

**Dr Vasilis Gerovasileiou** completed his BSc in Marine Sciences (2006) and MSc in Coastal Management (2007) at the Department of Marine Sciences of the University of the Aegean. He obtained his PhD at the School of Biology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (2014). His PhD thesis focused on the biodiversity and community structure of marine caves in the Aegean Sea. During his undergraduate and graduate studies, he received six scholarships and awards from the State Scholarships Foundation, the Alexander Onassis Public Benefit Foundation and the Research Funding Program “Heracleitus II”. Since 2014 he has been employed as a postdoctoral researcher at the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) in Heraklion, Crete. In 2016 he was benefited from “MARS Travel Awards for Young Scientists”, by the European Network of Marine Research Institutes and Stations, as a visiting research fellow in Station Marine d’Endoume, Marseille, France. To date he has attended >15 training courses and workshops in Greece and abroad.

He has 10 years of professional experience in marine research, involved in >30 research projects, oceanographic studies and environmental impact assessments in collaboration with several research and academic institutions, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), international organizations and the private sector from Greece and abroad. He has served as a consultant for UNEP/MAP-RAC/SPA and IUCN and participates in the FAO Working Group on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (WGME).

His research focuses on marine biodiversity, with emphasis on taxonomy and biogeography of benthic invertebrates (including non-indigenous species), ecology of hard substrate benthic communities, and management and conservation of the marine environment and biological resources. He has been also involved in the development of biodiversity databases, citizen science initiatives, as well as methods for underwater biological research with scientific diving. He is a member of the Scientific Diving Team of HCMR (Divemaster and Enriched Air Diver with >370 dives). He is an author of >190 publications in international peer-reviewed journals, special editions, books and scientific conferences.

He is the Coordinator and a Founding Editor and member of the Editorial Board of the World Register of marine Cave Species (WoRCS) thematic species database of the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS). He has been a Handling, Assistant and Guest Editor for two international scientific journals and a reviewer for >25 journals, >20 conference contributions as well as for research grant proposals and amendments to an international marine conservation protocol (Barcelona Convention).

He has been a professional trainer in five seminars, member of the jury committee for one PhD thesis and has supervised or provided scientific support for >15 under- and postgraduate students, including Erasmus internships. So far, he has been a member of the scientific (chair) and organizing committees of two national and three international symposia.

#### **Selected publications:**

**Gerovasileiou V**, Dailianis T, Sini M, Otero M, Numa C, Katsanevakis S, Voultziadou E, 2018. Assessing the regional conservation status of sponges (Porifera): the case of the Aegean ecoregion. *Mediterranean Marine Science* 19: 526-537. doi: 10.12681/mms.14461

Zenetos A, Corsini-Foka M, Crocetta F, **Gerovasileiou V**, Karachle PK, Simboura N, Tsiamis K, Pancucci-Papadopoulou M-A, (2018) Deep cleaning of alien species records in the Greek Seas (2018 update). *Management of Biological Invasions*, 9: 209-226. doi: 10.3391/mbi.2018.9.3.04

Sini M, Katsanevakis S, Koukouroufli N, **Gerovasileiou V**, Dailianis T, Buhl-Mortensen L, Damalas D, Dendrinou P, Dimas X, Frantzis A, Gerakaris V, Giakoumi S, Gonzalez-Mirelis G, Hassiotis T, Issaris Y, Kavadas S, Koutsogiannopoulos DD, Koutsoubas D, Manoutsoglou E, Markantonatou V, Mazaris A, Poursanidis D, Papatheodorou G, Salomidi M, Topouzellis K, Zotou M, 2017. Assembling Ecological Pieces to Reconstruct the Conservation Puzzle of the Aegean Sea. *Frontiers in Marine Science* 4: 347. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2017.00347

**Gerovasileiou V**, Dimitriadis C, Arvanitidis C, Voultsiadou E, 2017. Taxonomic and functional surrogates of sessile benthic diversity in Mediterranean marine caves. *PLoS ONE* 12(9): e0183707. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0183707

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**Gerovasileiou V**, Chintiroglou C, Vafidis D, Koutsoubas D, Sini M, Dailianis T, Issaris Y, Akritopoulou E, Dimarchopoulou D, Voultsiadou E, 2015. Census of biodiversity in marine caves of the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. *Mediterranean Marine Science* 16: 245-265. doi: 10.12681/mms.1069

Giakoumi S, Sini M, **Gerovasileiou V**, Mazor T, Beher J, Possingham HP, Abdulla A, Çinar ME, Dendrinou P, Gucu AC, Karamanlidis AA, Rodic P, Panayotidis P, Taskin E, Jaklin A, Voultsiadou E, Webster C, Zenetos A, Katsanevakis S, 2013. Ecoregion-based conservation planning in the Mediterranean: dealing with large-scale heterogeneity. *PLoS ONE* 8(10): e76449. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0076449

**Gerovasileiou V**, Trygonis V, Sini M, Koutsoubas D, Voultsiadou E, 2013. Three-dimensional mapping of marine caves using a handheld echosounder. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 486: 13-22. doi: /10.3354/meps10374

**Gerovasileiou V**, Voultsiadou E, 2012. Marine caves of the Mediterranean Sea: a sponge biodiversity reservoir within a biodiversity hotspot. *PLoS ONE* 7(7): e39873. doi: doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0039873