

## **Episkopi Bay Survey & Eastern Cyprus Maritime Survey 2006 Field Season**

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During July and August, a small team of archaeologists and students undertook a fourth season of underwater survey work spanning several areas of the island's coastline and involving a broad spectrum of methodologies and technologies. The project, which follows three seasons in and around Episkopi Bay, is undertaken by permission of the Department of Antiquities Cyprus and is logistically and financially supported by the Institute of Nautical Archaeology at Texas A&M University, the University of Pennsylvania, RPM Nautical Foundation, and the Thetis Foundation.

Early in the season, the team resumed work in the area of Episkopi Bay as a follow-up to sonar investigations of the previous summer. These results from 2005 had brought to light a number of anomalies on the seabed ranging in depth from under 30 m to almost 100 m. Utilizing divers for the shallower areas and a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) for the deeper work, each individual site was explored and photographed non-intrusively. Although these targets were confirmed as simple geological features—in one case, though, a scatter of pottery indicates some cultural activity—the observations have intriguing implications for archaeological site formation and sedimentation processes near the Kouris River mouth.

The remainder of the season's work focused on a combination of diving and sidescan sonar survey. The team initiated a survey near Cape Greco in an effort to determine the area's maritime history and hopefully locate well preserved ancient wrecks. Although only a week remained to start this long-term project, an important first step was undertaken in building the survey's thoroughness – that is, covering from very shallow up to and beyond the limits of scuba through a combination of diving and sonar work. Archaeologists are currently processing the data collected during this week in an effort to plan best for a larger concerted effort focusing specifically on Cape Greco during the summer of 2007.

*For more information and updates, see the website of the Department of Antiquities for press releases: [http://www.mcw.gov.cy/mcw/da/da.nsf/DMLexcavat\\_en/DMLexcavat\\_en](http://www.mcw.gov.cy/mcw/da/da.nsf/DMLexcavat_en/DMLexcavat_en)*