

Reef Check Italia *onlus*, a network to improve civil participation in marine environment assessment

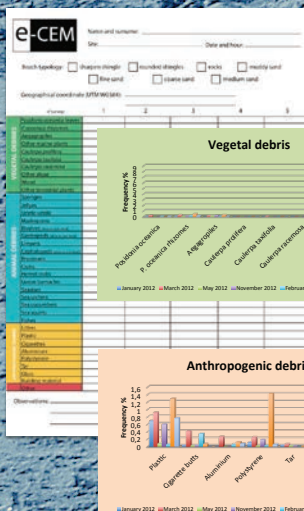


Cerrano C.^{1,2}, Milanese M.³, Mioni E.⁴, Palma M.^{2,5}, Pantaleo U.^{2,5}, Preati M.^{2,6}, Rossi G.², Scinto A.², Turicchia E.², Ponti M.^{2,7}

- ¹Dipartimento Scienze della Vita e dell'Ambiente, Università Politecnica delle Marche, via Brecce Bianche, 60131 Ancona, Italy
- ²Reef Check Italia *onlus*, c/o DiSVA, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Via Brecce Bianche, 60131 Ancona, Italy
- ³Studio Associato Gaia snc, Via Brigata Liguria 1/9, 16121 Genova, Italy
- ⁴Istituto Comprensivo ISA 2, "2 Giugno", Via Aldo Ferrari Loc. La Spezia, 19122 La Spezia, Italy
- ⁵UBICA s.r.l., Underwater Biocartography, via San Siro 6 int.1, 16124 Genova, Italy
- ⁶Centro Educazione Ambientale Comune di Imperia, Viale Matteotti 157, 18100 Imperia, Italy
- ⁷Dipartimento di Scienze Biologiche, Geologiche ed Ambientali, Università di Bologna, Via S. Alberto 163, 48123 Ravenna, Italy



The involvement of "citizens" (whether members of the general public or dedicated volunteers) to undertake data collection for regional-scale scientific studies is a key tool to achieve shared decisions in the field of biological conservation. Reef Check Italia *onlus* is applying fast and effective protocols since 2008 involving both young students and recreational divers, to collect data on abundance and distribution of target species, along beaches and underwater.



Standard table adopted for beach surveys using a 50x50 cm² frame with 25 subquadrats. At least five replicates per student are required

Data provided by diver volunteers along Mediterranean coasts looking for the abundance of target species

