



MPAs – Research & Monitoring Use of Non-Destructive Methods





MPAs – research & monitoring

MPA benefits

- Conservation of marine biodiversity
- Protection of threatened, rare or endangered species
- Protection of commercially / economically important species
- Preservation of habitats that are critical for the survival and/or lifecycles of species
- Fisheries management (reduce fishing pressure, replenish fish-stocks, protect critical stages of species lifecycles, reduce by-catch, reduce competition among fishers)
- Sustainable economic development & tourism
- Education & public awareness (schools, universities, general public, stakeholders)
- Research purposes – provide natural laboratories and reference sites (e.g. transplantation of corals, effects of climate change)



MPAs – research & monitoring

MPA success largely depends on

- Clearly defining conservation targets.
- Reducing conflicts among different groups of people (stakeholders) and conservation targets.

Conservation targets (examples):

- a specific species (e.g. *Monachus monachus*, *Caretta caretta*)
- the protection of fish stocks
- the protection of a vulnerable habitat

Conservation targets determine management objectives

Management objectives and measures applied must be regularly evaluated and re-adjusted.



MPAs – research & monitoring

Before MPA establishment:

- Collect baseline data regarding the physical / ecological characteristics of the area of interest,
- Collect baseline data on the socio-economical characteristics.
- These provide important information for the planning process.

After MPA establishment:

- Evaluate whether management actions meet & satisfy conservation objectives.
- Reduce conflicting interests among different groups of people (stakeholders).
- Readjust management actions or conservation objectives.

Assessments should include evaluation of:

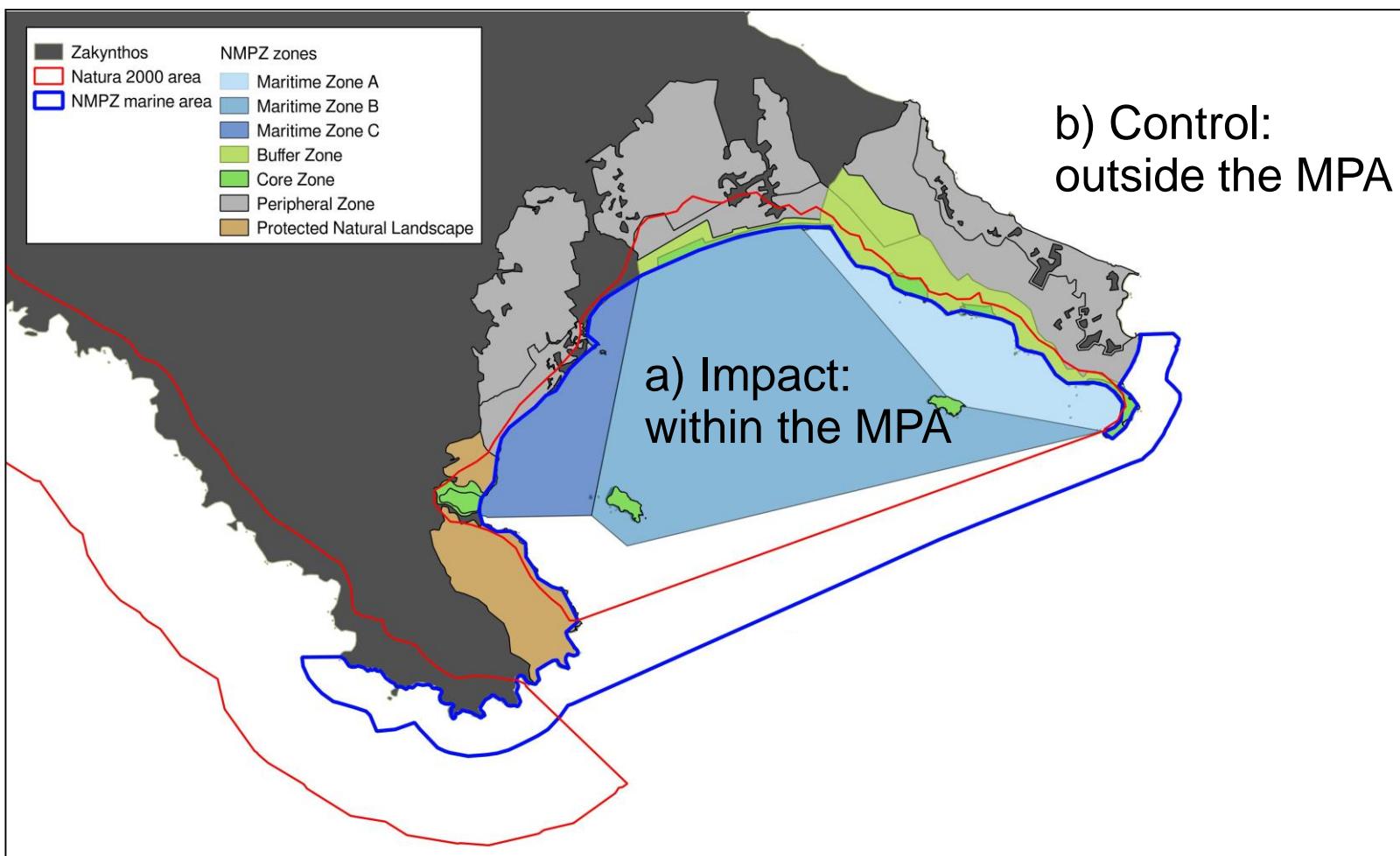
- Biological parameters
- Environmental parameters
- Human uses
- Enforcement level



MPAs – research & monitoring

Ecological assessment designs:

- Assessments (in contrast to experiments) aim to quantify site-specific effects (e.g. due to existence of an MPA).
- Assume that there are two sites

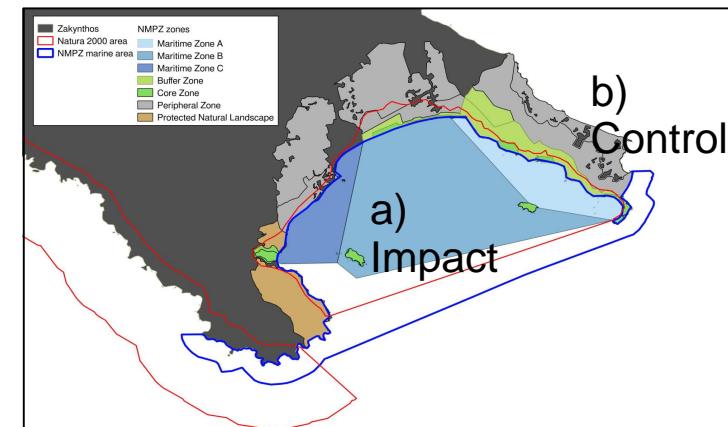




MPAs – research & monitoring

Ecological assessment designs:

- “**Impact only**”: samples taken only within the MPA, after the MPA establishment. Problem: Very difficult to understand any effect.
- “**Control-Impact**”: samples taken both within and outside the MPA, but only after MPA establishment. It the most common design. Problem: Easy to confuse MPA effect with spatial variability (e.g. differences in habitats).
- “**Before-After**”: samples taken before and after MPA establishment, only within the MPA. Problem: MPA effects are confused with temporal variability.
- “**Before-After-Control-Impact (BACI)**”: samples taken before and after MPA establishment both within (Impact area) and outside (control area) the MPA. Strong design to assess the MPA effects, especially if temporally replicated. But: It is important for impact and control sites to have similar dynamics.





Destructive methods

Destructive / extractive methods: based on the extraction of material from the natural environment.

Examples:

Fisheries dependant surveys (onboard commercial fishing boats)

Experimental fisheries (fisheries independent) surveys.

Use of bongo plankton nets.

Use of sediment samplers at soft substrates
(e.g. van Veen, Eckman-Birge).

Use of scrape sampling at hard substrates.





Destructive methods

Destructive / extractive methods

- ~ CPUE (catch per unit effort data)
- ~ species diversity,
- ~ relative abundance,
- ~ body size,
- ~ other biological parameters (e.g. biomass, stomach contents, gonadal inspection, community level genetic analysis)



But require

The removal of material from the natural environment.
Handling & Sorting in the laboratory, which can be very time consuming (especially in the case of benthic samples).



So, sampling over large areas through destructive sampling poses several problems:
Destructive effects to habitats & species,
Time, Effort, Cost



Non destructive methods

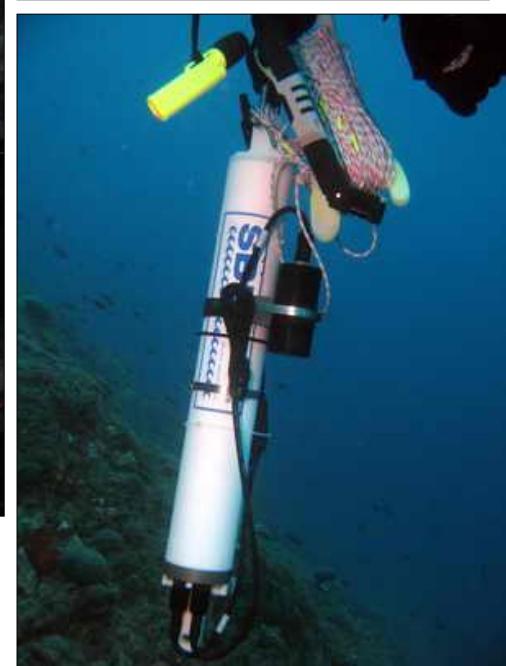
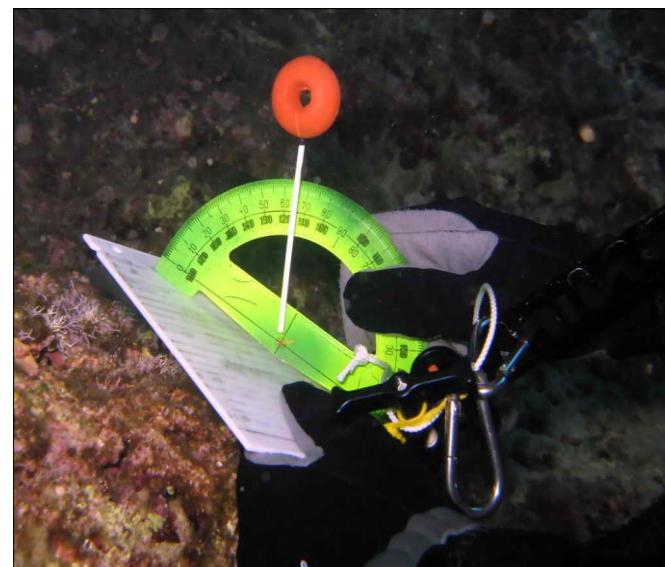
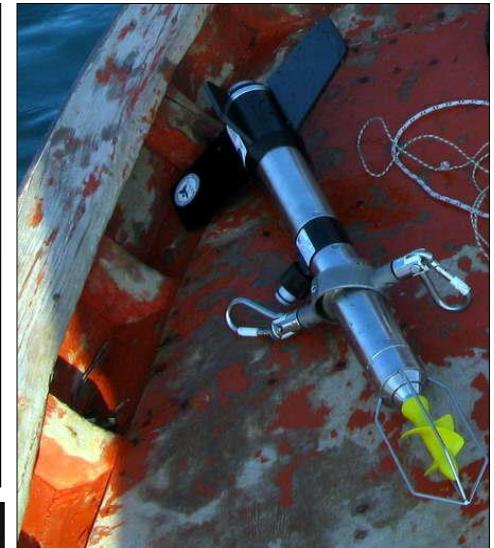
Non-destructive methods:

have a minimum effect / disturbance on the environment or the organisms under study.

They are usually faster to apply than destructive methods.

They are ideal to use within MPAs.

Examples...





Non destructive methods – For abiotic parameters

Examples of non-destructive methods for abiotic parameters

CTD – Conductivity, Temperature and Depth-meter, important tool for the measurement of abiotic parameters of the water column.





Non destructive methods – For abiotic parameters

Current-meter



Non destructive methods – For abiotic parameters

Landers

A lander is a versatile mechanical platform used for carrying tools, instruments, scientific samples, imagery, measurements, etc. between the surface and the bottom of the sea. (Source: schmidtocean.org)

Particularly useful: for long term monitoring and the inaccessible deep sea



Source: Baschek et al. 2017 – Ocean Science

(b)



Non destructive methods – For abiotic parameters

Temperature loggers

TMEDNet

A temperature data loggers network

HOME PRESENTATION OBSERVATION SYSTEM T-MEDNET DATA RESULTS PUBLICATIONS PARTNERS LINKS

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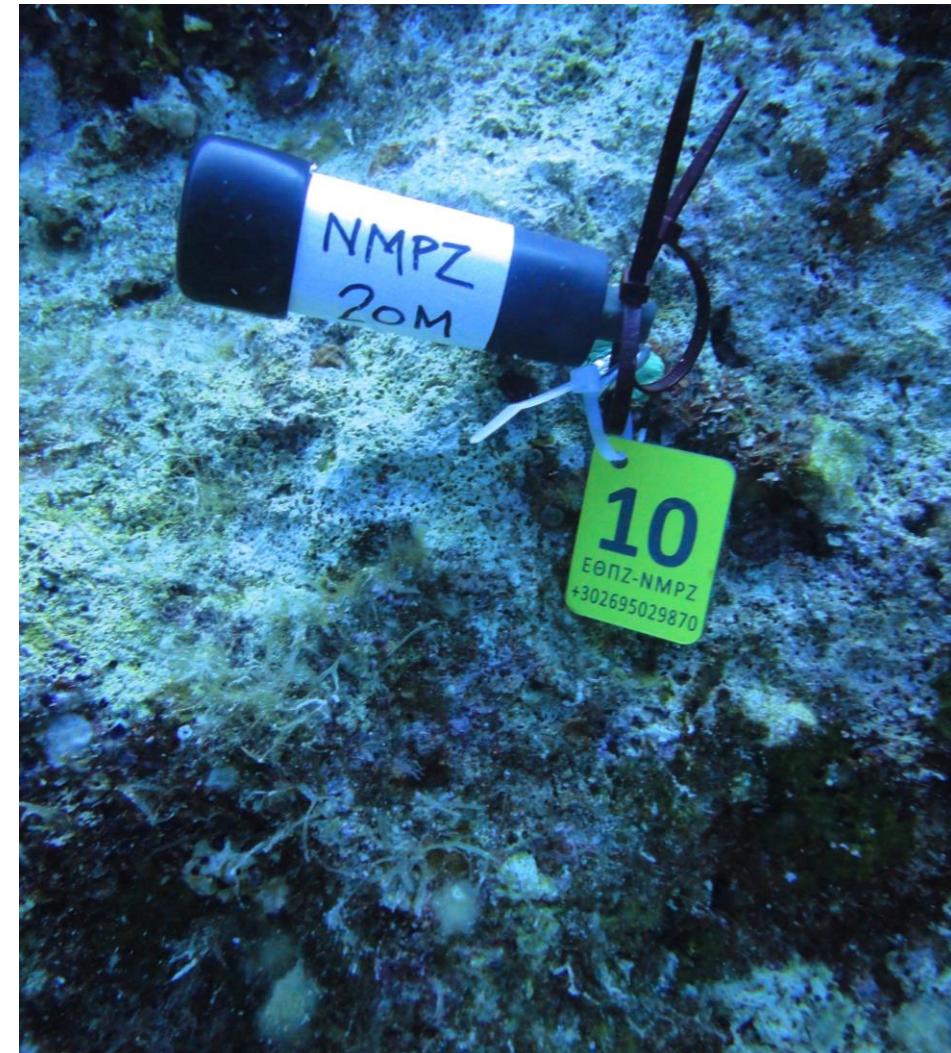
T-MEDNET DATA

Map Satellite

Select up to 4 sites among the regions below:

- S-Alboran [+]
- Levante_iberian [+]
- S-Catalan [+]
- Balearic [+]
- N-Catalan [+]
- Gulf_of_Llion [+]
- Provence [+]
- Corsica [+]
- Ligurian [+]
- N-Adriatic [+]
- Central Adriatic [+]
- S-Adriatic [+]
- N-Aegean [+]
- S-Aegean [+]
- N-Levantine [+]
- Tunisian [+]
- Sicily channel [+]

Show T Figures





Non destructive methods – For abiotic parameters

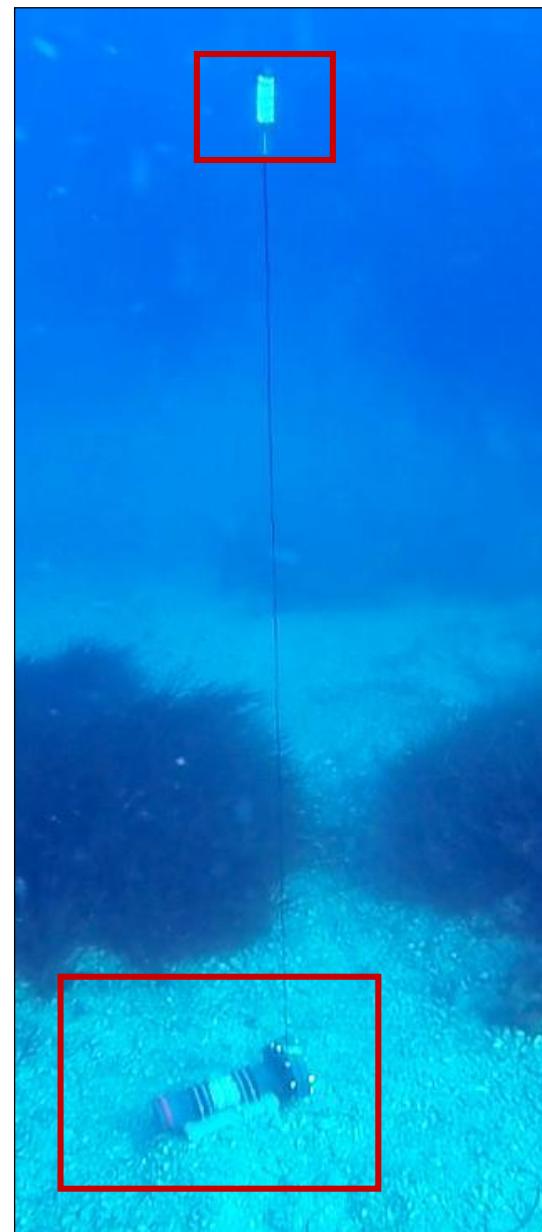
Light loggers





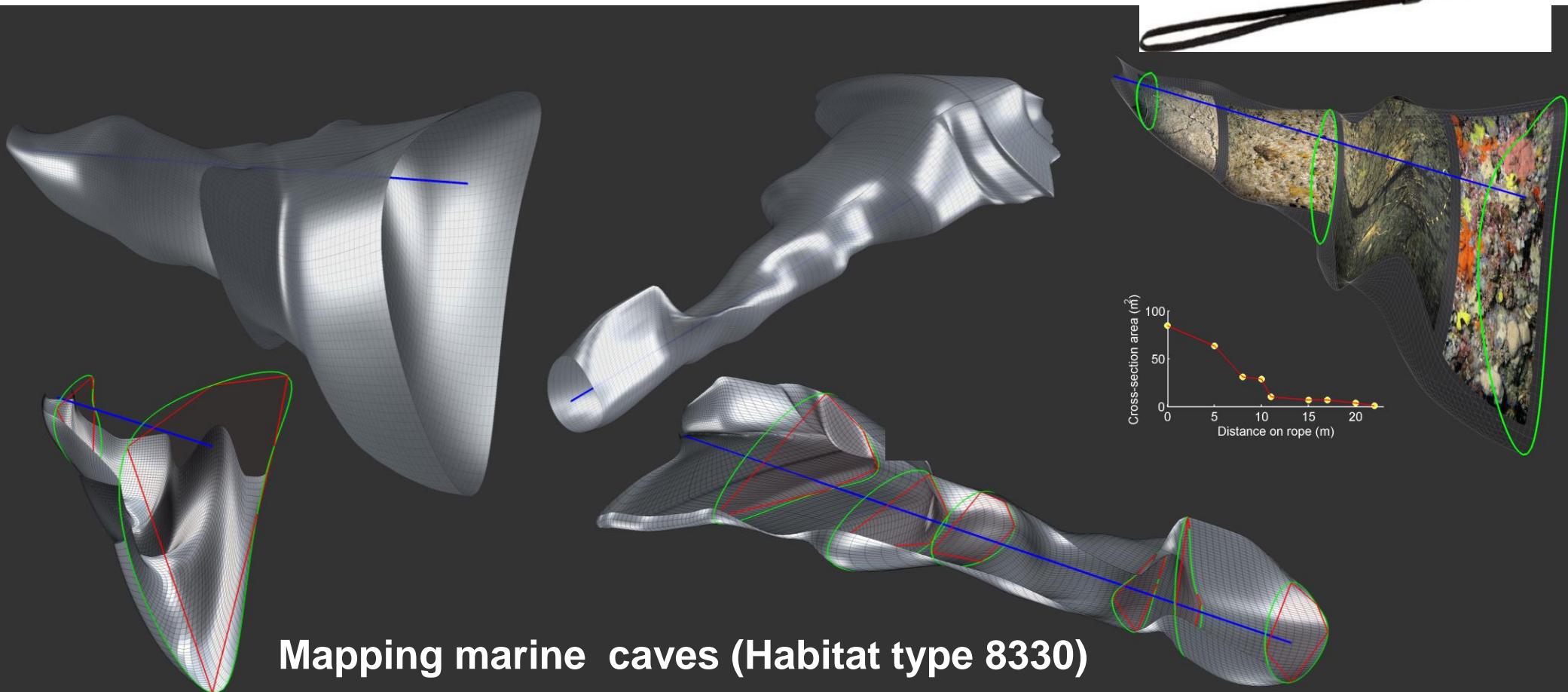
Non destructive methods – For abiotic parameters

**...Passive acoustics
(hydrophones):** use for assessing noise levels as well as to assess the presence of different species.





Non destructive methods – For abiotic parameters





Non destructive methods – For biotic parameters

For biotic parameters

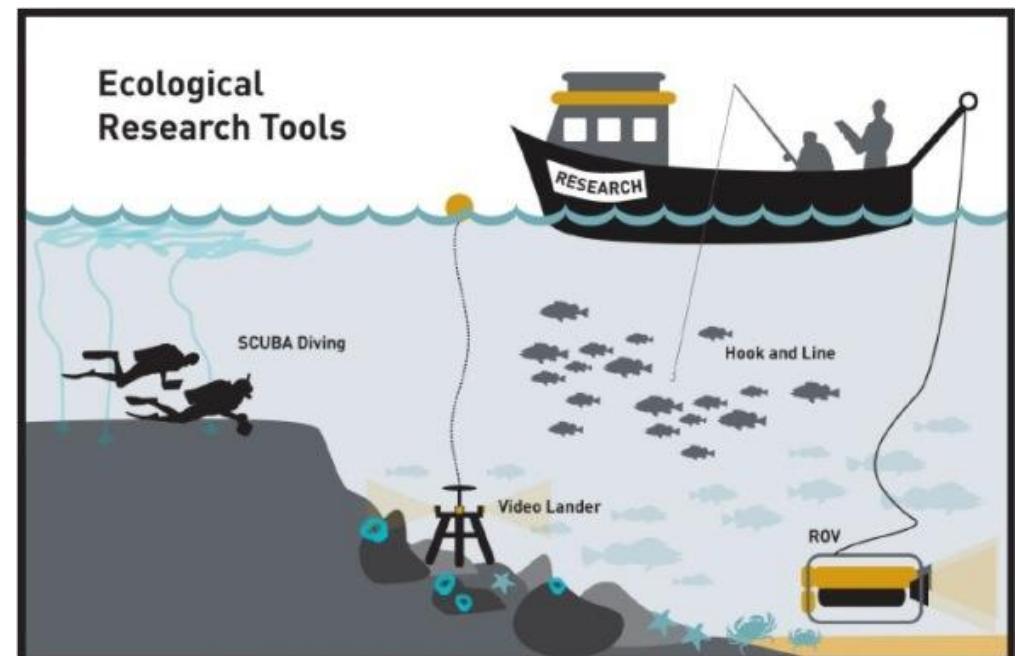
Non-destructive methods are applied in several cases:

- ~ monitor protected species (e.g. marine turtles, seals, cetaceans)
- ~ assess communities & habitats

Different types

- Underwater visual census
- Video & photography
- Telemetry
- Acoustic methods

Let's look at some examples...





Non destructive methods – Underwater Visual Census

Underwater Visual Census

refers to *in situ* observations made by divers (free or SCUBA diving).



Let's look at some examples...



Non destructive methods – Underwater Visual Census

Assessment of *Posidonia oceanica* meadows

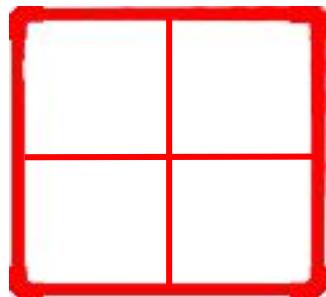




Non destructive methods – Underwater Visual Census

Assessment of *Posidonia oceanica* meadows

- Shoot density within quadrats



- Meadow structure within line transects



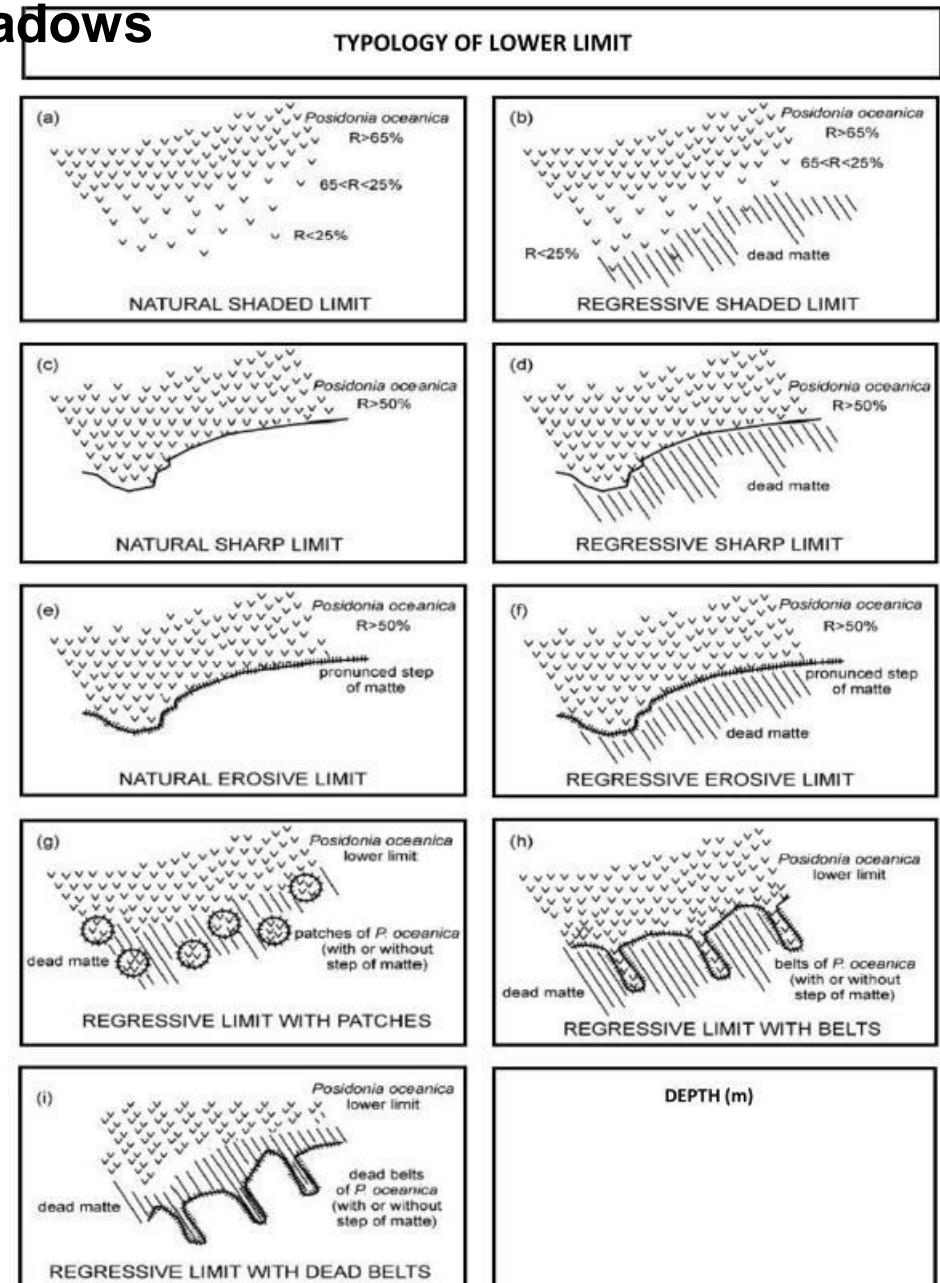
TRANSECT	A			B			C		
	QUADRAT			1			2		
	COMMENTS								
POSIDONIA	P.O = P. oceanica D.M = Dead matte H.S = H. stipulacea C.N = C. nodosa C.R = C. racemosa C.P = C. prolifera S = Sand R = Rock	10	20	25	10	20	25	10	20
		5	15	20	5	15	20	5	15
		0	10		0	10		0	10



Non destructive methods – Underwater Visual Census

Assessment of *Posidonia oceanica* meadows

- Meadow's lower limit typology through visual observation or video





Sampling reefs & associated species

- 1. Occupancy surveys**
- 2. Strip transects**
- 3. Line transects**
- 4. Quadrats**
- 5. Photoquadrats**
- 6. Photography and Video**



Ημερομηνία	Σταθμός	Όνομα	Lat-Lon
Protected: Charonia variegata (Cha), Tonna galea (Ton), Pinna (Pin), Luria lurida (Lur), Erosaria spurca (Eros), Zonaria pyrum (Zon), Ophidiaster (Oph), Centrostephanus (Centro), Aplysina (Apl), Axinella cannabina (A.can), Axinella polypoides (A.pol), Axinella spp (A. spp), Sarcotragus (Sarc), Geodia (Geo), Tethya (Teth), Cladocora (Clad), Hippocampus hippocampus (Hh), Hippocampus gutulatus (Hg)			
* Για είδη εκτός λίστας: +: Παρουσία, Σπάνιο: 1-10%, Κοινό: 10-25%, Αφθονο: 25-50%, ΑΑ πολύ άφθονο: 50-75%, Ν: Νεκρό άτομο, ΝΝ: Νεκρός πληθυσμός			
30-25m			Οικότοπος, Πιέσεις
25-20m			Οικότοπος, Πιέσεις
20-15m			Οικότοπος, Πιέσεις
15-10m			
10-5m			
5-0m			





Sampling reefs (Habitat type 1170) & associated species

1. Occupancy surveys (quantitative method):

- used for the assessment of fish, benthos, habitats.
- two observers.
- predefined depth zones.
- specific observation time.

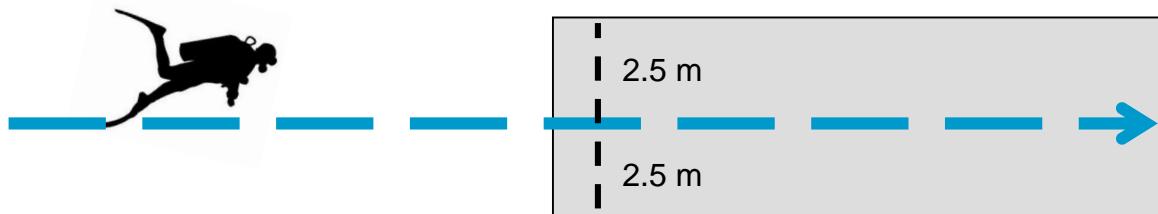


Ημερομηνία	Σταθμός	Όνομα	Lat-Lon
Protected: Charonia variegata (Cha), Tonna galea (Ton), Pinna (Pin), Luria lurida (Lur), Erosaria spurca (Eros), Zonaria pyrum (Zon), Ophiaster (Oph), Centrostephanus (Centro), Aplysina (Apl), Axinella cannabina (A.can), Axinella polypoides (A.pol), Axinella spp (A. spp), Sarcotragus (Sarc), Geodia (Geo), Tethya (Teth), Cladocora (Clad), Hippocampus hippocampus (Hh), Hippocampus guttulatus (Hg)			
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30-25m			Οικότοπος, Πιέσεις
25-20m			Οικότοπος, Πιέσεις
20-15m			Οικότοπος, Πιέσεις
15-10m			Οικότοπος, Πιέσεις
10-5m			Οικότοπος, Πιέσεις
5-0m			Οικότοπος, Πιέσεις



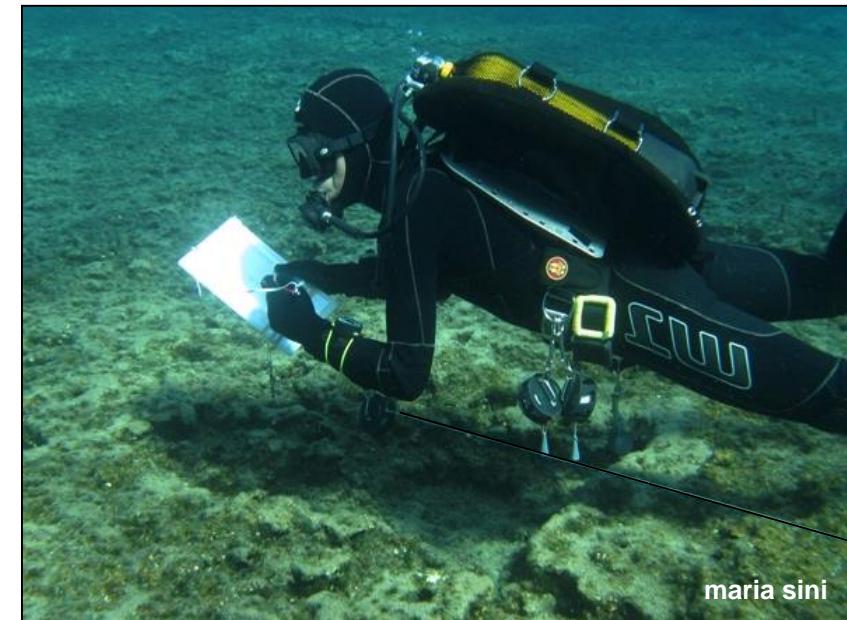


Sampling reefs (Habitat type 1170) & associated species



2. Strip transects (quantitative method):

- used for the assessment of fish, benthos, habitats.
- one diver moving along a transect line of predetermined width.



Epinephelus marginatus



Diplodus sargus



Sarpa salpa

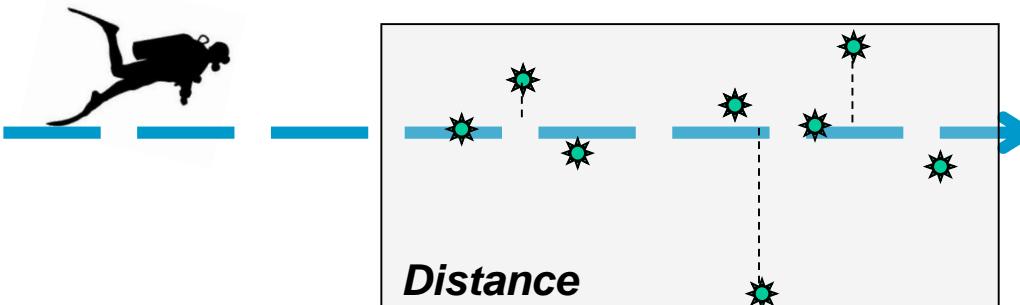


Siganus luridus





Sampling reefs (Habitat type 1170) & associated species



3. Distance sampling using line transects (quantitative method):

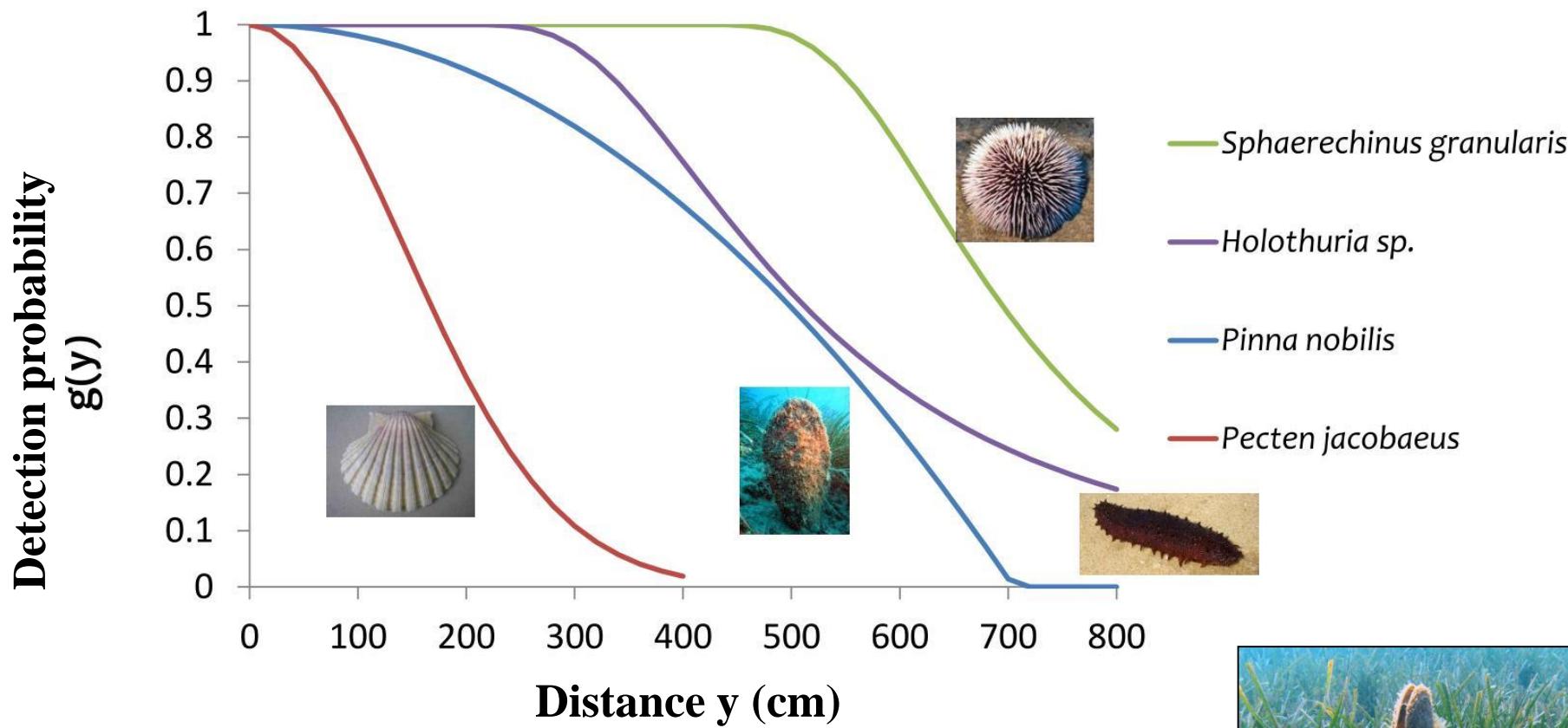
- used for the assessment of fish, benthos, habitats
- one diver moving along a transect line of no specific width
- recording the distance of target features from the line.

ΠΡΩΤΟΚΟΛΛΟ ΑΦΘΟΝΙΑΣ ΠΙΝΝΑΣ ΜΕ ΔΕΙΓΜΑΤΟΛΗΨΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΑΣΕΩΝ				
ΗΜΕΡΟΜΗΝΙΑ	ΣΤΑΘΜΟΣ	ΠΑΡΑΤΗΡΗΤΗΣ	ΣΥΝΤΕΤΑΓΜΕΝΕΣ	ΚΑΤΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ ΤΟΜΗΣ:
ΤΜΗΜΑ ΤΟΜΗΣ	ΜΕΓΕΘΟΣ ΑΤΟΜΟΥ	ΚΑΘΕΤΗ ΑΠΟΣΤΑΣΗ	ΒΑΘΟΣ	ΠΕΡΙΓΡΑΦΗ ΒΙΟΤΟΠΟΥ / ΠΑΡΑΤΗΡΗΣΕΙΣ / ΠΙΕΣΕΙΣ
0-5				
5-10				
10-15				
15-20				
20-25				
...-...				
-				



Sampling reefs (Habitat type 1170) & associated species

3. “Distance” sampling – detection probability of different species



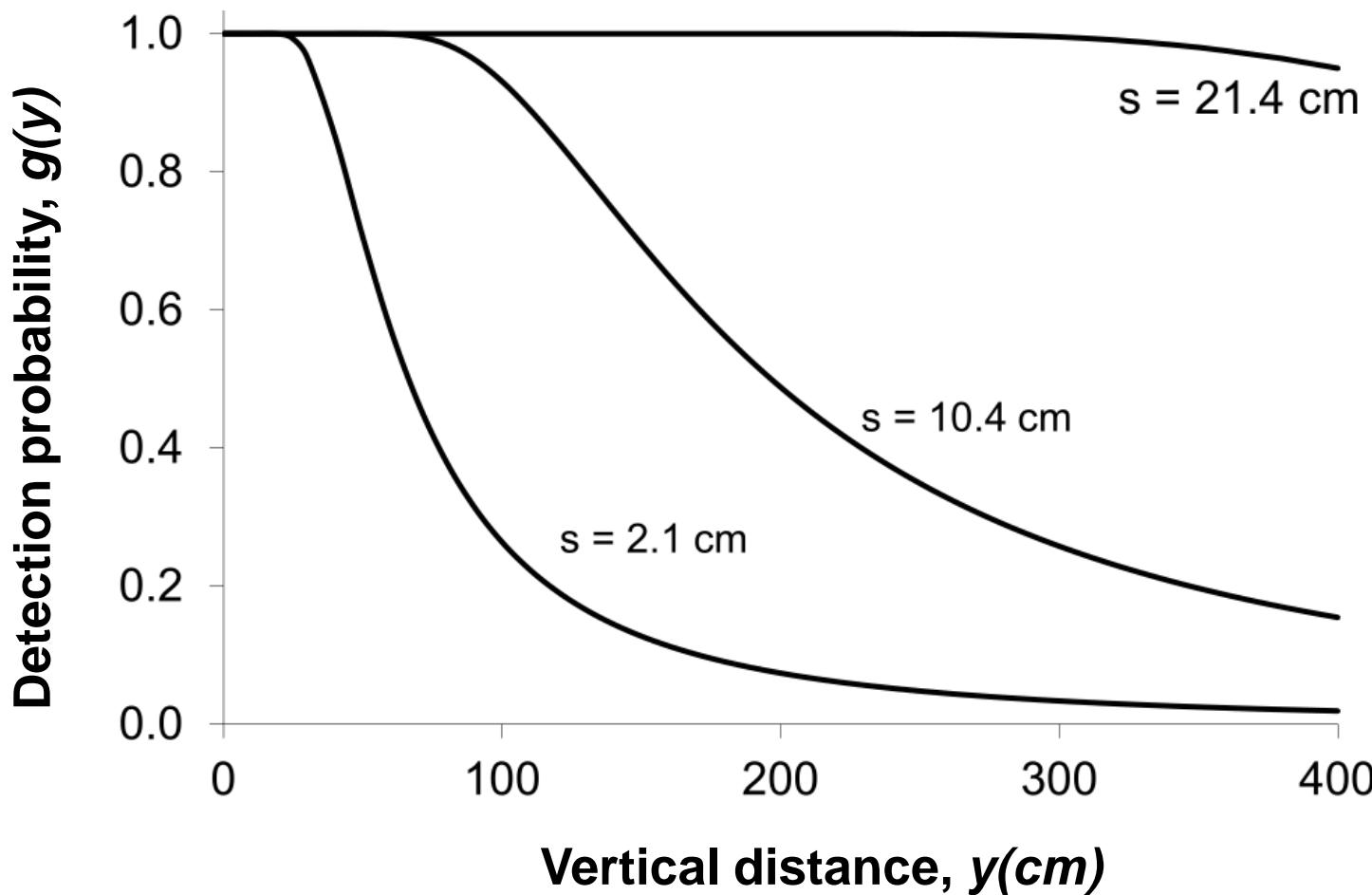
Source: Katsanevakis 2009





Sampling reefs (Habitat type 1170) & associated species

3. “Distance” sampling – detection probability of different species



Source: Katsanevakis and Thessalou-Legaki 2009 – Aquatic Biology





Sampling reefs (Habitat type 1170) & associated species

4. Quadrat sampling (quantitative method):

- used for the assessment of benthos and habitats.
- visual observation over predetermined area defined through the use of a quadrat.
- recording the distance of target features from the line.

example...



Lithophaga

Ημερομηνία: _____ Σταθμός: _____ GPS: _____

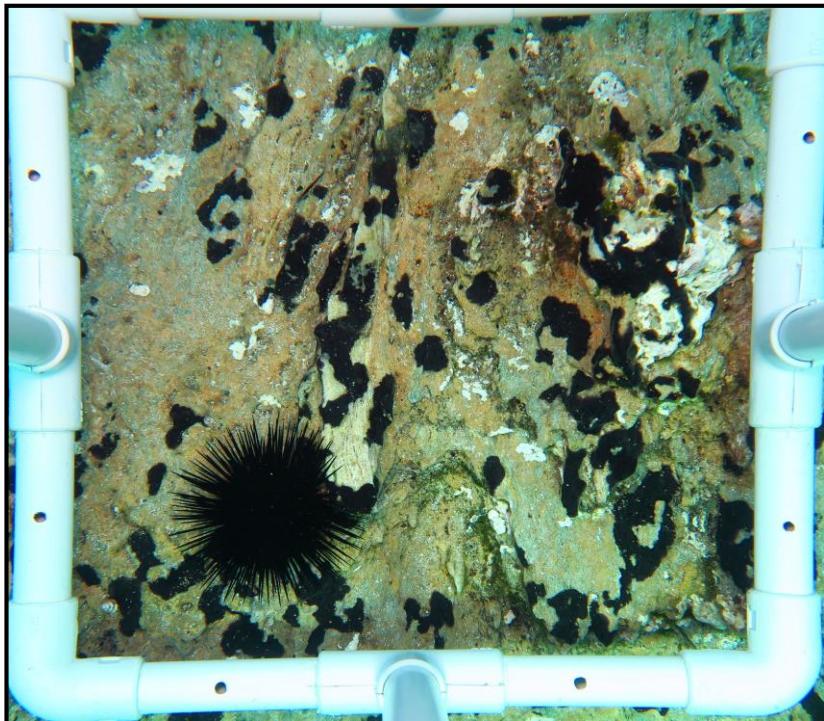
Παρατηρητής: _____

	Πλαίσιο 1	Πλαίσιο 2	Πλαίσιο 3	Πλαίσιο 4	Πλαίσιο 5	Πλαίσιο 6
Αρ. οπών Με / Χωρίς ζωντανό άτομο						

Παρατηρήσεις: _____

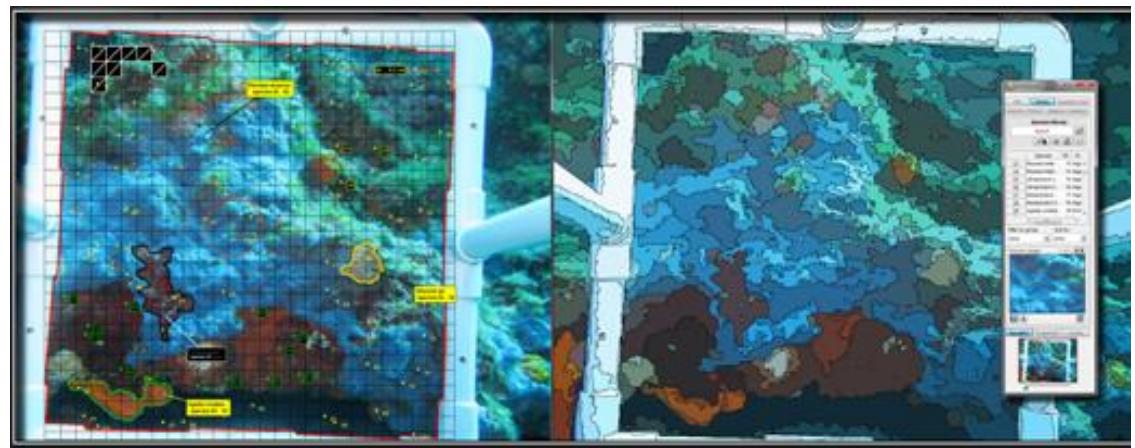


Sampling reefs (Habitat type 1170) & associated species



5. Photoquadrats (quantitative method):

- used for the assessment of benthos and habitats.





Sampling reefs (Habitat type 1170) & associated species

Selected biological samples are sometime collected for:

- Further identification in the laboratory
- Estimation of biomass



Sampling reefs (Habitat type 1170) & associated species

6. Photography & Video (quantitative or qualitative methods):

- Using photography for creating 3-D photomosaics



Sampling reefs (Habitat type 1170) & associated species

6. Stereophotography & Video (quantitative methods):

- Two cameras positioned at a known distance apart.
- Used for the assessment of fish, benthos, habitat.
- Prerequisite: system calibration.

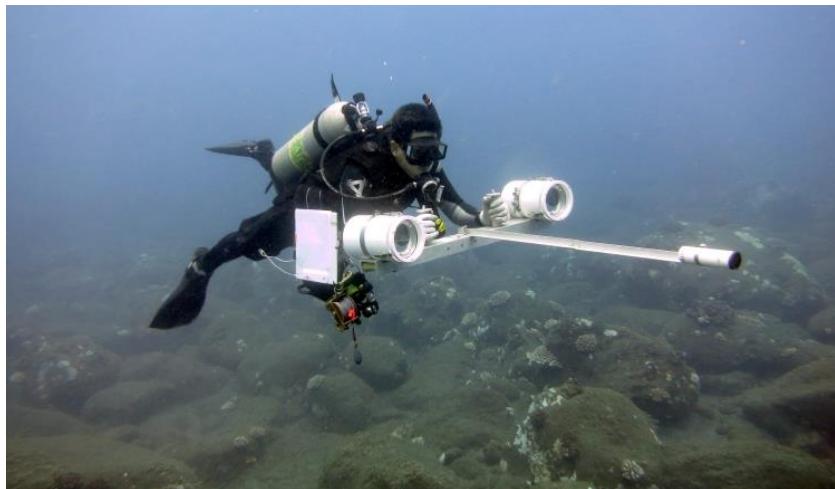
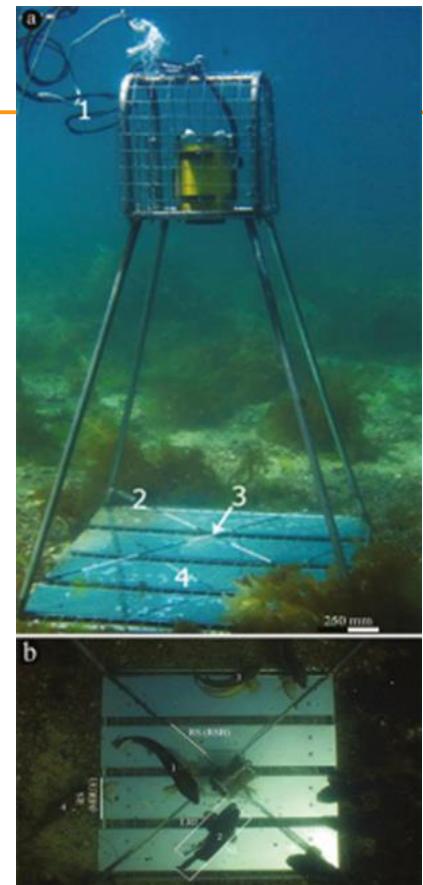


photo: Andrew Gray/NOAA
<https://www.omao.noaa.gov/learn/diving-program>



Analysis software:
www.seagis.com.au

EventMeasure : C1_39_Cam24.mpg : C1_39_Cam23.mpg

Program Picture Measurement Stereo About

Zoom < > [1] Toggle view

Play movie < > Lock Frame 35347 (23.5647 minutes)

Play movie < > Frame 35265 (23.5100 minutes)

Data view Lengths

Family	Genus	Species	Code	Number	Stage	Activity	Comment	Filename	Frame	Time (mins)
Nemipteridae	Pentapodus	porosus	37347007	1	AD	Passing		C1_39_Cam24.mpg	35340	23.5600
Nemipteridae	Pentapodus	porosus	37347007	1	AD	Passing		C1_39_Cam24.mpg	35347	23.5647
Nemipteridae	Pentapodus	porosus	37347007	1	AD	Passing		C1_39_Cam24.mpg	35347	23.5647



Sampling coralligenous assemblages (Habitat type 1170) & associated species

Date	Station	Name	Lat/Lon
Εύρος βάθους παραπήρησης	Οριζόντια εξάπλωση	Συνέχεια ενδιαιτήματος	
Ελάχιστο βάθος m:	<5 m / 5-10 m / 10-20 m / >20 m		
Μέγιστο βάθος m:			
Κλίση υποστρώματος	Τραχύτητα	Προσανατολισμός	
			
Ρεύματα:	Ορατότητα:	Πάχος:	Ίζημα:
Καθόλου/Ήπιο / Δυνατό	Καθαρά / Μερική / Θολά	0-5, 5-10, >10, >20 cm	Καθόλου/Λίγο/Πολύ
Βενθικά είδη (είδος, Σχετική αφθονία):			
Κινητή πανίδα (Ψάρια, Εχινόδερμα, Καρκινοειδή, Σχετική αφθονία):			
Αλλόχθονα (είδος, Σχετική αφθονία):			
Νέκρωση:		Άλλες απειλές:	
Calc algae (είδος, αρ. ατόμων με νέκρωση >50%)			
Σπόγγοι (είδος, αρ. ατόμων με νέκρωση >50%)			
Σκληρακτίνια (είδος, αρ. ατόμων με νέκρωση >50%)			
Γοργονίες (είδος, αριθμός αποικιών με νέκρωση <50%, 50-98% και 100% σε 50x50cm πλαίσιο)			
* ΣΧΕΤΙΚΗ ΑΦΘΟΝΙΑ: +: Παρουσία, Σπάνιο:1-2, Κοινό:4-15, Αφθονο:15-30, ΑΑ πολύ άφθονο:>30, Ν:Νεκρό άτομο, ΝΝ:Νεκρός πληθυσμός			
Φωτογραφίες 8X5			

Photoquadrats for estimating benthic cover of algae or other animals



Combine visual census with photoquadrat sampling





Sampling caves (Habitat type 8330) & associated species

Combine visual census with photoquadrat sampling

Περιοχή:		Ημερομηνία:		Δύτες:	
Latitude		Longitude			
Τύπος σπηλαίου: Βυθισμένο / Ημιβυθισμένο		Τύπος σπηλαίου: Αδιέξοδο / Σήραγγα (αρ. εισόδων:)			
Συνολικό μήκος:	Βάθος (m)		Υψος (m)	Πλάτος (m)	Προσανατολισμός
Είσοδος Α'					
Είσοδος Β'					
Εσωτερική παραλία:	Θύλακες αέρα:		Σπηλαιοδιάκοσμος:		
Θρυμματοφάγα / παμφάγα είδη (αριθμός ειδών & ατόμων που παρατηρήθηκαν εντός 5 min)					
<i>Herbstia condyliata</i>	0	1–2	3–4	5–10	>10
<i>Galathea strigosa</i>	0	1–2	3–4	5–10	>10
<i>Scyllarus arctus</i>	0	1–2	3–4	5–10	>10
<i>Hermodice carunculata</i>	0	1–2	3–4	5–10	>10
	0	1–2	3–4	5–10	>10
	0	1–2	3–4	5–10	>10
<i>Mysida</i>	0		ελάχιστα		σμήνος
<i>Plesionica</i>	0		ελάχιστα		σμήνος
Είδη ψαριών που καταγράφηκαν στο σπήλαιο	Είδη δεκαπόδων που καταγράφηκαν στο σπήλαιο				
<i>Cerianthus membranaceus</i> (αριθμός ατόμων)	<i>Arachnanthus oligopodus</i> (αριθμός ατόμων)				
0	1–2	>2	0	1–2	>2
Προστατευόμενα / χαρακτηριστικά είδη	Απειλές				



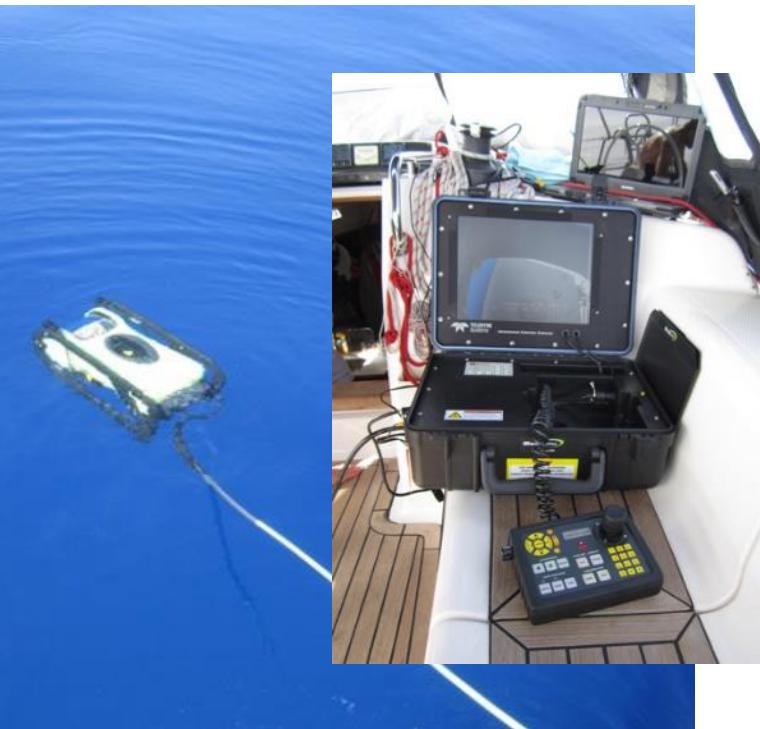
Non destructive methods – Other methods

Photography & Video through the use of ROVs and small submersibles:

- ROVs (remotely operated vehicles).
- Used for the assessment of fish, benthos, habitat
- Especially useful for deep waters.
- Provides both quantitative & qualitative information.
- Prerequisite for quantitative information: system



Thetis - HCMR



Non destructive methods – Other methods

Remote sensing, monitoring and tracking:

Telemetry means measuring (-metry) from a distance (tele-). It is a process by which measurements and other data are collected at remote or inaccessible points and transmitted to receiving equipment for monitoring.

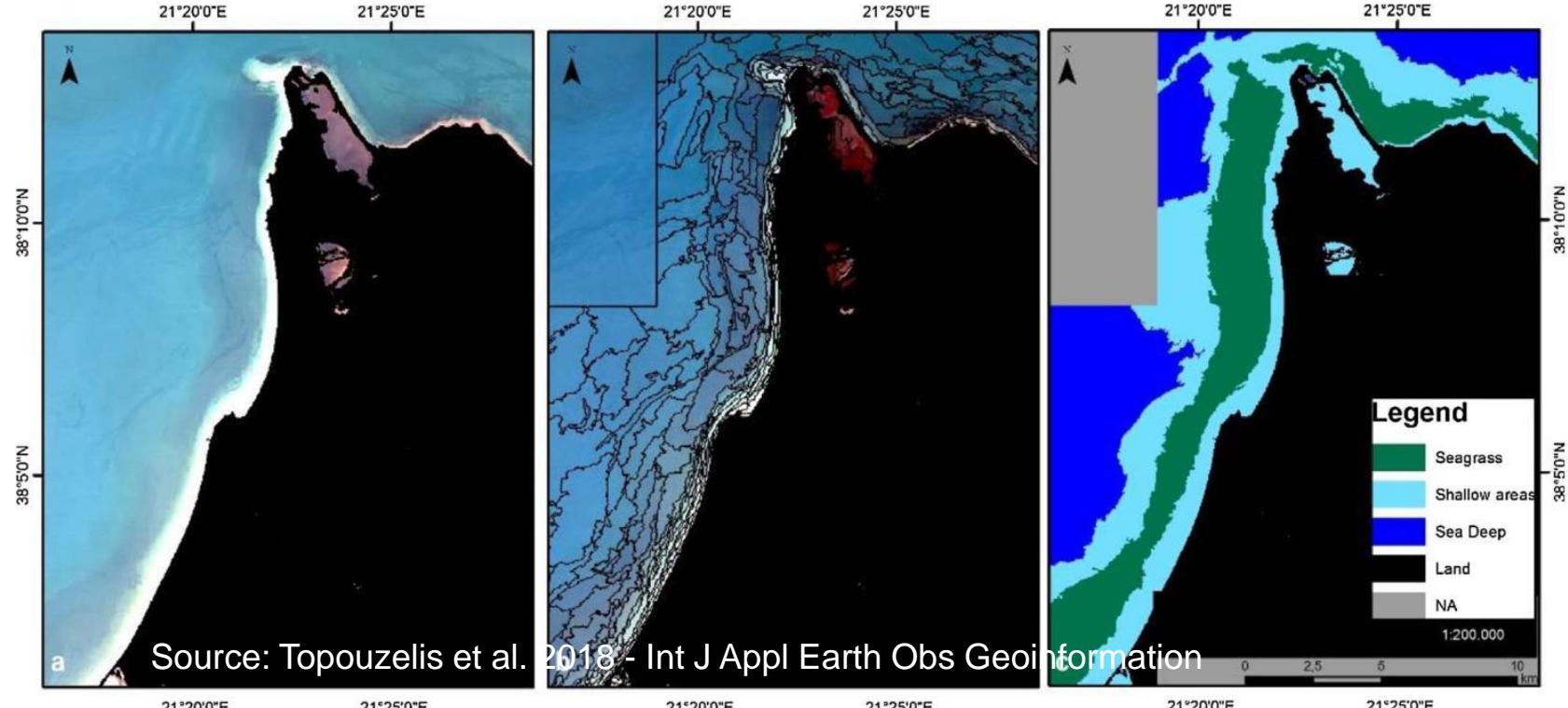
Non destructive methods – Other methods

Remote sensing, monitoring and tracking:

Satellite telemetry: Information obtained through satellites

- Used for habitat mapping, oil-spill detection.

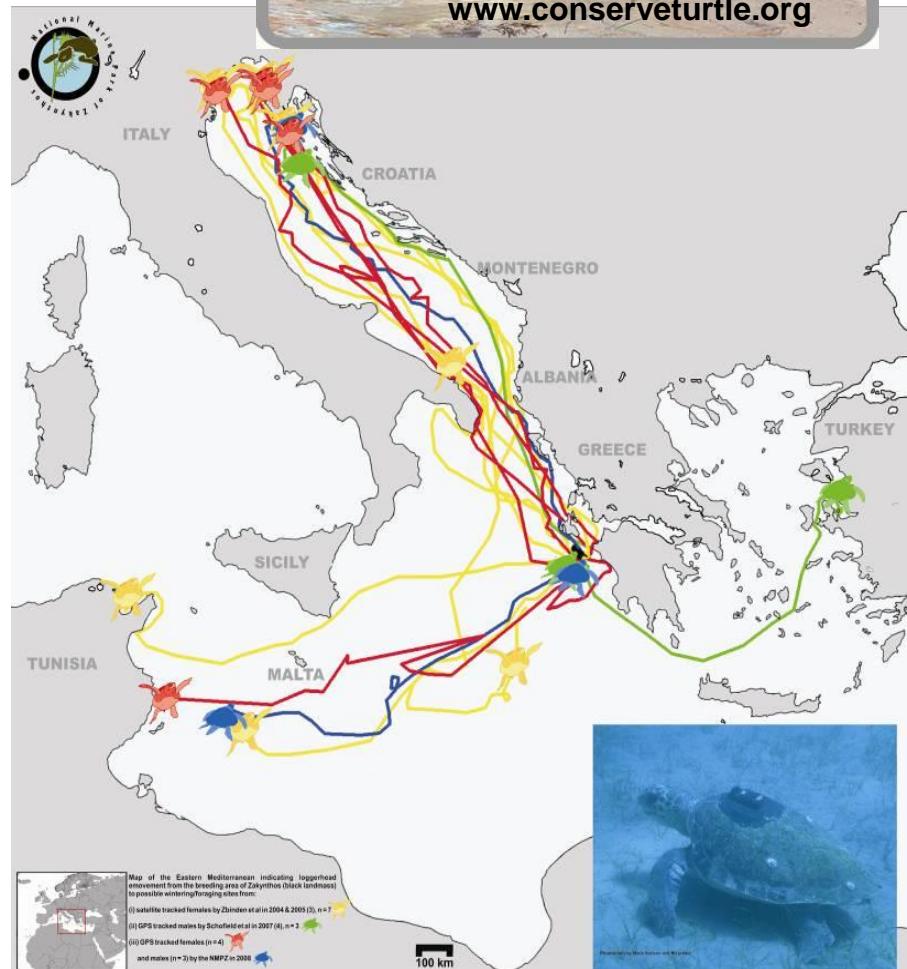
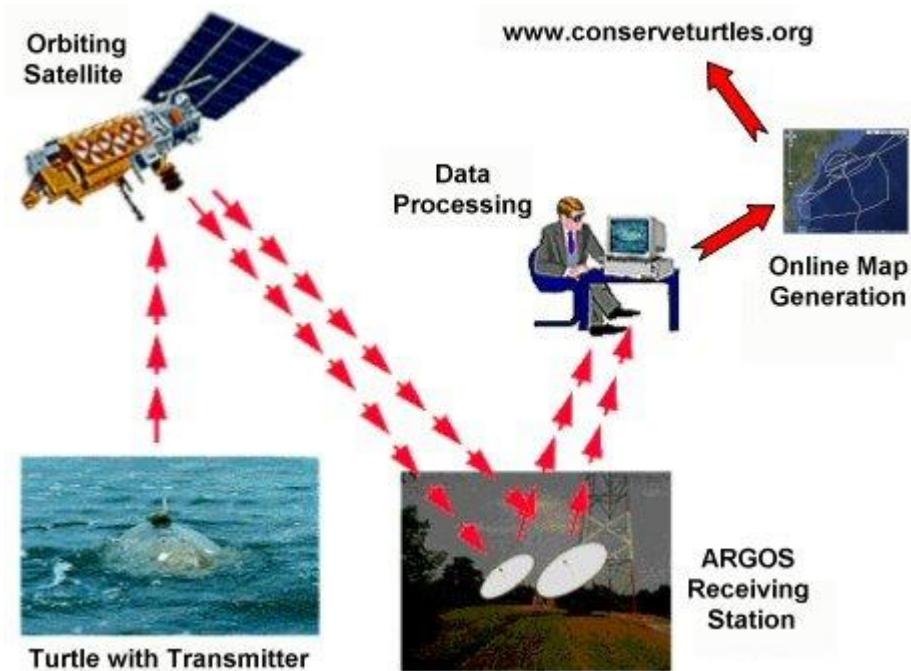
e.g. Habitat mapping of *P. oceanica* in the Aegean–MARISCA project



Non destructive methods – Other methods

Telemetry methods:

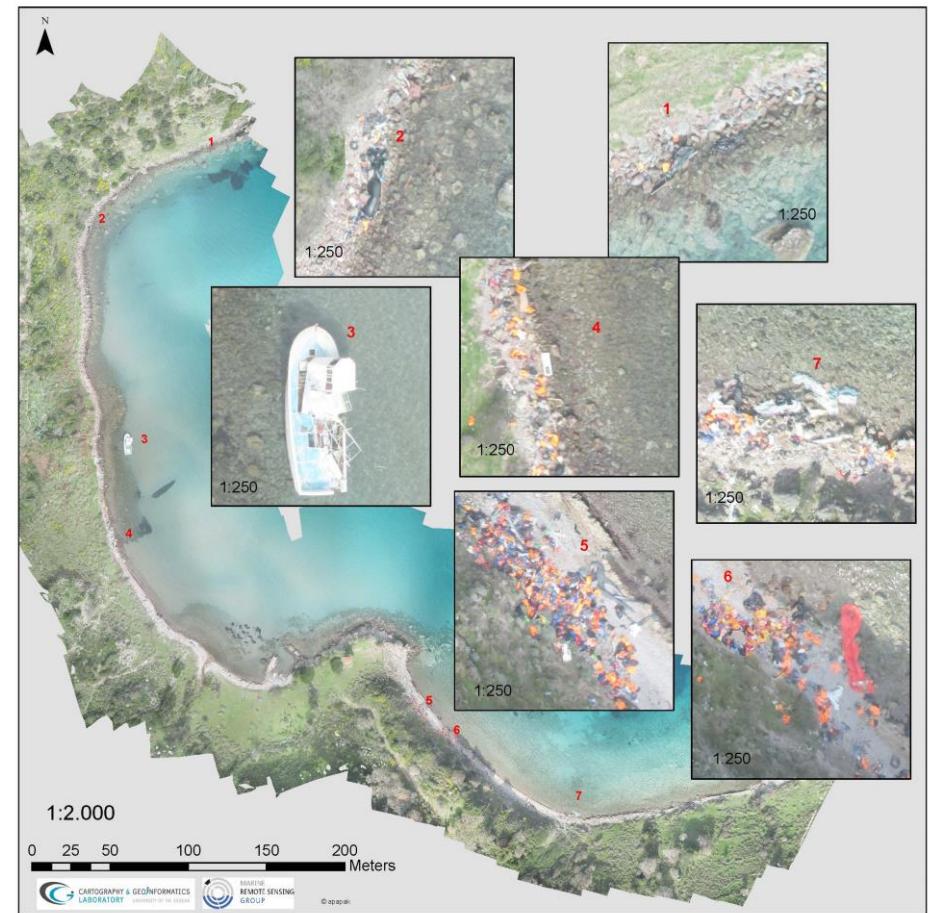
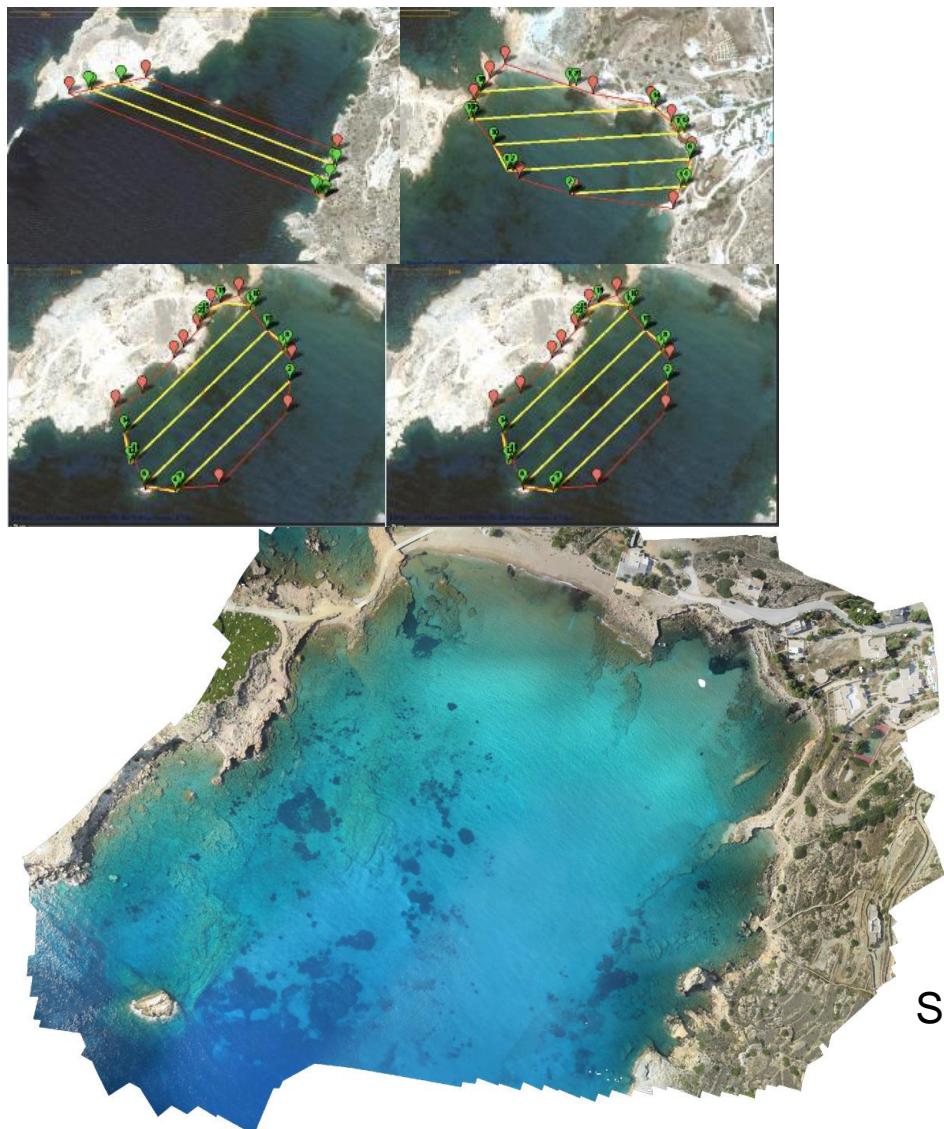
- Tagging techniques and telemetry tracking
- Used for animal tracking.



Non destructive methods – Other methods

Use of UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles): quadcopters

- Production of orthophotomaps, used for habitat mapping, marine litter mapping



Source: Marine Remote Sensing Group - mrsgr.aegean.gr

MARISCA project – www.marisca.eu



Sampling fish species along transects

Measure / count:

Size

Density

Estimate:

Biomass ($W = a \times L^b$)

Where: W = weight in grams

L = Length in cm

a (intercept) & b (slope) = parameters obtained from modeling the length \times weight relationship. Also available from literature (e.g. www.fishbase.org)

Allochthonous

Native

Epinephelus marginatus

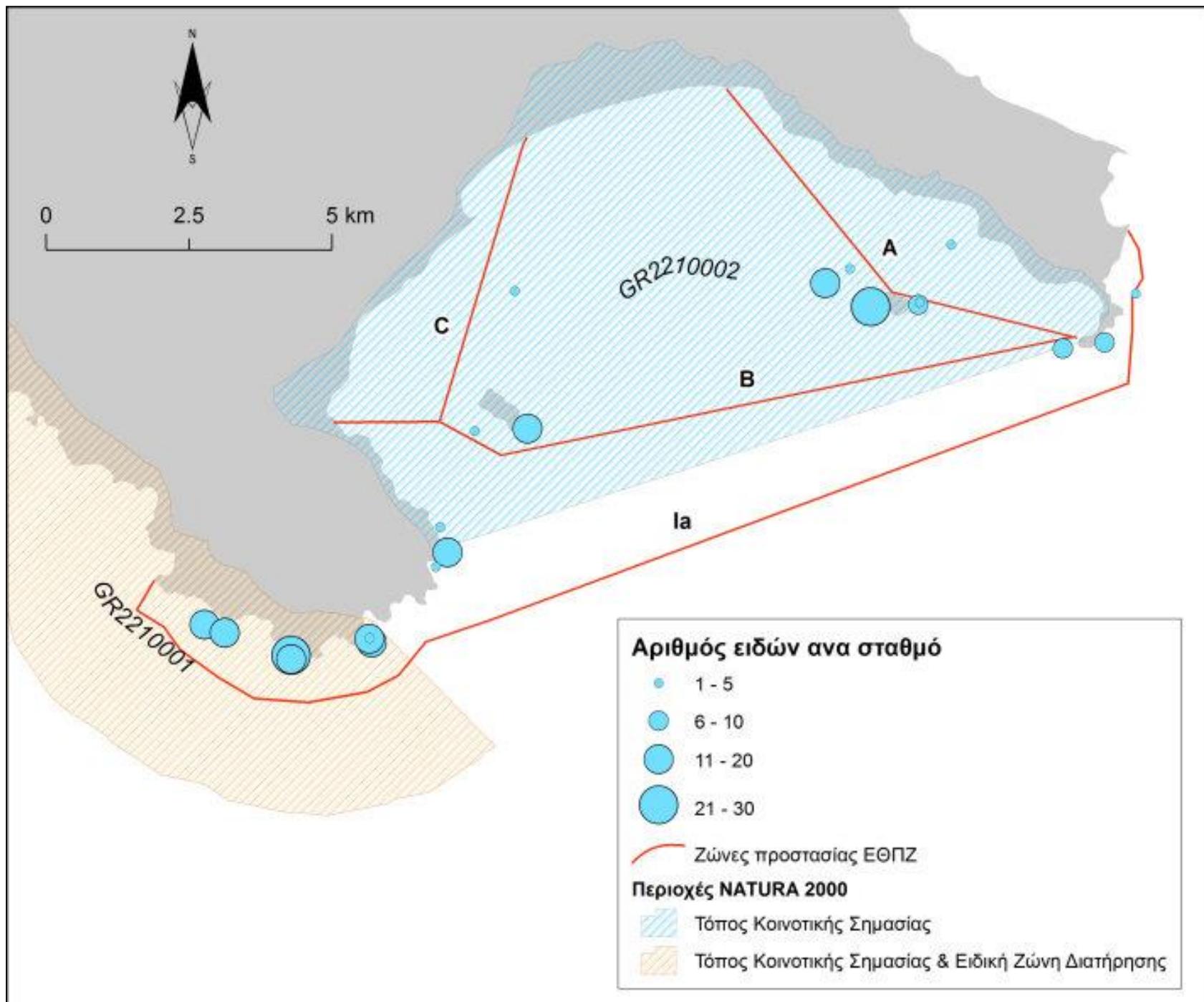
Diplodus sargus

Sarpa salpa

Siganus luridus

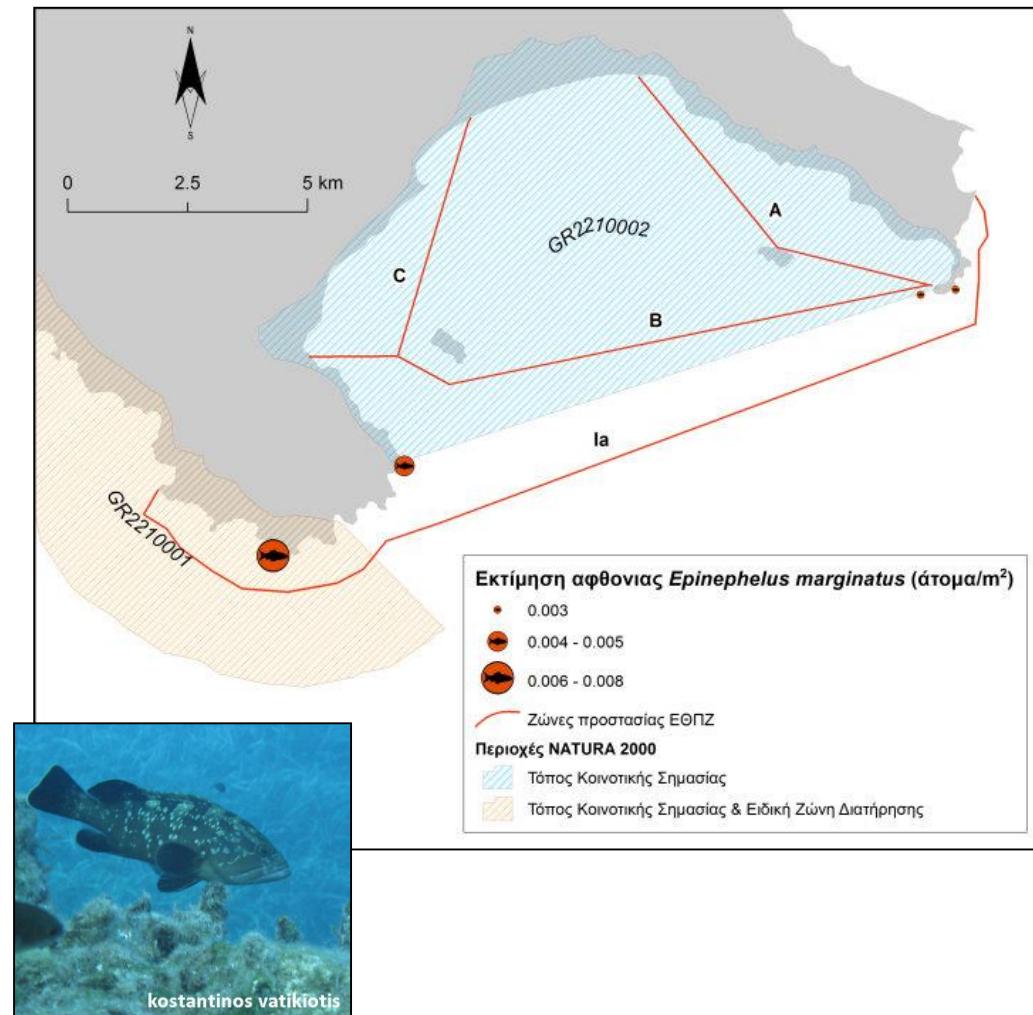


Number of species per station

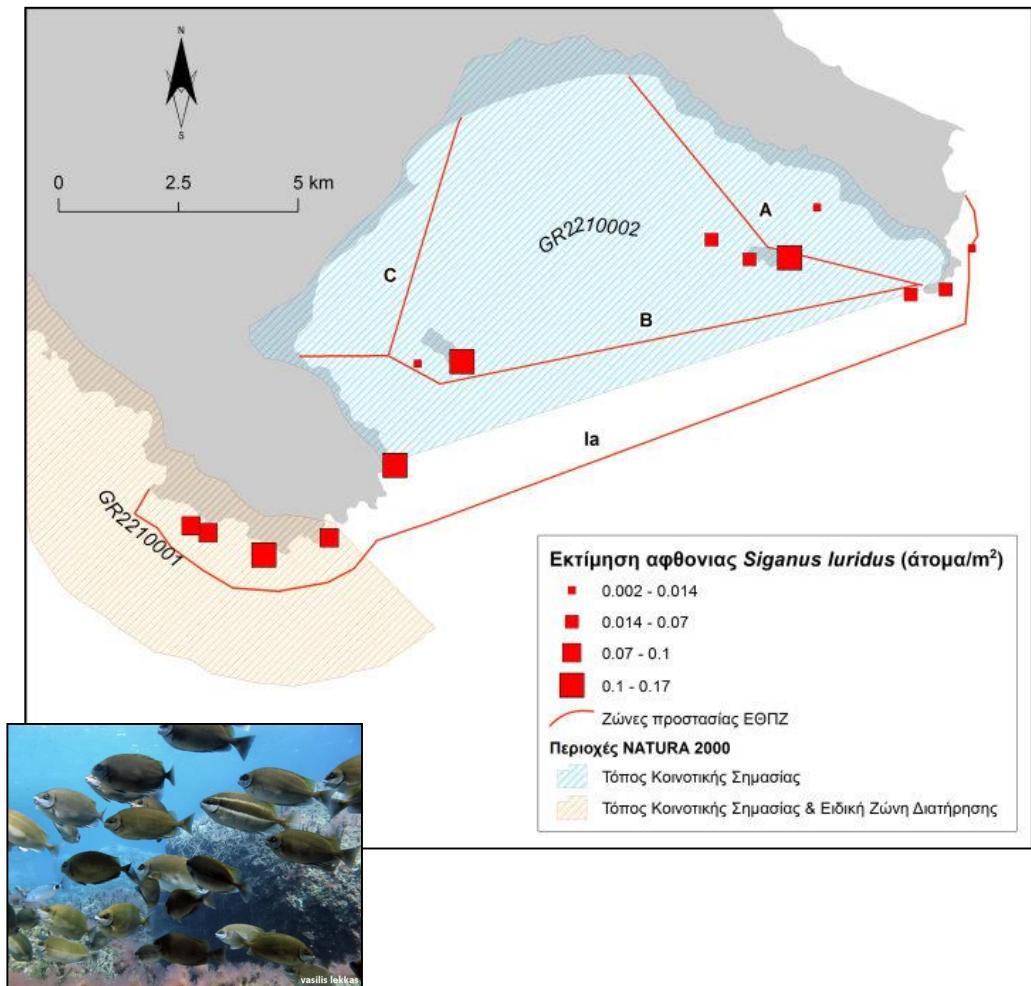


Fish sampling – Visual census on belt transects

Epinephelus marginatus



Siganus luridus



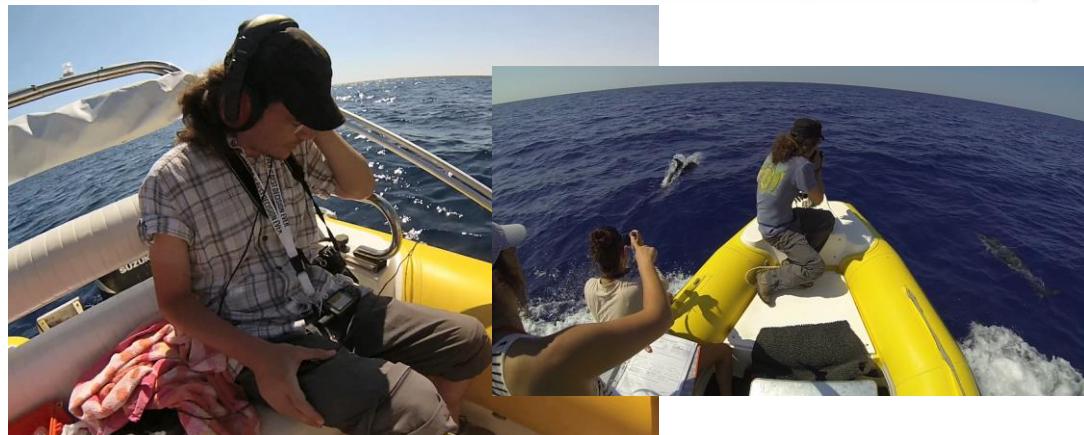
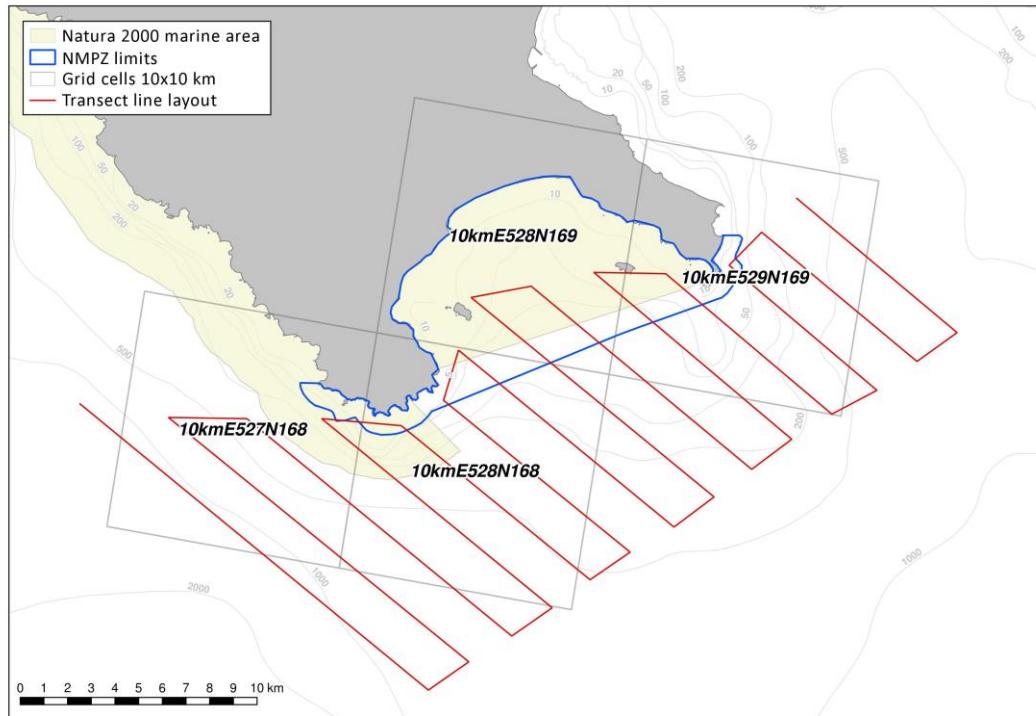


Cetacean surveys
&
underwater noise level
monitoring





Monitoring cetacean presence and noise levels



ΠΑΡΑΡΤΗΜΑ 1					
ΠΡΩΤΟΚΟΛΛΟ ΠΑΡΑΤΗΡΗΣΗΣ					
σελ. /	Παρατηρητής	Ημερομηνία	Ώρα	Στίγμα	Lat
Κωδικός θέσης	Περιοχή		Διαδρομή #	Αρ. παρατήρησης (sighting) #	
			Κατεύθυνση		
			Μήκος		
Προσπάθεια	Μηχανή ^{NAI OXI}	Απόσταση από ακτή (m)	Beaufort	Ορατότητα	Βάθος (m)
ΕΙΔΟΣ	Γενική περιγραφή συμπεριφοράς (κίνηση, κατάδυση, πυκνότητα κοπαδίου ...)				
1.					
2.					
3.					
Χαρακτηριστικά σημάδια					
     					
Αριθμός ατόμων	photo-ID	Αρ. 1 ^η φωτ.	Υδρόφωνα	Ακουστ. ανίχνευση	Ακουστ. εκτίμηση αριθμού
A: J: C:	NAI OXI	#	NAI OXI	NAI OXI MONO	#
Γωνία	Κάθετη απόσταση	Οριζόντια απόσταση	Αρχ. ταχύτητα	Σχόλια	
Αρχική συμπεριφορά					
Αλλαγή συμπεριφοράς κατά την παρατήρηση					
Αρχική πυκνότητα κοπαδίου					
Αλληλεπίδραση με το σκάφος?					
Γενική αισθηση αποφυγής					
σημειώσεις					



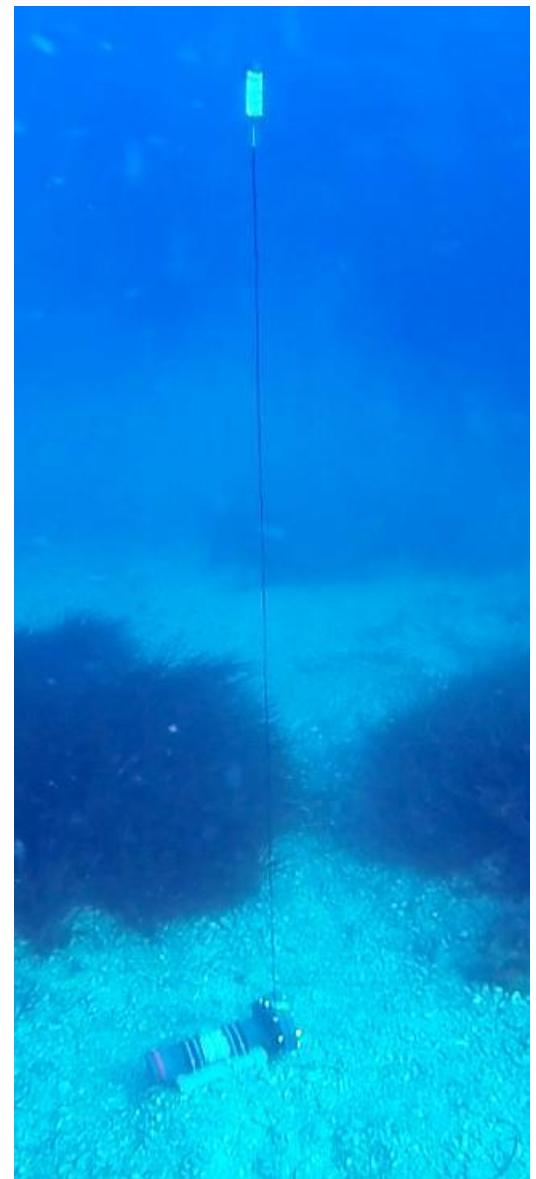
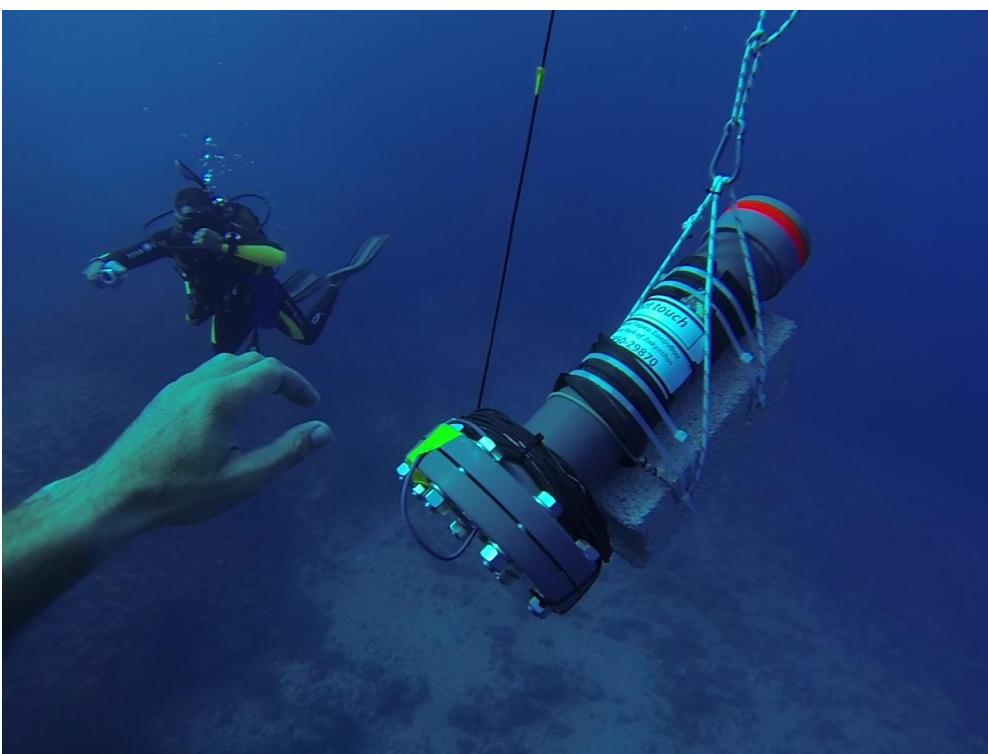
Monitoring cetacean presence and noise levels



ΠΡΩΤΟΚΟΛΛΟ ΠΙΕΣΩΝ & ΑΠΕΙΛΩΝ							
σελ. /	Παρατηρητής	Ημερομηνία	Ώρα	Στίγμα	Lat	Lon	
Κωδικός θέσης	Περιοχή	Αρ. Διαδρομής			Απόστ. από ακτή (m)	Beaufort	Ορατότητα
ΠΑΡΟΥΣΙΑ ΕΙΔΟΥΣ (x εντός κύκλου, πολλαπλές επιλογές επιτρέπονται)							
	x	Σχόλια:					
	x	Σχόλια:					
	x	Σχόλια:					
	x	Σχόλια:					
	x	Σχόλια:					
	x	Σχόλια:					
	x	Σχόλια:					
ΠΑΡΟΥΣΙΑ ΠΙΕΣΗΣ / ΑΠΕΙΛΗΣ (x εντός κύκλου, πολλαπλές επιλογές επιτρέπονται)							
	x	Σχόλια:					
	x	Σχόλια:					
	x	Σχόλια:					
	x	Σχόλια:					
	x	Σχόλια:					
	x	Σχόλια:					
	x	Σχόλια:					
Υπόμνημα							
	Αλιευτική δραστηριότητα				Δίχτυα, λοιπά αλιευτικά εργαλεία		
	Παρουσία σκαφών				Επικεμμένη/ακούσια παρενόχληση		
	Υποβρύχια ηχορύπανση				Πτερελαϊκή ρύπανση		
	Απορρίμματα, ενδείξις ρύπανσης				Παράκτιες δραστηριότητες		

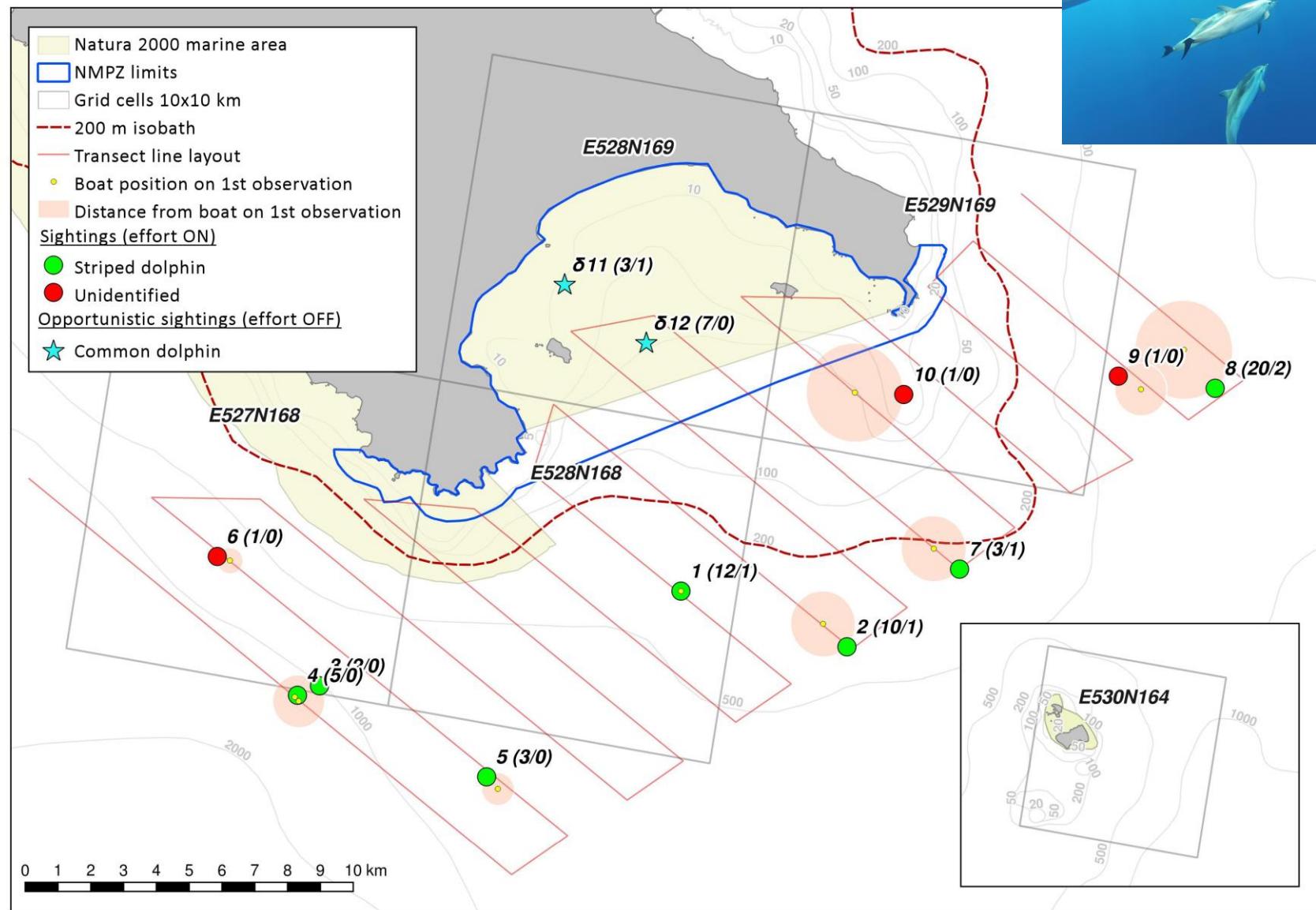


Monitoring cetacean presence and noise levels



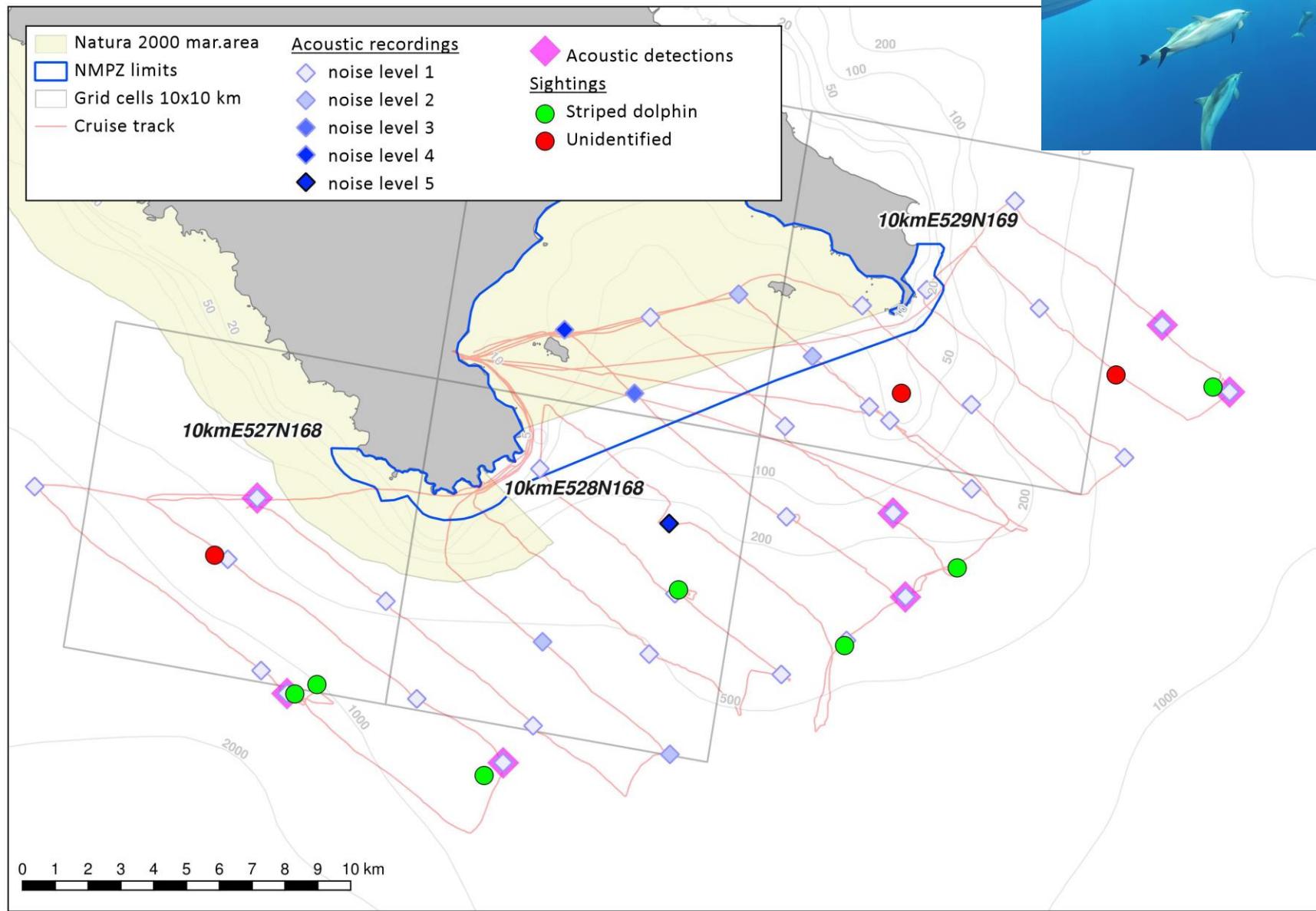


Monitoring cetacean presence and noise levels



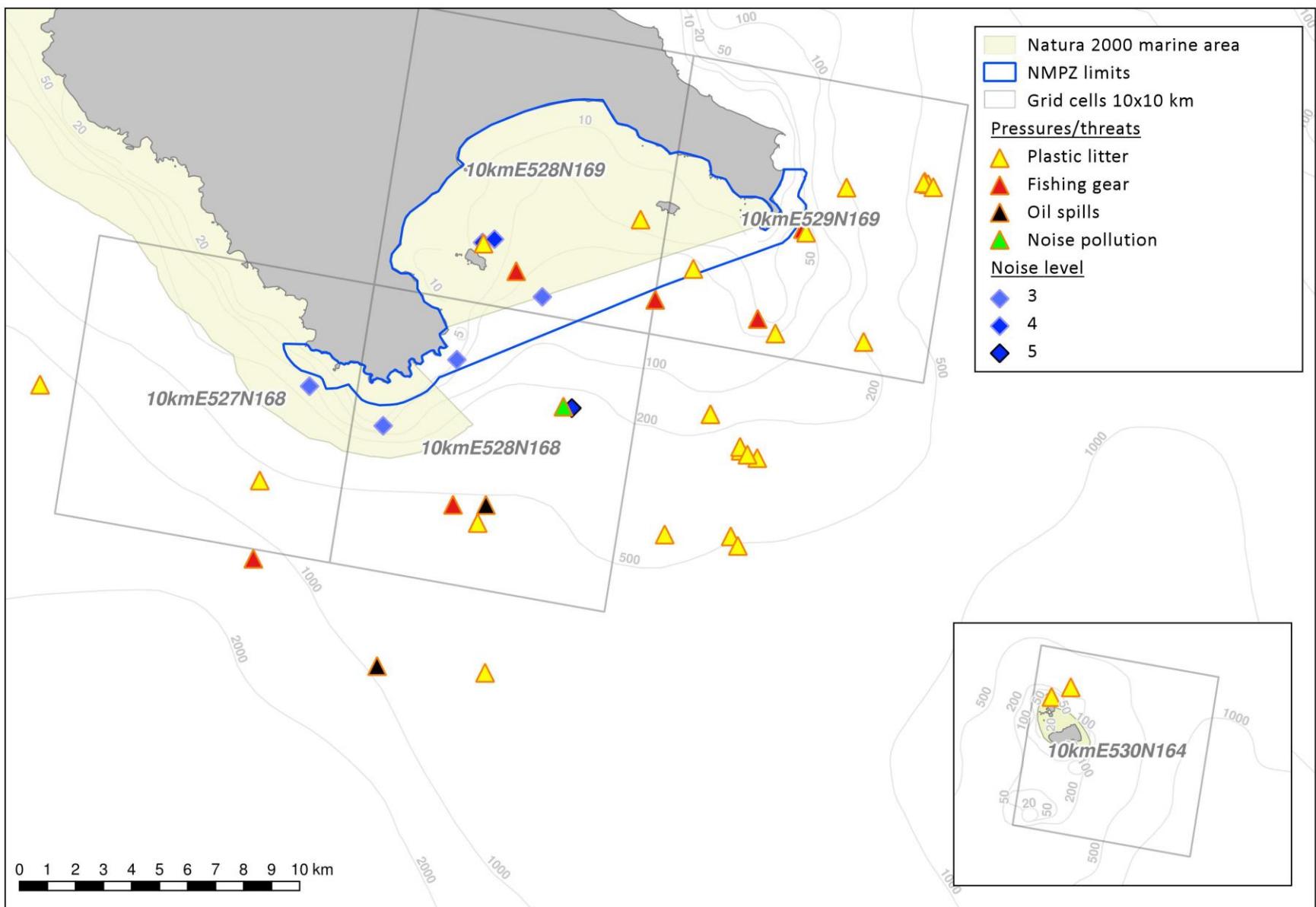


Monitoring cetacean presence and noise levels





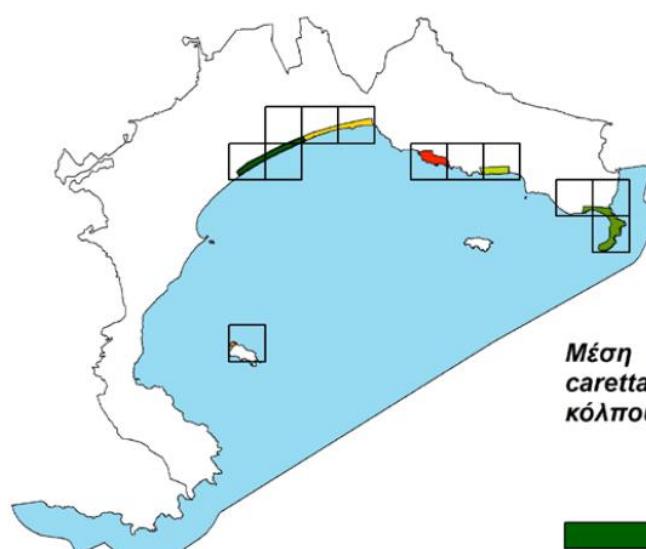
Monitoring cetacean presence and noise levels





Monitoring other protected species

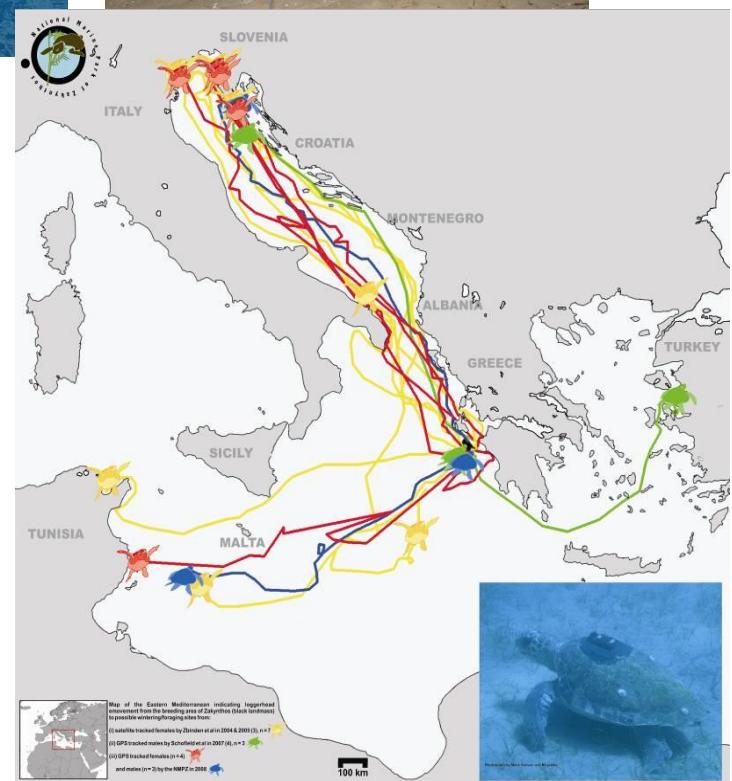
Nesting beaches & reproductive activity of *Caretta caretta*



Μέση πυκνότητα φωλιών της *Caretta caretta* στις 6 παραλίες ωοτοκίας του κόλπου του Λαγανά

	~52 nests/km/year (East Laganas)
	~136 nests/km/year (Gerakas)
	~ 157 nests/km/year (Daphni)
	~179 nests/km/year (Kalamaki)
	~258 nests/km/year (Marathonisi)
	~827 nests/km/year (Sekania)

0 1.250 2.500 5.000 7.500 10.000 Meters





Monitoring other protected species

- Loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*)
- Monk seal (*Monachus monachus*)
- Eleonora's falcon (*Falco eleonora*)
- Cory's shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*)
- Coastal habitat, e.g. Sand dunes



See you next week...

