



Potential OECMs Archeological sites

Webinar Other Effective area-based Conservation
Measures (OECMs) in the Baltic Sea – 23 Nov 2021



Underwater archeological sites

Our oceans and seas contain a rich diversity of sites and objects of historical and archaeological interest

- *Shipwrecks*
- *Urban ports and structures*
- *Sacred places and offerings*
- *Prehistoric landscapes*

Preserving these sites can:

- (1) Help understand climate change sea-level rise, and cultural change.
- (2) Foster technological and scientific progress and further education



Potential biodiversity benefits of underwater archeological sites

Underwater archeological sites **might also contribute to biodiversity conservation:**

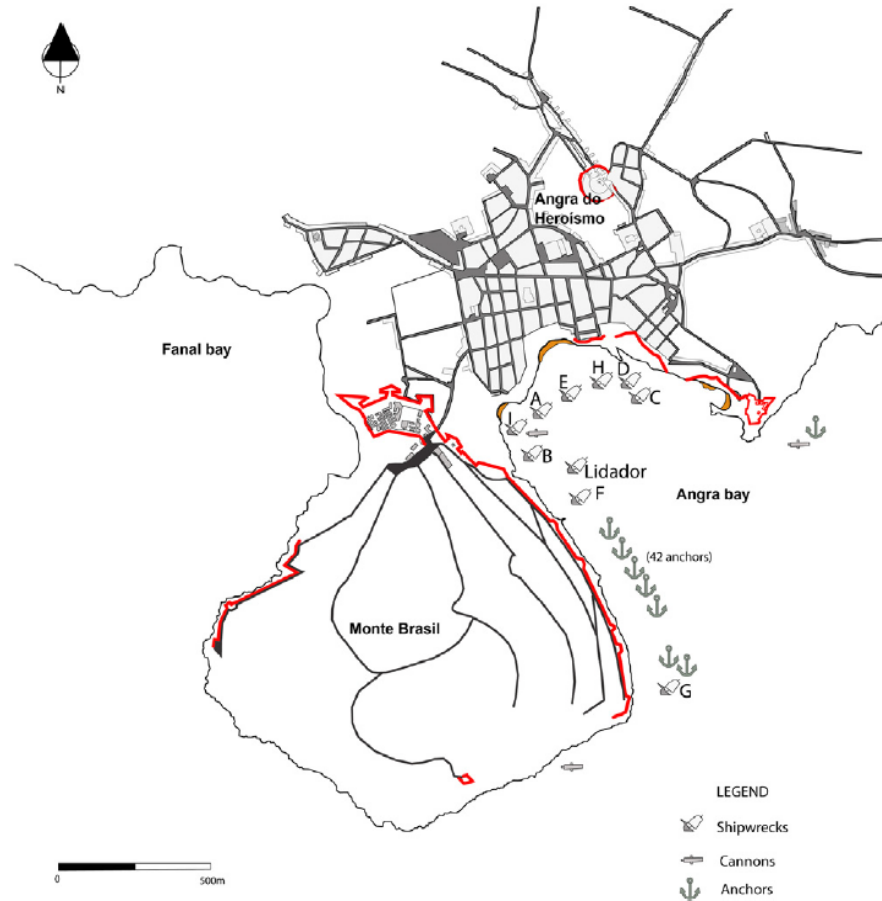
- (1) Can serve as artificial reefs
- (2) Can limit or forbid activities within their areas

However...

- Their contribution is not always recognized or taken into account.
- included as part of an existing MPA but not as a stand-alone area-based measure in the WPDA.



Potential Archeological site OECM: the Azores example*



The Bay of Angra Underwater Archeological Park

- Located in Terceira Island
- Important port during the 16th-17th centuries
- At least 70 documented shipwrecks and more of 15 archeological sites
- In 2005: the regional government of the Azores classifies the Bay of Angra as an UAP

Figure 1. UAP of Angra. Archaeological sites map (Garcia and Barreiros, 2018)

*Garcia, A. C., Barreiros, J. P. (2018). Are underwater archaeological parks good for fishes? Symbiotic relation between cultural heritage preservation and marine conservation in the Azores. *Regional Studies in Marine Science*, 21, 57-66.

Potential Archeological site OECM: the Azores example

The Dori Underwater Archeological Park

- Located in São Miguel Island
- Artificial shipwreck reef
- Initiative to recognize the site as a UAP started by citizens and divers
- Area recognized as UAP because of the living cultural element



Figure 2. Dori UAP. Inventory work to the classification (Garcia and Barreiros, 2018)

The Azores example: Biodiversity and socio-economic values

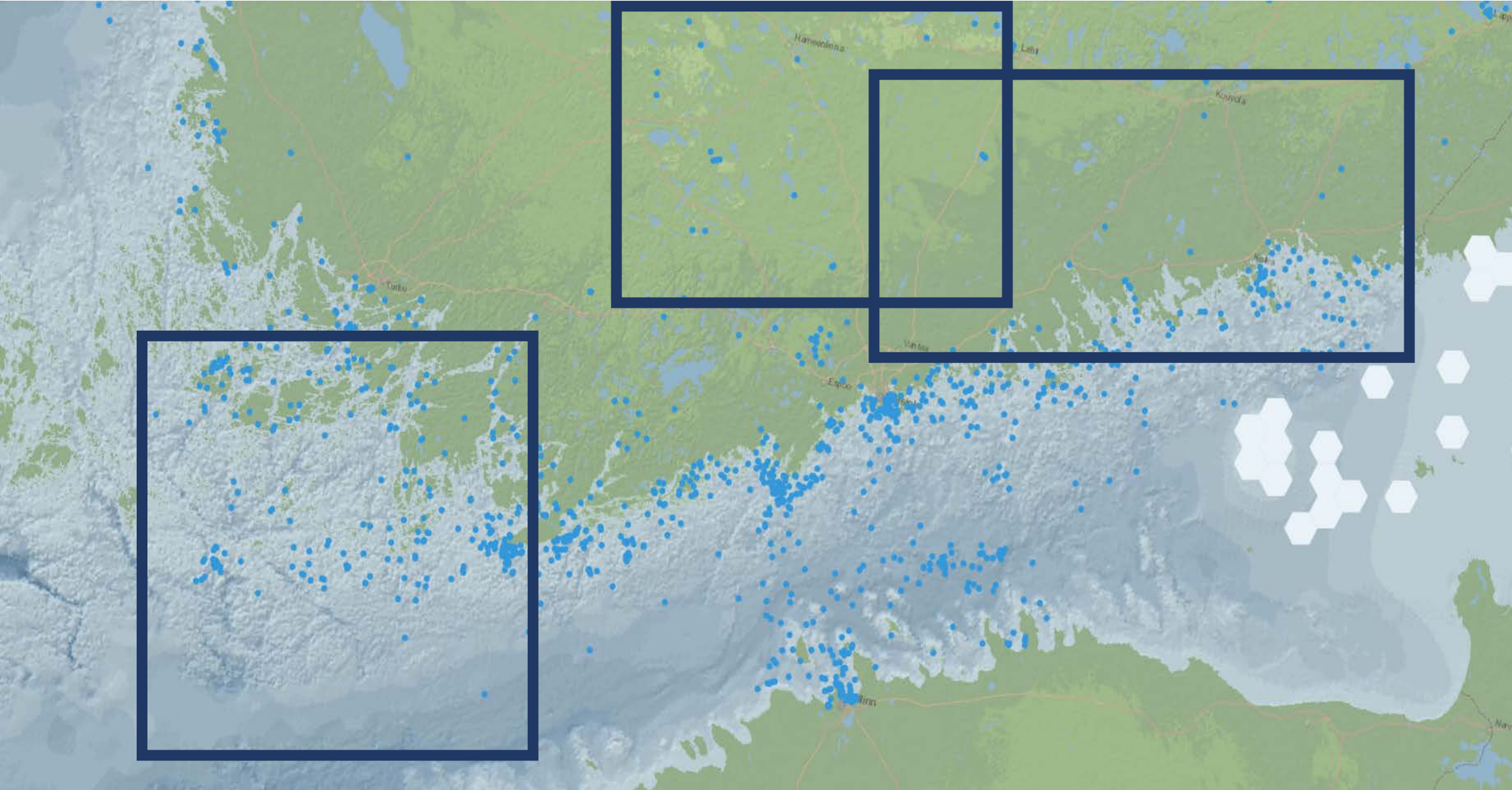
The underwater archaeological parks are contributing to

- **The conservation & reestablishment of marine biodiversity**
- **Increase interest in tourism activities**

They areas contains many of the elements that could qualify them as potential OECMS



Archeological sites in the context of the Baltic Sea



Archeological sites in the context of the Baltic Sea: Protected wreck areas - Finland

Protected wreck areas in accordance with the Antiquities Act (FIN)

- Based on the Antiquities Act (295/1963)
- Five protected wreck sites in Finland: St. Nikolai, Gråharun, Borstö, Vrouw Maria, Huis te Warmelo
- The boundaries of the protected areas of these sites have been defined and confirmed

However...

- No information is available related to biodiversity conservation.

How do these sites fit in the OECM context?





Thank you!

