

Tyre Maritime Archaeological Landscape Project

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Phase 1 – Marine geophysics

The team are planning to undertake further marine geophysical remote sensing surveys in the inshore region of the peninsula of Tyre over a period of fifteen days in 2019.

The Tyre Peninsula is of considerable archaeological **importance**. The area is subject to potential development and simultaneously UNESCO requires the preservation of this historic maritime landscape, and as such both demand immediate attention to document and preserve the archaeology of Tyre. Over the coming years it would be desirable to map out a phased maritime archaeological landscape project that incorporates the entire Tyre district and addresses the nature and changing face of this important port town over time. Further documentation will be produced in 2019 to outline the next phases of this important project.

The **rationale** for Phase 1 survey work at Tyre is to undertake a comprehensive marine geophysical remote sensing survey (side scan sonar, bathymetry and sub bottom) of the area immediately offshore of the Tyre Peninsula and in the bays to the north and south of the headland. The proposed area to be covered will be up to 2 km square, but with intensive sub bottom profiler survey in approximately 1 km square. The survey will compliment the offshore survey that the CNRS undertook a few years ago (we have yet to ascertain what subsequent survey work the CNRS conducted in the shallower waters in the region but will do so before going ahead with this project to be sure we are not duplicating effort). The **objective** is to map the seafloor and identify any anomalies both physical and cultural that can be identified, in order to inform planned diver survey to be conducted in the region later in 2019.

The marine geophysical team (yet to be identified) will consist of three foreign experts, a local archaeologist and a student, with a suite of equipment including side scan sonar, bathymetry and most importantly, a sub bottom profiler. The latter piece of equipment is particularly critical, as it will enable the archaeologists to look beneath the seabed and identify any buried material perhaps also including the shipwreck that Honor identified in the southern harbour.