LEGISLATION

Posidonia oceanica plays a key role both in the marine environment and for coastal ecosystems and therefore enjoys special protection at international, European and national level. The Common Fisheries Policy of the European Union for the Mediterranean (Council Regulation EC No. 1626/1994, as amended by Council Regulation EC No. 1967/2006), prohibits trawling on marine angiosperm seagrasses.

The Habitats Directive of the European Union (92/43 EEC of 21/05/1992), and the adaptation with the Directive 97/62/EC of 27 October 1997. In annex I the Posidonia is represented as a priority habitat for conservation and of community interest: "Habitat 1120" (Posidonia oceanica meadows).

The Natura 2000 Network at the marine level has declared Sites of Community Importance (SCI), with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) to protect species and habitats, such as marine angiosperm seagrasses.

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/events/pdf/Protection%20of%20Posidonia%20under%20Habitats%20directive_Nikolic.pdf

The accumulation of Posidonia oceanica dead leaves on the beaches of the Mediterranean shores is a natural phenomenon. They are either temporary or permanent structures (banquettes) and represent a valuable resource, with important ecosystem functions including coastal protection against erosion. Nevertheless, the perception of these plant accumulations by the different stakeholders (beach managers, local administrations and tourists) is often negative; they consider these deposits a malevolent waste to be removed, rather than a natural and valuable component of the coastline.

Legislation in Sardinia:

The Region of Sardinia recognizes beach-cast Posidonia as a natural defense tool against coastal erosion and a reusable resource. However, if the Posidonia deposits on the coast prevent the regular use of the beaches during the summer season, municipalities can proceed, subject to communication to the competent regional and state offices, to the temporary displacement of the sediments.