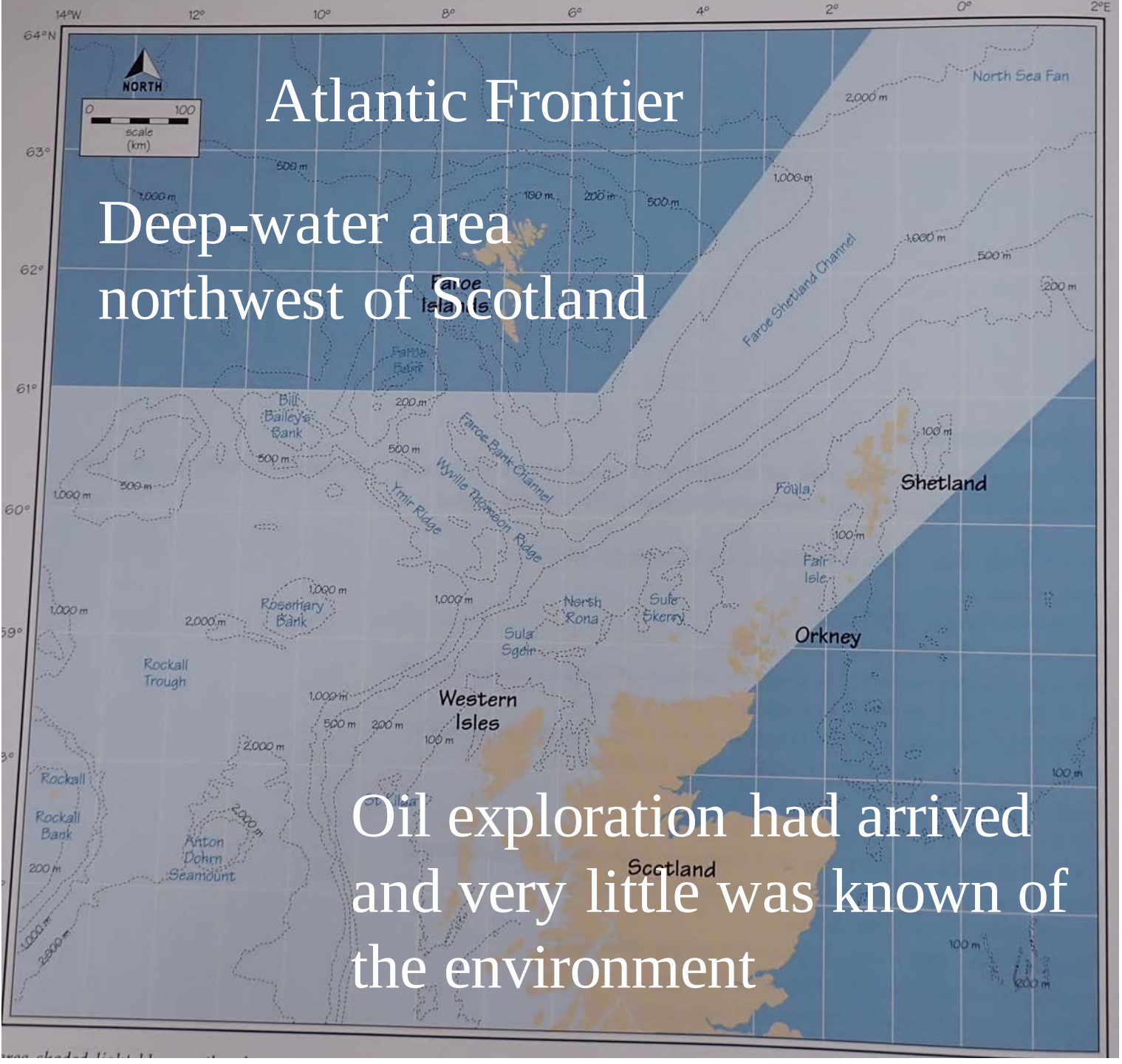
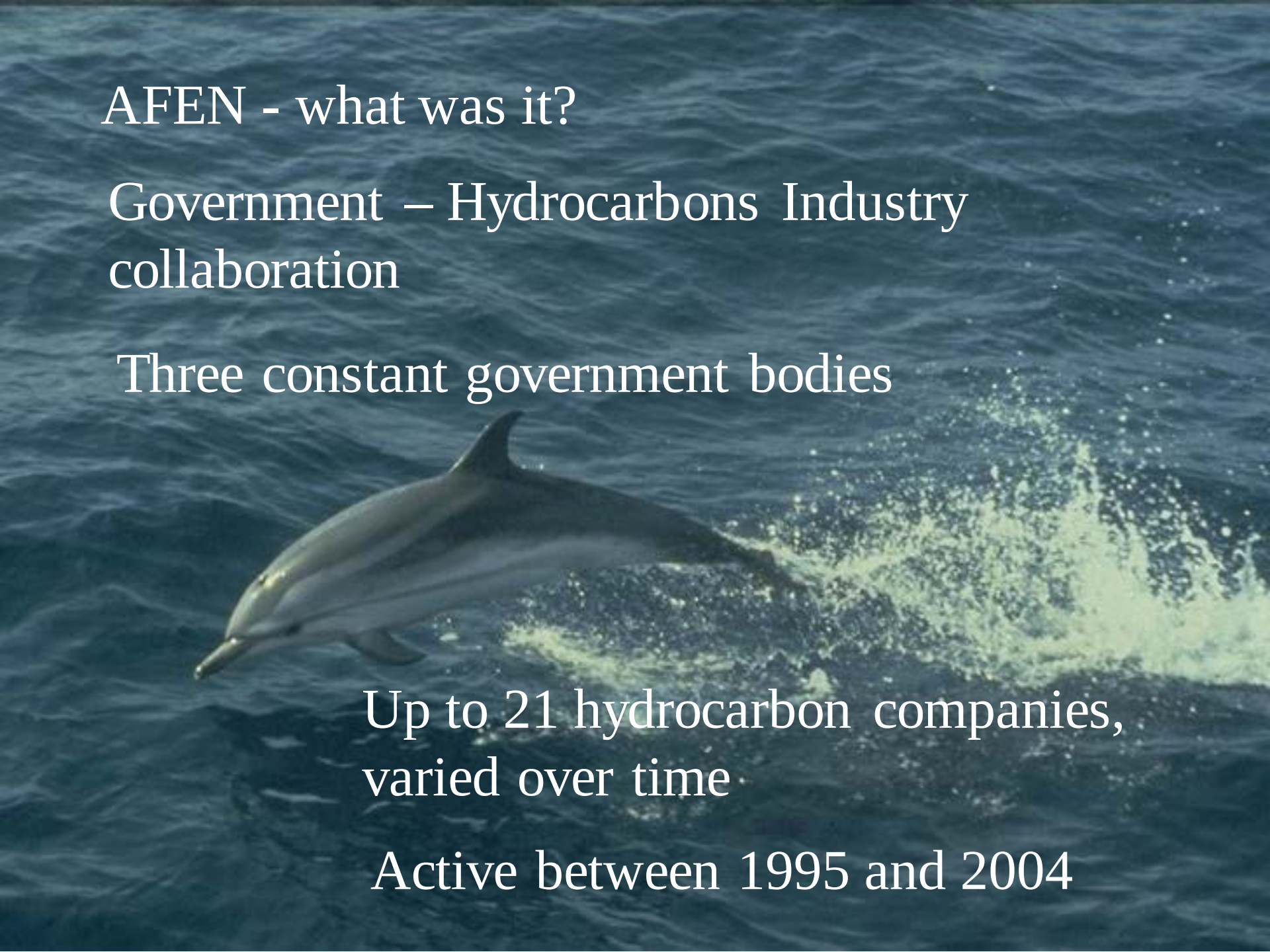
Lessons from the Atlantic Frontier Environmental Network

Mark Tasker
Emeritus Principal Advisor
Joint Nature Conservation Committee


Atlantic Frontier
Deep-water area northwest of Scotland
Oil exploration had arrived and very little was known of the environment
NORTH
scale (km)
North Sea Fan
Faroe Islands
Faroe Shetland Channel
Faroe Bank Channel
Bill Bailey's Bank
Wyville Thomson Ridge
Ymir Ridge
Rosemary Bank
Rockall Trough
Rockall
Rockall Bank
Anton Dohrn Seamount
Shetland
Foula
Fair Isle
North Rona
Sula Sgeir
Sule Skerry
Orkney
Western Isles
Scotland



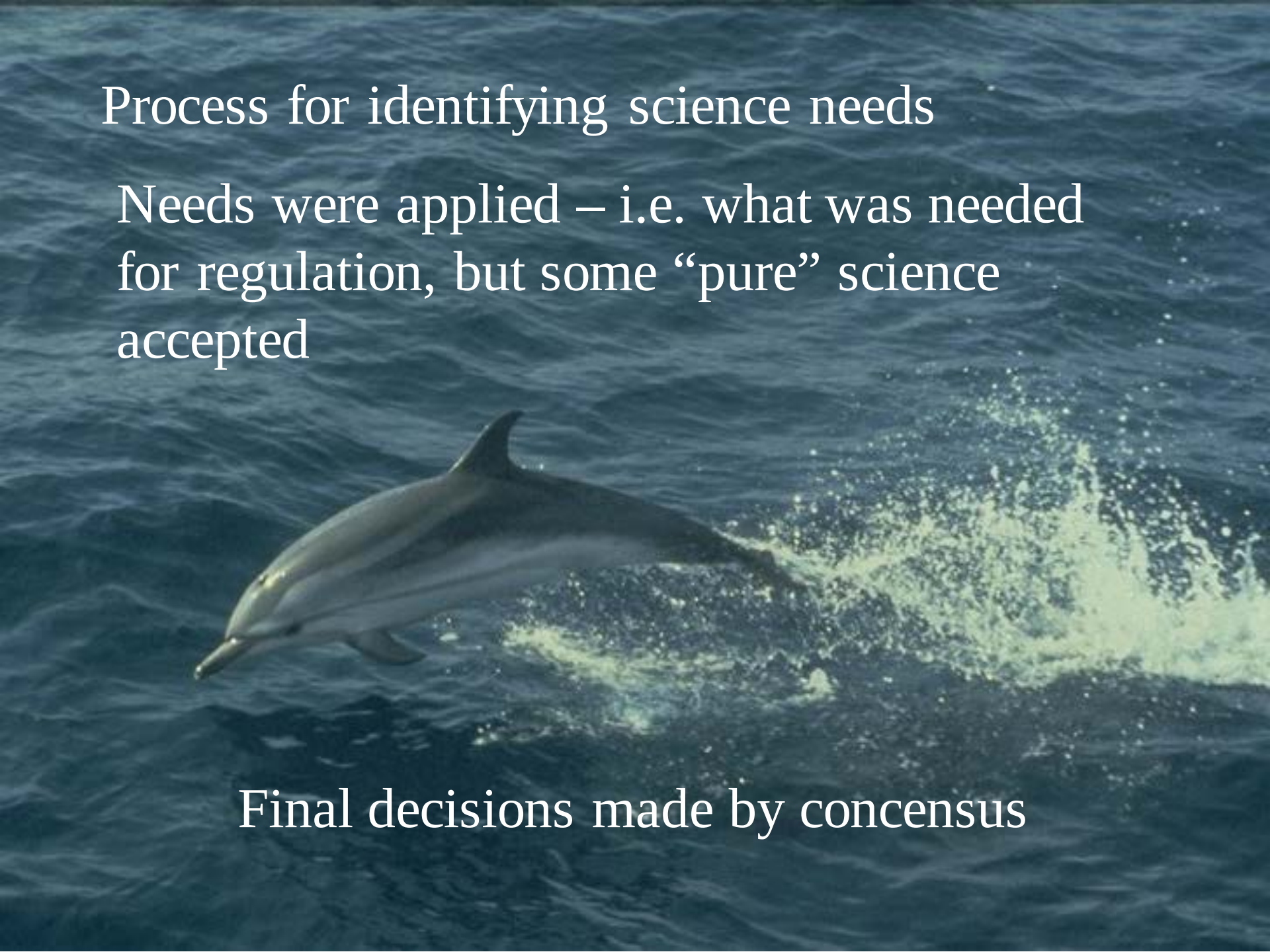
AFEN - what was it?

Government – Hydrocarbons Industry collaboration

Three constant government bodies

Up to 21 hydrocarbon companies, varied over time

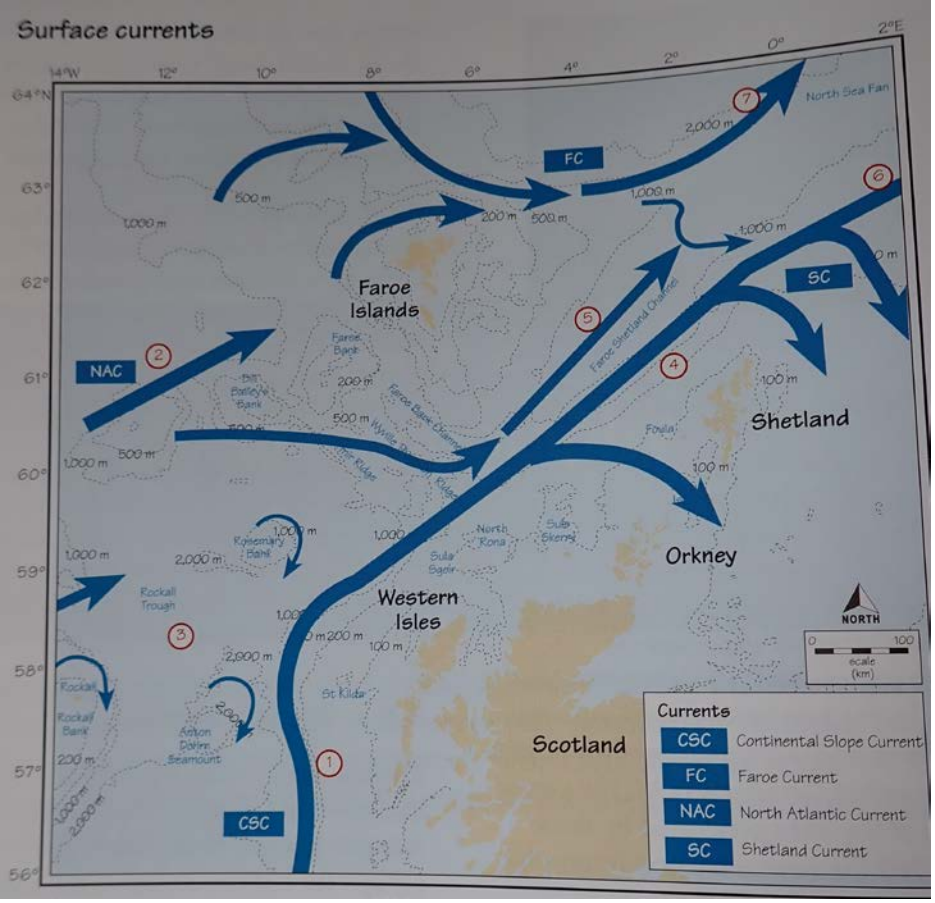
Active between 1995 and 2004

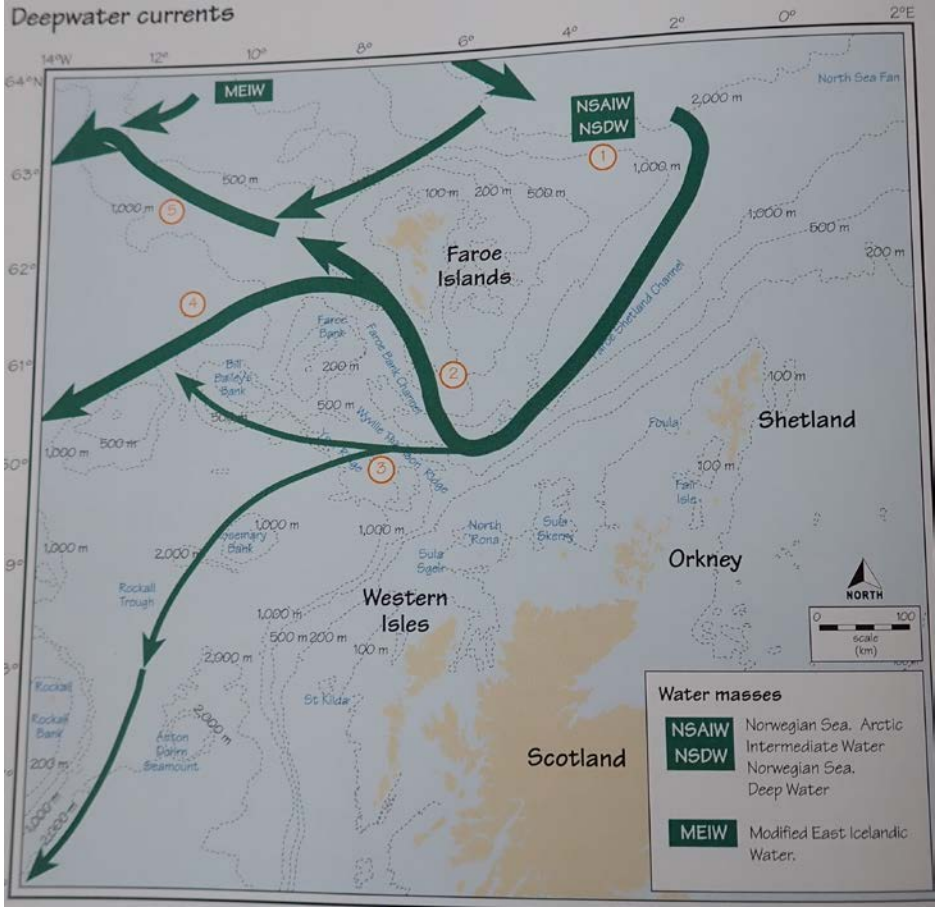


Process for identifying science needs

Needs were applied – i.e. what was needed for regulation, but some "pure" science accepted

Final decisions made by concensus

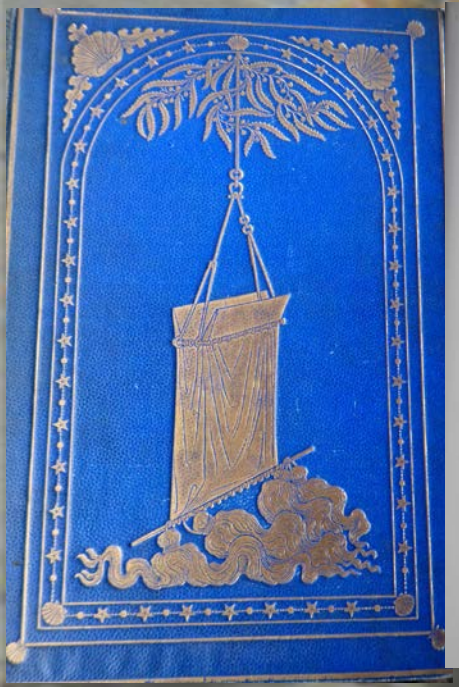


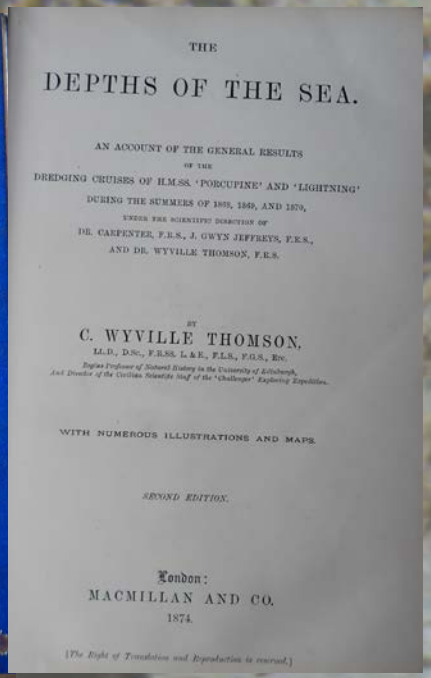


Oceanography needed both for science and safety purposes

Seabed features

Existing knowledge not at all modern





THE

DEPTHS OF THE SEA.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE GENERAL RESULTS
OF THE
DREDGING CRUISES OF H.M.SS. 'PORCUPINE' AND 'LIGHTNING'
DURING THE SUMMERS OF 1868, 1869, AND 1870,
UNDER THE SCIENTIFIC DIRECTION OF
DR. CARPENTER, F.R.S., J. GWYN JEFFREYS, F.R.S.,
AND DR. WYVILLE THOMSON, F.R.S.

BY
C. WYVILLE THOMSON,
LL.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.S. L. & E., F.L.S., F.G.S., &c.
Regius Professor of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh,
And Director of the Civilian Scientific Staff of the 'Challenger' Exploring Expedition.

WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS AND MAPS.

SECOND EDITION.

London:
MACMILLAN AND CO.
1874.

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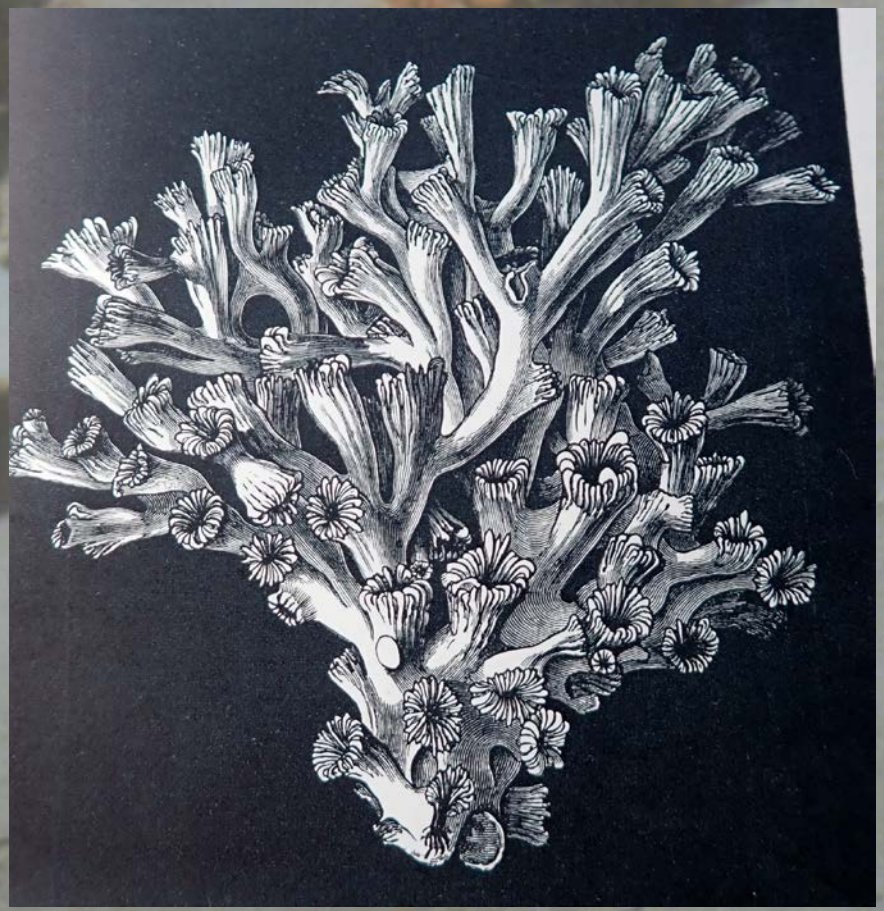
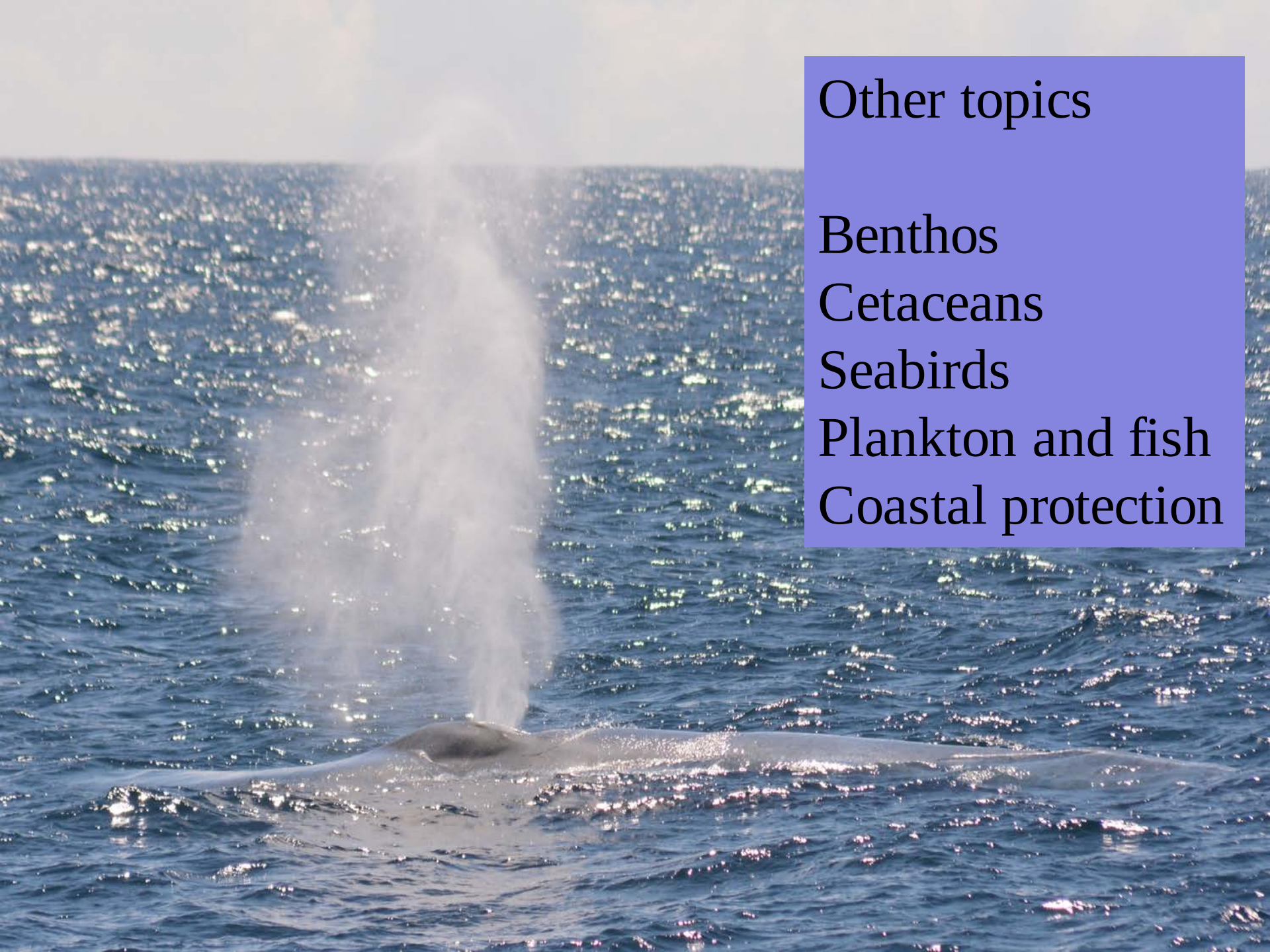
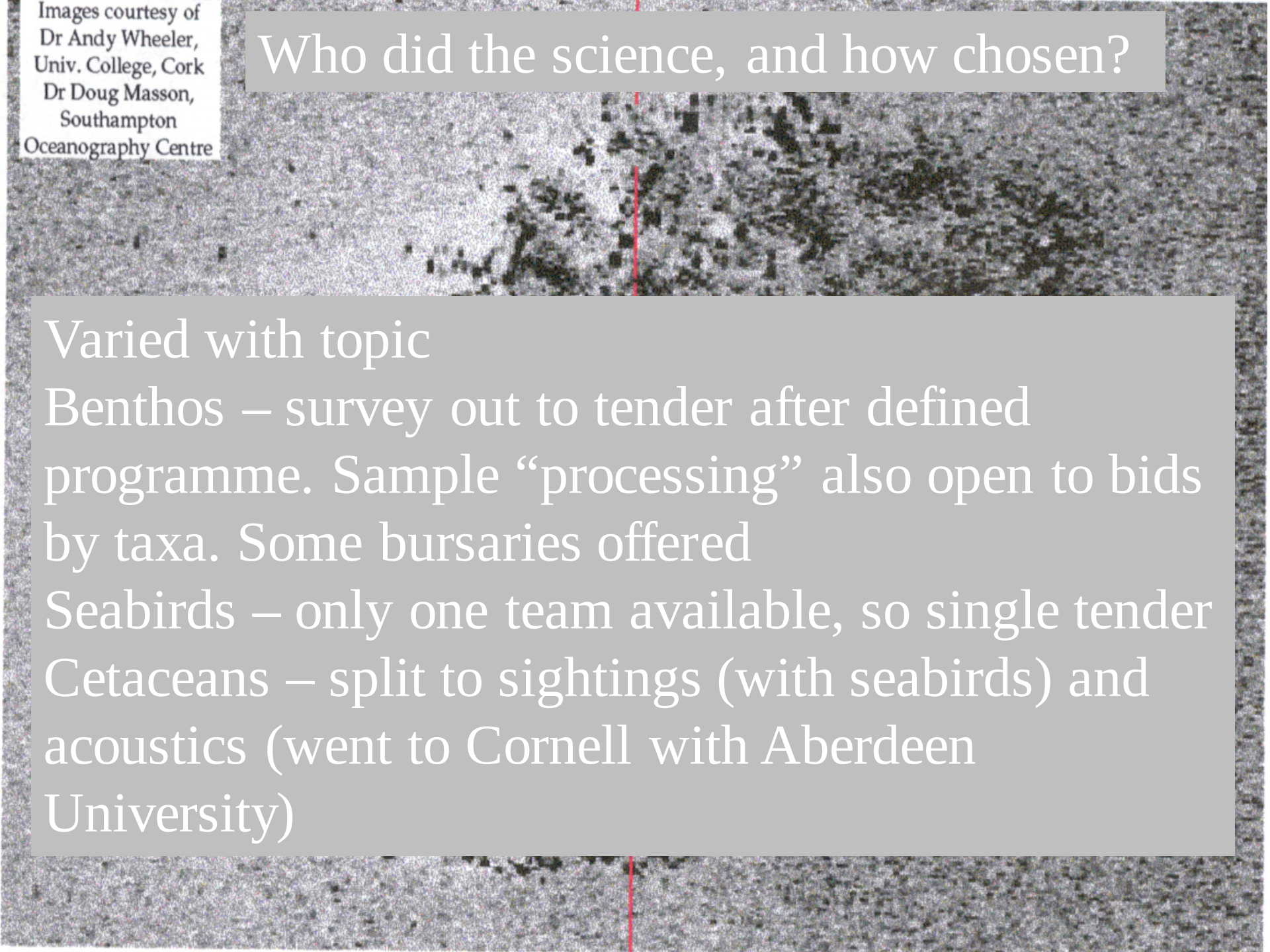


Knowledge also needed for exploration purposes



Other topics

Benthos
Cetaceans
Seabirds
Plankton and fish
Coastal protection



Who did the science, and how chosen?

Varied with topic

Benthos – survey out to tender after defined programme. Sample "processing" also open to bids by taxa. Some bursaries offered

Seabirds – only one team available, so single tender

Cetaceans – split to sightings (with seabirds) and acoustics (went to Cornell with Aberdeen University)

Outputs

Information / data

Environmental Impact Assessments of various types (both government and industry)

Science papers and reports

Descriptions of new species

Less tangible: value by engineers of the environment they are working in

Outputs

Evaluation

All reports peer reviewed both by AFEN members and externals

Science papers went through normal process

Descriptions of new species

Wider outputs

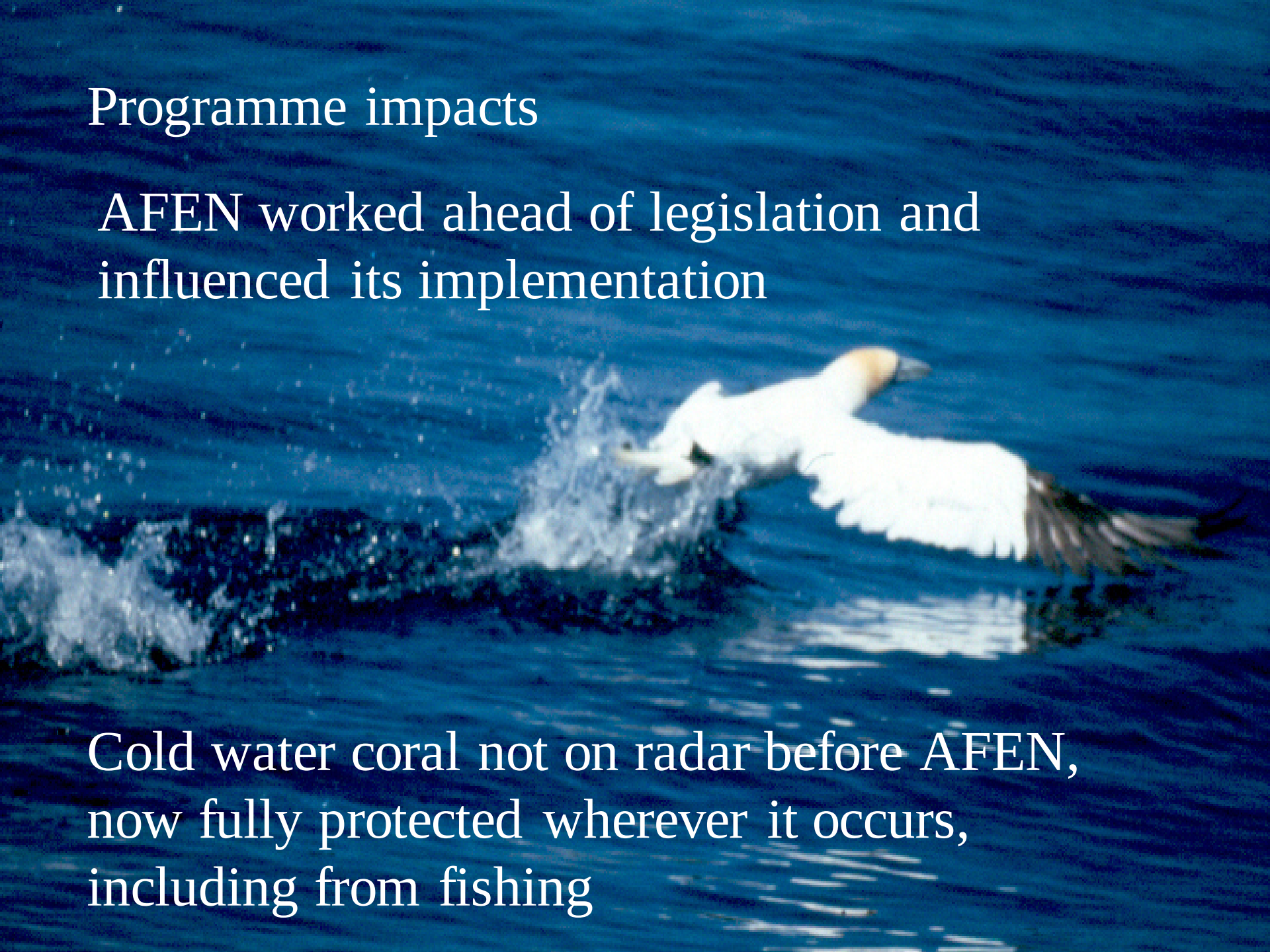
Initiated Atlantic Frontier Environmental Forum as stakeholder forum with independent chair and secretariat

Funded AFEF conference to engage wider stakeholders and international regulators

Maybe stimulated other industry programmes

Programme impacts

AFEN worked ahead of legislation and influenced its implementation



Cold water coral not on radar before AFEN, now fully protected wherever it occurs, including from fishing

Legislation

EIA Directive - AFEN established ahead of it's offshore implementation (and therefore helped ease its adoption)

SEA Directive - wide area survey well ahead of offshore implementation - encouraged DTI to follow through elsewhere

Programme impacts

Impacts not formally assessed at time though, partly because it was designed for immediate use

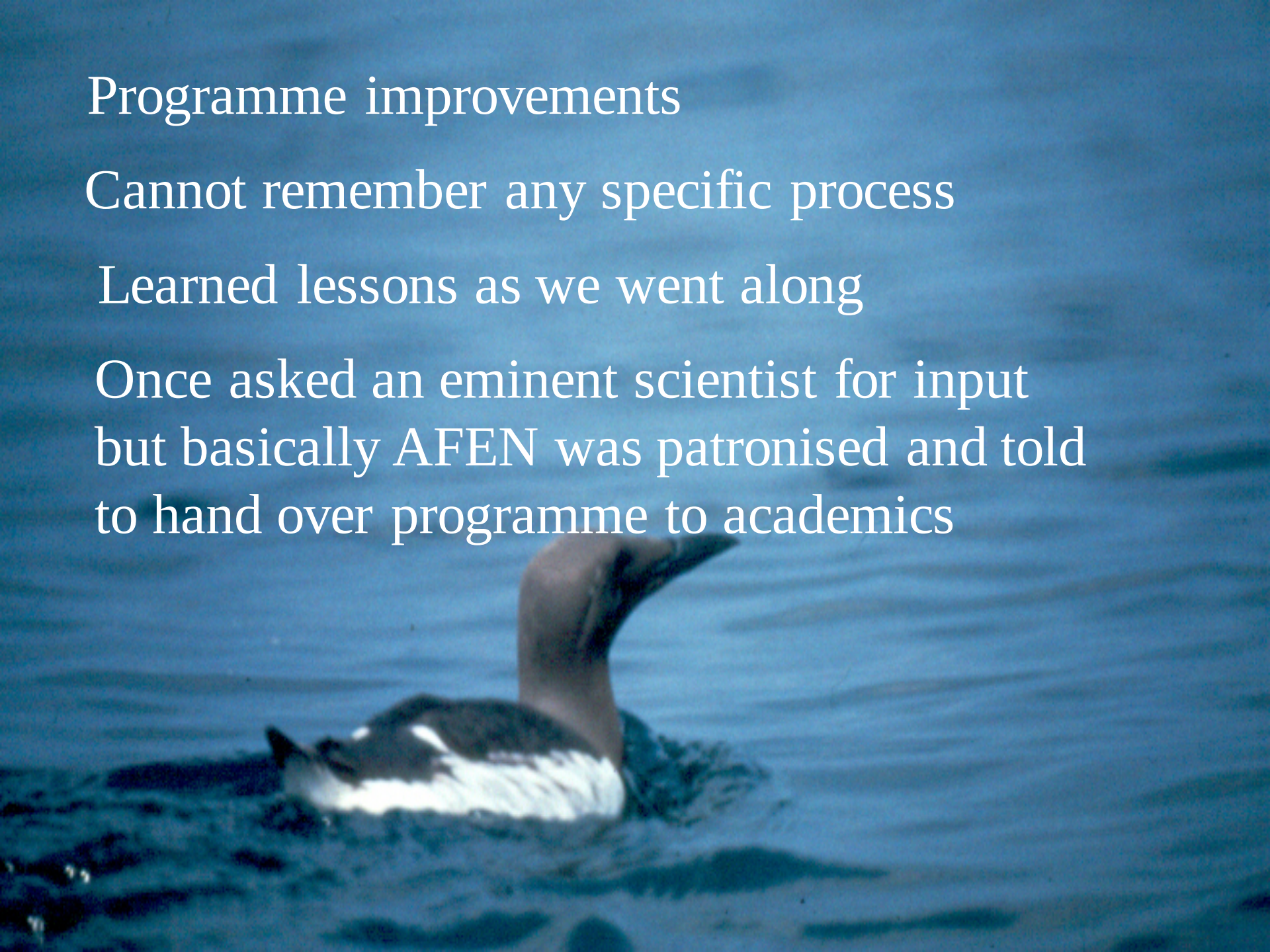
Many programme impacts have occurred since

Programme improvements

Cannot remember any specific process

Learned lessons as we went along

Once asked an eminent scientist for input but basically AFEN was patronised and told to hand over programme to academics



Distinctiveness

Government- Industry

Early example

Outputs used for multiple purposes including many not foreseen when planning

AFEN:

Led strategic environmental research of a very interesting and relatively unexplored area of UK seas

Integrated some societal views and encouraged independent scientific view

Established high scientific standards for strategic environmental assessment

Conserved much nature and environment