Title: Integrating Ecological and Cultural Considerations In Marine Conservation In A Situation of Economic Crisis. A Comparative Analysis of Two Marine Reserves In Chiloé Island (Chile)

Authors: Bertrand Quetin, Pôle halieutique Agrocampus Ouest (France)
Laura-Mars Henichart, Agrocampus Ouest, Pôle halieutique (France)
Marie Soehnlen, Agrocampus Ouest (France)
Guy Fontelle, Pôle halieutique Agrocampus Ouest (France)

Abstract: The Chiloé archipelago (Patagonia, Chile) economy lies upon agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture. The marine activities were recently affected by an epidemic crisis in salmon farming and a market crisis for most of the seafood products, including seaweeds. Two Marine Reserves (Putemun and Pullinque) in this island were also badly impacted by this economic crisis, even more than the rest of the island. Indeed, the conservation aims and rules reduce the flexibility of the territory to cope with the evolution of the economical and social context. This research aims at showing how an integrated management of the territories and their natural resources can better respond to an economic and social crisis in marine activities. To some extent, we show that environmental conservation contributes to the economic recovery of the area by analyzing the evolution of the two marine reserves management: from a single objective of conservation toward an integrated management, and promotion of new local potentialities (cultural, tourism, traditional identity, etc.). After comparing the evolution of the two marine reserves, it appears that they both develop alternatives to cope with new constraints by developing innovative forms of resistance based on traditional activities and cultural identity. They also paved a fruitful way for a participative management, although different initial management schemes, stages of the process, and various stakeholders. Finally, to face the economic crisis and to avoid an isolation of local traditions, they both turn to a promotion of their natural resources as a support of traditional activities.

Key words: Marine conservation, territory and cultural identity, Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)