



Snipe eel
(*Nemichthys* sp.)
Gulf of Maine,
Atlantic Ocean.
David Shale

Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative

Working towards high seas conservation

With a growing number of scientific partners worldwide, the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI) is working as an international scientific partnership to advance the scientific basis for conserving biological diversity in the deep seas and open oceans. Building on the scientific criteria adopted in 2008 by the Convention on Biological Diversity, GOBI aims to help countries, as well as regional and global organisations, to use existing and develop new data, tools and methodologies to identify ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSAs) beyond national jurisdiction.

To date, GOBI developed a general guidance on scientific tools, technologies and data sources that can inform the application of the CBD EBSA criteria as well as a number of illustrations on how these techniques can be applied to individual criterion. This guidance was welcomed as a key background document by the 2009 CBD Ottawa Expert Workshop on EBSAs. GOBI has made a special effort to inform stakeholders about the science behind this initiative.

Through the work of task-oriented groups of scientists, GOBI provides guidance on a number of EBSA-related issues. The GOBI Task Groups look at, inter alia, the identification of EBSAs in the benthic and pelagic realms, multi-criteria analysis approaches, the social context of EBSAs as well as the creation of a metadata catalogue to allow the access to the best available and relevant data for the identification of EBSAs. GOBI will use both its scientific expertise and inputs from external scientific experts to develop global thematic and habitat analyses and identify candidate EBSAs for further consideration. Though following a global approach, GOBI also concentrates its work on the development of capacity building tools, regional workshops and guidance documents for the regions. Currently focusing on the Western Pacific Ocean, GOBI aims to outreach globally by informing local communities and governments and to cooperate with ongoing processes introducing new approaches under regional and global organisations to protect biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Executive Summary continued

The 14th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 14) recommended that the CBD Secretariat “*outline a process for creating and maintaining a CBD global inventory of EBSAs in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction and to begin provisionally to populate such as inventory*”, with the help of relevant organisations and initiatives, including GOBI. Should this recommendation be adopted by the CBD COP 10, GOBI stands ready to participate in outlining a process for a CBD global inventory and to facilitate the work of practitioners and experts in identifying candidate EBSAs that could feed into such an inventory. Over the next year, GOBI will continue to develop relevant scientific and capacity building guidance on the application of EBSA criteria and facilitate the identification of candidate EBSAs for countries, relevant organisations and stakeholders.

This presentation folder aims, while informing about the work undertaken by GOBI, to present preliminary guidance and information on the development of a process leading to an EBSA inventory, the scientific tools and methods available for the identification of candidate EBSAs and the existing regional approaches available to bring global information down to the regions.

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Initiative Partners



German Federal Agency
for Nature Conservation
www.bfn.de



IUCN
www.iucn.org



Convention on
Biological Diversity
www.cbd.int



Census of Marine Life
www.coml.org



Ocean Biogeographic
Information System
www.iobis.org



UNEP-World Conservation
Monitoring Centre
www.unep-wcmc.org



Duke University Marine
Geospatial Ecology Lab
<http://mgel.env.duke.edu>



Marine Conservation
Biology Institute
www.mcbi.org



UNU-IAS
www.ias.unu.edu



AquaMaps
www.aquamaps.org



BirdLife International
www.birdlife.org



CSIRO
www.csiro.au



Tagging of Pacific
Predators
www.topp.org



CenSeam
<http://censeam.niwa.co.nz>



Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission of UNESCO
<http://ioc-unesco.org>



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www.eu-hermione.net/

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