

Posidonia meadow a major goal of [PROTECTION]



Alliance Posidonia
Tous engagés pour une Méditerranée vivante et préservée



ÉCOGESTES méditerranée
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

live and respect the sea daily



ÉCOGESTES méditerranée

The Posidonia meadow is a refuge for a quarter of underwater animal and vegetal species, it's a pole for biodiversity. It produces large quantities of plant matter and oxygen. It traps and settles the sediments, stabilizes the seabed and stores carbon.



© Florent Beau

The meadows cover 66% of seabed around Corsica and 34% of the seabed along the continent.



© Parc national de Port-Cros

On the coastline, dead leaves of Posidonia accumulate to form benches that protect the beaches and diminish their erosion.

More than 30 years of Protection

Across the Mediterranean Sea, Posidonia, the meadows and the benches it forms on the beaches, are subject to protections on multiple levels. They are protected since 1988 in France: it is forbidden "to destroy, to collect, to put it up for sale, to sale or to buy and to use any or all parts of the plant alive or dead."

But a real pressure



© Marine Poudain - Parc national de Port-Cros

Anchorage poses a real pressure and has become the main threat to the Posidonia meadow. In a decade, some areas have lost more than 100 ha of meadows.

Anchor like a pro:

- Use the Nav&Co and Donia app to recognize the seabed and avoid anchoring in meadows.
- Look for sandy areas.
- Lift the anchor in front of the boat.



Ecogestes Méditerranée is a partnership between:

- environmental education non profit organisations,
- structures of natural spaces management,
- institutions and local communities,
- foundations, unions, and private companies.

and coordinate by the **CIPIE des îles de Lérins et Pays d'Azur.**

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My [ECOGESTES] to live and respect the [SEA] daily

Posidonia oceanica, a plant with a very slow growth



© Patrice Fancour

Posidonia lives from the surface to 40 meters deep on the Mediterranean coastline. It is missing from the river mouths and brackish ponds as it can't handle lower salinities.

It is made of creeping stems, buried in the sediment, called rhizomes, that end with a group of 4 to 8 leaves, from 20 to 80 cm long. The rhizomes also carry roots, that dig until 70 cm in the sediment.

Its flowering occurs in Autumn. It takes 6 to 9 months for the fruits to be ripe. In the shape of an olive, the fruits carry a singular seed and can ground on the shore. But the reproduction of Posidonia is mostly achieved through cuttings and the flowering remains a rare event.



© Patrice Fancour

ts growth is very slow (few cm per year) and once destroyed, the meadow cannot be restored.

The meadows and the Protected Marine Areas (AMP)

The AMP (Protected Marine Areas) are one of the answers for the protection of the Posidonia meadow. The national parks, natural marine parks, Natura 2000 sites or natural reserves cover in the Mediterranean Sea more than 70% of the coastline. They protect, in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur 84% of the meadow (dead or alive), in Occitanie 96% and in Corsica 86%.

Strong actions are taken there in terms of awareness, with frequent field campaigns. Some threatened sectors have become forbidden for anchorage.

Coastal zone managements have already been implemented, such as the replacing of the regulatory buoyage (300 m...) into ecological anchors and the implementing of anchoring zones and light equipment.

For the upcoming years, the dynamic of protection continues with an ambitious action plan, initiated by public authorities, communities and maritime players, that will aim for the reduction of anchorage pressure on the meadow: reinforcement of the regulation, execution of organized anchoring, surveillance of the meadow, development of apps like **Nav&Co** and **Donia** (QR codes below).



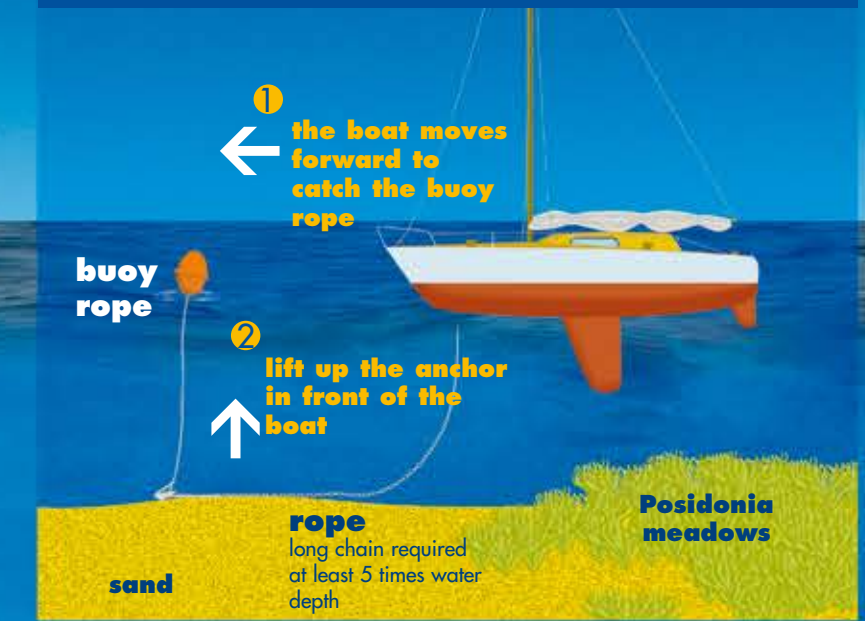
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Let's work together to preserve the [sea]

Nav&co app helps you avoid anchoring in Posidonia meadows



Professional fishing

Respect the work of fishermen and their dedicated fishing areas by manoeuvring at more than 150m away from a fishing boat.

To find a net and its demarcation, identify two buoys most often one of them is black and the other is red. It is forbidden to moor your boat to a fishing buoy.



Underwater fishing

Authorized from 16 years old. A specific insurance and a warning buoy are mandatory. It is forbidden to have diving equipments and spear fishing guns at the same time on board.

- #3 Get informed on the authorized areas and time periods.
- #3 Respect the protected species and the minimal sizes and follow the marking obligations.



Fishing

Catching small fishes causes the reduction of resources.

- #3 Respect minimum catch sizes and authorized equipment. Respect the regulations depending on specific protected marine areas.

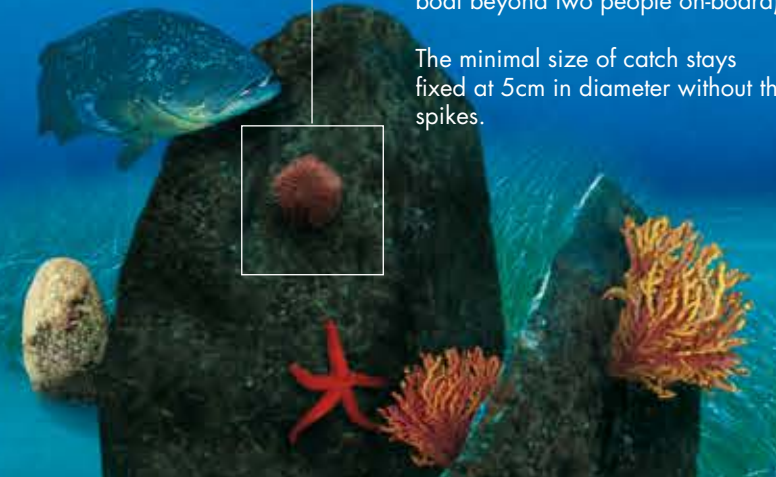


Sea urchins picking

In Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, sea urchin fishing, no matter with what means, is forbidden from March 1st to December 14st.

- #3 Outside of this time period, the amount is limited to four dozens sea urchins per fisherman and per day (with a maximum of ten dozens per boat beyond two people on-board).

The minimal size of catch stays fixed at 5cm in diameter without the spikes.



Scuba diving

Remember to signalise your position with the alpha flag.

- #3 Take part in protecting the environment by respecting these instructions: don't bring anything to the surface, don't feed the fishes, avoid contact with the floor (hands and fins), certain species are fragile.



Shell picking

In the Bouches-du-Rhône, the amount of shell picked is limited for certain species per person and per day, like tellines or clams.

- #3 This resource is fragile, respect the given instructions.



Living in the harbour and on board

Dishes at sea

- #1 Use products of plant origin, or even better, wait to be at the berth.

Maintenance of your boat

- #1 Prefer products of plant origin offering better environmental guarantee. Be careful with the amounts you use.

Sunscreens

The layers of oil create a screen on the sea surface, decreasing the photosynthesis vital to life.

Avoid sunscreen oils and protect yourself with sun-cream or any other product soluble in water.

Sanitary

- #2 Preferably use the harbor's sanitary facilities when at the berth. Ask about the availability of washing-up facilities on the port.

Conveniences at sea

- #2 Use the marine toilets far from the bathing areas. Discharge is prohibited from 0 to 12 nautical miles.

Equip your ship with "black water" tanks. More and more harbours are equipped with drainage systems.

Waste

- #4 Reduce the amount of wrapping and plastics and organize recycling on board.

Bring the recycled waste to the harbour's voluntary drop-off points. For hazardous waste from careening and boat maintenance (batteries, oil, diesel filters, etc.), use the Clean point.

Fuelling

- #5 In case there is no equipped refuelling station, check with the port to find out whether manual refuelling is permitted. If so, preferably use a hand pump.

Your engine

- #5 Maintain and revise your motor frequently, it will work better, consume, pollute and make noise less.

- #8 Use biodegradable lubricants of plant origin that can't last in the aquatic milieu when released or combusted.

Discover videos and best practices at sea and in the harbor



Protected species
Capture and recreational fishing are completely forbidden and penalized.

- Noble pen shell or fan mussel (*Pinna nobilis*)
- Ribbed Mediterranean limpet (*Patella ferruginea*)
- Mediterranean slipper lobster (*Scyllarides latus*)
- Date shell or date mussel (*Lithophaga lithophaga*)
- Loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*)
- Monk seals
- Cetaceans

- Razza ondulata (*Raja undulata*)
- Posidonia meadow (*Posidonia oceanica*)
- Groupers*
- Brown meagre or corb* (*Sciaena umbra*)

* In 2023, the French government has decided to extend by 10 years the moratorium on fishing for groupers, protected since 1993, and corbs, protected since 2013. This measure has also been extended to four other grouper species in Corsica.

Find out more about:
www.ecogestes-mediterranee.fr