



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



The Protection of the
Underwater Cultural Heritage

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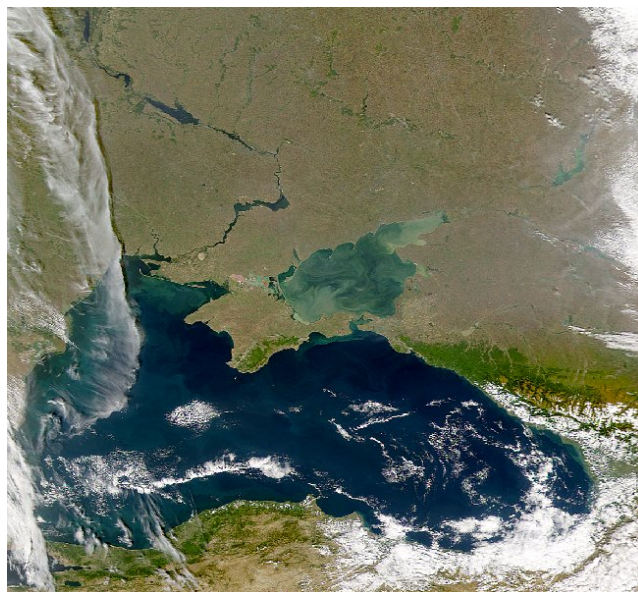
UKRAINE

National Report on underwater cultural heritage

*Report made in the UNESCO Regional Meeting in Istanbul
25 -27 October, 2010*

*Ukraine is a State Party of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection
of the Underwater Cultural Heritage*

The concept of underwater archaeological investigations and preservation of underwater monuments in the waters of Ukraine



The length of the Black Sea coast of Ukraine - 1,056.5 km

The period of active development of underwater archeology in Ukraine began between 2000 and 2010. The Institute of Archaeology of National Academy of Sciences created a modern legislative and methodological basis of underwater archaeological research in Ukraine. The Supreme Council adopted the Laws "On the protection of cultural heritage" and "On the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage," and ratified the European Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage. Ukraine was one of the first maritime nations to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage. It greatly expanded the chronological limits of the scientists. According to the Law "On Protection of Cultural Heritage," the competence of archaeologists includes objects and monuments up until WWII. At the initiative of Ukraine scientists proposed to introduce a scientific term "international maritime memorial". 5 ships sank in the Ukrainian waters, killing more people than died on the Titanic. All these ships have the status of mass graves.

In 2004, in conformity with the requirements of the International Convention for the Protection of Underwater Heritage, the Institute of Archaeology of NUAS established the Department of Underwater Heritage of Ukraine - a specialized state-owned enterprise, whose main task is the development of underwater archeology in Ukraine. Scientists of the Department created the first register of underwater cultural heritage of Ukraine, and the map "Monuments of underwater cultural heritage of Ukraine." All known and open objects were put on the state scientific register. All objects of archeology and history in exclusive /marine /economical zone, territorial sea and internal waters of Ukraine were recorded for the first time on the Register and on the map. 2,514 objects were registered. The presence of a gray-hydrogen layer in the Black Sea gives the chance for the discovery of well-preserved monuments even from antiquity in its depths.



Byzantium shipwreck 2/2 XIII century

During the summer of 2009 the test of the first Ukrainian remotely operated underwater vehicle "Sophocles 1" was successfully undertaken. As a result of these expeditions, a number of objects from the Middle Ages were discovered.

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