

Soraia Faria

Para: info@underwaterambassador.com
Assunto: RE: Marine Protected Areas in Azores

De: [REDACTED]
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Para: Apreciacao Publica <apreciacaopublica@alra.pt>
Assunto: Marine Protected Areas in Azores

To the Honorable President of the Regional Government of the Azores,

I am writing to you, as a tourist and a deep admirer of the sea, to express my concern and indignation regarding the recent proposal to downgrade fully protected marine areas within the Azores Marine Park. In particular, I would like to highlight the case of the Princess Alice Bank, an area of undeniable biological and ecological richness, whose importance has been widely acknowledged by the scientific community and by all those who, like myself, have had the privilege of visiting it. During a recent trip, I witnessed the overlapping of two distinct maritime activities in this area - diving and longline vessels fishing - which I believe to be incompatible with its preservation.

I consider this situation to be a significant step backward in the Azores' ongoing commitment to protecting its marine natural heritage. I firmly believe that, due to its unique characteristics, the Princess Alice Bank should be designated as a fully protected zone.

Such a designation would contribute to the safeguarding of marine ecosystems and help solidify the Azores as a global example of sound environment practices. It was only back in October last year, that conservation organizations all over the World applauded the Azores for the new marine protected network (RAMPA). A downgrade now, would undoubtedly take the pride out of the project.

I therefor urge a reconsideration of this decision and instead implement measures that will ensure the effective conservation of these sensitive habitats, for the benefit of present and future generations.

Yours sincerely

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