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# The SEAS-ERA Marine Research Plan for the European Atlantic Sea Basin

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# The process...



Discussion Document (2011)

Final Report  
(2013)

CONSULTATION Oct 2011/ July 2012

- Partners:
  - BELSPO, Belgium
  - NWO, Netherlands
  - FCT, Portugal
  - MCINN, Spain
  - NERC, United Kingdom

**WS1: SEAS-ERA Atlantic Science Workshop**

Ostend (Belgium) 28 – 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012

**WS2: Joint SEAS-ERA & AAC-CPMR Atlantic Governance Workshop**

Lisbon (Portugal) 23-24<sup>th</sup> April 2012

**WS3: East-meets-West Workshop**

Dublin (Ireland) 13<sup>th</sup> July 2012

Powerpoint presentations, Agendas, Participation Lists available at: [www.seas-era.eu/np4/34/](http://www.seas-era.eu/np4/34/)

# The Strategic Research Agenda/ Marine Research Plan for the European Atlantic Sea Basin



**Key Sources of Information**

**Indicative Research  
Priorities**

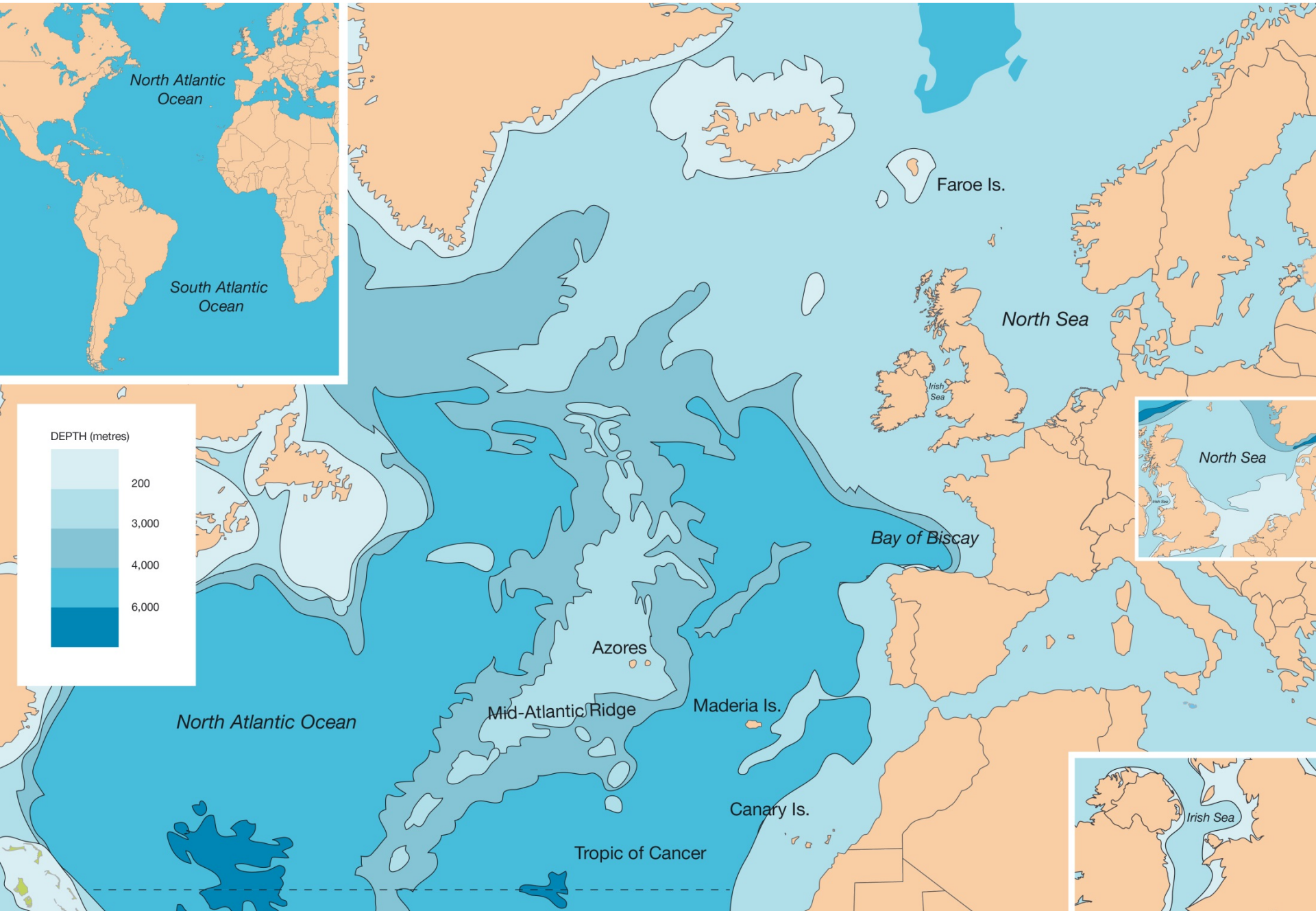
**Enabling Actions**

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1	Introduction
2	The Consultation Process
3	Basic Research & New Knowledge
4	Applied Research- Science Supporting Society and Economy
5	Critical Supports/ Infrastructure Needs
6	The European Union Strategy for the Atlantic- Atlantic Action Plan
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# Vision Statement for the Atlantic Sea Basin

The European Atlantic Sea Basin Strategic Research Agenda/ Marine Research Plan seeks **to improve our understanding and protection of the European Atlantic**, and its ecosystems, in order to **catalyse a dynamic maritime economy**, in harmony with the environment and which allows human beings to continue to reap the rich harvest from the oceans in a sustainable manner. This will be achieved through **building on existing good practices** and existing science and technology, **harnessing new and emerging science**, technology and innovation to add value and competitiveness to traditional sectors and create new and dynamic maritime sectors **in a spirit of regional partnership and international cooperation**.

# Geographical/Spatial Scope of Research Plan



## Basic Research & New Knowledge

- **The Ocean Frontier: Ecosystem Function, Biodiversity, Complexity and Connectivity**

“To better understand Atlantic marine ecosystem functioning and processes, including complexity, linkage, inter-connectedness, feedback loops and the role of biodiversity, to improve ecosystem understanding and underpin the development of models and a prediction/ scenario to development capacity.”

- **Coping with Uncertainty and Change: the Impacts of Global Climate Change**

“To provide an evidence-based understanding of marine climate change drivers, interactions and impacts in order to inform mitigation and adaptive strategies, improve modelling and predictive capacities at both the regional and local levels.”

## Applied Research- science supporting society and economy (Part I)

- **Protecting the Marine Environment- implementing the MSFD**

“Support the implementation of the MSFD and the development and application of the agreed descriptors of GES.”

- **Marine Renewable Energy- Powering Europe**

“To underpin the sustainable development and competitiveness of Europe’s marine renewable energy sector, increase the contribution of marine renewable energy of Europe’s energy portfolio and maintain Europe’s leading role in the emerging ocean energy industry.”

- **The Greening of Maritime Transport- Safety, Surveillance and Logistics**

“To develop an environmentally friendly maritime transport sector while remaining cost competitive in the global market and/or adding competitive advantage.”

## Applied Research- science supporting society and economy (Part II)

- **Reclaiming Our Ocean Heritage: Marine/Maritime Leisure and Tourism**

“Putting our shared ocean heritage on the Marine Agenda, encouraging ocean knowledge (ocean literacy) amongst our citizens and recognising the potential for a broad range of marine/maritime leisure and tourism opportunities.”

- **The Marine (Blue) Bioeconomy: Fisheries, Aquaculture, Seafood Processing**

“To develop the Blue Bioeconomy, supporting sustainable and environmentally friendly fisheries and aquaculture, based on an ecosystem approach, and providing a range of quality, healthy and value-added seafood products to the consumer and a livelihood to dependent coastal communities.”

- **Harvesting the Ocean’s Non-Living Resources: Sustainable Mineral, Oil and Gas Extraction from Coastal and Offshore Areas**

“To ensure the scientific knowledge to sustainably develop mineral, oil and gas resources taking into account environmental impacts, the use of marine space, appropriate governance and dealing with safety and hazards.”



## Critical Support/ Infrastructure Needs

- **A European Atlantic Ocean Observing and Forecasting Capability, including Seabed Mapping**

“To support the implementation of EU policies, reduce costs to industry, public authorities and research institutions, stimulate innovation and reduce uncertainty in our understanding of the behaviour of the Atlantic Ocean and the impacts of climate change.”

- **An Atlantic Marine Socio-Economic Assessment Capability and Database**

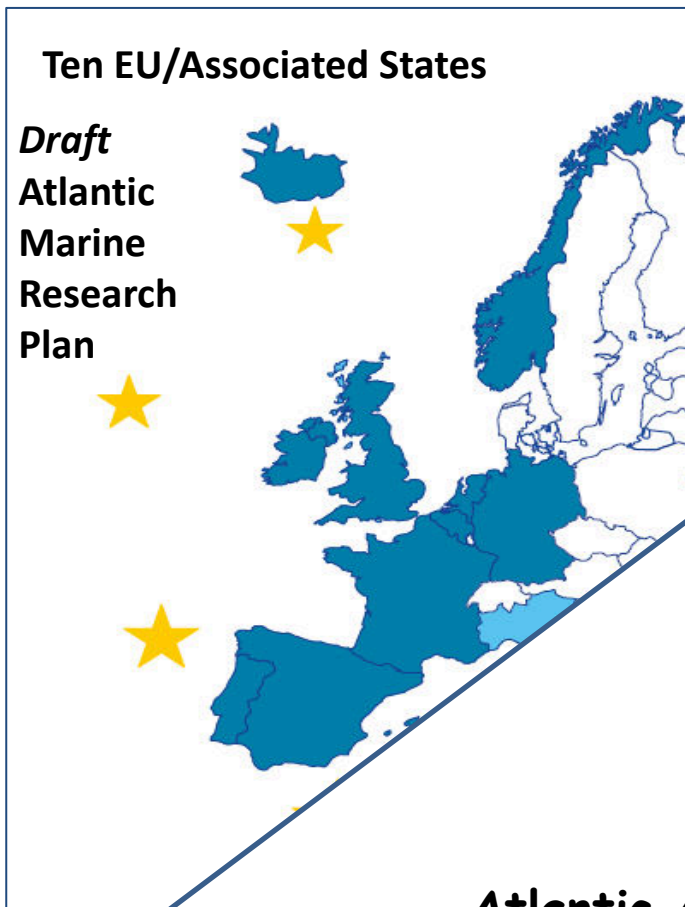
“To facilitate the compilation and disaggregation of North Atlantic marine social and economic data for the European Atlantic Sea Basin to assist investment and regional analysis, including investment in research and research infrastructures.”

- **A European Atlantic Marine Science and Technology Foresight Platform**

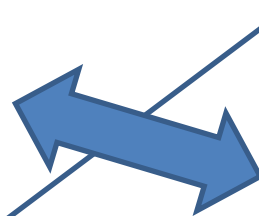
“To provide a forum to review and assess new developments in marine science and technology as well as new and emerging technologies that could be applied in the marine field.”

# A Tale of Two Converging Paths

**SEAS-ERA: Ten EU/Associated States** and their maritime territories, including the North Sea and the waters surrounding the Azores and Madeira (Portugal) and the Canary Islands (Spain)



**SEAS-ERA  
European  
Research  
Area Network**



**European Union  
Strategy for the  
Atlantic  
(2011)**

**Atlantic Action Plan (2013)**



**Five EU Member States** and their maritime territories including the waters surrounding the Azores and Madeira (Portugal) and the Canary Islands (Spain)

An Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union (2007) and its associated Sea Basin Strategies

# A Unique Opportunity to *Really* Influence EU Policy

## A European Union Strategy for the Atlantic (2011)

### Stakeholder consultation

Member State inputs (May 2012)

Public (online) Consultation (2012/2013)

### Atlantic Fora Meetings

- Horta (PT): September 2012
- Brest (FR): October 2012
- Bilbao (ES): November 2012
- Cardiff (UK): Jan 2013
- Cork (IE): March 2013

Lisbon Atlantic Forum: December 2013



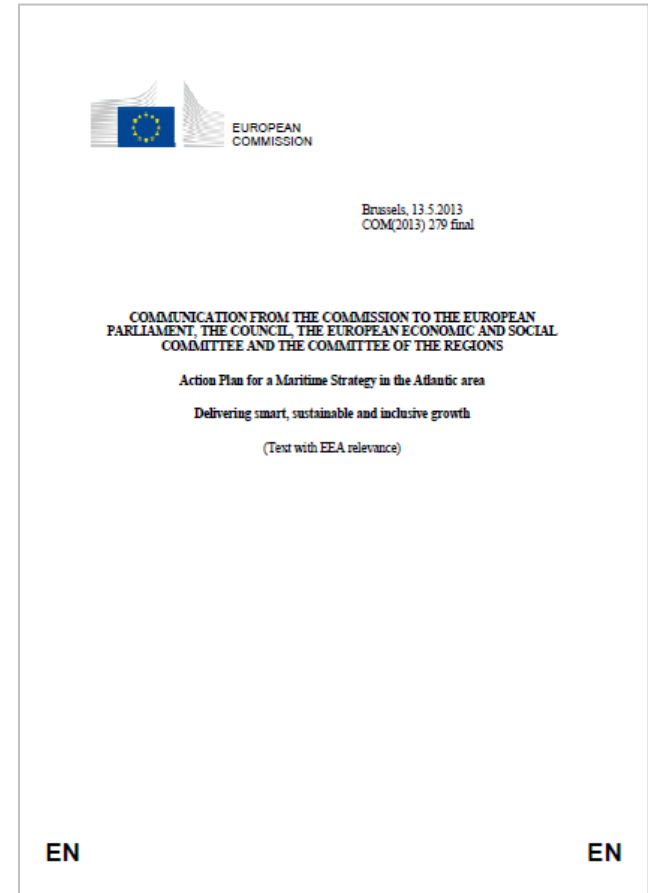
**SEAS-ERA Atlantic Discussion Document**

***A Tale of Two Converging Paths***

# Action Plan for a Maritime Strategy in the Atlantic Area

## Key Objectives:

- Promote entrepreneurship and innovation;
- Protect, secure and enhance the marine and coastal environment;
- Improve accessibility and connectivity;
- Create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development;



## Next Steps...

Atlantic Stakeholder Workshop, Porto, 02 December 2014

# Also influenced by SEAS-ERA



**EU/SEAs-ERA /EuroBASIN/USA**  
Dialogue, September 2011

**WS3: East-meets-West Workshop**  
Dublin (Ireland) 13<sup>th</sup> July 2012



**The Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation**  
EU-USA-Canada Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance  
24th May 2013

# Conclusions

## The SEAS-ERA Atlantic Work Package and Marine Research Plan has:

- Helped to consolidate a **network** of European Atlantic Research Funding Organisations (RFOs);
- Contributed to the development of the **EU Atlantic Action Plan (2014-2020)**;
- Contributed to the formation of the **Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance**;
- Identified **the major sectoral marine research strategies / priorities** identified for the Atlantic Area.
- Produced a Report identifying **priority research topics** relevant to the European Atlantic Sea Basin and EU co-funded programmes (e.g. Horizon 2020) and agreed by European Atlantic RFOs.



Final Report November 2013

## **Key recommendations from the SEAS-ERA Atlantic Research Plan of relevance to the BILAT USA 2.0 workshop**

1. A European Atlantic ocean observing and forecasting capability, including seabed mapping
2. An Atlantic marine socio-economic assessment capability and database
3. A European Atlantic marine science and technology foresight platform

# Thank you!

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