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## LEARN ABOUT THE REGULATIONS OF THE MARINE PARK OF ALONISSOS NORTHERN SPORADES AND BECOME A PART OF ITS PROTECTION!

The National Marine Park of Alonissos - Northern Sporades was established by Presidential Decree in 1992 and it is one of the largest marine protected area in Europe with an area of 2,315 km<sup>2</sup>. The area is a rare sanctuary for one of the most important populations of the Mediterranean Monk Seal (*Monachus monachus*) and other protected species of flora and fauna, while at the same time, important archaeological and historical monuments, are located within its limits. The objectives of establishing this internationally important protected area are:

- ▶ the protection, preservation and management of nature and the landscape, as a natural heritage and a valuable national natural resource.
- ▶ the protection of one of the most important biotopes of the Monk Seal *Monachus monachus*, which is one of the most endangered mammals worldwide.
- ▶ the effective protection of Northern Sporades' ecosystem, unique for its multifaceted value (biological, ecological, aesthetic, scientific, geomorphological, educational).

### ▶ Expected Results

In marine protected areas, the structure and operation of marine ecosystems as well as the services they offer to the local community and the visitors of the area are ensured. Patrolling protects the fish stocks from illegal professional and sport fishing and the seabed from illegal moorings. Permanent spatial restrictions contribute to the protection of local fish such as hake, sea bream, gossamer and bass, as well as to the protection of benthic ecosystems such as *Posidonia* meadows. At the same time, higher biomass and bigger body sizes are guaranteed for marine fish and invertebrate species.

A group of promising teenagers from Alonissos, acknowledging the value of the Park and the need for its protection, used their creativity, their knowledge and their passion and created a user friendly, interactive map for the restrictions in the Marine Park, which they imbedded in the following website <https://alonissosmarinepark.blogspot.com/> as well as in the **ThalassioParko** application for smartphones.



## NATIONAL MARINE PARK OF ALONISSOS NORTHERN SPORADES INFORMATION FLYER FOR VISITORS

The Managing Body of NMPANS was founded in 2003 but became operational in 2007 when it was first staffed and acquired the offices in which it is housed until today. It has scientific monitoring and anti-pollution equipment and trained staff and it uses floating and terrestrial surveilling means to protect, monitor and patrol the Marine Park of Alonissos N. Sporades, as well as to raise awareness to the local community and the visitors of the island.

# Use...within limits!

**The Marine Park is not a "closed" protected area, but an extensive marine area of 2315 km<sup>2</sup>, where visitors can navigate with respect to the restrictions established to protect this unique ecosystem.**

To ensure effective protection, the area is supervised by high-speed boats of the Port police and by two vessels donated by THALASSA Foundation, KIMOLOS and NIRIIS, as well as by the pilot operation of new 3G technology cameras for the remote surveillance of the Piperi island. The patrolling and awareness raising project is being carried out by the Management Body of National Marine Park of Alonissos Northern Sporades in cooperation with the Alonissos' Port Police and MOM/ Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal and it is being funded by THALASSA Foundation; the active involvement and support of the local community has also played a crucial role in this effort. Combined with the ecosystem research implemented in the Marine Park, they constitute a holistic approach that can be multiplied, as a good example of a Marine Protected Area best management.



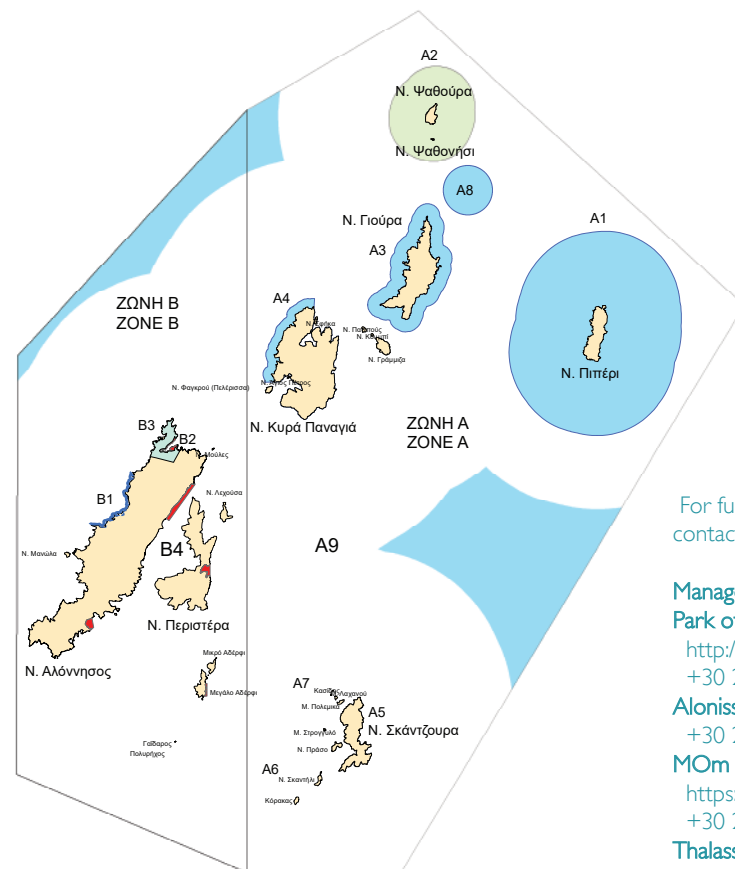
## You may also contribute to the protection of the area's biodiversity by:

- respecting the protection regulations
- not littering
- avoiding anchoring on Posidonia meadows
- notifying the competent authorities and bodies directly in the event of fire or pollution at sea
- immediately notifying the competent authorities and bodies when finding a marine mammal (seal or dolphin) or seabird dead, injured

**WE JOIN FORCES FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE SPORADES NATURE!**

## The main protection regulations are the following:

- It is prohibited to approach Piperi Island, the core of the Marine Park, in a radius less than 3 nautical miles from its shores.
- It is prohibited to approach the island of Jura in a radius of 0.5 nautical miles from its shores.
- The overnight stay of vessels in the A zone of the NMPANS is allowed only in the picturesque bays of Planitis and Agios Petros of Kyra Panagia island, which are the safest anchorages in the area.
- Approaching, mooring and overnight stay are allowed throughout the NPA B Area.
- The use of fire is not allowed in the whole terrestrial area of the NMPANS.
- Sport fishing in zone A is only permitted in the A9 area, and only 1.5 miles off the Psathoura Island (rest of the marine area A with the exception of areas A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7 and A8) and only by trolling and with fishing lines.
- Sport fishing is allowed throughout Zone B of NMPANS only by trolling and with fishing lines, while fishing with spear gun is allowed only in certain areas of the Zone B.
- Scuba diving is only allowed in specific areas of the Zone B.
- Swimming and free diving is permitted throughout the Zone B while in the Zone A is allowed: a) in Psathoura (at Mandraki Beach), b) in Kyra Panagia (at the bays of Agios Petros and Planitis), c) in Skatzouras (at the port of Limani) and d) in all the islands and rocky islands of the Zone A, with the exception of the areas A1 (Piperi), A3 (Youra), A6 (Korakas, Skandili, Polemika) and A8 (Pagos area, 39° 26' 43'' N 24° 12' 36'' E).



For further information please contact:

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