

INTERTIDAL SEAGRASS RESTORATION IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY:

First steps with *Zostera noltii*

Mireia VALLE, Joxe Mikel GARMENDIA, Ángel BORJA, Guillem CHUST, Javier FRANCO

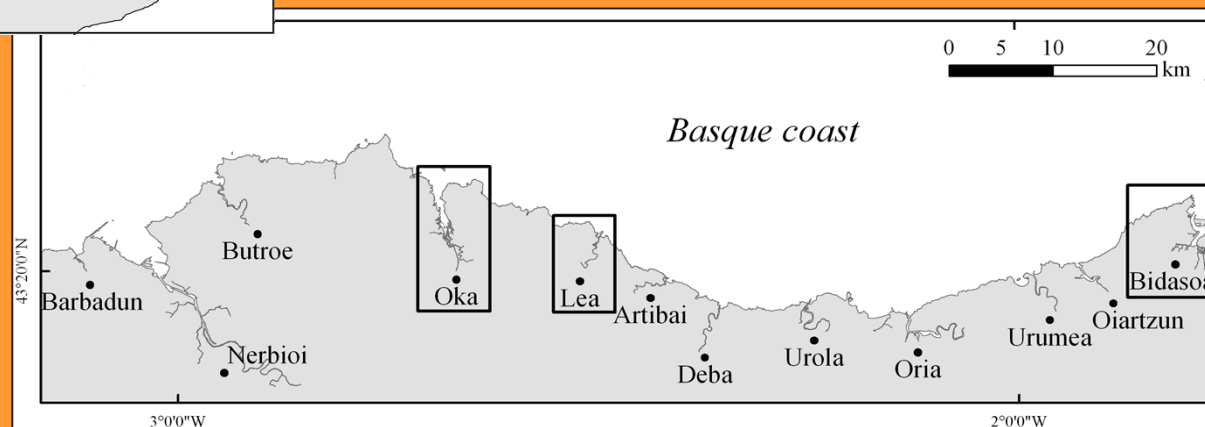


Seagrass beds are among the most valuable ecosystems in the world

(Costanza *et al.* 1997)



Their habitat is being lost
and fragmented overall



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Restoration program



Two research lines:



Classification of the Basque estuaries

(Garmendia *et al.* 2010)



Determine most adequate estuaries
to carry out restoration surveys

Where in the coast

Habitat suitability modelling

(Valle *et al.* 2011)



Determine most favourable
environmental conditions
for the species development

Where within the selected estuary

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3 TRANSPLANT SURVEYS

Transplant 1 (2001) → Butroe estuary

* Urola estuary

3 SITES x 4 P.U.

Site 1: high suitable

Site 2: Suitable → Model Validation

Site 3: Not suitable

* Butroe estuary

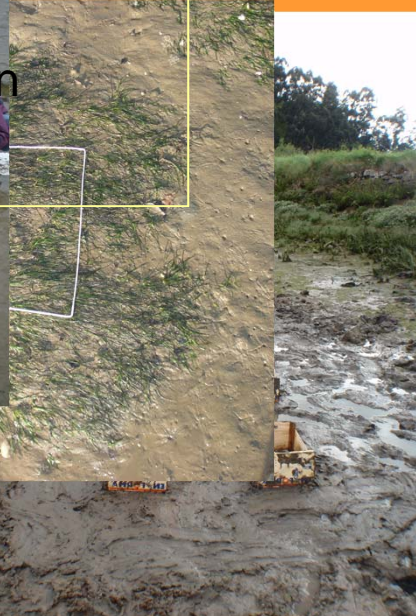
1 SITE x 12 P.U.



27 cm



14



High sedimentation rate → all transplants were lost



AZTI-Tecnalia, Marine Research Division

100% of success along the last 6 months

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Thanks to all the people involved in the project!

