

**Soraia Faria**

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**Para:** Katrin Mrotzeck  
**Assunto:** RE: Public Consultation on the Proposed Downgrading of the Azores Marine Protected Areas Network

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**De:** Katrin Mrotzeck [REDACTED]  
**Enviada:** 23 de abril de 2025 12:56  
**Para:** Apreciacao Publica <apreciacaopublica@alra.pt>  
**Assunto:** Public Consultation on the Proposed Downgrading of the Azores Marine Protected Areas Network

To the President of the Permanent Specialized Commission for Parliamentary Affairs, Environment and Sustainable Development,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed downgrading of the Azores Marine Protected Areas Network (RAMPA), specifically the measure that would open fully protected areas to tuna fishing.

This proposal undermines years of collaborative work, scientific research, and public consultation that led to the current framework, approved in October 2024. These fully protected marine areas are vital tools in ensuring ocean resilience, safeguarding biodiversity, and supporting sustainable fisheries. The scientific consensus is clear: no-take zones lead to greater biomass, larger fish populations, and healthier ecosystems that benefit surrounding fisheries through spillover effects. The case of the Condor seamount, which showed a 400% increase in goraz abundance within a decade of being declared a marine protected area, is a powerful example.

Opening these zones to any form of commercial fishing—even traditional methods like pole-and-line tuna fishing—would compromise their ecological integrity and set a dangerous precedent. Furthermore, such changes dismiss the rigorous participatory and legislative processes already undertaken, including a previous rejection of this very proposal.

At a time when the impacts of human activity on the ocean are becoming more severe and evident, we must not weaken our commitment to marine protection for short-term interests. Fully protected areas are not obstacles to fisheries—they are investments in their future.

I respectfully urge the Commission to reject the proposed downgrading and to uphold the full protection status of these essential marine areas.

Sincerely,

Katrin Mrotzeck

Charneca de Caparica

Biomedical Engineer

