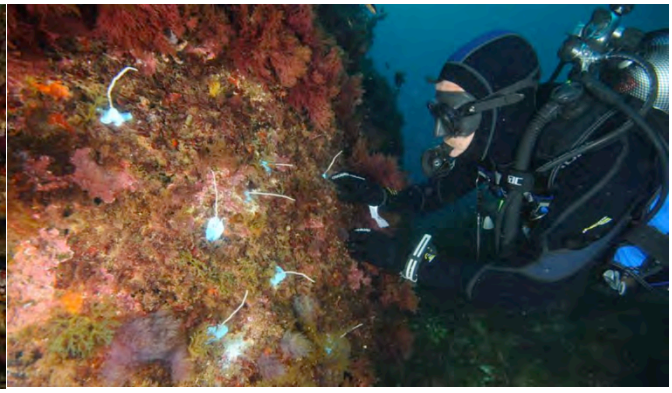
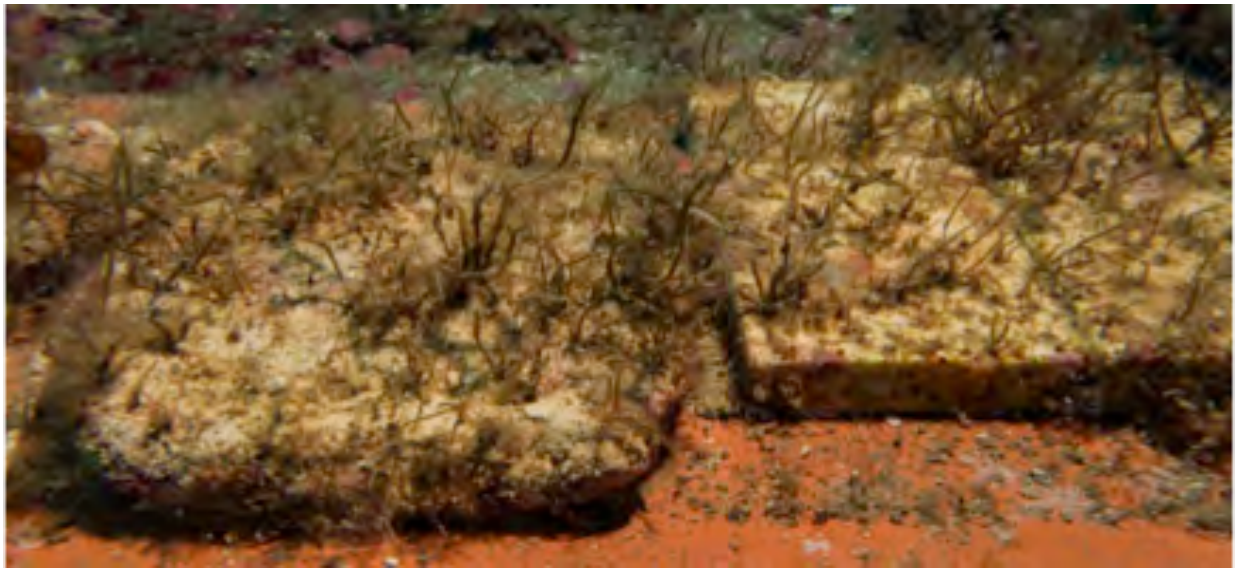
UNIVERSITÀ POLITECNICA DELLE MARCHE

The first training course on marine restoration in the Mediterranean





Tricase Porto (Lecce, Italy) 2-7 September 2019

Reef Check Italia – onlus
c/o Dipartimento di Scienze della Vita e dell'Ambiente, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Via Brecce Bianche, Monte Dago, 60131, Ancona. Web site: www.reefcheckitalia.it e.mail: postmaster@reefcheckitalia.it

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The Merces Project and Polytechnic University of Marche launch the **The first training course on marine restoration in the Mediterranean,** with an international teaching staff coming from the unique experience of the H2020 EU projects MERCES and AFRIMED aiming to transfer the knowledge developed in the projects. The training course is organized by Reef Check Italia onlus and is dedicated mainly to a specialized audience (industry, academia, technical staff from territorial authorities etc).

More broadly, the MERCES project is focused on the restoration of different European marine habitats, with the aim of:

- Assessing the potential of different techniques and approaches.
- Quantifying the returns in terms of ecosystems services and their socio economic impacts.
- Defining the legal policy and governance frameworks needed to optimize the effectiveness of different restoration approaches.

The training course will be focused on two different Mediterranean habitats: macroalgal forests and the coralligenous. Theoretical knowledge will also be provided regarding seagrass meadows.

Location

The course will be hosted in facilities of the MARE Outpost marine station, founded by CIHEAM Bari (http://www.biodiversitymaretricase.org/avamposto-mare). MARE Outpost is a marine station, is part of the Port-Museum of Tricase and is located in front of the rocky shore with a direct access to the sea. MARE Outpost is equipped with a Biodiversity Laboratory (including tanks with running sea water), a Conference and International Cooperation Room, and a Science Communication Room to facilitate the exchange of knowledge.

Application procedure

Minimum and maximum number of participants: The course will run if a minimum of 6 participants are confirmed. The maximum number of participants is 10.

Application and timeline: Prospective participants shall fill in Annex 1 herein attached, and submit it to Reef Check Italia onlus (postmaster@reefcheckitalia.it) not later than July 15 2019. Acceptance to the course will be notified latest on July 20 2019, by email to the sending address of each applicant. Payment of the course fee shall be made latest by July 30 2019.

Background requirements: Although no formal scientific qualification is required, participants should be confident with the main groups of marine algae and invertebrates and have some experience in scientific diving (see below).

Diving requirements: Participants should hold at least a 2nd level international diving certification (allowing diving to 30 m depth), a minimum of 30 documented dives, a medical certificate allowing to safely dive (written in English or Italian), and an international personal dive insurance (e.g., DAN, DiveAssure, AquaMed, etc). Each participant must bring his/her own full diving equipment, except for scuba tanks and weights that will be provided on site. Specific needs will be discussed with the supporting diving centre. Participation in field activities is an integral and mandatory component of the course. NOTE: it is not possible to rent diving equipment on site.

Course fee and payment instructions

Course fee: the course fee is 200€. The fee includes: the participation to theory and practical sessions, 4 dives (tanks, weights, general logistics), access to and use of needed facilities at MARE Outposts as relevant to the course programme, teaching materials and MERCES certificate of completion. The fee does not include: travel, food, accommodation, anything not mentioned under "the fee includes". NOTE: it is not possible to rent diving equipment on site.

The organizers will arrange for fixed price lunches for the duration of the course at a selected local restaurant. Lunches and meals in general are not included in the course fee and shall be paid individually by each participant on site. A list of accommodation possibilities is in preparation. Participants willing to share their room are invited to indicate this in their application.

Payment: the amount of 200€ shall be paid to Reef Check Italia onlus either by bank transfer (IBAN: IT08K0311113319000000010004 , BIC/SWIFT: BLOPIT22) or by PayPal to postmaster@reefcheckitalia.it. Payment shall be made upon receipt of notice confirming acceptance to the course, and not later than July 30 2019. In case of applicants that fail to pay the course fee by this deadline, the first excluded applicant will be contacted, and so on.

How to get Tricase

Tricase is located in the southern part of Apulia, in the Province of Lecce, few km from Santa Maria di Leuca. The main airport in the area is Salento Airport (in Brindisi). Participants from Greece may also consider reaching Brindisi by ferry. From Brindisi, you may reach Lecce by bus or train. Tricase can be reached from Lecce by train/FS bus or car. Based on arrival and departure modalities and timing of participants, a shared shuttle from Brindisi airport or from Lecce train stations can be organised through the organizers (cost to be shared by users). This option and ensuing practicalities will be explored when all participants are fully registered, and all details on arrival and departure times are known.

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Preliminary Restoration Summer School Agenda

Sunday, 1st September	Afternoon	Participants arrivals
Monday, 2nd September	Morning	Introduction to the MERCES Project, developing the concepts of Restoration, Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services, Ecosystem Engineers, life history of the selected species and explanation of the choices, Citizen Science, Economic Sustainability and Legal Aspects. These topics are common to both habitats addressed in the course.
	Afternoon	Introduction to differences between "Conservation" and "Restoration". Management of data to consider to make the best choice. Planning and data elaboration with some examples.
Tuesday, 3rd September	Morning	Macroalgal Forests in the Mediterranean Sea. State of the Art on the local context, issues and socio economic aspects. Suggestion and analyses of Citizen Science projects to apply to this topic.
	Afternoon	Practical exercise on the techniques used in the MERCES project - to be carried out on the shore or in classroom based on conditions (dry exercise).
Wednesday, 4th September	All day	Field work. Transplant and monitoring of macroalgal forests (wet practical). Briefing before the dive and debriefing to discuss the experience on the field work. Introduction to the working group, preparation of a micro-project to apply techniques in different context (for example conservation, coastal management, business).
Thursday, 5th September	Morning	Coralligenous (corals, sponges and bryozoans). State of the Art on the local context, issues and socio economic aspects. Suggestion and analyses of Citizen Science projects to apply to this topic.
	Afternoon	Practical exercise on the techniques used in the project - to be carried out on the shore or in classroom based on sea conditions.
Friday, 6th September	All day	Field work. Transplant and monitoring of coralligenous species (wet practical). Briefing before the dive and debriefing to discuss the experience on the field work. Introduction to the working group, preparation of a micro-project to apply techniques in different context (for example conservation, coastal management, business).
Saturday, 7th September	Morning	General discussion on the two field activities and organization of the working group for the preparation of a small project as introduced the day before.
	Afternoon	Presentation and discussion of the teamwork, final exam and certification.

Teaching staff

A pool of European experts and researchers involved in the MERCES and AFRIMED projects will share their expertise and experiences, covering a wide spectrum of topics and disciplines. These will include marine ecology, marine conservation, restoration ecology, environmental impact assessment, ecosystem ecology, conservation biology, benthic ecology, ecology and evolution, species diversity, invasive species, statistic.

Sponsorship

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The first training course on marine restoration in the Mediterranean.

Tricase Porto (Lecce, Italy) 2-7 September 2019

Application form

First name: | **Family name:**

Nationality: | **Date of birth:**

Contacts:

E-Mail:

Phone:

Education level reached:

☐ **Bc** ☐ **MSc** ☐ **PhD** **Others:**

Specify allergies, medical restrictions, special dietary needs and/or relevant special needs (beyond food)

Attachments mandatory upon confirmation of acceptance (PDF or JPG):

- ☐ **Diving certificates (minimum 2nd level, allowing down to 30 m in depth)**
- ☐ **Dive logbook (minimum 30 logged dives)**
- ☐ **Medical certificate (written in Italian, English)**
- ☐ **International diving insurance (e.g., DAN, DiveAssure, AquaMed)**

If you may be interested in sharing a room with another participant, tick this box * ☐

If you may be interested in sharing a shuttle from/to Brindisi or Lecce, tick this box * ☐

- Organisers will evaluate the type and amount of these expressions of interest and do their best to facilitate.

Submission date: _____

Signed virtually through the submission of the form

Please, submit this form and any other documents by E-Mail to postmaster@reefcheckitalia.it

Reef Check Italia – onlus
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