



M.A.R.E.

MARINE *adventure*
FOR RESEARCH & EDUCATION

a project in
collaboration with

ONE  OCEAN
FOUNDATION



THE 2024 EDITION OF PROJECT M.A.R.E. HAS CONCLUDED, THE INITIATIVE CREATED BY FONDAZIONE CVC – CENTRO VELICO CAPRERA ETS WITH THE SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION OF ONE OCEAN FOUNDATION

With the aim of researching and monitoring the health of the Mediterranean Sea and promoting sustainability culture, this edition involved 17 researchers and 8 universities. There were 61 sightings, including mola mola, sperm whales, and Risso's dolphin, 10 environmental DNA samples were collected, and 54 zooplankton samples were taken.

In collaboration with the Italian Navy, a historic partner of the initiative, **Fondazione CVC - Centro Velico Caprera ETS** has recently signed a long-term agreement for sports training, care, and the promotion of marine culture.

After ten stops in the western Mediterranean, with departure and arrival in La Maddalena, the third edition of **M.A.R.E.** Project (Marine Adventure For Research & Education) ended on July 6th, promoted by **Fondazione CVC - Centro Velico Caprera ETS** in collaboration with **One Ocean Foundation** and under the patronage of the **Italian Navy**, the **Coast Guard**, the **Sardinia Region**, and certified by **ASVIS, the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development**. The mission to monitor the health of the marine environment is gaining increasing international importance. This year, the 54-foot catamaran One also docked in France and Spain to collect and analyze data on sea pollution and marine biodiversity.

«Our Foundation - explains **Stefano Crosta, President of Fondazione CVC - Centro Velico Caprera ETS** - was born to continue the transmission of maritime culture and passion for the sea, which, over the 57 years of activity of the Centro Velico Caprera, has allowed us to train more than 170,000 students. The love and respect for the sea have enabled us to broaden our horizons, inaugurating an innovative research stream thanks to partnerships with prestigious academic institutions, which are increasingly numerous. This year, as part of Project M.A.R.E., the One vessel hosted for over two months biologists and researchers from Italian universities, including the prestigious Anton Dohrn Zoological Station, as well as foreign faculties and institutions such as the Italian Navy and the Coast Guard.

M.A.R.E. is becoming a study platform and a reference point for the scientific community, as well as a means of raising awareness and promoting respect for the protection of this environment. Our story began in Caprera, and it is here that we return, with an ambitious vision for the future, which involves collaboration, dissemination, and knowledge. Those of us who are attentive to this ecosystem cannot help but care about and feel the responsibility of education, a keyword in our manifesto and an essential step.

A mission that has been able to attract new allies this year, such as **Shiseido, Fondazione Deutsche Bank Italia, and Workness Club**, and to confirm historic partnerships like those with **Yamamay and Toio**, present for the third consecutive year, as well as the **Italian Navy**, with which we recently signed an important collaboration agreement in the fields of sports training, care, and the promotion of marine culture. This agreement represents a crucial step in promoting maritime and scientific communities, protecting the environment, and promoting water sports related to the sea, particularly sailing, and strengthens the already established collaboration of M.A.R.E., based on shared values».

«Our alignment with Fondazione CVC-Centro Velico Caprera ETS is profound,» says **Admiral Antonio Natale, Commander of the Italian Navy's Naval Academy Command**. «A tangible example is the M.A.R.E. Project, which, since its first edition in 2022, has received patronage and concrete support from the Italian Navy. This year, a naval officer-biologist joined the scientific team of the mission to advance research and sampling activities on board the catamaran One».

«For the Foundation, the agreement confirms the importance of the work carried out over more than half a century, especially in terms of education and training. «The entire maritime culture of our country will benefit from this» clarifies **Stefano Crosta** «in this season, we will have some students from the Naval Academy participating in our sailing courses in Caprera, and we are considering, together with the Italian Navy, how to enrich the agreement with additional initiatives».

The scientific approach

The first two editions of the **M.A.R.E.** project demonstrate the importance of the work carried out, with over 3,000 nautical miles navigated and 200 guests on board who participated in studies that have become the subject of outreach, scientific articles, and theses. The dissemination to a broad audience, the analysis of marine environments, and meetings with national and international authorities to share a common framework for best practices are the three main objectives of the project, which concerns a valuable ecosystem.

The Mediterranean Sea, which covers less than 1% of the surface of seas and oceans, hosts approximately 10% of known marine species, thus representing an invaluable treasure of biodiversity. However, it is also a fragile treasure; being a semi-enclosed basin with reduced dimensions, it is extremely vulnerable to anthropogenic impacts such as marine pollution, climate change, and maritime traffic. The results collected in the first two years, thanks to the scientific support of partner One Ocean Foundation, have not only laid the groundwork for the continuation of the project - now a unique case in Mediterranean research - but have also attracted an increasingly distinguished group of supporters.

«This year, we are extremely satisfied with the results achieved with the M.A.R.E. project. Our collaboration with Fondazione CVC - Centro Velico Caprera ETS has allowed us to reach significant scientific and awareness milestones regarding marine environmental protection. The third edition has confirmed the effectiveness of our mission, expanding monitoring and research activities in the western Mediterranean», states **Riccardo Bonadeo, President of One Ocean Foundation**.

«The data collected during the M.A.R.E. 2024 project appears very interesting: 61 sightings, including Mola Mola, sperm whales, and Risso's dolphins, as well as 10 environmental DNA samples and 54 zooplankton samples. Soon, analyses will begin to determine the state of contamination of the western Mediterranean and marine biodiversity, comparing the data with the other two editions,» says **Ginevra Boldrocchi, Scientific Coordinator of the M.A.R.E. project at One Ocean Foundation**.

The numbers of this edition

After sailing through the Tyrrhenian Sea in 2022 and moving to the Adriatic Sea in 2023, this year the catamaran departed from Sardinia to visit the cities of Savona, Nice, Marseille, Port-Argelès, Barcelona, Ibiza, Minorca, Ajaccio, and then returned to Santa Teresa di Gallura and finally to La Maddalena, for a total of 71 days and over 2,000 nautical miles navigated. The project involved 17 researchers from 8 universities and organized 5 outreach events. One Ocean Foundation collected 10 environmental DNA samples and 54 zooplankton samples to assess the presence of pollutants. Additionally, 37 underwater acoustic recordings and 61 sightings of marine fauna were made.

In addition to these, data were collected by researchers from other universities, including: 5 bioacoustic surveys, 97 eDNA samples, 83 water samples, and 6 air samples. Overall, the project directly involved over 100 people, including crew members, researchers, partners, and biologists from the Italian Navy and the Coast Guard.

Partners

From the first edition, the mission has attracted organizations that, sharing its values, have chosen to become allies, including Yamamay, present for the third consecutive year as a Founding Partner. This year, new partners include Shiseido as the Main Partner, Fondazione Deutsche Bank Italia as the Institutional Partner, and Workness Club, a Technical Partner that joins the "historic" Toio.

«We are immensely proud to have partnered with the MARE project for 2024 expedition. This collaboration underscores Shiseido's commitment to Europe to support scientific research aimed at preserving the marine ecosystem. Understanding precisely what pollutants affect our seas their levels, and their impact is an invaluable resource for future innovations in the cosmetics industry. It enables us to continually enhance our product formulations year after year, while also minimizing our ecological footprint and safeguarding the planet we hold dear.» **Romain Carrega EMEA PRESTIGE DIRECTOR Shiseido.**

«The ONE catamaran docked on the island of Caprera after the third Marine Research and Education journey in the Mediterranean Sea. In the beauty and simplicity of this island, sponsors, sailors, marine scientists, journalists, influencers, students, and enthusiasts gathered to thank each other for the journey undertaken together in discovering the sea and ourselves, with the trust and immense hope of protecting the sea and leaving a better natural environment for future generations. Yamamay confirms its participation in the next Marine Adventure in 2025!» declares **Barbara Cimmino, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility & Innovation at Yamamay.**

«The experience on the Fondazione CVC catamaran was extraordinary. The crew, researchers, and biologists on board, whom I supported in sample collection and who explained their projects to me and the other guests, conveyed an incredible passion. I was also able to personally experience how important the role of private foundations like ours can be in the field of research. I am proud of Fondazione Deutsche Bank Italia's commitment to projects supporting the Blue Economy like M.A.R.E.» **Tommaso Gragnolati, Fondazione Deutsche Bank Italia.**

«We are proud to have supported the important M.A.R.E. project for several years. As the initiative comes to an end, we would like to thank the entire team for the extraordinary dedication they have shown. We are ready to dive into the results of this incredible journey.» states **Elena Laura, Marketing Manager at Toio.**

«We firmly believe that protecting our marine environment is essential for ourselves, the future generations, and the planet. The protection of the sea and its ecosystem starts with a thorough understanding of its dynamics and biodiversity, and we are therefore proud to have supported the research activities of the M.A.R.E. project, which reflects our long-standing commitment to sustainability and environmental protection.» comments **Cavaliere Sergio Filograna, Founder and CEO of Workness Club.**



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