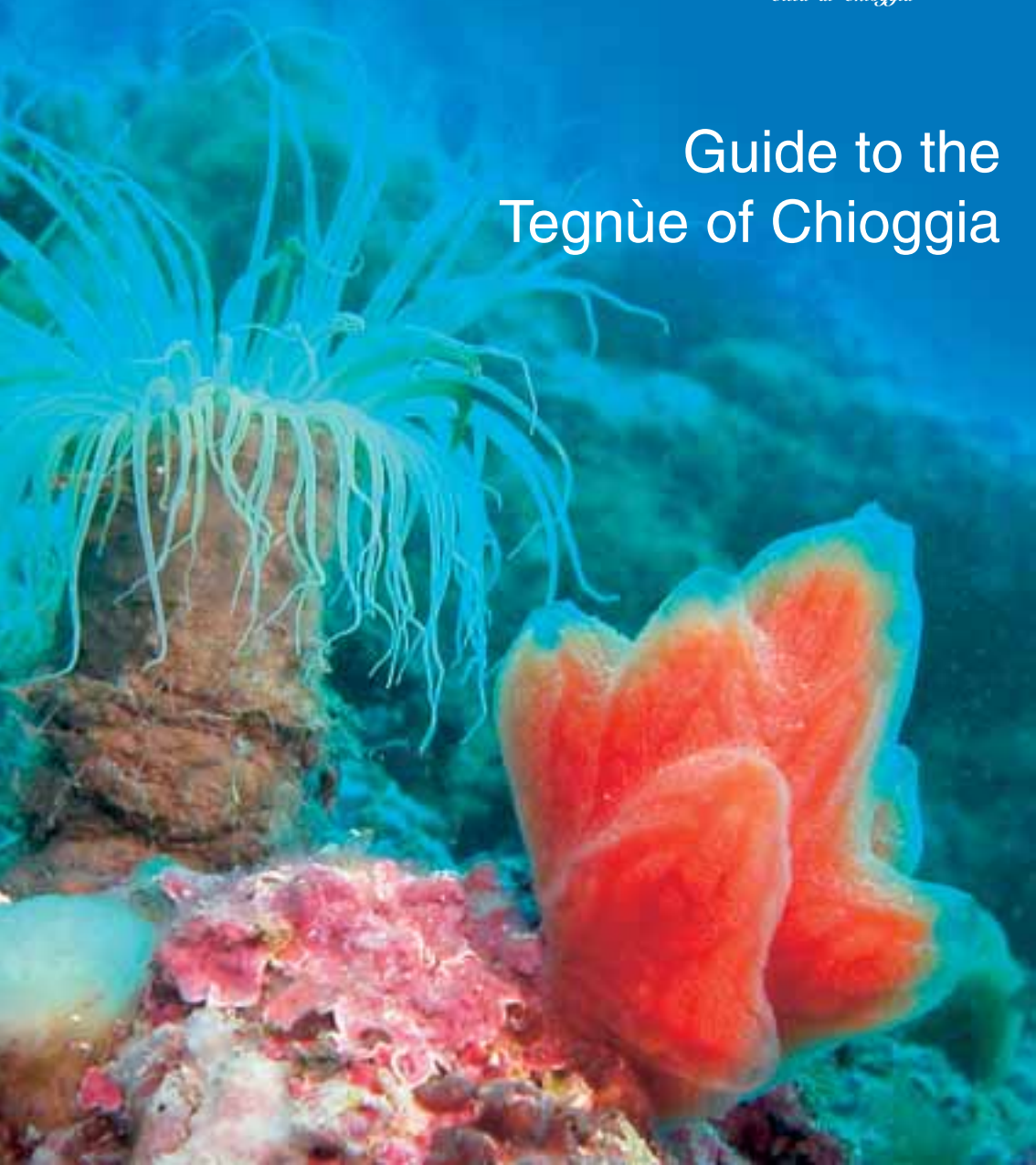
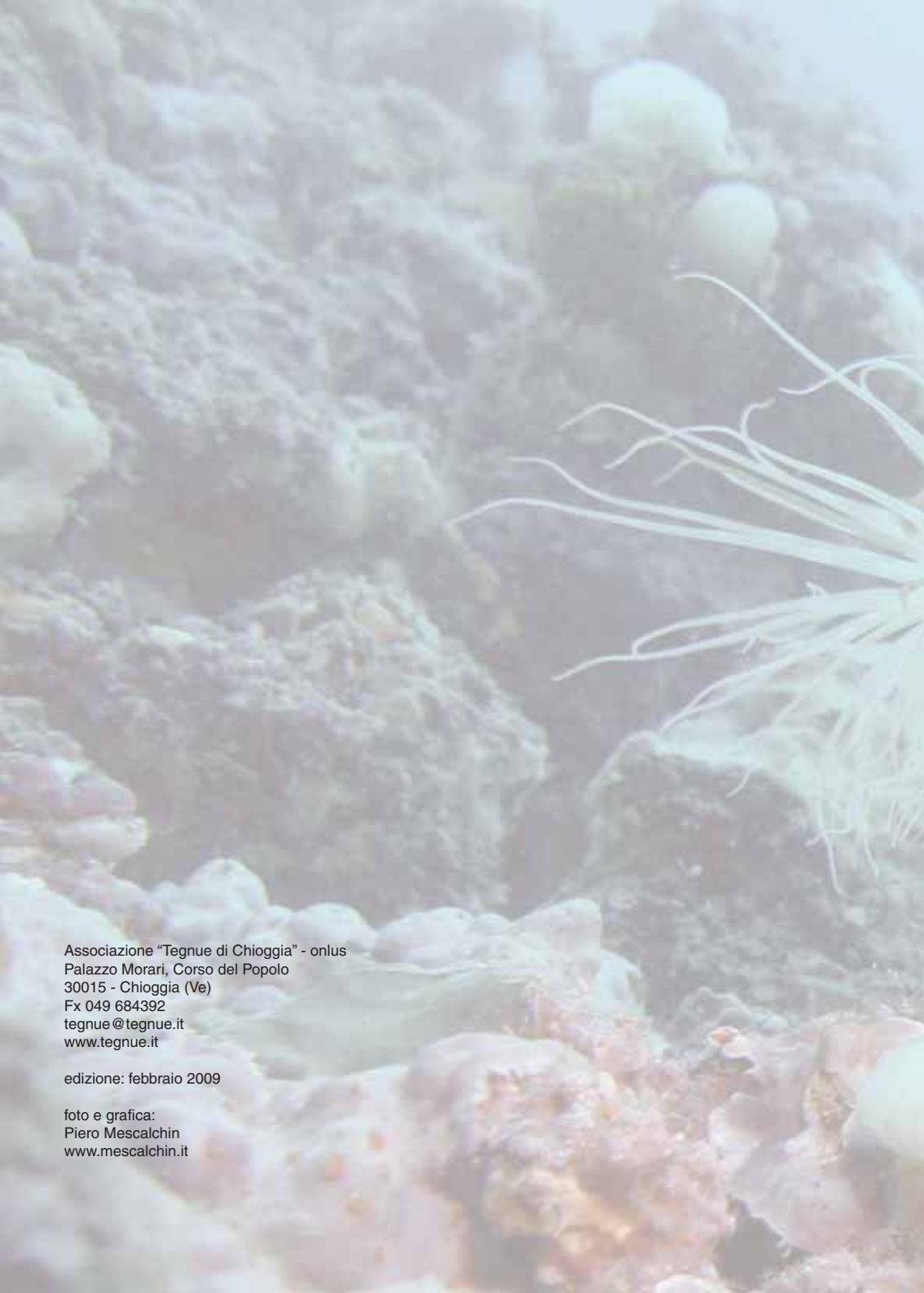




Città di Chioggia

Guide to the Tegnùe of Chioggia





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30015 - Chioggia (Ve)
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tegnue@tegnue.it
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edizione: febbraio 2009

foto e grafica:
Piero Mescalchin
www.mescalchin.it

The Tegnùe of Chioggia

The reef of the Adriatic

History

The presence of subtidal rocks off the northern Italian Adriatic coast has been known since XVIII century, as recorded in the writings of Abbot **Giuseppe Olivi (1792)**. Local fisherman have always called them "**Tegnùe**" for their ability to hold and tear fishing nets. Although fishermen fear the damages the rocks can cause, they highly regard this seabed for its **abundance of fish**. Tegnùe may be found in all the northern Adriatic, at depths ranging from **15 to 40 metres**. Their size varies from small isolated blocks to structures hundreds of metres wide. Teguùe are biogenic carbonate rocks, built by marine organisms, usually over hard substrates previously formed by consolidated sand. Tegnùe are natural reefs which have developed over the past 3-4,000 years. They differ from tropical reefs because the main builder organisms are not corals but red calcareous algae, called "Corallines".

Creation of the Association

The Tegnùe of Chioggia no-profit Association was created from a common passion for the sea and from the need to study, enhance and protect the extraordinary and still little known environment of the Tegnùe, particularly widespread off Chioggia. Thanks to the project by the Paduan scuba-diver **Piero Mescalchin**, which included scientific material, photographs and films, on 14th September **a protected area for the Tegnùe was established by the town council of Chioggia and a request was submitted to the Government. On 5th August 2002, the Area of the Tegnùe of Chioggia was declared to be a "No-Take Zone" by the Decree of the Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry Policies**, and any kind of fishing activity was prohibited.

Establishing an area where fishing is prohibited, however, was not sufficient for ensuring correct protection and management of this natural heritage. This concern needed to be actively addressed by involving the town of Chioggia and its people. **On 4th December 2002, therefore, the "Tegnùe of Chioggia" Association was founded**. The Association's technical committee includes representatives from various fields: research, fishing associations, tourist operators and diving centres.



The presentation of a **three-year project**, focusing on knowledge, valorisation and management of the No-Take Zone, was the first step taken by the Association. The project was presented to Regione Veneto with the assistance of all Executive committee and Technical-Scientific committee members. Economic support was immediately granted thanks to the thorough knowledge and high professional skills shown. The project **started in July 2003**. Its aim was to perform wide-spreading educational activities, as well as to provide moorings and diving routes, and test possible eco-compatible and sustainable tourism in the area. Scientific activities, including sea bottom characterisation and population status monitoring for the evaluation of management intervention efficacy, were developed by research Institutes. The latter acted independently within an agreement of cooperation. Where possible, the Association provides support and offers training opportunities to young graduates through Region-funded scholarships.

The Central Institute for Scientific and Technological Research applied to the Sea (ICRAM) carried out geomorphological surveys, with its oceanographic ship and Side Scan Sonar techniques, over the entire area. It created a highly important map showing rocky outcrops and traces of trawl fishing. It is currently dealing with the local information system and with fishing-related concerns. **The Environmental Research Centre of the University of Bologna** has studied sites using 3D reconstruction of sea bottoms and non destructive photography sampling in order to assess large-scale distribution of epibenthic fauna. Instead, **the Hydrobiological Station of the University of Padua** is performing a qualitative and quantitative analysis of fish fauna. The Institute of Geosciences and Georesources (IGG) of the National Research Council of Padua carried out petrographic, mineralogical and chemical tests on biogenic rock samples taken from the Tegnùe of Chioggia. **The Institute for the Sciences of the Sea (ISMAR) of the National Council of Research of Venice** introduces scientific information gathered from the area of Chioggia within a wider northern-Adriatic context. **The Association is also deeply committed to education and environmental diffusion.** As well as creating information material and the **www.tegnue.it web site**, it has developed a complete educational project for primary schools with

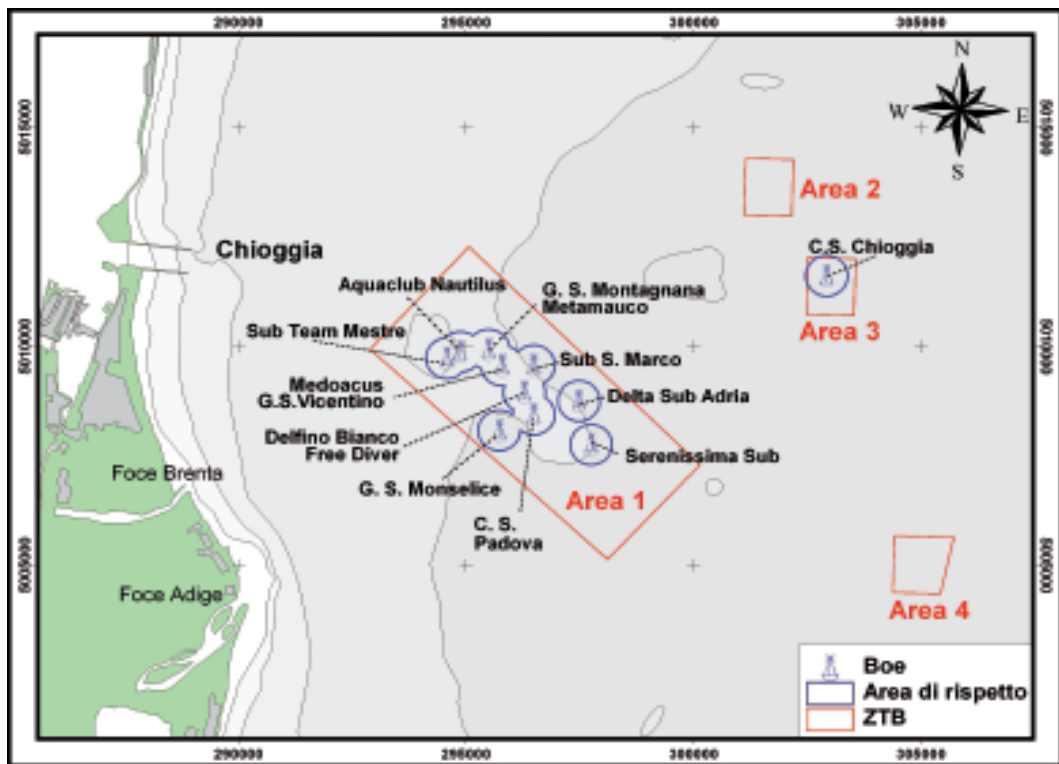


the assistance of experts from the University of Padua. **In the kit distributed by Regione Veneto, all class four pupils received: a DVD video introducing the "Sea World of the Tegnùe", a fairy tale and a games book.**

Regarding tourism, **12 luminous buoys were launched within the no-take zone.** The buoys not only signal the reserve but are also the first step towards environmentally compatible tourism. Mooring to the buoys, instead of anchoring, avoids damaging the delicate carbonate rocks and the organisms growing on them. **The maps and guided routes** prepared by various centres lead divers to the most interesting points and increase diving safety.

In compliance with the institutional decree, the **Port Authorities of Chioggia and Venice issued an order forbidding within the No-Take Zone any form of professional or sports fishing, the collection of seabed organisms, anchoring and scuba diving outside the buoys.** These measures aim at preserving commercial species and the surrounding environment. The creation of a repopulation and reproduction area, with time, may increase fish population in the sur-

rounding areas and guarantee fishing profitability. Greater knowledge on these places, however, could lead to an increase in anthropic pressure, caused by divers and fish poachers, and consequently to environmental over-exploitation and degradation. For this reason, **access regulations** are necessary which, in collaboration with law enforcement agencies and local authorities, verify indiscriminate anchoring, number of divers and buoys for each mooring, poaching and waste disposal. Awareness-raising activities promoted by the Association towards tourists, fishermen and local authorities also contribute to fighting the above actions.



Recommended Diving Centres

ISAMAR DIVING CENTER

c/o Villaggio Turistico Isamar
Isolaverde di Chioggia (Ve)
www.villaggioisamar.com
posta@studiomeneghini.it

M/Y - MARLINONE

Porto Levante (Ro)
Luigi Bertarelli
Mobile (+39) 338 4207849
www.marlinone.it
info@marlinone.it

M/Y - MOBY DICK 1°

Brondolo - Chioggia (Ve)
Mobile (+39) 328 9488894
Mobile (+39) 347 8414633
www.mobydick1.it
mobydick1@tiscali.it

DIVING CENTER TEGNUE

Per informazioni: Rossano
Mobile (+39) 334 1826877
Mobile (+39) 392 4525573
www.divingtegnue.it
divingtegnue@libero.it

Hyperbaric chambers

A.T.I.P.

Hyperbaric Technician Association
Via Cornaro Alvise, 3
35128 Padova
Tel.: (+39) 049 8070843
Fax: (+39) 049 8071939
Service 24h su 24h

O.T.I. Services

Via delle Macchine, 51/3
30175 Marghera (Ve)
Tel.: (+39) 041 5381182
Tel.: (+39) 041 5387252
Fax: (+39) 041 921969
e-mail : info@otiservices.it
www.otiservices.it
Service 24h su 24h

Useful information

The low depths, the influx of fresh water from the rivers and summer sun radiation lead to water column stratification and a constant, **strong and sometimes very evident thermocline**.

Seabed water temperature is rather cold even during summer so a 5 mm wetsuit is recommended. **Temperatures may drop even to 10°C below zero during winter.**

Water transparency depends on many factors and varies from one area to another throughout the day. Water turbidity is caused mainly by weather conditions, especially southeasterly seas which make muddy seabed sediments rise in the shallow waters. The best season for the abundance of fauna and flora and for water transparency is the winter and spring period.

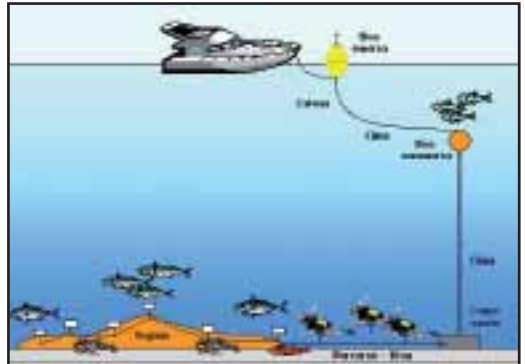
Diving suggestions

After descending down the mooring line and reaching the sea bottom divers will find the cement block. The line(s) leading directly to the routes start(s) from here. Different types of lines have been used to easily distinguish them from the rest and identify the return route. Each route is marked with arrows indicating direction and distance to the return route.

Attention!! Route integrity is not guaranteed owing to possible damages caused by anchors.

Please notify any anomalies via e-mail:
tegnue@tegnue.it

or via SMS text message: (+39) 333 7774133



Buoy - C. S. Chioggia

Geographical reference: MR08

Buoy Coordinates:

Lat. 45° 13.825' N

Long. 12° 29.365' E

Length of route:

North Part approx. 120 m

South Part approx. 120 m

Identification mark: C

This diving site is inside the most external area of the No-Take Zone, about 8 miles off Chioggia. The diving routes have been set up and are managed by "Club Sommozzatori Chioggia" – Chioggia (Venice).

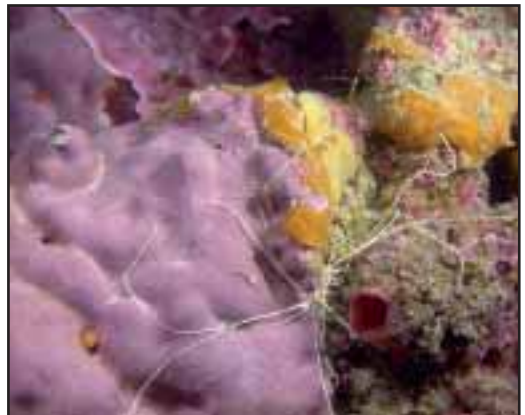
This extensive range of rocky outcrops is spread over a quadrangular area of around 100 metres per side. **Average depth is 25 metres with scattered rock formations; two diving routes** have been located on the sea bottom.

From a biological viewpoint, there are many types of encrusting Coralline algae, which are the main bioconstructors of the Tegnùe and are easy to see thanks to their purplish colour. There are also many ascidians, especially the *Polycitor adriaticus* species forming whitish globular colonies. The *Aplidium tabarquensis* ascidian is also typical of this area and is found only here. Large lobsters, scorpion-fish and conger eels may be easily encountered. Damselfish and often shoals of sea ravens crowd above the rocks. Sea breams can be sighted along the mooring line as well as thick shoals of yellow tails during autumn.

Given its geographical position, quite far from the coast, it is not particularly affected by fresh water,



so visibility is often good.



Buoy - Aquaclub Nautilus

Geographical reference: TC1

Buoy coordinates:

Lat. 45° 12.749' N

Long. 12° 23.259' E

Length of route: approx. 210 m

Identification mark: H

This diving site is inside the largest area of the No-Take Zone. The diving routes have been set up and are managed by "Aquaclub Nautilus" Centre – Cittadella (Padua). The rocky outcrop is part of the main structure of the Tegnùe di Chioggia. It is the farthest point of an offshoot connected to the site of the "Club Sommozzatori Mestre – Blu Sub" buoy. The surrounding seabed is **around 20 metres deep** while rock depth is less than 17 metres.

The rocks have a fork-shaped layout and the mooring buoy is located in the middle. The rocks then head out west-north-west.

During inspection, researchers were surprised by the high and constant number of sea breams, as well as crustaceans and various benthic species. Since sea bream shoals shift, they may have found an ideal feeding place during that period. Our hope is that the fishing prohibition will be sufficient to protect these beautiful examples and that divers will observe them without disturbing them. It is also easy to encounter conger eels, lobsters and sea ravens in the deep cracks



Buoy - C. S. Mestre - Blu Sub

Geographical reference: P204

Buoy coordinates:

Lat. 45° 12.665' N

Long. 12° 23.038' E

Length of route:

North part approx. 130 m

South part approx. 120 m

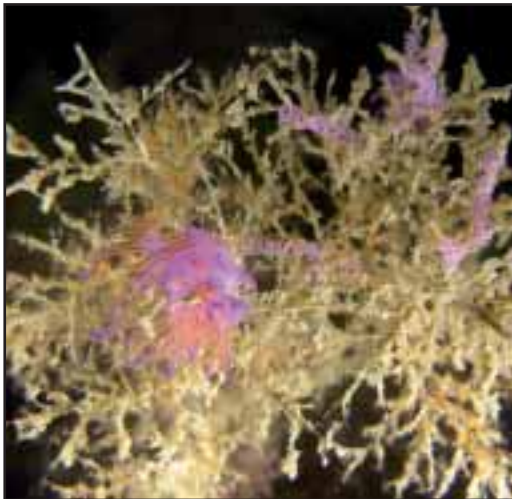
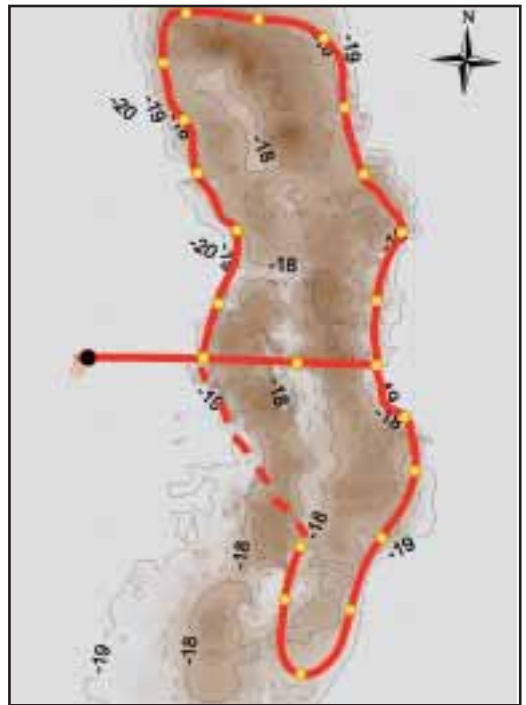
The broken line is part of the route

Identification mark: M

This diving site is inside the largest area of the No-Take Zone. The diving routes have been set up and are managed by "Club Sommozzatori Mestre" – Mestre (Venice) and "Blu Sub" – Mestre (Venice). The rocky outcrop is part of the main and largest structure of the Tegnùe di Chioggia. It extends for several hundreds of metres in north-south direction and often resembles a double cordillera. The highest rocks rise to a depth of 17 metres while the surrounding muddy **sea bottom is 21 metres deep**. The mooring buoy is located 20 metres to the west of the rocks.

Many different species of sponges may be sighted in this Tegnùe, as well as a large population of *Parazoanthus axinellae* (small yellow anemone) along the east side. Sea ravens and conger eels can be found in the deep cracks.

Shoals of *Chromis chromis* (damselfish) and hydrozoans populated by *flabellina* crowd over the rocks.



Buoy - G. S. Montagnana Metamauco

Geographical reference: AL100

Buoy coordinates:

Lat. 45° 12.803' N

Long. 12° 23.727' E

Length of route:

North Part approx. 130 m.

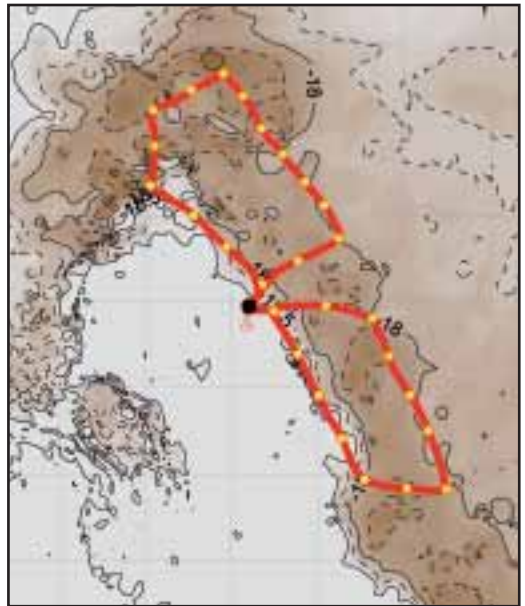
South Part approx. 160 m

Identification mark: T

This diving site is inside the largest area of the No-Take Zone. The diving routes have been set up and are managed by two centres: "G.S. Montagnana" – Montagnana (Padua) and "Metamauco" – Padua. To celebrate the 25th anniversary from its foundation, the Gruppo Subacqueo di Montagnana placed a statue of **Our Lady of Medugorje** on the **seabed of the Tegnù**.

The rocky outcrop belongs to one of the main structures of the Tegnù of Chioggia and is on the opposite side of the P204 site (C.S. Mestre – Blu Sub). An extremely large rocky area may be explored here which justifies the various routes and dives. **The surrounding sea bottom is around 20-21 metres deep** while rock depth is less than 17 metres. The rocks form a long cordillera in north-south-east direction. The south-west side is very sheer while the north-east side gently declines and is gradually covered with sand.

There is abundance of Porifera in benthic sessile populations: among these *Geodia cydonium*



sponges, remarkable for their size and number.



Buoy - Medoacus G. S. Vicentino

Geographical reference: TM4

Buoy Coordinates:

Lat. 45° 12.605' N

Long. 12° 23.960' E

Length of route:

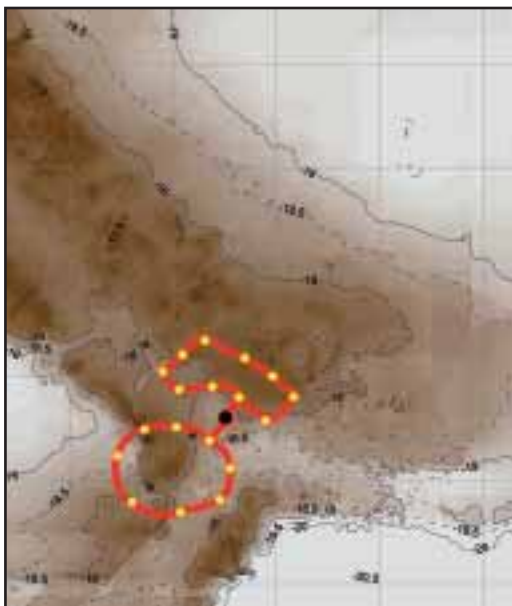
North Part approx. 100 m.

South Part approx. 130 m.

Identification mark: L

This diving site is inside the largest area of the No-Take Zone. The diving routes have been set up and are managed by two clubs: "Medoacus" – Vigonza (Padua) and "Gruppo Subacqueo Vicentino" – Vicenza. The rocky outcrop belongs to the south-east part of the main structure of the Tegnùe of Chioggia.

An extremely large rocky area may be explored here which justifies the various routes and dives. The surrounding sea bottom **is around 20-21 metres deep** while the rocks rise to depths of around 17 metres. The buoy has been located in the upper part which is completely covered with sand. Consequently, the rocks may be reached without crossing the deeper and muddier area, allowing greater visibility and safety conditions. For this reason, this Tegnùe – more than others – is suitable for divers with little expertise or for course exercises. **The highest rocky areas and of greater interest are basically two. They are separated by a sort of canyon** that descends towards the deep muddy area. **Divers may proceed ea-**



stowards from the buoy and reach a large, flat rocky area which descends south and east. Instead, proceeding **southwards from the buoy**, divers may reach the highest peak that faces north-east – south-west and has a sheer wall that drops down towards the muddy area.



Buoy - Sub S. Marco

Geographical reference: TG1

Buoy coordinates:

Lat. 45° 12.613' N

Long. 12° 24.498' E

Length of route: approx. 130 m.

Identification mark: Z

This diving site is inside the largest area of the No-Take Zone. The diving routes have been set up and are managed by "Club Sub S. Marco" – Venice. The rocky outcrop consists in a small rocky island surrounded by sandy-muddy sediments. It is composed of several groups of rocks – separated by short stretches of sediments – lying in east-west direction for just over 50 metres. It rises to 18 metres of depth while the **surrounding sea bottom is 20 metres deep**. The mooring buoy is placed approximately 10 metres north from the rocks.

Many species may be observed in this relatively small space: several encrusting sponges (massive or erect species), cerianthus and many ascidians. Many large groups of spirographs and examples of sponge crabs (*Dromia personata*) may also be sighted. The seabed is particularly full of crustaceans and molluscs.

Large lobsters and conger eel, sheltering in the many crevices, are often encountered.

The surrounding sandy area is also interesting: here, Eckström's topknots (*Zeugopterus regius*) and common sole (*Solea solea*) may be encoun-



tered.



Buoy - Delfino Bianco

Free Diver

Geographical reference: TM1

Buoy coordinates:

Lat. 45° 12.275' N

Long. 12° 24.355' E

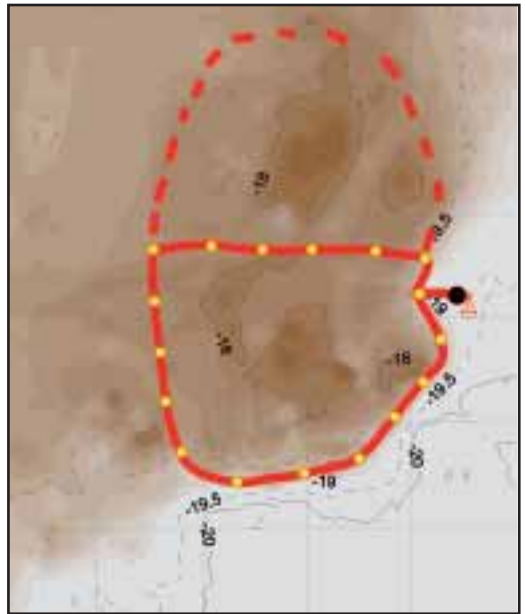
Length of route: approx. 100 m.

The broken line is part of the route

Identification mark: P

This diving site is in the middle of the largest area of the No-Take Zone. The diving routes have been set up and are managed by the centres: "Delfino Bianco" – Oriago (Venice) and "Free Diver" – Porto Viro (Rovigo). The rocky outcrop is part of an isolated but large structure measuring over 40,000 m². The most interesting rocky area is on the south-east side where the slopes are sharper and where the buoy has been located.

The surrounding seabed is **around 20 metres deep** while the rocks rise to around 17 metres. Divers may leave the buoy to explore the northern area where crevices conceal conger eels and sea ravens. Towards south, instead, along the rocky embankment, a **large "garden" of *Maasella edwardsi*** may be encountered. This small soft coral (colonial octocoral) does not have a calcareous skeleton and is apparently quite insignificant given its small size and brown-green colour. It is quite a rare species and has never been signalled along the Italian Adriatic coasts up to today. This is the only site, among all the Tegnùe explored by researchers, where this species has been found.



For this reason it is very important to protect it and be very careful: divers should hover close to admire these small expanded polyps with great care and should maintain neutral buoyancy without touching the seabed.



Buoy - G. S. Monselice

Geographical reference: OT05

Buoy coordinates:

Lat. 45° 11.804' N

Long. 12° 23.933' E

Length of route: approx. 150 m.

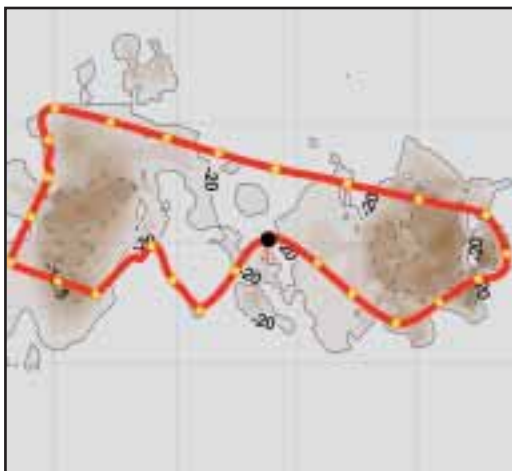
Identification mark: S

This diving site is inside the largest area of the No-Take Zone and is one of the outcrops nearest to the coast. The diving routes have been set up and are managed by “Gruppo Subacqueo Monselice” – Monselice (Padua).

The outcrop is composed of scattered rocks, gathered in two main groups, surrounded by sandy-muddy sediments. The surrounding **sea bottom is around 20 metres deep** and the rocks rise no higher than around one metre. The mooring buoy is located midway so that both groups of rocks, to the east and to the west, may be reached.

The water here is often turbid owing to the proximity of the coast and river mouths, but also due to the low rocks. This makes **dives sometimes rather more difficult but in any case very interesting**. Photography lovers are recommended to use macro optics.

Many species may be observed in this relatively small space: encrusting sponges (massive and erect species), cerianthus and many ascidians. Brown comber (*Serranus hepatus*) and conger eels (*Conger conger*) may be sighted and, quite often, the tentacled blenny (*Parablennius tentacularis*).



Buoy - C. S. Padova

Geographical reference: TM2

Buoy Coordinates:

Lat. 45° 12.002' N

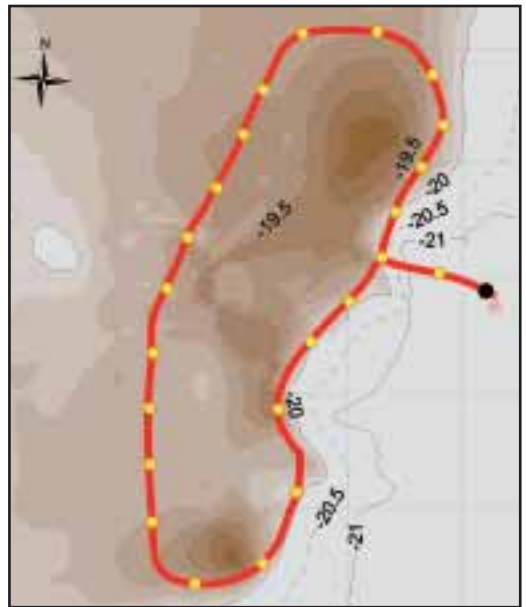
Long. 12° 24.525' E

Length of route: approx. 150 m.

Identification mark: B

This diving site is located in the largest area of the No-Take Zone. The diving routes have been set up and are managed by “Club Sommozzatori Padova” – Padua.

This rocky structure is composed of a series of outcrops lying in north-east – south-west direction for slightly over 50 metres. The highest rocks rise to depths of 18 metres, while the **surrounding sea bottom is over 21 metres deep**. The sheerest side faces south-east, where the mooring buoy is also located. From a biological viewpoint, the site offers a large variety of sponges, both encrusting and erect, such as the *Axinella polypoides*, which may reach large dimensions, and the *Oscarella lobularis* with its typical purplish colour. There are plenty of crevices and deep cracks which conceal fish such as sea ravens and sea breams. Large conger eels are often encountered. The western part descends towards a sandy area populated by various species of crustaceans such as sponge crabs (*Dromia personata*), *Parthenope angulifrons*, wrinkled swimming crabs (*Liocarcinus corrugatus*) and many species of molluscs.



Buoy - Serenissima Sub

Geographical reference: P208B

Buoy Coordinates:

Lat. 45° 11.654' N

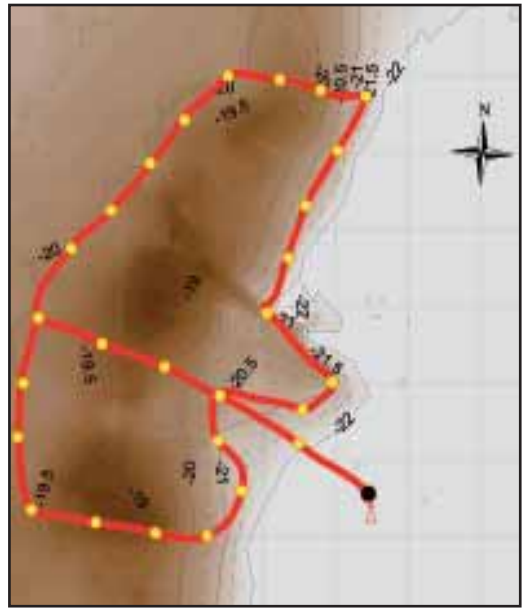
Long. 12° 25.505' E

Length of route: approx. 160 m.

Identification mark: A

This diving site is located inside the largest area of the No-Take Zone. The diving routes have been set up and are managed by “Serenissima Sub” Club – Strà (Venice). This rocky outcrop is the most interesting part of an extremely large structure. It consists in a sort of impressive and elongated rocky plateau in north-north-east – south-south-west direction. It appears to be rather flat in the middle and gently declines to the west. Instead, towards east it stops abruptly with an **over 4-metre spectacular and steep drop off**. Its shape has given it the name of “the wall”. The buoy is located at around fifteen metres at the bottom of a deep canyon dividing the highest part of the plateau or move along the rocky wall in north or south direction.

The lairs at the bottom of the rocks are an ideal habitat for lobsters, conger eels and sea scorpions while above there are a good variety of sponges (particular abundance of *Dictyonella incisa*) and ascidians (including *Polycitor adriaticus*). Northward, a unique flowering of *Leptotamio pruvotti* may be admired



Buoy - Delta Sub Adria

Geographical reference: AL06

Buoy Coordinates:

Lat. 45° 12.189' N

Long. 12° 25.275' E

Length of route: approx. 180 m.

Identification mark: E

This diving site is located inside the largest area of the No-Take Zone. The diving routes have been set up and are managed by “Delta Sub Adria” – Adria (Rovigo). The rocky outcrop is part of a very large structure which extends for around 400 metres in north-west – south-east direction and which has large blocks separated by a few metres of detritus and sediment. The highest rocks rise to 20 metres depth while the surrounding muddy-sandy **sea bottom is 24 metres deep**. The mooring buoy is located 10 metres east of the first rocks.

From a biological viewpoint, a dense population of *Parazoanthus axinellae* (small yellow anemone) covers a large area to the south-east. A dense shoal of small Adriatic cods (*Trisopterus minutus*) may be found over the *Parazoanthus*. The area is provided with many narrow gorges concealing many species of fish and crustaceans, such as scorpion fish, sea ravens, conger eels and lobsters. There are many encrusting sponges (massive and erect species) as well as *cerianthus* and many ascidians. A large variety of crustaceans may also be sighted such as sponge crabs (*Dromia personata*) and small spider crabs (*Maja*



crispata). The latter are difficult to see for the great ability to mingle with sea bed organisms.



Buoy access regulations

No-Take Zone management, assigned by Regione Veneto to the Municipality of Chioggia, regulates buoy access and diving activities.

Buoy access is currently free of charge. All divers must notify their access by one of the following methods:

- **SMS text message to: +39 333 7774133**

- **e-mail with expected date and time of dive to: tegnue@tegnue.it**

- **fax with expected date and time of dive to: +39 049 684392**

indicating the buoy identification mark (marked on each buoy), the number of divers, boat number plate or, in the event of a non-registered boat, the name of the owner reported on the documentation. For example:

B 15 MARIO ROSSI

means buoy "B" (i.e., C.S. PADOVA), 15 divers, boat owner: Mario Rossi

The SMS text message must be sent before starting the dive. Notifications via e-mail or fax must be sent by 12 p.m. of the previous day. If the dive is cancelled, for any reason whatsoever, a cancellation message may be sent as in the following example:

B 15 MARIO ROSSI CANCELLED

List of identification marks:

A - SERENISSIMA SUB

B - C.S. PADOVA

C - C.S. CHIOGGIA

E - DELTA SUB ADRIA

H - AQUACLUB NAUTILUS

L - MEDOACUS SUB - G. S. VICENTINO

M - C. S. MESTRE - BLU SUB

P - DELFINO BIANCO - FREE DIVER

S - G. S. MONSELICE

T - G. S. MONTAGNANA - METAMAUCO

Z - SUB SAN MARCO

N.B. Notification does not represent a reservation. It is not subject to confirmation and does not give any right to priority over others. Any activities relating to scientific research, monitoring and buoy and route maintenance have priority over tourist, recreational and educational activities. The SMS text message or copy of the e-mail/fax must be shown upon request for control purposes.

Failure to comply with the above described regulations will lead to administrative fines.

Attention: Any variations to the access regulations shall be notified on:

www.tegnue.it



DM MiPAF (Decree of the Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry Policies) 5th August 2002 –

Establishment of a No-Take Zone of sea waters off the port of Chioggia (OG no. 193 of 19-8-2002)

DM MiPAF 28th July 2003 – Extension prohibiting any kind of fishing activities in the No-Take Zone established in the sea waters off the port of Chioggia (OG no. 193 of 21-8-2003).

DM MiPAF 3rd August 2006 – Prohibition of any kind of fishing activity in the No-Take Zone established in the sea waters off the port of Chioggia (OG no. 205 of 4-9-2006)

Order no. 44/02 of the Coast Guard of Chioggia: Prohibition of fishing activities. **Order no. 32/06** of the Coast Guard of Chioggia: Regulation for controlling recreational – leisure underwater activities and underwater activities with scientific purposes and following amendments.

Order no. 106/06 of the Coast Guard of Venice: Regulation for controlling recreational – leisure underwater activities and underwater activities with scientific purposes and following amendments.



below shall be observed on a temporary basis, in addition to the prohibitions and provisions already established by the Decree of the Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry Policies of 5th August 2002; The following provisions are bound by the validity of the above mentioned Decree.

Within these areas:

- it is prohibited to anchor;
- underwater diving shall comply with the provisions set forth in previous **PART A (Guided scuba diving with the support of naval units) or PART C (Private underwater activities), or in the event of scientific surveys, with the procedures set forth in previous Part D (Scuba diving for scientific purposes);**
 - upon reaching the above areas, no more than 2 (two) vessels shall moor to one buoy at a time. After mooring, vessels shall remain with engines off while divers are underwater;
 - Mooring is permitted to anyone and shall not be longer than the time needed for the dive and for all divers to get back on the boat;
 - vessels in transit or waiting to moor to the buoy shall remain at a distance of at least 100 (one hundred) metres from the buoy;
 - scuba diving in the above area can start only at the designated mooring buoys.

CURRENT REGULATION

- Part of order no. 32/06 of the Coast Guard of Chioggia and 106/06 of the Coast Guard of Venice relating to scuba diving in the No-Take Zone of the Tegnùe.

PART F – Control of underwater activities in areas included in the maritime compartment of Chioggia and Venice of the No-Take Zone called “Tegnùe of Chioggia” (Established with Decree dated 5th August 2002). Article F.1

With reference to recreational/leisure or scientific underwater activities, use of the areas included in the No-Take Zone called "Tegnùe of Chioggia", falling within the jurisdiction of the Maritime Compartment of Chioggia and Venice, is free upon condition that said activities are compatible with the protection of the species living in the areas and with seabed conservation.

To use the above areas, the provisions listed



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Tegnùe Expert Diver Nature Guides

Training of specialised personnel for underwater tourism support activities.

The establishment of the No-Take Zone of the Tegnùe di Chioggia has led divers to change their approach towards this area. They have obviously focused more on the major areas of interest that are marked with the buoys. They are also attracted by easy mooring and by the routes that have been specifically created by the “managers” of the various sites (see schools and scuba diving clubs). For this reason, respecting both individuals and the environment is important when organising activities. Who better than an expert and well-trained “Guide” could help diving groups – often made up of dozens of divers – avoid nasty surprises. Providing divers with an assistance able to identify behaviour that is not only harmful to the environment but especially to persons, is an urgent demand. For this reason, a group has been set up for conducting a feasibility study on these issues. The results of the first discussions, of a mainly technical nature, have identified the key aspects that the Guides should have:

Tasks:

- Assist the captain of the vessel and, together with the person in charge of the group, choose the most suitable diving point according to requested variables.
- Assist the head diver during pre-dive briefing.
- Provide suitable indications to divers on behaviour to be held according to site (rocks, isolated blocks, etc.).
- Illustrate flora, fauna and morphology of the area with suitable supporting material.

- Assist head diver during de-briefing.
- Fill in an activity report containing information with which the Association may assess divers’ level of satisfaction.

Aspects of training:

- Knowledge of biology specifically relating to the proposed sites.
- Knowledge of underwater environment of the proposed sites.
- Knowledge of current regulations relating to the no-take area.
- Knowledge of communication techniques and public speaking.
- Ability to evaluate technical/diving abilities of divers.
- Ability to speak about post-diving issues with diplomacy. Underwater activities shall be managed by individuals – either instructors, diving companions or simply individuals appointed by centres – who wish to perform educational activities in the Zone. Instead, specialised personnel, which is not obliged to actually take part in the dive, shall be available for: programming the dive, illustrating details on the site to be visited, understanding its secrets, giving advice to instructors or companions on how to organise groups according to environmental conditions, and providing input during pre-dive briefing.

Preparation courses may be directly and periodically carried out at the Tegnùe di Chioggia Association, in order to ensure standardised personnel training.

For further information: Alfredo Guerra
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Educational group for schools

The "Tegnùe di Chioggia" no-profit association, through its Technical and Scientific Committee, selects and trains teachers, biologists, geologists, naturalists and environmental scientists enabling them to provide educational activities at schools, associations and scuba diving centres.

Educational Section.

The working group has prepared lessons, meetings and workshops dealing with the Tegnùe through Power Point presentations, DVDs and photos taken by Association divers. Lessons address pupils at various school levels, from primary to secondary levels, and vary according to age and background. They are also organised for clubs and centres upon request.

Regarding schools, the issues presented and examined include:

- what are the Tegnùe and where are they
- formation and evolution
- geology



- biology (seabed populations, encrusting species and fish)
- studies to date and in progress
- protection (No-Take Zone)
- collaboration of voluntary workers (underwater activities)
- sustainable fishing.

An interview with the teacher is arranged beforehand in order to agree upon meeting duration and objectives.

At the end of the meeting pupils receive a brochure on the history of the Association and stickers with the Association's logo.

Teachers receive posters and technical sheets relating to the Tegnùe, to their discovery, evolution and safeguard, and to neighbouring environments, such as sandy-muddy sea bottoms, the water's edge and the pelagic environment. In October 2005, the educational activities were presented at the third World Congress of Environmental Educa-



tion, held in Turin at the Lingotto Congress Centre. A poster was presented during the congress entitled: "Educational activities of the 'Tegnùe di Chioggia' Association - (northern Adriatic marine reserve)" (Veronica Zanon). The educational section is available for organising meetings at clubs and centres interested in receiving information and further details on the Tegnùe.

The purpose of these educational activities is to raise knowledge on a marine area that is so close to us and to stimulate respect for the environment. More in general, it helps reflect on the importance of natural heritage and of a responsible approach for its management. For further information, requests or collaboration, please consult the website:

www.tegnue.it

At the 'projects and research' section and contact the group co-ordinator:

dr.Veronica Zanon

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Publications

captured some typical aspects of the town: coloured stones playing endlessly with the reflections of the canal water.

Giorgio Boscolo



by Piero Mescalchin,
The love for the Tegnùe in a book
The work dedicated to a deceased fisherman

A compendium of over thirty years of life and more than two thousand dives in the upper Adriatic, especially in the area of the Tegnùe, recognised by the Italy as a biological oasis. Piero Mescalchin, scuba diver for countless years, is not only the president but also the life and soul of the “Le Tegnùe di Chioggia” Association. The Association was established for enhancing the special qualities of the oasis’ fauna and flora, for rousing researchers’ interest and for using the area as an extraordinary and unique tourist attraction. This book of few words but many photos reveals Piero Mescalchin’s soul and the world he and few others have contributed to disclosing and where he feels at home. As revealed by the title, Piero Mescalchin considers the Tegnùe as his own “world”.

Thanks to this world, he has come into contact with fishermen and has come to know them and become friends with them. The book is dedicated to one of these fishermen: Giuliano Gianni, a courageous seaman and passionate scuba diver, who recently died. The book narrates the love of a man for the sea, but also the strong commitment taken to protect and respect the sea environment and to transmit its richness to future generations.

Piero Mescalchin also wished to dedicate a section to the town of Chioggia “where – he states – I spend more time than at home”. The lens has



