




Coastal adaptations and submerged landscapes : Where world prehistory meets underwater archaeology

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Abstract

Studies in world prehistory, which include the transition between the Pleistocene and Holocene and the cultural shift from Forager to Farmer, remain incomplete, particularly along the coastal margins. Submerged landscape archaeology has begun to emerge as a serious sub-discipline of both maritime archaeology and world prehistory, with a largely untapped potential to fill in significant gaps in the archaeological record. This chapter reviews the current state of submerged landscape archaeology and considers important elements, both theoretical and practical, and discusses how future generations of prehistorians must be willing and able to engage with archaeology on the continental shelves, worldwide.

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Underwater archaeology is archaeology practiced underwater. As with all other branches of archaeology, it evolved from its roots in pre-history and in the classical era to include sites from the historical and industrial eras. Its acceptance has been a relatively late development due to the difficulties of accessing and working underwater sites, and because the application of archaeology to underwater sites initially emerged from the skills and tools developed by shipwreck salvagers. As a result Underwater archaeology also depends on good relationships with other communities familiar with the bodies of water they work in. That became clear to researchers who were alerted to a large cache of shipwrecks near Fourni, Greece, by a local fisher. The assistance of the area's fishers ended up helping archaeologists discover 23 shipwrecks in the area in 22 days. Volunteers can drive much of the field, as in Florida, where volunteers work alongside archaeologists. Local and international laws also apply: UNESCO, the UN's cultural arm, has established international law around underwater culture. Start studying Underwater Archaeology Midterm. Learn vocabulary, terms and more with flashcards, games and other study tools. archaeology of sea-related topics; coastal living, lighthouses, maritime economics, etc. nautical archaeology. archaeology related to boats and ships. submerged prehistoric archaeology. archaeology of past human life behavior and cultures on ancient landscapes that were once dry land but are now submerged. salvage. getting stuff from wrecks for monetary reasons.