

# Giulio Franzitta

## Curriculum Vitae

Date of Birth: **17/02/1980**

Nationality: Italy

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### Research themes

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Marine conservation; Experimental ecology; Ecological Restoration; Anthropogenic impact on coastal habitats; Marine invasive species

### Academic qualifications

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2023 – **Master** in Sustainability Manager for Ecological Transition at University of Naples Parthenope (Italy)

2013 – **PhD** in Environmental Sciences (with Doctor Europaeus mention).

Institution: University of Bologna (Italy)<sup>1</sup>.

Mark: “Very Good” distinction.

Thesis: “Effects of artificial defences and flooding on coastal habitats and assemblages”.

Supervisors: Prof. Marco Abbiati and Prof. Laura Airoidi.

2005 – **M.Sc.** in Natural Sciences.

Institution: University of Palermo (Italy)<sup>2</sup>.

Mark: 110/110 *cum laude*.

Thesis: “Evaluation of the impact of a small marina on benthic assemblages: the marina of Isola delle Femmine (North Sicily)”.

Supervisors: Prof. Renato Chemello and Prof. Marco Milazzo.

### Languages

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- Italian: mother tongue
- English: written and spoken (upper intermediate)
- Spanish: written and spoken (basic)

### Computer skills

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- Windows 3.1/95/98/2000/NT/XP (Word, Excel, Power Point, Access) operating system.
- Statistical software: Primer+ Permanova

### Work Experience

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#### Current position:

Research Technician at Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn (Italy)

*main duties:* scientific diver, captain of research vessels, responsible for marine biology laboratories at Sicily Branch

From feb 2020 to nov 2023 assigned to Research Infrastructure marine biological resources dept. at Naples headquarters

From nov 2023 up to date assigned to Sicily Marine Centre – Palermo branch

#### Post-doc experience:

**2019** (until Jan 2020) – Postdoc at Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn (Napoli, Italy) for the Project Abbaco "Pilot experiments for the environmental restoration and balneability of the Bagnoli-Coroglio coastal area"

**2018** (3 mo) – Research Support Officer (RSO III level) within the framework of the projects HARMONY and BYTHOS (Interreg V-A Italia-Malta) at the Department of Geosciences, Faculty of Science, University of Malta.

**2018** – (Until april 2019) Collaborator as external expert for the Capo Carbonara and Egadi Islands MPAs in the Project “MedSeaLitter” within the framework of Interreg MED.

**2017**– (5 months) Fellow in the project “Environmental accountability in the Pelagic Marine Protected Area” Supervised by Prof. Renato Chemello.

**Duties:** Visual census of fish assemblages, with estimates of biomass per unit area in four distinct habitats; data processing; support to the management of the Project.

**2017** – (2 months) Fellow in the project “Marine Strategy” Supervised by Prof. Marco Milazzo.

**Duties:** Visual census of fish assemblages, with estimates of biomass per unit area at different level of protection; data processing; support to the management of the Project.

**2016** – (2 months) Fellow in the project “Environmental accountability in the Egadi Marine Protected Area”. University of Palermo

**Duties:** Visual census of fish assemblages; data processing; support to the management of the Project.

**2015-16** – (6 months) Fellow in the project “Monitoring of direct and indirect effects of bathing platforms on the vermetid reefs in the Capo Gallo - Isola delle Femmine MPA” at UniPa

**Duties:** Monitoring by *in situ* non destructive techniques; data analysis; writing final report.

**2014-15** – (1 year) Post-doc in the project “Evaluation of the benthic biodiversity associated to the vermetid reefs in the Mediterranean sea” in the Framework of the PRIN (Italian Research project of National Interest) at UniPa.

**Duties:** Monitoring and experiment in the vermetid reef (North Sicily)

**2013-14** – (1 year) Fellow in the project “TETIDE - Advanced sustainable technologies aimed at the remediation and the restoration of degraded coastal marine areas” part of the PON01-03112.

**Duties:** Restoration of *Posidonia oceanica* meadow using innovative transplant method.

### **During the PhD:**

**2011** – (9 months) Winner of a grant for a research project (15k €) entitled “Analysis of the coastal urbanization effect on the distribution enlargement of thermophilic native and not native species along the Sicilian coasts” in the framework of APQ Giovani project granted by Sicilian Regional Government.

**Duties:** Design and implementation of the project; conduction of *visual census* of fish fauna by SCUBA and snorkelling; selection and coordination of the staff; data analysis; writing the final report.

**2010-11** – (11 months) Visiting Researcher and Research assistant at University of Plymouth<sup>3</sup> (UK)

**Duties:** Lead all the phases of a field experiment in salt marsh environment: experimental design, coordination of collaborators, samples process, data analysis, conference presentations and publication. This work, part of my PhD thesis, was in the framework of the THESEUS project (Innovative technologies for safer European coasts in a changing climate).

### **Postgraduate experience:**

**2006-09** – (3 years) Fellow at ISPRA (Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research) in the projects ASPIM 2 (identification and distribution of non-indigenous species in the Italian seas) and ENI-BIOPLAT (methodological approach for the characterization of biodiversity and monitoring of ecosystem role of offshore platforms).

**Duties:** Literature review, field and lab work on invasive species, including sampling, sorting and identification of rocky-shore benthic species in the port of Milazzo and Trieste (IT). Conducting SCUBA *visual census* of fish species associated at gas offshore platforms in the Ionian and the Adriatic seas.

**2007** – (6 months) Visiting Researcher at Australian Maritime College (Roseburg, Victoria, AU) thanks to a postgraduate exchange fellowship granted by Unipa. Supervised by Prof. Chad L Hewitt and Prof. Marnie Campbell.

**Duties:** Carrying out monitoring and experiments regarding the ecology and distribution of the invasive algae *Undaria pinnatifida* in the Port Phillip Bay (AU).

## Publications

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### ISI Journals

- Perzia P., Cillari T., Crociata G., Deidun A., Falautano M., **Franzitta G.**, Galdies J., Maggio T., Vivona P., Castriota L., 2023. Using Local Ecological Knowledge to Search for Non-Native Species in Natura 2000 Sites in the Central Mediterranean Sea: An Approach to Identify New Arrivals and Hotspot Areas. *Biology*, 12(9), 1158. <https://doi.org/10.3390/biology12091158>
- Fabbrizzi E., Giakoumi S., De Leo F., Tamburello L., Chiarore A., Colletti A., Coppola M., Munari M., Musco L., Rindi F., Rizzo L., Savinelli B., **Franzitta G.**, Grech D., Cebrian E., Verdura J., Bianchelli S., Mangialajo L., Nasto I., Sota D., Orfanidis S., Papadopoulou N.K., Danovaro R., Frascchetti S., 2023. The challenge of setting restoration targets for macroalgal forests under climate changes. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 326, 116834. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2022.116834>
- Franzitta G.**, Marrone A., Gauci A., Galdies J., Mangano M.C., Sara G., Deidun A., 2022. Bridging the knowledge gap on the distribution and typology of vermetid bioconstructions along the Maltese coastline: an updated assessment. *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 23(4), 817–826. <https://doi.org/10.12681/mms.28348>
- Azzurro E., Ballerini T., Antoniadou C., Aversa G.D., Souissi J.B., Blas̃kovic´ A., Cappanera V., Chiappi M., Cinti M-F., Colloca F., Cvitković I., D’Amen M., Despalatovic´ M., Di Franco A., Dimitriadis C., Dragic̃ evic´ B., Fanelli E., Figuerola L., Fortibuoni T., **Franzitta G.**, Garrabou J., Geloso T., Ghanem R., Gori A., Hervat M., Izquierdo-Muñoz A., Linares C., La Mesa G., Merotto L., Micallef R., Miliou A., Minelli A., Moschella P., Pannacciulli F., Panzalis P., Pavic̃ic´ M., Petrou A., Ramos-Espla´ AA., Saponari L., Scarcella G., Spoto M., Stagic̃ic´ N., Vrdoljak D., Weitzmann B., Schembri P.J., 2022. ClimateFish: A Collaborative Database to Track the Abundance of Selected Coastal Fish Species as Candidate Indicators of Climate Change in the Mediterranean Sea. *Frontiers in Marine Sciences*, 9, 910887. [doi.org/ 10.3389/fmars.2022.910887](https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2022.910887)
- Franzitta G.**, Colletti A., Savinelli B., Lo Martire M., Corinaldesi C., Musco L., 2022. Feasibility of the Sabellarid Reef Habitat Restoration. *Frontiers in Marine Sciences*, 9, 854986. [doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2022.854986](https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2022.854986)
- Tamburello L., Chiarore A., Fabbrizzi E., Colletti A., **Franzitta G.**, Grech D., Rindi F., Rizzo L., Savinelli B., Frascchetti S., 2022. Can we preserve and restore overlooked macroalgal forests? *Science of The Total Environment*, 150855. [doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2021.150855](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2021.150855)
- Pellecchia A., Vega Fernández T., **Franzitta G.**, Bertocci I., 2020. Recovery ability of lowshore sessile assemblages in a highly contaminated post-industrial area. *Marine Environmental Research*, 153, 104829. [doi.org/10.1016/j.marenvres.2019.104829](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marenvres.2019.104829)
- Franzitta G.**, Airoldi L., 2019. Fish assemblages associated with coastal defence structures: does the surrounding habitat matter? *Regional Studies in Marine Science*, 31, 100743. [doi.org/10.1016/j.rsma.2019.100743](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rsma.2019.100743)
- Azzurro E., **Franzitta G.**, Milazzo M., Michel B., Fanelli E. 2017. Abundance patterns at the invasion front: The case of *Siganus luridus* in Linosa (Sicily-Strait, Central Mediterranean Sea). *Marine & Freshwater Research*, 68, 697-702. [doi.org/10.1071/MF16024](https://doi.org/10.1071/MF16024)
- Franzitta G.**, Capruzzi E., La Marca E.C., Milazzo M., Chemello R. 2016. Recruitment patterns in an intertidal species with low dispersal ability: the reef-building gastropod *Dendropoma cristatum* (Biondi, 1859). *Italian Journal of Zoology*, 83, 400-407. [doi.org/10.1080/11250003.2016.1205152](https://doi.org/10.1080/11250003.2016.1205152)
- Franzitta G.**, Hanley M.E., Airoldi L., Baggini C., Bilton D.T., Rundle S.D., Thompson R.C. 2015. Home advantage? Decomposition across the freshwater-estuarine transition zone varies with litter origin and local salinity. *Marine Environmental Research*, 110, 1-7. [doi: 10.1016/j.marenvres.2015.07.012](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marenvres.2015.07.012)
- Di Franco A., Graziano M., **Franzitta G.**, Felling S., Chemello R., Milazzo M. 2011. Do small marinas drive habitat specific impacts? A case study from Mediterranean Sea. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 62, 926-933. [doi: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2011.02.053](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2011.02.053)

### Other ISSN Journals

- Deidun A., Maggio T., Castriota L., Falautano M., Franzitta G. 2020. Genetic confirmation of the first Mediterranean record of *Holacanthus africanus* Cadenat, 1951. *J. Black Sea/Mediterranean Environment* 25(1):112-118.
- Capruzzi E., La Marca E.C., Franzitta G., Milazzo M., Chemello R. 2015. The recruitment of *Dendropoma petraeum* (Mollusca: Vermetidae) at different hydrodynamic conditions. *Biol. Mar. Med.* 22, 72-73.
- La Marca E.C., Franzitta G., Capruzzi E., Milazzo M., Chemello R. 2015. Biogeomorphological role of the vermetid reef in attenuating wave energy on the coast. *Biol. Mar. Med.* 22, 129-133.
- Airoldi L., Fontana G., Ferrario F., Franzitta G., Perkol-Finkel S., Magnani A., Bianchelli S., Pusceddu A., Colangelo M.A., Thrush S.F. 2010. Detrital enrichment from marine urban structures and its far-field effects on soft-bottom assemblages. *Rapp. Comm. Int. Mer Med.* 39, 712.
- Graziano M., Di Franco A., Franzitta G., Milazzo M., R. Chemello 2007. Effetti di differenti tipologie di impatto antropico sui reef a vermeti. *Biol. Mar. Med.* 14, 306-307.
- Franzitta G., Graziano M., Di Franco A., Milazzo M., Chemello R. 2006. Valutazione dell'impatto di un piccolo porto sui popolamenti bentonici di substrato duro. *Biol. Mar. Med.* 13, 70-71.
- Graziano M., Milazzo M., Di Franco A., Franzitta G., Chemello R. 2005. Valutazione della componente bentonica di ipostrato in tre aree marine protette del Tirreno meridionale. *Biol. Mar. Med.* 12, 284-286.
- Di Franco A., Franzitta G., Graziano M., Milazzo M., Chemello R. 2005. Valutazione del comportamento dei subacquei in immersione nell'AMP Isola di Ustica. *Biol. Mar. Med.* 13, 707-710.

### Conference presentations

- Maggi. E., Aubè M., Benedetti-Cecchi L., Bertocci I., Botterell Z., Brooks P.R., Christofolletti R., Coughlan J., Crowe T.P., Dafforn K., Davoult D., Franzitta G., Gauff R., Hubbard N., Ivezza L., Martinez A.S., Marzinelli E., Mayer Pinto M., Queiros A., Quijon P., Rossi F., Trethewy M., Tuya F. 2021. GLOW – The Global artificial Light Ocean network. 7th International Conference on Artificial Light at Night (ALAN 2021), June 15-17, 2021.
- Franzitta G., Chiarore A., Aglieri G., Colletti A., Farina S., Gallia R., Savinelli B., Tamburello L., Terlizzi F., Frascchetti S. 2021. Underwater survey techniques for the exploring of marine biodiversity within marine reserves in Campania Region (Italy; Tyrrhenian sea). Abstract and poster presentation at 6th European Conference on Scientific Diving 2021, in a digital framework, 21-22 April, 2021.
- Chemello R., Franzitta G., La Marca E.C., Milazzo M., 2016. The Mediterranean vermetid reefs: distribution and conservation status. 11th International Temperate Reef Symposium (ITRS), Pisa (Italy), 26 - 30 June 2016.
- Franzitta G., La Marca E.C., Capruzzi E., Milazzo M., Chemello R. 2015. Conservation needs for the vermetid reefs in the Mediterranean Sea. Abstract and poster presentation at 27th ICCB (International Congress for Conservation Biology), Montpellier, France, 2-6 August 2015.
- Franzitta G., Airoldi L., Baggini C., Bilton D.T., Rundle S.D., Thompson R.C. 2012. Potential effect of flooding in estuaries: an experimental comparison of detritus decomposition at different salinity regimes. Abstract and oral presentation at the 50th ECSA (Estuarine and Coastal Shelf Science), Venice (Italy), 3-7 June 2012.
- Franzitta G., Airoldi L., Baggini C., Bilton D.T., McCullough C., Righetti E., Rundle S.D., Thompson R.C. 2010. The potential effect of seawater intrusion in estuaries. Abstract and Oral presentation of the 3rd Annual Marine Institute Conference, (December 2010, Plymouth, UK).
- Airoldi L., Abbiati M., Ceccherelli V.U., Colangelo M., Fontana F., Franzitta G., Perkol-Finkel S. 2009. The effects of coastal defence measures on sandy shore systems. Abstract at the 5th International Symposium on Sandy Beaches, Rabat, Morocco, 19-23 October 2009.
- Perkol-Finkel S., Rius M., Fontana G., Nicotera V., Franzitta G., Ferrario F., Airoldi L. 2009. Promoting the growth of desirable assemblages on artificial marine structures: results from experimental tests in the North Adriatic Sea. Abstracts at the 9th CARAH, Curitiba, Brazil, 8-13 November 2009.
- Graziano M., Di Franco A., Franzitta G., Milazzo M., Chemello R. 2006. Valutazione dell'efficacia della protezione sui popolamenti bentonici di substrato duro dell'AMP Isola Di Ustica. Abstract at the 16th Italian Society of Ecology, 180.

Di Franco A., Graziano M., Franzitta G., Milazzo M., Chemello R. 2004. Preliminary evaluation of a small marina impact on a sublittoral benthic assemblage. Abstract at CoNISMa conference, Terrasini (Pa), 18-22 Ottobre 2004.

Note: <sup>1</sup> hereinafter: Unibo; <sup>2</sup> hereinafter: Unipa; <sup>3</sup> hereinafter: UoP.