

Progress in addressing the impacts of bottom fisheries on VMEs and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks

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North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission

# Convention Objectives





# The Commission shall in particular:



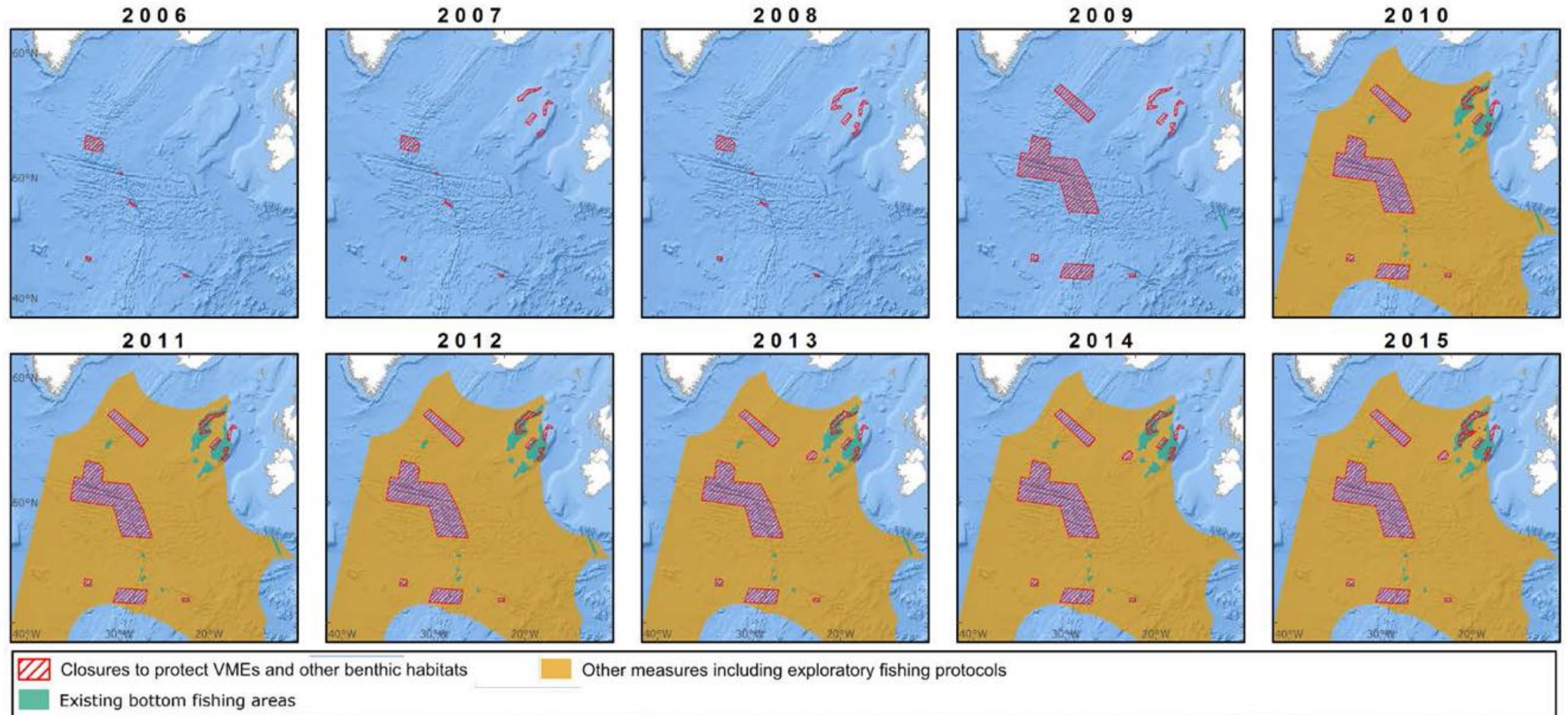
take due account of the impact of fisheries on other species and marine ecosystems... adopt... conservation and management measures that address the need to minimise harmful impacts...

take due account of the need to conserve marine biological diversity...



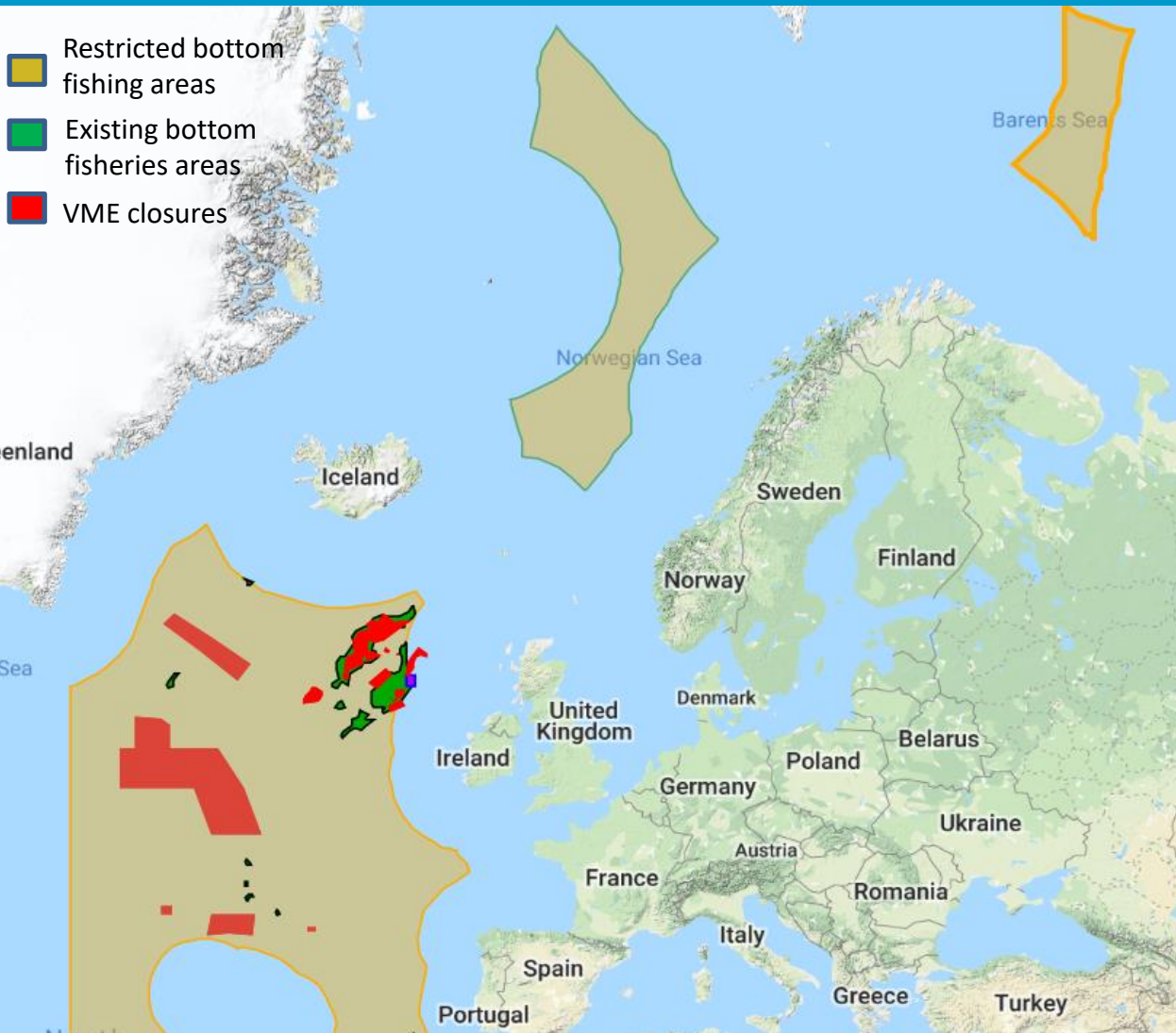
Photo Linda Snook / Wikimedia Commons

# Evolution of VME closures and restrictions





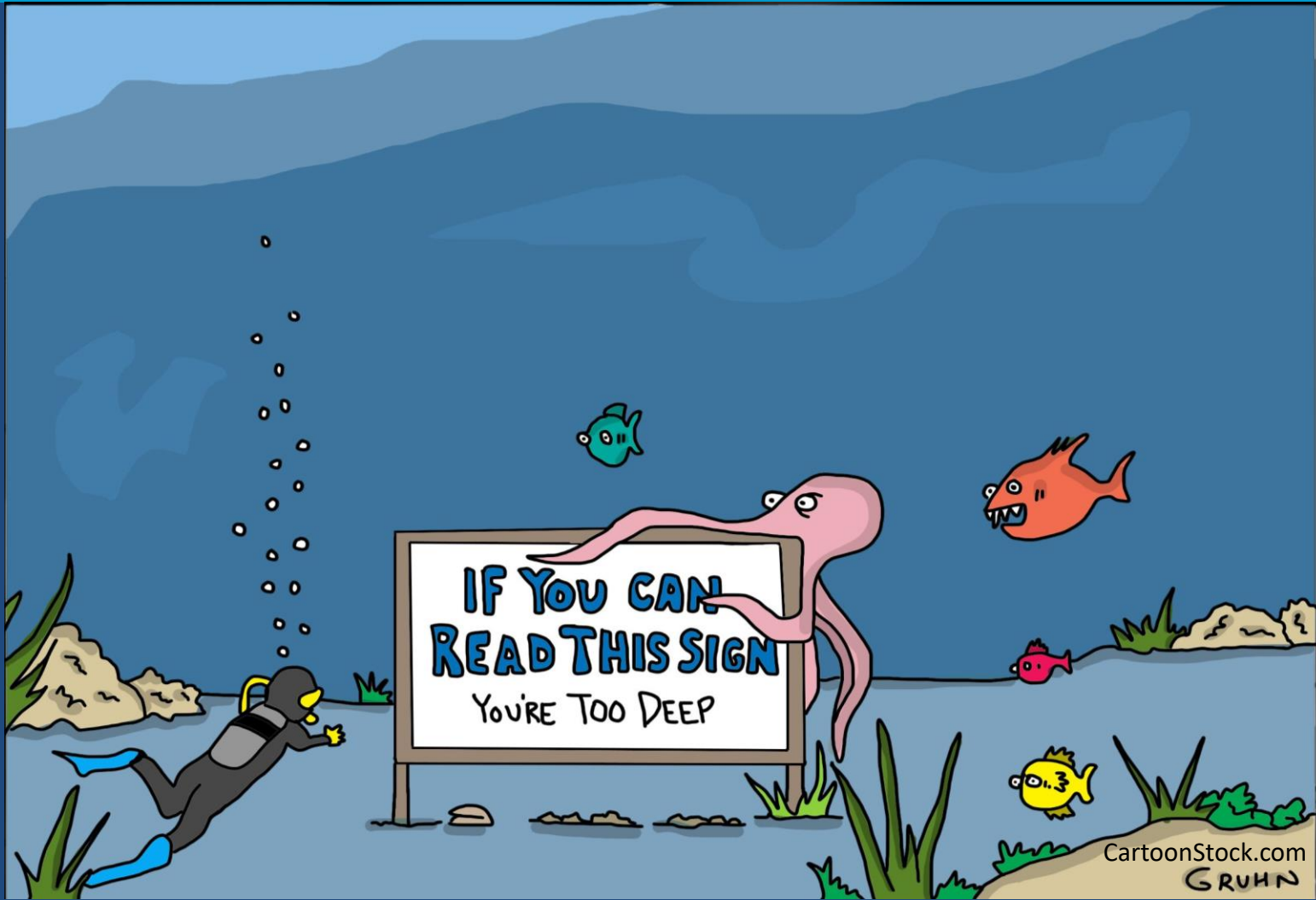
# A measure focused on conservation of living marine resources



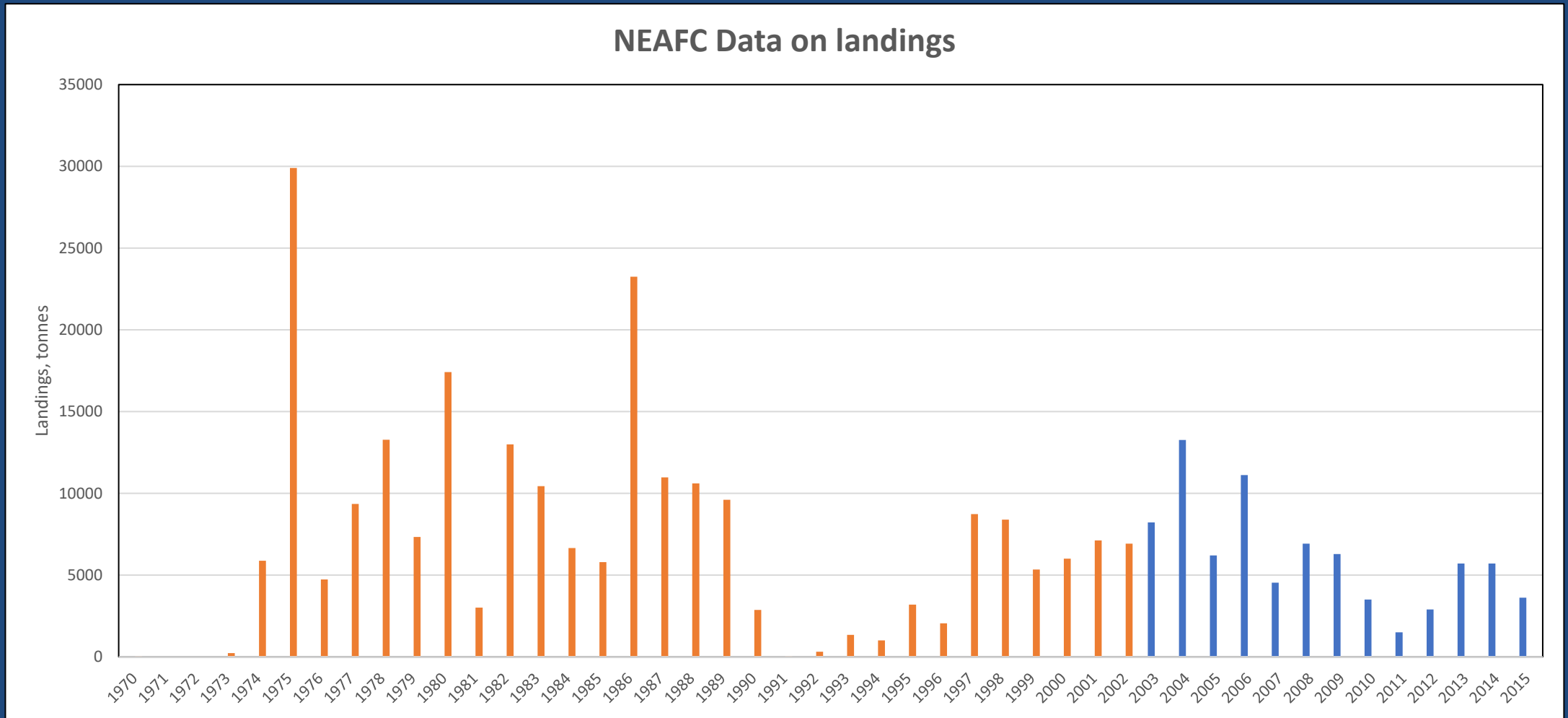
- Continued fishing in (green) existing bottom-fisheries areas
- VME Bottom fishing closures (red)
- Restricted bottom fishing areas - only to open after assessment (buff).



# The NEAFC approach to conservation and management of deep-sea fisheries



# The NEAFC approach to conservation and management of deep-sea fisheries



# Best independent wholistic scientific advice

## Precautionary Approach

Populations need to be maintained within safe biological limits - Certain that reproductive success is not impaired



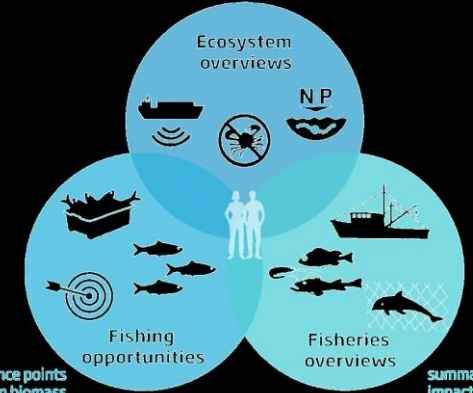
## Pragmatic Ecosystem Based Management



Balancing human activities & environmental stewardship in a multiple use context.



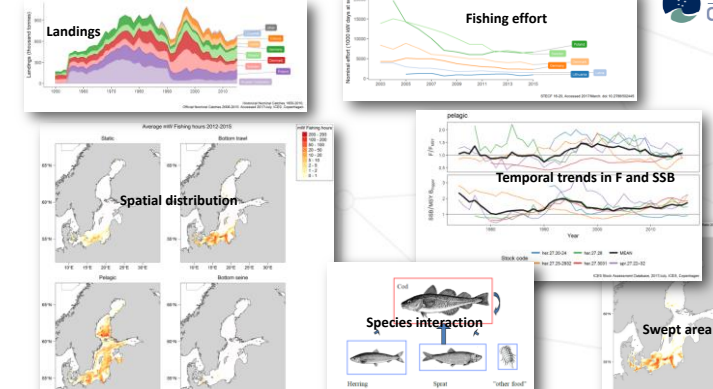
describe ecoregion context  
Identify pressures & drivers  
Impacts on key ecosystem components



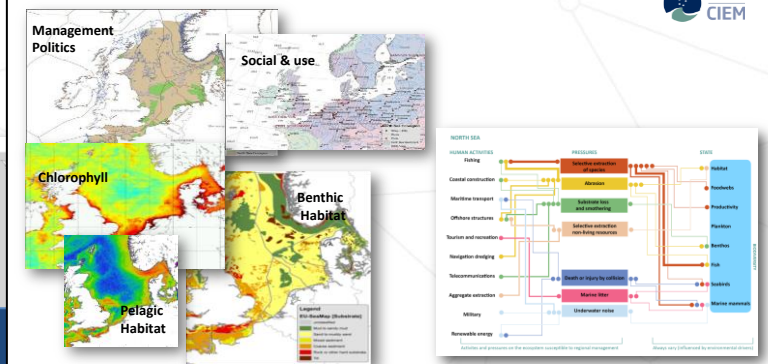
MSY options & reference points  
consequences of catch on biomass  
respond to changes in productivity

summarize fleet activity  
impacts of fishing & species  
trade-offs between fleets

## ICES Fisheries overviews



## ICES Ecosystem overviews



Science for sustainable seas

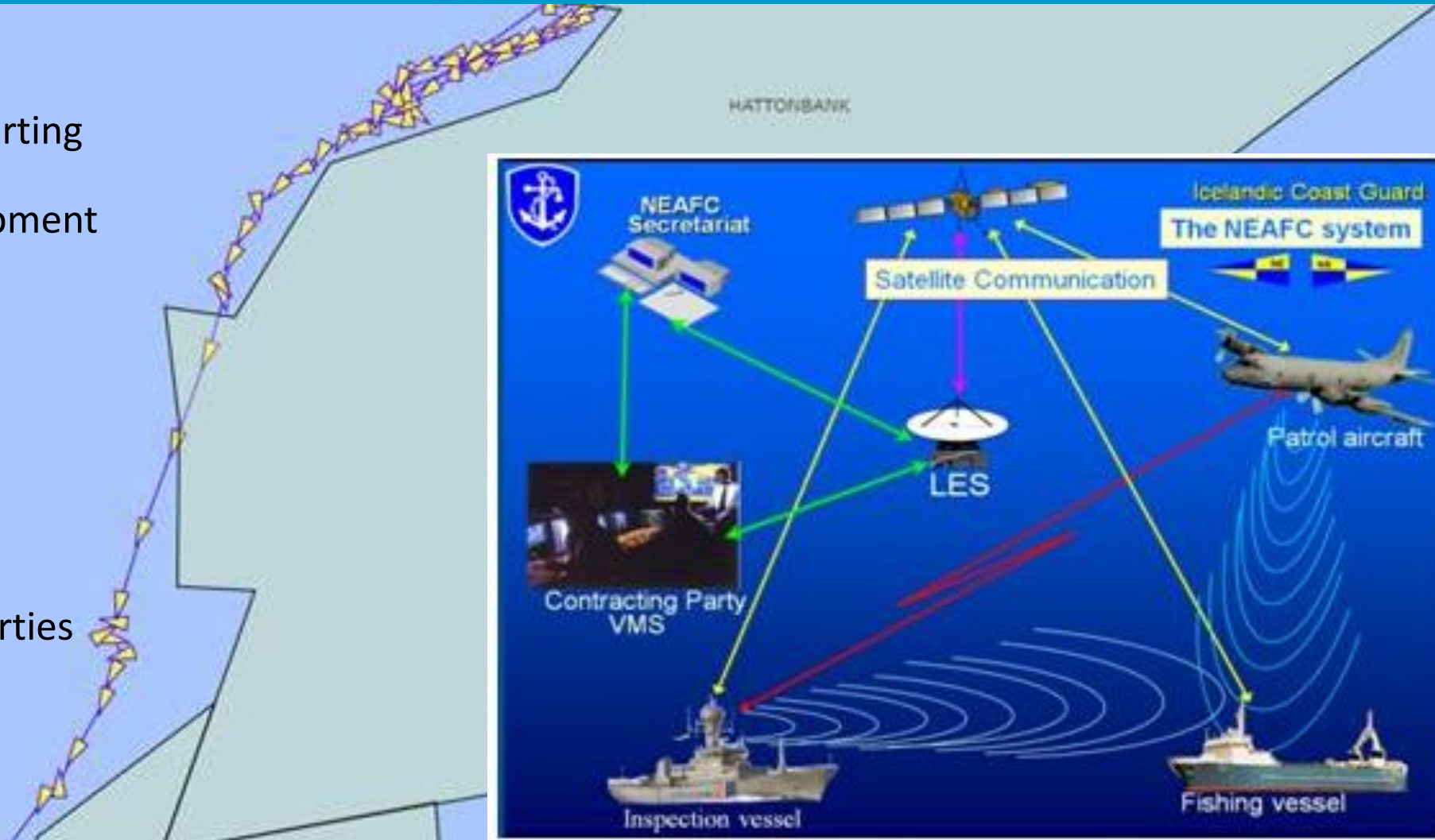






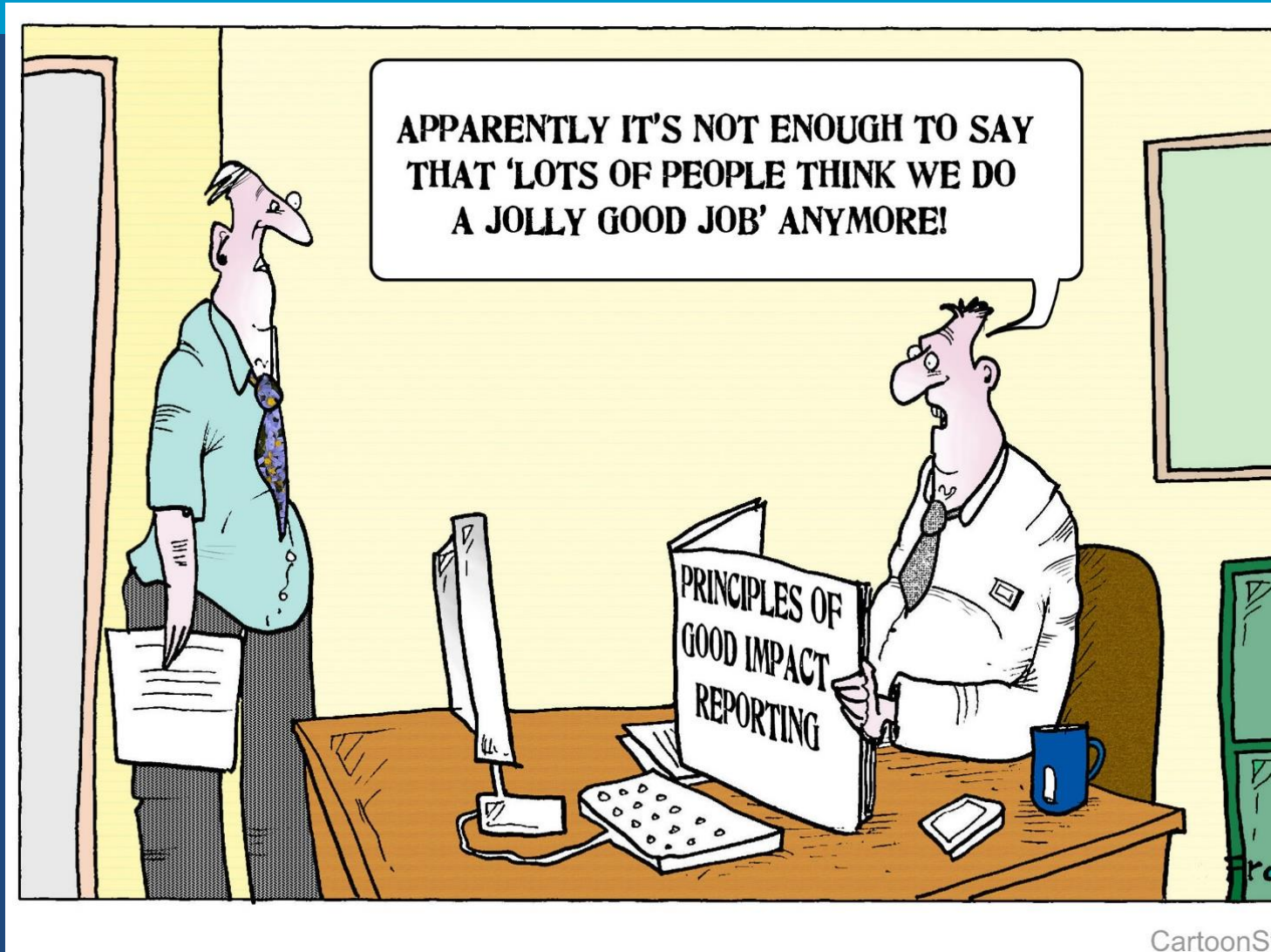
# Monitoring and Enforcing Bottom and Deep-sea Fisheries

- Vessel Monitoring System
- Electronic Log books and reporting
- Automated catch and transshipment reporting
- Joint surveillance
- Inspection at Sea and Ports
- Port State Control
- Control of non-Contracting Parties
- Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing lists





# Reviewing Implementation



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# Ensuring compliance

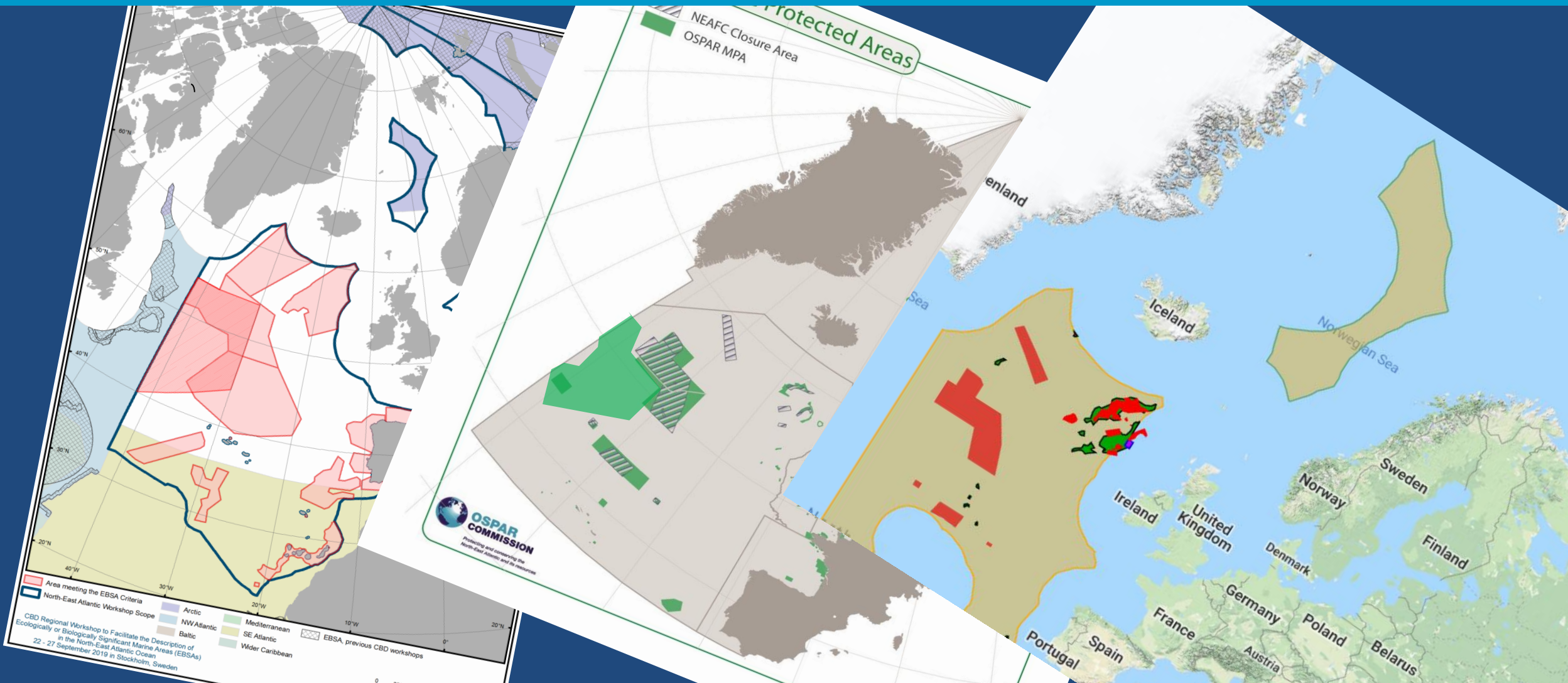
Infringements related to:	DFG		EU	ISL	NOR	RUS	Total
	FR	OR					
Art. 29 Serious infringements							0
Rec. 19:2014, as amended (closed areas)			5				5

Infringements related to:	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Rec 19:2014 (closed areas)	5				1	1					3
Infringements in Total by Years	56	42	38	22	27	27	43	33	24	28	45



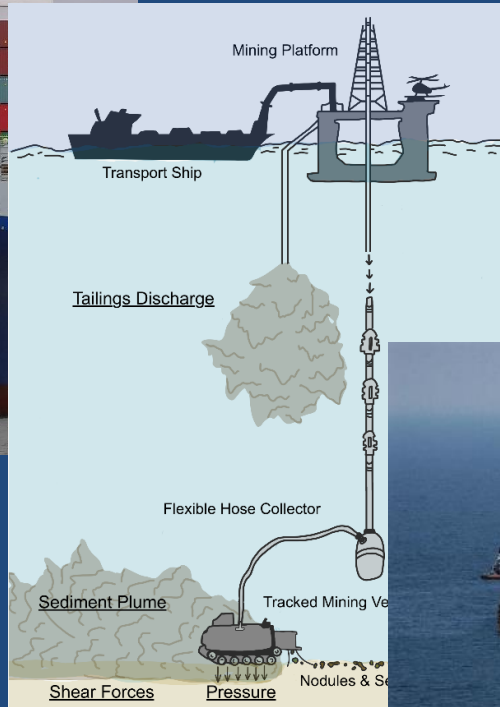


# Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures



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# Other Competent Bodies



### OSPAR: Main Objectives

- Prevent and eliminate pollution
- protect the maritime area against the adverse effects of human activities
- safeguard human health and conserve marine ecosystems
- when practicable, restore marine areas

### Guiding Principles

- Ecosystem Approach
- Precautionary Principle





# Thank You

More information is in our submission at:  
[www.un.org/depts/los/bfw/NEAFC\\_\\_2022.pdf](http://www.un.org/depts/los/bfw/NEAFC__2022.pdf)



*“We like to bring together people from radically different fields and wait for the friction to produce heat, light and magic. Sometimes it takes a while.”*

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