

Marine Habitat Mapping for Management Purposes

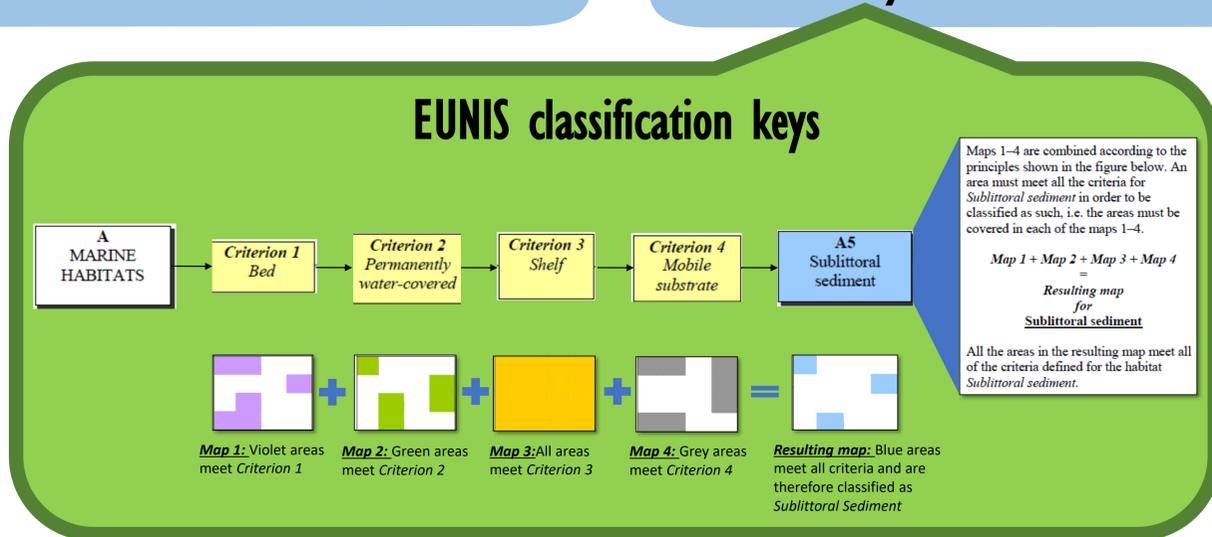
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Why to map marine habitats?

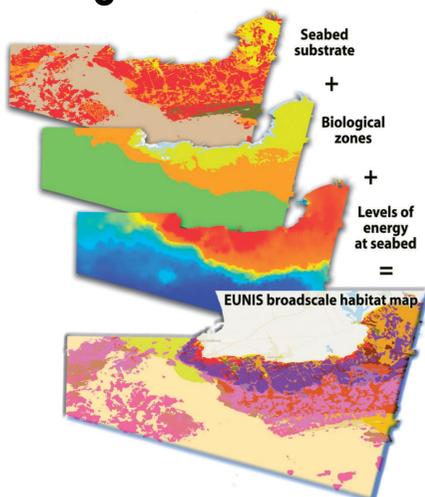
Marine habitat mapping is the first step to Ecosystem-based Management (EBM), which consists in characterizing the habitat features of the ecosystem. A range of physical parameters are used to define habitats, such as: *substrate type, level of energy at the seabed and light penetration.*

Habitat Classification Systems

There are several habitat classification systems that have been implemented on national and regional scales. One of the most important is the *European Nature Information System (EUNIS)*, created in 2004. The EUNIS is a comprehensive system, hierarchical in structure and includes a **key** for identification of habitats.

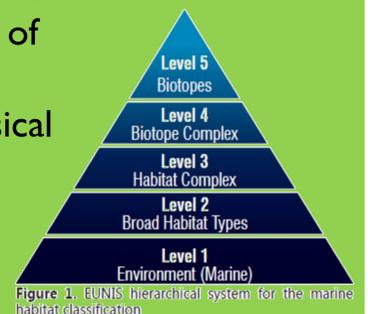


Generating Broad Scale Habitat Maps



Can we map habitats in different scales?

Habitat classification systems, such as the EUNIS, allows different scales of data to be put together. On the broader levels of the system, physical attributes define *HABITATS*, while species distribution data define *BIOTOPES*, on higher levels of the system.



The Brazilian Coastal Zone Macro diagnostic

The *Brazilian Coastal Zone Macro Diagnostic (MDZC)*, designed by the Ministry of Environment, is a one of the instruments of the Coastal Zone Management National Act. It aims to provide information of the environmental and economic status of ecosystems to coastal decision makers.

Objectives:

- Adapt *EUNIS* classification to be applied on the 3rd version of the *MDZC*;
- Generate a Broad Scale Habitat Map in a scale of 1:1.000.000

Future applications:



Marine Spatial Planning



Marine Protected Areas