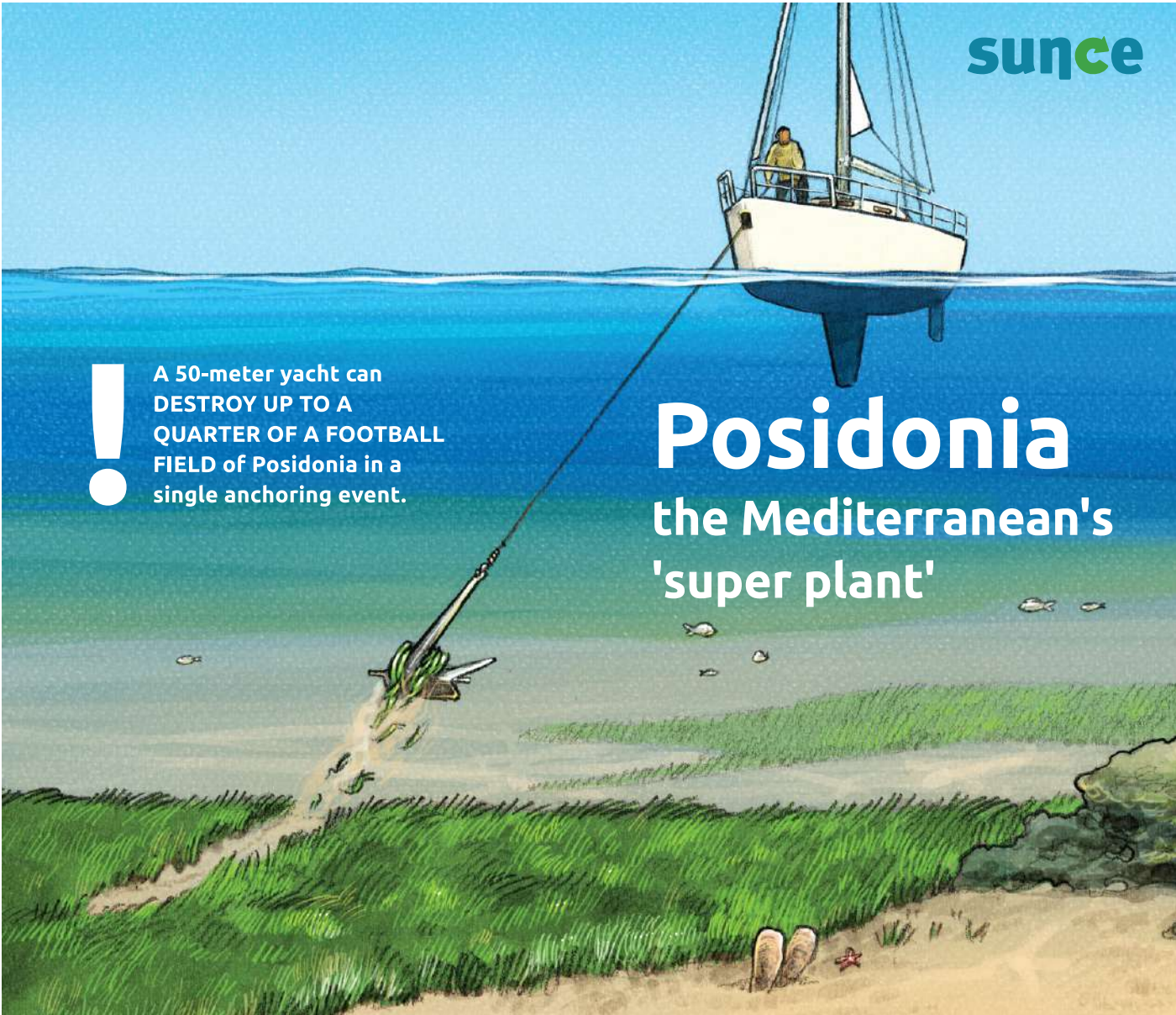


An illustration showing a white sailboat on the surface of the water, with a person visible on deck. A rope extends from the boat down to an anchor that is resting on a dense bed of green Posidonia seagrass. The water is depicted in shades of blue and green, with some small fish visible. The background shows a clear blue sky.

sunce

! A 50-meter yacht can
DESTROY UP TO A
QUARTER OF A FOOTBALL
FIELD of Posidonia in a
single anchoring event.

Posidonia the Mediterranean's 'super plant'

POSIDONIA (*Posidonia oceanica*) is a seagrass that can only be found in the Mediterranean Sea. This marine plant (not an algae) produces flowers and olive-looking fruits. Posidonia forms meadows, mainly on sandy seabed, at depths between 1 and 30 meters. Some of them are more than 100,000 years old, making them among the oldest known organisms on Earth. Posidonia grows very slowly (0.4-6 cm per year), and once the meadows are destroyed, they take very long time to recover.

Due to its ecological importance and fragility, it is protected by law.



Posidonia meadows

- **PROVIDE HABITAT, BREEDING AND NURSERY GROUNDS** for many species, including economically important fish. They are home to more than 20% of known Mediterranean marine species.
- **SERVE AS OXYGEN FACTORIES** - 1 ha of Posidonia meadow produces up to 5 times more oxygen than 1 ha of the Amazon rainforest.
- **ABSORB AND STORE** incredible amounts of CO₂ and play a vital role in climate regulation.
- **BREAK THE WAVES, TRAP SAND AND MUD** within their intertwined roots and stems. They contribute the transparency of the sea and reduce beach and coastal erosion.



Interreg



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BIOPRESSADRIA

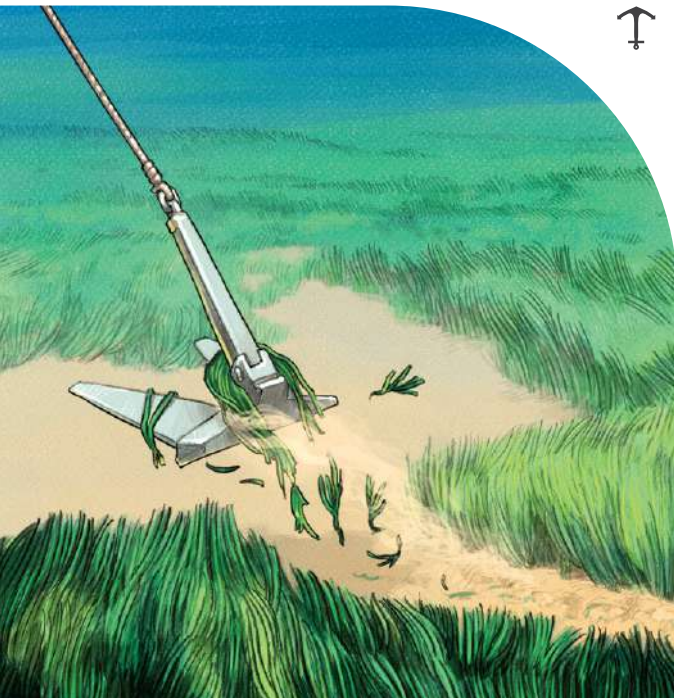
Interreg Italy - Croatia BIOPRESSADRIA project is co-financed by the EU and the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs. The views expressed in this leaflet are the sole responsibility of the project and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the EU and the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs.

GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
Office for Cooperation with NGOs

The issue

Posidonia meadows are shrinking, and their health is deteriorating. This unique and delicate habitat is in great danger due to coastal construction, fish farms, wastewater discharge, invasive species, illegal trawling and climate change. However, **the greatest and irreversible damage is caused by anchoring.**

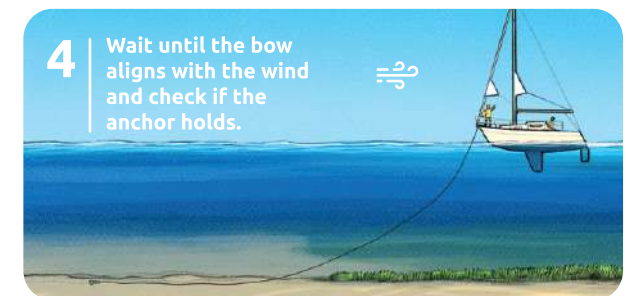
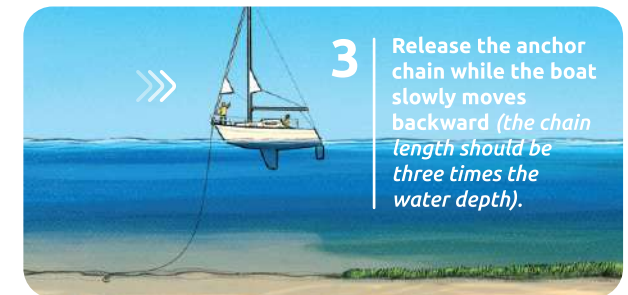
Anchors sweep the plants along with their roots, destroying entire sections of the meadow. If dragged along the seabed, anchors and chains cause even greater damage. **On average, 34 bundles of Posidonia are destroyed per anchor.** The larger the anchor, the greater the impact. A 50-meter yacht can destroy up to a quarter of a football field of Posidonia in a single anchoring event.



Become a Posidonia keeper

- ➔ Avoid anchoring in Posidonia meadows whenever possible. Posidonia distribution in Croatia can be found online at Bioportal (<https://bioportal.hr/gis/>).
- ➔ In a shallow sea, Posidonia usually appears as a dark patch on light sandy areas. Choose sandy areas without Posidonia for anchoring.
- ➔ Posidonia does not grow deeper than 30 meters, which makes deeper areas ideal for anchoring large vessels.
- ➔ Instead of anchoring, use coastal mooring infrastructure (buoys, docks, pontoons, piers, marinas, etc.). Do not tie your boat to trees, as this practice damages them and poses both a safety hazard and a forest fire risk.
- ➔ Use ecological buoys whenever available because they are safer for boats and marine life. Respect the maximum allowed boat length written on the buoy.
- ➔ If you must anchor, do it correctly, following five steps outlined in this flyer.
- ➔ Make sure anchor size suits the size of the boat.
- ➔ Do not litter or discharge wastewaters in bays. Dispose of waste in designated port facilities.
- ➔ Use ecological detergents.
- ➔ Support marine conservation actions and spread awareness about Posidonia protection.

5 steps of CORRECT ANCHORING:



- 5** Upon leaving, move the boat directly above the anchor before pulling it up (repeat steps 3 to 2 backwards).