

BBI-MATRA supported Project

The development of an indicative, ecologically coherent network of sub-tidal Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Bulgaria and Romania.



EUCC – The Coastal Union

Final report, December 2008

Summary of project results and outputs

The project has been implemented by partnership of EUCC -The Coastal Union in the Netherlands, the Institute of Oceanology to the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IO-BAS), the National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa" of Romania and the Black Sea Commission. Project duration: 1 September 2006- 1 September 2008. Project budget: 110.101,00 Euro

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Background

The Black Sea is an almost enclosed sea with high natural values although its biodiversity is under great threat from a number of human sources e.g. pollution, over-fishing, marine traffic & transport, exploitation of natural resources, climate change. The Black Sea states, through the Bucharest Convention, are making some inroads into improving the poor environmental situation. However, one important tool – the designation of Marine Protected Areas or MPAs – which is increasingly being applied in western Europe and called for in the Marine Strategy Directive, has still largely remained unapplied in the Black Sea region.

The general objective of many MPAs is to protect and restore certain marine habitats or species from degradation. In addition, MPAs also support fisheries, improve socio-economic outcomes for local communities, help to restore and maintain water quality, preserve genetic diversity and protect archaeological sites, shipwrecks and marine landscapes of great cultural importance. In aquatic environments, natural boundaries are few compared to terrestrial biotopes, and even when they do exist, they are difficult to find and determine from the surface. Due to the highly connected nature of the aquatic environment, delineation of clear-cut areas can be problematic. The power of MPAs lies in the protection of representative samples of marine biodiversity and associated ecosystems, habitats and species, including critical sites for species reproduction and growth. In doing so, they also help to maintain the essential life-supporting processes in the sea, such as photosynthesis and productivity, maintenance of food chains and degradation of pollutants. Protecting some sites with minimal direct human impact means that they are likely to recover more easily from other pressure stress factors, such as eutrophication, sedimentation and increased temperature by global warming. MPAs have also proven to be one of, if not the best, single means to support fisheries. Protecting sub-tidal habitats for critical life-stages and other vital functions (nursery grounds, feeding and spawning grounds) essential to fish reproduction and growth, has shown to be extremely important in supporting stock management. Perhaps even more importantly in the Black Sea Region, MPAs can boost local economies by raising the profile of the area for marine tourism and recreation. Despite the fact that tourism represents a threat to marine biota, it can be sustainable when managed properly.

In Bulgaria, MPAs designated under the national Protected Areas Act are only two: part of "Kaliakra" nature reserve (4 km²) marine area and the protected site "Koketrays sandbank" (7,6 km²). The total marine protected area of only 11,6 km² constitutes less than 0,2 % of the Bulgarian territorial sea (6506 km²), barely 0,1 % of the shelf area to 100 m depth (10886 km²) and a petty share of claimed EEZ (25699 km²). In 2007 in compliance with the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and the corresponding national Biodiversity Act 228 Sites

of Community Importance (SCI), which cover 29.5 % of the Bulgarian territory were approved by the Council of Ministers and submitted to the European Commission for inclusion in NATURA 2000 network. Fourteen of those sites contain marine area with a total surface of 611 km², which constitutes 9.4 % of the Bulgarian territorial sea, 5.6 % of the shelf area and 2.4 % of EEZ.

In Romania, under national legislation are designated only two marine protected areas: the “2 Mai – Vama Veche” Marine Reserve (50 km²) and the Marine Area of the Danube Delta (buffer zone of 1030 km²). The total marine protected area of 1080 km² constituted 19.8% of the Romanian territorial sea (5445 km²), 3.6% of the shelf area (30000 km²) and 4.32% of the claimed EEZ (25000 km²). Through Order No. 1964/13 of the Minister of Environment and Durable Development, December 2007, on instituting the natural protected area regime of European interest sites as part of the European Ecological network Natura 2000 in Romania, six marine sites (the two above mentioned ones plus four new sites) acquired special conservation status as SCIs pending approval by the European Commission. Including the four new Natura 2000 sites the total marine protected area reaches 1.162,86 km², representing 21.4% of the Romanian territorial sea, 3.9% of the shelf area and 4.7% of the claimed EEZ (25000 km²).



Fig.1. Arch in the cliffs near Tyulenovo village, Bulgaria (photo by Valentina Todorova.)

Objectives

The main objective of the project was to directly support the establishment of an indicative list of sub-tidal MPAs in Bulgaria and Romania. It was the aim of this project to harness, and use, the information and knowledge already present in Bulgaria and Romania and supplement this with knowledge from the European regional seas.

Results and Outputs

The goals of the project have been achieved: a list of priority regions for MPAs designation and the development of ecologically coherent network of MPAs in Bulgaria and Romania, including one trans-boundary area, has been drawn up. The network of sites is characterized by considerable ecological coherence in terms of repeatability of habitats and species of conservation interest; the connectivity within the network is ensured by the small distance between sites. The scientific data and the expertise on site identification and MPAs network development are excellent. Good collaboration between the two national marine institutes is established with respect to MPAs.

The two research institutes have worked together to gather and analyse the necessary data to define criteria for selection and draw up a list of MPA sites. Field work was carried out in 2007-2008 by

applying SCUBA diving *visual census* and underwater photography for identification and documentation of marine habitats and species with high conservation importance and mapping of their distribution.

Criteria for selection of candidate sites for designation of MPAs

The criteria for selection of MPAs is based on relevant national and international Acts and a number of IUCN guidelines for MPAs designation and management. Priority is given to ecological criteria as the project objective is identification of MPAs for the purposes of biodiversity conservation. These encompass uniqueness or rarity, representativeness, diversity, naturalness, dependency, critical habitats, and vulnerability. For the establishment of ecologically coherent network of MPAs are considered the two principal conditions: replication of features and connectivity. Scientific and educational criteria such as scientific/educational value and reference conditions as well as social and economic criteria are taken as much as possible into account; further steps are needed to involve politicians, economists and sociologists to work on the socio-economical aspects. The full sets of criteria used in Bulgaria and Romania are given within the brochures *Marine Protected Areas in Bulgaria - Present and Prospects* and *The Development of an Indicative Ecologically Coherent Network of Marine Protected Areas in Romania* [1,2], published under the project (attached to the report as Annex 3 and Annex 4).

Candidate sites for MPAs designation

In Bulgaria, field and desk studies resulted in the selection of eight candidate regions eligible for designation of MPAs [1,4]. A map is shown at Fig 2. Information on the selection process and the site characteristics: nature values, representative habitats, rare and threatened species and ecological state is presented in the brochure *Marine Protected Areas in Bulgaria – Present and Prospects* [1], Annex 3. The brochure is published both in the Bulgarian and English languages.



■ Regions suitable for designation of MPAs

□ NATURA 2000 sites

Fig 2. Candidate sites for designation of MPAs and NATURA 2000 coastal sites in Bulgaria

The candidate regions for MPAs identified within the project do not overlap with the proposed NATURA 2000 sites. A major difference is that a number of the proposed MPAs are expanded to 50 m depth unlike NATURA 2000 sites, which extend to only 20 m depth. The extension would ensure the inclusion in the protected area of mussel beds (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*), a habitat of critical importance for the functioning of the coastal marine ecosystem that typically occurs at depth beyond 20 m to 60-80 m. In the southern Bulgarian Black Sea the 20 m isobath lies very close to the coast thus limiting the NATURA 2000 network to a very narrow strip, which excludes important areas with offshore rocky reefs, recently found beds of the red seaweed *Phyllophora nervosa* and a newly discovered unique Black Sea habitat - oyster biogenic reefs.

Strandzha mountain coast is distinguished by conditions nearly undisturbed by human activities and highly varied underwater habitats, the most representative among them encompassing clean sands inhabited by psamophilic clams (*Donax trunculus*, *Chamelea gallina*) and rocky seabed covered by extensive thickets of the brown alga *Cystoseira barbata* and blue mussels (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*, *Mytilaster lineatus*). The coarse sands in the mediolittoral zone, well flushed by the wave action, are inhabited by dense populations of the small wedgeclam *Donacilla cornea*, a species threatened by tourist impact on beaches, water pollution and building of coastal defense constructions that impair the water exchange. Strandzha coast might be still visited occasionally by the monk-seal (*Monachus monachus*), a world threatened species included in Annex II of the Bern Convention. This is probably the last secure and tranquil area of the Bulgarian coast where theoretic possibility exists for restoration of the monk-seal population.

Lozenets - Kiten marine area is important with the occurrence of a vast *Phyllophora* field (Fig. 3) - the first to be found in the Bulgarian Black Sea. It has been discovered during the project field works [4,5]. The conditions at the site are favourable to the development of *Phyllophora nervosa*: rocky bottom, very clear water but also deep enough to provide the dim light preferred by this sciaphylic alga, and lack of physical disturbance and resuspension – the rocky bottom prevents bottom trawling (an illegal but widespread practice in Bulgaria). *Phyllophora* beds are distinguished for supporting an exceptionally diverse and productive community of marine life and recognized in the Strategic Action Plan as a habitat of high conservation interest in the Black Sea that “will receive special protection”.

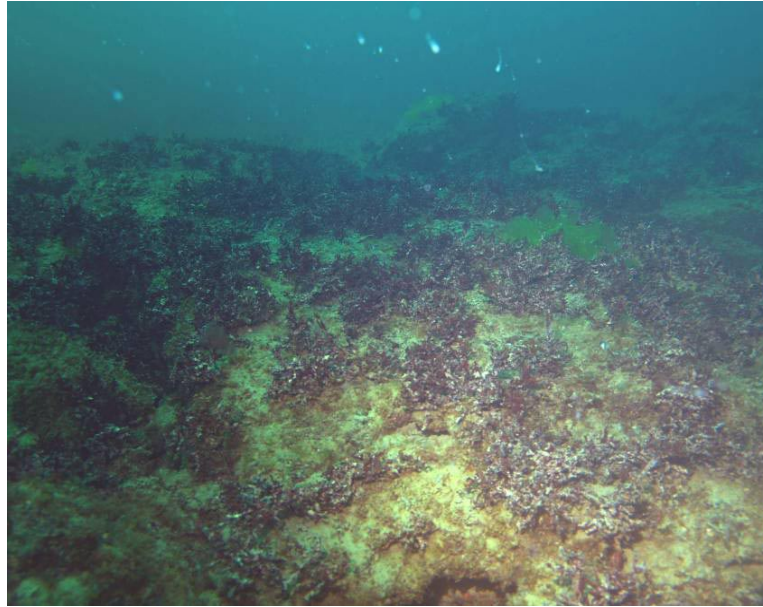


Fig 3. *Phyllophora nervosa* beds along the southern Bulgarian Black Sea coast (photo by Dragos Micu)

- 1) Todorova V., Micu D., Panayotova M., Konsulova Ts., 2008. **Marine Protected Areas in Bulgaria - Present and Prospects**, Steno Publishing House, Varna, ISBN 978-954-449-373-8, 22 pp.
- 2) Zaharia T., Micu D., Todorova V., Maximov V., Nita V., 2008. **The Development of an Indicative Ecologically Coherent Network of Marine Protected Areas in Romania**. Romart Design, Constanta, 32pp. ISBN 978-973-88628-8-3.

Cape Maslen nos – Ropotamo river estuary area is distinguished by mosaic of varied coastal and marine habitats: fjords and bays, beaches with dunes, lagoons and marshes, and the estuary of Ropotamo river. **A remarkable unknown habitat - huge biogenic reefs built by the native flat oyster *Ostrea edulis* was found during the project diving expedition in 2007. This newly discovered marine habitat is deemed unique for European seas and probably the world, therefore a habitat of high conservation interest too** [1,4,6]. Unlike the flat oyster beds commonly known from the intertidal of Western Europe and North America, at 7 m height, 30-50 m length and 10 m width for each mound, Black Sea ostrak are massive, towering biogenic structures (Fig. 3). Despite numerous oyster reefs documented, no live oysters were observed at any of the locations. A dedicated survey is needed to reveal the causes of the mysterious die-off of oysters and suggest rehabilitation options. Other habitats of high conservation interest include rocky reefs overgrown by diversity of seaweeds and blue mussels and sedimentary bottoms: seagrass meadows of *Zostera marina*, and fine sands inhabited by Thalassinid crustaceans.



Fig.4. *Ostrea edulis* biogenic reefs found along the southern Bulgarian Black Sea coast (photo by Dragos Micu)

Cape Emine – Irakli beach. The highest conservation importance in the area is given to soft marl rocks in the upper infralittoral punctured by the boreholes of the common piddock *Pholas dactylus*. The species is officially protected by the Bern convention (Appendix II). Destruction and fragmentation of its typical habitat by building of coastal defence constructions and covering of the hard substratum with sand for beach enhancements represent threats to the common piddock. Its conservation status in Bulgaria is unclear at present.

Kara dere beach – cape Cherni nos – Shkorpilovtsi beach. Clean, well flushed sands of the swash zone are suitable habitat for the wedgeclam *Donacilla cornea* that occurs in abundance here. Sandy bottom is densely populated by *Donax trunculus* and *Chamelea gallina*. Vast rocky reefs extend all along the shore. Reefs are typically overgrown by green algae (*Enteromorpha*, *Cladophora*, *Ulva*), blue mussels, sponges and colonial ascidians and harbour a range of rare species, among which the rarest encounters during our field work: the endemic mysids *Hemimysis* sp., the decapod crustacean *Polybius navigator*, and the damselfish *Chromis chromis*. Marl plates perforated by *Pholas dactylus* occur as well.

Yaila – Tyulenovo - cape Shabla. This coast offers spectacular seascapes: elevated cliffs, stone arches, karst terraces punctured with rockpools and caverns, and numerous submerged or partially submerged sea caves. Impressive limestone blocks up to 10 m in height are arrayed on the seabed and covered by thickets of brown (*Cystoseira* spp.), red (*Corallina officinalis*, *Phyllophora nervosa*), and green seaweeds. Tyulenovo village is the northern distribution limit of the barnacle *Chthamalus stellatus* and the snail *Melaraphe neritoides* association, which occupies the supralittoral rock. Further representative habitats are the methane and oil seeps that are to be found close to the shore at depth of only few meters.

Cape Krapets – cape Sivriburun. Representative habitats comprise rocky reefs overgrown by thickets of *Cystoseira barbata* and *Ulva rigida* and mussels, as well as sandy bottoms inhabited by assortment of molluscs: *Cyclope neritea* and *Nassarius nitidus*, *Lucinella divaricata*, *Lentidium mediterraneum*,

Chamelea gallina, *Tellina tenuis*, *Mya arenaria* and *Anadara inaequalvis*. The region offers a special environmental management opportunity for designation of the first transboundary MPA in the Black Sea, which would extend the existing 2 Mai-Vama Veche Romanian marine reserve into the Bulgarian territorial waters.

In Romania, field, lab and literature studies resulted in the selection of six priority areas for the designation of MPAs. The location of the areas is shown at Fig.5. The interpretation of the results was made in accord with the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC - Annex I) and Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats (EUR 27, 2007) and a national classification of NATURA 2000 marine habitats, which resulted at the same time. The information on marine habitats and detailed information on the sites proposed for MPAs development have been published under the project [2,3]. (Annex 4). The candidate regions for MPAs identified within the project are the same as the proposed NATURA 2000 marine sites. This situation stems from the fact that the same team worked for both projects and is also a w

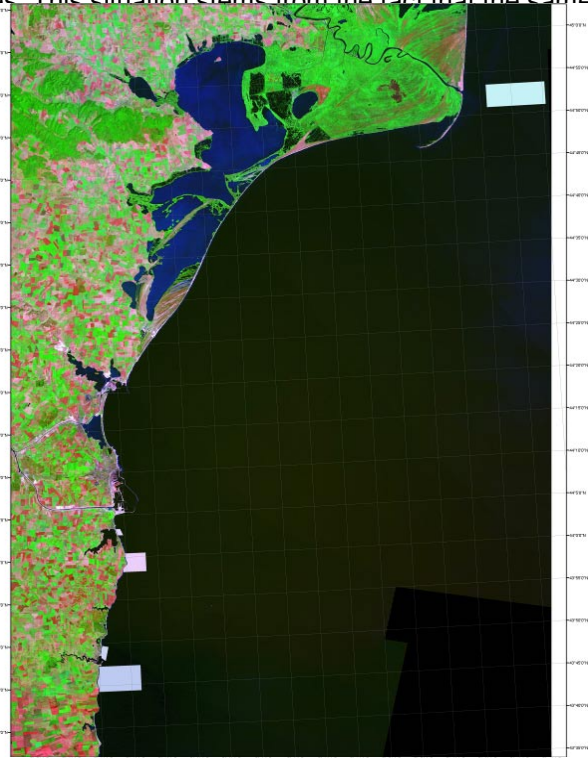


Fig. 5. MPA sites along the Romanian coast, excluding the Danube Delta Marine Area (North to South): Methanogenic submerged structures from Sf. Gheorghe, Submerged beach from Eforie, Cape Tuzla marine area, Shallow sulphide vents from Mangalia, 2 Mai – Vama Veche Marine Reserve.

Apart of the two existing MPAs in Romania: Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Marine Area (ROSCI0066) and 2 Mai - Vama Veche Marine Reserve (ROSCI0269) the following four candidate regions (presently having conservation status of SCIs) are proposed for further designation as MPAs.

Methanogenic carbonate structures from Sfantu Gheorghe (ROSCI0237). Present in the NW Black Sea between 35 and 784 m of depth, the methanogenic carbonate structures extend well beyond the oxic/anoxic interface characteristic for this sea (Luth *et al.*, 1999). The shallowest methane seeps occur off the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, which offers the opportunity of an integrated management of both MPAs. The importance of the site is due to the existence of the complex submerged structures, formed of carbonate-cemented sand. The surface of the marine protected area is of about 60 km².

The submerged beach from Eforie North – Eforie South (ROSCI0197). Only here the natural hydrodynamics and characteristic habitats of an exposed beach are preserved on the southern coast of Romania. This is the only place in Romania where the bivalve *Donacilla cornea* still survives today. Occurring on most sandy beaches in the 1950s and 60s, with mean densities of 2000 ind m⁻²,

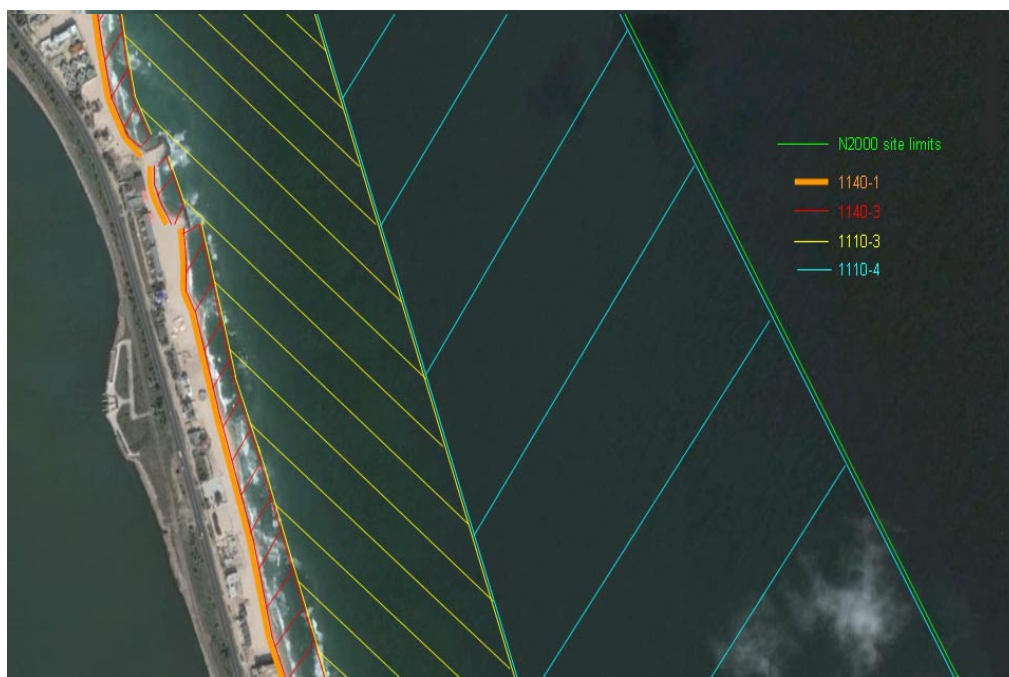
Donacilla suffered a sharp decline following intense eutrophication and pollution during the 70s and 80s, and was considered to be extinct in the Romanian Black Sea. In 2004-2005 a strong, healthy *Donacilla cornea* population was found in Eforie bay, attaining densities of up to 3833 ind.m⁻² (Micu, 2006). Today, the submerged beach is affected by tourism-associated litter and disturbance and fresh water discharges. Future experimental hydrotechnical works could completely destroy the area if they are not stopped. The surface of the marine protected area is of about 1.4 km².

Cape Tuzla marine area (ROSCI0273). Around Cape Tuzla the rocky substratum has the largest extent and through its roughness generates the most diverse and spectacular underwater seascape from the Romanian Black Sea. Here we find the most diverse rocky habitats and, as a consequence, a very diverse aquatic fauna and flora. The area is not affected yet by major anthropogenic impacts and is not favorable for navigation due to dangerous reefs. The surface of the marine protected area is of about 17.9 km².

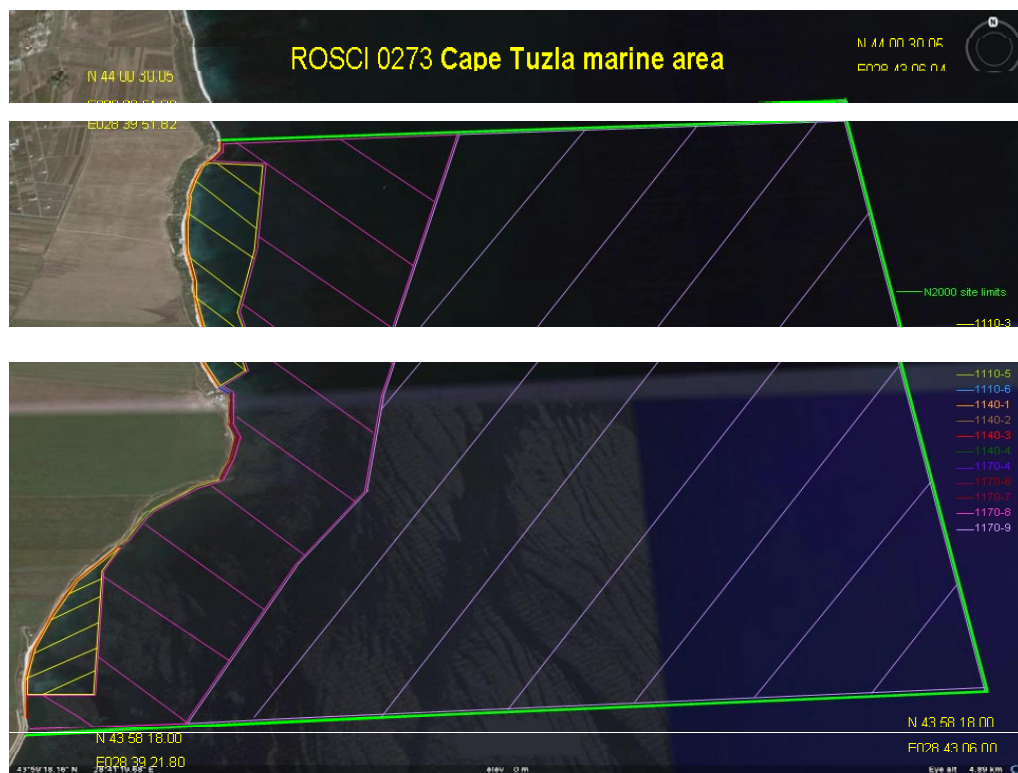
Underwater sulphide seeps from Mangalia (ROSCI0094) are unique on the Romanian coast, being connected to Dobrogea's karst complex. They need a detailed interdisciplinary study in order to identify the causes of the emissions and their effects on the marine ecosystem. The site stands out as the most diverse in the Romanian Black Sea with regard to both species and habitats. Also, it contains the most extensive and pristine thickets of the perennial brown alga *Cystoseira barbata* and the last remaining *Zostera* meadows from Romania. Offshore rocky reefs and archaeological sites are present inside or in the immediate vicinity of the site. The site is under minor anthropogenic impact from tourism, shipping and fishing activities. The surface of the protected area is of about 3.6 km².

Habitats mapping of the new sites was conducted within the project. Locations/boundaries of habitats have been marked using GPS. Maps are shown at Fig 6.

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- 3) Micu D., Zaharia T., Todorova V., Nita V., 2007. **Romanian Marine Habitats of European Interest**. Ed. Punct Ochit, Constanta, 32pp. ISBN 978-973-88566-1-5. (in Romanian)
- 4) Todorova V., Micu D., Zaharia T., Panayotova M., **Marine Protected Areas in the Western Black Sea - Towards the Development of an Ecologically Coherent Network**, Proceedings "A changing coast: challenge for the environmental policies", 9th International Conference Littoral 2008, November 25-28 2008, Venice Italy.
- 5) Todorova V., Micu D., 2008. **Unknown *Phyllophora nervosa* field discovered in the Bulgarian Black Sea**. Online: www.blacksea-commission.org
- 6) Micu D, Todorova V., 2007. **A fresh look at the Western Black Sea biodiversity**. MarBEF Newsletter No 7: 26-28.



a)



b)

Fig. 6 a-b. Locations/boundaries of habitats at a) Eforie North- Eforie South and b) Cape Tuzla marine areas

Trans-boundary MPA. At the Bugarian -Romanian border there is a good opportunity for the creation of a trans-boundary MPA – by the extention of the existing 2 Mai-Vama Veche Romanian marine reserve with the Bulgarian candidate MPA site Cape Krapets – cape Sivriburun. 2 Mai - Vama Veche Marine Reserve (ROSCI0269 Vama Veche - 2 Mai) exists as MPA in the national network of protected areas and it is part of the “Natural reserve” category, having the aim of protecting and conserving marine habitats and natural species. The creation of an transboundary MPA is important for the enlargement of the total protected area and strengthening the protection of species and habitats at the site.



Fig 7.
Underwater
image from the 2
Mai-Vama Veche
Romanian marine
reserve (photo
Dragos Micu)

The network of proposed sub-tidal MPAs sites is characterized by considerable ecological coherence in terms of repeatability of habitats and species of conservation interest. There is also much replication of habitat types along the Romanian and the Bulgarian coasts. The connectivity within the network is ensured by the small distance between sites. It has been appreciated that smaller reserves at a shorter distances will provide greater connectivity benefits than fewer larger ones at bigger distances. The proposed sites for MPAs network development are close enough to allow protected populations to interact through dispersal. In the areas which are industrialised are proposed protection measures from Natura 2000 in order to ensure connecting of habitats and species.

Stakeholders involvement

The project officially kicked-off with an international workshop in Constanta. Apart from the partners, representatives were present from the Danube Delta Biosphere reserve, Ovidius University, RO, the Romanian Waters Administration, the Bulgarian Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water, the Constanta Maritime Port Authority (RO), NGOs Mare Nostrum, the Oceanic Club (RO) and Green Balkans (BG) and the Baltic Sea regional secretariat of HELCOM.

Two stakeholder workshops were held in each country. In the workshops took part decision and policy makers from the government, national and regional administration and executive agencies, local authorities from coastal municipalities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), managers of protected areas, etc. During the first stakeholder workshops, which were held in September – October 2007, were discussed issues as benefits of biodiversity conservation, major concerns of stakeholders about the designation of new MPAs, most suitable categories of protected areas for the marine environment, eligibility of sites as initially proposed for MPAs designation, etc. A questionnaire on the needs, benefits and constrains of MPAs was held between stakeholders in each country - the analysis of the stakeholders opinion was presented at the first national workshop in Romania and at the second national and international workshop in Bulgaria. The second national workshops, held in each country in April 2008, aimed at presenting the overall project results to a broad range of stakeholders and further discuss the benefits and constrains of MPAs designation. The EUCC project manager and project co-ordinator attended the national meeting in Bulgaria too. It should be highlighted that at both meetings in Bulgaria and Romania there have been very positive response from the different groups stakeholders regarding the need of protection and preservation of the marine environments. There is necessity to further popularize the project results in order to raise the public awareness on the importance of marine conservation. An important outcome of the meetings is that the stakeholder

representatives and in particular representatives of the regional administration and local authorities from coastal municipalities discussed broadly their major concerns on the implications of MPAs designation to the economic development and well being of their municipalities - good management and the development of sustainable economical practices in MPAs regions for the providing of alternative occupation and source of income are crucial for the social acceptance of MPAs.

The final international project meeting (April 2008) in Varna was held back to back to the second stakeholder workshop in Bulgaria. Beside the project partners, the international meeting was attended by a representative of the Romanian Ministry of Environment and Durable development and also by other Black Sea countries: representatives of the Turkish Ministry of Environment and of Ukrainian organisations working on MPAs in the Black Sea. At the meeting were presented and discussed the project results and the lists of candidate MPAs were agreed. It has been highlighted that the scientific data and the expertise on site identification and MPAs network development are excellent. For achieving of the **long term objective** of the project – the designation of MPAs, further steps are to be taken on political level.

Projects publications

A list of main publications is given below.

- 1) CoastLine special edition *Creating a Network of Marine Protected Areas in Europe* published in the first project year with the contribution of EUCC, NIMRD, IO-BAS, Black Sea Commission, the European Commission, HELCOM, OSPAR, IUCN (Mediterranean), The Dutch Government (LNV) and Greenpeace (Annex 11) has been published and distributed between broad range of stakeholders for the promotion of MPAs in the target countries as well as the other Black Sea countries.
- 2) Romanian version of the brochure *Creating a Network of Marine Protected Areas in Europe* has been published, which allowed broader distribution between stakeholders in Romania.
- 3) A brochure entitled *Marine Protected Areas in Bulgaria – Present and Prospects* (V. Todorova et.al, 2008) has been published in the Bulgarian and the English language. The brochure acquaints with the project results, achieved in Bulgaria including the final indicative list and map of MPAs and description of sites as regards marine habitats and species of conservation interest. Also available on line: www.blacksea-commission.org.
- 4) A brochure on the *Romanian Marine Habitats* has been published in the Romanian language. It provides information on Natura 2000 general and elemental habitats represented at the sites proposed for MPAs network development.
- 5) A brochure entitled *The development of an Indicative Ecologically Coherent Network of Marine Protected Areas in Romania* (Tania Zaharia et al 2008) was published in the English language. The brochure contains the information on marine habitats as given in the above cited publication, completed with detailed information on the proposed MPAs sites. Also available on line: www.blacksea-commission.org.
- 6) A paper on *The Development of an Indicative Ecologically Coherent Network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Romania* is presented at conference Quality of Life and Environment in the frame of EU sustainability” , 15-18 November , Serbia
- 7) An article *Biodiversity of the Western Black Sea*, published in MarBEF NwsNo7 Nov 07
- 8) The news on the discovery of the unique oyster reefs in the Black Sea were published at Black Sea Commission web site www.blacksea-commission.org
- 9) Poster “*Newly discovered oyster reefs of the Black Sea: In time for restoration?*”, presented at International Shellfish Conference, 12-16 November 2007, Vlissingen, The Netherlands.
- 10) An article *Unknown Phyllophora Nervosa field discovered in the Bulgarian Black Sea*. New findings of the latest Bulgarian - Romanian Diving Expedition along the Southern Bulgarian Coast (Todorova V., Micu D., 2008.) Online: www.blacksea-commission.org.

- 11) Poster *The development of an Indicative Ecologically Coherent Network of Marine Protected Areas in Romania (Zaharia, T. et al)* was presented at the 2nd Biannual and Black Sea scene EC Project Joint Conference, 6-9 October 2008 Sofia, Bulgaria
- 12) A paper *Marine Protected Areas in the Western Black Sea - Towards the Development of an Ecologically Coherent Network* (Todorova et al) was presented at *Littoral* 9th International Conference, November 25-28 2008, Venice, Italy.

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