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MESSAGE IN BOTTLE



SESAME

Southern European Seas: Assessing and Modelling Ecosystem changes



SESAME is a 4-year European Union-funded project designed to study the Mediterranean and Black Sea ecosystems and their abilities to provide goods and services with high societal importance, such as tourism, fisheries and ecosystem stability through conservation of biodiversity.

The need for consistent information, together with the indispensable linking of natural and socio-economic sciences, on these two ecosystems have mapped out *SESAME*'s research path. Both the Mediterranean and Black Sea have been experiencing intensive development and exploitation due to their strategic geographi-

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Message in a bottle

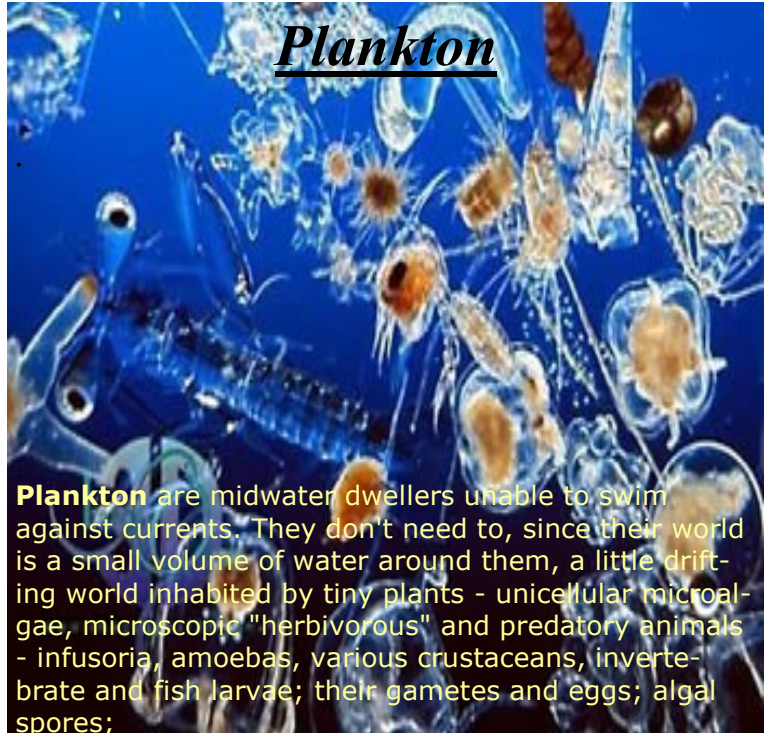
Making new friends...



The scientists on board have used the ultrasounds and the infrasound to call the dolphins and the whales near the ship. Everyone was able to have fun and to play with the dolphins which stayed for the entire day. Everyone agreed that the experiment was a success.

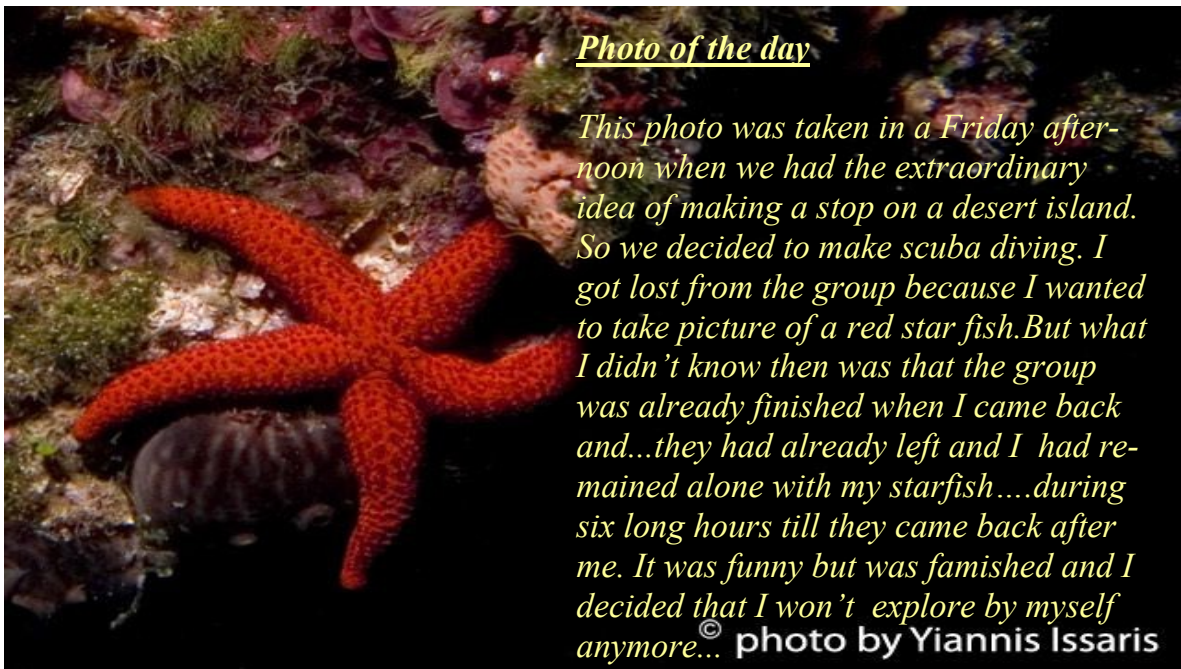
Dolphin Academy
© 2008

Plankton



Plankton are midwater dwellers unable to swim against currents. They don't need to, since their world is a small volume of water around them, a little drifting world inhabited by tiny plants - unicellular microalgae, microscopic "herbivorous" and predatory animals - infusoria, amoebas, various crustaceans, invertebrate and fish larvae; their gametes and eggs; algal spores;

Photo of the day



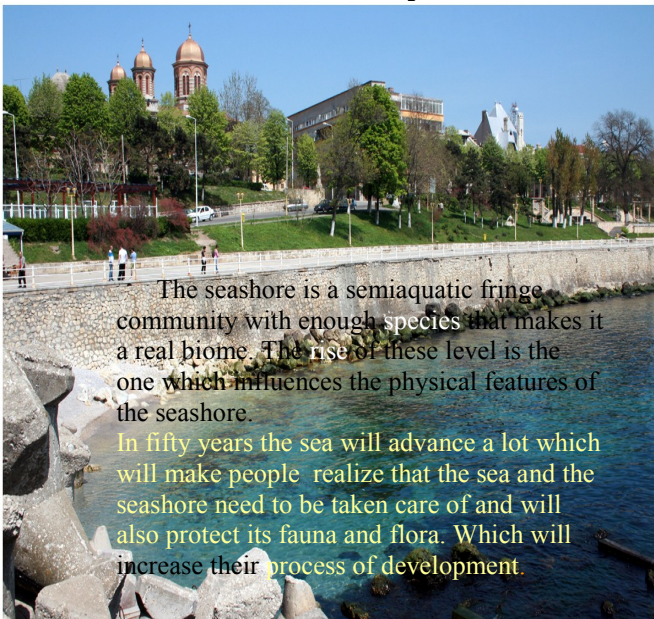
This photo was taken in a Friday afternoon when we had the extraordinary idea of making a stop on a desert island. So we decided to make scuba diving. I got lost from the group because I wanted to take picture of a red star fish. But what I didn't know then was that the group was already finished when I came back and...they had already left and I had remained alone with my starfish....during six long hours till they came back after me. It was funny but was famished and I decided that I won't explore by myself anymore... photo by Yiannis Issaris

Message in a bottle

*Take care of the dolphins !!!
Have fun and take a lot of pictures!*



The seashore in 50 years...



The seashore is a semiaquatic fringe community with enough species that makes it a real biome. The rise of these level is the one which influences the physical features of the seashore.

In fifty years the sea will advance a lot which will make people realize that the sea and the seashore need to be taken care of and will also protect its fauna and flora. Which will increase their process of development.

Scientist interview

R: "What do think about the present state of the Black Sea?"

S.: "The Black Sea has a positive water balance, which results in a net outflow of water 300 km³ per year through the Bosphorus into the Aegean Sea (part of the Mediterranean Sea). Mediterranean water flows into the Black Sea as part of a 2-way hydrological exchange. The Black Sea outflow is less salinated and cool, therefore floats over the warm, relatively more salinated Mediterranean inflow. Even though, the health of the water is in danger because of the pollution."

R.: "Do you consider that the species in the Black Sea are in danger? Why?"

S.: "Yes I do believe that because of the poaching, of the polluting substances that get into the sea trough the Danube and because of the changes suffered by the climate."

R.: "What do you believe that will be the future of the Black Sea?"

S.: "The waters of the Black Sea contain very little oxygen. As such, the rare forms of life that live in the depths of the inland sea, so-called extremophile bacteria, survive by metabolising sulfate in the water. The sulfate fulfils a similar biochemical role to oxygen in respiration for these microbes allowing them to release the energy they need to live and grow from the nutrients they absorb from the water. With organic matter and waste pouring into the Black Sea from waterways running off 17 countries, the Black Sea has a serious environmental contamination problem. So the future of the Black Sea is variable. Whether we take action and save the sea or we do not involve in the problem, our sea's health is depending on everybody, so we must be careful and do something to save it."

Message in a bottle

NewsFlash!

- The young boy who got lost from the group yesterday during the exploration of an island was safely brought back onboard.
- The experiment in which the scientist, using a sonar equipment, called the dolphins was a success. The ones who enjoyed the most were the children.



Weather Forecast



*Today will be sunny
with temperatures varying
between 25 and 30 degree Celsius.*

*The sky will be clear with no hint of clouds.
The speed of the wind won't exceed 3 knots.*



Menu of the day

Breakfast: Cold cereal with fruit and skim milk
Yogurt with fruit or low-fat granola cereal
Peanut butter on a whole-wheat bagel and orange juice
Bran muffin and a banana
Breakfast smoothie (blend fruit and skim milk)
Hard-boiled egg / sunny side up egg and grapefruit juice
Pancakes

Lunch: Cream soup
Grilled Black Sea Bass (fish)
Grilled Chicken
Mixed vegetables
Chocolate cake / Strawberry cake

Supper:
Lasagna
Penne with shrimp
Italian Macaronni

Take care of the Black Sea! Save the Dolphins!

Scientists have warned that dolphins will become extinct in the Black Sea if nothing is done to end the threat posed by pollution and the legacy of years of hunting.

The dolphin population has dwindled to just one percent of the number recorded 46 years ago. In 1950 one million dolphins belonging to three species lived in the Black Sea. However, their numbers started decreasing soon after.

By 1970 there were just 70,000 of these highly intelligent aquatic mammals left and by 1995 the number had been reduced to 10,000. If the present rate of destruction continues dolphins will cease to exist in the Black Sea by the turn of the century.

To blame is the pollution of the Black Sea and the cruel massacre of the animals during the former communist regime, under its grimly-titled "program of economic capitalization of dolphins".

As many scientific reports show, the water in the Black Sea is strongly polluted by a variety of chemicals. One of the biggest sources of pollution is the Danube river. It flows through six countries over close to 3,000 Km between its origins in Germany and where it falls into the Black Sea in Romania.

In its path it carries various kinds of chemicals that either are dumped by factories and other industrial installations or seep through the earth from large agricultural centers. Shipping in the Black Sea also contributes to the pollution, causing considerable amounts of oil spillage.

Name and address of the class: 10B2, "Ovidius" Highschool Constanta, Romania, 2, Basarabi street, 900710

Age—16-17 years old

Number of students: 12

Coordinating teacher: Carmen Bucovala