

## **HOMER 2020 - List of sessions**

***Session 1:*** Coastal and maritime archaeology: today's challenges.

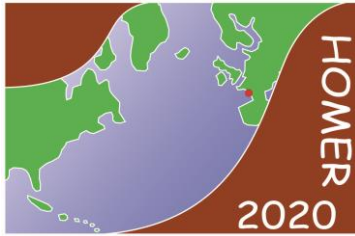
***Session 2:*** Unlocking the potential of submerged, intertidal and coastal sites: Developing methods for their identification and study.

***Session 3:*** Islands: isolation or interconnection ?

***Session 4:*** The anthropization of the coast: infrastructure, transformation and production techniques.

***Session 5:*** Marine resources: new approaches, new challenges.

***Session 6:*** Navigation, circulation and port installations.



***HOMER 2020 - Session 1: Coastal and maritime archaeology: today's challenges.***

This session will discuss the challenges faced by coastal and maritime archaeological sites and will highlight the latest developments in research aimed at understanding threats and adapting to change.

The erosion and loss of coastal sites has been accelerating since the beginning of the millennium. Contributory factors include the expansion of urban settlements and sea level rise due to global warming. Climate change also amplifies storminess, further accelerating erosion. Recent exceptional weather events, including in 2013 and 2014, have caused profound changes to many coastlines and have led to the discovery, and almost simultaneous destruction, of many archaeological sites.

Year after year, new discoveries confirm the exceptional potential of the coastal and intertidal zones. A wide variety of sites, spanning a huge chronological range, have been discovered, and examples on both side of the Atlantic include settlements, megalithic monuments, burial grounds, fish traps, wharves, shipwrecks , military losses and defensive works from the World Wars.

Some sites that formerly bordered the coast or maritime marshes are now partially or fully submerged, for example, Neolithic remains in Brittany, Bronze Age woodlands in Britain and Amerindian deposits in North America and the Caribbean. Others, close to cliffs or in dune environments, are endangered with physical destruction by erosion. Coastal development projects also cause grave threats to heritage; while offshore, fishing, aggregate extraction, wind farms and the laying of cables threaten submerged sites.

The threats are grave, and there is little chance to stop the inevitable rise of water, slow down erosion or prevent the destruction of shipwrecks. However, research projects are emerging, backed by new methodologies and technology. These are helping to rescue something from the sea, and we invite papers that discuss methodologies for managing or preserving these fragile remnants of the past.



***HOMER 2020 - Session 2: Unlocking the potential of submerged, intertidal and coastal sites:  
Developing methods for their identification and study.***

The huge diversity of coastal and marine sites is mirrored by the range of environmental contexts that these sites are located within. Sites can be submerged, hidden below or behind sand dunes, buried in the depths of coastal marshes or located on the foreshore, and accessing and studying these places can present difficulties. Locating and identifying sites is also constrained by the almost constant change of coastal environments, where tides, erosion, and the passing of the seasons can cause huge alterations. Some changes can be extremely rapid, for example, when erosion causes damage or the sea floods a site twice daily. Methodologies for recording and excavating such sites need to be developed, including advance planning and adaptation strategies to overcome problems during field campaigns.

This session aims to compare experiences, including difficulties encountered and the means developed to understand coastal sites located in challenging environments. We invite papers to discuss methods developed and techniques implemented to locate, record, to investigate or protect such sites.



### ***HOMER 2020 - Session 3: Islands: isolation or interconnection ?***

Islands and islets are often environments that have a remarkably well-preserved archaeological heritage. Many have been safeguarded from destructive human activities, while some sites have been covered by sandy dunes which have fossilized them. Islands can thus testify to the intense occupation of the land from prehistoric times to the last century.

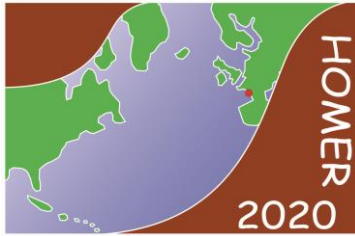
Many islands and islets are also strategic points for observing or controlling the local maritime area, and the activities of island populations are closely linked to the evolution of local navigation and wider geostrategic politics. These factors have influenced the installation of a wide range of structures, from ports and commercial developments to military installations and residential areas.

Insularity can create an embracing culture, or it can lead to a withdrawn environment that combines security and insecurity. The central question is to know whether human occupation of islands results in isolation, or whether the inhabitants feel a close connection with neighbouring places and the world. What are the peculiarities of island areas? Are these peculiarities merely material, or are they grounded in cultural reality? How is the sea perceived? Is it a space that separates, or an environment that connects? And what is the level of communication between an island, other islands - especially in archipelagoes, and the continent beyond? We invite papers that will tackle these and related topics.



***HOMER 2020 - Session 4: The anthropization of the coast: infrastructure, transformation and production techniques.***

Marine environments provide a diversity of renewable resources that are available beneath the water and on the foreshore, notably those deposited along the wrack line by high tides. Whether they are derived from animals (molluscs, crustaceans, fish, birds and mammals), plants (driftwood and seaweed), minerals (rock, salt, silt and sand) or the result of physical processes (strong currents), people from earliest times have developed various infrastructures to exploit and transform them (beach paths, quarries, fisheries or fish traps, salterns and salt boiling, *garum* pits and salting pits, dryers, smokerries, salt marshes, seaweed vats, refining ponds, shellfish farms, mills, etc.). Human coastal populations have been able to integrate the resources offered by the ocean into their everyday activities (building, heating, food, etc.) as well as in the context of more specialized activities. Some of the products may have been intended for exchange or trade (salt, dried fish, de-shelled molluscs, salted meats, canning factories, sauces, soda, iodine, dye, etc.). Human impact on the coast is also illustrated by built structures (dikes, defensive systems, etc.) intended to protect populations from human invasion or attack by the sea. The regulatory and economic implications of the infrastructures associated with the exploitation of coastal resources (both raw and processed) will also be discussed in this session.



***HOMER 2020 - Session 5: Marine resources: new approaches, new challenges.***

The growing number of excavations in coastal contexts is allowing the large-scale recovery of archaeozoological remains (mammal, bird and fish bones, mollusc shells, crab remains ...). In recent years, the introduction of structured sampling methods associated with fine-mesh sieving has made it possible to describe many species that had previously been the victims of selective collection. The analysis of these samples, from controlled archaeological contexts, allows a better understanding of the exploitation of the resources available in coastal areas and thus makes it easier to comprehend the relationship of humans to coastal environments. It also helps us to approach the history of early societies through the perspective of these specific resources.

Other approaches (ancient DNA analysis, isotopic analysis, geochemistry, sclerochronology, mineral and organic chemistry ...) offer the opportunity to observe and record at an even finer scale specific features that were inaccessible to archaeologists even a few years ago. They hence raise the question of the need to anticipate technical advances, and to make this archaeological material available for future analysis after the excavation reports have been submitted.

Studies of an individual species, a specific resource (mineral or organic) or a chronological sequence are expected for this session. It will also provide an opportunity to present innovative methodological approaches.



***HOMER 2020 - Session 6: Navigation, circulation and port installations.***

This session aims to offer a reflection on the movement of people and goods in the Atlantic north of the equator, as well as addressing the issue of the artificial and/or natural facilities designed to accommodate ships and their crews as their patterns of travel required. Thus the choice between a beaching zone or the provision of an artificial facility (dock, slipway, jetty) will depend on the morphology of the shoreline and proximity to an urban centre. New insights offered by historical studies of Atlantic ports and navigation in classical, medieval, and post-medieval times underline the need to adopt a diachronic approach, from the first human settlement to the 20th century, and to question, cross-reference and integrate results from other disciplines such as archaeology, history, geography, oceanography, archaeometry, geoarchaeology and geomorphology. The development of networks of ports operating at local, regional and international scale can also be addressed. Ocean navigation is governed by a set of maritime practices that evolve over time and are sometimes specific to a given geographical area. It will be considered here in its entirety, both at the scale of coastal cabotage and of transatlantic open sea voyaging. This session will consider the characteristics of the ships, their functions, and their versatility as well as their interactions with the port networks and connections with the hinterland beyond. Three geographic zones will be considered: the coastline, the foreshore (land/sea continuum) and the open ocean.