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March 2024

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as the Chair of the UNESCO accredited NGO group for the 2001 Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage and Director of the UK's Maritime Archaeology Trust in support of the Maritime Archaeological Society's (MAS) applications for funding to sustain the great work they undertake.

The underwater cultural heritage is a finite resource that is under continual threat from the environment and human activities. The attention given to these cultural assets off the coast of Finland by MAS has resulted in high standards of recording and diver engagement that has both raised awareness within Finnish society and produced irreplaceable baseline data. In particular, the photogrammetry training and recording of wrecks that MAS deliver is creating a catalogue of high resolution, three dimensional digital wreck models. These models provide a framework against which change in both the material remains and the cover of benthic flora communities can be measured. The cultural and marine biological information this provides reflects the environmental health of the site and the local area.

This data, when combined with similar records from around the globe, can contribute to a broad understanding of oceanic change. But this is only possible where the recording is carried out, repeated for monitoring purposes, and then made openly available and accessible for inclusion in international studies. This is something that MAS are doing and will continue where they are supported to do so. This work is of great maritime archaeological significance and in line with the outcomes of the UN Decade of Ocean Science. As such, this is something that the Accredited NGOs support and wish to see continue. Accordingly, we endorse further applications to ensure thus valuable work is sustained.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Garry Momber".

Garry Momber

Chair: UN 2001 Convention Accredited NGOs.

Director: Maritime Archaeology Trust

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