

**EXPERIMENTAL GEOMORFOLOGICAL MAP OF THE BAY OF CARINI
(NW SICILY)**

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A geological survey was conducted in July 1992 on the coastal platform in the Bay of Carini and in a tract between the Isola delle Femmine and Capo Gallo (north-western Sicily). The sea floor was mapped in great detail to obtain geomorphological and topographical maps of the continental platform in this area.

Forty-three samples of superficial sediment were collected using a Shipeck grab sampler. Additionally, Side Scan Sonar profiles (100kHz) were taken. A Remote Operated Vehicle (R.O.V.), deployed along transepts perpendicular to the coast, and immersions by SCUBA diving (A.R.A.) were used to calibrate the signals and for a biological study, too. By all these methods of investigation, it has been possible to determine:

- some significant morphological structures
- the distribution of sediment characterize by different texture
- the areal limits of seagrass meadows (*Posidonia oceanica* and *Cymodocea nodosa*) on bottom ocean.

All data and observations have been collected and mapped following criteria and methods proposed by Italian Geological Survey to realize an experimental geomorphological cartography of a marine coastal area.

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