

# The Mediterranean Monk Seal,

*the world's 2<sup>nd</sup> most endangered marine mammal, Europe's 1<sup>st</sup>*



**...is in a race against time to avoid extinction**



- Current Status
- Migration between neighboring countries
- Managing the causes of population reduction
- Community based conservation
- Damages on fishing gear
- Deliberate Killings



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# Seals in Breeding Caves

Monitoring should minimize human disturbance and avoid breeding seasons



# Seals Becoming Social



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# The Case of the seal “Argiro” in Samos





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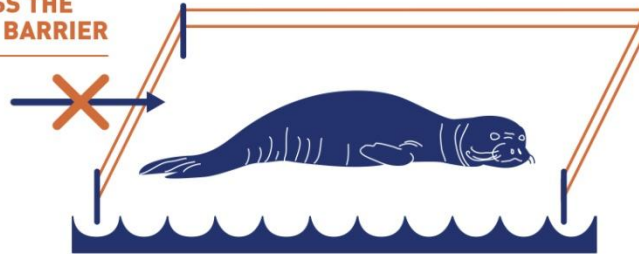


# The Case of the seal “Argiro” in Samos



# THIS SEAL IS A HIGHLY ENDANGERED MEDITERRANEAN MONK SEAL

**DO NOT CROSS THE  
PROTECTIVE BARRIER**



**DO NOT TOUCH**



**NEVER SWIM NEAR THE SEAL**



**DO NOT FEED**



This seal belongs to the 2<sup>nd</sup> most endangered species of marine mammal in the world, and is one of about **450 Mediterranean Monk Seals** surviving worldwide. Samos' locals call her **Argiro**.

She was born in the autumn of 2013 and was first spotted near inhabited areas on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2014. She has since been monitored daily by Archipelagos Institute of Marine Conservation.

**She should be treated as a wild animal. She is healthy and able to feed herself.**

She shows unusual behaviour of approaching inhabited areas, but we hope that as she grows in to an adult seal she will return to her natural environment.

**IT IS NORMAL FOR MEDITERRANEAN MONK SEALS TO REST OUT OF WATER FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME.**

- **IT IS ILLEGAL TO GET TOO CLOSE OR IN ANY WAY DISTURB HER**
- **ALWAYS KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE**
- **IF SHE FEELS THREATENED SHE MAY BITE OR CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY**
- **IT IS ILLEGAL TO FEED HER, AS THIS MAY ALTER HER ABILITY TO FEED NATURALLY**
- **IF YOU FIND YOURSELF NEAR THE SEAL IN THE WATER- DO NOT PANIC- BUT TRY TO GET OUT OF THE WATER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

If you want to know more about this special seal or the biodiversity of the Aegean please ask the Archipelagos team.

**If you see her alone without her being monitored** we are probably searching for her. Please contact 2273061191, 6974744949, 6932274235, or the Samos port police 22730 27318.



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# The Case of the seal “Argiro” in Samos

- Management of the individual – short term – long term
- Whose is the responsibility?
- Who sets the limits with the public – and who monitors them
- The need for cross-border cooperation

-A good example of community based management...



**with a bad ending....**

***Legal Action/ Media Action/ Local Action***





# How to Manage Killings

*Generating public outcry with the aim  
to prevent future incidents*



# Monitoring in Caves with the use of camera traps

Camera-based monitoring  
minimizes human disturbance





# Monitoring Friendly Seals



# The challenge of monk seal conservation

## Priorities

- Correct population monitoring
- Cooperation with coastal communities
- Management of strandings and killings
- Use of media and legal action to generate public support in the effort to conserve this highly endangered species





**THANK YOU!!!**

