

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Documenting Maritime Cultural Heritage Under Threat

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¹ MarEA Research, University of Southampton, UK/ Maritime Archaeological Director of the Honor Frost Foundation, ,

*Corresponding author

Abstract

Cultural heritage in the coastal and near shore zone is extremely vulnerable to a myriad of threats from both natural and human causes. These include coastal development such as harbour construction, land reclamation and urbanisation, marine exploitation, coastal erosion, and of course the impact of climate change, all of which have the potential to damage or worse, destroy, the maritime cultural heritage (MCH). As a result, MCH is being lost at an alarming rate. Consequently, there is a critical need to document these coastal sites, establish a baseline of knowledge and support local heritage agencies and practitioners to mitigate and manage impacts on this irreplaceable resource.

This presentation outlines several approaches to documentation, such as using expert-led analysis of satellite imagery, the primary methodological approach of the Arcadia funded MarEA project that I direct (https://marea.soton.ac.uk); and through the work of the Honor Frost Foundation (https://honorfrostfoundation.org) that amongst other things, facilitates access to a range of training that aims to build regional capacity and expertise. The aim is to demonstrate how baseline data and the awareness of different approaches to data capture, can inform regional scale assessments of threat and facilitate enhanced and integrated management and protection practices.

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