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## OUR OCEAN CONFERENCE - SIDE EVENT

Community led innovations for the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs) and the role of small-scale fishers:  
two examples in the heart of the Aegean Sea, Amorgos and Santorini, Greece

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2024 | 10am – 11am

Book Castle | Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Centre

### Concept

The livelihoods and survival of millions of fishers and their communities around the world are directly dependent on healthy oceans. They are the ones experiencing first-hand the degradation of the marine environment, while the quality of their lives is subsequently deteriorating. This dire fact has led to an increasing number of fishing communities taking initiatives for the protection of the marine environment for safeguarding their future. From east to west in the Mediterranean Sea, small-scale fishers are becoming more and more vocal striving for protection and a better future.



On Amorgos, a pioneering and unique, in the European context, “bottom-up” initiative for protection, led by the fishers and specifically the Professional Fishing Association of Amorgos "Hozoviotissa", with the support of the Municipality of Amorgos, the Agricultural University of Athens, the Cyclades Preservation Fund (CPF) and the Blue Marine Foundation (BMF), shows the way for the future of our seas, fisheries and safeguarding the nutritional demand for the next generations.

A few miles away, on Santorini, another iconic island in the Cyclades, the association "The Theraic Sea" has joined forces since 2014 with the Professional Fishers' Association of Santorini "O Psaras" ("the fisherman"), the Municipality of Thira, the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR), but also a number of involved scientists and local private organizations, and with the support of the Cyclades Preservation Fund (CPF) and the Blue Marine Foundation (BMF), in an effort to effectively protect the marine environment of Santorini, with the ultimate goal of establishing a protected area in the island's surrounding waters.

What characterises these innovative examples and can be the key to successful management, is the collaborative bottom-up approach that brings together all the stakeholders involved - from conservation, fisheries, marine users, government, research and local communities to work together towards common goals.

Panellists will present these two exemplary Greek cases, including the key elements and the challenges in each area, present their experiences from other areas of neighbouring countries, such as Italy and Turkey, and discuss how this collaborative approach can become a model to be replicated across the Mediterranean Sea.

The aim is that the panel will trigger a wider discussion amongst the attendants and will inspire governments and stakeholders to support and implement such initiatives in their countries.

### Lead Organization

Cyclades Preservation Fund (CPF)

### With the collaboration of

Blue Marine Foundation | The Professional Fishing Association of Amorgos | The Theraic Sea |  
Agricultural University of Athens | Ministry of Rural Development and Food-Hellenic Republic





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Photo: BMF/ L. Partsalis.

**Join us**, as we dive in the heart of the Aegean Sea in Greece, where small-scale fishers lead conservation efforts in their communities and with a sense of ownership and pride, they intend to become the founders of an MPA's long-term effectiveness and success, and thus change their fates!

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## AGENDA

**10.00am** Welcome & moderation.

| Ms. Anni Mitropoulou, Executive Director Cyclades Preservation Fund (CPF)

**10.05am** Amorgorama - an exemplary initiative aligned with Mediterranean and European priorities for clean shores, more fish, healthy environment, and empowered fishing communities.

| Mr. Michalis Krosman, President, Professional Fishing Association of Amorgos "Hozoviotissa"

**10.10am** Scientific justification for the establishment of fisheries regulations in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and fisheries measures for sustainable and climate resilient fisheries.

| Mr. Stefanos Kalogirou, As. Professor, University of Agricultural University of Athens

**10.15am** A bottom-up initiative for the establishment of a Marine Protected Area (MPA) and the sustainable development for the seas of Santorini Island that will mitigate destructive human activities and effectively protect the valuable but vulnerable marine natural environment.

| Mr. Vangelis Paravas, President, The Theraic Sea Association

**10.20am** Participatory and local input and partnerships as requirements for the effective creation, co-management, guarding and scientific monitoring of no take zones in the Mediterranean.

| Ms. Angela Lazou Dean, Greece Project Manager, Blue Marine Foundation

**10.25am** Guest of Honour

| Mr. Lefteris Avgenakis, Minister of Rural Development and Food, Hellenic Republic

**10.35am** Announcing commitments from the panellists | Questions & Discussion with the audience.

**10.45am** Final Remarks.

**10.50am** Closure.

