

The Aigina harbour-city Project 2019-2023: Underwater archaeological research and interdisciplinary methodological issues

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The paper presents the methodology of an interdisciplinary approach adopted for the systematic underwater and coastal documentation of the evolution of the ancient harbour-city of Aigina island in the Aegean Sea in Greece through the centuries.

The harbour-city of Aigina presents an exceptional harbour and coastal infrastructure developed at the end of the 6th century BC in order to serve the thriving commerce of the archaic *thalassocracy*, as well as a powerful warfleet of triremes. The archaeological remains are today submerged, silted and/or eroded, severely affected by geomorphological and anthropogenic impact. Dating from the 6th c. BC to the medieval period, the extension of the submerged and coastal remains and their state of preservation is impressive and have no parallel among ancient Mediterranean harbour-cities.

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The project is undertaken under the aegis of the UNESCO Chair of Maritime and Coastal Archaeology of Aix-Marseille University. Seven different European partners from France, Greece, Italy and Germany are involved representing underwater archaeology, marine geology and oceanography, coastal geophysics, paleoenvironmental reconstruction, underwater in situ conservation and archaeometric analyses.