Underwater footages and still images have been used to confirm the visual interpretation of the most difficult areas (e.g. the deepest patches of *Posidonia*, accumulation areas of dead leaves, isolated *Sabellaria* formation on sand). An accurate identification of ground truth points was carried out with handheld GPS units with EGNOS correction (Garmin GPSmap 62 or Garmin Etrex30).

The orthomosaic of the S1 site uploaded into handheld GPS and attached on the marker buoy for a precise identification of underwater features to be validated through ground truth.

Below are reported the positions of ground truth points used during the visual estimation (colors represent the cover classes) and with a black cross are reported the most difficult points which we have validated by underwater photography.

S1-S2

12°5'48"E
12°5'52"E
41°56'4"N
41°56'0"N
N
0 15 30 60
Meters

S3

12°35'20"E
41°29'20"N
41°29'12"N
12°35'12"E
N
0 20 40 80
Meters

S4