



# Marine Biological Valuation of the Belgian Coast

By Lia Laporta

GRIN Verlag Nov 2013, 2013. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 211x152x5 mm. Neuware - Master's Thesis from the year 2012 in the subject Biology - Miscellaneous, grade: 18/20, , course: European Master Programme in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation, language: English, abstract: True awareness of the great importance and vulnerability of natural spaces and resources is at the basis of innovative, holistic approaches to management such as ecosystem-based Marine Spatial Planning (EB-MSP). Under this perspective, there is an increasing need for reliable and meaningful baseline maps to provide decision-makers with straightforward information on the intrinsic biological value of a given marine/coastal area. The aims of this work are (1) to establish a spatial biological valuation of the Belgian coastal zone, using Marine Biological Valuation methods (MBV) (Deros 2007); and (2) to explore the applications of MBV for EB-MSP under different scenarios of space-use conflict at the Belgian coast (beach nourishment and nature conservation). Biological data from 1995 to 2011 on four ecosystem components (macrobenthos, epibenthos, hyperbenthos, and avifauna) have been integrated into a single database and used to perform MBV. Despite time constraints, spatial coverage and overall data availability were surprisingly satisfactory and allowed for significant trends and patterns to be observed. Results...



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