

SIMONA BUSSOTTI

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Position Scientific officer at Dafne, Cooperative Enterprise located in Genoa (Italy) specialized in environmental education and communication; formerly research contractor at the University of Côte d'Azur (Nice, France)

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Personal keywords: Marine conservation; Marine Biodiversity; Coastal ecosystems; Environmental education



Simona Bussotti (PhD in Environmental Biology, University of Siena, Italy) is a marine biologist who combine her expertise in science with outreach and education, being strongly convinced about the need to create and empower the interactions between researchers and society, schools and young generations. In >25 years of activity (in Italy and France), she participated in several national and international marine conservation projects. The research that she has developed deals with several topics: spatial and temporal distribution patterns of Mediterranean rocky reef fish and benthic assemblages; ecology of marine caves; settlement and recruitment patterns of littoral fishes; effectiveness of marine protected areas (MPAs); assessments of small-scale fishery; tests to assess the effects of ocean literacy initiatives in middle and high schools.

Selected publications:

BUSSOTTI S., Guidetti P., Rossi F. (2022) *Posidonia oceanica* wrack beds as a fish habitat in the surf zone. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*, 272, 107882.

- BUSSOTTI S., Di Franco A., Bianchi C.N., Chevaldonné P., Egea L., Fanelli E., Lejeusne C., Musco L., Navarro-Barranco C., Pey A., Planes S., Vieux-Ingrassia J.V., Guidetti P. (2018) Fish mitigate trophic depletion in marine cave ecosystems. *Scientific Reports* 8, 9193 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-018-27491->
- BUSSOTTI S., Di Franco A., Francour P., Guidetti P. (2015) Fish assemblages of Mediterranean marine caves. *PlosOne* 10 (4): e0122632. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0122632.
- BUSSOTTI S., Guidetti P. (2009) Do Mediterranean fish assemblages associated with marine caves and rocky cliffs differ? *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*, 81: 65-73.
- BUSSOTTI S., Terlizzi A., Fraschetti S., Belmonte G., Boero F. (2006) Distribution patterns of sessile benthos in shallow Mediterranean marine caves: a local scale approach. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*, 325:109-119.