integrated and transnational strategies of:

- long term observation from fixed stations
- co-designed repeated surveys in response to events (either natural or anthropogenic)
- 4D seafloor mapping to assess dynamic areas, environmental status, and (mostly unaware) human impacts

# blueMed

#### Long term water-column observation (CNR Contribution)



## An example fron the modern Po delta



## We need to understand the spatial dimension

- **1. The seafloor in 3D:** new technologies allow mapping with centimetric resolution
- 2. The seafloor in 4D: we must identify the most dynamic areas where seafloor is rapidly transformed
- 3. Assaulting the obvious: the Anthropocene seafloor worldwide is heavily impacted but nobody seems to care

Sampling strategies to define the «status» of the seafloor and its evolution through time should take fully into account these facts

### **Ephemeral submarine landscapes in dynamic areas**



2019

## Gli usi (che non «vediamo») del fondale marino

#### Sfruttamento

- Materiali minerari
- Pesca (a strascico)
- Area di abbandono rifiuti
  - Siti di dumping (legali e illegali)
  - Spazzatura diffusa
- Interfaccia per altri sfruttamenti
  - Fondazione di infrastrutture (piattaforme di perforazione o per energia «pulita»)
  - Base per i network globali (pipelines, cavi, fibra ottica)



Ramirez-Llodra et al., 2011



#### The Mediterranean "seascape" (which we need to map)



Sophisticated geophysical images (morphology and backscatter) of the seafloor show the equivalent of potholes and asphalt patches in the streets of Rome

Areas of illegal dumping on the continental slope off Gioia Tauro, Tyrrhenien Sea

#### Illegal dumps and littering on the sea floor





Chemical dumps in a trawling area on the continental shelf North of Milazzo, Sicily (100-130 m)

"Garbage" on the bottom of the Venice Lagune 3-6 m water depth