

STRATEGIC PROJECT

Enhancing management approach and mitigation measures against jellyfish proliferation impacts



MED-JELLYRISK

Integrated monitoring of jellyfish outbreaks under anthropogenic and climatic impacts in the Mediterranean sea: trophic and socio-economic risks



Project
funded by the
EUROPEAN UNION



REGIONE AUTONOMA DE SARDIGNA
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The project in brief

The Mediterranean coasts are facing increasing jellyfish outbreaks resulting from a wide variety of human activities including maritime transport, exploitation of living resources, discharges together with the impact of climate change. Jellyfish proliferation represents a growing threat for human and coastal activities (mainly leisure and aquaculture). Every summer 2 million bathers are affected by jellyfish stings meaning high cost of basic first aid treatments for the national health services. The situation has worsened over the last years due to the apparition of new dangerous varieties.

Against the threat posed by jellyfishes for tourism in the Mediterranean area, **MED-JELLYRISK** constitutes the first-ever attempt at cross-border level in order to assess the socio-economic impacts of jellyfish blooms and implement mitigation countermeasures.

Beneficiary

National Interuniversity Consortium for Marine Sciences (Italy, Lazio)

Partnership

1. Spanish Research Council - Institute of Marine Sciences (Spain, Cataluña)
2. University of Malta (Malta)
3. Faculty of Sciences of Bizerte (Tunisia, Bizerte)
4. Tunisian National Institute of Agronomy (Tunisia, Tunis)

Specific objective

To promote a cross-border approach in 10 selected Mediterranean Coastal Zones (MCZ) to assess, prevent, mitigate and foresee the negative natural, health and economic impacts of jellyfish proliferations

Expected results

- Protecting nets, info panels, and first aid kits supplied and installed in 20 Mediterranean coastal sites
- Reduction of adult jellyfish abundance achieved (at least 75%) in safe bathing areas with respect to unprotected areas
- Human and climate-related jellyfish proliferation emergencies and hazards identified and assessed across MCZs from Spain, Italy, Malta and Tunisia
- Risk mapping and shared databases for jellyfish proliferations set up, updated and applied by stakeholders to rank water quality and safety areas in MCZs
- Concerned stakeholders in the MCZs trained and capable to apply integrated jellyfish monitoring protocols
- Risk of jellyfish impacts understood by general and professional public in the operations areas

Main activities

- Creation of 20 safe bathing areas for general public through the deployment of 2 kilometres of protective nets, distributed over 10 selected MCZs
- Installation of 100 informative warning panels and distribution of 100 first aid boxes at 20 key tourist hot spots within 10 MCZs
- Yearly summer school on “Jellyfish blooms in the Mediterranean sea” and training courses for jellyfish risk managers and MCZ operators
- Development of a Smartphone application for jellyfish mapping
- Production of 10.000 jellyfish popular science hand-outs

Target groups

- Regional competent administrations
- Agencies/institutions in charge of tourism management
- Fishery and aquaculture organisations

Final beneficiaries

- Tourists (bathers)
- Coastal zone user groups (e.g. diving clubs, nautical clubs)
- Residents of the coastal zones

Duration

36 months (December 2012 - December 2015)

Budget

- Total budget: € 2.593.194
- Programme contribution: € 2.333.875 (90%)
- Project co-financing: € 259.319 (10%)

Website

www.jellyrisk.eu

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