An underwater photograph of a diver in a blue tank and white gear, swimming over a coral reef. The water is clear and blue, with sunlight filtering through. The diver is positioned in the center-right of the frame, looking towards the left. The coral reef is visible in the foreground and background, with various types of coral and seaweed.

Promoting Collaboration, Cooperation and Coordination among Relevant Ocean-related Initiatives and Processes

Marjo Vierros

Coastal Policy and Humanities Research

Some relevant initiatives and processes

- UNCLOS
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Aichi Targets + Post-2020 framework
- UNFCCC, including NDCs
- Ramsar Convention
- World Heritage Convention
- Convention on Migratory Species
- Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ process)
- SAMOA Pathway, including partnerships

- Regional Seas programmes
- Regional Fishery Bodies
- Large Marine Ecosystem partnerships
- Man and Biosphere program
- UN Oceans

- Our Ocean Conference, including commitments
- World Ocean Summit
- Global Sustainable Blue Economy Conference
- World Conference on Marine Biodiversity
- IUCN World Conservation Congress

- UN Decade of Ocean Science
- UN World Ocean Assessment
- UN Regular Process

Some relevant initiatives and processes

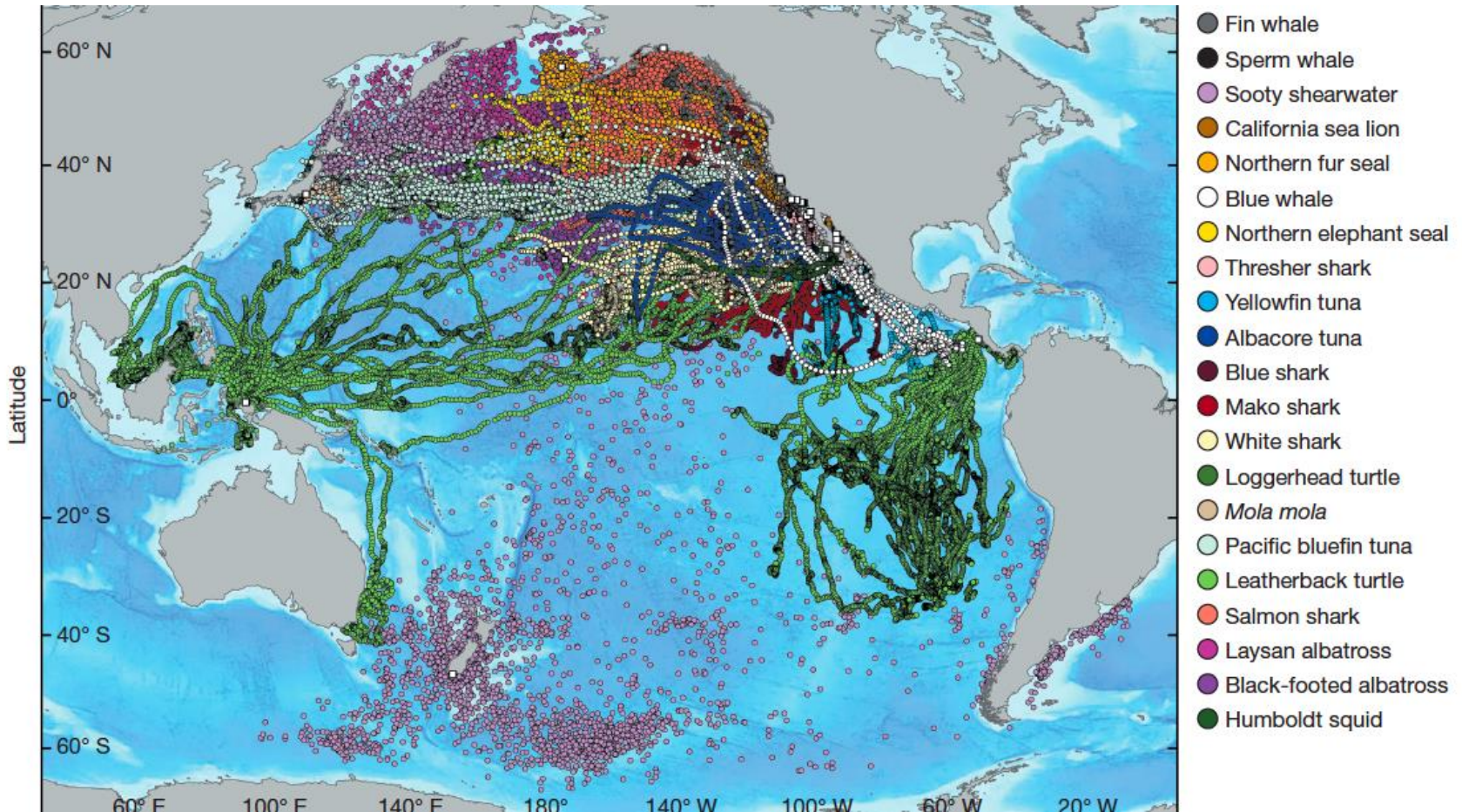
- UNCLOS
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Aichi Targets + Post-2020 framework
- UNFCCC, including NDCs
- Ramsar Convention
- World Heritage Convention
- Convention on Migratory Species
- **Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ process)**
- **SAMOA Pathway, including partnerships**

- Regional Seas programmes
- Regional Fishery Bodies
- Large Marine Ecosystem partnerships
- Man and Biosphere program
- UN Oceans

- Our Ocean Conference, including commitments
- World Ocean Summit
- Global Sustainable Blue Economy Conference
- World Conference on Marine Biodiversity
- IUCN World Conservation Congress

- UN Decade of Ocean Science
- UN World Ocean Assessment
- UN Regular Process

The interconnected ocean



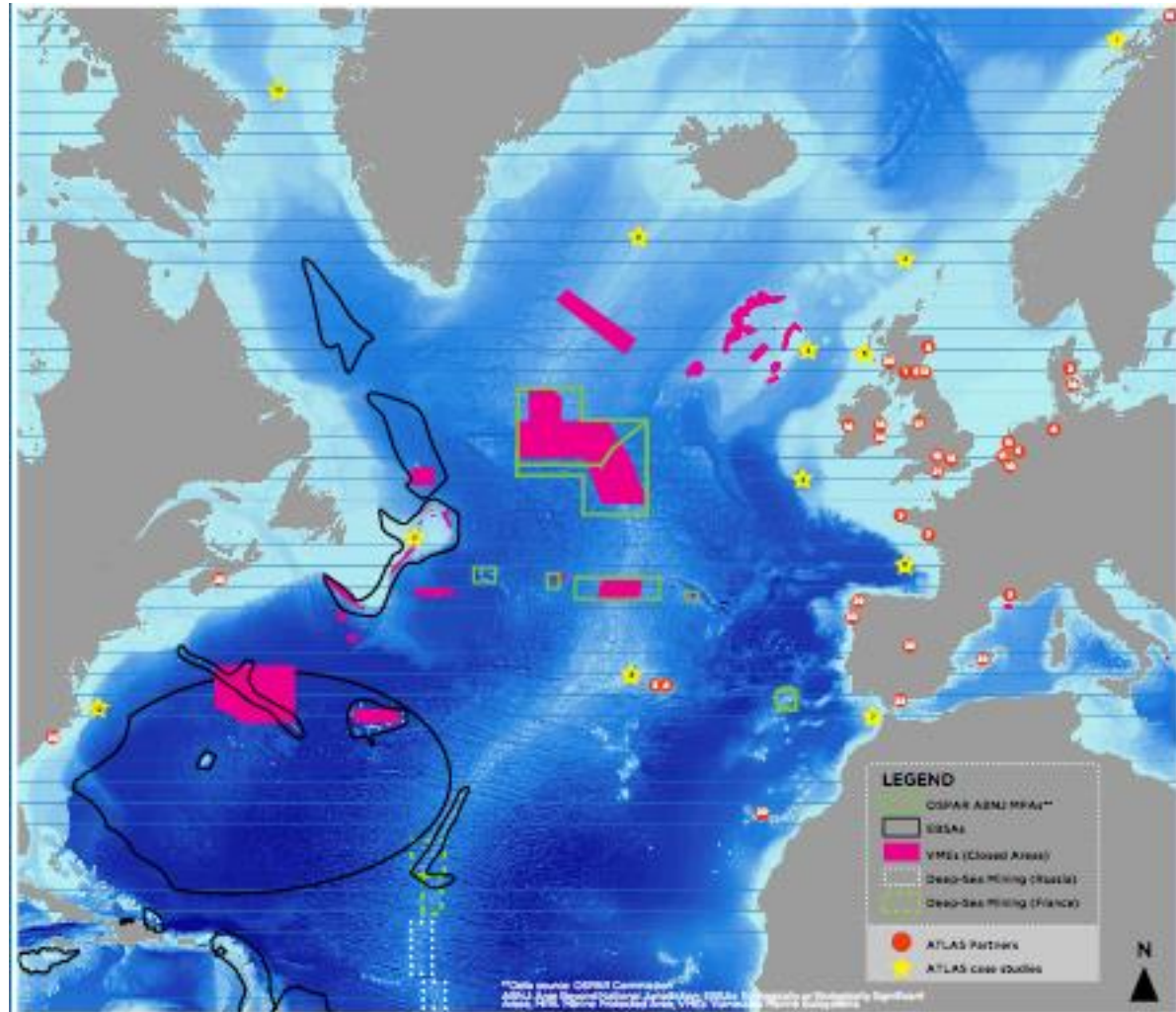
Block et al (2011) Tracking apex marine predator movements in a dynamic ocean. Nature

Why the BBNJ process?

- The BBNJ process has its own life and timespan
- But has catalyzed SDG-14 relevant scientific activities:
 - Collection and making available scientific data relating to deep and open ocean
 - Exploration of how to undertake marine spatial planning and other area-based management on a large scale
 - Examples: ATLAS project, The Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative (DOSI), The International Network for Scientific Investigation of Deep-Sea Ecosystems (INDEEP), Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI), Deep Ocean Observing Strategy (DOOS)

ATLAS Project

- Supported by EU
- Trans-Atlantic science-based assessment – all aspects of ecosystem function, dynamics and change
- Focus on deep-water ecosystems – knowledge gap
- Also examine marine spatial planning on a ocean basin scale
- **Encourage linkages with Ocean Conference, including as VC and in COA**



<https://www.eu-atlas.org/>

The BBNJ process

- **Capacity building and technology transfer will be key elements of a new International Agreement**
- Countries need capacity to:
 - Undertake area-based management, including MPAs
 - Undertake EIAs and SEAs in the deep ocean
 - Undertake scientific research and development of marine genetic resources
 - Legal and policy issues relevant to oceans
- Capacity building not meaningful if cannot also be applied within national jurisdictions and contribute to national sustainable blue economies
- Needs to be based on national and regional priorities and strengthen regional institutions (“Regional Centres of Excellence”)
- **Potential to further SDG 14 implementation**
- These linkages may need to wait until International Agreement adopted
- Ensure linkages between BBNJ and SDG-14 are made during negotiations

SAMOA Pathway



United Nations

Small Island Developing States Action Platform



The screenshot displays the SIDS Partnerships website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: Home, Partnership Framework, Browse partnerships, Register new partnership, Report on progress, and Resources. Below this, four featured reports are shown with images and titles: 'Coconut Industry Development for the Caribbean', 'Support to the Institut de la Francophonie pour le developpement durable (IFDD), subsidiary body of the Organisation Internationale de la Fra...', 'Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI)', and 'ICT4SIDS Partnership: Rapid Implementation of SDGs Through Latest Digital Innovations'. A central section shows a grid of 8 partnership cards, each with a handshake icon, a title, and a progress indicator. The cards include: '#SIDSAction29480 Raising awareness for the ocean protection among the youngest of the coastal communities in Cape Verde', '#SIDSAction27622 Beyond the Stars', '#SIDSAction26369 Special initiative: Climate change and health in Small Island Developing States', '#SIDSAction23433 Mangrove of my heart - Manglar de mi corazon', '#SIDSAction23171 Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub', '#SIDSAction23163 Partnership between IOM and the Ocean and Climate Platform (OCP)', '#SIDSAction23159 Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)', and '#SIDSAction23155 Pacific Green Business Centre'. A left sidebar contains filters for REPORTING (Submitted on time, Report due, Two years overdue), STATUS, CONFERENCE, SIDS REGION, SAMOA PATHWAY, and SDGS. A top right section shows '529' total reports, a keyword search bar, and sorting options (Date Registered (Most rec...)).

<https://sidspartnerships.un.org/partnerships/>

- Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action
- Adopted in 2014, mid-term review in Sept 2019
- Priority areas similar to SDGs, include the ocean and climate
- **Multi-stakeholder partnerships for implementation**
- **SIDS Action Platform**
 - Now also includes SIDS Ocean Conference commitments

Why SAMOA Pathway?

- **Additional ocean and climate partnerships and commitments, some of which are not registered as VCs**
 - Help understand broader “ecosystem” of activities in SIDS
 - Some could also become involved in Ocean Conference and make additional commitments
- **DESA has developed partnership case studies and tools**
 - Better understanding of how to develop genuine and effective partnerships
- **Have gone through assessment of progress, similar to upcoming stocktaking of VC progress:**
 - Addressing relatively low reporting (dialogues, role of regional organizations)
 - Challenges, lessons learned from partnerships
 - Identify gap areas for further action
 - **How to measure impacts, individually and collectively for SIDS sustainable development?**

In conclusion

- Many initiatives, processes and organizations
- Need more coherence
- Partnerships for SDG 14 implementation may provide some of this?
- COAs could recruit new members from under-represented processes and initiatives
- **Ocean Conference dialogues/partnership sessions to explore linkages between processes and initiatives?**
- May help in formulating architecture for more holistic management of an interconnected ocean