



“Modern Technologies for Underwater Archaeology” 2010

The first training course for students from senior schools, universities as well as specialists in underwater archaeology.

This course is the fruit of collaboration between the la Soprintendenza del Mare and the AURORA Institute of Maritime Studies, which is the educational division of the AURORA SP Trust.

The programme of meetings will be the start of a cycle of educational campaigns aimed at training individuals and promoting a better understanding of the relationship that public institutions and the private industry have with the sea.

The proposed seminar aims to provide training to archaeology students and/or to those involved in archaeology in general. Participants will learn about new technologies applied to underwater archaeological research.

This field, which in the last decades, has evolved into a strong and distinctive sub-discipline, has already enabled the discovery of numerous sites, some of which are unique.

Such discoveries have expanded our understanding of navigation routes and economies of the past. Furthermore, researchers have gained more in-depth knowledge on life on board and better insight into ancient naval architecture and shipbuilding techniques.

Modern techniques and technology have pushed research boundaries to waters that are significantly deeper to what was previously thought to be reachable.,

Lecturers with vast experience in the field will contribute within the framework of this course, covering a wide range of theoretical arguments as well as practical aspects of the subject. These will include exploration, research and investigation of sites in situ.

The Soprintendenza del Mare and the AURORA SP Trust will supply resources, technologies and technical specialists who will provide the basics on all processes relevant for the conservation, protection and valorisation of underwater cultural heritage in deep waters.

PROGRAM

DAY 1 – Monday 26 July 2010

Morning Session

Introduction, presentation and greetings from local authorities (Mayor, Attaches, Capitaneria di Porto, Armed Forces, Soprintendenza del Mare, AURORA Trust);

Start of Course

- Remote Sensing and Underwater Archaeology (speaker: Timmy Gambin – Aurora Trust).
- The use of ROVs (Remotely Operated Vehicles): History of ROVs, functions and classifications of vehicles (speaker: Craig Mullen – Aurora Trust).

Afternoon Session

- Presentation on the activities of the Soprintendenza del Mare, from its conception to the present day (speaker: Sebastiano Tusa – Soprintendente del Mare);
- Deepwater research in Sicilian waters (speaker: Stefano Zangara – Soprintendenza del Mare);
- Presentation of the Archeoelie Project: the development of the remote sensing project off the Aeolian Islands (Speakers: Sebastiano Tusa - Stefano Zangara - Timmy Gambin)

DAY 2 – Tuesday 27 July 2010

Morning Session (two parallel sessions)

Theory:

- An overview of underwater archaeology in the Mediterranean (speaker: Sebastiano Tusa– Soprintendente del Mare);
- Recording, documentation and conservation in underwater archaeology (speaker: Philippe Tisseyre– Soprintendenza del Mare);
- Techniques on instrumental excavation in Mediterranean waters (speaker: Stefano Zangara – Soprintendenza del Mare).

Practical session on boat (two students per session):

- Demonstration of various remote sensing techniques on board RV ISIS (speaker: Timmy Gambin – Aurora Trust).

Afternoon Session

- Download and analysis of data with state of the art Sonar Wizmap software. (speaker: Timmy Gambin – Aurora Trust).

DAY 3 – Wednesday 28 July 2010

Morning Session

- The history of saturation diving (speaker: Ian Koblick – Aurora Trust);
- Underwater photography and Videography (speaker: Roberto Rinaldi – Foto-video Operatore);

Afternoon Session

- Visit to the Aeolian Museum “Luigi Benabò Brea” at Lipari: Conservation, management and display of Aeolian cultural heritage: (Michele Benfari - director Museo Eoliano “Luigi Benabò Brea” and Sebastiano Tusa– Soprintendente del Mare).

Gala evening

- Public projection of documentary “Un’isola nel tempo” directed by Folco who will be present at the event;
- Granting of certificates to course participants and closure of events by local dignitaries ((Mayor, Attaches, Capitaneria di Porto, Armed Forces, Soprintendenza del Mare, AURORA Trust, Director of the Museo Eoliano “Luigi Benabò Brea”);