Supplementary Material 6: Perceptions of MPA managers at the end of the PAMPA project (from verbatim records in Pelletier et al. 2011).

1. Importance and relevance of the collaboration and approach
• Grounding the construction of indicators on a consensus formulation of goals and objectives • Experience and expertise sharing across MPAs and between scientists and MPA managers • Implementing the same approach in MPAs with distinct characteristics and settings • Differences between the MPAs and between manager profiles were not problematic due to the initial workshops for setting the scene and the methodology • Reconciling expert-based assessments and data-based assessments • Using the same approach with many different data sets and utilizing existing data sets
2. Relevance to MPA activities
• Contributed to several actions of the management plan and to the document needed for the Natura 2000 directive • Produced indicators and elements for MPA ME monitoring, for the MPA dashboard, and for the future management plan document • Indicators were subsequently used to assess the management plan
3. About the tools developed
• The database was needed for inputting use data and avoided input errors • The R-based interface enabled easy and quick computing and testing of many indicators • Some tests were not coded • Use-related indicators cannot be changed through the user interface • The user interfaces should produce a report automatically • Formatting the data should also be automated

4.   Dashboards of indicators
• Integrating ecological, use-related and governance indicators in a given dashboard provides a complete view on MPA ME assessment
• There were too many indicators: for the dashboards, a trade-off was needed between exhaustivity and simplicity
• Too few indicators was not desirable because: i) it may be simplistic; and ii) joint interpretation of several indicators is easier; and iii) indicators were needed for several reporting purposes
• Dashboards must be tested in the long run
• They require routine monitoring beyond the project; funding must be secured

5.   Biodiversity and fished resources
• Many existing data sets were evaluated and utilized
• The numerous indicators documented goals 1 and 2 well
• Indicator interpretation (in particular the definition of threshold values) was difficult with short time-series and when protection was recent

6.   Uses
• Data collected over a year cycle provided an indispensable baseline assessment of uses
• Data were useful for the needs of the Natura 2000 European directive
• Recreational fishing practices were described and characterized in term of both effort and catches
• Existing data from user counts were evaluated and analyzed
• Aerial surveys provide a holistic view, but need complementary data
• Spearfishing requires additional data because on site interviews are not easy

7.   MPA Governance
• Discussions on MPA governance were highly appreciated as this was a new and relevant subject for managers
• Governance indicators are useful for assessing management plans
• However, their interpretation is highly context dependent