



Workshop n°4
Coast and Hinterland economy
Tallin, 3 October 2013

**Development of a coordinated tool for
recreational diving in Bonifacio Strait**

Province of Sassari
National Park of La Maddalena Archipelago
Office d'Environnement de la Corse (OEC)



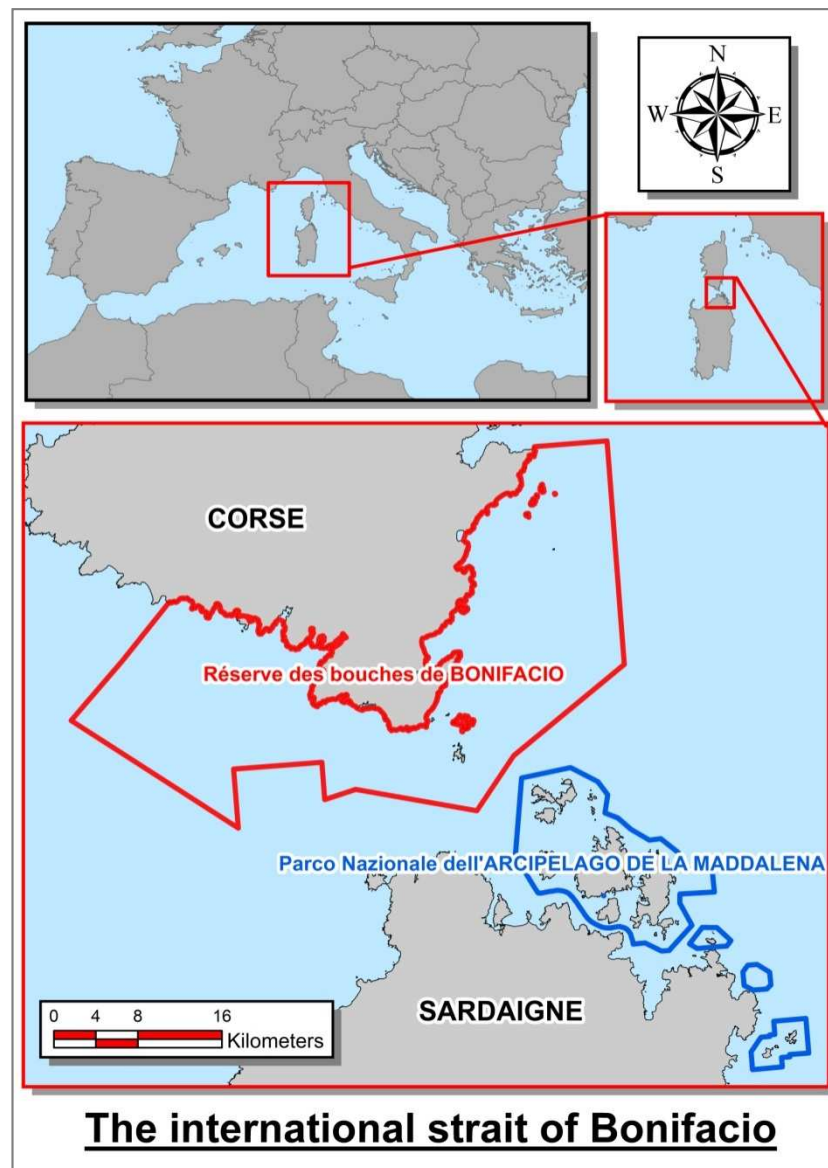
INTRODUCTION

OBJECTIVE

- Give economic value to environmental resources by means of long term protection

APPROACH

- Preservation of unique natural resources through regulation of sea activity – driver for the local community's economic development



ORIGIN (I)

FACTS

Environmental beauty attracts high numbers of visitors:

- Growth of authorised diving centres on the RNBB from 1990 to 2010

Year	French	Italian	Total
1990	3	6	9
2001	10	16	26
2010	14	38	52

ORIGIN (II)

SOME DATA

- **Season 2013 – Bonifacio Strait** (draft)

Approximately 26,000 dives in RNBB:

7883 dives for the Sardinian centres

17,943 dives for Corsican centres

(turnover ≈ 1 300 000 €)

Approximately 50,000 dives in PNALM

(turnover ≈ 2 500 000 €)

Natural resources



ORIGIN (III)

RELATED RISKS

Environmental damages due to:

- High concentrations of visitors – e.g.: anchoring impacts on sea-beds, divers behaviours
- Lack of clear rules – e.g.: diving exercised randomly
- Lack of awareness – e.g.: feeding of fishes

Impact of diving on site “Pelu” - Lavezzi



Fish feeding is now forbidden!



STRATEGY (I)

In order to guarantee sustainability at both environmental and economic level, running institutions adopt a new strategy by means of a participative process involving diving operators

SHORT TERM

In the context of the implementation of an international park between Sardinia and Corsica:

- Charter between RNBB and scuba diving operators:
 - limitations activities that may cause damages
 - creation of public awareness

STRATEGY (II)

MIDIUM TERM

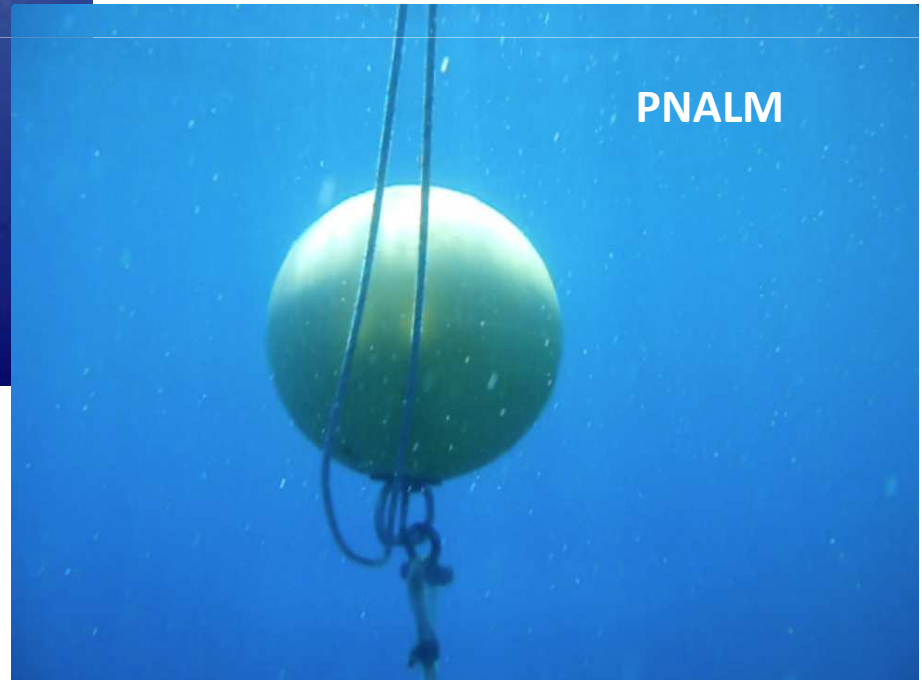
- Implementation of mooring buoys on site *Pelu* (*Lavezzi* Island)
- Establishment of “PIP” in La Maddalena National Park
- Trainings for staff and managers in Corsican diving centres which signed the agreement

Mooring buoys

RNBB



PNALM



STRATEGY (III)

LONG TERM

- Implementation of buoys areas on different diving spots (around *Lavezzi* and *Cerbicales* islands)
- Trainings for staff and managers of Sardinian diving centres
- Distribution of educational materials for the diving centres

SO FAR ... (I)

KEY STEPS MADE IN RECENT YEARS

- 2001: Action Plan on the management of diving in R.N.B.B. in collaboration with P.N.A.L.M
First meetings with Corsican and Sardinian diving – towards a general strategy of diving management
- 2004: Signature of the Charter
- 2005: Mooring buoys area on the site *Pelu* (Lavezzi Island)
Training of the staff and managers of the Corsican and Sardinian diving centres who signed the charter
Provision of educational material
- 2008: Six other dive sites equipped around Lavezzi Island
- 2013: 10 Corsican and 38 Sardinian diving centres signed the Charter
Implementation of moorings buoys for diving activities

SO FAR ... (II)

RELEVANT EXAMPLE: THE P.I.P. (Punto di Immersione Protetto)

- Implemented both for attracting new divers and for raising their awareness to avoid major impacts on sensitive sites, the P.I.P.s are the main tool developed by the P.N.A.L.M.
- P.I.P.s are established on 4 sites (“Secca di Spargi”, “Secca di Spargiotto”, “Punta Coticcio”, “Grottino di S. Francesco”)

DESCRIPTION

- Equipped with mooring buoys system and specific diving paths
- Each path has an information system - signboards with drawings and names (scientific and common name) of the local species
- The route passes through natural underwater landscape of high photographic interest

P.I.P.



SO FAR ... (III)

MEASURES REGULATING PIP ACCESS

- Access allowed only to certified diving centres
- Boats have to moor on submerged buoys installed by the Park
- Boats can navigate within these areas at the maximum speed of three knots
- Only 2 operators at a time for each site
- Each operator with at least 2 guides and a maximum of 12 people
- Scuba diving made by individuals not accompanied by certified diving centers is not allowed
- At each site the diving must be held within the radius of 100 meters from the vertical point of mooring
- The users must comply with the key principles of the national code of conduct for recreational activities. It is compulsory for all types of users to inquire on the environmental characteristics and regulations of the Park, and in particular those related to the specific diving site

...SO GOOD

ASPECTS OF THE RELATED ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Protection of sites and the environmental heritage are key factors of attraction and promotion for the diving operator's work and working sites
- Strict regulatory criteria limit immediate gain, but guarantee protection and, as consequence, growing interest for sites over time
- Operators are in the position to make reliable predictions of revenue in the medium term
- Within reasonable risk, they can plan investments and actions for strengthening their enterprise
- This implies a positive impact on economic operators a process of "stabilization" in time of diving centres (and also sources of income equally stable for activities that provide related services)
- Finally, the establishment of protected marine areas reinforces the natural mechanisms of preservation, having a beneficial impact on coastal areas and increasing the overall value of the whole area making it more attractive to general touristic flows

BODIES INVOLVED AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- The good practice is implemented by the R.N.B.B. (O.E.C.) and the National Park of La Maddalena (P.N.A.L.M.)
- R.N.B.B. is managed by the O.E.C., a public industrial and commercial establishment under supervision of the Territorial Collectivity of Corsica
- The P.N.A.L.M. is run by the Park Authority, a public non-economic institution subject to public law and with legal and administrative office in the territory of the Park

FUTURE STEPS

Up to now

- Constant collaboration between Corsican and Sardinian partners that led to a continuous exchange of information about the models and the measures taken
- In year 2012 a coordination structure - the E.G.T.C.-P.M.I.B.B. - has been established

Future

The process of integration should be consolidated in the next future

- The E.G.T.C.-P.M.I.B.B. did not play a role in the establishment of the "good practice" but in the future should be responsible for the harmonization of the management measures (including scuba diving) on both sides of the strait
- This will be a major step towards some key objectives, very relevant at the economic level:
 - the creation of an international marine park in the Bonifacio strait
 - the creation of a common label to identify authorised diving centres



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Thanks
for your attention

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