

**INTERREG MED PROGRAMME**

***FISHMPABLUE2 PLUS PROJECT***

**Act. 3.3 Capacity building**

**Deliverable 3.3.b “National Coaching Strategy”**

**Italy 1**

**Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b><u>1. INTRODUCTION</u></b>	<b>3</b>
<b><u>2. THE PILOT AREAS MAIN FEATURES</u></b>	<b>3</b>
<u>2.1. PILOT AREA “REGNO DI NETTUNO” MARINE PROTECTED AREA</u>	3
<u>2.2. PILOT AREA PELAGOS SANCTUARY</u>	5
<b><u>3. THE COACHING STRATEGY</u></b>	<b>8</b>
<u>3.1. CREATING THE LOCAL GOVERNANCE CLUSTER</u>	8
<u>3.2. ADOPTING THE “SSF GOVERNANCE TOOLKIT”</u>	10

## 1. INTRODUCTION

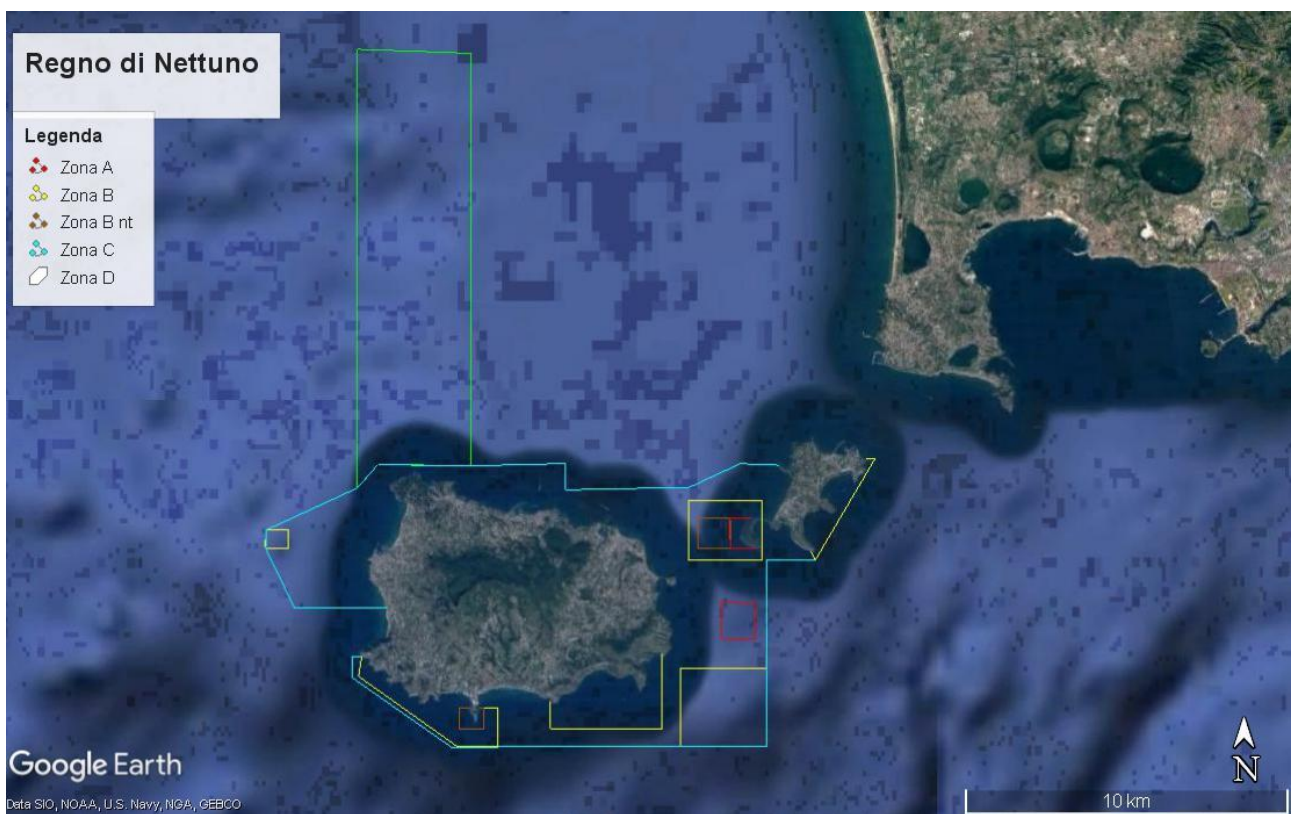
The Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn (SZN), National Institute of Marine Biology, Ecology and Biotechnology, is the largest marine biology research center in Italy, hosting over 200 researchers. SZN activities are devoted to both basic and applied research in marine biology and ecology, via a highly multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach. SZN is involved in a number of national and international projects focusing on the assessment of marine protected areas (MPAs) effectiveness for biodiversity conservation and on the role of MPAs as a tool for fisheries management, with case studies both in Italy and in other Mediterranean EU countries. SZN will be responsible for two Pilot Areas: Regno di Nettuno Marine Protected Area (MPA) and Pelagos Sanctuary. Regno di Nettuno MPA is located in Campania (Italy) and it is a nationally-established MPA, while Pelagos Sanctuary is a transboundary initiative (covering areas in France, Italy and the Principality of Monaco) chiefly launched to protect cetaceans and their ecosystems.

The present document describes the coaching and supporting strategy that will be carried-out by SZN to Regno di Nettuno MPA and Pelagos Sanctuary in order to establish the Local Governance Clusters (LGCs) and selecting the most relevant governance tools from the FishMPABlue 2 Governance Toolkit, with the final aim to strengthen fishers' engagement into decision making participatory processes and support socio-ecological sustainability of fisheries in the MPAs.

## **2. THE PILOT AREAS MAIN FEATURES**

### **2.1. Pilot area “Regno di Nettuno” Marine Protected Area**

The Regno di Nettuno MPA was established in 2007 (with the Ministerial Decree 27/12/2007). The Regno di Nettuno MPA includes the sea surrounding the Phlegraean Archipelago, formed by the islands of Ischia, Procida and Vivara. The three islands, which close the Gulf of Naples to the west, are part of a large volcanic complex still active. The MPA covers 11.256 Ha of surface, it is the largest MPA in Campania region and presents in its zoning two particularities: in addition to the “usual” zonation for Italian MPAs (Zone A of integral protection, B of general reserve and C of partial reserve), it has been included the B no-take zone, called ‘of special general reserve’ and the D zone, represented by the Cuma Canyon (about two nautical miles wide), for protecting the cetaceans living or crossing close to the MPA waters (Fig. 1). No fishing activities are allowed in the A and B no-take zones.



**Figure 1.** Map of Regno di Nettuno MPA, with zonation scheme.

The fishing authorizations issued by the MPA management body for professional fishing activities are currently 76 (updated to 31/12/2021), all for small scale fishing. Within the AMP, in fact, only small-scale fishing is practiced by the fishers residing in the municipalities of the area and by the fishermen of the neighboring municipalities

(mainly residing along the Phlegraean coast). No authorization has been issued, to date, for fishers who carry out large seine fishing or trawling.

The MPA realizes, in partnership with scientific institutes, Universities, associations and operators of the area, programs of monitoring and research in the areas of ecology of the marine biology and the underwater archeology aiming at fostering knowledge on the marine-coastal territory. The MPA also performs activities of Environmental Education in collaboration with environmental associations and schools and deals with the management and design of educational courses, conferences and seminars. The MPA management body carries out various activities in collaboration and in favor of the local community, often in synergy with other authorities such as the Stazione Zoologica Anthon Dorn, Universities and the Coast Guard involving schools, local associations and citizens. The goal of the MPA in this perspective is to stimulate changes in the behavior of the citizens regarding the environment and to promote a sustainable use.

## **2.2. Pilot area Pelagos Sanctuary**

France, Italy and Monaco announced in 1992 the creation of a Mediterranean Sanctuary for marine mammals, then signing an official agreement on November 25th, 1999. The aim of the Agreement is to ensure the good conservation status of

marine mammal populations, their monitoring, strengthening the scope of existing legislation concerning fishing activities, pollution, whale watching, while improving the public's access to information.

The Sanctuary was included in 2001 on the list of SPAMIs (Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance) as part of the Barcelona Convention's Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity, which allows to count the Sanctuary among the Mediterranean MPAs.

The Tripartite Pelagos Agreement became effective on February 21st, 2002, following the ratification by France, Italy and Principality of Monaco. Since 2004, the Pelagos Sanctuary operates according to a Management Plan, implying that the area covered by the Agreement should be managed in a sustainable manner.

The Management Plan combines the contributions of each of the Parties with practical measures to follow and implement as a means of managing the Sanctuary space as a whole.

The Permanent Secretariat, composed of an Executive Secretary and an assistant, receives administrative support from the Scientific Centre of Monaco (SCM), with offices in Monte-Carlo provided by the Principality of Monaco.

The main aims of the Permanent Secretariat are to:

- Coordinate the different bodies within the Agreement, and assisting the Scientific and Technical Committee and the Meeting of the Parties
- Ensure that the Agreement's aims and resolutions are implemented



- Manage the Agreement's budget according to the decisions made by the meeting of the Parties
- Represent the Pelagos Sanctuary when dealing with local, regional and international bodies

The Pelagos Sanctuary is a marine area of 8,750,000 ha and 2,022 km of coast.

The Pelagos Sanctuary includes the coastal waters and pelagic area comprised between the headlands of the Giens peninsula to the Fosso Chiarone in southern Tuscany. It extends across the waters of a number of islands, including Corsica and northern Sardinia as well as smaller islands such as the islands of Hyères, Liguria, the Tuscan Archipelago and the Strait of Bonifacio.

The Pelagos Sanctuary is unique, being managed by three different authorities and including coastal areas and international waters that form a large ecosystem of major scientific, socio-economic, cultural and educational interest. The entire Sanctuary can be broadly considered to be a biogeographically distinct sub-section of the Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) that is the Mediterranean.

This sub-section is marked by greater productivity guaranteed by a variety of mechanisms enhancing primary production: coastal waters, the delayed effect of winter mixing, the frontal area, upwelling phenomena and complex structures that combine divergent and convergent features.



**Figure 2.** Map of Pelagos Sanctuary. In red are indicated the two local communities (Noli and Camogli) where Local Governance Clusters will be created.

In the Liguria Region today operate over 1,000 professional fishers (about 1% of the national total), with a fleet of about 600 small or medium-sized boats.

Small-scale Ligurian and Tyrrhenian fishing has already seen the implementation of a Management Plan, relating to the “rossetto”, *Aphia minuta*, which was the first

management plan approved by the EU in Italy, notwithstanding art. 9 (minimum mesh size) and art. 13 (distance from the coast) of reg. CE n. 1967/2006.

Pelagos Sanctuary includes a number of other MPAs, among which Portofino MPA and Isola di Bergeggi MPA within which the two Local Governance Cluster will be created, respectively in Camogli and Noli.

### **“Portofino” MPA**

The Portofino MPA was included in 2005 in the list of SPAMIs. Fishing authorizations issued by the Portofino MPA management body for professional fishing activities are currently 36 (updated to 31/12/2021), all for small scale fishing. Within the MPA, in fact, only small-scale fishing is practiced by the fishers residing in the municipalities of the area (Santa Margherita, Portofino, Camogli). The “Cooperativa Pescatori di Camogli” has the concession for the Tonnarella (ancient, traditional and selective fish trap) and is made up of about 25 fishers-members. About 20 are the fishers working in the Tonnarella (about 10 permanently, 10 seasonally).

### **“Isola di Bergeggi” MPA (Italy, SV)**

The fishing authorizations issued by the MPA management body for professional fishing activities are currently 25 (updated to 31/12/2021), all for small-scale fishing.

Within the AMP, in fact, only small-scale fishing is practiced by the fishers residing in the municipalities of the area and by the fishermen of the neighboring municipalities (residing in Vado Ligure, Bergeggi, Spotorno and Noli).

Most of the fishing fleet is hosted in the city of Noli, directly on the beach and consists of about 20 boats. The historic “Luigi De Ferrari Cooperative Fra Pescatori di Noli” is located in Noli, with 8 fishermen with 15 boats registered (of which 2 are guests of the Port of Vado L.).

### **3. THE COACHING STRATEGY**

#### **3.1. Creating the Local Governance Cluster**

The creation of the Local Governance Cluster will follow different strategies in the two Pilot Sites, based on the different level of previous interactions between MPA managers and fishers already in place, and based on the possibility to capitalize on additional projects and initiative already ongoing.

At “Regno di Nettuno” MPA managers and fishers already cooperate since some years in the framework of environmental projects (e.g., related to marine litter cleaning-up), and more specifically are engaged in a project (FEAMP Campania) led

by the Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn. These interactions can represent breeding ground for the creation of Local Governance Cluster.

A first meeting to present in details to the MPA management body the governance toolkit and the potential timeline was organized on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, virtually. During the meeting, the five themes and the specific governance tools have been presented by the Stazione Zoologica to the MPA managers. In addition, a strategy on how to engage local fishers has been discussed and agreed. On October 13<sup>th</sup> the MPA managers attended the webinar organized by FishMPABlue 2 during which Stazione Zoologica presented to all the Pilot MPAs the rationale and the specific contents of the FishMPABlue 2 Governance Toolkit. In addition, multiple informal exchanges have been ensured between Stazione Zoologica and the managers of Regno di Nettuno MPA in order to check the process of establishment of the Local Governance Cluster. A first meeting with the local fishers has been organized in Ischia on November 16<sup>th</sup>, taking advantage of the activities of the FEAMP Campania project, during which the aim and the structure of the FishMPABlue 2 Plus project have been presented to the local fishers' community. A second meeting was organized in Ischia on December 21<sup>st</sup>, during which 18 professional small-scale fishers, the MPA Director, and the representative of Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn signed an agreement to formally establish the Local Governance Cluster.

The representative of the Stazione Zoologica and the Management body of the Pelagos Sanctuary have regularly exchanged and have been permanently in touch,

thus finally sharing the decision to contact two fishing communities operating at Camogli and Noli. Both locations are geographically included in the Pelagos Sanctuary: the first operates within the Portofino MPA, the second within and around the Isola di Bergeggi MPA.

At the “Portofino” MPA, managers and local fishers operating in Camogli already cooperate since many years in the framework of multiple environmental projects (e.g., related to marine litter cleaning-up, monitoring, environmental education, sustainable fishing, etc.). These interactions can represent breeding ground for the creation of Local Governance Cluster.

The two first meetings with local fishers of the “Cooperativa Pescatori Camogli” and representatives of the MPA management body took place in Camogli on January 14<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022. A third meeting was organized in Camogli January 25<sup>th</sup>, during which the President of the “Cooperativa Pescatori di Camogli” and the representative of Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn signed an agreement to formally establish the Local Governance Cluster.

At the “Isola di Bergeggi” MPA, managers and fishers already cooperate since some years in the framework of multiple environmental projects (e.g., related to marine litter cleaning-up, monitoring, environmental education, sustainable fishing, etc.). These interactions represent a promising breeding ground for the creation of Local Governance Cluster.

A meeting with local fishers of the “Luigi De Ferrari Cooperativa Fra Pescatori di Noli” took place in Noli on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, during which the President of the “Cooperativa Fra Pescatori di Noli” and the representative of Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn signed an agreement to formally establish the Local Governance Cluster.

### **3.2. Adopting the “SSF Governance Toolkit”**

In Regno di Nettuno MPA at least two additional meetings (tentatively in February and April 2022) will be organized to discuss, in the framework of the LGC, the measures included in the FishMPABlue 2 Governance Toolkit and identify the most appropriate ones for the Pilot Area. During the first two meetings some issues related to surveillance already emerged, therefore suggesting that measures related to enforcement strengthening could be relevant for Regno di Nettuno MPA.

A final meeting (tentatively in May) will be organized to formally sign a document in which the LGC select the tools to potentially implement in Regno di Nettuno MPA in the future.

For what concerns the Pelagos Sanctuary, as explained here above, two fishing communities are involved, operating in Camogli (within the Portofino MPA) and Noli (within and around the Isoladi Bergeggi MPA).

At least two additional meetings (tentatively in February and April 2022) will be organized with fishers affiliated to the “Cooperativa Pescatori di Camogli” to discuss, in the framework of the LGC, the measures included in the FishMPABlue 2 Governance Toolkit and identify the most appropriate ones for their specific fishing technique, the “Tonnarella”. A final meeting (tentatively in May) will be organized to formally sign a document in which the LGC select the tools to potentially implement in the future.

Similarly, at least two additional meetings (tentatively in February and April 2022) will be organized with fishers belonging to the “Cooperativa Pescatori di Noli” to discuss, in the framework of the LGC, the measures included in the FishMPABlue 2 Governance Toolkit and identify the most appropriate ones for the spatial context where they operate. A final meeting (tentatively in May) will be organized to formally sign a document in which the LGC select the tools to potentially implement in “Isola di Bergeggi” MPA and surrounding areas in the future.