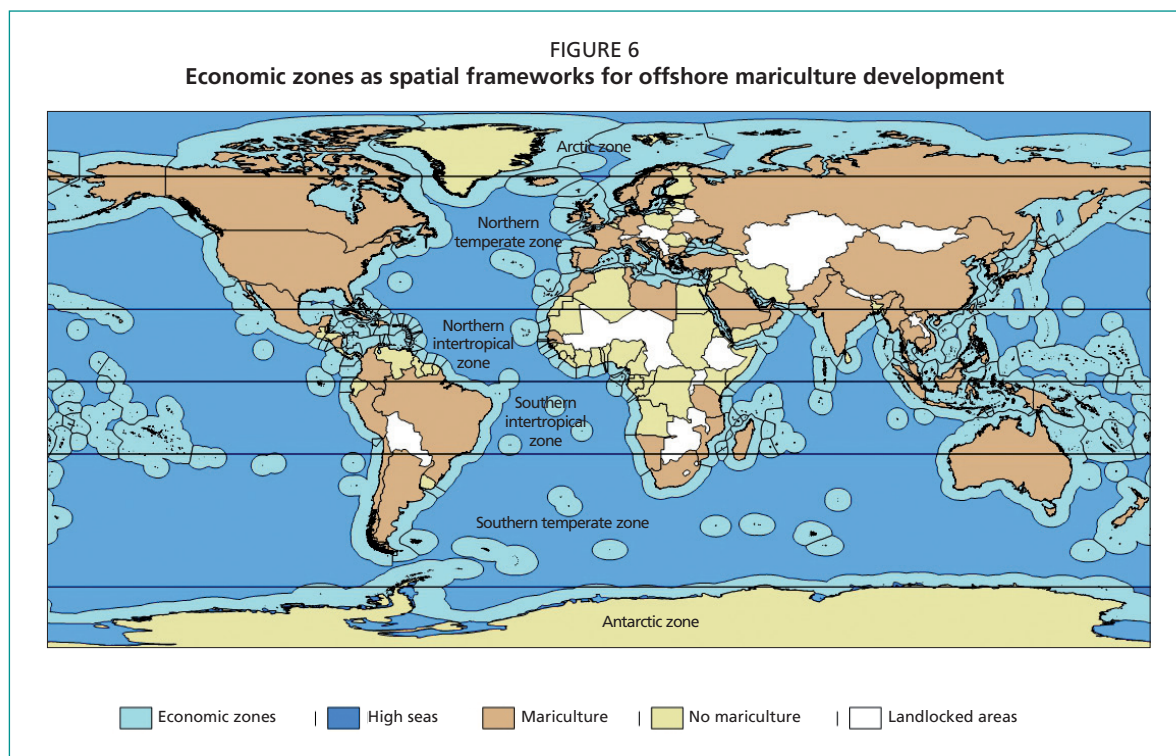
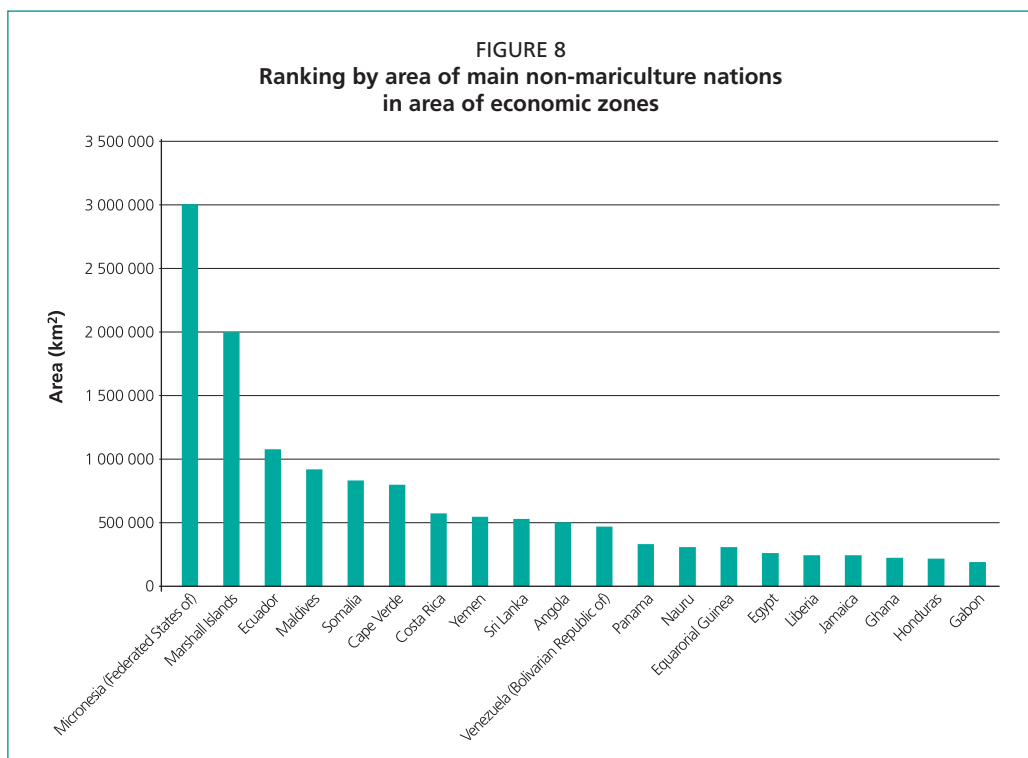
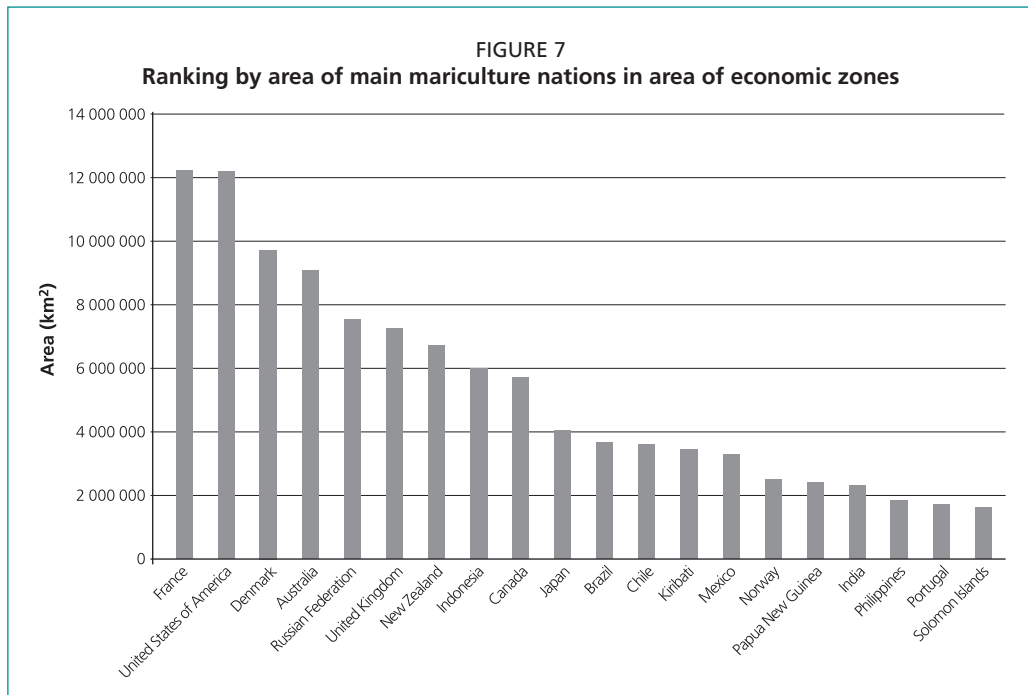


3. Exclusive economic zones as spatial frameworks for offshore mariculture development

Spatially defined reference frameworks are necessary for a common understanding of where and at what pace offshore mariculture can develop both within and among countries. Mariculture can develop from the coastline to well offshore, but, initially, it is unlikely to develop outside of the protection afforded by the legal jurisdictions of each maritime nation that has declared an EEZ. For these reasons, EEZs serve as the baseline areas within which offshore mariculture is assessed in this study. EEZs extend from a coastal baseline up to 200 nm (370.4 km) offshore and are subdivided into various kinds of maritime claims. The actual shapes and area expanses of EEZs are determined by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. At present, some countries have not declared an EEZ, and in the future free-floating or propelled mariculture structures may be developed for use on the high seas and they may pass from one EEZ to another. These cases will require special legal frameworks for international mariculture development.

The total EEZ area of nations already practising mariculture amounts to about 131 million km² and 33 million km² for non-mariculture nations (Figure 6). Among the mariculture nations with the largest EEZ area are the French Republic, the United States of America, and the Kingdom of Denmark when overseas territories are included (Figure 7). This underlines an important point: the land area of the homeland of a sovereign nation does not necessarily equate to its total EEZ area. In the case of the French Republic and the Kingdom of Denmark, it is their overseas territories that





contribute greatly to the total EEZ area of these sovereign nations. The same point emerges in considering the EEZ area of non-mariculture nations in which those with the largest EEZ areas – the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands – possess relatively small land areas (Figure 8). Antarctica figures as having a large EEZ because the Flanders Marine Institute, the makers of the EEZ digital map (Annex 1, Table A1.1), did not recognize national EEZ claims on the continent. Because there is no mariculture in Antarctica and nor is there likely to be any development there in the near future, this does not detract from this study and for this reason Antarctica is not further treated in this study.