

MEETING OF ARTISAN FISHERMEN & MARINE PROTECTED AREAS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

FINAL REPORT

**MARCH 17 AND 18, 2012
CAROVIGNO, ITALY**

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Consorzio di Gestione di
Torre Guaceto 
Area Marina Protetta - Riserva Naturale dello Stato

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The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of WWF-France, the MedPAN association, Port-Cros National Park, Federparchi, Torre Guaceto MPA, Programme Med.

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1. RATIONALE

The MedPAN network supports MPA artisan fishermen and considers that MPA artisan fisheries can be sustainable. While Mediterranean artisan fisheries are in decline, there are many positive case studies of sustainable artisan fisheries in the Mediterranean MPAs in particular. At the same time, the European Union does not give to Mediterranean artisan fisheries the recognition and support they deserve. The MedPAN network, through the MedPAN North project, has decided to address this issue by organizing a meeting of small-scale artisan fishermen and MPAs of the Mediterranean.

23 artisan fishermen and 24 MPAs from 6 countries - Croatia, France, Spain, Italy, Greece and Slovenia - attended the meeting in Carovigno, Italy, on March 16 and 17, 2012.



2. GOAL

- 1/ Promote sustainable fisheries in Mediterranean MPAs and outside
- 2/ Support Mediterranean artisan fisheries

3. MEETING OBJECTIVES :

- 1/ Enable exchange of experience between MPA fishermen in 8 countries.
- 2/ Show that professional artisan fisheries are compatible with MPA objectives and show how hurdles were overcome. Show the benefits common to managers with fishermen. Why are these case studies available in MPAs and not elsewhere? What worked? What did not work?
- 3/ Address some of the following issues :
 - The involvement of fishermen in the management and monitoring of marine reserves.
 - Competition other types of fisheries.
 - The contribution of artisan fisheries to MPAs cultural and economic heritage.
 - Development of alternative livelihoods: pescaturism for instance.

4/ Identify the actions that could help Mediterranean artisan fishermen. This could potentially include the development of projects with common objectives between fishermen and marine protected areas.

5/ Communicate on the sustainable aspects of artisan fisheries, in particular in MPAs, toward the European Union

6/ Introduce to MPA fishermen the Mediterranean Artisan Fishermen Platform initiative.

4. DETAILED REPORT ON THE PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

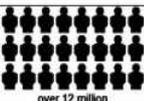
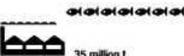
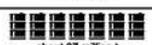
After the opening speech by the representative from the province of Brindisi, the Mayor of Carovigno and the President of the Torre Guaceto MPA, the moderator of the meeting, Marco Costantini, recalled the meeting's objectives.

Presentation 1: the multiple aspects of artisanal fishing in the Mediterranean - D. Paolo Guidetti, University of Salento and the fishermen of Torre Guaceto

Fishing has been practised all over the world since antiquity. In the Mediterranean artisanal fishing has different characteristics from one country to another but there are many common points between each fishery, such as for example the use of passive gear and the organisation of the profession into small family-sized businesses. Cultural issues also contribute to enhancing artisanal fishery.

Artisanal fishing is different from industrial fishing: it too impacts on the environment but its impact can be controlled and is far less significant than the impact of industrial fishing. Plenty of international literature has demonstrated that industrial fishing is not a sustainable practice and that it offers fewer benefits than artisanal fisheries: it employs fewer people than the small-scale fisheries, is more expensive and is more fuel-intensive.

These days artisanal fishing in the Mediterranean is experiencing difficulties and is in decline. In fact, the overall fishing economy has evolved considerably and industrial fishing has developed in response to globalisation.

FISHERY	LARGE SCALE 	SMALL SCALE 
BENEFITS		
Subsidies	\$\$\$\$\$ 25-27 billion	\$ 5-7 billion
Number of fishers employed	 about 1/2 million	 over 12 million
Annual catch for human consumption	 about 30 million t	 same: about 30 million t
Annual catch reduced to fishmeal and oils	 35 million t	 Almost none
Annual fuel oil consumption	 about 37 million t	 about 5 million t
Catch per tonne of fuel consumed	 =  1-2 t	 =  4-8 t
Fish and other sea life discarded at sea	 8-20 million tonnes	 Very little

On the other hand, other forms of pressure on the resource have increased such as recreational fishing which is considered to be a competitive, often unfair practice by artisan fishermen due to the fact that some recreational fishermen sell their catches while not paying any taxes.

From a cultural point of view, throughout the Mediterranean, common points can be found between the fishermen because the Mediterranean basin has always been a major commercial crossroads fostering trade. Tuna and Grouper have always been fished there. Fishing is represented in many ways in the local cultures (engravings, statues, objects, tables, etc.). This heritage needs to be preserved. Culinary traditions are also essential: fisherman's restaurant, fisherman's hotel, the designation "fisherman" is still very enticing. In the Mediterranean, we cannot afford to lose the heritage of artisanal fishing because it is part of our identity.

The association between the managers of marine protected areas and small-scale fishermen is essential for biodiversity and cultural diversity conservation.

Discussion

A fisherman from the Cap de Creus Natural Park in Spain demonstrated that small-scale fishing in the Mediterranean is a multi-purpose activity. Nevertheless, some fishermen are no longer able to make a profit from their business properly and have to develop other complementary professional activities (olive oil production, vegetable garden, restaurants and shops).

The manager of the Scandola Nature Reserve in Corsica stated that the survival of small-scale fishing depends on the proper conservation of the natural environment and of the fishing resource. Therefore, a lot of work has to be done on the natural environment.

The representative from the Secretaría General de Pesca in Spain noted that it is indeed essential to establish co-management between the managers of the marine protected areas and fishermen to preserve the natural environment and stressed that sustainability does not require significant public investment.

The manager of the National Park of Port-Cros stressed that there is not a single form of fishing in the European Union, but very different forms of fishing. Yet until recently European regulation was based on trawler fishing in the Atlantic, clearly unsuitable to the situation in the Mediterranean. Furthermore, it is essential to realise that the resource and fishermen are in decline, and in order to save the resource the European Union must look at all the pressures on the biomass - poaching, recreational fishing, pollution of the marine environment, etc. In the French Mediterranean, the Prud'homies (institutions for fishermen in the French Mediterranean Sea) have always understood this relationship between protecting the environment and the practice of fishing. That is why the Prud'homies have often put more restrictive regulations in place than those of the European Commission (e.g. the fishing reserves).



Pep Alou, fisherman at the Cabrera Archipelago National Park - Spain. The park has seen 20% of fishing licenses disappear in 10 years.

The representative from the National Park of Cabrera emphasised that the park has seen 20% of fishing licenses disappear in 10 years. The administration should be dealing with this problem more actively. There should be more awareness-raising among young people and children.

French small-scale fishermen highlight the difficulty of getting their messages across at community level. Thus, in France, the 34 Prud'homies of the Mediterranean are going to join forces to add more weight to their actions.

An Italian manager has discussed the difficulty of recruiting young fishermen to the profession. Work is needed on the reasons why young people do not want to join the profession.

The fisherman from the Medes islands, who is also a marine biologist, pointed out that artisanal fishing can be sustainable from an environmental, economic and also social point of view. He stressed the importance of promoting fishing products and reducing the fishing effort.

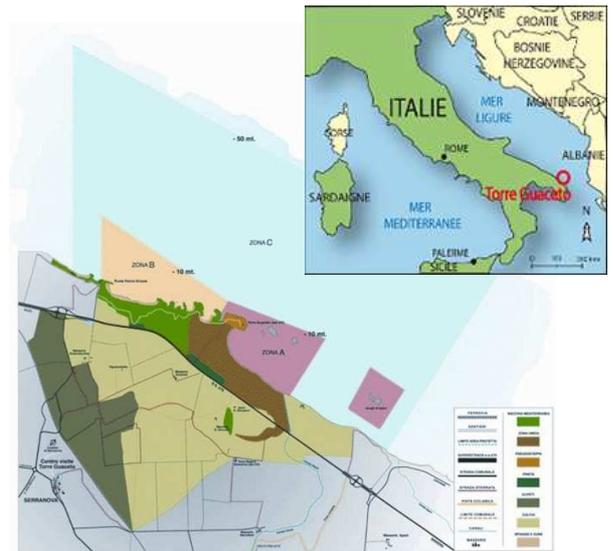
The fisherman representing the Prud'homie of Martigues mentioned the average age of fishermen and emphasised the current administrative complexity involved in training for the profession of fisherman. In the past you could become a fisherman by training on-the-job. An artisanal fisherman is someone who takes on apprentices. Now you need too many qualifications... The concept of learning from experienced fishermen has been forgotten.

A. SESSION 1: SHARING EXPERIENCES

Presentation 2: The involvement of fishermen in the management of marine protected areas - Artisanal fishing close to the marine protected area of Torre Guaceto: an example of adaptive co-management on the path to sustainability (Italy) - D. Paolo Guidetti, University of Salento and the fishermen of Torre Guaceto

The marine protected area of Torre Guaceto extends over 2200 ha, with 8 km of coastline. Its maximum depth is 50 metres. The reserve is divided into 3 separate regulatory areas.

The Torre Guaceto territory has always been a site frequented by fishermen. Upon its creation in 1991 fishing was initially prohibited in the marine protected area. With the help of scientists and fishermen, the managers have established a management plan where a partial opening of the reserve for fishing was decided on. A joint governance with the fishermen was then put in place to ensure adapted and regulated co-management: the fishing effort has been determined and the fishing gear selected in order to limit the impact of fishing on juveniles, benthic communities and habitats (length of trammel nets and mesh size).



Fishing is now regulated in the marine protected area and only artisanal fishing can be practised in zone C once a week and by a limited number of artisanal fishermen (all other forms of fishing are prohibited).

Fishing catches monitored inside and outside of the MPA show that catches on the inside of the MPA are 2 to 3 times higher than those on outside of the MPA.

The fishermen have formed a cooperative of fishermen from Torre Guaceto, bringing the fishermen together in an association, with the idea of fishing less and selling more. They are clearly identified and speak with one voice. They have received public awards and have created a quality mark. Communication has been essential to enhance the marine protected area of Torre Guaceto and its co-management with the fishermen.

To conclude, it should be noted that the reserve effect goes well beyond the spatial limits of the MPA. Currentology studies have shown a diffusion of the larvae produced at Torre Guaceto all along the Salento coast. The benefits of the MPA are positive for the whole region.

Discussion

A fisherman from Torre Guaceto emphasised the good results of this co-management experience, which translates into good returns for his business. He wanted to thank the scientists for having made fishermen understand what sustainable fishing is. He also stressed the need to promote his business among the younger generation and intervenes himself as a fisherman in schools.



Fishermen of Torre Guaceto – Italy

A question was asked about the cost of taking over the monitoring of the fishing at Torre Guaceto. The operators answered that these monitoring actions are financed by the Ministry of the Environment. On the other hand, the experimental activities (some market studies, research on processed products) are financed by European funds.

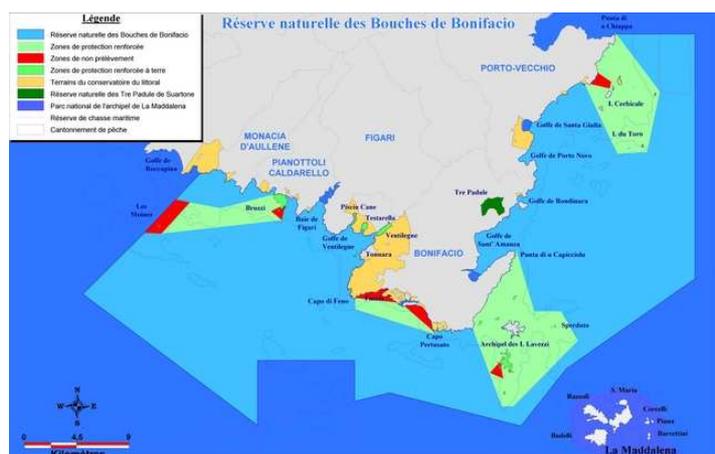
In Italy, the regulations do not permit fishermen to be part of the management bodies of marine protected areas. On the other hand, each site is free to get involved in management activities such as the creation of the management plan and the defining of the MPA rules (such as at Torre Guaceto). It is also the case in Tavolara, a larger Sardinian MPA, which started a similar co-management process and approached fishermen to establish regulations.

The fisherman from the Medes islands stressed that the Medes Islands reserve is very small. 10 artisanal fishermen fish there but they are sceptical and are not interested in a co-management process. They want to continue working as before. What can they be told to convince them?

The fisherman from Torre Guaceto recalled what led them to adopt the co-management process: "In 2001, surveillance of the reserve was applied, we therefore felt that a part of the sea had been "stolen" from us. We poached for 4 years. Afterwards we were able to discuss and collaborate. We now fish 4 times more than 10 years ago. If we can show the fishermen that by collaborating, the returns are better, we can convince them. "

Presentation 2: Why artisanal fisheries, and marine protected areas can operate well together - Natural Reserve of the Strait of Bonifacio: 20 years of fish stock management in partnership with the fishing Prud'homie of Bonifacio (France) - Marie-Catherine Santoni and Jean-Michel Culioli, Representatives from the Natural Reserve of the Strait of Bonifacio (RNBB)

The reserve extends over 800 square kilometres, 15% of the site is in an enhanced protection zone and 5% in a full protection area. The reserve was created in 1999. Nevertheless, the fishermen had already created fishing reserves in the past and the prud'homie's regulation already imposed a minimum mesh size which was then applied by decree to the entire MPA.



In 1992, monitoring of the fishing effort and the artisanal fishing production was established as a result of a partnership between the fishermen and the reserve. This partnership is reflected by service provisions: the fishermen can be paid to participate in studies: experimental trap fishing, etc. These studies are on-going, but require research funding from the local authorities and European funds. These monitoring actions have already produced interesting results, such as the

stability of the fishing effort and the yields per fishing vessel. Yields per boat are high in the RNBB (30 to 40 kg per vessel per day). The fish stock of the RNBB is in good health. 5 species represent 60% of the average yields per boat: *Palinurus elephas*, *Scorpaena scrofa*, *Sciaena umbra*, *Dentex dentex* and *Maja squinado*.

Moreover, analyses of catches have been carried out and comparisons made between the areas of enhanced protection and the areas of free exploitation: in the areas of enhanced protection, where spearfishing is prohibited, the yields of the nets are multiplied by two. The catches of species susceptible to spearfishing (sargo breams, wrasses, capons, etc.) multiplied by 1.8 between 2004 and 2008.

Lobster fishing represents 60% of income for Corsican fishermen. In view of the signs of overexploitation of the species, the reserve has put in place a lobster plan and experimented with fishing traps since 2006, at the request of the regional committee on fisheries and marine farms of Corsica. Lobster marking campaigns are also under way to study the impact of the reserve effect on fisheries.

Sea urchins are also monitored by the fishermen who take part in counting campaigns. The objective is to establish a fishing plan for sea urchins.

While, elsewhere in the Mediterranean, fishing is in decline, 20 years of scientific monitoring the Natural Reserve of the Strait of Bonifacio shows a stability of the fishing effort, the yields per boat and of production, and an increase in Catches per Unit of Effort (CPUE) for species targeted by recreational boaters. The reserve is also a victim of its success as regards recreational fishing which is increasing and wants to implement regulations adapted to this use.

Strengthened by these results showing that an MPA can be a good tool for fisheries management, Corsica has decided to strengthen its network of marine protected areas in partnership with the regional committee on fisheries and marine farms in Corsica and the prud'homie of Corsica.

Discussion



Eric Villain, 1st Prud'homme
of Balagne, Calvi, Corse – France

The Italian fishermen are wondering about the role of the prud'homie in France because they do not have this structure in their territory. A Corsican fisherman states that a prud'homie establishes a management mode on its territory by voting for fishing opening and closing dates, mesh sizes, fishing gear times,... It also has a police power and the Prud'hommes are sworn officers. When an offence is detected, it is either settled to reach an amicable agreement with a simple warning, or the Prud'homme notes the offence and the rule (for example, it notes an illegally placed net). It also has the right to sanction and may report the crime to maritime affairs, which can lead to a loss of license, a fine, etc.

As regards the Natural Park of the Cap de Creus in Spain, the fishermen would like to participate in the management of the

reserve, fishing and monitoring, which would enable a reduction in costs and to provide additional funding for artisanal fishermen. They regret the presence of the trawlers, which are not checked enough. From the point of view of the Spanish government, monitoring in the marine reserves is insufficient due to a lack of funding. For this reason, it is important that the fishermen are trained in monitoring and participate in it. There is a need to combine different techniques such as equipping vessels with modern technologies (geo-localisation by satellite) with checks of the condition at sea and monitoring by the fishermen.

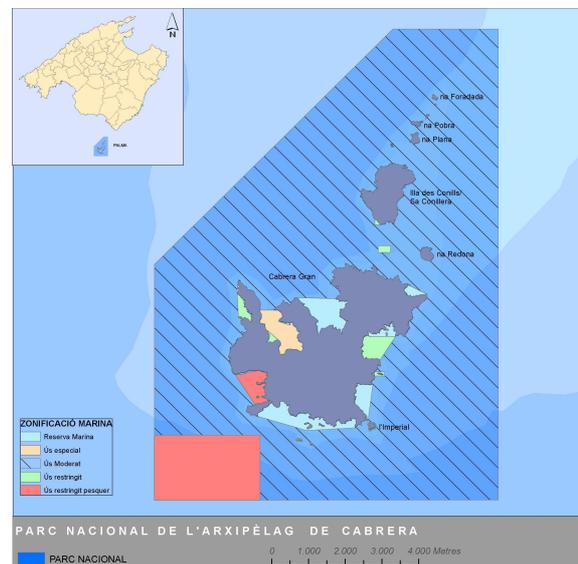
At the Natural Reserve of the Strait of Bonifacio, there is a genuine collaborative process between the surveillance teams from the reserve and the fishermen to ensure that the artisanal fishermen can make a decent living from their activity, i.e. sustainably drawing on their resources.

The manager of the National Park of Port-Cros mentioned an experiment to coordinate all surveillance bodies in the department of the Var (France) which has helped reduce offences. We cannot get to "zero offences" but we need to arrive at socially acceptable rates and show that those who are caught really are punished.

Presentation 3: The involvement of fishermen in the monitoring of marine protected areas: the case study of the Cabrera Archipelago National Park (Spain) - Jose Amengual Ramis, Head of Section, Cabrera Archipelago National Park

The Cabrera Archipelago National Park was founded in 1991. Since 2001, fishing has been regulated in Cabrera by a specific Sectoral Plan. The fishing plan deals with four fundamental questions: what do we fish? How do we fish? How much do we fish? And who fishes?

In Cabrera, only professional artisanal fishing is permitted (without trawl or surface longlines), recreational fishing is prohibited, including spearfishing. Only four local *cofradías* can fish in the MPA. The fishing activity is only permitted in certain areas. The number of fishing boats is limited: 20 boats a week can fish with a license. The number of licenses is managed by the guild.



Regular monitoring of the activity of professional fishing and the fishing effort has been put in place by the managers of the national park, as well as a log of the catches by the fishermen. Managers have therefore created a fishing effort database and a geographic information system. The information is collected in three ways:

- via the surveillance patrols who fill out forms by noting the boats and gears found on their routes (as a complement to the GIS system);

- via the fishermen who fill out a fishing form when they fish in the perimeter of the park. Then we look at the concordance of these data with the observations of surveillance patrols;
- via scientific monitoring actions: monitoring of landings, evaluation of the CPUE, underwater visual census surveys.

Lobster fishing is one of the types of fishing performed within the perimeter of the national park. The market value of lobster is very high. The problem with lobster fishing is that in the 1960s the fishermen abandoned the trap to catch this species in a trammel net (best CPUE and better effectiveness). However the trammel net is a non-selective fishing gear. In addition, the Cabrera seabed is characterised by the presence of maerl, a threatened habitat and of great ecological value. And net blockages can destroy maerl. As a result, a project has been launched to study the effectiveness of lobster fishing traps with the purpose of reviving the use of this fishing gear.



Test fisheries have taken place with 4 different types of traps. The results indicate that in the local conditions of the waters of Cabrera, the traditional Mallorcan fishing traps have a higher yield than Japanese traps: they catch more lobster and of larger sizes, the by-catches are reduced and they are cheaper. Nevertheless, their performance remains inferior to that of trammel nets.

Discussion:

In the Cap de Creus, the fishermen use fish traps with bait and trammel nets to fish for lobster. They have worked with a company to try to relocate the lobster. Despite the scarcity of the resource, the sales price is twice as low as before.

In the Medes islands, the reserve is small in size. The lobster stock in the reserve has been reconstituted. On the other hand, outside of the reserve, lobster has been fished too intensively because the trammel net was used too much. Only 18% of catches exceeded the minimum size. 4 or 5 years are needed to regenerate the stock and for fishing to become profitable again.

In Corsica, it seems that the trammel net has also impacted on the lobster resource. The Natural Reserve of the Strait of Bonifacio has also tested the use of fish traps in the fishing reserve. The results showed that plastic traps had a higher level of profitability in the reserve while traditional traps had a higher profitability outside of the reserve. Generally, trap is not profitable at sites where trammel nets are used. By contrast, on the sites where the net fishing is prohibited, the trap is very profitable. For the trap to work, the density of lobster must be sufficiently significant. The trammel net should perhaps be prohibited for several years in exchange for financial compensation to allow time for the resource to reconstitute itself.

The MPA are laboratories for sustainable development. The challenge then is to move environmental engineering to a broader territorial scale. This is the conclusion of our discussion on lobster.

Presentation 4: Network of Spanish fisheries reserves: lessons learned and case studies - Silvia Revenga, Head of Department, Subd. Gral. de Protección de los Recursos Pesqueros, Dirección General de Recursos Pesqueros y de Agricultura, Secretaria General de Pesca, Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentacion y Medio Ambiente.

The Spanish Ministry for Agriculture, Food and the Environment created a network of Spanish marine reserves several years ago. The objective of the marine reserves in Spain is protection, regeneration and the development of resources of interest to fishing to maintain sustainable fisheries enabling artisanal fishermen from the area to preserve their traditional way of life.

This network comprises 10 marine reserves, 7 in the Mediterranean and 3 in the Canary Islands. 5 are managed by the State and 5 are managed under co-management between the State and the autonomous regions.

To establish a marine reserve in Spain, scientific and socio-economic studies are carried out in order to obtain a consensus among stakeholders.

The instruments for managing marine reserves are the following:

- Establishment of a zoning (fully protected zone, buffer zone, etc.). All of the reserves have a fully protected zone, where fishing is prohibited and only scientific studies are permitted.
- Establishment of fishing licenses: marine reserves do not have the objective of promoting or prohibiting artisanal fishing but of ensuring the sustainability of the activity.
- Ban on spearfishing in all reserves. Recreational fishing is sometimes permitted.
- Regular monitoring of activities work.
- Awareness-raising and environmental education actions.

RESERVA	R INTEGRAL (ha)	RESTO (ha) Categoría VI. UICN	TOTAL (ha)
	Categoría I. UICN		
ISLA DE ALBORAN	695	955	1,650
CABO DE GATA- NIJAR	1,665	2,988	4,653
CABO DE PALOS- ISLAS HORMIGAS	267	1,664	1,931
CALA RATJADA- LEVANTE DE MALLORCA	2,000	9,285	11,285
ISLAS COLUMBRETES	3,112	2,381	5,493
ISLA GRACIOSA	1,076	69,363	70,439
MASIA BLANCA	457		457
ISLA DE LA PALMA	837	2,618	3,455
PUNTA DE LA RESTINGA- MAR DE LAS CALMAS	237	943	1,180
ISLA DE TABARCA	78	1,676	1,754
Total	10,424	91,873	102,297
%	10.2	89.8	100

To implement this management, the General Secretariat of the Fishing has a service that provides the scientific coordination and monitoring of the reserves by means of several technical means.

The evolution of marine reserves is studied by means of monitoring actions which are divided into:

- Monitoring fishing: evolution of the resource
- Monitoring of the condition of marine biodiversity: evolution of habitats and biological communities, global impacts such as global warming of surface waters, marine invasive species.
- Other monitoring actions: impacts of uses, socio-economic aspects.

Below are a few statistics on the reserve effect in the Columbretes Islands after 20 years of protection of the marine reserve:

- 11% of annual catches are exported as net biomass of the marine reserve.
- The density of lobster and the production of eggs is 5 to 20 times higher in the marine reserve than outside of it.
- Increase - multiplication by 6 - of the regional production of lobster eggs attributable to the major breeders that the marine reserve houses.

www.magrama.es/es/pesca/

The information letter on marine reserves is available at:

www.reservasmarinas.net

Discussion:

Recreational fishing has just been regulated at Spanish national level. In the marine reserves, recreational boat fishing is prohibited but shore fishing is permitted. There is also traditional recreational fishing. In the Balearic Islands, recreational boat subsistence fishing is widely practised. However, it is difficult to distinguish between occasional recreational, traditional and tourist fishers. Managers are considering restricting the number of recreational fishing vessels due to the enormous growth in this activity.

Presentation 5: Development of alternative activities: Pesca-tourism (fishing tourism) in the Var: Example of artisanal fishing diversification towards tourism (France) - Guillaume Sellier, Manager, National Park of Port-Cros



The principle of pesca-tourism is passengers board a professional fishing vessel in such a way as to make them experience fishing as a profession. There are several advantages to his activity:

- Economic advantage: additional financial income through a tourist activity
- Social advantage: recognition of a previously unknown professional activity.
- Cultural advantage: promotion of a territory, an art of living and a culture
- Environmental benefit: the activity of pesca-tourism creates less pressure on the resource while guaranteeing a minimum income for the professional fishermen. For an equivalent income, the weight of fish is divided by three.

In the Var (south of France), a pesca-tourism project was established over 3 years and in 3 steps:

1 Preparatory phase - January to June 2009

- Study of local fisheries
- Definition of pesca-tourism carried out by the fishermen according to their boats and types of fishing
- Study of the regulations and getting boats to conform with standards for transporting passengers
- Establishment of a tourism offer: marketing and communication of the pesca-tourism offer ensured by the Inter- Municipal Tourism Offices of the Var
- Organisation of a regional press campaign on the pesca-tourism in the Var experiment

2 Pilot Phases - June 2009 to June 2010

- A large-scale experiment carried out from June to September 2009 by volunteer vessels.
- An assessment procedure was drawn up with the Directorate of Maritime Affairs of the Var, and the partners of the project, in order to gather information for regulating the transportation of passengers as part of pesca-tourism.
- A quality approach to this activity has been undertaken: Creation of Pesca-tourism certification.

3 Development Phase over 18 months - June 2010 to December 2011

- This step led to the definitive establishment of pesca-tourism based on a specific regulatory framework.
- In 2009, 5 vessels were permitted to practise pesca-tourism with two crew members and in 2010, a sixth vessel was authorised with a single crew member. 300 passengers were welcomed (2 passengers per ship on average).
- The increase in the daily income of fishermen rose to between 30 and 70% of their usual income;
- This project has changed the image of fishing among the general public and is changing the attitudes of some fishermen.
- An evaluation system of the service provided has been put in place to certify that this activity is only carried out in the context of professional fishing.

Extensions to this project are already being contemplated:

- "Itti-tourism": tasting products and catering, dinner at the fisherman's home;
- Staying with the fisherman;
- Association with other local products;

The project has enabled us to follow up on some good ideas:

- The development of pesca-tourism must take into account the specific nature of local fisheries and the environment;
- The principle adopted in the Var has been not to transform fishing vessels into vessels for transporting passengers; the people are there to discover the art of living;
- For such a project to succeed it must be a central facilitator capable of uniting all the resources;
- For the fishermen pesca-tourism remains a diversification activity of their main fishing activity. The development of pesca-tourism must be based on volunteering.

Contact: Rémi Bellia – Association Marco Polo – remibellia@marcopolo.asso.fr

Discussion

A fisherman from the Var welcomes the opportunity to share his profession with civil society. When tourists disembark after a fishing tourism trip they no longer have the same view of fishing. They arrive with a negative view portrayed by the media especially of industrial fishing and discover an environmentally-friendly artisanal activity. But fishing tourism should be considered as a complementary activity because the fishermen remain maritime professionals.

In Cap de Creus in Catalonia, the regulations prohibit tourists from boarding fishing vessels. So the fishermen have come up with an alternative and created another tourist product: when the fishermen go out to sea, the tourists board another boat and observe the fishing activity by following the fishing boat. When the fishing vessel is at a standstill and secures its parts, the tourists can then board the fishing vessel for a moment.

On-board their boat, the fishermen explain their business, their gear, the territory where they work in. As soon as the fishing boat returns to port the tourists are transferred to the other vessel. Tourists are offered two packages. The half-day trip takes place from 6.30 am to 10.30 am from Porto de la Selva and Llança. Another one-day package is available in which tourists have lunch with the fishermen at sea. Ultimately, the fishermen from Cap de Creus appreciate not having tourists permanently on their fishing vessel.

In Corsica, it is now possible to pick up two passengers per captain and three passengers if there are two professional fishermen on-board. A sea outing costs about €50 per person, and lasts for 4 hours maximum if the boat is not equipped with a toilet, otherwise 6 hours. The boat should not travel more than 1 mile away from the coast. A clear notice board and supplementary insurance is required.

In the framework of the EFF group, Axis 4 in Corsica, a ship has been specially adapted in the Strait of Bonifacio to board 12 people while enabling the fisherman to continue with his professional activity.

PESCA TURISME CAPDECREUS



La pesca turisme és una nova forma de descobrir el Cap de Creus i la pesca artesanal

La "pesca turisme" és una nova forma de descobrir el Cap de Creus, una manera nova de contemplar la pesca artesanal.

The "fishing tourism" is a new way to discover Cap de Creus, a new way to look at the fishing craft.

La "pêche tourisme" est une nouvelle façon de découvrir le cap de Creus, un nouveau moyen de regarder la pêche artisanale.



**Una jornada de mar intensa
Un turisme diferent**

Pesca Turisme Cap de Creus. Una jornada de mar intensa, un turisme diferent
Fishing and Tourism Cap de Creus. An intensive sea journey, a different tourism
Pêche et Tourisme Cap de Creus. Un journé en mer intense, un tourisme différent



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For the managers of the reserve, this practice is a springboard to promoting the marine protected area and professional fishing. There are also plans to develop an environmental education project by taking children on-board.

In the National Park of Cabrera, managers are also trying to set up pesca-tourism. Pesca-tourism should involve a reduced fishing effort on the marine area. It should only be for financial assistance.

A discussion has been undertaken on aquaculture. In Spain, the installation of new aquaculture sites is prohibited in the existing marine reserves, however, it is possible to create marine reserves where there are existing aquaculture sites.

Presentation 6: Contribution of artisanal fisheries in the cultural and economic heritage: The tonarella and traditional fishing experience in Camogli (Italy) - Prof. Riccardo Cattaneo, University of Genoa and Ancona, and Maddalena Fava, Ziguele association



Tonnarella style fishing is an ancient, traditional fishing method practised in Camogli, from April to September. This fishing gear is fixed for several months and the net is raised 3 times a day. The fishermen provide information for logs. The oldest data dates back to 1890, and other data sets were acquired in the 1950s. In 1999, the marine protected area of Portofino was created.

The monitoring of this practise is now managed by the managers of Portofino and the fishermen. These monitoring activities have enabled us to track the evolution of species and the arrival of new species over a long period, showing the impact of climate change on the resource.

The cultural association Ziguele dedicates its efforts to saving this traditional local fishing practice and facilitates a pesca-tourism activity, where tourists board a dinghy and take part in *tonnarella* style fishing.

B. SESSION 2: COMMON PROBLEMS, SOLUTIONS, AND THE NEED FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

Presentation 7: The Mediterranean platform of artisanal fishermen - Christian Decugis - fisherman, Miquel Sacanell - fisherman & Marta Cavalle, Platform Coordinator

As part of the overhaul of the Common Fisheries Policy, which to date only pays limited attention to small-scale fishing, some Mediterranean artisanal fishermen have grouped together in order to defend artisanal fishing in order to better represent this activity on a European scale. The Mediterranean Platform of Artisanal Fishermen was officially created in the form of an association in July 2011, providing visibility for the Mediterranean artisanal fishing sector. The platform was designed to strengthen the voice of artisanal fishermen and the representation of the artisanal fishing regarding decisions concerning their future.

This platform includes fishermen from several communities and generations from Greece, Italy, Spain and France. The platform is based on the groupings of fishermen in each country, such as the small-scale trade union of the Languedoc-Roussillon. The platform remains open to other partners who share common goals.

The platform has put together a vision for the future and wants to defend the artisanal fishing sector as:

- a way of living and working and with a future;
- a potentially on-going, sustainable, and environmentally-friendly activity;
- a solid pillar of the economies and societies of the Mediterranean coastline.



The fishermen from the platform would like the marine resources to remain a heritage for society. They hope that the fishermen can be agents of change regarding sustainability and the guardians or sentinels of the various aquatic ecosystems in which they perform their work.

Via the platform, small-scale Mediterranean fishermen want to be represented and to participate in the decision-making processes, and obtain representation to tackle local, regional, national and European administrations (currently, for example, they want to have a voice and influence the reform process of the Common Fisheries Policy). They claim the right to be recognised as co-managers of the fishing territories and to actively participate in the drafting of management policies for marine resources and responsible fishing. For them, fishing should be recognised as a profession and a way of life because they consider fishermen to be custodians of a rich cultural and ancestral heritage. They also claim to have empirical knowledge of the marine environment which ensures that their activities comply with sustainability conditions. They want the resource to

have an economic value more in line with fishermen's current needs to enable them to have a decent standard of living. To do this, they want to promote fair trade which is more committed to the sea, by certifying products. They also want to pass on their philosophy to all other fishermen and civil society in general, institutions and administrations and share their experiences and best practices with other Mediterranean partners.

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Discussion

The reform of the Common Fisheries Policy has been analysed, and the platform has realised that the reform does not protect artisanal fisheries, and risks leading to its disappearance. In the Mediterranean, the Common Fisheries Policy plans to establish individual transferable quotas in the Mediterranean. The platform is against this imposition of quotas.

The reform also requires all fishing discards to be unloaded so that they can be transformed into fishmeal for aquaculture. But the problem is that this risks encouraging the sale of juvenile fish, which it is currently illegal to catch. Small-scale fishermen fear that this reform will promote aquaculture rather than fishing. The platform is also fighting for the co-management plans to be integrated in the new Common Fisheries Policy.

Note that the protection of the specific nature of Mediterranean artisanal fishing should be raised in Europe and the possibility of shared management between the managers of the marine protected areas and professional organisations. The fishermen and managers specify that it is important for Brussels to remember that artisanal fishing is sustainable and that marine protected areas can be effective tools for the sustainable management of fishing. The European Commission has little knowledge of these aspects of Mediterranean fishing.

A persistent problem is a lack of communication between the national and European administrations and small-scale fishermen because small-scale fishing does not fall within the capitalist framework, unlike industrial fishing. The cash importance of small-scale fishing is also a barrier to its management from the point of view of the administrations which is why this activity has organised itself and become united. However, when small trades federations organise themselves, the other official professional structures feel that they are in competition with them.

Presentation 8: Natura 2000 site at sea and artisanal fishing: Feedback from the Natura 2000 site at sea from Cap d'Agde (France) - Sylvain Blouet and Renaud Dupuy of the Grandrive, "Posidonia of Cap d'Agde" Natura 2000 site and Alexandre Di Santo, a fisherman

The Cap d'Agde Natura 2000 site covers a marine territory of 6,125 hectares, from Port Ambonne to Grau d'Agde which is up to 3 miles wide. 30 small-scale fishermen are present on this site, moreover established in a hyper tourism context. It is an "atypical" Natura 2000 site at sea which is not representative of all Natura 2000 sites at sea, as it functions as a traditional marine protected area. There are no specific regulations regarding professional or recreational fishing at this site.

The goals provided in the management plan are as follows: Management of marine ecosystems, support for artisanal fishing, and indirect management of the resource



Crédit photo: Mathieu Foulquié, Renaud Dupuy de la Grandrive, Sylvain Blouet

To implement concerted management of professional fishing, the following questions have been asked:

- ✓ How do you make the professionals stakeholders of the marine environment?
- ✓ How do you manage the whole resource?
- ✓ How do you diversify production?
- ✓ How do you promote marketing?
- ✓ How do you involve the professionals in the environmental monitoring of the site?
- ✓ How do you contemplate a common future? Plan? Development? Support? Value creation?

An important co-management work has been established with the small-scale fishermen according to a suitable methodology. The managers initially carried out a study to better understand the profession and the professionals: techniques, zones, periods, frequencies and fishing effort. Landings were monitored in 2007, 2009 and 2012.

The fishermen were involved in improving knowledge about the marine environment by providing their technical means (test fishing traps), by participating in information concerning catches (scientific monitoring activities of the artificial reefs) and by transmitting their observations on the environment (observation of marine mammals).

They collaborate with the management organisation to guide fishing techniques towards more selectivity options. For example, they are experimenting with fishing crustaceans using traps on the coralligenous seabeds of Agde.

The fishermen are themselves the resource, by participating in research and development programmes ("BiorestoreTm - Reseeding of fish larvae on emancipation reefs"), by creating new fishing sites (immersion of more than 400 artificial protection and 200 production modules), by taking part in the management committees of the Natura 2000 site.

The fishermen create value for their work and their catch by relaying communication actions and engaging in exchanges with the public (e.g. a fishing leaflet and eco-kiosk panel on the professional activities of Cap d'Agde fishing; eco-development plan for the surroundings of the Agde fish auction).

The managers of this site insist on the importance of communication to create value for the small-scale fishermen and their involvement in co-management.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- MPAs and artisanal fishermen share a common vision and objectives.
- For several hundred years artisanal fisheries has been a crucial economic activity and one of the pillars of Mediterranean culture.
- The sustainability of Mediterranean artisanal fisheries has been scientifically proven in MPAs.
- MPAs are a good tool for the management of artisanal fisheries.
- Larval production from biomass and the spill-over effect generated by MPAs are of benefit to all ecosystems and contribute to the development of fisheries resources in the Mediterranean.
- The collaboration between MPAs and artisanal fishermen, through innovative activities, saves public money and contributes to the economic sustainability of artisanal fisheries.
- Artisanal fishermen and MPAs both work towards implementing the ecological monitoring of the sea.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- The participation of fishermen in the designation, planning and management process is essential
- The good practices experimented in MPAs should serve as a model for all artisanal fisheries. This includes co-management and the valorisation of the activities and products of artisanal fisheries.
- The specificity and the sustainability of the coastal artisanal fisheries should be recognized and taken into account by the public fisheries policies at European and national levels, and in particular by the Common Fisheries Policy Reform, otherwise the survival of artisanal fisheries could be compromised.
- Artisanal fisheries need to federate quickly and effectively to have a voice with European, national, regional and local institutions. The Platform of Mediterranean Artisanal Fishermen could be such a tool.
- The future of the Mediterranean sea requires the establishment of a dense and coherent network of MPAs supporting responsible and prosperous artisanal fisheries.
- Artisanal fishermen and MPA managers agree to consider that land-based pollution and all human activities at sea have an impact on fish resources.
- They express their concern about the many different industrial projects at sea, in particular offshore exploitation projects in the Mediterranean.

- Recreational fisheries have an important impact on ecosystems and fish resources and must be regulated.

THE THREE « NO » TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- **No to Individual Transferable Quotas.**
- **No to a development of aquaculture that threatens artisanal fisheries.**
- **No to the commercial use of fisheries discards.**



THE FOUR REQUESTS TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- **Support the multi-functionality and the diversity of the various occupations and crafts covered by Mediterranean artisanal fisheries**
- **Support the co-management (between fishermen, marine protected areas, researchers and decision makers) of artisanal fisheries in long-term action plans and open up a specific funding line for artisanal fishing**
- **Take recreational fishing into account in the management of halieutic resources**
- **Support a policy of establishing marine protected areas in the Mediterranean for the conservation of biological and cultural diversity, as well as the protection and increase of halieutic resources.**

7. STAGES TO COME

Several paths of actions to be considered as a result of this meeting have been discussed:

- Preparing a publication on the examples of sustainable management of fisheries in the MPA of the Mediterranean, based on the scientific literature;
- Continuing and informing fishermen of the activities of the Platform of Artisanal Fishermen;
- Developing concrete collaboration projects between the MPA and artisanal fishing (in the framework of future EU funding?)
- Planning a new MPA meeting - fishermen in the future
- Involving fishermen from the south and east of the Mediterranean in our activities.



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