

Structure

- 1-Marine conservation in the Azores: dates to retain;
- 2-Two instruments for MPA management;
- 3-Two recent cases of MPA management;
- 4-Towards a fully implementation of MPAs;
- 5-What are considered the main challenges for the next future?;
- 6-The last steps taken by DRAM.

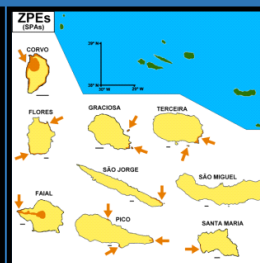
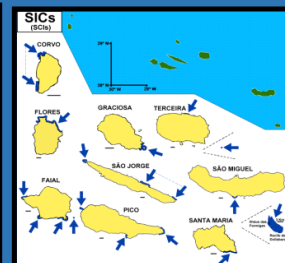
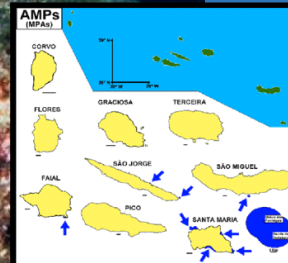
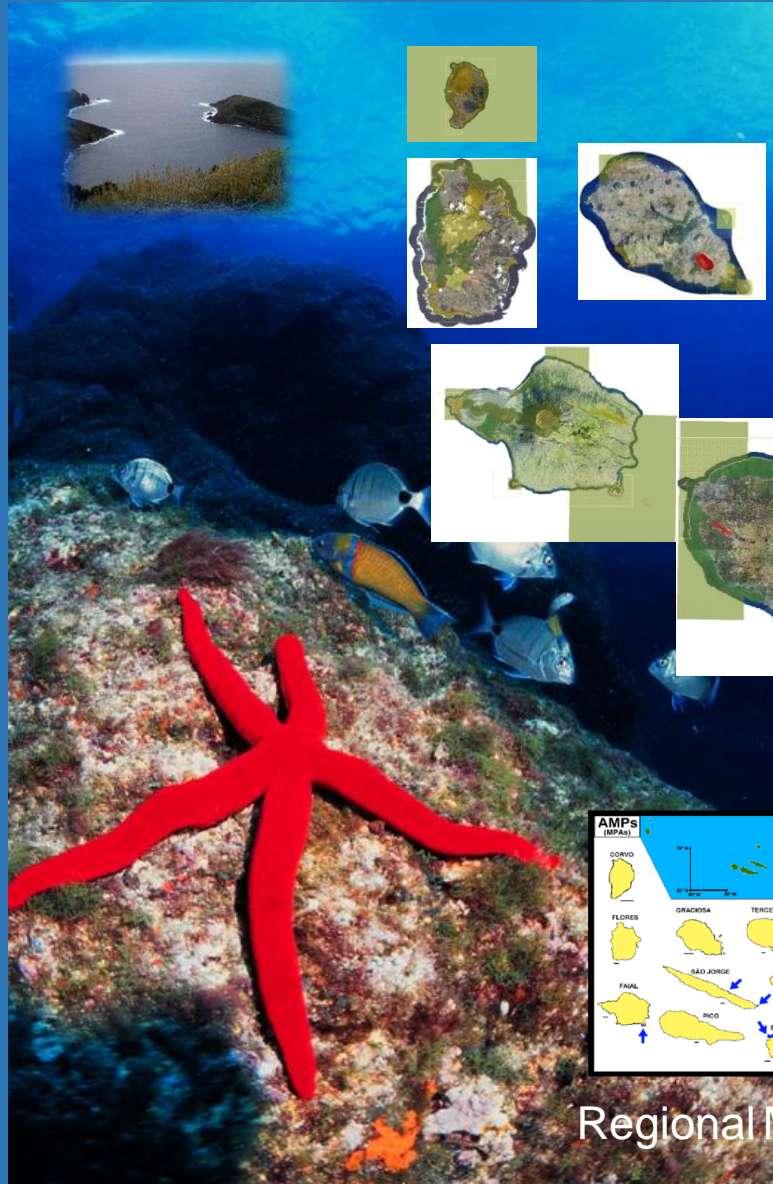
1 – Marine conservation in the Azores: dates to retain

- 1980 - The **first marine protected area (MPA)** was created (Monte da Guia - Faial);
- 2004 – The **first coastal zone management instrument** was approved;
- 2006 – **Natura 2000 network** sectorial plan was enforced;
- 2007 – Review of the **Azores Protected Areas Network**;
- 2008-2011 - **Nine Island Natural Parks** were created (one for each island);
- 2010 – Azorean **Directorate for Sea Affairs (DRAM)** was created and becomes the environmental authority in the Azores;
- 2011 – Creation of the **Marine Park of the Azores**;
- 2012 – **Biodiversity regional law** - an integrated piece of legislation about conservation and biodiversity;
- 2012- The last coastal zone management instrument was approved – **All islands have an integrated coastal zone management instrument in place**;
- 2013 – **Prioritized Action Framework [PAF]** of Natura 2000 was enforced;
- 2014 – Marine Strategy Framework Directive (**MSFD**) started fully implementation in the Azores;
- 2016 – The **Marine Park of the Azores was reviewed** and increases its area in **122%**.

2 – Two instruments for MPA management

- A. Each Island has a **Natural Park** (marine + terrestrial) – the Islands marine parks are the management unit for protected areas in the Azores – **9 island natural parks**, one for each island;
- B. **Marine Park of the Azores** – All MPAs beyond the 12 NM, located on the Portuguese continental shelf around the Azores:
 - A. Management is assured by the DRAM Staff;
 - B. It has an Advisory Council (meet once a year).

A--Island Natural Parks



Regional MPAs

NATURA 2000

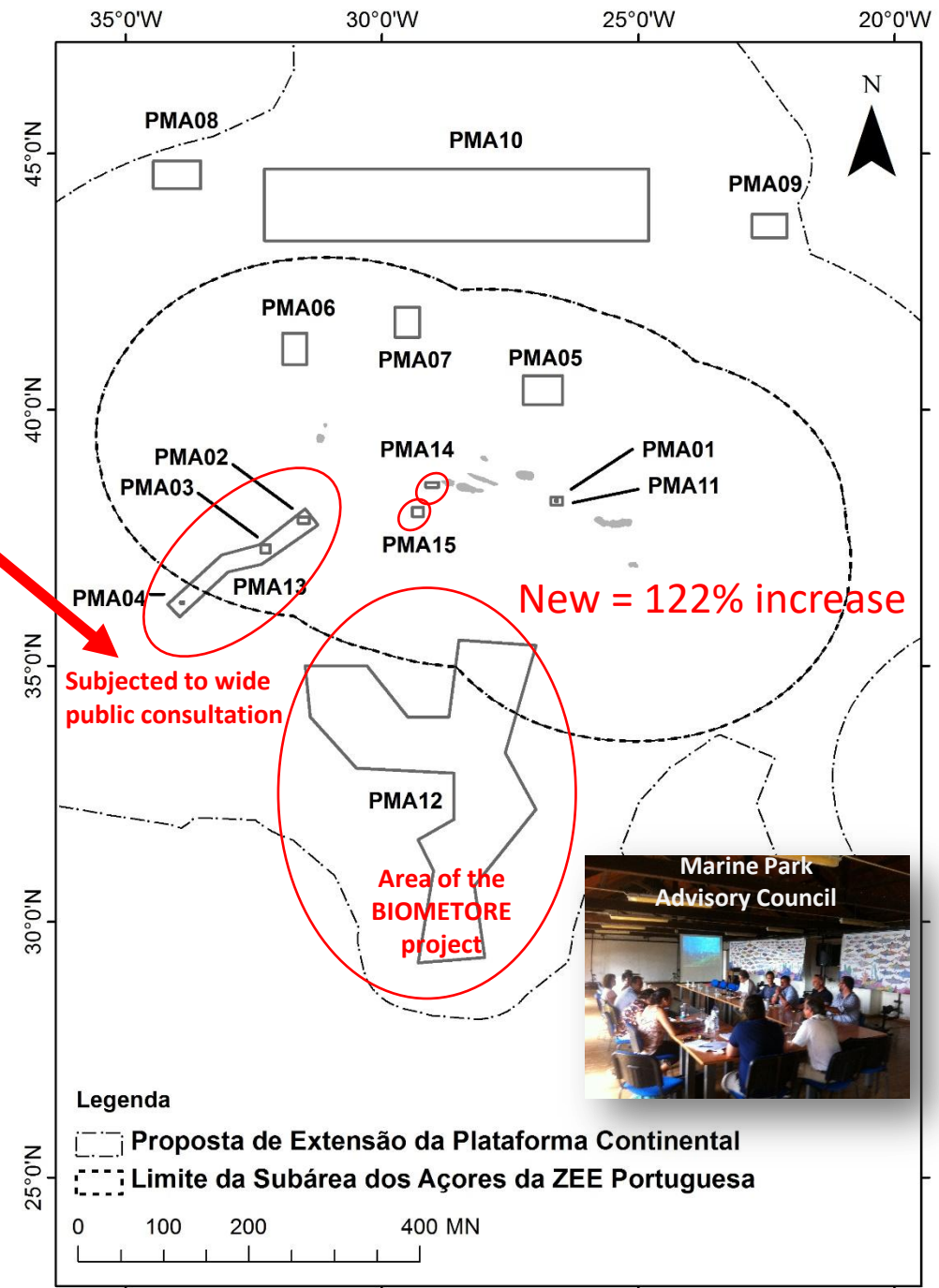
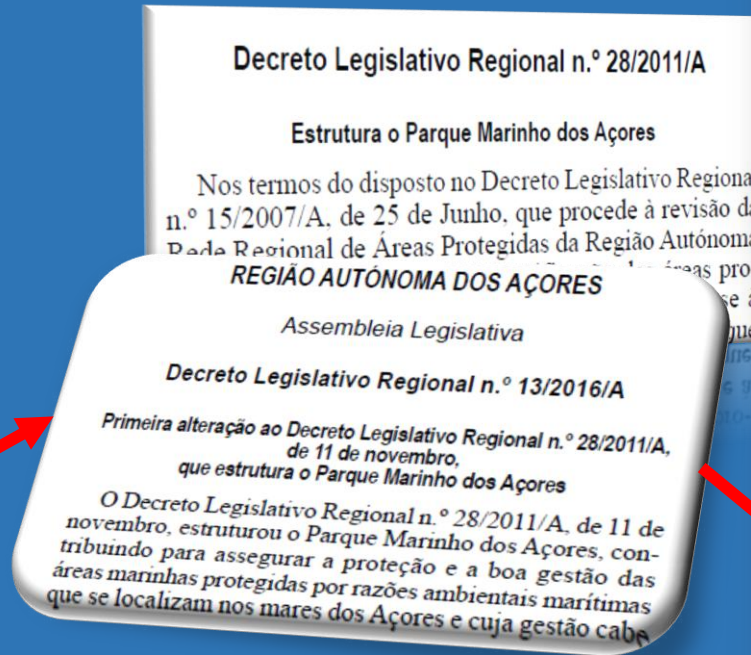
- Each Island Natural Park has:
 - A director;
 - Staff;
 - Resources;
- Autonomy to develop conservation projects;
- DRAM coordinates all Parks on marine issues such as:
 - Habitat mapping;
 - Seabirds monitoring;
 - Marine litter monitoring;
 - Cetacean strandings network;
 - Bathing waters;
 - Surveillance;
 - Education.

B – The Marine Park of the Azores

- It is the main instrument of conservation for the MPAs beyond the territorial waters (12nm);
- DRAM coordinates;
- It has an advisory council;
- 15 Marine protected areas:
 - 2 are subdivided into two areas:
 - Within EEZ
 - Outside EEZ.
- After the last revision, approved recently, the Marine Park of the Azores was increased in 135 466 km², representing 122% of more protected area.
- MPA categories:
 - IUCN I – 5 MPAs;
 - IUCN IV – 6 MPAs;
 - IUCN VI – 4 MPAs.

- Rede Natura 2000;
- OSPAR;
- IBA – "Important Bird Area";
- NEAFC;
- CE 1568/2005;
- GtE (Gift to the Earth): World Wild Fundation (WWF).

Code	Area	Classification PMA (IUCN)	Other classifications
PMA1	Banco D. João de Castro	IUCN I	ZEC; OSPAR; CE 1568/2005
PMA2	Campo Hidrotermal Menez Gwen	Reserva Natural Marinha IUCN I	SIC; OSPAR; CE 1568/2005; GtE
PMA3	Campo Hidrotermal Lucky Strike	Reserva Natural Marinha IUCN I	SIC; OSPAR; CE 1568/2005; GtE
PMA4	Campo Hidrotermal Rainbow	Reserva Natural Marinha IUCN I	OSPAR; CE 1568/2005
PMA5	Monte Sedlo	Reserva Natural Marinha IUCN I	OSPAR; CE 1568/2005
PMA6	Área Oceânica do Corvo	AMP Gestão de Habitats ou Espécies IUCN IV	IBA
PMA7	Área Oceânica do Faial	AMP Gestão de Habitats ou Espécies IUCN IV	IBA
PMA8	Monte Submarino Altair	AMP Gestão de Habitats ou Espécies IUCN IV	NEAFC; OSPAR
PMA9	Monte Submarino Antialtair	AMP Gestão de Habitats ou Espécies IUCN IV	NEAFC; OSPAR
PMA10	MARNA	AMP Gestão de Habitats ou Espécies IUCN IV	OSPAR
PMA11	Banco D. João de Castro	AMP Gestão de Recursos IUCN VI	ZEC; OSPAR; CE 1568/2005



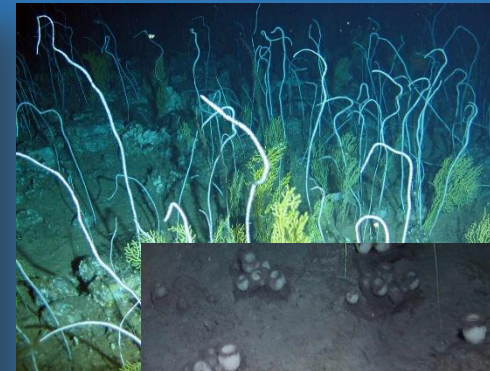
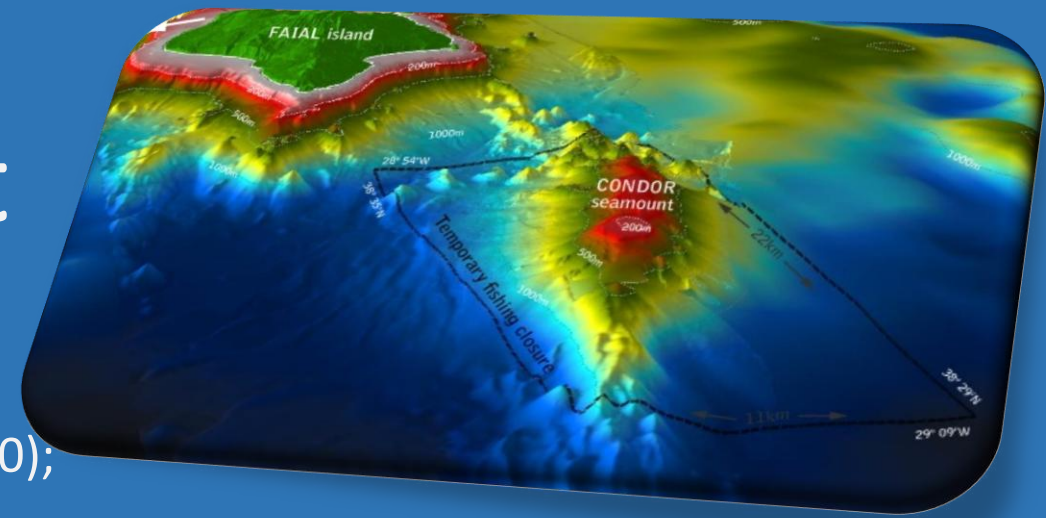
3 – Two recent cases of MPA management

3.1 – The Condor Seamount;

3.2 - The new fishing regulations on coastal areas.

3.1 – The Condor Seamount

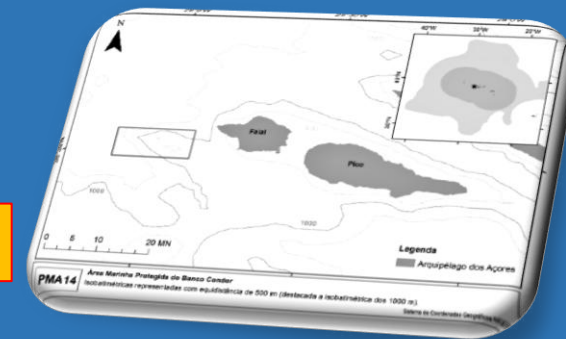
- It has been a natural laboratory since 2008;
- It is a case study for seamount research;
- Fishing restrictions were agreed with the fisherman (after 2010);
- It is being currently used for stocks recovery;
- Intensive monitoring and study is under way on this area.



Artigo 20.º-A

Área Marinha Protegida do Banco Condor

1 — Constituem fundamentos específicos para a classificação da Área Marinha Protegida do Banco Condor os valores naturais em presença e a importância para as espécies, *habitats* e ecossistemas, assim como o interesse da respetiva área para o conhecimento dos mares e para a exploração dos recursos existentes, de forma sustentável.

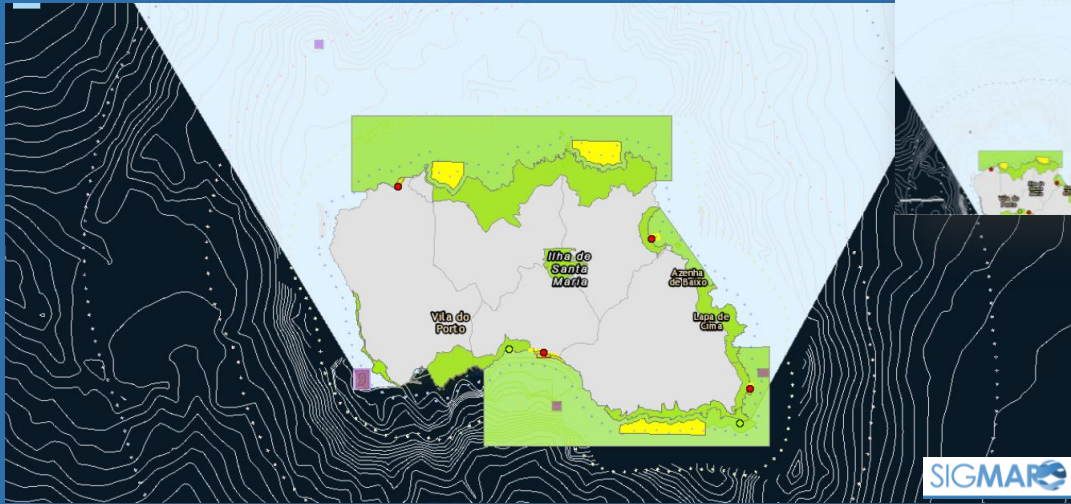


It was recently included in the Marine Park of the Azores as a Marine Protected Area (PMA14).

3.2 - The fishing regulations

- An effort is being made to regulate fisheries on MPAs, together with the fisheries sector (Fishermen and Regional Directorate of Fisheries).
- The current cases are:
 - i. Santa Maria;
 - ii. Graciosa MPAs;
 - iii. Channel Pico-Faial;
 - iv. Ribeira Quente -São Miguel.

i) Santa Maria

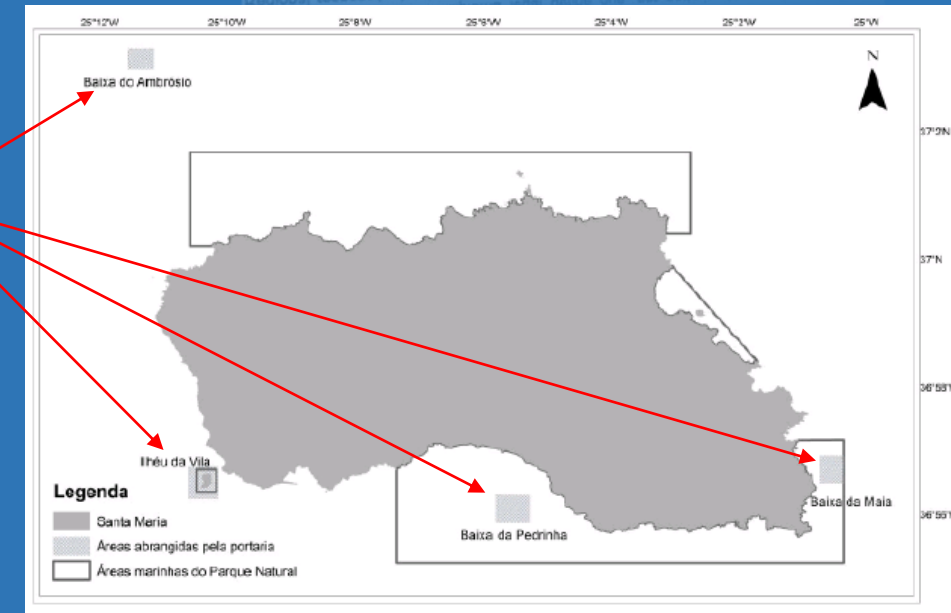


S.R. DO MAR, CIÊNCIA E TECNOLOGIA, S.R. DA AGRICULTURA E AMBIENTE
Portaria n.º 87/2014 de 29 de Dezembro de 2014

O Decreto Legislativo Regional n.º 29/2010/A, de 9 de novembro, alterado e republicado pelo Decreto Legislativo Regional n.º 31/2102/A, de 6 de julho, que institui o Quadro legal da pesca açoriana, determina que as medidas de conservação, gestão e exploração dos recursos vivos marinhos no Mar dos Açores, a aplicar às embarcações regionais, aos apanhadores, pescadores submarinos e aos pescadores de costa, bem como a aplicar no território de pesca dos Açores, são definidas por portaria do membro do Governo Regional responsável pelas pescas.

O artigo 9.º do referido diploma legal define que, por portaria do membro do Governo Regional responsável pelas pescas, podem ser estabelecidos condicionamentos ao exercício da pesca através de regulamentos que interditem ou restrinjam o seu exercício em certas áreas ou com certas artes e instrumentos.

- Demersal fishing is not allowed;
- A number of restrictions is also directed to maritime tourism and leisure activities.
- Four permanent buoys have recently been installed for the use of those areas, in order to avoid conflicts;
- It resulted from a continuous dialogue between:
 - Researchers;
 - Fisherman;
 - Administration:
 - Sea affairs
 - Fisheries
 - Maritime tourism enterprises.



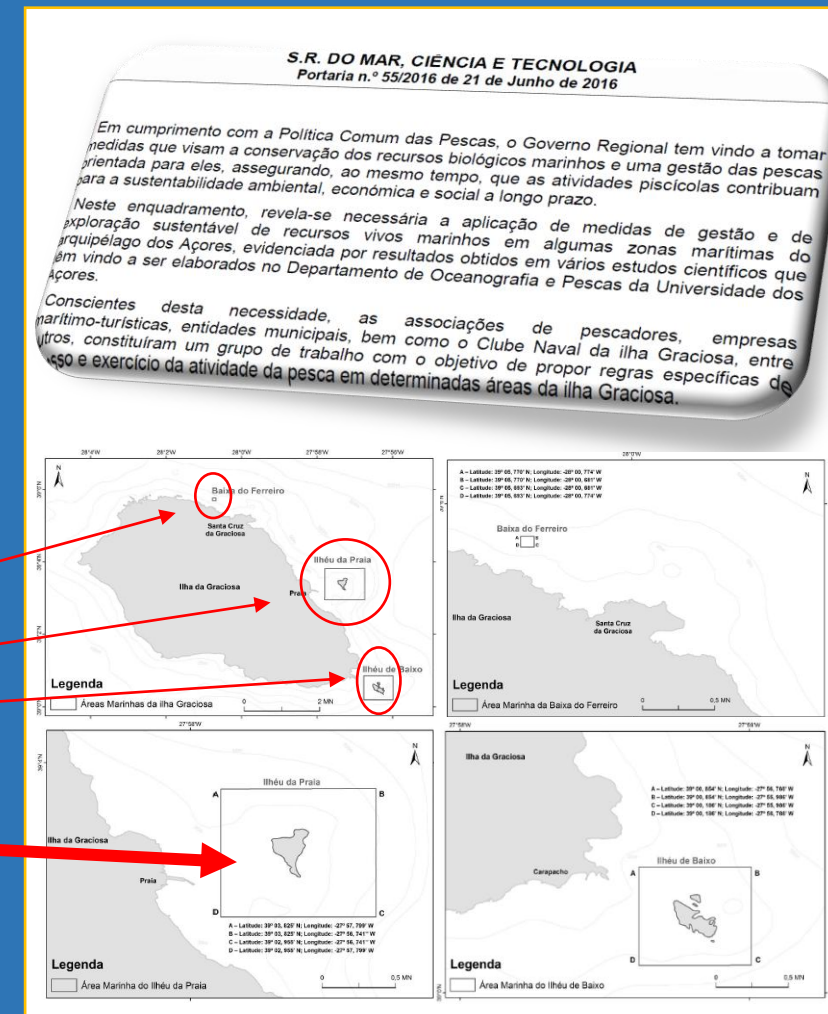
Important: Regulation was asked for by the local maritime tourism enterprises

ii) Graciosa



- No demersal fishing is allowed;
- No anchorage is allowed off Praia Islet.
- A number of meetings with:
 - Researchers;
 - Fisherman;
 - Administration:
 - Sea affairs
 - Fisheries
 - Maritime tourism enterprises.

Important: The regulation was required by fisherman and maritime tourism enterprises

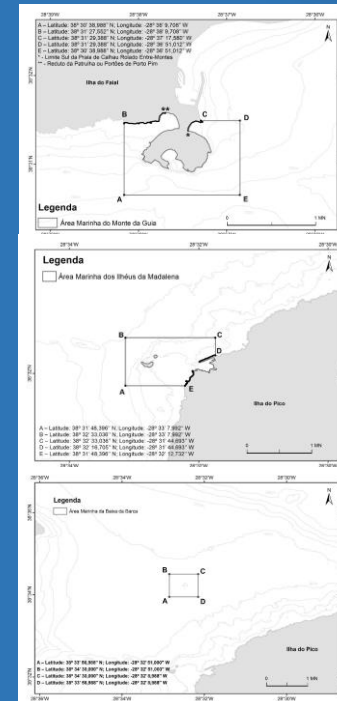


iii) Pico-Faial Channel regulation



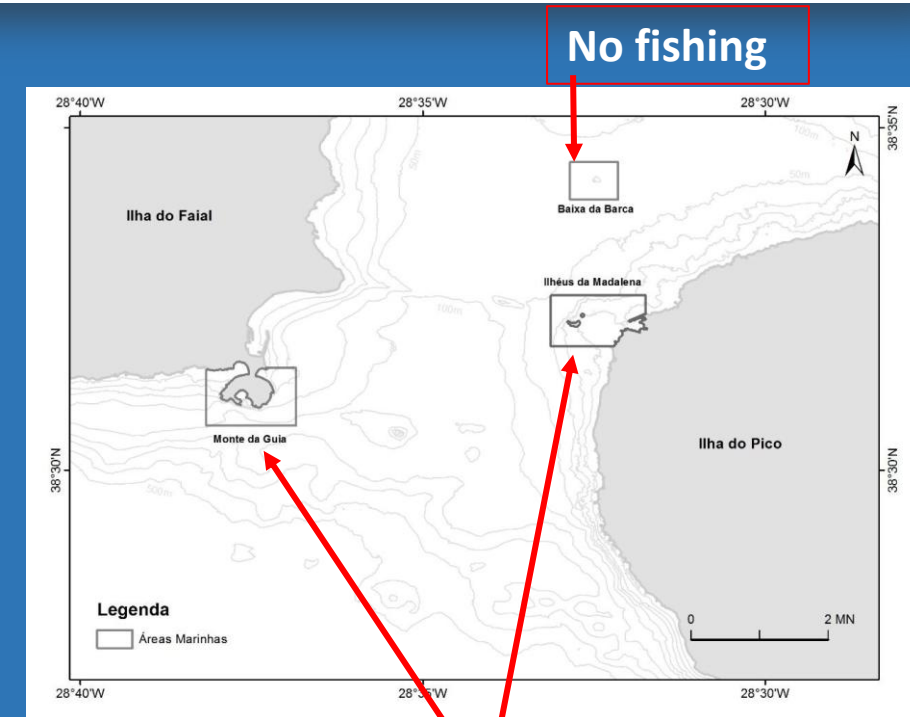
- This regulation resulted from extensive consultation of the main stakeholders, namely:

- Researchers;
- Fisherman;
- Administration:
 - Sea affairs
 - Fisheries
- Maritime tourism enterprises.



Em cumprimento com a Política Comum das Pescas, o Governo Regional tem vindo a tomar medidas que visam a conservação dos recursos biológicos marinhos e uma gestão das pescas orientada para eles, assegurando, ao mesmo tempo, que as atividades piscícolas contribuam para a sustentabilidade ambiental, económica e social a longo prazo.

Neste enquadramento, revela-se necessária a aplicação de medidas de gestão e de exploração sustentável de recursos vivos marinhos nas zonas envolventes das ilhas do Faial e do Pico, evidenciada por resultados obtidos em vários estudos científicos que têm vindo a ser elaborados no Departamento de Oceanografia e Pescas da Universidade dos Açores.



Fishing restrictions (only pelagical species)

Important: Fisherman asked for a monitoring plan and an annual report – now in place

iv) Ribeira Quente - São Miguel

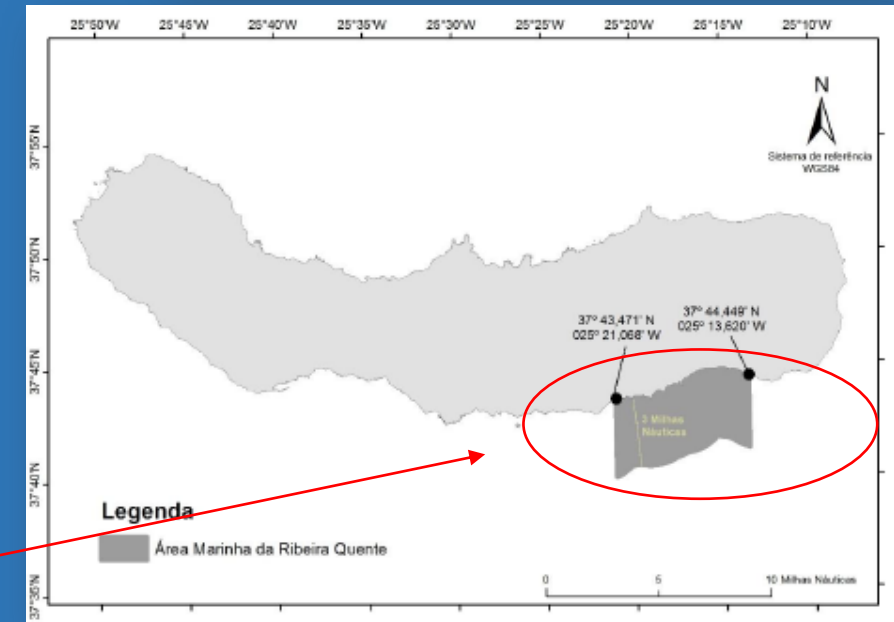


- A local organization developed a consultation of fisherman;
- No traps or gilling nets are allowed;
- No bottom longline is allowed.

S.R. DO MAR, CIÊNCIA E TECNOLOGIA
Portaria n.º 54/2016 de 21 de Junho de 2016

É opinião da comunidade piscatória da freguesia da Ribeira Quente, na ilha de São Miguel, que, ao longo dos últimos anos, a quantidade de pescado disponível para captura tem vindo a diminuir, o que, no futuro, pode provocar quebra de rendimentos, tornando a pesca uma profissão pouco atrativa.

Neste contexto, os armadores e pescadores da Ribeira Quente, tomaram a iniciativa de propor a criação de uma área de restrição à pesca que, para além de criar uma maternidade para proteção às diferentes espécies marinhas, pretende aumentar a disponibilidade dos recursos e, com isso, o rendimento na pesca. A criação desta área pretende contribuir, ainda, para a projeção da freguesia, atraindo investigadores, bem como outros setores da economia do mar, turistas e visitantes, gerando dinâmicas de desenvolvimento local.



Important: The regulation was required by fisherman

4 – Towards a fully implementation of MPAs

- The financial package: PEAMA - The Strategic Program for Marine Environment of the Azores
- A €700 000 running project, with the following tasks:
 - Mapping and assessment of coastal habitats and communities;
 - Marine invasive species;
 - Marine litter;
 - Monitoring of human impacts and pressures on the coastal areas;
 - Monitoring marine agitation;
 - Sustainable management of human activities and conflict management;
 - Geographic information and marine spatial planning;
 - Oceanographic data collection;
 - Remote surveillance of MPAs;
 - Marine environmental education;
- This project will be add-on for the next years.



Documents that have been prepared recently

Marine litter



5 – What are considered the main challenges for the next future?

- Full legal review of the costal network of MPAs (natural parks);
- Define new MPAs for priority species (cetaceans and sea turtles);
- Understand the uses on MPAs (specially on the offshore);
- Further regulation of the MPAs, in articulation with stakeholders;
- Mapping of the MPAs;
- Definition of good practices for the use of MPA in the Azores:
- Quantification of socioeconomic importance and ecosystem services;
- Efficient and sustainable licensing of activities.

6 – The last steps taken by DRAM

- A proposal has been recently prepared for submission for a LIFE-IP with a special focus on the management of MPAs, in special to offshore MPAs:
 - Data mining and setting of databases;
 - Development and implementation of action plans for species and habitats;
 - Inventories for new N2000 MPAs on the offshore around the Azores:
 - An area for cetaceans and marine turtles;
 - Three new areas from the Marine Park of the Azores (Condor; area around hydrothermal fields; Sedlo seamount).
 - Development of management plans for offshore MPAs;
 - Non-indigenous marine species;
 - Actions to mitigate the effects of marine litter;
 - Building automated methods of assessment of marine activities in MPAs;
 - Risk maps for marine mammals.

In collaboration with:

- University of the Azores;
- Regional Directorate of the Environment;
- Regional Directorate of Fisheries;
- SPEA.

Thanks

Please contact us: info.dram@azores.gov.pt
<http://www.azores.gov.pt/GRA/srmct-mar>



Governo dos Açores