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Vendredi 5 novembre 2025
Aix en Provence Technopole de l'Arbois

Fiche-Résumé

Titre :

French Mediterranean Coastal Lagoons: Emerging Issues in Fast-Transitioning Environments

Lagunes côtières méditerranéennes françaises : problématiques émergentes des milieux en transition rapide

Porteur du projet :

PI [Rutger De Wit](#) (UMR MARBEC)

Participants :

MARBEC : Rutger De Wit, Nathalie Boutin Richter, Louise Chourot*, Margot Dentan*

LCE : Pascal Wong-Wah-Chung, Luca Camilleri*

SPE : Vanina Pasqualini

CERGAM : Pierre Batteau*Stagiaires

Laboratoires et Partenaires impliqués :

[UMR MARBEC \(MARine Biodiversity Exploitation & Conservation\)](#)

[UMR LCE \(Laboratoire de Chimie Environnementale\)](#)

[UMR SPE \(Laboratoire des Sciences Pour l'environnement\)](#)

[EA CERGAM \(Centre de Recherche en Gestion d'Aix-Marseille\)](#)

Principaux résultats :

Funded by the Labex DRIIHM (OHM Littoral Méditerranéen, 2021) and the FR ECCOREV (2022), this interdisciplinary program assesses the coherence between European directives and their implementation in France, using Mediterranean lagoons as case studies. The first phase, based on interviews, focused on the challenges of co-implementation and how stakeholders perceive emerging issues such as plastic pollution, invasive species, and climate-driven transitions. A second phase documented plastic pollution through chemical analyses in Corsica and the Berre Lagoon.

The results show that co-implementing the Habitats and Water Framework Directives in Mediterranean lagoons faces five main barriers—economic, socio-political, historical, administrative, and ecological. These challenges, amplified by boundary mismatches, excessive indicators, and contested exemptions, highlight the need for more integrated and transparent governance (Boutin et al., 2025). In parallel, chemical analyses revealed contamination of biomedea collected along the French Mediterranean coast by persistent organic pollutants (POPs). Although only a few PAHs and PCBs were detected, their concentrations were significant, indicating a non-negligible impact of plastic waste through pollutant release or ingestion by organisms. Substantial but heterogeneous plastic debris contamination was also documented, with industrial pellets identified as a major source, likely linked to nearby activities around the Berre Lagoon.

Building on these findings, the program continues through a PhD project on the invasive blue crab (2022–2025) and the TRANSCAM project (2024–2026), which explores ecological transitions from disciplinary, territorial, and One Health perspectives that integrate both scientific and lay expertise. Overall, Mediterranean coastal lagoons emerge as particularly valuable sites for detecting and studying plastic pollution concentrations and assessing their potential effects on living organisms.

Publications, congrès :

Boutin, N., Chourot, L., Raynal, J. C., & De Wit, R. (2025). Barriers to Effective Management of Mediterranean Coastal Lagoons Following Key European Union Directives: Perceptions of Managers of Natura 2000 Lagoon Sites in South France. *Environments*, 12(5), 137.

Dentant et De Wit en attente (Poster, communications ?)

Suite donnée au projet (contrats nationaux, internationaux, bourses de thèse...):

- Thesis in progress (started in 2022 - **funding to be completed**) Margot Dentan: [Co-construire le suivi d'une espèce invasive marine émergente : le cas des réseaux d'observation du crabe bleu dans les lagunes méditerranéennes françaises](#) (Co-constructing the monitoring of an emerging marine invasive species: the case of blue crab observation networks in French Mediterranean lagoons).
- Ongoing TRANSCAM project (2024-2026) led by Frédéric Thomas (CNRS MIVEGEC Researcher), funded by the Engie Foundation & CNRS within the ["Zone Atelier santé-environnement CAMargue"](#) (LTSER ZACAM CNRS).