



## **Marevivo: 300-metre long “ghost net” removed at the Secche di Vada in the Ligurian Sea**

14 November 2022 – Marevivo's efforts to search, report and remove waste and fishing nets abandoned on the seabed continue. The Diving Division this time plunged into the waters of the Secche di Vada, an area in the Ligurian Sea about 6 miles from the coast, between the mouths of the rivers Fine and Cecina, south of Livorno.

This area is particularly rich in biodiversity and fish, due to the phenomenon of upwelling. This refers to the movement of cold, deep nutrient-rich water rising up to the surface, thus attracting fish and other organisms. As a result, the area is greatly threatened by overfishing.

The operation, made possible with the support of **Banor**, one of Italy's largest independent wealth and asset managers, enabled the removal of a ghost net about 300 metres in length and weighing about 400/450 kg. Twelve divers, divided into teams, used special “closed circuit” diving systems and electric underwater scooters to move more easily along the submerged wall. The Circolo Nautico Foce Cecina - Sub Nettuno provided support nautical equipment, including a fishing boat to retrieve and carry the net ashore. Important contributions were made also by the Port of Cecina, with logistics and assistance in unloading and temporary storage for the net, the Livorno and Vada Harbour Offices, and the Municipality of Cecina, which took care of the compliant disposal of the net.

*“This major recovery operation was complicated both by the morphology of the site and the approximately 40 to 50 metres depth of the wall”, said **Massimiliano Falleri, Head of the Marevivo Diving Division**. “Many divers come across ghost nets during submersion, but these recovery operations require the coordinated action of a specially assembled team. Ghost nets pose a threat to the entire marine ecosystem because they continue to trap fish and sea organisms, suffocate the seabed and create pollution as the microplastics break down over time and are released into the sea. This area in particular has great underwater forests of *Posidonia oceanica*, which we know is very important for life on the planet, as it produces more than 50% of the oxygen we breathe. Freeing them from nets helps to safeguard them.”*

**Massimiliano Cagliero, CEO of Banor Sim:** *“We are very pleased to announce the success of a new action to protect the environment in which we live and where future generations will live. We will continue to work with Marevivo in helping to tackle the problems of pollution, the destruction of marine biodiversity and the deaths of many animal species. The energy we put into our daily work as asset managers we will apply also to the promotion of investment in companies that operate in compliance with ESG criteria and sustainability”.* Marevivo's and Banor's shared values has led to their common support for many projects over time, including the adoption in September of Tuscany's Cala Violina beach, as part of the Marevivo national “Adopt a Beach” campaign. This operation, which included the cleaning, monitoring and enhancement of dozens of beaches throughout Italy, was accompanied by the positioning of naturalistic and information panels in on the Bufalina Beach in Torre del Lago, also in Tuscany.

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