



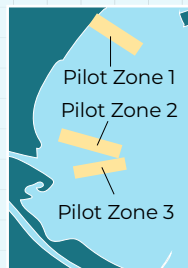
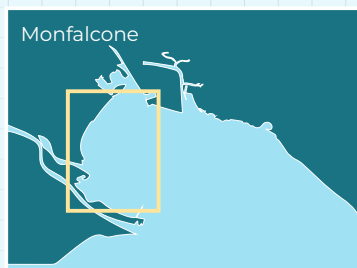
ARTEMIS

Interreg
Euro-MEDCo-funded by
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Seagrass Restoration Policy: Key Recommendations

Panzano Bay, Monfalcone, Italy

Site Context & Ecological Baseline



National Status: Unfavourable-Inadequate (UI) across national biogeographical scales.

Status: 770-ha meadow dominated by *Cymodocea nodosa*, *Zostera noltei*, and *Ruppia* spp. Pressures from sediment resuspension, commercial port operations, and boating activity.

Action: Experimental shallow-water pilot transplantations were executed in 2020 and 2021.

Key Findings & Realities



Unique Species Baseline:

Backed by rich, functioning shallow-water ecosystems where *Posidonia oceanica* is naturally absent, requiring **site-specific conservation and restoration approaches** for alternative local seagrass species.



High Technical Capacity:

Backed by advanced mapping programs (e.g., Interreg BIOPRESSADRIA) providing high-resolution habitat data to support adaptive decision-making.



Fragmented Governance:

Management remains highly project-dependent and split across environmental, port, and maritime authorities, creating regulatory gaps in open waters.

Priority Policy Recommendations



Consolidate project-based restoration experience into a coherent regional coastal restoration programme:

Transition away from isolated, short-term project cycles by establishing a structured, multi-annual coastal management programme focused on habitat re-creation and pressure reduction for local *Cymodocea* and *Zostera* seagrass species.



Improve cross-sectoral coordination in coastal and maritime governance:

Strengthen coordination mechanisms across environmental, maritime, port, and regional authorities to ensure that navigation management, coastal infrastructure development, and water quality measures operate coherently to protect local meadows.



Bridge the enforcement gap outside protected waters:

Foster closer coordination between the Coast Guard, Regional Agencies, and Port Authorities to define clear surveillance and reporting procedures for protecting vulnerable seagrass meadows located outside formal protected boundaries.



Develop an operational spatial planning and decision-support framework:

Refine functional zoning and optimize eco-mooring systems to mitigate anchoring pressures, while utilizing periodic monitoring to integrate the pilot site within wider regional networks of protected coastal systems.



Guard and vet innovative financing:

While there is cautious stakeholder openness to complementary private funds or blue carbon credit markets, ensure any mechanism—such as local PES schemes involving maritime or tourism actors—**complements public funding, is aligned with EU developments, and is strictly supervised by public or international bodies and underpinned by robust scientific standards.**

Main Author(s): The Green Tank, Plan Bleu
Contributors and Reviewers: All partners

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Policy Recommendations for ARTEMIS Pilot Sites