

Sustainable development of a traditional fishery in the natural reserve of Bonifacio Straits (south Corsica) - FR

1. Policy Objective & Theme

- SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH: Balancing economic, social, cultural development whilst enhancing environment

2. Key Approaches

- Knowledge-based
- Socio-economic

3. Experiences that can be exchanged

The use of marine protected areas as a management tool for environmental protection and enhancement of fishery yields.

4. Overview of the case

The Bonifacio Strait Natural Reserve is a mix of no-take areas and partially protected areas where recreational fishing is forbidden while small-scale fishing is permitted. It has been demonstrated that restrictions imposed to recreational fisheries benefit local fishermen with an increase in their catch per unit of effort (CPUE). This is valid only for species that were targeted by recreational fisheries.

5. Context and Objectives

a) Context

As in many places in the world, the Mediterranean fisheries are in crisis. Among other tools for better management, marine reserves have been recently created in a number of areas along the Mediterranean coast. In France, the first one was created in 1963 around Port Cros island, then followed by Spain in Catalonia region (1983), Italy in Sicilia (1986-1987), and finally Greece in Alonnisos (1992). Today, there are more than 70 of them scattered in 21 countries. These marine reserves are multi-purpose but none have been assessed in regard to the impact on, and by, fisheries taking place within the area. One of the explanations is that most of them are no-take reserves forbidding any kind of fishing activity within their boundaries. It is not the case of the Bonifacio Strait Natural Reserve which is divided into a no-take zone and a regulated fishing zone in a trans-national context between Italy (Sardinia) and France (Corsica). It is thus possible to study not only the impact of a protected area on fishing yields but also on the ecosystem functioning and hence the species conservation strategy.

b) Objectives

The objectives were first to assess the catch per unit of effort evolution for small-scale fishing boats in regard to the overall catches and targeted species between 1992 and 2006, and second to develop significant indicators with regard to the population's "health status".

6. Implementation of the ICZM Approach (i.e. management, tools, resources)

a) Management

The Bonifacio Strait Natural Reserve is managed by a technical team in charge of the monitoring in collaboration with the different users, more particularly the small-scale fishermen who represent the permanent main activity though conflicts may arise with tourism and leisure boats during the summer.

b) ICZM tools

The main techniques used are related to information gathering from stakeholders and archiving in databanks covering 37 different species of fish. A new indicator regarding the capacity of protected areas in the maintenance of key species for the functioning of the local ecosystem has been developed as well.

7. Cost and resources

The initiative was funded by the LITEAU national programme for a cost of €80,000 and had a duration of 3 years (2005-2008).

8. Effectiveness (i.e. were the foreseen goals/objectives of the work reached?)

This project was articulated with a network of other protected areas through another LITEAU initiative working on the development of marine protected areas impact indicators thus contributing as an additional case study but in a very unique context which is the trans-nationality of the natural reserves in between two islands and two countries. The objectives were achieved although the management aspect was not the primary objective of the team.

9. Success and Fail factors

None provided.

10. Unforeseen outcomes

None provided.

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12. Verified by

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13. Sources

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LITEAU2-Mouillot (386.7 KB) 