

# SAVE THE SEA STOP MARINE LITTER

We all know that marine litter is a worldwide problem that has been highly underestimated in the last decades. The floating anthropogenic marine debris in the central and western Mediterranean Sea has had severe consequences, especially on some protected areas like the "Pelagos Sanctuary"

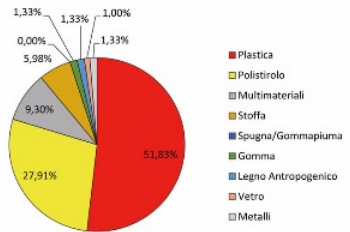
Under the supervision of Doctor Silvia Merlino (CNR ISMAR – Lerici), our project has involved the collection, classification and analysis of marine litter in some coastal areas of Tuscany and Liguria, inside the macro area of the "Pelagos Sanctuary". The project aims at the following purposes:

1. Developing young people's environmental awareness and their interest in Science in an active, amusing and engaging way.
2. Acquiring scientifically supported data thanks to the large number of surveys carried out with the participation of School Institutes.

1



## PUNTA CORVO



2



## MARINELLA DI SARZANA

A biological monitoring has been carried out on the coastal area of Marinella as part of the larger citizen science and educational project "Percorsi nel Blu". This has contributed to the collection of significant data on organisms which are important bioindicators.

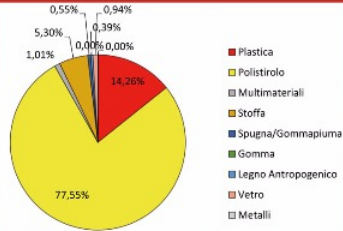


We have been an active part of the monitoring and data collecting process, and we have used the Monitoring Guide to follow the standardized protocol indicated by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). The data collection has been extracted through repeated seasonal campaigns at the same geo-referenced sites. Alongside with the data collected by other volunteers, our outcomes, have been published on scientific magazines by ISMAR.

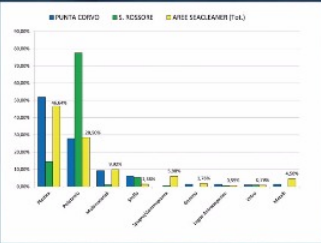
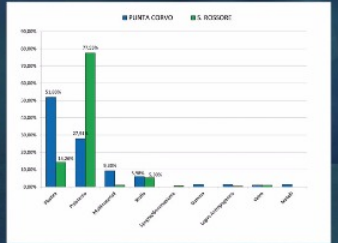
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## SAN ROSSORE



*In conclusion*, the collected data prove that plastic represents the most harmful pollutant, being the material which takes the longest time to be disposed of. This local and worldwide problem can have severe consequences on our health through the food chain. In order to prevent it and to save our seas, our main priority is to reduce its use.



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