

What can Europe do for a better international ocean governance?

Peripheral Maritime Regions perspective



Região Autónoma
da Madeira
Governo Regional

Estratégia Marinha
Madeira

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Madeira Archipelago

Brief Description

- 260,000 inhabitants
- 446,000 km² EEZ
- **Deep Ocean:** 4000 meters deep plain, islands and seamounts
- **Atlantic:** the largest and most important European ecosystem
- Mediterranean entrance
- **South frontier** of European waters and **OSPAR** region
- **Archipelagic dimension** of the Portuguese State
- **Geopolitical and geostrategic relevance** in the **Macaronesia** context
- **Sea Economic Activity:** Services, Tourism and Fishing
- Important reference to **Natural Heritage** and Nature Conservation

Do we have a problem of international governance of the **OCEANS**?

- It seems assertive that the **European Commission should aim for a better governance** of the oceans, and it is legitimate to **seek leading processes** within the UN, aiming to achieve global regulatory mechanisms.
- There is **however**, in the European context, **issues and identified gaps** of thematic and sectoral governance **whose resolution** can help to **consolidate and legitimize** the EU position in the global context, **claiming in the immediate** the Member States, the Conventions and the European institutions involvement.
- **Which are they?**

SOME EXAMPLES...

Fisheries I

International Waters

- **Deep-sea marine resources** and vulnerable ecosystems on the sea floor of the extended continental shelf are **protected from depletion** exerted by fishing vessels using destructive gears. Only long lines may be used.
However this applies only to Portuguese vessels.
- The use of **bottom trawl and anchored gillnets** is **prohibited** under 200 m deep, around **seamounts off the Macaronesian** archipelagos (Madeira, Azores and Canaries), to protect deep-sea fragile bottom ecosystems.
- **Set a governance framework with international recognition** and wider participation to protect marine resources and ecosystems in international waters.
- Increase the resources allocated to the **acquisition of scientific knowledge**.
- Increase the resources allocated to **inspection and control**.
- It is necessary to ensure that the regulation in force, hitherto regarding only Portuguese or Communitarian fishing vessels, **is not a futile effort of self-restraint to be destroyed by third parties** fishing illegally or without the same legal constraints.

Fisheries II

Madeira Outermost Region

- The black scabbard-fish (*Aphanopus carbo*) is a **resource of paramount importance for the Madeira fisheries**. Bottom trawl fisheries in the North Atlantic **capturing immature fish to make fishmeal** are affecting the species.
- The present model of assessment and management of fishery resources is **not effective in the protection of stocks**. Also, to some extent, it is unfair, **as it does not positively differentiates the small scale fisheries** with a low carbon footprint and operating selective fishing methods.
- A similar pattern can be found in the Madeiran fishery of tunids. They are captured in Madeira in a **pole and line** fishery made by bait boats. Quotas available are scarce.
- Review the management strategies of overexploited and overfished fisheries and **positively differentiate sustainable fisheries** with low impact on ecosystems.
- Implement the **prohibition of bottom trawl for deep species** Reg. (EU) 2347/2002
- Integrate **Madeira** and the Canaries in institutions like **OSPAR**, NEAFC and ICES.
- Create **MPA's** and **migratory corridors**.
- Madeira is strongly committed in the development of **sustainable aquaculture**.

MONITORING / KNOWLEDGE



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- We are **committed to MSFD** already delivered the PMo and PMd.
 - **14 M € (2020) € 50 / inhabitant; 446,000 km² / average depth to 4000 meters.**
 - Monitoring does not benefit from european funding.
 - Significant financial effort of the outermost regions for ensuring the GES and **monitoring of Europe's largest ecosystem - the Atlantic** - which have **common fruition**
 - Transboundary nature of the marine environment.
 - The absence of mechanisms to **ensure comparability** between regions and sub-regions and a **multitude of information** for accommodation platforms transforming knowledge into a **patchwork**.
 - **Knowledge is the basis of MSFD and is the basis of Bluegrowth.**
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- **Integration of researchers in administration projects** (ex BIOMETORE EEAGRANTS)
 - Macro biogeographic approach to the level of large basins (e.g. Arc-Atlantic), at least for Macaronesia sub-region (e.g. Mistic'seas DG ENV);
 - **Promoting Partnership / Cooperation.** Madeira's research shelter
 - Facilitate the researchers mobility, **assure the focus on the public cause.**
 - Financial mechanisms commensurate with responsibilities of each coastal state.
 - The MSFD guidelines for **cooperation. To be transposed to international law!**

MARINE LITTER

- **A Global scale** problem regardless states frontiers.
- Impacts to resize that potentially undermines the **sustainability of the oceans**.
- **60 %** of marine litter is estimated to come from **6** countries of the Asian southeast.
- **2,4 MMT** (million metric tons)/year China; 0,075 MMT/year USA

- Implementation of the MSFD PMo and PMd.
- **Cooperation between EU countries** (e.g. VEGAS project, presented at the last ICG-ML and where we have gained the interest of Dutch partners (modeling), French (physical oceanography), Spanish and Irish (floating garbage).
- Implementation of the **Waste Framework Directive** and **Water Framework Directive**
- It is inevitable, even to **dignify the Member States efforts**, that the European Commission thinks about its own foreign policy, pondering the inclusion of restrictions on products import from polluting countries.

MPA's

- Madeira has a **leading role** and referral in Portugal with regard to protected areas.
 - The first Portuguese marine protected area dates from 1971.
 - The only two Portuguese areas awarded with the European Diploma of the Council of Europe recognizing the **binomial: heritage and competence**.
 - There are four natural reserves; there is a natural park, 11 places of Community importance. Five international awards: 2 Biogenetic Reserves of the Council of Europe, 2 protected areas of the Council of Europe, and Laurissilva recognized as UNESCO's world natural heritage.
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- Contribute to **reach 10% MPA's** (MSFD-Portugal and CBD). Already in 2016 four coastal areas, one SIC cetaceans with 6.350 km² (200.000/5M€) and the Madeira-Tore complex 132.000Km².
 - Create conservation mechanisms: **AMP in international waters** and **migratory corridors**. Require equal commitment by European non-member states.

Better International Governance I

EU INTERNACIONAL ROLE

- MSFD: “Since **action at international level is indispensable** to achieve cooperation and coordination, this Directive should further enhance the coherence of the Community contribution and its Member States under international agreements”.
- **Promote** the adherence of all countries to **UNCLOS**.
- The **International organizations** (foreseen in UNCLOS) should be able to take in their areas of jurisdiction a **formal coordinating role** in order to implement obliging actions for all the UN members, regarding international waters.
- Like MSFD, **UNCLOS should accomplish guidelines for cooperation** between states at a level of monitoring and taking action and not just issuing recommendations.
- Implement the European Neighborhood Plan and the Integrated Marine Policy (IMP).
- Create conservation mechanisms: AMP in international waters and migratory corridors. **Require equal commitment by non-European States.**
- Consider measures such as **restrictions** on import of products from **polluting countries.**

Better International Governance II

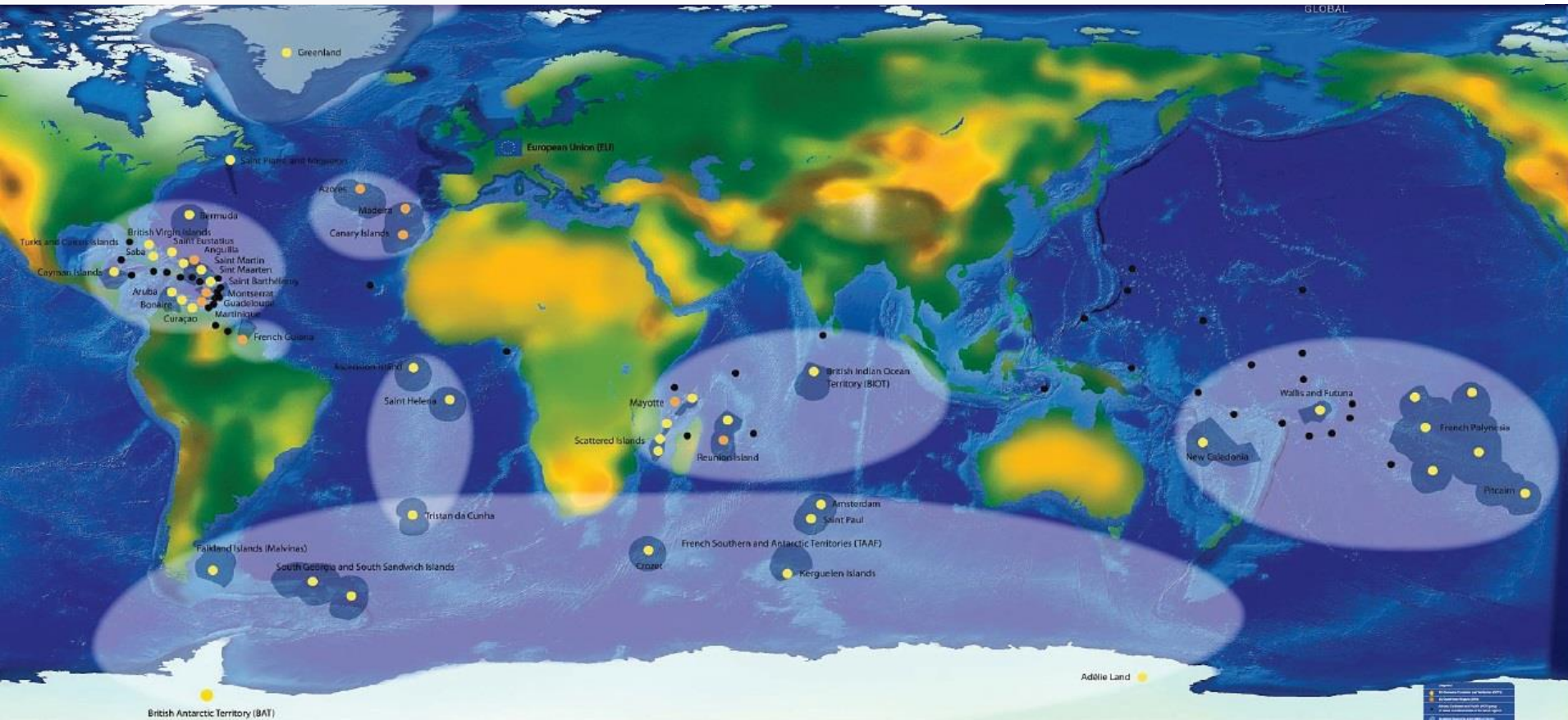
EU CONTEXT

- **Respect** states and coastal regions **responsibilities, vocation and sovereignty**.
- Ensure that **financial mechanisms** are sensitive and **commensurate** with the responsibilities of **each coastal state** and region. “The implementation of MSFD shall be supported by existing Community financial instruments” Article 22.
- Comply with the MSFD article 15 Community Action for "Issues that have an impact on the environmental status but cannot be tackled by measures at national level".
- Facilitate the **researchers mobility**, promote and give responsibility to researching centers for the **public cause** and promote the information availability;
- Ensure that existing regulatory and financial mechanisms **permeate sustainable fisheries and aquaculture**.
- **Integrate** the European EEZ of **Madeira** and the **Canary Islands** in the **OSPAR**, NEAFC and ICES, in line with the (MSFD) Atlantic Ocean North-east region.
- **Macro** biogeographic **approach** to the level of large basins.

Better International Governance III

Overseas territories role

The European Union (EU) includes 34 overseas territories: 9 Outermost Regions and 25 Overseas Countries and Territories. They are linked to 6 Member States: Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom. Found in every ocean, from polar to tropical latitudes. **SENTINELS OF THE OCEANS!**





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Thank you

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