

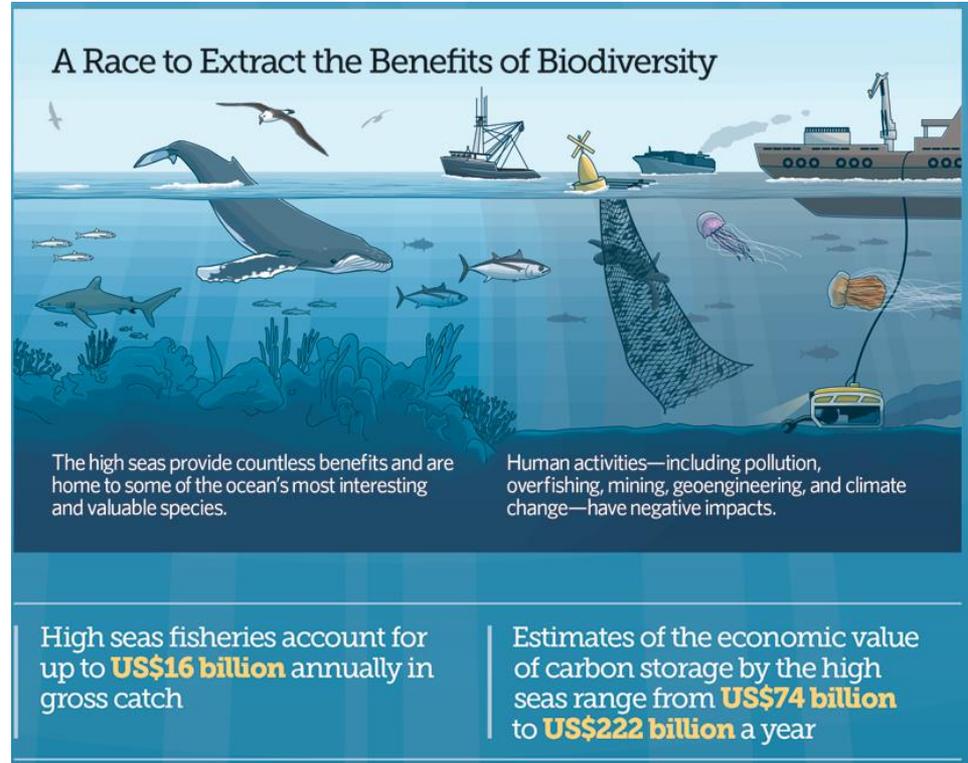


How we can Advance Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdictions (BBNJ) - Part 2

Quick Recap of BBNJ

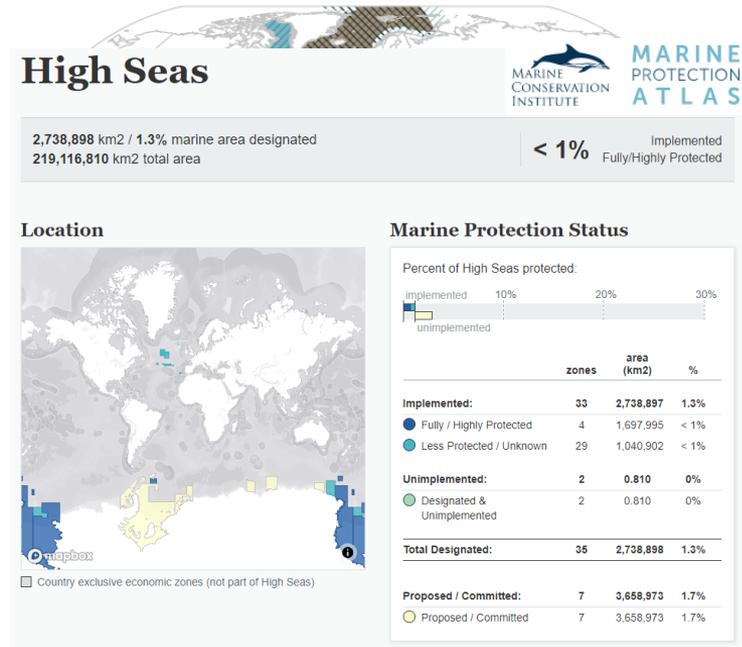
Why do the high seas matter?

- **Teeming with life**
 - Represent 95% of habit
 - Home to important species
- **Critical ecosystem services**
 - Climate mitigation
 - Oxygen provision
- **Inextricably linked to coastal ecosystems**



Why do we need a High Seas Treaty?

- **The problem- Governance gaps**
No mechanism to establish HS MPAs or obligation to conduct robust EIA
- **Scale of the Problem**
2/3rds of the ocean, almost 1/2 the planet
- **Lack of Protection: HS**
are key to conserving 30% of the ocean, but currently only ~1% are protected



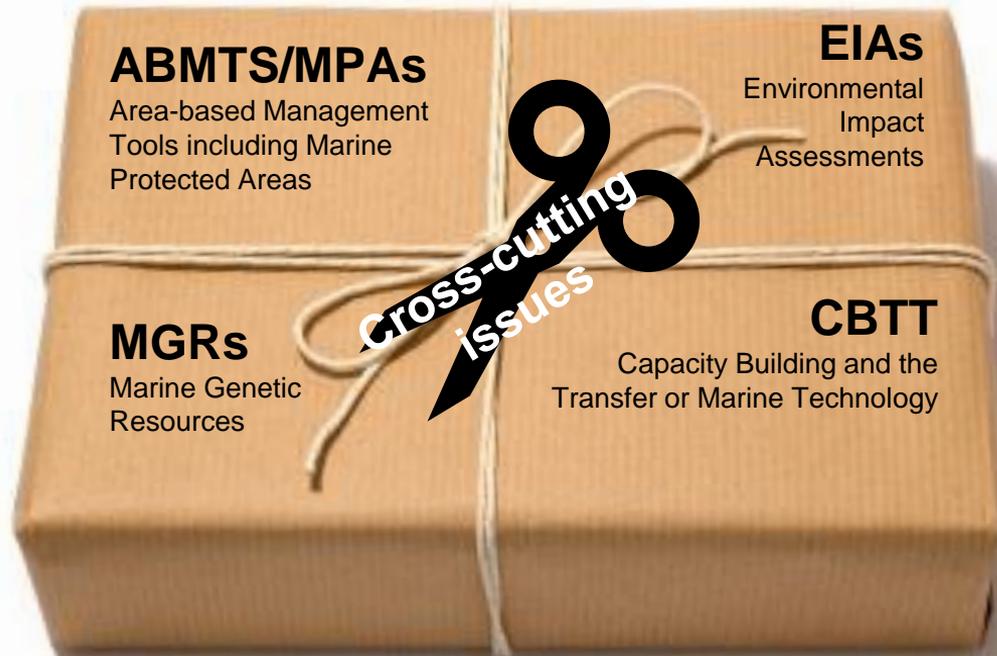
Source: MPAtlas

<https://mpatlas.org/countries/HS>

BBNJ Treaty: Objectives & Elements

BBNJ: Marine Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction

Objective: The
Conservation &
Sustainable use of
BBNJ



SSC & GTA Positions on BBNJ

- The Global Tuna Alliance (GTA) and the Sustainable Seafood Coalition (SSC) have shared objectives with regard to BBNJ and intend to work together to align asks.
- This should prove both effective and efficient (amplified calls to actions and alignment for overlapping members)

SSC & GTA Positions on BBNJ

BBNJ is a work-area in the GTA 5-year strategy

Work Programme	Programme Aim	Outputs	Outcomes	KPIs
Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)	To complement and strengthen the existing high seas governance framework by filling geographic, legal and taxonomic gaps; with a particular focus on spatial management and the ecosystem-impacts of commercial fishing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">GTA Partners urge policy-makers to ensure that the high-seas negotiations result in a robust global treaty which accounts for the shortcomings of the existing management system, including spatial governance gaps in the high-seas (e.g., SW Atlantic or E. Indian Oceans), as well as taxonomic gaps, in terms of assigning responsibilities for monitoring and managing global high-seas biodiversity.GTA Partners encourage policy-makers at the BBNJ negotiations to call for all human activities in the high-seas, in particular those extractive in nature, to be observed via human or electronic observers and monitoring systems, in order to continue filling the significant knowledge void on the distribution and impacts of human activities in the high-seas and its biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">High-seas negotiations result in a robust global treaty which accounts for the shortcomings of the existing management system, including spatial governance gaps in the high-seas (e.g., SW Atlantic or E. Indian Oceans), as well as taxonomic gaps, in terms of assigning responsibilities for monitoring and managing global high-seas biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">GTA demonstrably advocates for a high-seas treaty that address the current biodiversity and climate challenges beyond national jurisdiction.

SSC & GTA Positions on BBNJ

The SSC Strategic Plan:

“The SSC will **collaborate** with other initiatives to avoid duplication of effort and to promote alignment in the global sustainable seafood movement.”

“Where the SSC finds alignment with the external organisations it will defer to **external expertise** and coordinate any **joint advocacy activity** accordingly.”

SSC & GTA Positions on BBNJ

Overarching Aim	Outputs	Activities	KPIs	Responsibility	In collaboration with
Aim 4: To influence changes in policy relevant to seafood sustainability.	4.1 Members are informed and equipped to engage in relevant advocacy activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members are invited to a webinar on the High Seas Treaty and given the opportunity to sign-on to relevant advocacy interventions, in collaboration with Pew and the GTA. Members are invited to sign-on to relevant advocacy statements addressing the UK Fisheries Act & secondary legislation. Other proposed advocacy opportunities which align with the SSC's Vision & Aims will be considered by the Steering Group and presented to members 	<p>KPI6: Number of advocacy efforts engaged in by members.</p> <p><i>This will include efforts coordinated collectively under the SSC umbrella, and those and where coordinated externally but signposted within the SSC to boost participation.</i></p> <p>KPI7: Changes brought about as a result of SSC advocacy activity</p> <p><i>To be measured and recorded in the form of basic case studies. These studies should reflect the extent to which collaboration is enabling the SSC to achieve its aims at greater speed or with greater success than it could achieve alone.</i></p>	Secretariat, Steering Group & Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GTA The Pew Charitable Trusts

SSC & GTA Positions on BBNJ

How can we meet this KPI?

- **Advocacy**
 - Agree lines to take/messaging.
 - Support ongoing engagement efforts (i.e. sign-on).
 - Use commercial leverage to directly engage with decision-makers.
 - Social media campaigns.
- **Improve implementation of biodiversity objectives by RFMOs**
 - More ambitious taxonomic mandates of RFMOs are needed where such bodies have mandates that restrict their application to species potentially impacted by fisheries under their management.
 - The new high-seas treaty can help ensure that complementary management or monitoring frameworks can be developed for those species that are not currently being assessed.

Proposed Position on BBNJ for SSC & GTA

Agree that	Rationale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our businesses want to source from healthy and sustainable fisheries, which are intrinsically linked to a healthy marine ecosystem. 	<p>Important to recognise the direct and indirect interconnectedness between broader ocean health and sustainable fisheries, especially in light of ever-increasing raft of pressures on the ocean. The 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement recognizes it, but it remains poorly implemented in fisheries management.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There needs to be increased protection of the High Seas. Currently only ~1% of the High Seas are protected and there is little oversight or accountability of activities that could impact on the global commons, in particular commercial fishing 	<p>Recognition of the paucity of governance available to put in place multi-sector, full-water column, marine protected areas in the High Seas with enforceable management measures.</p> <p>The High Seas are connected to all coastal and island nations, if we damage High Seas ecosystems, we will feel the effects back home.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial fisheries impacts represent the largest direct driver of biodiversity decline in the High Seas. While existing regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) monitor and manage some of these impacts, we believe that the new BBNJ treaty has an important role to play in helping manage High Seas biodiversity sustainably, most of which remains unmonitored and unmanaged. 	<p>Demonstrate awareness that impact of fisheries on biodiversity is currently the largest pressure.</p> <p>Some nations are arguing that all fisheries impacts should be removed from the treaty. RFMOs only do so much, who monitors the remaining thousands of species?</p> <p>Several nations have suggested that “fish” are <u>not</u> biodiversity</p>

Proposed Position on BBNJ for SSC & GTA

Agree that	Rationale
<ul style="list-style-type: none">An ambitious BBNJ Treaty capable of complementing the conservation and management measures of RFMOs is pivotal for ensuring the health of High Seas ecosystems and reducing negative impacts in the coastal Ocean.	It is vital that the Treaty is bestowed with the option for its members to agree “management measures” -some Parties are pushing for this to be delegated to existing sectoral or regional bodies. Without this ability the Treaty could be limited to the creation of paper-parks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">We acknowledge that transformative change is required to address the climate and biodiversity crises alike and the importance of the High Seas in addressing both of these crises.	Critical to underline the need for transformative change, the resistance to any significant change is massive and setting this against the societal challenges required to address climate change helps frame this, especially given the climate-ocean-biodiversity relationships.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">We recognise the inequity of access to the High Seas, the last global commons, where only a few actors stand to profit. Given the importance of ocean health the entire world bears the brunt of the negative impacts, especially coastal and island states often unable to exploit the High Seas themselves , a robust treaty is necessary to address transboundary threats.	Important for States to understand that this Treaty is more than about governing a “commons”, but that the commons bleeds into EEZs. Furthermore this underlines to Developed States that there is a need to meaningfully address the concerns of the global South if the Treaty is to be concluded.

Proposed Position on BBNJ for SSC & GTA

Ask	Rationale
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Whilst much of the impact of fisheries can and should be addressed through improving management via RFMOs, it remains vital that the BBNJ Treaty has the flexibility to address the impacts of fisheries on the biodiversity that RFMOs do not have the capacity or mandate to monitor and manage.	<p>There has been calls to limit the mandate, or ability of the Treaty to act where other bodies, not just fisheries, have a potential role. A conflict clause in a treaty is normal, but the current language, which was in part included to give comfort to some more sceptical States, goes too far and threatens completely undermine the Treaty of its own ability to act.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">We call on Governments to conclude a robust global Treaty, which includes management measures to alleviate any pressure on High Seas biodiversity and address spatial Governance gaps.	<p>This underlines the urgency and time spent negotiating the Treaty. A “robust global treaty” also speaks for the need for the Treaty to decide whether potentially damaging activities, as identified in Environment Impact Assessments can proceed or not.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">We call on Governments to properly integrate the ecosystem approach in policy-making, and to use the High Seas Treaty as an opportunity to ensure that the balance between conservation and sustainable use of nature is achieved.	<p>This is intended to give more pressure to existing instruments (not just RFMOs), such as shipping, mining and foreign affairs leads, to properly consider biodiversity impacts, both within their own work and to ensure a more constructive (rather than defensive) approach is taken to both the negotiation and implementation of the High Seas Treaty.</p>

Proposed Position on BBNJ for SSC & GTA

Ask	Rationale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="222 369 917 492">• We ask that Governments consult with retailers and suppliers of seafood[, such as GTA/SSC,] when developing the detail of the treaty to offer a practical view of the market[, and public expectations].	If intergovernmental bodies or processes fail to sustainably manage non-target biodiversity or the ecosystems they are a part of, the retail sector is condemned to source from fisheries which negatively impact the environment.

Next Steps

- SSC & GTA governance structures review and sign-off proposed calls to actions/lines to take
- SSC & GTA engage with PEW & SRC on direct collaboration opportunities
- GTA engages with MWC on social media campaign opportunities
- GTA includes BBNJ ask in RFMO advocacy

