

## **DGRM Science-policy panel on the deep-seas**

The meeting will be carried out on the 1st September as a Parallel Session to the 14th Deep-Sea Biology Symposium.

A panel of national managers and NGO delegates will meet around the table with invited scientists in order to share their experiences on current and expected conservation problems in the deep-sea. The discussion will be mediated by the Portuguese Directorate-General for Marine Resources, Environment and Maritime affairs (DGRM). The panel is expected to contribute state-of-the art perspectives or new approaches to establishing MPAs in the deep-sea, and how they shall be managed to achieve their goal. Experience-based contributes to improve the effectiveness of MPA management will be most welcome.

Our purpose for organizing this Science-policy panel is to discuss and improve on current ideas about the functions and management of large MPAs in deep-water habitats. DGRM wishes to capitalize on the presence of invited guests and international researchers coming to Aveiro for the DSBS meeting.

DGRM is the department of the Portuguese administration entitled to plan and carry out policies to the preservation and science-based use of marine resources. Its functions include setting-up fishing policies and fish-farming, in connection to related processing industries. Control of shipping traffic, vessel inspections, port state control and management of harbour activities also fall in the scope of DGRM. There is one specific working unit (DSAS) to delineate and promote conservation strategies for MPAs designated at national, EU or international level. This unit also coordinates the participation of Portugal in the OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic.

The ultimate goal of this exercise is building up a long-lasting contribution from Portugal to help the sustainability of Ocean ecosystems and ensure wise use of global marine resources.