

# THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TEGNUE OF CHIOGGIA

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Why are the Tegnue so special, to gain attention from Public Administration, tourists, divers and to need to be protected?

Who sees them for the first time, does not have any difficulties in comparing them to an oasis in the desert or a tropical island in the middle of a wide ocean: rocks of every dimensions rise from the flat seabed, rich in animals and plants with different forms and colours in great contrast with the sandy surrounding environment.

When diving in Tegnue, those who are keen on fishing fauna, can easily meet small cod, damselfish, white bream, serranidae, mullet, thrush, sea ravens, sea-eel and many mimetic fishes like gobies, blennies and scorpion-fishes. Who instead is more interested to benthos organism and has fun in macro photography, will be entranced by the unbelievable richness and variety of sponges, ascidans, corals and sea anemone which “fight” among them to gain their living space, growing up one on another and covering the whole soundings. In the surroundings can be seen also lobsters, horse mackerel, picarel, bogues and saddled bream and it is not so difficult to see some specimen of rudderfish, bonito or, in the rarest cases, of sea-eagle.

Given their uniqueness, the Tegnue need to be well-known and visited through diving and also virtual dips, and to be protected and valorised to allow also future generations to enjoy this wonderful environment. The European Union too has acknowledged this uniqueness by making the Tegnue a Biological Protected Area (Zona di Tutela Biologica – ZTB) and subsequently a Site of Community Importance (SCI), like other earthly natural area (i.e. the Nordio Wood, nearby the city of Chioggia).

The Tegnue are very characteristic also from the geological point of view, as highlighted by the researches lead by National Research Centre (CNR – Centro Nazionale di Ricerca), financed by the funds of Regional Law 15/2007 and recently published on some of the most influential scientific journals. Summarizing, Tegnue are 7000 years old and they are the results of sedimentation of alluvial soil and deposits which later have been cemented until forming a unique environment in the Adriatic, which has acted also as a “nursery” for some rare marine species.