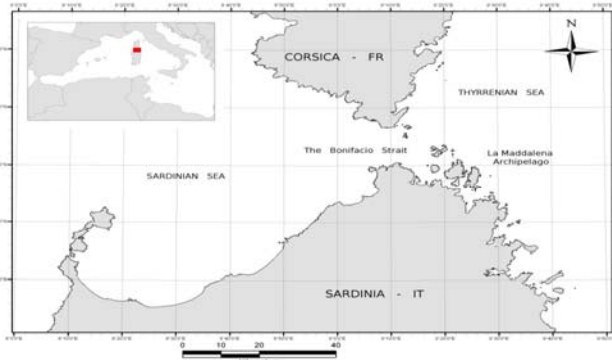


THE BONIFACIO STRAIT (SOB) Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA)



The Porto Torres oil spill emergency – Jan. 2011

The Strait is crossed every year by more than 3500 vessels exceeding 300 GT (VTS data)

1. Introduction

The "Strait of Bonifacio" sea area appears to be a highly sensitive zone not only for the uniqueness, diversity and significance of its habitats and ecosystems, but also for its shipping traffic and its hydrographical and meteorological factors that considerably increase the probability of maritime accidents and consequently the risk of marine and coastal pollution.

The vulnerability of this marine strait linked to these two significant aspects was analyzed in the "SOS – Bocche di Bonifacio" project (funded by the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and carried out by IAM – Istituto per l'Ambiente Marino e Costiero – CNR Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche – UOS – Gruppo di Oceanografia Operativa di Oristano) aimed to implement an innovative system of forecasting and monitoring of marine circulation for the management of environmental emergencies caused by the huge maritime traffic through the strait.

Therefore, all the following data and analysis have been extrapolated from the above-mentioned project.

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IDENTIFICATION AND PROTECTION OF SPECIAL AREAS AND PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE SEA AREAS
Designation of the Strait of Bonifacio a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area

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THE PROJECT AIMSTO

..... THE REALIZATION OF AN INTEGRATED OPERATIONAL SYSTEM FOR MANAGING OIL-SPILL EMERGENCIES IN THE SoB ...

- Implementation of an operational forecasting system: Bonifacio Oil spill Operational Model (BOOM)
- Measurements and analysis of the surface transport paths and 3D water currents fields in the SoB area
- Calibration and validation of BOOM system throughout comparison with measured data.
- Implementation of graphical user interface (GUI) to guarantee the accessibility, usability and the interaction with the BOOM

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