

Turkish Marine  
Research  
Foundation  
Annual Report

2025



## PREFACE

The 2025 Activity Report of our foundation, in fact, a summary of our steadily increasing efforts over the years. Once again, 2025 was a very productive year filled with numerous workshops, publications, books, research activities, courses, and seminars. We successfully implemented many projects.

Last year, for the first time, measurement, research, and training activities were carried out between Istanbul and Çeşme aboard our Foundation's research vessel, TÜDAV-MARU, within the scope of the project "The Path of PİRİ REİS with TÜDAV-MARU". Ideally, we would like to undertake a global voyage by following the maps created by this great admiral and cartographer. This can be a great opportunity to introduce Piri Reis to the entire world and to create a global impact. Perhaps this may happen in the future, or new generations who will take over the TUDAV flag after me may realize this initiative. It would be very appropriate. Another one of our many important projects is "Sea Forests: Corals." As in the case of seagrass meadows, this project is the first initiative in our country. The importance of coralligenous habitats is recognized worldwide. We have embarked on a new project together with Türkiye İş Bankası. The contribution of this project to the conservation of biodiversity in Türkiye and the Mediterranean is indisputable. The promotional events we held last year in Gökçeada and Bozcaada attracted considerable interest. We will share updates on the project activities with you from time to time. Another EU project in which our Foundation has become a partner, "Anemone Plus," primarily focuses on the study of dolphins. Another activity we carried out in 2025 was the opening of an exhibition, as a result of our cooperation with Istanbul Aquarium, featuring whales, Mediterranean monk seals, and turtles. The exhibition titled "Giants of the Ocean," which attracted great interest, is once again a first in our country. This collection, all of whose exhibited specimens belong to our Foundation, further reinforces our pioneering role in Türkiye. Our Foundation's journal continues to become increasingly enriched with new articles and contributors. For many years, we have been publishing a journal indexed in international databases. Last year, our activities and events were not limited to Türkiye but also took place abroad. For example, at the 3rd Ocean Conference in Nice, we conveyed our Foundation's views more effectively in international platforms.

Our efforts for the protection of the seas and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals will continue. We will continue to publish new books. Our book "All Aspects of Gökçeada" was published with the contributions of highly valuable experts. Our marine literacy projects are ongoing. We have been introducing the seas to school children. Next year marks our 30th anniversary, and we have initiatives planned both domestically and internationally. Our colleagues are working on a magnificent celebration program. Meanwhile, our Marmara-focused conservation projects are gaining momentum day by day. We carry out all of this work with a small group of TUDAV staff who believe in marine conservation and who are hardworking, responsible, and highly determined. I would like to thank all of them here.

The Turkish Marine Research Foundation is an institution that produces science at universal standards, strives to protect marine rights and interests, and aims to leave clean and liveable seas to future generations. We will continue our activities in this regard.

Stay well, join us, and support us.

Prof.Dr. Bayram ÖZTÜRK  
President of TUDAV

## OBJECTIVES OF THE TURKISH MARINE RESEARCH FOUNDATION



### **Databases**

Since important studies related to our seas are available in different sources, access to the information needed by researchers may sometimes be difficult. Therefore, efforts are ongoing to establish a databases covering various disciplines of marine sciences. This long-term process continues within our Foundation.



### **Research**

The Turkish Marine Research Foundation supports research projects in various fields, particularly biodiversity, either through its own resources or in cooperation with relevant individuals and institutions. Within this framework, a long-term research program focusing on the Turkish Straits is being carried out. The scientific data obtained are shared with the scientific community through the journals published by our Foundation.



### **Publication**

The results of our researches are published in scientific journals, in Turkish and English. In addition, guidebooks for the general public are prepared to raise awareness about the protection of our seas. Since its establishment, our Foundation has published nearly eighty books and has become an important publisher in the field of marine sciences.



### **Education**

For our foundation, it is very important to share the knowledge of our seas with every part of society. Seminars and conservation guidelines, especially for fishermen and other members of society, are organized for this purpose.



### **Special Protection Areas**

Efforts continue to establish underwater marine parks and specially protected areas where research activities can be conducted and where the public can directly experience marine life. The Gökçeada Underwater Park, established under the leadership of our Foundation, is one of the important examples in this field. In addition, views and recommendations regarding species that need protection are shared with the relevant authorities.

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## ACTIVITIES



### WORKSHOP ON THE ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF THE MUCILAGE PROBLEM (17 February 2025)



Our Foundation organized a workshop with the participation of academics and sector representatives, during which the mucilage problem in the Sea of Marmara was addressed within different disciplinary frameworks. Within the scope of the event, in addition to the impacts of mucilage on marine ecosystems, its economic, environmental, and sectoral dimensions were evaluated, and sustainable solution proposals were discussed.



### WOMEN DEVOTED TO THE SEA PANEL (8 March 2025)



An online panel titled “Women Devoted to the Sea,” organized by our Foundation within the scope of 8 March International Women’s Day, was held with the participation of women contributing to the marine ecosystem across various fields. During the panel, women devoted to the sea shared their experiences and observations, contributing to raising awareness about marine environments.



## WORKSHOP ON HAZARDOUS MARINE SPECIES IN TÜRKİYE (25 April 2025)



An online workshop titled “Hazardous Marine Species in Türkiye,” organized by our Foundation, was held with the participation of relevant experts and institutions. Within the scope of the workshop, issues related to the identification of hazardous marine species, the proper management of health risks caused by these species, and the establishment of a national information system were addressed.



## PARTICIPATION IN THE 36<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN CETACEAN SOCIETY CONFERENCE (20 May 2025)

Our Foundation participated in the 36<sup>th</sup> European Cetacean Society Conference, held in the Azores, Portugal, with one oral presentation, six poster presentations, and one short film. Within the scope of the conference, scientific findings were shared on abundance and density estimates of cetacean species in the Sea of Marmara and the Mediterranean Sea, passive acoustic monitoring studies, genetic and genomic research, and the spatial distribution of species. The event contributed to the international representation of our Foundation’s scientific work in the field of marine mammal science.





## 17<sup>TH</sup> SPA/RAC SPA/BD FOCAL POINTS MEETING (20-22 May 2025)

The 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SPA/BD Focal Points, organized by SPA/RAC under the framework of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), was held in Istanbul with Türkiye serving as the host country. With the participation of Mediterranean countries and regional stakeholders, the meeting reviewed ongoing efforts for the conservation of biodiversity and addressed updated action plans concerning Mediterranean monk seals, sea turtles, sharks, and coralligenous reefs. Chaired by the President of the Foundation, Prof. Dr. Bayram Öztürk, the meeting featured the presentation of management plans for Türkiye's specially protected areas and habitat monitoring studies, and discussions were held on joint strategies to address the impacts of climate change on biodiversity. Observers from the countries party to the Barcelona Convention, as well as from ACCOBAMS, IUCN, MedPAN, and WWF Mediterranean, participated in the meeting. Within the scope of the meeting, our Foundation organized four video side events focusing on seagrass meadows, the conservation of stony corals, monk seals in Gökçeada, and the bycatch of cartilaginous fish.



## SHOD 2025 ANNUAL ORDINARY MEETING (21-22 May 2025)

Our Foundation participated in the 2025 Annual Ordinary Meeting of the Navigation, Hydrography and Oceanography Services Planning and Coordination Board, hosted by Boğaziçi University Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute. Within the scope of the meeting, a presentation was delivered on our Foundation's activities over the past year.

## Seyir, Hidrografi ve Oşinografi Hizmetleri Plan ve Koordinasyon Kurulu 2025 Yılı Olağan Toplantısı



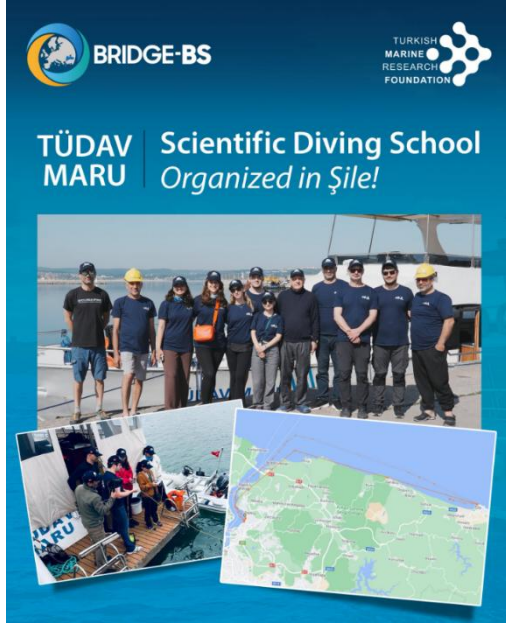
## “BREATH OF MARMARA” DOCUMENTARY GALA SCREENING (26 May 2025)

The Istanbul premiere of the documentary “Breath of Marmara,” directed by Sibel Göloğlu and produced by Müge Aral with the support of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, was held. Focusing on the biodiversity of the Sea of Marmara, particularly coral communities, the production included scientific contributions from the Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV). In the documentary, TUDAV President Prof. Dr. Bayram Öztürk took part with his assessments highlighting the scientific and societal responsibilities for the conservation of the Sea of Marmara.





## SCIENTIFIC DIVING SCHOOL EVENT IN ŞİLE WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE BRIDGE-BS PROJECT (25-31 May 2025)



Our research vessel, TÜDAV-MARU which belongs to our Foundation hosted the Scientific Diving School event organized in Şile within the scope of the *Bridge Black Sea Project*, in which our Foundation is a partner. As part of the program, carried out with the participation of researchers from Türkiye, Bulgaria, Romania, and Georgia, a route covering the coastal areas of Anadolu Kavağı, Anadolu Feneri, Riva, and Sahilköy was followed starting from Beykoz, with the return completed along the same route. During the one week training program, participants received theoretical and practical training on various topics, primarily marine biology, marine pollution, and measurement techniques, and certificates were awarded to those who successfully completed the program.



## “BLUE GUARDIANS OF THE BOSPHORUS” TRAINING EVENT WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE SHORE PROJECT (3 June 2025)



Within the scope of the EU-funded *SHORE Project*, students and teachers from Paşabahçe Secondary School were hosted on our research vessel, TÜDAV MARU, as part of the “Blue Guardians of the Bosphorus” event. Within the framework of the event, the students were provided with information on ocean literacy, the importance of seagrass meadows for ecosystems, and environmental studies conducted in the Sea of Marmara; buoy systems and traditional dalyan (fish trap) areas were observed on site during the cruise. The event contributed to increasing young people’s awareness of marine ecosystems.



## PARTICIPATION IN AN INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE (ASMA-UHMS) (1-6 June 2025)

The annual scientific conference jointly organized by the Aerospace Medical Association (ASMA) and the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society (UHMS), held in Atlanta, USA, was attended by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Selin Gamze Sümen, a Member of the General Assembly of the Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV) and Head of the Department of Underwater Medicine and Hyperbaric Medicine at the University of Health Sciences. At the conference, which brought together more than 1,700 experts, the results of the first scientific study, supported by our Foundation, on injuries resulting from contact with venomous marine species found in the waters of Türkiye, were presented. The presentation contributed to increasing scientific awareness on the subject and to the development of solutions.



## ATLAS MAGAZİNE PODCAST PROGRAM – WHALES OF TÜRKİYE (3 June 2025)

The Turkish Marine Research Foundation's marine mammal experts published an article on Türkiye's whales in ATLAS magazine and released a related podcast. The podcast content addressed whale species living in the Mediterranean Sea and aimed to raise public awareness.



Podcast Link:

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/5fgqS2TRDJSxkZTZkH601I?si=MD6TXAxHSoggWMZKEOGe7A>



## PARTICIPATION IN THE 3<sup>RD</sup> UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE (9-13 June 2025)



The Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV) participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> United Nations Ocean Conference held in Nice, France. Within the scope of the conference, which brought together representatives from more than 120 countries, a project on the conservation of seagrass meadows in the Sea of Marmara carried out by TUDAV was presented on an international platform by TUDAV President Prof. Dr. Bayram Öztürk; in addition, he chaired a panel on Türkiye's marine biodiversity and marine protected areas. During the conference, topics such as global cooperation for the protection of oceans and seas, climate crisis, marine pollution, illegal fishing, and biodiversity loss were addressed.



## BOOK PRESENTATION OF "THE MONTREUX CONVENTION, THE TURKISH STRAITS AND BLACK SEA SECURITY" (22 July 2025)



Within the scope of the 89<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Montreux Convention, a book launch event for the book titled "The Montreux Convention, the Turkish Straits and Black Sea Security," written by Ali Kurumahmut, Retired Member of the Council of State and a maritime law expert, and published by the Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV), was held in Istanbul. At the event, TUDAV President Prof. Dr. Bayram Öztürk, Rector of the National Defence University Prof. Dr. Erhan Afyoncu, and Deputy Minister of Transport and Infrastructure Mr. Durmuş Ünüvar contributed to the program with their speeches; the author of the book Ali Kurumahmut, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the content of the work. The book examines not only the legal aspects of the Montreux Convention but also

the geopolitical position of the Turkish Straits and their role in Black Sea security, and provides an in-depth analysis of the historical background of the Convention, transit regimes, and its assessments within the framework of international law.



## R/V TÜDAV MARU CRUISE (18 July 2025 - 29 September 2025)



Our research vessel TÜDAV-MARU conducted regular data collection activities throughout 2025 in designated study areas from Şile to the Sea of Marmara and from the Northern Aegean to Çeşme; within this scope, scientific diving activities, artificial reef and seagrass monitoring studies, coral and benthic habitat research, seawater measurements using a CTD device, and environmental assessments of marine ecosystems were carried out. In 2025, TÜDAV-MARU covered a total distance of 950 nautical miles.



## SEA FORESTS: CORALS - GÖKÇEADA (25 July 2025)

The first meeting and launch event of the “*Sea Forests: Corals*” Project, carried out in cooperation with TUDAV and Türkiye İş Bankası, was held in Gökçeada. Within the scope of the project, it is aimed to protect endemic black and stony coral species found in the Sea of Marmara and the Northern Aegean against climate change, pollution, and human-induced threats, and to carry out public awareness activities.





## OPENING MEETING OF THE “THE PATH OF PIRI REIS WITH TÜDAV-MARU” PROJECT (11 August 2025)

The opening meeting of the “*The Path of with TÜDAV MARU*” Project, conducted by the Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TÜDAV), was held at the Kilitbahir Fortress Museum with the contributions by the Gallipoli Historical Site Authority of the Çanakkale Battles. Within the scope of the project, it is aimed to conduct scientific data collection in the Aegean Sea onboard TÜDAV-MARU and to organize awareness-raising activities on marine conservation at the visited ports.



## THE PATH OF PIRI REIS WITH TÜDAV-MARU PROJECT- PROJECT STOPS (18-27 August 2025)

In August 2025, under the “*The Path of Piri Reis*” project conducted with the TÜDAV-MARU Research Vessel, the project stations in GÖKÇEADA, BOZCAADA, FOÇA, KARABURUN, and ÇEŞME were opened to the public. Informative activities on marine science and ecosystem conservation were conducted for local communities and youth, while changes in marine ecosystems and conservation approaches were discussed. At the Ildır *Blue Conversations* event, stakeholders engaged in scientific evaluations regarding sustainable fisheries and marine conservation.





## THE PATH OF PIRI REIS WITH TÜDAV-MARU – BLUE MEETING EVENT (26 August 2025)

Within the scope of the *Path of Piri Reis with TÜDAV MARU Project*, the Blue Meeting event was organized to share the outcomes of the scientific expedition and activities carried out throughout the Aegean Sea. During the event, the experiences gained throughout the project were evaluated, and common approaches and opportunities for cooperation regarding the protection of the seas were discussed.



## SEA FORESTS: CORALS – BOZCAADA (26 September 2025)

The second meeting of the “Sea Forests: Corals” Project, carried out in cooperation with TÜDAV and Türkiye İş Bankası, was held in Bozcaada. During the meeting, the activities conducted within the scope of the project were evaluated, and the protection of endemic black and stone coral species in the Sea of Marmara and the Northern Aegean were discussed.





## 2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY (30 September 2025)

The 2024 General Assembly of our Foundation was held at the Beykoz Foundation from 13:00 to 17:00. During the meeting, the research activities carried out by our Foundation throughout the year and the management processes were evaluated, and views were exchanged on the relevant topics.



## GIANTS OF THE OCEAN EXHIBITION OPENING (2 October 2025)

The skeletons of a fin whale, a sperm whale, and a Mediterranean monk seal, belonging to the Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV), have started to be exhibited at the Istanbul Aquarium. These rare specimens from Turkish seas are part of an original collection prepared by our Foundation as a result of approximately 25 years of scientific and technical work. Through the exhibition, the aim is to raise awareness for the protection of marine mammals and to introduce the country's marine biodiversity to the public.



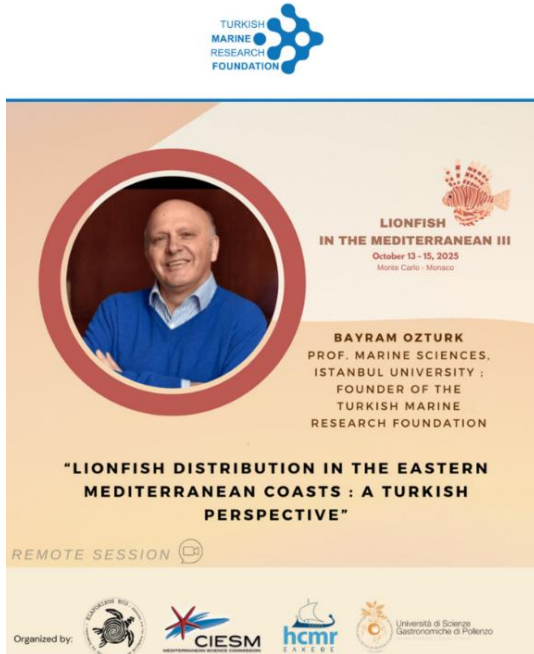


## ALL ASPECTS OF GÖKÇEADA SYMPOSIUM (2-3 October 2025)

The All Aspects of Gökçeada Symposium, organized by the Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV) in collaboration with Gökçeada Municipality, Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa, and Istanbul University, was successfully held. During the symposium, numerous presentations were made under the topics of fisheries, biodiversity and ecosystem research, natural heritage and geology, as well as environmental protection and sustainability; existing issues concerning Gökçeada and potential solutions were discussed. The symposium provided an interdisciplinary environment with the participation of academics, decision-makers, civil society organizations, and the island community.



## III . MEDITERRANEAN LIONFISH EVENT (13-15 October 2025)

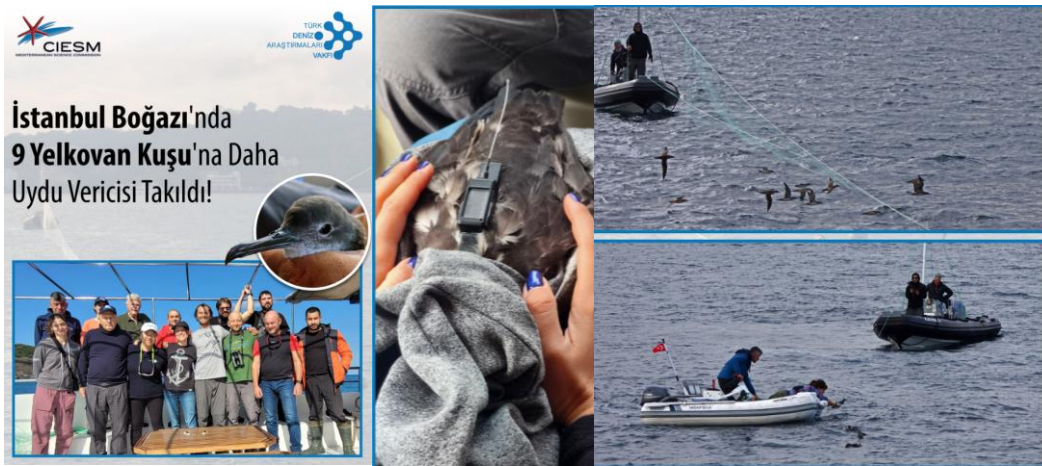


Prof. Dr. Bayram Öztürk, President of the Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV), participated in the III. Mediterranean Lionfish Event organized by Elafonisos Eco and delivered a presentation. During the event, the impacts of the lionfish, an invasive species, on Mediterranean ecosystems were discussed, along with scientific, managerial, and awareness-based approaches to combat this species.



## YELKOUAN SHEARWATER SATELLITE TAGGING STUDY IN THE ISTANBUL STRAIT (13 October 2025)

In the Istanbul Strait, the second satellite tagging study carried out by CIESM (Mediterranean Science Commission) to monitor the migration movements of the Yelkouan shearwater (*Puffinus yelkouan*) was successfully completed. The study was conducted under the coordination of the CIESM Biodiversity Programme in cooperation with the Boğaziçi University Institute of Environmental Sciences, the Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV), and international experts. Within the scope of the study, GPS-GSM satellite transmitters were attached to nine Yelkouan shearwaters passing through the Istanbul Strait, using a method developed approximately 30 years ago by one of our Foundation's founders, Asaf Ertan.



## 31 OCTOBER WORLD BLACK SEA ACTION DAY EVENT (31 October 2025)



Within the scope of the World Black Sea Day on 31 October, an online event was organized with the participation of decision-makers, scientists, and civil society representatives, during which issues related to the protection of the Black Sea's biodiversity and ensuring its sustainability were addressed. As part of the event, assessments were made regarding the future of the Black Sea within the framework of climate change, the blue economy, and ecosystem-based approaches, and solution proposals were discussed.



## CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT SYMPOSIUM (19 November 2025)

The President of the Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV), Prof. Dr. Bayram Öztürk, participated as a speaker in the panel titled “Seas and People Under the Threat of Climate Change,” organized by Piri Reis University and the Marine Culture Association. Within the scope of the panel, projects related to seagrass meadows and coralligenous habitats were discussed, and the activities carried out by our Foundation in the field of climate change were shared.



## BRIDGE-BS PROJECT FINAL CONFERENCE (25 November 2025)

The *BRIDGE-BS Project*, carried out to contribute to a sustainable Blue Economy for the Black Sea, was completed with the Final Conference held in Brussels after a 4.5-year implementation period. Within the scope of the project, the results of marine research and innovation-oriented activities were shared with relevant stakeholders during the conference. At the Final Conference, the scientific and institutional legacy of the project for the Black Sea region and the Black Sea Digital Twin Application Model were presented; assessments were made on a resilient and sustainable future for the Black Sea with the participation of policymakers, researchers, and other stakeholders.





## TÜBİTAK 1001 – CETAFİN PROJECT FIELDS STUDY LAUNCHED (4 December 2025)

A Field study has started for the project titled “Comprehensive Monitoring of Bottlenose Dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) and Common Dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*) in the Black Sea and the Istanbul Strait Using Photo-Identification Methods (CetaFin),” which is supported under TÜBİTAK 1001. Within the scope of the project, it is aimed to determine the distribution of the target species, enable individual identification, and reveal population dynamics.



## SEMPA PROJECT MEETING ON MARINE CONSERVATION AND NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS (16 November 2025)

Our Foundation’s President, Prof. Dr. Bayram Öztürk, delivered a talk on marine conservation and nature-based solutions to 25 participants from different Mediterranean countries at an event held in Akyaka on 16 December 2025, organized within the scope of the EU-funded *SEMPA Project*.





## 8<sup>TH</sup> ONLINE OCEAN LITERACY COURSE (8-25 December 2025)

Türkiye'de Deniz Ekosisteminin Korunması ve Sürdürülebilirliği İçin Conservation and Sustainability of the Marine Environment in Turkish Seas

# 8. DENİZ OKURYAZARLIĞI KURSU

ONLINE IOI OCEAN ACADEMY  
8th Ocean Academy Course offered online by IOI & Turkish Marine Research Foundation, Türkiye

8 - 25 Aralık 2025 tarihleri arasında International Ocean Institute (IOI) ve Türk Deniz Araştırmaları Vakfı (TUDAV) işbirliğiyle çevrimiçi olarak Zoom üzerinden, 20:00-22:00 saatleri arasında gerçekleştirilecektir.

The eight online Ocean Governance Course will be offered jointly by Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV) and International Ocean Institute (IOI) to upgrade the Ocean Literacy between 08th - 25th December 2025 to upgrade the Ocean Literacy specifically targeting government officials. Ten live sessions will utilise presentations, discussions, readings, videos and interactive tools to explore new and emerging issues in marine conservation and sustainability. Participants who complete all the sessions will be eligible for a certificate.

Applications for the eight course will be received online until December 05, 2025.

Ayrıntılı bilgi ve başvuru için For more information [tudav.org](http://tudav.org)

The 8<sup>th</sup> Ocean Literacy Course for the Protection and Sustainability of Marine Ecosystems in Türkiye was held online between 8 and 25 December 2025, in cooperation with the International Ocean Institute (IOI) and the Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV).



## 2025 DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES MAP



Our Foundation actively contributed throughout 2025 to efforts aimed at the protection and preservation of the seas, both domestically and internationally.

## ACTIVE PROJECTS



### Sea Forests: Corals



The aim of the project, carried out in cooperation with Türkiye İş Bankası, the conservation of endemic black coral (*Savalia savaglia*) and stony coral (*Cladocora caespitosa*) species found in the Sea of Marmara and the Northern Aegean, particularly around Marmara Island, Gökçeada, and Bozcaada. Within the three-year project, the distribution of coral populations will be mapped using an ROV and side-scan sonar, the impacts of climate change will be monitored over the long term, and the effects of human-induced threats (ghost nets, trawl fishing, etc.) on coral ecosystems will be identified. In addition, awareness-raising activities are carried out in cooperation with fishermen, and educational and informational activities for students in different provinces are planned.



### The Path of Piri Reis with TÜDAV-MARU



*The Path of Piri Reis with TÜDAV-MARU Project* is a study supported by the Turquoise Coast Environment Fund – Türkiye grant program and aims to collect data on the current status of marine ecosystems along a route in the Aegean Sea extending from Çanakkale Gelibolu to Çeşme. Within the scope of the project, measurements and observations are carried out on biodiversity and pollution, and through training and awareness-raising activities organized in the ports of Gelibolu, Bozcaada, Gökçeada, Foça, Karaburun, Ildır, Alaçatı, and Çeşme, the importance of the seas, the pressures they face, and methods of conservation are shared with the public. In addition, through the “Blue Gathering” event held in Çeşme, scientists, civil society organizations, local authorities, and other stakeholders are brought together to address the current threats facing our seas.



### **Future on the Seas: Seagrasses Meadows**

The project is carried out in cooperation with Türkiye İş Bankası and focuses on the conservation of seagrass meadows located in the Istanbul Strait, as well as around Paşalimanı Island and the Narlı area. Within the scope of the project, awareness-raising activities are conducted in designated areas, and environmental data are collected using



temperature sensors integrated into research buoys. Over the two-year project period, the moorings to which the buoys are attached also serve as habitats for various marine organisms.



### **Istanbul Strait Studies**

This work encompasses information and awareness-raising activities aimed at drawing attention to the marine biodiversity of the Istanbul Strait, its oceanographic characteristics, and the pressures on its ecosystem. Under this heading, thematic content on marine life in the Istanbul Strait, particularly focusing on the Black Sea entrance, is prepared and shared with the public, contributing to increasing the visibility of threats to the Strait's ecosystem.



### **SHORE**

SHORE: EmpOweR Students as the Agents of Change



The project is a funded by the EU HorizonProgramme, involving 14 partners from 10 countries and aiming to increase ocean literacy. Covering the Baltic Sea, Black Sea, Mediterranean, Danube, and Rhine River regions, the project is coordinated by Yıldız Technical University and implemented over a period of 36 months. Within the scope of the project, guidance is provided to educators and schools under the "Blue Curriculum" framework, school projects are supported through open calls, and the participation of different stakeholders is encouraged through exhibitions, workshops, training activities, and seminars. In addition, content developed throughout the project is shared with the public via a digital platform, and school projects are monitored through this platform. TUDAV contributes to activities aimed at enhancing ocean literacy in the relevant regions of Türkiye as a project partner.



## BRIDGE-BS



The *BRIDGE-BS* project is a research initiative carried out under the Blue Growth call of the EU Horizon 2020 Programme, coordinated by Middle East Technical University, and involving 33 organizations from Black Sea countries. Within the scope of the project, the impacts of climate change and human-induced pressures on Black Sea ecosystems and ecosystem services are examined; ecosystem responses to stressors such as eutrophication, oxygen depletion, overfishing, and invasive species are mapped, monitored, and modelled. As a project partner, TUDAV conducts marine research primarily in the Turkish Straits region and contributes to activities aimed at increasing ocean literacy.



## BlackCeTrends

BlackCeTrends – Karadeniz setaselerinin akustik sörveyi için geniş kapsamlı inisiyatif



The *BlackCeTrends* project is an international initiative involving five partners from five countries bordering the Black Sea. Within the scope of the project, passive acoustic monitoring devices (F-PODs) provided by Chelonia Ltd. are used to record the high-frequency sounds of dolphins and porpoises, with a particular focus on collecting and analysing data on the distribution of the Black Sea harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena relicta*). The acoustic data obtained are complementary to visual observations and contribute to scientific studies aimed at the conservation of marine mammals.



## Ya Yakarsa



Jellyfish observation and monitoring studies aim to monitor the increasing jellyfish blooms in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea driven by climate change and invasive species, and to assess the impacts of these increases on ecosystems, fisheries, tourism, and human health. Data collected through a citizen science approach are scientifically analysed, with the aim of producing evidence-based information to guide decision-makers.



## Black Sea Watch

*Black Sea Watch* was implemented by TUDAV in partnership with the Green Balkans NGO within the scope of the Civil Society Dialogue Programme (CSD-ENV), and co-financed by the European Union and the Republic of Türkiye. The project aimed to raise awareness of Black Sea biodiversity and to ensure public participation in data collection processes.



## Passive Acoustic Monitoring

The Istanbul Strait study focuses on monitoring the harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*), bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), and common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*) species in the Istanbul Strait. The Turkish Straits System forms an important migratory route between the Aegean Sea and the Black Sea, and the movements of cetacean species, particularly in relation to migrating fish species, are observed during the spring months. In this context, studies have been conducted using the passive acoustic monitoring method since 2009, with the support of the National Research Institute of Fisheries, Japan, and in cooperation with Istanbul University Faculty of Aquatic Sciences, analyzing cetacean clicks recorded by the A-tag system.



### Gökçeada Underwater Marine Park



*Gökçeada Underwater Marine Park* was established in 1999 through the initiatives of TUDAV along the approximately 1-mile-wide coastal strip between Yıldızkoy and Kuzulimanı. In the park, which has protected area status, fishing activities, diving, and tourism use are prohibited throughout the year. Scientific studies conducted within the park have shown increases in fish species and individual numbers, the reappearance of lobsters and various invertebrate species not previously observed, and the return of dolphins and Mediterranean monk seals to the area.



### ANEMONE PLUS



The *ANEMONE PLUS* project focuses on environmental issues such as eutrophication, pollution, and biodiversity loss. Within the project, a regional WebGIS platform is being developed based on the outputs of the ANEMONE and MISIS projects, incorporating remote sensing, eDNA analyses, and environmental modeling methods. Aiming to transform scientific data into decision-support tools, the project supports sustainable environmental management in the Black Sea.



### CetaFin



The *CetaFin* Project is a study supported under the TÜBİTAK 1001 Program, aiming to monitor bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) and common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*) along the Turkish coasts of the Black Sea and in the Istanbul Strait using photo-identification methods. Within the project, site fidelity, distribution, and population dynamics of dolphin are examined in areas with varying levels of human pressure, with individuals identified based on characteristic marks on their dorsal fins. The

data obtained will to contribute to understanding the migration patterns, habitat use, and exposure to human-induced threats of these two species, providing a scientific basis for conservation efforts.

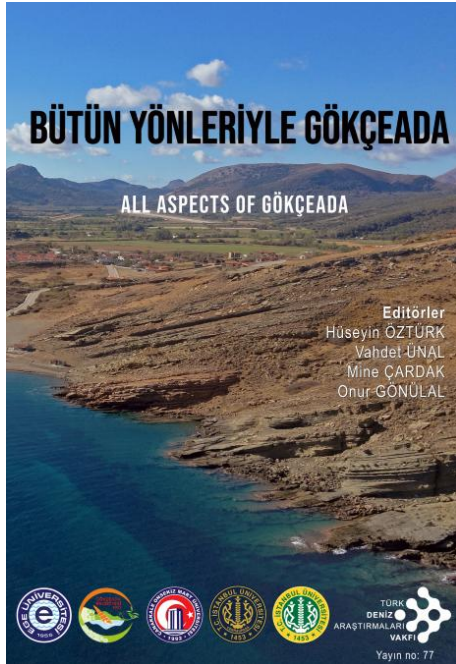
## PUBLICATIONS



### Journal of The Black Sea / Mediterranean Environment, Vol. 31, No. 1,2,3



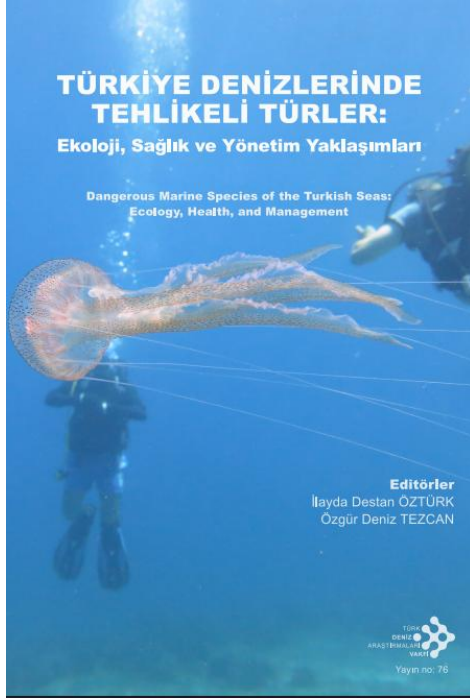
### All Aspects of Gökçeada



The book All Aspects of Gökçeada was published as TUDAV's 77<sup>th</sup> publication. The work, which provides a comprehensive examination of Gökçeada—the westernmost and largest island of Türkiye—is prepared in Turkish with an English summary. The book covers the island's geological structure and hazard potential, fossilized forest plants dating back approximately 15 million years, the human history of the island, its unique geological formations and archaeological assets that need protection. It also addresses marine biodiversity, particularly Mediterranean monk seals, seawater quality, marine protected areas, sustainable fisheries, diving and eco-tourism potential, agriculture, water resources and management, as well as wastewater, solid waste management, and urban sustainability.



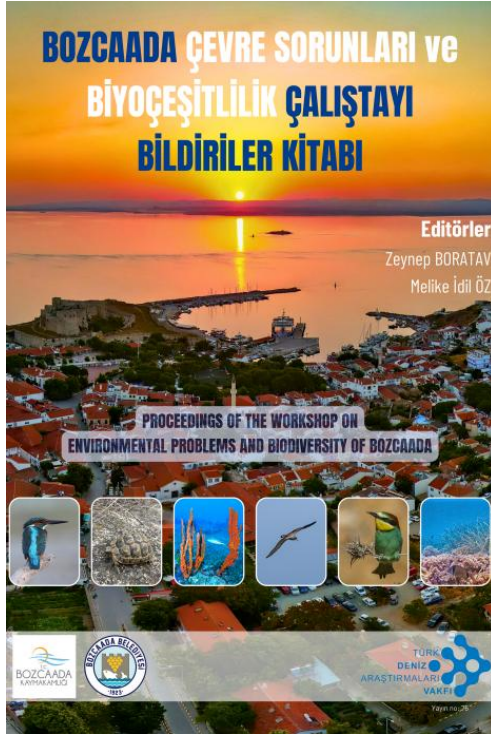
## Hazardous Species in Turkish Seas: Ecology, Health, and Management



The book addresses marine organisms living in Turkish sea that pose risks to human health and human activities related to the sea, for the first time in a comprehensive and interdisciplinary framework under the headings of ecology, health, and management. The study compiles research conducted in this field in Türkiye and evaluates the existing knowledge with a holistic approach. Prepared with contributions from experts across different disciplines, the work serves as a comprehensive resource bringing together studies on hazardous species in Turkish seas. The book is in Turkish and comprises 187 pages.



## Bozcaada Environmental Issues and Biodiversity Workshop Proceeding Book



The book is an outcome of the “Bozcaada Environmental Issues and Biodiversity Workshop” held on October 6, 2024. A total of 29 authors, including both academics and local residents, assessed Bozcaada’s social, cultural, and natural structure, the changes it has undergone from past to present, its current status, potential threats, and the measures needed to ensure a healthier and more sustainable life on the island. The proceedings book is expected to contribute to raising public awareness and serve as a guide for decision-makers. The book is in Turkish and comprises 223 pages.



## The Montreux Convention, Turkish Straits and Black Sea Security



Written by Ali Kurumahmut, a retired member of the State Council and a maritime lawyer, the book is a largely revised and updated version of our 2006 publication. Released on the 89th anniversary of the Montreux Convention—which is of critical importance for Türkiye’s international security strategies and directly related to the security of the Black Sea—the work comprises 234 pages and is in Turkish.

## VIDEOS



### **All Aspects of Gökçeada Symposium, October 2025**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBdleIP-Srw>



### **Black Sea Action Day, October 2025**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spKzlyrPYlk>



### **TUDAV Promotional Film**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ko-z-Oylyao>



### **EKOTÜRK Main News, 18 June 2025 - TUDAV**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Irh79WLnG5w>








### **Two Sides of the Same Sea**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHIURGvYMJI>







### **The Gold Coral, *Savaglia savaglia***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwH-EcZrXtY>

-  **Sponge Harvesting on Mediterranean Coasts, Sponge Stock Status, and Sponge Diseases Workshop**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osbaVikwFEQ>
-  **Women Devoted to the Sea Panel**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zarrRby7IZk>
-  **Economic Assessment of the Mucilage Problem Workshop**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLmifOTZIGw>
-  **The Future of the Seas: Seagrass Meadows Project – Buoy Deployment Stage**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MaMhOhDiGW0>
-  **Infanticidal Behaviour of a Bottlenose Dolphin in the Marmara Sea, Türkiye**  
<https://www.youtube.com/@tailflake/videos>

## PRESS RELEASES

-  **First Observation of Infanticide in Dolphin in the Marmara Sea (03 January 2025)**
-  **TUDAV, Participated in the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference: Marmara Sea and Seagrasses Meadows Presented at the UN Ocean Conference (13 June 2025)**
-  **Prof. Dr. Bayram Öztürk on EKOTÜRK: The 3rd UN Ocean Conference and the Current Status of Seas in Türkiye Discussed (18 June 2025)**
-  **Black Sea Countries Came Together for Action Despite Regional Challenges (03 November 2025)**