



My experience during the sailing expedition in the Cyclades with Sail and Explore association

I am Ioannis Rallis, MSc student in “Environmental Biology” of the Biology Department, University of Crete and my master’s Thesis is on “Benthic communities in selected ports / marinas of Greece with focus on the Alien species records”. My future goals in marine science are to excel in a specific area of research and specifically focus on recording biodiversity of benthic species / taxa on artificial hard substrates. During this expedition, I had the opportunity to broaden my scientific horizons and work on a major issue in the field of aquatic sciences, the monitoring of plastic pollution.



Figure 1: Assembling the Manta Trawl (A) and the flowmeter (B) on land and preparing the net for sampling on board (C).



Figure 2: Disconnecting the net (A), washing it out (B) and writing down the different values (C).

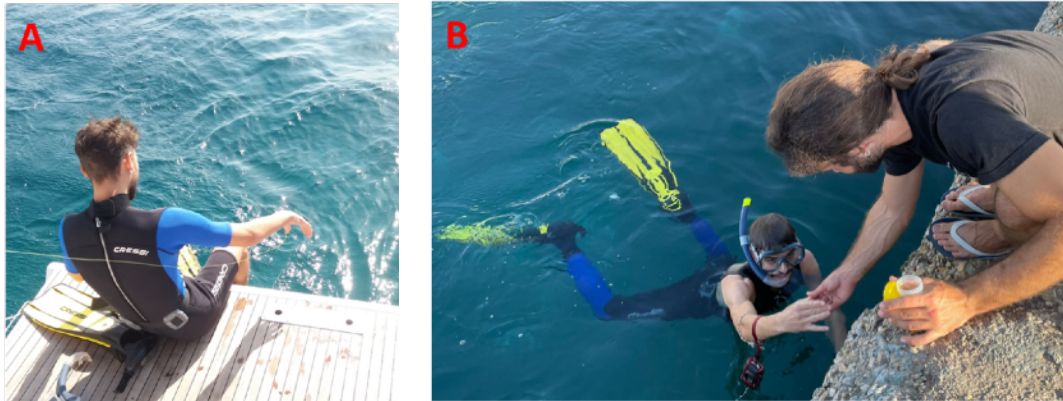


Figure 3: Getting prepared for free diving (A) and collecting of samples from the marina (B).

In addition, I gave a lecture at non-scientific audience and I managed to collect additional photographic and biological samples for my thesis. The outcome of this work has been presented to my institute and for the future it will be presented to primary school students.



Figure 4: Giving a lecture on alien species in ports (A) and practicing sailing (B).