

STATUTE

of the Association "HELLENIC SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY AND PROTECTION OF THE MONK SEAL"

NAME - MARK DESIGNATION - REGISTERED OFFICE - PURPOSE

Article 1

An Association is hereby founded under the name "HELLENIC SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY AND PROTECTION OF THE MONK SEAL" and the mark designation of "MOM" with its registered office in Athens. The purposes of this Association are: a) the protection of the monk seal in Greece by any legal means necessary, b) the scientific study of the monk seal aiming at its more effective protection and c) the briefing of all the authorities and the public.

Article 2

To achieve its purposes the activities of the Association will be the study and organizing of protection plans, such as the creation and management of protected areas, the observing of the population of the species and its habitats, the guarding of habitats, the medical care, as well as the research programs in cooperation with public and private authorities in Greece and abroad, the advertisement and materialization of them, the provision of information to the authorities regarding anything related to the mediterannean monk seal and its protection, the exchange of information and the cooperation with similar institutions in Greece and abroad, as well as the provision of technical know-how in matters of environmental protection in the form of development assistance to domestic and foreign institutions, the organisation of symposiums, conferences, presentations, trips, colloquiums and discussions, the publication of books, studies, magazines, training manuals or the aid of their publication, the production of movies and slides, the information, environmental training and public awareness as well as any other activity that might contribute to the achievement of the Association's goals.

MOM can accomplish projects for the public that cover the needs of the society and generally aim to aid development, social integrity and the improvement of the citizens' life quality and especially the ones regarding the protection and preservation of the coastal and marine environment. In these projects are included projects that receive their funding from national and EC resources.

Article 3

The Association can, by order of the General Meeting, compose committees and study and research groups in various parts of Greece. Also, the Association can, by order of the General Meeting, purchase, rent, in any area suitable to achieving its goals, pieces of land with or without any installations or buildings, or carry out the construction of such temporary or permanent installations, with any terms or agreements it decides. In addition, the Association can, by order of the General Meeting, purchase instruments, devices and any other means that may help achieving its goals.

MEMBERS AND RESOURCES OF THE ASSOCIATION

Article 4

A member of the Association can be any person that is 18 years old, as long as he or she unconditionally accept the orders of the statute and the legal judgments of the General Meeting.

1. The members of the Association are defined as regular, trainee, honorary and booster.
2. Regular members can become, after their application and the order of the General Meeting, the persons that:
 - A) have contributed to the protection of the mediterranean monk seal,
 - B) have some type of scientific occupation with the mediterranean monk seal,
 - C) have provided with some type of occupation regarding the mediterranean monk seal in other factors, such as legal aid, marking, observations, data collections, filings, public awareness etc.
3. Trainees can become, after their application and order of the Board of Directors, the persons that are willing to assist with the purpose of the Association. Trainee members can become regular members after the order of the General Meeting following a proposal of the Board of Directors.
4. Honorary members are persons declared by the Board of Directors as of great service to the struggle to protect the mediterranean monk seal and Nature in general.
5. Booster members are declared by the Board of Directors as persons that are willing to aid in the achievement of the Association's goals with logistics, monetary or any other kind of legal assistance.
6. Any member is free to retire. The retirement must be notified at least three months before the closure of the economic year and is in effect after the end of that year.
7. Regular, trainee and booster members must pay an annual levy and a one-time registration fee. The amount of the annual levy and the registration fee is defined every year by the General Meeting following a proposal of the Board of Directors.
8. Any member displaying a behavior contrary to the goals defined by the statute and in contrast with their membership status is expelled after the proposal of the Board of Directors, with a judgement of the General Meeting that is passed by majority vote of present and voting members. In addition, any member can be expelled after the judgement of the Board of Directors when he or she has delayed the payment of his or her annual levy for more than two years.
9. As to its foundation, the Association will consist of the founders that have signed its statute, which are not necessarily regular members.

10. Apart from the members, the Association can hire with or without pay employees or scientific freelancers.
11. Foreign citizens can be members of the Association.

Article 5

- The resources of the Association are:
- A) The annual levies of the members and their registration fees.
 - B) Voluntary one-time or periodical levies.
 - C) Donations of any nature, inheritances or bequests. Inheritances to the Association are accepted only as "benefit inventory".
 - D) Sums sourced by the sale of publishings, publications, movies, handcrafts and other items that are related to the life and the protection of the mediterranean monk seal.
 - E) Any grants to the Association from Public or private authorities or legal entities.
 - F) Any other income in accordance to the law.

REPRESENTATION

Article 6

The Association is represented judicially and out of court by its President. In case of impediment, by the Vice President or a member of the Board of Directors as it defines him or her.

Article 7

The bodies of the Association are the General Meeting, the Board of Directors and the Audit Committee.

GENERAL MEETING

Article 8

COMPOSITION

1. The G.M. is composed by the regular and levy-consistent members of the Association.
2. Trainee, honorary and booster members are present during the G.M. without partaking and voting.

EXECUTIVE POWERS

3. The General Meeting:

- a) Defines the direction of the Association's activity.
- b) Approves the programs proposed by the Board of Directors.
- c) Approves the annual report and the annual budget.
- d) Elects the Board of Directors and the Audit Committee.
- e) Decides the dissolution of the Association.
- f) Decides on any matter not subject to the executive power of any other body.

PROCEDURE

- 4. The G. M. comes together in a regular session annually during the first trimester of that year and specifically from 1st of January to the 31rd of March of any year and to an extraordinary session when the Board of Director or 1/5 of its applied members require it with a written application where the subjects that will be raised are stated.
- 5. The G. M. is invited at least ten days before the session with a circular in which all subjects of the daily agenda as well as the time and location of the session are stated. The annual report is publicised before the regular G. M.
- 6. The G. M. is considered complete with the presence of half and one more regular member that have completed their financial obligations. In case of incompleteness the G. M. will be summoned again after a week and will be complete regardless of the number of present members.
- 7. The President of the G. M. is elected as a non-member of the B. D. at the beginning of the session, along with the Electoral Commission.
- 8. The submission of candidacies for the election of the B. D. takes place 10 days before and up until the time of the General Meeting. Every candidate must justify his candidacy to the General Meeting.
- 9. The proceedings of the G. M. are drawn up by the Secretary of the B. D. or any other member defined by the G. M.
- 10. The G. M. approves its internal rules of procedure.
- 11. The founding G. M. approves the statute, defines the first regular members and elects the first B. D. All founding members of the founding G. M. have voting rights. The first B.D. must, within a month from the founding of the Association, summon the first regular General Meeting.

BALLOT

- 12. The decisions of the G. M. are taken with a majority vote of half and one of the attending and voting members.
- 13. The verification of the voting rights is carried out by the B. D.
- 14. The election of the B. D. and the E.C. takes place under secret ballot.
- 15. Before the ballot there is a discussion regarding the activity of the Association and straight afterwards the presentation of the candidates takes place.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Article 9

COMPOSITION

1. The Board of Directors consists of 5 members.
2. Its members are re-electable. Their term of office starts after the election of a new Board of Directors by the annual General Meeting and ends with the election of the next Board of Directors which cannot surpass the 31rd of March of every second year.
3. The Board of Directors elects the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer from its members.
4. The Board of Directors can appoint permanent or temporary committees consisting of members of the B.D. and other regular members of the Association with specially defined administrative powers.
5. With the five (5) regular members the G. M. elects three (3) substitutes according to their order of success, to substitute for the members of the B.D. that have resigned or have been deprived of their rights during their term or that for any other reason don't wish to partake in the sessions of the B.D. If the resigned members are four (4) or more, an extraordinary session of the G. M. is summoned within thirty (30) days, to elect a new B. D.
6. The Board of Directors commands the Association responsibly and in accordance with the Law and the statute, directs and manages the affairs and the assets of the Association, executes the decisions taken by the G. M. , appoints the Association's staff, prepares the daily agenda of the G. M. and assumes every project the G. M. assigns to it.
7. The President summons and directs the sessions of the B. D. and presents to the G. M. the annual report regarding the activity of the Association. The President is substituted by the Vice President.
8. The Secretary of the the Association is responsible for the correspondence, the file keeping, the composition of the B.D. and G.M.'s proceedings, prepares the annual report of activity.
9. The Treasurer accepts the payments to the Association, pays any expenses after approval from the B.D., composes the annual economic report and budget, which he must present to the B.D. a month before the end of the economic year at most.

PROCEDURE

10. The B.D. is summoned once a month in a regular session.
11. The B.D. is complete when at least five (5) members are present. Unable to attend or absent members can be represented by other members of the B.D. with special authorization. One member can represent up to two mandated members according to the above . Up to two members of the Board of Directors can partake in the sessions of the Board of Directors through conference calls.
12. The B.D. approves its internal rules of procedure.

BALLOT

13. The decisions of the B.D. are taken with a majority vote of the attending and voting members. In case of a tied vote, a second ballot takes place. In case of a second tied vote, the President has the casting vote.

Article 10

AUDIT COMMITTEE

1. The A.C. consists of three (3) regular members of the Association.
2. The members of the A.C. are elected by the G.M. for a year and are re-electable.
3. The A.C. checks the annual economic report and submits a report to the G.M.
4. The economic year starts on the 1st of January.

Article 11

AMENDMENT OF THE STATUTE

For the statute's amendment the presence of at least half (1/2) of the members is required, as well as the majority of three quarters (3/4) of the present and voting members. The text of the amendments must be announced to the regular members of the Association a month before the summoning of the G.M. that will deal with the amendments.

Article 12

DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. For the dissolution of the Association a decision of the G.M. is required which requires at least half (1/2) of the members and the majority of three quarters (3/4) of the present and voting members.
2. The Association is dissolved in the cases defined by the Law of Associations.
3. In case of dissolution the G.M. decides about the assets of the Association, that can be transferred to one or more Associations or Organisations that have similar goals.

Article 13

INTERNAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

For the regulation of topics regarding the internal procedure of the Association, the B.D. can suggest their approval by the General Meeting.

Article 14

The Associations carries a round seal with its name written cyclically and in the center appears a representation of a mediterranean monk seal.

Article 15

For any other subject not covered by this statute, the General Meeting is responsible according to the provisions of the current Legislation.

Article 16

This statute, which consists of 16 articles, has been approved and voted by the founding members of the Association which sign it the 4th of February 1988 in three (3) identical originals, it has been amended according to the General Meeting's ruling of the 18th of February 2001, which was legally and unanimously taken, has since then been amended again according to the General Meeting's ruling of the 29 of February 2004, which was legally and unanimously taken, and has since been amended again according to the General Meeting's ruling of the 19th of February 2012, which was legally and unanimously taken, and has since been amended again according to the General Meeting's ruling of the 26th of November 2015, which as legally and unanimously taken.

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE G.M.
OF THE G.M.**

THE SECRETARY

Eleni Presvelou

Apostolos Zachidis