

DIVE INTO THE MARINE AREA OF

# ERIMITIS



# Our Erimitis



1. Who here has visited Erimitis?
2. Who has swam in Erimitis?
3. What marine animals and plants did you see?

# Erimitis Peninsula



Erimitis peninsula, located in the Northeast of Corfu, borders the western coast of Albania through a narrow channel that links the Adriatic with the Ionian Sea.



# What is in the waters of Erimitis?

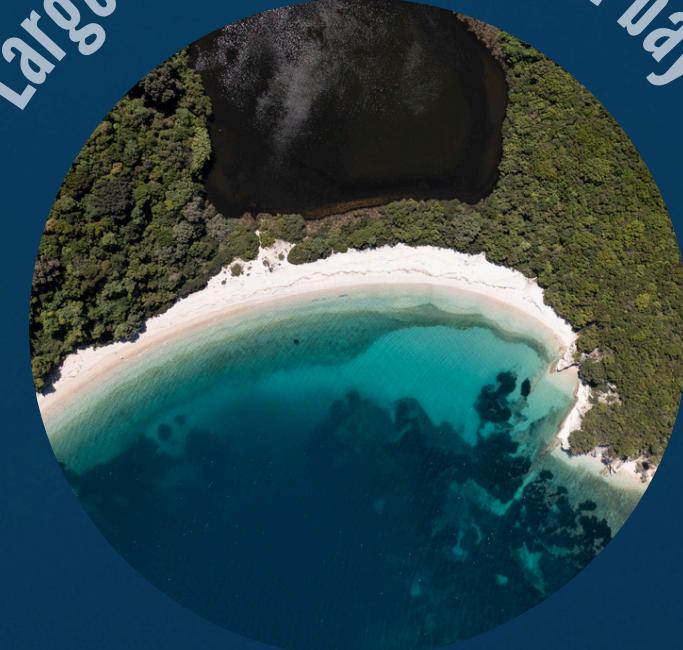


5 habitat types

*Posidonia meadows*



*Large shallow inlets and bays*



*Reefs*



*Sandbanks*



*Sea caves*



# What is in the waters of Erimitis?

Home to many living organisms



**186** FAUNA  
SPECIES

6 Vulnerable species

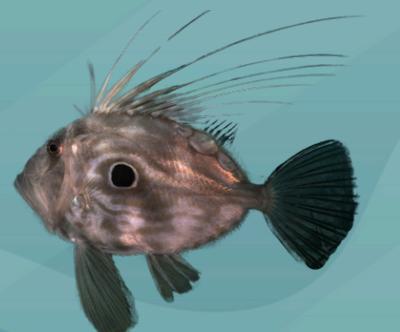


19 Protected species



**25** FLORA  
SPECIES

Fish



Echinoderms



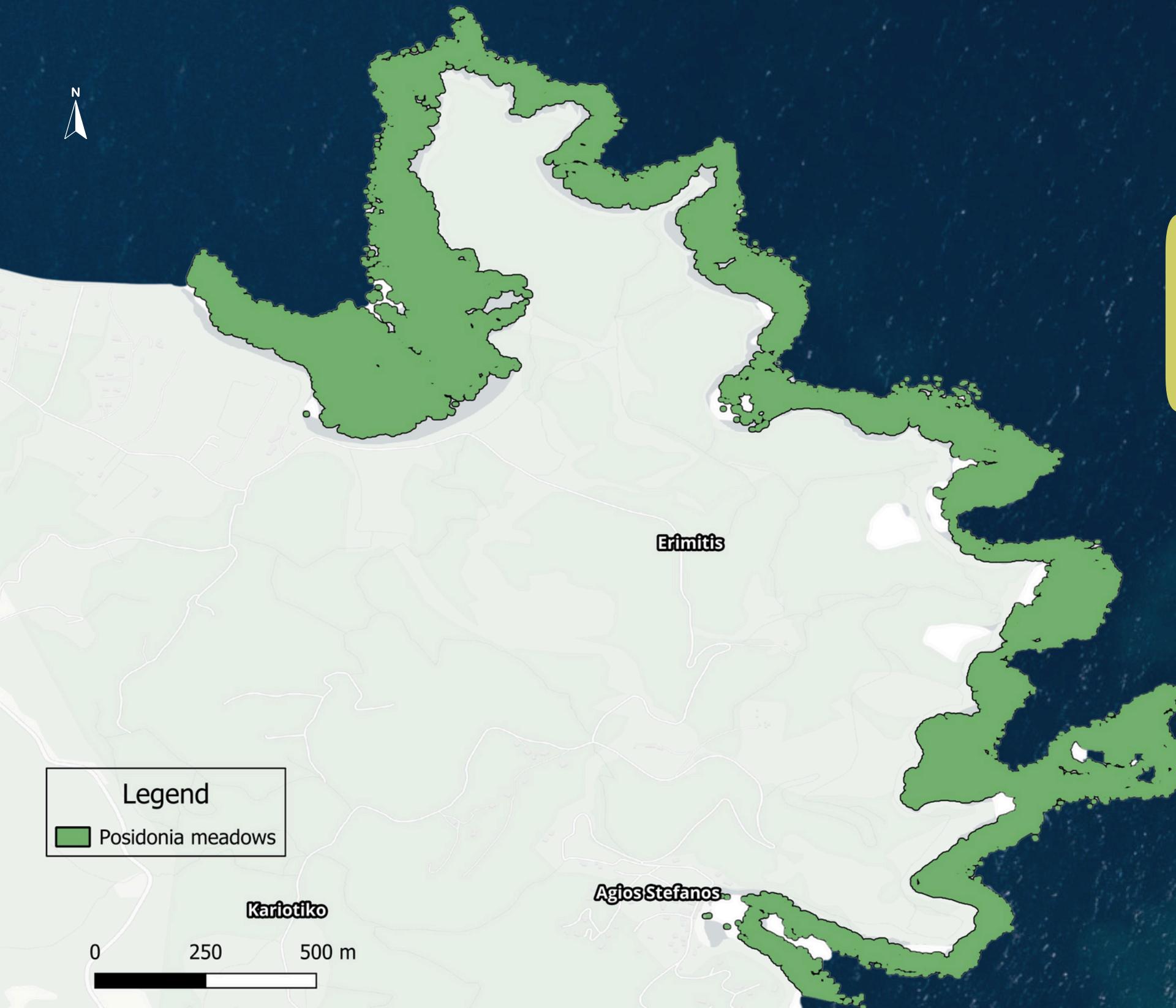
Alien species



# Posidonia meadows of Erimitis



**62.1** ha  
of Posidonia  
meadows



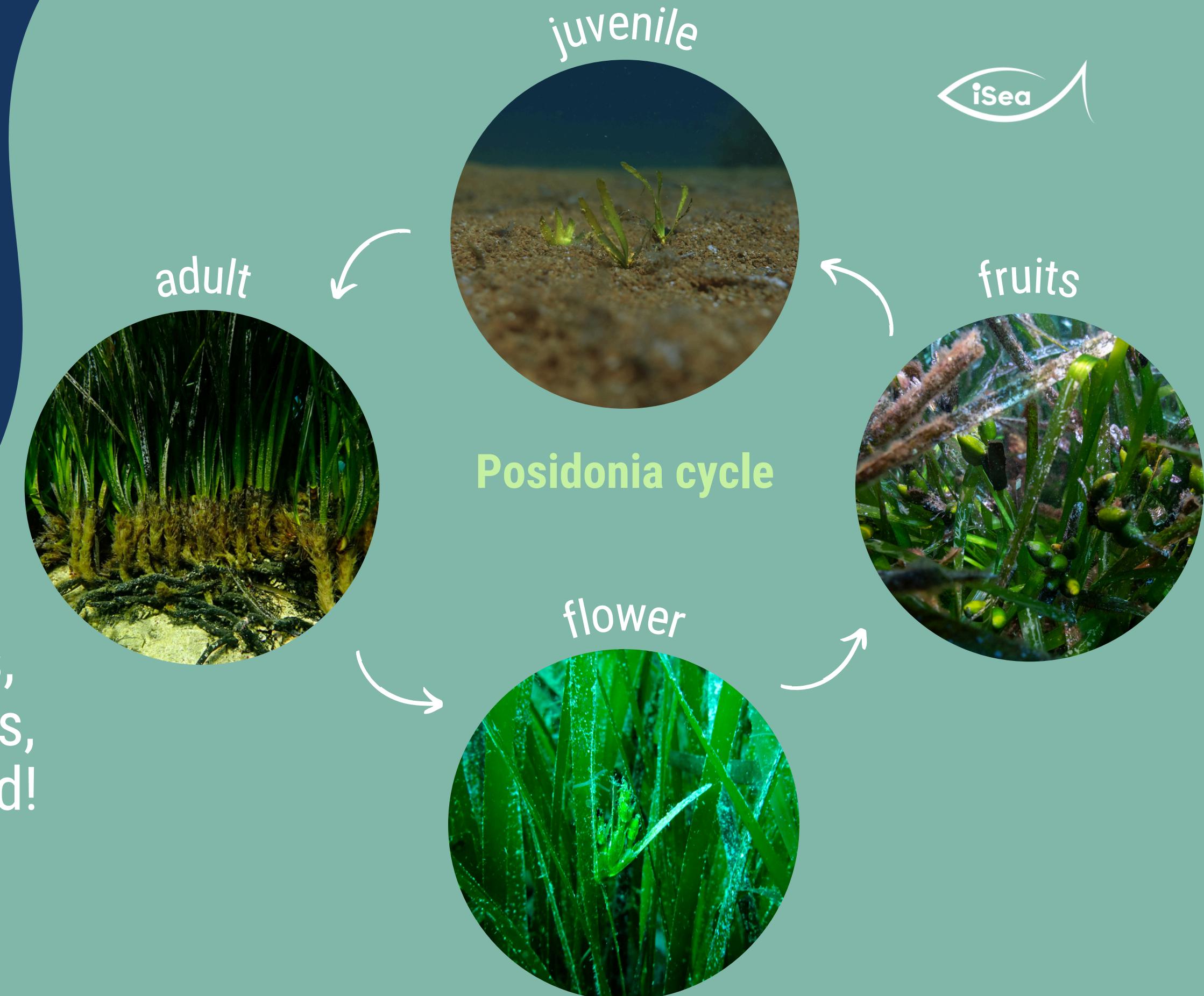


Let's dive into Posidonia meadows

# What is Posidonia?

What is it?

- Aquatic plant growing in saltwater
- It's not seaweed!
- It's a real plant with roots, leaves, flowers, and seeds, just like the plants on land!



# Posidonia is a superhero



*Posidonia oceanica* is a marine phanerogam plant that forms meadows and is endemic to the Mediterranean!

It is a biodiversity hotspot, hosting **>500** species of fish and other marine organisms!



The meadows it forms protect our sandy beaches from erosion!



It produces O<sup>2</sup> & sequesters CO<sup>2</sup> in its rhizomes for centuries, helping in the mitigation of the Climate Crisis!



# Posidonia is known as 'The lungs of the sea'



Like plants on land Posidonia makes its own food

It uses sunlight to do this → a process called photosynthesis.

While it makes food, it also produces oxygen

Fun fact:  
It can produce 10 times more oxygen than trees!

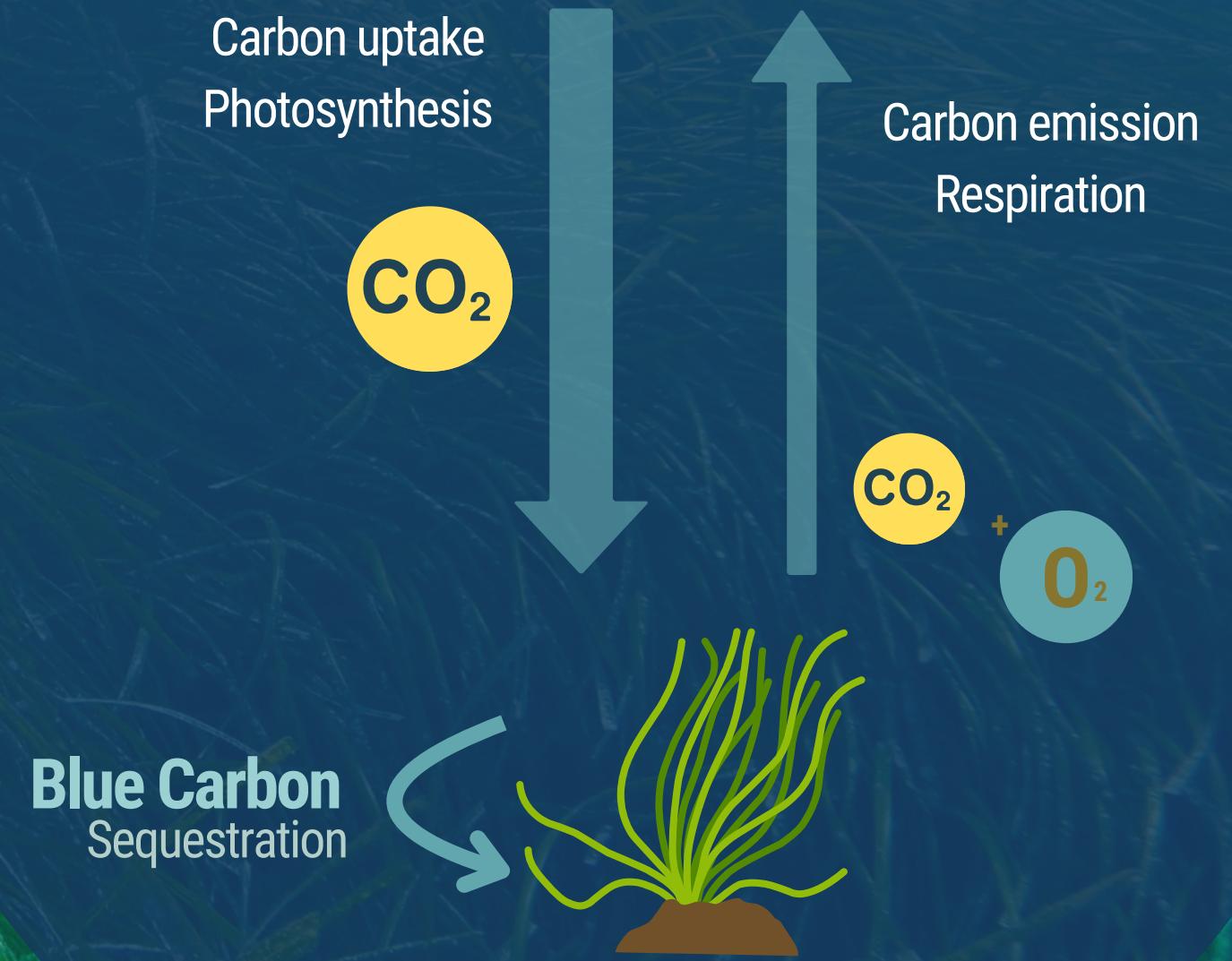
# Posidonia helps our fight against climate change



Carbon in the atmosphere contributes to climate change

Healthy Posidonia ecosystems absorb carbon, travels down to the roots and traps the carbon

Carbon captured by the ocean and marine ecosystems like Posidonia meadows is called: Blue carbon



# Blue carbon in Erimitis



**3,384** TONS  
of Blue Carbon  
are stored within the Posidonia meadows  
of Erimitis

# Importance of Posidonia meadows



- ✓ **Habitat:**  
Posidonia meadows are important homes for many species of animals and plants
- ✓ **Food source:**  
Posidonia is an important food source for species like green turtles
- ✓ **Nursery ground:**  
Baby fish grow up safely in the Posidonia meadows. Posidonia leaves protect them from bigger fish and give them a place to grow

# Importance of Posidonia



VS



✓ Posidonia meadows filter the water and help trap sediments on the seabed, keeping our waters clean and clear.

✓ Posidonia traps microplastics! Avoiding it being spread in the marine environment.

# Importance of Posidonia meadows



Posidonia meadows protect the coast from erosion

- Their leaves, even when washed up, help hold the sand in place.
- This prevents the sand from being washed away by waves.
- Thanks to Posidonia, our beaches stay safe and strong.

The background image shows an underwater Posidonia meadow. The dense green blades of the seagrass are visible, with sunlight filtering through the water. Several small, dark-colored fish are swimming throughout the scene.

# Why are Posidonia meadows superheroes?



Together let's summarise  
why Posidonia is important!



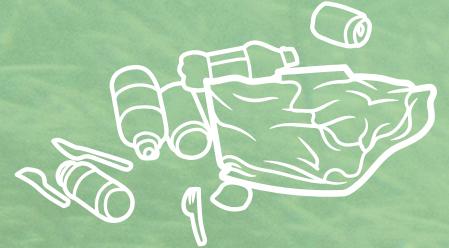
Posidonia is under threat



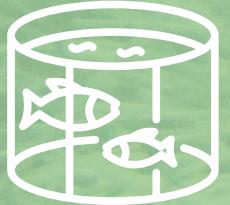
# How do humans affect Posidonia meadows?



**Anchoring pressure**



**Plastic pollution**



**Fish farming**



**Coastal development**

# How can we help protect Erimitis and Posidonia meadows?



If someone tells you that Posidonia isn't important, how might you respond?

How can we help protect Erimitis and Posidonia meadows?





1.

Can you name the species?

Have you ever seen them?

2.



iSea

3.



4.

5.

6.



7.



8.



# Answers

1. *Zeus faber* (John dory)
2. *Sparisoma cretense* (Parrot fish)
3. *Scyllarides latus* (Mediterranean slipper lobster)
4. *Aplysina aerophoba* (Yellow Tube Sponge)
5. *Thericium vulgatum* (Horn shell)
6. *Hermodice carunculata* (Bearded Fireworm)
7. *Ophidiaster ophidianus* (Purple starfish)
8. *Pinna rudis* (Spiny Fan Mussel)

