

# ICCCM10

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# ABSTRACTS



**Cascais**  
Câmara Municipal



## ECOLOGICAL QUALITY OF AZOREAN COASTAL WATERS

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### Keywords:

Water Frame Directive, ecological quality, monitoring strategy

The Water Frame Directive (WFD) is a fundamental tool for the management of the European water resources aimed at guarantying a good ecological quality by 2015. The hydrographical region of the Azores Archipelago (RH9) is characterized by ponds, streams, transitional and coastal waters, and groundwater, with specific characteristics derived from the archipelago's geography, climate and geology, which place specific questions to the application of the WFD. Due to the high dilution power of the open ocean surrounding these Atlantic islands, the impact of anthropogenic effects on coastal waters is likely to be localized. Water masses adjacent to urbanized areas have therefore been classified as "In Doubt". In the present study, the ecological quality of the Azorean coastal water masses was evaluated in the islands of Terceira, São Miguel and Santa Maria, using the quality parameters required by the WFD. Results indicate that the studied coastal waters have an excellent ecological quality when compared with mainland Europe. Differences within and among islands were detected only on the phytoplankton, with the highest concentrations recorded during spring 2009 in Terceira, followed by São Miguel and Santa Maria. The coccolithophores were the most abundant group, followed by the diatoms and dinoflagellates. Maxima of each group were spatially separated and differences were observed around each island. A monitoring strategy and plan is proposed for coastal water quality evaluation in these Atlantic islands.



## ASSESSING SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: THE SUSTAIN PRO

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### Keywords:

sustainable development, indicators, co

The increasing intensity of human activities in coastal areas, such as harbours, coastal protection, land reclamation, has a significant impact on coastal communities and the environment. The Sustainable Development Strategy, 1992, emphasizes the need for protection, social equity and cohesion in development worldwide. There are many examples between the use of renewable energy and sustainable development. Local and regional authorities are more and more aware of sustainable development. A number of indicators which will be developed and tested in the future. This is the most needed and currently lacking. Local authorities have taken up this challenge in the EUCC.

The key objective of SUSTAIN is to assess the sustainability of all 22 coastal states of the EU, with issues which will be sustainable. This entails indicators which are readily measurable and which cover all the opportunities provided by a sustainable development throughout Europe.

• "NEW WAY OF THINKING"

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# Ecological quality of Azorean coastal waters

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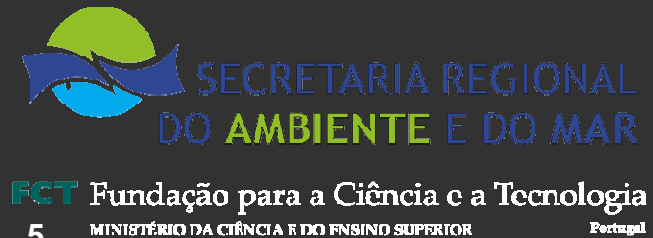
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