

Fisheries and Nature Protection: managing conflicts and synergies  
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# Small-Scale Fisheries and MSP - experience from Albania

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**MEDIGREEN**  
Mediterranean approach  
towards a maritime European  
Green Deal in MSP



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## A holistic approach to spatial needs, compatibility of uses and land-sea interaction

**Challenge** Many EGD objectives require space to unfold, but European seas are already very busy. Increased compatibility and collaboration are needed to attain sectoral targets and find space for new activities alongside traditional ones. Furthermore, blue economy sectors are dependent on support functions at land, terrestrial and marine ecosystems span over the coastline and climate change impacts multiple flows across the interface. Such land-sea interactions need to be better considered in MSP.

Descriptions of challenges in integrating the European Green Deal (EGD) into MSP were composed in the MSP-GREEN project. Additionally, a set of new actions that have the potential to support the implementation of some aspects of the EGD in MSP were identified and designed. Learning on the new actions, some solutions to the challenges are presented here.

More detailed information is included in MSP-GREEN Deliverable N°3.2: New actions fostering MSP contribution to Green Deal report of the MSP-GREEN project.

# CLIMATE NEUTRALITY BY 2050



Trade-offs analysis can help prioritise among competing uses and the environment.

The Bulgarian new action explores the potential of offshore aquaculture areas and their integration in MSP to support sustainable development of shellfish aquaculture. The action addresses spatial needs and compatibility of maritime sectors.



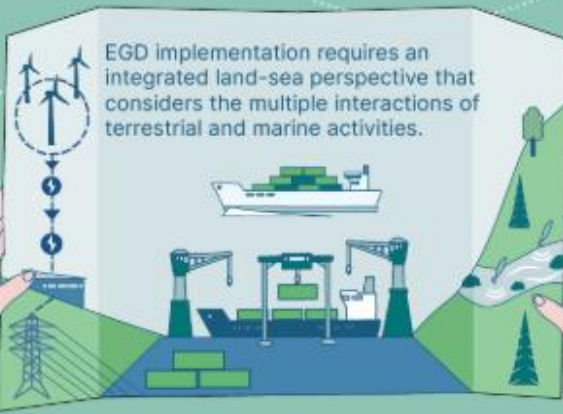
**New action!**



Cross-sector collaboration and innovative solutions help coordinate new EGD related activities such as offshore wind energy with traditional ones in already busy sea areas.



Multi-use of sea areas is a promising approach to address challenges arising from limited space for furthering multiple EGD objectives. Its potential lies in combining different uses and synergies while removing pressure for certain trade-offs.



EGD implementation requires an integrated land-sea perspective that considers the multiple interactions of terrestrial and marine activities.

The French new action supports consideration of land-sea interaction through investigation of opportunities and challenges in reusing dredged material on land and simultaneously advances a circular blue economy perspective in MSP.



**New action!**



# EGD - The Blue Economy

## FISHERIES:

Reduce emissions  
Sustainable practice  
Ensure protection of marine ecosystems

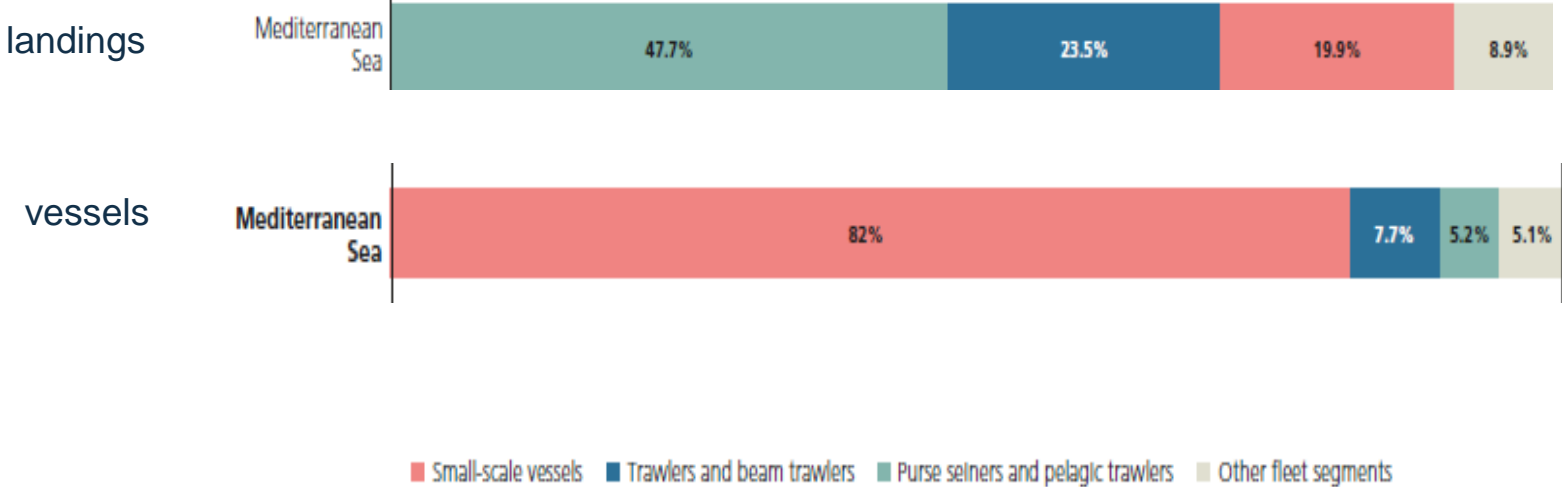
## Small-scale fisheries



Source: Eurostat (SBS), DCF and Commission Services.

<https://medblueconomyplatform.org/about/blue-economy/>

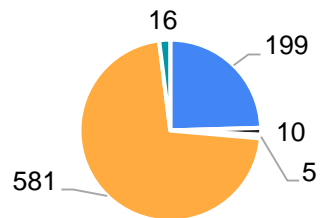
# Fisheries in the Mediterranean



82% of the fleet are **small-scale vessels**

# Small scale fisheries in Albania

## Fleet Composition 2023



- Trawlers
- Dredgers
- Multipurpose vessels
- Purse seiners
- Gill netters

**Estimated 1015 boats (with unlicensed)**

More than 40 locations

- Shoder
- Lezhe
- Durres
- Vlore



# Small scale fisheries in Albania – catch and revenue

Sparidae (incl. sea bream)	18-20%
Sea bass	15-17%
Mullet	10-12%
Cuttlefish	8-10%
Caramote prawn	8-10%
Hake & red mullet	4-5%
Mantis shrimp	2-3%
Other	25-30%

Target a variety of high-value and commercially important species



**10%** of the total catch: 700-900t (reported; *additional 25% unreported*)

**7% - 13%** of the total fisheries revenue (8M)

**1%** - Fisheries % in GDP

# Small scale fisheries in Albania – social component

Stronger growth in the **90s** –  
**source of survival** for many  
families



# Interactions: Professional Commercial Fisheries

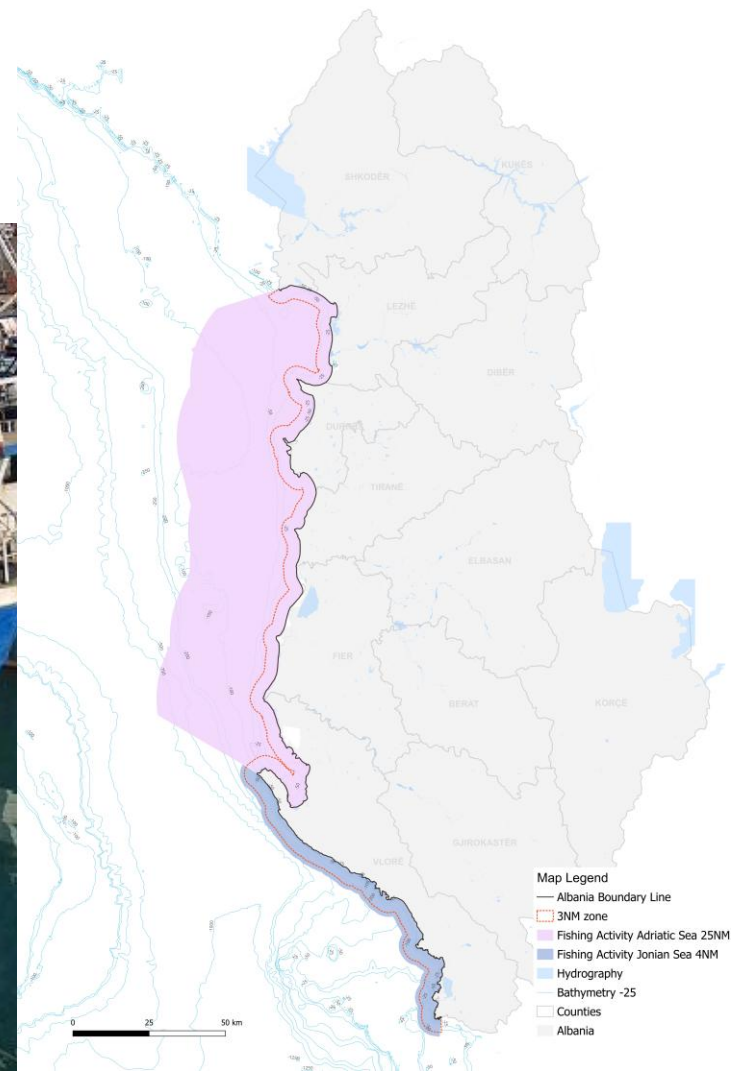


Neg. interactions – 10 years ago

SSF – up to 3NM (not legally defined)

Some target species overlap

**No dedicated landing sites** – using  
fishing ports:  
- Poor infrastructure and services



# Interactions: Aquaculture and Tourism

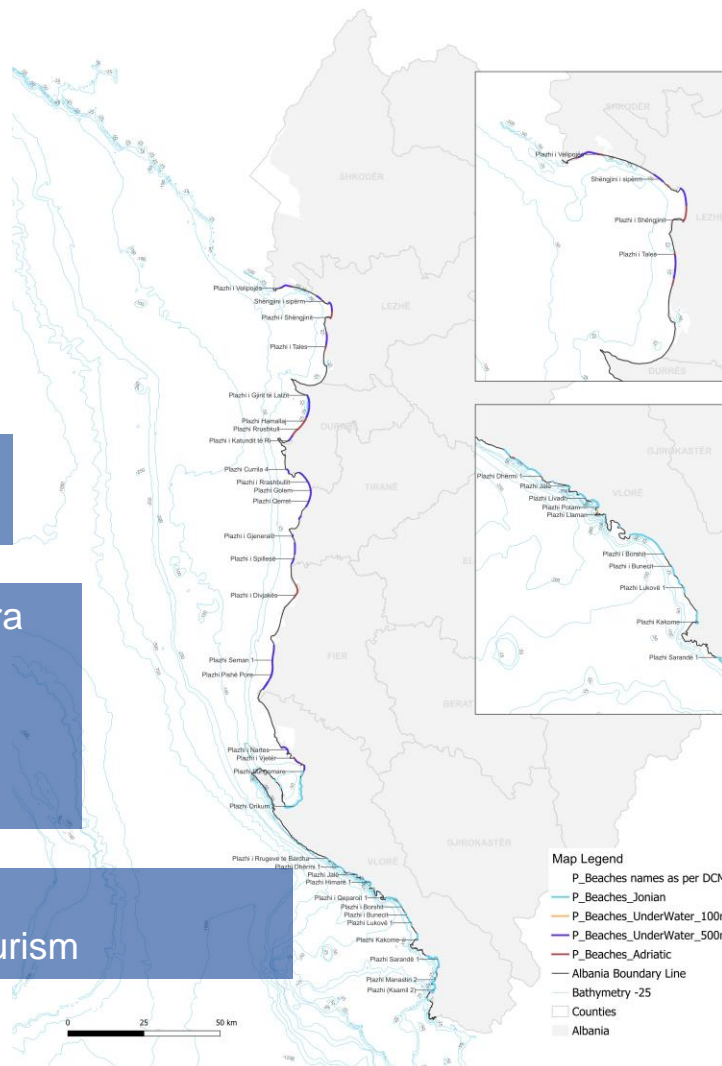
No SSF in AZA

No recreational fisheries near beaches

Possible conflict in Vlora area

- Intensive use of marinas during summer

Positive interactions  
- SSF engaged with tourism

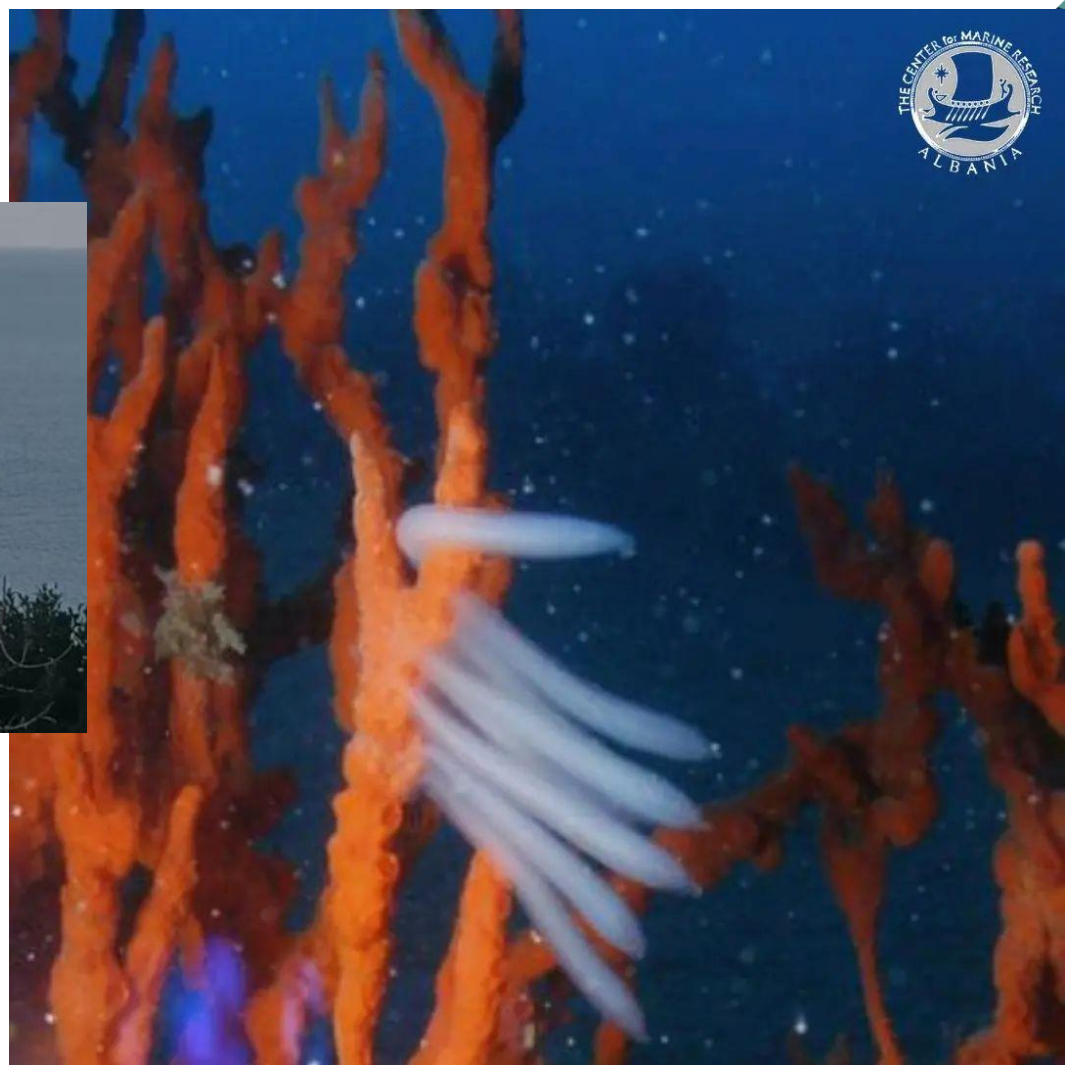


# Interactions: Nature

Illegal,  
Unreported, and  
Unregulated (IUU)



<https://www.balkanweb.com/en/Rare-turtle-floats-dead-in-Karaburun-citizens%27-alarm--illegal-fishing-with-dynamite-is-damaging-the-ecosystem/#gsc.tab=0>



# Interactions: MPAs

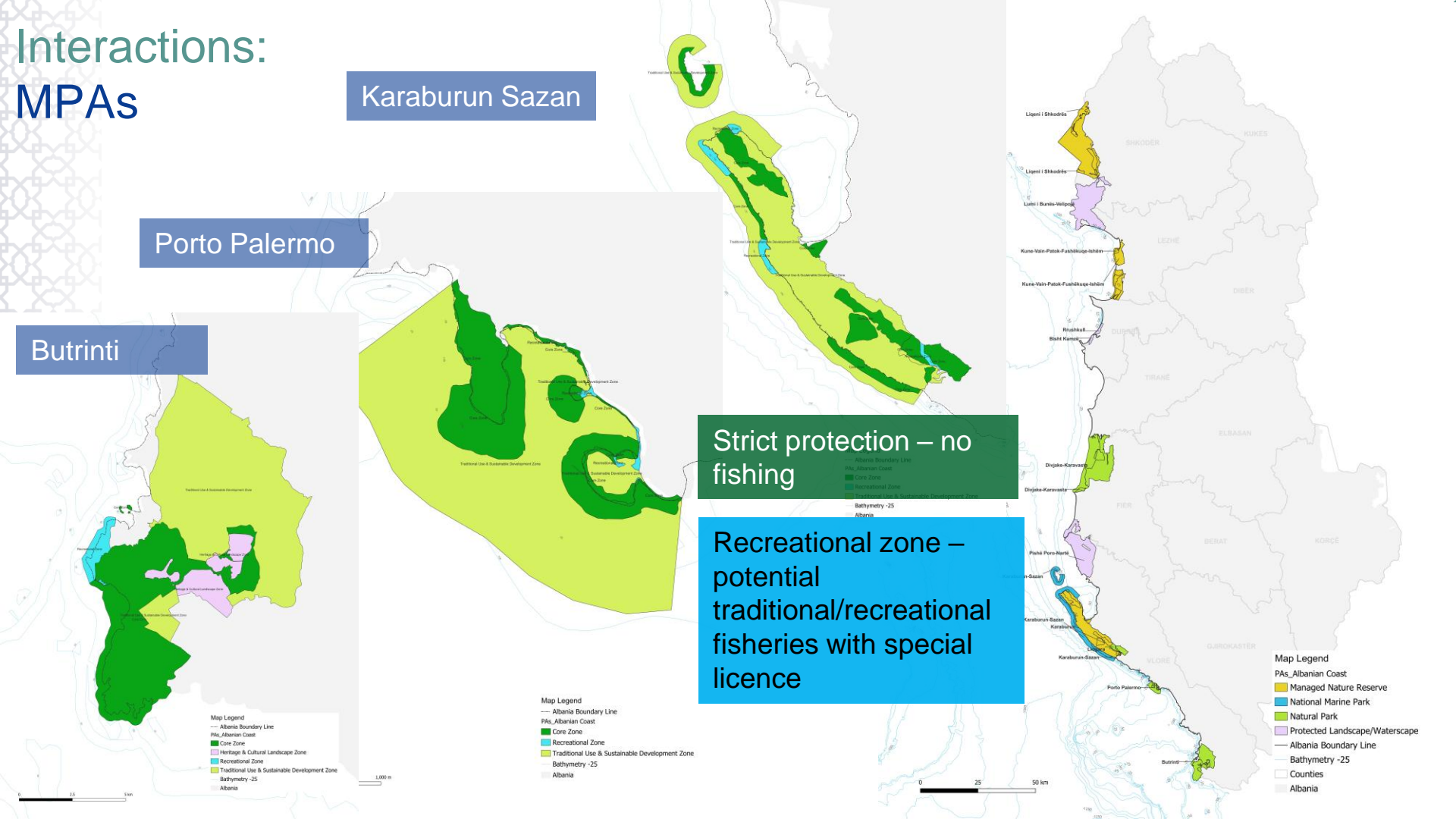
Karaburun Sazan

Porto Palermo

Butrinti

Strict protection – no fishing

Recreational zone – potential traditional/recreational fisheries with special licence

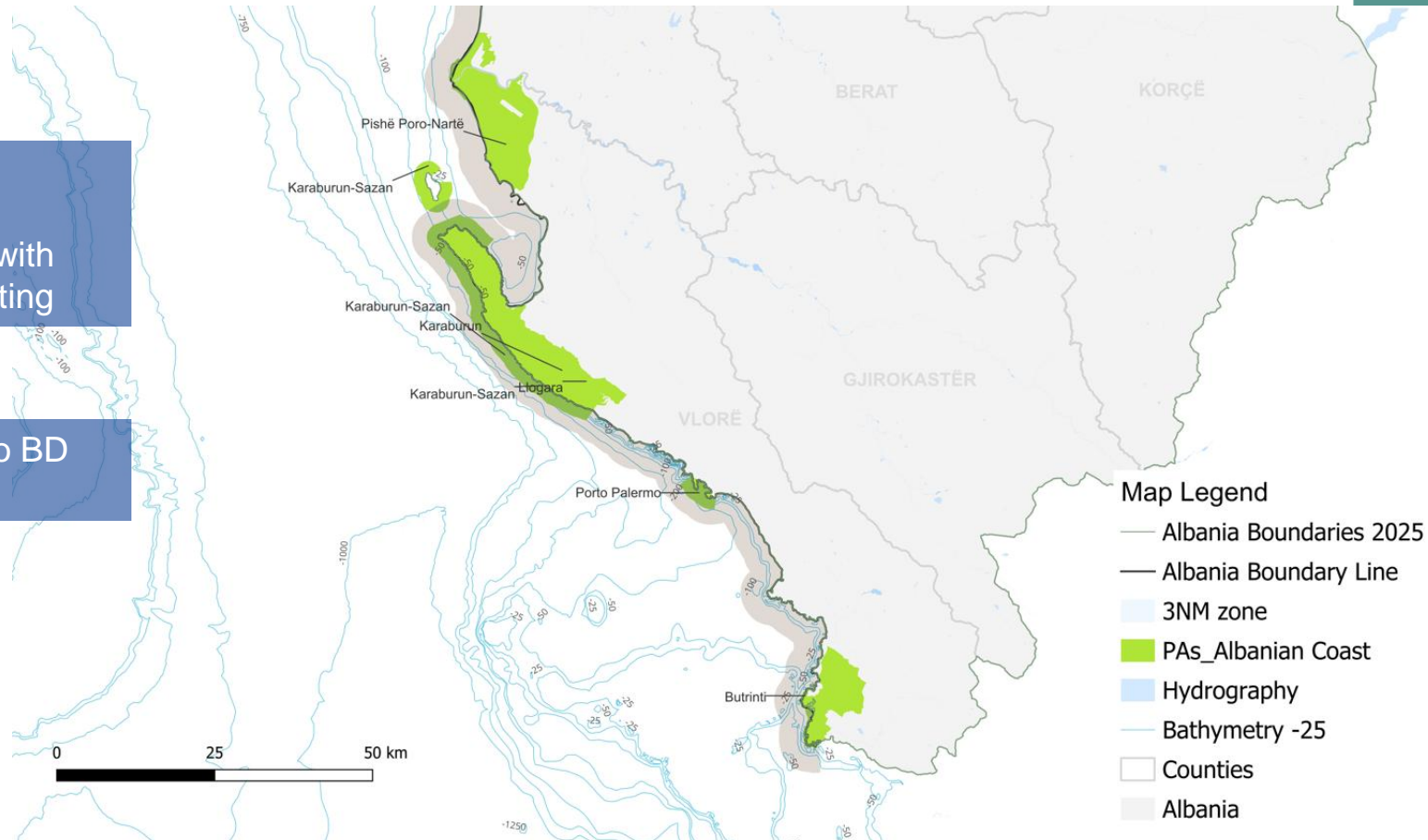


# Interactions: MPAs

## Karaburun Sazan:

- no SSF in MPA
- good cooperation with fishermen in combating

Monitoring of SSF to BD sector limited



# Challenges and Needs: MSP



50% of the vessels are licences  
(administrative burdens)

- **Not fully monitored**
- Illegal fishing exist (also some using dinamite)

Lack of infrastructure:

- No landing sites (monitoring)
- Poor sanitary conditions

Not properly organised

# Challenges and Needs: MSP

MSP cannot solve all the challenges  
BUT

- Formally recognise traditional **fishing grounds**, protecting them from possible future incompatible activities

- Securing space for **SSF landing sites** and harbour access, preventing displacement by tourism infrastructure, professional commercial fishing etc. Enabling better monitoring

- Ensure involvement of **SSF** in spatial zoning to ensure their involvement and co-management in strengthening biodiversity protection



A small fishing boat off the Albanian coast (Photo: Essam Yassin Mohammed/IIED)  
<https://www.iied.org/three-things-i-learned-small-scale-fisherman-albania>

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Thank you!  
¡Gracias!  
Grazie!  
Merci !  
Ευχαριστώ!  
إشكراً  
Hvala!  
Grazzi!



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