

ICOM ICMAH Annual Conference 2026

"Exploring the Depths - The Inspirational Journey of Maritime Archaeology": Preserving The Underwater Cultural Heritage Collection Within History And Archaeological Museums

Date: October 28-30, 2026 **Venue:** Zadar, Croatia

Conference Program

Day 1: 28 October 2026 - University of Zadar, Obala Kralja Petra Krešimira IV, 2 nd floor, Ceremonial Hall of the University	
8.00 - 9.00 AM	Registration (Ground floor)
9.00 – 9.30 AM	Conference Opening Speeches - University of Zadar / ICUA ZADAR - ICOM ICMAH - ICOM Croatia - Ministry of Culture and Media
9.35 – 10.00 AM	Keynote Speech Fersi Lamia, "From The Seabed To The Living Museum", Tunisia.
10.00 - 10.15 AM	Coffee Break (Ground floor)
10.20 – 12:20 AM	Theme 1: Museums and Public Engagement Grace Aderele, "Coastal and lagoon-based communities of Lagos Island as a case study for rethinking maritime heritage interpretation through community-driven visual documentation and museum-based digital storytelling", Nigeria. Edvinas Ubis & Elena Pranckėnaitė, "Representing Underwater Cultural Heritage in Lithuania: Inland Water Sites and the Baltic Sea Shipwrecks — Practices, Narratives, and Community Engagement", Lithuania. Nurul Hamizah Binti Afandi, "Establishment of a maritime museum in Pahang", Malaysia. Emir Son & Ögül Emre Öncü, "The Yenikapi Excavations: Istanbul's Maritime Archaeology and its engagement with the public", Turkey. Irena Radic Rossi & Ivan Suta, "Roman Ships at Trstenik and their public display", Croatia. Jelena Čelebić, "From Seabed to Showcase: Museum Mediation of a Sixteenth-Century Shipwreck in the Bay of Kotor", Montenegro.
12.20 – 12.30 PM	Q & A
12.30 – 1.30 PM	Lunch Break (self-arranged)
1.35 – 2.35 PM	Diane Alliaume, "The conservation and museum exhibition of maritime cultural property in the early 1960s: the little-known collaboration between Fernand Benoit and Jacques-Yves Cousteau for a maritime museum in Marseille", France.

	• Jiyeon Kim, <i>"Treasures Found on the Maritime Silk Road"</i>, Republic of Korea. • Carly Degbello, <i>"The aquarium: a tool for exhibiting underwater heritage"</i>, Benin. (Online)
2:35 – 2.45 PM	Q & A
2:50 – 3:30 PM	Theme 2: Conservation and Management • Priit Lätti, <i>"How to exhibit a ship: the medieval wrecks in the collections of the Estonian Maritime Museum"</i>, Estonia. • Doris Kurtov & Roko Surić, <i>"The protection and management of Croatia's underwater cultural heritage"</i>, Croatia.
3.30 – 4.00 PM	Coffee Break (Ground floor)
4.05 – 5.45 PM	• Chen Hsiao Chai, <i>"The practice and advancement of underwater archaeology in Taiwan"</i>, Taiwan. • Kristina Ponjavic Višnjic, Ilija Dankovic & Dragana Gavrilovic, <i>"Managing Wooden Vessels from a Terrestrial Site: Archaeological and Conservation Perspectives"</i>, Serbia. • Juan David Sarmiento Rodríguez, <i>"Documentation, recovery and dissemination of the Galeón San José, underwater cultural heritage in deep waters in Colombia"</i>, Colombia. • Lucijana Šešelj, Irena Radić Rossi, Feđa Milivojević & Dušanka Romanović, <i>"TIDES Project: Establishing Methodological Foundations for Reconstructing Nin's Ancient Maritime Landscape"</i>, Croatia. • Hiranur Gültekin, <i>"Planning, Education and Management of the Conservation of Underwater Cultural Heritage: Current Statistics and Institutional Capacity in Türkiye"</i>, Turkey.
5.45 – 6.00 PM	Q & A

End of Day (1) Program



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Day 2: 29 October 2026 - University of Zadar, Obala Kralja Petra Krešimira IV, 2nd floor, Ceremonial Hall of the University

8.00 - 9.00 AM	Registration (Ground floor)
9.00 - 9.30 AM	Keynote Speech (ICUA Zadar - TBC)
9.30 - 10.00 AM	Coffee Break (Ground floor)
10.00 - 11.40 PM	Theme 2: Conservation and Management Jordan Hanson & Karl Brady, "Hidden in the Depths: Exploring the Submerged Archaeology of Ireland's Inland Waterways", Ireland. Mohammed Elseaidy, "From the Depths of the Sea of Alexandria to the Museum Display at the Grand Egyptian Museum: The Safe Journey of Underwater Archaeological Artifacts", Egypt. Sevinc Nazirova, "From Seabed to Showcase: Preservation and Interpretation of Underwater Archaeological Finds at the National Museum of History of Azerbaijan", Azerbaijan. Rocío Villar Astigueta, "The sacred islands of Pachacamac: archaeology, shoreline communities and maritime cultural landscape management of the great Andean oracle", Perú. Myriame Morel - Deledalle, "Preserving and Managing Marine Collections: Towards an Ecological Approach for Museums", France.
11:40 - 12.00 PM	Q & A
12.00 - 1.30 PM	Lunch Break Hosted by ICUA Zadar, Božidara Petranovića 3 (Exhibition Pavilion)
1.30 - 2.45 PM	Visit to St. Nicholas Centre, Exhibition titled "Deep Peaks - Underwater Heritage of the Split-Dalmatia County"
3:00 - 4.00 PM	University of Zadar, Obala Kralja Petra Krešimira IV, 2nd floor, Ceremonial Hall of the University Theme 3: Underwater Cultural Heritage and Climate Change Samah Moustafa AboZeid, "Geoarchaeological Assessment and Management Strategies for Maritime and Submerged Archaeological Sites in Marsa Alam, Red Sea, Egypt: Challenges of Environmental Change and Blue Tourism", Egypt. Trygve Sikveland Røysland, "Challenges in archaeological fieldwork and museum conservation caused by climate change in the Arctic", Norway. Angelo Ayedoun, "Environmental change, urban expansion and the vulnerability of submerged archaeological sites in the Republic of Benin", Benin. (Online)
4.00 - 4.10 PM	Q & A
4.10 - 4.30 PM	Coffee Break (Ground floor)
4.30 - 5.30 PM	Theme 4: Approaches for Mitigating Looting of Underwater Cultural Heritage Sites. Anton Motivans, "Mitigating the looting of Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) Sites in Malta", Malta.

	Theme 5: Technology and Innovation • Demetra Ignatiou & Maria Michael, <i>"Meet ENALIA – A Digital Interactive Exhibit on the Maritime Archaeology of Cyprus"</i>, Cyprus. • Rita Auriemma, Cristiano Alfonso, Mikhail Bardashov, Angelo Colucci, Luigi Coluccia, Sergey Khokhlov, Edward Borgogno, Filiberto Chiabrande, Andrea Lingua, Alessio Martino, Paolo Maschio, Beatrice Tanduo, <i>"Archim3edes Relevant National Project: Apulian shipwrecks' mapping and surveying for research and wider accessibility"</i>, Italy.
5.30 – 6.00 PM	Q & A

End of Day (2) Program



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Day 3: Friday, 30 October, 2026 - University of Zadar, Obala Kralja Petra Krešimira IV & Offsite	
9.00 – 11.00 AM	Sports in Museums Workshop (Complete program is attached) (Room No. ?)
11.00 AM – 6.00 PM	Proposed activities:
	Visit to underwater archaeological sites in the Zadar region <i>Pag Island, near the village Šimuni</i> - coastal underwater archaeological remains <i>Letavica diving site</i> - collection of ancient Roman amphorae; available for certified Advanced Open Water Divers (AOWD) <i>Pag Island Coast</i> - Roman shipwreck with piles of broken amphorae, suitable for snorkeling and certified Open Water Divers (OWD)
	OR
	Guided visit to the cultural institutions in Zadar <i>Museum of Ancient Glass in Zadar</i> (Address: Poljana Zemaljskog odbora 1). <i>Rector's Palace</i> (Address: Poljana Šime Budinića) <i>Archaeological Museum Zadar</i> (Address: Trg opatice Čike 1)

END OF THE CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Posters (University of Zadar, Ceremonial Hall, 2nd floor)

- German Shershnev**, "Interpreting Underwater Cultural Heritage through Interactive Programs: The Case of The Museum of Kronstadt History".
- Marlen Lutter**, "Museo Atlántico, the first European underwater museum".
- Meihui Li**, "Wadang (roof-end tiles) as "shoreline proxies": architectural elements reveal maritime connectivity along the Chinese Maritime Silk Road from the Six Dynasties to the Song period (6th–10th centuries CE)".
- Mikhail Bardashov, Sergey Khokhlov & Angelo Colucci**, "safeguarding and Valorizing Underwater Cultural Heritage in Apulia: A Monitoring-Oriented Framework for the Porto Cesareo Coastal & Underwater Park".
- Rita Auriemma, Luigi de Luca, Danilo Leone, Maria Turchiano, Giuliano Volpe**, "The value and potential of underwater cultural heritage as 'a resource for sustainable development and quality of life: Apulia's experiences and good practices".
- Khushi Keshari**, "Ports, People, and Exchange: Maritime Archaeology of South India and its Links with Southeast Asia".
- Newton Ribeiro Machado Neto**, "Preserving Roman Maritime Heritage: Museum Collections and the Reconstruction of Lusitania's Settlement".



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- **Important Notes:**

- The distance between the University of Zadar and ICUA Zadar is within walking distance along the seafront; therefore, no transportation will be provided.
- Participation in diving activities at the designated locations requires certification, specifically Open Water Diver (OWD) or Advanced Open Water Diver (AOWD). Participants are requested to bring their certification card and logbook, whether in physical or digital format.
- Snorkeling activities at the site do not necessitate certification.
- Diving fees will be the responsibility of participants, with rates set at €50 for deep dives, €30 for shallow dives, and €20 for mask-only dives. Conference attendees can rent equipment at reduced prices. The conference will provide transportation to and between the diving sites.
- Poster presenters are advised to bring their posters to the venue, as printing services will not be available at the conference location.
- All conference attendees, speakers, board members, museum guests, and committee members are kindly requested to register their names and preferences via the following link:
<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=XzTq0CUTXEGT0MQvQzsOYjyO1UX0k2hFteHkbgx99YdUN0pLOVFYVVBBUzM1RUIKSUtXRk1NTUtMMC4u>



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