



# MARINE PROTECTED AREAS: Initiatives and Opportunities

31 MAY 2017

Radisson Blu Resort & Spa Malta, Golden Sands

**Italian MPAS: open air laboratory for sustainable management of coast and sea**

**Case History: Natura 2000 marine sites management in Sicily**

Stefano Donati, Director at Egadi Islands Marine Protected Area



**Egadi Islands  
marine protected area**





# Egadi Islands marine protected area



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**Italy. More than 7.500 kilometers of coastline...**





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# The italian network of MPAS

Italy has the largest network of MPAS in Europe:  
27 marine reserves,  
1 sanctuary,  
2 archaeological marine parks  
2 national parks with protection at sea

In total, it is planned to establish 54  
Marine protected areas





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# The network of Marine Protected Areas in Sicily

- Ustica island (1986)
- Egadi Islands (1991)
- Capo Gallo – Isola delle Femmine (2002)
- Pelagie Islands (2002)
- Plemmirio (2005)
- Ciclopi Islands (1989)



Sicily holds the richest network of Marine Protected Areas in Italy, counting **6** marine reserves all around the island, while **8** more MPAS are bound to be established.



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## Marine Protected Areas to manage Natura 2000 marine sites

On 18th February 2011, the Regional Department of Environment of Sicily updated by decree the perimeter of **6 marine Sites of Community Importance (SCI)**, bringing them to coincide with the perimeter of corresponding Marine Protected Areas.

On 12<sup>o</sup> July 2016, the same Regional Department **delegated the management** of those 6 SCI to MPA management bodies. This was an unprecedented choice, **that enforced both the MPA management and the SCI effectiveness.**

The presence of reliable management bodies, with good experience in marine conservation and sustainable coastal management, such as Italian MPAs, allows us to produce **Conservation Measures and Management Plan** of marine SCI very fast and with a concrete vision.





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This success is mainly based on:  
Local management  
Partnership with local fishermen;





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Local fishermen, in fact, practise artisanal fishing activities, considered quite sustainable, and have a sort of *property right* on the Marine protected area

Local artisanal fishery (trammelnets, longlines, creels) is **allowed** in the B and C zones (97% of the MPAS)



External fisheries and Industrial fishery (trawling, seiners) are **not allowed** in the MPA, or restricted to the D zone.





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Social conflicts between MPAS and fishermen are decreasing, while partnerships in projects are rising...







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The approach:  
Bottom-up management  
Concrete involvement  
Considering artisanal fishermen  
as a “protected species”





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MPA Best practice

# Anti-trawling Bollards

MPA placed 96 repopulating anti-trawling bollards, to reduce illegal coastal trawling, that can damage seabeds, destroy *Posidonia oceanica* seagrass, deplete fish stocks

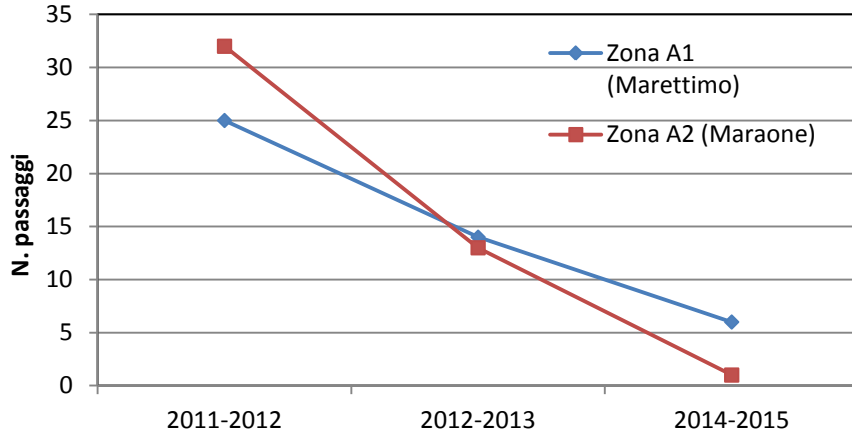
Bollards are made of sea-friendly concrete



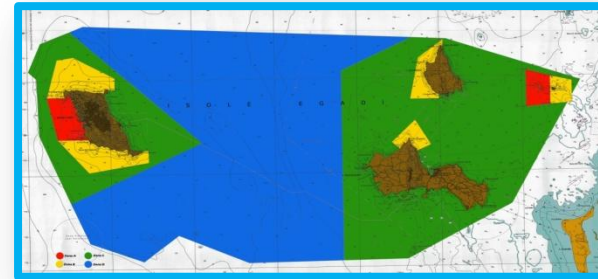


# Anti-trawling Bollards: Blue-box datas

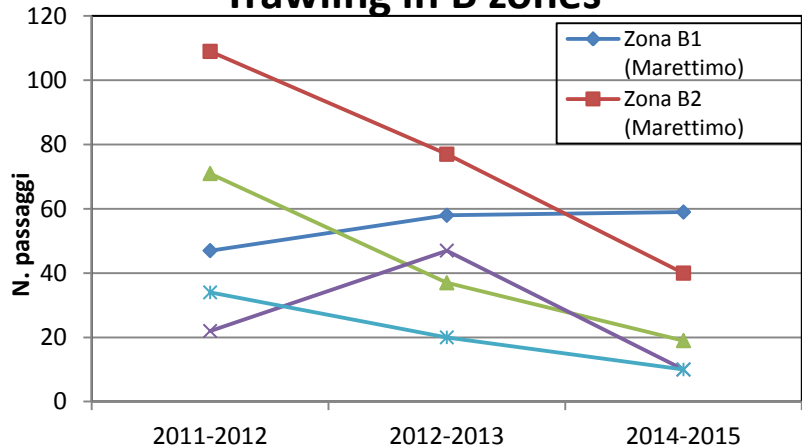
### Trawling fishing in A zone



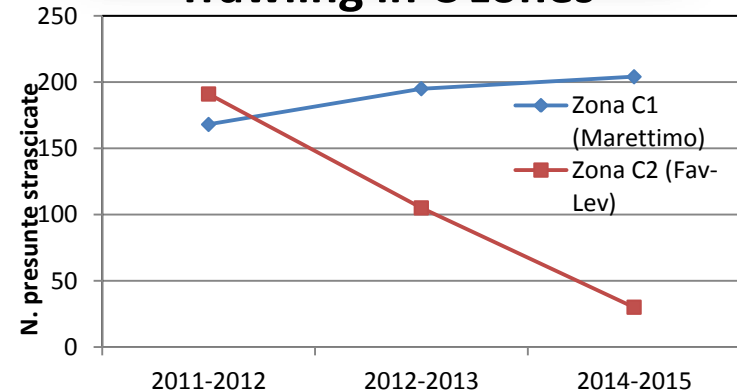
Illegal trawling in the A zone is almost completely reduced; it decreases at 85% in areas where bollard have been placed



### Trawling in B zones



### Trawling in C zones







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MPA Best practice

## Guardians of the sea

A monitoring program of the presence **of protected species** in the Egadi Islands.

Number of vessels involved:

- Favignana: **23**; Marettimo: **13**, Levanzo: **2**

Total number of fishermen: **93**



**sightings of protected species ;**

Support to **surveillance;**

**ethics Code of conduct** for sustainable fisheries;

**reporting of abuse;**

**research** activities;

**cleaning** interventions







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MPA Best practice

# Mooring buoys



**17** mooring areas all over the archipelago, for sailing boats up to 24 metres.

More than **180** buoys to moor in safety, to prevent damage to the seabeds (posidonia seagrass, corals) caused by anchors, ensuring the chance to moor in the most beautiful bays





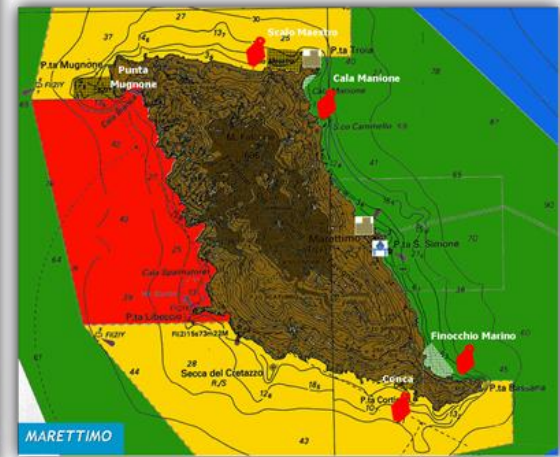
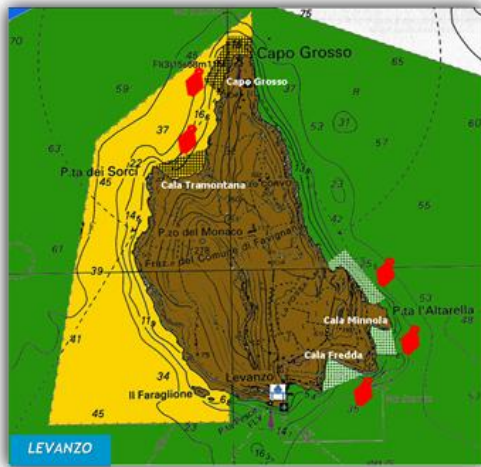
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## MPA mooring buoys:

Great satisfaction of boaters, especially sailors







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MPA Best practice

## Sea Turtle First Aid Centre

The center is managed in cooperation with NGOs, which provide the medical / veterinary and scientific staff , as well as volunteers. Thanks to EU Life Plus funds for the TartaLife project, it will be enhanced in terms of veterinary and surgical equipment and will acquire the level of Turtle Recovery Center.





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First patients in 2015: Sonia, Dile, Tanina  
In 2016: Ulisse, Ettore, Enea, Achille, Penelope,  
Paride, Beatrice, Nausicaa, Calypso and Noemi



**64% of complete  
rehabilitations in 2016**







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### MPA Best practice



MPA created a **label** for the **environmental certification of tourist services** (accommodation, catering, rental of boats, cars and bikes, sightseeing tours, passenger sea and land transport, fish-tourism, diving, bathing facilities): nearly 70 operators obtained the label;







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# Thank you



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