

ISMINI KAVOURA

From: Lydia Carras [lycarr@gmail.com]
Sent: Δευτέρα, 21 Ιουλίου 2014 9:23 πμ
To: ΓΙΑΝΝΗΣ ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΑ Μιχαηλ; costms@otenet.gr
Subject: FW: Need Immediate help to protect Pavlopetri, Lakonia
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red
Attachments: HCMR report pros ToulipaGoulimi.pdf

Τι νομίζετε? Ποσο τεκμηριωμενη είναι η Αρχαια πολις? Οι Αρχαιολογοι ΣΑκ εδώ μπορούν να βοηθήσουν? Έχουμε προσβαση στον Βερβιτσιωτη. Αλλα ισως ενδιαφερει και τους Κωνσταντακοπουλους. Εγω θα ρωτησω τον Jack Davis της Αμ Αρχ Σχολης. ΑΚ

From: Barbara Euser [mailto:bjeuser@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, July 20, 2014 10:52 AM
To: elet@ellinikietairia.gr; lycarr@gmail.com
Cc: Cheryl Benard; Peter Nicolaides; gousias@irene-neapoli.gr
Subject: Need Immediate help to protect Pavlopetri, Lakonia

Dear Yannis Michail and Lydia Carras,

I just spoke with Costas Carras and he told me to email you about the situation with Pavlopetri, the oldest underwater city in the world, located in Vatika Bay, Lakonia. (Yannis, I had already sent an email to your office earlier in the day, so you will see that in your inbox as well.)

In this letter I will try to bring you up to speed on the actions that our group here in Neapolis -- and friends of Pavlopetri abroad -- have taken in our efforts to protect and preserve the archeological site from further damage and degradation.

The most disturbing news is that the Minister of Shipping and the Aegean is actively trying to push passage of a law through Parliament this summer which would allow commercial ships – tankers, cargo ships, and others – to anchor legally in Vatika Bay. We had heard rumors about this action, but it was recently brought to my attention by Ioannis Goulas, a native of Neapolis who works as a neuroscientist at Imperial College London and is home for vacation. You may wish to call Ioannis Goulas at 69.45.94.11.55 or email him at his personal email gousias@irene-neapoli.gr to discuss this.

Ships have been anchoring in Vatika Bay in increasing numbers since Costa Navarino was completed several years ago. Despite repeated complaints by local citizens to the local Coast Guard, the head of the Coast Guard turns a blind eye. Two local families have shipping agencies that reprovision the tankers and cargo ships and profit from them. Services provided to the ships include hull cleaning by the company Dynamic Divers. The ships illegally dump their ballast water in the Bay, introducing non-endemic species into the waters. (Dr. Gousias himself has identified three new non-endemic species.) You can see the website of the Cavomaleas shipping agency at cavomaleas.com. Alexandrakis Shipping Agency in Neapolis, Lakonia is listed in Greece.com. These “shipping agencies” are proclaiming Neapolis as a port and advertising the many services they provide.

The damage the ships cause to the marine environment, the archeological sites (Pavlopetri is the most important, but there are other archeological sites in Vatika Bay), and the hotels, restaurants, cafes, bars and other shops that benefit from the tourist trade, is not considered in the equation.

Here is a sample of local actions:

- Last year, Charalampos “Lobby” Billinis, editor of the local newspaper, Ta Vatika, traveled to Gythio to lodge a complaint about the ships in Vatika Bay with the District Attorney. The District Attorney told Billinis that he would look into the matter, but nothing was done. Lobby has reported on the situation repeatedly over recent years in Ta Vatika. (Some articles are the email I forwarded to you from batikanews@gmail.com.)
- In October 2013, twelve local concerned citizens prepared an exhaustive complaint enumerating the international and national laws that are being violated by allowing ships to anchor in Vatika Bay. They filed the complaint with the Greek Special Representative for the Environment. They received no response. (The Complaint is one of the forwarded documents.)
- As part of the archeological excavations done at Pavlopetri in 2010, Dr. Sakellariou of the Hellenic Center for Marine Research surveyed the damage that is being done to the seabed of the Bay by the anchors of the large ships. The deep furrows created by dragging anchors damage the *Poseidonia oceanica* meadows in the Bay and kill *Pinnus nobilis* (fan clams), both EU-protected species. (The survey is attached.)
- Dr. Nic Flemming, the oceanographer who discovered Pavlopetri in 1967, considers that an important step to protecting and preserving Pavlopetri is to have a comprehensive environmental survey made of the Bay. Dr. Sakellariou of HCMR recently reported to me that Mayor Iraklis Trichilis of Monemvasia requested such a survey last year. Sakellariou designed the multi-disciplinary study and was contacted in March and April of this year regarding funding for the survey. He thought he would be starting the survey this summer. However, Mayor Trichilis has refused to sign the contract. When asked last week about it, he assured Lobby Billinis of Ta Vatika that it would be a “matter of days.” However, during the recent elections, despite his opponents adamant opposition to the ships in the Bay, Trichilis refused to comment on the problem. What happened between last year and the recent elections? Trichilis appears to be stalling on signing off on the survey until after the new law allowing ships to anchor in the Bay is passed.
- At the end of May 2014, Dr. Cheryl Benard, President of the Alliance for the Restoration of Cultural Heritage, visited Pavlopetri and met with local concerned citizens. ARCH International has decided to take on Pavlopetri as one of the projects. We welcome the international support. ARCH also authorized that formation of a Greek Chapter of ARCH.
- In June, I contacted OCEANA, an international ngo that protects the marine environment. They have lodged complaints in the EU regarding the destruction of *Poseidonia* meadows near Ibiza, Spain. The marine scientist I have been corresponding with at OCEANA believes we have sufficient material to warrant lodging a complaint with the EU about the destruction caused to *Poseidonia* by the ships’ anchors.
- Peter Nicolaides, an oceanographer from Paros, has met with Minister of Tourism Olga Kefalogianni regarding the situation at Pavlopetri and she told him she thinks it would make a good showcase site for a Marine Protected Area. That would be a wonderful development, but it will be circumvented by the passage of the law legalizing anchoring in the Bay.
- The Mayor of Elafonisos wrote to Minister Kefalogianni in June, complaining about the disastrous impact of the commercial ships on tourism on Elafonisos Island.

I contacted Costa Carras at the suggestion of Peter Nicolaides, the oceanographer on Paros and member of Elliniki Etaira. The situation with the pending legislation is now desperate. We – meaning all the people who are interested in protecting and preserving the ancient site of Pavlopetri and marine environment of Vatika Bay – will greatly appreciate any help you can give us in this fight.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter in more detail.

Best regards,
Barbara Euser

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legalise anchoring of
large commercial ships
in Vatis Bay

Subject: FW: Pavlopetri
From: "Lydia Carras" <lycarr@gmail.com>
Date: 24/7/2014 15:58
To: ΓΙΑΝΝΗΣ ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΑ Μιχαήλ <proedros@ellinikietairia.gr>, <costms@otenet.gr>, "Costa Carras" <colycarr@otenet.gr>, <sak@ellinikietairia.gr>

Ιδου τα σχολια διακεκριμενου βρεταννου αρχαιολογου για την σημασια του Παυλοπετρι και του Κολπο Βατικα . Τι προτεινετε? ΑΚ

From: Gerald Cadogan [mailto:geraldcadogan2@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 1:00 PM

To: Lydia Carras

Subject: Pavlopetri

Now Pavlopetri. I do not know what the threat is but should guess it is either a big tourist development (like Cape Sidero) or else shipcleaning and repairs (as was threatened in the Bay of Pylos). The area has lovely sandy beaches and is (or was) wonderfully remote.

I was involved as one of three archaeologists with a Cambridge team way back in 1968, and the report came out in 1969:

A. Harding, G. Cadogan and R. Howell, Pavlopetri: an underwater Bronze Age town in Laconia, Annual of the British School at Athens 64 (1969): 113-42.

Quite apart from the archaeology, there is some discussion (which is the bit I feel proudest about) of the ancient writers who knew the area, and a tiny contribution to explaining a joke in Aristophanes. Costa may enjoy that.

I have not been back since 1968, and recall being rescued from the place by the young Angelos Deliverrias, who was then Ephoros or eforevontas in Sparta. Lately, the BSA has done quite a bit of work there, together with the Ephoreia Enalion Archaioiton - where I don't know what they have found, but a call to the BSA should help - or perhaps a look first on the BSA website (www.bsa.ac.uk),

It is a very important site, for two things. There is a whole prehistoric town lying there, now submerged in about 3 m of sea, which is extremely rare and of great potential. The only similar case that comes to mind is the (Classical-Hellenistic, I think) town of Halieis (Porto Cheli).

I suppose its being submerged is a result of tectonic action, but I am not a seismologist. By contrast west Crete, which is not that far away, has risen by a metre or two since antiquity. So what happened may have been pretty localised - which seems to me to support the idea of an earthquake/earthquakes.

Its other importance is in an Early Bronze Age cemetery on the beach just above the water line. As the tombs are very like those of the 3rd millennium BC Cyclades and those at Manika in Evvoia, there is a good chance we have some people coming in from the Aegean (as also seems to have happened at several sites along the north coast of Crete) and presumably settling - or at least, burying - there.

This all adds up to a town that that is unique in the urban history of prehistoric Greece, that seems linked to a cemetery that suggests a very important stage in the early history of the Peloponnese - and indeed all mainland Greece - and some early integration between the Aegean islands and the mainland - a nice issue, if one wishes, for working out the history of how Greek identity developed!

There is masses still to do, and all sorts of interesting questions. It would be a huge shame to muck up

a place that still has so much to offer for the history and archaeology of your country and, in its own way, impacts on what Greece means, and what it means to be Greek.

Polla filia, opos panta, stous dyo sas kai apo tous dyo mas,

Gerald

PS. Please use this email geraldcadogan2@gmail.com. I am abandoning the Onetel address.