



# 2023 Fisheries Science Seminar Citizen Science



**Insight on Citizen Science and its contribution to increase knowledge of Greek marine biodiversity, support collaboration between recreational fishers and promote conservation measures**

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# PROMOTION OF SCIENCE BASED MANAGEMENT TOWARDS A HEALTHY MEDITERRANEAN SEA



# Pillars

Aquatic Litter



Citizen Science



Human & Aquatic Ecosystems



Vulnerable Species



## Observations



4,013

## Observers



1,540

## Scientific Publications



10



The project "Is it Alien to you? Share it!!!" is the most successful citizen science project of Greece in regards to the marine environment engaging thousands of people and collecting vast amount of information. Until 2020, the project aimed to monitor the expansion of the already established alien species in Greece and in Cyprus utilizing an extended network of citizen scientists.

In 2022, the project expanded at collecting data on protected, exploited, rare and indicator species.

*"Citizens and scientists contributing side by side in marine science"*





The project launched in 2017 aims to create a network of Mediterranean elasmobranch sighting citizen science initiatives in 10 countries, to better understand the occurrence, seasonality and distribution of elasmobranchs in the region.

iSea is responsible for collecting citizen observations of sharks and rays in Greece and Cyprus through the corresponding Facebook group. The project is implemented in Albania, Austria, Cyprus, Greece, France, Israel, Italy, Libya, Spain and Turkey.

Observations



4,253

Observers



763

Scientific Publications



6



*"A collaboration between 10 countries to better understand elasmobranchs in the Mediterranean through citizen science observations"*



# Participants



Ομάδα από iSea  
**Καρχαρίες και Σαλάχια σε Ελλάδα και Κύπρο / Sharks and Rays in Gr and Cy**



Ομάδα από iSea  
**Σε ξενίζει .... Μοιράσου το μαζί μας-Is it Alien to you? Share it!!!**



7,546

16,875



80%

80%



15%

11%



5%

3%



# Citizens' contribution to increase knowledge on marine biodiversity



First records of fantail stingray *Taeniurops grabatus* and sawback angelshark *Squatina aculeata* included in the updated Cypriot Chondrichthyans checklist



>50% and 40% of data for the update of the Cypriot and Greek Chondrichthyans checklist come from citizen scientists



4 new alien species for Greece (*Lagocephalus guentheri*, *Schedophilus velaini*, *Nemipterus randalli*, *Lutjanus argentimaculatus*)



2 new alien species for the Mediterranean (*Abudefduf sexfasciatus*, *Goniobranchus obsoletus*)



First record of green alga *Acetabularia caliculus* in Greece

# From active involvement to awareness

Train recreational fishers on sampling collection for further study the biology of invasive alien species through citizen science

Promote the targeted removal of invasive species and actively participate in the responsible seafood consumption

Co-design and adopting the recommendations on species, seasonality and minimum size according to the “Recreational fishers guide” and practice catch and release

Get trained on the existing legal framework on protected species and adopt best handling and release techniques

# From active involvement to conservation measures

Constitute a massive amount of data included in the updated Chondrichthyans checklist of Greece and Cyprus

Contribute to the identification of the first Critical Angel Shark Areas in the Mediterranean

Support the proposal of Important Shark and Ray Areas and the Action Plans for angel shark conservation

Support our comments to the public consultations on the Special Environmental Studies concerning Natura2000 Areas

# Opportunities

Record species with no regular occurrence

Develop collaborations on other topics based on their Local Ecological Knowledge

Explore means of communication to raise awareness on environmental protection in general

# Challenges

Data accuracy

Data validation

Thank you!

