

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 D3.2.4

Study on the evaluation of the consequences on the vitality of North Adriatic fish-related chains and fisheries communities following restrictions of fishing effort derived from the establishment of new protected marine areas

Project acronym: ARGOS

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Work Package: WP 3 - Governance framework

Activity: 3.2 - Maritime Spatial Planning assessment

Partner in charge: P2 Emilia Romagna Region

Partner involved: all project partners

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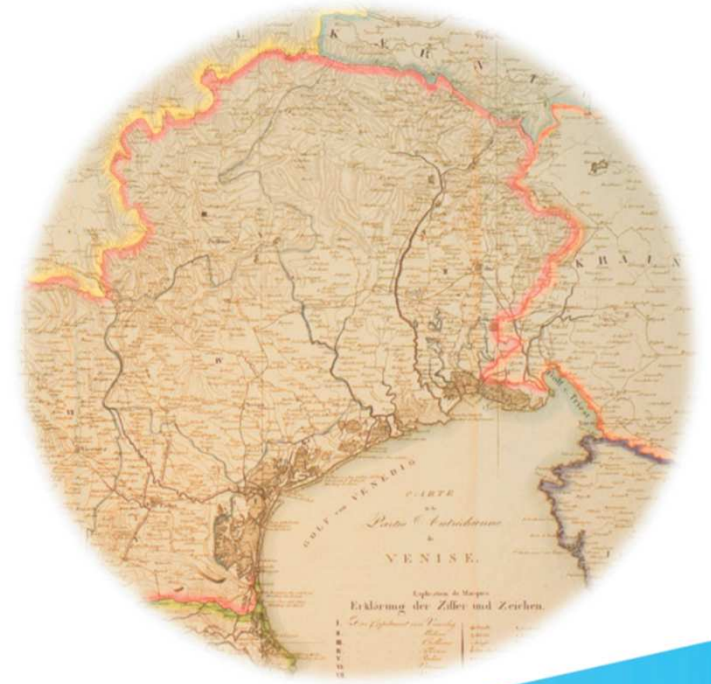


Overview

- The Northern Adriatic is a hub of both ecological importance and human activity, particularly fisheries.
- New Sites of Community Interest (SCIs) IT3270025 and IT4060018, have been established, potentially affecting the local fisheries sector.
- This report will evaluate these effects from a socioeconomic perspective, examining the vitality of the northern Adriatic fisheries and their related chains.

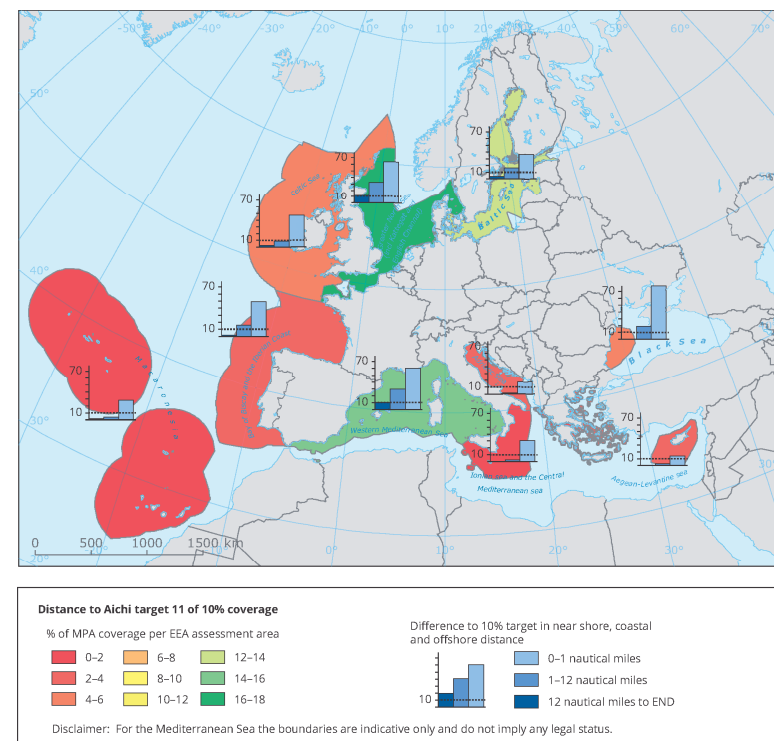
The Adriatic Sea: A valuable ecosystem

- The Adriatic Sea is a hub of significant human activities, providing livelihoods for many sectors.
- Existence of intense human activities, however, calls for sustainable practices, to maintain the equilibrium of marine and coastal ecosystems.
- Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) have been established, but effective regulation is still a challenge, especially regarding fishing practices.



The Challenges of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and the Case of Italy

- Despite the importance of MPAs, there's a notable lack of no-take zones due to socio-economic concerns.
- Fishing and aquaculture are significant sectors in Italy, particularly in the northern Adriatic.
- There are potential conflicts between ecological preservation and economic activities within Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) areas.



Establishment of Sites of Community Interest (SCIs) in Veneto and Emilia-Romagna

- The Italian Ministry for the Environment acknowledged the necessity of SCIs in Veneto and Emilia-Romagna to protect the bottlenose dolphin and sea turtle.
- Stakeholder involvement and data collection led to the definition of marine SCIs IT3270025 and IT4060018.



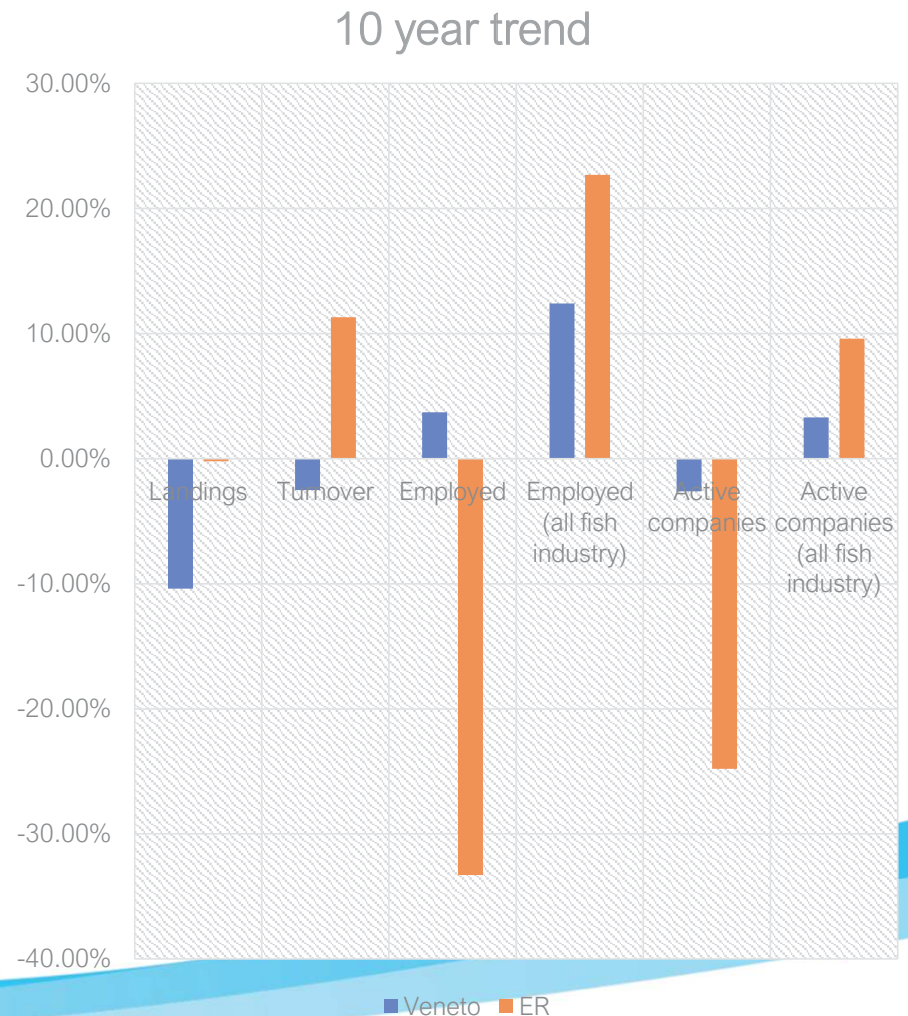
Specific regulations within SCIs and their impact on the fishing industry

- SCIs have implemented specific bans and obligations to conserve marine life.
- These regulations were devised not to interfere with the fishing industry in the northern Adriatic Sea, which indeed showed resilience and adaptability.
- The establishment of SCIs has not led to significant negative impacts on the fishing industry.



Socio-Economic Context of Fisheries in the Wake of SCI Establishment

- The establishment of SCIs in the Northern Adriatic hasn't resulted in significant changes in the region's socio-economic context of fisheries.
- It's critical to understand that these trends are influenced by a range of factors, and further research would be necessary to identify the specific impacts of the SCIs.
- Long-term observation and study would be required to understand the true socio-economic impacts of SCIs on local fisheries, and to manage them to be mutually beneficial.



Interactions Between Dolphins, Turtles, and Fishing Activities

- SCIs established in the Northern Adriatic have had limited effects on the maintenance of marine biodiversity, apart from providing increased protection for dolphins and turtles.
- Dolphins can impact fishing activities, but measures like acoustic harassment devices can limit interactions.
- Turtles, on the other hand, tend to suffer impact from fishing activities rather than vice-versa, but fishermen never intentionally harm them.
- Further research and development are necessary to improve turtle avoidance systems in professional fishing.

Effectiveness of marine protected areas and SCIs

- The success of MPAs hinges on a balanced approach between conservation effectiveness and the societal needs, along with the sustainability of associated fisheries management systems.
- MPAs, through their NTZs, can significantly boost biodiversity conservation and commercially important fish stocks, which can also indirectly enhance the livelihoods of fishermen due to spill-over effects.
- The specific dynamics and benefits of these effects in the Northern Adriatic require further research to optimize regional conservation and fisheries management strategies.

Conclusion: Assessment of MPAs in the Northern Adriatic Sea

- The establishment of SCIs in the Northern Adriatic has not resulted in significant changes in the region's fishing sector.
- The current management system doesn't negatively impact economics or employment but also doesn't significantly contribute to biodiversity conservation.
- Improving MPA management in the Northern Adriatic requires comprehensive research, stakeholder involvement, and sustainable management plans.