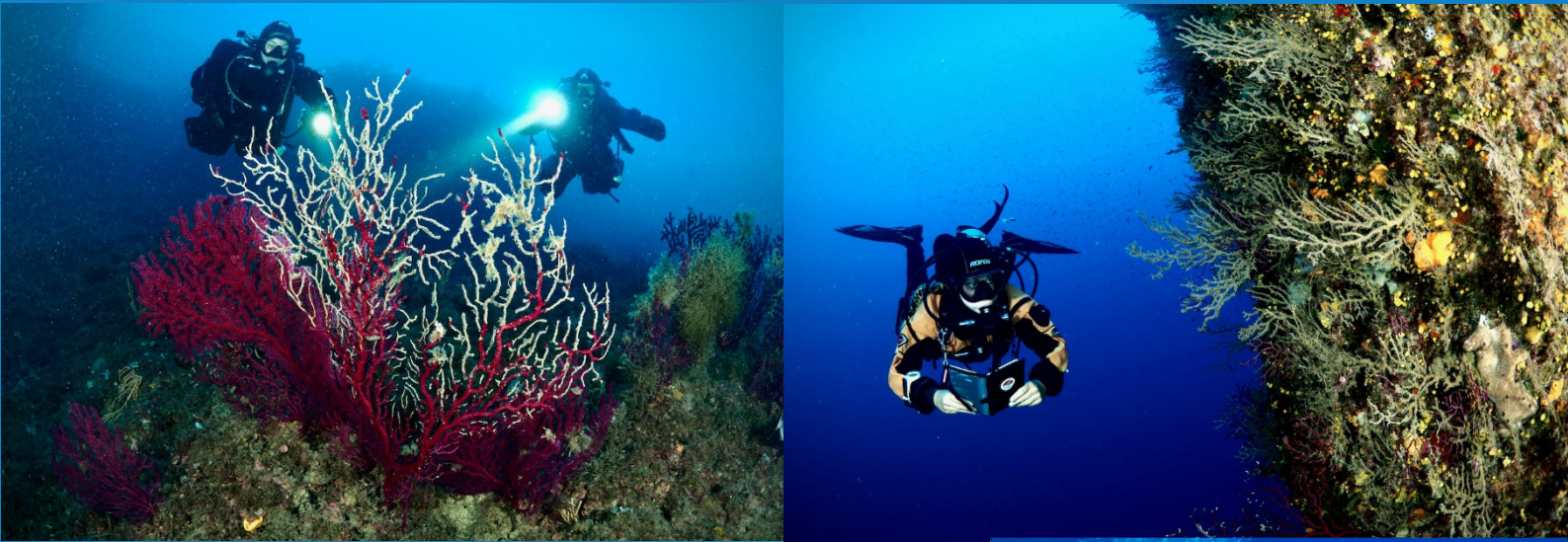


Coral Care Project

The Coral Care project is a collaboration between Reef Alert Network, the Portofino Marine Protected Area Consortium, and the Polytechnic University of Marche. The project aims to protect and restore coral populations which have suffered significant damage due to underwater heat waves or human activities (anchoring, diving, fishing). Broken or diseased coral fragments will be collected and regrown in underwater nurseries, before being transplanted onto submerged reefs. Our goal is to treat corals whose survival is compromised for use in the restoration of damaged habitats.



“Restoring our reefs, one brick at a time”



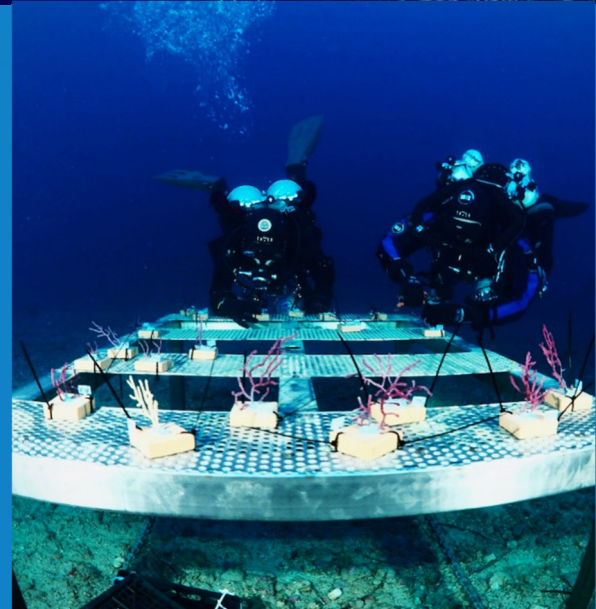
Main Goals:

Artificial Structure Design & Installation: To create and install artificial structures specifically designed for transplanting colonies of various gorgonian species and red coral (*Corallium rubrum*). These structures will serve as safe environments for the coral fragments, promoting their growth and survival.

Testing Transplantation Techniques: To experiment with innovative techniques for transplanting gorgonians and red coral. This includes using terracotta substrates and biocompatible resins to minimize environmental impact and ensure the health of the coral fragments during the restoration process.

Monitoring & Long-Term Health Assessment: To monitor the transplanted colonies over time, tracking their survival, growth, and overall health. This will allow us to refine techniques and ensure the success of restoration efforts.

Engagement of Volunteer Divers: To involve volunteer divers in the project through citizen science protocols. Divers will assist in monitoring coral health, collecting data, and supporting restoration activities, thereby increasing the project's reach and effectiveness.



After one year of planning and developing, the project finally took its starting steps in **November 2025**, when a team of volunteer divers proceeded with the positioning of two metal nursery structures at a depth of approximately 40m in the Portofino Marine Protected Area.

The project is **currently ongoing**, and the next steps will involve reoccurring dives for coral colony collection and transplantation onto the nurseries, followed by dive monitoring session.



<https://www.reefalert.org/>

STATUS: ACTIVE

BE PART OF THIS PROJECT:

Minimum requirement

- Fundamental Tech
- RAN Conservation Diving Workshop

CONTACT:

info@portofinodivers.com

SPONSOR: Mercuria

PARTNERS: Portofino Divers for diving operation
AMP Portofino, UnivPM, IIT Bicocca

LOCATION:

Portofino MPA, Santa Margherita Ligure, GE, Italy

