

# North-East Atlantic EBSA Workshop

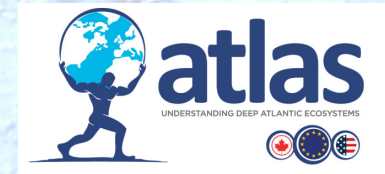
## Convention on Biological Diversity

**ATLAS 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

Edinburgh

10 March 2020

**Prof. David Johnson**



# NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC EBSA Workshop: Stockholm September 2019

## CBD Subsidiary Body for Science, Technical and Technological Advice: SBSTTA 23 November 2019 (CBD/SBSTTA/REC/23/4)

- **OSPAR and NEAFC acknowledged:** 2011 Workshop in Hyeres;
- **Input to CBD Agenda:** OEWG on Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;
- **Recommendation:**
  - Recognises that there are now a total of 338 areas described as EBSAs;
  - Appreciates input (DJ has asked for a formal letter from CBD Secretariat acknowledging ATLAS contribution);
  - Acknowledges donors;
  - Welcome the Summary Report: 17 NE Atlantic descriptions;
  - Requests Executive Secretary to include the report in the CBD Repository.

**5. Gulf of Cádiz**

- Location: The area is located to the southwest of the Iberian Peninsula. Its eastern boundary is the Strait of Gibraltar, on the western border of the Mediterranean Sea. It is bounded by the parallels (37° 00'N and 35° 56'N) and meridians (6° 00'W and 7° 24'W).

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Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	See the above key to the tables						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The area is very structurally complex and contains important geomorphological elements such as large submarine canyons and seamounts. The hydrology is also complex due to the interaction between waters formed in the Atlantic and waters of Mediterranean origin. This area includes a variety of benthic habitats, both on soft and rocky bottoms, that are considered hotspots of biodiversity, and which serve as various habitats for endangered, threatened and declining species. It is also a seasonal migratory pathway for large migratory pelagic species and is, in particular, an important area for cetacean species.</li> </ul>							

### 9. Tropic Seamount

- Location: The Tropic Seamount is located in the North-East Atlantic (23°55' N, 20°45' W), along the north-western African continental margin.
- The Tropic Seamount is home to numerous vulnerable taxa, including high-density octocoral gardens, *Solenosmilia variabilis* patch reefs, xenophyophores, crinoid fields and deep-sea sponge grounds. A recent study offered the first biological insight to ground-truth the occurrence of potential vulnerable ecosystems on the Tropic Seamount, alongside predictive models to increase the spatial coverage beyond surveys conducted by remotely operated and autonomous underwater vehicles. Predicted habitat for the glass sponge (*Poliopogon amadou*), a biogeographically restricted hexactinellid forming extensive near-monospecific grounds, was found to favour the deep seamount flanks of this area within a very narrow oceanographic regime.

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## ISSUES

Scientific integrity of the MAR (Telmo et al.)

Political discussions at COP: reserved positions of UK and Ireland at SBSTTA 23 re Rockall and Hatton

Ongoing process about modalities for modifying EBSAs and describing new areas in future  
(now that a first global exercise is [almost] complete) – SBSTTA 24, May 2020

# Thank you

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# More than a view...



University of Aberdeen / David Shale

