STARESO

SYLVIE GOBERT[1], AIDA ALVERA-AZCÁRATE[1], ALEXANDER BARTH[1], JEAN-MARIE BECKERS[1], MARC BINARD[1], ALBERTO BORGES[1], JEAN-MARIE BOUQUEGNEAU[1], AURÉLIA CHERY[2], VINCENT DEMOULIN[1], SALIM DJENIDI[1], JEAN-HENRI HECQ[1], PIERRE LEJEUNE[2], GILLES LEPOINT[1], CORINNE PELAPRAT[2], MATHIEU POULICEK[1], ANNE GOFFART[1;2]

[1] *University of Liège, MArine REsearch, Belgium*

[2] *STARESO Pointe de la Revellata BP 33 20260 Calvi France*

STARESO (Station de REcherche Sous marine et Océanographique) is the marine and oceanographic research station of the University of Liège (Belgium) managed by the French company STARESO S.A.. Constructed in 1969, it is located near Calvi (Corsica, Western Mediterranean Sea) in an oligotrophic area chosen for the exceptional quality of its coastal waters

STARESO offers to the oceanographers, by diving or with boats, a direct access to the sea. The variety of the accessible ecosystems is remarkable and unique in the Mediterranean basin:

• the Bay of Calvi is characterized by healthy and very diverse biocenosis (e.g. Posidonia meadows, rocky and sandy communities, . . .);

• a steep submarine canyon, with depths greater than 1 000 meters, is accessible in 15 minutes of navigation;

• the Liguro-Provençal front, a major hydrologic structure, is situated between 10 and 15 miles of the coast.

STARESO is accessible all the year for everybody and is functioning like an oceanographic research vessel. The Station is a platform for all oceanographic disciplines with a scientific expertise widely based on a long tradition of interdisciplinary work, and a direct access to time series of physical, chemical and biological data registered with automated systems and variety of sensors deployed in the Bay of Calvi since 30 years. This platform provides the opportunity to reach coastal, pelagic, benthic, deep systems with a manageable cost and ship requirements in a pristine zone.

The multiparametric and interdisciplinary data-bases now available can be used in studies of ecosystems or processes like ecology of seagrass bed; biodiversity of macroalgae; study of trophic food webs ; marine ecotoxicology; impact of climate changes on phyto- and zooplankton dynamics; jellyfish dynamics in changing waters; carbon cycle and air - water CO2 fluxes; statistical data analysis and modelling into assimilation approaches, including nested coastal models; development of ecological quality criteria for measuring ecosystem quality and effectiveness of management applications...