

WORKSHOP

September 20_21_22 2022
Castello di SANTA SEVERA

The Roman fish tanks of the Mediterranean: and interpretations for the definition of sea level changes during the last 2000 years



The Polo Museale Civico di Santa Marinella **Museo del Mare e della Navigazione Antica**, the Society for the Study of Ancient Coastlines (AKTES, Greece) and the Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (INGV, Italy) co-organise the thematic Workshop **“The Roman fish tanks of the Mediterranean: constraints and interpretations for the definition of sea level changes during the last 2000 years”**, which will be held in person and hybrid format at the Castello di Santa Severa (Pyrgi), on September 20-22, 2022.

The fish tanks of the Mediterranean provide important insights into the aqua-culture and life-styles during the Roman period, primarily in the interval between about 200 BC and 200 AD, being carefully engineered,

documented and dated in the classic histories and geographic texts of that period. A particular important feature is that for effective functionality, their construction is closely linked to the coeval tidal range and mean sea level, such that their current position relative to sea level provides a reference level for both archaeological and geophysical studies: for calibrating the relations between other archaeological structures and sea level at the time of their construction and use, and for determining the sea level changes and tectonic vertical movements along the coastal zone. For ancient coastal constructions to be successful as accurate sea level indicators, a good understanding of the particular features that relate accurately to the local sea level is required. The Roman fish tanks

are characterized by specific functional features that are associated with the sea level at the time of their construction and use, descriptions and functions of which can often be found in the Roman literary sources. Both features and age information is available for inter-comparisons of a significant number of fish tanks and for calibrating the sea level at those sites where their key defining-features have not been preserved or reliable age information is not able to be obtained. Rising sea level, storm activity and encroaching development are threatening these Roman structures that provide unique information on the relative sea level change over the last 2000 years, making measures to protect their archaeological and environmental value paramount.



To confirm your participation, please send a title and a short abstract (up to 250 words, in English) of your contribution to the Organizing Secretariat: fishtankconf2022@gmail.com by August 30, 2022

THE WORKSHOP

The **workshop will spread over three days** in three separate sessions. A one day field trip is planned to the fish tanks of **Punta della Vipera and Castrum Novum**.

Session 1.

Tuesday 20_9_2022

10:00_19:30

Oral presentations by invited speakers and short hybrid presentations by registered participants.

Presentations

Presentations should not exceed 25 minutes. Official language is English. Contributions will be published in a special volume of *Annals of Geophysics*.

For those who will participate in-person, accommodation will be provided at the Ostello Castello di Santa Severa (full details available soon).

Social events

A social dinner will be held in a nearby restaurant on Tuesday 20th, 2022

Accommodation

In the vicinity of the castle of Santa Severa there are several hotels, bed and breakfasts and farmhouses. The nearest, within 1 km from the workshop location, are the following:

Hotel Pino al Mare (Santa Severa)

Hotel Pyrgi Mare (Santa Severa)

Hostel of Castello di Santa Severa

Organizing scientific Committee

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Session 2.

Wednesday 21_9_2022,

10:00_18:00

Morning: guided visit to the fish tanks of Punta della Vipera and Castrum Novum (snorkeling).

Afternoon: guided tour to the archaeological excavations of Castrum Novum.

The Venue

The castle of Santa Severa is located on the coast of the Tyrrhenian Sea in the municipality of Santa Marinella, about 60 km from downtown Rome, 50 km from the international airport Leonardo da Vinci and 30 km from the volcanic crater lake of Bracciano.

It rises on the site of Pyrgi, the port city connected to the ancient Caere, current Cerveteri, founded between the end of the VII and the beginning of the VI century BC. The Etruscan city of Pyrgi developed all around the port for an extension of about 10 hectares, including in addition to the area now occupied by the castle village also the area of the sanctuary located at the southern end, object of excavation by the Institute of Etruscology of the Sapienza University of Rome for more than fifty years.

During the course of the third century BC with the Romanization of the coastal territory, the Roman castrum of Pyrgi was founded on part of the Etruscan town, surrounded by mighty polygonal walls. The site was probably inhabited without interruption until late antiquity (4th-5th century AD) on the remains of the castrum that was transformed in medieval times in the village

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Session 3.

Giovedì 22_9_2022

10:00_16:00

Morning: oral presentations.

Afternoon: discussion and conclusions.

of Castellum Sanctae Severae.

The actual castle was built in the fourteenth century and the village was gradually formed with more phases of construction during the fifteenth-sixteenth century. Over the centuries, the ownership of the Castle passed through various owners. In 1482 it passed under the ownership of the Order of the Holy Spirit and remained there for five hundred years until 1980. Between the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries it was also a place of rest and stay of many popes: among these Gregory XIII, Sixtus V and Urban VIII. Reached the period of maximum splendor in the seventeenth century. After centuries of neglect and decay, the castle was used by the Germans as a military post during the Second World War. Today the property of the monumental complex belongs to the Lazio Region which has entrusted its management to the Municipality of Santa Marinella. The castle houses museums and tourist facilities and is frequented by many visitors throughout the year. In particular, it houses the Museum of the Sea and Ancient Navigation, with unique archaeological pieces from the Roman era found in the seafloor near the castle.

Organizing secretary

For any information, please contact the organizing secretary:

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