



Maritime Cultural Heritage & Blue Growth: What's the Connection?

Number of workshop: 20

Date: Thursday 28 May 2015

Timing: 11:30-12:30

Chair: Prof. Geoff Bailey

Speakers and panellists:

Prof. Geoff Bailey, Professor of Prehistoric Archaeology, University of York

Dr. Dimitris Sakellariou, Research Director of Marine Geology and Marine Geoarchaeology, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research

Dr. Nena Galanidou, Associate Professor of Prehistoric Archaeology, University of Crete

Dr. Henk Weerts, Senior Researcher, Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands

Mr. Euan McNeill, Director, Coastal & Marine, Wessex Archaeology on behalf of British Marine Aggregate Producers Association

Ms. Andrea Klomp (by H. Weerts), Senior Policy Advisor, Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands

Prof. Tiedo Vellinga, Professor of Ports and Waterways, TU Delft & Director Environmental Monitoring, Maasvlakte 2, Port of Rotterdam

Dr. Elena Kountouri (by Ms. Konstantina Benissi) Head of the Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, Hellenic Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs

Programme see <http://eepurl.com/bnPAzi>

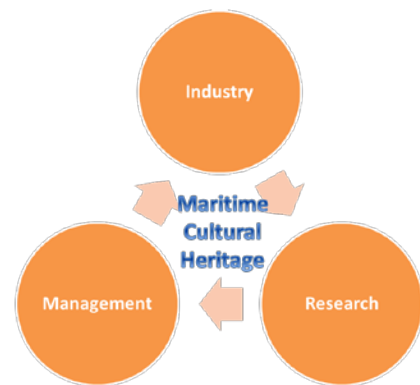
Speakers' biography and presentation summary is attached to this report (Annex 1). The summary and presentations are available for download at <http://www.marineboard.eu/wg-subland-emd>.

1. Key messages

Exploring and managing maritime cultural heritage, i.e. which is found on or beneath the seabed, presents particular challenges and requires innovative approaches and tools. The offshore industrial sector has demonstrated that it is possible to turn obstacles posed by archaeological finds and project delays into a benefit, through the generation of public support and added-value. It is very important, therefore, for maritime operators to ensure inter-disciplinary collaboration and to maximize the positive benefits that come from communicating and engaging with a wider public.

2. Summary of the interventions from the panel

Three sectors were represented in the discussion on the connection between maritime cultural heritage and blue growth: **interdisciplinary research** (marine science, underwater technology and archaeology), **heritage management** (national heritage agencies) and **offshore industry** (dredging and port construction). Speakers from each sector outlined progress to date and showcased results from collaborative case studies.



Sea-level change has been a continuous feature for coastal-dwelling population throughout human history. Since the emergence of modern man over the past 2 million years, sea levels have been lower than they are at present by as much as 130m. Similar to present times, most people in the past lived in coastal lowlands, and most of the evidence for the formative developments in our evolutionary and social history before 7,000 years ago is, therefore, submerged on the seabed. Continental Shelf Prehistoric Research can give us vital new information and insights into sea-level change and its past and future human impact. Research communities have already demonstrated what can be achieved through cross-disciplinary collaboration. For example, sharing underwater technology used for different research objectives can reduce operational costs and enhance the resolution of mapping and detection of underwater features. European research networks such as SPLASHCOS are a key factor in improving collaboration between different scientific disciplines, government agencies and the maritime industries.

Underwater cultural heritage urgently needs better management in the face of rapidly expanding natural and man-made threats to its survival. The workshop showcased two collaborations between cultural heritage agencies and offshore industrial development projects (marine aggregate production and port construction). Early engagement by offshore developers with the research community can contribute to the integration of science and heritage management. In addition, a strong communications strategy and stakeholder interaction can help to gain local support and attract tourism.

Maritime cultural heritage does not respect modern national boundaries. Researching and managing underwater cultural heritage requires collaboration between archaeologists, marine scientists, government agencies and industrial corporations on an international scale.

3. Discussion: Key questions and messages from the floor, as well as responses given by the panellists.

- Basil Tselentis (University of Piraeus) on incorporating cultural heritage into Marine Protected Area (MPA) frameworks as an alternative to tourism: Euan McNeill cited examples from Scotland, where heritage and environmental issues have been combined under one piece of legislation, and England, where this is not the case, noting that this was a missed opportunity. Geoff Bailey commented that marine conservation and heritage management often use similar techniques with potential for mutual benefit.
- Michael Williams (University of Kent) asked if any of the panellists had experience studying submerged heritage in 3rd world countries and how did they deal with it? Geoff Bailey recommended good communications with local communities who invariably take an enthusiastic interest in their local underwater heritage, and are keen to support research.
- Considering the shortage of public funds, what would be the motivation for the private sector (besides tourism) to invest in marine archaeology?
 - (Dimitris Sakellariou) To gain good public support and avoid project delays;
 - (Tiedo Vellinga) To create added value resulting from engagement with research projects: it is important nowadays to demonstrate corporate public responsibility and this investment will transform the relationship, minimise risks to the private sector and create additional value;
 - Nena Galanidou stressed the importance of tourism: cultural heritage is a significant force for Europe and investment in cultural heritage as part of tourism planning can improve the quality of the resulting product.
 - Henk Weerts shared his experience on observing the mood change thanks to the growth of public interest during the Maasvlaakte2 port development project in Rotterdam. The port authority, seeing that the project was gaining wider public interest, started to invest in outreach tools. This gave good publicity to both the cultural heritage and the port construction.
 - Euan McNeill noted that by investing voluntarily at an early stage, industry would gain much greater benefit in terms of dealing with objections, garnering public support and reducing imposed restrictions.
- According to Dimitris Sakellariou and Geoff Bailey, new technologies need to be developed to address challenges in underwater archaeology. They called on the EC to support technology development in this area through the Horizon 2020 programme.
- Wendy Bonne (JPI Oceans) asked about the engagement of the Mediterranean community with the Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) sector. Nena Galanidou replied

that they were working towards it and this EMD workshop was a step ahead in that direction.

- On the question of the destructive effect of bottom trawling, Henk Weerts replied that there was no legislation against Dutch fishermen ploughing the North Sea and the heritage agencies could do nothing about it. However, many fishermen are aware of the palaeontological and archaeological remains on the seafloor: some throw them away but others bring them back and pass them on to researchers. Geoff Bailey commented that like a double-edged sword, destructive activities could also reveal what was under water. Euan McNeill commented that commercial developers usually avoided sites of known archaeological interest but proper engagement with archaeologists could be turned to mutual advantage.

Contact person:

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References:

1. Flemming, N.C., Çağatay, M.N., Chiocci, F.L., Galanidou, N., Jöns, H., Lericolais, G., Missiaen, T., Moore, F., Rosentau, A., Sakellariou, D., Skar, B., Stevenson, A., Weerts, H. (2014) Land Beneath the Waves: Submerged landscapes and sea level change. A joint geoscience-humanities strategy for European Continental Shelf Prehistoric Research. Chu, N.C. and McDonough, N. (Eds.) Position paper 21 of the European Marine Board, Ostend, Belgium. 171 pp. ISBN 978-94-920430-3-0
2. Chu, N.C., McDonough, N., Flemming, N.C. (2014) How did our ancestors adapt to sea level change? Safeguard European underwater heritage through Continental Shelf Prehistoric Research, EMB Policy Brief No.1, European Marine Board, Ostend, Belgium. ISSN 0778-3590.
3. Borst, W., Weerts, H., Vellinga, T., Otte, A. (2014) Monitoring programme for Maasvlakte 2, Part iv- Archaeological and palaeontological finds, Terra et Aqua, 135, 5-16.
4. Marine Aggregate Industry Protocol for the Reporting of Finds of Archaeological Interest. <http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/projects/marine/bmapa/index.html>
5. Interdisciplinary archaeological research programme, Maasvlakte 2, Rotterdam. 417pp. http://www.rotterdam.nl/Clusters/Stadsbeheer/Images%202015/BOOR/PDF/BR566_Maasvlakte2_ENGLIS H.pdf
6. EU COST Programme SPLASHCOS (Submerged Prehistoric Archaeology and Landscapes of the Continental Shelf (<http://www.splashcos.org>))

Annexes:

Annex 1: Workshop summary

Annex 2: Participants list