



Science Diver in the Blue Economy Era - International Conference

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When Neither Commercial or Recreational Diving are Solutions: Navigating the Challenges of Scientific Diving in Underwater Archaeology

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ABSTRACT

This presentation will focus on the regulation of underwater archaeology projects conducted by the author in Europe, Africa and the Middle East, and how the different aspects of diving - scientific, commercial, and recreational - intersect with existing regulation. The speaker will examine the legal frameworks in place for the protection and preservation of underwater cultural heritage sites and artefacts, as well as the role of the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage in shaping these frameworks.

Through case studies and examples, the speaker will explore the challenges and opportunities that arise when balancing the interests of different stakeholders in the regulation of underwater archaeology, including divers, archaeologists, and commercial operators. The presentation will highlight the importance of responsible diving practices and effective regulation in order to ensure the long-term preservation of underwater cultural heritage.

The presentation will conclude with a discussion of the benefits of a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach to underwater archaeology scientific diving regulation, and how this approach can help ensure the sustainable use and enjoyment of Europe's underwater cultural heritage for generations to come.