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Title of the ongoing PhD-Thesis

*‘The meadow of the marine angiosperm *Posidonia oceanica* (L.) Delile as descriptor of the Hellenic seas’ (on going)*

(supervised in the NKUA by A. Economou-Amilli, in the HCMR by P. Panagiotidis)

Overall, the main objective of this thesis is to fill some critical gaps in knowledge of key attributes of *Posidonia oceanica* meadows in Greek coastal waters. More specifically, our objectives are focused on: (i) the understanding of the key features of *P. oceanica* meadows in the different sub-ecoregional areas, (ii) the setting of a baseline for the main attributes of *P. oceanica* meadows, (iii) the estimation of *P. oceanica* meadows distribution along the Greek coastal areas, (iv) the understanding of the effectiveness of *P. oceanica* meadows as descriptor for the assessment of the ecological quality of coastal waters in Greece, and (v) the development of database in GIS environment (Geographic Information Systems) for the species *P. oceanica* in Greek seas.

Conference Contributions

Panayotidis P., **Gerakaris** V., Drakopoulou P., Papatheodorou G., Fakiris E., Orfanidis S., Papathanassiou V. & M. Kosmidou (2016). Mapping of seagrass meadows in Greece (Ionian and Aegean Seas, Eastern Mediterranean). In: Proceedings of 51st European Marine Biology Symposium (EMBS). 26-30 September 2016, Rhodes, Greece.

Gerakaris V., Panayotidis P., Vizzini S., Nicolaidou A. & A. Economou-Amilli. (2015). Application of *Posidonia oceanica* classification systems to assess the ecological status in the Eastern Mediterranean: the case of Saronikos Gulf (Aegean Sea, Greece). In: Proceedings of 4th Mediterranean Seagrass Workshop. 18–22 May 2015, Oristano, Italy. p.68.

Gerakaris V., Panayotidis P., Tsiamis K., Nicolaidou A. & A. Economou-Amilli (2014). *Posidonia oceanica* meadows in Greek Seas: lower depth limits and meadow densities. In: Proceedings of 5th Mediterranean Symposium on Marine Vegetation, 27-28 October 2014, Portoroz, Slovenia. p.70-73.

Gerakaris V. & P. Panayotidis (2012). *Posidonia oceanica* meadows in the Inner Ionian Archipelago and adjacent gulfs. Proceedings of the 3rd Mediterranean Seagrass Workshop 2012, 28/05-01/06 2012, Essaouira, Morocco. p. 27.

Scientific Publications

Gerakaris V., Panayotidis P., Vizzini S., Nicolaidou A. & A. Economou-Amilli (2016). Comparative application of *Posidonia oceanica* biotic indices in the Eastern Mediterranean. Ecol. Indic. (submitted).

Salomidi, M., Giakoumi, S., **Gerakaris**, V., Issaris, I., Sini, M. & K. Tsiamis (2016). Setting an ecological baseline prior to the bottom-up establishment of a marine protected area in Santorini Island, Aegean Sea.- Med. Mar. Sci. (submitted).

Gerakaris V., Panayotidis P., Salomidi M., Issaris I., Drakopoulou P., Papatheodorou G., Fakiris E., Orfanidis S. & V. Papathanassiou (2016). Distribution of *Posidonia oceanica* meadows in the Northeastern Mediterranean Sea.- Med. Mar. Sci. (in progress).

Telesca L., Belluscio A., Criscoli A., Ardizzone G., Apostolaki E.T., Frascchetti S., Gristina M., Knittweis L., Martin C.S., Pergent G., Alagna A., Badalamenti F., Garofalo G., **Gerakaris** V., Louise Pace M., Pergent-Martini C. & M. Salomidi (2015). Seagrass meadows (*Posidonia oceanica*) distribution and trajectories of change.- Sci. Rep. 5, 12505. doi:10.1038/srep12505