

## Press Release

### **Underwater archaeological research in Kasos 2022-2023**

Institute of Historical Studies, Section of Greek and Roman Antiquity

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As part of the second three-year research project (2022-2024), the Kasos Maritime Archaeological Project is excited to announce its fifth year of exploration in Kasos Island, commencing this October 2023. The project, conducted in collaboration with the Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities of the Ministry of Culture and the Institute of Historical Research of the National Research Foundation (Scientific Coordinator Charikleia Papageorgiadou), is led by the archaeologists Dionysios Evangelistis (EUA) and Xanthie Argiris (IHR/NHRF).

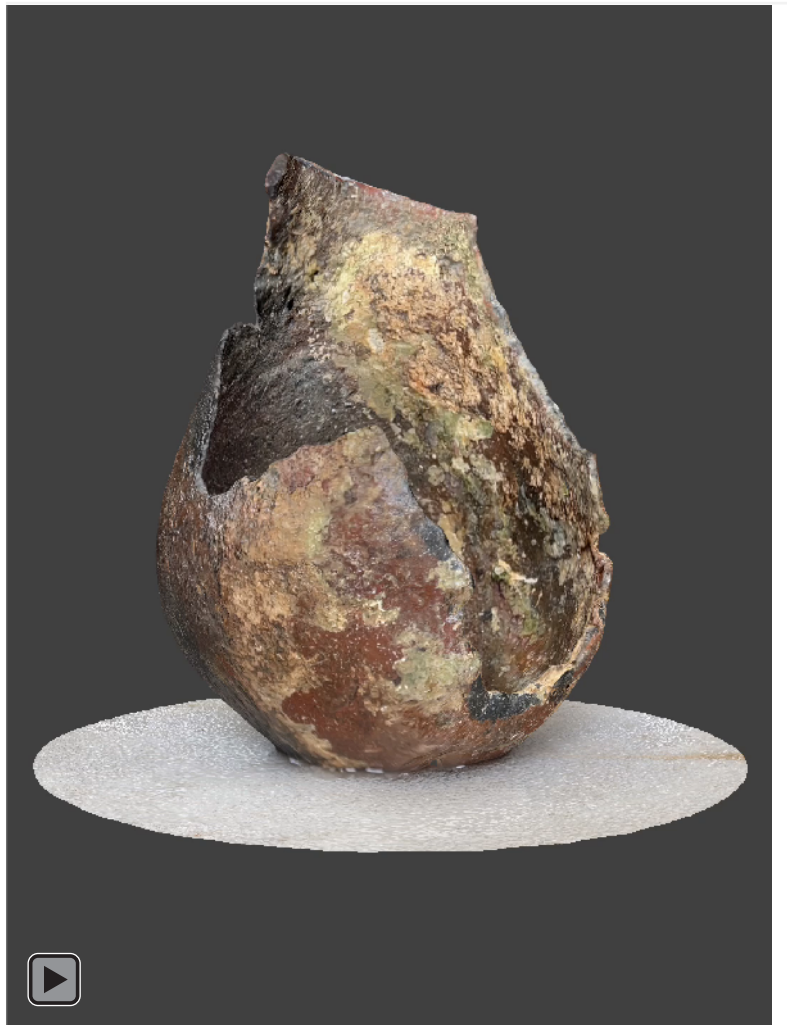
Recent research discoveries have once again highlighted the island's profound historical significance in the Aegean region through the centuries. An intriguing Roman shipwreck from the 2nd-3rd century AD marks the tenth such discovery made during the team's field survey in Kasos. The ship's cargo consisted of Aegean cylindrical amphorae, an essential find considering the eastern Aegean region's reputation regarding amphora production. This shipwreck's cargo represents the first time a similar discovery has been made in the eastern Mediterranean, adding to the significance of the find. Further exploration on the southern part of the island revealed a concentration of Roman amphorae, belonging to the broader category of Dressel 2-4 and Brindis types, dating back to the 1st century BC to the 3rd century AD.

One of the most remarkable discoveries from the 2022 period is an isolated artefact dating back to the 3rd millennium BC. This hand-made utilitarian vessel stands as the oldest recorded find ever retrieved from the depths of the Dodecanese. Notably, its lack of association with known land sites indicates it might be evidence of a shipwreck, shedding light on early maritime activity in the area.

Throughout the 2022 research period, meticulous documentation of previously identified underwater sites from the 2019-2021 project significantly enriched our understanding of the region's rich cultural heritage. The extensive field survey involved a team of 26 specialist scientists and technicians, including archaeologists, conservators, architects, biologists, postgraduate students, and doctoral candidates, each contributing their unique expertise. Spanning approximately ten nautical miles of coastline, the survey comprehensively covered areas in the southern part of the island.

The success of this research endeavor is a result of the financial support provided by multiple sponsors in 2022: The Hellenic Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy; TERNA ENERGY; MaP Ltd; Baltic Exchange Charitable Foundation; TEKAL S.A.; Sklavenitis Hellenic Supermarkets. Invaluable support was also received from the Municipality of Heroic Island Kasos; HELLENIQ ENERGY; Blue Star Ferries; Apnea; Natural Environment & Climate Change Agency NECCA and the Norwegian Maritime Museum.

More information at: <https://kasosproject.com/>



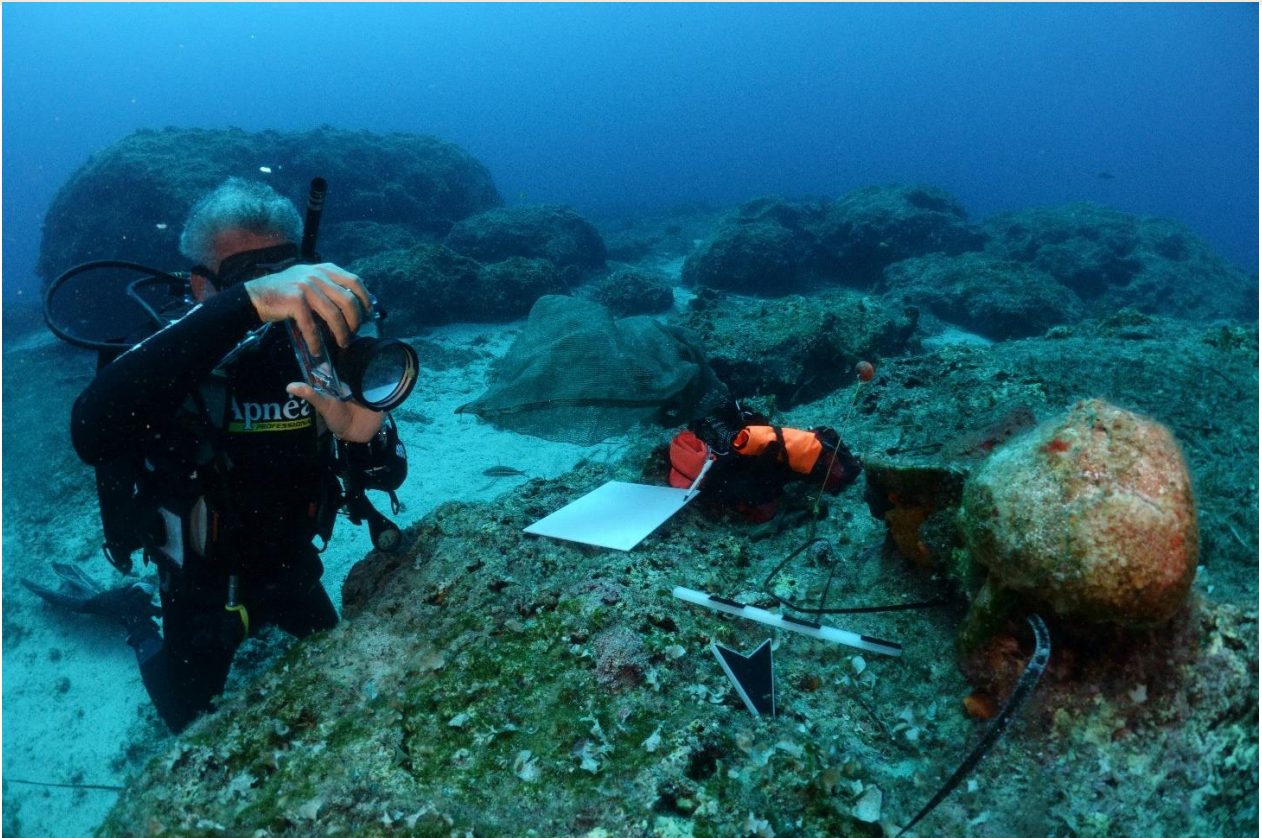
*Image 1. 3D model of prehistoric pot dated to the 3rd millennium BC (Model by George Farazis © EUA-NHRF. Also available at <https://youtu.be/gOL-1WR2HGk>)*



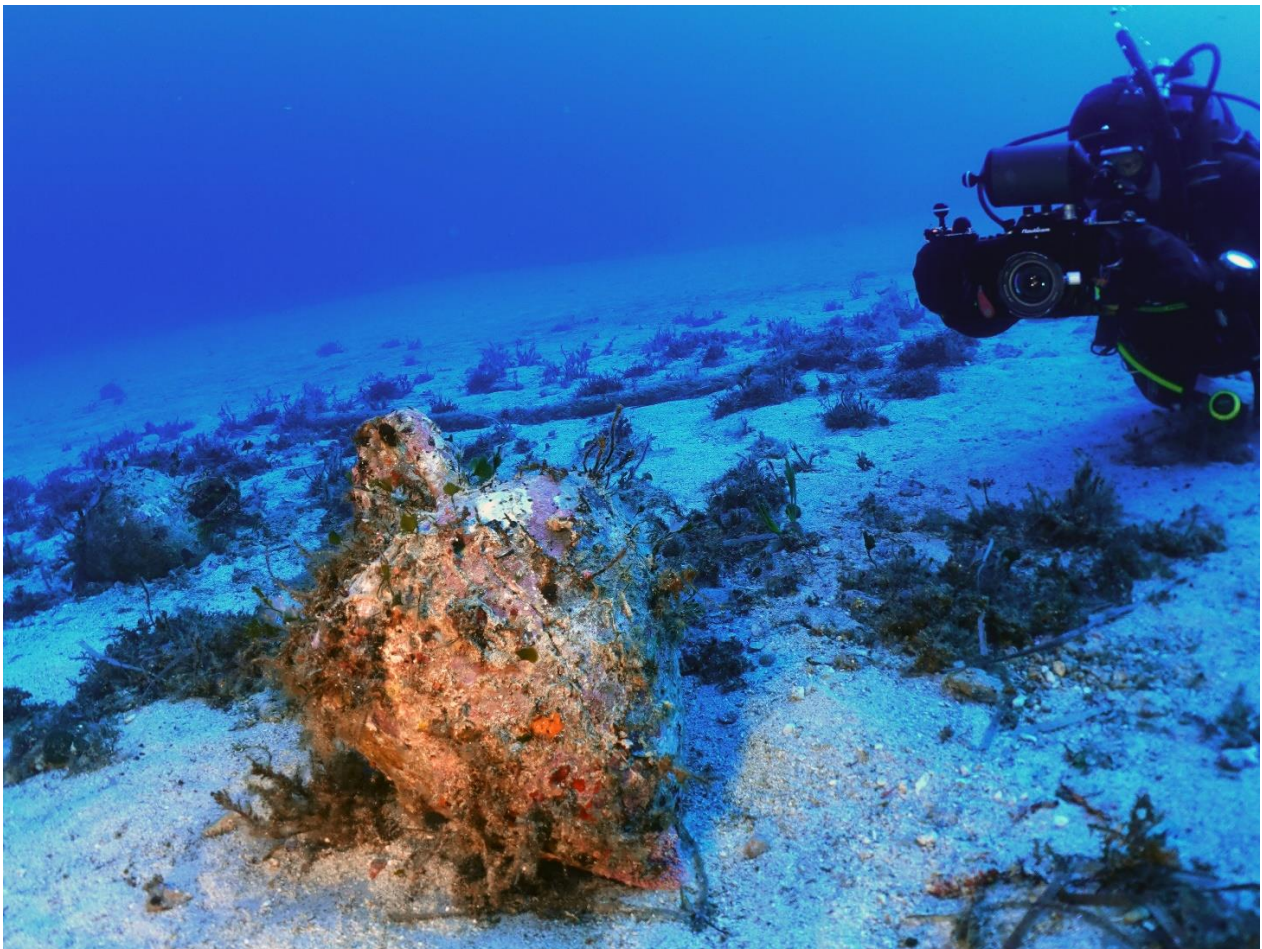
*Image 2. Photographing a medieval cup (photograph by Ladislav Cvetkov © EUA-NHRF)*



*Image 3. View of Shipwreck K10 (photograph by Nikos Koukoulas © EUA-NHRF)*



*Image 4. Photographing a Roman jug found in Shipwreck K10 (photograph by Nikos Koukoulas © EUA-NHRF)*



*Image 5. Photographing a Mendeian amphora from Shipwreck K9 (photograph by Nikos Koukoulas © EUA-NHRF)*



*Image 6. Cleaning at shipwreck K6 (photograph by Nikos Koukoulas © EUA-NHRF)*



*Image 7. View of shipwreck K8 (photograph by Nikos Koukoulas © EUA-NHRF)*