



## Sampling of microplastics in the framework of the sailing expedition 2021 in Cyclades, Greece

My name is Markos Digenis and I am a PhD student at the Department of Environment of the Ionian University, studying the biodiversity of marine caves in Eastern Mediterranean Sea. Among my future goals is to study the marine pollution in the isolated marine cave environment. During this expedition, I had the opportunity to broaden my knowledge on marine pollution and to apply a new sampling methodology on microplastics (Fig.1 A,B,C, Fig.2 A) while I interacted with interesting people and gave three lectures adapted on non-scientific audience (Fig. 2B).



Figure 1: Preparing the manta trawl (A), taking the trawl out of water after sampling (B) and washing the net for sample collection in a sieve (C).



Figure 2: Recording the collected samples (A) and giving lectures on board (B).



We additionally had the chance to collect litter from beaches (Fig. 3 A,B), practice sailing (Fig. 3C), record alien species from different marine areas as well as to collect photos and samples from artificial and natural hard substrate (Fig 4 A,B). The outcome of this sailing course was virtually presented to students, young scientists and employees of the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research and will be also presented to primary school students.



Figure 3: Collecting litter form a beach (A and B) and practicing sailing (C).

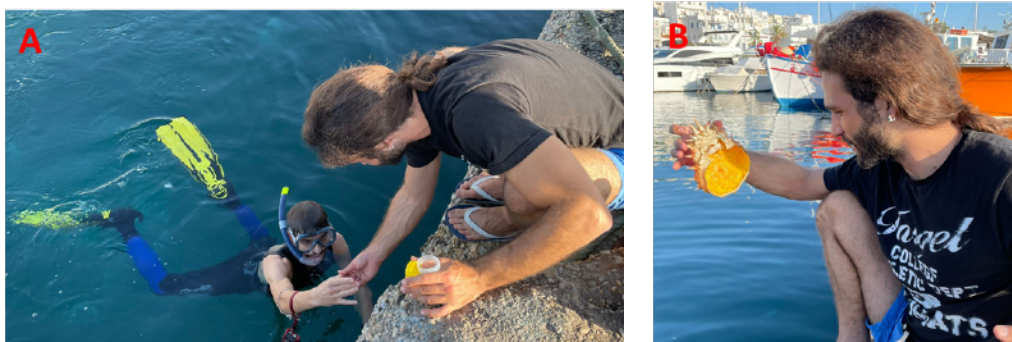


Figure 4: Collecting samples of alien and native species from a marina (A and B).