

### The socioeconomic dimension of Azorean MPAs The Pico-Faial Channel



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Marine management is a politically driven process, shaped by human uses, livelihoods & perceptions





# As human **pressure** increase Engage society to tackle marine challenges



Likelihood of agreement Resolve conflicts Sharing knowledge Promote trust

Societal behaviour **change** 



Particularly **important** for **MPAs** 



#### **Ecosystem** Based Management



#### Current Practice: Conventional Management

- Individual Species
   Individual Human Activities Evaluated
   Management by Individual Sectors
   Narrowly Focused Scientific Monitoring
- Programs
   Observations Serving a Single Use and

Purpose

#### The Goal: Ecosystem-Based Management

- Multiple Species
- Humans Integral Part of Ecosystem
- Multi-Sector Resource Management
- Adaptive Management Based
- on Scientific Monitoring
- Shared and Standardized Observations

Developed by NOAA Fisheries

#### Integrated and socioeconomic studies



#### Azores Integrated and socioeconomic studies

#### Ocean & Coastal Management 69 (2012) 243-254



#### Resident and expert opinions on marine related issues: Implications for the ecosystem approach

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Quantifying the direct use value of Condor seamount



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Different cultures, different values: The role of cultural variation in public's WTP for marine species conservation

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#### Towards an ecosystem approach for understanding public values concerning marine biodiversity loss

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#### Integrated and socioeconomic studies Results

High level of social demand for marine biodiversity conservation

Despite citizen's limited level of understanding on marine environmental issues there was a clear evidence that people do care about MB conservation

#### WTP ecosystem > WTP individual marine taxa

Greater benefits were attached to the conservation of the ecosystem as a whole rather than to partial conservation plans

#### WTP mammals = Fish >birds, inverts, algae

Yet low profile taxa such as algae and inverts were highly valued as well

Significant ≠ among experts and public opinion Drivers of change, marine pressures and management priorities



### Ocean health and evolution

#### Residents vs Experts

Table 1. Respondents' perceptions about oce	an health and its evolution over time		
Ocean Health	Residents (%)	Experts (%)	
Very bad	1%	0%	
Degraded	3%	2%	
Reasonable	33%	28%	
Good	49%	53%	
Very Good	13%	14%	
Don't Know	2%	2%	
Ν	692	43	
p= 0.403 (n.s.)			
Ocean Evolution	Residents(%)	Experts (%)	
t has deteriorated	32%	53%	
It has not change significantly	39%	26%	
It has improved	18%	14%	
Don't Know	11%	7%	

692

43

p= 0.018 (\*\*)

Ν



#### **Biodiversity loss** Main pressures and threats on the marine environment Waste dumps on the coast Seabed damage Reduction of fisheries stocks Marine debris Bycatch Experts Illegal fishing Residents Sewage Climate change Alien sp Other 0% 5% 10% 15% 20% 25% 30% 35% % of the total number of observations

#### **Marine pressures and threats**

98% Experts62% Residents



#### Knowledge and attitudes on MPAs

63% residents were familiar with MPAs

46% residents aware of MPAs in the Azores

Table 2. Respondents' attitudes and knowledge	e on MPAs	in the Azor	es					
Knowledge	Residents	Experts						
% of respondents familiar with the term MPA	63%	100%	-					
% of respondents aware of the presence of MPAs in the Azores	46%	100%						
	Residents (%	of the total res	oonses)		Experts (% of	the total resp	onses)	
Statements	Agree	Disagree	NAD(*)	Mean	Agree	Disagree	NAD(*)	Mean
MPAs help to protect biodiversity	95%	2%	3%	4.42	95%	2%	3%	4.56
MPAs help to attract tourists and improve the quality of recreational activities	80%	9%	11%	4.00	81%	9%	10%	4.14
MPAs are good management tools but if there is no surveillance it does not work	94%	2%	4%	4.47	100%	0%	0%	4.72

11%

16%

12%

27%

3.92

3.54

74%

51%

14%

26%

12%

23%

3.91

3.42

77%

57%

(\*) NAD: neither agree nor disagree

MPAs benefit fisheries and enhance fish abundance

MPAs help to reduce conflict between the different activities

#### **Timeline of MPAs in the Azores**







**Participatory** bottom-up **process** Recognition of **value** to marine **tourism** 



### MPAs Pico-Faial Channel









### Pico-Faial channel I Uses

## Extractive activities

Recreational Fisheries Comercial Fisheries Dredging

### Non-extractive activities

Marine ecotourism Nautical sports Science Transportation Ship repair Port of call

**Uses** poorly monitored **Benefits** poorly quantified





# Dredging



# DLR 9/2010/A

Volume per year (?) Socioeconomic impact (?) Ecological Impact (?)





#### **Total fishing boats**







#### **Recreational Fisheries**



### Limpets

40% effort inside MPAs



#### **Recreational Fisheries**





#### **Commercial Fisheries**



Handline 44ton/year



### **Methods**

			In-depth Interviews Marine Operators					
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**Official data** 



#### Whale Watching





### **Big Game Fishing**





#### **Coastal Diving**







### Monte da Guia



- Nature reserve IUCN I
- All human activities prohibited
- Diving in surrounding areas (Monte da Guia)
- 25% of total dives in Pico/Faial







### Ilheus da Madalena

- 20% of total dives from Pico /Faial
- Recreational & Comercial fisheries prohibited
- Exception: Fishing for live bait and fishing from shore

#### Hot Spot





# **Problems hindering the establishment of MPAs in the Azores**



# Legislation **ambiguity** Several of the Azorean Marine reserves allow extractive activities **Illegal** fishing Depletion of **fish** species

Deposit of marine litter



### Conclusions

- Despite its limited area, Marine reserves have a major contribution to **cultural services**
- **Hot-spots** for marine recreation: **Diving** and BGF
- Some areas support more than 50% of diving and fishing trips based from adjacent islands, differentiated types of activities with added value
- Marine reserves generate significant economic benefits to local economies, 1,2 M€ direct use value
- Benefits for non-extractive uses > extractive-uses



## Socio-economic and spatial distribution

at a fine resolution

Trade offs among different uses

Conflicts

**Prioritize areas for conservation** 

> Integrate different types of values

# Uses & Values & Perceptions dynamic





# Thanks!

## contactos

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