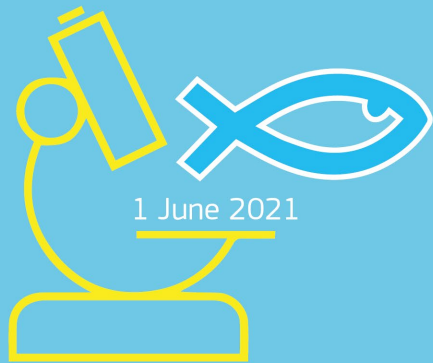


2021 Seminar on Fisheries Science



Governance strategies for a successful MPA

What can we learn from Torre Guaceto success story?

*Dr. Daniela Russi, British Ecological Society
(formerly at Institute for European Environmental Policy)*

The history of Torre Guaceto

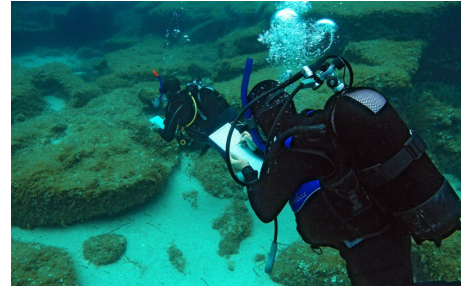
- ❑ Poorly performing regional economy, large shadow economy, high levels of unemployment, criminality
- ❑ Environmental degradation and illegal fishing, including blast fishing
- ❑ “Paper park” until 2001, when the managing body was created by Brindisi and Carovigno municipalities and WWF Italy
- ❑ From 2001 to 2005: **ban on all fishing activities**
⇒ CPUE 4 times higher than outside



The fishing protocol

Co-management approach that included resident fishermen, ecologists and the local leader of Slow Food \Rightarrow **FISHING PROTOCOL:**

- ❑ Fishing is allowed only **once a week**, with **small boats** and **large mesh** nets (30 mm)
- ❑ **Only residents** are allowed to fish in the area
- ❑ Objective: **CPUE at least double than outside the MPA**
- ❑ **Dynamic management:** Fishermen agreed that rules could be changed, if the CPUE decreased below the objective
- ❑ **Good enforcement**



The attitude of fishermen

Strong conflicts with fishermen when the ban was first established

But then:

- ❑ **CPUE increased** as a result of the fishing restrictions
- ❑ Development of **trust and collaboration** with the MPA managing body
- ❑ **Exclusive access right** \Rightarrow interest in long-term sustainability
- ❑ **Economic support** and **alternative livelihood opportunities** offered by the MPA

Result: **strong support of fishermen**



Incentives to fishermen

Directive incentives

- ❑ **Grant** to buy more sustainable nets financed by a local foundation
- ❑ **Compensation** to fishermen during temporary fishing bans, from internal and regional sources

Complementary livelihood opportunities - synergies with other sectors

- ❑ Promotion of **fish preservers** through Slow food ⇒ **premium price**
 - Bluefish preserves promoted by Slow Food
 - TG mullet in oil produced by a local company (Colimena)
- ❑ Collaboration with Novamont ⇒ **sustainable packaging for direct sale**
- ❑ Permits granted to two boats of resident fishermen to organise short trips for tourists



Lessons learnt: the reasons behind the success of TG

- ❑ **Co-management approach**, involving fishermen, ecologists and a grassroots organization ⇒ trust and collaboration
- ❑ **Exclusive territorial use rights** for fishermen ⇒ reduced fishing pressure and sense of ownership
- ❑ **Dynamic management**: fishermen ready to reduce fishing pressure if needed ⇒ strong incentive to respect the rules and report illegal behaviour
- ❑ Involvement of **ecologists** and **good availability of data** to monitor trends
- ❑ Use of **incentives** and **synergies** with other sectors
- ❑ **Leadership**: very dedicated team, led by two local, well-respected, committed and pro-active leaders



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Governance strategies for a successful marine protected area – The case of Torre Guaceto

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ABSTRACT

Marine protected areas (MPAs) are an essential tool for the protection and recovery of marine ecosystems. Most Mediterranean MPAs are multiple-use, i.e., they include a small no-take area and a buffer zone where extractive and non-extractive economic activities are allowed, mostly under restricted conditions. Multiple-use MPAs are characterised by specific governance challenges, which differ from those of no-take ones. They need to find a compromise between conservation goals and the interests of different categories of stakeholders, and in particular the fishery and tourism sectors – whose support and buy-in are essential to ensure compliance. For this reason, it is important to analyse the governance strategy of multiple-use MPAs that are successful both from an environmental and a socio-economic point of view. To contribute to this debate I herein explore the governance strategy of the Torre Guaceto MPA in south-east Italy, a success story that shows how, even in a difficult socio-economic context and with limited public funding, a MPA can lead to the recovery of ecosystems while providing economic benefits to the tourism and fishery sectors. Drawing from a focus group with fishermen and in-depth semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders from the managing Consortium, the tourist and agriculture sectors and two local residents, I argue that the reason for the success of the Torre Guaceto MPA can be found in the use of multiple economic and non-economic incentives, which catalyse synergies among sectors, and in the strong leadership by two local, well-respected, committed and pro-active leaders.

