

Voluntary cleanup of beaches at Oinousses



Upon the initiative of member-company Atlas Maritime Ltd, HELMEPA was invited to Oinousses on Saturday 30 May 2009 to participate in activities dedicated to the protection of the island's marine environment.

Brief addresses to participants in the initiative were made by Messrs V. Aggelakos, Mayor of Oinousses and Leon Patitsas, Managing Director of Atlas Maritime, who, welcoming the HELMEPA representative, stressed the need to cultivate environmental consciousness in order to protect our environment.

Constantinos Andreadis, environmentalist-staff member of HELMEPA, thanked the Municipal authority and Atlas Maritime and then went on to brief participants on the problem of marine litter on coasts and in the seas. A phenomenon, he said, that is caused by changes in our habits and daily conduct and has led to negative impacts from plastic pollution to marine organisms and gradually human life itself. Closing his address, he encouraged all "to spend some of our energy" by being more careful in the way we manage our own litter.

Following, voluntary cleanups were carried out on 7 beaches around the island by more than 120 people, including local residents and municipal staff, pupils and teachers from the Elementary school and the Junior and Senior high schools, students and administrative staff of the Merchant Marine Academies of Oinousses and Chios, as well as staff members of Atlas Maritime from Athens.

It was confirmed once again that the largest percentage of litter collected from the beaches were plastics and smoking-related waste. Both of these waste categories are due, unfortunately, to the ignorance or/and indifference of all those that enjoy our country's wonderful beaches.

HELMEPA wishes to thank and congratulate the Municipality of Oinousses and the Administration and staff of Atlas Maritime Ltd for their sensitivity to implement this environmental initiative in Oinousses.