

Thanos Dailianis is a marine biologist (BSc, MSc, PhD), currently a researcher at the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research. His doctoral research focused on the clarification of the controversial taxonomy of the Mediterranean commercial dictyoceratid sponges and the investigation of their population structure and biogeography along their distribution range. Through participation to research groups hosted in several major national research foundations, he has gained expertise both in traditional ecological approaches and advanced molecular analyses (e.g. development and application of molecular markers for the assessment of genetic divergence). His current research attempts an integrated approach to study the systematics and ecology of marine benthic organisms, from *in situ* observation and sampling, to laboratory and statistical analyses, including the evaluation of physiological response through transcriptomics. Presently, he is co-coordinating the research project Spinaqua, which investigates the combined aquaculture of sponges in adjacency to fish farms and its potential for bioremediation and bioproduction. Moreover, he is involved in projects promoting the acquaintance of the public with the Mediterranean marine biodiversity, or the engagement of citizen-scientists in the monitoring of the marine ecosystem. A certified technical diver and skilled underwater photographer.

Selected publications:

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