

Project “Biodiversity Mare Tricase”: A biodiversity inventory of the coastal area of Tricase (Apulia, Lecce, Italy) in the Otranto Channel



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SITE-UZI-SIB 2016



MARE

MEDITERRANEAN OUTPOST FOR MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH AND MONITORING

“Biodiversity is maintained”

is the first descriptor of EU’s Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Nowadays several taxonomic inventories for the Mediterranean Sea are available, but there are still important gaps on the basic information about taxonomy, distribution, abundance, and temporal trends of several groups.



Avamposto MARE: New Italian Marine Station

A new Mediterranean Outpost for Marine and Coastal Biodiversity research and observation. Founded in Tricase Porto (Apulia, Italy) by CIHEAM Bari with the joint support of University of Salento, Municipality of Tricase and “Magna Grecia Mare” Association.

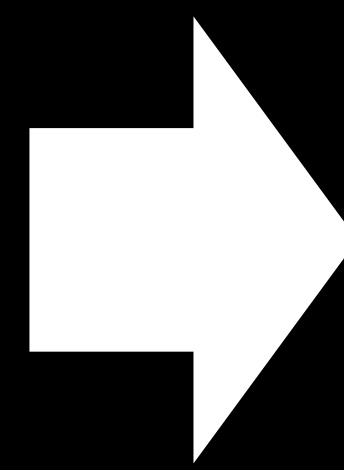


Aims of the Project

- Start a long-term biodiversity monitoring of the coastal area of Tricase through the production of a taxonomic inventory of coastal and marine organisms
- Promote Environmental Awareness and Education

Sampling between April and October 2016

- Scuba diving (0-30m)
- Apnea (0-10m)
- Gill net (20-70m)
- Citizen collaboration



Lab Analysis

- Identification
- Reproductive periods reports
- In vivo observation and study of life cycle
- DNA barcoding

- Necton
- Benthic Invertebrates
- Macroalgae
- Coastal Flora

Biodiversity Inventory

Marine fauna and flora: 606 samples, 22 Phyla, 309 genera, 353 species

Coastal flora: 58 samples, 44 species



The catalogue of species with picture and video will be freely available on the website of the project: www.biodiversitymaretricase.org

❖ First record of *Branchiostoma lanceolatum* in the Otranto Channel

FOCUSED ON:

Hydrozoa

91 samples, 41 species
Anthomedusae: 9 families, 10 species
Leptomedusae: 12 families, 25 species
Siphonophora: 4 families, 6 species

❖ First record of *Proboscidactyla ornata* in the Otranto Channel

Mollusca

96 samples, 81 species
Gastropoda: 35 families, 57 species
Polyplacophora: 4 families, 4 species
Cephalopoda: 2 families, 2 species
Bivalvia: 12 families, 18 species

Interface between science and citizens

We are promoting several activities in order to enhance people interest on biodiversity and marine ecosystems:

- Marine biology courses and workshops for children
- Information and collaboration with local fishermen and other stakeholders
- Citizens involvement in samples collection and biodiversity monitoring

Inspired by the seminal work by Salvatore Lo Bianco in the Gulf of Naples, this biodiversity project will represent a basis for further studies in the area and, at the same time, will promote nature, biodiversity conservation and the development of sustainable tourism in the Salento peninsula