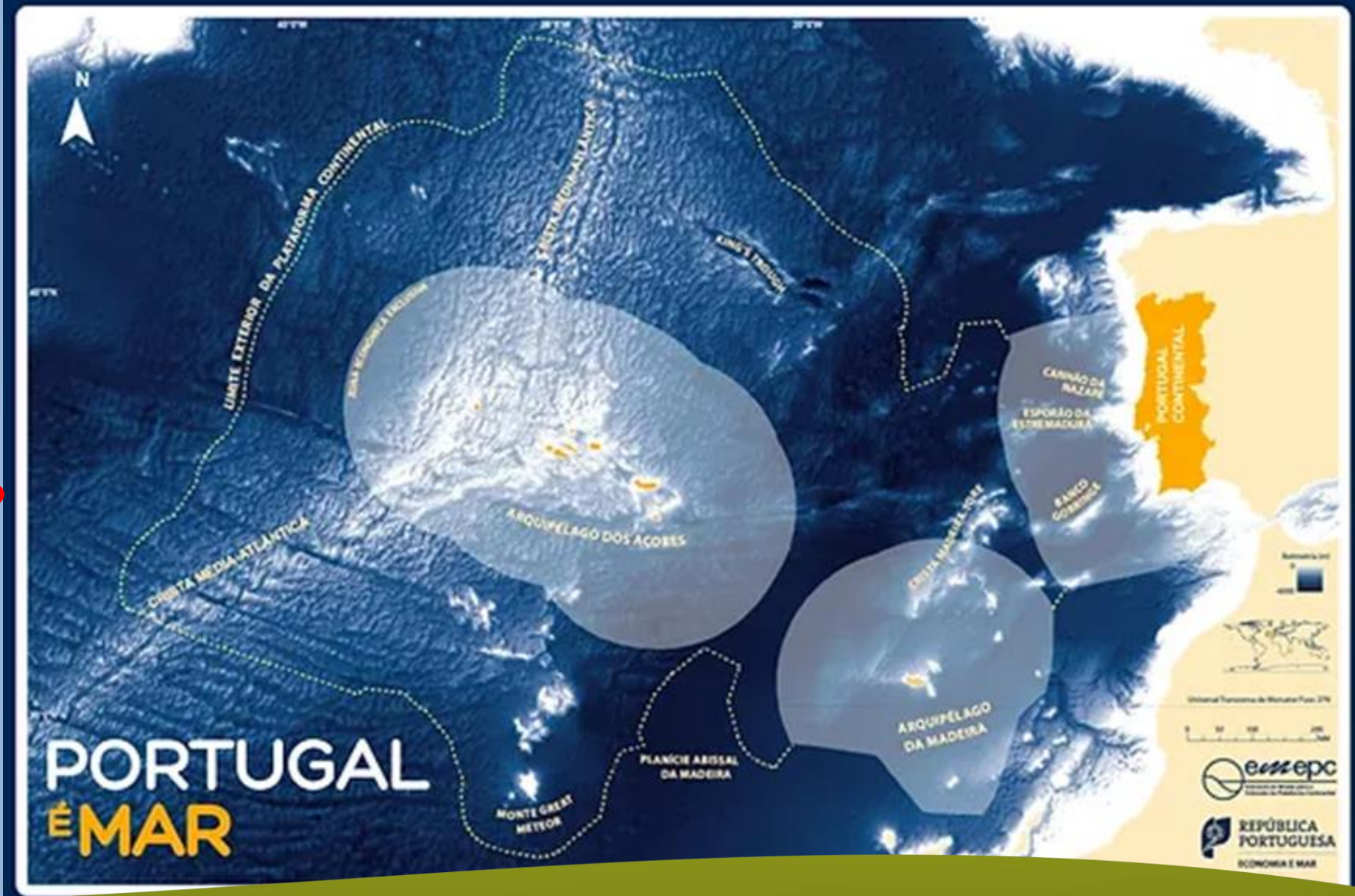
Situation, challenges and solutions for the network of marine protected areas in Portugal

Nuno Banza and Miguel Henriques, ICNF, Brussels, 2024

Portuguese Marine area > 4 million km²

Composition:

- Mainland subdivision
- Madeira subdivision
- Azores subdivision
- Extended platform

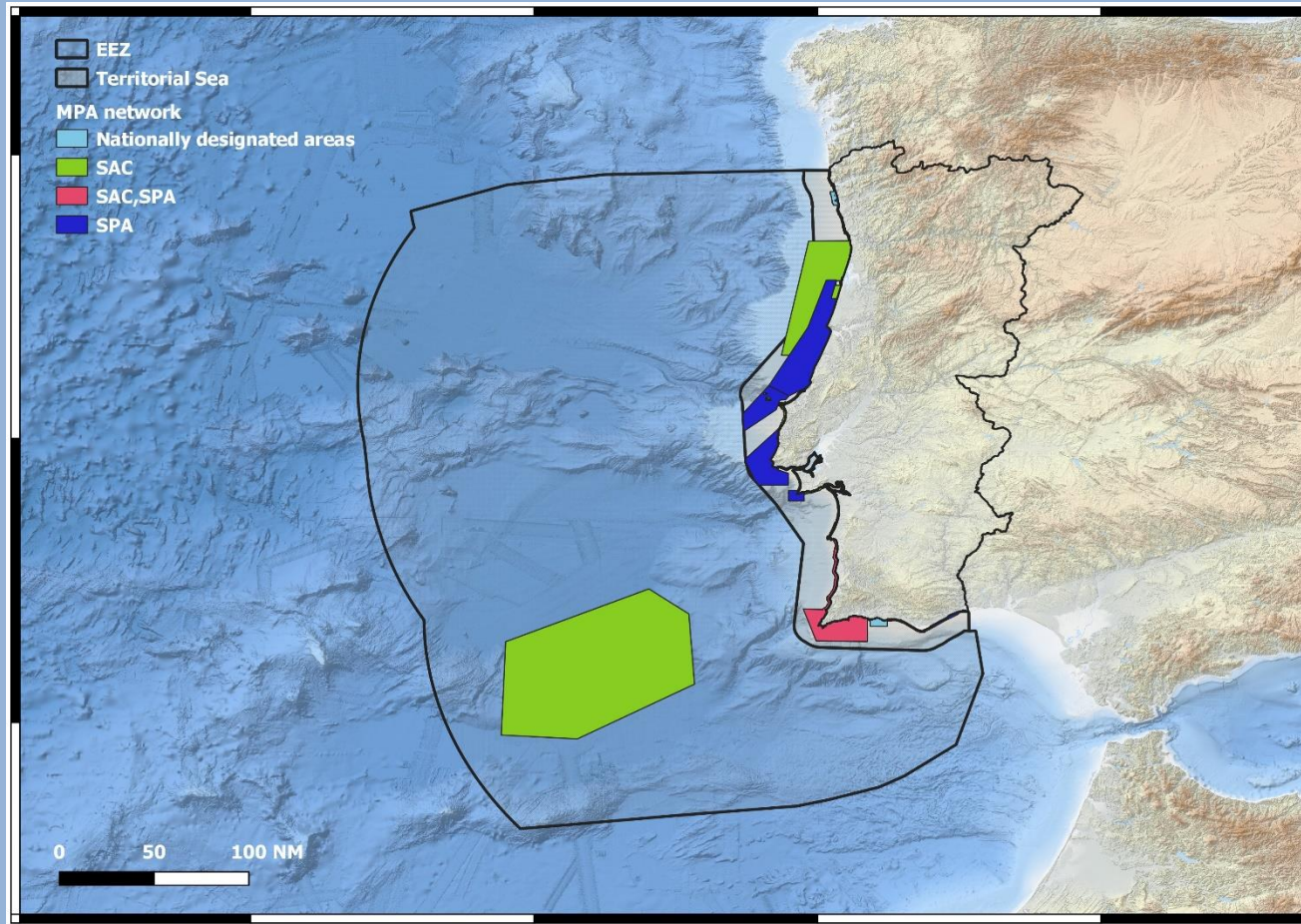


Coastal zone/territorial sea

- highest levels of biodiversity
- Important level of protection (above 40%) - including RN2000 and Protected Areas with management mechanisms focused on nature conservation objectives
- Jurisdiction of Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests

Subdivision Mainland	Area (km ²)	Marine protected area (km ²)	% (subdivision)
EEZ (200 nm)	287 521	24 216,1	8,4%
Terrestrial sea (12 nm)	22 968	9 594,3	41,78%
Total	310 489	33 810	10,89%

National System of Classified Areas (SNAC) in the Mainland subdivision. (≈ 11% of the Mainland subdivision area)

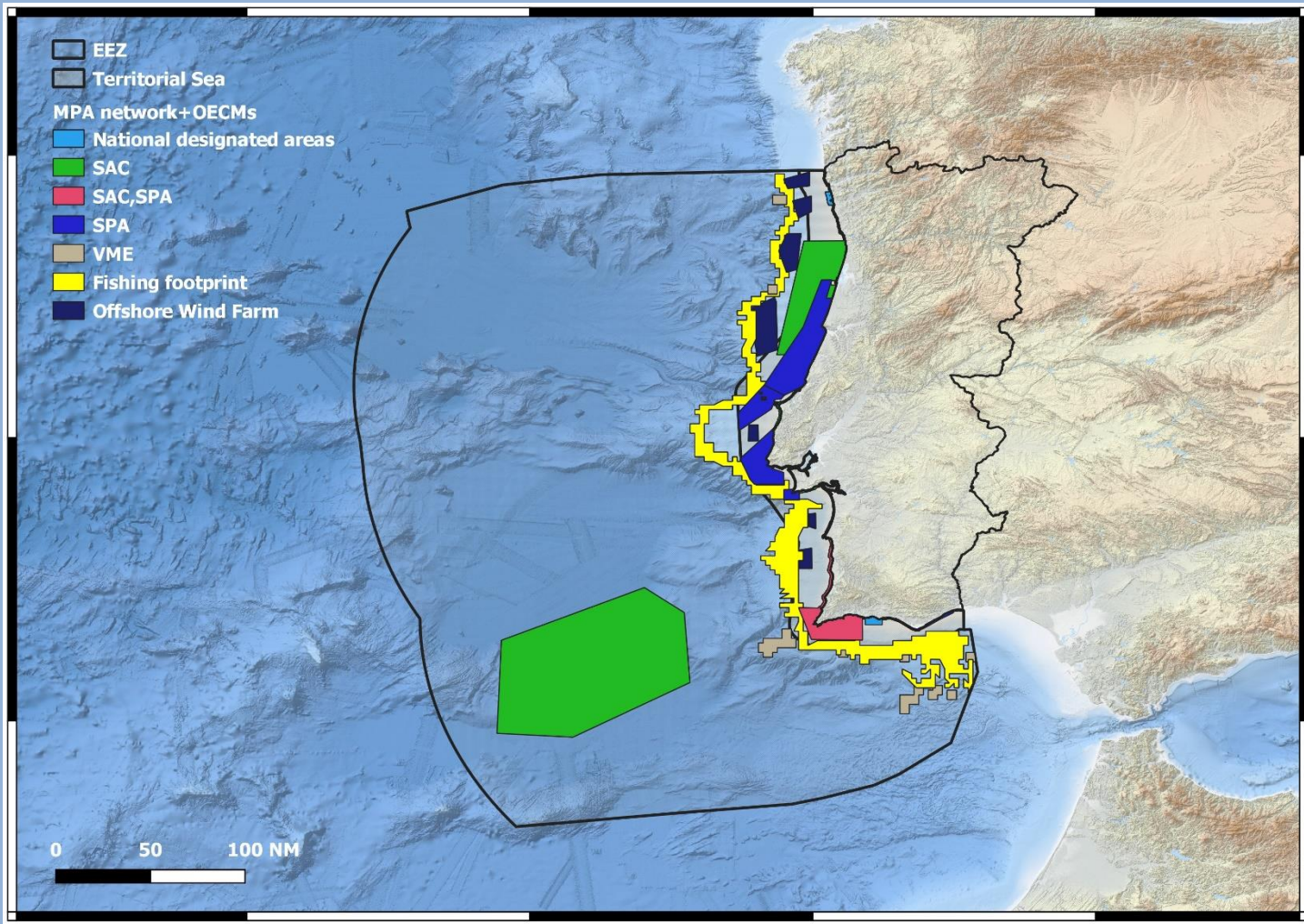


National designated areas:

- Natural park – 4
- Natural reserve – 3
- Natural monument – 1

N2000:

- SAC – 8
- SPA – 10



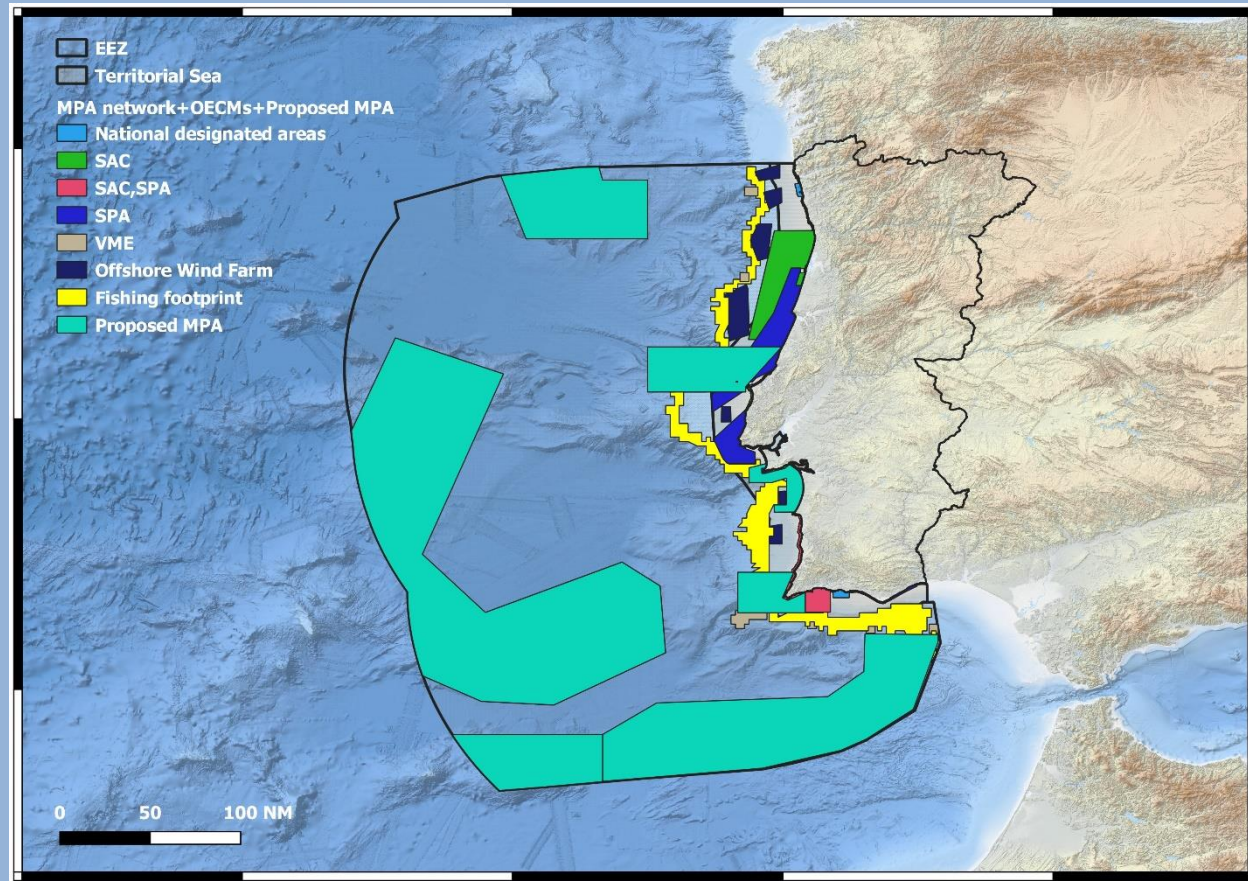
National System of Classified Areas (SNAC) and areas considered as potential OECCM*:

*Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (EMVs);

*Areas of allocation under the renewable energy allocation plan (PAER); and

*Deep-Sea Fishing Zones.
(16% of the Mainland subdivision area)

Joint area: Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone (43% of the Mainland subdivision area)



Main challenges:

- **deepening** of MPA management systems;
- Necessity of coordination between the different governmental structures in the areas of nature conservation/sea/fisheries and the participation of stakeholders;
- Management models still need to be developed and tested within the framework of international cooperation

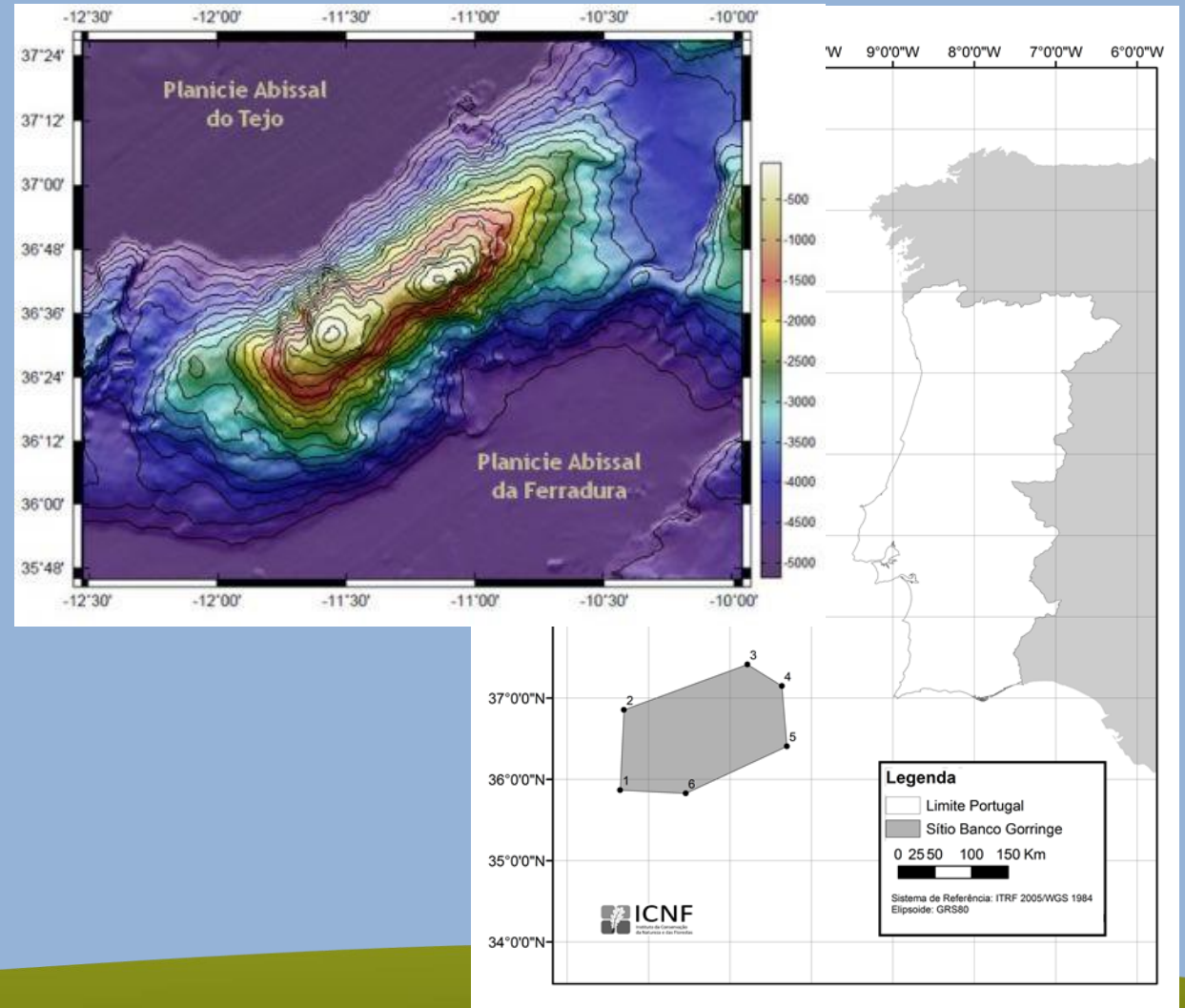
GORRINGE BANK

N2000 - SAC

First oceanic SAC proposed for mainland Portugal:

- In the Exclusive Economic Zone
- Rises from -5000 m deep
- The peaks of Gettysburg at -25 m and Ormonde at -48 m stand out.

Area – 22887.82 km²



MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES on GORRINGE BANK

The management of offshore marine areas presents particular challenges:

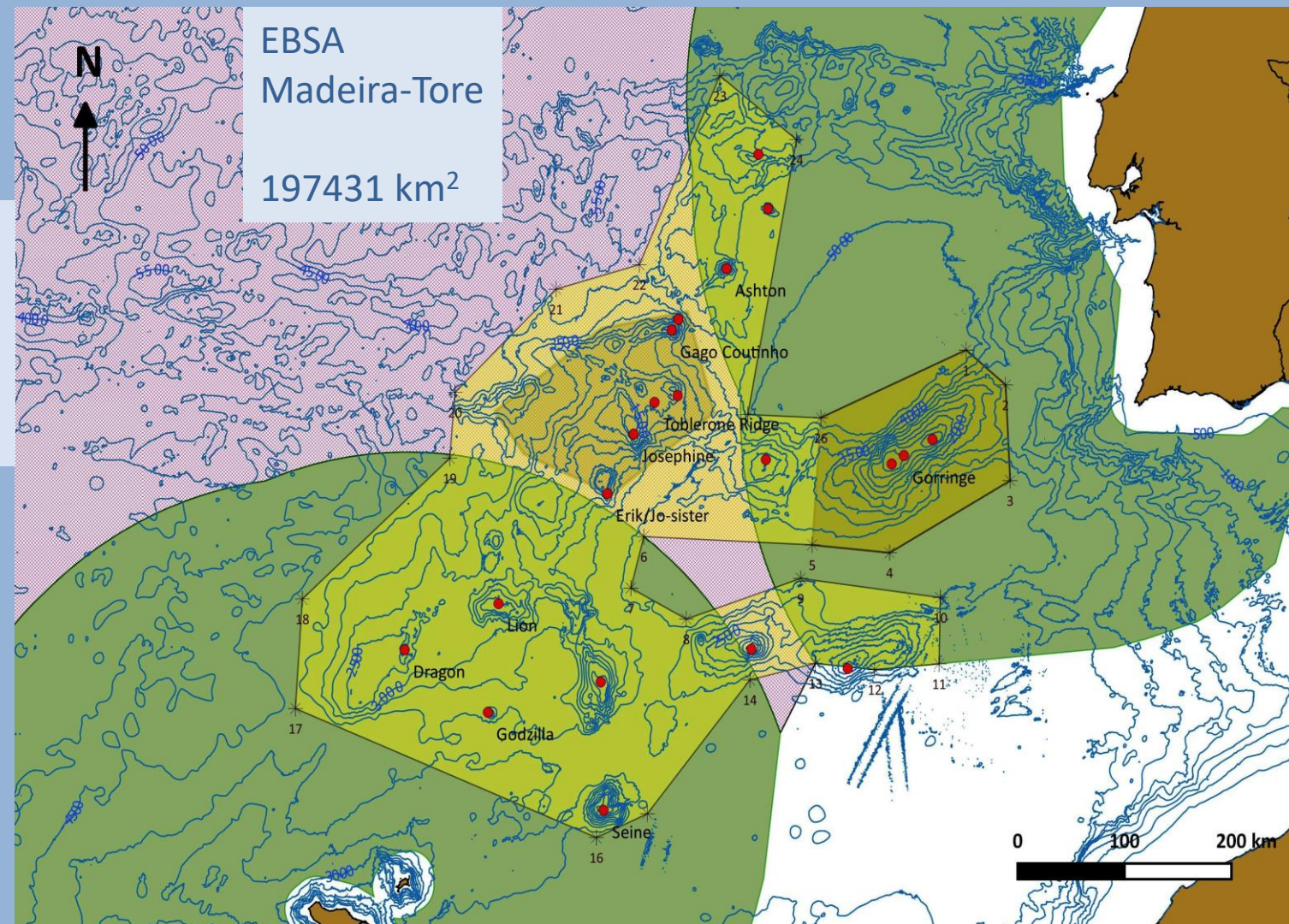
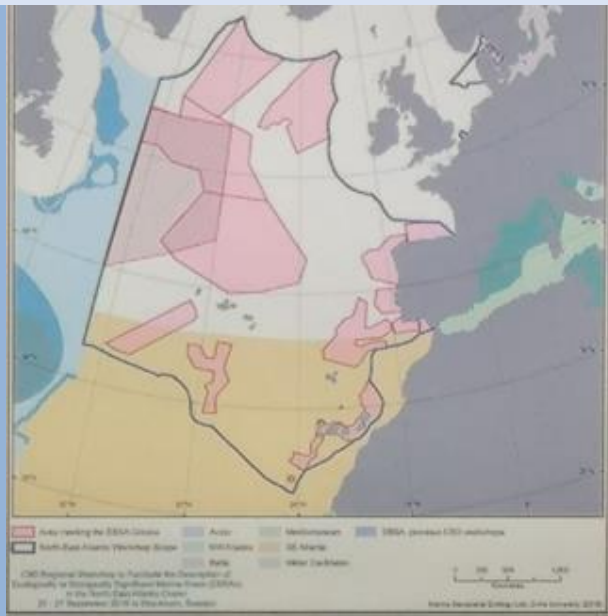
- three-dimensional character of the site
- cost of monitoring and scientific activity
- specificity of supervision

Conservation measures must focus on:

- seabed,
 - water column
 - surface
-
- minimize damage, destruction of marine organisms and/or parts of the habitat
 - prevent deposits, discharges or dumping of waste
 - regulate commercial fishing to maintain the good environmental status of the site, and the sustainability of the activity
 - regulate recreational activities (fishing and underwater tourism)
 - condition the transit of ships
 - encourage responsible scientific research

Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs)

Portugal assumes its pioneering role in the Northeast Atlantic area by establishing since the beginning of 2015 a structured and inclusive process to describe and identify EBSAs, ending in 2019 with this chart



Marine Natural Park – Algarve Reef (156 km²)

- Bottom up proposal
- Wide public participation
- Example of shared management



Final remarks

A strong commitment with Nature Conservation at Sea, by:

- Designation of MPA's at the different Subdivisions for Portugal;
- Considering OECM as a complementary source of protection areas to consider;
- A clear way to reach EU goals, some of them already achieved, while others identified, and on the way to reach.

Thank you!

nuno.banza@icnf.pt
miguel.Henriques@icnf.pt