









Workshop SIMNORAT

Case study of the Galician Bank and the Vigo and Vasco da Gama seamount

Vigo, 28th November 2018

The Spanish Institute of Oceanography in the framework of the SIMNORAT project, organized last Wednesday, 28th of November, 2018 the "Workshop SIMNORAT-Case study of the Galicia Bank and the Vigo and Vasco da Gama seamount" with Portuguese and Spanish stakeholders from the different sectors of marine-maritime activities with interests in the area. The workshop took place at the Technological Center of the Sea (CETMAR) in Vigo, which hosted the event, in collaboration-with the University of Aveiro (UAVR) and the Center for Studies and Experimentation of Public Works (CEDEX).



The cross-border workshop was held within the framework of the project "Supporting Implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning in the Northern European Atlantic" (SIMNORAT) and it was addressed as a pilot case the creation of a Cross-border Marine Protected Area (TMPA) between Spain and Portugal. This case study aimed to assess the problems (synergies, conflicts, pressures and gaps) that could arise between different activities / uses as result of the implementation of new protection figures around several seamounts near the limit of the continental shelf, as well as possible solutions and mechanisms for cross-border cooperation.





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To address those issues, 32 stakeholders from both countries clustered around 6 sectors with potential interests in the study area: (1) Transport and Navigation (2) Energy and Mineral Resources (3) Renewable Energy (4) Fishing (5) Conservation and (6) Research. The workshop was developed starting by with presentations by the organizers, followed by two practical exercises carried out in several round- tables in which the sectors faced three to three to identify and spatially capture the main interactions between their activities. In each of the tables complementary material was given as factsheets with information and uses of each sector represented.







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As more relevant conclusions, it should be noted that the sharing of the different tables showed that there are not too many conflicts between activities in the area to be protected due the fact of the distance from coast. The ecological value of the pilot area is demonstrated, and has little relevance at the fishing level, the number of transport routes that cross this zone is limited and its distance to coast makes the installation of renewable energy generators unviable, although the interest is uncertain regarding exploitation of mineral resources and hydrocarbons.















However, the need to create information exchange platforms that optimize investment in research, and advance knowledge about the resources of the area was highlighted. Finally, there was general agreement on the need to create stable communication mechanisms between governments and stakeholders that allow the implementation of management plans and common governance mechanisms for these MPAs.



Gómez-Ballesteros, M., Cervera, C., Campillos, M. and Arranz, L. and CETMAR Team, AVU Team y CEDEX Team 2018. Preliminary results from Workshop SIMNORAT-Case study of the Galician Bank and the Vigo and Vasco da Gama seamount. www.simnorat.eu





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