

Hellenic Petroleum Exploration & Production of Hydrocarbons SA

IONION GULF ACOUSTIC MONITORING PROJECT

"COASTAL ZONE INSPECTION FOR THE PRESENCE OF MARINE MAMMALS"

Report



OCEANUS LAB

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Department of Geology University of Patras



1. Introduction

From the 3rd to the 7th of March 2022 an inspection for marine mammals presence was carried out by the Laboratory of Marine Geology & Physical Oceanography, Department of Geology, University of Patras, at the coastal zone of the two study areas. The coastal areas, where the access was not possible, were approached and filmed by the team using the "Sea Master" vessel, while the remaining were inspected by car.

2. Survey Planning

After the completion of each acoustic monitoring post-survey, the team inspected the coastal areas using "Sea Master", while the remaining were inspected by car. A coastline of 80 nm was inspected in the Ionion Gulf.

All of the areas surrounding the surveyed area by "SW COOK" were visually inspected. The following maps show the inspection of the coastline. The continuous orange lines represent the inspection performed by the team using the vessel "SeaMaster", who were continuously taking photos and observing through binoculars the coastline. The points represent the coastline inspection performed by the onshore team using a vehicle. The onshore team was taking photos along the coastline at the areas with the highest likelihood of marine mammal presence based on the coastal morphology and sea currents directivity.

The procedure was as followed :

- 1. Approach the area using vessel "SeaMaster" at the minimum possible distance, visual inspection of the area with binoculars and photo-shooting.
- 2. Approach the area by car and on foot, visual inspection of the area with binoculars and photo-shooting.



March 2022



3. Results.

Throughout the inspection, no marine mammal was detected along the coastal zone.

The following map (Fig.3.1) show the areas inspected, while a set of selected photographs for some of the stations is presented afterwards, below the maps. In figure 3.2 is presented the northern part of the survey area and in figure 3.3 the southern.



Fig. 3.1. Map of the North and South part of the Ionion Gulf survey area showing the visually inspected coastal areas.



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Fig. 3.2. Map of the Northern part of the Ionion Gulf survey area showing the visually inspected coastal areas.



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Fig. 3.3. Map of the Southern part of the Ionion Gulf survey area showing the visually inspected coastal areas.



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