

A NEW MARINE HABITAT CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM FOR FRENCH CONSERVATION PROGRAMMES



Muséum
national
d'Histoire
naturelle

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CONTEXT

- Many different conservation programmes
- Many different habitats lists or classification systems



NEEDS

- Common language
- Data Optimisation
- National habitats' inventory

GOAL

One Habitat Classification to support a range of marine management and conservation programmes
(including MPA management)

THE FIRST VERSION OF FRANCE'S MARINE HABITATS CLASSIFICATION

The benthic habitats of mainland France: an inventory

Two classifications for two different biogeographic regions

Methodology Applied

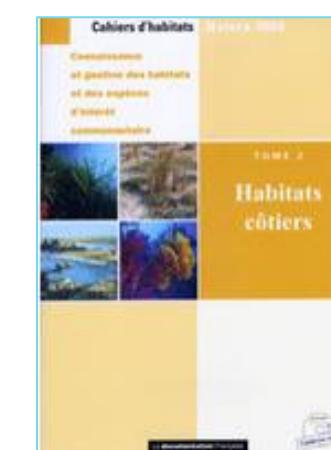
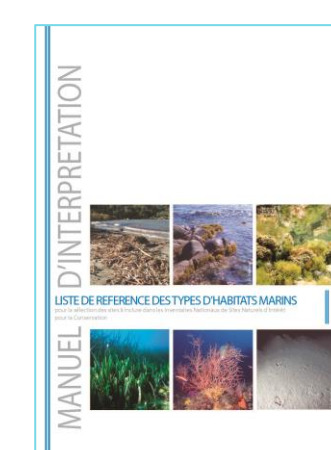
- 1 - Synthesis of existing benthic habitat classification systems
- 2 - Integration of expert judgement
- 3 - Categorisation, refinement and completion
- 4 - Validation by French scientific community
- 5 - First version developed with verified benthic species names

Mediterranean Sea



Published
in 2011

Barcelona Convention
Habitat Classification
+
ZNIEFF Habitat
Classification
+
French Habitats Directive
Classification



English Channel, North Sea and Atlantic Ocean



Published
in 2013

Breton Habitat
Classification
(REBENT)
+
EUNIS Habitat
Classification
+
Scientific experts'
data



FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Completion with 'new' habitats

- Principally of the deep-sea, following national offshore survey programmes

Update and completion of habitats' descriptions

Resolve **unanswered questions** and **reach scientific consensus** via workshops

Refine national descriptions and interpretation of European protected habitats (e.g EC Habitats Directive)

UPDATING

Knowledge and participation of **French scientific community is required** to improve the national habitat classification

FRENCH MARINE HABITAT CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

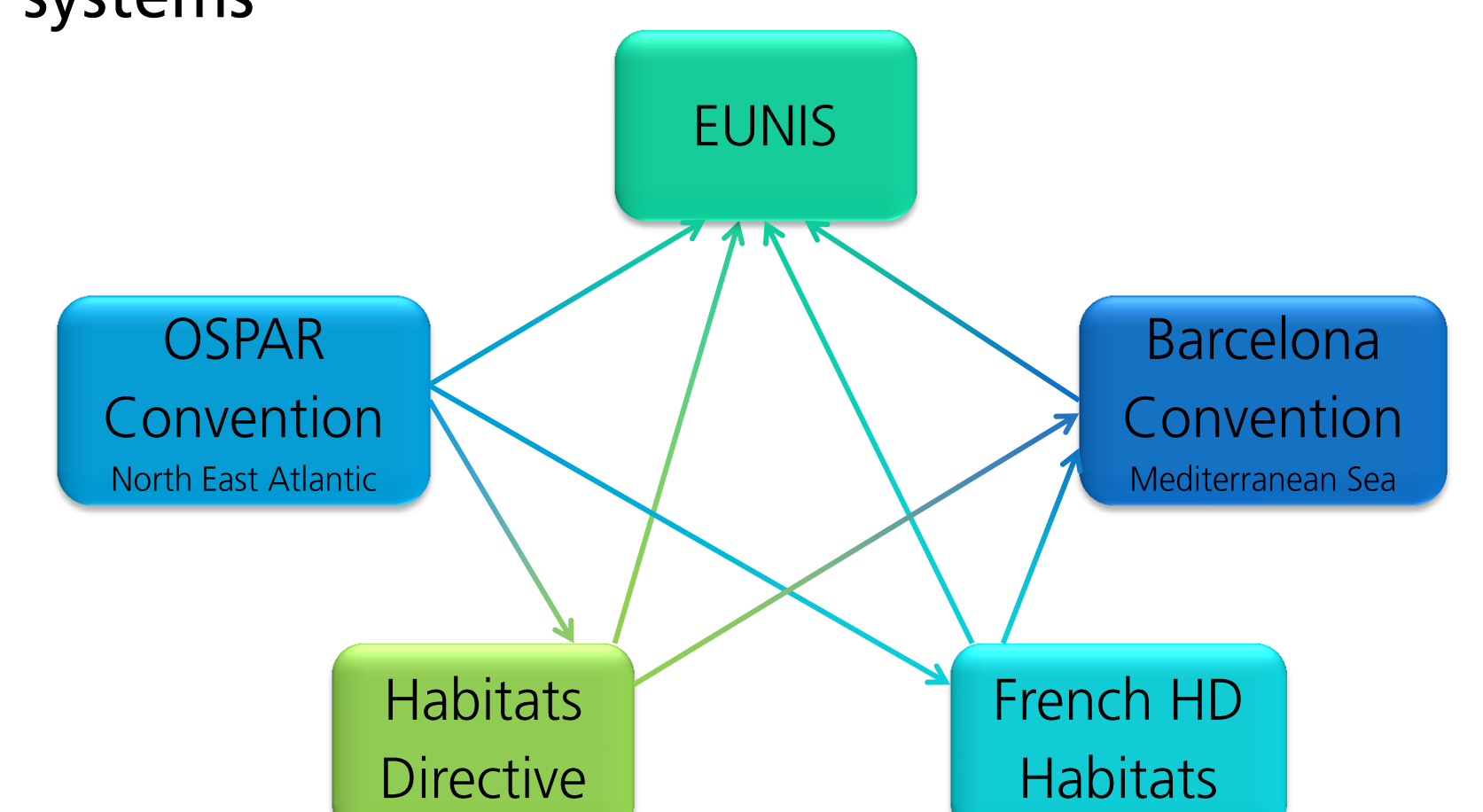
INTERNATIONAL OUTPUTS

Integration of 'French' marine habitats into European habitat classification system EUNIS:

- Represents a common European language
- EUNIS already used in French conservation programmes

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN HABITATS

A method was developed to define relationships between habitats of two different classification systems



Relationships between existing classifications published in 2012

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

Launch of the habitats section of the national biodiversity information portal INPN (French inventory of natural heritage) planned for 2014:

- Classification systems and their inter-relationships
- Habitat descriptions
- Conservation status
- Habitat distribution



INPN.MNHN.FR



Inventaire
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