



Faro, 22 May 2018

To whom it may concern,

The Centre of Marine Sciences (CCMAR) is a non-profit organization located on the Gambelas campus of the University of Algarve and dedicated to R&D in the Marine Sciences.

On the basis of international evaluation and excellence ranking it was awarded the status of Associate Laboratory together with CIIMAR (Interdisciplinary Centre for Marine and Environmental Research). It has 200 people on its staff, 80 of which hold a PhD degree.

CCMAR fields of expertise cover molecular biology, genetics, endocrinology, biophysics, organic chemistry and ecology of marine organisms. R&D and training activities have been applied to the development of aquaculture, biotechnology and environmental technologies for the study and management of marine resources and ecosystems.

CCMAR aims to study of marine biodiversity and ecosystems and to increase public awareness by education stake holders (scientists, policy makers, industry, teachers and the public) about the diversity, complexity and importance of marine ecosystem. Training young scientists and to disseminate scientific knowledge and link with managers and policy makers to contribute to evidence-based management and sustainability.

CCMAR hereby demonstrates the motivation and intention to bring groups of students to the Gulf of Statoni in Greece with the objective of studying the unique seahorse populations and to provide training to young researchers, University students and citizen science volunteers. If the conditions are met, both funding and logistic, this represents a unique opportunity for education and research as the Gulf of Statoni has unique conditions to study the local seahorse populations and to provide environment education.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Diogo Paulo'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Diogo Paulo
Diving Safety Officer and Manager – Scientific Dive Centre CCMAR