

## Prosfero campaign

"<u>Prosfero</u>" campaign is funded by Procter & Gamble and AB Vasilopoulos and implemented by iSea with the aim to achieve cleaner beaches and coasts. The 10<sup>th</sup> wave of "Prosfero" campaign includes 30 underwater cleanup actions during the period April-May 2021 in different regions of Northern Aegean. This interim report refers to the activities already conducted in the context of the 10<sup>th</sup> wave of "Prosfero".

The coordination and organization of the actions began in March 2021 and the implementation of the actions took place from April to May 2021. The present report concerns the description of 26 actions already implemented in the context of the 10<sup>th</sup> wave.

## **Project Manager:**

Anastasia Charitou

Environmental Organisation for the preservation of Aquatic Ecosystems, iSea

## **Project Assistant:**

Zoi Mylona

Environmental Organisation for the Preservation of Aquatic Ecosystems, iSea



## **Underwater cleanups**

During April- May 2021, 26 underwater cleanups were implemented in the context of the 10<sup>th</sup> wave of Prosfero Campaign. In particular, 13 underwater cleanups in Chalkidiki, 5 on Lesvos, 1 on Limnos, 1 on Agios Eustratios and 6 on Thassos islands.

Every underwater cleanup was coordinated by 2 representatives of iSea. A diver was responsible for the coordination of the participant divers, the localization and the retrieval of marine litter. Another iSea representative was responsible for the coordination of the volunteers who were supporting the retrieval of the removed marine litter to the coast and recording them to data reporting forms.

### **Details**

1st Activity (A1): Nea Kallikrateia Port, Chalkidiki

2<sup>nd</sup> Activity (A2): Nea Potidaia Port, Chalkidiki

3<sup>rd</sup> Activity (A3): Nea Skioni Port, Chalkidiki

4<sup>rd</sup> Activity (A4): Nea Moudania Port, Chalkidiki

5<sup>th</sup> Activity (A5): Nikiti Port, Chalkidiki

6<sup>th</sup> Καθαρισμός (A6): Neos Marmaras Port, Chalkidiki

7th Activity (A7): Porto Koufo Port, Chalkidiki

8th Activity (A8): Vourvourou Pier, Chalkidiki

9th Activity (A9): Latoura Port, Chalkidiki

10th Activity (A10): Pyrgadikia Pier, Chalkidiki

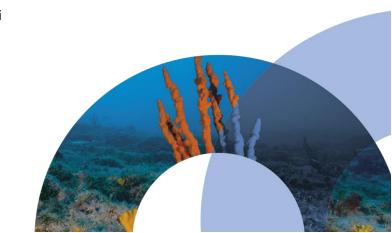
11th Activity (A11): Nea Fokaia Port, Chalkidiki

12th Activity (A12): Nea Roda Port, Chalkidiki

13th Activity (A13): Ierissos Port, Chalkidiki

14th Activity (A14): Loutra Port, Lesvos

15th Activity (A15): Plomari Port, Lesvos



16th Activity (A16): Perama Port, Lesvos

17th Activity (A17): Varia Port, Lesvos

18th Activity (A18): Molyvos Port, Lesvos

19th Activity (A19): Myrina Port, Limnos

20th Activity (A20): Agios Efstratios Port

21th Activity (A21): Limenas Old Port, Thassos

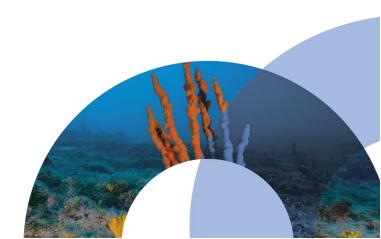
22<sup>th</sup> Activity (A22): Skala Potamias, Thassos

23th Activity (A23): Skala Sotiros, Thassos

24th Activity (A24): Skala Kallirachis, Thassos

25<sup>th</sup> Activity (A25): Skala Rachoniou, Thassos

26<sup>th</sup> Activity (A26): Limenaria, Thassos



 $Table \ 1: \textit{Details of the underwater cleanups implemented in the context of the 10$^{th}$ wave of \textit{Prosfero campaign} \\$ 

Activity code	Date	Volunteers	Litter collected (kg)
A1	03-04-2021	8	1120
A2	04-04-2021	7	2090
А3	05-04-2021	4	240
A4	06-04-2021	8	220
A5	12-04-2021	8	950
A6	13-04-2021	15	750
Α7	14-04-2021	4	300
A8	15-04-2021	4	350
Α9	15-04-2021	4	630
A10	16-04-2021	6	150
<b>A</b> 11	21-04-2021	4	210
A12	22-04-2021	4	200
A13	22-04-2021	4	310
A14	09-05-2021	3	311
A15	10-05-2021	3	467
A16	10-05-2021	3	245
A17	11-05-2021	8	1408
A18	11-05-2021	5	653
A19	13-05-2021	8	2860
A20	14-05-2021	3	98
A21	19-05-2021	5	226
A22	20-05-2021	5	220
A23	20-05-2021	6	460
A24	21-05-2021	6	1250
A25	21-05-2021	7	746
A26	22-05-2021	7	676
Total		47	17140



## Litter data

The total number of the recorded litter types is 7, according to the protocol established and used by the participating organizations in the Cooperative Network for the Marine Environment (Plastic, Rubber, Fabric, Metal, Paper, Processed Wood and Glass items).

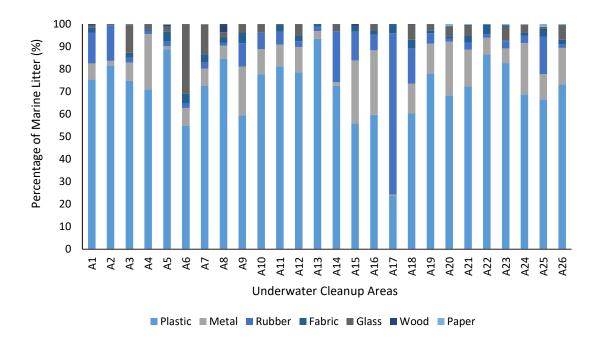
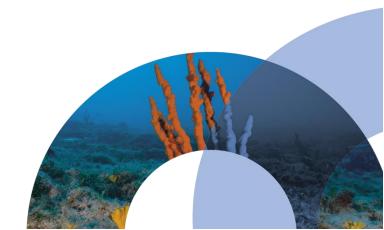


Figure 1: Collected litter per action and type, expressed as percentage (%).

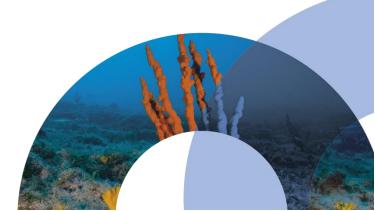
The findings of the underwater cleanups of the 10<sup>th</sup> wave, as evidenced by the analysis of the data collected in the 26 actions, are presented in Figure 1. A total amount of more than 11,000 items were removed, exciding the 17 tones in weight. The most common litter type in the vast majority of the actions is plastic with a rate exceeding 55%, except A17 action that had rubber items exceeding the usual percentages. In general, plastic was the most abundant litter type collected was plastic reaching the total percentage of 74%.



In Chalkidiki, most of the items belonged to plastic items type, ranging from 55% to 93% of the total items found per area of interest, possibly because these areas attract a great number of tourists and mainly due to the fact that they host intensive fishing activities. More specifically, amongst the most abundant items were plastic bags, fishing lines, plastic bottles, ropes and twines, fishing nets, beverage and beer cans, Single Used Plastic cups and lids, vehicle tires, plastic pieces (>2.5), building materials and food packaging. In particular, more than 1,000 plastic bags and pieces coming from them were removed from the seabed of Chalkidiki ports.

On Lesvos island, most of the items also belonged to plastic items, ranging from 55% to 93% of the total items found per area of interest. However, in A17 the furthest most abundant item was vehicle tires (rubber type) that are used as floaters in the ports, but during the winter they usually get untied from the severe waves and end up at the bottom of the port seabed. More than 100 vehicle tires of different sizes were removed from the particular area, being the highest quantity of tires ever removed from iSea during cleanups. Following the vehicle tires, the most abundant items found in the rest of the examined ports of Lesvos were mainly plastic bags, plastic bottles, beverages and beer cans, ropes and twines, pieces greater than 2.5 cm, batteries and SUP cups and lids.

On the islands of Limnos and Agios Efstratios, the most abundant items belonged to plastic and metal items. In particular, in Myrina Port (A19), bottles, fishing lines, beverages and beer cans and SUP cups and lids were the most abundant items, while in Agios Efstratios Port (A20), except for beverage and beer cans, and fishing lines, plastic bags and food packaging were also found in a great abundance. Agios Efstratios Port was apparently clean, without many litter items removed, still the local community welcomed the action and actively contributed to its implementation.

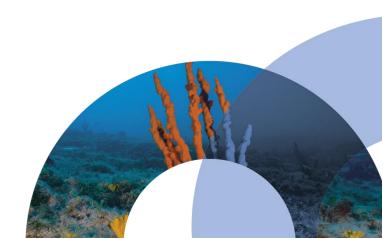


On Thassos island, most of the items belonged to plastic items, ranging from 66% to 87% of the total items found per area of interest. The most abundant items were bottles, ropes, fishing lines, beverage and beer cans, bags and pieces, plastic pieces (>2.5 cm) and vehicle tires.

In general, the highest amount of fishing nets were recorded and collected from Neos Marmaras (A6), plastic pieces (>2.5 cm) from Skala Kallirachis (A24), building materials from Nikiti (A5), fishing lines from Porto Koufo, Nea Skioni and Skala Potamias (A7, A3 and A22), Single Used Plastics from Nea Moudania and Myrina (A4 and A19), bags and pieces from lerissos and Vourvourou (A13 and A8), food packaging from Nea Moudania (A4), ropes and twines from Skala Kallirachis and Neos Marmaras (A24 and A6), fishing lures from Nikiti (A5), vehicle tires from Varia, Myrina and Skala Kallirachis (A17, A19 and A24), clothes from Neos Marmaras (A6), carpets from Porto Koufo and Skala Potamias (A7 and A22), pallets and pieces from Vourvourou (A8), beverage and beer cans from Skala Kallirachis and Neos Marmaras (A24 and A4), fishing traps from Nea Fokaia (A11), bottles from Neos Marmaras and Porto Koufo (A6 and A7), anchors from Skala Potamias and Skala Kallirachis (A22 and A24), batteries from Perama and Neos Marmaras (A16 and A6), and plastic octopus traps from Thassos ports.

In total, regarding the number of litter items found in the aforementioned areas, the areas considered the most severely impaired were in descending order Sjala Kallirachis (A24), Neos Marmaras (A6) and Ierissos (A13), while the cleanest areas were Pyrgadikia Pier (A10) and Loutra Port (A14).

The ten most common litter items during the underwater cleanups in North Aegean are shown in the Figure 2.



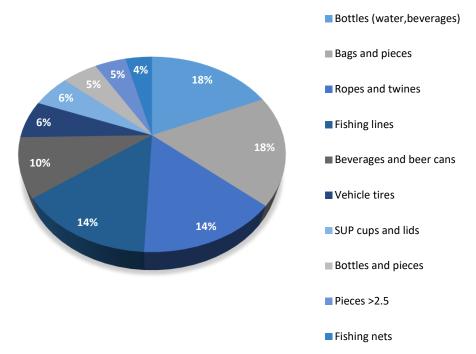


Figure 3: Ten most common collected items, expressed as percentage (%).

From the total amount of litter removed, the highest number of them was plastic bottles and bags. Most of them were removed from fishing ports and areas with small scale fishing and leisure activities; possibly for the same reason, abandoned, lost and discarded derelict fishing gear follows including ropes, twines and fishing lines. Most of the fishing gear found in the current cleanups can be explained by the intensive fishing activities taking place in the area, indicating the main use of these ports.

During the 10<sup>th</sup> wave, most of the ports were fishing and recreational ports. Thereby, ropes and twines, fishing lines and nets, were very common among the litter items. After each cleanup a protocol was followed in order to collect data from the area of the sea bottom that was cleaned. In addition, the D10C2 index according to the Marine Strategic Framework Directive was computed, more specifically it was found equal to 0,09 items/m². The total area of the sea bottom that was cleaned was 125,163 m².

## **General Details**

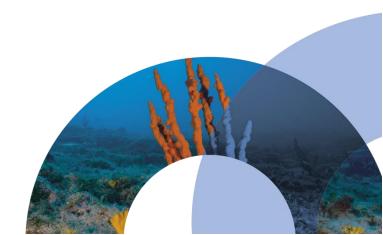
In the context of 26 underwater cleanups already implemented in the context of "Prosfero" Campaign a total number of 47 different volunteers contributed to the activities and the removal of marine litter from sea, mainly helping the divers to lift the litter to the port dock. The volunteers included iSea members and representatives from the local municipalities, touristic businesses and volunteer teams from civil protection groups and associations.

In total, 11 different divers participated in the underwater cleanups. 5 of them belonged to iSea's trained diving team and 6 of them represented local diving associations and diving centers.

A total amount of about 17 tons of litter were collected from the seabed of the ports of Northern Aegean Sea. Among the items removed from the seabed extraordinary things were included like an X-ray, a bin, a razor, welcome mats, screwdrivers, a drying rack, road signs, a traffic cone, sunglasses, a flask, flares, an iron for clothes, smartphones, a plastic toilet, a radio and clothespins.

## June 2020- July 2021

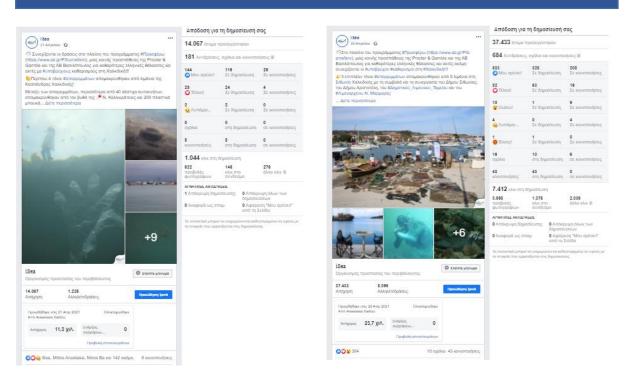
From June 2020 to July 2021, a total number of 59 underwater cleanups took place in North Aegean and the Ionian Sea. A total amount of 36,220 kg was removed from the seafloor of the areas with more than 150 volunteers contributing to the removal of the litter items from each area and 13 divers. A total number of 30,000 litter items were removed approximately, more than 81% of them being plastics.

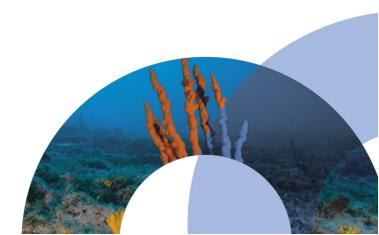


## Communication plan

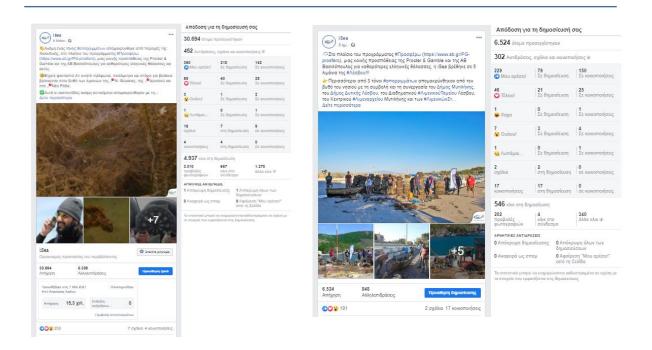
Due to Covid-10 pandemic and to avoid crowd gathering in the context of "Prosfero", the activities were mainly implemented by iSea diving team and coordinated by iSea members. Call for volunteers and activities announcing post were only published among the corresponding Municipal Authorities, volunteers and local volunteering teams already collaborating with iSea. The details of the project were published in iSea's website including the communication materials produced during the previous steps of the project. The posts so far in our social media accounts are displayed below:

## **Facebook**

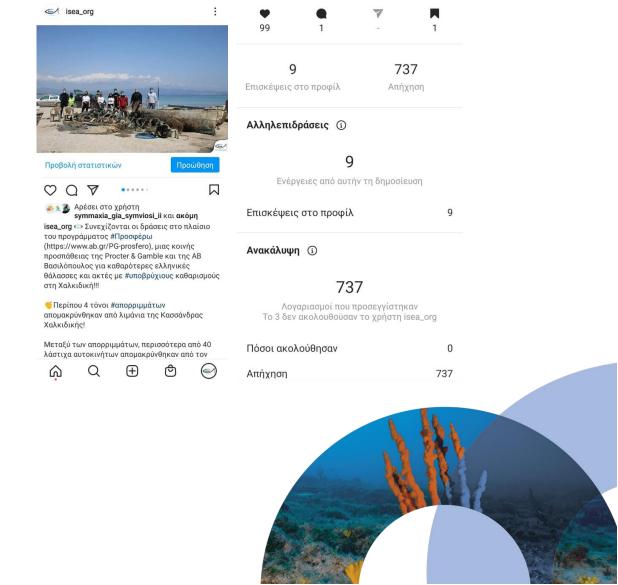




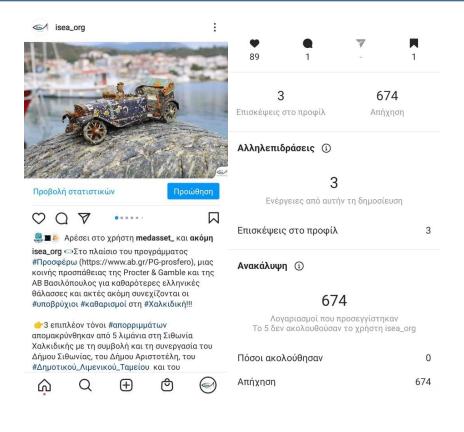


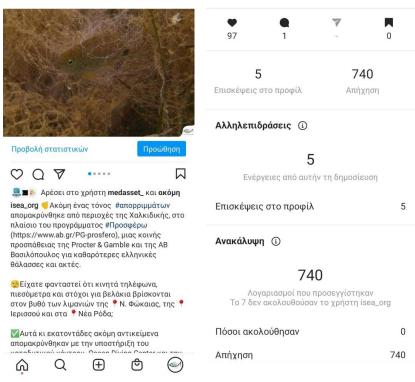


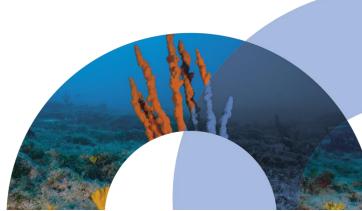
## Instagram



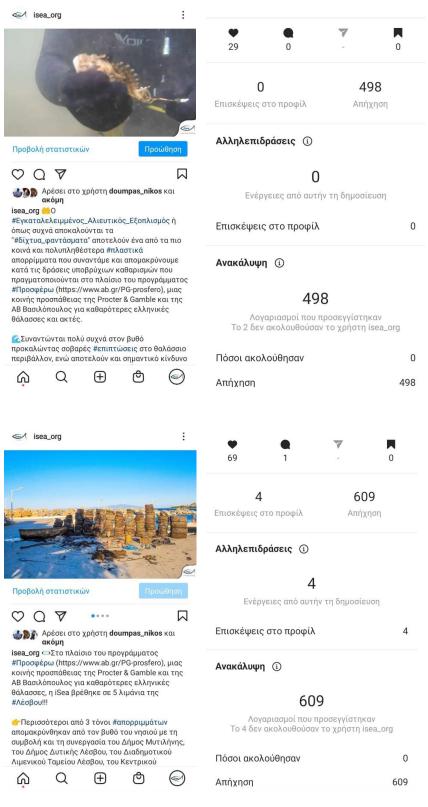


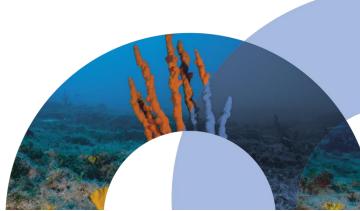












## **Twitter**

#### $\leftarrow$

#### Tweet

3 more tons of #marine\_litter were removed during #underwater\_cleanups in 5 ports of Chalkidiki, in the context of #Prosfero project with the support of Procter & Gamble and AB Vassilopoulos! Find more about the project here: bit.ly/326Udz7

Μετάφραση Tweet









🚨 Ο χρήστης Earth Optimism και 9 άλλοι χρήστες

16:57 · 28 Απρ 21 · Twitter Web App

ιlι Προβολή δραστηριότητας Tweet

15 Επισημάνσεις "Μου αρέσει"

### **(**

#### Tweet



@lseaOrg

Hundreds of #tires, aluminum #cans and #single\_used #plastic items were removed from the seafloor during underwater cleanups on #Lesvos island, in the context of #Prosfero project with the support of Procter & Gamble and AB Vassilopoulos!

Μετάφραση Tweet





🎎 Ο χρήστης CleanSeaLIFE και 9 άλλοι χρήστες

13:42 · 21 Μαΐ 21 · Twitter Web App

ιlι Προβολή δραστηριότητας Tweet

**3** Retweet **13** Επισημάνσεις "Μου αρέσει"

### Tweet

In the context of #Prostero project, huge amounts of "#Ghost\_nets" are removed from Greek ports and hundreds of trapped organisms are released.

Watch the video of the Scorpaena #release, which was found trapped in #nets in the port of #Nea\_Fokea in #Chalkidiki!

Μετάφραση Tweet



86 προβολές

17:14 · 13 Mai 21 · Twitter Web App

🖟 Προβολή δραστηριότητας Tweet

3 Retweet 10 Επισημάνσεις "Μου αρέσει"

#### 4

### Tweet

#underwater\_cleanups in Chalkidiki, in the context of #Prosfero with the support of Procter & Gamble and AB Vassilopoulos!

#allazoumesinithies with your participation.

Find more about the project here: bit.ly/326Udz7

Μετάφραση Tweet





17:02 · 21 Aπρ 21 · Twitter Web App

ιlι Προβολή δραστηριότητας Tweet

**1** Retweet **7** Επισημάνσεις "Μου αρέσει"

#### 4

### Tweet

Objects like mobile phones, blood pressure meters, and dartboards were removed from the seafloor during underwater cleanups in Chalkidiki, in the context of #Prosfero project with the support of Procter & Gamble and AB Vassilopoulos!

Find more here: bit.ly/326Udz7

Μετάφραση Tweet

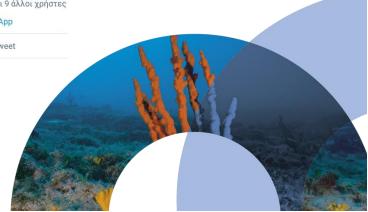


♣ Ο χρήστης Project AWARE και 9 άλλοι χρήστες

17:01 · 06 Maî 21 · Twitter Web App

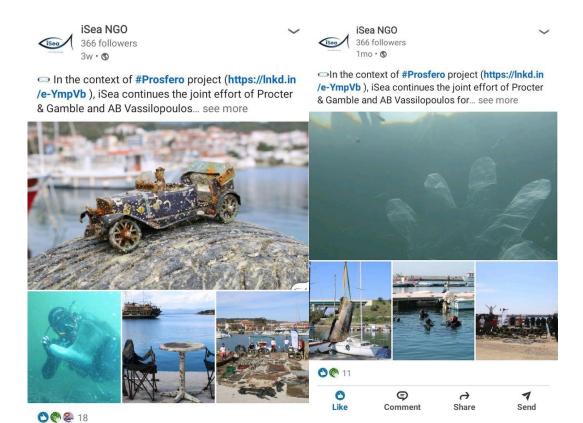
ι Προβολή δραστηριότητας Tweet

7 Επισημάνσεις "Μου αρέσει"





## LinkedIn





+30 231 309 0696



info@isea.com.gr www.isea.com.gr



Kritis 12 | 54645 Thessaloniki | Greece

