







BioSpace25 - Biodiversity insight from Space 10 - 14 February 2025 | ESA-ESRIN | Frascati - Italy

Mediterranean 4D seascape based on phytoplankton phenology detected from satellite observations: patterns and drivers



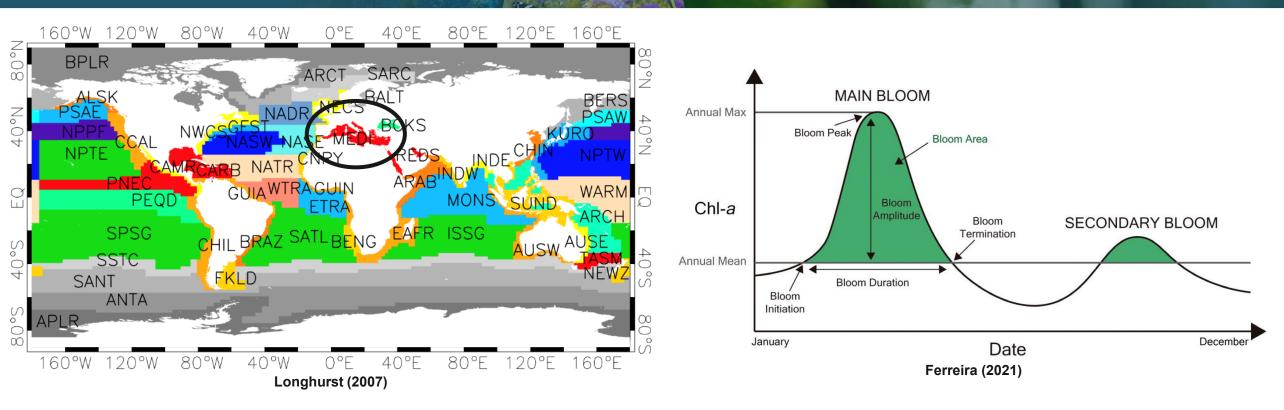
ESA Contract No. 4000141547/23/I-DT

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Worldwide ocean regionalization



- Regions are areas with similar properties.
- Phytoplankton phenology is a key method for bioregionalization.
- Phytoplankton plays a crucial role in understanding climate change.
- Provides valuable insights for fisheries management.

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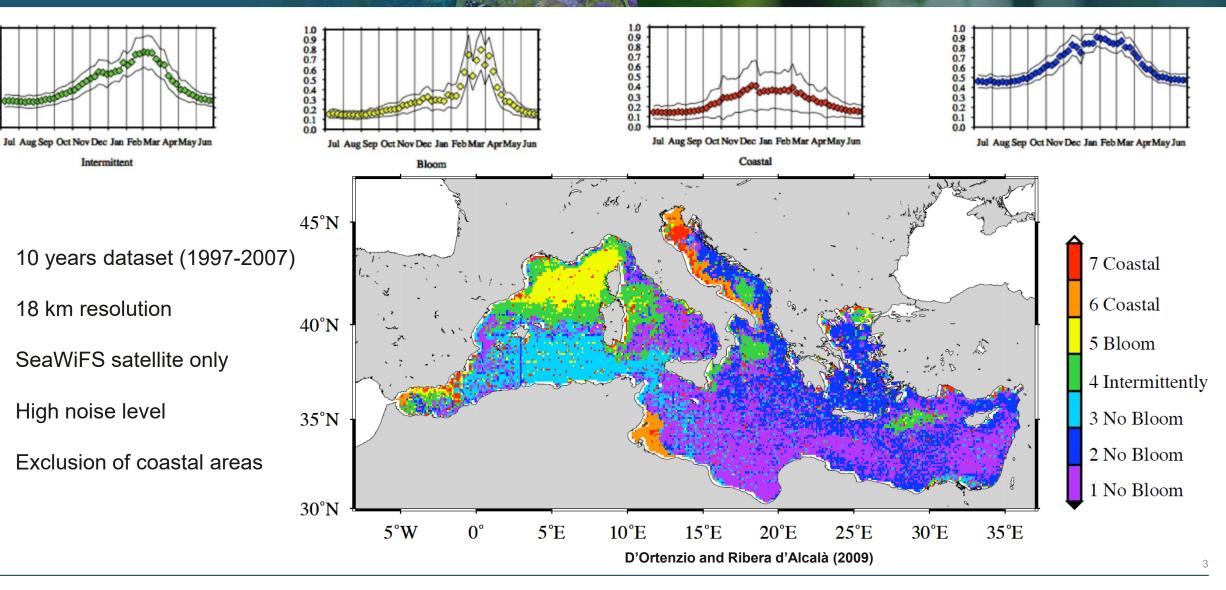
Mediterranean sea bioregionalization

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Study objectives

1. Revisit Mediterranean bioregionalization and phytoplankton phenology 26 Years of Ocean Colour chlorophyll (Copernicus; 1998-2023), 5 days, 4km resolution, k-means

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2. Explore interannual variability of bioregions and drivers of change

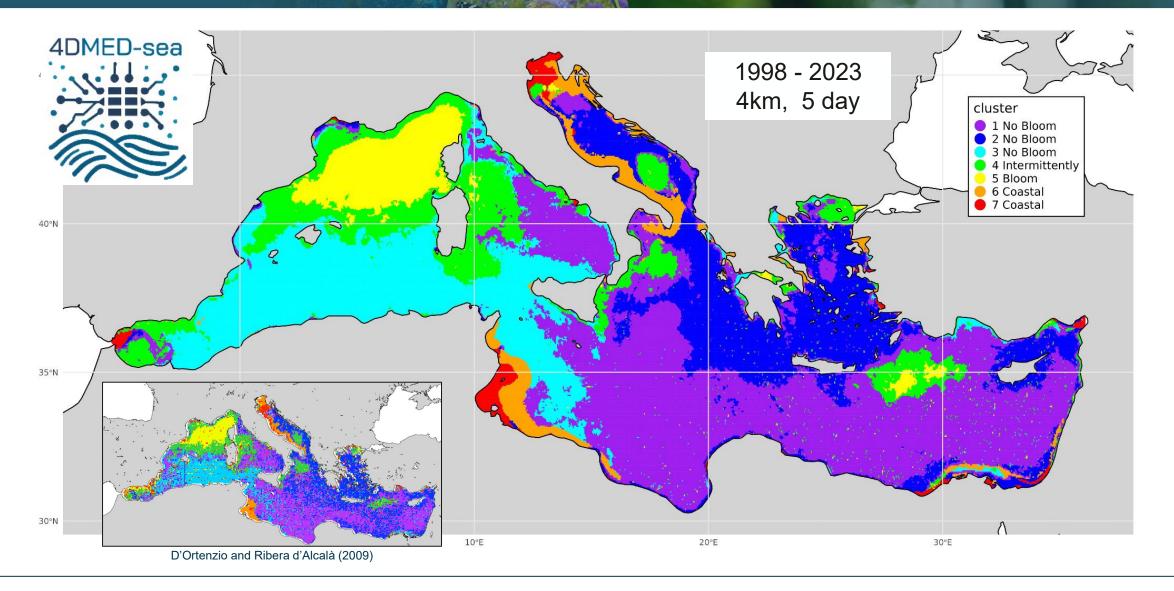
26 yearly clusterizations using climatological centroids, preliminar correlation with sea surface height

3. Link surface phenology with deeper layers

4D profiles of chlorophyll (4MED-Sea; 2016-2021) integrated between 3 and 150 m, 4km resolution, k-means

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Updated Med bioregionalization



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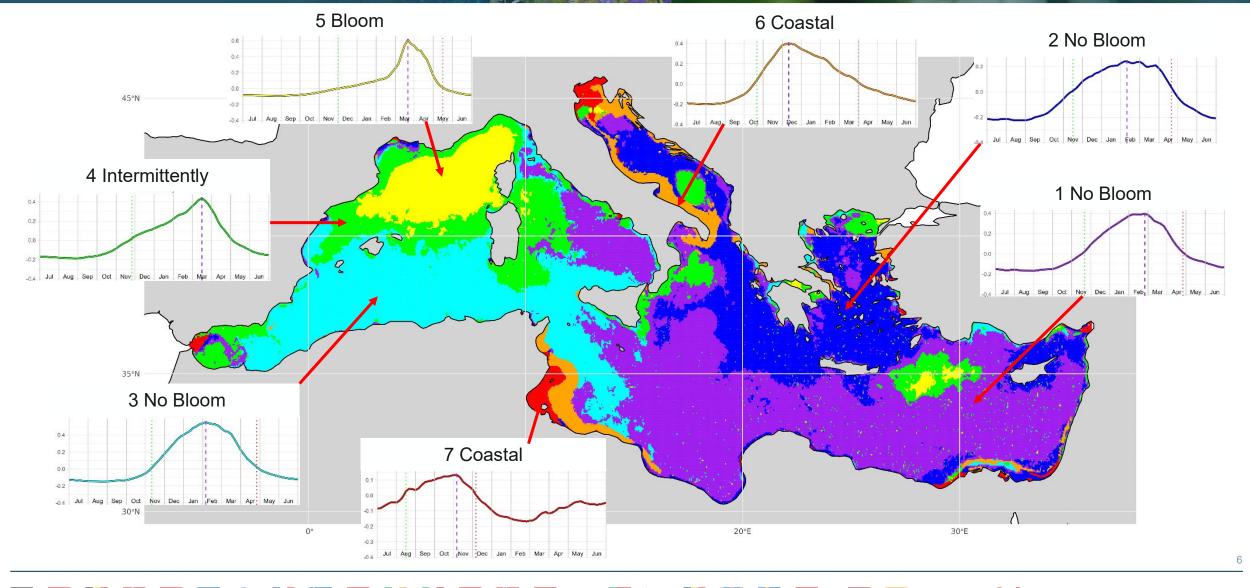
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Clusters phenology

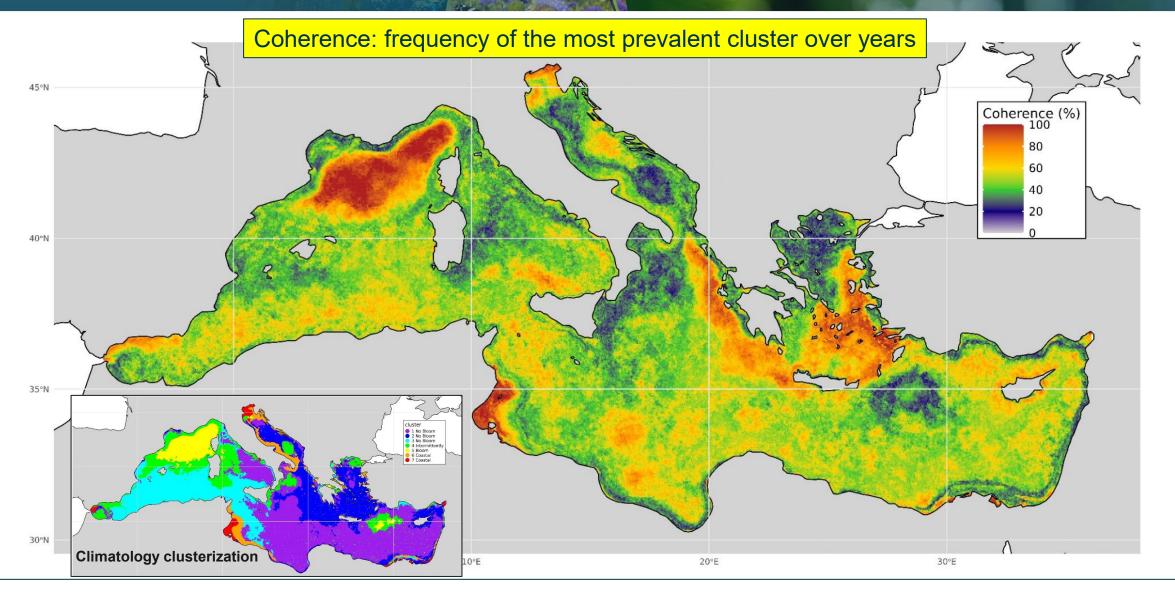






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Interannual variability



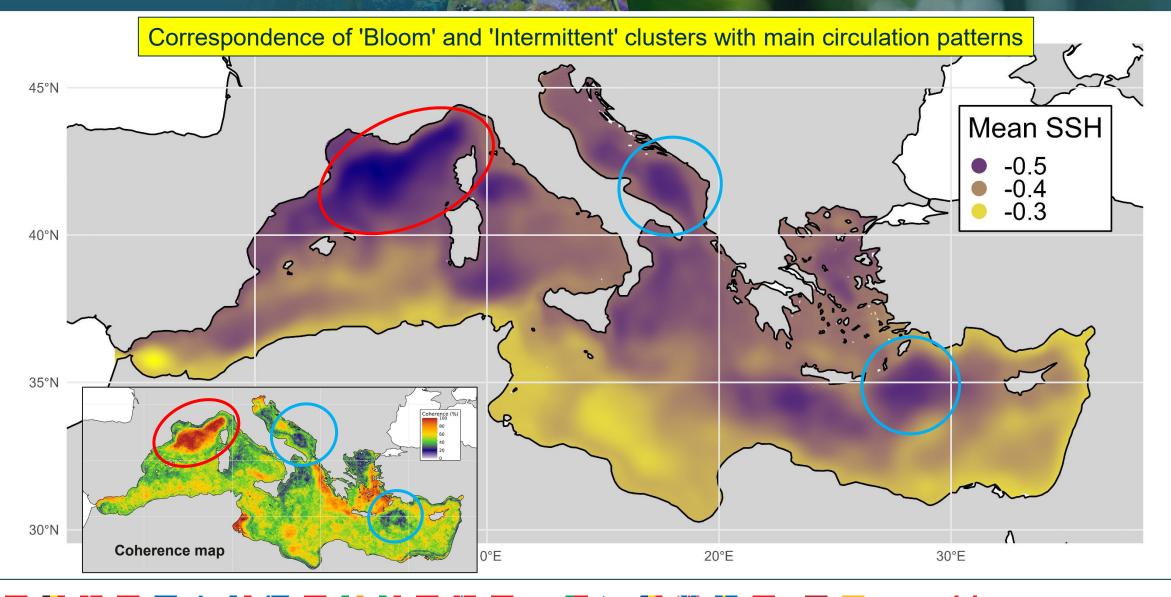
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Drivers of change

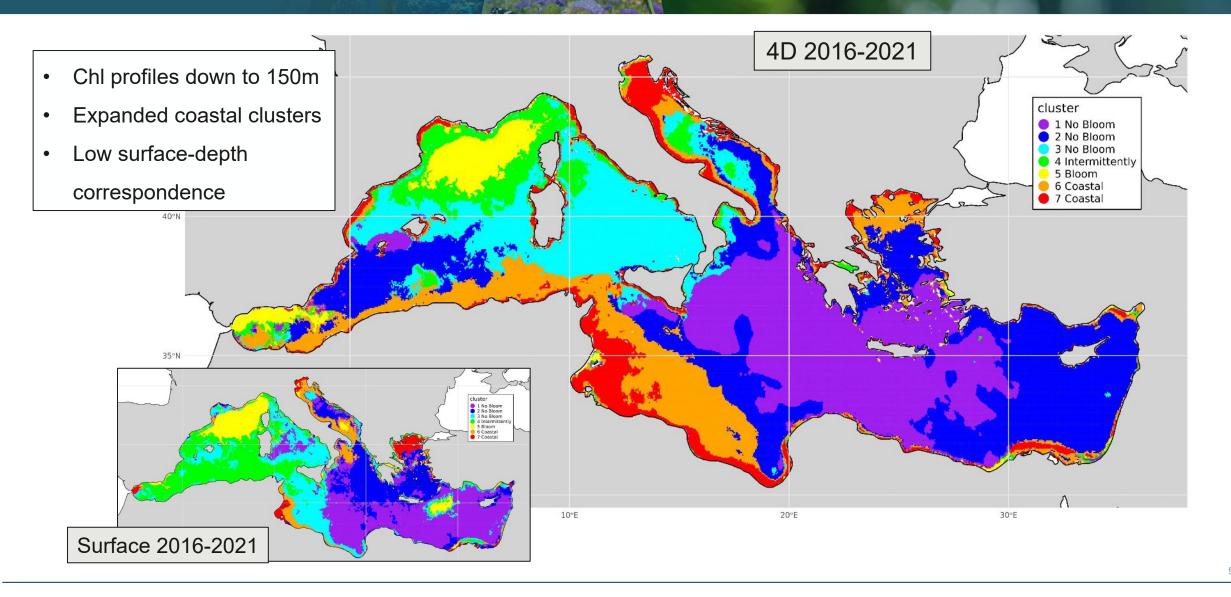


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Depth clusterization



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Conclusions

- Consistence with D'Ortenzio's bioregionalization, with key differences in cluster definition and coastal region inclusion.
 - Coherence analysis identified distinct stable and variable areas.
 - Circulation patterns and gyres likely drive interannual variability.
 - Depth-based clustering showed significant differences from surface clustering, except in specific areas.
 - Further research is needed to explore bio-physical surface interactions beyond chlorophyll and link phenology with deeper layers, improving marine resource management.



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Thanks for your attention!

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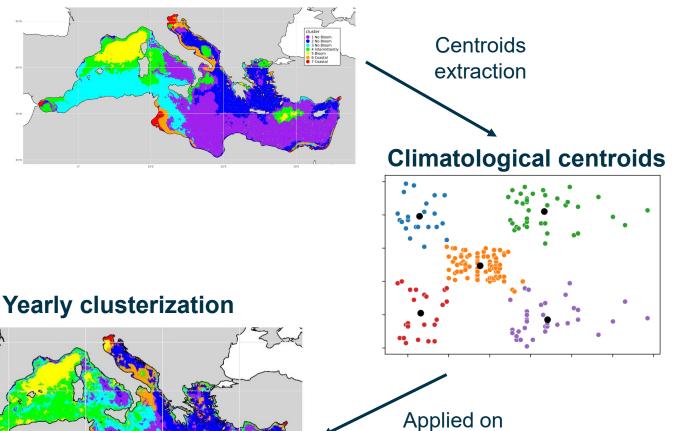
Supplementary material

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Yearly clusterization



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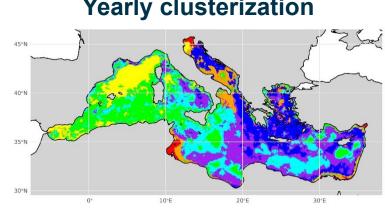
yearly dataset

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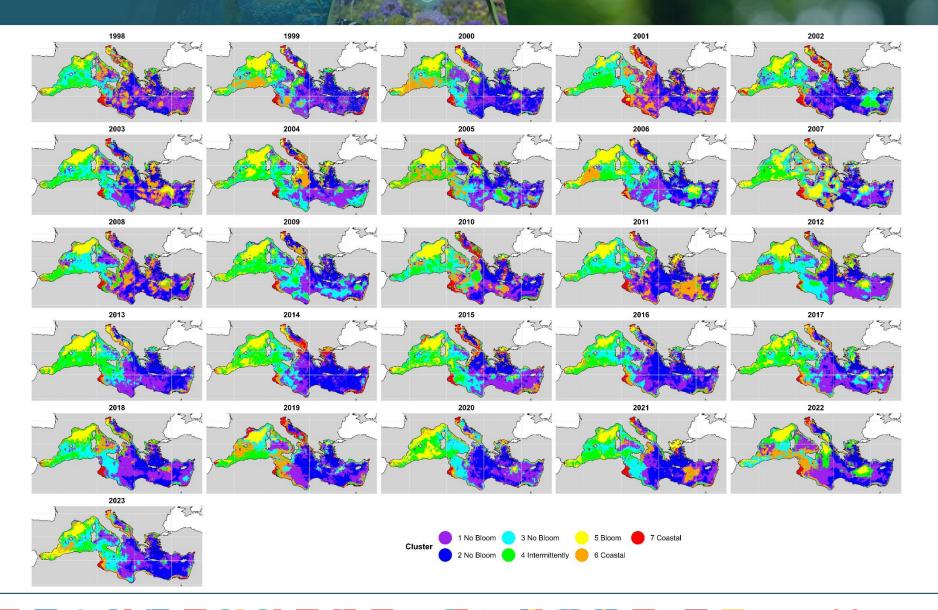
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- Clusterization of yearly dataset
- 15-day smoothing applied
- Clustering based on climatological centroids



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Yearly clusterization



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