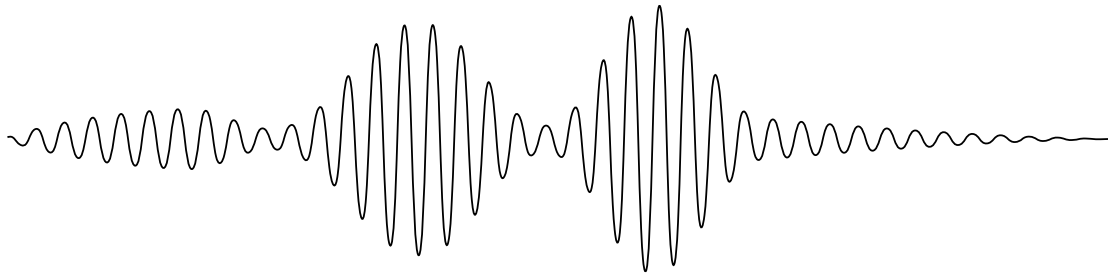




**HELLENIC  
PETROLEUM**

**Hellenic Petroleum Exploration & Production of  
Hydrocarbons Ionian Single Member S.A.**



**DEPLOYMENT AND OPERATION OF ACOUSTIC  
MONITORING STATIONS IN IONIAN SEA**

**ITEM3**

**“COASTAL ZONE INSPECTION FOR THE  
PRESENCE OF MARINE MAMMALS”**

Report



**OCEANUS LAB**

**(Laboratory of Marine Geology & Physical  
Oceanography)**

**Department of Geology University of Patras**

## 1. Introduction

From the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January 2023 a visual inspection for marine mammals presence was carried out by the Laboratory of Marine Geology & Physical Oceanography, Department of Geology, University of Patras, at the coastal zone of the study area. The coastal areas, where the access was not possible, were approached and filmed by the Laboratory surveyors' team using the acoustic monitoring survey vessel, while the remaining coastline was inspected from land.

## 2. Survey Planning

During the acoustic monitoring post-survey phase, the Laboratory surveyors' team inspected the coastal areas using the acoustic monitoring survey vessel "Sea Master" (Fig. 2.1.). The remaining coastline was visual inspected from land. A coastline of 63 nm was inspected using the research vessel and 36 nm was inspected from land.

All of the areas surrounding the seismic survey area by "Ramform Hyperion" were visually inspected.

The procedure was as followed:

1. Approach the area using vessel "Sea Master" at the minimum possible distance, visual inspection of the area with binoculars and photo-shooting.
2. Approach the area by vehicle and on foot, visual inspection of the area with binoculars and photo-shooting.





Fig. 2.1. The vessel "Sea Master" used for the visual inspection of the coastline of the survey area of north Ionian Sea.

### 3. Results

Throughout the inspection, no marine mammal was detected that had been washed ashore along the coastal zone.

A pod of dolphins was spotted in the northern part of the survey area between stations N3 and N4 (Corfu Island) as shown in Figures 3.2. and 3.3.



The map of Fig.3.1 shows the seismic survey area and the acoustic monitoring stations. Figure 3.2 presents the position of the visual inspection areas of the coastline surrounding the seismic survey area and the site of selected photos that presented afterwards.

The continuous red lines represent the inspection performed by the team using the vessel “Sea Master”, who were continuously taking photos and observing through binoculars the coastline (Figure 3.2.). The points represent the coastline inspection performed by the onshore team using a vehicle (Figure 3.2.). Selected photos of the coastline of the survey area are also presented (photos 1-15). The onshore team was taking photos along the coastline at the areas with the highest likelihood of marine mammal presence based on the coastal morphology and sea currents directivity.



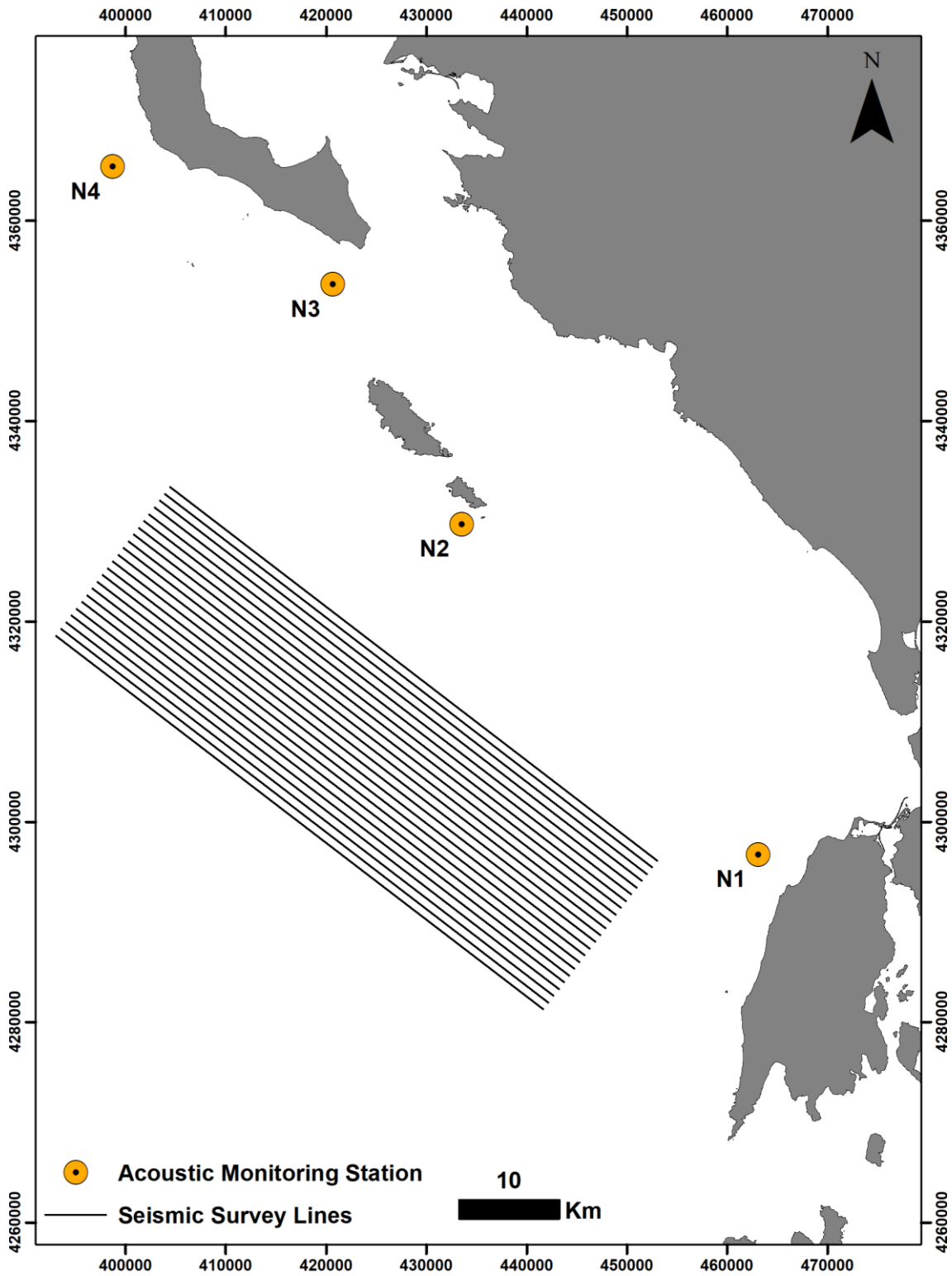


Fig. 3.1. Map of the North Ionian Sea showing the seismic survey area and the acoustic monitoring stations.



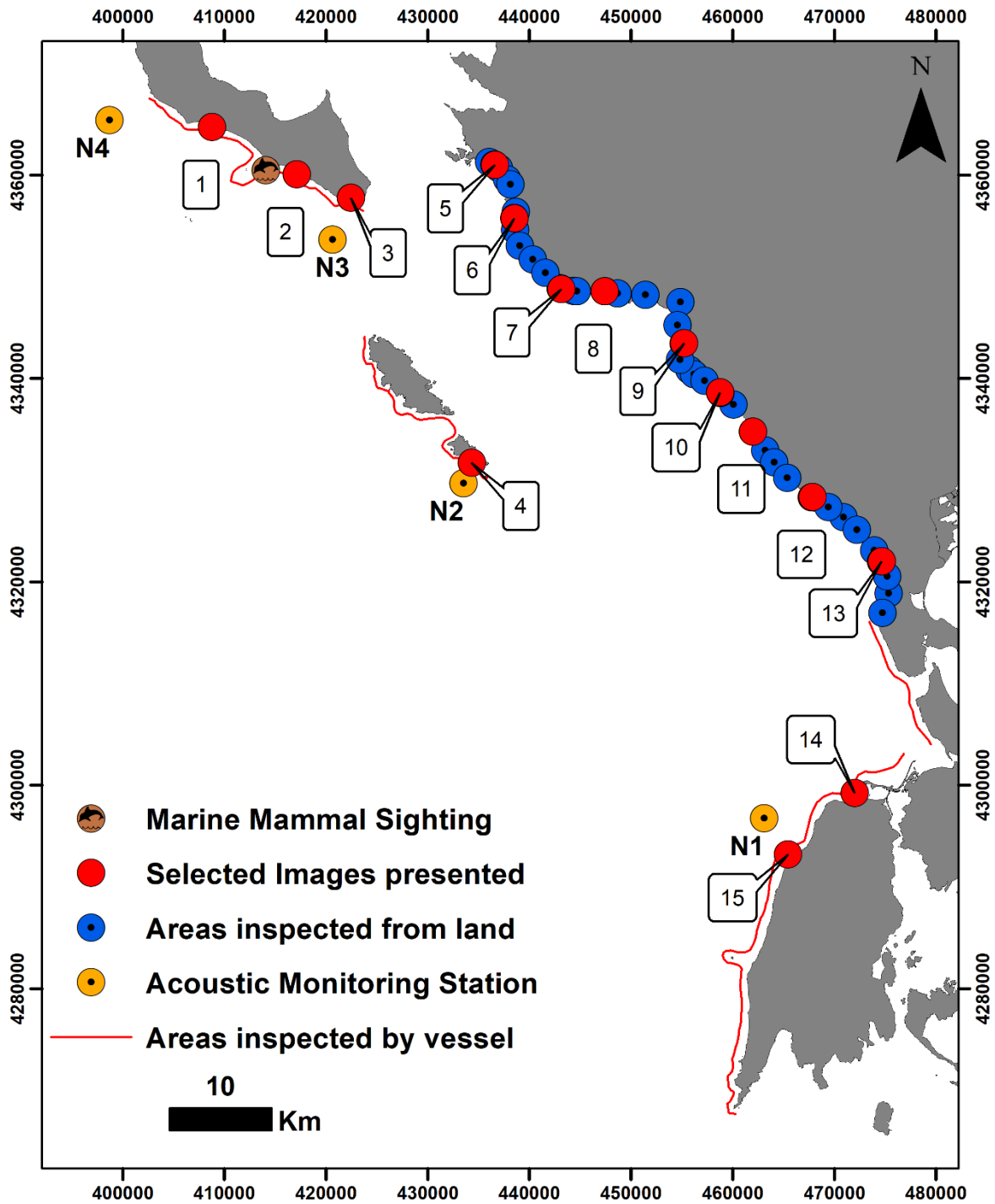


Fig. 3.2. Map of the North Ionian Sea survey area showing the visually inspected coastal areas and marine mammal sighting position.





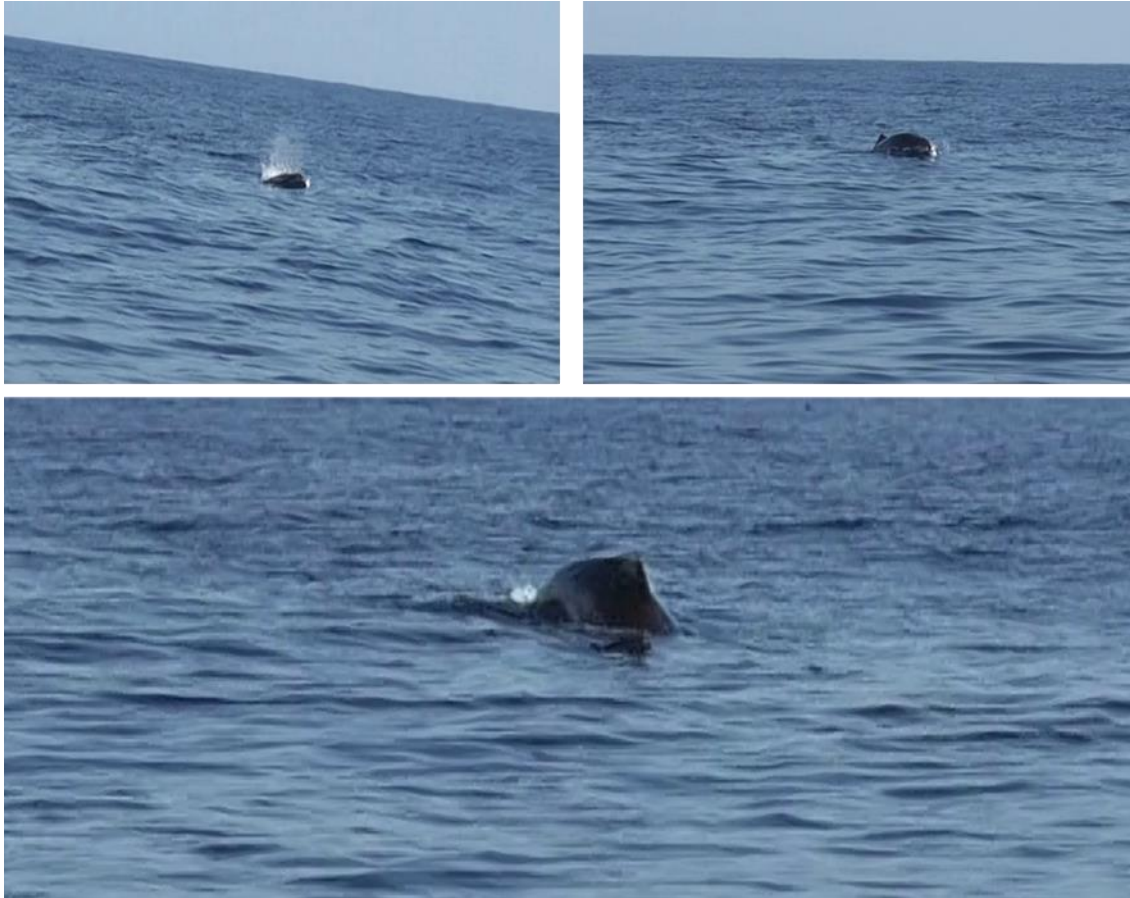


Fig. 3.3. A pod of dolphins was spotted in the northern part of the survey area between monitoring stations N3 and N4 (Corfu Island).

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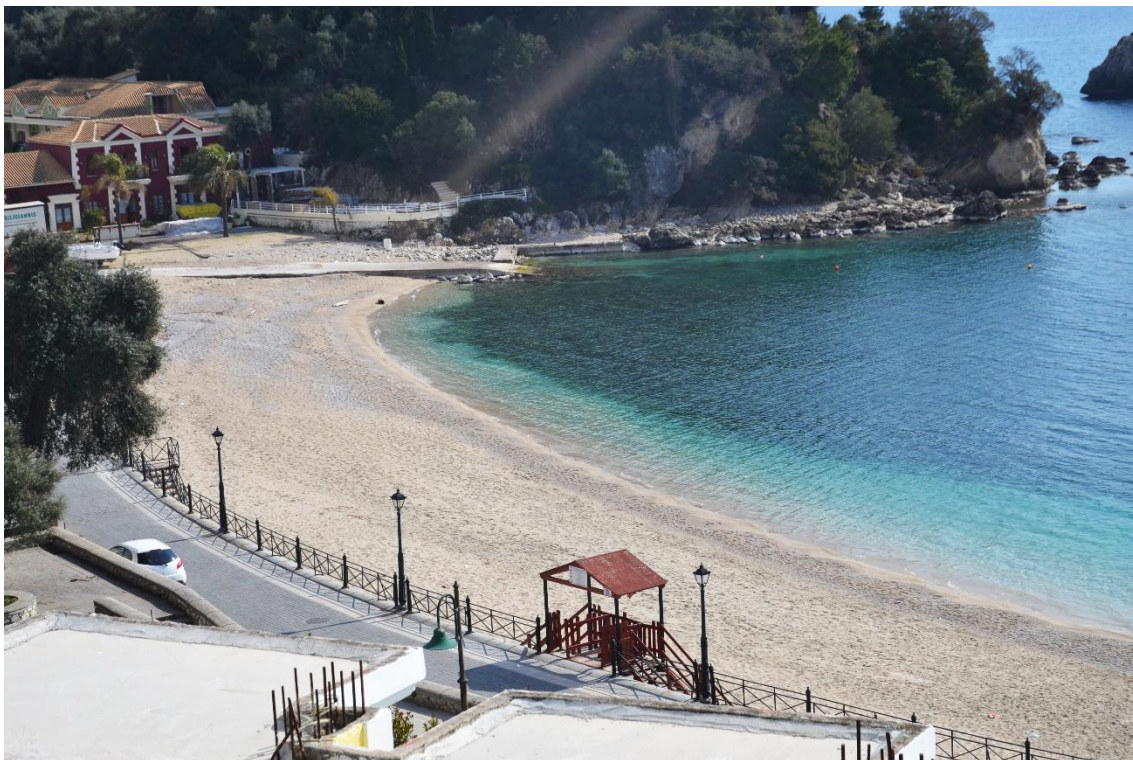




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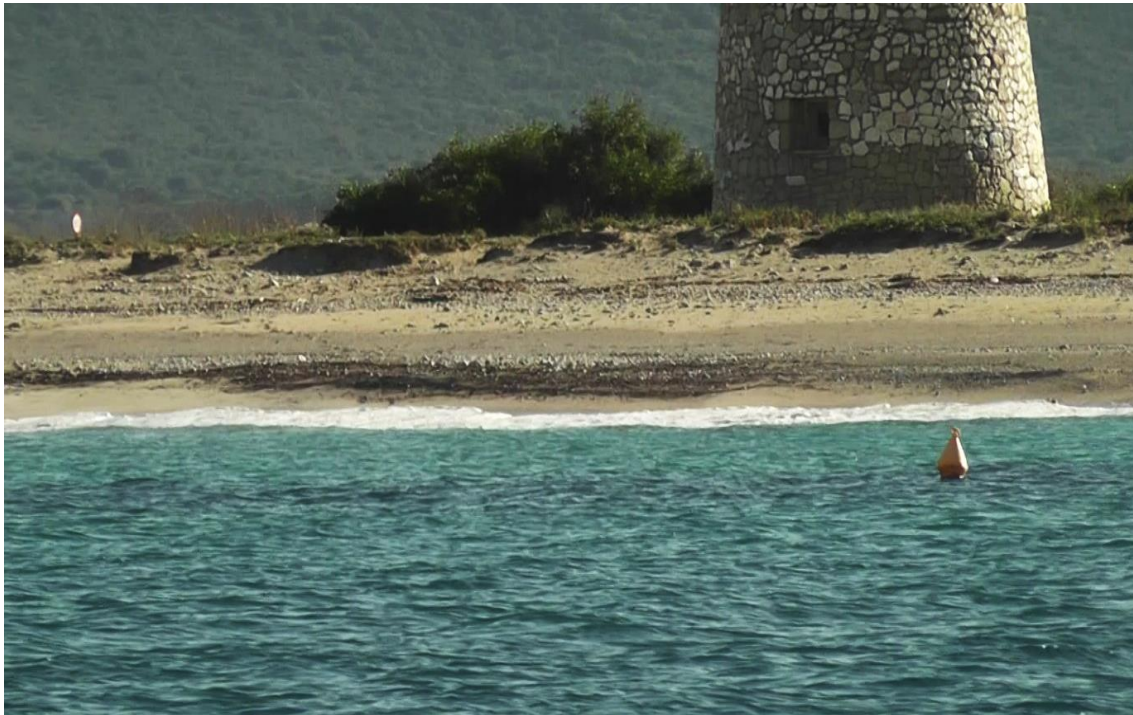




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