



Key Achievements

- 2012 Sargasso Sea described as an EBSA by the Parties to the CBD
- 2013 ICCAT Science body recommendation of the Sargasso Sea as case study

recognise and utilise. Unfortunately, the early experience in relation to the Sargasso Sea is that with the limited exceptions of NAFO and the eastern Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (currently without management authority) EBSAs have not as yet generated action within the various sectoral organisations.

Elements of the new treaty under discussion such as the reaffirmation of basic principles like the precautionary approach and ecosystem-based management as well as elaboration of mechanisms for area-based management tools including marine protected areas environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments, could provide important means to safeguard this iconic ecosystem. Moreover, the Sargasso Sea would benefit from efforts to encourage collaborative research ventures, including with developing country partners, to enhance capacity, grant easier access to marine technologies and enable present and future generations to benefit from the continued health, productivity and resilience of the Sargasso Sea ecosystem.

The findings of the Sargasso Sea Project to date reinforce the view that a new international legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABN provides a critical opportunity to build on the LOSC regime to enable a more holistic approach to ocean governance for the Sargasso Sea and other regions in ABN.

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SINCE 2010 THE SARGASSO SEA PROJECT—

