

Cooperation between scientists & fishermen:

Best practices in the Mediterranean



www.archipelago.gr
www.medreact.org



1. Fishermen working towards recovery of spiny lobster

Sardinia, Italy

- Beginning of 90's, spiny lobster stocks in Sardinia drastically declined
- Cooperation between fishermen & researchers led to first recovery project in Su Pallosu
- Result: in 15 years, 550% biomass increase
- This led regional government to establish 14 new restocking areas
- The case illustrate in award winning documentary “Little Lobsters”



2. Exchanging information on coralligenous reefs

NE Aegean islands, Greece

- Regular destruction of coralligenous reefs by trawling
- Archipelagos researchers & fishermen from Fourni island joined forces to **map coralligenous reefs for the definition of no trawling zones for national authorities**
- Support is sought by DG MARE, RAC/SPA, and other international organisations, to press national authorities to comply with the Mediterranean regulation (Reg.1967/2006) and enforce no trawling zones



3. Crowdfunding campaign: Rewarding sustainable fishermen with nets, *Lipsi island, Greece*



- As fish stocks decline, marine mammals cause increased damage to nets as they hunt for food
- Less fish available for all but artisanal fishermen are the ones to pay the price
- Collaboration between Lipsi's fishermen & Archipelagos resulted in a **crowdfunding campaign to raise funds for selective nets** to compensate fishermen in an area where there has been **no** deliberate killing of protected species despite the damage they cause to fishing gear.



3. Crowdfunding campaign: Rewarding sustainable fishermen with nets, *Lipsi island, Greece*



Photo of common dolphin tangled up in trammel nets, taken by fisherman just before he released it alive

Results

- The nets given were warmly welcomed by local fishing community who since became more active in showing catches to the research team that records their daily landings
- Fishermen with higher income did not take their share and kindly offered nets first to poorer families
- New selective nets also became an invaluable moral support to fishermen, causing a reduction in cases of dolphin entanglement & allowing better relationship between fishermen & marine mammals



4. Efforts for Monk Seal Conservation

NE Aegean islands, Greece



- Collaboration between fishermen of NE Aegean islands & Archipelagos researchers
- Aim: collect information from fishermen on monk seals' feeding, breeding & resting grounds

5. Efforts for Co-Management

Lipsi island, Greece

- Cooperation between fishermen of Lipsi island in NE Aegean and researchers from Archipelagos
- Aim: to create a co-managed Fisheries Protected Area (FPA) around Lipsi
- **Artisanal fishermen raised funds themselves to cover the living expenses of a team of volunteer researchers** and young graduates for over a year on the island, to gather data for the co-management plan



5. Efforts for Co-Management

Lipsi island, Greece



- Collecting data on daily catches, fishing areas & methods used & fishing effort
- Long term catch-composition studies for development of sustainable management measures
- Working in close collaboration with local community



6. Combating IUU Fisheries

Archipelagos' network of local communities and fishermen provide valuable confidential information about IUU activities in their area



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