



atlas

UNDERSTANDING DEEP ATLANTIC ECOSYSTEMS



Call for data: new information on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME) in the North Atlantic from ICES member countries

ATLAS 3rd General Assembly

Covadonga Orejas on behalf of WGDEC ICES





Who are Working Group on Deep Water Ecology

- A joint ICES/NAFO expert group under ACOM
- Deal with the science needed to support management of deep-sea habitats in North Atlantic
- Varied Terms of Reference
- ICES receive requests from RFMOs & EC which are sent to WGDEC
- Other self-assigned ToRs



What we do: long-standing Terms of Reference

- Provide new information on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs), with a view to recommending new/changes to bottom fishing closures (via NEAFC)
- Provide new information on VMEs within EU waters



The online ICES VME Data Portal

Vulnerable Marine EcoSy x

vme.ices.dk/map.aspx

CIEM

EXPLORE US NEWS AND EVENTS MARINE DATA PUBLICATIONS COMMUNITY

Vulnerable Marine EcoSystems Download Mapping Web services manage (requires login)

BETA

vme.ices.dk

VME DATA LAYER

VME Indicator

Check all VME Indicators / Uncheck all VME Indicators

- ☒ Anemones
- ☒ Black coral
- ☒ Chemosynthetic species
- ☒ Cup coral
- ☒ Gorgonian
- ☒ Sea-pen
- ☒ Soft coral
- ☒ Sponge
- ☒ Stony coral

VME Habitat Type

Years

Data access

Update VME layer

OTHER LAYERS

WGDEC VME Weighting Algorithm:

NEAFC Closed Areas in:

ICES Advice in:

WGDEC Recommendation in:

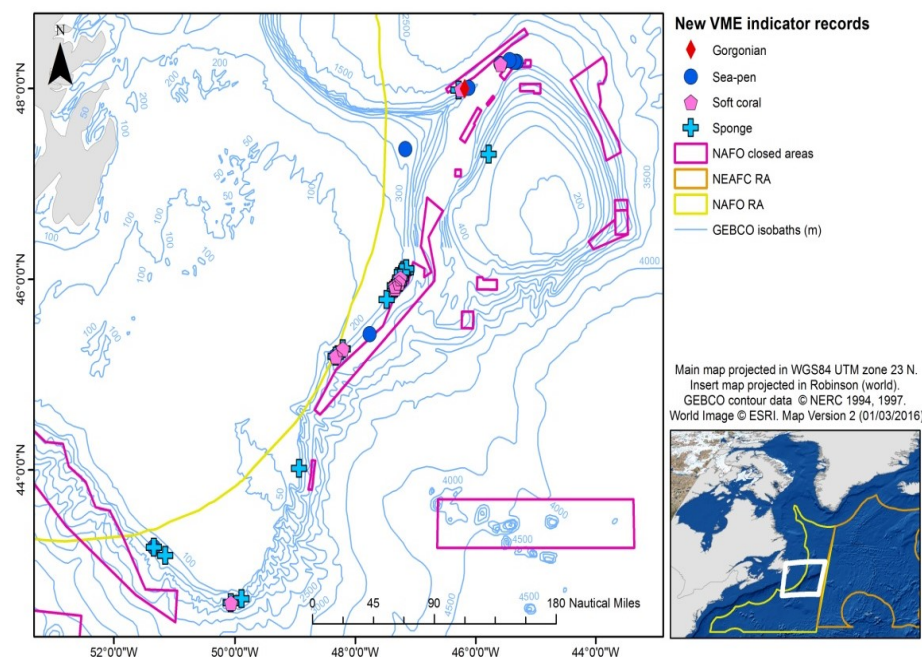
Other Layers

- ☐ OSPAR Habitat
- ☐ NAFO
- ☐ NEAFC
- ☐ NEAFC fishing areas before 2015
- ☐ NEAFC fishing areas from 2015

Give us some feedback

New tools and developments...the online ICES VME Data Portal

- Over 30,000 records
- VME habitats – unequivocal evidence of VME (e.g. ROV footage)
- VME indicators – records which suggest the presence of a VME (e.g. Long-line by-catch)
- Includes data from NAFO RA as well as NEAFC RA & EU waters



Map of the Flemish Cap Bank, Grand Banks and the Flemish Pass Basin showing new VME indicator records. Current NAFO closures are shown as pink boxes. (WGDEC 2016 report)



VME Weighting System

- Records within ICES VME database originate from a range of sources;
- WGDEC developed a multi-criteria assessment (MCA) tool;
- It evaluates how likely an area represents a VME

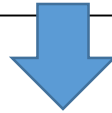


Benefits of the VME Data Portal

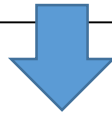
- Data being considered by WGDEC can now be viewed by anyone;
- Data is gridded to $0.05^{\circ} \times 0.05^{\circ}$ c-square – same as VMS data products
- Raw data is downloadable: spatial locations for ‘restricted’ data not shared
- Additional layers show current and historic WGDEC recommendations, ICES Advice and NEAFC closures

WGDEC recommendations. How is the process?

Layers show WGDEC recommendations, selected by the WGDEC during the meetings as areas with VME that could be put forward for bottom fishing closures



These go to the ICES advice drafting group on VME who review them and put forward their advice on suggested closures to NEAFC



NEAFC make final decisions on bottom fishing closures



Data submission, who, when?

- National correspondents, ICES and ACOM members should circulate the data call among research institutes and universities
- Data should be submitted by the data call deadline to be considered at that year's WGDEC meeting

DCF national correspondents

Els Torreale; Jørgen Dalskov; Elo Rasmann; Heikki Lehtinen; Maximilien Simon; Christoph Stransky; Leonie O'Dowd; Didzis Ustups; Laura Simonaityte; Inge Janssen; Zbigniew Karnicki; Emilia Batista; Maria del Pilar Vara del Río; Anna Hasslow; Matthew Elliott

ICES ACOM members and observers

Els Torreale; Joanne Morgan; Morten Vinther; Robert Aps; Petur Steingrund; Matti Salminen; Alain Biseau; Christopher Zimmermann; Jesper Boje; Gudmundur Thordarson; Maurice Clarke; Didzis Ustups; Tomas Zolubas; Nathalie Steins; Harald Gjøsæter; Jan Horbowy; Fatima Borges; Yury Efimov; Francisco Velasco; Massimiliano Cardinale; Nick Bailey; Larry Alade

Our Ref: L.27/ACB/SV/mo

07 November 2017

Subject: Call for data: new information on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME) in the North Atlantic from ICES member countries

- Submitted data are discussed in the annual meeting of the WGDEC



Data submission, how?

G11									
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1									
2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3	Text, unique identifier that links to [VME_Sample]	Text (unique data record identifier)	VME_Indicator (Vocabulary)	VME_IndicatorSubtype (Vocabulary)	VME_HabitatType (Vocabulary)	VME_HabitatSubtype (Vocabulary)	Text	Text	Text, Taxon Latin name or Integer, AphiaID
4	SampleKey	RecordKey	VME_Indicator	VME_IndicatorSubtype	VME_HabitatType	VME_HabitatSubtype	VMEKey	GeneralTaxonDescriptor	TaxonLatinName or A
5	DIVE03	DIVE03_01	GG		CG	SBCG		1 Gorgonian	Acanella arbuscula
6	DIVE14	DIVE14_01	SG		DS	HBSA		1 Porifera	Porifera
7	DIVE15B	DIVE15B_01	SG		DS	HBSA		1 Porifera	Porifera
8	DIVE16B	DIVE16B_01	SG		DS	HBSA		1 Porifera	Porifera
9	DIVE17	DIVE17_01	SG		DS	HBSA		1 Porifera	Porifera
10	DIVE18	DIVE18_01	SG		DS	HBSA		1 Porifera	Porifera
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Data submission, how?

- Submit data using the VME data portal: <http://vme.ices.dk>
- You will need an ICES sharepoint user ID → email accessions@ices.dk for assistance
- Additional information on how to submit data is in the ICES VME data reporting guidance document http://www.ices.dk/marine-data/Documents/VME/VME_2016_Data_Reporting_Guidance.pdf
- Any questions on data submission - contact accessions@ices.dk

Please submit your data! ATLAS can highly contribute to increase the VME ICES data base!



Thanks for your attention on behalf of WGDEC





Future Opportunities

- Incorporate VME data by NAFO Working Group on Ecosystem Science Assessment (WGESA) into ICES VME Database
- Expand scope of ICES VME Data Call to North Atlantic – address ocean basin scale questions in ToRs
- Further explore ecosystem functioning of deep-sea ecosystems
- Develop a biological basis for defining VMEs:
 - When does an aggregation of VME indicators become a VME
 - What density thresholds could be set
- Improved links with other Expert Groups – joint ToRs