

# Biological Invasions in Marine Systems



Picture: Karsten Reise, Cartoon: Kochmann et al. 2008

# Biological Invasions in Marine Systems

## Outline

### Pathways in Marine Systems

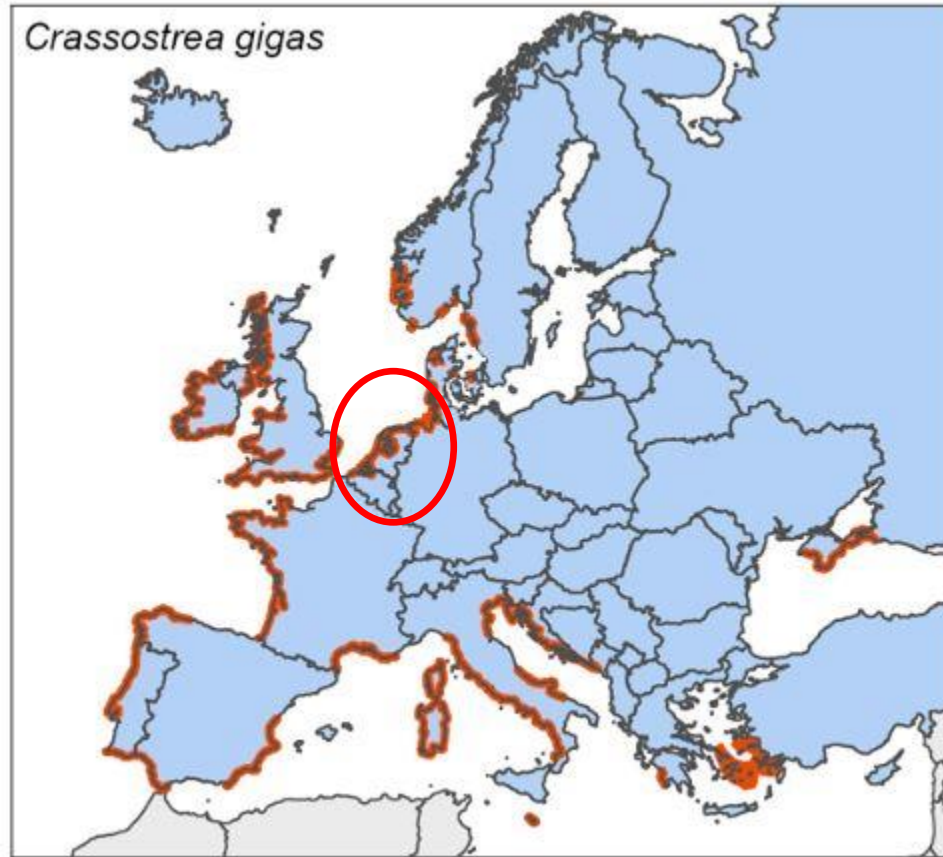
- Shipping (Boring, Fouling, Ballast Water)
- Global Aquaria Trade & Ornamental Escape
- **Aquaculture**
- **Canals**
- **Slides: Course website, [juliusaellrich.weebly.com](http://juliusaellrich.weebly.com), USB drive**

# Oyster On- & Off-bottom Culture



→ Multiple introductions, accidental escapes and releases, dispersal...

# European Distribution



Multiple introductions with aquaculture operations on European coasts

Nehring 2011

# Oyster Aquaculture in the Wadden Sea

## ***Crassostrea* aquaculture started:**

Netherlands (in 1964)

Germany (in 1971) & Sylt (in 1986)

(other countries followed)



*Crassostrea gigas*

## **The European Oyster *Ostrea edulis* decline:**

Netherlands (1940ies – 1950ies)

Germany (1880ies)

→ caused by overfishing



*Ostrea edulis*

# Crassostrea Dispersal

Larval development: 3 weeks

Veligers

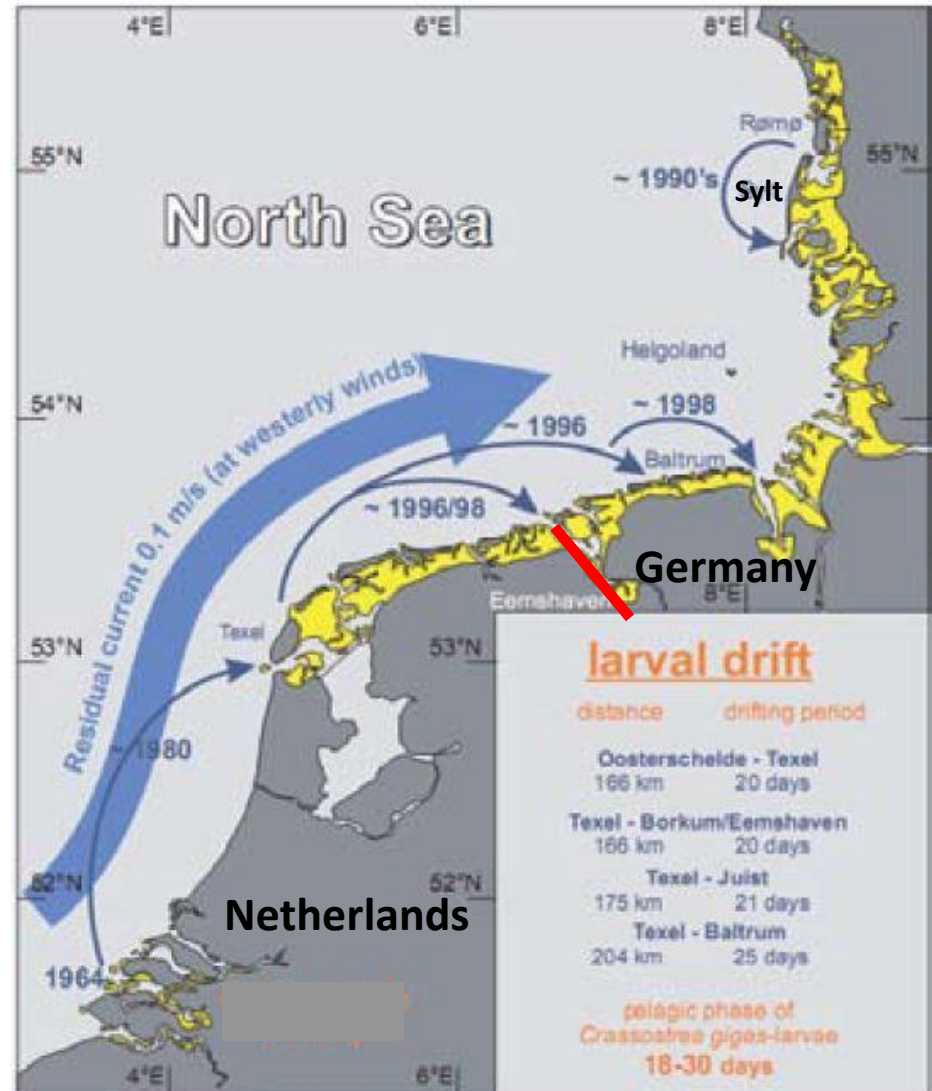


Pediveliger



Recruitment: July & August

Troost 2010



Nehls et al. 2009

# North Sea

## THE WADDEN SEA

Waddenzee · Wattenmeer · Vadehavet



Mudflats



# Mussel Beds are the Main Hard Substrates for Oyster Settlement



Kochmann et al. 2008

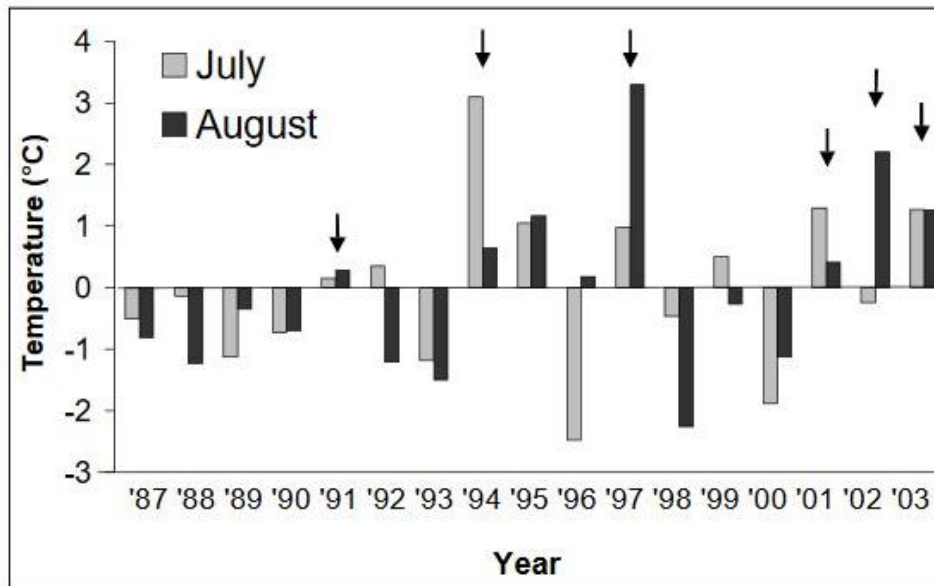


*Mytilus edulis*

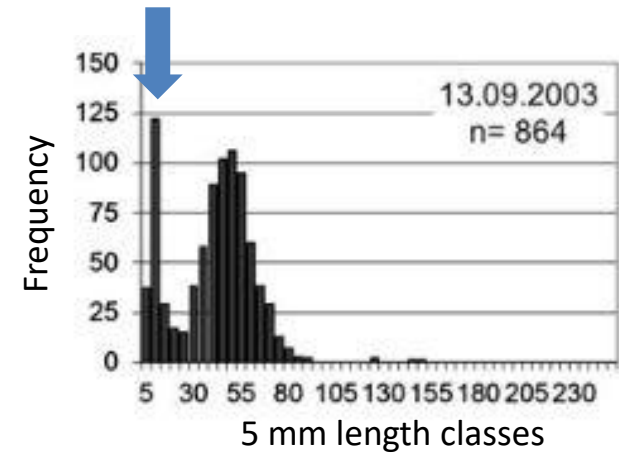


Byssal threads

# Warm Summers Favor *Crassostrea* Recruitment



## Oyster recruits



Length-frequency distribution of Pacific oysters, n= number of oysters measured (Büttger et al. 2011)

Fig. 20: Deviation of mean monthly water temperature in July and August from the long-term mean (1987 - 2003). Arrows mark years with high *C. gigas* recruitment (1991, 1994, 1997, 2001, 2002, 2003) (Diederich et al. 2005).

# Oyster Settlement & Recruitment



Mussel Bed

Mixed Bed



→ Changes in habitat structure

# Oyster Recruitment on Conspecifics



Oyster Reef



→ Oysters are Ecosystem Engineers: Formation of Oyster Reefs

# Changes in Community Structure With Decreasing Mussel Density



Mussel Bed

Mixed Bed

Oyster Reef



Overall: oysters decreased mussel density & biomass,  
competition for food, oysters are the superior competitors

# Establishment

- Predation **(biotic barrier)**
- Individual Growth **(species trait)**
- Ecosystem Engineering **(species trait)**
- Temperature **(abiotic barrier)**

# Oyster Predators Native to the Wadden Sea

Oystercatcher  
occur only locally



*Haematopus ostralegus*

Crabs  
prefer mussels



*Carcinus maenas* & *Cancer magister*

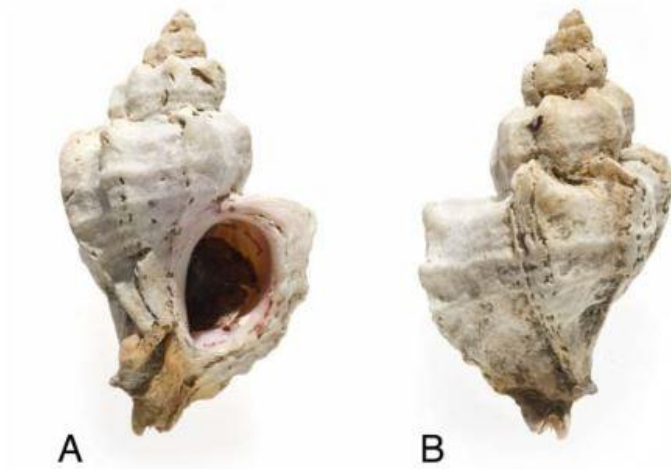
Sea stars prefer mussels



*Asterias rubens*

# Oyster Predators Introduced to the Wadden Sea

*Ocenebrellus inornatus*



occur very locally

*Urosalpinx cinerea*



occur very locally

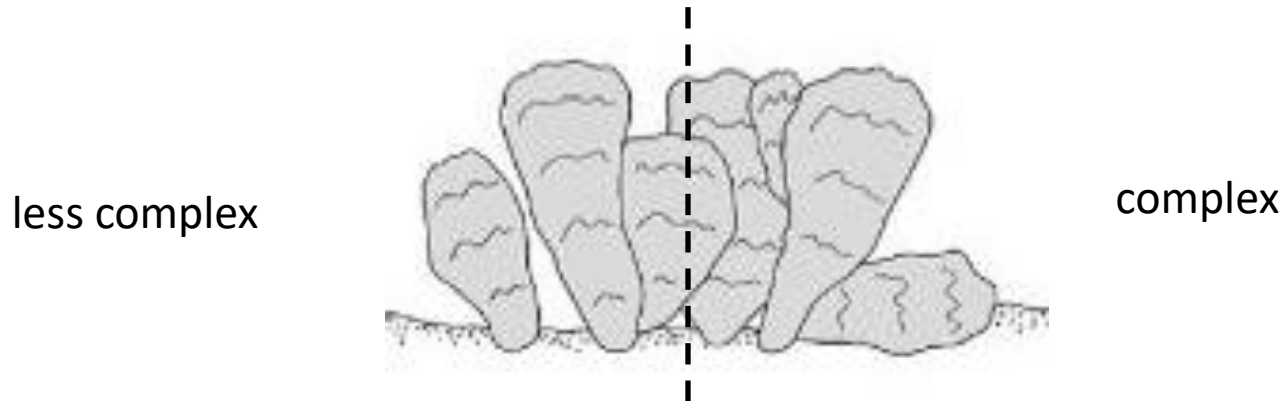
→ Predation on *C. gigas* is low

Fast Growth in Oyster Individuals

2 year old individuals: 30 mm to 80 mm length

→ size refuge from low predation

# Ecosystem Engineering



Reef complexity may decrease:

water flow

heat & desiccation

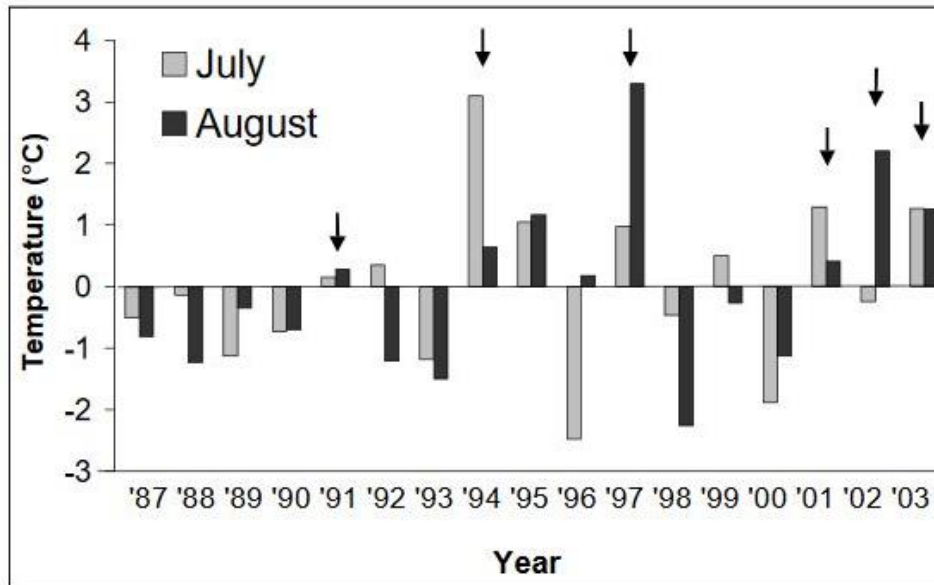
predation

Reef complexity may increase:

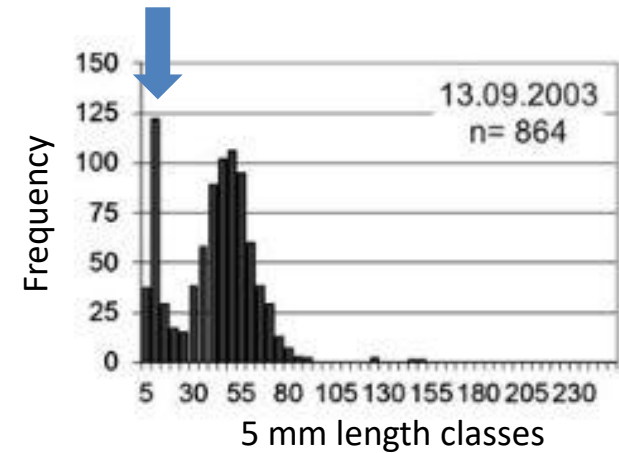
gregarious settlement

**→ more oyster recruitment**

# Temperature: Warm Summers Favor *Crassostrea* Recruitment



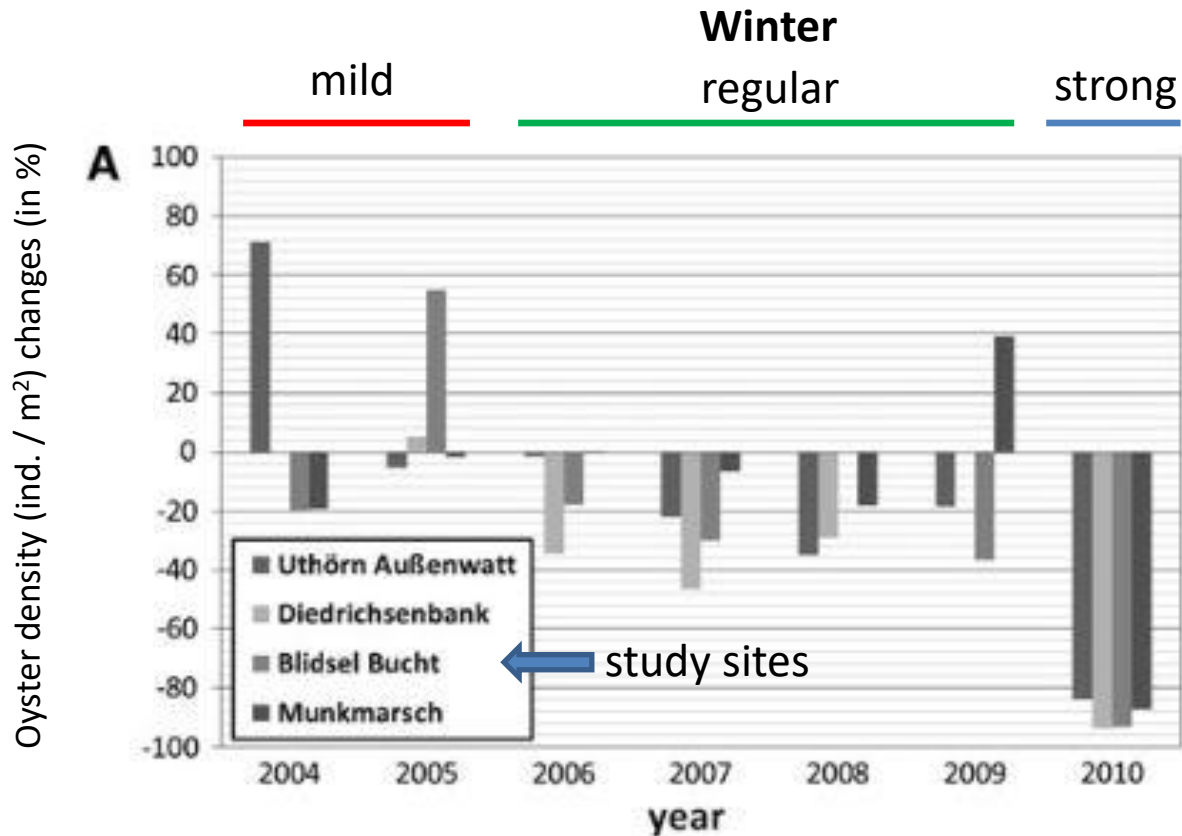
## Oyster recruits



Length-frequency distribution of Pacific oysters (Büttger et al. 2011)

Fig. 20: Deviation of mean monthly water temperature in July and August from the long-term mean (1987 - 2003). Arrows mark years with high *C. gigas* recruitment (1991, 1994, 1997, 2001, 2002, 2003) (Diederich et al. 2005).

# Temperature: Cold Winters Decimate *Crassostrea* Populations



Oyster density changes (in %) over the winters from 2004 to 2010  
(e.g. year 2004: autumn 2003 – spring 2004), modified after Büttger et al. 2011)

## Species Introduced with *Crassostrea*



Seaweed, *Sargassum muticum*



Slipper Limpet, *Crepidula fornicata*

# Oysters Benefit Local Economy



# Oyster Impacts on Human Health



**Norovirus currently absent (permanent monitoring)**

# Wadden Sea



# Biological Invasions in Marine Systems



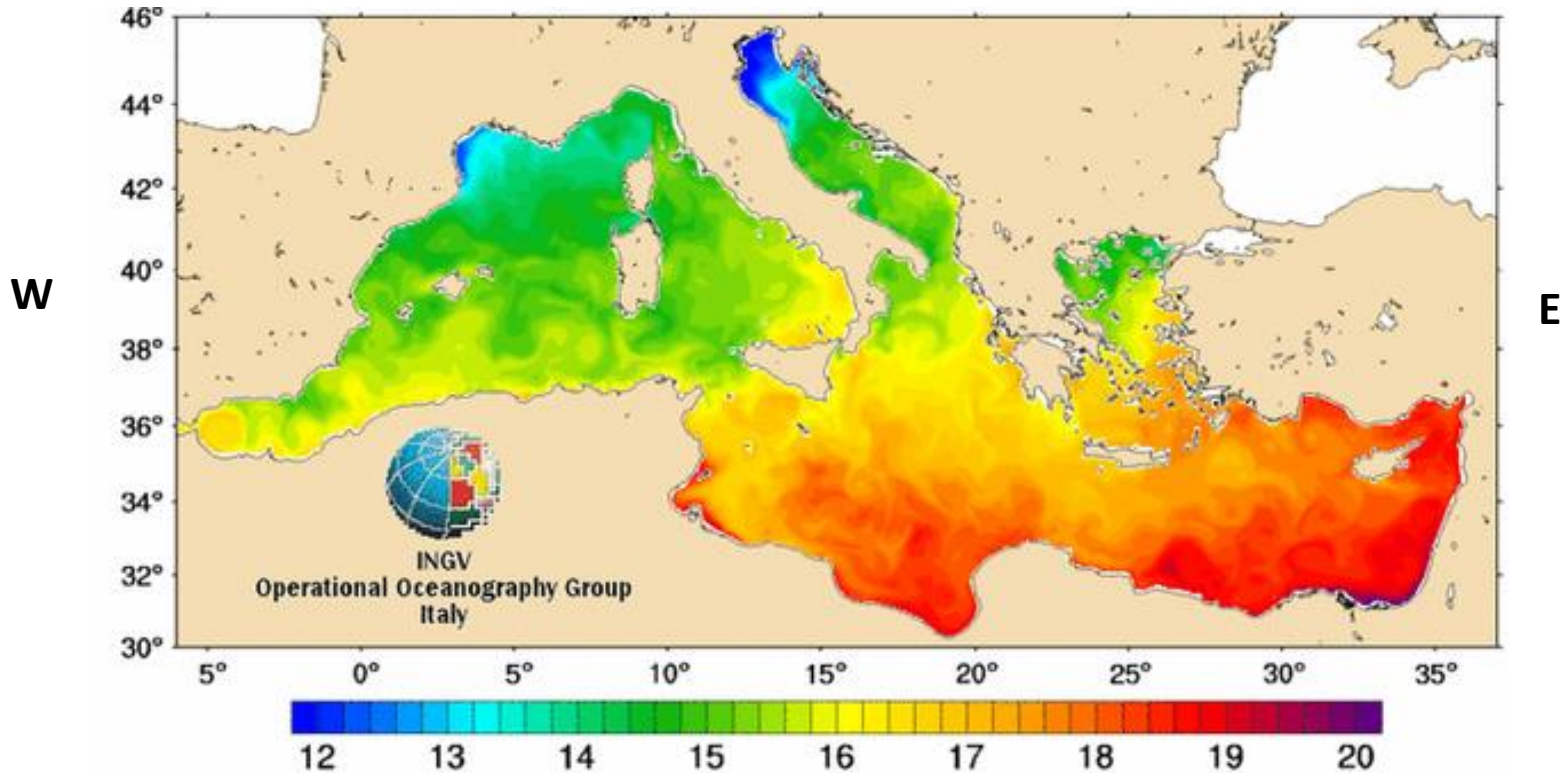
- Canals -

# Mediterranean Sea



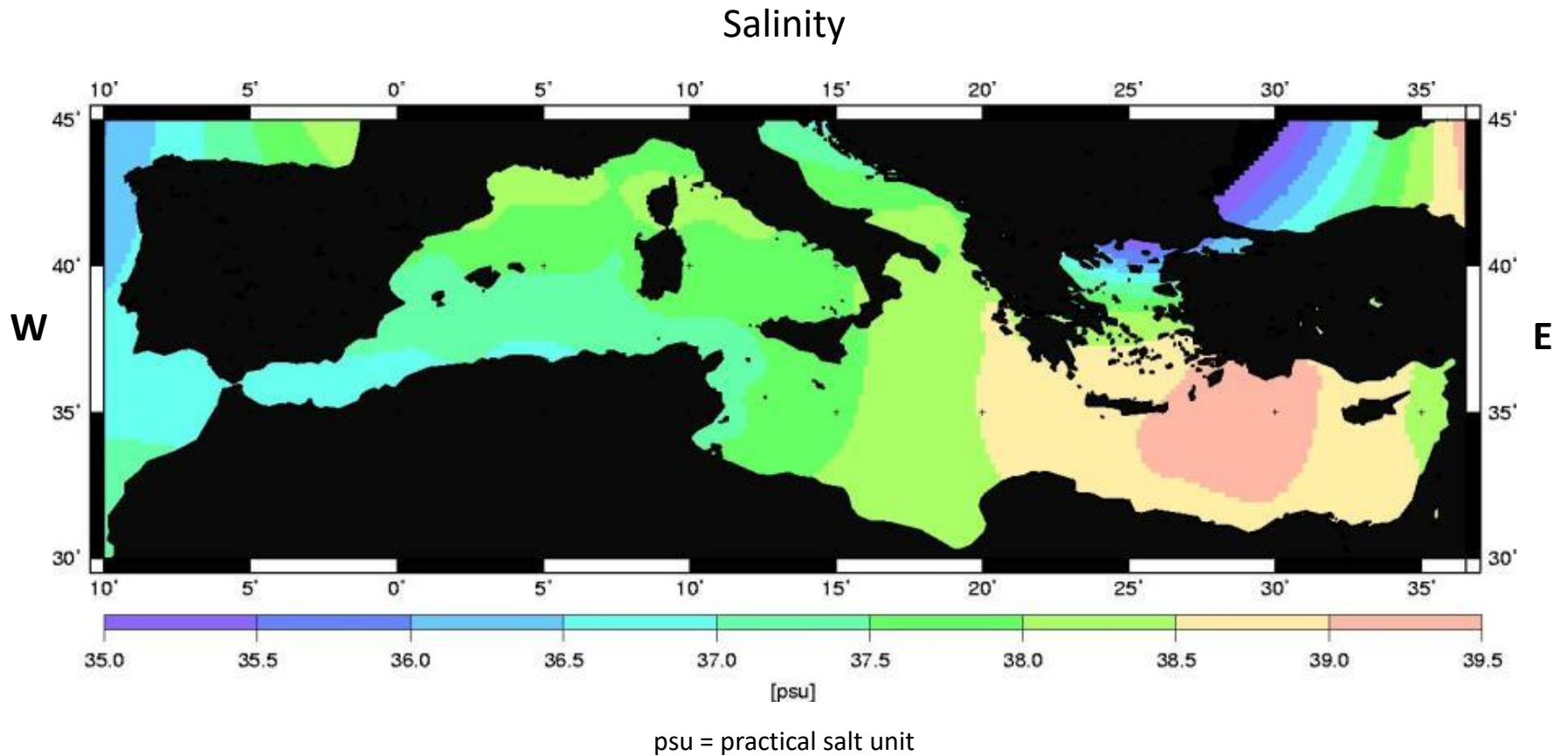
# Temperature in the Mediterranean Sea

## Sea Surface Temperature in Summer



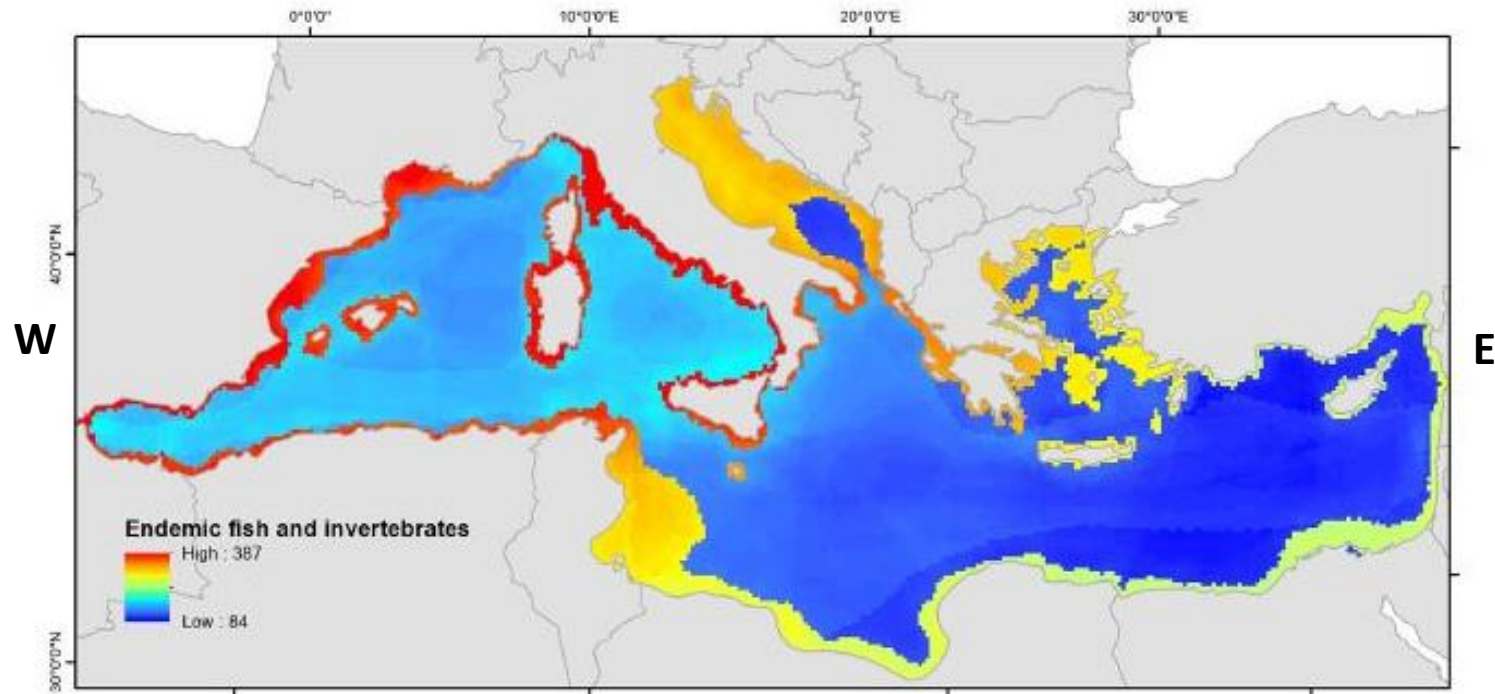
Temperature increases from West to East

# Salinity in the Mediterranean Sea



**Salinity increases from West to East**

# Species Richness of Native Fish & Invertebrates in the Mediterranean Sea



**FIGURE 7 |** Richness (number of species in a 10 × 10 km grid) of native fish and invertebrates in the Mediterranean Sea. The data are plotted using a linear scale from minimum to maximum values.

>17,000 marine species, Atlantic origin, one fifth are endemic species

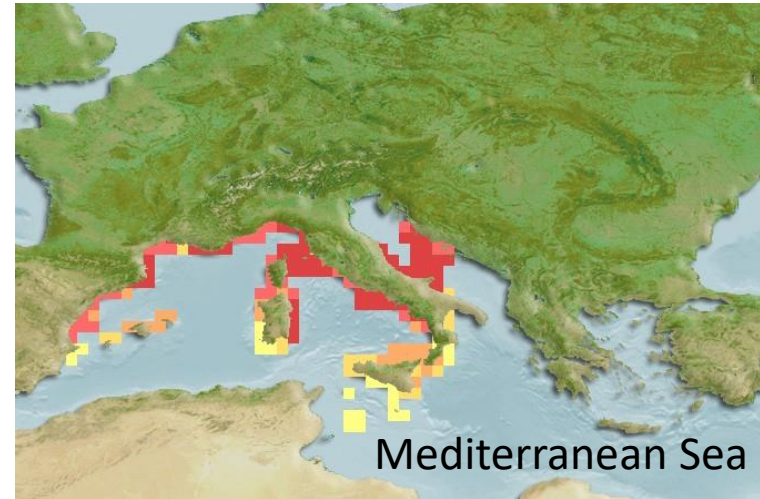
**Species richness decreases from West to East**

# Endemic Species

A species being unique to a defined geographic area



A goby,  
*Buenia affinis*, Iljin 1930,  
endemic to the Mediterranean Sea



*B. affinis*, distribution

# Invasive Species Impacts in the Mediterranean Sea

## **Ecological Impacts**

- Displacement of native (& endemic) species
- Changes in community structure
- Effects on food web structure
- Modification of habitats

## **Economic Loss**

## **Human health**

# Pathways into the Mediterranean Sea

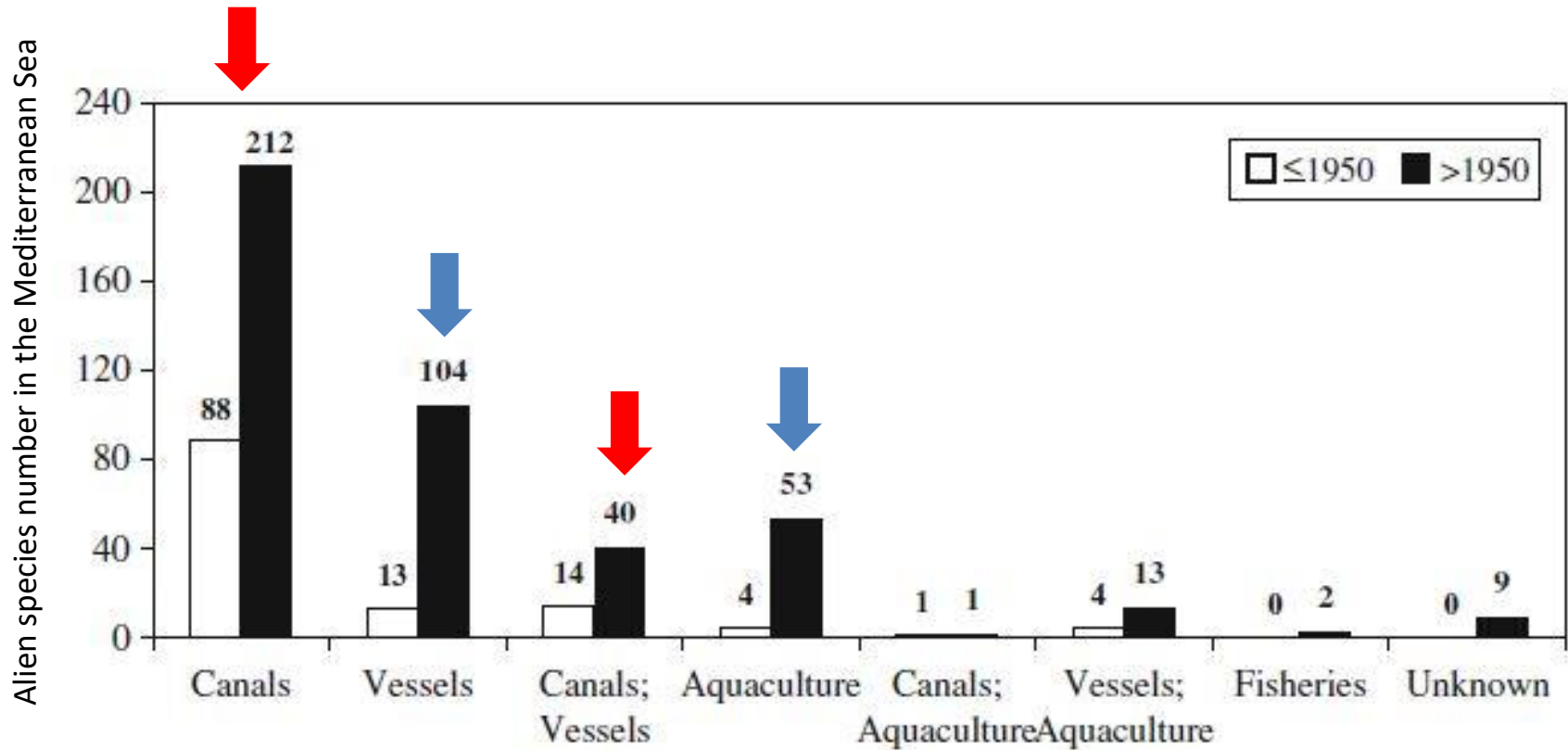
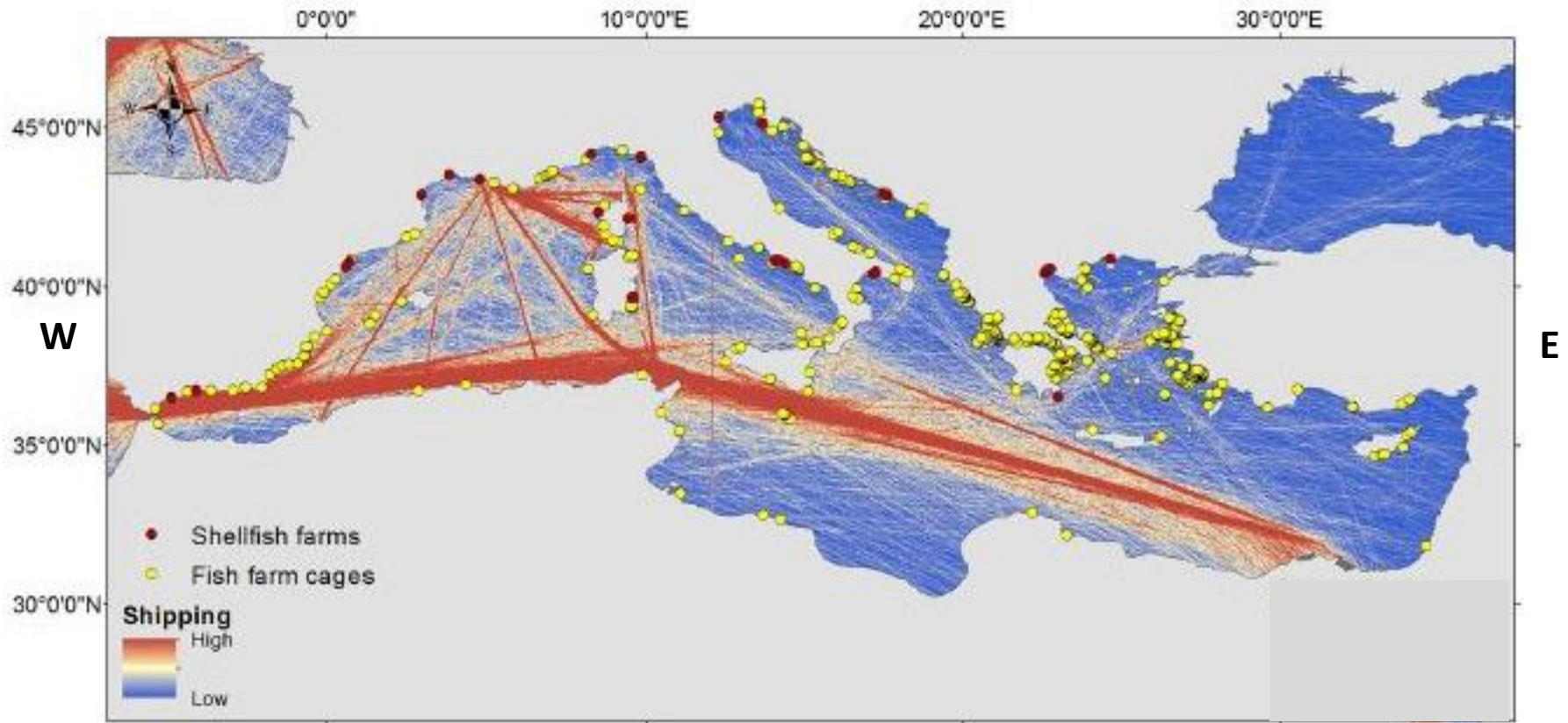
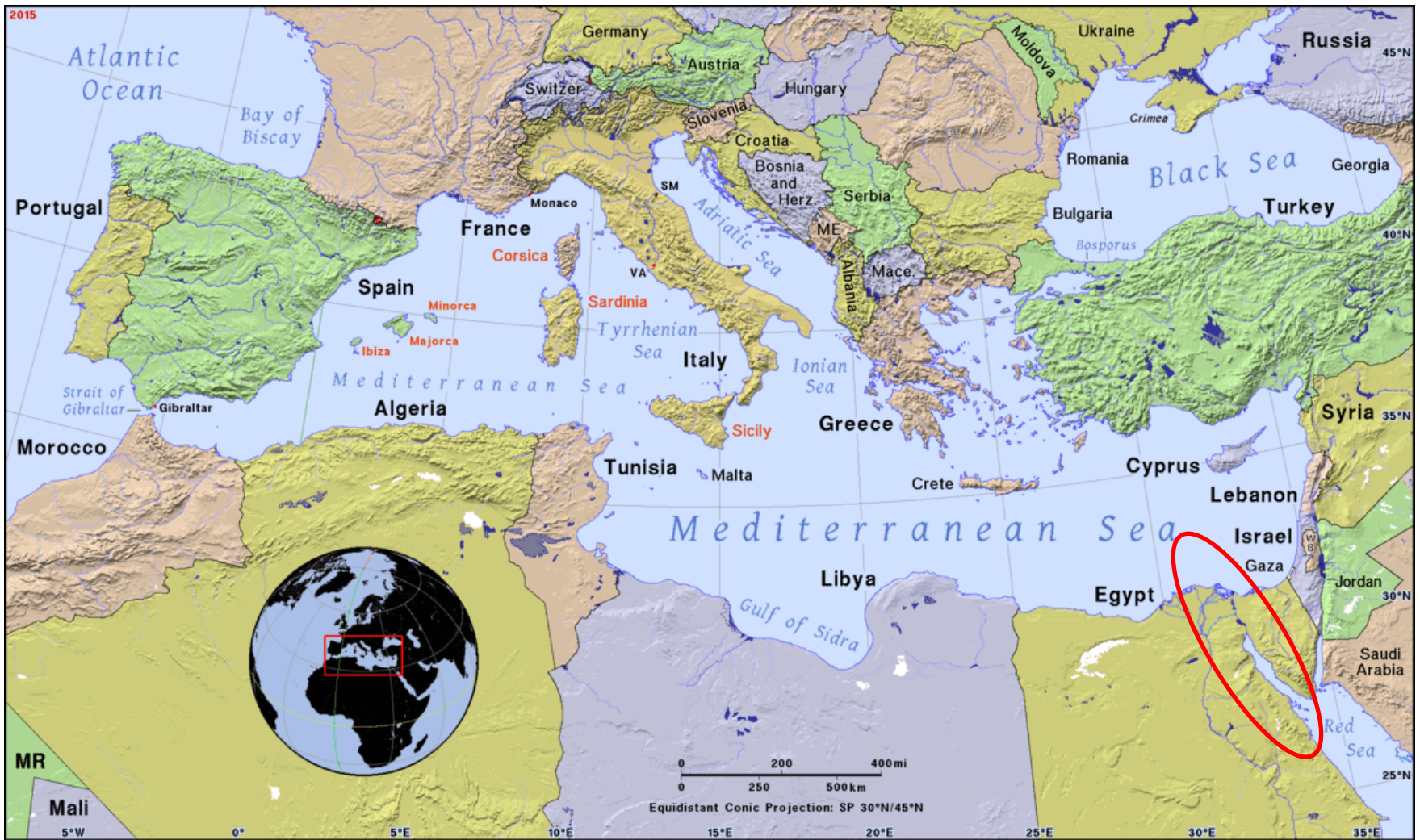


Fig. 6 Number of alien species in the Mediterranean Sea, presented by means of introduction, before and after 1950

# Vessels & Aquaculture



# Mediterranean Sea: The Suez Canal



# Suez Canal



The Suez Canal connects the Mediterranean Sea with the Red sea across the Isthmus of Suez

# Suez Canal as Trade Route



Suez Canal passage duration (today): 13 - 14 h

# Construction of the Suez Canal



Ferdinand de Lesseps  
(1805-1894)



**1859-1869:**  
Construction

**Length:**  
161 km

**Average Depth:**  
13 m

**Width:**  
80 – 150 m

**one way traffic**

**no locks**

# Lessepsian Migration

Red Sea & Indo-Pacific species invading the Mediterranean via the Suez Canal



Ferdinand de Lesseps  
(1805-1894)



**Removal of a geographic barrier → Natural range expansion (larval drift, dispersal)**

# Lessepsian Migration: 4 Drivers

- Salinity
- Temperature
- Water Flow
- Wind Direction

# Salinity

Eastern Mediterranean:

38.5 psu



Northern Red Sea:

> 41 psu

Red Sea species tolerate higher salinities

→ Red Sea species can migrate into the Mediterranean Sea

# Temperature

Eastern Mediterranean:

Summer:  
20 °C



Northern Red Sea:

Summer:  
28 °C

Red Sea species tolerate higher temperatures

→ Red Sea species can migrate into the Mediterranean Sea

# Prevailing Water Flow



The Red Sea surface is 25 – 40 cm higher than the Mediterranean Sea surface.

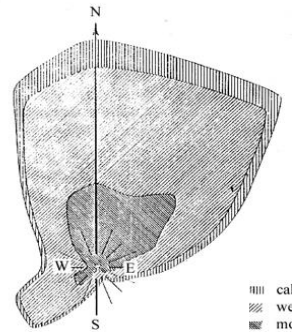
→ Water flows primarily northwards

→ Prevailing water flow enhances immigration into the Mediterranean Sea.

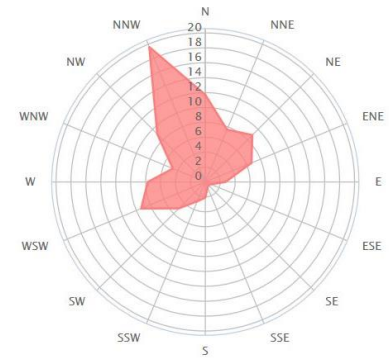
# Prevailing Wind Direction



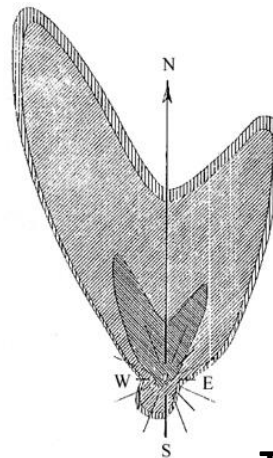
**Port Said**



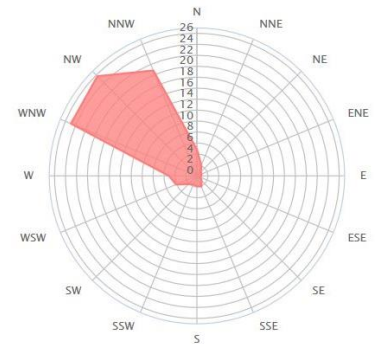
**Port Said**



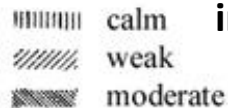
**Port Taufiq**



**Ras Sudr**



The prevailing wind direction supports immigration to the Mediterranean Sea.



## Invasion Increase > 1950

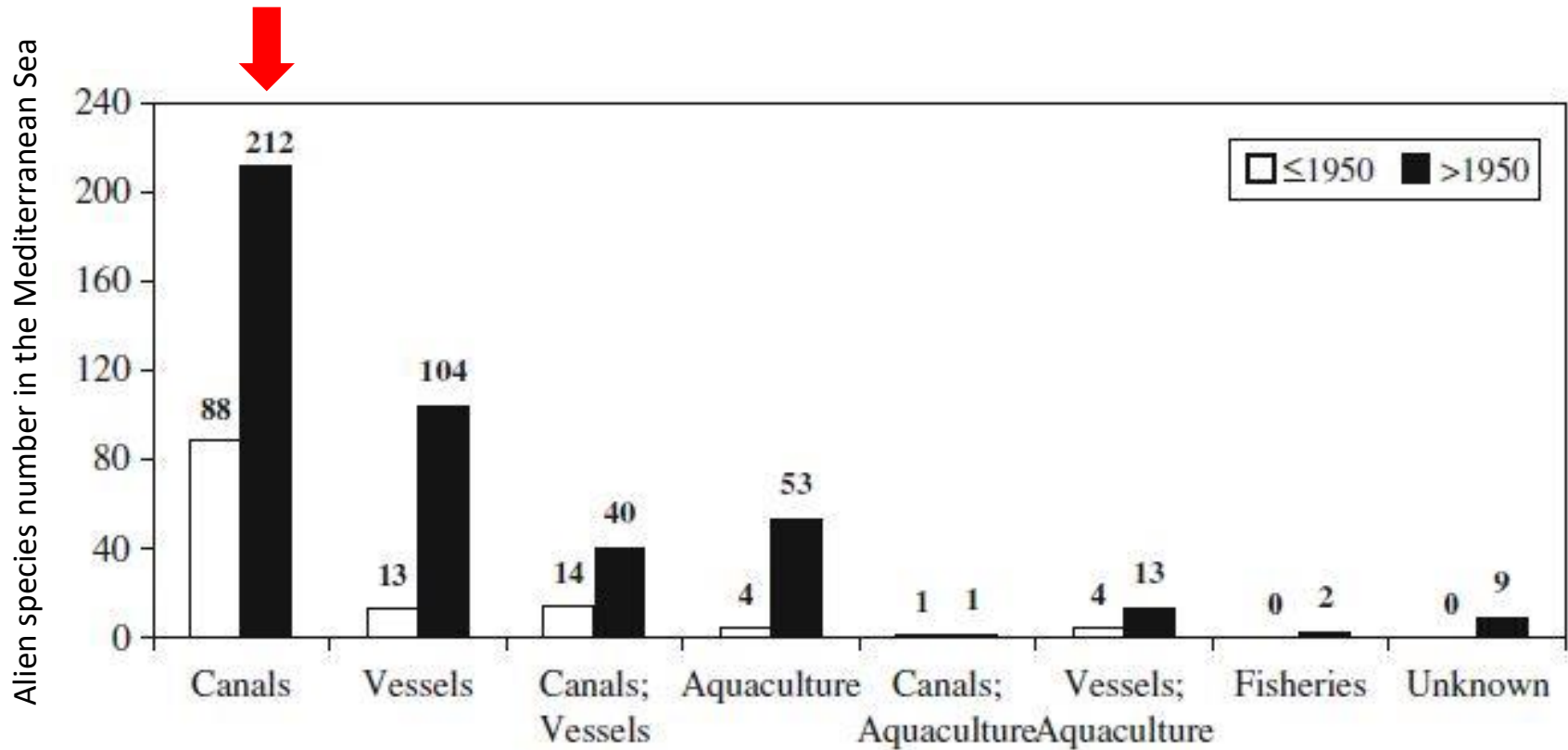


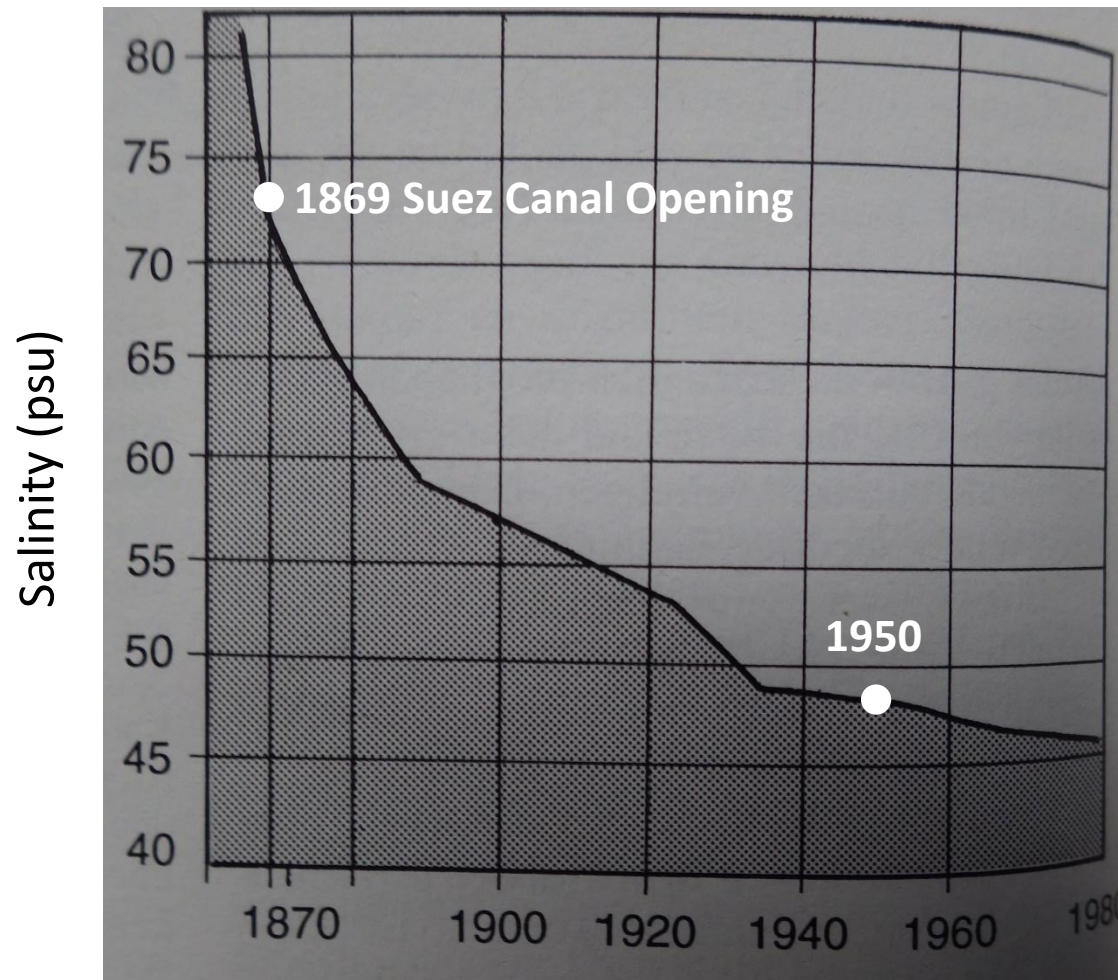
Fig. 6 Number of alien species in the Mediterranean Sea, presented by means of introduction, before and after 1950

# The Bitter Lake Salt Valley



a Salt Valley

# The Bitter Lake Salinity Barrier Over Time



ca. 40 psu  
(currently)

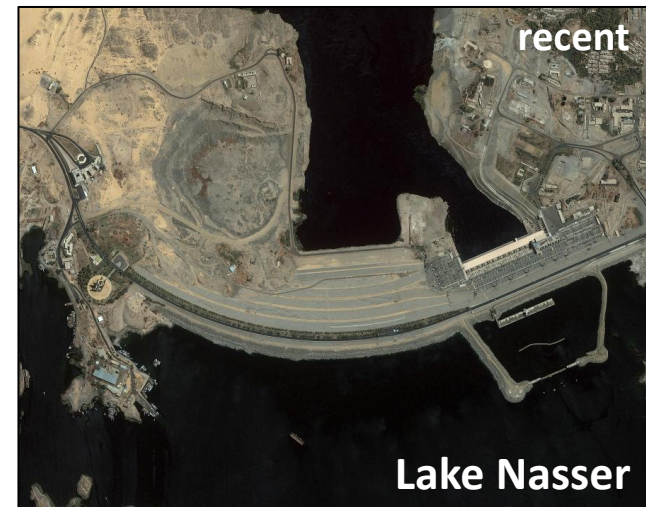
→ Facilitation of Lessepsian Migration

# The Nile Delta Outflow Before 1966



→ Freshwater Barrier (33 psu)

# The Aswan Dam Construction: 1960 - 1970



**The Aswan Dam limited the Nile River delta freshwater barrier**

## Invasion Increase > 1950

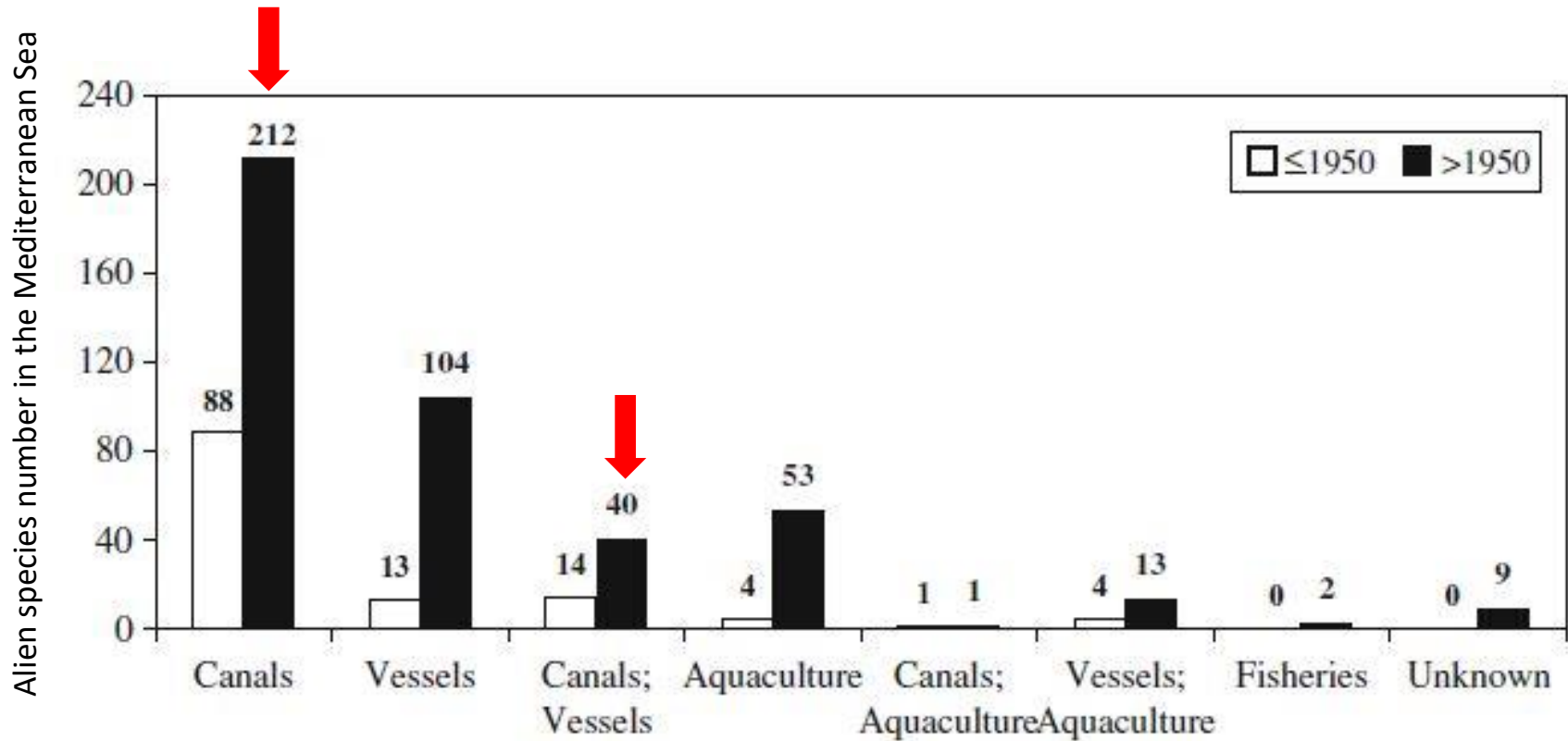


Fig. 6 Number of alien species in the Mediterranean Sea, presented by means of introduction, before and after 1950

**The Bitter Lake desalination & the Nile river delta manipulation facilitated the Lessepsian migration.**

# Shipping Increase Through the Suez Canal

## Ships (per year)

468 (1870)

1.600 (1879)

3.389 (1890)

12.168 (1952)

21.250 (1966)

21.999 (1978)

17.317 (1993)

11.748 (2000)

17.483 (2015)



Ships in Port Said, 1880



Ship, recent

Dry ballast → Ballast water

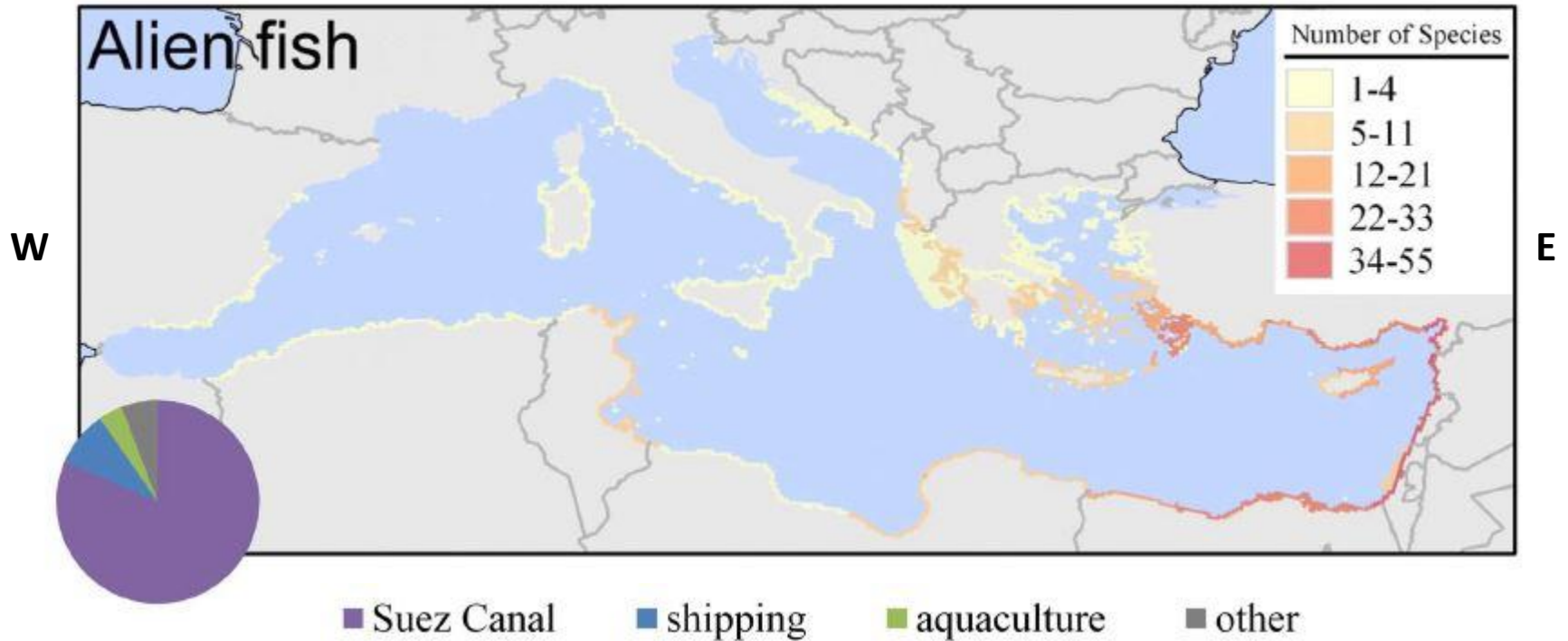
Ship size & ballast water increase

Port water quality improvements

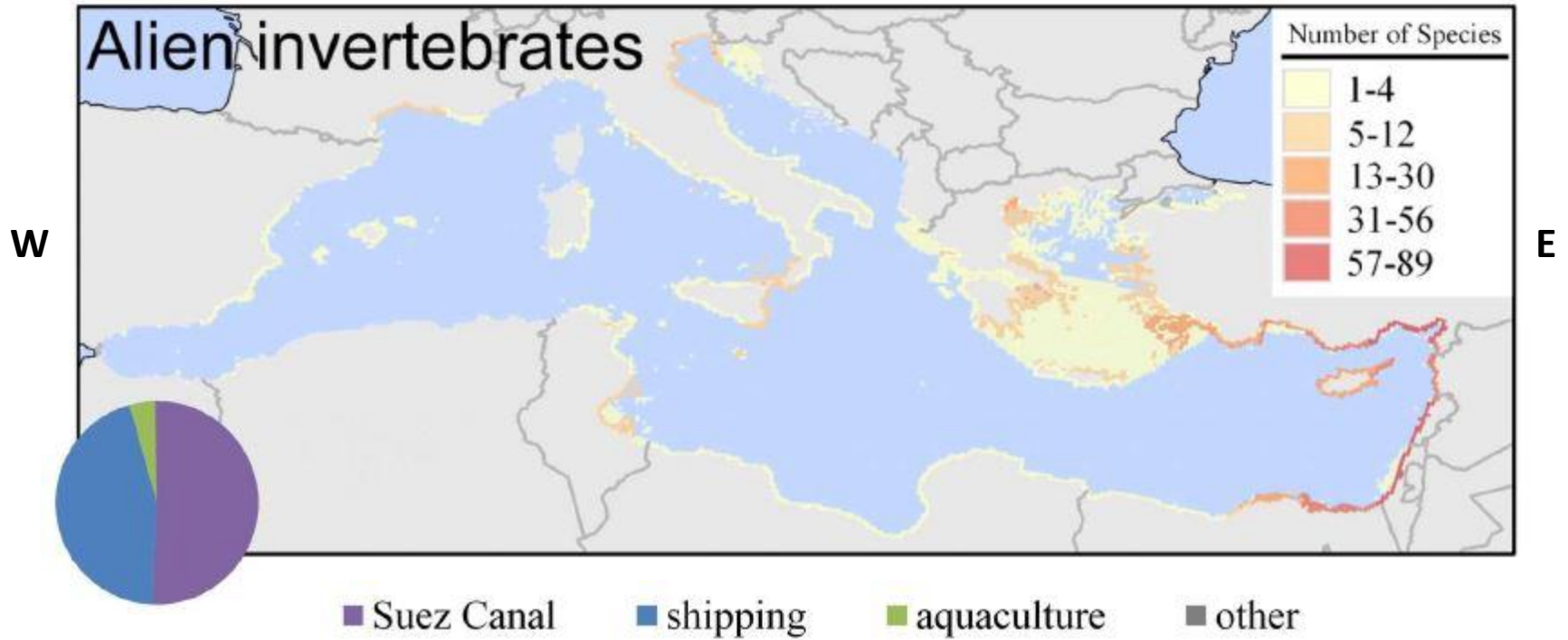
Travelling time reduction

# Results:

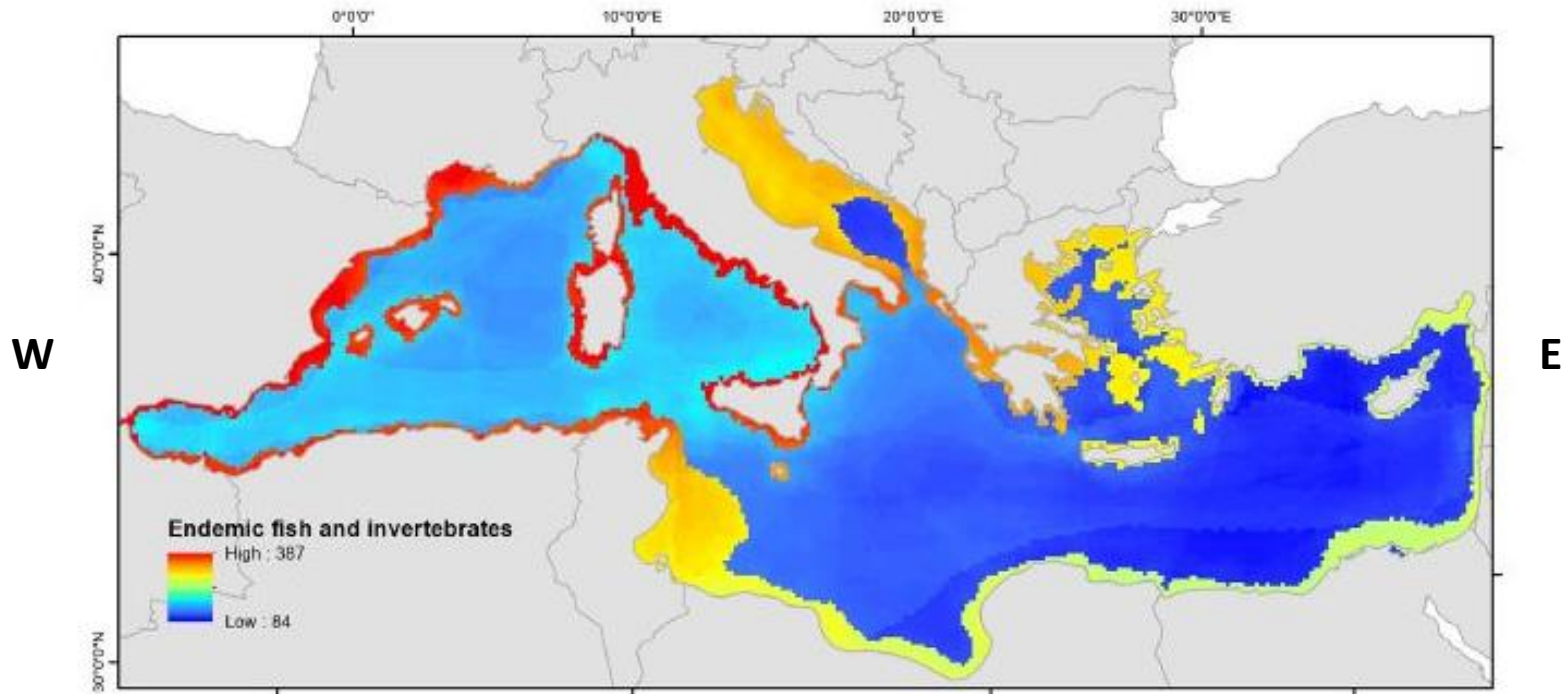
## Species Richness in Introduced Fish



# Species Richness of Introduced Invertebrates



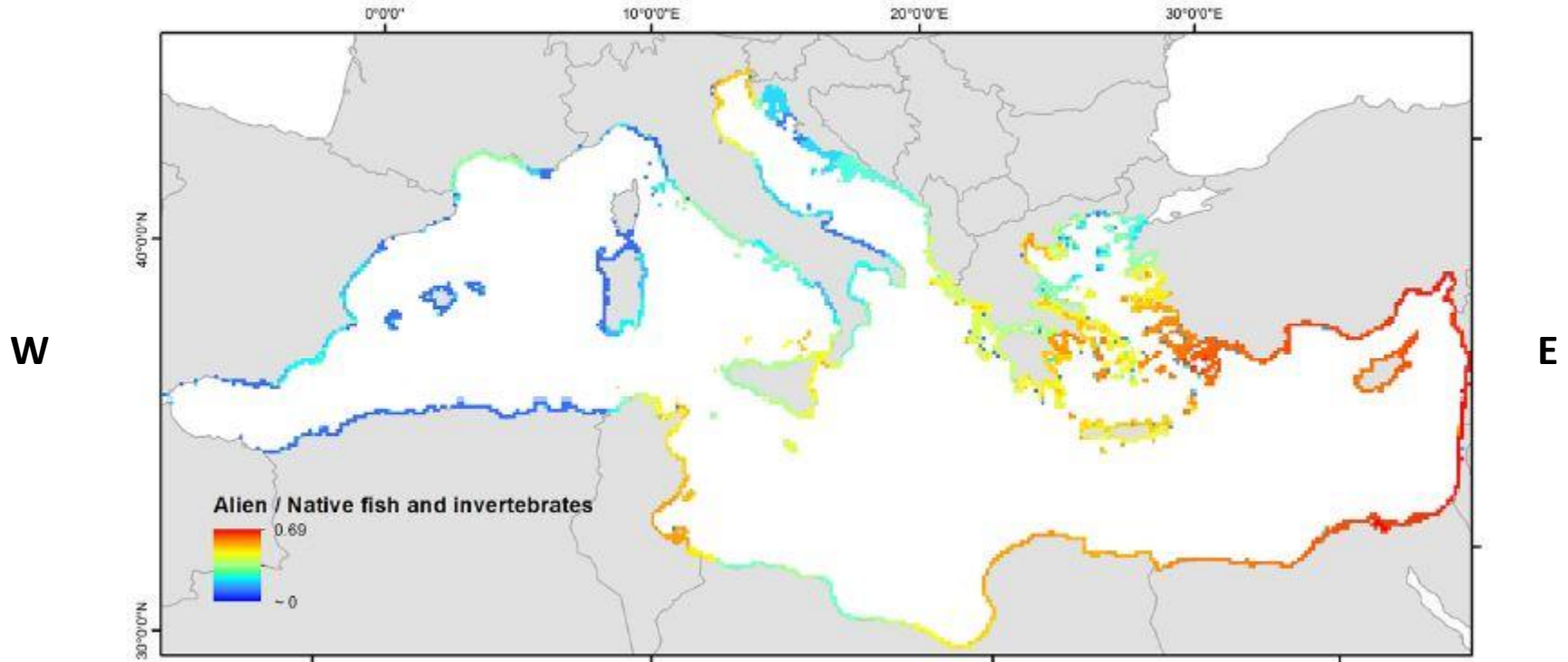
# Species Richness of Native Fish & Invertebrates



**FIGURE 7 |** Richness (number of species in a 10 × 10 km grid) of native fish and invertebrates in the Mediterranean Sea. The data are plotted using a linear scale from minimum to maximum values.

Species richness decreases from West to East

# Introduced / Native fish & Invertebrate Ratio



→ Indication of change in community composition

# Introduced Species from the Red Sea

Fish

Family	Species
Acropomatidae	<i>Synagrops japonicus</i>
Apogonidae	<i>Apogon nigripinnis</i>
Atherinidae	<i>Atherinomorus lucuosus</i>
Belontiidae	<i>Tylosurus choram</i>
Blenniidae	<i>Petrosirtes ancydon</i>
Callionymidae	<i>Callionymus filamentosus</i>
Carangidae	<i>Alepes djedaba</i>
Clupeidae	<i>Dussumieria oloypoides</i> , <i>Etrumeus teres</i> , <i>Herklotsichthys punctatus</i> , <i>Spratelloides delicatulus</i>
Congridae	<i>Rhynchoconger trewavasae</i>
Cynoglossidae	<i>Cynoglossus sinuarabici</i>
Dasyatidae	<i>Himantura uarnak</i>
Diodontidae	<i>Chilomycterus spilostylus</i>
Exocoetidae	<i>Parexocoetus mento</i>
Fistulariidae	<i>Fistularia commersonii</i>
Gobiidae	<i>Coryogalops ochetica</i> , <i>Oxyrichthys petersi</i> , <i>Silhouettea aegyptia</i>
Haemulidae	<i>Pomadasystris stridens</i>
Hemiramphidae	<i>Hemiramphus far</i> , <i>Hyporhamphus affinis</i>
Holocentridae	<i>Sargocentron rubrum</i>
Istiophoridae	<i>Makaira indica</i>
Labridae	<i>Pteragogus pelycus</i>
Leiognathidae	<i>Leiognathus klunzingeri</i>
Lutjanidae	<i>Lutjanus argentimaculatus</i>
Monacanthidae	<i>Stephanolepis diaspros</i>
Mugilidae	<i>Liza carinata</i> , <i>Mugil soley</i>
Mullidae	<i>Upeneus moluccensis</i> , <i>U. pori</i>
Muraenesocidae	<i>Muraenesox cinereus</i>
Ostraciidae	<i>Tetrosomus gibbosus</i>
Pempheridae	<i>Pempheris vanicolensis</i>
Platycephalidae	<i>Papillolepis longiceps</i> , <i>Platycephalus indicus</i> , <i>Sorsogona prionota</i>
Pomacentridae	<i>Abudefduf vaiingsis</i>
Rachycentridae	<i>Rachycentron canadum</i>
Scombridae	<i>Rastrelliger kanagurta</i> , <i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>
Scorpaenidae	<i>Pterois miles</i>
Serranidae	<i>Epinephelus coioides</i> , <i>E. malabaricus</i>
Siganidae	<i>Siganus luridus</i> , <i>S. rivulatus</i>
Sillaginidae	<i>Sillago sihama</i>
Sparidae	<i>Crenidens crenidens</i> , <i>Rhabdosargus huffara</i>
Sphyraenidae	<i>Sphyraena chrysoaenia</i> , <i>S. flavicauda</i>
Synodontidae	<i>Saurida undosquamis</i>
Teraponidae	<i>Pelates quadrilineatus</i> , <i>Terapon puta</i>
Tetraodontidae	<i>Lagocephalus spadiceus</i> , <i>L. suezensis</i> , <i>Torquigener flavimaculosus</i>

Crustaceans

Decapoda Macrura	
Alpheidae	<i>Alpheus edwardsii</i> , <i>A. lobidens</i> , <i>A. migrans</i> , <i>A. rapacida</i>
Luciferidae	<i>Lucifer hanseni</i>
Ogyrididae	<i>Ogyrides mjoebergi</i>
Palaemonidae	<i>Palaemonella rotumana</i> , <i>Periclimenes calmani</i>
Palinuridae	<i>Panulirus ornatus</i>
Pasiphaeidae	<i>Leptochela aculeocaudata</i> , <i>L. pugnax</i>
Penaeidae	<i>Marsupenaeus japonicus</i> , <i>Melicertus hathor</i> , <i>Metapenaeopsis aegyptia</i> , <i>M. mogiensis consobrina</i> , <i>Metapenaeus monoceros</i> , <i>M. stebbingi</i> , <i>Penaeus semisulcatus</i> , <i>Trachysalambria curvirostris</i>
Solenoceridae	<i>Solenocera crassicornis</i>
Decapoda Brachyura	
Calappidae	<i>Ashtoret lunaris</i>
Euryplacidae	<i>Eucrate crenata</i>
Grapsidae	<i>Plagusia tuberculata</i>
Leucosiidae	<i>Ixa monodi</i> , <i>Leucosia signata</i> , <i>Myra subgranulata</i>
Majidae	<i>Hyastenus hilgendorfi</i> , <i>Micippa thalia</i>
Ocypodidae	<i>Macrophthalmus graeffei</i>
Pilumnidae	<i>Halimeda tyche</i> , <i>Heteropanope laevis</i> , <i>Pilumnopoeus vauquelini</i> , <i>Pilumnus hirsutus</i>
Portunidae	<i>Charybdis helleri</i> , <i>Ch. longicollis</i> , <i>Portunus pelagicus</i> , <i>Thalamita gloriensis</i> , <i>T. poissonii</i>
Raninidae	<i>Notopus dorsipes</i>
Xanthidae	<i>Atergatis roseus</i> , <i>Daira perlata</i> , <i>Sphaerozium nitidus</i>
Stomatopoda	
Squillidae	<i>Erugosquilla massavensis</i>



Molluscs

Bivalvia, Pteromorpha	
Arcidae	<i>Acar plicata</i> , <i>Anadara demiri</i> , <i>A. inaequivalvis</i> , <i>A. natalensis</i>
Glycymerididae	<i>Glycymeris arabicus</i>
Limopsidae	<i>Limopsis multistriata</i>
Malleidae	<i>Malleus regulus</i>
Mytilidae	<i>Brachiodontes pharaonis</i> , <i>Musculista perfragilis</i> , <i>M. senhousia</i> , <i>Modiolus auriculatus</i> , <i>Xenostrobus securis</i>
Ostreidae	<i>Crassostrea gigas</i> , <i>Saccostrea cucullata</i>
Pteriidae	<i>Pinctada margaritifera</i> , <i>P. radiata</i>
Spondylidae	<i>Spondylus spinosus</i> , <i>S. groschi</i>
Bivalvia, Heterodonta	
Cardiidae	<i>Fulvia australis</i> , <i>F. fragilis</i>
Chamidae	<i>Chama pacifica</i> , <i>Pseudochama corbieri</i>
Gastrochaenidae	<i>Gastrochaena cymbium</i>
Lucinidae	<i>Divalinga arabica</i>
Mactridae	<i>Mactra olorina</i>
Mesodesmatidae	<i>Atactodea glabrata</i>
Myidae	<i>Sphenia rupepelli</i>
Psammobiidae	<i>Hiatula rupepelli</i>
Tellinidae	<i>Psammotreta praerupta</i> , <i>Tellina valtonis</i>
Trapezidae	<i>Trapezium oblongum</i>
Veneridae	<i>Antigona lamellaris</i> , <i>Cirrenita callipyga</i> , <i>Clementia papyracea</i> , <i>Dosinia erythraea</i> , <i>Gafrarium pectinatum</i> , <i>Paphia textile</i> , <i>Tapes philippinarum</i>
Bivalvia, Anomalodesmata	
Laternulidae	<i>Laternula anatina</i>
Gastropoda, Opisthobranchia	
Aeolidiidae	<i>Aeolidiella indica</i>
Aglaidae	<i>Chelidomura fulvipunctata</i>
Aplysiidae	<i>Bursatella leachi</i>
Bullidae	<i>Bulla ampulla</i>
Chromodorididae	<i>Chromodoris quadricolor</i> , <i>Hypselodoris infucata</i>
Cylichnidae	<i>Ateocina mucronata</i> , <i>Cylichmina girardi</i>
Dendrodoxidae	<i>Dendrodoxus fumata</i>
Flabellinidae	<i>Flabellina rubrolineata</i>
Glaucoideae	<i>Caloria indica</i>
Pleurobranchidae	<i>Pleurobranchus forskali</i>
Polyceridae / Triphidae	<i>Plocamopherus ocellatus</i>
Retusidae	<i>Pyranculus fourieri</i>
Tergipedidae	<i>Cuthona perca</i>
Tethyidae	<i>Melibe fimbriata</i>
Gastropoda, Prosobranchia	
Cerithiidae	<i>Cerithium nesoticum</i> , <i>C. nodulosum</i> , <i>C. scabridum</i> , <i>Clypeomorus bifasciatus</i> , <i>Rhinoclavis kochi</i>
Cerithiopsidae	<i>Cerithiopsis pulvis</i> , <i>C. tenthrenois</i>
Columbellidae	<i>Anachis savignyi</i> , <i>A. selasphora</i>
Conidae	<i>Conus fumigatus</i>
Costellariidae	<i>Pusia depexa</i>
Cypraeidae	<i>Erosaria turdis</i> , <i>Palmadusta lentiginosa lentiginosa</i> , <i>Purpuradusta gracilis notata</i>
Dialidae	<i>Diala varia</i>
Epitoniidae	<i>Cycloscala hyalina</i>
Eulimidae	<i>Stictulima lentiginosa</i>
Fascioliariidae	<i>Fusinus marmoratus</i>
Fissurellidae	<i>Diodora rupellii</i>
Haliotidae	<i>Haliotis pustulata cruenta</i>
Hipponicidae	<i>Sabia conica</i>
Litiopidae	<i>Alaba punctostriata</i>
Muricidae	<i>Ergalatax obscura</i> , <i>Murex forskoehlii</i> , <i>Rapana venosa</i> , <i>Rapana rapiformis</i> , <i>Thais lacerus</i>
Nacellidae	<i>Cellana rota</i>
Nassariidae	<i>Nassarius arcularius plicatus</i>
Naticidae	<i>Natica guateriana</i>
Neritidae	<i>Nerita sanguinolenta</i> , <i>Smaragda souverbiana</i>
Obtortionidae	<i>Claathrofenella ferruginea</i> , <i>Finella pupoides</i>
Planaxidae	<i>Angiola punctostriata</i> , <i>Planaxis savignyi</i>
Rissoidae	<i>Alvaria dorbigny</i> , <i>Rissoina bertholleti</i> , <i>R. spirata</i> , <i>Woorwindia tiberiana</i>
Strombidae	<i>Strombus persicus</i>
Triphoridae	<i>Metaxia bacillum</i>
Trochidae	<i>Trochus erythraeus</i> , <i>Pseudominolia nedyma</i>
Vasidae	<i>Vasium turbinellus</i>
Gastropoda, Heterobranchia	
Anisocyclidae	<i>Murchisonella columna</i>
Pyramidellidae	<i>Adelactaon fibvus</i> , <i>A. amoenus</i> , <i>Chrysalidia fischeri</i> , <i>C. matae</i> , <i>C. pirintella</i> , <i>Cingulina isseli</i> , <i>Iolaea neofelixoides</i> , <i>Odosomia lorioli</i> , <i>Oscilla jocosca</i> , <i>Styloptygma beatrix</i> , <i>Synola fasciata</i> , <i>S. cinctella</i> , <i>Turbonilla edgarii</i>
Gastropoda, Divasibranchia	
Siphonariidae	<i>Siphonaria kurracheensis</i>
Polyplacophora	
Chitonidae	<i>Chiton hululensis</i>

Tabelle 8.11 In das Mittelmeer eingewanderte Mollusken (Lesseps'sche Migranten). Angaben nach CIESM (Atlas of Exotic Species in the Mediterranean Sea).

# Introduction: Mobility & Salinity Tolerance



*Charybdis helleri*, (A. Milne-Edwards 1867)



*Charybdis longicollis*, Leene 1938

## Swimcrabs:

early invaders

active swimmers

strong osmoregulators

→ established in benthic habitats of the eastern Mediterranean coast

# Establishment: Activity Patterns

Introduced from the Red Sea:



Red soldierfish  
*Sargocentron rubrum*  
(Forsskål, 1775)



Bullseye cardinalfish  
*Apogon nigripinnis*  
Cuvier, 1828



Vanikolo sweeper  
*Pempheris vanicolensis*  
Cuvier, 1831

No native nocturnal fish (active during the night) in the eastern Mediterranean

# Establishment: Ecosystem Engineering



**Oysters: *Saccostrea cucullata***

Ecosystem engineering of oyster reefs

→ Habitat modification facilitating oyster establishment



# Establishment: Low Competition

Native to the  
Mediterranean



*Sarpa salpa* (Linnaeus, 1758)



*Sparisoma cretense* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Introduced from  
the Red Sea



*Siganus luridus* (Rüppell, 1829)



*Siganus rivulatus* Forsskål, 1775

# Establishment: Distribution Partitioning

## Goatfish:

*Upeneus moluccensis*,  
(Bleeker, 1855)



Introduced from the Red Sea,  
10 - 30 m depth

*Upeneus pori*

Ben-Tuvia & Golani, 1989



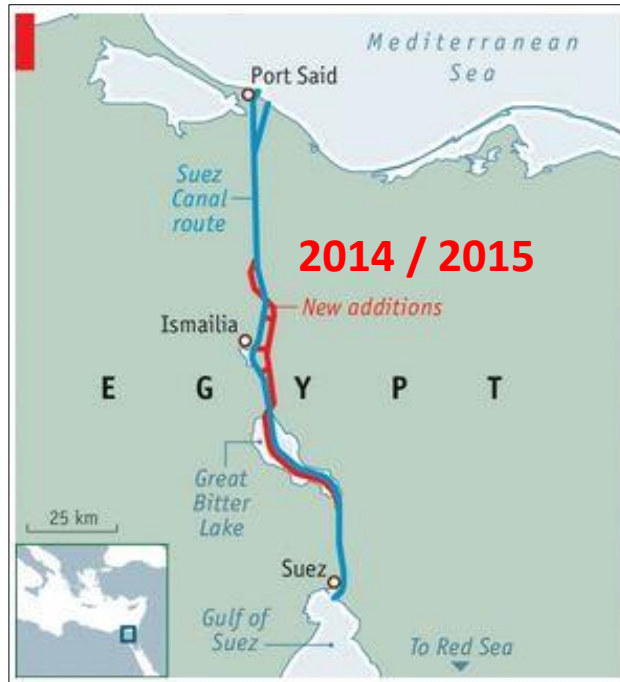
Introduced from the Red Sea,  
40 – 55 m depth

*Mullus barbatus*,  
Linnaeus, 1758



Native to the Mediterranean,  
deeper than introduced  
goatfish species

# Concerns: Recent Additions & Deepening of the Suez Canal



Costs: \$8.5 billion

Revenue: \$5.3 billion (in 2015) to  
\$13.2 billion (by 2023)

→ Canal additions & deepening likely contributes to invasion increase

Biol Invasions (2015) 17:973–976  
DOI 10.1007/s10530-014-0778-y

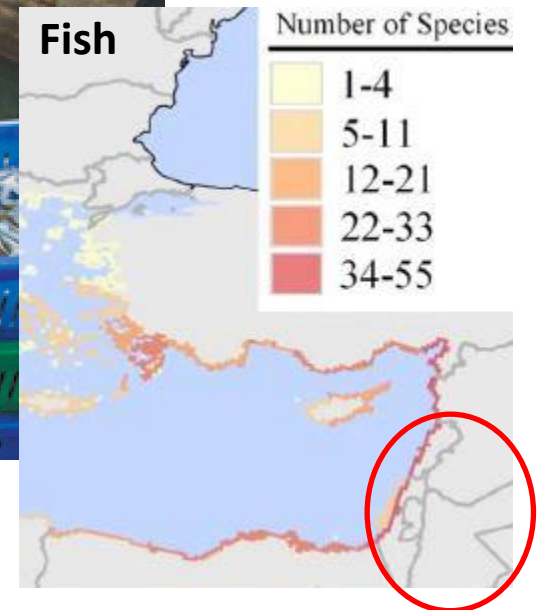
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**‘Double trouble’: the expansion of the Suez Canal  
and marine bioinvasions in the Mediterranean Sea**

# Economic Impact



*Siganus sp.*



**Israel:** Red Sea fish & prawns provide ca. 50 % of the Mediterranean catch

Hofrichter 2002, Katsanevakis et al. 2014, Hafner & Rudolf 2016

# Negative Economic Impact

Disrupting Fisheries: Costs: \$10 Million damage (Turkey, in 2014)

Pufferfish *Lagocephalus sceleratus* (Gmelin, 1789)



# Negative Economic Impact



## Jellyfish threaten Israeli power plant

5 July 2011 Last updated at 23:54 BST

Venomous  
Disrupting Fisheries & Tourism  
Clogging Power plants: \$50,000  
(in 2001)



Nomadic jellyfish  
*Rhopilema nomadica*  
Galil, 1990

## Negative Ecological Impact: “Bunniefish”



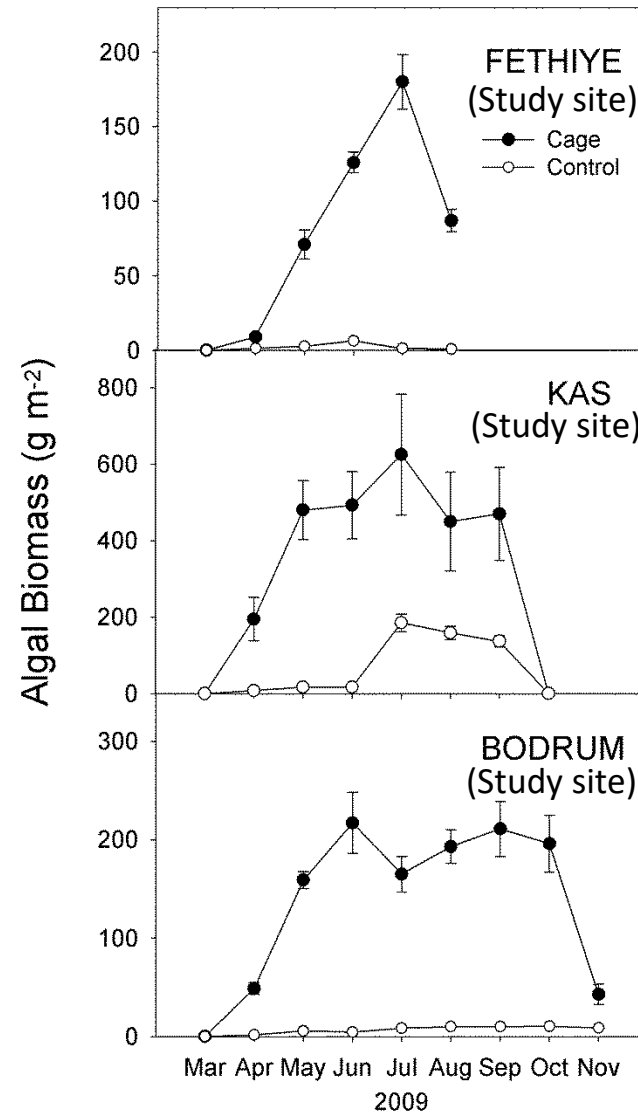
**Figure 4.** An exclusion cage at Kas in August 2009, five months after the beginning of the experiment.

# Negative Ecological Impact: “Bunniefish”

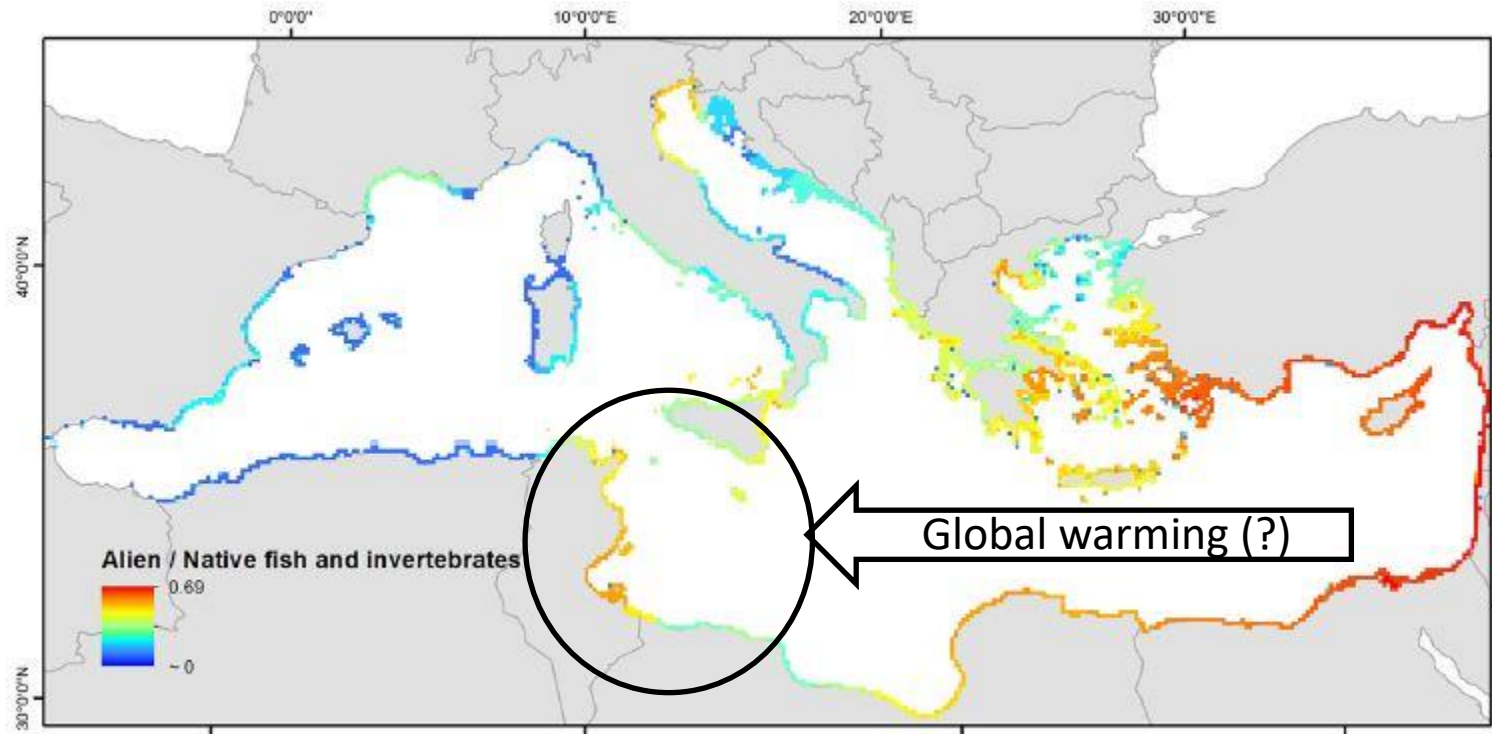


*Siganus luridus*

Cage: fish exclusion



# Concerns: Red Sea Species Spread Across the Mediterranean



## Health Impact

(e.g. Galil 2009)

Monday, May 18, 2015, 10:38

### Poisonous fish found in Malta for the first time



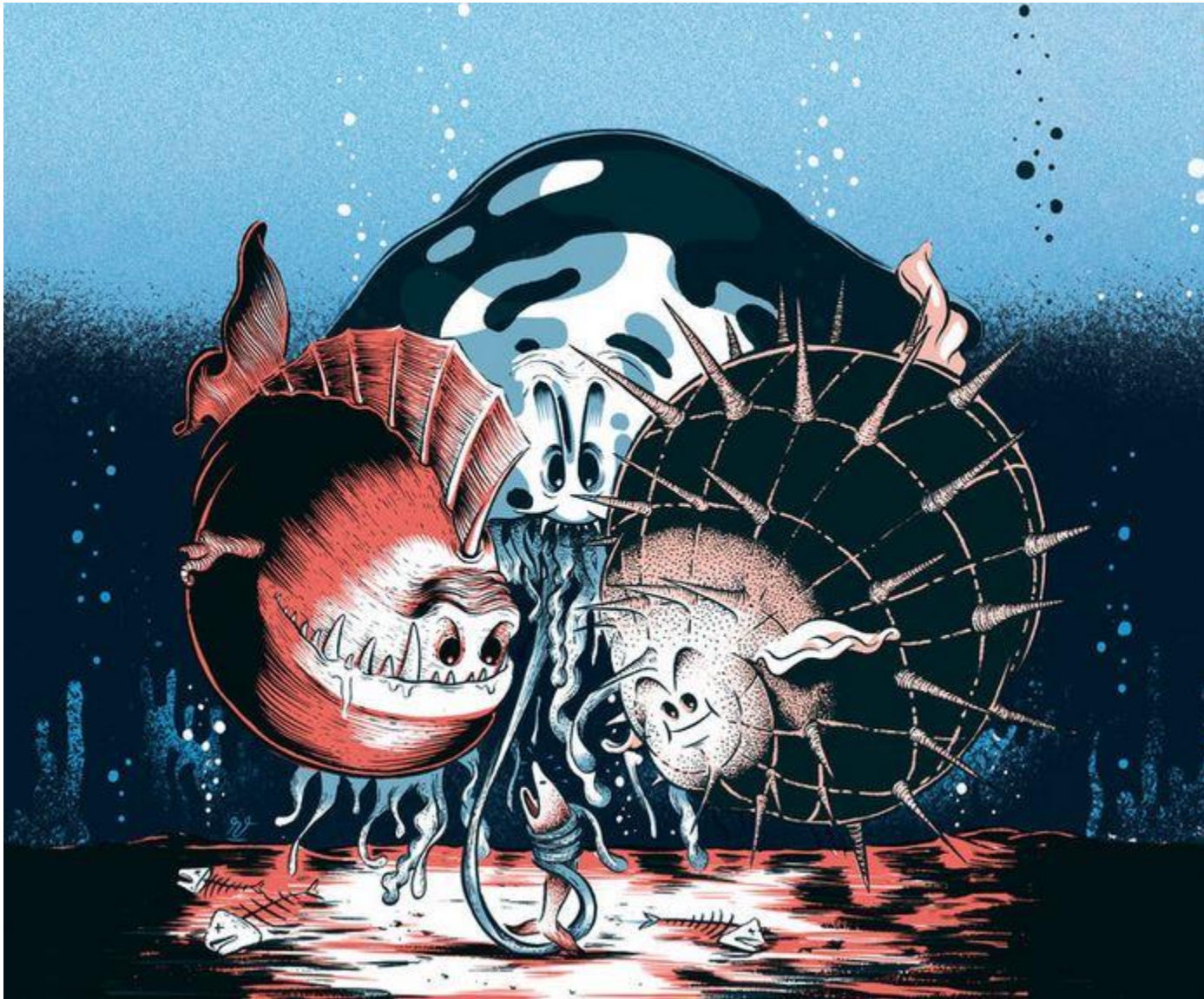
Pufferfish *Lagocephalus sceleratus* (Gmelin, 1789)

Venomous, Tetrodotoxin

Disrupting Fisheries & Tourism

Deaths reported from Egypt & Israel

# How to limit the invasion through the Suez Canal?



New York Times, 29 Jan 2016

# Salt



Artificial salt barriers may substitute the Bitter Lake salinity barrier

[https://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/30/opinion/our-mediterranean-our-survival.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/30/opinion/our-mediterranean-our-survival.html?_r=0)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/13/opinion/under-the-ships-in-the-suez-canal.html>

<http://www.economist.com/news/technology-quarterly/21651921-how-prevent-egypts-enlargement-suez-canal-making-it-easier-red-sea>

# Anti-Lessepsian Migration

Mediterranean species immigrating the Red Sea is comparatively rare



Spotted Seabass  
*Dicentrarchus punctatus*  
(Bloch, 1792)



*Cerastoderma edule*  
(Linnaeus, 1758)

→ Low tolerance of hypersaline conditions in Mediterranean species

# Transoceanic Canals

## Suez Canal



1859-1869: Construction

161 km length

No locks

## Panama Canal



1904-1914: Construction

82 km length

3 locks

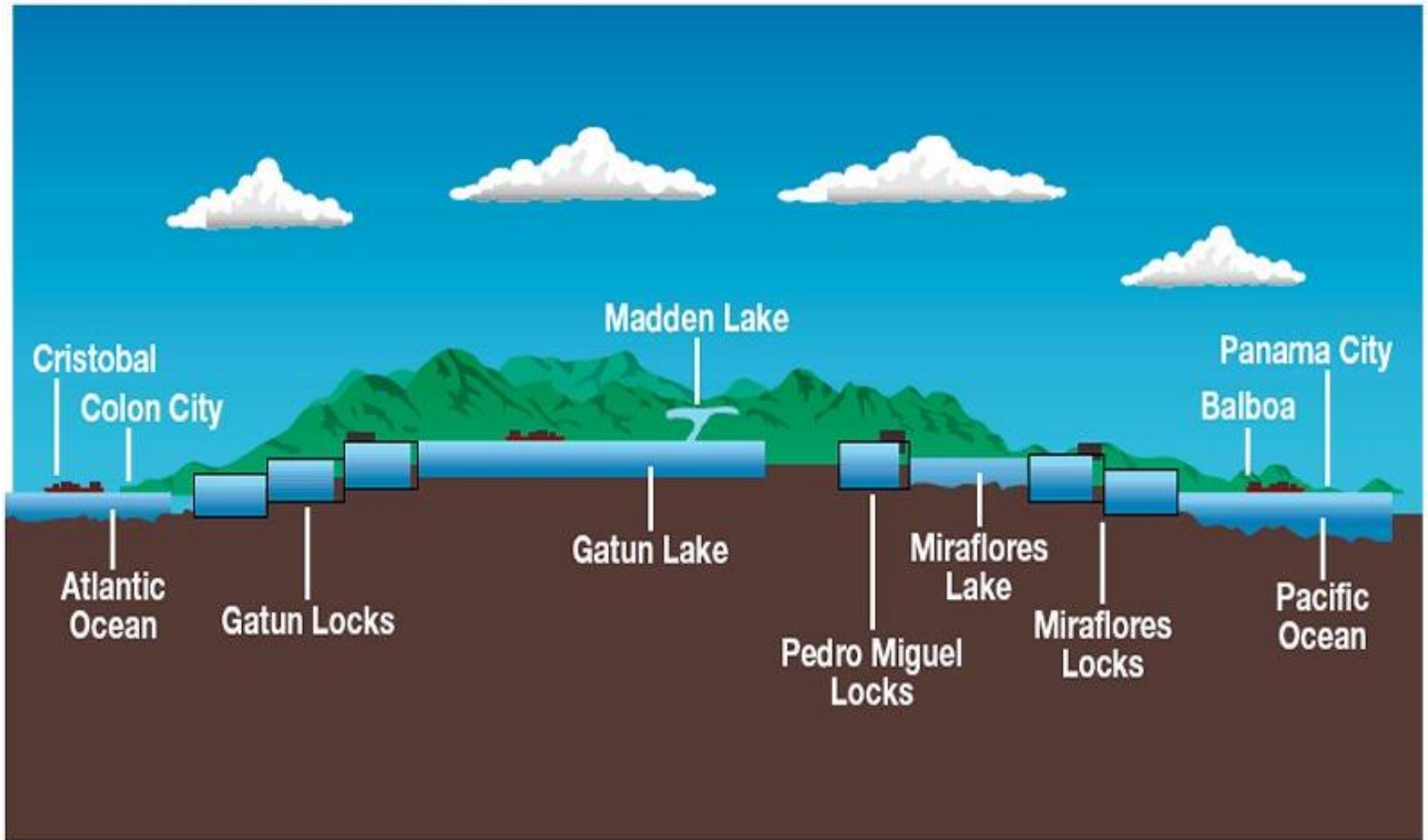
# Panama Canal Locks



# Panama Canal Locks

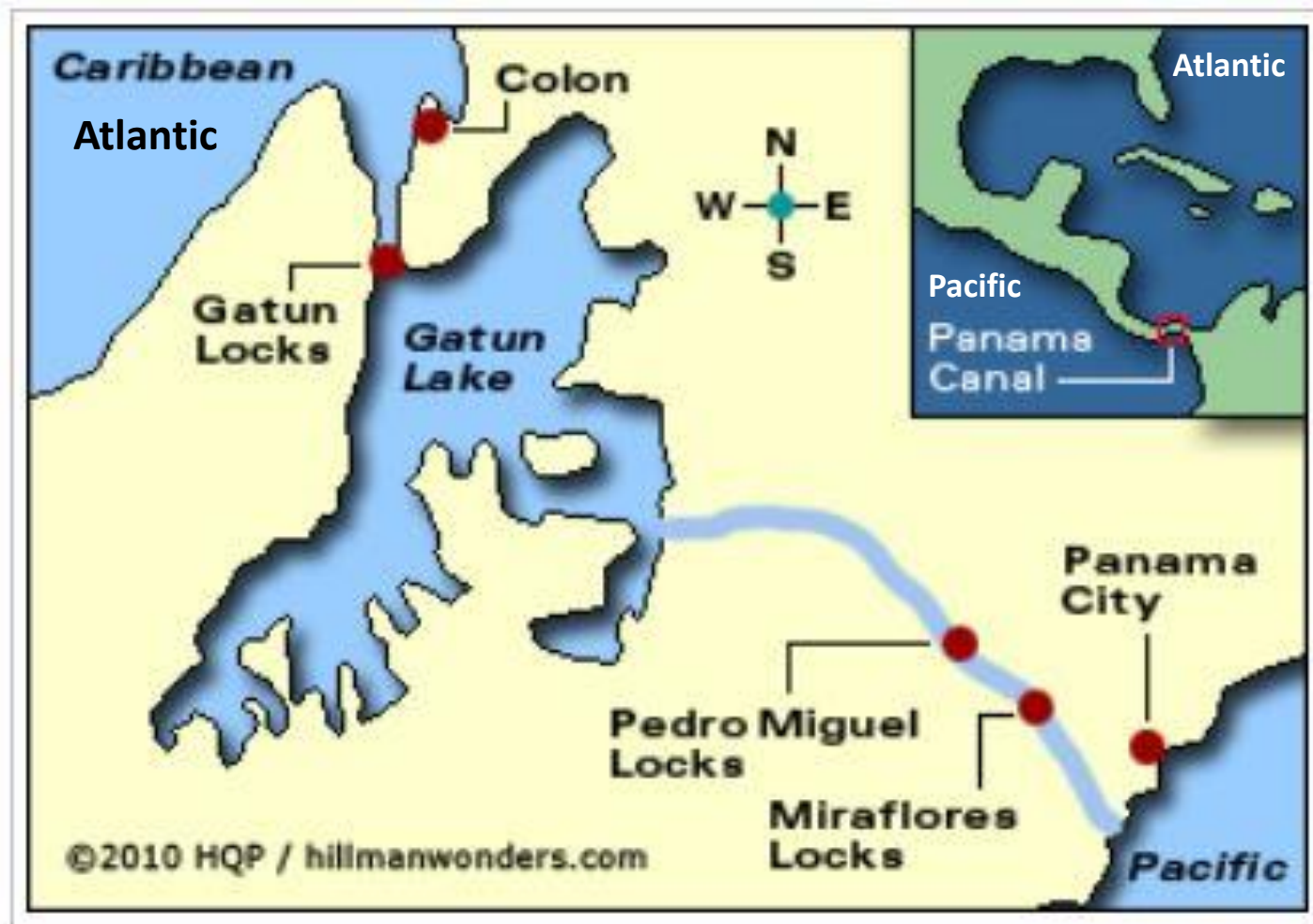


# Panama Canal Profile



**28 m height difference**

# Gatun Lake



Gatun Lake & the Panama canal are freshwater barriers

# Trans-Panama Canal Migration is Relatively Little

Crabs: 7 species: Atlantic to Pacific  
1 species: Pacific to Atlantic

Fish: 7 species: Atlantic to Pacific  
3 species: Pacific to Atlantic

reported in the canal



Atlantic tarpon (*Megalops atlanticus*), Valenciennes 1847

→ The Freshwater of the Panama Canal is an effective barrier to migrating species

Thank you!

