



Report on the Aerial Inspection of the Kyparisiakos Gulf Coastline



February 2022

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Introduction

An aerial inspection of the Kyparisiakos Gulf entire coastline was conducted on the 11th of February 2022, following seismic surveys conducted in the Gulf's wider marine area.

The aim of the inspection was to record the existence of any stranded animal/s and especially cetaceans along the coastline of western Peloponnese.

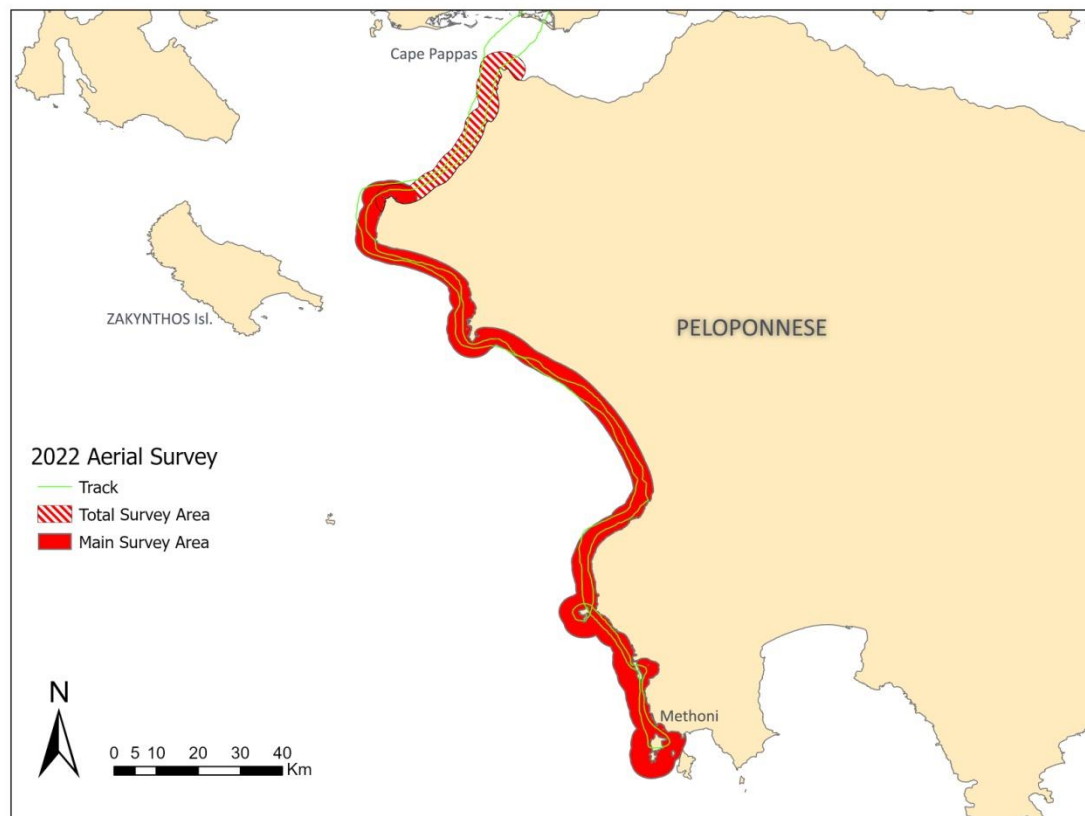


Figure 1 Map of the Survey Area

Methodology

A high wing, ultralight aircraft (Jabiru J160, see Photo 1.) was used, based at Messolonghi airfield (ICAO designator GR-0008). This two-seater aircraft offers an excellent view from its cockpit (see Photo 2) and thus was considered suitable and cost-effective for such a medium range mission. The flight was performed along the coast of western Peloponnese (namely from Cape Pappas at the north, to Methoni at the south, see MAP1) at an altitude of 800 ft and an average Speed Over Ground of 80 knots. The coastline was inspected twice, once going south and once more going back to the north on two almost parallel tracks at a distance of one nautical mile from each other. The flight was performed under ideal weather conditions (wind speed less than 7 knots, clear sky and visibility more than 10 km).



Photo 1 The aircraft used, at Messolonghi airfield

In every case where an “object of interest” was spotted, the airplane left its track and performed one or more circles over the object in order to visually identify it. Furthermore, the object was photographed so that a proper record of its observation and identification is kept. The photographic operation was performed using a full frame DSLR (Nikon D750) with a 70-200mm F/2.8 Tamron SP lens. All photographs were georeferenced since the camera was equipped with a GPS Unit (Nikon GP-1A).



Photo 2 View from the aircraft's cockpit

In the following example, the staged photographic identification process of an initially “object of interest” located on the shore is clearly shown.

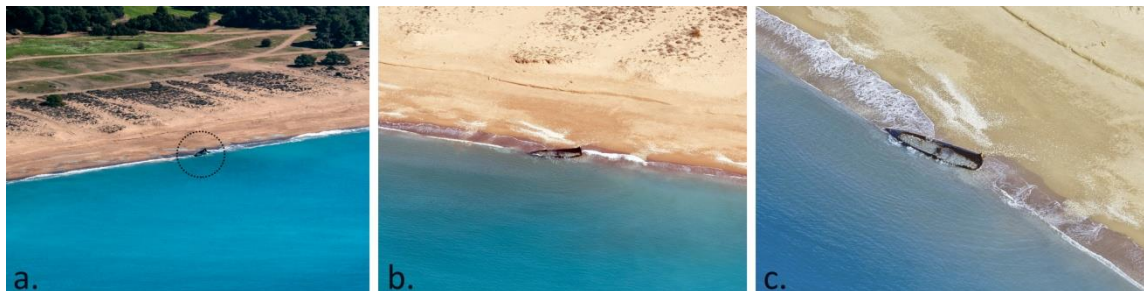


Photo 3 A: Recording an “object of interest”, B: Approaching, C: Identifying

Results

The aerial investigation was conducted on the 11th of February 2022, between 11:50 (take-off time) and 15:30 (landing time) local time. A total of 289 km of coastline were inspected twice, covering a zone of about 2 nautical miles from the shoreline to the open sea. During the survey no cetaceans were recorded (swimming/floating in the marine zone or stranded ashore) as well as no other species of marine megafauna (monk seals, sea turtles) along the entire coastline inspected.

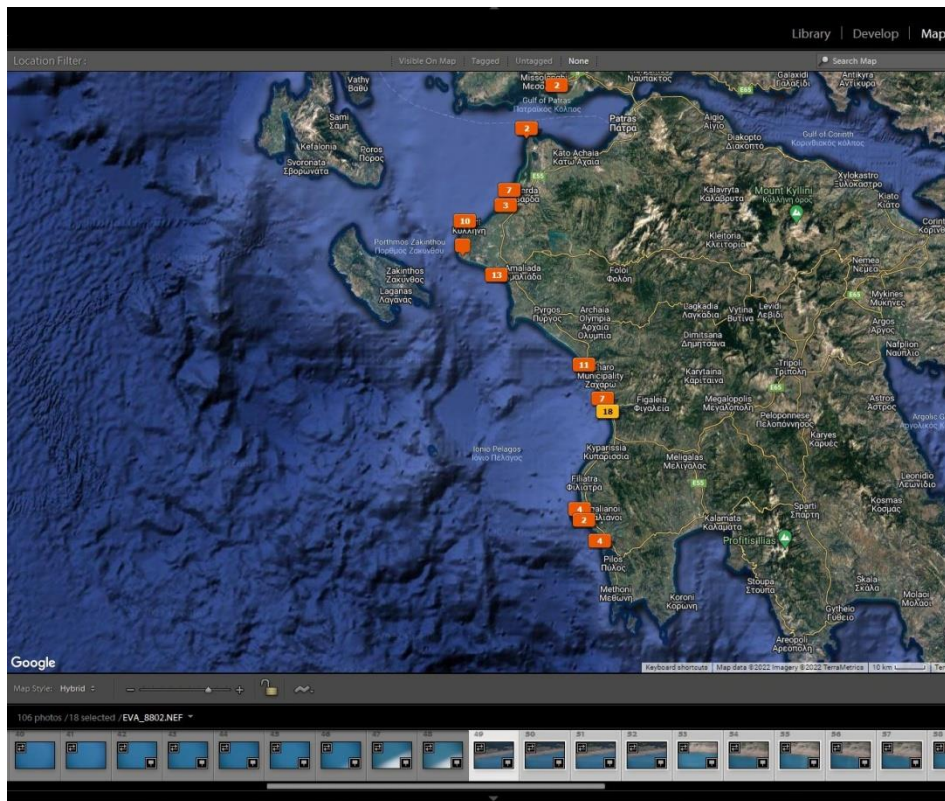
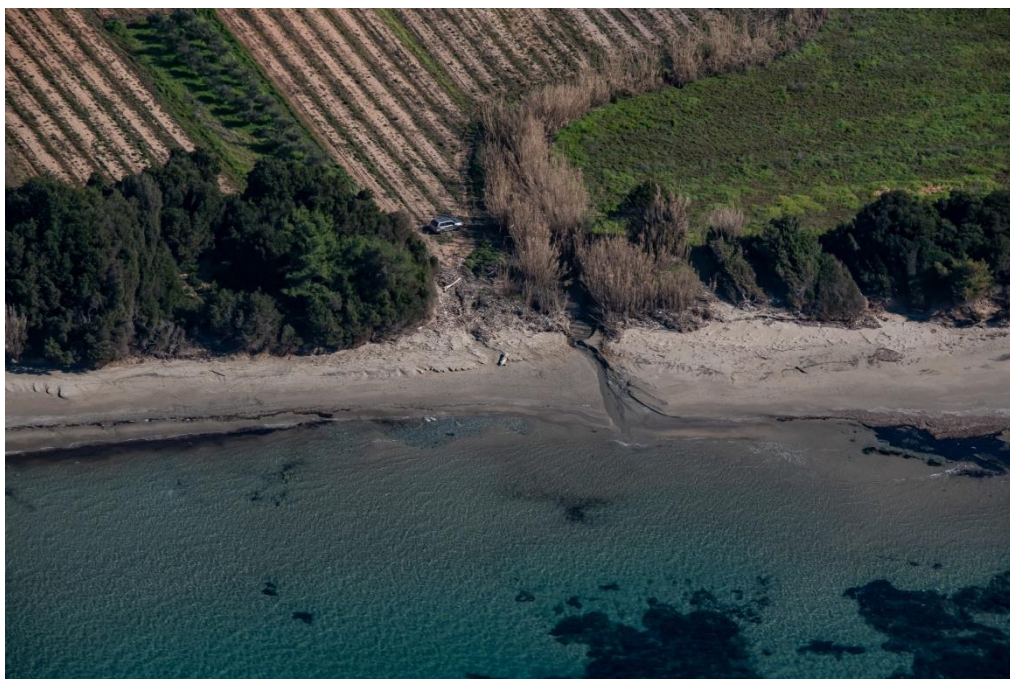


Figure 2 Geographical distribution of photographs taken during the survey

Sample Photos





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