CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE
ISTITUTO DI SCIENZE MARINE

CICLO DI SEMINARI

Friday, 13 February 2026 - 2:00 pm (CEST)

ONLINE LINK

e in presenza: Bologna, Sede CNR-ISMAR Sala riunioni III Piano

The Seafloor Tells a Story: Discoveries from the CORSUB Project

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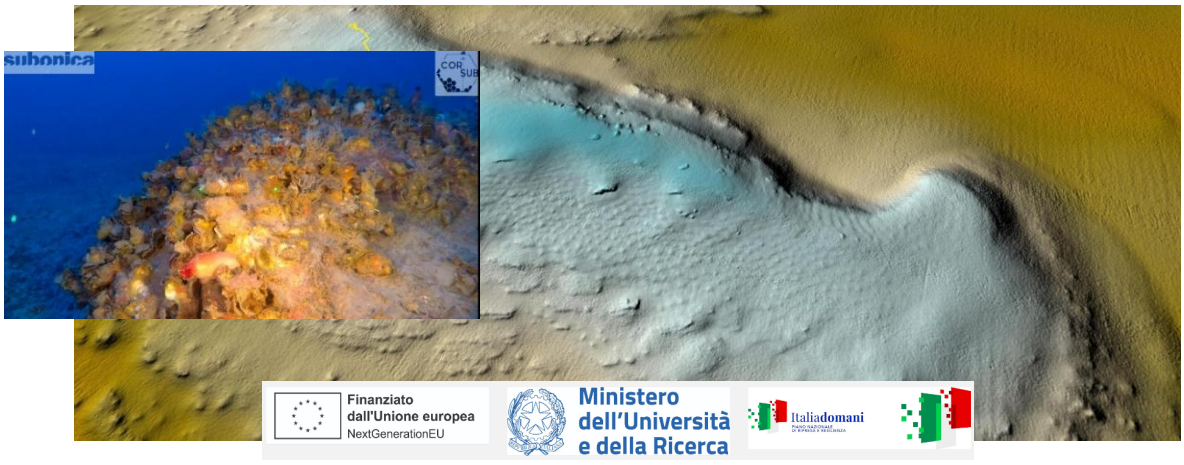

The CORSUB Project *"To the CORe of the SUBstrate: inception and development of Mediterranean algal reefs*" (PRIN-2022) investigated the morphology and origin of subcircular to polygonal features on a mesophotic seabed offshore Cape Licosa (Tyrrhenian Sea, 75-85 m depth). By integrating multibeam, backscatter, side-scan sonar, chirp profiling and ROV observations, we identified numerous discrete structures on a Miocene flysch seafloor covered by thin Holocene sediments, in an area where deep rhodolith beds, coralligenous and oyster reefs are found. The morphometric analysis revealed a predominant NE–SE orientation and a characteristic "beehive-like" seabed texture, only partially associate to the seafloor substrate-type. Evidence suggests these features result from differential erosion of the Miocene rocky substrate during the Last Glacial Maximum, later modified by Holocene sediment dynamics. These structures provide actually heterogeneous substrates that enhance the colonization by high-interest benthic habitats. CORSUB demonstrated how paleo-topographic inheritance and sedimentary processes influence the complexity of the mesophotic seafloor.