1. INTERNATIONAL SCALE

PRESENTATION

Geographical area: from the north of Europe to the south of the Canary Islands, including the waters of the North East Atlantic, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, and countries in Asia, Africa and Europe.

Criteria for delimitation: Firstly, on the basis of the OSPAR Convention, the marine environment protection areas of which are determined as zones in the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans and their secondary seas which extend north of the 36th parallel between meridians 42° west and 51° east, plus the zone of the Atlantic Ocean situated to the north of the 59th parallel between meridians 44° and 42° west, excepting the Baltic Sea, the 'Belts' and the Mediterranean Sea and its secondary seas to the point where parallel 36° north and meridian 5° 36' west intersect.

Secondly, on the supranational scale all the waters in the proximity of Spanish waters, or that have some direct connection to them, are included. The Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea, as seas under the jurisdiction of European Union countries, plus the waters of African countries from which there are direct migratory flows to Spain, such as Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal and Cape Verde.

The mid lines represent States' hypothetical exclusive economic zones. They extend 200 nautical miles from States' coastlines and their delimitation with other adjacent or opposite countries is based on the equidistance principle.

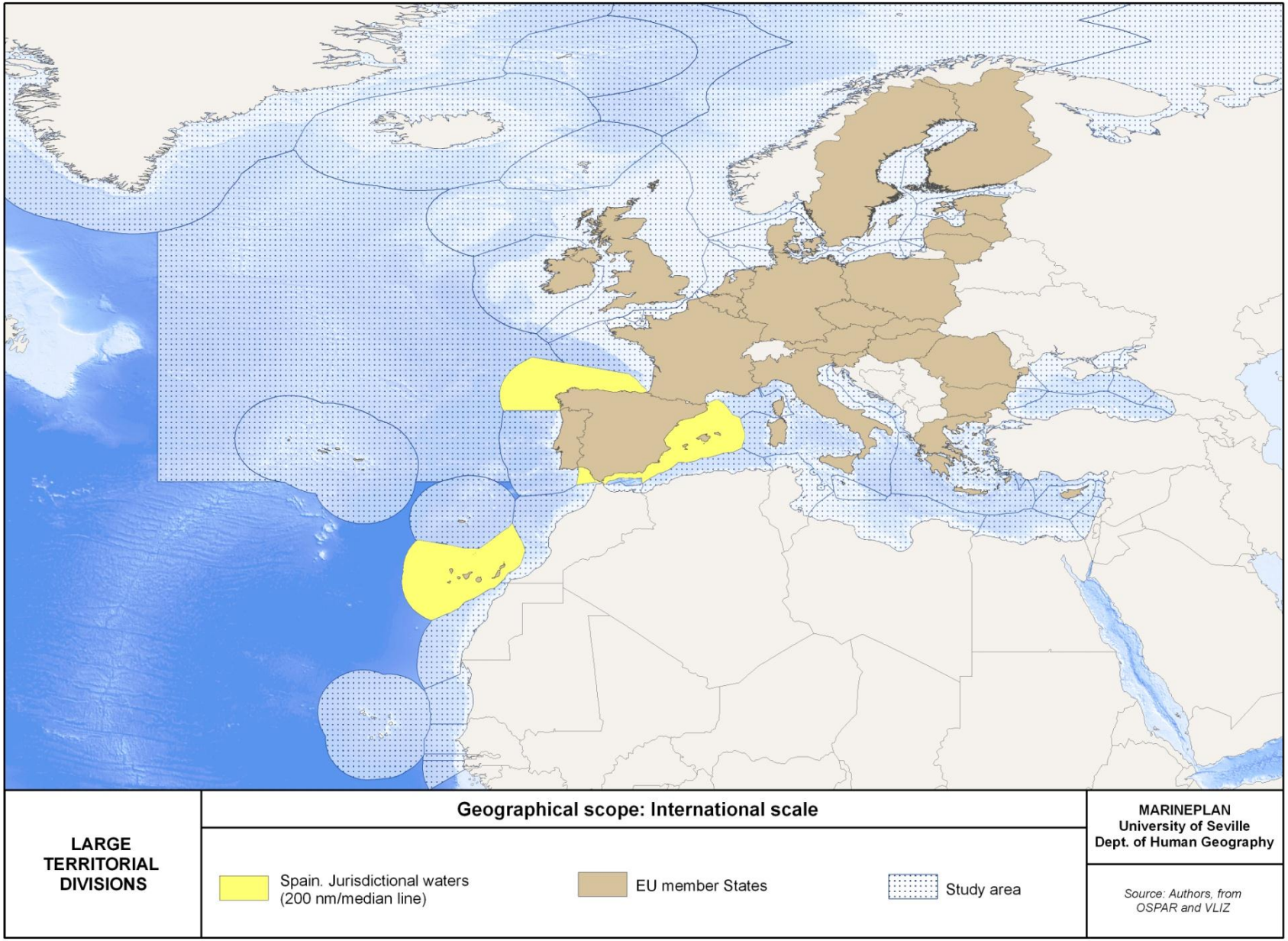
BASIC DATA

Geographical scope

Number of States	44
Total surface area (sq km)	19 960 186
Average surface area (sq km)	453 641

Observations

Total surface area refers to States' hypothetical exclusive economic zones included in the scope of the international scale plus the area outside national maritime jurisdiction that is included in the OSPAR Convention.


LARGE TERRITORIAL DIVISIONS
Geographical scope: International scale
Spain. Jurisdictional waters (200 nm/median line)
EU member States
Study area
MARINEPLAN
University of Seville
Dept. of Human Geography
Source: Authors, from OSPAR and VLIZ

EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONES

According to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) "The exclusive economic zone is an area beyond and adjacent to the territorial sea, subject to the specific legal regime [...], under which the rights and jurisdiction of the coastal State and the rights and freedoms of other States are governed by the relevant provisions of this Convention" (Art. 55); its maximum breadth is 200 nautical miles counting from the base lines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured (Art. 57).

In this case, hypothetical exclusive economic zones are represented as they are not based on any bilateral agreements when a State's maritime jurisdiction overlaps with that of another State, and not all States in the area have declared their EEZs.

In short, the maritime zones shown are those that come under some type of national jurisdiction or areas that could potentially be declared as such by the adjacent coastal States.

BASIC DATA

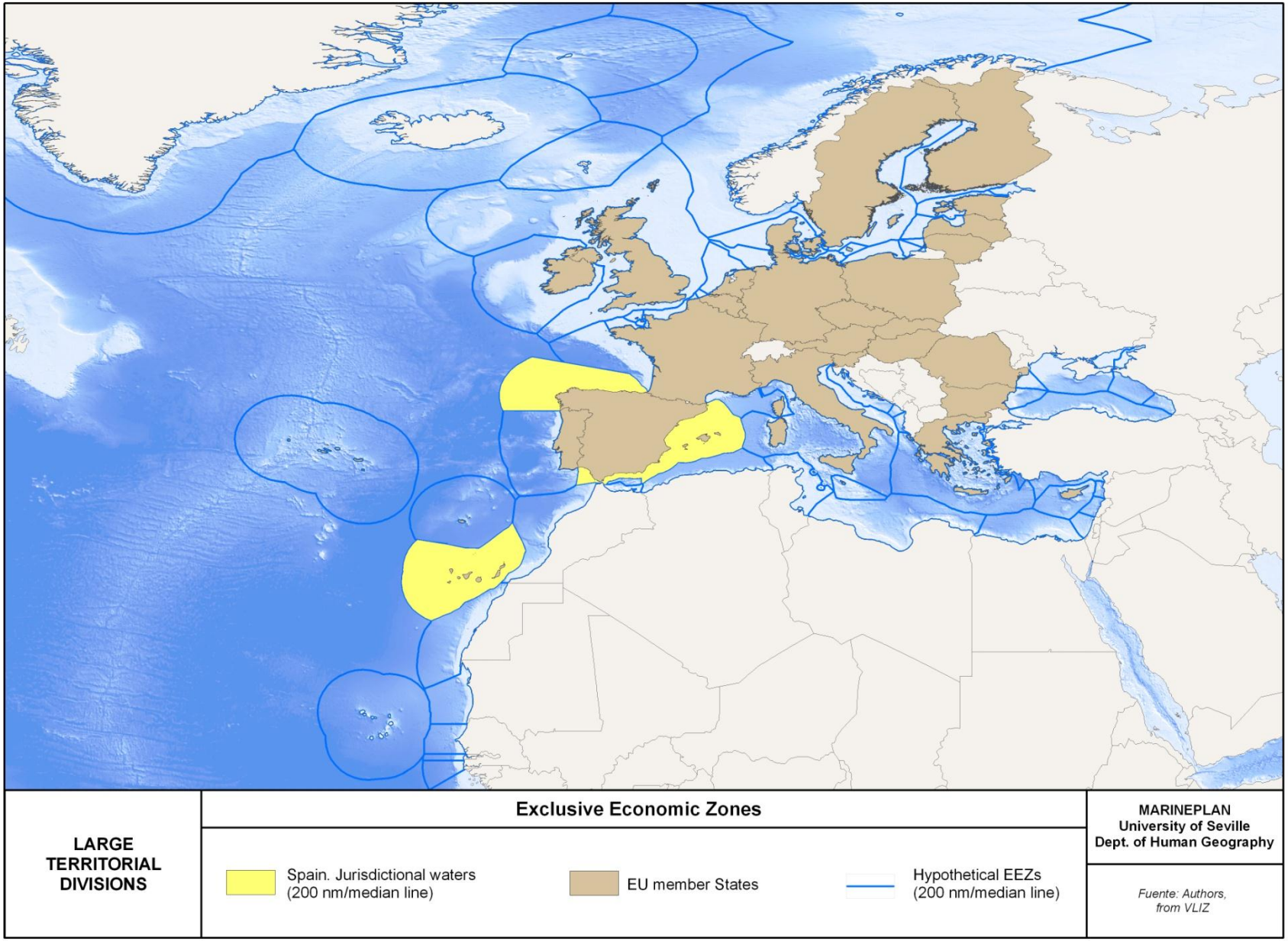
Hypothetical EEZ

Number of States	44
Total surface area (sq km)	13 919 579
Average surface area (sq km)	316 354

Governance

Legal framework	• United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
Institutions	• United Nations (UN)
Instruments	•

Hypothetical EEZ	sq km	Hypothetical EEZ	sq km
Spain	1 027 344	Lebanon	19 199
Albania	11 292	Libya	355 549
Algeria	127 776	Lithuania	6 077
Belgium	3 454	Malta	55 407
Bulgary	35 054	Mauritania	155 049
Cape Verde	796 675	Monaco	285
Croatia	56 103	Morocco	572 178
Cyprus	98 181	Netherlands	62 126
Denmark	2 650 076	Norway	2 069 689
Egypt	170 983	Poland	31 811
Estonia	35 669	Portugal	746 151
Finland	82 510	Romania	20 120
France	331 722	Russian Federation	90 286
Gambia	22 644	Senegal	157 592
Georgia	22 801	Serbia-Montenegro	7 491
Germany	56 227	Slovenia	188
Greece	492 937	Sweden	156 662
Iceland	754 282	Syrian Arab Republic	10 240
Ireland	379 489	Tunisia	102 441
Israel	27 354	Turkey	254 418
Italy	535 961	Ukraine	336 762
Latvia	28 757	United Kingdom	962 568


LARGE TERRITORIAL DIVISIONS
Exclusive Economic Zones
Spain. Jurisdictional waters (200 nm/median line)
EU member States
Hypothetical EEZs (200 nm/median line)
MARINEPLAN
University of Seville
Dept. of Human Geography
Fuente: Authors, from VLIZ

LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

The concept of the Large Marine Ecosystem was coined by NOAA (the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) for ecosystem-based maritime management using five indicators: productivity, fishing and fisheries, pollution and environmental health, socioeconomic factors and maritime governance (http://www.lme.noaa.gov/).

A number of ecosystem-based maritime management tools have been created in the framework of this programme and development projects have been approved in countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe.

The Large Marine Ecosystems were delimited using four ecological criteria: bathymetry, hydrography, productivity and trophic relationships.

Sixty-four Large Marine Ecosystems have been listed around the world and these produce over 80% of fishing on the global scale.

The geographical area of Large Marine Ecosystems is basically limited to the coast. As such, States commit to the joint management of these areas as many of the economic activities that take place within them lead to the degradation of marine resources.

In other respects, cross-border diagnostics are carried out as these Large Marine Ecosystems extend into the waters of more than one State and provide useful mechanisms for their joint management.

BASIC DATA

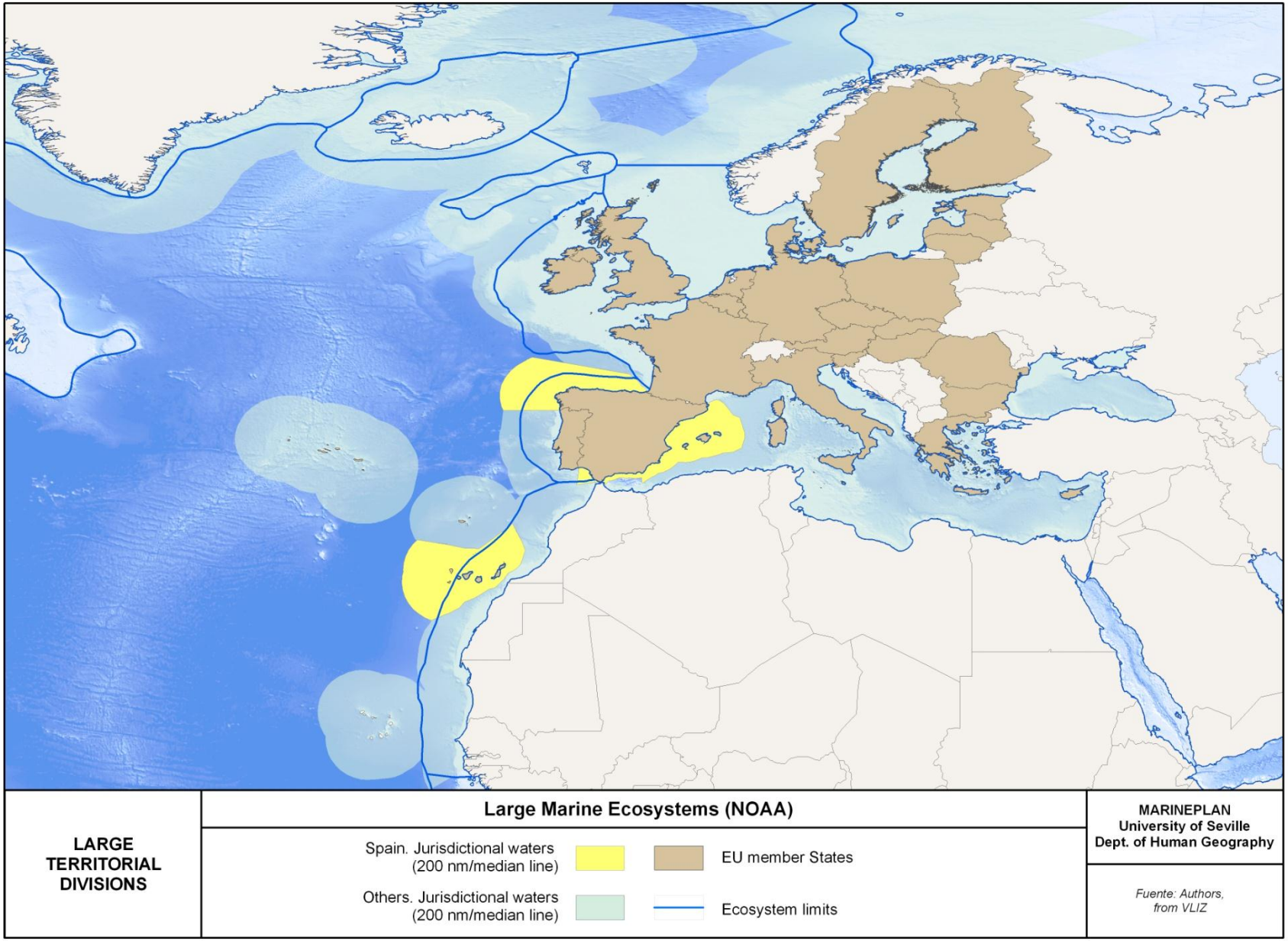
Large Marine Ecosystems (LME)

Number of LME on the zone	12
Total surface area (sq km)	11 125 100
Average surface area (sq km)	927 092

Governance

Legal framework	• Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
Institutions	• Global Environmental Forum (GEF)
Instruments	•

LME name	sq km
Baltic Sea	396 359
Barents Sea	1.881 705
Black Sea	462 825
Canary Current	1 122 977
Celtic-Biscay Shelf	762 631
East Greenland Shelf	1 185 203
Faroe Plateau	151 414
Iberian Coast	304 350
Iceland Shelf	521 573
Mediterranean Sea	2 530 148
North Sea	699 110
Norwegian Shelf	1 106 805


LARGE TERRITORIAL DIVISIONS
Large Marine Ecosystems (NOAA)
Spain. Jurisdictional waters (200 nm/median line)
EU member States
Others. Jurisdictional waters (200 nm/median line)
Ecosystem limits
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Dept. of Human Geography
Fuente: Authors, from VLIZ

LONGHURST BIOGEOGRAPHICAL PROVINCES

Biogeographical provinces were developed at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Canada, by A.R. Longhurst.

Oceans are divided into biogeographical provinces based on the role played by the physical forces that regulate the distribution of phytoplankton around the world. Despite the fact that these factors are neither fixed in time nor space but move according to interannual seasonal changes, a blueprint for a map is provided to show the way the oceans are divided.

According to this division, four main biomes are distinguished: the Polar Biome, the Westerlies Biome, the Trade-Winds Biome, and the Coastal Boundary Zone Biome. These four Biomes are recognisable in every major ocean basin. At the next level of reduction, the ocean basins are partitioned into provinces that provide a model for data analysis or for assigning parameters on the global scale.

BASIC DATA

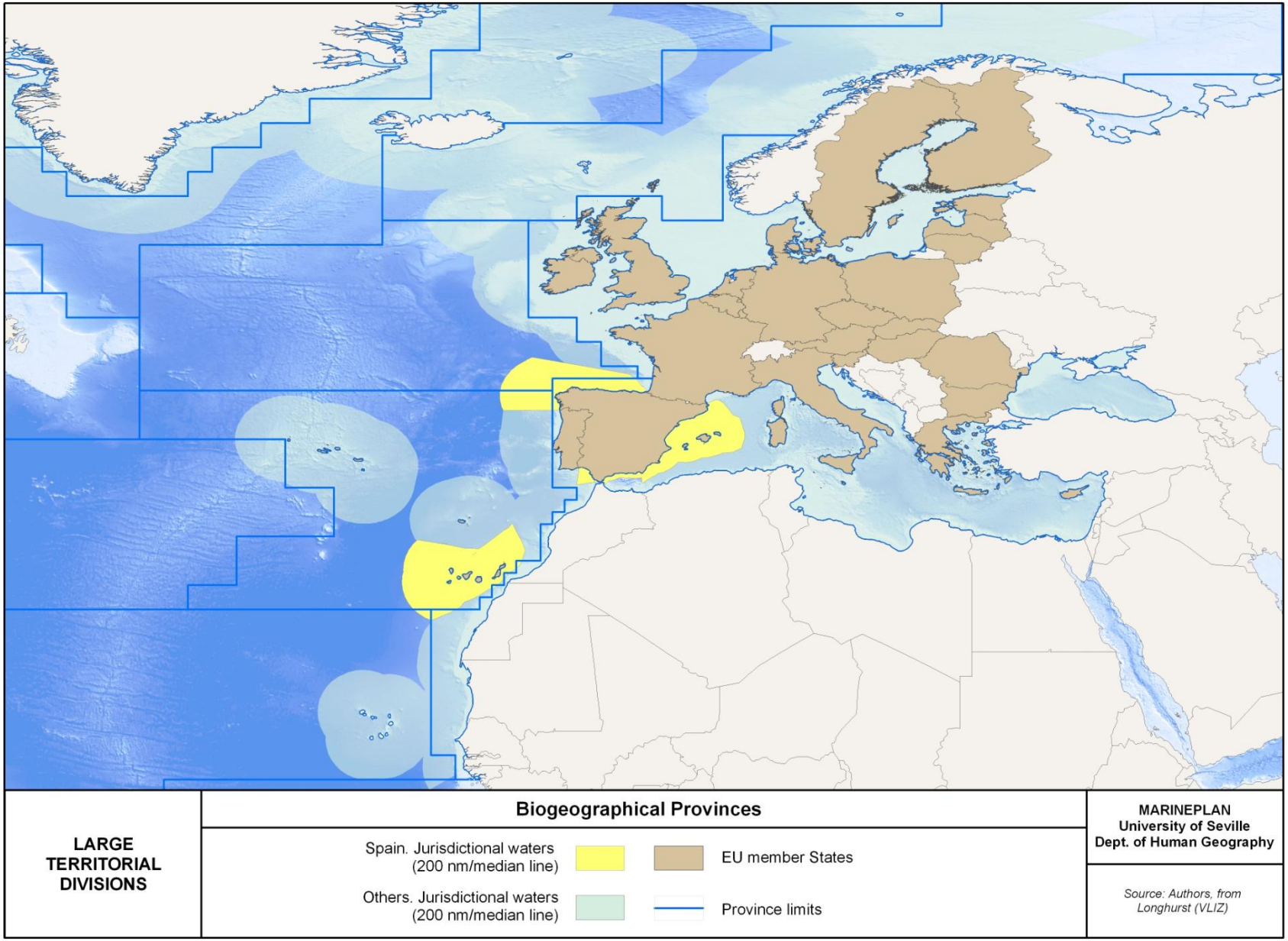
Biogeographical provinces

Number of provinces	10
Total surface area (sq km)	45 936 674
Average surface area (sq km)	4 593 667

Governance

Legal framework	•
Institutions	•
Instruments	•

Province name (description)	sq km
Canary Coastal (Coastal)	749 302
NE Atlantic Shelves (Coastal)	1 486 977
N. Atlantic Subtropical Gyral (East, Westerlies)	4 437 018
N. Atlantic Tropical Gyral (Trades)	8 180 610
Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea (Westerlies)	2 995 448
N. Atlantic Subtropical Gyral (West, Westerlies)	5 799 748
N. Atlantic Drift (Westerlies)	3 517 359
Atlantic-Arctic (Polar)	3 268 069
Atlantic-Subarctic (Polar)	2 361 120
Boreal-Polar (Polar)	13 141 023


LARGE TERRITORIAL DIVISIONS
Biogeographical Provinces
Spain. Jurisdictional waters (200 nm/median line)
Others. Jurisdictional waters (200 nm/median line)
EU member States
Province limits
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University of Seville
Dept. of Human Geography
Source: Authors, from Longhurst (VLIZ)

MARINE ECOREGIONS

According to the MEOW classification, the marine ecoregions proposed by a group of experts at the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) are defined as relatively homogeneous areas that are clearly distinguishable on the basis of the species that inhabit them, as determined by oceanographical or topographical features and by the presence of specific ecosystems.

Most of the marine ecosystems are associated with areas close to the coast and continental shelves, as a result of which the maximum depth of these ecoregions is set at 200 metres, which is also established as the world average, in a 200 nautical mile area extending from the coast.

The factors that determine the variability of these ecoregions are related to aspects such as sunshine, sea currents, supply of nutrients, upwellings, temperature regimes and bathymetric characteristics.

Global classification into marine ecoregions responds to the need to develop ecological systems that represent areas where planning might be carried out.

BASIC DATA

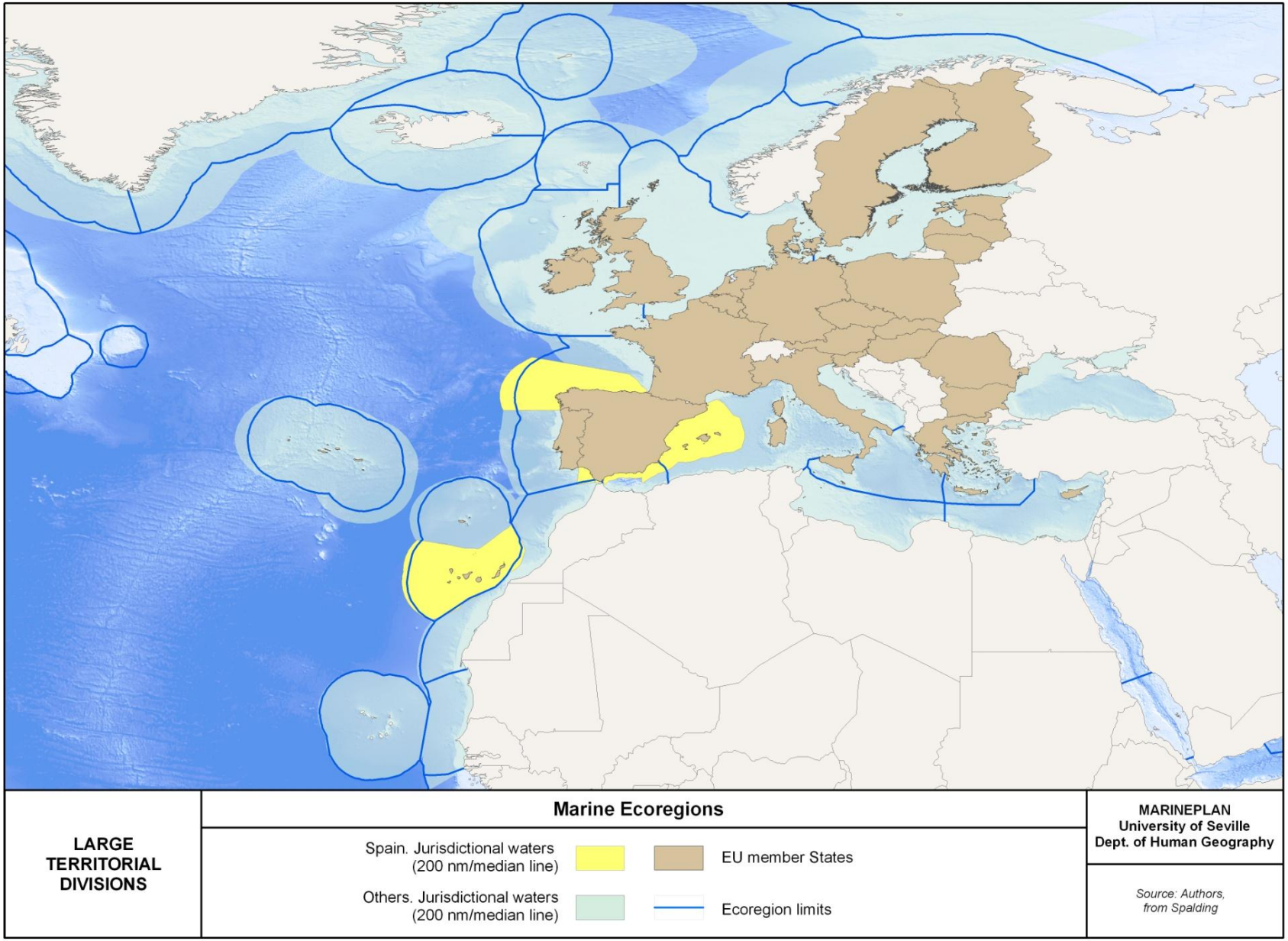
Marine Ecoregions

Number of marine ecoregions	24
Total surface area (sq km)	21 898 019
Average surface area (sq km)	912 417

Governance

Legal framework	•
Institutions	•
Instruments	•

Ecoregion name	sq km
Azores, Canaries, Madeira	1 645 462
Baltic Sea	1 387 523
Black Sea	1 377 124
Cape Verde	768 504
Celtic Seas	981 909
Est Greenland Shelf	1 203 012
Plataforma Feroe	205 347
Saharan Upwelling	1 175 573
South European Atlantic Shelf	1 150 365
North and East Iceland	403 154
South and West Iceland	460 781
North Sea	1 464 575
Norway Sea	433 781
Northern Norway and Finnmark	570 462
North and East Barents Sea	2 224 913
White Sea	379 524
Sahelian Upwelling	713 834
Adriatic Sea	352 299
Levantine Sea	1 122 686
Tunisian Plateau/Gulf of Sidra	1 077 191
Ionian Sea	455 080
Aegean Sea	609 648
Alboran Sea	352 690
Western Mediterranean	1 382 583


LARGE TERRITORIAL DIVISIONS
Marine Ecoregions
Spain. Jurisdictional waters (200 nm/median line)
Others. Jurisdictional waters (200 nm/median line)
EU member States
Ecoregion limits
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Dept. of Human Geography
Source: Authors, from Spalding

IHO MARINE REGIONS

The International Hydrographic Organization is an inter-governmental technical and consultative body set up in 1921 to provide safe navigation and protection to the marine environment.

Its main duty is to standardise all features of nautical charts, the nomenclature given to underwater relief and other navigation-related features.

All the seas in the world are thus regionalised and divided into maritime basins according to their oceanographical features, respecting the denominations that they have received throughout history.

BASIC DATA

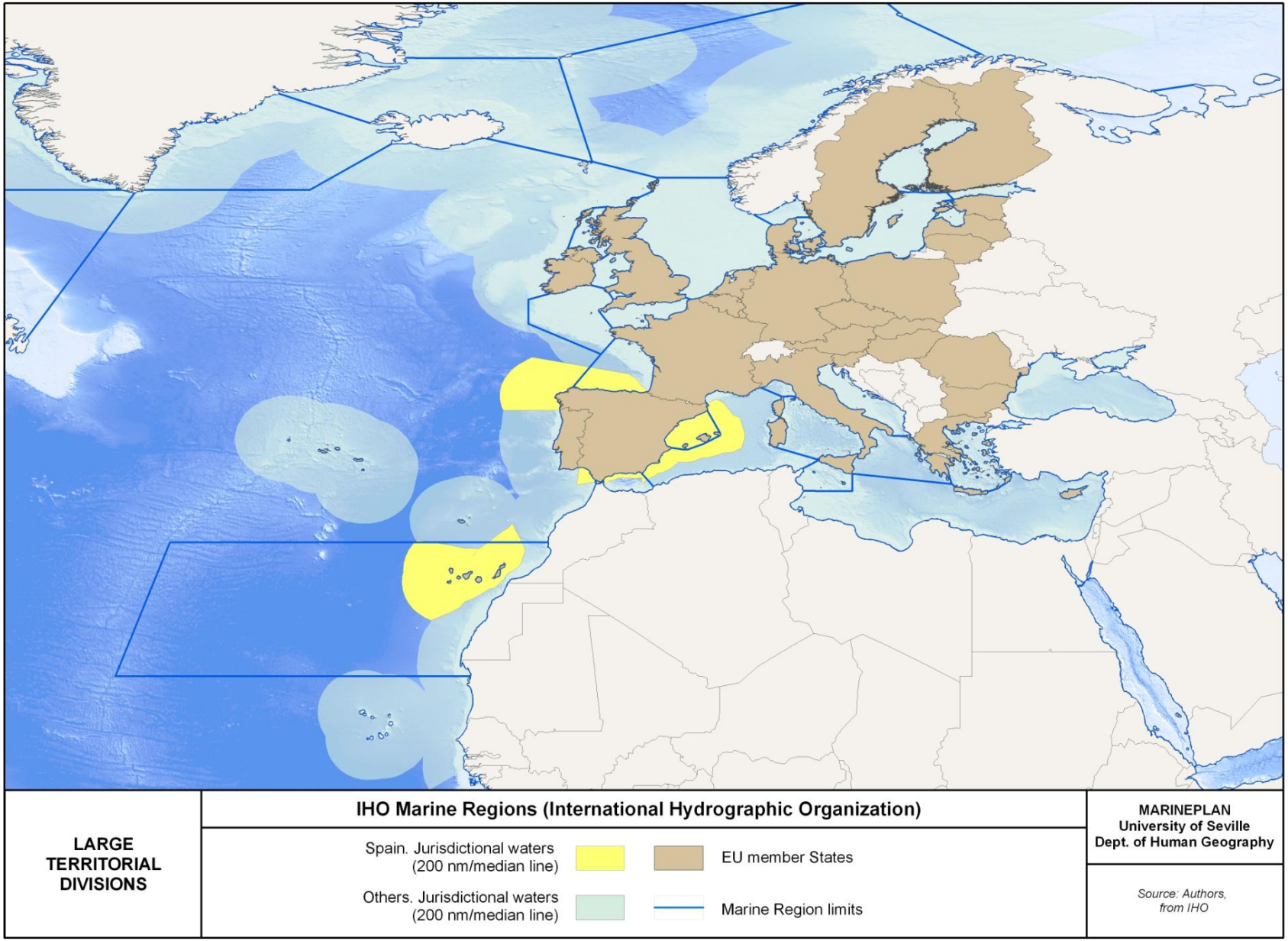
Marine regions

Number of marine regions	38
Total surface area (sq km)	43 005 836
Average surface area (sq km)	1 131 733

Governance

Legal framework	•
Institutions	• The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)
Instruments	•

Marine region	sq km	Marine region	sq km
Adriatic Sea	139 657	Irish Sea and St. George's Channel	45 941
Alboran Sea	54 377	Kattegat	25 523
Aegean Sea	191 477	Ligure Sea	22 099
Balear Sea	80 450	West Mediterranean Sea	476 097
Baltic Sea	214 781	East Mediterranean Sea	1 059 606
Barents Sea	1 415 291	North Atlantic Ocean	30 105 035
Bay of Biscay	175 055	North Greenland Sea	883 400
Black Sea	422 278	North Sea	524 028
Bristol Channel	5 646	Norwegian Sea	1 296 508
Canarias Sea	3 561 342	Sea of Azov	37 918
Celtic Sea	216 162	Sea of Marmara	11 306
English Channel	81 501	Skagerrak	32 773
Greenland Sea	600 584	Straits of Gibraltar	1 548
Gulf of Bothnia	115 751	Strait of Sicilia	85 915
Gulf of Finland	30 308	The Great Belt	3 957
Gulf of Riga	18 922	The Little Belt	1 724
Iceland Sea	529 051	The Sound	2 352
Inner Seas off the West Coast of Scotland	43 668	Tirreno Sea	210 933
Ionian Sea	192 782	White Sea	90 090


LARGE TERRITORIAL DIVISIONS
IHO Marine Regions (International Hydrographic Organization)
Spain. Jurisdictional waters (200 nm/median line)
Others. Jurisdictional waters (200 nm/median line)
EU member States
Marine Region limits
MARINEPLAN
University of Seville
Dept. of Human Geography
Source: Authors, from IHO

FAO AREAS

The United Nation Organisation's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is the body responsible for channelling international activities aimed at eradicating hunger.

The Fisheries and Aquaculture Department is the only organisation with a worldwide mission to systematically compile data on fisheries and aquaculture.

For this a series of areas have been established so that statistical data provided by member States in each of these areas might be compared on a worldwide scale.

BASIC DATA

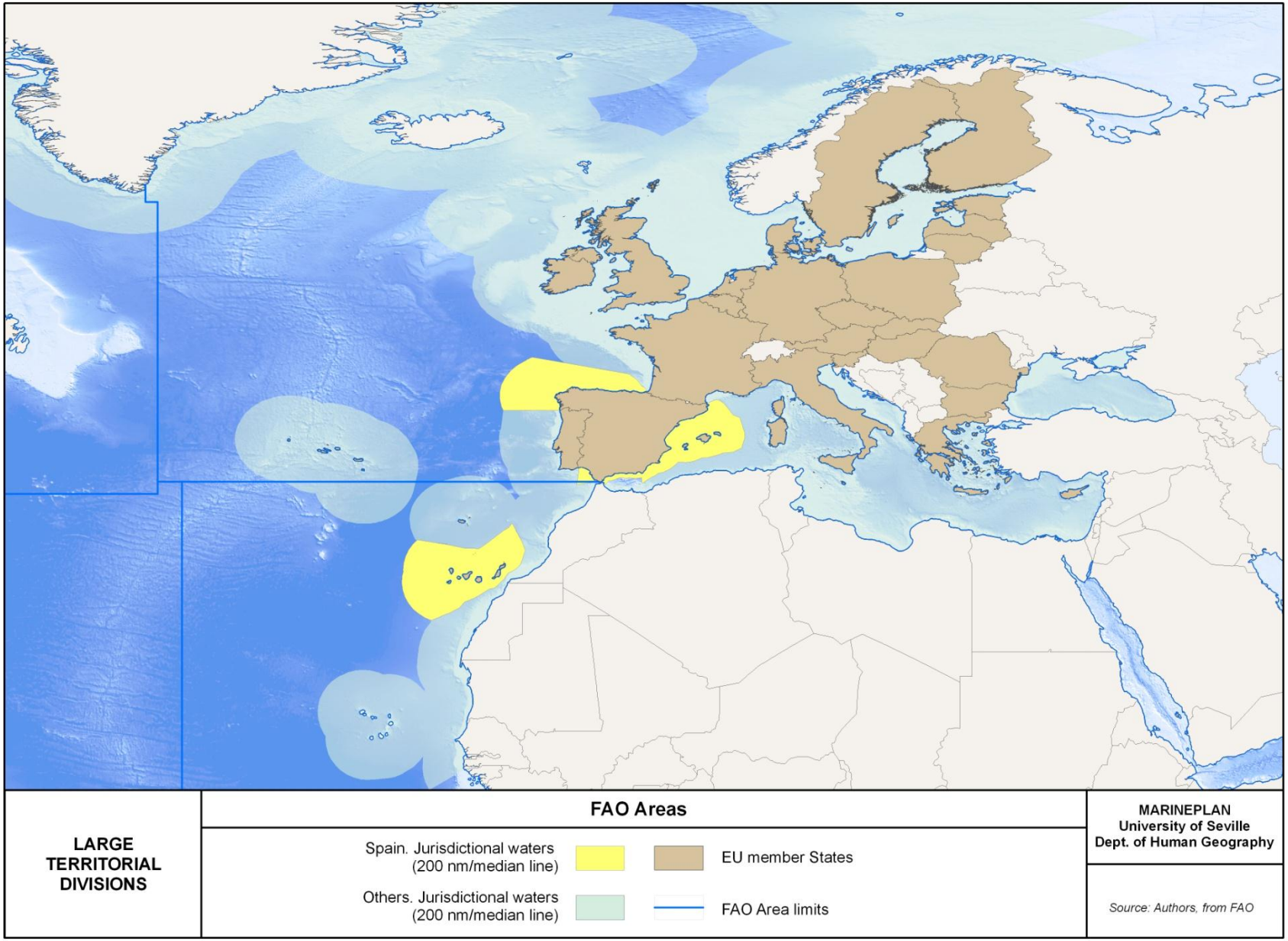
FAO Areas

Number of areas	3
Total surface area (sq km)	31 506 878
Average surface area (sq km)	10 502 292

Area number	sq km
34	14 075 246
27	14 436 193
37	2 995 439

Governance

Legal framework	•
Institutions	• Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)
Instruments	• Agreement to promote compliance with international conservation and management measures by fishing vessels on the high seas (FAO) • Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries


LARGE TERRITORIAL DIVISIONS
FAO Areas
Spain. Jurisdictional waters (200 nm/median line)
Others. Jurisdictional waters (200 nm/median line)
EU member States
FAO Area limits
MARINEPLAN
University of Seville
Dept. of Human Geography
Source: Authors, from FAO

PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE SEA AREAS AND SEA TRAFFIC

The Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs) designated by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) under the MARPOL 73/78 Protocol on Special Areas (SAs) are areas of sea which due to their ecological, socioeconomic and scientific importance might be vulnerable to damage by maritime activities, mainly sea traffic.

Sea traffic is based on CO_2 emissions given off by large vessels. The PSSAs are located in areas of high traffic.

Some of the ports and harbours with the greatest amount of sea-vessel transit in the world, such as Hamburg and Rotterdam, are located in western European and Wadden Sea waters.

When these areas are declared, they are governed on the basis of a series of specific measures aimed at regulating certain maritime activities, such as measures to organise sea traffic and the implementation of vessel traffic monitoring services (VTS).

BASIC DATA

PSSAs

Number of areas	4
Total surface area (sq km)	1 210 575
Average surface area (sq km)	302 644

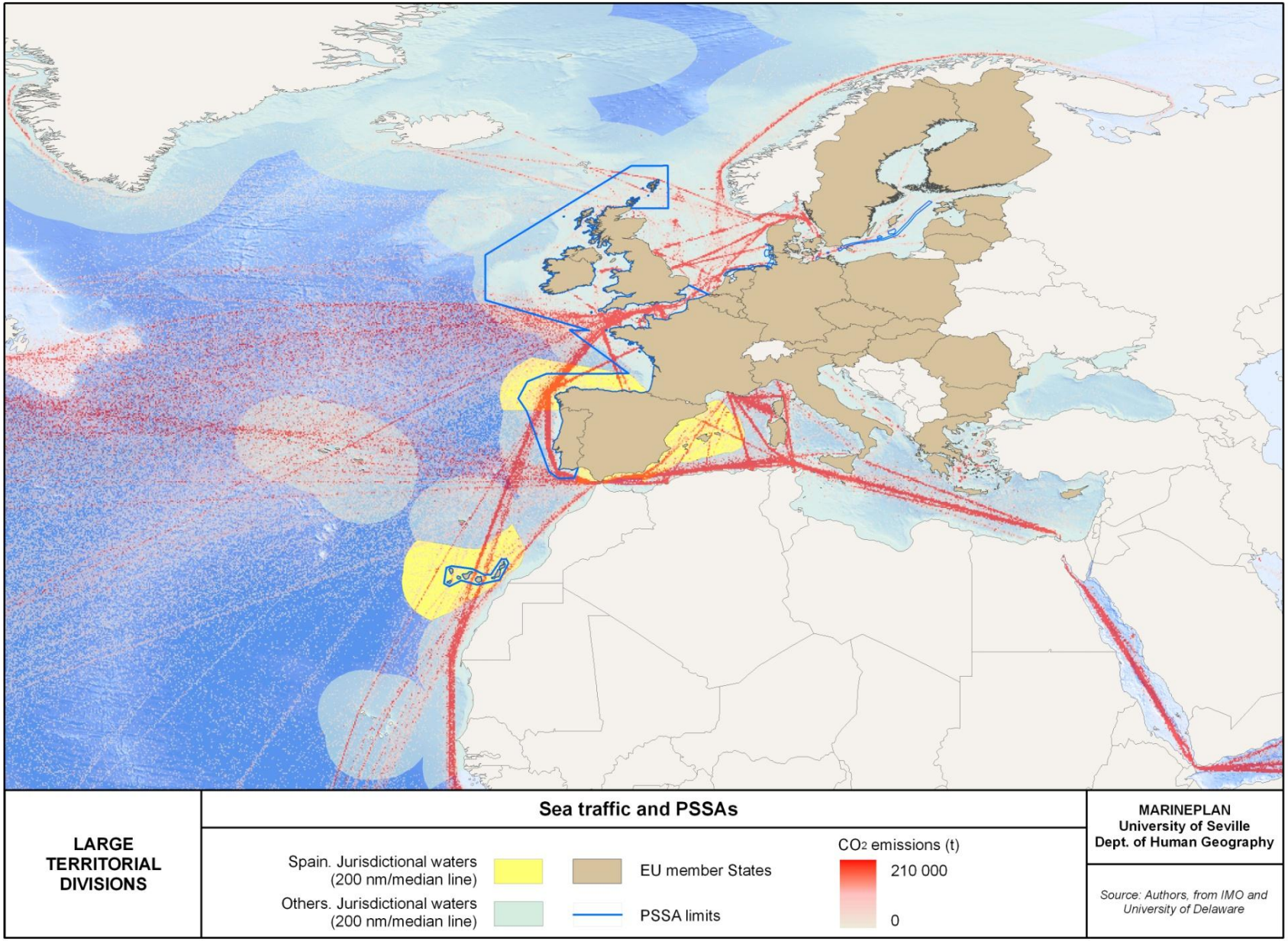
Governance

Legal framework	• MARPOL 73/78 Protocol on Special Areas (SAs) • International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) • The International Convention on Salvage (SALVAGE, 1989) • Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (SUA, 1988)
Institutions	• International Maritime Organization (IMO)
Instruments	• Adoption of Mandatory Ship Reporting System (WETREP) in the Western European Particularly Sensitive Sea Area • Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnacional Organized Crime

PSSA name	sq km
Wadden Sea	13 651
Western European Waters	1 130 449
Canary Islands	54 592
Baltic Sea	11 883

Observations

The global inventory of emissions produced by sea traffic was carried out by the College of Marine and Earth Studies at the University of Delaware (USA). The estimation is done by constructing a network of global flows from the main routes based on the length of voyages and vessels' characteristics.


LARGE TERRITORIAL DIVISIONS
Sea traffic and PSSAs
Spain. Jurisdictional waters (200 nm/median line)
Others. Jurisdictional waters (200 nm/median line)
EU member States
PSSA limits
CO2 emissions (t)
210 000
0
MARINEPLAN
University of Seville
Dept. of Human Geography
Source: Authors, from IMO and University of Delaware

COASTAL REGIONS

Coastal regions on the international level are concordant with States' administrative divisions according to their organisational and political structure.

They therefore represent coastal management units at the State level and can hold competences for matters of maritime planning depending on the powers that each State grants them. This disparity in terms of competences therefore depends on each State's organisational structure.

Notable differences can be found between types of coastal regions.

There are decentralised countries with a federal structure where the regions possess a large number of competences and other more centralised countries where internal administrative divisions may not exist at all.

Major differences can also be found between regions in European Union member States that adapt their legislation to EU policy and non-member States based on legislation that is independent of the countries around them.

BASIC DATA

Coastal regions

Number of regions	320
Number of countries	51
Total surface area (sq km)	7 944 559
Average surface area (sq km)	24 827

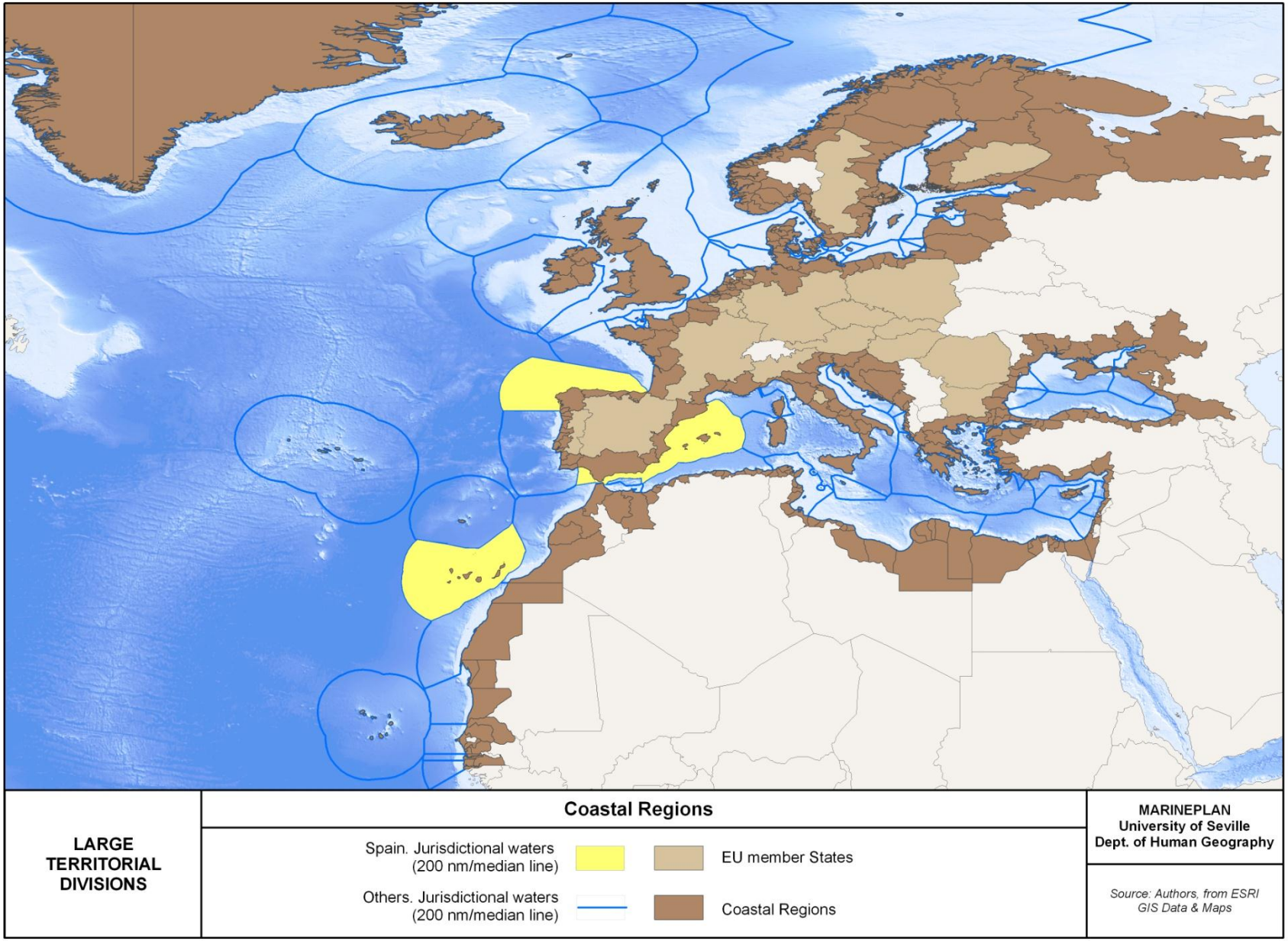
Governance

Legal framework	•
Institutions	•
Instruments	•

Observations

The legislation, institutions and instruments of a coastal region are individually defined by a country's national legislation in each case.

Country	Number of coastal regions	Total surface area (sq km)	Average surface area (sq km)	Country	Number of coastal regions	Total surface area (sq km)	Average surface area (sq km)
Albania	8	8 920	1 115	Israel	5	20 201	4 040
Germany	5	87 704	17 541	Italy	15	225 348	15 023
Algeria	14	41 380	2 956	Latvia	1	64 649	64 649
Belgium	3	9 071	3 024	Lebanon	4	5 329	1 332
Bosnia-Herzeg.	1	51 531	51 531	Lybia	14	451 246	32 232
Bulgary	2	27 294	13 647	Lithuania	1	65 016	65 016
Cape Verde	1	4 032	4 032	Malta	1	294	294
Cyprus	6	9 138	1 523	Morocco	6	348 260	58 043
Croatia	1	55 893	55 893	Mauritania	3	131 578	43 859
Denmark	15	42 714	2 848	Monaco	1	9	9
Egypt	10	218 117	21 812	Montenegro	1	13 797	13 797
Slovenia	1	20 423	20 423	Norway	17	268 389	15 788
Spain	12	219 421	18 285	Poland	5	38 742	7 748
Estonia	1	45 936	45 936	Portugal	13	50 462	3 882
Finland	7	232 616	33 231	United Kingdom	4	244 370	61 093
France	11	257 113	23 374	Romania	2	14 609	7 305
Gambia	5	5 581	1 116	Russian Federation	7	900 191	128 599
Gaza	1	371	371	Western Sahara	2	269 184	134 592
Georgia	3	69 964	23 321	Senegal	8	132 963	16 620
Gibraltar	1	8	8	Syrian Arab Rep	2	4 289	2 144
Greece	9	130 075	14 453	Sweden	16	284 826	17 802
Greenland	3	2 160 070	720 023	Svalbard	1	62 441	62 441
Netherlands	10	30 771	3 077	Tunisia	13	44 661	3 435
Ireland	4	69 644	17 411	Turkey	26	239 329	9 205
Iceland	7	102 962	14 709	Ukraine	6	160 857	26 809
Faroe Islands	1	1 484	1 484	**Totals**	**316**	**7 943 272**	**24 827**


LARGE TERRITORIAL DIVISIONS
Coastal Regions
Spain. Jurisdictional waters (200 nm/median line)
Others. Jurisdictional waters (200 nm/median line)
EU member States
Coastal Regions
MARINEPLAN
University of Seville
Dept. of Human Geography
Source: Authors, from ESRI GIS Data & Maps