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1240



PLASTIC  
BUSTERS



# PLASTIC BUSTERS: UNO STUDIO SUGLI IMPATTI DEI RIFIUTI PLASTICI SULLA FAUNA MARINA

Cristina Panti

Biomarker Laboratory, Università di Siena  
[panti4@unisi.it](mailto:panti4@unisi.it); [fossi@unisi.it](mailto:fossi@unisi.it)



XI Forum Economia Circolare - Toscana  
Prato - Sala Cinema, Centro Pecci  
6 Dicembre 2024



The Mediterranean is one of the most affected seas by Marine Litter worldwide, with ML originating primarily from shoreline activities.

Marine litter is a transboundary environmental issue that requires collective and coordinated actions to be tackled as highlighted by the Barcelona Convention Regional Plan for ML Management in the Mediterranean:

***"Marine litter pollution knows no border [...] hence there is a need for a regional approach".***

# Plastic Busters initiative

## Plastic Busters on basin scale

A crucial aspect of the marine litter issue, underlined by the **Barcelona Convention** within the **Regional Plan for Marine Litter** (Istanbul 2013) is that: "Marine pollution knows no border, pollution in one country affects all other 21 countries, hence there is a need for a regional approach".

Plastic Busters is the first project at basin scale that binds the Southern and Northern Mediterranean countries on the issue of Marine Litter under the umbrella of UNEP/MAP and UfM, with 10 countries already involved in the project and 12 countries endorsing the project.



### Diagnosis of the problem to identified specific solutions

- Impact on Biodiversity?
- Impact on Fisheries?
- Identification of Hot spot areas?
- Impact on Human?

## SDSN-MED Flagship project



2013

## UfM Labelling



Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط

2016

Project coordinator  
**Maria Cristina Fossi**  
Biomarker Laboratory, University of Siena, Italy



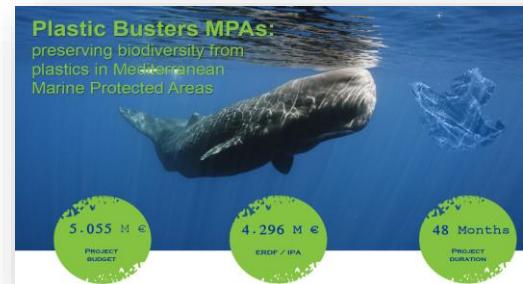
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Mediterranean



## MED-Interreg



2018



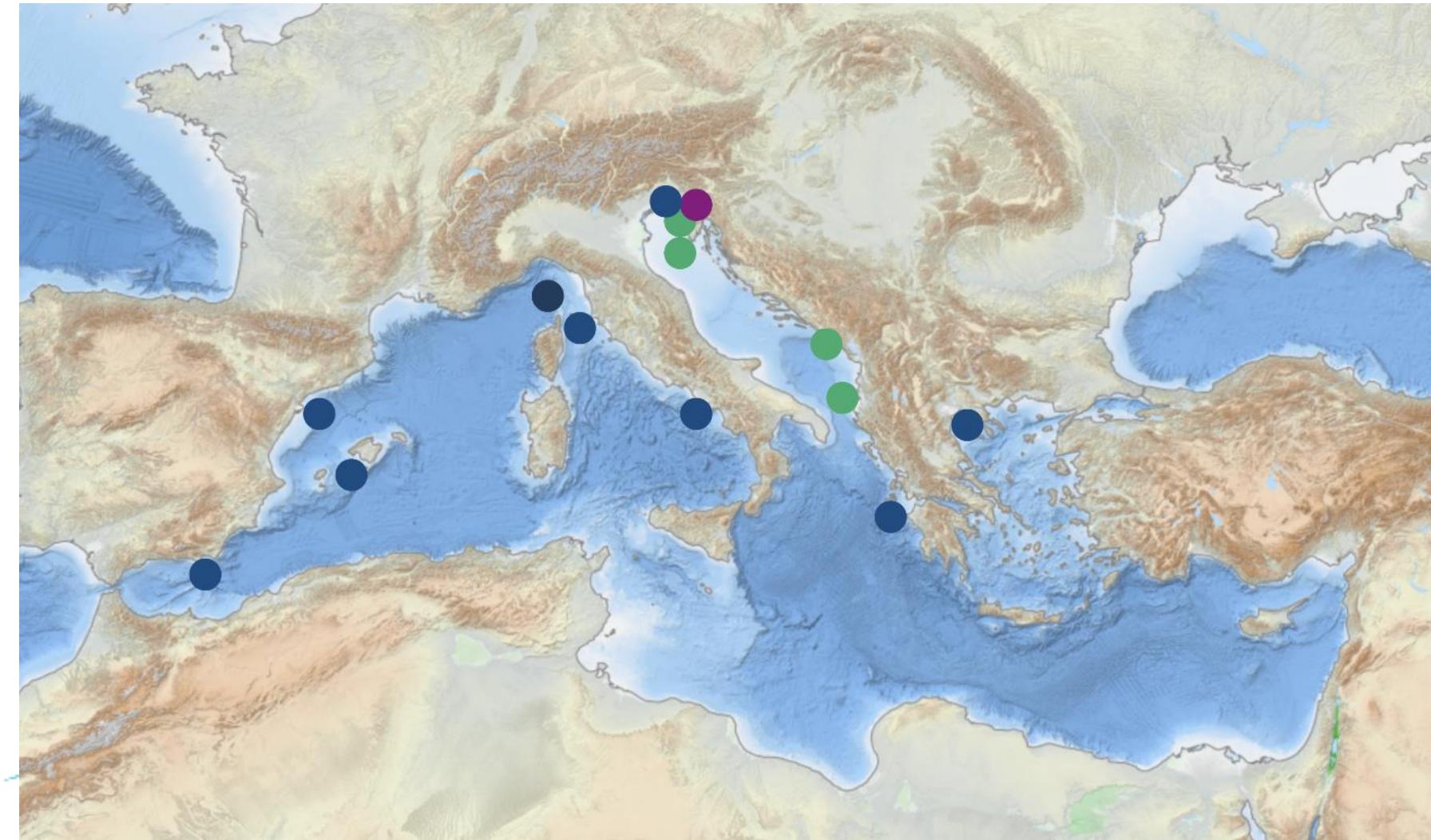
2019 - 24



A Plastic-free healthy Mediterranean Sea:  
the BLUEMED R&D Pilot



# PLASTIC BUSTERS ACTIVITIES IN MPAs



## Testing Actions

FRANCE - Pelagos Sanctuary  
GREECE - National Marine Park of Zakynthos  
GREECE - Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas  
ITALY - Miramare MPA  
ITALY - Pelagos Sanctuary  
ITALY - Tuscan Archipelago National Park  
SPAIN - Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park  
SPAIN - Cabrera National Park  
SPAIN - Natural Park of Ebro Delta

## Replication Actions

ALBANIA - Karaburun-Sazan MPA  
CROATIA - Brijuni National Park  
MONTENEGRO - Platanini MPA  
SLOVENIA - Debeli Rtič Landscape Park

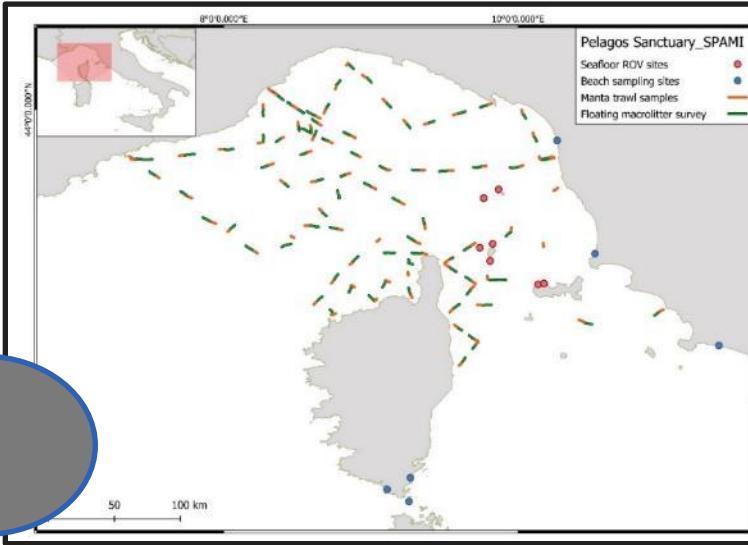
## Testing & Replication Actions

SLOVENIA - Landscape Park Strunjan

**Large pelagic and coastal areas (SPAMI, EBSA): SPAMI Pelagos Sanctuary**

**Medium scale MPAs:** Tuscan Archipelago National Park

**Small scale MPAs:** Cabrera, National Park, Zakynthos National Park

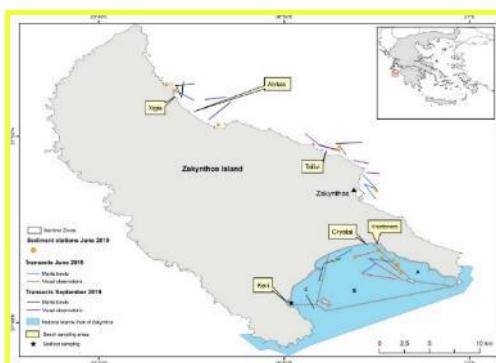
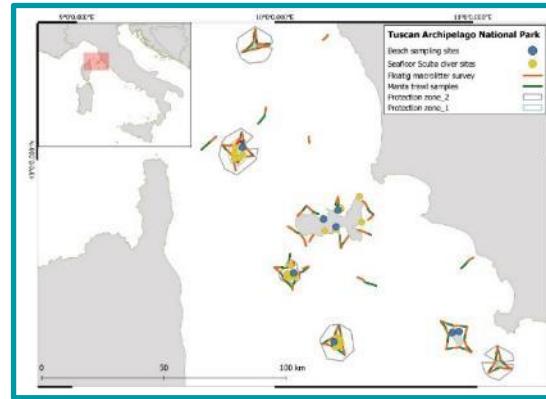


**Large pelagic and coastal areas - SPAMI**

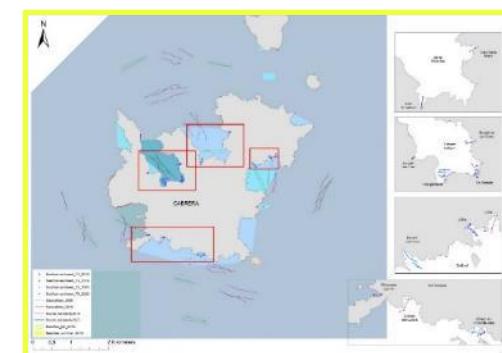


**MPAs DIMENSION**

**Medium scale MPAs**

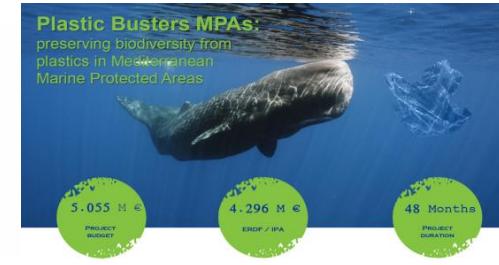


**Small scale MPAs**



# PLASTIC BUSTERS MPAS ACTIVITIES IN MPAs

## NOVELTY – RISK ASSESSMENT - FROM DIAGNOSIS TO MITIGATION



# The Plastic Busters initiative

## WE MONITOR THE MED!



*Italy, France, Spain, Croazia,  
Greece, Albania, Tunisia,  
Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan*



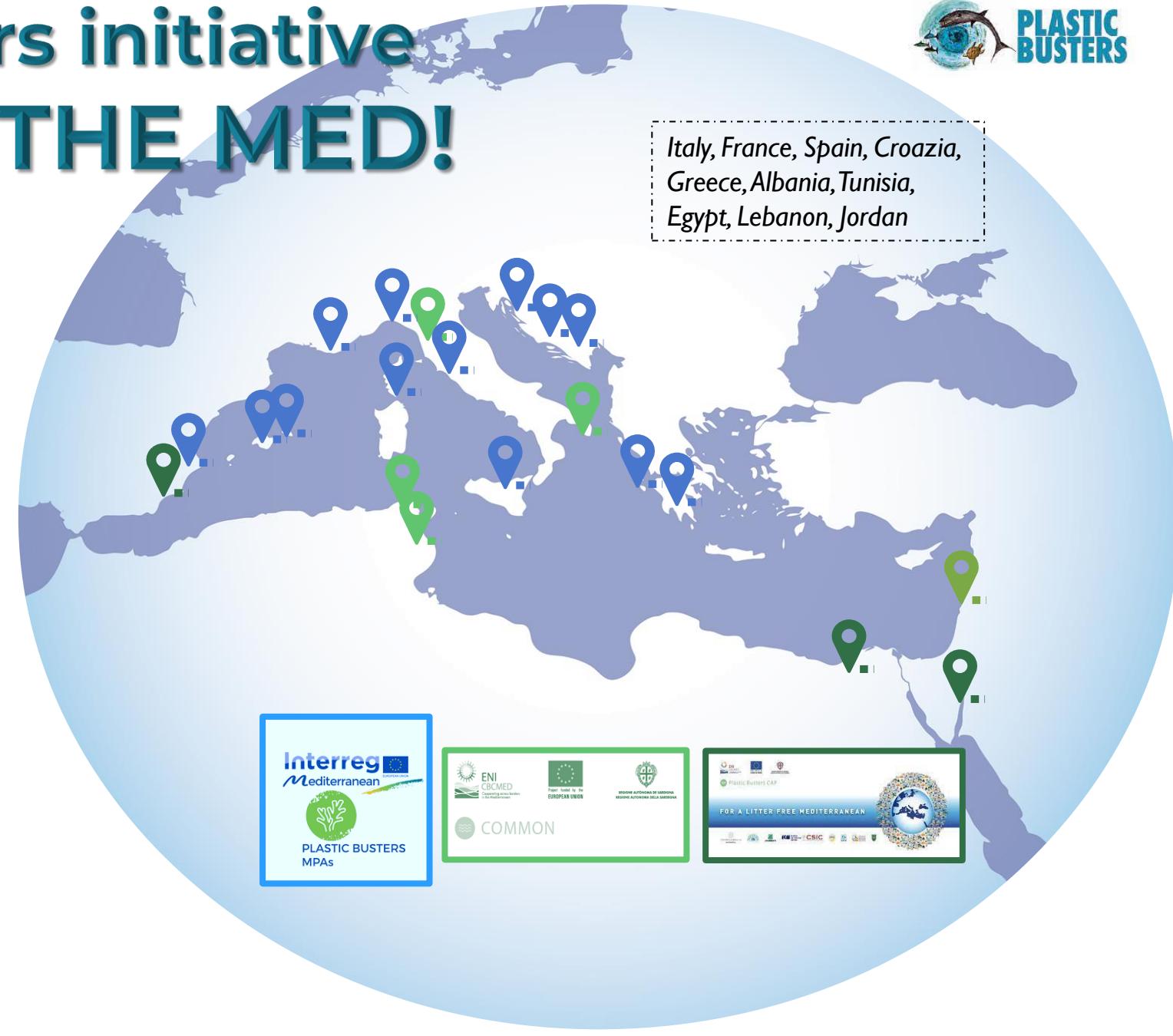
# Floating Litter



# Beach Litter



# Biota Impact



# The Plastic Busters initiative cumulative impact (2018-today)



10 countries involved with  
21 institutions



More than 150 researchers  
and scientists engaged



46 beaches surveyed more  
than 150k items isolated  
and characterized



# RESULTS: Beach litter abundance

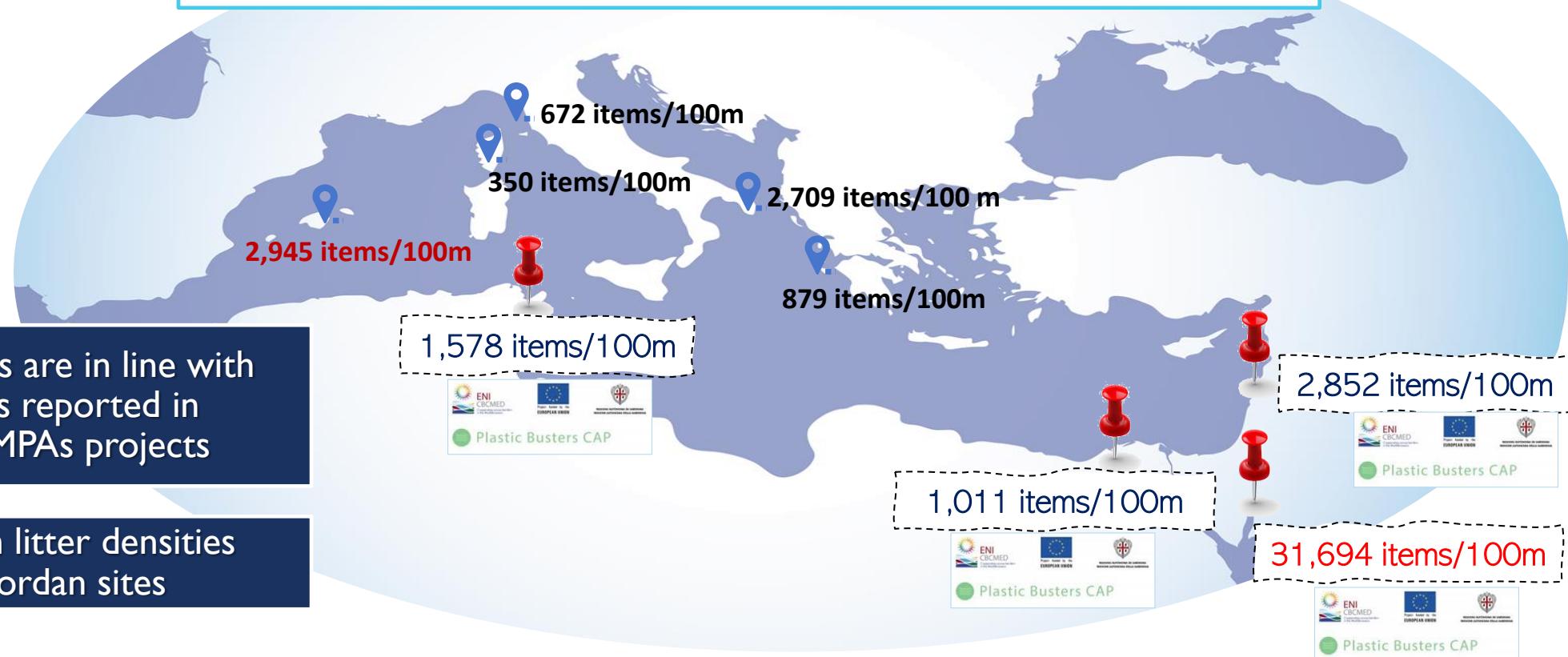


PB CAP mean values are in line with Mediterranean levels reported in CoMMON and PB MPAs projects



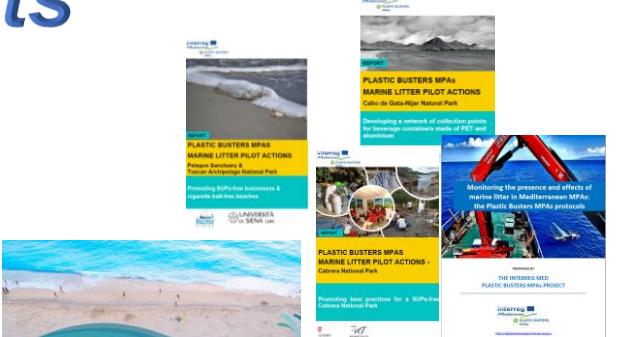
Exceptionally high litter densities recorded in Jordan sites

Italy, France, Spain, Croatia, Greece, Albania, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan



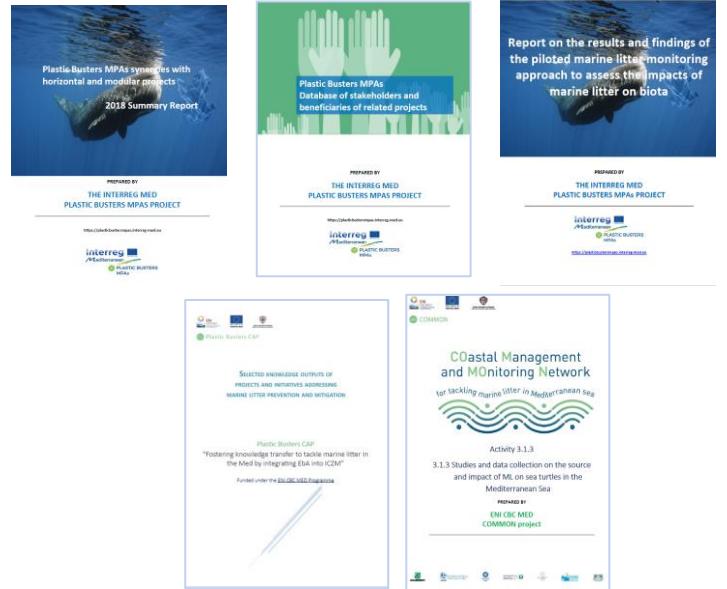
«**Threshold value**» defined by EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive:  
**20 items/100m**

# The Plastic Busters initiative cumulative impact: guidelines and toolkits



7 E-learning modules

12 Guidelines



123 Deliverables



>30 Scientific Papers

# The Plastic Busters initiative cumulative impact: events



Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

interreg Mediterranean PLASTIC BUSTERS MPAs

INFO DAY Italiano  
Centro Congressi Cavaore  
Via Cavour, 50/a, 00104 Roma  
Sala Campidoglio 1-2-3  
09:45 - 16:30 CET  
21 April 2022  
Registration: <https://forms.gle/LQfLXNq5g5FCPhq9>

Plastic Busters MPAs

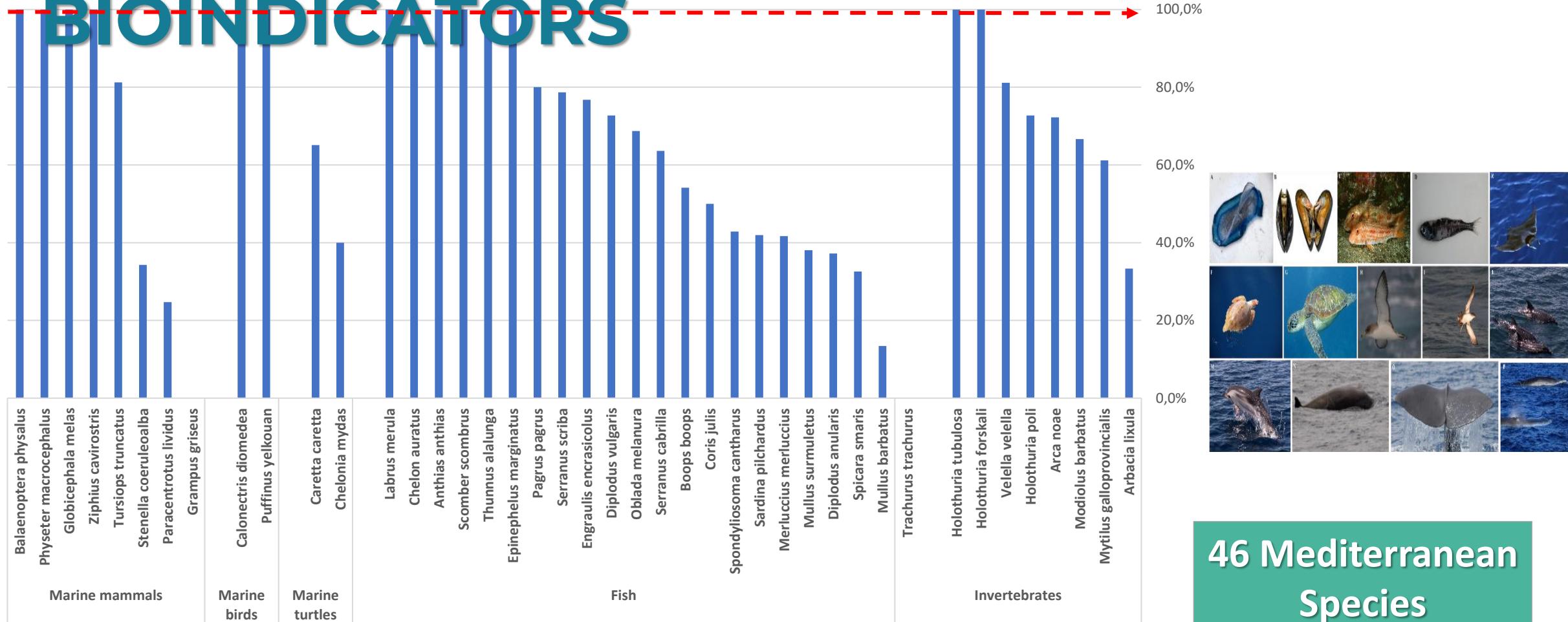
National Training on Marine Litter Monitoring & Mitigation  
1 & 2 March 2023, Marsa Matruh, Egypt

Training reports from regional workshops on how to apply harmonized ML monitoring approaches

ORGANIZED BY THE INTERREG MED PLASTIC BUSTERS MPAs PROJECT



# MPs OCCURENCE IN SELECTED BIOINDICATORS



46 Mediterranean Species



# Impact on sea turtles?



*Caretta caretta*

# Sentinel species for marine litter in Mediterranean sea



Marine Pollution Bulletin 74 (2013) 225–230  
Contents lists available at SciVerse ScienceDirect  
Marine Pollution Bulletin  
journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/marpolbul](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/marpolbul)

Elsevier

PLASTIC POLLUTION IN MARINE BIODIVERSITY

Loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*): A target species for monitoring litter ingested by marine organisms in the Mediterranean Sea<sup>a</sup>  
Marco Matiddi <sup>a,\*</sup>, Sandra Hochscheid <sup>b</sup>, Andrea Gameda <sup>c</sup>, Matteo Baini <sup>d</sup>,  
Cristiano Cucumelli <sup>e</sup>, Fabrizio Serena <sup>f</sup>, Paolo Tomassetti <sup>a</sup>, Andrea Travaglini <sup>b</sup>,  
Stefano Marra <sup>a</sup>, Tommaso Campani <sup>a</sup>, Francesco Scholl <sup>a</sup>, Cecilia Mancusi <sup>f</sup>, Ezio Amato <sup>a</sup>,  
Paolo Bonsu <sup>a</sup>, Gabriele Maffucci <sup>a</sup>, Maria Cristina Fossi <sup>a</sup>, Flegat Bentivenga <sup>a</sup>,  
Giuseppe Andrea de Luca <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (IRPA), Via Viale delle Biacarie 48, 00144 Roma, Italy  
<sup>b</sup> Stazione Zoologica Anna Dohrn, Milazzo Comune 97100 Milazzo, Italy  
<sup>c</sup> Istituto Superiore di Sanita, Via Salaria 115, 00199 Roma, Italy  
<sup>d</sup> Istituto di Studi, Department of Life Sciences, San Michele Via Atto More 4, 53100 Siena, Italy  
<sup>e</sup> University of Siena, Department of Life Sciences, San Michele Via Atto More 4, 53100 Siena, Italy  
<sup>f</sup> Tuscany Regional Agency for the Environmental Protection (AMT), Via Giovanni Marzoli, 114, 57125 Livorno, Italy  
<sup>\*</sup> Corresponding author.

2013



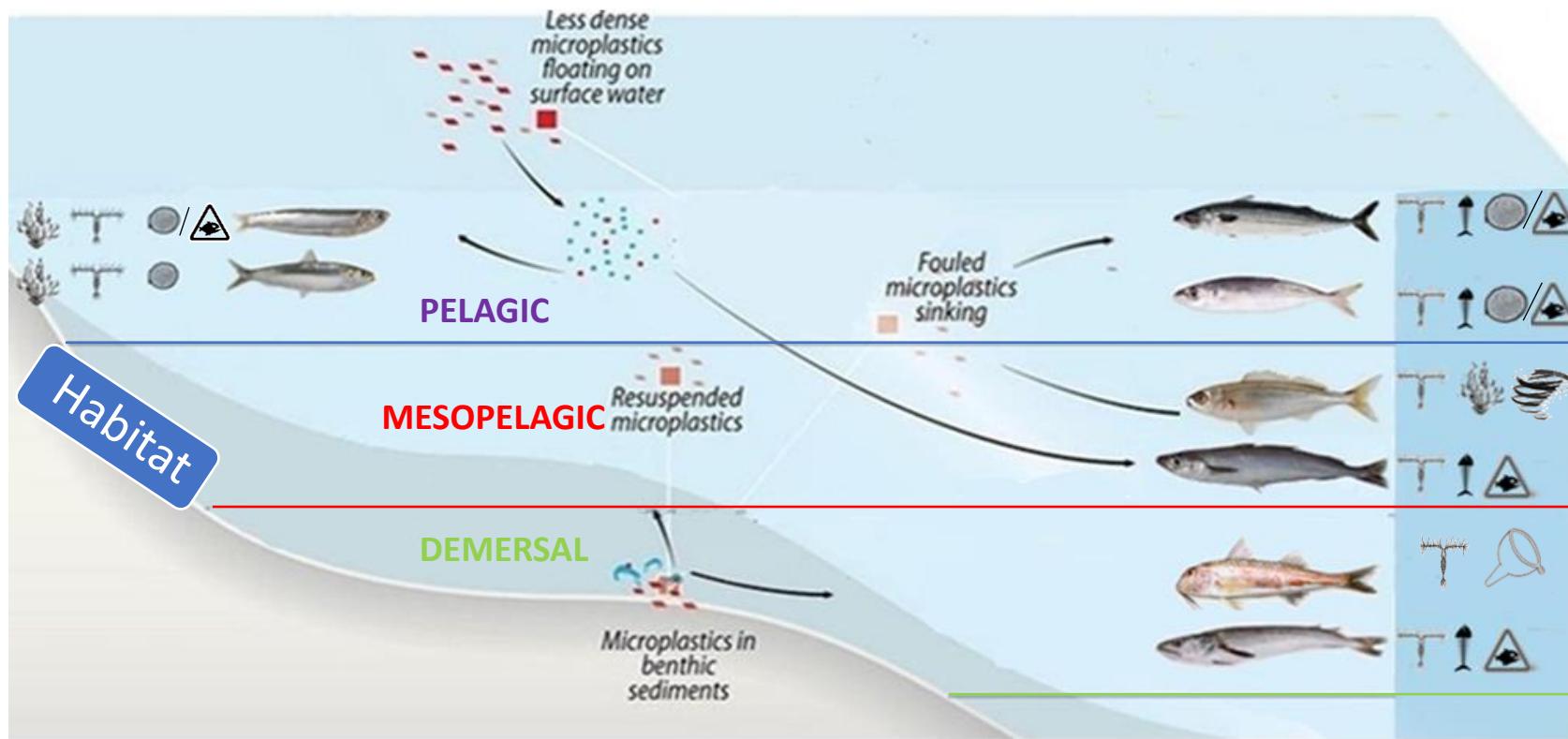
2017

Found 483 pieces of marine litter with a total mass of 62.37g

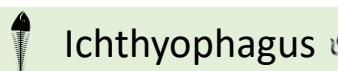


22 loggerhead turtles out of 31 animals had ingested marine debris (71%)

# MPs in edible species: species selection criteria



Trophic level (main prey) Stergiou&Karpouzi 2002



Ichthyophagus



Fitoplanctophagus



Zooplanktophagus

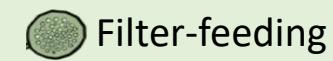


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Giani et al. (2018)



Selective  
predator



Filter-feeding

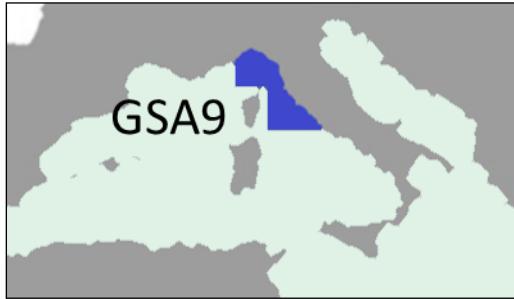


"slurp" mode

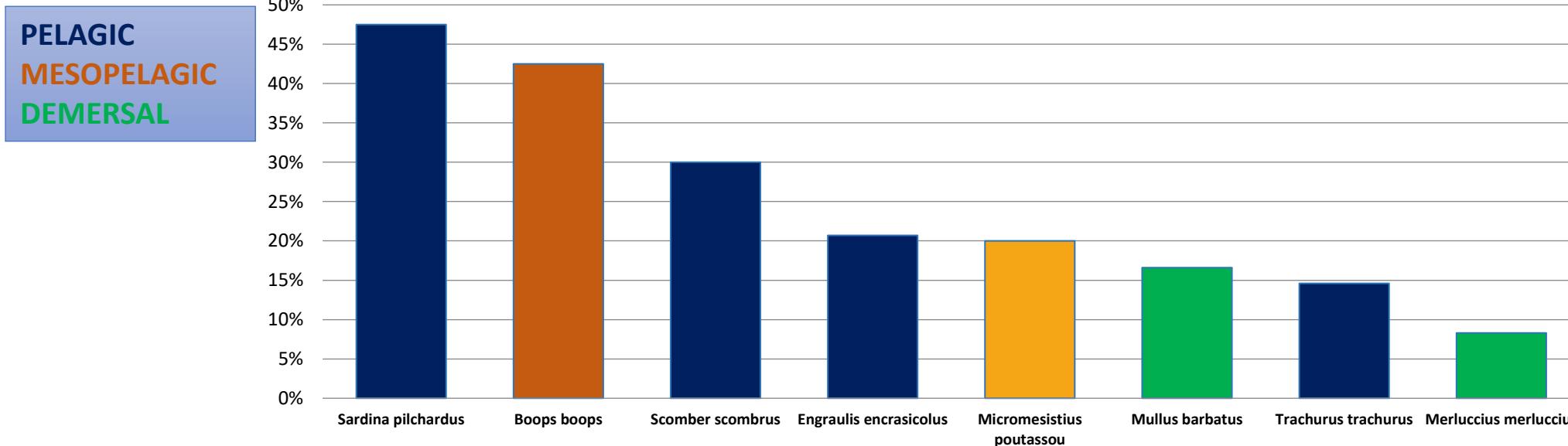
Feeding habits

- ❖ European anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*)
- ❖ European pilchard (*Sardina pilchardus*)
- ❖ Atlantic mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*)
- ❖ Atlantic horse mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus*)
- ❖ Bogue (*Boops boops*)
- ❖ Blue whiting (*Micromesistius poutassou*)
- ❖ Red mullet (*Mullus barbatus*)
- ❖ European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*)

# MPs in edible species: % of MPs ingestion



- ✓ Sample analyzed in GSA9 → 330
- ✓ Total plastic items → 118
- ✓ Number of fish with MPs → 87 (25.2%)



# Impact on sea turtles?



*Caretta caretta*

# MSFD-D10 and IMAP Sentinel species for marine litter in Mediterranean sea



Marine Pollution Bulletin 74 (2013) 225–230  
Contents lists available at SciVerse ScienceDirect  
Marine Pollution Bulletin  
journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/marpolbul](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/marpolbul)

Presence of plastic debris in loggerhead turtle stranded along the Tuscany coasts of the Pelagos Sanctuary for Mediterranean Marine Mammals (Italy)

Tommaso Campani<sup>a</sup>, Matteo Baini<sup>a,\*</sup>, Matteo Giannetti<sup>a,d</sup>, Fabrizio Cancelli<sup>b</sup>, Cecilia Mancusi<sup>c</sup>, Fabrizio Serena<sup>c</sup>, Letizia Marsili<sup>c</sup>, Silvia Casini<sup>a</sup>, Maria Cristina Fossi<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (IRPA), Via Viale delle Biacarie 48, 00144 Roma, Italy  
<sup>b</sup> Stazione Zoologica Anna Dohrn, Milazzo Comune 97102 Sicilia, Italy  
<sup>c</sup> Istituto Superiore di Sanita, Department of Life Sciences, San Luigi Gonzaga Hospital (IASI-CNR), Istituto Superiore di Sanita, Via Ardeatina 305, 00199 Roma, Italy  
<sup>d</sup> University of Siena, Department of Life Sciences, San Miniato via Atto More 4, 53100 Siena, Italy  
<sup>e</sup> Tuscany Regional Agency for the Environment Protection (ARPA), Via Giovanni Marzoli, 114, 57125 Livorno, Italy  
<sup>f</sup> Ocean International Foundation, Via Capriola 313, 00197 Roma, Italy

2013



Environmental Pollution 230 (2017) 199–209  
Contents lists available at ScienceDirect  
Environmental Pollution  
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Loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*): A target species for monitoring litter ingested by marine organisms in the Mediterranean Sea<sup>a</sup>

Marco Matiddi<sup>a,\*</sup>, Sandra Hochscheid<sup>b</sup>, Andrea Gameda<sup>c</sup>, Matteo Baini<sup>d</sup>, Cristiano Cucumelli<sup>e</sup>, Fabrizio Serena<sup>f</sup>, Paolo Tomassetti<sup>a</sup>, Andrea Travaglini<sup>b</sup>, Stefano Marra<sup>a</sup>, Tommaso Campani<sup>a</sup>, Francesco Scholl<sup>a</sup>, Cecilia Mancusi<sup>a</sup>, Ezio Amato<sup>a</sup>, Paolo Bonsu<sup>a</sup>, Fulvio Maffucci<sup>a</sup>, Maria Cristina Fossi<sup>a</sup>, Flega Bentivenga<sup>a</sup>, Giuseppe Andrea de Luca<sup>a</sup>

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<sup>e</sup> Tuscany Regional Agency for the Environment Protection (ARPA), Via Giovanni Marzoli, 114, 57125 Livorno, Italy  
<sup>f</sup> Ocean International Foundation, Via Capriola 313, 00197 Roma, Italy

2017

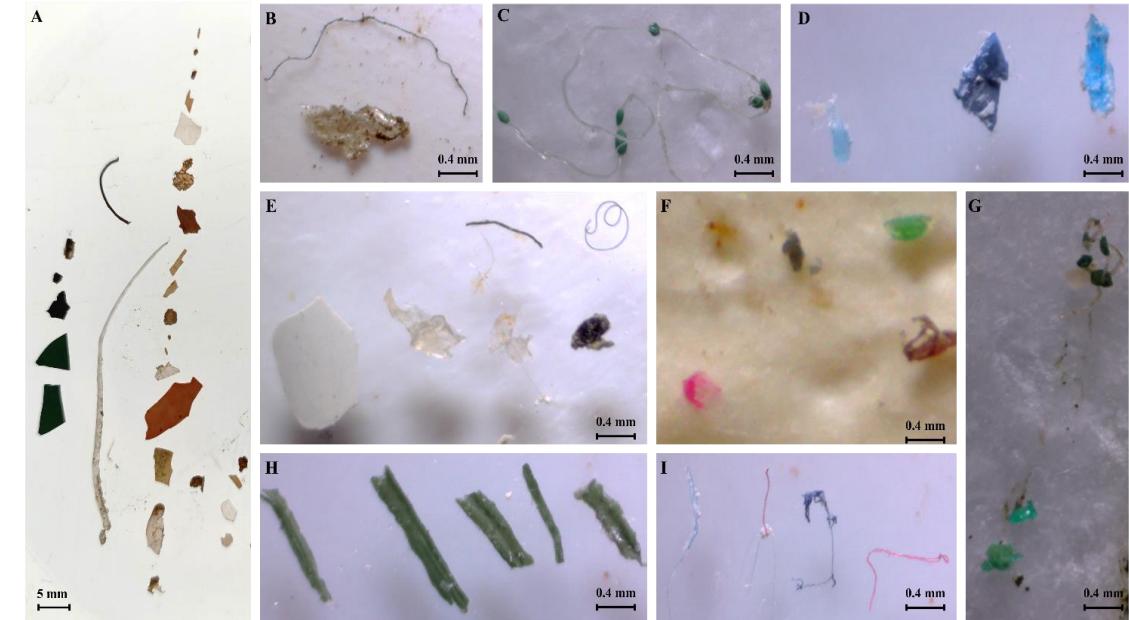
Found 483 pieces of marine litter with a total mass of 62.37g



22 loggerhead turtles out of 31 animals had ingested marine debris (71%)

# Pilot study result

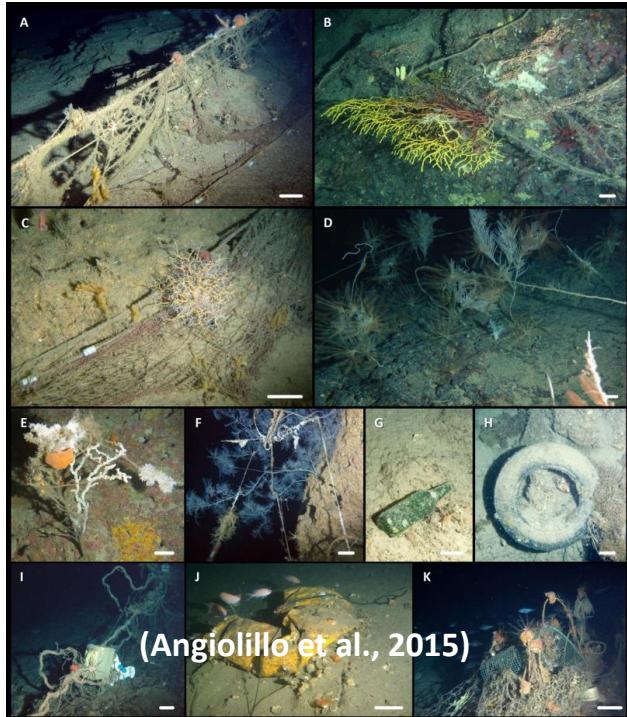
Species	GIT analized	Occurrence (%)	n particles/individual
 <i>B. physalus</i>	2	100%	85
 <i>G. melas</i>	1	100%	62
 <i>Z. cavirostris</i>	3	100%	55
 <i>T. truncatus</i>	15	100%	29.3
 <i>S. coeruleoalba</i>	23	65%	6



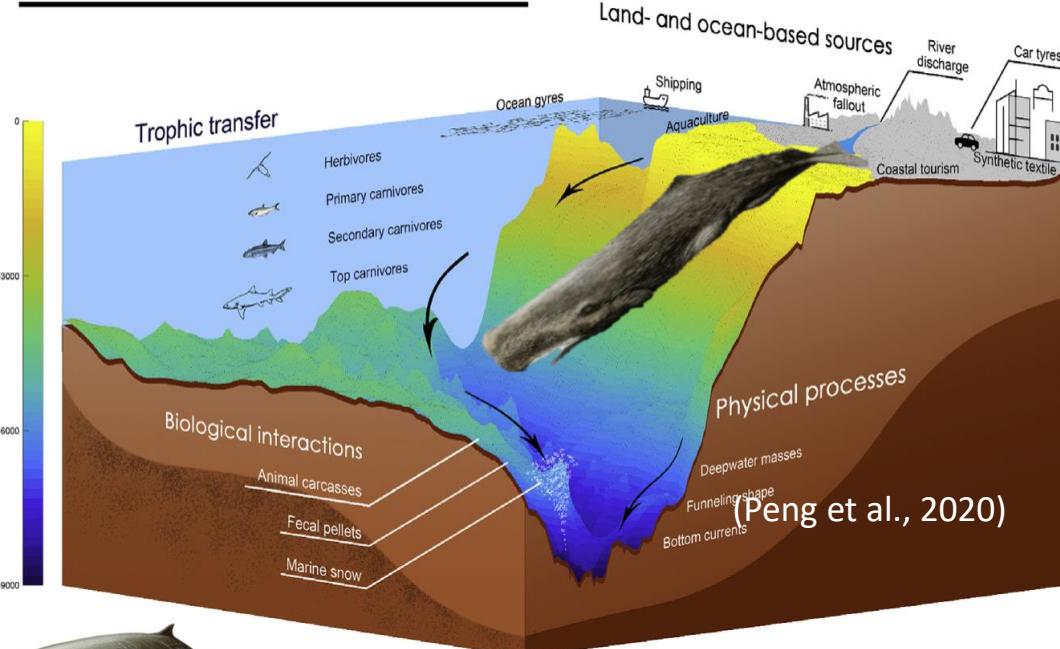
Plastic items isolated from GITs of *Balaenoptera physalus* (A and B), *Tursiops truncatus* (C, D, E, H, I), *Stenella coeruleoalba* (F) and *Ziphius cavirostris* (G).

*What type of litter/pollution is most affecting cetaceans? How are they affected?*

## Macro-Litter in Deep sea Canyons: a potential threat for a deep-diver?



Microplastics transport to hadal trenches



# PLASTIC BUSTERS FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE



2014 | 2020

UNIVERSITÀ  
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Ca' Foscari  
Venezia

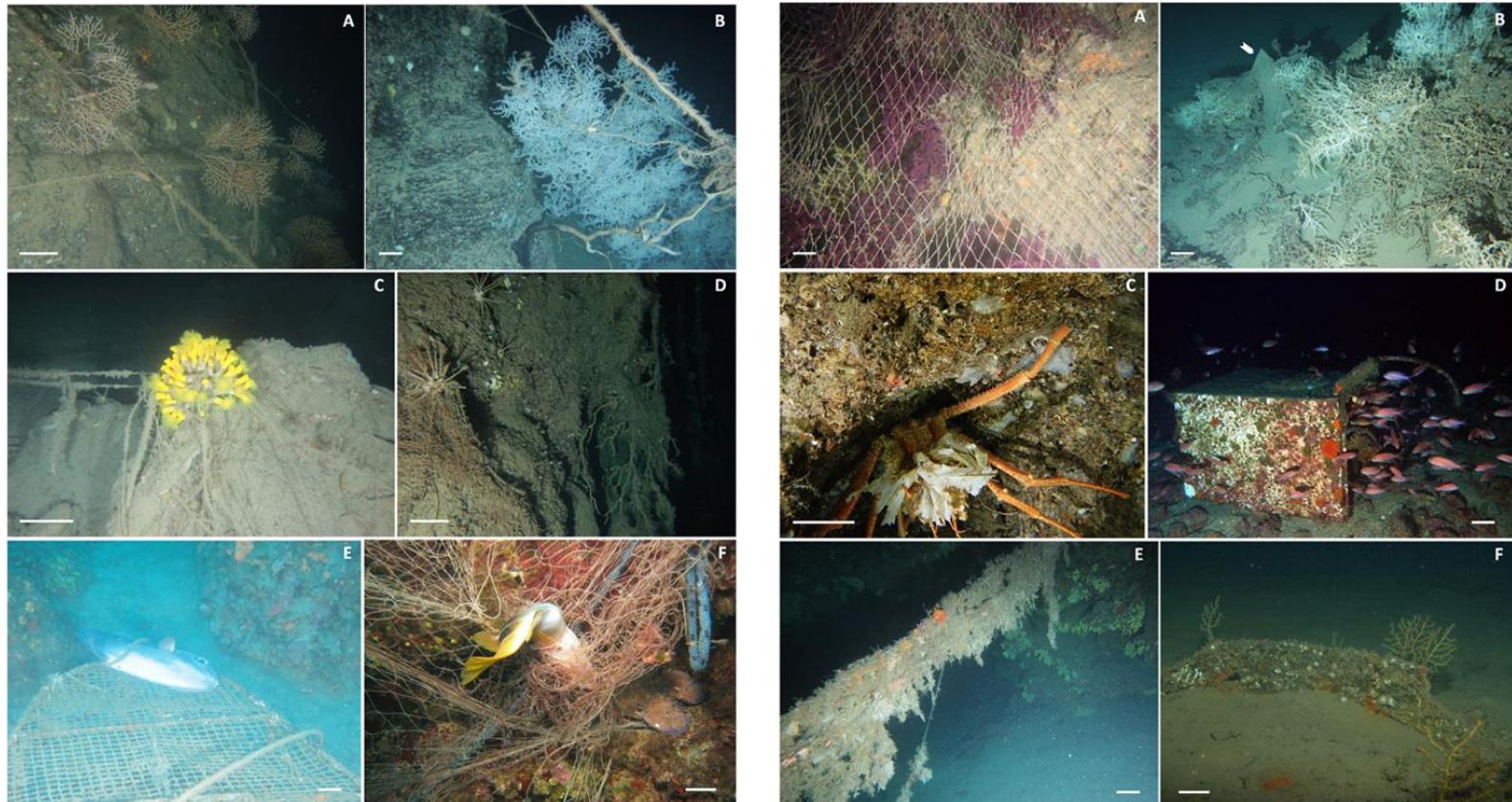
**TUTELA DELLA BIODIVERSITÁ NEL  
MAR ADRIATICO: monitorare,  
raccogliere e valutare gli impatti dei  
rifiuti marini sulle specie ittiche**

*Fishing for litter initiatives*



# Mo.Ri.net

Monitoraggio, censimento, raccolta e avvio al Riciclo delle reti fantasma: i pescatori protagonisti della salvaguardia del mare



Immagini ISPRA

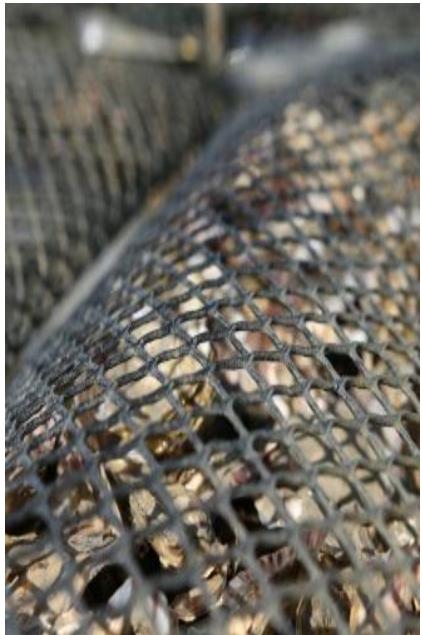
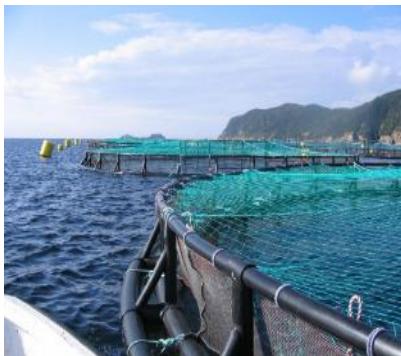
***Ghost nets removal and impact on biodiversity***

# PLASTIC BUSTERS FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Come qualsiasi altra industria, la pesca e l'acquacoltura fanno un ampio uso di polimeri plastici sia nelle attrezzature che per l'imballaggio dei prodotti grazie al basso costo e la facilità di lavorazione.

I materiali plastici sono ideali per l'uso in un ambiente acquatico ed in particolare quello marino in cui resistenza all'abrasione e alla corrosione che aumenta la longevità e l'affidabilità delle attrezzature.

Gli oggetti maggiormente impiegati in acquacoltura sono: lenze e reti, cime, collari per gabbie marine, calze per allevamento mitili, boe e galleggianti, cassette, casse di raccolta etc..





# Life MUSCLES

Circular innovation to protect the sea



BENEFICIARIO COORDINATORE  
LEGAMBIENTE

BENEFICIARI ASSOCIATI



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

SAPIENZA  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

UNIVERSITÀ  
DI SIENA 1240

AMA  
NOVAMONT

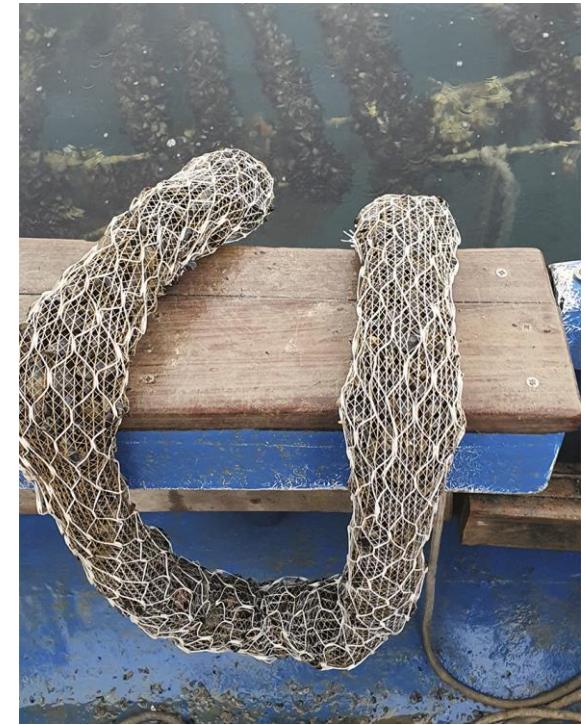


ROMPLASTICA

Ittica Del Giudice

Miticoltori Associati

AGROCOOP



## IL PROGETTO LIFE MUSCLES

Circular innovation to protect the sea



### INCREMENTARE IL RICICLO DELLE RETI

Implementare il processo di riciclo sviluppato da Enea ed AMA, in collaborazione con Legambiente



### COINVOLGERE GLI STAKEHOLDERS

Promuovere la partecipazione attiva di miticoltori e distributori, rendendoli consapevoli dei dati del problema



### AUMENTARE L'USO DELLE RETI BIODEGRADABILI

Utilizzando le innovative reti in mater-bi per sì avrebbe una diminuzione della dispersione di reti



### DIFFONDERE I DATI DI RICERCA

La ricerca deve rappresentare un faro per lo sviluppo di soluzioni sostenibili e di materiali alternativi



### SENSIBILIZZARE I CONSUMATORI

Utilizzando un'etichetta che indica l'acquisto di Cozze da allevamento sostenibile, promuovendo l'innovazione circolare





# From the Diagnosis to Mitigation

# THE MED MITIGATION MEASURES



Setting up a SUPs-free network of coastal food and beverage outlets



Setting up the adopt-a-beach scheme



Establishing an ALDFG scheme to tackle fisheries & aquaculture litter



Promoting the sustainable management of mussel farming nets



Developing an awareness raising campaign for cigarette-butt free beaches



Developing a network of collection points for beverage containers



Setting up a reusable cup delivery system for beach bars

FIGURINE DALLA 321 ALLA 326



COMPLETANDO IL TUO ALBUM CONTRIBUISCI A METTERE A DISPOSIZIONE DEI PLASTIC BUSTERS, GLI SCIENZIATI DELL'UNIVERSITÀ DI SIENA, IL CATAMARANO SALVADELFINI ATTREZZATO PER LA RACCOLTA DELLE MICROPLASTICHE E LO STUDIO DEGLI ANIMALI MARINI DEL MEDITERRANEO!

## UN'INCREDIBILE AVVENTURA SOTTOMARINA!

I NASONI INSIEME AI PLASTIC BUSTERS STANNO PER IMMERGERSI NELLE ACQUE DEL MEDITERRANEO PER PROVARE I NUOVI CASCHI SUBACQUEI INVENTATI DA KOKO.

### IL NOSTRO SOGNO È UN MARE PULITO

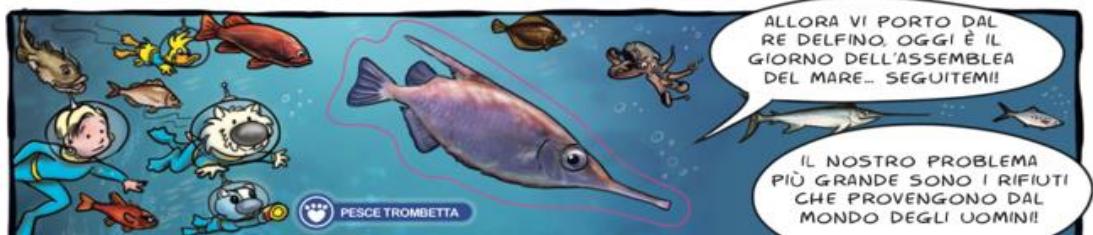


© Pizzardi



TORDO FISCHIETTO

SIAMO QUI PER INTERVISTARVI...



DELFINO



TARTARUGA CARETTA CARETTA



...E COL TEMPO SI TRASFORMANO IN PICCOLI FRAMMENTI: LE MICROPLASTICHE, CHE POSSIAMO INGERIRE INSIEME AL CIBO!



CI POTETE AIUTARE A SALVARE IL MARE IN CUI VIVIAMO?



DA ANNI INSIEME AGLI AMICI NASONI SPIEGHIAMO AI BAMBINI CHE BISOGNA PRODURRE MENO RIFIUTI E NON ABBANDONARLI NELL'AMBIENTE...



81

### MISSIONE POSSIBILE 2023 SPIAGGE PULITE PER UN MARE PULITO

VUOI RIPULIRE UNA SPIAGGIA O UN FONDAL MARINO INSIEME A NOI? TI ASPETTIAMO IL 15 E IL 22 APRILE: TROVI TUTTE LE INFORMAZIONI SUL SITO WWW.PIZZARDIEDITORE.IT

PORTA LE DOPPIE PER SCAMBIALI CON GLI ALTRI CUCCIOLOTTI EXPLORER! PASSAPAROLA!

RICORDA CHE OGNI GIORNO È QUELLO GIUSTO PER RIPULIRE UN PRATO, UN GIARDINO O LA SPIAGGIA VICINO A CASA TUA (MA SEMPRE IN COMPAGNIA DI UN ADULTO). RACCONTACI LA TUA MISSIONE POSSIBILE!



SCOPRI ALTRE INFORMAZIONI SU QUESTO PROGETTO NELLA SEZIONE "PLASTIC BUSTERS" DEL SITO WWW.PIZZARDIEDITORE.IT DOVE TROVI ANCHE DELLE DIVERTENTI SCHEDE DIDATTICHE!

