# **Revisions for “Assessing stakeholder perceptions to guide the social and ecological fit of marine protected areas”**

Dear editor,

We once again deeply thank you and the reviewers for having given us the opportunity to improve our manuscript. Please, find below a point-by-point description of our revisions.

Victor Brun, on behalf of my co-authors.

## Response to Reviewer 2

L38: shift the comma so that it comes after the first "outcomes"

**Reply**: Accepted

L64: I suggest that "attribute" may be clearer than "feature" in this case (the latter can be confused with an ecological feature that is being protected, such as a ref). Change "like" to "such as".

**Reply**: Accepted

L66: I think "domains relevant" should be "domains that are of relevance" However, in this sentence I feel that the term "domains" could be changed to "aspects" (or "elements"), considering that some of the five elements mentioned in the previous sentence do not seem directly coupled with the four domains referred to in the next paragraph. I think it would be less confusing this way.

I would suggest that the authors consider using the term "theme" instead of domain, throughout. It may be more appropriate. Line 70 would then change to "….by assessing stakeholders' perceptions in regard to four themes representing different MPA elements: …." If taken up, this wording should also reflect in the abstract (L 23)

**Reply**: As suggested for L66 “domain” was changed to “aspects”, and “relevant” was changed to “that are of relevance”. We thank the reviewer for the suggestion to use “theme” instead of “domain” throughout. While we agree that it could be more appropriate, the word “theme” already designates the 25 themes identified through thematic coding (classifying the 151 individual codes). We therefore decided to change “domain” to “category” throughout, obtaining the following hierarchy: i) category, ii) theme, iii) code/perception.

L72: Perhaps change "what" to "which"

**Reply**: Accepted

L77: change "in" to "into"

**Reply**: Accepted

L79: "In order to trial…"

**Reply**: Accepted

L84: "Perception domain" sounds clumsy, I suggest remove the word perception from before domain, wherever it has been expressed like this. See also comment above about

use of "domain". Note also that the word perception is used 3x in one sentence here.

**Reply**: Reformulated as follows: “*We interviewed local resource users, researchers and decision-makers across the four categories of our framework and synthesized their perceptions to assess the challenges and opportunities for a local social and ecological fit of that area-based conservation project*” (L83).

L88: I suggest replace "determine" with "survey". It helps make the link to the next sentence and between "framework" and "survey".

**Reply**: Accepted

L89: perhaps "goals for" rather than "…of".

**Reply**: Accepted

L92: "It helps…" What is "it"? The framework? Please be specific. Does it actually help, or is

it intended to help?

**Reply**: Reformulated as follows: “The results are intended to help ensure management is more likely to be locally fit, hence aligned with local values, needs, cultural and governance systems, which means a greater likelihood of local leadership, support, compliance, trust, and therefore social and ecological outcomes” (L92).

L99: comma after "literature"

**Reply**: Accepted

L100: perhaps insert "and its" after "conservation"

**Reply**: Accepted

L108: sentence structure - shift "human well-being" to after "affect".

**Reply**: Accepted

L120: should be 2.2

**Reply**: We thank the reviewer for spotting that mistake

L121-125: I suggest swapping the first 2 sentences around.

**Reply**: Accepted

L128: change to: "…causes of these threats, namely more distal drivers such as.."

**Reply**: Accepted

L134 (and elsewhere": should be "Proposed management options" as at lines 71 and 91?

**Reply**: Modified throughout, including in Figure 1.

L138: change "if and how" to "whether and in what context"

**Reply**: Accepted

L143-145: something is wrong with the sentence after the comma - either there is a word or two missing or the sentence needs rephrasing. I don't understand it currently.

**Reply**: We thank the reviewer for spotting the mistake, we rephrased as follows: “A crucial task to address this question lies in the delimitation of who community members and stakeholders are, which is typically done based on the degree and nature of their relation to local coastal and marine ecosystems”. (L143-146).

L147: change to "Defining their roles in management and decision-making…."

**Reply**: Accepted

L152: "…explicit, and align them as well as possible with the underlying values of stakeholder, in the interests of achieving better outcomes from area-based management"

**Reply**: Accepted

L155: change "factors" to "issues"

**Reply**: Accepted

L156: "initially" occurs twice. Perhaps "..refine goals that were initially put forward by external actors".

**Reply**: Accepted

L158: "prior" should be "above" or "above-mentioned"?

**Reply**: Accepted: “above-mentioned” (L159)

L157: Title is clumsy. Perhaps "Synthesis and rationale"

**Reply**: Accepted

L161: change "this" to "a particular"

**Reply**: Accepted

L173: if previous suggestion is taken, using "themes" instead of "domains", then I recommend changing this "theme" to "sub-theme".

**Reply**: We thank again the reviewer for their suggestion, we finally picked “category” and “theme”, as explained in our answer above (on L66).

L327: This sentence is still somewhat in the normative stance that was picked up by Reviewer 1, although it has been slightly adapted and supported by a reference. Please change it to: "As [shown/stated/indicated] by Johnson et al. (2020), management interventions should be tailored to local contexts"

**Reply**: Accepted

L352: Rather avoid single sentence paragraphs. I think that this sentence would fit nicely at L389, as part of the penultimate paragraph (before Limitations).

**Reply**: Accepted

L365: I suggest change "side-to-side" to "along with"

**Reply**: Accepted

L366: after the comma: "and should be included as a goal in subsequent management" (?) if I understand the sentence correctly. Otherwise, please rephrase.

**Reply**: Accepted

L394: change "like" to "such as".

**Reply**: Accepted

L454: "These data…"

**Reply**: Accepted