
Contents

Preface	ix
Chapter 1. The Development of Knowledge of the Ligurian Sea	1
Paul NIVAL	
1.1. The first naturalists on the shores of the Ligurian Sea	1
1.2. Vertical structure of the Mediterranean and hydrodynamics	4
1.3. Flow rate of the Ligurian Current	8
1.4. Mesoscale structures in the Ligurian Sea: hydrodynamic front and the search for spatial precision	9
1.5. The seabed and living species	11
1.6. Study of chemical substances in the Ligurian Sea	12
1.7. Towards a synoptic vision of the Ligurian Sea. Remote sensing	13
1.8. Towards continuous observation and environmental monitoring	15
1.9. References	16
Chapter 2. The Ligurian Basin: A Geomorphologic and Geological Background	27
Jean MASCLE, Sébastien MIGEON and Virginie HASSOUN	
2.1. Introduction	27
2.2. Geographic and geological boundaries	27
2.3. Origin and geological evolution of the Ligurian basin and of its margins: a brief review	29
2.3.1. Birth of the Ligurian basin	29
2.3.2. Creation and evolution of the Ligurian Sea continental margins	32

2.4. Morphology of the Ligurian Sea	35
2.4.1. General morphology	35
2.4.2. Submarine canyons	37
2.5. Sedimentary cover and sedimentary processes	38
2.5.1. Evolution of the sedimentary cover	38
2.5.2. Prevailing sedimentary mechanisms	41
2.6. A few concluding remarks	45
2.7. References	47
Chapter 3. Physical Oceanography of the Ligurian Sea	49
Louis PRIEUR, Fabrizio D'ORTENZIO, Vincent TAILLANDIER and Pierre TESTOR	
3.1. Introduction	49
3.2. Circulation patterns from large scale to frontal dynamics	50
3.3. Observation time series: sentinel of the Mediterranean Sea	64
3.4. Discussion and conclusion	72
3.5. References	74
Chapter 4. The Carbonate System in the Ligurian Sea	79
Laurent COPPOLA, Jacqueline BOUTIN, Jean-Pierre GATTUSO, Dominique LEFEVRE and Nicolas METZL	
4.1. Introduction	79
4.2. Distribution of the carbonate system in the Ligurian Sea	83
4.3. The seasonal cycle in surface water	85
4.4. Long-term changes in the carbonate system and acidification	89
4.4.1. Surface trends	89
4.4.2. Interior trends	92
4.5. Changes in the carbonate system in the Ligurian Sea in the Mediterranean Sea and global contexts	95
4.6. Conclusion	97
4.7. Acknowledgments	97
4.8. References	98
Chapter 5. Emission Sources, Fluxes and Spatiotemporal Distribution of Nutritive Resources	105
Christophe MIGON, Orens PASQUERON DE FOMMERVAULT and Fayçal KESSOURI	
5.1. Introduction	105
5.2. What is required for biological development?	106
5.3. Sources of nutrients	110
5.3.1. External sources	110

5.3.2. Inputs from deep layers	117
5.3.3. Budgets	118
5.4. Seasonal patterns	119
5.5. Spatial distribution	121
5.6. Chemical limitation of primary production	122
5.6.1. The Redfield model	122
5.6.2. Peculiarity of N:P molar ratios in the Ligurian area.	123
5.6.3. Model of P-limitation	125
5.7. Decadal trends and possible consequences for regional productivity	127
5.8. Concluding remarks	129
5.9. References	129
Chapter 6. Primary Production in the Ligurian Sea	139
Nicolas MAYOT, Paul NIVAL and Marina LEVY	
6.1. Annual cycle of phytoplankton biomass, production and community structure in the Ligurian Sea	139
6.1.1. Regional context of the area	139
6.1.2. The diversity of phytoplankton species: the base of community ecology	142
6.1.3. Phytoplankton community structure	146
6.2. From the influence of small spatiotemporal features to the interannual and long-term variability	150
6.3. Modeling the impact of the physics on phytoplankton growth and distribution	152
6.4. References	154
Chapter 7. Pelagic Viruses, Bacteria and Archaea	165
Markus WEINBAUER and Branko VELIMIROV	
7.1. Background	165
7.1.1. Microbial food webs	166
7.1.2. Microbe-mediated ecosystem functions and biogeochemical cycles	167
7.2. Study sites	168
7.3. Diel variability of micro-organisms	168
7.4. Seasonal variability of micro-organisms	170
7.5. Variability of micro-organisms: sunlight versus dark ocean	172
7.6. Effect of episodic events on micro-organisms: upwelling and aerosols	174
7.6.1. Upwelling	174
7.6.2. Sahara dust aerosols	175

7.6.3. Volcano ash aerosols	177
7.6.4. Black carbon-rich aerosols	178
7.6.5. Conclusions	179
7.7. Effect of turbulence on micro-organisms	180
7.8. Effect of global warming and ocean acidification on micro-organisms	180
7.9. Effect of P-limitation on micro-organisms	181
7.10. Effect of viral lysis and flagellate grazing on prokaryotic diversity and growth	182
7.11. Nanobacteria, ultramicrobacteria and starvation forms	184
7.12. Microbial diversity hypothesis	185
7.13. Horizontal gene transfer.	185
7.14. Acknowledgments	186
7.15. References.	186
Acronyms	193
Glossary	197
List of Authors	215
Index	217
Summary of Volume 2	219