

The Deep-water corals of Cyprus: Environmental settings and ecological features (CYprus Cold-corals Levantine SeA, Eastern MEDiterranean: CYCLAMEN)

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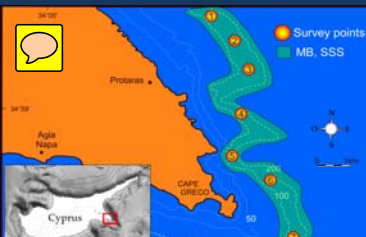
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AIMS


- Mapping and environmental characterization of Deep-water corals (DWC) habitats of Cyprus
- Increase knowledge on biological and ecological characteristics of the DWC of Cyprus
- Capacity building through the expansion of expertise on DWC in professionals from Cyprus institutions

FIELD WORK




Location of study sites (8th-11th June, 2015), SE Cyprus


Geomorphology: Multibeam echosounder & Side Scan Sonar




Biological & ecological studies: preservation of coral samples




Benthic communities: ROV video transects




Environmental characterization: CTD, water & zooplankton sampling



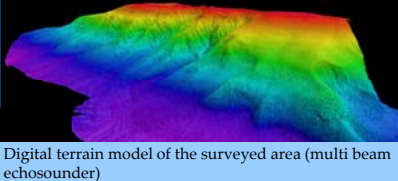
Maintenance of live corals on board






CYCLAMEN survey on board the RV AEGAEO

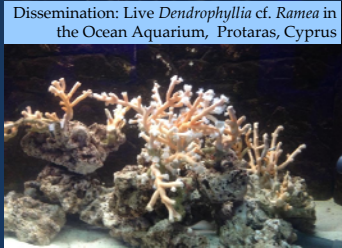
PRELIMINARY RESULTS



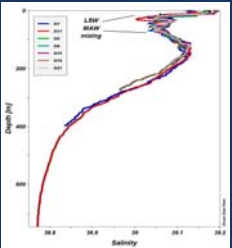
Digital terrain model of the surveyed area (multi beam echosounder)




Dendrophyllia cf. ramea population at 137 m depth



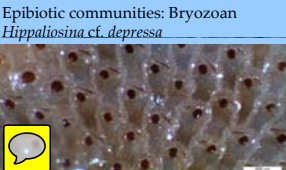
Dissemination: Live *Dendrophyllia cf. ramea* in the Ocean Aquarium, Protaras, Cyprus




Temperature, salinity & fluorescence profiles



Large specimen of *Dendrophyllia cf. ramea*



Epibiotic communities: Bryozoan *Hippaliosina cf. depressa*



Ecophysiology: *Dendrophyllia cf. ramea* in the CSM aquaria, Monaco

PERSPECTIVES

- Geomorphology and water column features
- Zooplankton community and benthic associated fauna
- Features (e.g. distribution patterns, size structure) of this singular *Dendrophyllia cf. ramea* population
- Tolerance of *Dendrophyllia cf. ramea* to environmental changes (ecophysiological experiments)
- Dissemination activities



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