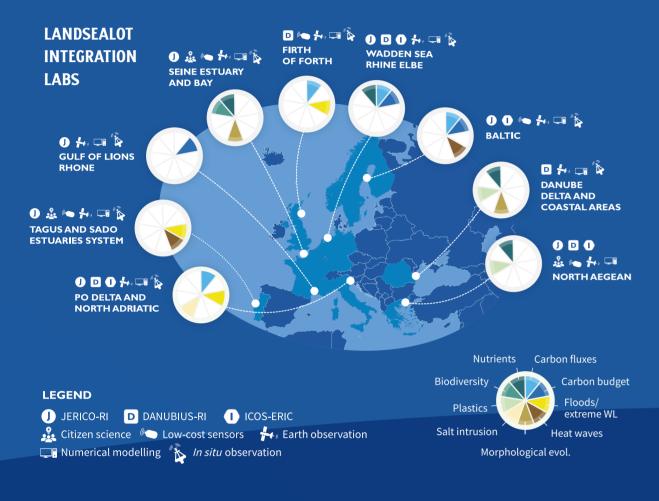


NORTH AEGEAN

LandSeaLot Integration Lab Where terrestrial & marine habitats meet

⇔ What is an "Integration Lab"?

LandSeaLot Integration Labs are dynamic testing sites for developing and refining a Common Observation Strategy across land-sea interface areas in Europe. They serve as centres to test new methods and technologies, following a community-based approach to a fit-for-purpose observation of river mouths, estuaries and deltas.



About LandSeaLot

Communities in action

LandSeaLot is a Horizon Europe project that seeks to integrate and enhance existing coastal observation efforts - including in situ, satellite, modelling and citizen science - to better study the land-sea interface area. Visit landsealot.eu.









LandSeaLot is proud to be in conversation with relevant, local organisations. Your experience living, working, or making observations anywhere in the North Aegean is gold. With your input, we can jointly develop new capabilities and achieve great things together.

Subscribe to the newsletter and reach out if you would like to:



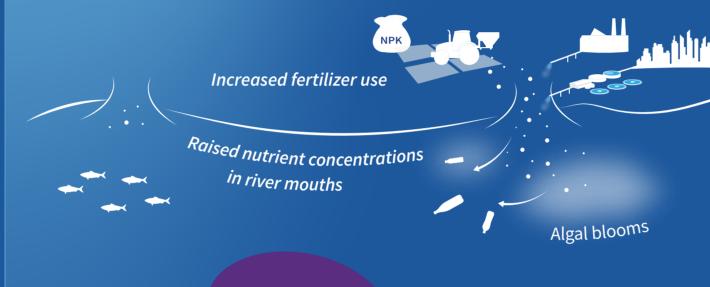
- Help identify observation needs for this area;
- Inform the development of new, science-based data products & information;
- Onboard citizens and local communities in increasing observations.

The Aegean Sea is a shallow elongated embayment that spans about 612 km in length and 299 km in width, located between Greece and Turkey. It connects to the Black Sea in its northeast via the Dardanelles and Bosphorus straits, and to the eastern Mediterranean in the south. Benefiting from favourable marine conditions like clear, warm waters with less salinity, Aegean sea is home for large quantities of fish.

The North Aegean is one of the three regions in the Aegean Sea. It includes important fishing grounds, such as the Strymonikos Gulf and Thracian Sea, which produces around 30% of Greece's capture fisheries, playing a key role in the country's economy. Historically, agriculture and livestock farming were the primary economic activities in the region, but over time tourism has emerged as the dominant industry, fostering significant socio-economic growth. The region faces environmental pressures due to human activities and the high artificialisation of its islands.

Sources: Britannica; Tsagarakis et al., 2022 ; Karelakis et al. 2020

Societal relevance of key research topics at the North Aegean



PLASTICS

Discharges urban and industrial waste water

Changes in agricultural practices over the past century have significantly raised nutrient concentrations in river waters. Together with plastic release, these changes have potential impacts on human and ecosystem health and on local livelihoods.

North Aegean

NUTRIENTS

Empower researchers to advance knowledge

+ Collaborative research communities

Create opportunities for citizen scientists & innovators

+ Tech-ready citizen sentinels

Support local authorities, fishermen & industries



FEL RESEARCH TOPY

FAIR DATA

+ Inspiration for future decision support products

Inform & implement policies to protect society & nature

+ Enhanced availability of integrated observation data

Water Framework Directive Marine Strategy Framework Directive **Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive** Nitrate directives Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2, 3, 6, 13, 14, 15

₩ What will scientists & local communities be testing in this LandSeaLot Integration Lab?

- Combine data from low-cost sensors, citizen science efforts, and computer simulations to study how plastic travels from rivers to the sea, improving simulation models by incorporating satellite data;
- Demonstrate how integrated observations can contribute to better understanding of how nutrient pollution affects the health of marine ecosystems;
- Engage citizen science activities to monitor macro and micro plastics flow;
- Synergy with established projects, Remedies and Plastic Pirates Go Europe, which work on plastics monitoring;
- Supply data to open sources such as EMODnet and Copernicus;
- Build stronger links amongsts European research infrastructures.

LET'S OBSERVE TOGETHER!





