

## THE CHALLENGE

Changing environmental conditions and human activities have major impacts on the distribution and sustainability of living marine resources. This poses a serious challenge to the business and policy communities seeking to balance societal needs with environmental sustainability. Large-scale ocean observation is needed to improve our understanding of how deep ocean ecosystems function, their roles as reservoirs of biodiversity and genetic resources, and their health under future scenarios of climate change and human use.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

**ATLAS** will provide essential new knowledge of deep ocean ecosystems in the North Atlantic. This ambitious project will explore the world of deep-sea habitats (200-2000 m) where the greatest gaps in our understanding lie and certain populations and ecosystems are under pressure.

The four overarching objectives of **ATLAS** are to:

- **Advance** our understanding of deep Atlantic marine ecosystems and populations
- **Improve** our capacity to monitor, model and predict shifts in deep-water ecosystems and populations
- **Transform** new data, tools and understanding into effective ocean governance
- **Scenario-test** and develop science-led, cost-effective adaptive management strategies that stimulate Blue Growth

## AT A GLANCE

**TITLE:** A trans-Atlantic assessment and deep-water ecosystem-based spatial management plan for Europe (ATLAS)

**CALL:** Blue Growth: Unlocking the potential of seas and oceans (H2020-BG- 2015-2)

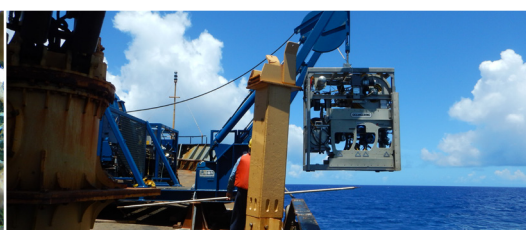
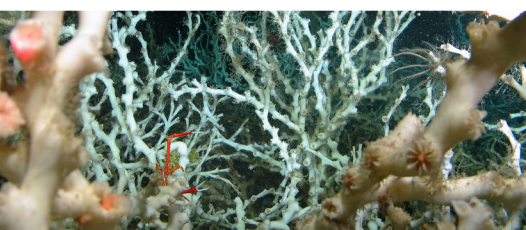
**TOPIC:** Improving the preservation and sustainable exploitation of Atlantic marine ecosystems (BG-01-2015)

**INSTRUMENT:** Research and Innovation Action

**DURATION:** May 2016 - April 2020 (48 months)

**CONSORTIUM:** 24 partners plus one linked 3rd party, from 12 countries

**COORDINATOR:** The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK



## EXPECTED RESULTS

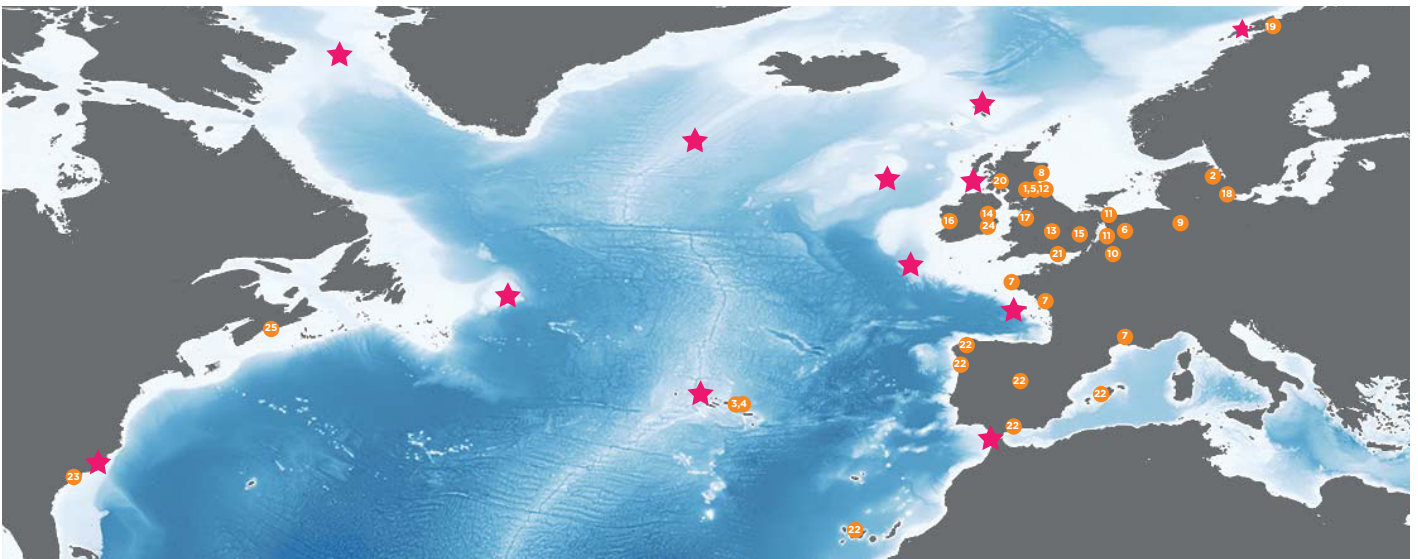
The results of the project will inform and facilitate stakeholder agreement on relevant science-led marine policy and regulation to ensure good ecosystem management and sustainable resource exploitation. It will also contribute to the European Commission's long-term **"Blue Growth"** strategy to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors as a whole.



## CONSORTIUM

The consortium includes **24 + 1 multi-stakeholder, multidisciplinary partners** from leading organisations with 12 universities, 4 national research institutes, 5 small and medium sized enterprises, and 4 government agencies across 10 European countries, the USA and Canada.

## MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH



★ Case Studies    ● Project Partners

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 The University of Edinburgh (UEDIN)</li> <li>2 Aarhus Universitet (AU)</li> <li>3 IMAR - Instituto do Mar (IMAR)</li> <li>4 Secretária Regional do Mar, Ciência e Tecnologia (DRAM)</li> <li>5 British Geological Survey (BGS/NERC)</li> <li>6 Gianni Consultancy (GC)</li> <li>7 Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (Ifremer)</li> <li>8 Marine Scotland (MSS)</li> <li>9 Universitaet Bremen (UniHB)</li> <li>10 Iodine (Iodine)</li> <li>11 Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ)</li> <li>12 Dynamic Earth (DE)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13 University of Oxford (UOX)</li> <li>14 University College Dublin (UCD)</li> <li>15 University College London (UCL)</li> <li>16 National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG)</li> <li>17 University of Liverpool (ULIV)</li> <li>18 University of Southern Denmark (USD)</li> <li>19 The Arctic University of Norway (UiT)</li> <li>20 Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS)</li> <li>21 Seascope Consultants (SC)</li> <li>22 Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO)</li> <li>23 University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW)</li> <li>24 AquaTT UETP CLG (AquaTT)</li> <li>25 Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)</li> </ul> |
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## EXPECTED IMPACTS

Pioneering innovation in modelling, predicting, and monitoring of marine ecosystems, as well as policy implementation:

- **New basin-scale models**
- **Better predictions**
- **Cost-effective robust monitoring**
- **Stronger policy implementation**
- **Dynamic science communication**

Find out more:  
[www.eu-atlas.org](http://www.eu-atlas.org)

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