

Preferences and willingness to pay for use and non-use values of artificial reefs in Poland considering distance decay, environmental attitudes, and different elicitation methods

Have you ever heard of artificial reefs? These man-made structures placed in marine environments can provide habitat for marine organisms and improve the overall biodiversity of the ecosystem. But what do people in Poland feel about them? That is where a new research project comes in!

Artificial reefs have been proposed and deployed in areas such as the Pomeranian Bay, the Baltic Sea, to preserve and restore reefs due to pollution and anthropogenic pressure. These reefs have improved marine diversity, self-cleansing processes, habitat creation, and increased fish stocks

The study aims to investigate preferences and willingness to pay for artificial reefs preservation in Poland and determining the factors that influence both using both discrete choice experiment and best-worst scaling methods. Researchers will also explore the impact of distance from the reef sites and its effect on preferences and willingness to pay for artificial preservation.

But what happens when the cost of preserving artificial reefs is high? The study will also look at the role of environmental attitudes in the preferences and willingness to preserve artificial reefs in both low- and high- cost situations.

Individuals are expected to be willing to pay for the preservation of artificial reefs. Again, environmental attitudes will influence individual preferences and willingness to preserve artificial reefs under low-cost conditions and will have little or no effect under high-cost conditions. Furthermore, it is anticipated that the decay distance, among other factors, will affect preferences and willingness for the preservation of artificial reefs.

The findings of this research will have important implications for the conservation and management of aquatic environments in Poland. Understanding attitudes and geographic distribution of the public towards artificial reefs can help policymakers and stakeholders to develop effective strategies for their preservation.

So next time you see an artificial reef, you will know just how important they really are!