

CIESM Congress Session : Transboundary conservation actions

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Moderator's Synthesis

The session was focused on the need of transboundary conservation actions, which arises from the awareness that threats of the oceans know no political boundaries. In this context, presentations highlighted the central role of Marine Protected Areas networks. New tools and approaches in assessing the effectiveness of conservation actions and able to support the development of management plans, including species connectivity measures and biotic indices, were presented.

After the presentations, the discussion was very rich in ideas. Among the main topics discussed there was the species connectivity at basin scale, especially concerning those species targeted by local fisheries, often neglected in transboundary conservation actions (as the case of the sand eels in Catalonia). The debate has shown that the participatory approach should be extended beyond the local boundaries, especially for those MPAs that are located on the borders among different countries, and along the migratory routes (e.g. Pantelleria Island). Moreover, all the participants agreed on the new opportunities offered by the involvement of citizens from different countries in monitoring programs concerning key species and priority marine habitats, also thanks to new technologies available, as in the case of biotic indices derived from observations carried out by scuba divers.

