

Title: **Patterns of Artificial Reef Use: the Case of Vilamoura (Portugal)**

Authors: Jorge Ramos, IPIMAR (Portugal)
Miguel Neves Santos (Portugal)
Carlos Costa Monteiro (Portugal)

Abstract: The artificial reef of Vilamoura (ARV) deployed between 1998 and 2001 is situated off the fishing community of Quarteira and the tourism resorts of Vilamoura (Southern Portugal). The reef extends for approximately over 4,000 m long and 1,400 m wide at a depth ranging from 20 to 40 m below the sea level. Biologically it is considered to be already a mature reef, and consequently it attracts several users: fishermen, anglers and divers. Along the year of 2009 there were carried out direct site observations in order to identify vessel patterns of use. This research presents daily, weekly, and seasonal patterns for small-scale fisheries, sea-angling and diving activities over the ARV. In this research there is also investigated how hypothetically environmental and other factors influence ARV use.