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## **NEW SURVEY OF THE ROMAN PORT OF PUNTA FUENTI (VIETRI SUL MARE, SALERNO, ITALY): AN INTERPRETATIVE HYPOTHESIS**

### **Abstract**

This presentation is the result of the survey project that I carried out for my MA Dissertation Thesis at the archaeological site of Punta Fuenti, on the Amalfi Coast in Italy. The focal point of the site is a Roman port structure, a *pila*, placed in protection of a bay. The aim of the thesis was to understand the function of the *pila* and of the entire site, expanding the research previously carried out in the area.

This has been achieved with a strategy that consisted of two phases: the bibliographical and archival research for historical, geographical and archaeological information on the site, and the operational phase of fieldwork consisting in a new survey of the area.

The survey itself was divided into two phases, including both the geophysical prospecting and the scuba diving research. The aim was to broaden the focus to the entire area, already suspected of being a small Roman port.

The use of this strategy has allowed to classify with certainty and precision the site's historical, geographical and archaeological characteristics, and produce new elements to develop a new interpretative theory.

Furthermore, fieldwalking activity on the slope overlooking the site brought to light new data, whose possible correlation with the underwater remains is the next step of investigation and study.

The research work carried out sets itself as a starting point for further studies on the site and for its future restoration and valorisation, with an eye to the legal controversy that is causing delays and carelessness to the area.

