

INTERREG MED PROGRAMME

FISHMPABLUE2 PLUS PROJECT

Act. 3.3 Capacity building

Deliverable 3.3.b “National Coaching Strategy”

FRANCE

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1. INTRODUCTION

Within the Faculty of Sciences of the Université Côte d'Azur in Nice, the ECOSEAS lab is specialized in marine ecology and ecotoxicology. Most of the research work is carried out in the Mediterranean Sea and addresses both theoretical (ecosystem functioning; biology and ecology of species and communities; bioecological changes under the influence of global change) and applied issues (ecosystem-wide conservation and assessment; marine reserves; management of human activities in coastal areas; sustainable fishing; ecotoxicological bio-surveillance).

In this last version of the FishMPABlue2 project, we will focus on the two newest marine reserves of the Côte d'Azur, Pequerolle and Cap d'Ail.

2. THE PILOT AREAS MAIN FEATURES

2.1. Pilot area: Pequerolle

The Pequerolle marine reserve is 66 ha area, located south-east of Pointe Bacon in the east of Cap d'Antibes.

The sector includes the shoal of the Pequerolle whose depth ranges from -12 to -18 meters, which is covered by a *Posidonia* meadow and whose drop offs are partly covered by coralligenous habitats. It also covers, to the south of the shoal, a vast sector of sandy bottoms, ranging from - 20 and -50 meter depth.

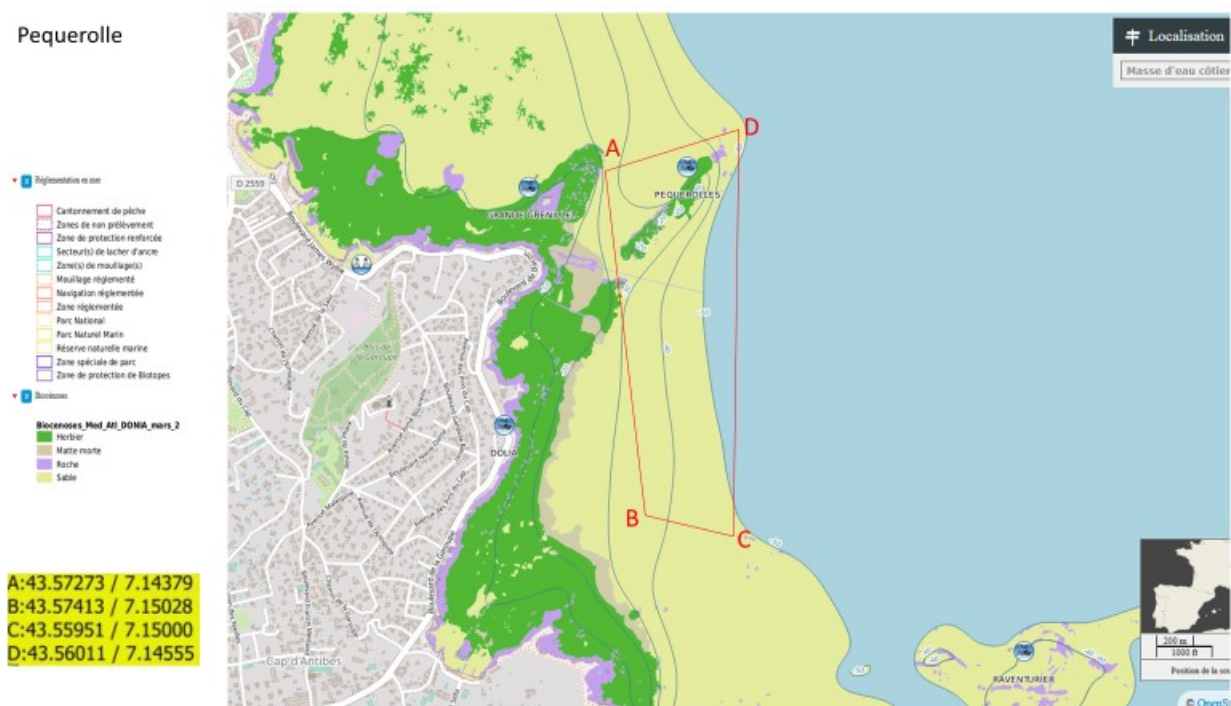
This rich site on the habitats point of view, is part of the perimeter of the Natura 2000 Bay and Cap d'Antibes - Lérins Islands site.

The recent protection of this zone (October 2020), which aims to protect the halieutic resources of the sector by revitalizing a particularly sensitive area, was initially and remains vigorously supported by the professional fishermen of the Antibes - Golfe-Juan Fisher's council as well as by the Departmental Committee for Maritime Fisheries and Marine Farming (CDPMEM) 06. 20 SSF are concerned by this protected zone area.

To this initial impetus was added the significant support of the municipality of Antibes, which is also the manager of the surrounding Natura 2000 site.

As in any MPA, the police measure consists of a ban on fishing in all its forms, as well as diving.

With the Cap d'Ail protected area, Pequerolle is the first protected area to be established on the outskirts of the Alpes-Maritimes department, which has 4 fishing reserves. It is a desire of the local authorities to bring a vigorous protection initiative of professional fishermen and the municipality of Antibes in a very sensitive sector from the point of view of halieutic resources.



2.2. Pilot area: Cap d'Ail marine reserve

The fishing cantonment of Cap d'Ail, with an area of 244 hectares, was also recently created (october 2020) and is located to the south and south-east of Cap d'Ail, also known as the Pointe des Douaniers. It extends in longitude from Cape Rognoso in the West to the Barraia dike in the East which marks the western end of Marquet beach. In latitude, it extends to the end of the plateau which spreads to the south, southwest and southeast of Cap d'Ail, without encompassing all of the drop-offs of this plateau since it generally follows the 50-meter isobath.

This perimeter is part of that of the Natura 2000 Cap Ferrat site, and it constitutes, within the bay of Beaulieu, the most diverse area from a biological point of view, covered alternately with Posidonia meadows and rocky areas. Today, it presents harsh regulatory measures restricting the various activities that were practiced there previously such as professional fishing, recreational fishing and scuba diving, in particular from the very close ports of Beaulieu Bay (ports of Saint -Jean-cap-Ferrat, Beaulieu-sur-Mer and Cap d'Ail) or even Monaco (in the immediate vicinity).

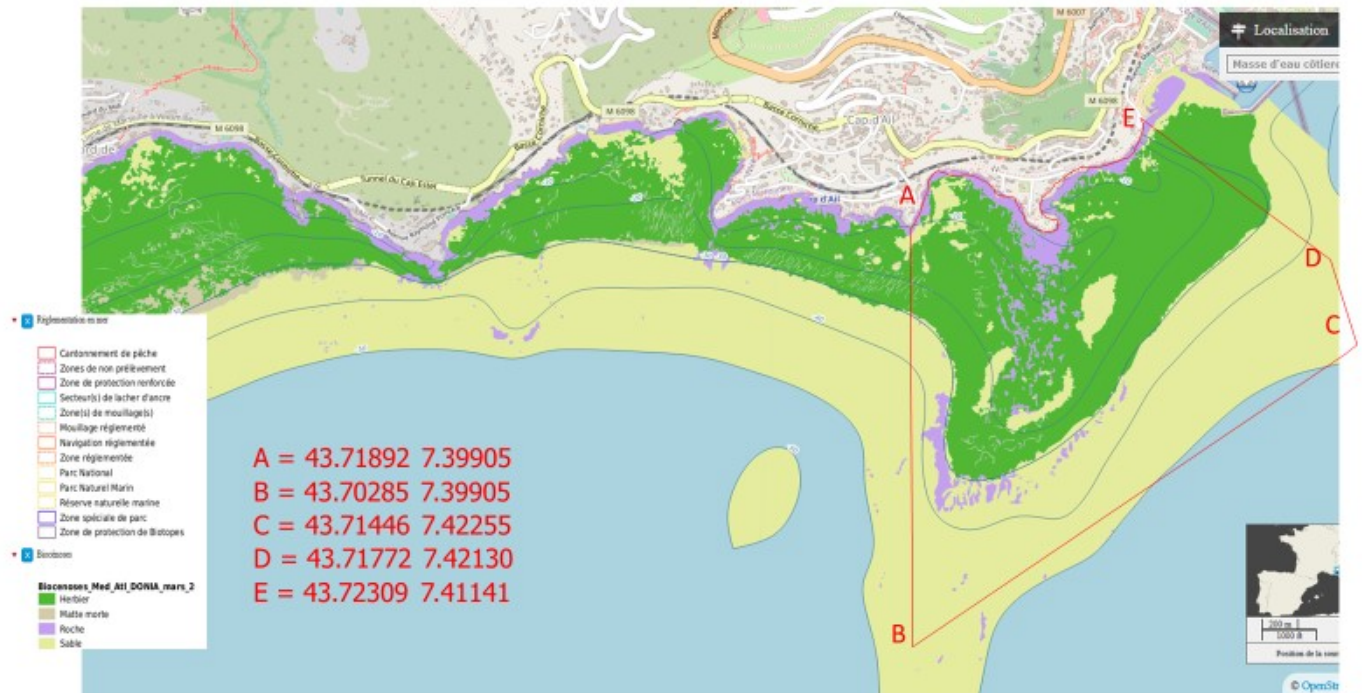
Therefore, this protected area should be placed in perspective with this regulatory context, but also with the other surrounding fishing reserves such as the Beaulieu fishing reserve, that of Larvotto in Monaco, or even that of Roquebrune-Cap Martin located between the Pointe Vielle and Pointe Cabbé.

As for Pequerolle, this recent special conservation area aims to protect the halieutic resources of the sector by giving a boost to this sensitive ecosystem: it is supported by professional fishermen from the Villefranche-sur-Mer Fishermen's Council as well as by the Departmental Committee for Maritime Fisheries and Marine Farming (CDPMEM 06). 20 SSF are concerned by this protected area.

To this initial desire of creating a protected area was added the significant support of the municipality of Cap d'Ail.

As in any protected area, the police measure proposed in the ministerial decree instituting the MPA consists of a ban on fishing in all its forms as well as diving.

Cap d'Ail



3. THE COACHING STRATEGY

3.1. Creating the Local Governance Cluster

The Local Governance Cluster will consist of scientists from our lab involved in FishMPABlue2 PLUS, the managers of Pequerolle and Cap Martin, representatives of the Departmental Committee for Maritime Fisheries and Marine Farming (CDPMEM 06) as well several representatives of local SSF. Through previous research project, we have already been in touch with the MPA managers and we are right now in the process of setting up this cluster by including fishermen representatives.

3.2. Adopting the “SSF Governance Toolkit”

We have set up a meeting with the above cited stakeholders on the 3rd of december. We will present the FishMPABlue2 PLUS toolbox and exchange with them to make sure they will have all the informations to decide which of the 12 tools they may decide to adapt in the future or even if they would like to implement box with new tools.

We will try to forge bonds of trust with the various partners and in particular the fishermen in order to better convince them of the interest of setting up this toolbox.