

Title: **Assessing the Impact of Mpas on Recreational Uses of A Marine Ecosystem: the Case of the Côte Bleue Marine Park (France)**

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Abstract: Though the basic purpose of MPAs is marine ecosystem conservation, the question of their influence on the local economy is often critical since it governs their social acceptability. This paper addresses the problem of measuring the consequences of creating a marine protected area (MPA) on recreational extractive and non-extractive uses of the ecosystem (scuba diving, snorkelling, sport fishing). In the first part, we analyse the results of several field surveys dedicated to scuba diving and recreational fishing activities in the Côte Bleue Marine Park, along the French Mediterranean coast. These surveys have been performed in 2006-2009, within the framework of two multidisciplinary research projects on MPAs (EMPAFISH project, funded by the EU and PAMPA project, funded by the French Environment Ministry). Its aim was to characterize the behaviour of recreational users, their attitude towards the marine park, and to provide information for an assessment of its economic value. More than 2,500 answers of recreational users were collected. On the basis of these results, the second part of the paper proposes a simple illustrative model of demand for recreational uses of the MPA, taking into account both environmental and congestion effects.