

***Shaping the Italian Prehistoric landscapes in a wider process of sea-level changes: interdisciplinary researches and new data.***

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This paper does not attempt to provide an exhaustive review of the newly growing literature in the field of Italian submerged Prehistory, but to offer a synthesis and analysis of research on that topic by using, along with the interdisciplinary researches taken by the SPLASHCOS Italian Members, the main available works on this ground. This paper explores key issues relating to prehistoric archaeological record, maritime landscape and seaside context that now lie underwater in Italy. Most of the coastal areas here presented were involved in the great transformations which affected the seaside cultures of the Italian peninsula as a combined result of the global sea-level rise occurred during the “Final Pleistocene-Early Holocene” inter-phase and the local regional changes whether tectonic or morphogenetic. Selected cases study concerning evidence located in Sardinia, Sicily, Latium, Tuscany and Apulia will be discussed more in detail. The interdisciplinary approach adopted in this research also provides new data on relative sea-level change during the late Holocene, while at the same time brings together diverse approaches and methods for the analysis of submerged landscapes. It also aims to act as a blueprint/pilot for future directions in this specific field.

