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**!** 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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.



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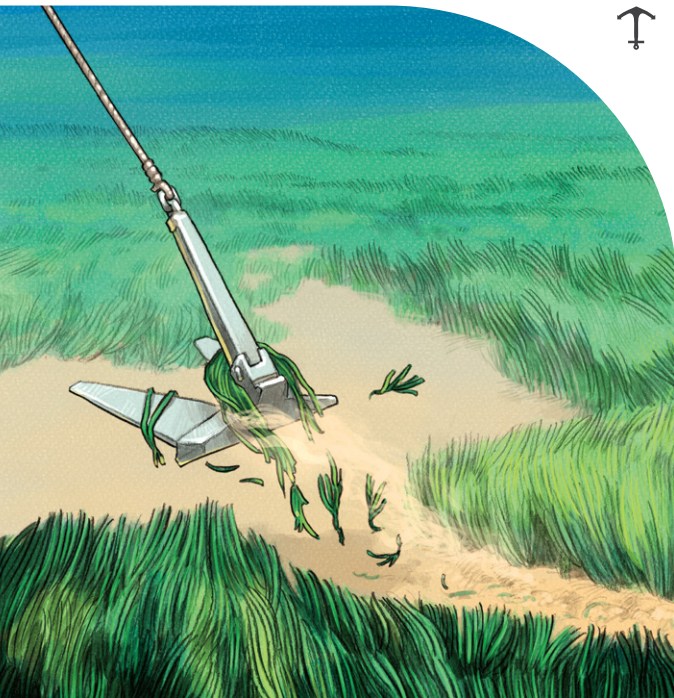
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## The issue

**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:

