Rockall Bank and Porcupine Bank MPAs and VMEs

Peter Croker, The M Horizon (UK) Limited, February 2025
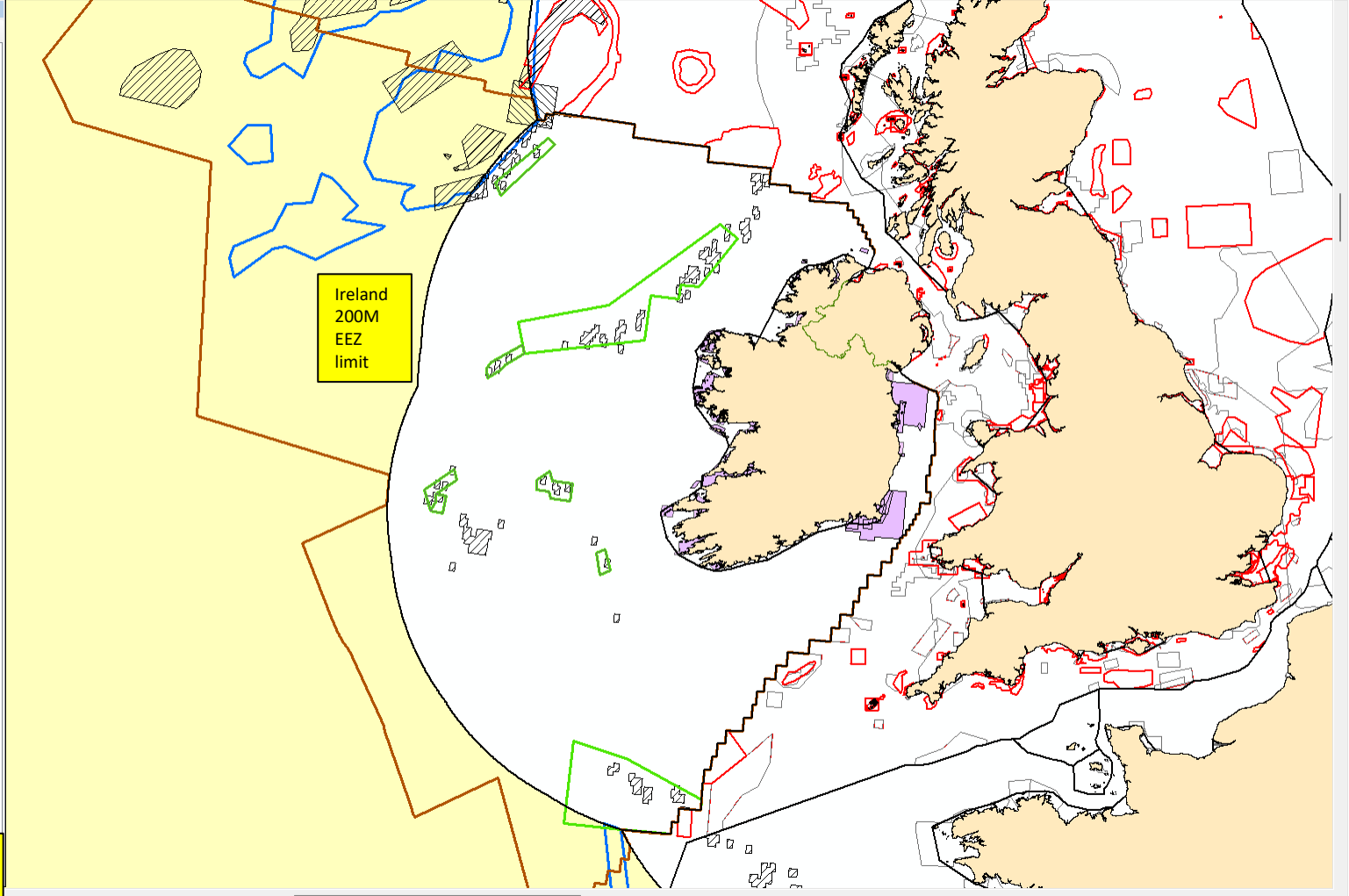
References

ICES (2024) Advice on areas where Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) are known to occur or are likely to occur in EU waters. Published 17 September 2024.

ICES (2023) Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort: Ecoregions in the Northeast Atlantic and adjacent seas. Published 02 October 2023.

ICES (2023) Advice on areas where Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) are known to occur or are likely to occur in EU waters. Published 18 April 2023.

Overview map West of Ireland

Overview map West of Ireland

Rockall Bank with EMODnet bathymetry background

Map labels and annotations:

- Rockall 12M limit
- Rockall Bank Haddock Box
- Ireland-UK EEZ boundary
- South-East Rockall Bank SAC
- Ireland 200M EEZ limit

Legend note (bottom left):

Green boxes are SACs (Ireland). Hatched areas are EU closures, NEAFC VME closures (beyond 200M) and other specific fisheries closures (e.g. Haddock Box).
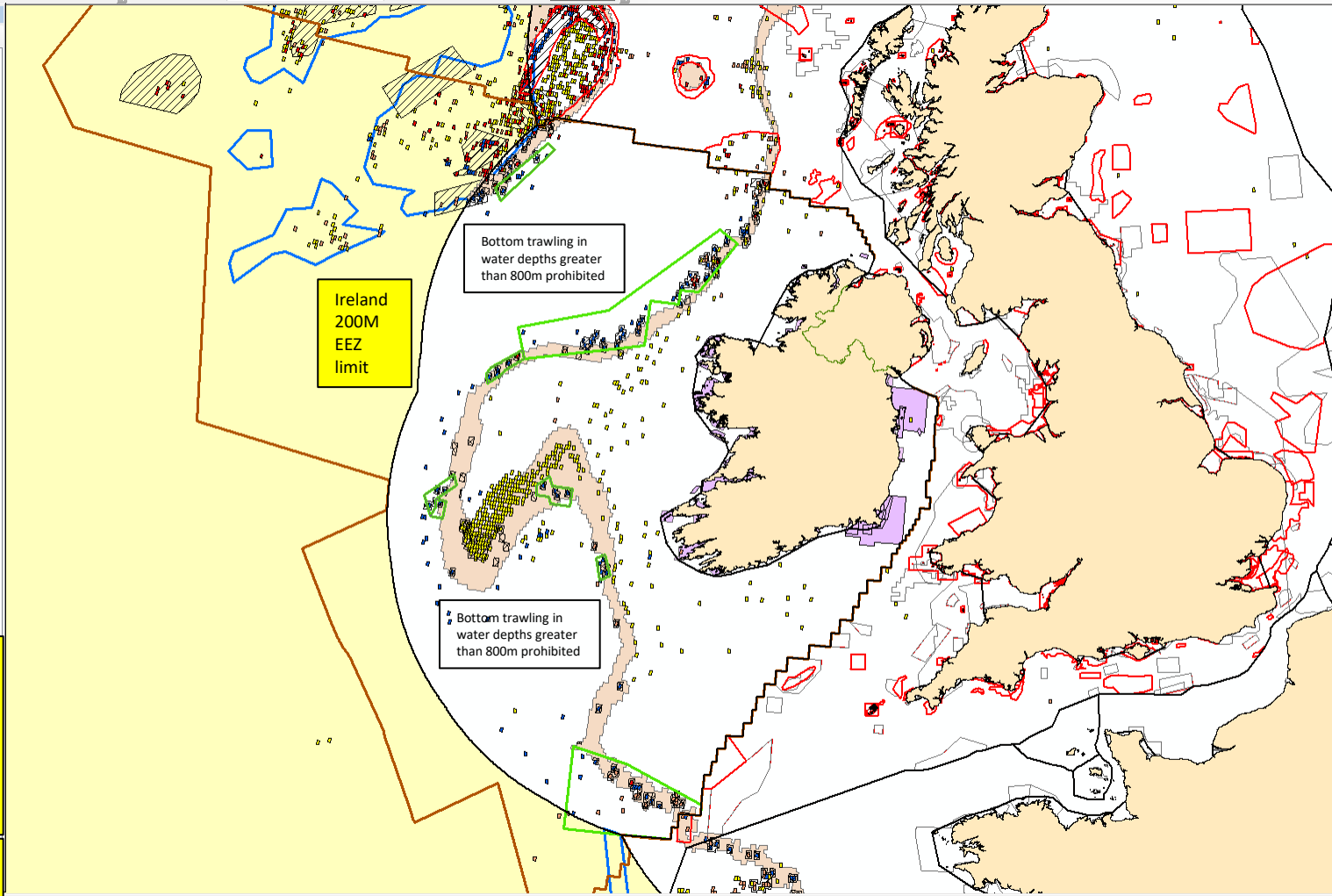
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- World_EEZ
- World_12NM
- EU_Closures_as_of_September 2022
- ICES_2024_VME_Shapefile_scC
- ICES_2023_VME_Weighting_Algorithm_VME_Habitat
- ICES_2023_VME_Weighting_Algorithm_High
- ICES_2023_VME_Weighting_Algorithm_Medium
- ICES_2023_VME_Weighting_Algorithm_Low
- NEAFC_Rockall_Bank_Haddock_Box
- NEAFC_VMEMEASURE_VME
- NEAFC_VMEMEASURE_BTM_FISH
- NPWS_SAC_Offshore_WGS84_2022_11
- C-sqs_overlapping_400-800m_depth
- MCZ_Natural_England_and_JNCC
- UK_SACs_with_Marine_Components_WGS84
- UK_OffshoreMPAs_WGS84
- EMODnet_2022_bathymetry
- ICES_2023_VME_DataSet_2023125_Points
- NEAFC_VMEMEASURE_OTHER
- Land borders
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- Source data
- Basemap

Window title: Rockall Bank VMEs MPAs_PFC_17 February 2025 - ArcMap

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Georeferencing ▼   VME index for the Rockall Bank a ▼

Editor ▼
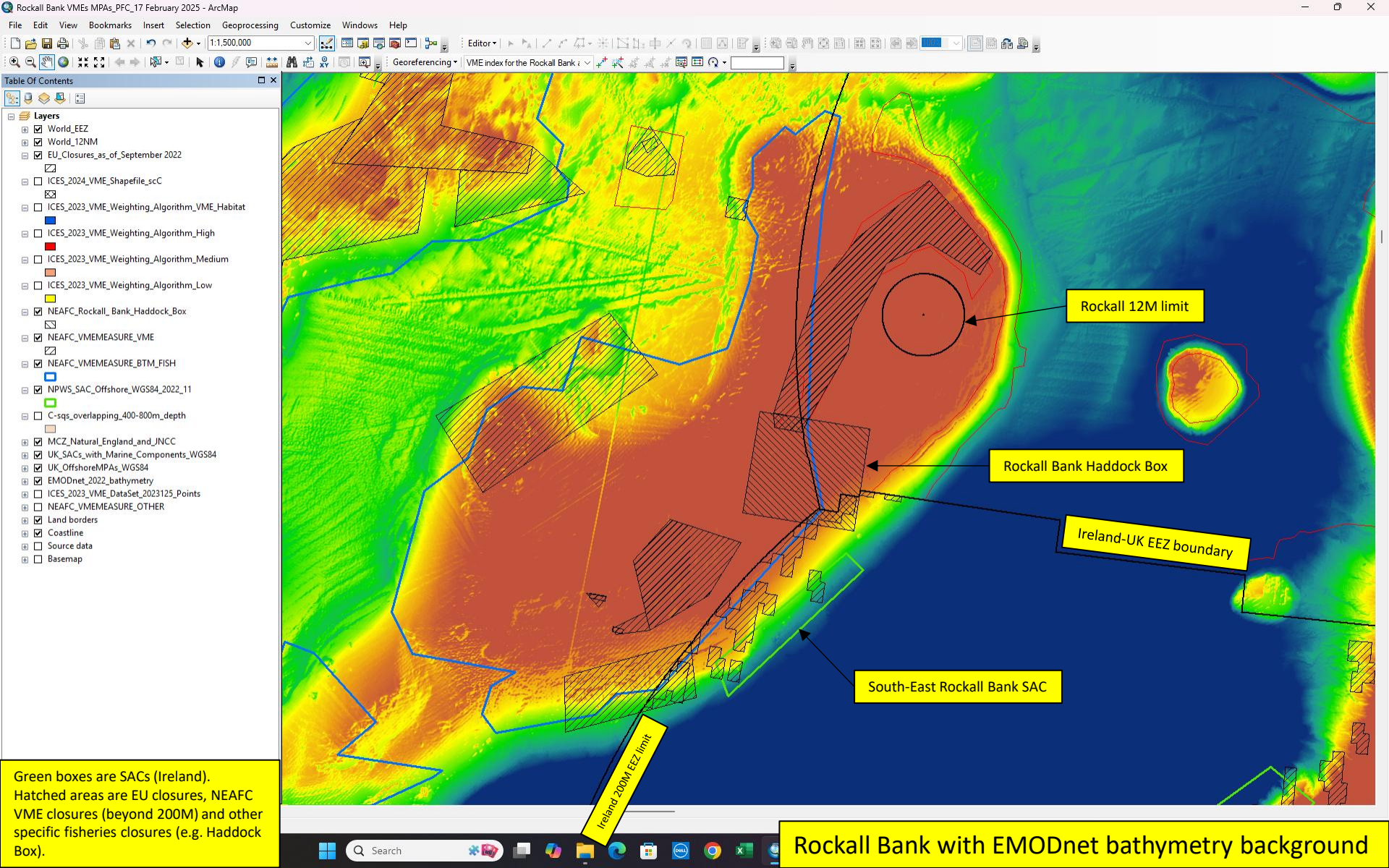
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Light brown shading shows C-squares overlapping 400-800m water depth. Yellow boxes indicate low probability VME occurrence. Orange boxes show medium probability VME occurrence. Red boxes show high probability. Blue boxes indicate presence of VME Habitat.
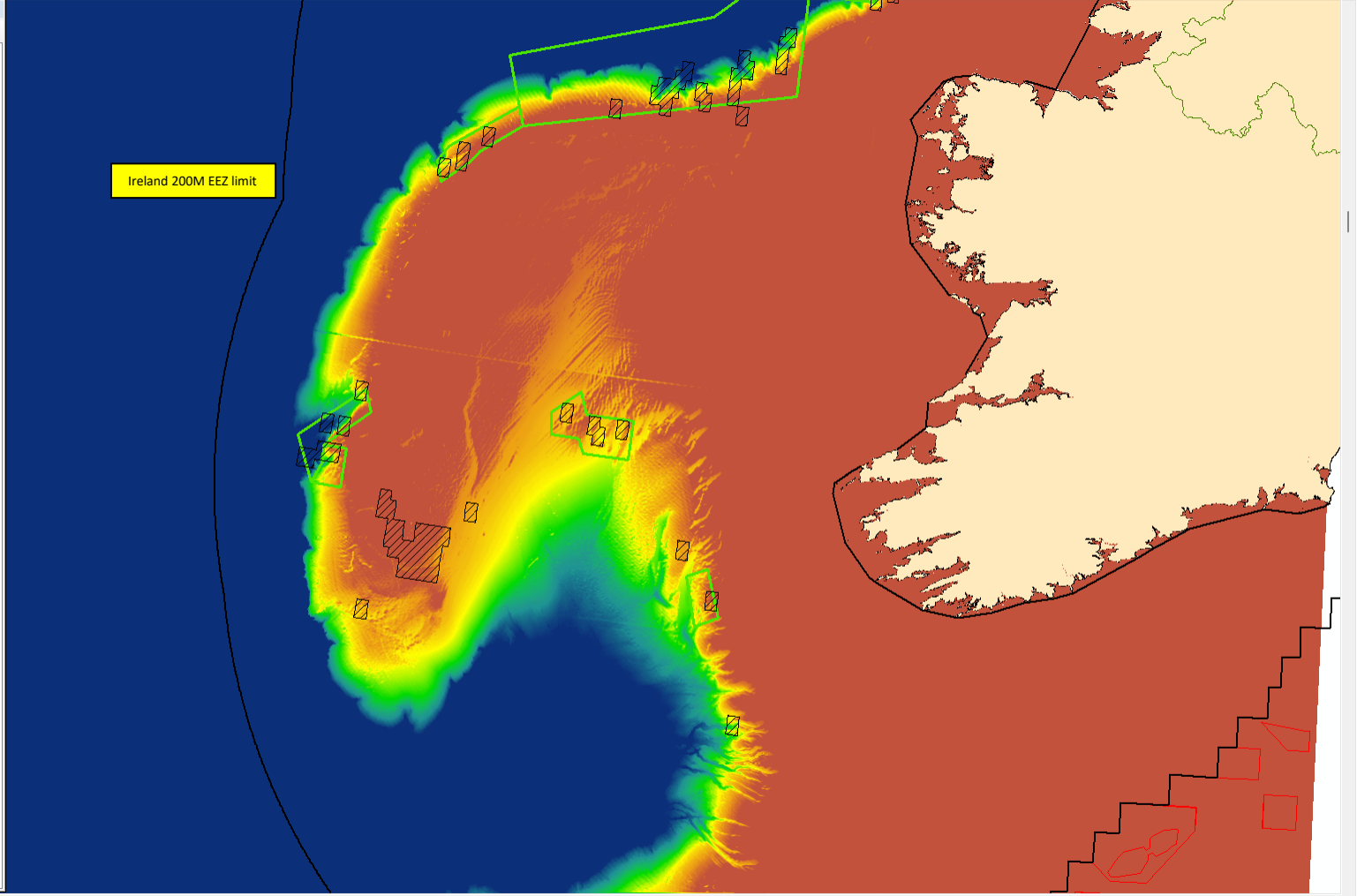
Green boxes are SACs (Ireland). Hatched areas are EU closures, NEAFC VME closures (beyond 200M) and other specific fisheries closures (e.g. Haddock Box).

Fishing with bottom trawls at a depth below 800m is prohibited. Regulation (EU) 2016/2336

Rockall Bank with EMODnet bathymetry background

Porcupine Bank with EMODnet bathymetry background

Green boxes are SACs (Ireland).
Hatched areas are EU closures.

Ireland 200M EEZ limit

Porcupine Bank with EMODnet bathymetry background

Light brown shading shows C-squares overlapping 400-800m water depth. Yellow boxes indicate low probability VME occurrence. Orange boxes show medium probability VME occurrence. Red boxes show high probability. Blue boxes indicate presence of VME Habitat.

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