

# *ShARed Governance of Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture activities as leverage to protect marine resources in the Adriatic sea*

## WP3– Governance framework

*D3.1.3 Application document as output from the assessments resulting from D3.2*

### **Additional Study by P4 Molise Region**

*Study for the protection of marine resources and fisheries  
and aquaculture activities of Molise Region*

**Project acronym:** ARGOS

**Project ID number:** 10255153

**Project title:** ShARed GOVERNance of Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture activities as leverage to protect marine resources in the Adriatic Sea

**Priority Axis:** Environment and cultural heritage

**Specific Objective: 3.2** - Contribute to protect and restore biodiversity

**Work Package:** WP 3 - Governance framework

**Activity:** 3.2 - Maritime Spatial Planning assessment

**Partner in charge:** P4 Molise Region

**Partner involved:** all project partners

**URL:** <https://www.italy-croatia.eu/argos>

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## Note on the document

- The initial draft of this document was submitted to the Molise Region on November 7th, 2022, and subsequently revised based on input received from stakeholders on December 12th, 2022. The revisions reflected the points of consensus reached during the meeting.
- The partial acceptance of the proposal resulting from the study by the stakeholders allowed for the development of guidelines to establish a protected area for demersal species that could also have a touristic value. This represents a modest but important step towards the responsible management of Molise's marine resources.

# OBJECTIVES AND AIMS OF THE STUDY

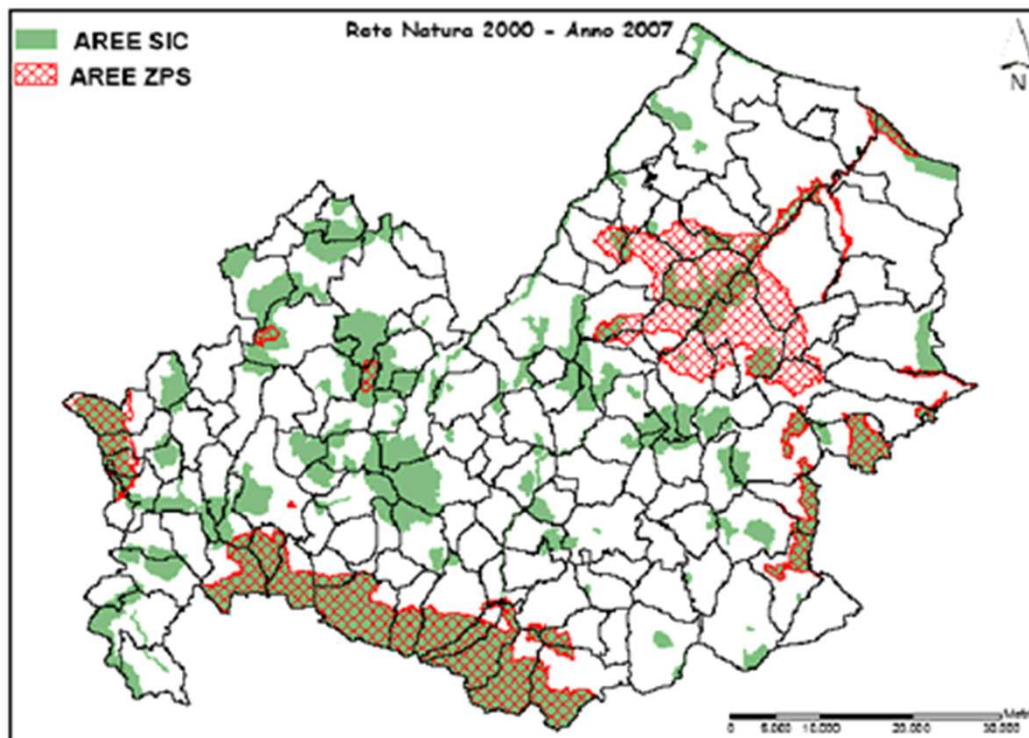
The main objective of the study is to provide technical and scientific elements, based on the analysis of socioeconomic and environmental data, regarding the current use of the maritime space of the Molise Region and its development from a perspective of greater environmental, economic and social sustainability

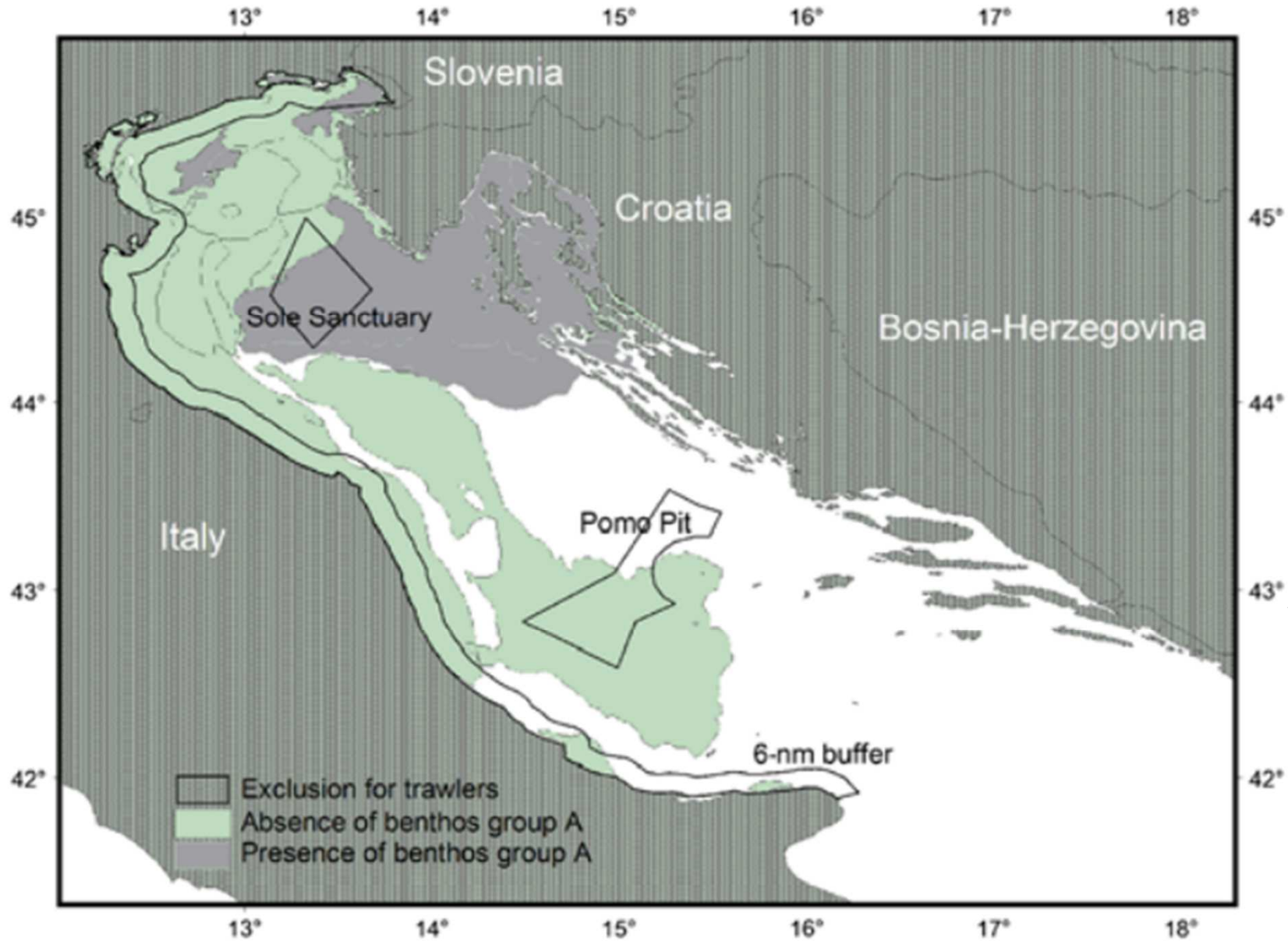
# SOURCES AND METHODS

The results presented in this study are based on the analysis of:

- Statistical data from official sources;
- Studies and research in the literature;
- Interviews with experts;
- Collection of stakeholders' testimonies;
- Comparison with other project partners.

# ANALYSIS OF THE REFERENCE CONTEXT





Source:  
Bastardie et  
All.

As highlighted in the representation, the proximity to the Pomo (Yabuka) trench actually favors the migration of some species towards the Molise coasts. Considering the most significant influence to the north of Termoli, it was therefore decided to "balance" by proposing a buffer zone for the southern part (from Termoli to the regional border with Puglia).



# MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS

- On December 12th, 2022, a meeting was held with representatives of the fishing industry in Termoli, where the key aspects of the initiative were presented.
- The team requested approval of the recommended area from the technical team.
- During the discussion, the area was deemed too extensive.
- An area along the north coast of Termoli, starting from the coast up to three nautical miles away, was proposed as an alternative.
- The representatives of the fishing industry claimed that the proposed area was of interest because of its hard bottoms that were once considered rich in fish and were also home to lobster specimens.
- The Molise seabed is generally lacking in hard bottoms that support good biodiversity and therefore deserve special attention and, if possible, protection.

# INTERVENTION PROPOSAL-Limited Fishing Area

- Following the meeting with the fishing union leaders, an area was identified on the map that has hard bottoms and good biodiversity. This area is suitable for protection and tourism, and is already within the three nautical miles limit.
- The area has already been proposed as a nature reserve and ZPS (Special Protection Area) for some of its coastal characteristics. The establishment of this marine area is already within the ban on trawling.
- In these conservation areas, where the area presents alternating sandy or muddy bottoms with hard bottoms and rocks, some activities will only be permitted following an objective assessment of the resource to be protected.
- If funding will be available, anti-trawl beaching devices or other structures such as fish aggregating devices (FADs) can be positioned on the site, including wrecks that have been properly pre-treated to eliminate sources of environmental contamination.
- For tourism purposes, such as snorkeling or diving, it is recommended to install mooring buoys attached to dead bodies, thus avoiding the use of anchors.



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San Salvo

Petacciato Marina

Petacciato

Litorale Nord

Trinoli

Montenero di Bisaccia

San Giacomo degli Schiavoni

San Giacomo Libo

Santa Monica

Gugliese

Porto Canningo

Marina di Cava

Google Earth

1000 meters

European regional development fund





# Opportunities for exploitation of areas in the surrounding areas

- New spaces for mollusk farming activities alongside the area are possible.
- Anchors and other fixed structures provide a substrate for the settlement of sessile forms, increasing the biodiversity of the seabed (muddy or sandy).
- The effect of mussel farms, which are traversed by waves, reduces the same wave motion and consequently tends to reduce beach erosion and the filtering action of mussels contributes to water clarification.
- The structures have a FAD effect for many species of fish that are attracted for both food and shelter.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Development and protection tools**
- Inclusion of the coastal area in the Natura 2000 network
- Candidacy of the marine area to OECMs: one of the possible tools for the protection of marine areas officially recognized by the international community.
- Request for the establishment of an FRA to the GFCM.
- The Public Administration can try to promote the initiative with incentives

Thank for the attention



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