



Interreg



UNION EUROPEENNE
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MARITTIMO-IT FR-MARITIME

Fonds européen de développement régional
Fondo Europeo di Sviluppo Regionale

NEPTUNE blue paths

PERTUSO



**Attention
FRAGILE**



**SPAMI
species**



Diving



**Permit not
required**



Natural



**Medium
frequented**

Geographical location

Italy, Liguria, Imperia, Municipality of Ventimiglia

Name of conservation area (or protected area)

The Pertuso dive site falls within the Capo Mortola Marine Protection Area.

Degree of environmental protection

The Capo Mortola Marine Protected Area is an integral part of the Regional Protected Area "Giardini Botanici Hanbury", whose management is entrusted to the University of Genoa. The Capo Mortola ATM is a member of the Liguria Marine Protected Areas network and is the subject of two monitoring activities that took place in 2010 and are partly continuing. One is dedicated to monitoring the impact of recreational boating and in particular the anchoring of boats of different sizes. The other is aimed at assessing the effect of the reserve on fish fauna; it has highlighted the importance of the shoals and the seabed as a whole for marine biodiversity.

Diving site name

Pertuso

Geographical coordinates (reference system)

LAT **43°45'676"**

LONG **7°32'494"**



LOCATION



Type of access to the diving site

By boat

Site characteristics

Maximum depth

From -18 m to -33 m. The Secca del Pertuso is a multilevel shoal between 18 m and 33 m deep.

Difficulty

Low/Medium/high



Natural

Information from the managing organisation

Currently, the best way to visit the Capo Mortola Marine Conservation Area is to contact the Pianeta Blu company and arrange an activity at sea.



INFORMATION



Diving



Permit not required

Description of the site of natural interest

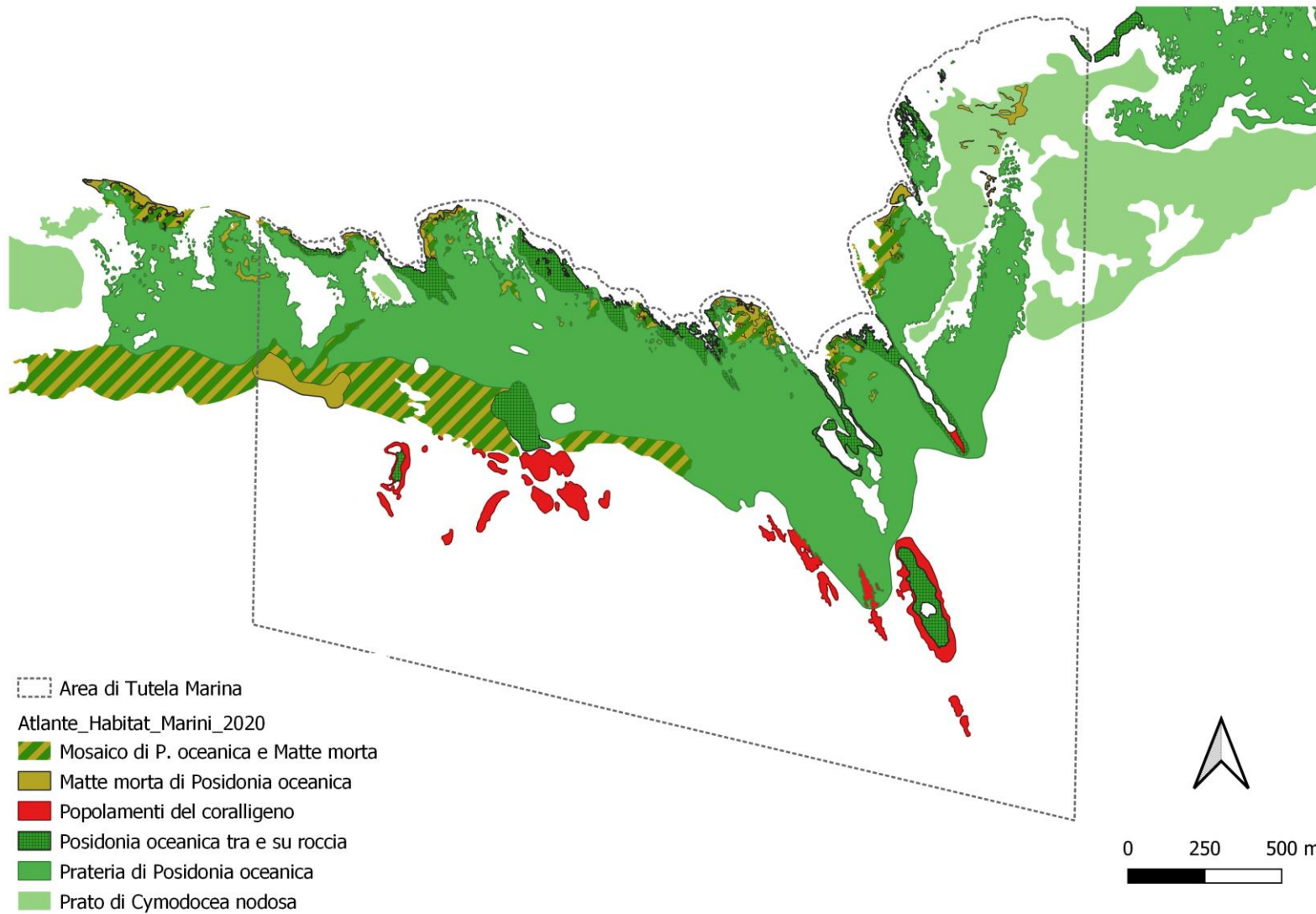
The Secca del Pertuso is located in front of the famous Balzi Rossi. It is characterised by a large rocky plateau on which various fish species have been recorded, including the *Dentex dentex*, three species of bream (*Diplodus vulgaris*, *Diplodus puntazzo* and *Diplodus sargus*) and the brown grouper (*Epinephelus marginatus*). In addition to these, this shoal is the ideal habitat for damselfish, red damselfish, salps, gilthead, amberjacks, sunfish, conger eels, moray eels, scorpion fish, octopus, mostellas, croakers and anglerfish; rarer are the St. Peter's fish (*Zeus faber*) and the leopard goby (*Thorogobius macrolepis*). To the east is a vertical wall that sinks to 33 m, known as the lobster hole. At the southern end of the shoal there is a spectacular canyon with a population of red gorgonians (*Paramuricea clavata*). The shoal is a paradise for nudibranches.



NATURAL

Main species list

- *Muraena helena*
- *Octopus vulgaris*
- *Scorpaena spp.*
- *Diplodus spp.*
- *Phycis phycis*
- *Epinephelus marginatus*
- *Palinurus elephas*
- *Paramuricea clavata*



Habitat map (GIS)



NATURAL

Main habitats (within a 100m radius of the site)

- *Posidonia oceanica* mosaic and dead matte
- *Posidonia oceanica* dead matte
- Coralligenous populations
- *Posidonia oceanica* between and on rocks
- *Posidonia oceanica* meadow
- *Cymodocea nodosa* meadow

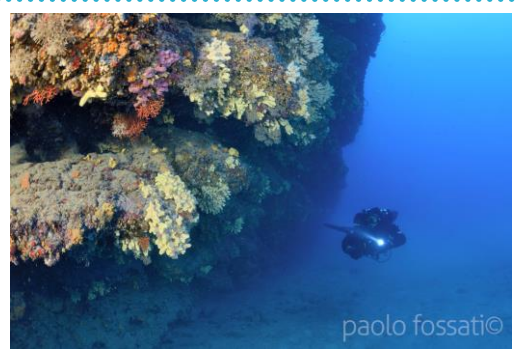


Environmental heritage photos

Syngnathus typhle



Paramuricea clavata



Coralligenous habitat



Flabellina sp.