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Nationality: Italian

Orientation: Sustainable use of the marine resources

Specialization Area: Management and use of the resources

Research Area: 2.2 Assessment of the ecological state of ocean systems



PhD project: Development of a metabarcoding approach for investigating the coupled dynamics of estuarine meio- and macrobenthic communities

Supervisors: Dr. Filipe O. Costa (University of Minho)

Dr. Carlos C. Canchaya (University of Vigo)

Summary: The aim of my PhD project is to develop a metabarcoding approach for investigating the temporal and spatial dynamics of estuarine benthic communities and the biological relationships therein. To achieve this purpose, I am refining the sampling and molecular protocols, as well as the bioinformatics pipeline necessary to reinforce the application of this methodology in monitoring the estuarine benthic diversity. In order to maximize the accuracy of the procedures, specific attention is paid to the choice of molecular markers and primers-pairs able to uncover Operational Taxonomic Units (OTUs) corresponding to the benthic organisms and in the inspections on barcode references databases.

