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MPA NETWORKS project

Support MPA effectiveness
through strong and connected networks in the Mediterranean

Project partners:



<https://mpa-networks.interreg-med.eu>

Priority Axis 3: Natural and cultural resources - Objective 3.2: Biodiversity protection

Identified Problems and Emerged Recommendations for MPA Karaburun-Sazani by following a participatory approach

Emerg ed Problems from Fishers and other Stakeholders Meetings

- Actually the license for touristic activities is provided by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and the license for fishing activities is provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.
- In comparison to the large scale fisheries, the small-scale or artisanal fisheries is not supported at the same level by the government in dedicated landing and repairing infrastructure, oil cost subventions and fishing nets partial financial support
- There is not present a functional fisheries management organizations, where it can be possible to create the working groups (including the small-scale fisheries committee). The large scale fishers are better organized and they are located at the Fishing Port of Vlora (Treport), while in the case of small-scale fishers they are still encountering problems with landing the fishing products, anchoring and reporting the information, except the case of Fishing Center Orikum (Radhime), where exists a voluntary organization of small-scale fishers named "Association for Sustainable Fisheries".
- According to the new amendments of the law entered into power, all the vessels going out from the ports in the Bay of Vlora don't need any more to compile the permission document (named "koperoli" in Albanian language) at the Police Station, except the fishing vessels, including the small-scale fishing vessels, which are monitored exclusively from the border police.
- Differently happens with the monitoring of the large scale vessels, which are continuously monitored by using the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) (functional from 4 months ago) from the fisheries inspectorate and the inter-operational unit (QNOD). The monitoring of the fishing activities performed by the small-scale fishing vessels is conducted by the border police, which is a

structure with a limited capacity to monitor all the fishers going for the fishing early in the morning and their total number is about 50 fishers (with or without fishing license).

Emerged Recommendations

- Review of the law for supporting the licensing of fishing and touristic activities (similarly to *pesca* tourism in Italy). New amendments of the Law articles on Fisheries and Law on Marine Tourism (for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Tourism and Environment) in order to provide the fishers (at least for the high touristic season) with a unique and legal license for fishing and touristic activities; *key expert recommendation*: involve the Ministry of Finances in order facilitate the process of providing the license with a proper fee to the small-scale fishers.
- Further improvements are required in the Law on Fisheries (the recent amendments are related to year 2020) with a particular attention on the small-scale fisheries and recreational fishers in order to reduce the fishing efforts and protect the relative by using check and balance mechanisms (like the co-management approach); *key expert recommendation*: **Required actions are represented by**
 - **1. Creating a functional and regional organization of small-scale fishers association in order to represent all the small-scale fishers' interest in Vlore region and**
 - **2. Reflect their needs in the improvements of the law.**
- Adaptation of national recreational fisheries regulation (including pesca tourism) into MPA context with a highly participation of relative stakeholders (*as starting point can serve the social and economic survey of the recreational fishers and the best practice manual prepared in the frame of the pilot project*); *key expert recommendation*: **Required actions**

- 1. Establish a recreational fisheries monitoring methodology with possible improvements after 5 years – to be conducted by the MPA managers in collaboration with fisheries inspectorate
- 2. Together with the relative municipalities create the administrative structure for providing the recreational fisheries licenses (*including the evaluation reports by the Regional Administrative of Protected Areas RAPA Vlore for providing the long term licenses*).
- Additional competences would be required for the MPA managers of the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA in order to do an efficient patrolling of the national marine park area and enforce the relative law by applying all the measures provided the law; **key expert recommendation: It is required just a collaboration with clear competences between the border police, coast guard, QNOD and MPA managers (as example can be noted the Torre Guacetto MPA, where exists a perfect collaboration between Coast Guard forces and MPA managers),**
- Establishment of a highly participatory organization including small-scale fishers, representatives of the administrative of Karaburun-Sazani MPA, scientists and other local stakeholder for improving the management of fishing activities in the area; **key expert recommendation: It is required a financial mechanism for keeping the purpose alive in the organization after creating a small-scale fisher committer.**

Emerged Problems from the Monitoring Results

The applied monitoring methodologies applied in the pilot project of Karaburun-Sazani MPA takes into account several *biological, social and economic factors* in order to have affordable indicators by the socio-economic point of view on the interest of the small-scale fishers and the biological point of view on the interest of all the humanity and the coming generations (biodiversity conservation).

Biological Indicators

Based on the catch composition and fished biomass as biological indicators, it was indicated that there is a high biodiversity of the fished species, though no substantial difference emerged out in the comparison between the fishing areas inside and outside the MPA of Karaburun-Sazani, where the abundance was nearly the same in the comparison between the fishing areas - please read Final SSF Catch Monitoring Report for additional information.

Socio-Economic Indicator

The CPUE, RPUE and IPUE are economic indicators which take into account the social aspects of the involved people in the fishing sectors (please read Final SSF Catch Monitoring Report for additional information).

The results of the monthly CPUEs and RPUEs indicated that there is higher production and revenues inside the MPA (except the month of December), but the corresponding differences are not statistically significant or better expressed can be defined as slight differences,

It is also taken into account the IPUE analyses. In September and October fishing inside the MPA "fishing areas" of Karaburun peninsula resulted to provide more incomes to the fishers, though the differences were not statistically significant for a $p < 0.05$. In the other months the fishing activities outside the MPA (taking into consideration only the Karaburun) resulted more beneficial for the fishers in comparison to the MPA fishing areas).

Regarding Sazani Island, the monitoring results showed that it would not be convenient for the fishers of Radhime to go fishing close or around the Sazani Island. During the months of January and February, it resulted even worst for the fishers, because instead of getting profits from the fishing activities, they were losing money, because the oil cost expenditures resulted to be higher than the profits coming by selling the fish.

Emerg ed Recommendations from the Monitoring Results

- **Better management of the small-scale fisheries is needed in these areas, Bay of Vlora and Karaburun-Sazani MPA.** *This could be done by adapting the working strategy of the Torre Guacetto MPA.*
- **Better management of the MPA is needed in terms of biodiversity conservation and a better management of the fisheries sector close to the MPA.**
- **Highly suggested not to go for fishing in the areas inside and close to the EMZ and CZ of Sazani, because there is no considerable net profit from the fishing activities in these areas (when taking into account only the small-scale fishers of the Fishing Center Orikum).**

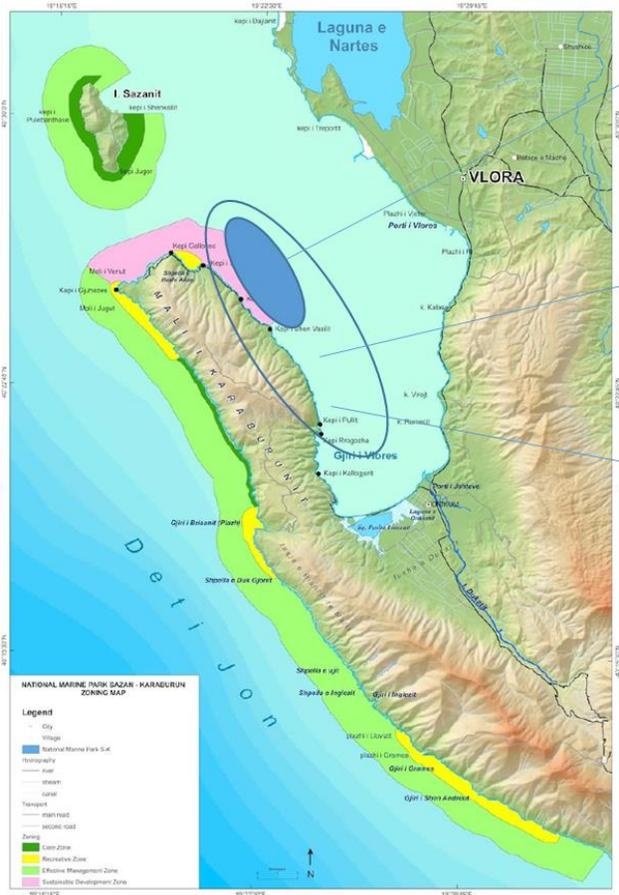
No Take Zone establishment Proposal

Taking into account other projects outputs related to fishers and the relative monitoring results the key expert and the representatives of RAPA Vlore and CSOs (including INCA and Flag Pine), it is proposed the (like it is better indicated in the map of the figure below) a No Take Zone would be highly profitable for the fishers and the biodiversity, if it would be created close to the MPA with dimensions up to 1 km². It could serve as a reproduction area for the fish species and create the spill-over effect in order to increase the fish abundance the borders. In this way the fishers could increase the profits by fishing close to the NTZ, without having to navigate for hours and consequently lose money for covering the oil expenditures and other fishing costs.

Required Actions:

1. **Creation of a small-scale fisheries co-management committee specific to the MPA of Karaburun-Sazani**
2. **Conduct a further biological and ecological study of the area for the Zoning System**

3. Following a highly participatory process establish the NTZ and start with continuous patrolling by involving the fishers
4. Provide the small-scale fishers (by RAPA Vlore) with the permissions for fishing close to the NTZ according to an annual calendar prepared by following a participatory approach.



Fishing Area creating good economical benefits for the small-scale fishers

Suggestion for establishing a No Take Zone!!!

Sea cage farms location

Very soon, RAPA Vlore will organize a Management Committee meeting regarding the problems related to fisheries activities. In this meeting will be present the local stakeholders and the representatives of the organizations, which are implementing fisheries management projects in the area.

The technical document will serve as the basis for further clarifications or additional measures to be addressed politically in order to finalize a document which will be presented and advocated toward the governmental institutions.

This Technical Document was prepared by the Main Researcher/Key Expert
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