



MEDASSET
Mediterranean Association
to Save the Sea Turtles



SEALy

A Citizen Science App for Sea Users

The project "Fishers, Sea turtles and Sharks: Alliance for Survival" is funded under the financial programme of the Green Fund "Natural Environment and Innovative Actions", Strand "Natural Environment Management Actions", Measure "Innovative Actions with Citizens"



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SEAlly© is a mobile application that has been created in the framework of the Green Fund funded project "[Fishers, Sea turtles & Sharks: Alliance for Survival](#)", coordinated by MEDASSET-Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles in partnership with iSea. A key aspect of the project is the active involvement and engagement of citizens on the basis of Citizen Science. Citizen science is blooming across all scientific disciplines with modern technology of smartphone contributing to this end. It can potentially bring a wide variety of benefits to researchers, citizens, policy makers and society across the research and innovation cycle, e.g; it can accelerate and sometimes even make possible the production of new scientific knowledge; it can help policy makers monitor implementation and compliance with regulations; it can increase public awareness about science and feeling of ownership of policies; and it can enable faster and evidence-informed reactions to events and better territorial coverage.

In this context, SEAlly© has been created, through which fishers, port authorities, divers and all sea lovers will be able to record any sea turtle or shark sightings and thus provide valuable, primary data. SEAlly© is available on [Android](#) & [iOS](#) and users are able to download it for free.

MEDASSET and iSea are seeking to further develop SEAlly© in a way that will make it even more beneficial for marine conservation. In addition to being able to record the two aforementioned taxa, we would like to achieve synergies with other entities for including more taxa, like cetaceans, seals and seabirds, but also marine litter such as floating litter and ALDFG. Hence, SEAlly© users will be able to record data on all the above

MEDASSET and iSea aim to expand the scope of SEAlly© by integrating marine mammal, seabirds and marine litter sightings.

In particular, for every new category a tab will be created, where a list of different species or litter observations will be unfolded. Even though, SEAlly© was developed in the framework of a national project, it was designed in a way that allows international usage. Locating and recording everywhere in the Mediterranean and worldwide is absolutely feasible, thus the application is available in English. Any rising need in more language options except Greek and English can also be taken into consideration. The following table presents the cost for creating a tab addition to SEAlly©. The implementation concerns the android, iOS, Backend and Admin panel (where we control the recordings).

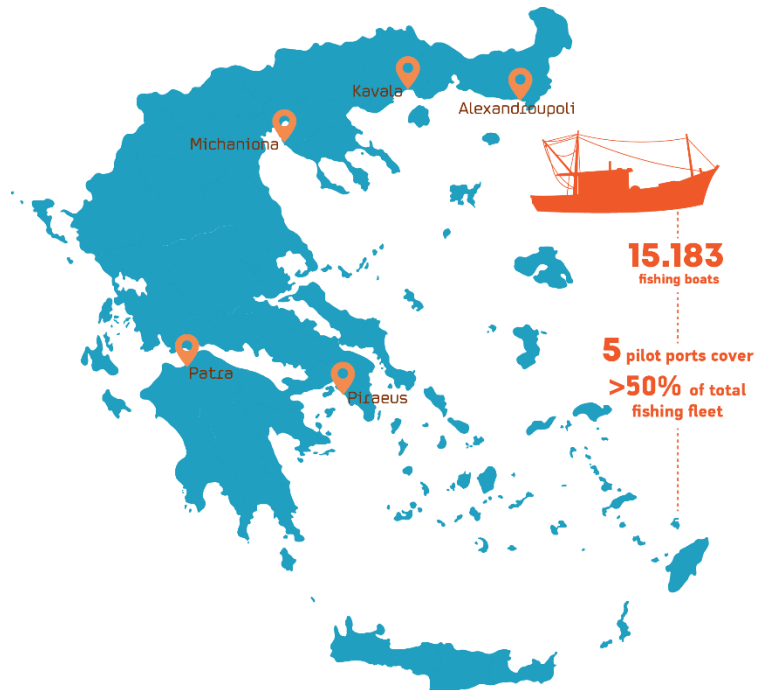
It would be our honor if any potential partner endorses SEAlly© as a very useful decision-making tool to carry out its important mission.

Fishers, Sea Turtles and Sharks: Alliance for Survival

1. Project Description

The aim of the project is to study and mitigate the impacts of bycatch and ghostfishing on sea turtle and shark populations in Greece, through awareness, capacity building and cooperation with stakeholders in the fisheries sector.

The project focuses on 5 important ports of Greece, which cover a major part of the country's fishing activity. Besides, fishing activity in the wider area of these ports coincides with significantly protected areas that are under high pressure and need to be studied and conserved.



2. Methodology

A common harmonized methodological approach was chosen, which develops through two lines of actions: the first one aims at enhancing existing knowledge on the status of the target species, fish stocks and relevant perceptions of stakeholders; and the second one includes actions to raise awareness among fishers and control authorities on the impacts of non-selective fishing methods and gears, as well as to train fishers in handling and releasing entangled species.

3. Expected Result

The main expected result of the project is an increase in the number of people in the fishing industry and the control authorities that can identify shark and sea turtle species, are aware of the need and the legal obligations to protect them, as well as of the methods of safe release from different fishing equipment.

Monitoring of fishing activities and gradual disengagement from unsustainable fishing practices is expected to have long-term positive impacts on marine reserves, target-species and hence for biodiversity and the local economy.