



WWF

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WWF Mediterranean Initiative

Leading change for the Mediterranean Sea

Creating solutions with fishing fleets

In the last issue we highlighted the importance of small-scale fisheries for addressing sustainability in the Mediterranean. It is also crucial to work with industrial fisheries towards common goals, in a more cooperative and significant way. WWF Greece is working with purse seiners of the Manios fisheries company, with the supermarket chain AB Vasilopoulos and with scientists from the Fisheries Research Institute, on a project that involves practical solutions towards sustainable resources management. In this case, bringing the fleet from which the supermarket chain sources anchovy and sardine to a level of MSC certification for the first time. The Kavala Fisheries Improvement project is collaborative, coordinated and transformative, and is an important step towards the goals of the Mediterranean Initiative.

m.livanou@wwf.gr



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Profile: “Good communication and strong relationships are crucial ...”

Puri Canals is the Chair of MedPAN, a network created in 1990 and relaunched and coordinated by WWF-France from 2003 to 2008 when it was established as a separate organization. MedPAN brings together the managers of Mediterranean MPAs and supports them in their activities.

Both the MedPAN network and the WWF Mediterranean Initiative are working to strengthen synergies between MPA stakeholders. What are the main ways that you are doing this?

At the local and national levels MedPAN supports our network of members and partners, as they are the real actors on the ground, by developing tools, spreading information and facilitating exchanges of experience that can be used by MPA managers in their own contexts to work with stakeholders. At the international level MedPAN represents this network of MPA managers, approaching stakeholders and working together to reach common goals. I think that a good Mediterranean example of this kind of process in which MedPAN, as well as the WWF Mediterranean Initiative, played important roles, was the 2012 Antalya Forum of MPAs and its main outcome: the 2020 Road Map for Mediterranean MPAs.

In what ways are MPAs recognized as a valid fisheries management tool and how can they help secure the future of artisanal fishermen?

Scientific data regarding the positive effects of MPAs on fisheries are clear but the social recognition of this fact has taken time. MPA managers and fishermen have no other option than to work together if they want to achieve the best results in terms of biodiversity conservation and fisheries production. Fortunately, in the Mediterranean we have many good examples of cooperation between artisanal fishermen and MPA managers, but we still need to spread the message and invite new members of both communities on board.

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Facts and figures: pollution

The land-locked waters of the Mediterranean have a very low renewal rate and so are extremely sensitive to pollution. While the Mediterranean represents less than 1% of the earth's total marine surface it supports 30% of world seaborne trade and 22% of tanker traffic. More than 2,000 vessels are constantly at sea, with an average annual total of around 220,000 ships sailing in the Mediterranean. Oil tankers leave behind them a trail of pollution but 80% of the pollution at sea comes from land-based sources. 70% of urban wastewater is discharged into the sea without any kind of treatment, added to which are agricultural runoffs containing pesticides, nitrates and phosphates.



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Sanctuary for pregnant fin whales

Research is essential for good management of human activities and their effects on the species and habitats in the Mediterranean Sea. In the Pelagos Sanctuary WWF-France is studying the hormonal status of fin whales and has found that the cetaceans are highly impacted by many persistent pollutants (PCBs, OCPs, PBDEs), all endocrine disruptors. The Pelagos Sanctuary is visited by pregnant fin whales – half of the females biopsied were pregnant.

atasciotti@wwf.fr

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Algerian fishermen: first MPA collaboration

The first Algerian representative of MedArtNet, the Mediterranean Platform of Artisanal Fishers, joined WWF and MedPAN in January to work with the future MPA of Taza National Park and the Algerian government on fisheries management and involving fishermen in MPA planning.

ssainztrapaga@atw-wwf.org

Illegal fishing and anchoring put Kaş-Kekova at risk

Diving is the main driver of the local economy at the Kaş-Kekova SPA in Turkey. The decrease in the number and frequency of flagship species, like groupers (which has decreased around 90% in the last decade), puts the future of the business in danger. WWF-Turkey recently gathered all local diving clubs and with the help of their insights prepared a zoning map to better manage diving activities. An agreement between WWF-Turkey and Kaş Underwater Association is one of the first examples of a self-financing mechanism which promotes sustainable diving.

http://awsassets.wwftr.panda.org/downloads/dal_duzenlemeleri_onerileri.pdf

Why are MPAs important for fisheries in the Mediterranean?

Marine Protected Areas safeguard the Mediterranean's amazing marine life, protecting fishermen's livelihoods while boosting local economies.

MPAs:

- Provide areas where fish can spawn and grow to their adult size
- Allow fish stocks to recover, thus increasing the size and quantity of fish caught in surrounding areas
- Help maintain local fishing cultures and economies.



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Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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