

Overview of MPA progress in metropolitan France & Major challenges to increase marine N2000 protection

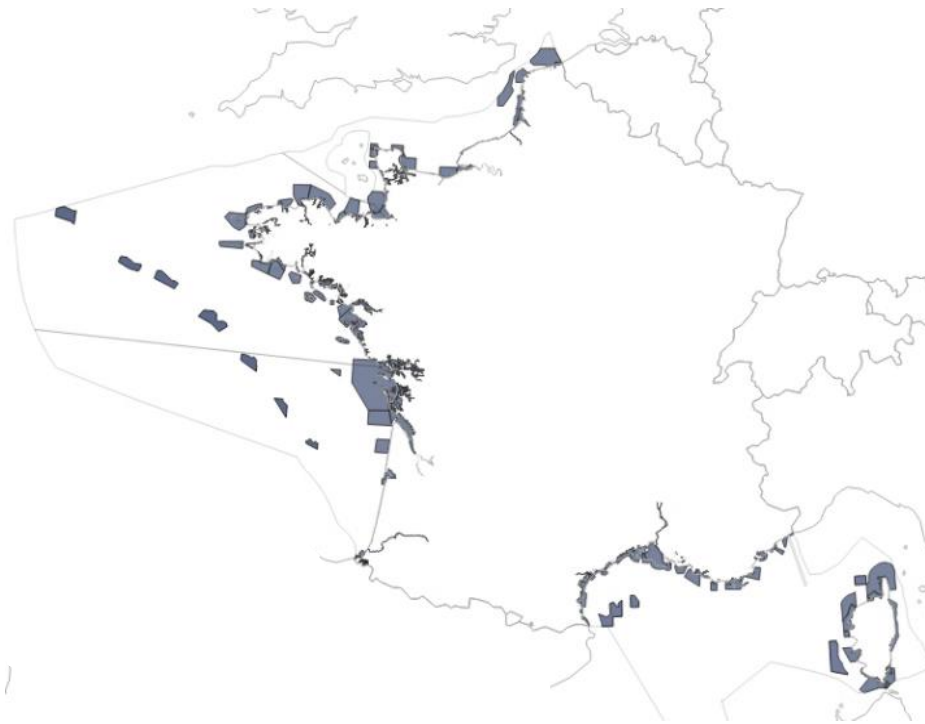
LIFE IP MARHA

Speaker

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OBJECTIVES OF THE MARHA LIFE INTEGRATED PROJECT



The MARHA IP's objectives

- Improve the implementation of Natura2000 at sea with a view to restoring a favorable conservation status for benthic habitats of Community interest (HIC):
 - By investigating the current reasons for inefficiency
 - By researching, testing and deploying solutions

Parameters

- 164 Natura2000 DHFF marines and lagoons Sites
- 9 European Habitats
- 22,3 M€ (UE/BA/DEB)+ complementary funds
- 14 public bodies – 140 officers
- 8 years– 2018-2025
- 6 Items/600 operations

Code	Habitats	Atlantic		Mediterranean	
		2012	2018	2012	2018
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	U2	U2	U2	U1
1120	Posidonia beds (<i>Posidonia oceanica</i>)			U1	U1
1130	Estuaries	U2	U2	U2	U2
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	U1	U1	U2	U2
1150	Coastal lagoons	U1	U1	U2	U1
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	U2	U2	U2	U2
1170	Reefs	U1	U1	FV	FV
1180	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	XX	XX		
8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	XX	FV	U1	XX

THE REASONS FOR THE FAILURE OF NATURA 2000 AT SEA IN FRANCE

We have identified three main causes of the ongoing degradation of marine habitats:

- Inadequate implementation of Natura2000 impact assessments (article 6 Habitat Directive) and, more generally, of the Avoid-Reduce-Compensate assessment methodology.
- Governance not sufficiently participative/involved/decisive.
- Administrative arbitration still too unbalanced in favor of short-term socio-economics to the detriment of sustainable development (socio-eco-ecosystem).





MAIN SOLUTIONS IDENTIFIED AND IMPLEMENTED

Problems	Solutions implemented
Inadequate implementation of Natura2000 impact assessments (EIN) and, more generally, of the Avoid-Reduce-Compensate methodology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training of public officials responsible for issuing authorizations for marine use project (350 officials trained by 2023)• production of decision-making tools (professional reference systems, habitat maps, etc.)• Training police forces to control Natura 2000 infractions
Governance not sufficiently participative/involved/decisive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training local elected representatives to get them more involved in site management and control.• Training and awareness-raising for members of Natura2000 site steering committees, to teach them to demand accountability for authorized uses.
Administrative arbitration still too unbalanced in favor of short-term socio-economics to the detriment of sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No solution yet – high political level



KEY RESULTS

- The majority of Natura2000 sites at sea have a management document and an operational steering committee, and are increasingly involved.
- Government officers have been trained in the implementation of Article 6 of the Habitat Directive, and over the past 2 years, procedures have evolved considerably.
- Managers are professionalized, trained and equipped with tools.
- Police forces are being trained to make Natura2000 controls more effective and dissuasive.

... But all this won't be enough if political decisions don't back up the technical ones. What remains to be done is to train and convince senior government officials (prefects) to support measures to reduce the pressure on the marine environment.



Thank you for your attention

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