



S.C.V.B.A. Program
Science Citizens Volunteers & Biodiversity for All

Seahorse population monitoring in Stratoni – Greece



Program S.C.V.B.A. aims to engage citizens with scientists, providing specific training, generating data which will contribute for the advance of science and biodiversity protection.

Seahorses are vulnerable and excellent flagship species. During this program you will learn about seahorse ecology, practice scientific diving techniques and help to increase the knowledge about seahorse populations and ecosystems!

Researcher at the Centre for Marine Sciences (www.ccmар.ualg.pt) have been actively engaging stakeholders to protect Seahorse ecosystem. But to achieve this goal we need your help. Join our researchers at Stratoni – Greece and help us to monitor one of the biggest seahorse populations in the world!

Requirements:

To participate in this program you need to be:

- More than 18 years hold
- Open Water Diver certification or above
- Valid SCUBA diving insurance for the trip (ex. DAN <https://www.daneurope.org/home>)

What is included:

- Transfer from Thessaloniki's airport to Stratoni and back
- Accommodation for 7 nights
- Excursion to local archaeological sites
- Goodbye-dinner on the last day in Stratoni
- Maximum of 10 scientific dives over 5 days (all included)
- Seahorse ecology workshop
- Scientific diving workshop
- Participation diploma

*This trip can be extended and combined with scientific dive training as per request.

**Flights are not included.

Program price is:

- University students 652 euros
- Non-students 782 euros

CCMAR is a non-profit research organization that counts with your support! Your participation will help us to pursue our goals to protect and research Oceans ecosystems!

To apply please send us an email to ccmardiving@ualg.pt

Dates:

Our next adventure will be from the 14th to the 21th of July 2018!

- 14th – Arrival and transfer from Thessaloniki to Stratoni
- 15th – Seahorse ecology workshop and 2 check dives
- 16th – Scientific diving workshop and 2 seahorse monitoring dives
- 17th – Seahorse monitoring 2 dives
- 18th – Seahorse monitoring 2 dives
- 19th – Seahorse monitoring 2 dives
- 20th – Excursion to local archaeological sites. Goodbye-dinner!
- 21th – Transfer from Stratoni to Thessaloniki

Work plan:

Tasks will include seahorse population monitoring by underwater visual census (UVC) as detailed in Correia *et al.* (2016). Three sites will be monitored, considering their different habitat characteristics (seagrass meadow, tube worms and barren with artificial structures). At each site, seahorse location, density, biological information (species, sex and length) and habitat characteristics will be recorded.

Stratoni description:

Stratoni is a small Mediterranean coastal village built in the gulf of Lerissos, Greece, with approximately 1000 residents. This village is located 102 km away from Thessaloniki and it is the home of one the biggest seahorse population in the world.



The team:



Miguel Correia is a researcher based at the University of the Algarve, Portugal. He holds a PhD from Universidade do Algarve, his research addressed the conservation and mitigation actions of 2 seahorse species (*Hippocampus guttulatus* and *Hippocampus hippocampus*). Besides the scientific dissemination, this researcher promoted innumerous media releases,

both nationally and internationally, that aimed to raise awareness regarding marine conservation using seahorses as a flagship species. He has been studying both European seahorse species (*Hippocampus guttulatus* and *Hippocampus hippocampus*) since 2007 looking at several aspects of their biology and ecology. He has developed a successful breeding program in captivity for both seahorse species and monitor their wild populations. This researcher has been involved in Project Seahorse (<http://www.projectseahorse.org>) as research associate since 2010 to date. He is also a iSeahorse National Expert (<https://www.iseahorse.org/Home/Experts>).



Diogo Paulo is a GUE diving Instructor, Scientific diving instructor and class developer, represents Portugal in the European Scientific Diving Panel, manager of the Scientific Dive Center at the Centre for Marine Sciences. He is an assistant Professor at the University of the Algarve teaching six disciplines related to scientific diving and habitat management. He holds a Master Degree in Ecology and Conservation and a PhD (dissertation pending) on Marine Ecology. His personal research lines are in habitat engineer species such as seagrass, algae and corals.

Partners:

