

Ecosee/a



JUNE 2015

News

The Ecosee/a project come back in summer

We are pleased to communicate an important news: following a request for an extension to the European Commission, we still have four months of activity.

In fact, we thought that another season of work on the Adriatic coast would have improved our performance and then, after a winter of data elaboration collected during 2014, our research vessel "Eco1" come back to sail the Adriatic Sea.

During the interruption of the activities in winter, the vessel has been further modified in some parts in order to meet the needs of researchers and divers.

The calendar of the activities of "Eco1" begins in June with a series of monitoring activities in the MPA Torre del Cerrano. In this context, also other research institutes will use the vessel for some particular scientific studies in the MPA.

From mid-June, the vessel will move to the MPA Isole Tremiti, where guided tours for tourists will be interspersed by surveys, samplings and collections of organic and inorganic material for scientific purposes.

From the second half of July, Eco1 will move to the coast of Conero Regional Park, where, led by CNR-Ismar of Ancona, the scientific activities will continue. Furthermore, several awareness raising activities are foreseen both for tourists and local people.

Then, around the middle of August the vessel will return to work in the MPA Torre del Cerrano, where divers and visitors will join the second edition of the monitoring activities under the "citizen science" program lead by the MPA.

Finally, in September, the vessel will return to its home port of San Benedetto del Tronto for the last samplings along the coast of southern Marche Region. Exactly in San Benedetto del Tronto the project will be closed with the final conference in which the results of the entire campaign will be described.

We are proud to affirm that the partnership is very determined to close the project in the best way continuing the activities after October 2015 without EU funds.

Sergio Trevisani - Project manager



After the studies, Giacomo Brandimarte started his "sea career" during the 1980s performing the first sailings with the ship "SARAN" for special works.

His first years of activity has been spent on merchant vessels and then he had the opportunity to conduct oceanic fishing campaigns in the Somali sea with excellent results. In the 1990s, after the marriage, he gained the first trawling boat and in 2003 he bought the vessel "Eco1".

After years of hard work at sea, he received the invitation to join the European project ECOSEE/a, aimed to reconvert his tasks as a fisherman in something different, but always relevant to the sea world. The new challenge was accepted with determination and motivation. From May 2014, the boat "Eco1" has new clothes and technical solutions for an increased versatility of activity that can be carried out at sea.

Several difficulties related to authorisation procedures has been solved, and finally, thanks to his motivation, Giacomo Brandimarte, together with his vessel ECO1 and the crew, became a real "Guardian of the sea": a valuable ally for the protection of the sea and its environmental resources.

SEPTEMBER 2014 - TREMIITI ISLANDS

The project Ecosee/a reaches the Protected Sea Area Isole Tremiti.

In September 2014 the activities of the project Ecosee/a, funded by European Union and belonging to the initiative "Guardians of the Sea", focused on Marine Protected Area Tremiti Islands through monitoring sea activities made by ISMAR-CNR, IMAA-CNR, University of Teramo and Camerino and through the use of the motorship Eco1 reconvered for this kind of scientific actions.

Besides the monitoring sea activities, educational-tourist activities have been developed in order to involve the local population and spread the respect for the coastal and sea environment. The purpose of Marine Protected Area Tremiti Islands has been facilitate the accessibility of diomedeo archipelago through actions directed to make available the natural beauties even for people with physical and sensory disabilities.



In order to facilitate the accessibility, the MPA Tremiti Islands have been developed some activities collaborating with the Association Albatros Scuba Blind International. This Association is involved in services which aim is to promote the sports, the arts and the culture, especially for young people and children with physical, social and economic disadvantages. In the past, the MPA has already worked with the Association Albatros Scuba Blind to carry out the project "Open Waters", which aim was:

- the participation of the local operators in the educational acquisition process of the equipment and techniques to guide people with disabilities;
- to become the local community aware towards people with disabilities;
- to enhance and increase the role of the MPA as director of the biodiversity and as supporter of people with disabilities integration in the world of diving.

The Association, as a continuation of the project "Open Waters" and with the support of the Protected Sea Area which has allowed the training of local scuba instructors for the accompanying in the sea of the blind, involved the trained instructors in diving tourism activities with the aid of the boat Eco1.

Underwater activities involved both adults and blind

children. Particularly, the project Ecosee/a gave to two blind children the opportunity "to know the sea and learn by playing", which under the guide of two seeing children aged between 10 and 12 years, spent two days by knowing the sea environment to enjoy in total safety of the wonders that live in it and at the same time learn to respect it.



THE "PICCOLI TRIMITESI"

The Protected Sea Area, always on board of the motorship Eco1 and in collaboration with the Association Piccoli Tremitesi that works to promote and manage cultural, recreational and environmental activities for the little ones, allowed both the local children and their families to spend some days discovering the sea, with the aim to involve the local people in the project activities, through awareness raising actions. These activities have found a lot of enthusiasm and participation by the population and especially by "Piccoli Tremitesi", since the main goal was "to have fun learning".



THE CONFERENCE

On September 17, 2014, at the Isole Tremiti multipurpose center there was the Final Conference of the project Ecosee/a coordinated by Dott. Pasquale Santoro (Head of MPA Tremiti Islands), which was attended by all the partners involved in the project. The Conference was opened by the President of the Gargano National Park, Marine Protected Area Tremiti Islands, Adv. Stefano Pecorella and then there have been the speeches of different speakers.



“Welfare of the Benthic Communities”.

In addition to the project partners, the Conference was attended by the Prof. Francesco Mastrototaro (University of Bari), whom explained the “Naturalistic peculiarity of the Isole Tremiti”, and the Dott. Nicola Ungaro (Arpa Puglia) whom explained the role of Arpa Puglia in the Monitoring and in the sea environment Control.

Dott. Sergio Trevisani (Project Manager of the Project) explained the project to the participants, stating that the European Union has considered Ecosee/a one of the four projects worthy of receiving funds. Afterwards there have been the interventions from other partners involved: Dott. Alessandra Campanelli (CNR-ISMAR Ancona) illustrated the study of the anthropic activity in the Adriatic coastline; Dott. Graziano Aretusi (PSA Torre del Cerrano) illustrated the activities made in the Protected Sea Area Torre del Cerrano and the projects Mareciclo and SVAMPA Project; Prof. Francesco Palermo (University of Camerino) illustrated the analysis of estrogenic activity in the sea environments, and finally the Prof. Pietro Giorgio Tiscar (University of Teramo) concluded the Conference with the



At the Conference there have been a large participation of Isole Tremiti population, who appreciated the effort to enhance their territory made by the MPA staff.

The Conference ended the following day with a roundtable attended by all the partners, to discuss the future of the project Ecosee/a.

News for the season 2015...

For the awareness raising campaign during the season 2015, the partnership realized some information panels about the marine and coastal biodiversity in the Adriatic. Such material will be used also onboard.

La biodiversità marina costiera in Adriatico

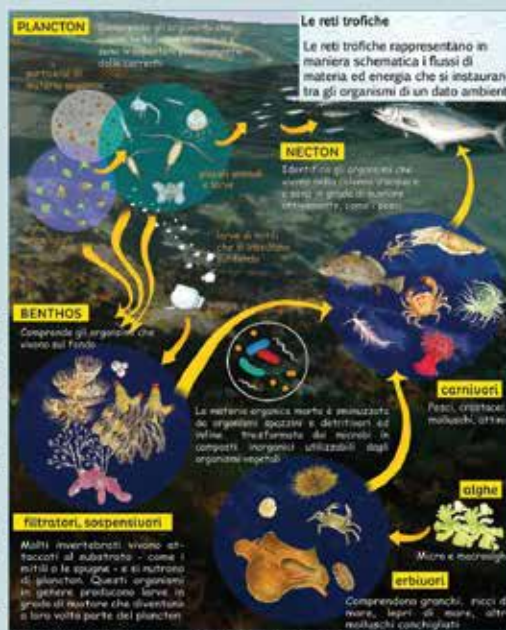


Delle aree protette coinvolte nel progetto Ecosee/a, due ricadono nella regione Marche (Parco del Conero e la Riserva della Sentina), una in Abruzzo (Area Marina Protetta Torre del Cerrano) ed una in Puglia (Area Marina Protetta delle Isole Tremiti).

Le fasce di mare antistanti le aree sono comprese fra i siti Natura 2000 ad eccezione di quelle avanti la Riserva Sentina che risultano in fase di studio.

Il mare Adriatico, nel tratto antistante le tre regioni, si presenta come una distesa sabbiosa intervallata da alcune zone rocciose naturali o artificiali, come le barriere frangiflutti.

La diversa natura del substrato condiziona la fauna associata.



Alla base delle reti trofiche troviamo i produttori primari: in mare costituiti da alghe, in gran parte microscopiche, e piante marine.

Macroalghe
Codium armatum
Ulva lactuca
Codium fragile

Microalghe
Sphaerococcus sp.
Chaetoceros debilis

Piante marine
Posidonia oceanica
Dubautia debilis

ECO1 SAVES THE MARINE TURTLES NIK!

On January 16th 2015 the vessel Eco1 has rescued a marine Turtle.



THE TURTLE – It has been called "Nik" and has been transferred to the University of Camerino by the operators of the Sentina Nature Reserve.

The University hosts a local centre for first aid to marine turtles. After the first medical check up, Nik has been positioned in a specific pool.

After the period of medical treatments, the turtles was released into the sea on May 29th during a specific awareness raising event organized by the local Centre for Environmental Education.

Aggiornamenti in breve...

The University of Camerino presented some preliminary results on the assessment of estrogenic activity in surface waters of the three marine areas monitored during ECOSEE/A project at the 18th International symposium on Pollutant Responses in Marine Organisms (PRIMO18). The overall scientific theme of PRIMO 18 is "Integrated Solutions for Sustainable Environmental Health". The symposium has been held in Trondheim, Norway, 24-27 May 2015.

Stato di avanzamento delle attività di progetto

- Vessel conversion for sea activities
- Test of the new boat
- Re-orientation and crew training
- Marine Monitoring of the central Adriatic Sea
- Recreational and sustainable activities in MPAs
- Dissemination activities



SUMMER ACTIVITIES 2015

On June 4th to 14th Eco1 will work in the **MPA Torre del Cerrano**.

During the activities of ECO1 in the **MPA Isole Tremiti (June 15th to July 15th)** CNR-Ismar will sample oceanographic data to monitor the environmental classic parameters (temperature, salinity, turbidity, fluorescence, dissolved oxygen), load of dissolved nutrients (nitrate, nitrite, ammonia, orthophosphate and orthosilicates). Furthermore, the sampling of sediments to study the presence of PAH (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons) will be performed.

In the same period, the vessel will collect the floating litter and micro-litter with MANTA net in order to increase awareness about the presence of this type of pollution in such kind of environments.

On July 16th Eco1 will reach the Conero Regional Park and will last there until August 9th.

Here CNR-Ismar will repeat the sampling of oceanographic data during the summer period in order to monitor the environmental classic parameters (temperature, salinity, turbidity, fluorescence, dissolved oxygen) and the load of dissolved nutrients (nitrate, nitrite, ammonia, orthophosphate and orthosilicates). Water samples will be also used for integrating data on evaluation of estrogenic activity in surface waters. The summer period is important to verify the eutrophication state of the marine coastal area of Conero.

On August 10th to 30th, Eco1 will move to **MPA Torre del Cerrano** to support the marine awareness raising activities for tourists and local people.

Finally, during **September**, the vessel will work along the coast of **FLAG Marche Sud** in order to integrate the scientific data collected in the first year.