

FutureMARES

Science for Policy



ISABEL SOUSA PINTO

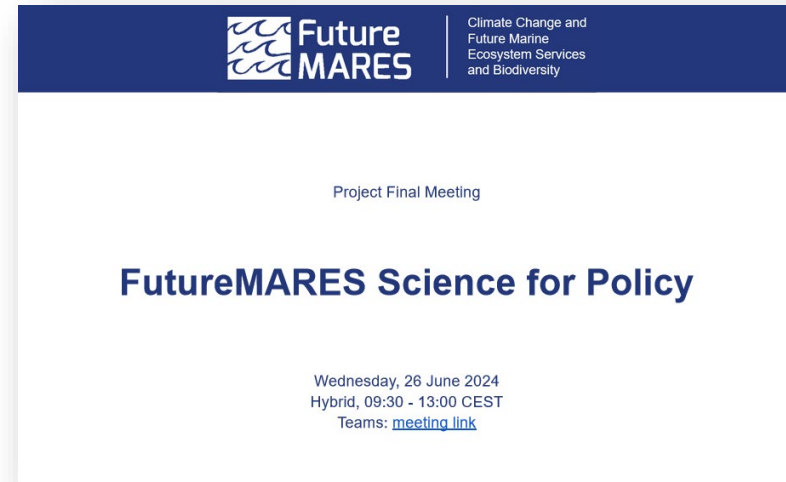
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TEXEL, 26 JUNE 2024



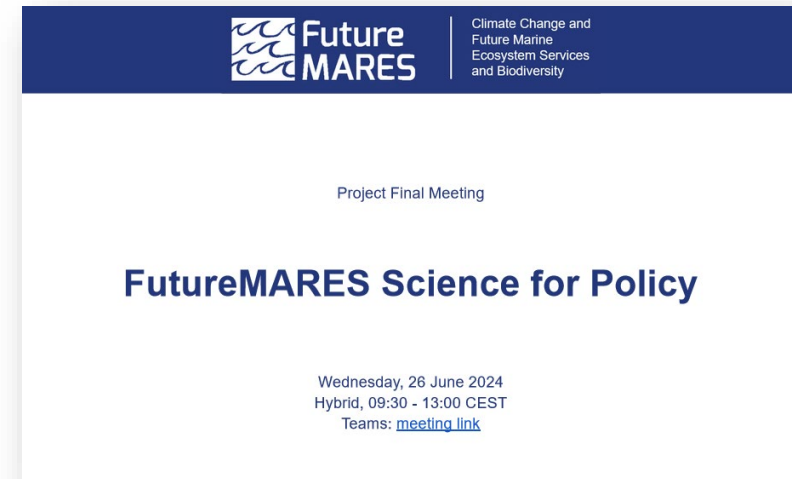
Objectives

- Present **policy relevant results** to policy makers, and **receive their feedback**.
- Coordinator presents FutureMARES
- Project experts
 - present 1-2 key results/tools produced by FuMa
 - explain how these results/tools can inform policymaking;
 - identify expectations or requests for support from policy makers for the uptake of these key results/tools.
- Presentations will be followed by interactive discussions with policymakers to **collect feedback** on the work presented



Expected Outcomes

1. Results and tools are **linked to specific EU policies**, enhancing their relevance and application
2. Expectations and requests for support from policymakers for the **uptake of FuMA results** and tools are identified and addressed
3. Opportunities to **embed the knowledge** produced by FuMA in the policy landscape are seized
4. Specific **contributions made by FuMA are known and recognised** by policymakers



Session 1 – Climate Sensitivity and Resilience of Marine Biodiversity

Moderator: Myron Peck		
9:40 - 9:50	Climate Exposure of European Marine Areas: Hotspots and refugia	Momme Butenschön, CMCC
9:50 - 10:00	Building Blocks of Marine Biodiversity: Climate sensitivity and resilience	Gil Rilov, IOLR
10:00 - 10:30	Interactive discussion with policymakers and policy-related stakeholders	In the panel: Momme Butenschön, Gil Rilov, Katharina Alter, and policymakers



Session 2 – Effective Restoration and Conservation Strategies for Marine Species and Habitats

Moderator: Isabel Sousa Pinto		
11:00 - 11:10	Climate-smart Nature-based Solutions	Ana Queirós, PML
11:10 - 11:20	Big data and ecosystem indicators	Jose Fernandes, AZTI
11:20 - 11:30	Marine Restoration	Dorte Krause- Jensen, Aarhus University
11:30 - 12:00	Interactive discussion with policymakers and policy-related stakeholders	In the panel: Jose Fernandes, Dorte Krause-Jensen, Ana Queirós, and policymakers



Session 3 – Marine Ecosystem Services and Sustainable Harvesting in a Future Climate

Moderator: Chris Lynam		
12:00 - 12:10	Digital marine labs as experiments to investigate the effects of socio-political scenarios with combined Nature-based Solutions and Nature-inclusive Harvesting	Marta Coll, ICM-CSIC
12:10 - 12:20	Evaluating the effectiveness of Nature-based Solutions using Climate Risk Assessments	Juan Bueno, UVigo (online)
12:20 - 12:30	Ecosystem Services valuation for Nature-based Solutions assessments	Sarah Simons, Thünen Institute
12:30 - 12:55	Interactive discussion with policymakers and policy-related stakeholders	In the panel: Marta Coll, Juan Bueno, Sarah Simons, and policymakers



FutureMARES Science for Policy



Introduction to the FutureMARES Program *(Climate Change and Future Marine Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity)*

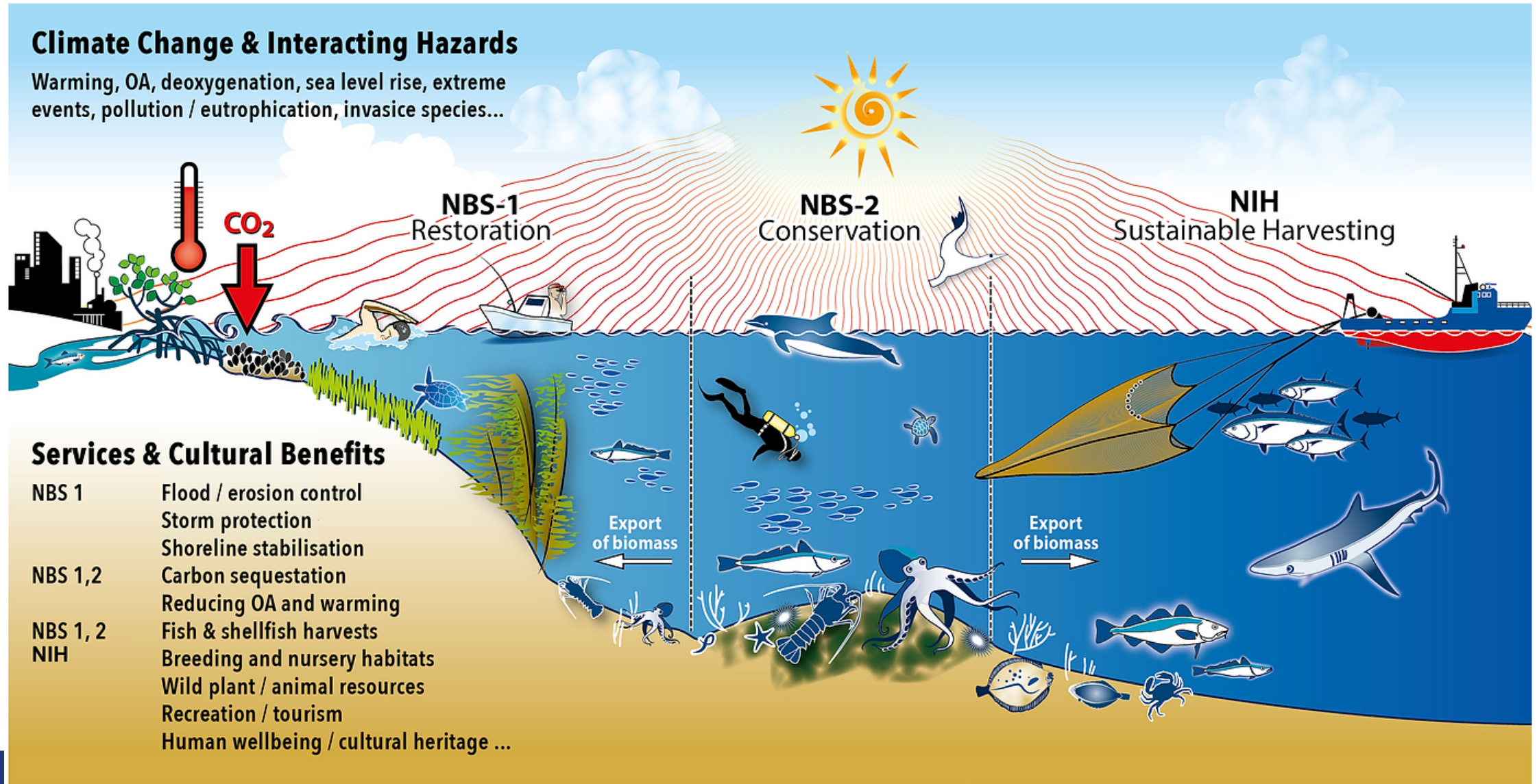


Myron A. Peck and whole FutureMARES team

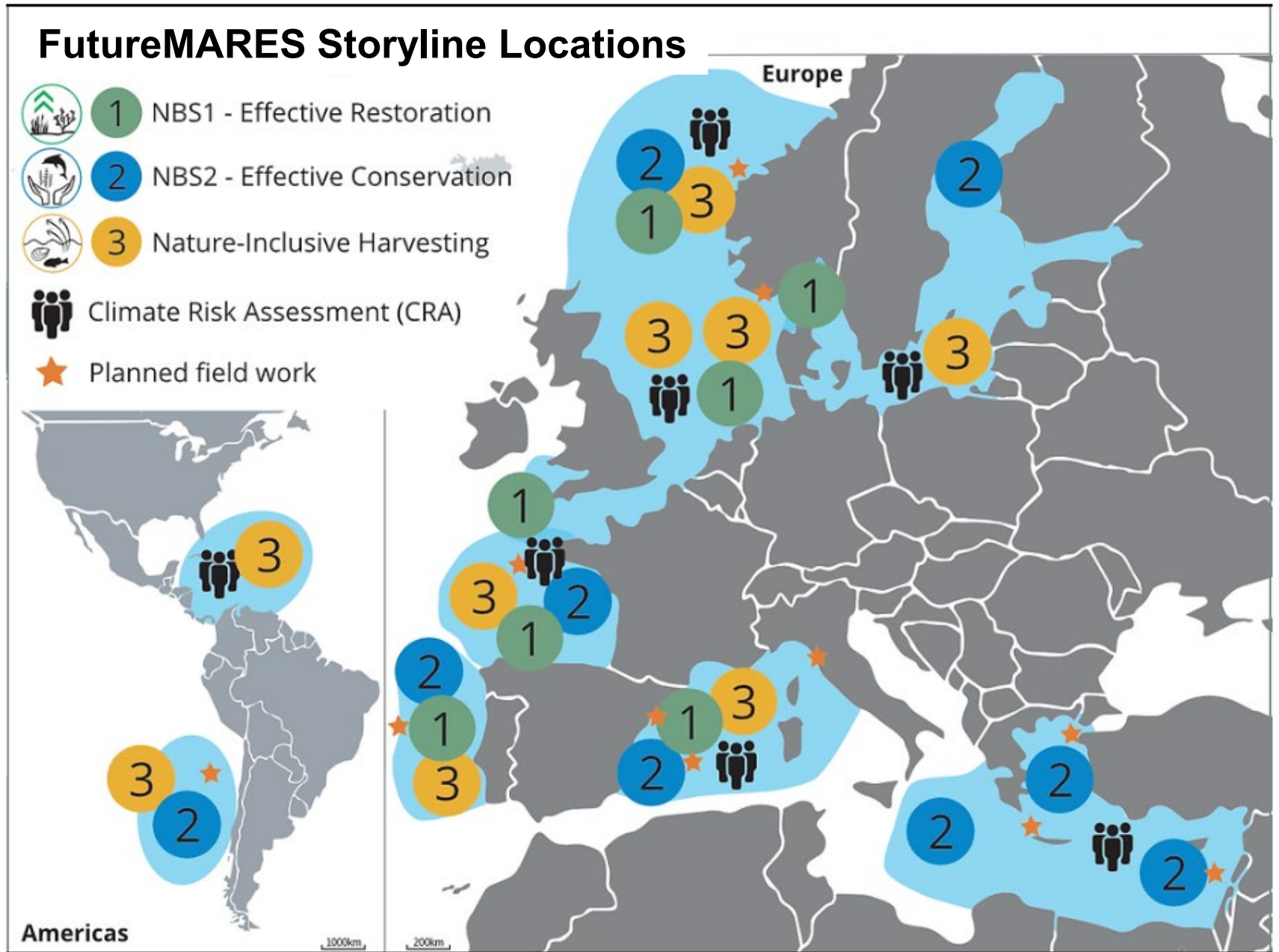
TEXEL, 26 JUNE 2024



Goal: Provide socially and economically viable actions, strategies and Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change adaptation and mitigation to safeguard future biodiversity, and ecosystem functions, maximising natural capital and its delivery of services from marine ecosystems.



3 Case Studies 40 “Storylines”

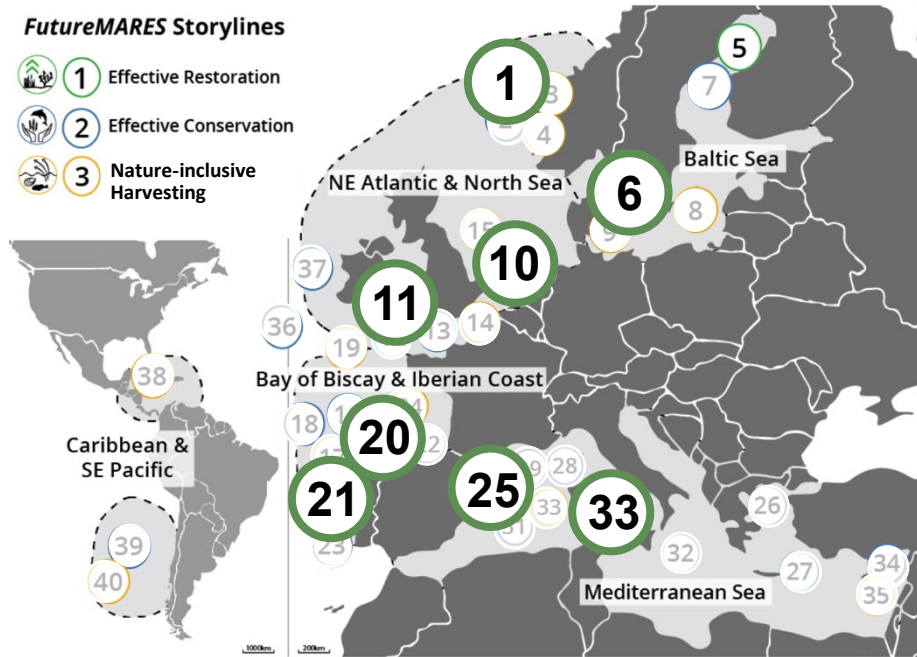


NBS1: Restoration of Habitat-forming species Storylines

REEF-FORMING ORGANISMS

FutureMARES Storylines

- 1 Effective Restoration
- 2 Effective Conservation
- 3 Nature-inclusive Harvesting



Oyster/mussels
Dutch coast,
NE Atl./North Sea



KELP/MACROALGAL

Kelp
Norwegian Coast, NE Atl./North Sea

Seaweeds, seagrasses
NE Baltic Sea

Kelp
Portugal, Iberian & Bay of Biscay

SEAGRASS
Zostera marina
Denmark, SW Baltic
Sea)



Zostera noltei
Iberian & Bay of Biscay

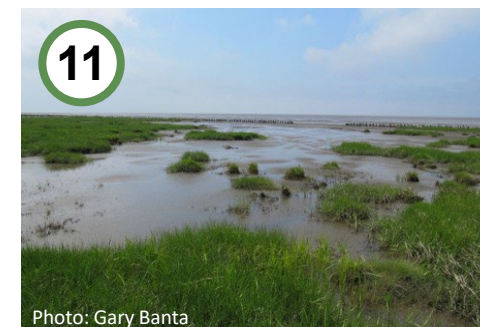
Posidonia oceanica
Western Mediterranean

33

Ecosystem functions and services

- Coastal protection
- Carbon sequestration
- Biodiversity
- Seawater quality/clarity
- ...

Climate change
adaptation & mitigation
Fisheries, tourism,
cultural activities



SALTMARSH

Saltmarsh habitats
NE Atlantic/
North Sea (Torridge)

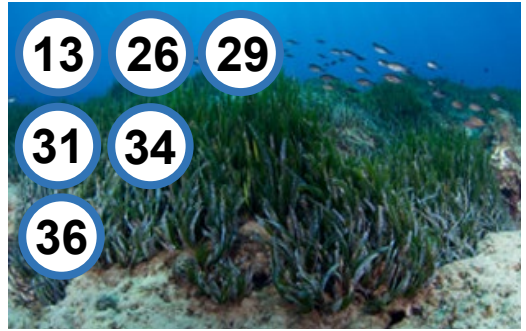


NBS2: Effective Conservation Storylines

HABITAT-FORMING SPECIES

Seagrasses

North Sea,
Bay of Biscay
Karpathos/Greece
NW Mediterranean



Seaweeds / Algal Turf

NE Baltic Sea
SE Mediterranean Sea



Corals

W Mediterranean
E Mediterranean



Kelp

Norwegian Coast
North Sea
N Portugal



TRANSITIONAL WATERS

Diadromous species
Marine-estuarine opportunists
Rocky Intertidal Coasts
Atlantic



CHARISMATIC SPECIES

Mediterranean Sea



SOFT SHELF SEABED

North Sea

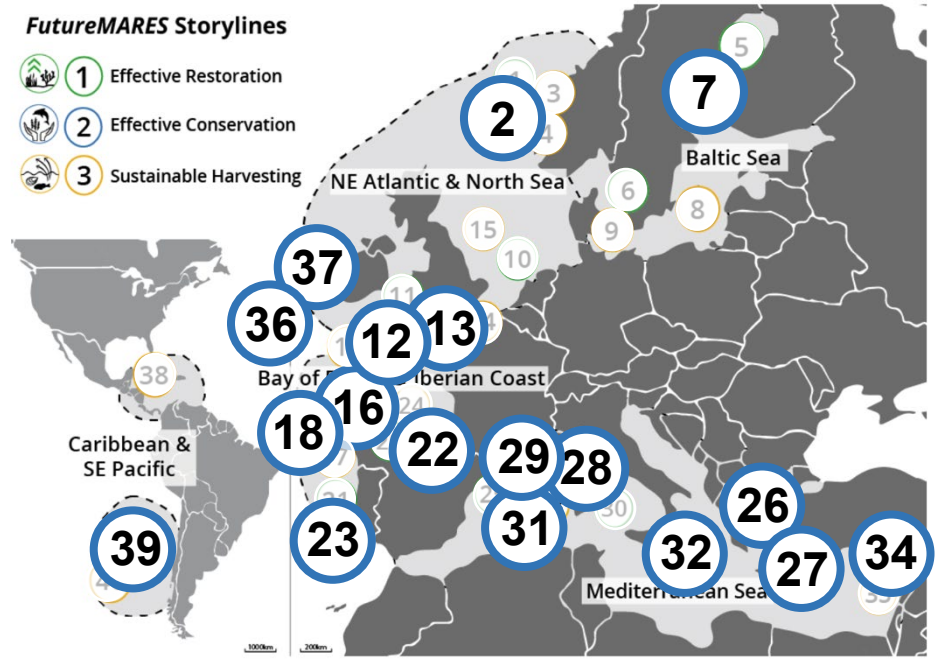
ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Chile



FutureMARES Storylines

- 1 Effective Restoration
- 2 Effective Conservation
- 3 Sustainable Harvesting



Enhance effectiveness of Marine Protected Area (MPA) networks as part of climate adaptation planning.

Examples:

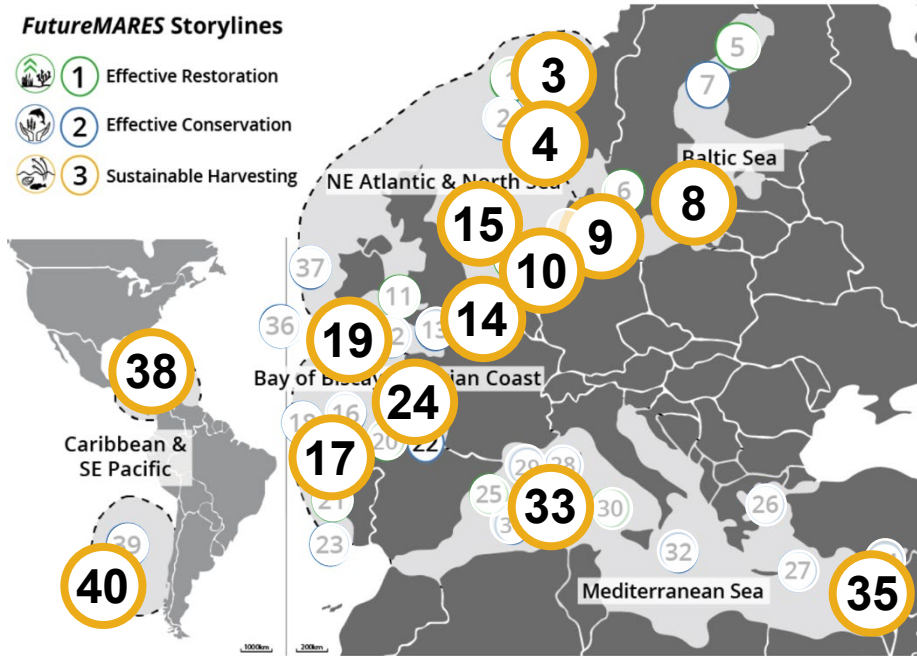
- Identify climate refugia to set MPAs at regional and subregional scales
- Develop adaptation action plans



NIH: Nature-inclusive Harvesting Storylines

FutureMARES Storylines

- 1 Effective Restoration
- 2 Effective Conservation
- 3 Sustainable Harvesting



Sustainable seafood harvesting

Fisheries & aquaculture

Flexible, adaptive management

Ecosystem-based approach

Cultural heritage

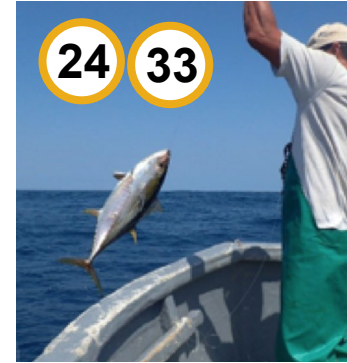
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CC adaptation

Sustainable production,

Blue Growth

ARTISANAL FISHERIES
Bay of Biscay
NW Mediterranean



CONCH/LOBSTER FISHING

Belize

ECOSYSTEM APPROACH

Chile

INDUSTRIAL FISHING

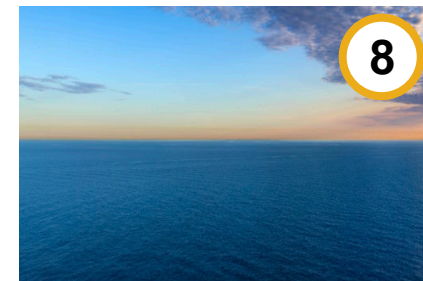
Bay of Biscay
SE Mediterranean
NW Mediterranean
North Sea



FISH – ATLANTIC & SCANDINAVIAN

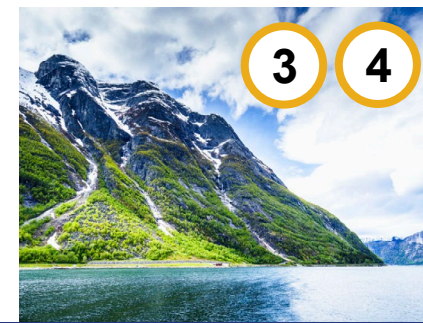
Marine and upstream waters

MPAs across basins
Baltic Sea



SUSTAINABLE MUSSEL CULTURE
SW Baltic Sea

SUSTAINABLE SALMON AQUACULTURE
Norway



SEAWEED & OYSTERS
NE Atlantic, North Sea

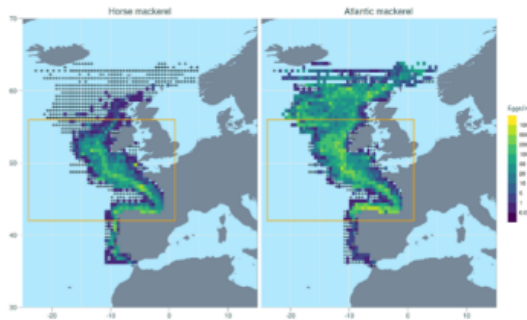


UNDERSTANDING HISTORICAL CHANGES



01

- **Time series:** 4 decades, 1,817 marine species, 65 monitoring programs
- **Northeast Atlantic, Baltic and Mediterranean Seas**
- Historical **changes in species and habitats** related to climate change
- Community Temperature Index (CTI)
- **Warning:** rising temperatures lead to changes in marine biodiversity across Europe!

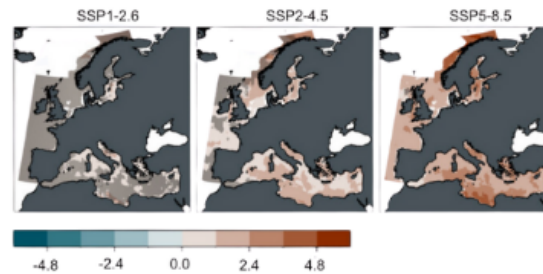


CLIMATE CHANGE HOTSPOTS & REFUGIA



02

- **Warming and acidification** projected for four European Seas
- Mediterranean Sea and subpolar regions along the coast of northern Norway are likely **climate change hotspots**
- Temperate mid-latitude shelf seas are less affected
- **Ocean acidification** highest in Bay of Biscay, southern Adriatic and Aegean Seas
- **Deoxygenation** expected highest in deeper parts of Western Mediterranean Sea due to reduced vertical mixing

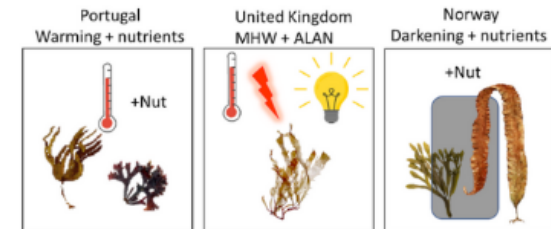


MECHANISTIC RESPONSES TO CHANGE



03

- **Complex interactions** between different **climate change** (e.g., warming) and **local stressors** (e.g., artificial light at night) and how they together impact marine species
- Evidence for **thermal superiority of tropical non-native invaders** over native species in **Mediterranean Sea**, suggesting that they will function much better under future ocean warming than natives
- **Macrophyte species** tested in the project have **inherent adaptation** to local thermal conditions within their distributional range

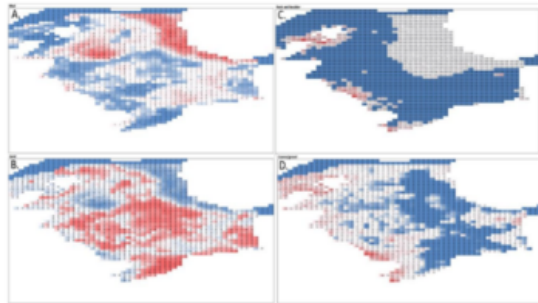




04

MODELLING AND MAPPING FUTURE CHANGE

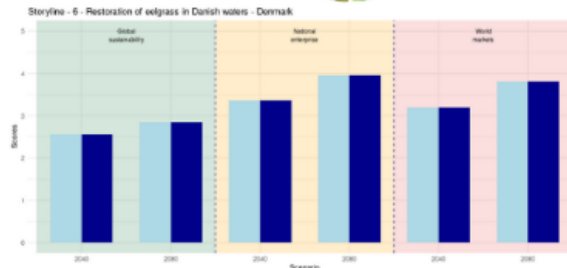
- **Improved habitat suitability models** for key restoration and conservation species
- **Advanced ecosystem simulations** projecting tradeoffs in scenarios of NBS and NIH implementation
- **Maps for marine spatial planning** of NBS, NIH in a future climate
- **Cooperation with NGO FairSeas** (Ireland) mapping 'brightspots' for conservation



05

CLIMATE RISK ASSESSMENTS (CRAS)

- **Socio-ecological CRAs** that highlighted vulnerable areas
- **NBS can reduce climate risks** across all species, regions and future scenarios, and can lead to positive effects on ecosystem goods and services
- **Cost-benefit analyses** show how NBSs can sustain economies from local to regional scales, under alternative future scenarios



TOOLS AND RESULTS

- 1 Regionalised FutureMARES Scenarios** projecting three different climate futures (following RCPs and SSPs)
- 2 New ecosystem health indicators** contributing to EU Biodiversity Strategy
- 3 Maps of climate hotspots and refugia** as basis for Marine Spatial Planning
- 4 Shiny App - Climate Risk Assessments** enabling users to conduct their own CRAs with/without NBS implementation
- 5 Spatially explicit tools** for visualising future climate change hotspots and refugia across European seas
- 6 Decision-Support Tools** combining GIS with Bayesian Belief Network analysis to show tradeoffs between scenarios and inform policy



Global Sustainability (SSP1-2.6)



Low challenges to mitigation and adaptation
a more sustainable path
commit to achieving development
lower material growth, resource and energy intensity

National Enterprise (SSP3-8.5)



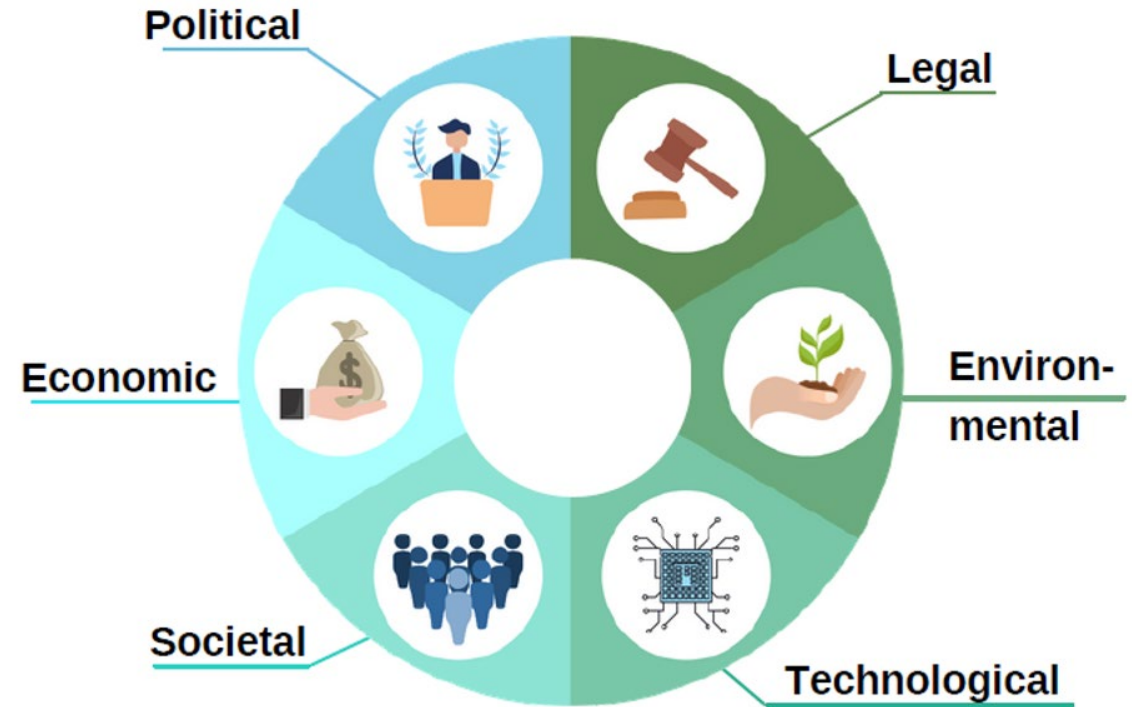
High challenges to mitigation and adaptation
A resurgent nationalism
countries focus on domestic or regional issues
Investments in education and technology decline
low international priority to address environmental concerns

World Markets (SSP5-8.5)

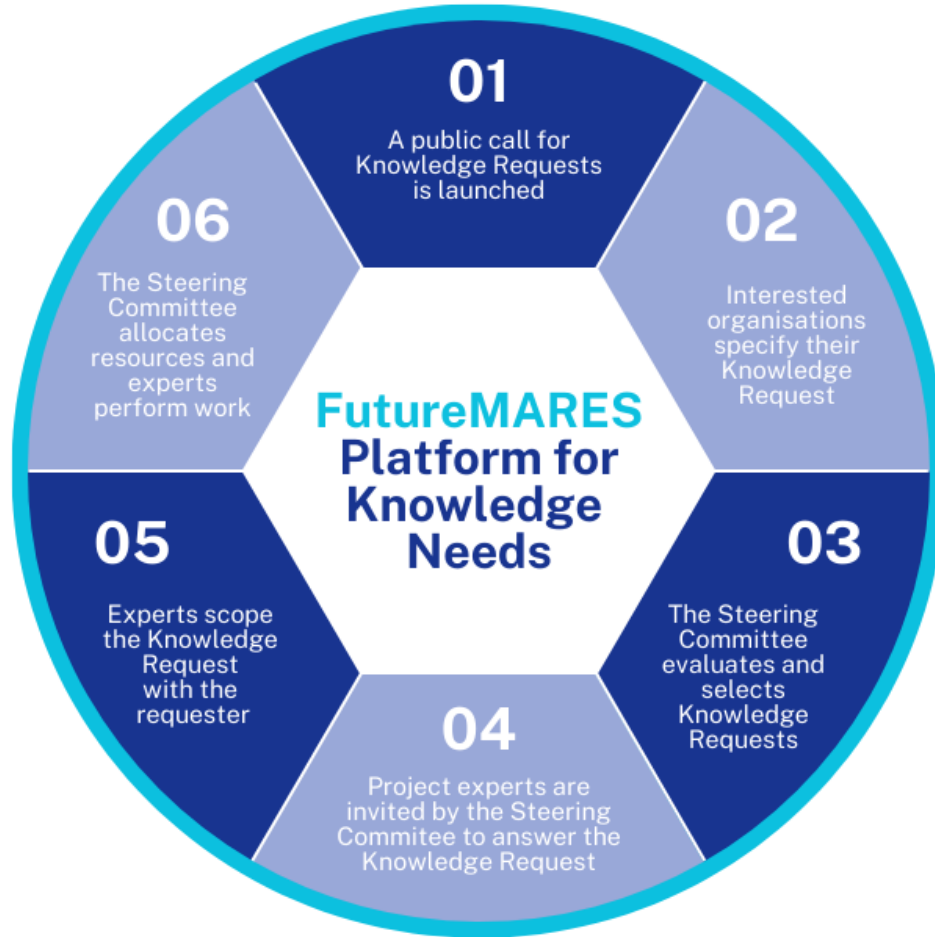


High challenges to mitigation, low challenges to adaptation
competitive markets, innovation and participatory societies
train and educate people for sustainable development
global markets enhance human and social capital
exploiting abundant fossil fuel resources

PESTLE Approach to Create Regional NBS / NIH Scenarios



Knowledge products and expertise at the request of decision-makers



Future MARES

CALL FOR KNOWLEDGE NEEDS for Policy Development and Implementation

Deadline 6th July 2022 *extended*

Policy-makers are invited to identify knowledge needs related to the implementation Nature-based Solutions (NBS) to safeguard marine biodiversity and ecosystems in a future climate, and to request the development of specific knowledge products that are in the area of work from *FutureMARES* (please see below: *FutureMARES* goals).

Interested parties should apply until July 6, 2022 by following the procedure detailed below. The results of the selection will be announced in early August, 2022. Requesters will be contacted and each selected request selected will be announced on the *FutureMARES* website, including the short description provided.

Objective of the call

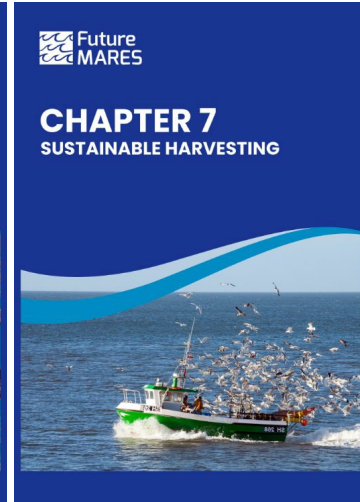
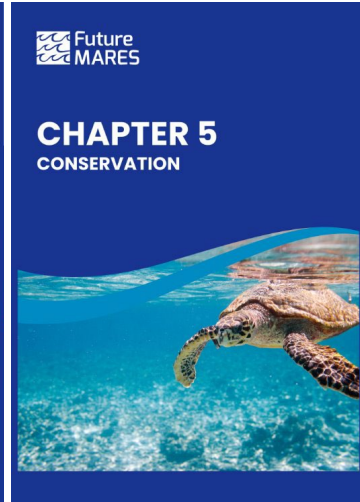
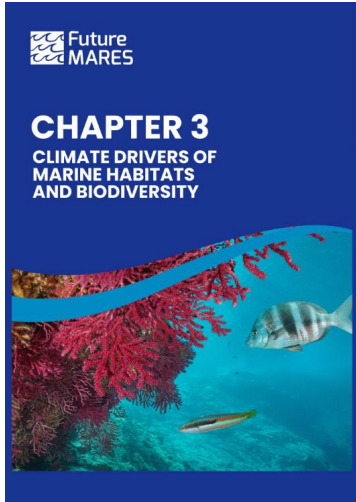
The Call provides policy-makers with a platform where they can put forward requests for development of specific knowledge products. Products can take many forms such as a literature review, stakeholder consultation, establishing specific working groups or generating results from specific research activities (see below). This call allows *FutureMARES* to develop products that support policy development and implementation on emerging issues (e.g. those unforeseen when the project was designed).

Process

Interested parties should apply before the 6th of July 2022. Requesters will need to fill in a form outlining the major elements of the request. In this form, the requester is expected to provide some background on why the topic is of interest at European or regional scale, to which sectors or societal groups it is relevant, and indicate the required outputs. The request form will then be screened by the *FutureMARES* consortium who might contact the requester if any clarification is needed. The selection results will be communicated to the requesters and published on the *FutureMARES* website.

1





Policy Briefs (5)

Future MARES
2024

Policy Brief 1
CLIMATE EXPOSURE OF EUROPEAN MARINE AREAS: HOTSPOTS AND REFUGIA

HIGHLIGHTS

The IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SRCOCC) underscored the critical impacts of climate change on the planet's marine ecosystems. Ocean warming, deoxygenation and acidification are the main stressors affecting marine habitats, and their biodiversity and threatening ocean food production for human communities. The ocean will continue to be shaped this century, and successful climate adaptation and mitigation measures are urgently needed.

Effective actions to adapt to the ongoing changes in our climate require detailed information on the physical and biogeochemical changes expected in our oceans. Current projections, such as the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP6), do not adequately resolve details of changes in regional and coastal zones of marine habitats, areas where strategic planning to sustainably manage marine resources and ecosystem services is most needed.

To offer the best possible information on the impacts of climate change for decision making, FutureMARES developed projections that provide an assessment of local-scale impacts of climate change in coastal zones and shelf areas. The work focuses on the three main stressors impacting marine ecosystems and provides monthly values for 1995-2100 at a resolution of about 5 km for four European regions: North Sea, Baltic Sea, Bay of Biscay and Mediterranean Sea.

These projections serve as the basis to analyse the potential success of a range of marine Nature-based Solutions (NBS), and identify future climate change hotspots as well as refugia for sensitive species.

This policy brief is based on the results of statistical downscaling of climate models for application to European regional seas and coastal zones. The results allow us to better understand expected climate impacts and to identify climate hotspots and refugia for sensitive species, across a range of scenarios and climate models. The projections are important for the successful planning of Nature-based Solutions to help safeguard marine biodiversity and ecosystem services in a future climate.

The Horizon2020 project FutureMARES provides scientific and technical advice, research and strategies that support Nature-based Solutions (NBS) for climate change adaptation and nature-based solutions and coastal zone management. The project's main objective is to provide science-based policy advice on how best to use NBS to protect marine biodiversity and ecosystem services in a future climate.

FutureMARES conducts its research along three future climate change scenarios:

- High emissions: RCP 8.5
- Medium emissions: RCP 6.0
- Low emissions: RCP 2.6

Future MARES
2024

Policy Brief 2
MARINE BIODIVERSITY: CLIMATE SENSITIVITY AND RESILIENCE

HIGHLIGHTS

Climate change poses a huge challenge to implementing effective Nature-based Solutions (NBS) - marine conservation and restoration - and Nature-inclusive Harvesting (NIH) for sustainable seafood harvesting. Local and regional shifts in the composition of marine species have occurred and can be particularly rapid in climate change hotspots where sensitive species decline while warmer-water species thrive. The question is: what biodiversity do we preserve or restore in a future climate? This is more complex in areas also recognized as hotspots of bioerosion where invaders from warmer waters will do better than native species in a future climate.

Marine communities altered by climate change and/or bio-invasion may not always be degraded, or poorly-functioning systems. These altered systems may function similarly and provide similar services as the original, pristine communities, but homogenizing regional diversity. Therefore, marine ecosystem health descriptors such as those used by the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) may be improved by not only considering the richness of native species but also, or alternatively, the complementarity and the functions and services offered by marine communities.

Specifically in regions known to be hotspots of climate change and/or bioinvasion.

Sensitivity to climate-driven pressures may differ within a species as local populations adapt to specific thermal conditions. In these cases, climate sensitivity is best defined by measurements made on local populations along latitudinal or thermal gradients. A climate sensitivity identification allows more reliable future climate-driven change estimations in species distribution. Moreover, differences in sensitivity can also be harnessed to increase the success of future restoration efforts by, for example, selectively using more climate-resilient populations of habitat-forming species.

This policy brief presents FutureMARES results from field and laboratory studies that increase our understanding of historical changes in marine biodiversity and our ability to predict future ecological impacts. FutureMARES aims to give solid science-based knowledge for better management of restoration and conservation targets (Riow et al. 2019) and to improve EU directives on this matter, such as the MSFD as well as the Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) including Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) (Riow et al. 2020).

FutureMARES Storylines

Storylines 1, 2, 3 ●●●●↓
Norwegian Coast, inter-relationships among kelp, sea urchins and cod

Storyline 4 ●●↓
Salmon at Hardangerfjord, Norway

Storyline 6 ●●↓
Restoration of eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) in the south-west Baltic Sea

Storyline 7 ●●↓
Conservation of coastal seaweeds, seagrasses, invertebrates and fish in the north-east Baltic Sea

Storyline 8 ●●↓
Basin scale management & MPAs in the Baltic Sea

Storyline 9 ●●↓
Sustainable mussel culture in the Limfjorden, SW Baltic Sea

Storyline 10 ●●↓
Restoration of oysters in Dutch coastal waters

Storyline 11 ●●↓
Saltmarsh, seagrass and kelp habitats in the North Devon UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve

Storylines 12 & 14 ●●↓
Marine spatial planning (broad coverage)

Storyline 13 ●●↓
Conservation of ecosystem services from shelf (soft) seabed in the North Sea

Storyline 15 ●●↓
Seaweed, mussels, and oysters in the north-east Atlantic and North Sea

Storylines 16 & 17 ●●●↓
Marine-estuarine opportunists in the NE Atlantic Ocean

Storylines 18 & 19 ●●●↓
Diadromous species in the NE Atlantic Ocean, including transitional and upstream waters

Storylines 20, 22, 24 ●●●↓
Nature-based Solutions in the Basque coast of Bay of Biscay: seagrass restoration, protected areas, and sustainable seafood harvesting

Storylines 21 & 23 ●●●↓
Kelp forests & biodiversity in northern Portugal

Storyline 25 ●●↓
Restoration of seagrass (*Posidonia oceanica*) in the Balearic Islands (NW Mediterranean)

Storyline 26 ●●↓
Marine Protected Area network for Aegean biodiversity

Storyline 27 ●●↓
Karpathos & Saria MPAs: seagrasses and meadows, soft/rocky bottom

Storyline 28 ●●↓
Seagrass meadows and macroalgal forests in the MPA network of the Tuscan Archipelago

Storyline 29 ●●↓
Habitat-forming macroalgae / corals in the western Mediterranean Sea

Storylines 30, 31, 33 ●●●↓
Conservation / Fisheries Sustainability in the Western Mediterranean from a regional perspective + synergies

Storyline 32 ●●↓
Basin-wide sea turtle conservation in the Mediterranean Sea

Storyline 34 & 35 ●●●↓
Climate change and bioinvasion impacts on reef & canopy-forming macroalgae and shell fisheries in SE Mediterranean Sea

Storyline 36 ●●↓
Biogeography and biodiversity change on coastal communities at continental scales

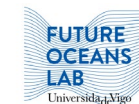
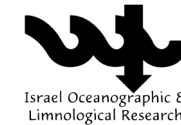
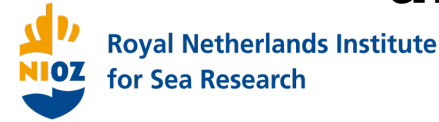
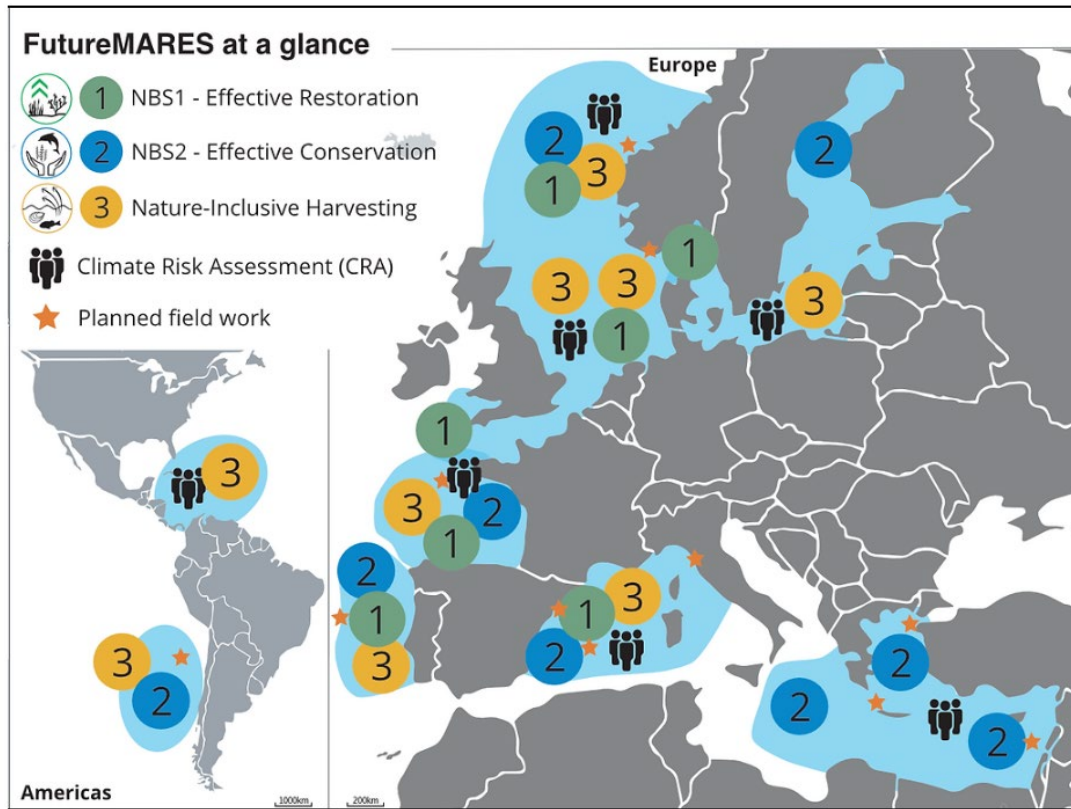
Storyline 37 ●●↓
Offshore European Seas: Climate Change, Biodiversity and resilience

Storyline 38 ●●↓
Sustainable Seafood Harvesting in the Belize EEZ

Storyline 39 & 40 ●●↓
Ecosystem approach for the Chilean island systems



Thank you for joining us. We hope you enjoy and participate in the sessions.



FutureMARES Science for Policy

Session 1 - Climate Exposure of European Marine Areas: Hotspots and refugia



MOMME BUTENSCHÖN (CMCC): T KRISTIANSEN, R BELLERBY, M PECK

TEXEL, 26 JUNE 2024

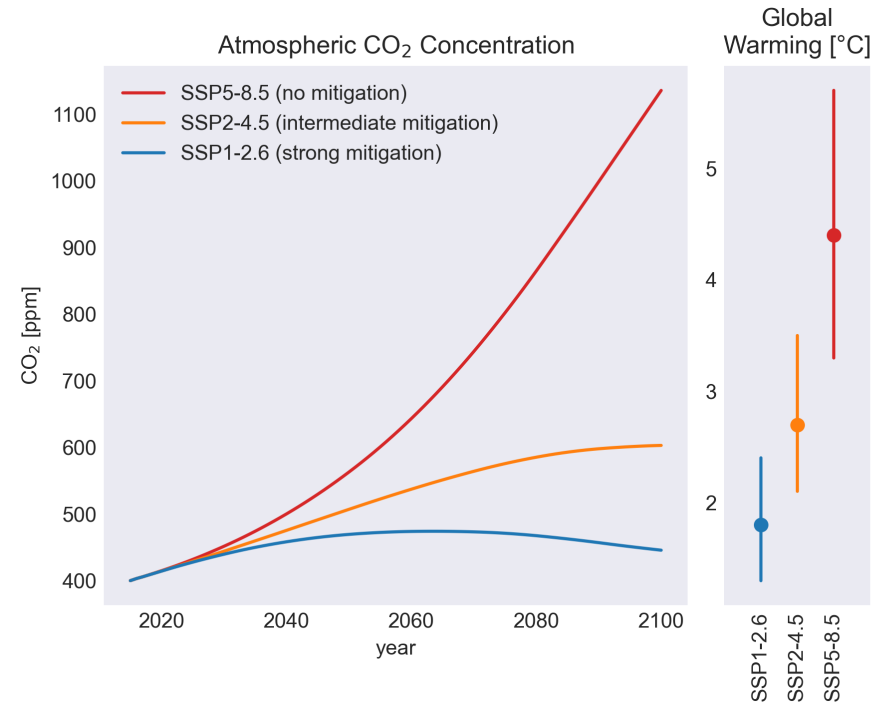


How do global changes cause regional hazards and local perturbations?

Warming: geographical shifts, habitat compression, favors invasion of alien species, metabolic stress, alters reproductive patterns, increases infections

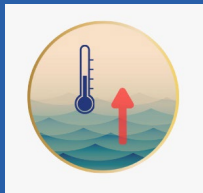
Acidification: structural damage to calcifiers, increases metabolic demands

Deoxygenation: increases hypoxic areas, habitat compression, limits and damages all aerobic organisms




Scenario SSP5-8.5: no mitigation
 Scenario SSP2-4.5: intermediate mitigation
 Scenario SSP1-2.6: strong mitigation

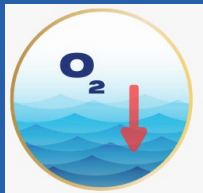
Warming
subsurface T



Acidification
subsurface pH



Deoxygenation
bottom O₂





The knowledge of **exposure levels** of marine habitats to **environmental pressures** under climate change is **fundamental for ecosystem-based management and the assessment and planning of NBS.**

Some information available for specific species in specific locations informing on tolerance intervals and thresholds of resilience.

Thresholds established for a specific location and species cannot be readily extrapolated to other contexts in order to derive a broader picture of hotspots and refuges of marine habitats under climate change.

Environmental data with adequate uncertainty constraints, particularly for future conditions, is available mostly at coarse scale, insufficient to inform ecosystem management adequately.

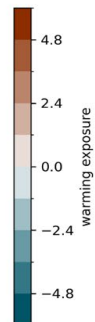
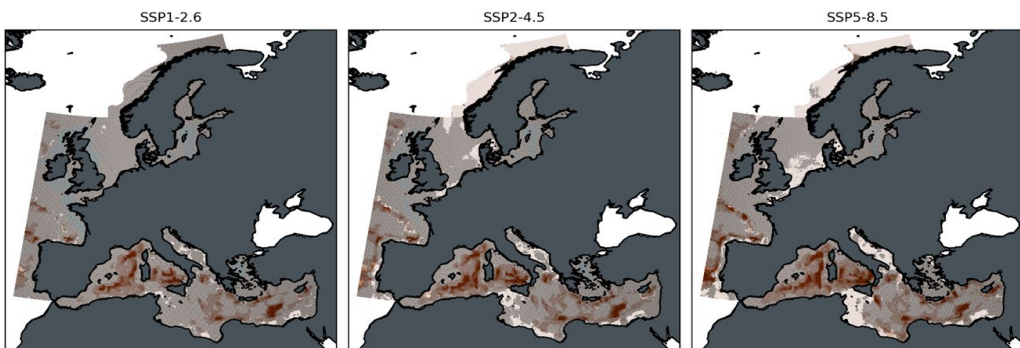
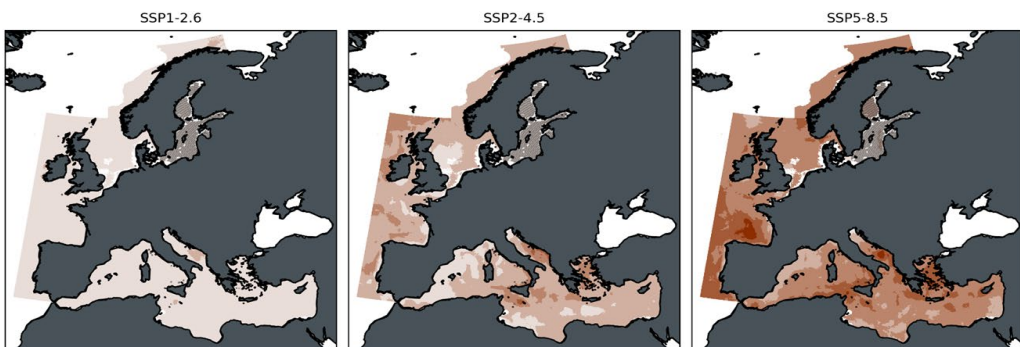
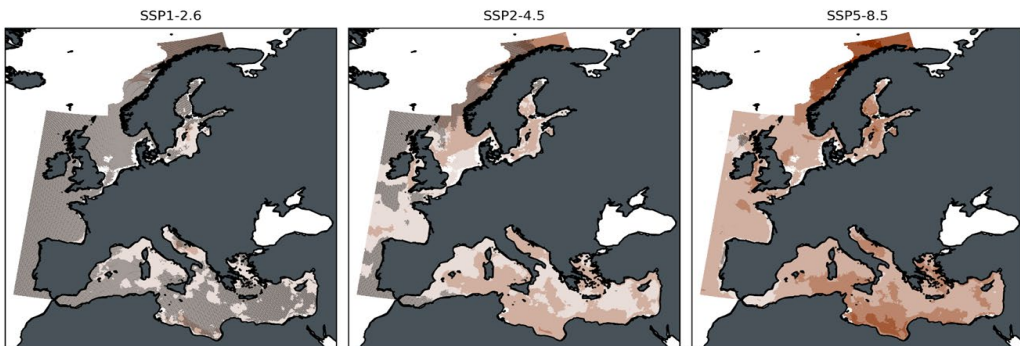
We propose a generalised approach to define and compare the **environmental pressures** of warming, acidification and deoxygenation across the European Seas at local to regional level by **relating the changes in pressure indicators to the natural variability of the system.**



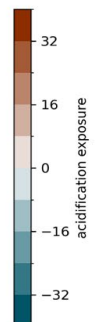
strong mitigation

intermediate

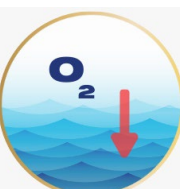
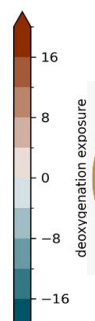
no mitigation



Exposure to **warming up to twice the natural variability** under **unmitigated** conditions. Warming exposure decreases with mitigation to well below 1 under strongly mitigated conditions that do not emerge from model uncertainty for most of the domain.



Acidification levels are significant with respect to model uncertainty **across the entire domain**. Exposure is particularly high for this indicator (up to 32 times the natural variability and more under unmitigated conditions).



Deoxygenation is heterogeneous and more uncertain for most of the domain across all scenarios. Highest levels occur in distinctive parts of the Mediterranean Sea.

Baltic Sea results highly uncertain due to importance of unresolved coastal processes missing in underlying Earth System Models



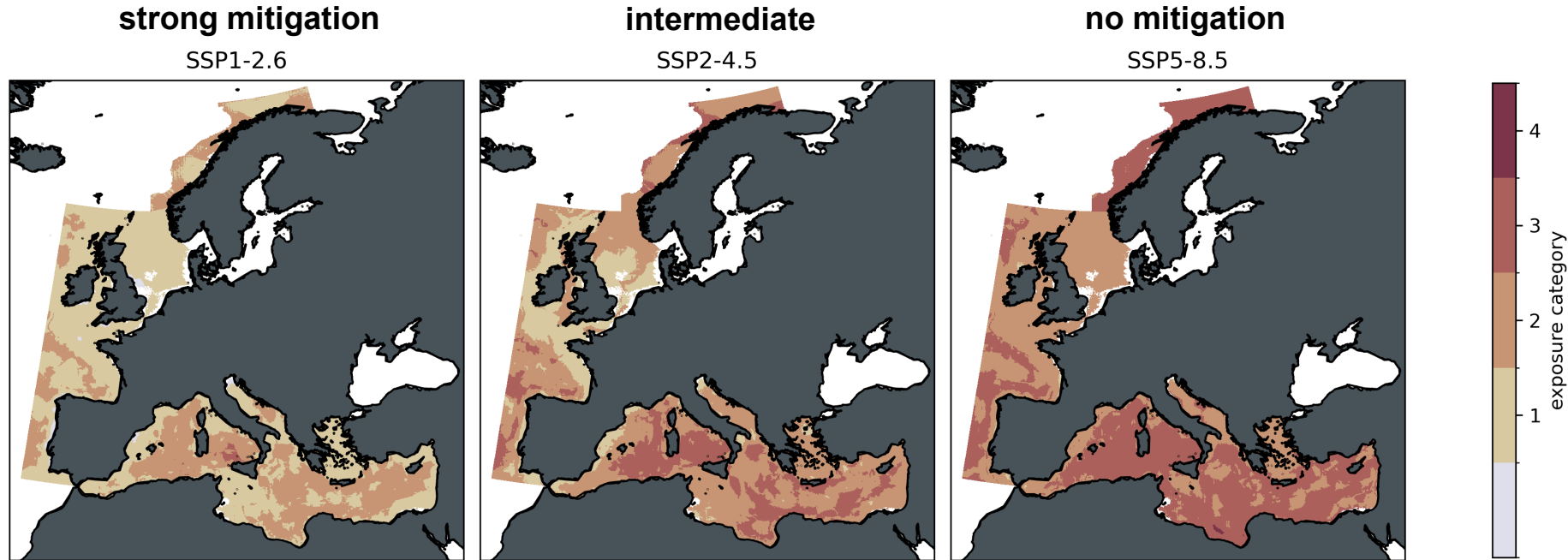
For an equilibrated compound indicator of the different stresses the indicator levels are further classified into categories :

$$C_{\text{pressure}} = \log_2(E_{\text{pressure}})$$

Category 1	Change exceeds natural variability
Category 2	Change exceeds twice the natural variability
Category 3	Change exceeds four times the natural variability
Category 4	Change exceeds eight times the natural variability



Combined ecosystem stress of warming, acidification and deoxygenation



Under **unmitigated change**, the entire domain is subject to stress of **at least category 2**, virtually the **whole Mediterranean and Norwegian Sea** and part of the Northeast Atlantic reach **category 3**.

Exposure levels **gradually decrease with increasing mitigation**. The maximum level reached in SSP2-4.5 is category 3. In the **strongly mitigated** scenario, **only category 1 and category 2** are present.

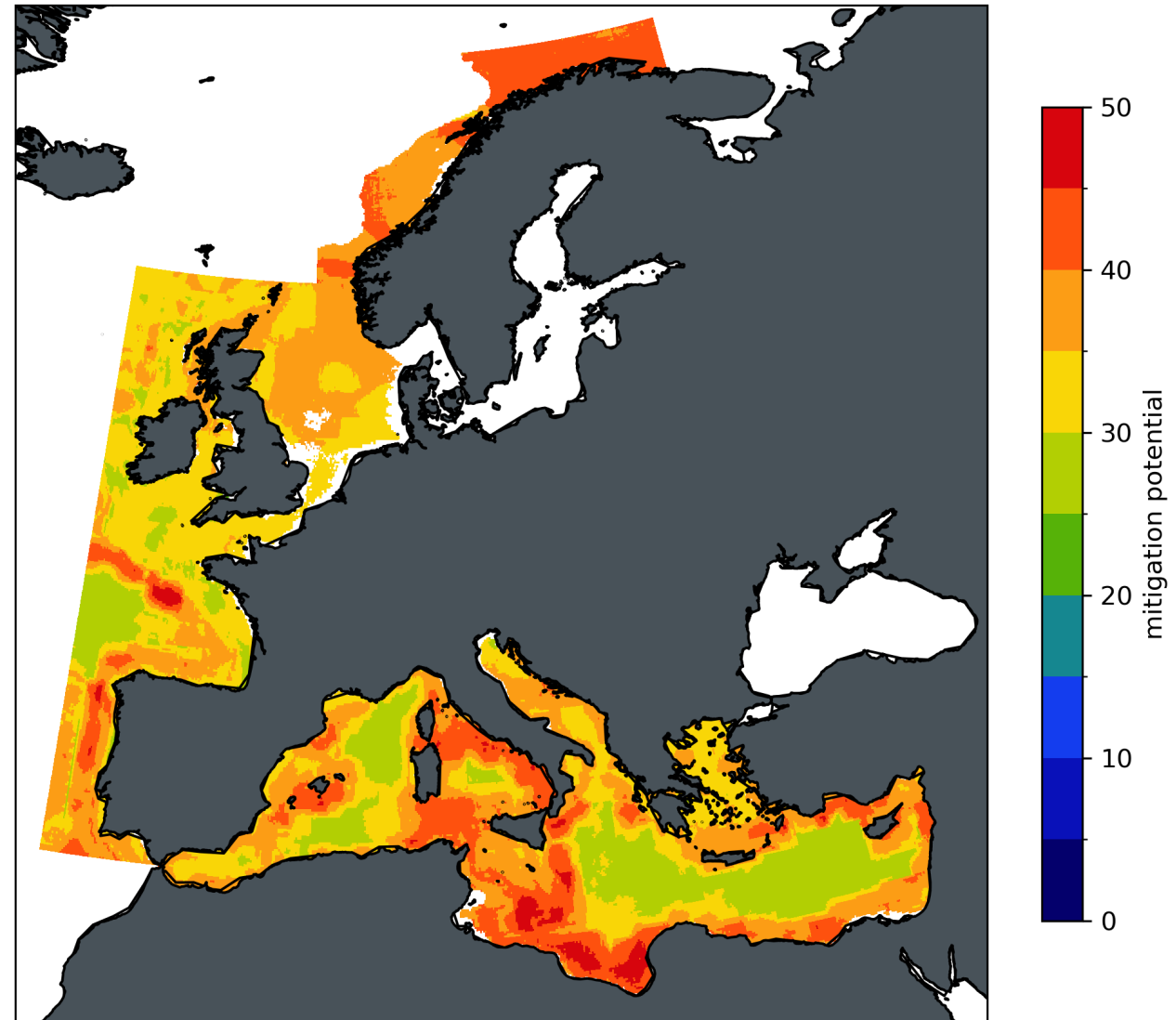


Cumulative Mitigation Potential of warming, acidification and deoxygenation shows how increases in an ecosystem pressure can be avoided by **global** climate mitigation policy.

Mitigation potential is generally >25% throughout most of the area. Areas benefitting most from global climate mitigation policies (**levels more than 40%**) are in the **central Mediterranean, Tyrrhenian Sea, Norwegian Sea**, along the **Eastern Mediterranean coast** and **along the shelf break**.

Even under the greatest mitigation efforts **no more than 50%** of the **cumulative ecosystem pressure** can be **recovered**.

Cumulative Mitigation Potential
of Global Climate Policy Interventions



Policy Recommendations

- Climate-driven projections for different scenarios of future environmental stress highlight the **importance of implementing global mitigation policies** to lessen the strain on ecosystems, **particularly by reducing exposure to severe pressures.**
- In a global context where actions to promote climate resilience are more urgent than previously estimated (IPCC 2022), **detailed maps** showing the distribution of these stressors across European Seas provide **valuable insights for local adaptation policies**, supporting **marine spatial planning** and implementing **ecosystem-based management** strategies.
- Identifying areas projected to have very high and very low (if any) levels of environmental stressors **informs decisions on where to establish new sites for conservation** (e.g. Marine Protected Areas) and **habitat restoration**, and the effective management of existing sites to **better safeguard vulnerable and resilient species and habitats.**



Where can I learn more about these results?

- FutureMARES Deliverable Reports [D2.1](#), [D2.2](#) and D2.3
- Underlying environmental data publicly available [on zenodo](#) and published in [Kristiansen et al. 2024](#)
- Exposure to ecosystem pressures and Mitigation Potential available in [FutureMARES Policy Brief](#)
- Publication in prep.



FutureMARES Science for Policy

Session 1: Marine Biodiversity: Climate Sensitivity and Resilience



GIL RILOV (IOLR): M. MULAS, T-G HAIM, E YERUHAM, J SILVERMAN, F BULLERI, C RAVAGLIOLI, L PEDICINI, E CHATZINIKOLAOU, P GRIGORIOU, G CHATZIGEORGIOU, M MANDALAKIS, I RALLIS, B WALLEs, L JANSEN, PKAMERMANS, C FAGERLI, E RINDE, A CHABRERIE, F ARENAS, J FRANCO, B REIS, E CEBRIAN, C SITIJA, C GALOBART, A QUEIROS, D ALMEIDA, K ALTER, M PECK, L. PEREIRA, F. LIMA, R. SEABRA, S. RAMIREZ-CALERO, J LEDOUX, A. BARREIRO, N. BENSOUSSAN, P. LÓPEZ-SENDINO, D. GÓMEZ-GRAS, I MONTERO-SERRA, M PAGÈS-ESCOLÀ, A MEDRANO, A LÓPEZ-SANZ, L. FIGUEROLA, C. LINARES, J. GARRABOU, S HERNANDEZ CHAN.

ELENA OJEA (UNIVERSITY OF VIGO) WP5 & T5.3 LEAD & ANA RUIZ-FRAU (CSIC) T5.2 LEAD

STORYLINE CRA: MARIE MAAB & DORTHE KRAUSE JENSEN (AUD)



Policy Brief 2

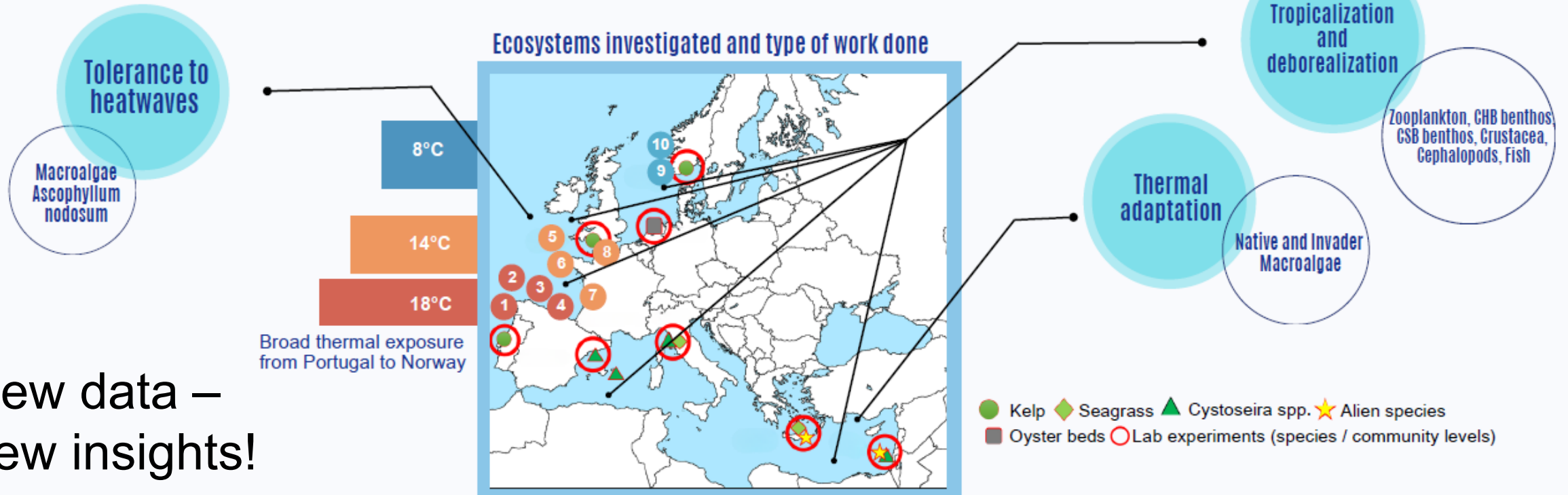
MARINE BIODIVERSITY: CLIMATE SENSITIVITY AND RESILIENCE

Rilov G, Chust G & Peck M A

20
24



FutureMARES scientists investigated many long-term time series and used multiple field and lab experiments, revealing many important patterns and processes relevant to climate change **vulnerability** and **adaptation**



New data –
new insights!



1) Tropicalization and deborealization of European seas

Calculated Community Temperature Index (CTI) – **average thermal affinity** – for many biological groups in many areas

Temperature trends from 1980 to 2020

Sampling site locations are shown in black circles.

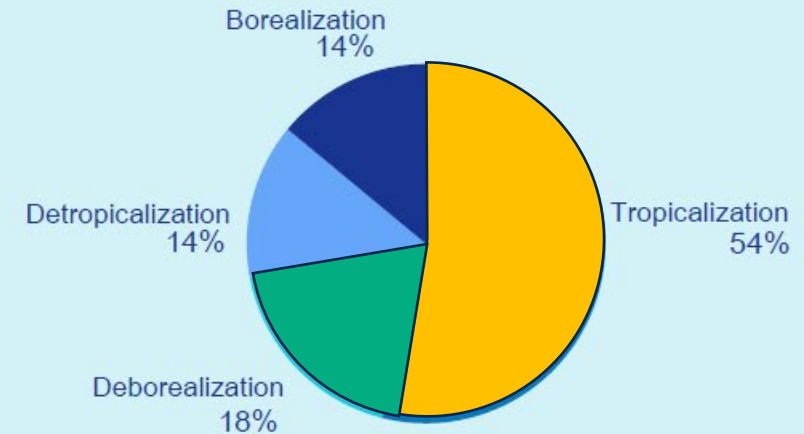


SST: Mean Sea Surface

- Zooplankton
- CHB benthos
- CSB benthos
- Crustacea
- Cephalopods
- Fish

Environmental time series from 65 monitoring programmes, including historical data for 1.817 marine species

Based on the CTI analysis, warming impacted more than 70% of European marine biodiversity time series via either tropicalization or deborealization.



Key messages:

- overall – **warm loving** species are on the rise while **cold loving** species are dwindling almost everywhere
- There is a lot of variability in the level and direction of change among areas

Key challenge:

- How can we effectively protect native biodiversity when warming is considerably shifting it?
- What areas to prioritize for protection? climate refugia? areas where key species are resilient?, highly impacted areas?

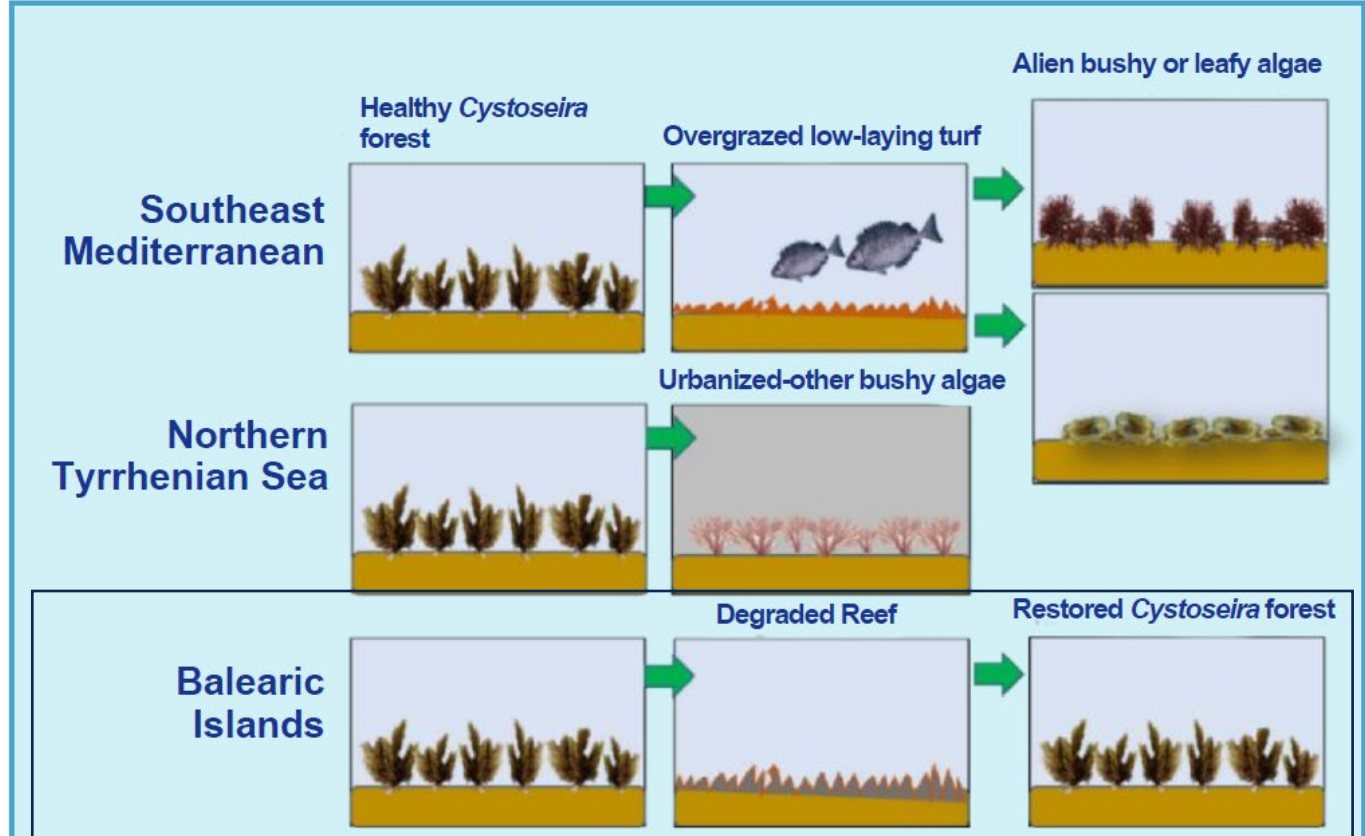
2) Community shift could lead to alternative ecosystem state while keeping some services



Minorca



Shifts in community state of macroalgal communities in shallow water reefs in Mediterranean Sea in the different study regions.



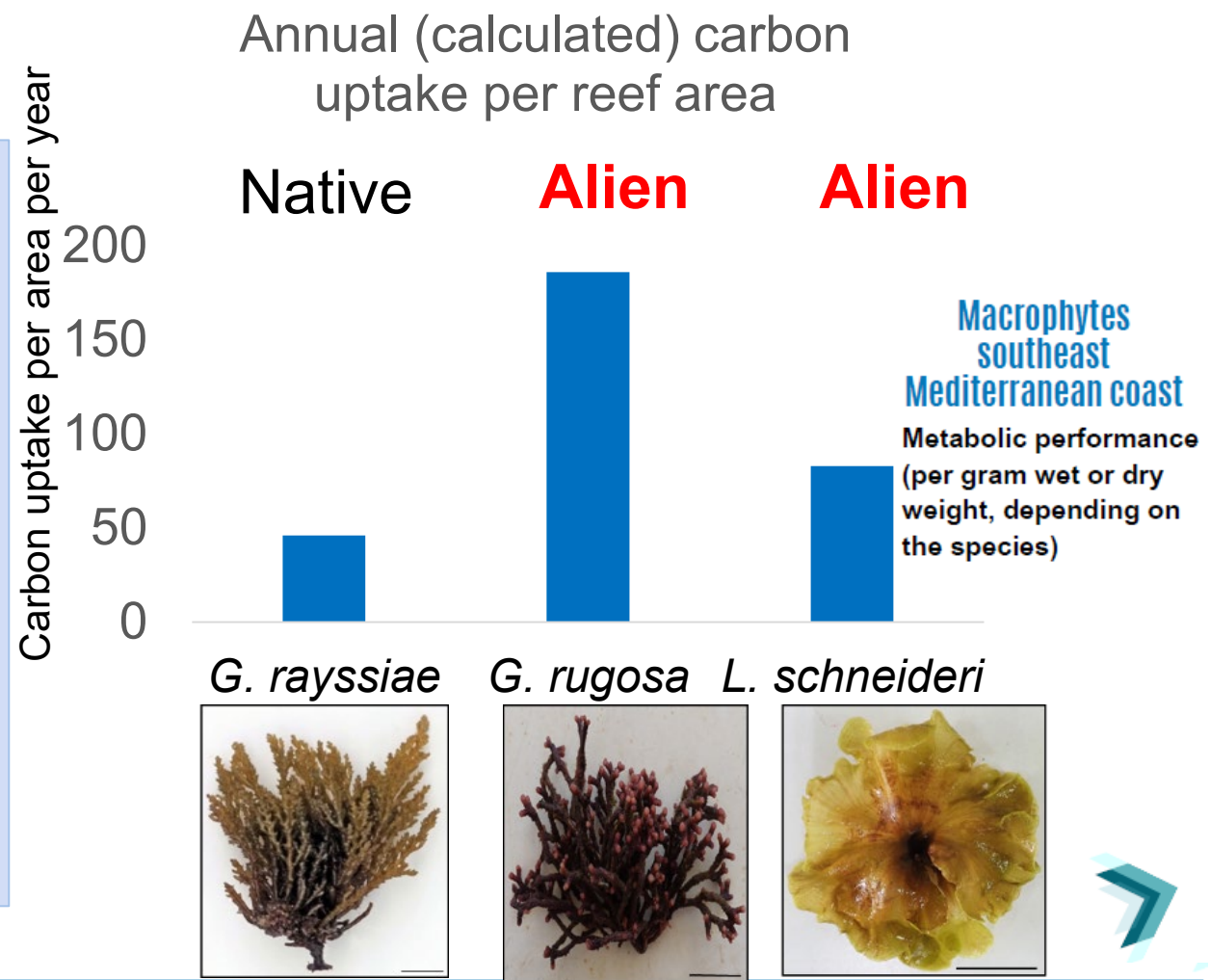
Israel (Original Incubation chambers) Netherlands Italy Spain Portugal Greece



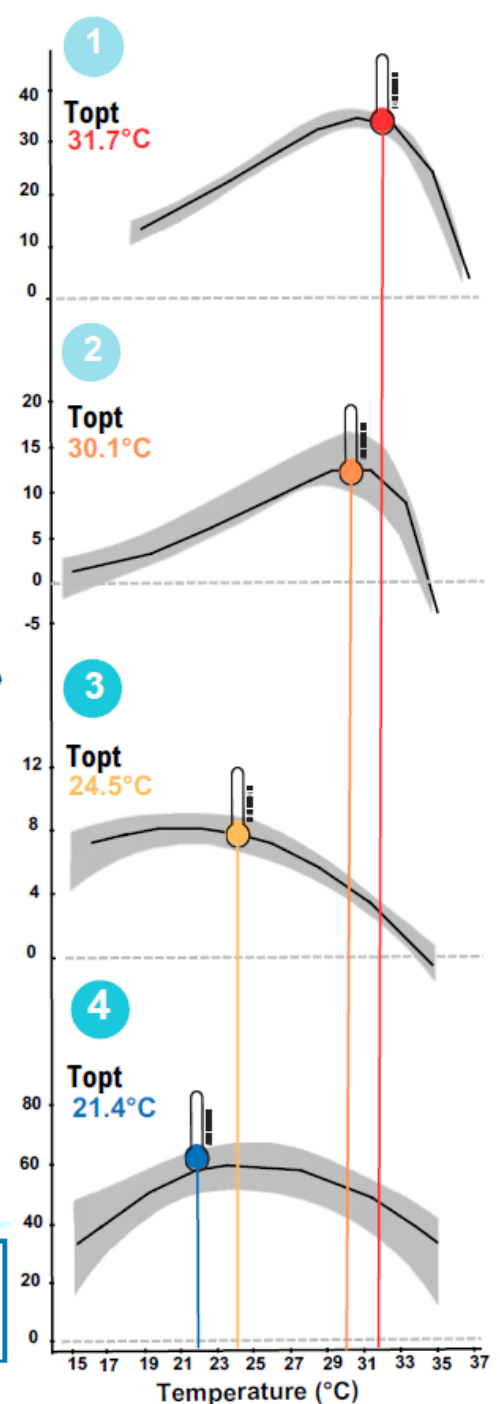
The extreme case of the southeastern Mediterranean – a bioinvasion hotspot

- thermal resilience and annual production of invasive and native macrophytes

Key message:
some alien species may be able to **compensate** for the loss of native species productivity and functions (**C uptake**) in climate change hotspots



1 <i>Galaxaura rugosa</i> Lessepsian species	2 <i>Lobophora schneideri</i> Amphi-Atlantic species	3 <i>Gongolaria rayssiae</i> Levantine endemic	4 <i>Sargassum vulgare</i> Mediterranean native
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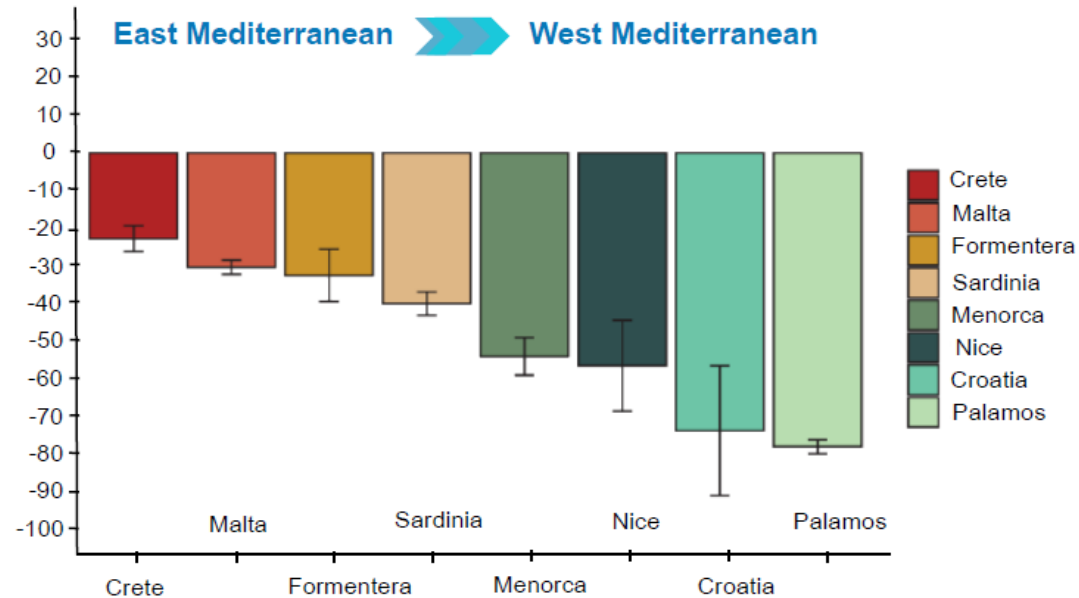
Invasive Species

Native Species

3) Clear evidence of local thermal adaptation and population differences in climate sensitivity

Example 1: Mediterranean canopy-forming algae from different regions exposed to 29°C

Key finding:
Southeastern Mediterranean populations are more resilient to warming than northwestern ones



Biomass loss of different populations of *Cystoseira crinita* across the Mediterranean Sea under a warming experiment at 29°C after 80 days of exposure.



Example 1: Atlantic intertidal macroalgae from different regions exposed to arial heatwaves

Key finding: Southern Europe populations more resilient to warming than northern ones

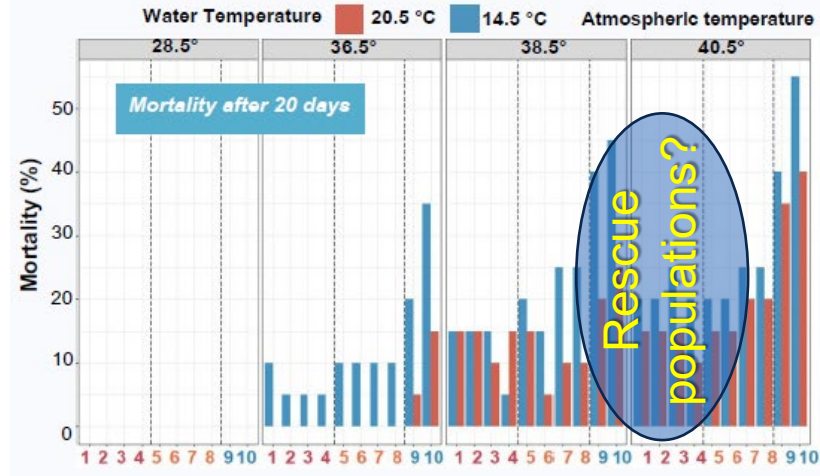
Key message: Local adaptation is present; some populations are more resilient – **rescue populations** during major heatwave events?

Key challenge: we **cannot** assume resilience/vulnerability found in one place to be relevant to another

Macroalgae *Ascophyllum nodosum*



An atmospheric (aerial) heatwave lab experiment was designed to simulate present and extreme future atmospheric conditions



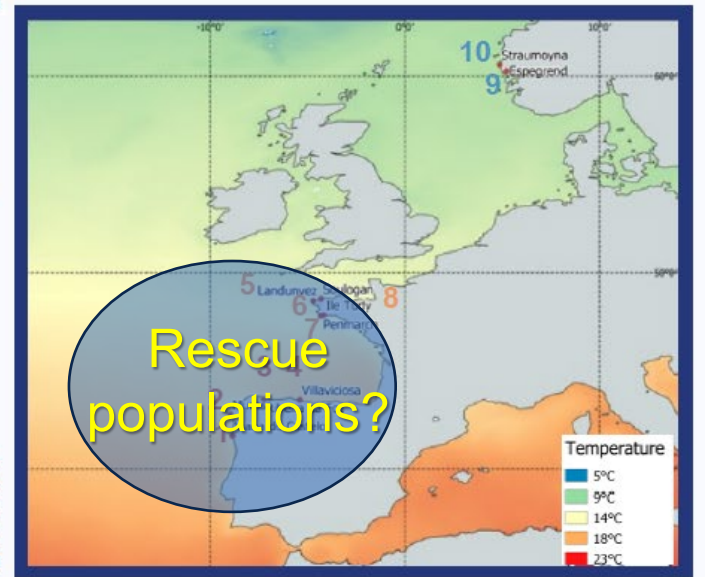
Rescue populations?



Seawater temperature has synergistic role in shaping the ecophysiological response of this seaweed

Collection sites of different population of *Ascophyllum nodosum*

Identification of heat-resistant ecotypes is a crucial factor for successful restoration efforts



- 1-Viana do Castelo, 2- Ria de Muros,
- 3 - Ria da Foz, 4- Ria de Villaviciosa,
- 5- Landunvez, 6- Île-Tudy,
- 7-Penmarch, 8- Soulogan,
- 9- Espérend and 10- Straumoyna

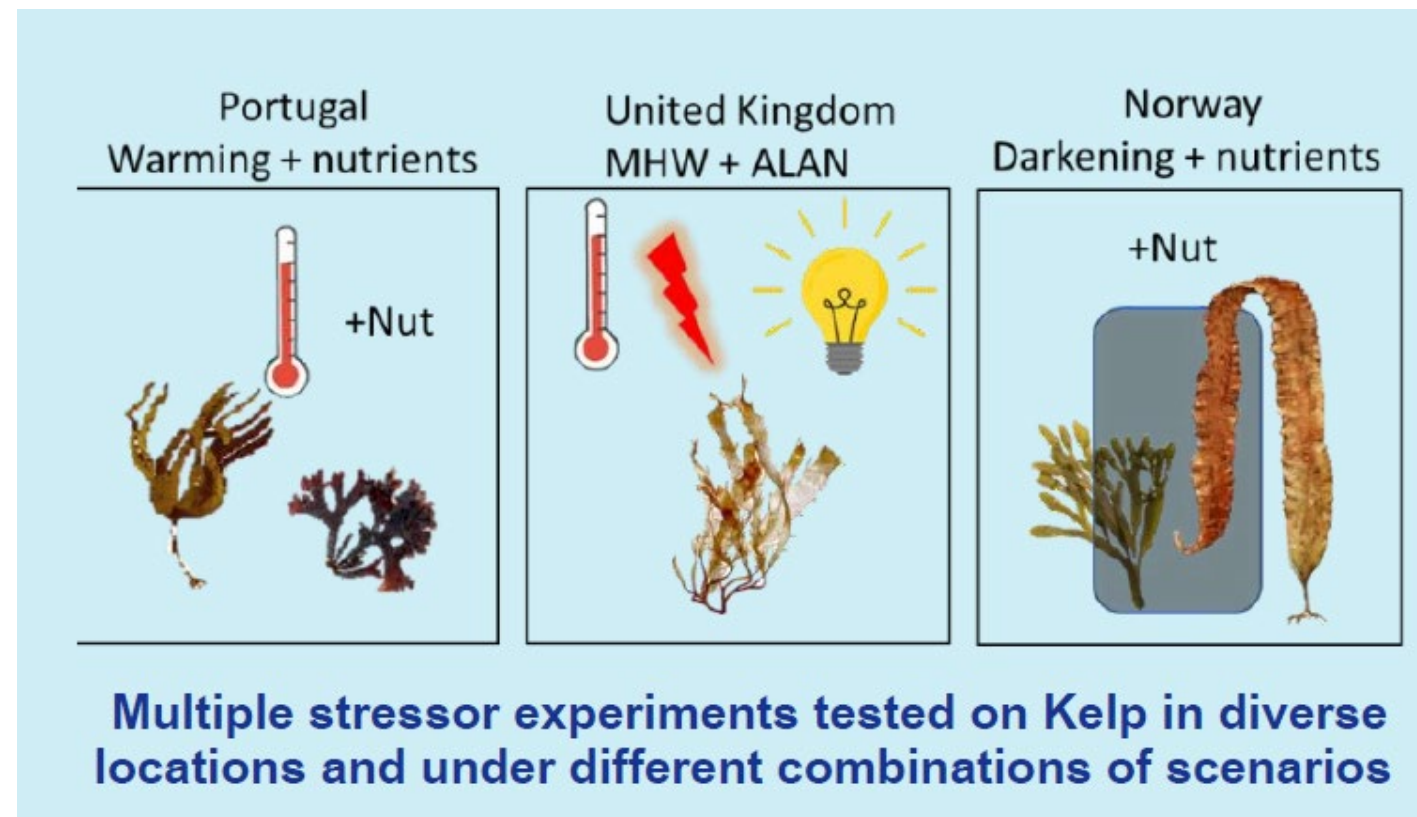


4) Complex impacts on marine species arise from climate change and other interacting stressors

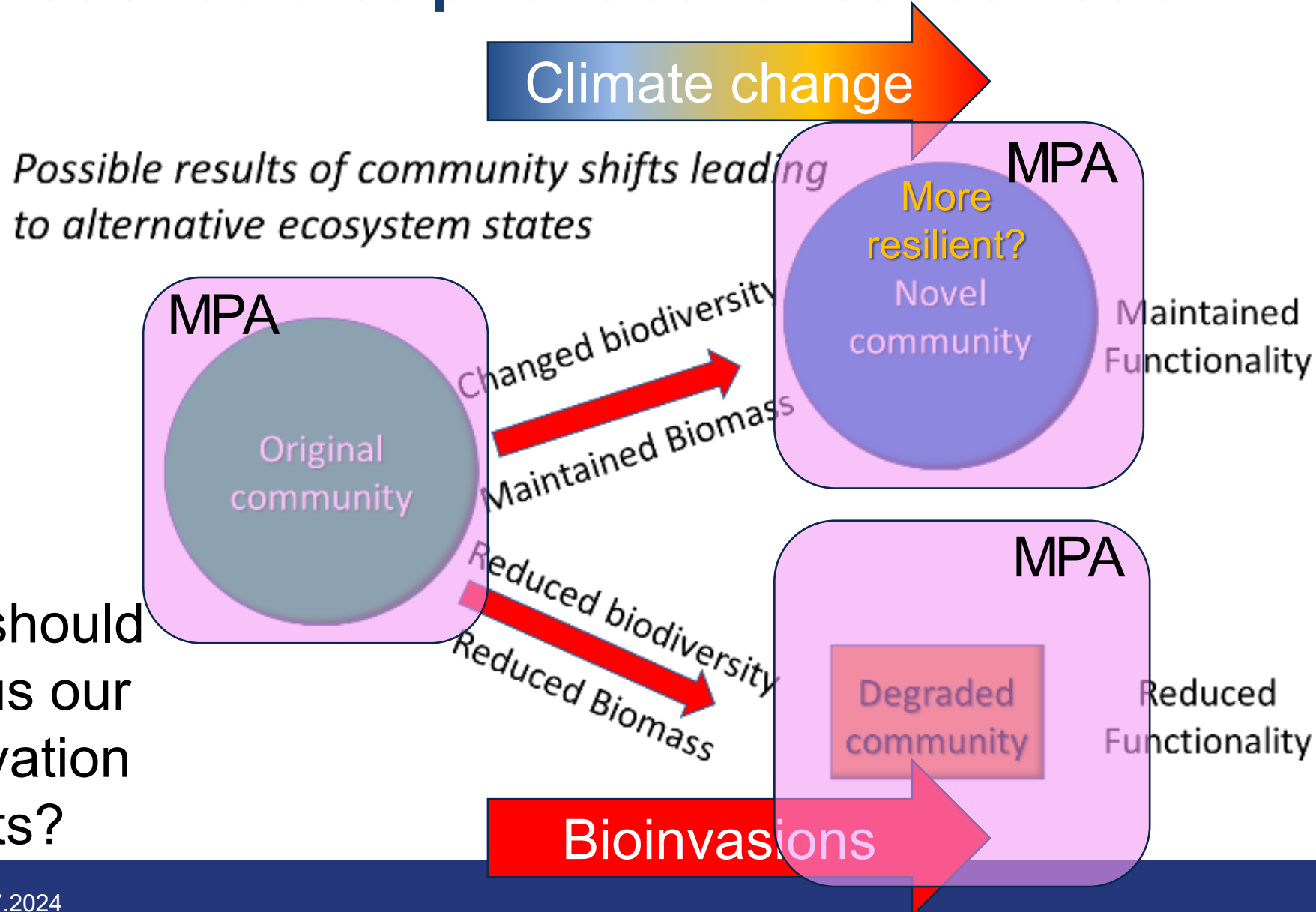
Key message: We find all types of interactions: additive, antagonistic, etc.

Key challenge:

We cannot assume the results of interactions based on single exposure experiments and need to **test** combined impacts – we need more research on this topic



Alternative functionalities under biodiversity shifts and what should be priorities for conservation



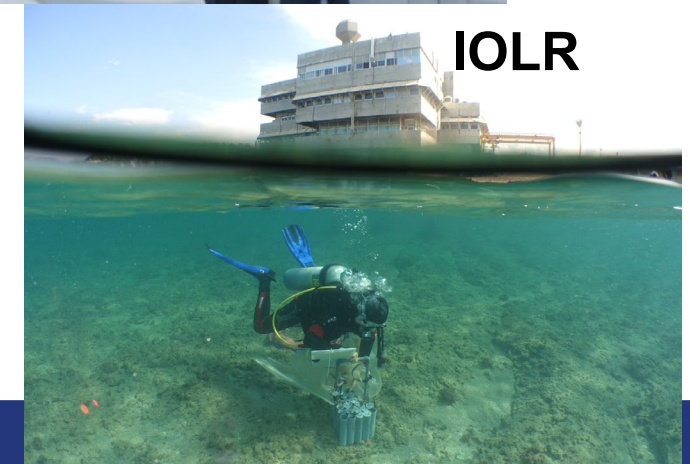
Where should we focus our conservation efforts?

Where we have, and will discuss these results

- November 2020 - An event with stakeholders at the **Mediterranean Pavilion** of **COP27** in Sharm el Sheikh on the challenges of marine conservation at the age of climate change and bioinvasions



- July 4th, 2024 - a stakeholder **event/mini-conference** with scientists and decisionmakers will be held at IOLR, to discuss conservation challenges in climate change and bioinvasion hotspots like the Israeli coast



Expectations from the European Commission

- EU decisionmakers should take up these results that demonstrate rapid **shifts in biodiversity to novel communities** in many areas, and the importance of assessing **functionality** of shifted communities when considering GES
 - More research is needed to evaluate functionality and potential services of novel ecosystems !
- In **climate change/bioinvasion hotspots**, where native biodiversity is rapidly lost and new species are expanding, the MSFD needs to adjust **GES descriptors** to be more **adaptive/flexible**, for example about the view on aliens/invasives – otherwise we are facing a losing battle

