The Economic Benefits of Marine Protected Areas

06.03.2019, 16:00 – 18:00
European Parliament Brussels, ASP 5G1

The European Union moved from conserving 6 per cent in 2012 to 10.8 per cent in 2017, already fulfilling the goal of SDG 14 to protect by 2020 10 per cent of the world's coastal and marine areas. Although the implementation of marine protected areas (MPAs) remains a challenge there are good reasons to proceed. Besides its crucial contribution to biodiversity conservation and species protection, marine protected areas can generate unexpected but tangible economic benefits. A recent study of DG Mare highlighted the anecdotal evidence of blue business opportunities around MPAs in the fields of fisheries, environmental services and tourism.
The objective of the conference is to discuss the challenges of how to enforce, to fund, and to govern an MPA and to really make it work for itself and for the community.

*Participants are kindly requested to register as soon as possible on www.searica.eu in order to guaranty and organise the access to the EP. The day of the conference, participants are kindly requested to present themselves at **15:30** in order to avoid delays.*

16:00 - 16:10 Welcome
Mrs **Gesine MEISSNER**, MEP, President of the European Parliament Intergroup Seas, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas (Searica)

16:10 - 16:30 Setting the Scene

Mr Felix LEINEMANN, Head of Unit Blue Economy Sectors, Aquaculture and Maritime Spatial Planning, DG MARE

Mr Rupert HAINES, Author of the study: *Economic Benefits of Marine Protected Areas and Spatial Protection Measures*

16:30 - 17:00 MPAs in Practice - Presentation of case studies

Introduced by Marco AFFRONTE, Member of the Searica Intergroup (tbc)

- Mr Niccolò CARNIMEO, Vice-President of the Management Board, Area Marina Protetta di Torre Guaceto, IT

- Ms Fabien BOILEAU, Directeur-délégué Parc naturel marin d'Iroise, FR

- Mr Filipe PORTEIRO, Regional Director for Sea Affaires, Azores

DRAFT

17:00 - 17:50 Economic Benefits of MPAs and SPMs, followed by a Q&A session

Introduced and moderated by Ricardo SERRÃ SANTOS, Searica Vice-Chair in charge of Marine Knowledge

Mr Daniel VOCES DE ONAINDI, Managing Director, Europêche

Mr Sergi TUDELA, Director General de Pesca I Afers Maritims, Generalitat de Catalunya (tbc)

Ms Simonetta FRASCHETTI, Università del Salento, COHENET

Mr Olivier DUFOURNEAUD, Vice-President for Ocean Policy, Institut océanographique, Fondation Albert Ier, Prince de Moncao

WildSea Europe (marine ecotourism) (tbc)

Conclusion

Mrs **Gesine MEISSNER**, MEP, President of the European Parliament Intergroup Seas, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas (Searica)