

Namibia – Shipping

Namibian waters have relatively high levels of commercial boat traffic compared with the rest of the BCLME domain. Biodiversity impacts are associated with oil spills, alien species introduced through ballast water and on hulls, dumping of waste, and through ship strikes.

Base data source:

Base data were obtained from Halpern et al 2008 -A global map of human impact on marine ecosystems¹⁵. Many smaller vessels were not included in this international dataset. Furthermore, there are also clearly some errors in the dataset as indicated by false tracks.

Methods:

Shipping intensity was based on the Halpern et al 2008 data. This data represented density of vessel tracks. We were interested in heavily used shipping lanes relative to normal BCLME vessel traffic levels only, therefore the international data were sub-sampled to the BCLME area. Resultant values were normalized using the d/d80 method ($d80 = 0.41253$), and hence converted to a 0-1 range. The bottom 20% of values (approximately equivalent to values below 0.069845) were re-assigned a 0 value.

Data archiving and GIS data links:

Shapefile: Namibia_Pressures_Grids.shp
Field: nam_ship

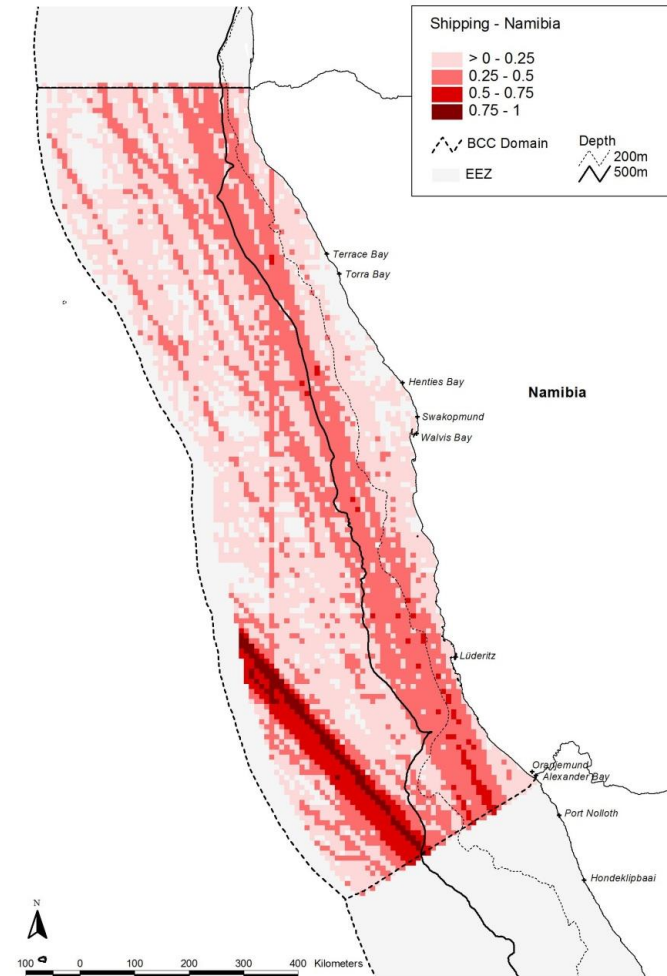


Figure 24: Namibia - shipping.

¹⁵ Halpern BS, Walbridge S, Selkoe KA, Kappel CV, Micheli F, D'Agrosa C, Bruno JF, Casey KS, Ebert C, Fox HE, Fujita R, Heinemann D, Lenihan HS, Madin EMP, Perry MT, Selig ER, Spalding M, Steneck R, Watson R. 2008. A global map of human impact on marine ecosystems. *Science* 319: 948-952.