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**ABSTRACTS**

## STUDIES ON AZOREAN MARINE BIOTOPES

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Marine research in the Azores has been mainly centered on particular taxa or particular areas.

The need for the classification and characterization of the marine biotopes in the Azores was raised recently by political demand for a coastal plan management. Therefore, a methodology for mapping intertidal and shallow sublittoral habitats and biotic communities has been developed.

This work presents a provisional description of Azorean biotopes based upon the classification criteria used for the BIOMAR project, namely substratum, wave exposure, height/ depth and specific local characteristics of the biological communities. The present results will provide the necessarily tools for assessment of sensitive areas to human activities and background knowledge for plan management.