

# MAIA

## Atlantic project proposal: LIFE + Nature Maërl

Marine protected areas  
in the Atlantic arc



# Summary

- **Context**
- **Project headlines**
- **Advantages / disadvantages**
- **Questions**



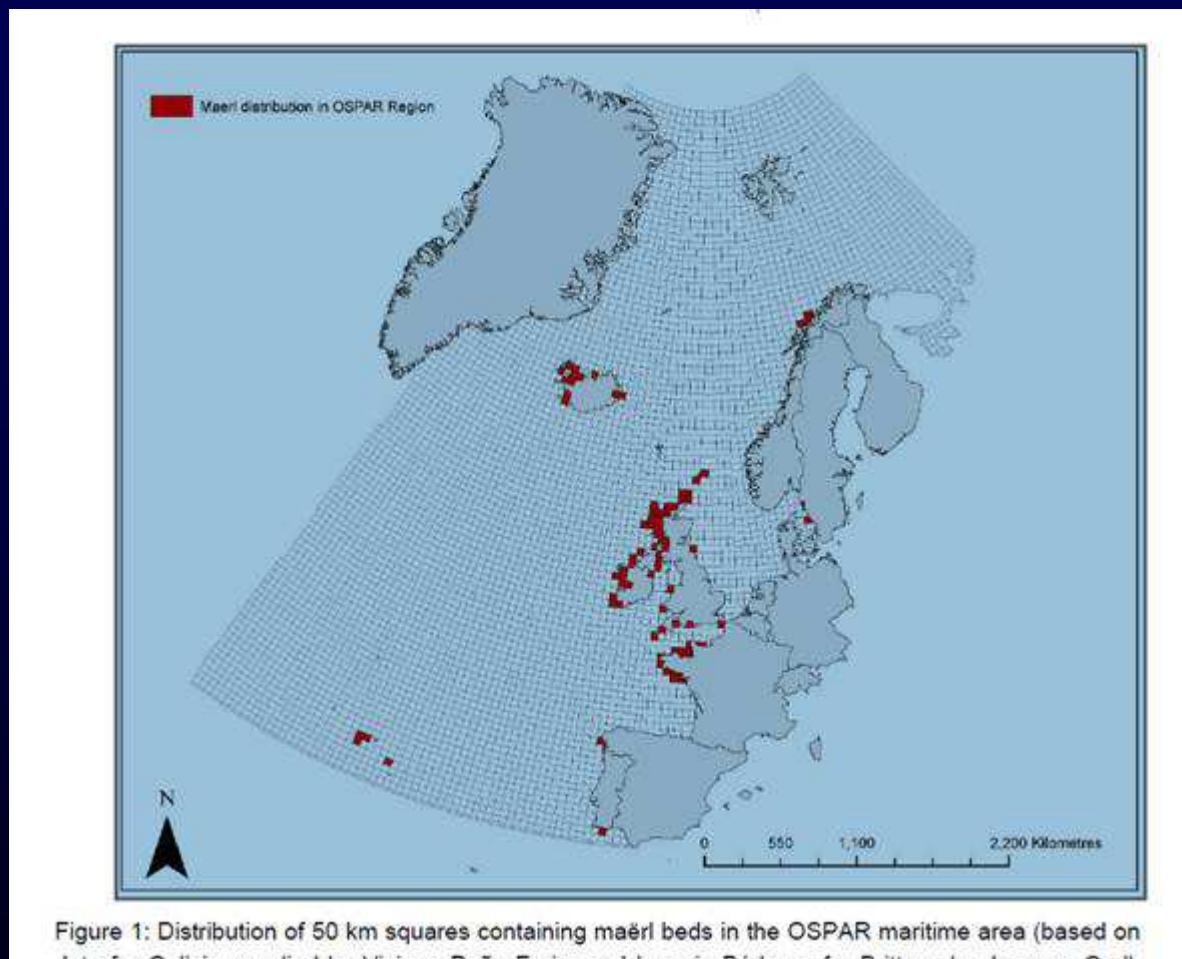
# Context

At the MAIA Coordination meeting held on Sept. 2011, all partners agreed in principle to keep developing at mid-term the MAIA network and goals relative to the development of common methods and the emergence of an MPA managers' network.

The Agence des aires marines protégées suggests to work on the EU Life+ Nature call for projects to continue the MPA network.

Due to the objectives of this funding, and to the French context (end of extraction of maerl in France in 2013, fishermen working group on the interaction maerl/dredging), the goal of this proposal is to improve the maerl conservation status in the atlantic arc.

# OSPAR map on maerl





# Project headlines

**Global objective : to maintain or restaure maerl habitats at the atlantic scale**  
(1110 and 1160 habitats codes in the Natura 2000 Habitats Directive)

## 1. Improvment of the maerl knowledge

- Qualification of maerl status of conservation
- Guidelines to qualify the maerl in the atlantic arc
- Protocol to monitor the maerl's beds

## 2. Adaptation of the uses to the maerl's sensibility

- knowledge on interaction Maerl / Fisheries / aquaculture shellfish farming
- Implement pilot management
- Implement integral protection areas (first on non impacted areas then according to the results of 1. on other areas)

## 3. Master the external pressures

- Invasive species
- Eutrophication/ quality of water
- Coastal and off shore plan or project impact

**=>Strategic maerl conservation action plan at the biogeographical scale**



# Advantages...

- It is a concrete and technical exchange project
- Maërl habitats are distributed over all the partners countries / Possibilities of Ireland and Azores integration
- French fishermen are very interested in that theme and project (but not for a 2012 LIFE application)
- MPA managers in France require knowledge about this habitat and conservation measures on it
- Ospar is interesting by the project as they will elaborate recommendations on maërl habitats next year



## and disadvantages!

- Concrete measures are difficult to implement in marine management and are required for a total of 25% of the budget
- LIFE= 50% of funding/ heavy administratives work

## Doubs and questions

- In Galicia, an important community of fishermen are dependant on the fisheries on maerl beds: they are scepticals about the project
- French fishermen are confused about
  - the importance of included EU partners in the project as Scotland prohibited dredge on scallops beds
  - The governace inside the LIFE project about the decision on no take areas





# Questions!

- Project extension to the sea grass habitats? Other habitats or species?
- Other disturbances /interactions with maerl beds in your country?
- Does a methodology exist to qualify the conservation status in your country? Does such a methodology already exist in your country?
- Is LIFE the best funds for the next MAIA partnership project?
- What's the situation about maerl extraction in every country?

Merci vraz!