

Figure S1. Available data for spawning areas of fish (*Merluccius merluccius*, *Mullus barbatus*, *Pagellus erythrinus*), elasmobranchs (*Raja clavata*, *Galeus melastomus*), cephalopods (*Eledone cirrhosa*, *Illex coindetii*), and crustaceans (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*, *Parapenaeus longirostris*, *Nephrops norvegicus*, *Aristeus antennatus*).

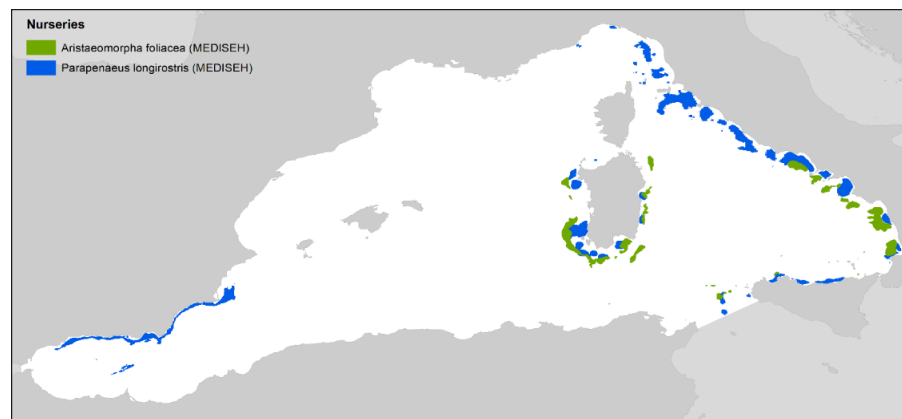
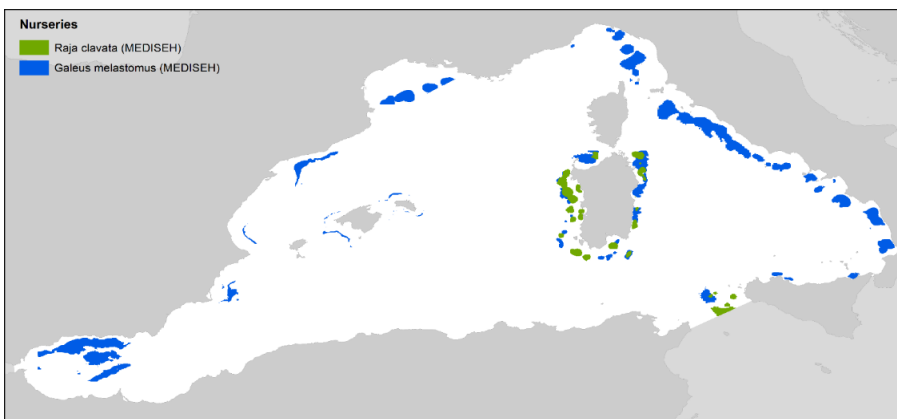
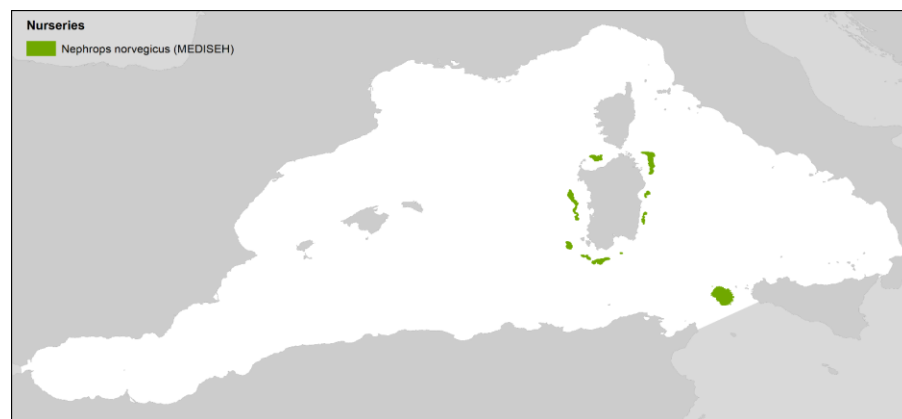
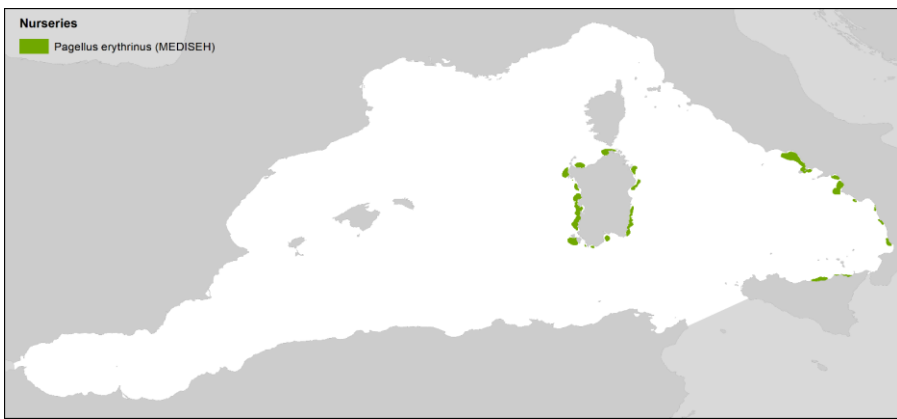
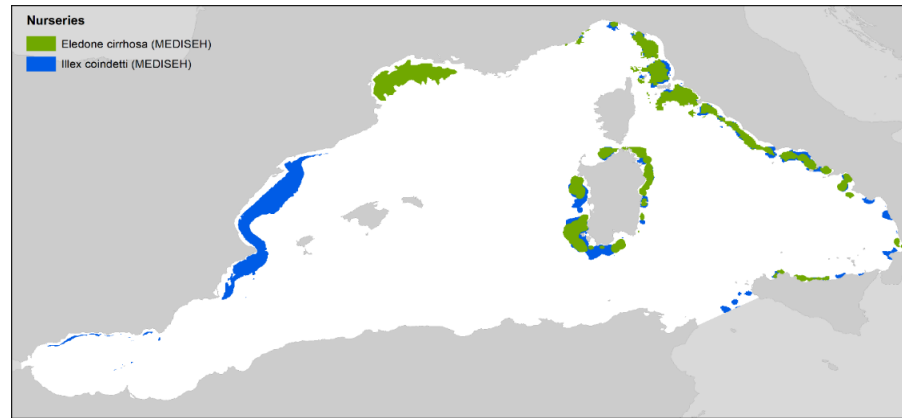
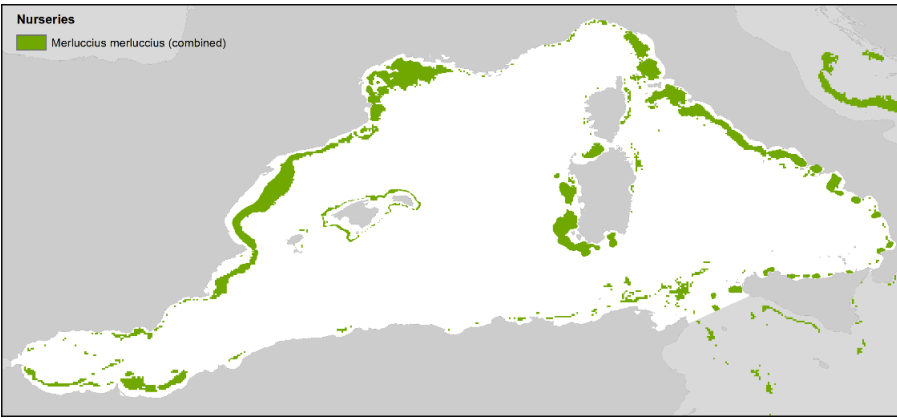


Figure S2. Available data for nursery areas of fish (*Merluccius merluccius*, *Pagellus erythrinus*), elasmobranchs (*Raja clavata*, *Galeus melastomus*), cephalopods (*Eledone cirrhosa*, *Illex coindetii*), and crustaceans (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*, *Parapenaeus longirostris*, *Nephrops norvegicus*).

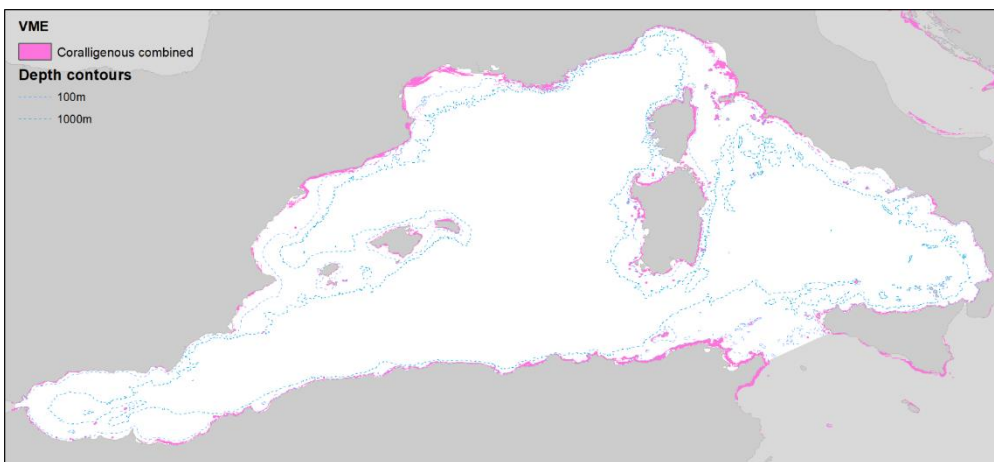
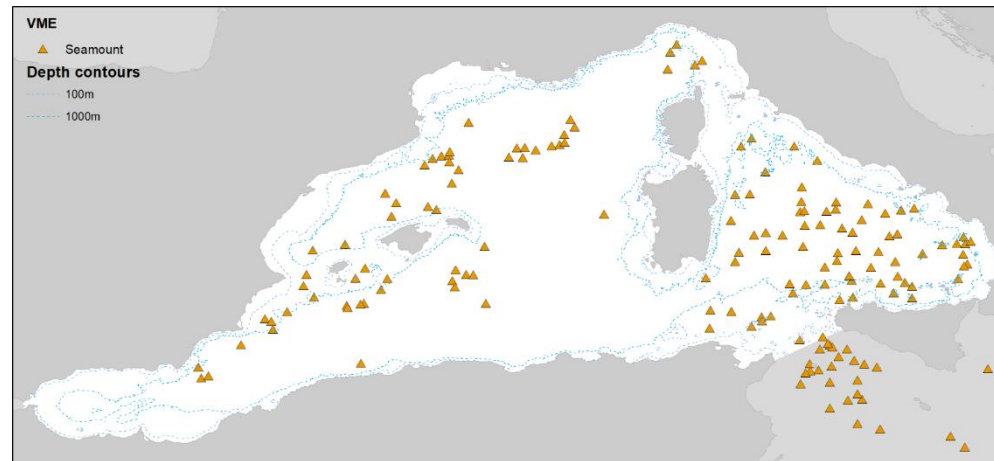
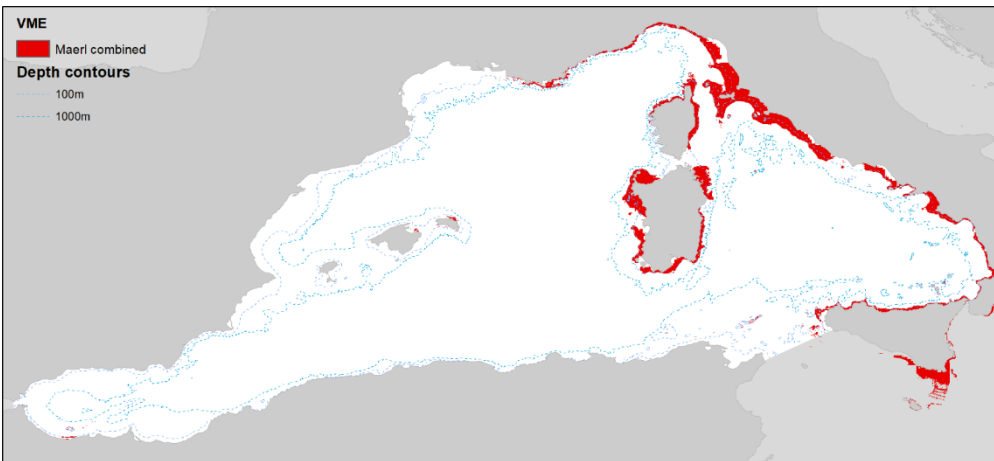
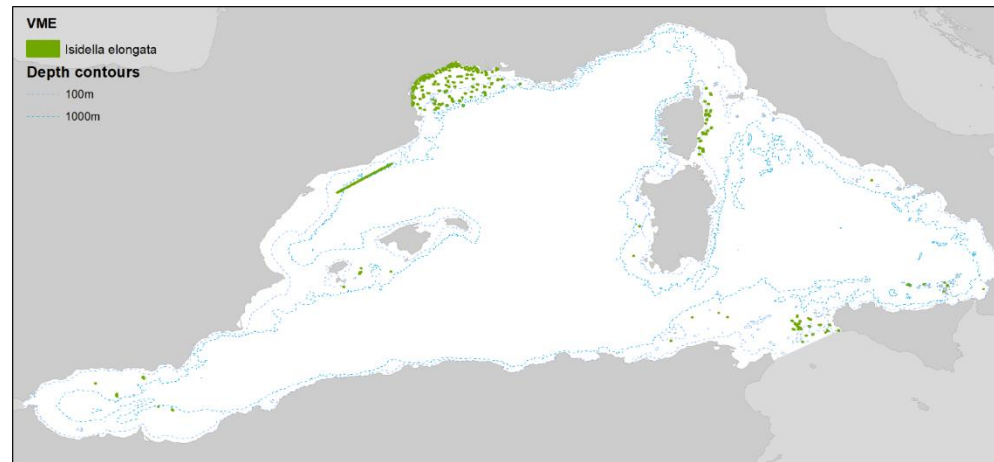
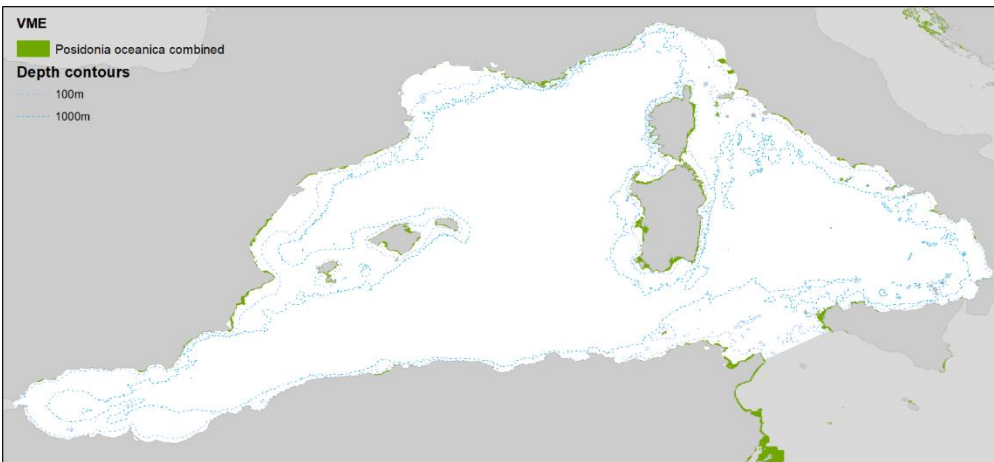


Figure S3. Available data for Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (seagrass meadows, maerl beds, coralligenous communities, bamboo coral and seamounts).

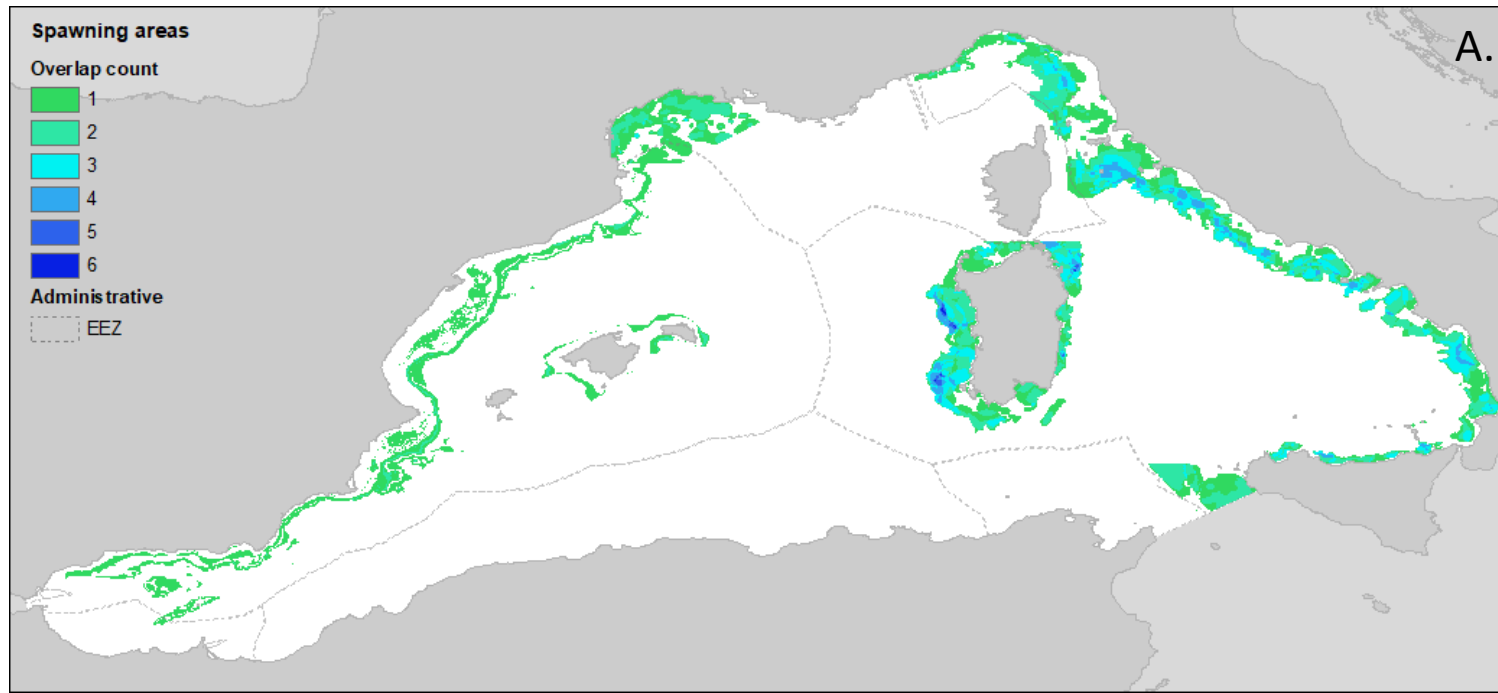


Figure S4. Available data for Essential Fish Habitats. a) Spawning areas data for the species *Aristeus antennatus*, *Eledone cirrhosa*, *Galeus melastomus*, *Merluccius merluccius*, *Mullus surmuletus*, *Nephrops norvegicus*, *Pagellus erythrinus*, *Parapenaeus longirostris*; b) Nursery areas data for the species *Eledone cirrhosa*, *Galeus melastomus*, *Merluccius merluccius*, *Nephrops norvegicus*, *Pagellus erythrinus*, *Parapenaeus longirostris*, *Raja clavata*

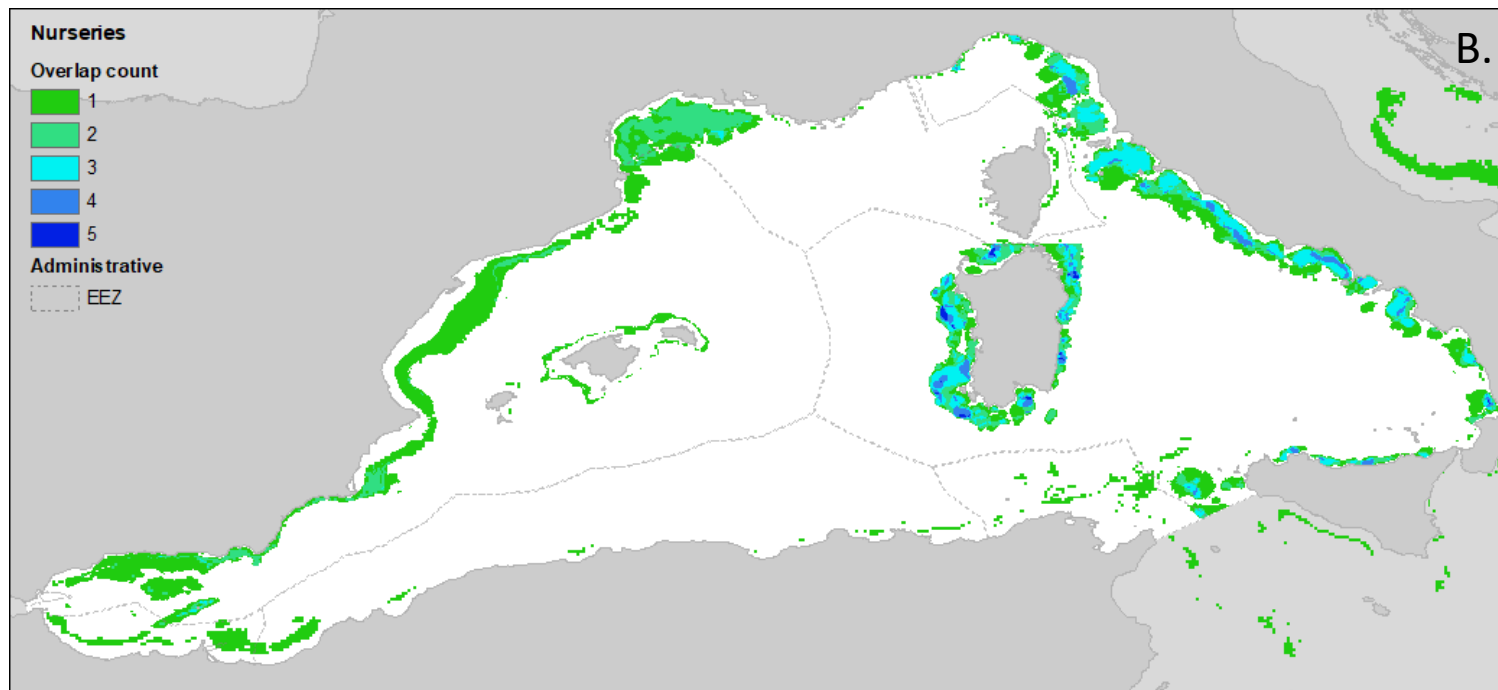


Figure S5. Bottom trawling fishing effort intensity in 2019 (source Global Fish Watch (GFW, 2022) coming from the Automatic Identification System (AIS)).

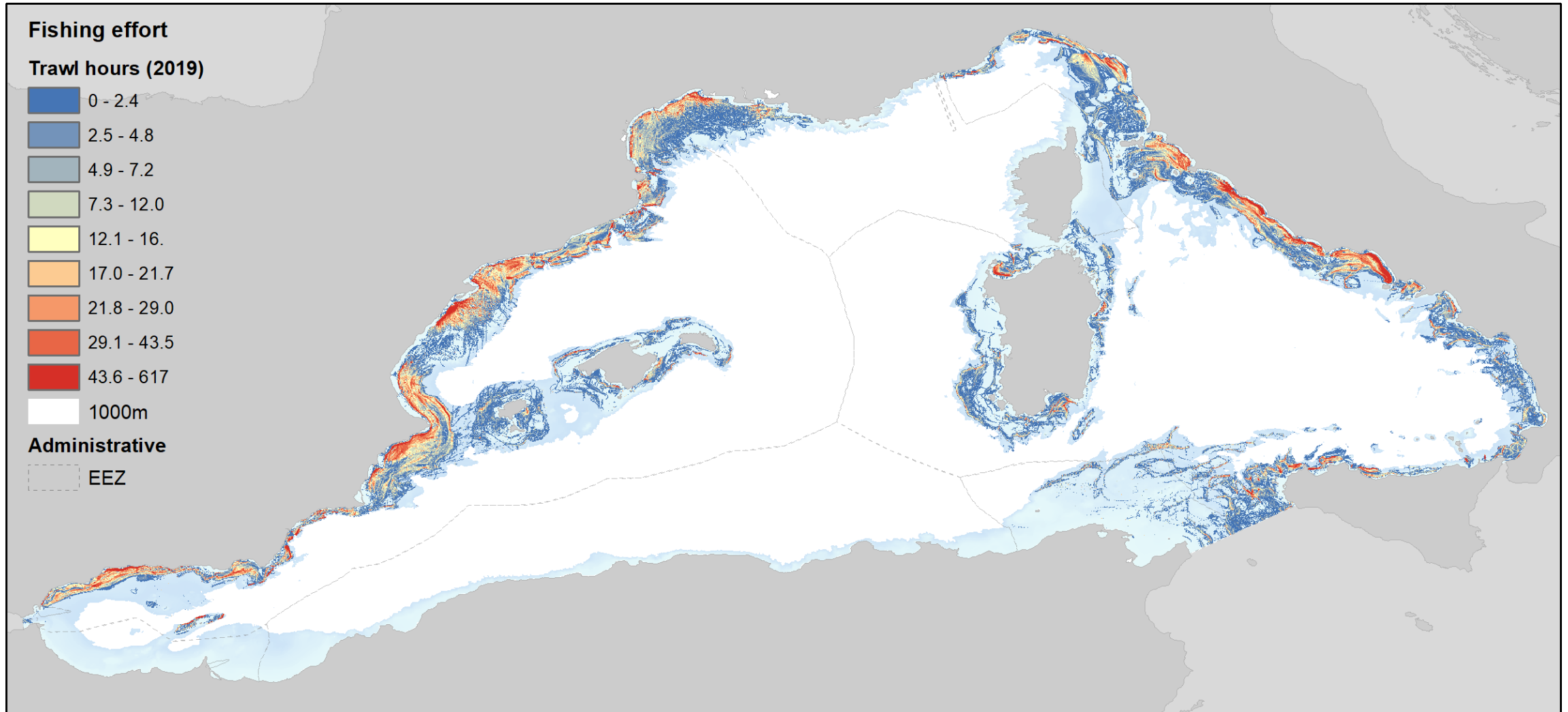


Table S6. Protection rates obtained from the overlapping analyses of conservation figures with Priority Areas Management at the western Mediterranean Sea scale, excluding areas within 12 nautical miles.

Priority area coverage	Current implemented areas	Discussed FRA	Discussed FRA + 800m	Discussed FRA + 600m
Low priority	0.08%	2.11%	3.05%	7.11%
Medium priority	0.13%	1.74%	5.31%	10.57%
High priority	0.70%	3.03%	5.03%	9.47%
Very high priority	0.70%	2.58%	5.04%	11.15%

Priority area coverage	Spain EEZ			
	Current implemented areas	Discussed FRA	Discussed FRA+ 800m	Discussed FRA+ 600m
Low priority	0.09%	2.24%	3.41%	7.78%
Medium priority	0.24%	5.51%	12.43%	19.20%
High priority	1.11%	11.03%	13.93%	16.95%
Very high priority	2.07%	10.70%	16.32%	23.67%
Priority area coverage	France EEZ			
	Current implemented areas	Discussed FRA	Discussed FRA + 800m	Discussed FRA+ 600m
Low priority	0.08%	0.08%	0.09%	0.49%
Medium priority	0.52%	3.43%	3.48%	4.76%
High priority	0.09%	3.20%	3.20%	3.22%
Very high priority	1.26%	30.84%	30.99%	31.26%
Priority area coverage	Italy EEZ			
	Current implemented areas	Discussed FRA	Discussed + 800m	Discussed + 600m
Low priority	0.05%	0.05%	0.64%	4.24%
Medium priority	0.21%	0.21%	2.28%	8.69%
High priority	0.11%	0.11%	3.13%	12.13%
Very high priority	0.74%	0.74%	1.55%	4.96%

Table S7. Protection rates obtained from the overlapping analyses of conservation figures with Priority Areas Management by EEZ, excluding areas within 12 nautical miles.