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Vertical echosounder versus side-scan sonar mapping of Posidonia Oceanica fields

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Posidonia fields in the "Cabo de Gata" marine natural park, located in the south-east mediterranean spanish coast, have been mapped by means of two different acoustical tools: a vertical single-beam scientific echosounder and a side-scan sonar. The measured transects have been dived and recorded with a video camera in order to validate the predictions from the extracted acoustical data. We compare both the results obtained from the application of commercial software for bottom classification, and the processing with alternative algorithms in the case of the vertical echosounder, with those derived from the analysis of the side-scan sonar data.