

Posidonia oceanica meadow **protection** is more effective when paired with an informed community willing to practice sustainable activities.

To protect this habitat and to continue to benefit from it, whenever you swim, dive, fish or sail, just follow these simple rules:



Anchor on a buoy or move to a sandy bottom



Do not practice activities which may damage the meadow



Do not trawl or deploy pots



Want to know more?



**Interreg
Italia-Malta
SenHAR**

Fondo Europeo di Sviluppo Regionale
European Regional Development Fund



**Università
degli Studi
di Palermo**



**CNR
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ISTITUTO PER LO STUDIO
DELLI IMPATTI ANTROPICI
E SOCIETARI SULLA
N AMBIENTE MARINO



**L-Università
ta' Malta**



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***Posidonia oceanica*
meadows**

Posidonia oceanica is an **endemic Mediterranean marine plant** adapted to live underwater 120 millions of years ago. It forms **extensive meadows** from shallow waters up to 35 m (depending on the water transparency). As each plant, it has roots, stems and leaves, and produces flowers, fruits and seeds.

The fruits, also called “sea olives”, can be transported by the current far from the site of origin, becoming a new plant. The leaves that *P. oceanica* loses during its life cycle may reach the seashore, forming a structure called **banquette** which protects the coast from the wave energy.



P. oceanica meadows hosts more than 25% of the Mediterranean Sea **biodiversity**.



Through photosynthesis, *Posidonia oceanica* **produces oxygen** in the marine environment and also in the atmosphere.

It also **absorbs the marine CO₂**, fighting the ocean acidification.



The seagrass roots trap the sediment and avoid its resuspension, thus contributing to the **water transparency**.

P. oceanica meadows and the *banquettes* have an important role in **protecting the shoreline** from coastal erosion.



Posidonia oceanica meadows face several **impacts**, mostly of human origin:



Alien species



Coastal Urbanization



Climate change



Anchoring



Pollution



Trawling

