



Interreg



UNION EUROPEENNE
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MARITTIMO-IT FR-MARITIME

Fonds européen de développement régional
Fondo Europeo di Sviluppo Regionale

NEPTUNE blue paths

DESOLATION



**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 Desolation 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

Desolation

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 -24 m to -35 m. The Desolation shoal is an elongated rock crevice that rises from a sandy bottom at 33m to 24m from the surface.

Difficulty

Medium



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

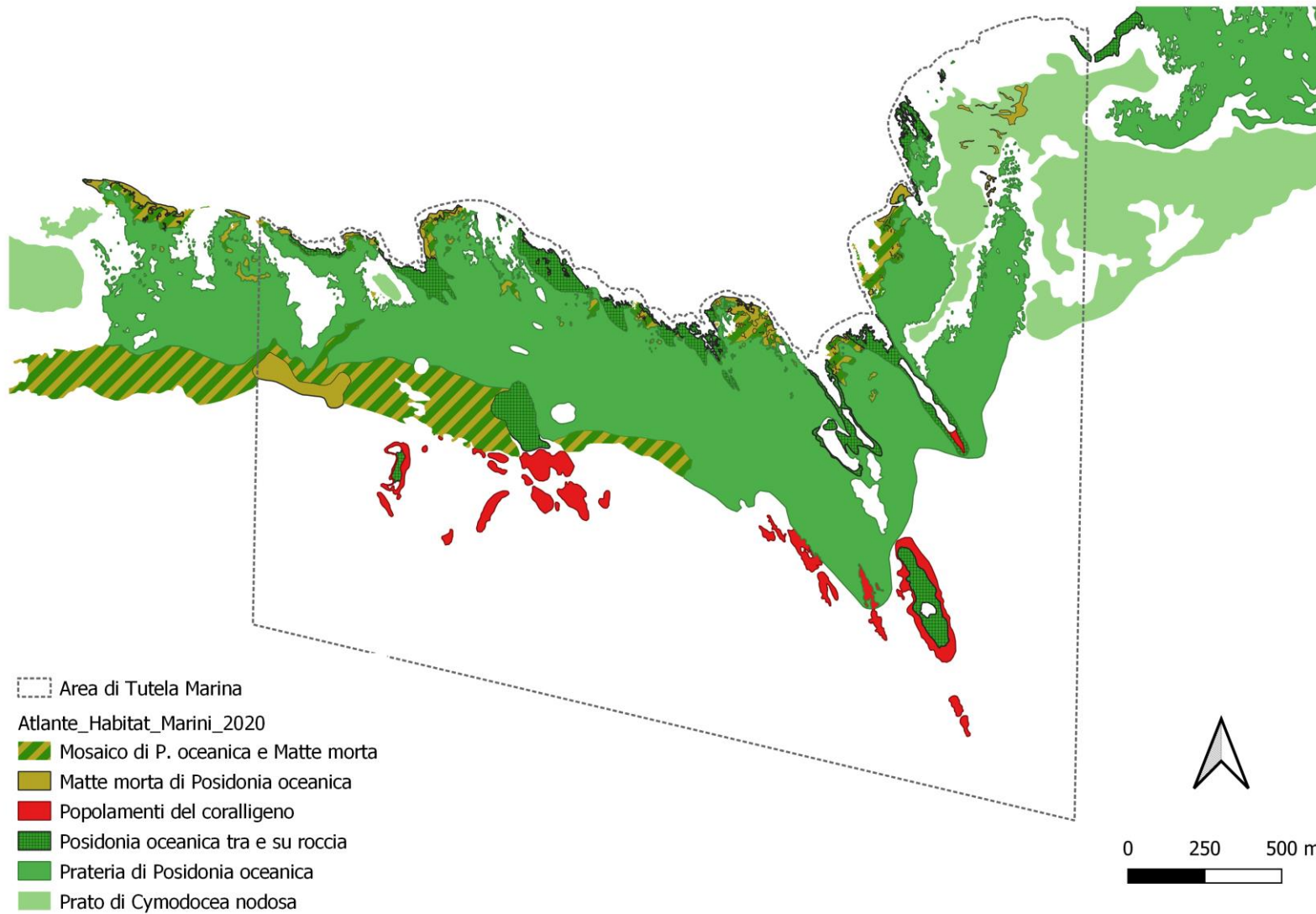
On the western wall of the shoal, the rock and the coral form a huge spur that closes in on itself, giving rise to a roof colonised by sponges, madrepores (*Leptosammia pruvoti*) and on the top by red gorgonians (*Paramuricea clavata*). Here, at a depth of 30 m, it is possible to admire some colonies of *P. clavata* whose colour has turned yellow, a little known phenomenon that is usually admired at depths of more than 50 m. These seabeds are the ideal habitat for lobsters, groupers and scorpion fish.



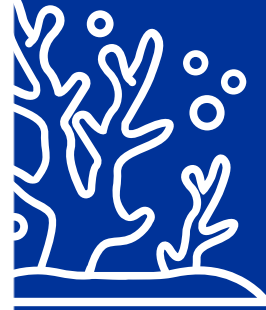
NATURAL

Main species list

- *Leptosammia pruvoti*
- *Scorpaena spp.*
- *Phycis phycis*
- *Epinephelus marginatus*
- *Palinurus elephas*
- *Paramuricea clavata*



Habitat map (GIS)



NATURAL

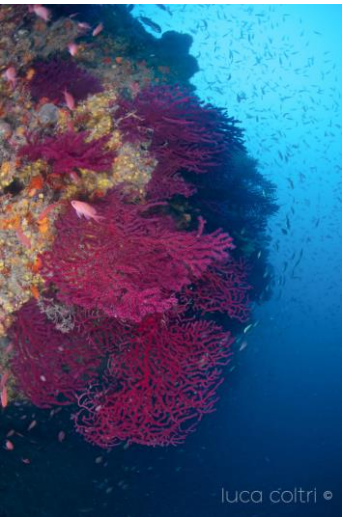
Main habitats (within a 100m radius of the site)

- *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

Paramuricea clavata



Palinurus elephas



Scorpaena sp. on Paramuricea clavata

Paramuricea clavata bicolor specimen

