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# BIODIVERSITY OF THE BLACK SEA

## IMPORTANCE AND RISKS

EMBLAS-Plus  
Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea

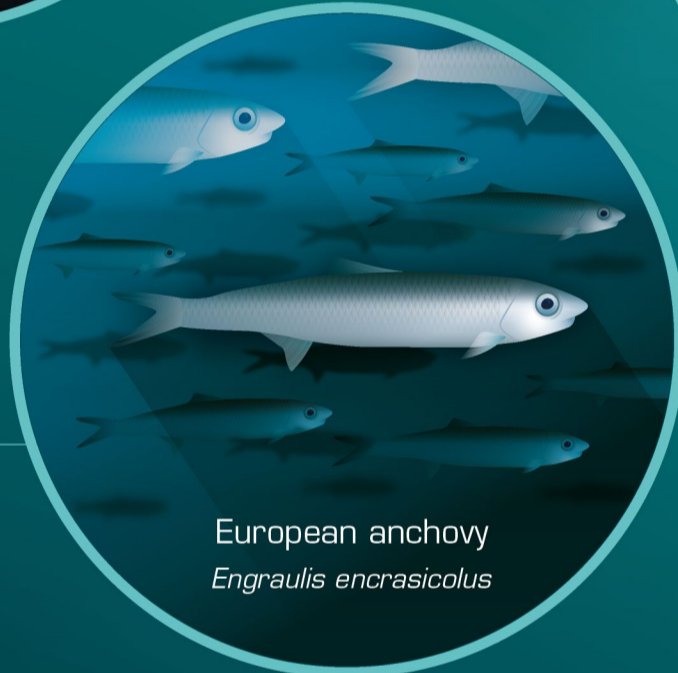


Currently, **5 680 species** have been recorded in the Black Sea, including:\*



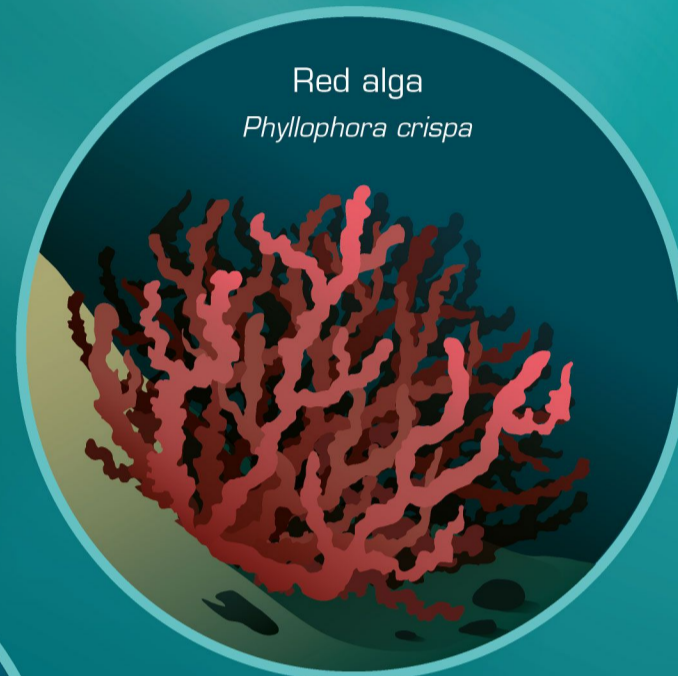
Mediterranean monk seal  
*Monachus monachus*  
Almost extinct

**4**  
species of mammals



**201**  
species of fish

European anchovy  
*Engraulis encrasicolus*



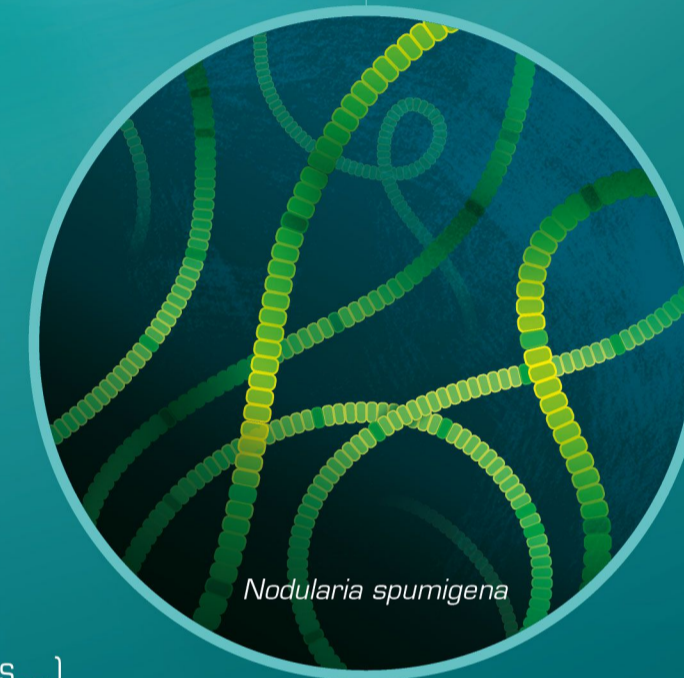
Red alga  
*Phyllophora crispa*

**1 888**  
species of phytobenthos  
(algae, seagrasses and fungi)



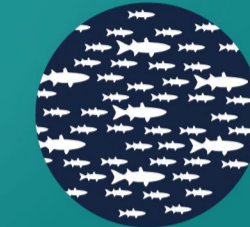
Mediterranean mussel  
*Mytilus galloprovincialis*

**1 677**  
species of zoobenthos  
(molluscs, crabs, worms...)



**1 910**  
species of plankton  
(microalgae, crustaceans)

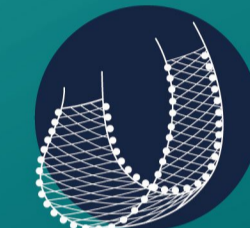
### The main threats to biodiversity



Invasive species



Pollution



Over-exploitation



Destruction of habitats



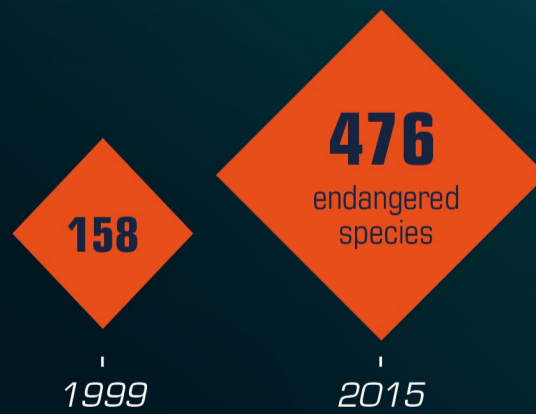
Climate change

The biodiversity is essential to ensure the proper functioning of ecosystems. The degradation of an ecosystem can cause huge negative impacts on all living beings, including humans. A damaged ecosystem produces less resources such as food, which means a loss of potential economic benefits and a risk for food security.

Under the impact of these threats, the communities of living organisms get less diversified. Only small, seasonal and tolerant pollution species can survive.

**The Red data book of the Black sea** is a list of all endangered species.

In 1999, 158 species were in that list. In 2015, 476 species were recorded as endangered, which is 3 times more in 16 years.



An invasive species is a species that is not native to a specific location, and that has a tendency to spread to a degree that causes damage to the environment and to native species.

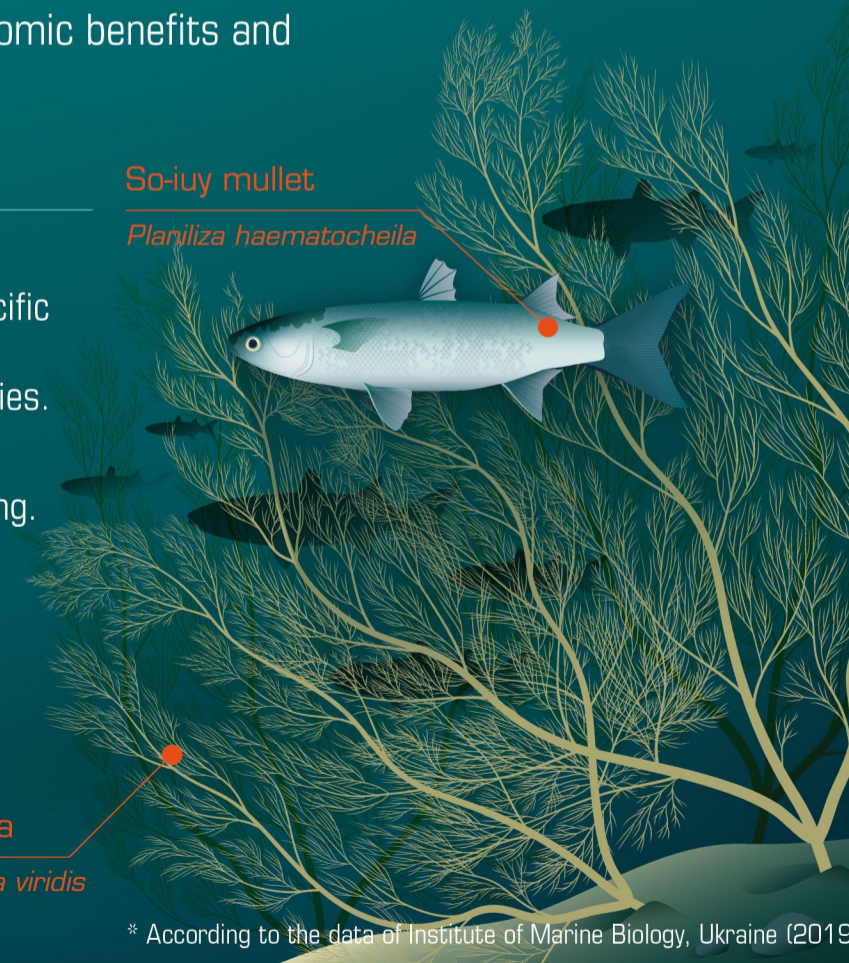
The number and the impact of invasive species is increasing. By 2014 in the Black Sea 365 invasive species were recorded

### The most common invasive species of the Black Sea

Sea walnut  
*Mnemiopsis leidyi*

Brown alga  
*Desmarestia viridis*

So-iuy mullet  
*Planiliza haematocheila*



\* According to the data of Institute of Marine Biology, Ukraine (2019)

### WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

**We can all act to make things better!**

**As a citizen:** Never dispose of your waste in the wild. Try to buy as much as possible products that come from sustainably managed resources.

**As a decision maker:** Increase the proportion of marine protected areas and their size. Adopt laws to regulate fisheries. Support measures about sustainable development.

More information at [emblasproject.org](http://emblasproject.org)

