

Reknotting marine biodiversity



Short name

Reknotting marine biodiversity

Formal name

Integrating biodiversity monitoring and awareness-raising in coastal peripheries, by engaging citizen-science sailors as focal nodes in the process of local community empowerment (BIOMARCS)

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Involving sailors in the remaking of knots among humans and marine biodiversity, starting from the coastal peripheries



Summary

Coastal peripheries host overwhelming cultural heritage and pristine natural habitats, but they can be demographically and economically depressed and weakly monitored by marine ecologists. In some of these localities, local sailors are focal nodes of interpersonal networks, conduct recreational activities with tourists, run educational projects involving schools, and are enthusiastic promoters of ocean literacy. BIOMARCS aims to involve coastal-periphery sailors in co-designing, creating, and running opportunistic monitoring of the marine ecosystem and its biodiversity across a Mediterranean Marine Protected Area (MPA) by exploiting environmental DNA techniques (eDNA). The same sailors will help disseminate and communicate biodiversity data among multiple stakeholders (e.g. high-school students and MPA managers) to make the biodiversity heritage “visible” to reinforce the sense of place and raise awareness of the importance of ocean health to human societies' wellbeing.