

THE VALORISATION AND THE PRESENTATION OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE: THE NORDIC EXPERIENCE - ACCESS THROUGH MARITIME DIVE TRAILS AND VIRTUAL SIMULATION

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This presentation introduces two projects using different methods to make underwater cultural heritage sites more accessible in the Nordic and in the Baltic Sea Region. First of the cases describes an international project called Nordic Blue Parks. The second project is called Vrouw Maria Underwater Project.

Nordic Blue Parks Project was an innovating one year pilot project creating a new concept combining – for the first time – natural and cultural heritage and recreation at underwater trail and park sites. It aimed to formulate criteria and guidelines for sustainable trails and to set up new trails and to improve old ones. During the project three new underwater parks were opened and two old ones were improved.

Vrouw Maria Underwater Project aims to make this Dutch shipwreck - sunk in 1771 off coast of Finland - more accessible through a blog site, a virtual simulation and an exhibition. The interactive, real-time, virtual reality simulation gives for a visitor a feeling of being there at the actual site and a possibility to experience the wreck, the underwater landscape and the soundscape. This is especially important for a site located in an area where sport diving is prohibited. The exhibition introduces also ideas and feelings of those few divers who have visited the site bringing alive the idea that a heritage is combination of the site and the people who uses it.