

#### 4.2.6. UNDERWATER PROSPECTION 1994



Between September 1 and 14, 1994 an underwater archaeological prospection took place in Sanitja harbour.

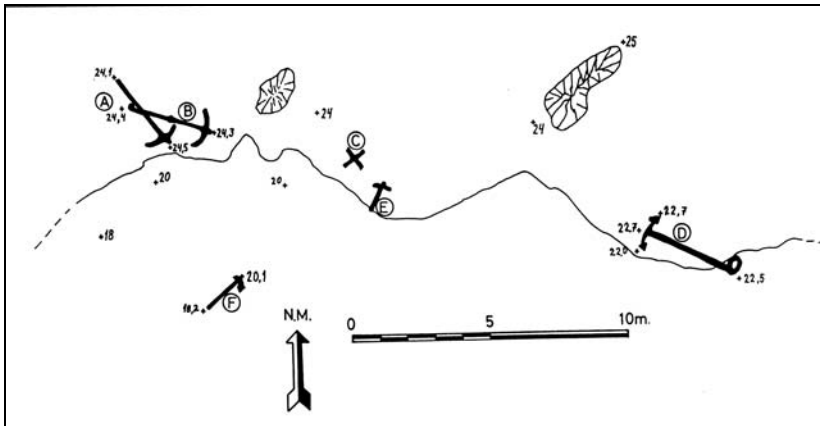
The intervention was limited to the visual inspection of the harbour's bottom, to the collection of visible material samples and to the topographical recording of finds.

The most outstanding sherds were recorded, and only some samples were collected, such as a South Gaulic Samian inkwell, type Hermet 18<sup>1</sup>.

Also, a plan was drawn of a group of iron anchors, 24 metres deep. Of the six anchors found in this sector, four seemed to be Roman, probably Early Imperial, and two more were of the *Almirantazgo* type, documented from the Middle Ages to our day, although their condition indicated that they are not modern. All anchors are large and correspond to vessels of considerable size. The reason for such an accumulation in this limited space (within some 25 metres) has to be found both in the bottom and the coast configuration.

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<sup>1</sup> Sampling performed in the mouth of Sanitja harbour. 2 fragments of Punic Ebusitan amphora, 1 fragment of Italian Campanian amphora, 1 fragment of Dressel 1 from Latium, 3 fragments of large African, and a neck of a Keay II C African amphora, 1 base of a large African amphora, 1 base tip of a large African amphora, and 3 base tip fragments of large African amphoras.



The accumulation is found at the end of a flat area full of soil and algae, close to a big rock and a slope down of 4 to 5 metres, with sharp rocks that can easily cut ropes, so a boat could not always recover an anchor, especially with what sailors call "*mar de Mistral*". Also, boats that had to look for refuge from a storm of the "*mar de Mistral*" or with west winds, had to "plough" the bottom with the anchor until it stopped in this rocky area. If the ropes could not hold it, the boats would lose their anchor here before they shipwrecked.