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ISTITUTO DI SCIENZE MARINE**



CICLO DI SEMINARI

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Submarine canyons: hotspots of litter accumulation in the deep sea

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Submarine canyons act as preferential pathways for the transport of anthropogenic debris coming from land sources and are considered hotspots of litter accumulation in the deep sea. This is especially true for tectonically controlled areas with intense coastal urbanization, where the headwall of shelf-indenting canyons may be directly connected with terrestrial inputs, such as rivers or longshore drift, and large amount of litter can be funnelled to deep-sea areas by sedimentary flows and bottom currents acting within canyons. In this talk, case studies from submarine canyons of the southern Italy will be presented, focusing on the mechanisms responsible for litter transport and emplacement and the potential impacts on deep-sea ecosystems.