



**M.A.R.E.**  
MARINE *adventure*  
FOR RESEARCH & EDUCATION

a project in  
collaboration with

ONE  OCEAN  
FOUNDATION

M.A.R.E. 2024 is expanding its horizons once again:

## **THE MISSION MOVES TO THE NORTHWESTERN MEDITERRANEAN**

**The CVC - Centro Velico Caprera ETS Foundation, in collaboration with One Ocean Foundation, presents the third edition of the research and outreach project on the health status of the Mediterranean Sea.**

**Departure is scheduled for April 27th from La Maddalena, with stops planned in France and Spain before returning.**

Long before the phrase “environmental sustainability” became part of our everyday lexicon, as far back as the mid-1960s, Caprera embodied this concept with precise meaning and practical application. Over 56 years of activity, the school has instilled maritime culture and a passion for the sea in over 150,000 students. From this passion, the project has grown, evolved, and adapted to changing times. Today, the **CVC - Centro Velico Caprera ETS Foundation** presents the third edition of the **M.A.R.E. project (Marine Adventure for Research & Education)**, a special initiative that combines maritime practice, scientific research and promotion of marine conservation of the Mediterranean Sea, in close scientific collaboration with our scientific partner, One Ocean Foundation.

In 2022, the catamaran One sailed across the entire Tyrrhenian Sea, and then in 2023, it navigated throughout the Adriatic Sea, passing through 6 Countries. The 2024 itinerary brings a significant new development: a return to La Maddalena, “*the home of the Foundation, where it all began*” serving as both the starting and ending point of this adventure. The journey will extend to other countries, including Italy, France, and Spain, with 10 stops, highlighting the international purpose of the mission. Departure is scheduled for April 27 from La Maddalena, with a return to Sardinia on July 6. The voyage will include stops along the coasts of Italy, France, and Spain, including Savona, Nice, Marseille, Port-Argelès, Barcelona, Ibiza, Menorca, Ajaccio, Santa Teresa di Gallura, before returning to La Maddalena.

*«Environmental protection has always been in our DNA. It was precisely to respond appropriately to projects like this that the Foundation was established a year ago. M.A.R.E. is a very special idea aimed at monitoring the health of the Mediterranean Sea, promoting knowledge, and protecting the marine environment.»* explains **Stefano Crosta, President of the CVC - Caprera Sailing Center Foundation ETS.** *«In the first two years, 6 Universities joined us onboard the catamaran. The main objective for this year is to host researchers and institutions, such as the Italian Navy on board the catamaran One for over two months to collect and analyze data on water pollution by detecting chemical substances and to monitor the marine biodiversity of the fauna and flora in the Mediterranean becoming a leading scientific platform of international relevance. The letter “E” of this initiative is crucial for us: Education. It’s the same message that the sailing school has been conveying to all its students for over half a century. For people whose passion is the sea, this passage becomes indispensable, as well as an excellent means of communication for the realities that support the project. It is becoming increasingly apparent that partners intend to develop a particular focus on the mission through their involvement in the project. Since the inception of this idea, on a communication level, the focus has been on the scientific aspect of the project, fostering commitment and raising awareness within the community for the protection and understanding of the sea. For this reason, in the research and selection of partners, sharing this cultural objective has been crucial. Therefore, the partners of the Foundation for M.A.R.E. project will be physically on board the catamaran and will support us in increasing the visibility of the project as it evolves over the weeks. We can proudly boast very important and internationally renowned partners. Each of them with its expertise and excellence. Starting with One Ocean Foundation, the Italian Navy, the Coast Guard, and the Autonomous Region of Sardinia. In addition to organizations sensitive to the project’s themes that have been with us since the beginning, such as Yamamay and Toio, this year we welcome Shiseido and the Deutsche Bank Italia Foundation, Workness Club, and certification by ASVIS, the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development.*

*The numbers of the first two editions tell the story of the great work done: nearly 3,000 miles sailed and about 200 guests on board. Moreover, these studies have become the subject of popularization, scientific articles, and even dissertations that leave a tangible and lasting legacy for the new generations.»*

The project is gaining an increasingly international dimension, also due to the scientific results produced, which represent a unique contribution to research concerning the Mediterranean Sea. These are the scientific goals of the M.A.R.E. 2024 edition:

- a) Contribute to the knowledge and conservation of marine biodiversity through environmental DNA, photo identification and bioacoustics analysis.
- b) Evaluate the contamination status of the Mediterranean Sea through ecotoxicology analysis, bacterial community assessment, isotope analysis, and microplastic pollution.

*«We are extremely happy to continue our collaboration with the CVC - Centro Velico Caprera ETS Foundation as scientific partners of the M.A.R.E. project, for the third consecutive year. From the beginning, One Ocean Foundation has strongly believed in this initiative, which represents an excellent synthesis of our mission: promoting education and knowledge about the protection of the marine environment and expanding high-impact monitoring and scientific research activities, particularly in the Mediterranean Sea - states **Riccardo Bonadeo, President of One Ocean Foundation** - The M.A.R.E. project has so far produced significant results in the field of ecotoxicology, particularly regarding both the Tyrrhenian Sea and the Adriatic Sea.» Confirmed by **Ginevra Boldrocchi, Scientific Coordinator of One Ocean Foundation** «Our goal remains to have a baseline dataset for the entire basin. Therefore, we are excited to realize this third edition and to collect samples from the Western Mediterranean area.»*

*«The Italian Navy is firmly committed to preserving the marine environment, demonstrating an increasing sensitivity to the environmental issues characterizing the contemporary era» states **Captain Paolo Spagnoletta**. «This commitment translates into concrete and multidimensional actions through various training and operational campaigns aimed at safeguarding national and international waters from all forms of pollution. In support of the M.A.R.E. mission, the Italian Navy provides its contribution with teams of specialists dedicated to monitoring marine environmental parameters, controlling and protecting marine biodiversity, and supporting scientific research initiatives».*

## Past Editions

In 2022, the first edition of M.A.R.E. project embarked on a long tour of the Tyrrhenian Sea starting from La Maddalena, then moving to Sicily from the western to the eastern side. It continued its journey through the Strait of Messina to Liguria, reaching Portofino before returning to Porto Palma, covering a total of 1,500 nautical miles over 85 days at sea. 100 guests were hosted on board the catamaran, participating in a total of 23 events. 10 beaches were cleaned of waste during this voyage. 35 water samples were collected for environmental DNA analysis, while 54 zooplankton samples were collected to assess the presence of pollutants. All guests of the One catamaran, including partners, ambassadors/influencers, actively collaborated with scientists during the samplings and megafauna sightings. The significant amount of information collected provided a comprehensive and detailed picture of the health of the Tyrrhenian Sea, the species that inhabit the area and its pollution at various depths. The extensive sampling work, carried out throughout the journey, enabled in-depth analysis and study of the intended goals of monitoring marine biodiversity through molecular analysis and identifying the presence of persistent contaminants.

In 2023, M.A.R.E. project changed course and moved to the Adriatic Sea, thanks to the invaluable partnership with the Italian Navy, departing from the historic national base in Taranto on April 29. The M.A.R.E. project made a significant advancement in quality, solidifying its international status. During the navigation, One catamaran sailed along the Italian coast to Venice, before crossing to the other side of the Adriatic and descending through Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro, Albania, and finally Greece to the Aegean Islands, reaching Corfu where it arrived on July 8. Once again, important numbers characterized this second edition: 1,235 nautical miles sailed, 96 guests on board, and 33 megafauna sightings. 46 plankton samples were collected, while 20 environmental DNA samples were taken to laboratories. The scientific results, which involved 4 universities or research institutes, were also of great importance. 5 research projects were completed, numerous articles were published in scientific journals, and 3 of these focused on the data collected during this journey.