

JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND HEALTH
Part A—Toxic/Hazardous Substances and Environmental Engineering
Vol. A38, No. 8, pp. 1459–1468, 2003

Evolution and Vitality of Seagrasses in a Mediterranean Lagoon

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ABSTRACT

Despite their registration on the list of the Ramsar convention sites, the Mediterranean lagoons rarely benefit of an effective protection, and are particularly sensitive to environmental quality. A control of these wetlands needs the creation of an inventory of knowledge for the concerned environment. In this perspective, the seagrass beds were followed up in the coastal lagoon of Urbino (Corse, France) since 1990. A cartographic study was carried out by remote sensing of aerial photography. Temporal evolution of the seagrass beds (*Cymodocea nodosa* principally) allows to determine the vitality of these structures. A comparison of the surface areas occupied by *Cymodocea nodosa*, between 1990 and 1999, did not allow seeing any significant evolution. However, some variations appear like biotopes all more fragile and coveted as the Mediterranean coastal fringe is straight and is the privileged site of appear in the localization of the beds, due to the modification of environmental conditions in the lagoon.

Key Words: Wetlands; Lagoon; Remote sensing; Seagrass bed.

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DOI: 10.1081/ESE-120021470
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