

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Monica Montefalcone



📍 University of Genoa, Department of Earth, Environment and Life Science, corso Europa 26, 16132 Genoa (Italy)

☎ +39 010 3538065

✉ monica.montefalcone@unige.it

🌐 <http://www.distav.unige.it/drupalint/user/161>

💬 Skype monica.montefalcone

Sex Female | Date of birth 27/12/1974 | Nationality Italian

WORK EXPERIENCE

01/10/2018–Present

Researcher in Ecology (BIO/07)

DiSTAV (Department of the Earth, Environment and Life Sciences), University of Genoa, Genoa (Italy)

Research and teaching activities

2019–Present

Higher education lecturer

DiSTAV, University of Genoa, Genoa (Italy)

Lecturer for the course “Seascape Ecology” (6 CFU) of the Master degree in Marine Biology and Ecology

2019–Present

Higher education lecturer

DiCCA, University of Genoa, Genoa (Italy)

Lecturer for the course of “Marine Biodiversity Management” (5 CFU) for the Master degree in Environmental Engineering

2015–Present

Higher education lecturer

DiSTAV, University of Genoa, Genoa (Italy)

Lecturer for the course of “Tropical Marine Ecology” (3 CFU) for the Master and the Bachelor degrees in Marine Science, Marine Biology and Ecology, Environmental Science, Biological Science, Natural Science

2013–Present

Higher education lecturer

DiSTAV, University of Genoa, Genoa (Italy)

Lecturer for the course of “Underwater Science” (2 CFU) for the Master and the Bachelor degrees in Marine Science, Marine Biology and Ecology, Environmental Science, Biological Science, Natural Science

04/05/2009–03/05/2018

Post-doc researcher

DiSTAV, University of Genoa, Genoa (Italy)

Main topic of research activities: “Development of innovative criteria to evaluate the status of marine priority coastal habitats: seagrass meadows, coralligenous reefs, and underwater caves”

2008–2009

Contract as collaborator

ISPRA (ex ICRAM), Institute for the Protection and the Environmental Research, Rome (Italy)

Main topic of research activities: “Evaluation of the effects of climate change on demersal fish

communities of the Ligurian Sea”

2007–2008 Annual scholarship

CoNISMa, Interuniversity National Consortium for Marine Sciences, Rome (Italy)

Main topic of research activities: “Effects of hydrocarbons spill on benthic coastal ecosystems (National project MAPRES, Marine Pollution Monitoring and Mitigation)”

2007–2007 Contract as collaborator

DiSTAV (ex DipTeRis), University of Genoa, Genoa (Italy)

Main topic of research activities: “Monitoring of Posidonia oceanica meadows of Liguria and Sardinia”

2007–2007 Contract as collaborator

OLPA (Ligurian Observatory on Fishery and Environment), Genoa (Italy)

Main topic of research activities: “Monitoring of Posidonia oceanica meadows of Liguria”

2003–2006 Contracts as collaborator

Cooperativa RSTA (Research and Development of Applied Technologies), Genoa (Italy)

Main topic of research activities: “Monitoring of Posidonia oceanica meadows of Liguria promoted by the Italian Ministry of the Environment”

2005–2005 Contract as collaborator

DiSTAV (ex DipTeRis), University of Genoa, Genoa (Italy)

Main topic of research activities: “Monitoring of the benthic coastal ecosystems of Liguria”

2003–2003 Contract as collaborator

DiSTAV (ex DipTeRis), University of Genoa, Genoa (Italy)

Main topic of research activities: “Sampling methodologies on Posidonia oceanica meadows of Liguria”

2002–2003 Annual scholarship

CoNISMa, Interuniversity National Consortium for Marine Sciences, Rome (Italy)

Main topic of research activities: “Cartography and status evaluation of Posidonia oceanica meadows of Liguria (National project RIPO, Rivisitazione delle praterie di Posidonia oceanica in Italia)”

2001–2002 Annual scholarship

ISPRA (ex ICRAM), Institute for the Protection and the Environmental Research, Rome (Italy)

Main topic of research activities: “Monitoring the efficiency of the Italian Marine Protected Areas (National project Afrodite)”

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

2014–Present National scientific habilitation (ASN) for the role of associated professor (II level) in Ecology (05/C1)

MIUR, the Ministry of Instruction, University and Research, Rome (Italy)

2012 Training course on Geographical Information Systems (GIS): base, advanced, 3D Analyst, Spatial Modeling

Pentex s.r.l., Torino (Italy)

- 2007–2014 **Qualification as “Subject Expert” (L. 33) in Ecology**
DiSTAV (ex DipTeRis), University of Genoa, Genoa (Italy)

- 2004–2007 **PhD in Marine Science**
DiSTAV (ex DipTeRis), University of Genoa, Genoa (Italy)
Title of the dissertation: “Cartography and ecological indices to evaluate marine coastal environment: application on Posidonia oceanica seagrass meadows in the Ligurian Sea”

- 2002–2002 **Training course on the sampling methods for Posidonia oceanica meadows**
University of Rome Torvergata, Rome (Italy)

- 2001–2001 **Training course on the sampling methods for hard rocky bottoms**
University of Lecce, Lecce (Italy)

- 1993–1999 **Master degree in Biological Science (specialization in Ecology) (110/110 cum laude)**
University of Milan, Milano (Italy)
Title of the dissertation: “Evaluation of the state of health of Posidonia oceanica meadow at Pian di Poma (Sanremo, Imperia), through underwater visual inspections and analyses of phenological parameters”

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s) Italian

Foreign language(s)

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C2	C2	C1	C1	C1
French	A1	B1			

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user - B1 and B2: Independent user - C1 and C2: Proficient user
Common European Framework of Reference for Languages - Self-assessment grid

Job-related skills

Competences

- Coastal marine ecology
- Tropical marine ecology
- Global change and effects on marine ecosystems
- Conservation ecology, effects of human impacts on coastal ecosystems
- Bionomy and benthic cartography, seascape ecology
- Characterization and evaluation of the status of benthic coastal marine habitats
- Analysis of long series of data
- Ecology of seagrass, infra- and circalitoral rocky bottoms, submerged marine caves
- Ecology of alien species
- Employment of non destructive survey methods and underwater SCUBA diving techniques
- Development of ecological indices and predictive modeling

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Professional profiles

ORCID ID: 0000-0002-3851-1880
SCOPUS author ID 8532541300 (H index 31)
Google Scholar (H index 34 , 2727 citations at 15/05/2020)
Research Gate (RG Score 33.77 at 15/05/2020)
Web of Science (H index 28, 1557 citations at 15/05/2020)

Teaching activities

- 2013-today: Teaching activities at the annual professional course for “Scientific diver” organized by the International School for Scientific Diving (ISSD)
- 2018: Teaching activities at the professional course for “Scientific diver: bioconstructions in marine environment”, Palinuro
- 2013: Teaching support activities (8 hours) for the course of Scientific Diving (DiSTAV, University of Genoa)
- 2013: Teaching support activities (15 hours) for the course of Ecology (DiSTAV, University of Genoa)
- 2011-today: Teaching support activities for the course of Seascape Ecology (DiSTAV, University of Genoa)
- 2011-2015: Teaching support activities for the PhD School in Marine Science (DiSTAV, University of Genoa)
- 2010-2011: Teaching support activities for the course of Ecology (DiSTAV, ex DipTeRis, University of Genoa)
- 2010: Teaching activities at the “University of the Third Age” (University of Genoa)
- 2004-2010: Teaching support activities for the course of Benthonology (DiSTAV, ex DipTeRis, University of Genoa)
- 2009: Teaching activities at the 1st level Master in “Marine Environmental Emergencies” (University of Genoa)
- 2006-2007: Teaching support activities for the course of Applied Ecology (University of Savona)
- 2006: Teaching activities at the training course on the “Methods to monitor *Posidonia oceanica* meadows (ARPAL, Genoa)
- 2004-2007: Teaching activities at the 1st level Master in “Nature Scientific Communication, Tropics and Mediterranean” (Milan-Bicocca University)
- 2002-2007: Teaching support activities for the course of Biology (DiSTAV, ex DipTeRis, University of Genoa)
- 2004: Teaching support activities for the course of Landscape Ecology (University of Genoa)
- 2003: Teaching activities at the 1st level Master in “Management of the natural resources” (University of Genoa)
- 2003: Teaching support activities for the course of Laboratory of Applied Ecology (DiSTAV, ex DipTeRis, University of Genoa)
- 2003: Teaching support activities for the course of Benthic Cartography (DiSTAV, ex DipTeRis, University of Genoa)

Participation in scientific commissions

- 2019-today: Scientific consultant for UNEP / MAP-SPA / RAC on marine habitats, with the purpose of drafting the manual “Guidelines for the assessment of environmental impact on coralligenous / maërl assemblages”.
- 2019-today: Scientific consultant for UNEP / MAP-SPA / RAC on marine habitats, with the purpose of drafting the manual “Guidance on monitoring marine benthic habitats. Monitoring Protocols of the Ecosystem Approach Common Indicators 1 and 2 related to marine benthic habitats”.
- 2018-today: Scientific consultant for UNEP/MAP-SPA/RAC on marine habitats to revise, update and finalize the classification of benthic marine habitat types for the Mediterranean region and the Reference List of Marine and Coastal Habitat Types in the Mediterranean adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 1995.

- 2019-today: Supervisor for the PhD thesis in Marine Science (DiSTAV, University of Genoa) of Annalisa Azzola, titled "Evaluating effects of climate change on rocky reefs ecosystems".
- 2017-today: Supervisor for the PhD thesis in Marine Science (DiSTAV, University of Genoa) of Alice Oprandi, titled "Evaluating change in marine coastal ecosystems".
- 2011-today: Member of the Species Survival Commission (SSC) by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), within the seagrass expert group.
- 2002-today: President and member of the board of examination for the courses of Scientific Diving, Tropical Marine Ecology, Seascape Ecology, Ecology, Marine Biodiversity Management (DiSTAV, University of Genoa).
- 2001-today: Supervisor for over 60 thesis (Master Degree and Bachelor Degree) in Marine Science, Environmental Science, Biological Science, Natural Science, Geological Science (DiSTAV, University of Genoa).
- 2016: External evaluator in the scientific committee at the PhD School in "Environnement et Société" (University of Corte Pasquale Paoli).
- 2013-2016: Supervisor for the PhD thesis in Marine Science (DiSTAV, University of Genoa) of Almudena Cànovas Molina, titled "Coralligenous assemblages: distribution, status and connectivity in the Ligurian Sea".
- 2009-2011: Member of the technical-scientific committee within the MED GIG Program (European Community) for the classification of the ecological status of marine coastal waters.

Projects and Environmental Consulting Activities

- 2019-today: Scientific coordinator of the project "Protect of natural capital" under the contract between DiSTAV (University of Genoa) and Marevivo onlus (12 months).
- 2019-today: Scientific coordinator of the project "Definition of the ecological quality and assessment of change over time of *Posidonia oceanica* meadows, and definition of the habitat distribution of the protected species *Scyllarides latus*" in the Marine Protected Area of Cinque Terre (La Spezia)" under the contract between DiSTAV (University of Genoa) and the marine protected area "Cinque Terre" (12 months).
- 2019-today: Scientific coordinator of the project "Definition of the ecological quality and assessment of change over time of priority marine habitats (*Posidonia oceanica* meadows, rocky and coralligenous reefs) in the Marine Protected Area of Capo Carbonara (Villasimius)" under the contract between DiSTAV (University of Genoa) and the marine protected area "Capo Carbonara" (12 months).
- 2019-today: Scientific coordinator of the project "Climate change, increase of ocean temperatures and effects on marine ecosystems" under the contract between DiSTAV (University of Genoa) and Greenpeace Italia (36 months).
- 2017-2020: Participation at the international project "MAREGOT" (MANaging the Risks of coastal Erosion and cross-border GOVERNance AcTions), EU programme Interreg V Marittimo, aimed at the joint prevention and management of the risks arising from coastal erosion in the cooperation area (36 months)
- 2013-today: Scientific coordinator of the yearly research activities to monitor the status of coral reefs at the Maldives, in the framework of the collaborations between DiSTAV (University of Genoa) and Albatros Top Boat (Verbania) and Save the Beach Maldives.
- 2011-today: Scientific coordinator of the yearly research activities to monitor seagrass meadows and marine cave benthic communities at Ventimiglia (Imperia). Cala del Forte, Santo Stefano al Mare (Imperia)
- 2017: Scientific consultancy for the development of a monitoring program for coralligenous shoals in Puglia (south Adriatic Sea). RINA, Genoa
- 2016-2017: Participation as coordinator of field activities and data analyses to the research project aimed at monitoring and mapping *Posidonia oceanica* meadows at Vado Ligure (Savona). Contract between Fondazione CIMA (Savona) and University of Genoa (6 months)
- 2011-2013: Participation at the national project PRIN "Bioconstructions", aimed at the characterization and the evaluation of the state of health of coralligenous reefs in the Ligurian Sea. DiSTAV, University of Genoa (24 months)
- 2011-2012: Scientific coordinator of the research activities to evaluate the status of the *Posidonia oceanica* meadow at Bussana (Imperia). Marina degli Aregai, Santo Stefano al Mare (Imperia).
- 2012: Scientific coordinator of the research activities to monitor *Posidonia oceanica* meadow at Cipressa. Nemea Sistemi, Sanremo (Imperia).

- 2007-2012: Scientific coordinator of the research activities for mapping and monitoring *Posidonia oceanica* meadow at Ospedaletti (Imperia). Parco e Marina di Baia Verde, Fin.im, Genoa.
- 2010-2011: Participation as coordinator of field activities and data analyses to the research project aimed at monitoring and mapping *Posidonia oceanica* meadows and coralligenous shoals at Vado Ligure (Savona). Contract between Fondazione CIMA (Savona) and University of Genoa (12 months).
- 2009-2011: Participation at the international project "GIOHNA" (Governance and Integrated Observation of marine NATural habitats), EU programme Interreg IV Marittimo, with the aim of developing a model to define the reference conditions for seagrass meadows (36 months).
- 2009-2011: Participation at the international project "Italy-Israel Cooperation in R & D", with the aim of evaluating effects of climate changes and effects of invasion by alien species on benthic marine ecosystems of the Mediterranean (36 months).
- 2010: Scientific coordinator of the research activities to evaluate the status of *Posidonia oceanica* meadow at Balzi Rossi (Imperia). Drafinsub Survey, Genoa.
- 2009: Scientific coordinator of the research activities to monitor the *Posidonia oceanica* meadow at Cipressa (Imperia). Cipressa Municipality (Imperia).
- 2009: Participation at the project for mapping and monitoring the *Posidonia oceanica* meadows, the marine submerged cave, the rocky infralittoral communities and the invasion by alien species within the MPA of "Isola di Bergeggi". Contract between DipTeRis (University of Genoa) and the Bergeggi Municipality (Savona) (12 months).
- 2007: Participation at the national project "MAPRES" (Marine Pollution Monitoring and Mitigation), aimed at evaluating effects of hydrocarbon spill on benthic ecosystems. CoNISMa, Interuniversity National Consortium for Marine Sciences, Rome (12 months).
- 2002-2003: Participation at the national project "RIPO", aimed at updating cartography and evaluating the status of *Posidonia oceanica* meadows in Liguria. CoNISMa, Interuniversity National Consortium for Marine Sciences, Rome (12 months).
- 2001-2002: Participation at the national project "APHRODITE", aimed at monitoring the efficiency of the Italian Marine Protected Areas. ISPRA (ex ICRAM), for the Protection and the Environmental Research, Rome (12 months).

Editorial activity

- 2005-today: Author of 74 scientific publications on ISI International journals (and 7 more article submitted at the moment), 7 book chapters (of which 6 international), 2 monography, 36 scientific publications on peer-reviewed journals (national and international), 62 conference proceedings (national and international).
- 2001-today: Referee for the following scientific journals: Advances in Oceanography and Limnology; Aquatic Biology; Aquatic Botany; Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems; Biologia Marina Mediterranea; Biological Invasions; Chemistry and Ecology; Ecological Indicators; Environmental Monitoring and Assessment; Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science; Hydrobiologia; Journal of Coastal Research; Journal of Environmental Management; Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology; Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the UK; Marine Ecology; Marine Biology; Marine Ecology Progress Series; Marine Environmental Research; Marine Pollution Bulletin; Plos One; Remote Sensing of Environment; Cahiers De Biologie Marine; Comptes Rendus Biologies; International Journal of Environmental Engineering; Science of the Total Environment; Scientific Reports.

Research Awards

- 2019: Prize for the best oral communication presented at the 64th National Conference SIFET (Venice), with the work "Sguerso D., Bianchi CN, Federici B., Ferrando I., Gagliolo S., Montefalcone M., Morri C., Passoni D. 3D photogrammetric detection of coral reefs in the Maldives".
- 2012: Prize for the best oral communication within the theme "Climate changes" during the International Congress MarCoastEcos 2012 (Tirana, Albania), with the study "Montefalcone M., Bertora C., Giovanetti E., Morri C., Peirano A., Albertelli G., Bianchi C.N. Flowering of the seagrass *Posidonia oceanica* in the Ligurian Sea: is there a link with solar activity?".

Member of Scientific Commissions and Scientific Associations

- 2016-today: Member of the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO)
- 2013-today: Member of the International School for Scientific Diving (ISSD)
- 2012-today: Member of the Italian Association of Scientific Divers (AIOSS)
- 2011-today: Member of the Estuarine and Coastal Science Association (ECSA)

2001-today: Member of the Italian Society of Marine Biology (SIBM)

2001-2013: Member of the Italian Association of Oceanography and Limnology (AIOL)

Attendance to National and International Meetings

21-22 November 2019: Invited speaker at the workshop “Anchors away! Mitigating direct anthropogenic impacts on Posidonia beds, under the Natura 2000 biogeographical process” (Athens, Greece), with a lecture entitled: “Anchoring on *Posidonia oceanica* meadows: impacts, monitoring and possible solutions”.

13-15 November 2018: Invited speaker at the 2nd Natura 2000 seminar for marine biogeographical regions (Palma, Mallorca), with a lecture on “Status of canopy forming algal species and seagrass meadows in the Mediterranean Sea”.

18-22 May 2015: Invited speaker at the 3rd Mediterranean Seagrass Workshop (Oristano, Italy) with a key-note lecture on “Status and trajectories of change of *Posidonia oceanica* meadows in the Mediterranean Sea”

1998-today: Attendance at more than 70 national and international scientific meetings, with oral communications and posters (ECS, AIOL, SitE, CoNISMa, SIBM, ECSA, MSW, MarCoastEcos, EGU, IMCC, ASLO, etc.)

Diving certifications and others

2018: Internazionale certification of Cave Diver I level (CMAS)-Speleologia Sub 1° degree (FIPSAS)

2017: European certification as “Advanced European Scientific Diver in Biology and Ecology” (European Scientific Diving Panel)

2015: Open Water TDI/SDI Instructor; Nitrox TDI Instructor; CPROX 1st AED TDI Instructor

2014: Nautical license

2013: TDI Decompression certification

1998: Divemaster PADI; Medic First Aid DAN; Rescue Diver PADI; DAN Oxygen Provider

1989: Open Water Diver PADI; Advanced Open Water Diver PADI