

**20th WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY
6th WORLD VIDEO
UNDERWATER CHAMPIONSHIP**



CMAS

**07-12 October 2024 - VLORA - ALBANIA
- SPECIFIC RULES -**



INDEX

1. INTRODUCTION
2. PARTICIPATION AND ENTRY
3. COMPETITION PROCEDURES
4. PHOTOS
5. VIDEOS
6. PROCEDURES REGARDING MEMORY CARDS
7. USE OF CAMERAS DURING THE CHAMPIONSHIP
8. ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS
9. TECHNICAL DELEGATE, JUDGES AND JURY
10. ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE
11. PROGRAM
12. INSCRIPTION ON THE EVENT
13. NOTES OF INTEREST AND CLIMATOLOGY
14. ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES
15. ORGANIZATION AND JURY MEMBERS
16. PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT
17. SAFETY AND EMERGENCY INFORMATION
18. CONTACT DETAILS

CMAS



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. These Specific Rules apply to the CMAS World Underwater Photography and Video Championship, that will be held in Vlora, Albania, from Monday 07 October 2024 to Saturday 12 October 2024, a six days event.
- 1.2. The event is organized by the Local Organization Committee (LOC), under the supervision of the CMAS Sports Committee and the CMAS Visual Commission.
- 1.3. The LOC is constituted by the **Albanian Diving Federation** (Federata Shqiptare e Zhytjes), **IL BLU DEL MARE** (PhD S. Modugno) and **Albanian National Olympic Committee** (Komiteti Olimpik Kombëtar Shqiptar), under the supervision of the **Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth** (MASR, Ministria e Arsimit, Sportit dhe Rinisë).
- 1.4. During the Championship, the rules *VERSION 2024/1 General Rules of Underwater Photo and Video Championships BOD 228 10 December 2023*, will be applied.
- 1.5. In case of differences in interpretation of the Specific Rules, the CMAS Underwater Photography and Videography – General Rules, World Championships, CMAS Championships Organization Procedures & Obligations, and other CMAS Rules apply the order of importance.

2. PARTICIPATION AND ENTRY

- 2.1. All member federations affiliated with CMAS, with or without a vote and from any committee affiliated, can propose a team. They have to return the entry form for the Championship (**Enclosure A**) to CMAS, with a copy sent to the organizers (it is mandatory to send all documentation to following both LOC's emails) no later than Friday 14 June, 2024.

ALBANIAN DIVING FEDERATION - Rr. "Liman Kaba", Parku Olimpik "Feti Borova", Tirane - Albania - Phone: +355 45 628 700 - Emails: info@albaniandivingfederation.al - and to info@ilbludelmare.it (IL BLU DEL MARE, Phd S. Modugno).

- 2.2. Each Federation or Association can propose maximum a:
 - Total team of five persons for photography, including two photographers, two assistants, and one Team Captain;
 - Total team of five persons for video, including two videographers, two assistants, and one Team Captain.
- 2.3. The names of the participant's nominations should be finalized at the latest on Friday 14 June, 2024. **Enclosure A** should be resent to CMAS with a copy sent to the LOC: (**both to info@albaniandivingfederation.al and to info@ilbludelmare.it**) if names were added or modified the previous sending. The registration fee for participating federations should be sent to CMAS by sending **Appendix 6** of specific procedures and obligations applicable to all CMAS Championships in the delay defined on it - Friday 14 June, 2024.
- 2.4. Personal entry forms (**Enclosure B**), copy of CMAS certifications, Dive Insurance, and attached statement of understanding of the general and specific rules, have to be sent to CMAS with a copy sent to the LOC: (**both to**



info@albaniandivingfederation.al and to info@ilbludelmare.it) at latest Friday 3 May, 2024. Please, be aware that according to the recent *VERSION 2024/1 General Rules of Underwater Photo and Video Championships*, athletes without proper CMAS licenses will not be permitted to this Championship.

3. **COMPETITION PROCEDURES**

3.1. CMAS and the LOC will hold a detailed briefing about the competition during the Technical Meeting on Monday 07 October, 2024 at Regina Hotel in Radhime 's Conference Hall (Vlora, Albania).

3.2. The following people will take part in the Technical Meeting:

- *The Head of the Hosting Organization,*
- *Persons in charge appointed by the Local Organizing Commission,*
- *CMAS Technical Delegate,*
- *The Director of the CMAS Visual Commission,*
- *Team Captains and competitors for both video and photo,*
- *The Presidents of the jury, for photo and video.*

3.3. The following subjects will be covered in the Technical Meeting:

- Dividing the teams among the competition zones,
- Boat distribution of the participants by drawing,
- Information about the timetable and transport,
- Safety measures,
- Organization of the dives,
- Technical matters,
- Handling of the photos and videos,
- Clarification of the seven categories for the photo competition,
- Clarification of the three categories for a video competition,
- Details of the Control Committee and the Jury System,
- Guidelines for protocol and medal ceremony.

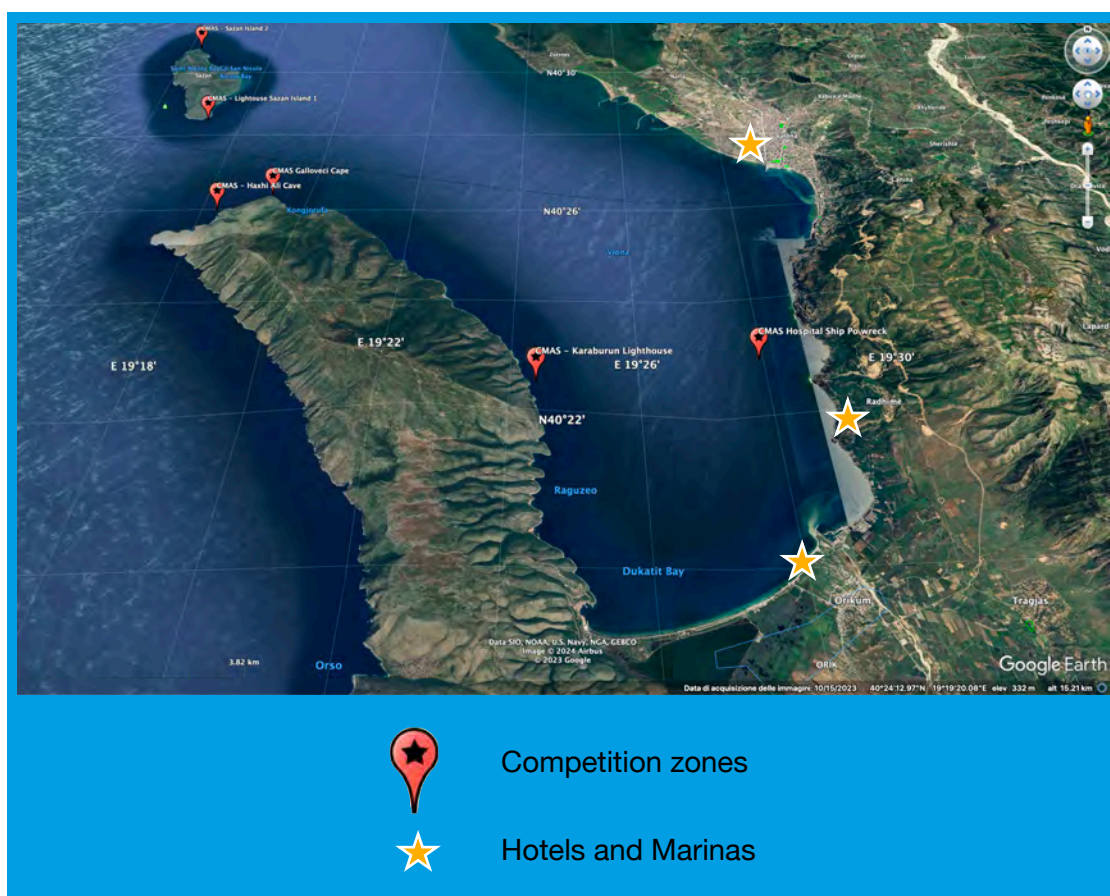
3.4. The Championship will be held over six days, from Monday 07 October, 2024 to Saturday 12 October, 2024. In water, competitions will be held on Wednesday 09 October, 2024 and Thursday 10 October, 2024, during which the competitors will have three hours each day underwater. The Technical Delegate retains the right to change the competition order (and eventually competition zones) and the dive times according to the prevailing meteo marine conditions. It is advised for the competitors to take the shots (photo and or video) on the first day of the competition for all the categories. Should the second competition day be canceled, they will have images for all the categories.

3.5. There are six competition zones that are included in the Championship. Four competition zones and two reserve zones. Detailed information about the four major zones will be given at the technical meeting. During the two competition days, every competitor must dive once at each of the four zones.

3.6. Competition Zones (ref. Map 1):

Main competition zones:

- Hospital Ship Po wreck - GPS position: 40°22'55.59"N, 19°27'55.38"E;
- Haxhi Ali Cave, GPS position: 40°25'58.30"N, 19°18'17.65"E;
- Lighthouse Sazan Island 1 - GPS: 40°28'25.29"N, 19°17'16.50"E;
- Galoveci cape - GPS position: 40°26'20.81"N, 19°19'14.44"E;



MAP 1 - Identification of the competition zones (both main, both reserve) - Vlora bay, Vlora (Albania)

Reserve competition zones:

- Karaburun Lighthouse - GPS position: 40°22'35.31"N, 19°24'23.53"E;
- Sazan island 2 - GPS position: 40°30'52.78"N, 19°16'15.87"E.

3.7.The submitted photos and videos will be judged by the jury.

3.8.Photo and video categories: please refer to relevant articles of CMAS Underwater Photography and Videography.

3.9.The theme for the Photo with Theme Category is "**Porifera beautiful colors**".

3.10.Team Captains can dive with their teams only on practice day.



4. PHOTOS

- 4.1. The procedures for the selection of photos are executed according to the CMAS Underwater Photography and Videography – General Rules Championships.
- 4.2. The Control Committee will control the images received in the TOP 15 in each category.
- 4.3. The theme category subject may not be permitted as the main part of the photo in any other category other than the “Theme Category” photo.
- 4.4. The background or foreground image can only be used once in all photos. If the same background or foreground is used more than once, the photo submitted to the following category will be disqualified.
- 4.5. Use of the FX or DX function of the cameras before taking the photo is allowed in all categories.
- 4.6. The participant has to make sure that he/she cancels the copyright function and any metadata of the camera, so that the images sent to the jury cannot recognize the image by the file names or metadata.
- 4.7. At the beginning and the end of both competition dives, each day, the participants must take a “control photo” with the judge clearly visible in the frame.

5. VIDEOS

- 5.1. The procedures for selecting videos are according to the CMAS Underwater Photography and Videography – General Rules Championships.
- 5.2. It is compulsory to record the infographics, video images (both under and above water), and photographs that will be used in the project during the days of competition. The participant will only be able to import into the project the following components that are not created during the editing time (free from copyright and previously registered by the organization).
- 5.3. At the beginning and the end of both competition dives, the participants must film a “control take” with the judge clearly visible in the video.
- 5.4. For the non-underwater takes (land or air takes), the participants can have unlimited time to film. It will be allowed during the training day and the days of the Championship. For non-underwater takes, it is not allowed to film in pools, swimming pools or underwater of any kind. Memory card for the non-underwater takes will be different from the cards for the underwater takes. Mentioned cards will be formatted, the date on the camera will be changed and cards will be marked, and a control take will be arranged before the practice day.
- 5.5. The non-underwater takes (land or air takes) will be downloaded and verified by the organization in the *editing room* before being used and edited by the participants. The deadline for delivery to the organization of these takes will be during the first hour of the last day of editing.
- 5.6. The post-production can only be done at the *designated area* where the Organization Committee is announced and only by the videographer and assistant. Editing done by others will be punished by the disqualification of the whole team. Competitors must start their project with a clean slate, at the beginning of the post-production in the *editing room*, the timeline of the projects of all the participants will be completely clean and empty.



- 5.7. The organization will designate an *editing room* where the participants will leave their own post-production equipment from the first day of the Championship (practice day). This room will be open during the Championship days according to a timetable determined by the organization. It will remain locked for the rest of the time. Bringing or removing editing equipment, including laptops or storage units like external HD or memory cards, is strictly forbidden.
- 5.8. Competitors will work with their own editing equipment; the lack of such equipment is not the responsibility of either CMAS or the Hosting Federation (LOC).
- 5.9. Artificial Objects – In this World Championship as a complement to the CMAS Underwater Photography and Videography – General Rules, participants are not allowed to submerge artificial objects underwater in two categories apart from the “Movie Category”. The Control Committee will disqualify those videos.

6. PROCEDURES REGARDING MEMORY CARDS

The following procedures apply to the official training day and both competition days:

- 6.1. Competitors ride together with their cameras in the hotel's designated place to go to the Marina (depending on the decision of the competition zones by the Technical Delegate).
- 6.2. In the *designated area*, under the direct supervision of a judge, they will:
- Change date and time;
 - Check that there is only one memory card in each camera;
 - Format the cards;
 - Seal the cameras;
 - Take the first shot.
- 6.3. After the camera housing is sealed, it can't be opened anymore. It is not permitted to change the configuration, perform repairs, etc. without the direct supervision of a judge. The camera settings, batteries, and lenses are changed during the competition dives under the supervision of judges.
- 6.4. Athletes will take their cameras to their *assigned boats* when the Organization Committee instructs them.
- 6.5. Athletes must make a control image (photo or/and video) in the boat, immediately after leaving the water.
- 6.6. Should a lens or battery needs to be changed between dives or during the dive, this may only be done at a specially designated place, under the direct supervision of one of the judges and without breaking the seal. If the camera needs to be opened to disassemble the lens or replace the battery, the seal can only be broken at this time. Should the seal need to be broken, this may only be done under the direct supervision of a judge. The judge reseals the camera housing with a new seal.
- 6.7. After the two dives of the day, the camera housing is opened in a specially designated place under the judge's direct supervision. The memory card is delivered to the judge.
- 6.8. Once back at the hotel, the organization will copy the files on the memory cards to the server. The memory cards are returned to the competitors (see the schedule of the program).



7. USE OF CAMERAS DURING THE CHAMPIONSHIP

- 7.1. Athletes can use more than one camera during the competition. All the cameras must be sealed, as described in article 6.
- 7.2. The Photographer or Videographer can only take one camera and a smart device during the dive. If necessary, the competitor may change cameras during the competition time of ninety minutes. For that purpose, the team must come to the surface together and change the camera and return underwater.
- 7.3. The limit of photos taken each competition day is 300 photos. Photographers using more than one camera need to know that 300 photos are the total of all memory cards (control shots excluded) used in all the cameras. If more than 300 images are on the card/cards, the final images will be deleted.
- 7.4. It is not permitted to erase photos or/and videos at any time.

8. ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS

- 8.1. As a complement to the CMAS Underwater Photography and Videography several sanctions will be applied to certain infractions. These sanctions, like other attitudes and behaviors, will be evaluated by the Technical Delegate:
 - Not taking the control images before and after each dive: the correspondent dive images will not be accepted;
 - Not making the safety stop to avoid exceeding the ninety minutes of the dive: the photos of the dive are not accepted;
 - Breathing air of the dive buddy or the safety bottle on the boat's cable: the Immersion is disqualified.
- 8.2. Manipulate the fauna/flora during dive: competitor is disqualified or even the disqualification of the Championship if the handling is considered very serious. Additionally, before the dive, the athletes diving equipment can be inspected at any time to check that no captured specimen is being carried previously or have some kind of equipment to capture sea life. In case of detecting this kind of circumstance, the team will be disqualified from the Championship.
- 8.3. Manipulation of the diving computer (falsification of the immersion data carried out, remove it during the dive to not register the maximum depth or change with the buddy computer) or not present it at the exit of the dive: disqualification of the Championship.
- 8.4. Losing the diving buddy more than 10 minutes: Immersion is disqualified.
- 8.5. Manipulating the camera out of the water or at the surface without a judge's supervision: the immersion is disqualified. It is mandatory to notify the judge to manipulate the camera for any reason.
- 8.6. As explained in General Rules, submerging artificial objects only allowed for Creative Category and Movie Category, these objects must be declared before the dive (because of size concerns they must be declared before the travels) and at the end of the dive to the Technical Delegate.



8.7. Drones are allowed in Albania, but competitor who desire to apply an aerial drone for the external video shooting have to advise the **LOC** before using it. **All competitor and Team Captain have to keep in mind that many competition zones are very close to a NATO military base and the city of Valona. For this reason declare drones is mandatory!**

9. TECHNICAL DELEGATE, JUDGES AND JURY

9.1. Role of the Technical Delegate is defined at CMAS Championships Organization Procedures & Obligations (BOD 205) and CMAS Underwater Photography and Videography (VERSION 2023/1 General Rules of Underwater Photo and Video Championships);

9.2. In the Championship, the judges and jury structure is the following:

- Head of the Judges;
- Judges;
- President of the Photo Jury;
- President of Video Jury;
- Photo Jury;
- Video Jury.

9.3. Jury report to the President of the Juries (photo and video);

9.4. The Head of the Judges reports to the Technical Delegate;

9.5. Judges report to the Head Judge.

10. ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

10.1. In addition to the positions defined in 9.0, the LOC is responsible for determining the Championship organizational structure, which has to nominate the Championship Director, Safety Director, and Logistic Director's minimum positions and roles.

10.2. The LOC can define an infinite number of staff positions and roles (all important and fundamental roles of the LOC Staff will be declare during the Technical Meeting).

10.3. All positions and roles created by the LOC, described in 10., as *Boat Captains, Volunteers, Health Workers, Transport, Dive Operators*, etc., report to the Championship Director.

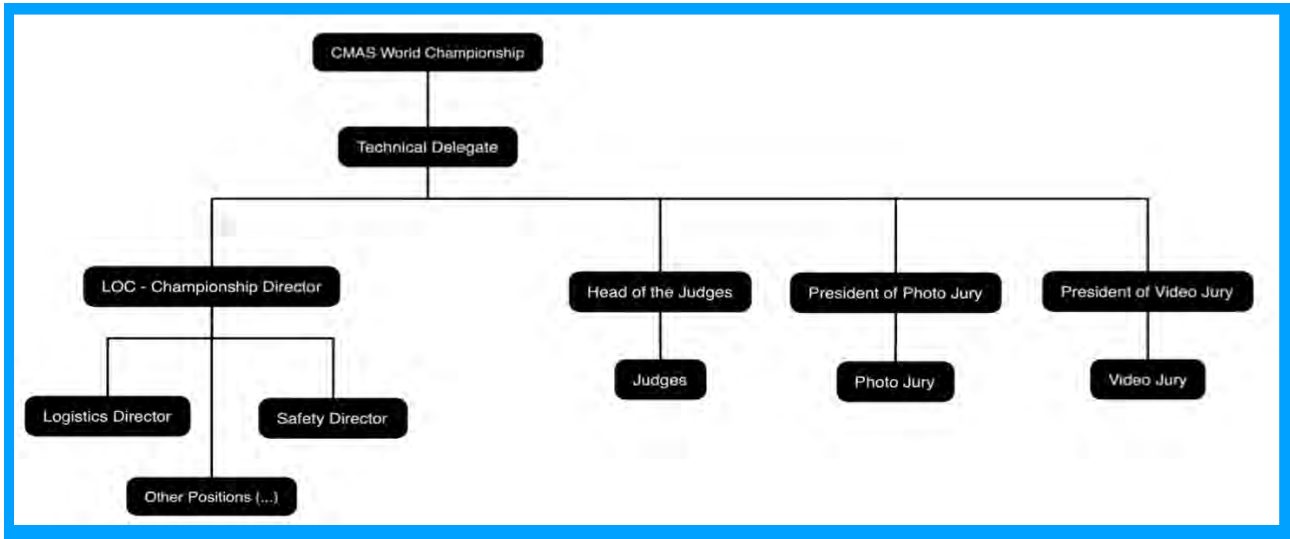


Figure 1 - CMAS World Underwater Photography and Video Championship.





11. PROGRAM

DAY 1 - Arrivals	Sunday 6 October 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the arrivals of delegations by Vlora port (by ferries) • Reception of the delegations • A bus ride to Transfer to "Regina Hotel" – Radhime - Vlora • For the arrivals of delegations by the airport of Tirana • Transfer to "Regina Hotel" – Radhime - Vlora • Dinner at "Regina Hotel" – Radhime - Vlora • Night activities at "Regina Hotel" – Radhime - Vlora 	
DAY 2 - Registration and opening	Monday 7 October 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast • Registration • Lunch at the hotel "Regina Hotel" • At 5:00 p.m. Parade and Opening Ceremony at Vlora "Lungomare" or "Vlora Old Town" • At 6:00 p.m. Welcome cocktail • At 7:30 p.m. Technical Meeting • From 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Dinner • From 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. participation in entertainment activities at "Regina Hotel" – Radhime - Vlora 	
DAY 3 - Official Practice Day	Tuesday 8 October 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At 06:30 a.m. Breakfast • At 07:30 a.m. Departure to the event area at Marina • At 08:00 a.m. Card Formatting, Housing Control • At 08:30 a.m. Departure of boats to the competition areas • At 09:30 – 11:00 a.m. 1st Official Practice Dive • At 11:00 – 12:00 p.m. Surface interval and lunch on the boat • At 12:00 – 13:30 p.m. 2nd Official Practice Dive • At 3:00 p.m. Return to the "Regina Hotel" – Radhime - Vlora • At 8:00 p.m. Return of memory cards to the participants • From 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Dinner "Regina Hotel" – Radhime - Vlora • From 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. participation in hotel entertainment activities "Regina Hotel" – Radhime - Vlora 	



DAY 4 - Competition Day 1	Wednesday 9 October 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At 06:30 a.m. Breakfast • At 07:30 a.m. Departure to the event area at Marina • At 08:00 a.m. Card Formatting, Housing Control • At 08:30 a.m. Departure of boats to the competition areas • At 09:30 – 11:00 a.m. 1st Official Competition Dive • At 11:00 – 12:00 p.m. Surface interval and lunch on the boat • At 12:00 – 13:30 p.m. 2nd Official Competition Dive • At 3:00 p.m. Return to the “Regina Hotel” – Radhime - Vlora • At 8:00 p.m. Return of memory cards to the participants • From 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Dinner at “Regina Hotel” – Radhime - Vlora • From 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. participation in hotel entertainment activities at “Regina Hotel” – Radhime - Vlora • From 9:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. 3 hours of video editing is allowed 	

DAY 5 - Competition Day 2	Thursday 10 October 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At 06:30 a.m. Breakfast • At 07:30 a.m. Departure to the event area at Marina • At 08:00 a.m. Card Formatting, Housing Control • At 08:30 a.m. Departure of boats to the competition areas • At 09:30 – 11:00 a.m. 3rd Official Competition Dive • At 11:00 – 12:00 p.m. Surface interval and lunch on the boat • At 12:00 – 13:30 p.m. 4th Official Competition Dive • At 3:00 p.m. Return to the “Regina Hotel” – Radhime - Vlora • At 8:00 p.m. Return of memory cards to the participants • From 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Dinner at “Regina Hotel” – Radhime - Vlora • From 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. participation in hotel entertainment activities at “Regina Hotel” – Radhime - Vlora • 10.00 p.m. submission of competition images (Photo – Video) • Video editing is allowed all day (10th Oct.) until 0.00 a.m. for 5 hours 	



DAY 6 - Jury Deliberation Day	<i>Friday 11 October 2024</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At 10:00 a.m. Deliberation of the jury lasts all-day • At 1:00 p.m. Lunch at "Regina Hotel" – Radhime - Vlora • Competitors are free to join excursions, dives, etc. that they may have bought from abroad or at the sales bureau set up in the hotel lobby • From 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Dinner at "Regina Hotel" – Radhime - Vlora • From 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. participation in hotel entertainment activities at "Regina Hotel" – Radhime - Vlora 	
DAY 7 - Medal Ceremony and Closing Ceremony	<i>Saturday 12 October 2024</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At 8:00 a.m. Breakfast • Free time for the participants to participate in excursions and optional activities at will • At 1:00 p.m. Lunch at "Regina Hotel" – Radhime - Vlora • At 4:00 p.m. Official Award Ceremony • At 6:00 p.m. Closing ceremony • At 7:30 p.m. Dinner and private awards ceremony at "Regina Hotel" (Radhime) 	
DAY 8 - Departure	<i>Sunday 13 October 2024</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast • The departure of participants from Radhime to Vlora port or Tirana Airport to take ferries or flights to their country. • Farewell to the delegations at the airport 	

The schedules are provisional. They may vary according to the number of participants and the weather conditions. The organization will update the program on the official WhatsApp group and notice board next to the CMAS office at the hotel.



12. INSCRIPTION ON THE EVENT

Championship Packages - Event prices per person include:

- Roundtrip by bus Tirana - Vlora/Radhime - Tirana
- Seven nights accommodation at "Regina Hotel" all-inclusive plan FB (double or single room, prices in table below)
- Welcome cocktail;
- Transfers from the hotel to the Marina and other official places on the days of the event;
- Two dives per day during: a) one official practice day and b) two competition days for all competitors (total 6 dives) ;
- Two dives for Team Captains on the official training day;
- Use of tanks with air;
- *Weight belt: it is essential that participants who dive accurately indicate the weight belt during their inscription to the championships (within Friday 14, June 2024), in Albania availability of weights is limited and LOC's staff must be organized in time, in order to include a good service of weights and belts for competitors.*
- **Travel to Albania is not included (but for those who need flights they can contact the LOC because it has a special agreement with the Albanian national company "AlbaWings")**

Participants	DBL room FB	SGL room FB
Competitors	1300,00 EUR	1500,00 EUR
Companions	900,00 EUR	1100,00 EUR
Captain Team	1100,00 EUR	1300,00 EUR

Net price of an accommodation per pax per night in EUR

Competitors who arrive the county days before the competition or wish to extend their stay may opt for the following accommodation price in Radhime - Vlora, Albania:

City	Hotels	Room of type	Plan	SLG	DBL	TPL
Radhime	Hotel Regina	Deluxe Room	FB	130	100	80

Other services, like excursions, extra nights, several activities, and dives, are mandatory to be booked directly from Albanian Diving Federation (LOC) during the first inscription.

Net Prices of Extra Activities for the Competitors per pax in EUR

The competitions who arrive in the country days before the competition to practice may book for following services:



PORT	SERVICES*	EUR
Orikum/Radhime	Exclusive boat up to 10 seats (*)	1000,00
Orikum/Radhime	Exclusive boat up to 20 seats (*)	2000,00
Vlora/Orikum	Exclusive boat up to 30 seats (*)	2500,00
Vlora/Orikum	Exclusive boat up to 40 seats (*)	3500,00
Orikum/Radhime	Single Dive	60,00
Orikum/Radhime	Double Dive	120,00
Orikum/Radhime	◆ Full day - Double Dive, coast tour & lunch (for 4 pax)	650,00
Llogorà Park	Tandem paragliding in Albania - transfer A/R & lunch	300,00
Apollonia/Narta	One day tour to the Archaeological Park of Apollonia, visit to Vlora and the lagoon and monastery of Narta (tickets, bus & lunch)	150,00
Butrinto/ Saranda/South Albania	One day tour to the Archaeological Park of Butrinto, visit to Saranda and the new AMP Porto Palermo (tickets, bus & lunch)	150,00

* For the exclusive use of the boat the cost of the fuel is not included.

◆ Diving service for the Full Day is for min 4 persons and max 8 persons per boat.

Albanian Diving Federation and LOC will have a sales bureau for optional excursions and can be paid for by credit cards.

Only competitors and Team Captains may board the boats during competition days.

The reservation is confirmed once Local Organization Committee receives the payment.

All payments must be received by LOC no later than Friday 14, June 2024.

Payments will be done by contacting the following Emails:

info@albaniandivingfederation.al

info@ilbludelmare.it



13. NOTES OF INTEREST AND CLIMATOLOGY

LOC will be welcoming competitors at Tirana International Airport - Tirana "Nënë Tereza" (previous preliminary and mandatory reservation during inscription on the event: it is necessary to communicate all the names of passengers and arrival times with travel ticket operators to the emails indicated for the LOC staff). Competitors will be transferred to their hotels in Vlorë/Radhime by Regina Group (previous preliminary and mandatory reservation during inscription on the event: it is necessary to communicate all the names of passengers and arrival times with travel ticket operators to the emails indicated for the LOC staff).

Also, Competitors will be welcomed by LOC at Vlorë port for hotel transfers (previous preliminary and mandatory reservation during inscription on the event: it is necessary to communicate all the names of passengers and arrival times with travel ticket operators to the emails indicated for the LOC staff).

On the date of their departure from Vlorë/Radhime to Tirana, competitors will be picked up by an LOC tour guide for the transfers (previous preliminary and mandatory reservation during inscription on the event: it is necessary to communicate all the names of passengers and arrival times with travel ticket operators to the emails indicated for the LOC staff).

Facilities description (location, current, average water temperature during the competition dates, etc.

Vlorë bay is located in Vlorë County (Albania), with coastline length about 36 km. The eastern coast of Karaburun peninsula starts from Pasha Limani up to Cape Galoveci bypassing capes Kallogeri, Rraguza, Sevasini, Shen Vasili, Gjata, Dim Kushta and Shen Jani. The main Physical features delineating Vlorë bay, from the city of Vlorë (east) to cape Galoveci (west), can be divided in three parts:

- the eastern side of the bay, oriented N-S, with 14 km of coastline and a coastal road separating the sea from a mountain with increasing altitude from north (736 m at 2,5 km of the coast) to south (1136 m at 5 km);
- the southern section, 6 km long and oriented WSW-ENE, has a coastal road separating the sea and Orikumi lagoon. This southern bay is named Dukati bay;
- the western side of the bay, oriented WSW-ENE, is also the eastern side of Karaburuni peninsula which is relatively lower than the western side and has a larger coast with several gravel beaches: one at cape Kallogerit, four in the bay of Rragueza, three between cape Rragueza and cape Sevasini, two between cape Sevasini and cape Shen Vasilit, one before cape Gjata, one after cape Dim Kushta and one bigger one with military installations and a jetty after Cape Shen Janit; On this gravel beach one can observe the impact of big mined holes. From the bay of Veriut to cape Gjuhezes, the coast is formed of low jagged rocks with low bushy vegetation shaped by the wind. It is about 6 km long. A coastal trail gives access to the northern tip where is located a military base. The slopes are less important than on the eastern side of the peninsula, culminating to the north at 733m (Mount Hilqe) and to the south at 826m (Mount Koreta);

The **Karaburun-Sazan Marine Protected Area** presents environments of high naturalistic value, including important sites of submerged archaeology and numerous ancient and modern wrecks inside the Vlorë Bay, near the coast. The Albanian Maritime area is rich with underwater cultural heritage. Vlorë Bay is one of the richest maritime areas with shipwrecks. In the last decade, maritime tourism has significantly increased in



Albania and future expectations are very promising. Vlora Bay is a quasi-enclosed water area which collect the pollution coming from open sea. The moderate West and North-West winds drive the pollution factors at the end of the bay serving as dumping pocket. In addition of that, the small bays during the coast line serve as pollution collectors for the above- mentioned reasons.

That is why building up a watching and monitoring network is very useful to prevent the pollution especially oil slick to enter in the bay. The depth in the bay reaches 54 meters in SE of Rogozhe (Raguza) bay. The 50 m isobathic line comes 0.5 cables near to cape of Kala and starts going seaward reaching 6.5 cables in western quay of Vlore's port. There are about 7 shipwrecks, since WW II and later, which compound an historical sites and biodiversity for created during the years. They are: "Rosandra 3", "Regina Margherita", "Intrepido", "Rovigno", "Lucian", "Stampella", "Andromeda", "Po". Also, these historical wrecks are subject of continuous looting and pillage by metallic and treasure hunters which during their activity causing pollution as well. It is important to highlight these cultural and touristic patrimonies be under certain custodia and /or protection to allow for wise use of their touristic and historical values. The marine environment of the Vlora bay reveals a coastline which is mainly rocky with small gravel beaches except the southern part which is sandy and the centre of the bay which is filled by sand and mud. The maximum depth in the central part of the bay is 55 m. On this substratum, there is locally an important coverage of algae and phanerogams (mainly *Posidonia oceanica*, *Zostera* sp. and *Cymodocea nodosa*). Large *Posidonia* sp. meadows, ideal nursery areas and swell shields, as well as *Cymodocea* sp. are seen in shallower depths on the eastern side of Karaburuni. Both *Posidonia* and *Cymodocea* sp. are protected in the Mediterranean Sea by law since 1988. The first MPA in Albania was proclaimed on 28th April 2010. Embracing the coastal and marine area of Sazan Island – Karaburuni Peninsula with the National Marine Park status, it covers 12,570 ha. Karaburuni Peninsula runs along the western part of Vlora Bay. It covers 62 km² and separates the

Albanian coast of the Adriatic Sea from the Ionian Sea. A narrow sea channel, named Mezokanali (in English: middle channel), separates Karaburuni from Sazan Island. Sazan Island is 4.8 km long, 2 km wide, and has a surface of 5.7 km².

Climate - Precipitation

The mean annual precipitation for the whole territory is 1485 mm, and the mean annual runoff 891 mm, or about 40km³, which is discharged in the sea by rivers. Water regime is typical Mediterranean; about 82-85% of the annual runoff is observed during the wet season (Oct.-May) and only 6-9% during the dry season (Jul.-Sept.).

Climate - Winds

The wind regime in Vlora is different in the Ionian sea and in the Adriatic sea. In the Ionian Sea, the prevailing winds during winter are mainly from N or NE directions named "Bora" and can reach a great force. In transitional periods the winds vary frequently and often the southern wind of "Shirok" is prevailing. The "Sirocco" wind coming from south blows in this region in spring and summer and can be dry or moist. In summer, there is usually a light wind blowing from the SW and NW northwest. In the Adriatic, in general, the prevailing winds are winds of north and north eastern (30-36%) and southeastern (18-24%). The northern winds in winter are often strong, reaching 40m/s and are named "Murlan" or "Bora", generating strong waves dangerous for the coastline and for ships. In winter, the winds are more often coming from the South. During spring, the wind regime is mixed, but SE winds (about 25-30%) are prevailing. In summer, offshore winds are most often from NW (about 20-40%). In the autumn, the wind direction is very unstable.

Coastline description

Generally, the coastline northern part of the study area has a low profile and is sandy and the southern part



is rocky with high cliffs and rocky shore with pebble and gravel beaches. The coastline of Vlora Bay-Vjosa River Mouth area has continuously modified its configuration by sedimentation of alluvium transported by Vjosa River water and the swell of the Adriatic Sea. The Karaburuni peninsula is known for its high cliffs, coastal and underwater caves and small pebble beaches such as Grama bay and is considered dangerous during storms with strong winds and high swell that can reach 4m.

Underwater topography and bathymetry

The Bay of Vlora maximum depth is 55m, with an average of 25m. Offshore of Karaburun peninsula and Sazan Island, the depths are quickly reaching 100 to 800m at a short distance from the coast. The channel between Karaburuni and Sazan is very narrow considering the importance of the maritime traffic and has a maximum depth of 50m.

Freshwater and sediment input in the area

The only permanent river bringing sediment to the sea is the Vjosa river located in the north of the bay. The mouth of the river is changing rapidly in winter and over the years, the area shows a strong erosion process, reaching locally 10m per year. Other input of freshwater comes from the rainwater drainage and of the discharge of sewage water (missing data).

Tide and waves

The tidal process is irregular and it has a period of 12 hours. It is characterized by oscillations with small amplitudes. Thus, in 50 % of cases the mean daily amplitude is more than 25 cm and only in 1 % of cases its value is more than 49 cm (Selenica, 2018). The highest sea waves in the coastal zone are 3 to 4 m. Altogether, during storms with strong winds, associated with low barometric pressure and high water levels, the maximum high reached on the shore could be 5m, creating sea intrusion in particular in lowland areas such as the Narta lagoon.

Currents

The prevailing currents on the coast of Albania are coming from the south, as an overflow of the Ionian Sea, entering the Adriatic from the eastern side of the Straits of Otranto, generating coastal current from south to north with counter currents in the main bays. The flow velocity in the Ionian Sea, moving northward along the Greek coast, is larger than the Adriatic, but usually does not exceed 0.5-0.7 knots. When strong southeast winds blow, and especially after the western winds, the speed of this flow increases considerably.

14. ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES

- 14.1. Every competitor as a certified diver needs to know diving skills, techniques, and safety procedures, diving with the buddy, ascent speed, and bottom times without decompression and air management.
- 14.2. Every athlete dives with a BCD, pressure and depth gauge, regulator, alternative air source, dive computer, and safety marker buoy. A marker buoy (sausage) to each competitor is obligatory.
- 14.3. During the World Championship, dives will not exceed 30 meters of depth, cannot dive more than ninety minutes (including the safety stop), and will not do decompression dives.
- 14.4. If the divers lose each other underwater, they have to ascend to the surface. Only when they find each other on the surface, they can descend again. If they do not see each other, they must report this immediately to the judge on the boat or the organization.



14.5. Regarding COVID, everyone has to follow the local Government rules that will



MAP2 - MAP of Marine Protected Area "Karaburun-Sazan - Vlora bay"

apply. Nevertheless, the organization will provide a specific document for the event regarding the pandemic situation at the time.

15. ORGANIZATION AND JURY MEMBERS

15.1. The organization committee during the World Championship consists of:

- CMAS Technical Delegate;
- President CMAS Visual Commission;
- President of the Jury for Photo;
- President of the Jury for Video;
- Head of Judges;
- LOC Championship Directors.

16. PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

16.1. The protection of the environment is regulated by governmental law. The majority



of dive points are located in protected marine areas (zone B or C) and in any case in areas of very high historical and cultural value (ancient and modern underwater archaeology). The managers of the LOC are also technical-scientific consultants for the National and International Institutions that study the Albanian Marine Parks. It is very important to respect the environment and any form of artifact that may be sighted (for which we ask you to give information to the LOC).

- 16.2.** The CMAS World Underwater Photography and Video Championship will take place in a Natural Reserve (Karaburun-Sazan Marine Protected Area) and several other places near Protected Area or restricted areas.
- 16.3.** It is strictly forbidden to feed, remove, cut or transport, collect, kill animals, plants or other forms of life and cause damage to the environment in general.
- 16.4.** During dive competitions should be very important to declare eventual alien specimen detection or identification (PhD Simone Modugno is the Marine Ecologist Responsible for the MPA - info@ilbludelmare.it).

17. SAFETY AND EMERGENCY INFORMATION

17.1. Safety on Land:

- Ambulance medicalized and prepared for evacuation;
- A doctor specialized in hyperbaric medicine will be present;
- General medicine doctor;
- Health personnel and auxiliary nursing;
- Communication: Channel Distress frequency 18 VHF;
- Other channels will be provided for communication on the Technical meeting; Mobile phones;
- Diving zones will be allocated to World Championship divers only;
- Helicopter transfer will be available during the Championship for medical emergencies.

17.2. Safety on Sea:

- Dedicated boat with two aquatic lifeguards and medical staff onboard;
- Safety and rescue boat (with rescue divers unit onboard);
- Oxygen equipment onboard on all the boats of the competition;
- Communication: Channel Distress frequency 18 VHF;
- Other channels will be provided for communication.

17.3. Evacuation to Hospital:

- HOSPITAL IN VLORA: Spitali Rajonal Vlorë
FGH2+487, Rruga Mitaq Sallata, Vlorë, Albania)
+355 33 222 631
<https://www.spitalirajonalvlore.gov.al/>
- HOSPITAL IN TIRANA: Mother Teresa University Hospital Center
Rruga e Dibrës 372 Tirana AL
+355 4 234 9209
<https://www.qsut.gov.al/>

17.4. Telephones of interest:

The emergency numbers for the ambulance in Albania are:

- Emergency (First Aid) **127**



- Toll-free number for covid **19 0800 40 40**
- Mother Teresa Hospital emergency service, QSUT **112**
- Firemen brigade **128**
- Police – Rapid Intervention **129**
- Regional Directorate of Borders and Migrations **+355 69 41 10263**
- Inter-institutional Maritime Operations Center **125**
- Naval Master's Office Frequency **VHF-16**
- National children's helpline **116-111**
- Telephone line dedicated only to cases of missing or missing minors **116-000**

18. CONTACT DETAILS

For General Contacts and comments: (federataezhytjes@mail.com - info@ilbludelmare.it)

For more information about the CMAS World Underwater Photography and Video Championship, or other information, please contact: (dir.comercial@hab.ecotur.tur.cu)

Tournament Director

Igli Pustina - President of the Albanian Diving Federation

pustina.igli@gmail.com

www.albaniandivingfederation.al



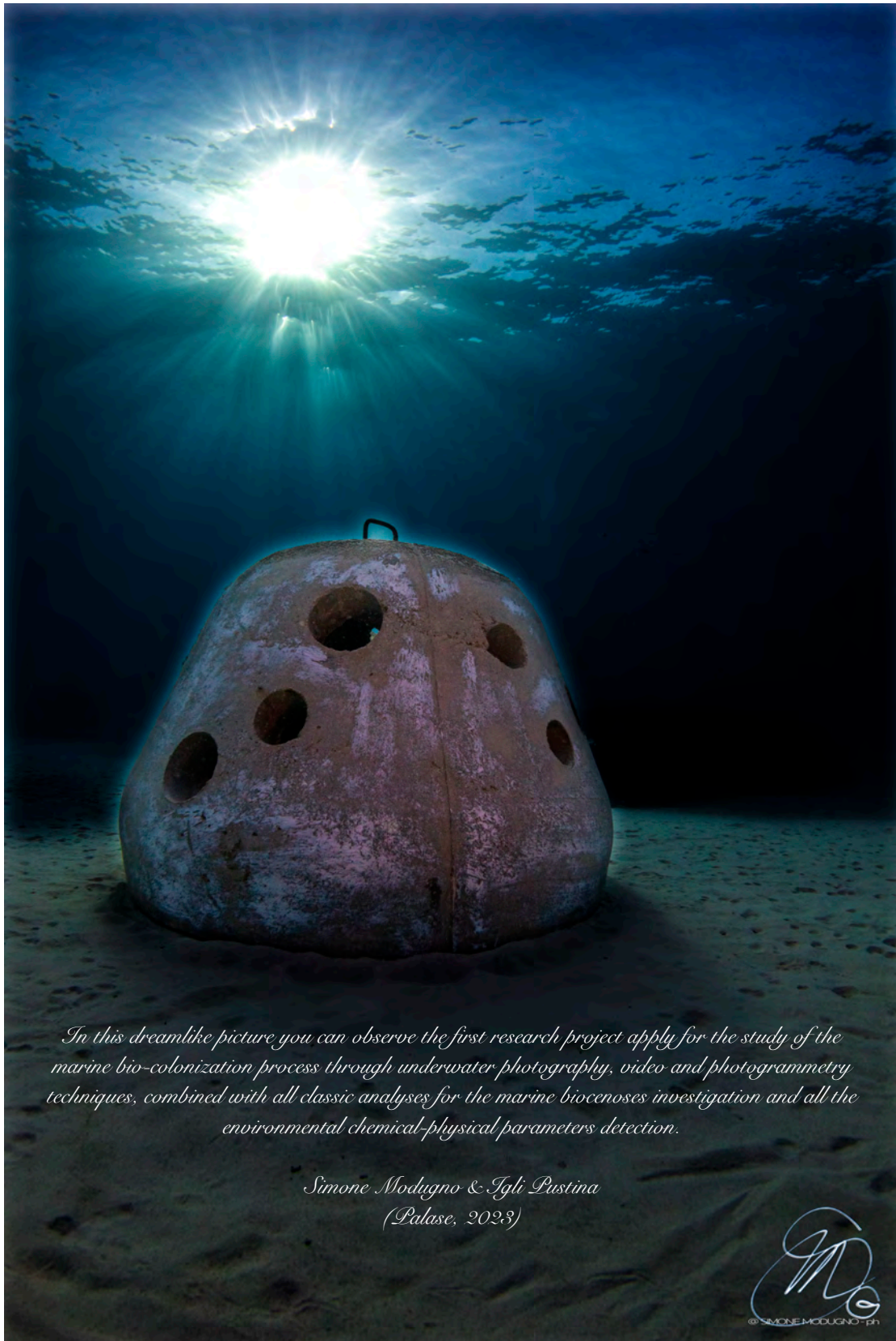
Logistic Director and Scientific Responsible

PhD Simone Modugno - Marine Ecologist, Scientific Diver, Photo and Video professional operator, Senior Marine Biology Consultant for Italy and Albania

info@ilbludelmare.it

www.ilbludelmare.it





In this dreamlike picture you can observe the first research project apply for the study of the marine bio-colonization process through underwater photography, video and photogrammetry techniques, combined with all classic analyses for the marine biocenoses investigation and all the environmental chemical-physical parameters detection.

*Simone Modugno & Igli Pustina
(Palase, 2023)*

