



Protecting Ocean Life on the High Seas

Liz Karan, The Pew Charitable Trusts

Importance of High Seas

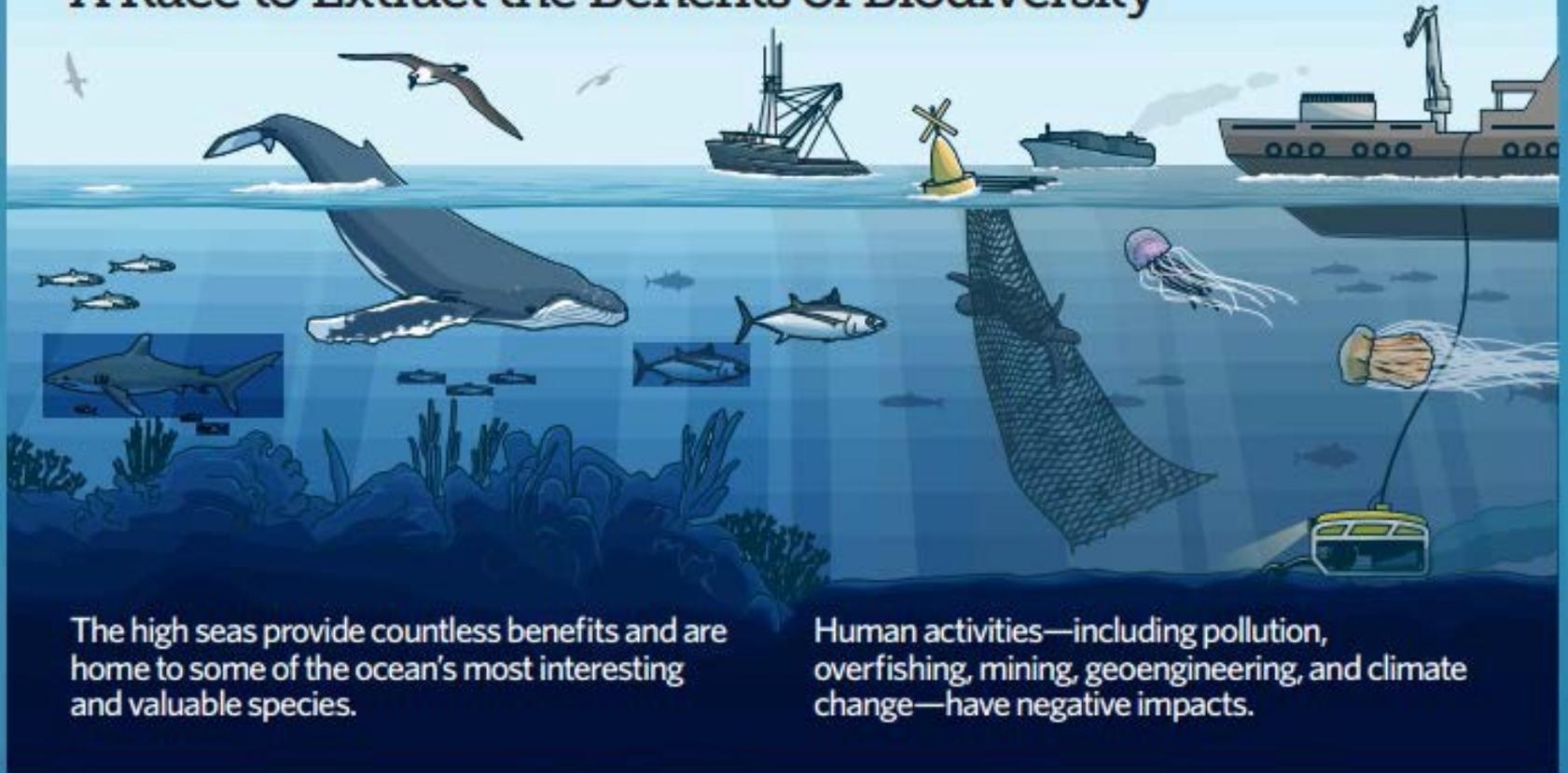
- Ocean Health
 - Biodiversity
- Human Health
 - Food resources
- Planet Health
 - Climate resilience



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Threats to the High Seas

A Race to Extract the Benefits of Biodiversity



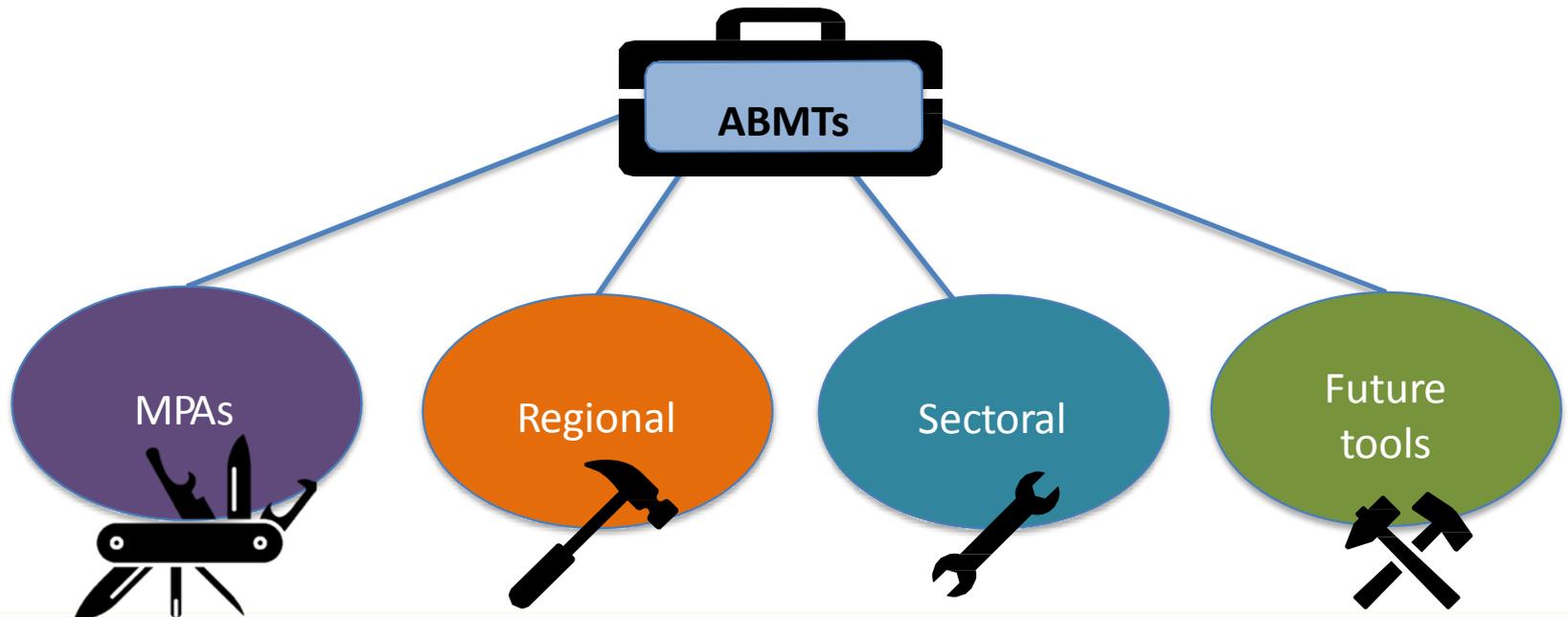
The high seas provide countless benefits and are home to some of the ocean's most interesting and valuable species.

Human activities—including pollution, overfishing, mining, geoengineering, and climate change—have negative impacts.

What are ABMTs?

“Area Based Management Tools are regulations or measures of human activity in a specified area to achieve biodiversity conservation or resource management objectives”

-Costa Rica’s August 2016 Submission on Possible Use of Terms



Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)



A geographically defined marine area where human activities are regulated, managed, or prohibited in order to afford comprehensive protection.



Benefits of High Seas MPAs

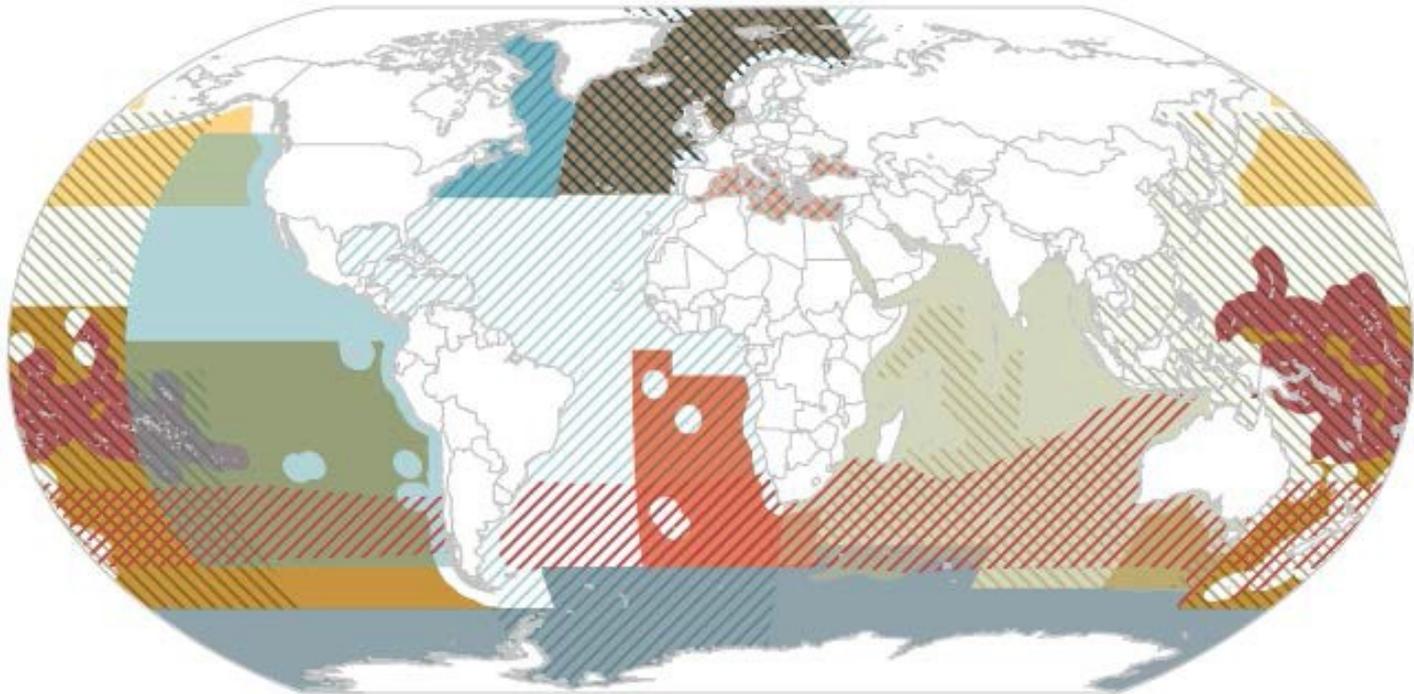
- One of the most powerful tools for protecting habitat, species, and areas critical to marine life
- Safeguard biodiversity
- Protect top predators and maintain ecosystem balance
- Build resilience to climate change



References

Hamilton et al. 2011; Edgar et al. 2014; Giakoumi et al. 2017; Lester et al. 2009; Russ and Alcala, 2004; Britten et al. 2014; Bascompte et al. 2005; Roberts et al. 2017; Cheung et al. 2016; Hopkins et al. 2016

Patchwork of Governance



Organizations included



Conservation Governance Gap



Exceptions:

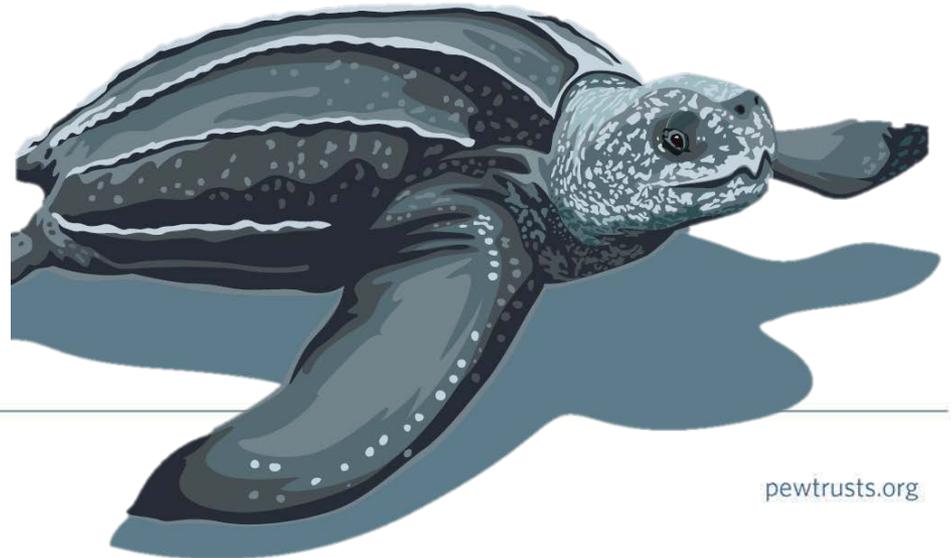
- Antarctic
- NE Atlantic
- Mediterranean

Enabling conditions:

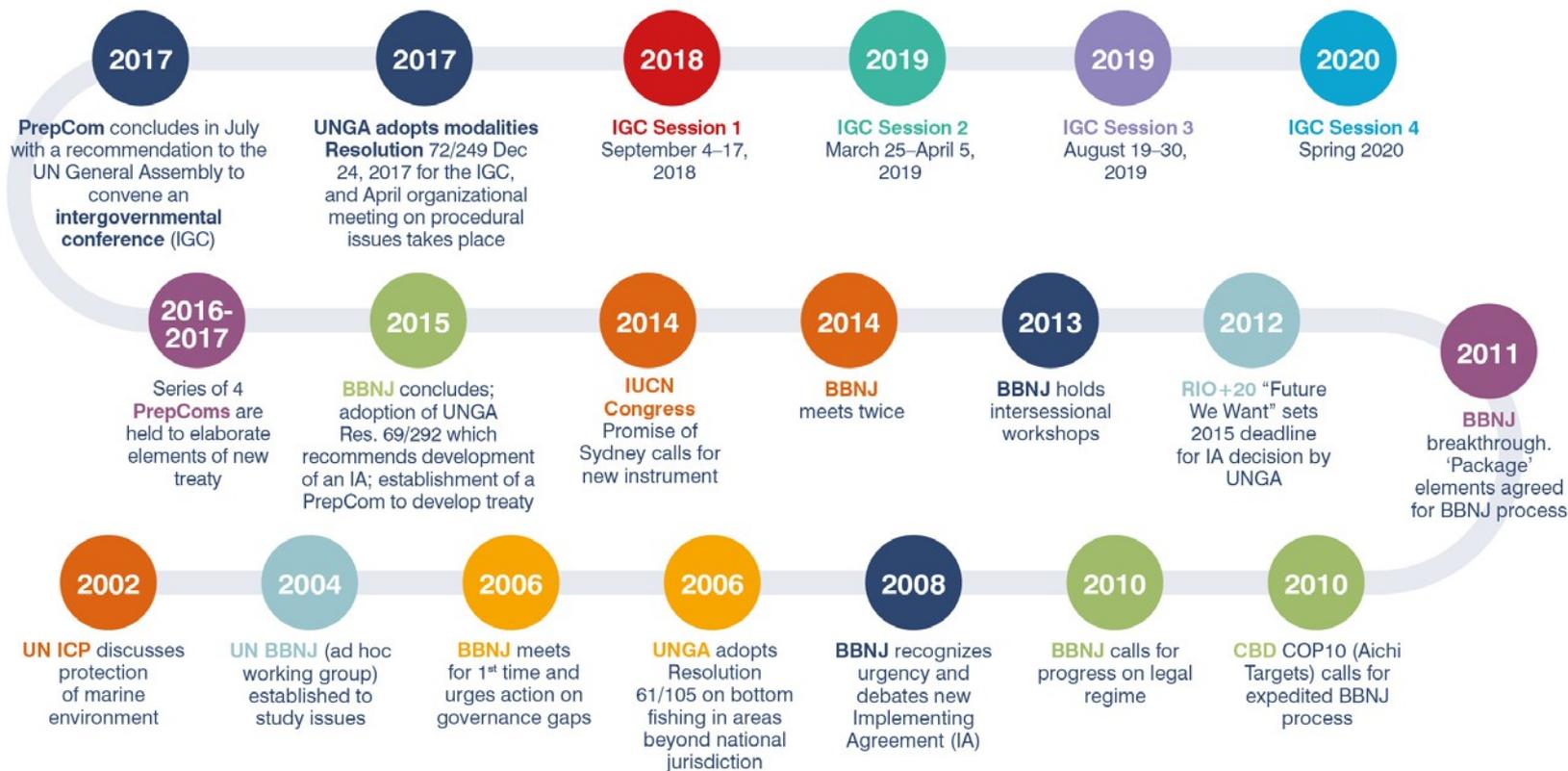
- RSO has HS jurisdiction
- RSO and RFMO have Identical geographic boundaries
- Identical Member States

High Seas Treaty: Key Elements

- A global decision making body (COP)
 - Cooperation and coordination with other bodies important, *but...*
 - Needs the mandate and authority to ensure meaningful conservation measures in high seas
- A mechanism to establish High Seas MPAs
 - Clear objectives
 - Proposal with conservation management measures
 - Consultations
 - Scientific body review
 - Decision-making
 - Implementation
 - Monitoring an review



Path to High Seas Protections



2020 – Ambitious and Achievable



Intergovernmental Conference (IGC)

Formal negotiations – 4 meetings from 2018-2020

IGC1 – Sept 2018 → IGC2 – March/April 2019 → **IGC3 – August 2019**

IGC4 – Spring 2020 → FINAL TREATY TEXT – 2020

Thank you



ekaran@pewtrusts.org

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/projects/protecting-ocean-life-on-the-high-seas>