



Cecilia Silvestri, is a Senior Researcher at ISPRA, the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research, with over 25 years of experience in marine and coastal environmental research. Her work focuses on marine litter, particularly its impact on marine habitats and organisms, and on the protection of marine ecosystems, especially in relation to the implementation of European environmental directives such as Directive 2008/56/EC, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. She supports the Italian Ministry of the Environment and participates as an expert in national working groups, as well as in technical groups established by the European Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) under the

Barcelona Convention. She also contributes to expert working groups on ballast water, the introduction of non-indigenous species through maritime transport, and the associated biodiversity loss caused by their invasive nature. In 2019, she participated in an Antarctic campaign organized by the British Antarctic Survey (BAS). She has served as lead scientist in national monitoring campaigns and marine litter laboratory analyses, and has participated in more than 15 EU-funded projects, including (e.g., CLEAR-WATER, INDICIT, CADEAU, BALMAS, MARINA, and MEDREGION). She is also Project Manager for the removal and disposal of abandoned fishing and aquaculture gear, known as ghost nets, under the PNRR Marine Ecosystem Restoration project. She has authored more than 50 publications, including peer-reviewed scientific papers, technical reports, manuals, and guidelines. (<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Cecilia-Silvestri/research>).