

Analysis of Marine (water) Protected Areas in EUSAIR and Proposals for Corrective Measures

Andrej Sovinc, NaravaNarave d.o.o.

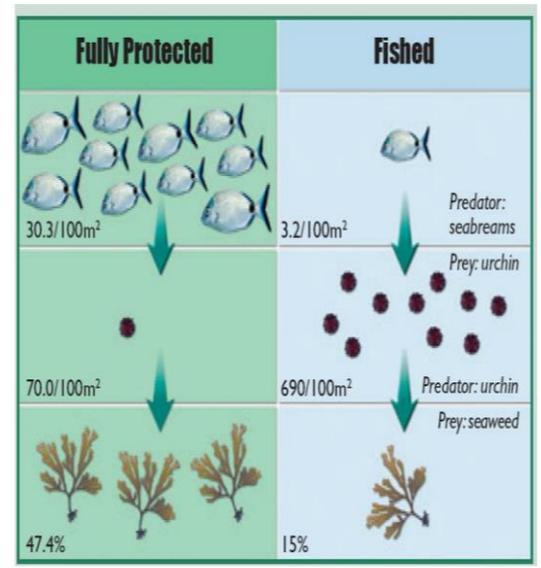
15th meeting of the Thematic Steering Group for Pillar 3 – Environmental Quality
under the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)
26.10.2021



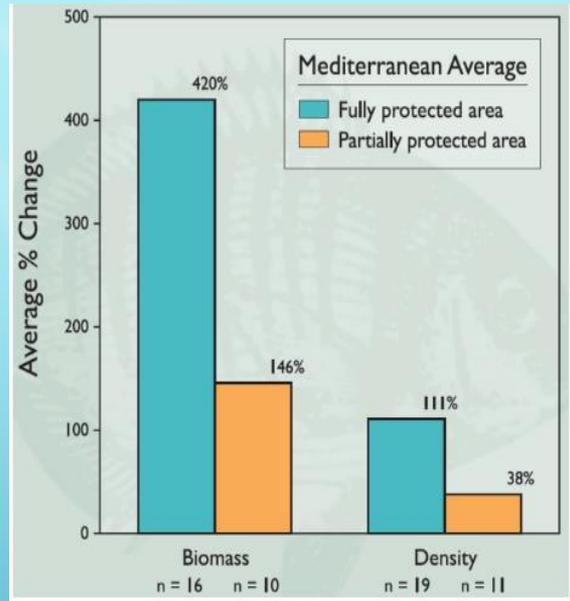
- at least 30% of the EU's land area and 30% of the EU's marine area should be protected;
- at least one third of protected areas - that is 10% of the EU's land area and 10% of the EU's marine area - should be strictly protected;
- provisions on effective management and restoration.



Levels of protection found in the MPA Guide
(OSU, IUCN-WCPA, MCI, NGS, UNEP-WCMC 2019)



Effect of fully protected areas versus fished areas in the Torre Guaceto MPA
(Lubchenco et al. 2016, PISCO)



The effects of MPAs on marine species
(Lubchenco et al. 2016, PISCO)

The Adriatic-Ionian region has the lowest proportion of protected seas of all regional seas in the Mediterranean region !

-only 3,57% „protected“ (EU 2030 target: 30 %)

-only 0,07% „strict protection“ (EU target: 10%)



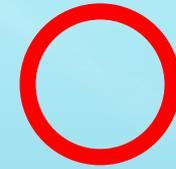
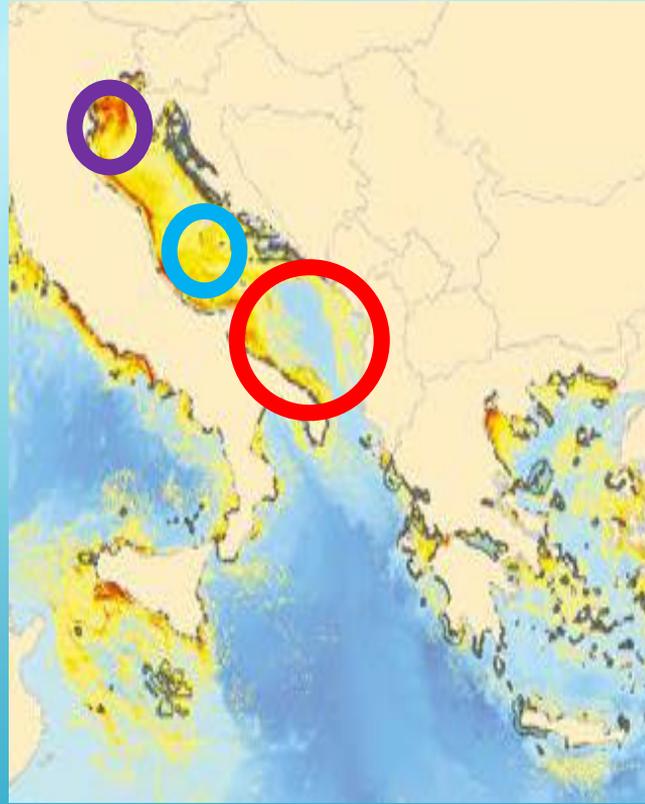
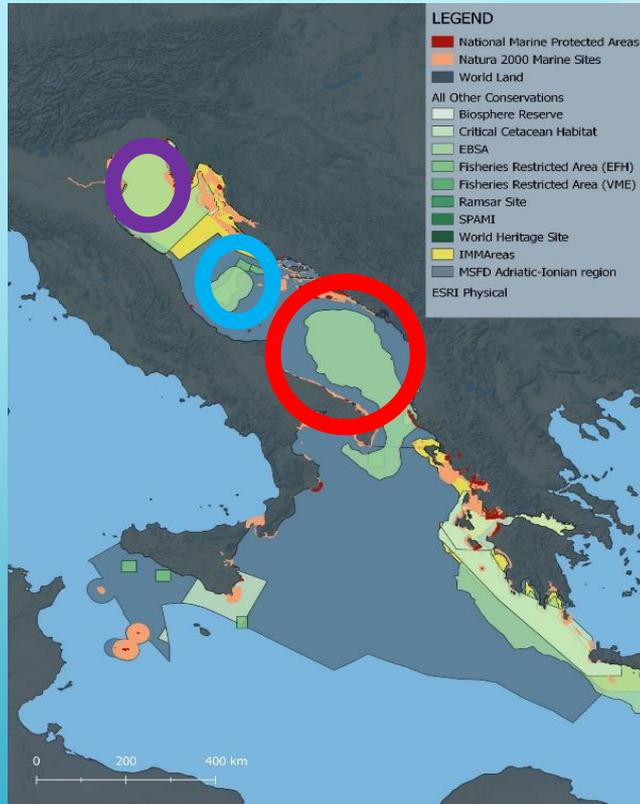


At present - EUSAIR region:

- 46 nationally designated marine protected areas (MPAs);
- 348 marine Natura 2000 sites



Potential areas for future protected areas



Not
conflicting
with
fishing



Some conflicts
with fishing



Intensive
fisheries

Map of the most valuable biodiversity areas (left) and map of intensity of fishing activities (yellow: low intensity fishing, red: high intensity fishing areas – right map)

Possible next steps – towards an Action Plan

At the local/national level:

- Existing MPAs in country assessed against the IUCN standards and category objectives.
- More MPAs, especially those which are fully protected / no-take areas.
- Larger existing MPAs.
- Blue corridors, multiple use marine resource areas and MPA networks as alternatives when it is not possible to create large MPAs.
- Completed network of marine Natura 2000 sites in EU countries (and EMERALD in non-EU countries).
- Identified potential marine Natura 2000 sites in non-EU countries.
- New, expanded and additional MPAs outside territorial waters.
- Marine OECMs

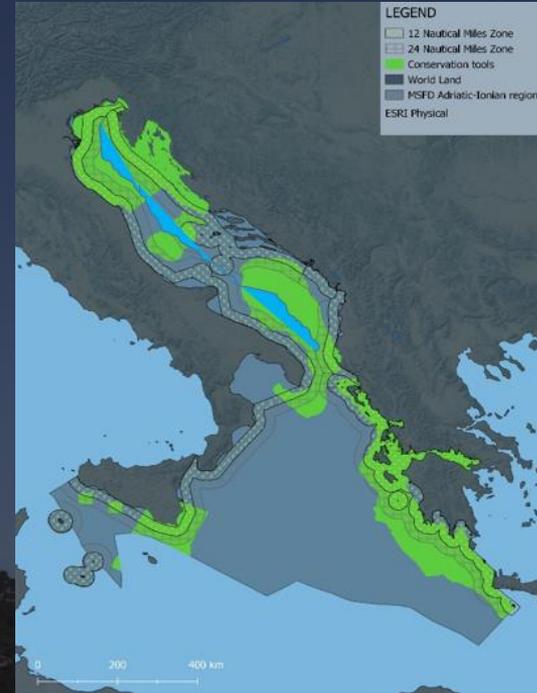
Possible next steps – towards an Action Plan

At the transboundary level

- Transboundary MPAs and other area-based conservation measures.
- Blue corridors as part of the no-take zone or limited impact zone in the EEZ.

Blue line: optional 10% strict protection blue corridor (MPA) in the core of the EEZ

Biodiversity most valuable areas (**green**) and 12/24 miles of shorelines under the Adriatic-Ionian Sea (shadow lines).



Possible next steps – towards an Action Plan

At the EUSAIR level: An action plan for the establishment and effective management of MPAs

- ❖ Agree the commitments of EUSAIR countries to implement common framework action objectives within country responsibilities.
- ❖ Strategic diagnosis of regional potential MPAs
 - a) Identification of potential areas for future protection in the region and by countries (MPAs, Natura/EMERALD, OECSMs...) and plans for improvement of management effectiveness of existing MPAs.
 - b) Assessment of strategic issues in the context of protection and development of the region (*To be agreed at the next EUSAIR meeting*).
- ❖ Activities to implement the strategy (differentiation between the common orientations and commitments of each partner/country, definition of an appropriate number of concrete actions, definition of the frequency of actions).
- ❖ Reinforcement of existing activities of partners/countries in combination with new initiatives (blue (and green) corridors, ecosystem services, charismatic species, interaction with other sectors, climate change process, new partnerships, innovative activities/tools...).
- ❖ Proposal for establishment of the AdrIonPAN (professional) organisation with clear objectives in supporting identification and designation of MPAs, capacity development and networking.

The background is a light blue gradient with sun rays emanating from the top center. At the bottom, there are dark blue silhouettes of coral, seaweed, and several fish swimming. Small white bubbles are scattered throughout the scene.

Thank you for your attention!

Dr. Andrej Sovinc
www.naravananarave.com