

iSea

Environmental Organisation for the  
preservation of the aquatic ecosystems

Prosfero Interim Report

Peloponnese Coastal and Underwater cleanups

6/2022

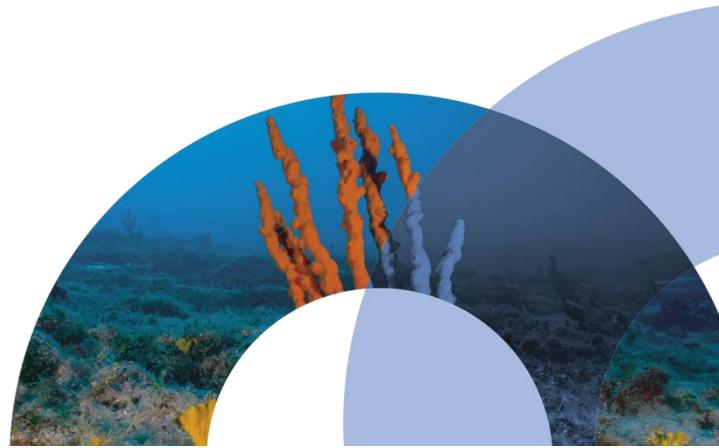


Thessaloniki, 2022



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## Prosfero campaign

Prosfero campaign is funded by Procter & Gamble and AB Vasilopoulos and implemented by iSea with the aim to achieve cleaner beaches and coasts. Since 2018, 200 beach and underwater cleanups were conducted throughout Greece in the context of the project and more than 75 tons of litter were removed.

For the first time, the 14<sup>th</sup> wave of Prosfero campaign was conducted at the Peloponnese including a total number of 12 beach and 6 underwater cleanup actions. The coordination and organisation of the actions began in April 2022 and the implementation of the actions took place in June 2022.

All the cleanups were coordinated by 4 iSea representatives. The representatives were responsible for the coordination of the participant volunteers, the introduction of the participants to the issue of marine litter, the presentation of the project and its actions and the data collection during each action.

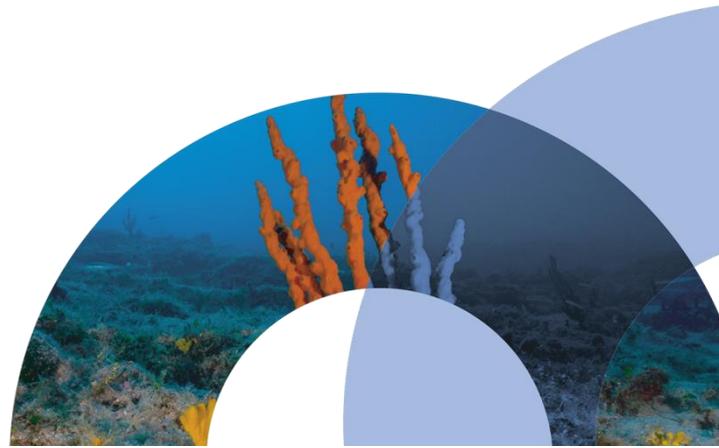
The present interim report refers to the activities conducted in the context of the 14<sup>th</sup> wave of Prosfero.

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## Beach cleanups

During June, 12 beach cleanups (A1-12) took place in the context of the 14<sup>th</sup> wave of Prosero campaign. In particular, 1 beach cleanup was implemented on Argolida, 4 on Lakonia, 5 on Messinia and 2 on Iliia (Table 1).

### Beach cleanup details

**1<sup>th</sup> Activity (A1):** Ververouda Beach, Argolida

**2<sup>th</sup> Activity (A2):** Monemvasia Beach, Lakonia

**3<sup>th</sup> Activity (A3):** Kato Nisi Beach, Lakonia

**4<sup>th</sup> Activity (A4):** Voia Beach, Lakonia

**5<sup>th</sup> Activity (A5):** Selinitza Beach, Lakonia

**6<sup>th</sup> Activity (A6):** Methoni Beach, Messinia

**7<sup>th</sup> Activity (A7):** Kartelas Beach, Messinia

**8<sup>th</sup> Activity (A8):** Zacharo Beach, Messinia

**9<sup>th</sup> Activity (A9):** Kaiafas Beach, Messinia

**10<sup>th</sup> Activity (A10):** Katakolo Beach, Messinia

**11<sup>th</sup> Activity (A11):** Kyllini Beach, Iliia

**12<sup>th</sup> Activity (A12):** Areti Beach, Iliia

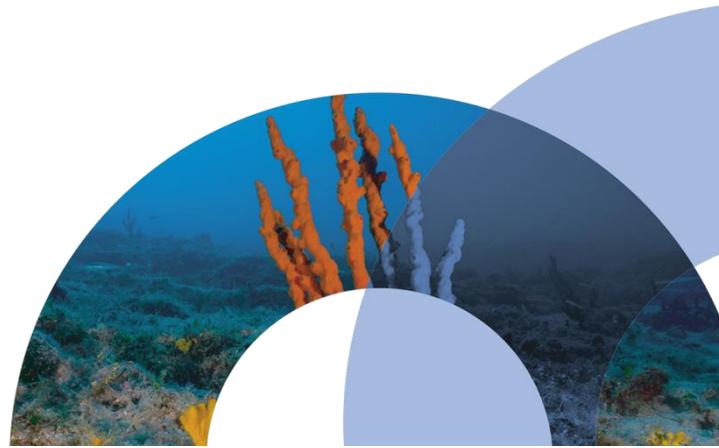


Table 1: Supplementary data of "Prospero 14" beach cleanups conducted during June 2022.

Activity code	Date	Volunteers	Litter collected (kg)
A1	18-06-2022	6	30
A2	20-06-2022	10	35
A3	21-06-2022	9	90
A4	22-06-2022	10	250
A5	22-06-2022	15	150
A6	24-06-2022	12	250
A7	25-06-2022	6	50
A8	26-06-2022	6	135
A9	26-06-2022	6	74
A10	27-06-2022	6	65
A11	28-06-2022	9	300
A12	29-06-2022	50	120
<b>Total</b>		<b>145</b>	<b>1,549</b>

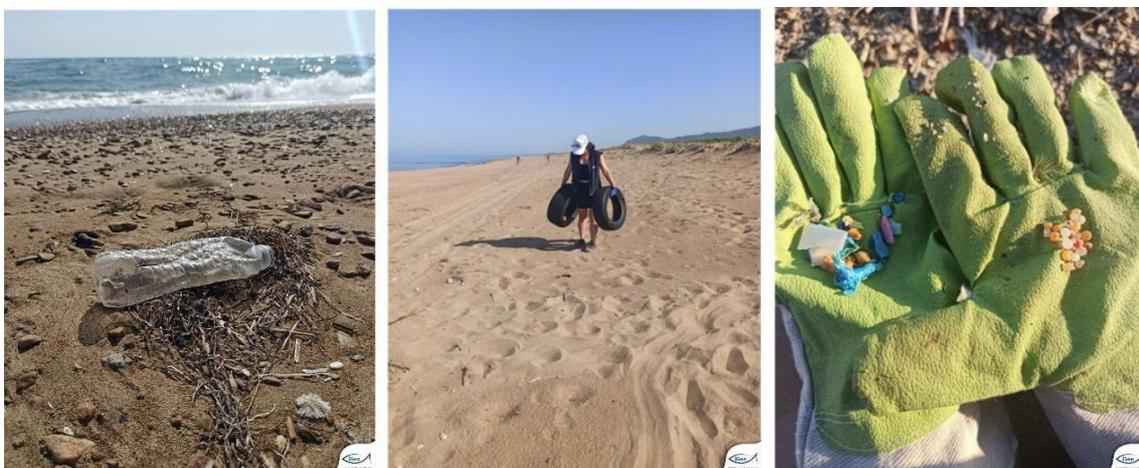
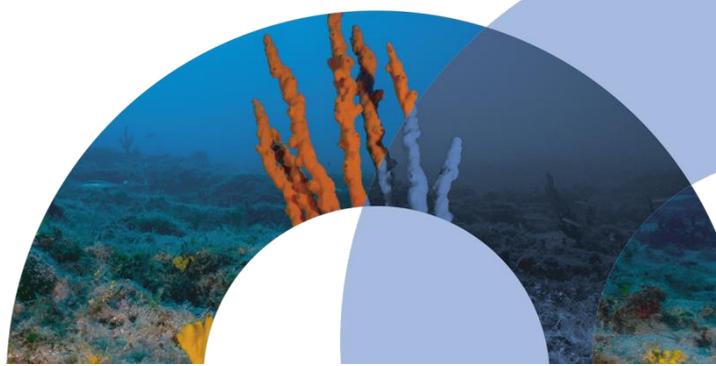


Figure 1: Aspects of the beach cleanups conducted in Peloponnese.



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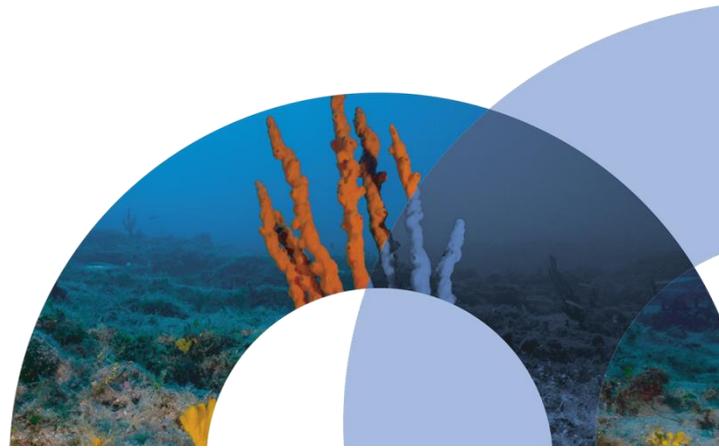
## Beach litter monitoring results

In the context of the actions and with the aim to survey the abundance of marine litter in each area, beach litter was monitored according to the monitoring framework and protocol established in the context of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

In total 1,549kg of litter were collected from the 12 beaches in Peloponnese. A total number of 1,823 litter items were recorded, 87% of which were plastics. In accordance with the global bibliography and data, the most abundant litter type in all the actions conducted was plastic.

In Ververouda Beach (A1), the area with the highest density of marine litter, 343 items of litter were recorded during the survey. In contrast with the area's abundance, only 30 kg of marine litter were removed, as a result of the quantity of small plastic pieces and cigarette butts and filters which are items of low weight and size posing extra difficulties for their detection and removal from the natural environment. Small plastic pieces and cigarette butts are also items which pose serious threats to marine life. The litter density and litter types found in the area could be attributed to the high touristic activity on the beach and the fishing port located nearby in combination with the geomorphology of the area.

On the other hand, Selinita (A5) and Kaiafas (A9) beaches were the cleanest areas according to the data collected from Peloponnese. In both cases, less than 50 litter items were recorded during the data collection. Contrary to the low litter density, 150 kg of litter were removed from Selinita Beach (A5), proving that the area was mainly polluted by bulky items, such as beach gear, like beach umbrellas, deckchairs, plastic tables and chairs and items of clothing, like blankets.



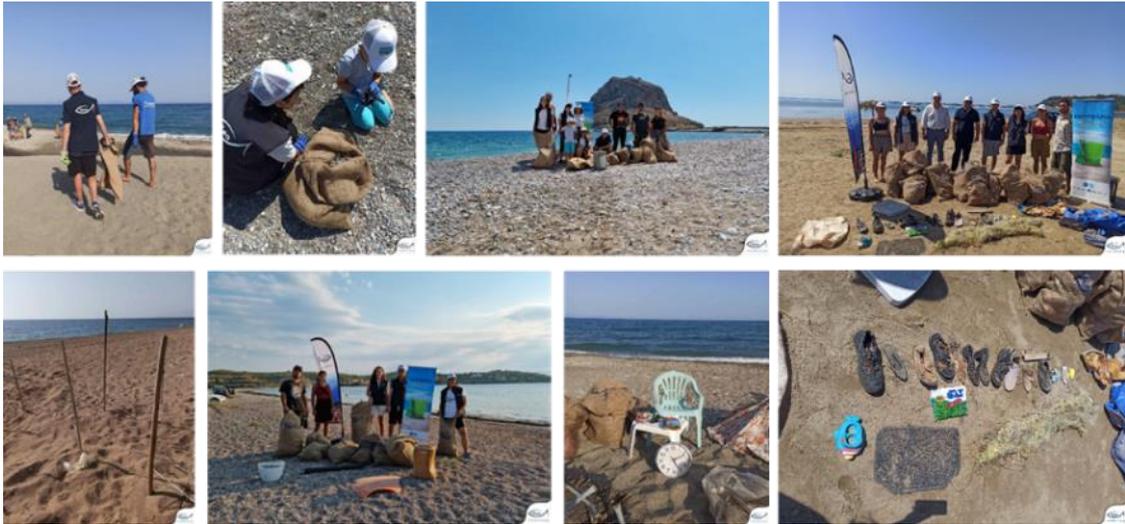
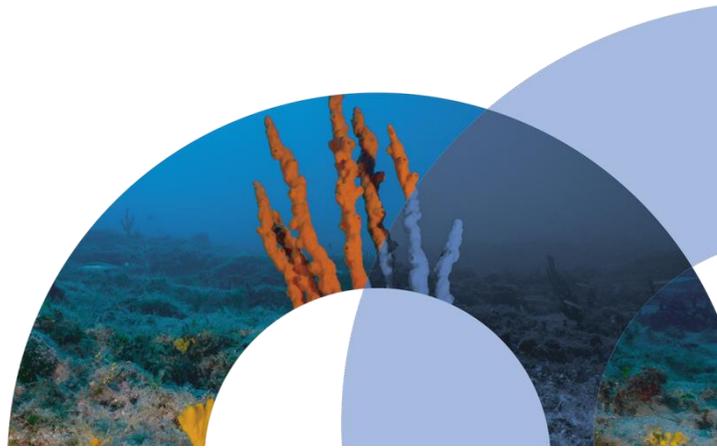


Figure 2: More aspects of the beach cleanups conducted in Peloponnese.



## Litter types

The average percentage of plastic found in all beaches is 87%. It should be mentioned that in Monemvasia Beach (A2), plastic was by far the most abundant litter type (94.5%) with a great number of small plastic pieces and Single Use Plastic straws recorded. This high amount of plastic litter items can be possibly attributed to the touristic businesses located in the area and attracting a high number of visitors together with the frequently used road located at the upper side of the beach.

Litter types by percentage

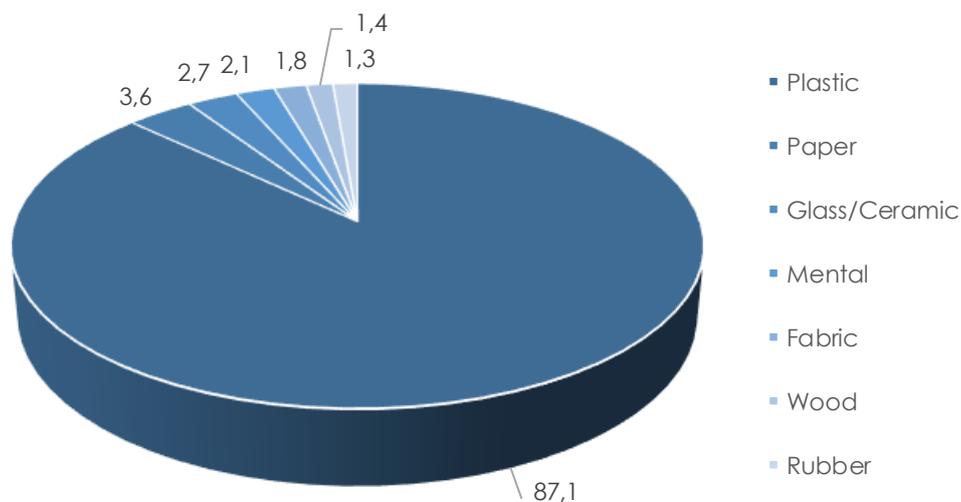
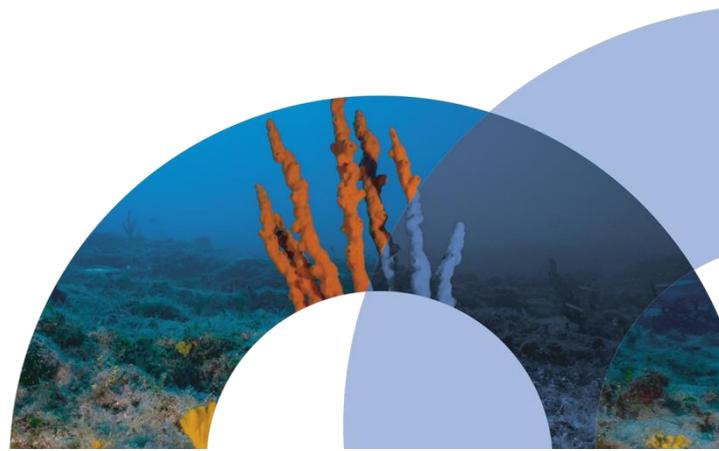


Figure 3: Litter collected by type in the total of 12 beach cleanups, expressed as a percentage (%).

Furthermore, in Kartelas Beach (A7), plastic litter was found in high abundance constituting 92% of the total litter items recorded. Even though the area is considered a very important habitat and nesting ground for the threatened species of the loggerhead sea turtles

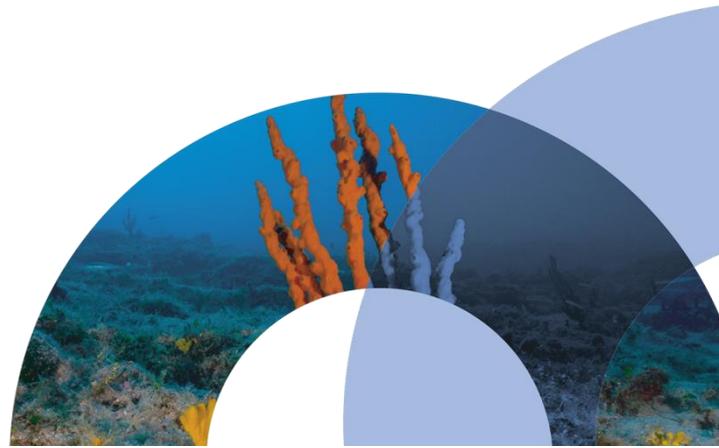


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(*Caretta caretta*), the absence of litter bins possibly leads to a high amount of cigarette butts and filters disposed in the beach, which in combination with the small plastic pieces that are also found in high amount in the area, posing serious threats to the local wildlife. In addition, the particular area also constitutes the closest beach to the Kyparissia town. As a result, it receives a high number of visitors without providing the infrastructures of organised tourism activities and businesses responsible for removing marine litter.

Apart from plastic litter items, paper and glass/ceramic items were among the most abundant litter types. For instance, in Kato Nisi (A3), which is a rocky area, lacking tourism activities and high attendance of visitors, most of the items recorded were made of plastic (81%), but glass items were also recorded in high percentage (13%). This could be explained by the fact that the area is rather isolated, possibly receiving a number of visitors, but lacking bins and the possibility of being regularly cleaned due to its difficult accessibility.

In addition, in Methoni beach (A6) the most abundant litter type was plastic (89%) followed by paper items in high percentage (7%), with most of them being confetti, possibly due to the tourist businesses of the area and their activities.



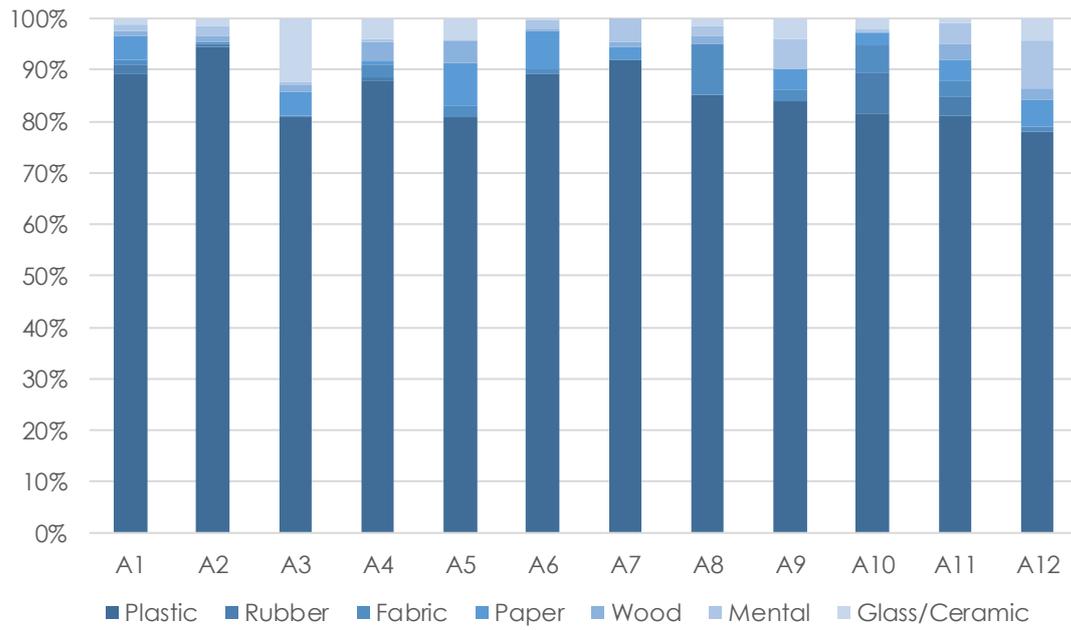
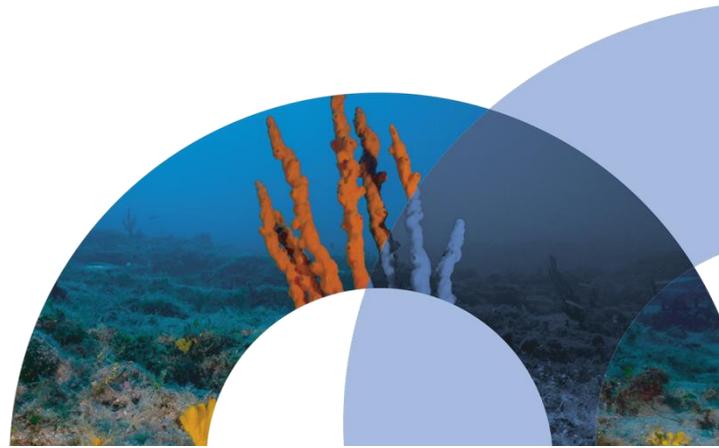


Figure 4: Collected litter types per beach cleanup, expressed as a percentage (%).



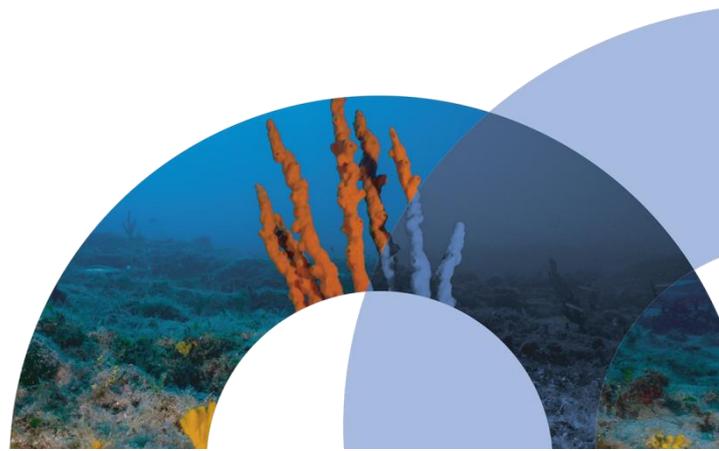
## Litter items

Table 2: Ten most abundant beach litter items, expressed as a percentage %.

Top 10 litter items	Percentage %
Plastic pieces 2,5><50cm	39%
Cigarette butts and filters	16%
Strings and cords (diameter less than 1 cm)	10%
Straws and stirrers	6%
Plastic caps/lids from drinks	6%
Polystyrene pieces 2,5><50cm	5%
Shopping bags, incl. pieces	5%
Crisps packets/sweets wrappers	4%
Glass bottles and pieces	3%
Plastic bag collective roll; what remains from rip-off plastic bags	3%

In the context of the 12 beach cleanups, the total amount of more than 500 small plastic pieces (39%) were recorded, followed in number by cigarette butts and filters (16%), plastic strings and cords (10%), plastic straws and stirrers (6%) and plastic caps/lids from drinks (6%). Small plastic pieces were also among the most common litter items, since they were recorded in all beaches where the cleanups took place.

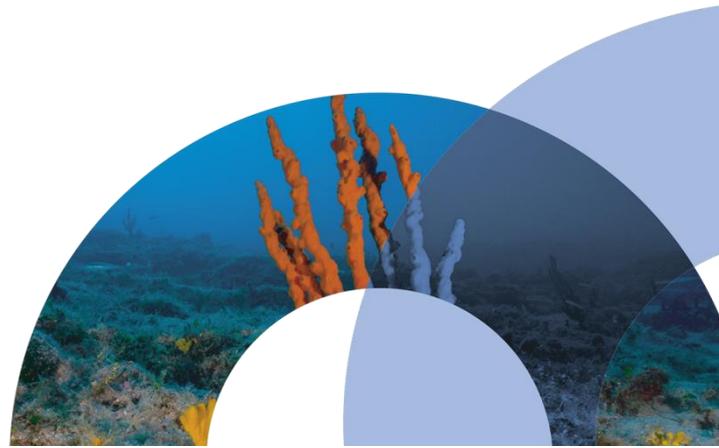
It should be noted that measures are enforced for the reduction of the impacts of the Single Use Plastic items on the environment according to the EU Single Use Plastic Directive, since February 2021. In particular, measures on the proper collection and management of cigarette butts and particular standards for the design and manufacture of plastic caps



were set, whereas plastic straws and stirrers are among the items that were banned. Still, items subjected to the Directive are among the most abundant litter items along the Greek coast proving the inefficient enforcement of the law.

Among all the beaches recorded in Peloponnese, in Methoni Beach (A6) the highest number of small plastic pieces, cigarette butts and filters were recorded, along with a high number of polystyrene pieces, probably attributed to the fragmentation of a floating platform of aquaculture facilities in the area.

Moreover, it must be highlighted the fact that among other plastic items, wet wipes and surgery masks were collected and recorded. Even though they are not included among the most abundant ones, these items are linked to the pandemic crisis and the corresponding measures for the personal protection against the pandemic COVID-19, appeared in parallel with the pandemic crisis and their numbers are expected to be increased during the next years.



## Underwater cleanups

In the context of the 14<sup>th</sup> wave of Prosero campaign during June 2022, 6 (A13-18) underwater cleanups took place. In particular, 2 underwater cleanups were implemented on Argolida, 2 on Lakonia and 2 on Messinia (Table 3).

### Underwater cleanup details

**13<sup>th</sup> Activity (A13):** Porto Cheli, Argolida

**14<sup>th</sup> Activity (A14):** Nafplio Port, Argolida

**15<sup>th</sup> Activity (A15):** Elafonisos Fishing Port, Lakonia

**16<sup>th</sup> Activity (A16):** Gythio Port, Lakonia

**17<sup>th</sup> Activity (A17):** Methoni Fishing Port, Messinia

**18<sup>th</sup> Activity (A18):** Pilos Port, Messinia

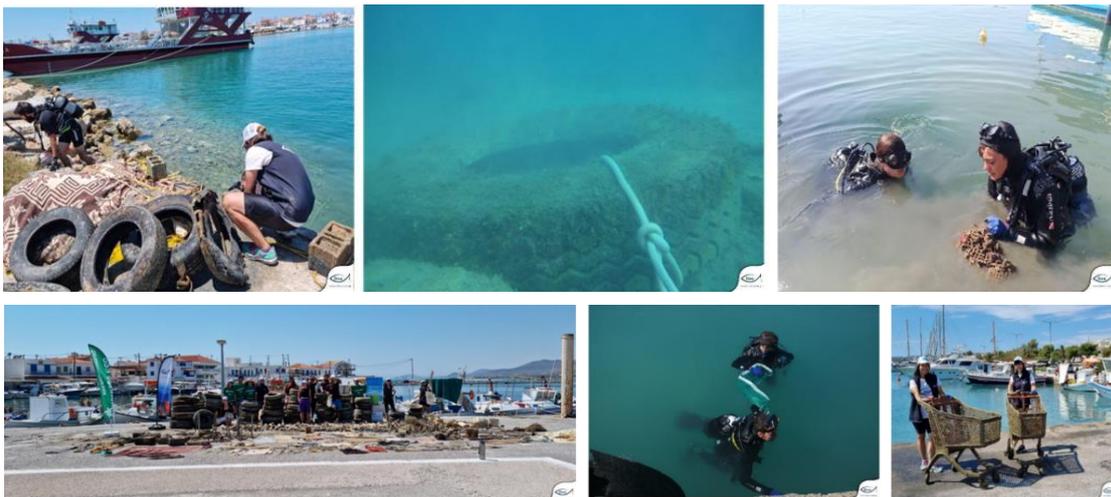


Figure 5: Some aspects of the underwater cleanups conducted in Peloponnese.

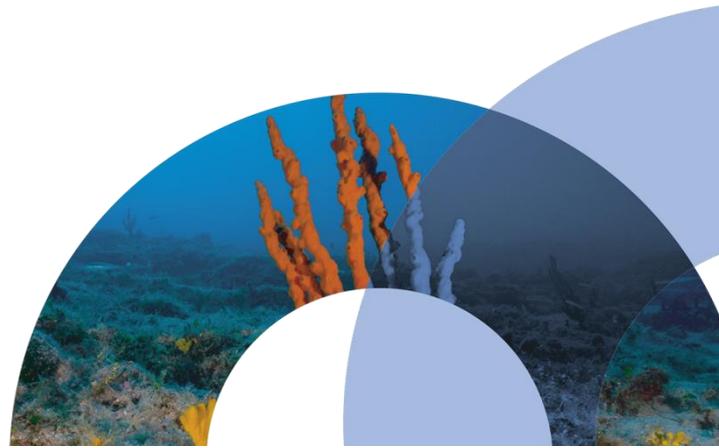
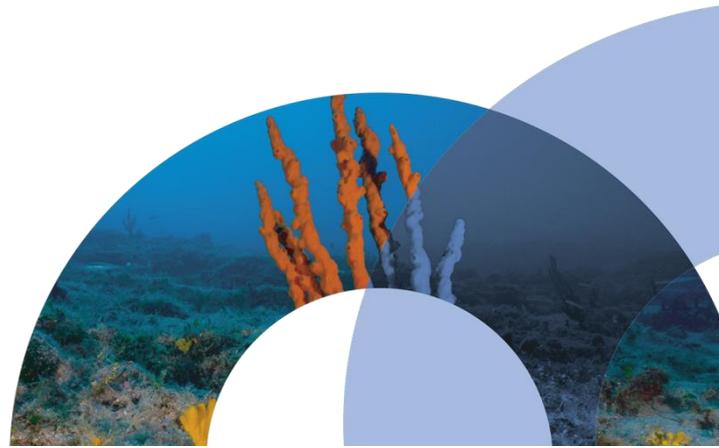


Table 3: Supplementary data of "Prosero 14" underwater cleanups conducted during June 2022.

Activity code	Date	Volunteers	Divers	Litter collected (kg)
<b>A13</b>	18-06-2022	3	3	50
<b>A14</b>	19-06-2022	11	3	50
<b>A15</b>	21-06-2022	11	5	850
<b>A16</b>	23-06-2022	3	3	450
<b>A17</b>	24-06-2022	5	3	280
<b>A18</b>	25-06-2022	4	3	400
<b>Total</b>		<b>37</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2,080</b>



## Underwater litter monitoring results

In the context of the actions and with the aim to survey the abundance of marine litter in each area, seafloor litter was monitored according to the monitoring framework and protocol established in the context of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

In total 2,080 kg of litter were collected from the seafloor of the 6 ports in Peloponnese and a total number of 1,619 litter items were recorded, more than 50% of which were made of plastic, in accordance with the global bibliography and data, followed by metal (19,8%).

### Litter types

The average percentage of plastic found in the seafloor of Peloponnese exceeded 50% of the total litter recorded, followed by metal, in accordance with the findings of underwater cleanups taking place throughout Greece. On the other hand, wood and paper are not abundant benthic litter types mainly because of the durability of these materials.

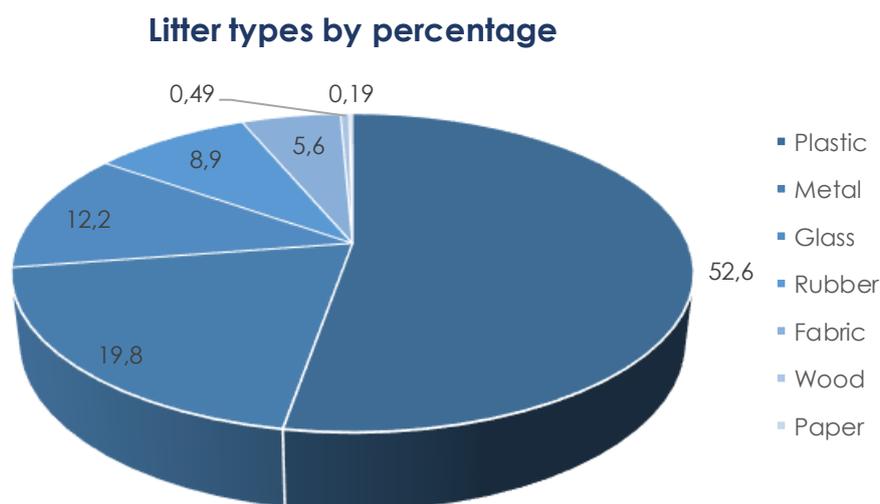
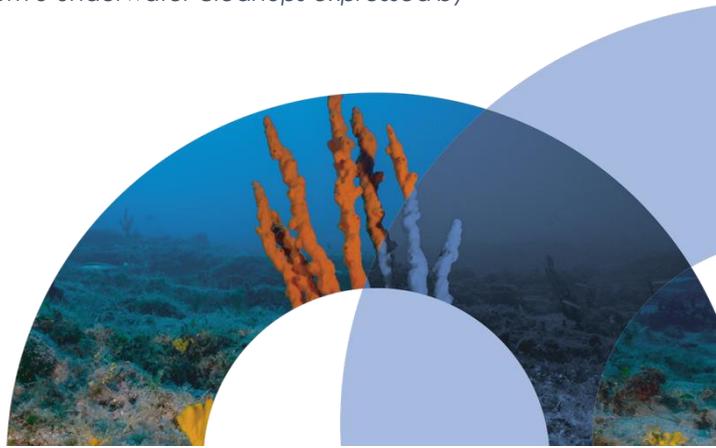


Figure 6: Litter type according to the data collected from 6 underwater cleanups expressed by percentage.



Porto Heli (A13) with a percentage of more than 68% and Methoni Fishing Port (A17) with a percentage of more than 66%, were the two ports that exceeded the average percentage of plastic. In particular, Porto Heli Port (A13), is a highly touristic area. As a result, the increased number of boats mooring in the area and their visitors may be responsible for the high abundance of Single Use Plastic bottles and caps collected from the area. In addition, two supermarket trolleys were removed from the seafloor of Porto Heli (A13) probably used by the boat users in order to transfer their supplies.

Furthermore, clothes and pieces of clothes were collected (6%), especially in Elafonisos and Methoni ports. In Methoni, 17 clothes and pieces of clothes were collected, as well as 7 carpets. While, in Elafonisos, more than 40 clothes and pieces of clothes were collected, as well as 8 carpets. Possibly, this is an outcome of the small-scale fishing activities taking place in the area.

On the other hand, in Nafplio port (A14), the most abundant litter type was glass (51%), possibly because of the bars and restaurants which are located in the area, that receive an increased number of visitors and distribute a great amount of glass items, like bottles.

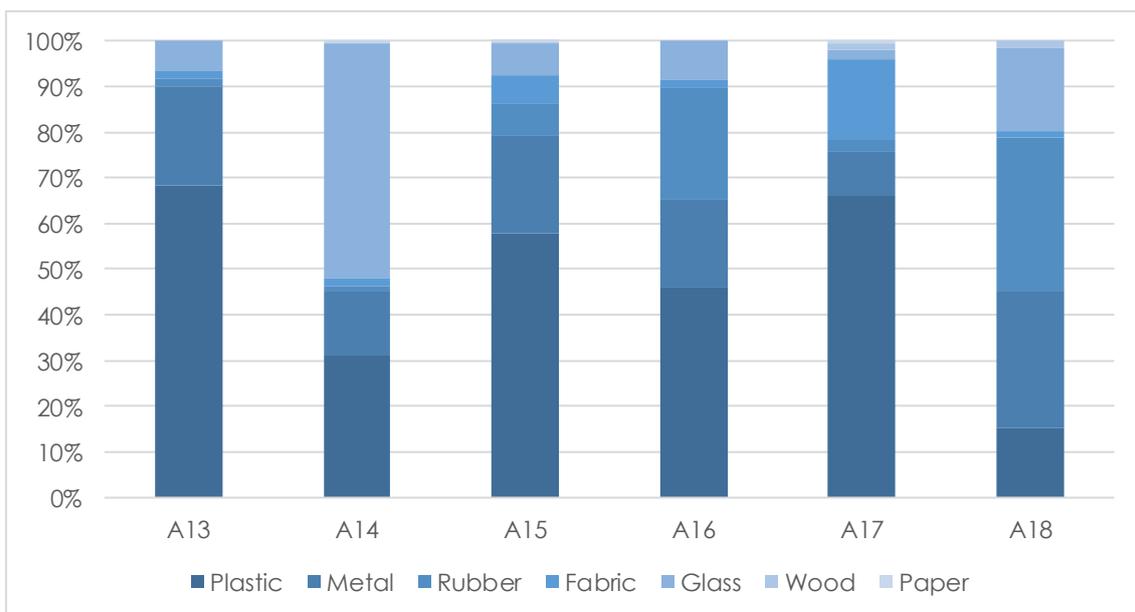
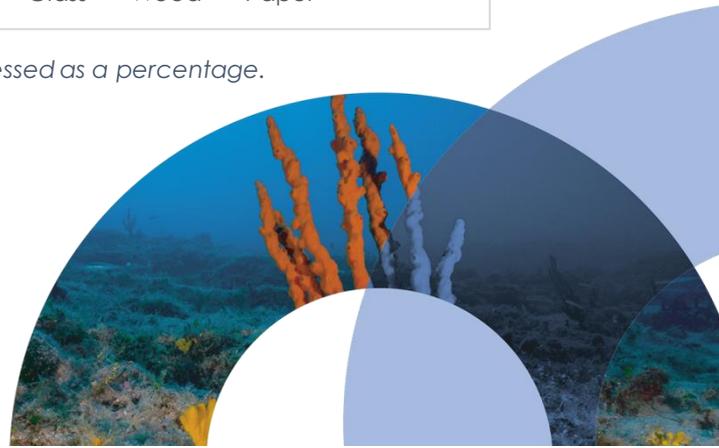


Figure 7: Collected litter per underwater cleanup, expressed as a percentage.



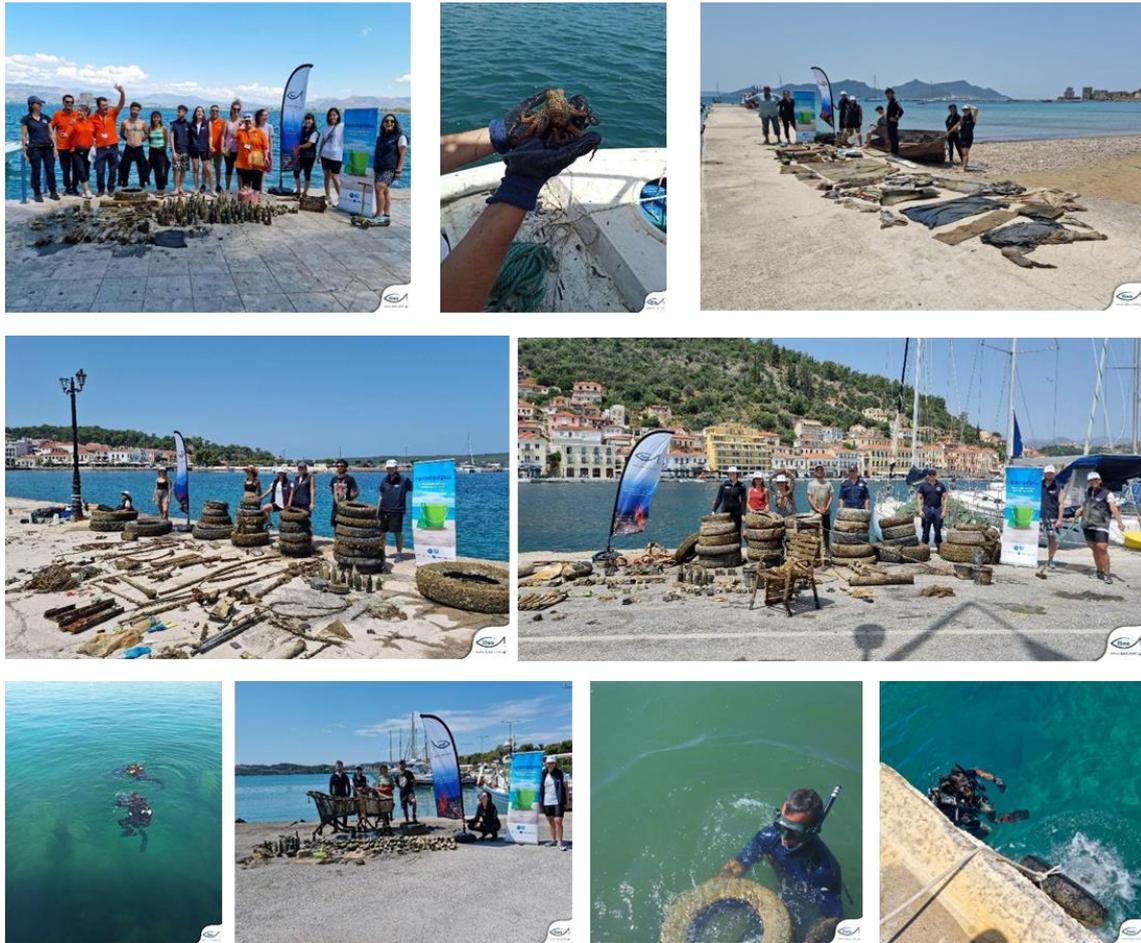
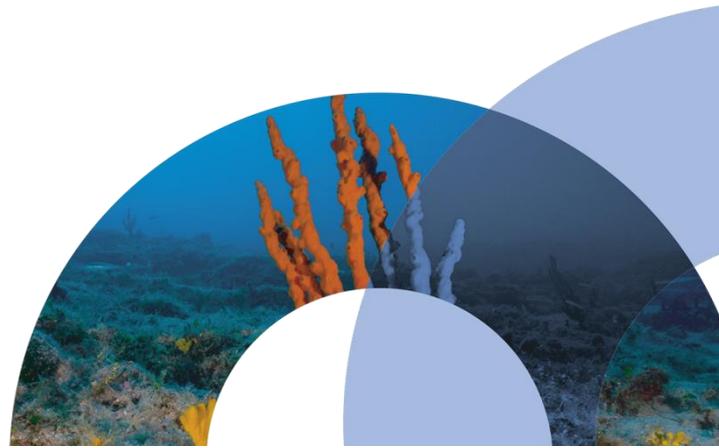


Figure 8: More aspects of the underwater cleanups conducted in Peloponnese.

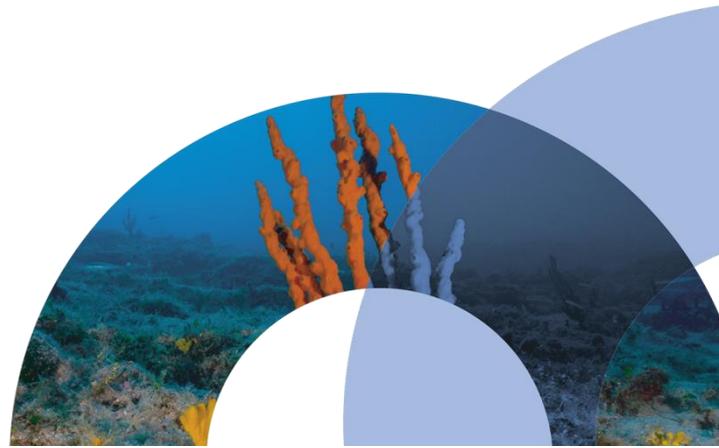


## Litter items

Table 4: Ten most abundant benthic litter items, expressed as a percentage %.

Items	Percentage %
Plastic bottles (water, beverages)	29%
Beverages and beer cans	17%
Single Used Plastic cups and lids	15%
Glass bottles and pieces	10%
Vehicle tires	10%
Clothes and pieces	6%
Bags and pieces	4%
Pipes	4%
Plastic food packaging	3%
Glasses	2%

In the context of the 6 underwater cleanups, the total number of more than 340 plastic bottles (29%) was recorded, followed in number by 200 beverages and beer cans (17%), Single Use Plastic (SUP) cups and lids (15%), glass bottles and pieces (10%) and vehicle tires (10%). Plastic bottles were also the most common litter item, since it was recorded at all ports where the underwater cleanups took place. The highest number of plastic bottles and cans were recorded in Elafonisos Fishing Port (A15), 244 plastic bottles and 130 cans, in particular, possibly because of the touristic businesses and fishing activities taking place in the port. In addition, more than 100 vehicle tires were collected from Elafonisos Fishing Port(A15), Gythio Port (A16) and Pilos Port (A18), possibly as an outcome of the small-scale fishing activities that take place in these

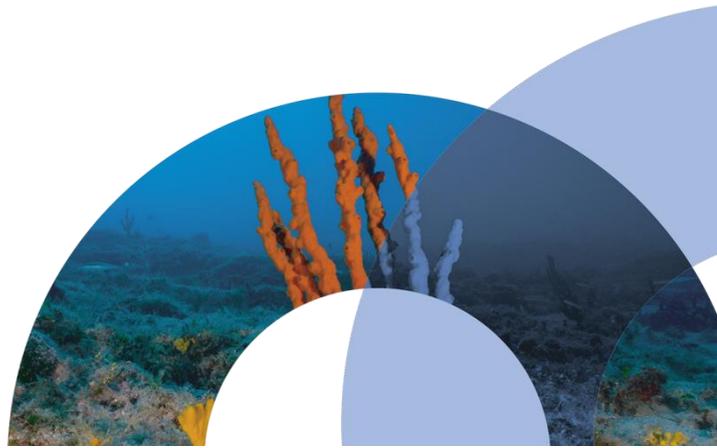




areas using tires as fenders around the port.

Many items dating back to previous decades were also removed from the marine environment. In particular, a telephone card with an expiration date of 2002 was among the litter items removed from Nafplio Port(A14) and a yogurt cup from the 80's was collected from Elafonisos Fishing Port(A15).

It must be also highlighted the fact that a boat and a bathymeter were removed from Methoni Fishing Port (A17) and a high number of octopuses were released from litter items in the same area!



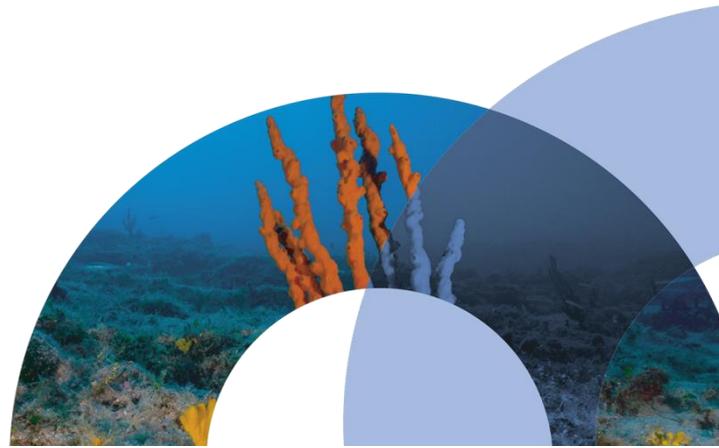
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## Participation details

A total number of more than 180 people participated in “Prosero campaign 14”. In particular, 145 volunteers contributed to the activities and the removal of litter from beaches and 37 volunteers contributed to the activities and the removal of marine litter from the seafloor. Volunteers included iSea members, as well as representatives of associations and entities actively working in the area. In particular, Elafonisos Eco, the Volunteerism Office of Municipality of Pyrgos, Akra Malea diving center, the Green Camp, Archelon, the Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece, MethoNEOI, Γυθιατίστας and OFKATH civil protection group, joined the actions and voluntarily contributed to the cleanups.

In total, 2 instructor divers from the diving team of iSea coordinated the underwater cleanups, while 3 more divers voluntarily participated in all the actions. In addition, more divers voluntarily participated in individual actions.

Apart from the volunteers, representatives from the local authorities took part in the actions. In particular, representatives from the local Municipalities (11), the Coast Guard (8) and the Port Authorities (6) contributed to the implementation of the cleanups. Namely, representatives of the Municipalities of Ermionida, Nafplio, Monemvasia, Elafonisos, Eastern Mani, Pylos Nestor, Methoni, Trifillia, Zacharo, Pyrgos, as well as Andravida-Killinis and the Coast Guards of Porto Cheli, Nafplio, Neapolis Voion, Gythio, Pilos, Katakolo, Monemvasia and Killini participated in the actions, along with the Port Authorities of Ermionida, Nafplio, Pilos, Monemvasia, Methoni and Eastern Mani.



## Communication plan

iSea shared the results of Prosero Campaign via its Social Media and website with the aim not only to distribute the results of the actions, but also to raise awareness about the issue of marine litter and its impact on the natural environment based on the findings of Prosero Campaign. To achieve this goal, a total number of 4 posts were published in Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn presenting the results of the actions in each area and reaching up to 30,000 people.

Table 5: Facebook posts presenting the results of the actions.

Date	Impressions	Reactions	Shares	Link
12-07-2022	35,942	431	14	<a href="#">Link1</a>
15-07-2022	4,324	206	10	<a href="#">Link2</a>
19-07-2022	5,217	258	9	<a href="#">Link3</a>
22-07-2022	3,907	175	7	<a href="#">Link4</a>

Table 6: Instagram posts presenting the results of the actions.

Date	Reach	Reactions	Link
12-07-2022	794	80	<a href="#">Link1</a>
15-07-2022	788	59	<a href="#">Link2</a>
19-07-2022	931	97	<a href="#">Link3</a>
22-07-2022	867	62	<a href="#">Link4</a>

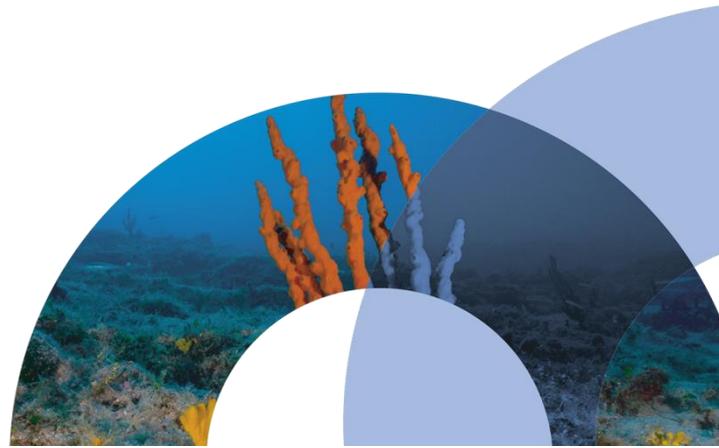


Table 7: Twitter posts presenting the results of the actions.

Date	Impressions	Reactions	Retweet	Link
12-07-2022	259	10	3	<a href="#">Link1</a>
15-07-2022	287	10	2	<a href="#">Link2</a>
19-07-2022	505	10	3	<a href="#">Link3</a>
12-07-2022	197	10	2	<a href="#">Link4</a>

Table 8: LinkedIn posts presenting the results of the actions.

Date	Impressions	Reactions	Shares	Link
12-07-2022	356	12	1	<a href="#">Link1</a>
15-07-2022	653	24	2	<a href="#">Link2</a>
19-07-2022	500	22	1	<a href="#">Link3</a>
22-07-2022	250	13	1	<a href="#">Link4</a>

In addition, a total number of 12 “stories” were published via Social Media during the actions, to inform the public about the progress of each action and keep their interest in the project alive.

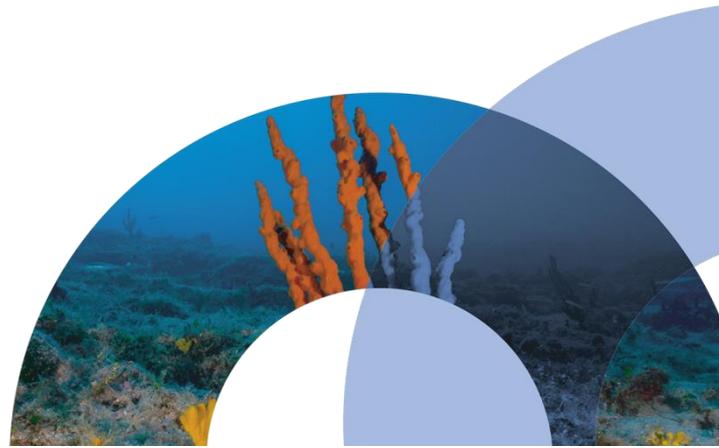


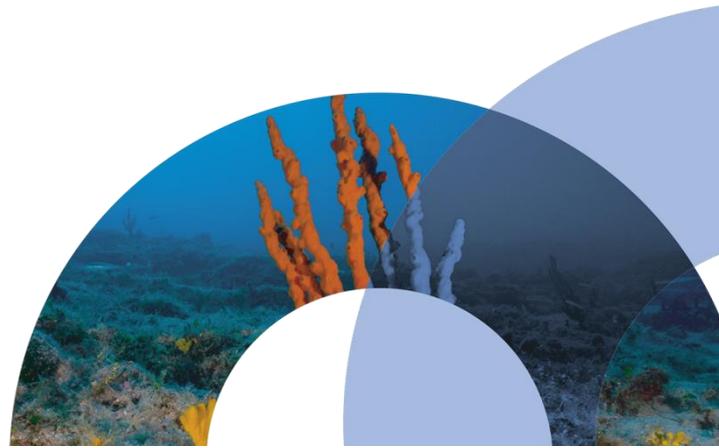


Figure 9: "Stories" of the beach and underwater cleanups conducted in Peloponnese.

A press release was created and shared with the local press inviting the local community to participate in the campaign.

Table 9: Press release inviting the local community to the actions.

Media	Link
Best TV	<a href="#">Link 1</a>
patrisnews	<a href="#">Link 2</a>
ΔΗΜΟΣ ΕΛΑΦΟΝΗΣΟΥ	<a href="#">Link 3</a>
APELA gr	<a href="#">Link 4</a>
NOTOS PRESS	<a href="#">Link 5</a>
anagnostis.org	<a href="#">Link 6</a>
Kalamata TIMES.GR	<a href="#">Link 7</a>
ILIAKA NEA.gr	<a href="#">Link 8</a>



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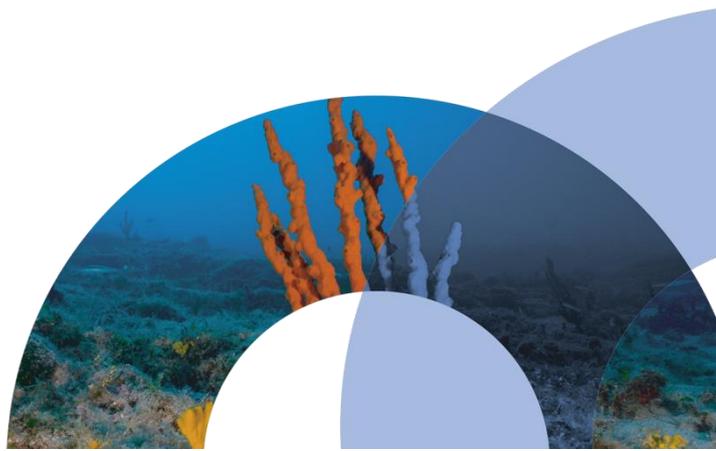
Γαργαλιάνοι Online	<a href="#">Link 9</a>
Η Δύναμη της Προσφοράς	<a href="#">Link 10</a>
Αργολικές Ειδήσεις	<a href="#">Link 11</a>
Pna.gr	<a href="#">Link 12</a>
EPTnews	<a href="#">Link 13</a>
Πρωινή της Ηλείας	<a href="#">Link 14</a>
patrisnews	<a href="#">Link 15</a>
ΑΟ Μεθώνης - ΑΟ Methonis	<a href="#">Link 16</a>
Ανεξάρτητη κίνηση δημοτών Μεθώνης "μεθωΝΕΟΙ, Πνοή Ανανέωσης"	<a href="#">Link 17</a>
Green Camp	<a href="#">Link 18</a>
Δήμος Πύργου / Municipality Of Pyrgos	<a href="#">Link 19</a>

Furthermore, the following articles were published in the local press with the aim to inform the community about the actions and achieve high participation in the actions.

Table 10: Articles in press about Prosero Campaign in the Peloponnese

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Media	Link
Ηλεία Live	<a href="#">Link 1</a>
ΑΘΗΝΑΪΚΟ – ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΙΚΟ ΠΡΑΚΤΟΡΕΙΟ ΕΙΔΗΣΕΩΝ	<a href="#">Link 2</a>
Law & Order	<a href="#">Link 3</a>
Αργολικές Ειδήσεις	<a href="#">Link 4</a>
Argolida Magazine	<a href="#">Link 5</a>
SPARTA VOICE	<a href="#">Link 6</a>
lakonikos.gr	<a href="#">Link 7</a>
NOTOS PRESS	<a href="#">Link 8</a>





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Argolidaportal.gr	<a href="#">Link 9</a>
Githio - Click	<a href="#">Link 10</a>
protinews	<a href="#">Link 11</a>
Flynews	<a href="#">Link 12</a>
NOTOS PRESS	<a href="#">Link 13</a>
parallaxi	<a href="#">Link 14</a>
Krokeai.gr	<a href="#">Link 15</a>
Newsbase	<a href="#">Link 16</a>
Ελαφόνησος Eco	<a href="#">Link 17</a>
Δύναμη προσφοράς	<a href="#">Link 18</a>
Argolida24	<a href="#">Link 19</a>
WebTVeklogika	<a href="#">Link 20</a>
Asini News.gr	<a href="#">Link 21</a>
Ermionida News.gr	<a href="#">Link 22</a>
ArgolidaTV.gr	<a href="#">Link 23</a>
Nafplio News.gr	<a href="#">Link 24</a>

A press release including the final results of the project was also published after the completion of the Prosero 14<sup>th</sup> wave. The Press Release was shared on iSea's website and also sent to the local press of the Peloponnese. Find below the articles published based on the final Press Release:

Table 11: Final press release about Prosero campaign in the Peloponnese.

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Media	Link
Nafplio24.gr	<a href="#">Link1</a>
Anagnostis.org	<a href="#">Link2</a>
Γαργαλιάνοι Online	<a href="#">Link3</a>
Αργολικές ειδήσεις	<a href="#">Link4</a>
Pna.gr	<a href="#">Link5</a>
NEWBASE	<a href="#">Link6</a>
Παρατηρητής NEWS	<a href="#">Link7</a>



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