

IMPACT REPORT 2025



www.isea.com.gr

THESSALONIKI

Thessaloniki, 2026



IMPACT REPORT 2025

IMPACT REPORT 2025



This document is in consistency of iSea's duties and obligations under its internal framework of actions.

Written by: Ioannis Giovos, Olympia Koukouvetsiou and Anastasia Charitou

Edited by: iSea

Designed by: Ioannis Giovos

Photos: iSea and Dimitris Tosidis

Revised by all iSea partners and signed by the Legal Representative, Anastasia Charitou



CONSERVATION OFFICER'S LETTER

This year marks a turning point for the Mediterranean. The global 30x30 commitment has taken firm root here, translating into decisive action. Greece's announcement of two new National Marine Parks stands as a significant step, reflecting a growing consensus that our sea's future requires bold, science-driven protection.

For iSea, this moment reaffirms the critical role of our mission. Our focus is on the essential work that follows a pledge: providing the scientific evidence, supporting effective management plans, and fostering genuine collaboration with coastal communities that makes protection meaningful and durable. The path from designation to true sanctuary is built on this daily, dedicated effort.

We recognise this progress while understanding the work ahead. Ensuring these marine parks deliver their full ecological promise involves navigating complex challenges in governance and implementation. We approach this work with resolve, guided by science and sustained by the trust of our partners, from local fishers to international institutions.

This year, we grounded our efforts in key areas for marine conservation

It is through this collective effort that ambition becomes legacy. Thank you for standing with us as we help shape a future where the Mediterranean's vitality is secured for generations to come.

IMPACT REPORT 2025



CONTENTS

WHO WE ARE	1
STRATEGIC PLAN	2
TEAM 2025	4
MEET THE TEAM	5
WINS	7
RESEARCH	9
MONITORING	10
RESTORATION	11
POLICY	12
AWARENESS	13
COMMUNICATION	14
ACTIVE PROJECTS	15
INTERNS & VOLUNTEERS	16
INTERNS 2025	17
SUSTAINABILITY	19
COLLABORATORS	20
FUNDERS & SPONSORS	22
ALLIANCES	23
ALLIANCES HIGHLIGHTS	24



IMPACT REPORT 2025

WHO WE ARE

OUR VALUES

COLLABORATION

TRANSPARENCY

SCIENTIFICITY

EQUITY

OUR VISION

A healthy Mediterranean Sea supporting the sustainable development and resilience of the local coastal communities

OUR MISSION

Preserve and restore the Mediterranean Sea together with local communities

PILLARS OF WORK

AQUATIC
LITTER

HUMAN &
AQUATIC
ECOSYSTEMS

MARINE
PROTECTED
AREAS

VULNERABLE
SPECIES

IMPACT REPORT 2025



STRATEGIC PLAN



MORE ON THE STRATEGIC
PLAN 2024-2029

CONSERVATION GOALS

- 1 Contribute to the sustainability of Mediterranean fisheries
- 2 Improve our knowledge regarding marine life and its threats
- 3 Improve the conservation and management of vulnerable species and key habitats in the Mediterranean
- 4 Contribute to the 30x30 goal
- 5 Improve the management and Restore Marine Protected Areas in Greece

CONSERVATION ENABLERS

EXTERNAL

- 6 Promote collaboration
- 7 Improve data availability and accessibility

INTERNAL

- 8 Economic sustainability
- 9 HR stability and capacity increase
- 10 Reduce our environmental footprint
- 11 Appealing working environment



IMPACT REPORT 2025



MORE ON THE STRATEGIC
PLAN 2024-2029

STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS

Improve ocean literacy

Engage more than 4000
participants in
educational activities
and events

325%

13024 participants

Promote collaboration

Develop collaboration
with extra 3
Municipalities

266%

8 more municipalities
now involved

Advocating for the strict protection of Formicula island

Protect Formicula
with strict protection
management

100%

Ministerial Decision
123711/3066

Promote collaboration

Develop collaboration
with 10 more
universities globally

90 %

Now in collaboration
with 9 more
Universities

Appealing work environment

At least three events
per year

90 %

iSea running club on
regular training and a
visit to the Action for
Wildlife organised

Continue restoring areas in Greece through litter removal

At least 150 tons of
benthic litter removed
from coastal and deep
waters

62%

94 tons have been
removed

Improve the sustainability and traceability of shark and ray fisheries

Workshops for at least 1500
professional fishers
regarding legislation,
species-specific
identification, and safe
handling and release in
Greece and Cyprus

11%

167 professional fishers
trained

Improve the conservation of sharks and rays in the Mediterranean

Study the efficiency of ex-
situ conservation for sharks
and rays (egg-cases
hatching and hatchlings
release) in Greece

10%

One *Raja clavata* ex situ
hatched and released

Promote the management and restoration of Posidonia meadows in Greece

Incorporating *P. oceanica*
maps into at least one
system or tool used by
stakeholders or spatial
planning authorities

6%

The protection zones of
Formicula are now integrated
into nautical charts,
applications and online
platforms for anchorages

IMPACT REPORT 2025



TEAM 2025

IOANNIS
GIOVOS



ANASTASIA
CHARITOU



THOMAS
CHOULIARAS



NEFELI
KONIDARI



IOANNA
TZIOGA



CHRISTINA
ELEFThERIA DOU



ALEX
ADAMIDIS



OLYMPIA
KOUKOUVETSI O U



NIKOLAOS
DOUM PAS



ROXANI NAASAN
AGA
SPYRIDOPOULOU



NIKOLETTA
SIDIROPOULOU



MARTINA
CIPRIAN



MARIA
SIDIROPOULOU



KYRIAKI
PYLORIDOU



ILEKTRA
ATHINAIOU



ILAEIRA
GIATROUDAKI



FRANCESCO
CECCONI



KATERINA
KOKKALI



GIORGOS
THEODORIDIS



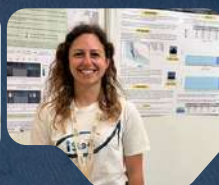
JOAO BERNARDO
VASCONCELOS
BARREIROS



KALLIOPI
LAZAROU



ANDREA TOME
PEREZ



DIMITRIS
TOSIDIS





IMPACT REPORT 2025

MEET THE TEAM

Through another year at iSea, we saw in practice that the implementation of our environmental actions and impact depend not only on their planning, but mainly on the people who participate and support them at every stage. This is why our capacity building, progress monitoring and assessment processes are crucial factors in building a team that aims to make a positive impact on the environment and the society.

For iSea's team to function effectively, a stable support framework is also needed. Clear visibility of how available resources are used strengthens transparency and trust, allowing us to support our team consistently. In this way, our actions are carried out with stability, reliability, and meaningful impact.

The fact that the resource management directly translates into tangible environmental outcomes across iSea's diverse projects and supports impactful conservation actions reinforces my motivation in the organisation's mission.

Christina Eleftheriadou

Financial Assistant



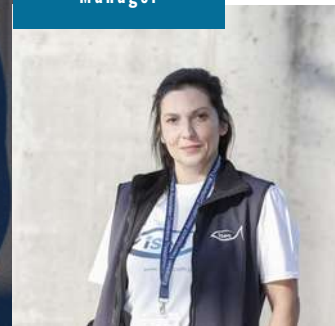
2025 was both a challenging and highly rewarding year for me, as iSea's work through the Fishing for Litter project expanded significantly. I also had the opportunity to become involved in additional projects and collaborate with an even wider range of professionals from different fields.

This year marked a major success for the project and its ambassadors, who managed to retrieve more than 90 tonnes of benthic litter while systematically recording and categorising each item. At the same time, it was a great pleasure to work closely with such a large number of professional fishers and contribute to the processing of the extensive benthic litter database that has been developed in Greece over the years through the implementation of the *Fishing for Litter* project.

Looking ahead to the new year, I hope to see the number of project ambassadors continue to grow and, ultimately, the amount of benthic litter decline!

Maria Sidiropoulou

Assistant Project
Manager



IMPACT REPORT 2025



MEET THE TEAM

Nikolaos Doumpas

Project Manager



As we reach the end of 2025, it feels as though the year has passed in a moment. Yet, reflecting on everything we have achieved together with our partners, interns, and volunteers across Greece, fills me with renewed motivation and optimism for the year ahead. Knowing that, through our collective efforts, we have helped spread the message of environmental protection across the country is what truly keeps us moving forward.

Marine litter pollution remains a complex challenge and one that requires continuous, everyday commitment from all key stakeholders. Addressing it goes beyond reducing Single Use Plastics. It also means active participation in civic life, staying informed about legislation, understanding our rights, and collectively advocating for stronger policies and their effective implementation.

Looking ahead to 2026, I hope to see even greater and more positive changes in our seas, driven by the choices we make and the actions we take.

Ilektra Athinaïou

Project Manager



2025 marked a milestone year for the Inner Ionian Sea. Formicula, a small hotspot of biodiversity and key refuge for the Mediterranean monk seal, saw its first summer with tourism regulation measures in place. As with any first year of implementation, the process was not without challenges. However, we were encouraged to observe compliance among larger vessels, the result of continuous awareness-raising efforts and the ongoing collaboration with local sailing companies, organisations, and authorities.

In parallel, important progress at a policy level took place with the publication of the Marine Park of the Ionian Sea measures. We participated in their public consultation together with local stakeholders, with the goal to once again support science-based management, ensuring that bottom-up approaches were embedded. These developments represent a positive step toward strengthening the resilience of critical species, habitats, and coastal communities of the area, but at the same time, we recognise that effective implementation will require sustained effort over the coming years.

iSea is committed to playing an active role in this process, supporting the transition to achieve long-term conservation benefits.



IMPACT REPORT 2025

WINS

ELSP REVIVING LEMNOS

The systematic work of iSea in Lemnos since 2022 aiming at the protection of this unique marine environment, has evolved further with its inclusion in the ELSP project Reviving Lemnos. The project is a collaborative effort aiming at restoring and protecting the marine and coastal habitats of Lemnos island through a combination of active and passive restoration actions, scientific research, and community engagement to ensure the long-term sustainability of local ecosystems and livelihoods. Through this development, iSea had the opportunity to establish a new field base on the island to support all ongoing work and activities, ensuring our continuous presence.



NATIONAL RESTORATION PLAN

After years of dedicated work for the conservation, protection, and restoration of vulnerable shark and ray species, iSea engaged in the preparation of the National Restoration Plan, following the Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 on Nature Restoration, in partnership with EMFIG-EKVY. The Nature Restoration Regulation establishes a continuous and sustainable process for nature restoration in the EU's terrestrial and marine areas, setting the objective for Member States to put in place restoration measures for at least 20% of the EU's land area and 20% of its seas by 2030. In this framework, iSea's contribution concerns the marine species that are listed in Article 5(5) (Annex III), namely the Basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*), the Great white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*), the Devil ray (*Mobula mobular*), the White skate (*Rostroraja alba*), Guitarfish (Rhinobatidae), and the Angel shark (*Squatina squatina*).



FORMICULA CAMPAIGN

Following the introduction of new protection measures in Formicula, a large-scale awareness campaign was implemented ahead of and throughout the summer season of 2025. The campaign included a series of local outreach events designed to inform visitors and local businesses about the new zoning regulations around the island. Hard work, passion, collaboration and dedication led to measurable results, while our local presence is widely recognized as a key factor in the campaign's success. We maintained a strong on-site presence, delivering 11 local events and distributing over 6000 information cards to residents, schoolchildren, visitors, and to more than 250 local sailing businesses. Importantly, the new measures were integrated into two major nautical applications, Navionics and Navily, a key achievement that helps ensure compliance by visiting vessels equipped with these tools.



IMPACT REPORT 2025



WINS

PARTICIPATION IN CONSULTATIONS



Driven by our belief in the value of collaboration and our commitment to working closely with local communities for the effective protection of the natural environment, in 2025, we joined forces with other organisations and local stakeholders and actively participated in public consultations concerning critical environmental issues. Based on the research results of our work over the years, we participated in the public consultation for the Special Environmental Studies of the two new National Marine Parks in the Ionian and the South Aegean, presenting our comments and proposals based on the research results of our work. Within the framework of the Amvrakikos Alliance, we submitted our joint comments and proposals for the substantial improvement of the management of the Natura 2000 protected areas in Amvrakikos Wetlands National Park. Alongside local fishing associations, we formed a united front and took part in the public consultation on the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment regarding the designation and delineation of the Aquaculture Development Area (POAY) in the Amvrakikos Gulf.

obSERVING NATURE CAMPAIGN



Within the framework of the *obSERVING NATURE* project, the successful awareness-raising campaign #ProtectThem #ProtectYou was implemented, aiming to inform consumers about the mislabeling and illegal trade of shark and ray species, both for the conservation of these species and for the consumers' own health. The campaign focused on five iconic species of the Greek waters: the Shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*), Angel sharks (*Squatina squatina*), the Spiny butterfly ray (*Gymnura altavela*), the Duckbill bull ray (*Aetomylaeus bovinus*), and the Bluntnose sixgill shark (*Hexanchus griseus*). Although all of these species are protected and threatened with extinction, they are commonly found in fish markets. The campaign included communications through social media and mass media, as well as a series of outreach activities, including events for Shark Awareness Day and visits to big fish markets in Thessaloniki and Athens to inform consumers about the impacts of illegal trade of threatened shark and ray species. The campaign achieved a significant impact reaching a total of 328,564 people and raising public awareness so that consumers are able to assess what may actually be hidden behind the mislabeling of shark and ray products.



IMPACT REPORT 2025

RESEARCH



5 SCIENTIFIC
PUBLICATIONS
PUBLISHED

AVERAGE IMPACT
FACTOR: 4.4

4 SCIENTIFIC
PUBLICATIONS
SUBMITTED

AVERAGE IF: 4.4

12 COMMUNICATIONS IN
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCES
PRESENTED

9 COMMUNICATIONS IN
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCES
SUBMITTED

IMPACT REPORT 2025



MONITORING



88

BRUV'S
DEPLOYMENTS

100 H

OF UNDERWATER
VIDEOS ANALYSED



335

FISHING TRIPS
MONITORED

FISHERS
ENGAGED

309

DRONE SURVEYS
CONDUCTED

204



QUESTIONNAIRES

287

41

NEW BLUE CARBON
SAMPLES

DIVING

309 H



247 H

BOAT
MONITORING

45

DOLPHIN
SURVEYS





IMPACT REPORT 2025

RESTORATION

A white silhouette of a shark swimming to the right, positioned above the "247" box and the "90" box.

247

SHARKS & RAYS
RELEASED

90

SHARKS & RAYS
TAGGED

A white silhouette of a tied litter bag, positioned above the "18597" box and the "22833" box.

18597

AQUATIC LITTER
REMOVED

22833

LITTER ITEMS
RECORDED

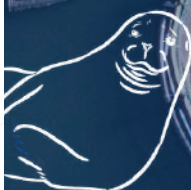
IMPACT REPORT 2025



POLICY

1

STRICTLY
PROTECTED AREA
CREATED



2

REPORTS FOR
ANGEL SHARKS
PUBLISHED



5

PARTICIPATIONS IN
CONSULTATIONS

CONTRIBUTING TO

2

POLICY BRIEFS

36

INVOLVED
STAKEHOLDERS



IMPACT REPORT 2025

AWARENESS

49

BEACH &
UNDERWATER
CLEAN UPS



74

EVENTS



2118

PARTICIPANTS

9277

PARTICIPANTS

2

BIOBLITZES



142

PARTICIPANTS

IMPACT REPORT 2025



COMMUNICATION



35422

WEBSITE VISITORS

3150

PEOPLE INFORMED
THROUGH PEER TO
PEER CAMPAIGNS

373

ARTICLES IN PRESS

5772

FOLLOWERS



26712

FOLLOWERS



893455

PEOPLE REACHED

109400

PEOPLE REACHED

717

FOLLOWERS



173047

PEOPLE REACHED

4586

FOLLOWERS



68060

PEOPLE REACHED



IMPACT REPORT 2025

ACTIVE PROJECTS

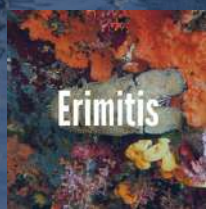
AQUATIC LITTER



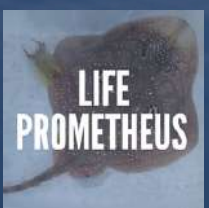
HUMAN & AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS



MARINE PROTECTED AREAS



VULNERBALE SPECIES



IMPACT REPORT 2025



INTERNS & VOLUNTEERS

256

APPLICATIONS



24

COUNTRIES

19

INTERNS



181

WEEKS

6736

HOURS

35

VOLUNTEERS



167

WEEKS

6455

HOURS



IMPACT REPORT 2025

INTERNS 2025

ANDREA VERA
ESPINOSA



iSea Scholarship 2025

CHARLES
BOOT



IRIS
LOUGHMAN



JULIE
FARGES



ARTHUR
GAGNON-LE
COUSTOMER



PANAGIOTA-
EIRINI PENIOU



LEONARDO
CASOTTO



ELEONORA
ZUCCOLO



NIKI
IAKOVIDOU



ALIX
HORMANNSDORFER



AIMILIOS
ANTONATOS



SOPHIA
GAMBIERAKIS



DAFNI
KOUROGLOU



CHARLES
LEONARD



SONA
MAHARJAN



PAVLOS
ANDROMIDAS



DIMITRI
ROSATI



IMPACT REPORT 2025



INTERNS 2025

OUR INTERNS SAID:

Being an intern at iSea has been an enriching experience! Working closely with passionate marine conservationists, I gained hands-on experience that truly deepened my understanding of marine biodiversity. Beyond the science, the warm and supportive atmosphere within the team made this internship truly memorable!

Julie Farges - France - University of Nantes



As a student with a background in Computer Science, I was initially unsure what to expect from this internship. But the overall experience turned out great. It was inspiring to work with a team that is very passionate about aquatic conservation. Even though I was not directly involved in specific on-field projects, I learned so many things about the aquatic ecosystem and its crucial role in environmental sustainability. This internship broadened my perspective on what it means to create a sustainable environment and has made me more aware of my own actions and impact.

Sona Maharjan - Nepal - University College Dublin



I came to iSea for my internship without really knowing what to expect. The experience turned out to be far greater than I could have ever imagined. Living in a research base and having the chance to conduct real research, for something with such a high purpose, even before completing my bachelor's degree, was a unique and valuable opportunity. What made this journey truly special, however, were the people. The friendships I built during my internship are something I will always carry in my heart, along with all the good memories we created together.

Dafni Kouroglou - Greece - Aristotle University of Thessaloniki



Regarding my experience as an intern at iSea in the Amvrakikos Gulf, I can say that it has been an amazing and enriching experience. I had the opportunity to improve my professional skills by working with elasmobranchs and applying several different research methodologies. All of this took place while being fully immersed in Greek culture, in the welcoming and supportive environment of Menidi. I met and worked with wonderful people, both from iSea and among the fishers we collaborated with. It is an experience that I will certainly carry in my heart, and that has strongly contributed to my personal and professional growth.

Leonardo Casotto - Italy - University of Padova





IMPACT REPORT 2025

SUSTAINABILITY



2.65 tn

PER PERSON

TRANSPORTATION

1.4 tn

PER PERSON



ENERGY

0.23 tn

PER PERSON IN
HEADQUARTERS

1.66 tn

PER PERSON IN
FIELD BASE



BOAT

0.92 tn

PER PERSON

8.5 kg

CIGARETTE BUTTS
COLLECTED TO BE
REPURPOSED

192.5 kg

COFFEE
COLLECTED TO BE
REPURPOSED

4749

PLASTIC CUTLERIES
SAVED



24 Lt

NATURAL CLEANING
PRODUCTS USED

IMPACT REPORT 2025



COLLABORATORS

EKBY
SZN
Hellenic Institute of Speleological
Research
COISPA
CSIC
CESTHA
ISPRA
CCI
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
University of Patras
University of Padova
University of Catania
University of Bologna
Marche Unjversity
University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
University of Plymouth
Florida International University
University of Cambridge
Al-Azhar University
University of the Balearic Islands
University of Genova
University of Palermo
University of the Aegean
Nord University
Oceanus lab
University Côte d'Azur

Ikion
Skopelos diving center
H2O
Argonauta diving center
Diving Corfu
Eco diving
Kos divers
Seaworld
Aegina Divers
Cycladic diving
Zoumbosub
Amorgos Diving
Chania diving
Aegean seals
Seaworld Kos
Eurodivers
Scuba turtles
Dive2gether
Athos-scuba
Easy divers
Blue fin divers
Corfu diving fun club
Professional corfu divers
Ionian pro divers
NECCA
Area Marina Protetta di Capo Testa
AMP ISOLE PELAGIE



IMPACT REPORT 2025

COLLABORATORS

IUCN
IUCN SSC
ZSL
Tethys Research Institute
WWF
Shark Trust
Submon
Marine & Environmental Research Lab
Project Κα.Πα
SPOT
Marine Turich Research Foundation
Hellenic Ornithological Society
The Green Tank
Archelon
Arion
Higgs
ASCOB - Syrtis
Helmepa
Incommon
Mamagea
Hellenic Rescue Team
We4all
The Cleningans
Enalia Physis
SSAEP
Erimitis Plous
Society for the Protection of Biodiversity of Thrace

ANIMA
MEDASEET
BirdLife
Banlastic
Society for the Protection of Prespa
National Museum of Natural History
Goulandris
KOENIG
Nerd Fishing
National Geographic
Blue Cycle
Europe Direct
Foundry
Terra
SATHOAN
Padi aware
PCP
Filippos
Forkys Foods
Federpesca
NetEC
Ente Fauna Marina Mediterranea
Marine Biology Libya
National Technical University of Athens
Cigaret cycle
EU4EU

IMPACT REPORT 2025



FUNDERS & SPONSORS

FUNDERS

Arcadia Fund
Endangered Landscapes & Seascapes Programme
Blue Marine Foundation
WWF Greece
Athanasios C. Laskaridis Charitable Foundation
Sani Resort
Shark Foundation / Hai-Stiftung
Argosaronic Environment Foundation
Rauch Foundation
Shark Conservation Fund
The Shark Trust
LIFE - European Commission
OceanCare
Green Fund
WWF Mediterranean
SPA/RAC
Zoological Society of London
Eurobank
WWF France
Humanitas
Ionian Environment Foundation
Seal Greece Initiative
Mediterranean Sea and Coast Foundation
Hellenic Ornithological Society
Pinwheel

Ad Operation Experts
Ayens
Grant Thornton Greece
Whywasteme
Re4earth
Kotsovolos
KMOP
Individuals
Youbehero

SPONSORS

Procter and Gamble Hellas
AB Vassilopoulos
PPC
Hellenic Association of Insurance Companies
Mandoulides School
Phocus
Higgs
PCT
Cerca Trova Ltd
Nexi
PCP



IMPACT REPORT 2025

ALLIANCES

European Elasmobranch Association
Amvrakikos Alliance
Angel Shark Conservation Network
Greek Wildlife Alliance
Beyond Plastic Med
High Seas Alliance
Med Sea Alliance
European Citizen Science Association
Cooperation Network for the Marine
Environment
Greek Marine Wildlife Stranding Network
European Alien Species Information
Network
Small and Medium Civil Society
Organizations Union
Fishing For Litter
MEAREACT
weseayou
Mediterranean Posidonia Network

IMPACT REPORT 2025



ALLIANCES HIGHLIGHTS

Ioannis Giovos is the New Regional Vice-Chair for the Mediterranean and Black Sea of the IUCN Species Survival Commission Shark Specialist Group for the 2025-2029 quadrennium, with a key role in linking global conservation priorities to the local level and vice versa.



Anastasia Charitou became a member of the Med Sea Alliance Steering Committee Group, which plays a key role in shaping the strategic direction and coordination of the Alliance.



The early-career researchers committee of the European Elasmobranch Association, initiated by iSea, is now established with the aim of enhancing opportunities that will allow younger researchers and shark and ray advocates to network with seasoned professionals and showcase their latest findings.





IMPACT REPORT 2025



Headquarters

Kritis 12

Thessaloniki 54645

Greece

Fieldbase

Menidi

Aetolia-Acarnania 30500

Greece

Fieldbase

Panagia

Lemnos 81401

Greece



+30 2313090696



info@isea.com.gr