

PERSONAL INFORMATION




Dr. Ioanna Varkitzi

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 Skype varkitzi

POSITION

Research Scientist PhD, Biologist-Oceanographer

WORK EXPERIENCE

2010–Present

Research Scientist PhD

Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, HCMR, Anavyssos (Greece)

- Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) diversity and dynamics, production of toxins and interactions in food webs
- Marine monitoring, diversity and eutrophication indicators for water quality assessment, downstream tools for blooms detection
- Marine phytoplankton diversity and dynamics
- Microalgae cultures, ecophysiology and biotechnological applications

2001–2002

Research associate MSc

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Laboratory, Piraeus (Greece)

Dynamics and management of fish stocks

2002–2002

Research associate MSc

NGO Archipelagos, www.archipelago.gr, Island Ikaria, Aegean Sea (Greece)

Mapping of benthic biocommunities in the sublittoral zone of eastern Aegean Sea and the Dodecanese (Islands of Ikaria, Fourni, Arki, Patmos) in collaboration with the University of Essex, UK

2002–2009

Research associate MSc

HCMR, Anavyssos (Greece)

Diversity and HABs of marine phytoplankton

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

2003–2010

Doctorate Degree, PhD

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens (Greece)

Doctoral Thesis title: Ecology of harmful microalgae and impact on the marine benthic ecosystem

2000–2002

Degree of Master in Science, MSc

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens (Greece)

MSc in Oceanography and Marine Biology. Thesis title: Study of the habitat types in marine areas of the network NATURA-2000 in Evoikos Gulf, Aegean Sea, Eastern Mediterranean

1993–1998

Diploma Degree

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens (Greece)

Diploma in Biology

2000–2011 **Additional training**

Universities and Institutes in Europe

- 06/2011: Perpignan, France, Carbon biogeochemistry training, by University of Perpignan
- 06/2008: Bremerhaven, Germany, Plankton bloom dynamics, new insights from molecular and genomic tools, by Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI), *Networks of Excellence* Marine Genomics Europe (MGE) and Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning (MarBEF)
- 09/2006: Copenhagen, Denmark, Identification and Enumeration of Harmful Marine Microalgae, by University of Copenhagen and International Oceanographic Committee
- 11/2004: Cesenatico, Italy, Second training course for technical operators of the eutrophication monitoring program of MED POL phase III, by UNEP/MAP, ICRAM, ARPA-ER, SOD, CRM
- 08/2000: Banyuls/Mer, France, Primary production at the Mediterranean ecosystem with emphasis on Marine vegetation-Conservation and threats, by the Oceanographic Laboratory Arago and University Paris VI

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s) Greek

Foreign language(s)

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
Proficiency Degree from the University of Cambridge, UK (grade A)					

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user - B1 and B2: Independent user - C1 and C2: Proficient user
Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Communication skills

Excellent communication skills gained through my participation in

- international research projects
- working groups
- international scientific conferences
- dissemination meetings
- awareness of public services, NGOs, professional associations, about urgent harmful algal bloom incidents in coastal areas of Greece
- environmental education programs for schools, Universities and the general public
- training workshops
- joint experiments with multi-national collaborators

Organisational / managerial skills

Very good organisational skills through my participation in

- international research projects as Principal Scientist, Project manager, Task responsible
- Local Organizing Committee of the 14th International Conference on Harmful Algae in 2010
- Organizing as Scientific Committee of the Panhellenic Symposia on Oceanography and Fisheries in 2015 and 2018
- Greek Oceanographers' Association as an Executive Secretary in 2011-2012
- Greek Phycology Association as Executive Board member in 2019-2020
- Organizing working group meetings and training workshops
- Responsible for microalgae culture collection laboratory of HCMR
- Supervising field and experimental work for University students in HCMR

Job-related skills

- Participation as Principal Scientist or responsible for specific activities in european projects. Participation in more than 33 competitive european and national research projects: MARINE-EO (Principle Scientist for HCMR, Horizon 2020), MSFD monitoring project (Project manager, EU and NSRF), MEDREGION (EU), MEDCIS (EU), ACTIONMED (EU), IRIS-SES (EU), PERSEUS (FP7), MEDSEA (FP7), SESAME (FP6), FATE (FP5) etc.
- Group of experts member for the Intercalibration Phase 3: Coastal Waters, Biological Quality Element Phytoplankton for the Mediterranean Geographical Intercalibration Group (*MEDGIG*) of the Water Framework Directive (WFD 2000/60/EC) for the assessment of ecological quality in coastal waters of Greece.
- Group of experts member for the European Environmental Agency Report on Biodiversity in Europe's Seas, 2018.
- Member of the greek experts group of the UNEP-Mediterranean Action Plan Informal Online Working Group on Eutrophication. Attendance of the UNEP-MAP Meeting of the Integrated Monitoring Correspondence Group, 2015

Digital skills

SELF-ASSESSMENT				
Information processing	Communication	Content creation	Safety	Problem-solving
Proficient user	Proficient user	Proficient user	Proficient user	Independent user

Digital skills - Self-assessment grid

- advanced computer skills for MS Office and internet browsers
- datasets construction with SPSS and MS Office Excel
- advanced statistical analysis with Statgraphics and PRIMER

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Publications (selected since 2010)

- **Varkitzi, I.**, Psarra, S., Assimakopoulou, G., Pavlidou, A., Krasakopoulou, E., Velaoras, D., Papathanassiou, E. and Pagou, K. (2019). Phytoplankton dynamics and bloom formation in the oligotrophic Eastern Mediterranean: Field studies in the Aegean, Levantine and Ionian seas. *Deep Sea Research Part II: Topical Studies in Oceanography*, 104662. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dsr2.2019.104662>
- Pavlidou, A., Simboura, N., Pagou, K., Assimakopoulou, G., Gerakaris, V., Hatzianestis, I., Panayotidis, P., Pantazi, M., Papadopoulou, N., Reizopoulou, S., Smith, C., Triantafyllou, M., Uyarra, M.C., **Varkitzi, I.**, Vassilopoulou, V., Zeri, C., Borga, A. (2019). Using a holistic ecosystem-integrated approach to assess the environmental status of Saronikos Gulf, Eastern Mediterranean. *Ecol. Indic.*, 96, 336-350. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolind.2018.09.007>
- **Varkitzi I.**, Francé J., Basset A., Cozzoli F., Stanca E., Zervoudaki S., Giannakourou A., Assimakopoulou G., Venetsanopoulou A., Mozetič P., Tinta T., Skejic S., Vidjak O., Cadiou J-F., Pagou K. (2018). Pelagic habitats in the Mediterranean Sea: A review of Good Environmental Status (GES) determination for plankton components and identification of gaps and priority needs to improve coherence for the MSFD implementation. *Ecological Indicators*, 95(1), 203-218. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolind.2018.07.036>
- **Varkitzi I.**, Trypitsidis A., Astyakopoulos A., Rizogiannis C., Gómez Miguel B., Tsouni A., Topouzelis K., Kontoes H., Tagne U., Vieira A.F., Zurita R., Silva S., Kalogirou V., Fernandez V., Lykousis V., Thomopoulos SCA. (2018). Designing innovative services for marine environment monitoring using earth-observation tools in the frame of the Pre-Commercial Procurement project MARINE-EO. *AIP Proc* 2022, 020013; doi: 10.1063/1.5060693
- **Varkitzi I.**, Markogianni V., Pantazi M., Pagou K., Pavlidou A., Dimitriou E. (2018). Effect of river inputs on environmental status and potentially harmful phytoplankton in an eastern Mediterranean coastal area (Maliakos Gulf, Greece). *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 19(2), 326-343. <http://dx.doi.org/10.12681/mms.14591>
- Thomopoulos SCA., Astyakopoulos A., Rizogiannis C., Trypitsidis A., Tsouni A., Topouzelis K., Kontoes H., **Varkitzi I.**, Lykousis V., Gómez Miguel B., Vieira A.F., Martins A., Markellou M., Kyriazanos D.M. (2018). MARINE-EO bridging innovative downstream earth observation and

- Copernicus enabled services for integrated maritime environment, surveillance, and security. Proc. SPIE 10646 The International Society for Optical Engineering, Signal Processing, Sensor/Information Fusion, and Target Recognition XXVII, 106460U, DOI 10.1117/12.2307066
- Cozzoli, F., Stanca, E., Selmecky, G. B., Francé, J., **Varkitzi, I.**, & Basset, A. (2017). Sensitivity of phytoplankton metrics to sample-size: A case study on a large transitional water dataset (WISER). *Ecological Indicators*, 82, 558-573. DOI 10.1016/j.ecolind.2017.07.022
 - **Varkitzi, I.**, Politi D., Dimitriou E. (2017). Bioremediation potential of three eastern Mediterranean microalgae strains for nitrogen polluted urban water bodies. *Journal of Environmental Protection and Ecology*, 18(4), 1624–1636.
 - Christou ED., Zervoudaki S., Fernandez-Puelles M.Luz, Protopapa M., **Varkitzi I.**, Pitta V. (2017) Response of the calanoid copepod *Clausocalanus furcatus* to atmospheric deposition events: outcomes from a mesocosm study. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 4:35. DOI 10.3389/fmars.2017.00035
 - **Varkitzi, I.**, Pagou, K., Pyrgaki, C., & Hatzianestis, I. (2017). A biomass upscale system for the marine dinoflagellate *Prorocentrum lima* and the production of bioactive lipophilic toxins. *International Journal of Applied Sciences and Biotechnology*, 5(4), 479-485. DOI 10.3126/ijasbt.v5i4.18561
 - Markogianni V., **Varkitzi I.**, Pagou K., Dimitriou E. (2017) Nutrient flows and related impacts between a Mediterranean river and the associated coastal area. *Continental Shelf Research*, 134: 1-14. DOI 10.1016/j.csr.2016.12.014
 - Zervoudaki S., Frangoulis C., Christou E.D., Svensen C., Arashkevich E., Ratkova T., **Varkitzi I.**, Krasakopoulou E., Pagou K. (2014) Vertical carbon flux of biogenic mater in a coastal area of the Aegean Sea. Importance of appendicularians. *Estuaries and Coasts*, 37, 911-924. DOI 10.1007/s12237-013-9723-z
 - **Varkitzi I.**, Pagou K., Granéli E., Hatzianestis I., Pyrgaki C., Pavlidou A., Montesanto B., Economou-Amilli A. (2010) Unbalanced N:P ratios and nutrient stress controlling growth and toxin production of the harmful dinoflagellate *Prorocentrum lima* (Ehrenberg) Dodge. *Harmful Algae*, 9 (3), 304-311. DOI 10.1016/j.hal.2009.12.001