

Lo studio dei popolamenti bentonici mediante analisi di immagine

Eva Salvati (SZN)

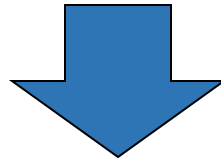
An image is worth a thousand words: studying hard bottom benthic assemblages



I INTRODUCE MY SELF

Main areas of expertise are

- the ecology, taxonomy and distribution of zoo-benthic communities of rocky bottoms, with particular interest in cnidarian associations of the circalittoral and bathyal zone
- conservation of habitat and specie and biodiversity



acquisition and processing of image data from a remote platform starting from planning sampling to on-board data logging and the **analysis of images** using different software

WHY ARE IMAGES MORE IMPORTANT THAN 1000 WORDS?

constitute the fundamental element of historical memory

are free from subjective errors of interpretation

can be analyzed with different techniques for different purposes

are comparable in time and space and replicable

allow us to observe details of great interest for the ecology of the species

are unlimited thanks to digital photography

IMAGE ANALYSIS

Data analysis starts with the design of the correct sampling plan up to the application of multiparametric indices to the numerical data extrapolated from the images

1. Planning of sampling activities
2. Data recording
3. Image Analysis (Kinowea, NIH-Image, CPCe Coral....)
4. Quali-quantitative data processing

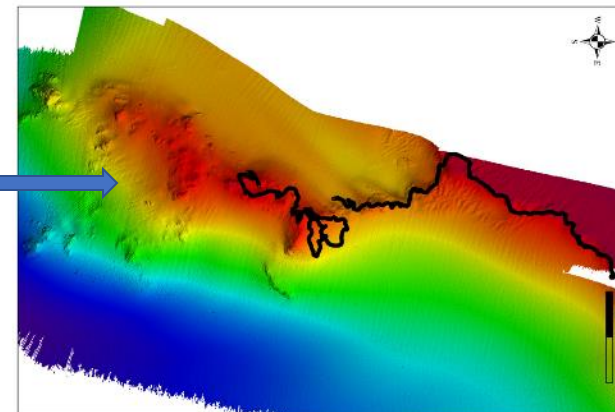
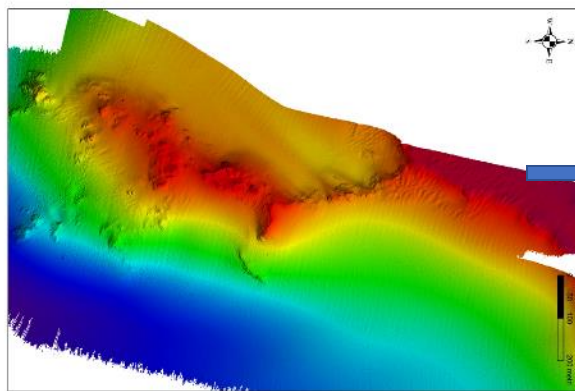


Planning of sampling activities

From remote platform (rov, auv, lander, wire towed camera)



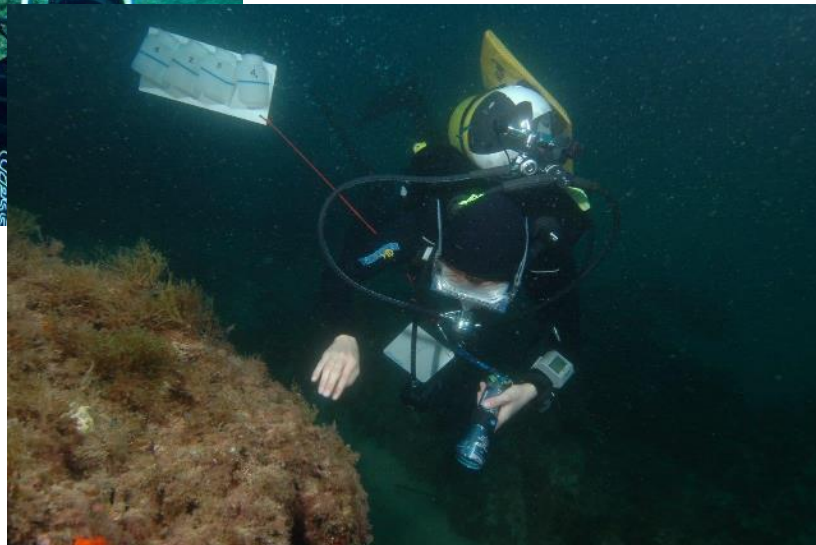
Considering that these are *blind* samplings it is essential to have a cartographic layer of good detail to choose the direction of the ROV and move towards the rocky outcrops.



Data logging in situ by divers



- Better performance in sample collection/measurement
- Easy instrument positioning
- Costs of sampling reduced



NAVIGATION AND
MONITORING OF THE
UNDERWATER DPV WITH
ERON D-1

SUEX

SCUOLA ESTIVA DI GEOMORFOLOGIA, ECOLOGIA
E BIOLOGIA IN AMBIENTE MARINO E INSULARE - TERZA EDIZIONE
PONZA 20-23.09.2022





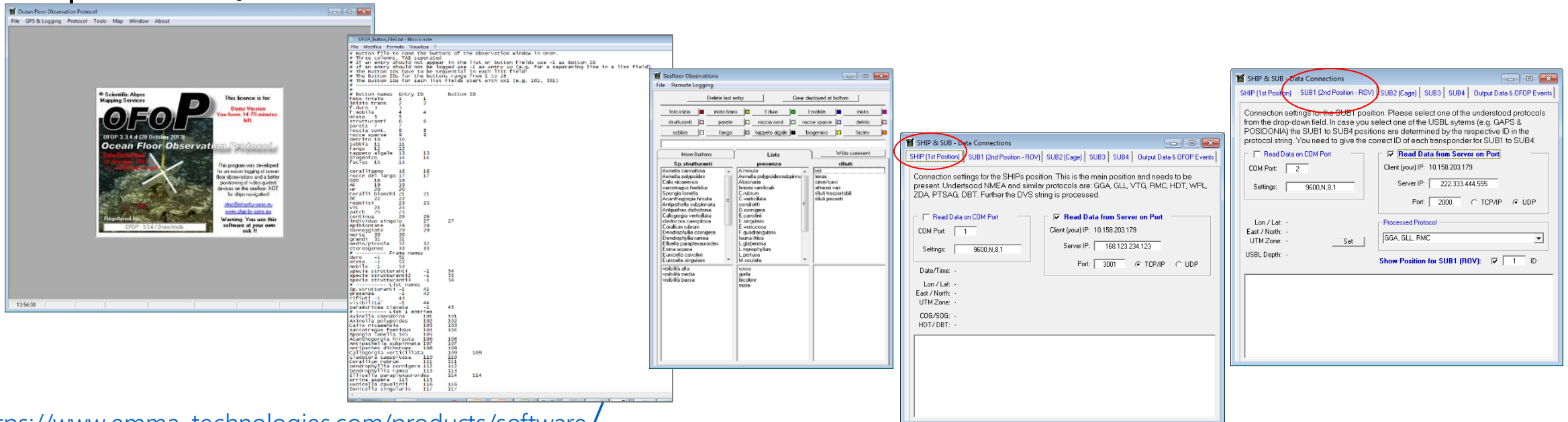
SCUOLA ESTIVA DI GEOMORFOLOGIA, ECOLOGIA
E BIOLOGIA IN AMBIENTE MARINO E INSULARE - TERZA EDIZIONE
PONZA 20-23.09.2022



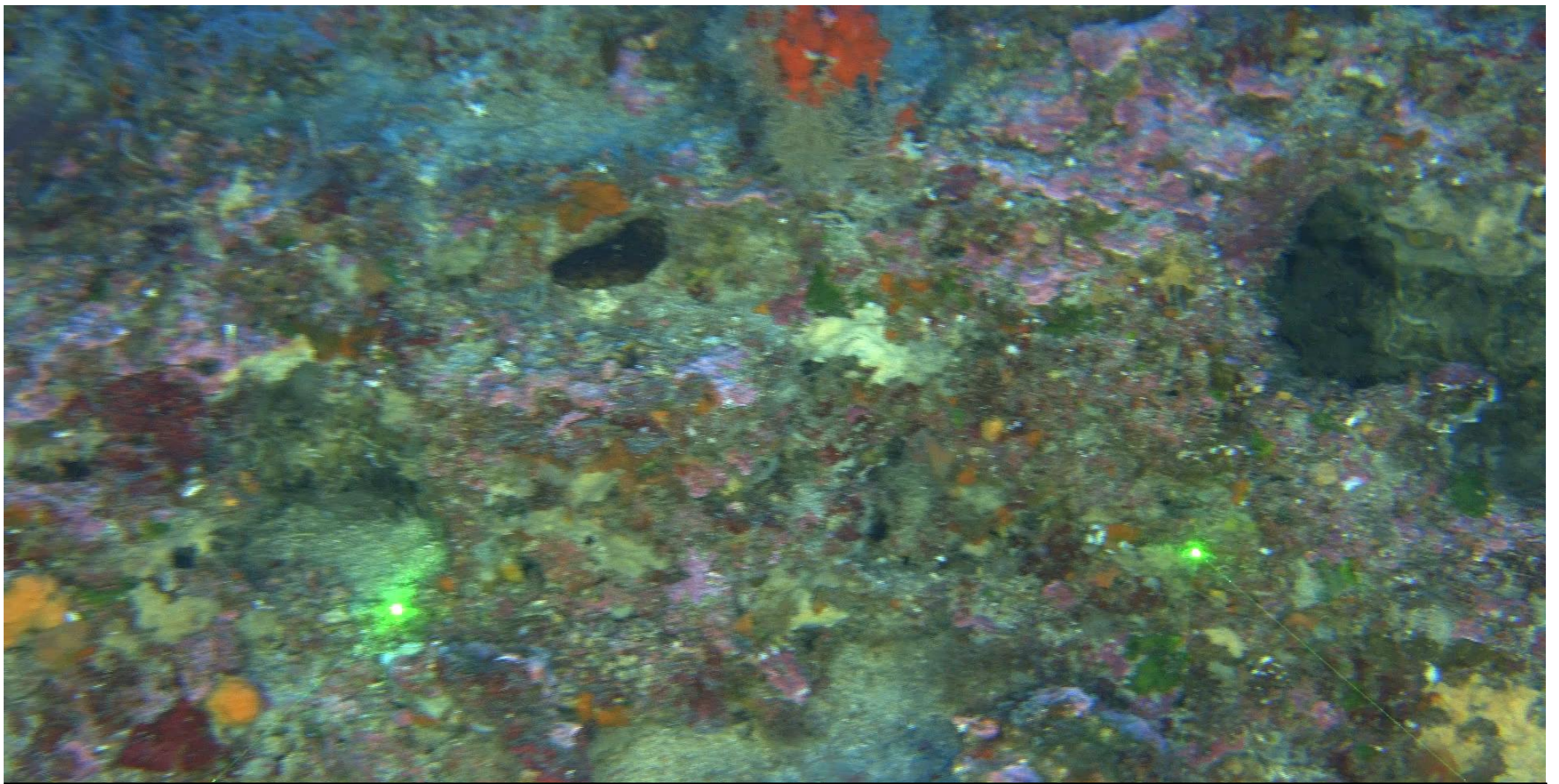
2 - Data logging on board (OFOP)

On-board data logging is essential for ordering and doing the data inventory.
An efficient on-board data logging significantly reduces the time required to sort and pre-process data

There are several choices (ADELIE -IFREMER, VARS -MBARI).
I have been using OFOP for a few years for georeferencing HD video in the data



<https://www.emma-technologies.com/products/software/>



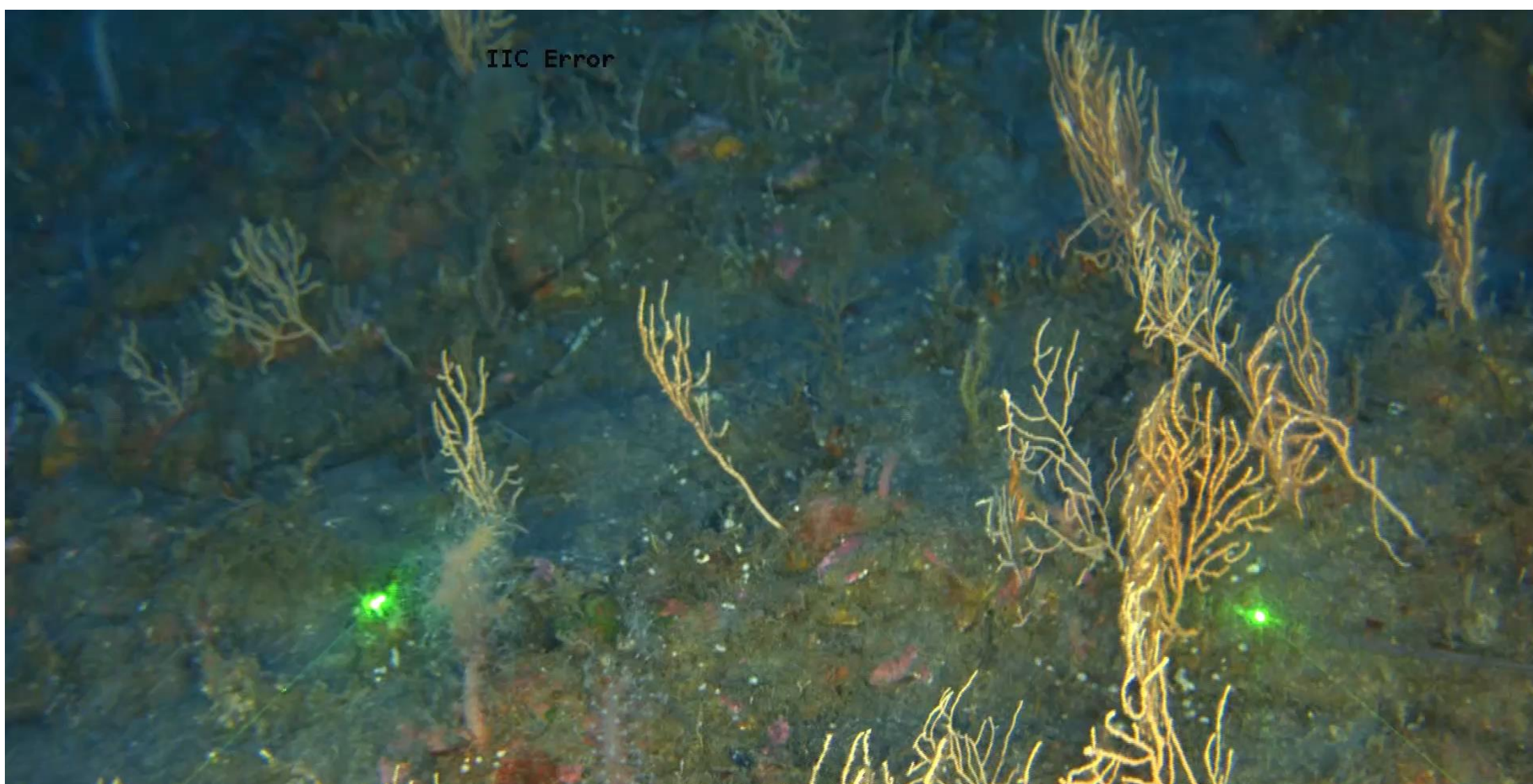
Whatever the project target, the same video can be analysed to give information on:

- Presence, distribution and habitat assessment
- Presence and distribution of protected, invasive or rare species
- Quantification and typology of marine litter
- Associated Fish fauna

Then ...of great emotive impact are the unexpected events



IIC Error



ROV sampling also allows the collection of samples.
Obviously the number of samples and the ease of collection is proportional to the ROV class.



Prélèvement d'une colonie de gorgone *Placogorgia* sp.
(Janua, - 995 m).
Prelievo di una colonia della gorgonia *Placogorgia* sp.
(Janua, - 995 m).

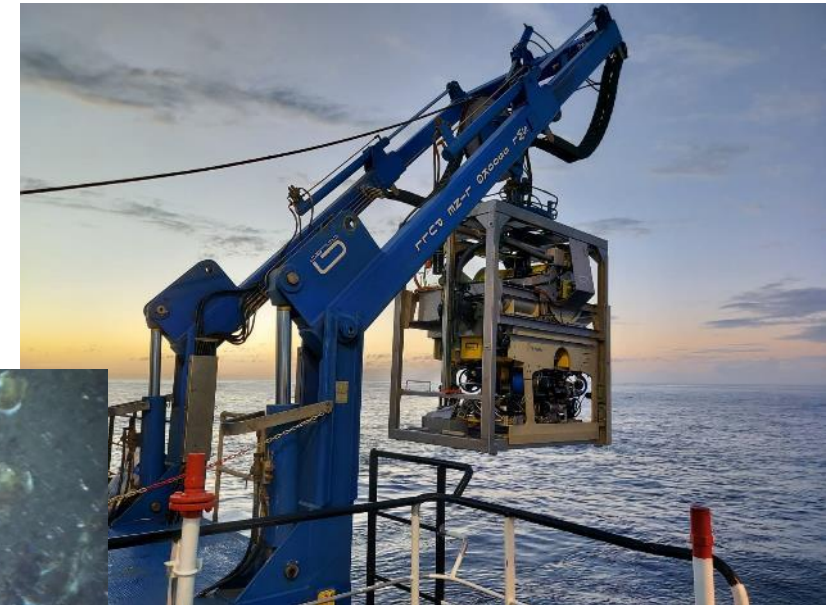
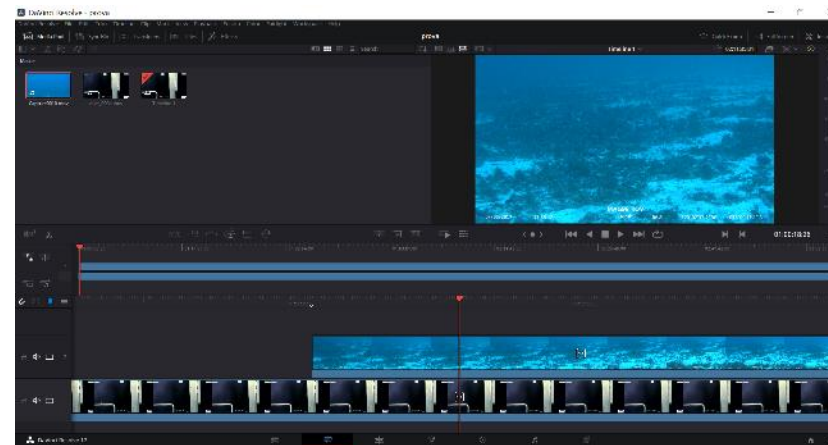
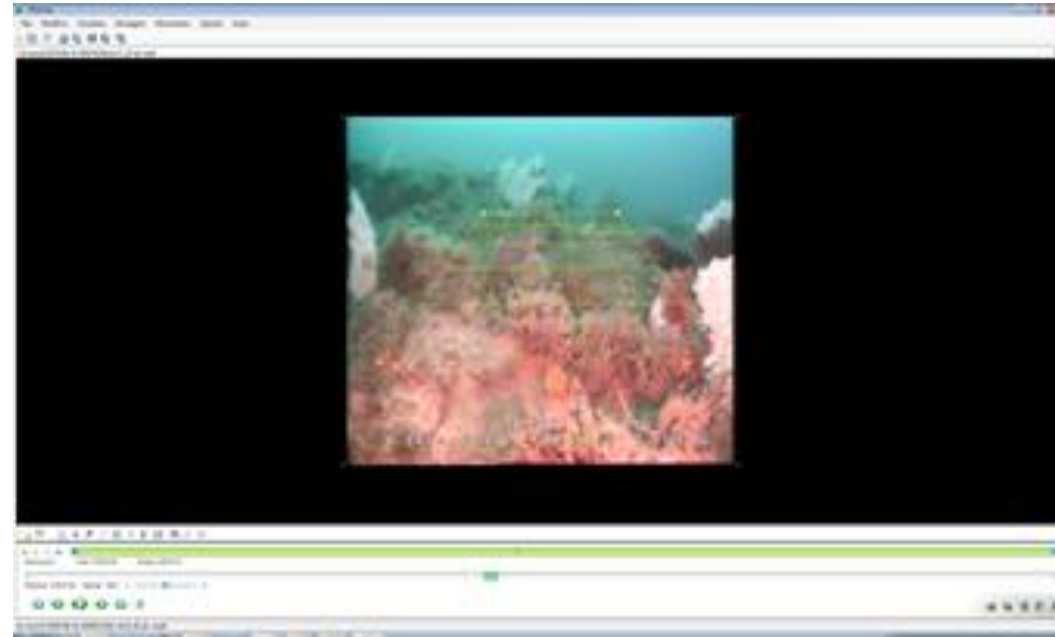
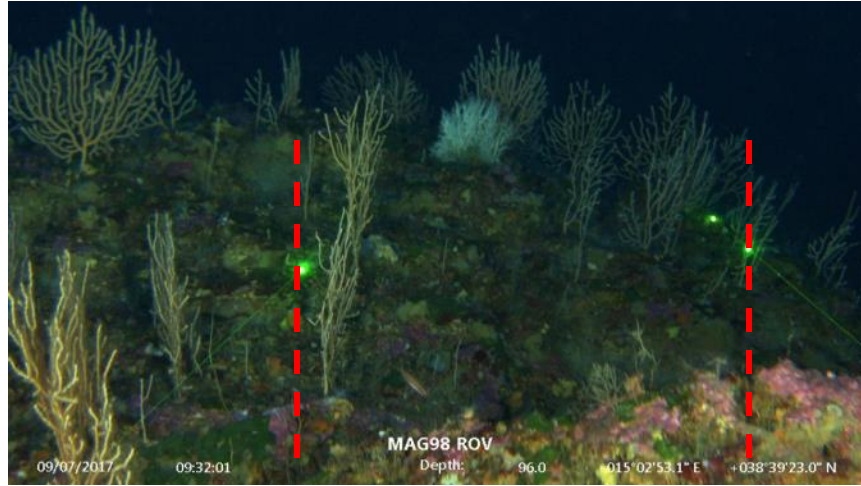


Image Analysis

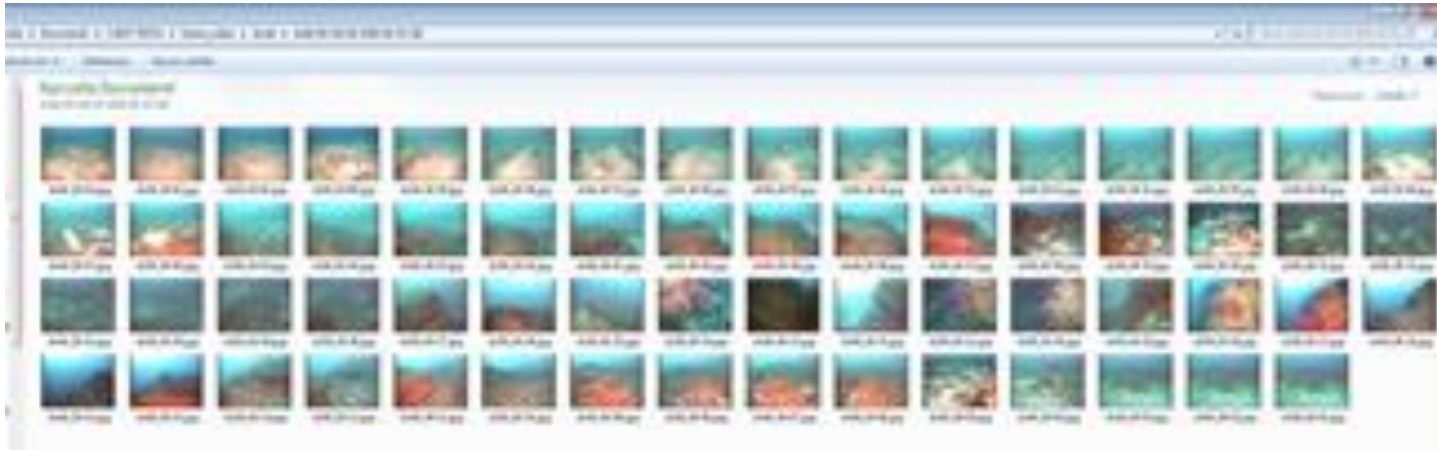
continuous video vs still images



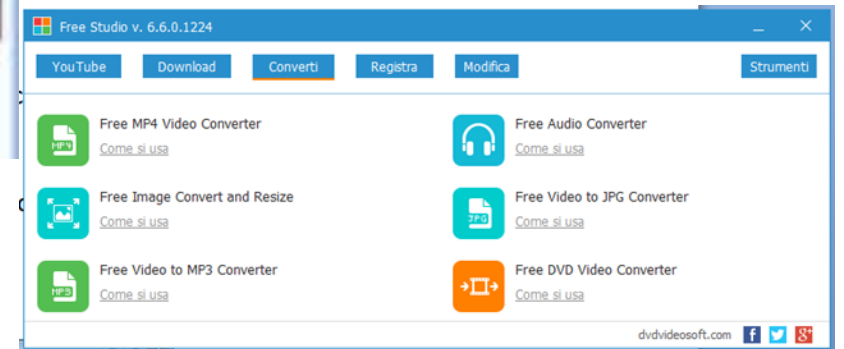
Kinovea

DaVinci Resolve

to extract still images



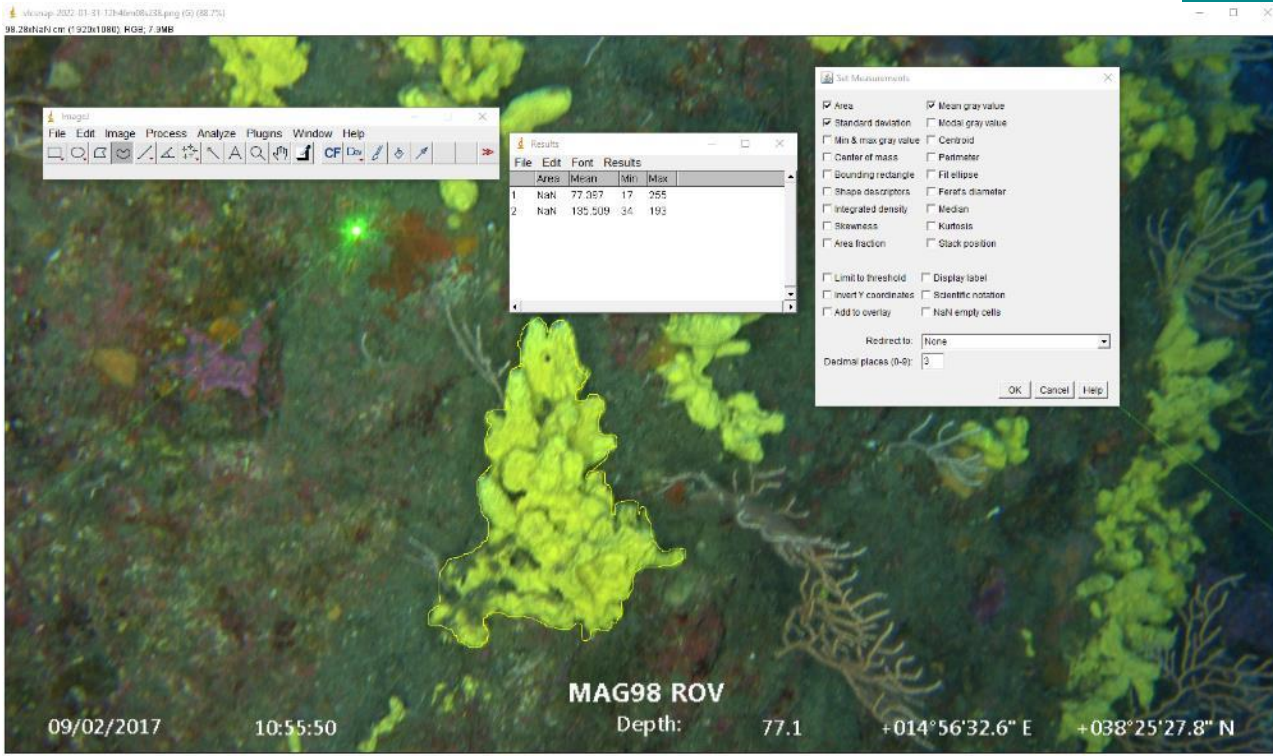
dvdvideosoft free studio



Still images analysis



CPCe coral



IMAGEJ or NIH Image

SoftwareX 6 (2017) 09–08

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

SoftwareX

Journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/sofx

PAPARA(ZZ): An open-source software interface for annotating photographs of the deep-sea

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 Benthic
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 Density
 Distribution
 Composition
 Abundance
 Richness

ABSTRACT

PAPARA(ZZ) is a lightweight and intuitive image annotation program developed for the study of deep-sea megafauna. It offers functionalities such as free, grid and random point annotation. Annotation is made following existing classification schemes for marine biota and substrata or with the user defined, customised lists of keywords, which broadens the range of potential application software to other types of studies (e.g. marine litter distribution assessment). If Internet access is available, PAPARA(ZZ) can also query and use standardised taxa names directly from the World Register of Species (WoRMS). Program outputs include abundances, densities and size calculations per keyword (per taxon). These results are written into text files that can be imported into spreadsheet programs for further analyses. PAPARA(ZZ) is open-source and is available at <http://papara-zz.github.io>. Old versions exist for most 64-bit operating systems: Windows, Mac OS X and Linux.

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Code metadata

Current code version: PAPARA(ZZ) v2.6
 Permanent link to code/repository used of this code version: <https://github.com/AlfredWegenerInstitute/papara-zz>
 Legal Code License: GNU General Public License (<http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html>)
 Code versioning system used: GitHub version control
 Software code languages, tools, and services used: MATLAB, 2015b, 2017b, MATLAB Compiler, Optional: MATLAB Image Processing Toolbox
 Compilation requirements, operating environments & dependencies: If available, link to developer documentation/manual
 Support email for questions: Yann.Marcon@awi.de

Software metadata

Current software version: PAPARA(ZZ) v2.6
 Permanent link to metadata of this version: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jembe.2012.04.018>
 Legal Software License: GNU General Public License (<http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html>)
 Computing platform/Operating Systems: 64-bit Windows, Mac OS X, Linux
 Installation requirements & dependencies: If available, link to user manual - if formally published include a reference to the publication in the reference list
 Support email for questions: Yann.Marcon@awi.de

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Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology

Journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/jembe

photoQuad: A dedicated seabed image processing software, and a comparative error analysis of four photoquad methods

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 Corallograms
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 Coverage measurement
 Image processing software
 Photoquad sampling
 Simulation

ABSTRACT

Photographic quadrat sampling is commonly used for data handling in fragmented into new tools that integrate all major analysis options of photographic samples, dedicated to ecology extraction of species area, percentage coverage (BP), grid cell counts (CL), frequency region (FR) analysis functional in a layer-based environment image calibration, automatic quadrat boundary paper documents the main features of photo application of the BP, CL, FR, and SC method and coverage measurements. The simulated, similarity statistics are equivalent to three benthic. The analysis indicated that measurement error to species size. Large patches were accurately BP provided high error variance, and their BP and FH methods provided the lowest error. This result. Overall, photoQuad constitutes a efficient fast and comparable evaluation of it is freely available to download and use from

1. Introduction

Marine benthic habitats constitute an important part of the marine environment, with high ecological, scientific, and economic value (Blanchi and Morri, 2000; Dayton et al., 2000; Hughes et al., 2005); they are composed of a great diversity of sessile benthic species, and provide essential resources to fish and other mobile invertebrates (Collie et al., 2000; Thrush and Dayton, 2002). Studies regarding biodiversity assessment, characterization of communities, and monitoring of changes over time commonly involve the estimation of area or coverage of sessile benthic species either through in situ observations or use of underwater photography and video (Blanchi et al., 2004). As the destruction and alteration of benthic habitats increases (Halpern et al., 2007; Pandolfi et al., 2003), so does the need for their accurate and comparable quantitative assessment. The photoQuad software presented here is an image processing tool created to address the need for fast,

accurate, and in digital samples. Quadr sessile cover (1983). Such achieved way. With used for composited et al., 2002, 2002), per the monitor factors (G. Inform includes individual sulfate area. Among th the most

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 E-mail address: trygonis@marine.aegean.gr (V. Trygonis).

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MARINE ECOLOGY PROGRESS SERIES
 Mar Ecol Prog Ser

Published June 9

Hierarchical segmentation-based software for cover classification analyses of seabed images (Seascape)

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⁷CREATIS, UMR CNRS 5315, U 630 Inserm, INSA, 7 rue Jean Capelle, bat. Hainé Pascal, 69621 Villeurbanne Cedex, France
⁸Marine Technology Unit (MTM-CSIC), Passeig Marítim de la Barceloneta 37-49, 08003 Barcelona, Spain

ABSTRACT: An important aspect of marine research is to quantify the areal coverage of benthic communities. It is technically feasible to efficiently obtain images of marine environments at different depths and benthic habitats over large spatial and temporal scales. Currently, there is a large and growing library of digital images to analyze, representing a valuable benthic ecological archive. Benthic coverage is the basis of studies on biodiversity, characterization of communities and evaluation of changes over temporal and spatial scales. However, there is still a lack of automatic or semi-automatic analytical methods for deriving ecologically relevant data from these images. We introduce a software program named Seascape to obtain semi-automatically segmented images (patch outlines) from underwater photographs of benthic communities, where each individual patch (species/category) is routinely associated by its area cover and perimeter. Seascape is an analogy to the classical and better known discipline of landscape ecology approach, which focuses on the concept that communities can be observed as a patch mosaic at any scale. The process starts with a hierarchical segmentation, using a color space criteria adapted to the problem of segmenting complex benthic images. As an intermediate, we obtain a set of images segmented into classified homogeneous regions at different resolution levels (hierarchical segmentation). To illustrate the versatility and capacity of Seascape, we analyzed 4 digital images from different habitats and depths: coral reefs (Pacific Ocean), corallogram community (NW Mediterranean Sea), deep-water coral reefs (NW Mediterranean Sea) and the Antarctic continental shelf (Weddell Sea). The development of this semi-automatic outline tool and its use for classification constitute an important step forward in the analysis and processing time of underwater seabed images at any scale.

KEY WORDS: Area cover · Benthic communities · Digital photography · Image analysis · Hierarchical segmentation

INTRODUCTION

Characterizing and quantifying sessile marine species (macroalgae, sponges and invertebrates) that occupy benthic substrate is a fundamental aspect of marine benthic research from shallow sublittoral habi-

tats to continental shelves and the deep sea (Hughes & Jackson 1985, Genin et al. 1996, Sebens 1996, Fussell et al. 2002). This essential information is the basis of studies on biodiversity, characterization of communities, evaluation of changes over spatial and temporal scales, and benthic ecosystem health (e.g. Marger & Schuth-

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COMPUTERS & GEOSCIENCES

www.elsevier.com/locate/cageo

Coral Point Count with Excel extensions (CPCe): A Visual Basic program for the determination of coral and substrate coverage using random point count methodology*

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Abstract

Photographic and video methods are frequently used to increase the efficiency of coral reef monitoring efforts. The random point count method is commonly used on still images or frame-grabbed video to estimate the community statistics of benthos. A matrix of randomly distributed points is overlaid on an image, and the species or substrate-type lying beneath each point is visually identified. Coral Point Count with Excel extensions (CPCe) is a standalone Visual Basic program which automates, facilitates, and speeds the random point count analysis process. CPCe includes automatic frame-image sequencing, single-click species/substrate labeling, auto-advancement of data point focus, zoom in/out, zoom hold, and specification of random point number, distribution type, and frame border location. Customization options include user-specified coral/substrate codes and data point shape, size, and color. CPCe can also perform image calibration and planar area and length calculation of benthic features. The ability to automatically generate analysis spreadsheets in Microsoft Excel based upon the supplied species/substrate codes is a significant feature. Data from individual frames can be combined to produce both inter- and intra-site comparisons. Spreadsheet contents include header information, statistical parameters of each species/substrate type (relative abundance, mean, standard deviation, standard error) and the calculation of the Shannon-Weaver diversity index for each species. Additional information can be found at <http://www.nova.edu/ocean/cpc/>.

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Keywords: Coral point count; Random point count; Coral reef assessment; Coral reef monitoring; Coral area measurement

1. Introduction and rationale

Random point count methodology is commonly used in many population estimation applications,

e.g. forestry vegetation (Stoyan and Penttinen, 2000), tree canopy cover (Thomas and Winner, 2000), bird population and diversity (Ralph et al., 1995; Thompson III et al., 2002; Young and Hutto, 2002). It is also commonly used on frame-grabbed video or still images to estimate the population statistics of marine benthic communities (Carleton and Done, 1995). Previous methods included overlying underwater photographic images with transparent sheets containing randomly positioned

* Code available from server at <http://www.iang.org/CGE/index.htm>

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Data processing

Qualitative data are generally used for the characterization of habitats or for the restitution of large-scale thematic maps. When the resolution of the images is not optimal, morphological groups can be used.

Quantitative data (presence/absence, density) are used to describe site or compare sites in space and time.

For the study focused on target species, cover or other parameters can be estimated

Some software automatically calculates diversity indices, others give numerical values (abundance, area, frequency) which can then be processed by statistical analysis.



WHERE TO APPLY IT?



some examples of the use of image analysis

Description and distribution of habitats and species

Biocenotic, bionomic and thematic maps
(MPAs establishment, Biodiversity hot-spot)

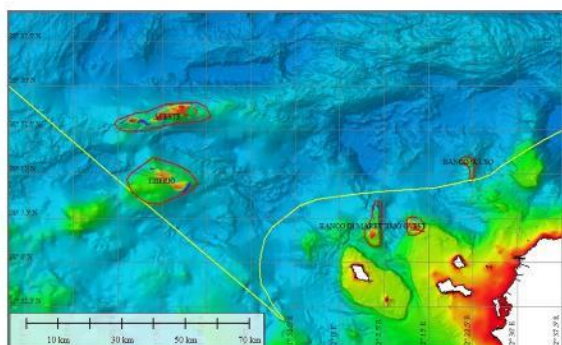
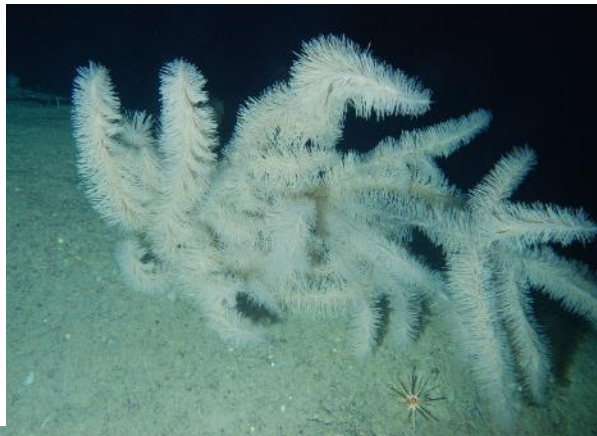
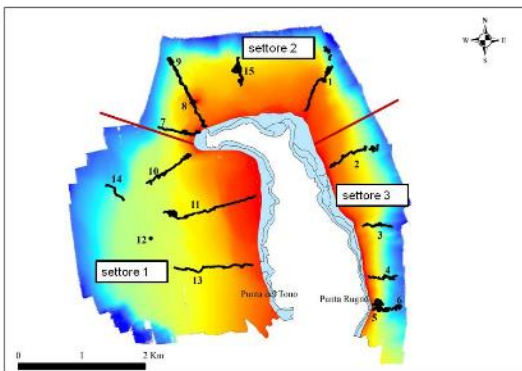
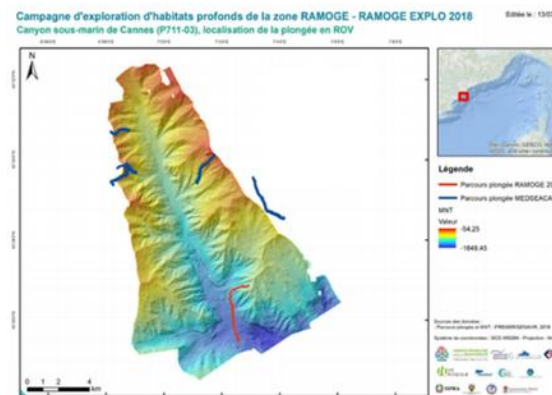
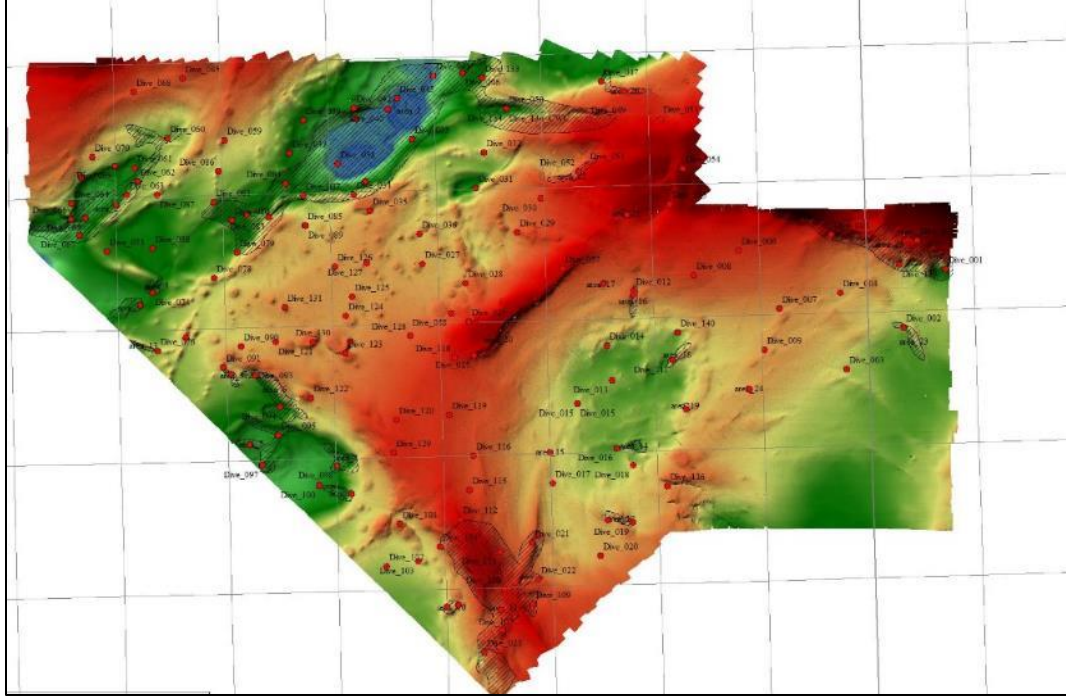


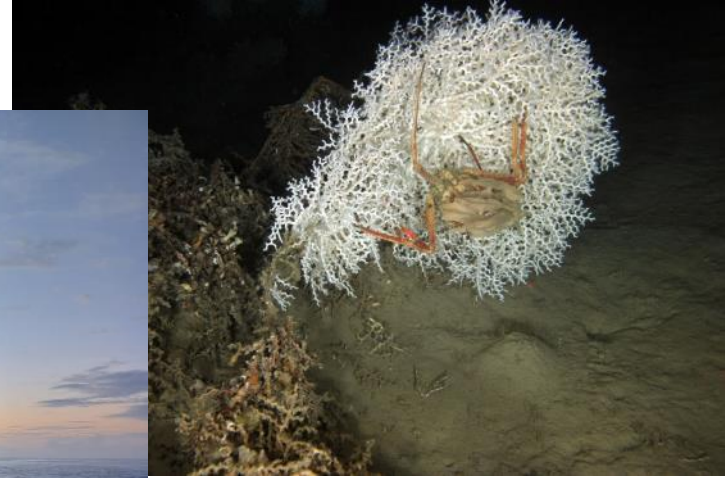
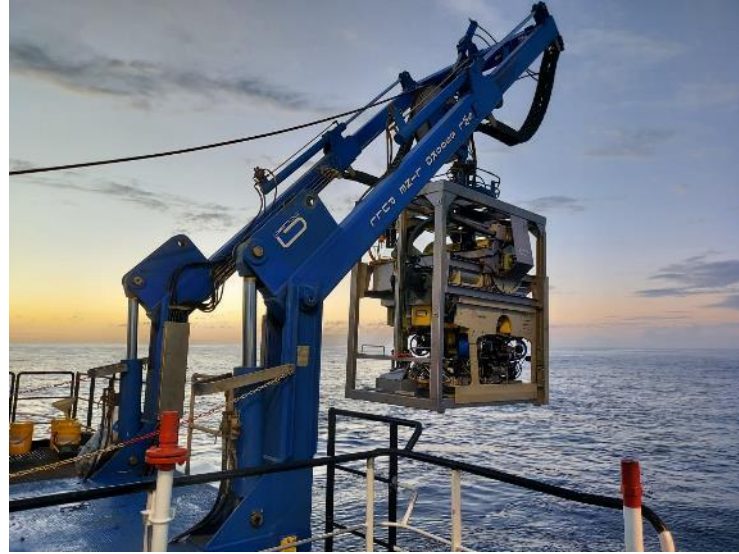
Figura 11: Visione d'insieme delle aree per le quali si ritiene sia importante prevedere l'istituzione di siti natura 2K e loro proposta di perimetrazione in rosso (visualizzate su base batimetrica EMODNET). La linea gialla rappresenta la delimitazione della ZPE Italiana (nella parte alta della figura - a Nord).



Feasibility study and environmental assessment



2000 km² between 150 and 1200 m depth
140 transects 1 km long



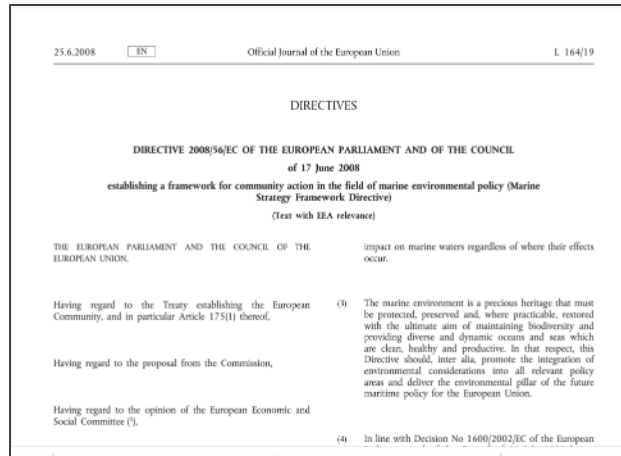
Habitat classification (EUNIS revision- EEA)

Identification of proxies for habitat assessment, quantification of pressures, and mitigation of impacts



Long-term monitoring

Environmental impact studies, directive implementations (MSFD, HABITAT)



PHYLUM	SPECIE
Porifera	<i>Axinella camabina</i>
Porifera	<i>Axinella polypoides</i>
Porifera	<i>Calyx nicaeensis</i>
Porifera	<i>Sarcotragus foetidus</i>
Porifera	<i>Spongia lamella</i>
Cnidaria	<i>Acanthoorgia hirsuta</i>
Cnidaria	<i>Antipathella subpinnata</i>
Cnidaria	<i>Antipathes dichotoma</i>
Cnidaria	<i>Callogorgia verticillata</i>
Cnidaria	<i>Cladocora caespitosa</i>
Cnidaria	<i>Corallium rubrum</i>
Cnidaria	<i>Dendrophyllia cornigera</i>
Cnidaria	<i>Dendrophyllia ramea</i>
Cnidaria	<i>Elisella paraplexauroides</i>
Cnidaria	<i>Errina aspera</i>
Cnidaria	<i>Eunicella cavolinii</i>
Cnidaria	<i>Eunicella singularis</i>
Cnidaria	<i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>
Cnidaria	<i>Leipathes glaberrima</i>
Cnidaria	<i>Leptogorgia sarmentosa</i>
Cnidaria	<i>Paramuricea macrospina</i>
Cnidaria	<i>Paramuricea clavata</i>
Cnidaria	<i>Parantipathes larix</i>
Cnidaria	<i>Savalia savaglia</i>
Cnidaria	<i>Viminella flagellum</i>
Briozoa	<i>Myriapora truncata</i>
Briozoa	<i>Pentapora fascialis</i>



Criteria for good environmental status relevant to the descriptors of Annex I to Directive 2008/56/EC

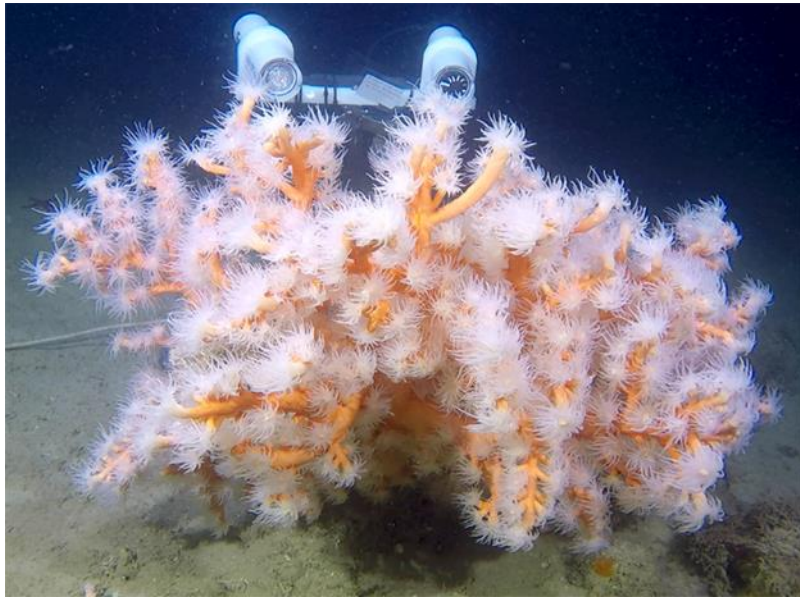
Descriptor 1: Biological diversity is maintained. The quality and occurrence of habitats and the distribution and abundance of species are in line with prevailing physiographic, geographic and climate conditions.

Descriptor 6: Sea-floor integrity is at a level that ensures that the structure and functions of the ecosystems are safeguarded and benthic ecosystems, in particular, are not adversely affected.

Medium-term in situ observations of target species

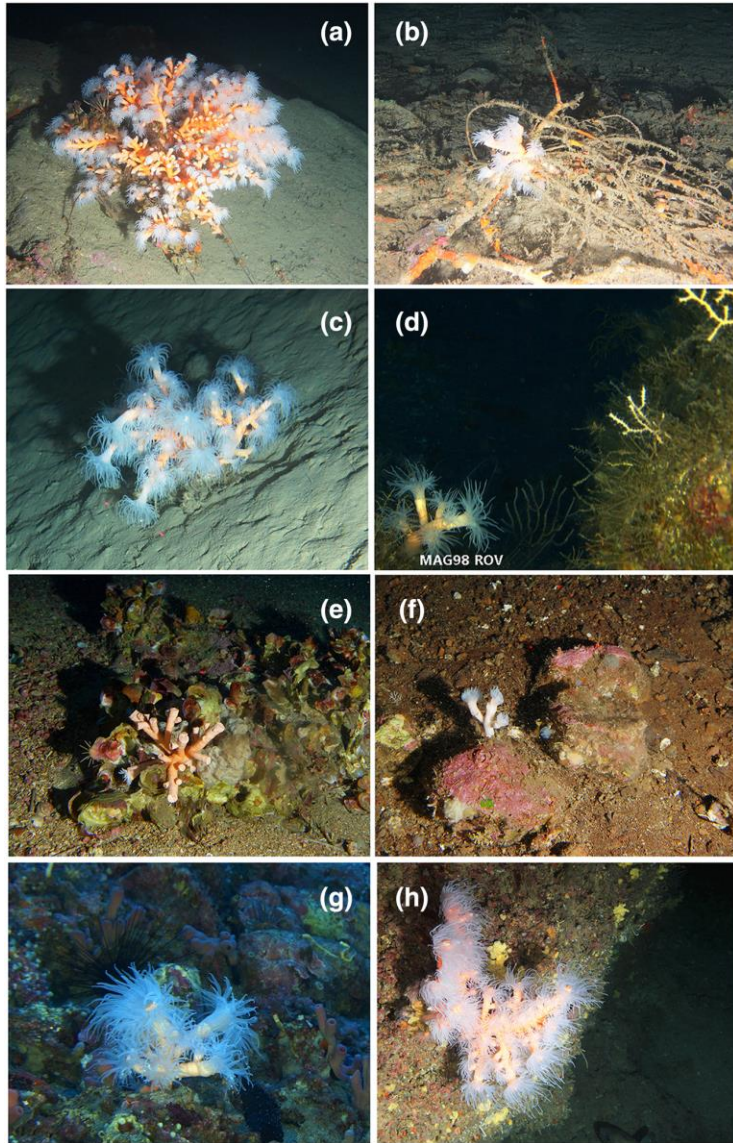
The initial purpose of the project was to map the colonies within a known area and placing fixed sensors for recording environmental parameters thank to the operational support of tech divers

Instead of placing only the probes, using a solid structure, was also decided to collect image and video to better understand the ecology of the species.



programmed to collect a still image every 15' and to record a 5" video every hour.





Ecology studies

Deep-sea (2012) 87(16):17
doi:10.1111/j.1365-3113.2012.04611.x

SPONGE RESEARCH DEVELOPMENTS

Role of deep sponge grounds in the Mediterranean Sea: a case study in southern Italy

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¹IRCCO, 23 February 2012; accepted 13 November 2011; Available online 7 December 2011
© 2012 British Ecological Society, *Journal of Animal Ecology*, 81, 17–25

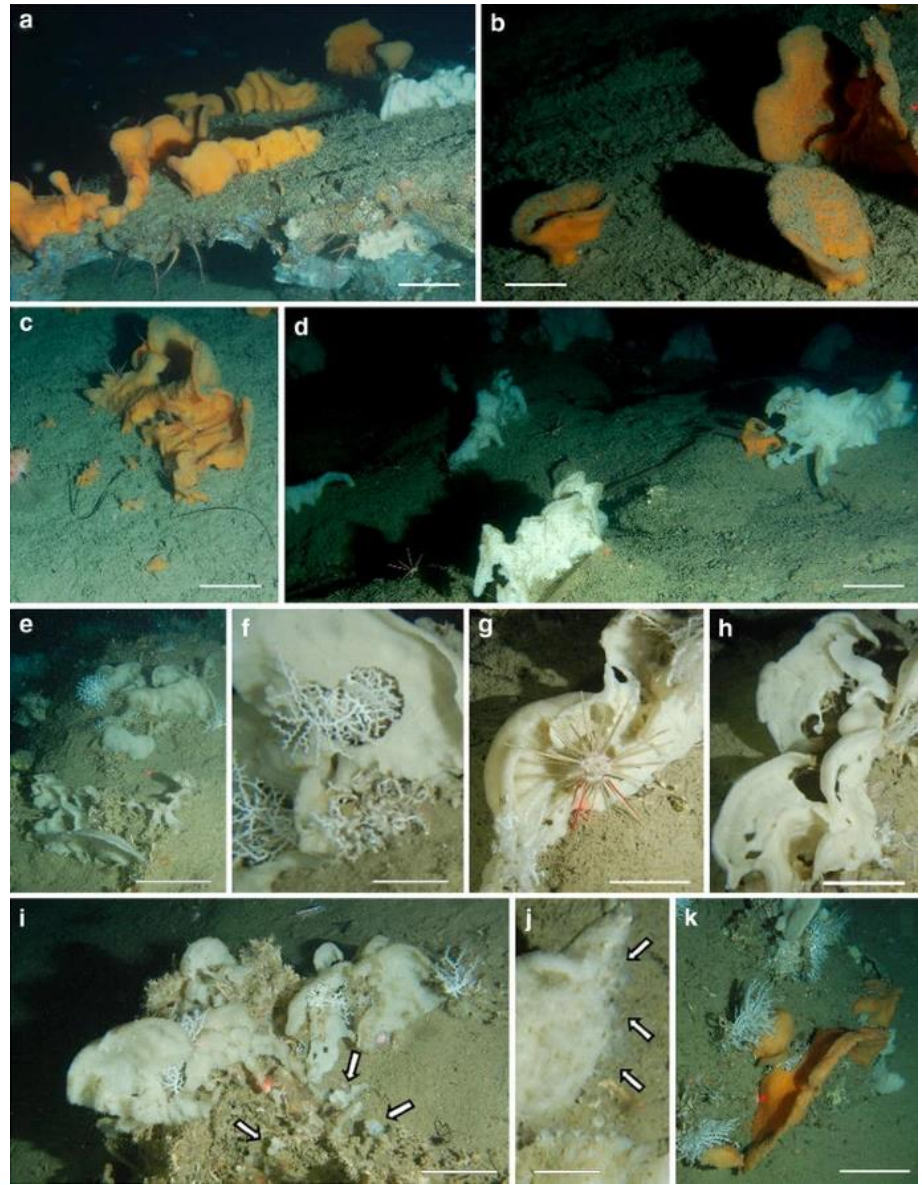
Abstract The Mediterranean sponge fauna is widely distributed across the Hellenic Shelf from 100 to 1000 m, although more oceanic biotas, representing species-rich and functional units of sponge grounds inhabiting deep environments in much more oligotrophic areas of the area are to characterize through ROV range surveys the productive structure of the sponge assemblages found in two deep habitats of the Mediterranean Sea and to test their ecological role mainly focusing on the demersal *Pachyramphus* (*Parastichia*) *truncatus* (Linn.) and *Pachyramphus* (*Parastichia*) *truncatus* (Linn.). In both study sites, the two sponge species constitute a virtual assemblage. In the

Introduction The Mediterranean sponge fauna is widely distributed across the Hellenic Shelf from 100 to 1000 m, although more oceanic biotas, representing species-rich and functional units of sponge grounds inhabiting deep environments in much more oligotrophic areas of the area are to characterize through ROV range surveys the productive structure of the sponge assemblages found in two deep habitats of the Mediterranean Sea and to test their ecological role mainly focusing on the demersal *Pachyramphus* (*Parastichia*) *truncatus* (Linn.) and *Pachyramphus* (*Parastichia*) *truncatus* (Linn.). In both study sites, the two sponge species constitute a virtual assemblage. In the

Conclusions The Mediterranean sponge fauna is widely distributed across the Hellenic Shelf from 100 to 1000 m, although more oceanic biotas, representing species-rich and functional units of sponge grounds inhabiting deep environments in much more oligotrophic areas of the area are to characterize through ROV range surveys the productive structure of the sponge assemblages found in two deep habitats of the Mediterranean Sea and to test their ecological role mainly focusing on the demersal *Pachyramphus* (*Parastichia*) *truncatus* (Linn.) and *Pachyramphus* (*Parastichia*) *truncatus* (Linn.). In both study sites, the two sponge species constitute a virtual assemblage. In the

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Journal of Animal Ecology (2012) 81, 17–25
doi:10.1111/j.1365-3113.2012.04611.x

RESEARCH ARTICLE

New contribution on the distribution and ecology of *Dendrophyllia ramosa* (Linnaeus, 1758): abundance hotspots off north-eastern Sicilian waters

Eva Sevaldi ¹, Michela Giusti ², Simonetta Casone ³, Valterra Caputo ⁴, Tereza Berra ⁵, Franco Androm ⁶, Marco De Luca ⁷, Lucio Tassi ⁸

¹IRCCO, 23 February 2012; accepted 13 November 2011; Available online 7 December 2011
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Abstract The Mediterranean sponge fauna is widely distributed across the Hellenic Shelf from 100 to 1000 m, although more oceanic biotas, representing species-rich and functional units of sponge grounds inhabiting deep environments in much more oligotrophic areas of the area are to characterize through ROV range surveys the productive structure of the sponge assemblages found in two deep habitats of the Mediterranean Sea and to test their ecological role mainly focusing on the demersal *Pachyramphus* (*Parastichia*) *truncatus* (Linn.) and *Pachyramphus* (*Parastichia*) *truncatus* (Linn.). In both study sites, the two sponge species constitute a virtual assemblage. In the

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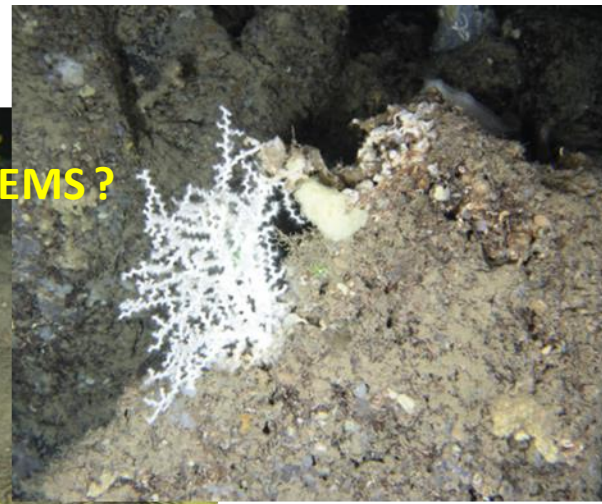
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It hosts many relevant species :

- long-living species
- habitat forming species
- species of conservation and commercial interest many of which are little known.

WHY WE NEED TO STUDY MESOPHOTIC AND DEEP ECOSYSTEMS?



The mesophotic zone is characterized by more stable environmental factors respect to the shallower zones, moreover, anthropogenic pressure is, for the moment, reduced.

This provides "refuge habitats" where species are less affected by thermal anomalies (climate change) and which are a source of larvae to contribute to the resilience of shallower habitats.

However, it is scientific evidence that even the deepest habitats are subjected to growing stressors.

“Improving knowledge of mesophotic zone would benefit from combining different technologies to leverage the strengths of each”. (*Mesophotic coral ecosystems*. Springer, 2019)

The upper part of the mesophotic zone is often accessible to technical divers who, with the use of ternary mixtures (trimix) or closed circuit (rebreather), can overcome the limits imposed on recreational or scientific diving.

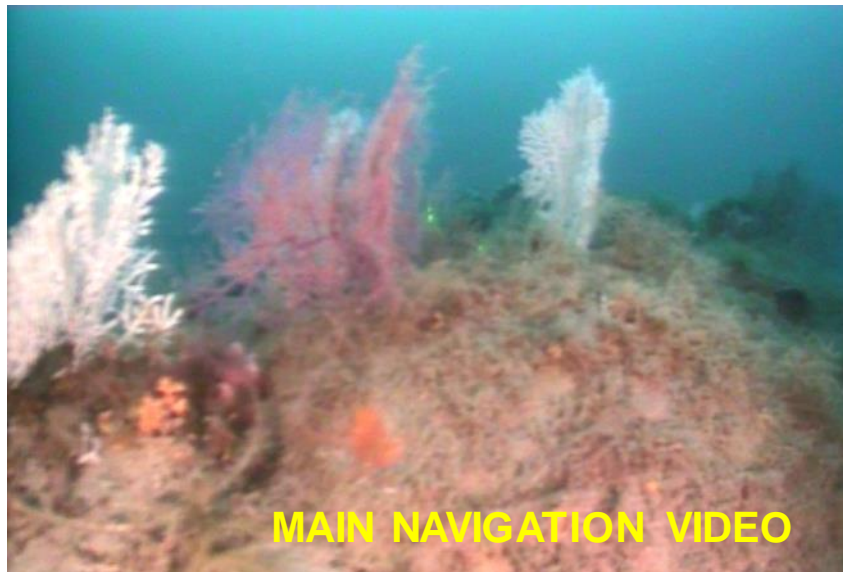
The support of these divers is extremely useful in positioning equipment or collecting samples at reduced costs. However, it is necessary to keep in mind that, despite the enthusiasm shown by these excellent divers, the risk to safety is very high and the value of an instrument is not comparable to that of a human.



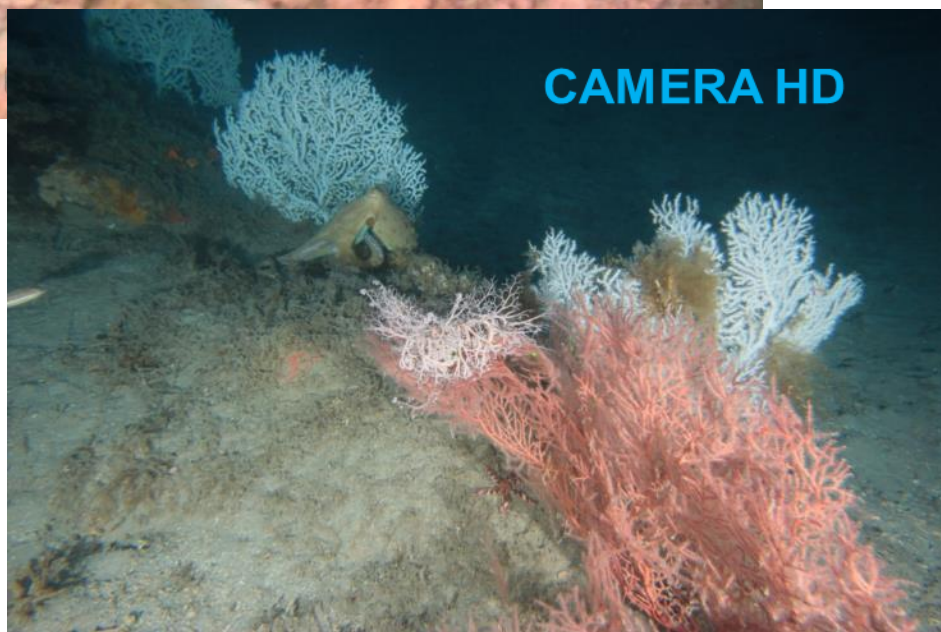
BBX divers during the positioning of fixed instruments



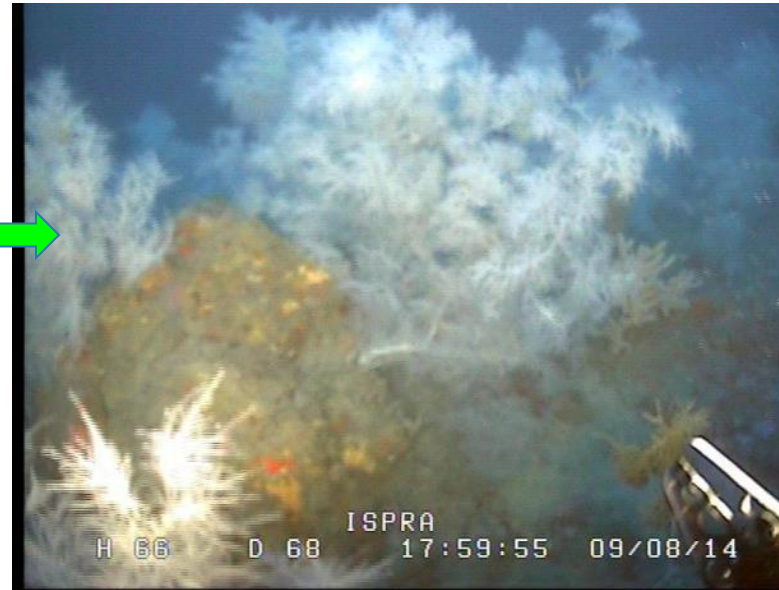
BBX divers during the sampling in the Sardinian caves



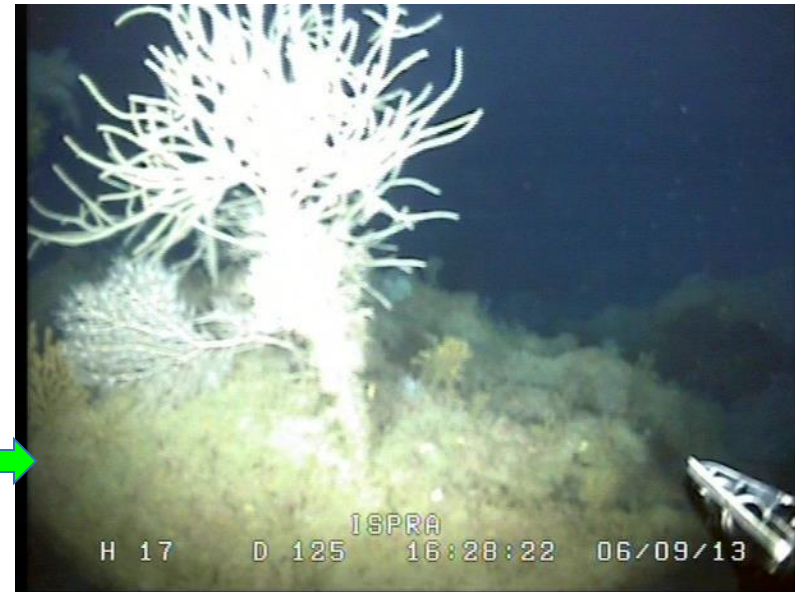
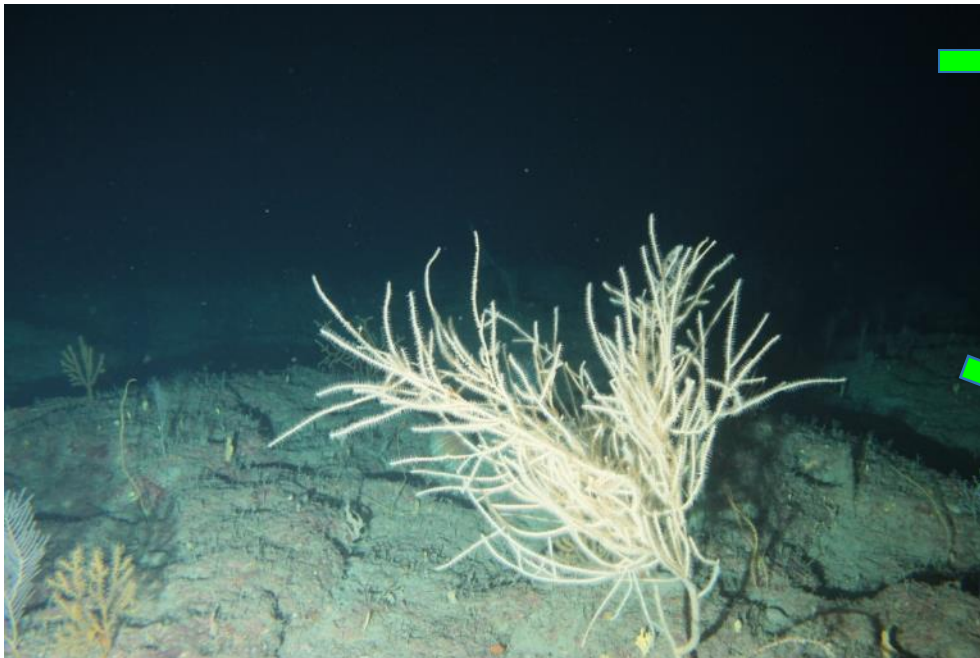
last but not least
the images resolution



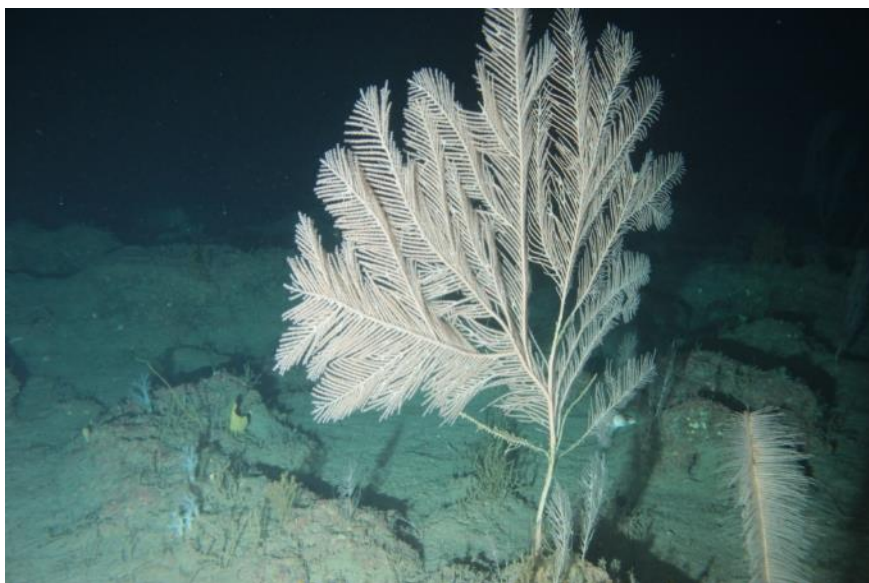
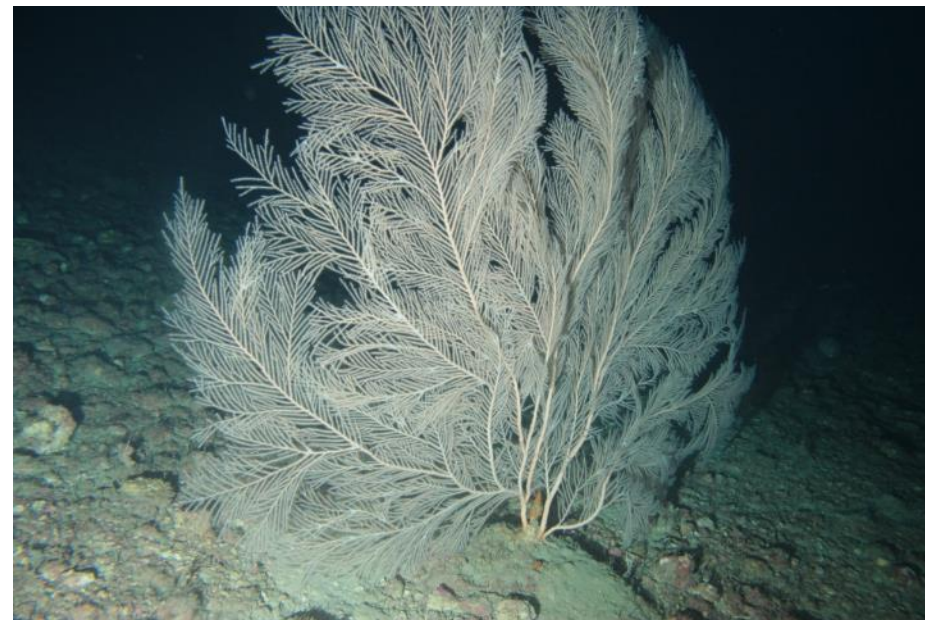
Antipathella subpinnata



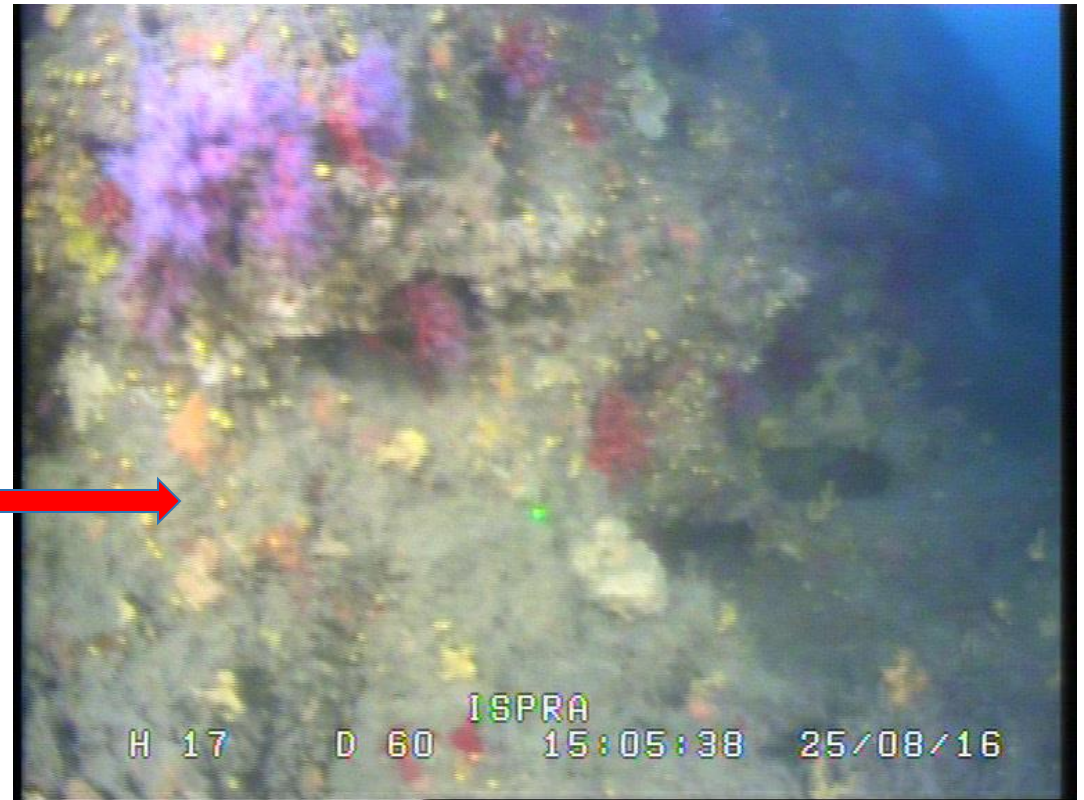
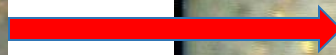
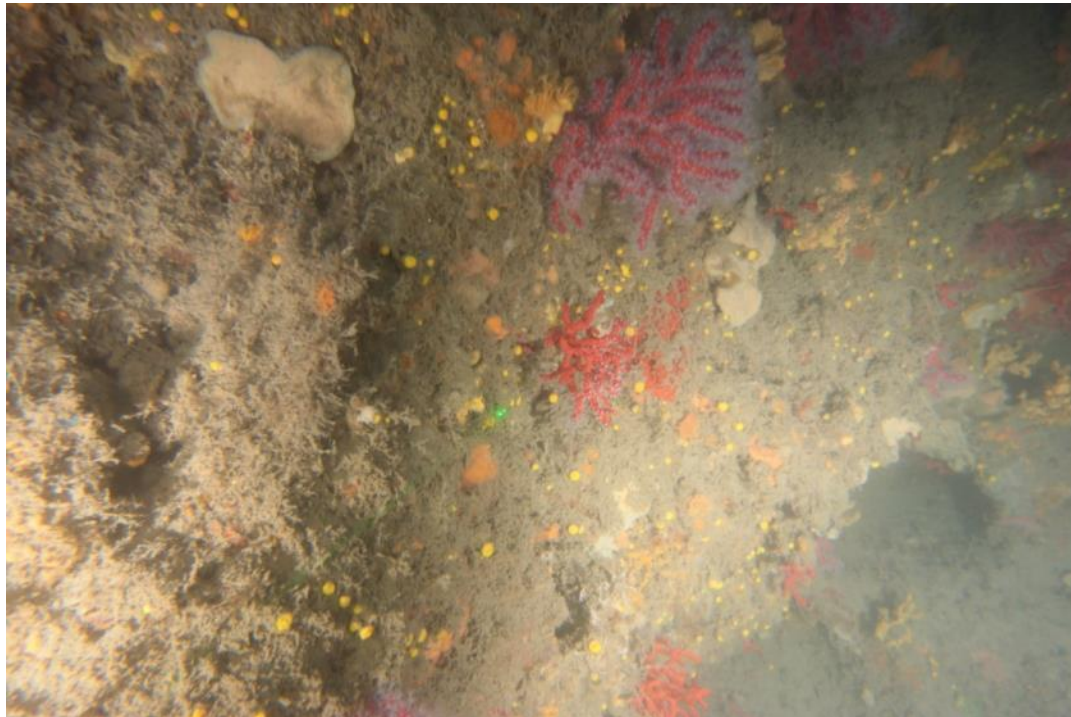
Antipathes dichotoma

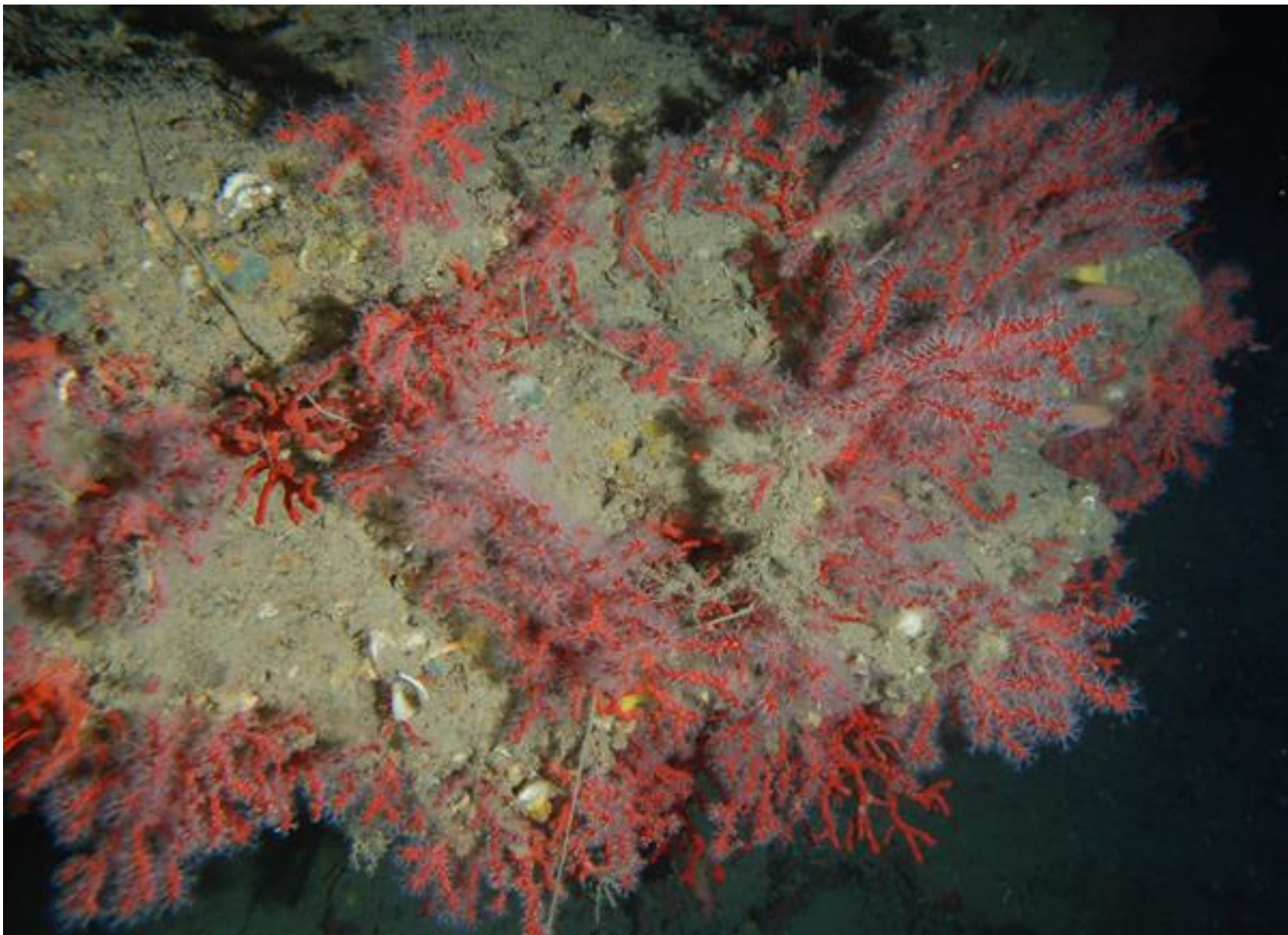


Callogorgia verticillata

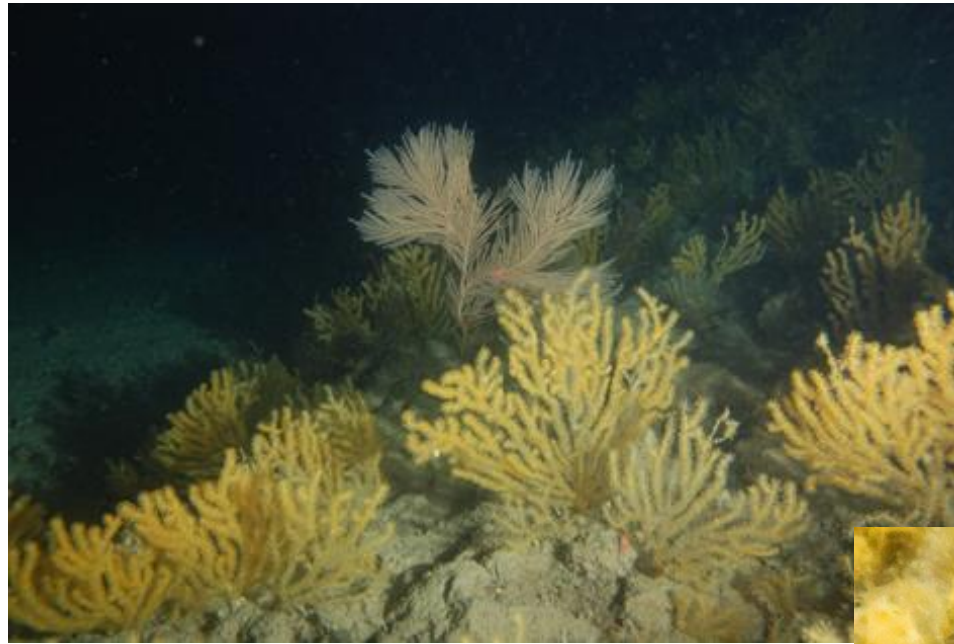


Corallium rubrum



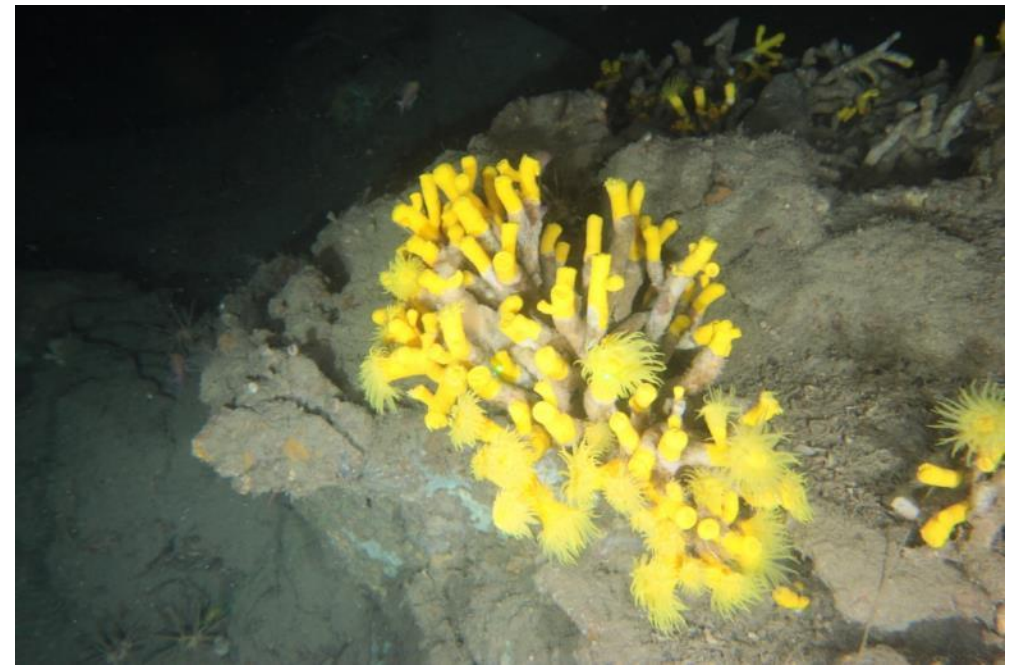


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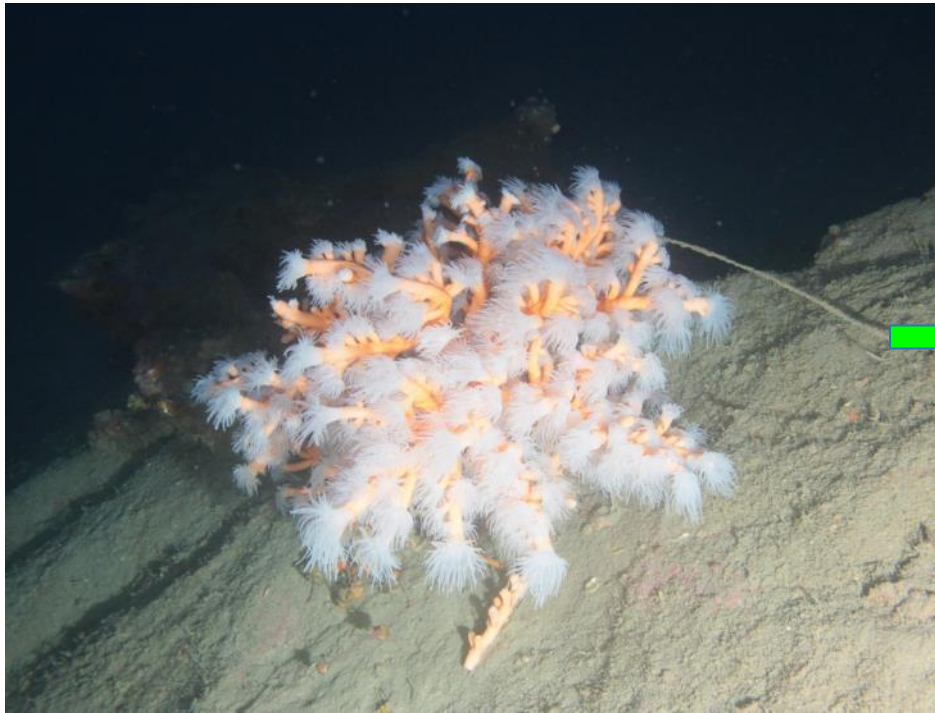


Acanthogorgia hirsuta

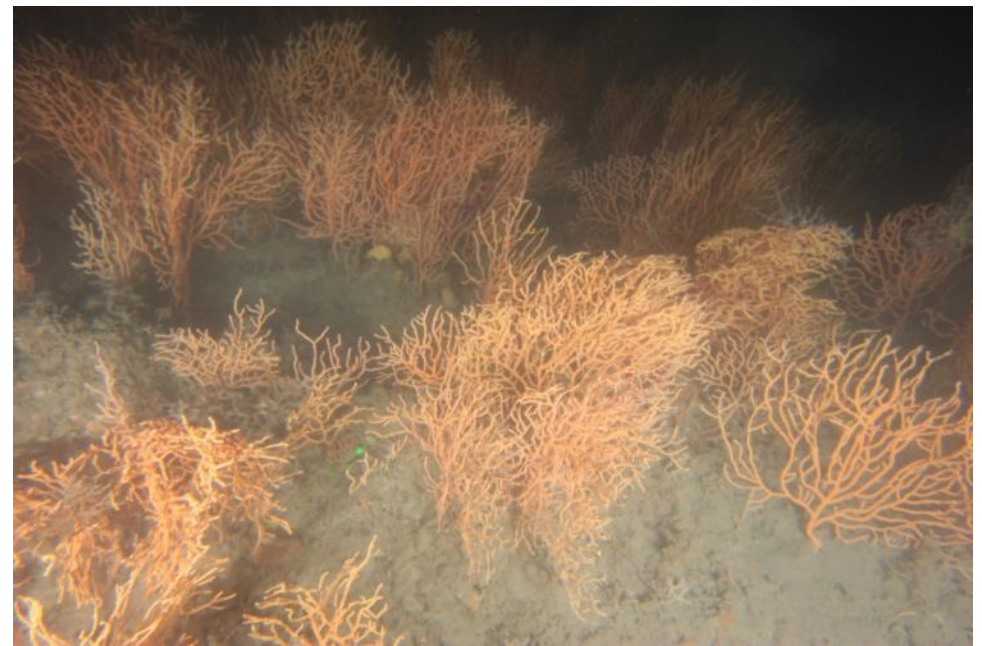
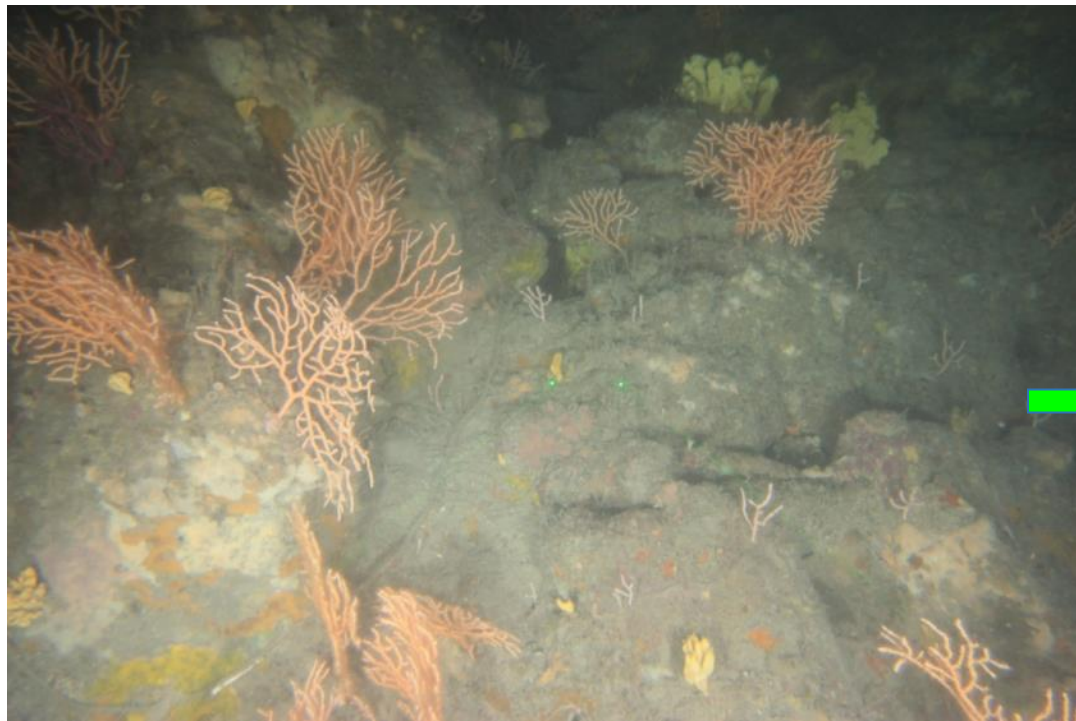
Dendrophyllia cornigera



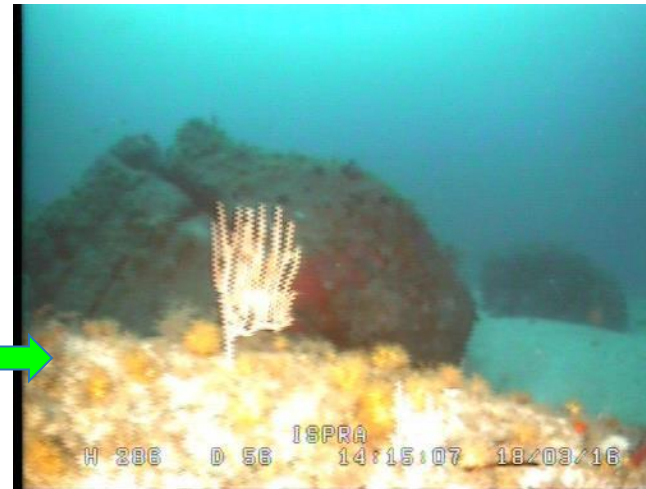
Dendrophyllia ramea



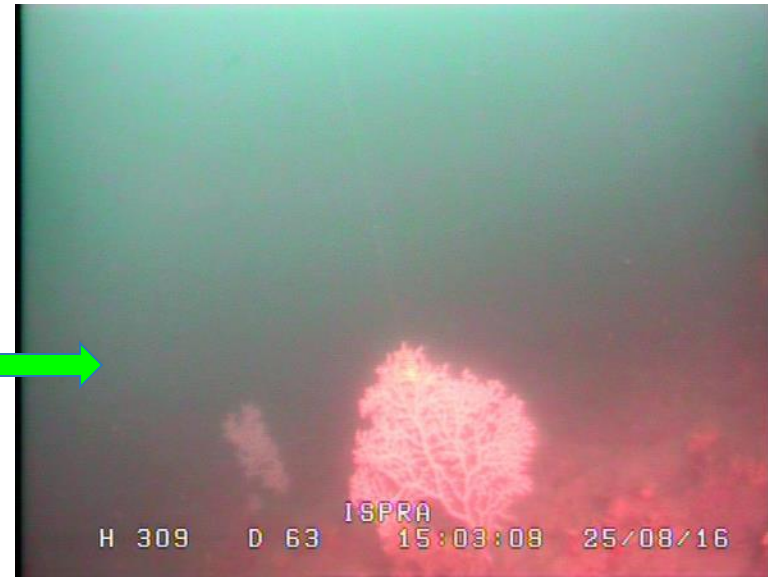
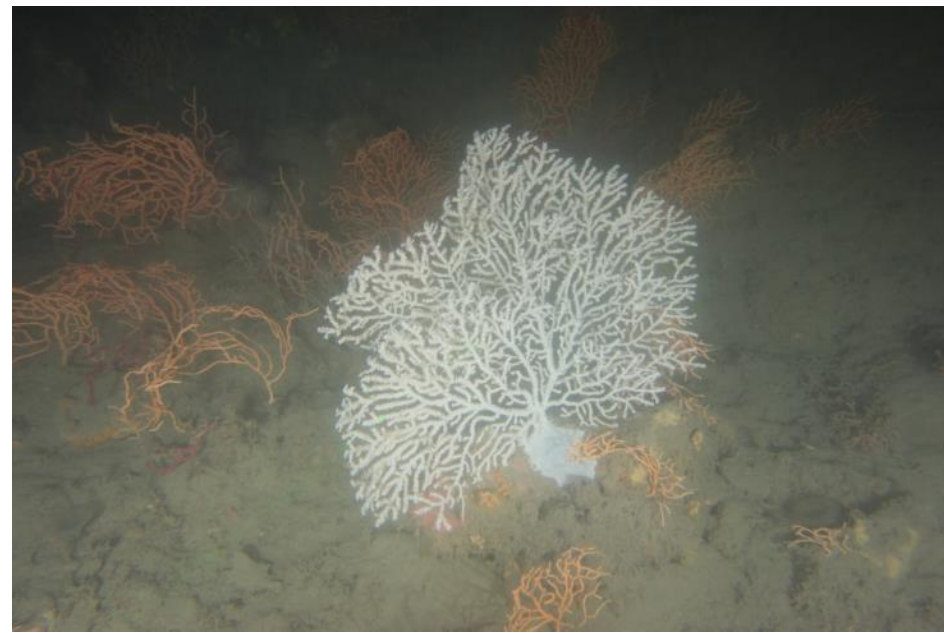
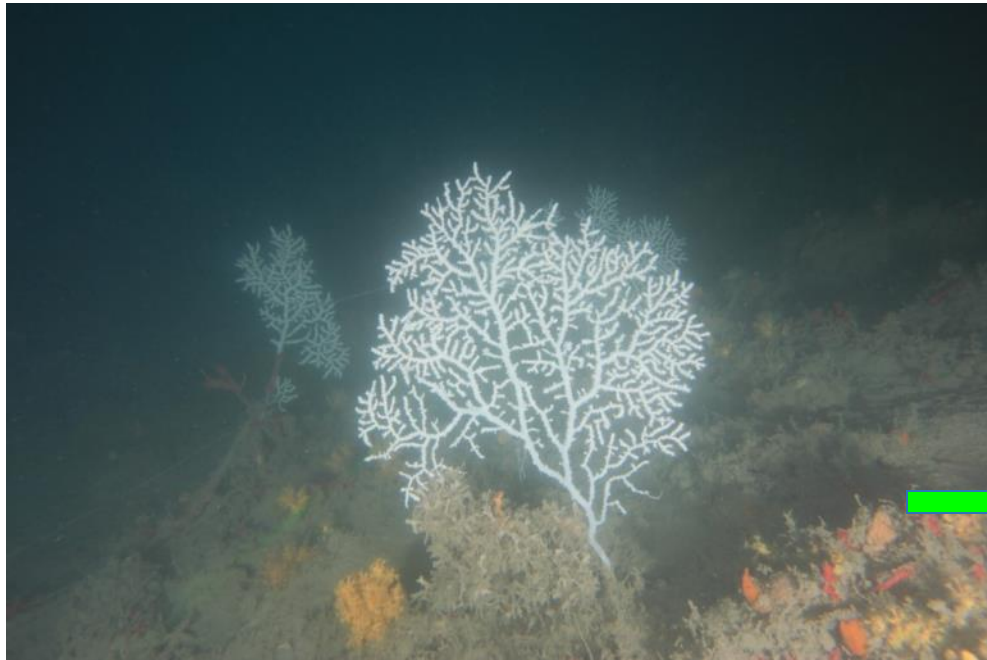
Eunicella cavolinii



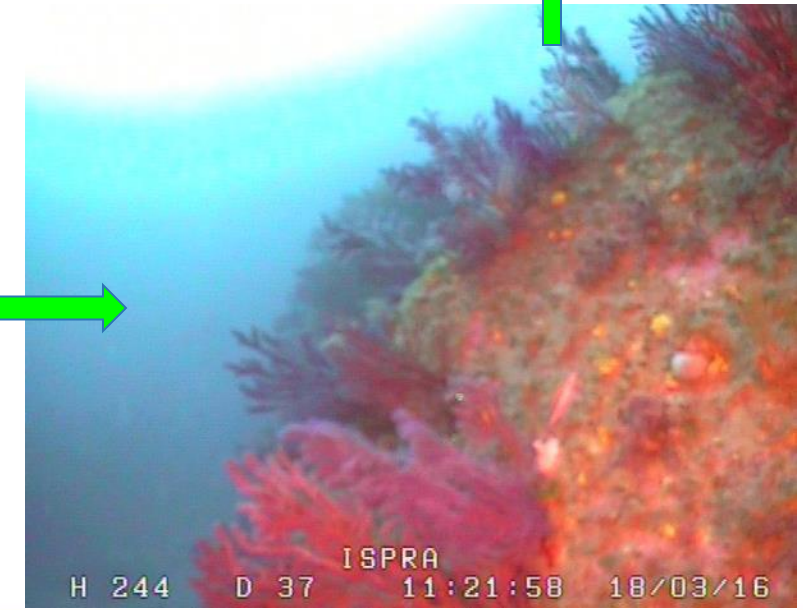
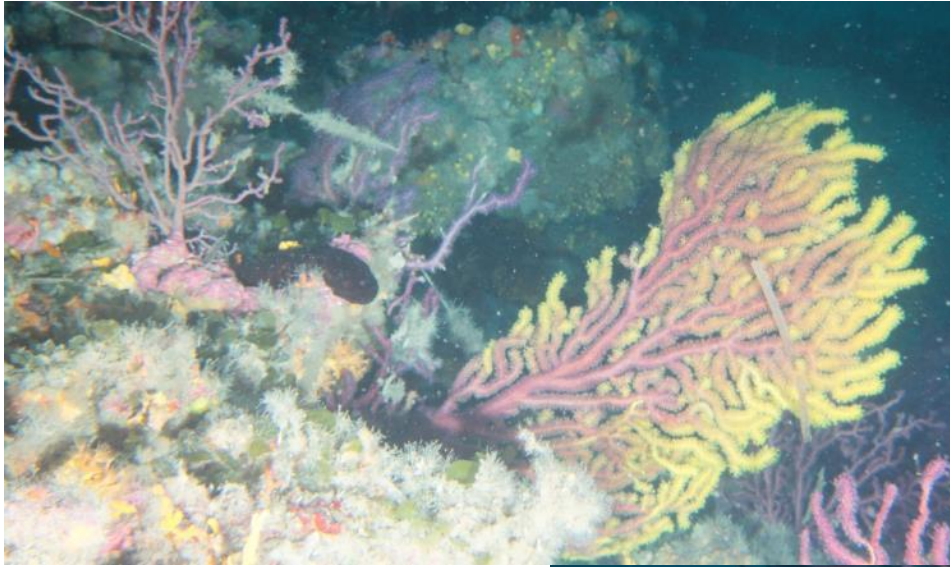
Eunicella singularis

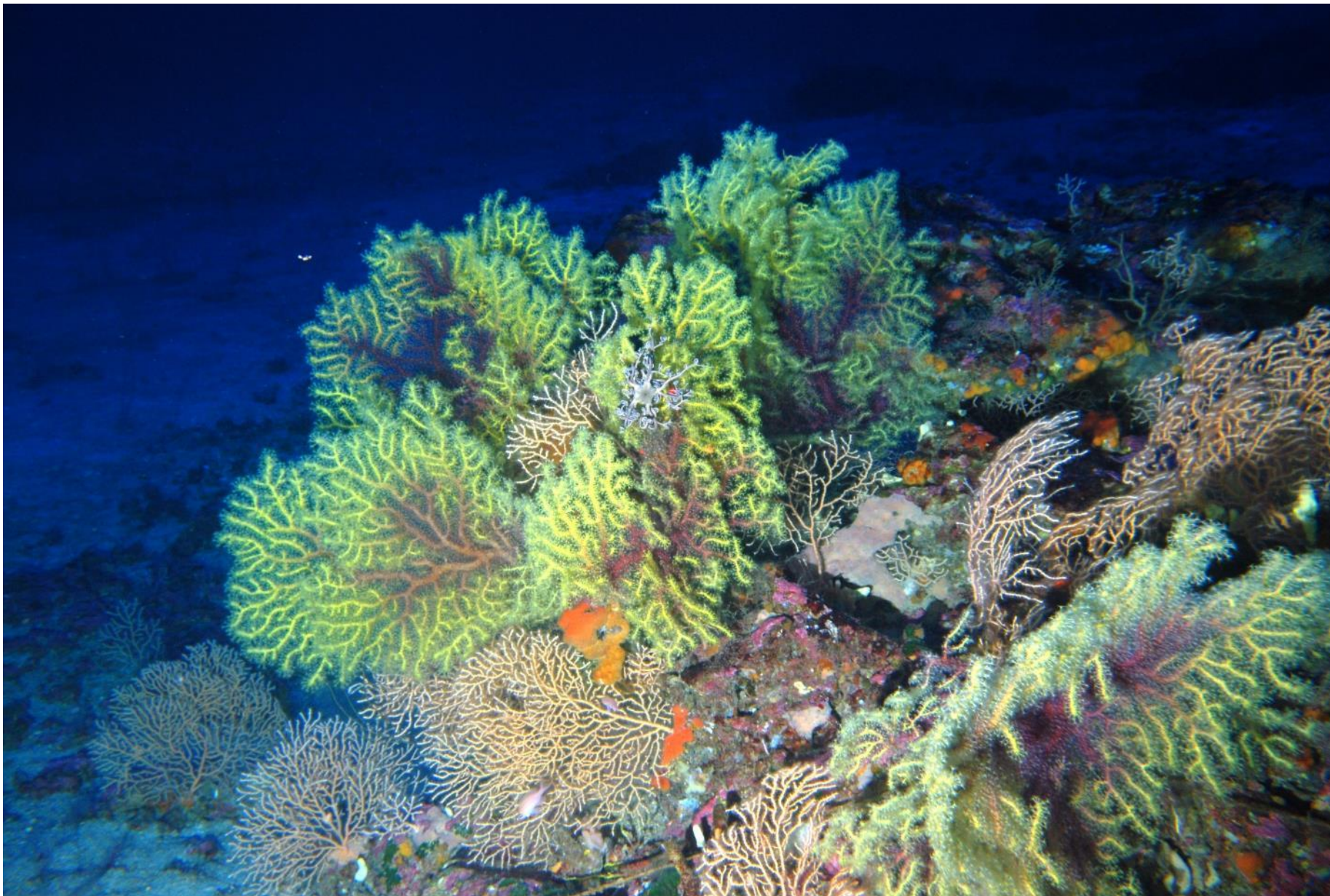


Eunicella verrucosa



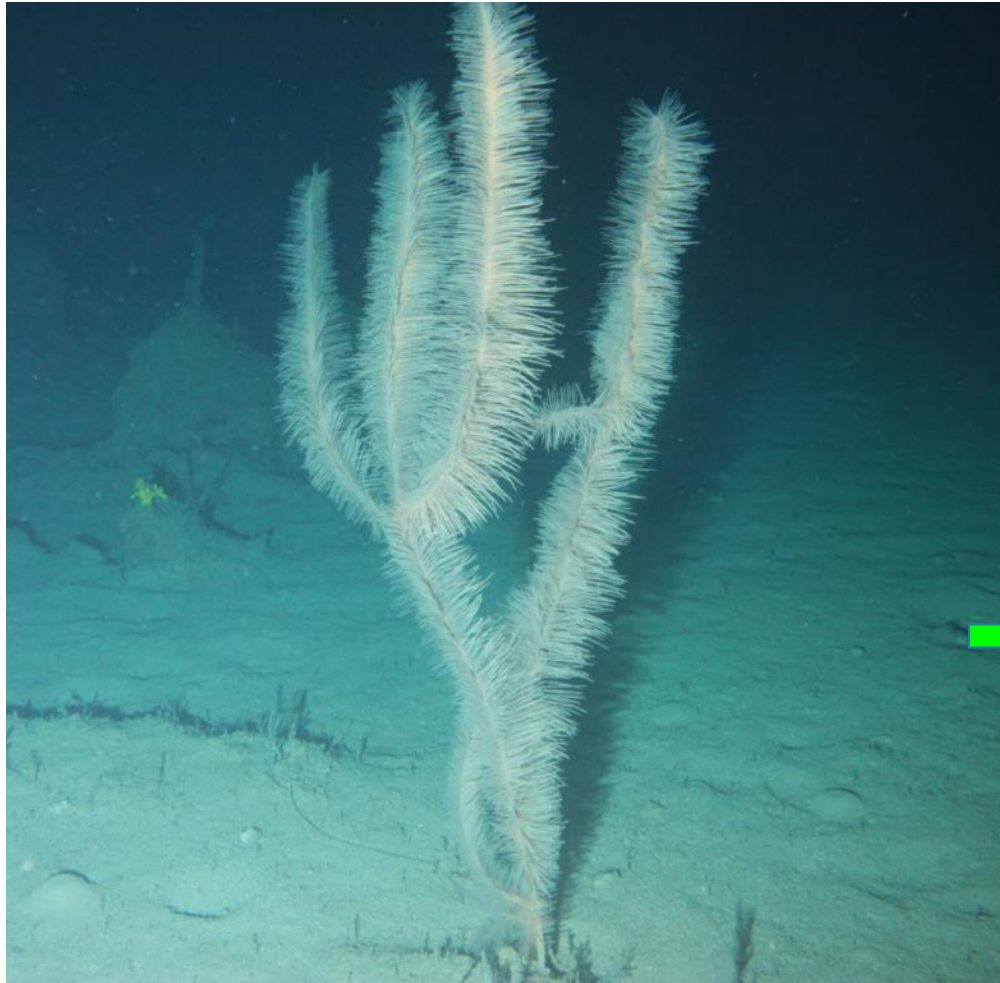
Paramuricea clavata



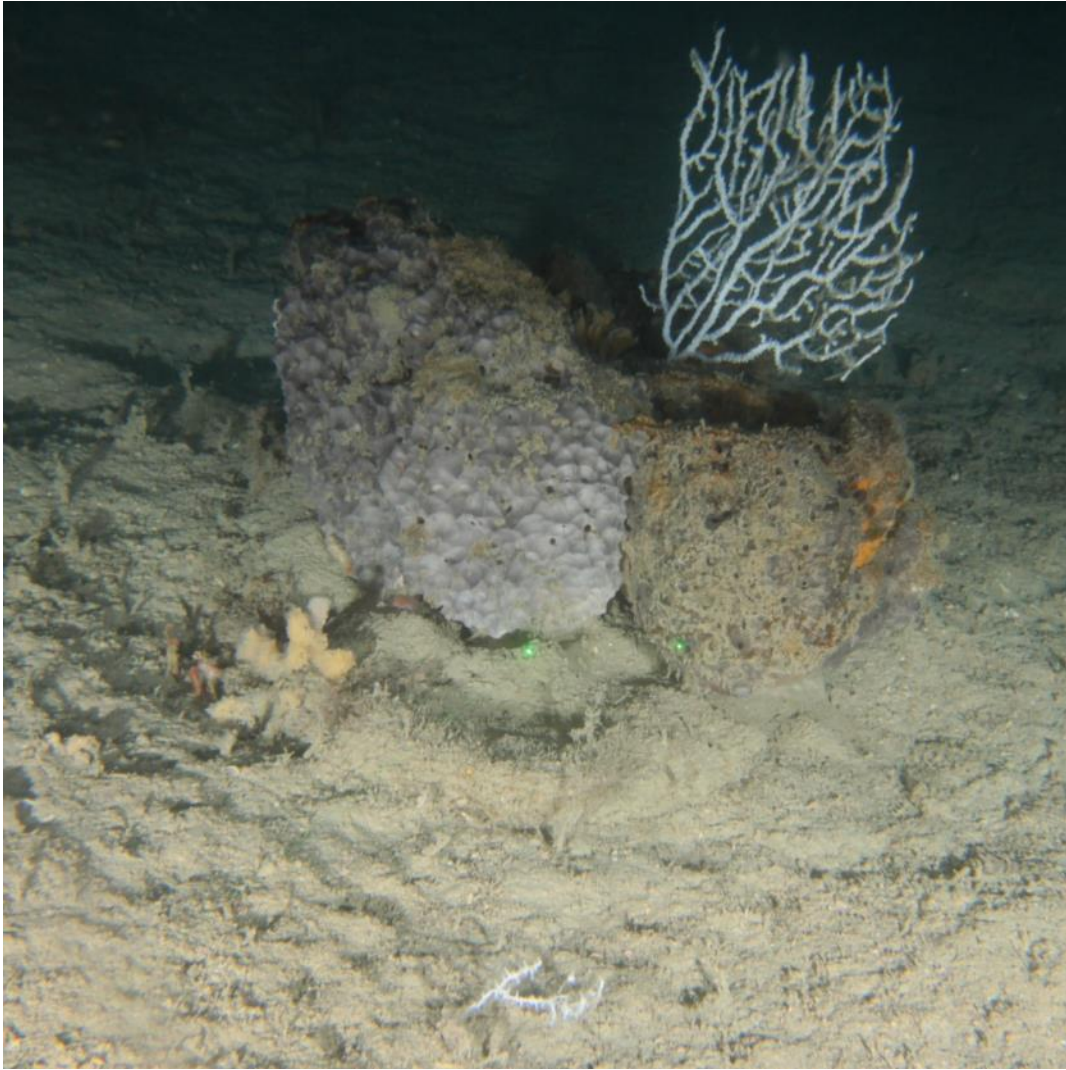


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Parantipathes larix



Sarcotragus foetidus



Spongia lamella





Grazie !

eva.salvati@szn.it

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