

# Spatio-temporal variability of the zooplankton communities in the W Mediterranean Sea (2010-2023)

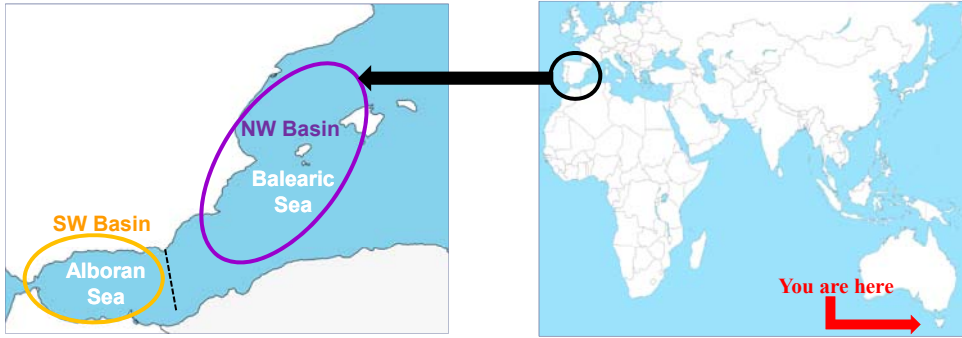
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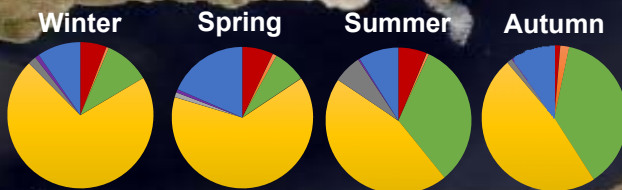
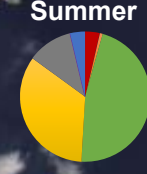
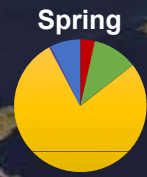
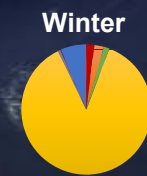
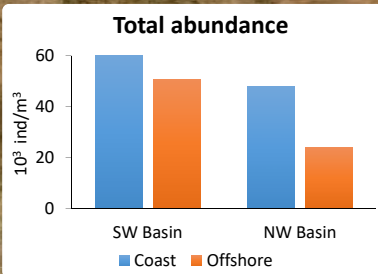
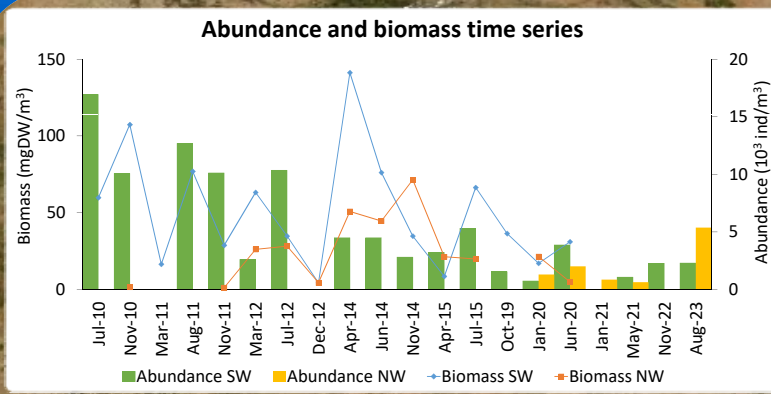
## Study area: W Mediterranean Sea



## Monitoring programme

- EU MSFD D1, D5
- Seasonal sampling
- 10 transects, 49 stations
- WP2 vertical tows
- 200 µm mesh
- Abundance
- Biomass

## Spatial and seasonal variability of mesozooplankton communities structure



- Appendicularia
- Chaetognatha
- Cladocera
- Copepoda
- Doliolida
- Euphausiacea
- Other

## Conclusions

- Mesozooplankton communities structure varied both spatially and seasonally between 2010-2023, driven by hydrodynamics and wind-driven coastal upwelling.
- Winter and spring communities were dominated by copepods, while appendicularians peaked in spring in the SW basin coastal waters.
- The communities in summer were dominated by cladocerans in both basins, with highest abundances in the NW basin.
- Our results suggest that increasing temperature and extended summer periods are the main drivers of mesozooplankton variability.

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