Erimitis Peninsula Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) Management Plan

The present document has been developed by the environmental organisation iSea ha has been working in the area of Erimitis since 2021 in collaboration with the local community association Erimitis Plous and the support of Blue Marine Foundation and Ionian Environment Foundation. The management Plan reflect the proposals of the local community association and takes into account the results and insights derived from scientific research on land and sea habitats over the years. More about the project can be found here.

Declaration of conflict of interest:

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interest of personal relationship that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this report.

1. Introduction

1.1 Social-Ecological context of Erimitis

The Eastern Ionian Sea is the area with the most extended meadows(~440 km^2) of *Posidonia oceanica* in Greece, after the North South Aegean Sea. The Peninsula of Erimitis possess one of the richest and diverse habitats in the Ionian Sea, including large shallow inlets and bays, extensive Posidonia meadows, rocky reefs, sandbanks, submerged or partially submerged sea caves. The terrestrial part also consists of a largely virgin dense forest, scrubland with maquis vegetation, coastal lagoons and salt marshes. Three of these habitats are considered EU priority habitats.

Nevertheless, anthropogenic activities including uncontrolled anchoring, proposed large-scale coastal development (such as holiday homes and hotel units), marine traffic, pollution, invasive species and aquacultures are threatening Erimitis peninsula.

But not everything is lost, for more than 12 years, different legal, scientific, social and communicational campaigns like the campaign "Save Erimitis" lead by the environmental association "Erimitis Plous Environmental Protection of the Northern Straight of Corfu" advocating the protection of the peninsula, had thwarted the plans of the destruction of the ecosystem which include the construction of various tourist facilities such as a hotel unit, luxury residences, restaurants, bars, small shops, parking lots, a desalination plant, a wastewater treatment plant and a port facility in the bay of Vromolimni, and several bungalows on the hill of Erimitis with other supporting infrastructure. Alongside this effort preliminary research has been done both on the terrestrial and marine habitats to showcase the ecological importance of the site by identifying priority species and habitats with the goal to ultimately protect the area against development (Athinaiou et al., 2023, 2024, 2025; Giovos et al., 2022; Naasan Aga Spyridopoulou et al., 2021; Papadopolou, 2020)

Since Greece as already achieve his EU commitment of protect 30% of its land and sea by 2030 the possibility of transform this peninsula in a Marine Protect Area is more challenging. However, the eagerness of the people to protect this pristine area had arisen a new type of approach in the Mediterranean, which is to convert this peninsula in a Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA).

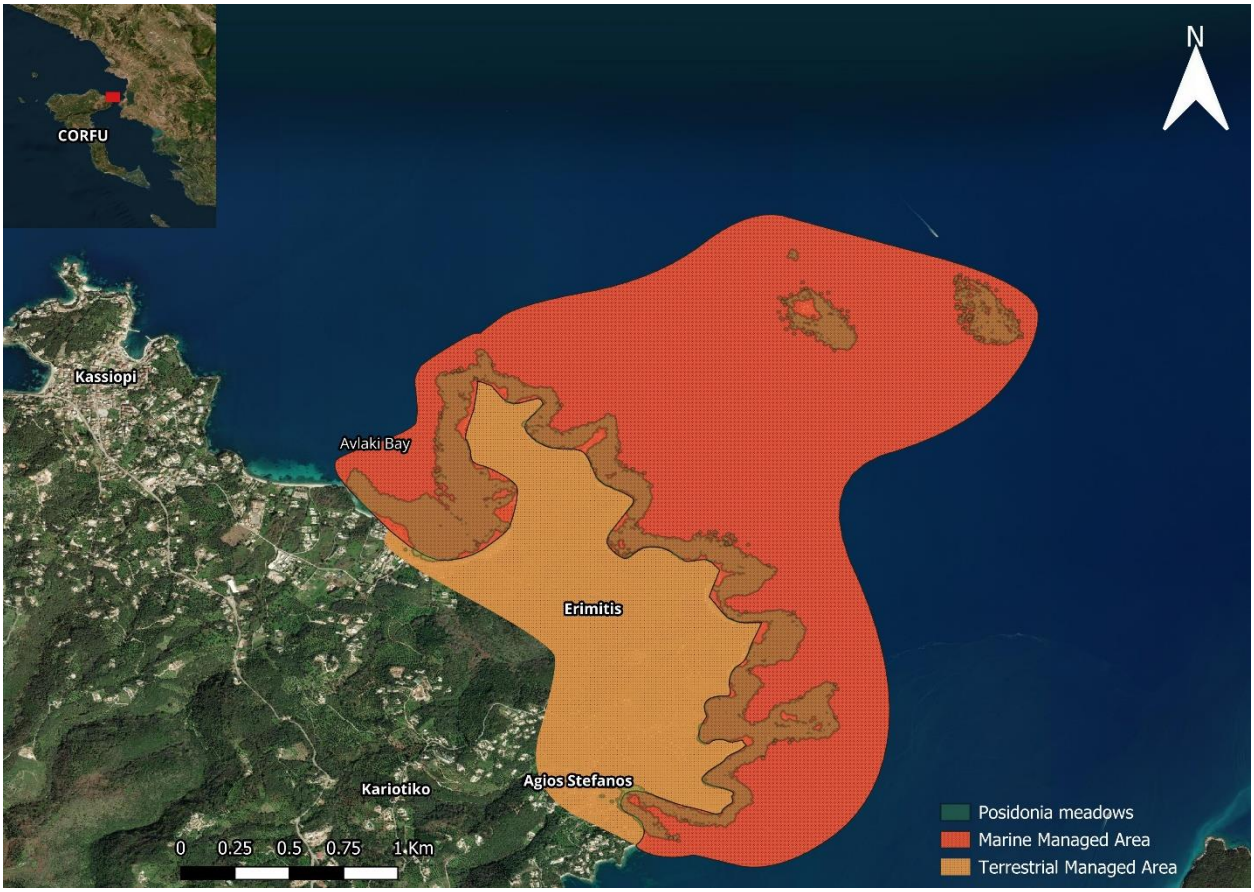
1.2 LMMA approach

A Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) is a marine area (including the coast and surroundings) where a significant portion of the management plan is developed and implemented by the local community with the help and support of the local and/or regional government and NGOs. After 4 years of data collection and working alongside the association of Erimitis Plous we decided that this approach is the best fit to the objectives of protecting the area. The reason why this was chosen are as follow:

- Empowers Local communities: it recognizes small-scale fishers and other local users as rights-holders and primary stewards.
- Integrates Knowledge: it blends modern scientific data with the knowledge held by local fisheries, boat owners, boat operators, and the local community.
- Increases compliance: Rules co-designed by the community are more likely to be respected and self-enforced.
- Promotes adaptability: it allows for flexible, rapid adjustments to management as environmental and social conditions change.
- People support: The community of Erimitis is willing and eager to protect this area as pristine as possible.
- Economical opportunities: The creation of new economical incomes for the local community will make large scale development investments irrelevant to the community.

2. Geographic Scope

Based in scientific data, and local knowledge the Erimitis LMMA could be cover the coastal waters and the terrestrial area surrounding the peninsula with a total of 711 hectares (186 hectares for the terrestrial part and 525 hectares for the marine area) (See Map. 1). However, Based on the data collected by a Non-Government Organization (iSea) in the past 3 years and the local community, no zonation will be implemented. But , depending on the results ,effectiveness and response of the local community a zonation linking the islets with the mainland can be applied in the future. At this stage of the management plan the area will be treated as one zone with general rules to follow.



Map. 1: Map of the potential Marine and Terrestrial protected areas and the location of the Posidonia meadows

3. Vision and Guiding principles.

3.1. Vision Statement

A thriving and protected natural environment in Erimitis where marine and terrestrial biodiversity flourishes, the unique landscape is preserved, local communities are empowered as stewards of their natural home, and sustainable livelihoods based on low-impact activities are secured for current and future generations.

3.2. Guiding principles

All management decisions will be guided by the following principles:

- Ecosystem-based management: Decisions will consider the entire ecosystem, humans and single species alike.
- Precautionary principles: Where there is a threat of serious or irreversible damage, a lack of full scientific certainty will not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.

- Community Co-Management: Management authority and responsibility are shared between local government bodies and local communities.
- Adaptive Management: the plan is a cycle of doing, monitoring, and adapting. Management actions will be regularly reviewed and modified based on the results of the monitoring program.
- Transparency and Equity: All decisions and their justifications will be made openly. The benefits and cost of management will be distributed equitably among stakeholders.

4. Governance structure

4.1. Erimitis Marine Co-management Committee (EMCC)

The primary governing body for the LMMA is the Erimitis Marine Co-management Committee (EMCC).

4.2. Composition of the EMCC

The committee shall be composed of 13 Voting members and 2 non-voting advisors, representing the key stakeholder groups.

- Small-Scale Fishers Association (1 representatives)
- Recreational Fishers (1 representatives)
- Tourism sector (5 representatives: 1 from dive centre, 1 from boat rental, 1 from boat cruises, 1 for restaurants, 1 for accommodation)
- Local NGOs, (1 representative)
- Municipality of North Corfu (1 representative)
- Hellenic Coast Guard (Port authority) (1 representative, non-voting advisory role).
- Regional Authority of Erimitis Area (1 representative)
- Land-owners (1 representative)
- Scientific committee (1 representative, non-voting advisory role)(Detail information about the committee in point section 4.4).

4.3. Roles and Responsibilities of the EMCC

- Review of annual monitoring reports
- Propose and approve amendments to management rules and zoning characterisation.
- Resolve conflicts of interest between user's groups
- Act as the primary link between the community and the government authorities
- Oversee the financial management of the LMMA
- Lead public awareness and initiatives

4.4. Scientific committee

The committee would be composed by 1 or more environmental organizations or science experts working in the area recollecting scientific valid data. Only one representative of this committee will be in the EMCC as a non-voting member.

4.4.1. Roles of Scientific Committee

- Collect scientific valid data of Erimitis peninsula.
- Write final report about the ecological status of Erimitis.
- Monitoring of the protection measures adopted in the LMMA to determine their effectiveness.
- Share the final results of the monitoring status with the EMCC and general public.
- Advise the EMCC about possible improvements or changes in the protection measurements adopted in the LMMA.

5. General regulations: regulations:

- Anchoring in Posidonia meadows should be avoid it. Instead anchoring should happen in sandy patches or the designated proposal areas (Appendix 1).
- Vessel transit speed is encouraged to 5 knots to reduce noise pollution and vessel collision with wildlife.
- Sustainable recreational and professional fishing techniques are encouraged find more in section 5.1.
- Beaches are to remain free form permanent tourist furniture (sunbeds, umbrellas) to preserve their natural beauty.

5.1. Sustainable fisheries management

5.1.1. Minimum Landing Sizes: Minimum landing sizes for key commercial species are encouraged to allow for greater spawning potential (see Appendix 3: List of Minimum landing sizes)

5.1.2. Seasonal closures: A seasonal closure for Dusky grouper (*Ephinephelus marginatus*) and other species during their spawning season will be encourage across the entire area (see Appendix 3 for the season for reproduction).

5.1.3. Presence of eggs: If a species is caught presenting eggs and is still alive it will be encouraged to be released.

5.1.4. “Erimitis Sustainable catch” label: A voluntary certification scheme will be developed for fishers adhering to the LMMA rules, allowing them to market their catch at a premium to restaurants and consumers, creating a direct economic incentive for conservation.

5.2. Habitat and biodiversity protection

5.2.1. Anchoring regulations: A public awareness campaign on the impacts of anchoring will be launched.

5.2.2. A program to install ecofriendly moorings buoys (Specially in areas like Aylaki and Akoli).

5.2.3. Species protection: All visitors should respect the code of conduct. It is strictly forbidden to harass, approach, or feed protected species such as mediterranean monk seals (*Monachus monachus*), sea turtles, and cetaceans. A code of conduct for wildlife watching will be mandatory for all tour operators (Appendix 5).

5.2.4. Wetland protection: Hunting would be limited and progressively phased out in and around the wetlands to protect their unique flora and fauna.

5.2.5. Forest and grassland Management: Fire protection measures will be developed. Sustainable, traditional activities like beekeeping would be permitted and encourage in grassland areas.

5.3. Sustainable Tourism Management

5.3.1. Code of conduct and sustainable practices: All marine and terrestrial tours operators, boats business, and sailing business would have to adhere to a code of conduct and sustainable practices which includes covering waste disposal, wildlife interactions, and anchoring practices.

5.3.2. Capacity management: The number of occupants (divers/snorkellers/boats cruises, boat rentals and boat sailings) permitted per day will be capped and managed in a booking system. The number of occupants will be decided after a capacity study is developed.

5.3.3. Visitors' contribution scheme : A voluntary " Conservation donation" (The amount would be decided later on) per person will be encourage for all marine-based tours, with funds directed to the LMMA management funds.

5.3.4. Sustainable Trails: In collaboration with an environmental association, the existing walking trails will be enhanced and promoted as "Paths of Culture", linking natural heritage with the area's rich history and providing opportunities for high-quality ecotourism.

5.3.5. Increase accessibility at specific beaches.

6. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Adaptation

Monitoring plan is essential for adaptive management

6.1. Ecological monitoring

6.1.1. Fish populations: Annual Underwater Visual Census (UVC) in the month of September at fixed sites inside and outside the LMMA

6.1.2. Habitat health: Bi-annual (every two years) monitoring of Posidonia meadows density and health at fixed sites inside and outside the LMMA.

6.1.3. Citizen science: The use of the platform iNature will be promoted for divers, fishers, hikers and general public to log sightings of keys species.

6.2. Socio-Economic Monitoring:

6.2.1. Fisheries: Monthly collecting of Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) data from volunteer fishers.

6.2.2. Community: annual survey of stakeholder perceptions, income levels, and conflict incidents.

6.3. Evaluations and Reporting: A report will be produced annually by the scientific advisor and presented to the EMCC and the public. Based on this report, the EMCC will formally review the effectiveness of the plan and propose amendments as needed every two years.

7. Compliance and enforcement

A stratified approach to enforcement will be used:

Appendix 4. Community stewardship: Empowering community members to educate peers and report infractions via a dedicated line (online form). The use of an application called novoville to report infractions would be proposed.

Appendix 5. Sanctions: Infractions will be prosecuted under existing national law. The EMCC will advocate for a legal mechanism to channel a portion of fines back into the LMMA management fund.

8. Financial sustainability

Long-term operations of the LMMA will be funded throw a diversified portfolio:

8.1. Public funds: Annual budget allocation from the Municipality of Corfu

8.2. User-Generated revenue: Income from the Visitor contribution scheme and mooring buoys usage fees.

8.3. Private sector partnership: “supporter of Erimitis LMMA” program for hotels, restaurants, and business to contribute in exchange for public recognition.

8.4. External grants: proactive and continuous applications for national and EU funding.

If you would like to know more about, past, current and future projects, developed in the peninsula as well as useful information about LMMA you can read the next resources.

Further resources

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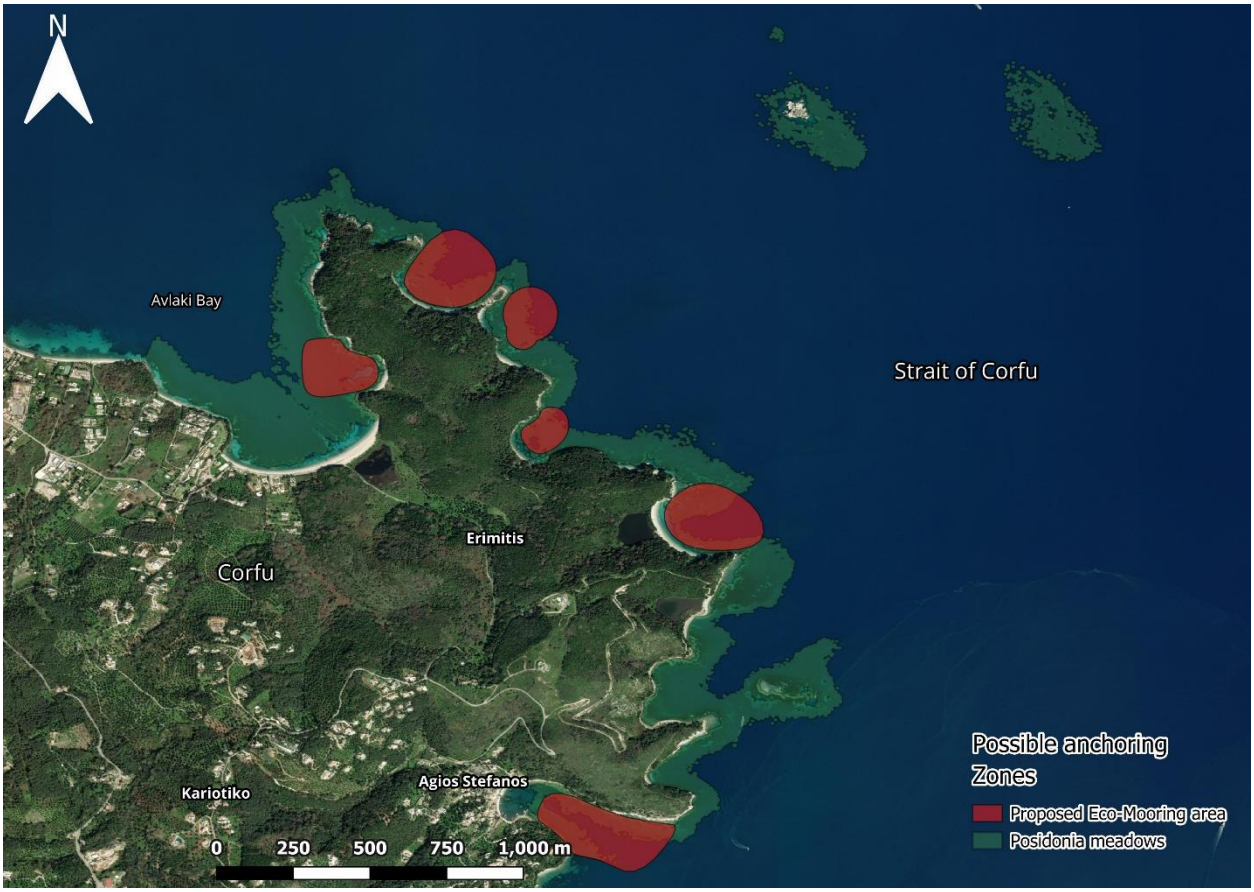
Appendices

Appendix 1 : Map of the potential anchoring zones for boat cruises and sailing boats.



Appendix 2: List of all species identified during UVC in the years 2023 and 2024

Scientific Name	Common name	IUCN Status	Legal Status	
Animalia				
Mamalia				
Delphinus delphis	Common Dolphin	DD	Directive 92/43/EEC Annex IV, Bern Convention Annex II, Bonn Convention Annex I & II, ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS, CITES Annex II, Regulation No 1320/2014 Annex A, Barcelona Convention (SPA/BD Protocol) Annex II, Greek Presidential Degree 67/81	10
Monachus monachus	Mediterranean Monk Seal	VU	Directive 92/43/EEC Annex II & IV, Bern Convention Annex II, Bonn Convention (CMS) Annex I & II, MSeal, CITES Annex I, EU No 1320/2014 amending EC No 338/97 Annex A, SPA/BD Protocol Annex II, Greek Presidential Degree 67/81.	9
Tursiops truncatus	Bottlenose dolphin	DD	Directive 92/43/EEC Annex IV, Bern Convention Annex I (Resolution 6) & II, Bonn Convention Annex I & II, ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS, CITES Annex II, Regulation No 1320/2014 Annex A, Barcelona Convention (SPA/BD Protocol) Annex II, Greek Presidential Degree 67/81	3
Reptilia				
Caretta caretta	Loggerhead Turtle	NE	CITES Annex I, Directive 92/43/EEC Annex II & IV, Bern Convention Annex I (Resolution 6) &II, Bonn Convention Annex I & II, EU Regulation No 1320/2014 Annex A, Barcelona Convention (SPA/BD Protocol) Annex II, OSPAR Convention, Greek Presidential Degree 67/81	4
Chelonia mydas	Green Turtle	NE	CITES Annex I, Directive 92/43/EEC Annex II & IV, Bern Convention Annex I (Resolution 6) &II, Bonn Convention Annex I & II, EU Regulation No 1320/2014 Annex A, Barcelona Convention (SPA/BD Protocol) Annex II, Greek Presidential Degree 67/81	7. 8
Actinopterygii				
Aidablennius sphynx	Blenny Sphinx	LC		2
Anthias anthias	Sea perch	LC		1
Apogon imberbis	Cardinal Fish	LC		2
Argyrosomus regius	Meagre	LC		2
Atherina boyeri	Big-scale Sand Smelt	LC		2
Balistes capriscus	Grey Triggerfish	DD		2
Belone belone	Garpike	LC		2
Boops boops	Bogue	LC		2
Bothus podas	Wide-eyed Flounder	LC		2
Centrolabrus melanocercus	Black-tailed wrasse	LC		11
Chelon labrosus	Thicklip Grey Mullet	LC		2
Chromis chromis	Damselfish	LC		2
Conger conger	Conger	LC		1

Coris julis	Mediterranean Rainbow Wrasse	LC		2
Coryphaena hippurus	Common Dolphinfish	LC		2
Coryphoblennius galerita	Montagu's Blenny	LC		2
Dactylopterus volitans	Flying Gurnard	LC		2
Dentex dentex	Common dentex	VU		11
Dicentrarchus labrax	Capemouth	LC		1
Diplodus annularis	Annular bream	LC		2
Diplodus puntazzo	Sharpsnout Seabream	LC		2
Diplodus sargus	White seabream	NE		2
Diplodus vulgaris	Common Two-banded Seabream	LC		2
Epinephelus costae	Goldblotch grouper	DD		1
Epinephelus marginatus	Dusky Grouper	EN	Bern Convention Annex III, Barcelona Convention (SPA/BD Protocol) Annex I	2
Gobius cobitis	Giant Goby	LC		2
Gobius geniporus	Slender Goby	LC		2
Gobius incognitus	Incognito Goby	NE		2
Gobius luteus	Golden goby	LC		1
Labrus merula	Brown wrasse	LC		1
Labrus mixtus	Cuckoo wrasse	LC		1
Labrus viridis	Green wrasse	VU		1
Lagocephalus sceleratus	Silver Puffer	NE		2
Lepadogaster purpurea	Shore Clingfish	LC		2
Lithognathus mormyrus	Striped Seabream	LC		6
Mugil cephalus	Black true mullet	LC		1
Mullus barbatus barbatus	Red Mullet	LC		2
Mullus surmuletus	Striped Red Mullet	LC		2
Muraena helena	Black Moray	LC		2
Mycteroperca rubra	Mottled Grouper	LC		5
Oblada melanurus	Saddled Seabream	LC		2
Oedalechilus labeo	Boxlip Mullet	LC		2
Pagellus acarne	Axillary Seabream	LC		2
Pagellus erythrinus	Becker	LC		2

Parablennius gattorugine	Tompot Blenny	LC		2
Parablennius sanguinolentus	Rusty Blenny	LC		2
Parablennius zvonimiri	Zvonimir's blenny	NE		2
Pomatomus saltatrix	Bluefish	LC		2
Pseudocaranx dentex	White Trevally	DD		2
Pterois miles	Devil firefish/Lionfish	LC		11
Salaria pavo	Peacock Blenny	LC		2
Sarda sarda	Atlantic bonito	LC		11
Sarpa salpa	Karanteen	LC		2
Sciaena umbra	Brown meagre	NT		6
Scorpaena maderensis	Madeira Rockfish	LC		5
Scorpaena notata	Small red scorpionfish	LC		6
Scorpaena scrofa	Large-scaled scorpion fish	LC		1
Seriola dumerili	Greater amberjack	LC		1
Serranus cabrilla	Comber	LC		1
Serranus scriba	Painted Comber	LC		5
Siganus luridus	Dusky Spinefoot	LC		2
Siganus rivulatus	Marbled spinefoot	LC		11
Siganus sp.				11
Sparideae sp.				11
Sparisoma cretense	Parrotfish	NE	Greek Presidential Degree 67/81	5
Sparus aurata	Gilt-head Seabream	LC		2
Sphyraena viridensis	Yellowmouth Barracuda	LC		2
Spicara maena	Blotched Picarel	LC		11
Spicara Maena	Blotched Picarel	LC		11
Spicara smaris	Picarel	LC		11
Spicara sp.				11
Symphodus mediterraneus	Axillary Wrasse	LC		2
Symphodus melanocercus	Blacktailed Wrasse	LC		6
Symphodus ocellatus	Ocellated Wrasse	LC		2
Symphodus roissali	Five-spotted Wrasse	LC		2

Symphodus rostratus	Pointed-snout Wrasse	LC		2
Symphodus sp.				11
Symphodus tinca	East Atlantic Peacock Wrasse	LC		2
Synodus saurus	Atlantic lizardfish	LC		1
Thalassoma pavo	Ornate Wrasse	LC		2
Trachinotus ovatus	Pompano	LC		2
Trachinus araneus	Spotted Weever	LC		2
Trachinus draco	Greater weever	LC		11
Trachinus sp.				11
Trachipterus trachypterus	Mediterranean Dealfish	DD		2
Trachurus trachurus	Atlantic Horse Mackerel	LC		2
Tripterygion melanurus	Small Triplefin Blenny	LC		6
Tripterygion tripteronotum	Peperoncino	LC		1
Uranoscopus scaber	Atlantic stargazer	LC		1
Xyrichtys novacula	Cleaver wrasse	LC	Greek Presidential Degree 67/81	2
Zeus faber	John Dory	LC		11
Annelida				
Eupolymnia sp.				11
Hermodice carunculata	Bearded Fireworm	NE		1
Protula intestinum	Blood Red Tubeworm	NE		1
Protula tubularia	Smooth Tubeworm	NE		6
Sabella spallanzanii	Mediterranean Fanworm	NE		6
Serpula vermicularis	Serpulid Worm	NE		6
Spirorbis (Spirorbis) spirorbis	Sinistral Spiral Tubeworm	NE		1
Arthropoda				
Maja crispata	Lesser Spider Crab	NE		6
Pachygrapsus marmoratus	Marbled Crab	NE		6
Perforatus perforatus	Barnacle	NE		6

Scyllarides latus	Mediterranean slipper lobster	DD	Directive 92/43/EEC (EU Habitats Directive) Annex V, Bern Convention Annex III	5
Bryozoa				
Electra posidoniae	Neptune Grass Sea Mat	NE		6
Myriapora truncata	False coral	NE		11
Reptadeonella violacea		NE		6
Cnidaria				
Actinia equina	Beadlet anemone	NE		1
Anemonia viridis	Snakelocks anemone	NE		1
Balanophyllia (Balanophyllia) europaea	Tooth coral	LC	CITES Annex II	6
Clavularia crassa		LC		
Condylactis aurantiaca	Golden anemone	LC		11
Hoplangia durotrix	Carpet coral	DD	CITES Appendix II: International trade monitored	11
Leptopsammia pruvoti	Sunset cup coral	NE	CITES Appendix II: International trade monitored	11
Parazoanthus axinellae	Yellow cluster anemone	NE		11
Pennaria disticha	Feather hydroid, christmas tree	NE		11
Thecocaulus sp.		NE		1
Echinodermata				
Antedon mediterranea	Mediterranean feather star	NE		5
Arbacia lixula	Black sea urchin	NE		6
Coscinasterias tenuispina	White sea star	NE		1
Echinaster (Echinaster) sepositus	Red starfish	NE		1
Holothuria forskali	Sea Cucumber	LC		1
Ophidiaster ophidianus	Purple seastar	NE	Bern Convention Annex II, Barcelona Convention (SPA/BD Protocol) Annex II	1
Ophioderma guineense	Brittle Star	NE		1
Paracentrotus lividus	Purple sea urchin	NE	Bern Convention Annex III, Barcelona Convention (SPA/BD Protocol) Annex III	1
Sphaerechinus granularis	Violet sea urchin	NE		1

Mollusca				
Arca noae	Noah's Ark shell	NE		2
Bolinus brandaris	Purple dye murex	NE		11
Callochiton spp.		NE		1
Cerithium nodulosum	Giant knobbed cerith	NE		2
Cerithium vulgatum	Horn Shell	NE		2
Chama gryphoides	Jewel boxes	NE		2
Columbella rustica	Rustic Dove-shell	NE		2
Conus ventricosus	Mediterranean Cone Snail	NE		2
Cratena peregrina	Tricolor nudibranch	NE		11
Diadora spp.				1
Donacilla cornea	Corneous wedge clam	NE		2
Episcomitra cornicula	Little trumpet mitre	NE		2
Felimare picta	Regal Sea Goddess	NE		2
Flabellina affinis	Mediterranean flabellina	NE		11
Glycymeris glycymeris	European Bittersweet Clam	NE		2
Haliotis tuberculata	Greeen Ormer	VU		2
Hexaplex trunculus	Banded murex	NE		6
Lepidochitona cinerea		NE		1
Lithophaga lithophaga	Date Shell	NE	CITES Appendix II: International trade monitored	2
Luria lurida	Cowry	NE		11
Muricidae spp.	Murex Snails			2
Octopus vulgaris	Common Octopus	LC		6
Osilinus turbinatus		NE		1
Ostrea stentina	True Oysters	NE		2
Patella caerulea	Rayed mediterranean limpet	NE		2
Patella caerulea	Mediterranean Limpet	NE		2
Patella rustica	Rustic Limpet	NE		2
Patella vulgata	Common limpet	NE		1
Phorcus spp.				2

Phorcus turbinatus	Turbinate Monodont	NE		2
Pinna nobilis	Fan Mussel	CR	Directive 92/43/EEC (EU Habitats Directive) Annex IV, Barcelona Convention (SPA/BD Protocol) Annex II, Greek Presidential Degree 67/81	2
Pinna rudis	Spiny Fan Mussel	NE	Bern Convention Annex II, Barcelona Convention (SPA/BD Protocol) Annex II	2
Semicassis undulata	Mediterranean bonnet snail	NE		2
Sepia officinalis	European Common Cuttlefish	LC		2
Spondylus gaederopus	European Thorny Oyster	NE		6
Steromphala spp.				2
Thuridilla hopei	Sapsucking slug	NE		11
Tonna galea	Giant Tun Snail	NE	Bern Convention Annex II, Barcelona Convention (SPA/BD Protocol) Annex II	2
Umbraculum umbraculum	Umbrella snail	NE		11
Porifera				
Agelas oroides	Orange elephant ear sponge	NE		11
Aplysina Aerophoba		NE	Barcelona Convention (SPA/BD Protocol) Annex II	1
Axinella cannabina	Orange Candlestick Sponge	NE	Barcelona Convention (SPA/BD Protocol) Annex II	11
Axinella polypoides	Common antler sponge	NE	Bern Convention Annex II, Barcelona Convention (SPA/BD Protocol) Annex II	11
Axinella verrucosa	Finger sponge	NE		11
Chondrilla nucula	Potato sponge	NE		6
Chondrosia reniformis		NE		1
Clathrina clathrus	Yellow lattice sponge	NE		11
Cliona celata	Boring sponge	NE		6
Cliona schmidti	Sponge	NE		6
Cliona viridis	Sponge	NE		6
Crambe crambe	Orange-red encrusting sponge	NE		1
Hemimycale columella	Crater sponge	NE		1
Ircinia spp.		NE		1
Ircinia variabilis	Sponge	NE		6
Oscarella lobularis	Bubble oscar sponge	NE		1
Petrosia (Petrosia) ficiformis		NE		1

Sarcotragus spinosulus	Black Leather Sponge	NE	6
Scalarispongia scalaris	Leather sponge	NE	11
Spirastrella cunctatrix		NE	6
Spongia (Spongia) officinalis	Greek bathing sponge	NE	11
Tunicata			
Aplidium tabarquensis		NE	11
Halocynthia papillosa	Tunicates	NE	1
Plantae			
Chlorophyta			
Acetabularia acetabulum	Mermaid's wine glass	NE	2
Caulerpa cylindracea		NE	11
Codium bursa	Basquet beret	NE	1
Codium fragile	Dead Man's Fingers	NE	1
Flabellia petiolata	Fan weed	NE	11
Hydrocharitaceae			
Halophila stipulacea	Broadleaf seagrass	LC	11
Rhodophyta			
Asparagopsis taxiformis	Red Sea Plume	NE	11
Corallina officinalis	Common Coral Weed	NE	2
Dasya corymbifera		NE	1
Florideophyceae spp.	Florideophycean Algae		2
Galaxaura rugosa		NE	2
Jania rubens	Fine coral moss	NE	1
Liagora ceranoides		NE	2
Liagora viscida		NE	2
Lithophyllum incrustans		NE	1

Lithophyllum sp.				11
Peyssonnelia spp.				2
Peyssonnelia squamaria		NE		11
Tricleocarpa fragilis		NE		2
Tracheophyta				
Cymodocea nodosa	Little Neptune Grass	NE	Bern Convention Annex I, Barcelona Convention (SPA/BD Protocol) Annex II, EU Regulation (1967/2006/EC)	1
Posidonia oceanica	Neptune Grass	LC	Directive 92/43/EEC (EU Habitats Directive) Annex I, Bern Convention Annex I, Barcelona Convention (SPA/BD Protocol) Annex II, EU Regulation (1967/2006/EC)	5
Chromista				
Ochrophyta				
Colpomenia sinuosa	Oyster thief	NE		1
Cystoceira spp.		NE		1
Dictyota dichotoma	Brown fan weed	NE		11
Padina pavonica	Peacock's tail	NE		2

Appendix 3. List of the Minimum and Maximum Landing size, and the spawning season proposed for the commercial species caught in Erimitis peninsula. A full guide list can be found here.

Specie	Minimum Landing size (cm)	Maximum landing size (cm)	Spawning season
Seriola dumerili	95		June-July
Dentex dentex	36		May-June
Sciaena umbra	23		May-June-July
Dicentrarchus labrax	50		December-January-February
Coryphaena hippurus	65		May-October
Belone belone	32		March-April
Epinephelus marginatus	50	80	Protection of all breeding sites
Epinephelus costae	45	60	July-August
Epinephelus aeneus	60	80	March-May
Pomatomus saltatrix	26		May-June
Sarda sarda	40		May-August
Belone belone	30		April-August
Trachurus mediterraneus	20		April-September
Trachurus trachurus	22		All year around except August and September
Oblada melanura	20		March-June
Sparus aurata	25	30	October-January
Sphyraena sphyraena	28		May-August
Ethynnus alletteratus	60		May-September
Diplodus vulgaris	18		December-January
Diplodus sargus	23		January-April
Pagellus erythrinus	15		May-November
Seriola dumerili	88		May-September
Lithognathus mormyrus	20		May-September
Sepia officinalis	20		All year around
Loligo vulgaris	25		All year around
Pagrus pagrus	18		March-May
Palinurus elephas	90		August-November

Appendix 4. Methodology for monitoring activities

Appendix 4.1Underwater Visual Census (UVC)

Fish fauna monitoring activity will be conduct using underwater visual census method and the help of SCUBA equipment. In each season four dives will be conducted (two

dives in Posidonia meadows and two dives in Rocky reefs). Surveys will be standardized by conducting them at similar times of the day in selected depths (<10 m, 10-20 m, and >20m) and locations. At each type of habitat (Posidonia meadows or Rocky reef).Three transects of 25m long (5m wide) at each depth range will be performed having a total of 9 transects per habitat. Habitat affiliation will be taken into consideration for the assessment of the ichthyofauna on Posidonia meadows and Rocky reefs. This includes abundance (total number of individuals) and size (to the nearest 1 cm of total length).

Appendix 5. Code of Conduct for Sustainable Tourism

Code of Conduct for Sustainable Tourism

This code of conduct outlines the best practices require for all users. Boaters, hikers, tour operators, divers and general public al have a role to play. The adherence to these guidelines is a vital contribution to the collective effort of protecting Erimitis peninsula.

Article 1. Marine habitats

1.1. Anchoring and mooring

Irresponsible anchoring causes damage to the seagrass meadows, affecting the integrity of the habitats.

- Mooring buoys: Whenever available, you must use the official environmentally friendly mooring buoy provided by the LMMA.
- No anchoring on seagrasss: Anchoring on Posidonia meadows should be avoid. When is possible visually confirm you are dropping anchor on a sandy bottom.
- Anchor handle: Lower your anchor vertically (do not drop it while moving) and pick it up vertically to avoid dragging.

1.2. Responsible boating

- Speed limit: Keep speed limits accordingly with the LMMA management plan, to protect wildlife.
- Minimize Noise: Avoid excessive noise from engines or music, to prevent disturbances to wildlife.

Article 2. Preserving Coastal and terrestrial habitats

2.1. Respecting landscape

- Designated Trails: When hiking or exploring, you should stay on marked paths. Being off trail causes soil erosion, damages rare and endemic plants, and could potentially disturb wildlife.

- Leave nature as you find it: Do not pick wildflowers, herbs or any plants. Leave rocks, pebbles, and shells in their natural place. You should not alter the landscape; this includes building stone stacks.
- Cultural heritage: Do not touch, move, or vandal archaeological ruins, stone walls, or other ancient artifacts.

2.2. Fire prevention

- No open fires: The use and/or creation of campfires, bonfires or BBQs (disposables and permanent) should be avoided outside of official designated areas.
- No fireworks or flying lanterns: The use of fireworks or sky lanterns is banned.
- Cigarettes: Never discard cigarettes butts on the ground. Ensure is completely off and pack it out with your rubbish.
- Report smoke: If you see any sing of smoke or fire. Call immediately the Fire brigade at number 199.

Article 3. Wildlife interaction

3.1. Marine life

- Mediterranean Monk seal (*Monachus monachus)*:
  - **Do not enter sea caves**, which are vital for pupping sites.
  - Maintain a minimum distance of 30 meters from any seal.
  - Move away cautiously if the animals show signs of disturbance (sudden change in behavior).
  - Avoid making noise in the presence of a seal on land and if at sea put your engine in neutral.
  - Refrain from feeding, touching, or swimming with monk seals, and keep pets at a distance, as they might be carriers of dangerous diseases to the seal.
- Sea turtles
  - In water, slow your vessel and allow turtles to pass.
  - On nesting season (May-September), do not use bright lights at night, and never disturb marked nets.
- Dolphins and Whales
  - Approach slowly and parallel, never head-on.
  - Stay back 100 meters
  - Always put your engine in neutral when cetaceans are near.
  - Refrain from feeding, touching, or swimming with wild dolphins or whales.

3.2. Terrestrial and coastal wildlife

- Do not feed animals: Feeding animals makes them dependent, alters their behavior, and can harm their health.
- Give animals space: You should observe reptiles, birds and mammals from a respectable distance. Do not disturb dens, nets, or burrows.
- Bird colonies: Avoid approaching nesting colonies or nests, especially during spring. Keep noise to a minimum when close to nests.

Article 4. Waste and pollution, "Leave no trace" commitment

4.1. Solid waste management

- Take it with you: All waste (including food scraps, packaging, and cigarettes butts) should be taken with you for disposal in designated bins.
- Nothing left behind: Don't throw, bury, or leave any form of waste in the sea or on land. This includes organic waste like fruit peels.

4.2. Pollution prevention

- Vessels: you should use only biodegradable cleaning products
- On land: use designated toilets facilities.
- Sunscreen: Avoid using sunscreens containing oxybenzone and octinoxate.