

# 2018 ASPIRE WHITE PAPER SUBMISSIONS TEMPLATE

## Contact Information

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## Willing to Attend Workshop?

(Yes/No)

Yes, but no funding to participate workshop is available

## Target Name(s)

Main Feature(s)/Area(s) of Interest:

Antialtair seamount

## Geographic Area(s) of Interest within the North Atlantic Ocean (Indicate all that apply)

North Central

## Relevant Subject Area(s) (Indicate all that apply)

Biology: X

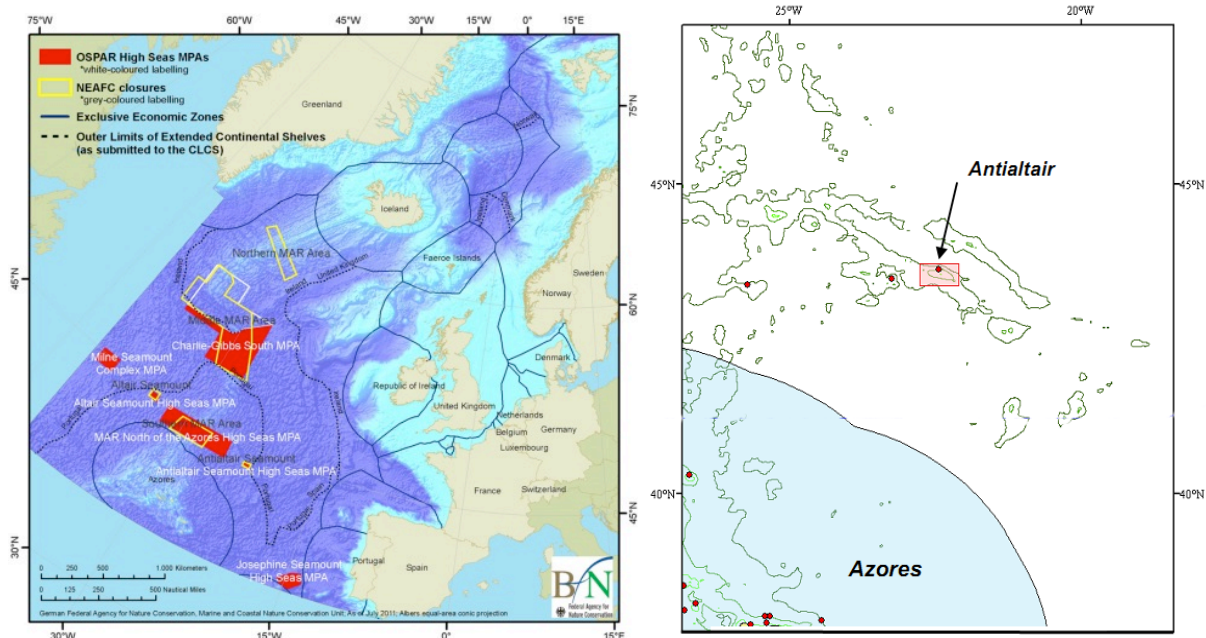
Geology: X

Chemistry

Physical Oceanography

Marine Archaeology

Other



## Description of Topic or Region Recommended for Exploration

Brief Overview of Area or Feature:

Antialtair seamount located in the North Atlantic just north east of the Azores (43° 37' 00" N 22° 27' 00" W) with minimum depth ~900m. Antialtair seabed is encompassed by a Portuguese submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS). It was designated by both

OSPAR (for the waters overlying the seabed) and Portugal (for the seabed) as MPAs. Antialtair seamount has been protected by a NEAFC fishery closure since 2005.

#### Brief Summary of Current State of Knowledge:

Very little information is available on Antialtair seamount. Before the closure in 2005 three dredges were realized during SEAMOUNT2 program of MNHN (Paris) at depths 900 m and 1175-1210 m with very few animals recovered (Gofas, 1993) and one haul (0.6 h) conducted using a Spanish freezer trawler specially adapted for trawling along rough terrain at depth range 889-1080 m. This last survey has found that the main fish species caught over Antialtair was Orange roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*) (Durán Muñoz et al, 2000). No ROV dives were ever conducted at Antialtair seamount.

#### Rationale for Future Exploration

Antialtair seamount has been protected by a NEAFC fishery closure and no bottom trawling is apparently being conducted on this seamount since 2005. It is believed to be extremely rich on both vulnerable marine ecosystems and fish resources, but no studies were performed since the closure. This seamount is appearing to be extremely useful for transatlantic studies and for understanding the biodiversity, biogeography and connectivity in the both sides of the Atlantic and expected to potentially support more endemics than the younger seamounts of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

#### **Relevant Partnerships (If Applicable)**

SponGES, ATLAS

#### Literature

Gofas, S. (1993) *Mission Océanographique Seamount 2. Compte-rendu et liste des stations*. [unpublished report]. Paris: Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle. 30 p.

Durán Muñoz, P., Román, E. & González, F. (2000) Results of deep-water experimental fishing in the North Atlantic: An example of co-operative research with the fishing industry. ICES CM 2000/W:04.