



Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process in the Marine Regions

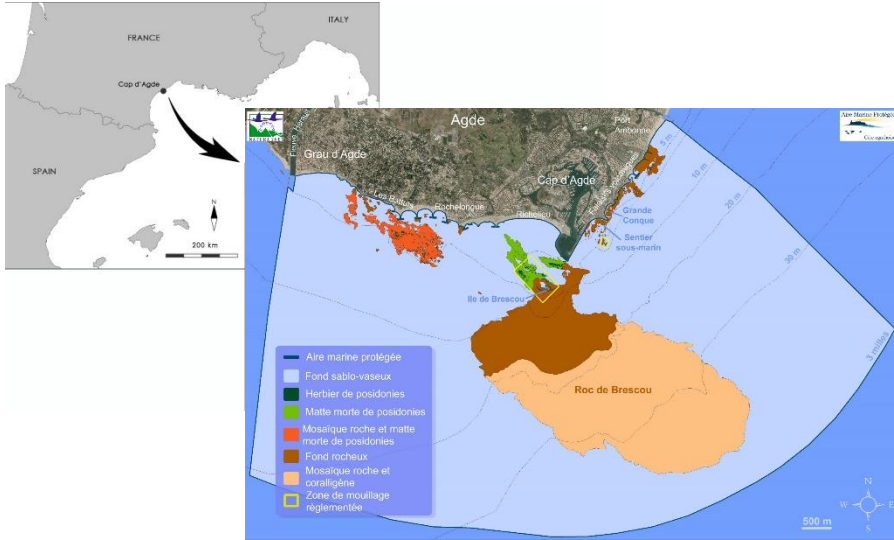
## Highly protected area inside the MPA of the coast agathoise(Natura 2000 Site Posidonia of Cap d'Agde)

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**Marine protected area of the coast agathoise, Agde Municipality**



# Background and context



- Natura 2000 site – 6152 ha
- Managed by Agde municipality
- Mass tourism context
- 30 small-scale fishermen
- 8 diving centers
- Recreational fishermen
- Many nautical activities .....



# Background and context

## Key issue:

- Impact of coralligenous habitats (anchoring, overfishing, diving,...)
- Decreasing of fishs resources
- Conflict between small-scale fishermen and diving centers and recreational fishermen

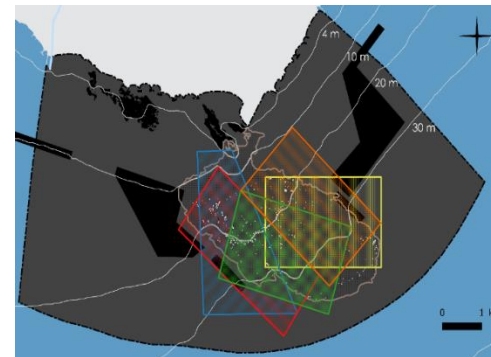
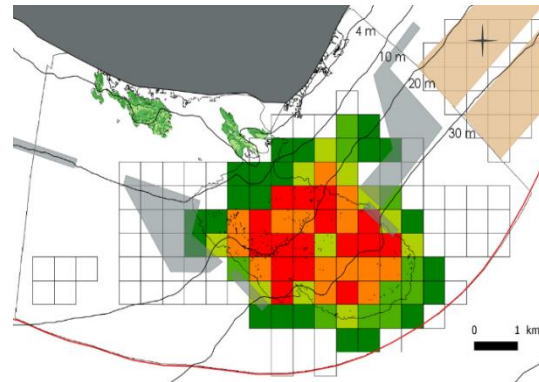
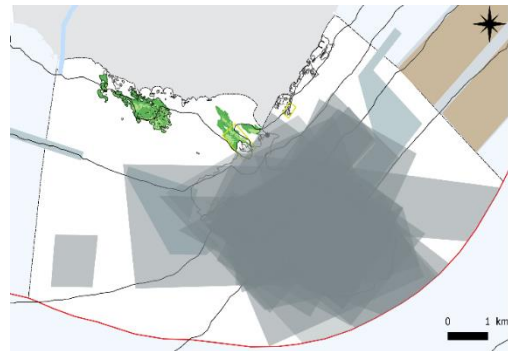
## Objectives:

- Create a strong protected area inside the MPA
- Protect coralligenous reef habitat
- Co-building process, firstly with fishermen, then other stakeholders



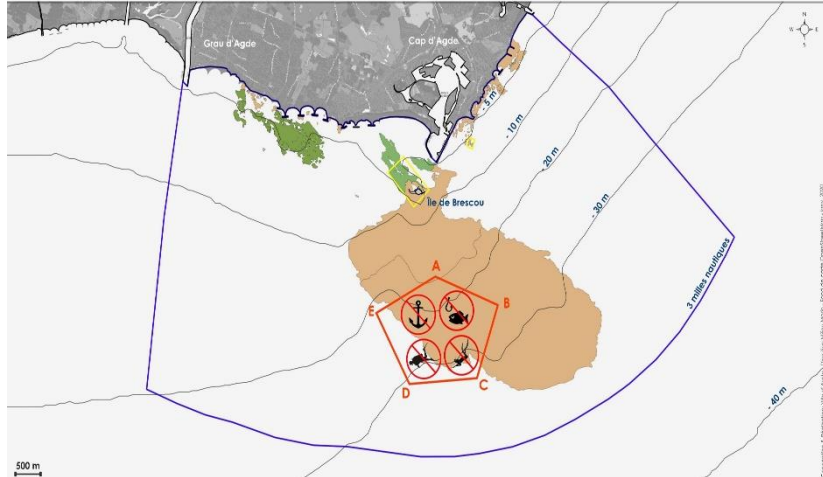
# Methodology and involvement

- Exchange meeting between fishermen in other MPAs (PMCB, Camargue)
- Individual ITW : 30 fishermen, with map support => draw your reserve
- Choise of area with multi-criteria analysis
- Consultations with diving centers, recreational fishermen and yachting



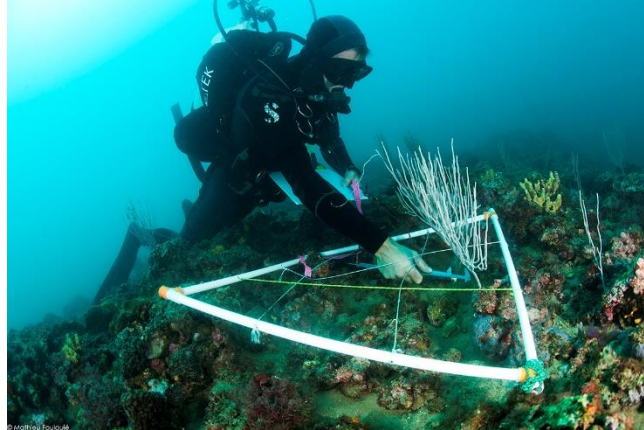
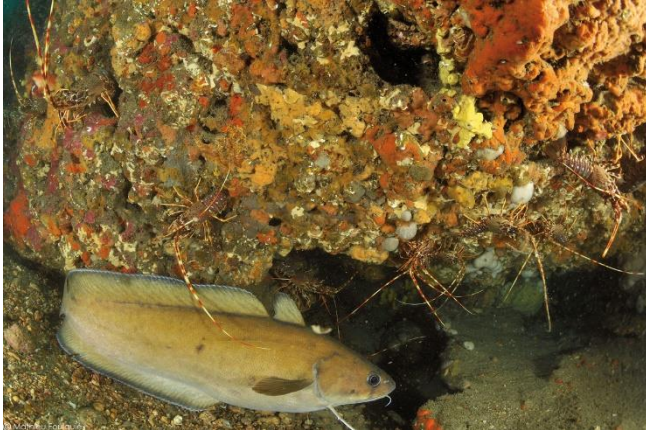
# Results

- Final scenario approved by MPA steering committee: pentagone 310 ha > **5 % of the MPA**
  - The largest integral marine reserve in the Occitania region
- **45 % coralligenous habitat of the MPA strictly protected**
- Strong protected zone (marine reserve) : no take area without diving, anchoring, dredging
- No maritime marks > only mobile application and awareness/surveillance by AMP staff with specific boat



# Results on the species and habitats

- The protection of the coralligenous habitat resulted in an increase in the density and size of colonies of erect bryozoans, including a higher proportion of individuals in exposed positions.
- Increase in the average weight of halieutic species with low movement (lobster, forkbeard, scorpion fish sp., etc.)
- Increase in remarkable species (corb, grouper)



# Lessons learned

- **3 years** process but success resulting of 20 years MPA management in closely cooperation with local stakeholders and authorities, « community based management »
- **Capitalisation** of the MPA success stories, facilitated by regional, national and international MPA networks
- **Financial resources** needed to effective MPA management (LIFE MarHa)
- After 4 years, only few problems (recreational fishermen)  
BUT increase of nautical activities > a stronger surveillance is needed



- Too early to analyse the effects on marine biodiversity
- **Difficult control at sea** without involvement of marine authorities
- The absence of marks at sea leads to difficulties in effective and legal control at sea

➤ **Towards a new statute of National Marine Natural Reserve to strengthen the power of control of the agents of the AMP**



BLUEMISSIONAA AND MPA EUROPE

# MPA AWARD

BRUSSELS, 5TH OF MARCH 2024



## Côte Agathoise MPA

For outstanding achievement in protecting marine and coastal ecosystems and biodiversity in European seas

Kersti Salmuska

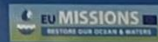
Director General, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission  
"Blue Growth, Fisheries, Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030"

Joanna Drake

Deputy Director General, DG Research and Innovation,  
European Commission

BLUEMISSIONAA

MPA



European Prize (MPA Award) from the European Commission for rewarding maritime spaces engaging with exceptional marine protected areas which actively contribute to the EU mission “Restoring our ocean and our waters” by 2030”.



Thank's for your attention

