



NATURA 2000 - STANDARD DATA FORM

For Special Protection Areas (SPA),
Proposed Sites for Community Importance (pSCI),
Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and
for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SITE IT0000001
SITENAME Vercelli Seamount

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code IT0000001	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Vercelli Seamount

1.4 First Compilation date 2017-09	1.5 Update date -
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1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation: Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica - Direzione generale patrimonio naturalistico e mare
Address: Via Cristoforo Colombo, 44 - 00147 Roma
Email: PNM@pec.mite.gov.it

1.7 Site indication and designation / classification dates

Date site classified as SPA:	0000-00
National legal reference of SPA designation	No data

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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Longitude 10.9023 **Latitude** 41.0981

2.2 Area [ha]: 10635.0 **2.3 Marine area [%]** 100.0

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code

Region Name

ITZZ

Extra-Regio

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Mediterranean (100.0
%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

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Annex I Habitat types						Site assessment			
Code	PF	NP	Cover [ha]	Cave [number]	Data quality	A B C D	A B C		
						Representativity	Relative Surface	Conservation	Global
1170 B			10635.0		M	A	C	A	A

- **PF:** for the habitat types that can have a non-priority as well as a priority form (6210, 7130, 9430) enter "X" in the column PF to indicate the priority form.
- **NP:** in case that a habitat type no longer exists in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Cover:** decimal values can be entered
- **Caves:** for habitat types 8310, 8330 (caves) enter the number of caves if estimated surface is not available.
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation)

3.2 Species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC and site evaluation for them

Species					Population in the site					Site assessment				
G	Code	Scientific Name	S	NP	T	Size		Unit	Cat.	D. qual.	A B C D	A B C		
						Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	Glo.
R	1224	Caretta caretta			p				P	DD	D			

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, I = Invertebrates, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Type:** p = permanent, r = reproducing, c = concentration, w = wintering (for plant and non-migratory species use permanent)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the Standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting (see [reference portal](#))
- **Abundance categories (Cat.):** C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present - to fill if data are deficient (DD) or in addition to population size information
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation); VP = 'Very poor' (use this category only, if not even a rough estimation of the population size can be made, in this case the fields for population size can remain empty, but the field "Abundance categories" has to be filled in)

3.3 Other important species of flora and fauna (optional)

Species					Population in the site					Motivation					
Group	CODE	Scientific Name	S	NP	Size		Unit	Cat.	Species Annex		Other categories				
					Min	Max			C R V P	IV	V	A	B	C	D
I		Antipathella subpinnata			0	0		P						X	
I		Axinella polypoides			0	0		P						X	
M	2621	Balaenoptera physalus			0	0		P		X					
P		Laminaria rodriguezii			0	0		P						X	

I		Ophiaster ophidianus		0	0		P						X
M	2624	Physeter macrocephalus		0	0		P	X					
M	2034	Stenella coeruleoalba		0	0		P	X					
I		Tethya citrina		0	0		P						X
M	2035	Ziphius cavirostris		0	0		P	X					

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, Fu = Fungi, I = Invertebrates, L = Lichens, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **CODE:** for Birds, Annex IV and V species the code as provided in the reference portal should be used in addition to the scientific name
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting, (see [reference portal](#))
- **Cat.:** Abundance categories: C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present
- **Motivation categories:** **IV, V:** Annex Species (Habitats Directive), **A:** National Red List data; **B:** Endemics; **C:** International Conventions; **D:** other reasons

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

4.1 General site character

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Habitat class	% Cover
N01	100.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

Il monte sottomarino Vercelli è la più importante struttura di un imponente complesso che si innalza da oltre 2000 metri di profondità; il suo cono di origine vulcanica si è formato circa 7 milioni di anni fa (Barberi et al., 1978, 1989; Zhuleva, 1988). I fianchi della montagna sottomarina hanno una pendenza di circa 20 gradi (Galignani, 1973; Zhuleva, 1988), fino alla profondità di circa 200 metri, dove è presente una ampia zona pianeggiante, al centro della quale si erge una struttura a forma di pinnacolo che risale sino alla profondità minima di circa 60 m (Zhuleva, 1988). Le condizioni oceanografiche dell'area in cui si trova il monte sottomarino Vercelli sono caratterizzate dalla presenza quasi costante di tre vortici di corrente generati dal vento e dalle caratteristiche topografiche del fondale che permettono l'entrata di masse d'acqua provenienti dalle aree di nord est, e in parte provenienti dal sub bacino Algero-Provenzale (Artale et al.; 1994 Nair et al., 1994; Budillon et al., 2009; Vetrano et al., 2010). Queste correnti portano al mescolamento delle masse d'acqua con un aumento della concentrazione di nutrienti e quindi una stimolazione della produzione primaria (Morel and André, 1991; Nair et al., 1994). (Testo sintetizzato da Würtz & Rovere, 2015)

4.2 Quality and importance

Il monte sottomarino Vercelli nella sua parte più superficiale ospita un ricco coralligeno segnalato da campagne esplorative con veicoli robotici filoguidati (Bo et al., 2011). Il pinnacolo del Vercelli è ricoperto da una densa prateria di (*Laminaria rodriguezii*), mentre le sue pareti sono colonizzate da numerosi specie dicnidari ottocoralli (*Paramuricea clavata*, *Eunicella cavolinii* e *Antipathella subpinnata*), tunicati ascidiacei (*Diazona violacea*), spugne e policheti (*Sabella pavonina*) (Bo et al., 2011). A profondità maggiori, tra i 100 e i 150 metri di profondità, è presente una ricca popolazione di crinoidi (*Leptometra phalangium*) con densità molto elevate che raggiungono i 43 ind./m². La facies a Crinoidi cede il passo ai ricci (*Cidaridae*). A partire dalla profondità di 180 - 200 metri sono presenti numero e colonie di *Dendrophyllia cornigera*, in gran parte morte. I calici morti di corallo sono colonizzati dalla spugna blu *Hamacantha (Vomerula) falcata*. Nelle acque in prossimità del Vercelli è segnalata la presenza della balenottera comune (*Balaenoptera physalus*) e della *Stenella striata (Stenella coeruleoalba)*, del capodoglio (*Physeter catodon*), dello Zifio (*Ziphius cavirostris*) e del Grampo (*Grampus griseus*) (Nascetti & Notarbartolo di Sciarra, 1996; Pavan et al., 2011; Bo, pers. comm.; 2009, Marini et al., 1996). (Testo sintetizzato da Würtz & Rovere, 2015)

4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

Negative Impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
M	F02.02		i
M	F02.03		i
M	F02.01		i

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside /outside [i o b]

Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low

Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input/acidification,

T = toxic inorganic chemicals, O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions
i = inside, o = outside, b = both

4.4 Ownership (optional)

4.5 Documentation

Würtz & Rovere (eds) (2015). Atlas of the Mediterranean Seamounts and Seamount-like Structures. Gland, Switzerland and Malaga, Spain: IUCN. 276 pages. E bibliografia in esso contenuta

Link(s): <http://www.iucn.org/mediterranean>

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

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Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
IT00	100.0				

5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

5.3 Site designation (optional)

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

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Organisation:	Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica - Direzione generale patrimonio naturalistico e mare
Address:	Via Cristoforo Colombo, 44 - 00147 Roma
Email:	PNM@pec.mite.gov.it

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> No, but in preparation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

7. MAP OF THE SITES

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INSPIRE ID:

Map delivered as PDF in electronic format (optional)

Yes No

Reference(s) to the original map used for the digitalisation of the electronic boundaries (optional).

<http://www.emodnet.eu/bathymetry>