

Ana Villaescusa. Maria Auxiliadora School | Algeciras | Spain

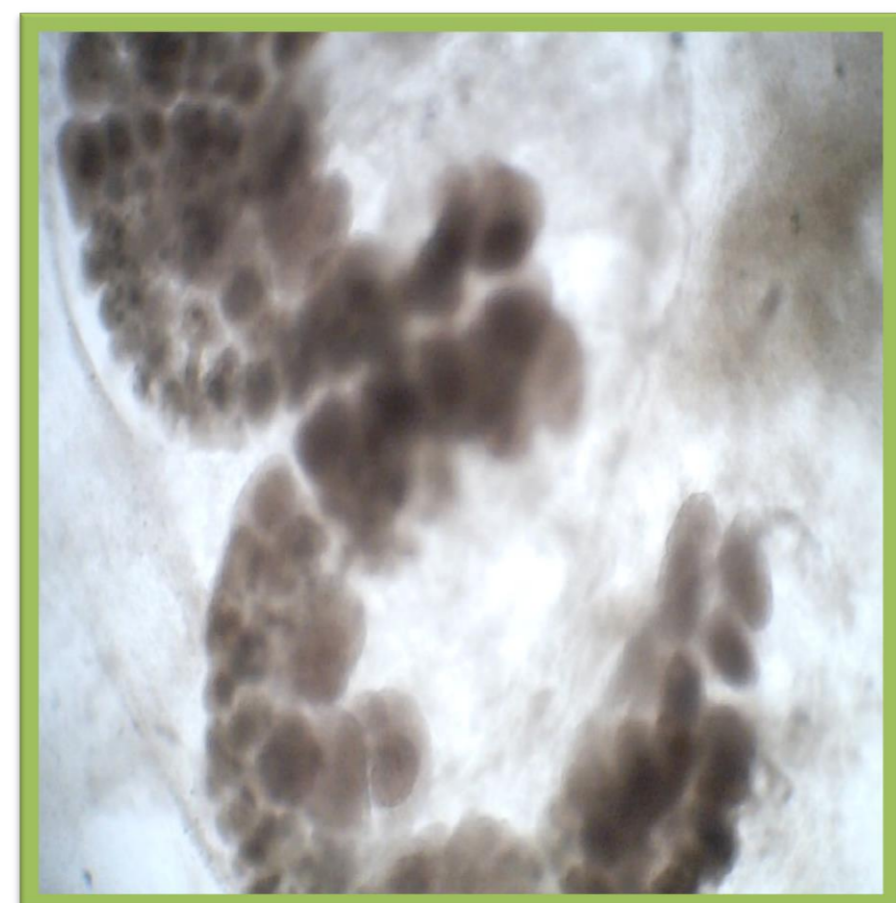
Rebellion in the sea

The new biological role of jellyfishes

Massive jellyfish blooming on Spanish coasts is a phenomenon with relevant social-economic implications. The aim of this study is to combine the changes in the abundance of these organisms along three beaches of the Straits of Gibraltar with the environmental variability, and to analyze their influence. Monitoring the observed populations and studying the biological cycles of these cnidarians completed a school project carried out from October 2014 to March 2016. This research was coordinated by scientists at the Institute of Marine Sciences of Andalusia (ICMAN-CSIC) and it is a clear example of the so-called citizen science.



Biological cycle of *Cotylorhiza tuberculata*. Digital microscope. School Laboratory 50x



Pelagia noctiluca. Female gonads. Digital microscope. School Laboratory (50x)

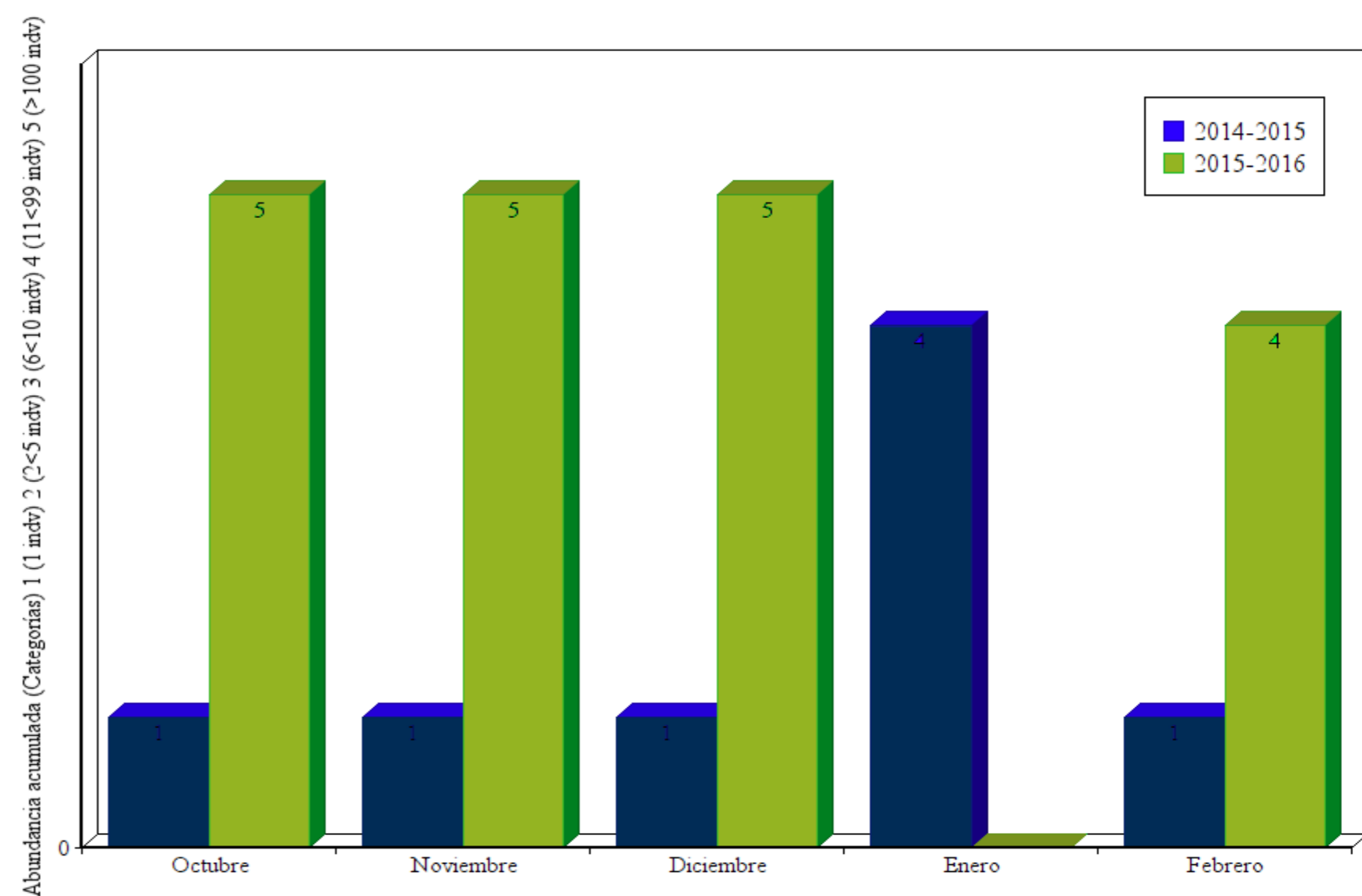


Table of beaching recording of *Pelagia noctiluca* 2014-2016



Sampling locations

This research project aims to raise awareness about the impact of human intervention on marine ecosystems, especially because gelatinous plankton is a very opportunistic group able to survive when other groups can not. **Don't forget this key message: The future of the seas lies in our own hands!**