

20 | **SEA MARVEL Final** OCT 2023 | **Scientific Conference**

University of Catania | Monastero dei Benedettini

9:00 Participant registration

9:30 Greetings from the Institutions involved

- Rector of the University of Catania
- Rector of the University of Malta
- Director Dep. Agriculture, Food and Environment, University of Catania
- Italian Ministry for the Sea
- Department for the Environment of the Sicilian Region
- Managing Authority Interreg Italia-Malta Program
- Maltese National Authority (online)
- Delegation of SEA MARVEL Associate Partner (hybrid)



10:30 Coffee break

11:00 Presentation of the results of Work Package nr. 3 “Support to Natura 2000 sites”

- Genetic analyses for timely interventions to control alien species found in Natura 2000 sites.
- The presence of indicator and vulnerable apex predators in SEA MARVEL Natura 2000 sites.
- Plastics within Natura 2000 sites assessed by SEA MARVEL.
- Management guidelines for SEA MARVEL Natura 2000 sites through genetic and fieldwork analyses of apex predators, alien species, maritime traffic, and plastic pollution.



11:40 Presentation of the results of Work Package nr. 4 “Raising awareness”

- Training of a new generation of environmental educators.
- Collaboration with educational institutions and the methodologies used (Campaigns, Challenges, Plastic Free Protocol).
- The role of Environmental associations in the area and awareness-raising activities during the summer season.
- New technologies for the environment: from Sea bins to Collec'Thor.

12:20 Presentation of the results of Work Package nr. 5 “Experiencing change”

- For a participatory and responsible approach.
SEA MARVEL Sentinels role:
 1. The small-scale artisanal fishing
 2. Ship crews and passengers
 3. Skippers, sailors and regattas.
- Guidelines for the management of SEA MARVEL Natura 2000 sites through multi-stakeholder analysis.



13:00 Lunch

14:30 Integrative Discussion: The applications and future developments of the SEA MARVEL results and guidelines

All stakeholders are invited to participate and contribute to a conversation on the results achieved and the possibilities of continuing to collaborate in the future to reach new goals. During the plenary session, the formation of thematic discussions, concerning one or more themes addressed by the SEA MARVEL project, will be encouraged with the aim to discuss and integrate the various, critical issues encountered, the possibilities for improving the actions undertaken, the possibility of building new partnerships and adopting possible protocols and action plans.

16:00 Viewing of the photographic SEA MARVEL exhibition

PHOTO EXHIBITION SEA MARVEL





PROJECT

SEA MARVEL is the acronym of the project "**Save, Enhance, Admire Marine Versatile Life**", implemented from 2020 to 2023 and launched within the **cross border cooperation framework Interreg Italia-Malta**.

The involved partners, **the University of Catania and the University of Malta**, have started a collaboration aimed at collecting information on biodiversity, in particular, on the presence of **vulnerable species**, on the negative impact of alien species and on plastic pollution in the stretch of sea between Sicily and Malta.

A particular focus is given to Natura 2000 sites, four of which selected from Sicily and two from Malta. **SEA MARVEL aims at spreading knowledge on the situation of natural resources in the area between Italy and Malta, and at promoting initiatives to protect the marine biodiversity**. Besides the scientific research carried out by academic researchers, the project includes an awareness programme to spread information among all the local stakeholders such as fishers, citizens, students, tourists and all the people living next to the sea. **The goal is to raise awareness on conservation needs of marine biodiversity and to promote the adoption of eco-friendly behaviours.**

