



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
D1 Directorate for the U.N.  
& International Organisations

No: 19006

### NOTE VERBALE

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic presents its compliments to the Embassy of France and, with reference to the latter's Verbal Note No. 2024-0075975, dated 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2024, concerning the conduct of marine scientific research by the French Institute "Tara Ocean Foundation" (TOF) with the French vessel "Tara" ("TARA EUROPA") within areas of Greek territorial waters, has the honour to inform about the following:

The competent Greek authorities, after consideration of the file, have granted the requested permit from **15.5.2024 until 1.9.2024**, under the following terms and conditions:

//

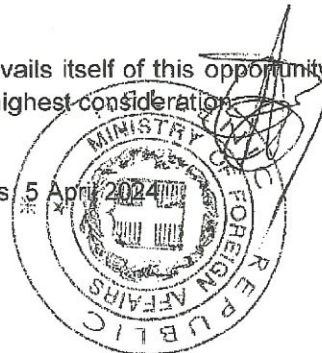
- Compliance with national legislation, in particular Law in particular Law No. 2971/2001 "seashore, coasts and other provisions" and Law No. 4858/19.11.2021 "Codification of legislation on the protection of antiquities and the cultural heritage in general". In case of accidental discovery of antiquities, the *Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities (EUA)* must be immediately informed (tel.: 210 9235105, 210 9239 038, 210 9247249, fax: 210 9235707, email: eena@culture.gr).
- The vessel must contact at least 72 hours ahead:
  - *The Hydrographic Service of the Hellenic Navy (HNHS)* (by e-mail: [navtex\\_hnhs@navy.mil.gr](mailto:navtex_hnhs@navy.mil.gr), tel: 210 6551806), providing the exact dates of the operations and the geographical coordinates of the project areas (in WGS-84 Datum).
  - *The Port Police Directorate (PPD)* (by email: [dla@hcg.gr](mailto:dla@hcg.gr)), the *relevant Port Authority* of the project areas and the *operational centre of the Hellenic Coast Guard Headquarters (HCG Headquarters)* (tel: 210 4191561, email: [kepix@hcg.gr](mailto:kepix@hcg.gr)), providing the exact dates of the operations and the geographical coordinates of the project areas (in WGS-84 Datum) as well as the necessary contact details of the vessel (telephone, fax, email, Call sign, IMO, MMSI, AIS-LPIS).
- Throughout the operations, the vessel must contact on a daily basis (by 10 a.m.):
  - Both the *HNHS* and the *Hellenic Navy General Staff Operations Center* (tel.: 210 6551944, email: [gen\\_kepix@navy.mil.gr](mailto:gen_kepix@navy.mil.gr)), and submit a daily report with the updated programme for the next 24, 48 and 72 hours as well as inform on any incidences that may occur during the operations. For this reason, all the necessary contact details of the vessels must be submitted (e-mail, fax, telephone, Automatic Identification System (AIS), IMO Number-MMSI). Any modifications to the programme must be notified to HNHS at least 48 hours in advance.
  - The *PPD*, the *relevant Port Authority* and the *HCG Headquarters* (by email [dla@hcg.gr](mailto:dla@hcg.gr) and [kepix@hcg.gr](mailto:kepix@hcg.gr)), providing the reference positions and any modification of the work programme until its final stage of completion.
- TOF is kindly requested to submit a request to *PPD* in order to obtain approval for the use of non-Greek flagged vessels.

- All the data and results must be submitted to the HNHS and notified to *Hellenic Hydrocarbons and Energy Resources Management (HEREMA)* (by email: [contact@greekhydrocarbons.gr](mailto:contact@greekhydrocarbons.gr)), within six months from the completion of the project. In particular:
  - i. The results must be submitted in digital format.
  - ii. A table with the samples derived from the project must be submitted in digital format and in coordinates (latitude and longitude) referred to WGS 84 datum.
  - iii. The constructed maps for the operations must be submitted in digital shape files (.shp) or (.jpg).
  - iv. The data from the underwater research (videos, photos), if any, must be submitted in digital format. In such a case, the exact diving position must be submitted and designated in coordinates (latitude and longitude) referred to WGS 84 Datum.
- The operations must be conducted with utmost care with regard to existing submarine cable links.
- Compliance with the requirements established by the Ministry of the Environment and Energy, as specified in the *Annex* attached.
- It is to be noted that TOF to whom the permit to conduct marine scientific research is granted, has the obligation to rigorously respect and abide by the Greek legislation and the conditions set by the permit. TOF is obliged to follow daily all the regulations and procedures regarding the safety of navigation and to be kept informed about all navwarns regarding the activation of firing ranges of Hellenic Armed Forces. Details about the firing ranges can be found in the Annual Notices to Mariners of the Hellenic Navy Hydrographic Service (HNHS), available at the relevant website Navy Hydrographic Service (HNHS), available at the relevant website ([http://www.hnhs.gr/images/pdf\\_aggelies/en/2023/Docs/2023Annual\\_NM.pdf](http://www.hnhs.gr/images/pdf_aggelies/en/2023/Docs/2023Annual_NM.pdf)). The authority granting the permit or any other Greek authority shall bear no liability for any loss or damages suffered by TOF or any third party and arising out of the non-compliance by TOF with the above obligations.  
The present permit does not affect any other obligations of TOF in accordance with the Greek legislation. //

The Greek authorities have granted the requested permit to conduct marine scientific research in areas of Greek territorial waters, *under the above terms and conditions* and with respect to Greece's sovereignty in the area. The permit could be revoked in case of non-compliance to the above.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of France the assurances of its highest consideration.

Athens 5 April 2024



To : Embassy of France  
In Town

### Annex

*Requirements established by the Hellenic Ministry of the Environment and Energy, General Directorate of Environmental Policy, Directorate of Natural Environment Management & Biodiversity, Department of Biodiversity, with respect to the application for consent submitted by Tara Ocean Foundation (TOF).*

1. A preliminary report should be submitted within 30 days from the end of the sampling program with a description of the final sampling locations with coordinates, sampling dates and the exact number of samples.
2. An analytical report should also be submitted with the results of the above research.
3. The participation of Greek scientists in this European expedition should be ensured in accordance with *8.1 Extent of which the local scientists will be enabled to participate in the research expedition* and as indicated in *1.4 Local scientists involved in the planning of the expedition (HCMR)* of the application for consent.
4. The Greek authorities and Greek scientists should have free access to the results and data of this research as defined in point *10.2 Proposed means of access to data and samples* of the application for consent. Therefore, Tara Ocean Foundation should provide such access and inform about any change that may occur in this respect.
5. Samples or any of their derivatives may not be used in any case for commercial purposes.
6. Samples and genomic sequence data that may be produced from these samples will identify Greece as the country of origin and include the following notation: "This genetic information downloaded from [database identifier] may be considered to be part of the genetic patrimony of Greece, the country from which the sample was obtained. Users of this information agree to :1) acknowledge Greece as the country of origin in any country where the genetic information is presented and 2) contact the Greek ABS national focal point identified in the CBD website <http://www.cbd.int/information/nfp.shtml> if they intend to use the genetic information for commercial purposes".
7. In the event that the aforementioned research make a discovery that may have commercial potential of the genetic information obtained from the samples taken, the Tara Ocean Foundation commits itself to contact the Greek ABS national focal point, identified in the CBD website (<http://www.cbd.int/information/nfp.shtml>), in order to negotiate Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT), in line with the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising from their Utilization and the Convention on Biological Diversity.