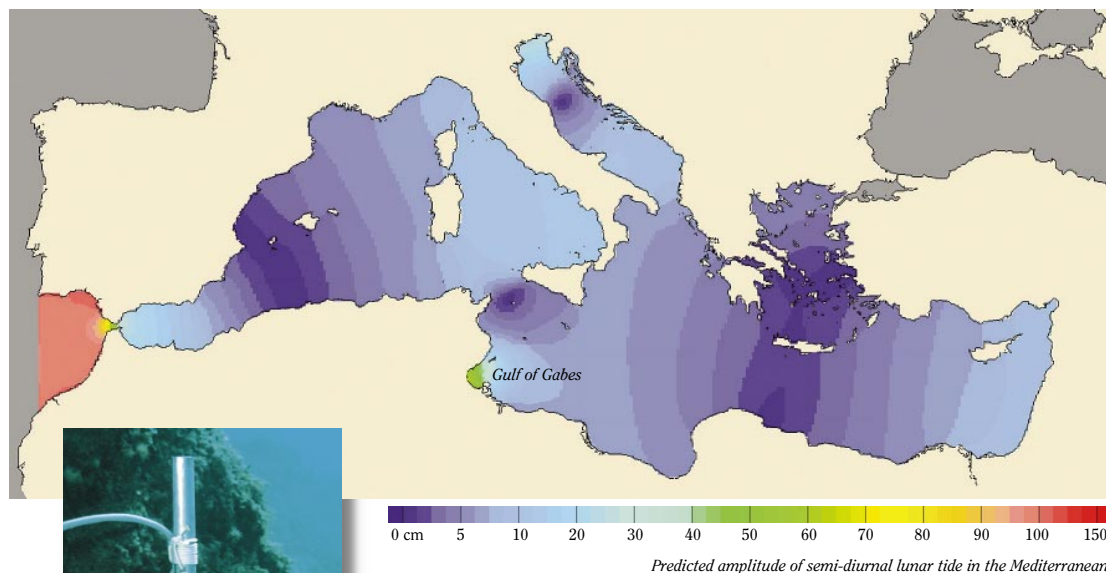


Mediterranean tides - more than meets the eye

Today, satellite-borne altimeters can gauge tides to within one centimeter. As a result, we now have a better understanding of the role they play in the transport and mixing of water masses. Global measurements acquired continuously by satellites over several years have significantly improved tide prediction in all the world's oceans, and also in enclosed seas such as the Mediterranean.



▲
Many tide gauges have been deployed around the Mediterranean Basin to take regular and accurate measurements near the coastline. Satellites are a vital complement to these tide gauges.

Satellites and tide gauges - an ideal pairing

Contrary to popular wisdom, tides in the Mediterranean in fact cause sea level variations of around 40 centimeters, and as high as one meter in Tunisia's Gulf of Gabes. Today, we can predict these tidal movements across the Mediterranean Basin by combining *in-situ* tide gauge measurements with data acquired by altimetry satellites.