

Call for session proposal 41

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Proposal

Title

Underwater and Maritime Heritage Management - contradictions, challenges and opportunities

Short description

The aim of this session is to promote a debate on the governance and management of maritime and underwater archaeological heritage. Different approaches are being taken by institutions, researchers and local communities, with national policies and normative frameworks (under

de 2001 UNESCO Convention or not), covering areas at national, regional or local level, and including terrestrial and mixed environments.

A number of conceptual issues emerge from the main objectives: what should be listed, between archaeological contexts (such as archaeological sites and finds) and documentary references (whether written, cartographic or oral); how should be represented (inventories, databases and fields/attributes, GIS, archaeological sensitivity maps, or other solutions); how to establish dialogue with local communities and value their oral and empiric knowledge; what information should be public or confidential; how can “Ocean Literacy” can be part of formal education, and included in ocean management; how all this should be monitorized; how it could contribute to public awareness and disseminate the underwater heritage importance.

The above and any other relevant subjects are encouraged to participate in this session. The aim is to highlight the fact that the choices made in the governance and management of underwater and maritime heritage are often overlooked in archaeological research, despite their significant impact on the protection, conservation and enhancement of this unique, finite, easily destructible and non-renewable cultural heritage.

Keywords

Archaeology; Inventory; GIS; Database; Public Policies; Sea Strategy; Local Communities; Fortuitous Findings