

# Banc des Kabyles

Legal status	Marine reserve
Foundation year	1984
Foundation text	Presidential decree no. 84-328
Management body	National Commission for the Coast
Superficy	600 ha



## Territory

The Banc des Kabyles marine reserve are shallows located approximately 3.4 miles off the nearest coast, 6.5 miles north-west of Jijel. It is part of the Taza National Park, and includes both a terrestrial and a marine part.

The Banc des Kabyles has been a SPAMI since 2001 since the species present are much bigger than usual and it is an outstanding spawning area.



## Physical features

The Banc des Kabyles is the top of a volcanic underwater mountain. There is not much sedimentation, for almost the entire site is rocky. However, loose sediment covers certain flat areas, offering a substratum that is favourable to plant development.

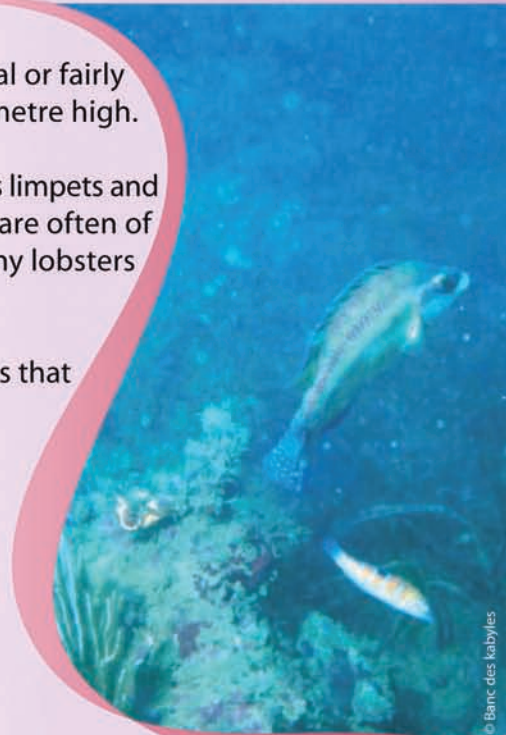
Caves, caverns, holes and arches are found in succession.

## Specificities and Importance

All underwater habitats are present in the Banc des Kabyles. The horizontal or fairly level parts are carpeted with a Posidonia meadow that is often over one metre high.

The species that live there are numerous (groupers, striped groupers, ferreous limpets and manta rays), giving the site interest and a regional aspect. The specimens are often of impressive size, with some striped groupers weighing over 8 kilos and spiny lobsters up to 5 kilos.

The Banc des Kabyles is a spawning area, a nursery for almost all the species that depend on the hard substrata.

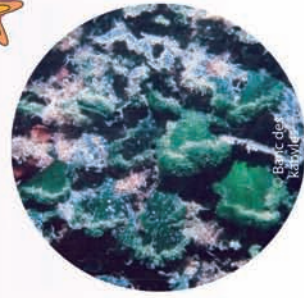


## Threats and pressures



Sufficiently far out from the coast and the big towns to not directly suffer degradation due to human activity, the Banc des Kabyles is not subject to major risks of chronic or creeping pollution.

The area's problem is linked to fishing, both authorised and, especially, unsupervised.



## Management

The management plan currently being crafted takes on board the principles of conservation within a sustainable development context.

It will be crafted with the purpose of gradually extending the marine reserve westwards in order to include the western part of the cape.

Diving is relatively controlled due to the visible logistic means that it usually requires.

For several decades the Banc des Kabyles has been observed frequently, with much diving with and without an aqualung, and this has provided relatively precise information on the bathymetry and the marine populations. 75% of the knowledge has been ecological knowledge, either of habitats or species.

