SeaMobile apps, marine data and forecast services available on mobile devices

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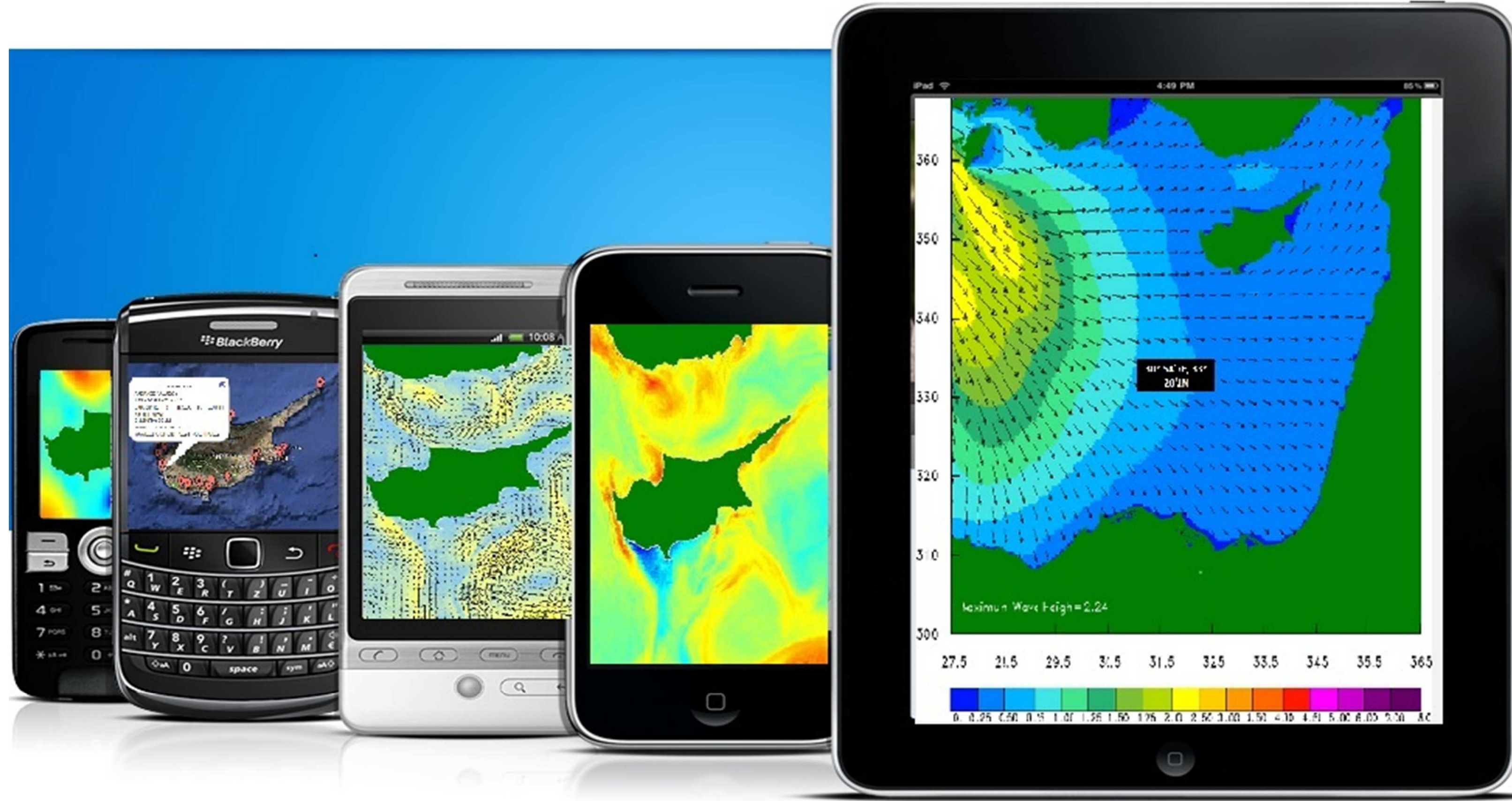
The project aims to develop the SeaMobile information service for giving tourist and recreational users access to customised marine data and forecasting services, adopting smart phones and mobile touch screen devices as distribution platforms.

The SeaMobile project as a pilot has a focus on developing marine environmental information for tourist and recreational users, and later this can be expanded with dedicated services for businesses or public authorities.

The project involves formulating and developing platform-optimised content and related services for users from the recreation sector.

Project duration: May 2013 - April 2015

WorkPlan:

WP1: Project Management (M1 - M24)

WP2: Dissemination of Results (including promotion and marketing of new services) (M16 - M24)

WP3: Analysis of user requirements and formulating user services (M1 - M4)

WP4: Scientific and technical development of new content services (server side) (M4 - M10)

WP5: Technical development of mobile applications around new content services (client side) (M1 - M20)

Scientific and technological objectives:

•To analyze and prioritize requirements for dedicated marine data and forecasting services for the target community of touristic and recreational users

•To formulate and develop a number of feasible content services, based upon BYTHOS and CYCOFOS, in response to the prioritized requirements

•To develop and test a touch screen mobile website and a series of touch screen apps for iPhone, iPad and Android platforms which will access the dedicated services

•To establish a daily use of these mobile services by at least 250 users per day in the holiday season
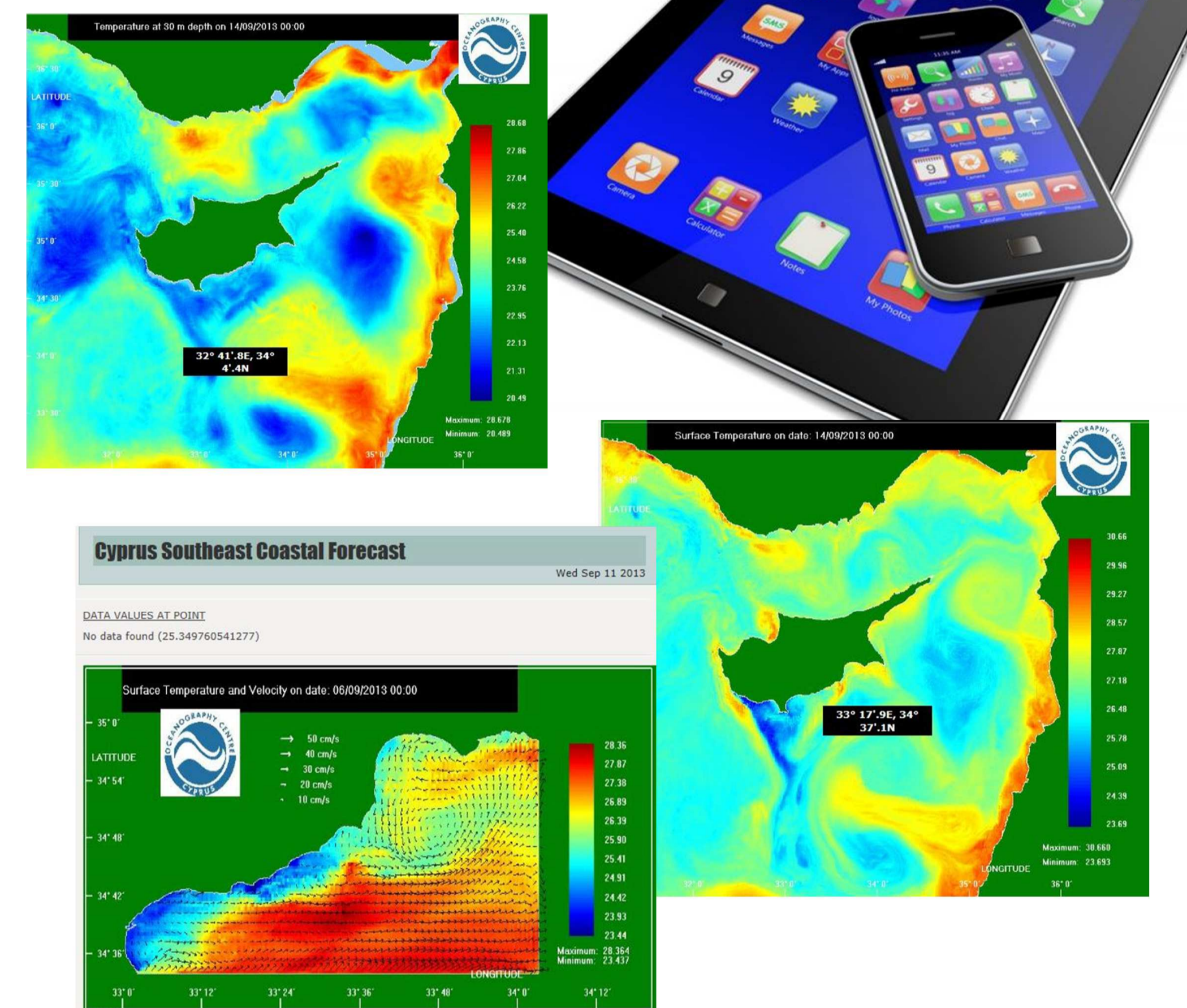
Survey on User Requirements for the SeaMobile Applications
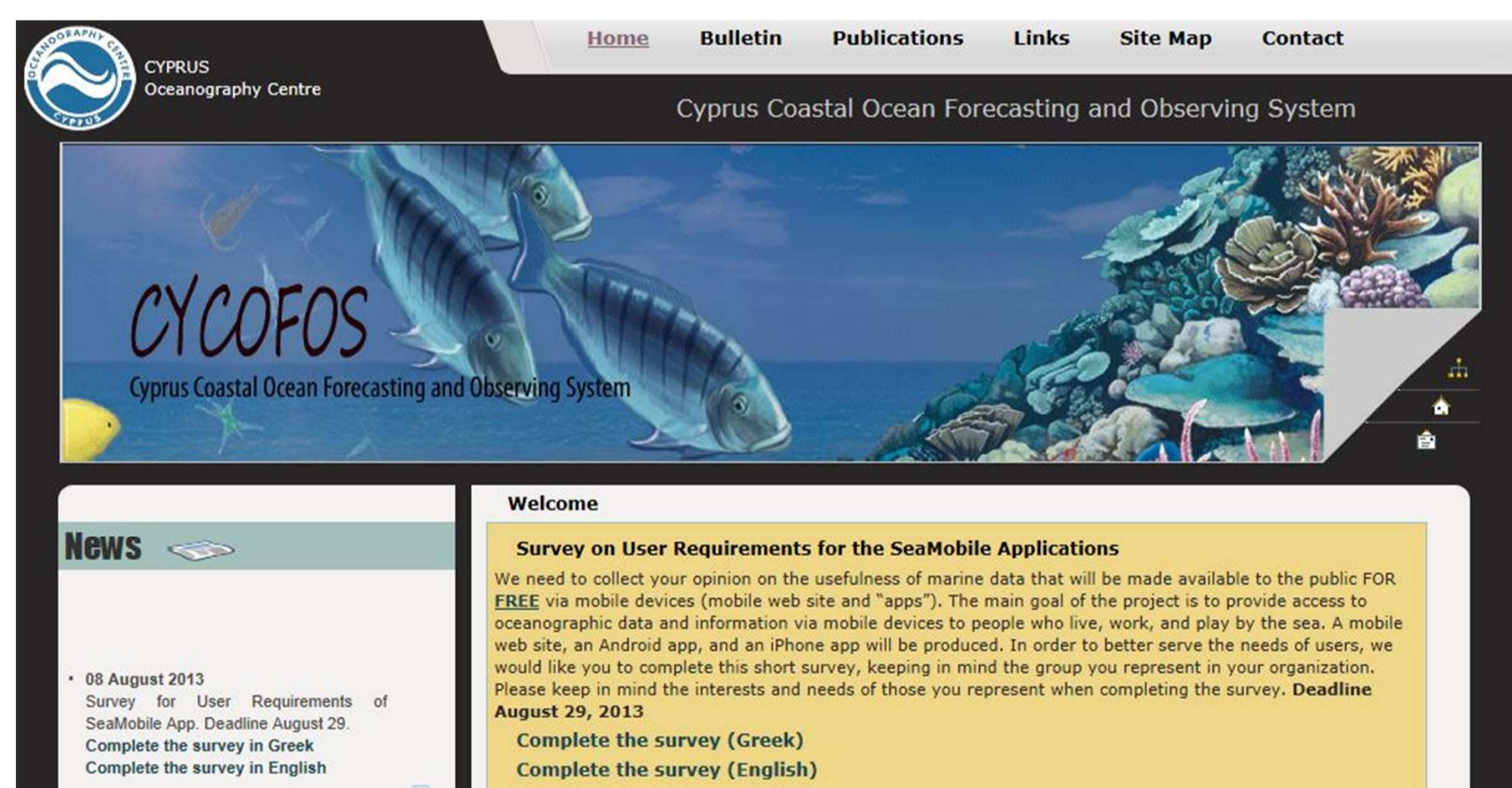
The aim of the survey was to identify the user requirements from different target groups from the tourist and recreational sector.

Potential users:
Hotel chains, Hotels Association, Diving Schools, Fishery Trips organizers, publisher, Fishing and Angling, Extreme Sports, tourists, water recreations sports

Results

1. It is apparent that the existing CYCOFOS capability in forecasting waves and currents should be capitalized upon in the new mobile platform service. These sea conditions are very important, and should be provided for the entire coast of Cyprus, perhaps at some regular interval such as 1-2 km.
2. New products regarding the safety of coastal areas should be developed and provided. The most simple is a 'blue flag' status which is regularly granted by the European Union after examination, and can be reflected in the new app. A more dynamic safety index should be developed, which provides an overall view of the level of danger. It should take into account wave height, current strength, winds, beach slope and substrate type, and possibly other parameters. The above should also be available separately, so the user can see why the area is dangerous.
3. Static information like locations of services and authorities, should also be provided. Existing databases could be merged (such as Geomatic Technologies web map service: www.geomatic.com.cy see Fig. 2 or their mobile app "Cyprus Help").
4. If time and resources allow, surface temperature, thermocline depth, and tides could also be provided.

Users represented by the survey-takers (a) and number of days users visit the sea per year (b).
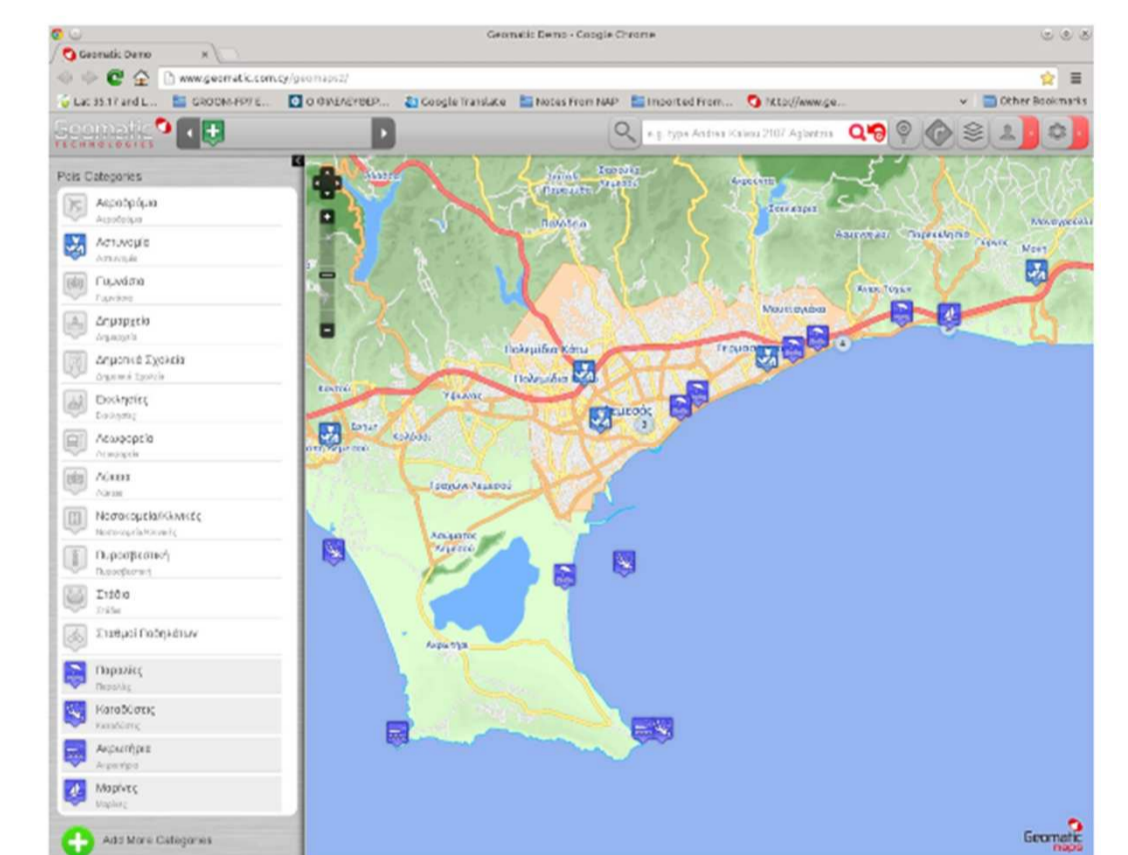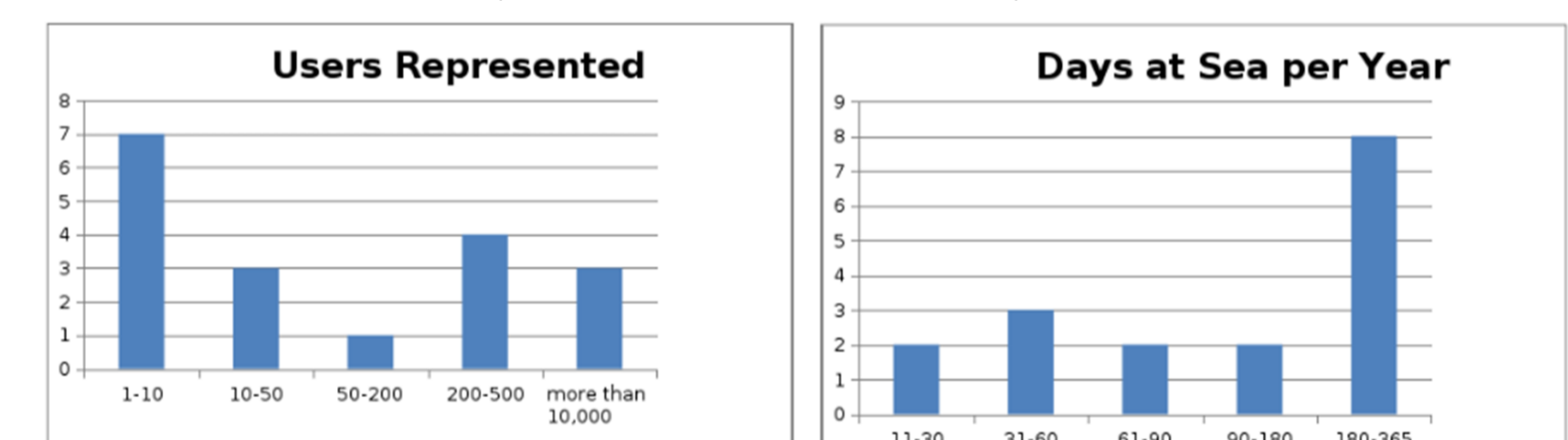

Fig 2. Example of existing map service (web and app) that shows static coastal information likediving locations, beaches, marinas.