



Interreg



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NEPTUNE blue paths

PUNTA MANARA SHOAL



**Attention
FRAGILE**



**SPAMI
species**



Diving



Natural



**Medium
frequented**

Geographical location

Italy, Liguria, Genoa, Municipality of Sestri Levante (GE)

Name of conservation area (or protected area)

The shoal falls within the SAC IT 1333371 Seabed of Punta Manara area

Degree of environmental protection

The area is included in the marine SAC IT 1333371 initially established to protect the Posidonia meadows and subsequently enlarged to protect the vast areas of coralligenous.

Diving site name

Punta Manara - the chosen dive site does not have a specific name.

Geographical coordinates (reference system)

LAT 44°14.987'N

LONG 9°24.241'E

Reference system WGS84



LOCATION



Type of access to the diving site

By boat

Site characteristics

Maximum depth

from -25m to -35m, square dive with descent and ascent in the blue, visibility not always optimal and rather intense current, therefore suitable for advanced patent holders.

Difficulty

Medium



Natural

Information from the managing organisation

5 diving centers operate in this area, although the various dive sites are not much visited mainly due to the sustained passage of boats in the area which puts diving safety at risk. The site is used a lot for both professional and amateur fishing purposes



INFORMATION



Diving



Permit not required



PATH MAP



Attention FRAGILE



SPAMI species

Description of the site of natural interest

The coral bottoms of this area are very extensive and range from depths of -25m to over -70m. The site described here is located at a distance of about 200 meters from the emerged point and consists of rocks of variable height (about 4-5m) placed on a detrital seabed and rocky terraces that descend to greater depths (over 35 m).

The main Ligurian coastal current, which moves large masses of water in an east-west direction, impacts longitudinally the rocky walls that have many structuring organisms.

The rocks have different benthic communities that characterize 3 different submerged environments: (1) the cap of the rocks with a dominance of infralittoral sciaphilous algae; (2) the sides of the rocks and the vertical walls of the rocky terraces facing south with structuring species such as gorgonians, such as *Paramuricea clavata* and *Eunicella singularis*, but also sponges such as *Axinella cannabina*, *A. polypoides* and *Sfoetida*; (3) caves and ravines at the base of the rock with sponges and cnidarians.

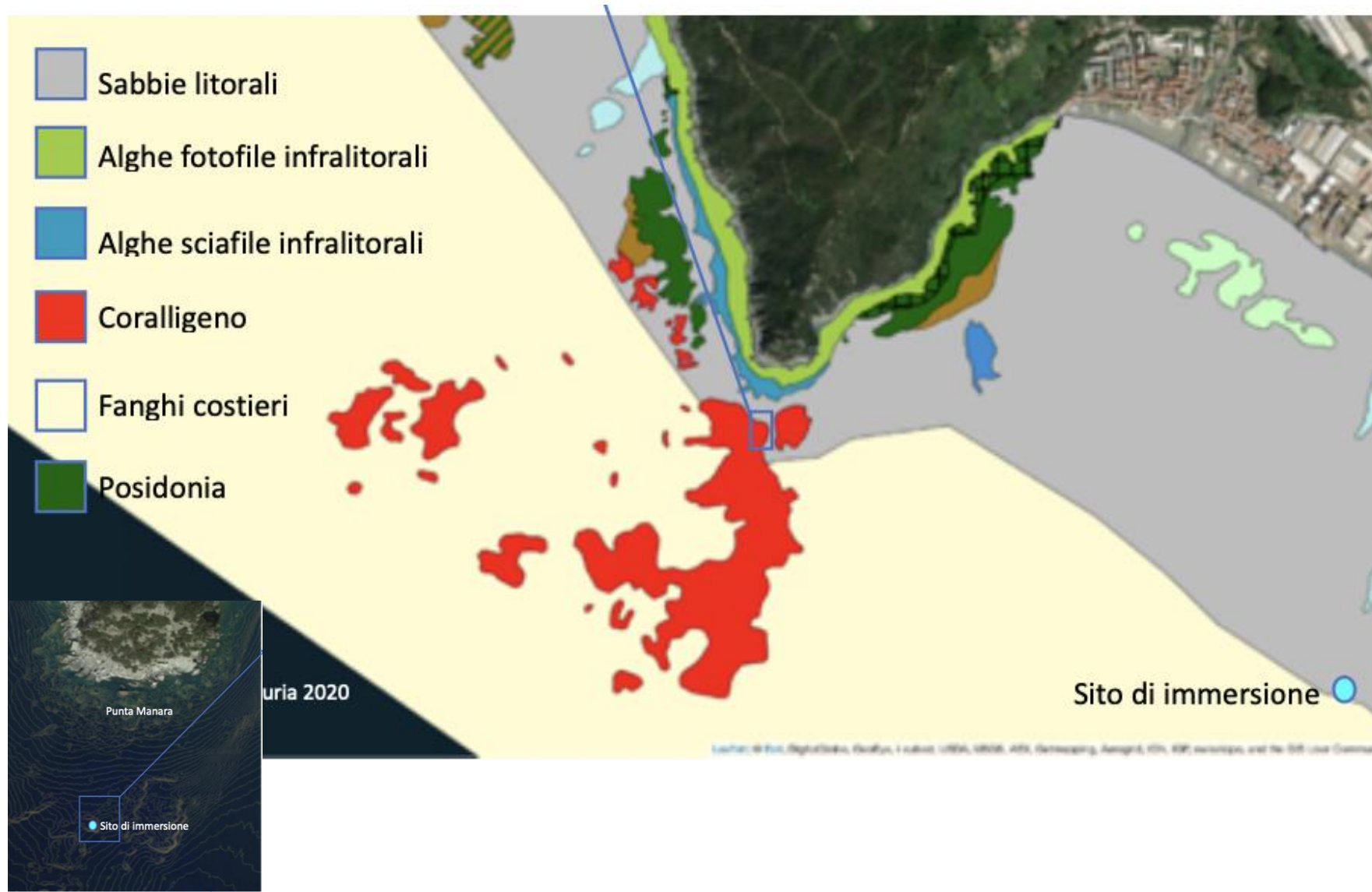
The presence of echinoderms (*Hacelia attenuata*), sedentary polychaetes including *Sabella spallanzanii*, and sea squirts (*Halocynthia papillosa*) are very common. Among the ravines you can meet morays and groupers (*Muraena helena*, *Epinephelus marginatus*) even if the most common fish fauna is represented by small serranids (*Anthias anthias* and *Serranus cabrilla*) and sparidae (*Diplodus* spp.). The ravines always present concretions of sponges, bryozoans and cnidarians and on the numerous colonies of hydrozoans and on the sponges (eg) there are nudibranchs (*Peltodoris astromaculata* and *Hypselodoris tricolor*).



NATURAL

Main species list

- *Axinella cannabina*
- *A. polypoides*
- *Paramuricea clavata*
- *Eunicella singularis*
- *Hacelia attenuata*
- *Halocynthia papillosa*
- *Epinephelus marginatus*
- *Muraena helena*
- *Anthias anthias*
- *Petrosia ficiformis*
- *Peltodoris astromaculata*



NATURAL

Area of main habitats (within a 100m radius of the site)

- Area of the main habitats: 560,000 m²
- Coralligenous habitat: about 400,000 m²
- Posidonia oceanica: 160,000 m² grassland close to the shoal

Habitat map (GIS)



Environmental heritage photos

Hacelia attenuata



Myriapora truncata

Axinella polypoides



Coralligenous structure with particular mushroom shape