



# Actions for the creation of a functional marine protected area

Role-play performed at the Universidad de Belgrano  
June 6, 2024 for about 1h30

**Actors: Students in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th year of the biology career**

## Participants and roles

1. **Biologists**
2. **Government**
3. **Industrial Fishing**
4. **NGOs**
5. **Artisanal Fishermen**
6. **Wind Farm Owner**

## General discussion

In the role-playing game held at the Universidad de Belgrano on June 6, 2024, students represented several key actors who need to participate in discussing the key challenges and possible solutions for the sustainable management of marine resources, leading towards the creation of a functional marine reserve area in order to implement the mandate of the Global Biodiversity Framework agreed in December 2022 to stop mass biodiversity extinctions. The conversation aimed at adapting the arrangements to local conditions. The main interventions and proposals of each group are detailed below.

### *Government*

The government identified several critical issues that need to be addressed to ensure the sustainability of marine resources, including overfishing, pollution, and invasive species. He proposed the creation of an offshore wind farm with the aim of attracting funds and initiatives, such as the European mission to restore oceans and rivers and generate renewable energy.

In addition, the government proposed the implementation of strict regulations, including:

1. **Fishing seasons and minimum catch sizes:** to protect juvenile species.
2. **Fines proportional to environmental damage:** to discourage destructive fishing practices.

They also highlighted the importance of collaborating with NGOs to raise awareness of sustainability and support artisanal fishers.

## *Wind farm owner*

Entrepreneurs interested in building an offshore wind farm presented several key points during the role-play:

### **Benefits of the wind farm**

1. **Pollution reduction:** Wind energy helps decrease ocean pollution and the use of fossil resources.
2. **Energy efficiency:** Wind energy is more efficient and can reach more parts of Argentina, saving geographical space.
3. **Financial and scientific access:** It facilitates the creation of scientific research centers in various parts of the country due to its energy efficiency.
4. **Favorable marine conditions:** In marine areas, the wind runs faster and is constant, increasing the efficiency of power generation.
5. **Local employment:** Generates local employment for the construction and maintenance of wind turbines.

### **Considerations and proposals**

1. **Environmental impact:** They recognize that construction could negatively affect the environment and propose to minimize this impact by collaborating with the government and NGOs to identify the best areas for construction.
2. **Species migration:** They admit that construction can cause stress and migration of marine species and propose moving the facilities if necessary.
3. **Collaboration with the government and NGOs:** They are willing to work closely together to ensure that construction is carried out with the least possible environmental impact.
4. **Government regulation and support:** They need the full support of the government to implement strict regulations and ensure the sustainable development of the project.

## *Artisanal fishermen*

Artisanal fishers expressed concern about the negative impact of industrial fishing and pollution on their communities and livelihoods. They faced difficulties in competing with the prices and regulations imposed on international fishermen.

### **Proposals from artisanal fishermen**

1. **Creation of an awareness group:** to protect marine areas and promote sustainable fishing practices.
2. **Promotion of tourism and added value:** through the promotion of typical dishes of the area.
3. **Implementation of sustainable practices:** to protect the reproduction of species and ensure the continuity of their livelihoods.

## *Industrial fishing*

Fishing industrialists pointed to unfair competition from international fishing vessels and the high costs of certifications and conservation methods as significant problems. In addition, they expressed their concern about the negative impact of regulations and fines on the national fishing industry.

## Proposals from fishing industries

1. **Use of suitable nets:** with a diameter that allows fish to be caught without affecting juveniles.
2. **Government requests:** stricter regulations for international ships.
3. **Government support:** to implement sustainable and efficient fishing methods.

## *Biologists and NGOs*

NGOs and biologists proposed the creation of marine protected areas with strict prohibitions on large-scale extraction. They stressed the need to promote artisanal fisheries and provide support to local fishermen.

## Proposals from NGOs and biologists

1. **Marine protected areas:** with a total ban on large-scale extraction.
2. **Sustainable fishing methods:** that protect the seabed and reduce bycatch.
3. **Collaboration with the government:** to finance and regulate renewable energy projects.
4. **Environmental studies:** to minimise the impact of wind farm construction.

## Conclusions and agreements

Several important conclusions and agreements were reached during the discussion:

1. **Wind farm**
  1. Construction must be carried out with minimal environmental impact.
  2. Regulations on noise, excavation and protection of the seabed must be implemented.
  3. In the long term, the wind farm will provide significant benefits in terms of renewable energy and pollution reduction.
2. **Sustainable fishing**
  1. Establish minimum catch seasons and sizes.
  2. Apply fines proportional to the environmental damage.
  3. Collaborate with NGOs and artisanal fishers to promote sustainable fishing practices and raise awareness.
3. **Government support**
  1. To finance and regulate environmental and energy projects.
  2. Hire biologists and experts to conduct studies and ensure regulatory compliance.

**In summary,** the role-play highlighted the importance of collaboration between government, fishers, industries and NGOs, with the participation of professional biologists, to address environmental challenges and promote the sustainability of marine resources, including the proposal of the offshore wind farm as a viable solution to reduce pollution and promote renewable energy.