



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Large scale archaeological maritime surveys of NEOM Red Sea and Gulf of Aqaba phases I and II.

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Abstract

The NEOM Heritage Department has commissioned two extensive maritime surveys in the Red Sea (2022-2023) and Gulf of Aqaba (2023-2024) within the region of NEOM in northwestern Saudi Arabia. The surveys identified numerous amphorae scatters and shipwreck sites dating to the Late Antique to Late Pre-Islamic periods. The results of these surveys highlight the strategic importance of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aqaba during this period and offer insight into the broader Mediterranean – Indian Ocean trade during Antiquity. This paper will present preliminary results of the surveys and discuss the potential for advancing discussions about the interconnectivity of the Byzantine Empire, Red Sea states/empires and coastal communities, and the wider Indian Ocean.

Keywords

Red Sea, Gulf of Aqaba, shipwreck, Late Antique, Indian Ocean

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