Perception of Changes in Marine Benthic Habitats: The Relevance of Taxonomic and Ecological Memory

Maria Flavia Gravina 1,2,*, Andrea Bonifazi 1, Michela Del Pasqua 3, Jacopo Giampaoloetti 1, Marco Lezzi 1, Daniele Ventura 5 and Adriana Giangrande 2,6

1 Department of Biology, University of Rome “Tor Vergata”, 00133 Rome, Italy; bonifazi.andrea@virgilio.it (A.B.); jacopogiampaoloetti@gmail.com (J.G.)
2 CoNISMa, Consorzio Interuniversitario per le Scienze del Mare, 00196 Rome, Italy; adriana.giangrande@unisalento.it
3 ARPAE, Regional Agency for Environmental Prevention and Energy of Emilia Romagna, 48121 Ravenna, Italy; michela.delpasqua@unisalento.it
4 ARPAE, Regional Agency for Prevention, Environment and Energy, Emilia-Romagna, 47042 Cesenatico, Forlì-Cesena, Italy; marcolezzi86@gmail.com
5 Department of Environmental Biology, University of Rome “Sapienza”, 00185 Rome, Italy; daniele.ventura@uniroma1.it
6 Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences and Technologies, University of Salento, 73100 Lecce, Italy
* Correspondence: maria.flavia.gravina@uniroma2.it

Received: 27 October 2020; Accepted: 14 December 2020; Published: 16 December 2020

Abstract: Having a reliable ecological reference baseline is pivotal to understanding the current status of benthic assemblages. Ecological awareness of our perception of environmental changes could be better described based on historical data. Otherwise, we meet with the shifting baseline syndrome (SBS). Facing SBS harmful consequences on environmental and cultural heritage, as well as on conservation strategies, requires combining historical data with contemporary biomonitoring. In the present “era of biodiversity”, we advocate for (1) the crucial role of taxonomy as a study of life diversity and (2) the robust, informative value of museum collections as memories of past ecosystem conditions. This scenario requires taxonomist skills to understand community composition and diversity, as well as to determine ecosystem change trends and rates. In this paper, we focus on six Mediterranean benthic habitats to track biological and structural changes that have occurred in the last few decades. We highlight the perception of biological changes when historical records make possible effective comparisons between past reference situations and current data. We conclude that the better we know the past, the more we understand present (and will understand future) ecosystem functioning. Achieving this goal is intrinsically linked to investing in training new taxonomists who are able to assure intergenerational connectivity to transmit cultural and environmental heritage, a key aspect to understanding and managing our changing ecosystems.

Keywords: environmental changes; biodiversity; historical data; benthic communities; biomonitoring; taxonomy; museum collections; environmental heritage

1. Changes in Marine Benthic Communities

Πάντα ῥεῖ, (panta rei), the well-known Heraclitus aphorism, admirably highlights change as the manifold aspect of Nature. Everything flows, as “one cannot descend twice into the same river and one cannot touch twice a substance in the same state”. Environmental space and time changes continuously occur, trigging variations in organism assemblages, whose description is the major goal of ecology. Both irreversible (evolutionary approach) and reversible (ecological approach) changes
characterize life history. Even in the ecological perspective, variations may be investigated at both synchronic (biological and physical–chemical differences in space) and diachronic (modifications in a temporal scale) levels.

Ecosystem dynamics have been the favorite topic among marine ecologists, including succession, persistence, and evolution, and the Mediterranean benthic communities have not been an exception (e.g., [1–3]). Such an interest is according to its relevance in resource partitioning processes. Indeed, successful strategies are linked to species alternation in biomass contribution through time in response to the adaptation to environmental changes and resource availability, as described by the “flush and crash” model [4]. Understanding changes also means distinguishing predictable and unpredictable modifications, as well as periodical/progressive fluctuations, from sudden/short-term variations. The manifold aspects of marine ecosystem modifications have been largely discussed, including the distinction between fluctuations and the role of episodic events in coastal community variations (see, e.g., [5,6]).

Along with ongoing environmental degradation from a local scale to the global scale, accepted thresholds for environmental conditions can be continually lowered, affecting the perception and awareness of community changes. Lacking past information or experience, each new generation of ecologists might accept their rising situation as the norm, a sociopsychological phenomenon known as the shifting baseline syndrome (SBS) [7].

Global changes of biota in marine environments are nowadays of emerging relevance because of the acceleration induced in recent decades by an increase in anthropogenic pressure (i.e., pollution, coastal constructions, overfishing), particularly in the Mediterranean Sea, whose enclosed basin magnifies global warming effects on water temperature [8–10].

Accordingly, instead of exhaustively reviewing changes in ecological studies, we focus here on long-term (i.e., from decades up to a century) relevant changes in marine biodiversity of Mediterranean benthic communities along the Italian coast.

We report six different cases of perception and detection of variations, which can be assessed due to the availability of historical records that provide clear baselines to understand the possible ecosystem change paths.

We speculate on the importance of these historical data as reservoirs of ecological memory, allowing the understanding of current and future changes. Moreover, we stress the pivotal role of taxonomists, who should be considered an essential link between old and new generations of ecologists. This, in turn, could be basal for preserving the knowledge required to understand changes in the benthic communities over time, as well as to allow the new generations of ecologists to avoid SBS.

2. Study Cases

2.1. Ficopomatus Reef

The serpulid polychaete Ficopomatus enigmaticus (Fauvel, 1923) had spread into the Mediterranean Sea since the beginning of the last century through unaided dispersal from native regional borders [11–13]. The first historical record of its massive tube agglomerations along the Italian coast dates back to 1919 [14]. This ecosystem engineer edifies conspicuous reefs in brackish water systems, consisting of complex clumps of cemented calcareous tubes (Figure 1a–d) that offer refuge, food, and habitat for reproduction to many other benthic organisms. Consequently, its presence strongly modifies the distribution and increases the abundance and diversity of brackish Mediterranean benthic fauna [15–22]. Ficopomatus reefs grow quickly and spectacularly in coastal lagoons, which are progressively filled up by reefs and skeletal debris of such serpulid and the associated benthic organisms that may change the ecosystem dynamics. For decades, the Italian Ficopomatus reefs have remained comparatively stable, and they are considered a characteristic habitat of the eurythermal and euryhaline lagoons [23].
2.2. Sabellaria Reef

*Sabellaria alveolata* (Linnaeus, 1767), a gregarious sabellariid polychaete, is able to build compact bioconstructions in the intertidal and shallow subtidal (Figure 2). They occur on sandy or hard bottoms in both the Northeastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Their massive bioconstructions (i.e., sheets, hummocks, banks) of cemented tube aggregates strongly modify coastal marine habitats as they support a high diversity and act as natural barriers against coastal erosion [24,25]. Along the Italian coasts, large *S. alveolata* reefs occur in Latium [24,26–28] and Sicily [29], while the first remarkable reef made by the cogeneric *Sabellaria spinulosa* (Leuckart, 1849) was recently reported along the Apulian coast [30,31]. The Latium and Sicily *S. alveolata* reefs have been well known since the 1950s [32–34] when its “pristine” condition represented a sound ecological baseline. Differences in reef structure and morphology mainly result from combining the current developmental phase with environmental conditions, balanced by the destruction/construction cycle [24,25]. Therefore, assessing long-term changes relies upon the comparison of present and past status; in the case of both Latium and Sicily reefs, there have been no noticeable changes [24,25,29,35], so this demonstrates that they have been thriving for over half a century.
2.3. *Posidonia oceanica* Meadow

The Mediterranean endemic seagrass *Posidonia oceanica* (Linnaeus) Delile, 1813 is characterized by its high leaf shoots thriving in the water column and its matte setting on the seabed. It is the main bioengineer species along Mediterranean coastal areas (Figure 3), where it creates an original and productive ecosystem that strongly promotes benthic and fish communities, supports marine biodiversity, and furnishes several ecosystem services [36–38]. Due to its ecological, heritage, and economic relevance, the meadows are identified as a priority habitat (1120 *Posidonia oceanica* bed) for conservation and are included in the Natura 2000 marine sites (Habitat Directive 92/43/CEE) and in the Barcelona Convention (16.02.1976) while being protected by different European directives (WFD, 2000/60/EC; MSFD, 2008/56/EC) and national laws. Nevertheless, many meadows have suffered a decline caused by anthropogenic disturbances altering their spatial extent and density [39–44]. Consequently, there has been strong concern and warnings about their conservation status, leading to extensive investigations and monitoring that have revealed their main change trajectories during the last decades [45,46]. The large size of the plant and the complex structure of the meadows facilitate the understanding of the time and causes of damage; virtually all of them are attributable to anthropogenic activities in the coastal areas. In the Middle Tyrrhenian Sea, along the Latium coasts, the large body of historical data available has allowed an effective comparison with the present meadow conditions, including the magnitudes of impact and the main causes of its decline [27,39,41,42,46–51], information of crucial interest for conservation and management strategies in the region.

![Figure 3. *Posidonia oceanica* meadow at Isola del Giglio (Tuscan Archipelago, Tyrrhenian Sea, Italy) in good ecological status (a,b); P. oceanica flowering (c); example of an impacted meadow, showing the lower regression limit with dead matte and dead shells of *Pinna nobilis* Linnaeus, 1758 (d). Photo credit: D. Ventura.](image_url)

2.4. “Sponge Garden” of La Strea Bay

The “sponge garden” of La Strea Bay, along the Ionian coast of Apulia (Italy), was a unique ecosystem dominated by an extraordinarily diverse number of sponge species of different sizes. Particularly, *Geodia cydonium* (Linnaeus, 1767; Figure 4), an Atlantic–Mediterranean sponge commonly living in sheltered coastal waters, thrived as a dense population in the bay, composed of specimens that were variable in dimensions, reaching up to 40–100 cm in diameter [52–54]. Both sessile and nonsessile specimens coexisted, the latter being able to roll on a soft bottom, dragged by slow circular currents [52,53]. Since 1976, *G. cydonium* has been considered an “umbrella species” for the entire
sponge garden, where it has played a crucial role in harboring invertebrates and algae, offering sites for fish spawning and nurseries and strongly contributing to increased biodiversity in La Strea Bay [54–56]. La Strea Bay was not included in the Marine Protected Area of Porto Cesareo, established in 1997 [57]. As a consequence, a dock for mooring recreational boats was built, leading to an abrupt change in the benthic communities, including the loss of the “sponge garden” (G. Corriero personal communication). The comparison between present and past pristine conditions has provided pivotal information on the last change of the sponge assemblage.

Figure 4. La Strea Bay at the Ionian Apulian coast, Lecce (Italy) showing the dock for the recreational boat mooring (a,b), photo credit: M.F. Gravina; massive *Geodia cydonium* subspherical specimen (c); *Geodia cydonium* specimen covered by epibionts, which protect this sciaphilous sponge from high solar radiation (d). Photo by courtesy of G. Corriero, University of Bari, Italy.

2.5. Introduction of *Ruditapes philippinarum*

The human-mediated changes caused by the Manila clam *Ruditapes philippinarum* (A. Adams and Reeve, 1850) (Figure 5) in sandy seabeds are well known and clearly documented. The species was introduced in Italian North Adriatic brackish waters through an aquaculture program in 1983 [58,59], resulting in a quick adaptation due to its great resistance and fast growth. Three years later, it was breeding freely and had colonized all suitable areas, where it completely replaced the carpet-shell clam native *Ruditapes decussatus* (Linnaeus, 1758). The rapid growth and high densities of the exotic bivalve caused abrupt changes in harvesting technology and the fishery market. However, the local soft-bottom assemblages did not show remarkable changes in biodiversity [58]. The only remaining populations of *R. decussatus* occur in some brackish lagoons and ponds along the Sardinian coast of the Tyrrhenian Sea (e.g., Tortoli, San Giovanni, Merceddi–Corru s’ittiri, Santa Gilla, Calich) and Latium (Lago di Paola) [60–62], where they are extensively cultured and collected for human consumption. The definite date and site of the introduction constitute a clear before-and-after impact example, allowing us to suggest specific timing and methods for conservation plans of the still-surviving populations of the autochthonous *R. decussatus*. 
Figure 5. Lago di Paola, Latium, Italy: detail of the mouth channel, photo credit: D. Ventura (a) and Santa Gilla lagoon, Sardinia, Italy, photo by courtesy of Serenella Cabiddu, University of Cagliari, Italy (b) as examples of sites where populations of the autochthonous *Ruditapes decussatus* occur; specimens of the allochthonous *Ruditapes philippinarum*, showing shells and the almost-fused siphons as diagnostic characters (c–f). Photo credit: A. Bonifazi.

2.6. Fouling Community of the Mar Grande of Taranto

The fouling community of the Mar Grande of Taranto has been investigated, and its distinctive nature was exhibited from 1969 up to the next thirty-five years [63–66]. The arrival of nonindigenous species during the last fifteen years significantly changed the structure and function of the entire community [67–74]. Particularly, two allochthonous sabellid polychaetes, *Branchiomma luctuosum* (Grube, 1870) and *Branchiomma boholense* (Grube, 1878), appeared. At first, *B. luctuosum* was highly invasive and outcompeted the dominant native fan worm *Sabella spallanzanii* (Gmelin, 1791; Figure 6a,b) [75]. Then, *B. boholense* spread and became dominant, together with *B. luctuosum* (Figure 6c) [76]. Nowadays, the fouling assemblage is highly diverse and includes all three sabellids, although *S. spallanzanii* is still the most abundant (Figure 6d) [77]. The present vs. past community comparison highlights changes that are still ongoing.
3. Perception of Changes

Perception means to become aware of reality, consequently implementing a cognitive process. In a biodiversity context, change perception is a basic condition to assess variations, detect reliable causes, and foresee possible consequences, depending on the type of environmental impact and anthropic alteration. In our study cases, the evaluation of change perception in established benthic communities depended on different criteria (Table 1). It also required a comparison of different spatial and temporal status and the identification of the main causal processes and factors. A temporal baseline, representing the boundary between pristine and impacted conditions, is the primary step to check changes in a diachronic sequence (Table 1: Temporal baseline reference). "Pristine status" is generally considered the natural, original ecosystem condition, i.e., the "good status" to be expected, while an "impacted status" has suffered human pressures and is, thus, deteriorated and "poor". Communities generally show high diversity in the former and low diversity in the latter. Assessing community status is particularly relevant in conservation science to both protect species, habitats, and ecosystems and to ward biodiversity from being excessively eroded. Moreover, the analysis of time changes allows us to infer possible consequences on ecosystem functioning and biodiversity, raising its interest beyond the scope of ecologists.
Table 1. Criterions of understanding changes of the study cases. In brackets the references of the temporal baseline.

| Study Cases                          | Historical Memory                                                                 | Temporal Baseline Reference | Available Literature                                                                 | Years of Investigation | Museum Collections | Scientific Collections | Available Images (Maps, Charts) | Popularity of Dominant Species | Change Perception |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
|                                      |                                    |                             | Lindegg, 1934; Fauvel, 1938; Rullier, 1955; Peres & Picard, 1964; Gravina et al., 1989; Bianchi & Morri, 1996; Bianchi e Morri, 2001; Nonnis Marzano et al., 2003; Cardone et al., 2013; Giangrande & Gravina, 2015 | 60                     | no                | yes                   | yes              | yes                        | no change                     |                  |
| Ficopomatus reefs                     |                                    |                             |                                                                                      |                        |                   |                       |                               |                              |                  |
|                                      |                                    |                             | Lindegg, 1934; Fauvel, 1938; Rullier, 1955; Peres & Picard, 1964; Gravina et al., 1989; Bianchi & Morri, 1996; Bianchi e Morri, 2001; Nonnis Marzano et al., 2003; Cardone et al., 2013; Giangrande & Gravina, 2015 | 60                     | no                | yes                   | yes              | yes                        | no change                     |                  |
| Tor Caldara Sabellaria reef           | Taramelli Rivosecchi, 1961; La Porta & Nicoletti, 2009; Ventura et al., 2018; 2020; Bonifazi et al., 2019; Lisco et al., 2020 | 1956 [32]                   |                                                                                      |                        |                   |                       |                               |                              |                  |
| Posidonia meadow, Middle Tyrrhenian Sea-Latium coast | Ardizzone & Migliuolo, 1982; Ardizzone & Pelusi, 1984; Ardizzone & Bellucio, 1996; Diviacco et al., 2001; Ardizzone et al., 2006; Teleca et al., 2015; Ventura et al., 2017; 2018; 2020 | 1959–1961 [47,48]          |                                                                                      |                        |                   |                       |                               |                              |                  |
| La Strea Sponge garden                | Corriero et al., 1984; Gherardi et al., 2001; Corriero et al., 2004; Mercuro et al., 2006; 2007 | 1976 [53]                   |                                                                                      |                        |                   |                       |                               |                              |                  |
| Ruditapes philippinarum, North Adriatic Sea | Breber, 1985; 2002 | 1983 [58]                   |                                                                                      |                        |                   |                       |                               |                              |                  |
| Fouling of Mar Grande of Taranto      | Gherardi & Lepore, 1974; Tursi et al., 1976; 1982; Giangrande et al., 2000; Brunetti & Mastrototo, 2004; Mastrototo & Brunetti, 2006; Longo et al., 2007; Pierri et al., 2010; Petrocelli et al., 2013; Giangrande et al., 2014; Del Pasqua et al., 2018; Lezzi et al., 2018a; 2018b | 1969 [63]                   |                                                                                      |                        |                   |                       |                               |                              |                  |
|                                      |                                    |                             |                                                                                      |                        |                   |                       |                               |                              |                  |
Assessing variations during several decades to a century requires repeated monitoring to understand change trends and rates [78–80]. This has led us to search for the main available studies and their extent in our study cases (Table 1: Available literature; Years of investigation) as the core of “ecological memory”, allowing the past sequences of community events to be encoded and stored. This way, the variations in assemblage structure, dynamics, and biodiversity remain as ecological memories, allowing us to understand their current and future structures and functioning [78,81]. Ecological memories concerning benthic communities are also stored in specimen collections and distribution maps/charts in both museums and academic offices (Table 1: Museum and scientific collections; Available images). Taxonomic and ecological references are not simply inventories but reservoirs of historical community components, allowing present vs. past pattern comparisons. Museum and scientific collections provide key relevant cues to studying ongoing and predicting future community changes. In turn, the large gaps typically suffered by most historical quantitative datasets can be bridged by descriptive observations and qualitative datasets that specifically regard the emblematic and common species (Table 1: Popularity of species).

In our study cases, the available literature and images were the main source of historical memory of the *Ficopomatus* reefs, as well as the popularity of the species, which is widespread among the lagoon fishermen. The existence of images constitutes the cartographic baseline support, allowing us to perceive the changes in the *Posidonia* meadows. Taxonomic skills were most relevant in the fouling of the Mar Grande of Taranto and the *Ficopomatus* reefs, as distinguishing between different species is required to assess whether defining their biological traits allows the perception of changes in community structure and interspecific interactions between species. Beyond the other memory reservoirs, museum collections are particularly relevant in the case of the La Strea sponge garden. Indeed, the specimens preserved in the Museum of Porto Cesareo were key in evaluating size variations of *G. cydonium* in the La Strea sponge garden, as well as assessing its population dynamics. The popularity in the case of the *Sabellaria* reefs of Tor Caldara also played a key role, as the status of the local reefs was well known by several human generations because they occur in recreational bath areas. Similarly, the popularity and commercial interest of *R. philippinarum* have been very useful to perceive changes.

4. Taxonomy and Comprehension of Change

Morphological and functional knowledge of species is key to understanding variations and interpreting changes; this is the main purpose of taxonomy. Thus, this science branch is certainly crucial to understanding causes and detecting trends and rates of change in ecosystems over time. Long-term studies require periods often exceeding individual professional lifetimes. Taxonomic works are long-lasting and require specific skills that must be handed over from one generation to the next to preserve historical knowledge and allow new generations to have a more comprehensive awareness of biological changes, as well as to prevent them from suffering SBS [82,83]. The gradual change in human perception of environmental conditions often results in increasing tolerance to environmental degradation in parallel with increasing ignorance of past conditions, leading to harmful consequences on environmental and cultural heritage and conservation (see, e.g., [7,81,84,85]). Taxonomy is, thus, a basic science to deal with changes in biodiversity and ecosystems. Taxonomists also record the background on species in museum collections, which are rich in informative contents and baselines [86–91]. Museum collections have also been used in research on marine biodiversity changes, with particular regard to depauperation/loss of species (see, e.g., [92–94] for tropical and [95] for Italian species, together with examples of personal observations (M.F. Gravina) in the Civic Museum of Rome regarding the popular Mediterranean monk seal *Monachus monachus* (Hermann, 1779) and the sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* Linnaeus, 1758, from the Sardinian and Latium coasts, respectively. Unfortunately, collections are too often overlooked because the taxonomic expertise that allows the interpretation of the information associated with the specimens deposited is disappearing together with the specialists.
The identification of organisms to the species level is pivotal in the study of biodiversity. It appears to be a conflicting and obvious paradox that in the present era of biodiversity, as endorsed since the Rio Convention on Biological Diversity, taxonomy based on phenotypes still remains a marginal science [96–98], notwithstanding its crucial role in understanding causes and processes of changing ecosystems over time (see, e.g., [99]). It is really nonsense to prioritize molecular approaches rather than phenotypical studies on species because they both encompass key aspects of the same organism! Moreover, changes in diversity and community structure are particularly studied in monitoring and environmental quality assessment programs, which addressed possible disturbance causes and anthropic impacts according to the requirements of National and European current legislation (WFD, 2000/60/EC; MSFD, 2008/56/EC). In such studies, the identification of organisms at the species level is a key requisite. In other words, the survey of biodiversity changes requires good taxonomic work!

With this in mind, we hope for an increase in the taxonomic workforce through retraining of taxonomic schools to preserve the knowledge of older generations while attracting new generations to taxonomy, allowing them to have a more comprehensive awareness of biological changes in our changing Mediterranean biota.

5. Conclusive Remarks

The large number of studies on synchronic and diachronic ecosystem dynamics conducted in the Mediterranean has stressed different types of changes in community structures and diversity patterns as unquestionable evidence derived from variation, one of the most characteristic traits of the history of life.

Our study cases have highlighted the importance of having taxonomic and ecological knowledge of benthic communities, coupled with the correct interpretation of the available species lists, as a reference baseline to evaluate the variations occurring in the present and assess long-term changes in the benthic communities. Knowing the species has, thus, a pivotal role in understanding variations and interpreting changes. Taxonomists know the morphological, molecular, and ecological traits of the species and are essential to understanding changes in biodiversity. This certainly includes the extensive but often overlooked knowledge on the species that is presented by museum collections, which need to be revalued as reference baselines, reliably supporting observational and literature data. In addition, new collections need to be set up to be compared, a particularly useful tool during identification procedures. In this way, taxonomists could provide robust identifications.

We conclude that the better we know the past ecosystem composition, the more we will understand the present ecosystem functioning and the better we will be able to foresee its future. In the era of biodiversity, we support reevaluating the study of species as main ecosystem actors. Therefore, we strongly recommend new investments in taxonomic schools to assure intergenerational connectivity, together with the transmission of cultural and environmental heritage, a key aspect to understanding and managing our changing ecosystems.

Author Contributions: Conceptualization, M.F.G. and A.G.; methodology, M.F.G., A.G., A.B., M.D.P., J.G., M.L. and D.V.; formal analysis, M.F.G. and A.G.; data curation, M.F.G. and A.G.; methodology, M.F.G., A.G., A.B., M.D.P., J.G., M.L. and D.V.; writing—original draft preparation, M.F.G., A.G., A.B., M.D.P., J.G., M.L. and D.V.; writing—review and editing, M.F.G., A.G., A.B., M.D.P., J.G., M.L. and D.V.; supervision, D.V. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This study was partially (study case of the fouling of the Mar Grande of Taranto) supported by the project “Remedialife” (LIFE16 ENV/IT/000343) funded by the European Commission.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.
References

1. Sarà, M. Persistence and changes in marine benthic communities. *Nova Thalassia* 1985, 7, 7–30.
2. Sarà, M. Cambiamenti ed evoluzione negli ecosistemi marini. In 21° Seminario Sulla Evoluzione Biologica e i Grandi Problemi Della Biologia. Evoluzione Degli Ecosistemi; Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei: Roma, Italy, 1995; Volume 1, pp. 17–30.
3. Bianchi, C.N.; Boero, F.; Fonda Umani, S.; Morri, C.; Vacchi, M. Successione e cambiamento negli ecosistemi marini. *Biol. Mar. Mediterr.* 1998, 5, 117–135.
4. Carson, H.L. The genetics of speciation at the diploid level. *Am. Nat.* 1975, 109, 83–92. [CrossRef]
5. Boero, F. Fluctuations and variations in coastal marine environments. *Mar. Ecol.* 1994, 15, ventura23–ventura25. [CrossRef]
6. Boero, F. Episodic events: Their relevance to ecology and evolution. *Mar. Ecol.* 1996, 17, 237–250. [CrossRef]
7. Soga, M.; Gaston, K.J. Shifting baseline syndrome: Causes, consequences, and implications. *Front. Ecol. Envol.* 2018, 16, 222–230. [CrossRef]
8. Ulbrich, U.; May, W.; Li, L.; Lionello, P.; Pinto, J.G.; Somot, S. The Mediterranean climate change under global warming. In *Developments in Earth and Environmental Sciences*; Lionello, P., Malanotte Rizzoli, P., Boscolo, R., Eds.; Elsevier: Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 2006; Volume 4, pp. 399–415.
9. Rivetti, I.; Fraschetti, S.; Lionello, P.; Zambianchi, E.; Boero, F. Global warming and mass mortalities of benthic invertebrates in the Mediterranean Sea. *PLoS ONE* 2014, 9, e115655. [CrossRef]
10. Bianchi, C.N.; Azzola, A.; Parravicini, V.; Peirano, A.; Morri, C.; Montefalcone, M. Abrupt change in a subtidal rocky reef community coincided with a rapid acceleration of sea waterwarming. *Diversity* 2019, 11, 215. [CrossRef]
11. Fauvel, P. Annelida polychaeta della Laguna di Venezia. *Mem. R. Com. Talass. Ital.* 1938, 246, 1–27.
12. Rullier, F. Quelques stations nouvelles de *Mercierella enigmatica* Fauvel sur le littoral méditerranéen, aux environs de Marseille et sur la côte italienne. *Vie Milieu* 1955, 6, 74–82.
13. Servello, G.; Andaloro, F.; Azzurro, E.; Castriota, L.; Catra, M.; Chiarore, A.; Crocetta, F.; D’Alessandro, M.; Denitto, F.; Froglia, C.; et al. Marine alien species in Italy: A contribution to the implementation of descriptor D2 of the marine strategy framework directive. *Mediterr. Mar. Sci.* 2019, 20, 1–48. [CrossRef]
14. Lindegg, G. La “*Mercierella enigmatica*” Fauvel nello stagno di Cabras in Sardegna. *Natura* 1934, 25, 135–145.
15. Tenerelli, V. Sulla presenza di *Mercierella enigmatica* Fauvel lungo la costa orientale di Sicilia (Polychaeta, Serpulidae). *Boll. Zool.* 1966, 24, 735–748.
16. Gravina, M.F.; Ardizzone, G.D.; Scaletta, F.; Chimenz, C. Descriptive analysis and classification of benthic communities in some Mediterranean lagoons (Central Italy). *Mar. Ecol.* 1989, 10, 141–166. [CrossRef]
17. Bianchi, C.N.; Morri, C. *Ficopomatus* ‘Reefs’ in the Po river delta (Northern Adriatic): Their constructional dynamics, biology and influences on the brackish-water biota. *Mar. Ecol.* 1996, 17, 51–66. [CrossRef]
18. Bianchi, C.N.; Morri, C. The battle is not to the strong: Serpulid reefs in the lagoon of Orbetello (Tuscany, Italy). *Estuar. Coast. Shelf Sci.* 2001, 53, 215–220. [CrossRef]
19. Nonnis Marzano, C.; Scalera Liaci, L.; Fianchini, A.; Gravina, M.F.; Mercurio, M.; Corriero, G. Distribution, persistence and change in macrobenthos of the lagoon of Lesina (Apulia, southern Adriatic Sea). *Oceanol. Acta* 2003, 26, 57–66. [CrossRef]
20. Nonnis Marzano, C.; Baldacconi, R.; Fianchini, A.; Gravina, M.F.; Corriero, G. Settlement seasonality and temporal changes in hard substrate macrozoobenthic communities of Lesina lagoon (Apulia, Southern Adriatic Sea). *Chem. Ecol.* 2007, 23, 479–491. [CrossRef]
21. Cardone, F.; Corriero, G.; Fianchini, A.; Gravina, M.F.; Nonnis Marzano, C. Biodiversity of transitional waters: Species composition and comparative analysis of hard bottom communities from the South-Eastern Italy coast. *J. Mar. Biol. Assoc. UK* 2013, 94, 25–34. [CrossRef]
22. Giangrande, A.; Gravina, M.F. Brackish-water polychaetes, good descriptors of environmental changes in space and time. *Transit. Water Bull.* 2015, 9, 42–55.
23. Pérès, J.M.; Picard, J. Nouveau manuel de bionomie benthique de la Méditerranée. *Recl. Trav. Stn. Mar. Endoume* 1964, 31, 1–37.
24. Bonifazi, A.; Lezzi, M.; Ventura, D.; Lisco, S.; Cardone, F.; Gravina, M.F. Macrofaunal biodiversity associated with different developmental phases of a threatened Mediterranean *Sabellaria alveolata* (Linnaeus, 1767) reef. *Mar. Environ. Res.* 2019, 145, 97–111. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
25. Lisco, S.N.; Acquafredda, P.; Gallicchio, S.; Sabato, L.; Bonifazi, A.; Cardone, F.; Corriero, G.; Gravina, M.F.; Pierrì, C.; Moretti, M. The sedimentary dynamics of Sabellaria alveolata bioconstructions (Ostia, Tyrrenhian Sea, central Italy). J. Palaeoogeogr. 2020, 9, 1–18. [CrossRef]

26. La Porta, B.; Nicoletti, L. Sabellaria alveolata (Linnaeus) reefs in the central Tyrrenhian Sea (Italy) and associated polychaete fauna. Zootaxa 2009, 2, 527–536. [CrossRef]

27. Ardizzone, G.; Belluscio, A.; Maiorano, L. Long-term change in the structure of a Posidonia oceanica meadow: Fate, role, ecosystem services and vulnerability. Hydrobiologia 2016, 781, 25–42. [CrossRef]

28. Ventura, D.; Dubois, S.F.; Bonifazi, A.; Jona Lasinio, G.; Seminara, M.; Gravina, M.F.; Ardizzone, G.D. Integration of close-range underwater photogrammetry with inspection and mesh processing software: A novel approach for quantifying ecological dynamics of temperate biogenic reefs. Remote Sens. Ecol. Conserv. 2020. [CrossRef]

29. Schimmenti, E.; Musco, L.; Lo Brutto, S.; Mikac, B.; Nyygren, A.; Badalamenti, F. Mediterranean record of Eulalia ornata (Annelida: Phyllodocidae) corroborating its fidelity link with the Sabellaria alveolata reef habitat. Mediterr. Mar. Sci. 2016, 17, 359–370. [CrossRef]

30. Lisco, S.N.; Moretti, M.; Moretti, V.; Cardone, F.; Corriero, G.; Longo, C. Sedimentological features of Sabellaria spinulosa bioconstructions. Mar. Pet. Geol. 2017, 87, 203–212. [CrossRef]

31. Gravina, M.F.; Cardone, F.; Bonifazi, A.; Bertrandino, M.S.; Chimienti, G.; Longo, C.; Nonnis Marzano, C.; Moretti, M.; Lisco, S.; Moretti, V.; et al. Sabellaria spinulosa (Polychaeta, Annelida) reefs in the Mediterranean Sea: Habitat mapping, dynamics and associated fauna for conservation management. Estuar. Coast. Shelf Sci. 2018, 200, 248–257. [CrossRef]

32. Giordani Soika, A. Scogliera pseudocorallina intercotidale di Sabellaria alveolata (L.) nelle coste del Lazio (Ann. Polych.). Boll. Mus. Civico Storia Nat. Venezia. 1956, 9, 11–13.

33. Taramelli Rivorecchi, E. Osservazioni sulle biocenosi del banco a Sabellaria di Lavinio. Rend. Accad. Naz. XL 1961, 12, 147–157.

34. Molinier, R.; Picard, J. Notes biologiques à propos d’un voyage d’étude sur les côtes de Sicilie. Ann. Inst. Oceangr. 1953, 28, 163–188.

35. Ingrosso, G.; Abbiati, M.; Badalamenti, F.; Bavestrello, G.; Belmonte, G.; Cannas, R.; Benedetti-Cecchi, L.; Bertolino, M.; Bevilacqua, S.; Bianchi, C.N.; et al. Mediterranean bioconstructions along the Italian coast. Adv. Mar. Biol. 2018, 79, 61–136. [PubMed]

36. Boudouresque, C.F.; Mayrot, N.; Pergent, G. The outstanding traits of the functioning of the Posidonia oceanica seagrass ecosystem. Biol. Mar. Medit. 2006, 13, 109–113.

37. Vassallo, P.; Paoli, C.; Rovere, A.; Montefalcone, M.; Morri, C.; Bianchi, C.N. The value of the seagrass Posidonia oceanica: A natural capital assessment. Mar. Poll. Bull. 2013, 75, 157–167. [CrossRef]

38. Boudouresque, C.F.; Pergent, G.; Pergent-Martini, C.; Ruitton, S.; Thibaut, T.; Verlaque, M. The necromass of the Posidonia oceanica seagrass meadow: Fate, role, ecosystem services and vulnerability. Hydrobiologia 2016, 781, 25–42. [CrossRef]

39. Ardizzone, G.D.; Belluscio, A. Le praterie di Posidonia oceanica delle coste laziali. In Il Mare del Lazio; Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza”: Roma, Italy, 1996; pp. 194–217.

40. Diviacco, G.; Spada, E.; Virno Lamberti, C. Le fanerogame marine del Lazio; Istituto Centrale per la Ricerca Scientifica e Tecnologica Applicata al Mare: Roma, Italy, 2001; p. 113.

41. Diviacco, G.D.; Belluscio, A.; Maiorano, L. Long-term change in the structure of a Posidonia oceanica landscape and its reference for a monitoring plan. Mar. Ecol. 2006, 27, 299–309. [CrossRef]

42. Boudouresque, C.F.; Bernard, G.; Pergent, G.; Shili, A.; Verlaque, M. Regression of Mediterranean seagrasses caused by natural processes and anthropogenic disturbances and stress: A critical review. Bot. Mar. 2009, 52, 395–418. [CrossRef]

43. Ardizzone, G.D.; Belluscio, A.; Maiorano, L. Long-term change in the structure of a Posidonia oceanica landscape and its reference for a monitoring plan. Mar. Ecol. 2006, 27, 299–309. [CrossRef]

44. Vacchi, M.; De Falco, G.; Simeone, S.; Montefalcone, M.; Morri, C.; Ferrari, M.; Bianchi, C.N. Biogeomorphology of the Mediterranean Posidonia oceanica seagrass meadows. Earth Surf. Process. Landf. 2017, 42, 42–54. [CrossRef]
45. Alami, S.; Bonacorsi, M.; Clabaut, P.; Jouet, G.; Pergent-Martini, C.; Pergent, G.; Sterckeman, A. Assessment and quantification of the anthropic impact on the Posidonia oceanica seagrass meadow. In 5th Mediterranean Symposium on Marine Vegetation; Langar, H., Bouafif, C., Ouerghi, A., Eds.; RAC/SPA Publ.: Tunis, Tunisia, 2014; pp. 34–39.

46. Telesca, L.; Belluscio, A.; Criscoli, A.; Ardizzone, G.D.; Apostolaki, E.T.; Fraschetti, S.; Cristina, M.; Knittweis, L.; Martin, C.S.; Pergent, G.; et al. Seagrass meadows (Posidonia oceanica) distribution and trajectories of change. Sci. Rep. 2015, 5, 12505. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

47. Fusco, N. Dal promontorio dell’Argentario a Fiumicino; Direzione Generale Pesca Marittima: Roma, Italy, 1959.

48. Fusco, N. Da Capo Circeo a Capo Miseno; Direzione Generale Pesca Marittima: Roma, Italy, 1961.

49. Ardizzone, G.D.; Migliuolo, A. Modificazioni di una prateria di Posidonia oceanica (L.) Delile del Medio Tirreno sottoposta ad attività di pesca a strascico. Nat. Sicil. 1982, 14, 509–515.

50. Ardizzone, G.D.; Pelusi, P. Yield and damage evaluation of bottom trawling on Posidonia meadows. In First International Workshop on Posidonia oceanica Beds; Boudouresque, C.F., Jeudy de Grissac, A., Oliver, J., Eds.; GIS Posidione Publications: Porquerolles, France, 1984; Volume 1, pp. 63–67.

51. Ventura, D.; Bonifazi, A.; Gravina, M.F.; Ardizzone, G.D. Unmanned aerial systems (UASs) for environmental monitoring: A review with applications in coastal habitats. In Aerial Robots-Aerodynamics, Control and Applications; Lopez Mejia, L.D., Ed.; InTech Open: London, UK, 2017; pp. 165–184. Available online: https://www.intechopen.com/books/aerial-robots-aerodynamics-control-and-applications (accessed on 1 September 2020).

52. Mercurio, M.; Correro, G.; Gaino, E. A 3-year investigation of sexual reproduction in Geodia cydonium (Jameson 1811) (Porifera, Demospongiae) from a semi-enclosed Mediterranean bay. Mar. Biol. 2007, 151, 1491–500. [CrossRef]

53. Parentzan, P. Un habitat marino di tipo subtropicale a Porto Cesareo. In Atti del VI Simposio Nazionale per la Conservazione Della Natura; Scalera Liaci, L., Ed.; Cacucci Editore: Bari, Italy, 1976; pp. 151–157.

54. Corriero, G.; Pansini, M.; Sarà, M. Sui poriferi della insenatura della Strea a Porto Cesareo (Lecce). Thalass. Salentina 1984, 14, 3–10.

55. Gherardi, M.; Giangrande, A.; Corriero, G. Epibiontic and endobiontic polychaetes of Geodia cydonium (Porifera, Demospongiae) from the Mediterranean Sea. Hydrobiologia 2001, 443, 87–101. [CrossRef]

56. Mercurio, M.; Longo, C.; Correro, G. Modificazioni della fauna a Poriferi nella insenatura della Strea di Porto Cesareo (Mar Ionio). Biol. Mar. Mediterr. 2006, 13, 257–260.

57. Correro, G.; Gherardi, M.; Giangrande, A.; Longo, C.; Mercurio, M.; Musco, L.; Nannis Marzano, C. Inventory and distribution of hard bottom fauna from the marine protected area of Porto Cesareo (Ionian Sea): Porifera and Polychaeta. Ital. J. Zool. 2004, 71, 237–245. [CrossRef]

58. Breber, P. L’introduzione e l’allevarimento in Italia dell’arsella del Pacifico, Tapes semidecussatus Reeve (Bivalvia: Veneridae). Oebalia 1985, 11, 675–680.

59. Breber, P. Introduction and acclimatisation of the Pacific carpet clam Tapes philippinarum, to Italian waters. In Invasive Aquatic Species of Europe. Distribution, Impacts and Management; Leppäkoski, E., Gollasch, S., Olenin, S., Eds.; Springer: Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 2002; pp. 120–126.

60. Chessa, L.A.; Paesanti, F.; Pais, A.; Scardi, M.; Serra, S.; Vitale, L. Perspectives for development of low impact aquaculture in a Western Mediterranean lagoon: The case of the carpet clam Tapes decussatus. Aquac. Int. 2005, 13, 147–155. [CrossRef]

61. Pais, A.; Chessa, L.A.; Serra, S.; Ruui, A. An alternative suspended culture method for the Mediterranean carpet clam, Tapes decussatus (L.), in the Calich lagoon (North Western Sardinia). Biol. Mar. Medit. 2006, 13, 134–135.

62. Mura, L.; Cossu, P.; Cannas, A.; Scarpa, F.; Sanna, D.; Dedola, G.L.; Floris, R.; Lai, T.; Cristo, B.; Curini-Galletti, M.; et al. Genetic variability in the Sardinian population of the manila clam, Ruditapes philippinarum. Biochem. Syst. Ecol. 2012, 41, 74–82. [CrossRef]

63. Parentzan, P. Il Mar Piccolo e il Mar Grande di Taranto. Thalass. Salentina 1969, 3, 19–36.

64. Gherardi, M.; Lepore, E. Insediamenti stagionali delle popolazioni fouling del mar Piccolo di Taranto. In Atti IV Simposio Nazionale sulla Conservazione della Natura; Università di Bari: Bari, Italy, 1974; pp. 235–258.

65. Tursi, A.; Gherardi, M.; Lepore, E.; Chiappa, M. Settlement and growth of Ascidians on experimental panels in two harbours of Southern Italy. In Proceedings of the IV International Congress on Marine Corrosion and Fouling, Antibes, Juan-les-Pins, France, 14–18 June 1976; pp. 535–543.
66. Tursi, A.; Matarrese, A.; Sciscioli, M.; Vaccarella, R.; Chieppa, G. Biomasse benthoniche nel Mar Piccolo di Taranto e loro rapporto con i banchi naturali di mitili. *Nat. Sicil.* 1982, 2, 263–268. [CrossRef]

67. Brunetti, R.; Mastrotratótaro, F. The non-indigenous stolidobranch ascidian *Polynadocarpa zorritensis* in the Mediterranean: Description, larval morphology and pattern of vascular budding. *Zootaxa* 2004, 528, 1–8. [CrossRef]

68. Mastrotratótaro, F.; Brunetti, R. The non-indigenous ascidian *Distaplia bermudensis* in the Mediterranean: Comparison with the native species *Distaplia magnilarea* and *Distaplia lucillae* sp. nov. *J. Mar. Biol. Assoc. UK* 2006, 86, 181–185. [CrossRef]

69. Longo, C.; Mastrotratótaro, F.; Corriero, G. Occurrence of *Paraleucilla magna* (Porifera: Calcarea) in the Mediterranean sea. *J. Mar. Biol. Assoc. UK* 2007, 87, 1749–1755. [CrossRef]

70. Pierri, C.; Longo, C.; Giangrande, A. Variability of fouling communities in the Mar Piccolo of Taranto (Northern Ionian Sea, Mediterranean Sea. *J. Mar. Biol. Assoc. UK* 2010, 90, 159. [CrossRef]

71. Petrocelli, A.; Cecere, E.; Verlaque, M. Alien marine macrophytes in transitional water systems: New entries and reappearances in a Mediterranean coastal basin. *Bioinvasions Rec.* 2013, 2, 177–184. [CrossRef]

72. Giangrande, A.; Licciano, M.; Lezzi, M.; Pierri, C.; Caruso, L.P.G. Allochthonous Branchiomma species (Anellida, Sabellidae) in the Mediterranean Sea. A case of study in the Mar Grande of Taranto. *Biol. Mar. Medit.* 2014, 21, 93–96.

73. Lezzi, M.; Giangrande, A. Seasonal and bathymetric effects on macrofouling invertebrates’ primary succession in a Mediterranean non-indigenous species hotspot area. *Mediterr. Mar. Sci.* 2018, 19, 568–584. [CrossRef]

74. Lezzi, M.; Del Pasqua, M.; Pierri, C.; Giangrande, A. Seasonal non-indigenous species succession in a marine macrofouling invertebrate community. *Biol. Invasions* 2018, 20, 937–961. [CrossRef]

75. Giangrande, A.; Licciano, M.; Pagliara, P.; Gambi, M. Gametogenesis and larval development in *Sabella spallanzanii* (Polychaeta, Sabellidae) from Mediterranean Sea. *Mar. Biol.* 2000, 136, 847–861. [CrossRef]

76. Del Pasqua, M.; Schulze, A.; Tover-Hernández, M.; Keppel, E.; Lezzi, M.; Gambi, M.C.; Giangrande, A. Clarifying the taxonomic status of the alien species *Branchiomma bairdi* and *Branchiomma boholense* (Annelida: Sabellidae) using molecular and morphological evidence. *PLoS ONE* 2018, 13, e0197104. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

77. Giangrande, A.; Pierri, C.; Del Pasqua, M.; Gravili, C.; Gambi, M.C.; Gravina, M.F. Mediterranean in check: Biological invasions in a changing sea. *Mar. Ecol. 2020, 41*, e12583. [CrossRef]

78. Rovere, A.; Parravicini, V.; Firpo, M.; Morri, C.; Nike Bianche, C. Combining geomorphologic, biological and accessibility values for marine natural heritage evaluation and conservation. *Aquat. Conserv.* 2011, 21, 541–552. [CrossRef]

79. Bianchi, C.N.; Morri, C.; Chiantore, M.; Montefalcone, M.; Parravicini, V.; Rovere, A. Mediterranean Sea biodiversity between the legacy from the past and a future of change. In *Life in the Mediterranean Sea: A Look at Habitat Changes*; Stambler, N., Ed.; Bar Ilan University: Ramat Gan, Israel, 2012; Volume 1, pp. 1–55.

80. Gatti, G.; Bianchi, C.N.; Parravicini, V.; Rovere, A.; Peirano, A.; Montefalcone, M.; Massa, F.; Morri, C. Ecological change, sliding baselines and the importance of historical data: Lessons from combining observational and quantitative data on a temperate reef over 70 years. *PLoS ONE* 2015, 10, e0118581. [CrossRef]

81. Balaguer, L.; Escudero, A.; Martín-Duque, J.F.; Mola, I.; Aronson, J. The historical reference in restoration ecology: Re-defining a cornerstone concept. *Biol. Conserv.* 2014, 176, 12–20. [CrossRef]

82. Kahn Jr, P.H.; Friedman, B. Environmental views and values of children in an inner-city black community. *Child. Dev.* 1995, 66, 1403–1417. [CrossRef]

83. Pauly, D. Anecdotes and shifting baseline syndrome of fisheries. *Trends Ecol. Evol.* 1995, 10, 430. [CrossRef]

84. Pinnegar, J.K.; Engelhard, G.H. The ‘shifting baseline’ phenomenon: A global perspective. *Rev. Fish Biol. Fish.* 2008, 18, 1–16. [CrossRef]

85. Papworth, S.K.; Rist, J.; Coad, L.; Milner-Gulland, E.J. Evidence for shifting baseline syndrome in conservation. *Conserv. Lett.* 2009, 2, 93–100. [CrossRef]

86. Lo Brutto, S. A finding at the Natural History Museum of Florence affords the holotype designation of *Orchestia stephenseni* Cecchi, 1928 (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Talitridae). *Zootaxa* 2017, 4, 569–572. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

87. Lo Brutto, S. The case of a rudderfish highlights the role of natural history museums as sentinels of bio-invasions. *Zootaxa* 2017, 3, 382–386. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
88. Iaciofano, D.; Lo Brutto, S. *Parhyale plumicornis* (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Hyalidae): Is this an anti-lessepsian Mediterranean species? Morphological remarks, molecular markers and ecological notes as tools for future records. *Syst. Biodiver.* 2017, 15, 238–252. [CrossRef]

89. Lo Brutto, S.; Iaciofano, D. A taxonomic revision helps to clarify differences between the Atlantic invasive *Ptilohyale littoralis* and the Mediterranean endemic *Parhyale plumicornis* (Crustacea, Amphipoda). *ZooKeys* 2018, 754, 47–62. [CrossRef]

90. Bellia, E.; Cesara, G.; Cigna, V.; Lo Brutto, S.; Massa, B. *Epinephelus sicinus* (Doderlein, 1882) (Perciformes: Serranidae: Epinephelinae), a valid species of grouper from the Mediterranean Sea. *Zootaxa* 2020, 4758, 191–195. [CrossRef]

91. Giangrande, A.; Licciano, M.; Lezzi, M.; Caruso, L.; Musco, L.; Miglietta, A.M. La collezione degli Anellidi Policheti del Museo di Biologia Marina “Pietro Parenzan”, Università del Salento. *Museol. Sci.* 2015, 9, 52–56.

92. Hoeksema, B.W.; Koh, E.G.L. Depauperation of the mushroom coral reef (Fungiidae) of Singapore (1860s–2006) in changing reef conditions. *Raffles Bull. Zool. Suppl.* 2009, 22, 91–101.

93. Hoeksema, B.W.; van der Land, J.; van der Meij, S.E.T.; van Ofwegen, L.P.; Reijnen, B.T.; Rob, W.M.; van Soest, R.W.M.; de Voogd, N.J. Unforeseen importance of historical collections as baselines to determine biotic change of coral reefs: The Saba Bank case. *Mar. Ecol.* 2011, 32, 135–141.

94. Baisre, J.A. Shifting baselines and the extinction of the Caribbean monk seal. *Conserv. Biol.* 2013, 27, 927–935. [CrossRef]

95. Leonetti, F.L.; Sperone, E.; Travaglini, A.; Mojetta, A.R.; Signore, M.; Psomadakis, P.N.; Dinkel, T.M.; Bottaro, M. Filling the gap and improving conservation: How IUCN Red Lists and historical scientific data can shed more light on threatened sharks in the Italian seas. *Diversity* 2020, 12, 289. [CrossRef]

96. Giangrande, A. Biodiversity, conservation and the ‘Taxonomic impediment’. *Aquat. Conserv.* 2003, 13, 451–459. [CrossRef]

97. Boero, F. The study of species in the Era of Biodiversity: A tale of stupidity. *Diversity* 2010, 2, 115–126. [CrossRef]

98. Boero, F. Light after dark: The partnership for enhancing expertise in taxonomy. *Trends Ecol. Evol.* 2001, 16, 266. [CrossRef]

99. Fanelli, G.; Portacci, G.; Boero, F. La variabilità del benthos di Porto Cesareo (LE) (Mar Ionio) attraverso l’analisi delle serie storiche (1989–2004). *Biol. Mar. Medit.* 2006, 13, 71–77.

Publisher’s Note: MDPI stays neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.