



Leonardo Tunesi is Research Director Emeritus and was Head of the "Marine Biodiversity, Habitat and Species Protection" Area at ISPRA (the Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research). Over his 40-year career, he has developed a strong interest in marine sciences and conservation.

He is involved in creating new marine protected areas as effective conservation tools. He applies the latest scientific approaches to protect marine habitats and species, particularly deep-sea ecosystems, in line with the principles of sustainable development. This work contributes to achieving the objectives of the European Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the EU Nature Restoration Law.

In addition, he coordinated the following for ISPRA:

- the implementation activities of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive for Descriptor 1, 'Biodiversity';
- activities under several actions of the PNRR (National Recovery and Resilience Plan) – MER project, for marine ecosystem restoration. This project focused on the mapping of marine phanerogams along all Italian coasts, the study of new sites in the high seas to protect Italian seamounts through the creation of a network of offshore MPAs, and the development of passive and active restoration initiatives.
- the PNRR DIGITAP project to enhance the monitoring capacity of Italian MPAs.

He is the Italian focal point for the SPA/BIO Protocol of the Barcelona Convention (UNEP MAP). Since 2018, he has been a member of the Scientific Committee of the National Technological Cluster "Blue Italian Growth".

He is the author or co-author of over 190 scientific publications in national and international journals.

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Five relevant publications

1. MACKELWORTH P., FORTUNA C.M., ANTONINIĆ M., HOLCER D., ABDUL MALAK D., ATTIA K., BRICELJ M., GUERQUIN F., MARKOVIĆ M., NUNES E., PEREZ-VALVERDE C., RAMIERI E., STOJANOVIĆ I., **TUNESI L.**, MCGOWAN J., 2024. Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) as an enabling mechanism for transboundary marine spatial planning. *Marine Policy*, 166: 10623 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2024.106231>.
2. ANGIOLILLO M., FORTIBUONI T., DI LORENZO B., **TUNESI L.**, 2023. First baseline assessment of seafloor litter on Italian coralligenous assemblages (Mediterranean Sea) in accordance with the European Marine Strategy Framework Directive. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 187: 114597. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2023.114597>
3. MONTEFALCONE M., TUNESI L., OUEGHI E., 2021 - A review of the classification systems for marine benthic habitats and the new updated Barcelona Convention classification for the Mediterranean. *Marine Environmental Research*, 169 – 105387: 16 pp.- <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marenvres.2021.105387>
4. CATTANEO VIETTI R. & **TUNESI L.** (2007) - *Le aree marine protette in Italia. Problemi e prospettive*. Aracne Editrice srl, Roma: 252 pp. In 2008, the book won the Scientific Dissemination Prize at the fifth Sanremo Casino "Libro del Mare" literary awards ceremony.
5. VILLA F., **TUNESI L.** & AGARDY T., 2002 – Optimal zoning of marine protected areas through spatial multiple criteria analysis: the case of the Asinara Island National Marine Reserve of Italy. *Conservation Biology*, 16(2): 1-12.