CYPRUS MARINE & MARITIME INSTITUTE

DEPUTY MINISTRY OF TOURISM REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

LOVE CYPRUS

Development of a strategy aiming at the product development of Diving Tourism in Cyprus

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Executive summary

Diving tourism constitutes to ~3% of the global tourist market with a projection to increase up to 6% (FMI, 2023), thus it is a sector that could be further developed and promoted by the stakeholders involved, such as, in the case of Cyprus, by the Deputy Ministry of Tourism (DMoT). Diving tourism includes SCUBA divers, free divers, and snorkellers and is considered to have the potential to bring high-value profits to those involved, including the local organisations and businesses that offer the associated activities. Due to the importance and rising interest in developing diving tourism in Cyprus, the Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute (CMMI) was assigned by the DMoT with identifying/mapping the current status of the Cypriot diving sector, identifying the best practices from abroad and comparing with the situation in Cyprus; and finally, to provide an action plan with suggestions to enhance and improve Cyprus' diving tourism.

In our study we identified 86 dive centres based in the Republic of Cyprus, 37 in Ammochostos, 15 in Limassol, 14 in Larnaka, 13 in Paphos and 7 in Nicosia. However, in Cyprus there is an unknown number of freelance instructors who are not affiliated with registered dive centres and therefore were not included in the records. A total of 69 dive sites have been identified, 45 of which can be considered as boat dives and 24 as shore dives. Of the 69 dive sites, 17 are shipwrecks, (7 accidental, 10 deployed) and six are artificial reef parks located across the coastline of Cyprus. An assessment that included visitations, accessibility, infrastructure and gaps was made for each dive site.

The current Cypriot legislative framework, specifically addressing diving, diving centres, diving tourism or diving sites is limited. Most regulations regarding the marine environment are focused on fishing restrictions both in terms of the usage of specific tools and the actual use of those areas, but not specifically for diving even though some dive sites are indeed found within areas with restrictions. Several decrees also restrict the entry of boats, anchoring and/or fishing activities in specific areas, some of which might be diving destinations. Currently, a legislation regarding operational standards is under development to enforce the international ISO 24803:2017-3 standards entitled: *Recreational diving services – Requirements for recreational diving providers*.

Following the assessment of the current situation of the diving industry, gaps were identified based on expert knowledge and lessons learned from other countries with similar characteristics in relation to the number of dive centres, legislation, infrastructure and tourism of Cyprus. Several improvements were proposed, along with an action plan listing them in an order of priority. Regarding infrastructure, some of our suggestions included the installation of ladders and handrails, to facilitate accessibility, kitting up facilities and washroom/changing facilities, for the comfort of the divers as well as improvements of footpaths, access roads and parking spaces, to also increase accessibility and easy access to the sites. In addition, placement of signs with dive site information and marker buoy placements as well as anchorage prohibition within important/sensitive areas are also suggested to increase visibility and safety at those dive sites. Some of the suggested infrastructures are already in place at a few dive sites; thus, our suggestions are following already implemented actions alongside additional improvements.

In addition to changes and improvements to infrastructure, it is also important to enhance legislation and regulations, thus, suggestions also include the designation of a monitoring/responsible authority for a national licensing program for dive centres and instructors which should also include their ISO compliance. To increase safety in the water and protection of environment, we also suggest the prohibition of anchoring in specific areas, restriction of boating in designated dive areas and use of technology for efficient monitoring of illegal activities with a focus on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Monitoring of protected areas as well as popular dive sites is key to ensure compliance with regulations and maintenance of infrastructure and conservation of biodiversity at those areas. It is also important to monitor the diving industry for compliance with regulations and keep track of their status. An online application system for reporting illegal activities or other issues at dive-sites could be set up, and targeted surveys of incoming tourism should be performed for better assessment of diving tourism in Cyprus.

For the environmental sustainability, but also for the sustainability of the industry, suggestions include increasing the ecological and environmental awareness of divers and the public, promoting the use of environmentally friendly tools (e.g., encouraging responsible underwater photography) to protect the marine environment. Furthermore, to create an

interactive website / application for easy access to information from the divers and to support and promote technical SCUBA diving as well as freediving, thus increasing the range of level of divers visiting Cyprus.

Increasing tourism requires promotion and therefore we propose various promotional activities such as attending relevant international exhibitions, hosting freediving and underwater photography competitions, creating immersive VR experience events, educational events, seabed clean-ups, increasing exposure on social media platforms and upgrading and expanding web-platforms. All these actions can aid in better dissemination of information and promotion of diving tourism in Cyprus.

To implement the suggested improvements, an action plan was developed ranking them by priority and proposing the appropriate authority to execute. This includes upgrades in infrastructure proposed for each site separately and ranked by most urgent to least urgent. The action plan can assist the competent authorities in choosing their course of action based on priority as well as budgetary and other limitations.

Introduction

Diving tourism is one of many touristic activities on the island of Cyprus that has, in recent years, become more popular and reached wider dimensions. This is considered to be the case on a global scale as well. Despite the above, it is also considered as a sector that could be further developed and promoted by the stakeholders involved, including the Deputy Ministry of Tourism.

People who partake in this recreational activity, essentially use breathing equipment that is completely independent of a surface air supply, also known as a 'Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus' (SCUBA), in order to explore the underwater world with more ease. However, diving tourism may also include free divers where participants hold their breath for the duration of the dive and people who simply use a mask and snorkel to swim on the surface (snorkelling) and observe the underwater world. The latter can be considered as the simplest and easiest type of diving tourism.

Diving tourism is a sector of tourism which is considered to have the potential to bring high-value profits to those involved, including the local organisations and businesses that support these activities. This kind of tourism presents important opportunities for the local economy, since tourists that engage in diving usually spend more than the average tourist for the same time and also travel often. In 2006 it was estimated that a million SCUBA divers are trained worldwide annually (Davenport & Davenport, 2006) and this number can only increase with the advancement in technology and publicity. There are no records of number of people who simply snorkel however it is anticipated to exceed the number of SCUBA divers as no certification is required. Nevertheless, both types of underwater explorer prefer warm climate for their holidays including areas like the Mediterranean islands (Koutsi & Stratigea, 2021).

Equally important are the environmental benefits from supporting diving tourism, since through this activity we can encourage and increase environmental awareness and the importance of protecting the marine environment, particularly the important/threatened marine habitats/species (e.g., *Posidonia oceanica* meadows). However, studies have shown that diving tourism can also have negative effects on the marine environment, if good practices are not followed (Toyoshima & Nadaoka, 2015; Krieger & Chadwick, 2013;

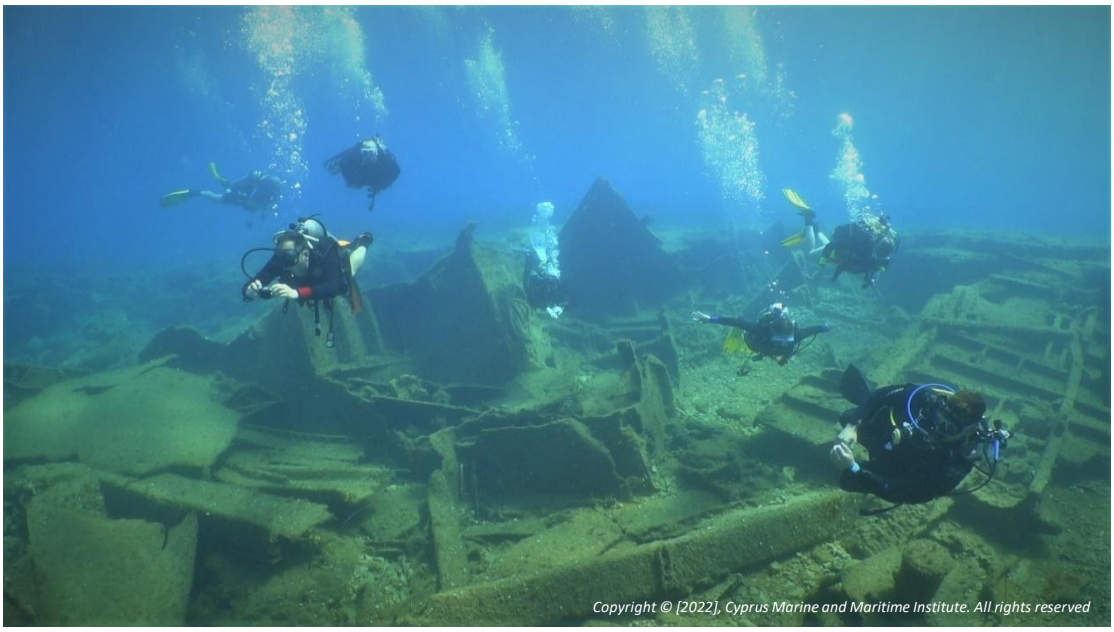
Sumanapala et al., 2022). Negative effects can arise depending on the frequency, amount (people, time) and the practices followed during a dive visit, in conjunction with sensitivity levels of the environmental conditions of varying locations, all of which can put the value of many marine habitats in danger. Resulting consequences can be direct (i.e., destruction of coralligenous species from fins) or indirect (i.e., shifts in water quality, pollution, or increased turbidity). Through correct practices, diving tourism can be used as an educational tool for environmental issues and for maximising environmental awareness.

For the current study the following objectives had to be completed to be able to develop a strategy for diving tourism of Cyprus:

- Identification of diving sector current situation (i.e., dive sites, marine environment, services, stakeholders, involvement, and responsibilities, sectoral problems, diving safety, standards, and regulatory framework)
- Description of the marine environment
- Involvement of underwater antiquities in recreational diving activities
- Identification of best practices from abroad
- Analysis and comparison between the situation in Cyprus and main competitors
- Provision of an action plan including infrastructure/product development and practical solutions.

Chapter 1

Report of current situation and further analysis



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1.1 Introduction

To be able to dive with the use of SCUBA, one must be adequately trained, depending on the type of dive (e.g., boat-dive, cave-dive, drift-dive, night-dive) or perhaps on the amount of time you wish to dive for. In Cyprus, there are many dive centres, which can be found in all cities and major touristic hotspots. These dive centres offer training and can provide internationally recognised dive certificates, while the cost of this procedure is generally considered affordable. To demonstrate, irrespectively of the dive school, obtaining an Open-water diving certificate (the first level of qualification) costs between €350-500, and includes the necessary theoretical and practical sessions. If someone wishes to expand their knowledge such that, for example, they can dive to deeper depths, then the cost increases since subsequent qualifications need to be obtained. If though someone wants to only try out diving, most dive schools offer 'introductory' dives which usually do not cost more than €80-100.

Diving tourism is a sector of tourism which is considered to have the potential to bring high-value profits to those involved, including the local organisations and businesses that support these activities. This kind of tourism presents important opportunities for the local economy, since tourists that engage in diving usually spend more than the average tourist for the same time also travel often. Equally important are the environmental benefits from supporting diving tourism, since through this activity we can encourage and increase environmental awareness and the importance of protecting the marine environment. However, studies have shown that diving tourism can also have negative effects on the marine environment, if good practices are not followed (Toyoshima & Nadaoka, 2015; Krieger & Chadwick, 2013; Sumanapala et al., 2022).

This chapter aims to review the current situation regarding diving tourism in Cyprus. As such, sections with information on the businesses, services provided, and stakeholders involved with the sector; the dive-sites; the marine and physical environments; and underwater antiquities, are included.

1.2 The Marine Environment

1.2.1 General characteristics

Cyprus is located in the Levantine basin, at the eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea. The Mediterranean Sea is considered to be a marine biodiversity hot spot, with over 17,000 marine species recorded (Coll *et al.* 2010). The Levantine basin is one of the most oligotrophic areas in the world, with very low nutrient availability and low primary production (Krom *et al.*, 2014). Compared to the open ocean, the waters of the Levantine and Cyprus have a high salinity (~39 psu) and an annual average water temperature of ~20 °C (Shaltout and Omstedt, 2014), making it ideal for diving. Light penetration is very high due to very low water turbidity. This, combined with the ultra-oligotrophic waters, makes the waters of Cyprus extremely clear and ideal for diving.

The marine environment of Cyprus hosts an abundance of marine life, from invertebrates to fish, as well as turtles and dolphins. The many rocky reefs around the island have formed some stunning features, excellent for diving, with caves, walls and arches found across many dive sites.

1.2.2 Main habitats and species that can be encountered while diving

Many different habitats can be found across Cyprus, each one supporting a diverse range of marine life. The shallow seas of the west and north shores have a rocky substrate with patches of coarse sand and gravel and a predominance of hard limestone (Demetropoulos, 2003). The seabed communities can be classified as those connected to hard substrata and those connected to soft substrata. Results from various studies carried out, showed that the macrobenthic assemblages are diverse and consist of a variety of organisms, such as polychaetes, molluscs, crustaceans, and echinoderms. More specifically, a variety of sponges, sea urchins, fan worms, bivalves and gastropods can be seen in the rocky reefs, whereas moray eels and octopuses can be found in crevices. The *Posidonia oceanica* seagrass meadows (a priority habitat based on Habitats Directive (92/43/CEE)) host a great variety of fish, such as wrasses, groupers, seahorses and many more species.

During an assessment of the marine environment of Cyprus, carried out in 2012 (DFMR, 2012), 34 different habitat types have been identified in Cyprus marine waters, according to EUNIS

habitat classification system (Davies *et al*. 2004). Among those, of particular importance to divers are *Posidonia oceanica* meadows, reefs and sea caves (Argyrou et al. 2002).

Posidonia oceanica meadows (Annex I of the Habitat Directive habitat type - code 1120): *Posidonia oceanica* (Linnaeus) Delile seagrass beds are found from the shallow to up to 40 metres depth, and are one of the most important marine ecosystems, supporting a great number of important species. Mapping of seagrass beds carried out in Cyprus within the Operational Programme for Fisheries 2007 – 2013 (Pergent-Martini et al. 2013) showed that the most extensive meadows (over 50% coverage) are found on the eastern part of the island, whereas a coverage between 10 – 50% is more common, mostly on the north-western and south-eastern coast. The conservation status of Posidonia beds in Cyprus is in favourable condition with regards to its range, area, structure, and functions (European Environment Agency 2012a).

Reefs (Annex I of the Habitat Directive habitat type - code 1170): The rocky substrates and biogenic concretions that arise from the sea floor in the sublittoral zone, support many communities of algae and animals. In Cyprus, reefs are mostly rocky substrates with *Cystoseira* spp but other important species are also found (e.g., scleractinian corals, coralline algae). This habitat is dominant in several shallow sites, such as Nissia and the eastern part of Kavo Gkreko (Pergent-Martini et al. 2013), both designated Natura 2000 areas, as well as other marine protected areas.

Sea caves (Annex I of the Habitat Directive habitat type - code 8330): This habitat includes caves that are under the sea (fully-submerged) or open to it (semi-submerged), with communities of marine invertebrates and algae on the bottom and sides of the cave. This habitat is found in several Natura 2000 sites, such as Kavo Gkreko and Chersonisos Akama, but also in Ayia Napa, Limassol and Paphos areas (Argyrou et al. 2002).

Table 1.1 shows the conservation status of the marine habitat types in Cyprus which are relevant to divers, according to the latest audit for the management of Marine Protected Areas in Cyprus (DFMR 2018).

Table 1.1. Conservation status of sea caves, Posidonia meadows and reefs (DFMR 2018).

Habitat type	Range	Area	Structure and function	Future prospects	Overall assessment
Sea caves	*Favourable*	*Favourable*	*Favourable*	*Favourable*	***Favourable***
Posidonia beds	*Favourable*	*Favourable*	*Favourable*	*Favourable*	***Favourable***
Reefs	*Favourable*	*Favourable*	*Favourable*	*Favourable*	***Favourable***

The *Posidonia oceanica* meadows and the reefs around the island, support a high biodiversity of invertebrates and fish, that can be regularly encountered while diving. Both natural and artificial reefs support a high biodiversity, with many invertebrates and fish, such as moray eels, barracudas, parrot fish, siganids, octopuses, seahorses and many more.

1.2.3 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and species of specific interest

Along with the six Natura 2000 sites that exist, the coastal waters of Cyprus have a total of 11 MPAs (Table 1.2, Figure 1.1). Six MPAs include artificial reefs and of the rest, one constitutes a protected area surrounding the Zenobia wreck and the other a fisheries restricted area on the southwest of the island. The marine areas in the Nature 2000 network are included under the provisions of Directive 92/43/EEC and comply with the provisions of the Protocol of Special Protection Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean of the Barcelona Convention.

Table 1.2. Marine Protected Areas in Cyprus

Marine Protected Area	Area (km^2)
6 coastal Natura 2000 areas	130.18
5 MPAs	9.93
1 SPAMI	6.73
6 MPAs with artificial reefs	12.59

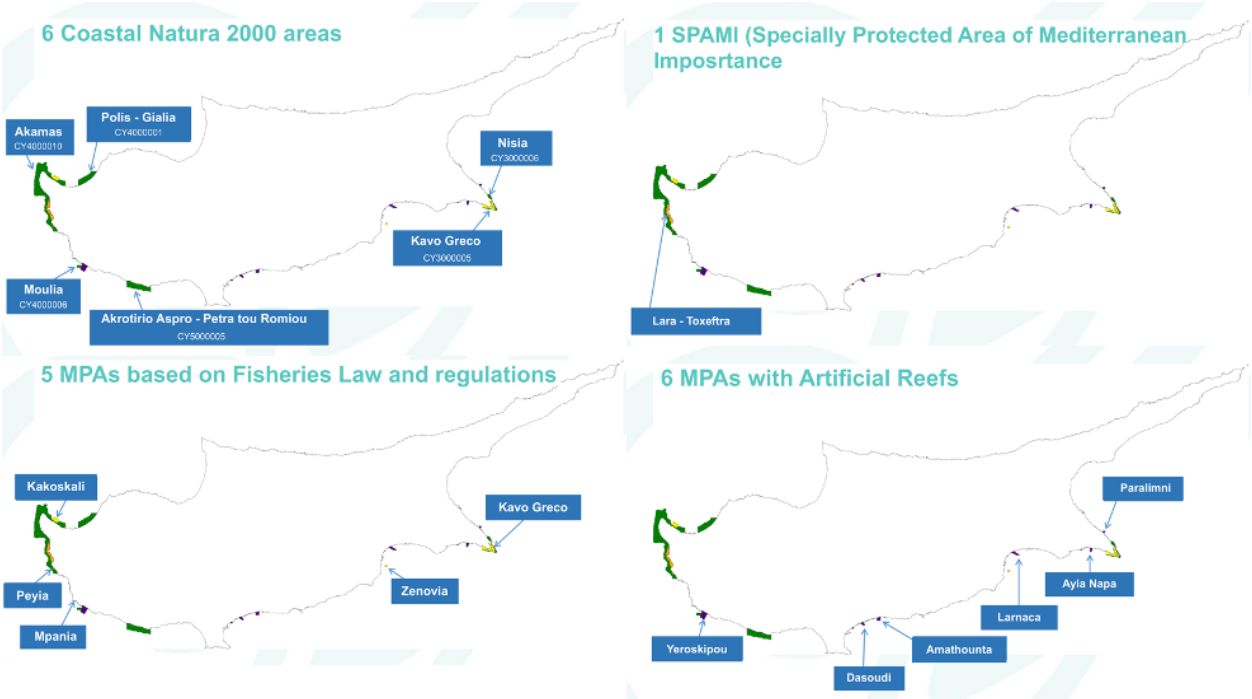

Figure 1.1. Marine Protected Areas in Cyprus (DFMR).

The MPAs are a host to several important species and habitats, mainly *Posidonia oceanica* meadows and reefs, as well as sea caves. According to the Initial Assessment of the Marine Environment of Cyprus (DFMR, 2012) these areas support a great biodiversity and merit special mention, supporting and enhancing habitats and species encountered by divers. This makes MPA areas of particular interest, not only scientifically as biodiversity hotspots, but also because this makes them very attractive to divers and snorkellers alike.

Periochi Polis-Gialia (CY4000001 - Natura 2000 site): This area supports extensive sea grass meadows consisting of *Posidonia oceanica* between 15 and 40 metres deep (Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 2013a). The seabed is mainly sandy. *Cymodosea nodosa* seagrass beds can be also found at shallower depths, up to 13 metres. This area is the main nesting site for loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) and it also is an important foraging ground for both loggerhead and green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) which feed on the extensive seagrass meadows of the bay (*P. oceanica* and *C. nodosa*).

Chersonisos Akama (CY4000010 - Natura 2000 site): The most widely distributed habitat in this area is the one of the reefs, with dense *Cystoseira* spp. forests (Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 2013b), followed by *Posidonia oceanica* seagrass beds, up to 38 metres depth. Sea caves are also located in this area, serving as breeding and resting grounds for the Mediterranean monk seal, *Monachus monachus*. The Akamas peninsula is one of the main

nesting areas for the green turtle *Chelonia mydas* (Demetropoulos & Hadjichristophorou, 2018).

Thalassia Periochi Moulia (CY4000006 - Natura 2000 site): The seagrass meadows and reefs in this site are well conserved and support a high biodiversity, making this area of great ecological value (Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 2013c). The *Posidonia oceanica* seagrass beds reach up to 42 meters depth, whereas reefs also occupy a large part of the site.

Akrotirio Aspro – Petra Romiou (CY5000005 - Natura 2000 site): The seagrass meadows are located between 0 and 13 m depth on hard bottom, and reefs are present in very shallow water.

Kavo Gkreko (CY3000005 - Natura 2000 site) and SPA Kavo Gkreko (CY3000002 - Natura 2000 site): The site is covered by Posidonia seagrass meadows between 10 m and 40 m depth and reefs, all well conserved and with high biodiversity. The protected invertebrate Triton's trumpet (*Charonia tritonis*) is found in the area, along with sightings of the common and striped dolphins *Tursiops truncatus* and *Stenella coeruleoalba* (Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 2013d). The area of Kavo Gkreko is also important for migratory birds.

Thalassia Periochi Nisia (CY3000006 - Natura 2000 site): The seagrass meadows are located between 20 - 30 m depth, while reefs are dominant in the shallow waters.

Zoni Eidikis Prostastias Chersonisos Akama (Lara/Toxeftra, Turtle reserve) (CY4000023-Natura site): This area is home to one of the most important nesting beaches of Green turtle in the Mediterranean. Some sea caves are present in the area, which are important habitats for the critically endangered Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*). Further, occasional visitors in the area are the dolphins *Tursiops truncatus* and *Delphinus delphis* (Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 2013e).

Marine protected areas with artificial reefs: The artificial reefs provide refuge, feeding and reproductive grounds for many organisms, enhancing the abundance of many species. These sites host several invertebrates such as urchins, sea cucumbers, fan worms, as well as many fish species. Such sites, particularly when given ample time to build up life within them, not only increase the health and biodiversity of localised marine areas (through the spill-over effect) and act as active marine laboratories from which useful information can be derived,

but also can greatly increase the attractiveness of easily accessible coastal marine locations, creating additional opportunities.

The green and loggerhead turtles can be seen around the island throughout the year but mostly during their breeding season in spring and summer when they are present at the shallow waters around Cyprus for foraging. Very popular dive spots, such as Green Bay, commonly feature turtles which can be enjoyed by thousands of divers and snorkelers each year. Although the latter fact is pleasant and favourable, it may also create issues as advertising sightings of the turtles in such locations greatly increases the number of visitors. Bad practices of feeding turtles to attract them have been reported, mainly from tourist operating passenger boats offering snorkelling trips. This subsequently has a negative impact on the turtles as this interaction with humans (e.g., through food and touch) could transfer harmful bacteria to turtles. In addition, high traffic from boats in these areas, combined with the fact that regularly fed turtles approach the boats unaware of the risks also results in direct injuries of turtles from impact with boats/propellers. Furthermore, turtle attacks on humans resulting in minor injuries for bathers have also been reported. Besides the obvious environmental and ethical issue that arises from this bad practice, this could also be considered as bad publicity for Cyprus.

Recent surveys of cetaceans in Cyprus waters recorded the most common species encountered, which include the striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*), the common bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) as well as populations of the sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*), false killer whale (*Pseudorca crassidens*), Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*), rough-toothed dolphin (*Steno bredanensis*), and short-beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*).

It is estimated that 20,167 small odontocetes are present at Cypriot waters (DFMR, 2017). The bottlenose dolphin is the most common species encountered in Cyprus, found in coastal waters in small groups of 5 - 15 individuals. It is estimated that up to 100 individuals could be inhabiting Cyprus' coastal waters (Notarbartolo di Sciara & Birkun, 2010). This species can be seen in the areas of Akamas Peninsula – Chrysochou Bay as well as Kavo Gkreko, with highest numbers from May to July and October to November (Boisseau et al., 2017). Another dolphin species that can be seen in coastal areas in Cyprus is the striped dolphin. This species has been

recorded in groups of 10-40 at the coastal waters of Larnaka and Paphos, with increased sightings during the month of May (Boisseau et al., 2017; DFMR, 2017).

The critically endangered Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) is regularly sighted in Cyprus, with its main nesting and resting habitat (sea caves) found in the Natura 2000 sites Chersonissos Akama (CY4000010) and Kavo Gkreko (CY3000005), as well as in the Akrotiri area in Limassol. Within these areas, the Habitat 8330 (submerged or partially submerged sea caves), an important habitat for monk seals, is present. In February 2019, an MPA in Peyia and in February 2023, two MPA in Ayia Napa and Agios Georgios Alamanou (Moni) were established, for the sole protection of the monk seal and its habitat.

1.2.4 Main threats to the marine environment of Cyprus

The marine environment of the Mediterranean is under many pressures that could lead to loss of biodiversity. The most important threats, affecting the largest number of species in the Mediterranean, unsustainable and/or illegal fishing, pollution, climate change, eutrophication, unsustainable coastal development, and the establishment of alien species. In the eastern Mediterranean in particular, the invasion of alien species is a crucial factor that affects the biodiversity of the area, growing in importance mainly due to acting synergistically with climate change.

Considering the above, the most significant pressures on the marine environment of Cyprus result from unsustainable tourism practices and coastal development, marine traffic, pollution, coastal erosion and coastal works, overfishing, and invasive alien species.

Non-indigenous Species (NIS) are one of the main causes of native biodiversity loss in marine ecosystems, changing the structure of native communities, affecting food webs, and causing economic losses (Katsanevakis et al. 2014). The Mediterranean Sea is a hotspot of biological invasions, with over 820 alien species (Zenetos et al. 2017, Zenetos & Galanidi, 2020) and the rate of introduction believed to be approximate one species every 1.5 week (UNEP-MAP RAC / SPA 2010). The Levantine basin is facing the biggest problem with alien species due to its proximity to the Suez Canal, the main introduction pathway of alien species of Indo-Pacific origin (Coll et al. 2010). The latest inventory of invasive species in Cyprus has recorded over 170 species (Zenetos, unpublished data). Six of these alien species have been classified as invasive, and they can be found while diving in Cyprus. The macroalgae *Caulerpa cylindracea*,

has been recorded in various areas in Cyprus, down to 60 m depth (Kletou, 2018) and can cause the elimination of other macroalgae or invertebrates, changing the local communities (Katsanevakis, *et al.* 2014). The siganids (*Siganus luridus* and *Siganus rivulatus)* are high-impact invasive species (Katsanevakis, *et al.* 2014) since they outcompete the native herbivores, altering community structure. The pufferfish *Lagocephalus sceleratus,* Yellow spotted puffer *Torquigener flavimaculosus* are abundant and well established in Cyprus. The lack of natural predators as well as the ability of the puffer fish to greatly expand their stomachs, reproduce all year round, colonize productive coastal habitats and eat in an undistinguishing way in multiple habitats, are all factors which substantially increase the success of these invading NIS. Apart from light Governmental aid for fishing *Lagocephalus sceleratus*, these species create issues to fishers as their sharp teeth commonly cut lines and nets and have no commercial value to Cypriot fishers due to them having endogenous toxins (Tetradotoxin). Pufferfish tend to forage actively, chasing after or going towards their prey. The pipefish *Fistularia commersonii* possibly affects the structure and population dynamics of native communities (Kalogirou et al., 2007). Unlike pufferfish, pipe fish have evolved to occupy very specific niches such as sea grass meadows and rocky reefs. Pipe fish are specialised predators that have very limited predators in Eastern Mediterranean waters and do not have other similar local competitors. Pipefish are commonly uninterrupted in hunting their prey consisting of small fish and certain crustaceans and are particularly successful in doing so due to their shape and ecology. Their thin and elongated shape allows them to seamlessly manoeuvre through leaves of sea grass or rocky crevices looking for their prey, but when located, pipefish take a passive predatory approach waiting for the right moment to strike.

The highly invasive lionfish (*Pterois miles*) has rapidly invaded the waters of Cyprus (Kleitou, *et al.* 2019) and is considered as the most invasive fish worldwide. Like puffer fish, the very strong success of lionfish as invaders happens due to the facts that: they can expand their indiscriminate stomachs up to 30 times, reproduce in high numbers all year round and have a lack of naturally occurring predators in Eastern Mediterranean waters. Unlike the pufferfish, however, lionfish tend to hover around productive rocky reefs passively, silently and slowly, only striking once their prey is in very close vicinity. Most importantly, lionfish do not have endogenous toxins, but have toxic spines which are easily removable, and the rest of their

flesh is edible, making these fish utilisable. Both lionfish and pufferfish create indirect issues to coastal ecosystems apart from the direct issues such as local biodiversity loss, as the small fish they both usually prey on are important parts of the chains of their respective habitats. For example, both latter species feed on smaller fish or crustaceans which feed on algae on rocks or sea grasses, allowing for algal proliferations that otherwise may not have been the case.

It may be additionally noted that although many NIS threaten fragile, local marine species' interactions, they are species which did not and theoretically should not exist in Eastern Mediterranean waters, and many of them are particularly colourful, unique, or pretty - looking, coming from a rich and biodiverse water body. The latter, in turn, makes marine waters around Cyprus more colourful, unique, and interesting to tourists/divers, who may be unaware of the ecological alterations taking place.

The most important threat regarding pollution is marine litter, which is defined as any persistent, manufactured or processed solid material discarded, disposed of, or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment. The most common type of marine litter worldwide is plastic (Thompson, 2006). According to samplings carried out in Cyprus through the MEDITS and MELTEMI (Interreg 2014-2020) projects, the dominant litter recorded on the seafloor was plastic (over 95%). Other than plastic litter visible in the sea, marine litter also consist of microplastics. An assessment of microplastics has been carried out in Cyprus through the BLUEISLANDS Interreg project, as well as through clean-up campaigns (Loizidou, *et al.* 2018). This assessment concluded that microplastics in Cyprus are related to the tourist industry and related activities.

Regarding eutrophication, since the waters of Cyprus are considered naturally ultra-oligotrophic (low on nutrients), even the slightest changes in nutrient input due to anthropogenic activities (e.g., aquaculture) can significantly affect coastal ecosystems. Problems of eutrophication are mostly limited to specific areas which, for now, are not considered hotspots for diving tourism.

There are nine fish-farms of Mediterranean fish species and four hatcheries (three for fish fry and one for shrimps) (DFMR, 2023), making marine aquaculture one of the most important export industries in the primary sector. All fish farms operate under the method of sea-cage, between 1-4 km from the shore and a depth 20-70 m (DFMR, 2023). In recent years, caged

fish farms have been relocated from depths of 20-30m to depths of 60-70m to decrease the inevitable added nutrient load to surrounding water and benthos. This added nutrient load occurs due to varying types of organic matter which originates from the farms such as the direct release of feed taken away by currents or the indirect release through the metabolization by fish. The effect of increased nutrients input is seen in high primary production up to 50 m distance from the cages where lower stimulation was still present at 900 m from the cages toward the current direction (Dalsgaard & Krause-Jensen, 2006). To ensure protection of the local environment and sustainability of the aquaculture industry according to EU legislation, there is a bi-annual environmental monitoring scheme analysing the nutrient composition, other physicochemical parameters and biological indicators (i.e., macrofauna species biodiversity) around fish farms.

Cyprus has a longstanding fisheries tradition and history. According to the DFMR's latest published report, 826 professionals (trawling, tolling, and netting) and 10000 recreational (spearfishing, traps and fishing line from boat or shore) fishing licences were issued (DFMR, 2021). The DFMR is also responsible for the monitoring of fisheries and the implementation of the industry's laws and regulations (i.e., fishing without permits, use of illegal fishing techniques, fishing at restricted sites like MPAs etc.) to ensure sustainability and eliminate pressures to the environment. Despite these efforts, there is still some illegal activity, many times within or adjacent MPAs or other important areas, with plausible threats to the marine environment and subsequently to the diving industry. In combination with other stressors, such as climate change and the influx of invasive species, could lead to the deterioration of fishing stocks, important species and habitats.

Despite the pressures mentioned above, the marine environment of Cyprus is considered to be of a good status, due to a low-scale industrial development, and the physical conditions of the area. Given the latter, and even though it may appear that the pressures mentioned would not pose any serious threats to the diving tourism industry, the matter should be further investigated and if specific problems are identified appropriate action should be taken.

1.3 The Physical environment

An analysis of wind data (velocity and direction), Sea Surface Temperature (SST) and wave characteristics (wave height (Hs) and peak wave period (Tp)) was performed using data available from online databases. The full analysis of the abovementioned parameters and the data availability can be found in Appendix III - Oceanographic parameters When examining the wave climate of the study areas, it is evident that these can be differentiated into 2 main groups: (i) The areas of Akrotiri, Paphos, Akamas West, Akamas East and Pomos that show higher wave conditions; and (ii) the areas of Protaras, Kavo Gkreko North, Kavo Gkreko South, Ayia Napa, Larnaka and Limassol which show milder wave conditions. This is also depicted in the wave periods that follow similar trends, as higher waves also have higher periods (see also Appendix II - Tables, Table A5 & Table A6). The areas of Group (i) are more exposed to the wave action, probably due to the orientation of these locations. It was found that during the months between April - November, mean significant wave heights (Hs) can reach values ranging between 0.5 m - 0.7 m, while maximum Hs of the examined decade are found to have values ranging between 2.2 m - 2.8 m, even if with lower frequency of occurrence (about 3-5% of total wave heights depending on location). By contrast, the areas of Group (ii) Protaras, Kavo Gkreko North, Kavo Gkreko South, Ayia Napa, Larnaka and Limassol locations are found to have milder mean Hs during the same months, which range between 0.2 m - 0.5 m, while the decadal maximum Hs can reach values ranging between 0.8 m - 2.2 m, also with lower frequency of occurrence (about 1 - 4% of total wave heights depending on location). The areas showing the milder wave conditions are Protaras and Kavo Gkreko North (mean Hs values of 0.1 m - 0.2 m during the April - November period), while the areas of Akamas (West and East) and Paphos have the higher values (mean Hs ranging between 0.5 m - 0.7 m during the April - November period).

Wave data show good agreement with the wind data, even if in some cases the distance between the available grid point and the closest available meteorological station is increased (by more than 10 km in some cases - e.g., Pomos - Kato Pyrgos). A trend is evident in the frequency of occurrence of the higher waves with the occurrence frequency of the higher wind velocities, deriving from the sectors to which each of the studied area is exposed. However, it must be noted that in the case of Limassol and Larnaka, waves are found to approach from the SW sector, probably due to wave refraction at the Akrotiri and Larnaka

airport cape, respectively. In addition, increased wind intensities during specific monthly periods have been detected at some of the study areas (e.g., Paphos in September, Kato Pyrgos in June, and Xylophagou in July), which is also depicted in the corresponding wave data for each location (Figure 1.2, Figure 1.3).

Most of the wave heights at the 20 m depth contour, are found to have low values for all the examined study areas (< 0.5 m with greater than 60% frequency of occurrence). Such wave heights are not able to generate significant current circulation both at the nearshore (i.e., at depths ranging between 0-5 meters) and at higher depths.

The period between June-October is found to be the warmest in terms of sea surface temperature for all the examined locations ranging between 22 °C - 30 °C. Such temperatures are ideal for swimming/diving and other sea related activities. The warmest surface water temperature is in August with an average close to 28 °C, while the coldest month is February with an average surface water temperature of 17 °C. In the summer periods the presence of a thermocline is more evident, with temperatures potentially dropping down to 16^{o}C from >24^{o}C. The depth of the thermocline varies with location and underwater currents.

In conclusion, the examined areas can be considered to have preferable/ideal conditions for swimming/diving and other beach recreational activities, especially for the period June - October, which is the period of milder hydrodynamics and increased sea surface temperatures for all the examined study areas. However, there are slightly differences of this period with the period between April - November, both in terms of hydrodynamics and sea surface temperature. It also must be considered that the areas of Group (ii) show milder wave action than those of Group (i).

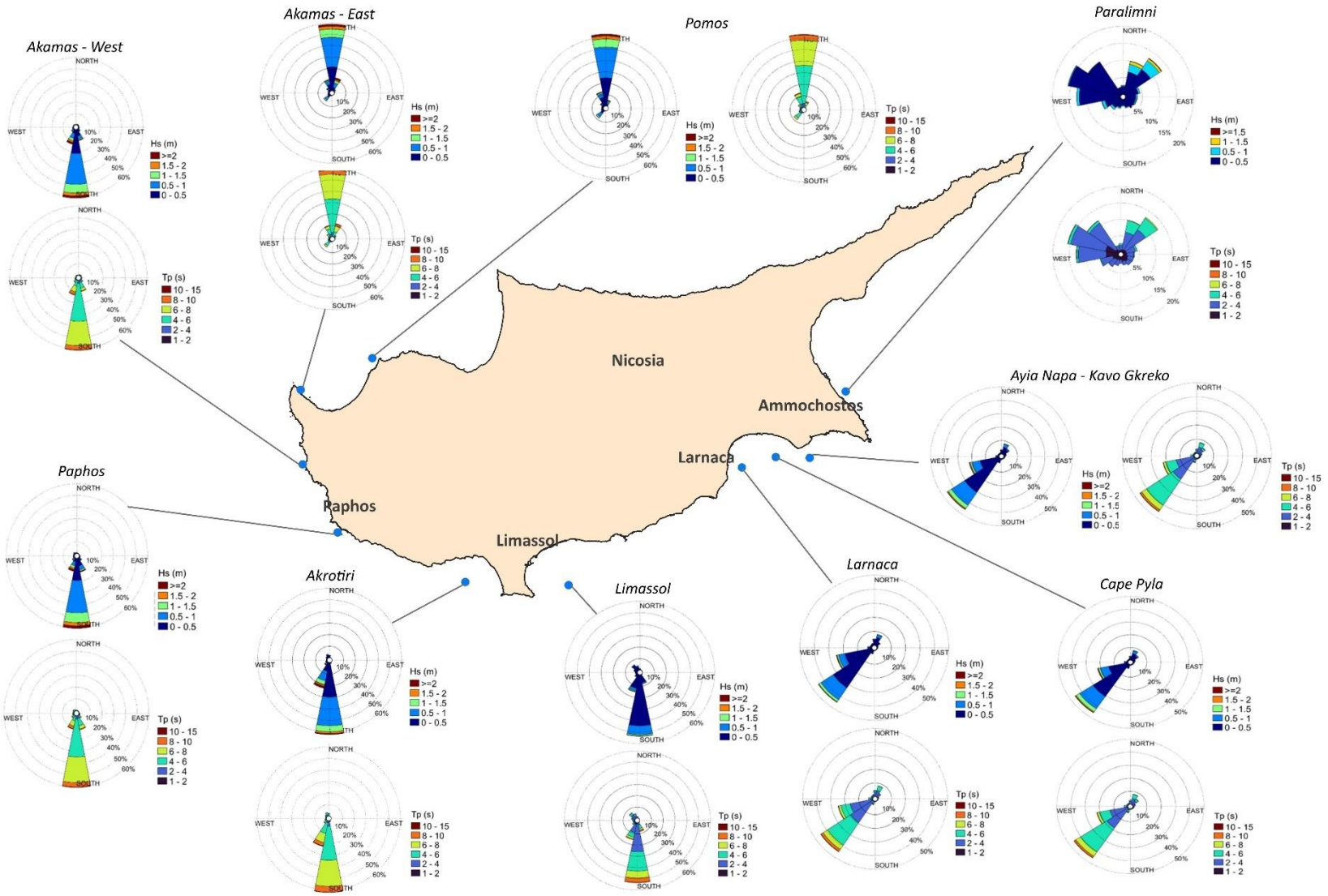

Figure 1.2. Summary map of the rosegrams showing the directional spreading of wave action, wave height (Hs) and peak wave period (Tp), from the Copernicus ERA5 dataset.

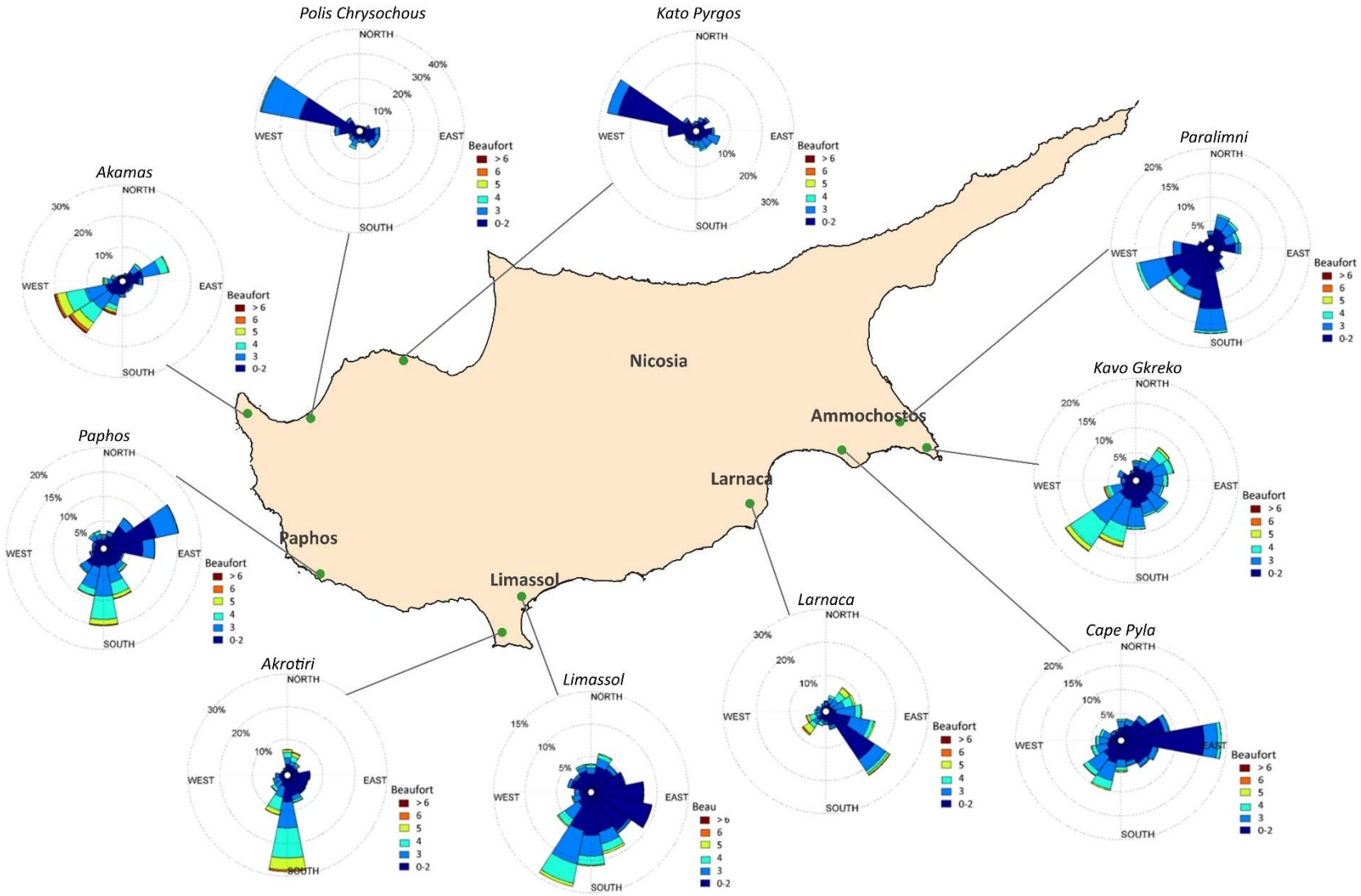

Figure 1.3. Summary map of wind intensity rosegrams for each meteorological station.

1.4 Dive sites

The number of available dive sites, and their quality, found at any touristic destination is obviously one of the most important factors to be able to attract recreational divers. We have compiled a list of known dive sites based on our own experience and current knowledge through interaction with the diving industry in Cyprus. A total of 68 dive sites have been identified (Table A2, Figure 1.4- Figure 1.9).

On further analysis, most known dive sites are situated near major cities and tourist areas (e.g., Ayia Napa, Protaras, Limassol, Paphos, Latchi). It is evident from the map (Figure 1.4) that there are large gaps in known dive sites between Larnaka- Limassol, Limassol-Paphos and Latchi-Kato Pyrgos. It is assumed that this is mainly because those areas are quite distant from highly touristic areas, hence local dive centres are non-existent, but also because of lack of infrastructure to aid diving.

Through descriptions from dive centres and additional dives at the majority of identified dive sites, short descriptions of the environmental conditions, marine life, accessibility and basic characteristics of the dive sites were made. Examples of the information collected for each dive-site is shown in the photos taken from the dive-sites (Figure 1.10 - Figure 1.19), such as for example impressive rock formations, species and habitats that can be encountered and the interaction with divers and snorkellers.

The completed descriptions of the dive sites and the harbours hosting diving boats can be found in Appendix I – Dive sites descriptions.

Figure 1.4. Map of dive-sites in Cyprus.

Figure 1.5. Map of dive-sites in the region of Famagusta.

Figure 1.6. Map of dive-sites in the region of Larnaka.

Figure 1.7. Map of dive-sites in the region of Limassol.

Figure 1.8. Map of dive-sites in the region of Paphos.

Figure 1.9. Map of dive-sites in the areas of Chrysochou Bay and Pyrgos.

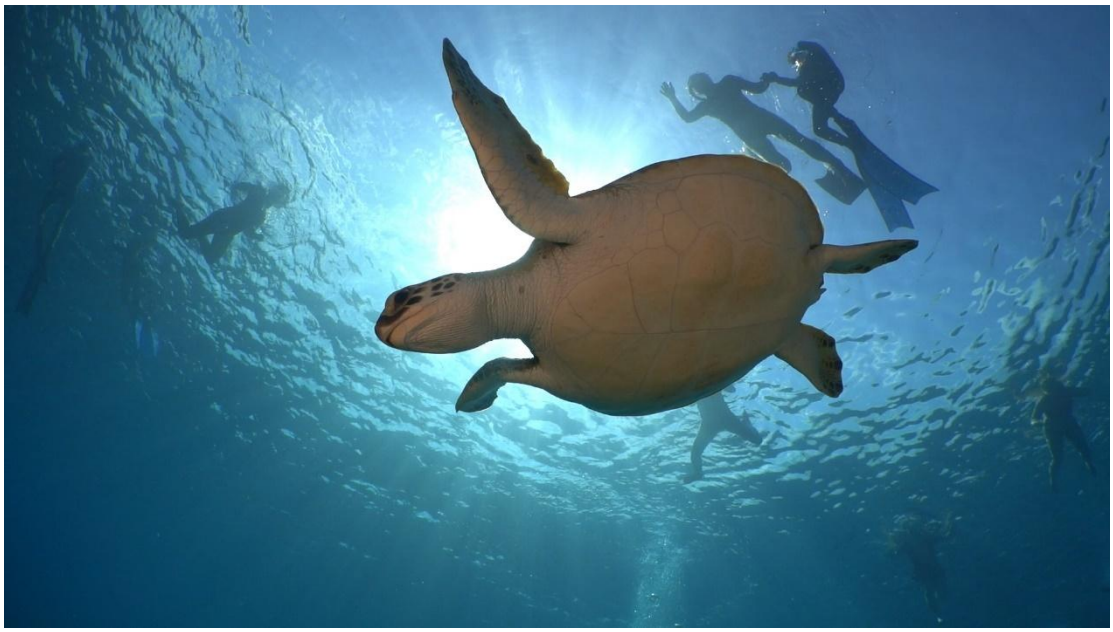

Figure 1.10. Snorkellers with Green Turtle at 'Green Bay' – Protaras, Famagusta.

Figure 1.11. Museum of Underwater Sculpture Ayia Napa (MUSAN) – Ayia Napa, Famagusta.

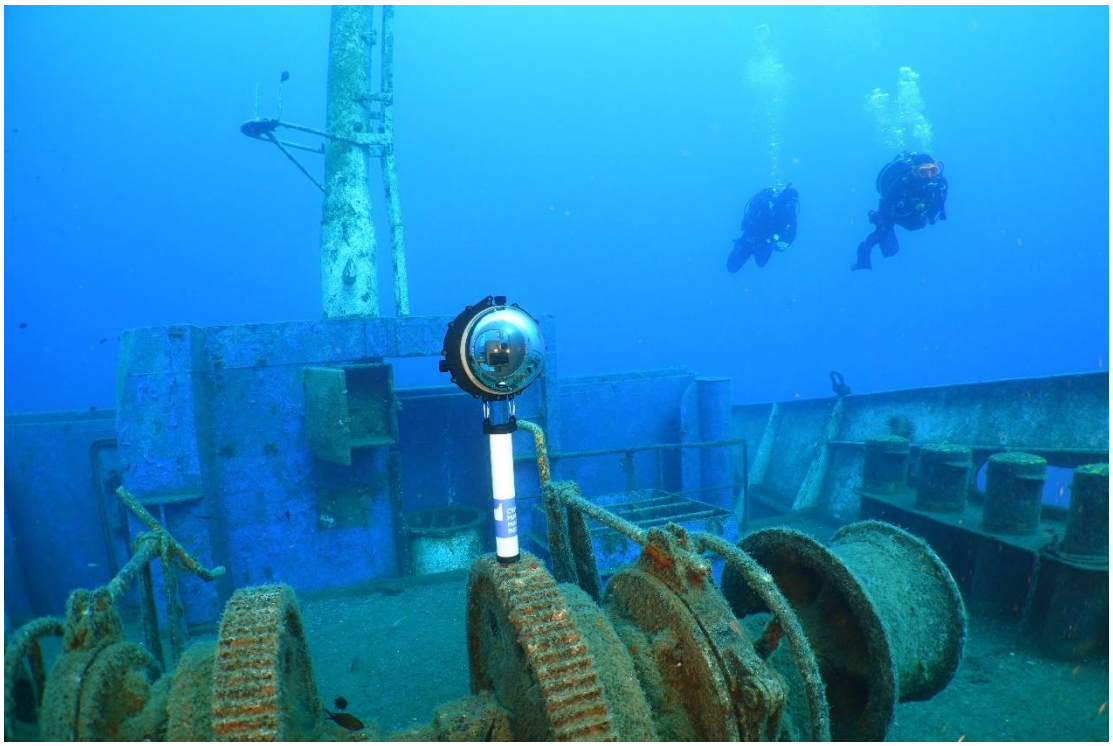

Figure 1.12. 'Elpida Shipwreck' – Larnaka.

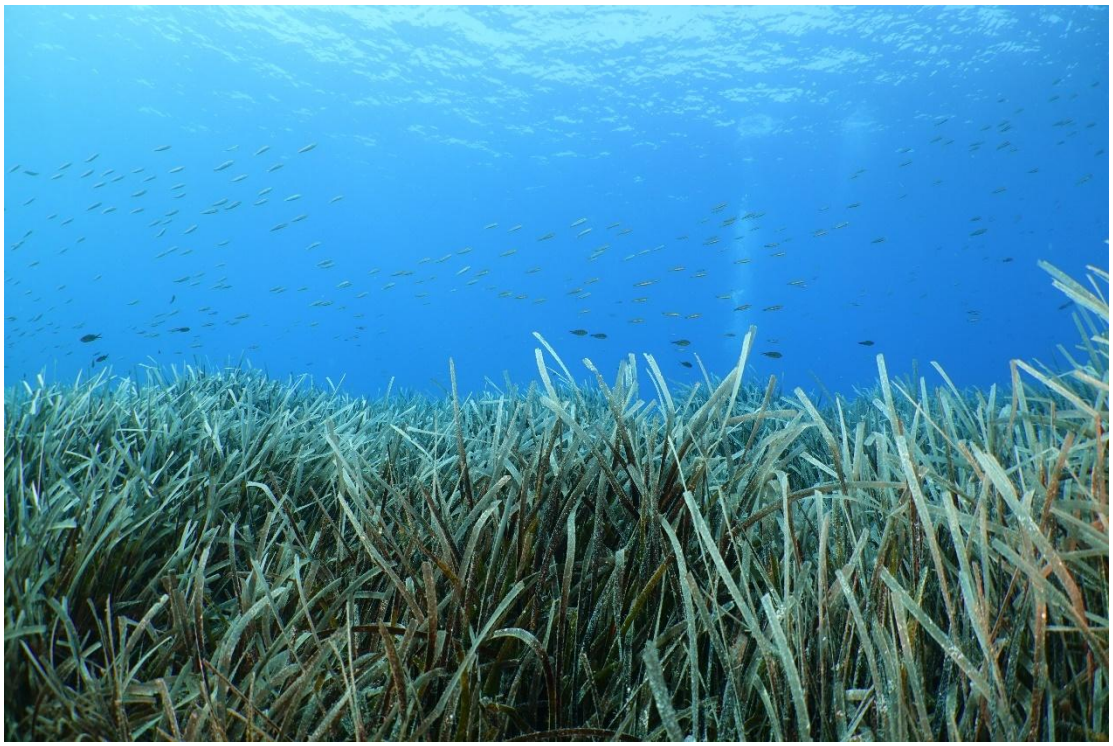

Figure 1.13. Posidonia meadow at 'Amathus' – Limassol.

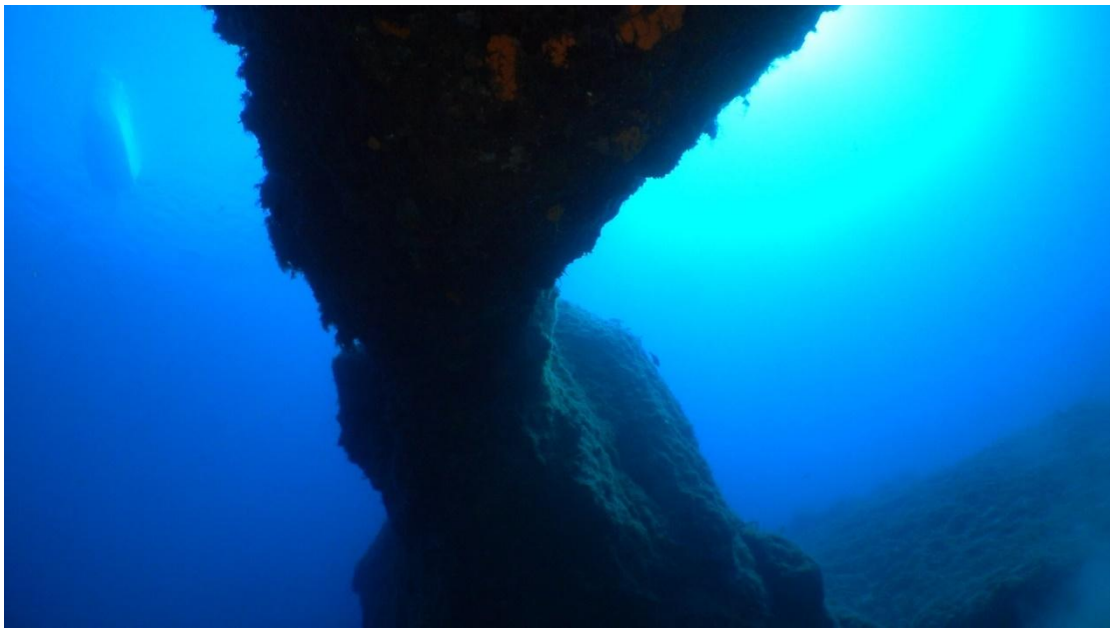

Figure 1.14. 'Kamara' – Akrotiri, Limassol.

Figure 1.15. Rock formations at 'Amphitheatre' – Paphos.

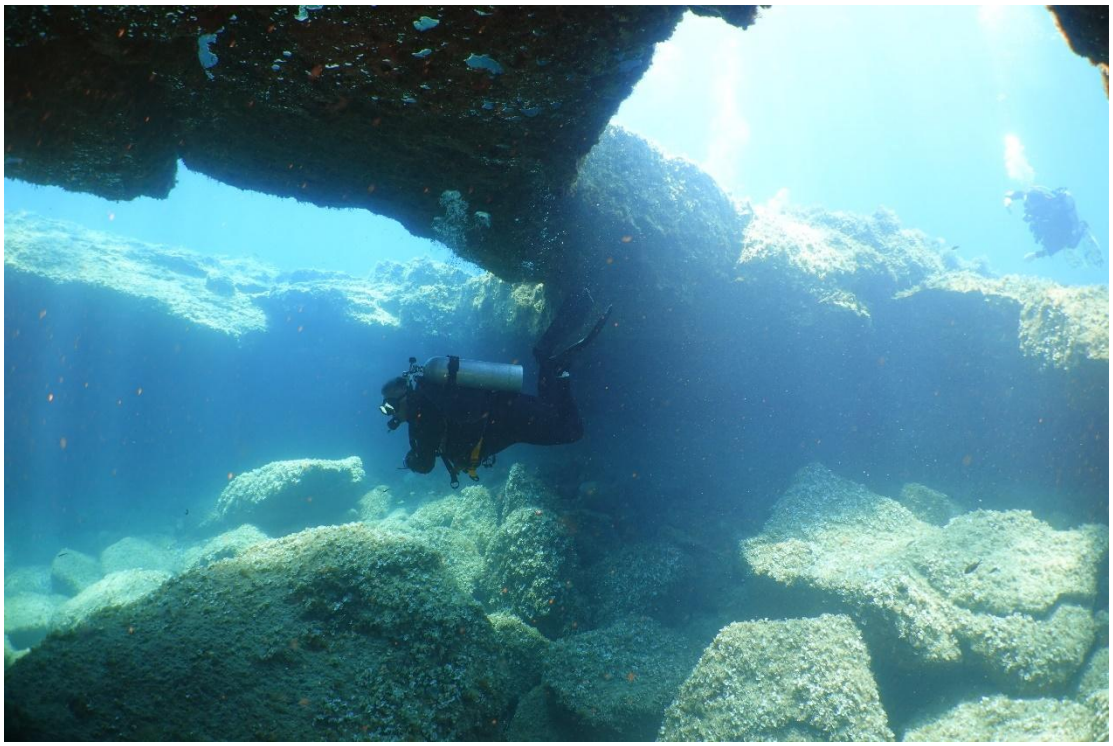

Figure 1.16. Caverns at 'Manijin' – Paphos.

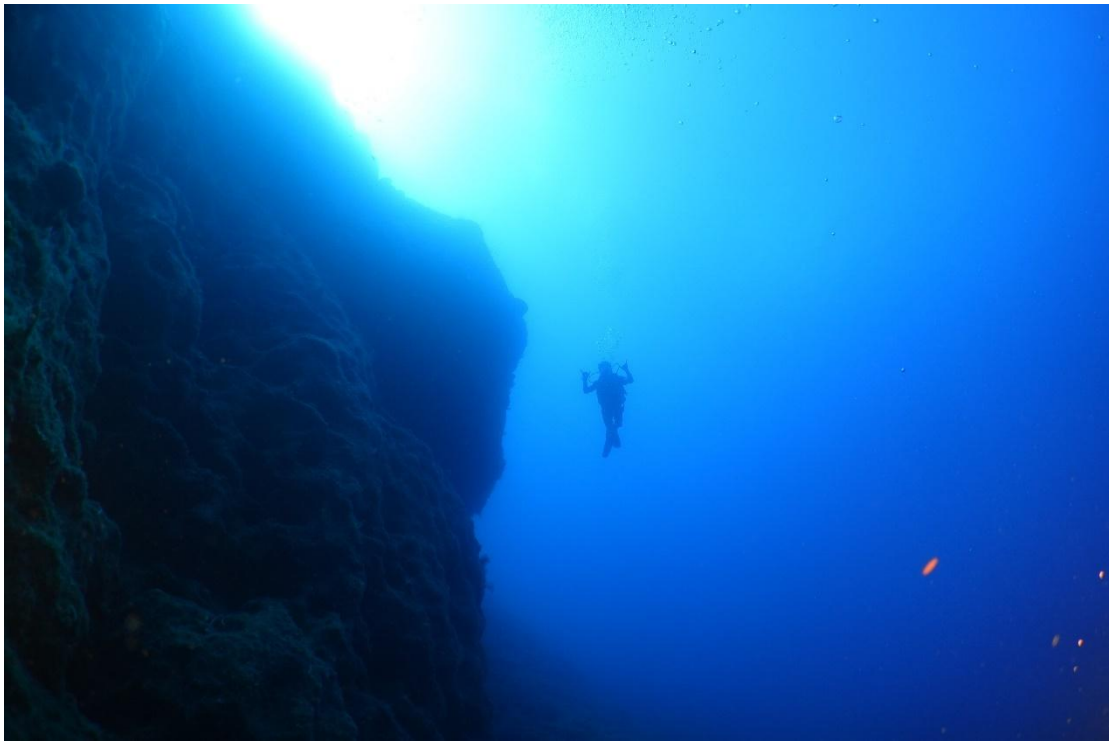

Figure 1.17. Wall-drop at 'Kakoskali MPA' – Akamas, Chrysochous Bay.

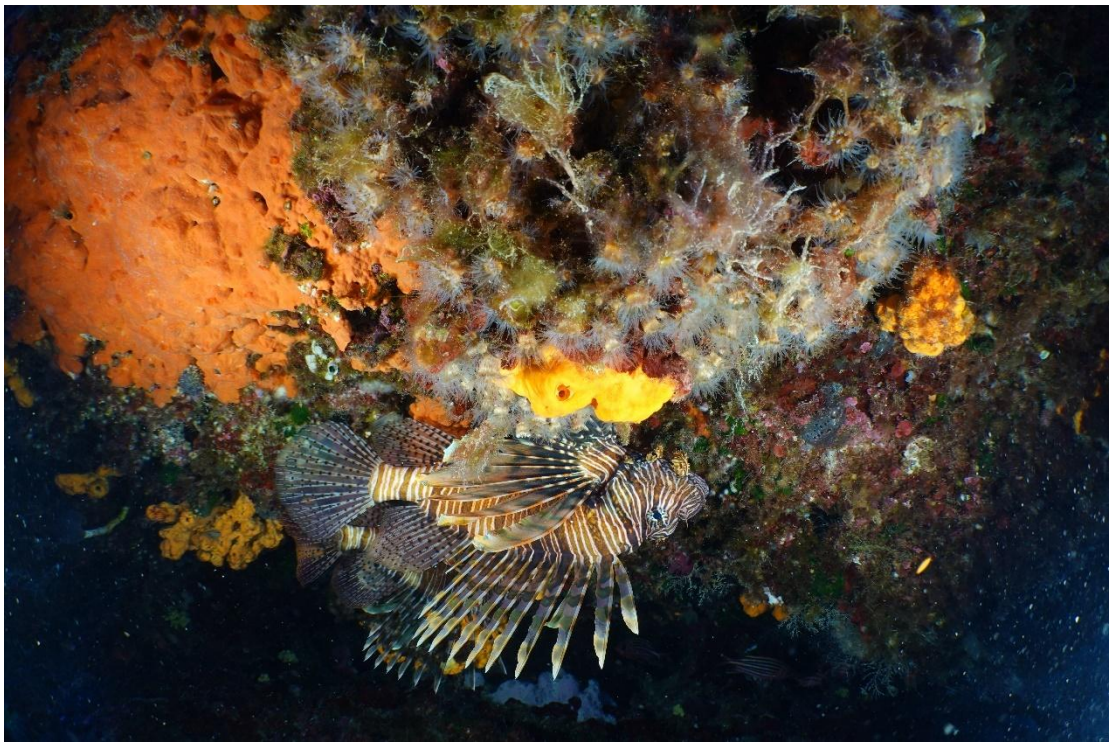

Figure 1.18. Lionfish with corals at 'Kakoskali MPA' – Akamas, Chrysochous Bay.

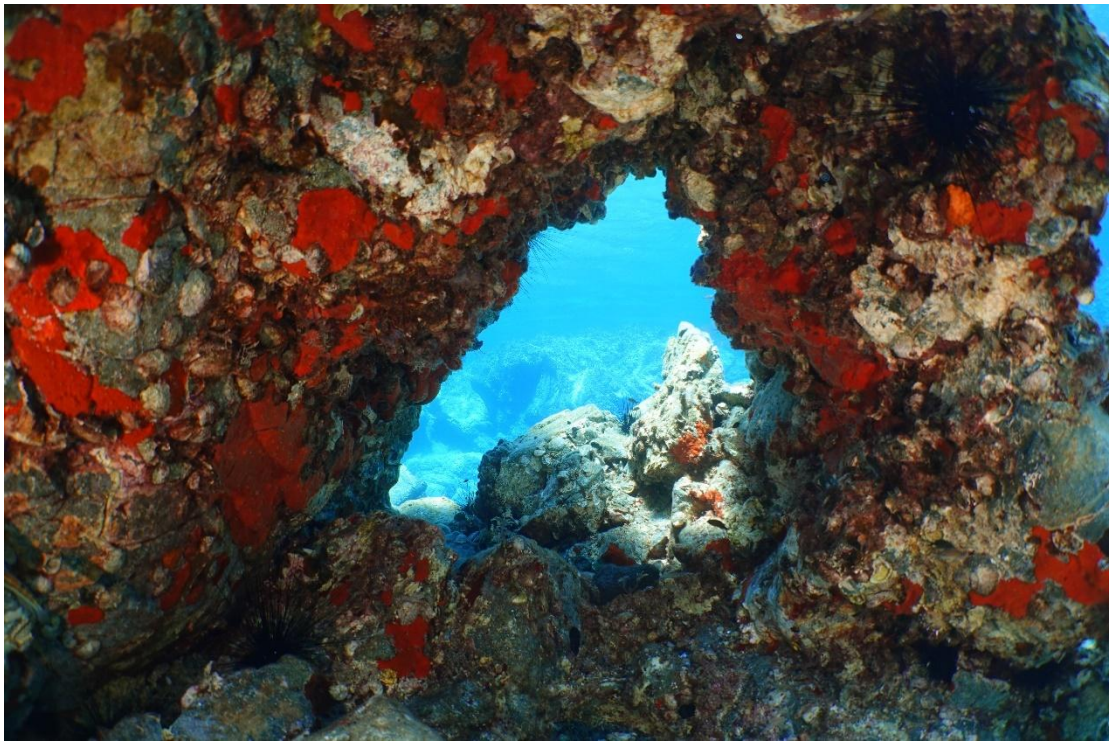

Figure 1.19. Rock formations at 'St. Georgios Reef' – Akamas, Chrysochous Bay.

1.5 Underwater Antiquities

1.5.1 Introduction

Maritime activity in Cyprus can be traced back thousands of years. Evidence of human presence, discovered at Akrotiri Aetokremnos Rock shelter (southwest Cyprus), affirms an open sea crossing since the 11th cent. BC (Broodbank, 2006: 208-209). Testimonies of these activities, on land as well as underwater, captivated amateur interest from an early stage. From the 1960s onwards, when the grounds of Maritime Archaeology were set, these testimonies attracted scientific interest on the island. Fieldwork undertaken since then has brought to light different types of underwater archaeological sites and has set Cyprus on the map of the maritime archaeological field.

When considering underwater antiquities as a possible diving tourism destination, it is vital to take into consideration, (a) the existing legislation for the protection and presentation of underwater antiquities, and (b) the types of sites located in Cyprus.

1.5.2 Legislative framework

1.5.2.1 Protection and management

The Department of Antiquities embraced the nascent discipline since its appearance in the 1960s and underwater archaeological remains were incorporated in the 1964 amendments of the Antiquities Law. These amendments specified for the first time that antiquities include any objects from the territorial waters of the Republic (Antiquities Law 1964: art. 2), indicating that they should be treated as antiquities located on land (Pilides and Christos, 1999).

Discussion on underwater antiquities since then has resulted to the drafting of legislative and management frameworks referring particularly on Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH), firstly on an international level, and then on national levels. On an international level, the ICOMOS Charter for the Protection and Management of Underwater Cultural Heritage attempted for the first time in the 1990s to produce a framework for the management of UCH that would include the scientific research and documentation of the sites and their protection and conservation (ICOMOS 1996). A few years later, the UNESCO Convention for the Protection of UCH of 2001 set the professional standards for the practice of the discipline and the

management of UCH. It constituted the backbone of many national legislations and management programmes developed ever since (UNESCO 2001).

Up to date, 71 countries around the world are State Parties of the UNESCO Convention. However, Cyprus, like other Eastern Mediterranean countries (besides Egypt and Lebanon), has not ratified the Convention (UNESCO 2019). Taking into consideration the geographical restrictions prevailing in the area, its ratification would require agreements based on international law, in order to declare EEZ and/or Contiguous zone, within the limited confines. Nevertheless, the Antiquities Law was amended in 2014 to incorporate certain provisions of the UNESCO Convention regarding the protection and preservation of underwater antiquities, while in 2016 the Regulations on the protection of maritime antiquities made further clarifications regarding the protection of underwater antiquities and their presentation to the public.

According to the 2014 amendments of the Antiquities Law, antiquity means “any object, whether movable or part of immovable property which has, through human effort, been produced, sculptured, inscribed or painted or generally made in Cyprus 100 years ago or earlier and which has been found, discovered or excavated in Cyprus or recovered from the sea within the maritime zones of Cyprus” (Article 2).

The amendments indicate that it is prohibited to remove antiquities or in any way intervene with antiquities without the prior authorization by the Director of the Department of Antiquities (Article 18B). Furthermore, the Council of Ministers, following the recommendation of the Director, may declare any area which is part of the EEZ or the Continental Shelf as Marine Antiquities Protection Zone if antiquities are in the area or are possibly located in the area and should be protected. In these Zones it is prohibited to construct any structures, anchorage ships and engage in fishing, diving or any other activities that may cause damage or any other intervention to antiquities (Article 18C).

The 2016 Regulations on the protection of maritime antiquities further specifies details regarding the protection of marine antiquities by indicating that the protection of underwater antiquities through their in-situ preservation is the preferable solution (4.1) and that no action or decision taken should in any way affect underwater antiquities (6.1).

1.5.2.2 Presentation to the public

The legislative and management frameworks developed since the 1990s also make specific considerations for the presentation of underwater antiquities to the public. The ICOMOS Charter for the Protection and Management of Underwater Cultural Heritage attempted for the first time to produce a framework for the management of UCH that would include and their public presentation, underlining the contribution of UCH to the formation of identity and sense of community (ICOMOS 1996). On the other hand, the UNESCO Convention indicates in situ preservation as the first option emphasizes the obligation to encourage public awareness, appreciation, and protection of UCH (UNESCO 2001; Guèrin and Egger, 2010). In this framework, endeavours were intensified to render underwater antiquities accessible to the public particularly through their in-situ presentation and the creation of underwater archaeological parks on a worldwide level, whenever this was not incompatible with the protection and management of the sites (UNESCO 2001; Davidde, 2002; Manders, 2009: 32).

In view of the above, antiquities were preserved in situ allowing controlled public access. For example: (a) a cage was constructed at the 4th century AD Cavtat shipwreck (Croatia), to render it accessible to public visits (Jurišić, 2006), (b) maritime trails have been created: such is the case of the Caesaria Maritima underwater park in Israel, which includes both architectural remains and ancient shipwrecks (Raban, 1992), (c) shipwreck sites have been reconstructed following their excavation, like the reconstruction of the 13th century BC Uluburun shipwreck is presented at the Kaş underwater park in Turkey (Varinlioğlu and Otis, 2008).

The *in-situ* presentation solutions achieve protection of the natural and cultural landscape. At the same time, the public can comprehend the relationship between the sites and their environment (Scott-Ireton, 2005; Manders, 2009: 38-39). In this framework, discussions have been initiated regarding the technical and practical issues arising from the in-situ presentation of underwater archaeological sites, including their preservation, control, and monitoring (Kaoru and Hoagland, 1994; Petriaggi, 2001; Oxley, 2002; Bjordal et al, 2012).

Cyprus has entered this arena following the 2016 Regulations which indicate that the Director of the Department of Antiquities can allow in situ public access to underwater antiquities/archaeological sites if this is compatible with their protection and management.

In line with this, in June 2022 Amathus ancient harbour was part of the ANDIKAT project, where it was described as the first underwater archaeological park of Cyprus at the Press Releases prepared by the University of Cyprus in collaboration with the Department of Antiquities and on the ANDIKAT website (Press and information office (2021), Δημιουργία Αρχαιολογικού Πάρκου στο Αρχαίο Λιμάνι Αμαθούντας – ΑΝΔΙΚΑΤ (andikat.eu)). The public is invited to snorkel and dive around the archaeological remains, following underwater signs placed on site, and learn more about the ancient harbour. .

1.5.2.3 Classification of underwater archaeological sites in Cyprus

The Cyprus sea preserves different types of underwater archaeological sites. Considerations regarding making underwater antiquities accessible to the public through in situ presentation requires the classification of the sites based on (1) the environment of their deposition, (2) the type of material preserved and (3) the type of engagements with the contemporary society developed.

Based on the above, underwater antiquities are classified on the following categories:

1.5.2.3.1 Shipwrecks

Ancient shipwreck sites are the most thoroughly studied type of archaeological remains. As their wrecking is the result of a catastrophic event during their sail from port to port, ancient shipwreck sites can be located both, in shallow and deep waters.

The environment of their deposition defines the type of material preserved, as well as the associations developed with the contemporary society. Shipwrecks located in shallow waters are in most of the cases scattered, either due to looting activity, and/or due to the environmental conditions (waves action/ currents). Shipwrecks located in deeper waters on the other hand, could preserve the cargo of the ship partly disordered, or almost intact (Parker, 1981). Moreover, the waterlogged, anaerobic, anoxic environment in deep waters preserves in an exceptional condition material (e.g., organic materials) that are not easily preserved on land or in shallow waters such as the structure of the ship (Maarleveld, 2014).

On the other hand, as a result of their presence in the underwater environment, both in shallow and in deeper waters, ancient shipwreck sites develop affective connections with groups of the public that otherwise might not have any interest in them. Particularly,

shipwrecks, connected with the fascination of discovery, the notion of adventure and the discovery of a treasure are considered to provide an exceptional diving experience. However, the type of material preserved which includes both, immovable objects (i.e., the structure of the ship) but also movable objects (i.e., the contents of the ship) constitutes the presentation of ancient shipwrecks to the public a complicated and challenging matter.

1.5.2.3.2 Harbours

A harbour is "a place on the coast where ships may moor in shelter, especially one protected from rough water by piers, jetties, and other artificial structures." (Oxford Dictionary). As such ancient harbours are located partially or totally submerged in shallow waters by a coast that is protected from the prevailing winds. Therefore, ancient harbour sites are easily accessible by a wide range of public both, swimmers and divers. What is more, the type of material preserved, that is architectural remains made of blocks, constitutes the issues of their protection and monitoring considerably less challenging.

1.5.2.3.3 Anchorages

Anchorage is a natural safe refuge, a protected bay where ships can moor. In contrast to ancient harbours, anchorages do not preserve any type of artificial structures. They are identified by the type of material preserved underwater: a significant number of anchors, as well as pottery remains of different periods. Anchorages are easily accessible by a wide range of divers as they are located in shallow waters (<15 m) close to the coast. Preserving mainly movable material, making anchorages accessible to the public should take into consideration their protection and monitoring. In any case, these issues are less challenging than in the case of ancient shipwreck sites as (1) anchorages are located in well-defined areas by the coast and (b) even though movable, anchors are usually difficult to handle.

1.5.3 Shipwrecks

A total of 10 shipwrecks have been identified at the coast of Cyprus as depicted on a map in Figure 1.20 and described below.

Figure 1.20. Map of ancient shipwreck sites mentioned in the text.

1.5.3.1 Paphos district

1.5.3.1.1 Koppo island shipwreck

A scattered shipwreck of the late Hellenistic period (1st century BC) located in shallow waters (2-3 m) near Koppo island, off the western coast of Akamas (Bass and Katzev, 1968). The site, documented in 1967 by the Cyprus Underwater Archaeological Search, preserved scattered remains of Rhodian pottery as well as cooking pottery sherds. However, as the site was not revisited since then, its current state of preservation is unknown.

1.5.3.1.2 Xerolimni shipwreck

A Hellenistic shipwreck (3rd-2nd centuries BC) lying on a rocky seabed in shallow waters (3-4 m). It was located in the 1980s during the underwater and coastal archaeological survey undertaken by the University of London Underwater Research Group. The site preserves a dense concentration of concreted amphora fragments extending in an area 25x10 m. The

sherds preservation is so fragmentary, that their type could not be identified. (Giangrande et al, 1987).

1.5.3.1.3 Agios Georghios shipwreck

The shipwreck site, located in the 1980s by the University of London Underwater Research Group, lies at 12 m depth on a rocky seabed with seagrass habitat. It preserves amphora sherds so heavily broken that their identification of a particular type was not made possible. (Giangrande, et al 1987).

1.5.3.2 Limassol district

1.5.3.2.1 Avdimou shipwreck

A late Roman shipwreck (5th century AD) lying on a mixed seabed of sand and rock. The site, which was documented during the Episkopi Survey Project, preserves the sherds of around 40 amphorae of two distinct types, and 3 millstones. Eleven stone anchors and one metal anchor were also located on the site, although it is uncertain whether they belong to the shipwreck (Leidwanger, 2007).

1.5.3.2.2 Cape Zevgari shipwreck

A late Roman shipwreck (4th-7th century AD) lying on a rocky seabed in shallow waters (5-7 m). The site, documented during the Episkopi Survey Project, extends in an area of 35x15 m and preserves a significant number of Late Roman 1 amphora sherds, as well as tableware (Leidwanger, 2007).

1.5.3.3 Larnaka district

1.5.3.3.1 Mazotos shipwreck

A well-preserved site of the late Classical period (first half of the 4th century BC), which is located 1.5 miles off the coast of Mazotos. Lying at a depth of 44 metres on a sandy, almost flat seabed, the ship occupies an area of 16x6.5 m. It preserved an oblong concentration of at least 800 amphorae partly or totally visible, the majority of which maintained their upright position. The Mazotos Shipwreck Project began in 2007 by the University of Cyprus and is still ongoing. Since then, seven excavation field seasons have been completed concentrating on

the south and north extremities of the site, that is the bow and stern of the ship respectively (Demesticha, 2009; 2011; 2017; 2022, Demesticha et al, 2014).

The excavation revealed hull remains at the bow and stern of the ship, in a good state of preservation. Moreover, the remains of three anchors of the ship were brought to light. The Mazotos shipwreck carried a homogeneous cargo of wine amphorae, mainly from the Aegean. Its main cargo was Chian amphorae of two different capacities. Moreover, 'mushroom rim' (Sholokova 1), and Mendean (Chalkidiki) amphorae of two different types were discovered in the assemblage, in smaller quantities. The secondary cargo of the ship was composed of fifty-five jugs and probably olives, as indicated by the significant number of olive pits located up to date. Excavation also brought to light non- cargo vessels, utilitarian wares and black glazed pottery, and non-cargo amphorae, one likely from Lycia, an upper part of a Koan amphora, and another possibly from Samos or the vicinity.

1.5.3.3.2 Cape Kiti shipwrecks:

Three scattered shipwrecks were located in shallow waters at the Cape Kiti area and were documented during 2008-2009 by the University of Cyprus (Demesticha, 2015).

Cape Kiti N1: Roman shipwreck (1st AD) scattered in an area covering 50x20 m on a rocky seabed with seagrass growing in the area. It preserves sherds of about 25 amphorae of different types (Dr.6, Dr.2-4 and a non-identified type).

Cape Kiti N2: Late Roman shipwreck (6th AD) scattered in an area covering 20x20 m on a rocky seabed with seagrass growing in the area. It preserves sherds of LR1/B/Form3 amphorae.

Cape Kiti N3: Late Roman shipwreck (7th AD) lying on a rocky seabed, preserving LR1 (Third generation) amphora sherds.

1.5.3.4 Famagusta district

1.5.3.4.1 Nissia shipwreck

A much-disturbed shipwreck dating to the 19th century. It lies at 28 m depth on a sandy seabed, 500 m offshore. It consists of an oblong concentration measuring 24x11 m, which extends further in all directions under the Posidonia meadow that surrounds the site. Its surface layer preserved several exposed timbers, scattered metal concretions, bricks, and

three cannons; two iron cannons lying on the east extremity of the site, and another one in an upright position NE of the site, a few metres away from the main concentration.

Two excavation field seasons have been conducted up to date by the University of Cyprus. They revealed an important part of the lower part of the hull of the ship in a good state of preservation. As the shipwreck was heavily looted, only a small number of movable finds were located. In their majority they were two types of timbers; pieces of thick branches as well as processed logs with pointed ends stowed on at least two rows on the ship, as well as a number of cannon balls and 40 musket balls.

1.5.3.4.2 Protaras shipwreck

A well-preserved shipwreck site lying on a flat sandy bottom at 37 m depth, very close to the Nissia shipwreck. The site is a wreck of a Roman ship, loaded with transport amphorae, most probably from Syria and Cilicia. It is the first undisturbed Roman shipwreck ever found in Cyprus, the study of which is expected to shed new light on the breadth and the scale of seaborne trade between Cyprus and the rest of the Roman provinces of the eastern Mediterranean. The University of Cyprus undertook one field season on the site (in 2019) during which the shipwreck was documented, and selected amphorae were lifted.

1.5.3.4.3 Fig tree bay shipwreck

A scattered Roman shipwreck of the 2nd century AD. It lies an extended area of 7x45 m in shallow waters (5-9 meters depth) close to the shore. It preserves fragments of around 120 amphorae of three or four types, namely: Ras al Basit Gauloise 4, Cicilian Dr. 30, Pseudo-Koan (Agora M54) and one small Rhodian amphora. The site also preserves fragments of storage and cooking vessels and very few roof tiles fragments. However, most of the finds preserved on the site are conglomerated on the rocks. The site was initially surveyed and documented in 2007 by the Institute of Nautical Archaeology (Leidwanger, 2013). In 2020 the team of the University of Cyprus revisited the site and concluded that much less material was preserved.

1.5.4 Harbour structures

A total of 6 harbour structures have been identified at the coast of Cyprus as depicted on a map in Figure 1.21 and described below.

Figure 1.21. Map of ancient harbour sites mentioned in the text.

1.5.4.1 Paphos district

1.5.4.1.1 Maniki

A small shallow south facing bay that was surveyed during the 1980s by the University of London Underwater Research Group and revisited by a team of archaeologists in the framework of the Yeronissos archaeological project in 2022. Maniki served as the main port for accessing the ancient settlement at Agios Georgios Pegeias and Yeronissos Island itself from the Hellenistic through to the Byzantine period (Connely, 2022). The small port at Maniki clearly provided the most convenient and safe location for anchoring, loading, and unloading cargoes as witnessed by the rock-cut channels and bollards, pottery. Moreover, the five stone anchors and some well-preserved pottery located in the channel between Yeronissos and Maniki (11-14 m) further supports this hypothesis (Giangrande et al, 1987, Conelly, 2022).

1.5.4.1.2 Karatidhi Bay

A small, well protected bay that was surveyed during the 1980s by the University of London Underwater Research Group. The documentation of the site revealed a dense concentration of pottery, several piles of stones and one stone anchor. The majority of the material preserved was glazed pottery of the 18th-19th century AD, suggesting that the bay was engaged in the export of carobs. This hypothesis is also supported by the two ruined buildings close to the shore, which were used for the storage of carobs. Even though the site was revisited in the early 2000s, its current state of preservation is not known (Giangrande, et al 1987).

1.5.4.1.3 (Nea) Paphos harbour

The (Nea) Paphos harbour was constructed during the Hellenistic period (3rd century BC). The harbour had two breakwaters that enclosed its basin and created a sheltered area protected from almost all winds. Despite the destructions that took place through the years, good part of the ancient harbour structures is still preserved over 200 m off the limits of the contemporary harbour basin. Particularly, part of the eastern mole of the harbour (155 m long) lies underwater on a rocky seabed. Parallel to the main eastern mole and about 30 m offshore, runs an external, underwater breakwater (194.5 m long) which probably dates to the Roman period (Leonard and Hohlfelder, 1993: 375; Hohfelder, 1995: 204-205). The western mole is only partially preserved as much of it has been covered by constructions for the contemporary harbour.

1.5.4.2 Limassol district

1.5.4.2.1 Kourion

The evidence around Kourion that would suggest the existence of an ancient harbour are confined on a submerged structure located at Agios Ermogenis bay, around 80 m long with a N-S direction, which has been interpreted as a breakwater. However, its existence has not been confirmed as for a harbour to function on the bay, further man-made works was necessary to protect the basins from the prevailing winds (Leonard, 2005: 556).

1.5.4.2.2 Akrotiri Dreamer's Bay harbour

Akrotiri Dreamer's Bay preserves the remains of an ancient harbour situated between Cape Zevgari and Cape Gata, at the boundaries of Limassol RAF base. Dated to the Roman and the early Byzantine period, the harbour preserves a mole about 135 m long composed of five courses of blocks. It is located 40 m. from the shore, with NW-SE direction. The harbour area also preserves ceramic remains and anchors.

Initially surveyed by the Cyprus Coastal Survey, conducted between 1989-1999, the harbour is now been excavated in the framework of the Akrotiri-Dreamer's Bay Ancient Port Project (Simons, et al 2020).

1.5.4.2.3 Amathus harbour

The harbour is located southeast of the ancient Agora of the ancient city of Amathus. It was constructed at the beginning of the Hellenistic period, around the end of the 4th century BCE. It consists of three moles that create a trapezoid harbour basin with the coast, with its narrow side looking towards the sea. The east and the west mole are perpendicular to the coast, whilst the south mole runs parallel to it. The entrance, around 20 m wide, is situated on the southeast corner of the harbour, protected by the prevailing west – southwest winds.

The harbour of Amathus is today among the best-preserved ancient harbours in the eastern Mediterranean. It is totally submerged, with its most remote point, the south mole, situated about 150 m from the modern coastline, and at a depth ranging from 1 to 3 m (Empereur, et al 2017).

1.5.5 Anchorages

A total of 7 anchorages have been identified at the coast of Cyprus as depicted on a map in Figure 1.22 and described below.

Figure 1.22. Map of ancient anchorages mentioned in the text.

1.5.5.1 Paphos district

1.5.5.1.1 Lara (Limnionas and South)

Lara South also preserved pottery, although to a much lower extend. It is concentrated in a small area in shallow waters (2-3 m), cemented on a dangerous rock (Giangrande, et al 1987). However, as there is no recent publication on the site, its current state of preservation is not clear.

The North Bay of Lara (Lara – Limnionas) was surveyed during the 1980s by the Underwater Research Group of the University of London. Fifteen stone anchors were located during the survey, which testify the use of the bay as an anchorage. Pottery located in the area, ranging from the Hellenistic to the later Byzantine periods, as well as the high concentration of large sherds in deeper waters (6-7 meters) where ships might have anchored, also support this hypothesis (Giangrande, et al 1987).

1.5.5.1.2 Kouklia-Achni

At the vicinity of the ancient settlement of Kouklia (Palaepaphos), at the anchorage site of Kouklia-Achni, 120 stone anchors and limited ceramic deposits were located and documented. The anchors, which represent different types (one hole, three holes) and range in size (0.30-1 m) are lying in the shallows of a rocky seabed where seagrass of Posidonia meadows is also growing. The site, which up to date preserves the larger number of stone anchors located in an area, has been interpreted as a Late Bronze Age anchorage which facilitated Palaepaphos needs (Howitt-Marshall, 2012).

1.5.5.2 Larnaka district

1.5.5.2.1 Maroni – Tsaroukas anchorage

Maroni Tsaroukkas served as a major trading centre during the Late Bronze Age. This is testified by the important number of stone anchors (35) and ceramics (75) located during the Maroni Tsaroukkas Project (1993-1999). The site was revisited during 2017-2019 in the framework of the KAMBE Project during which more finds were located. At a depth ranging from 1-6 m and in an extended area of 200 m, 41 stone anchors, 270 ceramic sherds and 11 stone blocks have been recorded. The underwater remains indicate that two contexts are possible: an eroded terrestrial region to the west which is now underwater (preserving two distinct deposits of ceramics), and a maritime anchorage to the east (preserving scattered sherds and the blocks) (Atkins and Manning, 2022).

1.5.5.2.2 Petounda anchorage

A possible late Roman anchorage exists at the South coast of Cyprus, at Petounda at the Mazotos district. A reef which is covered by seagrass, which extends in the area, could have acted as natural protection of the bay, while the rest of the seabed is sandy with dispersed rocks and seaweed. The site preserves 45 stone anchors and two lead parts of wooden anchors located in shallow waters (2-6 meters). Pottery sherds were also located in the area, probably from drifting from land, suggesting that this anchorage was in use during the Late Roman period (Papakosta, 2020).

1.5.5.2.3 Kiti anchorage

The Swedish Cyprus Expedition undertook an underwater survey at Cape Kiti in the 1970s, aiming to document maritime activity in the area, focusing particularly on the Bronze Age. The pottery fragments and stone anchors located particularly in the shallows of the eastern side of the Cape suggested that the area was used as an anchorage (Demesticha, 2015: 56-57, 2018: 65-66).

1.5.5.2.4 Xylophagou

The Xylofagou site, documented by the University of Cyprus in collaboration with the Nautical Archaeological Society of the UK, preserves anchors and dressing stones in an extended area not deeper than 15 meters depth. The remains suggest that this could represent an anchorage (Demesticha, 2018: 70).

1.6 Businesses, services provided, and other stakeholders involved

For this part of the study, a list of important businesses and stakeholders involved in the diving industry were compiled (Appendix II - Tables, Table A3). The Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative (CSTI) was subcontracted, as tourism experts, to assist in the collection/compilation of information regarding stakeholders related to tourism. The stakeholders identified fell within each of the following categories: Dive centres/clubs/associations, Public Bodies, Local Authorities, NGOs and Environmental foundations/companies, Hoteliers, Tourist Agents and regional Tourist Boards. From there on, questionnaires were created for each stakeholder category, aiming to gather from them as much information as possible on the status of the diving tourism industry in Cyprus, including services provided, problems/threats identified, suggestions for improving the sector, infrastructure, and diving safety. All questionnaires created and shared with stakeholders along with the raw data collected can be found in Appendix III - Oceanographic parameters.

1.6.1 Dive centres

Dive centres are the main stakeholder directly involved in diving tourism in Cyprus. In total, 86 dive centres, 37 in Famagusta, 15 in Limassol, 14 in Larnaka, 13 in Paphos and 7 in Nicosia were identified (Figure 1.23). The Cyprus Dive Centres Association (CDCA) was contacted and requested to forward the questionnaire to their members together with a formal letter informing them that we would be contacting them to arrange for a meeting to complete the questionnaire. More than half (55%) of the dive centres on our list either declined, were unavailable for a meeting, or were simply not interested in completing the questionnaire. Dive centres were identified as one of the main stakeholder groups, and therefore the data were collection via in-person interviews, to ensure detailed and quality results.

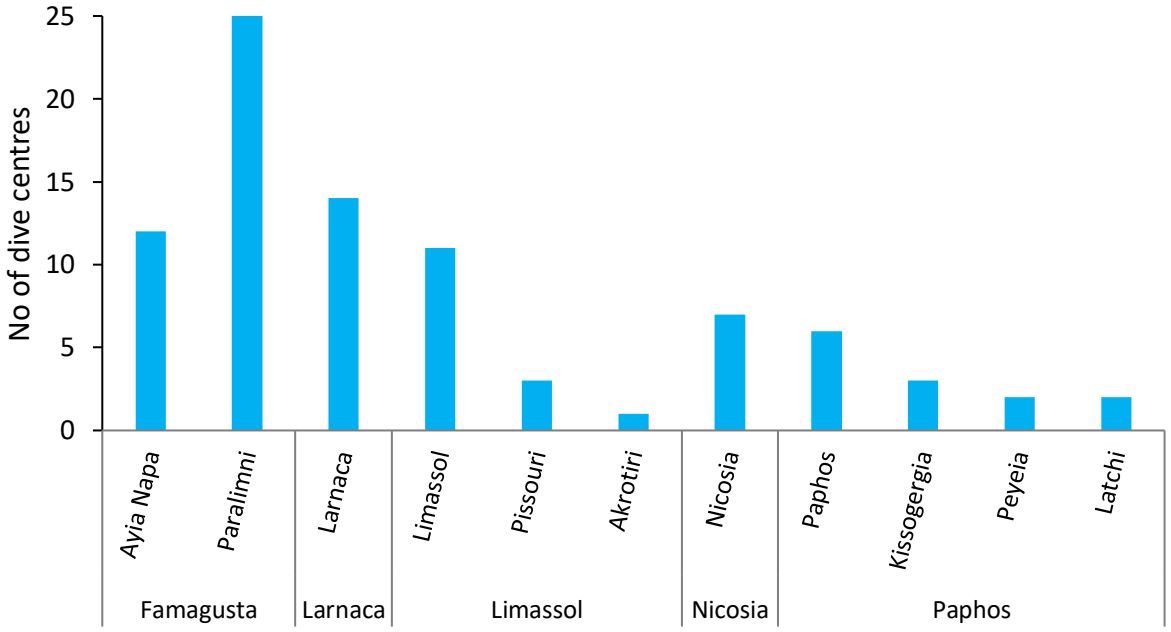

Figure 1.23. Number of dive centres in each district and distribution within each region.

1.6.1.1 Cyprus dive centres

In total there were 39 responses (45%), with only one interviewee choosing to remain anonymous. Of the 38 responses, 12 were based in Famagusta (32% from total centres in district), 8 in Limassol (53% of district), 9 in Larnaka (64% from region), 5 in Paphos (38% of district) and 4 in Nicosia (57% of district). Summarised information on the named dive centres per region along with the dive/courses, facilities and services provided can be found in Table 1.3.

Most of the respondents (63%; 24 of 39) are registered as a company under the Cyprus registrar of companies whereas 32% (12 of 39) are registered as trade name. One of them is registered as an established society or institution under ROC legislation, one is a university sports club which doesn't fall with any of the abovementioned categories and two of them preferred not to respond to this question.

Many of the dive-centres (36%; 14 of 38) have been active for up to 10 years, 3 of which have only been active for 2 years or less. 26% (10 of 38) have been active and established between 11 and 20 years. Another 36% have been established and active for more than 20 years with 5 of them being active for over 40 years (Figure 1.24).

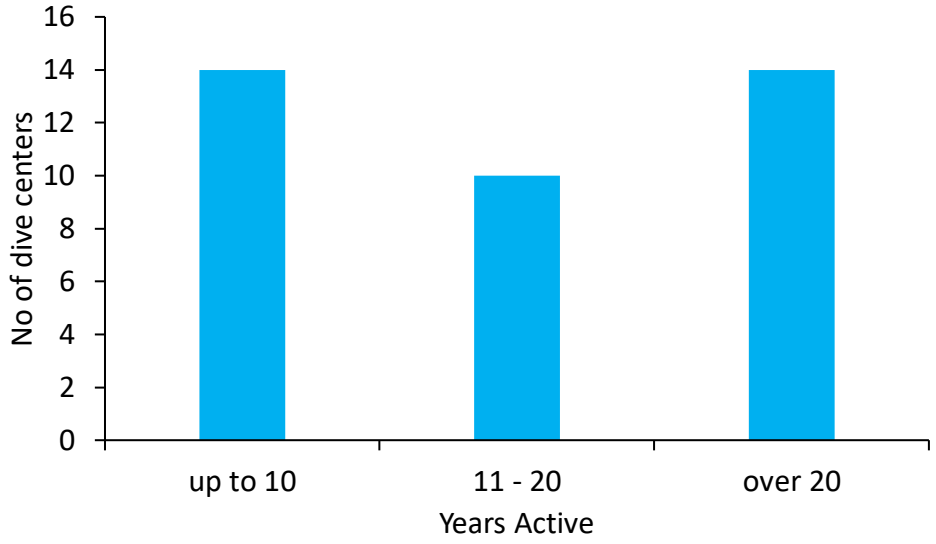

Figure 1.24. The number of years each dive centre has been active for.

The majority of dive centres (28 centres, 75.68%) operate under PADI, which is also globally by far the most popular[1] dive organization. Moreover, 10 centres (27.03%) also operate under SDI, 8 centres under NAUI, 8 under SSI and 8 under TDI (21.62% each – 24 in total). The remaining 3 dive organisations had a lower representation in the Cypriot dive centres interviewed. These were: BSAC (3 centres, 8.11%), CMAS (2 centres, 5.41%) and RAID (2 centres, 5.41%). It must be noted that some dive centres operate under more than one organisation.

The interviewees were asked what their approximate revenue was for the past 5 years. Only 22 out of the 39 responded. During 2020 and 2021 with the Covid19 measures in place, the revenue for most dive centres was less than 20,000 and yearly revenue showed an increase by 2022. In 2018 and 2019, 22.2% stated a revenue over 100,000 and over 50% were earning more than 35,000 (Figure 1.25).

[1] *'PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) is the world's largest ocean exploration and diver organization, operating in 186 countries and territories, with a global network of more than 6,600 dive centres and resorts' – (PADI, 2023)*

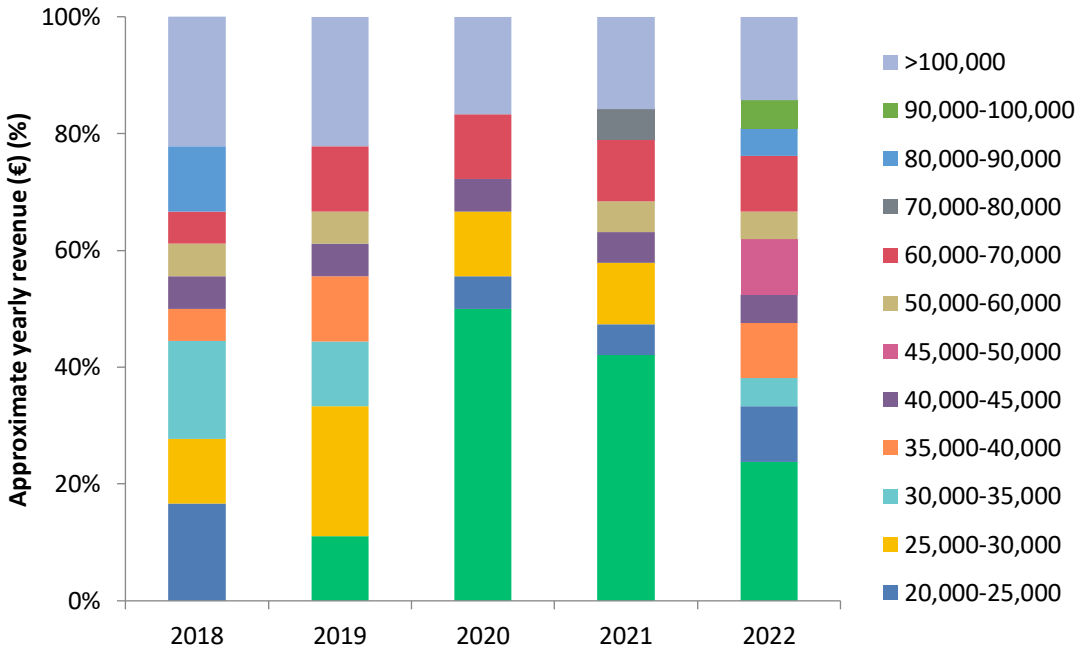

Figure 1.25. The approximate yearly revenue (€) of the dive centres for the period 2018 to 2022.

Table 1.3. Summary of dive centres per region, including self-acclaimed type of dives/courses, facilities, services provided and certified operational standards held.

			Dives/Courses											Facilities							Services			
Region	Dive Centres	Snorkelling	Bubble maker	Discovery	Open Water	Advanced	Rescue	Dive Master	IDC	Refresher	Technical	Leisure	Diving Organisations	Classroom	Filling compressor	Rental equipment	Pick-up track	Boat	Safety/First Aid	Other	Transportation	Food/Drinks	Other	Certified Operational Standards
	Trans divers	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	PADI, SDI, NAUI	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓			✓	Scooters, dry suits, boosters and facilitate deep diving	ISO
	JJ SUR MESURE LTD	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	SSI, SDI, GUE	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓		✓			
	Ocean view diving	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	PADI, SDI, TDI	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓		✓		Photographs	PADI ISO, SDI and TDI ISO
	Taba Diving Centre Ltd	×	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	PADI	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓			✓		Annual Health and Safety Audit
	Dragon divers cyprus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	PADI, SDI, TDI	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓		✓			
	Ocean Lab	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	✓	PADI, RAID	✓	×	✓	✓	×	✓	Equipment storage, Bathroom	✓	✓		DAN partner, PADI, RAID
Famagusta	Happy divers	×	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	✓	NAUI, SSI	×	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	Swimming pool	✓	✓	Photoshoots	SSI
	Scuba Diving Support Centre	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×		✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓	Service room				ISO
	Sunfish divers ltd	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	PADI, SSI	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	Wash station and Leisure space	✓		Spouses can come on the boat and go snorkelling	
	JP The scuba base diving school ltd	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	PADI, CMAS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Equipment storage, Bathroom	✓	✓		
	Q Divers Mike Polycarpou (MP) dive center ltd	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	NAUI	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓		✓			
	Undersea world scuba diving	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	PADI, SDI, IANTD	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			EUF
Larnaka	Alpha Divers	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	PADI, SSI, BSAC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		Organizing flight and	ISO24803, ISO24802-

																						accommodation	2, ISO11107 PADI. SSI ISO45001, BSAC EUF
	Larnaca sub aqua club																						
	Hippocampus	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CMAS	✓	×	✓	×	×	✓				Membership	CMAS EU and KOA
	Nemo dive centre	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	PADI	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓		✓	✓	Shower with warm water	
	Kimon diving academy	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	PADI	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓		✓	✓	Showers	
	Aquadream scuba academy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	IFDI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					Aktoploiko katadytiko, licence from SDM, CAPTAIN DIPLOMA, SAFETY, FIRST AID ETC ISO24803.2017 AND ISO11121. 2017, ISO 13289
	Atlantis sea cruises	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	PADI, NAUI, SSI	×	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	Oxygen			Maps of the wrecks in detail	
	Zenobia diving centre	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NAUI, SSI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Oxygen and defibrillator	✓		Free nitrox certifications, discounts on equipment for experienced divers, always helping divers in and out	
	Dive in cyprus	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	PADI, SDI, TDI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			UK military operational standards
	Viking divers	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	PADI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	Accommodation	PADI ISO
Limassol	Blue thunder diving & survival centre ltd	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NAUI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		Service of all equipment	
	Buddy divers	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓	×	✓	PADI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Swimming pool	✓	✓		PADI
	SeaWorld diving adventures	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	PADI	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓		✓			

	Dive in Limassol ltd	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	PADI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		VIP boat charters \ skipper charters	PADI
	The Aquatic centre LTD	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	PADI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		Help with carrying equipment Helping with gear \ refreshing	
	Pissouri Bay Divers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	PADI	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓		✓		Group and military discounts	
	Cyprus Diving Adventures	×	×	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓	×	✓	PADI, SDI	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓		✓		Assistance with accommodation	
	TD DIVING LTD	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	PADI, SDI, TDI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Nicosia	MK Dive stop LTD	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	PADI, SDI, TDI, BSAC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	UCY diving team	×	×	×	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×	NAUI	×	×	×	×	×	×					
	No Limit Scuba Training Centre	×	×	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓	SSI, SDI, RAID	✓	×	✓	×	✓	✓				Diving Club for regular members with anual membership	ISO
	Scubaholics Cyprus	×	×	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	✓	×	NAUI, SDI, TDI	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	Rebreather	✓	✓	Washing of equipment	Poseidon, Apex, Aqualung, Techline, Tusan and Bechaut
Paphos	Marine divers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	PADI	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓		✓			
	Coral bay divers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	PADI	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓		✓	✓		
	In to the Blue	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓	×	×	PADI	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	Swimming pool, equipment storage and workshop for repairs	✓	✓	Free photos and video from the dives	
	Cydive Latching water sports dive centre	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓	×	✓	PADI	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓				Relaxation area Transportation and refreshments on boat	ISO 24803 technical auditor
		✓	×	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓	×	✓	PADI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		PADI

1.6.1.2 Active regions and dive sites

Famagusta was ranked as the most active region for most dive centres since 48% of dive-centres ranked it as their most active region. Larnaka was mostly ranked as the 2nd most active region of the interviewees with 53%. Chrysochou bay, Pyrgos and Eastern part of Akamas had the most votes (50%) as the least active region for the interviewees, however, 23% ranked it as their most active region. Paphos & Western part of Akamas were not ranked at all as the most active regions (Figure 1.26).

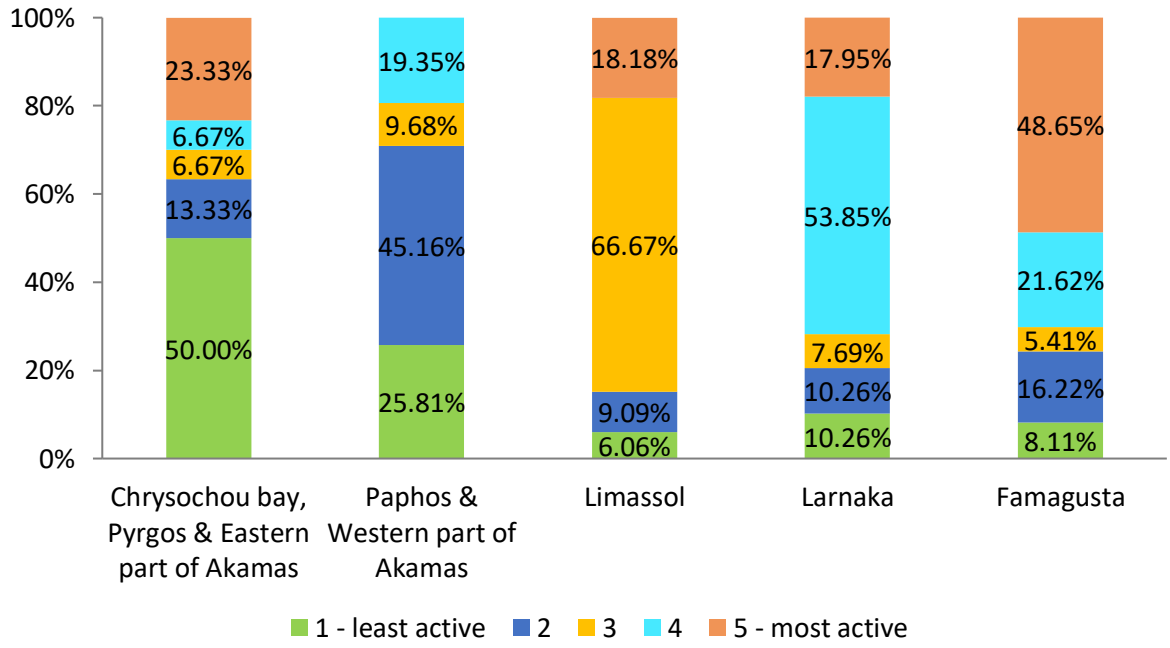

Figure 1.26. The rankings of the regions in which the dive centres are most active in. 1 being least active and 5 most active.

The top five most important sites ranked with over 50% agreement from the dive centres are: Zenobia shipwreck (95%), Green Bay (68%), Cyclopes caves (61%), Caves (58%) and MUSAN (50%). The following ten most important dives sites had similarly gradually decreasing rankings: Elpida shipwreck (42%), Green Bay caves (39%), Chapel - Agioi Anargiroi (37%), Nemessis III shipwreck (32%), Constantis shipwreck (29%), Lady Thetis shipwreck (29%), The Canyon (29%), Jubilee shoals (26%), Liberty shipwreck (26%) and Bullet point/Watchtower (24%). The remainder of the dive sites were ranked with less than 20% of agreement from the dive centres. When asked some of the reasonings for their choice in dive sites, many agreed that they chose specific sites for their accessibility, the marine life that can be observed there, the underwater landscape or that it gives them an opportunity for multiple dives within the

day. A few dive sites were also mentioned which were not in our original list such as Mimosa, Lighthouse reef, Konnos point, Mandria, Agia Trias etc.

The most popular dive sites appear to be consistent throughout the years (2018 – 2022). The wrecks, and more specifically Zenobia, Constandis and Lady Thetis have the highest percentage of visitations. However, Green Bay is the only one dive site which has consistently >40% visitations. Although other sites do have 90 - 100% demand (e.g., Kakoskali, Fontana Amorosa) the percentage of request is usually <10% across all dive centres questioned.

Most dive centres (58%, 22 of 38) also offer snorkelling trips and prefer the shallow, easily accessible places such as Green Bay (52.38%), MUSAN underwater sculpture museum (38.10%), Blue lagoon (14.29%) and Amathounta (14.29%) as well as locations where there is something interesting for the clients to see. The other locations were also ranked with less than 10% in agreement, and some dive centres claimed to only offer snorkelling trips on demand.

1.6.1.2.1 Antiquities

In respect to antiquities, 71% of responders claimed they have encountered antiquities during their dives. Most of their encounters are anchors (55%), scattered ceramic (69%) and the most common antiquities are amphora (79%). A few divers have also come across shipwrecks and ancient walls (ancient ports). The divers indicated that they have encountered these antiquities in Manijin, Green Bay, Chapel, Cyclops, Kavo Gkreko, Mazotos, Malama, Mimosa, Liopetri, Konnos, Mandria, Kakoskali (in deeper waters), Akrotiri, Canyon, Meneou and Xylofagou.

1.6.1.3 Marine Environment

1.6.1.3.1 Temperature, currents, and visibility

The interviewees were asked to rank in level of comfortableness the temperature, currents, and visibility at the different regions and for each season (Figure 1.27).

Region 1 – Polis Chrysochou, Pyrgos and East Akamas, two centres responded. Summer and autumn were rated as very comfortable by both centres for all three conditions. For spring each centre rated the currents and visibility as either neutrally comfortable or very

comfortable and for temperature as neutral and uncomfortable. For winter both centres agreed that temperature is neutrally comfortable, currents are very comfortable and visibility comfortable.

Region 2 – Paphos and West Akamas, six centres responded. In the summer periods the centres rated the temperature, currents and visibility as neutral (17% - 50%), comfortable or very comfortable (50% - 67%). For autumn the majority (>65%) rated all three conditions as comfortable or very comfortable with the remaining as neutral. In the winter period, centres find the water temperature as mostly uncomfortable or very uncomfortable (67%), whereas the visibility as mostly comfortable or very comfortable (67%) and for the currents the rating were across the range as very uncomfortable (17%), neutral (33%), comfortable (17%) and very comfortable (33%). For spring, the temperature is considered as uncomfortable (17%) or neutral (83%), for currents the views were split with 17% finding them uncomfortable, 50% neutral and 33% very comfortable. Finally, for visibility the majority consider it as very comfortable or comfortable (>65%) and the rest as neutral (33%).

Region 3 – Limassol, six centres responded. For summer and autumn, water temperature is considered mostly as very comfortable (50%), comfortable (33%) or neutral (17%), currents and visibility are considered as comfortable or very comfortable (55 – 83%) and uncomfortable (45 – 17%). In winter the temperature in the area was considered 50% - 50% uncomfortable or neutral, the currents >65% were either neutral or very comfortable, while 33% stated as uncomfortable and visibility was equally rated as comfortable, neutral and uncomfortable. In spring, the three conditions were rated as very comfortable (14% - 29%), comfortable (14% - 29%), neutral (14% - 43%) and uncomfortable (29% - 43%)

Region 4 – Larnaka, ten centres responded. For summer and autumn, temperature, currents and visibility were considered from the majority (60 – 70%) as very comfortable or comfortable and the remaining (30% - 40%) as neutral or very uncomfortable. Similarly for winter and spring the majority (60 – 80%) considered the temperature, currents and visibility to be very comfortable, comfortable or neutral and the remaining (20 – 40%) as uncomfortable or very uncomfortable.

Region 5 – Famagusta, 22 centres responded. For summer and autumn, the three conditions were in majority (70 – 86%) considered as very comfortable or comfortable and the remaining as either neutral or very uncomfortable. For winter and spring, the temperature is considered

almost equally as very comfortable or comfortable (≥50%) and neutrally or uncomfortable (≤50%). The currents and visibility are considered by the majority (70% - 82%) as very comfortable or comfortable and the rest (18% - 30%) as neutral or uncomfortable.

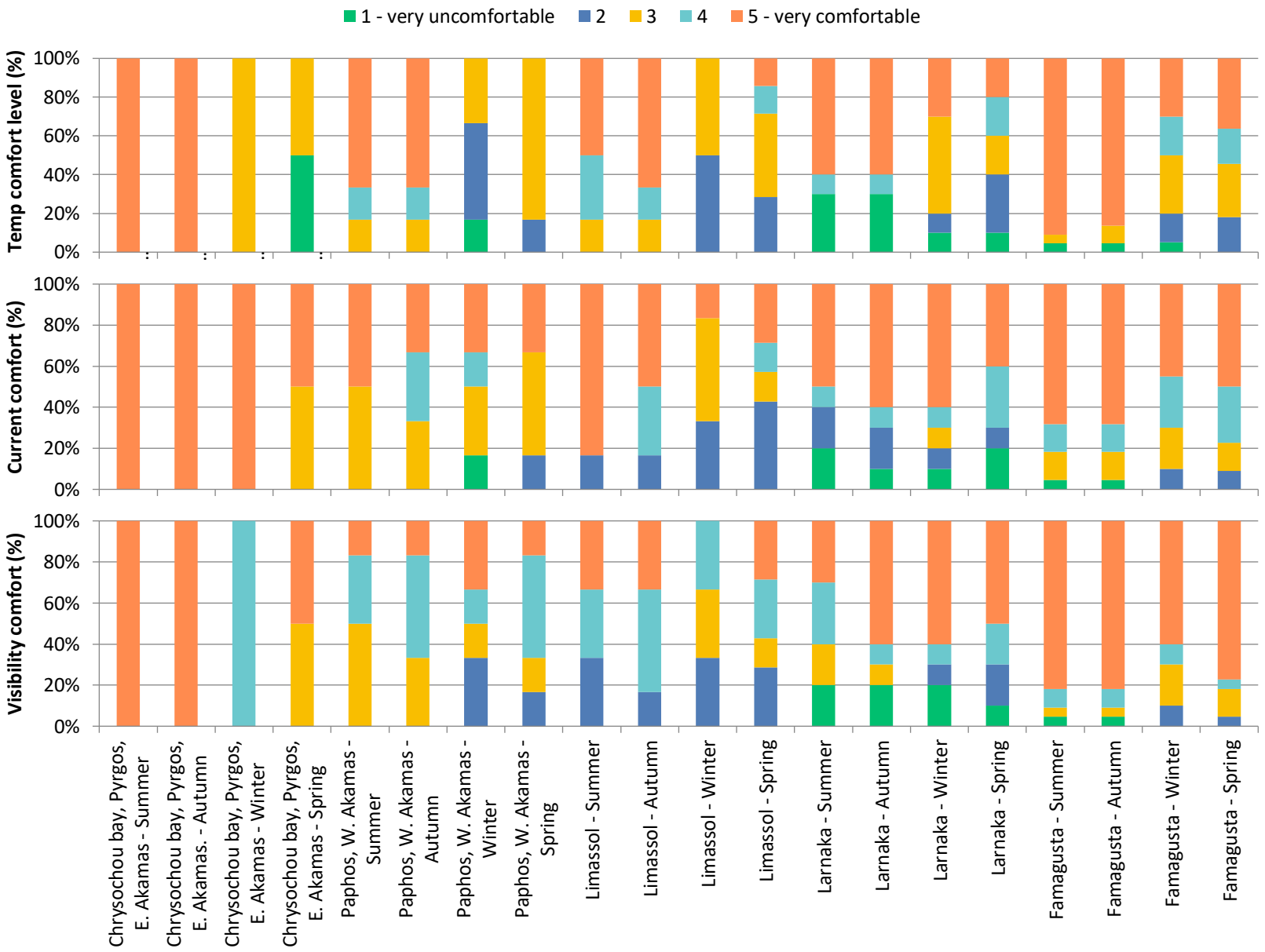

Figure 1.27. Comfort level rankings for environmental factors at the five regions for each season.

1.6.1.3.2 Marine life

Marine life is an important part of dive sites preference as well as an indication of the health of the area. Out of 39 dive centres, only six declared that they believe the status of the marine life in their region was excellent (Limassol 1, Larnaca 5). For Chrysochou bay (six dive centres) the votes were equal parts for bad (rating of 2), average (rating of 3) and good (rating of 4). For Paphos (nine dive centres) a high percentage of dive centres (44%) rated the marine life as bad, 33% rated it as average and 11% rated it as either poor or good. At Limassol (13 centres) the majority (69%) believed that the marine life of the area is either bad or average. A small percentage (15%) believes the life of the area is poor. Similarly, for Larnaka (22 centres) the majority of centres (64%) believe that the marine life is in bad or average condition and the remaining (36%) believe it's either good or in excellent condition. Lastly for Famagusta, 44% believe the marine life is at an average condition, 14% believe is in a good condition and the remaining to be in a poor or bad condition (Figure 1.28).

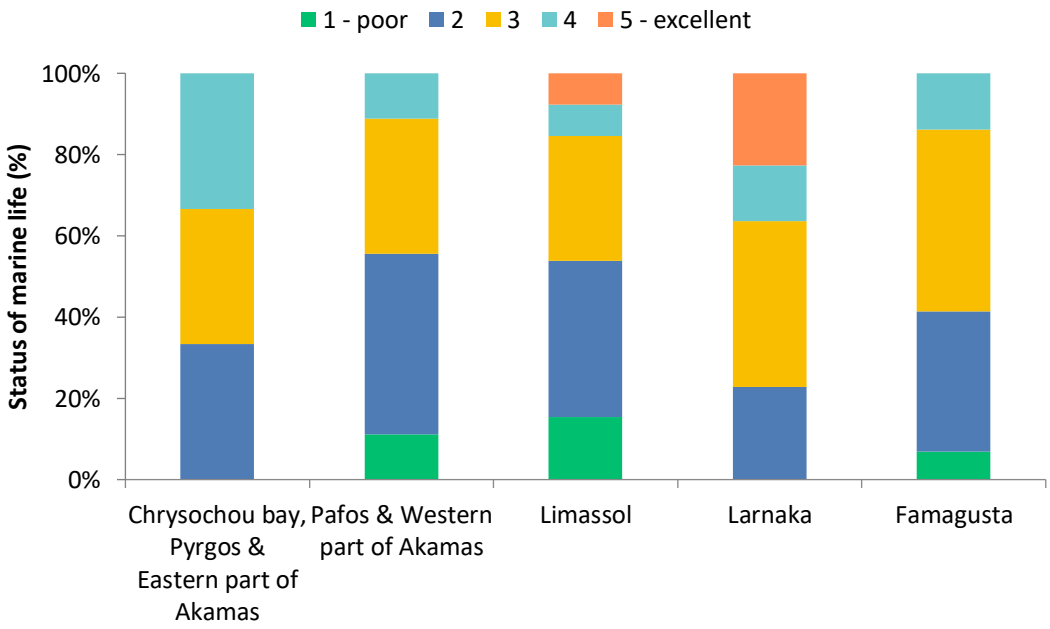

Figure 1.28. The ratings for the status of marine life for each area.

In general, for most regions, it was stated that there is a high abundance of sea grasses and sea weeds, natural reefs, artificial reefs (except for region 1 – Chrysochou bay), fish, sponges, nudibranchs, calcareous algae and turtles. When asked, the majority of dive centres (>60%) agreed that there are few marine mammals in their area. And for coral, most agree that they

are in all regions except region 2 (Paphos & West Akamas). Only a small percentage (33%) believe there are any corals in the area of Limassol.

1.6.1.4 Seasonality of diving tourism

According to dive centres interviewed the majority agreed that Summer was their busiest period (70%) followed by Autumn (70%), then Spring (83%) and their least busy season being Winter (89%). For a small portion of the interviewees (22%) Autumn was their busiest period. However, very few (≤ 5%) ranked Winter or Spring in their top two busiest months (Figure 1.29).

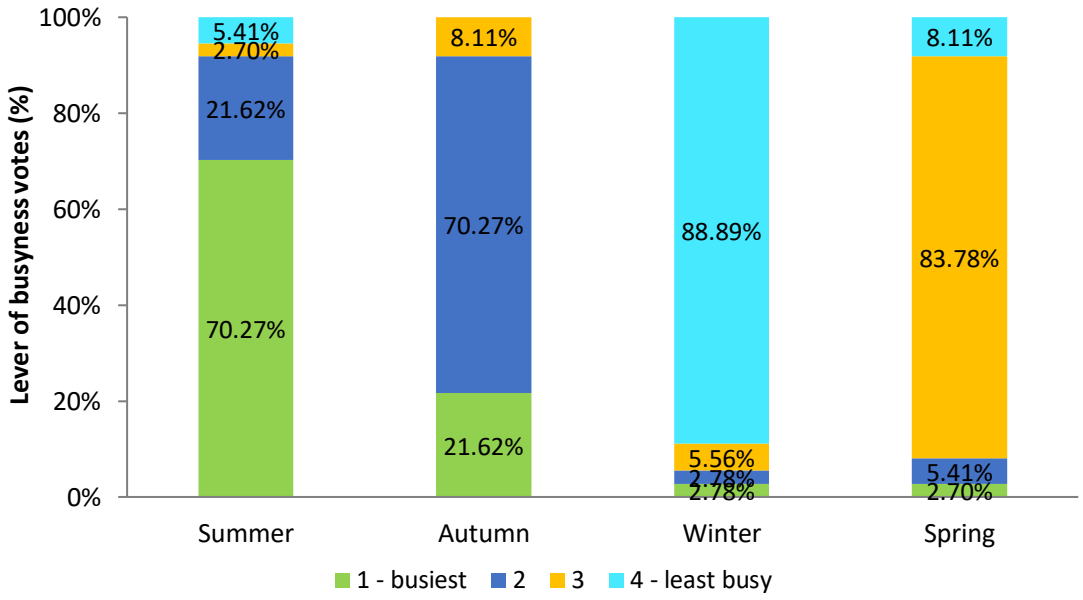

Figure 1.29. Ranking of season in order or busiest (1) to least busy (4) by the dive centres.

As previously stated, the busiest seasons for the dive centre are Summer and Spring, which are also reflected in the number of customers they had (Figure 1.30 and Figure 1.33). With the exception of the early pandemic years (2020 – 2021) over 50% had more than 200 customers in the summer and autumn (Figure 1.30 and Figure 1.31). Around 15-20% of them had >1,000. Spring and winter had the lowest numbers of customers, Winter having more than 50% of them with less than 50 customers per season (Figure 1.32 and Figure 1.33). During the pandemic and lockdowns of 2020, 40% of interviewees had less than 20 customers in Spring and 30% had less than 20 customers in Winter.

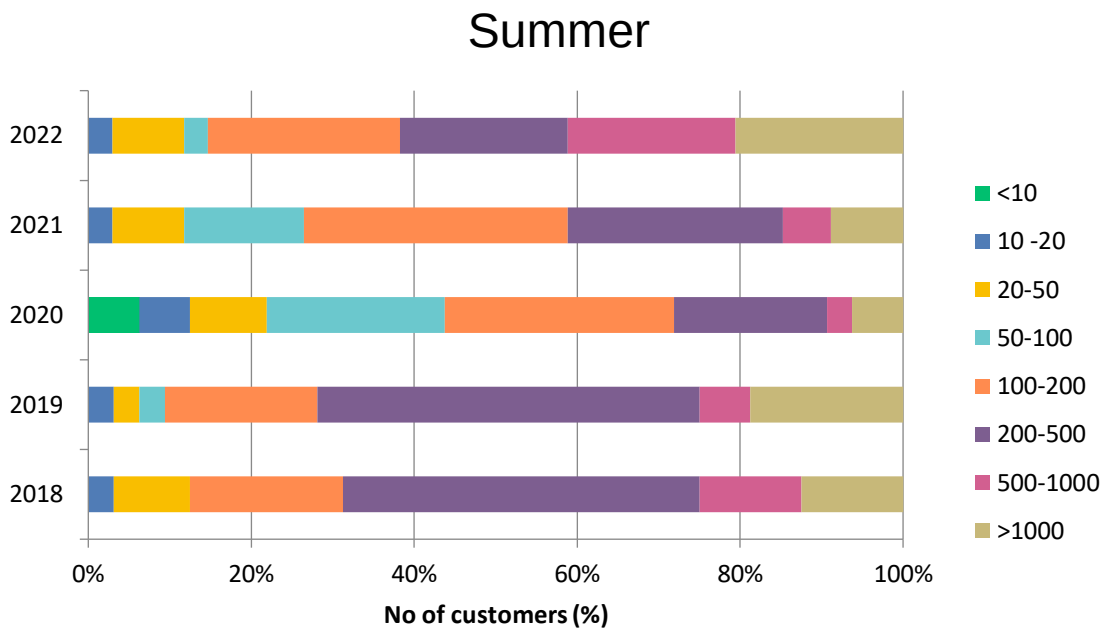

Figure 1.30. Percentage of number of customers dive centres had in the past five years in the summer season.

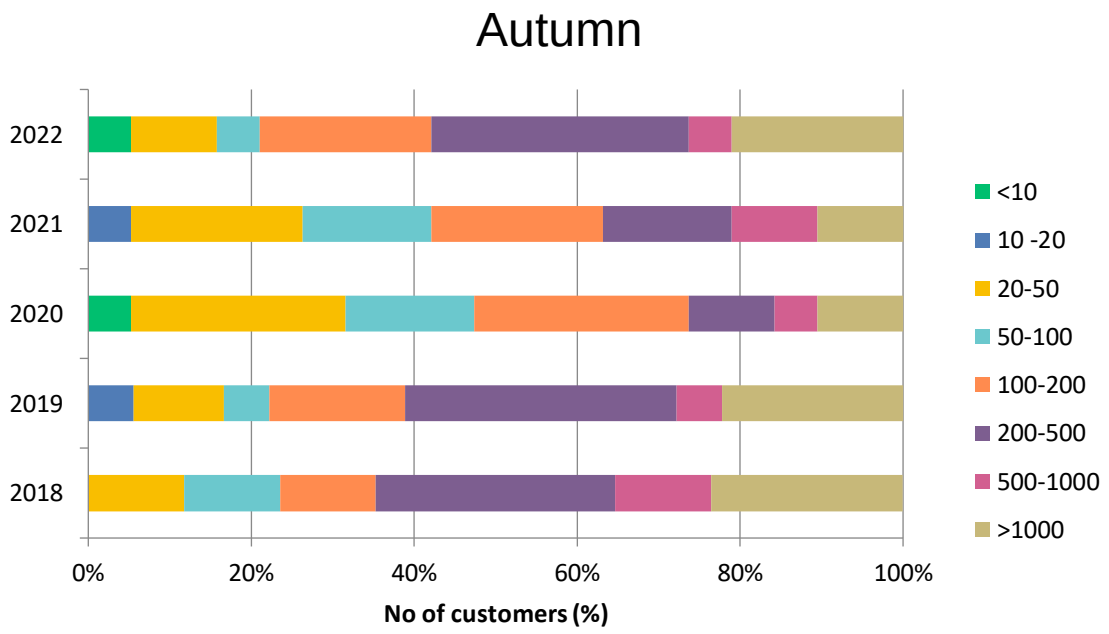

Figure 1.31.Percentage of number of customers dive centres had in the past five years in the autumn season.

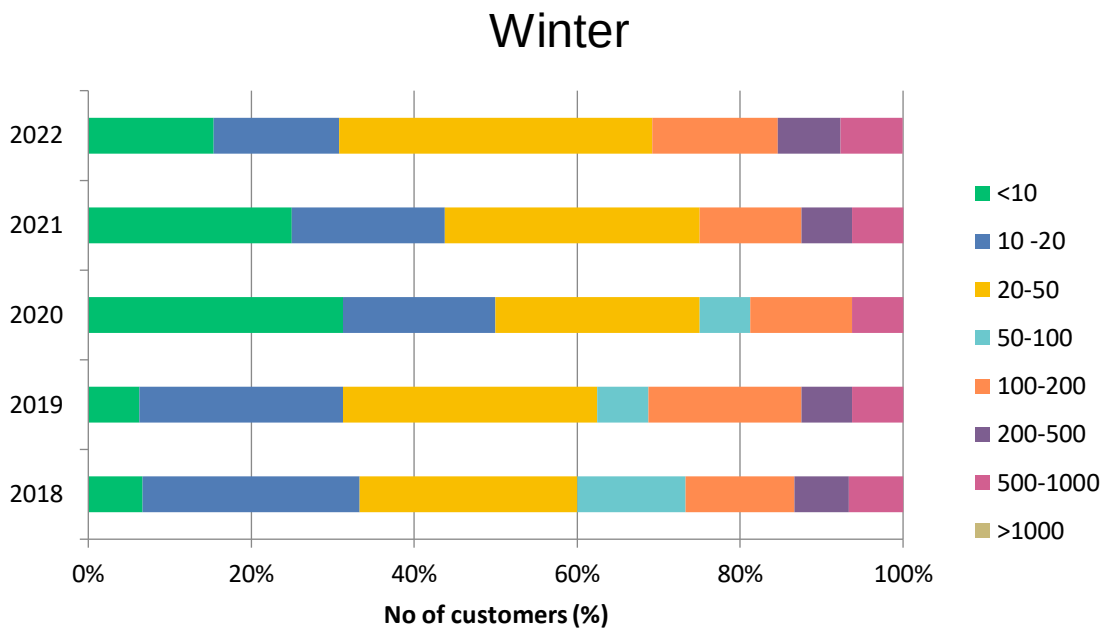

Figure 1.32. Percentage of number of customers dive centres had in the past five years in the winter season.

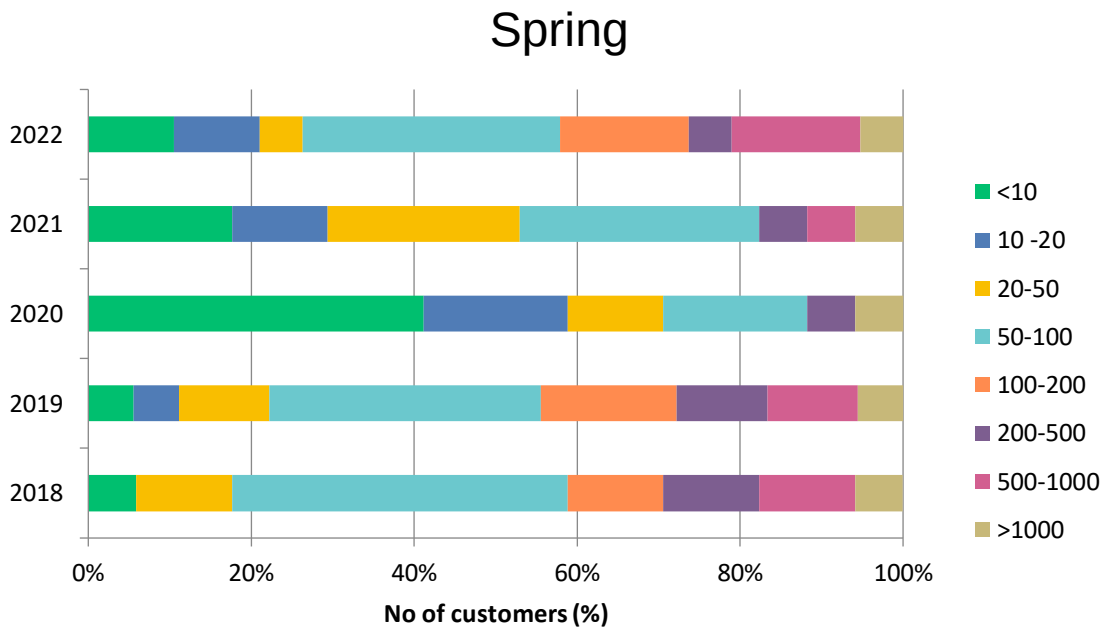

Figure 1.33. Percentage of number of customers dive centres had in the past five years in the spring season.

1.6.1.5 Customers and diving tourism

The dive centres were asked what percentage of their customers visit Cyprus specifically for diving. The majority (51%) responded that less than 20% visit Cyprus specifically for diving, whereas 25% stated that 20-40% of their customers have visited Cyprus specifically for diving. Only a small number of centres answered that higher number of their customers come to Cyprus solely for diving purposes, within the 40 – 60% category and within the 60 - 80% category (9.68% respectively), and only 1 dive centre said that 80-100% have come specifically for diving.

1.6.1.5.1 Demographics

According to the interviewees, the most common age groups of customers is between 18-25 and 23-35. More than 50% of their customers fall within this age groups. Less than 10% are children under 10 and less than 5% are over the age of 64. Age groups of 35-45 and 45-55 are the next most common visitors.

Dive centres indicated that the majority of their customers are male (61%). Seven dive centres stated that their customers were half male -half female three state that more than 70% were female. The majority of dive centres stated >50% of customers being male with two stating 95% and another two 80% male customers.

From 2018 to 2021, the three nationalities of customers ranked first were UK, Cyprus and Russia. In 2022, Russia was replaced by Germany. The second most common nationalities in 2018-2019 were Germany, UK and Russia; in 2021, Germany, UK and Cyprus; and in 2020, Germany, France, Poland and Sweden. For the third and fourth most common nationalities the interviewees varied in their answers, indicatively, these included Poland, Israel, Czech Republic, Finland, Russia, UK and France.

1.6.1.5.2 Certifications and dive types

The majority (68%) of dive centres agreed that artificial reefs and wrecks are the most preferred type of dive for their customers. The least preferred type (97%) where the archaeological sites. Natural reefs and marine life are ranked as less (Figure 1.34).

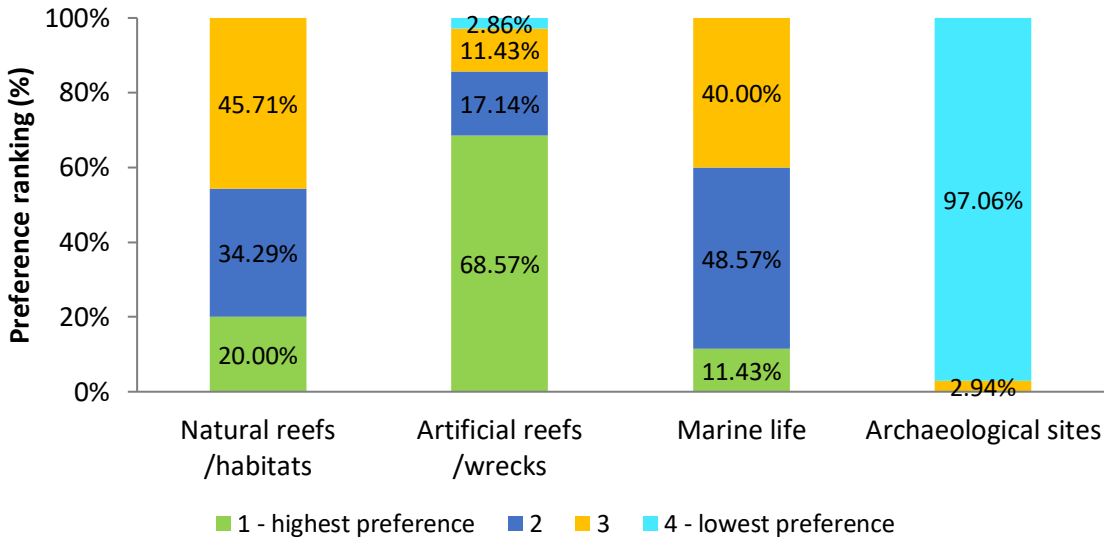

Figure 1.34. Ranking of preference for the type of dives.

The majority of dive centres (63%) stated that their customers prefer shallow dives (<30m). When asked about the qualification that their customers have, almost 100% (99.82%) of dive centres answered that the highest number of their customers do not have a higher certification than Advanced. Almost half (47%) of customers walking into dive centres do not have any qualifications at all. The next most common diving certifications are equal to both Open Water and Advanced (44%), however, when taking into consideration the percentage of most common and higher number of qualification Open water has a higher percentage than Advance (32% compared to 21%). Higher qualifications are less common, with very few divers being Master divers or having other types of qualifications (Figure 1.35).

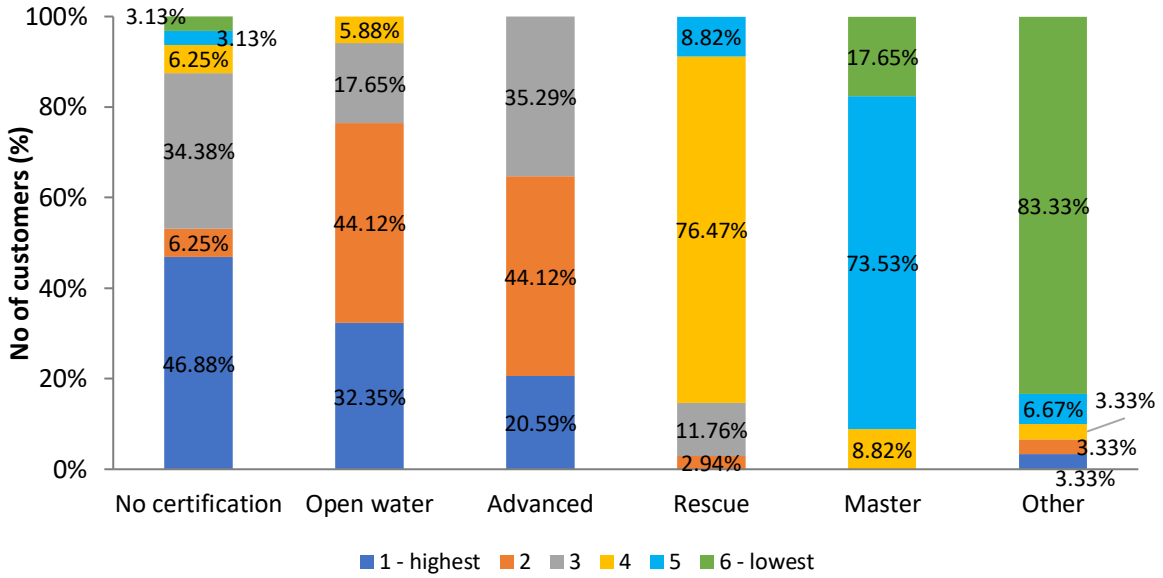

Figure 1.35. Ranking of the number of customers (in %) for each type of qualification that visit Cyprus dive centres.

The majority of centres (55%) stated that over 70% of customers have requested to Discover Scuba or to become certified (Figure 1.36). Of the certified divers, the majority of dive centres (74%) stated that they have usually requested between two and six dives during their visit (2-4, 37%; 4-6, 37%) (Figure 1.37). The maximum number of dives requested from certified divers during their visits have been eight according to all dive centres.

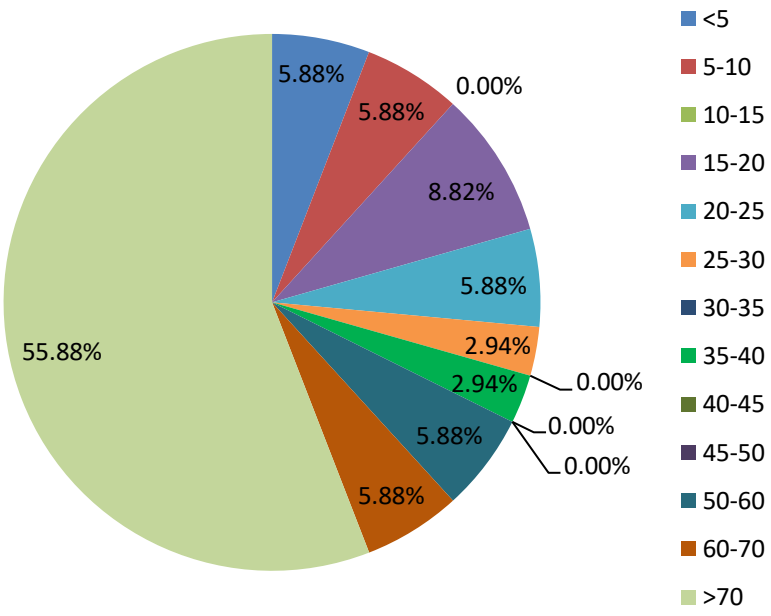

Figure 1.36. The percentage number of customers that requested discover SCUBA or to get certified.

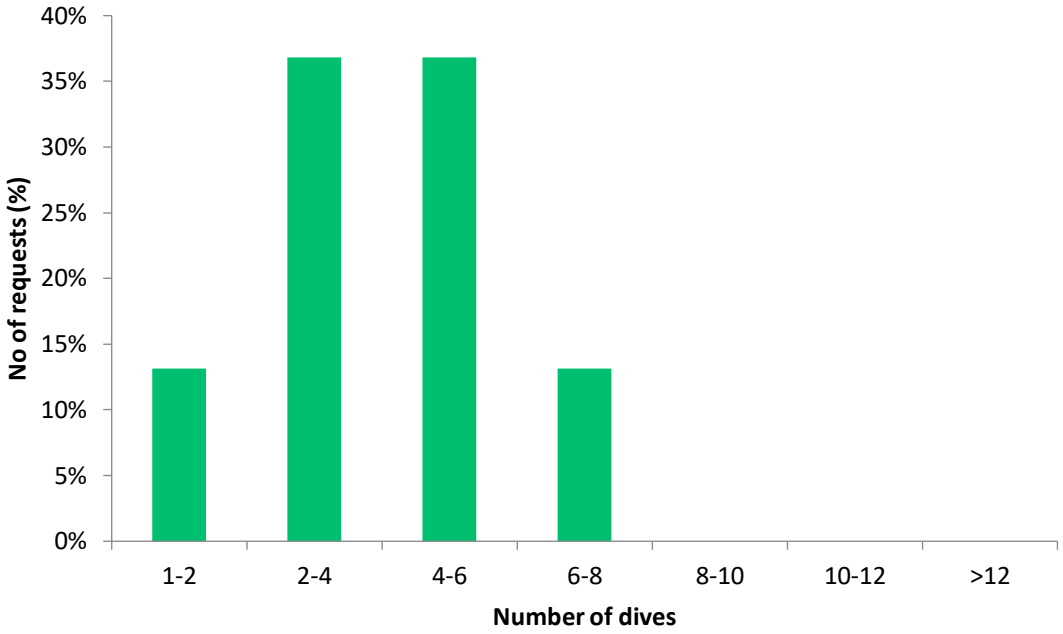

Figure 1.37. Percentage of number of dives requested by certified divers.

Different types of courses are offered by the dive centres. A leisure dive suggests a customer already has their certification and that they do not wish to continue undertaking other courses, as such, these customers usually want to dive a few times during their holiday; and the centres answered that this category of divers are the most abundant (62.07%, most common). Closely following the leisure dive category, centres answered that the second most abundant number of customers request discovery dives, a simple and shallow dive that exists for the purpose of experiencing what it is like to dive for the first time (57.58%). The third most abundant category of customer requests were open water courses (27.51% most common). The fourth most abundant category were advanced diving courses (11.43%). Refresher dives (a simple dive to refresh one's memory/diving experience), technical diving and bubble maker courses (dive courses for children) closely followed respectively.

1.6.1.5.3 Returning customers

All dive centres stated they have returning customers to their business. Many stated >20 customers have revisited (84%). The nationalities of re-visiting customers were from the UK, Cyprus, Russia, Germany, Sweden and the USA.

Regarding loyalty schemes, the vast majority of centres (85%) stated they provide some kind of loyalty scheme to their customers, such as discounts on dives or equipment purchases, and more likely to returning customers. A small percentage of centres (15%, six centres) do not provide any loyalty benefits to their customers.

1.6.1.6 Price attractiveness

The majority of dive centres (94.87%) believe their prices are attractive to divers. However, 2 dive centres stated they did not believe their prices are attractive to divers. A few centres (9) believe that Cyprus is generally similarly priced to other neighbouring countries, whilst others (5 centres) believe that they are generally cheaper. A few others (4 centres) believe that they are more expensive.

Seven centres believe they have similar prices to Malta, two believe that Cyprus is more expensive while four believe Cyprus is cheaper. Compared to Greece, six centres believe they are similarly priced and two believe that Cyprus is more expensive. Finally compared to Turkey, four centres believe Cyprus is more expensive.

1.6.1.7 Infrastructure

1.6.1.7.1 Dive centres

The dive centres interviewed were asked to tick from a list of equipment or infrastructure, which they have, or not, at their establishment. All (100%) centres replied they have their own tanks, BCDs, masks, fins and safety/first aid equipment, while one centre (2.63%) replied that they do not have their own dive suits, snorkels or weights. Two centres replied they do not have their own classroom, likely making use of a nearby/different establishment. Three centres (7.89%) answered they do not have their own filling compressors, most probably making use of filling stations. Four centres (10.52%) answered that they do not have their own vans and/or pick-up trucks. However, less than half (42.11%, 16 centres) of centres that replied, have their own boat (Figure 1.38).

Notable responses from the ‘other’ field included:

- Swimming pool (3 centres)

- Rebreather (2 centres)
- Commercially registered boat (1 centre)
- Equipment storage & workshop for repairs of customers equipment (1 centre)
- Wash station & leisure space to relax (1 centre)

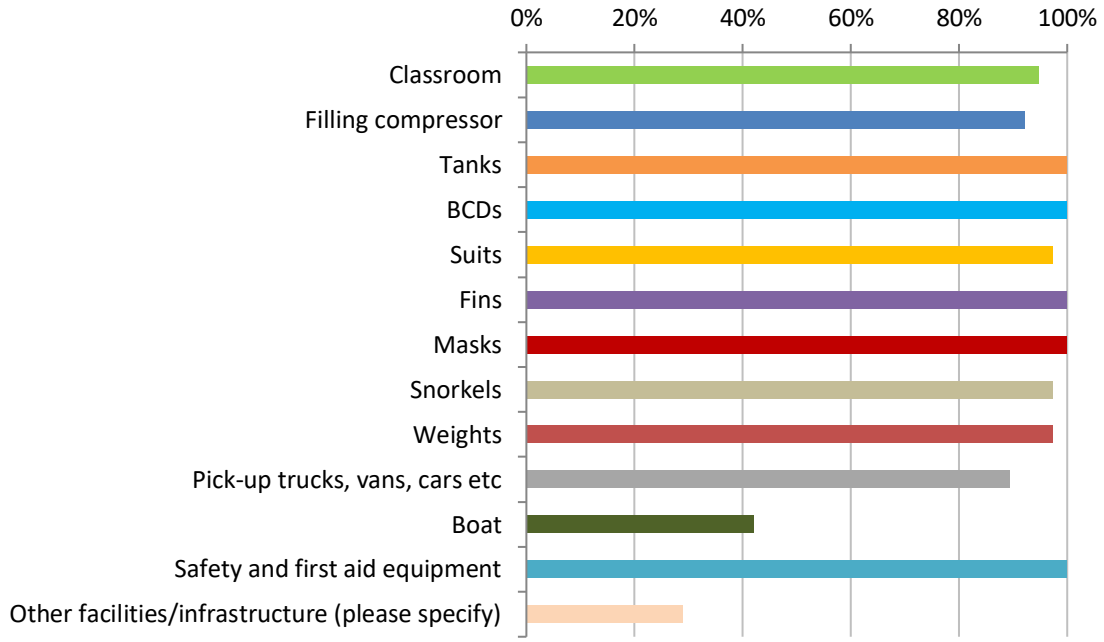

Figure 1.38. Infrastructure and equipment that dive centres have and are available to customers.

In addition, diving centres were asked what other services they offer to their customers to provide a more comfortable and safe experience. The majority (30 centres) stated that they offer transportation. Some other services mentioned are refreshments, fruits, lunch, dinner, coffee (9 centres), toilet/washing facilities (2 centres), service of equipment (e.g. washing of gear), place to store gear (4 centres), memberships and/or discounts (4 centres), photoshoots (2 centres), VIP boat charters/skipper charters (2 centres), free nitrox certifications (1 centre), thorough safety checks (5 centres), assisting divers in and out of water (4 centres) and organizing the entire trip (from flight to accommodations) (1 centre).

1.6.1.7.2 Municipality

The dive centres interviewed were asked to provide their level of satisfaction regarding municipality services or infrastructure that may or may not be made available to them, by their respective municipalities (Figure 1.39). In general, it is clear that dive centres in Cyprus

are not satisfied with the services or infrastructure provided by their municipalities. Some of the fields were region dependant (i.e., statement that only one Governmental hyperbaric chamber currently operates in Cyprus), although most likely not true, this was the opinion of the dive centres. A total of 30 centres (83%) reported they are very unsatisfied (ranking 1 & 2) with the fact that hardly any kiosks exist to cater for divers/dive centres close to the sites. Similarly, 31 centres (86%) noted they are very unsatisfied with the non – existence of toilet facilities close to dive sites. Almost 73% (27 centres) of dive centres are very unsatisfied with the non-existence of public transportation towards or close to dive sites. A large percentage (62%, 23 centres) were very unsatisfied with the state health services that the Government provides as regards to possible diving injuries/illnesses. The field of entry/exit points to sites had the highest number of unsatisfied centres (58%, 21 centres) but also, in contradiction, a large amount of neutral or satisfied centres (42%, 15 centres). The centres' dissatisfaction was most significant (33 centres, 92%) regarding the non-existence of changing facilities nearby popular dive sites; only one centre answered they were marginally satisfied with this aspect. The dive-centres were similarly dissatisfied with vehicle parking facilities, roads leading to dive sites, the non-existence of roads, the information which is readily available/visible regarding dive sites and/or close to dive sites.

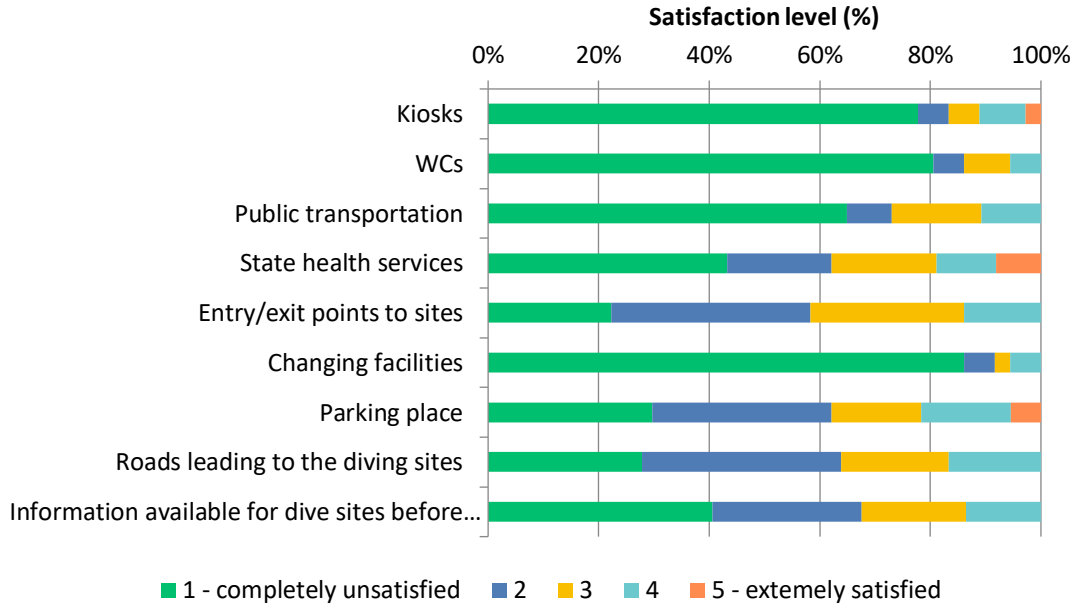

Figure 1.39. Satisfaction level of municipality infrastructure and services provided.

1.6.1.8 Accessibility

Of the 39 dive centres which were interviewed, the majority (23 out of 38) were not aware of any dive sites that are accessible to disabled/physically challenged divers.

General accessibility to the dive sites was also raised as an issue. Here we note the ten sites for which the centres answered that they have the most difficulty accessing (i.e., the site's combined scoring which was labelled with a 1 or 2), by region. No dive sites from Polis Chrysochou and Kato Pyrgos were in the top ten for difficulty of access. From Paphos, three sites were identified as least accessible, EDRO III, Pistol Bay and Amphitheatre. From Limassol, two sites were identified, the structures in Dasoudi MPA and Jubilee shoals. In Larnaca, two of the wrecks were ranked as least accessible, HMS Cricket and Alexandria wreck. And finally, for Famagusta, Chapel – Agioi Anargiroi, The Canyon and Kerynia wreck.

When asked to suggest ways to make dive sites more accessible, the top 10 general suggestions were:

1. Entry/exit infrastructure at the sites need either placement or refurbishment (16 centres)
2. Existence of boat shuttles are necessary/traffic must decrease (5 centres)
3. Well-being infrastructure e.g., kiosks, changing facilities need to be placed close to dive sites. Mooring must become easier at sites where use of a boat is necessary (5 centres)
4. Road infrastructure which leads to sites must improve (5 centres)
5. Car parking infrastructure is necessary (3 centres)
6. Maintenance of existing entry/exit infrastructure is required (8 centres)
7. Protection of dive sites (e.g., demarcation of the site, stop fishing) (4 centres)
8. Boating infrastructure to become clearer to increase the safety of dive sites (4 centres)
9. Less traffic of boats and water sports above or close to dive sites and also better parking will improve confusion/congestion at very popular sites in the summer months, (e.g., Green bay) (4 centres)
10. Well-being infrastructure e.g., gear assembling area with sun cover (1 centre)

Dive centres also made some site-specific suggestions which can be found in Appendix IV - Questionnaires

1.6.1.9 Threats

The vast majority of dive centres (>79%, >30 dive centres) have noted the following: marine litter (92%, 36 centres), Alien/Invasive species (85%, 33 centres), signs of overfishing (79%, 31 centres), witnessed illegal fishing or signs of illegal fishing while diving (82%, 32 centres) and high marine traffic (79%, 31 centres) as most common problems and threats. Both dangerous marine life and ghost net sightings are notable mentions as more than half (62% & 59%, respectively) of the dive centres voted for these fields. Currents were not seen as a danger by 87% of the centres.

When asked about actions that should be taken, the majority of dive centres believe that more patrolling should be carried out (36%), followed by lionfish removals (26%), litter removal activities (18%), more bins placed at dive sites (13%), more designated MPAs, train fishers and the public about the presence and safety of divers, and more marine traffic control (10%).

1.6.1.9.1 Illegal activities

Most dive centres (92%) stated they had indeed seen/encountered either unwanted (e.g. frequent spear fishing or disturbing archaeological remains) or illegal activities (e.g., fishing within no-take zones) in the past. The top five unwanted and illegal activities that dive centres have witnessed are:

- Spearfishing (20 centres)
- Illegal fishing (including rod fishing, fish traps, early morning fishing and trawling) (27 centres, including spearfishing)
- Illegal boat traffic (including boats anchoring and speeding above divers, boats in swimming areas, non-diving boats within MPAs, boats rent by tourists) (14 centres)
- Water sports above divers (e.g., jet skis) (7 centres)
- Nets (including currently used and abandoned nets, ghost nets) (15 centres)

Some other notable activities that were mentioned by the dive centres are: Harassing of marine life (e.g., turtles) (5 centres), Marine police speeding above divers (1 centre), Illegal divers / dive centres (3 centres), Abandoned fishing gear (speargun, hooks) (3 centres), Dynamite fishing or left behind dynamite (4 centres), Violation of protocols during teaching / guiding (1 centre) and Swimmers in boat lane (3 centres).

From the people that have witnessed these illegal or unwanted activities approximately 80% of them acted by:

- Requesting them to leave/telling them off (18 centres)
- Informed police/marine police (19 centres)
- Informed CPA (3 centres)
- Informed DFMR (8 centres)
- Took pictures / noted the boat number (3 centres)
- Seek dialogue (2 centres)
- Spoke with SBA (2 centres)
- Posting in social media (4 centres)
- Cleaning events (i.e., for nets or other unnatural debris) (3 centres)

1.6.1.10 Gaps

Overall, the main limitations and obstacles that dive centres encounter are accessibility issues, absence of facilities such as toilets and changing rooms. Another often reported limitation was the lack of advertising and promotion of Cyprus as a dive destination. Furthermore, some dive centres believe that lack of medical facilities, hyperbaric chambers, as well as distance of some remote dive sites in Akamas, make health and safety issues a challenge. Permits for night dives and the implications around it has also been raised as an issue, stating that the application for applying for a night dive is not used friendly and difficult to work with.

The limitations mentioned above, deter divers from re-visiting Cyprus, direct them to other destinations in the region, and it can sometimes stop divers from continuing their dive. In addition, the lack of regulations and health standards affect the safety of these dives, especially from divers and dive centres acting recklessly.

When asked to identify any gaps in diving safety, a high percentage (32%) identified the lack of regulations and enforcement as a big issue. Location and accessibility of the hyperbaric chamber was also mentioned (19%). Many solutions have been suggested, mainly including reinforcing infrastructure, creating national safety standards, expanding the locations of hyperbaric chambers, and making ISO more affordable. Also, it has been suggested that all centres should be registered in the association for better control and regulation.

1.6.1.11 Diving Safety

1.6.1.11.1 Diving standards, legislation and operational standards

Around 20% of dive centres consider the level of diving standards with respect to diving safety to be very high, 31% consider the level of diving standards to be high, 31% consider the standards to be adequate, 13% to be low and 5% considers it to be very low (Figure 1.40).

Furthermore, most dive centres (43.6%) consider the level of regulatory framework in Cyprus with respect to diving safety to be very low, and only a 7.7% considers it to be extremely high (Figure 1.41).

Operational standards, such as ISO, are commonly used in most industries. Regarding diving safety, most dive centres (447%) consider the level of operational standards in Cyprus to be very low, with only 7.9% considering it to be extremely high (Figure 1.42). Around half of dive centres (48.7%) stated they are certified to follow operational standards with the rest stating the opposite. Of those that are certified, nine have an ISO certification, while the rest follow yearly health and safety audits, UK military operation standards, and first aid certifications.

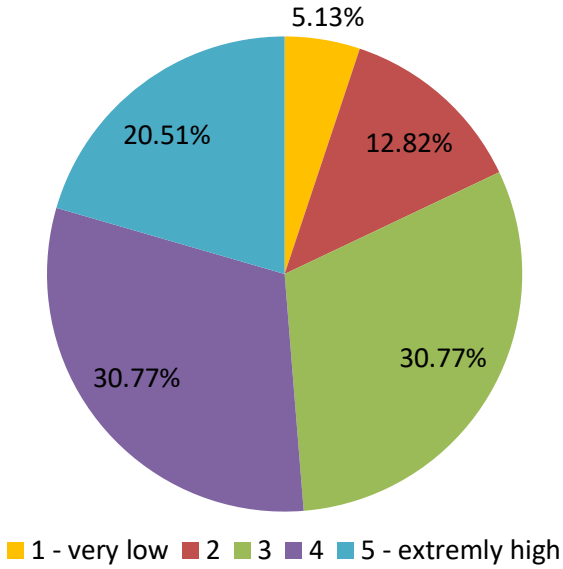

Figure 1.40. The level of diving standards, with respect to diving safety, in Cyprus.

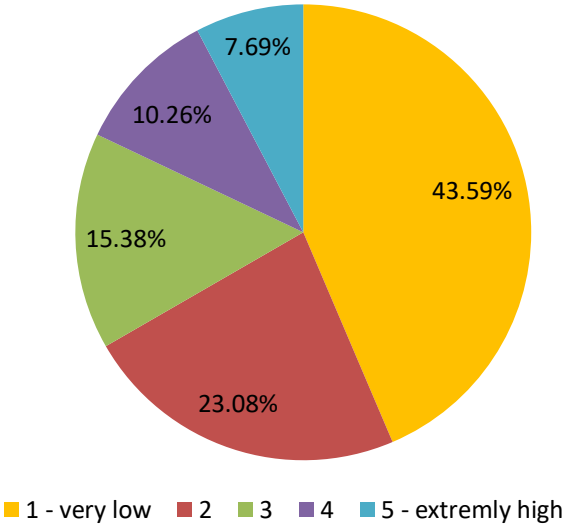

Figure 1.41. The level of regulatory framework, in respect to diving safety, in Cyprus.

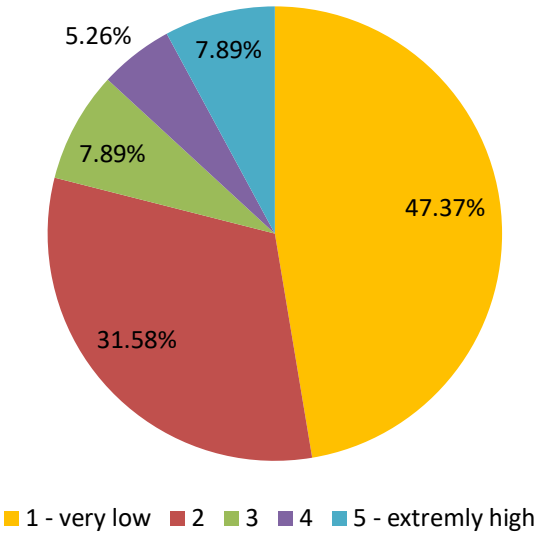

Figure 1.42. The level of operation standards, in respect to diving safety, in Cyprus.

1.6.1.11.2 Incidents/accidents/injuries

Almost all dive centres were aware of diving incidents in Cyprus. Almost all mentioned incidents occurred at Zenobia (decompression sickness). Other minor incidents include injuries occurring while trying to get to and from the dive site (scrapes on rocks), stings from marine life (e.g., fire worms, jelly fish) and other medical issues that developed during the dive irrelevant to decompression sickness (e.g., heart attacks, strokes etc.).

1.6.1.12 Branding

Branding is an important part of promotion. When asked, 71.8% of the respondents were aware of branding activities relating to diving tourism. Most of these activities include participation in dive shows, as well as promotion through social media by the Deputy Ministry of Tourism. When asked about how they believe Cyprus should be portrayed abroad as a diving destination, most believe it should be portrayed as a safe destination, for the whole family, where visibility is excellent, and the waters are warm all year round.

1.6.1.13 Freediving

The freediving industry is less popular, compared to SCUBA diving; however, it is an important part of diving tourism. Cyprus regularly hosts freediving competitions (e.g., AIDA Freediving

World Championship) which attracts not only athletes but also their companions and families for additional training and/or recreational purposes.

Freediving centres operate mostly under AIDA and CMAS certification authorities. Dives sites that are more interesting to freedivers include both artificial reefs (e.g. wrecks) and natural reefs (e.g., Kakoskali islet, Jubilee Shoals) where reaching substantial depth is relatively quick and easy. Freediving centres also offer snorkelling trips to their clients in shallower dive locations. This service is usually offered and requested by families with children.

Freediving centres, similar to SCUBA centres, are busiest from May until September/October with many customers booking in advance for either lessons or dive trips (usually over 8 dives per visit to Cyprus). Each season they can have up to 200 customers of all ages, from under 10 years up to over 65 years old, with the majority being between 18-45. The most common nationalities of freediving customers in the last 5 years were Cypriots, Russians, British, Dutch, Polish and Israelis. Interviewees didn't observe any changes in the demographics of their customers from 2018 to 2022. Many of their Cypriot and Russian customers are repeating visitors, that return either on a yearly or seasonal basis for trips or lessons.

Freedivers have very limited sites they can access from shore, thus, almost all have their own boat. Some of the issues mentioned regarding infrastructure needs include the lack of toilets, changing rooms and benches at the dive sites. The need for slipways and parking spaces for boat trolleys was highlighted, as there are not enough, or well maintain slipways, at least near diving sites, and lack of parking space for boat-trolleys.

Accessibility to the dive sites was also stated as an issue. The roads leading to dive locations are usually good however the last sections of getting to the water are usually difficult and hard to traverse, especially for physically disabled divers.

Regarding freediving standards in Cyprus, they were ranked low (1 or 2 rankings) both in terms of safety, regulation and operation standards. It was stated that there is no enforcement of regulation. There is also the lack of specific regulation/law for recreational divers and dive centres to ensure a higher standard/quality of services and the safety of the participants, those being customers or instructors.

1.6.2 Public Bodies, Local Authorities, NGOs and SMEs

Amongst the stakeholders invited to participate in the survey were 12 public bodies (18 including individual departments), 31 local authorities (10 Municipalities and 21 Communities) and 12 NGOs/SMEs. Many stakeholders did not complete the questionnaire, receiving responses only from 6 public bodies, 6 local authorities and 4 NGOs/SMEs. Despite this drawback, the collected data still provide insides on the diving industry in Cyprus, summarised in the following sub-sections.

1.6.2.1 Status of the diving industry

Out of the six public bodies that participated in the survey, one stated the current status of the diving tourism industry in Cyprus is adequate. However, they explain that a national diving strategy is required for boosting the island's scuba diving industry and making up for losses inflicted by the pandemic. Also, the sustainable strategy, should focus on enhancing the industry's competitiveness following the example of countries like Malta, Egypt and Tunisia. The strategy must outline that improving scuba diving as an economic niche would also entail improving access and infrastructure around the country's prime diving sites, as well as helping businesses diversify their products. Half of them responded negatively suggesting the need to create and implement a diving master plan in addition to the creation of a registry of dive centres certified by the Deputy Ministry of Tourism. The latter could alleviate the effects of competition between dive centres which is many times the reason for unprofessional or illegal behaviour, a topic that has been raised by many questionnaire participants.

1.6.2.2 Threats

Public bodies, NGOs and SMEs specified the presence of lionfish as a threat to divers, especially at artificial reefs. Furthermore, they highlighted the dangers associated with diving at Zenovia wreck for introductory level divers due to the high depths and the hazards associated with shipwreck diving in general. NGOs and SMEs also mentioned the maritime routes and large-scale heavy constructions in the costal environment (e.g., ports, marinas, wave breakers etc.) which could endanger divers. Local authorities on the other hand were not aware of any threats that divers encounter with the exception of the Municipality of

Larnaka stating that the lack of proper enforcement of legal regulations is a threat to diver's safety.

Threats posed to the marine environment by the diving industry include the feeding of fish and the destruction of fragile marine ecosystems such as reefs. These can be alleviated through proper education and training of scuba instructors, dive leaders and divers in general.

1.6.2.3 Diving safety

The Deputy Ministry of Tourism stated that, in order to handle dive accidents, there should be a first aid kit and an oxygen tank onboard a dive boat and at least one person trained and certified in their use. An Automated external defibrillator (AED) is also essential while it is also important to keep handy the contact information of emergency services like local hospitals and decompression chambers. However, it was pointed out that not all hyperbaric chambers are functional, whereas the Ministry of Health did not have much information on hyperbaric chambers, and they only mentioned an active one in the city of Paphos. Furthermore, it is important for diver's safety that diving gear used should be in good condition and well maintained. With the buddy system and a dive plan in place, briefing and debriefing should occur before and after every dive. All divers should have dive insurance and flying 24-48 hours after a dive should be avoided.

According to the Cyprus Organisation for Standardisation, the levels of safety in Cyprus are very good in the last few years but supporting the industry with a National Framework that will include International Standards for the Diving Service Providers in a National Legislation will upgrade the safety and the current practices of the industry. It was stated that the Deputy Ministry of Tourism will soon provide legislation regarding diving safety and establish operational standards as per the International Standard ISO 24803:2017-''Recreational Diving Services - Requirements for recreational diving Service Providers''. Complying with the International Standards will help the service providers build and manage a safety methodology that will support and upgrade the safety of the business and its clients as per the requirements of each service provided. Thus, although a client might be provided with two services at the same time (for example, diver training and rental of diving equipment), the client is in receipt of two distinct services. Examples of service providers are a land-based

dive centre, a boat-based operation, a dive club, an individual instructor, a water-sport centre or an operator offering snorkelling excursions.

The Diving Service Agencies (e.g., PADI, BSAC) have already certified their diving courses with the relevant International Standards (ISO). Further than that there are also International Standards especially for the Diving Service Providers which deal with all safety aspects of their business including (a) Minor and vulnerable persons, (b) Information to be provided to the customers, Risk Assessments, Vessel Operations, Staff Operations, Emergency Procedures and equipment, Environmental Considerations, Rental and Servicing of Equipment) and many more. It is therefore essential that all diving sector providers attend informative and training workshops for the use of European and International Standards in the diving sector.

1.6.2.4 Gaps

The most recognised gaps, stated by public bodies, are the lack of legislation around diving safety and the lack of information regarding dive sites. Local authorities on the other hand stated the lack of legislation enforcement and the lack of appropriate medical facilities. All four NGOs/SMEs agree with the lack in legislation enforcement and the lack of information regarding dive sites, in addition to the lack of awareness on divers' presence and safety by other boaters. The lack of appropriate medical facilities (i.e., hyperbaric chambers) was pointed out only by two public bodies and two NGOs/SMEs. Accessibility to reach dive sites and the lack of diving first aid response were stated once by each group of participants, however, further comments by the Ministry of health emphasised the absence of information regarding the aforementioned gaps.

In order to mitigate some of these problems, it was suggested to find ways to enforce the legislation and include marine patrolling and monitoring. This can be facilitated by the active engagement of the government to improve the currently minimal standards. They also suggested the introduction of a single authority that would be responsible for diving safety. Furthermore, there should be public awareness initiatives to ensure that divers' safety is considered. The Municipality of Larnaka suggested getting equipped with a hyperbaric chamber and creating legislation for the prohibition of fishing in marine protected areas and specific dive-sites. Limited awareness on environmental issues, including the need to

conserve and maintain Marine Protected Areas and biodiversity, was also included. To address the latter, the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research have created Marine Protected Areas with artificial reefs followed by the creation of informative material and signage. These, amongst other activities, are used to educate the public. The Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry also invested in dissemination activities like the organisation of seminars and online promotional campaigns. Two public bodies are not aware of any action taken for raising awareness on diving activities.

1.6.2.5 Infrastructure

Most public bodies, NGOs and SMEs are aware of the facilities/infrastructure build specifically to support the diving industry. In their responses they mentioned the creation of artificial reefs, deployment of vessels, the creation of the marine archaeological park and the creation of accessibility points at dive sites giving the example of the recently built entrance to a dive site at Kavo Gkreko. However, it would be instrumental to improve the access to more, if not all, dive sites. Zenovia was also mentioned, despite the ship not being sunk specifically to support the diving industry, as there are now plenty of boats facilitating the transportation of divers to the site. One-third of public bodies were aware of facilities/infrastructure that were built in their municipality/community specifically to support the diving industry.

1.6.2.6 Dive sites and Antiquities

The Deputy Ministry of Tourism and the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research listed the Amphora caves, Costandis shipwreck, Zenobia shipwreck, Museum of Underwater Sculpture Ayia Napa - MUSAN, Green Bay, Manijin island and Costandis shipwreck as the most important dive sits in Cyprus. The reason for the high visitation could be due to the good accessibility to the sites. It is also believed that most divers prefer shallow dives of less than 30m as well as introductory dives during courses towards certifications.

With only one exception, all public bodies agree that antiquities could be used as diving attractions. Similarly, four local authorities support the use of antiquities while the rest are not sure. NGOs/SMEs are all in support of the use of antiquities.

1.6.2.7 Branding

The diving industry needs to improve its marketing strategies and enhance advertising through a strong presence in social media. It is essential to promote the unique characteristics that Cyprus possesses including the all-year round good air and water temperature, the good underwater visibility and the great safety while visiting. The attractions point should also be used in promotional material like the biodiversity encountered while diving, the artificial reefs and shipwrecks found in Cyprus' coasts and how these can be promoted as underwater photographic hotspots. It is also necessary to map the existing dive sites to allow for their advertisement while also important to promote the sustainability and environmental protection benefits of the diving tourism as a form of marine ecotourism. The creation of marine parks, artificial reefs and marine protected areas in addition to the prepared educational material support the effort to conserve marine biodiversity.

The Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry has participated in foreign exhibitions, press trips and familiarization trips which are all branding activities for Cyprus and its diving tourism. Advertising activities were also performed by the Deputy Ministry of Tourism who created the "Love Cyprus Diving" logo and has collaborated with media for the promotion of Cyprus as a diving destination. Furthermore, they participated in specialised diving exhibitions and are collaborating with expert organisations focused on the advertisement of diving. Additional to the dissemination activities, the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research created the Museum of Underwater Sculpture in Ayia Napa (MUSAN) which can be visited by certified scuba divers and snorkellers. Two of the Municipalities, namely Paralimni and Laranka, have facilitated the creation of artificial reefs and have hosted events to promote them. Larnaka Municipality had organised a week-long event focused on the Zenobia shipwreck along with a photo exhibition.

1.6.2.8 Subsidies and plans

Only two out of the six participating public bodies have subsidy plans targeting the diving industry. These are The Department of Fisheries and Marine Research and the Deputy Ministry of Tourism. The former has plans to increase the number of structures within MPAs with artificial reefs, to create management plans for marine protected areas and to create

diving routes within marine protected areas, as already performed in some areas through the Andikat Interreg project (https://andikat.eu/%CE%B1%CE%BD%CE%B4%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%B1%CF%84/), while the latter has plans to urge dive-centres to become ISO 24803:2017 certified, develop dive sites, enhance their technological advancement to allow online provision of services and to participate in familiarization trips. There are ongoing discussions between the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Deputy Ministry of Tourism regarding the legislation around the diving business environment. The Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry is also planning the deployment of vessels and the information of dive centres on the available schemes. Local authorities, on the other hand, do not have any subsidies to support the diving industry.

1.6.3 Hotels and Tourist organisation

A large number of hotels (148) and other tourist organisations (19) were approached to be interviewed. From these, 49 hotels and 14 tourist organisations agreed to participate in the survey while the rest were either not interest in the first place or did not complete the questionnaire.

1.6.3.1 Area and season of operation

Most hotels that participated are located in Paphos (36%), and Famagusta (38%) followed by Limassol (26%) whereas only 10% from Larnaca and Nicosia have replied. These hotels are almost equally divided between seasonal and all-year round operation (46% and 54% respectively). Almost half (46%) of the participating tourist organisations is based in Nicosia while 30% are in Paphos and the rest from Limassol and Famagusta.

1.6.3.2 Customer demographics

The most common visitors of Cyprus hotels were from the UK, with more that 70% of hoteliers reporting so (Figure 1.43). Russians consisted of 55% of all visitors in 2018 and 2019, however, that percentage dropped to 37%, 30% and 7% in 2020, 2021 and 2022 respectively. Cypriots are a major part of hotel guests with 48% and 44% in 2018 and 2019 and over 59% in the

following three years. Visitors from Germany consisted of 48-51% of the overall hotel customers except, for 2021 when it dropped to 11%. Israel nationals are consistently between 22% and 30% of tourists visiting hotels except for 2022 when it dropped to 19%. The proportion of other nationalities were roughly consistent over the years with Norwegian and Swedish visitors consisting of 26-37%, Danes 7-15%, Finish 11-19%, Ukrainians 7-19%, Polish 4-15% and Greeks 4-11%. It is worth mentioning that 2022 saw a general decrease in international tourism.

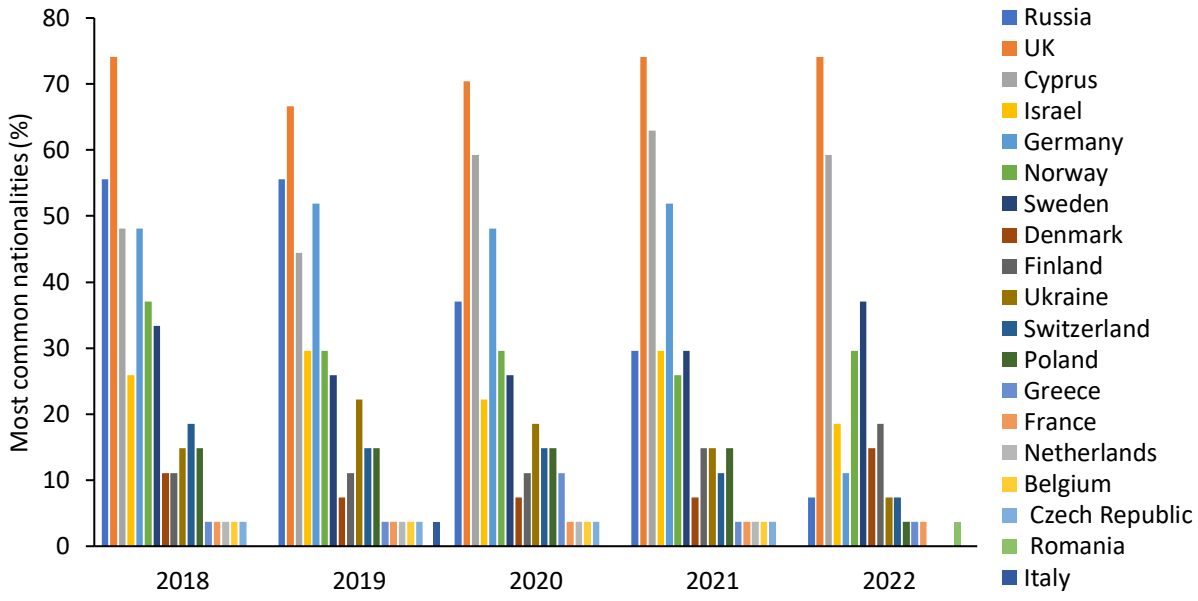

Figure 1.43. Proportion of most common nationalities that visited hotels from 2018 to 2022.

Most hotel owners estimate that ages bellow 18 years make up less than 10% of their customers (Figure 1.44). Ages 18-25 are stated to make up between 5-35% of the visitors. The age group of 25–35-year-olds are believed by most hotel owners to make up 15-30% while about 12% of the participants report that it is between 55-100% of their guests. Age group between 35-45 make up 10-75% of the guests however about 25% of the hoteliers voted that they are 20% as the most common proportion. About 30% of participants reported 35-65% of their guests to be between 45-55 years old with a decrease to about 20% voting <55years to be in that range. More than 60% of participants state that over the age of 55, consist between 5% and 20% of their guests.

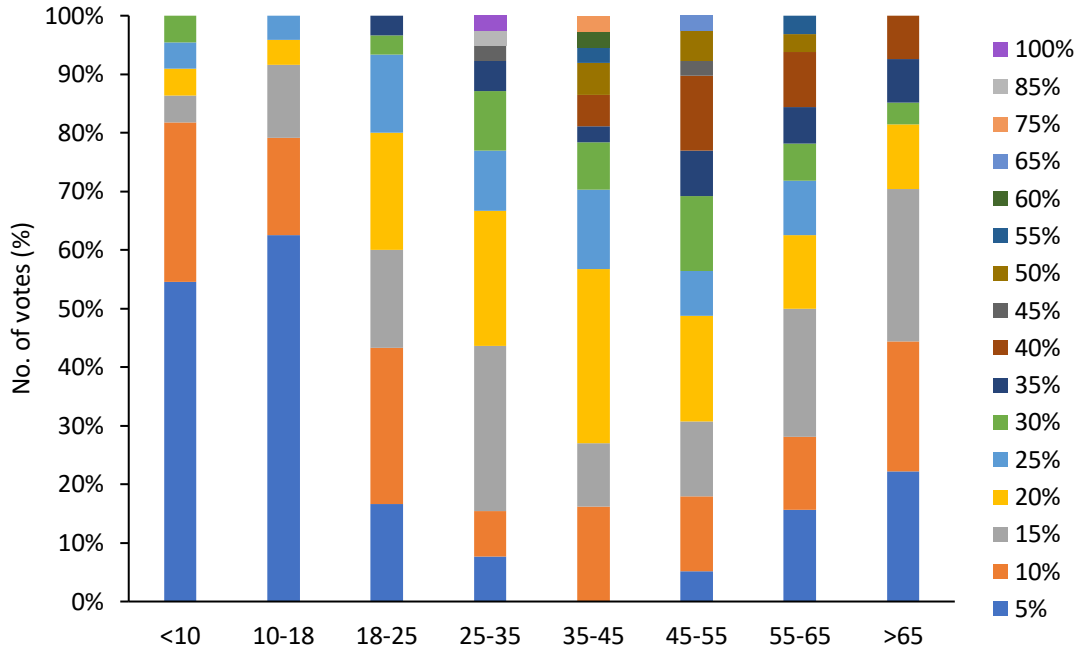

Figure 1.44. Proportion of age groups for visitors at hotels.

1.6.3.3 Diving tourism

Only one hotel states that 40-60% of its guests have visited Cyprus specifically for diving. The majority of hotels (79%) believe that less than 20% of the guests come to Cyprus for diving. Three hotels in Limassol, Famagusta and Paphos (one in each city) state that 20-40% of their guests are diving tourists while 30 hotels across Cyprus believe that only 1-20% are diving tourists. The remaining hoteliers either believe that 0% are diving tourists or they are unaware and don't know if any of them are. Based on the answers received from tourist organisations, two of them do not have any customers who visited specifically for diving, six have 1-25%, one had 25-50% while the remaining 5 do not know.

There is an inconsistency in the indicative number of tourists who dive while in Cyprus each year from tourist organisation. For 2019, five tourist organisations estimate that <1,000 tourists dove while three organisations believe the number to be ten times more. Similar numbers are also reported in 2021 and 2022 from the tourist organisations. It is reported by most hotels that <50 hotel guests dove in Cyprus each year between 2018 and 2022. A hotel in Limassol stated that 500-1,000 of their guests dove in 2018 and 2019 as did a hotel in Paphos for the year 2021. The Association of Cyprus Tourist Enterprises (ACTE) estimate that >10,000 guests dove in 2018 and 2019 while the number decreased by 50% in 2022.

Of the 42 hoteliers which were interviewed, five stated they are affiliated with a dive centre or have a dive centre in their premises and most of them also stated that from 2018 to 2021 the annual revenue from these affiliations was <€20,000 whereas only one stated that in 2018 and 2019 they had a revenue of €25,000-€30,000 from diving activities.

The majority of tourist organisations report that younger than <25-year-olds make up 0-25% of the diving tourists (Figure 1.45). More than 60% believe that 25–35-year-olds make up 25-50% of the diving tourists. One tourist organisation believes that this age group actually makes up 75-100% of the diving tourism. The age group 35-45 is believed to be the most common with an equal spread of votes on the percentages that make up diving tourists, followed by the age group 45-55. For over 55-year-olds most organisations believe they make up less than 50% of the diving tourists.

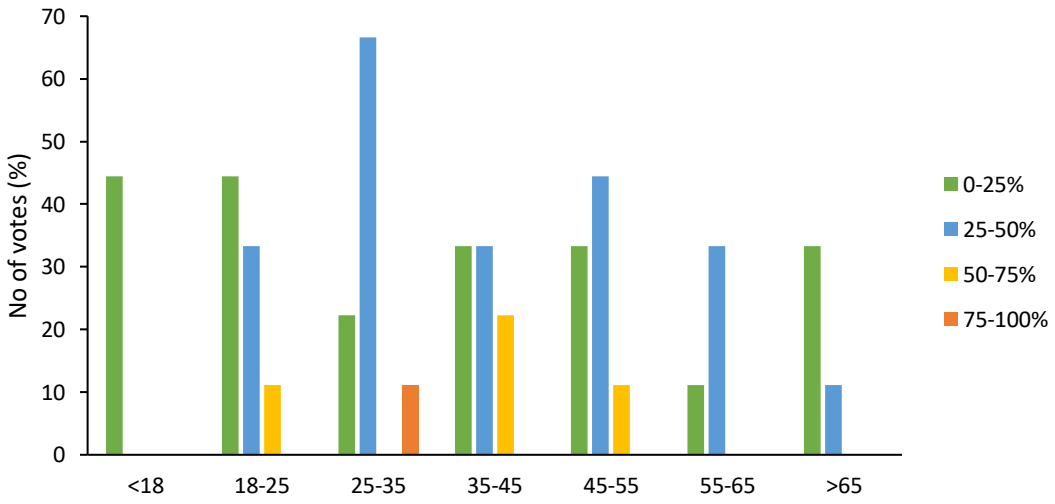

Figure 1.45. Proportions of divers' age groups as perceived by other stakeholders.

Regarding diving facilities or infrastructure, the majority of hoteliers and tourist organization were aware of at least a few in their area (81% and 69% respectively). Most mentioned diving spots or dive centres near them and some hoteliers mentioned that they promote those spots with leaflets at their reception. All tourist organisations were also aware of archaeological diving sites, artificial reefs or historical underwater sites near them.

When asked if they are aware of what type of dives tourists prefer, the most preferred type was shallow dives (<30 m) 67% from hoteliers and 86% from tourist organisations, followed by snorkelling and learning courses/certifications, with over 50% in agreement. Deep dives

(>30 m) do not appear to be as popular in the opinion of hoteliers and tourist organisations with 20% and 36% respectively. Less than 10% believe technical diving is of preference to tourist.

More than 50% of hoteliers and tourist organisations stated that diving tourism is price sensitive and thus competitive prices do matter. Furthermore, more than half of them believe that by having diving tourism they can solve the issue of seasonality in their business' by having customers all year round. They also stated that diving tourism is more sustainable other forms of mass tourism.

Some also stated that diving tourism has an impact on the environment, either positive or negative. The positives include the belief that divers are more environmentally conscious thus are less likely to harm the environment. The negative ones believe that divers cause destruction on the sea floor, damage marine life with their equipment and bother marine life (e.g., turtles).

1.6.3.4 Dive safety

The majority of interviewees (>79%) were not aware of any legislation regarding the diving sector and those who were aware stated they believe that is inconsistently observed and not enforced. Furthermore, only 31% of hoteliers were aware of any diving related accidents over the years with a few being aware of accidents at Zenobia and a few drownings. Neither the majority of tourist operators nor hoteliers were aware of any procedures followed in order to avoid or handing diving related incidents. Some were aware of lifeguards (who are there for swimmers not divers), the Search and Rescue Coordination Centre as well as the marine police. Others stated they are aware of the rule to always dive with a buddy and that people need training, certifications and licenses to ensure their safety and to prevent any accidents.

When asked to provide any suggestions or solutions, less than half of the interviewees provided any answers. The most common suggestions were regarding legislation and monitoring by the authorities of dive centres. Training standards and procedures to be followed were popular suggestions by the hoteliers and tourist organisations.

1.6.3.5 Promotion and Branding

Based on the answers given, 50% of tourist organisations and 36% of hoteliers believe that promotion and branding in the diving industry in Cyprus is inadequate. On the contrary, 14% of tourist organisations and 26% of hoteliers believe that it is indeed adequate. The most common suggestion for improving the industry is advertising and promoting Cyprus as a diving destination abroad. Some other suggestions included creation of more artificial reefs, creation of more fishing exclusion zones and more regulation and implementations, infrastructure and better standards of customer service.

When asked if they promote in any way dive sites, such as shipwrecks and underwater archaeological findings, in their establishments, half of the hoteliers said they already do it through their websites and leaflets at the front desks. From the tourist organisations only one stated that they advertise or try to raise awareness for diving tourism in Cyprus, through radio advertising, seminars at schools and promotion in European countries as part of Eastern European diving routes.

Almost all hoteliers (96%) also believe that underwater archaeological sites, artificial reefs and marine life could be used to attract tourism. They believe is something unique to be seen which can attract tourists with the right promotion to showcase these areas. In addition, more than 75% would be interested in incorporating awareness campaigns for diving and the marine environment of Cyprus within their marketing activities. Some are already affiliated with specific dive-centres, however, others state that they prefer general advertising rather than specific establishments. They stated they could incorporate the information with tour operators, provide information at reception and could add diving as part of the activities they provide at the hotels.

Hoteliers also believe that the best ways of promoting Cyprus abroad as a diving destination would be through social media, promotional events and fairs, tourist seminars and exhibitions while promoting the idea of all-year round tourism with perfect water temperatures.

1.7 Sectoral problems and other issues

One of the first sectoral problems encountered during the survey conducted was the lack of interest by many stakeholders. Examples can be seen in the almost 50% of dive centres that did not complete the questionnaires either because of no response, declined participation or there was no suitable time for completion. Similar proportion of abstinence was also observed in all stakeholder groups (Public Bodies, Local Authorities, NGOs and Environmental foundations/companies, Hoteliers, Tourist Agents and regional Tourist Boards). The collected data suggest that many stakeholders are not aware of the potential that diving tourism and the benefits its development could have in the tourism industry. As such, hotels and tourist agencies do not seem to promote diving tourism adequately. It is therefore important that information on dive sites and the general diving sector is accumulated and disseminated amongst stakeholders to be used for promotional material and generating interest.

Overall, there was a consensus on the lack of advertisement and promotion, while there is preferential advertisement of Zenobia and some sites in Famagusta area. It was therefore suggested that Cyprus is promoted as the family friendly location with good environmental conditions all-year round along with other important positive aspects of Cyprus as a touristic destination. Furthermore, the need to establish social media presence was pointed out. Advertisement and other promotional tools can be taken from other, more advanced diving destinations such as Malta, who have succeeded in their diving tourism strategy, management plans and its implementation.

As a first step, it is important that a management plan is created where every relevant stakeholder has their roles listed and are responsible for them. From the responses gathered, it was clear that there is an issue with information transfer between stakeholders even within the same group, as seen in contradicting answers. For instance, some dive centres and public bodies are aware of only one hyperbaric chamber currently operating in Cyprus while others were informed that the two existing facilities operate on an alternating schedule, whereas at the same time the staff members operating the chambers stated that the chambers are functional daily. Despite this misinformation, there is a general agreement that there is a need for more hyperbaric chambers and that the governmental health services available are

inadequate to address dive related injuries/illnesses. A detailed description on diving safety is provided in sub-sections 1.6.1.11, 1.6.3.4 and 1.6.2.3 and a summary in section 1.8.

Dissatisfaction was also raised regarding the facilities and infrastructure available as many dive sites are neither easily reachable by public transport nor by some vehicle types due to the bad conditions of the roads or the non-existence of roads at all. Most sites do not have nearby toilets, changing facilities or a kiosk for divers to be protected from the sun before/after their dive while at the same time the entrance to the water is not easy. Accessibility issue was also raised regarding people with disabilities as many dive centres were not aware of any dive sites that could accommodate such requests.

A management plan incorporating regulations and legislations would also facilitate the minimisation of illegal activities, management of dangerous marine life, removal of marine litter, and limiting marine traffic and fishing at dive sites, reducing the associated hazards. Dissemination activities like educational seminars open to the public on diver safety and school workshops to improve the environmental awareness of younger generations are also limited and necessary for a smooth operation of the diving industry.

1.8 Diving safety

Overall, stakeholders believe that diving standards with respect to safety are considered to be good as explained in detail in sections 1.6.1.11 and 1.6.2.3. However, there are some gaps identified (sections 1.6.1.10 and 1.6.2.4) that should be addressed in order to ensure all steps are taken towards diving safety, including prevention and appropriate response in the case of an incident. Following is a summary of the main concerns raised and solutions provided by the interviewees, regarding dive safety.

As a first step, it is essential that a National Regulator Framework is developed and followed. This is currently underway by the Deputy Ministry of Tourism and will include operational standards as per ISO 24803:2017. These operational standards are already part of the courses offered by Diving Service Agencies (e.g., PADI, NAUI, BSAC etc) towards diving certifications therefore all dive centres should get ISO certified and follow annual health and safety audits and training workshops for the use of European and International Standards in the diving sector, along with any recent advancements. This should be part of the minimal requirements to obtain and maintain a diving centre license. On this topic, there should be strict monitoring of dive centres to ensure that all follow the minimal operational standards provided.

Proper training of divers, including instructors, guides and customers, should also be completed before visiting specific sites that may require specialised or advanced training and/or greater experience. An example could be seen at Zenobia, where unfortunately there have been accidents, because of the dangers that come with diving at great depths and penetrating large wrecks. Dive centres and divers should also be aware of any health concerns that would affect their safety including not only pre-existing conditions but also sinus congestions, alcohol consumption and plans of travelling via airplane the days after a dive, as per the instructions of their diving certificates. Furthermore, it is crucial that essential information is provided to the customers including risk assessments pre, during and post dive, emergency procedures, environmental considerations and briefing on equipment especially in the case of rentals. Awareness of the surrounding environment is important to avoid injuries while entering/leaving the water and during the dive like the stings from animals like jellies, fire worms and lionfish. First aid kits and adequately trained personnel should always

be available and include contact information in case of emergency. Overall, preparedness is a key, both on board a boat and on land in case of an accident.

The responsibility does not only depend on the divers and the dive centres but also on local authorities who should provide the adequate infrastructure at dive sites, medical facilities including hyperbaric chambers and trained personnel and enforcement on legislation, especially when illegal activities occur posing threat to divers. Education and awareness of diving safety, existing regulations and infrastructure availability should also be easily available to stakeholders.

1.8.1 Decompression chambers

Four decompression chambers were identified to be operational in Cyprus (Figure 1.46), one in each district except Nicosia, however only two are covered by DAN (Divers Alert Network) insurance. DAN in a statement in 2022 stated that only decompression chambers in public hospitals will be covered by their insurance.

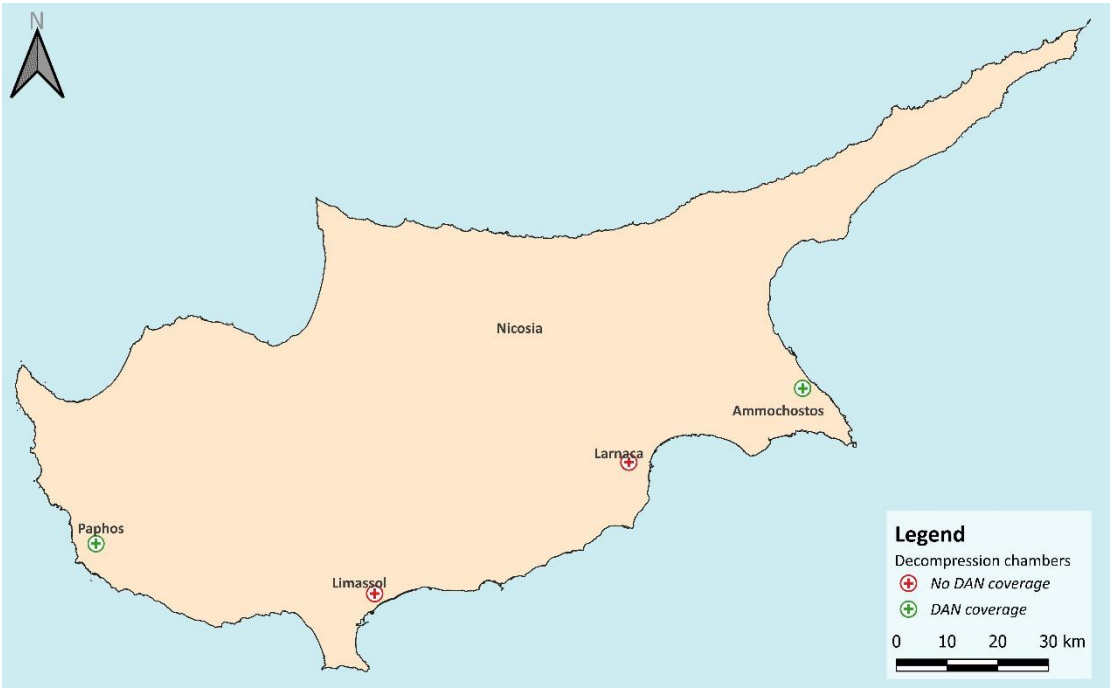

Figure 1.46. Location of decompression chambers across Cyprusindicating which ones are covered by DAN insurance.

Ammochostos public hospital stated that since 2021 they have had between 4 and 23 incidents from diving accidents with the majority being mild cases of decompression illness.

According to their records, 95% were recreational divers with ~80-85% of incidents coming from Zenobia wreck dive site while the rest are from dive sites from Protaras and Paphos.Only 5% of incidents were from professionals (e.g. instructors, military personnel, aquaculture staff). Paphos public hospital stated that since 2010 they have had an average of 13 incidents per year, apart from 2019 – 2021 during which the chamber was not operational.

The private hyperbaric chamber in Larnaka provided records from 2002 onwards. From 2002 to 2010, the number of treated incidents ranged from 0 to 23, from 2011 to 2019 there was a higher number of incidents ranging from 13 to 36, apart from 2018 when there were only 3. Since 2020, they have only treated 11 incidents in 2021 and none in the following years (Table 1.4). They stated that 90% of the incidents arrived from the Zenobia dive site and approximately 5 – 6 were technical divers who dived deeper than 40 m.

*Table 1.4. Number of incidents requiring decompression procedures stated by3 hyperbaric chambers in Cyprus. *For Paphos incident number are an average and not exact.*

	Panacea	Ammochostos	Paphos*	Total
2002	3			3
2003	0			0
2004	9			9
2005	6			6
2006	11			11
2007	23			23
2008	9			9
2009	20			20
2010	14		13	27
2011	13		13	26
2012	13		13	26
2013	18	13	13	44
2014	35	4	13	52
2015	36		13	49
2016	36		13	49
2017	28		13	41
2018	3		13	16
2019	19		0	19
2020	0		0	0
2021	11	13	0	24
2022	0	34	13	47
2023	0	22	13	35

2024	0	10	10

1.9 PESTLE and SWOT analysis

1.9.1 PESTLE

Table 1.5. PESTLE analysis of diving tourism in Cyprus.

P	**Political**	1. Good Diplomatic Relations
		2. Russian – Ukraine war
		3. Need for National Regulatory Framework
		4. Turkish illegal occupation and division of the island
		5. EU member state governmental stability
		6. Political instability in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East
E	**Economic**	1. Russian – Ukraine war
		2. Increasing regional competition
		3. Limited availability of subsidies
		4. Diving tourism economic benefits
		5. Inflation
		6. Branding and promotional activities
S	**Social**	1. Seasonality of tourism
		2. Interest in diving
		3. Accessibility
		4. Environmental awareness
		5. Diving safety awareness
		6. Cultural connection to the sea
T	**Technological**	1. Online Platform for permit acquisition in need of update
		2. Branding and promotional activities using technological advancements
		3. Potential of Cyprus to become a technologically advanced diving hub
L	**Legal**	1. Illegal activities
		2. Lack of regulation/legislation and enforcement
		3. Health facilities
E	**Environmental**	1. Climate
		2. Marine life
		3. Marine pollution
		4. Diving is an environmentally sustainable form of tourism
		5. Diving tourism economic benefits
		6. Earthquakes

1.9.1.1 Political factors

Politics within Cyprus and the broader Easter Mediterranean and Europe can have a significant effect on the diving tourism. Starting from the recent Russian invasion of Ukraine, despite not being neighbouring countries to Cyprus, it was obvious that it affected Cyprus tourism indirectly. There was a drop in the number of Russian nationals who visited Cyprus in

comparison to previous years. Furthermore, the war created additional inflation affecting travel and merchant cost. Overall, Cyprus has good diplomatic relations with many countries, especially members of the European Union (EU), United Nations (UN) and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) which facilitates traveling. However, the geographic location of Cyprus can be a blessing as well as a threat to the tourism industry. The island is located between three continents attracting tourism from nearby countries but the political instability between neighbouring countries in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East could defer tourists from visiting due to the civil wars and military activity raising concerns on safety. The aspect of safety is also raised regarding the Turkish illegal occupation and consequently the division of the island which also threats the development of tourism and more specifically the diving industry due to the inaccessibility to the Northern coastline. Despite these, Cyprus is a democratic nation with governmental stability following EU regulations which promises security and assurance to visitors. Nevertheless, it is imperative that a National Regulatory Framework for the diving industry and a great focus on safety, needs to be developed. The Deputy Ministry of Tourism is acting by preparing legislation regarding diving safety and establishing operational standards as per the International Standard ISO 24803:2017 – "Recreational Diving Services – Requirements for recreational diving Service Providers". It is also essential that these regulations/legislations are enforced and constantly monitored for smooth operation.

1.9.1.2 Economical

Global inflation affected both the tourists (i.e., customers) and the service providers with increasing prices and overall cost of living. As anticipated, the Russia – Ukraine war has also taken its toll on the economy, causing a further increase to the already existing global inflation due to the trading importance of these countries. The EU sanctions on Russia has also forced a decrease in Russians visiting Cyprus, both tourists and business professionals, in the recent years in comparison to previous years. Other local economic parameters affecting the diving industry are the availability and utilization of subsidies. The DMoT does provide some subsidies for dive centres to acquire regulation certifications like ISO, attend training workshops and represent Cyprus and their centres in international diving exhibitions, however, it appears that these are not utilised by many professionals of the diving industry.

It would be advantageous if more funds/subsidies were available to support the industry in a more direct manner, like for example to support the maintenance of SCUBA tank filling compressor systems. More subsidies, coming from local authorities and municipalities directed towards improving the accessibility to diving sites, health facilities and promotional activities would also benefit the diving industry of the island. As part of the promotional activities, branding of Cyprus as an all-year round family friendly destination with a vast array of dive sites, including natural reefs, artificial reefs and archaeological sites, will greatly boost the economic benefits of diving tourism. Advertisement of the industry is also essential in the constant race against the increasing regional competition, since other diving destinations like Malta, Egypt, Turkey, and Greece, possibly have competitive prices and an already developed and successfully functioning industry strategic plan. Essential is also the promotion of diving by hotels and tourist organization as it was shown that most hotels in Cyprus are not aware of the potential benefits from the diving sector, therefore, they do not provide any diving packages or even information on the available diving facilities. It should also be considered that diving is a costly activity and therefore it would be expected that divers who visit Cyprus would leave a greater capital than the traditional mass tourism. There are also some indirect benefits of ecotourism (e.g., diving tourism) as it encourages local stakeholders to take actions that can benefit the marine environment and consequently the ecosystem services provided. An example would include the creation of more, and more effectively managed, marine protected areas and artificial reefs that would attract divers while simultaneously enhancing biodiversity and supporting the fishing industry at the same time.

1.9.1.3 Social

Social or sociocultural factors define group consumer behaviour and thinking. These are based on demographics, the education level of the population as well as the social views of individuals. An example of the latter is the seasonality observed in the tourism industry, and as a result in the diving industry. It is obvious that most tourists visit the island in spring and summer months, despite the high air and water temperatures that last up until November, and a mild drop in temperatures throughout winter months. This creates a vicious circle where a great number of hotels and other services, dependent on tourism, close during winter months due to limited tourism but this seasonality prevents tourism from visiting due

to limited options. Based on our questionnaire, both local and international tourists, amongst the ages of 18 and 35, are interested in diving. This age distribution should also be considered when creating advertisement and promotional material. Cyprus being an island has also created a cultural connection with the sea where locals usually spend their summer vacations by being engaged in coastal activities. This cultural connection can also be seen in the increasing interest in introductory dives and connecting with the marine environment. As such, environmental awareness is also on the uprise with activities like beach clean ups and educational material being displayed, however, more effort is required on the topic with focus on changing habits like littering. Awareness of diving safety was a gap identified through the interviews, as many participants were not aware of safety procedures or health facilities while some reported threats like boat-traffic in proximity or directly above diving activities. Additional to all divers, consciousness should also be created around physically disabled divers as lack of accessibility to dive sites was pointed out.

1.9.1.4 Technological

Technological advancement of the diving industry of Cyprus can play a vital role in its promotion. Online presence, branding and advertisement though social media are very important in the attraction of tourists from around the globe. A great tool would be the creation of an online platform listing and describing all the dive sites around the island. The information provided could include 3-dimensional (3D) maps of the dive-sites, depth information, accessibility points, diving routes and available infrastructure. The online platform could also provide information and facilitate the acquisition of required permits. The latter was attempted by a platform created by the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research for the registry and request of permission for night dives, however it was reported that it was not user friendly therefore an upgrade might be necessary. Steps like that can help Cyprus in its potential to become a technologically advanced diving hub increasing the demand for technically advanced diving activities and trainings, like the use of rebreathers, which would attract very specialised divers to dive centres all year round.

1.9.1.5 Legal

The lack of legal framework surrounding the diving industry was one of the main problems raised by the stakeholders. It was pointed out that there is a gap in the available legislation and regulations as well as the enforcement of existing legislation/regulations. Many stakeholders commented on encountering illegal activities during dives, like spearfishing, illegal fishing with certain traps and illegal boat traffic, including boats anchoring and speeding above divers, within swimming areas and MPAs. There are also claims about uncertified dive centres and violations of teaching protocols. The topic of legislation and regulation raises many other concerns like the limitation in health facilities related to diving safety or the proper information of relevant stakeholders regarding the existence and functionality of available resources (e.g., hyperbaric chambers). Furthermore, there are also issues regarding accessibility to dive sites which can increase the risk for accidents. It is also essential to form and enforce regulations around invasive species, like lionfish, as well as pollution, like ghost nets, that can pose a threat to divers.

1.9.1.6 Environmental

The diving industry is directly influenced by environmental parameters and ecological factors. Inevitably the air and water temperature determine the comfort of the dive and the required training and equipment (e.g., dry suit training for cold conditions). Cyprus has the advantage of having good weather conditions throughout the year with warm waters, good underwater visibility, low currents and minimal tidal activity. Despite this, there is a noticeable seasonality in the tourism industry and consequently the diving industry which can be addressed by promoting the island as an all-year-round diving destination. It is however important to consider the effect of climate change and the increasing temperatures noticed every summer in addition to the shift in seasons. Climate change, amongst other parameter, has also influences the biodiversity encountered while diving. In addition to flagship species, like loggerhead and green sea turtles, elasmobranchs (e.g., sting rays and guitarfish), the Mediterranean monk seal and other commonly encountered marine organisms including wrasses, mullets, seabreams, octopi, eels and shellfish, there is also the increasing threat of invasive species like pufferfish, lionfish and long spine sea urchins. These organisms even

though a spectacle for tourists, can also pose threats and endanger the safety of divers. Despite the diversity of marine life that can be encountered, there is an overall low abundance in comparison to other destinations like the Red Sea or other tropical destinations.

Biodiversity and abundance are also threatened by marine pollution and illegal fishing activities that can all negatively affect marine life. It can also be argued that the diving industry is part of the marine pollution problem due to possible littering and large boat traffic inducing noise pollution. However, the environmental benefits of dive tourism over mass tourism are overruling the negatives. Divers are generally environmentally aware and therefore less likely to litter. Furthermore, diving courses are becoming more focused on best practices of diving to prevent distraction to marine ecosystems. Additionally, the marine industry encourages the development of artificial reefs and preservation of existing reefs which are used as dive sites. These also act as habitats for a variety of marine organisms enhancing biodiversity and abundance. As a result, in comparison to mass tourism, diving tourism is having both environmental and economic benefits. Another environmental parameter that could influence Cyprus and its diving industry is the location of the island in a seismically active Mediterranean basin. In recent years there have been several earthquakes recorded, with minimal damages to Cyprus, however, neighbouring countries like Turkey have suffered devastating damages. This danger can discourage tourists from visiting. Furthermore, the ongoing construction of the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant in the southern coast of Turkey, located very close to the North coasts of Cyprus pose a great risk in case an accident occurs due to an earthquake (or other parameters).

1.9.2 SWOT

Table 1.6. SWOT analysis of diving tourism in Cyprus.

S	Strengths	Attractive destination
		Long term business viability
		Availability of varying dive sites in all regions
		Generally good dive site accessibility
		Good safety standards
		Broad range of diving services provided
		Existing local and governmental authorities
		Large diversity of marine flora and fauna
		Large range of operating organisations
		Likeliness for visitors to return
		Good prices for diving
		Variety of accommodation choices in every region
		Cyprus is an easily accessible destination
		Diving tourism is considered an environmentally friendly activity
W	Weaknesses	Not enough wrecks & artificial reefs
		Low levels of operational and regulatory standards
		Inferior dive-industry infrastructure compared to competitor countries
		Lack of communication between responsible authorities and stakeholders
		Frequent encounters of unwanted or illegal activities at sea
		Lack of attention/infrastructure for disabled divers
		Many dive centres relying on 3rd party marine transportation
		Higher prices than competing/neighbouring diving destinations
		Dissatisfaction with available health services & local authority infrastructure
		Loss of potential revenues due to lack of additional services
		Not all centres are CDCA members
		Limited links between diving tourism and hotels
		Preference to lower certified divers
		Hotels only work seasonally & many unaware of diving potential for increasing revenue
O	Opportunities	Dive industry expansion throughout Cyprus
		Increase variability in dive experiences
		Advertise flag-ship dive sites, already famous world-wide (Zenobia wreck)
		Reform seasonal tourism to all-year round
		Local dive market expansion
		Utilise Cyprus' fame as a safe and family friendly destination
		Utilisation of social media to increase industry exposure
		Improve marketing strategies for new and returning divers
		Good geographical position to increase market from other regions
		Demand increasing for adventure tourism as a sustainable practice
		Promotion of Cyprus due to improved international relationships
T	Threats	Pandemics, regional political conflicts & other types of crises
		Hotel closures during 'low' seasons
		Environmental degradation (e.g., Climate change, Overfishing, pollution, invasive species)
		Poor dive site accessibility & infrastructure
		Unattractiveness to 'high level' divers
		Imbalance between the emphasis on Zenobia in contrast to other sites

		Unwanted/illegal activities decrease credibility
		Lack of overall governance in the diving industry
		Possibility of decreasing tourists due to emphasis on decarbonisation and our dependency on arrival of tourists via air
		Political instability in the Eastern Mediterranean
		Overdependence on the UK market

1.9.2.1 Strengths

Cyprus is an easily accessible destination to important tourism-markets, due to its geographic location. The island itself has a great variety of accommodation choices in every region and of course the favourable all-year-round weather conditions, attract tourists who prefer to visit a safe, welcoming and family friendly destination. Due to these characteristics, a considerable number of visitors choose to visit Cyprus for taking diving courses and getting certified, or simply just to dive the numerous dive sites scattered around the island. This is further supported by the existence of many operating diving organisations that can satisfy the customer's needs including snorkelling, specialised, technical, basic, leisure or advanced diving and courses for all levels, in addition to providing well maintained equipment or storage space for personally owned equipment. Noteworthy are the good prices for these activities with benefits like loyalty schemes, discounts, transport and snacks increasing the likeliness of divers to return, setting the success of long-term business viability as seen in centres that have been active for many years. Furthermore, there are unique and accessible dive sites around the island including natural and artificial reefs, with Zenobia shipwreck being the flagship dive site in Cyprus and ranked in the top 10 Europe's dive sites and World's wreck dives. These dive locations do not disappoint since a large diversity of marine flora and fauna, seascapes and antiquities can be observed. Diving tourism also support the actions towards a blue economy as divers are generally considerate and care about the wellbeing of the environment. Authorities in place such as the Marine Police, the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (DFMR), the Cyprus Port Authority (CPA) and the Deputy Ministry of Tourism (DMoT) try to ensure the smooth operation of diving activities by addressing illegal matters that come to their attention. With proper enforcement, the safety of the divers could also be ensured by the creation of regulatory legal infrastructure, equipped hospitals and trained personnel. The Cyprus Dive Centre Association (CDCA), representing some dive centres

operating Cyprus, also works under the umbrella of the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry working to assure a level of professionalism among the industry.

1.9.2.2 Weaknesses

Despite the presence of the famous Zenobia wreck, as well as the existence of many other intentionally and accidentally sunken wrecks and artificial reefs in all regions around Cyprus, the main stakeholders of the business believe that these are not adequate and that more should be created. They largely neglect however the existence of many natural reefs, perfectly suitable and accommodating to the needs of the industry. At the same time, many of the local dive centres mostly focus on providing introductory diving or basic level diving courses, which are considered more profitable, thus offering limited opportunities for more experienced, advanced and/or technical divers. In addition, even though there is a preference towards inexperienced divers, still more than half of the diving centres are not aware of locations suitable for snorkelling, limiting further the options provided to the customers. In general, the Cyprus diving sector could be considered inferior in comparison to neighbouring and subsequently competing destinations like Malta or the Red Sea, where the prices could be, in some cases, lower and with greater availability of infrastructure, dive sites and attractiveness of marine life. Furthermore, the presence of regulatory authorities does not ensure high levels of regulatory framework, good operational standards nor provide adequate legislation with respect to diving. In parallel, not all dive centres are members of the Cyprus Diving Centre Association (CDCA), which contributes to the disorganisation of the sector, and most of them do not follow the operational standards proposed by the DMoT and the Cyprus Organisation for Standardisation (CYS). In addition, there is lack of awareness with respect to existing legislations causing divers to react poorly to encounters with unwanted and/or allegedly illegal activities during their dives. These factors, in addition to a general dissatisfaction of dive centres regarding the availability of health services (e.g., number of functioning hyperbaric chambers) and other types of infrastructure and facilities (e.g., accessibility for disabled divers, quality of roads leading to dive sites) are negatively affecting the diving industry. Further limitations include the fact that more than half of the dive centres do not own transportation vehicles like pick-up trucks for in-land travels and boats for travelling at sea, therefore they rely on other parties to provide these services. In addition,

most hotels operate only on a seasonal basis, limiting the possibilities of all-year round diving tourism. Moreover, hoteliers seem to be unaware of the potential benefits of the diving tourism industry to their sector and consequently do not consider or promote diving as part of their guests' travel packages neither do they advocate for local diving facilities. The closure of most coastal hotels during winter months, which are considered 'low season' despite the favourable weather conditions, followed by the closure of dive centres, impede diving tourism as well.

1.9.2.3 Opportunities

The high number of tourists who travel to Cyprus, mostly between May and October suggest that the dive sector could reform and expand its activities into all months, taking advantage of the good weather and sea conditions, providing an all-year round service. The highest percentage of touristic activities takes place in Famagusta region; however, it would be advantageous to expand the industry throughout Cyprus allowing an increase in the variability of dive experiences, including the promotion of many other important dive sites, including both natural and artificial reefs. It is valuable to take advantage of Cyprus' fame as a safe and family-friendly destination which can potentially attract both diving and non-diving tourists to the island. Family friendly activities like snorkelling and/or children's activities, as well as other accompanying leisure activities (e.g., hiking, cycling) could be provided. Even so, improving marketing strategies of the diving sector by providing family dive course packages would lure new interest to the sport. Further provision of loyalty packages, advanced or more technical courses and enhancement of infrastructure can feed their passion providing opportunities for returning divers, hence the expansion of the local dive market increasing the sector's revenue. Another selling point is the good geographical position of Cyprus and the improving political relations with neighbouring countries (e.g., Israel). There is also opportunity for further increase in the sector's revenues from the local dive market, which appears to be becoming increasingly popular. The increasing environmental awareness on a worldwide scale could also be used in attracting tourists to dive as it is considered a much more environmentally friendly, ecotouristic activity bringing people closer to nature. Additional to the traditional advertising methods, it is imperative to utilise social media platforms to increase the exposure of the industry both locally and internationally.

Advertisements can include the attraction points mentioned above, including great all-year round conditions, appealing marketing packages, beautiful dive sites, sustainability and inclusion by providing 'something for everyone'. These efforts can be further enhanced by providing more technologically advanced visual information on the dive sites, such as 360° videos and 3-dimensional models of the dive sites.

1.9.2.4 Threats

Tourism is a dynamic industry that gets greatly affected by worldwide crises such as pandemics, but also by regional and international conflicts which can affect both the origin of the travellers but also the chosen destination. Subsequently, political instability and tension between neighbouring countries in our region pose a serious threat for tourism in Cyprus. The proximity to other countries is also a threat based on the decision taken by their governing bodies, an example being the Akkuyu nuclear power plant that Turkey is building within a seismogenic zone, which if disrupted, could pose irreversible damage to the Eastern Mediterranean and beyond. There are also local limitations in visiting Cyprus including the division of the country, which is a national problem potentially creating a feeling of insecurity to some travellers. Additionally, there is an overarching governance issue resulting in environmental degradation from coastal pressures due to climate change and anthropogenic activities like unsustainable coastal development, overfishing and littering, in addition to the increasing presence of invasive species. Unwelcoming dive sites due to poor accessibility and limited infrastructure on top of the overwhelming emphasis on the Zenobia shipwreck, in contrast to the other dive sites, pose a threat to the expansion of the industry, as well as conflict, due to competition, between the dive centres. The occurrence of unwanted and/or illegal activities from some dive centres jeopardize the reputation of the local industry. These threats defame Cyprus as a diving location, diminish the industry's capabilities and restrain the island's ability to entice higher-level divers who would likely spend more money on their diving vacations.

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Chapter 2

Report on best practices from abroad

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2.1 Introduction

The Republic of Cyprus has had over 3.9 million tourists visiting in 2018 and 2019 with a drop below 2 million during the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021 (0.6 and 1.9 million respectively) and an increase back to pre-Covid numbers in 2022, with 3.2 million visitors (Cyprus Statistical Service, 2023). The tourism industry had a revenue of 2.4 billion euros in 2022 which constituted 9% of the total GDP of Cyprus for that year (Cyprus Statistical Service, 2023). With 86 dive centres and ~69 dive sites across the island, diving tourism is expected to rise following the global pattern observed where diving tourism has become more popular and reached wider dimensions with a representation of ~3% of the global tourism market and a projection to increase up to 6% (FMI, 2023). The exact contribution of diving tourism to Cyprus' revenue has not been calculated as exact records of diving tourists do not exist. Although the Cyprus Statistical Service collects information on number of employees, revenue, costs etc for all services within the Republic of Cyprus, services are grouped under set types/titles according to European standards to make all EU data comparable. Thus, the exact revenue generated from diving centres (either from local customers or tourist) is not available to estimate the revenue generated exclusively from diving tourism. Furthermore, although the Cyprus Dive Centre Association provided the number of customers for each of their members, they represent less than half of dive centres (34 out of 86), overall, less than half of diving centres responded to our questionnaires (Chapter 1) which is not enough in our view to make a thorough assessment of the market in Cyprus.

This anticipated interest calls for improvements of the Cyprus diving tourism sector. It requires further development and increased promotion by the relevant stakeholders.

This Chapter aims to assess the best practices from competitive countries and compare them to the information gained previously regarding the diving tourism of Cyprus. Despite the vast number of world-wide famous diving destinations, like the Great Barrier Reef, the Caribbean, the Maldives, the Philippines, and Bahamas, just to mention a few, the project team had chosen to focus their investigation and comparison on destinations that are geographically closer to Cyprus. Hence, this chapter reports results from a site-visit to Malta and desktop research on Malta and Greece located in the Mediterranean and Egypt representing the Red Sea.

2.2 Case studies from other countries

2.2.1 Malta – Mediterranean

Malta is an island country, located in central Mediterranean, and is a very popular tourist destination. In 2022, Malta received over 2 million visitors (National Statistics Office, Malta) showing a great increase after the drop to less than 1 million recorded between 2020 and 2021. However, it has yet to reach the pre-pandemic numbers of over 2.5 million visitors recorded in 2019. It is estimated that tourism accounts for 25% of Malta's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (NSO, 2023). In 2019, 4.8% of tourists that visited Malta travelled there specifically for SCUBA diving and an additional 1.7% engaged in diving during their trip, thus 6.5% of total inbound tourists participated in diving activities (MTA, 2020).

Most divers visit Malta during the summer months (July – September, 60.9%), followed by spring (April – June, 21.4%), autumn (October – December, 14.6%) and winter (January – March. 3.2%) (MTA, 2020). From a survey of diving tourists from the MTA in 2019, it showed that divers visiting Malta stay in all types of accommodation, from 5-star hotels to guesthouses and host families, with a preference to self-catering apartments and 4-star hotels (MTA, 2020).

2.2.1.1 Regulation and legislation

Under the Recreational Diving Services Regulations of Malta (S.L.409.13), only dive centres certified by the Malta Tourism Authority (MTA) are allowed to operate. Dive centres and dive instructors are certified by the MTA to operate and are regularly inspected both in their premises and randomly at dive locations to ensure they comply with rules and regulations.

In 2016, the Marine Special Protection Area (MSPA) 'Il-Baħar ta' Madwar Għawdex', which includes the Ċirkewwa Marine Park - a popular dive spot, was designated. A management plan has been in force for the Marine Park since the beginning of 2023, with park rangers visiting the Park on a regular basis to ensure all attendees and divers are complying with the regulations and restrictions of the Marine Park (Figure 2.1).

Figure 2.1. The Park Ranger's van that visited the Ċirkewwa Marine Park, during our visit, to ensure compliance with regulations from divers.

2.2.1.2 Dive centres

There are 62 dive centres on the Maltese Islands, 19 of which are based around Gozo Island and 43 on the north side of the main island of Malta. A full list of these dive centres, including their contact details, can be found on the MTA official website[2] while Figure 2.2 displays a map of the Licensed Dive Centres. Some dive centres have their own accommodation specifically reserved for divers, to ensure visitors have a place to stay in the case they book consecutive dives with them, which is quite common. Others, cooperate with hotels to provide cheaper accommodation for their diving customers. Furthermore, most dive centres own vans and pick-up trucks, many of which have been modified specifically for the purpose, to transfer divers and all their gear securely to dive sites (Figure 2.3). The diving services provided vary between dive centres with a range between recreational guided diving and Technical Diving. However, due to the coastal landscape of the islands, there are no snorkelling tours available. Most dive centres provide diving courses ranging from bubble maker, intro, advanced, tech, specialty and other pro level courses. Depending on the service, the prices vary accordingly. For a single dive in Malta, one would be expected to pay from €35 to €60 with additional costs for equipment rental.

[2] https://issuu.com/visitmalta/docs/support_towards_scubadiving_list_fiinal__1_?fr=sOWFjNjI4NTQ2MTQ

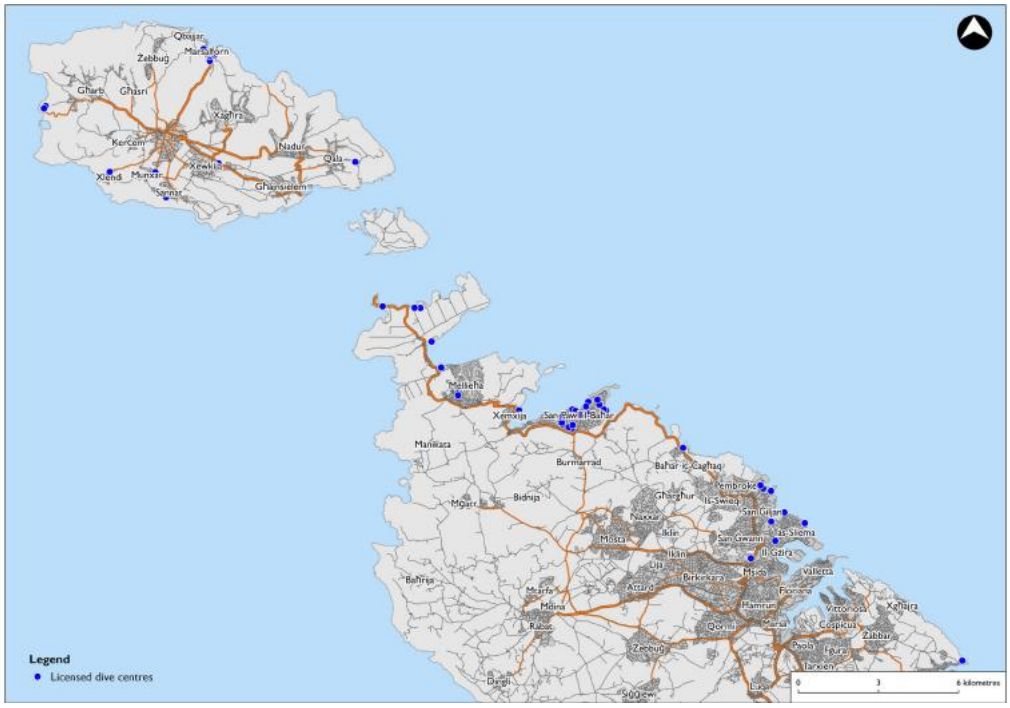

Figure 2.2: Map of the Licensed Dive Centres in the Maltese Island as per Figure 2.2 of the Developing Sustainable Diving Industry in the Maltese Islands – A strategy or the future 2022 report.

Figure 2.3. Trucks and vans of dive centres across Malta, parked at designated parking spots for divers.

2.2.1.3 Dive locations

Malta hosts over 90 dive sites across the main island, Gozo and Comino. Dive sites are equally split between shore and boat dives with a wide range of depths for all skill levels of certified divers. Shipwrecks in Malta are mostly in deeper waters with many available only for technical divers, especially the 12 historic shipwrecks that have been opened to the public and a few more that are only accessible with prior permit from the cultural heritage authority. There are also 15 intentionally deployed wrecks that are freely available to divers, five of which are only accessible via boat.

Several books/guides have been published with detailed descriptions and illustrations of dive sites including dive site plans and sketches which are readily available at local bookstores and dive centres (Figure 2.4).

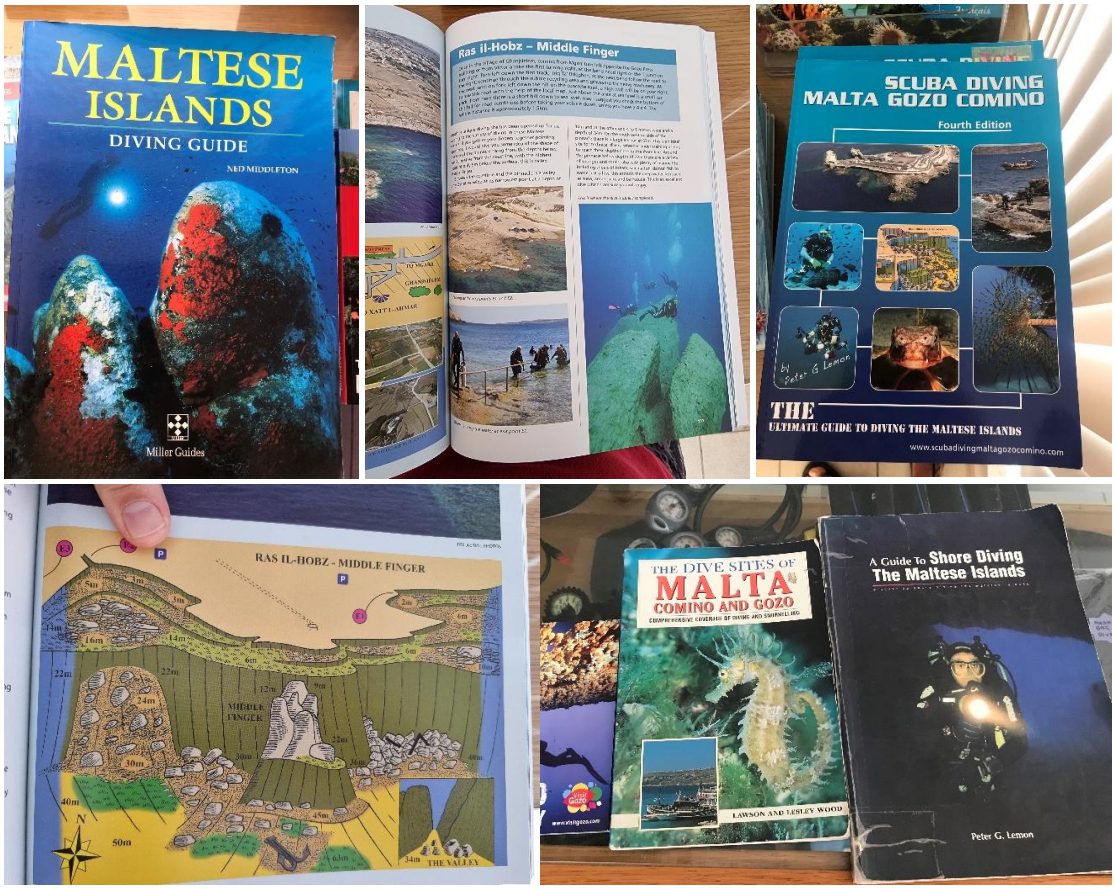

Figure 2.4. Books on dive sites at the Maltese islands.

Part of the MTA master plan for supporting a sustainable diving industry in Malta (Adi, 2012), has been to make dive sites more accessible and provide infrastructure to support divers. Through this action, several dive sites have been upgraded with handrails and steps for safer

entry into the sea (Figure 2.5), ladders (Figure 2.6), benches for setting up equipment (Figure 2.7), signs with dive plans (Figure 2.8), and/or designated bathrooms and parking spaces only for divers (Figure 2.9).

Figure 2.5. Handrail installed on the entrance of Ras il-Hobz dive site (left) and steps for safer decent to shore and entry point at Dwejra (Blue Hole) dive site (right).

Figure 2.6. Ladder installed at Xatt I-Ahmar dive site as seen from in water and above.

Figure 2.7. Benches installed for divers at Xatt I-Ahmar dive sites.

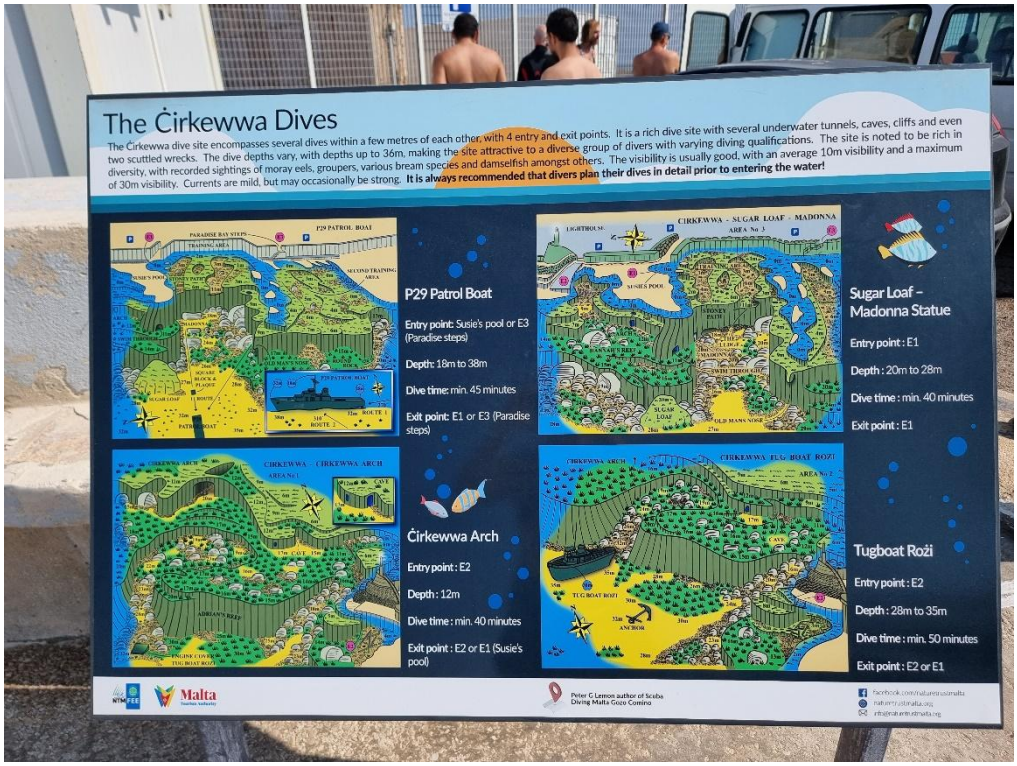

Figure 2.8. Sign with dive plans from the different entry/exit points placed at Cirkewwa MPA dive sites.

Figure 2.9. Bathrooms and designated parking reserved for divers at Cirkewwa MPA.

2.2.1.4 Dive tourism promotion in Malta

In 2012, the MTA commissioned a study to examine diving tourism in Malta and to create a Master Plan for a Sustainable Diving Industry in Malta (Adi, 2012). The Master Plan included an assessment of the issues impacting the sector, investigation into the competitors and objectives on how to improve diving and increase diving tourism in Malta. Objectives included: (a) upgrading dive locations to make them more accessible (b) better management, (c) protection of dive sites and (d) marketing. Since then, promotion from the MTA includes guides and leaflets specifically for diving around the islands (Figure 2.10) as well as advertising abroad through participation in large scale exhibitions (Figure 2.11).

In 2022 MTA published an updated study to the 2012 master plan, "Developing a Sustainable Diving Industry in the Maltese Islands" (MTA, 2022). The new study aimed at: (a) creating an updated overview of Malta's diving product, (b) create a gap analysis to identify current shortcomings, (c) create a strategic objective and (d) create an Implementation Plan. Due to the fact that the study began in 2019, just before the pandemic of covid-19, large parts of the study focused on the actions Malta took to address the impacts of the pandemic and showcased some of their strategies.

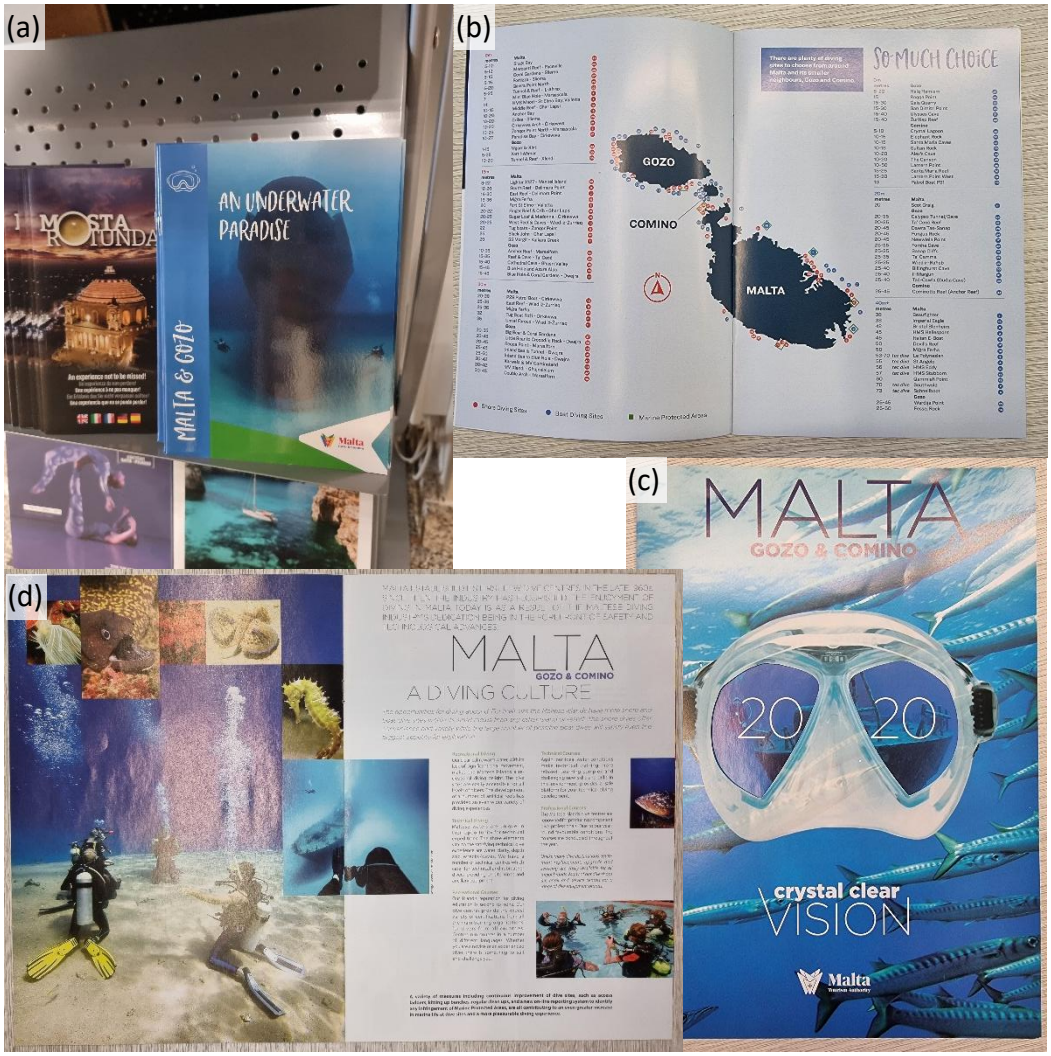

Figure 2.10. Leaflets and promotional brochures for diving tourism in Malta. (a) leaflet found in tourist information stands in Malta with (b) list of dive sites locations. (c) Brochure given at BOOT Düsseldorf Boat Show & Watersport Exhibition with (d) photos of diving in Malta.

Figure 2.11. a) MTA booth and (b) large advertising banner at the BOOT Boat show & Watersport exhibition in Dusseldorf, Germany in January 2023.

In 2021, after the pandemic of COVID-19, MTA created a scheme to promote dive tourism. The scheme titled "Support Towards Scuba Diving Tourism in the Maltese Islands" stated that it "*incentivises visitors to experience the Maltese Islands' clear blue Mediterranean Sea as an ideal location for scuba diving activities with an abundance of reefs, caves and wrecks that make diving here some of the most interesting in the Mediterranean"*. The scheme offered financial contribution to tourists (€100 voucher redeemed at licensed diving centres) that visit Malta specifically for SCUBA diving. The total budget of the scheme was €750,000 and it ran from June 2021 for until the funds were available[3].

2.2.1.5 Interviews with dive centres

Three dive centres, two in Gozo and one in Malta, were interviewed in September 2023 to assess their views on diving tourism in the Maltese Islands. Questionnaires included sections on the services they offer, dive sites around the islands, diving tourism and the safety/regulation standards of Malta. None of the interviewed dive centres offer snorkelling

[3] *https://www.ilblogdimalta.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/MTA-Diving-Business-Scheme-2021-.pdf*

trips and stated that not many offer that service and even those that do offer them, do not advertise it as it is not as profitable as SCUBA diving or freediving.

All three dive centres which were interviewed had been in business for over 20 years, although some might have changed management through the years. The most common nationalities of their customers are German, Belgian, Swiss, French, and Dutch and they stated that their busiest months are in the summer between July and October. Over 50% of their customers had visited Malta specifically for diving, with one dive centre stating that 90% of their customers visit Malta specifically for diving.

When questioned about the accessibility of the dive sites, all interviewees agreed that some dive sites have become more accessible since the implementation of the 2012 Master Plan for Sustainable Diving Industry (Adi, 2012), however, the dive centres in Gozo stated that more funds were made available for the main island, in comparison to the resources available for Gozo to perform the changes recommended in the Master Plan. Some of the upgrades that occurred at the dive sites are mentioned above, however, the interviewees stated that more facilities such as toilets and improvements on already installed infrastructure are still required.

The three dive centres interviewed agreed that the diving standards, regulatory framework and operational standards of Malta are high (rating of 4 out of 5) since the MTA has set these standards and they are strict on enforcement.

2.2.2 Greece – Mediterranean

Greece has had over 33 million tourists visiting per year in 2018 and 2019 with a drop below 16 million during the pandemic years 2020 and 2021 (7.4 and 15.2 million respectively) and an increase back to similar numbers in 2022, with 29.8 million visitors (Statista, 2023b). Tourism contributes with over 17% to Greece's GDP and supports over 18% of employments, making it an essential part of Greece's economy (OECD, 2014).

The Greek coastline covers approximately 16500 km along the Aegean, Ionian, and Libyan seas at the eastern part of the Mediterranean and is comprised of more than 9,800 islands and rock islets scattered around the Greek archipelagos. Its ideal geographical location,

between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, alongside with the topography and bathymetry of the seascape, the complexity and length of the coastline, and a great variety of physicochemical features, hosts a rich marine biodiversity, both in terms of number of species and types of habitats which can be dived all year around.

Sea surface temperatures in Greece vary from north to south. In the northern sea temperatures range from 11°C in the winter to 28°C in the peak of the summer, whereas in the southern and especially on the islands it ranges from 15°C in the winter to 30°C in the peak of the summer.

2.2.2.1 Regulation and legislation

Until 2005, recreational SCUBA diving in Greece was restricted to only a few marine areas due to several legislative limitations that were mainly related to the existence of marine antiquities, in fear of their destruction (accidental or intentional) or looting. Since 2005, a new law (P.D. 3409/273/2005) regarding recreational diving activities was adopted, aiming to promote diving tourism in the country. According to this law, the practice of underwater activity with a breathing apparatus or other underwater means for recreational or sport purposes and the training of divers and diving instructors are subject to the supervision and control of the Hellenic Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy. The latter also maintains a registry of licenses for the enterprises offering services of recreational diving.

In 2020, restrictions on diving at wrecks over 50 years old were lifted, by the country's parliament, to maximise visitor numbers and promote recreational diving and diving tourism. Greece's underwater archaeological sites could, until recently, be visited only if accompanied by qualified archaeological divers, however, with the new legislation dives are permitted with the accompaniment of a dive-guide from an authorised Greek dive-Centre or club (Law 4688/2020 - ΦΕΚ A 101/24.5.2020).

According to Law 4688/2020, the following are conditions for diving in shipwrecks: "*divers are prohibited from any intervention or alteration in shipwrecks, as well as the collection or simple movement of any objects or the seabed around. This ensures both the integrity of the wrecks themselves as monuments and the safety of diving visitors*".

In the last decades two large MPAs have been established in Greece: The National Marine Park of Alonissos – Northern Sporades (NMPANS) at the North Aegean Sea (Figure 2.12), established in 1992, and the National Marine Park of Zakynthos (NMPZ), at the Ionian Sea. Apart from the two aforementioned MPAs, there are more than one hundred 'Sites of Community Importance' (SCI) as part of the Greek NATURA 2000 Network (92/43/EEC), (Thessalou-Legaki and Legakis, 2005) which are of environmentally important sites and already support several tourist activities, including yachting, sailing, spear fishing, SCUBA diving and snorkeling.

Figure 2.12. One of the seals Mediterranean Monk seals, Monachus monachus, commonly seen at the National Marine Park of Alonissos (Alonissos.gr, 2023).

2.2.2.2 Dive centres

There are ~226 diving centres around Greece (Scubahellas, 2023). Most of them are either on islands or the coastal part of mainland in the Aegean Sea while some are also situated in the Ionian Sea (Scubahellas Map, 2023). Many dive centres cooperate and promote their services through travel agencies and tour operators with arranged fixed-price package offers for tourists. Others located on the coast near the beach or in hotel offer 'Dive and Stay' packages to their customers, with the possibility of customizing their visit to their needs and standards. Those hotels promote the dive centres they cooperate with on their websites and media.

Most dive centres provide diving courses ranging from bubble maker, intro, advanced, tech, specialty and other pro level courses. Many of the dive centres also offer snorkelling trips to tourist for those who would like to explore the underwater life but do not have or want to have diving certifications. Prices for a single guided dive in Greece range from €45 to €100, including equipment rent.

2.2.2.3 Dive locations

Around 178 diving sites are found across Greece (PADI, 2023), some of which are also suitable and popular for freediving. Some are artificial reefs, of which four have been established over the last decades: Two in the north Aegean (Gulf of Ierissos, and Fanari at Rodopi prefecture), one in south Aegean (Kalymnos Island), and one in the Ionian Sea. In 2021, 91 wrecks were open to recreation divers, comprising mainly of shipwrecks and a few aircrafts (Ministry of Culture Hellenic Republic, 2021) (Figure 2.13). Those are located at depths ranging from 10-120 meters. More than a quarter of the listed wrecks are located on the seabed of the Southern Aegean (24), followed by the Attica Region (16) and Central Macedonia (11) (Figure 2.14).

Figure 2.13. The Beaufighter WWII Aircraft in Naxos Island, Cyclades (GREECE IS, 2023).

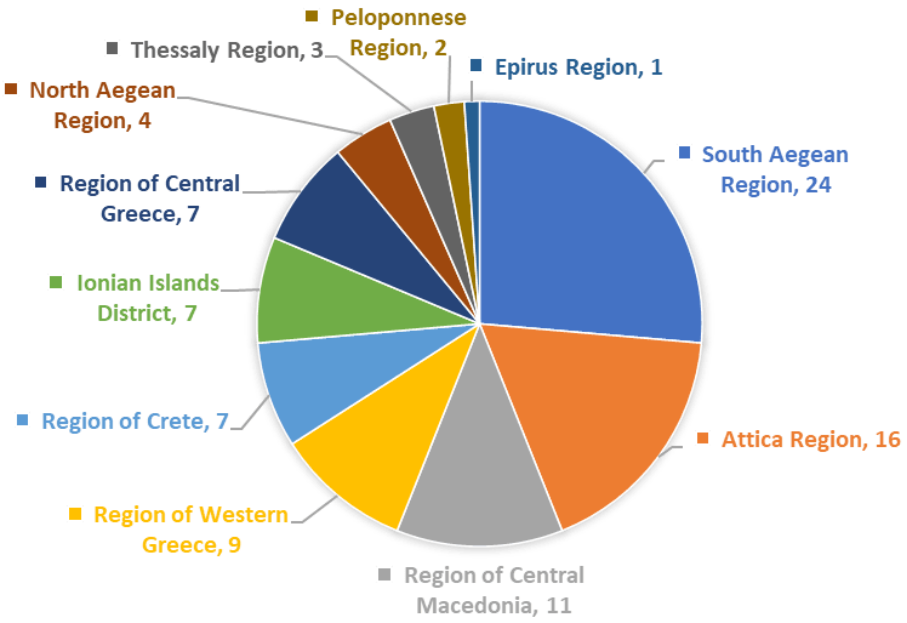

Figure 2.14. Distribution of wrecks by region in Greece (www.culture.gov.gr).

Greece also has many natural dive sites with some unique landscapes, such as the volcanic sea caves and formations on the island of Santorini, caves with fossilized elephants, giant sea cliffs covered in reef life with visiting schools of tuna and marine parks popular for the presence of loggerhead turtles.

2.2.2.4 Dive tourism promotion in Greece

The Greek National Tourism Organization (GNTO) designs and prepares an annual program of participation in International Tourism Exhibitions. Their aim is to enhance the promotion of Greece as an attractive and multifaceted tourist destination and to positively affect the demand for travel to Greece throughout the year and promote, in a coordinated and targeted way (Figure 2.15). This promotional material many times also include diving as a selling point to visit the areas (Figure 2.16).

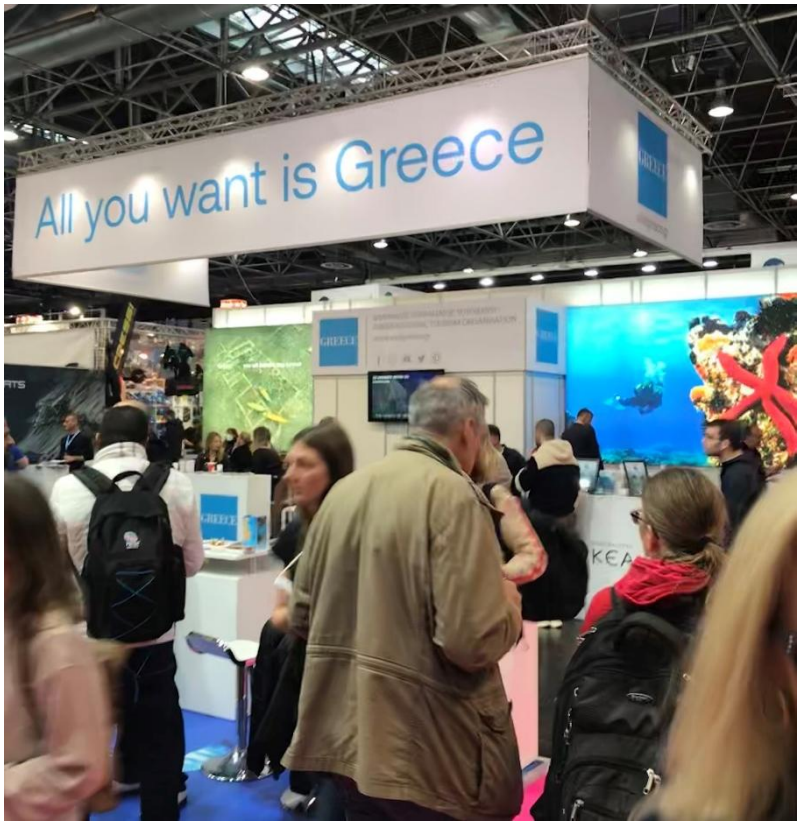

Figure 2.15. Greece's booth at the BOOT Boat show & Watersport exhibition in Dusseldorf, Germany in January 2023.

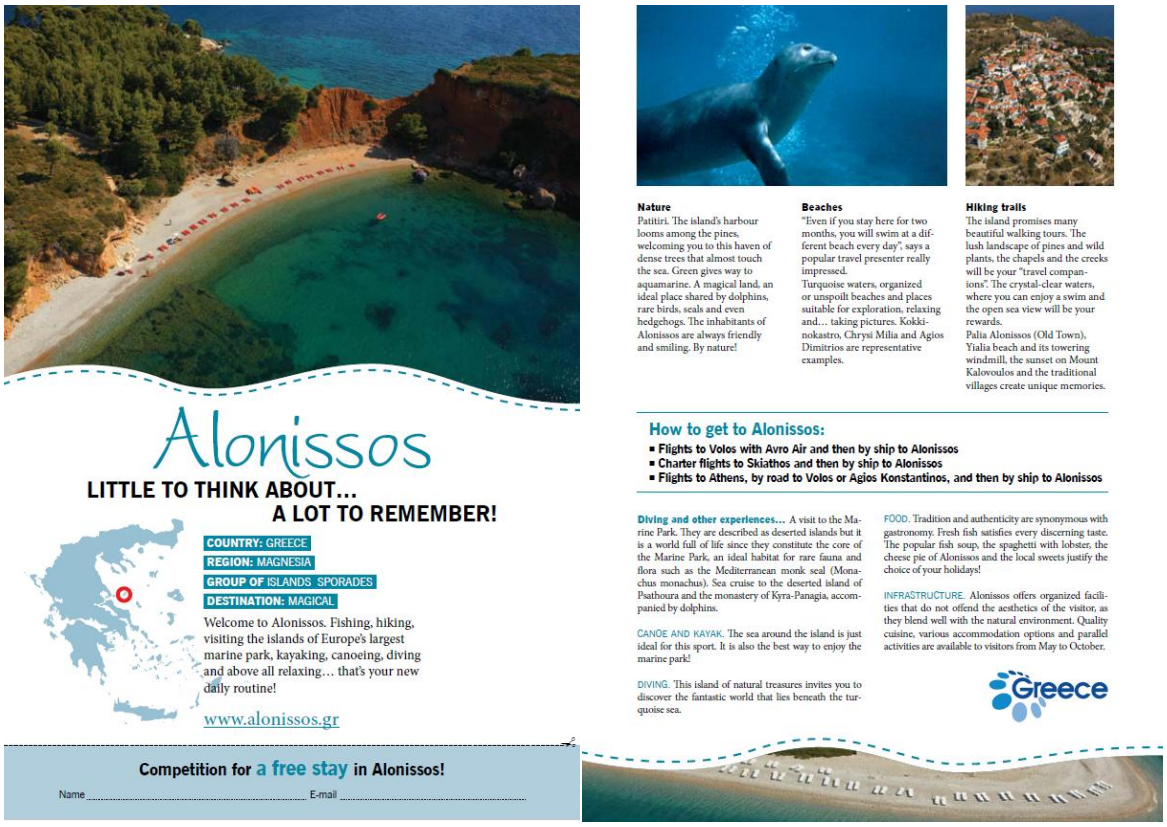

Figure 2.16. Promotional brochure advertising the island of Alonissos including diving as an attraction (Alonissos.gr, 2023).

Since 2009, an International Sea Tourism Festival is being hosted on an annual basis, each year at a different location, with the participation of yachting, cruising, sailing, diving, water sports, fishing tourism and premium brands of global importance, promoting Greece as a tourist destination. Although no activities promoting specifically diving tourism exists, the GNTO promotes tourism in general, including the islands for more sea-related activities.

2.2.3 Egypt - Red Sea

Egypt has had 11.3 million tourists visiting in 2018, and 13 million tourists in 2019, with a drop to 3.6 million during the pandemic year 2020 (UNWTO, 2022). The year 2021 saw a rise to 8 million tourists and an even greater increase to 11.7 million in 2022 (Ahram online, 2023). Tourism contributed to over 9% of Egypt's GDP between 2018 and 2019, however, between 2020 and 2021 that dropped to below 5.1% (Statista, 2013a). There are 3 million estimated divers and snorkelers visiting the Red Sea each year (Oceanographic, 2022), most of which visit Egypt, which has over 300 businesses providing diving and snorkelling activities (CDWS, 2023).

Egypt is considered a scuba diver's paradise, boasting more than 1,800 miles of coastline, crystal clear waters, mysterious wrecks, and a myriad of multi-coloured reefs teeming with marine life. Lapped by both the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, the "Land of the Pharaohs" has spectacular underwater environments offering some of the best diving in the world.

Sea temperatures in the Red Sea are always above 20°C, throughout the year, with a range between 21°C to 31°C from winter to summer. Air temperature however has a wider range with temperatures dropping to 10°C in the winter and rise to 44°C in the summer.

2.2.3.1 Regulation and legislation

In 2007 the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism founded the non-profit organization Chamber of Diving and Water Sports (CDWS) with the aim of improving the quality, safety and standard of services in the diving and water sports industry, as well as to preserve the unique environment of the Red Sea. The CDWS became a partner with the Austrian Standards plus Ltd. for the certification system of the European Underwater Federation (EUF) in accordance with the EN 14467 / ISO 24803 for recreational diving providers and ISO 13289 for the conduct

of snorkelling excursions. The CDWS is exclusively the sole inspection and auditing body in Egypt and the official representative for the diving and water sports sector on local and international levels.

Once the new ISO was accepted, the CDWS worked with EUF Certification International to train a team of assessors, that visited all dive centres in the country in order to determine whether they were meeting the standards of ISO 24803. Dive centres that complied (~303) are still audited to this day to ensure they remain compliant with the ISO standards (ISO, 2016) and therefore operate legally.

In July 2023, the Egyptian government included diving activities to the Entertainment and Amusement Tax which is levied on certain leisure activities, such as cinemas, theatres, concerts, sporting events and amusement parks. The tax on diving activities is 10% (Real-Estate Taxation Authority, Ministry of Finance, Egypt). The Egyptian government hopes that this will generate additional revenue, which will be used to improve public services, promote culture, and support the tourism industry. The tax affects all snorkelling and diving providers, whether in Hurghada, Sharm El-Sheikh, Dahab or Marsa Alam, the popular diving regions. The new entertainment tax could potentially have negative effects on the diving industry, due to an increase in the price of diving, resulting in a possible reduction in demand from divers, or it may affect the quality of diving services if diving providers try to cut costs or avoid taxes. It could also harm the environment if dive operators pay less attention to reef protection or allow more guests per boat or guide. The new entertainment tax could therefore not only reduce the revenues of dive operators, but also jeopardise their reputation and attractiveness as a diving destination (Lagona Divers, 2023).

2.2.3.2 Dive centres

There are ~300 registered dive centres under the CDWS around Egypt, most of which are in Hurghada and Sharm El Sheikh including over 20 registered liveaboards. Thirty-nine of those dive centres and nine liveaboards have received the international sustainable practice certificate ‘Green Fins’ (Green Fins, 2019). Green Fins, implemented internationally by The Reef-World Foundation and the UN Environment Programme, aims to protect coral reefs through environmentally friendly guidelines promoting sustainable diving and snorkelling.

Most dive centres provide diving courses ranging from bubble maker, intro, advanced, tech, specialty and other pro level courses. Many of the dive centres also offer snorkelling trips to tourists to allow non-diving-certified tourists to explore the shallow underwater life of the Red Sea, either from the shore or from boats. Prices for a single guided dive in Egypt cost about €50 with occasional additional cost for equipment rental.

2.2.3.3 Dive locations

The Red Sea is one of the world's best diving destinations. The clear blue water, a product of increased salinity due to high evaporation over the desert, and low annual rainfall, hosts 1,200 species of fish and more than 200 species of coral. Egypt's reefs are teeming with life including a large diversity of colourful invertebrates and fish (Figure 2.17). With wonderfully calm and clear conditions, Egyptian reefs offer ideal conditions for new divers, marine life enthusiasts, wreck divers and anyone simply interested in exploring light-filled reef systems. Due to the excellent visibility and the easy access to high depths it's also an attractive location for technical diving and training.

Figure 2.17. Colourful natural reef at Hurghada/El Gouna (Local's Guide to Egypt, 2023).

There are ~357 dive sites identified in Egypt (Discover, 2023), including reef, drift, wall, shore, boat and wreck dives. Most are accumulated around the areas of Sharm El-Sheikh, El-Gouna, Hurghada and Safaga. Some of the most famous shipwrecks include the SS Thistlegorm (Figure

2.18), SS Dunraven, Salem Express, Rosalie Moller, SS Carnatic, SS Aida, El Minya, Giannis D and Numindia. Several books have also been published regarding diving in the Red Sea as well as specific areas in Egypt (e.g., Sinai) that include descriptions of dive sites as well as dive plans (Figure 2.19).

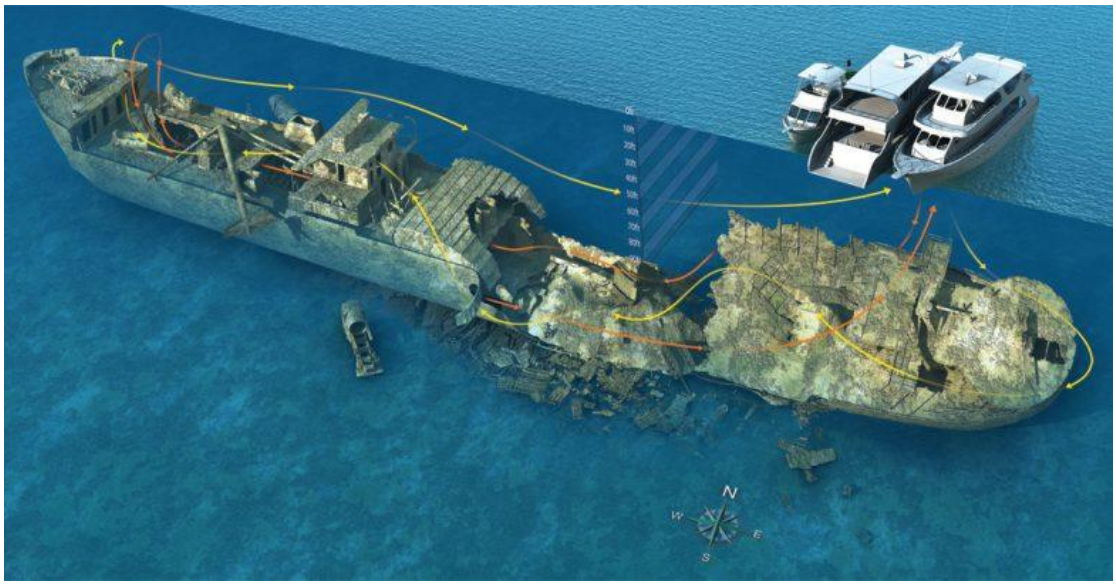

Figure 2.18. A 3D model of the SS Thistlegorm Wreck including the dive boat mooring section and two possible dive routes (Diventures Magazine, 2023).

Figure 2.19. Different guides for diving in the Red Sea which include descriptions of dive sites and dive plans.

2.2.3.4 Dive tourism promotion in Egypt

Within the framework of plans to promote the Egyptian tourist destinations, especially those related to diving, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities participate in many international annual exhibitions, including the 'Salon De Plongée' exhibition, held in Paris, France. Salon De Plongée is one of the most important mass tourism exhibitions held in France, due to the French fondness for diving, stressing that the Ministry's participation in the exhibition comes in light of the interest in tourism promotion in the French market, which is witnessing a noticeable increase in French tourists coming to Egypt.

In addition, the Ministry participates in the international tourism exhibition specialized in diving tourism, Eudi Show, held in Bologna, Italy. On the sidelines of the exhibition, representatives of the ministry hold professional meetings with international diving

organizations (e.g., PADI - Diving Alert Network) and tourism companies, in addition to holding meetings with magazines specialized in diving tourism (Figure 2.20). The most important diving locations in the Egyptian tourist destinations are presented, in addition to the places where marine sports are held. These meetings also deal with the state's efforts to preserve marine life and coral reefs, and the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities' strategy for sustainable development 2030 (Egypt today, 2022).

More recent activities from September 2023, the Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association, together with Egypt's Chamber of Diving and Watersports, announced three new dive sites located off Hurghada, to relieve pressure on natural coral reefs following a surge in dive tourism. The new dive sites are situated a short distance from the popular reefs of the Giftun Islands, and will form an 'Underwater Military Museum', populated by old pieces of military hardware, including tanks and armoured personnel carriers (Dive magazine, 2023).

Figure 2.20. Magazine guide on SCUBA diving in Egypt (3 out of 16 pages) (scubadivermag.com).

2.3 Analysis and comparison

Seasonality is very important when marketing for diving tourism, both in terms of comfort of the divers and accommodation availability. Cyprus can be marketed as an all-year-round destination with relatively warm water temperatures, that do not require additional diving qualification and equipment, such as dry suits, to be comfortable in the water. However, during the autumn and winter seasons many coastal hotels are closed, thus accommodation options and availability for incoming tourists is limited. Similar conditions like Cyprus are found in competing countries of Malta, Egypt and Greece, with all of them having similar water temperatures around the coast. However, Greece is the only country where in their northern coast the water temperatures can drop below the comfort level of a diver in a wet suit hence dry suits might be required for some months.

The quality of dive sites, their accessibility and the distance travelled to reach them are also very important to divers when choosing locations to visit. All competitor countries and Cyprus have clear waters, and a great variation of dive sites from natural reefs to shipwrecks. Some offer more unique dives sites such as the volcanic sea caves and lava formations in Greece, as well as unique drift dives and deep blue dives in Egypt. Malta's geology forms a steep decline creating unique dive sites where one can have very deep dives very close to the shore; however, this means that many of their sunken shipwrecks are in deeper waters making them inaccessible to divers with more basic qualifications. Malta has financially invested in making their dive sites more accessible both in terms of driving to the locations, adding bathrooms and changing facilities as well as providing necessary infrastructure at the waters' edge to assist with entering and exiting the water. Due to the size of the Maltese islands, all dive sites are a short drive away with the only exception when travelling between islands where, however, frequent ferry lines are available. The initiative of Greece, to make wrecks accessible to recreational divers had boosted their market, however, to dive in many of these archaeological sites and interesting wrecks it is a requirement to be accompanied by specialised divers. Egypt has some of the top-rated wrecks in the world and several of their dive sites are located within protected areas. Dive sites are located relatively close together, in diving hotspot areas (towns), although boats are usually required to access many of them. Cyprus has the advantage that dive sites are very close to each other and at relative shorter

drives (usually <1 hour). Additionally, many of the sites are accessed from the shore. However, almost all wrecks require boat access, and there is a lack of infrastructure closer to the water at many dive sites.

All Mediterranean countries have very similar marine life, with diverse flora and fauna. Malta and Greece can offer a slightly higher diversity of native species, compared to Cyprus whose biota has been altered with a large number of newly established non-indigenous species. In all three countries you can see turtles and occasional elasmobranchs during the dives, though in Cyprus they are much more abundant and common. Egypt offers the experience of tropical waters with more plentiful and colourful marine life in comparison to the Mediterranean.

Malta and Greece are closer to the west and central European market, relative to Cyprus, with shorter travel distances and occasionally more frequent and direct flights. On the other hand, for traveling to any of the Greek islands, one will have to either take a ferry or take additional flights to reach their destination, thus adding onto the travel cost and time. A disadvantage, for both Cyprus and Malta, is that during off-season there are less frequent flights to and from these countries, making it more difficult and expensive to travel there. Egypt is even further away, geographically speaking, than Cyprus from the European markets however, they are closer and with cheaper flights to the Asian market, although connecting flights are usually required (depending on the origin and exact destination).

Diving tourists are of course not only visiting the countries for diving, but many times they want to combine their vacations with other forms of tourism (e.g., cultural activities). Cyprus has many cultural, archaeological, and natural activities for any tourist to visit during their stay, across all cities where dive centres and dives sites are located. Comparable to Cyprus, Malta offers a range of accommodations and resorts as well as cultural history and archaeological sites to visit, however tourists that visit Gozo for diving have less options for non-diving touristic activities near the dive centres. Greece also has a rich history and non-diving activities to participate in, however this depends on the location of visit. Similarly, Egypt offers unique natural and cultural landscapes, but many of these non-diving activities are located afar from diving hotspots.

The strengths and weaknesses identified for Cyprus and its competitor countries, on the topics stated above are summarized in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1. Strengths and weaknesses of Cyprus compared to competitor countries for diving tourism.

Competitor	Factors	Strengths	Weaknesses
Cyprus	Seasonality	All year. Average water temperature ranging between 17°C in the winter and 28°C in the summer.	Spring and summer are the most visited seasons. Many coastal hotels are closed during winter months.
	Quality of dive sites	Great variation of dive sites including wrecks and natural reefs at different depths allowing choices for different diving qualifications.	Lack of adequate infrastructure to aid diving. Focus given on highly touristic areas.
	Marine life	Diverse assemblages of organisms at rocky substrates and Posidonia meadows including fish, octopi, molluscs, crustaceans, echinoderms and polychaeta.	Invasive species like lionfish can pose threat to marine life and divers. Though marine life is diverse, abundance is considered low.
	Dive costs	Cost of dives can be relatively low (i.e., without equipment ~€40 and with equipment ~€65).	
	Distance travelled	Short distance from Europe, West-Asia, and North-Africa with some direct flights available in the summer season	Limited direct flights available all-year-round resulting in sometimes 2-3 stop flights to reach the island.
	Distance between dive sites	Due to the size of the island, dive sites are not far apart.	Few sites are a bit more remote while most sites can only be accessed with a pick-up track.
	Non-diving tourist activities	Many cultural, archaeological, and natural activities for diving tourists and their non-diving companions to participate in.	
Malta	Seasonality	All year. Water temperature ranges from 15°C in the winter to >26°C in the summer.	

Competitor	Factors	Strengths	Weaknesses
	Quality of dive sites	High variety of dive sites with many wrecks and natural reefs. Steep shorelines allow for a quicker and easier descend to deeper depths from shore.	Due to the rapid decline of depth many of the wrecks are in deeper waters therefore not accessible to lower qualification divers (i.e., Open Water).
	Marine life	Large schools of fish present, diverse macroalgae and invertebrate communities on the rocky reefs.	Large blooms of jelly fish at the end of the summer, which, although are not harmful to people, they might deter divers.
	Dive costs	Cost for dives with equipment rental are relatively low (i.e., ~€40).	
	Distance travelled	Shorter distance travelled for Central and Western European dive market.	
	Distance between dive sites	Small islands therefore all dive sites are relatively close. Divers can return to the dive centre before their next dive thus minimizing the loading of trucks for travel.	Some dive sites do not have easy access without a pick-up truck. For dives between Gozo and Malta divers need to take the ferry which can increase travel time.
	Non-diving tourist activities	Malta offers a range of accommodations and resorts as well as cultural history and archaeological sites to visit.	Divers who visit Gozo for diving have less non-diving tourist activities if they chose to stay near the dive centres.
Greece	Seasonality	All year. Water temperature ranges from 11°C in winter to 28°C in summer, from north to south.	Air temperature might be too low in the northern part of Greece. It is advised to dive with dry suit, in some locations, which require additional qualifications.
	Quality of dive sites	Visibility is usually excellent especially in the summer months. Some unique sites, such as	Archaeological dive sites and wrecks require accompaniment by specialized divers.

Competitor	Factors	Strengths	Weaknesses
		volcanic sea caves and lava formations.	
	Marine life	Diverse marine life with many interesting species, including, loggerhead turtles, dolphins, monk seals, fish and invertebrates	
	Dive costs	Cost for dives with equipment rental are relatively low (i.e., ~€50).	
	Distance travelled	Short distance travel from Central and Western European dive market. Direct flights from almost all countries	To access most of the islands, or less central/tourist areas, additional flights or ferry travel is required which can add to costs and time.
	Distance between dive sites	Dive sites within islands or towns are close	There are in some cases large distances between islands/towns, or boat rides, to dive site locations.
	Non-diving tourist activities	Greece has rich a history with many non-diving activities.	This depends on the location of the visit, not available everywhere.
Egypt	Seasonality	All year. Water temperature ranges from 21°C in the winter to 31°C in the summer.	
	Quality of dive sites	Large variety of dive sites, with many wrecks, shallow coral reefs, drift dives, many of which are with protected areas.	
	Marine life	Large variety of fish and algae species. Tropical marine life, more colourful and plentiful than Mediterranean life.	Some marine life that can pose danger to divers (e.g., lionfish, sharks, etc.)
	Dive costs	Cost for dives with equipment rental are relatively low (i.e., ~€50).	

Competitor	Factors	Strengths	Weaknesses
	Distance travelled	Short distance for Asian market to travel.	Further way to travel for the European market, likely requiring connecting flights.
	Distance between dive sites	Dives sites in diving hotspots (towns) are relatively close together.	Boats are usually required to access dive sites.
	Non-diving tourist activities	Egypt offers unique natural and cultural landscapes.	Many non-diving activities are far from dive locations and dive hotspots.

2.4 Conclusion

The climatic conditions in our region and the geographical location of Cyprus offer great opportunities to receive divers all year round. Steps have already been taken towards marketing and promoting Cyprus as a diving destination, support local dive centres and improve the infrastructure (see Chapter 1), however, more is needed. Taking examples from competitor countries on how they successfully advanced their diving industry, to promote and develop the sector also in Cyprus can have a positive effect on diving tourism. Gaps and weaknesses that have been identified can be addressed for improvements in infrastructure, legislation, safety, and promotion. By creating an action plan and implementing it, Cyprus has the potential to grow much further and become an even more competitive diving tourism destination.

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Chapter 3

Action plan and way forward

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3.1 Introduction

Diving tourism is one of many touristic activities on the island of Cyprus that has, in recent years, become more popular and reached wider dimensions. This increasing trend has also been identified globally as well. To conduct the current study for the development of a strategy, the following objectives were fulfilled:

- Identification of diving sector current situation (i.e., dive sites, marine environment, services, stakeholders, involvement, and responsibilities, sectoral problems, diving safety, standards, and regulatory framework)
- Description of the marine environment
- Involvement of underwater antiquities in recreational diving activities
- Identification of best practices from abroad
- Analysis and comparison between the situation in Cyprus and main competitors
- Provision of an action plan including infrastructure/product development and practical solutions.

This Chapter aims to propose infrastructure, product development and practical solutions to promote and enhance the diving industry and tourism in Cyprus. Proposals are based on knowledge gained from the assessment of the diving industry and tourism of Cyprus took place, as well as, from the assessment of best practices of competitive countries. In this Chapter we summarise the status of diving industry and tourism in Cyprus and propose an action plan with a way forward.

3.2 Tourism in Cyprus

Tourism in Cyprus has been increasing steadily over the last decade with ~2.4 million tourists arriving in 2012 - 2014 to over 3.9 million in 2018 – 2019 (Cyprus Statistical Service, 2023). During the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) pandemic, arrivals dropped to ~600,000 tourist in 2020, and once travel restriction and lockdowns eased, arrivals to Cyprus increased to over 1.9 million tourist. Since then, tourist arrivals have risen to almost pre-pandemic numbers with over 3.2 million tourists arriving in 2022 (Cyprus Statistical Service, 2023). Most tourist arrivals

occur between the months of July and September, followed by April to June, October to December and lastly the start of the year between January and March. Accommodation preferences of tourists arriving in Cyprus are primarily hotels, followed by other types such as B&Bs or multiple types of accommodation, thirdly with friends and relatives and lastly, hotel apartments or tourist villages (Cyprus Statistical Service, 2023). Tourists traveling to Cyprus spend between ~€520 to ~€880 per trip depending on the month of visitation (Cyprus Statistical Service, 2023).

Diving tourism constitutes to ~3% of the global tourist market with a projection to increase up to 6% (FMI, 2023). In Cyprus, the revenue of €2.4 billion, in 2022, from tourism, contributed to ~9% to the total GDP of Cyprus (Cyprus Statistical Service, 2023). Diving tourism already contributes to this revenue however the exact numbers are not available hence, challenging to calculate. The Cyprus Statistical Service collects information on number of employees, revenue, costs, etc for all services within the Republic of Cyprus, however services are grouped under set types/titles according to European standards to make all EU data comparable. Thus, the exact revenue generated from diving centres (either from local customers or foreign tourist) is not available to estimate the revenue generated exclusively from diving tourism. Regardless, divers on average have a higher expenditure than other tourists due to the cost of their activities. Thus, it is not possible to use the average expenditure of typical tourists to estimate the revenue of diving tourism as it will be an underestimation of the true expenditure. Lastly, the exact number of divers who visit the island exclusively for diving or choose to dive during their travels is also unknown therefore prohibiting any accurate calculation of the diving tourism expenditure. The only data available were: a) from the interviews conducted using questionnaires to dive centres during phase A (Chapter 1) of this project, which are anecdotal and in our opinion are not realistically representative of the actual situation, and b) few numbers provided by the Cyprus Dive Centres Association (CDCA) which represents less than half of the dive centres in Cyprus and of which some had already completed our questionnaire.

3.3 Underwater Antiquities

The accelerating recognition of alternative tourism that has designated recreational diving as one of its main activities, has led into an increasing number of diving spots with different characteristics. What is more, the declaration of 2021-2030 as the UN Ocean Decade, has turned the interest of both academia and the industry into the sea, with a mission to offer solutions for a sustainable way of collaborating actions of all interested parties (stakeholders, scientists, entrepreneurs etc.) with the sea. In this framework, many diving parks have emerged for the protection of the underwater ecosystem that allow recreational diving to take place for people to enjoy the wonders of the underwater world.

Furthermore, and when it comes to underwater cultural heritage, the UNESCO convention, already established since 2001, for the protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage, sets new priorities in the management of Underwater Cultural Heritage sites (UCHs), as it emphasizes on the importance of the *in-situ* preservation of these sites (Maarleveld et al. 2013). In this way, new strategies have been implemented and continue to do so, that set goals not only for the protection of the sites, but also their responsible promotion to the public (divers and non-divers) (Manglis et al. 2019). In addition, innovative technologies act as mediums towards the challenges that archaeological needs present, such as research, conservation, and preservation, with the needs of the public, such as accessibility, education, and recreation (Runyan 2011: 949).

The realization that archaeological resources exhibited in situ inspire the public to understand the relation between the site and its environment (Potter 1997: 38- 39 from Ireton), combined with the "new museology" movement which considers museums as active agents for social change and sustainable living, has stimulated the inauguration of public access programmes in underwater cultural heritage since the 1980s (McCarthy 2011: 1041).

In the Mediterranean region, in particular, programmes for protection and public access to underwater cultural heritage began in the 1980s. This solution, and more specifically the creation of underwater archaeological parks, is considered to have many benefits such as protection for the site, public access, and financial development for the host community (Davidde 2002). Yet, the concept has started to be more popular recently as technological advancements like Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, underwater tablets and 3D modelling

(Bruno et al. 2020) assist substantially in making the responsible promotion of underwater cultural heritage easier and comprehensive to the public.

In Cyprus such strategies have recently started to emerge through relative EU funded projects with the first maritime archaeological park being described at the ancient harbour of Amathus (ANDIKAT project). The aim of the project (Interreg VA Greece – Cyprus Program 2014-2020) was to develop a network of dive trails as a tool to protect the marine environment and raise awareness of the public on the preservation of the underwater natural and cultural heritage. Apart from the information leaflet that was created, three information boards were placed, on land to facilitate visitors on the whereabouts of the harbour and inform them on the site as well as four underwater ones were placed as information points for swimmers. In addition, emphasis was given to personalized visits with the creation of the "Amathus app" that can facilitate access not only to visitors but also give remote access to people that didn't have the opportunity to visit the site (Figure 3.1).

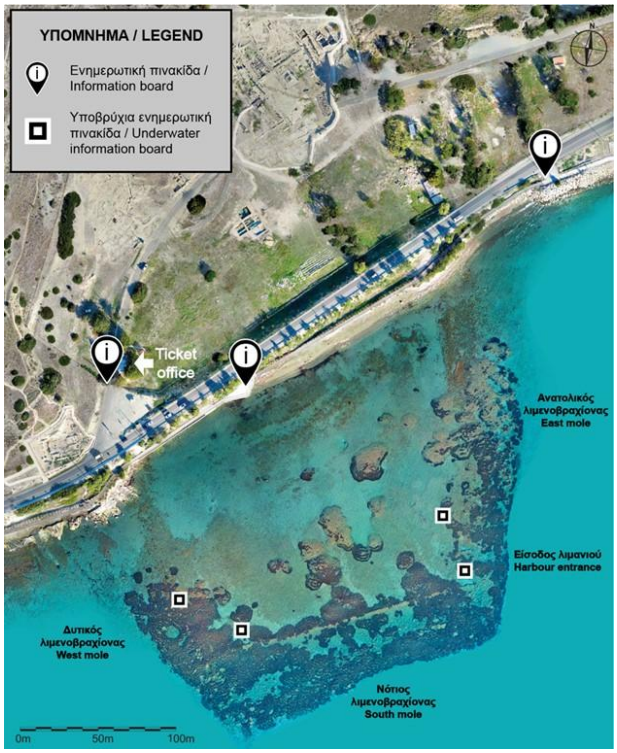

Figure 3.1. Map of the site with the positions of the terrestrial and underwater information boards at the harbour of Amathus (© University of Cyprus, MARELab). Created using orthophoto published in Skarlatos & Savvidou 2015: fig. 3, courtesy of Dr D. Skarlatos ©

In situ preservation of underwater archaeological sites and the creation of underwater archaeological parks is a solution that is increasingly gaining recognition. Particularly in the Mediterranean region, several archaeological parks emerged since the 1980s. Different kinds

of sites (architectural remains, shipwrecks and scattered remains) of diverse significance, have been developed into underwater archaeological parks. Correspondingly, a wide range of solutions has been employed for their protection and presentation with a three-fold objective: to render the sites visitable, attractive and comprehensible by the general public; to exclude the risk of looting; and to anticipate and confront possible threats by the marine environment to the archaeological remains through the interpretation installations (replica shipwreck sites, web cameras, alarm buoys and special protected interpretation signs).

A total of ten shipwrecks, six harbour structures and seven anchorages have been identified of the coast of Cyprus. Shipwrecks are in the districts of Paphos, Limassol, Larnaka, and Ammochostos, whereas harbours have only been located in Paphos and Limassol. Anchorages are in Paphos and Larnaka (Figure 3.2).

In Cyprus, the creation of underwater archaeological parks is still at its infancy, but significant steps are being taken for the establishment of a general legislative framework that will allow the accessibility of UCHs. In addition, several initiatives in Cyprus (i.e., THETIDA project) are paving the way with the development of innovative monitoring tools for these sites to ensure their remote protection. Also, emphasis is given to the collaboration of key stakeholders (diving centres, municipalities etc.) with the local community (e.g., fishers) on raising awareness strategies, so to increase the visibility of the site to the public and ensure the sustainability of the initiative. If these actions are set as cornerstones towards building a sustainable tourist product with respect to the natural and cultural heritage and continuous monitoring of these sites, Cyprus can be designated into a significant diving destination with a unique identity. It is important to note that technological advancements already in use for archaeological sites (e.g., Virtual reality, 3D modelling) could also be utilised at any other important dive site (e.g., modern shipwrecks, natural reefs).

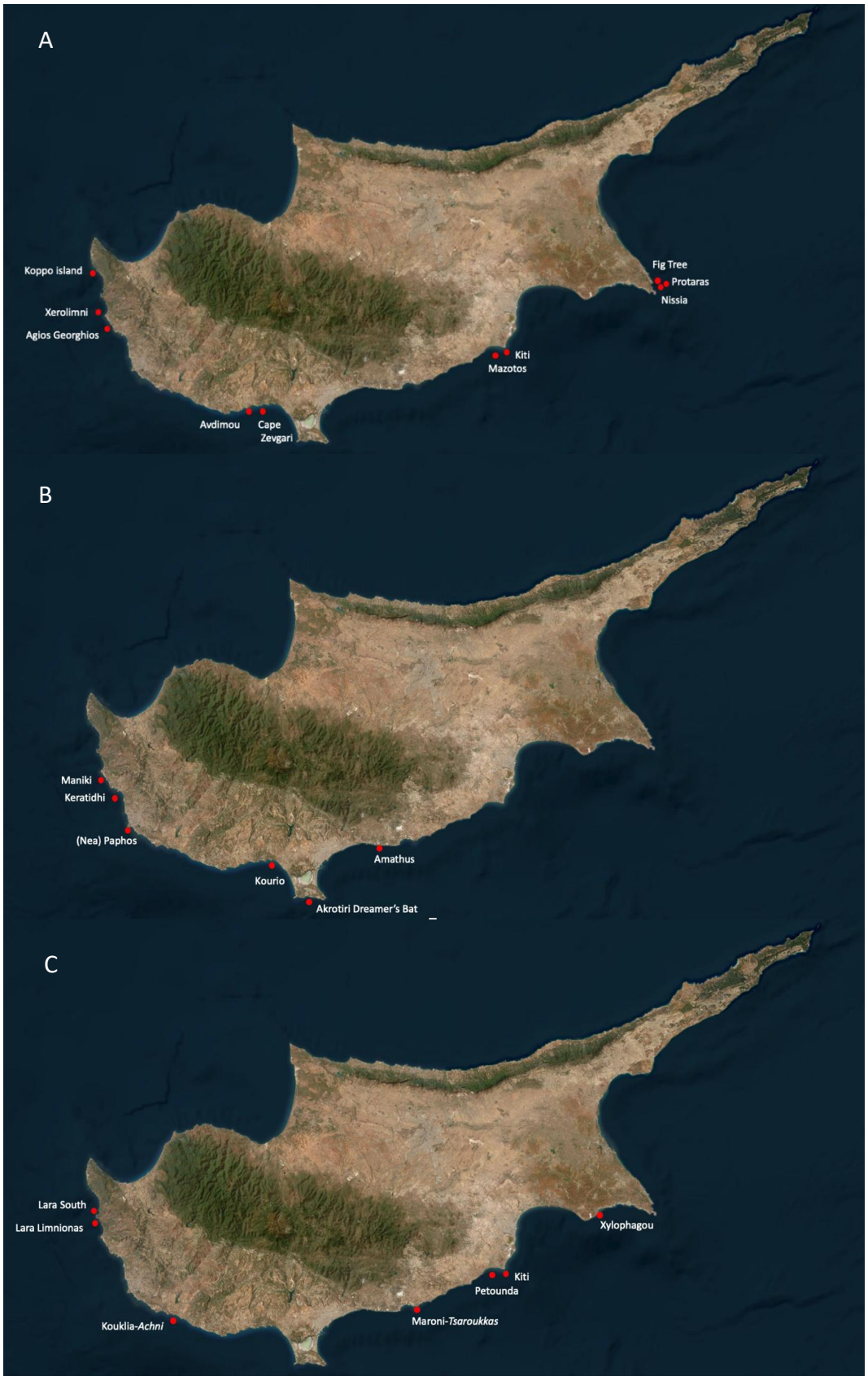

Figure 3.2. Map of the underwater archaeological sites discovered across the coast of Cyprus. Map A shows the locations of the shipwrecks, map B the location of the Harbours and map C the locations of ancient anchorages.

3.4 Marine Environment of Cyprus

Cyprus is in the Levantine basin, at the eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea. The Mediterranean Sea is a marine biodiversity hot spot, with over 17,000 marine species recorded (Coll et al. 2010). The Levantine basin is one of the most oligotrophic areas in the world, as it has very low nutrient availability and primary production (Krom et al., 2014). Compared to the open ocean, the waters of the Levantine and Cyprus have high salinity (~39 psu) and an annual average water temperature of >20 °C (Shaltout and Omstedt, 2014), making it ideal for diving. Light penetration is very high due to minimal water turbidity. Hence, the waters of Cyprus are extremely clear, providing great underwater visibility, which deems it ideal for diving.

The many rocky reefs around Cyprus have formed some stunning features, excellent for diving, with caves, walls and arches found across many dive sites. The marine environment of Cyprus hosts an abundance of marine life, from invertebrates to fish, as well as turtles and dolphins. A variety of sponges, sea urchins, fan worms, bivalves and gastropods can be seen on the rocky reefs, whereas moray eels, octopuses and large groupers can be found in crevices. There are extensive and healthy expanses of *Posidonia oceanica* seagrass meadows (a priority habitat based on Habitats Directive (92/43/CEE)) which host a large array of fish, such as wrasses, groupers and seahorses amongst others.

The green and loggerhead turtles can be seen during dives around the island throughout the year but mostly during their breeding season in spring and summer when they are present at the shallow waters around Cyprus for foraging. A recent study estimated that 20,167 small odontocetes (toothed whales, including dolphins) are present at Cypriot waters (DFMR, 2017). The bottlenose dolphin is the most common species encountered in Cyprus, found in coastal waters in small groups of 5 - 15 individuals. In addition, there are regular sightings of the critically endangered Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) near semi-submerged sea caves, its main nesting and resting habitat. It should be noted that divers are advised to keep a distance from wild-animals, especially of protected and endangered species such as monk seals, as the interaction can be harmful to both wild-life and humans.

A total of 12 MPAs have been assigned in the coastal waters of Cyprus, along with six Natura 2000 sites that include coastal waters. Six MPAs include artificial reefs (Dasoudi, Amathounta,

Geroskipou, Ayia Napa, Larnaka and Paralimni), one is the protected area surrounding the Zenobia wreck, and the remaining are fisheries and anchorage restricted areas (Kakoskali, Lara, Peyeia sea caves, Kavo Gkreko and Agios Georgios Alamanou). The marine areas in the Nature 2000 network are included under the provisions of Directive 92/43/EEC and comply with the provisions of the Protocol of Special Protection Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean of the Barcelona Convention.

Despite all the above, the marine environment of Cyprus is under threat from various pressures. Climate change is one of the main threats, with changes in sea temperature affecting the balance and tolerance of marine organisms causing a shift to more thermotolerant species. These also include non-native (alien) species, more tolerant to the changing environment which can outcompete native fauna and flora. One such species is the invasive species lionfish (*Pterois miles*), which is not only a threat to the marine environment, but it can also be hazardous to divers with is venomous spines, especially when encountered in closed spaces (i.e., wrecks and caves). Most importantly, human activities are a major threat to the environment with coastal urbanisation, littering and unsustainable coastal practices. Some touristic activities, if not managed properly, can be detrimental to the marine environment if rules and regulations are not kept. For example, turtle feeding from boats with the purpose of attracting to guaranteed sightings for tourists, affects the animals' behaviour causing many times accidental hits by boats, very often leading to high rates of mortality. Moreover, turtles can become aggressive towards divers if they get accustomed to being fed. Unfortunately, this has been the case on several recently reported/observed occasions in Cyprus, specifically at Protaras region, and action needs to be urgently taken by the responsible authorities. In addition, divers may damage sessile organisms with their fins, if not careful with buoyancy, or by collecting organisms from the sea floor.

3.5 Diving industry in Cyprus - Overview

3.5.1 Dive centres

Dive centres are the main stakeholders directly involved in diving tourism in Cyprus. In total, we identified 86 dive centres, 37 in Ammochostos, 15 in Limassol, 14 in Larnaka, 13 in Paphos and 7 in Nicosia (Figure 3.3). Some of the dive centre businesses are independent while others are members of the Cyprus Dive Centres Association (CDCA) which is registered under the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Furthermore, in Cyprus there is an unknown number of freelance instructors who are not affiliated with registered dive centres and therefore are not included in our records (Figure 3.3).

Of the 86 identified dive centres, only two are exclusively for freediving, whilst the rest are SCUBA diving centres that may also offer free diving lessons. The sector of freediving is much smaller in Cyprus compared to SCUBA diving although it's a very promising sector in diving tourist (e.g., freediving championships organized in Cyprus almost every year[4]).

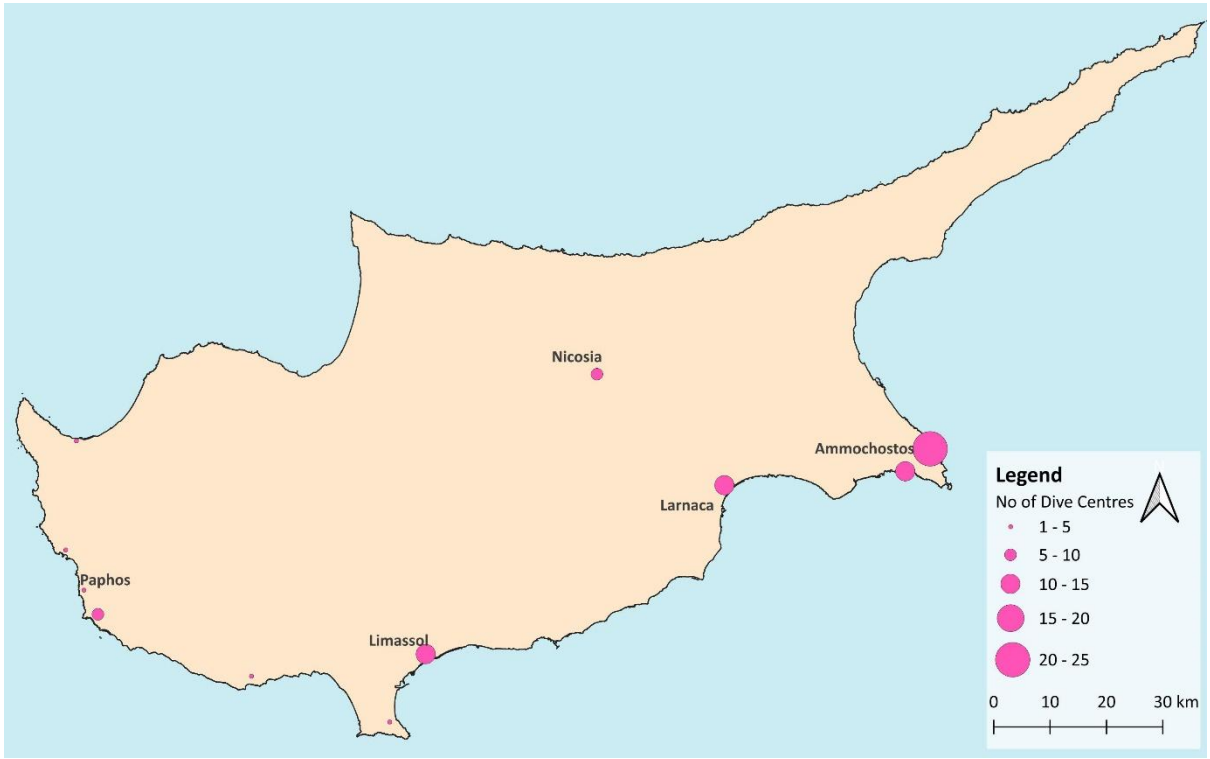

Figure 3.3. Distribution of dive centres across Cyprus.

[4] https://www.aidainternational.org/EventPage/3636

Based on the interviews we conducted, almost all dive centres own the basic equipment required for SCUBA diving (i.e., masks, fins, BCDs, regulators, wetsuits and first aid kits) whiles others rent the necessary equipment from collaborating centres, this is especially the case for freelancing instructors. Some, but not all, own filling compressors and tanks and pick-up trucks to transport equipment and customers. Very few own boats resulting in them being dependent on rental boats or operators who specifically perform diving trips.

Courses as well as guided dives are provided by all centres and instructors, with all offering the most common and basic certifications (e.g., Open Water and Advanced Open Water) and some offering more advanced and specialized courses such as technical diving and cave diving. Some SCUBA diving and freediving centres offer snorkelling trips giving the opportunity to non-certified divers to explore the rich marine life of Cyprus.

3.5.2 Dive sites

The quality and quantity of available dive sites, at any given touristic destination is one of the most important factors for attracting recreational divers. We have compiled a list of known dive sites, based on the interviews with dive centres and general interaction with the diving industry in Cyprus. A total of 69 dive sites have been identified across the Republic of Cyprus, 45 of which are boat dives and 24 are shore dives (Table 3.1).

*Table 3.1. Table of all dive sites identified in Cyprus for each district, area, and their access type. *Indicates shore dives that may be more accessible via boat due to road access difficulties or distance from entrance point.*

No.	Dive sites	Area	Access Type
Ammochostos			
1	Antennae	Kavo Gkreko	Shore
2	Caves	Kavo Gkreko	Shore
3	Chapel (Agioi Anargiroi)	Kavo Gkreko	Shore
4	Cyclops caves	Kavo Gkreko	Shore
5	Da Costa	Protaras	Shore
6	Green bay	Protaras	Shore
7	Green bay caves	Protaras	Shore
8	Kryo Nero	Ayia Napa	Shore
9	Kyrenia shipwreck	Ayia Napa	Boat
10	Liberty shipwreck	Paralimni MPA	Boat
11	MUSAN underwater sculpture museum	Ayia Napa	Shore
12	Nemesis III shipwreck	Paralimni MPA	Boat

No.	Dive sites	Area	Access Type
13	Octopus site	Protaras	Shore
14	Paralimni MPA Structures	Paralimni MPA	Boat
15	Table top (Kitazos)	Kavo Gkreko	Boat
16	The Canyon	Kavo Gkreko	Shore
Larnaka			
17	Alexandria shipwreck	Larnaca Bay	Boat
18	Arch	Xylophagou	Shore
19	Bullet point/Watchtower	Xylophagou	Shore
20	Cape pyla reef	Xylophagou	Boat
21	Dorida	Larnaca Bay	Boat
22	Elpida shipwreck	Larnaca Bay	Boat
23	HMS Cricket wreck	Xylophagou	Boat
24	Larnaka reef	Larnaca Bay	Boat
25	LEF-1 shipwreck	Larnaca Bay	Boat
26	Pyla pirate caves	Xylophagou	Boat
27	The Nail	Xylophagou	Shore
28	Zenobia shipwreck	Larnaca Bay	Boat
Limassol			
29	Agira	Akrotiri	Boat
30	Amathus Archaeological site	Amathounta MPA	Shore
31	Amathus MPA Pyramids	Amathounta MPA	Boat
32	Bahames	Akrotiri	Boat
33	Barge Ayia Trias	Dasoudi MPA	Boat
34	Costandis shipwreck	Dasoudi MPA	Boat
35	Farses II	Limassol Bay	Boat
36	Gaia	Dasoudi MPA	Boat
37	Jubilee shoals	Avdimou	Boat
38	Kamara	Akrotiri	Boat
39	Karnagio (Komeno) shipwreck	Limassol Bay	Shore*
40	Lady Thetis shipwreck	Dasoudi MPA	Boat
41	Lianokaos/Petra	Akrotiri	Boat
42	Akrotiri Fish Reserve (Parko)	Akrotiri	Boat
43	Petra mikri	Akrotiri	Boat
44	Petra tou Lefkou	Akrotiri	Boat
45	Porto Parou	Akrotiri	Boat
46	The structures	Dasoudi MPA	Boat
47	Zevgari	Akrotiri	Boat
Nicosia			
48	Omega beach	Kato Pyrgos	Shore
Paphos			
49	Amphitheatre bay	Latchi	Shore*
50	Blue lagoon	Latchi	Boat
51	Fontana Amorosa	Latchi	Boat

No.	Dive sites	Area	Access Type
52	Kakoskali MPA	Latchi	Boat
53	Kakoskali reef (St Georgios reef)	Latchi	Boat
54	Mazaki island	Latchi	Boat
55	Achilleas shipwreck	Paphos	Boat
56	Airport reef	Paphos	Shore
57	Amphitheatre	Peyeia	Shore
58	Amphora caves	Thalassia Periochi Moulia	Boat
59	Aphrodites rock	Latchi	Boat
60	Church bay	Peyeia	Shore*
61	EDRO III	Paphos	Shore
62	Laboe shipwreck	Geroskipou MPA	Boat
63	Manijin island	Peyeia	Boat
64	Photiades wall	Latchi	Shore*
65	Pistol Bay	Peyeia	Boat
66	Roman wall (structures)	Paphos	Shore
67	St George – Geronisos	Peyeia	Boat
68	Vera K shipwreck	Paphos	Boat
69	White Star shipwreck	Paphos	Boat

There are several projects at present that focus on either the creation of 3D models of dive-sites (by the DMoT) or 2D sketches of dive sites (Tourism Development and Promotion Company (ΕΤΑΠ), Development agencies (ΑΝΕΤΕΛ, ΑΝΕΛΕΜ)) around Cyprus. From the sketches, dive routes were created in combination with descriptions of the dive sites, including morphology, biodiversity and other interesting features of the dive sites. The sketches are accompanied by photos of the most interesting features of the sites. These models and sketches will help with promoting diving tourism and each specific dive site as well as facilitating divers to orient themselves and help diving schools with dive planning at those sites. Furthermore, the DFMR organized interactive workshops (540 μαθητές απόλαυσαν ντοκιμαντέρ για την προστασία του βυθού | Φιλελεύθερος | Philenews) for primary school students to promote the protection of the marine environment and the artificial reefs.

Most known and highly visited dive sites are situated near major cities and tourist areas (e.g., Ayia Napa, Protaras, Limassol, Paphos and Latchi) (Figure 3.4 - Figure 3.8). It is evident from the maps (Figure 3.10 and Figure 3.9) that there are large gaps in known dive sites between the areas of Larnaka-Limassol, Limassol-Paphos and Latchi-Kato Pyrgos. However, this does not necessarily mean that there is a lack of diving interest in these sites, it is most likely

because of lack of dive centres in the areas. This can also be justified by the large distance between these areas and the highly touristic areas in addition to lack of infrastructure to aid diving. It is also important to mention that this study focuses only on diving opportunities in the Republic of Cyprus, excluding the Turkish-occupied northern part of the island. Therefore, the coastal area in the north of Cyprus, between the buffer zones of Ammochostos and Kato Pyrgos is not considered.

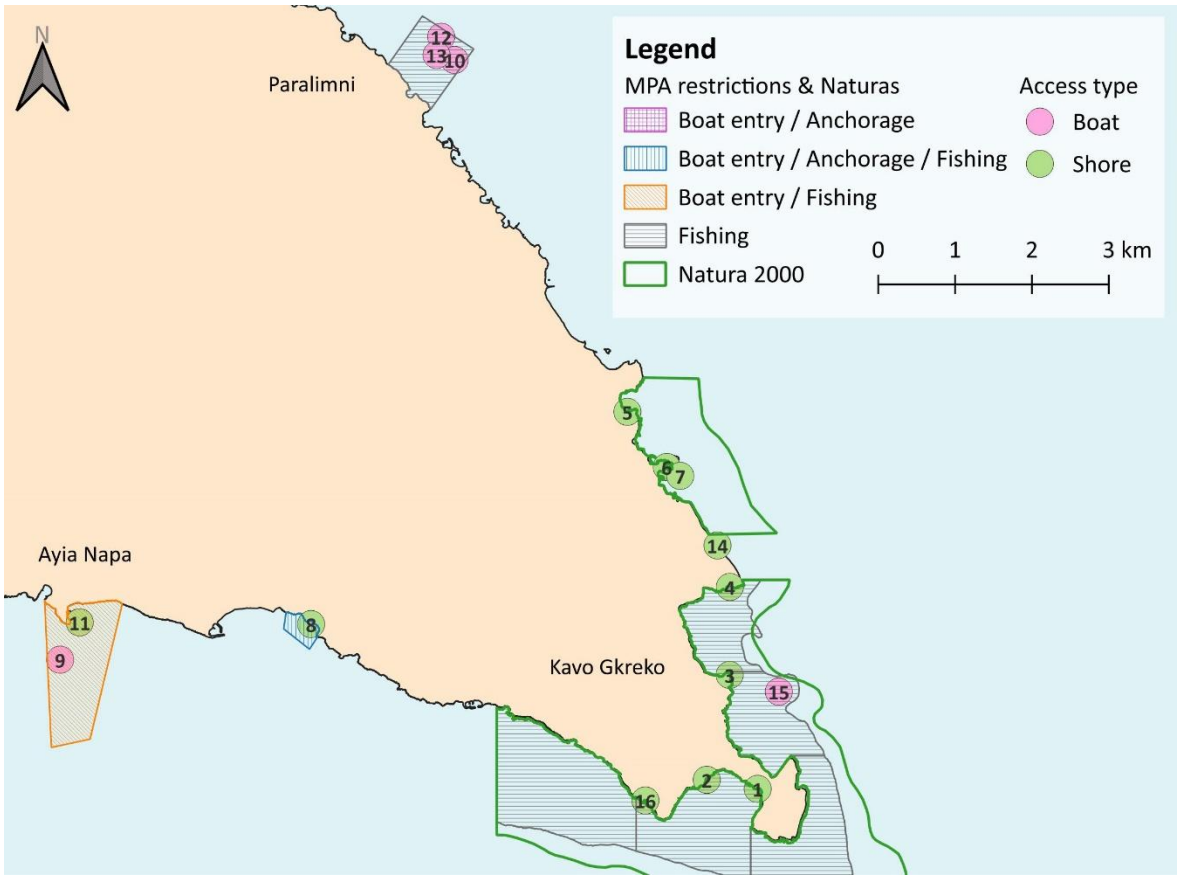

Figure 3.4. Map of the distribution of dive sites, their accessibility and MPA and Natura 2000 areas in Ammochostos district.

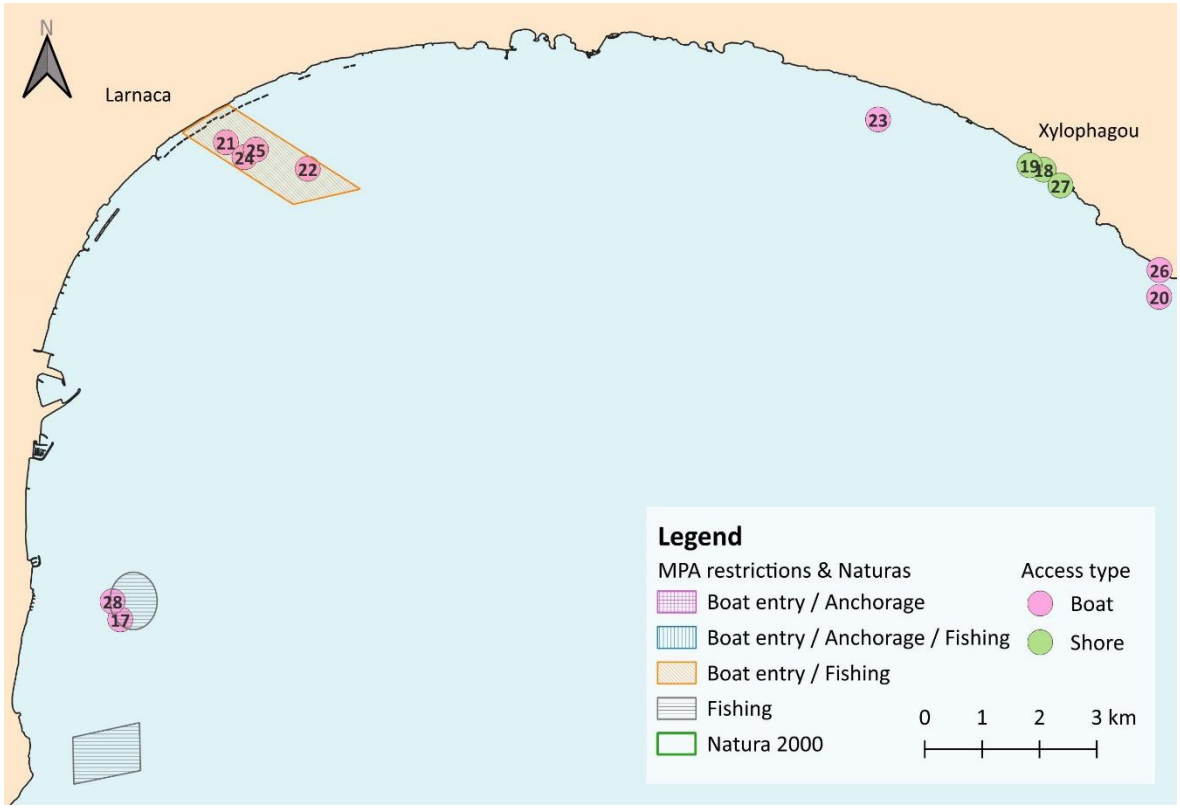

Figure 3.5. Map of the distribution of dive sites, their accessibility and MPA and Natura 2000 areas in Larnaca district.

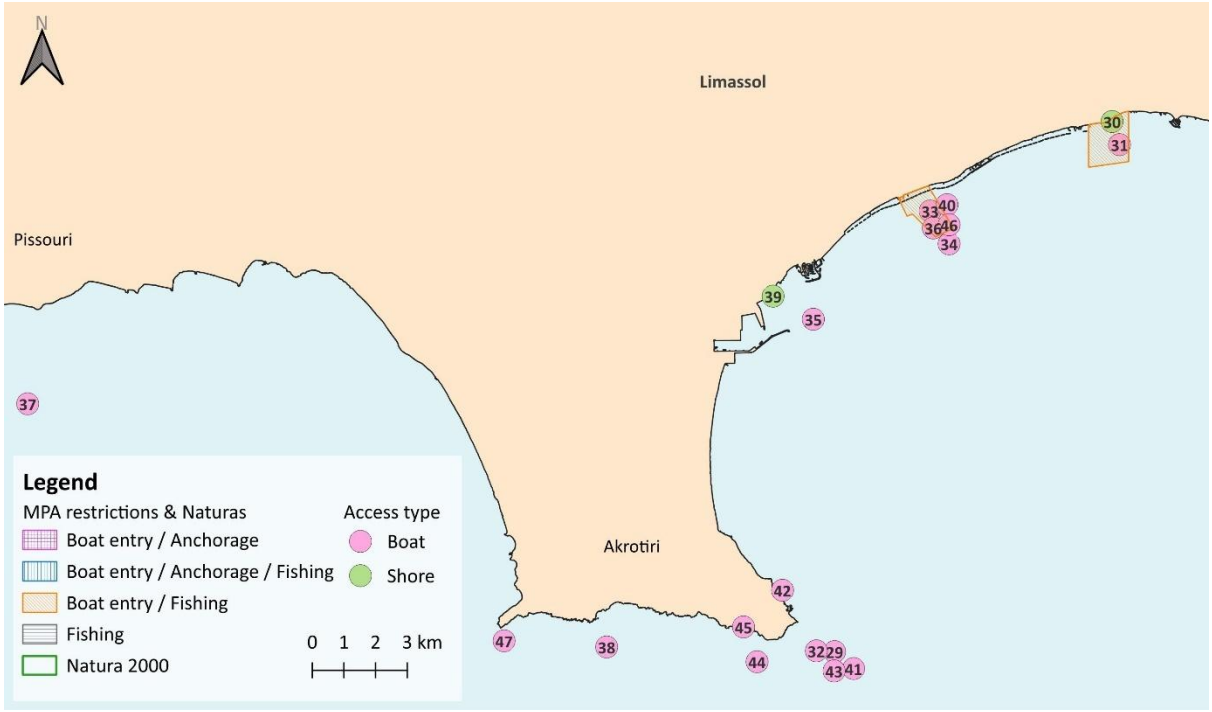

Figure 3.6. Map of the distribution of dive sites, their accessibility and MPA and Natura 2000 areas in Limassol district.

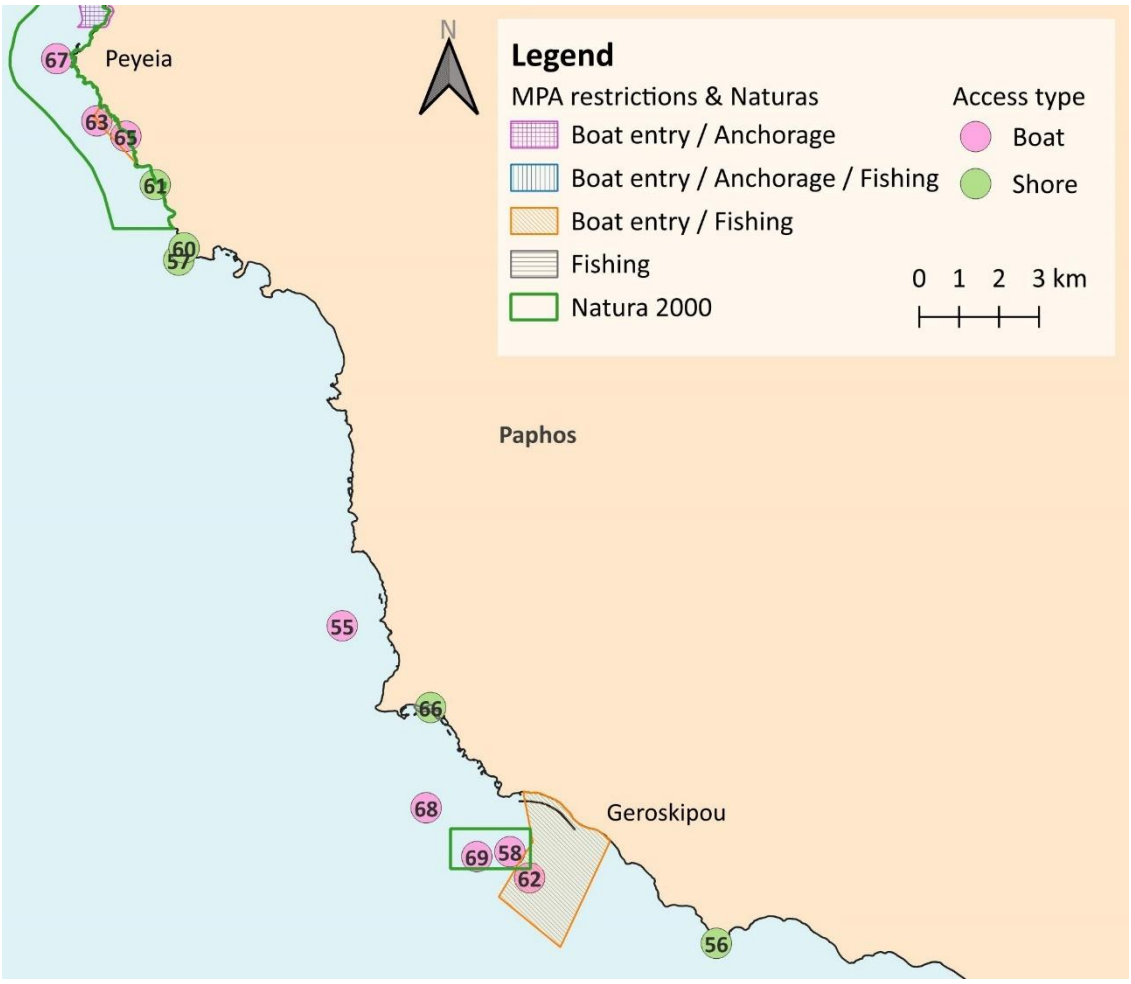

Figure 3.7. Map of the distribution of dive sites, their accessibility and MPA and Natura 2000 areas in Paphos district (Paphos and Peyeia).

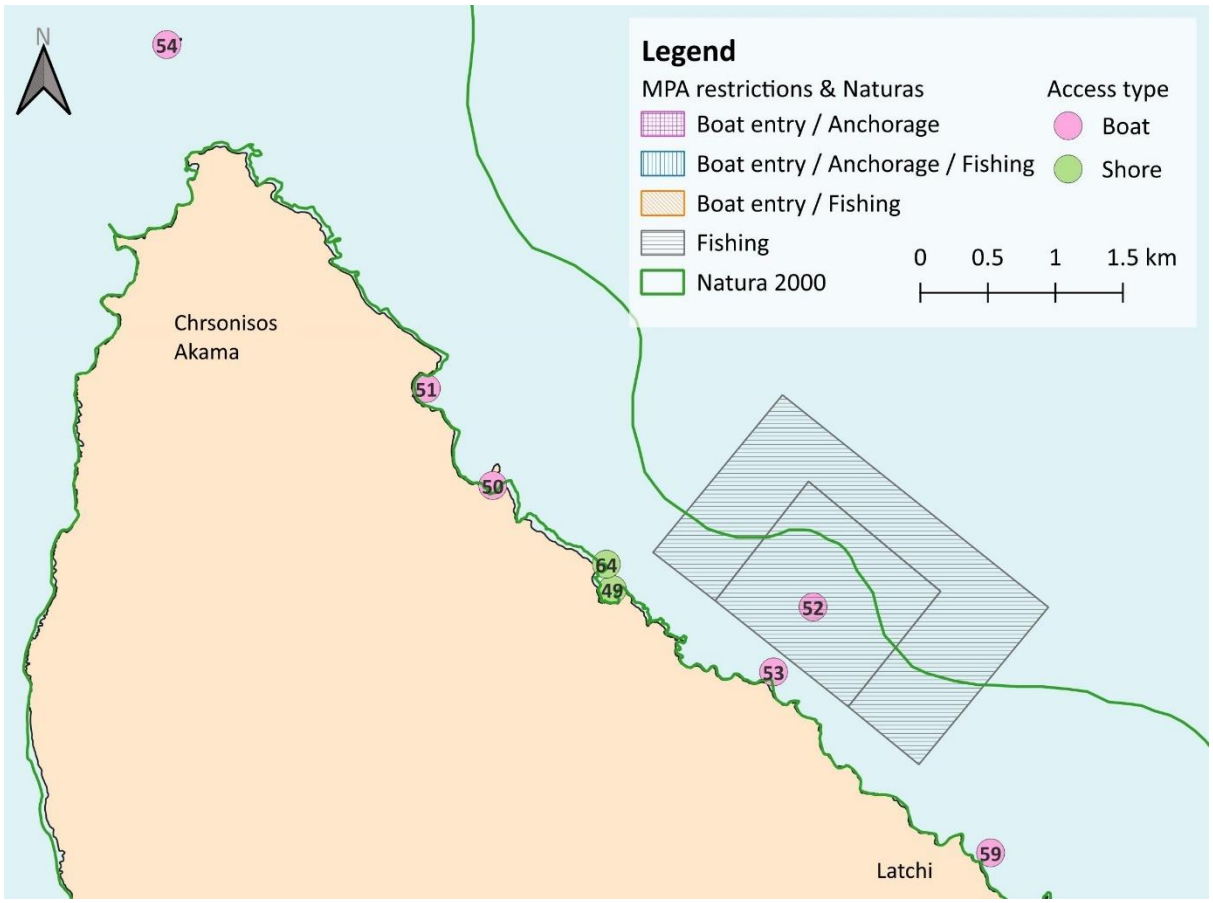

Figure 3.8. Map of the distribution of dive sites, their accessibility and MPA and Natura 2000 areas in Paphos district (Latchi).

3.5.2.1 Shore dives

Out of the 24 identified shore dives (Figure 3.9) most are natural reefs (20 dive sites), with one being an archaeological site adjacent to the natural reef. Another is an intentionally created artificial reef (MUSAN) while two are accidental shipwrecks (EDRO III and Karnagio (Komeno)). The very few of these dive sites that currently have infrastructure to support diving activities are mostly located in Ammochostos district. Upgrades to the dive sites were constructed by local municipalities, development agencies, the DMoT etc. 'Caves' dive site in Kavo Gkreko has benches for setting up dive gear, as well as 'Canyon' dive site which also has ladders to facilitate the descent of divers to the water line. At 'Cyclops' dive site there is a small kiosk for shade with benches, however, the kiosk is relatively far from the parking and the entrance/descent point to the water. 'Chapel' dive site also has kitting-up benches installed and upgrades on the steps leading down to the entry point. Only MUSAN dive site has almost all the desirable infrastructure (i.e., washrooms, showers, changing rooms, benches, bins) as it is in front of an organized beach and the dive site is also heavily advertised

for use by both freedivers and SCUBA divers as well as snorkelers. Photos of entrance points and infrastructure of all shore dives can be found in Appendix VII – Shore dives photos.

Figure 3.9. Distribution of all shore dive sites across the coast of Cyprus.

3.5.2.2 Boat dives

Most boat dives identified are also natural reefs (25 out of 45). Five are artificial reefs made of structures whereas 15 of them are shipwrecks of which five are accidental and 10 are intentionally deployed wrecks. Two of the most important infrastructures identified for boat dives are a) easy access with a boat and b) moorings. From the map of distribution of boat dives and the location of ports, fishing shelters and slipways (Figure 3.10) we can see that although there are many ports, not all of them offer diving boat services to diving centres without their own boats (Figure A1, Table A1). Some slipways are closer to diving spots (e.g., at Peyeia and Akrotiri) however, the divers (either centres or individuals) will need go with their own boat to use those nearer access points. In addition, driving to the slipways might be more challenging than dropping the boats in other areas and boating there. The boat fuel cost however might be higher.

Regarding moorings and anchoring, the six artificial reef parks located in marine protected areas that were designated because of the intentionally deployed artificially reefs (Paralimni,

Ayia Napa, Larnaka and Dasoudi Geroskipou) have marker buoys for boats to tie on rather than deploy anchor. The intentionally deployed wrecks all have mooring buoys specifically set for divers as well. The same stands for Zenobia shipwreck which is the most popular and highly visited artificial reef in Cyprus.

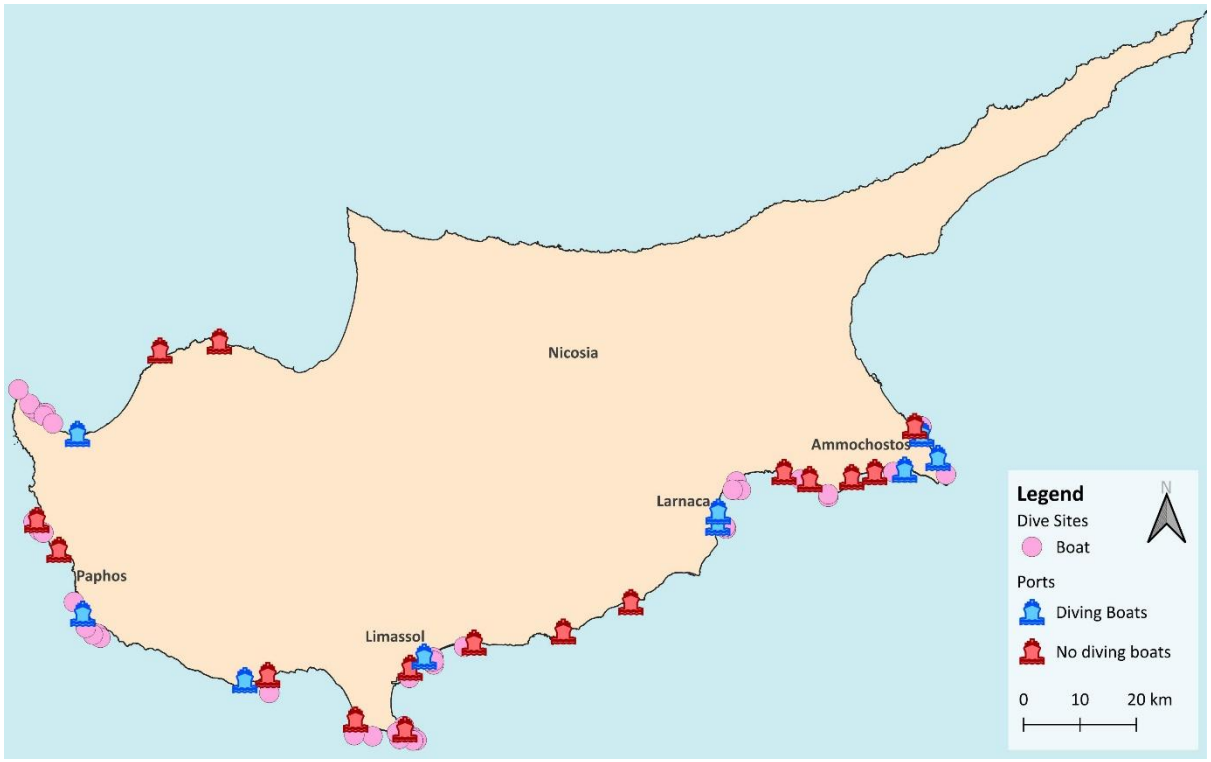

Figure 3.10. Distribution of all boat dive sites, ports (with or without available diving boats), fishing shelters and slipways across the coast of Cyprus.

3.5.2.3 Shipwrecks and artificial reefs

Cyprus has in total 17 shipwrecks, (7 accidental, 10 deployed) and six artificial reef parks (Figure 3.11), of which almost all are only accessibly via boat. Few of the deployed wrecks are adjacent or within MPAs that artificial reefs have also been deployed by the DFMR to increase biodiversity in the areas. One of the most famous wrecks in the world, and the most popular dive site in Cyprus is the Zenobia wreck which sunk accidentally in 1980 off the coast of Larnaca. The Republic of Cyprus has under their control 367 km of coastline (including SBA areas) and across those there are over 20 artificial reef sites. Their distribution is similar to the distribution of shore dives, with most of them near touristic and more populated areas. The DFMR also currently has plans to deploy another shipwreck, “Lambousa”, in Oroklini MPA in Larnaka, within 2024.

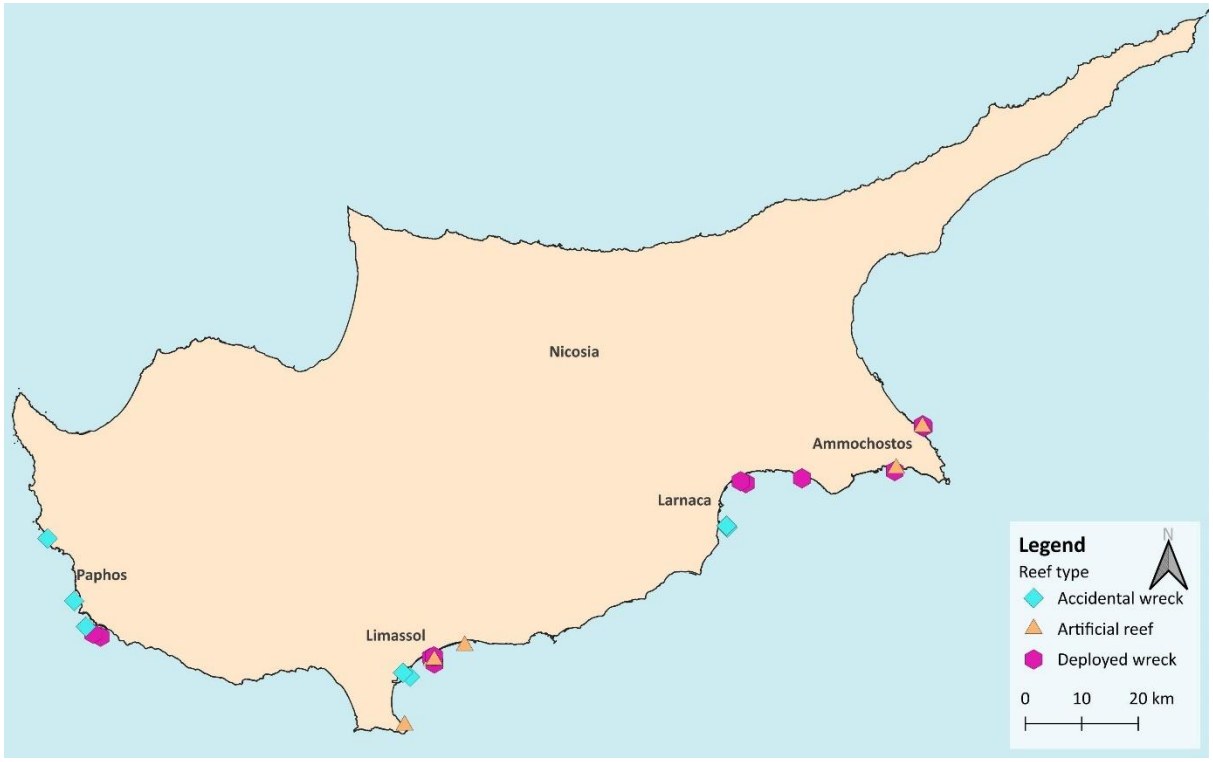

Figure 3.11. The distribution of shipwrecks and artificial reefs across the coast of the Republic of Cyprus.

3.5.3 Comparison of dive centres and dive site distribution with tourist arrivals

As stated above, dive centres and dive sites are not equally distributed across Cyprus. The highest number of dive sites are located in the district of Paphos whereas the highest percentage of dive centres are located in Ammochostos district (Table 3.2). To better examine whether the distribution of dive centres is ideal for Cyprus, we compare it with the number of tourist arrivals and their preferred visiting location. Ammochostos has more than double dive centres to dive sites but also has the second highest influx of tourists (Table 3.2). Larnaka and Limassol receive similar number of tourists and the ratio of dive centres to dive sites is also similar, with Limassol having just a few more. Nicosia has the fewest visitors and only one potential dive site (at Kato Pyrgos), rarely visited by any dive centre, which are based at a substantial distance from the dive site. Lastly, Paphos has the highest percentage of tourists and dive sites, but slightly fewer dive centres compared to Limassol, Larnaka and Ammochostos.

Perhaps the most important thing to note regarding dive centre/dive sites distribution is the existence of largely unexplored areas between Latchi and Kato Pyrgos in the West of Cyprus, where no known dive-sites are being used and no dive-centres are based or visit; but also, from Paphos to Akrotiri were also minimal diving activity takes place (See Figures 3.9 and

3.10). This of course could be a result of generally less touristic activity due to lack of infrastructure/facilities to accommodate the sector. We propose further investigating the potential of exploiting these "virgin" areas as diving destinations.

However, to be able to draw more conclusive remarks on the dive centres' distribution we need to compare with the number of diving tourists that visit specific districts with the intention of diving, as well as tourists who would potentially want to participate in diving activities even though that was not the main purpose of their visit.

Table 3.2. Distribution of dive centres, dive sites across Cyprus and number of tourists visiting each district in 2019 and 2022.

	Dive sites	Dive Centres	Tourist arrivals 2019	Tourist arrivals 2022
Ammochostos	16	37	1,169,172	870,694
Larnaka	12	14	473,236	387,331
Limassol	19	15	493,120	384,130
Paphos	21	13	1,415,733	1,142,786
Nicosia	1	7	218,723	179,260
Total	***69***	***86***	***3,976,777***	***3,201,080***

3.5.4 Legislative framework

The current legislative framework, specifically addressing diving, diving centres, diving tourism or diving sites is limited. Most regulations regarding the marine environment are focused on fisheries including fishing restrictions both in terms of equipment and areas.

Regulation 17 of the Fisheries Regulations, Decree 416/2019 restricts night SCUBA diving (one hour before sunset to one hour after sunrise) within four areas around the island, the borders being between the coastline, the 100-meter isobath and the inshore imaginary lines bounded by the points at the set coordinates listed in Table 3.3 as per Annex IV of the regulation. Night SCUBA diving in these areas can take place when one of the following conditions are met:

- The dive is carried out under the supervision of a Professional Body or Association registered with the Association of Diving Centres or the Cyprus Federation of Underwater Activities.

- Diving is carried out under the supervision of a Professional Body that has acquired an annual permit for night SCUBA diving.
- Diving is carried out by divers who have acquired permit/approval from the head of DFMR.

The relevant application form can be found on the DFMR website and through the Mobile App of the DFMR Cy-FIS.

Table 3.3: The inshore coordinates of the points bounding the borders of the four areas restricted for night-diving.

District	Coordinates (Start)		Coordinates (End)	
Ammochostos	35°3'56.00"N	34°0'15.00"E	35°5'4.11"N	34°2'10.40"E
	34°59'8.49"N	33°57'57.05"E	34°57'2.43"N	33°58'10.21"E
Larnaka	34°57'14.05"N	33°39'7.37"E	34°55'54.34"N	33°42'20.91"E
	34°53'12.61"N	33°38'13.78"E	34°53'4.51"N	33°40'17.56"E
Limassol	34°42'44.61"N	33°9'46.57"E	34°40'42.67"N	33°9'43.58"E
	34°38'28.56"N	33°0'39.46"E	34°37'56.40"N	33°3'12.67"E
Paphos	34°45'4.39"N	32°25'10.14"E	34°43'15.82"N	32°22'32.97"E
	34°51'20.53"N	32°21'18.58"E	34°50'23.88"N	32°20'31.87"E

The regulation also indicates that spearfishing is prohibited while SCUBA diving and only permitted for free divers who have acquired the required permit from the governmental Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (DFMR). Permit holders also have restrictions on the hours and location at which they can perform the activity. These can be found on the DFMR website as well. Furthermore, SCUBA divers are not allowed to collect any marine organisms via any means.

Numerous decrees restrict areas for the entry of boats, anchoring and/or fishing activities, which are summarised in Appendix V – Prohibitions in marine areas (Table A11 and Figure A29). Additional restrictions are applied during specific dates due to various coastal activities like construction works and military practices. This information can be found on the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre website: Cyprus Joint Rescue Coordination Center | NAVTEX messages in force (mod.gov.cy).

Currently, a legislation regarding operational standards is under development to enforce the international ISO 24803:2017-3 standards entitled: *Recreational diving services – Requirements for recreational diving providers*. This legislation is specifically targeting diving industry service providers for activities such as introductory SCUBA diving, snorkelling excursions, provision of trainings and education, organized and guided diving for qualified divers and rental of diving and snorkelling equipment, therefore concerning both dive centres as well as freelance diving instructors. The Deputy Ministry of Tourism will be the responsible authority for licencing dive centres after their ISO certification from authorised certifying providers. Currently, there are four dive centres already certified with ISO 24803:2017 and a few more that are under review. One dive centre is also certified under ISO 13289:2011 which specifies the minimal requirements for service providers offering supervised recreational snorkelling excursions. It is important to mention that most international diving associations (e.g., PADI, SSI, NAWI) are also certified with the ISO 11107:2009 which specifies requirements for training programs. This however is a certification of the training programmes and not of diving providers and it is important to differentiate.

Lastly, separate to any legislation or regulation, the Port and Marine Police offers instructions for SCUBA divers, on the Cyprus Police website, for best diving practices which are included in Appendix VI – Port and Marine Police suggestionsAppendix VI – Port and Marine Police suggestions. It should be stressed however that these are only suggestions which also require a revision.

3.6 Competition

Through desk-top research and visitation to Greece and Egypt and Malta respectively, representing dive locations in the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, a comparison was conducted to identify differences and possible gaps that the diving industry in Cyprus might have. The strengths and weaknesses identified for Cyprus and its competitor countries, are summarized in Table 3.4. This evaluation allowed for the suggestions in section 3.8 of the report, that will potentially enhance the diving tourism in Cyprus.

Overall, the water temperature in all three competitive countries and Cyprus is similar all year round where diving can be performed with a wetsuit. The only main difference in temperature is from the northern coast of Greece where winter months are colder, and the use of a dry suit is advised. Despite all countries facing seasonality, due to the preference of tourists to spring/summer/autumn months, during the winter season the only country that receives substantial tourism is Egypt. Being geographically the furthest to the European market, Egypt is closer and with cheaper flights to the Asian market, although connecting flights are usually required (depending on the origin and exact destination). Malta and Greece are closer to the west and central European markets, relative to Cyprus, with shorter travel distances and occasionally more frequent and direct flights. On the other hand, for traveling to any of the Greek islands, one will have to either take a ferry or take additional flights to reach their destination, thus adding onto the travel cost and time. A disadvantage, for both Cyprus and Malta, is that during off-season there are less frequent direct flights to and from these countries, making it more difficult and expensive to travel there, hence, many coastal hotels are closed. Therefore, accommodation options and availability for incoming tourists is limited.

All competitor countries and Cyprus have clear waters, and a great variation of dive sites from natural reefs to shipwrecks hosting a plethora of marine organisms. Each site has its natural and/or cultural significance, however, the methods used to allow access to these locations is key to attracting diving tourism. For instance, Malta has financially invested in making their dive sites more accessible, both in terms of driving to the locations, adding bathrooms and changing facilities as well as providing necessary infrastructure at the water's edge to assist with entering and exiting. Due to the size of the Maltese islands, all dive sites are a short drive away with the only exception when travelling between islands. However, frequent ferry lines

are available and easily accessible. The initiative of Greece, to make all wrecks accessible to recreational divers has boosted their market, however, to dive in many of these archaeological sites and interesting wrecks it is a requirement to be accompanied by specialised divers. Egypt has some of the top-rated wrecks in the world and several of their dive sites are located within protected areas. Dive sites are relatively close together, in diving hotspot areas (towns), although boats are usually required to access many of them. Cyprus has the advantage that dive sites are very close to each other and at relative shorter drives (usually <1 hour). Additionally, many of the sites are accessible from the shore. However, almost all wrecks require boat access, and there is a lack of infrastructure at the entrance points of most dive sites. In terms of costs per dive, with equipment rental, the prices are similar in all countries and varies between dive centres (ranges ~€40 to ~€120). Malta has on average the cheapest (~€40) while Cyprus has on average more expensive prices for one dive (~€60), however in all countries, discounts are available for multiple dives.

Regarding the operational standards, all three competitor countries follow the ISO 24803 standards entitled: *Recreational diving services – Requirements for recreational diving providers*. Greece has an implemented legislation that requires from all diving service providers to be certified with the ISO 24803/2017. Malta has followed a different approach where they included all the ISO 24803 requirements in their legislation (Subsidiary Legislation 409.13) and the Malta Tourism Authority is responsible for licensing and regulating the Recreational Diving Service Providers. Similarly, Egypt has used the ISO 24803 as a benchmark to define a framework for regulating its recreational diving activities which is controlled by the Egyptian Chamber of Diving and Water Sports. In comparison to these countries, Cyprus falls behind as the legislation concerning this topic does not yet exist.

Table 3.4. Strengths and weaknesses of Cyprus and three competitor countries for diving tourism.

Factors	Cyprus		Malta		Greece		Egypt (Red Sea)	
	Strengths	**Weaknesses**	**Strengths**	**Weaknesses**	**Strengths**	**Weaknesses**	**Strengths**	**Weaknesses**
Seasonality	All year. Average water temperature ranging between 17°C in the winter and 28°C in the summer.	Spring and summer are the most visited seasons. Many coastal hotels are closed during winter months.	All year. Water temperature ranges from 15°C in the winter to >26°C in the summer.		All year. Water temperature ranges from 11°C in winter to 28°C in summer, from north to south.	Air temperature might be too low in the northern part of Greece. It is advised to dive with dry suit, in some locations, which require additional qualifications.	All year. Water temperature ranges from 21°C in the winter to 31°C in the summer.	
Quality of dive sites	Great variation of dive sites including plenty of wrecks, artificial and natural reefs at different depths allowing choices for different diving qualifications.	Lack of adequate infrastructure to aid diving. Focus given on highly touristic areas.	High variety of dive sites with many wrecks and natural reefs. Steep shorelines allow for a quicker and easier descend to deeper depths from shore.	Due to the rapid decline of depth many of the wrecks are in deeper waters therefore not accessible to lower qualification divers (i.e., Open Water).	Visibility is usually excellent especially in the summer months. Some unique sites, such as volcanic sea caves and lava formations.	Archaeological dive sites and wrecks require accompaniment by specialized divers.	Large variety of dive sites, with many wrecks, shallow coral reefs, drift dives, many of which are with protected areas.	
Marine life	Diverse assemblages of organisms at	Invasive species like lionfish can	Large schools of fish present, diverse	Large blooms of jelly fish at the end of the	Diverse marine life with many interesting		Large variety of fish and algae species. Tropical	Some marine life that can pose danger

Factors	Cyprus		Malta		Greece		Egypt (Red Sea)	
	Strengths	**Weaknesses**	**Strengths**	**Weaknesses**	**Strengths**	**Weaknesses**	**Strengths**	**Weaknesses**
	rocky substrates and Posidonia meadows including fish, octopuses, molluscs, crustaceans, echinoderms and polychaeta.	pose threat to marine life and divers. Though marine life is diverse, abundance is considered low.	macroalgae and invertebrate communities on the rocky reefs.	summer, which, although are not harmful to people, they might deter divers.	species, including, loggerhead turtles, dolphins, monk seals, fish and invertebrates.		marine life, more colourful and plentiful than Mediterranean life.	to divers (e.g., lionfish, sharks, etc.) A number of fatal interactions with marine life in recent years has created some bad publicity.
Dive costs	Cost of dives can be relatively low (i.e., without equipment ~€40 and with equipment ~€65).		Cost for dives with equipment rental are relatively low (i.e., ~€40).		Cost for dives with equipment rental are relatively low (i.e., ~€50).		Cost for dives with equipment rental are relatively low (i.e., ~€50).	
Distance travelled	Short distance from Europe, West-Asia, and North-Africa with some direct flights available in the summer season	Limited direct flights available all-year-round resulting in sometimes 2-3 stop flights to reach the island.	Shorter distance travelled for Central and Western European dive market.	Limited direct flights in the winter period.	Short distance travel from Central and Western European dive market. Direct flights from almost all countries	To access most of the islands, or less central/tourist areas, additional flights or ferry travel is required which	Short distance for Asian market to travel.	Further away to travel for the European market, likely requiring connecting flights.

Factors	Cyprus		Malta		Greece		Egypt (Red Sea)	
	Strengths	**Weaknesses**	**Strengths**	**Weaknesses**	**Strengths**	**Weaknesses**	**Strengths**	**Weaknesses**
						can add to costs and time.		
Distance between dive sites	Due to the size of the island, dive sites are not far apart.	Few sites are a bit more remote while most shore dives can only be accessed with a pick-up truck.	Small islands therefore all dive sites are relatively close. Divers can return to the dive centre before their next dive thus minimizing the loading of trucks for travel.	Some dive sites do not have easy access without a pick-up truck. For dives between Gozo and Malta divers need to take the ferry which can increase travel time.	Dive sites within islands or towns are close	There are in some cases large distances between islands/towns, or boat rides, to dive site locations.	Dives sites in diving hotspots (towns) are relatively close together.	Boats are usually required to access dive sites.
Non-diving tourist activities	Many cultural, archaeological, and natural activities for diving tourists and their non-diving companions to participate in.		Malta offers a range of accommodations and resorts as well as cultural history and archaeological sites to visit.	Divers who visit Gozo for diving have less non-diving tourist activities if they chose to stay near the dive centres. Non-diving activities are less than the other destinations.	Greece is rich in cultural/historical sites and has probably the greatest variety of natural wonders compared to the other destinations.	Some remote locations (i.e. islands are limited with non-diving activities).	Egypt offers unique natural landscapes and cultural/historical sites.	Many non-diving activities are far from dive locations and dive hotspots.

3.7 Gaps and Strategic objectives

In this section some of the gaps in the Cyprus diving industry were identified and highlighted and methods of addressing them and steps in improving and promoting Cyprus as a diving destination were proposed.

3.7.1 Infrastructure

Infrastructure present at dive sites varies, as mentioned in section 3.5.2, and it greatly depends on the popularity of the site, and how accessible it is by road. Here we present some recommendations for upgrades to infrastructure both from our expertise and suggestions from dive centres. Some estimated costs for each improvement are provided.

Shore dives

- *Ladders and handrail installations*. For the more precarious entries, installing handrails for more stable entry/exit to the water level, or walking on shallow waters on slippery rocks will increase the safety level of those dive sites. In addition, ladders can facilitate divers to descent from rocky steps into the water while carrying SCUBA equipment. Such improvements can also make dive sites potentially more accessible to physically disabled divers. Estimated cost per ladder/handrail installation is ~€500 - €1,000 (depends upon the material e.g., stainless Steel, number of steps and length/dimension of ladder). Suggested authorities to implement: DMoT / Local Municipality.
- *Kitting up facilities*. Creating specific spaces for divers to set up their equipment, such as benches. This will avoid setting up in muddy or sandy surfaces which can taint some of the main functions of equipment (i.e., sand in regulators can cause free flow). Estimated cost of bench installation, similar to those already in place at other dive sites (Figure A33, Figure A34), per site is ~€1,000 to facilitate up to 5 divers at each time. Suggested authorities to implement: DMoT / Local Municipality.
- *Pergolas / Canopy*. Exposed areas require a canopy, providing shaded areas to protect divers against heat and high exposure to sun, especially during the summer periods. This will create a more comfortable environment especially in locations where

multiple dives take place. Estimated cost for wooden shaded area of 10m^2 is ~€1000. Suggested authorities to implement: DMoT / Local Municipality.

- *Washroom/changing facilities*. Provision of toilets, showers and/or changing room facilities at dive sites. This is very important for the comfort of divers especially in very popular dive sites. Toilets can be either chemical toilets (not preferable due to high maintenance needs) or preferably more permanent constructions. Prefabricated toilets containing male and female (two each) toilets, changing rooms and two showers, are estimated between €5,000 - €7,000, including their septic tank and provision of hot/cold water. Suggested authorities to implement: DMoT / Local Municipality.

- *Bins*. Provision of trash and/or recycling bins is very important to avoid littering of the area which could end up in the sea. Estimated cost per bin (large) is ~€130. Suggested authorities to implement: DMoT / Local Municipality.

- *Improvement of footpaths, access roads and parking spaces*. Some dive sites are in remote areas with the roads leading to the sites being usually dirt-roads which can occasionally only be accessibly with a pick-up truck or an SUV. However, during winter months they can, in some cases, become dangerous and inaccessible. Therefore, to deem the sites accessible all-year-round, they could become paved. In addition, the footpaths leaving to the water's edge from the car parking can be precarious and therefore improvements on footpaths can, in combination with handrails, make the dive sites more accessible and safer. Some very popular dive-sites would also benefit from the creation of designated and/or paved parking-spaces. Costs are difficult to estimate due to the diversity of dive sites in need of such improvements (e.g., length, location, materials etc.). Suggested authorities to implement: DMoT / Local Municipality.

- *Signs with dive site details*. Signs with basic information (e.g., depth, distance, characteristic features and potential risks) of the dive sites, and potential dive routes, could be installed at the more popular dive sites. These would help with dive briefings and help new divers with what to expect from the dive. Estimated cost ~€100 – €200 per sign. Suggested authority to implement: DMoT.

- *Structural appraisal of the wreck*. Provided that some wrecks are showing signs of deterioration, monitoring authorities need to ensure the structural safety of the wrecks, to guarantee their structural integrity and safety of divers that visit them. Dangerous wrecks need to be cleared out or sealed off in areas that could pose a risk to visitors. Costs are difficult to estimate due to the diversity of wrecks (e.g., age, size, accessibility, material etc.). Suggested authorities to implement: DMoT / DFMR.
- Closed circuit television (CCTV) monitoring could be installed in parking spots of dive sites for additional security, to avoid vandalisms and thefts to property and equipment left in/near cars. This kind of systems could potentially also assist in controlling illegal activities within Marine Protected Areas. For a 4-camera CCTV system with two motion sensors and solar spotlights, the cost is estimated to ~€1,000. However, this is an indicative cost for purchasing a simple CCTV system, the actual cost will be site specific dependant and therefore will vary (e.g., location, complexity of system etc.) Suggested authorities to implement: DFMR / Marine Police / Port-Authority.
    - AI technologies can be used in liaise with the CCTV for monitoring traffic/cars at dive sites and update the website with how busy a site is.

Suggestions for improvements on shore for each dive site and priority on implementation are summarized in Table 3.5. Dive sites are ranked in accordance with popularity, based on interviews with dive centres.

It is important to note that many of the shore dives for which we recommend the creation of infrastructure, are located within or very close to Natura 2000 sites (Table 3.5), therefore, this will potentially require special permits for the development of those improvements and to determine the potential impacts of such developments in areas of special conservation.

Boat dives

- *Marker buoys placements*. Buoys that mark the location of wreck or dive site can be placed to indicate the location and ensure boats are more careful when passing near them. Estimated cost ~€600 - €1,000. Suggested authorities to implement: DMoT / DFMR / Port-Authority.

- *Mooring for dive boats*. Designated moorings will ensure safe moorings for dive boats and avoid anchorage in protected habitats (i.e., *Posidonia oceanica seagrass meadows*). Estimated cost ~€600 - €1,000. Suggested authorities to implement: DMoT / DFMR / Port-Authority.
- *Anchorage prohibition*. Prohibiting anchorage in specific areas can avoid damaging important habitats as mentioned above and possibly damaging artificial reefs. To be able to implement this, designated moorings also need to be in place. Floating moorings in designated safe areas are estimated at ~€600 - €1,000 each. Suggested authorities to implement: DFMR / Port-Authority.
- *Structural appraisal of wrecks*. Provided that some wrecks are showing signs of deterioration, monitoring authorities need to ensure the structural safety of the wrecks, to guarantee their structural integrity and safety of divers that visit them. Dangerous wrecks need to be cleared out or sealed off in areas that could pose a risk to visitors (e.g., Zenobia areas where divers could get disoriented). Costs are difficult to estimate due to the diversity of wrecks (e.g. age, size, accessibility, material etc.). Suggested authorities to implement: DMoT / DFMR.
- *Management of boat traffic/mooring*. Popular dive sites can become quite busy during high season. Managing the arrival and departure of boats is crucial in maintaining safety and not a cluttered dive site while at the same time minimizing the potential impact of heavy traffic/noise pollution/littering on the marine environment. Suggested authorities to implement: DFMR / Marine Police / Port-Authority.

Suggestions for improvements on each boat dive site are summarized in Table 3.6. Dive sites are ranked in accordance with popularity, based on the interviews to dive centres.

Table 3.5. Suggestions for improvements on shore dive sites. Letters indicate priority level, L = Low, M = Medium, H = High. Improvements on sites which are located within Sovereign Base Areas will have to be in coordination with SBA authorities.

Overall Ranking	Shore ranking	Map ID	Dive site	Install ladders	Install handrails	Kitting up facilities	Washroom / changing facilities	Pergolas / Canopy	Bins	Improvements to footpaths	Improvements to access road	Signs with dive site details	Structural appraisal of the wreck	Provide dedicated parking	Location
2	1	6	Green bay			H	M	H	H			M		H	*Natura 2000 (Thalassia Periochi Nisia)*
3	2	4	Cyclops caves		H	H	M	H	H	L	L	M		M	*Natura 2000 (Kavo Gkreko)*
4	3	2	Caves	L	H		M	H	H		L	M		M	*Natura 2000 (Kavo Gkreko)*
5	4	11	MUSAN									M			*Ayia Napa MPA*
7	5	7	Green bay caves	M	L	H	M	M	H	L		M			*Natura 2000 (Thalassia Periochi Nisia)*
8	6	3	Chapel (Agioi Anargiroi)	M			M	L				M		H	*Natura 2000 (Kavo Gkreko)*
10	7	16	Canyon		L		L	H	H	L	H	M		L	*Natura 2000 (Kavo Gkreko)*
15	8	19	Bullet point/Watchtower		L	M	M	H	H		L	M		M	*Dhekelia SBA*
16	9	57	Amphitheatre					L	M		L	M			
18	10	5	Da Costa			L	L	L				M		M	*Natura 2000 (Thalassia Periochi Nisia)*
28	11	61	EDRO III		M				M			L	H		*Natura 2000 area (Chersonisos Akama)*
32	12	27	The Nail			L					L	L			*Dhekelia SBA*
33	13	13	Octopus site			L	L		M		L	L			
34	14	1	Antennae (Commando Bay)	L	L	L	L	L				L			*Natura 2000 (Kavo Gkreko)*
37	15	66	Roman wall (structures)									L			*Baths MPA*
36	16	49	Amphitheatre bay						H			L			*Natura 2000 area (Chersonisos Akama)*
41	17	60	Church bay		L				L			L			
44	18	56	Airport reef						L			L			

Overall Ranking	Shore ranking	Map ID	Dive site	Install ladders	Install handrails	Kitting up facilities	Washroom / changing facilities	Pergolas / Canopy	Bins	Improvements to footpaths	Improvements to access road	Signs with dive site details	Structural appraisal of the wreck	Provide dedicated parking	Location
54	19	64	Photiades wall									L			*Natura 2000 area (Chersonisos Akama)*
55	20	30	Amathus Archaeological site			L	L	L	H			L		M	*Amathounta MPA*
56	21	18	Arch						L	L	L	L			*Dhekelia SBA*
67	22	48	Omega beach									L			
68	23	39	Karnagio (Komeno) shipwreck						L			L			
69	24	8	Kryo Nero		L				L	L	L	H			*Ayia Napa Sea Caves MPA*

Table 3.6. Suggestions for improvement for each boat dive site. Letters indicate priority level, L = Low, M = Medium, H = High. Improvements on sites which are located within SBAs will have to be in coordination with SBA authorities.

Overall Ranking	Boat Ranking	Map ID	Dive site	Marker buoys placement / maintenance	Mooring for dive boats placement / maintenance	Anchorage prohibition	Structural appraisal of the wreck	Management of boat traffic / mooring	Location
1	1	28	Zenobia shipwreck				M	M	*Zenobia MPA*
6	2	22	Elpida shipwreck				L	L	*Larnaca MPA*
9	3	12	Nemesis III shipwreck				L	L	*Paralimni MPA*
11	4	40	Lady Thetis shipwreck				H	L	*Dasoudi MPA*
12	5	34	Costandis shipwreck				H	L	*Dasoudi MPA*
13	6	10	Liberty shipwreck				L	L	*Paralimni MPA*

Overall Ranking	Boat Ranking	Map ID	Dive site	Marker buoys placement / maintenance	Mooring for dive boats placement / maintenance	Anchorage prohibition	Structural appraisal of the wreck	Management of boat traffic / mooring	Location
14	7	37	Jubilee shoals	L	L	L			
17	8	65	Pistol Bay	L	L				*Peyeia Sea Caves MPA*
19	9	63	Manijin island	L	L	M			*Peyeia Sea Caves MPA*
20	10	52	Kakoskali MPA		L	M			*Kakoskali MPA*
21	11	46	The structures	L	L				*Dasoudi MPA*
22	12	53	Kakoskali reef (St Georgios reef)		L	M			*Natura 2000 area (Chersonisos Akama)*
23	13	67	St George - Geronisos	L	L	M			*Natura 2000 area (Chersonisos Akama)*
24	14	26	Pyla pirate caves	L	L	L			*Dhekelia SBA*
25	15	25	LEF-1 shipwreck						*Larnaca MPA*
26	16	9	Kyrenia shipwreck				M		*Ayia Napa MPA*
27	17	23	HMS Cricket wreck	L	L				*Dhekelia SBA*
29	18	20	Cape pyla reef	L	L	L			*Dhekelia SBA*
30	19	17	Alexandria shipwreck	L	L		M		*Zenobia MPA*
31	20	68	Vera K shipwreck	M	M	M			*Natural 2000 area (Thalassia Periochi Moulia)*
35	21	58	Amphora caves	M	M	M			*Natural 2000 area (Thalassia Periochi Moulia)*
38	22	14	Paralimni MPA structures						*Paralimni MPA*
39	23	45	Porto Parou		L	L			*Akrotiri MPA*
40	24	51	Fontana Amorosa	L	L				*Natura 2000 area (Chersonisos Akama)*
42	25	50	Blue lagoon		L			M	*Natura 2000 area (Chersonisos Akama)*
43	26	31	Amathus MPA Pyramids						*Amathounta MPA*
45	27	15	Table top (Kitazos)	L	L				*Natura 2000 (Kavo Gkreko)*
46	28	44	Petra tou Lefkou	L	L				*Akrotiri SBA*
47	29	43	Petra mikri	L	L				*Akrotiri SBA*

Overall Ranking	Boat Ranking	Map ID	Dive site	Marker buoys placement / maintenance	Mooring for dive boats placement / maintenance	Anchorage prohibition	Structural appraisal of the wreck	Management of boat traffic / mooring	Location
48	30	54	Mazaki island	L	L				*Natura 2000 area (Chersonisos Akama)*
49	31	41	Lianokaos/Petra	L	L				*Akrotiri SBA*
50	32	62	Laboe shipwreck				M		*Geroskipou MPA*
51	33	38	Kamara	L	L				*Akrotiri SBA*
52	34	32	Bahames (Akrotiri)	L	L				*Akrotiri SBA*
53	35	69	White Star shipwreck	L	L		L		
57	36	33	Barge Ayia Trias				L		*Dasoudi MPA*
58	37	29	Agira	L	L				*Akrotiri SBA*
59	38	36	Gaia						*Dasoudi MPA*
60	39	47	Zevgari	L	L	M			*Akrotiri SBA*
61	40	24	Larnaca reef	L	L				*Larnaca MPA*
62	41	59	Aphrodites rock	L	L				*Natura 2000 area (Chersonisos Akama)*
63	42	21	Dorida	L	L				*Larnaca MPA*
64	43	55	Achilleas shipwreck	L	L				
65	44	42	Akrotiri Fish Reserve (Parko)	L	L				*Akrotiri SBA*
66	45	35	Farses II				L		

3.7.2 Legislation/regulations

As mentioned in section 3.5.4, the current legislation is limited regarding diving activities, however, a new legislation is under preparation specifically for diving activity providers. Below is a list of suggestions either for drafting new legislations, the creation of further regulations and enforcement of existing legislations/regulations.

- *Creation of a monitoring/responsible authority*. A body should be established which will be responsible for diving activities in Cyprus. This body could be either a newly established body specifically for this task or, preferably, a specialised department under the Deputy Ministry of Tourism. The task of this body will be to provide licenses, ensure compliance with rules and regulations and in general to monitor the diving industry in Cyprus. Suggested authority to implement: DMoT.
- *National license for dive centres and instructors*. A national license will ensure that all centres and instructors follow the same protocols and comply with all regulations. The license will need to be renewed regularly only if centres and instructors comply with the legislation. Compliance for license can include keeping infrastructure in proper condition, records of certificates of instructors, number of clients and services offered, insurances, dive plans, safety regulations etc. Suggested authority to implement: DMoT.
- *ISO compliance*. Dive centres and instructors to be certified with ISO 24803:2017. Suggested authority to implement: DMoT.

Further legislation modifications and additions that could benefit the diving industry that may not be directly related to diving activities are:

- *Prohibition of anchoring in specific areas*. For popular dive spots and especially in areas where priority species are present (e.g., *P. oceanica*) prohibition of anchoring should be enforced to protects the habitats. This action will require the creation of fixed mooring points. Suggested authorities to implement: DFMR / Port-Authority.
- *Restriction of boating in designated dive areas*. For dive sites which are more exposed to boat traffic, regulations that prohibit the passage of vessels through the area could be created, allowing only dive boats to enter in low speed to ensure a safer environment for divers. The creation of paths specific for boats to pass in high-speed

which are at a distance from the dive points (e.g., following the example of regulations and prohibitions at Dasoudi MPA) should be considered. Suggested authorities to implement: DFMR / Marine Police / Port-Authority.

- *Use of technology for efficient monitoring of illegal activities*. The use of CCTV, sonar and/or other technologies is successfully used widely around the world, especially within MPAs, to monitor effectively and minimise illegal activities (e.g., fishing within restricted areas, littering, boat traffic). Suggested authorities to implement: Police / Port-Authority.

3.7.3 Monitoring

An integral part of having legislations and regulations is properly monitoring that stakeholders abide with them and enforce penalties whenever necessary. Monitoring and enforcement of the law can sometimes fall under the jurisdiction of different public authorities, which could become problematic, therefore it is preferable to avoid fragmentation of jurisdictions. Furthermore, it is important to monitor the state of the diving industry in general, as it can provide a better understanding of its development, allowing for more informed decisions on improvements:

- *Marine Protected areas monitoring*. Regular monitoring of protected areas which is important for enforcing regulations and reducing illegal practices that might negatively affect the diving industry. Suggested authorities to implement: DFMR / Port-Authority.
    - Artificial Intelligence (AI) tracking software can be used to monitor MPAs for illegal activities, such as unauthorised entries, illegal fishing practices etc.
- *Monitoring of dive sites*. The monitoring/responsible authority which will be created for the diving industry should monitor dive sites on a regular basis, checking that dive centres and instructors comply with regulations. Suggested authority to implement: DMoT / Port-Authority.
- *Monitoring of diving industry*. The responsible authority should monitor the industry collecting data on the number of divers, dive site visitations, instructors, certification levels, incidents etc. Such data can help with understanding the state of the industry

and help with any decisions on changes for improvement. Suggested authority to implement: DMoT.

- *Online application system for reporting illegal activities or other problems at dive-sites*. An online system where divers can report illegal activities, or any other problems at dive sites (e.g., infrastructure damages) in real time, supporting an increased reaction time from authorities. Suggested authorities to implement: DMoT / Police
- *Targeted surveys for incoming tourism.* Surveys at airports through questionnaires to determine and monitor the number of divers visiting Cyprus. Questions can include information on duration of stay, type of accommodation, expenditure and general opinion or suggestions for the diving industry in Cyprus will allow for better understanding of progress and/or needs. Suggested authorities to implement: DMoT / Statistical service.
- *AI technologies for monitoring.* AI in combination with CCTV monitoring can be used to monitor remote areas, such as wrecks. A good example is 'NOUS' (https://nous.com.gr/), a program run in Greece that uses AI to monitor ancient wrecks using multiple underwater cameras feeding an online link that is open to the public. Setting up such a system can help with monitoring for looting and signs of damage to shipwrecks (ancient or new). However, when setting up such a system, GDPR rights will have to be taken into account and whether or not divers will need to sign a consent form before visiting the sites. Suggested authorities to implement: DMoT / DFMR / Marine Police

3.7.4 Sustainability of the industry

- *Provision of funding for training and certifications.* Government/responsible authority can provide funding for centres and instructors to attend seminars and trainings advancing their knowledge. Suggested authority to implement: DMoT.

- *Applying for funding.* The EU European Innovation Council offers funding for projects combining innovative technologies with sustainable tourism development which could help Cyprus in developing sustainable practices for diving tourism. (e.g., https://eismea.ec.europa.eu/news/medrydive-dive-past-without-getting-wet-2022-08-09_en). Suggested authorities to implement: DMoT / DFMR.

- *Interactive website / application.* Web-based technology could be utilized to better manage sites and encourage a feedback culture from visiting divers. An indication of car park usage / likelihood that the site will be overcrowded; On-line interactive assistance – Details of dive sites, features, depths of features, available amenities, posting of weather forecasts by dive sites (sun index, water quality, visibility etc.). This should also include the 3D models of dive site which are already under development. Suggested authority to implement: DMoT.

- *Creation of further Artificial Reefs by intentionally deploying shipwrecks.* This has been a suggestion by many dive centres and other stakeholders, to create more dive sites and subsequently become more attractive to diving tourists, following the example of Malta. It is important to note however that Cyprus' coastal geomorphology is very different from Malta. There are areas in Malta where bathymetry is very steep, and waters get deeper very close to the coast. Therefore, most of their shipwrecks are sunk very close to the coast, providing easy access to recreational divers from the coast, without the use of a boat. However, this is not the case in Cyprus, as depths of >20 m are at a greater distance from the coast. This is the reason why it is essential to use boats for visiting almost all shipwrecks. As was already mentioned, Cyprus already has 20 artificial reef parks and shipwrecks available for recreational diving in addition to an abundance of naturally beautiful reefs. Nevertheless, if more shipwrecks or artificial reefs are to be created, locations should be decided after taking into consideration multiple aspects, such as (but not limited to) the distance to the nearest coastline, coastal processes including sediment movement, depths, direction and velocity of residual currents, proximity to natural reefs and/or areas of scientific or biological importance, recreational areas and coastal amenities, impact on coastal protection and including an elaborated Environmental Impact Assessment. Suggested authority to implement: DFMR.

- *Support and promotion of freediving industry.* Freediving is a very promising sector that has the potential to contribute to the increase of special tourism in Cyprus. It has fewer restrictions than SCUBA in terms of flying after a dive as well as the use of less equipment. Furthermore, free diving is a competitive sport in which Cyprus has been hosting international competitions the last years. This could be used to attract not

only participants in the events but also supporters of the sport. Suggested authority to implement: DMoT.

- *Support and promotion of technical diving*. Technical diving is becoming more popular and it is a market to be exploited. For Cyprus to be able to promote technical diving, accessibility to deeper sites will have to be improved. Zenobia is already a very popular destination for technical diving, but sites accessible from shore for technical diving are very few (e.g. Cyclopes) and to reach technical diving depths requires covering large distances underwater which is not ideal. Incentives could be provided to dive centres specialising in technical diving to make it a yearlong promotion on their website and social media. Technical diving can be easier/more comfortable in the colder months/seasons in Cyprus as the heat in the summertime can make technical diving less comfortable, given the extra equipment that needs to be carried. Suggested authority to implement: DMoT.
- *Creation of archaeological marine parks.* Archaeological marine parks can help promote Cyprus as a diving destination and create more interesting and appealing dive sites for divers who wish to witness something different. Creation of this kind of parks and opening them to the public will have to be in close collaboration with the Department of Antiquities (DoA) and ensure strict regulations / monitoring strategies are in place to avoid damaging / looting of the archaeological area (e.g., shipwrecks). Suggested authorities to implement: DoA / DMoT / DFMR.

3.7.5 Environmental Sustainability

Sustainability of the diving industry is linked with the sustainability of the marine environment. Environmental conscious decisions, changes and policies should be in place to have minimal impact on the marine environment and promote sustainability. Suggestions towards a path of environmental sustainability in the diving industry are listed below:

- *Increase awareness of ecological consequences of anchorage*. Activities such as anchorage can have detrimental effect on Posidonia meadows. Authorities should raise awareness on the impacts of anchorage to boat users. European networks like the Mediterranean Posidonia Network (https://medposidonianetwork.com/) promote eco-mooring tools which can serve not just the diving tourism industry but

also the boating industry. To implement such strategies a collaboration with the DFMR is necessary as the data on the distribution of *P. oceanica* meadows in Cyprus is required. Suggested authorities/bodies to implement: DFMR / DoE / Ocean literacy experts (e.g. CMMI).

- *Educate divers*. Provide pre-dive briefings that include information on the importance of marine conservation and responsible diving practices. Encourage divers to respect marine life, avoid touching marine life, and maintain proper buoyancy control. Suggested authorities/bodies to implement: DMoT / DFMR / Ocean literacy experts.
- *Environmental awareness/Ocean literacy education to the public.* Seminars, symposiums, educational days etc. could be organised on a regular basis in all districts, to increase environmental awareness of the general public, showcase the importance of the marine environment and educate on environmentally friendly practices. Suggested authorities/bodies to implement: DMoT / DFMR / DoE / Ocean literacy experts.
- *Environmentally friendly products*. Promote usage of environmentally friendly products, such as reef-friendly sunscreen, and provide information about their importance. Suggested authorities to implement: DMoT / DFMR.
- *Implement waste reduction measures*. Encourage divers to minimize waste by using reusable water bottles and avoiding single-use plastics. Establish proper waste disposal facilities at dive centres and dive sites. Suggested authorities to implement: DMoT / Local authorities.
- *Encourage responsible photography*. Advise divers to practice responsible underwater photography, avoiding damage and any kind of disturbance to sensitive marine life. Promote the use of equipment that minimizes environmental impact. Suggested authorities/bodies to implement: DMoT / DFMR / Ocean literacy experts.
- *Support sustainable dive operators.* Collaborate with and promote dive operators committed to sustainable practices. Ensure that dive centres and facilities are built and operated with sustainable practices in mind. Invest in eco-friendly technologies and energy-efficient equipment. Recognize and reward operators who follow eco-friendly guidelines in their operations. Suggested authority to implement: DMoT.
- *Reef cleanup initiatives*. Organize or participate in reef cleanup events to remove debris and waste from underwater environments. Engage the diving community in

regular cleanups to maintain the health of dive sites. Suggested authorities to implement: DMoT / DFMR.

- *Contribute to conservation projects.* Allocate funds or resources to support local marine conservation projects. Involve divers in citizen science initiatives to collect valuable data on marine life and ecosystems. Suggested authorities/bodies to implement: DMoT / DFMR / Marine research institutes.

3.7.6 Promotion

3.7.6.1 Image

The image portrayal of the Cyprus diving tourism is critical in the attraction of visitors, especially international citizens who have not visited the island before. We recommend that a unique logo along with a slogan are created / improved, like the well-known '*Love Cyprus*', with a focus on diving (e.g., 'Dive Cyprus'). This should be displayed on all the promotional materials used. Furthermore, leaflets, pamphlets and posters including high quality photos from diving trips can be designed and made available for dispersal at dive centres, information desks, hotels, travel agencies, airports, exhibitions etc. A composition of a book, available for purchase at dive centres and bookstores that would include dive sites and stunning images of the underwater treasures would also encourage the return of divers to explore more sites. These images, diving sites and maps can also be included in specialised diving phone applications like 'DiveMaps' and 'Dive+ World's Diving Community'.

Furthermore, collaborations with dive equipment brands can be made where they could shoot their promotional footage here in Cyprus. Widely viewed videos or photos on social media, taken at locations around Cyprus will help increase the image and desirability of international divers to visit Cyprus. In addition to equipment brands, certification companies can also help promote Cyprus as a diving destination, by including it in their destination list or hosting seminars for dive spots in Cyprus (i.e., PADI's webinar on MUSAN).

3.7.6.2 Events

It is encouraged that the Cyprus diving sector (e.g., Cyprus Dive Centres Association, DMoT) is further represented at, or hosts several events to promote the industry such as:

- *Exhibitions.* These would be national and international exhibitions specialising on diving (e.g., Salon de la Plongee in Paris, London International Dive Show (LIDS), Diving Equipment & Marketing Association Show) and on a broader but relevant thematic like boat shows (e.g., Boot Dusseldorf Boat Show) and travel fairs (e.g., World Travel Market (WTM) London and ITB Berlin).
- *Competitions.* More national and international competitions targeting freediving which can be a competitive sport, like the AIDA Freediving World Championship held in Limassol in 2023.
- *Underwater photography competitions.* This encourages competitors to visit local dive sites and capture their beauty on camera but also creates material for photography exhibitions open to the public where non-divers can also witness the underwater treasures.
- *Immersive VR experience events.* Where the public can immerse in simulation of the diving experience without the need of diving certifications. The experience is expected to enthuse participants in pursuing a diving certification.
- *Educational campaigns.* To address all ages, introducing participants to the underwater world while highlighting the importance of environmental awareness and conservation.
- *Seabed clean*-ups. Although these are already happening, their organisation and promotion can help both as a public engagement activity and as a method of relieving the marine environment from pollutants.
- *Take advantage of world's oceans day (8th June), world's environment day (5th May) and international scuba day (6th August).* Promotion for scuba diving in Cyprus can be done during specialised celebration days mentioned above. In addition, environment or oceans weeks that are already promoted by the Cypriot authorities are perfect examples for establishing a specialised 'Diving Week' organised in Cyprus, on a yearly basis, for showcasing the diving industry of Cyprus.

3.7.6.3 Social Media Platforms

Social media are inevitably immersed in our lives therefore the diving sector should take advantage of their importance and effectiveness as a promotional tool. Cyprus diving should create distinct accounts, using its established logo and slogan (as per section 3.7.6.1) on all

popular platforms like Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, TikTok, Twitter and Pinterest. Through these, photos, videos, live streaming, events, news and more can reach broader audience. Furthermore, user-generated content specific hashtags will target people that are more likely to be attracted to visiting Cyprus for diving. Furthermore, famous bloggers, vloggers, and influencers can be asked to promote Cyprus as a diving destination.

3.7.6.4 Hotels and Travel agents

In addition to the promotion of diving in Cyprus, incentives and special packages may further encourage visitors to try the sport or re-visit. These may include collaborations between hotels and dive centres where special/discounted prices would be given to hotel guests for diving. Partnerships between dive centres and travel agents can form packages including both accommodation and SCUBA diving experience facilitating tourists in planning their trip while offering the idea of trying out diving for the first time. Dive centres can also offer 3-day diving plans where they could include diverse dive sites (i.e., reefs, wreck, and cave dives). These trips can also be thematic e.g., archaeological sites, artistic sculpture artificial reefs and wreck diving.

Adventure packages with travel agents can include various sports around Cyprus to give tourists more activity options. These can include diving (SCUBA and/or free), snorkelling, hiking, climbing, off-road quad bike tours and even potentially skiing/snowboarding during the winter months. Similarly, family packages can include activities for all members with boat tours, opportunities for SCUBA dive but also snorkelling for the less adventurous members.

A new trend has been wedding proposals and ceremonies performed underwater, a market in which Cyprus can also join. Easily accessible and picturesque dive sites, such as MUSAN, can be promoted for such events and in turn help promote Cyprus as a diving destination.

3.7.6.5 Web-Platform

It is essential that prospective visitors have a dedicated, user-friendly, online platform with information on all topics related to diving in Cyprus. This can be done through the, currently under-developed, web-platform which should include:

- *3D Models of 44 dive sites*, being created through an ongoing project funded by the DMoT. The models can be added on the website including photos and videos of the

dive sites. Additional projects can be run to create models of all the dive sites around Cyprus.

- *Descriptions of dive sites.* Improvement of the current descriptions found on the Love Cyprus website including facts on available infrastructure, entry and exit points, possible risks and high-quality photos and videos.
- *Information for mariners*. Include a daily-updated section or reference to the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre, where divers can be informed of restrictions during specific dates due to various coastal activities like construction works and military practices.
- *Dive site traffic tracker.* A simple form with a drop-down menu of dive sites where dive operators can log-in their plan (i.e., dive site, date, estimated arrival and departure time, number of dives, number of divers). This will assist authorities in keeping track of visits and divers to be aware of the on-site usage and whether a site is overcrowded.
- *Marine life.* Showcase the beauty of the underwater world and list organisms that divers would potentially encounter.
- *Educational material.* On the importance of protecting and preserving the natural environment and best practices to prevent distractions during diving.
- *Certified dive centres.* Can be included once the certification/monitoring authority has been established along with the required legislation and regulations to comply by.
- *Social media presence.* Link to other platforms that are used to promote the product.
- *Non-diving activities*. Connection to the Love Cyprus webpage where, other than diving, activities, and interesting places are featured, especially promoting the fact that Cyprus is a family friendly destination.
- *Newsletter.* Feature events (e.g., exhibitions, festivals, fairs) and other promotions.
- *Feedback form.* Divers would be able to provide feedback on the quality of the dive sites and report on their diving experience in Cyprus.
- *Research engine optimisation.* For ease to find online.

3.8 Implementation priorities and action plan

Based on the information accumulated and provided in this study, Table 3.7 summarises the main actions that we recommend, the specific time frame to be implemented and the authorities/bodies expected to act. To the best of our knowledge these are the main actions required to improve and enhance the diving tourism of Cyprus. It is important to note that before implementation, a new market research will need to take place for updating any price changes.

Table 3.7. Summary of the recommended actions, suggested time frame and the responsible authorities/bodies.

Details in section	Action	Action by	Time Frame (years)
3.7.1 Infrastructure	Ladders and Handrails	DMoT / Local Municipality	Based on priorities stated in Table 5 and Table 6: High: <2 Medium: 2-5 Low: 5-8
	Kitting up facilities	DMoT / Local Municipality	
	Pergolas/Canopy	DMoT / Local Municipality	
	Washroom/changing facilities	DMoT / Local Municipality	
	Bins	DMoT / Local Municipality	
	Improvement of footpaths and access roads	DMoT / Local Municipality	
	Signs with dive site details	DMoT	
	Structural appraisal of wrecks	DMoT / DFMR	
	CCTV	DFMR / Marine Police / Port-Authority	
	Marker buoys placement/maintenance	DMoT / DFMR / Port-Authority	
	Mooring for dive boats	DMoT / DFMR / Port-Authority	

Details in section	Action	Action by	Time Frame (years)
	Anchorage prohibition	DFMR/Port-Authority	
	Management of boat traffic/mooring	DFMR / Marine police / Port-Authority	
3.7.2 Legislation	Creation of monitoring / responsible authority	DMoT	<2
	National license for dive centres and instructors	DMoT	<2
	ISO or related certification requirements	DMoT	<2
	Infrastructure and equipment compliance	DMoT	<2
	Marine biodiversity protection	DFMR	Ongoing
	Prohibition of Anchoring	DFMR / Port-Authority	2-5
	Creation of no stopping areas in designated dive areas	DFMR / Marine police / Port-Authority	2-5
	Use of technology for efficient monitoring of illegal activities	Police/ Port-Authority	2-5
3.7.3 Monitoring	Protected areas monitoring	DFMR / Port-Authority	Ongoing
	Patrolling of dive spots	DMoT / Port-Authority	<2
	Monitoring of diving industry	DMoT	<2
	Targeted surveys of incoming tourism	DMoT / Statistical Service	<2
	Online system for reporting illegal activity	DMoT / Police	<2
	AI technologies for monitoring	DMoT / DFMR / Marine Police	2-5

Details in section	Action	Action by	Time Frame (years)
3.7.4 Sustainability of industry	Provision of funding for training and certifications	DMoT	<2
	Interactive website/application	DMoT	<2
	Support and promotion of freediving industry	DMoT	<2
	Applying for funding	DMoT / DFMR	<2
	Creation of more Artificial Reefs & shipwreck	DFMR	5-8
	Archaeological marine parks	DoA / DMoT / DFMR	2-5
3.7.5 Environmental Sustainability	Increase awareness of ecological consequences of anchorage	DFMR / DoE / Ocean literacy experts	Ongoing
	Educate divers	DMoT / DFMR / Ocean literacy experts	<2
	Environmental awareness education to the public	DMoT / DFMR / DoE / Ocean literacy experts	Ongoing
	Environmentally friendly product	DMoT / DFMR	<2
	Implementation of waste reduction measures	DMoT / Local authorities	<2
	Encourage responsible photography	DMoT / DFMR / Ocean literacy experts	<2
	Support sustainable dive operators	DMoT	Ongoing
	Contribute to conservation project	DMoT / DFMR / Marine research institutes	<2
	Reef cleanup initiatives	DMoT/DFMR	<2

Details in section	Action	Action by	Time Frame (years)
3.7.6.1 Promotion - Image	Update Logo	DMoT	<2
	Leaflets / pamphlets / posters		
	Composition book		
	Collaboration with equipment brands		
	Collaboration with certification companies		
3.7.6.2 Promotion - Events	Participates in Exhibitions	DMoT	Ongoing
	Host diving competitions		
	Underwater photography competitions		
	Immersive VR events		
	Educational campaigns		
	Seabed clean-ups		
	Promotion during world's ocean days etc.		
3.7.6.3 Promotion – Social Media	Promotion on social media platforms	DMoT	<2
	Collaborate with bloggers, vloggers, influencers		
3.7.6.4 Promotion – Hotels & Travel agents	Collaboration with hotels & dive centres	DMoT	<2
	Adventure packages		
	Family packages		
	Underwater ceremonies		
3.7.6.5 Promotion – Web Platform	3D models of dive sites	DMoT	<2
	Descriptions of dive sites		
	Information for mariners		
	Dive site traffic tracker		

Marine life
Educational material
Certified dive centres
Social media presence
Non-diving activities
Newsletter
Feedback form
Research engine optimization

3.9 References

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Appendix I – Dive sites descriptions

Ammochostos

Ayia Napa

Kryo nero

Location: Ayia Napa, Ammochostos (34°58'56.33"N, 34°1'1.17"E)

Type of dive site: Rock, sand, caverns & caves

Depth: 6 metres

Visibility: 20+ metres

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Open Water

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Small caverns and coves surrounded by sandy expanses populated with various marine life

Interesting facts: The area and the caves on the shore further north of the site are known for being a resting and breeding place for the critically endangered Mediterranean Monk Seal *Monachus monachus*. The dive site also holds one of the largest communities of littoral coralligenous assemblages in the region.

Kyrenia shipwreck

Location: Ayia Napa, Ammochostos (34°58'42.37"N, 33° 58'52.23"E)

Type of dive site: Wreck (dimensions 29m long / 5m wide)

Depth: 23 metres

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

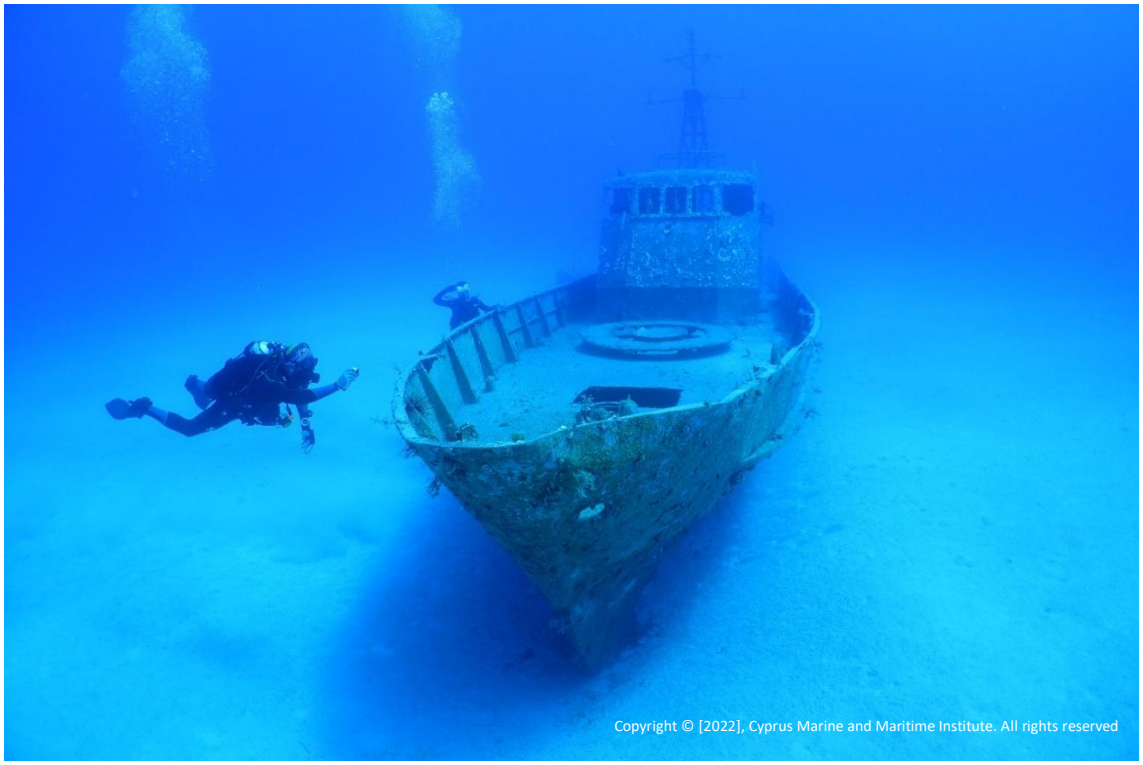
Qualification required: Advanced Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: An old Greek navy boat, home to a variety of marine life, such as groupers, moray eels, with safe swim throughs.

Interesting facts: An old navy ship, donated to the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research by the Ministry of Defence, sunk in March 2015 and aiming to increase marine life in the area.

This Greek navy boat was originally named HS Knossos and was renamed Kyrenia in 2000. Usually there are good conditions in the area, without currents. Barracudas can be seen swimming in the crystal-clear waters, and sponges are also found in the site. Swimming though the cabin you can reach the ship hold. Overall, the dive here can last 30 – 45 minutes.



MUSAN (Museum of Underwater Sculpture Ayia Napa)

Location: Ayia Napa, Ammochostos (34°58'58.04"N, 33° 59'2.46"E)

Type of dive site: Artificial reefs, underwater sculpture museum

Depth: 10 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Shore & boat

Qualification required: Open Water

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: MUSAN features unique sculptures resting on a golden sand of a shallow dive, ideal for introductory, relaxed recreational dives as well as free diving. MUSAN is an ideal place for underwater photography.

Interesting facts: The Mediterranean's -first, underwater sculpture museum MUSAN intertwines nature and art to offer a unique diving experience at the Ayia Napa Marine

Protected Area (MPA). It aims to rewild the seabed, working alongside the artificial reef created with the sinking of the Kyrenia wreck in 2015.

Divers can glide through the intricate forms of trees, human-like sculptures and other figurative nature symbols that comprise the living museum, created by award-winning sculptor, environmentalist and professional underwater photographer, Jason deCaires Taylor. Over 90 submerged artworks made from inert, pH neutral materials have been exhibited at varying depths; thoughtfully designed for both diving and snorkelling. The continually evolving installations develop organically to entice and encourage marine communities, symbiotically enriching biodiversity and creating an underwater museum like no other.

Kavo Gkreko

Antennae (Commando Bay)

Location: Kavo Gkreko - Ayia Napa, Ammochostos (34°57'44.79"N, 34°4'49.41"E)

Type of dive site: Rocky

Depth: 15 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Shore, rocky entrance

Qualification required: Open Water

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: It's an easy and interesting site, very rich in small marine life.

The site offers interest with its combination of small caverns and rocky reef, whilst its rocky bottom provides a haven for small marine life. It is popular for navigation and other diving skill honing, whilst for the more adventurous diver, it's excellent for a night dive.

Canyon

Location: Kavo Gkreko - Ayia Napa, Ammochostos (34°57'40.41"N, 34°34'51.72"E)

Type of dive site: Rock & sand

Depth: 18 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Shore, rocky walk to ladder to water's edge (~1.5 m drop)

Qualification required: Open Water

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: The site is characterised by the rocky substrate and patches of *Posidonia oceanica* meadows. The entry to the site is a small cove where a ladder has been placed for easy access to the water's edge.

Interesting facts: The steep incline of the south coastline of Kavo Gkreko forms beautiful cliffs and walls near the shore excellent for diving, such as the one at Canyon dive site.

Canyon dive site begins in a small cove where entry is easy and sheltered from any waves in most weather. The descent to the cove requires careful walking on volcanic rocks and a ladder to assist for the ~1.5 m drop. On the bedrock here you would find many anemones as well as coralligenous assemblages of calcareous algae and scleractinian corals, where the waves break. The cove is shallow, and the seabed deepens once you exit the cove. Following the wall, the dive leads down to 18 m where the rock meets sand expanses. Here you will find fish hiding in the sand, and between the rocks. Sponges, anemones, algae and a diversity of fish populate the rocks.

Chapel (Agioi Anargiroi)

Location: Kavo Gkreko, Ayia Napa, Ammochostos (34°58'33.04"N, 34°4'35.65"E)

Type of dive site: Rock, sand & seagrass

Depth: 15 - 30 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Shore, steps from parking to water, ~1 m rock step down to water's edge.

Qualification required: Open water / Advance Open Water

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: The site is characterised by the rocky substrate and expanses of *Posidonia oceanica* meadows.

Interesting facts: Chapel is within the network of popular dive sites at Kavo Gkreko. Despite the slightly more difficult entry point, it is one of the most popular sites as both open water and advanced divers can enjoy. The dive site offers very similar views both at 18 and 30 metres depth.

The entry to the site is underneath a large aboveground cave. This dive site begins with rocky substrate and continues deeper. The diver can follow a reef wall which starts above the surface of the water and continues down to deeper parts and adjacent to that can also find seagrass meadows and sand expanses. Schools of damsel fish, seabreams and wrasse can be found at Chapel.

Cyclops

Location: Kavo Gkreko - Paralimni, Ammochostos (34°59'11.18"N, 34°4'36.27"E)

Type of dive site: Rock sand & seagrass

Depth: 15 - 60 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Shore, small climb down a rocky terrain from parking place to water's edge.

Qualification required: Open water / Advance Open Water / Technical diving

Dive category: Recreational diving / Technical diving

Features: The natural reef and rock formations of the site create an impressive view of cliffs and large boulders which can be viewed from the bottom. A small boat has also been sunk at 12 m depth near the beginning of the dive site.

Interesting facts: Cyclops dives site can accommodate a range of diving skills, from open water to technical diving.

Cyclops is part of the Kavo Gkreko network of dive sites, Cyclops is characterised by natural stone formations and is favoured by divers looking for an intriguing dive below an underwater cliff. At a short distance from the shore, the first large imposing rock can be seen indicating the beginning of the deeper section of the dive, and right underneath it a small sunken boat, ideal for memorable photographs. Parallel to the shore, and continuing eastwards you will hit the edge of the shore reef where the imposing cliff sits at 18 m. Parallel to the rocky shore one can find *Posidonia* meadows expand, hosting a variety of marine life. The network of rocks harbours marine life that prefers hidden crevices, such as groupers and moray eels. Sponges and coralligenous algae cover the rocks. Bull rays have occasionally been sighted at this dive site. The adjacent area reaches depths down to 60 m (and deeper) which is possible to visit using technical diving.

Sea Caves

Location: Kavo Gkreko – Ayia Napa, Ammochostos (34°57'48.86"N / 34° 4'23.33"E)

Type of dive site: Sandy, caves & caverns

Depth: 12 metres

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Shore, rocky pathway. Two entry points adjacent to each other: 1 with 1.5m drop off and one with 3m drop off.

Qualification required: Open Water

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: The site is characterised by a series of caves, tunnels and overhangs, with lava rocks and a wide range of marine life, including groupers, octopuses, moray eels, turtles, breams, ornate wrasse, stingrays, calcareous algae and fire worms.

Interesting facts: This dive site is one of the easiest dives in the area and ranks as one of the most popular in the region. It features a rock in the shape of Cyprus, as well as a cave wide enough to dive through.

A dive site that is part of the Kavo Gkreko network of dive sites, Caves is characterised by natural stone formations and is favoured by novice divers looking for intriguing and thrilling underwater sea caves. There are two entry points to the site, a 1.5 metre drop-off and a 3-metre drop-off, whereas divers can either exit from the entry points or through a hole at the top of the cave for the more daring ones. The geology of the area is impressive, with many tunnels and swim-through caves, as well as a rock that resembles the shape of Cyprus. The rocks are brimming with marine life, such as fire worms, octopi, calcareous algae, turtles, moray eels, and groupers.

Table Top (Kitazos)

Location: Kavo Gkreko – Ayia Napa, Ammochostos (34°58'25.74"N, 34° 5'0.78"E)

Type of dive site: Rock & seagrass

Depth: 25 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Advance Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Beautiful rock morphology forming small caverns covered in sponges as well as a flat rock in the shape of a "table".

Interesting facts: It is advised to perform this dive via boat rather than from the shore to avoid disorientation and missing the location.

This dive site is part of the Kavo Gkreko network of dive sites. Table Top is characterized by natural stone formations surrounded by *Posidonia oceanica* seagrass meadows. In the small caverns, an array of colours can be seen from the sponges, as well as anemones, coralligenous algae and nudibranchs. The dive site ranges from 20 to 25 m depth. The rocks are brimming with marine life, such as fire worms, octopi, moray eels, and groupers. At the edge of the rocks, you find yourself in *Posidonia oceanica* meadows with lots of fish and gastropods that prefer to hide there.

Protaras

Da Costa

Location: Thalassia Periochi Nisia - Protaras, Ammochostos (35°0'24.58"N, 34°3'44.63"E)

Type of dive site: Rock & sand

Depth: 12 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Shore

Qualification required: Open Water

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Natural rock formations and site where sea turtles and rays are often sighted.

Da Costa is in the network of popular dive sites in Ammochostos region and is located north of the very popular Green Bay site. The dive site is excellent for beginners as its easily accessible, rarely any currents and easy to navigate. Natural rock formations host a variety of

marine life, such as sponges, small crustaceans and algae. In the sand expanses a few small artificial statues - replicas of ancient Greek columns and mermaids – can be found. The site is known for rays and sea turtles.

Green Bay

Location: Thalassia Periochi Nisia - Protaras, Ammochostos (35 0'1.13"N, 34°4'4.51"E)

Type of dive site: Rock & sand

Depth: 11 metres

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Shore (walk in)

Qualification required: Open Water

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: This is the easiest dive site in the area (walk-in entry), suitable for introductory dives and beginners. Currents or waves are very rare in the area. There are statues scattered around at 10 m depth. There are frequent turtle sightings and plentiful seabreams, damselfish, wrasses and other fish. Access to the dive site by car is very easy.

Interesting facts: This beautiful bay is part of the network of dive sites at Ammochostos, where marine life thrives in the clear waters and among the pebbles. This dive site is ideal for introductory dives and beginners, since it's a beach dive with a walk-in entry, no currents, or waves, making it one of the region's easiest dive sites. It is also approved by major dive associations as a confined water training location. The "Fish Rock" feeding station, where big schools of seabream are a prominent feature and turtle sightings are frequent, serves as a wonderful introduction to the local marine life. Cornet fish, cuttlefish, octopuses, ornate wrasse, parrotfish, pipefish, rainbow wrasse and starfish are among the species found there.

With artificial statues – replicas of ancient Greek monuments – scattered at a depth of 10 metres, and ancient amphora fragments on the seabed, divers can also enjoy a cultural component to this easy dive.

This dive site is a paradise for beginner divers. With a walk-in entry, they can swim in crystal clear waters over colourful pebbles. At a short distance from the shore, imposing rocks hide behind them an underwater treasure. On the right site of the bay, we can follow a path with impressive reefs on both sides. Once we take a careful look on and under the rocks, we can see that this site is brimming with life, with violet sea urchins, shrimps and octopuses being just some of the site's inhabitants. Sea turtles are often encountered swimming among the divers. At the end of the dive, there is no need to wait for decompression, since there is plenty of time for that whilst swimming in the shallow towards the exit.

Green Bay Caves

Location: Thalassia Periochi Nisia - Protaras, Ammochostos (35°59'57.28"N, 34°4'11.37"E)

Type of dive site: Rock, caverns & caves

Depth: 18 metres

Visibility: 20 metres

Access: Shore (walk in)

Qualification required: Open Water

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: The rock formations of the area create small caves, caverns and canyons as well as a large cave to swim through filled with colourful marine life.

Interesting facts: The caves at Green Bay are an easy relaxed dive that many divers choose due to its easy access, despite the heavy boat traffic and shallow waters enroute to the large cave.

Entry to this dive site is opposite the walk-in entry for Green Bay's feeding rock and statues, through the little port. Once out of the port, swimming eastwards towards the main big cave there are small caverns and canyons filled with marine life. Sponges, urchins and tubeworms cover the rocks. Fish find shelter in the crevices in these shallow waters (3 -5 m depth). The entrance to the big cave is at drop to 18 m in front of a meadow of Posidonia. The swim through cave is covered with colourful sponges and coralligenous algae, however lionfish find shelter in the cave and divers must be careful when entering. The exit of the cave is on the roof ascending back to 10 m where the swim back to shore begins.

Octopus

Location: Kavo Gkreko - Paralimni, Ammochostos (34°59'27.77"N / 34°4'30.12"E)

Type of dive site: Rocky

Depth: 15 metres

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Shore, rocky entrance

Qualification required: Open Water

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Reef, sandy seabed and *P. oceanica* meadows.

Interesting facts: The site got its name from the channels that are created by the reef which resemble octopus tentacles when viewed from above.

Octopus dive site is equally enjoyable by both beginners and advanced divers with the picturesque scenery of the white sand, seagrass and rocky channels. Marine life found at the reef include, groupers, moray eels, sea urchins, lionfish and octopi.

Paralimni MPA

Liberty shipwreck

Location: Protaras, Ammochostos (34°2'59.47"N, 34° 2'11.76"E)

Type of dive site: Wreck (dimensions 37m long / 10m wide)

Depth: 27 metres

Visibility: 20+ metres

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Advanced Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: A safe dive site, ideal for basic wreck diving, with a rich marine life, including anemones on the deck.

Interesting facts: Liberty was a Russian cargo ship, sank upright in the Protaras Marine Protected Area in 2009 to create an artificial reef.

The Liberty was a Russian cargo ship, sunk inside the Protaras MPA in 2009, where it was later joined by the Nemesis III wreck, at a 90 metres distance, making this side ideal for scooter diving. There is an abundance of marine life in the area, including anemones, breams, groupers, moray eels, sea slugs, squids and lionfish, while the use of a torch is recommended to fully appreciate the beauty of this dive.

Nemesis III shipwreck

Location: Protaras, Ammochostos (34°3'3.72"N, 34° 2'11.05"E)

Type of dive site: Wreck (dimensions 25m long / 6m wide)

Depth: 26 metres

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

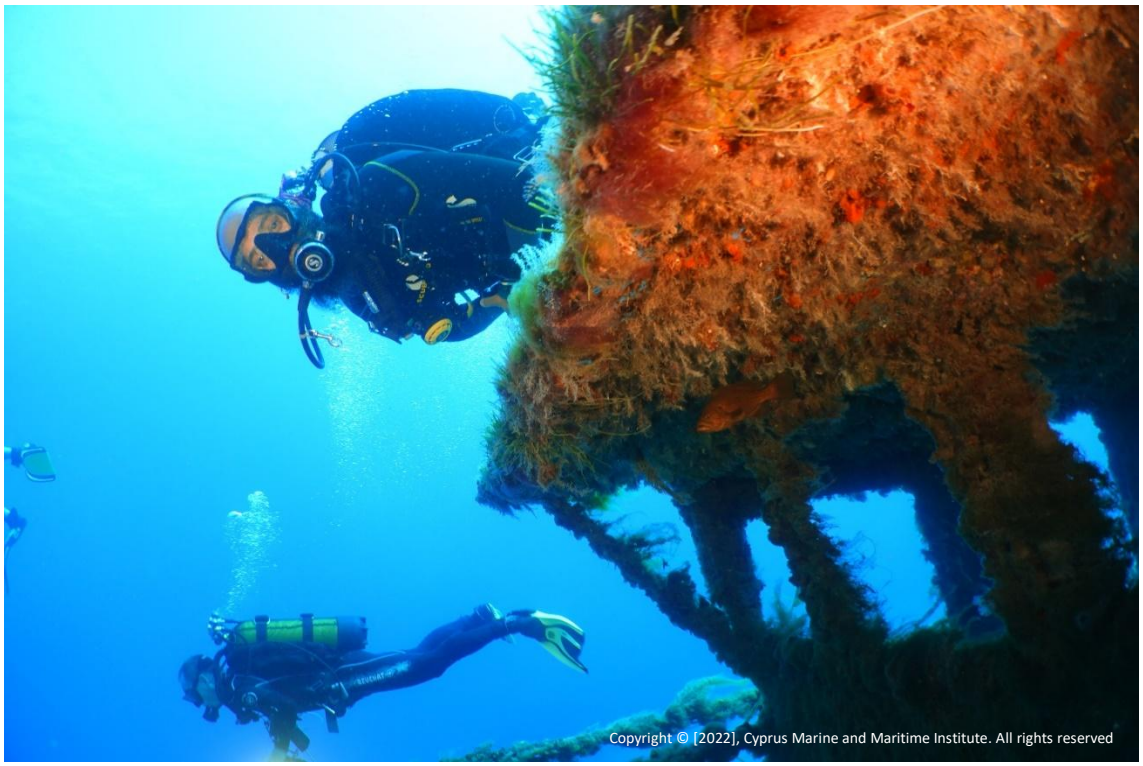
Qualification required: Advanced Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Nemesis wreck offers easy access, with a varied marine life that includes grouper, moray eels, and large schools of amberjacks passing through seasonally.

Interesting facts: Nemesis III was a bottom trawler built in France in 1956 and brought to Cyprus in 1987. It was sunk in December 2013 by the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research to create an artificial reef and increase marine life in the area.

The Nemesis III trawler was sunk in the Protaras Marine Protected Area, 90 metres away from the Liberty wreck, making it a great site for scooter diving between the two wrecks. This is an excellent dive for basic wreck diving since it offers safe swim throughs, through the hull and bridge, the small cabin with its railed veranda, as well as the engine room and corridor. The marine life here is very rich, including groupers, seabreams, moray eels, squids, sea slugs and ascidians.



Larnaca

Larnaca Bay

Alexandria shipwreck

Location: Larnaca (34°53'29.40"N, 33°39'16.20"E)

Type of dive site: Wreck (dimensions 30 m long / 9 m wide)

Depth: 30 m

Visibility: 15+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Advance Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving, Technical diving

Features: An old fishing trawler inhabited by schools of fish such as barracudas, big groupers, amberjacks, parrotfish and others.

Interesting facts: The Alexandria is an Egyptian wooden fishing boat that sank in 2006; one of the few wooden shipwrecks on the island.

Alexandria is just 200 m away from Zenobia wreck. The boat sunk as it was being towed from Larnaca to Limassol and a storm broke out. Swimming through the wreck you can see the living quarters, the fishing nets and winches on the lower deck, the engine room and the bridge.

Dorida

Location: Voroklini, Larnaca (34°57'55.20"N, 33°40'35.60"E)

Type of dive site: Rock, sand & seagrass

Depth: 12 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Dorida is a natural circular reef surrounded by sand and *P. oceanica* meadows teaming with marine life. The shallow waters make the reef perfect for snorkellers, freedivers as well as for leisurely recreational dives.

Interesting facts: Situated just 600 m from the coast of Voroklini, Dorida is part of the Larnaca Marine Protected Area (MPA) that also features MV Elpida and LEF1 shipwrecks.

The reef offers an interesting combination of sandy and rocky substrates, with meadows of Posidonia seagrass also contributing to the optimum environment for a variety of marine organisms, including sponge species and small sea creatures. Divers can see combers, damselfish, fan worms, gobiids, marbled spinefoot rabbitfish, parrotfish, pufferfish, scorpionfish, sea cucumbers and starfish. Larger species include dusky grouper and the greater amberjack. Octopi can also be spotted.

Elpida shipwreck

Location: Larnaca Bay (34°57'6.30"N, 33°41'5.60"E)

Type of dive site: Wreck (dimensions 63 m long / 10 m wide)

Depth: 20 - 28 m

Visibility: 15+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Advance Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: MV Elpida was sunk to create this artificial reef that hosts an array of marine life.

Interesting facts: MV Elpida was deployed in December 2019, by the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, as part of the artificial reef project aiming towards enriching the local marine life and diving tourism.

The ship was prepared for diving purposes prior to sinking, which means that all windows have been removed so divers can easily enter and exit the wreck and cleaned to remove any oils or remaining fuel which may harm the environment or marine life. The main deck lies at 20-22 m and the top of the masts are at a depth of 10m. There are plentiful areas in this wreck for divers to explore including the bridge which still has a moveable steering wheel, saloon and accommodation areas.

Larnaca Reef

Location: Voroklini, Larnaca (34°57'47.40"N, 33°40'49.00"E)

Type of dive site: Rock, sand, seagrass

Depth: 13 metres

Visibility: 20+ metres

Access: Shore (walk in)

Qualification required: Open Water

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Two large rocky reefs surrounded by sandy expanses.

Interesting facts: Larnaca reef also falls withing the Larnaca MPA which includes Dorida reef, MV Elpida and LEF1 shipwrecks.

Two reefs on the west and east side of the area are separated by a dune. There are also small patches of *P. oceanica* meadows. The reef is populated by sessile marine life, sponges, algae, urchins and tube worms, and schools of fish can be found hiding amongst the rocks.

LEF-1 shipwreck

Location: Voroklini, Larnaca Bay (34°57'8.23"N, 33°40'8.50"E)

Type of dive site: Wreck (dimensions 15.5 m long / 4 m wide)

Depth: 13 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: A natural reef that stretches parallel to the shore as well as the wreck LEF1 populated with various marine life.

Interesting facts: The LEF1 vessel (built in 1955) is one of two wrecks that were submerged in the Marine Protected Area (MPA) off Larnaca in 2019 to create an artificial reef (alongside the MV Elpida). It is also the island's first artificial snorkelling reef.

The wreck is the ideal option for non-experienced divers and snorkellers. It is also great for underwater photography and a fish identification speciality course. A unique array of marine life of different sizes has rapidly inhabited the reef and is further enhanced by the addition of eco-friendly amphorae in the MPA. Marine life that can be observed include amberjacks, colourful wrassse, damselfish, gobbids, grey triggerfish, groupers, lionfish, marbled spinefoot rabbitfish, parrotfish and yellowspotted pufferfish.

Zenobia shipwreck

Location: Larnaca Bay (34°53'31.80"N, 33°39'16.20"E)

Type of dive site: Wreck (dimensions 172 m long / 28 m wide)

Depth: 16 – 42 m

Visibility: 15+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Advance Open Water / Deep Diver / Wreck Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving / Technical diving

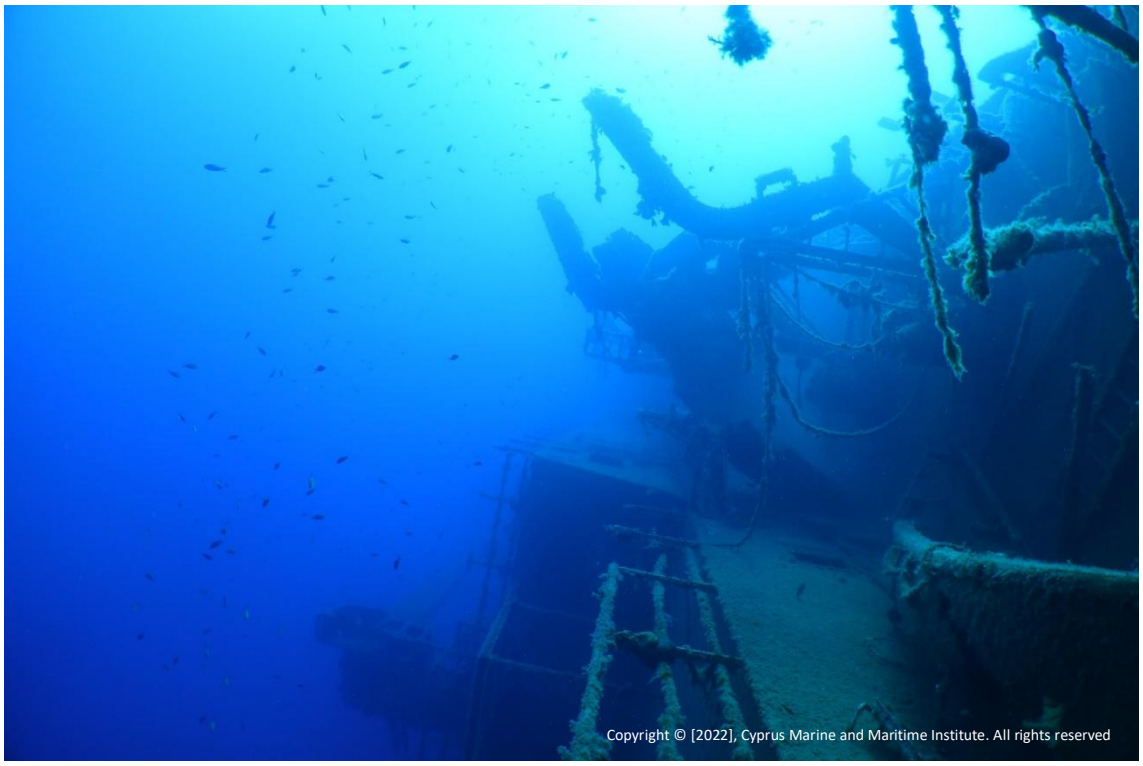
Features: Zenobia is the largest wreck in Cyprus that hosts a rich array of marine life.

Interesting facts: The MS Zenobia ranks among the top 10 wreck dive sites in the world.

The Swedish Challenger Class roll-on-roll-off ferry was carrying 108 articulated lorries with a diverse array of cargo when she sank off the coast of Larnaca in 1980 on her maiden voyage, thus naming her 'the Titanic of the Mediterranean'. Zenobia lies on its port side on a flat bed of sand and rocks.

Among the highlights of this dive are: 100 trucks that float in eerie suspension within the huge cargo bay; the dining room; accommodation; two enormous propellers, and the cargo itself. The immortalized freight includes cars, military equipment, games, telecommunication systems and food. There are even intact hen eggs.

Among the incredible marine life are moray eels, visiting turtles, barracudas, breams, large groupers, jacks, lionfish, octopi, sea slugs, sponges, corals, star fish, stingrays, trigger fish and tube worms.



Xylophagou

Arch

Location: Xylophagou, Larnaca (34°57'36.21"N, 33°49'57.51"E)

Type of dive site: Rock

Depth: ≤10 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat / Shore

Qualification required: Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: A natural reef in the shallow waters forming an arch covered in marine life.

Interesting facts: The natural archway is almost on the surface of the water with the opening to swim through at 3 m depth.

Volcanic rocks create beautiful shallow reefs filled with crevices and small canyons to swim through and find all the hidden marine life. The rocks are covered with sponges, algae, urchins, bivalves and tube worms.

Bullet-point (Watchtower)

Location: Xylophagou, Larnaca (34°57'38.79"N, 33°49'47.84"E)

Type of dive site: Rock, caves & caverns

Depth: 16 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Shore, rocky pathway

Qualification required: Open Water

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Natural reef with several caverns and beautiful marine life, sea slugs, star fish and moray eels.

Interesting facts: This dive site is located off a shooting range; thus divers frequently find bullets on the sea floor.

This is a relaxed easy dive, where there are almost always good weather conditions. The site is characterized by its geological formations and several caverns as well as Posidonia meadows. Big fish are occasionally seen in the area.

Cape Pyla Reef (Liani)

Location: Xylophagou, Larnaca (34°56'23.67"N, 33°51'16.22"E)

Type of dive site: Reef

Depth: 18 - 25 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Open Water / Advanced Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Natural reef with lots of caverns, small canyons and a cave.

Interesting facts: This area is rich in marine life, and the canyons, caverns and cave host a diversity of colourful sessile organisms.

Cape Pyla Reef is ideal for experienced open water divers who can enjoy swimming though the canyons created by the natural rock formations and the cave which is located at approximately 18 m depth. More advance divers can dive down to 25 m where they will find patches of *Posidonia oceanica* meadows.

Cricket shipwreck

Location: Xylophagou, Larnaca (34°58'5.40"N, 33°48'4.02"E)

Type of dive site: Wreck (dimensions 72 m long / 11 m wide)

Depth: 32 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Advance Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Marine life at the HMS Cricket includes groupers, lionfish, moray eels, nudibranchs, octopι, sea slugs, starfish and tube worms.

Interesting facts: The HMS Cricket is an old British river gunboat that weathered both WW1 and WW2. When she was declared a loss in 1942, she was stripped for spare parts and her hull towed to Cyprus where it was then anchored in Larnaka Bay and used as target practise by the UK's RAF. The boat sank in 1947, due to bad weather.

When HMS Cricket sunk, it ended up resting upside down, which created an enticing sandy dip beneath the wreck that now allows divers to swim through. Divers can find a variety of marine life inhabiting the wreck, from some vibrant sponges to shy groupers hiding in the corners of the wreck.

Nail

Location: Xylophagou, Larnaca (34°57'27.16 "N, 33°50'9.03"E)

Type of dive site: Rock & small cavervs

Depth: 17 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Shore

Qualification required: Open Water

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Natural rock formations with an array of marine life including starfish, moray eels and seasonally groupers and squids.

Interesting facts: The Nail takes its name from a rock shaped like a nail that looks downwards to the bay.

This dive site is close to Bullet-point dive site, and similarly the conditions are almost always favourable. Due to tis shallow depths its ideal for beginners and snorkellers.

Pyla pirate caves (Mavrospilios)

Location: Xylophagou, Larnaca (34°56'38.83"N, 33°51'16.57"E)

Type of dive site: Cave & caverns

Depth: 7 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Open Water/ Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: A large natural cave, with an underwater entrance where you can surface within into a large cave with bats, stalactites and stalagmites. The cave walls are covered in orange, red, pink, white sponges and calcareous algae which form an abstract resembling modern art paintings.

Interesting facts: At this cave there have been sightings of the Critically Endangered Mediterranean Monk Seal *Monachus monachus*. This is the home of a small colony of bats which reside in the non-submerged inner part of the cave.

This is a short, relaxed but impressive dive. The cave has one large entrance and there are 3 paths you can follow in to the above-ground part of the cave. The walls of the cave are covered in colourful sponges, ascidians, corals and calcareous algae creating natural paintings. Surfacing into the cave you can see the high ceiling where the bats rest surrounded by stalactites and stalagmites. This is a short but impressive dive, although it is to be avoided during the nesting and breeding season of the monk seal to avoid disturbing this critically endangered species.

Limassol

Farses II shipwreck

Location: Limassol (34°39'13.80"N, 33°2'28.10"E)

Type of dive site: Wreck

Depth: 21 m

Visibility: 15+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Advanced Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Farses II is a shipwreck sitting on its starboard side and fully intact.

Interesting facts: Farses II was an open two-door, one thousand tones cargo ship, loaded with asbestos and which sunk during a strong storm in 1980.

Karnagio (Komeno) shipwreck

Location: Limassol (34°39'37.41"N, 33°1'38.20"E)

Type of dive site: Wreck

Depth: 5 m

Visibility: 15+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat / Shore

Qualification required: Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: A sunken ship close to the shore. On low tide part of the ship wreck is visible above water.

An easy shallow dive to explore this sunken ship. Its easily accessible by both boat and swimming from shore and perfect for snorkelling.

Jubilee shoals (Avdimou reef)

Location: Avdimou, Limassol (34°37'46.44"N, 32°46'12.78"E)

Type of dive site: Reef, cave & caverns

Depth: 40 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Advance Open Water / Deep diver / Cave Diver / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: The reef at Avdimou offers a unique and breathtaking view of the cliffs that drop from 15 m to +40 m. The reef wall is covered by a variety of sessile organisms such as sponges, algae, bryozoans, molluscs, urchins and tubeworms. A cave at almost the bottom of the reef offers a beautiful sight of sandy corridor underneath with colourful sponges and corals decorating the walls and ceiling.

Interesting facts: Jubilee shoals is a very popular dive site with more experienced divers. The reef can be enjoyed at its shallower level (top) where the depth is approximately 18 m and still enjoy the breathtaking view of the cliffs, however the wall and cave are the jewels of Jubilee shoal.

At the top of the reef there are large Posidonia meadows that expand in shallower waters. Regular divers and dive centres have placed a marking of a buoy to indicate the ideal location to decent the cliff and find the entrance to the cave. The cave system is quite extensive but narrow at areas, thus a specialty in dive caving is required if those are to be attempted. The main chamber is quite wide for a relaxed swim through for multiple divers.

Akrotiri Peninsula

Agira

Location: Akrotiri, Limassol (34°33'28.08"N, 33°2'44.82"E)

Type of dive site: Reef, seagrass & archaeological

Depth: 25 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Advanced Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Ancient anchor of ships amongst the rocky substrate and *P. oceanica* meadows.

The site offers beautiful views of the natural habitat of Akrotiri with a rocky substrate, healthy seagrass meadows in combination with archaeological interesting features. Marine life of the area is plentiful where large schools of fish can be seen among the seagrass and groupers hiding amongst the rocks.

Akrotiri Fish Reserve (Parko)

Location: Akrotiri, Limassol (34°34'36.20"N, 33°1'49.78"E)

Type of dive site: Sand, artificial reef

Depth: 12 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: This dive site features an assortment of wreck gullies and wide variety of undersea life

Interesting facts: The Akrotiri Fish Reserve was created by the Sovereign Base Area in Akrotiri (SBAA) as a small fish reserve (mini MPA) to create an interesting place for diving with artificial reefs.

The site doesn't exceed 12 m in depth which also makes it suitable for snorkelling. The sunken artifacts include a helicopter and a fire engine.

Bahames

Location: Akrotiri, Limassol (34°33'34.11"N, 33°2'31.70"E)

Type of dive site: Rocky

Depth: 15 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Rocky substrate with few expanses of Posidonia meadows populated by diverse marine life, both mobile and sessile.

Interesting facts: Bahames is one of the popular dive sites at Akrotiri which divers tend to prefer if the window for good weather is short, due to its proximity to Limassol Bay (where boats usually depart from), and it is slightly more sheltered from westward winds.

This dive site is characterized by its rocky substrate thriving with marine life. Groupers, moray eels, octopi and smaller fish hide in the shaded areas between the rocks. The rocks themselves are covered in sponges, algae and anemones showcasing their bright colours.

Kamara

Location: Akrotiri, Limassol (34°33'38.11"N, 32°58'11.61"E)

Type of dive site: Rock, sand & seagrass

Depth: 22 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Advanced Open Water / Boat Diver

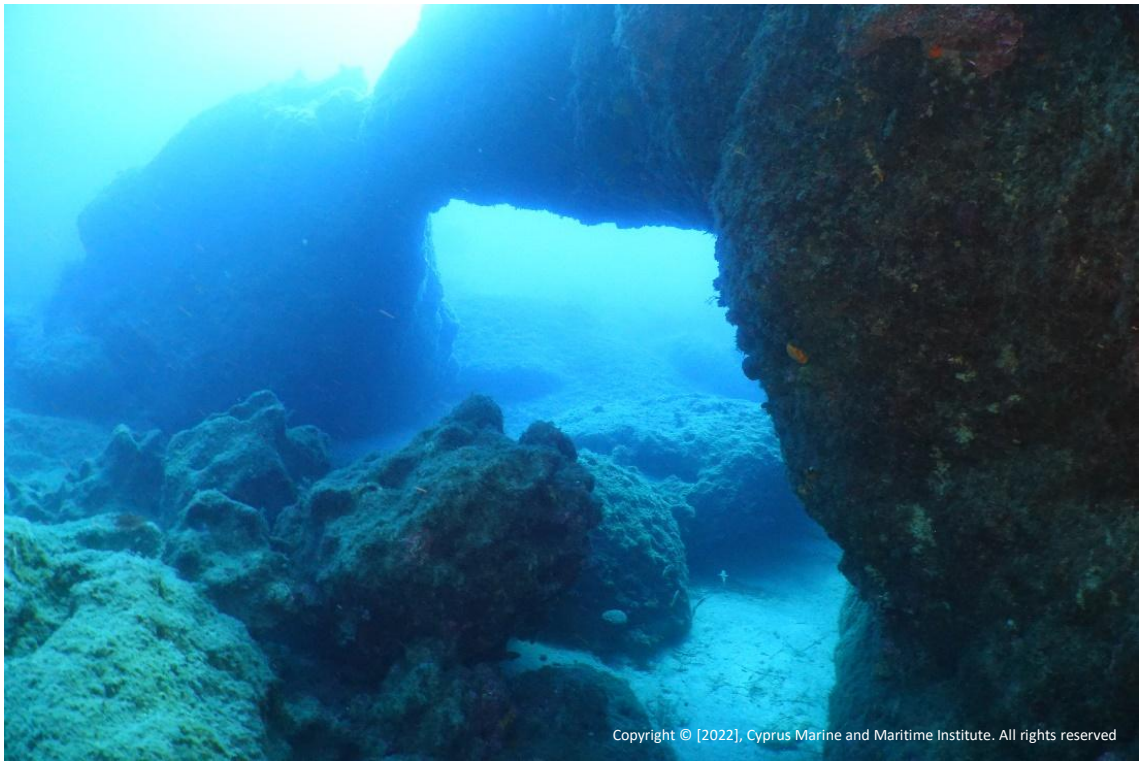
Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Natural rock formation in the shape of an Archway covered in marine life.

Interesting facts: Kamara is one of the most popular dive sites at Akrotiri peninsula due to its beautiful natural rock formation of the Archway.

The dive site is characterized by the rocky substrate and a few patches of Posidonia meadows. The main attraction of the site is the natural archway which stands 5 m tall and frames the

scenery. The rocks are brimming with marine life, such as sponges, octopi, turtles, moray eels, and groupers.



Lianokaos / Petra

Location: Akrotiri, Limassol (34°33'21.18"N, 33°3'7.02"E)

Type of dive site: Rocky

Depth: 30 - 45 m

Visibility: 15+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Advanced Open Water / Deep Diver /Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving, Technical diving

Features: This site features a rocky peak followed by a drop-off down to 45 m depth.

Interesting facts: Most divers come to this dive site for technical diving as beyond the rock cliff the sandy expanse continues deeper.

The imposing rock drop off starts from about 17 meters depth and drops to 45 m. The rocks are rich in marine life from vibrant sponges to groupers hiding in the crevices.

Petra Mikri

Location: Akrotiri, Limassol (34°33'14.60"N, 33°2'48.40"E)

Type of dive site: Rock, sand & seagrass

Depth: 35 m

Visibility: 15+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Advanced Open Water / Deep diver / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: A high rock column of approximate 6 – 8 m in height surrounded by sand and *P.* oceanica meadows.

Petra Tou Lefkou

Location: Akrotiri, Limassol (34°33'22.98 "N, 33°1'18.18"E)

Type of dive site: Rocky

Depth: 40 m

Visibility: 15+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Advanced Open Water / Deep diver / Boat Diver

Dive category: Technical diving

Features: A flat bed rock expanding ~500 m^2 surrounded by sand.

This dive site is exclusively for technical divers as it is a flat bed rock at 40 m and depth increasing in the surrounding sandy expanse.

Porto Parou

Location: Akrotiri, Limassol (34°33'58.61"N, 33°1'1.41"E)

Type of dive site: Rock, sand & seagrass

Depth: 5 – 10 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Natural reefs surrounded by patches of *Posidonia oceanica* meadows and sand expanses. There have been turtle sightings at the site.

Interesting facts: Beautiful scenery of the natural reefs for a relaxed shallow dive. This dive site is ideal for beginners with the cove sheltering the site from waves. The rock formations create small caverns to swim through coloured by sponges and calcareous algae.

Zevgari

Location: Akrotiri, Limassol (34°33'44.34"N, 32°56'4.34"E)

Type of dive site: Rock, sand & seagrass

Depth: 10 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Twin set of large rocks on the southwest edge of Akrotiri that are protruding out of the water and with a blow hole located on the eastern rock.

The two rocks are surrounded by *P. oceanica* meadows rich in marine life. This site is also very popular with free divers and spear fishers.

Amathounta MPA

Amathus Archaeological Site

Location: Amathounta MPA, Limassol (34°42'35.99"N, 33° 8'39.51"E)

Type of dive site: Reef, seagrass & archaeological

Depth: 5 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Shore (walk-in)

Qualification required: Open Water

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Amathus archaeological site features remnants of an ancient harbour and a healthy *Posidonia oceanica* meadow overgrowing much of it, thriving with marine life, large schools of fish and sea turtles feeding and resting among the seagrass.

Interesting facts: Amathus is the first "underwater archaeological park" in Cyprus. The ancient harbour of Amathus is dated around the end of the 4th century BCE.

This dive site is excellent for beginners. The harbour is approximately 150 m from shore (~200 m from nearest beach for entry) and surrounded by a natural rocky reef and seagrass meadows. Underwater signs can be found at key locations of the archaeological site, entrance of harbour, moles etc. The depth at the moles is 1.5 m and at the harbour entrance is 5m. Further south of the southern mole, seagrass meadow continues and reaches a sand expanse where the depth increases to 5 m. Large schools of striped seabream, barracudas and damselfish can be found. There have also been frequent sightings of turtles and rays in the area. This site is also ideal and easy site for a night dive where cuttle fish and octopi can be observed.

Amathounta MPA (Pyramids)

Location: Amathounta MPA, Limassol (34°42'12.36"N, 33° 8'48.66"E)

Type of dive site: Artificial reef

Depth: 17 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: The Amathounta Marine Protected Area (MPA), features concrete blocks in the form of four pyramids that host diverse marine life including lionfish, seabreams, nudibranchs, tubeworms and large schools of amberjacks passing through seasonally.

Interesting facts: The artificial reef was created in 2009. The square concrete blocks used to create the pyramids have holes in the middle to allow fish to seek shelter and safety.

Reaching the pyramids is relatively easy as there are guiding lines from the mooring buoy to the pyramids and connecting lines between the pyramids. Following the guiding lines, you start from the southwest pyramid, onwards to northwest pyramid then to northeast and finally to the southeast pyramid. Each pyramid is populated by a plethora of species, both

mobile and sessile. Tube worms, sponges and nudibranchs can be found on the pyramids and occasionally amberjacks pass through.

Dasoudi MPA

Barge Ayia Trias

Location: Dasoudi, Limassol (34°41'6.66"N, 33°4'49.32"E)

Type of dive site: Artificial reef

Depth: 12 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: A sunken barge that sitting on the muddy seabed surrounded by patches of *P. oceanica* seagrass

Interesting facts: Ayia Trias barge is located within the Dasoudi Marine Protected Area.

An easy dive where one can see encrusting organisms on the barge and surrounding boulders as well as small fish hiding amongst crevices.

Constantis shipwreck

Location: Dasoudi MPA, Limassol (34°40'46.63"N, 33°5'6.67"E)

Type of dive site: Wreck (dimensions 23 m long / 8.6 m wide)

Depth: 24 m

Visibility: 15+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Advanced Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Constantis offers easy access, with a varied marine life that includes large groupers, seabreams, moray eels, tubeworms and large schools of amberjacks passing through seasonally.

Interesting facts: Costandis is one of the two ships sunk to promote diving in the area (along with Lady Thetis). The boat was a USSR Trawler built in 1989 and was sunk February 2014.

The approach to the wreck is relatively easy as there are guiding line from the mooring buoy to the wreck. Often there are currents in the area which can affect visibility, but it is still safe to dive. Constantis has an open engine room, which is very easy to penetrate and the bottom trawling equipment which is still in place. However, one has to be careful penetrating the wreck as there are many lionfish present hiding in the corners which could sting. On the deck, the winch which used to operate the trawling equipment is there, and you can occasionally find a few groupers hiding.

Dasoudi MPA (Structures)

Location: Dasoudi MPA, Limassol (34°40'50.34"N, 33°5'4.86"E)

Type of dive site: Artificial reef

Depth: 18 - 22 m

Visibility: 15+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Advance Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: The Dasoudi Marine Protected Area (MPA), features five different types of artificial structures that host diverse marine life, including lionfish, seabreams, nudibranchs, tubeworms and large schools of amberjacks passing through seasonally.

Interesting facts: The artificial reefs at Dasoudi MPA were created between 2016-2017 and the variety of structures were designed to attract different types of marine life.

The different structures that were created in the MPA are: two large rockeries which used large boulders to create large pyramids; two concrete blocks sunk separately, Byzantine tiles were used to create smaller coves, large amphorae tied together and four suspended rope structures. Each of the structures hosts slightly different organisms but all are covered in sponges, tubeworms, anemones, ascidians and algae. During night dives, nocturnal organisms can also be seen such as, lobsters and shrimps.

Gaia

Location: Limassol (34°40'55.20"N, 33°4'53.22"E)

Type of dive site: Artificial reef

Depth: 17 m

Visibility: 15+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Large concrete carnival masks sunken next to boulders to create artificial reefs populated by sessile and mobile marine life.

Interesting facts: Gaia is located within the Dasoudi MPA near the Ayia Trias Barge. The masks represent Limassol's carnival spirit.

At Gaia, one can see groupers hiding amongst the rocks as well as small schools of damsel fish and picarel fish surrounding the area.

Lady Thetis shipwreck

Location: Dasoudi MPA, Limassol (34°40'55.78"N, 33°5'1.99"E)

Type of dive site: Wreck (dimensions 30 m long / 8 m wide)

Depth: 18 m

Visibility: 15+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

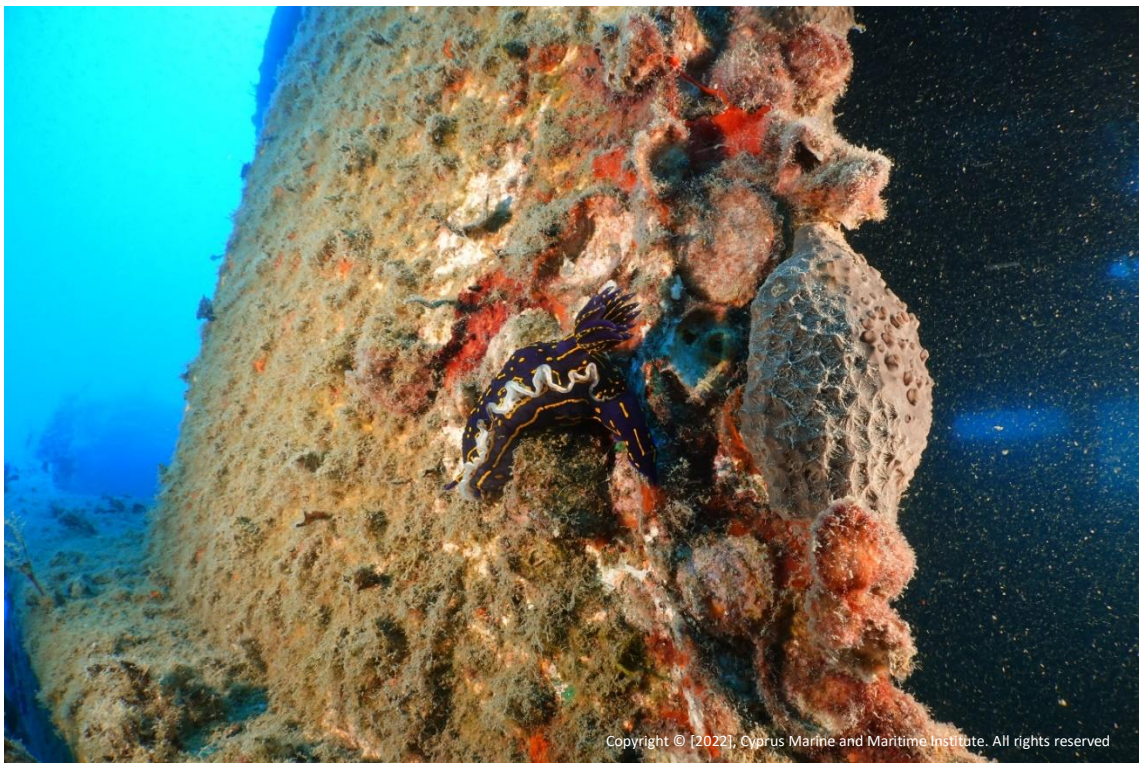
Qualification required: Advanced Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Lady Thetis offers easy access, with a varied marine life that includes large groupers, seabreams, moray eels, tubeworms and large schools of amberjacks passing through seasonally.

Interesting facts: Lady Thetis is one of the two ships sunk to promote diving in the area (along with Costandis). The boat was a Hamburg passenger vessel and was sunk in February 2014

The approach to the wreck is relatively easy as there are guiding line from the mooring buoy to the wreck. Often there are currents at the area which can affect visibility, but it is still safe to dive. The wreck is easy and safe to penetrate with many points of interest. These include the engine room, storerooms, bridge, a number of decks on different levels, doorways and hatches, stairwells, the hull area, props and the high mast. On the deck there are still remnants of tables as it used to be a passenger vessel. Around the wreck small nudibranchs, large tubeworms, sponges and anemones can be found.



Nicosia

Omega

Location: Pyrgos, Nicosia (35°11'40.99"N, 32°39'51.01"E)

Type of dive site: Rock, sand & seagrass

Depth: 5 – 10 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Shore / Boat

Qualification required: Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: A mixture of rocky and sandy substrate and thick shallow seagrass meadows

A not so popular dive-site in a region with inexistent diving facilities. Entry to the site is mainly from a popular beach with lots of bathers. The region is largely unexplored with regards to recreational diving, but the general feeling is that it has a lot of potential, with rich and diverse marine life.

Paphos

Achilleas shipwreck

Location: Paphos (34°46'24.42"N, 34°23'28.20"E)

Type of dive site: Wreck (dimensions 53m long)

Depth: 12 metres

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: An exploded Greek vessel on a sandy and rocky substratum.

Interesting facts: Achilleas was a Greek cargo ship, that sunk in 1975 after a mysterious explosion on board.

The wreck broke up into 3 main sections when it exploded. Of the 3 sections, the most popular is the bronze propeller on the upturned stern and the winch. Although the stern section is upturned the side is broken open exposing the engine. The engine is still fully intact and provides shelter for a range of marine life including octopi. Marine life has taken over most of the remains of the ship, where you are likely to find seabreams, damselfish, colourful wrasses, cardinal fish and squirrelfish.

Airport Reef

Location: Acheleia, Paphos (34°42'7.73"N, 32°29'38.68"E)

Type of dive site: Rocky

Depth: 16 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Shore

Qualification required: Open Water

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Natural reefs filled with various marine life and visiting turtles.

Interesting facts: The dive site is a series of natural reefs stretching for 200 m creating the illusion of a labyrinth.

The reef is formed of canyons leading down a maze were one can find swim-throughs made of chimneys and small caverns. This dive site is ideal for beginners as it is easily accessible from the shore. The residents of the reef include octopi, squids, shrimps and small wrasse.

Amphora Caves

Location: Thalassia Periochi Moulia, Paphos (34°43'21.36"N, 32°26'14.76"E)

Type of dive site: Rock, caves & caverns (swim throughs)

Depth: 12 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

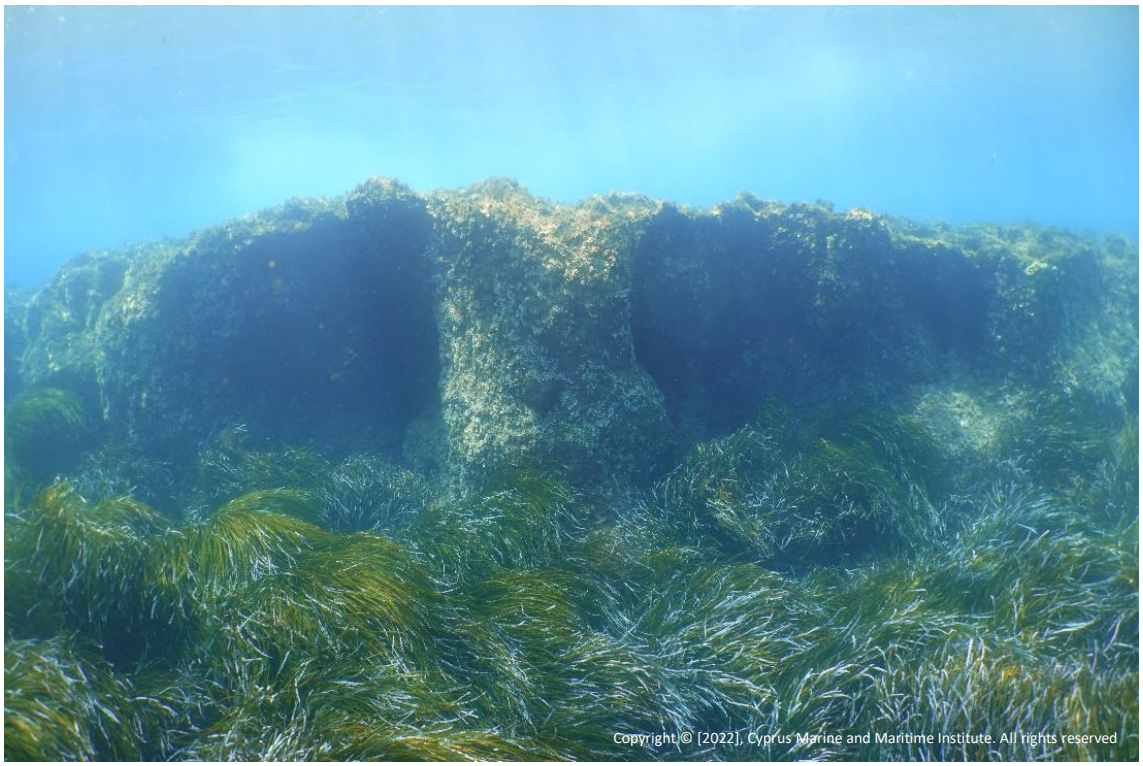
Access: Boat

Qualification required: Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Both sandy and rocky substrates where a variety of marine life can be found. On or within the walls leading to the cave, one may see octopus, hermit crabs and moray eels. The highlight is the cave in which small amphora can be found, as well as the impressive roof of the cave being formed by amphora itself.

Interesting facts: This dive site is ideal for beginners and anyone else wishing to have a pleasant recreational dive. While a flashlight can help one see some unique species within the cave and particularly during a night dive, one may also be lucky enough to witness rays on the sandy bottom. It is very likely to observe Razor fish submerging themselves into the flat sandy substrate, which is located at the deeper part of this dive route and adjacent to small patches of *Posidonia oceanica* meadows.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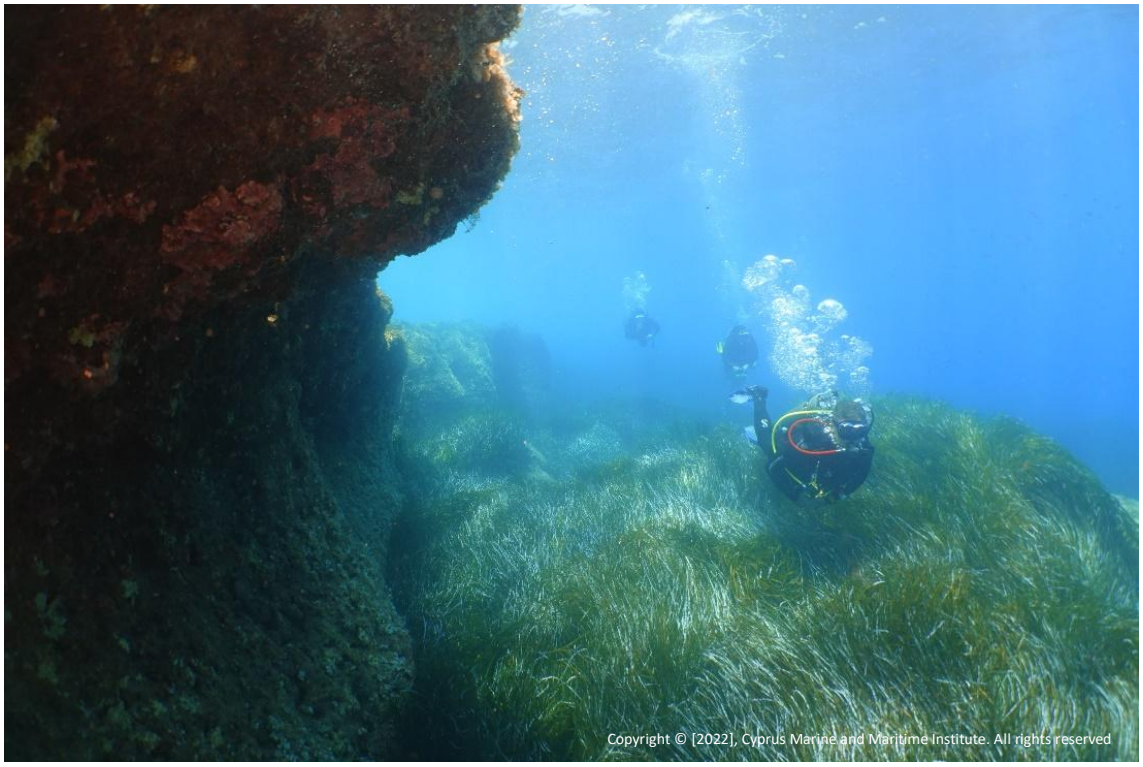
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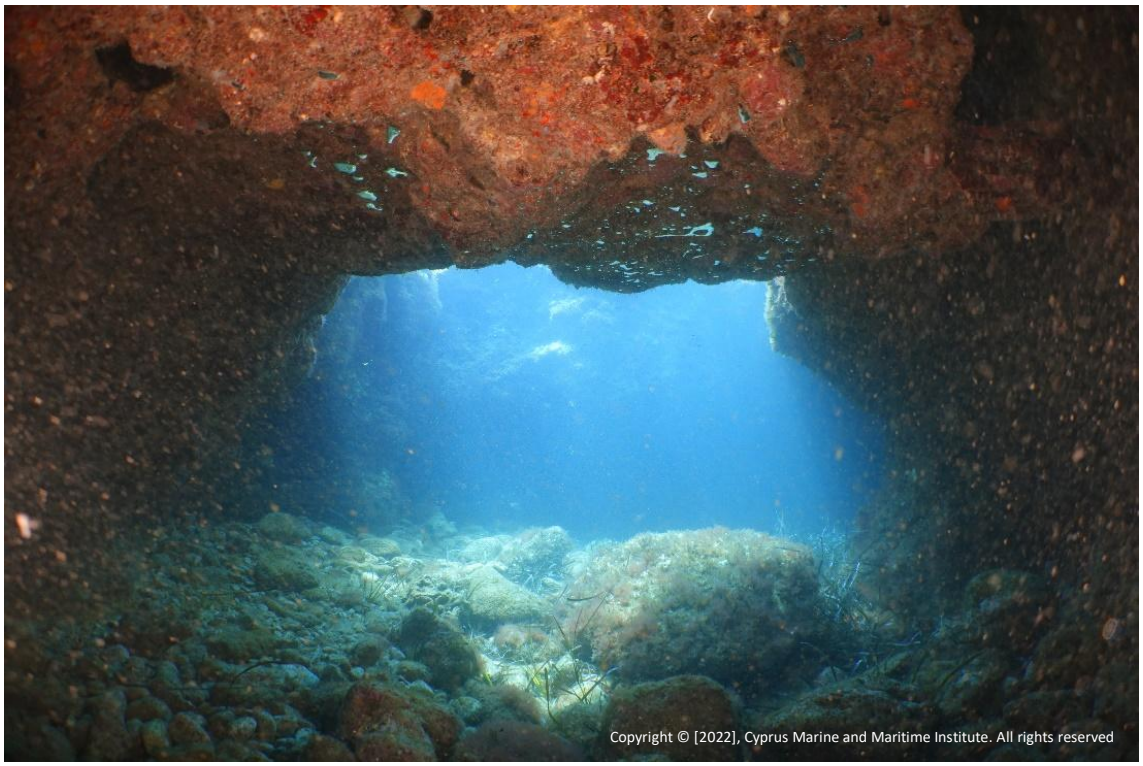


Laboe wreck

Location: Geroskipou, Paphos (34°43'0.23"N, 32°26'34.28"E)

Type of dive site: Wreck (dimensions 21.5 m long / 5 m wide)

Depth: 27 m

Visibility: 15+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Advance Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Laboe shipwreck is inhabited by various marine life and has also attracted some resident groupers, visiting barracudas, amberjacks and seabream. Rays and flounders can also be seen in the sandy expanse surrounding the wreck.

Interesting facts: Built in Germany in 1940 as a cruise ship, the Laboe was brought to Cyprus in 2006 and donated to the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research by the Cyprus

Tourism Organisation and the Cyprus Dive Centres Association. It was sunk in 2014 as an artificial reef with the aim of encouraging the increase of marine life to the area.

Laboe is located within the Marine Protected Area (MPA) of Geroskipou. The wreck was prepared for divers thus windows have been removed for easy access. In the Saloon area, natural light floods the space to enjoy the encrusting marine life. Through the bridge you can enter the engine room where you will find the fully intact engine and transmitter.

Roman Wall

Location: Paphos (34°45'18.34 "N, 32°24'55.80"E)

Type of dive site: Rock, sand, seagrass & archaeological

Depth: 6-8 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Shore

Qualification required: Open Water

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Natural reef with remnants of the ancient Roman Wall. Easy access from shore with facilities including toilets and showers. A popular spot for bathers.

Interesting facts: This area is of archaeological importance and surveys are still being carried out.

The shallow waters allow for a relaxed dive perfect for beginners, where they can enjoy the natural reef filled with marine life along the submerged ancient Roman Walls. You can also find two large anchors from old wrecks in the sandy patch at the deeper end of the site. Turtles regularly visit this location to feed on seagrass patches.

Vera K Shipwreck

Location: Paphos (34°43'17.28"N, 32°25'42.18"E)

Type of dive site: Wreck, rock & seagrass

Depth: 11 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

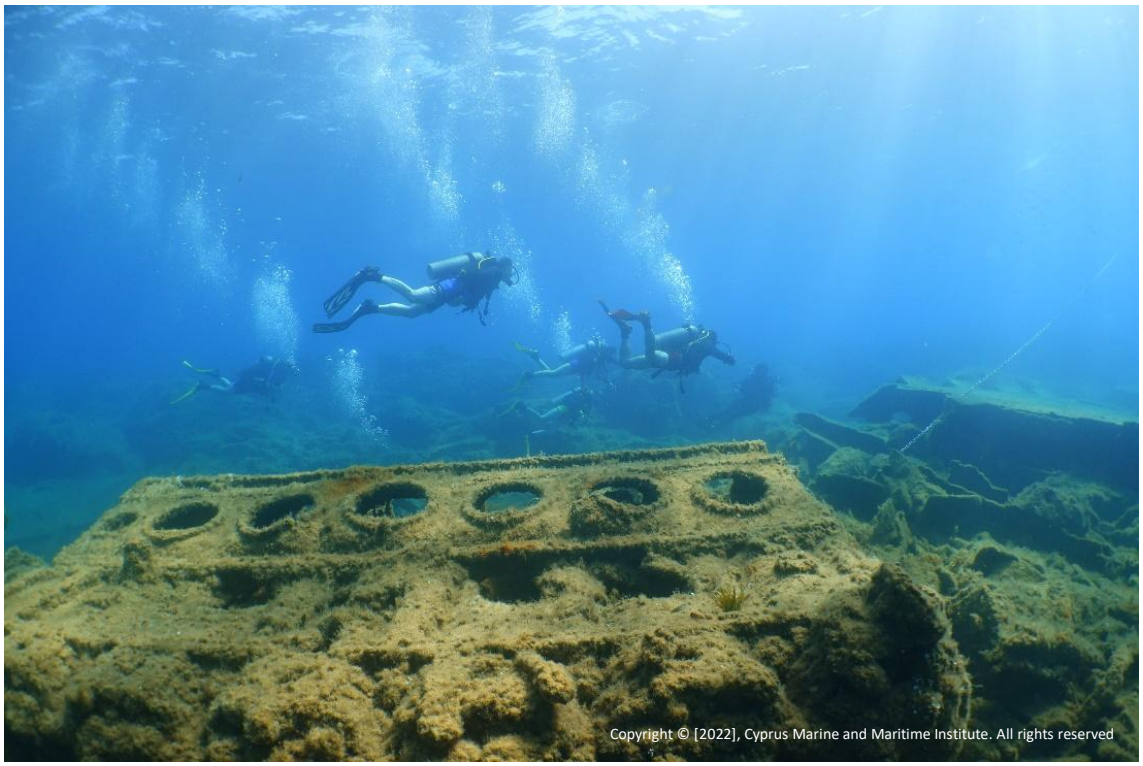
Qualification required: Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Two large archways and narrow tunnels are suitable for experienced divers to explore with plenty of marine life to observe.

Interesting facts: This Lebanese freighter ran aground in shallow water in 1972 and was initially used as target practice by the army. It was later declared a hazard to other ships and blown up in 1974. It now rests in a crater created by the explosion. It is in four main sections with the bridge still fairly intact.

The broken wreck is sitting on rocky substrate, surrounded by large expanses of *P. oceanica* meadows. Around the wreck, caverns and small caves can be found populated by sessile marine life. Small schools of fish can be seen swimming through the meadows, between the wreck's pieces and around the hiding places next to the rocky reefs.



White Star shipwreck

Location: Paphos (34°43'56.76"N, 32°24'51.96"E)

Type of dive site: Wreck

Depth: 18 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: The loading bays of the shipwreck populated with groupers and breams.

Interesting facts: The White Star was built in 1954. The ship was part of the Russian commercial fishing fleet in the Black Sea and originally bore the name Ivana Ivanova. It was later sold to a Cypriot company that renamed it White Star. It was decommissioned in 2005, after which it lay in the port of Paphos until February 2006. The White Star went down in 2007 when it was towed to Limassol for scrapping.

There is no access to enter the inside of the wreck any longer, and parts of the ship are scattered across the seabed. However, you can still find the ladder and bow sections close to the main body of the wreck.

Peyeia

Amphitheater

Location: Coral Bay, Peyia, Paphos (34°51'21.06"N, 32°20'44.64"E)

Type of dive site: Rocky

Depth: 21 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Shore

Qualification required: Advance Open Water

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: There are natural formations of rocks in the shape of an amphitheatre and host a diversity of marine life.

Interesting facts: Most suitable for beginners. Mostly flat sandy surface with rocky spots and patches of *Posidonia oceanica* seagrass.

The site is characterized by rocky substrate with small patches of seagrass, *Posidonia oceanica,* and sand expanses. The main attraction of the dive site is the natural formation of the rocks in the shape of an amphitheatre. The natural architecture of the dive site is exceptionally beautiful creating a sense of awe to first time divers.

Church Bay

Location: Peyia, Paphos (34°51'31.06"N, 32°20'49.82"E)

Type of dive site: Rock & sand

Depth: 23 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Shore

Qualification required: Open water / Advance Open Water

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Three main swim throughs as well as many smaller ones.

Interesting facts: Church Bay dive site is great for all levels of divers with the site beginning at 5m depth up to 23 m.

The descent to the water's edge, even though the path goes down a cliff, there is adequate safety as there is a handrail available for support. The volcanic rock that forms the caverns and caves in this dive-site creates a beautiful effect together with the diver's air bubbles escaping from the roofs. The marine life inhabiting these reefs includes seabream, cuttlefish, groupers and pufferfish, along with schools of thousands of transparent sand smelt fish that look like masses of glittering glass in the water.

EDRO III shipwreck

Location: Peyia, Paphos (34°52'22.31"N, 32°20'20.99"E)

Type of dive site: Wreck (dimensions 95 m long / 14.5 m wide), rock, caves & caverns

Depth: 5 – 20 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Shore or boat

Qualification required: Open water / Advance Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Swim through the wreck up to 5 m depth as well as deeper to the reef and caves following the anchors of the ship.

Interesting facts: The EDRO III was a cargo ship built in 1966 in Norway. On 8 December 2011, it ran aground off Peyia in rough seas.

Swimming around the EDRO III is possible however on the port side the water is only 1-2m. The wreckage still has all the propellers attached. On the starboard side there is a hole where you can find small perfectly intact forklifts and cargo from the deck. Two anchor chains are

attached on the vessel and following those can lead you towards a large cave and a series of swim throughs or towards a gully at 18 m depth. The inside of the cave resembles a train carriage in shape and size, wide enough to fit multiple divers with lots of natural light.

Maniji

Location: Peyia, Paphos (34°53'13.91"N, 32°19'22.96"E)

Type of dive site: Rock, seagrass, caves & caverns (swim throughs)

Depth: 18 m

Visibility: 15+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Rocky reef with crevices, canyons, small caverns and caves to swim through as well as large expanses of *Posidonia oceanica* meadows.

Interesting facts: This dive site offers many crevices and caves for a swim through, or one can enjoy the rock reef and shallow cliff to sandy stretches and *P. oceanica* meadows.

This dive site is characterized mainly by the rocky substrate with occasional seagrass meadows and sandy stretches in deeper waters. The rocks, especially inside the crevices and caves, are populated by sponges, urchins and algae. Schools of damsel fish, seabreams and wrasses can be found there.

Pistol Bay

Location: Peyeia, Paphos (34°53'1.56 "N, 33°19'51.64"E)

Type of dive site: Rock, sand, caves & caverns

Depth: shallow to 22 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Open Water / Advanced Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Natural rock formations with small caves and swim throughs.

Interesting facts: The dive site is beautiful from shallows to deeper waters thus allowing all levels of divers to enjoy it.

The rocks and caves are covered in colourful sponges and swimming through the caves on the outside can see the gas bubbles escaping creating a beautiful bubble curtain.

St George – Geronisos

Location: Peyia, Paphos (34°54'4.26"N, 32°18'42.86"E)

Type of dive site: Rock, cave & cavers

Depth: 12-35 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

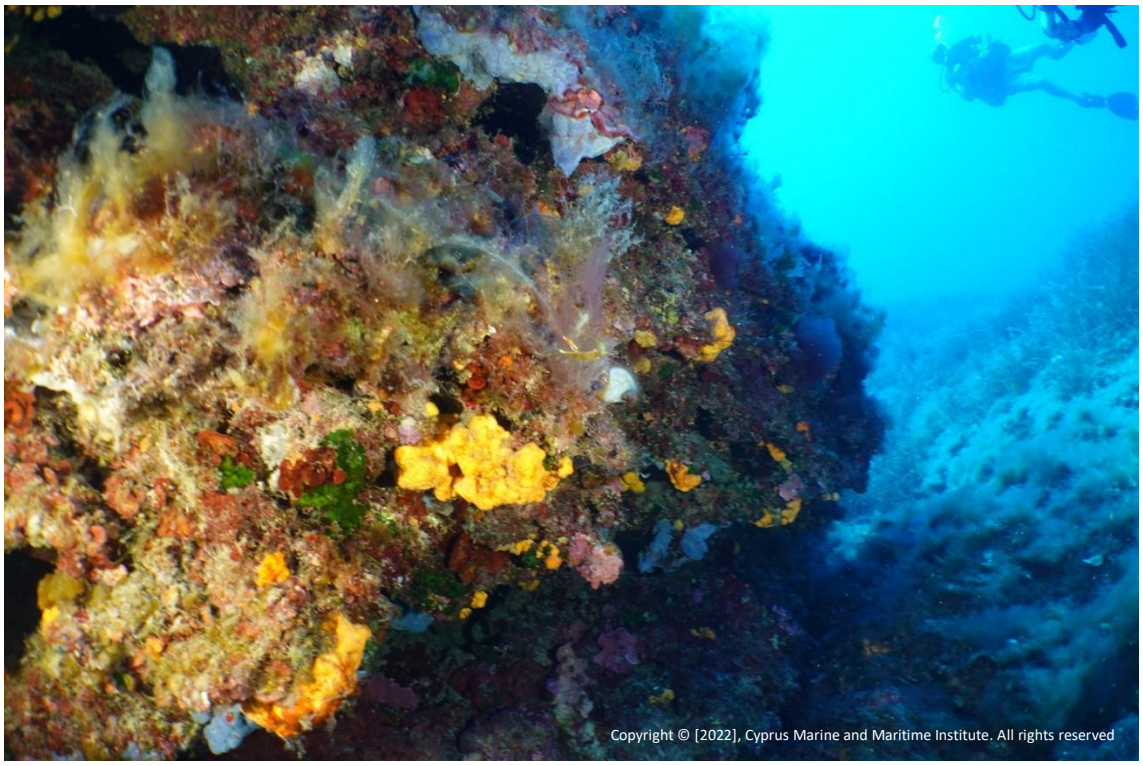
Qualification required: Open Water / Advance Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving / Technical diving

Features: Geronisos island is characterised by its rocky substrate with scattered Posidonia meadows, caves and caverns that host an array of colourful organisms.

Interesting facts: The steep incline of Geronisos allows it to accommodate divers of different qualifications, from open water to technical. The caves and caverns are mostly found at the shallower parts.

St George's Island's rocky substrate is covered with algae, tubeworms, sponges and ascidians while smal fish hide between the crevices and others graze their surface. The cave walls are covered in orange, red, pink, white sponges, coralligenous algae and corals which look like abstract modern art paintings. Large groupers, schools of seabreams, damselfish, picarels and many other species make this a memorable dive.



Latchi

Amphitheater Bay

Location: Chersonisos Akamas, Latsi, Paphos (34°4'33.04"N, 32°19'2.09"E)

Type of dive site: Rock, sand & seagrass

Depth: 18 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Shore or boat

Qualification required: Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Crystal clear waters and an impressive above water scenery with rocks shaped like an amphitheatre from its use as a quarry in the old times.

Interesting facts: Suitable dive site for beginners, very relaxed and pleasant dive site.

This dive site is characterized by the rocky substrate, sandy expanses and *Posidonia oceanica* meadows. The rocks and crevices are populated by algae, sponges, urchins and tubeworms. The crystal-clear waters make it ideal for a relaxed and pleasant recreational dive.

Aphrodites Rock

Location: Latchi, Paphos (35°3'30.30"N, 32°20'53.16"E)

Type of dive site: Rock & seagrass

Depth: 12 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Natural rock formations creating reefs surrounded by *P. oceanica* meadows, filled with marine life.

Interesting facts: This site is situated next to 'Baths of Aphrodite' a very popular touristic attraction which, according to local legend, is where the Greek goddess of love and passion bathed. The site is easy and safe with crystal clear waters, rocky reefs and patches of posidonia seagrass. The divers can spot small groupers, moray eels, stingrays, squids, octopi and wrasse. It is also very suitable for snorkelling.

Blue Lagoon

Location: Akamas, Paphos (35°4'57.83"N, 32°18'26.90"E)

Type of dive site: Sand & rock

Depth: 10 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Shore or boat

Qualification required: Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Natural clear waters in sandy bottom with sparce *P. oceanica* meadows and rocks near the shore.

Interesting facts: Blue Lagoon is one of the most iconic and stunning beauty spots on the island with its picturesque clear and sparkling turquoise waters.

The clear waters and sandy bottom unfold with patches of Posidonia seagrass, rocks and sponges to reveal a site that is ideal for beginners, and perfect for practising buoyancy and

skills. Small fish dart among the small rocks within the bay, whilst the larger species dwell outside the bay.

Fontana Amorosa

Location: Latsi, Paphos (35°5'21.06"N, 32°18'7.26"E)

Type of dive site: Rocky

Depth: 15 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Shore or Boat

Qualification required: Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Natural rocky reefs covered in marine life as well as several amphorae embedded between the rock crevices.

Interesting facts: Lots of broken amphorae can be found showcasing the ancient history of the area.

Fontana Amorosa is characterized by the rocky substrate which forms small crevices and canyons to swim through. Sponges and calcareous algae can be found covering the rocks, especially in the crevices. Sea slugs, urchins and groupers are very frequently observed at this dive site. The crystal-clear waters make this a very relaxed and easy diver for any beginner diver.

Kakoskali

Location: Kakoskali MPA, Latsi, Paphos (35°4'29.16"N, 32°20'0.79"E)

Type of dive site: Cave & caverns, seagrass

Depth: 35 m

Visibility: 15+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

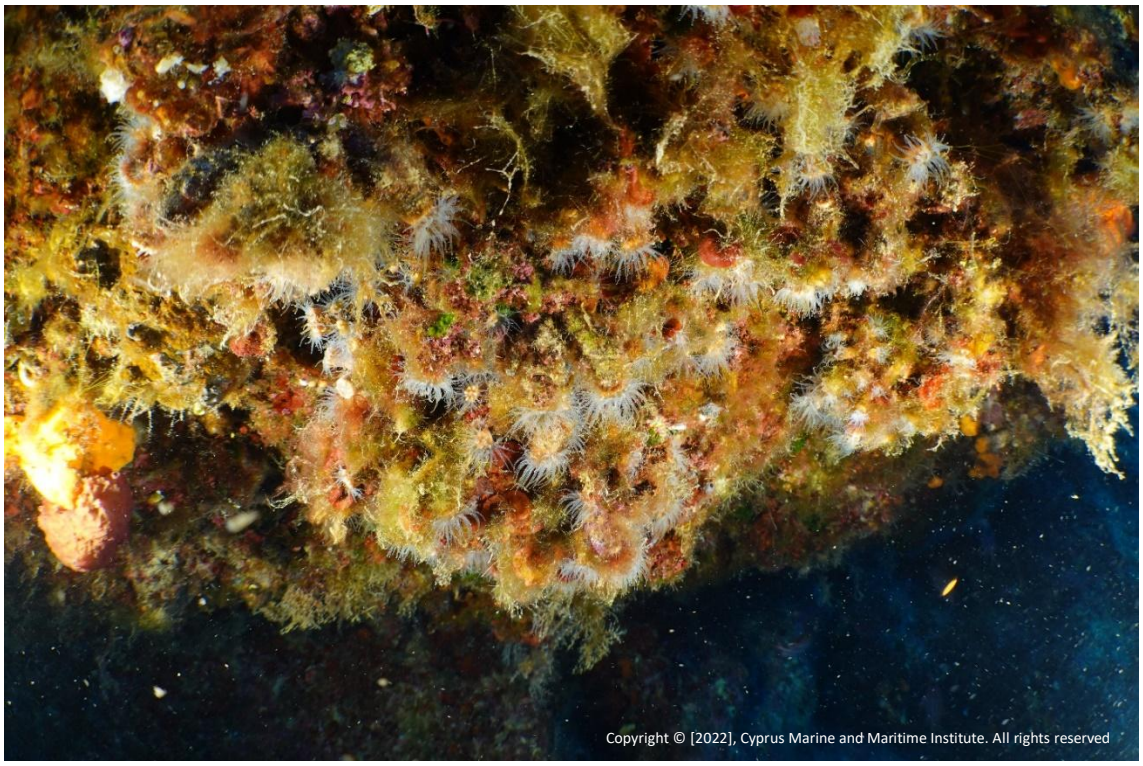
Qualification required: Advance Open Water / Cave Diver / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Reef cliff that drops from 9 m down to 35 m and a cave with biogenic stalactites and colourful corals, sponges and coralligenous algae. Large schools of mottled groupers.

Interesting facts: Around Ayios Yeorgios islet, which was designated as a marine protected area in 2018, this natural reef has a plateau at around 10 m with a rocky substrate and *P. oceanica* meadows. Past the plateau a cliff that drops down to 35 m where sandy expanses begin with rocky outcrops teaming with marine life a gradual incline to much deeper waters.

The reef at Kakoskali creates a beautiful sight of the cliff wall imposing over divers. The rocks are populated by sponges, corals, tubeworms and coralligenous algae. Schools of fish are found swimming around the area and between the *P. oceanica* meadows and groupers are hiding between the rock crevices. The shallow cave provides an additional thirl to the dive. To enter the narrow cave, divers should be careful to avoid suspending any of the fine sediment and obstruct their view of the plethora of colours and organisms covering the cave and the imposing biogenic stalactites descending from the roof. It is however advisable not to enter the cave due to the fragility of the unique organisms that build the biostalactites. The biology of the cave system and adjacent habitats is being systematically studied by marine biologists due to its importance, uniqueness and high biodiversity that it hosts.



Mazaki

Location: Akamas, Paphos (34°6'43.33"N, 32°16'50.64"E)

Type of dive site: Rocky

Depth: 22 m

Visibility: 15+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Advanced Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: A small islet situated around 200 meters off Cape Arnaoutis, Akamas peninsula

Interesting facts: An interesting dive site that can be challenging, depending on the weather conditions, as it very often enjoys high winds, waves and currents, due to its position close to Cape Arnaoutis. The dive-site boasts a large array of marine organisms inhabiting the shallow rocky reefs, often frequented by large pelagic fish, but one can also venture deeper down to 20m and observe large groupers as well as lots of other mixed schools of fish.

Photiades Wall

Location: Latchi, Paphos (35°4'39.10"N, 32°19'0.26"E)

Type of dive site: Rock

Depth: 25 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Shore

Qualification required: Open Water / Advanced Open Water

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Situated directly adjacent to Amphitheatre bay, the site is characterized by a long wall drop off, rich with marine life.

Interesting facts: This easy dive site can turn to a nice and safe drift dive along the wall if the currents are to your favour.

Amidst the natural rock formation and coarse white sands of this dive site a large number of organisms can be found from sponges and urchins on the rocks to schools of amberjack, crayfish, grouper, lionfish, moray eels, starfish, stingrays and wrasses.

St Georgios' Reef – Kakoskali

Location: Latsi, Paphos (35°4'13.47"N, 32°19'49.38"E)

Type of dive site: Rock, caves & caverns

Depth: 10 m

Visibility: 20+ metres in good conditions

Access: Boat

Qualification required: Open Water / Boat Diver

Dive category: Recreational diving

Features: Natural rocky reefs rich in marine life and a few broken amphorae within the crevices.

Interesting facts: Easy dive and great opportunity to explore the richness of the Cypriot marine life.

This shallow dive is perfect with its crystal-clear waters for beginners or divers seeking a leisured relaxed dive. The rocky substrate hosts an array of marine life, including shoals of amberjack, crayfish and colourful wrasses, groupers, star fish, sting rays, moray eels, etc. They also hide pieces of history with ancient amphorae embedded within them.

Harbours with diving boats

Twenty-six harbours, fishing shelters and slipways accessible to the general public, were identified across Cyprus (Table A1). Nine host dive boats which are available for hiring/book passage on for diving purposes (Figure A1). Harbours are privately owned, whereas fishing shelters are managed by the DFMR. The purpose of fishing shelters is to provide safe harbour for professional fishing vessels, allowing also other vessels to moor in case of sufficient space.

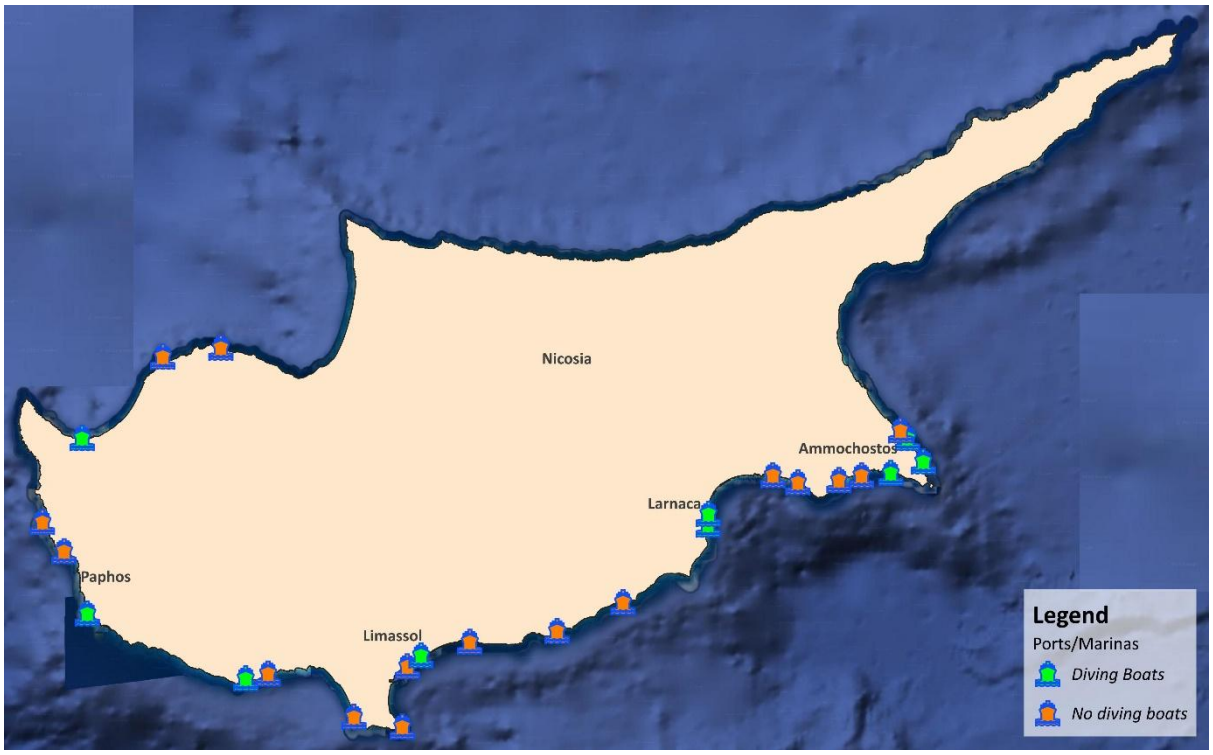


Figure A1. Map with the distribution of the identified harbours across Cyprus.

Table A1. List of all ports and slipways indicating their type and availability of dive boats.

Name	Type	Diving Boat (Yes/No)
Akrotiri	Harbour	No
Akrotiriou	Fishing shelter	No
Alaminos	Harbour	No
Avdimou	Slipway	No
Ayia Napa	Fishing shelter	Yes
Ayia Triada	Fishing shelter	No
Ayios Georgios Pegeias	Fishing shelter	No
Dasoudi	Slipway	Yes
Kato Pyrgos	Fishing shelter	No
Larnaka (Marina)	Harbour	Yes
Larnaka	Fishing shelter	Yes
Latsi	Fishing shelter / Harbour	Yes
Lemesos (Palio Limani)	Fishing shelter / Harbour	No
Limassol Sheraton Marina (St. Raphael)	Harbour	No
Marina Ayias Napas	Harbour	No
Ormideia	Fishing shelter	No
Paphos	Fishing shelter / Harbour	Yes
Paralimni	Fishing shelter	Yes
Paralimni (Green Bay)	Harbour	Yes
Pegeia	Harbour	No
Pissouri	Slipway	Yes

Pomos	Fishing shelter	No
Potamos Liopetriou	Fishing shelter	No
Xylotymbou	Fishing shelter	No
Xylofagou	Fishing shelter	No
Zygiou	Fishing shelter	No

Appendix II - Tables

Table A2. Dive sites in Cyprus.

No.	Dive sites	Latitude	Longitude
Famagusta			
1	Antennae (Cape Greco)	34°46'24.42"N	32°23'28.20"E
2	Caves	34°33'28.08"N	33°2'44.82"E
3	Chapel (Agioi Anargiroi)	34°42'7.73"N	32°29'38.68"E
4	Cyclops caves	34°53'29.40"N	33°39'16.20"E
5	Da Costa	34°42'35.99"N	33°8'39.51"E
6	Green bay	34°42'12.36"N	33°8'48.66"E
7	Green bay caves	34°51'21.06"N	32°20'44.64"E
8	Kryo Nero	35°4'33.04"N	32°19'2.09"E
9	Kyrenia shipwreck	34°43'21.36"N	32°26'14.76"E
10	Liberty shipwreck	34°57'44.79"N	34°4'49.41"E
11	MUSAN underwater sculpture museum	35°3'30.30"N	32°20'53.16"E
12	Nemesis III shipwreck	34°57'36.21"N	33°49'57.51"E
13	Octopus site	34°33'34.11"N	33°2'31.70"E
14	Table top (Kitazos)	34°41'6.66"N	33°4'49.32"E
15	The Canyon	35°4'57.83"N	32°18'26.90"E
Larnaka			
16	Alexandria shipwreck	34°57'38.79"N	33°49'47.84"E
17	Arch	34°56'23.67"N	33°51'16.22"E
18	Bullet point/Watchtower (Xylofagou)	34°57'48.86"N	34°4'23.33"E
19	Cape pyla reef (Xylofagou)	34°58'33.04"N	34°4'35.65"E
20	Dorida	34°51'31.06"N	32°20'49.82"E
21	Elpida shipwreck	34°40'46.63"N	33°5'6.67"E
22	HMS Cricket wreck	34°59'10.18"N	34°4'36.27"E
23	Larnaka reef	35°0'24.58"N	34°3'44.63"E
24	LEF-1 shipwreck	34°57'55.20"N	33°40'35.60"E
25	Pyla pirate caves (Xylofagou)	34°52'22.31"N	32°20'20.99"E
26	The Nail (Xylofagou)	34°57'6.30"N	33°41'5.60"E
27	Zenobia shipwreck	34°39'13.80"N	33°2'28.10"E
Limassol			
28	Agira	35°5'23.50"N	32°18'7.07"E
29	Amathus Archaeological site	34°40'55.20"N	33°4'53.22"E
30	Amathus MPA Pyramids	35°0'1.13"N	34°4'4.51"E
31	Bahames (Akrotiri)	34°59'57.28"N	34°4'11.37"E
32	Barge Ayia Trias	34°58'5.40"N	33°48'4.02"E
33	Costandis shipwreck	34°37'46.44"N	32°46'12.78"E
34	Farses II	35°4'29.16"N	32°20'0.79"E
35	Gaia	35°4'13.47"N	32°19'49.38"E

No.	Dive sites	Latitude	Longitude
36	Jubilee shoals	34°33'38.11"N	32°58'11.61"E
37	Kamara (Akrotiri)	34°39'37.41"N	33°1'38.20"E
38	Karnagio (Komeno) shipwrek	34°58'56.33"N	34°1'1.17"E
39	Lady Thetis shipwreck	34°58'42.37"N	33°58'52.23"E
40	Lianokaos/Petra (Akrotiri)	34°43'0.23"N	32°26'34.28"E
41	Akrotiri Fish Reserve (Parko)	34°40'55.78"N	33°5'1.99"E
42	Petra mikri	34°57'47.40"N	33°40'49.00"E
43	Petra tou Lefkou (Akrotiri)	34°57'8.23"N	33°40'8.50"E
44	Porto Parou (Akrotiri)	34°33'21.18"N	33°3'7.02"E
45	The structures	35°2'59.47"N	34°2'11.76"E
46	Zevgari	34°53'13.91"N	32°19'22.96"E
Nicosia			
47	Omega beach	35°6'43.33"N	32°16'50.64"E
Paphos			
48	Amphitheatre bay	34°58'58.04"N	33°59'2.46"E
49	Blue lagoon	35°3'3.72"N	34°2'11.05"E
50	Fontana Amorosa	34°59'27.77"N	34°4'30.12"E
51	Kakoskali MPA	35°11'40.99"N	32°39'51.01"E
52	Kakoskali reef (St Georgios reef)	34°34'36.20"N	33°1'49.78"E
53	Mazaki island	34°33'14.60"N	33°2'48.40"E
54	Achilleas shipwreck	34°33'22.98"N	33°1'18.18"E
55	Airport reef	35°4'39.10"N	32°19'0.26"E
56	Amphitheatre	34°53'1.56"N	32°19'51.64"E
57	Amphora caves	34°33'58.61"N	33°1'1.41"E
58	Aphrodites rock	34°56'38.83"N	33°51'16.57"E
59	Church bay	34°45'18.34"N	32°24'55.80"E
60	EDRO III	34°54'4.26"N	32°18'42.86"E
61	Laboe shipwreck	34°58'25.74"N	34°5'0.78"E
62	Manijin island	34°57'40.41"N	34°3'51.72"E
63	Photiades wall	34°57'27.16"N	33°50'9.03"E
64	Pistol Bay	34°40'50.34"N	33°5'4.86"E
65	Roman wall (structures)	34°43'17.28"N	32°25'42.18"E
66	St George – Geronisos	34°53'31.80"N	33°39'16.20"E
67	Vera K shipwreck	34°43'56.76"N	32°24'51.96"E
68	White Star shipwreck	34°33'44.34"N	32°56'4.38"E

*Table A3. A comprehensive list of stakeholders involved with the diving tourism industry. In **bold** are the stakeholders that responded to our questionnaire.*

Stakeholders related to Recreational Diving Industry
1. Diving centres (Table A3)
2. Public bodies
a. Deputy Ministry of Tourism
b. Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works
a. Department of Antiquities
b. Public Works Department
c. Road Transport Department
d. Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment
e. Department of Fisheries and Marine Research
f. Department of Environment
g. Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth
h. Ministry of Energy, Commerce and Industry
i. Ministry of Finance
j. Ministry of Health
k. Deputy Ministry of Shipping
3. Local authorities
a. Municipality of Larnaka
b. Municipality of Ayia Napa
c. Municipality of Paralimni
d. Municipality of Limassol
e. Municipality of Paphos
f. Municipality of Polis Chrysochous
g. Municipality of Ayios Athanasios
h. Municipality of Yermasoyia
i. Municipality of Limassol
j. Municipality of Deryneia
k. Community of Pomos
l. Community of Argaka
m. Community of Yialia
n. Community of Neo Chorio
o. Community of Kato Pyrgos

p. Community of Liopetri
q. Community of Ayios Theodoros
r. Community of Zygi
s. Community of Mazotos
t. Community of Mari
u. Community of Xylotympou
v. Community of Xylofagou
w. Community of Oroklini
x. Community of Pervolia
y. Community of Ayios Tychonas
z. Community of Akrotiri
aa. Community of Avdimou
bb. Community of Episkopi
cc. Community of Parekklisia
dd. Community of Pentakomo
ee. Community of Pissouri

4. Cyprus Federation of Underwater Activities
5. **Cyprus Hotel Association and regional associations**
6. **Association of Cyprus Tourist Enterprises**
7. Cyprus Association of Tourist Buses Owners
8. Cyprus Association of Professional Tourist Vessel Owners
9. **Federation of Environmental Organizations of Cyprus**
10. Cyprus Association of Leisure Parks & Attractions
11. Cyprus Youth Hostel Association
12. Association of Cyprus Scientists and fishermen network
13. Pancyprian Association of Professional Fishermen
14. Cyprus Association for Beach Angling & Conservation
15. Cyprus Association of Recreational Fishermen
16. Cyprus Dive Centre Association
17. Freediving Friends Club (ΟΦΕΚ)
18. Underwater hunting association (ΣΦΥΚΚ)
19. AIDA CYPRUS
20. Association of recreational fishing boat owners Limassol
21. Ψαροκαταστάσεις Κύπρου

22. Cyprus Inflatable Boat Owners Association (ΚΥΣΙΦΦΟΣ)
23. Diving gear shops (i.e. Mavros, Survival etc.)
24. Dive magazines and media (Cyprus fishing magazine - Dacor advertising and media)
25. **Consultants (MER, AP Marine)**
26. Cruise tourist agents
27. NGOs
    a. Birdlife
    b. Terra Cypria
    c. Aquademia
    d. Enalia Physis Environmental Research Centre
    e. Πρωτοβουλία για τη διάσωση των Ακτών
    f. Friends of the Earth Cyprus
    g. Friends of Akamas
    h. AKTH
    i. Cyprus Environment Foundation
    j. Cyprus Wildlife Society
    k. Ecological Movement of Cyprus
    l. Thalassa museum
28. Joint Rescue Coordination Centre - Port police
29. Marinas - Ports
30. Department of Forests
31. Cyprus Ports Authority
32. Cyprus Certification Company
33. **Regional Development Agencies**
34. **Regional Tourism companies**
35. **Cyprus Organisation for Standardisation**
36. **Sovereign Base Areas Administration (SBAA)**
37. **Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry**
38. **Cyprus Employer & Industrialist Federation (OEB)**

*Table A4. A list of all identified dive centres around Cyprus. In **bold** are the dive centres that responded to our questionnaire.*

Dive centre	District
Aquanaut Diving School	Famagusta
Cyprus Diving Centre	Famagusta
D.P. Diving School EU Ltd	Famagusta
Dive Cypria	Famagusta
Dive Stop Cyprus (Premier Scuba Diving Centre)	Famagusta
Dive the rock	Famagusta
Dragon Divers	**Famagusta**
Gotodive Diving Centre Cyprus	Famagusta
Happy divers	**Famagusta**
Herbies Diving Paradise	Famagusta
Hydrosphere Dive Club	Famagusta
I-Dive Tec Rec Centre3s PLC	Famagusta
IPA DIVERS CYPRUS	Famagusta
J.C. Olympians Divers	Famagusta
J.P. The Scuba Base Diving School	**Famagusta**
J.R. Easy Divers	Famagusta
JJ SUR MESURE LTD	**Famagusta**
JL Podvodnyi Mir Ltd	Famagusta
Just Scuba	Famagusta
Lucky Divers	Famagusta
Nautilus Scuba diving centre	Famagusta
Ocean Lab Eco Diving Centre	**Famagusta**
Ocean View Diving	**Famagusta**
Poseidon Dive Centre	Famagusta
Q Divers	**Famagusta**
Scuba Diving Support Centre	**Famagusta**
Scuba Monkey Ltd	Famagusta
Scuba Tech-Diving	Famagusta
Sirens Dive Centre	Famagusta
Sunfish Divers	**Famagusta**
Taba Diving Centre Ltd	**Famagusta**
The Scuba Base	Famagusta
Trans Divers Petsas	**Famagusta**
Triton Adventures	Famagusta
Undersea World Scuba Diving	**Famagusta**
Windmills Diving	Famagusta
Yellow Fins Scuba Centre	Famagusta
Alpha Divers	**Larnaca**
Aquadream scuba academy	**Larnaca**
Atlantis Sea Cruises	**Larnaca**
Chris Martin T/A Alpha Divers	Larnaca

Dive centre	District
Dive-In Larnaca	**Larnaca**
Drive and Dive with Mario	Larnaca
Hippocampus Larnaca Sub-aqua club	**Larnaca**
Kimon Diving Academy	**Larnaca**
Nemo Dive Centre	**Larnaca**
Octopus Diving Centre	Larnaca
Reef Junkies	Larnaca
Sea-bliss	Larnaca
Viking Divers	**Larnaca**
Zenobia Diving Centre	**Larnaca**
Aquatic Centre	**Limassol**
Blue Thunder Diving	**Limassol**
Bluavventura	Limassol
Buddy Divers Ltd	**Limassol**
Crest Dive Centre	Limassol
Cyprus Diving Adventures	**Limassol**
Dive In Limassol	**Limassol**
Diving in Pissouri – A&S Day dive club	Limassol
Kembali Diving	Limassol
Mercury Divers	Limassol
Nautilus C.M.A.S. Diving Club	Limassol
Ninos Sports	Limassol
Pissouri Bay Divers	**Limassol**
SeaWorld Diving Adventures	**Limassol**
TD Diving	**Limassol**
Divemed Navigation	Nicosia
Emotions Blue Free diving	Nicosia
M.K. Dive Stop Survival Sports	**Nicosia**
Mavros Ltd	Nicosia
No Limit Scuba Training Centre	**Nicosia**
Scubaholics Cyprus Diving Centre	**Nicosia**
UCY Diving team	**Nicosia**
ABC Dive	Paphos
Abyss Diving Center	Paphos
Cool Divers	Paphos
Coral Bay Divers	**Paphos**
CyDive	**Paphos**
Dive Point Ltd	Paphos
Freedom Divers Cyprus	Paphos
Into The Blue Diving Centre	**Paphos**
Kalliopi Dive Collage	Paphos
Latchi Dive Centre	**Paphos**
Marine Divers	**Paphos**
Sun & Fun Adventure	Paphos

Dive centre	District
Sun Seals Divers	Paphos

Table A5. Mean and Maximum Hs in different areas of Cyprus.

Point ID	Area	Prevailing Wave Direction		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
37	**Protaras & K.Greco-N**	NE	Hs mean	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4
			Hs max	1.9	2.3	1.7	1.9	1.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.4	1.7	1.7	2.7
34	**Ag. Napa & K.Greco-S**	SW	Hs mean	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5
			Hs max	4.7	4.2	2.9	2.2	2.4	1.6	1.2	1.3	1.9	1.5	2.1	3.7
32	**Cape Pyla**	SW	Hs mean	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.5
			Hs max	4.7	3.7	2.6	2.0	2.1	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.6	1.3	1.9	3.2
30	**Larnaka**	SW	Hs mean	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.5
			Hs max	4.0	3.7	2.5	1.9	2.0	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.5	1.2	1.8	3.1
19	**Limassol**	S	Hs mean	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4
			Hs max	3.5	3.3	2.1	1.6	1.7	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.3	1.0	1.6	2.8
13	**Akrotiri-W**	S	Hs mean	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.8
			Hs max	4.4	5.7	3.5	3.0	2.4	1.8	1.6	1.5	2.5	2.2	2.9	4.9
05	**Paphos**	S	Hs mean	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.9
			Hs max	4.6	6.3	3.9	3.5	2.8	2.4	2.0	1.8	3.0	2.6	3.7	5.3
02	**Akamas-W**	S	Hs mean	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.9

			Hs max	4.4	6.1	3.8	3.4	2.8	2.4	1.9	1.8	3.0	2.6	3.6	5.2
01	**Akamas-E**	N	Hs mean	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.9
			Hs max	4.3	5.7	3.7	3.3	2.7	2.5	1.8	1.7	3.0	2.6	3.6	4.8
06	**Pomos**	N	Hs mean	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.8
			Hs max	3.9	5.0	3.4	3.1	2.4	2.5	1.6	1.5	2.8	2.4	3.5	4.0

Table A6. Mean and Maximum Tp in different areas of Cyprus.

Point ID	Area	Prevailing Wave Direction		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
37	**Protaras & LC.Greco-N**	NE	Tp mean	4	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	3
			Tp max	10	8	7	6	6	5	5	5	6	7	9	9
34	**Ag. Napa & K.Greco-S**	SW	Tp mean	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5
			Tp max	11	12	10	9	9	8	9	8	9	11	10	12
32	**Cape Pyla**	SW	Tp mean	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5
			Tp max	12	12	10	9	9	8	9	8	9	11	10	12
30	**Larnaka**	SW	Tp mean	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5
			Tp max	11	12	10	10	9	9	9	9	9	10	10	12
19	**Limassol**	S	Tp mean	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5

			Tp max	11	12	10	10	9	9	10	9	9	10	10	12
13	**Akrotiri-W**	S	Tp mean	7	7	6	6	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6
			Tp max	11	14	12	10	11	11	10	9	10	14	12	14
05	**Paphos**	S	Tp mean	6	6	6	5	5	5	6	6	6	5	6	6
			Tp max	11	14	12	11	11	11	9	9	9	14	12	14
02	**Akamas-W**	S	Tp mean	7	6	6	5	5	5	6	6	6	5	6	6
			Tp max	11	14	12	11	11	11	9	9	9	13	11	14
01	**Akamas-E**	N	Tp mean	6	6	6	5	5	5	6	6	6	5	5	6
			Tp max	11	14	12	11	11	11	9	9	10	13	11	13
06	**Pomos**	N	Tp mean	6	6	6	5	5	5	6	6	5	5	5	6
			Tp max	11	14	12	10	10	11	9	8	10	13	11	13

Appendix III - Oceanographic parameters

Data coverage and availability

Wind data (velocity and direction) have been provided from the meteorological stations of the network of the department of meteorology of Cyprus. The recording frequency for most stations was hourly, while there are cases of 10-minute records. In most stations wind data cover the period of the last 15 years (2008-2022), while there are two stations with lower period of data coverage (8 and 4 years for the stations located in Akamas and Kavo Gkreko respectively – Table A7). All wind velocities are given to characteristic values of wind speed (i.e., in 10 m elevation).

Table A7. Locations of the 10 meteorological stations and corresponding period of wind data coverage.

Meteo Station Location	Meteo Station ID	Latitude (°N)	Longitude (°E)	Period
Akamas (Pigana)	A	35.0259	32.3288	2015-2022
Polis Chrysochous	B	35.0418	32.4372	2008-2022
Paphos Airport	C	34.7155	32.4792	2008-2022
Kato Pyrgos	D	35.1816	32.6871	2008-2022
Akrotiri (LCRA)	E	34.5904	32.9879	2008-2022
Lemesos Harbor	F	34.6712	33.0437	2008-2022
Larnaka Airport	G	34.8735	33.6174	2008-2022
Xylophagou	H	34.9778	33.838	2009-2021
Paralimni Hospital	I	35.0617	33.9714	2008-2019
Kavo Gkreko	J	34.9710	34.0708	2019-2022

Sea Surface Temperature (SST) data are provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the United States. The dataset is in the form of monthly statistics (minimum, maximum and mean values) with a global coverage and can be downloaded at the following portal:

https://coastwatch.noaa.gov/cwn/products/noaa-geo-polar-blended-global-sea-surface-temperature-analysis-level-4.html#data-access

The re-analysis dataset has been run for the period 01/09/2002 - 31/12/2016, incorporating reprocessed geostationary and polar-orbiting SSTs. It combines data from U.S., Japanese and

European geostationary infrared imagers, and low-Earth orbiting infrared (U.S. and European) SST data, into a single high-resolution grid. For the purpose of this report "day/night" dataset has been selected, which combines both day and night day. Data have been extracted for six available grid points/areas around Cyprus, close to the selected study areas. More specifically SST datasets have been available for the areas of i) Protaras; ii) Ayia Napa; iii) Larnaka; iv) Limassol; v) Kissonerga (Paphos); and vi) Kato Pyrgos.

Regarding wave characteristics (significant wave height - Hs and peak wave period - Tp), these have been extracted from the Copernicus e-database. The Copernicus e-database provides a variety of environmental parameters and indices (e.g., waves, temperature, cloudiness) at appropriate spatio-temporal scales (Caires and Yan, 2020). The wave data used in this report, these have been derived as a result of the ERA5 reanalysis model, presented as coastal grid points, at NetCDF-4 file format, with a resolution of 30 km, along the 20 m bathymetric contour of the European coastline. The extracted parameters are i) significant wave height (Hs); ii) Peak wave period (Tp); and iii) Wave direction (Wdir) (Table A8).

Table A8. Description of the Copernicus e-database and the relevant extracted parameters.

Data type	Point data
Horizontal coverage	European coastline along the 20 m bathymetric contour
Horizontal resolution	Coastal grid points: 30 km
Temporal coverage	Historical: 1976 to 2005 ERA5 reanalysis: 2001 to 2017 RCP8.5: 2041 to 2100 RCP4.5: 2041 to 2100 Hourly step
File format	NetCDF-4
Conventions	Climate and Forecast (CF) Metadata Convention v1.6
Data source	https://cds.climate.copernicus.eu/cdsapp#!/dataset/sis-ocean-wave-timeseries?tab=form
Significant wave height (Hs)	This parameter represents the average height of the highest third of surface ocean/sea waves generated by wind and swell. It represents the vertical distance between the wave crest and the wave trough. The ocean/sea surface wave field consists of a combination of waves with different heights, lengths, and directions (known as the two-dimensional wave spectrum). The wave spectrum can be decomposed into wind-sea waves, which are directly affected by local winds, and swell, the waves that were generated by the wind at a different location and time. This parameter takes account of both. More strictly, this

	parameter is four times the square root of the integral over all directions and all frequencies of the two-dimensional wave spectrum. Units in meters.
Wave direction (Wdir)	This parameter is the mean direction of ocean/sea surface waves generated by local winds and swell. The ocean/sea surface wave field consists of a combination of waves with different heights, lengths, and directions (known as the two-dimensional wave spectrum). This parameter is a mean over-all frequencies and directions of the two-dimensional wave spectrum.
Peak wave period (Tp)	This parameter represents the period of the most energetic ocean waves generated by local winds and swell. The wave period is the time it takes for two consecutive wave crests, on the surface of the ocean/sea, to pass through a fixed point. The ocean/sea surface wave field consists of a combination of waves with different heights, lengths, and directions (known as the two-dimensional wave spectrum). This parameter is calculated from the reciprocal of the frequency corresponding to the largest value (peak) of the frequency wave spectrum. The frequency wave spectrum is obtained by integrating the two-dimensional wave spectrum over all directions. Units in seconds.

For the aforementioned wave parameters, datasets have been extracted/mined for the last available decade (2008-2017) to access the representative wave climate at selected locations along Cyprus coastline (at the contour of 20 m depth). The available coastal grid points of the Copernicus e-database, the locations of the meteorological stations from which wind data have been extracted and the 12 locations selected for this work are shown in Figure A2.

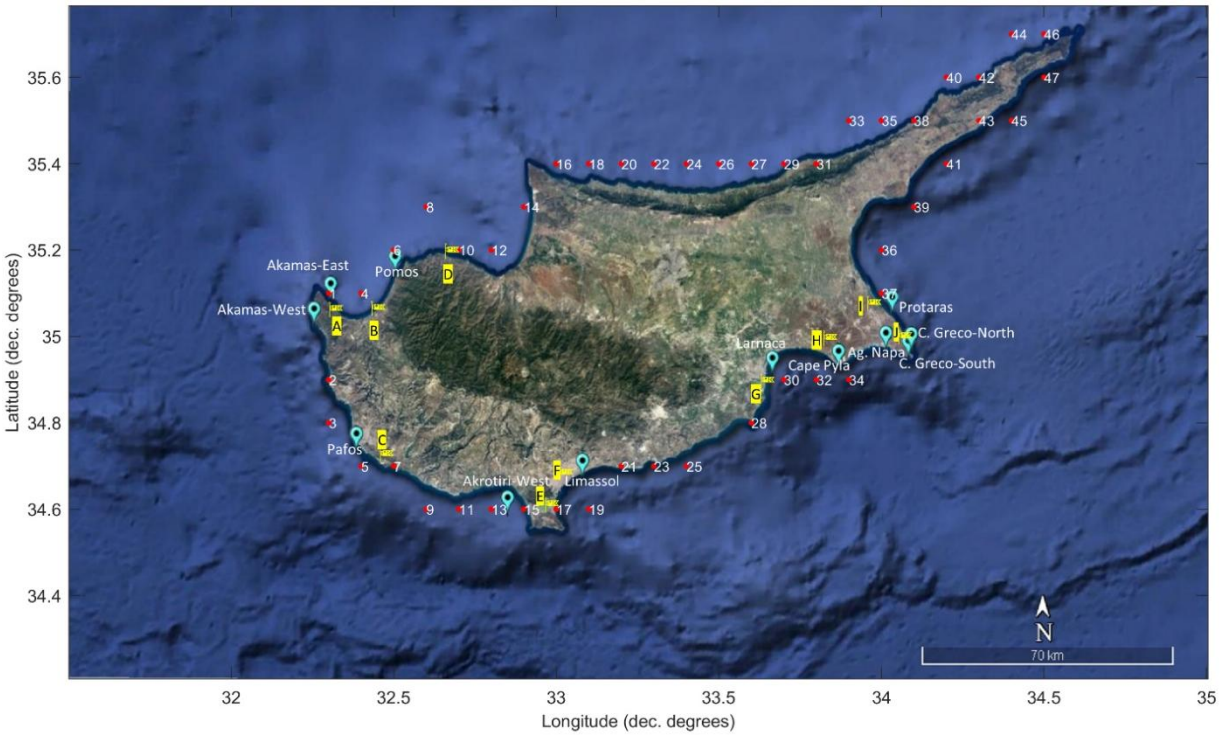


Figure A2. Map showing the locations of the 12 selected sites and the available grid points of the Copernicus e-database. The locations of the 10 available meteorological stations are also evident (depicted with yellow flags).

When examining the figure, it is evident that there are cases in the selected locations/study areas where the closest available grid point is not close, or if close; its orientation is not like the selected location. For instance, the most representative point for both Protaras and Kavo Gkreko-North locations is point 37, whereas the most representative point for Akamas-West location is point 2, due to its orientation. Following this concept, the grid points selected to extract the wave parameters and the meteorological stations selected to extract the wind data are presented in Table A9.

Table A9. The 12 selected locations, the closest representative meteorological station and the corresponding representative grid points for which wave parameters have been extracted/mined from the Copernicus wave e-database.

Location	Meteo Station ID	Grid Point ID
Protaras & Kavo Gkreko-N	I & J	37
Ag. Napa & C.Greco-S	J	34
Cape Pyla	H	32
Larnaka	G	30
Limassol	F	19
Akrotiri-W	E	13
Paphos	C	05
Akamas-W	A	02
Akamas-E	B	01
Pomos	D	06

Regarding wave data, the ERA5 model results have previously been validated for other areas of the Mediterranean Sea showing good agreement. However, there are limited *in-situ* wave records for Cyprus. A recent technical report conducted by CMMI (Karathanasi, 2022) investigated the model projections, with the records of an offshore buoy deployed offshore Larnaka (Lat: 33.2471°N Lon: 33.1563°E) at a depth of 1,697 m for a period of 7.5 months (13/07/2015-28/03/2016). In this work, 6,216 values of hourly projections deriving from the Copernicus e-database (ERA5 model) showed very good agreement with the *in-situ* wave records (Table A10).

Table A10. Significant wave height and peak wave period statistics for the buoy measurements and ERA5 model projections (modified from Karathanasi, 2022).

Data source	N	Hs (m)	Hs max (m)	Hs minimum (m)	Tp (s)	Tp min (s)	Tp max (s)
Buoy	6216	1.05	5.75	0.16	4.7	2.0	11.0
Model		1.04	5.95	0.25	4.3	1.2	10.1

Protaras and Kavo Gkreko-North

Point ID - 37 is selected as representative for the locations of Protaras and Kavo Gkreko North. Monthly analysis showed that the most energetic period is the winter period (Months December till February) for which mean significant wave height (Hs) is found to be at 0.4 m, whereas maximum Hs of the examined decade ranges between and 1.9 - 2.7 m (Figure A3a). The maximum significant wave height (Hs) for this point was found to be of 2.7 m, occurring in December, whereas maximum peak wave period (Tp) was found to be of about 10 sec (Figure A3b), with corresponding Hs of about 1.9 m occurring in January. The prevailing wave direction was found to be from the NW and W sectors, which represent about 50% of the total dataset. However, when examining the wave rosegrams, the larger waves (Hs between 0.5 - 1.5 m and Tp > 4 sec) are found to derive from the NNE and NE sectors, representing 10% of the total waves for the examined decade.

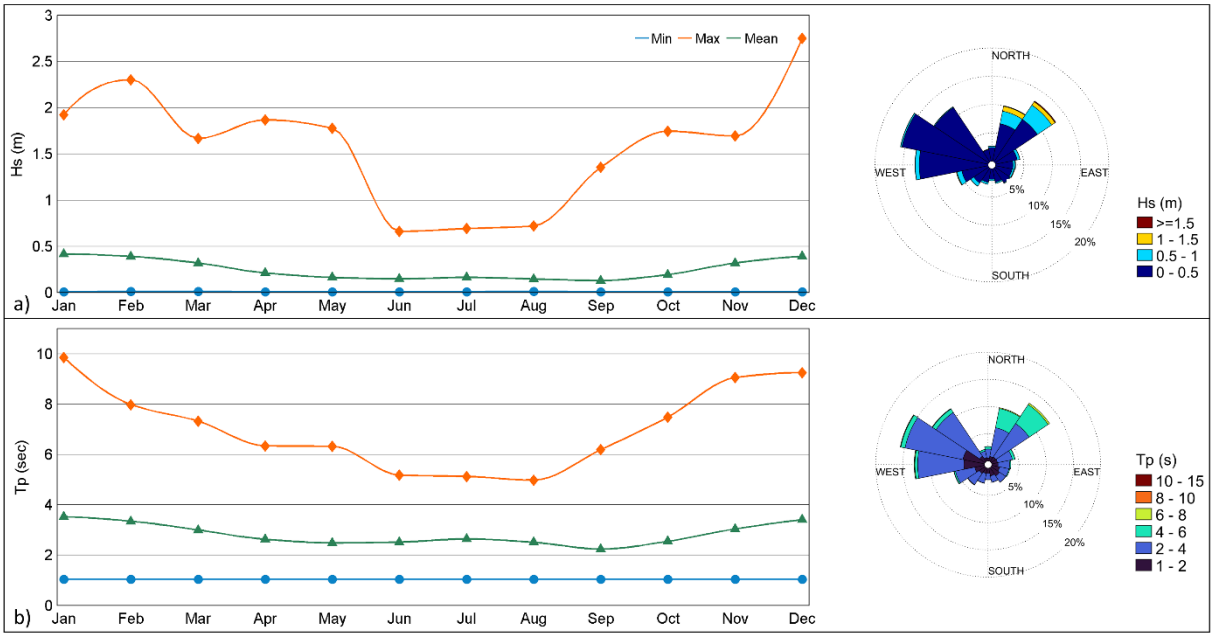


Figure A3. a) Monthly distribution of significant wave height (Hs); and b) Peak wave period (Tp) of the last available decade (2008-2017) of the Copernicus ERA5 dataset, with the corresponding rosegrams showing the directional spreading of the wave action for point ID - 37; the closest representative point for Protaras and Kavo Gkreko-North areas.

Regarding wind intensity, data of the meteorological station of Paralimni (ID-I) and Kavo Gkreko (ID-J) are investigated. From the statistical analysis, it is evident for both stations that the highest recorded wind velocities (> 10.8 ms^{-1}, equivalent to > 6 Beaufort) are found to occur during the October - May period, while for summer months and September, the highest recorded wind velocities are found to range between 8-10 ms^{-1} and 10-11.8 ms^{-1} for Paralimni and Kavo Gkreko stations respectively (Figure A4). The records of the two stations present slight differences. When examining the average wind velocity, it is found to be similar for all months, with Paralimni station showing slightly higher values (2-3 ms^{-1} - equivalent to 2 Beaufort, compared to the 3.6-5 m s^{-1} - equivalent to 3 Beaufort in Kavo Gkreko station). Furthermore, when examining the wind rosegram of Paralimni station, it is evident that the prevailing winds are found to blow from the south, whereas in Kavo Gkreko station the prevailing wind direction is from the southeast. However, the examined locations (Protaras and Kavo Gkreko – North) are protected from the winds deriving from these sectors, as there are no significant wave heights generated from these directions.

Also, Kavo Gkreko station recorded wind velocities of higher intensity compared to Paralimni station (Figure A4). These differences are attributed to the locations of the deployed meteorological stations. Paralimni station seems to be more protected from the wind action,

while Kavo Gkreko station seems to be more exposed. Nevertheless, when examining the windrose diagrams for both stations, it is shown that there are intense winds (i.e., with magnitude greater than 4 Beaufort) blowing from the northeastern sector, to which the 2 examined locations are exposed. This is in accordance with the directional spreading of the highest waves for these locations (Figure A4).

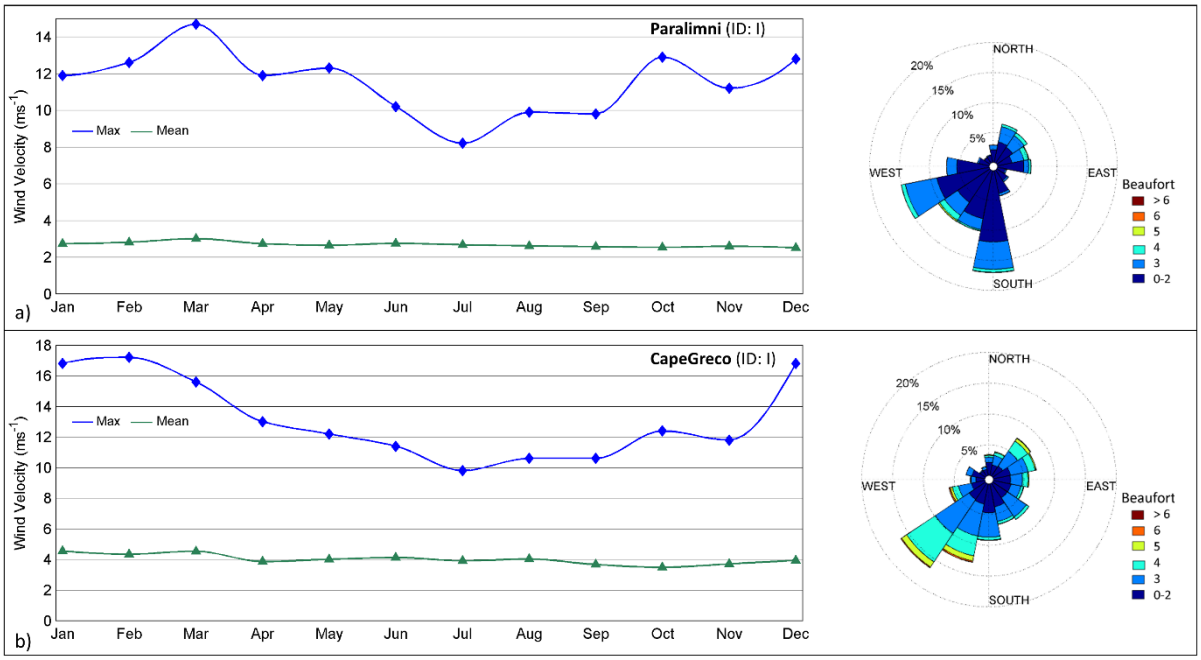


Figure A4. Monthly statistics of wind intensity and the corresponding rosegrams for a) Paralimni (ID: I); and b) Kavo Gkreko (ID: J) meteorological stations covering the periods of 2008-2019 and 2019-2022 respectively.

When examining the sea surface temperature (SST) distribution, it is evident that warmest temperatures are occurring during the period between June - October (minimum temperature of 22.6°C and maximum temperature of 29.9°C - Figure A5). By contrast, colder temperatures are found to occur during the period January - April (minimum temperature of 16.4°C and maximum temperature of 20.1°C). The warmest water temperature is in August with an average around 28.1°C, while the coldest month is February with an average water temperature of 16.9°C.

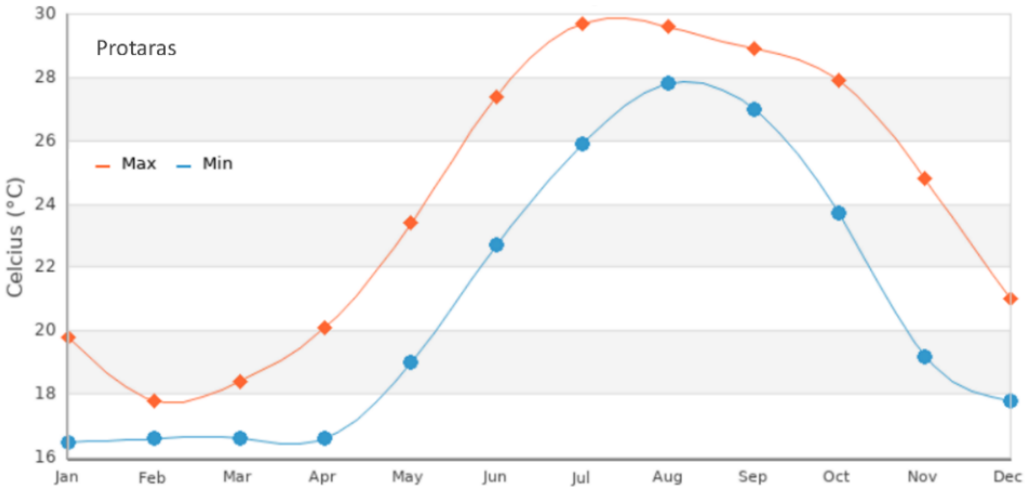


Figure A5. Monthly sea surface temperature distribution in Protaras area for the 2002-2016 period.

Ayia Napa and Kavo Gkreko-South

The closest representative point for locations Ayia Napa and Kavo Gkreko South is Point ID - 34. Monthly analysis for this point showed that the most energetic period is the winter period (Months December till February) for which mean Hs is found to range between 0.5 - 0.6 m, whereas max Hs is ranging between and 3.7 - 4.7 m (Figure A6a). However, this point seems to receive increased wave energy as the projected maximum wave heights for the examined period are found to be always higher than 1.2 m with wave periods ranging between 8 - 12 sec (Figure A6b). In addition, mean significant wave heights are found to range between 0.3 - 0.6 m for all months. When examining the rosegrams, it is shown that the prevailing wave direction was found to be from the SW and SWW sectors (65% out of total), while the highest waves (Hs > 1 m and Tp > 6 sec) represent about 5% out of the total wave activity.

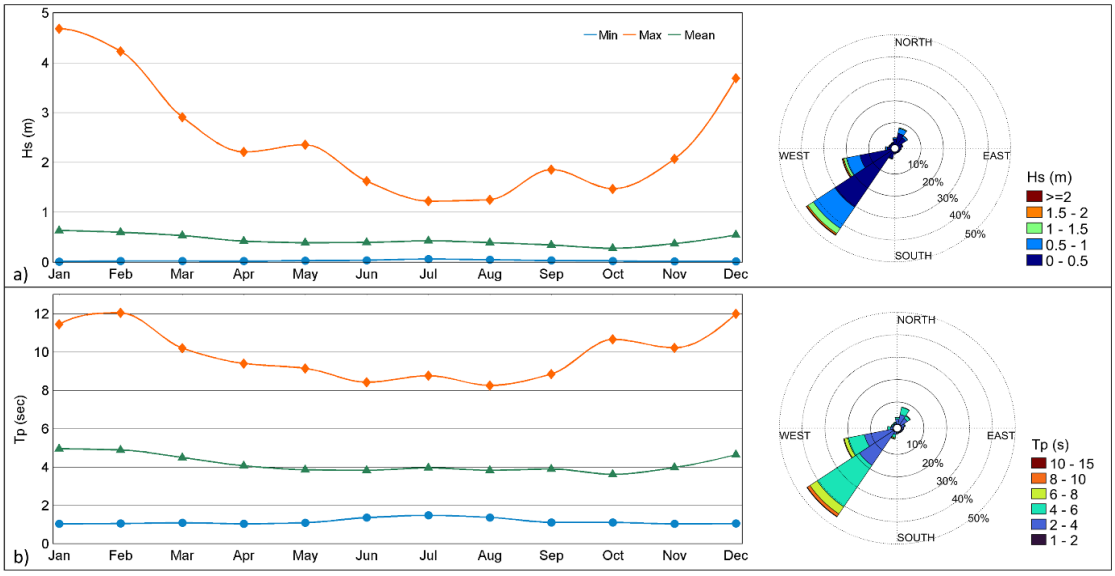


Figure A6. a) Monthly distribution of significant wave height (Hs); and b) Peak wave period (Tp) of the last available decade (2008-2017) of the Copernicus ERA5 dataset, with the corresponding rosegrams showing the directional spreading of the wave action for point ID - 34, the closest representative point for Ayia Napa and Kavo Gkreko-South areas.

Wind data of the meteorological station located in Kavo Gkreko are selected as representative for Ayia Napa and Kavo Gkreko - South locations. The most energetic period is found to be between December - March, when the maximum recorded wind velocities have values ranging between 15.9 - 17.7 ms^{-1} (equivalent to 7-8 Beaufort - Figure A7). During the remaining months (during most of spring, summer and autumn), the maximum recorded wind velocities are found to range between 10.0 - 13.9 ms^{-1} (equivalent to 6 Beaufort). From the wind rosegram it is evident that the prevailing wind direction is deriving from the SSW and SW (30% out of total), while wind velocities greater than 5 Beaufort are found to blow mostly from these directions. Also concerning the high fetch effective length for the examined locations in these directions, such wind velocities can generate wave heights greater than 1 m, which comes in accordance with the examined wave data. In the case of Ag. Napa and Kavo Gkreko-South, winds blowing from the NE sector are not able to generate high waves, due to the orientation of the wider coastal zone which provides effective protection.

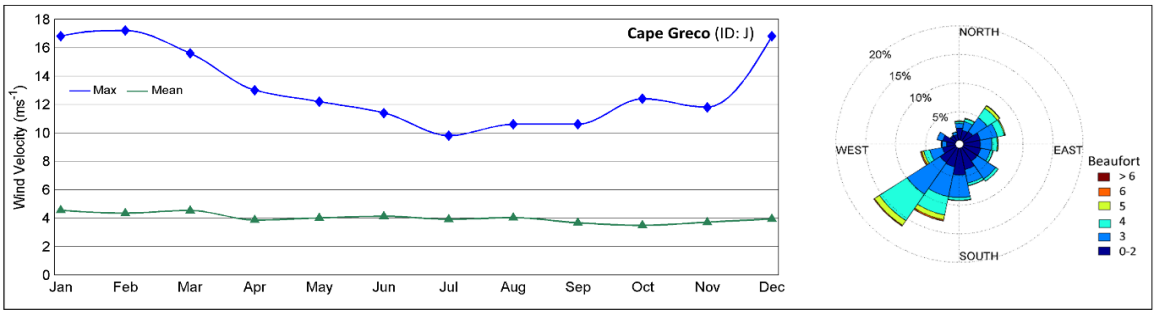


Figure A7. Monthly statistics of wind intensity and the corresponding rosegram for Kavo Gkreko (ID - J) meteorological station covering the period of 2019-2022.

Regarding sea surface temperature distribution, it is evident that warmest temperatures occur during the months June - October (minimum temperature of 22.4°C and max temperature of 29.9°C - Figure A8). By contrast, colder temperatures occur during the months of January till April (minimum temperature of 16.2°C and max temperature of 20.1°C). The warmest water temperature is in August with an average around 28.1°C. The coldest month is February with an average water temperature of 16.9°C.

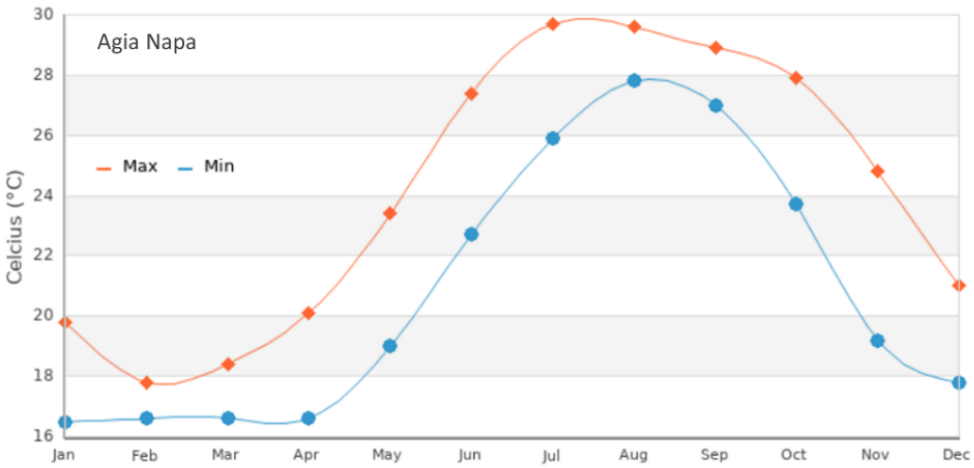


Figure A8. Monthly sea surface temperature distribution in Ayia Napa for the 2002-2016 period.

Cape Pyla

Point ID - 32 is found to be the most representative for the location of Cape Pyla. Monthly analysis showed that the most energetic period is the winter period (months December - February) for which mean Hs is found to be of about 0.5 m, whereas max Hs is ranging between and 3.7 - 4.7 m (Figure A9a). The max. significant wave height (Hs) for this point was found at 4.7 m with corresponding max. peak wave period (Tp) of about 12 sec occurring in January (Figure A9b). The prevailing wave direction was found to be from the SW and SWW

sectors, that represent the majority (about 80%) of all values. The higher waves (Hs > 1 m and Tp > 6 sec) are found to have a frequency of occurrence of about 5% deriving also from the SW and SWW sectors.

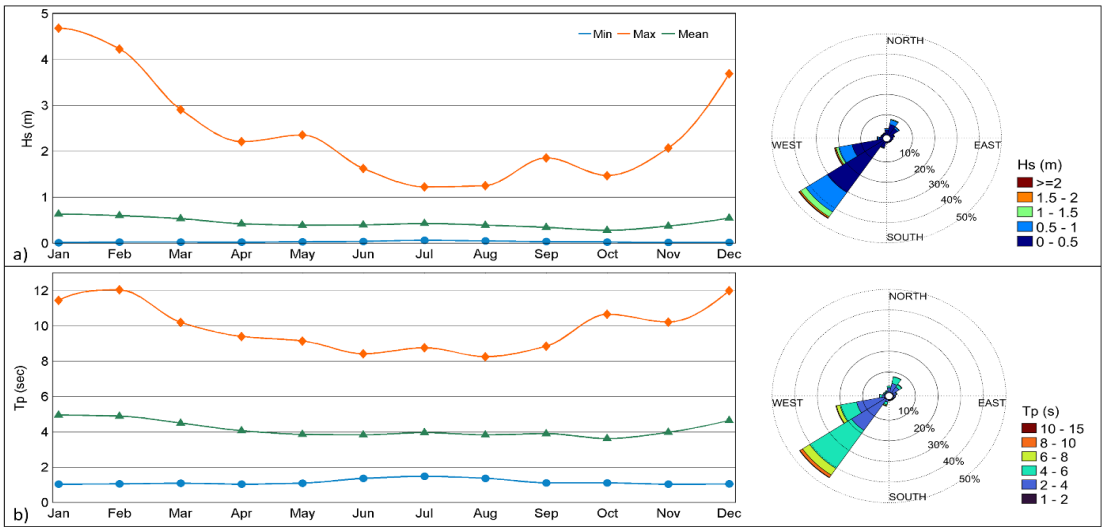


Figure A9. a) Monthly distribution of significant wave height (Hs); and b) Peak wave period (Tp) of the last available decade (2008-2017) of the Copernicus ERA5 dataset, with the corresponding rosegrams showing the directional spreading of the wave action for point ID - 32, the closest representative point for Cape Pyla area.

The meteorological station located in Xylophagou area is selected as representative for the location of Cape Pyla. The maximum recorded wind velocities are found to occur during the December - March period, ranging between 15.0 - 17.1 ms^{-1} (equivalent to 7 Beaufort). Interestingly, the highest recorded wind velocities are found during July, possibly due to locally generated winds (Figure A10). In addition, when examining the relative rosegram, it is evident that the prevailing wind direction is deriving from the East. However, Cape Pyla is effectively protected from this direction due to the orientation of the coastline, and thus, wind activity from this direction is not able to generate high waves. The most intense wind velocities (> 4 Beaufort) are found to blow from the SW and SWW sectors, representing about 5% of the total values.

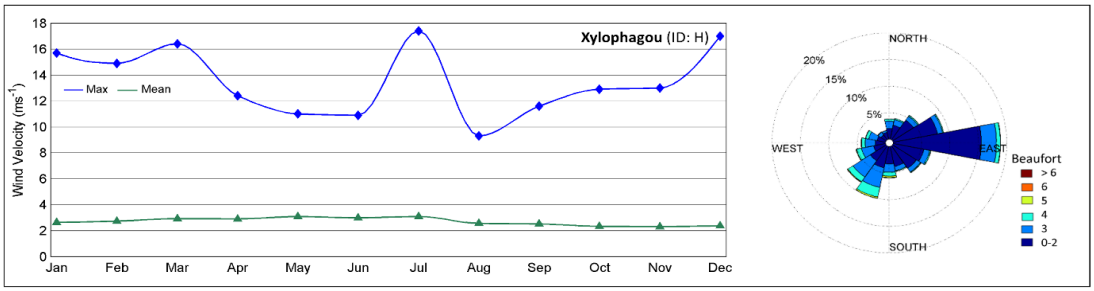


Figure A10. Monthly statistics of wind intensity and the corresponding rosegram for Xylophagou (ID - H) meteorological station covering the period of 2009-2021.

Regarding sea surface temperature, values derived from the Ayia Napa point are used, as it is the closest available point to Cape Pyla. As already seen, the warmest surficial water temperatures are occurring during the months June till October (minimum temperature of 22.4°C and max temperature of 29.9°C - Figure A8). By contrast, colder temperatures occur during the months January till April (minimum temperature of 16.2°C and max temperature of 20.1°C). The warmest water temperature is in August with an average around 28.1°C. The coldest month is February with an average water temperature of 16.9°C.

Larnaka

The most representative point for the location of Larnaka is Point ID-30. From the analysis, it is found that winter period (Months December till February) is the most energetic (mean Hs of about 0.5 m and max Hs ranging between and 3.1 - 4.0 m - Figure A11a). The maximum significant wave height (Hs) for this point was found at 4.0 m with corresponding maximum peak-wave period (Tp) of about 11 sec occurring in December (Figure A11b). The prevailing wave direction was found to be from the SW and SWW sectors, that represent the majority (about 70%) of all values. The higher waves (Hs > 1 m and Tp > 6 sec) are found to have a frequency of occurrence of about 5% deriving also from the SW and SWW sectors.

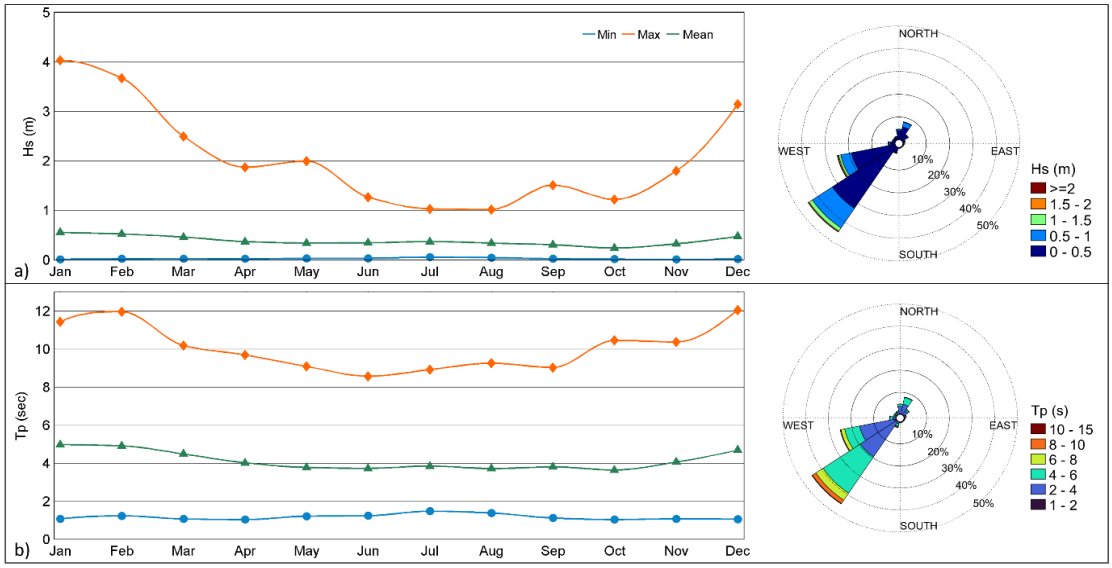


Figure A11a) Monthly distribution of significant wave height (Hs); and b) Peak wave period (Tp) of the last available decade (2008-2017) of the Copernicus ERA5 dataset, with the corresponding rosegrams showing the directional spreading of the wave action for point ID - 30, the closest representative point for Larnaka area.

The meteorological station located in Larnaka is selected as representative. Once again, the winder months are found to be the most energetic. In this period, the maximum recorded wind speeds are ranging between 16.1 - 18.0 ms^{-1} (equivalent to 7-8 Beaufort), while mean wind speeds are found to be of about 3 Beaufort (Figure A12). From the wind rosegram it is evident that the prevailing wind direction is deriving from the southeast. Larnaka is mainly exposed from this direction due to the orientation of the coastline, and thus, wind activity from this direction should be able to generate high waves, something that is not evident from the wave data (Figure A11a). The latter could possibly be explained by the wind intensity. From the wind rosegram it is evident that the most energetic winds (with velocities > 5 Beaufort) are blowing from the SW sector, representing about 7% of the total values, in accordance with the waverose diagram. Finally, a logical explanation could be that wave refraction that occurs at the cape located close to Larnaka airport, is affecting the directional spreading of the waves approaching from the SW sector.

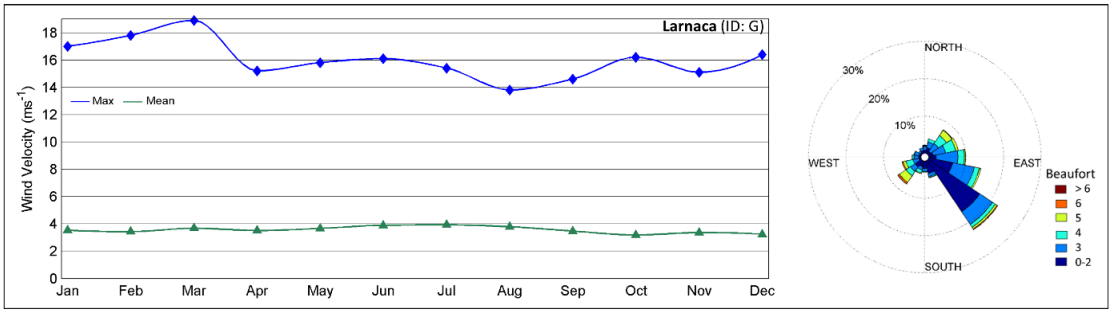


Figure A12. Monthly statistics of wind intensity and the corresponding rosegram for Larnaka (ID - G) meteorological station covering the period of 2008-2022.

The warmest sea surface temperatures are found to occur during the months of June till October (minimum temperature of 22.0°C and maximum temperature of 29.8°C - Figure A12, Figure A13). By contrast, the coldest temperatures are found to occur during the months of January till April (minimum temperature of 16.1°C and maximum temperature of 19.9°C). The warmest water temperature is in August with an average around 28.1°C. The coldest month is February with an average water temperature of 16.9°C.

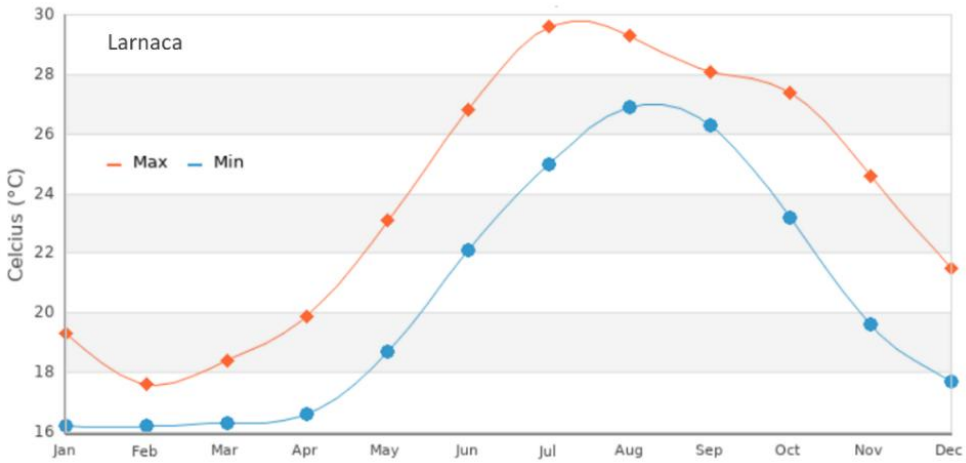


Figure A13. Monthly sea surface temperature distribution in Larnaka for the 2002-2016 period.

Limassol

Point ID - 19 is selected as representative for the location of Limassol. Monthly analysis showed that the most energetic period is the winter period (Months December till February) for which mean Hs is found to range between 0.4 - 0.5 m, whereas the average decadal maximum Hs is ranging between and 2.8 - 3.5 m (Figure A14a). The maximum significant wave height (Hs) for this point was found in January at 3.5 m, whilst maximum peak wave period (Tp) was found to be around 12 sec, with a corresponding Hs close to 3.0 m, occurring also in January (Figure A14b). The prevailing wave direction was found to be from the S sector, which

represent about 50% of the total values. There are also events with wave heights > 0.5 m deriving from the SSW sector, representing about 15% of the total values.

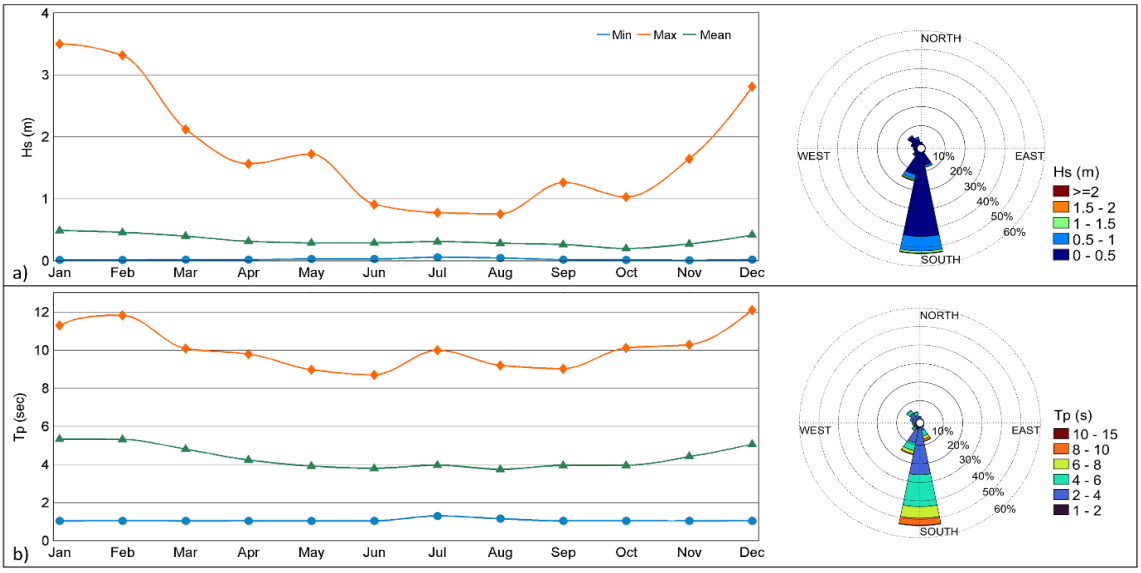


Figure A14. a) Monthly distribution of significant wave height (Hs); and b) Peak wave period (Tp) of the last available decade (2008-2017) of the Copernicus ERA5 dataset, with the corresponding rosegrams showing the directional spreading of the wave action for point ID - 19, the closest representative point for Limassol area.

The meteorological station located in Limassol is selected as representative. The January - March period is found to be higher in terms of wind energy (14.4 - 17.9 ms^{-1}, equivalent to 7-8 Beaufort) compared to the remaining months, which nevertheless are also highly energetic (with intensities of 6-7 Beaufort - Figure A15). From the windrose diagram it is evident that the prevailing wind direction of increased wind velocities (> 4 Beaufort) are deriving from the SSE, S and SSW sectors, representing about 10% of the total values. There are also slighter wind events (< 3 Beaufort) recorded from the eastern sectors.

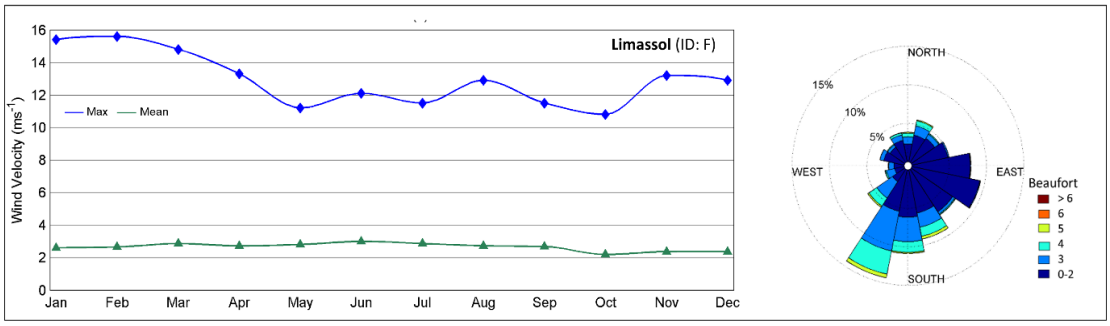


Figure A15. Monthly statistics of wind intensity and the corresponding rosegram for Limassol (ID - F) meteorological station covering the period of 2008-2022.

Regarding sea surface temperature data, the warmest period is found to occur during the months June till October (minimum temperature of 22.1°C and maximum temperature of 29.8°C - Figure A16). By contrast, the coldest temperatures are found to occur during the months January till April (minimum temperature of 16.1°C and maximum temperature of 19.9°C). The warmest water temperature is in August with an average around 27.8°C. The coldest month is February with an average water temperature of 16.9°C.

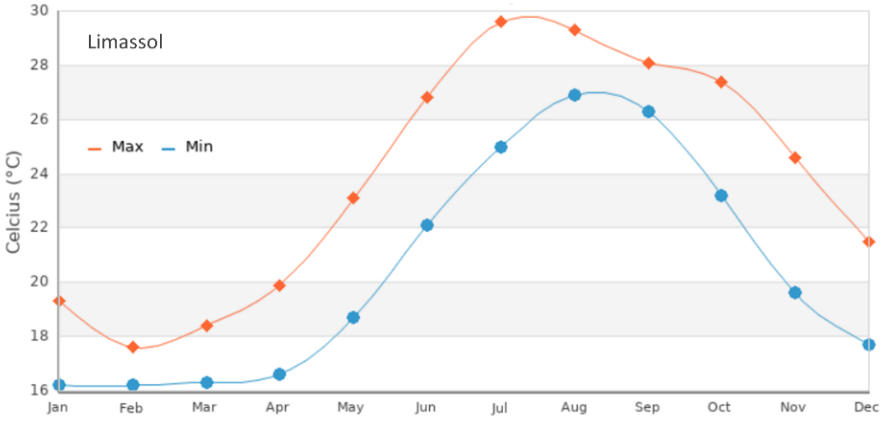


Figure A16. Monthly sea surface temperature distribution in Limassol for the 2002-2016 period.

Akrotiri - West

Point ID - 13 is selected as representative for the location of Akrotiri-West. Monthly analysis showed that the most energetic period is the winter period (months December till February) for which mean Hs ranges between 0.8 – 0.9 m, whereas the decadal maximum Hs is ranging between and 4.4 - 5.7 m (Figure A17a).

The maximum significant wave height (Hs) for this point was found at 5.7 m in February, whereas maximum peak wave period (Tp) was found at around 14 sec, with corresponding Hs of almost 3.0 m, also in February (Figure A17). The prevailing wave direction was found to be from the southern sectors, for which 85% of total values is represented.

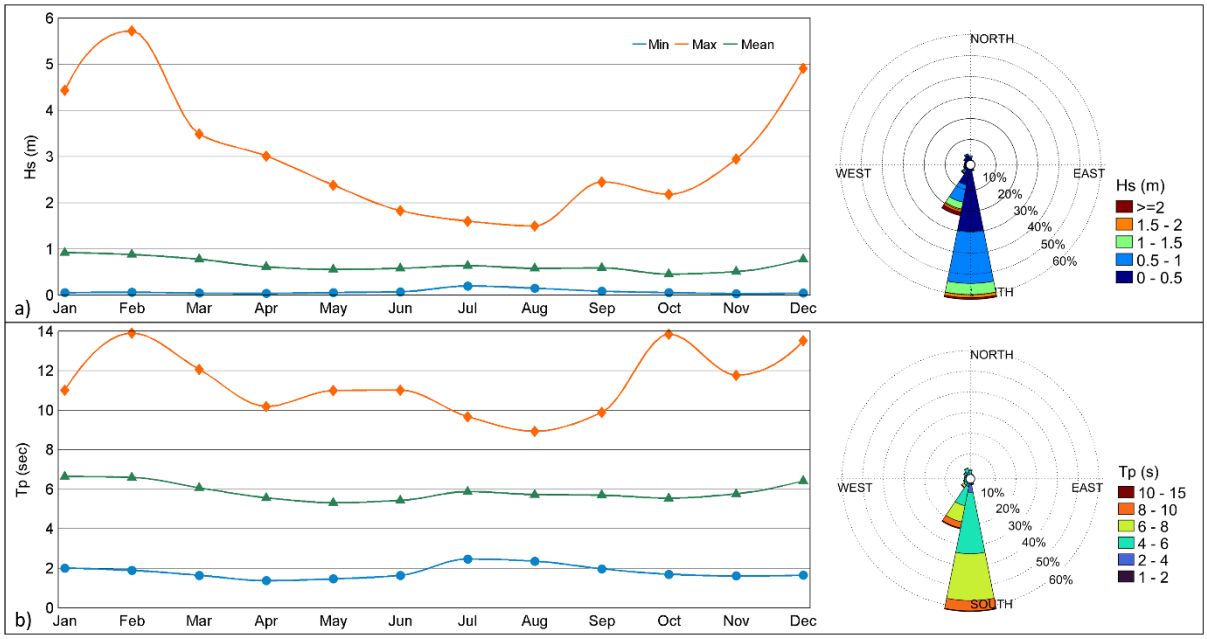


Figure A17. a) Monthly distribution of significant wave height (Hs); and b) Peak wave period (Tp) of the last available decade (2008-2017) of the Copernicus ERA5 dataset, with the corresponding rosegrams showing the directional spreading of the wave action for point ID - 13, the closest representative point for Akrotiri-West area.

The meteorological station located in Akrotiri is selected as representative. The maximum monthly wind speed for the examined decade is found to be high for all cases (> 12.0 ms^{-1} for each month - Figure A18). The latter suggests, that Akrotiri cape receives high wind energy, which comes in accordance with the increased wave action during all year (Figure A17). The most energetic months (with maximum decadal Hs > 7 Beaufort) are found to be March, May and June. Also, from the corresponding wind rosegram it is evident that the prevailing wind direction of high energetic events (> 4 Beaufort) are deriving from the S and SSW sectors, representing a significant amount (about 25%) of the total values Figure A18). There are also energetic wind events recorded from northern sectors (N and NNE), which however do not affect the wave climate of the nearshore areas, as they are protected from the orientation of the shoreline.

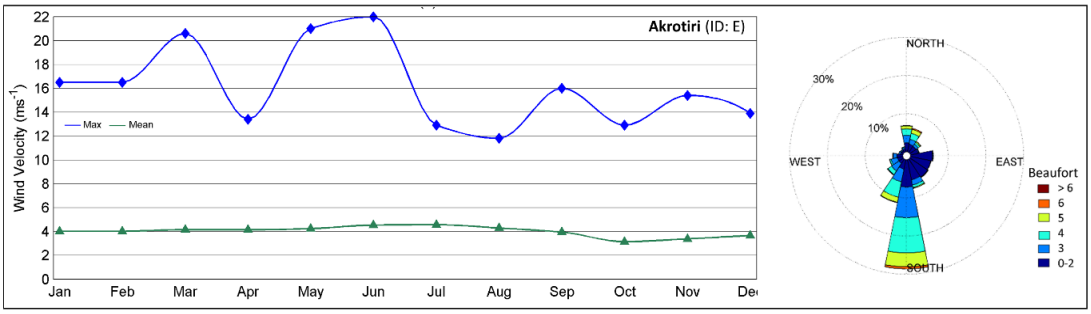


Figure A18. Monthly statistics of wind intensity and the corresponding rosegram for Akrotiri (ID - E) meteorological station covering the period of 2008-2022.

Regarding sea surface temperature data, the most representative are found to be those deriving from Limassol area. As shown before, the warmest period is found to occur during the months June till October (minimum temperature of 22.1°C and maximum temperature of 29.8°C - Figure A16). By contrast, the coldest temperatures are found to occur during the months January till April (minimum temperature of 16.1°C and maximum temperature of 19.9°C). The warmest water temperature is in August with an average around 27.8°C. The coldest month is February with an average water temperature of 16.9°C.

Paphos

The closest available point for Paphos location is Point ID - 05. Monthly analysis showed that the winter period (months December till February) is the most energetic, with a mean decadal Hs of 1.0 m, while decadal maximum Hs ranges between 4.7 – 6.3 m (Figure A19a). The maximum peak wave period (Tp) was found to be of 14 sec (Figure A19b), with corresponding Hs of almost 3 m, occurring in February. The prevailing wave direction was found to be from the S, for which 60 % is represented.

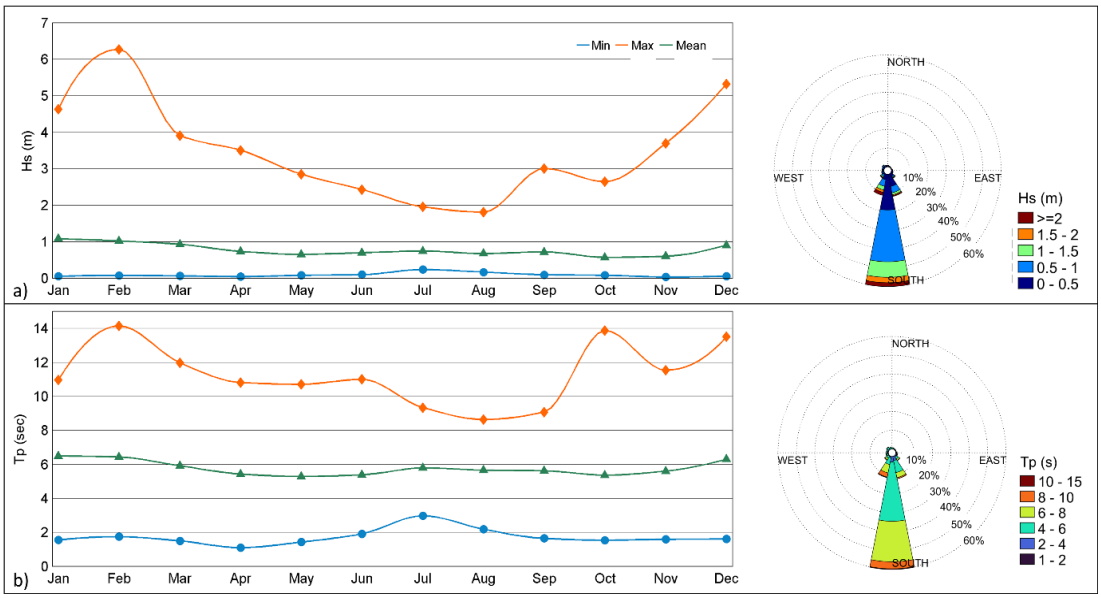


Figure A19. a) Monthly distribution of significant wave height (Hs); and b) Peak wave period (Tp) of the last available decade (2008-2017) of the Copernicus ERA5 dataset, with the corresponding rosegrams showing the directional spreading of the wave action for point

The meteorological station located in Paphos airport is selected as representative. From the wind rosegram it is evident that the prevailing wind direction of high energetic events (> 4 Beaufort) are deriving from the SSE, S and SSW sectors, representing a significant amount (about 15%) of the total values (Figure A20). There are a few energetic wind events recorded from the NNW sector, which however do not affect the wave climate of the nearshore areas, as they are protected from the orientation of the shoreline. Finally, there are slighter events equal to 3 Beaufort, with significant occurrence frequency (of about 25%) which can generate wave activity of up to 0.5 m blowing from the southern and eastern sectors.

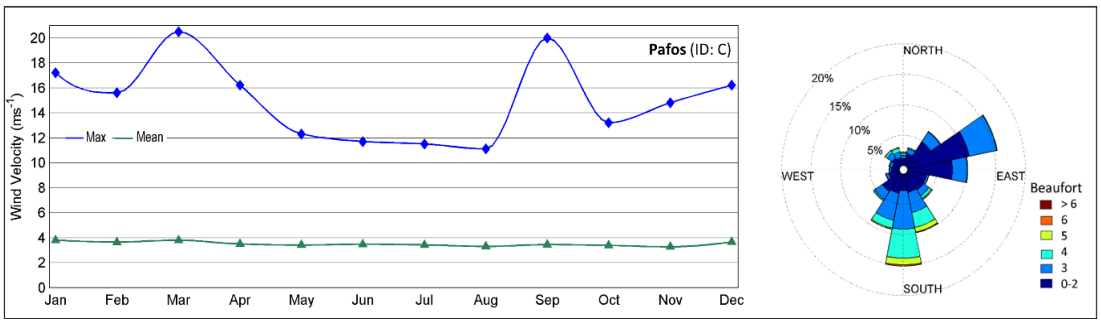


Figure A20. Monthly statistics of wind intensity and the corresponding rosegram for Paphos (ID – C) meteorological station covering the period of 2008-2022.

Regarding sea surface temperature data, the most representative are found to be those deriving from Kissonerga area. The warmest period is found to occur during the months June till October (minimum temperature of 22.1°C and maximum temperature of 29.7°C - Figure

A21). By contrast, the coldest temperatures are found to occur during the months January till April (minimum temperature of 16.0°C and maximum temperature of 19.6°C). The warmest water temperature is in August with an average around 27.8°C. The coldest month is February with an average water temperature of 16.9°C.

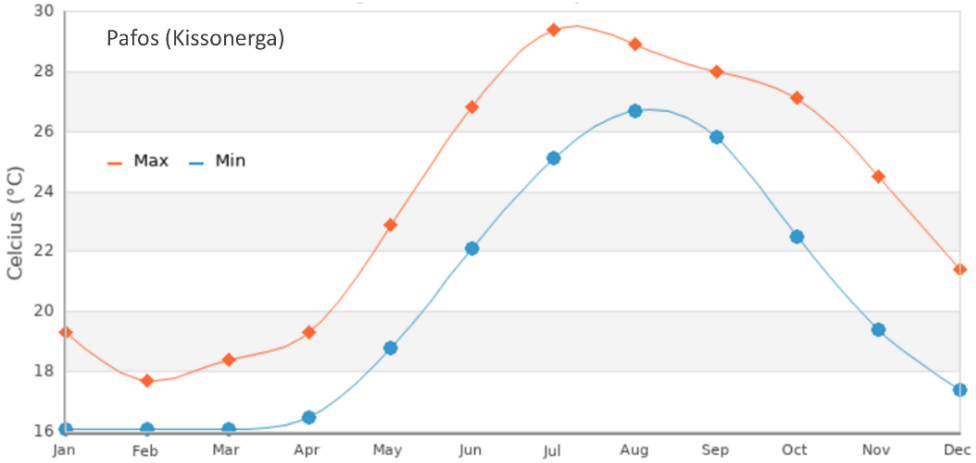


Figure A21. Monthly sea surface temperature distribution in Paphos (Kissonerga) for the 2002-2016 period.

Akamas - West

Point ID - 02 is selected as representative for the location of Akamas-West. Monthly analysis showed that the most energetic period is the winter period (months December till February) for which mean Hs is around 1.0 m, whereas the average decadal maximum Hs is ranging between and 4.4 - 6.1 m (Figure A22a). The maximum peak wave period (Tp) was found to be of about 14 sec, with corresponding Hs of almost 3.0 m, occuring in February (Figure A22b). The prevailing wave direction was found to be from the S, which represents about 60% out of total records.

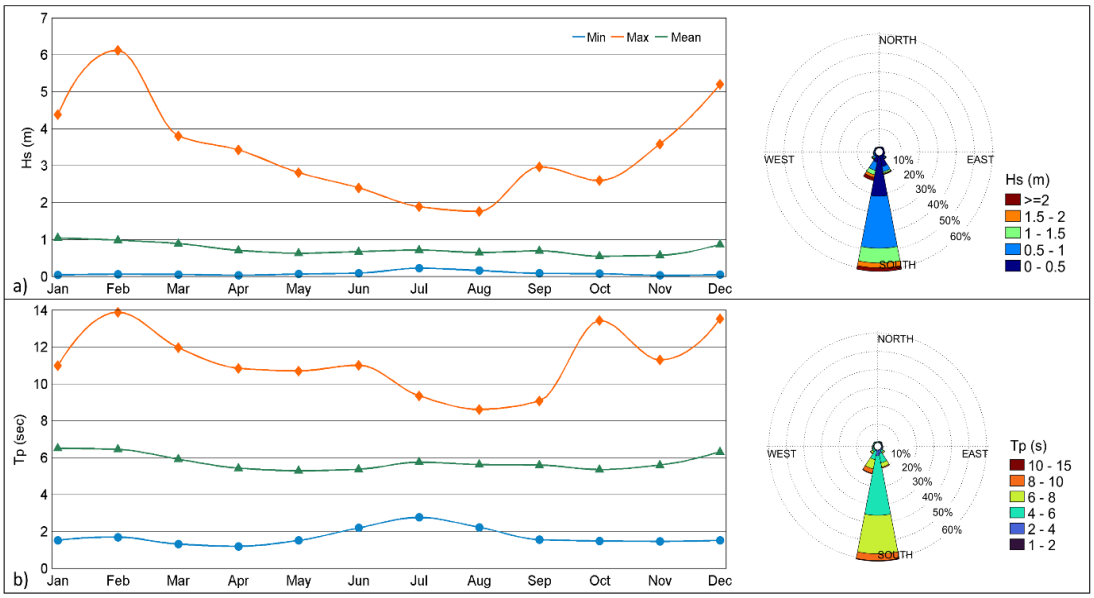


Figure A22. a) Monthly distribution of significant wave height (Hs); and b) Peak wave period (Tp) of the last available decade (2008-2017) of the Copernicus ERA5 dataset, with the corresponding rosegrams showing the directional spreading of the wave action for point ID - 02, the closest representative point for Akamas-West area.

The meteorological station located in Akamas is selected as representative of the wind state. The wind climate of this station is very energetic. For every month, the decadal maximum wind speeds are found to be greater than 12.0 ms^{-1} (Figure A23). The most energetic period is during the months October - March, having recorded values ranging between 21 - 30 ms^{-1} (corresponding to 9-11 Beaufort), however increased energy also occurs during summer (between 6 - 8 Beaufort). From the wind rosegram it is evident that the prevailing wind direction of high energetic events (> 4 Beaufort) are deriving from the SSE, SE and SEE sectors, representing a significant amount (about 25%) of the total values. There are a few energetic wind events recorded from the NEE sector, which however do not affect the wave climate of the nearshore areas, as they are protected from the orientation of the shoreline. It must be noted that there is a slight difference between the direction of the incoming waves (Figure A22a) and the wind data. This can be attributed to swell waves that may have been generated elsewhere, considering also the high effective fetch length of the Akamas -west point, which is one of the highest in the Mediterranean Sea (the closest shoreline from the centre of this point is in Libya).

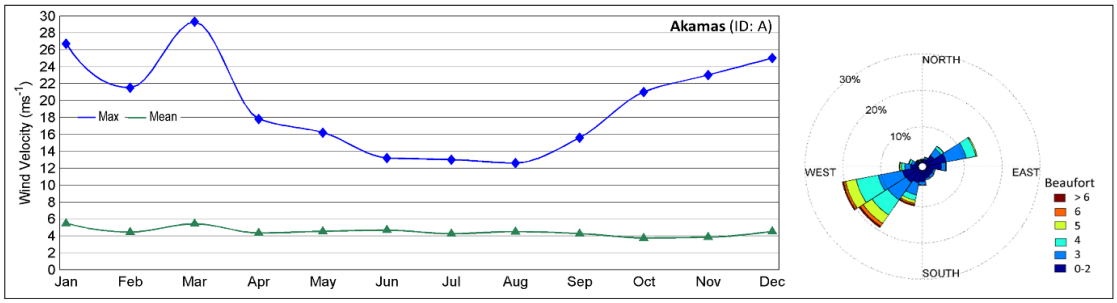


Figure A23. Monthly statistics of wind intensity and the corresponding rosegram for Akamas (ID - A) meteorological station covering the period of 2015-2022.

Regarding sea surface temperature data, the most representative are found to be those deriving from Paphos (Kissonerga). As shown before, the warmest period is found to occur during the months June till October (minimum temperature of 22.1°C and maximum temperature of 29.7°C - Figure A21). By contrast, the coldest temperatures are found to occur during the months January till April (minimum temperature of 16.0°C and maximum temperature of 19.6°C). The warmest water temperature is in August with an average around 27.8°C. The coldest month is February with an average water temperature of 16.9°C.

Akamas - East

Point ID - 01 is selected as representative for the locations of Akamas-East. Monthly analysis showed that the most energetic period is the winter period (months December till February) for which mean Hs is found to be at 1.0 m, whereas decadal maximum Hs is ranging between and 4.3 – 5.8 m (Figure A24a). The maximum significant wave height (Hs) for this point was found at 5.7 m, occurring in February, whilst maximum peak wave period (Tp) was found to be close to 14 sec, with corresponding Hs of almost 3.0 m, occurring also in February (Figure A24b). The prevailing wave direction was found to be from the N sector, for which 60 % is represented.

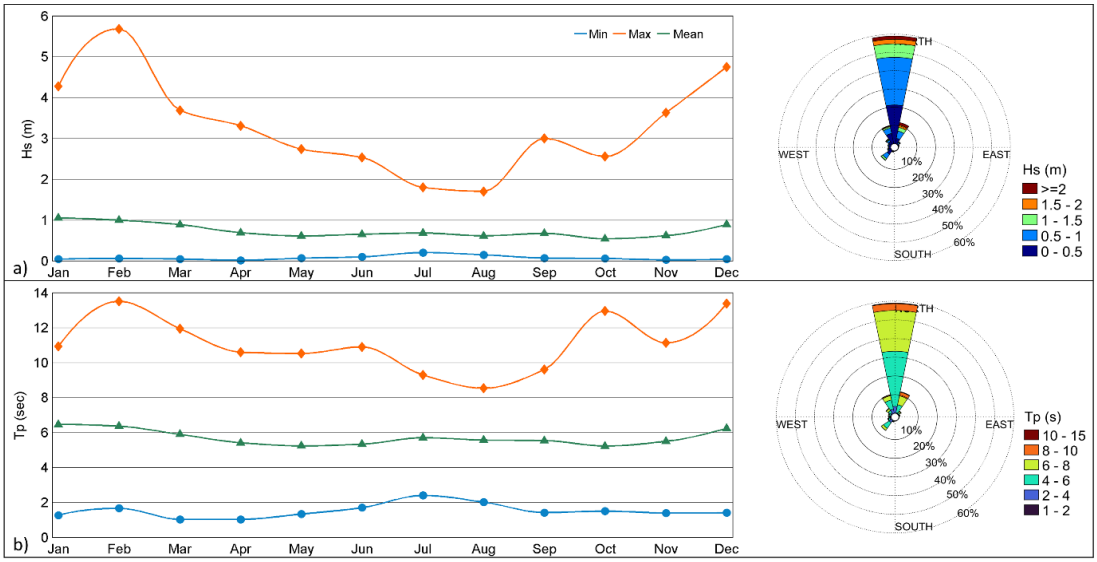


Figure A24. a) Monthly distribution of significant wave height (Hs); and b) Peak wave period (Tp) of the last available decade (2008-2017) of the Copernicus ERA5 dataset, with the corresponding rosegrams showing the directional spreading of the wave action for point ID - 01, the closest representative point for Akamas-East area.

The meteorological station located in Polis Chrysochous is selected as representative due to the orientation of Akamas-East examined location. Statistical analysis of the monthly wind climate of this station shows that the maximum monthly wind velocity for the examined decade ranges between 8.2 - 9.6 ms^{-1} (5 Beaufort) during the summer months, early Autumn (September) (Figure A25). During rest months, it ranges between 10.9 - 16.0 ms^{-1} (6 - 7 Beaufort). From the wind rosegram of Polis Chrysochous it is clear that the prevailing winds blow from the WWN direction (Figure A25). However, the waverose diagram suggests that waves are approaching from the N direction. This may be explained by the small intensity of the recorded winds (3 Beaufort maximum values) and the presence of swell waves in the area (i.e., waves generated from northern locations).

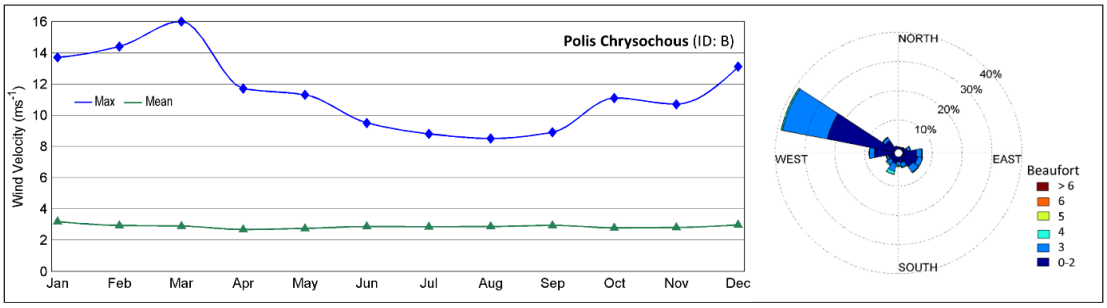


Figure A25. Monthly statistics of wind intensity and the corresponding rosegram for Polis Chrysochous (ID - B) meteorological stations covering the period of 2008-2022.

Regarding sea surface temperature data, the most representative point for this location is Kato Pyrgos area, the warmest sea surface temperatures are found to occur occurring during the months June till October (minimum temperature of 22.1°C and maximum temperature of 30.0°C - Figure A26). By contrast, the coldest temperatures are found to occur during the months January till April (minimum temperature of 16.0°C and maximum temperature of 19.8°C). The warmest water temperature is in August with an average around 28.6°C. The coldest month is February with an average water temperature of 16.8°C.

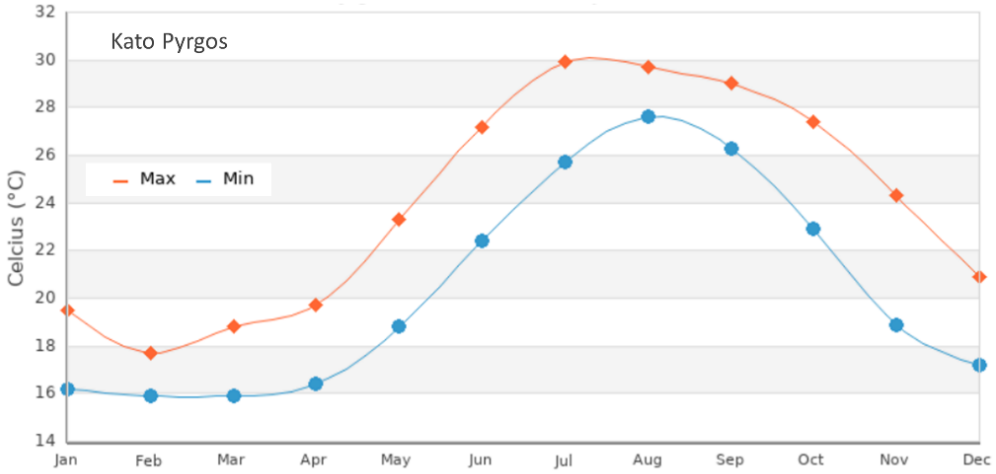


Figure A26. Monthly sea surface temperature distribution in Kato Pyrgos for the 2002-2016 period.

Pomos

Point ID - 06 is selected as representative for Pomos location. Monthly analysis showed that the most energetic period is the winter period (months December till February) for which mean Hs is found to be at 0.8 – 0.9 m, whereas maximum Hs of the decade is ranging between and 3.9 - 5.0 m (Figure A27a). The maximum significant wave height (Hs) for this point was found at 5.0 m, occurring in December, whereas maximum peak wave period (Tp) was found to be of about 14 sec, with a corresponding Hs close to 2.5 m, occurring also in February (Figure A27a). The prevailing wave direction was found to be from the N, representing 60% of total records.

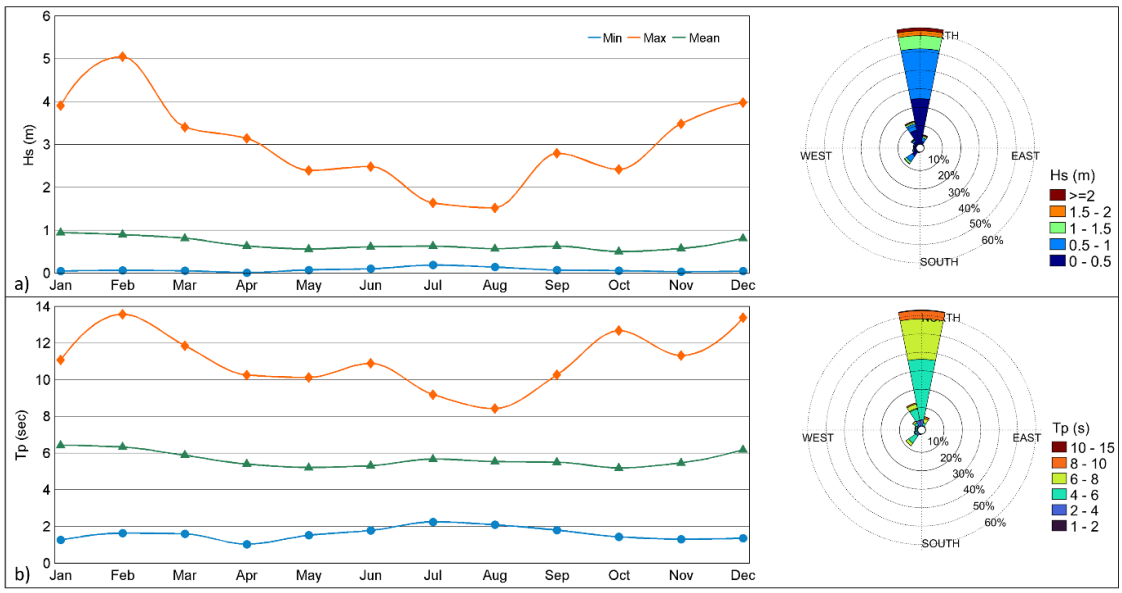


Figure A27. a) Monthly distribution of significant wave height (Hs); and b) Peak wave period (Tp) of the last available decade (2008-2017) of the Copernicus ERA5 dataset, with the corresponding rosegrams showing the directional spreading of the wave action for point ID - 06, the closest representative point for Pomos area.

The meteorological station of Kato Pyrgos is selected as representative for Pomos, due to its location. Monthly statistical analysis shows that the higher values of the decadal maximum wind speed are found from December till April, even if with low in general intensities (up to 6 Beaufort). However, it is noticeable that during June, the highest value is recorded (14.8 ms^{-1}, equal to 7 Beaufort), while during the remaining months, winds are found to blow with velocities < 10.0 ms^{-1} (Figure A28). From the wind rosegram it is evident that the prevailing wind direction is SWW. Like in Akamas-East area, the waverose diagram suggests that waves are approaching from the N direction. This could also be attributed to the small intensity of the recorded winds (3 Beaufort maximum values and 0-2 Beaufort in most cases) and the presence of swell waves in the area (i.e., waves generated from northern locations).

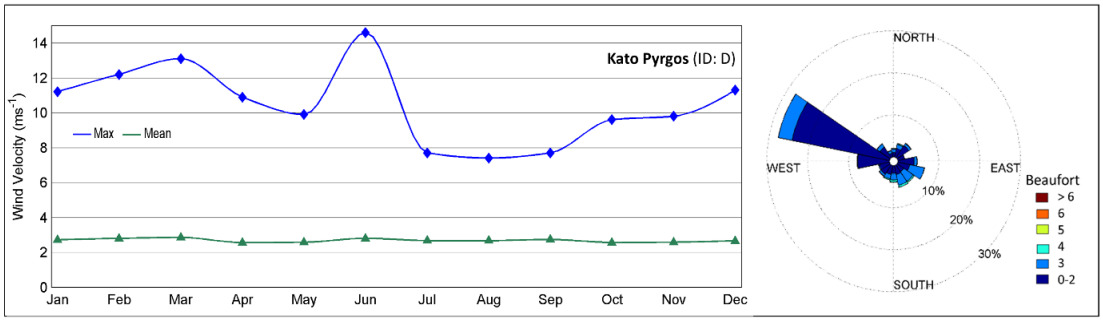


Figure A28. Monthly statistics of wind intensity and the corresponding rosegram for Kato Pyrgos (ID - D) meteorological station covering the period of 2008-2022.

The most representative area for examining the sea surface temperature for Pomos location is Kato Pyrgos. As also shown before, the warmest sea surface temperatures are found to occur occurring during the months June till October (minimum temperature of 22.1°C and maximum temperature of 30.0°C - Figure A26). By contrast, the coldest temperatures are found to occur during the months January till April (minimum temperature of 16.0°C and maximum temperature of 19.8°C). The warmest water temperature is in August with an average around 28.6°C. The coldest month is February with an average water temperature of 16.8°C.

Appendix IV - Questionnaires

a) Questionnaire towards the Dive centres/clubs/associations

This survey is part of a project funded by the Deputy Ministry of Tourism, that aims to develop a national strategy for promoting diving tourism in Cyprus. Please answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge to help us understand the current situation of the diving industry in Cyprus. The results of this survey will help us identify potential gaps and limitations, such that better practices can be proposed.

Five regions of the Republic of Cyprus (RoC)

- Chrysochou bay, Pyrgos & eastern parts of Akamas
- Paphos and western parts of Akamas
- Limassol
- Larnaka
- Famagusta

List of known dive sites per region – *to be used for analogous questions below*

Region 1: Kakoskali MPA, St Georgios reef (Kakoskali), Photiades wall, Blue lagoon, Fontana Amorosa, Amphitheatre bay, Mazaki island, Aphrodite rock & island, Petra, Omega

Region 2: Vera K shipwreck, Amphora caves, Pistol Bay, White star shipwreck, Roman wall (structures), Laboe shipwreck, EDRO III, Amphitheatre, Airport reef, Church bay, Manijin island, St George – Yeronissos

Region 3: Costandis shipwreck, Lady Thetis shipwreck, The structures, Jubilee shoals, Amathounta, Kratiras (Akrotiri), Bahames (Akrotiri), Angires (Akrotiri), Lianokaos/Petra (Akrotiri), Petra tou Lefkou (Akrotiri), Kamara (Akrotiri), Porto Parou (Akrotiri)

Region 4: Zenobia shipwreck, Elpida shipwreck, LEF-1 shipwreck, HMS Cricket wreck, Alexandria shipwreck, Larnaka bay reefs, Pyla pirate caves (Xylofagou), Cape Pyla reef (Xylofagou), Bullet point/Watchtower (Xylofagou), The Nail (Xylofagou),

Region 5: MUSAN underwater sculpture museum, Green bay, Green bay caves, Cyclops caves, Chapel (Agioi Anargiroi), Da Costa, Caves, The Canyon, Antennae (Kavo Gkreko), Nemesis III shipwreck, Liberty shipwreck, Octopus site, Kyrenia shipwreck, Table top (Kitazos)

1. Please state the name of your dive organisation (optional)

Alpha Divers	MK Dive stop LTD
Aquadream scuba academy	Nemo dive centre
Atlantis sea cruises	No Limit Scuba Training Centre
Blue thunder diving & survival centre ltd	Ocean Lab
Buddy divers	Ocean view diving
Coral bay divers	Pissouri Bay Divers
Cydive	Q Divers Mike Polycarpou (MP) dive center ltd
Cyprus Diving Adventures	Scuba Diving Support Centre
Dive in cyprus	Scubaholics Cyprus
Dive in Limassol ltd	SeaWorld diving adventures
Dragon divers Cyprus	Sunfish divers ltd
Happy divers	Taba Diving Centre Ltd
In to the Blue	TD DIVING LTD
JJ SUR MESURE LTD	The Aquatic centre LTD
JP The scuba base diving school ltd	Trans divers
Kimon diving academy	UCY diving team
Larnaca sub aqua club Hippocampus	Undersea world scuba diving
Latchi water sports dive centre	Viking divers
Marine divers	Zenobia diving centre

Answered **38**

Skipped **1**

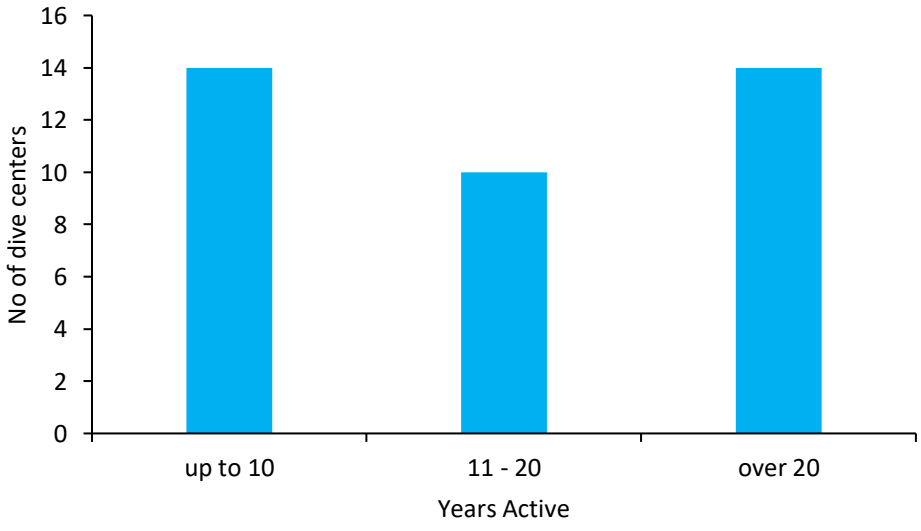
2. What is the status of your dive entity/organisation?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Registered as a company under the Cyprus registrar of companies	63.16%	24
Registered as an established society or institution under ROC legislation	2.63%	1
Registered as Trade name	31.58%	12
Freelance	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)		2
	Answered	**37**
	Skipped	**2**

3. How many years has your dive centre been active?

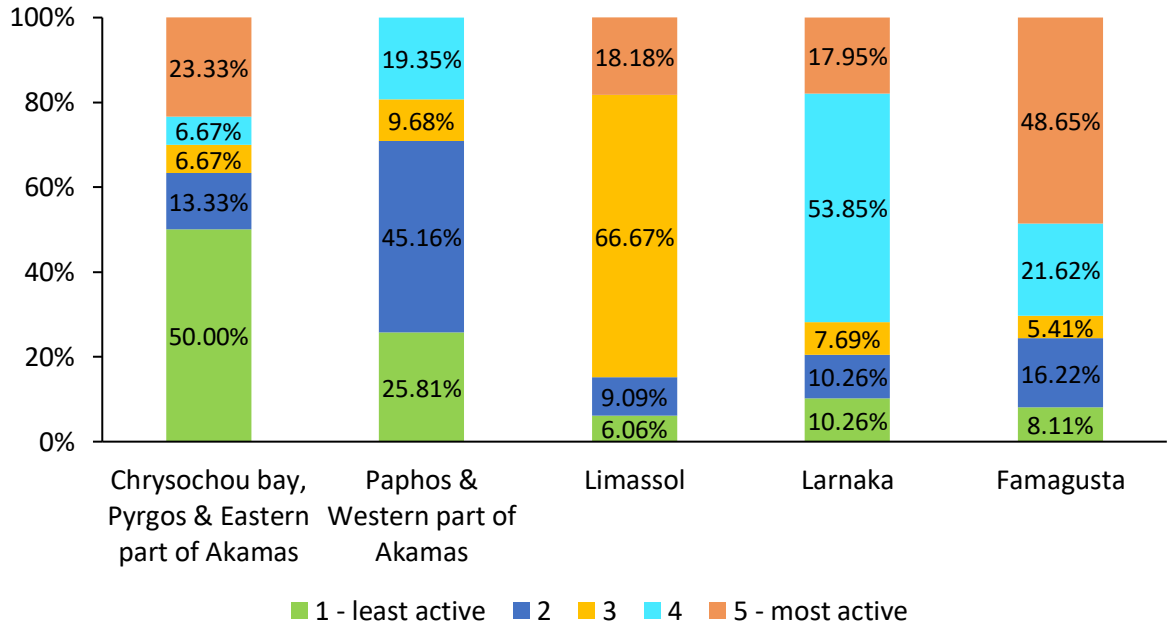
Years Active	Number of Responses
1	1
2	2

Years Active	Number of Responses
3	2
4	2
5	3
7	2
8	1
10	1
12	1
13	1
14	3
17	2
20	3
25	3
28	1
30	1
32	2
34	1
38	1
40	1
42	1
44	1
45	2
Answered	**38**
Skipped	**1**



4. In which region are you mostly active? Please indicate the regions in which you are least active (1) to most active (5).

Region	1		2		3		4		5		Total	Score
Chrysochou bay, Pyrgos & Eastern part of Akamas	50.00%	15	13.33%	4	6.67%	2	6.67%	2	23.33%	7	30	3.6
Paphos & Western part of Akamas	25.81%	8	45.16%	14	9.68%	3	19.35%	6	0.00%	0	31	3.77
Limassol	6.06%	2	9.09%	3	66.67%	22	0.00%	0	18.18%	6	33	2.85
Larnaka	10.26%	4	10.26%	4	7.69%	3	53.85%	21	17.95%	7	39	2.41
Famagusta	8.11%	3	16.22%	6	5.41%	2	21.62%	8	48.65%	18	37	2.14
											Answered	39
											Skipped	0



5. Please tick from the list which dive sites you consider to be the 10 most important.

Dive sites	Responses
Zenobia shipwreck	94.74%
Green bay	68.42%
Cyclops caves	60.53%
Caves	57.89%
MUSAN underwater sculpture museum	50.00%
Elpida shipwreck	42.11%

Dive sites	Responses
Green bay caves	39.47%
Chapel (Agioi Anargiroi)	36.84%
Nemesis III shipwreck	31.58%
Costandis shipwreck	28.95%
Lady Thetis shipwreck	28.95%
The Canyon	28.95%
Jubilee shoals	26.32%
Liberty shipwreck	26.32%
Bullet point/Watchtower (Xylofagou)	23.68%
Amphitheatre	18.42%
Pistol Bay	15.79%
Da Costa	15.79%
Kakoskali MPA	13.16%
Manijin island	13.16%
St Georgios reef (Kakoskali)	10.53%
EDRO III	10.53%
St George – Geronisos	10.53%
The structures	10.53%
LEF-1 shipwreck	10.53%
HMS Cricket wreck	10.53%
Alexandria shipwreck	10.53%
Pyla pirate caves (Xylofagou)	10.53%
Cape pyla reef (Xylofagou)	10.53%
Kyrenia shipwreck	10.53%
Amphitheatre bay	7.89%
Vera K shipwreck	7.89%
Amphora caves	7.89%
The Nail (Xylofagou)	7.89%
Antennae (Cape Greco)	7.89%
Octopus site	7.89%
Blue lagoon	5.26%
Fontana Amorosa	5.26%
Roman wall (structures)	5.26%
Airport reef	5.26%
Church bay	5.26%
Amathounta	5.26%
Porto Parou (Akrotiri)	5.26%

Dive sites	Responses	
Mazaki island	2.63%	
Petra	2.63%	
Laboe shipwreck	2.63%	
Bahames (Akrotiri)	2.63%	
Lianokaos/Petra (Akrotiri)	2.63%	
Petra tou Lefkou (Akrotiri)	2.63%	
Kamara (Akrotiri)	2.63%	
Table top (Kitazos)	2.63%	
	Answered	**38**
	Skipped	**1**

Other (please specify) & Please mention your reasonings for the above choices.
Cynthiana hotel _ 30% 3 accessibility; Coralia beach - training 40%, 4 accessibility; St George's hotel breakwater\lagoon
Mpania (Alykes)
Mandria , nobles cove, accessibility 3
Kermia (ammos tou kampouri)
Interesting sites with good access. Not a lot of currents.
Konnos point
Mimosa
Caves and Chapel: Underwater landscape, marine life; Cyclops, Jubilee shoals, Amphitheater, Mazaki, Kakoskali: underwater landscape and marine life; Green bay: marine life; Musan: contemporary culture, underwater landscape, marine life; Zenobia and Elpida sw: marine life, underwater landscape, contemporary culture
Mountain - 10%, lighthouse reef - 25%, korakos 10%, loukkos -25%, kermia reef 25%, triangle 15%, amphora bay 15%, troulli 10%
Rich sea life
Zenobia
The above dive sites are considered the best 10 for the following reasons: 1. underwater landscape, 2. marine species/environment, 3. excitement of diving experience, 4. Give the option of two or more dives in the same day
Agia trias, close to Limassol wrecks at 10m depth
Bedrock (carnival masks) x 60% visitation
Limassol Port Harbour Wall

6. Does your organisation offer snorkelling trips to clients?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	57.89%	22
No	42.11%	16
	Answered	**38**
	Skipped	**1**

7. If so, please select which you believe are the 10 most important snorkelling sites.

Snorkelling sites	Responses	
Green bay	52.38%	
MUSAN underwater sculpture museum	38.10%	
Blue lagoon	14.29%	
Amathounta	14.29%	
Fontana Amorosa	9.52%	
Roman wall (structures)	9.52%	
Zenobia shipwreck	9.52%	
Elpida shipwreck	9.52%	
Da Costa	9.52%	
Caves	9.52%	
St Georgios reef (Kakoskali)	4.76%	
Photiades wall	4.76%	
Amphitheatre bay	4.76%	
Aphrodite rock & island	4.76%	
Vera K shipwreck	4.76%	
Amphora caves	4.76%	
St George – Geronisos	4.76%	
HMS Cricket wreck	4.76%	
Alexandria shipwreck	4.76%	
Pyla pirate caves (Xylofagou)	4.76%	
Cape pyla reef (Xylofagou)	4.76%	
Cyclops caves	4.76%	
The Canyon	4.76%	
	Answered	**19**
	Skipped	**20**

Other (please specify) & Please mention your reasonings for the above choices
Sea caves
Konnos, blue lagoon,
Pafos snorkelling park
Only on demand
Wreck in Limassol artificial reef
Akrotiri and governor's beach

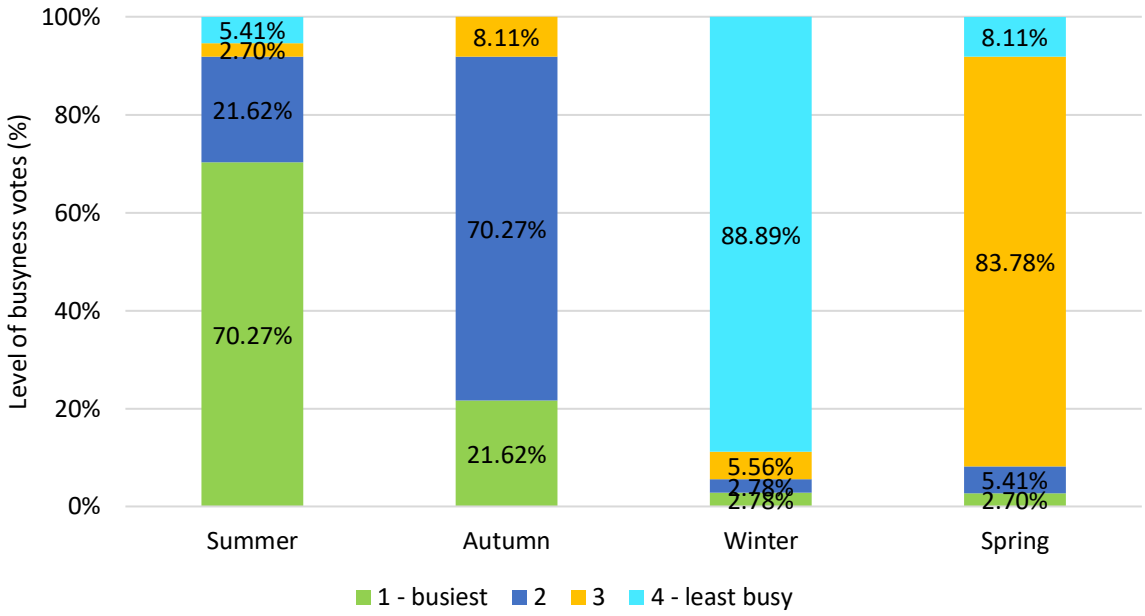
8. Please name other important snorkelling sites (including information on the region, location and, if possible, coordinates) that you visit (if any), which are not listed above

Responses
Takes people for trips in akamas ,kayaking, hiking and snorkelling , organized trips for kayaking all Cyprus
None

Answered	**2**
Skipped	**37**

9. Which season is the busiest? Please put them in order of most busy to least busy

	1		2		3		4		Total	Score
Summer: June, July, August	70.27%	26	21.62%	8	2.70%	1	5.41%	2	37	3.57
Autumn: September, October, November	21.62%	8	70.27%	26	8.11%	3	0.00%	0	37	3.14
Winter: December, January, February	2.78%	1	2.78%	1	5.56%	2	88.89%	32	36	1.19
Spring: March, April, May	2.70%	1	5.41%	2	83.78%	31	8.11%	3	37	2.03
									Answered	**37**
									Skipped	**2**

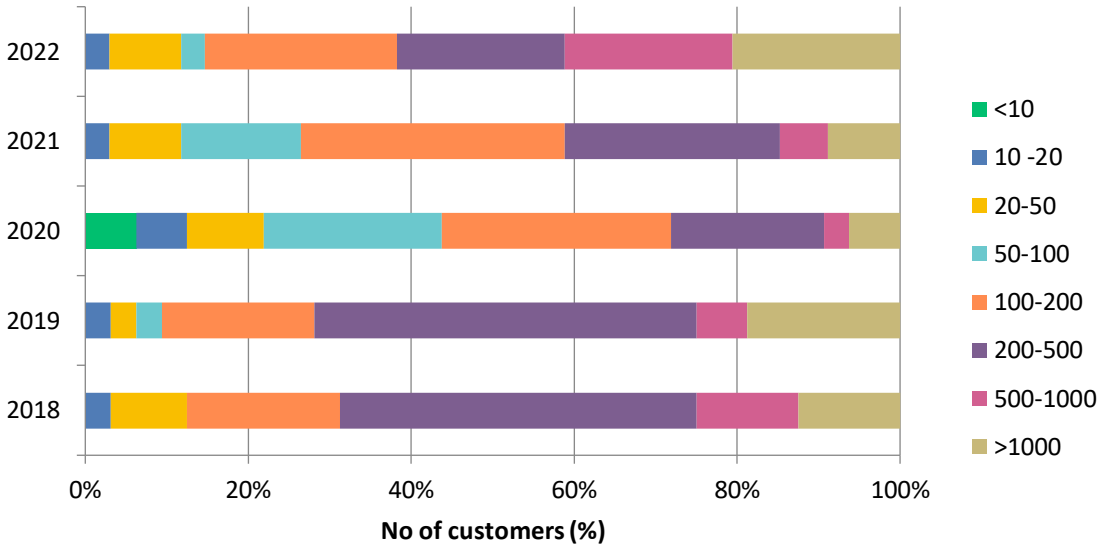


10. How many customers (approximately) did you have per season for each year between 2018-2022? Please select a range from the dropdown list.

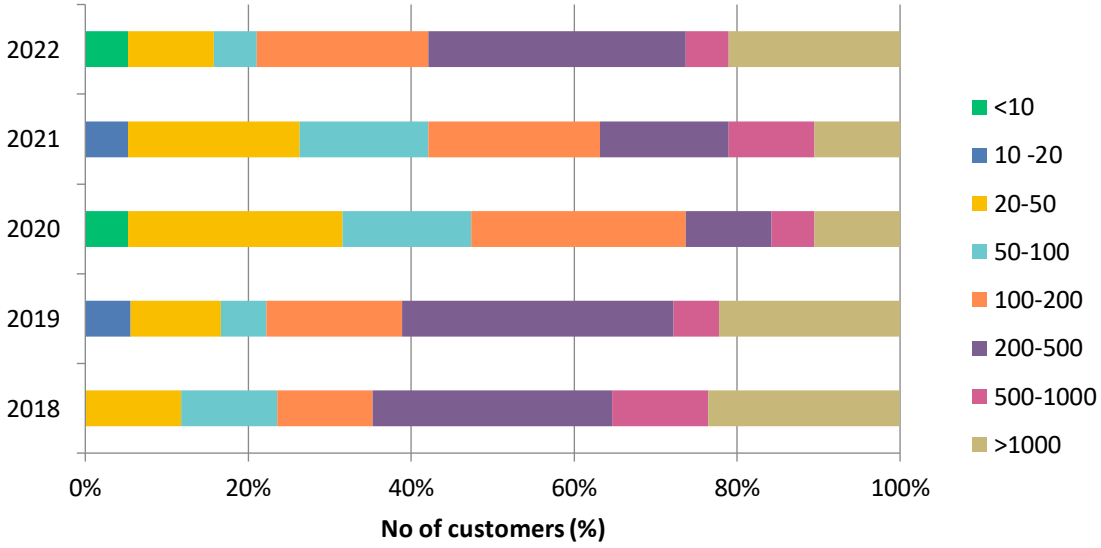
	<10		10 -20		20-50		50-100		100-200	
2018	0.00%	0	3.13%	1	9.38%	3	0.00%	0	18.75%	6
2019	0.00%	0	3.13%	1	3.13%	1	3.13%	1	18.75%	6
2020	6.25%	2	6.25%	2	9.38%	3	21.88%	7	28.13%	9
2021	0.00%	0	2.94%	1	8.82%	3	14.71%	5	32.35%	11
2022	0.00%	0	2.94%	1	8.82%	3	2.94%	1	23.53%	8

	200-500		500-1000		>1000		Total
2018	43.75%	14	12.50%	4	12.50%	4	32
2019	46.88%	15	6.25%	2	18.75%	6	32
2020	18.75%	6	3.13%	1	6.25%	2	32
2021	26.47%	9	5.88%	2	8.82%	3	34
2022	20.59%	7	20.59%	7	20.59%	7	34
					Answered		**37**
					Skipped		**2**

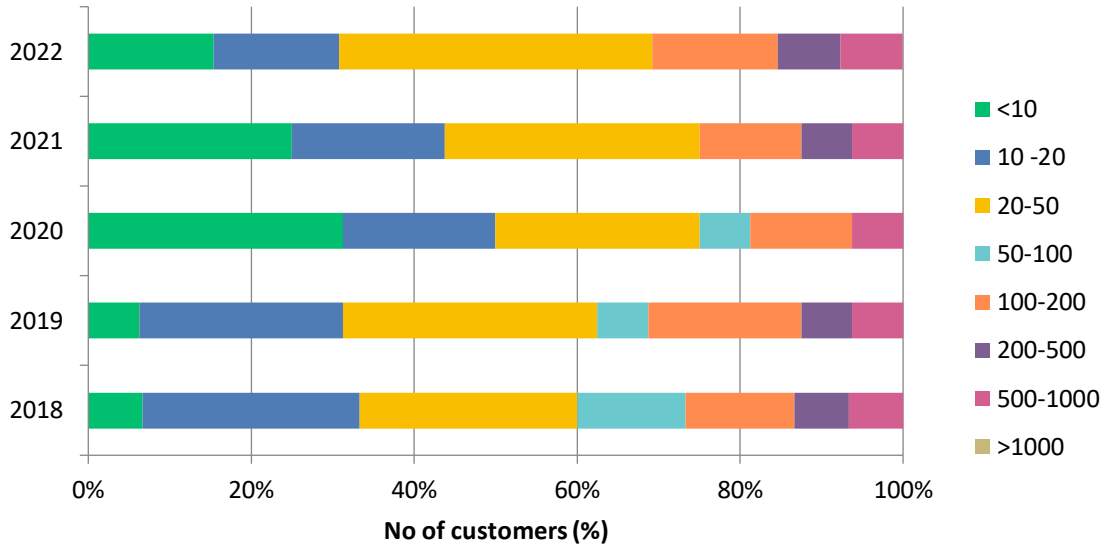
Summer



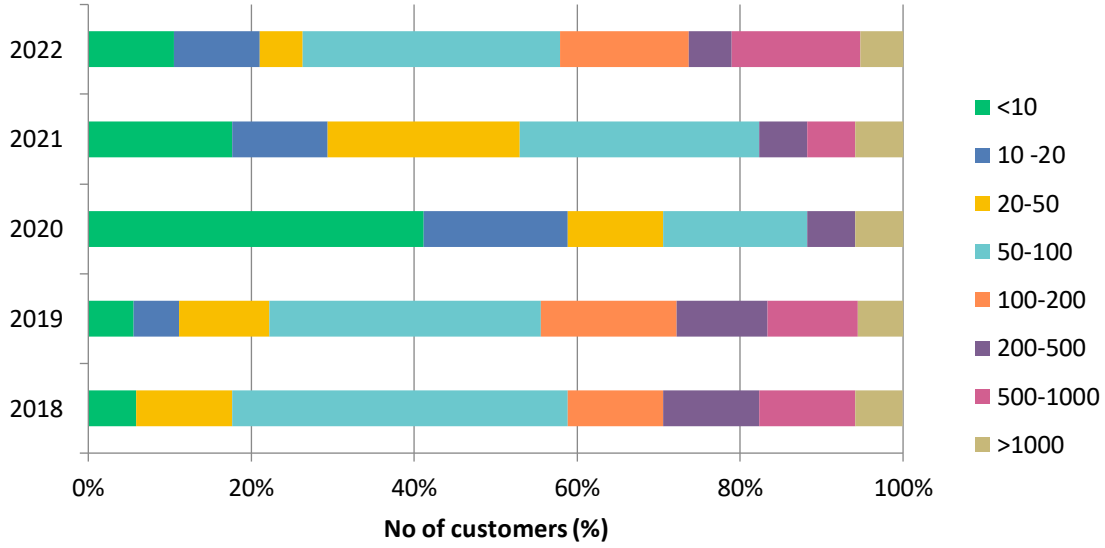
Autumn



Winter



Spring



11. What are the average visitation rates of the most important dive sites within each year? (Please select a percentage range)

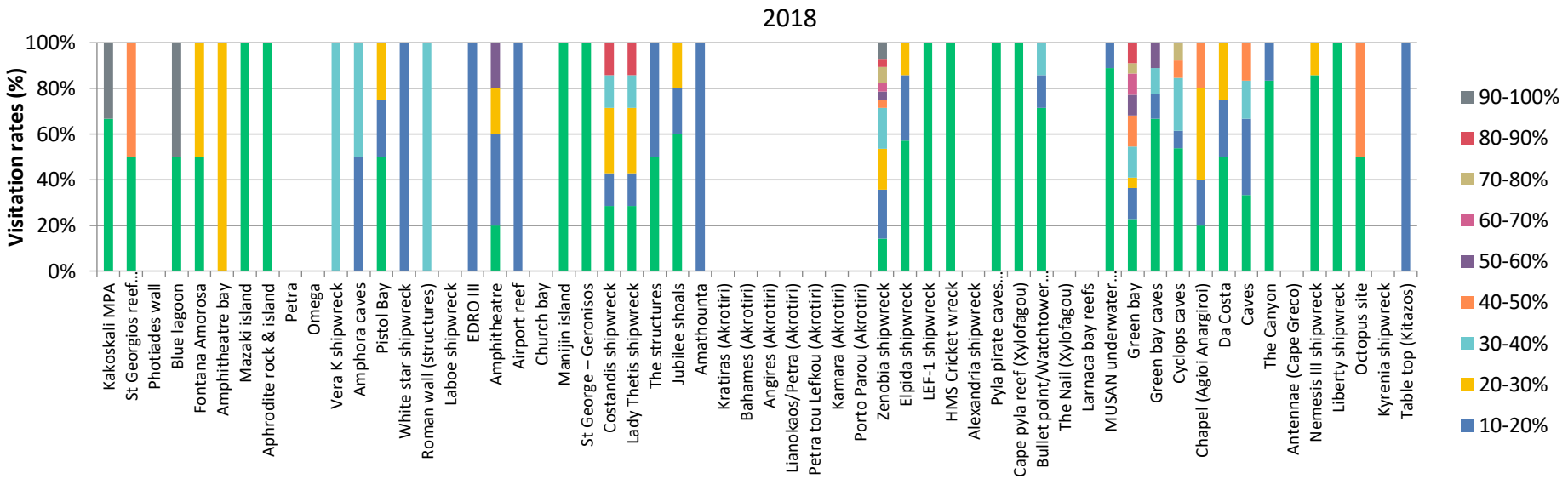
2018	
Answered	**36**
Skipped	3

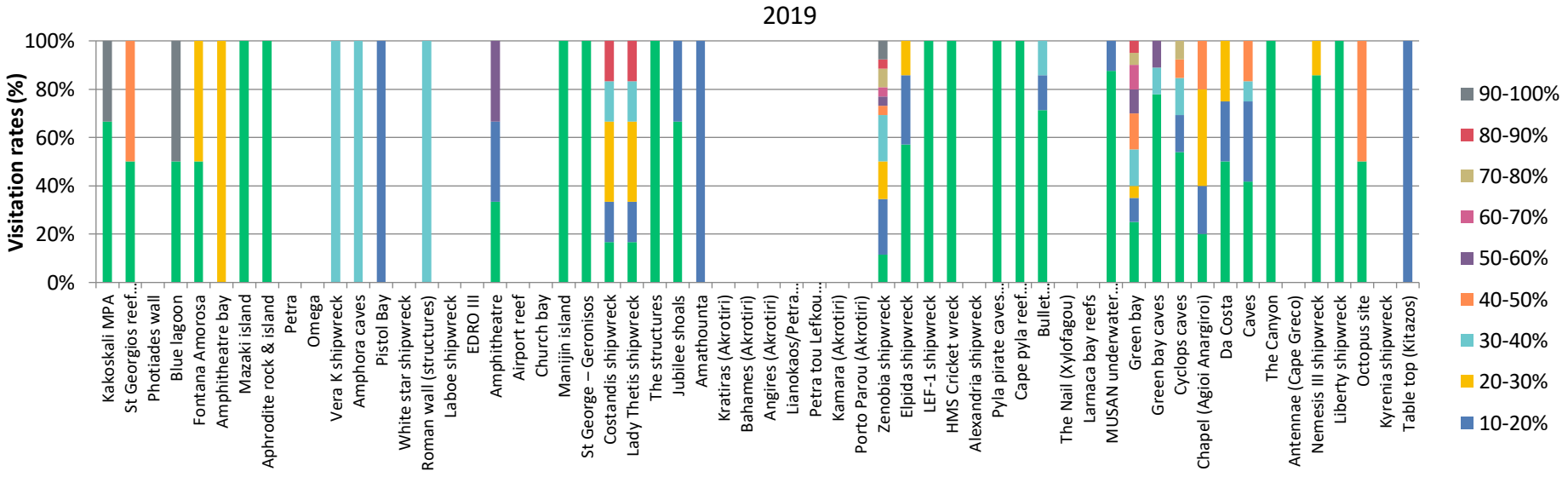
2020	
Answered	**36**
Skipped	3

2022	
Answered	**36**
Skipped	3

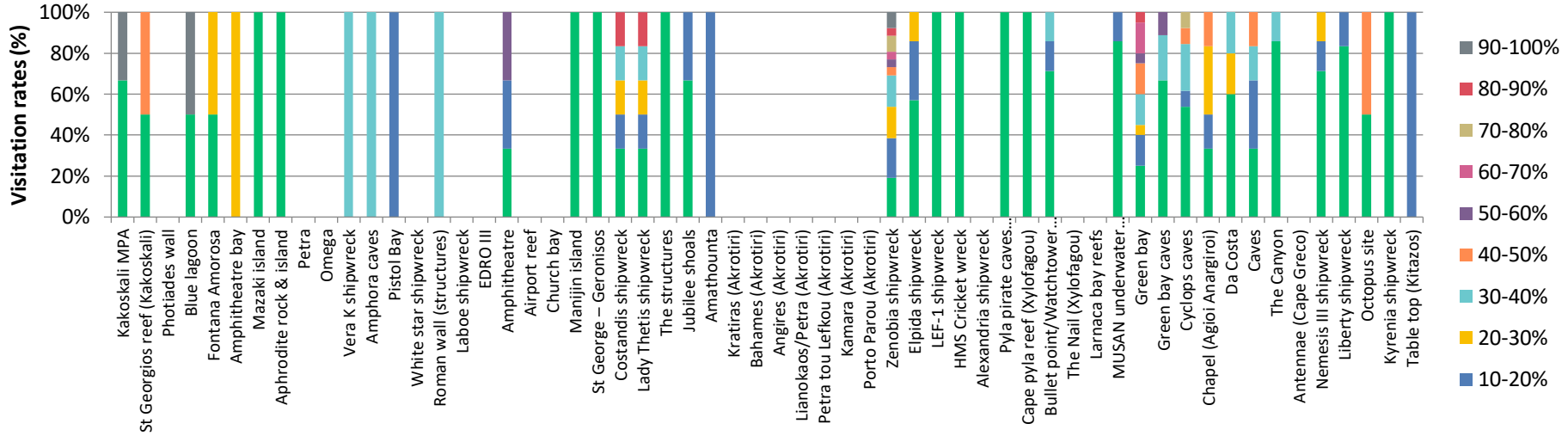
2019	
Answered	**36**
Skipped	3

2021	
Answered	**36**
Skipped	3

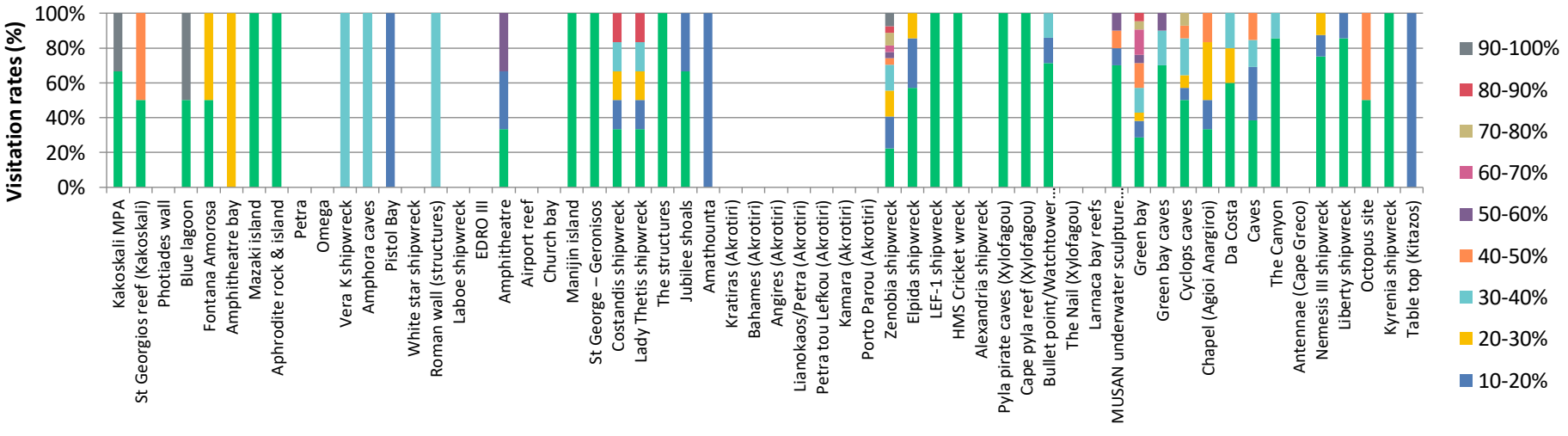

2018
Visitation rates (%)
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
Kakoskali MPA
St Georgios reef...
Photiades wall
Blue lagoon
Fontana Amorosa
Amphitheatre bay
Mazaki island
Aphrodite rock & island
Petra
Omega
Vera K shipwreck
Amphora caves
Pistol Bay
White star shipwreck
Roman wall (structures)
Laboe shipwreck
EDRO III
Amphitheatre
Airport reef
Church bay
Manijin island
St George – Geronisos
Costandis shipwreck
Lady Thetis shipwreck
The structures
Jubilee shoals
Amathounta
Kratiras (Akrotiri)
Bahames (Akrotiri)
Angires (Akrotiri)
Lianokaos/Petra (Akrotiri)
Petra tou Lefkou (Akrotiri)
Kamara (Akrotiri)
Porto Parou (Akrotiri)
Zenobia shipwreck
Elpida shipwreck
LEF-1 shipwreck
HMS Cricket wreck
Alexandria shipwreck
Pyla pirate caves...
Cape pyla reef (Xylofagou)
Bullet point/Watchtower...
The Nail (Xylofagou)
Larnaca bay reefs
MUSAN underwater...
Green bay
Green bay caves
Cyclops caves
Chapel (Agioi Anargiroi)
Da Costa
Caves
The Canyon
Antennae (Cape Greco)
Nemesis III shipwreck
Liberty shipwreck
Octopus site
Kyrenia shipwreck
Table top (Kitazos)
90-100%
80-90%
70-80%
60-70%
50-60%
40-50%
30-40%
20-30%
10-20%

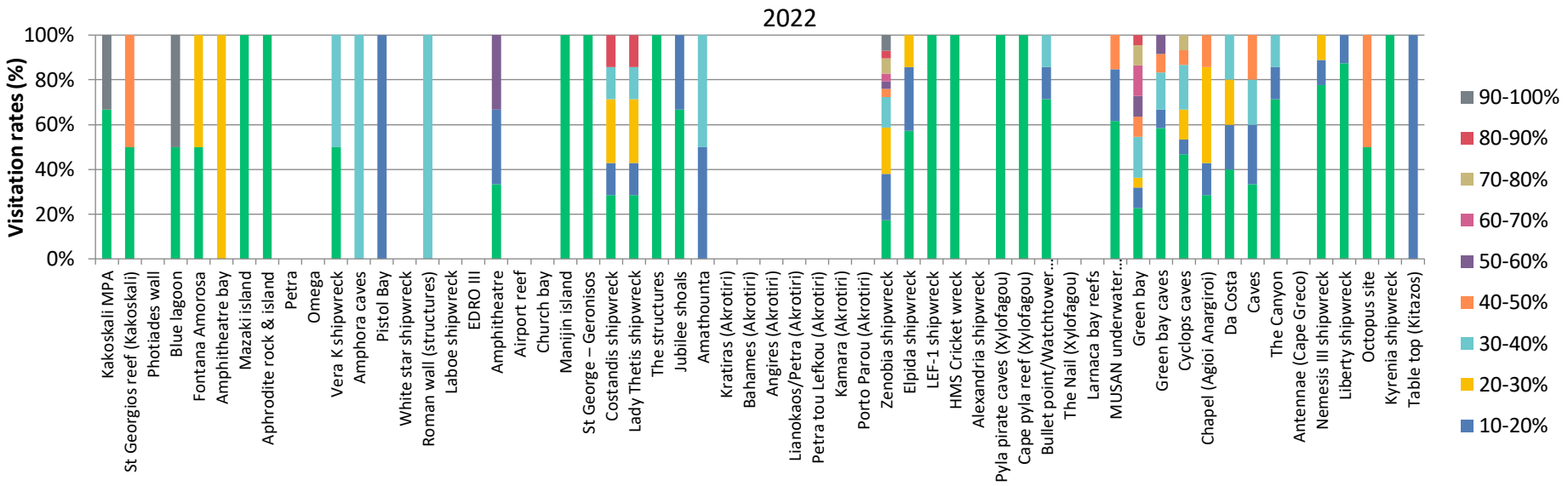

2019
Visitation rates (%)
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
Kakoskali MPA
St Georgios reef...
Photiades wall
Blue lagoon
Fontana Amorosa
Amphitheatre bay
Mazaki island
Aphrodite rock & island
Petra
Omega
Vera K shipwreck
Amphora caves
Pistol Bay
White star shipwreck
Roman wall (structures)
Laboe shipwreck
EDRO III
Amphitheatre
Airport reef
Church bay
Manijin island
St George – Geronisos
Costandis shipwreck
Lady Thetis shipwreck
The structures
Jubilee shoals
Amathounta
Kratiras (Akrotiri)
Bahames (Akrotiri)
Angires (Akrotiri)
Lianokaos/Petra...
Petra tou Lefkou...
Kamara (Akrotiri)
Porto Parou (Akrotiri)
Zenobia shipwreck
Elpida shipwreck
LEF-1 shipwreck
HMS Cricket wreck
Alexandria shipwreck
Pyla pirate caves...
Cape pyla reef...
Bullet...
The Nail (Xylofagou)
Larnaca bay reefs
MUSAN underwater...
Green bay
Green bay caves
Cyclops caves
Chapel (Agioi Anargiroi)
Da Costa
Caves
The Canyon
Antennae (Cape Greco)
Nemesis III shipwreck
Liberty shipwreck
Octopus site
Kyrenia shipwreck
Table top (Kitazos)
90-100%
80-90%
70-80%
60-70%
50-60%
40-50%
30-40%
20-30%
10-20%

2020


Visitation rates (%)
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
Kakoskali MPA
St Georgios reef (Kakoskali)
Photiades wall
Blue lagoon
Fontana Amorosa
Amphitheatre bay
Mazaki island
Aphrodite rock & island
Petra
Omega
Vera K shipwreck
Amphora caves
Pistol Bay
White star shipwreck
Roman wall (structures)
Laboe shipwreck
EDRO III
Amphitheatre
Airport reef
Church bay
Manijin island
St George – Geronisos
Costandis shipwreck
Lady Thetis shipwreck
The structures
Jubilee shoals
Amathounta
Kratiras (Akrotiri)
Bahames (Akrotiri)
Angires (Akrotiri)
Lianokaos/Petra (Akrotiri)
Petra tou Lefkou (Akrotiri)
Kamara (Akrotiri)
Porto Parou (Akrotiri)
Zenobia shipwreck
Elpida shipwreck
LEF-1 shipwreck
HMS Cricket wreck
Alexandria shipwreck
Pyla pirate caves...
Cape pyla reef (Xylofagou)
Bullet point/Watchtower...
The Nail (Xylofagou)
Larnaca bay reefs
MUSAN underwater...
Green bay
Green bay caves
Cyclops caves
Chapel (Agioi Anargiroi)
Da Costa
Caves
The Canyon
Antennae (Cape Greco)
Nemesis III shipwreck
Liberty shipwreck
Octopus site
Kyrenia shipwreck
Table top (Kitazos)
90-100%
80-90%
70-80%
60-70%
50-60%
40-50%
30-40%
20-30%
10-20%

2021


Visitation rates (%)
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
Kakoskali MPA
St Georgios reef (Kakoskali)
Photiades wall
Blue lagoon
Fontana Amorosa
Amphitheatre bay
Mazaki island
Aphrodite rock & island
Petra
Omega
Vera K shipwreck
Amphora caves
Pistol Bay
White star shipwreck
Roman wall (structures)
Laboe shipwreck
EDRO III
Amphitheatre
Airport reef
Church bay
Manijin island
St George – Geronisos
Costandis shipwreck
Lady Thetis shipwreck
The structures
Jubilee shoals
Amathounta
Kratiras (Akrotiri)
Bahames (Akrotiri)
Angires (Akrotiri)
Lianokaos/Petra (Akrotiri)
Petra tou Lefkou (Akrotiri)
Kamara (Akrotiri)
Porto Parou (Akrotiri)
Zenobia shipwreck
Elpida shipwreck
LEF-1 shipwreck
HMS Cricket wreck
Alexandria shipwreck
Pyla pirate caves (Xylofagou)
Cape pyla reef (Xylofagou)
Bullet point/Watchtower...
The Nail (Xylofagou)
Larnaca bay reefs
MUSAN underwater sculpture...
Green bay
Green bay caves
Cyclops caves
Chapel (Agioi Anargiroi)
Da Costa
Caves
The Canyon
Antennae (Cape Greco)
Nemesis III shipwreck
Liberty shipwreck
Octopus site
Kyrenia shipwreck
Table top (Kitazos)
90-100%
80-90%
70-80%
60-70%
50-60%
40-50%
30-40%
20-30%
10-20%

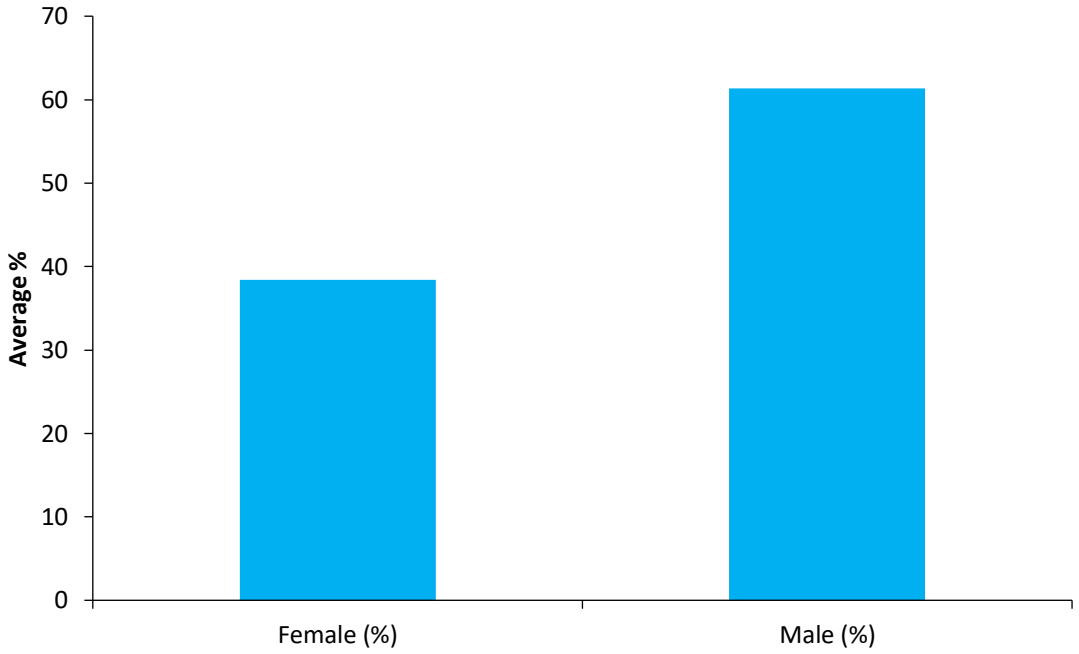


12. Please provide the approximate percentage of the following age groups of your customers (Please select from the dropdown list)

	0%	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	55%	60%	65%	70%	75%
<10	62.86%	31.43%	2.86%	0.00%	0.00%	2.86%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
10-18	8.11%	35.14%	29.73%	10.81%	13.51%	0.00%	2.70%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
18-25	0.00%	7.89%	21.05%	28.95%	23.68%	10.53%	5.26%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2.63%
25-35	0.00%	0.00%	13.51%	16.22%	16.22%	21.62%	8.11%	2.70%	10.81%	0.00%	5.41%	0.00%	2.70%	0.00%	2.70%	0.00%
35-45	0.00%	0.00%	16.22%	5.41%	35.14%	16.22%	24.32%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2.70%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
45-55	0.00%	21.62%	27.03%	18.92%	13.51%	5.41%	10.81%	2.70%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
55-65	11.11%	47.22%	36.11%	2.78%	2.78%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
>65	43.75%	56.25%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
															Answered	**38**
															Skipped	**1**

13. **Please indicate the gender of the majority of your customers, by percentage (Female, Male, Other).**

Answer Choices	Average Number	Responses	
Female (%)	38.4	100.00%	38
Male (%)	61.3	100.00%	38
Other (%)	0	0.00%	0
		Answered	**38**
		Skipped	**1**



14. Please list the 5 most common nationalities of your customers per year, since 2018. (Please use numbers 1-5 where 1 = most common and 5 = least common)

1st Ranking	Russia		UK		Cyprus		Ukraine		Norway		Sweden		Finland		Denmark	
2018	18.75%	6	40.63%	13	25.00%	8	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.13%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2019	14.71%	5	47.06%	16	20.59%	7	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	2.94%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2020	18.18%	6	33.33%	11	27.27%	9	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.03%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2021	19.44%	7	30.56%	11	25.00%	9	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	2.78%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2022	0.00%	0	41.67%	15	22.22%	8	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	2.78%	1	2.78%	1	2.78%	1

	Israel		Germany		Greece		Italy		France		Spain		Portugal		Netherlands	
2018	0.00%	0	6.25%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2019	0.00%	0	8.82%	3	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2020	0.00%	0	9.09%	3	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2021	2.78%	1	11.11%	4	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2022	2.78%	1	13.89%	5	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	2.78%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0

	Belgium		Serbia		USA		Canada		China		Poland		Czech Republic		Switzerland	
2018	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.13%	1
2019	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	2.94%	1	0.00%	0	2.94%	1
2020	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.03%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.03%	1	0.00%	0	3.03%	1
2021	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	2.78%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	2.78%	1	0.00%	0	2.78%	1
2022	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	2.78%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	2.78%	1	2.78%	1

	Bulgaria		Romania		Other		Total
2018	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.13%	1	32
2019	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	34
2020	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	33
2021	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	36
2022	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	36
Other nationality							22

Answered	37
Skipped	2

2nd Ranking	Russia		UK		Cyprus		Ukraine		Norway		Sweden		Finland		Denmark	
2018	17.24%	5	24.14%	7	3.45%	1	6.90%	2	0.00%	0	6.90%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2019	20.00%	6	16.67%	5	3.33%	1	6.67%	2	0.00%	0	6.67%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2020	10.71%	3	17.86%	5	14.29%	4	3.57%	1	0.00%	0	7.14%	2	0.00%	0	3.57%	1
2021	9.38%	3	21.88%	7	3.13%	1	6.25%	2	0.00%	0	6.25%	2	0.00%	0	3.13%	1
2022	2.94%	1	5.88%	2	2.94%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	8.82%	3	0.00%	0	5.88%	2

	Israel		Germany		Greece		Italy		France		Spain		Portugal		Netherlands	
2018	0.00%	0	27.59%	8	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2019	0.00%	0	26.67%	8	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2020	0.00%	0	28.57%	8	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	7.14%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2021	3.13%	1	31.25%	10	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	6.25%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2022	0.00%	0	23.53%	8	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	11.76%	4	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	2.94%	1

	Belgium		Serbia		USA		Canada		China		Poland		Czech Republic		Switzerland	
2018	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	6.90%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2019	3.33%	1	0.00%	0	3.33%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	10.00%	3	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2020	3.57%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2021	3.13%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.13%	1
2022	2.94%	1	0.00%	0	2.94%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	8.82%	3	5.88%	2	2.94%	1

	Bulgaria		Romania		Other		Total
2018	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	6.90%	2	29
2019	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.33%	1	30
2020	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.57%	1	28
2021	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.13%	1	32
2022	0.00%	0	5.88%	2	5.88%	2	34
Other nationality							22

Answered	37
Skipped	2

3rd Ranking	Russia		UK		Cyprus		Ukraine		Norway		Sweden		Finland		Denmark	
2018	10.34%	3	0.00%	0	6.90%	2	3.45%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	10.34%	3	3.45%	1
2019	13.33%	4	0.00%	0	6.67%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	10.00%	3	3.33%	1
2020	3.85%	1	15.38%	4	3.85%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.85%	1	7.69%	2	3.85%	1
2021	6.67%	2	3.33%	1	3.33%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.33%	1	10.00%	3	3.33%	1
2022	6.06%	2	0.00%	0	6.06%	2	0.00%	0	3.03%	1	0.00%	0	3.03%	1	9.09%	3

	Israel		Germany		Greece		Italy		France		Spain		Portugal		Netherlands	
2018	10.34%	3	17.24%	5	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	6.90%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.45%	1
2019	6.67%	2	20.00%	6	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	10.00%	3	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.33%	1
2020	15.38%	4	19.23%	5	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	7.69%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2021	16.67%	5	13.33%	4	0.00%	0	3.33%	1	13.33%	4	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2022	9.09%	3	21.21%	7	6.06%	2	0.00%	0	9.09%	3	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.03%	1

	Belgium		Serbia		USA		Canada		China		Poland		Czech Republic		Switzerland	
2018	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	17.24%	5	0.00%	0	3.45%	1
2019	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	16.67%	5	0.00%	0	6.67%	2
2020	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	7.69%	2	0.00%	0	11.54%	3
2021	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	13.33%	4	0.00%	0	6.67%	2
2022	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	12.12%	4	6.06%	2	3.03%	1

	Bulgaria		Romania		Other		Total
2018	0.00%	0	3.45%	1	3.45%	1	29
2019	0.00%	0	3.33%	1	0.00%	0	30
2020	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	26
2021	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.33%	1	30
2022	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.03%	1	33
Other nationality							22

Answered	37
Skipped	2

4th Ranking	Russia		UK		Cyprus		Ukraine		Norway		Sweden		Finland		Denmark	
2018	10.71%	3	3.57%	1	10.71%	3	3.57%	1	3.57%	1	7.14%	2	0.00%	0	7.14%	2
2019	13.79%	4	0.00%	0	6.90%	2	6.90%	2	3.45%	1	6.90%	2	0.00%	0	3.45%	1
2020	15.38%	4	7.69%	2	7.69%	2	3.85%	1	3.85%	1	7.69%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2021	13.79%	4	3.45%	1	13.79%	4	6.90%	2	3.45%	1	10.34%	3	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2022	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	6.25%	2	0.00%	0	3.13%	1	6.25%	2	3.13%	1	0.00%	0

	Israel		Germany		Greece		Italy		France		Spain		Portugal		Netherlands	
2018	7.14%	2	10.71%	3	3.57%	1	0.00%	0	7.14%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.57%	1
2019	13.79%	4	6.90%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.45%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	6.90%	2
2020	7.69%	2	3.85%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.85%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	7.69%	2
2021	10.34%	3	3.45%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	6.90%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	6.90%	2
2022	3.13%	1	9.38%	3	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	6.25%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	6.25%	2

	Belgium		Serbia		USA		Canada		China		Poland		Czech Republic		Switzerland	
2018	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	10.71%	3	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2019	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.45%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	17.24%	5	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2020	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	15.38%	4	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2021	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	10.34%	3	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2022	0.00%	0	3.13%	1	6.25%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	18.75%	6	12.50%	4	6.25%	2

	Bulgaria		Romania		Other		Total
2018	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	10.71%	3	28
2019	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	6.90%	2	29
2020	0.00%	0	7.69%	2	7.69%	2	26
2021	3.45%	1	3.45%	1	3.45%	1	29
2022	0.00%	0	3.13%	1	6.25%	2	32
Other nationality							22

Answered	37
Skipped	2

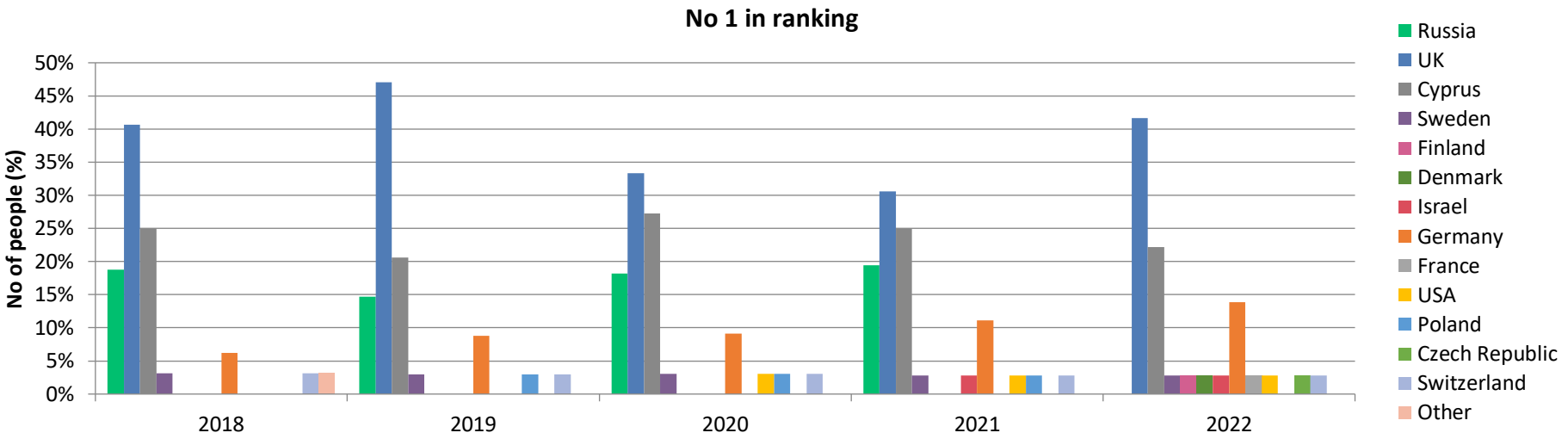
5th Ranking	Russia		UK		Cyprus		Ukraine		Norway		Sweden		Finland		Denmark	
2018	3.70%	1	11.11%	3	3.70%	1	3.70%	1	3.70%	1	7.41%	2	0.00%	0	7.41%	2
2019	3.57%	1	14.29%	4	7.14%	2	7.14%	2	3.57%	1	7.14%	2	0.00%	0	3.57%	1
2020	8.00%	2	24.00%	6	8.00%	2	0.00%	0	4.00%	1	4.00%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2021	6.90%	2	17.24%	5	6.90%	2	3.45%	1	3.45%	1	3.45%	1	0.00%	0	3.45%	1
2022	6.45%	2	25.81%	8	9.68%	3	0.00%	0	3.23%	1	6.45%	2	3.23%	1	0.00%	0

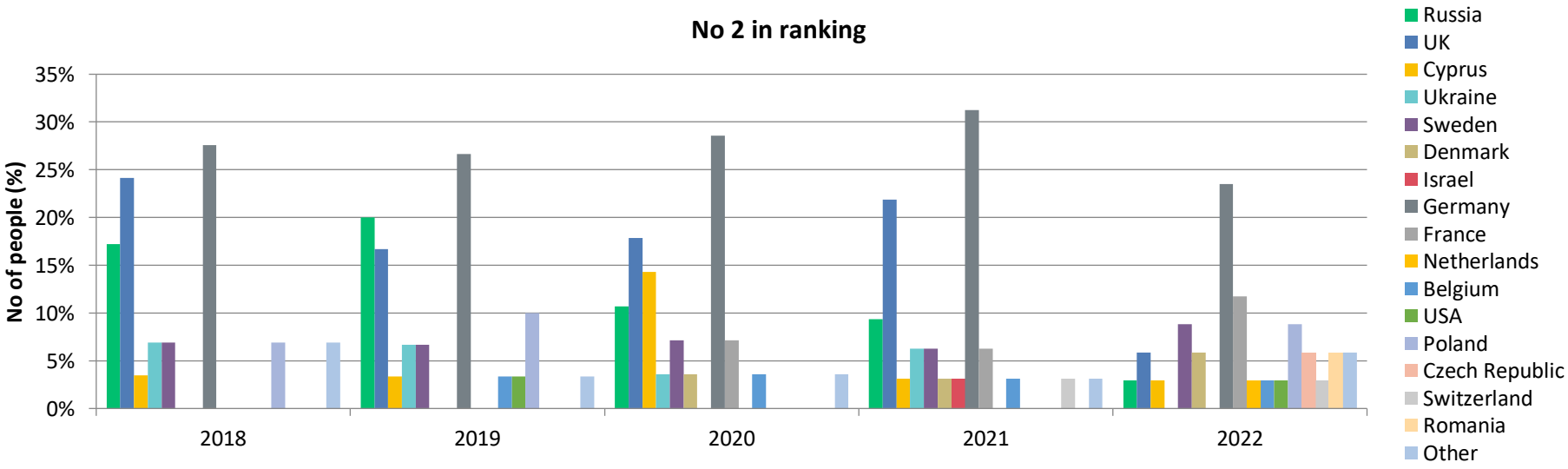
	Israel		Germany		Greece		Italy		France		Spain		Portugal		Netherlands	
2018	11.11%	3	14.81%	4	3.70%	1	0.00%	0	3.70%	1	3.70%	1	0.00%	0	7.41%	2
2019	3.57%	1	14.29%	4	3.57%	1	0.00%	0	7.14%	2	3.57%	1	0.00%	0	3.57%	1
2020	8.00%	2	4.00%	1	4.00%	1	0.00%	0	4.00%	1	4.00%	1	0.00%	0	4.00%	1
2021	6.90%	2	3.45%	1	3.45%	1	0.00%	0	13.79%	4	3.45%	1	0.00%	0	6.90%	2
2022	3.23%	1	3.23%	1	3.23%	1	3.23%	1	6.45%	2	3.23%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0

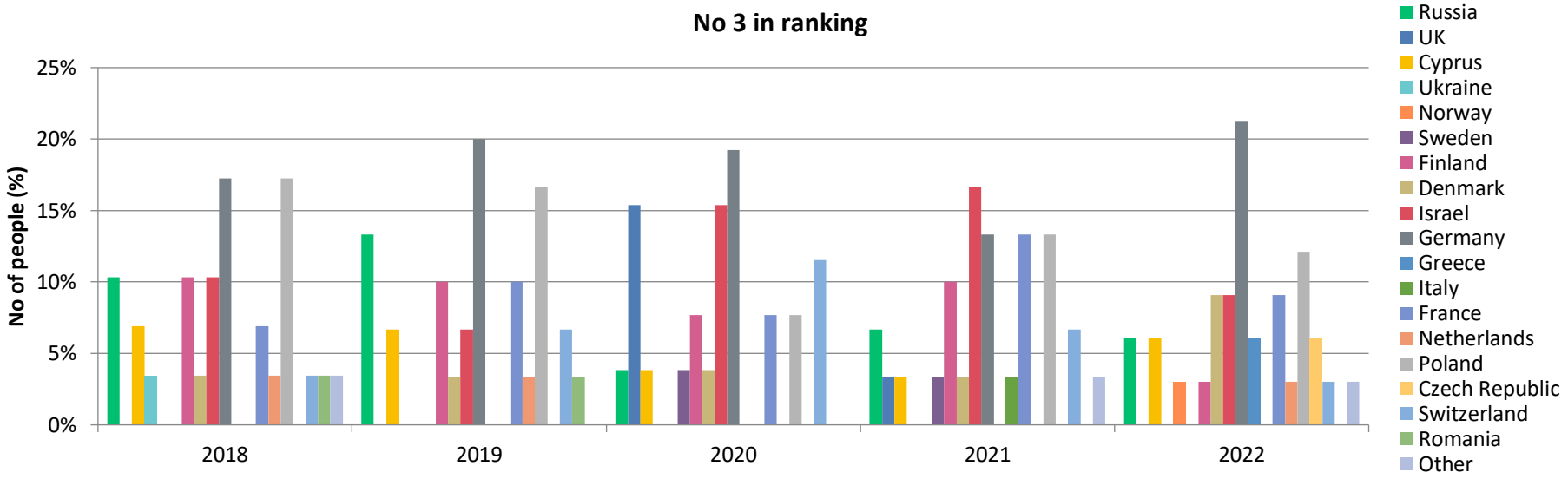
	Belgium		Serbia		USA		Canada		China		Poland		Czech Republic		Switzerland	
2018	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.70%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.70%	1
2019	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.57%	1	0.00%	0	7.14%	2
2020	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	8.00%	2	4.00%	1	4.00%	1
2021	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	6.90%	2	0.00%	0	3.45%	1
2022	0.00%	0	3.23%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.23%	1	3.23%	1	3.23%	1

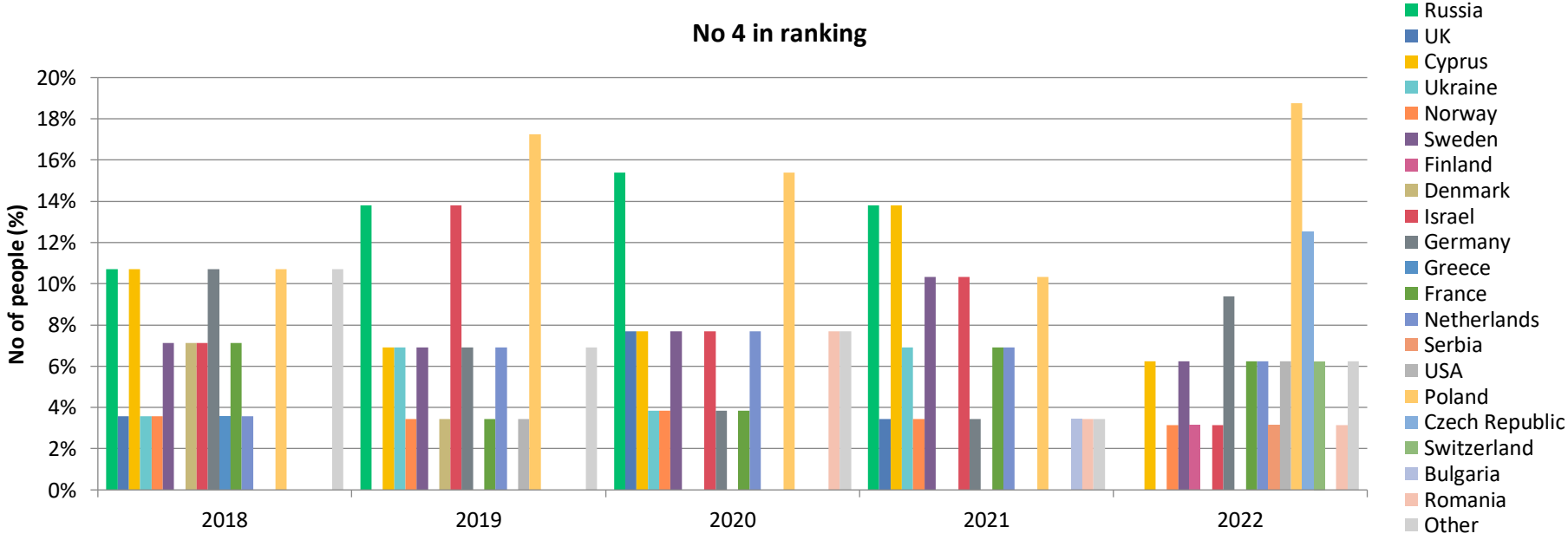
	Bulgaria		Romania		Other		Total
2018	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	7.41%	2	27
2019	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	7.14%	2	28
2020	4.00%	1	0.00%	0	4.00%	1	25
2021	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	6.90%	2	29
2022	0.00%	0	3.23%	1	6.45%	2	31
Other nationality							22

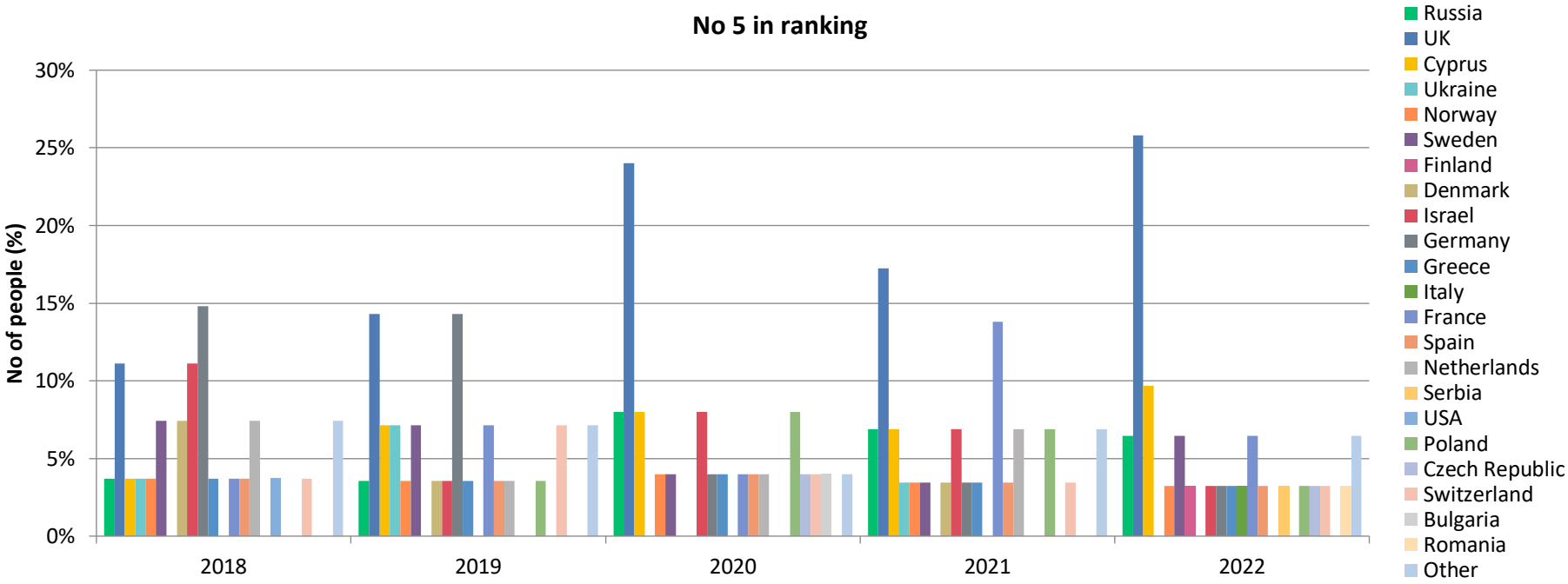
Answered	37
Skipped	2


No 1 in ranking
No of people (%)
50%
45%
40%
35%
30%
25%
20%
15%
10%
5%
0%
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
Russia
UK
Cyprus
Sweden
Finland
Denmark
Israel
Germany
France
USA
Poland
Czech Republic
Switzerland
Other


No 2 in ranking
No of people (%)
35%
30%
25%
20%
15%
10%
5%
0%
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
Russia
UK
Cyprus
Ukraine
Sweden
Denmark
Israel
Germany
France
Netherlands
Belgium
USA
Poland
Czech Republic
Switzerland
Romania
Other


No 3 in ranking
No of people (%)
25%
20%
15%
10%
5%
0%
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
Russia
UK
Cyprus
Ukraine
Norway
Sweden
Finland
Denmark
Israel
Germany
Greece
Italy
France
Netherlands
Poland
Czech Republic
Switzerland
Romania
Other


No 4 in ranking
No of people (%)
20%
18%
16%
14%
12%
10%
8%
6%
4%
2%
0%
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
Russia
UK
Cyprus
Ukraine
Norway
Sweden
Finland
Denmark
Israel
Germany
Greece
France
Netherlands
Serbia
USA
Poland
Czech Republic
Switzerland
Bulgaria
Romania
Other

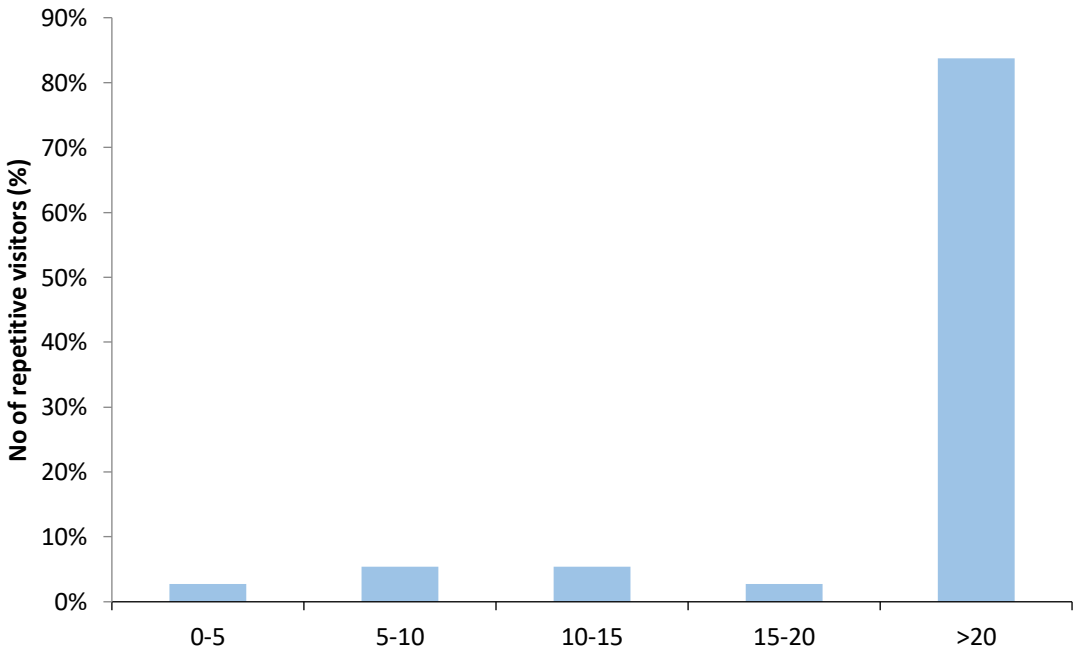

No 5 in ranking
No of people (%)
30%
25%
20%
15%
10%
5%
0%
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
Russia
UK
Cyprus
Ukraine
Norway
Sweden
Finland
Denmark
Israel
Germany
Greece
Italy
France
Spain
Netherlands
Serbia
USA
Poland
Czech Republic
Switzerland
Bulgaria
Romania
Other

15. Do you have customers that re-visit your dive business?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	100.00%	38
No	0.00%	0
	Answered	**38**
	Skipped	**1**

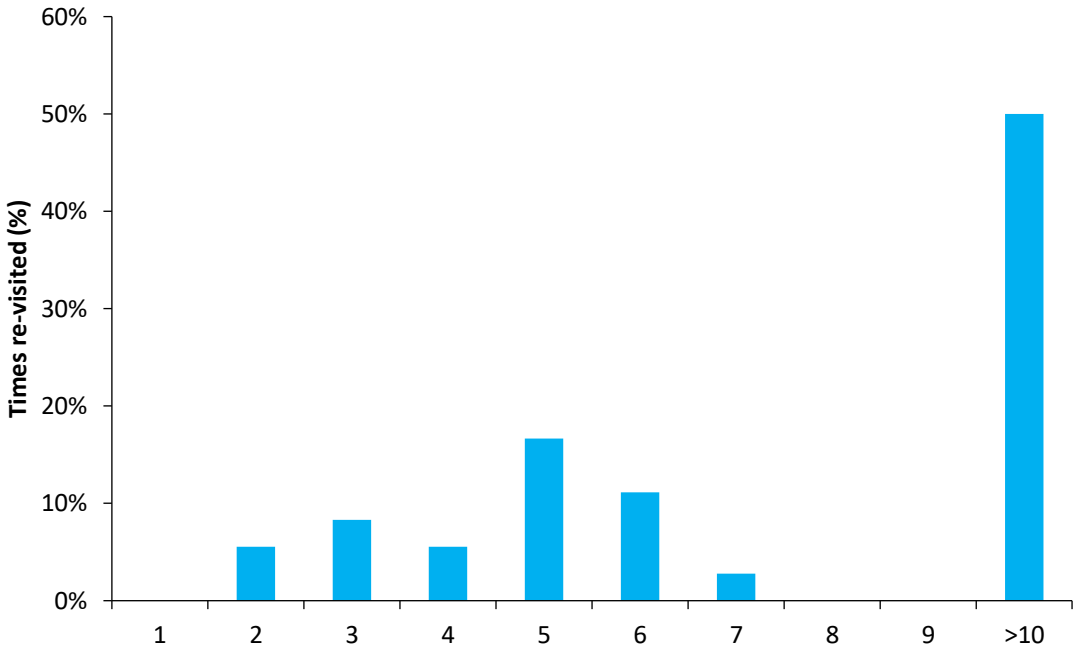
16. If so, please indicate the approximate number of repetitive visitors, their visiting times (times revisited) and their nationality.

	0-5		5-10		10-15		15-20		>20		Total
Re - visiting customers	2.70%	1	5.41%	2	5.41%	2	2.70%	1	83.78%	31	37
									Answered		**37**
									Skipped		**2**



Times re - visited	1		2		3		4		5		6	
Re - visiting customers	0.00%	0	5.56%	2	8.33%	3	5.56%	2	16.67%	6	11.11%	4

Times re - visited	7		8		9		>10		Total
Re - visiting customers	2.78%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	50.00%	18	36
							Answered		**37**
							Skipped		**2**



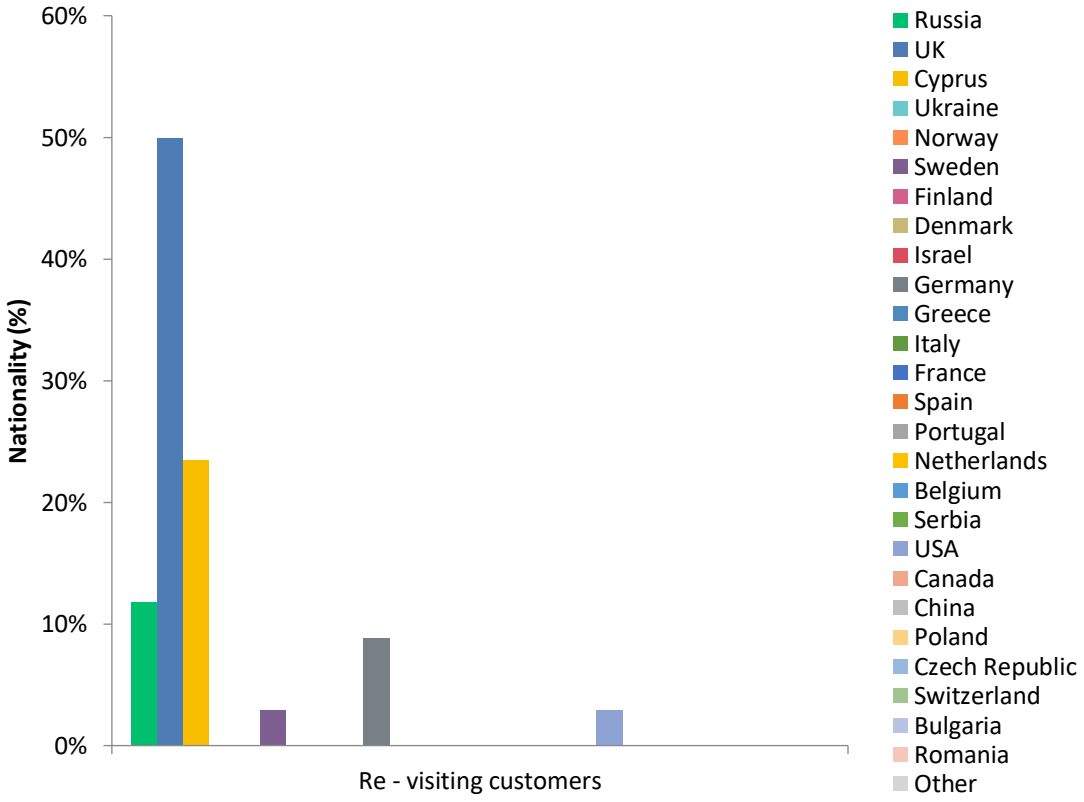
Nationality	Russia		UK		Cyprus		Ukraine		Norway		Sweden		Finland	
Re - visiting customers	11.76%	4	50.00%	17	23.53%	8	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	2.94%	1	0.00%	0

	Denmark		Israel		Germany		Greece		Italy		France		Spain	
Re - visiting customers	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	8.82%	3	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0

	Portugal		Netherlands		Belgium		Serbia		USA		Canada		China	
Re - visiting customers	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	2.94%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0

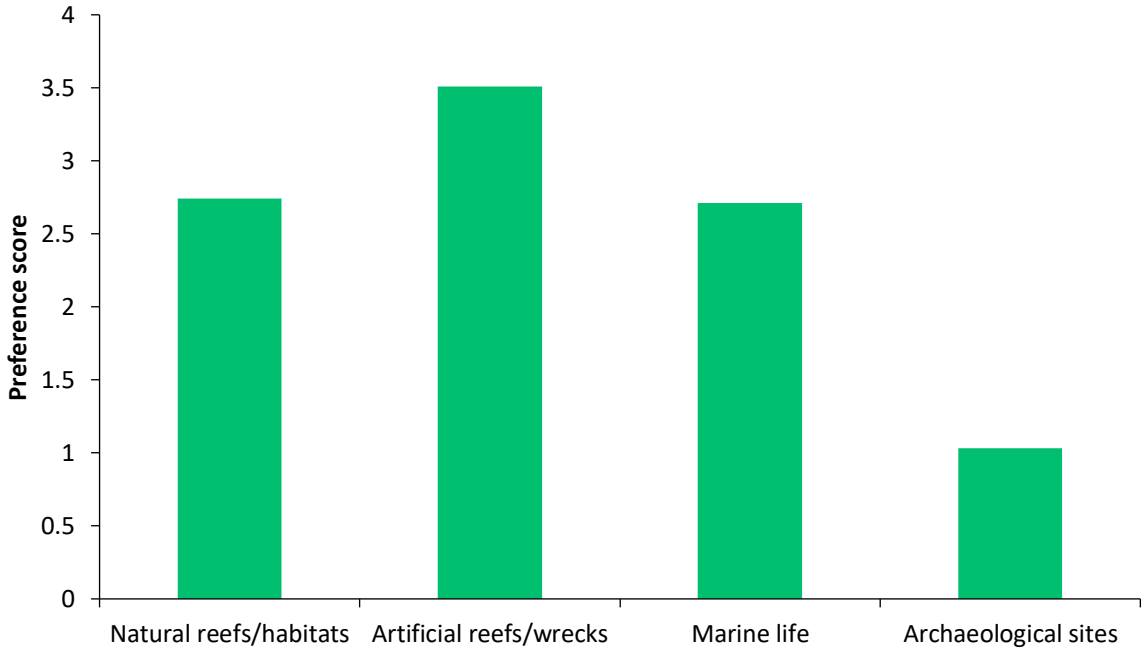
	Poland		Czech Republic		Switzerland		Bulgaria		Romania		Other		Total
Re - visiting customers	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	34
Other nationality (please specify re - visitation times)													18
												Answered	37
												Skipped	2

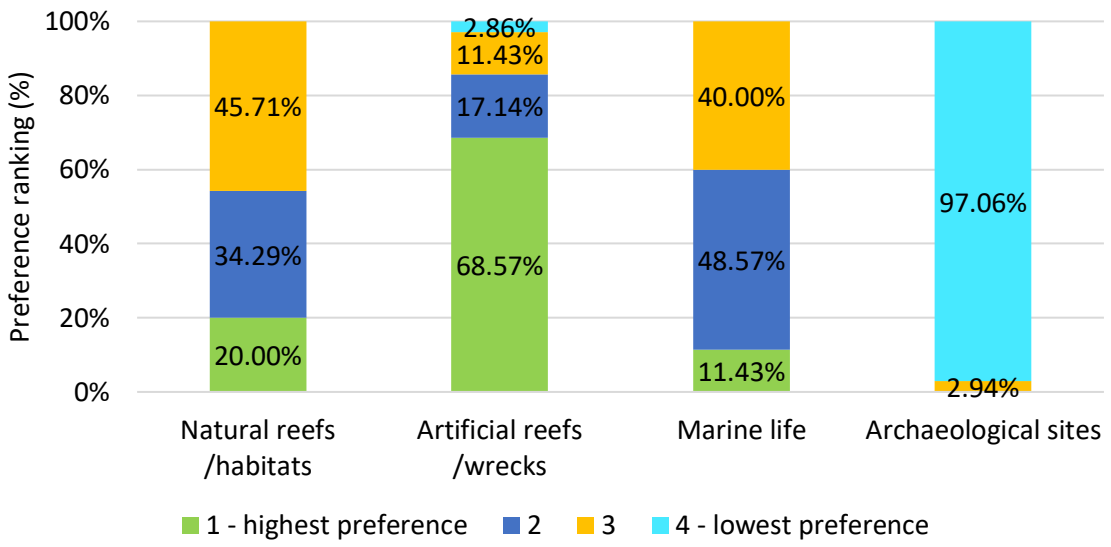
Other nationality (please specify re - visitation times)
no specific nationality
German speaking countries
Germany
Netherlands and Denmark
and all of the above, a lot of Danish revisit. Over 200 repeat visits per year
Germans
Sweden, Switzerland, Russia, UK, many
Germany
Poland, Romania, UK
German speaking generally
Germans
Multiple
Germans, Russians, Cypriot,
UK
German and other central EU
Polish and Russians
Israel
Various European nationalities



17. Which type of sites do your customers prefer to visit? Please indicate by priority. 1 = Highest preference & 5 = Lowest preference

	1		2		3		4		Total	Score
Natural reefs /habitats	20.00%	7	34.29%	12	45.71%	16	0.00%	0	35	2.74
Artificial reefs /wrecks	68.57%	24	17.14%	6	11.43%	4	2.86%	1	35	3.51
Marine life	11.43%	4	48.57%	17	40.00%	14	0.00%	0	35	2.71
Archaeological sites	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	2.94%	1	97.06%	33	34	1.03
									Answered	**35**
									Skipped	**4**



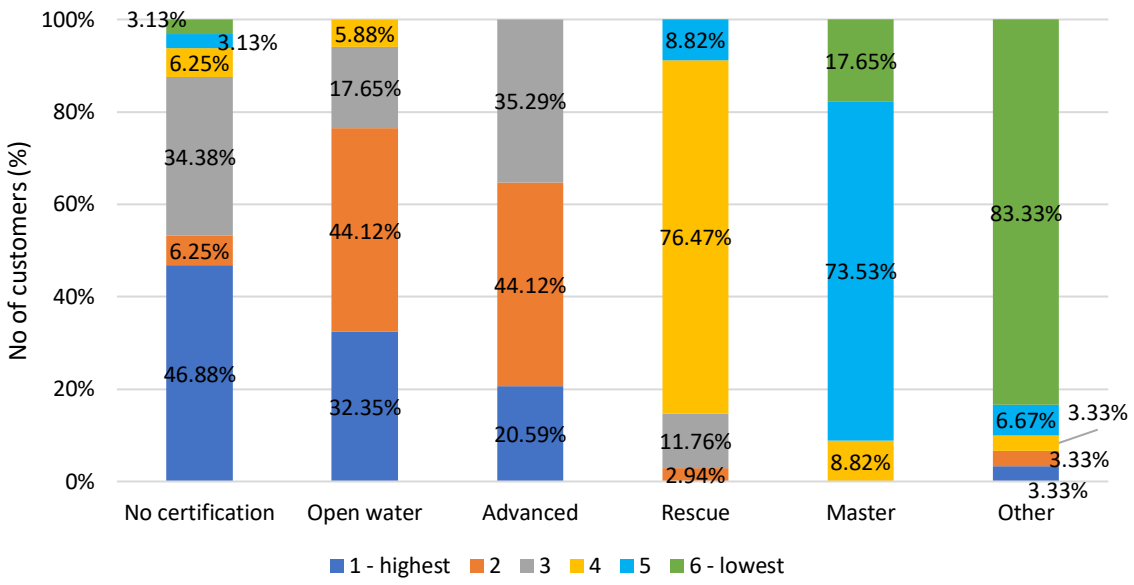


18. Do your customers prefer deeper dives (>30m) in open water, or shallower dives (<30m) closer to the coast?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Deeper dives	26.32%	10
Shallower dives	63.16%	24
Other (please specify)		5
	Answered	**34**
	Skipped	**5**

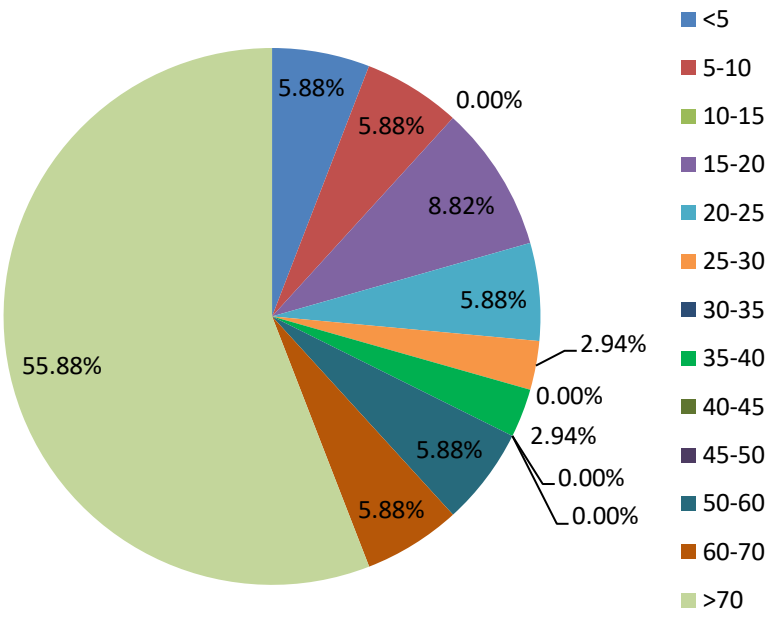
19. What is the certification level of the majority of your customers? Please rank by number of customers for each category (1 = highest number & 6 = Lowest number)

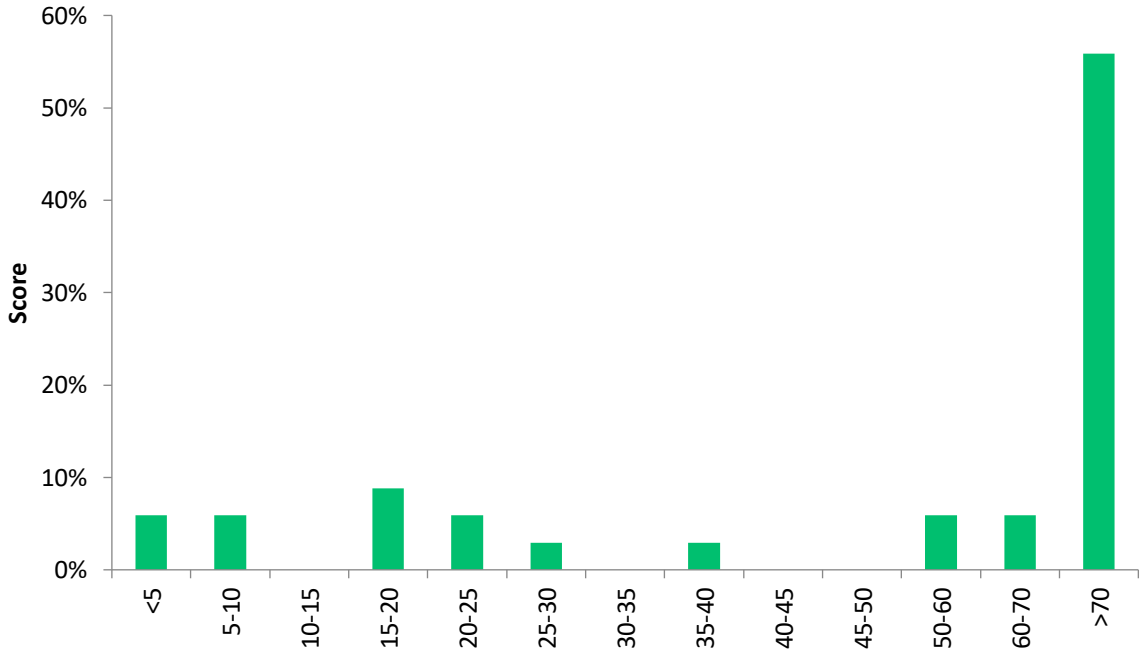
	1		2		3		4		5		6		Total	Score
No certification	46.88%	15	6.25%	2	34.38%	11	6.25%	2	3.13%	1	3.13%	1	32	4.78
Open water	32.35%	11	44.12%	15	17.65%	6	5.88%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	34	5.03
Advanced	20.59%	7	44.12%	15	35.29%	12	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	34	4.85
Rescue	0.00%	0	2.94%	1	11.76%	4	76.47%	26	8.82%	3	0.00%	0	34	3.09
Master	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	8.82%	3	73.53%	25	17.65%	6	34	1.91
Other	3.33%	1	3.33%	1	0.00%	0	3.33%	1	6.67%	2	83.33%	25	30	1.43
													Answered	**34**
													Skipped	**5**



20. If uncertified, please indicate the percentage (%) of customers that request discover SCUBA or to get certified?

Answer Choices	Responses	
<5	5.88%	2
5-10	5.88%	2
10-15	0.00%	0
15-20	8.82%	3
20-25	5.88%	2
25-30	2.94%	1
30-35	0.00%	0
35-40	2.94%	1
40-45	0.00%	0
45-50	0.00%	0
50-60	5.88%	2
60-70	5.88%	2
>70	55.88%	19
	Answered	**34**
	Skipped	**5**

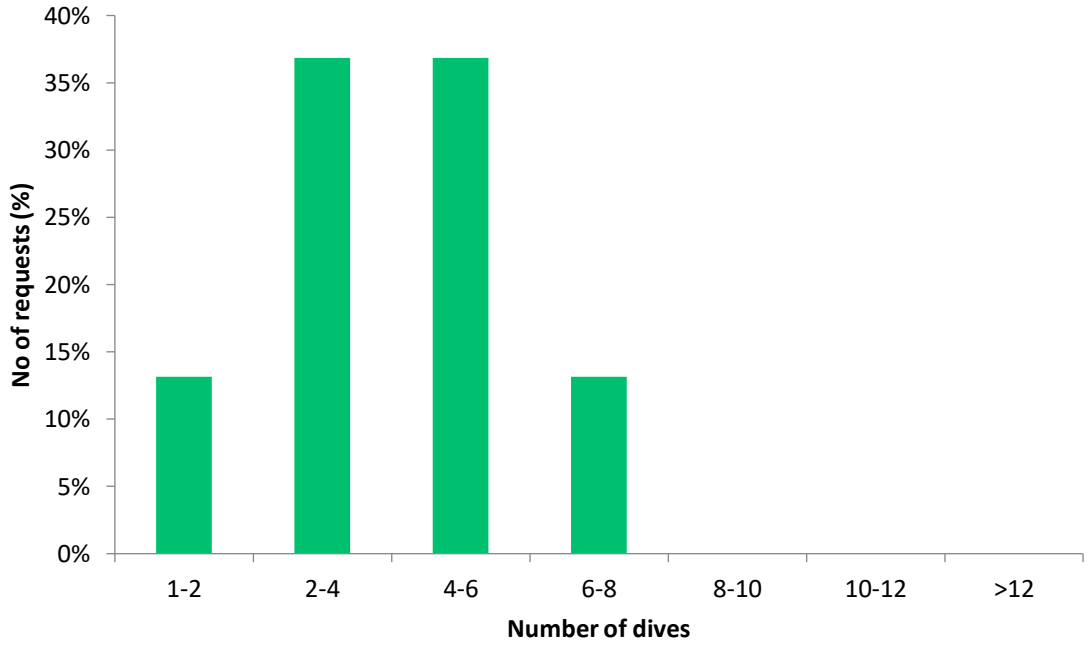




21. If certified, how many dives do they request/organise with you during each visit?

Answer Choices	Responses	
1-2	13.16%	5
2-4	36.84%	14
4-6	36.84%	14

6-8	13.16%	5
8-10	0.00%	0
10-12	0.00%	0
>12	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)		0
	Answered	**38**
	Skipped	**1**



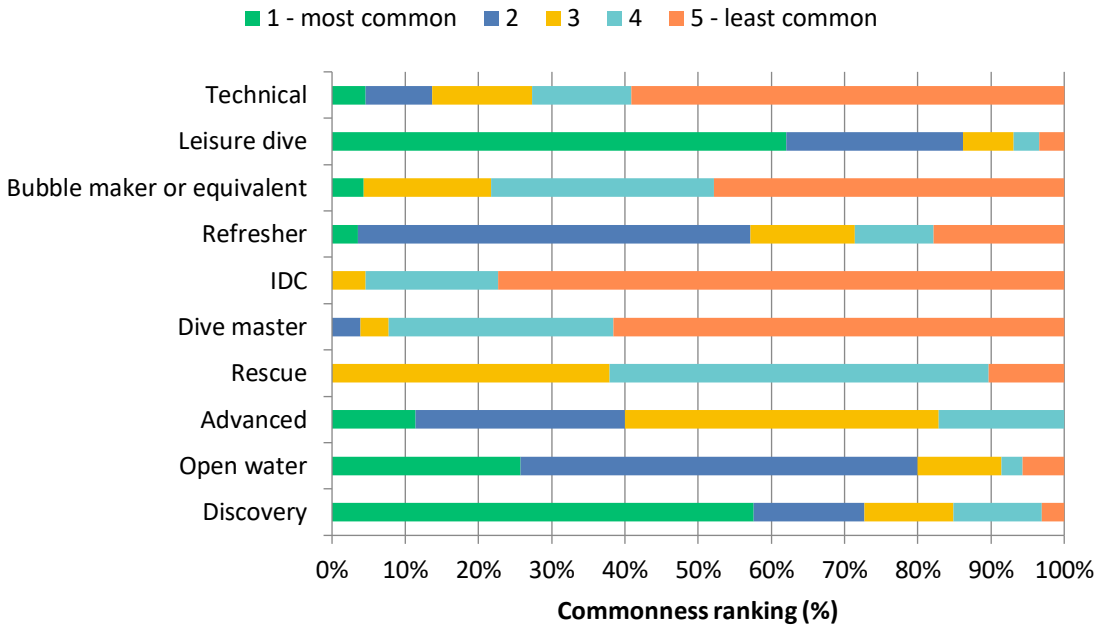
22. What percentage of your customers visits Cyprus specifically for diving?

Answer Choices	Responses	
0-20%	51.61%	16
20-40%	25.81%	8
40-60%	9.68%	3
60-80%	9.68%	3
80-100%	3.23%	1
	Answered	**31**
	Skipped	**8**

23. What are the most common types of dives/courses you provide to your customers? Please rank in order of most common (1) to least common (5)

	1		2		3		4		5		Total
Discovery	57.58%	19	15.15%	5	12.12%	4	12.12%	4	3.03%	1	33
Open water	25.71%	9	54.29%	19	11.43%	4	2.86%	1	5.71%	2	35
Advanced	11.43%	4	28.57%	10	42.86%	15	17.14%	6	0.00%	0	35
Rescue	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	37.93%	11	51.72%	15	10.34%	3	29

Dive master	0.00%	0	3.85%	1	3.85%	1	30.77%	8	61.54%	16	26
IDC	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	4.55%	1	18.18%	4	77.27%	17	22
Refresher	3.57%	1	53.57%	15	14.29%	4	10.71%	3	17.86%	5	28
Bubble maker or equivalent	4.35%	1	0.00%	0	17.39%	4	30.43%	7	47.83%	11	23
Leisure dive	62.07%	18	24.14%	7	6.90%	2	3.45%	1	3.45%	1	29
Technical	4.55%	1	9.09%	2	13.64%	3	13.64%	3	59.09%	13	22
Other dive type/activity (please specify and rank)											4
									Answered		**36**
									Skipped		**3**



24. Please choose the most visited/most popular dive sites in your region from the list below and rate their accessibility. (1= very difficult to access & 5= extremely easy to access)

	1		2		3		4		5		Total
Kakoskali MPA	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	25.00%	1	25.00%	1	50.00%	2	4
St Georgios reef (Kakoskali)	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	33.33%	1	0.00%	0	66.67%	2	3
Photiades wall	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	100.00%	1	1
Blue lagoon	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	50.00%	1	50.00%	1	2
Fontana Amorosa	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	50.00%	1	50.00%	1	2
Amphitheatre bay	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	50.00%	1	0.00%	0	50.00%	1	2

	1		2		3		4		5		Total
Mazaki island	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	50.00%	1	50.00%	1	0.00%	0	2
Aphrodite rock & island	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	100.00%	1	1
Petra	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0
Omega	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0
Vera K shipwreck	33.33%	1	0.00%	0	33.33%	1	33.33%	1	0.00%	0	3
Amphora caves	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	33.33%	1	0.00%	0	66.67%	2	3
Pistol Bay	16.67%	1	50.00%	3	16.67%	1	0.00%	0	16.67%	1	6
White star shipwreck	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0
Roman wall (structures)	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	50.00%	1	0.00%	0	50.00%	1	2
Laboe shipwreck	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0
EDRO III	66.67%	2	0.00%	0	33.33%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3
Amphitheatre	50.00%	3	16.67%	1	16.67%	1	0.00%	0	16.67%	1	6
Airport reef	0.00%	0	50.00%	1	50.00%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	2
Church bay	0.00%	0	100.00%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	2
Manijin island	0.00%	0	20.00%	1	40.00%	2	20.00%	1	20.00%	1	5
St George – Geronisos	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	33.33%	1	33.33%	1	33.33%	1	3
Costandis shipwreck	0.00%	0	37.50%	3	0.00%	0	12.50%	1	50.00%	4	8
Lady Thetis shipwreck	0.00%	0	37.50%	3	0.00%	0	12.50%	1	50.00%	4	8
The structures	50.00%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	50.00%	1	2
Jubilee shoals	57.14%	4	14.29%	1	0.00%	0	14.29%	1	14.29%	1	7
Amathounta	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	100.00%	2	2
Kratiras (Akrotiri)	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0
Bahames (Akrotiri)	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0
Angires (Akrotiri)	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0
Lianokaos/Petra (Akrotiri)	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0
Petra tou Lefkou (Akrotiri)	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0
Kamara (Akrotiri)	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0
Porto Parou (Akrotiri)	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0
Zenobia shipwreck	9.09%	3	0.00%	0	12.12%	4	21.21%	7	57.58%	19	33
Elpida shipwreck	9.09%	1	9.09%	1	18.18%	2	0.00%	0	63.64%	7	11
LEF-1 shipwreck	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	100.00%	2	2
HMS Cricket wreck	66.67%	2	33.33%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3
Alexandria shipwreck	33.33%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	66.67%	2	3
Pyla pirate caves (Xylofagou)	0.00%	0	66.67%	2	0.00%	0	33.33%	1	0.00%	0	3
Cape pyla reef (Xylofagou)	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	50.00%	1	50.00%	1	2
Bullet point/Watchtower (Xylofagou)	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	12.50%	1	25.00%	2	62.50%	5	8
The Nail (Xylofagou)	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	50.00%	1	50.00%	1	2
Larnaca bay reefs	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0
MUSAN underwater sculpture museum	5.26%	1	0.00%	0	15.79%	3	21.05%	4	57.89%	11	19
Green bay	11.11%	3	0.00%	0	3.70%	1	11.11%	3	74.07%	20	27
Green bay caves	6.67%	1	6.67%	1	6.67%	1	26.67%	4	53.33%	8	15
Cyclops caves	5.00%	1	25.00%	5	25.00%	5	25.00%	5	20.00%	4	20
Chapel (Agioi Anargiroi)	50.00%	8	18.75%	3	18.75%	3	0.00%	0	12.50%	2	16
Da Costa	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	14.29%	1	28.57%	2	57.14%	4	7

	1		2		3		4		5		Total
Caves	0.00%	0	21.05%	4	36.84%	7	26.32%	5	15.79%	3	19
The Canyon	38.46%	5	15.38%	2	23.08%	3	7.69%	1	15.38%	2	13
Antennae (Cape Greco)	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	100.00%	1	0.00%	0	1
Nemesis III shipwreck	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	33.33%	4	66.67%	8	12
Liberty shipwreck	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	44.44%	4	55.56%	5	9
Octopus site	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	33.33%	1	33.33%	1	33.33%	1	3
Kyrenia shipwreck	33.33%	1	33.33%	1	0.00%	0	33.33%	1	0.00%	0	3
Table top (Kitazos)	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	100.00%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	1
									Answered		**37**
									Skipped		**2**

25. Please suggest ways of making dive sites more accessible.

Suggestions
Access from the beach
Accessibility cannot increase without destroying coastline
better infrastructure
Bins
Boats going and coming to dive sites
Build a broadwalk\ stairs or wooden platform
Build safe entry and exit points
Canyon, caves and cyclops - water access for cyclops
Canyon. 2 large stones that dont harm env. to step on, will make accessibility better and safer
Canyon. Ladder should not be vertical, it's very dangerous. Better than nothing but dangerous
Canyon. Road access needs enhancing but is protected. Clearing the road in the parking area getting down to first ladder
Canyon. Same as above
Car parking/unloading area
Caves people falling, platform needed
Caves. Natural steps are necessary to be formed (like cyclops)
Caves. Same as above
Changing facility, entry exit infrastructure
Chapel, another ladder at the bottom where the cave is
Chapel, same as above. Stone in between the 2 levels of stones that already exist
Chapel. Cave down the stairs has a 5 foot drop to the ledge and is dangerous. They placed a rope but a ladder or steps would be better, like at the canyon.
Chapel. Metal staircase or wooden is extremely necessary
Chapel. Not good access and also not worth it dive site wise
Chapel. Steps needed going into the water, slanted
Coastal roads need to be checked
Cricket is an issue, fishers cut ropes as to make it harder for other fishers who fish calamari. A buoy would help
Cyclops at konnos, path from parking to the water is too steep and can be dangerous for people
Cyclops, very slippery and dangerous . Non slip surface or railing
Cyclops. Inclined ladders with big footsteps, ladder starting in the water
Cyclops. Steps can be useful

Demarcation of dive sites
Dive entry access for cyclops and improvement to current entry at caves
Facilities, toilets, changing areas
First recognition is needed by Cyprus govt on what is a dive sites, like manijin, amphitheater and pistol bay
Fix the roads
gear assembling area with sun covers
Green bay, road itself is tricky , could become better
Green bay. There can be a second entry on the small bay right next to Green bay, because it gets congested and dangerous at the original small entry.
Handrail or steps going into the water
I.e. to go to jubilee shoals Kimon must rent a boat from CY dive in pafos
In each region there should be a service with boats going in and out every 2-3 hours .KOT should be in charge of this this and pay a fixed price to operators which is slightly more favorable than what they already made.
Jetty, steps, platform,
Jubilee, dive boat permanently situated there or jetty. To help with equipment and divers as difficult to also have car there. They have their own boat.
KOT can help the dive centres lower their prices and become more competitive
Lack of buoys marking dive sites. Harbour amenities are nonexistent
Ladder or line to hold on to would help a lot
ladders suitable and strong for divers with heavy equipment
Ladders to some entry points are not right angle and in other places not present
Less traffic
Maintainance important
Make slipway for boats near Elpida dive site.
Mooring Buoys
More clear entry and exit points
More taxi boats available
Need more moorings on each, at least 3
Platforms
Platforms, wide stairs, kiosks,
Possibly calving steps using existing structures so as to disturb the least
Put infrastructure like ladders or other amenities to enter the water more safely
Road leading to Canyon needs to be fixed and steps going down.
Roads could be better
Ropes on rocks to guide you in the site
Safety precautions where boats pass (e.g. glass bottom) also roads leading to dive sites
Some sites that require a boat , there could be a simple boat going back and forth all year round, catering for the important sites
Stairs at canyon
Stairs to come in and out
Steps at Green bay caves
Steps or platform at the Chapel
Stop fishing at Green bay and other popular dive sites
Temporary installations like ladders which could be removed in winter so as to disturb the least
Toilets at least for summer season at Green bay and xylofagou. Rail for divers to hold while entering water.
Toilets, changing rooms
Walkways and entry exit points, steps, hand rails

Water near the sites	
Wide stairs from the sites close to land	
Answered	**34**
Skipped	**5**

26. Have you ever encountered unwanted or illegal activity during a dive in your region?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	92.11%	35
No	7.89%	3
I prefer not to answer	0.00%	0
Answered		**38**
Skipped		**1**

27. If you have encountered unwanted or illegal activities, please indicate the type (e.g. frequent spear fishing or disturbing archaeological remains) and briefly mention any actions you have taken following the encounters.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Type 1	100.00%	34
Action taken	82.35%	28
Type 2	85.29%	29
Action taken	73.53%	25
Type 3 (optional)	55.88%	19
Action taken (optional)	44.12%	15
Answered		**34**
Skipped		**5**

Type of illegal activity	Action taken
Spearfishing	
Fisherman laying nets in shallow water closing the bay off	Informed marine police
Watersports ignoring markers and driving over divers	Notification, but often don't know who they are
Spear fishing	Phone calls but nothing happened
Illegal fish nets. Gilnets with small gages, transparent nylon and at shallow, illegal depths	Talk to fisheries department, legal nets are tagged
Spearfishing with scuba on zenobia	Informed skipper of boat and put on social media and asked to take down
Spearfishing	No
Fishing in MPAs (much better the last few years)	Report it (marine police much more proactive)
Early morning fishing boats next to Zenobia, see from far away	
Green bay. Spearfishing but also rod fishermen	Told off
Spear fishing at green bay	Reported to marine police
Spearfishers near divers	Arguements with them, reported to police
Spearfishing around Kavo Gkreko	no
Dynamite fishing but long ago	

Type of illegal activity	Action taken
Illegal spearfishing	Told off
Dynamite fishing at cyclops	
Cyclops found dynamite	Spoke to police
Illegal fishing	Informed local police
Spear fishing	Taken pictures and reported to police
Violation of protocols during teaching /guiding	no action
Ghost nets at wrecks. Zenobia people go at night and has lived this first hand after he knew after diving	
Rod fishing in Dasoudi bay which is an MPA. THIS MPA is not well defined, and people no longer know where it's borders are	DFMR and CPA
Boats above divers	
Illegal fishing	Called DFMR
Jet skis above the divers	CPA told
Spearfishing	Reported to marine police but actions were repeated in the future
Ghost nets	Contacted marine police, they removed it
Ghost nets	Collecting
Green bay \Xylophagou \cyclops spear fishing	Asked to leave
Spear fishing	Called police, nothing happened
Spear fishing	Marine police called
Illegal spear fishing and trawling for predatory fish	Suggestions directly or through friends to change negative behaviour like fishing
Illegal divers and dive centres	Called DFMR and police, always too late, people not there anymore
Illegal fishing at Green bay and Xylofagou	Ban the areas for fishing. These are small areas and so more feasible
Boats speeding above divers, markers moved	Told off
Spearfishing during both night and day in areas where not allowed	Informed DFMR
Dynamite fishing, possibly from occupied region	None
Illegal net fishing at cyclops and fishing from the shore	Used to inform marine police but stopped as no actions taken. Marine police actually see for themselves illegal fishing but don't do anything about it
Watersports creating high marine traffic, with tourists not being informed about divers	Speaking to watersports providers
Dynamite fishing (go further out the last few years)	Report it
Green bay people harassing turtles	Told off
Watersports above divers can be very dangerous when ascending, should be more signs	No
High marine traffic	Reported to marine police
Fishermens nets	
Fish traps in Green bay	Spoke to fishers, told not to do it
Marine traffic above divers	CPA
Nets thrown over divers	Told off
Boats speeding above divers no regarding of buoys	

Type of illegal activity	Action taken
Spearfishing with tiny fish including grouper already killed	No
Boats breaking rules by entering swimming areas	Informed local police
Illegal fishing nets	Taken pictures and reported to police
Mass fishing devices like 'skarkes' at Xylofagou	
Abandoned spear gun found on constant is wreck	DFMR told
Forgotten nets at Kakoskali and Kavo Gkreko caves	
Limassol wrecks park, boats freely pass through but should go round	CPA told
Non diving boats in the MPAs which do not adhere to being at least 50m away from divers and to not be above them	Reported to marine police and given the boat number
Jet skis above the divers	Told to move away
Marine police over Lady Thetis are usually speeding above divers	Shouted at
Green bay frequent boats above divers, instructor almost had an anchor drop on his head	Shouted at\asked to leave
Boats parking in illegal places	Called police, nothing happened
Caves and tunnels covered with nets	Verbal
Many hooks found therefore more illegal fishing and danger to divers	Same
Spear fishing and dynamite fishing	Called DFMR and police, always too late, people not there anymore
Fishermen break buoy boundaries, lack of knowledge of tourists and locals regarding divers, high marine traffic above divers	Konnos bay should be part of no take zone
Parking	Municipality informed
Cyclops many boats above divers	No
People touching turtles and not letting them breathe but also people feeding them, very dangerous for the turtles	Phoned marine police and tells customers to stay at least a metre away, takes photos from far with his divers, more signs needed
Illegal fishing nets and traps	Report to DFMR
Boat traffic and anchoring near diving spots, especially tourists who are mostly not aware	Report to marine police
Boats and jet skis come dangerously close to divers	Calls, social media, told off, nothing helps
Tourists who rent boats don't know where divers are and drive above them	Told off
Ghost nets	
Cyclops seine net fishing	Told off, asked to leave
Green bay many times seen spear fishing	
Boats over dasoudi marine park , also the buoys which signposted the area are no longer there. Boats speed above divers very frequently	DFMR told
Green bay and caves lots of fishermen with rods	Shouted at
Anchoring close to SBA with anchors getting caught on fuel line	SBA asks them to move
Swimmers in the boat lane	Asked to move

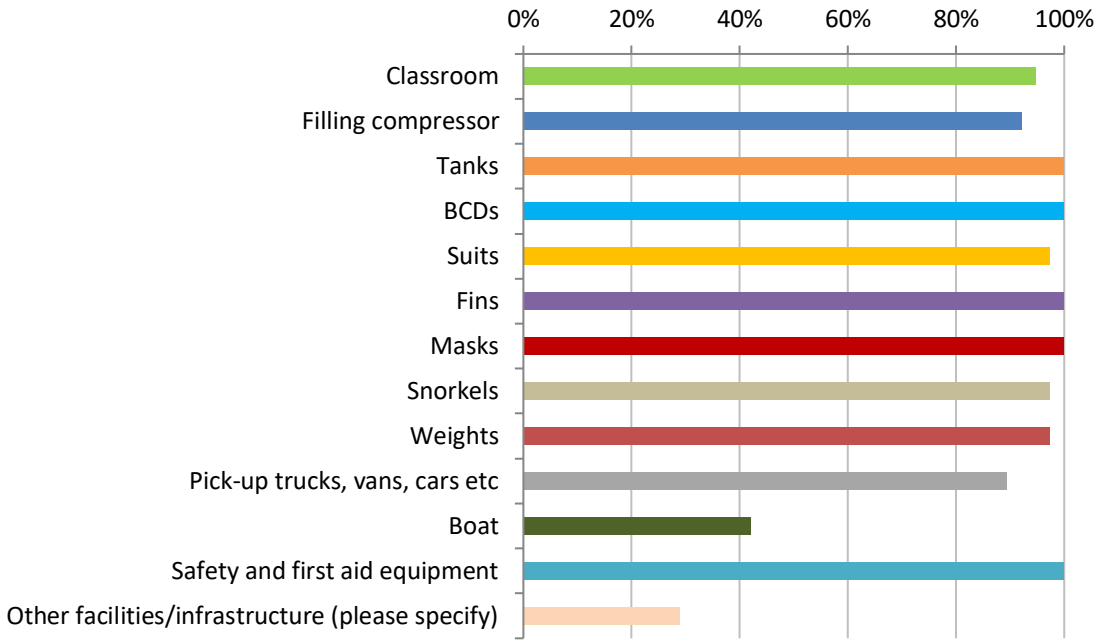
Type of illegal activity	Action taken
Zenobia suspicious boats leaving as they arrive because they are usually the earliest there, clearly illegal fishing but no proof	When seen asked to leave
Fishing nets at nature 2000 areas	
Alexandria ghost nets	None \ clearing events
Pirate divers and dive clubs	

28. Under which diving organisations do you operate?

Answer Choices	Responses	
PADI	71.79%	28
NAUI	20.51%	8
SSI	20.51%	8
SDI	25.64%	10
TDI	20.51%	8
RAID	5.13%	2
CMAS	5.13%	2
BSAC	7.69%	3
Other diving organisation (please specify)		4
	Answered	**37**
	Skipped	**2**

29. From the list below, please tick the facilities or infrastructure you have in your establishment.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Classroom	94.74%	36
Filling compressor	92.11%	35
Tanks	100.00%	38
BCDs	100.00%	38
Suits	97.37%	37
Fins	100.00%	38
Masks	100.00%	38
Snorkels	97.37%	37
Weights	97.37%	37
Pick-up trucks, vans, cars etc	89.47%	34
Boat	42.11%	16
Safety and first aid equipment	100.00%	38
Other facilities/infrastructure (please specify)	28.95%	11
	Answered	**38**
	Skipped	**1**



30. Please state any other services you offer to provide a more comfortable, safe or attractive experience to the divers.

Response
Business use insurance of vehicles providing additional safety to customers during transit DAN dive centre cover including liability for teaching and accidents for filling tanks or entry\exit from the water
Closed circuit, rebreathers, scooters, dive equipment service, transportation, airport pickup
Diving Club for regular members with annual membership. This operates mostly with local divers keeping them active all year.
First aid, oxygen, no nitrox only air
First aid\pharmacy Maps of the wrecks in detail
Free transfer service to guests, offer refreshments and fruits on all activities, briefing debriefing relaxation area
Group and military discounts, transportation
Hotel pickup and drop-off, photographs offered
Membership, 20eur\year registration
None
Offer transport Help with carrying equipment Helping with gear \ refreshing
Organizing flight and accommodation and transportation, full picture
Pick up
pick up and drop off within Agia napa area, free. Equipment storage for customers spending many days diving. Spouses can come on the boat and go snorkelling
Pick up for lessons, coffees\snacks after dives, showers etc
Pick up the customers, provide assistance with accommodation etc.
Picking up and dropping off Read tripadvisor reviews
Pickup from hotel, refreshments on boat, tea coffee through the day
Pick-up from hotels, photoshoots, coffee, refreshments
Pick-up, return to accommodation, washing of equipment, food+drinks, dinner+drinks at end of dives
Pickups within Larnaca, free nitrox certifications, discounts on equipment for experienced divers, always helping divers in and out, thorough safety checks

Provide food, transportation
Refreshments etc
Refreshments, snacks etc
Scooters, dry suits, boosters, facilitate deep diving, transportation,
Service from the airport
Surface cover, pick-up from local hotels, refreshments on boat
Toilet and washing, transportation, coffee, can store their kit at the centre
Transfer\pick up, VIP boat charters \ skipper charters
Transport
Transport
Transportation Insured trucks
Transportation also sometimes from the airport, shower with warm water, warm soup
Transportation from accommodation, refreshments and fruit after dive, some for lunch or dinner
Transportation, lunch etc
Transportation, service of all equipment
Transportation, snacks, free photos and video from the dives
Transports from airport and accommodation, food and drinks on the boat and dive centre

Answered	**38**
Skipped	**1**

31. Are you aware of any dive sites that are accessible to disabled/physically challenged divers? Please indicate the dive sites.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	39.47%	15
No	60.53%	23
Please indicate the dive sites		16
	Answered	**38**
	Skipped	**1**

Please indicate the dive sites
Coralia beach, but helped in and out of the water
Cynthiana beach after some planning.
Green bay but minimal and not properly set up for these people. This should be done, and another market can be opened
Limassol ramp, kapparis hydraulic ramp into the water
Taken people in wheelchairs to Zenobia, it's more about the instructor and the care. Abroad has seen wheelchairs with big tyres for beach access
Fig tree bay has a ramp
Only by boat. Took a person with no legs to Zenobia . Boat caters for it. Big platform and lots of help. Angled ladder!
Boat dives are accessible, initiative to have a lift but too expensive and not fulfilled
Offer services to physically challenged
All dives are, they provide the service themselves
Took but more private so as to be able to help more
Aphrodite's bay , ramp provided by municipality, trolleys for wheeling equipment

Zenobia, Dasoudi beach. Truck can come close to shore, helped in detail in and out of water, offers own wheelchair
They have an SDI instructor specializing in diving for disabled people, they have had disabled customers, they always helped them in detail to prepare and get in and out of the water. The SDI instructor sometimes does to Cyprus
Green bay has a special ramp, Pernera bay has a ramp also
Not to do with the sites but with the people who have their responsibility

32. Do you provide any 'Loyalty schemes', such as discounts or bonuses, to frequently returning customers? If you do, please specify the common practice,

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	84.62%	33
No	15.38%	6
If you do, please specify the common practice		27
	Answered	**39**
	Skipped	**0**

If you do, please specify the common practice
% depending on number of dives and if they have their own kit, referrals
%15 discount
10% discount or larger if more people
10% off
10-20%
20% discount
20% discount usually, groups taken for taverns and live music
20% discount. Also 10% discount to all my student.
30% off next dive if you refer a friend , and 30% off Limassol wreck dives if you complete 10 dives
Discount 20%
Discount and especially to locals to increase clientele
Discount on equipment rentals
Discount, t-shirt, bbqs
Discounts
Discounts
Discounts but not organized scheme
Discounts offered for the dive shop to returning customers
Discounts on repeating visits guests
Dive club for locals with discounts. Repeat customers receive discount depending group size.
Extra dive to frequent customers
In the service only, no incentive only quality experience
Instructors are free and sometimes. A wife or child are also free
membership fee with unlimited dives per year
One extra dive or free food
Pickups within larnaca, free nitrox certifications, discounts on equipment for experienced divers, always helping divers in and out, thorough safety checks, free unique t-shirt for people completing over 10 dives at zenobia
The more they come they can get a small discount, more dives the cheaper the price per dive

vouchers

33. Do you think that your prices in general are attractive to divers?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	94.87%	37
No	5.13%	2
	Answered	**39**
	Skipped	**0**

34. How do your prices compare with other competitor destinations i.e. Malta, Greece, Turkey?

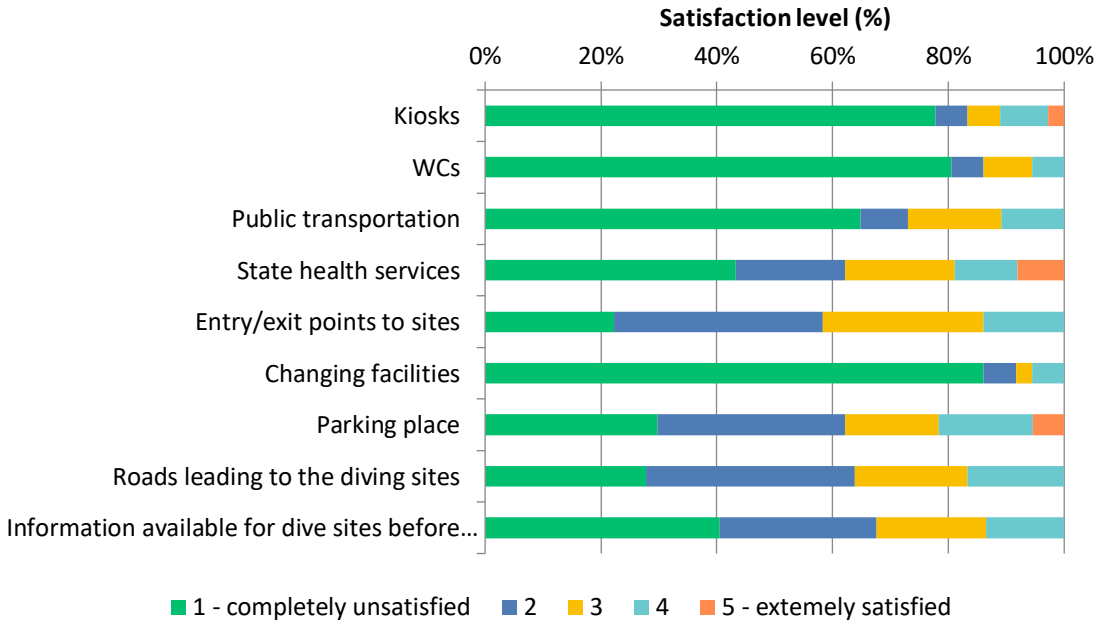
Response
Believes he is cheaper than these competitor countries. They have other amenities that make it easy in other count
cheaper
Cheaper than malta, but they have more facilities and more wrecks
Cheaper than Malta, more expensive than Turkey.
Cheapest in Europe
Comparable and similar for guided dives
Comparable to Greece but supposes we are cheaper than malta
Competitive, similar prices
course are more expensive in Cyprus due to operational costs
CY more expensive than Greece or Malta
Cyprus in more expensive than the competitive destinations,especially boat diving
Equivalent to Malta. Greece and Turkey cheaper
Greece and Cyprus similar,Malta slightly below, turkey non comparible, much cheaper
Malta and Greece are comparable but more expensive than Egypt, but CY similar to malta\greece
Malta is similar and Greece the same
Malta is similar, Greece no sure
Much cheaper
N\a
N\a
N\A
Not aware - suspects similar pricing
Not sure but prices are too low in cyprus
Same level
Similar
Similar
Similar
Similar
Similar
Similar prices
Similar prices
Similar to malta
Similar to Malta and greece

Similar to Malta and Greece
Turkey is the cheapest
Unknown
We are cheaper
We are cheaper
We are more expensive

Answered 38
Skipped 1

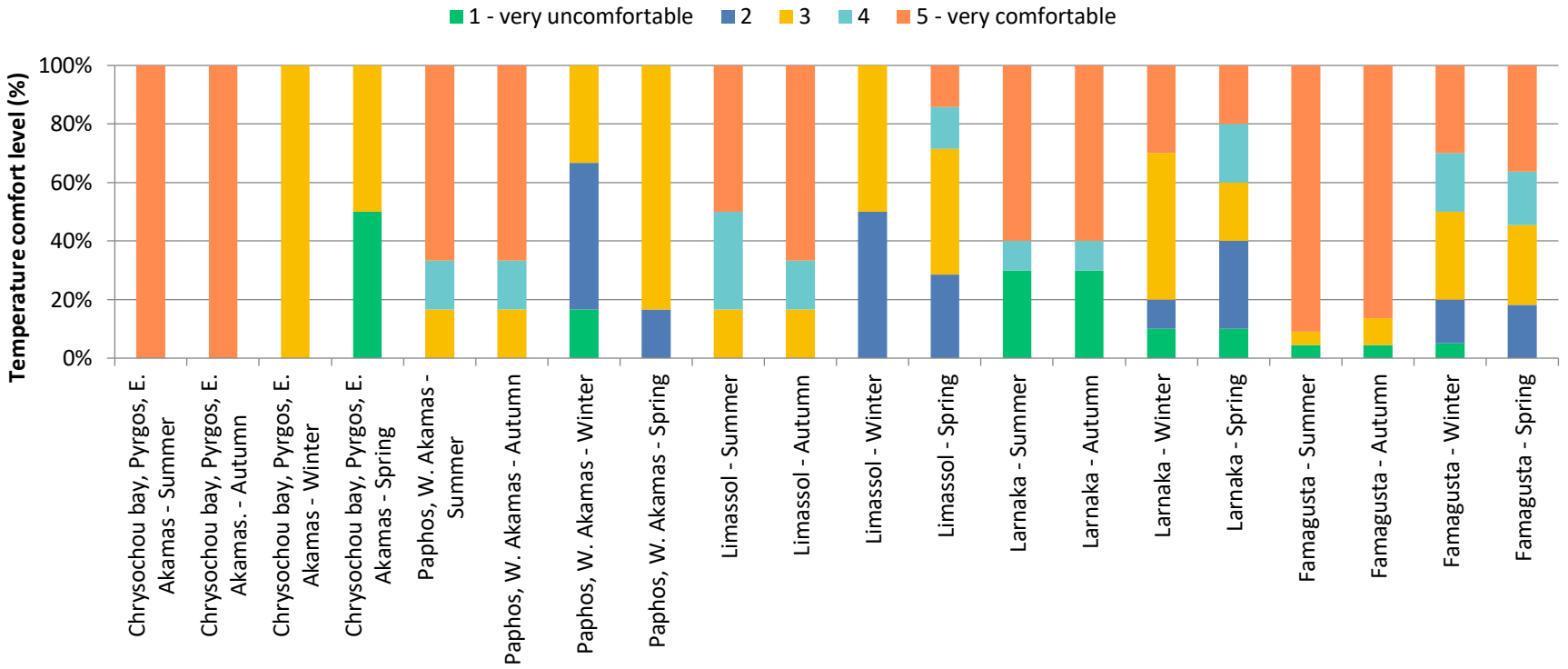
35. Please state the level of satisfaction you have from the services provided by your municipality and other authorities to aid your business. (1= completely unsatisfied, 5=extremely satisfied)

	1		2		3		4		5		Total
Kiosks	77.78%	28	5.56%	2	5.56%	2	8.33%	3	2.78%	1	36
WCs	80.56%	29	5.56%	2	8.33%	3	5.56%	2	0.00%	0	36
Public transportation	64.86%	24	8.11%	3	16.22%	6	10.81%	4	0.00%	0	37
State health services	43.24%	16	18.92%	7	18.92%	7	10.81%	4	8.11%	3	37
Entry/exit points to sites	22.22%	8	36.11%	13	27.78%	10	13.89%	5	0.00%	0	36
Changing facilities	86.11%	31	5.56%	2	2.78%	1	5.56%	2	0.00%	0	36
Parking place	29.73%	11	32.43%	12	16.22%	6	16.22%	6	5.41%	2	37
Roads leading to the diving sites	27.78%	10	36.11%	13	19.44%	7	16.67%	6	0.00%	0	36
Information available for dive sites before hand (e.g., website, apps, on site info)	40.54%	15	27.03%	10	18.92%	7	13.51%	5	0.00%	0	37
									Answered		**37**
									Skipped		**2**



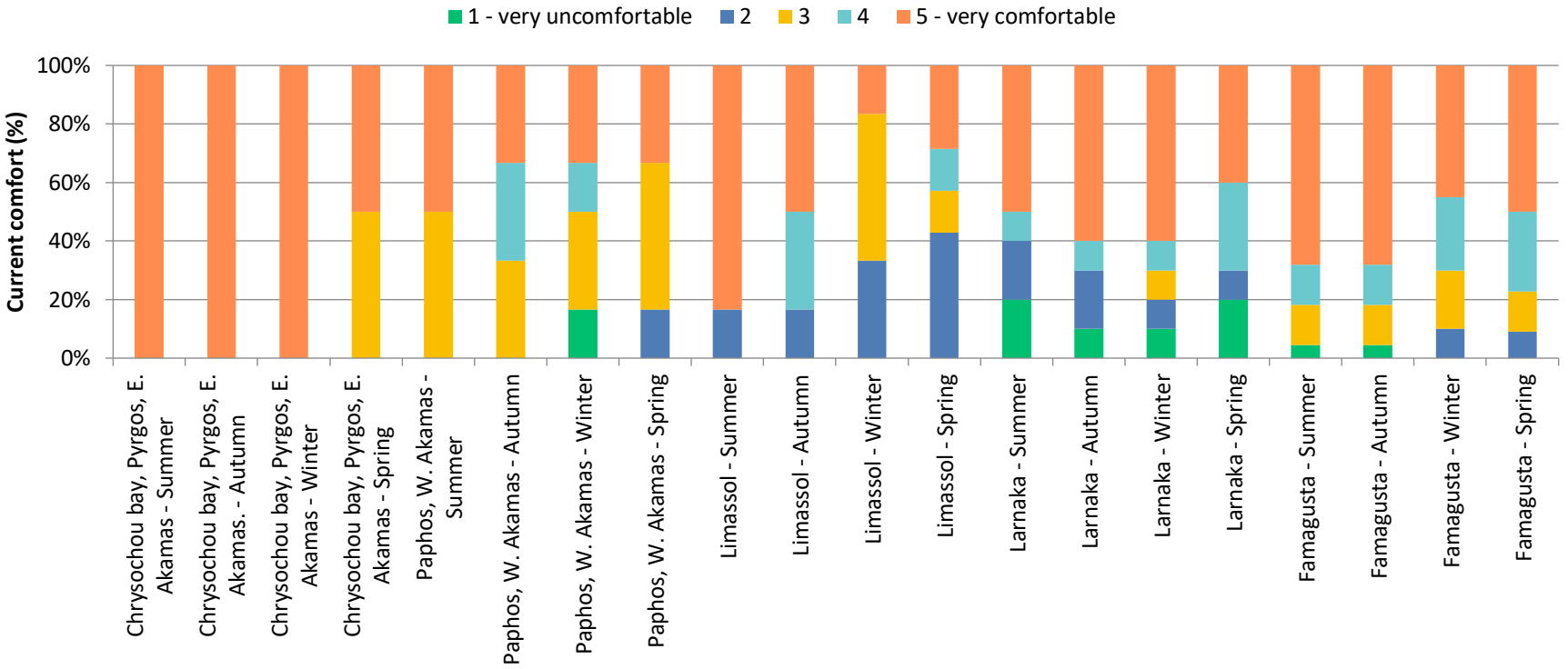
36. Based on previous answers, please rate the following environmental conditions (temperature, current, visibility) of the region you are most active in. (1 = Very uncomfortable & 5 = Very comfortable)

Temperature	1		2		3		4		5		Total
Chrysochou bay, Pyrgos & Eastern part of Akamas - Summer	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	100.00%	1	1
Chrysochou bay, Pyrgos & Eastern part of Akamas - Autumn	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	100.00%	1	1
Chrysochou bay, Pyrgos & Eastern part of Akamas - Winter	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	100.00%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	1
Chrysochou bay, Pyrgos & Eastern part of Akamas - Spring	50.00%	1	0.00%	0	50.00%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	2
Paphos & Western part of Akamas - Summer	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	16.67%	1	16.67%	1	66.67%	4	6
Paphos & Western part of Akamas - Autumn	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	16.67%	1	16.67%	1	66.67%	4	6
Paphos & Western part of Akamas - Winter	16.67%	1	50.00%	3	33.33%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	6
Paphos & Western part of Akamas - Spring	0.00%	0	16.67%	1	83.33%	5	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	6
Limassol - Summer	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	16.67%	1	33.33%	2	50.00%	3	6
Limassol - Autumn	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	16.67%	1	16.67%	1	66.67%	4	6
Limassol - Winter	0.00%	0	50.00%	3	50.00%	3	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	6
Limassol - Spring	0.00%	0	28.57%	2	42.86%	3	14.29%	1	14.29%	1	7
Larnaka - Summer	30.00%	3	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	10.00%	1	60.00%	6	10
Larnaka - Autumn	30.00%	3	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	10.00%	1	60.00%	6	10
Larnaka - Winter	10.00%	1	10.00%	1	50.00%	5	0.00%	0	30.00%	3	10
Larnaka - Spring	10.00%	1	30.00%	3	20.00%	2	20.00%	2	20.00%	2	10
Famagusta - Summer	4.55%	1	0.00%	0	4.55%	1	0.00%	0	90.91%	20	22
Famagusta - Autumn	4.55%	1	0.00%	0	9.09%	2	0.00%	0	86.36%	19	22
Famagusta - Winter	5.00%	1	15.00%	3	30.00%	6	20.00%	4	30.00%	6	20
Famagusta - Spring	0.00%	0	18.18%	4	27.27%	6	18.18%	4	36.36%	8	22
									Answered		**38**
									Skipped		**1**



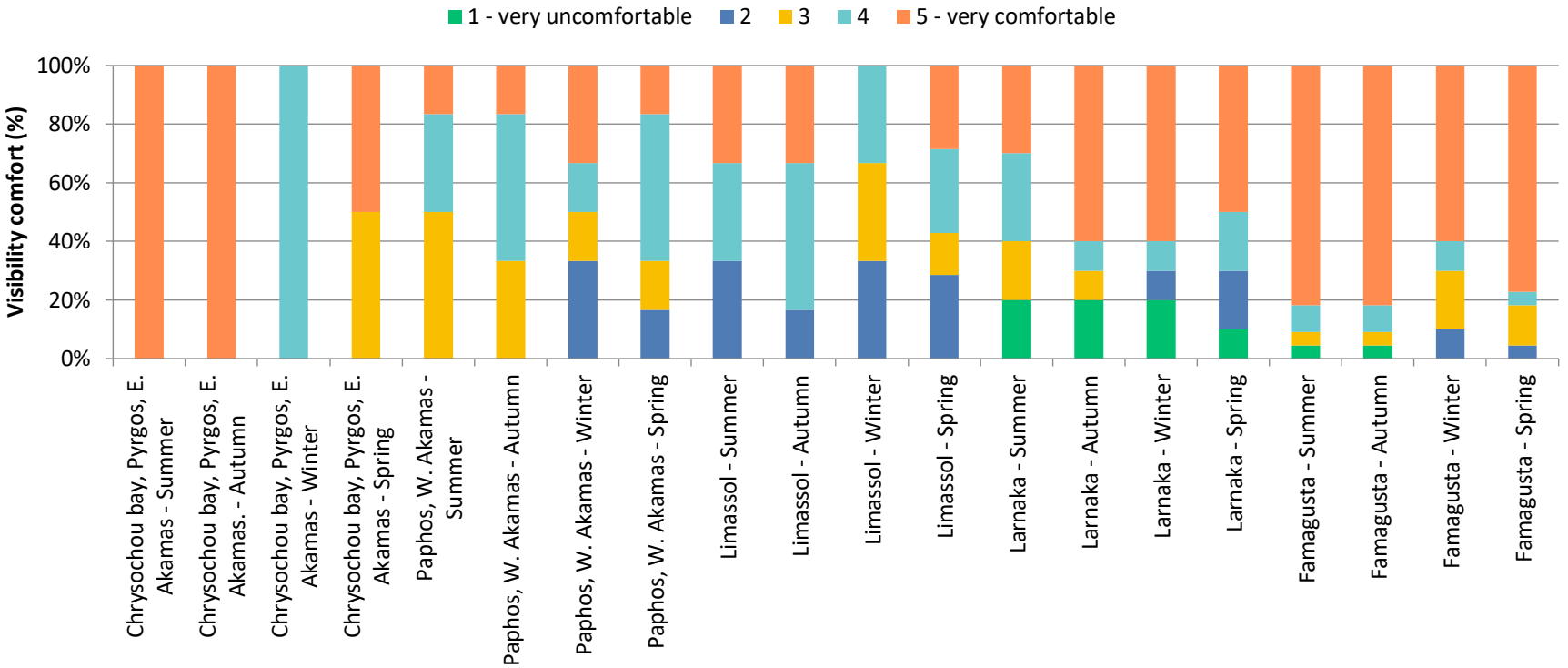
Current	1		2		3		4		5		Total
Chrysochou bay, Pyrgos & Eastern part of Akamas - Summer	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	100.00%	1	1
Chrysochou bay, Pyrgos & Eastern part of Akamas - Autumn	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	100.00%	1	1
Chrysochou bay, Pyrgos & Eastern part of Akamas - Winter	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	100.00%	1	1
Chrysochou bay, Pyrgos & Eastern part of Akamas - Spring	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	50.00%	1	0.00%	0	50.00%	1	2
Paphos & Western part of Akamas - Summer	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	50.00%	3	0.00%	0	50.00%	3	6
Paphos & Western part of Akamas - Autumn	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	33.33%	2	33.33%	2	33.33%	2	6
Paphos & Western part of Akamas - Winter	16.67%	1	0.00%	0	33.33%	2	16.67%	1	33.33%	2	6
Paphos & Western part of Akamas - Spring	0.00%	0	16.67%	1	50.00%	3	0.00%	0	33.33%	2	6

Current	1		2		3		4		5		Total
Limassol - Summer	0.00%	0	16.67%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	83.33%	5	6
Limassol - Autumn	0.00%	0	16.67%	1	0.00%	0	33.33%	2	50.00%	3	6
Limassol - Winter	0.00%	0	33.33%	2	50.00%	3	0.00%	0	16.67%	1	6
Limassol - Spring	0.00%	0	42.86%	3	14.29%	1	14.29%	1	28.57%	2	7
Larnaka - Summer	20.00%	2	20.00%	2	0.00%	0	10.00%	1	50.00%	5	10
Larnaka - Autumn	10.00%	1	20.00%	2	0.00%	0	10.00%	1	60.00%	6	10
Larnaka - Winter	10.00%	1	10.00%	1	10.00%	1	10.00%	1	60.00%	6	10
Larnaka - Spring	20.00%	2	10.00%	1	0.00%	0	30.00%	3	40.00%	4	10
Famagusta - Summer	4.55%	1	0.00%	0	13.64%	3	13.64%	3	68.18%	15	22
Famagusta - Autumn	4.55%	1	0.00%	0	13.64%	3	13.64%	3	68.18%	15	22
Famagusta - Winter	0.00%	0	10.00%	2	20.00%	4	25.00%	5	45.00%	9	20
Famagusta - Spring	0.00%	0	9.09%	2	13.64%	3	27.27%	6	50.00%	11	22
									Answered		**38**
									Skipped		**1**



Visibility	1		2		3		4		5		Total
Chrysochou bay, Pyrgos & Eastern part of Akamas - Summer	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	100.00%	1	1
Chrysochou bay, Pyrgos & Eastern part of Akamas - Autumn	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	100.00%	1	1
Chrysochou bay, Pyrgos & Eastern part of Akamas - Winter	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	100.00%	1	0.00%	0	1
Chrysochou bay, Pyrgos & Eastern part of Akamas - Spring	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	50.00%	1	0.00%	0	50.00%	1	2
Paphos & Western part of Akamas - Summer	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	50.00%	3	33.33%	2	16.67%	1	6
Paphos & Western part of Akamas - Autumn	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	33.33%	2	50.00%	3	16.67%	1	6
Paphos & Western part of Akamas - Winter	0.00%	0	33.33%	2	16.67%	1	16.67%	1	33.33%	2	6
Paphos & Western part of Akamas - Spring	0.00%	0	16.67%	1	16.67%	1	50.00%	3	16.67%	1	6

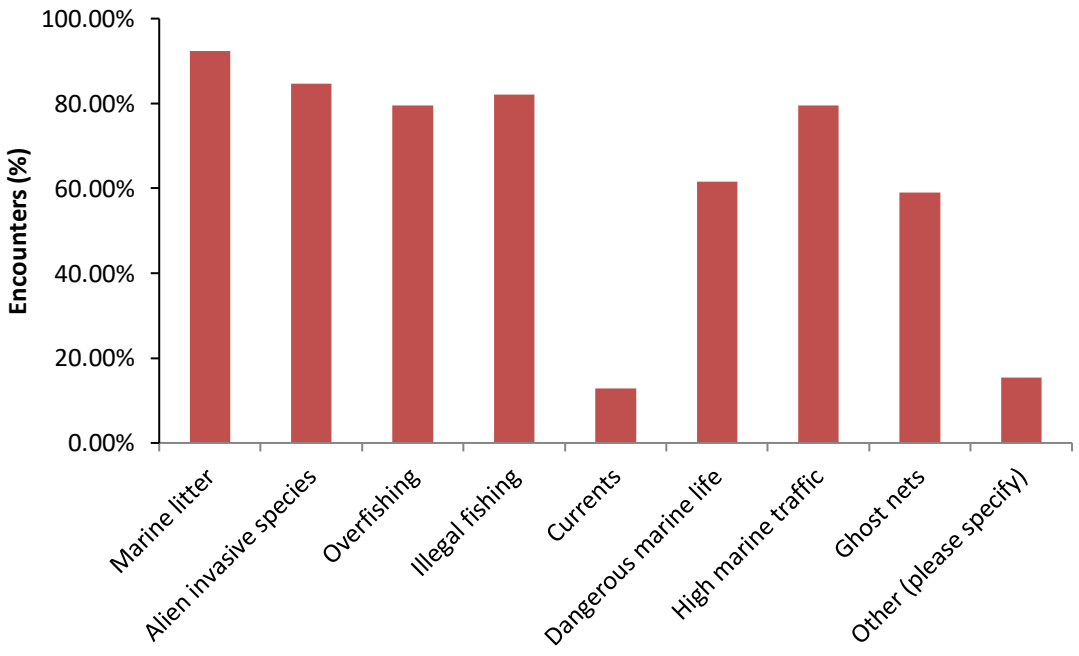
Visibility	1		2		3		4		5		Total
Limassol - Summer	0.00%	0	33.33%	2	0.00%	0	33.33%	2	33.33%	2	6
Limassol - Autumn	0.00%	0	16.67%	1	0.00%	0	50.00%	3	33.33%	2	6
Limassol - Winter	0.00%	0	33.33%	2	33.33%	2	33.33%	2	0.00%	0	6
Limassol - Spring	0.00%	0	28.57%	2	14.29%	1	28.57%	2	28.57%	2	7
Larnaka - Summer	20.00%	2	0.00%	0	20.00%	2	30.00%	3	30.00%	3	10
Larnaka - Autumn	20.00%	2	0.00%	0	10.00%	1	10.00%	1	60.00%	6	10
Larnaka - Winter	20.00%	2	10.00%	1	0.00%	0	10.00%	1	60.00%	6	10
Larnaka - Spring	10.00%	1	20.00%	2	0.00%	0	20.00%	2	50.00%	5	10
Famagusta - Summer	4.55%	1	0.00%	0	4.55%	1	9.09%	2	81.82%	18	22
Famagusta - Autumn	4.55%	1	0.00%	0	4.55%	1	9.09%	2	81.82%	18	22
Famagusta - Winter	0.00%	0	10.00%	2	20.00%	4	10.00%	2	60.00%	12	20
Famagusta - Spring	0.00%	0	4.55%	1	13.64%	3	4.55%	1	77.27%	17	22
									Answered		**38**
									Skipped		**1**


1 - very uncomfortable
2
3
4
5 - very comfortable
Visibility comfort (%)
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
Chrysochou bay, Pyrgos, E. Akamas - Summer
Chrysochou bay, Pyrgos, E. Akamas. - Autumn
Chrysochou bay, Pyrgos, E. Akamas - Winter
Chrysochou bay, Pyrgos, E. Akamas - Spring
Paphos, W. Akamas - Summer
Paphos, W. Akamas - Autumn
Paphos, W. Akamas - Winter
Paphos, W. Akamas - Spring
Limassol - Summer
Limassol - Autumn
Limassol - Winter
Limassol - Spring
Larnaka - Summer
Larnaka - Autumn
Larnaka - Winter
Larnaka - Spring
Famagusta - Summer
Famagusta - Autumn
Famagusta - Winter
Famagusta - Spring

37. Please choose from the following list the most common problems and threats you encounter while diving (You can choose more than one).

Answer Choices	Responses	
Marine litter	92.31%	36
Alien invasive species	84.62%	33
Overfishing	79.49%	31
Illegal fishing	82.05%	32
Currents	12.82%	5
Dangerous marine life	61.54%	24
High marine traffic	79.49%	31
Ghost nets	58.97%	23
Other (please specify)	15.38%	6
	Answered	**39**
	Skipped	**0**

Other (please specify)
Currents are an issue because they affect the marine life at specific spots
Glass bottom boats come above the divers at Zenobia and this is extremely dangerous. There are at least 2 that do this
Litter in xylofagou
Litter is minimal
Marine traffic in Latsi
Seen other divers out of water at Costandis about to fish



38. What actions do you believe should be taken for mitigation? i.e. more regulations or patrolling, litter removal activities etc.

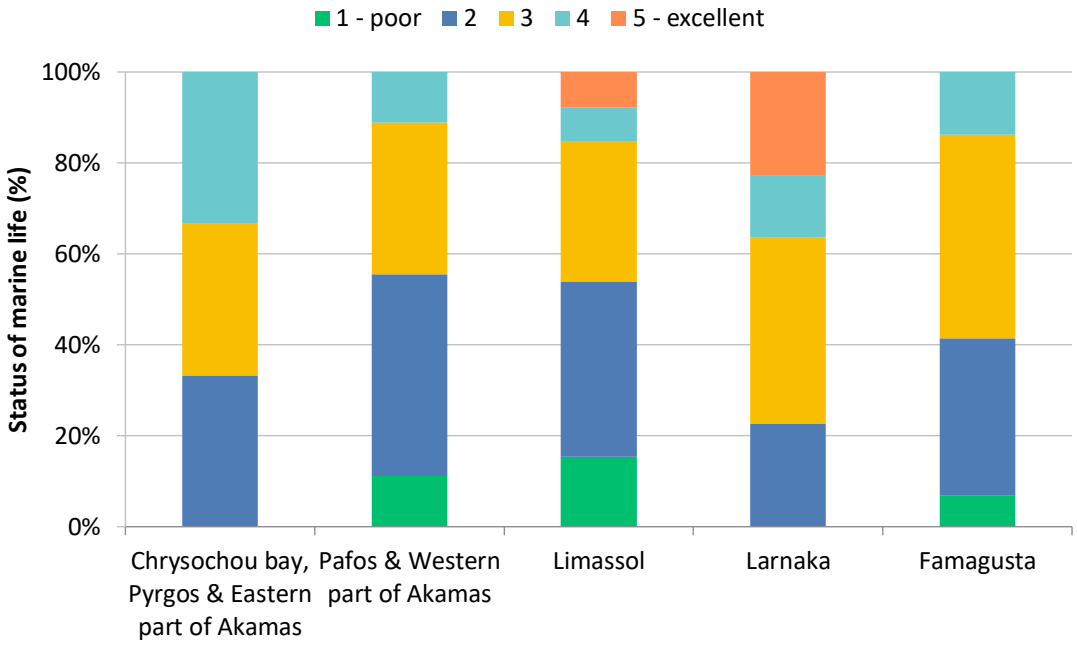
Response
Big problem at cynthiana with litter, Bins with lids, Better education for people on litter
Doesn't believe local fishermen are part of the actual problem, Privately picking up litter
An extra line of buoys for marine traffic, to keep the water sports away. More MPA
Overfishing, more checks on permits and more patrolling by police or DFMR
Litter only appears after storms etc so it's not through currents.
More marine protected areas with proper patrolling
Marine\diving protected areas should grow and increase, Commercial fishing should be much better controlled, Controlling surface traffic
Beach and dive site cleanups, Better control, more licenses for lionfish culling
Reinvest in lionfish removal, dive centres should be given licenses to do this, More marine police patrolling but all know each other and this is difficult Better training and education
Licensed dive centres but not done, more actions like RELIONMED, Bins which need to be emptied and have lids on them, more bins. Logistics regarding bins need to be more efficient and more signs necessary, Website for garbage needs bettering, Better control of fishing by DFMR and marine police
Boats should be given clear instructions how close they should be to the shore. Lionfish culling
Litter - more bins around the coastline which are frequently emptied as much rubbish gathers around and is blown into the sea
More signs for water sports at Green bay to not be over divers more big signs to not feed or touch the turtles. People do it at Da Costa, decline at Green bay, signifying severe human interfering
Patrolling for marine traffic and illegal fishing, removal of alien species especially at artificial reefs and wrecks, regulations, management of MPAs, demarcation of dive sites
More training & education to fishers, put buoys to mark dive sites
Patrolling dive sites
traffic - law compulsory, dive schools to carry their own buoys. But many times, speed boats tie up on them. Many boats including party boats pass and park above locations where divers are. Marine litter - more cleanups and more bins at dive locations. Invasive species simply better information is needed including that they are edible.
Beach and caves cleanups, Lids on bins and more awareness He gives small bags to Scandinavian customers who actually appreciate picking litter during their dives
Control lion fish populations, give licenses specifically for lionfish, Control and enforcement and more patrol against spearfishing and other kinds of fishing within the MPAs, THERE SHOULD BE MANY LARGE SIGNS INFORMING AGAINST FISHING OF ALL KINDS
Lidded waste bins as wind blows much garbage to the sea, Awareness and education, better signposting for protected regions, more actual enforcement and there should be a better call line where it is clear who can call where, more clear notes on how and how much someone can be prosecuted, parking further away from other boats
Litter - more sensitivity and better education, Invasive - volunteer groups on lionfish were successful, removal of the fish for the dive sites
more frequent removals of lionfish
Litter removal, better awareness to boat users, initiate and form local regulations for scuba dive service providers, enforce the law
More regulations, more checking by DFMR, more limitation of fishing near beaches
1.Litter removal activities (we already started these actions withing the activities of our diving club. 2.patrolling
More MPAs, More strict policing\control in MPAs More reefs with natural materials and natural crevices like the breakwaters (they created other issues but have lots of life), Small fishermen could pay a small fee to fish a certain time close to protected regions
Signposting of sites and MPAs, more patrolling from DFMR, Information to the general public should be much more prolific

Information towards boat owners not to drive close to points where there are divers, More information available about types and locations of dive sites
Surveillance of MPAs, minimise boat traffic, litter removal
Much more patrolling by DFMR and the police
Everyone expects dive centres to cleanup for free, Not enough bins i.e. the plastic fish bins by the coasts, Not enough signs, Should start from awareness and education to people, Going to schools and advertising, get people interested, More strict fines, Affects animals in the sea and on land, Lionfish removals , should have started culling them before they took over
Fishing in reserves, penalty should be higher, DFMR should mark the MPAs better so fishers know. DFMR should be more strict on catches by fishers, sizes of catch, release, bycatch etc. MPAs should be more continuous and not segregated in small parts
Dive centres and owners should be given licenses for lionfish removal, Relionmed was not carried out correctly, those who could took advantage, Problems created as removals were only localized for Costandis wreck is now dangerous to dive
Beach cleanups and more dive cleanup. Much more lionfish cleanups
Patrolling all the way
Zenobia needs less glass bottom boats. At Green bay water sports move above musan and other sites during dives. There should be a dead zone over dive\snorkelling sites which should be clearly sign posted and no fishing, swimming allowed
Closed areas that they are not allowed, or to be allowed only at specific time where divers are not there
For Zenobia, better organisation for boat timings in needed, also a serious matter of safety
See answers above on fishing

Answered	**39**
Skipped	**0**

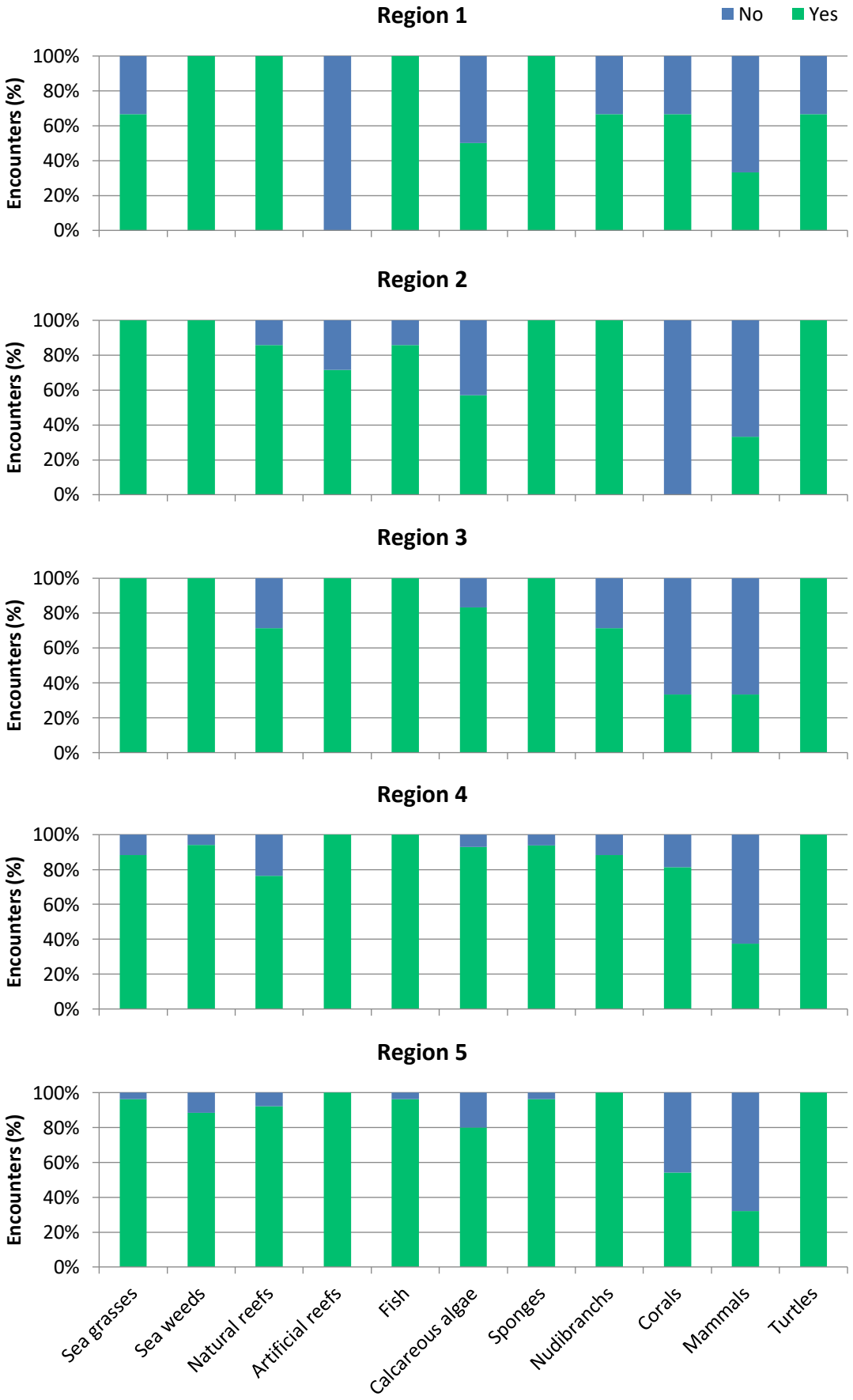
39. How do you consider the status of marine life in your region (Please rate from 1-5 where 5 is excellent and 1 is poor)

	1		2		3		4		5		Total
Chrysochou bay, Pyrgos & Eastern part of Akamas	0.00%	0	33.33%	2	33.33%	2	33.33%	2	0.00%	0	6
Pafos & Western part of Akamas	11.11%	1	44.44%	4	33.33%	3	11.11%	1	0.00%	0	9
Limassol	15.38%	2	38.46%	5	30.77%	4	7.69%	1	7.69%	1	13
Larnaka	0.00%	0	22.73%	5	40.91%	9	13.64%	3	22.73%	5	22
Famagusta	6.90%	2	34.48%	10	44.83%	13	13.79%	4	0.00%	0	29
									Answered		**39**
									Skipped		**0**


1 - poor
2
3
4
5 - excellent
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
Status of marine life (%)
Chrysochou bay, Pyrgos & Eastern part of Akamas
Pafos & Western part of Akamas
Limassol
Larnaka
Famagusta

40. Please indicate the main attractions, important organisms and/or habitats that can be encountered while diving in your region.

	Region 1				Region 2				Region 3				Region 4				Region 5			
	Yes		No		Yes		No		Yes		No		Yes		No		Yes		No	
Sea grasses	66.70%	2	33.30%	1	100.00%	7	0.00%	0	100.00%	7	0.00%	0	88.20%	15	11.80%	2	96.15%	25	3.85%	1
Sea weeds	100.00%	2	0.00%	0	100.00%	7	0.00%	0	100.00%	7	0.00%	0	94.10%	16	5.90%	1	88.46%	23	11.54%	3
Natural reefs	100.00%	3	0.00%	0	85.70%	6	14.30%	1	71.40%	5	28.60%	2	76.50%	13	23.50%	4	92.31%	24	7.69%	2
Artificial reefs	0.00%	0	100.00%	3	71.40%	5	28.60%	2	100.00%	7	0.00%	0	100.00%	16	0.00%	0	100.00%	25	0.00%	0
Fish	100.00%	3	0.00%	0	85.70%	6	14.30%	1	100.00%	7	0.00%	0	100.00%	17	0.00%	0	96.15%	25	3.85%	1
Calcareous algae	50.00%	1	50.00%	1	57.10%	4	42.90%	3	83.30%	5	16.70%	1	92.90%	13	7.10%	1	80.00%	20	20.00%	5
Sponges	100.00%	3	0.00%	0	100.00%	7	0.00%	0	100.00%	7	0.00%	0	93.80%	15	6.30%	1	96.15%	25	3.85%	1
Nudibranchs	66.70%	2	33.30%	1	100.00%	7	0.00%	0	71.40%	5	28.60%	2	88.20%	15	11.80%	2	100.00%	25	0.00%	0
Corals	66.70%	2	33.30%	1	0.00%	0	100.00%	6	33.30%	2	66.70%	4	81.30%	13	18.80%	3	54.17%	13	45.83%	11
Mammals	33.30%	1	66.70%	2	33.30%	2	66.70%	4	33.30%	2	66.70%	4	37.50%	6	62.50%	10	32.00%	8	68.00%	17
Turtles	66.70%	2	33.30%	1	100.00%	7	0.00%	0	100.00%	7	0.00%	0	100.00%	16	0.00%	0	100.00%	26	0.00%	0
																			Answered	**39**
																			Skipped	**0**


Region 1
No
Yes
Encounters (%)
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
Region 2
Region 3
Region 4
Region 5
Sea grasses
Sea weeds
Natural reefs
Artificial reefs
Fish
Calcareous algae
Sponges
Nudibranchs
Corals
Mammals
Turtles

41. Do you encounter antiquities in your region?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	71.05%	27
No	28.95%	11
	Answered	38
	Skipped	1

42. If you do encounter antiquities in your region, what type do you encounter? Please use the comment box to provide coordinates or the approximate location of these findings.

Answer Choices	Responses	
None of the above	3.45%	1
Anchors	55.17%	16
Scattered ceramics	68.97%	20
Amphora	79.31%	23
Shipwrecks	17.24%	5
Please mention any other antiquities you encounter		11
	Answered	29
	Skipped	10

Please mention any other antiquities you encounter
Amathus ancient wall
Broken , off the coast of Mackenzy, Meneou also has , around Agioi Anargiroi, Green bay has amphorae stuck on rocks
Further in from canyon dive site
Green bay
Green bay
Green bay, chapel
Green bay, cyclops, anchors at Xylofagou
He found Green bay wreck, roman wreck as well
Manijin
Manijin
Stony anchors at Xylofagou (Stella Demesticha knows), Wreck wooden at Xylofagou (Stella knows)

43. If applicable, at which other dive sites other than those indicated do you find antiquities? Please mention coordinates or the approximate location of these

If applicable, at which other dive sites other than those indicated do you find antiquities? Please mention coordinates or the approximate location of these
Akrotiri where the stone anchors are, close to cape Gata and also Mandria
Amphoras at Lighthouse bay at 60m, Mandria at 30m
Anchors at protaras, ceramics at Green bay and cyclops
Anchors close to Malama
Antiquities close to Elpida, modern amphora, trying to create park
Canyon, Xylofagou, octopus site
Chapel – Anchors, Liopetri out of the port to the right - Amphorae (broken)

Dive site @ 60m depth, 1.5km in front of the Larnaca castle - amphora
Green bay
Green bay ceramics and cape Greco
Green bay, Larnaca - Mazotos
Konnos full of small wrecks Brocken in the sand. Korakos full of scattered ceramics and wrecks in the sand. All of Famagusta bay is full of ancient objects, Konnos also full of amphorae
Mazotos wreck
Mimosa
Nobles cove a lot of amphora and many anchors, Green bay scattered ceramics
Yes but they are in the deep, near Kakoskali

Answered 16

Skipped 23

44. Please indicate any limitations/gaps and obstacles that the sector is facing e.g., accessibility to dive spots, geographical location.

45. If any, how do these limitations/gaps affect the safety, accessibility and /or attractiveness of the dive location(s)?

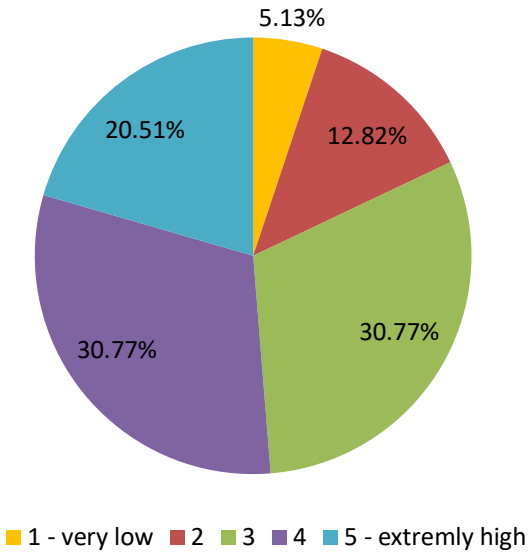
Limitations/gaps and obstacles that the sector is facing	How these limitations/gaps affect the safety, accessibility and /or attractiveness of the dive location(s)
Accessibility and getting there safety	Accessibility affects safety, Slippery and dangerous paths in and out, loose stones Decreases attractiveness
Not everyone same fitness	Need to be fit enough for certain dive sites, like amphitheater or EDRO
Accessibility to dive sites, changing facilities, wc/s	Heat strokes since people have to walk in 40 degrees with wetsuits on, accidents
Accessibility, Invasive species, lionfish and programs for mediation. Much more needed and much more support from government. Dive centres could have authority to cull	Safety affected by access, Minimizing lionfish will increase the attractiveness, Laws needed on spearfishing and sizes of fish like groupers More controlled net setting
Not real limitations, most spots are easy to reach in Paphos	
Accessibility is the main issue	It sometimes stops people from continuing with the dive
Regulations and logistical organisation, Not enough deeper wrecks, Create infrastructure to attract technical divers, big wrecks, Accessibility to dive sites	Accessibility will prohibit way before the safety, so addressing this is key
Diving should become a higher priority for CTO and Cyprus, including advertising, Difficulty in organizing night dives due to app\ marine police	Lack of advertising\ knowledge regarding dive sites
Regulation needs to both increase and be enforced	Because some centres are poorly equipped, Some don't have licenses or relevant insurances, Quality of instructors, Lack of equipment regulation and checks
Advertising, Garbage, If no toilet only allowed to go out for half an hour this places much pressure on types of dives centres can plan, more toilets	Negatively due to garbage and lack of life, Accessibility

Limitations/gaps and obstacles that the sector is facing	How these limitations/gaps affect the safety, accessibility and /or attractiveness of the dive location(s)
Number of good dive sites. If Canyon and Chapel and Green bay caves were made properly accessibly it would make a huge difference	Much less safe.
Toilets at the dive sites, Dive site access, Green bay made a national preserved area and very strict, full of fishermen and nets, turtle harassment, octopus harassment they also need protection, should be big signs, DFMR introduced app for night dives but they don't know how to use it , very not user friendly and dive centre fined for night dives\illegal fishing	Elpida can become better, Better and more toilets and accessibility, Green bay MPA and strict enforcement Statues and pots inside the elpida wreck, Larnaca development board asks for opinions, they provide it but nothing is done Cyclops cave can become world class if they put a wreck, And improved access there
Advertising, like Malta.	It can affect the number of tourists coming for diving
Accessibility, marine life is a limitation therefore we need better management, regulations for dive centres, regulations for instructors especially for freelancers.	Lack of marine life drives certified divers to other destinations, safety also used to be an issue, now hopefully has been resolved
High diving at Green Bay especially during peak season	Bins at dive sites, accessibility at specific shore dives in Protaras
Accessibility to dive sites, official promotion, no 24/7 chamber, no legislative framework	Affecting extremely all the above
Med, oligotrophic waters, not much marine life and not enough wrecks to attract it. Perfect environment and temp, but not enough dive interest underwater	affects attractiveness and accessibility
Many work with no insurance, Working with companies needs spending i.e tui, they need contracts and assurance, unlike other small dive shops. Rent is high for the dive centres and so they frequently change management, opportunistic owners who may not be so professional	
Fishing, illegal, legal, overfishing, any method	More patrolling by CPA and DFMR, More signs More awareness and education
DMoT inevitably places limitations as some not experienced or knowledgeable enough of the industry. Incorrect handling of dive professionals who should be the authority. Everyone should have insurance and professional liability and all dive centres should have an additional license which is a one stop shop for all certifications and licenses which should be shown - municipality licenses	Invest into wrecks and island promotion, welcoming divers and their families to CY, CTO discount scheme which involves food and accommodation and recreation which should be free to tourists and to providers
Lack of Kiosks, entry and exit points can be better Lack of MPAs	Entry points and exit points can be better, More MPAs
Geographical location, some sites are far or difficult to enter the coast. Roads either don't exist or are in bad shape.	It's more dangerous
Lack of Promoting by the Dmot is a limitation, tourist operators in the area and lack of better quality hotels	Not for the accessibility but mostly for attracting tourists. There is no safety system other than what we provide
MUSAN accessibility is not easy or close to the shore.	
If something goes wrong it's difficult to get proper help in time	Better and more health services Inc hyperbaric chamber s, dive doctors

Limitations/gaps and obstacles that the sector is facing	How these limitations/gaps affect the safety, accessibility and /or attractiveness of the dive location(s)
Number of dive sites is low Only hyperbaric chamber in Famagusta	More dive sites will enrichen the area and bring more tourism, There should be more hyperbaric chamber in more regions
Accessibility to dive sites, hyperbaric chamber s in each city	Someone may get hurt just to get to the dive, slippery etc, Hyperbaric lack, can affect how fast a person in danger may receive help
KOT should show more interest and dive centres should work more together, better advertising	Cyprus does not reach even half it's potential
Need more artificial reefs in Limassol and dive sites in general	Affects dive safety when too many dive boats are using the same mooring, Affects attractability to Limassol dive locations , too crowded
Cape Greco, getting in and out needs to be more accessible, there could be a mobile clinic for these purposes depending on location - gap in health services in remote areas i.e. Akamas. There could be assigned safety points close to places where there are many sites or are far off, could also have few assigned life guards who can help but also provide the story quickly to health services	Dangerous if far away and takes too much time to receive help
Involved locals taking advantage for themselves rather than good of the island, CDCA. non involvement and promoting their own dive centre	DSDS at 40m by zenobia - too loose laws as people know each other. Even no reporting of dive fatalities i.e dive master died in Pissouri last march. Everybody chasing money. Zenobia is no place for novice divers yet some dive centres advertise it, Boats above divers in Zenobia is very dangerous Agia napa cruises do the DSDS but advertise chaos, Unregistered dive companies
Low operational standards, should increase. Only hyperbaric chamber is in Famagusta, all sent there even from Paphos! Private in Larnaca no longer insure by DAN	Serious health and safety issues due to only public hyperbaric chamber in Famagusta, Litter in certain locations in the water i.e Green bay or on land close to dive locations are unattractive to tourists, No framework or regulations for accessibility and generally although diving framework exists it's not adhered to or enforced
Geographical location is not a problem, but accessibility is a major problem. Safety another big issue, not enough chambers	In every way possible
Accessibility to dive sites, parking, toilets, changing rooms, things to make for an easier experience	Old or outdated\dangerous platforms and accessibility
Doing well, little issues, KOT should advertise more and not expect this from the dive companies themselves	
Price is too high generally as Cyprus i.e for hotels and life on the island i.e compared to Egypt Need more wrecks in right places location wise to not spend too much on fuel	Attractability affected by general pricing
Need constructions around the wrecks	
Answered 37	**Answered 32**
Skipped 2	**Skipped 7**

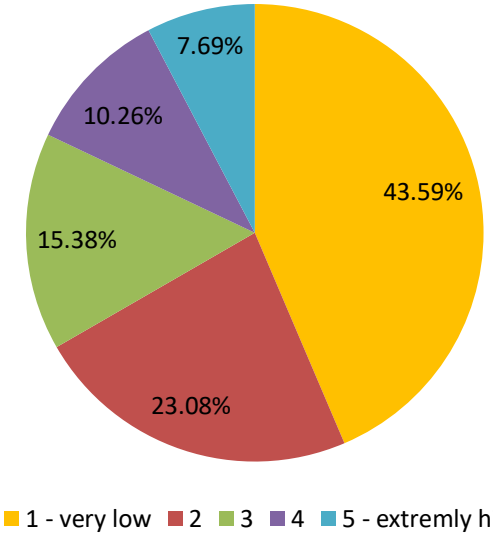
46. Please indicate from 1-5, the level of diving standards in Cyprus, with respect to diving safety, where 1 is very low and 5 is extremely high

Answer Choices	Responses	
1	5.13%	2
2	12.82%	5
3	30.77%	12
4	30.77%	12
5	20.51%	8
	Answered	**39**
	Skipped	**0**



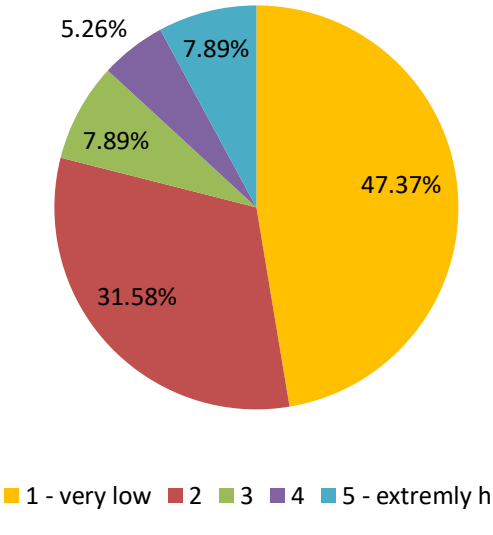
47. Please indicate from 1-5, the level of regulatory framework in Cyprus, with respect to diving safety, where 1 is very low and 5 is extremely high.

Answer Choices	Responses	
1	43.59%	17
2	23.08%	9
3	15.38%	6
4	10.26%	4
5	7.69%	3
	Answered	**39**
	Skipped	**0**



48. **Please indicate from 1-5, the level of Operational standards (e.g., ISO) in Cyprus with respect to diving safety (Where 1 is very low and 5 is extremely high)**.

Answer Choices	Responses	
1	47.37%	18
2	31.58%	12
3	7.89%	3
4	5.26%	2
5	7.89%	3
	Answered	**38**
	Skipped	**1**



49. Are you certified to follow certain operational standards? Yes/No. If so, what is the certification?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	48.72%	19
No	51.28%	20
If your answer is yes, what is the certification?		23
	Answered	**39**
	Skipped	**0**

If your answer is yes, what is the certification?
Aktoploiko katadytiko, licence from SDM, CAPTAIN DIPLOMA , SAFETY, FIRST AID ETC
CMAS EU and KOA
DAN partner, PADI, RAID
Dive centres can't afford ISO , not sure what the benefit could be . Following all PADI Standards.
EUF
Health and safety audit every year
In CY this is still currently useless, not many want to spend money
ISO
ISO
ISO
ISO 24803 technical auditor
ISO24803, ISO24802-2, ISO11107 PADI. SSI ISO45001, BSAC, EUF
ISO24803.2017 AND ISO11121. 2017, ISO 13289
Looking into ISO, all for it. Believes that people going for it should have a benefit i.e. hours free in hyperbaric chamber. Good way in future to separate illegal dive businesses
PADI
Padi
PADI ISO AND TDI ISO
PADI ISO standards
PADI, SDI, TDI ISO
Poseidon, Apex, Aqualung, Techline, Tusan, bechaut
SSI
UK military operational standards, soon to have ISO
willing to take on ISO

50. Are you aware of any diving incidents that have occurred in Cyprus over the years?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	97.44%	38
No	2.56%	1
If yes, please provide more information (type of incident, location, level of severity)		35
	Answered	**39**
	Skipped	**0**

If yes, please provide more information (type of incident, location, level of severity)
3 on Zenobia last year, oedema, heart attack and potentially one embolism
A few, try dives at Zenovia, very severe
Bends at zenobia
Bends, injuries
Bends, deaths, lost at sea, high level of severity, Zenobia, Akamas
DCI, Zenobia (most of them), high level of severity
death last year, most of them due to pre-existing conditions
Deaths at Zenobia, dehydration decompression sickness
Decompression illness 10 per year of approx. 20 other issues i.e heart that materialize during the dives
Decompression illness 6 times this year, around 20 since 2018, drowning\death 1 this year at Zenobia, multiple small injuries from being non vigilant regarding prickly or dangerous species like urchins or lionfish
Decompression sickness in Zenobia, injuries trying to gain to access to sites.
Diver coughs, blood in lungs, placed on oxygen. Fireworms and jellyfish stings
Drowning 3_4 times, decompression illness and other minor injuries
Fatal accidents at zenovia wreck and DCI accidents
Heard of free diving accidents, and Hippocampus volunteered to look for them, with KSETH (KENTRO SINTONISMOU KAI ELEGXOU)
Heart attack 2022 Zenobia
Injuries from falls while trying to access dive site, various at protaras and Ayia napa, minor to medium
Majority of diver incidents comes from poor judgement and diver error
Many incidents this year, one fatality with unknown cause, decompression illness and patient was ok, all from Zenobia and not from his centre.
Many, embolisms, pulmonary etc. high severity
Range from cuts and scrapes to the bends
Turtle bit customer at De Costa, Deaths at Zenobia, entrance to dive site at Caves slipped and injured leg.
Zenobia - bends
Zenobia accidents, very severe, light injuries from falling on rocky areas
Zenobia bends and injuries. He has had no serious incidents himself but has pulled out many drowned divers and spearfishermen
Zenobia issues
Zenobia people sent to chamber
Zenobia, 2 divers inexperienced went to 40 m and came shooting up but didn't get the bends, boating incident with man overboard in Larnaca marina
Zenobia, accident
Zenobia, bends. Green bay someone died a few years ago
Zenobia, chambers, 2 deaths zenobia
Zenobia, heard but didn't see
Zenobia, possibly bends
Zenobia. Heart attacks, ascending too quickly
Zenovia, in Famagusta very rare

51. Please indicate any gaps in diving safety that you identify.

Please indicate any gaps in diving safety that you identify
Dive boats like in Larnaca, the weights are kept on benches at the side of the boat, can be extremely dangerous if one slipped over the side and onto divers, Too many boats over popular sites like Zenobia, boats passing on top, No operational control, Glass bottom boat is an issue in Larnaca
1.Standards i.e. ISO 2. Violation of teaching and/or guiding practices
Access to dive sites again. Also, not sure if emergency transportation from there to hospital is available, never had to use it.
Accessibility can make it unsafe more platforms, stairs and railings, Implement iso for dive centres but not for the small players who work in the summer months and disappear and don't service equipment etc, strains the entire industry and all can lose out
Accessibility is main problem for injuries. ISO would be expensive for small centres to operate.
Chambers without operators
Decompression chamber in Limassol
Dive insurance excludes Cyprus from using private hyperbaric chamber in Larnaca. Public is ok but this doesn't look good
Do not Follow the diving protocols and law. Illegal diving centres.
Every instructor should be first aid trained Every dive professional should be trained in oxygen administration, Defibrillators should be made available at dive sites
Injuries and situations like in any other kind of activity, which is why this is minimized by having professionals
Lack of communication (no English in Paphos hospital)
Lack of laws and legislations
Lack of monitoring the dive locations for boat traffic and illegal spearfishing/fishing, i.e musan or golden coast
Lack of safety standards and regulations
Lack of standards and procedures, lack of decompression chamber in the region
No decompression chamber
No legislation, no control/monitoring, not enough chambers
No. Personal negligence if not
Non existence of hyperbaric chambers, no specialised diving doctors
On paper
People taken to zenobia\deep way to early and this is very dangerous. At what expense?
Problem is PADI. they certify instructors too easily, shouldn't be divers or take divers and this can get very dangerous for people. PADI just a money making business, accepts people too easily and this dilutes the industry too much and creates danger for inexperienced divers
Regulations are too low. It's easy to create an illegal dive centre. A centre can rent equipment and take people diving.
Regulations lack, operational standards supervision,
Regulations, follow up on regulations and enforcement
See before
Some centres provide dives out of the experience of the divers to make more money
Some companies tend to take inexperienced divers deeper than they should or are trained to do, even taken to zen on first dives
The chamber is in Paralimni which is far from here
Zenobia should be by law minimum advanced and large dive transport boats should check this as well, prerequisite, Some centres take inexperienced divers to deep and dangerous dives and this should be heavily regulated

Answered 31 **Skipped 8**

52. Please provide any solutions you believe may help close these gaps (e.g., reinforcing infrastructure or creation of national safety standards)

Please provide any solutions you believe may help close these gaps (e.g., reinforcing infrastructure or creation of national safety standards)
1. ISO should be compulsory for diving centres. 2. Instructors should operate under the umbrella a diving centre. 3. Diving protocols should be followed and monitored by course directors from the diving agencies randomly in class and in water.
Add chamber near Limassol
All dive centres should be registered in the association of dive centres for better control as this can be the initial step.
Better education, Diver responsibility should increase
Better health services, More infrastructure to add accessibility to dive sites
Can't be closed because no independent body to spend time to go round and check. This body should be at least 50% non-Cypriots
Create national standard in cooperation with individual dive organisation (Ie bsac, etc). Yearly Medical check for dive professionals. Minimum level of certification (dive master and above) to be set.
Creation of national safety standards, proper monitoring that the standards are followed
CY laws need to be extended and interfere with PADI to resolve the issue, Need to be law abiding if you want to have a school and enforcement needs to become serious
Defibrillators at dive sites
Dive framework needs to become more strict and actually adhered to and people should themselves be more vigilant
First aid, risk assessment, air in compressor, service equipment
Following up our actions / constructions underwater for dive industry, Monitoring the dive locations for boat traffic and illegal spearfishing/fishing, i.e musan or golden coast Dive centres willing to do this Platform could sell swimming apparel, also at green bay, could even be govt issued
Help from the government to help financially the dive centres with obtaining ISO, he wants to do this but with money it's difficult
Infrastructure reinforcement for certain sites like cyclops
Licensing should be more strict to begin with
Make sure divers are comfortable and able from easier and shallower dives beforehand. On the boat customers should show the dive certification they signed prior to starting their dives
Monitor all dive centres to ensure they follow safety standards.
More infrastructure on this side of the island, definitely a chamber.
More legislations as regards to dive safety
More policing who is legally diving, operating or not. License checks.
National safety standards, high penalties, high requirements for professionals in the industry
Operational standards to increase
reinforcing infrastructure
Reinforcing infrastructure, creation of national safety standards, dive centres quality control
Reinforcing infrastructure.
Should be a yearly inspection by for example DAN insurance for dive centre in order to be eligible for ISO in the first place Add mooring places to replace throwing anchors all around cape Greco Expand MPAs
Should be made to do a local shallow dive irrespectively of level, if they want to go to zenobia
The dive union could monitor the dive centres if all of them would join the union. It could be managed at a local level. ISOs should be made affordable, it's too expensive.
There should certainly be more diving medical infrastructure all around the island
Trainers should be more vigilant i.e to check health condition and if customers were out drinking
Urgent creation of diving regulations, licensing scuba diving service providers

Very small groups only and heavy attention. The standard and experience of the instructors should increase
Weights in the centre of the platform, Operational control necessary, Sites should be properly implemented and official

Answered	**31**
Skipped	**8**

53. Are you aware of branding/awareness activities in Cyprus or abroad?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	71.79%	28
No	28.21%	11
If you're aware of branding or awareness activities, please elaborate		27
	Answered	**39**
	Skipped	**0**

If you're aware of branding or awareness activities, please elaborate
at exhibitions and diving shows
Billboards in northern EU countries, some videos, photo competitions for zenobia
Campaign by the Deputy ministry of Tourism
CTO represents at many dive shows
Dive exhibitions
Dive shows
Dive shows, familiarization trips bringing nationalities over for diving, dive site maps,
DMoT
DMoT participating in foreign exhibitions for diving
Dmot promotes at exhibitions abroad
DMoT trying to bring magazines, bloggers and attend exhibitions abroad
during the dive and boat shows
Exhibitions in Russia and Germany and UK, both KOT and dive centres were present
German and Russian dive shows, KOT also there with booth
Going to exhibitions to advertise
KOT was active, exhibitions. He advertised in foreign magazines
Magazines at airport a few years back (DMoT)
Moscow dive show at own expense, 4 years ago CTO joined and also do it
Most dive centres, video promotes, website, media, discount initiatives etc
Not enough
Only from private companies and individuals i.e exhibitions
Padi's travel website
Social media, Facebook. Dive shows but more care needed. Personal ads from centres bring the tourists
Social media, going to dive shows (DMoT)
Sporadic activities from authorities. No consistency.
Very limited. Dive schools are trying to push through PADI. Zenobia specialty card from PADI but only promoted locally
Visits at exhibitions, promotion in diving magazines, influencers of social media platforms

54. Regarding branding/awareness, in what way do you believe Cyprus should be portrayed abroad as a diving destination?

Responses
365 days diving, Orientation towards training due to conditions\many new divers\tourists, More wrecks needed , discussions happened but never implemented, including feasibility studies
A website from the dmot. Not for a specific dive site but for regions. Inclusion of the dmot of not just Zenobia. Promote archaeological diving or maybe just information.
Advertise easy and comfortable diving, warm, no current, excellent visibility TELEVISION should be advertising Cyprus a lot more generally but also combined as all year round dive destination
Advertise safety, Marketing, KOT needs to spend serious money. Advertise all wrecks and we need more.
Advertisements into channels in targeted countries, safe diving destination with great conditions all year round
Advertising in dive sites and forums. Dive sites can be digitalized and advertised as such, so a potential tourist can see the site beforehand
Adverts on TV, make sure that diving is prominent since it is a big part of the area in Famagusta.
Any means that advertise Cyprus as a tourist destination should include diving pictures\videos
Best climate and safe environment
Cultured, safe and historical destination with visitor orientated infrastructure in place, strong focus on quality scuba diving and family adventures. This should be done through tv adverts in the UK and other dive networks in EU like Germany, Greece, Spain, Italy, Poland and Israel, also radio adverts, airports , trains
Cyprus can offer everything, fun, diving, family, safe, quality. Clear waters. You can find everything (mountain, sea)
Dive magazines abroad, underwater weddings advertising, use of existing ads for common activities in Cyprus to add diving to them.
DMoT should get rid of illegal dive centres and then advertise the country as a dive destination.
DMoT to employ bloggers and people from specialized dive magazines to promote CY sites to specialized groups
Easy and accessible all year round, even from the coast. No need for many boat dives Safe Organize, research and advertise official dive sites, not 'locations where people can also dive' Great visibility and low current, stunning rock formations
'everyone is Happy ' , a destination for the whole family
Exchange program could be implemented with dive centres abroad i.e. Malta. Or further away where conditions are different. Local travel agents should promote the diving industry and there could be a central agency they refer to in Cyprus specifically for diving , that can advise them for the right dive and locations. Which centre to go to would be their choice. Promoted in same way as other recreational activities in Cyprus but to specific groups\companies that promote diving abroad
Good all year round Fantastic visibility Warm water Many dive centres Easy accessibility Much more social media activity TELEVISION and social media Consistency in advertising Use of videos including existing tourist ads and include diving
many diving sites with sandy beaches
More advertisement and exposure abroad, exhibitions etc
More advertising and to get into markets abroad .marketing not only as dive destination , this can also bring more divers as part of advertising other active activities
More advertising from KOT , EXHIBITIONS FOR DIVING AND TOURISM, CY SHOULD DO IT AND NOT CENTRES THEMSELVES. LEAFLETS AT THESE EVENTS AND TRAVEL AGENTS, win win
More dive sites and infrastructure around them and more study should be made about the right location Need more wrecks deeper than 20m
More emphasis and advertising of marine related history and include this (archaeology) Exhibitions, inviting important dive centres to represent the diving industry and attract divers Should be portrayed as an island with easy, warm water, clear visibility all year Environmental preservation should increase
More exhibitions, more opportunities to all countries to see our industry

More online social media presence Use other popular tourist attracting videos on tv or other popular platforms like Heart Cyprus and include diving media to attract divers Through travel agencies Through working directly with popular foreign dive magazines and other specialized diving media to attract specifically divers
Much more advertising that involves diving, but to the masses i.e. existing ads about Cyprus
Necessity of more interesting and attractive dive sites to attract people within Europe. Sites which are for all levels and not just advanced. Then CY can be advertised more and this is secondary. Start with the dive sites and encourage aquatic life. Then comes the marketing.
Nice experience for the whole family to discover scuba diving , safe and something for everyone, diving and quality family time, this is how it should be advertised.
Portrayed as a safe, easy dive destination. Ideal conditions all year round, large capacity, especially in Famagusta region to cover for a lot more divers.
Promote to tour operators and through social media that Cyprus is an all year round easy and accessible dive location, which also has a bunch of additional activities to do, direct towards families and through the ministry of tourism approaching the above and booking agents
Referring to Zenobia helps , other sites like jubilee shoals are increasing and will market themselves but he will heavily market his business abroad. ISO should be implemented by all and there should be more info regarding it and benefits for dive centres. Marketing in dive shows and specialized platforms abroad.
Safe for environment and for families, regulation for schools to be under one umbrella of the govt. Target specialised groups i.e. elderly people as an easy, simple shallow and safe dive location. Tourism ministries of other countries, which have active retired people
Safe, beautiful, wrecks, protected areas, MUSAN
Should be portrayed as a safe place with clean waters and good temperatures year round.
Sink more wrecks and when you do this the divers will know. This should be done long time ago. Get an example from Malta.
The diving organisations i.e. PADI and SSI could themselves advertise diving destinations , for divers who already dive. KOT should include pictures\videos of diving in Cyprus in existing ads for Cyprus in general Industry needs more popularity through both the government and media
The DMOT should be much more active to advertise diving tourism in CY, not only for exhibitions but in an organized way abroad i.e a short movie or a movie filmed in Cyprus that has to do with Cyprus and sea,dives etc

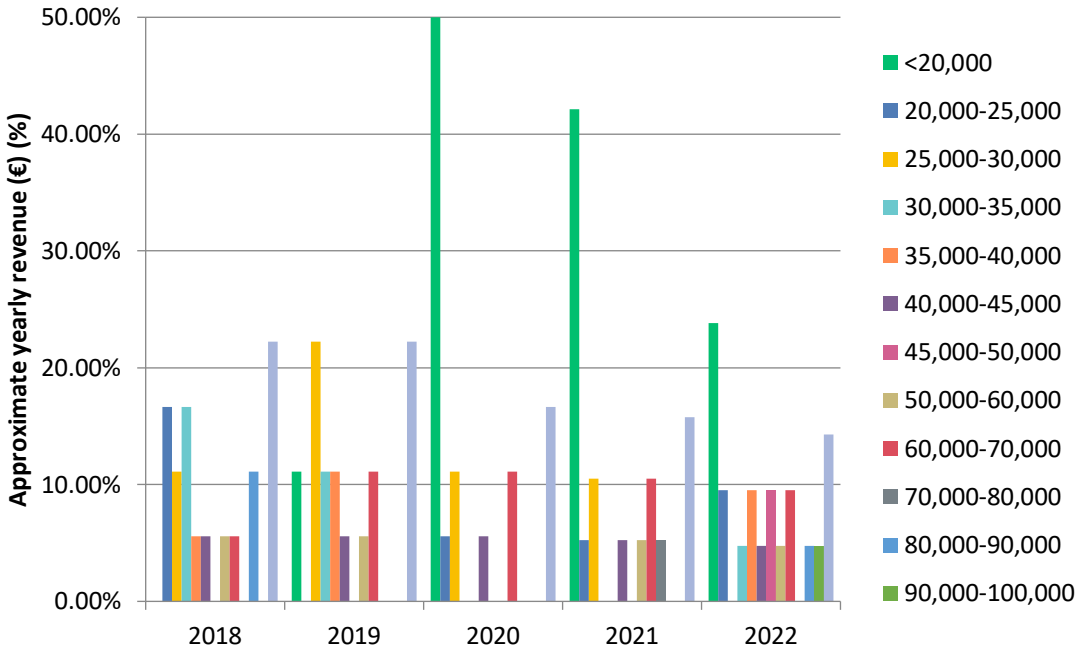
Answered	**38**
Skipped	**1**

55. What has been the approximate yearly revenue of your dive business for the past 5 years? i.e., 2018 – Approx. €25,000

	<20,000		20,000-25,000		25,000-30,000		30,000-35,000		35,000-40,000		40,000-45,000		45,000-50,000	
2018	0.00%	0	16.67%	3	11.11%	2	16.67%	3	5.56%	1	5.56%	1	0.00%	0
2019	11.11%	2	0.00%	0	22.22%	4	11.11%	2	11.11%	2	5.56%	1	0.00%	0
2020	50.00%	9	5.56%	1	11.11%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	5.56%	1	0.00%	0
2021	42.11%	8	5.26%	1	10.53%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	5.26%	1	0.00%	0
2022	23.81%	5	9.52%	2	0.00%	0	4.76%	1	9.52%	2	4.76%	1	9.52%	2

	50,000-60,000		60,000-70,000		70,000-80,000		80,000-90,000		90,000-100,000		>100,000		Total
2018	5.56%	1	5.56%	1	0.00%	0	11.11%	2	0.00%	0	22.22%	4	18
2019	5.56%	1	11.11%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	22.22%	4	18
2020	0.00%	0	11.11%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	16.67%	3	18
2021	5.26%	1	10.53%	2	5.26%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	15.79%	3	19
2022	4.76%	1	9.52%	2	0.00%	0	4.76%	1	4.76%	1	14.29%	3	21
											Answered		**22**

Skipped	**17**


50.00%
40.00%
30.00%
20.00%
10.00%
0.00%
Approximate yearly revenue (€) (%)
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
<20,000
20,000-25,000
25,000-30,000
30,000-35,000
35,000-40,000
40,000-45,000
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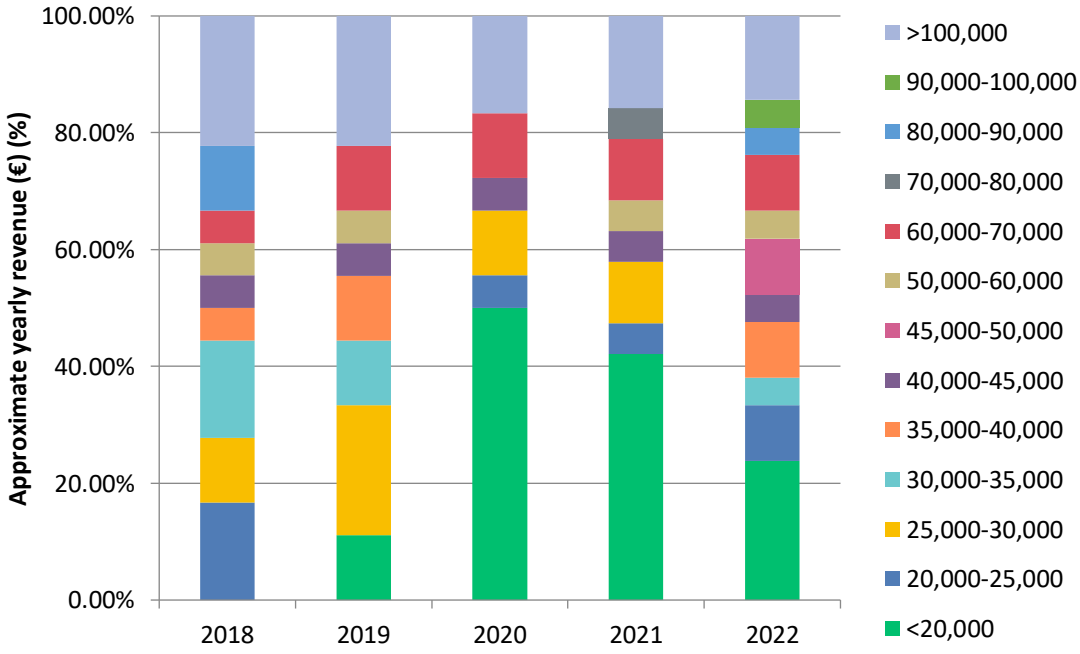
80,000-90,000
90,000-100,000


100.00%
80.00%
60.00%
40.00%
20.00%
0.00%
Approximate yearly revenue (€) (%)
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
>100,000
90,000-100,000
80,000-90,000
70,000-80,000
60,000-70,000
50,000-60,000
45,000-50,000
40,000-45,000
35,000-40,000
30,000-35,000
25,000-30,000
20,000-25,000
<20,000

b) Municipalities / communities questionnaire

1. To which municipality/community do you belong to? Please name.

MAZOTOS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
PARALIMNI MUNICIPALITY
Pissouri
Deryneia Municipality
Community Counil of Yialia
LARNAKA MUNICIPALITY

Answered	**6**
Skipped	**0**

2. Are you aware of any type of facilities or infrastructure that were built in your municipality / community specifically to support the diving industry? If yes, please provide at least one example.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	33.33%	2
No	50.00%	3
Not sure	16.67%	1
Examples		2
Answered		**6**
Skipped		**0**

Examples
1. SHIPWRECK "LIBERTY" AND "NEMESIS" 2. CREATION OF ARTIFICIAL REEF IN CO-ORDINATION WITH FISHERIES DPT
CREATION OF NEW ARTIFICIAL REEF IN LARNAKA BAY WITH THE SINKING OF ELPIDA VESSEL LEF1 AND AMPHORAE

3. Are you aware of any threats that divers encounter while diving within your municipality/community? If yes, provide at least one example.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	16.67%	1
No	83.33%	5
Not sure	0.00%	0
Examples		1
Answered		**6**
Skipped		**0**

Examples
Legal

4. Do you believe that diving safety standards in Cyprus are adequate? If yes, please proceed to Q6.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	0.00%	0
No	16.67%	1
Not sure	83.33%	5
Answered		**6**
Skipped		**0**

5. What gaps do you believe diving safety currently has in Cyprus?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Lack of national safety standards	16.67%	1
Lack of legislation	16.67%	1
Lack of legislation enforcement	33.33%	2
Lack of appropriate infrastructure	16.67%	1
Accessibility to dive sites	16.67%	1
Lack of appropriate medical facilities (i.e. hyperbaric chambers)	33.33%	2
Lack of information regarding dive sites	0.00%	0
Lack of diving first aid response	16.67%	1
Lack of awareness on divers' presence and safety by other boaters	16.67%	1
Other (please specify)	16.67%	1
Answered		**6**
Skipped		**0**

6. Has your municipality / community taken actions to mitigate the aforementioned problems or gaps? If yes, please provide at least one example.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	16.67%	1
No	66.67%	4
Not sure	16.67%	1
Examples		1
Answered		**6**
Skipped		**0**

Examples
HYPERBARIC CHAMBERS & LEGISLATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF FISHING IN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

7. Do you believe that antiquities could be used as diving attractions?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	66.67%	4
No	0.00%	0
Not sure	33.33%	2
Answered		**6**
Skipped		**0**

8. Has your municipality carried out activities in the past to raise awareness or advertise the diving tourism industry in Cyprus or abroad? If yes, please provide at least one example.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	33.33%	2
No	16.67%	1
Not sure	50.00%	3
Examples		2
	Answered	**6**
	Skipped	**0**

Examples
Creation of Artificial Reefs
Zenobia Weeks event, Photos exhibitions

9. In which ways do you believe Cyprus should be portrayed abroad and inland as a diving destination in order to improve branding/awareness?

Response
1. MAPPING OF DIVING SITES 2. CREATION OF MORE ARTIFICIAL REEFS 3. EMPLOYMENT OF ONLINE MEANS FOR THE PROMOTION OF CYPRUS AS A DIVING DESTINATION
More Social media information
Diving is not in our priorities since our sea area is occupied by Turkish troops.
To inform the people
AS A SAVE ALL YEAR AROUND DIVING DESTINATION

Answered	**5**
Skipped	**1**

10. Do you have any running subsidy plans, or plan on offering subsidies targeting the diving industry? If yes, please provide at least one example.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	0.00%	0
No	83.33%	5
Not sure	16.67%	1
Examples		0
	Answered	**6**
	Skipped	**0**

c) NGOs and SME's

1. State the name of your organisation.

SBAA
Federation of Environmental Organisation
AP Marine Environmental Consultancy Ltd
Marine & Environmental Research (MER) Labe Ltd.

Answered	**4**
Skipped	**0**

2. Are you aware of any type of facilities or infrastructure that were built in your municipality / community specifically to support the diving industry? If yes, please provide at least one example.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	75.00%	3
No	25.00%	1
Not sure	0.00%	0
Examples		3
	Answered	**4**
	Skipped	**0**

Responses
Artificial Reefs, Marine Archaeological Park
Purposefully sunk wrecks/vessels
Artificial reefs

3. Are you aware of any threats that divers encounter while diving within your municipality/community? If yes, provide at least one example.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	100.00%	4
No	0.00%	0
Not sure	0.00%	0
Examples		4
	Answered	**4**
	Skipped	**0**

Responses
OTHER VESSELS, FISHING
Large-scale heavy constructions in the coastal and marine environment (e.g. ports, marinas, wavebreaks, etc.) and maritime routes
Lionfish
Stinging Lionfish

4. Do you believe that diving safety standards in Cyprus are adequate?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	50.00%	2
No	50.00%	2
Not sure	0.00%	0
Answered		**4**
Skipped		**0**

5. What gaps do you believe diving safety currently has in Cyprus?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Lack of national safety standards	75.00%	3
Lack of legislation	50.00%	2
Lack of legislation enforcement	100.00%	4
Lack of appropriate infrastructure	50.00%	2
Accessibility to dive sites	25.00%	1
Lack of appropriate medical facilities (i.e. hyperbaric chambers)	50.00%	2
Lack of information regarding dive sites	100.00%	4
Lack of diving first aid response	50.00%	2
Lack of awareness on divers' presence and safety by other boaters	100.00%	4
Other (please specify)	25.00%	1
	Answered	**4**
	Skipped	**0**

6. Please provide any solutions you believe may help close these gaps (e.g., reinforcing infrastructure or creation of national safety standards)

Responses
ENFORCED LEGISLATION, SINGLE AUTHORITY
Legislation enforcement, public awareness initiatives, marine patrolling and monitoring
All the above should be dealt with. There must be an active engagement by the government (this should be initiated by them), with a capacity to control. Right now everyone (dive operators) is doing whatever they want with minimum standards
Make dive sites accessible to divers, provide appropriate infrastructure, ensure safety of divers is considered.

7. Do you believe that antiquities could be used as diving attractions?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	100.00%	4
No	0.00%	0
Not sure	0.00%	0
Answered		**4**
Skipped		**0**

8. In which ways do you believe Cyprus should be portrayed abroad and inland as a diving destination in order to improve branding/awareness?

Response
THROUGH CAMPAIGNS
Cyprus should promote new forms of marine ecotourism and diving activities in marine protected ares (MPAs), such as marine areas included in the Natura 2000 Network, artificial reefs, marine archaeological parks, etc.
-Good sea conditions -All year Diving destination -Marine Species Unique in the Eastern mediterranean - Underwater photography hotspot
Blue warm waters with fantastic visibility

d) Ministries & Governmental entities

Core questions to all Ministries and governmental entities

1. **Do you believe that the current status of the diving tourism industry in Cyprus is adequate? If not, please suggest ways to improve it.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	16.66%	1
No	50.00%	3
Not sure	33.33%	2
Suggestions for status improvement.		3
	Answered	**6**
	Skipped	**0**

2. **Are you aware of any type of facilities or infrastructure that were built specifically to support the diving industry? If yes, please provide at least one example.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	66.66%	4
No	16.66%	1
Not sure	16.66%	1
Examples.		4
	Answered	**6**
	Skipped	**0**

Responses
A national Diving Industry is needed in boosting island's recreational scuba diving industry and making up for losses inflicted by the pandemic. Also the sustainable strategy, will focus on enhancing the industry's competitiveness, particularly as countries like Malta, Egypt and Tunisia. The strategy must outline how improving scuba diving as an economic niche would entail improving access to, and infrastructure around the country's prime diving sites, as well as helping businesses diversify their products.
Create and implement a diving master plan, create a registry of dive centres certified by the Deputy Min.of Tourism
Περισσότερο Marketing, Τυποποίηση του προιόντος, Προστασία του περιβάλλοντος, Ανάπτυξη περισσότερων Τ.Υ. , Πόντιση περισσότερων κατασκευών/ ναυαγίων στους Τ.Υ. και στις ΘΠΠ, Διαχείριση Εισβολικών Ειδών, Ανάπτυξη εισόδων στα Shore Dives, Έλεγχος στις ΘΠΠ,

3. **Are you aware of any threats that divers encounter while diving in Cyprus? If yes, provide at least one example.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	66.66%	4
No	0.00%	0
Not sure	33.33%	2
Examples		4
	Answered	**6**
	Skipped	**0**

Reponses
Some of the high pressure compressors may not be serviced by certified technicicans as a result of bad breathing air from the cylinders
Intro dives at Zenobia
Lionfish especially in artificial reefs especially in vessels deployed (eg Costandis, Lady Thetis, Nemesis)
Δεν λειτουργούν όλοι οι Κρατικοί Θάλαμοι Αποσυμπίεσης, Εισβολικά Είδη

4. What gaps do you believe diving safety currently has in Cyprus?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Lack of national safety standards	33.33%	2
Lack of legislation	66.66%	4
Lack of legislation enforcement	66.66%	4
Lack of appropriate infrastructure	33.33%	2
Other (please specify)	50.00%	3
	Answered	**6**
	Skipped	**0**

Reponses
Lack of Legislation including safety standards which will ensure that professionals of the diving industry will follow the minimum safety requirements
Lack of access to the information about safety issues
Lack of in situ inspection by Competent Authorities, lack of inspection for dive centres

5. Please indicate any other limitations/gaps you think the sector is facing?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Accessibility to reach dive sites	16.66%	1
Accessibility to enter the water at dive sites	50.00%	3
Lack of appropriate medical facilities (i.e. hyperbaric chambers)	33.33%	2
Lack of information regarding dive sites	50.00%	3
Lack of diving first aid response	16.66%	1
Lack of awareness on divers presence and safety by other boaters	33.33%	2
Other (please specify)	33.33%	2
	Answered	**6**
	Skipped	**0**

6. Have you or any other stakeholder taken actions to mitigate the aforementioned problems or gaps? If yes, please provide at least one example.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	50.00%	3
No	0.00%	0
Not sure	33.33%	2
Examples		7
	Answered	**5**
	Skipped	**1**

Examples
Seminar organisation, online promotion campaigns
Lack of information about the issues raised in the Question 6.
Created MPAs with artificial reefs, awareness razing activities, informative material and signing about mpas and artificial reefs
Προώθηση Νομοθεσίας για Παροχείς Υπηρεσιών Καταδύσεων Αναψυχής, Προώθηση Διαδικασίας για έλεγχο των ΘΠΠ, Επιχορηγήσεις για αναπτυξη Εισόδων στα Σημεία Κατάδυσης από ακτή, Προωθητικές Ενέργειες

7. Do you believe that antiquities could be used as diving attractions?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	83.33%	5
No	0.00%	0
Not sure	16.66%	1
	Answered	**6**
	Skipped	**0**

8. Are you aware of any branding/awareness activities for diving tourism in Cyprus or abroad? If yes, please provide at least one example.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	83.33%	5
No	0.00%	0
Not sure	16.66%	1
Examples		3
	Answered	**6**
	Skipped	**0**

Examples
By promoting sustainable tourism practices and protecting the marine environment, scuba diving tourism can have a positive impact on both tourists and local communities.
Participation to foreign exhibitions, press trips, fam trips
MUSAN
Δημιουργία Logo - Love Cyprus Diving, Συνεργασίες με περιοδικά και Free Lancers για προώθηση της Κύπρου ως προορισμού, Συμμετοχή σε Εξειδικευμένες Εκθέσεις Καταδύσεων, Συνεργασία με εξειδικευμένους οργανισμούς προώθησης Καταδύσεων

9. In which ways do you believe Cyprus should be portrayed abroad and inland as a diving destination, in order to improve branding/awareness?

Responses
Through the national strategy which be well planned including Marine life, wrecks, artificial reefs, which create a habitat for marine life and often attract divers Many famous shipwrecks are also marine parks, which helps preserve the abundant marine life. Climate balances should be also be promoted that we are diving destination for the whole year as well.
Exhibitions on this specific tourism
Safe, accessible and alternative
Advertising the Mild Climate of Cyprus
Safe and clear waters for diving, ideal water temperature, high sunlight days/year,
Προώθηση μέσω ηλεκτρονικών μέσων (Websites & Social Media) Συνεργασία με διασημότητες του τομέα των Καταδύσεων στο Εξωτερικό Συνεργασίες με εξειδικευμένα περιοδικά Συμμετοχή σε εκθέσεις

Answered 5

Skipped 1

10. Do you have any running subsidy plans, or plan on offering subsidies targeting the diving industry? If yes, please provide at least one example.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	33.33%	2
No	66.66%	4
Not sure	0.00%	0
Examples		4
Answered		**6**
Skipped		**0**

Reponses
Ministry of Tourism has a subsidy for the Diving Serice Providers which are certified with ISO 24803:2017
The Deputy Ministry for Tourism implements subsidy plans for the diving industry
Increase the number of artificial reefs, create management plans for marine protected areas
Σχέδιο για απόκτηση του ISO 24803, Σχέδιο για ανάπτυξη Σημείων Κατάδυσης, Σχέδιο για Ψηφιακή Αναβάθμιση Παροχέων Υπηρεσιών, Σχέδιο για Fam Trips

11. Please choose the entity you belong to from the dropdown list, to be redirected to Part 2.

Reponses
Cyprus Organisation of Standards
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Finance
Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Department of Fisheries and Marine Research
Deputy Ministry of Tourism

Specific questions to ministries

Deputy Ministry of Tourism

1. **Do you have an indication of how many tourists visit Cyprus specifically for diving purposes, since 2018? If yes, please provide average values per year.**

Did not respond.

2. **Do you have an indication of how many tourists dive while in Cyprus (even though they do not visit specifically for diving). If yes, provide average values per year.**

Did not respond.

3. **Please list the 5 most common nationalities of tourists that dive in Cyprus per year. (Please use numbers 1-5 where 1 = most common and 5 = least common)**

Did not respond.

4. **Please provide a list of dive centres, if available.**

List was previously sent to researchers

5. **Which do you think are the 5 most important dive sites in Cyprus? If possible, please mention why you consider them the most important.**

Reponses
Amphora caves
Constandis shipwreck
Zenobia shipwreck
MUSAN underwater sculpture museum
Green Bay
Why are the above dive sites the most important in your opinion?
Λόγο επισκεψιμότητας στο παρόν στάδιο

6. **Which type of dive types do you believe that tourists prefer in Cyprus?**

Reponses
Shallow dives (<30 m)
Learning courses/certifications
Other: Intro Dives

7. **Are you aware of any procedures followed in order to avoid or handle diving related accidents (before, during, after a dive). If yes, please provide at least one example.**

Reponses
Yes
Examples:
Κουτί Α' Βοηθειών στο Σκάφος, Οξυγόνο στο Σκάφος

8. **Are you aware of any problems that dive centres encounter while conducting their work in Cyprus? If yes, please provide at least one example.**

Reponses
Yes
Examples:
Υπεροβολικός και Αθέμιτος Ανταγωνισμός, Έλλειψη Επαγγελματισμού εκ μέρους πολλών Dive Centres

9. **Are you aware of any actions taken in order to create a regulatory framework for diving safety in Cyprus? If yes, please provide at least one example.**

Reponses
Yes
Examples:
Νομοσχέδιο ΥΦΤ για τους Παροχείς, Σύντομα θα ανακοινωθούν τρόποι ελέγχου των ΘΠΠ

10. **Are you aware of any actions taken towards establishing operational standards (e.g. ISO) in Cyprus, with respect to diving safety. If yes, please provide at least one example.**

Reponses
Yes
Examples:
Νομοσχέδιο για Παροχείς εκ μέρους του ΥΦΤ

11. **Are you aware of any diving incidents that have occurred in Cyprus, over the years? If yes, please provide details.**

Reponses
Yes
Examples:
Θάνατοι και Ατυχήματα στο Zenobia που έχουν βγεί στις ειδήσεις

<u>Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth</u> (did not respond to questionnaire)

12. **Do you know of any awareness activities regarding the marine environment of Cyprus. If yes, please mention what these activities are.**

13. **Have you carried out any awareness activities regarding the marine environment of Cyprus? If yes, please mention what these activities were.**

14. **Would you be interested in incorporating awareness campaigns for diving and the marine environment of Cyprus, within your current activities?**

<u>Ministry of Finance</u>

1. Do you have any indication of the percentage to the Cypriot GDP (Gross Domestic Product) from the diving industry? If yes, please provide a value.

Reponses

No

Ministry of Health

15. Can you please provide information on diving related incidents/accidents in Cyprus?

Did not respond.

16. Can you provide information on decompression chambers in Cyprus, both public and private? If yes, can you provide the location and status of each one?

Did not respond.

Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works (did not respond to questionnaire)

Public Works Department (did not respond to questionnaire)

17. Are you aware of any infrastructure with respect to the marine and coastal zone covering the needs of the diving industry? If yes, please provide at least one example.

18. Could such an infrastructure be included in your future plans? If yes, please provide at least one example.

Road Transport Department (did not respond to questionnaire)

19. Are you aware of any infrastructure with respect to transportation that could potentially be used by the diving industry? If yes, please provide at least one example.

20. Could such an infrastructure be included in your future plans? If yes, please provide at least one example.

Department of Antiquities (did not respond to questionnaire)

21. Which do you think are the 5 most important dive sites in Cyprus? If possible, please mention why you consider them the most important.

22. Do you believe that underwater archaeological sites could be used to attract diving tourism? If yes, please provide at least one example.

23. Please specify which of the following underwater archaeological sites could serve as diving sites. Please indicate the reasons in each case.

24. Which are the potential threats and/or concerns arising if underwater archaeological sites are made accessible to recreational divers.

25. In which ways could the above threats be mitigated? Please provide at least one example.

26. **What type of facilities or infrastructure are necessary in order to open an underwater archaeological site to recreational divers?**

27. **Which governmental Departments should cooperate to ensure the protection of underwater antiquities?**

28. **Do you think that the existing legislation regarding diving in underwater archaeological sites should be reinforced before any further action is taken? If so, In which way?**

Deputy Ministry of Shipping (did not respond to questionnaire)

29. **Please provide any information regarding the number of boats registered by diving tourism operators.**

30. **Which are the procedures followed in order to avoid or handle diving related accidents, before, during or after a dive? Please list the procedures and provide at least one example.**

31. **Are you aware of any incidents involving boat activities and diving or snorkelling, that have occurred in Cyprus, over the years? If yes, please provide details.**

Ministry of Energy, Commerce and Industry (and CCCI - KEBE) (CCCI responded to questionnaire)

1. **Are you aware of how many registered companies are active in the diving industry (e.g. dive centres, dive shops)? Please provide a number and any information you have regarding this.**

Reponses

No

2. **Please provide a list of dive centres, if available.**

Reponses

Cyprus Diving Centres Association Members

3. **What gaps do you believe diving safety currently has in Cyprus? Please provide at least one example**

Reponses

Regulation & Legislation

4. **Are you aware of any actions taken either from you or other stakeholders, aiming towards the enhancement of the diving business environment? If yes, please provide at least one example.**

Reponses

Yes

Examples:
Discussion with the DMT about the legislation, involvement in the deployment of vessels, informed dive centres about available schemes.

DFMR/Department of Environment (DFMR responded to questionnaire)

5. Which do you think are the 5 most important dive sites in Cyprus? If possible, please mention why you consider them the most important.

Reponses
Maniji island
Costandis shipwreck
Zenobia shipwreck
MUSAN underwater sculpture museum
Green Bay
Why are the above dive sites the most important in your opinion?
easy access, high chance to encounter marine life, provide variable environment

6. Please provide a list of dive centres, if available.

Reponses
The majority of dive centres are available at the Deputy Ministry of Tourism website and at CDCA

7. Are you aware of any procedures followed in order to avoid or handle diving related accidents (before, during, after a dive). If yes, please provide at least one example.

Reponses
Yes
Examples:
acquire minimum qualification for work able to use oxygen tool kit, acquire first aid training, first aid kid onboard, good gear use and maintenance, Automated external defibrillators (AED , diving flag onboard, buddy system and check, dive plan and safety, debriefing before diving, keep emergency services on the phone,(hospital, decompression chamber) prohibition to fly for 24-48 hours after a dive, acquire dive insurance

8. Are you aware of any actions taken in order to create a regulatory framework for diving safety in Cyprus? If yes, please provide at least one example.

Reponses
Yes
Examples:
Draft legislation prepared by the Deputy Ministry of Tourism

9. Are you aware of any actions taken towards establishing operational standards (e.g. ISO) in Cyprus, with respect to diving safety. If yes, please provide at least one example.

Reponses
Yes

Examples:

Relevant programme offered by the Deputy Ministry of Tourism

10. Are you aware of any diving incidents that have occurred in Cyprus, over the years? If yes, please provide details.

Reponses

Yes

Examples:

Depth of divers at Zenobia, death of free divers during spearfishing

11. Are you aware of actions that could be taken in order to ensure that diving activities will not impact in a negative way the marine environment? If yes, please provide at least one example.

Reponses

Yes

Examples:

Prohibition of fish feeding

12. Would you support the creation of any kind of infrastructure within MPAs, regarding diving activities (e.g., creation of diving routes with sign posting). If yes, please provide at least one example.

Reponses

Yes

Examples:

DFMR is creating diving routes in MPAs

13. Regarding the creation of any kind of infrastructure within MPAs, have you already taken or planning to take such actions? If yes, please provide at least one example.

Reponses

Yes

Examples:

Creation of diving routes

14. Do you have an indication of how many tourists visit Cyprus specifically for diving purposes, since 2018? If yes, please provide average values per year.

Did not respond.

15. Do you have an indication of how many tourists dive while in Cyprus (even though they do not visit specifically for diving). If yes, provide average values per year.

Did not respond.

16. Please list the 5 most common nationalities of tourists that dive in Cyprus per year. (Please use numbers 1-5 where 1 = most common and 5 = least common).

Reponses	Germany	Cyprus	Israel	Poland	UK
2022	1	2	3	4	5

17. Which type of dive types do you believe that tourists prefer in Cyprus?

Reponses
Shallow dives (<30 m)

Ministry of Justice: (did not respond to questionnaire)

18. Do you believe the current legal framework regarding the Cyprus diving industry and the correlated safety, is adequate? In both cases, please briefly mention why.

19. In case you do not believe the current legal framework with regards to diving safety in Cyprus is adequate, please briefly state 3 ways with which this can be mediated/fortified

20. Have there been cases related to the Cyprus diving industry in the past? If yes, please briefly mention the nature, result and which entities were involved. *This includes unwanted and/or illegal activities carried out by third parties at the same time, and in the same vicinity as divers; irrespectively of if this was in a protected region.

Port & Marine Police: (did not respond to questionnaire)

21. On average, how often are you contacted per month regarding diving related incidents (please select from the drop down menu)? *This includes unwanted and/or illegal activities carried out by third parties at the same time, and in the same vicinity as divers; irrespectively of if this was in a protected region

22. Please rank the months within the year that you are contacted the most for diving related incidents (including from third parties as above). Please rank from months most contacted to those least contacted.

23. When contacted for diving related incidents, does this happen mostly from tourists or locals? Please provide a percentage of tourists or locals.

24. Please mention what is your next action after being contacted, and collecting a person affected from diving activities.

25. Please mention what is your next action after being contacted, and collecting someone who had performed an illegal activity at sea that may have been dangerous to divers.

26. The Department of Environment, the Department of Fisheries and Marine research and the Port and Marine police have slightly varying jurisdictions and responsibilities at sea. Do you believe that this affects decision making when you are contacted about a diving related incident? If yes, please elaborate why.

27. Do you think there should be a special call line specifically for diving related incidents? If not, please mention why.

Joint Rescue Coordination Centre: (did not respond to questionnaire)

28. **Do you collaborate with the Port and Marine Police or other entities like the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research when contacted regarding diving related incidents?**

29. **What percentage of your rescue activities include any kind of diving related incidents? And what percentage of those people are foreigners?**

30. **When contacted for diving related incidents, does this happen mostly from tourists or locals? Please provide a percentage of tourists or locals.**

31. **On average, how often are you contacted per month regarding diving related incidents (please select from the drop-down menu)? *This includes unwanted and/or illegal activities carried out by third parties at the same time, and in the same vicinity as divers; irrespectively of if this was in a protected region**

32. **Please rank the months within the year that you are contacted the most for diving related incidents (including from third parties as above). Please rank from months most contacted to those least contacted.**

33. **Do you notify the Port and Marine Police if during a rescue you see or receive information of illegal activities affecting divers? If so, please provide at least one example.**

34. **Do you think there should be a special call line specifically for diving related incidents? If not, please mention why.**

State Health Services Organisation:

1. **Can you please provide information on diving related incidents/accidents in Cyprus?**

Reponses

Has not been possible to find valid information

2. **Can you provide information on decompression chambers in Cyprus, both public and private? If yes, can you provide the location and status of each one?**

Reponses

Not sure

Location:

At Paphos there is an active one

Cyprus Organisation for Standardisation

3. **Do you believe the current legal framework regarding the Cyprus diving industry and the correlated safety, is adequate? In both cases, please briefly mention why.**

Reponses

No

Examples:

The levels of safety in Cyprus are in very good levels the last few years but supporting the industry with a National Framework that will include international standards will upgrade the safety and the current practices of the industry.

4. **I case you do believe the legal framework with regards to diving safety in Cyprus is adequate, please briefly state 3 ways with which this can be mediated/fortified (including methods of standardisation)**

Reponses

Inclusion of International Standards for the Diving Services Providers in a National Legislation

Informative and Training Workshops for the use of European and International Standards in the Diving Sector

Health and Safety Standards must be well adopted by the Diving Service Providers

5. **Have there been legal cases related to the Cyprus diving industry standardisation in the past? If yes, please briefly mention the nature, result and which entities were involved. *This includes unwanted and/or illegal activities carried out by third parties at the same time, and in the same vicinity as divers; irrespectively of if this was in a protected region.**

Reponses

No

6. **Do You believe that the standardisation practices in place by operating organisations like PADI (or others), are adequate enough to maintain the safety of a dive centre and its customers?**

Reponses

No

Please provide details irrespectively of the above answer:

The Diving Service Agencies for example PADI, BSAC, and many others have already certified their diving courses with the relevant International Standards (ISO). Further than that there are also International Standards especially for the Diving Service Providers which deal with all safety aspects of their business including (a)Minor and vulnerable persons, (b) Information to Be provided to the customers, Risk Assessment, Vessel Operations, Stuff Operations, Emergency Procedures and equipment, Environmental Considerations, Rental and Servicing of Equipment) and many more. The International Standard ISO 24803:2017 was developed to support the Diving Industry in order for the Diving Service Providers to comply with the minimum safety requirements.

7. **Which (if any) are the standardisation practices, such as ISO, that are currently in place by the Cyprus Government related to the diving industry and/or dive centres? Please provide examples**

Reponses

Deputy Ministry of Tourism have in place a subsidy scheme relating to the certification of Diving Service Providers with the International Standard ISO 24803:2017 - "Recreational Diving Services - Requirements for recreational diving Service Providers". In addition there is a draft legislation which includes the ISO 24803:2017 in place to be mandatory.

8. What aspects of the dive industry in Cyprus (i.e. safety, accessibility, infrastructure) do you believe will be upgraded or mediated by implementing regulated standardisation practices like ISO? Please provide details including which have been the recent changes regarding this procedure.

Reponses
Introduction of ISO 24803:2017
Standardization is important for recreational activities, such as diving, for which training and experience are essential for the participants to be able to carry out the activity safely. Although recreational diving is potentially hazardous, the risks to the participants and to the natural and cultural resources of the dive sites can easily be reduced to acceptable levels by the adoption of appropriate precautions. Examples of service providers are a land-based dive centre, a boat-based operation, a dive club, an individual instructor, a water sport centre or an operator offering snorkelling excursions. Each Service provider sometime has different safety precautions , accessibility or risk based factors to consider. Complying with the International Standards will help the service providers build and manage a safety methodology that will support and upgrade the safety of the business and its clients.

9. Please provide any further information regarding ISO or other legal aspects, for the diving industry in Cyprus.

Reponses
Standardization is important for recreational activities, such as diving, for which training and experience are essential for the participants to be able to carry out the activity safely. Although recreational diving is potentially hazardous, the risks to the participants and to the natural and cultural resources of the dive sites can easily be reduced to acceptable levels by the adoption of appropriate precautions. Additionally, impacts to the marine environment, particularly fragile marine ecosystems such as coral reefs, can be reduced through proper education and training of scuba instructors, dive leaders and divers. A service provider can offer diver training and education, guided dives and rental of diving equipment, snorkelling excursions, and courses leading to one or more of the diver or instructor qualifications specified in the relevant ISO standards. This document specifies requirements for each of these services separately. Thus, although a client might be provided with two services at the same time (for example, diver training and rental of diving equipment), the client is considered to be in receipt of two distinct services. Examples of service providers are a land-based dive centre, a boat-based operation, a dive club, an individual instructor, a watersport centre or an operator offering snorkelling excursions

e) Questionnaire to hotels / tourist agents etc.

10. Please state the name of your Organization/Hotel/ Company (optional)

Responses	
Adams Beach Hotel	GRANDRESORT (HAWAII HOTELS)
AJAX HOTEL	KOKKINOS BOUTIQUE HOTEL
AKTEA BEACH VILLAGE	La Casa Di Napa
Alion Beach Hotel	Latchi Family Resort
Amarande Hotel	LEONARDO HOTELS &RESORTS MEDITERRANEAN
Amathus beach hotel	LORDOS BEACH HOTEL
Anassa hotel	LOUIS HOTELS
Annabelle Hotel	Louis Hotels Public Co. Ltd - Louis Imperial Beach Hotel
ANONYMOUS BEACH HOTEL	LOUIS PAPHOS BREEZE
Aphrodite Beach Hotel	Margadina Hotel
aphrodite hills hotel by atlantca	Marica's boutique hotel
ATLANTICA BAY HOTEL	Marion Hotel
Capo bay hotel	Melpo Antia Hotels Ltd

Columbia Beach Resort	Olympic Lagoon Resort Ayia Napa
Constantinos the Great	Parklane Hotels Ltd
Corfu hotel	Pavlo Napa
Crowne Plaza Limassol	Poseidonia Beach Hotel
E.J. Pyrgos bay hotel	Souli beach hotel
Eleana Hotel	St Raphael Resort & Marina
Four Seasons Hotel	St. Elias Hotel
Golden Bay Beach Hotel	The King Jason Paphos

Answered 42
Skipped 5

11. In which region are you based/ which areas do you represent?

Region	Responses	
Limassol	26.19%	11
Paphos	35.71%	15
Larnaka	7.46%	2
Nicosia	2.38%	1
Famagusta	38.10%	16
	Answered	**42**
	Skipped	**5**

12. Does your Organization/Hotel/ Company operate throughout the year?

	Responses	
Yearly	53.85%	14
Seasonal	46.15%	12
	Answered	**26**
	Skipped	**21**

13. What percentage of your guests visit Cyprus specifically for diving?

	Responses	
0%	14.89%	7
1-20%:	63.83%	30
20-40%:	6.38%	3
40-60%:	2.13%	1
Don't know:	12.77%	6
	Answered	**47**
	Skipped	**0**

	Larnaka		Limassol		Famagusta		Paphos		Nicosia	
0%	0%	0	8.51%	4	0%	0	6.38%	3	0%	0
1-20%:	2.13%	1	10.64%	5	25.53%	12	23.40%	11	2.13%	1
20-40%:	0%	0	2.13%	1	2.13%	1	2.13%	1	0%	0

40-60%:	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	2.13%	1	0%	0
Don't know:	2.13%	1	2.13%	1	6.38%	3	2.13%	1	0%	0
								Answered		**47**
								Skipped		**0**

14. Please state the 5 most common nationalities of your customers / visitors since 2018.

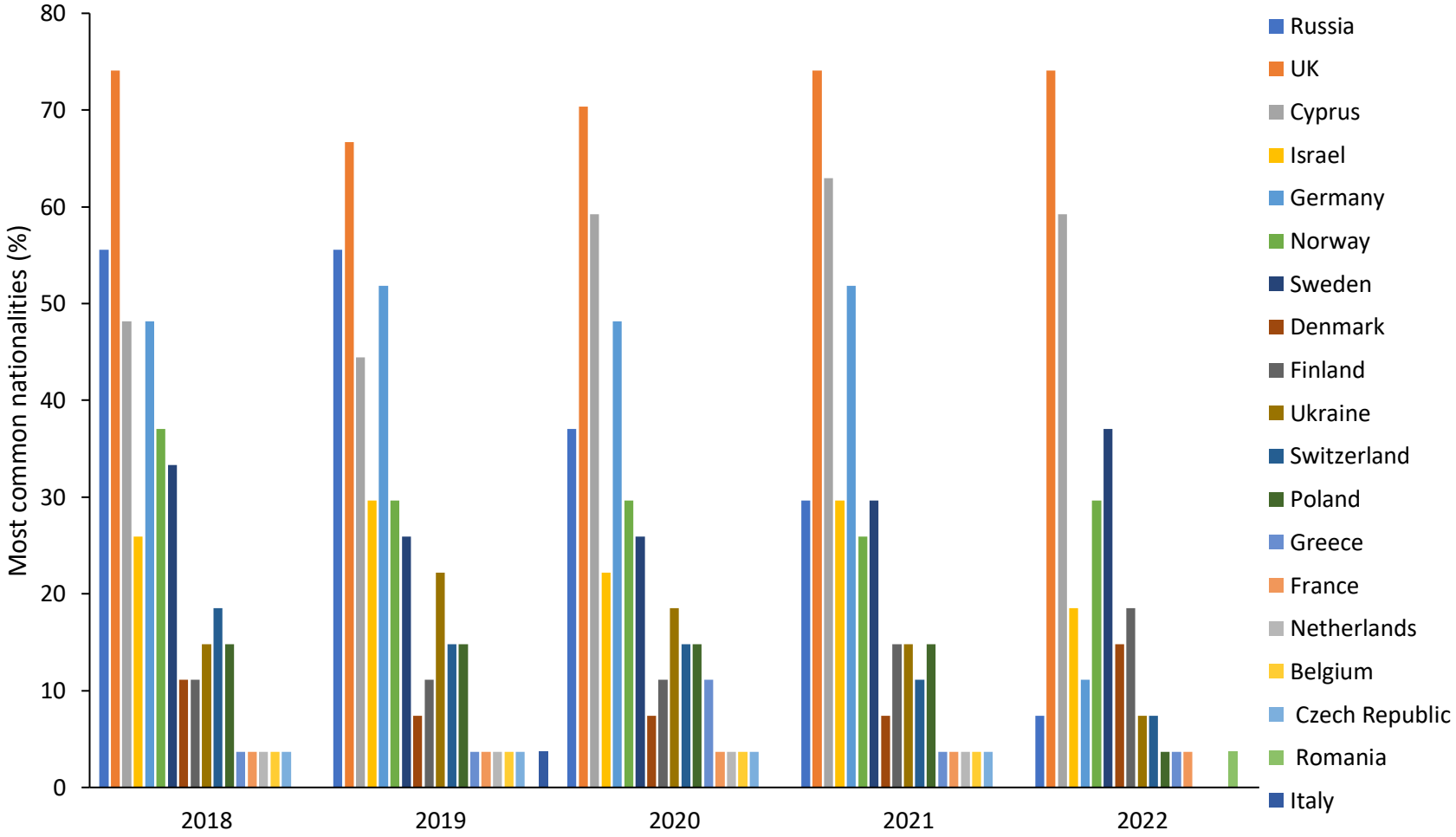
	Russia		UK		Cyprus		Israel		Germany		Norway	
2018	55.56%	15	74.07%	20	48.15%	13	25.93%	7	48.15%	13	37.04%	10
2019	55.56%	15	66.67%	18	44.44%	12	29.63%	8	51.85%	14	29.63%	8
2020	37.04%	10	70.37%	19	59.26%	16	22.22%	6	48.15%	13	29.63%	8
2021	29.63%	8	74.07%	20	62.96%	17	29.63%	8	51.85%	14	25.93%	7
2022	7.41%	2	74.07%	20	59.26%	16	18.52%	5	11.11%	3	29.63%	8

	Sweden		Denmark		Finland		Ukraine		Switzerland		Poland	
2018	33.33%	9	11.11%	3	11.11%	3	14.81%	4	18.52%	5	14.81%	4
2019	25.93%	7	7.41%	2	11.11%	3	22.22%	6	14.81%	4	14.81%	4
2020	25.93%	7	7.41%	2	11.11%	3	18.52%	5	14.81%	4	14.81%	4
2021	29.63%	8	7.41%	2	14.81%	4	14.81%	4	11.11%	3	14.81%	4
2022	37.04%	10	14.81%	4	18.52%	5	7.41%	2	7.41%	2	3.70%	1

	Greece		France		Netherlands		Belgium		Czech Republic		Romania	
2018	3.70%	1	3.70%	1	3.70%	1	3.70%	1	3.70%	1	0.00%	0
2019	3.70%	1	3.70%	1	3.70%	1	3.70%	1	3.70%	1	0.00%	0
2020	11.11%	3	3.70%	1	3.70%	1	3.70%	1	3.70%	1	0.00%	0
2021	3.70%	1	3.70%	1	3.70%	1	3.70%	1	3.70%	1	0.00%	0
2022	3.70%	1	3.70%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.70%	1

	Italy		Spain		Portugal		Serbia		USA		Canada	
2018	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2019	3.70%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2020	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2021	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2022	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0

	China		Bulgaria			
2018	0.00%	0	0.00%	0		
2019	0.00%	0	0.00%	0		
2020	0.00%	0	0.00%	0		
2021	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	**Answered**	**27**
2022	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	**Skipped**	**20**


Most common nationalities (%)
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
Russia
UK
Cyprus
Israel
Germany
Norway
Sweden
Denmark
Finland
Ukraine
Switzerland
Poland
Greece
France
Netherlands
Belgium
Czech Republic
Romania
Italy

15. Do you have an indication of how many of your guests tourists dive while in Cyprus (even though they are not visiting specifically for diving)? if yes provide average values per year

	<50		50-100		100-500		500-1000		1000-2000		2000-3000	
2018	42.42%	14	24.24%	8	15.15%	5	6.06%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2019	45.45%	15	21.21%	7	18.18%	6	6.06%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2020	51.52%	17	18.18%	6	15.15%	5	3.03%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2021	54.55%	18	24.24%	8	15.15%	5	6.06%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2022	48.48%	16	24.24%	8	24.24%	8	3.03%	1	3.03%	1	0.00%	0

	3000-4000		4000-5000		>5000		>10000	
2018	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2019	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2020	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2021	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2022	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0

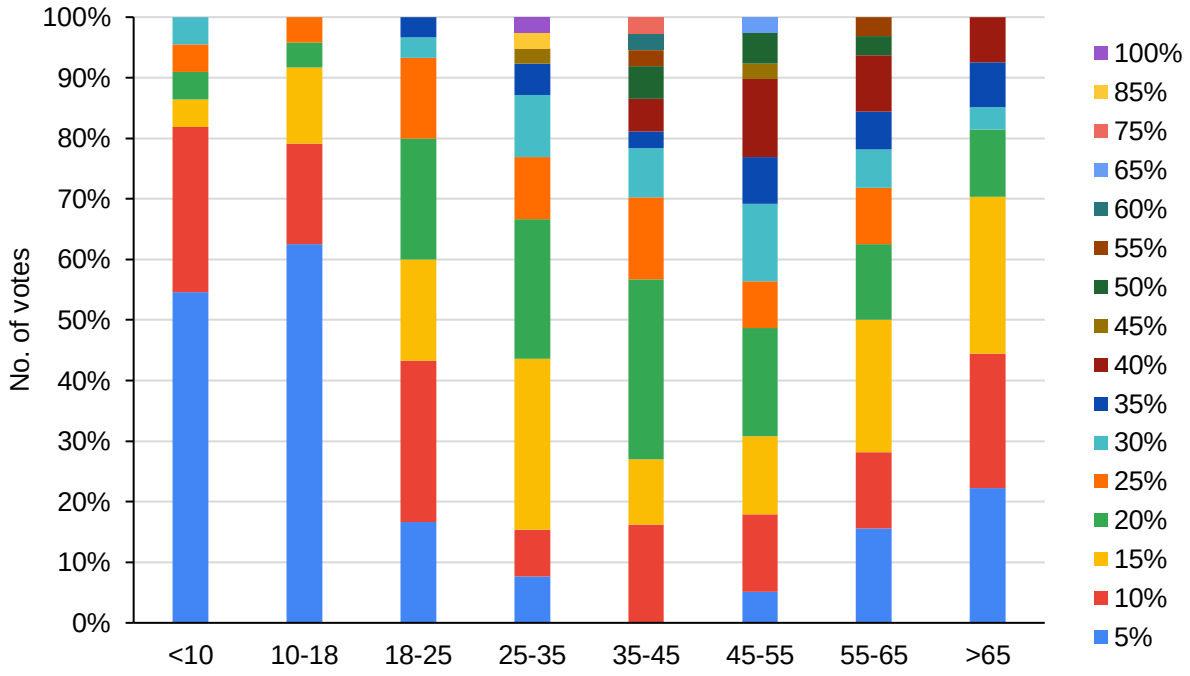
Answered	**33**
Skipped	**14**

16. Please provide the approximate percentage of the following age groups of your customers (Please select from the dropdown list).

	<10		10-18		18-25		25-35		35-45	
0%	6.98%	3	2.33%	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
5%	27.91%	12	34.88%	15	11.63%	5	6.98%	3	0%	0
10%	13.95%	6	9.30%	4	18.60%	8	6.98%	3	13.95%	6
15%	2.33%	1	6.98%	3	11.63%	5	25.58%	11	9.30%	4
20%	2.33%	1	2.33%	1	13.95%	6	20.93%	9	25.58%	11
25%	2.33%	1	2.33%	1	9.30%	4	9.30%	4	11.63%	5
30%	2.33%	1	0%	0	2.33%	1	9.30%	4	6.98%	3
35%	0.00%	0	0%	0	2.33%	1	4.65%	2	2.33%	1
40%	0.00%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	4.65%	2
45%	0.00%	0	0%	0	0%	0	2.33%	1	0%	0
50%	0.00%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	4.65%	2
55%	0.00%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	2.33%	1
60%	0.00%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	2.33%	1
65%	0.00%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
75%	0.00%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	2.33%	1
85%	0.00%	0	0%	0	0%	0	2.33%	1	0%	0
100%	0.00%	0	0%	0	0%	0	2.33%	1	0%	0

	45-55		55-65		>65	
0%	0%	0	0%	0	4.65%	2
5%	4.65%	2	11.63%	5	13.95%	6
10%	11.63%	5	9.30%	4	13.95%	6
15%	11.63%	5	16.28%	7	16.28%	7
20%	16.28%	7	9.30%	4	6.98%	3

25%	6.98%	3	6.98%	3	0%	0		
30%	11.63%	5	4.65%	2	2.33%	1		
35%	6.98%	3	4.65%	2	4.65%	2		
40%	11.63%	5	6.98%	3	4.65%	2		
45%	2.33%	1	0%	0	0%	0		
50%	4.65%	2	2.33%	1	0%	0		
55%	0%	0	2.33%	1	0%	0		
60%	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0		
65%	2.33%	1	0%	0	0%	0		
75%	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0		
85%	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	**Answered**	**43**
100%	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	**Skipped**	**4**



17. Are you aware of any type of diving facilities or infrastructure near your hotel or organisation and do you promote any? If yes state the name and area.

	Responses	
Yes	80.85%	38
No	19.15%	9
	Answered	**47**
	Skipped	**0**

If yes (state the name and area)
AMATHOUNTOS AREA

At Latsi but is 40 minutes away
Bean Divers
Blue Thunder Diving, Aquatic Centre Limassol
Buddy Divers Ltd
CREST but also can be other ones co-operating with Tui
CREST DIVE, FOUR SEASONS HOTEL
CY DIVE
CY Dive Paphos
Cyprus Diving Adventures
Four seasons hotel diving centre
G3dive Centre Ayia Napa
I AM AWARE, BUT I DO NOT PROMOTE.
i dont know the name of the diving centres
Just scuba pernera
Kallippi dive college
Latchi Water Sports Centre - Latch-Polis Chrysochous
Latsi dive centre cool divers
latsi water sports
Latsi water sports. Yes we have leaflets at the reception of the hotel and when a customer wishes to dive we bring him in contact
Lucky Divers
Lucky Divers - Ayia Napa
Moulia
MUSAN AYIA NAPA
MUSAN MUSEUM
MUSAN PARK ,AYIA NAPA
NIssi Beach
Paba Diving Center
Paphos, Pissouri, Cyprus Diving Adventure
Pati diving centre
Podvodni mir
Test
two wreck dives off the coast of Limassol and the Zinovia Larnaca
various diving schools nearby
VIKINGS DIVING CENTRE 500 METERS FROM THE HOTEL
Zenobia Divers & Scuba Diving or Viking Divers (Both in Larnaka)

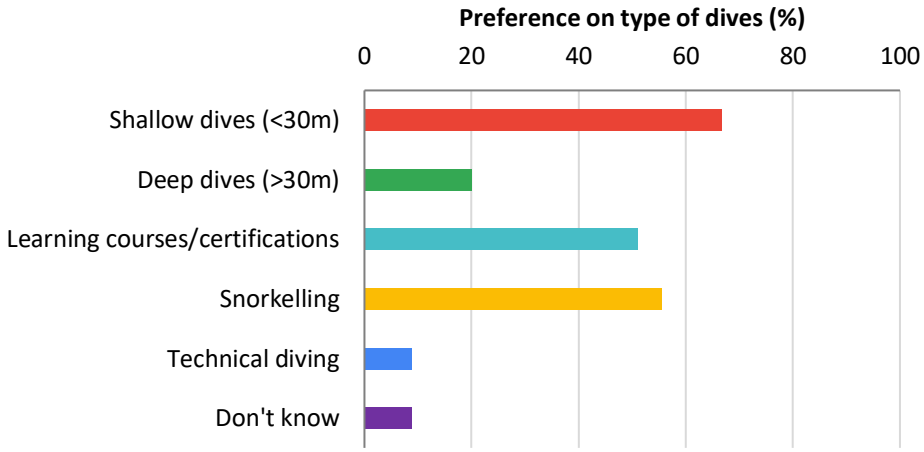
18. Do you believe that the current status of the diving tourism industry in Cyprus is adequate? If not please suggest ways of improving it

	Responses	
Yes	25.53%	12
No	36.17%	17
Not sure	38.30%	18
	Answered	**47**
	Skipped	**0**

If not, suggestions
I believe that we have many diving centres in Cyprus. More than we should as a small island. I see any jeeps in the area of Ayia Napa advertising diving centres
Advertising
BETTER ADVERTISING IN HOTELS
better promote diving tourism abroad -participate in specialize exhibitions
Better promotion of our diving sites and areas abroad, more information about diving by the tour operators
CREATION OF NO FISHING ZONE WITH STRICT AND EFFECTIVE PROTECTION. CREATING A TECHNICAL REEFS .
Cyprus is not well known as a diving destination, need more advertising and promotion for the specific niche market
EVENTS/ SIGHT IMPROVEMENTS
LARNACA IS DOING VERY WELL WRT DIVING PROVIDE FREE DIVING LESSONS TO HOTEL GUESTS
More artificial reefs and networking between diving centres and hotels (i.e. diving association and collaborate with the hotels)
more clubs and more sites
MORE PROMOTION,
More ship wrecks and maybe more under water museums like MUSAN
No!! More promotions
promote at the travel fairs
promotion abroad
Promotion and support from the Deputy Ministry of Tourism
Promotion of the current diving facilities + undersea museum
Provide knowledge on this subject to receptionist of every hotel (organize seminars
To create more artificial reefs in order to increase the variety of marine life and therefore divers can experience a better dive
We could be better
We have diving services in Cyprus, but I am not aware if they are promoted abroad. We also have sites. I know that tourists pay to dive which doesn't make it price sensitive.

19. Which type of dive types do you believe that tourists prefer in Cyprus?

	Responses	
Shallow dives (<30m)	66.67%	30
Deep dives (>30m)	20.00%	9
Learning courses/certifications	51.11%	23
Snorkelling	55.56%	25
Technical diving	8.89%	4
Don't know	8.89%	4
	Answered	**45**
	Skipped	**2**



20. Are you aware of the legislation surrounding diving sector in Cyprus? And if yes state your opinion/ suggestions

	Responses	
Yes	10.64%	5
No	89.36%	42
	Answered	**47**
	Skipped	**0**

If Yes (please state opinion/suggestions)
Audit from the government department
I am not aware of the legislation to give suggestions
INCONSISTENCY IN THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LEGISLATION
Shallow dives to be specific and a protection zone of a least 50 m from the shore to be strictly in control testing

21. Are you aware of any diving accidents that have occurred in Cyprus over the years?

	Responses	
Yes	30.77%	8
No	69.23%	18
	Answered	**26**
	Skipped	**21**

If Yes (please state)
At Zenobia
I am aware of boat accidents with tourists under the influence of alcohol but not divers
In Moni but I don't remember the incident

Local people got drowned
Many years ago, in Ayia Napa one diver drown because he remained too long in the water. I remember he was a trained diver. He was with another diver who was also trained but only one survived.
ZENOBIA WRECK
Zenobia

22. Are you aware of any procedures followed in order to avoid or handling any diving related accidents?

	Responses	
Yes	19.57%	9
No	80.43%	37
	Answered	**46**
	Skipped	**1**

If Yes (please state)
21 year old British man was found dead by Search and Rescue Coordination Centre teams off the coast of Cape Greco
Always diving in pairs
LIFEGUARDS
Marine unit
MEDICAL CERTIFICATE/ FIRST AID TRAINING
Never dive alone
special licence instructors with high standards, to approve the diving schools the diving teachers, all school premises and finally the diving excursions
test
The divers and trainers should know these procedures. As I am not a diver I am not aware of any. The only thing I know is that divers should dive in pairs and not alone and they should check their equipment before diving
The marine is responsible for the accidents, and I know that they response very fast
Training - Certificates - Licenses etc

23. Please provide any suggestions or solutions you believe can avoid or resolve safety standards in Cyprus?

Responses
better checking of dive centres
Better control by Authority the Diving Schools and determine the diving sites and regulations
DESIGNATED DIVING AREAS
I am not aware
i am not the appropriate person to answer this. People involved should suggest solutions
Is not my field/ no knowledge
Legislation, safety procedure, signs
More frequent checks in equipment licensing etc
More information
MORE INFORMATION
MORE SUPERVISION BY INSTRUCTORS
n/a
n/a

organize workshops and seminars at the hotels
safety regulations, training
test
The addition of the emergency ambulance the last few years by the Oroklini Police Station was indeed very helpful
The diving centres should inform the divers
The instructors should be certified, they should have safety and accident protocols for different accident scenarios. They should research how they deal with accidents on an international level
To crate a diving association so all members to be certified and trained trainers, to be familiar with First aids etc
Training, standards and procedures must followed correctly when diving. More control checks in diving equipment
Answered 21
Skipped 26

24. Are you aware of the existence of any archaeological diving sites, artificial reefs or historical underwater sites near you? if yes state them.

	Responses	
Yes	75.56%	34
No	24.44%	11
	Answered	**45**
	Skipped	**2**

Responses
Agia Napa aqua marine museum
AMATHOUNTOS AREA
Amathunda, Zinovia
Amphorae Dive Site, Amphitheatre, Devils Head
Ancient Amathus
Ayia Napa Mussan underwater museum
Between CapeGreko and Ayia Triada a sunken ship
Elpida, Lef 1, Zenobia , Cricket
fontana amorosa
fontana morosa, pegia caves
I am aware about the one Ayia Napa and also the artificial reefs
KERYNEIA II BOAT WRECK
Lady Thetis, Limassol, Amathus archeological park
Limassol wrecks, Zenobia, Green Bay
Musan
MUSAN
MUSAN MUSEUM, ZENOVIA WRECKS, AYIA NAPA WRECK
NEAR PAFOS HARBOR
one in Ayios Tychonas
PAFOS CAVES, other archeological sites
Protaras, Larnaka-Zinovia
SEA CAVES
test

underwater museum
Underwater Musuem ayia napa
Zenobia Wreck Trips
Zenovia in Larnaca -
Zinovia
Zinovia, Underwater museum in Ayia Napa, Shipwreck in Ayia Napa diving site in Larnaka
ZINOVIA , LARNACA ARTIFICIAL REEF ELPIDA
Zinovia, Kavo Gkreko caves, shipwrecks in Ayia Napa and Larnaka
Zinovia, Fontana Moroza, Pafos sea caves, Hamili

25. Do you promote in any way the historical sites of the region you belong to including shipwrecks, underwater historical findings, unique reefs and the history behind them?

	Responses	
Yes	50.00%	23
No	50.00%	23
	Answered	**46**
	Skipped	**1**

Responses
Amathus archaeological part, Consdandis Fishing Boat
at the reception
Collaborate with Paba Diving Centre
Desk info
Direct
Diving excursions and leaflets
If we receive any advertisements from the diving centres with different site we promote them to our customers if they ask us
information board in the lobby area
Information Desk
Information through our front desk
LEAFLETS
LEAFLETS - THE RECEPTIONISTS PROVIDE INFORMATION AND WE SEND THEM TO THE DIVING =ENTER
leaflets, Dive in website
ONLINE AND BROCHURES
only if they ask me
suggestions
Tell my diving experience and describe the underwater sights
There is a brochure at the reception and through our website. In addition through Larnaka Tourism board experiences
through the reception and guest relations
Via 3rd parties
We promote excursions to guests
We promote them with the diving centres we corporate with. We also have leaflets at the reception

26. Do you believe that underwater archaeological sites/ artificial reefs/ marine life could be used for attracting diving tourism.

	Responses	
Yes	95.74%	45
No	4.26%	2
	Answered	**47**
	Skipped	**0**

If yes, please exaplain
Any archaeological site is an attraction for tourism
Attaching divers
certainly
Divers would visit Cyprus if they were aware of the archaeological sites that exist in Cyprus and they could combine it with a leisure trip.
Every additional type of tourism that can attract more people to Cyprus should be considered and promoted
Hobbies
I know that tourists like snorkelling to sea Mediterranean fish at their natural habitat
If the divers are interested in our sites they will come to Cyprus
increased tourism and commercial fishing benefits local economies.
It is something unique to see
Like in Ayia Napa
More attractions to avoid boring dives
MORE EXPLANATION /VIDEO/PHOTOS /PUBLICITY /BROCHURE DIGITAL /SOCIAL MEDIA. TRAINING ALL MARKETING TEAMS OF THE LOCAL SECTOR, TOUR OPERATOR GUIDES, FAM TRIPS, PARTICIPATION IN EXHIBITIONS
MORE PROMOTION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES/ARTIFICIAL REEFS SO THEY CAN DISCOVER THE DIVING SITES OF CYPRUS
Most of the quests ask at their arrival for the archaeological sites in Cyprus. I book before they arrive diving lessons or training
POINTS OF INTEREST
promote our beautiful sites online to attract divers from abroad
test
the seas around Cyprus are bereft of marine life we need more artificial reefs to create new sites
THERE IS A GREAT INTEREST FOR DIVING TOURISM ZENOBIA IS WELL VISITED
There is big number of divers abroad interested in these sites so we need to reach them
they attract a certain group of tourists.
This is a common practice around the world's popular sea resorts
Tourists use the internet, so they know about the sites
VERY INTERESTING
WE HAVE EASILY ACCESSIBLE SEA, CLEAR WATER WITH EXCELLENT VISIBILITY UNDER WATER. IDEAL TEMPERATURE AND PERFECT WEATHER.

27. Would you be interested in incorporating awareness campaigns for diving and the marine environment of Cyprus, within your marketing activities.

	Responses	
Yes	75.56%	34
Not interested	24.44%	11
	Answered	**45**

Skipped	**2**

If yes (explain ways)
Advertise through our web site
By our guest relations Dpt or information desk
I can only have the leaflets at the reception and also corporate with diving centres
I corporate with tour operators
It can be an alternative activity that supports the overall tourism product of the area
marketing material
Marketing tool
no
Promote through my business
promotion of diving centres
promotion of the diving centres and sites to our customers
Provide information at the hotel and also participate in specialized fairs abroad
provide information at the reception
testing
To add this in the sustainability part of the hotel but we need an organised groups to collaborate
WE ALREADY ADVERTISE DIVING IN OUR SITE
we already do
WE CAN SHARE ALL MARKETING ACTIVITIES WITH OUR PROFESSIONAL DATA BASE
We could include this into our selection of activities for our clients and promote on our website
We wouldn't mind to promote diving but not a specific diving centre or site. We prefer to give different options to our guest to choose,
WEBSITE SECTION
Why not

28. Are you aware of any diving branding or awareness activities in Cyprus or abroad?

	Responses	
Yes	21.74%	10
No	78.26%	36
	Answered	**46**
	Skipped	**1**

If yes (elaborate)
Can not recall right now underwater
CREST
I am aware in Akamas and Ayia Napa
padi
Padi which is an international organisation
Scuba diving

29. In which ways do you believe Cyprus should be portrayed abroad and inland as a diving destination, in order to improve awareness?

Responses

With the water temperature around 26°C (80°F), Cyprus makes for a great diving spot and the many ancient and modern wrecks to explore off the shores of Cyprus
all year round
Cooperation with agents that specifically promote such special interest tourism
Cyprus is a paradise of special interests tourism and diving is one of them
EVENTS/ MARKETING
Marketing and promotion
MORE ADVERTISING BOTH BY SOCIAL MEDIA AND TOUR OPERATORS
MORE PROMOTION IS NEEDED
Online. Tour operators should promote it. Promotion by the ministry of tourism abroad
Organise dining events such as underwater weddings, Guinness World Records
participate in special fairs abroad
promote in social media
Promotion abroad exhibitions
promotion of diving centres and sites economical diving packages
Social media, Local Authorities
Specific exhibitions to promote marine environment and fishing, boat etc also create communication package for diving tourism including videos, social media promotion etc, targeted promotion for diving tourism
testing
The Deputy ministry of Tourism and the divers association should promote diving abroad but also to promote that Cyprus is a safe destination for the divers. That we have instructors and safety regulations. but also to promote our diving sites.
Through advertising
Tourist exhibitions
Tourist seminars, exhibitions
TRAVEL AGENTS/TOUR OPERATORS TO PROMOTE CYPRUS AS A DIVING DESTINATION
Video clips, tik-tok, Instagram and any other media that is trendy now
We should promote diving and our diving sites at exhibitions. We should have our own stand promoting our sites prices types and centres but we should also promote it more online.

Answered	**24**
Skipped	**23**

30. If you are affiliated with one host or own a dive business, at your hotel, what has been the approximate yearly revenue of the diving centre for the past 5 years?

	<20,000 €		20,000-25,000 €		25,000-30,000 €		>30,000 €	
2018	60.00%	3	0.00%	0	20.00%	1	0.00%	0
2019	60.00%	3	0.00%	0	20.00%	1	0.00%	0
2020	60.00%	3	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2021	80.00%	4	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2022	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0

Answered	**5**
Skipped	**42**

31. Do you believe that the diving tourism is more sustainable than the mass tourism?

	Responses	
Yes	56.00%	14
No	44.00%	11
	Answered	**25**

Skipped	**22**

In which way do you consider it sustainable?
Divers protect the environment and promote sustainable development
Diving tourism is an additional option for the tourist. It attracts an additional group of people who can also visit Cyprus for different type of tourism not just for diving
Have more needs
I BELIEVE THAT DIVERS PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT
I believe that diving tourists are more selective, and they will book a hotel near the diving sites or near a port so that they wouldn't travel like the mass tourists do
I would like to believe that the divers are more sensitive in relation with environment
If there are right policies, diving can contribute to ecosystem preservation and biodiversity and help protect natural heritage. Also, it can stimulate economic growth and create decent jobs and business opportunities.
the gear used and most of all the attitude of the diver's community are mostly environment friendly
they protect the environment
young people have money, and they like different water activities and the sea infront of the hotel is offered for diving

32. Does diving tourism have environmental impacts on the destination and if yes state one?

	Responses	
Yes	33.33%	14
No	66.67%	28
	Answered	**42**
	Skipped	**5**

If yes, state how
DESTRUCTION OF MARINE LIFE
Divers are guests of the sea and have to proceed with respect and not to pollute or disturb the marine environment
Divers protect the environment so that they would have a better diving experience
if they follow the correct procedures they won't have any impact. in the contrary they protect it
it might affect and make to leave rear animal and fish e.g. sea turtles
littering
Littering, damage reefs
Minimise only the transportation
Pollution
Positive impact as some dives are for cleaning sea bed from all sorts of trash
POSITIVE IMPACTS. PROTECTING THE UNDERWATER LIFE
sustainable income, local identity
test
the bottles of divers
The ecological pressure on the marine environment increases.
they don't destroy the sea environment. They are very careful with nature.

They protect the environment

33. Is diving tourism price sensitive?

	Responses	
Yes	57.78%	26
No	42.22%	19
	Answered	**45**
	Skipped	**2**

34. Do you believe that diving tourism can address the issue of seasonality?

	Responses	
Yes	52.17%	24
No	47.83%	22
	Answered	**46**
	Skipped	**1**

Tourist organisations

1. Please state the name of your organization (optional).

Cyprus regional board of tourism
Limassol Tourism Development and Promotion Co Ltd
LOUIS TRAVEL
Topkinisis Travel Public Ltd
Deputy Ministry of Tourism
Cyprus Employers & Industrialists Federation
PASYXE – Cyprus Hotel Association
ΣΤΕΚ: Σύνδεσμος Τουριστικών Επιχειρήσεων Κύπρου
Pafos regional board of tourism

Answered	**9**
Skipped	**5**

2. In which region are you based/ which areas do you represent?

	Responses	
Limassol	15.38%	2
Paphos	30.77%	4
Larnaka	0.00%	0
Nicosia	46.15%	6
Famagusta	7.69%	1
	Answered	**13**
	Skipped	**1**

3. What percentage of tourists visit Cyprus specifically for diving?

	Responses	
0%	14.29%	2
1-25%	42.86%	6
25-50%	7.14%	1
50-75%	0.00%	0
75-100%	0.00%	0
Don't know	35.71%	5
	Answered	**14**
	Skipped	**0**

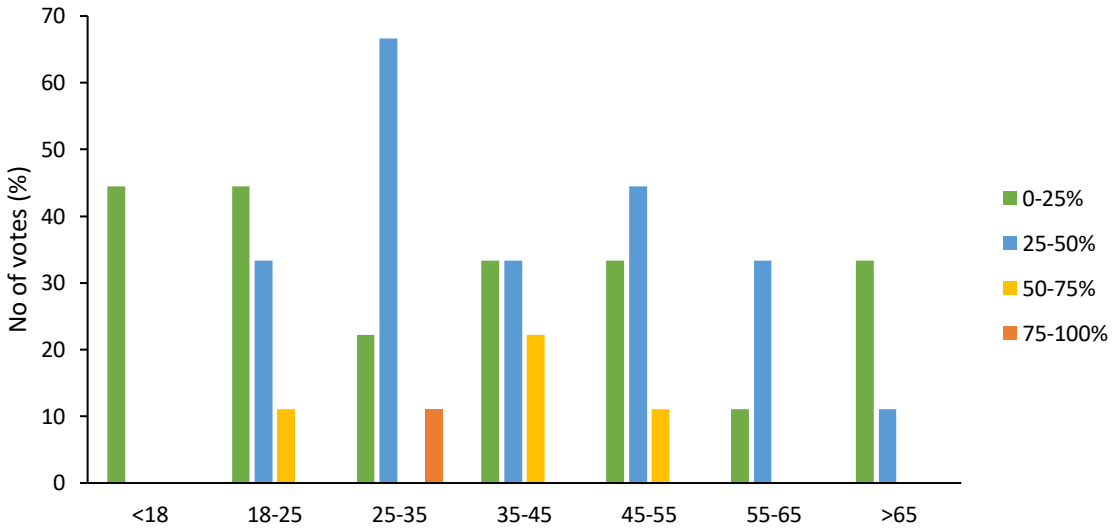
4. Do you have an indication of how many of tourists dive while in Cyprus (even though they are not visiting specifically for diving)? if yes provide average values per year:

	<1000		1001-5000		5001-10000		>10001	
2018	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	10.00%	1
2019	50.00%	5	0.00%	0	10.00%	1	30.00%	3
2020	10.00%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
2021	60.00%	6	0.00%	0	10.00%	1	20.00%	2
2022	50.00%	5	10.00%	1	20.00%	2	20.00%	2
							Answered	**10**
							Skipped	**4**

5. Please provide the approximate percentage of the following age groups of tourists that dive in Cyprus (Please select from the dropdown list)

	<18		18-25		25-35		35-45		45-55	
0-25%	44.44%	4	44.44%	4	22.22%	2	33.33%	3	33.33%	3
25-50%	0.00%	0	33.33%	3	66.67%	6	33.33%	3	44.44%	4
50-75%	0.00%	0	11.11%	1	0.00%	0	22.22%	2	11.11%	1
75-100%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	11.11%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0

	55-65		>65			
0-25%	11.11%	1	33.33%	3		
25-50%	33.33%	3	11.11%	1		
50-75%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	**Answered**	**9**
75-100%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	**Skipped**	**5**



6. Do you believe that the current status of the diving tourism industry in Cyprus is adequate? If not, please suggest ways of improving it.

	Responses	
Yes	14.29%	2
No	50.00%	7
Not sure	35.71%	5
	Answered	**14**
	Skipped	**0**

If not, suggestions
Advertising
Lack of advertisement, No official license, Lack of attractive diving point, Lack OF MONITORING OF DIVING POINTS
+regulation, standard of services-customer services, infrastructure, promotion
strategic plan for diving tourism needed

targeted promotion

7. Is diving tourism price sensitive?

	Responses	
Yes	53.85%	7
No	46.15%	6
	Answered	**13**
	Skipped	**1**

8. Are you aware of any type of diving facilities or infrastructure at your region? If yes, state the name and area.

	Responses	
Yes	69.23%	9
No	30.77%	4
	Answered	**13**
	Skipped	**1**

If yes (state the name and area)
There are 15 diving points including latchi
Amathus and Dasoudi artificial reefs
ZENOVIA LARNACA, VOROKLINI
SeaQuest Divers- All over Cyprus
Cyprus divers/Latchi
seaquest

9. Are you aware of the existence of any archaeological diving sites, artificial reefs or historical underwater sites near you? if yes state them.

	Responses	
Yes	100.00%	14
No	0.00%	0
	Answered	**14**
	Skipped	**0**

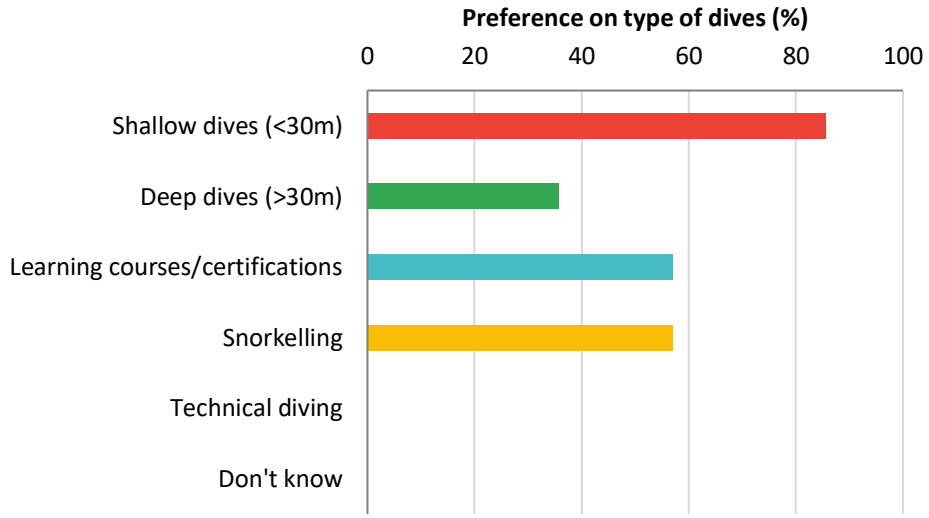
Responses
agia napa
amathus
Amathus ancient port
Artificial reef and underwater sites and historical sires
ARTIFICIAL REEFS IN VOROKLINI, UNDERWATER MUSEUM IN AYIA NAPA
old walls in Paphos harbour, Geronisos island,
sea caves
Zenobia Wreck, Akamas, Kavo Gkreko

zenobia, amathounta, the caves, lady thetis, akamas

Zinovia Larnaca

10. Which dive types do you believe that tourists prefer in Cyprus?

	Responses	
Shallow dives (<30m)	85.71%	12
Deep dives (>30m)	35.71%	5
Learning courses/certifications	57.14%	8
Snorkelling	57.14%	8
Technical diving	0.00%	0
Don't know	0.00%	0
	Answered	**14**
	Skipped	**0**



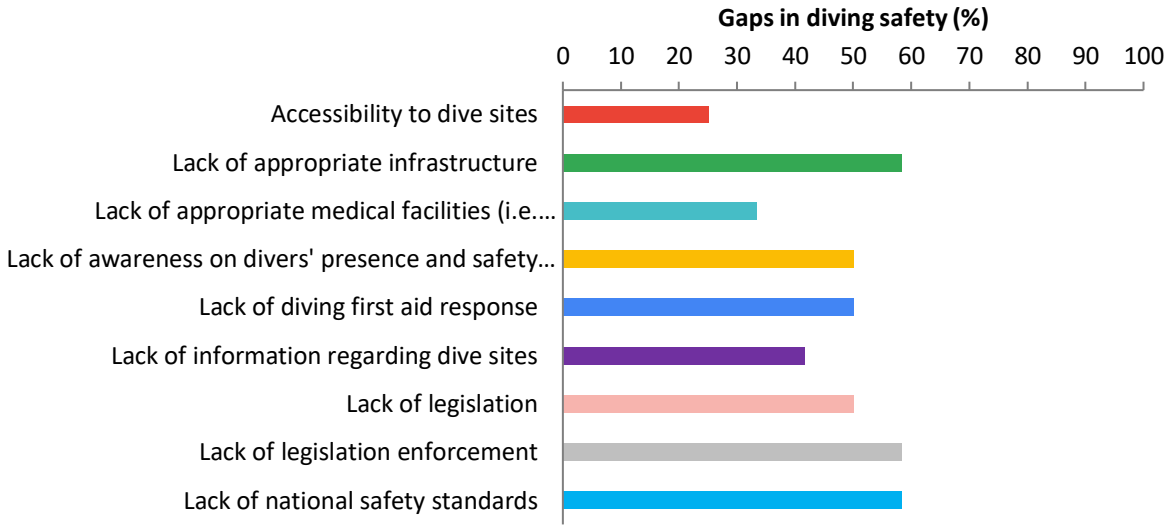
11. Are you aware of any threats that divers encounter while diving within your region? If yes, provide at least one example.

	Responses	
Yes	41.67%	5
No	58.33%	7
	Answered	**12**
	Skipped	**2**

Responses
Danger due to the water sports and boats, Technical reefs are not regulated or controlled, Lack of signs only at the artificial reefs
There were 2-3 accidents

12. What gaps do you believe diving safety currently has in Cyprus?

	Responses	
Accessibility to dive sites	25.00%	3
Lack of appropriate infrastructure	58.33%	7
Lack of appropriate medical facilities (i.e. hyperbaric chambers)	33.33%	4
Lack of awareness on divers' presence and safety by other boaters	50.00%	6
Lack of diving first aid response	50.00%	6
Lack of information regarding dive sites	41.67%	5
Lack of legislation	50.00%	6
Lack of legislation enforcement	58.33%	7
Lack of national safety standards	58.33%	7
	Answered	**12**
	Skipped	**2**



13. Has your organisation taken actions to mitigate the aforementioned problems or gaps? If yes, please provide at least one example.

	Responses	
Yes	12.00%	3
No	88.00%	9
	Answered	**12**
	Skipped	**2**

Responses
Only in regards to lack of awareness and promotion and to regulate the diving centres and technical reefs
cooperation with the department of fisheries and Marine Research. participation in European projects to improve infrastructure and promote diving

14. Are you aware of the legislation surrounding diving sector in Cyprus? And if yes, state your opinion/ suggestions.

	Responses	
Yes	21.43%	3
No	78.57%	11
	Answered	**14**
	Skipped	**0**

Opinion/suggestions
Lack of regulation
Legislation

15. Are you aware of any procedures followed in order to avoid or handling any diving related accidents?

	Responses	
Yes	28.57%	4
No	71.43%	10
	Answered	**14**
	Skipped	**0**

If yes, please state
Marine police is informed when divers use the diving areas
Lessons carried out by diving companies

16. Please provide any suggestions or solutions you believe can avoid or resolve safety standards in Cyprus?

Responses
experts should study this issue and make suggestions
legislation
safety legislation
Educational seminars
Legislation

Answered	**5**
Skipped	**9**

17. Does diving tourism have environmental impacts on the destination and if yes please state the impacts?

	Responses	
Yes	30.77%	4
No	69.23%	9
	Answered	**13**
	Skipped	**1**

If yes, please state
Damaging reefs
Reefs damage
over diving in certain sites, touching and kicking corals can cause them to break off and become damaged. In addition, when sand gets disturbed, it can cover and smother the reefs

18. Are you aware of any diving branding or awareness activities in Cyprus or abroad?

	Responses	
Yes	27.27%	3
No	72.73%	8
	Answered	**11**
	Skipped	**3**

If yes, elaborate
SeaQuest Divers

19. Has your organisation carried out activities in the past to raise awareness or advertise the diving tourism industry in Cyprus or abroad? If yes, please provide at least one example.

	Responses	
Yes	16.67%	1
No	83.33%	5
	Answered	**6**
	Skipped	**8**

If yes, elaborate
radio advertising in Cyprus, seminars at schools, promotion in European countries as part of Eastern European diving routes.

20. Do you believe that diving tourism can address the issue of seasonality?

	Responses	
Yes	61.54%	8
No	38.46%	5
	Answered	**13**
	Skipped	**1**

Appendix V – Prohibitions in marine areas

Table A11. Summary of the regulatory framework regarding prohibitions of marine activities at specific areas characterised within as MPAs, including the applied period, exceptions and the decree mentioned.

MPA Areas	Prohibited	Applied period	Exceptions	Decree
Lara	–Boat entry –Anchoring	May-October	Coastal, small scale fishing permit holders	234/2018
Larnaka	–Fishing –Motorboat entry (200m from LEF1 and ELPIDA)		Governmental boats and diving vessels equipped with diving flag according to international diving regulations	124/2020
Geroskipou artificial reef	–Boat entry –Fishing		Mooring is permitted 150m around point A (34 °43.003'B, 32 °26.628'A)	489/2014
Dasoudi	–Boat entry –Fishing		Passage through the marked boat corridor or for governmental boats, safety boats registered to Nautical groups under the Cyprus sailing association and diving vessels equipped with diving flag according to international diving regulations	29/2021
Kavo Gkreko	–Fishing		Fishing is permitted to professional fishing permit holders in the Buffer zones	115/2018
Ayia Napa	–Boat entry –Fishing		Mooring is permitted 150m around point A (34 °58.707'B, 33 °58.854'A)	220/2015
Peyeia Sea Caves	–Boat entry –Fishing		Fishing is permitted to professional fishing permit holders in the Buffer zones	28/2019
Paralimni	–Fishing			404/2017

MPA Areas	Prohibited	Applied period	Exceptions	Decree
Amathounta	– Boat entry – Fishing – Motorboats (area between points 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9)		Fishing is permitted to category A and B small boats for coastal fishing in the area between points 3, 4, 5 and 6. Governmental boats and diving vessels equipped with diving flag according to international diving regulations	445/2017
Kakoskali	– Fishing		Fishing is permitted to professional fishing permit holders in the Buffer zones	258/2019
Ayia Napa Sea Caves	– Boat entry – Anchoring – Fishing	November 1st – April 30th		46/2023
St Georgios Alamanou	– Boat entry – Anchoring – Fishing			47/2023
Baths	– Fishing			66/2017
Larnaca (500m from Zenovia Shipwreck)	– Fishing			73/2018
Larnaca (Desalination plant)	– Fishing			

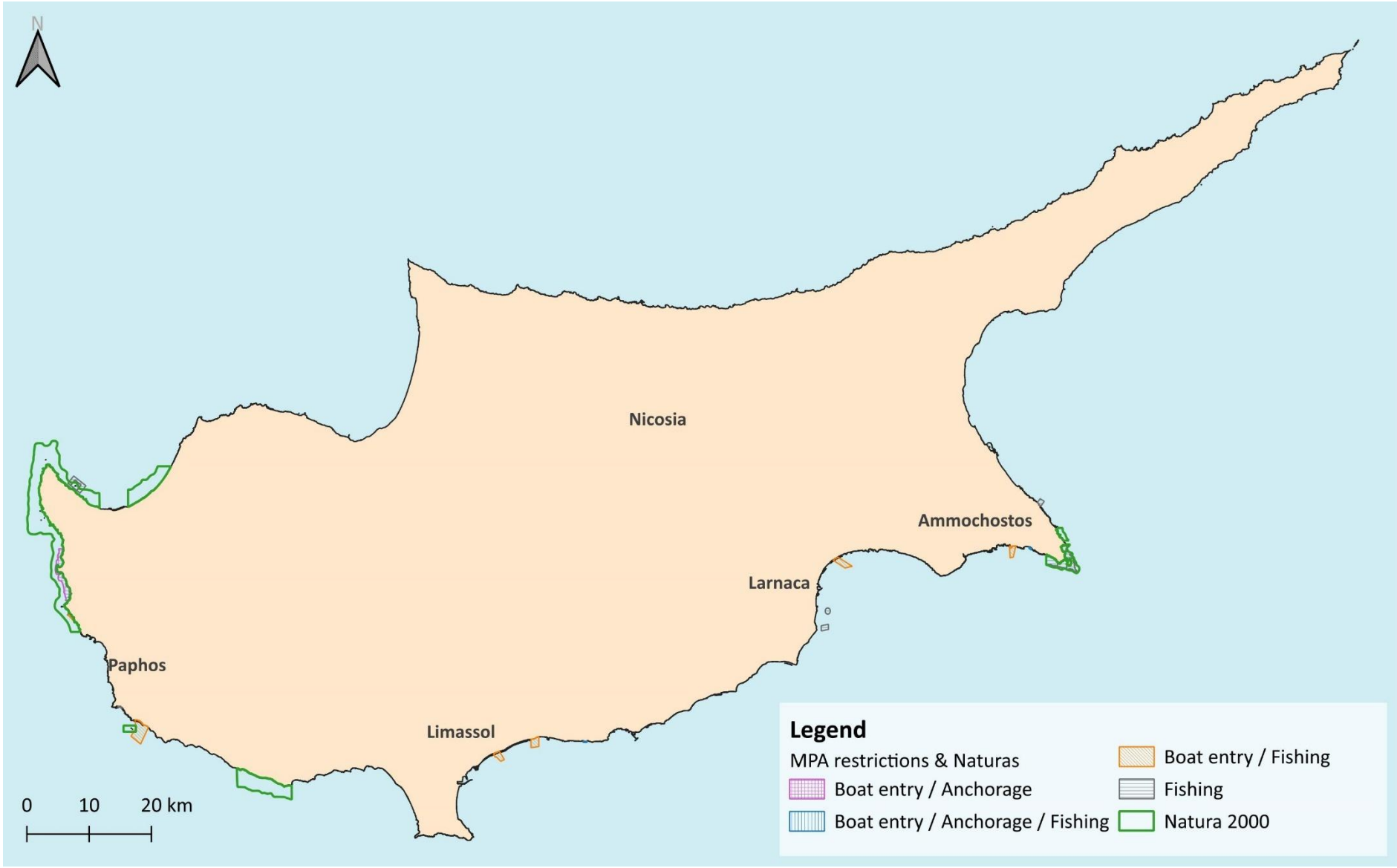


Figure A29. Map of the location of MPAs with the different types of restrictions and Natura 2000 areas around the coast of the Republic of Cyprus.

Appendix VI – Port and Marine Police suggestions

Port and Marine Police suggestions (Cyprus Police | Police Border Marine)

- Every SCUBA diver must have a diving certificate from a certified training centre.
- The type, depth, and difficulty of diving depend on the training of the diver, and the certificate they obtained.
- During diving, a vessel and an extra diver have to be present for safety. Divers must always dive in pairs.
- Before diving, a diver must be well rested and not have consumed any alcohol for the last 24 hours.
- Do not eat before diving.
- Do not dive if you feel tired.
- SCUBA divers should always use an approved surface red or orange buoy (colours that are visible from long distance). The rope of the buoy has to be in a vertical position to the diver.
- Every SCUBA diver must have a good knowledge of possible diving accidents and they must be ready to provide first aid if necessary.
- Find out where the nearest decompression chamber is located.
- Always carry with you a bottle of pharmaceutical oxygen.
- Have proper and well-maintained diving gear.
- Diving at a depth of less than 40 meters, must be carried out with bottles of atmospheric air as long as SCUBA divers are trained to do so, and in accordance with the approved tables.
- SCUBA diving should be avoided during the night, during extreme weather conditions or in areas with strong underwater currents.
- Never forget that SCUBA diving is a pleasure. Never put yourself or others in danger.

Appendix VII – Shore dives photos

Photos showcasing the current state of shore dive sites' entrance and infrastructures available for each district.

Antennae (Ammochostos)

Figure A30. Left: walk from parking to entrance point. Right: entrance to the water.

Figure A31. Left: parking for the dive site near the road and bin for public use. Right: sitting bench halfway from parking to entry point but not designed for divers.

Caves (Ammochostos)

Figure A32. Left: handrail installed for walking down to entrance point. Right: walk to the entrance point.

Figure A33. Left: ladder installed to assist climbing down to the water edge. Right: bench for setting up diving gear.

Chapel (Agioi Anargiroi) (Ammochostos)

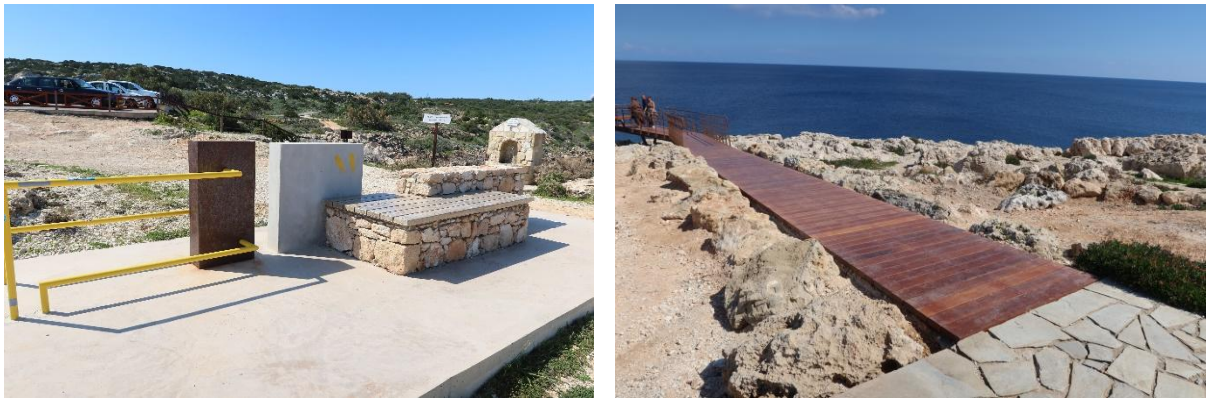


Figure A34. Left: kitting up facilities next to the parking lot. Right: walkway towards staircase to water entrance.

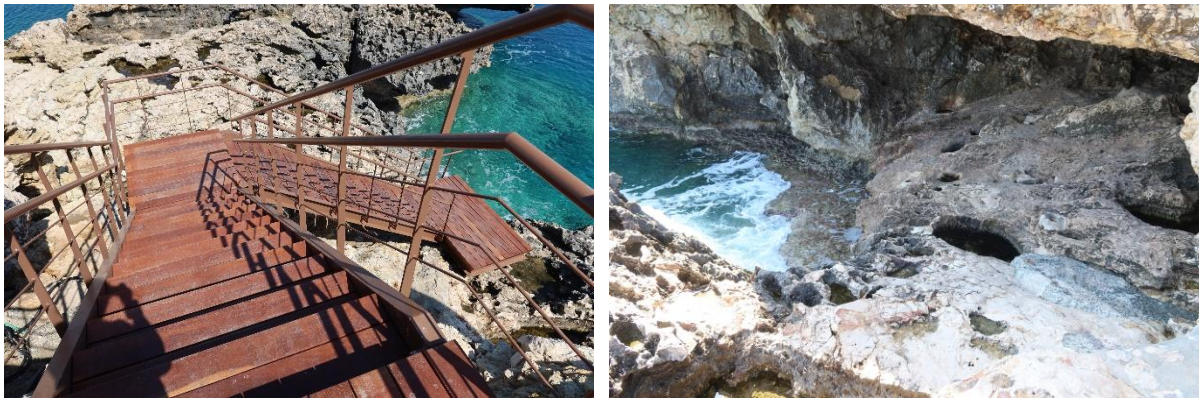


Figure A35. Left: staircase leading to water's edge. Right: entrance to the water for divers, with steep rock to climb down/up.

Cyclopes caves (Ammochostos)

Figure A36. Canopy and bench at the dive site, neither which is designated for divers.

Figure A37. Steep walk down to the water's edge from the parking spot.

Figure A38. Entrance to the water.

Da Costa (Ammochostos)

Figure A39. Left: staircase from parking to entry point. Right: entrance point to dive site with a broken ladder.

Green Bay – Green Bay caves (Ammochostos)

Figure A40. Left: Car park used by divers and fishermen. Right: toilets located further away (5-minute walk) at a nearby public beach, the nearest facility to the dive site.

Figure A41. Left: entry point for the Green Bay dive site. Right: usual entry point for the green bay caves site.

Kryo Nero (Ammochostos)

Figure A42. Aerial photo of the site. (a) Usual entry point is over some steep rocks, (b) the dive site, (c) a public beach that occasionally gets used as an entry point for the dive site. No facilities present apart from what is available at the public beach.

MUSAN underwater sculpture museum (Ammochostos)

Figure A43. Left: walkway to entry point. Right: external shower.

Figure A44. Bathrooms and changing facilities.

Octopus site (Ammochostos)

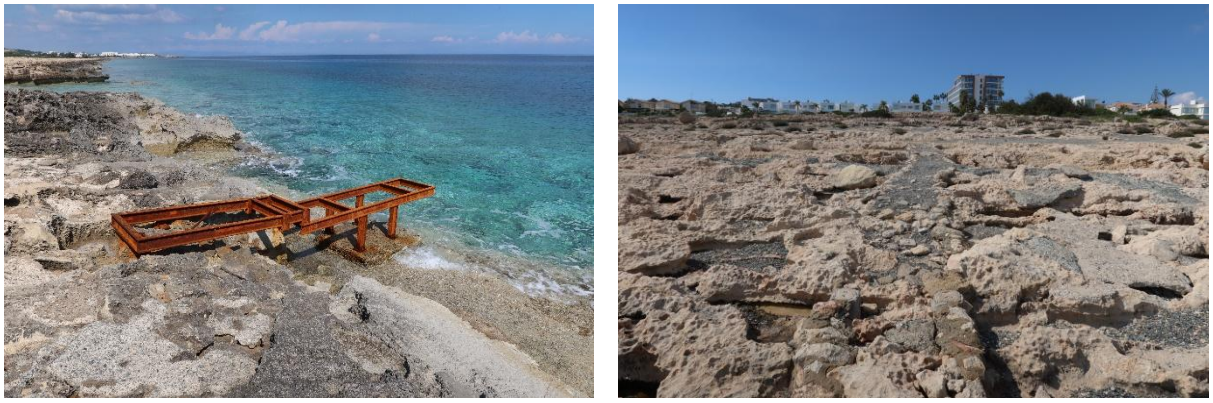


Figure A45. Entry point and walk near Octopus dive site.

Canyon (Ammochostos)

Figure A46. Kitting-up bench and ladders to assist entering the dive site.

Figure A47. Walk from parking spot to reach the ladders.

Arch - Bullet point/Watchtower (Larnaca)

Figure A48. Left: entry point into the water Right: the space used as parking spot for divers next to the entry point. No facilities present.

The Nail (Larnaka)

Figure A49. Entry point for nail dive site. No facilities present.

Amathus Archaeological site (Limassol)

Figure A50. Left: sign at the parking spot with details of the site, its history, common marine life encountered and description of the archaeological aspects of the site. Right: steps leading to the beach and entry point from the parking spot.

Karnagio (Komeno) shipwreck (Limassol)

Figure A51. Parking space and entry point for the site. No infrastructure available for this dive site.

Omega beach (Nicosia)

Figure A52. Omega beach, facilities available only what is on the public beach.

Photiades wall - Amphitheatre bay – Latchi (Paphos)

Figure A53. Aerial view of the entry point to the dive sites. No facilities present.

Airport reef (Paphos)

Figure A54. Entry point for airport reef dive site. No infrastructure available.

Amphitheatre – Church bay (Paphos)

Figure A55. Left: entry point for amphitheatre and church bay dive sites. Right: rope attached to the rock to facilitate the divers' walk down to the water.

EDRO III (Paphos)

Figure A56. Entry point for EDRO III as seen from the water.

Roman wall (Paphos)

Figure A57. Steps to enter the water at left and right of the bay.

Figure A58. Facilities (showers, changing rooms, bathrooms, benches) present at the bay, all placed for the facilitation of bathers, swimmers and not specifically for divers.