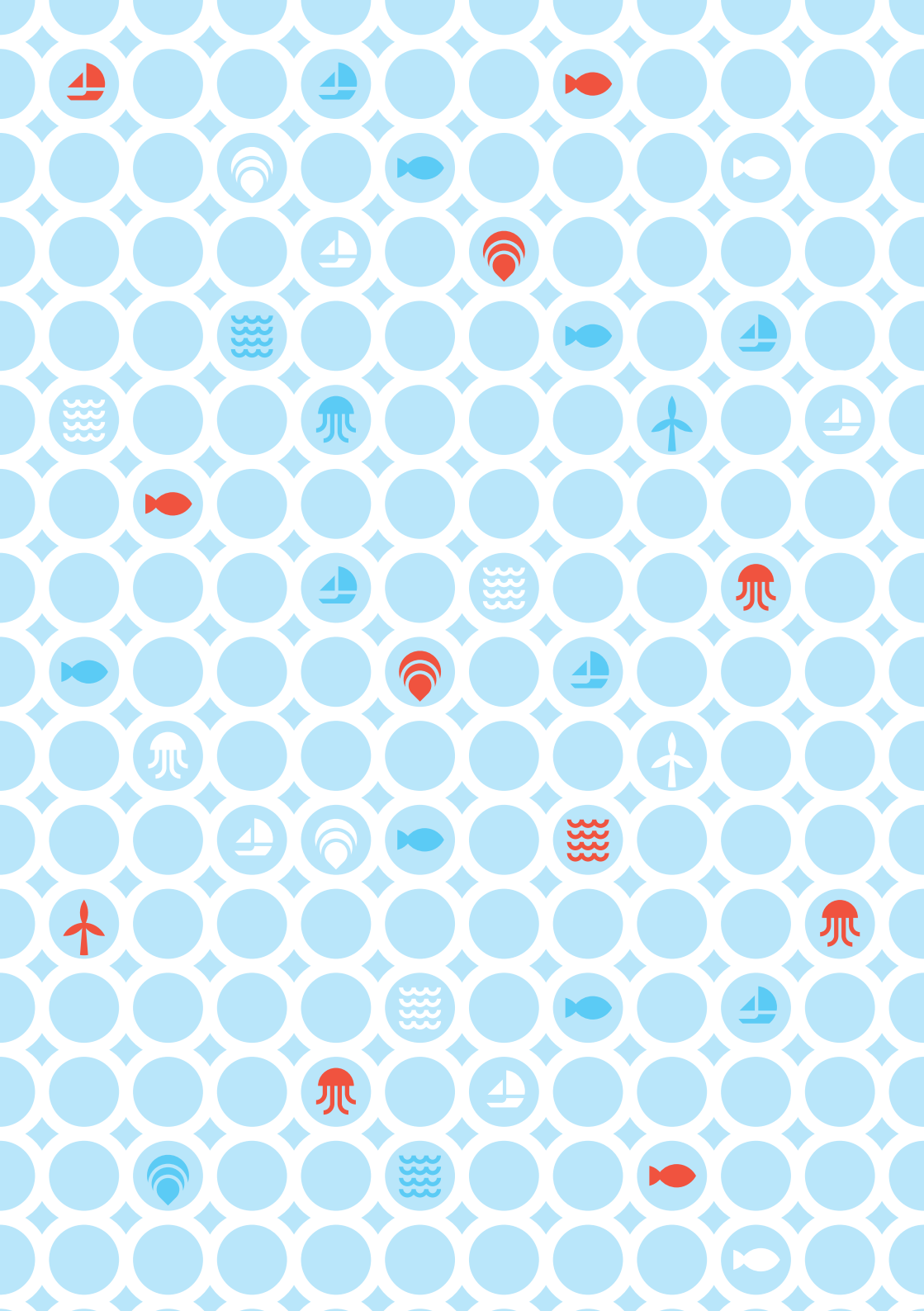
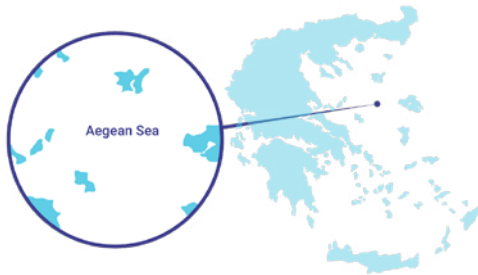


# MULTI-USE BLUEPRINT

Aquaculture and Tourism  
in the Aegean Sea, Greece



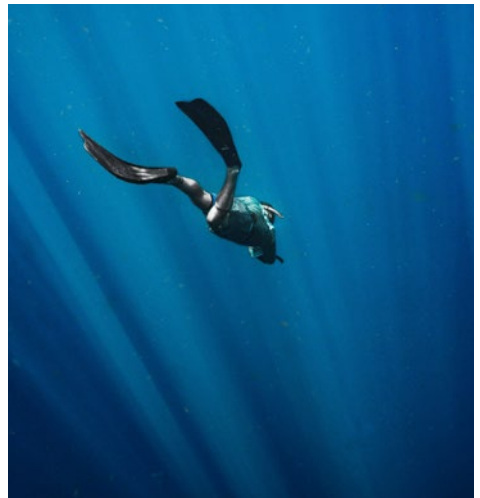
## Location



Greece has been shaped by its special relationship with the sea. It is one of the leading nations in the shipping industry. Small-scale fisheries still play a very important role in many coastal communities, although aquaculture now represents about 80% of the total value of fish, crustaceans and molluscs commercialised at the national level. Beyond maritime industries, tourism is one of the major drivers of Greece's economy. In 2019, the country hosted 34 million foreign visitors and tourism generated approximately 39 billion euros. Attica, which includes Athens, is the richest administrative region of Greece, and its southeast coast remains relatively well preserved. The area is less afflicted by mass tourism, though the Sounio National Park, which was established in the hinterland in 1974, as well as Cape Sounio and its temple attract visitors. While there are many diving sites along the seashore and islands such as Makronisos, fish farms can be found south of Attica's coast.

## Description

The multi-use comprises diving next to fish farms located between Patroklos Island and the mainland. It is a joint venture between Planet Blue, a scuba diving centre based in Lavrio, and Kastelorizo, an aquaculture company located in Patroklos. The history of Kastelorizo was defined by economic diversification. It was created in 1985 by fishermen looking for new sources of income. Since then, it grew quickly to become a major player in the aquaculture industry. It is mainly dedicated to produce sea bass and black sea bream for local restaurants. Since 2019, Kastelorizo decided to allow scuba diving next to its installations in order to promote aquaculture and change the perceptions of fish farms held by foreign and Greek tourists. Planet Blue take tourists to the fish farms on an occasional basis, depending on tourist demand and the availability of Kastelorizo workers. It directly benefits Planet Blue, as it is a way to diversify its tourism offer and thereby to differentiate itself from competitors. In fact, the fish farms represent an exceptional diving site where numerous and rare species can be observed, including sea mammals.



## Enabling conditions and tools

### Proactivity of local stakeholders

This multi-use results from the alignment of interests of Kastellorizo and the Blue Planet centre. Developing it did not require special licenses or permits, only teamwork to develop a new touristic product.

### Support of the UNITED project

This multi-use was developed as a pilot case of the UNITED Horizon 2020 project. Kastellorizo and Blue Planet received technical assistance from multi-use experts and benefited from the experience and feedback of other stakeholders involved in creating synergies between different activities at sea. Being part of an international project such as UNITED is a way to promote this multi-use worldwide.

## Impacts and positive changes

The multi-use development faced challenges due to the Covid pandemic: not only did the number of visitors decline dramatically in 2020, but some tourists are still afraid to use diving gears. However, diving tours in the fish farms started to increase again with the rebound in tourism. Kastellorizo and Planet Blue benefit from each other and converted this experience in a sustainable multi-use example.

## Links

- **Kostas Thoctarides:**  
[info@planetblue.gr](mailto:info@planetblue.gr)
- **Diving School Planet Blue:**  
<https://www.planetblue.gr/>
- **Case description:**  
<https://www.h2020united.eu/about/39-aquaculture-and-tourism-in-greece>



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## Imprint

Author: Josselin Guyot Tephany, University of Nantes

Date published: 20 September 2022

*Suggested citation: Guyot Tephany, J. 2022. Ocean Multi-Use Blueprints Collection. Aquaculture and Tourism in the Aegean Sea, Greece.*

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