



Citizens' Network for the Observation of Marine Biodiversity



**Pilot citizen science project
initiated under the EU project
*ViBRANT***

**Scope:
Record coastal (fish) biodiversity**

**Target group:
divers and snorkellers**

**Where & when:
Greece (mainly Crete), 2011–2012**



Concept



Train interested persons in identifying coastal fish

Offer an easy-to use website to record the data (Drupal)

Analyse how useful the data are for scientific analyses





Motivation for participants

Learn more about nature

Create scientific knowledge

Acknowledgement in scientific publications

Get in contact with other divers and natural scientists

Get the BLOWATCH fishcard for free



Year 1



**Seminars in dive schools
by HCMR scientists**

**Guided dives (underwater
training)**

Data collection

Questionnaire





rare

(L: 60-100cm)

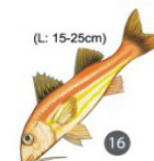


17
Muraena helena
Mediterranean moray
Murène de la Méditerranée
мурена
Σιμέρα



common

(L: 15-25cm)



16
Mullus surmuletus
Striped red mullet
Rouget-barbet
полосатая барабулька
Μπαρμπούτι



very abundant

(L: 6-12cm)



18
Chromis chromis
Damselfish
Castagnole
монашка
Καλογυρίδ





Year 2



5 diving centres & 1 sailing operator

Train-the-trainers approach

Supervision by HCMR scientists

**Cooperation with Cretaquarium, discounts,
COMBER tours in aquarium**

User login

Username: *

Password: *

Log in

Create new account

Request new password

Your dive counts!

We have already gathered data
for 5 dives submitted by 8 users
- that is a total of 96 species
observations, but we need your
help to increase these numbers!

Are you a diver? Do you like nature? Then we need your help! We offer you to participate in an international scientific project to engage amateur naturalists in a process of recording marine biodiversity. It's easy, all we ask from you is your passion for life on earth and a bit of your time before and after your dive.

Follow a short seminar before your dive about the Cretan fish fauna and how to identify different species. Afterwards you will go on a dive accompanied by marine scientists who will teach you how to spot various fish. By using the BioWatch underwater fishcard you will be able to identify the species yourself

During your dive you will identify and record the species you encounter. Your underwater field guide allows you to note down right on the spot which and how many fish you observe.

After your dive, you will share your data through an interactive online-database. We will show you how to create an account on this site to be able to enter your observations. These data, of great value to the scientific community, will be used to assess the state of the marine biodiversity along our coasts... and of course we will acknowledge your efforts in future scientific outcomes!



Using the

BioWatch

EXPLORING SEA LIFE

underwater fishcard



Citizens' Network for the
Observation of Marine Biodiversity

Sarah Faulwetter

- [My Profile](#)
- [My Dives](#)
- [Submit a new observation](#)
- [Top Contributors](#)
- [Download data](#)
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Who's online

There are currently *1 user* and
0 guests online.

Online users

Sarah Faulwetter

Internal access only

- [Calendar](#)
- [Files/Downloads](#)
- [Project notes](#)
- [To do](#)
- [User IP Log](#)

277 Visitors

14 Jul 2011 - 27 Nov 2012



WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO?

[View](#)[Edit](#)[Add a new observation](#)[See my dive log](#)[See the top COMBER observers](#)[Edit my profile](#)[Add a photo to the gallery](#)[Talk to others in the forum](#)[Download all submitted data](#)



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OBSERVATION SUBMISSION

[View](#)[Edit](#)[Webform](#)[Results](#)

Activity *

- ☒ Diving
- ☐ Snorkeling

Date *

Jan ▼ 22 ▼ 2013 ▼

Organizer *

None ▼

Location *

- Select - ▼

Weather *

- ☒ Sunny
- ☐ Partly Cloudy
- ☐ Cloudy
- ☐ Rainy

Sea State *

- ☒ Calm
- ☐ Some waves
- ☐ Troubled

Next Page >



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OBSERVATION SUBMISSION

[View](#)[Edit](#)[Webform](#)[Results](#)

(L: 10cm)



Apogon imberbis
Cardinal fish
Castagnole rouge
απογον
Καρδινάλιος

☒ 0 ☐ 1 - 3 ☐ 4 - 10 ☐ > 10

(L: 10cm)



Atherina boyeri
Big-scale sand smelt
Athérine
атерина
Αθέρπινα

☒ 0 ☐ 1 - 3 ☐ 4 - 10 ☐ > 10



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TOP CONTRIBUTORS

Rank	User	Activity Level	Number of submitted observations
1	Christos Arvanitidis	★★★★★	37 contribution(s)
2	Giorgos Chatzigeorgiou	★★★★★	22 contribution(s)
3	Sarah Faulwetter	★★★★★	19 contribution(s)
4	Alexis Glaropoulos	★★★★★	13 contribution(s)
5	claregruendel	★★★★★	12 contribution(s)
5	Michael Dahlmeyer	★★★★★	12 contribution(s)
6	Charalampos Malimoglou	★★★★★	9 contribution(s)
7	LENA CHATZIGEORGIOU	★★★★★	8 contribution(s)
7	Vasilis Valavanis	★★★★★	8 contribution(s)
8	Thanos Dailianis	★★★★★	7 contribution(s)
8	Nancy Prentiss	★★★★★	7 contribution(s)
9	Kerry Gruendel	★★★★★	5 contribution(s)



Lessons learned



Time-consuming for HCMR staff

Entering data online on-the-spot difficult

Conflicts with schedule of dive centres

Heterogeneous user groups with different skills

Low participation by diving schools



Top-down approach



**Top-down
approach**



Conclusions, plans & Considerations for CIGESMED



Community-driven approach – redefine target group



Community-driven approach – redefine target group

HCMR provides software & guidance



Community-driven approach – redefine target group

HCMR provides software & guidance

Increase “citizen science awareness” in Greece



Community-driven approach – redefine target group

HCMR provides software & guidance

Increase “citizen science awareness” in Greece

Quality control of data, data analyses



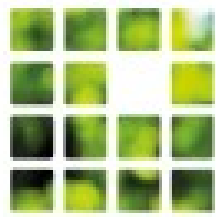
Community-driven approach – redefine target group

HCMR provides software & guidance

Increase “citizen science awareness” in Greece

Quality control of data, data analyses

Include all taxa – use Scratchpads



Scratchpads

biodiversity online

<http://www.scratchpads.eu>

- Developed & maintained by NHM, London
- Social networking application
- Allows researchers to manage, share and publish **taxonomic / biodiversity** data
- flexible, customizable
- standard compliant (e.g. DarwinCore)
- based on Drupal



COMBER

Dive - Observe - Record - Share

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☒ All ☐ Taxonomy

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[Home](#) » [Administration](#) » [Content](#) » Create Specimen/Observation

Create Specimen/Observation

Essentials *

[What](#)

[When](#)

[Where](#)

[Image/video](#)

Activity Details



Basis of record *

Living Specimen

A descriptive term indicating whether the record represents an object or observation.

Catalogue number *

1366201407

This field is automatically filled in to give each record a unique value. If you use your own identifying number or text for your personal collections/records you can enter it here.

Comment settings

[Closed](#)

- ☐ Open
Users with the "Post comments" permission can post comments.
- ☒ Closed
Users cannot post comments.

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Scratchpads



COMBER

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HOME

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ACTIVITIES

FISHES

MEDIA GALLERY

SPECIMENS

[Home](#) » [Animalia](#) » [Chordata](#) » [Actinopterygii](#) » [Perciformes](#) » [Pomacentridae](#) » [Chromis](#) » [Chromis chromis](#)

FISHES

- ☐ [Animalia](#) (1)
- ☐ [Chordata](#) (1)
 - ☐ [Actinopterygii](#) (9)
 - ☐ [Anquilliformes](#) (1)
 - ☐ [Atheriniformes](#) (1)
 - ☐ [Belontiiformes](#) (1)
 - ☐ [Mugiliformes](#) (1)
 - ☐ [Perciformes](#) (13)
 - ☐ [Apogonidae](#) (1)
 - ☐ [Blenniidae](#) (1)
 - ☐ [Gobiidae](#) (1)
 - ☐ [Labridae](#) (5)
 - ☐ [Moronidae](#) (1)
 - ☐ [Mullidae](#) (1)
 - ☐ [Pomacentridae](#) (1)
 - ☐ [Chromis](#) (1)
 - ☐ [Chromis chromis](#)
 - ☐ [Scaridae](#) (1)
 - ☐ [Serranidae](#) (2)
 - ☐ [Siganidae](#) (1)
 - ☐ [Sparidae](#) (7)
 - ☐ [Sphyracnidae](#) (1)
 - ☐ [Trachinidae](#) (1)
 - ☐ [Pleuronectiformes](#) (1)
 - ☐ [Raiiformes](#) (1)
 - ☐ [Scorpaeniformes](#) (1)
 - ☐ [Synbranchiformes](#) (1)

Chromis chromis

Overview

Descriptions

Media

Literature

Maps

Specimens

Activity

BIOBLITZ RECORDS

