Supplementary Material

North Atlantic basin-scale multi-criteria assessment database to inform effective management and protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems

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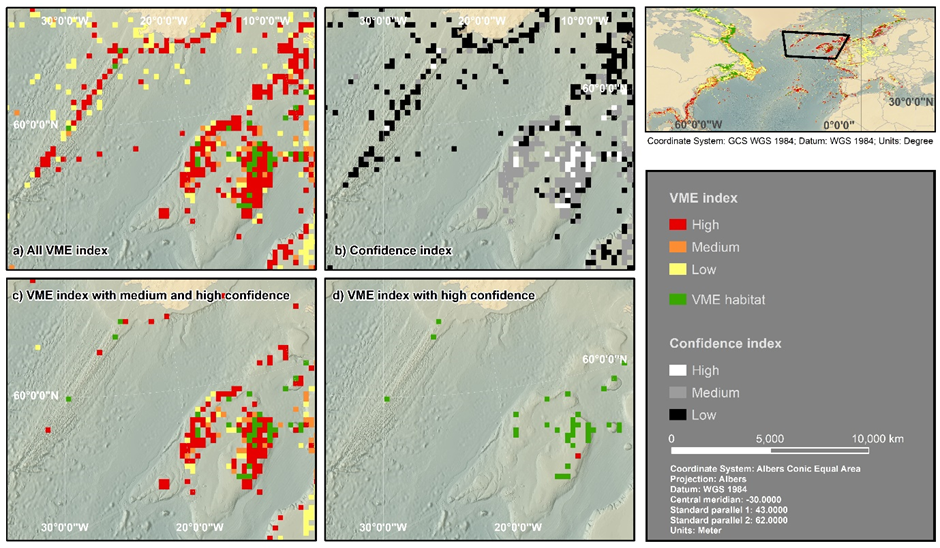
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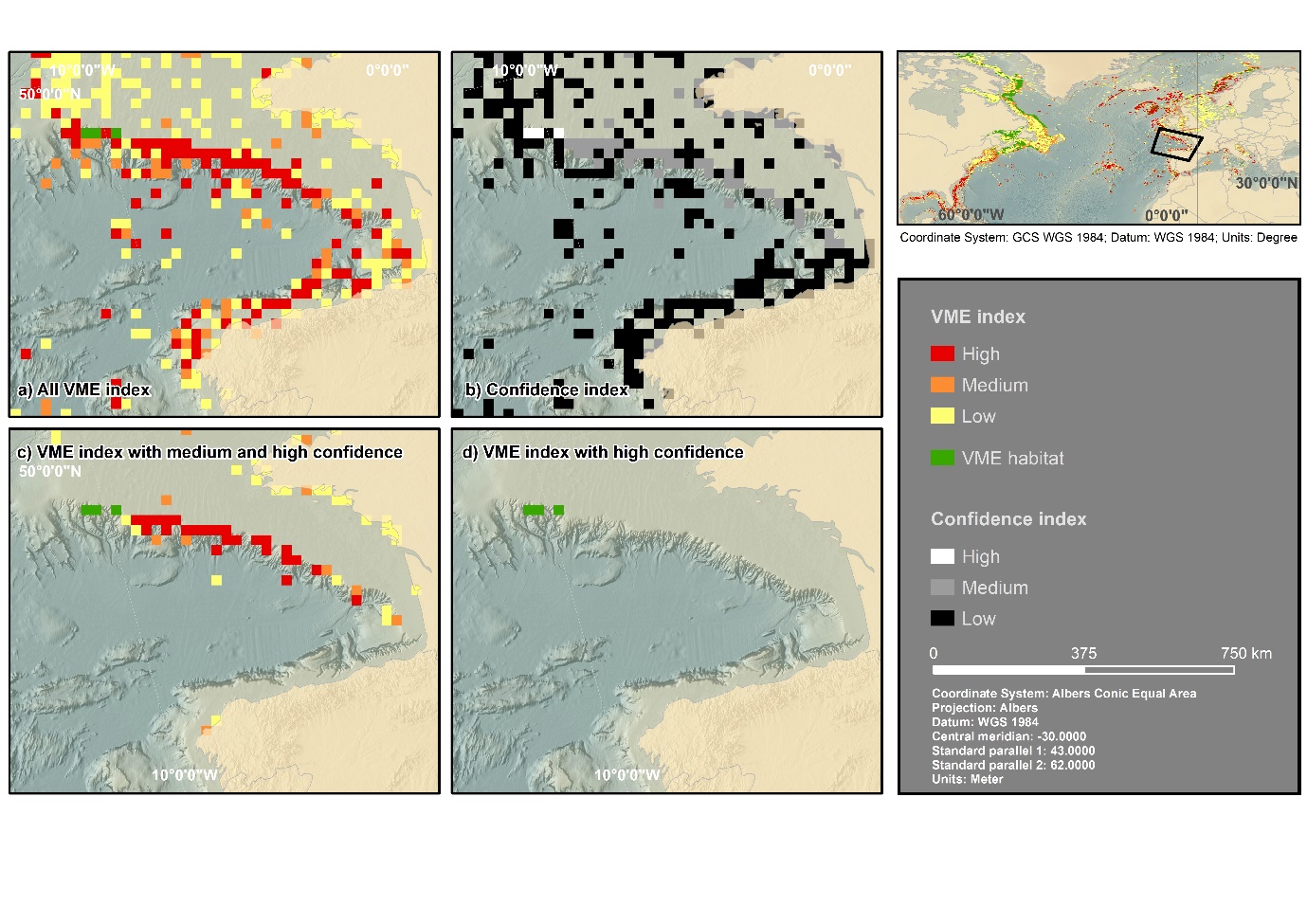
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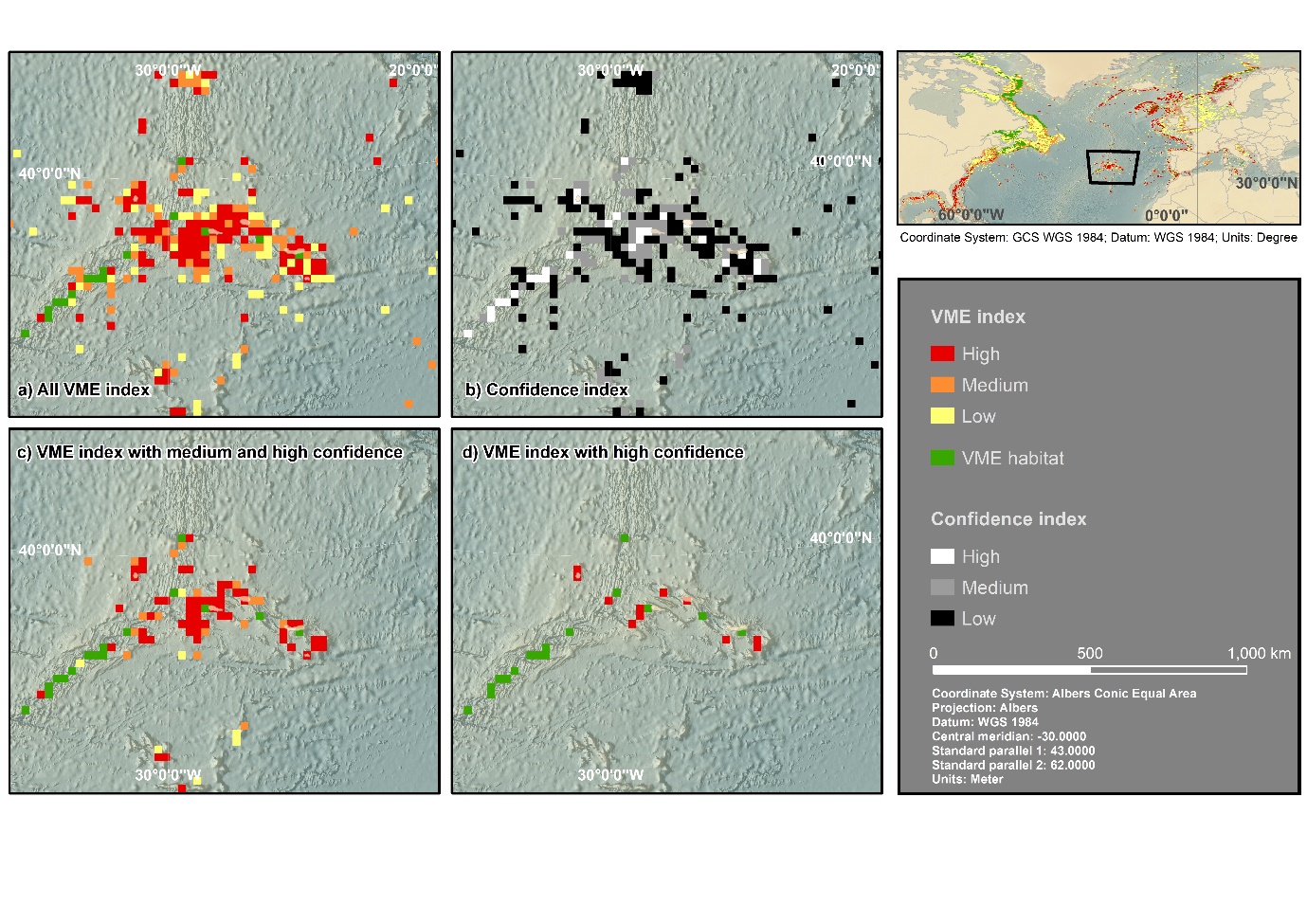
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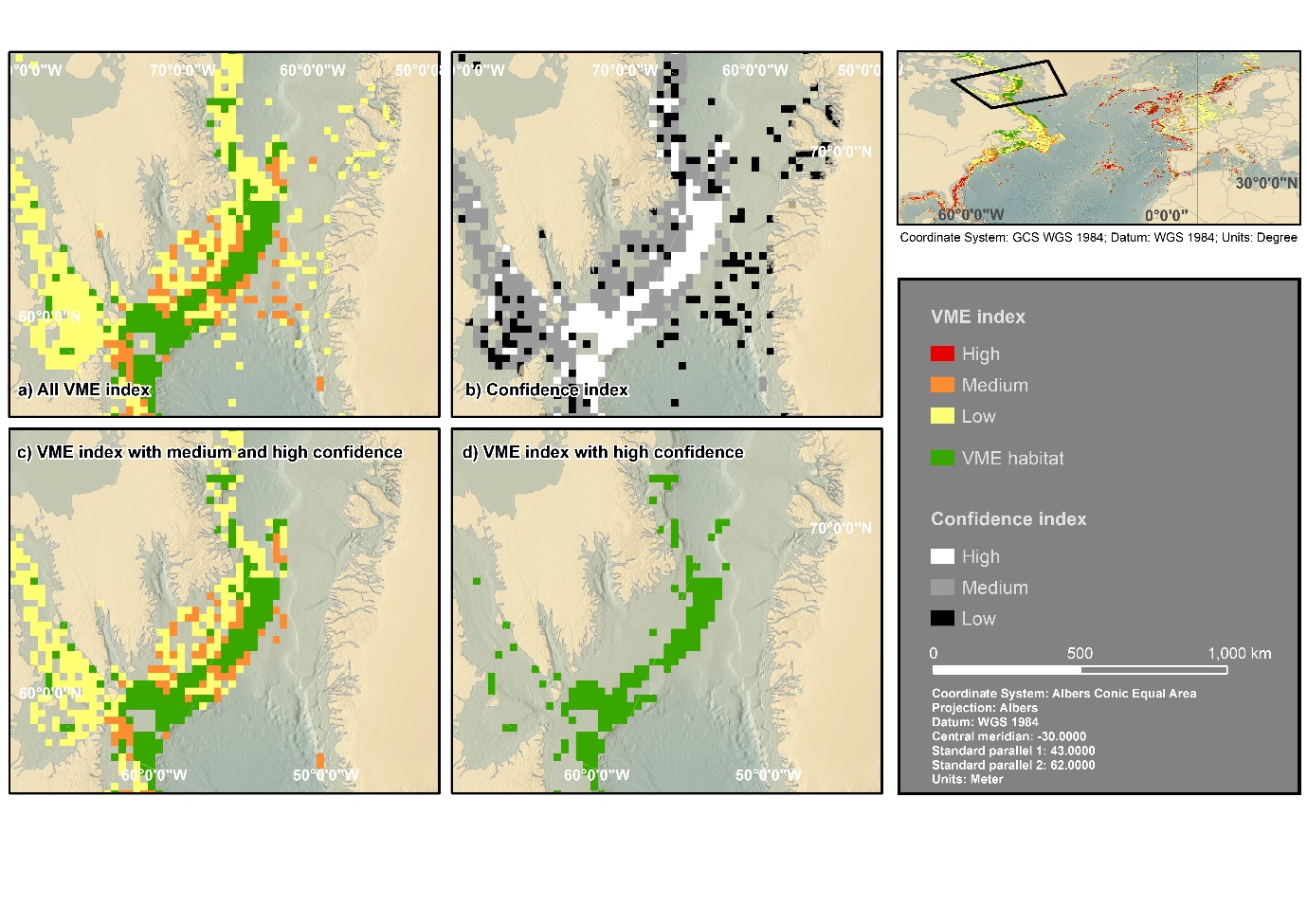
**Supplementary Figure 1.** Application of the North Atlantic basin-scale VME and confidence indexes datasets in Hatton-Rockall Bank and southern Iceland. a) VME index for all cells with data in the VME database; b) Confidence Index for all cells with data in the VME database; c) VME index for cells with medium and high confidence; and d) VME index for cells with high confidence.



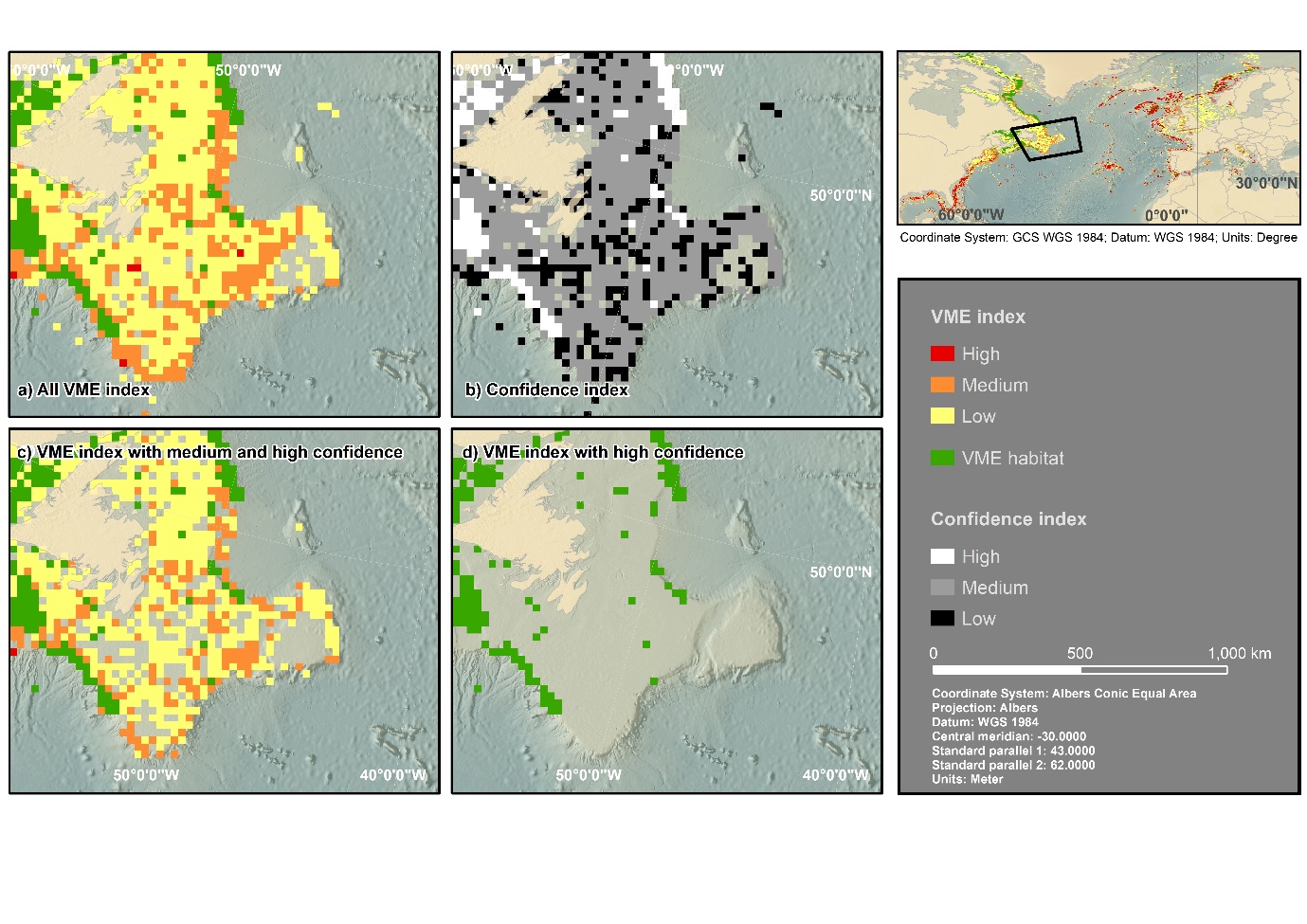
**Supplementary Figure 2.** Application of the North Atlantic basin-scale VME and confidence indexes datasets in the Bay of Biscay. a) VME index for all cells with data in the VME database; b) Confidence Index for all cells with data in the VME database; c) VME index for cells with medium and high confidence; and d) VME index for cells with high confidence.



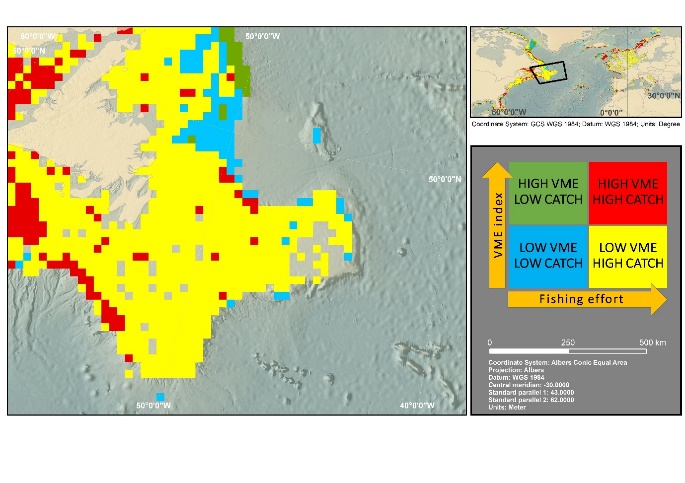
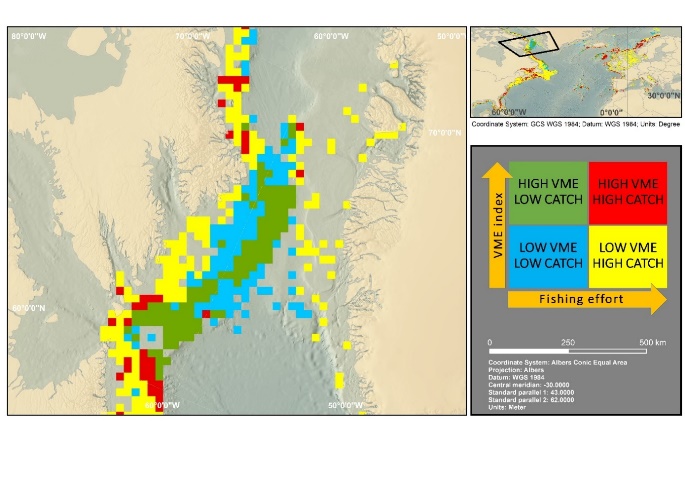
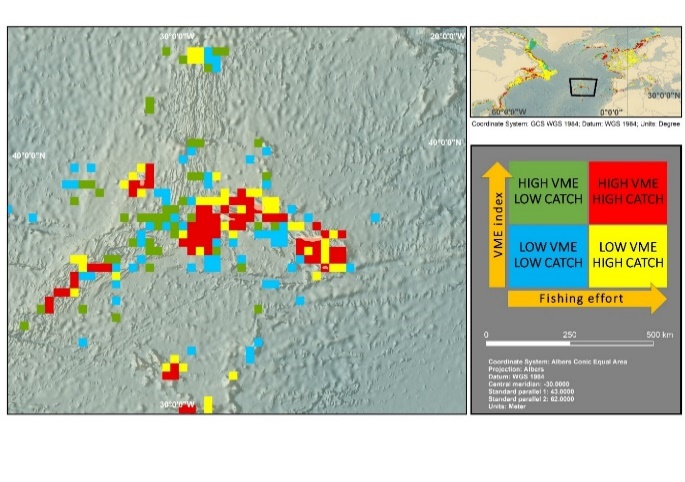
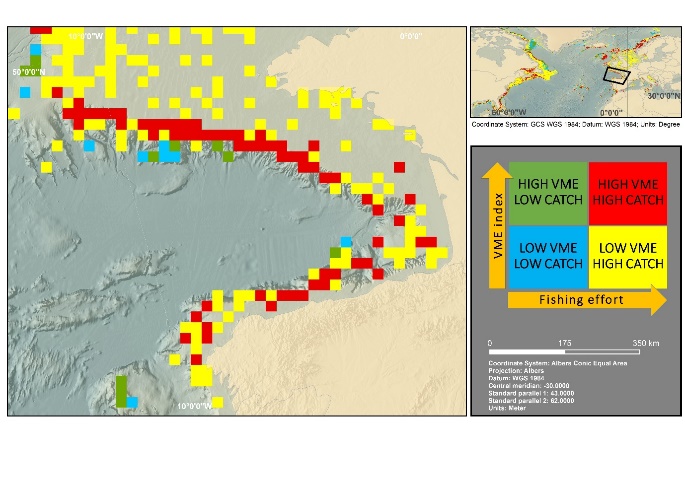
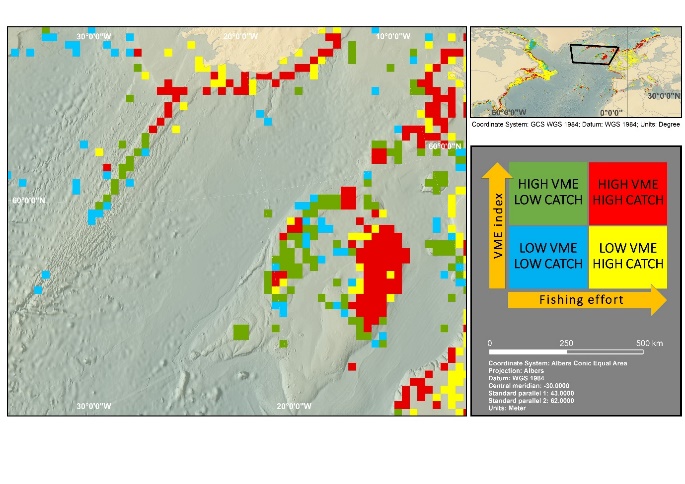
**Supplementary Figure 3.** Application of the North Atlantic basin-scale VME and confidence indexes datasets in the Azores. a) VME index for all cells with data in the VME database; b) Confidence Index for all cells with data in the VME database; c) VME index for cells with medium and high confidence; and d) VME index for cells with high confidence.



**Supplementary Figure 4.** Application of the North Atlantic basin-scale VME and confidence indexes datasets in the Davis Strait. a) VME index for all cells with data in the VME database; b) Confidence Index for all cells with data in the VME database; c) VME index for cells with medium and high confidence; and d) VME index for cells with high confidence.



**Supplementary Figure 5.** Application of the North Atlantic basin-scale VME and confidence indexes datasets in the Flemish Cap. a) VME index for all cells with data in the VME database; b) Confidence Index for all cells with data in the VME database; c) VME index for cells with medium and high confidence; and d) VME index for cells with high confidence.



**Supplementary Figure 6.** Application of the portfolio categories concept to the Rockall-Hatton Bank and southern Iceland (top-left), the Bay of Biscay (top right), the Azores (mid-left), the Davis Strait (mid right), and the Flemish Cap (bottom-left). Blue cells are low VME – low catch, yellow cells are low VME – high catch, green cells are high VME – low catch, and red cells are high VME – high catch.