

## **Penn-Brock statement of principles and best practices for underwater archaeology and the stewardship of underwater cultural heritage in the Mediterranean**

A two-part workshop series titled, *Who owns underwater cultural heritage? Perspectives on archaeological law and ethics in the Mediterranean*, was convened at Brock University in St Catharines, Ontario (22-25 October 2009) and at the University of Pennsylvania Museum in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (26-28 March 2010). Over the course of the two sessions, this document emerged through consensus of the participants to reflect principles and best practices for underwater archaeology and the stewardship of underwater cultural heritage.

**Acknowledging** the imperative for the protection of cultural heritage in general, and underwater cultural heritage in particular;

**Committed** to three primary aims of underwater cultural heritage protection in territorial and non-territorial areas, and in shallow and deep water: 1) preservation and evaluation, 2) the development of knowledge, and 3) public access to cultural and intellectual resources;

**Considering** that the UNESCO 2001 Convention for the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage is worthy of support because it furthers these aims;

**Recognizing** that the nation-state serves as the primary framework for the preservation of cultural heritage and cooperation through governance of activities by persons and vessels subject to its jurisdiction;

**Convinced** that archaeologists should take advantage of the developing technology for the exploration of the marine environment;

**Believing**, from an archaeological and legal perspective, in the identification and following of best practices for the conduct of archaeology that will ensure effective protection and preservation, the advancement of knowledge, and public access to material, cultural, and intellectual resources;

**Conscious** that underwater cultural heritage encompasses knowledge of the broader maritime landscape;

**Recognizing** the link between underwater cultural heritage preservation and the preservation of its surrounding natural and social landscape; and

**Focusing** particularly on archaeology in the Mediterranean;

We recognize **principles for activities** directed at underwater cultural heritage, which include but are not limited to the following:

1. Timely attention should be directed toward underwater cultural heritage at risk;

2. Underwater cultural heritage shall not be commercially exploited, as defined by the Convention;
3. Cooperation is critical to promote common understanding among states whose heritage is defined by maritime connectivity from antiquity to the present day;
4. Regional and local authorities should be fully engaged in the responsibility of protecting underwater cultural heritage in their respective areas;
5. Local communities, when appropriate, should be actively involved in the stewardship of cultural heritage;
6. The archaeological community has an ethical obligation to raise awareness about the importance of cultural heritage and its preservation through education, outreach, and publication of research;
7. The practices established by the Rules stated in the Annex of the 2001 Convention for the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage provide a clear framework to direct all archaeological research;
8. Archaeological research plans should set preservation and the advancement of knowledge as their primary objective;
9. Archaeologists should work collaboratively with other scientists in the development of research plans and new technologies, remaining mindful of the research aims and ethics of archaeological practice; and
10. Access to adequate financial resources on a regional, national, and international level ensures the long-term viability of archaeological resources, aimed toward the equal treatment of underwater cultural heritage in all countries.

With these principles in mind, we suggest the following **positive actions and best practices** for the effective protection and exploration of underwater cultural heritage:

1. The archaeological community has an obligation to **respect** the underwater environment. Respect extends from underwater cultural heritage to natural environment and the broader maritime landscape. It includes the understanding of underwater archaeology as the pursuit of research questions and the protection of underwater cultural heritage.
  - A. The archaeological community has a responsibility to be aware of and follow the laws that govern and the ethical practices that guide underwater archaeology;
  - B. The archaeological community has a responsibility to promote the stewardship of specific archaeological sites and their contexts; and

- C. The archaeological community should cooperate with national administrators in the stewardship of underwater cultural heritage.
2. The archaeological community should **educate** students through field and classroom training and informational programs in schools, universities, and any other academic and scientific institutions.
    - A. Members of the archaeological community have a responsibility to educate themselves and their students in current skills, technologies, and best practices associated with research directed at underwater cultural heritage;
    - B. Training in underwater cultural heritage law and ethics should comprise part of qualifications in the discipline; and
    - C. All disciplines that might include the investigation of underwater cultural heritage should be mindful of best practices that apply to archaeology.
  3. The archaeological community should engage in **outreach** toward the academic community and the general public, including representatives of trades, professions, and industries that work underwater.
    - A. The archaeological community should undertake the timely publication and dissemination of research in scholarly venues and, when appropriate, the popular media and trade literature;
    - B. The archaeological community should work toward the development of effective public relations strategies that emphasize the dissemination of information through traditional and innovative sources;
    - C. The archaeological community should report the looting and damage of underwater sites to all relevant authorities and advocate for their protection; and
    - D. The archaeological community should draw positive public attention to underwater cultural heritage.
  4. The archaeological community has an obligation to secure **financial resources** adequate to provide for all stages of project design, including research development, excavation, conservation, dissemination, and the long-term impact of the project on local, regional, and national levels.
    - A. Budgetary considerations included in research projects should contain plans for education and training of students;
    - B. The archaeological community should be mindful of ethical concerns in obtaining funding for projects; and

- C. The archaeological community should support and encourage research collaborations between countries, public institutions, universities, other educational and scientific institutions, and NGOs in order to maximize limited financial resources.
5. Mindful of the principles established above, there should be open, transparent **cooperation, collaboration, and involvement** between archaeologists, local, regional, and national communities; public institutions; other interested parties; and the international community of archaeologists.
- A. The archaeological community has a responsibility to cooperate with and involve interested local communities as appropriate in all stages of research. Local communities, defined by their proximity to the research site, include, but are not limited to, users of local resources (students, diving clubs, fishermen, coastal inhabitants, etc.);
  - B. The archaeological community should, where appropriate, include the consideration of other interested parties in their research. Interested parties may be individuals or groups who, in addition to the nation-states and local communities, claim an aesthetic, intellectual, economic (e.g. sustainable tourism and other sustainable development), or other association with a particular site;
  - C. The archaeological community should consult with legal specialists for information about the development and implementation of relevant laws;
  - D. The archaeological community should recognize the importance of collaboration among archaeologists and across other disciplines, including scientific, and technical specialists;
  - E. The archaeological community should strive toward open access to data, as appropriate, for all involved parties; and
  - F. The archaeological community should contribute to the establishment of bilateral or multilateral agreements at the national and international level aimed at the implementation of research, protection, and enhancement of underwater cultural heritage.

In the spirit of this statement, we will strive to institute these positive actions and best practices in our efforts toward underwater cultural heritage protection and research. We see these principles and best practices as critical for the future of the discipline of underwater archaeology. We believe that these principles should be reviewed in two years' time, in conjunction with the 2012 International Year of Maritime Heritage.

**Workshop Organizers:**

Elizabeth S. Greene  
Department of Classics  
Brock University  
St Catharines, ON L2S 3A1, Canada  
[egreene@brocku.ca](mailto:egreene@brocku.ca)

Justin Leidwanger  
Art and Archaeology of the Mediterranean World  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA  
[jleidwan@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:jleidwan@sas.upenn.edu)

Richard Leventhal  
Penn Cultural Heritage Center  
3260 South Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA  
[rml@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:rml@sas.upenn.edu)

**Workshop Participants:**

Mariano J. Aznar Gómez  
University Jaume I of Castellón  
Department of Public International Law  
28071 Castellón, Spain  
[maznar@dpu.uji.es](mailto:maznar@dpu.uji.es)

George F. Bass  
Institute of Nautical Archaeology  
P.O. Drawer HG  
College Station, TX 77841, USA  
[gfbass@tamu.edu](mailto:gfbass@tamu.edu)

David Blackman  
Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents  
Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies  
66 St Giles  
Oxford, OX1 3LU, UK  
[davidblackman@uwclub.net](mailto:davidblackman@uwclub.net)

Bridget Buxton  
History Department, University of Rhode Island  
80 Upper College Rd.  
Kingston, RI, 02881, USA  
[bbuxton@mail.uri.edu](mailto:bbuxton@mail.uri.edu)

Filipe V. Castro  
Nautical Archaeology Program  
Texas A&M University  
College Station, TX 77843, USA  
[fvcastro@tamu.edu](mailto:fvcastro@tamu.edu)

Brian Daniels  
Penn Cultural Heritage Center  
3260 South Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA  
[danielsb@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:danielsb@sas.upenn.edu)

James P. Delgado  
Institute of Nautical Archaeology  
P.O. Drawer HG  
College Station, TX 77841, USA  
[jpdelgado@inadiscover.com](mailto:jpdelgado@inadiscover.com)

Katerina Dellaporta  
Ministry of Culture  
Klepsydras 2  
10555 Athens, Greece  
[katerinadellaporta@yahoo.com](mailto:katerinadellaporta@yahoo.com)

Miran Eric  
Centre for Preventive Archaeology  
Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia  
Poljanska 40  
SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia  
[miran.eric@guest.arnes.si](mailto:miran.eric@guest.arnes.si)

Nic Flemming  
Sheets Heath, National Oceanography Centre  
Southampton, UK  
[n.flemming@sheetsheath.co.uk](mailto:n.flemming@sheetsheath.co.uk)

Joann Freed  
Department of Archaeology and Classical Studies  
University of Waterloo  
Waterloo, ON, N2L 3C5, Canada  
[jfreed@wlu.ca](mailto:jfreed@wlu.ca)

Andrej Gaspari  
Ministry of Culture  
Maistrova 10  
SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia  
[andrej.gaspari@gov.si](mailto:andrej.gaspari@gov.si)

Robert Grenier  
Underwater Archaeology Section, Parks Canada  
25-7-N Eddy Street  
Gatineau, QC, K1A 0M5, Canada  
[robert.grenier@pc.gc.ca](mailto:robert.grenier@pc.gc.ca)

William Krieger  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Rhode Island  
Kingston, RI, 02881, USA  
[krieger@mail.uri.edu](mailto:krieger@mail.uri.edu)

Eva Martinez  
Instituto Hondureño de Antropología e Historia  
A.P. 1518 Villa Roy  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
[patrimoniiah@yahoo.com](mailto:patrimoniiah@yahoo.com)

Karla Moncada  
Instituto Hondureño de Antropología e Historia  
A.P. 1518 Villa Roy  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
[ihah2003@yahoo.com](mailto:ihah2003@yahoo.com)

John P. Oleson  
Department of Greek and Roman Studies  
University of Victoria  
Victoria, BC, V8W 3P4, Canada  
[jpoleson@uvic.ca](mailto:jpoleson@uvic.ca)

Ahmed Omar  
Department of Underwater Antiquities  
Supreme Council of Antiquities  
Alexandria, Egypt  
[ahmadomarr@yahoo.com](mailto:ahmadomarr@yahoo.com)

Irena Radić Rossi  
University of Zadar  
HR-23000 Zadar, Croatia  
[irradic@unizd.hr](mailto:irradic@unizd.hr)

Vasıf Şahoğlu  
Department of Archaeology  
Ankara University  
06100, Sıhhiye – Ankara, Turkey  
[vsahoglu@gmail.com](mailto:vsahoglu@gmail.com)

Jacob Sharvit  
Marine Archaeology Unit, Israel Antiquities Authority  
Old City of Caesarea  
P.O.B. 272  
Or-Akiva, Israel  
[koby@israntique.org.il](mailto:koby@israntique.org.il)

Angeliki Simossi  
Ephorate of Maritime Antiquities, Ministry of Culture  
Dionysiou Aeropageitou and Erechtheiou 59  
11742 Athens, Greece  
[ena@culture.gr](mailto:ena@culture.gr)

Simon Spooner  
Ministry of Culture  
400 University Avenue, 4th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario. M7A 2R9, Canada  
[simon.spooner@ontario.ca](mailto:simon.spooner@ontario.ca)

Sebastiano Tusa  
Soprintendenza del Mare, Regione Siciliana  
Via Lungarini 9  
90133 Palermo, Italy  
[sebtusa@archeosicilia.it](mailto:sebtusa@archeosicilia.it)

Ole Varmer (in personal capacity)  
NOAA Office of General Counsel for International Law  
Herbert C. Hoover Building Suite 7837  
1401 Constitution Ave. NW  
Washington, DC. 20230, USA  
[ole.varmer@noaa.gov](mailto:ole.varmer@noaa.gov)

Hector Williams  
Department of Classical, Near Eastern, and Religious Studies  
University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z1, Canada  
[hectorw@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:hectorw@interchange.ubc.ca)

Annalisa Zarattini  
Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici del Lazio  
Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities  
Via Pompeo Magno 2  
00192 Roma, Italy  
[annalisa.zarattini@beniculturali.it](mailto:annalisa.zarattini@beniculturali.it)