

## **Written Evidence submitted by Honor Frost Foundation (HFF) Steering Committee on Underwater Cultural Heritage (COC0045)**

1. The HFF Steering Committee on Underwater Cultural Heritage advises and helps shape the policy and work of the Honor Frost Foundation, which was founded in 2011 and seeks to foster and promote the protection of underwater cultural heritage.
2. The HFF Steering Committee on Underwater Cultural Heritage has recently published a report entitled *The Social and Economic Benefits of Marine and Maritime Cultural Heritage* (Firth 2015).
3. The study is directly relevant to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee's 'Countries of Culture' inquiry, which is looking at ways to preserve and promote the UK's cultural wealth.
4. We would like to draw attention to marine and maritime cultural heritage as a theme of direct relevance to the distinctive heritage of many UK regions. Unfortunately, the UK's marine and maritime cultural heritage is largely unrecognised and fragmented in public policy. Yet in each region with a coastline, with a history of seafaring or a heritage of shipbuilding, marine and maritime cultural heritage has tremendous potential for growth and greater accessibility.
5. Our study includes the following conclusions, which we believe are highly pertinent to the current inquiry:
  - Marine and maritime cultural heritage should receive much greater attention as a facet of culture and heritage generally, and as a facet of the marine environment. Its presence is pervasive even far from the sea and its importance to people economically and socially warrants specific consideration. Its absence from debates and from policy should be remedied. Marine and maritime cultural heritage is not a minority concern; participation and economic activity can already be measured in millions.
  - It is essential that the breadth and diversity of marine and maritime cultural heritage is recognised, and that this becomes a driver for a joined-up approach to identifying and increasing social and economic benefits. The 'offer' of marine and maritime cultural heritage will be much greater if traditional boundaries between disciplines and environments are overcome.
  - Further research, including quantification, should be carried out on the social and economic benefits of marine and maritime heritage, equivalent to the research and quantification that is being carried out for culture and heritage on land. Marine and maritime heritage should be identifiable in periodic surveys of, for example, visitor numbers, participation, and spending.
5. Our report can be downloaded via [http://honorfrostfoundation.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/HFF-Report\\_Social-Economic-Value-of-Marine-and-Maritime-Cultural-Heritage.pdf](http://honorfrostfoundation.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/HFF-Report_Social-Economic-Value-of-Marine-and-Maritime-Cultural-Heritage.pdf). A copy of the report has been sent to each member of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee.

## **About the Honor Frost Foundation**

The Honor Frost Foundation's mission is to promote the advancement and research, including publication, of marine and maritime archaeology with particular but not exclusive focus on the Eastern Mediterranean with an emphasis on Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus.

The Foundation also seeks to foster and promote the protection of underwater cultural heritage (UCH).

The Foundation was founded in 2011 with a legacy from the pioneering underwater archaeologist Honor Frost.

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