

Turkish Marine
Research
Foundation
Annual Report

2024



PREFACE

The Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV), established in 1997 by a group of scientists, seafarers, and nature enthusiasts, has now completed 28 years. During this time, we have accomplished numerous successful projects. In line with our mission, we have worked to raise public awareness for the protection of seas, established marine protected areas (such as the Gökçeada Marine Park), and led initiatives in education and research. Beyond conservation efforts, we have regularly published our academic journal, which presents new findings in marine research. I am proud to say that our prestigious journal has significantly contributed to understanding and protecting the biodiversity of the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. In addition to impactful meetings and effective campaigns, we have contributed to safeguarding various species, particularly sharks and corals. In summary, we have become a reference institution for marine biodiversity conservation. A substantial amount of 63 species currently under protection in Turkish waters are so by safeguarding efforts of our foundation's initiatives. Starting in 2000, we launched meetings focused on the Sea of Marmara and have undertaken respected studies in this area.

All these achievements were made possible through the dedication of our founding and general assembly members, who worked with an amateur spirit but a professional approach, without expecting any financial benefit. The book celebrating our 25th anniversary, available on our website, provides a brief overview of our accomplishments. This book not only enriches our institutional memory but also tells a story of success; all our projects were meticulously planned and executed with exemplary discipline and precision.

Our scientific activities at the United Nations headquarters and in other countries have inspired many nations. Additionally, our efforts to promote the sustainable use of marine resources and their preservation for future generations have always gathered interest. TUDAV has signed cooperation agreements with many countries and continues to maintain scientific partnerships with numerous prestigious international institutions. Türkiye's first initiative in Antarctica was also led by us, and our efforts in this area are ongoing. The 73 original books we have published in Turkish and English can be found in prominent libraries in Türkiye and around the world, while our online videos are widely appreciated. Protecting the seas is directly linked to understanding and researching them. Goals like the blue economy and blue growth can only succeed in clean seas with healthy ecosystems.

Our foundation will continue its solid efforts to safeguard Türkiye's maritime rights and interests. It should be noted that TUDAV's work is followed annually by around 150 countries, with

thousands of students downloading free publications from our website to complete their research.

In 2024, alongside the publications we released, we successfully organised the Bozcaada and Çeşme workshops. Our research vessel, TÜDAV MARU, has begun collecting data on its Marmara expeditions. Furthermore, we are continuing our oceanographic measurements at the TUDAV Station in Beykoz along the İstanbul Strait. This year, we are preparing our vessel for new expeditions. Operating a ship as a non-governmental organisation is no easy feat, but we manage to do it with great volunteer spirits and continuous effort. For us, the effort to protect this unique blue planet is both an honour and a responsibility. Additionally, we serve as a model for other organisations. I should also mention that the buoys we deployed in the Sea of Marmara in 2024 to protect seagrass beds were the first of their kind.

In this regard, I would like to extend my gratitude to our board members, all individuals and organisations who have supported our foundation since its beginning, our trusted maritime friends, scientists, employees, and most importantly, people who quietly support us in our noble mission of marine conservation and research. I also thank all our staff at the foundation. I am confident that 2025 will be even more productive and successful.

Finally, I would like to honor our founding friends and general assembly members who have passed away. May their soul rest in peace.

Prof. Dr. Bayram Öztürk
Founder, President

OBJECTIVES OF THE TURKISH MARINE RESEARCH FOUNDATION



Databases

Since valuable studies on our seas are scattered, it is difficult for researchers to access the information they need. For this reason, a database on different disciplines of marine sciences is being created. Although this is a time-consuming and difficult task, it is still ongoing.



Research

The Turkish Marine Research Foundation carries out various research projects, particularly on biodiversity, either with its own resources or with external funding bodies to provide resources. A long-term project on the Turkish Straits is being carried out. The data and results obtained from the research are published in our journal.



Publication

Scientific publications are made in both Turkish and English. Moreover, guidebooks are prepared for the general public in order to introduce and popularize our seas. The number of books published by our Foundation since its establishment has exceeded 70 and it plays a pioneering role in the field of marine sciences.



Education

TUDAV gives great importance to the dissemination of all kinds of information about our seas to large masses. In certain periods, seminars regarding conservation measures are organized especially for fishermen and other stakeholders. Colouring books for children and books on species conservation are distributed in many primary schools. We also have posters for alien marine species.



Special Protection Areas

We continue our efforts to establish underwater marine parks and special protection areas where research and applications can be carried out and people can be introduced to marine life. The Gökçeada Marine Underwater Park created by our foundation is a good example in this regard. In addition, we share our opinions and suggestions on species that need to be protected with the relevant ministries.

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ACTIVITIES



“THE FUTURE OF THE SEAS: SEAGRASS MEADOWS” PROJECT EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS (12.2023–05.2024)

As part of the “Future of the Seas: Seagrass Meadows” project, launched in collaboration with Türkiye İş Bankası in 2023, educational activities were conducted in 30 primary and secondary schools (grades 3 and 4) between December 2023 and May 2024. More than 4,000 students from Marmara Island, Avşa Island, the villages and town centre of Erdek, and Bandırma attended the educational activities about the importance of Turkish seas. They learned about the threats marine ecosystems face, necessary actions to protect these ecosystems, the significance of seagrasses, and the challenges they encounter.



5TH MARINE LITERACY COURSE (11.12.2023–11.01.2024)

In collaboration with the International Ocean Institute (IOI), TUDAV, and Yıldız Technical University under the SHORE EU Horizon Project, “Marine Literacy Course for Teachers on the Conservation and Sustainability of Marine Ecosystems in Türkiye” was conducted online.



SATELLITE TAGGING OF 30 YELKOUAN SHEARWATERS IN THE İSTANBUL STRAIT (26.04.2024)

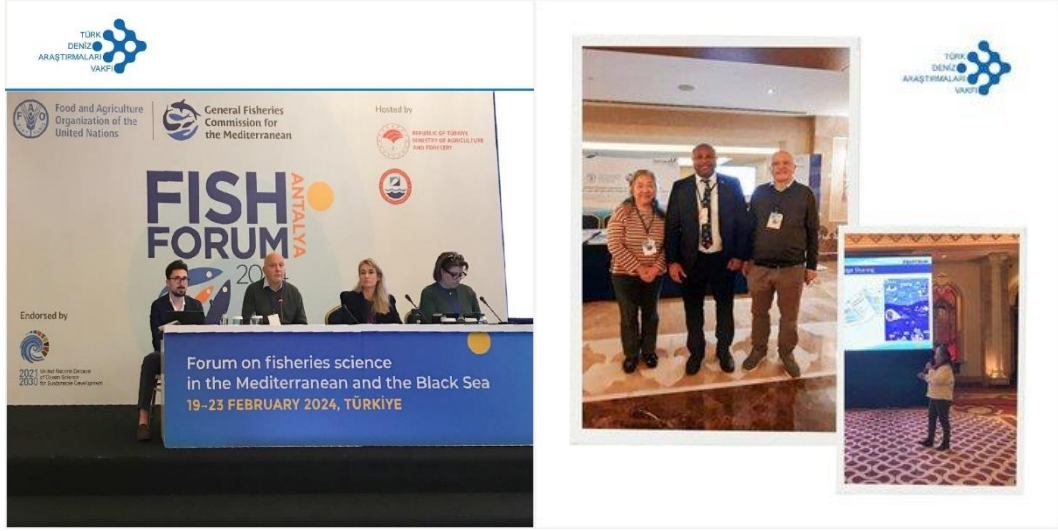
As part of the project titled “Conservation of Yelkouan Shearwaters in the Mediterranean Basin and the Black Sea Using Next-Generation Genomic, Acoustic, and GPS-GSM Tracking Methods,” supported by TÜBİTAK and carried out by Bosphorus University's Institute of Environmental Sciences, in coordination with the Mediterranean Science Commission (CIESM), satellite transmitters were attached to 30 yelkouan shearwaters in the Istanbul Strait at the end of February. TUDAV supported this project logistically.



FISH FORUM (19-23.02.2024)

Fish Forum, organised by FAO/GFCM, was held in Antalya on 19–23 February 2024. It is the region's largest scientific meeting on fisheries-related topics. TUDAV co-organised a workshop under the MedBycatch Project alongside UNEP MAP-SPA/RAC, ACCOBAMS,

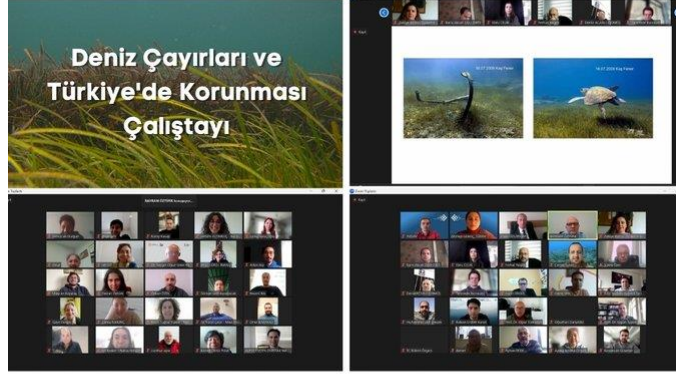
BirdLife, GFCM, IUCN-Med, MEDASSET, and WWF. Dr. Ayaka Amaha Öztürk delivered a presentation, and TUDAV premiered the short film “Bycatch of Cartilaginous Fishes in Turkish Waters” at the forum. Additionally, Prof. Dr. Bayram Öztürk participated as a panellist in an Ocean Care event discussing the harmful effects of abandoned fishing gear on marine biota. TUDAV's president also had the opportunity to meet with the ICCAT Secretary-General during the forum.



SEAGRASS AND ITS CONSERVATION IN TÜRKİYE WORKSHOP (01.03.2024)

On 1 March 2024, World Seagrass Day, we successfully held the “Seagrass and Its Conservation in Türkiye Workshop.” The workshop, featuring diverse and valuable presentations, addressed the current state of seagrasses in Türkiye's seas comprehensively. The event had over 100 participations.

1 Mart Dünya Deniz Çayıruları Günü



Konuşmacı ve katılımcılarımıza *Tesekkür ederiz*



30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NASSIA TANKER ACCIDENT WORKSHOP (13.03.2024)

We commemorated the 30th anniversary of the Nassia Tanker Accident with a workshop that extensively examined the events during and after the accident, featuring testimonials from eyewitnesses.





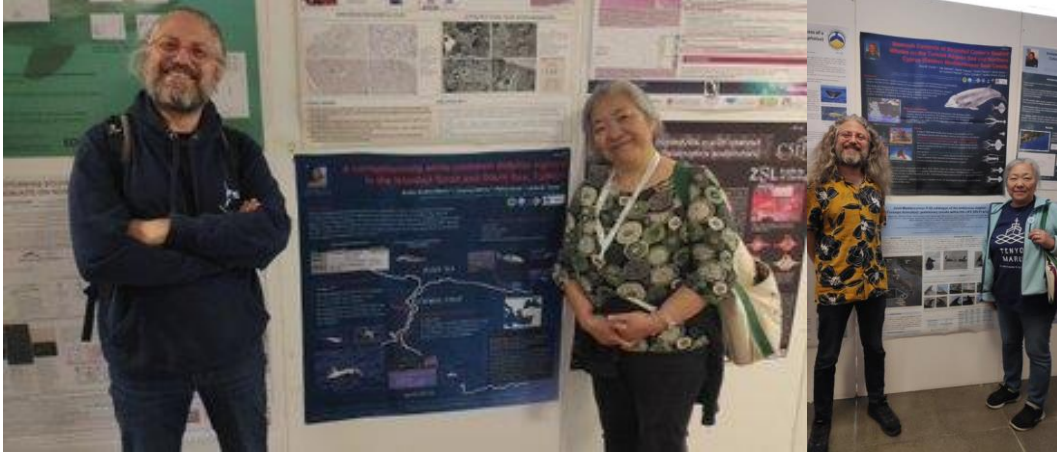
OCEAN LITERACY AND BLUE CURRICULUM WEBINAR (20.03.2024)

In collaboration with the International Ocean Institute (IOI), TUDAV, and Yıldız Technical University under the SHORE EU Horizon Project, a webinar titled “Ocean Literacy and Blue Curriculum” was held online on 20 March 2024. It focused on fostering ocean literacy among educators.



35TH EUROPEAN CETACEAN SOCIETY CONFERENCE (12-14.04.2024)

We participated in the 35th Annual Conference of European Cetacean Society with poster presentations on the stomach contents of beaked whales in the Aegean Sea and Northern Cyprus, the white common dolphin observed in the Istanbul Strait, and the Black Sea over the past four years and best practices for cetacean population genetics under ACCOBAMS.



BLUE TALKS - ZERO WASTE IN THE OCEAN, IMMERSSED IN CHANGE (22.04.2024)

As part of the "Blue Talks" event held in Ankara under the theme "In the Midst of Change: Ocean Action and Climate Change," a panel titled "Zero Waste on the Ocean, Immersed in Change" was conducted. Moderated by Kahraman Halisçelik, President of the Bizim Dünyamız Foundation, the panel featured prominent speakers, including Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and President of the EU Affairs Department Ambassador Mehmet Kemal Bozay, Costa Rica's Ambassador to Ankara Gustavo Campos Fallas, France's Ambassador to Ankara Isabelle Dumont, Permanent Observer of the UN University for Peace Ambassador David Fernandez Puyana, and Prof. Dr. Bayram Öztürk from Istanbul University's Faculty of Aquatic Sciences.



3RD TURKISH CARTILAGINOUS FISH CONSERVATION STRATEGY WORKSHOP (30.04.2024)

On April 30, 2024, an online workshop was held on the conservation of cartilaginous fishes, covering topics such as conservation areas, studies on protected species, and the national action plan.



DOLPHIN OBSERVATION IN THE İSTANBUL STRAIT (02.05.2024)

On 2 May 2024, the TUDAV team hosted visitors from Ütopya Primary and Secondary Schools and Small Hands Academy Preschools. During the event held in the İstanbul Strait, various species were observed, including harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) and bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*), as well as birds such as Yelkouan shearwaters (*Puffinus yelkouan*), storks (*Ciconia ciconia*), and cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*).



WORKSHOP ON THE REGULATION OF THE HABITAT INVENTORY AND MONITORING PROTOCOL OF MARINE CAVES (07-08.05.2024)

On 7–8 May 2024, the SPA/RAC (Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre) and the Tunisian Taxonomy Association (ATUTAX) organised a workshop in Tunisia. TUDAV President Prof. Dr. Bayram Öztürk participated as a speaker, presenting on “Observation Studies of Marine Caves in Türkiye.” The workshop brought together participants from various Mediterranean countries to discuss the general condition of marine caves, habitat diversity, conservation, and monitoring efforts. During the event, the existing “Dark Habitats Action Plan” was revised.



6TH NATIONAL MARINE SCIENCES CONFERENCE (15-17.05.2024)

The 6th National Marine Sciences Conference took place with contributions from participants representing all marine and maritime institutions and organizations in Türkiye. The event was hosted by Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University, under the theme “The Past, Present, and Future of Our Seas.” in Rize on May 15-17, 2024. Presentation titles of TUDAV members included:

- Conservation of Marine Biological Diversity in the Eastern Mediterranean: The Case of the Finike Seamounts – Bayram ÖZTÜRK
- Türkiye's Marine Environmental Practices and Marine Legislation – Nesrin ALGAN
- Geographical Naming in Our Seas and Recent Developments – Bayram ÖZTÜRK
- Wrecks of the Gallipoli Campaign and the Conservation of Marine Biodiversity – M. İdil ÖZ
- Long-term Changes in Light Attenuation in the Sea of Marmara – İ. Destan ÖZTÜRK
- Monitoring of Cetaceans in the Black Sea through Passive Acoustic Methods – Arda M. TONAY
- Studies on Certain Banks in the Aegean Sea – Onur GÖNÜLAL
- Outcomes of the Five Ocean Literacy Courses – Elif ÖZGÜR



SHOD 2024 ANNUAL MEETING (15-17.05.2024)

As part of the 6th National Marine Sciences Conference, the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Navigation, Hydrography, and Oceanography Services Planning and Coordination Board, was held on May 13-14, hosted by the Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University. Representing TUDAV, our Vice President, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arda M. Tonay attended the meeting and presented our foundation's activities over the past year.





“A CITY’S THREE STORIES: STREETS, SKY, AND SEA” DOLPHIN AND BIRD WATCHING (01.06.2024)

As part of the event series titled “A City’s Three Stories: Streets, Sky, and Sea,” organised in conjunction with Meşher's exhibition “As Far as the Eye Can See: Views from Five Centuries,” dolphin and bird watching along the northern shores of the İstanbul Strait was held in collaboration with our foundation on June 1. During the event, participants observed over 30 bottlenose dolphins and 13 harbour porpoises, as well as seagulls, cormorants, and shearwaters living in the İstanbul Strait.



CISOS24 CONFERENCE - HIGH LEVEL OCEAN CONFERENCE (03-05.06.2024)

TUDAV's president and Istanbul University Faculty of Aquatic Sciences member, Bayram Öztürk, was invited by the National University of Costa Rica to attend the High-Level Ocean Conference held in Costa Rica from June 3-5, 2024, as part of the CISOS24 Congress. During the meeting, our president provided insights into the conservation and sustainability of Turkish seas, sharing his perspectives on protection efforts and research conducted in Türkiye. In this context, he also visited Costa Rica's Ambassador, Ms. Naciye Gökçen Kaya, to engage in mutual consultants.



JUNE 8 WORLD OCEANS DAY WORKSHOP (08.06.2024)

In celebration of World Oceans Day on June 8, an online workshop titled “Wrecks of the Gallipoli Campaign – Biodiversity, Conservation, and Sustainable Management” was organized in collaboration with Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University. The workshop featured studies on the conservation, promotion, and management of the wrecks and their surrounding areas.



1ST NATIONAL WILDLIFE WORKSHOP (02.07.2024)

On June 28-29, TUDAV participated in the 1st National Wildlife Workshop, hosted by Wildlife Research Institute, Ondokuz Mayıs University, with the presentations on marine mammals.



“FUTURE OF THE SEAS: SEAGRASS MEADOWS” PROJECT ENTERS THE BUOY DEPLOYMENT PHASE (17.07.2024)

The “Future of the Seas: Seagrass Meadows” project, launched last year in collaboration with Türkiye İş Bankası to raise awareness about the conservation of seagrass meadows, has progressed to the buoy deployment phase.

Research buoys equipped with temperature sensors were placed in the İstanbul Strait and the Sea of Marmara. The data collected regularly from these buoys will contribute to monitoring the impacts of climate change. While supporting biodiversity in the Sea of Marmara, the buoys will also help raise awareness about navigation, fishing, and diving activities in the region.



LOCAL COMMUNITY WORKSHOP AND BEACH CLEANUP (01.08.2024)

As part of the “Future of the Seas: Seagrass Meadows” project, conducted in collaboration with Türkiye İş Bankası to protect seagrass meadows in the Sea of Marmara, a local community workshop was held to discuss the importance of seagrass. The event was organized with the valuable support of the Erdek District Governor’s Office and Erdek Municipality. The event was followed by a beach cleanup activity.



1 AĞUSTOS 2024

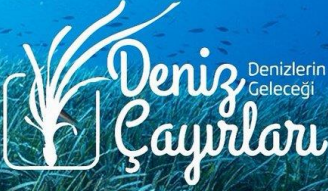
DENİZLERİN GELECEĞİ- DENİZ ÇAYIRLARI PROJESİ

YEREL HALK ÇALIŞTAYI VE

SAHİL TEMİZLİĞİ

Çalıştay: Erdek Kapalı Spor Salonu - 13:30-16:00

Sahil Temizliği Etkinliği: Narlı Köyü - 19:00-20:40





BLUNTNOSE SIXGILL SHARK (*Hexanchus griseus*) GRANTED PROTECTION (13.08.2024)

On August 11, 2024, Notification No. 2024/20 on the Regulation of Commercial Fishing (No. 6/1) was published. Based on Hakan Kabasakal's article, "Yet another giant for protection: Distribution and status of the bluntnose sixgill shark, *Hexanchus griseus* (Hexanchiformes: Hexanchidae), in Turkish seas" published in our foundation's scientific journal, Journal of the Black Sea/Mediterranean Environment, we had recommended the protection of the bluntnose sixgill shark.



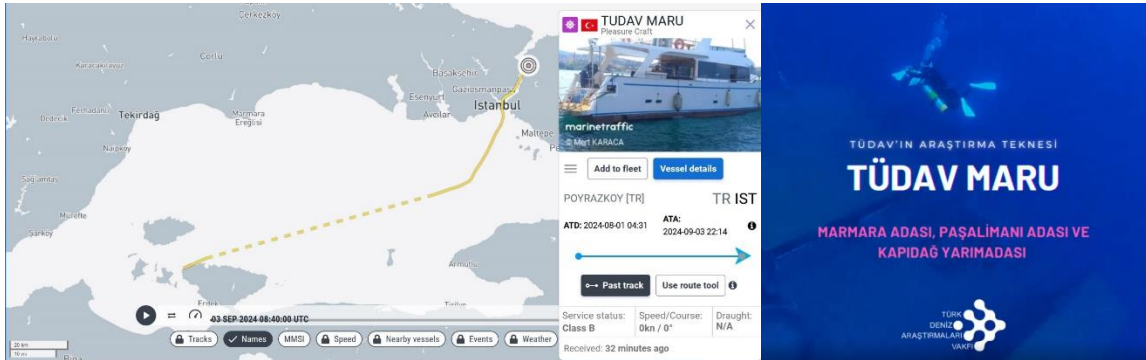
6TH MARINE LITERACY COURSE (26.08-28.09.2024)

As part of the SHORE European Union Horizon Project, TUDAV and Yıldız Technical University (YTU) jointly organized the "Marine Literacy Course for Teachers on the Conservation and Sustainability of Marine Ecosystems in Türkiye." The course was held online from August 26 to September 28, 2024.



R/V TÜDAV MARU MARMARA EXPEDITION (09.2024)

During the maiden voyage of our research vessel, R/V TÜDAV MARU, we successfully completed a biodiversity research expedition around Marmara Island, Paşalimanı Island, and the Kapıdağ Peninsula.



VISIT OF THE SOUTH KOREAN DELEGATION (10.09.2024)

On Tuesday, September 10, senior diplomats from South Korea, visiting through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, were hosted aboard our research vessel, R/V TÜDAV MARU. During discussions on island maritime policies, our foundation's president and members provided insights into the islands' issue in the Aegean Sea and marine protected areas.



2024 GENERAL ASSEMBLY (15.09.2024)

2023 General Assembly was held on September 1, 2024, aboard the R/V TÜDAV MARU at the Beykoz fishermen's shelter, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM.



MEETING WITH THE MARITIME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT (15.09.2024)

Our foundation has been advocating for the signing of the treaty on the protection of the high seas (BBNJ) since 2018. As part of these efforts, we participated in related negotiation meetings at the UN Headquarters in New York during 2019-2020. The treaty, which has been signed by 60 countries, was signed by Türkiye in September 2024. In this context, our foundation's president met with diplomats from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Maritime Affairs Department to exchange views regarding the treaty's signing.



LAUNCH OF THE BOOK “A STUDY ON THE HISTORY OF THE ISTANBUL STRAIT NAVIGATION REGIME” (29.09.2024)

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of Turkish-Japanese diplomatic relations, the TUDAV translated Dr. Hitoshi Ashida’s work “A Study on the History of the Istanbul Strait Navigation Regime” from Japanese into Turkish. The book’s launch ceremony was held aboard our vessel, R/V TÜDAV MARU, with the participation of Japan’s Consul General in Istanbul, Mr. Kenichi Kasahara, and esteemed guests.



BOZCAADA ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND BIODIVERSITY WORKSHOP (6.10.2024)

On October 6, 2024, TUDAV organized a workshop focusing on Bozcaada's ecological values from the past to the present, the process of nature conservation and change, and the increasing pressures on its natural resources based on current scientific data. The event aimed to propose solutions for protecting the island’s cultural, environmental, social, and economic aspects.



43RD CIESM CONGRESS (14-18.10.2024)

TUDAV participated in the 43rd CIESM (the Mediterranean Science Commission) Congress organised in Palermo, Italy. The foundation was represented by three presentations, with TUDAV President Prof. Dr. Bayram Öztürk attending as a national delegate of Türkiye. Additionally, our board member Assoc. Prof. Dr. Onur Gönülal and general assembly members Prof. Dr. Halim Aytekin Ergül and Dr. İ. Destan Öztürk were present. Presentations by TUDAV were:

- A Study on Some Banks in the North Aegean Sea (Bayram Öztürk, Onur Gönülal)
- Assessment of Microplastic Pollution Along the Shipyards in the Southernwest Coast of İzmit Bay (Marmara Sea) (Halim Aytekin Ergül, Selinay Çetin, Aykan Karademir, Serdar Aksan)
- Diversity and Trends of Jellyfish Species in Türkiye's Seas: A Citizen Science Monitoring Program "YaYakarsa?" (İ Destan Öztürk)





ÇEŞME PENINSULA MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS WORKSHOP (21.10.2024)

On October 21, 2024, TUDAV organised a workshop focusing on the changing marine ecosystem of the Çeşme Peninsula and the increasing pressures it faces. The event brought together academia, decision-makers, NGOs, environmental volunteers, industry representatives, and residents of the peninsula to discuss conservation and sustainability solutions based on current scientific data.



OCEAN LITERACY WORKSHOP (11.12.2024)

As part of the SHORE EU Horizon Project, TUDAV organized a workshop for teachers and students who were awarded within the project. The workshop took place face-to-face on November 13, 2024, aboard the TÜDAV MARU research vessel.





TÜRKİYE BECOMES THE COUNTRY WITH THE MOST "BLUE SCHOOLS" IN 2024 (29.11.2024)

This year, 54 schools from Türkiye applied for and earned the "Blue School" title within the European Blue School Program, making Türkiye the leading country in this initiative. As TUDAV, we have been supporting schools through our Ocean Literacy Courses since 2022 and our activities within the SHORE EU Project. The outstanding feedback we have received is a testament to our success in bringing ocean sciences into classrooms.



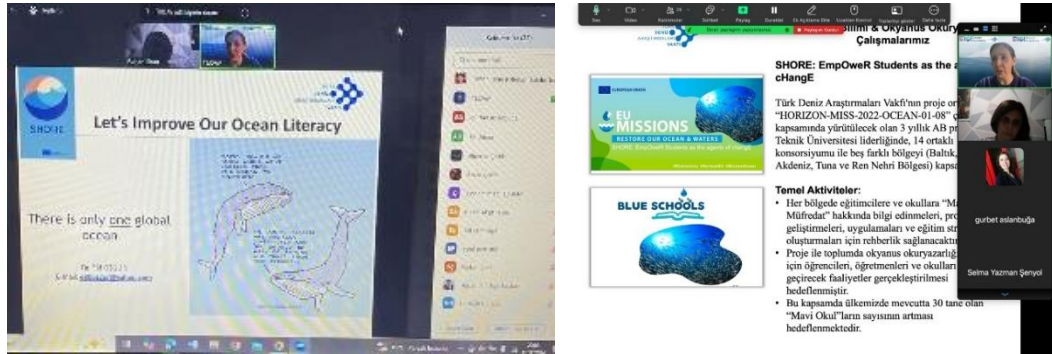
7TH ONLINE OCEAN LITERACY COURSE (30.10-29.11.2024)

The seventh round of the Ocean Literacy Course for the Conservation and Sustainability of the Marine Ecosystem in Türkiye was conducted online from October 30 to November 29, 2024. The course was organised in collaboration with the International Ocean Institute (IOI) and TUDAV.



OCEAN LITERACY AND BLUE CURRICULUM WEBINAR (11.12.2024)

In collaboration with Yıldız Technical University, TUDAV organised an online webinar titled "Ocean Literacy and Blue Curriculum" on December 11, 2024. This webinar was designed for educators as part of the SHORE EU Horizon Project.



SHORT COURSE TRAINING TO INDONESIAN DELEGATES ON SUSTAINABLE FISH RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND FISHERIES PORT MANAGEMENT (25–30.11.2024)

TUDAV successfully hosted "Short Course Training on Sustainable Fish Resource Management and Fisheries Port Management" on 25-30 November, 2024. Led by Prof. Cemal Turan, the program welcomed participants from the Indonesian Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. Combining theoretical lectures and field visits, the training covered topics such as sustainable fisheries resource management, port administration,

quota systems, waste management, and processing facility operations. The program provided participants with valuable insights.



THE 16th SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEETING of ACCOBAMS (02-05.12.2024)

The scientific committee meeting of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) took place in Barcelona, Spain, on December 2-5, 2024. Participants included Assoc. Prof. Arda M. Tonay, a TUDAV board member, attending as the Black Sea Regional Representative, and Dr. Ayaka Amaha Öztürk, a TUDAV General Assembly member, serving as a CIESM Expert and Vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee. The meeting focused on the latest research of, threats to, and conservation measures for cetaceans within the ACCOBAMS region.





“FUTURE OF THE SEAS: SEAGRASS MEADOWS” PROJECT GRANTED AWARD (04.12.2024)

Our "Future of the Seas: Seagrass Meadows" project, carried out in collaboration with Türkiye İş Bankası, has received an award. The project was honoured in the Climate Crisis category at the Social Benefit Awards organised by Dünya Gazetesi, which aims to raise awareness of social responsibility and sustainability.



WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPMENTS IN SPONGE FISHING ACTIVITIES, STOCK STATUS, AND DISEASES IN THE AEGEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN COASTS OF TÜRKİYE (14.12.2024)

On December 14, 2024, TUDAV organized a one-day online workshop titled “Developments in Sponge Fishing Activities, Sponge Stock Status, and Sponge Diseases in Türkiye’s Aegean and Mediterranean Coasts.”

Çevrimiçi Çalıştay



14 Aralık 2024 Cumartesi, Saat 10.00

Türkiye'nin Ege ve Akdeniz Kıyılarında Süngercilik Faaliyetleri, Sünger Stoklarının Durumu ve Sünger Hastalıklarıyla İlgili Gelişmeler



Çalıştayımıza tüm ilgilileri bekleriz.



MEETING WITH THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (BSEC) (20.12.2024)

On December 20, 2024, TUDAV visited the headquarters of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) and met with Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu. During the meeting, productive discussions took place regarding potential collaborations between TUDAV and BSEC on the protection of the Black Sea.



OCEAN LITERACY WORKSHOP (26.12.2024)

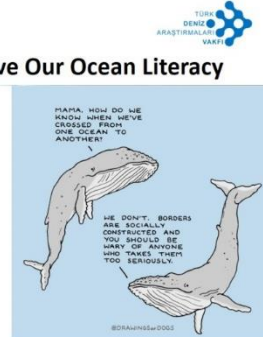
On December 26, 2024, TUDAV organized an Ocean Literacy Workshop as part of the SHORE EU Horizon Project. Led by Dr. Elif Özgür, the workshop took place in person in Antalya, bringing together teachers and students.



Let's Improve Our Ocean Literacy

There is only one global ocean

Dr. Elif ÖZGÜR
E-mail: e80ozgur@yahoo.com





OCEAN LITERACY EVENT AT TEGV ZEYREK UNIT (29.12.2024)

TUDAV organised an Ocean Literacy event at the TEGV Zeyrek Unit. Through fun and educational activities, children explored the concept of ocean literacy, learning about how to protect oceans and water resources.



ACTIVE PROJECTS



Black Sea Watch

The aim of the project is to raise public awareness about the importance of Black Sea biodiversity and to ensure public participation in data collection for biodiversity in the Black Sea.



Ya Yakarsa

It is a project initiated by our foundation in order to understand and learn about the abnormal jellyfish increases on the coasts of our country and their damaging effects, with the contribution by citizen science and eventually to advise decision makers.



Gökçeada Underwater Marine Park

Gökçeada Underwater Marine Park was established in 1999 with the initiatives of TUDAV on the coast between Yıldızkoy and Kuzulimanı. Fishing, diving and other tourism activities are prohibited in the park throughout the year and the area is under protection. As a result of the researches carried out in the area, it was declared as a marine park, and it has been determined that fish species and numbers have increased, sea creatures such as lobsters, which were not seen before, have started to be seen, and dolphins and Mediterranean monk seals have started revisiting the area.



Passive Acoustic Monitoring of Cetaceans with A-tag

Passive acoustic monitoring method has been widely used in monitoring cetaceans in recent years. The movements of cetaceans in the Istanbul Strait have been monitored with a device called A-tag continuously for 24 hours since 2009 with the support of the

Japanese National Fisheries Research Institute and in cooperation with Istanbul University, Faculty of Aquatic Sciences.



BlackCeTrends

The project collects acoustic data with F-PODs to understand the occurrence of cetaceans, especially Black Sea harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena relicta*) from all Black Sea riparian countries except Russia. The collected data are downloaded periodically, approximately every 1 to 4 months, and the results will be processed by a specialised software. These acoustic data will complement the visual observations and contribute to the conservation of these animals within the Black Sea ecosystem.



BRIDGE-BS

The Black Sea ecosystem is increasingly suffering from the negative effects of various anthropogenic stressors such as eutrophication, hypoxia, overfishing and the introduction of alien species. The BRIDGE-BS project will assess the Black Sea's ecosystem services and their resilience to such anthropogenic stressors. It will map, monitor and model ecosystem services and their responses to stressors to support the development of a sustainable and climate-neutral blue economy in the region.



SHORE

“SHORE: EmpOweR Students as the Agents of Change” is a collaborative European project funded by the Horizon Europe program dedicated to the mission of enhancing ocean literacy by engaging and mobilizing students, teachers, and schools. Over a span of 36 months, SHORE will concentrate its efforts on five distinct regional areas: the Baltic Sea, Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Danube River Area, and Rhine River Area. This ambitious initiative brings together a consortium of 14 partners and is coordinated by Yıldız Technical University, Türkiye.



Future of the Seas: Seagrass Meadows

In our new project, which we started in cooperation with Türkiye İş Bankası, we are working for the protection of *Posidonia oceanica* seagrass meadows around Paşalimanı Island in the Marmara Sea.

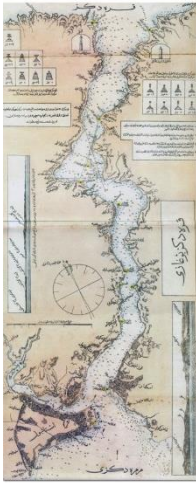
PUBLICATIONS



Journal of The Black Sea / Mediterranean Environment,
Vol. 30, No. 1, 2, 3



Research on the History of the Istanbul Strait Navigation Regime



İSTANBUL BOĞAZI ULAŞIM REJİMİ TARİHİ ÜZERİNDE ARAŞTIRMA

Dr. Hitoshi ASHIDA

Editor
Bayram ÖZTÜRK

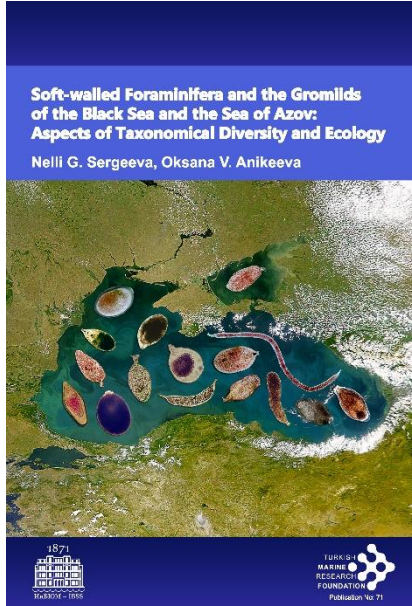
Çevirmen
Chieko ADACHI

The book is based on the work of Dr. Hitoshi Ashida, who served in the Japanese Embassy in Türkiye between 1925 and 1929 and later held positions as Japan's Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1948, and Prime Minister. During his time in Türkiye, he completed his doctorate and authored this significant study. This important work conveys the historical development and international significance of the Turkish Straits to future generations. Written in Turkish, 359 pages.





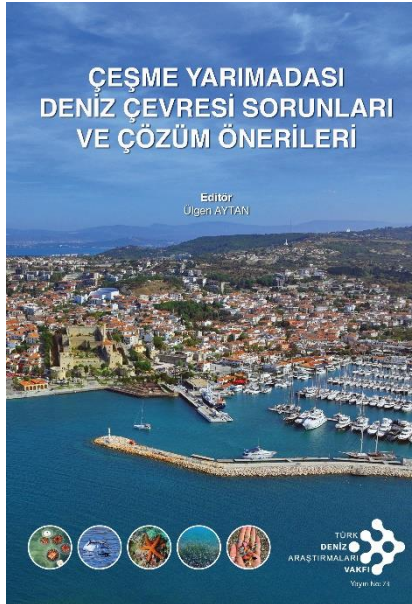
Soft-walled Foraminifera and the Gromiids of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov: Aspects of Taxonomical Diversity and Ecology



As a result of years of research by the authors, this book provides comprehensive information on benthic single-celled organisms, specifically soft-shelled (testate) foraminifers and gromiids living in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. It presents details on the current status and species diversity of allogromiids and gromiids in these seas, along with brief species descriptions and photographs. Written in English, 186 pages.



Marine Environmental Issues and Proposed Solutions for the Çeşme Peninsula



The book was prepared to thoroughly examine marine environmental issues in the Çeşme Peninsula and to propose practical solutions. Written by experts in the field and incorporating perspectives from both the industry and public, it addresses key issues such as marine pollution, biodiversity loss, coastal erosion, and impacts of marine tourism. The book aims to raise public awareness and presents solutions based on sustainable development principles and supporting regulatory measures. Written in Turkish, 172 pages.



Poster of Cartilaginous Fish Under Protection in Türkiye



You can access our poster on our website:

<https://tudav.org/en/our-fields/publications/posters/>

VIDEOS



Jellyfish bloom - Bridge BS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r2gL2myi504>



TUDAV - Bycatch of Cartilaginous Fishes in Turkish Waters

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MwQ5X-DpaKo>



Seagrass And Its Conservation in Türkiye Workshop

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjr3V50zlw0>



30th Anniversary of The Nassia Tanker Ship Accident Workshop

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VSXVUkzv-vM>



3rd Turkish Cartilaginous Fish Conservation Strategy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Twh1JeNh0e8>



Biodiversity Observation Studies of Marine Caves in Türkiye (Antalya)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ytWjWfs1CY>



A Look into the History of Turkish Marine Research

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEPw7_2KxeY



Wrecks of the Gallipoli Campaign – Biodiversity, Conservation, and Sustainable Management Workshop

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2Elks-H5oE>



The Gold Coral, *Savalia savaglia*

<https://x.com/TudavTudav/status/1830596448565473729>



The Sea of Marmara and Sea Snot

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=am-9dA-TitE>

PRESS RELEASES



Cooperation Needed for the Protection of the Aegean Sea and the Joint Use of Living Resources (13.03.2024)



Türkiye Protects the High Seas(28.09.2024)



The Biodiversity and Environmental Issues of Bozcaada Were Discussed (08.10.2024)



Marine Environmental Issues of the Çeşme Peninsula Were Addressed and Solutions Discussed (12.11.2024)



Official Activity of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science: Ocean Literacy Courses (20.12.2024)