

DIVE INTO THE MARINE AREA OF

ERMITIS



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**BLUE
MARINE**
FOUNDATION



Our Erimitis



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

Our Erimitis

Drawing activity:

When I go to the beach and swim in the ocean, I see...

1. Who wants to share their drawing?

2. What marine animals and plants have you seen at the beach? In the sea?

3. How does it make you feel to be by the sea?



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?

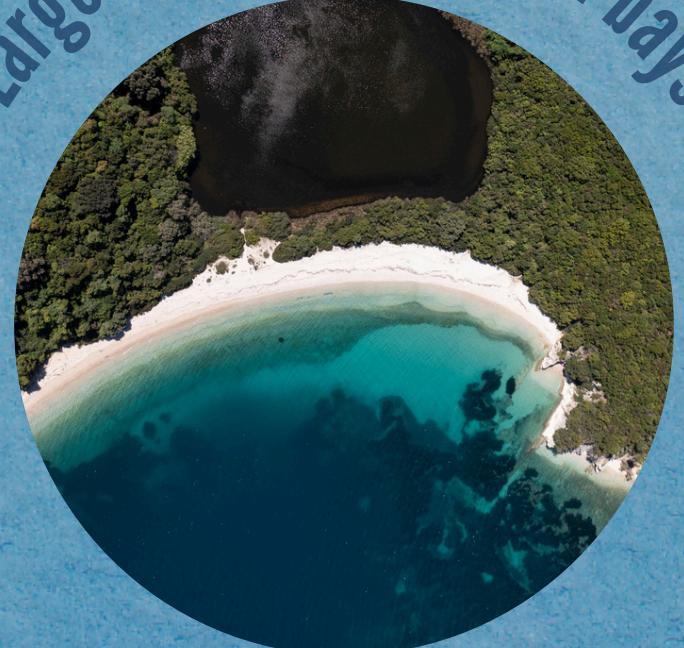


5 habitat types

Posidonia meadows



Large shallow inlets and bays



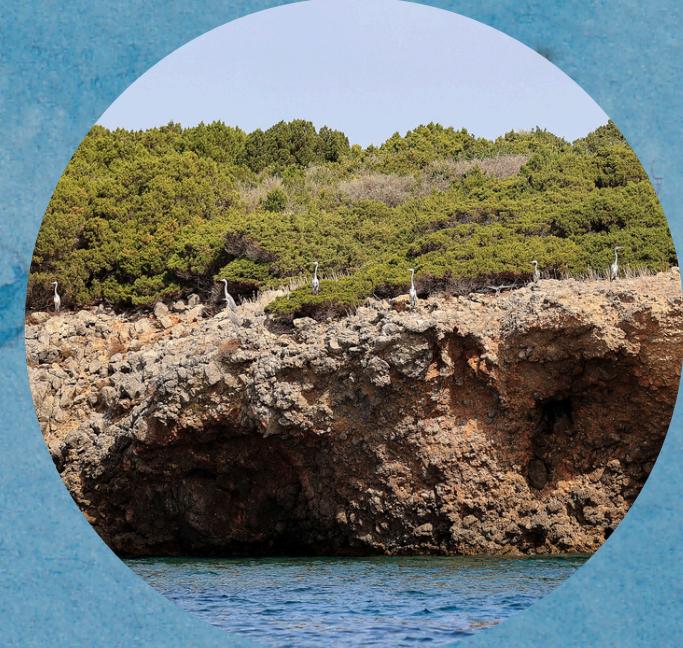
Reefs



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

Echinoderms



Fish



Alien species



Posidonia meadows of Erimitis



A big underwater
meadow made of
seagrass called
Posidonia oceanica

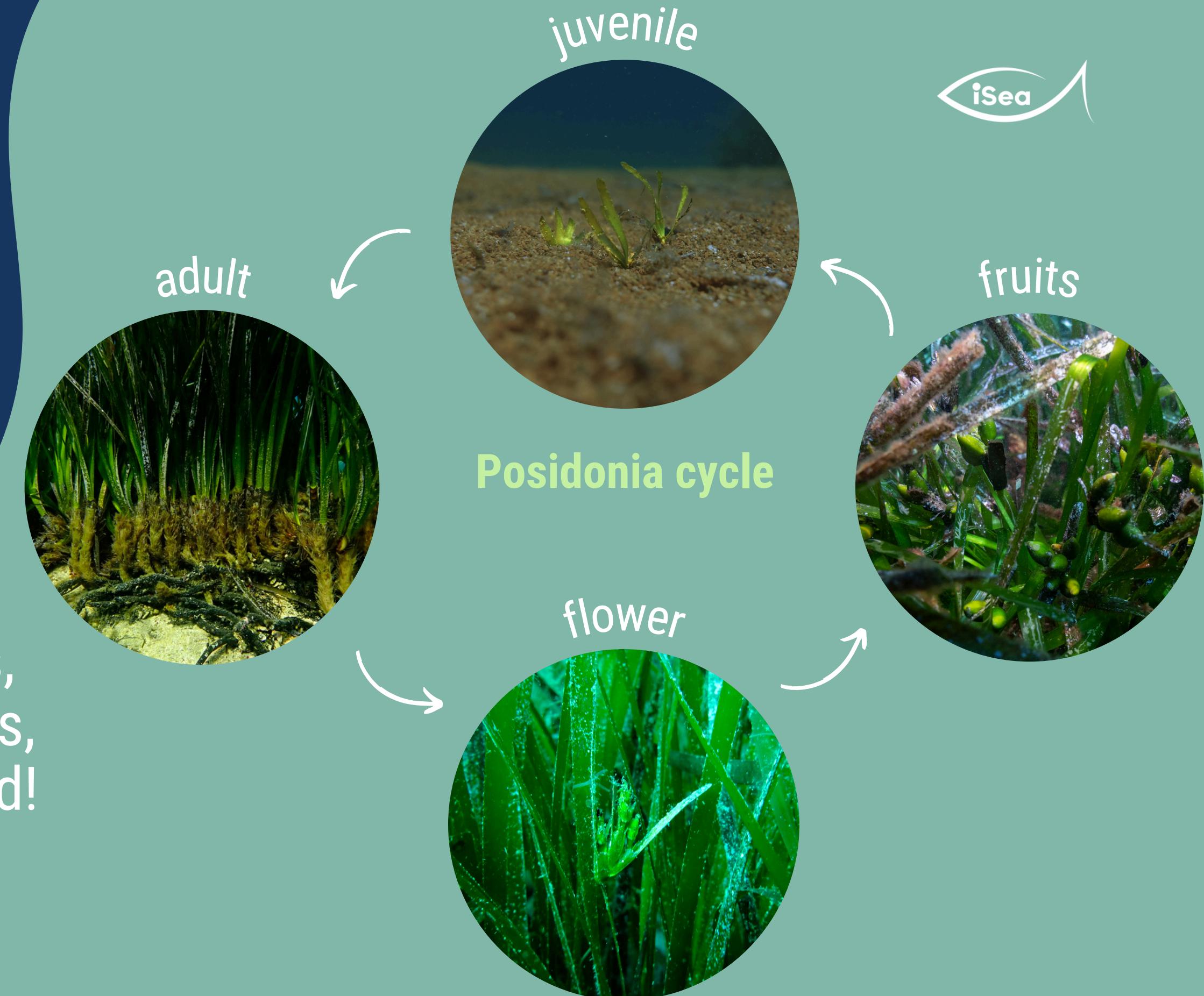


Let's dive into Posidonia meadows

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 sea plant that lives only in the Mediterranean Sea and forms big underwater meadows.

It's like a big underwater city full of life, hosting **>500** species of fish and other marine organisms!



The meadows it forms protect our sandy beaches from erosion!



It produces O² & traps CO² in its roots for centuries, helping fight the climate change!



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!

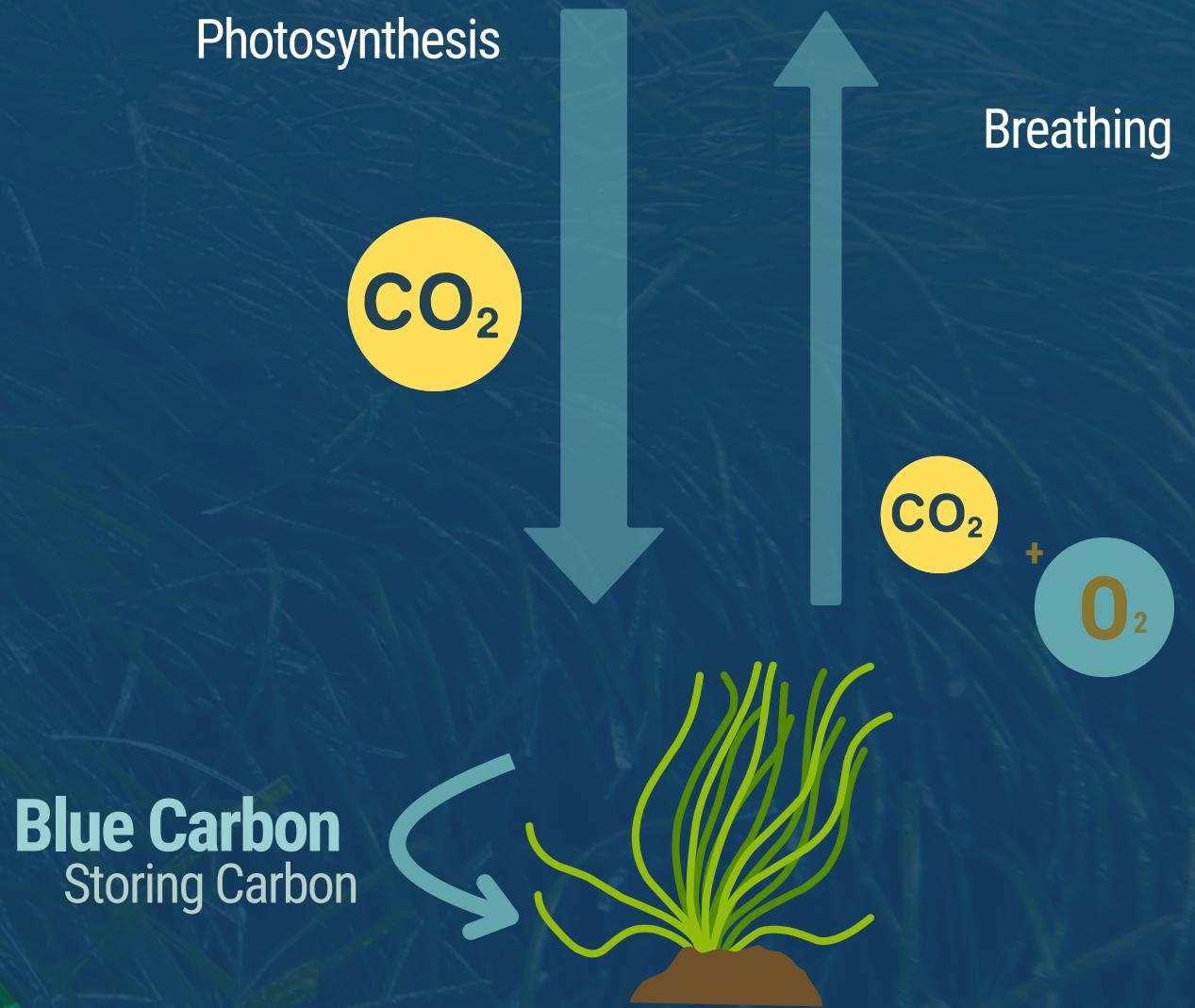
Posidonia helps our fight against climate change



Carbon in the atmosphere warms the Earth but too much of it causes the phenomenon of climate change.

Healthy Posidonia meadows absorb carbon and store it in their roots for a very long time!

Carbon captured by marine ecosystems like Posidonia meadows is called: Blue carbon.



Posidonia: a superhero!



The Posidonia meadows in Erimitis are like a superhero for the climate!

They store **3,384** tons of Blue Carbon



This is like 564 elephants!

Importance of Posidonia meadows



- ✓ **Habitat – Home**
Posidonia meadows are important homes for many species of animals and plants
- ✓ **Food source**
Some animals, like the green sea turtle, love to eat Posidonia leaves.
- ✓ **Nursery ground**
Baby fish grow up safely in the Posidonia meadows. Posidonia leaves protect them from bigger fish and give them a place to play and grow!

Importance of Posidonia



VS



- ✓ Posidonia meadows filter the water and help trap sediments on the seabed, keeping our waters clean and clear.
- ✓ Traps microplastics!
Posidonia catches tiny pieces of plastic – called microplastics – before they spread in the sea.

Importance of Posidonia



Posidonia meadows help take care of the coast!

- 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 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

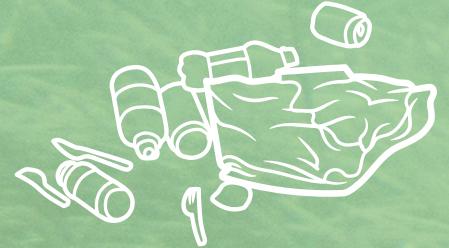


Our Posidonia superhero is under threat

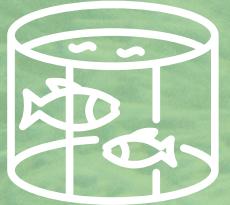
How do humans affect Posidonia meadows?



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.





3.

iSea

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)

