



The project **Ecosee/a**

European Program "Guardian of the Sea"

A NEW ALLY FOR THE SEA



PROJECT IDENTITY CARD - SI2.680401

Call: Guardians of the See (Mare/2013/09)

Budget: € 466.618,00

Durata del progetto: 12 months

Lead Partner: Municipality of San Benedetto del Tronto (leader of the FLAG Marche Sud)

Partners: Torre del Cerrano MPA; Isole Tremiti MPA; Conero Park; University of Teramo; University of Camerino; CNR-Institute of Marine Sciences; Blu Marine Service.

OBJECTIVES

- improve the balance between the EU fishing fleet and the resources available for the fishing activities;
- contribute to the reduction of the EU fishing fleet preserving jobs along the coastal communities;
- demonstrate the feasibility and the economic sustainability of maritime activities other than fishing, through a converted fishing vessel; these activities will be carried out by the vessel crew making available his knowledge and skills;
- allocate the fishing vessel to the fishermen training for sustainable activities regarding the use of marine resources.

ACTIVITIES

The action will be achieved through the following activities:

- 1- Conversion of the fishing vessel
- 2- Test of the new vessel
- 3- Training for the crew
- 4- Marine monitoring activities of the Central Adriatic Sea
- 5- Recreational and sustainable activities in protected areas
- 6- Awareness raising and results dissemination



THE VESSEL

Name: ECO1
Length: 11,96 m
Tonnage: 9,88 t
Engine: 150 hp

A NEW TRAINING FOR THE CREW

Some specific training sessions will be organized by the partner Universities (a total of 80 hours) for the vessel crew. Lectures and debates will aimed to increase the knowledge of the crew.

The most important issue will be the followings:

- the system of Italian marine protected areas
- protection of the marine environment: rules and management
- marine activities planning: examples from protected areas
- enhancement and promotion of fisheries resources
- guidelines for the rescue of Sea Turtles
- diversification of fishing activities (fishing tourism)
- types of pollutants in marine environment and effects on biodiversity and human health

ACTIVITIES IN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Several recreational activities are foreseen:

- > tourist sea activities for schools and adults (Conero Park), with environmental awareness activities through experienced staff;
- > facilitation of accessibility (MPA Isole Tremiti), through actions to allow the use of the natural beauty to people with physical and sensorial disabilities;
- > support to diving (MPA Torre del Cerrano), through the transport of divers in the most suitable areas.

THE SEA MONITORING ACTIVITIES

Four sea areas will be involved in monitoring activities: Conero Park, Torre del Cerrano MPA, Isole Tremiti MPA, FLAG Marche sud.

The following activities will be carried out:

- 1) Collection of oceanographic data for the monitoring of normal environmental parameters (temperature, salinity, turbidity, etc.), nutrients, the incidence of harmful algal blooms and pollutants.
- 2) Collection of data for environmental monitoring of the sediments of the seabed (benthic community and sediment pollution, trophic conditions, etc.), as well as to study the structure of the population of the biocenotic communities.
- 3) Observations of the sea and the ecosystem (mammals, turtles, seabirds), with particular reference to monitoring and rescue of Sea Turtles.
- 4) Collection of floating marine debris (plastics, micro-plastics, etc.) with trawls specially developed by researchers of CNR-ISMAR
- 5) Location and collection of fishing gear lost in shallow water through the use of recreational divers.

AWARENESS RAISING AND DISSEMINATION

During the project will be organized a specific campaign in order to disseminate the results to specific target groups (citizens, institutions, stakeholders)

In particular are foreseen:

- > 3 newsletters;
- > technical final report with scientific results regarding the monitoring activities;
- > general report for a non-expert audience;
- > press conference, leaflets and brochures;
- > public meetings for each partner with institutions and stakeholders;
- > participation in national and international events, especially regarding MedPAN and AdriaPAN activities;
- > organization of public events for specific stakeholders categories.