

DSV 2016 Seminars



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI TRIESTE

DIPARTIMENTO DI
SCIENZE DELLA VITA

PhD Program in *Environmental Life Sciences*

Wednesday, 21 September 2016 11:00

Seminar room, I floor, Q Building

Stefano Piraino

Università del Salento

Host: Serena Fonda

Jellyfish outbreaks in European seas: mechanisms, patterns, impacts, monitoring tools, and countermeasures

Marine jellyfish are currently recognized as subject to worldwide proliferations in coastal areas, becoming a crucial ecological and societal issue in recent decades. Gelatinous plankters rely on their unparalleled diversity of life cycles and life histories to exploit temporarily abundant resources with an undeniable, but often overlooked, impact on marine food webs. Further, jellyfish outbreaks increasingly interfere with human economic and recreational activities, such as bathing, fishery, tourism, aquaculture, as well as the public health. Conversely, under an opposite perspective, the exceedingly large amount of jellyfish biomass could be considered as a valuable source of bioactive compounds. Since 2011, three EU-funded projects (VECTORS, MEDJELLYRISK, CERES) have offered the opportunity to: [I] investigate causes and consequences of jellyfish outbreaks in European Seas, [II] develop and test mitigation countermeasures, and [III] highlight the potential bright side of gelatinous blooms.

