

Marine Protected Areas as a tool for fisheries management

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What are MPAs?

An instrument for fisheries management and the protection of biodiversity:

- In fisheries management:
 - To protect juveniles
 - To protect spawning aggregations
- In biodiversity protection:
 - To protect habitats and endangered species
 - To protect seabirds

MPAS already used in the CFP

- Closed areas to protect deep-water coral *Lophelia pertusa* (i.e. Azores, west of Ireland, Darwin mounds)
- Closed areas to protect seabirds (kittiwake closure)
- Measures to protect seagrass beds (i.e. Mediterranean *Posidonia oceanica*)
- Areas to protect spawning aggregations (i.e. Celtic Sea cod)
- Areas to protect juveniles (i.e. Southern Hake)

Guidelines for Implementation of Natura 2000 in the CFP

Commission must implement Natura 2000 proposals, but according to CFP mechanisms:

- Examination by scientific bodies
- Consultation with stakeholders (RACs)
- Examination by control experts (Commission and Member State concerned)
- Implementation in Community fisheries legislation

Examination by Scientific bodies

Advice from ICES and STECF:

- Scientific basis for the MPAs.
- Evaluation of closed areas on fishing
- Types of activities that can damage the species/habitats to protect
- Avoid case-by-case requests

Examination by control experts

Area coverage:

- Large areas make control easier / cheaper
- Small areas make control more difficult / expensive
- Buffer areas to facilitate enforcement?

Activity coverage:

- Banning all fishing is easier to control, but can be disproportionate
- Banning selected activities is more proportional, but more difficult to control

Where to strike the right balance?

Examination by RACs

- Possible technical improvements.
- More information on fleet activity.
- Non discrimination. Ensuring a level playing field.
- Avoiding side effects: fishing effort displacement.

Implementation in the CFP

- Commission emergency measures, not the right option.
- Normal procedure (Article 37 of the Treaty) too slow and cumbersome.
- Even more so as of 2009: co-decision.
- TAC and quota regulation, only provisional implementation.
- New technical measures regulation foresees fast-track adoption procedure through Management Committee.