The Deep-water corals of Cyprus: Environmental settings and ecological features (CYprus Cold-corals Levantine SeA, Eastern MEditerraneaN: CYCLAMEN)

Orejas C1, Jiménez C2-3, Abu Alhiaji R2, Achilles K1, Avgousti A2, Aurelle D4, Ferrier-Pages C5, Gori A6, Hadjioannou L3, Kamidis N1-2, L Iocono C7, Petrou A3, Reynaud S8, Rivera J9, Rottler C6, Sakellariou D10

1 Centro Oceanográfico de Baleares, Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO) • 2 The Cyprus Institute (CYI) • 3 Enalia Physis Environmental Research Centre (EPERC) • 4 Aix Marseille Université, CNRS, IRD • 5 Centre Scientifique de Monaco (CSM) • 6 Universitat de Barcelona (UB) • 7 Fisheries Research Institute (FRI) • 8 National Oceanography Centre (NOC) • 9 Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO) • 10 Hellenic Center of Marine Research (HCMR)

* By consensus, authors arranged alphabetically after lead authors C. Orejas (cova.orejas@ba.ieo.es) and C. Jimenez (c.jimenez@cyi.ac.cy)

AIMS

- Mapping and environmental characterization of Deep-water corals (DWC) habitats of Cyprus
- Increase knowledge on biological and ecological characteristics of the DWC of Cyprus
- Capacity building through the expansion of expertise on DWC in professionals from Cyprus institutions

FIELD WORK

- Geomorphology: Multi-beam echosounder & Side-Scan Sonar
- Benthic communities: ROV video transects
- Environmental characterization: CTD, water & zooplankton sampling
- ROV collection of live coral specimens
- Biological & ecological studies: preservation of coral samples
- Maintenance of live corals on board

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

- Geomorphology and water column features
- Zooplankton community and benthic associated fauna
- Features (e.g. distribution patterns, size structure) of this singular *Dendrophyllia cf. ramea* population
- Tolerance of *Dendrophyllia cf. ramea* to environmental changes (ecophysiological experiments)
- Dissemination activities

Perspectives

Many thanks to:

Department of Fisheries and Marine Research • Department of Environment (CITES office in Cyprus) 
Center for Environment Protection of Mediterranean Biodiversity (CIP) • Cyprus Environment Authority (CEA) • Department of Agriculture • Department of Lands and Surveys • CTOF-Mediterranean Fish Conservation • IG Meso-European Platform on Mediterranean Biodiversity • Environment and Fisheries • ECOFISH-AQUA • PROMEO 

The CYCLAMEN project is supported by the TOTAL Foundation 9822_2014_185_Salt (CYS)