

***Interactive comment on “The support of multidimensional approaches in integrate monitoring for SEA: a case of study” by C. M. Torre and M. Selicato***

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The authors, Torre and Selicato, have undertaken an important study to set out procedures for assessing the environmental impact of coastal developments, in particular in Southern Italy. Highlighting the increasing role of coastal regions both for leisure and commercial interests, they point out how previous low impact activities are being replaced by new intensive uses which have the potential to be much more damaging in the long term. Consequently, the use of SEAs (Strategic Environmental Assessments) has an increasingly important role to play in decision-making regarding changes of land use but the authors make the important point that it is essential to monitor the

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impact of agreed developments beyond the planning stage. They go on to describe a case study involving the establishment of a monitoring system for the SEA of the Apulia coastal region (southern Italy). Apulia accounts for about 800 km of coastline, about 98% of which is suitable for bathing. Consequently, the conflict between recreational developments and environmental protection is significant and led the authors to monitor human pressure using DSDA (Dynamic Spatial Data Analysis). One of their most significant achievements was the development of a piece of software with the acronym MOCA (Monitoring of Coastal Areas) which has the ability to monitor ongoing and potential changes by comparing the original proposals and plans, the actual changes that take place, the SEA of the Apulian Coastal Plan and consequent impact on the coastal plan. In view of the increasing pressures on coastal regions, both recreational and commercial, this a very significant piece of work which can be applied to coastal districts with different physical characteristics and will provide a warning when human pressures and the rate of change of land use exceed a particular threshold

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