

Ghent - Belgium - April 2nd 2014



SCIENCE FOR THE NEW REGULATION

Abstract book

BENELUX conference on invasive species



Re-visiting Vila do Porto marina (Santa Maria, Azores archipelago)

Joana Micael, Manuela I Parente, Daniela Gabriel, Ana C Costa

CIBIO, Centro de Investigação em Biodiversidade e Recursos Genéticos, InBIO Laboratório Associado, Pólo dos Açores, Universidade dos Açores, 9501-801 Ponta Delgada, Portugal

Email: jfmicael@yahoo.com

Harbours and marinas are important places of introduction and spread of non-native organisms, due to local, regional and international shipping activities, both commercial and recreational. Moreover, marina infrastructures are an increasingly common form of artificial habitat, which is likely to increase the recruitment of organisms relative to natural shores. The association of marine wildlife with artificial structures represents, generally, a preliminary indicator of the colonization status of invasive species. Santa Maria island is located in the Eastern Group of the Azores and is the southernmost island of the archipelago. A survey for non-indigenous species was done by scuba-diving at the marina of Vila do Porto, located on the south coast of the island, during August 2013, five years after its construction and four years on from its first non-indigenous species characterization (2009). An increase of 4 fold percentage of NIS was detected, with Bryozoa showing the highest diversity among taxa. Although there are no known records of adverse impacts on the indigenous local fauna, as the potential of invasion increases, it becomes strongly important the development of a narrower control and specific monitoring programs supported by an effective regulation to prevent the possible adverse introductions.