atlas
UNDERSTANDING DEEP ATLANTIC ECOSYSTEMS

A road map for defining Good Environmental Status in the deep-sea

Cova Orejas (IEO), Telmo Morato (IMAR), Lea-Anne Henry (University of Edinburgh), Marina Carreiro (IMAR)

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'**good environmental status**' means the environmental status of marine waters where these provide **ecologically diverse and dynamic oceans and seas** which are **clean, healthy and productive** within their intrinsic conditions, and the use of the marine environment is at a level that is **sustainable**, thus safeguarding the potential for uses and activities by current and future generations (MSFD)

ATLAS addresses three Descriptors:

D1 (biodiversity), **D3** (commercial species) and **D6** (seafloor integrity)

ATLAS kick off meeting main outputs and agreements:

- **Lack of base line information** for most descriptors (not for D3)
- **Difficult to identify a "pristine" scenario** and **uncertain taxonomic identification** constraints in the DS → Opportunity to propose new indicators → **functional groups or geospatial indicators**
- **Biodiversity** will be address at the **habitat and ecosystem level**
- **GES will be evaluated for each EU case study but indicators can be developed using data-rich case study areas** in the High Seas (e.g. Canadian and American EEZs, NAFO Regulatory Area Flemish Cap, Davis Strait, SE USA...)

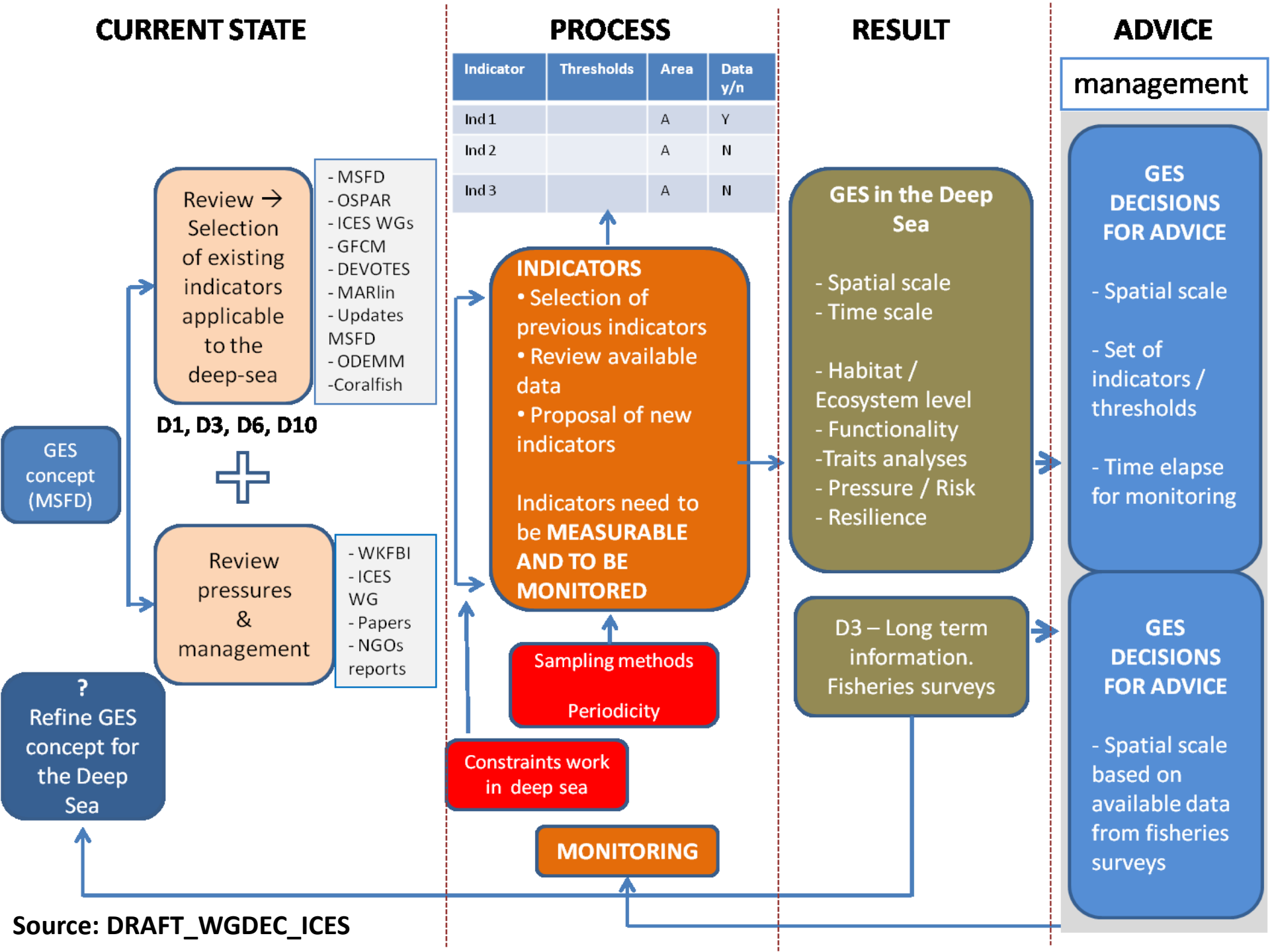
WGDEC_ICES_March 2017

Begin to explore how to best define GES for DS habitats; in particular, commence a review on progress with indicator development for the deep-sea – ToR [b]

-The **temporal and spatial scale at which GES should be assessed in the deep-sea** is an important aspect to be considered and which will need further discussion.

- Due to the data limited situation and challenges posed for monitoring, it may well be the case that **GES will have to be assessed at large spatial and temporal scales** when compared to the shallower waters of the European Seas.

- For similar reasons, **the type of indicators to be used may have to be simplified** and likely be based on high level analyses related to traits, pressures/risks, and habitat /ecosystem resilience.

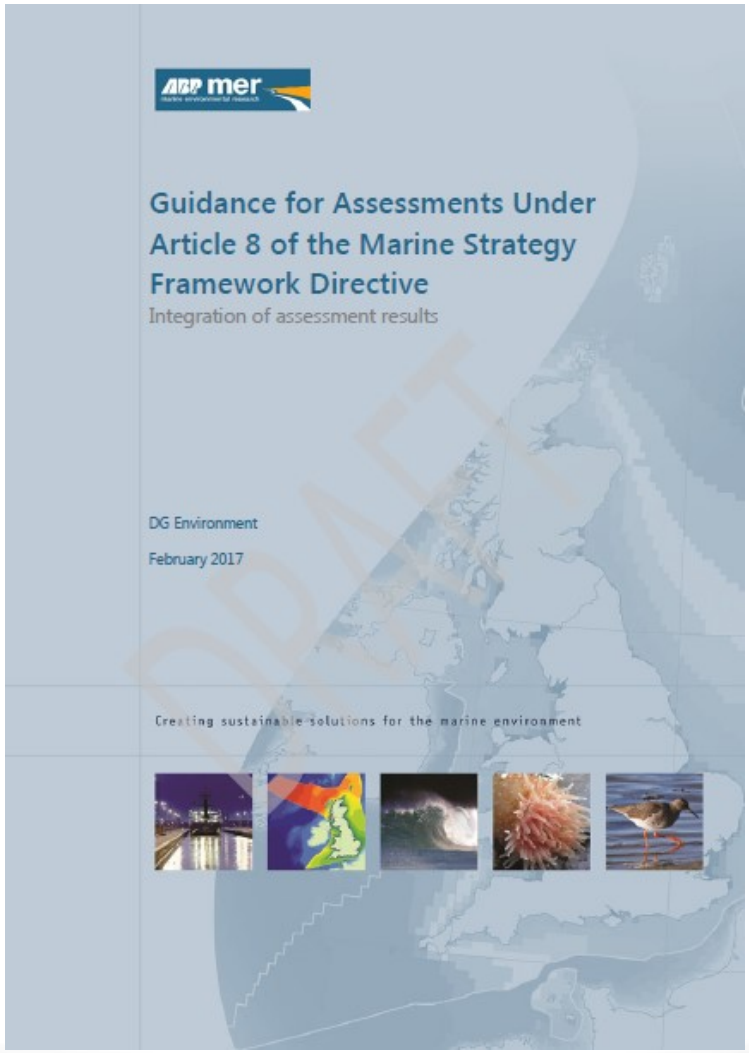


Source: DRAFT_WGDEC_ICES

DRAFT_WGGES_EU_February 2017

-Technical work on D 1, 3, 4, 6 assisted by ICES

-Technical work on D 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9 assisted by JRC



Source: DRAFT_WGGES_EU

ATLAS on going work and next steps to define the roadmap

- A "state of the art" manuscript draft is currently in preparation
- Compile information from case study leaders (partially completed)

Main aspects to address in the 2nd General Assembly of ATLAS:

1- Define the spatial and temporal scale to apply GES in the DS

2- Should be GES apply to the DS ecosystem as a whole or to components → DEVOTES important reference point for this!

3- Select indicators for the three ATLAS descriptors considering: (1) kind of information that can be obtained considering the sampling methods we use and (2) information already available for the areas

You are welcome to join the GES Breakout group on Thursday the 27th at 14:15 Sala Es Trenc to go ahead with the selection of indicators and further steps in the assessment of GES in the Deep-Sea