



Recent coastal uplift and subsidence along the Ionian front of Greece mainland – observations and significance

Stathis C. Stiros (1), Fanis Moschas (1), and Stella Pytharouli (2)

(1) Geodesy Lab., Dept of Civil Engineering, Patras University, 26500, Greece, (2) Department of Civil Engineering, University of Strathclyde, 7.12 JOHN ANDERSON

While thrust tectonics, dominating the Ionian front in NW Greece, tend to produce both uplift and subsidence, no Quaternary-Holocene coastal uplifts have been found so far along the coasts of mainland Greece. Such uplifts are found only in the Ionian Islands (Corfu, Cephalonia, Leucas, Zante), farther west. The only exception is a raised beach in the Kanalaki-Parga area, testifying to an about 0.7m, most probably seismic uplift, radiocarbon dated to approximately 4000BP. This uplift, clearly indicating contraction, is however associated with slip on a low-friction evaporitic layer, and is probably not representative of regional scale tectonics.

The absence of Quaternary-Holocene raised beaches along the Ionian front may indicate a growing syncline between the mainland and the Ionian islands, an hypothesis consistent with the Sea-Surface Topography, deduced from airborne altimetry and indicating a ‘trough’ in the critical area.