

# Greek island moved by earthquake

Two earthquakes measuring 6.1 and 5.2 on the Richter scale struck the Greek Ionian island of Lefkada on 17 November 2015. The earthquakes, within an hour and a half of each other, have resulted in the movement of the entire island 36cm to the south.

YM reader Peter Newton was on his yacht, *Heather*, on Levkas at the time of the earthquake. He described what happened:

'I was sitting at the saloon table when I suddenly became aware of a deep powerful rumble. It became a roar and my 10m yacht started to shake like a pneumatic drill. It just kept on going. I went into the cockpit and saw people running out of shops and cafés.

**Yachts navigating around Lefkada should take care of uncharted underwater changes**

'Eventually the shuddering died away and there was silence for a few seconds while people gathered their wits. It all seemed normal again, except that the floating pontoon *Heather* was moored to was snaking up and down its 100-metre length. The water in the marina was heaving in an unnatural way.'

The Cruising Association issued a warning for yachtsmen, as the earthquakes could have shifted rocks and changed the underwater profile creating uncharted dangers. A number of beaches, including the famous Egremni beach on the south-western end of the island, were lost to landslides.

Two people were killed by falling masonry and a rockfall. 120 houses were damaged. The



PHOTO: ALAMY

epicentre of the quakes was 5km underground and 20km to the west of the island. Seismologists in Greece linked the two earthquakes to the Kefalonia fault line.

Athanasios Ganas, Director of the Geodynamic Institute of Athens, said that Lefkada's displacement was 'one of the biggest shifts that have taken place in Greece. It is a big movement that surprised us.'

Some yachts at a boatyard in Steno, near Nidri were damaged when they fell from their cradles.

'I have experienced an earthquake before when afloat,' said Mr Newton, 'but this time was different, and I don't want to experience it again.'



PHOTO: ALAMY

A number of houses on the island of Lefkada collapsed during the quake

## Binding targets for yacht recycling

Yacht recycling is feasible and will become commonplace in Europe within a few years, according to industry experts.

A recent conference at the Nautic Paris International Boat Show saw representatives from across Europe meet to discuss solutions to the problem of unwanted boats. According to the International Council of Marine Industry Associations (ICOMIA), around 13,000 recreational craft become 'end-of-life' boats each year.

Regulation of yacht recycling is now on its way. Thomas Strasser, policy officer at the European Commission, explained that



PHOTO: ALAMY

Abandoned yachts, like this one near Maldon, can be an eyesore and a hazard. Who pays to recycle them?

the Circular Economy Package, launched in December 2015, sets a binding target that a maximum of ten per cent of all waste will be sent to landfill by 2030. This represents a major challenge to glassfibre yacht owners and manufacturers.

The question of who finances a recycling system remains one of the largest hurdles. Other hindrances, said Yves Lyon-Caen, president of the French Federation of Nautical Industries (FIN), are the fact that: 'The boat is one of the products with the longest lifetime – over 40 years. The same boat will on average change hands six or seven times'. This makes it hard to hold one

owner accountable for the boat.

The French APER dismantling network is, however, a proven model disposing of unwanted boats, supported by FIN and the French government. APER PYRO also destroys of expired pyrotechnic flares free of charge.

## IN BRIEF

### Northern Ireland MCZs

Four sites in Northern Ireland could become Marine Conservation Zones, following public consultations. Rathlin, Waterfoot, Outer Belfast and Carlingford Lough have all been nominated for protection.

### 30th Atlantic rally

The 30th edition of the Atlantic Rally for Cruisers finished in Saint Lucia just before Christmas. One yacht was safely abandoned after she started taking on water.

### Newquay SAR

Bristow Helicopters is set to take over search-and-rescue duties from RNAS Culdrose in January 2016, operating from Newquay Airport.

### 30 for Golden Globe

The 2018 Golden Globe Race, a back-to-basics round the world solo yacht race, now has 30 entrants. As in the original race, the start and finish will be in Falmouth, UK.

### OCC Arctic Rally

The Ocean Cruising Club is running an Arctic rally in summer 2016, open to members and non-members alike. It sails from Bergen in Norway to Lofoten.

### Ocean vagabond seeks crew

Three-time circumnavigator Roy Starkey (see p50) wants crew to sail from Grenada to the remote and dangerous Darién Gap between Panama and Columbia. sealoone@hotmail.com

### Length of Britain sailing record

Phil Sharp, Sean Conway and Alex Alley set an inaugural Length of Britain sailing record in December, racing from Land's End to John O'Groats in 3d 12h aboard a Class 40 monohull.

### Atlantic 'Cool Route'

'The Cool Route' is promoting cruising on Europe's remotest shores. It is surveying the needs of cruising sailors on the west coasts of Ireland, Scotland, the Faroe Islands and Norway. See [www.sailcoolroute.eu](http://www.sailcoolroute.eu)