
Governance of marine protected areas and stakeholder participation, the social acceptance of the natural marine reserve of Reunion faced to the sharks' risk

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Résumé

Since 2011, fifteen attacks of bull and tiger sharks occurred in the natural marine nature reserve of Reunion or in the surroundings. As it has increased the abundance of reef fish, the MPA is accused by social networks to attract sharks. In 2015, 7 years after a first assessment of the social acceptance of the MPA, it was asked to IRD to repeat this exercise. This Communication focuses on the social acceptance of general public. The survey was conducted when a promising young surfer of Reunion was fatally attacked by a bull shark. In this context, the risk was too high of a very low return rate. It was therefore decided to shift the target and to involve geography students from the University of Reunion. We have asked them to investigate one hand, their peers on campus and on the other, their families. A total of 495 people were interviewed, half on the campus of Saint, half among the students family. The results showed that social acceptance of RNMR was much better than what was expected. Clearly, social networks are not representative of the general public opinion.

Mots-Clés: social acceptance, MPA, participation, sharks' risk

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