



HELLENIC SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY AND PROTECTION OF THE MONK SEAL

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Athens, 22/01/2009
Prot.No. 09/0304

Press Release

Good news for young Artemis

After 40 days of treatment at MOM's Rehabilitation Centre in Alonnisos, Artemis, the new-born orphaned monk seal which was found in Leros at the 10th of December, responds positively to the veterinary treatment administered and shows signs of stabilization.

The last news are more than encouraging, as everything shows that young Artemis has fully adjust to her daily nursing schedule so as to be prepared for the rehabilitation phase which will last until the mid of April.

Today, the two-month *Monachus monachus* weighs 28 kilos and her length reaches 120 cm. She eats 5 times per day and she accepts the gradual change of the food provided to her by MOM's team. The food provided is now more solid, in the form of tuna fillets and alive fish that will stimulate and help her to learn hunting for her food by herself.

She has already shed the pup lanugo and its fur is that of a young, whereas her daily pleasure is to swim for hours in the Centre's swimming pool. She makes her presence extremely noticeable by barking loud and according to MOM's team in terms of temper she has an appreciable difference from other seals that makes her the most lively monk seal that has ever 'visited' the Rehabilitation Centre.

In the whole effort of rescuing, treating and rehabilitating Artemis, MOM has on its side Piraeus Bank which within its framework of Corporate Social Responsibility, supports with consistency MOM's activities for the protection of the most endangered marine mammal in Europe, for the last 15 years.

In parallel, valuable help has been offered to MOM's team by its volunteers. Their active participation is one of the key factors in the successful progress of the young *Monachus monachus*.

The rescue and treatment of the new-born orphaned monk seal is conducted in accordance with international protocols by MOM's expert staff, in the context of the European Project LIFE-Nature "MOFI".

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MOFI programme aims at reducing the negative impact that monk seals yield on Greek fisheries while decreasing the impact that fisheries have on the species in Greece. It is funded by the LIFE financial instrument of the European Commission, the Prefecture of Magnesia, Piraeus Bank and IFAW. For further information, visit www.mofi.gr.

