

## CoSea\_Lab mid-term report

Chiara Certomà

The CoSea\_Lab project carried out an intense program of initiatives throughout 2025, combining scientific research, social participation, and cultural activities. Activities began in March with a public presentation involving the local community in the co-design process. On March 8, the team joined a meeting between fishermen and the Municipality of Anzio, collecting first-hand input. On April 3, 14 qualitative interviews were conducted with stakeholders, followed by the first waterway samplings on April 4 and 9, including chemical and biological analyses. On April 4, CoSea\_Lab was officially recognised as an action of the UN Ocean Decade, giving international visibility. On May 16, a marine sampling campaign was held near sewer outlets, coupled with plastic collection from fishing vessels in collaboration with cooperatives. On May 30, the project was presented at Sapienza University's MEMOTEF Research Days, bringing interdisciplinary perspectives into academia. Further pollutant analyses followed on June 3–4. June marked a turning point in communication: on June 5, the *Blue Kinship* video premiered at the UN Ocean Conference 2025; the Sailing Lab soon after combined equipment testing, sampling, and onboard documentation. On June 21, the project was later showcased at the Living the Sea workshop (University of Lisbon). Over the summer, initiatives multiplied: the creation of the CoSea\_Lab social map (July 10), screening of *Blue Kinship* at the SiciliAmbiente Film Festival (July 18), a photography exhibition and participatory workshop at the port of Anzio (July 26), and publication of the technical-scientific report (July 31). International attention followed with presentations at the Royal Geographical Conference (Birmingham, August 27–29) and the finalisation of the CoSea\_Lab documentary (September 4). From a scientific perspective, six environmental sampling campaigns were conducted, with open-access data shared with local authorities to support sustainable resource management. Qualitative research through interviews and participatory observation documented local knowledge, feeding into a socio-environmental map. Communication gained broad visibility: a RAI3 Leonardo news feature (July 5), more than thirteen press articles, and continuous community engagement. Full information: <https://crowdusg.net/cosea/>

The workshop on October 3, 2025, organized at Sapienza MEMOTEF, with national and international guests, "Marine Social Research. Present and Future of Science, Creativity, and Participation for the Ocean." The meeting offered an opportunity to explore topics such as: citizen science and participatory social research for the sea and ocean; marine education and literacy (ocean literacy); and the role of art and creativity in transforming the relationship between society and the ocean. The workshop brought together researchers, citizens, activists, and institutions, stimulating practices of imaginative storytelling, artistic experimentation, and critical participation. Among the most notable outcomes were: the production of the video documentary CO>SEA Critical Visions from the Sea, presented during the workshop for the first time; the photography exhibition "CO>SEA"; and the publications of the Third Mission project. The meeting offered an opportunity to explore topics such as: citizen science and participatory social research for the sea and ocean; marine education and literacy (ocean literacy); The role of art and creativity in transforming the relationship between society and the ocean. The workshop brought together researchers, citizens, activists, and institutions, stimulating practices of imaginative storytelling, artistic experimentation, and critical participation.

Scientific and outreach products:

- C.Certoma' (2025) "I felt as someone special today". Advancing marine citizen science through participatory and critical geography explorations", *Local Environment*, 1– 22, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13549839.2025.2513888>

- Certoma', C., Bertocci, L., Pozzobon, C., Salari, C., Fornaro, F. (2025) "[‘Home is the Ocean’: Intervista a Livia Vonaesch](#)", TaxiDrivers
- Pozzobon, C., Bertocci, L., Certoma', C. (2024), "[Breath. Andare a fondo, risalire](#)", Taxidivers
- G. Lupinacci, F. Fornaro, C.Certoma' (2025) "CoSea\_Lab Photographic Reportage", Zenodo <https://zenodo.org/records/17064428>
- Certomà, C., Pozzobon, C., Salari, C., Bertocci, L., Boldrini, A., Valente, T. (2025), "CO>SEA nel Golfo di Anzio. Report tecnico-scientifico", Zenodo, <https://zenodo.org/records/16313580>
- Fornaro F., Lupinacci G. (directed and filmed), Certoma', C. (project coordination) (2025) "Co>Sea. Critical Visions from the Sea", produced by Raw-News Visual Documentation Agency, supported by Sapienza University of Rome

Peer-review submitted papers:

- C.Certoma', Fornaro F. "Salt lingers in the blood. Toward an Oceanic Sense of Place", J-Reading
- C. Pozzobon, C.Certoma' "Deep Sight. Visual Marine Geography", Cultural Geographies