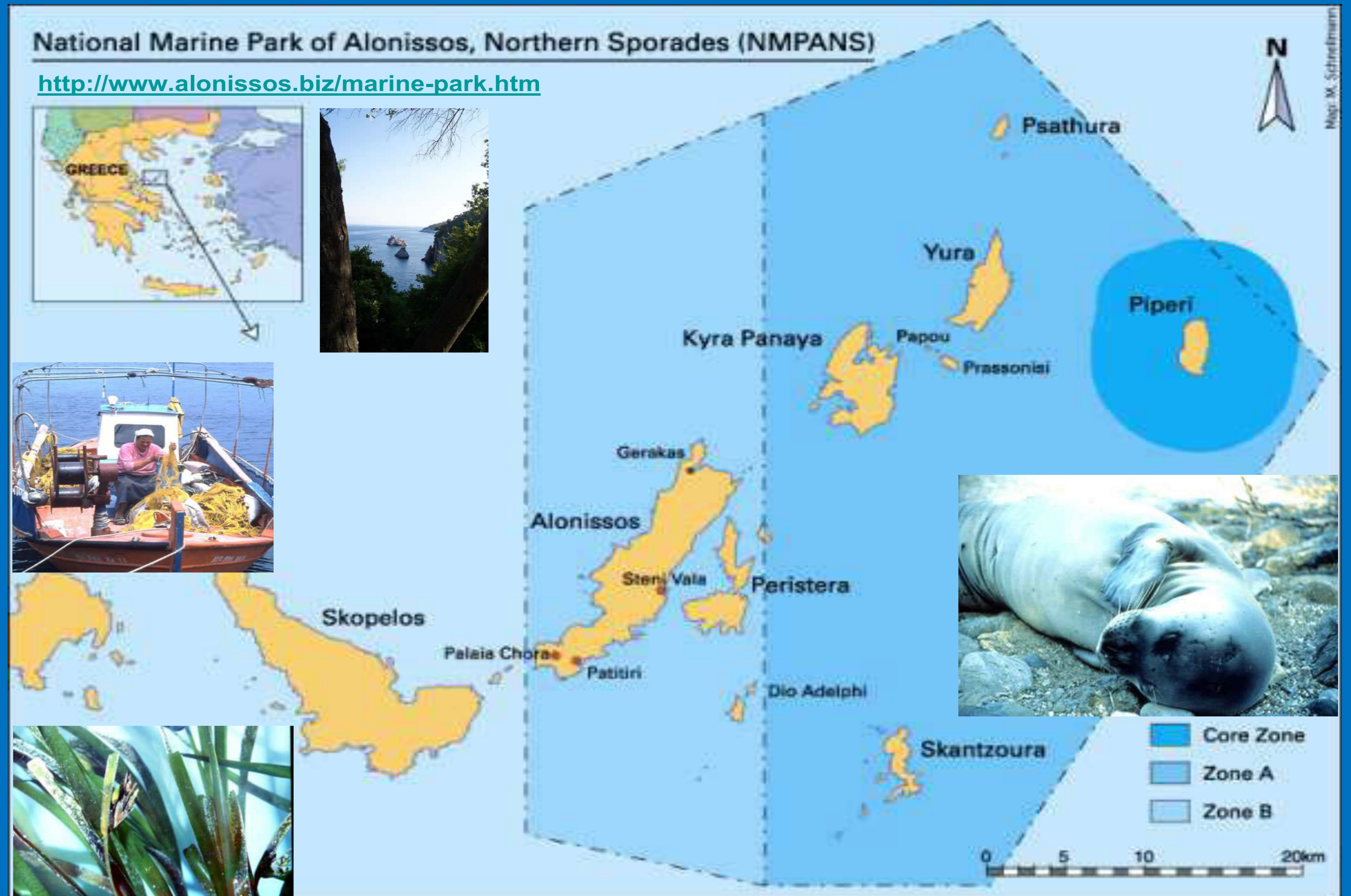


CoCoNet to Protect and Connect

A Marine Protected Area (MPA) is a region of the sea including both the sea floor and the water above it where wildlife and habitats are protected. Therefore, in MPAs, human activities are either forbidden or strictly regulated.



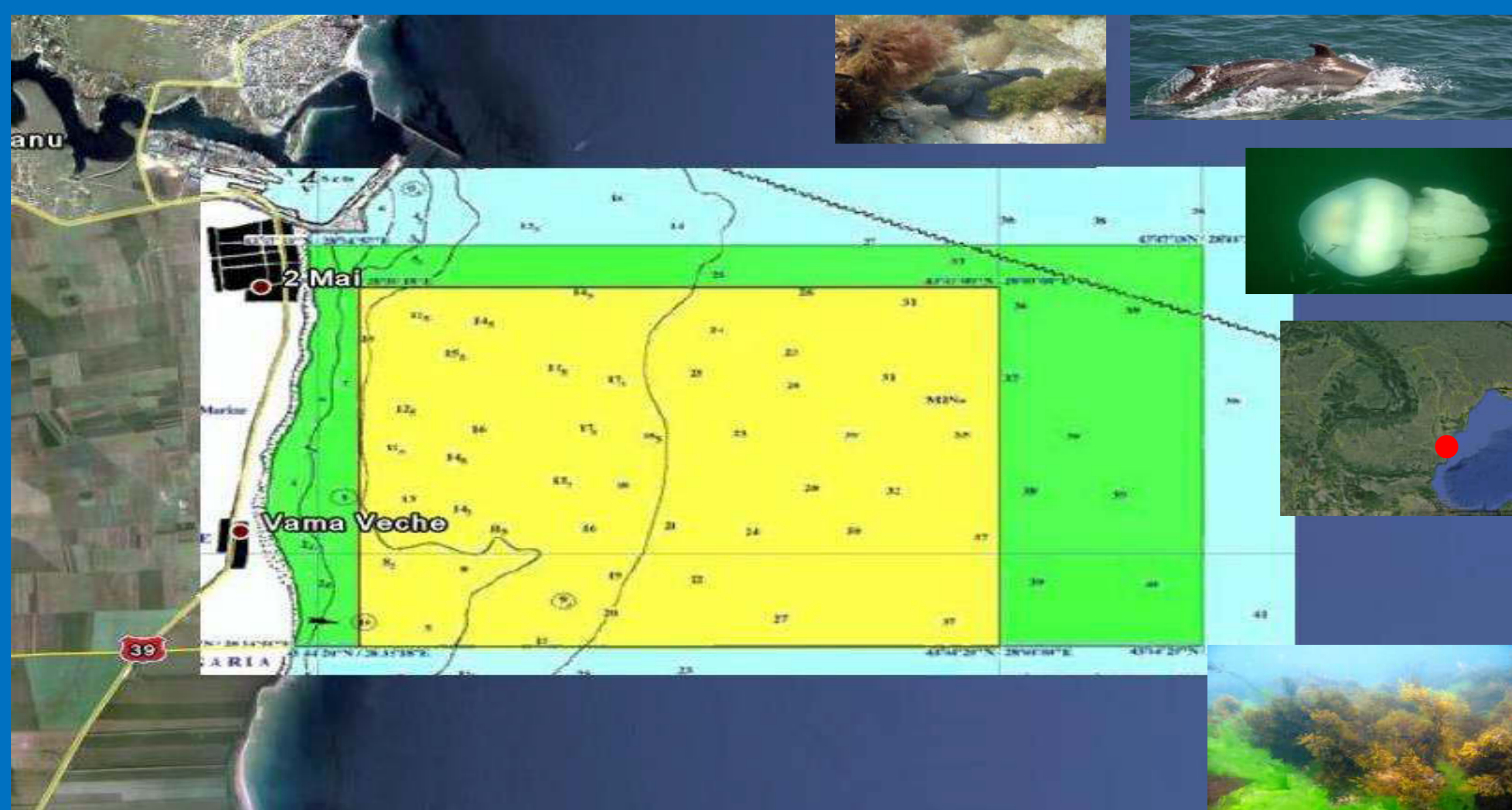
Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in Turkey



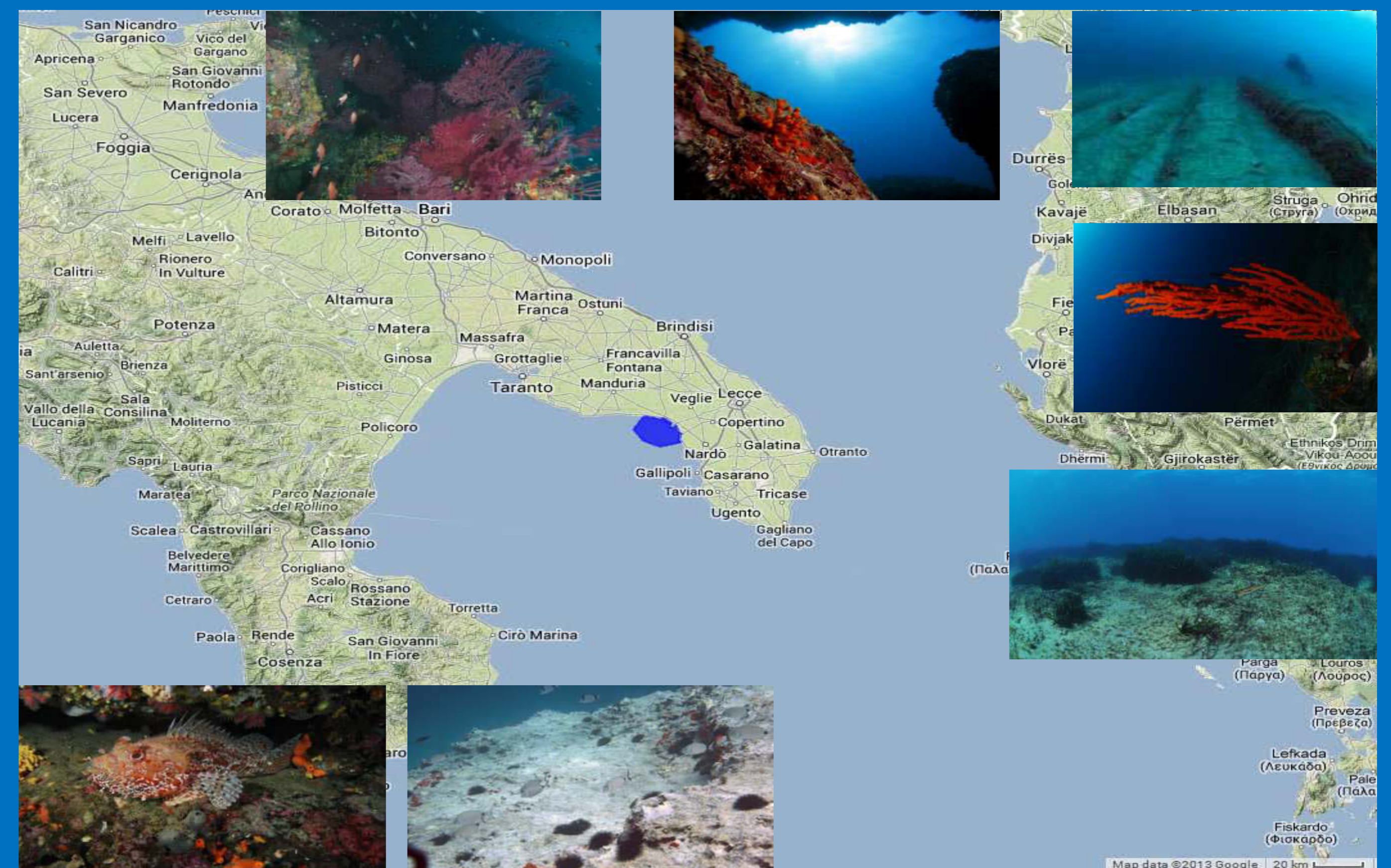
National Marine Park of Alonissos, Greece: An area of natural, cultural and historical interest (<http://www.alonissos-park.gr>)

Why MPAs?

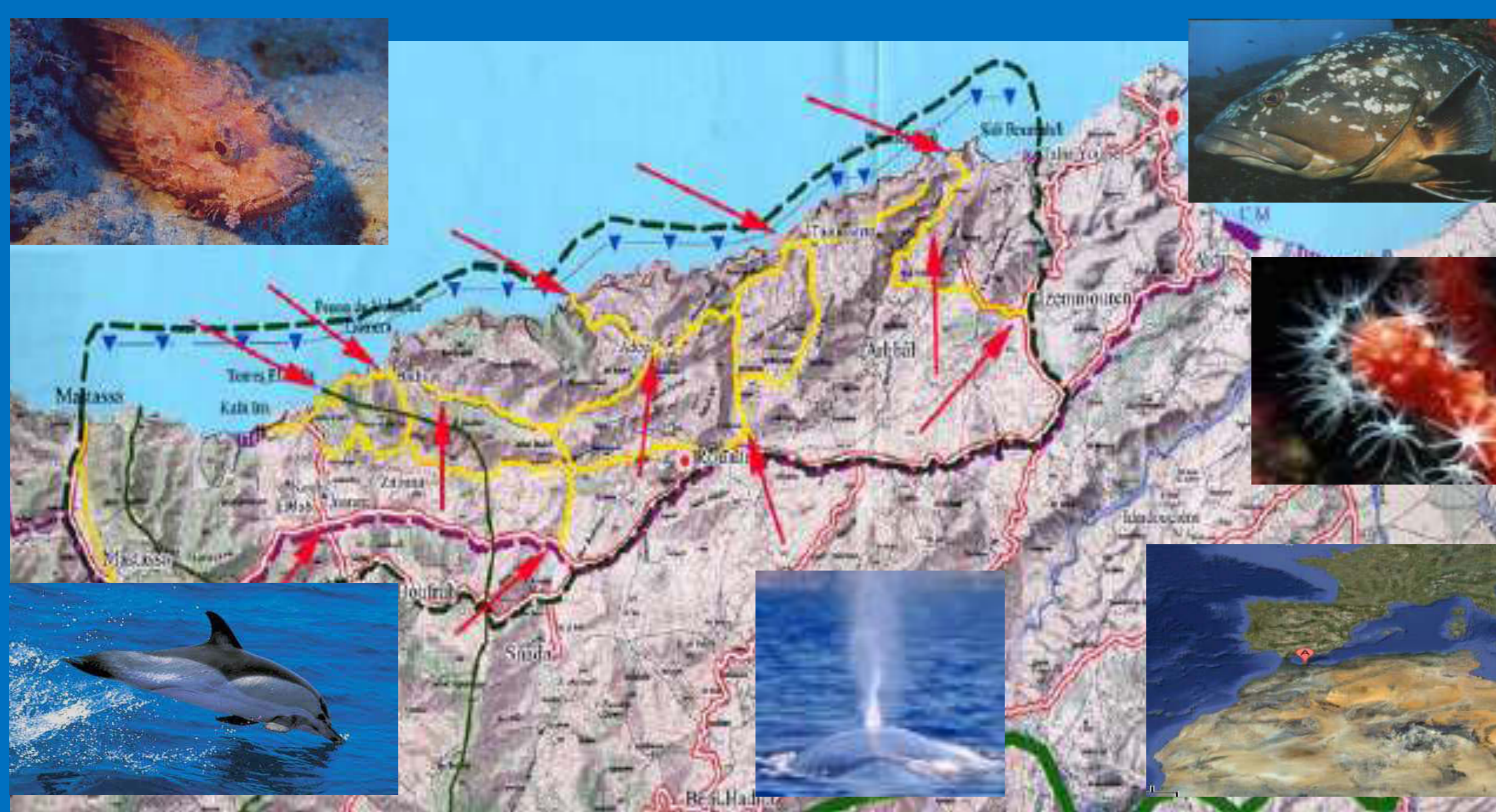
- To protect depleted, threatened, or endangered species
 - To preserve habitats critical for the survival of species
 - To preserve, protect, and manage historical and cultural sites
 - To enhance research and provide training for the public
- Depending on the objectives of the establishment of an MPA, different types of human activities can be prohibited.



Vama Veche & 2 Mai, Marine Reserve, Romania

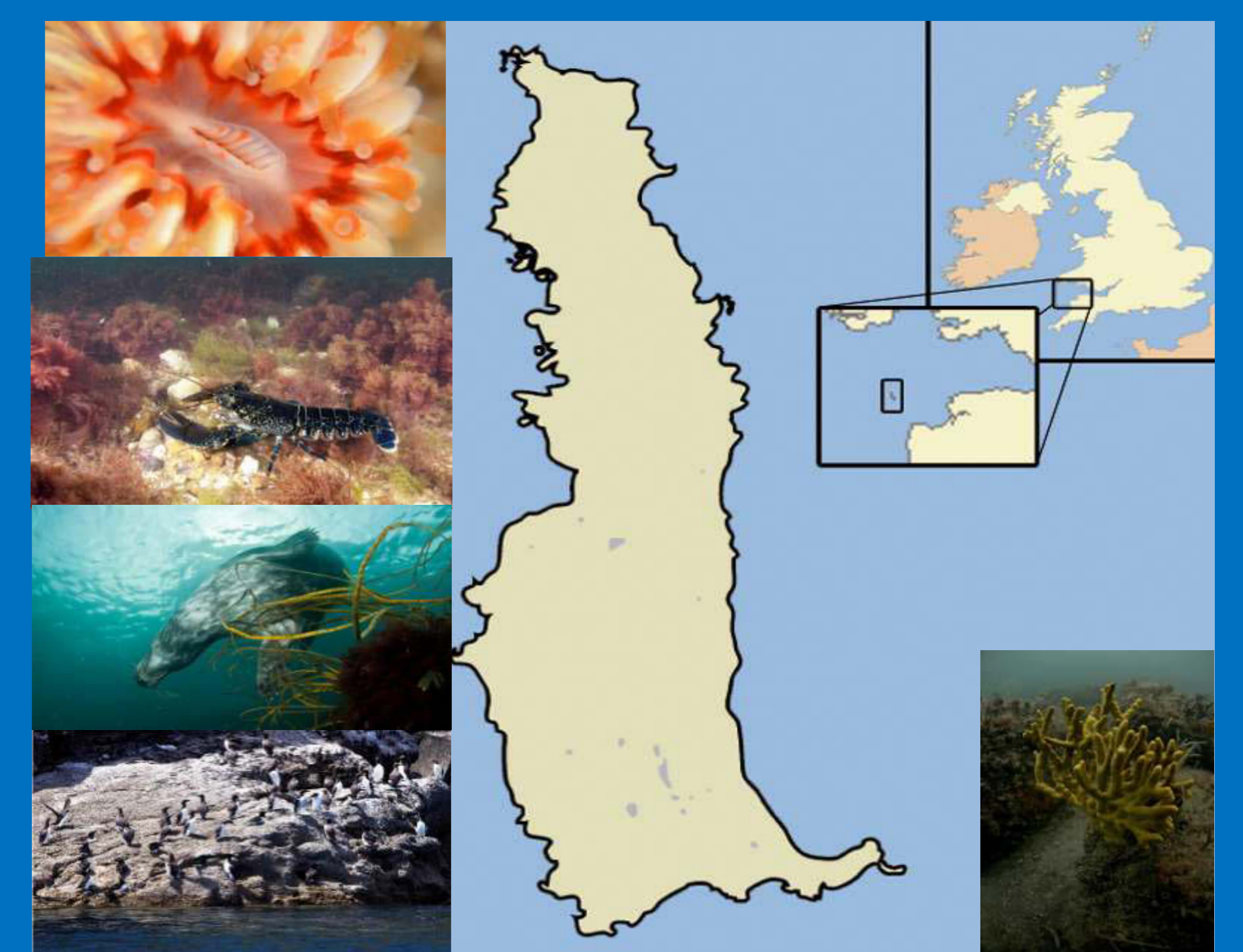


Porto Cesareo, Marine Protected Area, Italy.
Source: Marine Protected Areas of Torre Guaceto and Porto Cesareo



The National Park of Al Hoceima, Morocco.
<http://rodpal.org/>

- More than 5000 MPAs are designated around the world covering 0.8% of the earth's surface
- 50% of world's MPAs are located in the tropics
- There are more than 2340 MPAs in Europe
- Most MPAs are located in coastal or near shore areas



Lundy, Marine Conservation Zone, UK
<http://www.lundymcz.org.uk>

MPAs' networks: To make MPAs work efficient they should be interconnected. This would increase biodiversity protection and allow movement between different populations of species