

Economic Benefits of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Spatial Protection Measures (SPMs)

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Literature review:

627 studies

94 fulfill evidence robustness criteria

15 CBAs

Do fisheries benefit? Which fisheries?



Maritime tourism and MPAs





European Commission





Swedish MPA Kosterhavet: 500,000 visitors/yr. Plemmirio: MPA promotes dive tourism (450 divers in 2004; 3000 in 2017).

Isole Egadi: 7 vessels authorised by MPA for fishing tourism. Circa €126,000 revenue for the 7 in 2017 (fishermen diversify income in summer, when fish are few and tourists are many!)

Aquaculture – algaculture





European Commission



Griend (Dutch Wadden Sea, UNESCO World Heritage Site, Natura 2000). Engineering project with contract value of over € 2.5 million to enable continual nourishment of the island against erosion. Cyprus: Creating artificial reefs as new fish habitat in a local MPA = € 1.28 million income for the engineering contractor; preparing the four reefs was full-time work for 20 employees over 5 months.

Denmark: Laeso Trindel SAC - € 3.8 million worth of design and construction goods and services to create an artificial boulder reef (restoring habitat type 1170, Habitats Directive).

Green jobs in the blue economy

Merely by functioning, MPAs can create jobs: 10 case studies, 97 employed by the studied MPAs to manage and administer.

MPAs procure environmental consulting services for ad hoc activities (monitoring, restoration)

Biodiverse MPAs are favoured research destinations. Report cites an MPA visited in one single year by 153 scientists & field workers from 28 different research teams. ⇒ local purchase of supplies, travel, lodgings, subsistence.







Money and the MPA

access fees for tourists levies on overnight stays mooring fees diving fees

annual licensing fees from entrepreneurs using the MPA

one-off permit fees

MPA self-financing rates Cabrera, Torre Guaceto 20-30% Egadi 50% Bonaire 90% MPAs exploiting their own hotel/cafeteria/parking lots

MPA visitor centres, museums, guided tours

Thank you

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