

# Non-indigenous marine species, a global biorisk agent in selected regional Seas

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Wadden Sea Research - 13<sup>o</sup> Symposium Waddenacademie



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# Outline

- Biorisk by alien species
- Abundance and distribution of NIS in European regional Seas
- The Northern Adriatic Sea and the Wadden Sea: two areas at high risk of invasion by NIS
- The Lagoon of Venice: a hotspot of introductions
- NIS impact is evident but not easily measured
- Prevention, remediation and adaptation to biological change

# Biorisk in EU Directives

Introduction of non-indigenous species (NIS) has impacted the conservation of biodiversity, structure and function of ecosystems, sustainable exploitation of natural resources, and may negatively impact industries and pose threats to human health.

4.11.2014

EN

Official Journal of the European Union

L 317/35

**REGULATION (EU) No 1143/2014 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL  
of 22 October 2014**

**on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species**

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 192(1) thereof,

# Non-Indigenous Species (NIS) in the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive



NIS abundance and distribution is **qualitative Descriptor 2** for the assessment of **GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS**

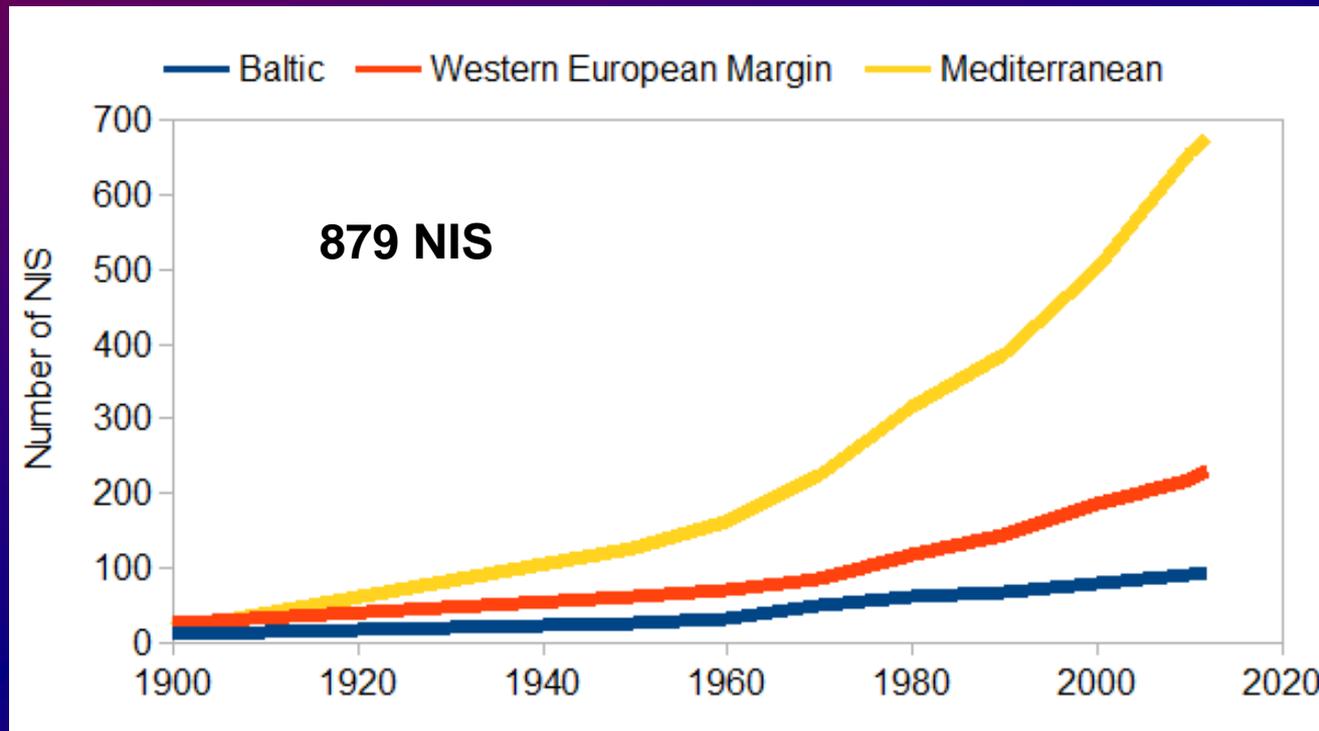
**Indicator 2.1.1:** Trends in abundance, temporal occurrence and spatial distribution in the wild of NIS, particularly invasive NIS, **notably in risk areas**, in relation to the main vectors and pathways of spreading of such species.

**Indicator 2.2.2 :** Environmental impact of invasive non-indigenous species

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# How many marine NIS in Europe ?



Cumulative number of non-indigenous species recorded in the Baltic Sea, Western European Margin and Mediterranean Sea.

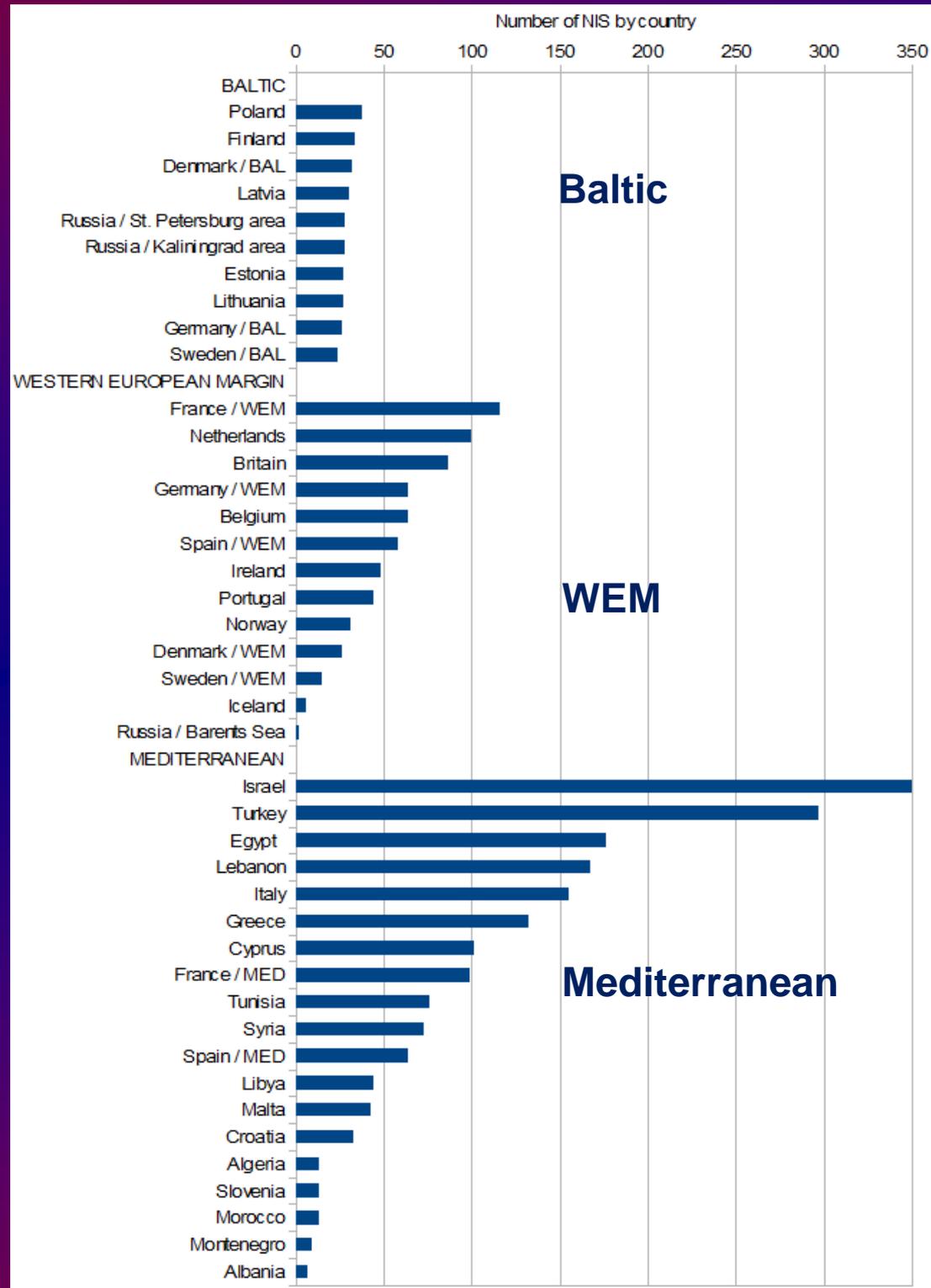


Galil *et al.*, 2014, *Ethol.Ecol.Evol.*

# How many marine NIS in Europe ?

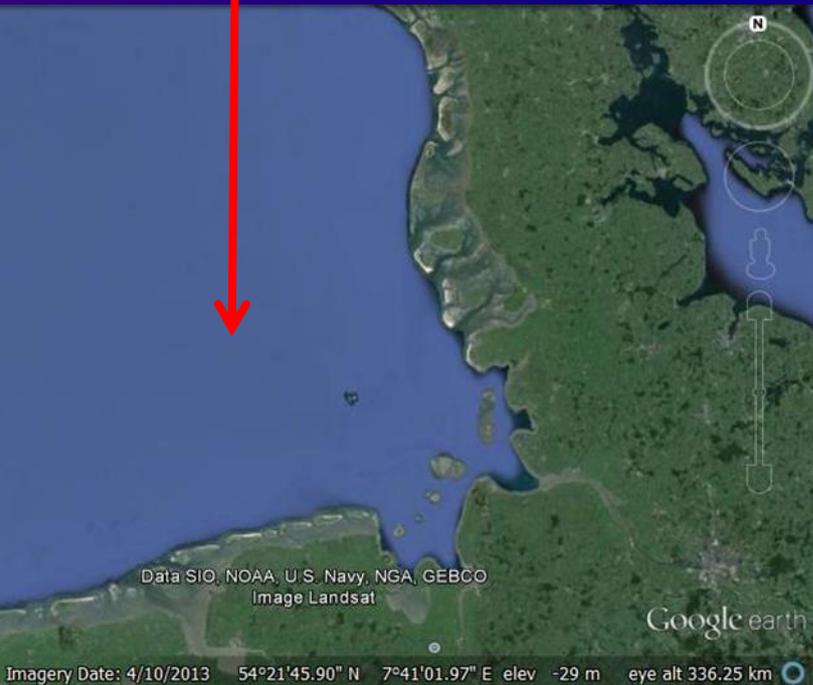
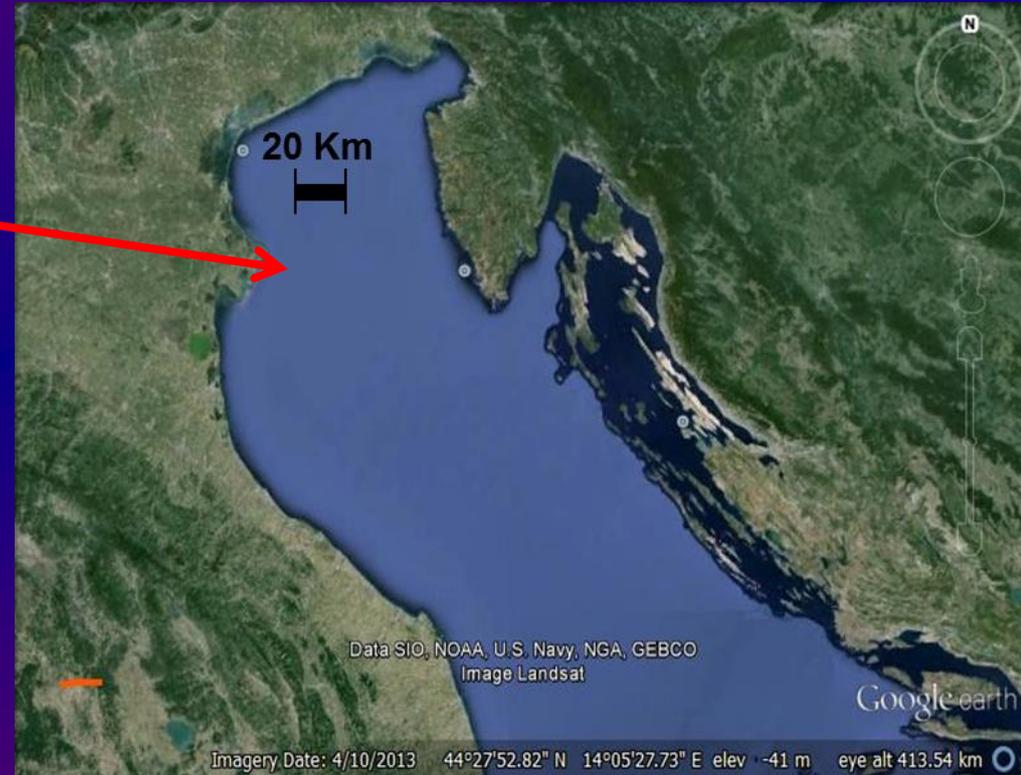
Number of non-indigenous species recorded by country in the Baltic Sea, Western European Margin and Mediterranean Sea.

Galil *et al.*, 2014,  
Ethol.Ecol.Evol.



# Two risk areas

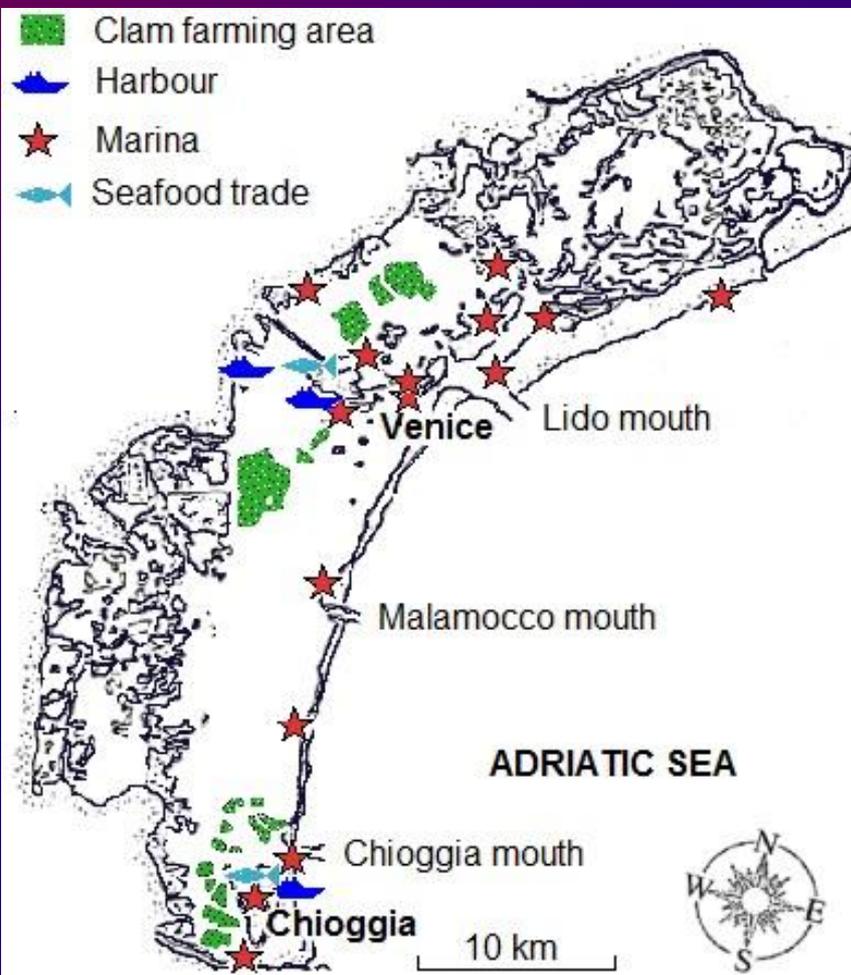
## Wadden Sea – Northern Adriatic



# The Lagoon of Venice



a brackish water body of 550 km<sup>2</sup> connected to the Northern Adriatic



 **3 harbour terminals:**  
Venice, Marghera, Chioggia

 **33 marinas and yacht clubs**  
(>8000 moorings)

 **4,500 ha for clam farms**  
(~ 500 operators; ~ 450 tons of clam seeds imported yearly)

 **2 fish markets, plus live seafood processing sites**

# Data gathered from a variety of sources

## ✓ Interviews and direct observations

(Chioggia fish market, Port Authority)

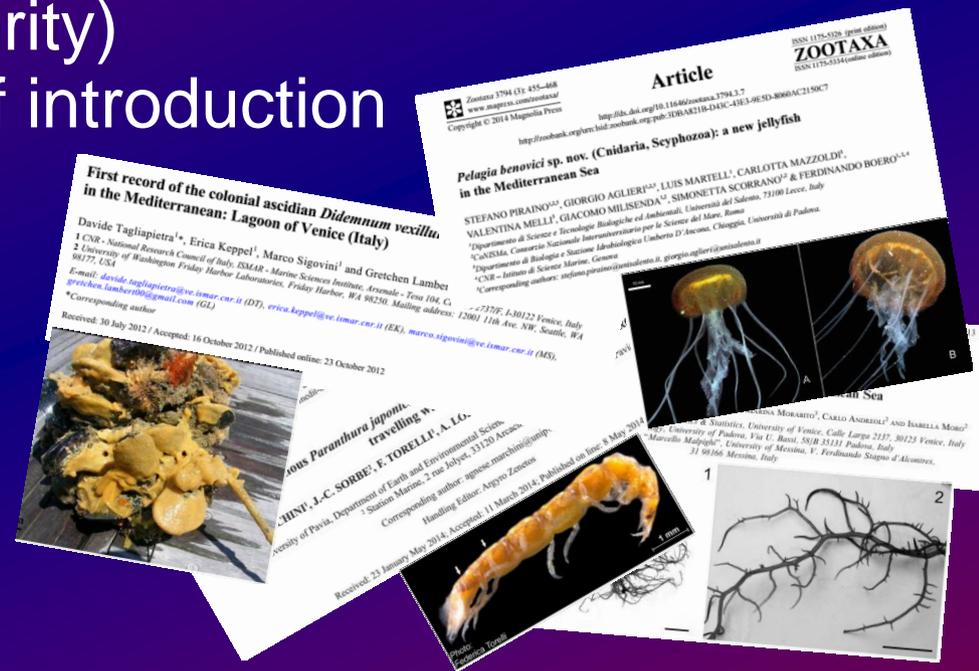
→ intensity of the main vectors of introduction

## ✓ Literature survey

→ update of the NIS inventory

## ✓ Field surveys

→ 54 samples collected in 2012



# Updating the list of NIS in the Lagoon of Venice

Table 1. Alien species introduced into the benthic communities of the Lagoon of Venice. Species marked with an asterisk (\*) were described in the Lagoon of Venice as the first record for the Mediterranean Sea.

Species	First record	Known from	Reference
<b>Algae</b>			
<i>Sargassum muticum</i>	1992	Japan	Gargiulo et al. 1992
<i>Undaria pinnatifida</i>	1992	Japan	Birch et al. 1992
<del><i>Grateloupia doryphora</i></del>			
<del><i>Rodostomum divinator</i></del>			
<del><i>Antithamnion pectinatum</i></del>			
<del><i>Sargassum muticum</i></del>			
<del><i>Ectocarpus siliculosus</i> var. <i>bismalis</i></del>	1998	Black Sea	Bellemo et al. 1999
<del><i>Boreocystis tenuissima</i></del>	1998	Boreal-Atlantic	Bellemo et al. 1999
<b>Cnidaria</b>			
<i>Garveia franciscana</i> *	1978	Indopacific	Morri 1982
<i>Diadumene cincta</i> *	1993	Atlantic	Birkemeyer 1996
<b>Annelida Polychaeta</b>			
<i>Ficopomatus enigmaticus</i>	1934	Australia	Fauvel 1938
<i>Hydroides dianthus</i>	1934	NW Atlantic	Fauvel 1938
<i>Hydroides elegans</i>	1934	Australia?	Fauvel 1938
<b>Crustacea</b>			
<del><i>Paracerceis sculpta</i></del>	1983	N Africa	Forniz and Sconfietti 1983
<del><i>Elasmopus pectinatus</i> *</del>	1983	Red Sea	Sconfietti and Danovaro 1983
<i>Callinectes danae</i> *	1981	NW Atlantic	Morri 1982
<i>Callinectes sapidus</i>	1950	NW Atlantic	Morri 1982
<i>Dyspanopeus sayi</i> *	1992	NW Atlantic	Froggia and Sconfietti 1992
<i>Caprella scaura</i> *	1994	Indopacific	Sconfietti and Danovaro 1994
<b>Arthropoda Chelicerata</b>			
<i>Ammothea hilgendorfi</i> *	1979–1981	Pacific	Krapp and Sconfietti 1983
<b>Bryozoa</b>			
<i>Tricellaria inopinata</i> *	1982	Indopacific	d'Hondt and Occhipinti 1985
<i>Celleporella carolinensis</i> *	1994	W Atlantic	Occhipinti and d'Hondt 1996
<b>Mollusca</b>			
<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>	1966	Japan	Cesari and Pellizzato 1985a
<i>Anadara (Scapharca) inaequalis</i>	1976	Indopacific	Cesari and Pellizzato 1985a
<i>Saccostrea commercialis</i>	1984	NW Atlantic	Cesari and Pellizzato 1985a
<i>Rapana venosa</i>	1981	Indopacific	Cesari and Pellizzato 1985a
<i>Bursatella leachi</i>	1985	Indopacific	Cesari and Pellizzato 1985a
<i>Xenostrobus securis</i> *	1985	Indopacific	Cesari and Pellizzato 1985a
<i>Tapes philippinarum</i>	1983	Indopacific	Cesari and Pellizzato 1985a
<b>Tunicata</b>			
<i>Botrylloides violaceus</i> *	1993	Indopacific	Zaniolo et al. 1998

Questionable records to be removed



New records to be added

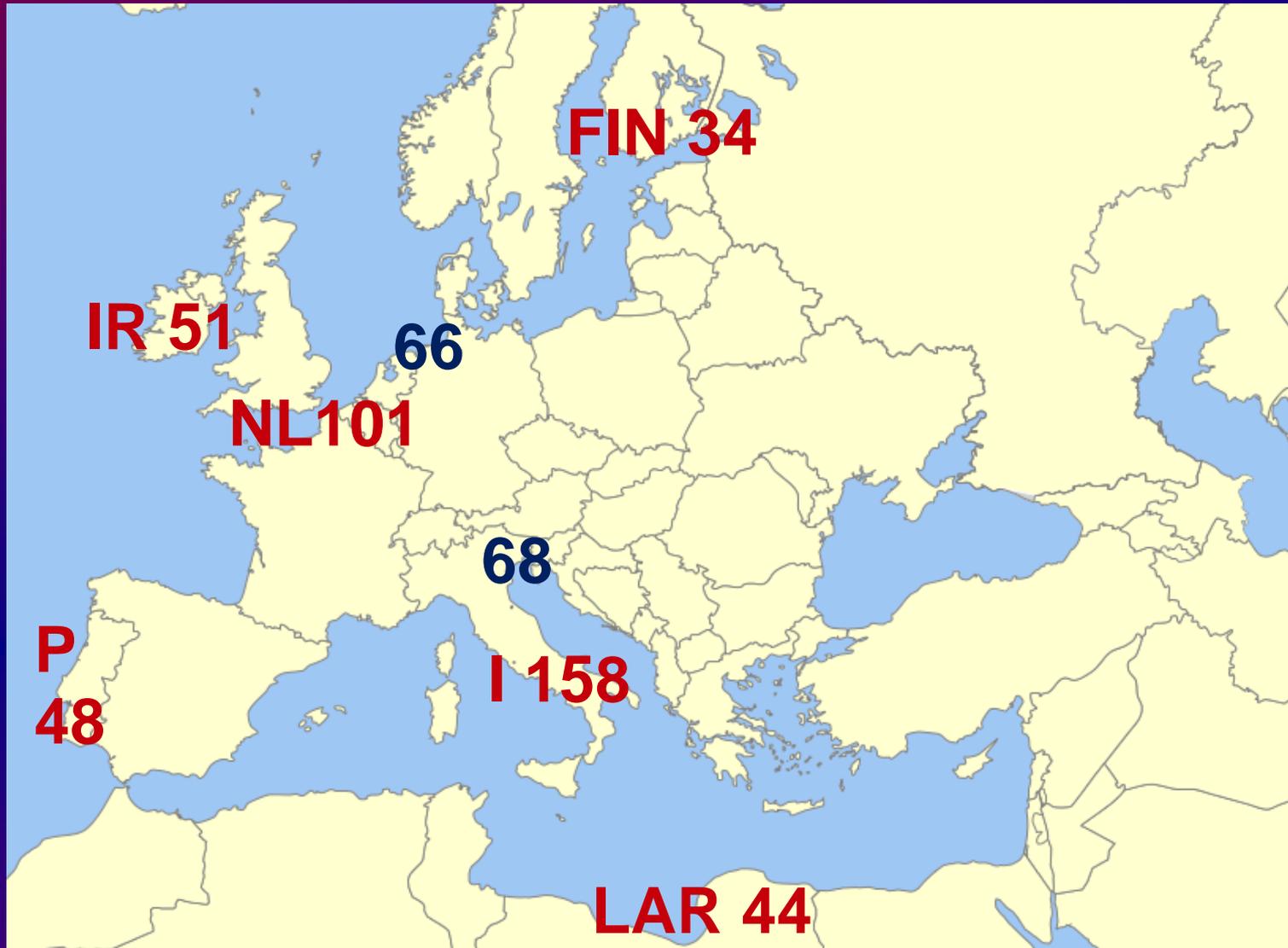


Old records of 'pseudo-indigenous species'



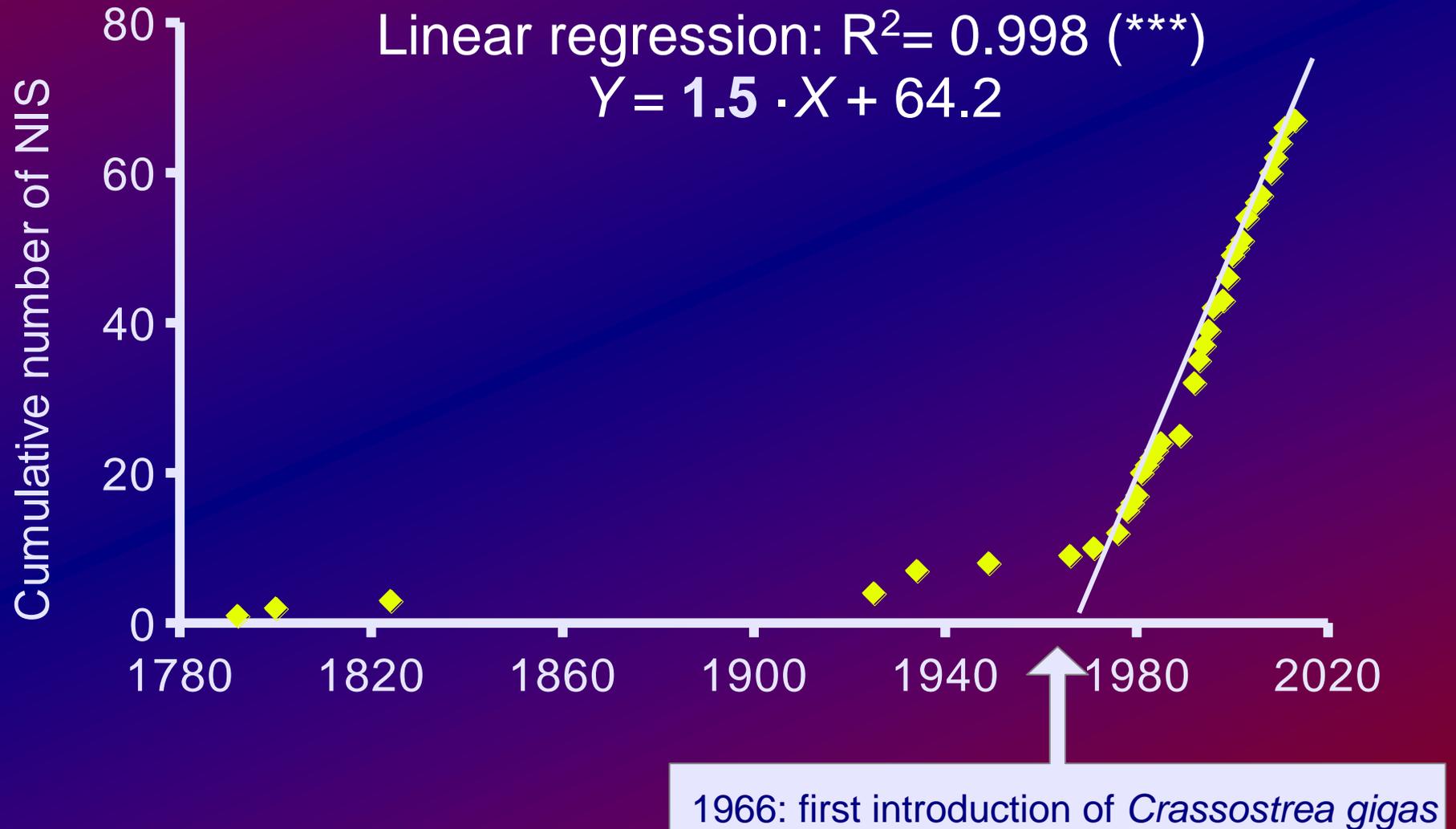
# The Lagoon of Venice as a hotspot for NIS

**68 NIS** in the Lagoon of Venice alone



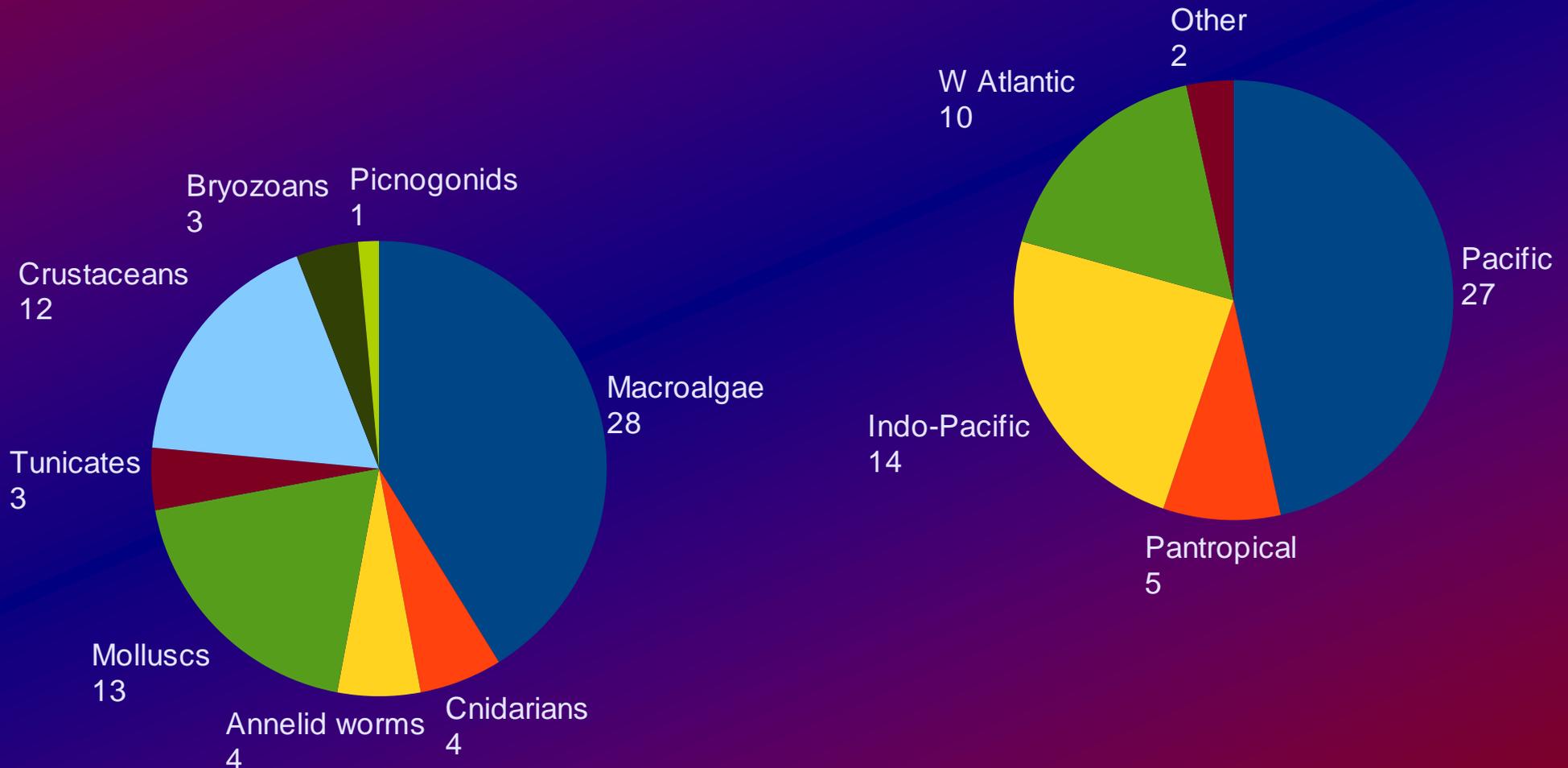
(Buschbaum et al., 2012.; Galil et al., 2014; Marchini et al., in press)

# Timeline of introductions in the Lagoon of Venice

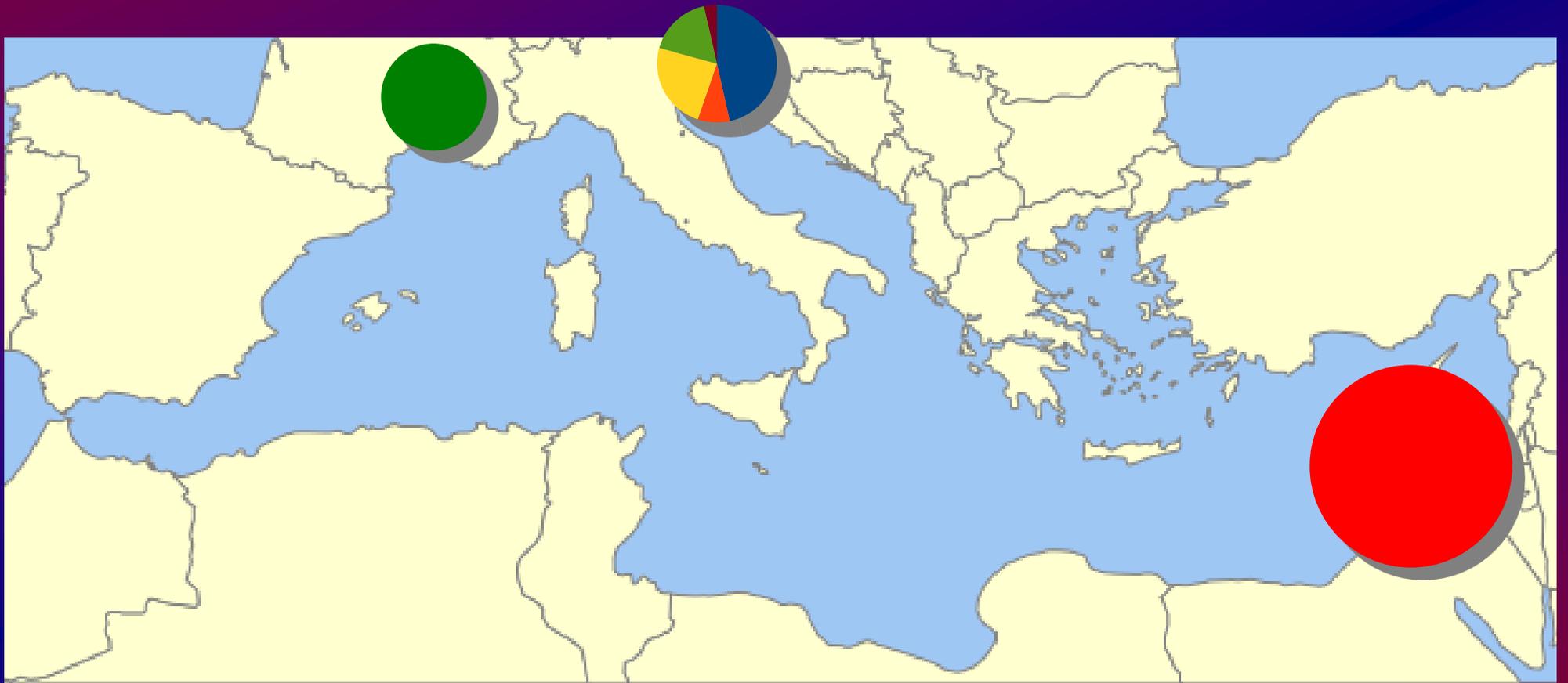


# What kind of NIS and where do they come from ?

## Taxa and native origin of Venice NIS



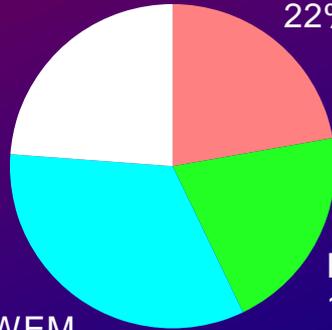
# The “melting pot” biota of the Lagoon of Venice



# The Lagoon of Venice as a sink and source of NIS

From other source regions  
15  
24%

First recorded from MED (excluding France)  
14  
22%



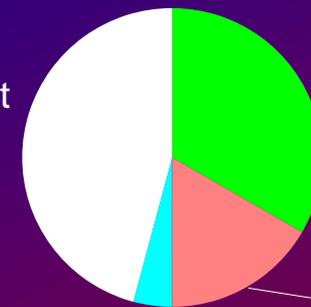
First recorded from WEM  
21  
33%

First recorded from French MED coast  
13  
21%

**sink**

Spread to the MED only  
8  
33%

Not found elsewhere yet  
11  
46%

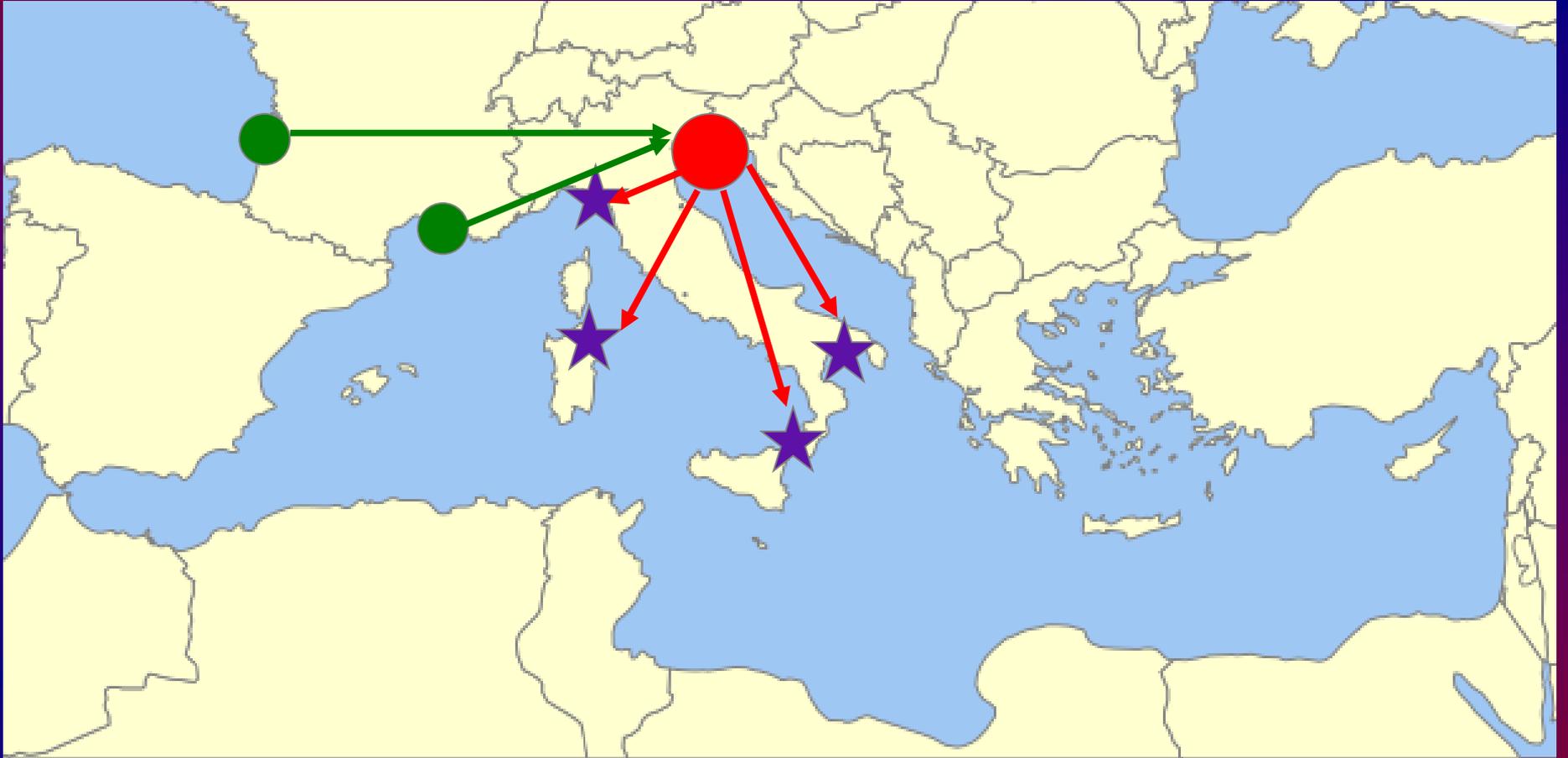


**source**

Spread to the WEM only  
1  
4%

Spread to the MED and WEM  
4  
17%

# The Lagoon of Venice as a sink and source of NIS



# Algal invasions in the Lagoon of Venice



# Algal invasions in the Lagoon of Venice

## *Gracilaria vermiculophylla*

### *The black Gracilaria*

It was first found in North Europe in 1996, and was introduced with the importation of oysters from Virginia.

In 2008 it was recorded in the Po Delta, Pialassa della Baiona and in Venice Lagoon with a biomass up to 5 kg FWT m<sup>-2</sup> (Sfriso et al., 2010).



Hollow filament



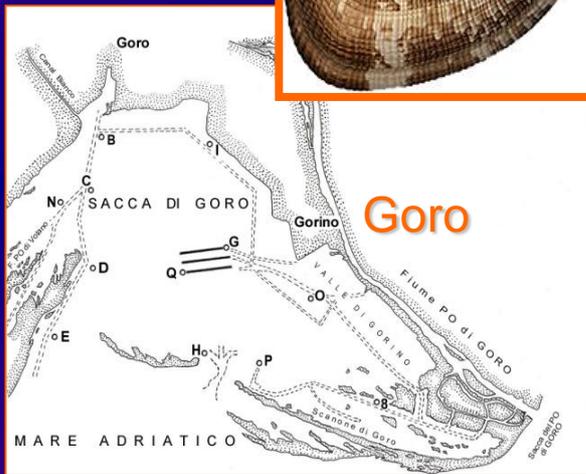
Thick wall



# Clam culture: *Ruditapes philippinarum*



# Interactions with nutrients and sediment dynamics



***Ruditapes philppinarum* has invaded the Lagoons of Venice and the Po River delta:**

Biofiltration has increased → higher fluxes  
 $O_2$  (↓),  $CO_2$  (↑),  $NH_4^+$  (↑),  $PO_4^{3-}$  (↑)

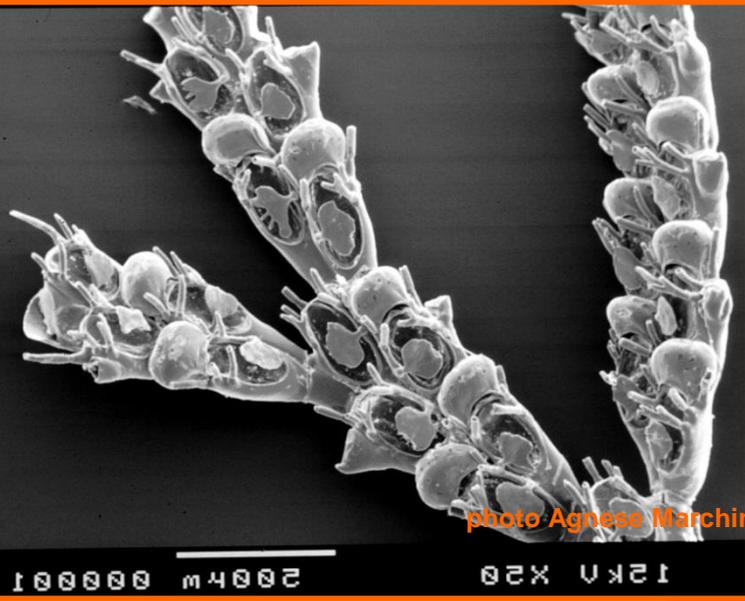
Phytoplankton consumption increased →  
*is food limitation an issue?*

The collection of clams accelerates organic matter turnover → this additional supply of food determines the ***Tapes* paradox**

***top-down e bottom-up control***

# The case of Bryozoans

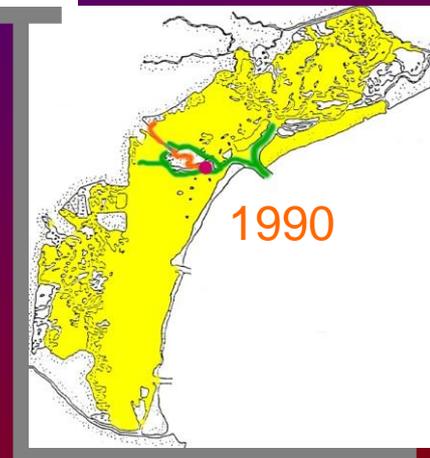
*Tricellaria inopinata*  
(d'Hondt & Occhipinti-Ambrogi, 1985)



1982

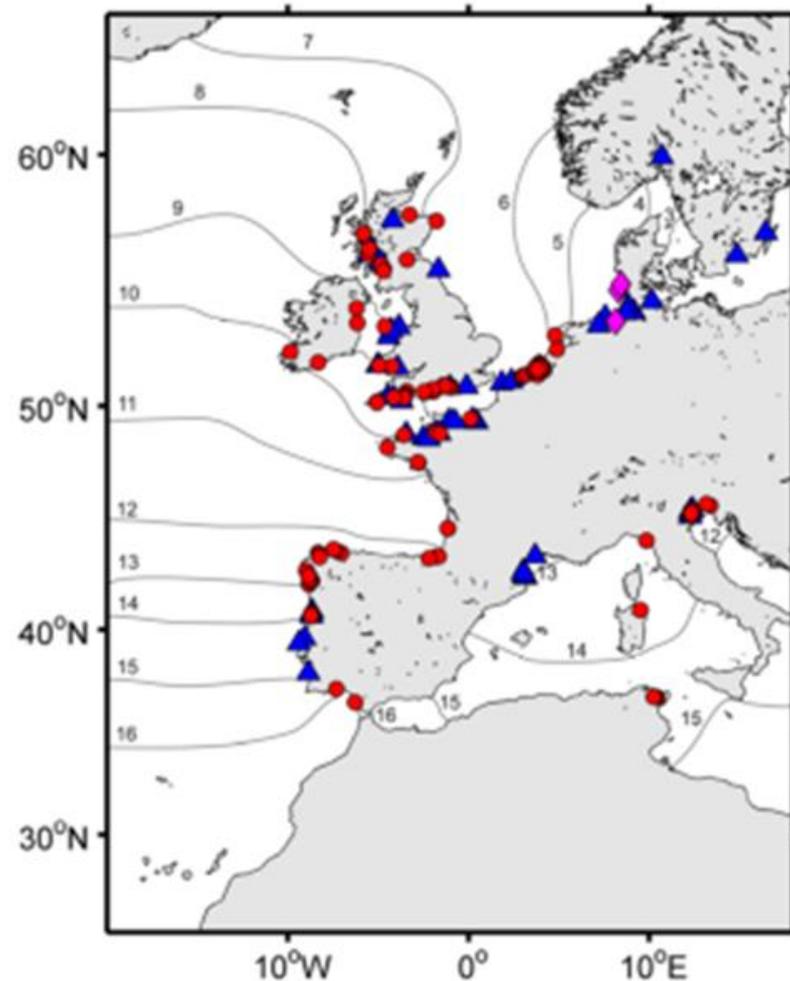


1985



1990

# Present distribution of *Tricellaria inopinata*



**Figure 3.** European distribution of *Tricellaria inopinata*, including the minimum winter sea surface temperature data averaged from 1856 to 1995 (see Appendix 1). Positive sightings (●); negative sighting (▲), previous positive sighting, now negative (◆).

Lodola *et al.*  
(2012) Marine  
Biodiversity  
Records

Cook *et al.* Aquatic  
Invasions (2013) 8 (3):  
281–288.

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# How can NIS impact the invaded environment and community?

## **ECOLOGICAL IMPACT :**

any (measurable?) change in abundance, biomass or distribution of native species and/or habitats

## **SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACT :**

any negative effect on human activities

COMPETITION
PREDATION
HYBRIDISATION
TRANSMISSION OF DISEASES
PARASITISM
POISONING/TOXICITY
BIOFOULING
GRAZING/HERBIVORY/BROWSING
PHYSICAL IMPACT
CHEMICAL IMPACT
INTERACTION WITH OTHER NIS
FOOD-PREY
OTHER IMPACTS (SOCIO-ECONOMIC)
IMPACT STUDIES PERFORMED, BUT NO IMPACTS OBSERVED

# Which NIS are invasive ?

- Number of introductions, timing, spatial distribution and even abundance are not measures of impact *per se*
- Not much specific experimental work has been devoted to the effect of NIS, not even in the Lagoon of Venice
- At a European scale, we proposed to concentrate on the literature meta-analysis of the most widespread species
- We gathered the available information on impacts of a limited number of species

# How to define invasive species?

A geographic approach (Galil *et al.*, 2014):

## MOST WIDESPREAD NON-INDIGENOUS SPECIES (MW-NIS) IN EUROPEAN SEAS

→ Species recorded in 10 or more, and/or recorded and spread to five or more countries since 1990 as ('post-1990 widespread')

**69 SPECIES**



*Sargassum muticum*



*Ruditapes philippinarum*



*Callinectes sapidus*



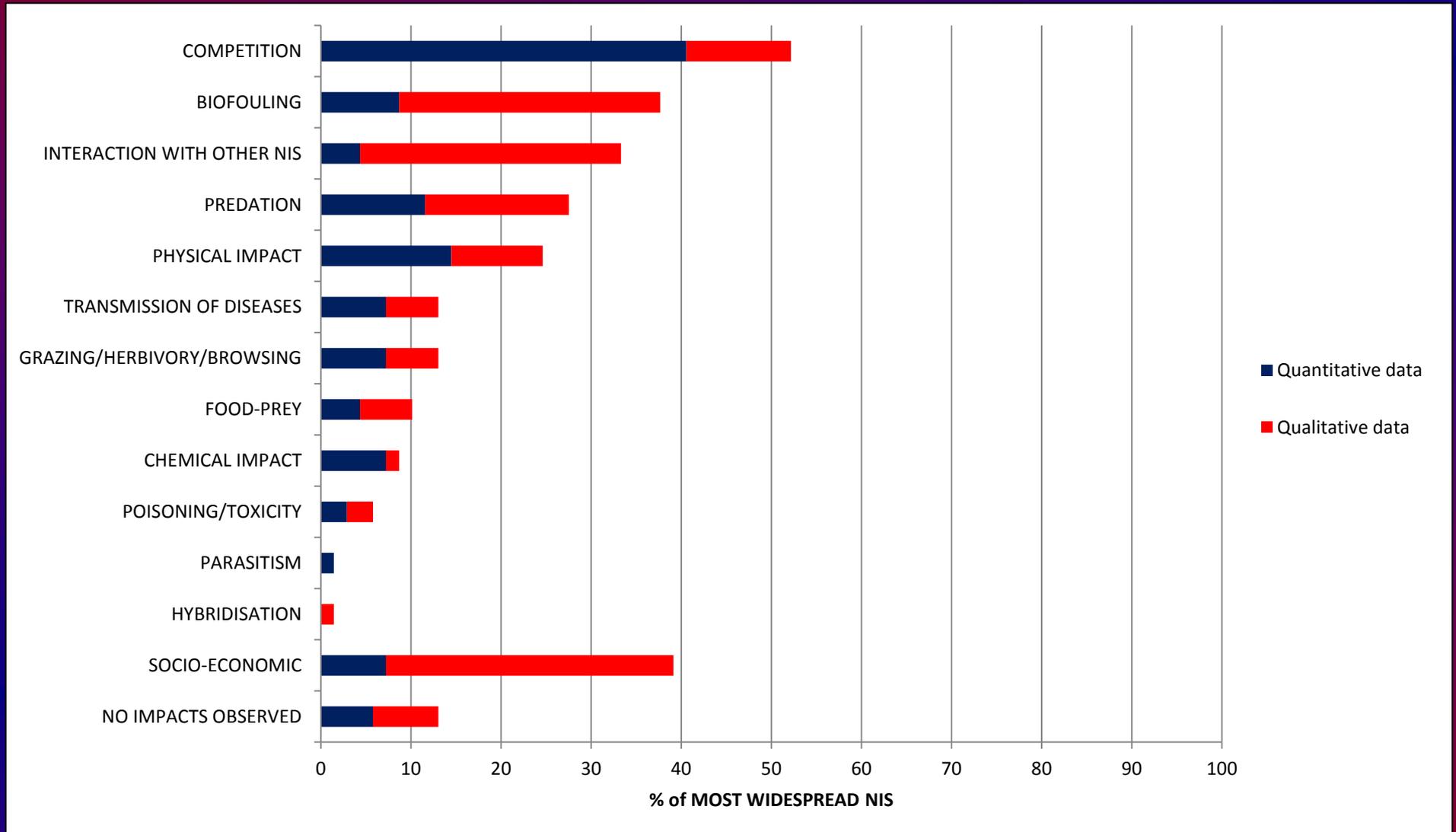
*Lagocephalus sceleratus*

# Most Widespread-NIS in Europe

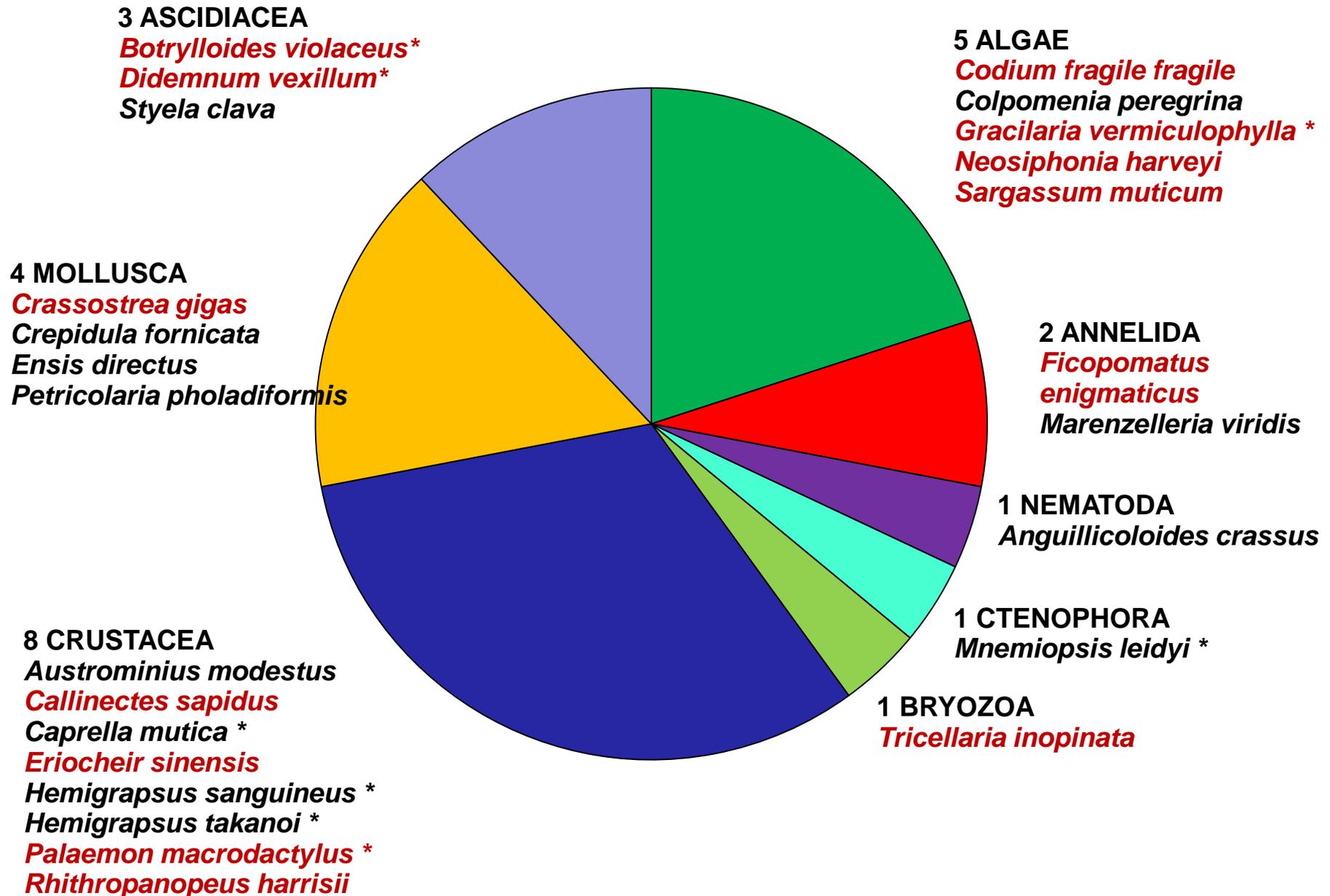
69 Species from  
different taxa:  
from Algae to  
Fish!!

Functional Group	
ZOOBENTHOS	PHYTOBENTHOS
<b>Crustacea</b>	<b>Red algae</b>
<i>Austrominius modestus</i> (Darwin, 1845)	<i>Asparagopsis armata</i>
<i>Callinectes sapidus</i> (Rathbun, 1896)	<i>Bonnemaisonia hamifera</i>
<i>Caprella mutica</i> (Shurin, 1935)	<i>Gracilaria vermiculophylla</i>
<i>Caprella scaura</i> (Templeton, 1836)	<i>Heterosiphonia japonica</i>
<i>Eriocheir sinensis</i> (Milne Edwards, 1853)	<i>Lophocladia lallemandii</i>
<i>Gammarus tigrinus</i> (Sexton, 1939)	<i>Neosiphonia harveyi</i>
<i>Hemigrapsus sanguineus</i> (De Haan, 1835)	<b>Brown algae</b>
<i>Hemigrapsus takanoi</i> (Hasakura & Watanabe, 2005)	<i>Colpomenia peregrina</i>
<i>Hemimysis anomala</i> (Sars, 1907)	<i>Sargassum muticum</i>
<i>Marsupenaeus japonicus</i> (Bate, 1888)	<b>Green algae</b>
<i>Palaemon macrodactylus</i> (Rathbun, 1902)	<i>Caulerpa racemosa</i> var. <i>cylindracea</i>
<i>Percnon gibbesi</i> (Milne Edwards, 1853)	<i>Codium fragile fragile</i>
<i>Rhithropanopeus harrisi</i> (Gould, 1841)	<b>Higher plants</b>
<b>Mollusca</b>	<i>Halophila stipulacea</i>
<i>Brachidontes pharaonis</i> (Fischer, 1870)	<b>PARASITE</b>
<i>Bursatella leachii</i> (Blainville, 1817)	<b>Nematoda</b>
<i>Cerithium scabridum</i> (Philippi, 1848)	<i>Anguillicoloides crassus</i> (Kuwahara, Niimi & Itagaki, 1974)
<i>Chama asperella</i> (Broderip, 1835)	<b>ZOOPLANKTON</b>
<i>Crassostrea gigas</i> (Thunberg, 1793)	<b>Crustacea</b>
<i>Crepidula fornicata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	<i>Acartia (Acanthacartia) tonsa</i> (Dana, 1849)
<i>Dreissena polymorpha</i> (Pallas, 1771)	<i>Cercopagis (Cercopagis) pengoi</i> (Ostroumov, 1891)
<i>Ensis directus</i> (Conrad, 1843)	<i>Evadne anonyx</i> (Sars, 1897)
<i>Ergalatax junionae</i> (Houart, 2008)	<i>Pseudodiaptomus marinus</i> (Sato, 1913)
<i>Fulvia fragilis / Fulvia (fulvia) fragilis</i> (Forsskal, 1775)	<b>Ctenophora</b>
<i>Goniobranchus annulatus</i> (Eliot, 1904)	<i>Mnemiopsis leidyi</i> (Agassiz, 1865)
<i>Petricolaria pholadiformis</i> (Lamarck, 1818)	<b>NECTON</b>
<i>Pinctada imbricata radiata</i> (Leach, 1814)	<b>Chordata</b>
<i>Potamopyrgus antipodarum</i> (Gray, 1843)	<i>Fistularia commersonii</i> (Rüppel, 1838)
<i>Ruditapes philippinarum</i> (Adams & Reeve, 1850)	<i>Hemiramphus far</i> (Forsskal, 1775)
<b>Tunicata</b>	<i>Lagocephalus sceleratus</i> (Gmelin, 1789)
<i>Botrylloides violaceus</i> (Oka, 1927)	<i>Neogobius melanostomus</i> (Pallas, 1814)
<i>Corella eumyota</i> (Traustedt, 1882)	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> (Walbaum, 1792)
<i>Didemnum vexillum</i> (Kott, 2002)	<i>Pteragogus pelycus</i> (Randall, 1981)
<i>Styela clava</i> (Herdman, 1881)	<i>Saurida macrolepis</i> (Tanaka, 1917)
<b>Annelida</b>	<i>Siganus luridus</i> (Rüppell, 1829)
<i>Ficopomatus enigmaticus</i> (Fauvel, 1923)	<i>Siganus rivulatus</i> (Forsskal & Niebuhr, 1775)
<i>Hydroides dianthus</i> (Verrill, 1873)	<i>Sphyræna flavicauda</i> (Rüppell, 1838)
<i>Hydroides elegans</i> (Haswell, 1883)	<i>Stephanolepis diaspros</i> (Fraser-Brunner, 1940)
<i>Marenzelleria viridis</i> (Verrill, 1873)	<b>Cephalopoda</b>
<b>Other taxa</b>	<i>Sepioteuthis lessoniana</i> (Lesson, 1830)
<i>Oculina patagonica</i> (De Angelis, 1908)	
<i>Paraleucilla magna</i> (Klautau, Monteiro & Borojevic, 2004)	
<i>Tricellaria inopinata</i> (d'Hondt & Occhipinti-Ambrogi, 1985)	
<i>Zoobotryon verticillatum</i> (Della Chiaje, 1822)	

# Information available for each impact category



# MW-NIS in the Wadden Sea and in the Venice Lagoon



# How to face the change?

- The lagoon of Venice and the Wadden Sea are "hotspots of change" where management efforts should be concentrated
- Prevention, remediation and adaptation to biological change by alien species can be addressed at varying degrees
- The European dimension is essential, in order to face a global issue

# Which vectors and pathways to control ? (1)

- **Eradication** : hardly possible, except very special cases
- **Ballast water treatment**:
  - water exchange only outside the coastal area, for transoceanic transport
  - limitations for ballast water charging in hot spot areas
  - chemical – physical treatments still under scrutiny



# Which vectors and pathways to control ? (2)

- **Fouling control :**
  - the ban of TBT has increased the possibility of developing growth of benthic organisms
  - limitations and careful procedures for wet scraping of hulls
  - assesment of small vessels for leisure boats

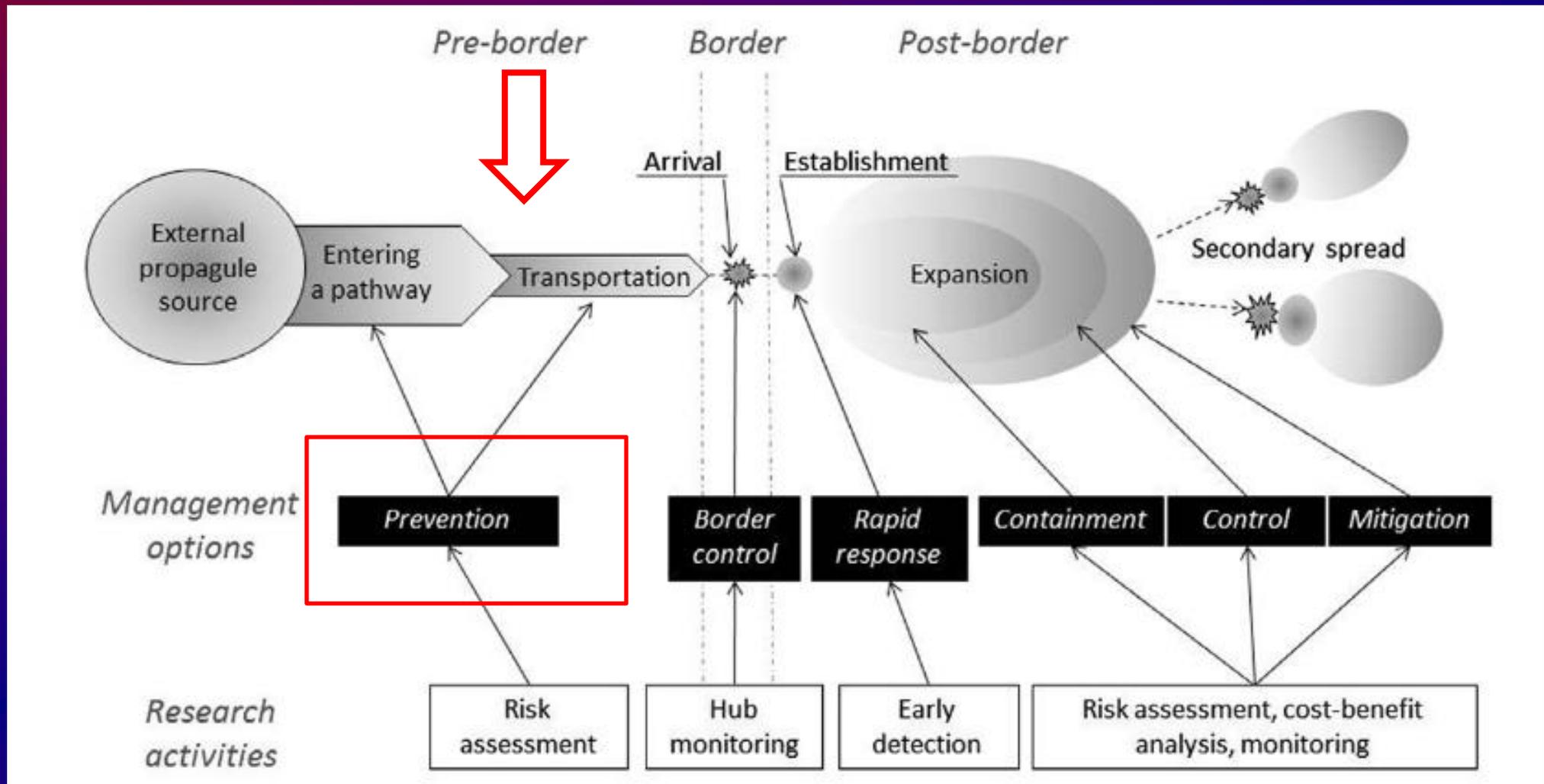


# Which vectors and pathways to control ? (3)

- **Aquaculture :**
  - control of stocking and seeding of bivalves
  - assessment of hitchhikers
- **Sea food processing**
  - Rigorously on land and treatment of discharge



# Process of invasion, management and science



Olenin, S., et al. Recommendations on methods for the detection and control of biological pollution in marine coastal waters. Mar. Pollut. Bull. (2011), doi:10.1016/j.marpolbul.2011.08.011

# Acknowledgements

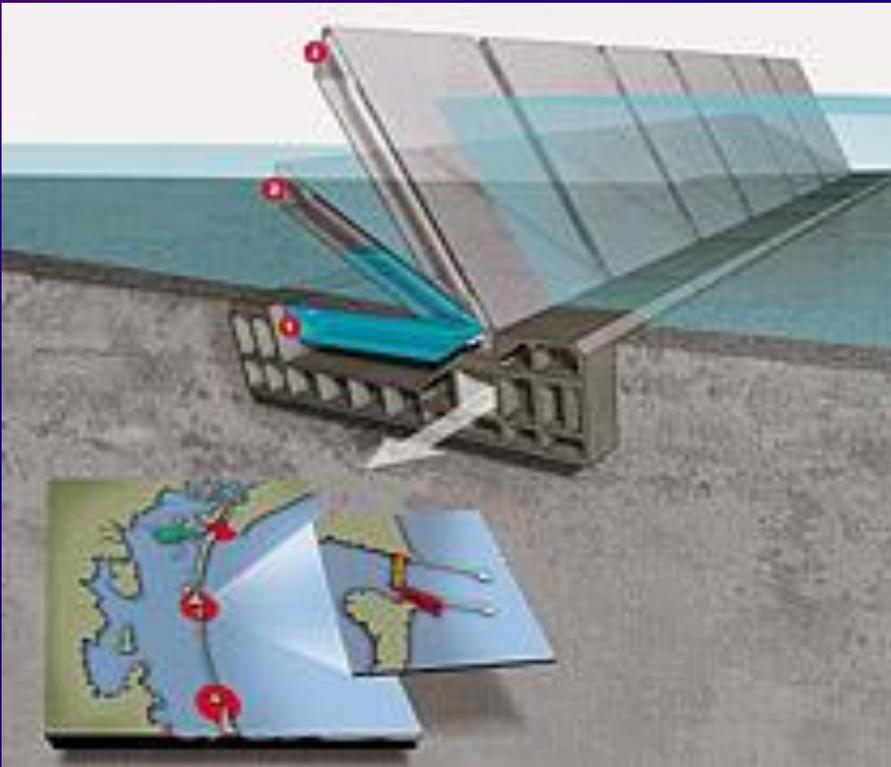
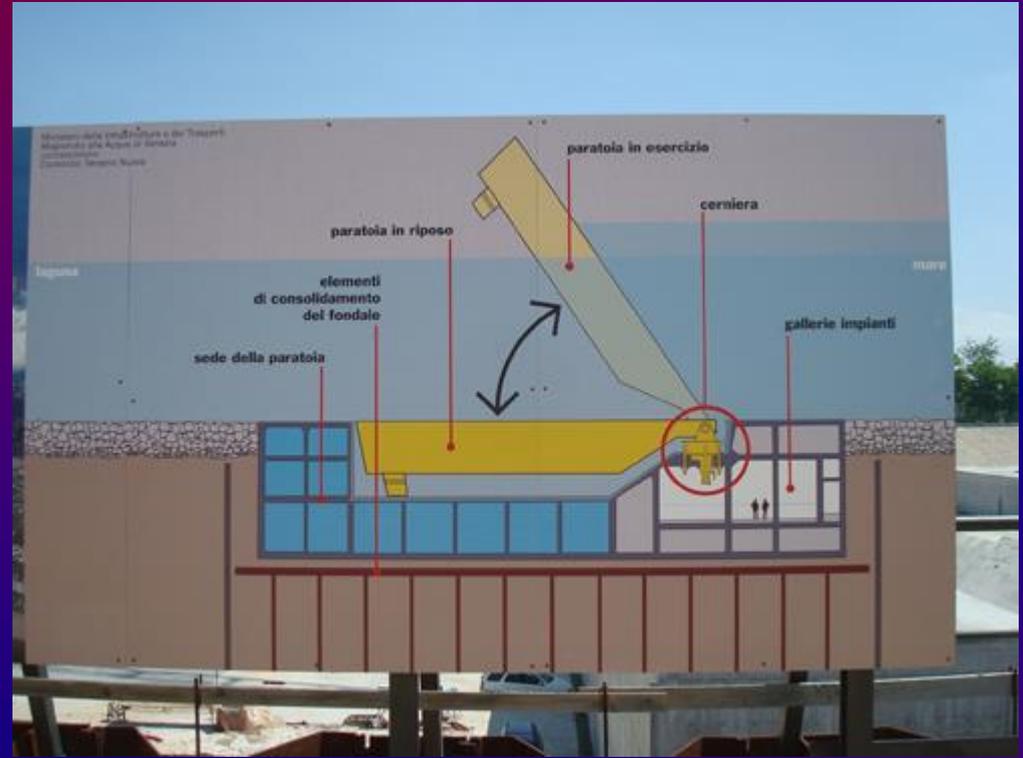
This work was carried out as part of  
Task 2.1.4 “*Data analysis to test the role of aquaculture  
as a vector for invasions*”

within the project **VECTORS** - Vectors Change in Oceans and  
Seas marine Life, Impact on Economics Sectors

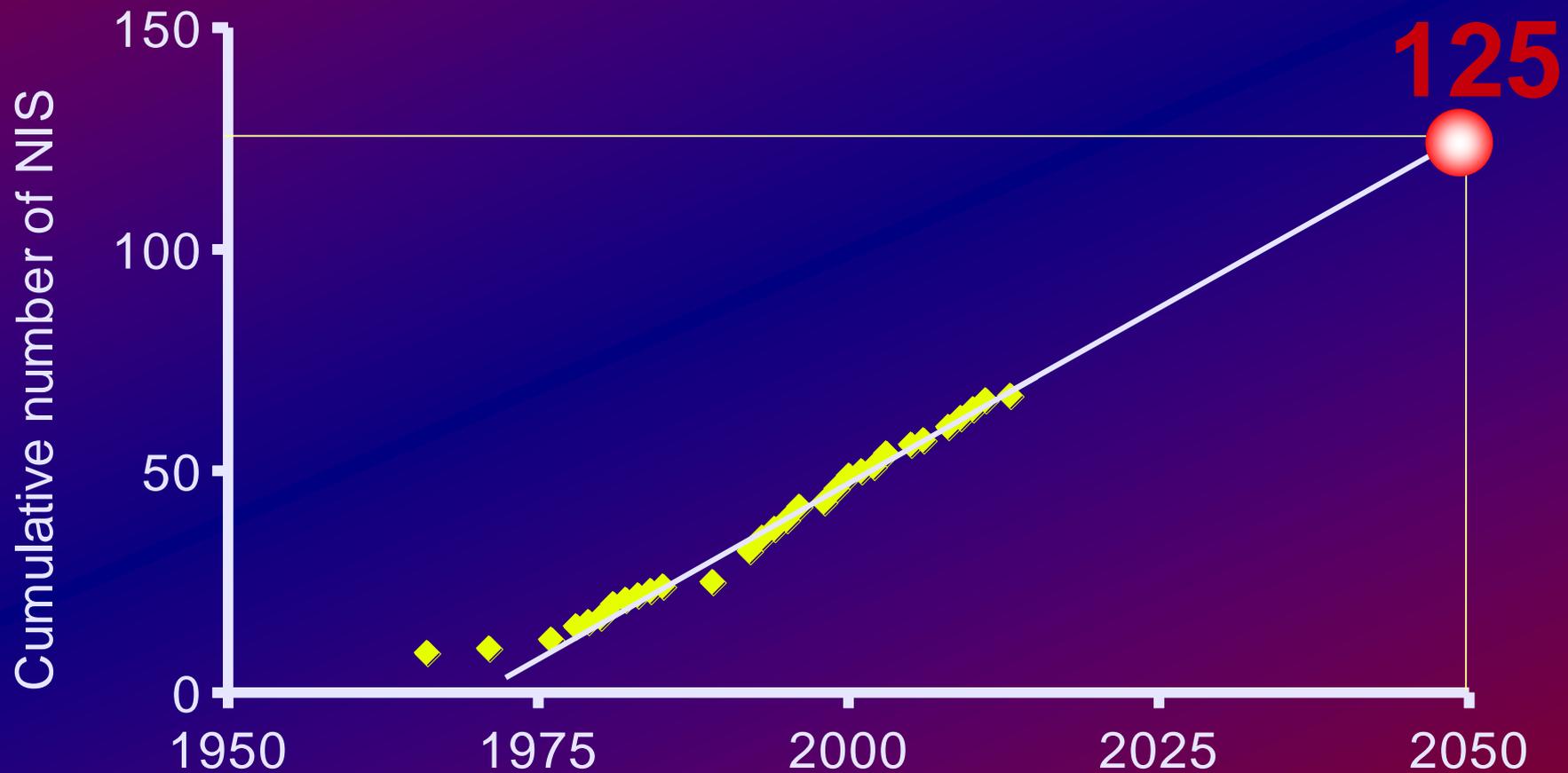
A European Community's Seventh Framework Program  
(FP7/2007–2013) under Grant Agreement no. 266445



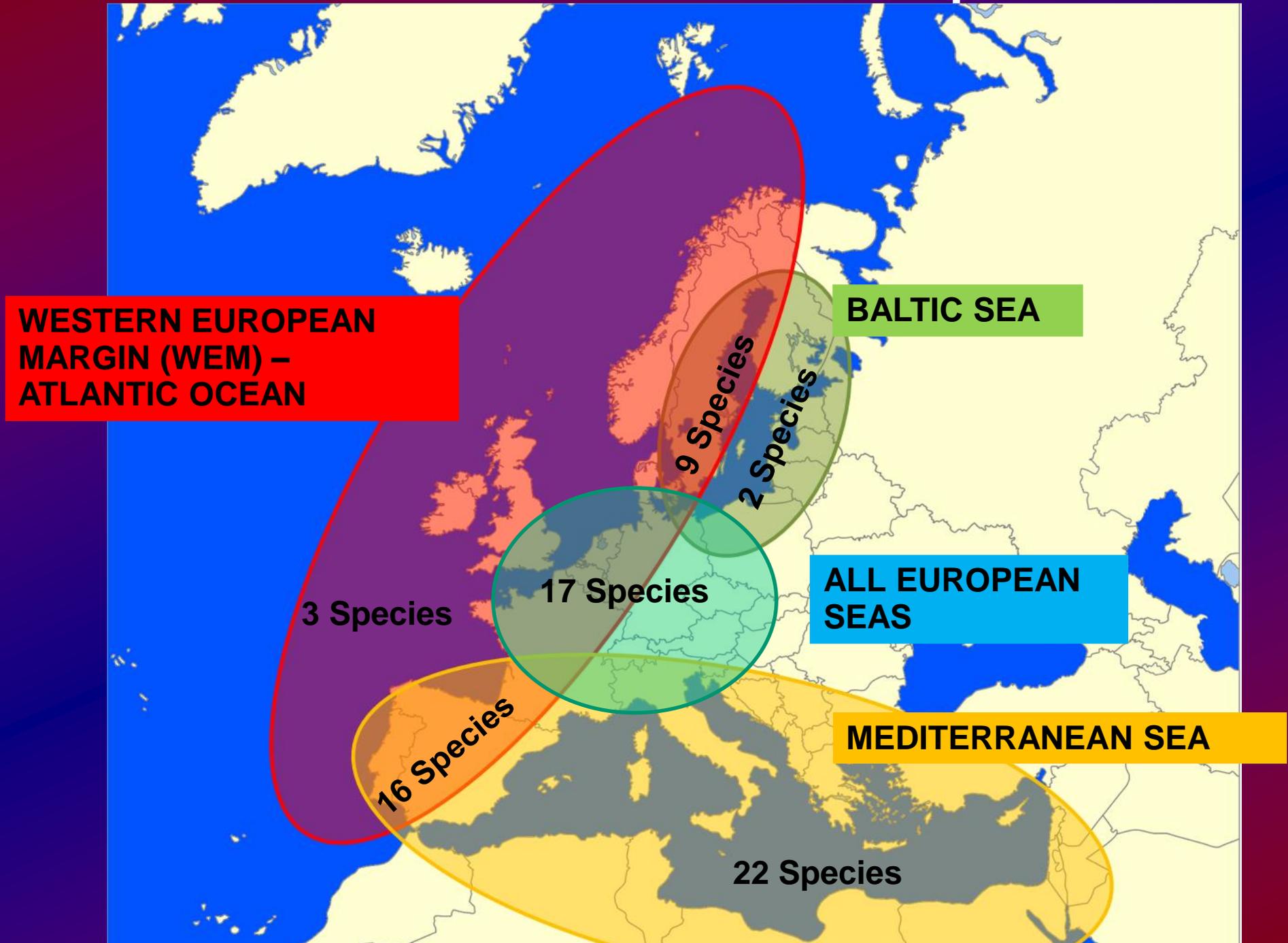




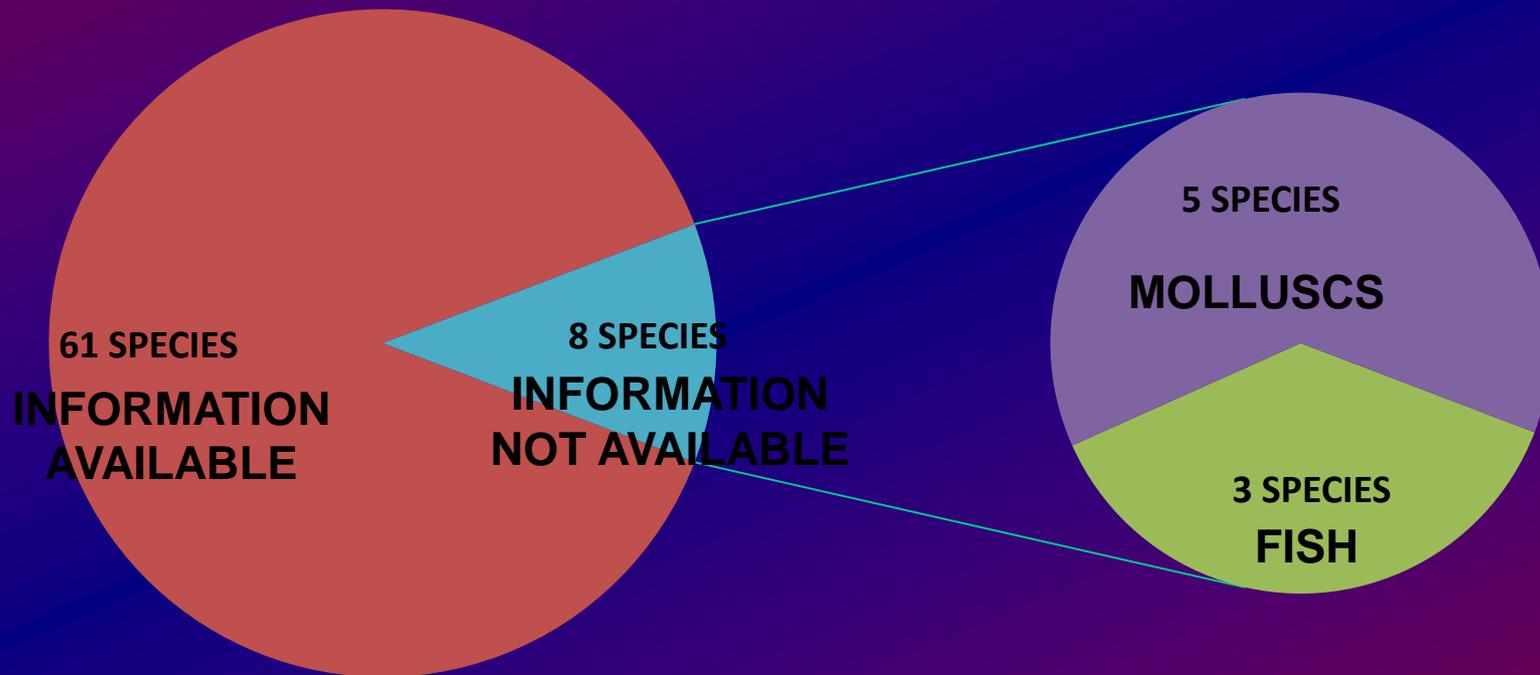
# What is the likely future trend for the NIS in the Lagoon of Venice? (if the conditions are not changed)



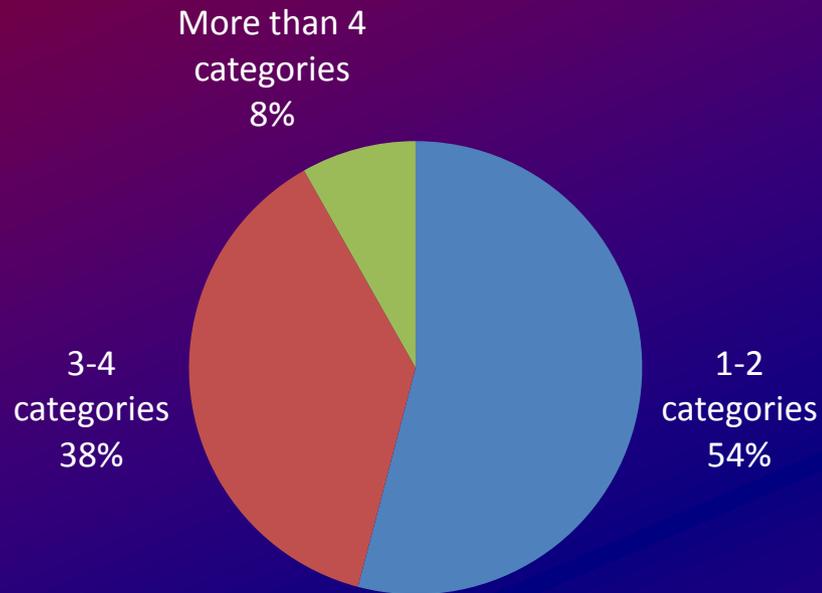
# MW-NIS distribution in European Seas



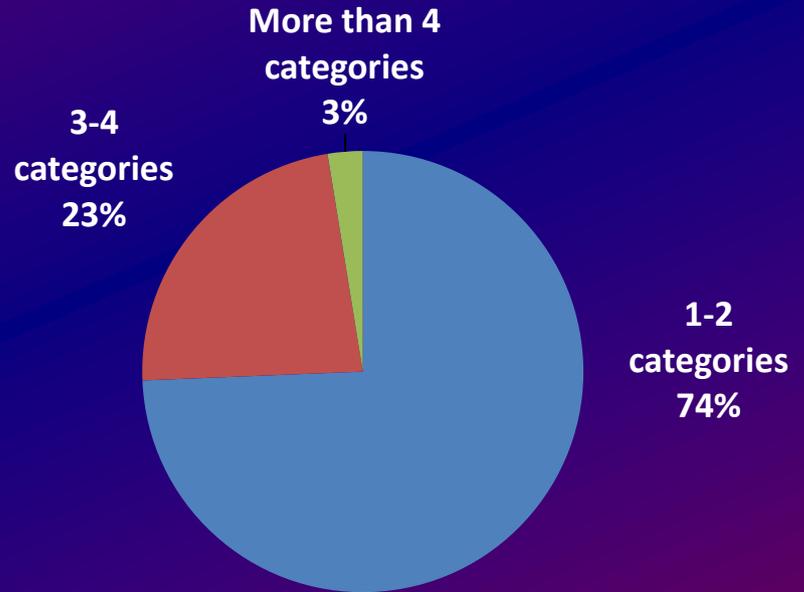
# Available information on effects



# For the majority of MW NIS, data is available only for 1-2 impact categories



**All impact data  
(61 species)**



**Only quantitative impact data  
(39 species)**

# Widespread NIS with multiple impacts

Baltic Sea → 1 country  
WEM → 10 countries  
Mediterranean → 2 countries

It can directly inhibit indigenous floral assemblages recruitment and growth, even leading to eradication of some species (e.g. *Cystoseira barbata*)

May grow attached to oyster shells (e.g. *Crassostrea gigas*).

## *Sargassum muticum*

Economical problems in Venice due to alteration of the canal vegetal landscape.



Source: AquaNIS

Dense stands of *S. muticum* may reduce light, dampen flow, increase sedimentation and reduce nutrient concentrations available for native species

It creates a habitat suitable for other NIS, such as caprellids

# Widespread NIS with multiple impacts

Baltic Sea → 8 countries  
WEM → 7 countries  
Mediterranean → 3 countries

Alteration of food web:  
can act both as a predator and as a prey for native species

Can host white spot baculoviruses:  
potential vector for crustaceans diseases

***Rhithropanopeus harrisi***

Competition with native crabs and benthopelagos fishes

Economic loss to fishermen by spoiling fishes trapped in nets



Source: Museo di Storia Naturale, Venezia

When reaches high densities can cause possible pipe fouling