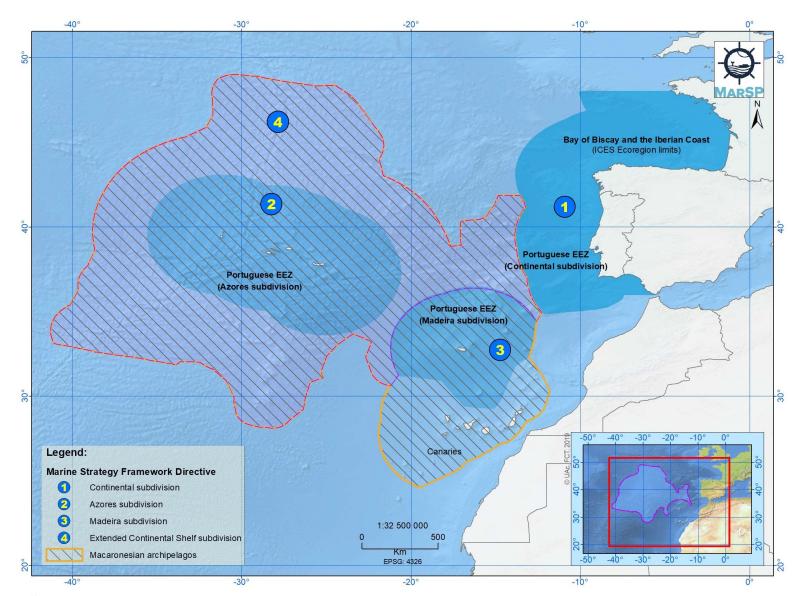




Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH)

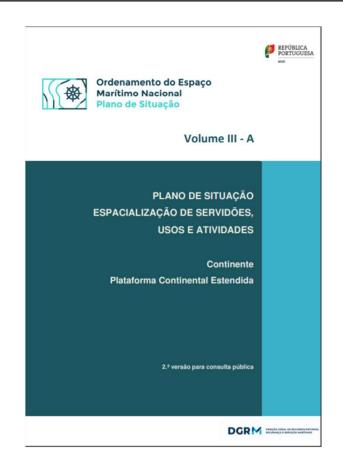
Prof. Helena Calado helena.mg.calado@uac.pt

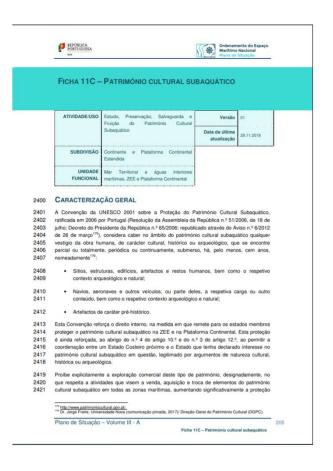


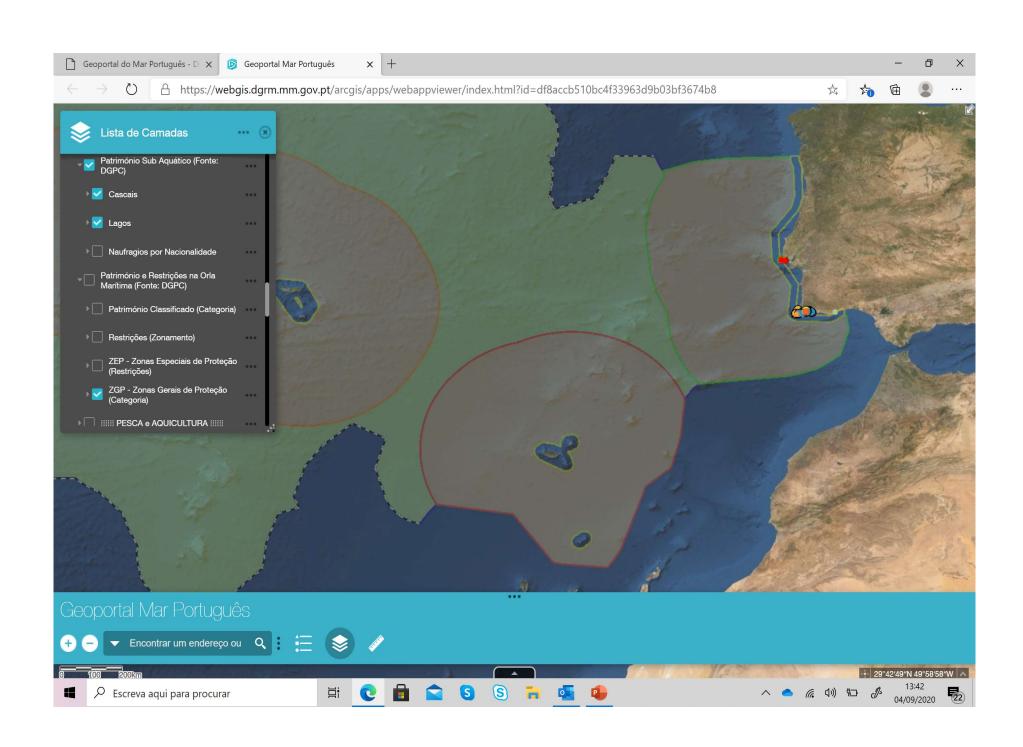


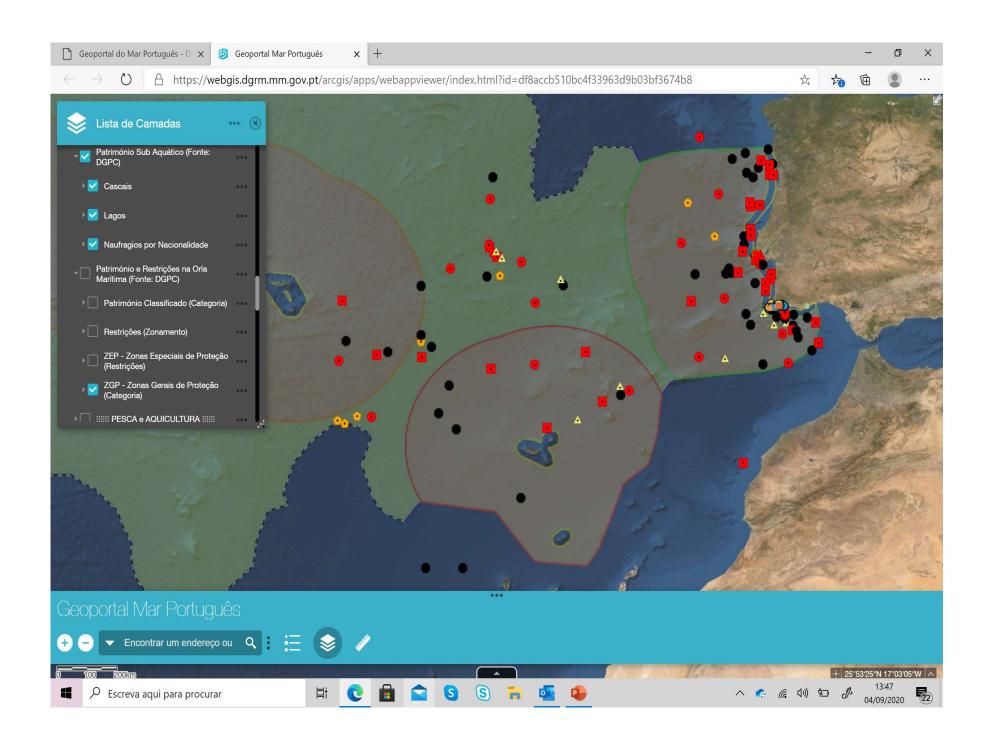
Sources:
Flanders Marine Institute (2019). Maritime Boundaries and Exclusive Economic Zones (200NM), version 11. Available online at http://www.marineregions.org/.
Extended Continental Shelf, updated on 03 August 2015, Available online at http://continentalshelf.org/onestopdatashop/6350.aspx.
Background: EuroGeographics for the administrative boundaries; Natural Earth II with Shade Relief. Available on https://www.naturalearthdata.com/downloads. Consulted in July, 2019.

Ordenamento do Espaço Marítimo Nacional Plano de Situação (PSOEM)









AZORES

Sector characterization

- The Azores archipelago is located on the junction of greatly important maritime routes that, throughout history, have connected and still connect Europe to Africa, the Americas and the East.
- Without the Azores as a port of call for the great sailing enterprises, the European expansion would have been, necessarily, very different. For instance, from all the 14.450 registered crossings of the Ruta de la Plata carried out between 1546 and 1650, because of the sea conditions, 402 boats shipwrecked. Of these shipwrecks, at least 20%, lie on the Azorean seabed, the overwhelming majority in Angra do Heroísmo (Terceira Island), which is one of the main sanctuaries for UCH and is classified as a reserve since 1973, in addition to being the first underwater archaeological park of Portugal, since 2005 (Neto & Parreira, 2018).
- About a hundred underwater or closely related archaeological sites are identified in Azorean waters (Neto & Parreira, 2018).
- In the Archipelago the maritime activities associated directly to this sector are diving (recreational diving) and scientific research, especially in the context of nautical and underwater archaeology.
- The Azores benefit from twenty years of intense research in underwater archaeology where several environmental impact assessment studies stand out, developed as part of projects implemented in the islands of São Miguel, Santa Maria and Faial.

Underwater Archaeological Chart of the Azores

With the acknowledgement from the **Autonomous** Region of the Azores that the submerged heritage lying in its waters was a fundamental piece of the collective memory of its people and places, it was carried out a survey, starting in 1994. On the resulting Underwater Archaeological Chart of the Azores (CASA) are listed a total of 548 shipwrecks. The oldest one registered dates from 1526 and the youngest one from 1995.

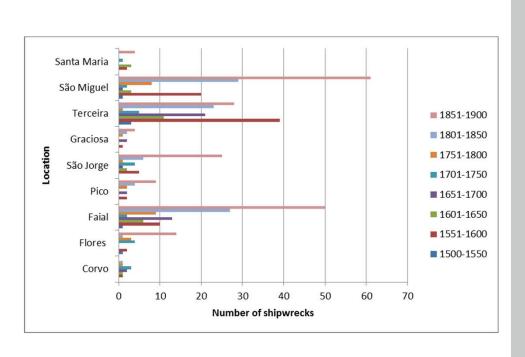


Figure 5. Distribution of shipwrecks occurring in the Archipelago of the Azores recorded in historical documents, for periods of fifty years, between 1500 and 1900 (database in Monteiro, 1999, revised for the Faial, Pico and Flores islands, based on other sources) (Source: (Bettencourt, 2017)

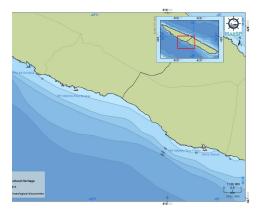
30 Sites of the UCH of the Azores

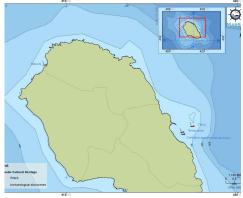
In 2017, based on the work developed in the last fifteen years by underwater archaeologists in the Azores archipelago, the "Guide of the Underwater Cultural Heritage of the Azores" was published as a result of a collaboration between Turismo dos Açores and the Regional Directorate for Culture (DRC). The document identifies twenty-five sites accessible to scuba diving, distributed by the archipelago, besides from the already classified five archaeological underwater parks, namely Angra do Heroísmo Bay, Dori, Caroline, Slavonia and Canarias.



A "Manual of good diving practices **Underwater Cultural** the in Heritage", published in 4 languages, was created in the Azores, as a result of a protocol established between the Regional Government and the scuba dive operators. The document inspired by the was norms recommended by UNESCO, namely its Code of Ethics for Diving, and it states the best practices for the enjoyment and safeguarding of underwater cultural heritage.







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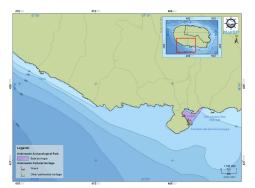
Current spatial distribution





H 2019 DOT CACP 2018

9; DGT, CAOP, 2018.





The current spatial distribution of known/registered underwater cultural heritage sites in the maritime space surrounding the Azores archipelago, at depths that allow access by scuba divers (some examples of sites on the Archipelago).

Considerations for MSP

- Based on the good practices suggested by the stakeholders, along with recommendations in the literature, key points are suggested to be accounted in the maritime spatial planning process of the underwater cultural heritage sector in the Azores.
 - It is necessary to further promote the development of this sector by consolidating it with scientific studies and the identification of new underwater archaeological sites.
 - Continue to advocate careful management of underwater archaeological sites, which is the responsibility of the Regional Directorate of Culture (DRC).
 - Opt for an efficient and productive management of the sector articulated with maritime tourism operators (OMT). Inciting partnerships, strengthening existing ones and promoting others, is a structuring line to continue to consolidate the success of Underwater Archaeology in the Azorean islands.
- For the public administration/authorities, it is important to ensure the protection and maintenance of the UCH sites, with the creation of a proper body of legislation ensuring its longterm integrity and preservation. Thereafter, and a fundamental step, the task of the public authorities is to verify if the regulations that are being applied.
- The stakeholders' consultation (e.g. OMT) during the process of creation of new legislation is crucial for the good development of this sector.
- Also, and for the development of a good maritime spatial planning process of the UCH sector, access to data (e.g. databases and mapping tools) is crucial. The data have often very limited public access.

