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**Journal of Maritime Archaeology**

ISSN 1557-2285

Volume 9

Number 1

J Mari Arch (2014) 9:143-157

DOI 10.1007/s11457-013-9122-4

Volume 9, Number 1 • JUNE 2014 • 9(1) 1–158 (2014) • ISSN 1557-2285



Journal of  
**MARITIME  
ARCHAEOLOGY**

 Springer

 Springer

## Maritime Cultural Landscape: A New Approach to the *Cascais* Coastline

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Published online: 20 December 2013  
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**Abstract** Portuguese Archaeology only recently began to address the concept of maritime cultural landscape. In this article we intend to analyze the impact that this kind of approach has upon the study of a littoral characterized by a cliffed coast and a seafloor that is morphologically complicated by the estuary influences of the Atlantic Ocean and the Tagus River. The coast of *Cascais*, located near Lisbon, is the space that we wish to address with this epistemological paradigm. A large spectrum of sites composed of fortresses, lighthouses, harbors, anchorages, and shipwrecks permits a *longue durée* examination. The relationships and networks between humans and archaeological remains, directly and indirectly linked to the nautical past, are observed diachronically with a focus on the early Modern Period.

**Keywords** Maritime cultural landscape · Coastal archaeology · Portugal · *Cascais*

The concept of the maritime cultural landscape, though prevalent in archaeology since the 1980s, is not adequately examined in the Portuguese context. While Portuguese underwater archaeology is a vibrant field of scholarly activity, it would benefit from a broader view that engages “the remnants of maritime culture” both on land and underwater (Westerdahl 2006: 339–341). The study of the Portuguese coastline around *Cascais* from the maritime cultural landscape perspective is a good starting point for the utilization of such an approach.

Of particular interest is the area that is geographically demarcated by two prominent points on the coast—Cape *Roca* and the Fortress of *São Julião da Barra*. This location is at the end of the offshore area called *the Cove Between the Capes (Enseada Entre-os-Cabos)*, bordered by Cape *Roca*, to the North, and Cape *Espichel*, to the South. This maritime

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