

A decade of observations and achievements of the MOOSE observatory in the Northwestern Mediterranean Sea

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Introduction

Considered as a “hot spot” of climate change, marine biodiversity and human activities, the Mediterranean Sea shows trends toward drier and extreme weather causing important human and economic losses. The health of the Mediterranean Sea undergoes important modifications, eventually damaging its unique ecosystems.

Methods

To monitor the effect of climate change and anthropogenic effects on the dynamical NW Mediterranean basin, the Mediterranean Ocean Observing System for the Environment (MOOSE) was established in 2010 (<https://www.moose-network.fr/>). It integrates numerous platforms: river and atmospheric sites, research vessels (basin-scale cruise and open-sea stations), Eulerian observatories (mooring, weather buoys), HF radars and autonomous platforms (gliders and Argo floats).

Results

MOOSE collects multi-disciplinary data to monitor long-term environmental trends and define effective health and climatic indicators. It is associated with several EU programs: EuroSea (carbon audit), JERICO-s3 (NW MedSea coastal SuperSite), GROOM-II (glider community) and MONGOOS (GOOS's regional alliance). MOOSE is importantly linked to Research Infrastructures: French seashore and coastal RI (ILICO); deployment reference sites and machine learning methods (Euro-Argo); fixed-point climatic trends (EMSO); description of biological diversity of plankton assemblages (EMBRC); air-sea CO₂ fluxes (ICOS). It also contributes to GOOS's OceanGliders (endurance lines) and OceanSites (moorings).

Conclusion

We here give an overview of the MOOSE observatory, as well as important achievements of the decade since its establishment.