

**PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PARAMETERS OF A CHARACTERISTIC
NEARSHORE MICROENVIRONMENT IN THE ISLAND OF CRETE**

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ABSTRACT

The present paper examines oceanographic parameters as well as the influence to the neighbouring coastal sea area, of a small nearshore marine system, the “Salty Lake” of Agioa Nikolaos town in the island of Crete, Greece. Hydrological parameters indicate that the main characteristic of the system is the permanent anoxic state below thermocline. Nutrients levels are very high throughout the water column of the lake and also high concentrations in the adjacent harbour and coastal waters indicate the impact of this small system to the marine environment.