

# IMPORTANT MARINE MAMMAL AREAS

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## What is an IMMA?

A PLACE-BASED CONSERVATION TOOL

*'discrete portion of habitat, important for one or more marine mammal species, that has the potential to be delineated and managed for conservation'*



## What is an IMMA?

IMMAs **are not** MPAs

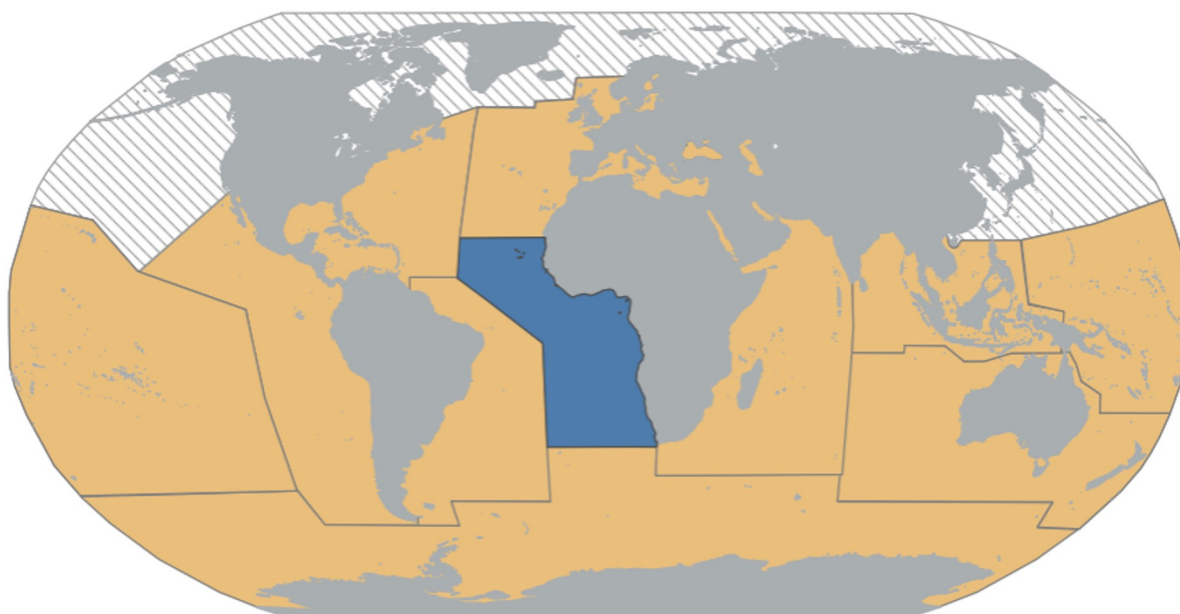
The identification of IMMAs is an expert driven process, based on the application of scientific criteria to the best available scientific data

IMMAs **are** independent of political considerations and often span jurisdictions.

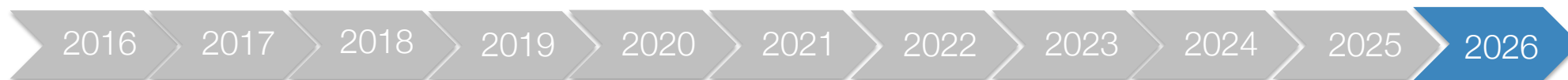
Threats **are not** considered in the identification of IMMAs

# Global Rollout

- + 79.1% of ocean examined
- + 11 regional workshops
- + 320+ experts

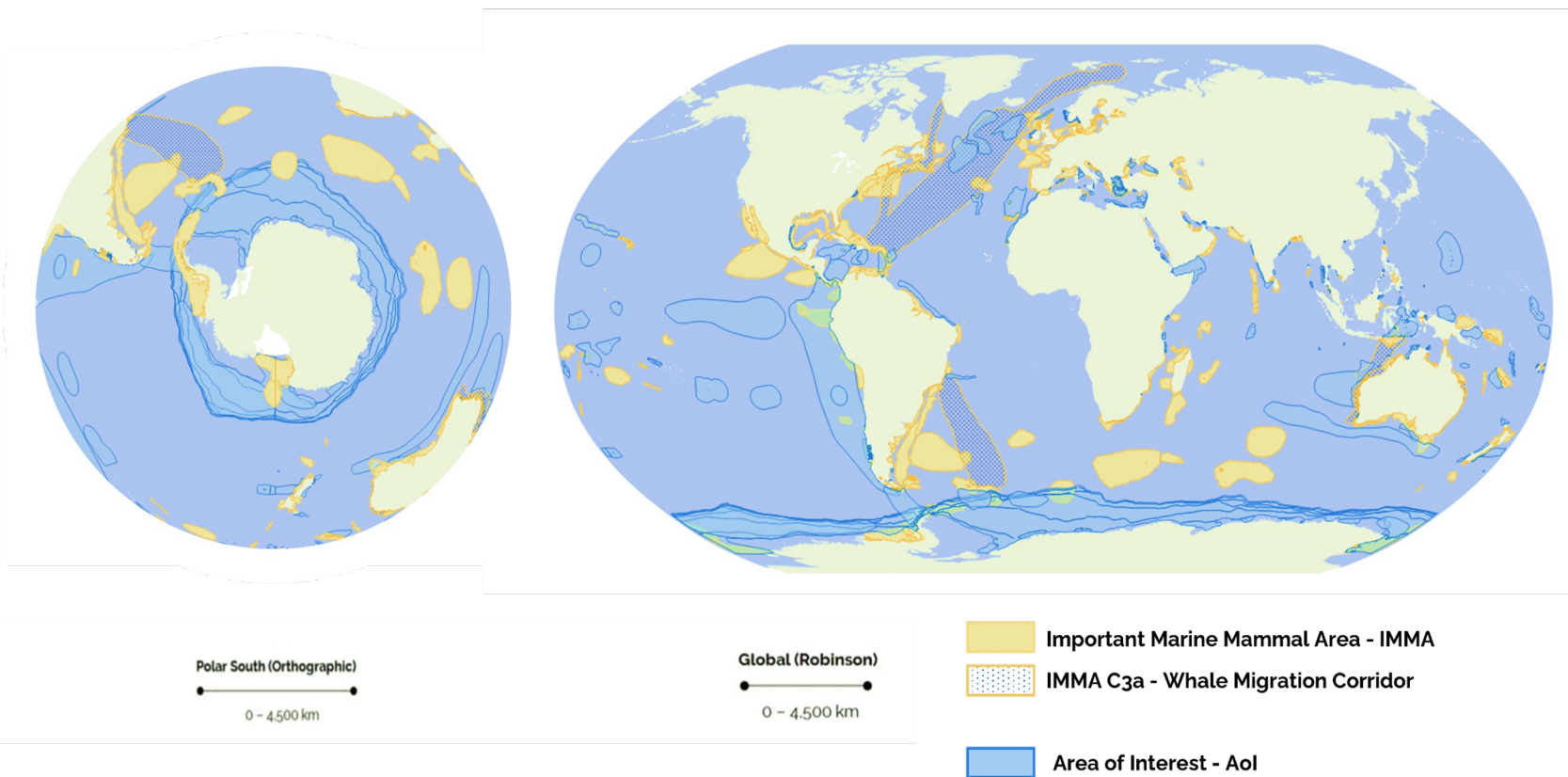


- COMPLETED
- NOV 2026
- TO BE ARRANGED



# Current IMMA Network

To date, IMMA workshops, proposals and peer reviews have identified **323 IMMAs** and **191 Areas of Interest**.



# IMMA Handbook

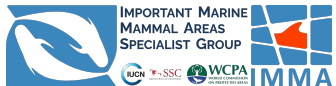
The IMMA Handbook drafted  
in consultation with over 1000  
experts

Download from  
[marinemammalhabitat.org](http://marinemammalhabitat.org)



The IMMA Handbook

March 2024



Criterion A - Species or Population  
Vulnerability

Criterion B – Distribution and  
Abundance

B1 – Small and Resident  
Populations  
B2 – Aggregations

Criterion C – Key Life Cycle Areas

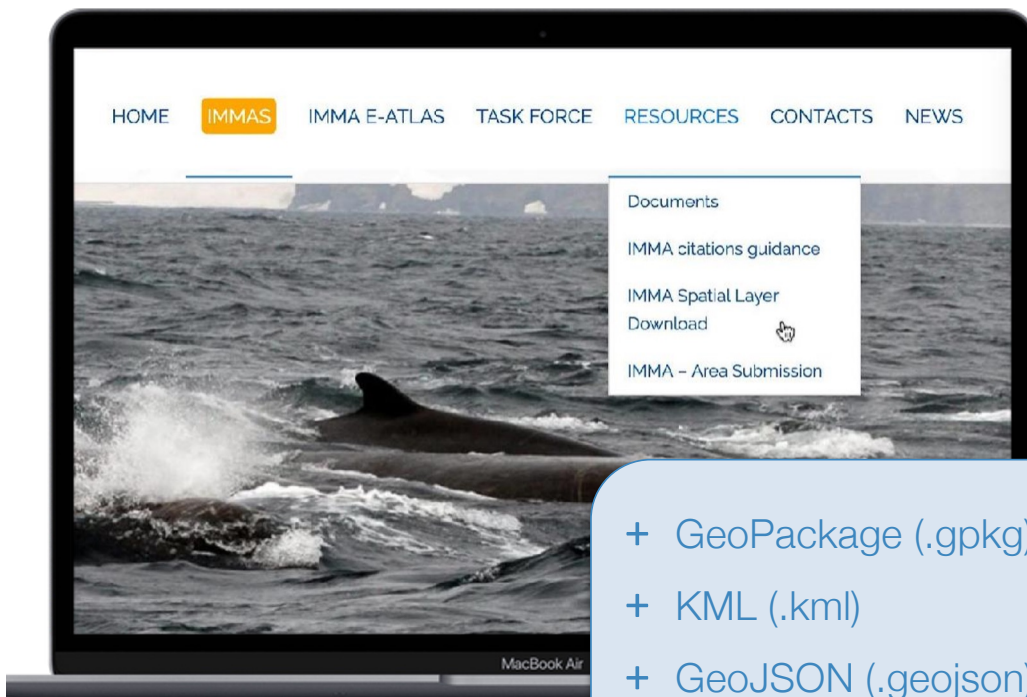
C1 – Reproductive  
C2 – Feeding  
C3 – Migration (C3a / C3b)

Criterion D – Special Attributes

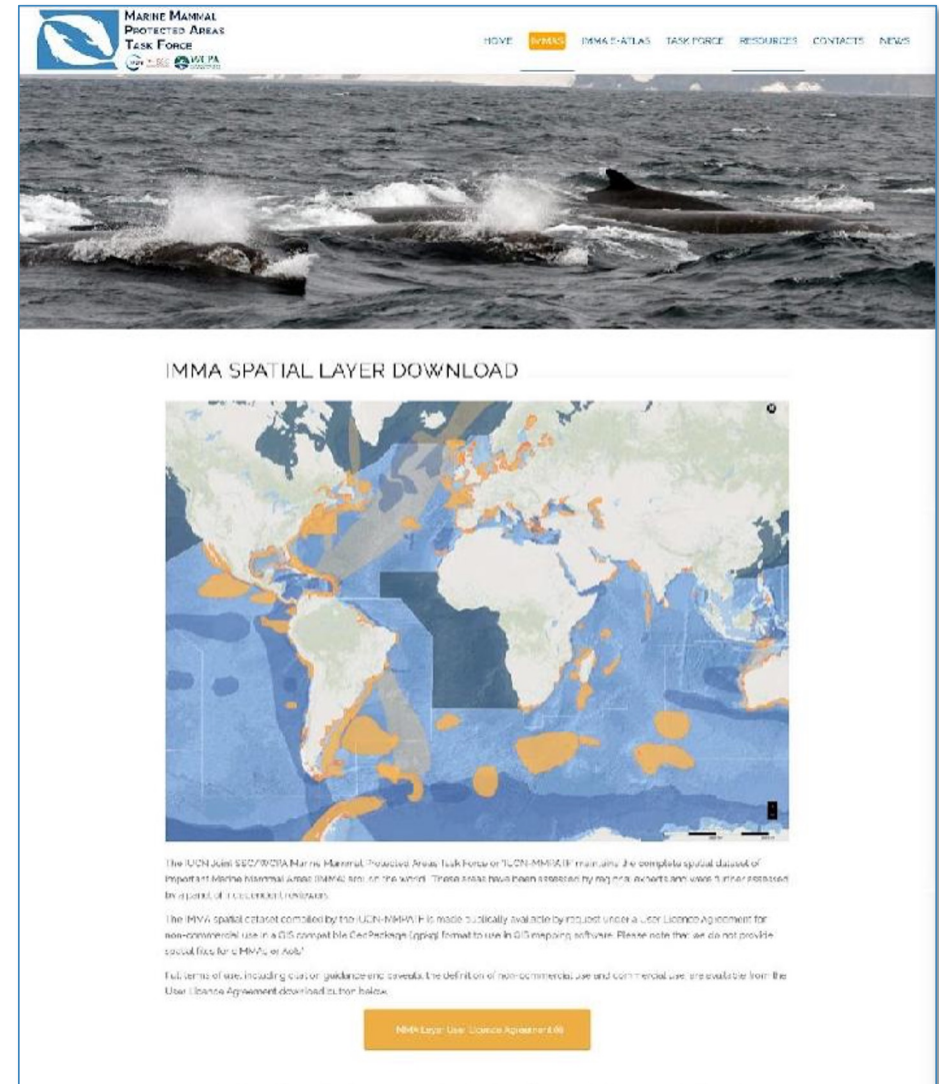
D1 – Distinctiveness  
D2 – Diversity

# Final IMMA Product

## IMMA SPATIAL LAYER DOWNLOAD



- + GeoPackage (.gpkg)
- + KML (.kml)
- + GeoJSON (.geojson)
- + Web Map Service (.wms)



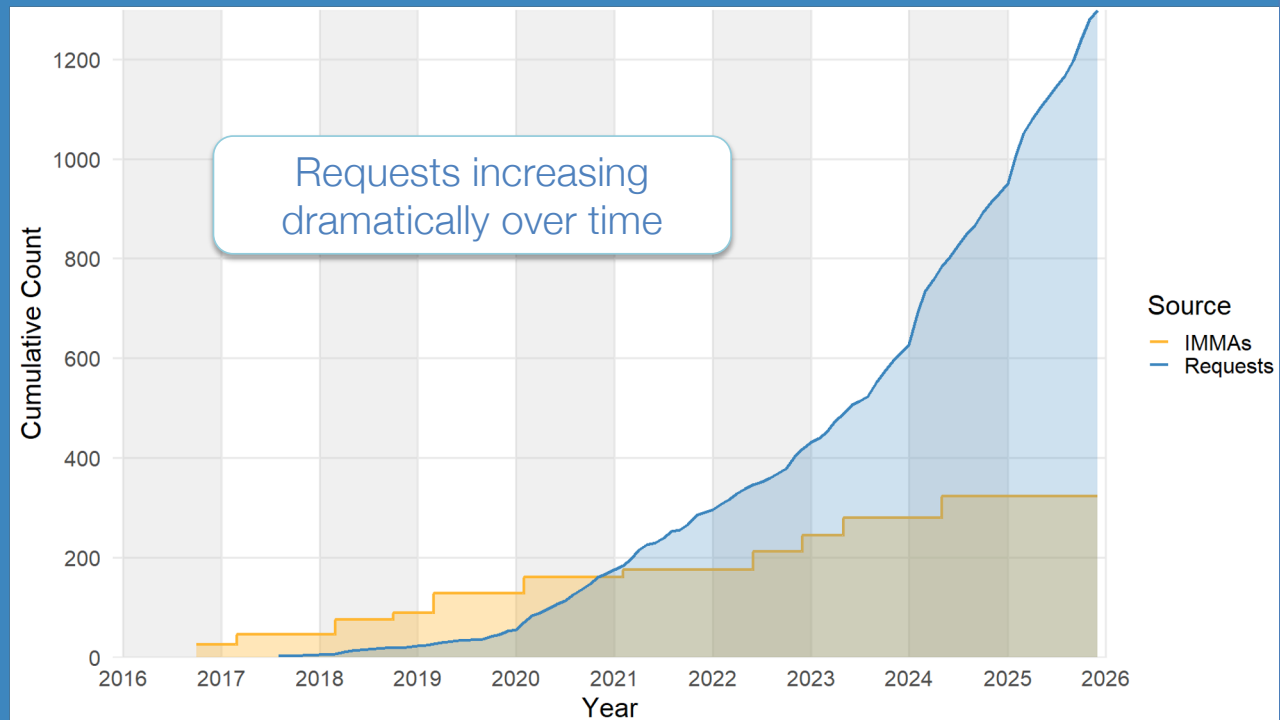
# Spatial layers Requests

Requested by 145  
Government Agencies in 45  
countries on 6 continents

225 Requests from Industry  
in 45 countries

Almost 550 downloads from  
~375 different universities  
in 69 countries

- >1450 downloads
- 97 countries
- 6 continents



# Final IMMA Product

## IMMA SEARCHABLE DATABASE



MARINE MAMMAL  
PROTECTED AREAS  
TASK FORCE



HOMEIMMASIMMA E-ATLASTASK FORCERESOURCESCONTACTSNEWS

IMMAS SEARCHABLE DATABASE

IMMAs e-Atlas

Filter results ⓘ

Clear all filters

Area status:  
IMMA

Region:  
Australia-New Zealand and South East Indian Ocean

Type area name:  
Type area name

Criteria:  
B2

Qualifying Species:  
Qualifying Species

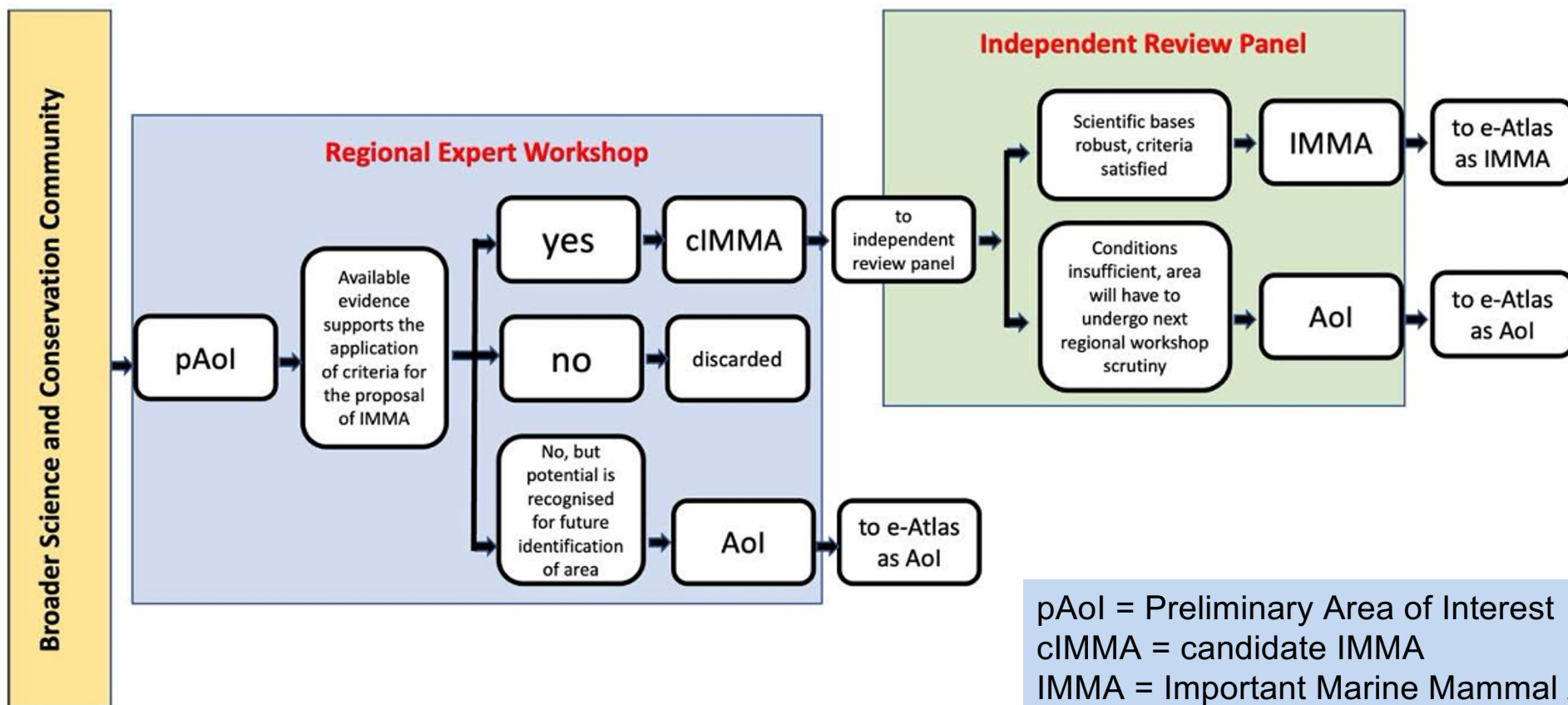
Supporting Species:

Show 50 entries

| AREA STATUS | REGION                                            | TITLE                                                 | DETAILS                                | CRITERIA                   | QUALIFYING SPECIES                                                                                                               | SUPPORTING SPECIES                                                                                                                                                                                       | JURISDIC... |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| IMMA        | Australia-New Zealand and South East Indian Ocean | Geographie Bay to Eucla Shelf and Coastal Waters IMMA | <a href="#">Read full IMMA summary</a> | A, B2, C1, C2, C3b         | Arctocephalus forsteri, Balaenoptera musculus brevicauda, Eubalaena australis, Megaptera novaeangliae, Neophoca cinerea          | Balaenoptera bonaerensis, Balaenoptera musculus, Caperea marginata, Delphinus delphis, Globicephala melas, Kogia breviceps, Orcinus orca, Physeter macrocephalus, Pseudorca crassidens, Tursiops aduncus | Australia   |
| IMMA        | Australia-New Zealand and South East Indian Ocean | Southern Australian Coastal and Shelf Region IMMA     | <a href="#">Read full IMMA summary</a> | A, B2, C1, C2, C3b, D1, D2 | Arctocephalus forsteri, Arctocephalus pusillus doriferus, Arctocephalus tropicalis, Balaenoptera borealis, Balaenoptera musculus |                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Australia   |

Excel CSV PDF

# IMMA Identification

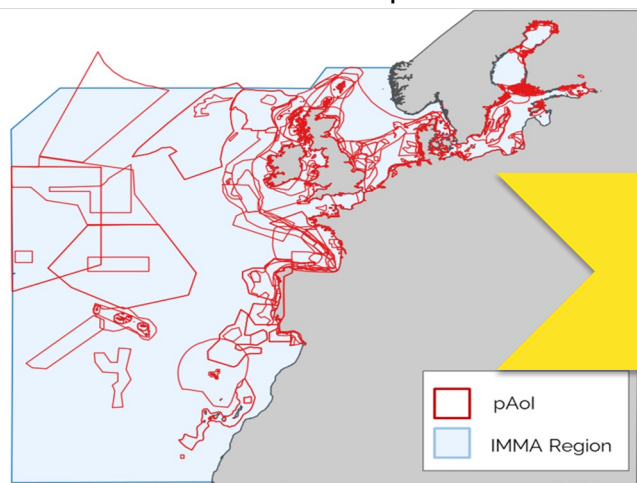


pAol = Preliminary Area of Interest  
cIMMA = candidate IMMA  
IMMA = Important Marine Mammal Area  
Aol = Area of Interest

# IMMA Identification

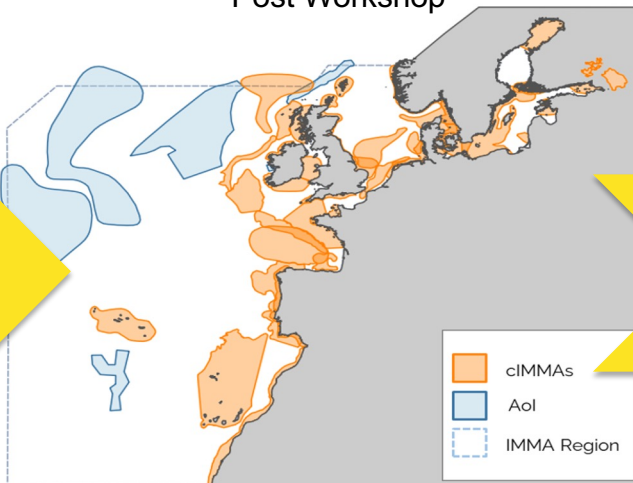
Candidate IMMAs (cIMMAs) proposed by regional experts during the workshops are **reviewed by an independent panel** before being posted as IMMAs on the **Task Force's e-Atlas**

Pre-workshop



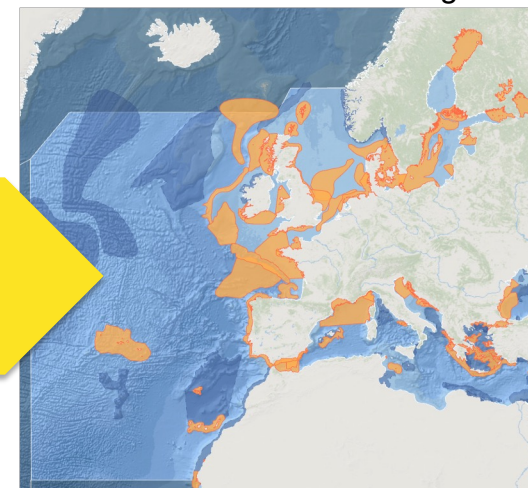
**395** preliminary Areas of Interest (pAol) collated in advance of the workshop

Post Workshop



**42** candidate IMMAs and Aol for independent review at the end of the workshop

Marinemammalhabitat.org



**35** IMMAs and **10** Aol accepted **after review** and posted on the online e-Atlas



[www.bluecorridors.org](http://www.bluecorridors.org)

