

# Marine Heritage Crime: Prevention, investigation and enforcement to protecting wrecks in practice

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## Session Description

Over the last fifty years governments around the world have developed legislation and policy to protect underwater cultural heritage. Yet, despite these developments, wreck sites around the world have continued to be affected by illegal salvaging, looting, souvenir hunting and deliberate destruction. Over recent years this heritage crime has been recognised as a significant threat to underwater cultural heritage; from the large scale looting and salvage of second world war wrecks in the Java sea to bronze cannon removed illegally from sites in the North Sea that are protected by law. As a result, governments, heritage managers and archaeologists are looking at new ways to prevent and investigate marine heritage crime and to tackle enforcement. Unit now, the latter has been the weakest part in the heritage management schemes laid out by many governments.

This session will look at cases of marine heritage crime, the motivations for committing it, the effects, schemes to address issues in prevention, investigation and enforcement and in finding new ways of working to ensure that wrecks and other underwater cultural heritage are protected from the impacts of it. New state of the art methods and techniques will be presented as well as the thoughts behind it. The session will also look at issues that still need to be addressed and look at mechanisms for this on a global scale. The aim for this session is not only to present existing methods and techniques and to give an overview of what is there, but also to discuss on how to precede into the future.