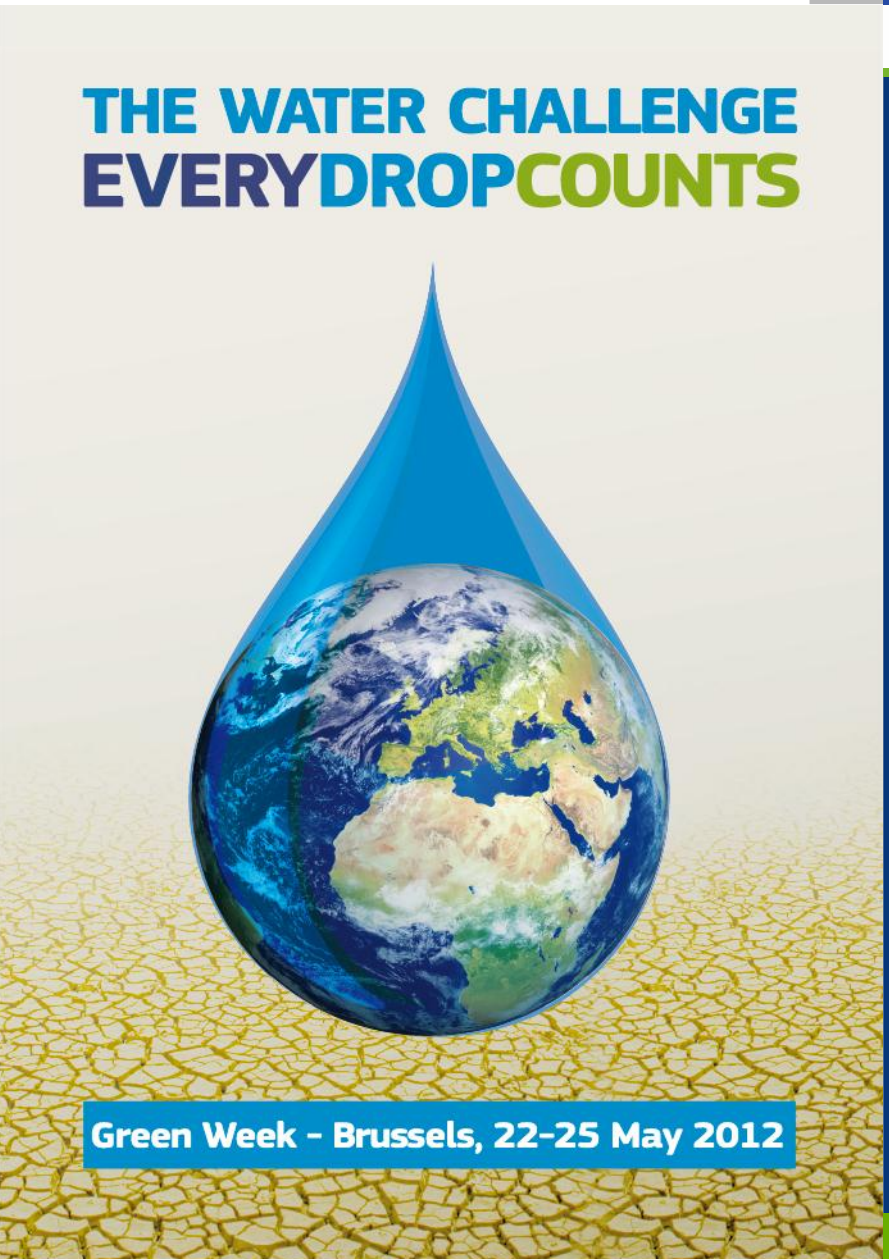

European Commission

Looking for deep interfaces between science and policy

The HERMES & HERMIONE projects

Sybille van den Hove
Median, Barcelona

HERMIONE
Hotspot Ecosystem Research and Man's Impact on European seas

HERMES
Hotspot Ecosystem Research on the Margins of European Seas

Hotspot Ecosystems Research on the Margins of European Seas (HERMES)
Hotspot Ecosystems Research and Man's Impact on European Seas (HERMIONE)

A scientific drive to discover and understand the ecosystems and the human impacts, combined to a recognition of the need for policy-relevant knowledge

Deep-sea Ecosystems

- ✓ Dimensions
- ✓ Distribution
- ✓ Interconnection
- ✓ Biological capacities
- ✓ Specific adaptations
- ✓ Functioning
- ✓ Importance of biodiversity
- ✓ Goods and services
- ✓ Values
- ✓ Governance
- ✓ Changes
- ✓ Drivers of change (climate change, human impacts, large-scale episodic events)
- ✓ Policy support
- ✓ Dissemination

The deep sea

- ✓ Remote, harsh environment, very much unknown
- ✓ Far from everyday experience of citizens and decision-makers
- ✓ Awareness limited
- ✓ Still a young area of discovery and research , depends on technologies to access (e.g. Remotely Operated Vehicles – ROVs)
- ✓ Knowledge is still limited: in-depth biological knowledge for only the equivalent of a few football fields…
- ✓ Evidence of severe anthropogenic impacts on the deep sea

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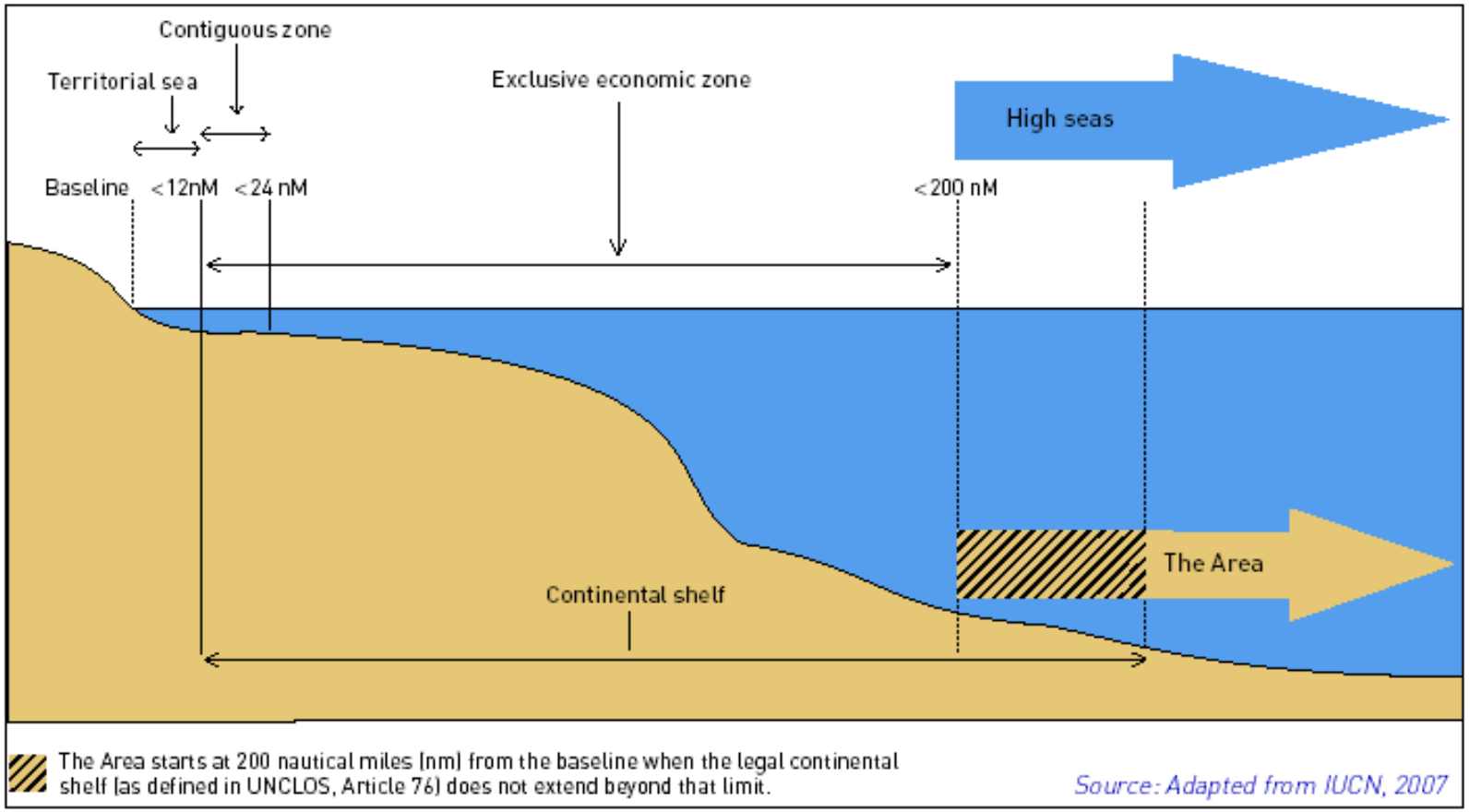
A governance maze

- Criss-cross of legal and natural, vertical and horizontal, boundaries applying to the deep-sea and deep-seabed areas
- Yet still many governance and implementation gaps
- Complicates policy design and implementation, difficulty to link with shallow-water governance regimes



From the onset…

Quality environmental science

Linking with Society: Interfaces between

- **Science & Policy**
- **Science & Society**

Scientific excellence

Relevance to societal issues

Interdisciplinary

Issue-driven & curiosity-driven

Explanations & Predictions

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Our key science-policy interfaces

SCIENCE IMPLEMENTATION PANEL

- 7 members (EC, NGOs, industry, IUCN, UNEP)
- Participate to annual meetings ⇒ in-depth discussions with scientists;
- Inform scientists community of key political issues and milestones;
- Make suggestions to adjust work programme

SCIENCE POLICY PANEL

- ca. 25 members (EU policy-makers, industry, NGOs, intal. institutions)
- Workshops to discuss policy contexts and research results
- Inputs on policy needs and priorities
- Regularly informed of the aims and results of HERMES

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Our key science-policy interfaces

- Science Implementation Panel (SIP)
- Science-Policy Panel (SPP)
- Ad hoc meetings with policy-makers and stakeholders on specific topics
- Participation of scientists in various international fora (e.g. OSPAR, ISA, ICES, CBD, UNGA, etc) and policy-oriented workshops and conferences
- UNEP as a partner in the project
- Specific policy-oriented dissemination actions and products

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And other products and actions

- Deep-sea Briefs
- Input into the EU Maritime policy and the marine and maritime research strategy (EurOceans, stakeholder consultations)
- Foresights & research strategy
- Current work with EEA to develop Eye on Earth based products

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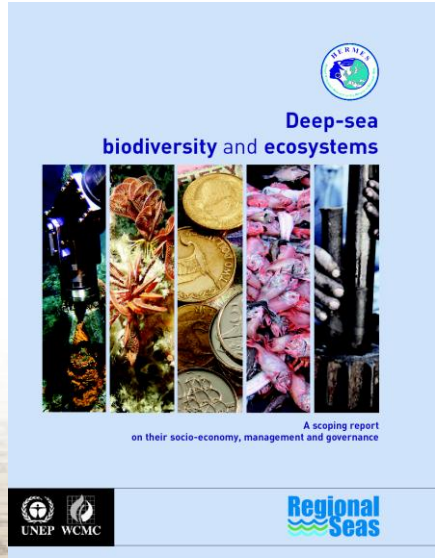

Challenges for SPIs of research projects

- Scientists recognising importance of SPI tasks
- Resources (time and money)
- Institutional support for scientists
- Availability of policy-makers, right access
- Keeping track of policy priorities
- Being able to call attention to emerging issues
- Collaborating with other SPIs
- Timeliness and the appropriate format
- Communicating about uncertainties and knowledge gaps
- Establishing and maintaining a dialogue
- Training of scientists and policy-makers

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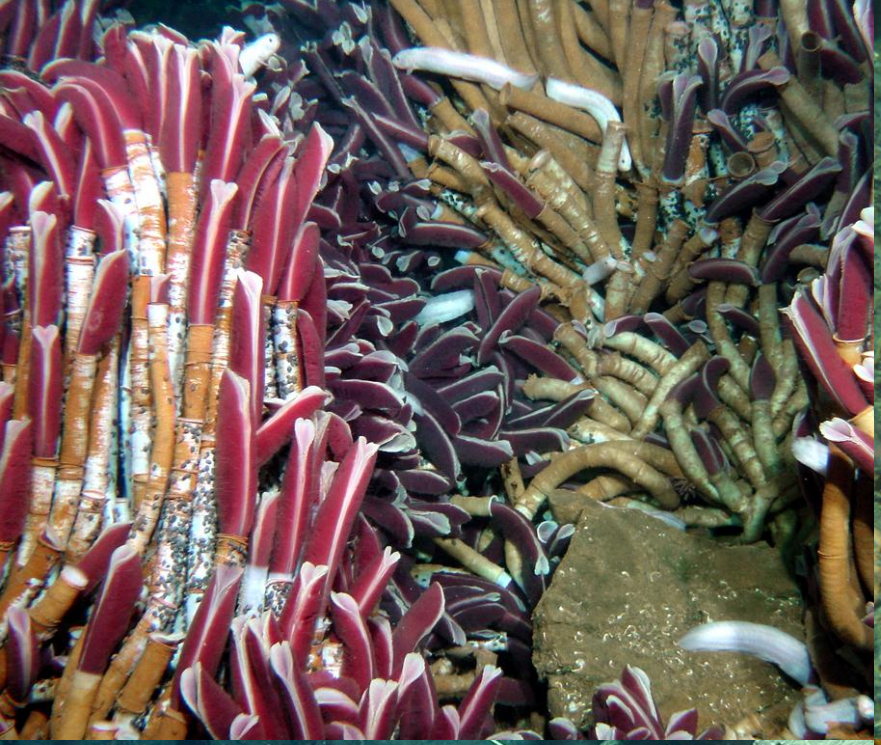
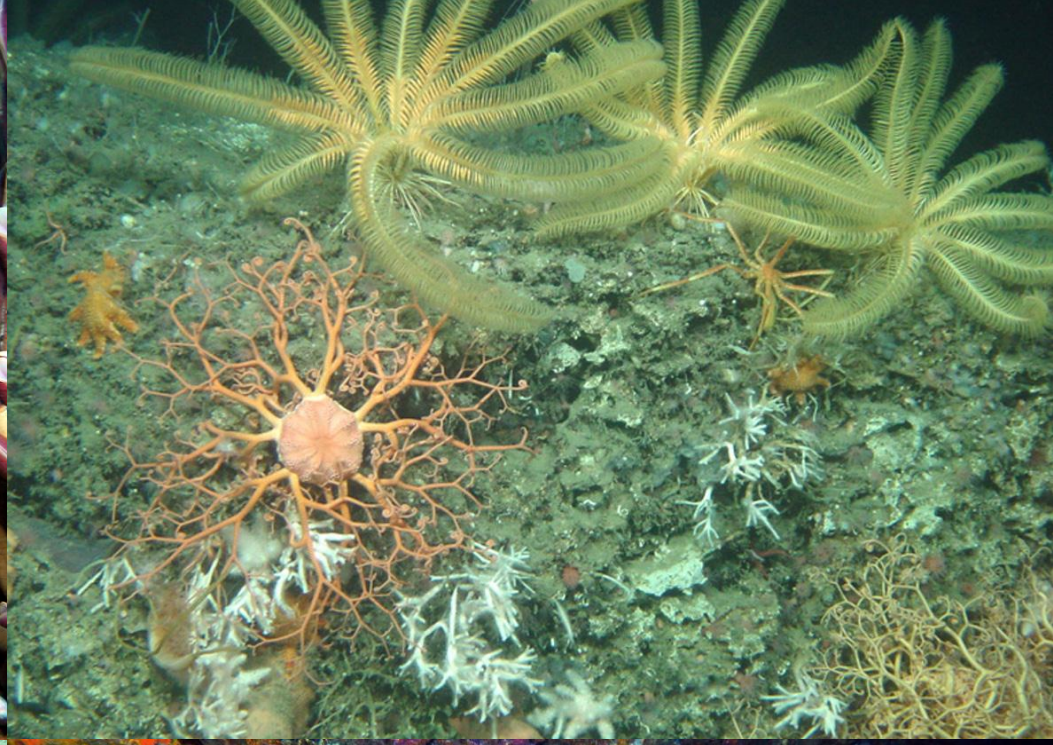
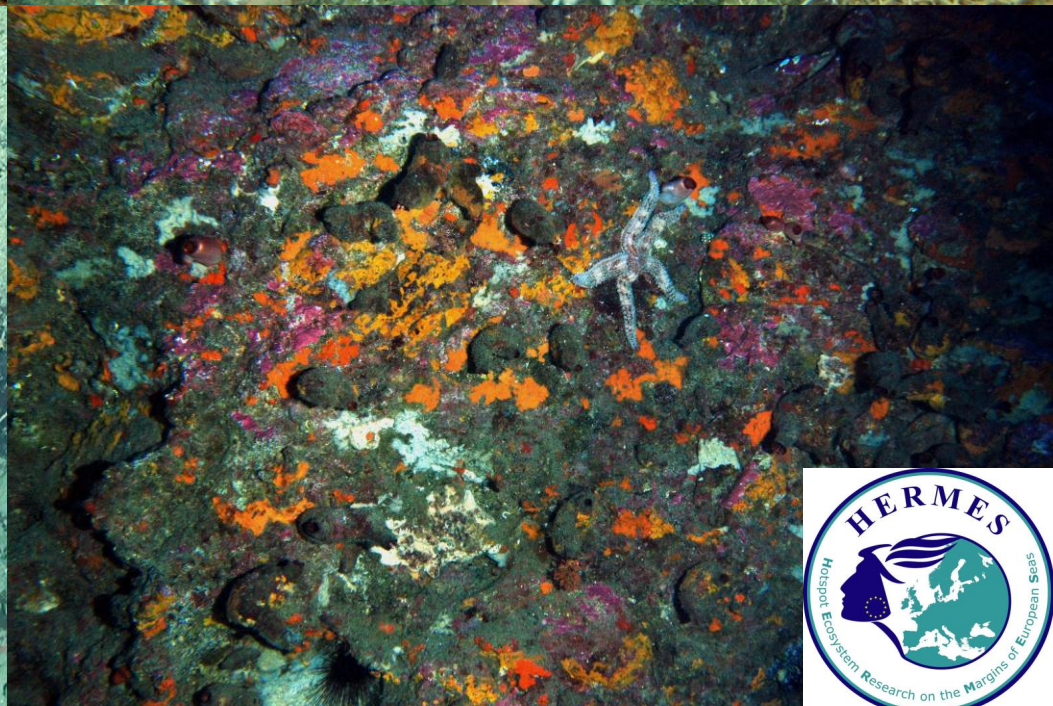
SPI = Science-Policy Interface





Thank you!



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