

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

*Expert study for proclamation of the marine protected
area at Cape Stupišće locality – island Vis*

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: P10 RERA

Partner involved: all project partners

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

Status: Final version

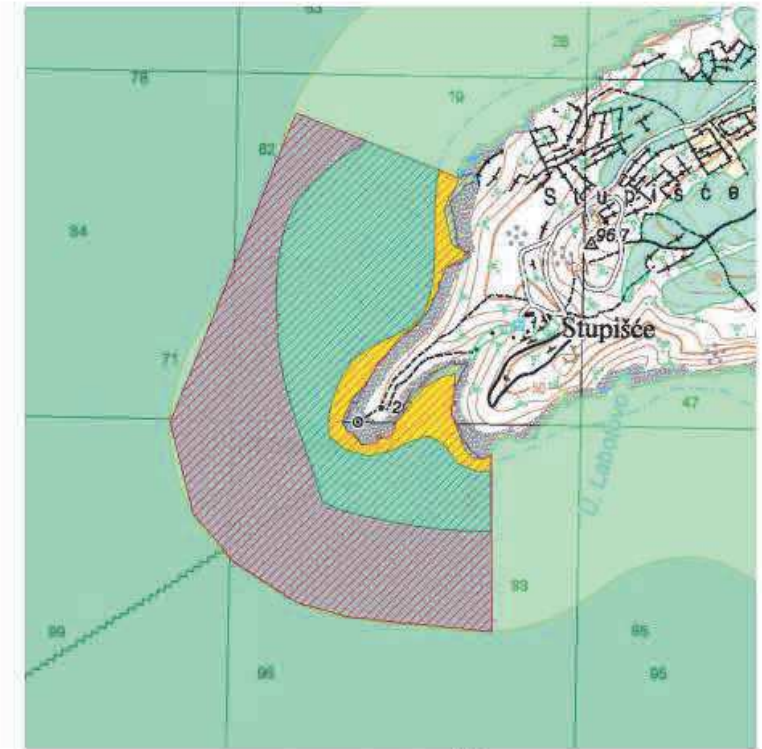
Distribution: Public

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Study: Expert base for proclamation of the marine protected area at Cape Stupišće locality – island Vis

- Cape Stupišće is an area of special interest: biological diversity, distribution of many commercially important species, area of interest to fisheries and tourism (diving, shipwreck „Vassilios”)
- Area proposed for protection covers an area of 100.20 ha, 94.43 ha (94.24%) of which is covered by the sea area. Given that the boundary follows the line of maritime domain, the area also includes 5.77 ha (5.76%) of mainland



Legenda

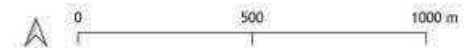
▨ Prijedlog područja posebnog rezervata rt Stupišće

Stanišni tipovi prema Nacionalnoj klasifikaciji staništa

- G.3.5. Naselja posidonije
- G.3.6. Infralitoralna čvrsta dna i stijene
- G.4.2. Cirkalitoralni pijesci

Ekološka mreža Natura 2000

- HR3000097 Vis - podmorje
- HR3000469 Viški akvatorij



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- **First initiative: Adriareef: protection of Stupišće by proclamation of „no-take“ zone**
- **„Bottom-up“ approach – very strong support of the local community**
- **The idea further elaborated through ARGOS**
- **The study lays foundation for the proclamation of the special reserve (Government decree)**

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➤ Contains:

- assessment of significance of the area
- analyses of different possible options and existing mechanisms for the protection (Croatian/EU law)
- legal actions needed for the proclamation

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Legal and institutional frameworks for protection and management

- The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 calls for the protection of 30% of the European sea surface by 2030, including putting a third of this surface under strict protection (10%) and effective management of all protected marine areas, focusing special attention on the regulation of fishing activities
- It also plans to adopt binding marine biodiversity targets, focusing on ecosystems that store carbon efficiently and areas of exceptional biodiversity
- Currently, in the territory of the Split-Dalmatia County, 0% of the sea surface is protected under one of the national protection categories

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Type of protection

- Special reserve has been chosen as the best option to protect the marine environment of Stupišće and obtain benefits that have been set as the main goals
- Special reserve is an area of land and/or sea of particular importance due to unique, rare or representative natural values, or is an endangered habitat or a habitat of an endangered wild species and is primarily intended to preserve these values
- Interventions and activities that may damage the properties for which it was declared a reserve are not permitted in the special reserve, while the activities that maintain or improve conditions important for the preservation of the properties due to which it was declared a reserve are permitted

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Bases for the declaration of a protected area

- The proposal of the act on the declaration of a protected area, pursuant to Art. 124, paragraph 1 of the Nature Protection Act (80/13, 15/18, 14/19, 127/19), is based on:
 - declaration of the body issuing the declaration act on the funds provided for the management of the protected area
 - expert basis determining the values of the area proposed to be protected and the way of managing that area
 - geodetic base of protected areas spatially determining the area proposed to be protected and the registration of the legal regime - protected area in the cadastre and land registry

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The boundary of the proposed Special Reserve Cape Stupišće – Island of Vis on mainland follows the line of maritime domain, while it partially overlaps with the boundary of the Natura 2000 area of the HR3000097 Otok Vis.

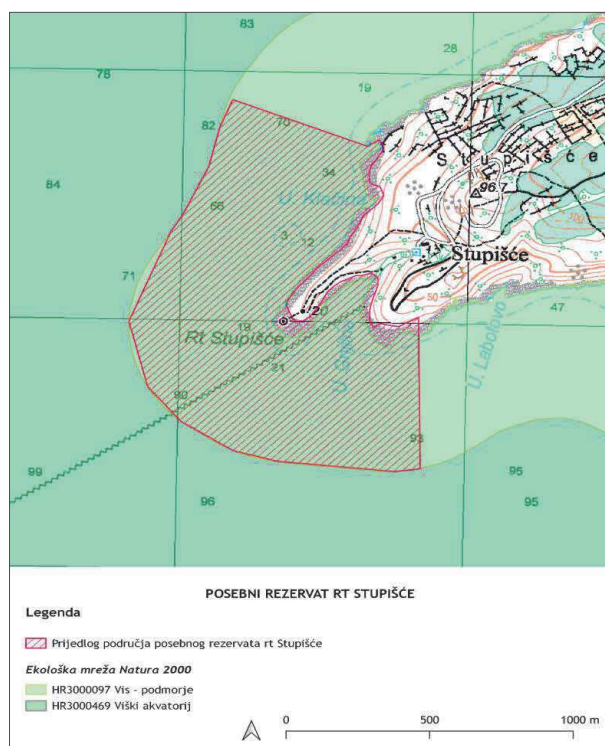


Table: List of habitat types in the area of the proposed Cape Stupišće – Island of Vis Special Reserve according to the Map of Terrestrial Non-Forest Habitats of the Republic of Croatia (Bardi et al., 2016) and Habitats Map (OIKON, 2004)

Habitat type according to the National Habitat Classification		Natura 2000 target habitat		Area within SR Cape Stupišće – Island of Vis (ha)
NHC code	NHC name	Code	Name	
Terrestrial habitats				
C.3.6.1.	Tor-grass (Brachypodium retusu) Mediterranean pastures	*6220	Pseudo-steppe with grasses and annuals of the Thero-Brachypodieta	0,55
D.3.4.2.	East Adriatic garrigues	5210	Arborescent matorral with Juniperus spp.	0,05
F.4.1.	Rock cliffs, ledges, and shores, with halophyte vegetation	1240	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Mediterranean coasts with endemic Limonium spp.	4,39
Marine habitats				
G.3.5.	Neptune Grass (Posidonia) beds	*1120	Posidonia beds (Posidonion oceanicae)	7,94
G.3.6.	Infralittoral rock and other hard substrata	1170	Reefs	38,09
G.4.2.	Circolittoral sands	1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	48,10
Total				99,12*

* The surface area of the proposed Special Reserve is 100,20 ha. The total area of the present habitat does not coincide with the total area of the reserve due to the different boundaries of the layers presented on the maps.

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Expected effects on biological/fishery resources

- Currently some fishing activities occur in the area
- Fishery in the protected area will be forbidden but stakeholders see it as a way of recovery of the fish stocks
- The recovery of exploited species within the area of strict protection is proven to occur in a period of 1-6 years, but full recovery can still take much longer.
- Strict protection zones support fishing in two ways, through the "recruitment" effect" and the "spill-over effect" - increase the number of juvenile and/or adult individuals within the zone of strict protection, which then populate the surrounding area, i.e., the sea where fishing is allowed.

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Conclusions

- The protection of the area in the category of special reserve will require funds to achieve protection objectives, and the largest initial investments will be related to the establishment of effective and immediate supervision and the adoption of regulations and plans necessary for the establishment of effective protection
- Initiative has already been sent in the procedure with all required documents and is expected to be adopted during 2023



PP10 - RERA S.D.

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