UK Hydrographic Office

The UK Centre for Seabed Mapping

David Parker

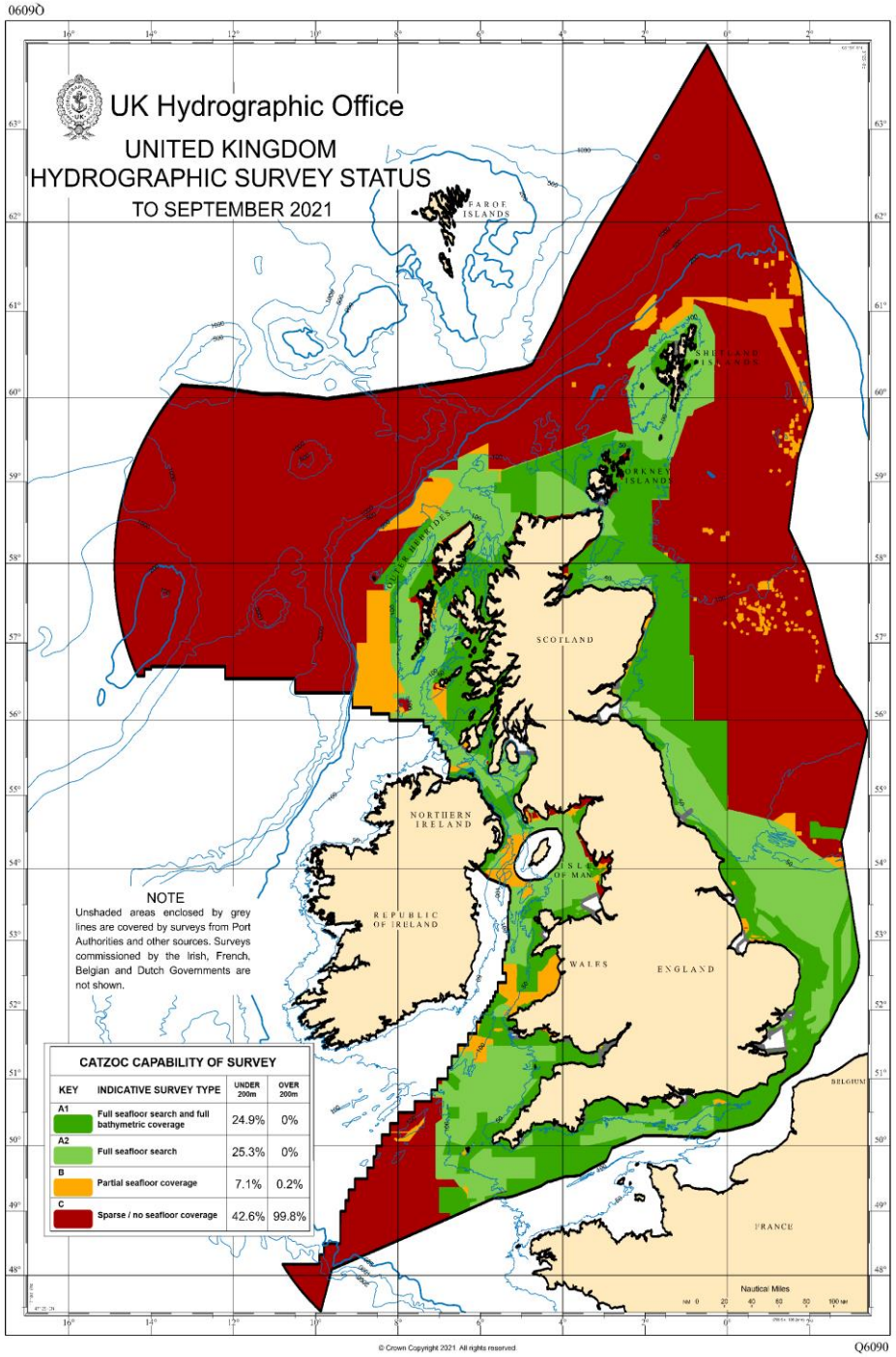
October 2022

Administered by the:

UK Hydrographic Office

UK CSM – The Issue

- The UK Government seabed mapping community is large (30+ organisations) and spread across numerous departments.
- No central coordination of operational activity or data collection standards.
- Only 26.2% of the UK EEZ (British Isles) mapped to modern standards (about 1.5% per year).
- Only 2% of the UK EEZ (Global OTs and CDs) mapped to modern standards.
- No combined voice to reinforce the importance of marine geospatial data to manage, protect and utilise the UK Marine Estate.



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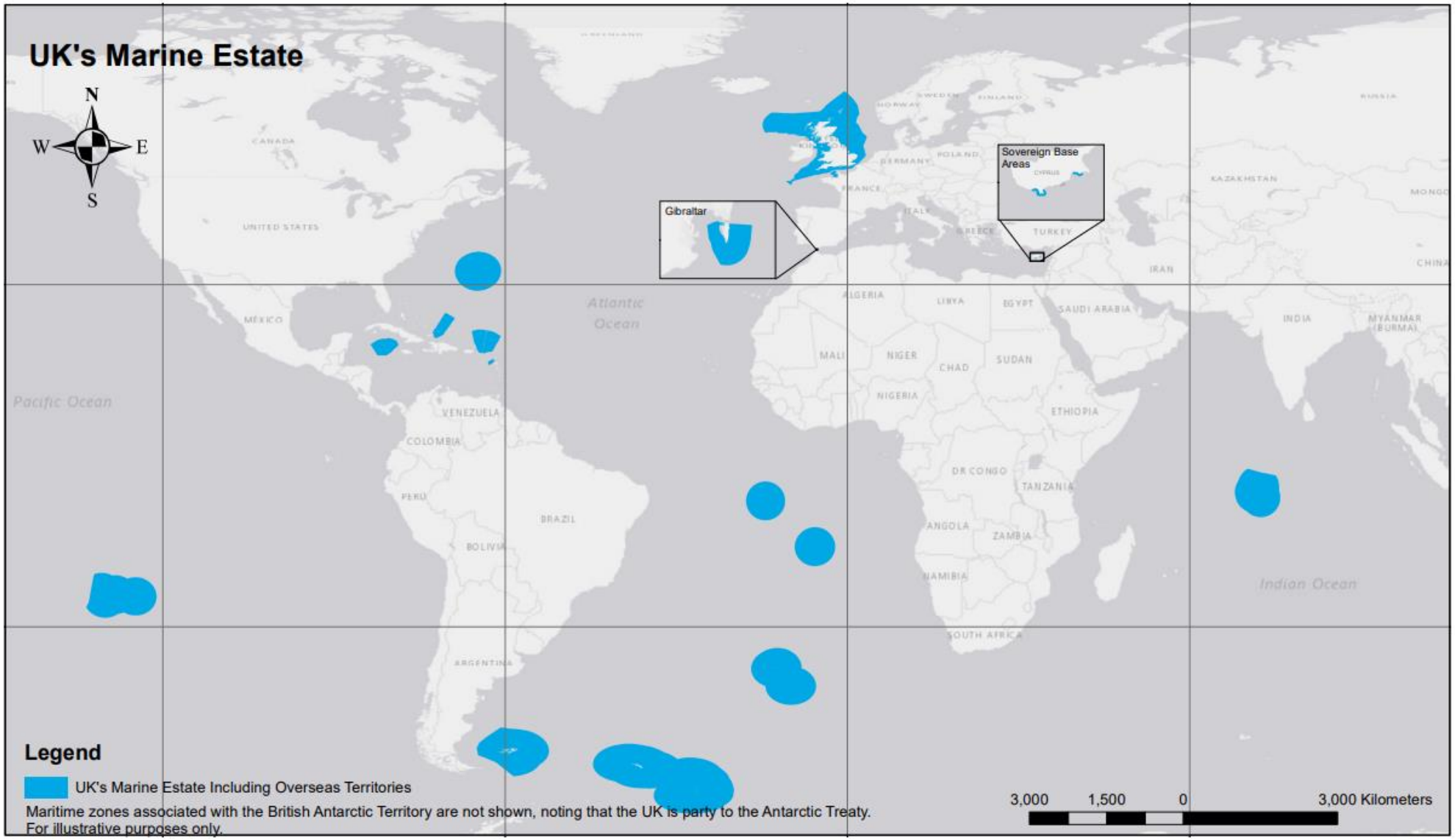

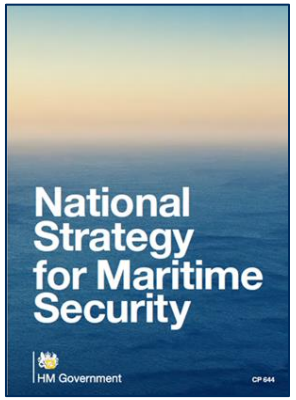

5th largest marine estate in the world

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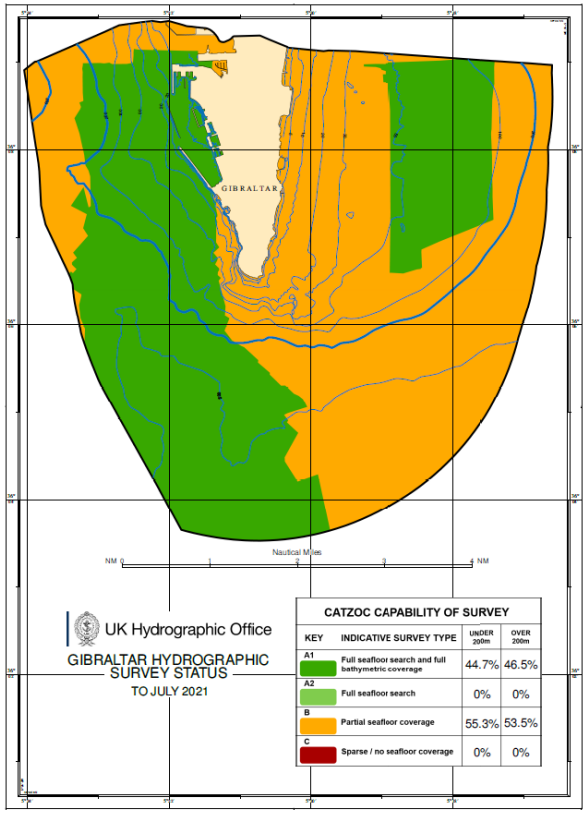
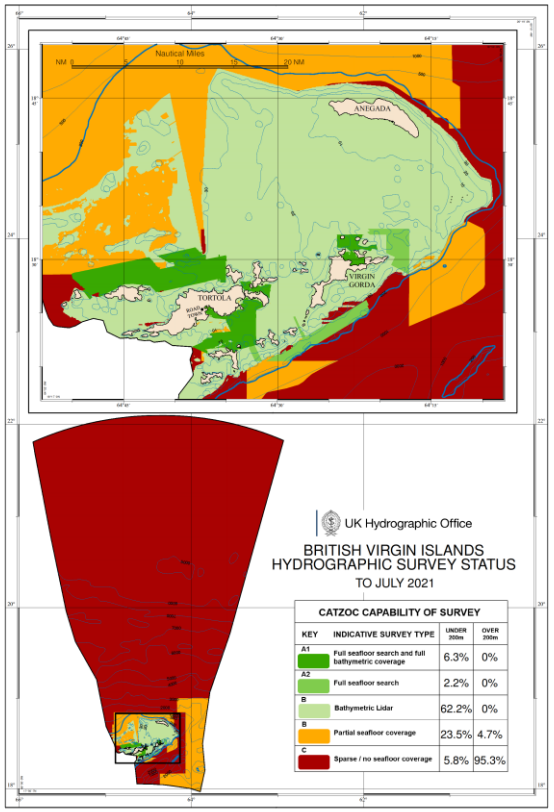
UK CSM – The Issue

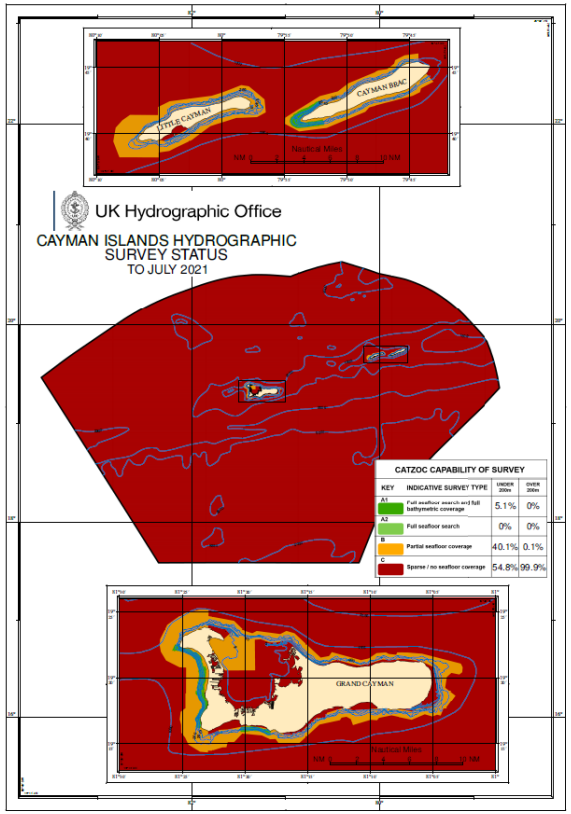
- Working around the world in the UK Overseas Territories



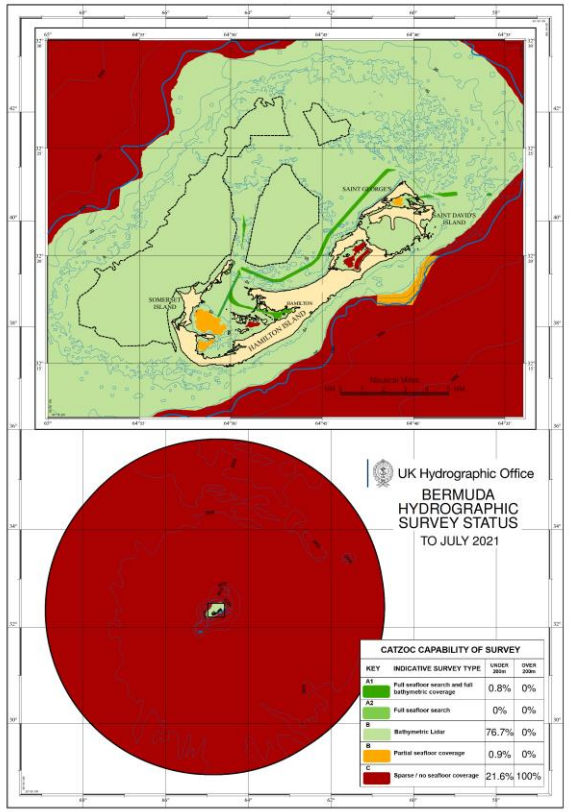
Gibraltar



British Virgin Islands



Cayman Islands



Bermuda

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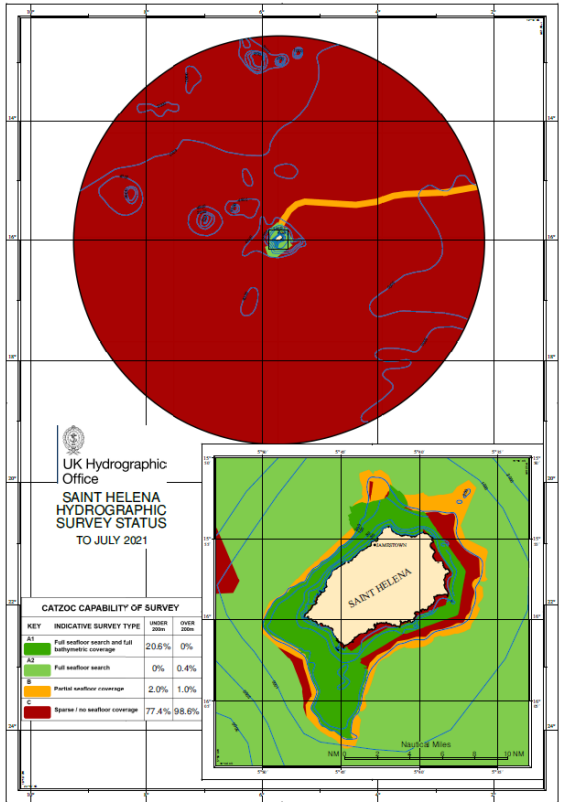
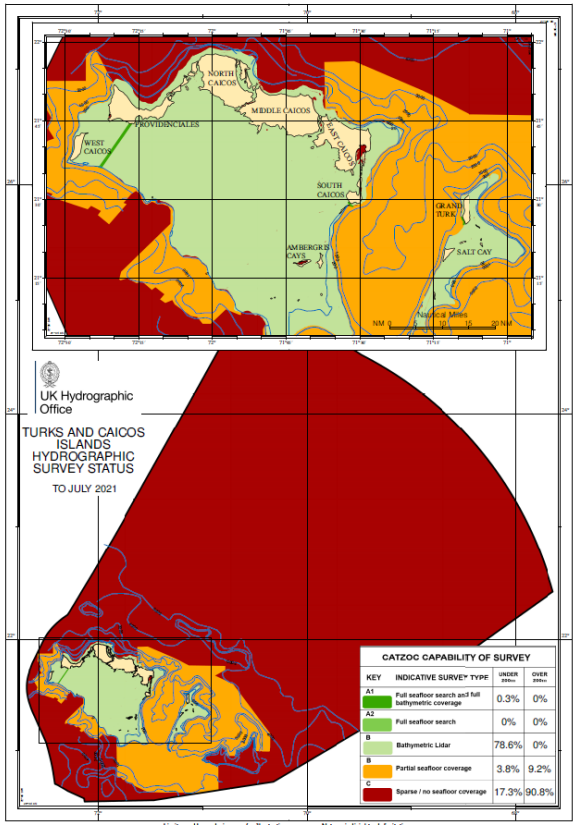
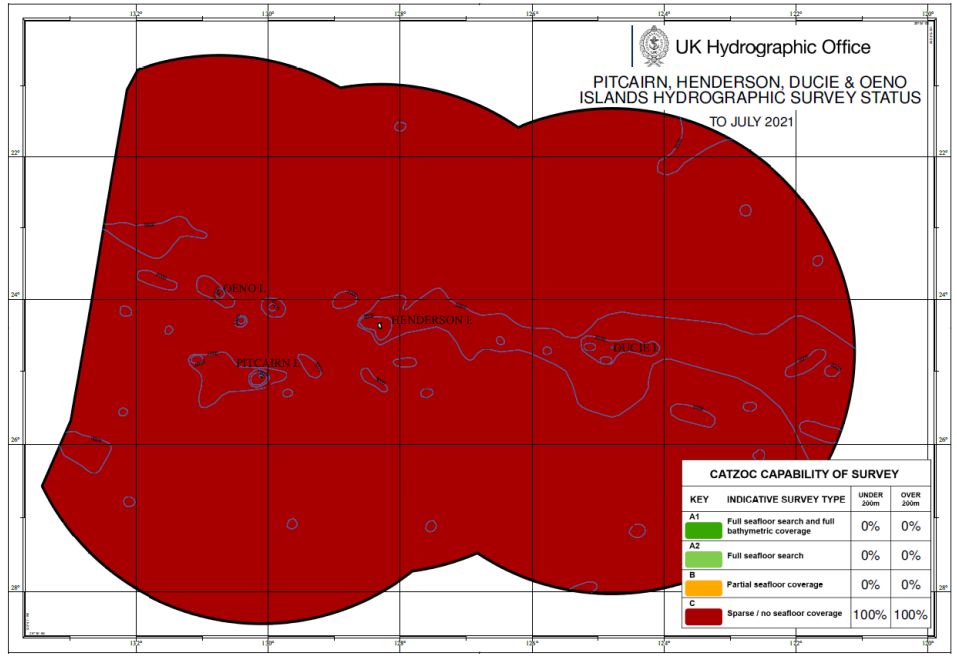


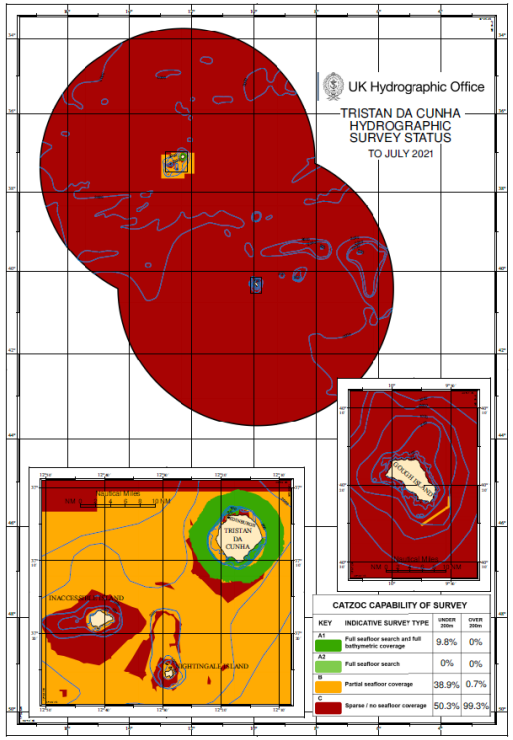
St Helena



Turks and Caicos



Pit Cairn Group



Tristan Da Cunha

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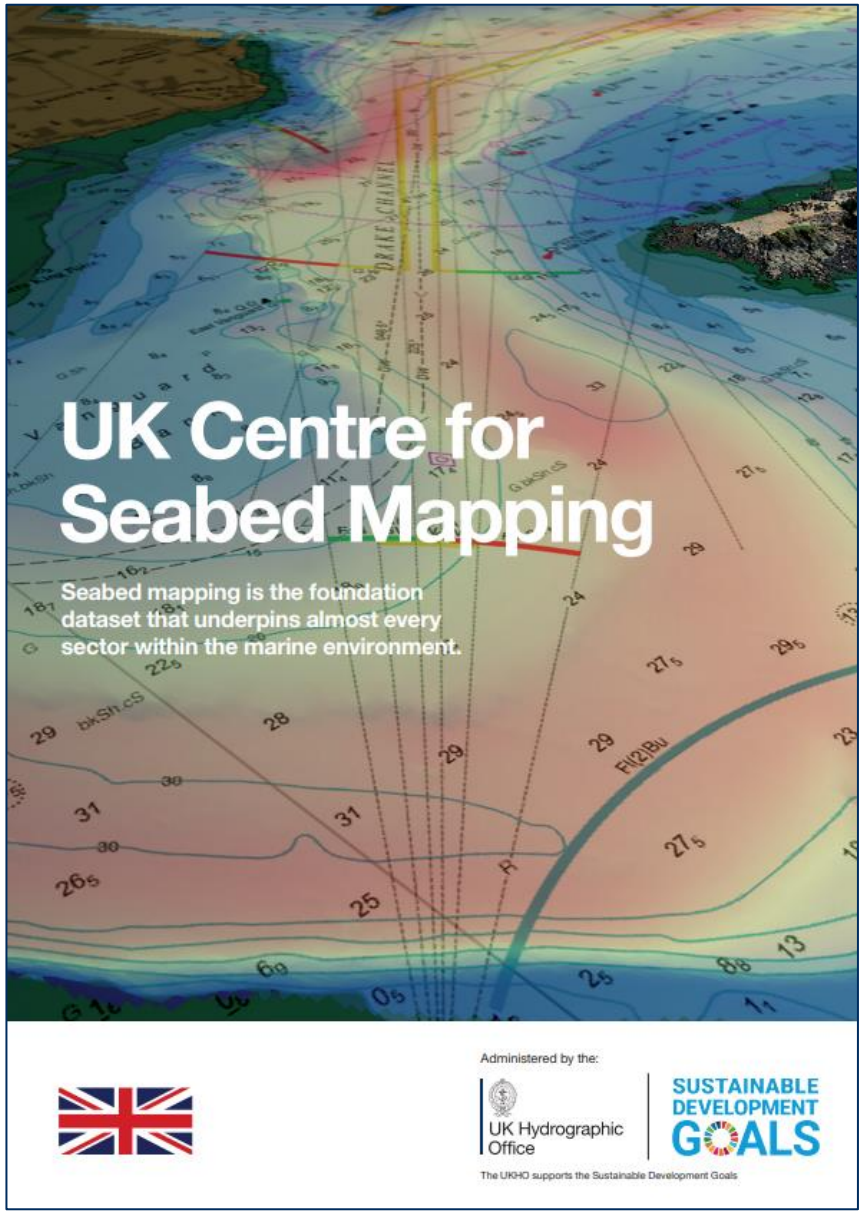
UK Centre for Seabed Mapping created…

- Quality marine geospatial information is essential for almost every activity undertaken in the marine domain.
- These activities include maritime trade, informing sustainable environmental and resource management, and supporting national security and infrastructure.
- **Vision & Mission:** to support a more integrated Marine Geospatial Sector for the UK, both nationally and internationally; increase the coverage, quality and access of seabed mapping data collected using public money, or in collaboration with industry, as well as better promote it as a critical component of national infrastructure.



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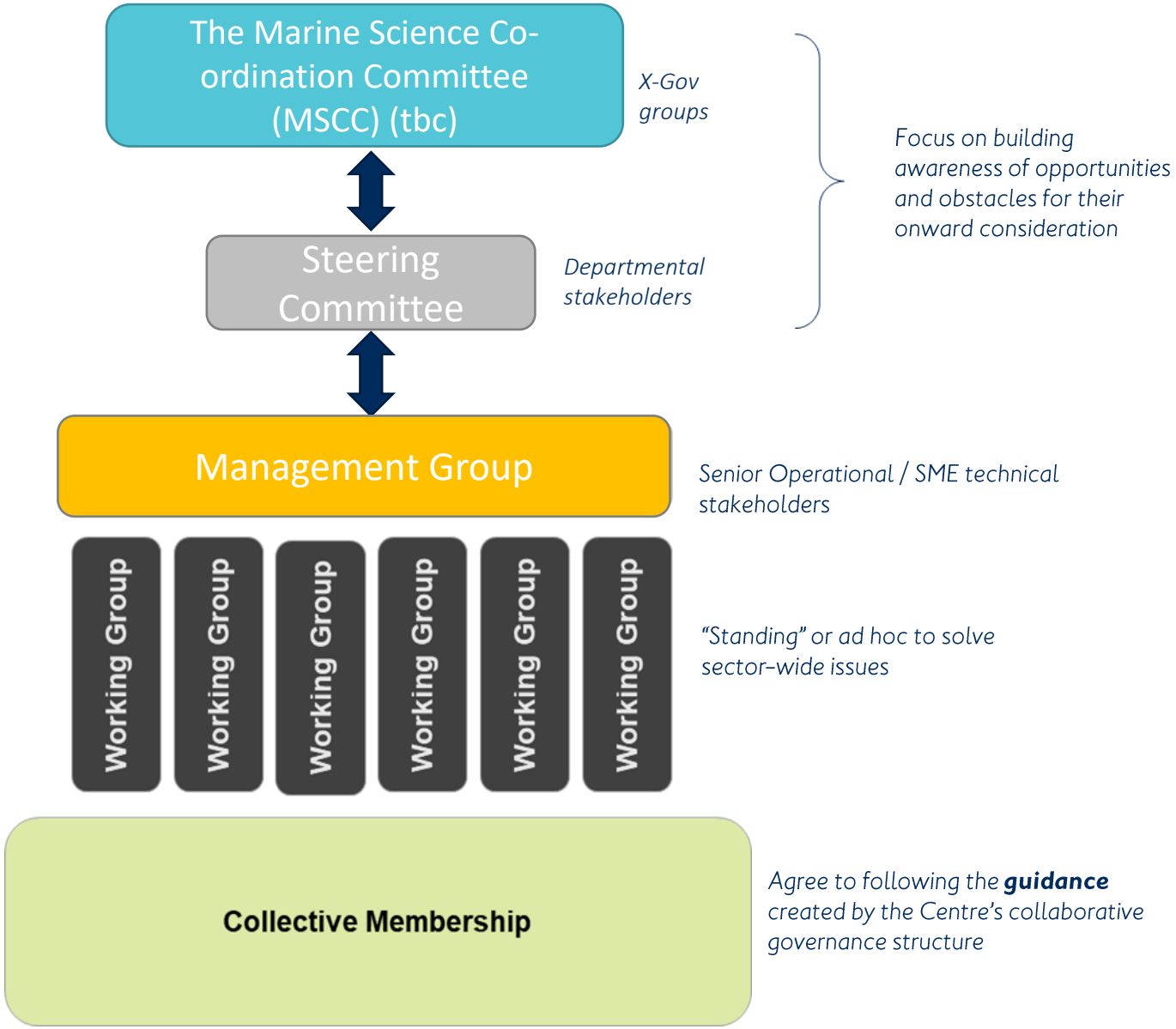
UK CSM Structure

- The UK CSM will be administered by the UKHO.
- Providing management, secretariat, online infrastructure etc.



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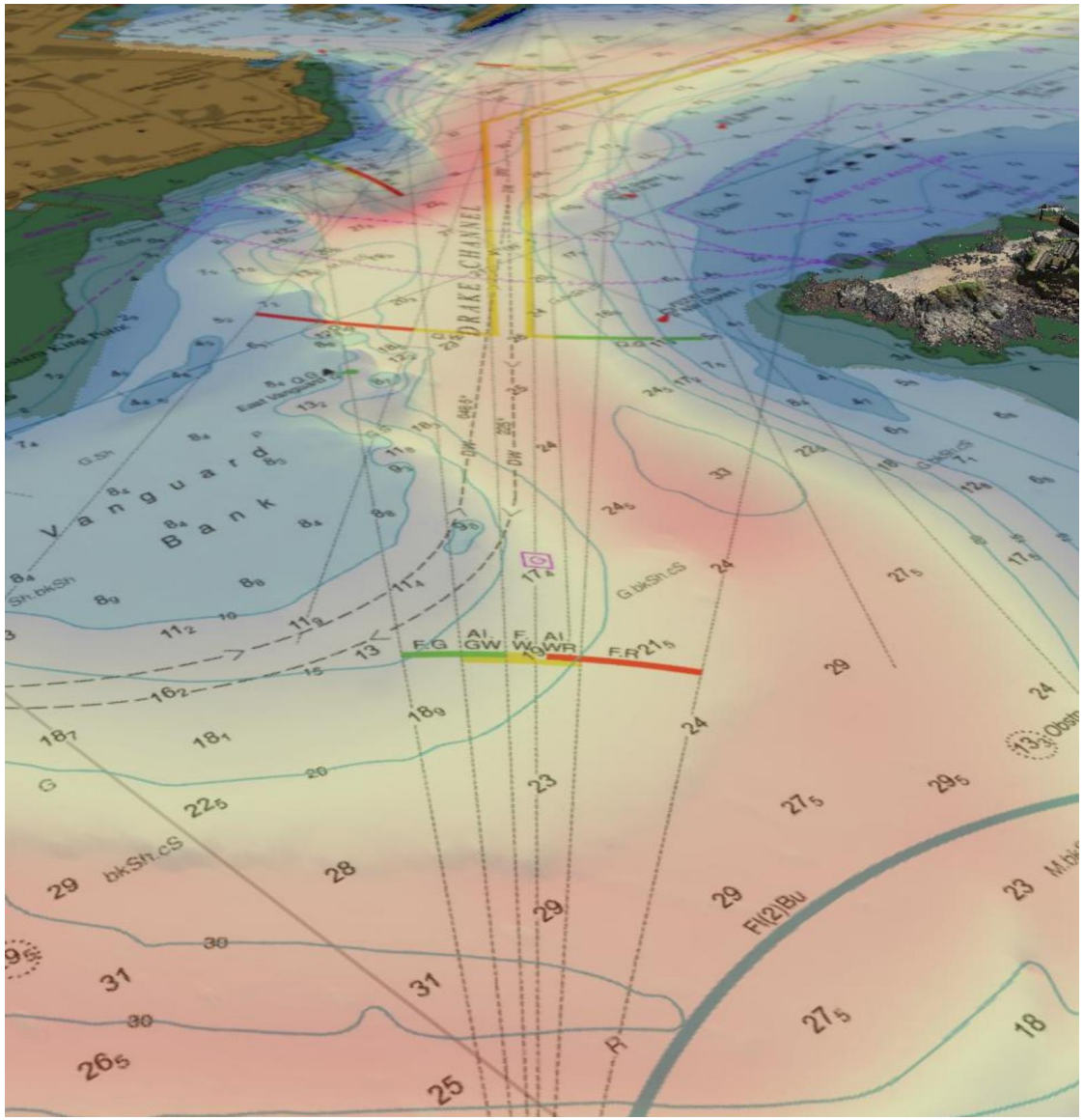
UK CSM Phase II

- Once UK CSM has significant traction across Government, it is hoped to expand collaboration with:
    - Ports
    - Offshore energy sector
    - Academia
    - Private sector

- This is hoped to begin in 2023.



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UK Government Policy Landscape

(a small snapshot)

Marine Habitat Protection

Innovation and efficiencies

Trade and transport

Exportable expertise

Spatial Planning

Sustainable development
Climate Change

Sovereign Delineation

National Security

Soft Power assets
& influence

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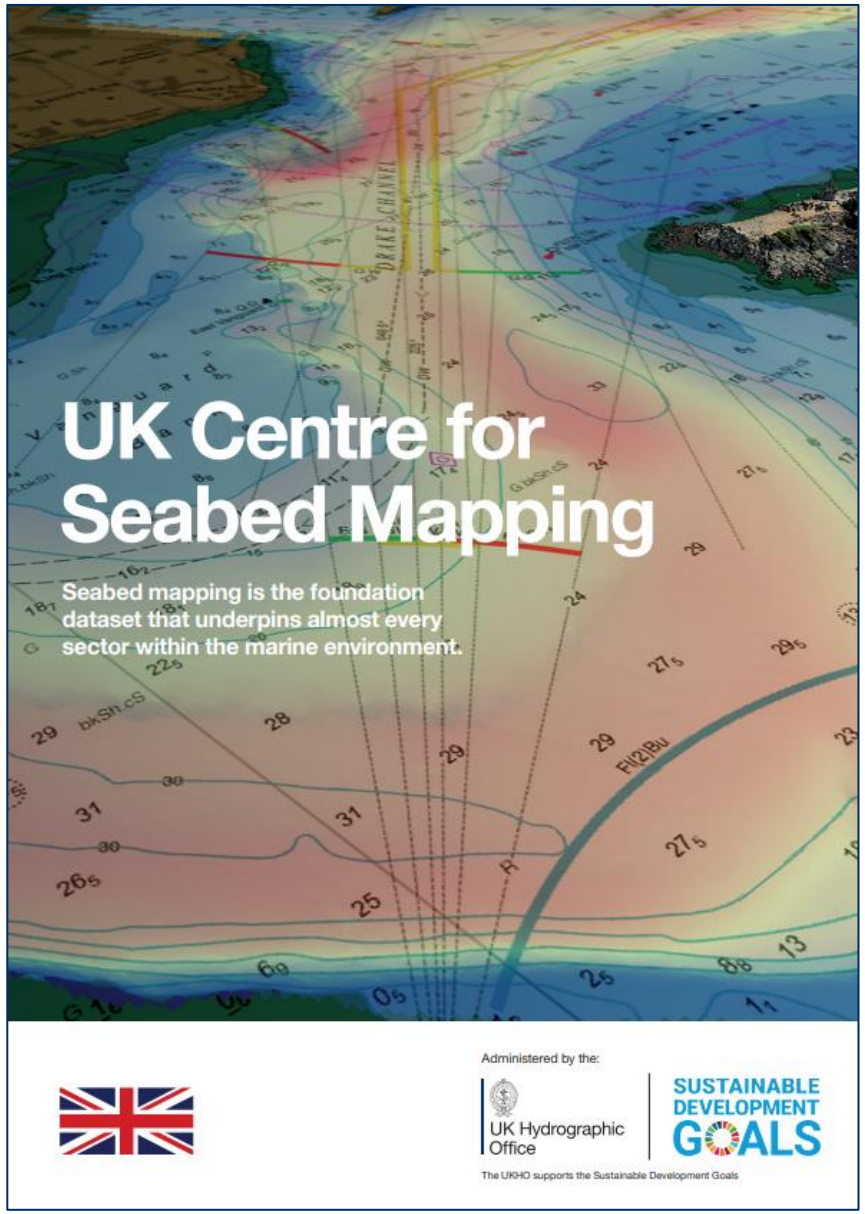
UK CSM Policy success to date:



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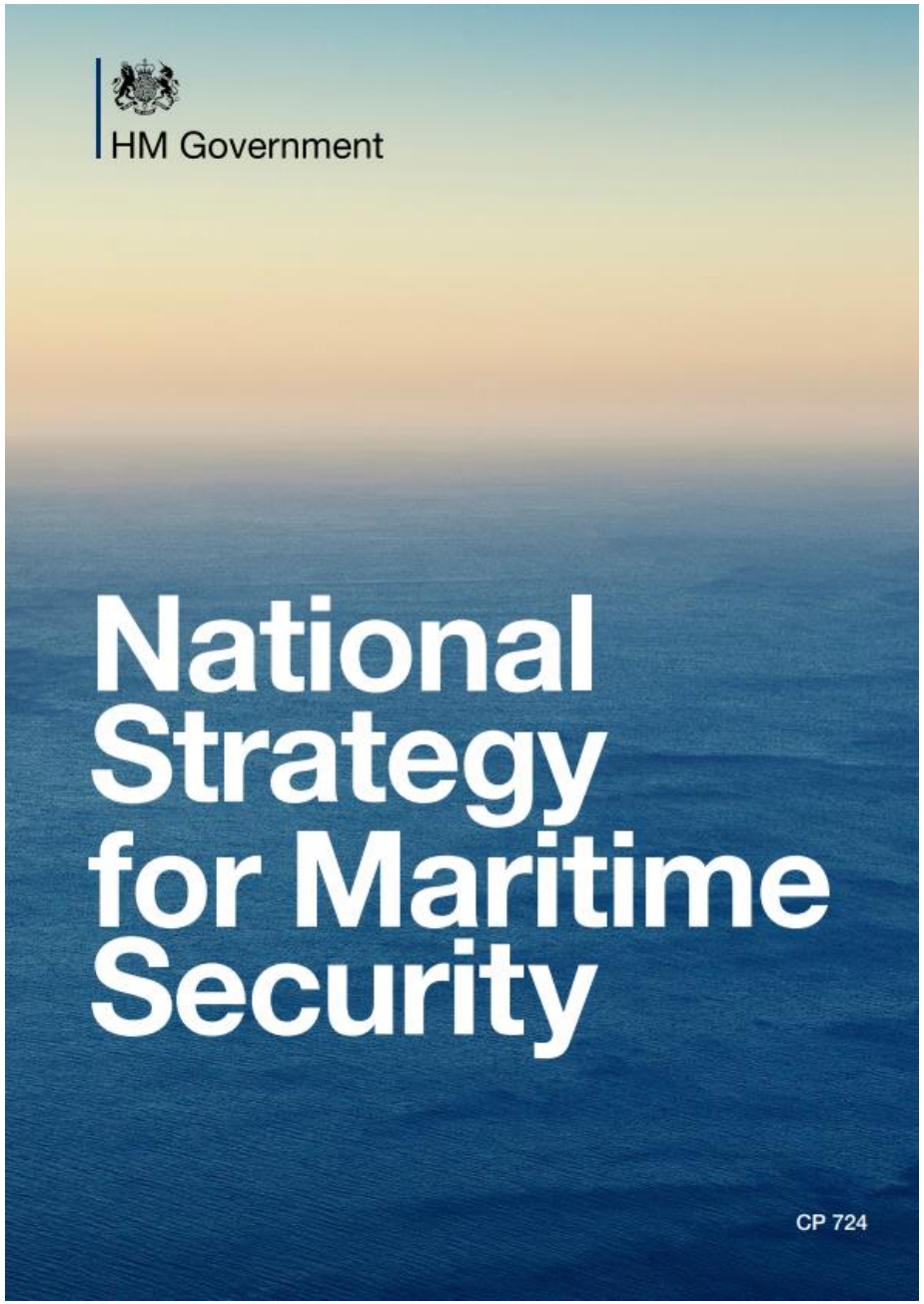
National Strategy for Maritime Security 2022

- Published July 2022
- Signed by: Defra, FCDO, MOD, DfT, Home Office
- Maritime Security = Societal, Economic & Environmental.
- **Conditions**: Will need to be reported on progress.

The Physical Maritime Domain

17. However, as highlighted in the Integrated Review, the world is entering the 'informational age' and this strategy recognises the ocean as the next frontier to be opened up by advances in technology driven by the ever-increasing demand for more accurate and reliable marine geospatial information by the public and private sectors of all coastal and island nations. Therefore, government has committed to establishing the UK Centre for Seabed Mapping which will be hosted by the UK Hydrographic Office. As a centre of excellence, it will coordinate cross-government and industry collaboration in order to increase the quantity, quality, and availability of data in the marine domain, which will inform government to support security, prosperity, and environmental objectives.



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UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

- UK CSM Submitted as a UK Government Voluntary Commitment to the United Nations at the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, in June 2022.

- The UK CSM aims to contribute to the UN Ocean Decade
- SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation;
- SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Thank you