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La Bio&Tec in collaborazione con l'Area Marina protetta isole Egadi, AGCI Agrital, CNR di Mazara del Vallo e il Consorzio di Gestione della Pesca, hanno presentato il poster "***From the Regulation of the "Egadi Islands Marine Protected Area" to the "Local Management Plan from Castellammare del Golfo to Marsala, including the Egadi Islands": an example of integration and sharing of best practices.***"

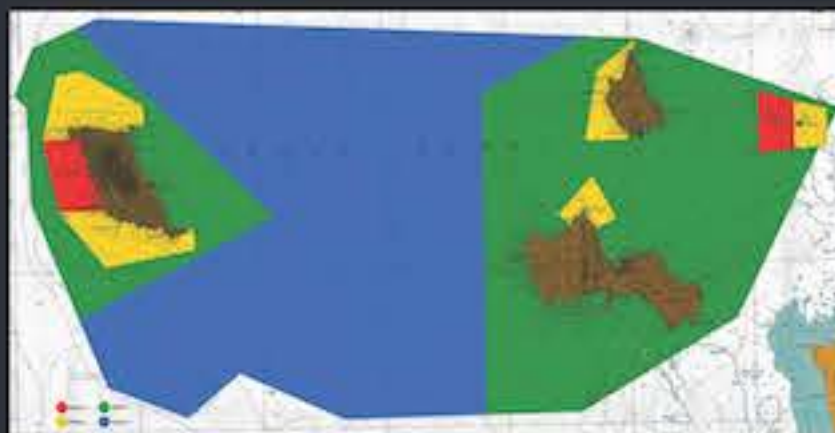


From the Regulation of the “Egadi Islands Marine Protected Area Management Plan from Castellammare del Golfo to Marsala, including the Egadi Islands”: an example of integration and sharing of best practices

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INTRODUCTION

In recent years the Egadi Islands, an archipelago located off the western coast of Sicily, have become “strategic” to experiment sustainable fisheries through the implementation of the Local Management Plan (LMP) of the area from Castellammare del Golfo to Marsala, including the Egadi Islands. From 2010 (year of entry into force of the Implementing and Organization Regulation of the Marine Protected Area by decree of the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea) the area is in charge for the implementation in such territory of more restrictive rules compared with the current regulation on fishery issues. In addition, from 2010 the LMP of the area from Castellammare del Golfo to Marsala, including the Egadi Islands” is operating in this field. It was presented within the measure 3.1 letter m) of the National Rural Development Programme (Co.Ge.P.A.) of Trapani with the scientific support of the Institute for Coastal Marine Environment of the National Research Council (CNR).



The Egadi Islands Marine Protected Area

The “Egadi Islands MPA” was established by Ministerial Decree of 27 December 1991 and includes the islands of Favignana, Levanzo, Marettimo and the islets of Formica and Maraone. The MPA aims both to protect the natural environments, with particular reference to the protection of marine resources and regulate fishing, from the perspective of sustainable development. The reserve, with its 53,992 ha, is the largest natural marine reserve in Europe. It is divided into four areas with different levels of protection and with different possibilities for access and limitations regarding usability. The MPA is managed by the Municipality of Favignana, pursuant to Ministerial Decree of 16 January 2001.

The area has significant value in terms of its landscape as well as its biological-environmental characteristics. Given the location and the particular hydrological conditions, the populations are characterized by high biodiversity.

The Local Management Plan from Castellammare del Golfo to Marsala, including the Egadi Islands

The Council Regulation n° 1198/2006 of the European Union (EU) established the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) for the period 2007-2013 to support the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) objectives, which include the sustainable use of marine resources. The LMP of the area from Castellammare del Golfo to Marsala, including the Egadi Islands, is a management and control of access component of the LMP of the area from Castellammare del Golfo to Marsala, including the Egadi Islands. The “Management Consortium of Artisanal Fisheries of the area from Castellammare del Golfo to Marsala, including the Egadi Islands” for a distance of 12 nautical miles from the coast, including 251 fishing boats of 7 different fleets, managed the area.

OBJECTIVES AND MANAGEMENT MODE

The general objective of this plan is to improve the state of fish stocks through the management of fishing effort and the introduction of sustainable fisheries. In particular, the plan is aimed at maintaining a sustainable level of the fishing impact on marine ecosystems, improving the economic conditions of workers in the sector and to maximizing employment opportunities in areas dependent on fisheries. Unlike what usually happens in Marine Protected Areas, in which the protection of the sea coincides exactly with its perimeter, the “Egadi Islands MPA” is hereby included within a much larger area, in which the management measures have been proposed in a bottom-up logic from the same fishermen. This aspect allows the area covered by the “Local Management Plan of the area from Castellammare del Golfo to Marsala, including the Egadi Islands” fisheries pressure is handled in a co-management approach.

Management measures introduced by “Local Management Plan of the area from Castellammare del Golfo to Marsala, including the Egadi Islands” and sharing with the fishermen.

- Fishery with trammel net
 - Each boat must use a maximum of 2,000 meters of trammel nets, plus 500 meters per fisherman regularly boarded in addition to the captain.
 - Must be used mesh not less than “10 nodes” (27.2 mm per side).
 - Can be used mesh not less than “11 nodes” (25.0 mm per side) for diurnal fishing of Mullet (*Mullus spp.*) in the months from May to September.
- Lobster fishery
 - It is forbidden to catch Spiny lobster (*Palinurus clypeus*) and European lobster (*Homarus gammarus*) from 15 November to 31 December of each year (Italian law prohibits fishery of Spiny lobster and European lobster from 1st January to 30 April).
- Cephalopods fishery
 - Voluntary reduction of fishing effort of small-scale fishing from 1st to 28 February of each year, through the use of fishing prohibitions in order to reduce the impact on the resources of commercial fisheries.



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