

# Identifying the importance of cultural ecosystem services provided by Gibraltar's marine environment



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## INTRODUCTION

The importance of CES for human wellbeing is being increasingly recognised<sup>1</sup>. This study frames:

- I. Interactions with CES
- II. What CES means for users of marine/coastal environment

## METHODS

Data have been collected using an anonymous online questionnaire targeting users of marine/coastal CES in Gibraltar.

## RESULTS

- Cultural practices were dominated by physical and experiential use such as general beach use and spending time at/by the beach (> 75%) (Figs. 1&2)
- Popular cultural practices such as beach activities are undertaken several times a week by more than half of the responders from May until September with the peak during August (>85%).

## DISCUSSION

Understanding of the relationship between society and CES is important and can aid policy making as these interactions can influence the attitudes and values held for nature<sup>2</sup>.

- Multiple CES benefits are important to human wellbeing such as place identity, enjoyment provided by wildlife and tranquility.
- Beaches are the most favored environmental spaces.
- Cultural practices in Gibraltar are dominated by physical and experiential use.

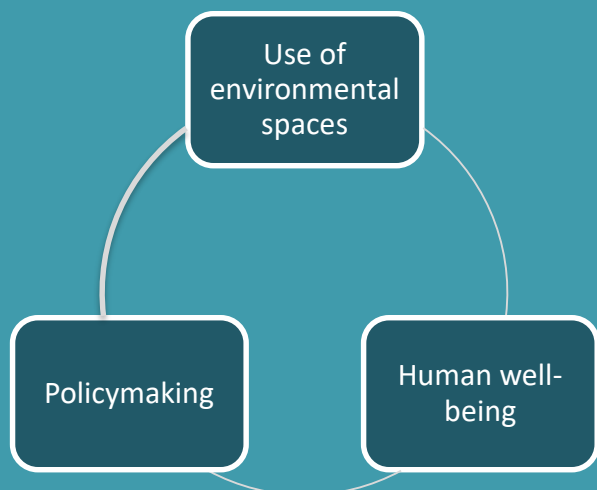


Fig1. Importance of CES for well-being

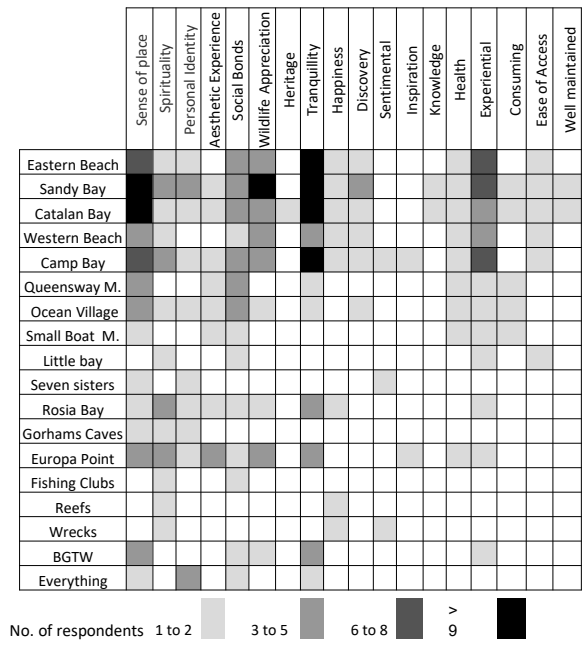
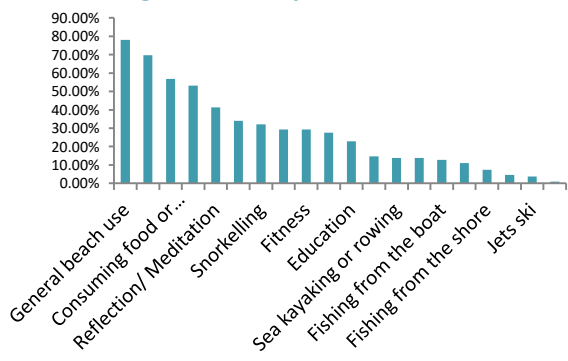


Fig 2. Cultural practices in Gibraltar



## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> Bell, S. L., Phoenix, C. and Lovell, R. (2015). Seeking everyday wellbeing: the coast as a therapeutic landscape. *Social Science & Medicine*, (142), pp. 56–67.  
<sup>2</sup> Ewert, A., Place, G. and Sibthorp, J. (2005). 'Early-Life Outdoor Experiences and an Individual's Environmental Attitudes', *Leisure Sciences*, 27(3), pp. 225–239.