Deep-sea ecosystems in a changing ocean and the importance of basin-scale research for their long-term management and conservation

J Murray Roberts

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4th International Symposium The Effects of Climate Change on the World's Oceans

The Deep sea Under Climate Change, 4 June 2018





A story in three parts

- 1. The issues of global change in the deep sea
- 2. The challenge of Blue Growth
- 3. The ATLAS approach

Ocean Warming

Ocean Acidification

Reduced oxygen

Invasive species

Plastics & Pollution

Harmful Fishing Practices

Deep-sea Mining

Hydrocarbon Exploitation

Bioprospecting



REVIEW

Major impacts of climate change on deep-sea benthic ecosystems

Andrew K. Sweetman', Andrew R. Thurber', Craig R. Smith', Lisa A. Levin', Camilo Moral, Chih-Lin Well', Andrew J. Gooday'', Daniel O. B. Jones'', Michael Rex'', Moriaki Yasuhara'l, Jeroen Ingels'', Henry A. Ruhl'', Christina A. Frieder's II, Roberto Danovaro''.'', Laura Würzberg''', Amy Bacott, Benjamin M. Grupe's Si, Alexis Pasulka III, Kirstin S. Meyer'''.''', Katherine M. Dunlop', Lea-Anne Henry''' and J. Murray Roberts''''

- Abyssal temp

 1°C within 84 years
- O₂ declines in areas deep-water formation
- Up to 40-55% ↓ in POC flux in some regions
- Rapid pH ↓ at bathyal depths

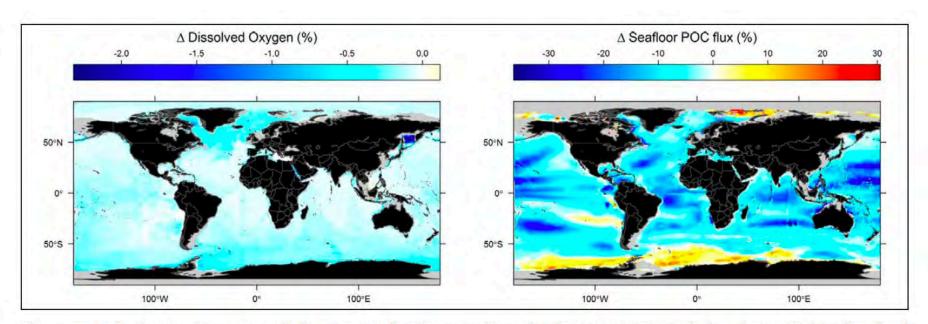
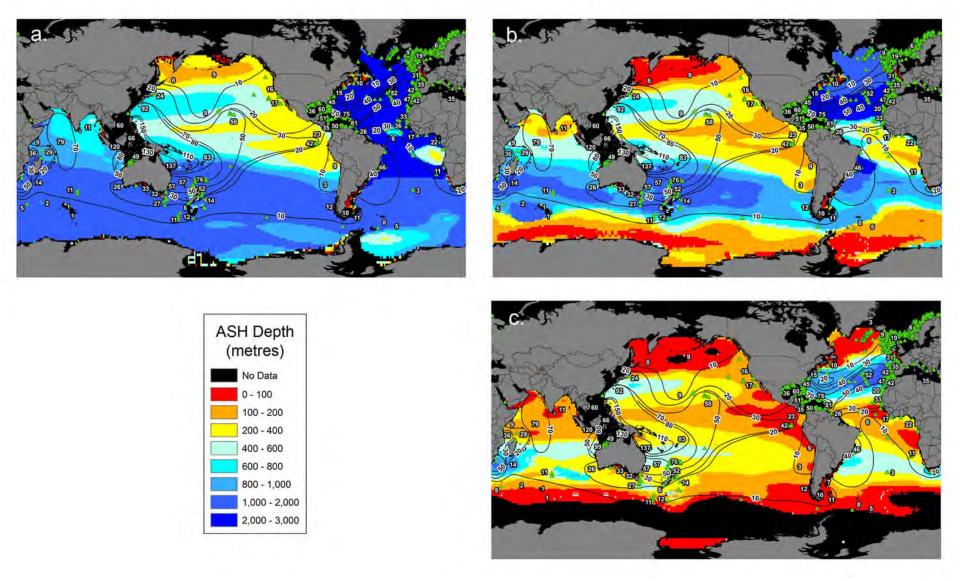


Figure 3: Relative environmental changes at the deep seafloor in the year 2100. Relative change (%) in dissolved oxygen (mL L⁻¹) and seafloor POC flux (mg C m⁻² d⁻¹) conditions that could be seen at the deep (> 200 m) seafloor by 2100 relative to present-day conditions. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1525/elementa.203.f3





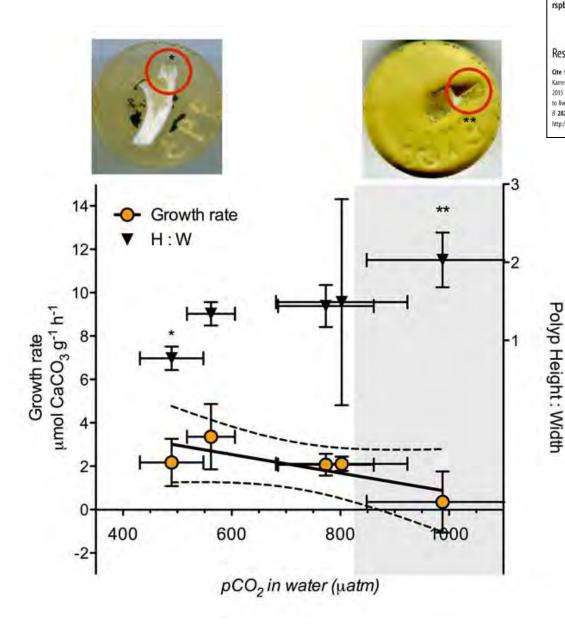
Modelled depth of the aragonite saturation horizon (a) for year 1765, pCO_2 278 ppm; (b) for year 2040, pCO_2 513 ppm; (c) for year 2099, pCO_2 788 ppm. Green triangles show locations of reef framework-forming scleractinian coldwater corals. Lines are diversity contours for 706 species of azooxanthellate scleractinian corals (see Fig. 2.20, p. 00). Black areas appearing in previously coloured portions of the Southern Ocean and North Pacific in image (c) indicate areas where the ASH depth has reached the surface. Figures reproduced from Guinotte *et al.* (2006)



Meridional overturning circulation conveys fast acidification to the deep Atlantic Ocean

Fiz F. Perez¹*, Marcos Fontela¹*, Maribel I. García-Ibáñez¹*, Herlé Mercier²*, Anton Velo¹, Pascale Lherminier², Patricia Zunino², Mercedes de la Paz¹, Fernando Alonso-Pérez¹, Elisa F. Guallart¹ & Xose A. Padin¹

- Aragonite saturation horizon could shoal by 1000–1700 m in the subpolar North Atlantic within the next three decades.
- Present-day transport of carbonate ions towards the deep ocean is about 44% lower than in preindustrial times.
- Doubling CO₂ levels within next three decades could reduce the transport of excess of carbonate over aragonite saturation by 64–79 % of preindustrial times



PROCEEDINGS B

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Research





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http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2015.0990

Hidden impacts of ocean acidification to live and dead coral framework

S. J. Hennige¹, L. C. Wicks¹, N. A. Kamenos², G. Pema², H. S. Findlay³ and J. M. Roberts 1,4,5

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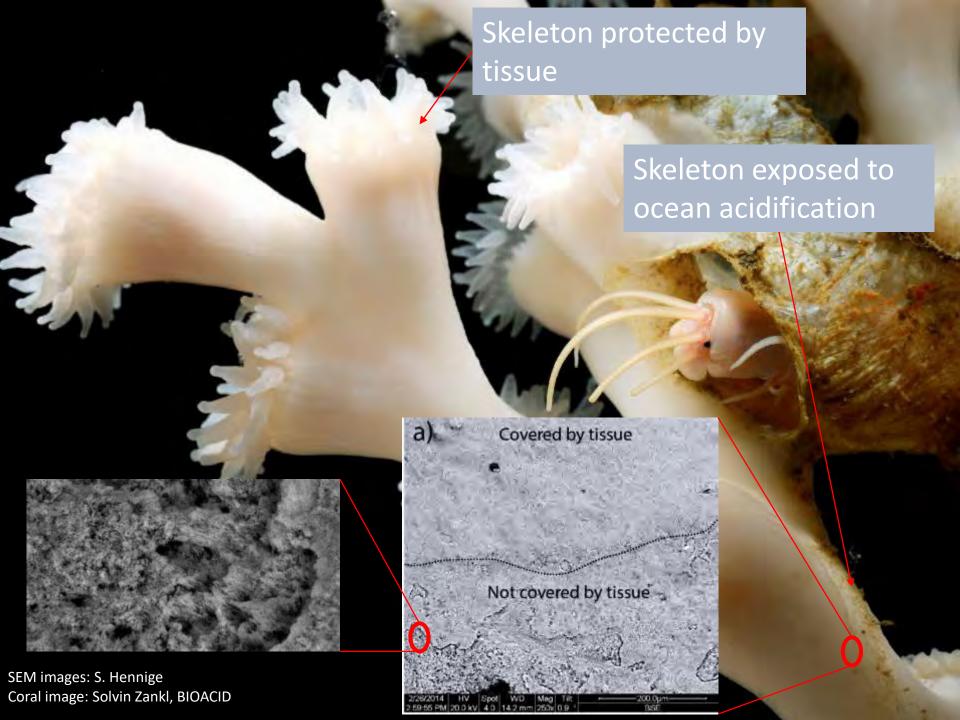
Cold-water corals, such as Lophelia pertusa, are key habitat-forming organisms found throughout the world's oceans to 3000 m deep. The complex threedimensional framework made by these vulnerable marine ecosystems support high biodiversity and commercially important species. Given their importance

Growth rates:

Significant negative correlation with increasing CO₂: Driven by dissolution in high CO₂ treatment

Growth forms:

- Growth form of new polyps significantly changes
- New polyps are longer and thinner under high CO₂



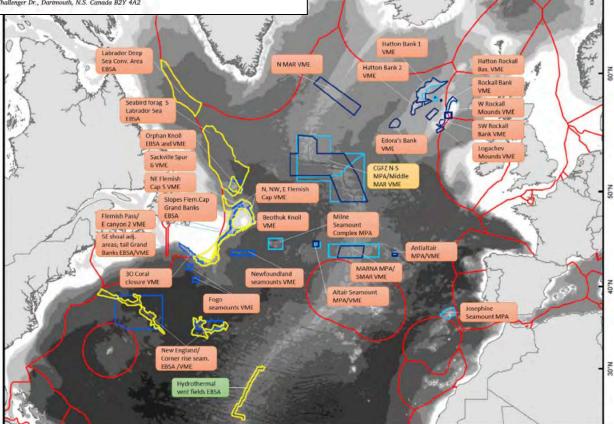




Impacted

Low impact

No impact



10°W

20°W



Fig. 2. Expected effect of changing environmental variables on main taxa listed in the conservation objectives for each North Atlantic ABMT in ABNJ. Green: no expected impact; Yellow: low expected impact; Orange: impacted. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)



BLUE GROWTH

71%
of the Earth surface
is WATER



Why?

Blue Growth is the European Commission's initiative to further harness the potential of Europe's oceans, seas







Sustainability

Focus Area



other **sectors of the blue economy** crucial for value & jobs









Offshore oil & gas



INFOBOX 1.1

Blue Growth

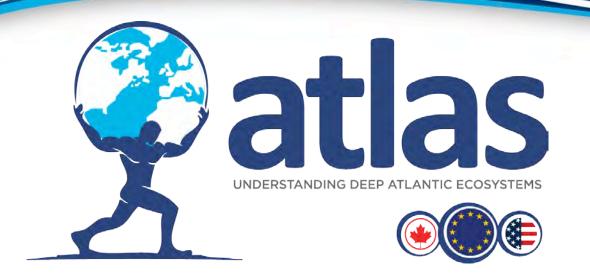
http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/blue_growth/

Blue Growth (COM (2012) 494) is Europe's long term strategy to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors. As a maritime contribution to achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, the Blue Growth strategy consists of three components:



- (1) Development of sectors that have a high potential for sustainable jobs and growth, such as aquaculture, coastal tourism, marine biotechnology, ocean
- energy and seabed mining.
- (2) Provision of new knowledge, legal certainty and security in the blue economy, such as improvement of access to information about the sea, maritime spatial planning that will ensure efficient and sustainable management of activities at sea and integrated maritime surveillance to give authorities a better picture of what is happening at sea.
- (3) Development of sea basin strategies to ensure tailor-made measures that will foster cooperation among countries.

Blue Growth aims to harness the potential of Europe's seas and coasts to create jobs and growth that will develop the blue economy, while making efforts to reduce negative environmental impacts of maritime activities, safeguard biodiversity and protect the marine environment.



A trans-Atlantic assessment and deep-water ecosystem-based spatial management plan for Europe





At a Glance

A trans-Atlantic assessment and deep-water ecosystem-based spatial management plan for Europe

Call: EU Horizon 2020: BG-2015-2 (Unlocking the potential of seas and oceans)

Duration: May 2016 – April 2020 (48m)

Consortium: 24 partners +1 linked 3rd

party, from 12 countries

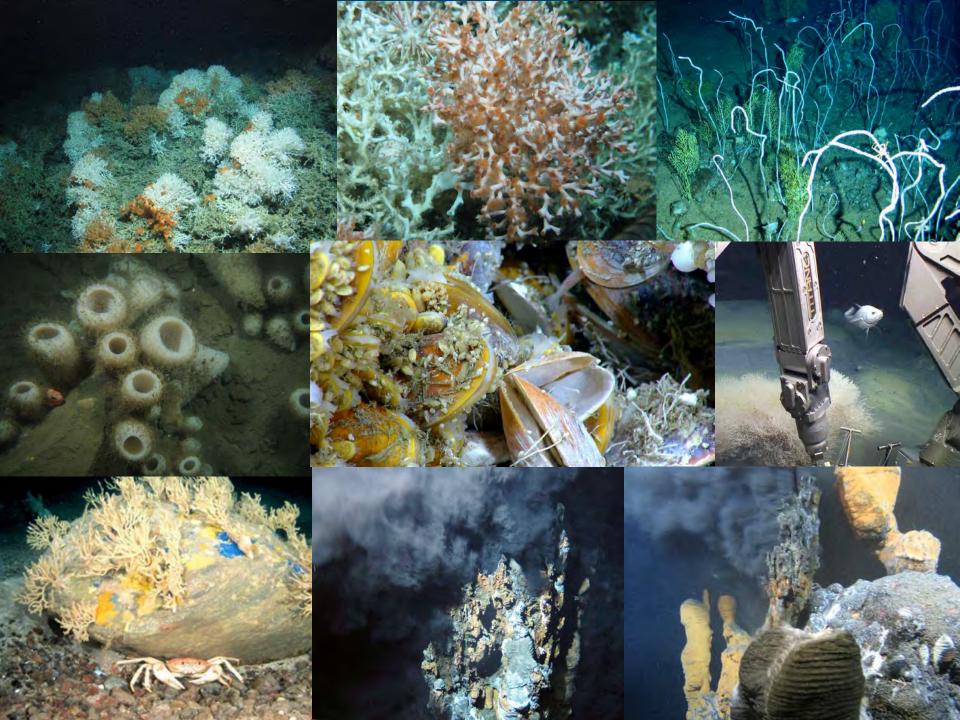
Budget: €9.3M

Coordinator: University of Edinburgh (UK)

Focus: Providing essential new knowledge of North Atlantic ecosystems through data gathering and synthesis

Impact: Discoveries and outputs will inform and facilitate stakeholder agreement on marine policy and regulation and spur Blue Growth

Core activities: 25+ research cruises investigating 12 case studies across the Atlantic

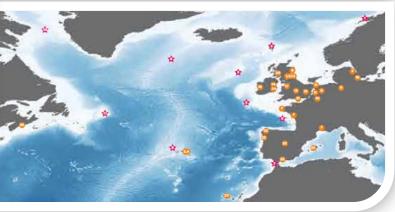




Transatlantic collaboration







ATLAS kick-off meeting Edinburgh (June 2016)

- 1 University of Edinburgh (UEDIN)
- 2 Aarhus Universitet (AU)
- 3 IMAR Instituto do Mar (IMAR -Uaz)
- **4** Secretária Regional do Mar, Ciência e Tecnologia (DRAM)
- 5 British Geological Survey (BGS/NERC)
- 6 Gianni Consultancy (GC)
- 7 Institut Français de Recherche pour L'Exploitation de la Mer (Ifremer)
- 8 Marine Scotland (MSS)
- 9 Universitaet Bremen (UniHB)
- 10 lodine (lodine)

- Case studies
- Project Partners
- 11 NIOZ Koninklijk Nederlands Instituut voor Onderzoek der Zee (NIOZ)
- 12 Dynamic Earth (DE)
- 13 University of Oxford (UOX)
- **14** University College Dublin (UCD)
- 15 University College London (UCL)
- 16 National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG)
- 17 University of Liverpool (ULIV)
- 18 Syddansk Universitet (USD)

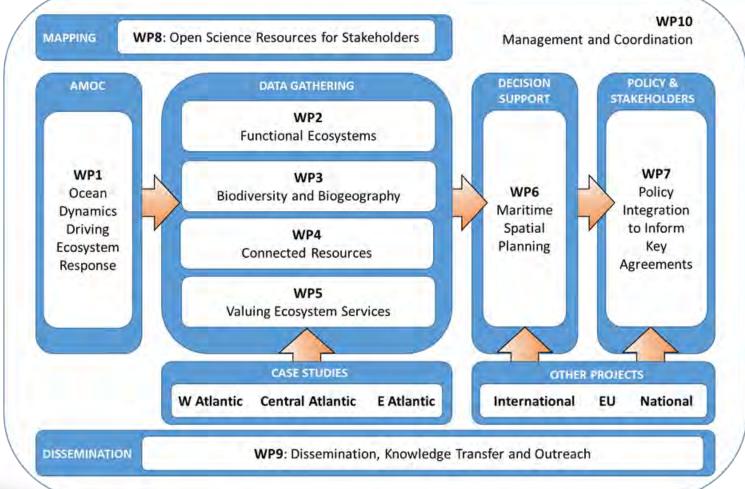
- 19 UiT The Arctic University of Norway (UiT)
- **20** Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS)
- 21 Seascape Consultants (SC)
- 22 Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO)
- 23 University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNCW)
- 24 AquaTT UETP Ltd (AquaTT)
- 25 Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

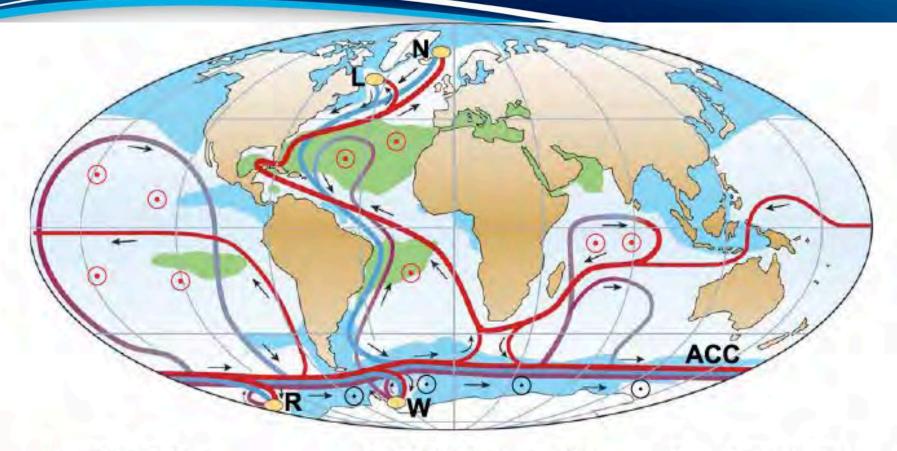


Objectives

- Advance our understanding of deep Atlantic marine ecosystems and populations
- Improve our capacity to monitor, model and predict shifts in deep-water ecosystems and populations
- Transform new data, tools and understanding into effective ocean governance
- Scenario-test and develop science-led, cost-effective adaptive management strategies that stimulate Blue Growth



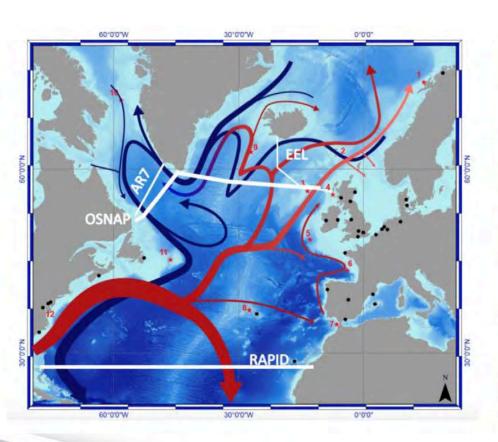


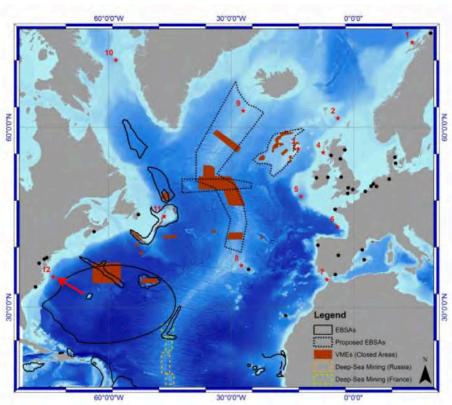


- Surface flow
- Deep flow
- Bottom flow
- Deep Water Formation
- Wind-driven upwelling
- Mixing-driven upwelling
- Salinity > 36 ‰
- Salinity < 34 ‰</p>

- L Labrador Sea
- N Nordic Seas
- W Weddell Sea
- R Ross Sea



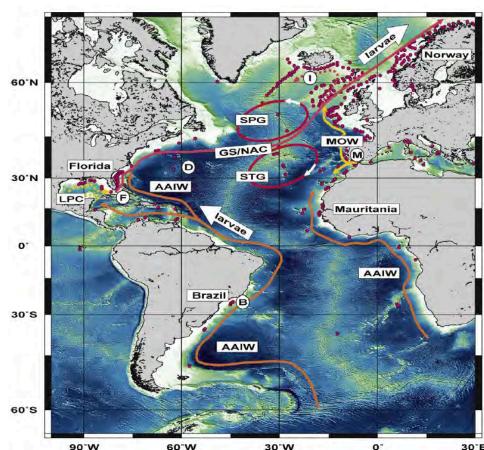




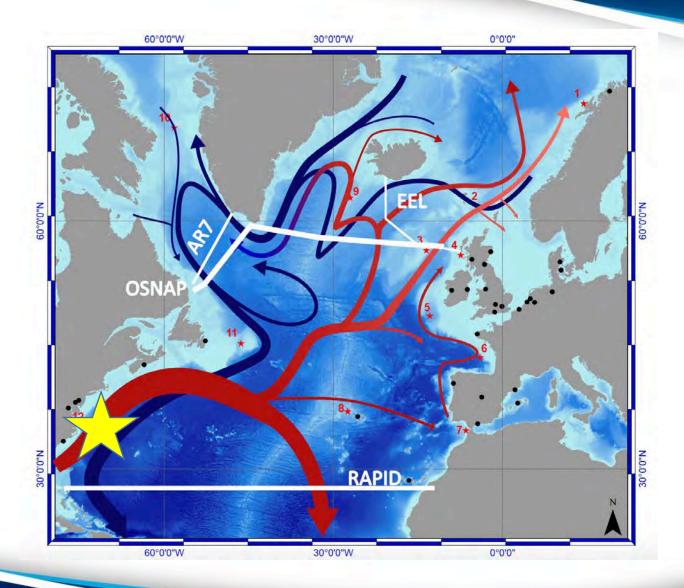


- Links paleo and genetic literature
- Role AMOC in driving rapid post-glacial range expansion in deep ocean
- 7500 km range expansion in <400 years
- What are implications of future AMOC variability?







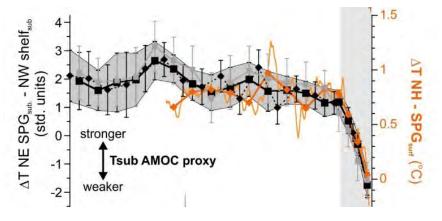


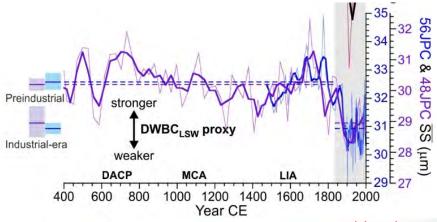


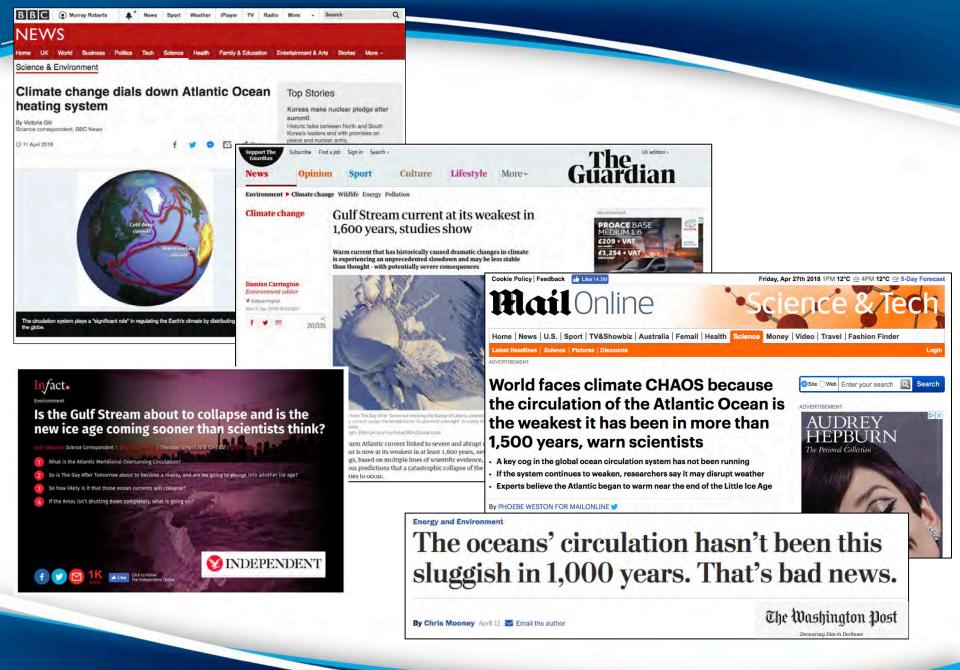
AMOC strength over last 1600 years

- Proxy-records show anomalously weak AMOC strength over past ~150 years.
- Imply modern circulation atypical of longer term.
- Important when interpreting distribution & functioning of Atlantic ecosystems.

Thornalley et al. (2018) Anomalously weak Labrador Sea convection and Atlantic overturning during the last 150 years. *Nature*.









Bermuda to Atlantic Canada 28 July – 8 August 2016

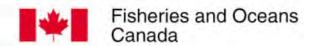
Deep-sea habitat mapping; Oceanographic profiling; Seamounts; Biodiversity; Geology and fossil history

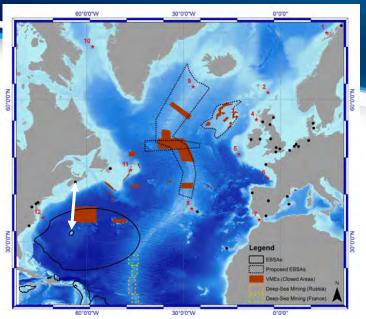


CCGS Hudson in St. Georges' Harbour



CTD casts on 3 seamounts (Argus, Challenger and Bowditch)







Oceanographic seamount profiling





21th September 2016 - 26th October 2016 (36 days; one scale in Azores) Research Vessel "Sarmiento de Gamboa" (CSIC)



RV Sarmiento de Gamboa (image: Joan Costa, CSIC)

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- ROV "Liropus" Super Mohawk
- 2 CDT rosettes
- ADCP and EK-60
- Multibeam echosounder
- Sidescan sonar
- Box corer, Multicorer, van Veen grab





RV *Pelagia* 2017 & 2018















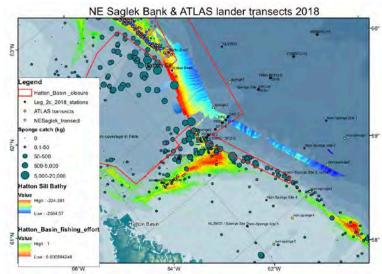




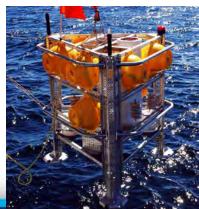
CCGS Amundsen cruise 2018

- Controls on deep-water sponges in Davis Strait
- CAN\$150k raised by DFO to support shiptime
- Work led by NIOZ with UEDIN, BGS, ULIV & UNCW
- Galway transatlanticalliance in action









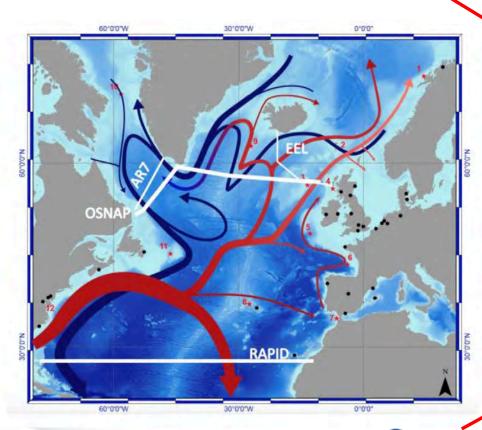


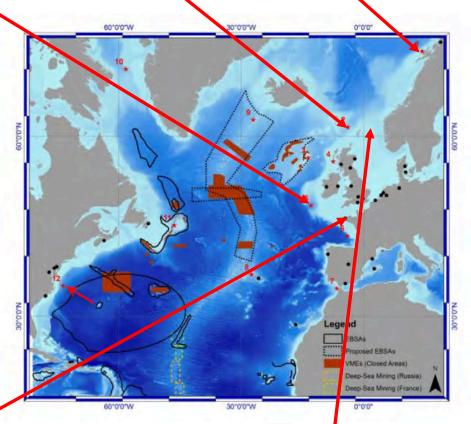


















Expected Impacts

- Improve resource management (ecosystem approach) and governance
- Improve **cooperation** within EU and trans-Atlantic
- Contribute to the EU Integrated Maritime Policy
- Strengthen international **agreements to conserve** Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems and Ecologically & Biologically Significant Areas
- Engage with UN process developing an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction



Multidisciplinary Approach



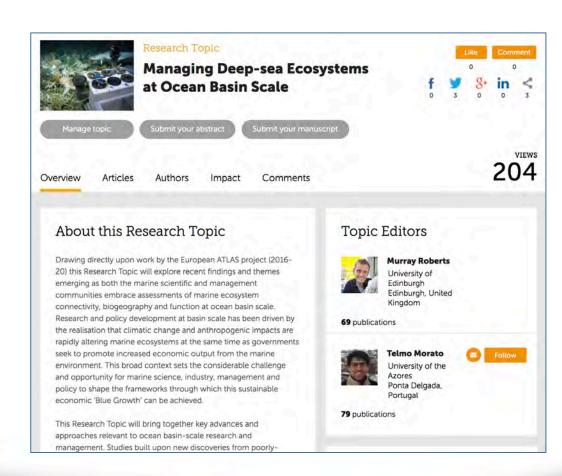




Frontiers in Marine Science Theme for ATLAS

Submission Deadlines

- 12 July 2018 Abstract
- 15 November Manuscript
- Similar deadlines planned for 2019 and 2020





Many thanks!

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