



Born in Madrid (Spain) in 1972, I received my first diving mask at the age of six and wanted to study marine life since then. I got a Ms.C. in Biological Sciences at the University of Murcia and in Marine Biology at the University of Pisa, a Master on marine environment management and at the National Council of Research (CNR) – Institute of Coastal Marine Environment (IAMC) in Mazara del Vallo, and a Ph.D. on Animal Biology at the University of Palermo. I am a tenured researcher at CNR-IAMC since 2012 and a research fellow at SZN since 2016.

My research is concerned with coastal change. Among the many drivers of change, I am particularly interested in habitat degradation, non-indigenous species, and fisheries. I focus on community assembly and structure while studying process as habitat modification, recover from disturbance, regime shifts, and invasion by exotic species. These naturally drove me to applied research on restoration ecology and territory management. Research topics include habitat fragmentation, restoration of habitat-forming species, trophic cascades, stock rebuilding, marine protected areas, fishery reserves, and marine spatial planning.

Recent publications

Bulleri F, Badalamenti F, Iveša L, Mikac B, Musco L, Jaklin A, Rattray AJ, **Vega Fernández T**, Benedetti-Cecchi L (2016). The effects of an invasive seaweed on native communities vary along a gradient of land-based human impacts. *Peer J* 4:e1795 (<https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.1795>).

Di Lorenzo M, **Vega Fernández T**, Badalamenti F, Guidetti P, Starr RM, Giacalone VM, Di Franco A, D'Anna G (2016). Diel activity and variability in habitat use of white sea bream in a temperate Marine Protected Area. *Marine Environmental Research* 116:1-9 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.marenvres.2016.02.007>).

Buhl-Mortensen L, Galparsoro I, **Vega Fernández T**, Johnson K, D'Anna G, Badalamenti F, Garofalo G, Carlström J, Piwowarczyk J, Rabaut M, Vanaverbeke J, Schipper C, van Dalftsen J, Vassilopoulou V, Issaris Y, van Hoof L, Pecceu E, Hostens K, Pace ML, Knittweis L, Stelzenmüller V, Todorova V, Doncheva V (in press). Maritime ecosystem-based management in practice: Lessons learned from the application of a generic spatial planning framework in Europe. *Marine Policy* (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2016.01.024>).

D'Anna G, **Vega Fernández T**, Pipitone C, Garofalo G, Badalamenti F (in press). Governance analysis in the Egadi Islands Marine Protected Area: A Mediterranean case study. *Marine Policy* (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2015.12.009>).

Alagna A, **Vega Fernandez T**, D'Anna G, Magliola C, Mazzola S, Badalamenti F (2015). Assessing *Posidonia oceanica* seedling substrate preference: An experimental determination of seedling anchorage success in rocky vs. sandy substrates. *PLoS ONE* 10(4): e0125321 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0125321>).