

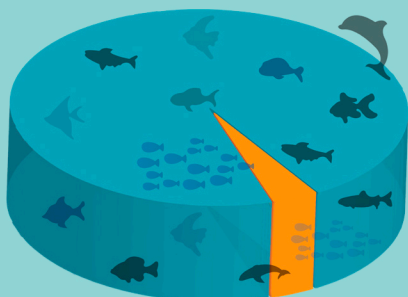
ITALIAN PROTECTED AREAS

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)



Marine Protected Areas are marine environments, waters, sea-beds, and stretches of coast that have a significant interest due to their natural, geomorphological, physical, and biochemical features. Protecting marine and coastal flora and fauna is a priority due to their scientific, ecological, educational, and economic values.

A marine underwater environment with significant historical, archaeological, and cultural value can also be included in the protected area. Two submerged archaeological sites, **Baja and Gaiola**, and **Pelagos, the International Sanctuary for the Protection of Mediterranean Marine Mammals**, are among the MPAs established by the Italian Ministry of Environment.



**Marine Protected Areas
make up only 4%
of the world's water surface.**