



SURPRISE!
WE HAVE A NEW LOGO!

AS THE SEASON FOR 2018 DRAWS TO A CLOSE WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A BRIEF MOMENT TO REFLECT AND SAY THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DEDICATED THEIR TIME AND HELPED CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SEASON HERE AT FISKARDO DIVERS. HOWEVER, BEFORE WE CLOSE OUR DOORS WE WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED THIS SEASON, SOME OF WHICH COULD NOT HAVE BEEN DONE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT FROM OUR PARTNERS AND OF COURSE OUR CUSTOMERS. 2019 IS ON THE HORIZON AND WE HAVE SOME PRETTY EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO.

SUMMER 2018



THE TEAM!



WHAT'S BEEN KEEPING US BUSY...

- MONK SEAL CONSERVATION PROJECT
- SCIENTIFIC DIVING TECHNIQUES COURSE
- UNDERWATER BIODIVERSITY PATH
- UNDERWATER CLEAN UP
- TURTLE POST MORTEM
- CATS OF FISKARDO
- RECYCLING WATER
- FISKARDO DIVERS UNDERWATER MUSEUM
- THE CREATION OF KOSAMARE

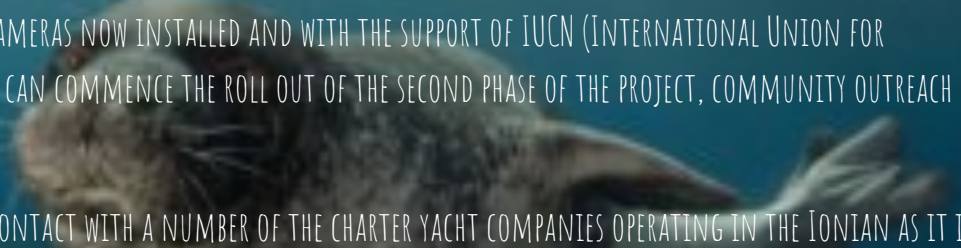


MONK SEAL CONSERVATION PROJECT

THIS PAST SPRING FISKARDO DIVERS STARTED A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT WITH THE OCTOPUS FOUNDATION, MO-M AND ARCHIPELAGOS IN EFFORTS TO GATHER DATA AND RAISE AWARENESS OF THE HIGHLY ENDANGERED MEDITERRANEAN MONK SEAL.

THE INITIAL PHASE OF THIS PROJECT WAS TO INSTALL SEVERAL CAMERA TRAPS ALONG THE NORTHERN COASTLINE OF KEFALONIA. WHAT WE HOPE TO GAIN FROM THIS INSTALLATION ARE IMAGES OF THE SEALS MOVEMENTS AND FROM THAT TRY TO UNDERSTAND THEIR BEHAVIOURS. WITH THE CAMERAS NOW INSTALLED AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF IUCN (INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE) WE CAN COMMENCE THE ROLL OUT OF THE SECOND PHASE OF THE PROJECT, COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION.

FISKARDO DIVERS HAVE MADE CONTACT WITH A NUMBER OF THE CHARTER YACHT COMPANIES OPERATING IN THE IONIAN AS IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT SAILORS ARE AMONGST THE MOST FREQUENT TO SPOT THE MEDITERRANEAN MONK SEAL. OUR CONTACT IN EFFORTS TO EDUCATE THESE COMPANIES ABOUT THE MEDITERRANEAN MONK SEAL AND THEIR RAPID DECLINE HAS BEEN POSITIVELY RECEIVED LEAVING THEM ASKING US WHAT THEY CAN DO TO HELP. EARLY NEXT YEAR WE PLAN TO TRAVEL TO VARIOUS SAILING HEADQUARTERS IN THE IONIAN TO DELIVER A BRIEF TO THEIR CREW, HOSTS, SKIPPERS ETC. AND PROVIDE THEM WITH A MEDITERRANEAN MONK SEAL SIGHTING PROCEDURE. WE BELIEVE THIS WILL BE THE KEY IN HELPING TO DELIVER THE MESSAGE AND COLLECT AS MUCH DATA AS POSSIBLE.





PADI



**KOΣA
MARE**
the Kefalonian Organisation
for the Study & Awareness
of Marine Archeology
& Environment

SCIENTIFIC DIVING TECHNIQUES COURSE

IN SEPTEMBER WE RECEIVED APPROVAL FROM PADI TO RUN A NEW DISTINCTIVE SPECIALTY COURSE: SCIENTIFIC DIVING TECHNIQUES.

CREATED BY FISKARDO DIVERS MEMBERS, OUR GOAL IS TO INTRODUCE SCUBA DIVERS TO SCIENTIFIC DIVING TECHNIQUES AND ENABLE THEM TO ACQUIRE THE SKILLS REQUIRED TO USE DIFFERENT TOOLS TO SAMPLE OR TAKE MEASUREMENTS IN AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTS, SO THEY CAN DEVELOP THIS ACTIVITY UNDERWATER WITH THE SAME EASE THEY WOULD DO ON LAND.

THE COURSE IS MAINLY GEARED TOWARDS STUDENTS OF MARINE BIOLOGY WHO ARE REQUIRED TO GAIN EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD, BUT IT IS ALSO OPEN TO ANY DIVER WANTING TO LEARN NEW UNDERWATER SKILLS.

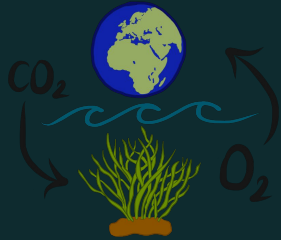
THE TRAINING FOCUSES ON THE STUDY OF THE NEPTUNE SEAGRASS MEADOWS (*POSIDONIA OCEANICA*), THE MOST IMPORTANT PROTECTED ECOSYSTEM IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. ONE OF THE MODULES WILL STUDY THE GIANT FAN MUSSEL (*PINNA NOBILIS*), AND ANOTHER WILL INVOLVE THE DATA COLLECTION OF INVASIVE SPECIES (E.G. THE *SIGANUS* FISH, AND THE *CAULERPPA* SEAGRASS).

STUDENTS WALK AWAY WITH PADI DISTINCTIVE SPECIALITY COURSE (PRACTICAL EXAM DURING THE FINAL COURSE DAY) AND THE KOSAMARE SCIENTIFIC DIVER DIPLOMA LEVEL 1: INTRODUCTION TO TECHNIQUES.

UNDERWATER CONSERVATION PATH

FISKARDO DIVERS HAVE INVESTED SOME LOVE INTO THE CREATION OF SUBMERSIBLE DISPLAY BOARDS WHICH PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ECOSYSTEM AND MARINE SPECIES THEY MAY ENCOUNTER WHILE DIVING, SUCH AS THE ENDANGERED POSIDONIA OCEANICA (NEPTUNE GRASS) AND THE PINNA NOBILIS, ALONG WITH THE MORE COMMON CREATURES OF THE DEEP SUCH AS THE OCTOPUS, SEA URCHINS AND STAR FISH.

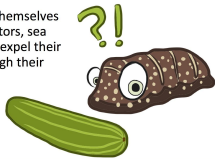
THE IDEA OF THIS INITIATIVE IS TO CREATE AWARENESS BY BRINGING THE INFORMATION AND FUN FACTS TO THE DIVERS WHILE THEY ARE THERE EXPERIENCING OUR UNDERWATER WONDERLAND, ULTIMATELY INCREASING THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND ADDING TO THEIR OVERALL EXPERIENCE.



Brown Sea Cucumber

Holothuria stellati

To defend themselves from predators, sea cucumbers expel their lungs through their anus.





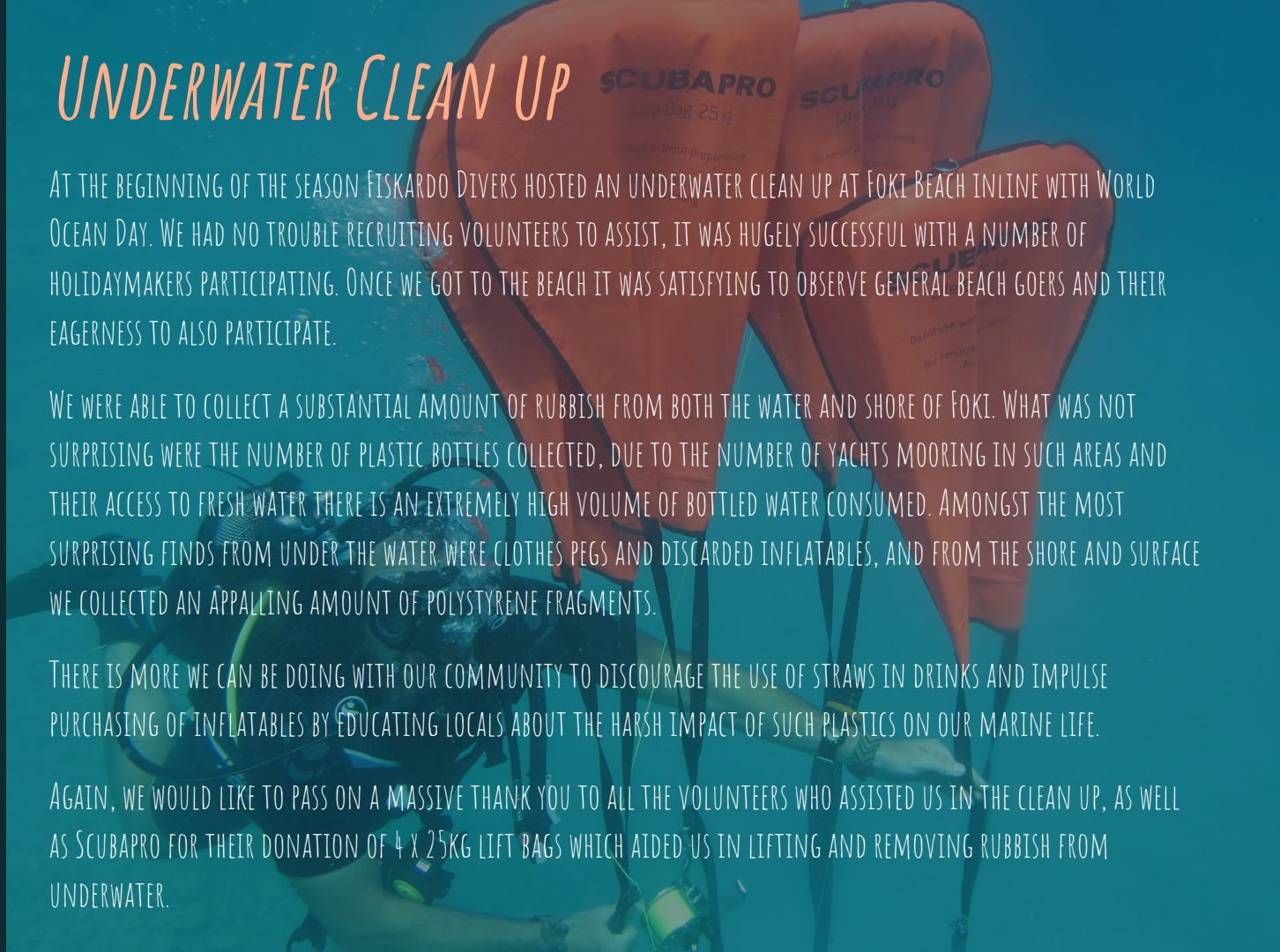
UNDERWATER CLEAN UP

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEASON FISKARDO DIVERS HOSTED AN UNDERWATER CLEAN UP AT FOKI BEACH IN LINE WITH WORLD OCEAN DAY. WE HAD NO TROUBLE RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST, IT WAS HUGE SUCCESSFUL WITH A NUMBER OF HOLIDAYMAKERS PARTICIPATING. ONCE WE GOT TO THE BEACH IT WAS SATISFYING TO OBSERVE GENERAL BEACH GOERS AND THEIR EAGERNESS TO ALSO PARTICIPATE.

WE WERE ABLE TO COLLECT A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF RUBBISH FROM BOTH THE WATER AND SHORE OF FOKI. WHAT WAS NOT SURPRISING WERE THE NUMBER OF PLASTIC BOTTLES COLLECTED, DUE TO THE NUMBER OF YACHTS MOORING IN SUCH AREAS AND THEIR ACCESS TO FRESH WATER THERE IS AN EXTREMELY HIGH VOLUME OF BOTTLED WATER CONSUMED. AMONGST THE MOST SURPRISING FINDS FROM UNDER THE WATER WERE CLOTHES PEGS AND DISCARDED INFLATABLES, AND FROM THE SHORE AND SURFACE WE COLLECTED AN APPALLING AMOUNT OF POLYSTYRENE FRAGMENTS.

THERE IS MORE WE CAN BE DOING WITH OUR COMMUNITY TO DISCOURAGE THE USE OF STRAWS IN DRINKS AND IMPULSE PURCHASING OF INFLATABLES BY EDUCATING LOCALS ABOUT THE HARSH IMPACT OF SUCH PLASTICS ON OUR MARINE LIFE.

AGAIN, WE WOULD LIKE TO PASS ON A MASSIVE THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO ASSISTED US IN THE CLEAN UP, AS WELL AS SCUBAPRO FOR THEIR DONATION OF 4 x 25KG LIFT BAGS WHICH AIDED US IN LIFTING AND REMOVING RUBBISH FROM UNDERWATER.





TURTLE POST MORTEM

EARLY JUNE OUR FRIENDS AT JERUSALEM BEACH NOTIFIED US OF A DECEASED LOGGERHEAD TURTLE WHICH WASHED UP ON THE SHORES OF THE BEACH. UNFORTUNATELY WE WEREN'T ABLE TO DETERMINE THE PRIMARY CAUSE OF DEATH HOWEVER, ON AUTOPSY FRAGMENTS OF PLASTIC INCLUDING FISHING LINE WERE FOUND IN ITS THROAT. THE INFORMATION GATHERED WAS PASSED ON TO WILDLIFE SENSE A LOCAL NGO FOCUSED ON THE STUDIES OF THE LOGGERHEAD TURTLE IN KEFALONIA.

THE TURTLE WAS BURIED AT THE BACK OF THE BEACH, THE PLAN IS TO REBUILD THE SKELETON IN A COUPLE OF YEARS.



CATS OF FISKARDO

PICTURED HERE ARE OUR RESIDENT CATS, TOM AND GIRLFRIEND.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH A LOCAL VET, FISKARDO DIVERS RESCUE SICK AND WOUNDED CATS. IF SICK THE VET PRESCRIBES MEDICATION AND/OR VACCINATIONS AND IF NOT DE-SEXED WE ARRANGE TO HAVE THEM NEUTERED. DID YOU KNOW CATS WITH ONE TIP OF THEIR EAR CUT OFF MEANS THEY HAVE BEEN NEUTERED.

EVERY WINTER, CEDRIC INSTALLS A GIANT CAT FEEDER IN THE GARDEN OF THE DIVE CENTRE, THE CAT FEEDER CAN ACCOMMODATE AROUND 200KG OF DRY FOOD TO SUSTAIN THE CATS DURING THE WINTER.

IN ADDITION TO NURTURING AND FEEDING, WE ALSO TRY TO FIND SUITABLE HOMES FOR THE CATS. THIS YEAR CEDRIC HAS ADOPTED AND TAKING BACK TO FRANCE WITH HIM TWO CATS!





RECYCLING WATER

IN ATTEMPT TO REDUCE OUR IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT FISKARDO DIVERS WATER SYSTEM BY AND LARGE IS RUN OFF RECYCLED WATER.

THE DIVE CENTRE IS EQUIPPED WITH A 50M³ CISTERN, WHICH COLLECTS RAINWATER RUN OFF FROM THE ROOF AND SURROUNDING AREA. WATER COLLECTED IS USED TO RINSE DIVE GEAR AND SHOWER STAFF. WE'VE GONE EVEN ONE STEP FURTHER AND RECYCLE THE WATER IN WHICH WE RINSE OUR DIVE GEAR, WATER FROM THIS BASIN IS THEN PUMPED INTO ANOTHER TANK USED TO FLUSH OUR TOILETS.





FISKARDO DIVERS MUSEUM

AFTER THE CLOSURE OF THE MUSEUM IN FISKARDO, FISKARDO DIVERS INHERITED A NUMBER OF ITEMS WHICH ARE NOW ON DISPLAY AT THE DIVE CENTRE. WE OPEN OUR DOORS TO BOTH DIVERS AND NON-DIVERS AND ENCOURAGE VISITORS TO TAKE A SNEAK PEEK AT THE TREASURES OF THE DEEP.

WE HAVE AN ARRAY OF SKELETONS FEATURING A LOGGERHEAD TURTLE, MEDITERRANEAN MONK SEAL, AND A CUVIER'S BEAKED WHALE ALL OF WHICH ARE ENDANGERED AND PROTECTED MARINE SPECIES.



KOSAMARE

(KEFALONIAN ORGANISATION FOR THE STUDY & AWARENESS OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT)

CEDRIC GEORGES IN COLLABORATION WITH MEMBERS OF FISKARDO DIVERS IS IN THE PROCESS OF CREATING A GREEK NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION (NGO) ON THE IONIAN ISLAND OF KEFALONIA. THE PRIMARY PURPOSE AND AIM OF THE ORGANISATION IS TO PRESERVE, STUDY, BRING AWARENESS TO AND EDUCATE SCIENTISTS, AS WELL AS THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ABOUT THE LOCAL MARINE ENVIRONMENT

SOME OF THE PROJECTS WE'RE GETTING BEHIND AS WELL AS ASSISTING WITH ARE:

- SCIENTIFIC DIVING COURSES IN UNDERWATER MEASURING AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUES.
- STUDY, AWARENESS & PRESERVATION OF THE ENDANGERED MARINE MAMMAL, THE MEDITERRANEAN MONK SEAL (MONACHUS MONACHUS), IN COLLABORATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR ITS PROTECTION, MOM.
- EDUCATING THE LOCAL POPULATION AND VISITING TOURISTS ABOUT THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH EXHIBITS
- PROVISION OF LOCAL LOGISTICAL & HUMAN RESOURCES FOR DATA COLLECTION FOR MISSIONS WHOSE PURPOSE IT IS TO STUDY, PROMOTE OR PRESERVE THE MEDITERRANEAN ECOSYSTEM.
- ORGANISING CLEANING CAMPAIGNS WITHIN FISKARDO HARBOUR AND NEIGHBOURING BEACHES
- WILDLIFE/ANIMAL RESCUE - TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE.
- MONITORING INVASIVE SPECIES IN THE IONIAN SEA, AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

