

Recommendation n°23:

Nomenclature of Marine Protected Zones in Europe

The Outermost Regions Advisory Council (CCRUP) hereby expresses that during the development of the [work on the Marine Protected Zones in the Outermost Regions](#) (ORs), has detected an overlay of the classifications, namely in the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands, since, behind the regional classifications, to different areas are assigned international protections whose limits may be more or less extensive when compared to the regional classifications. This implies that, even for fishermen, the overlay of the different classifications and protections, make it unintelligible to understand where they can or cannot fish.

Analyzing the different designations attributed in the European Outermost Regions for Marine Protected Zones, about 22 different general nomenclatures were detected. Therefore, the following data were noted:

- 8 Natural Reserves;
- 1 National Park;
- 3 "*Cantonnements*";
- 1 Biotype Protection Zone;
- 2 Marine Natural Parks;
- 2 National Natural Reserves;
- 9 Island Parks (which include, in total, 29 Protected Areas for the Management of Resources, 4 Natural Reserves and 1 Protected Area for the Management of Habitats or Species);
- 1 Marine Park (which includes 10 Marine Protected Areas and 5 Marine Natural Reserves);
- 6 Fisheries Restricted Areas;
- 5 Underwater Marine Parks;
- 1 Voluntary Reserve;
- 2 Networks of Marine Protected Areas;

- 48 Special Zones of Conservation;
- 3 Special Protection Zones;
- 12 Special Protection Zones for Birds;
- 4 Sites of Community Importance;
- 1 Partial Natural Reserve;
- 2 Protected Areas;
- 3 Marine Reserves of Fisheries Interest;
- 11 Biosphere Reserves (4 referent to the Azores and 7 to the Canary Islands).

We should also mention that the term "Marine Protected Area" includes several levels of protection, and there is no clear definition of what this designation means and implies.

Therefore, **the CCRUP recommends the standardization of the designations for the Marine Protected Zones in Europe, so that conservation objectives can be clearly established and accounted for.** This standardization would also allow that around 15% of the total area of the Exclusive Economic Zone of the ORs were already declared as protected, approaching the objectives set by *DG Environment* for 2030.

The President of the Executive Committee of the CC RUP,

(David Pavón González)

Praia da Vitória, 31 January 2022