



Interreg



UNION EUROPEENNE
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MARITTIMO-IT FR-MARITIME

Fonds européen de développement régional
Fondo Europeo di Sviluppo Regionale

NEPTUNE blue paths

LA FONTANA



**Attention
FRAGILE**



**SPAMI
species**



Diving



**Permit not
required**



**Cultural and
natural**



**Medium
frequented**

Geographical location

Italy, Liguria, Imperia, Municipality of Ventimiglia

Name of conservation area (or protected area)

La Fontana 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

La Fontana

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 -36 m. From 36 m depth a large rocky cliff rises up to 24 m from the surface.

Difficulty

Medium/high



Cultural and 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

This dive is characterised by a unique seabed with a rocky cliff that rises from a depth of 36 m to 24 m from the surface. At the base of this cliff there is a cavity from which a jet of fresh water emerges. If you walk along the shoal from north to south you can see smaller springs that have been surveyed as far as the coast. The fresh water of the spring, mixing with the salt water, creates a spectacular optical effect, as well as very special environmental conditions: in this site we can admire, in addition to large specimens of *Paramuricea clavata*, numerous colonies of *Parazoanthus axinellae* as well as a great variety of sponge species. In the numerous crevices of the wall, lobsters are frequently encountered at the right time of year, finding shelter here from the many predators along with red scorpion fish, groupers and clouds of red damselfish. Lobsters can also be spotted in the more protected crevices.



NATURAL

Main species list

- *Paramuricea clavata*
- *Parazoanthus axinellae*
- *Palinurus elephas*
- *Scorpaena scrofa*
- *Epinephelus marginatus*
- *Anthias anthias*
- *Homarus gammarus*



NATURAL

Environmental heritage photos

Freshwater spring



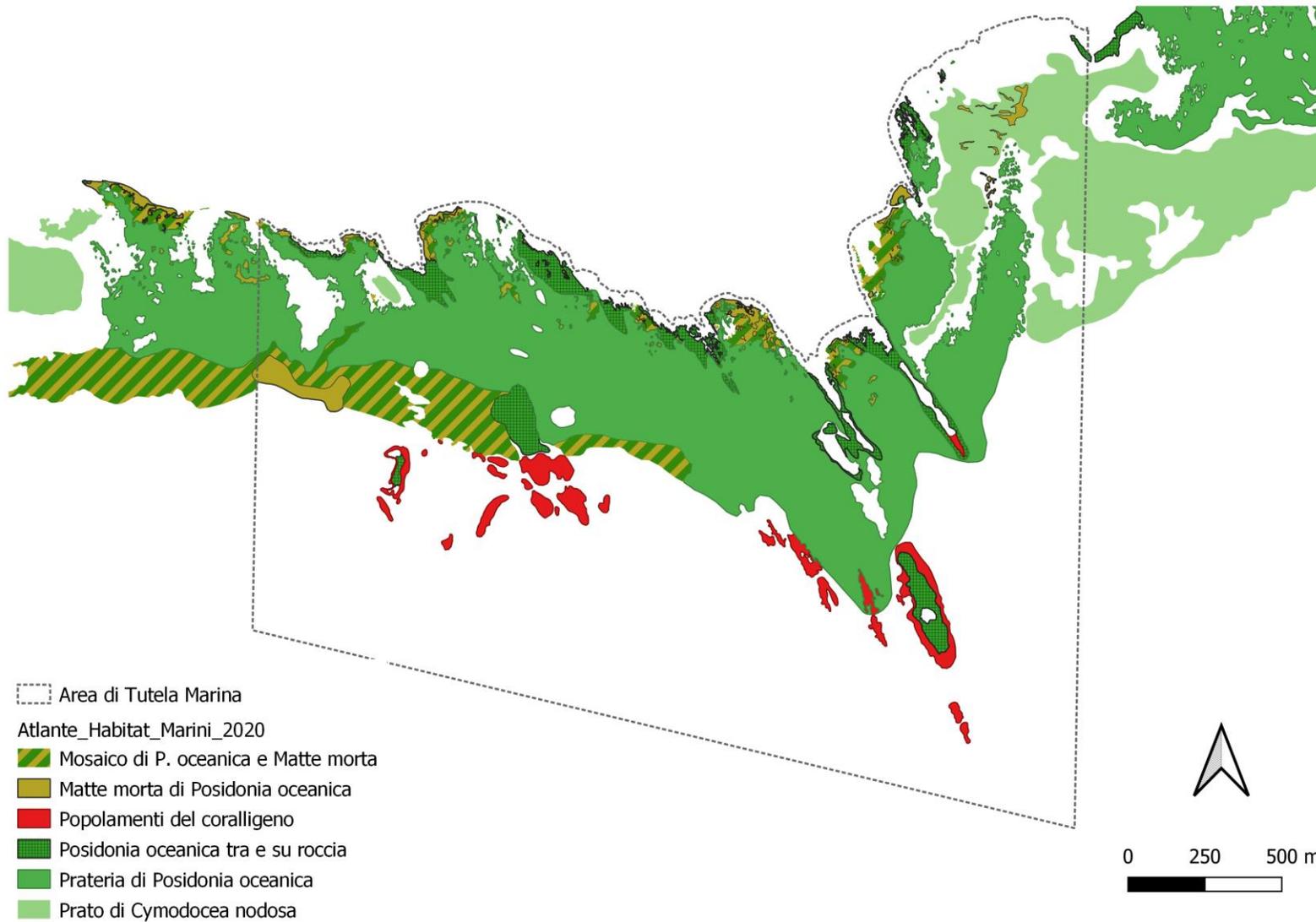
Paramuricea calvata



Nudibranchs



Freshwater spring



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

Description of the site of cultural interest

The karst freshwater spring known as "Polla di Rovereto" (dedicated to the geologist Gaetano Rovereto) and, locally, as "Funtana sutumarina", has attracted researchers and scholars since 1928. In 2003 this spring, listed among the Geotopes of greatest interest in the Province of Imperia, was bridled and now flows just below the surface from a metal "hourglass", with a flow rate of 100 litres per second at a temperature of 10°C.



CULTURAL