

# Fishing governance in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

Potentialities for a Blue Economy – FishMPABlue

**T**he Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are beneficial for local fisheries. However, their creation is often subject to strong opposition from local fishermen, who perceive MPAs as limiting their activities and incomes.

## OVERVIEW

The FishMPABlue project analyzed the existing experiences of relationships between Small Scale Fisheries (SSF) and Marine Protected Areas of five Mediterranean countries in order to develop an innovative management system that assures the conservation of the environment and, at the same time, the sustainable development of local fishermen's livelihoods.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project focused on analyzing the different approaches to the co-existence of SSF in MPAs developed to date, designing a new approach for supporting the co-development of artisanal fisheries within MPAs and with an integrated maritime approach. Based on the results from the analysis, the project aimed to:

- Propose integrated actions to mitigate the environmental impacts from SSF, relevant to be addressed on the transnational scale.
- Develop a “win-win” governance model, where conservation goals and a fishing-related Blue Economy are planned in an integrated and participative way.

## ACTIONS

- **Quali-quantitative assessment** of the state of the art and identification of key successes for artisanal fishing management in Mediterranean MPAs.
- Designing of **Governance models**, at Mediterranean level, associating marine conservation measures and artisanal fisheries management.
- **Feasibility study** of a future project testing the proposed governance models in pilot MPAs.

## LOCALIZATION OF THE MPAs



Localization of the MPAs considered in the project (red= Spain, blue= France, green= Italy, yellow= Croatia, violet= Greece).



## PROJECT RESULTS

At the end of the project, the main results have been:

- Compilation of a **database** by collecting information about SSF from 31 MPAs in the 5 Mediterranean countries.
- Identification of key features determining successful management of SSF within a Marine Protected Area. The key features are:
  - a) enforcing MPAs' capacities in monitoring and managing fishing activities.
  - b) engaging fishermen in SSF management.
  - c) ensuring the representation of fishermen on the MPA management board.
  - d) promoting sustainable fishing through specific activities.
  - e) developing an SSF management plan.
- Identification of all the potential **Blue Economy related** sectors linked to fishing activity in Mediterranean MPAs.
- Development of a **Toolkit for SSF governance** (by MPA managers and relevant national institutions) that matches the conservation goals and supports and enhances the local economy (with the consensus of local communities).
- Identification of **the main stakeholders and potential partners for the second phase of the project (FishMPABlue 2)** that tests such model in Pilot MPAs.

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**More information:** <http://bit.ly/2NT5VEs>

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**Project countries:** Croatia, France, Greece, Italy and Spain

**Contact:** Luca Santarossa,  
Project Manager; Federparchi  
tel: +39/06/51604940  
mob: +39 339 7154290  
email: [luca.santarossa@parks.it](mailto:luca.santarossa@parks.it)



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**82,007**  
fishing vessels in the  
Mediterranean Sea



**68,131**  
(i.e. 83% of the total) are  
small scale fisheries vessels



**248,979**  
total crew capacity  
in the Mediterranean Sea  
(person employed in fisheries)



**137,324**  
(i.e. 55% of the total)  
are employed in small  
scale fisheries

*Small-scale Fishing and employment in the Mediterranean sea.*



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