

Monica Fabra

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I am a marine biologist from Sicily (Italy) specialized in Marine Ecology.

My most recent work experience, concerning the ecotoxicity of microplastics in the marine environment, took place at the Institute of Marine Science in Portsmouth (UK). I have been running an aquarium-based experiment to assess the impacts of contaminated microplastics on oysters health as a part of a project aiming to investigate the role of microplastics as pathogen vectors.

My previous experiences include projects related to the biodiversity and conservation fields of study:

- Transplantation of the seagrass *Posidonia oceanica* to restore damaged seabeds;
- Biodiversity associated with “vermetid reefs” which are coastal bio-constructions built by the gastropod *Dendropoma petraeum*;
- Restoration of the native oyster *Ostrea edulis* as a part of the "Solent Oyster Restoration Project".

Since last year I have joined the core team of non-profit organization “See Bin Sea Change” which aims to raise awareness on plastic pollution by organizing free public events. Recently I have also joined the “UK Microplastics Network” and the “Native Oyster Network”.

Employment history:

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| 2018 | Research Assistant at the Institute of Marine Science, University of Portsmouth, UK.
<i>Aquarium-based experiments to determine the impact of pathogen-enriched microplastics on oysters health and the degree of trophic transfer.</i> |
| 2016 / 2017 | Guest Researcher at the Institute of Marine Science, University of Portsmouth, UK.
<i>Restoration of Ostrea edulis (Solent Oyster Restoration Project).</i>
<i>Main responsibilities:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Monitoring of O.edulis larval spawning, survival and growth.</i>- <i>Analysis of the zooplankton community to monitor the larval biodiversity and abundance across several harbours.</i> |

2016 / 2017 Laboratory and teaching assistant at the Institute of Marine Science, University of Portsmouth, UK.

- *Assistance during practical and lab classes explaining concepts and methods and helping students with exercises and activities*
- *Assistance on field courses.*

2013 / 2015 Internship at “Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra e del Mare” (Department of Terrestrial and Marine Science), University of Palermo, Italy
Assessment of biodiversity associated with “vermetid reefs” (identification of algal species and benthic invertebrates)

2010 / 2012 Internship at “Biosurvey srl”, University of Palermo, Italy
Transplantation of seagrass Posidonia oceanica aiming at restoring damaged seabeds

Education:

2012 / 2015 Masters Degree in Marine Ecology at the Institute of Maths, Physics and Natural Sciences, University of Palermo, Italy
Final grade 110 with praise/110

2006 / 2012 Bachelor Degree in Biology at the Institute of Maths, Physics and Natural Sciences, University of Palermo, Italy
Final grade 106/110

2002 / 2006 Diploma di Maturità at “Liceo Scientifico Stanislao Cannizzaro”, Palermo, Italy – equivalent to A Level in Science/Math

Other:

2018 Organizer/Volunteer for “See Bin See Change” (non-profit organization running events on plastic pollution and plastic-free alternatives) in Portsmouth, UK.

2018 Member of the “UK Microplastics Network”, funded in response to the growing need for wider stakeholder understanding and involvement in the field of microplastics research

2018	Member of the “Native Oyster Network” which aims to facilitate an ecologically coherent and collaborative approach to native oyster restoration across the UK and Ireland.
2010 / 2014	Diving licences (ISDA, International Scuba Diving Academy) <i>OPEN WATER, ADVANCED OWD, DEEP DIVE, MARINE BIOLOGY</i>
2007 / 2015	Private tutor (Math, Physics, Chemistry and Biology) in Palermo, Italy

Skills:

- General aquarium husbandry duties including set-up and maintenance of the systems and animal feeding.
- DNA extraction, PCR, SEM analysis, bacterial culture.
- Sorting and analysis of zooplankton, identification of benthic invertebrates.
- SCUBA diving
- EXCEL for data processing, PRIMER for analysis of biological data (MDS, PCO PERMANOVA)

Languages:

Italian (native)

English (IELTS qualification. Score: 6.0)

Portuguese (basic)

Referees:

Dr. Joanne Preston, Lecturer in Marine Biology, University of Portsmouth, UK (joanne.preston@port.ac.uk)

Dr. Joy Watts, Reader in Environmental Microbiology, University of Portsmouth, UK (joy.watts@port.ac.uk)

Dr. Renato Chemello, Lecturer in Marine Biology and Management of Coastal Environment, University of Palermo, Italy (renato.chemello@unipa.it)

Dr. Sebastiano Calvo, Lecturer in Marine Ecology and Analysis of Environmental Impacts, University of Palermo, Italy (sebastiano.calvo@unipa.it)