

# WHAT ARE THE TEGNUE of CHIOGGIA?

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Chioggia Tegnùe are an extraordinary environment rich in life and completely different from other areas of the north Adriatic seabed.

They appear as rocky structures rising from a flat and sandy seabed, one of a kind, thanks to their inner structure and to the wide number of organism living in there.

Although their geological origin seems not yet very clear, we are sure that the bio-builder organism had a key role in their formation: as a matter of fact, we are dealing with organic rocks, formed by the overlapping of layers of seaweeds and chalky corals over hard substrates belonging to different geological ages.



Glimpse of one Tegnua (picture by Massimo Ponti)

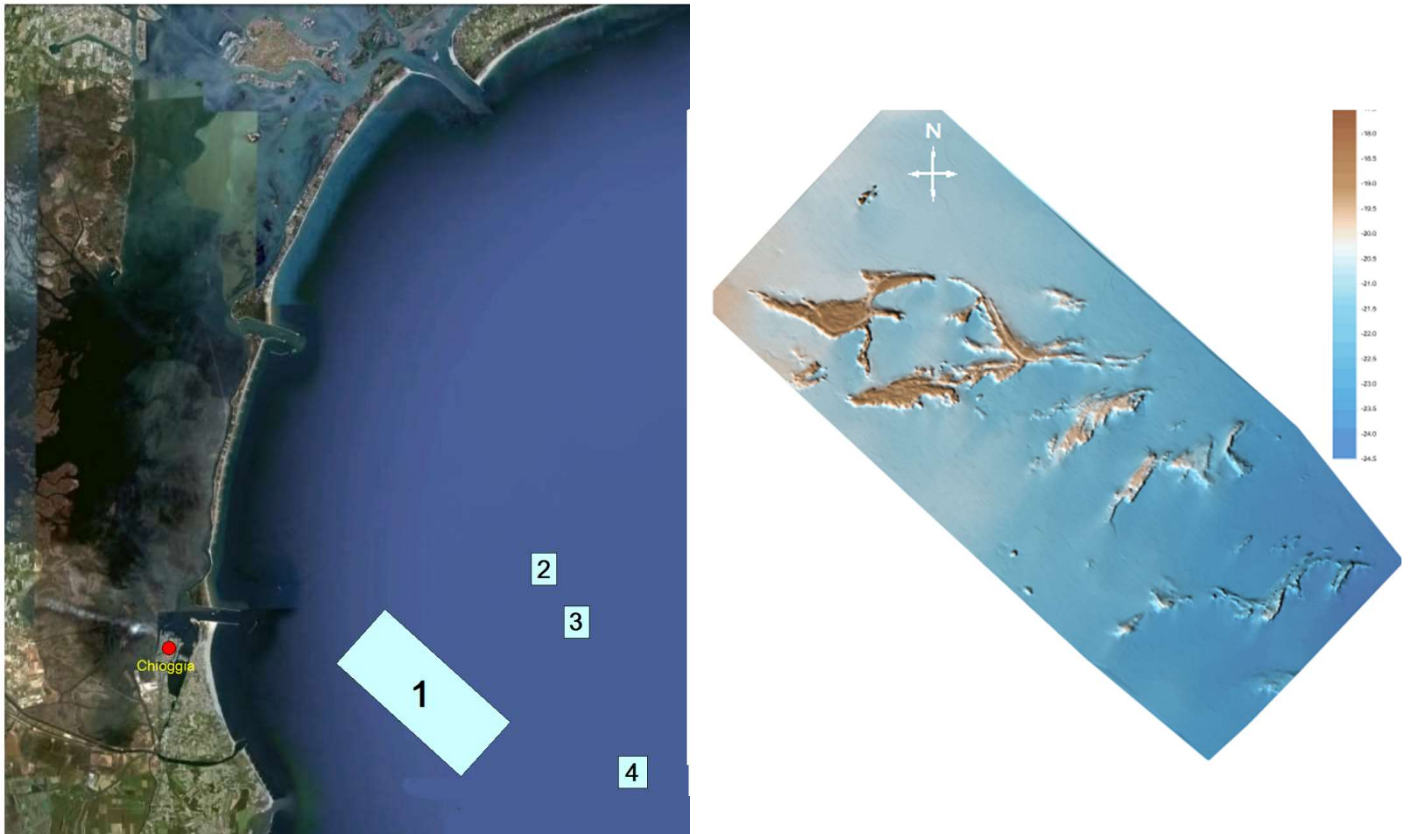
The presence of these particular cliffs under the sea was already known in 1700, at the time of the abbot Giuseppe Olivi, the naturalist of Chioggia who firstly tried to study them. It is thought, that Tegnue were discovered by fishermen who often after the end of their trawling sessions (a fishing technique applied to sandy seabed to catch shellfish, crustacean and little fishes living just below the sand), found their nets ripped. They then dived into the sea to retrieve the nets and discovered these particular kinds

of rocks. The name itself “Tegnue” derives from the local dialect and could be translated into “curbed, bridled”.

In 2002 the entire area was declared Biological Protected Area (Zona di Tutela Biologica - ZTB) and in 2011 it has been proposed as Site of Community Importance (SCI)

These sorts of rocky masses are mainly spread opposite the seaboard between the mouths of rivers Po and Timavo, from 1,5 to 25 miles from the coast and indicatively at a depth that goes from 17 to 30 meters. Dimensions can differ: from small stones of some square meters wide, to big cliffs hundred meters long and more than 4 meters high.

Just in front of the coast of Chioggia is located the widest and most important complex, which is called "Tegnue" and which includes the bigger masses until now discovered.



Location of the 4 SCI areas of the Chioggia Tegnue and 3d map of area n°1 with Multibeam scan of 2011 - the chromatic scale indicates the depth in meters.