A WINDOW TO THE SEA: OPTIMIZING ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS FOR THE EVALUATION OF COASTAL RISKS IN THE GALICIA-NORTHERN PORTUGAL EUROREGION

Environmental indicators are fundamental tools for the evaluation and mitigation of environmental risks, showing the current state and helping to predict future changes on ecosystem health regarding environmental risks. The framework of the RAIA observatory identified 38 environmental indicators, in which 12 key risks affecting the ecosystem services of the Euroregion Galicia-Northern Portugal have been evaluated. The objective of this initiative is to optimize and analyze the environmental indicators identified for the Euroregion and make them available through a Web service that allows users to get information on the current state and evolution of the ecosystem health.

Current data analysis showed that the Euroregion’s ecosystems are in good health, but a follow-up of the time evolution of the indicators is key to detect future changes on them that can be used as early detectors of the vulnerability to specific environmental risks.

**Key Risk:** DEOXYGENATION
**Indicator:** OXYGEN LEVELS AT BOTTOM DEPTH

**Key Risk:** EUTROPHICATION
**Indicator:** NITRATE LEVEL DURING WINTER

**Key Risk:** LOSS OF GENETIC DIVERSITY
**Indicator:** PLANKTONIC DIVERSITY

**Key Risk:** ALTERATIONS OF SALINITY; HYDRODYNAMIC ALTERATIONS
**Indicator:** HYDROSTATIC BALANCE

**Key Risk:** COASTAL EROSION; COASTAL INUNDATION; OVERWASH
**Indicator:** FREQUENCY OF EXTREME WAVE EVENTS


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