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# STRONG High Seas Webinar:

## *Strengthening MCS through a High Seas Treaty*

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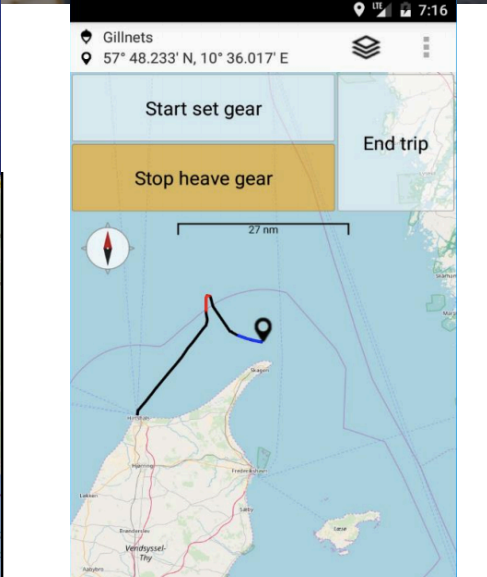
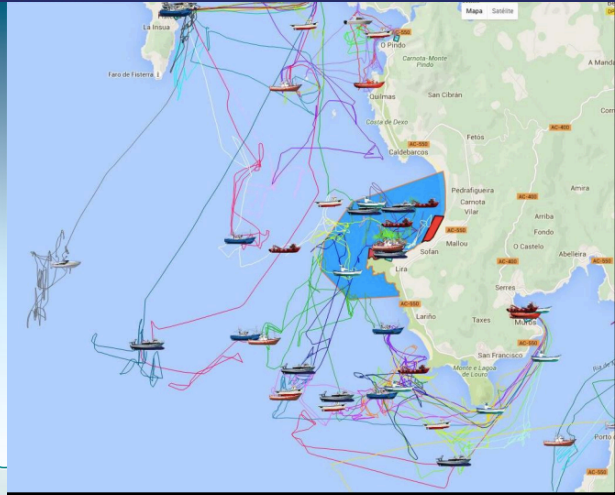
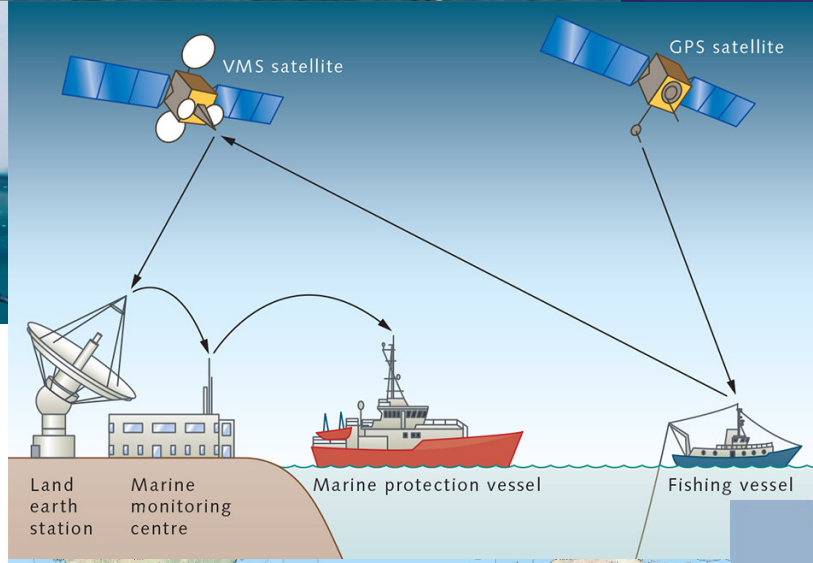
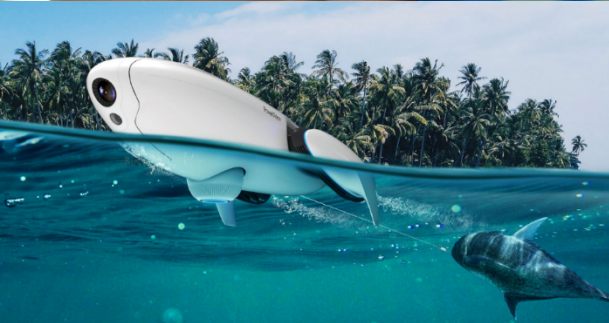
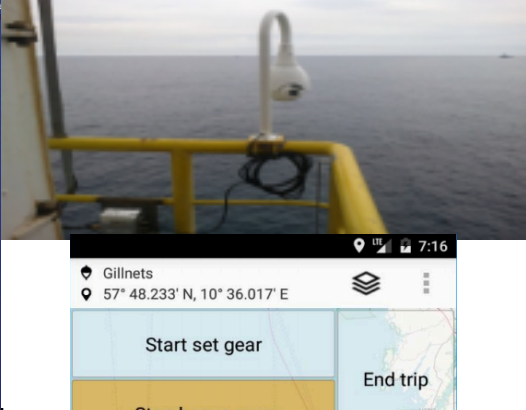
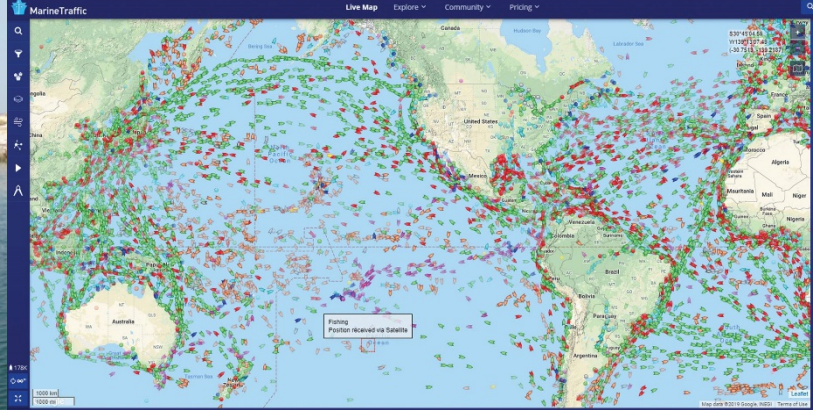
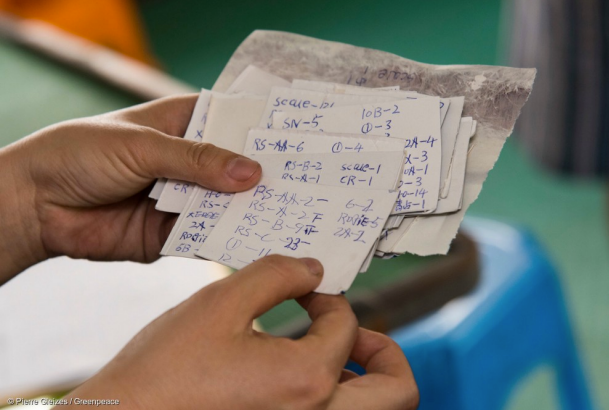




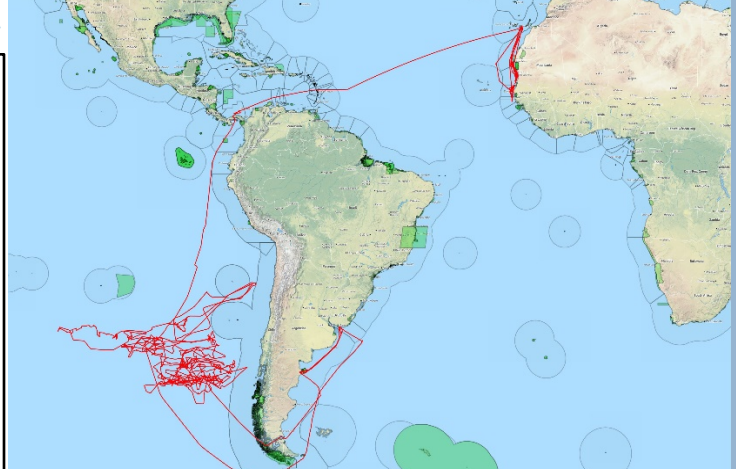
# What is MCS and why is it important?







SENSORS		CAMERAS		
Location	Number of hooks	Species ID	Length	Discard
Gear being used or not	Catch	Life status	Bycatch	Health and safety



<b>eDNA</b>	
$n = 22$	
$S = 13$	
<b>UVC</b>	
$n = 2758$	
$S = 9$	
<b>BRUVS</b>	
$n = 385$	
$S = 9$	

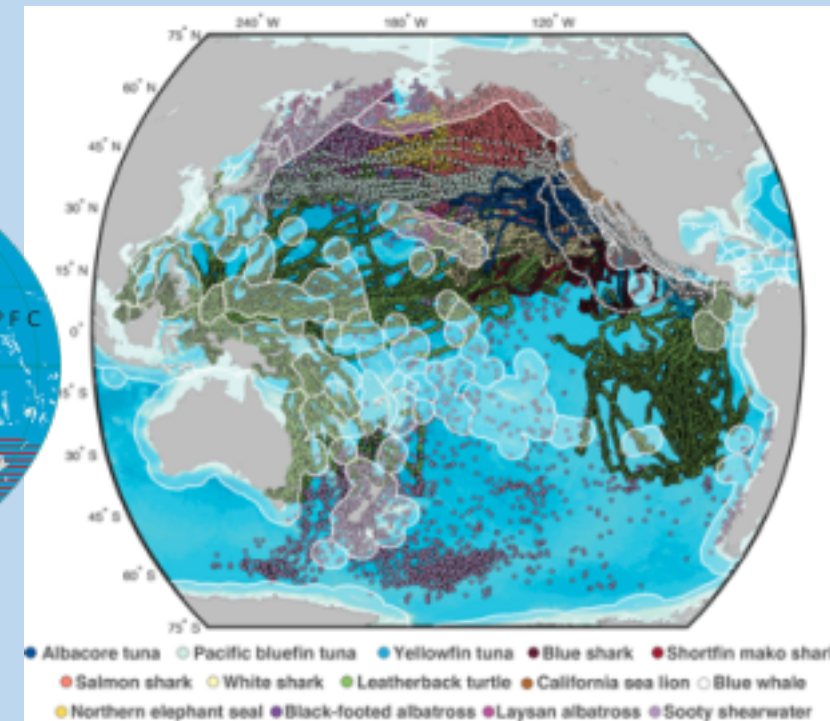
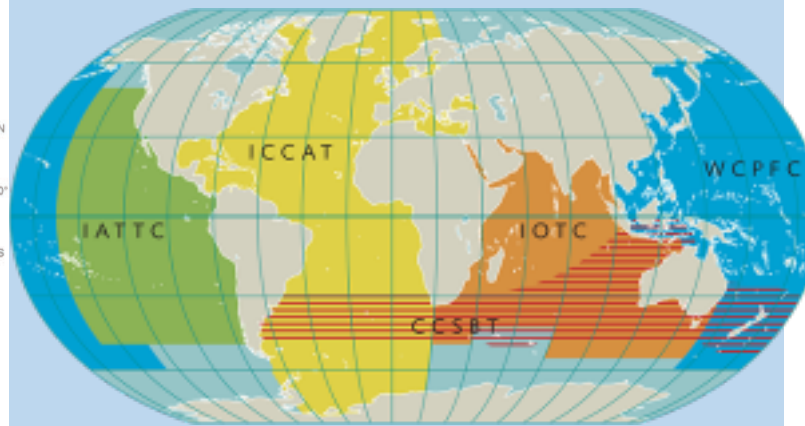
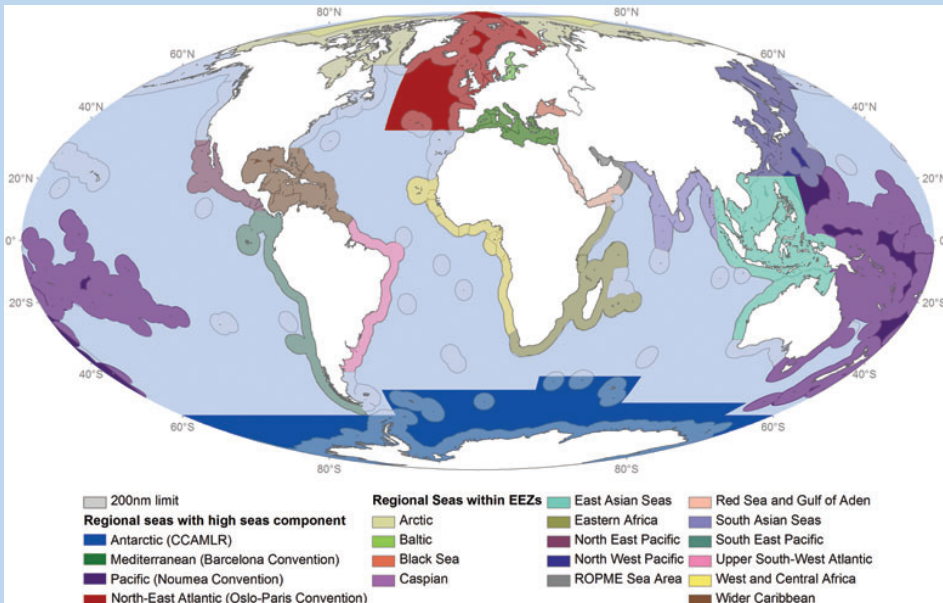
# What factors need to be taken into account when choosing MCS tools?

- Purpose
- Costs
- Access
- Reliability
- Coverage
- Cross-checking data
- Ease of manipulation
- Privacy considerations
- Capacity to analyse data
- Different actors/stakeholders



# MCS challenges

1. Reliance on flag State responsibility
2. Limitations of the existing governance framework
3. Capacity limitations





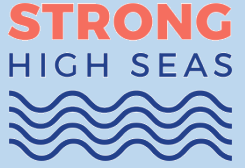
# Approaches to strengthening MCS in ABNJ?

- 1) The transformative potential of innovative technologies
- 2) Co-creating effective MCS systems
- 3) Strengthening policy responses
- 4) Leveraging the power of the market





# Strengthening MCS through a High Seas Treaty



## ❖ Package deal:

- 1) Marine genetic resources
  - 2) Area-based management tools, including marine protected areas
  - 3) Environmental impact assessments
  - 4) Capacity-building and transfer of technology
- Institutional arrangements and the clearing-house mechanism

❖ No global MCS system: cross-cutting issue

❖ Two-way relationship between MCS and the treaty

❖ States prefer discussing substantive issues first





# Three potential pathways to strengthen MCS provisions

## **1) Consolidating and reinforcing MCS obligations and principles**

- Cooperation and coordination, transparency and reporting

## **2) Developing a strong MCS role for the clearing-house mechanism**

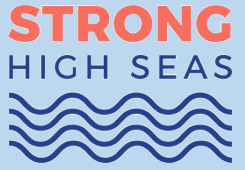
- Platform to share best practices, exchange data and match capacity-building needs

## **3) Requiring submission of a MCS strategy in ABMT proposals**

- Initial indication of resources required to ensure no “paper park” management



# Conclusion



- MCS as implementing tool for States to meet international obligations regarding human activities on the high seas
- Great variety of MCS tools available, but reliance on flag State responsibility, governance gaps in ABNJ and lack of capacity are main challenges
- No one-size-fits-all approach to MCS
- Cooperation and coordination is key:
  - Chair of the FISH-i Africa Task Force: “the cheapest tool in fighting IUU fishing is the sharing of information and intelligence through cooperation among all MCS practitioners”
- 3 easy ways to strengthen MCS in the treaty: 1) reinforce MCS obligations and principles, 2) strong MCS role in clearing-house mechanism and 3) MCS strategy in ABMT proposals



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HIGH SEAS

# Thank you!

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**IKI STRONG High Seas project**  
[prog-ocean.org/our-work/strong-high-seas](http://prog-ocean.org/our-work/strong-high-seas)  
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