



protectedseas

# NAVIGATOR

GUIDE TO OUR REGULATORY SEASCAPE

EUROPE

**WHAT IS IT?** The most comprehensive regulatory database for understanding the legal framework of the world’s Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

Navigator, developed in partnership with the U.S. National MPA Center, provides a comprehensive database of current marine regulations. This tool supports world-wide marine assessments to evaluate the legal protections within existing MPAs.

Navigator is a free creative-commons interactive map that provides regulations on current marine life protections and their boundaries. This tool is the most comprehensive regulatory database available. Currently it contains regulatory information for over 20,000 marine areas in more than 110 countries, territories, and the high seas - including Europe.

All regulatory data is directly sourced from laws, regulations, and management plans, with links to these resources included in the database. Navigator can be used for a myriad of analyses - including as a baseline to evaluate progress towards 30x30 efforts.

**No one can understand ocean protection without first understanding existing ocean regulations.**

For select regions, Navigator also includes many kinds of marine areas beyond MPAs to provide a holistic view of regulations.

## AT A GLANCE

Developed in partnership with the U.S. National MPA Center

Includes regulatory information for 20,000+ marine areas in more than 110 countries, including Europe

Can be a foundational tool for many types of assessments

Summarizes key protective measures

Coding for fishing gears and human activities, and consistent regulations-based Level of Fishing Protection score for all sites

Translated into 22+ local languages

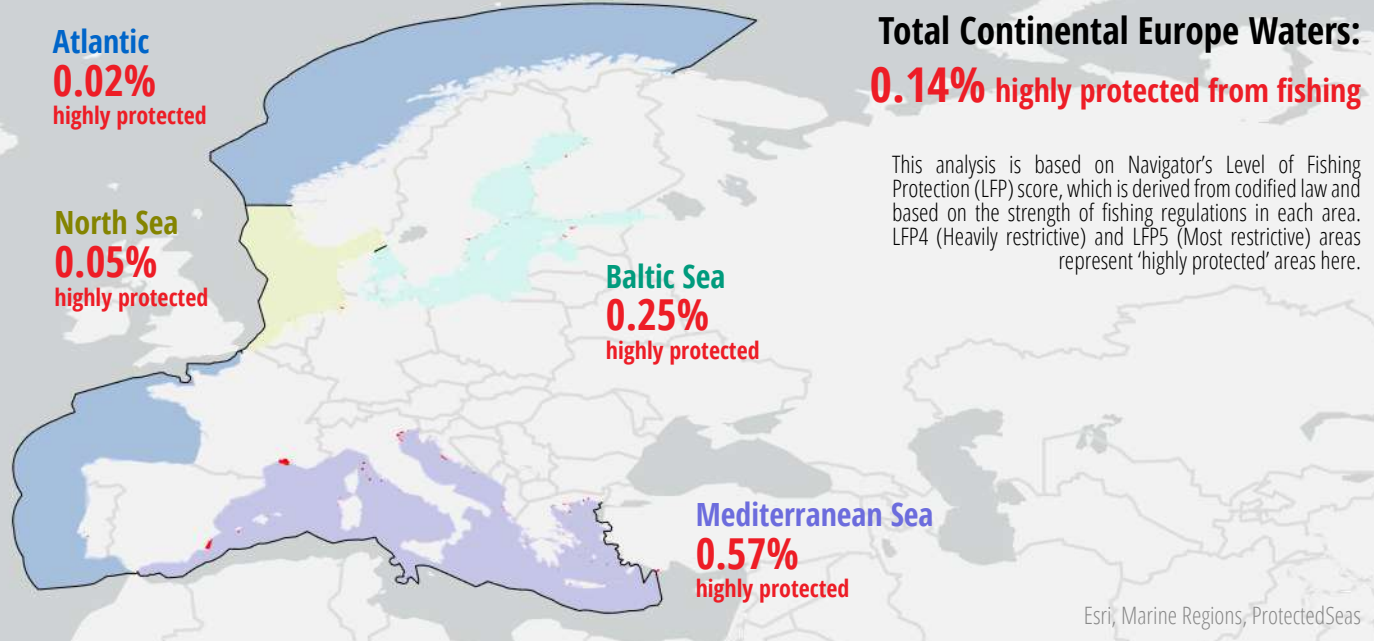
## Level of Fishing Protection Score

Navigator includes a Level of Fishing Protection score that is uniformly applied across all geographies so that comparisons can be made and users can understand the current status of marine conservation efforts.

- 5 | Most restrictive - Marine life removal is prohibited
- 4 | Heavily restrictive - Marine life removal is mostly prohibited
- 3 | Moderately restrictive - Marine life remove is heavily restricted
- 2 | Less restrictive - At least one species- or gear-specific restriction
- 1 | Least restrictive - Few or no restrictions



# An Analysis of European Waters



An analysis of Navigator data shows that **roughly 0.14%** of the 3.8 million square kilometers of Continental European waters are highly protected based on Navigator's Level of Fishing Protection scoring system.

**Where are protections?** Of the four European marine regions in the above map, the Mediterranean Sea has the highest percentage of its area rated as highly protected, at 0.57%. In comparison, only 0.02% of the Atlantic Region is rated as highly protected.

**Who is responsible for protections?** Responsibility for protections vary by country and may be subject to supranational agreements. Many of Europe's marine protections are in development and will likely progress towards more effective protection in the coming years.

**What else can be analyzed?** For Europe, the database includes information beyond MPAs including regulations by species, fishing gear types such as bottom trawling, speed zones - to protect whales and special habitats - and water quality restrictions to prevent pollution. The Navigator enables comparisons between regulation-based restrictions in one resource and can guide the planning of new protections.

## About Us



In 2015, ProtectedSeas partnered with the U.S. National MPA Center to build the first open-access database that catalogs and maps all marine protected and marine managed areas in U.S. state and federal waters to fill the data gap that existed. We published our U.S. data in 2017 and are on track to complete global coverage of MPAs by the end of 2022. The information is available to use (with citation) and is accessible in many formats and tools for different audiences.