



History of ACCOBAMS

ACCOBAMS comes from a joint initiative of four Conventions:

- **Convention for Migratory Species (CMS)**
- **Barcelona Convention**
- **Bern Convention**
- **Bucharest Convention**

It was adopted as an agreement under CMS and was open for signature in November 1996. It entered into force in 2002

23 countries are Parties to ACCOBAMS (January 2014)



GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE OF ACCOBAMS



●
**Parties
to ACCOBAMS**

●
**Initial
ACOBAMS Area**

●
**Extension
adopted in 2010**



Governance Structure of ACCOBAMS

Meeting of the Parties

The Bureau

Permanent Secretariat

Scientific Committee

Subregional Co-ordination units



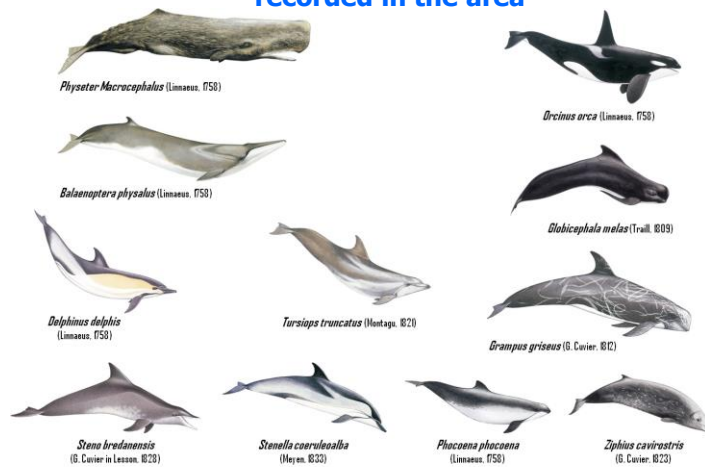
OBJECTIVES OF ACCOBAMS

ACCOBAMS aims at achieving and maintaining a favourable conservation status for cetaceans by implementing measures to:

- eliminate deliberate taking
- mitigate the adverse impacts of human activities on cetaceans
- create and maintain a **network of specially protected areas** that ensures the conservation of cetacean habitats



ACCOBAMS applies for 21 cetacean species, 11 of them are regularly recorded in the area



The Conservation Plan of ACCOBAMS

The Conservation Plan included in ACCOBAMS (Annex 2) provides guidance to Parties as for the measures to undertake to achieve the objectives of the Agreement. It deals with:

- **Adoption and enforcement of national legislation**
- **Assessment and management of human-cetacean interactions**
- **Habitat protection**
- **Research and monitoring**
- **Capacity building, collection and dissemination of information, training and education**
- **Responses to emergency situations**



Areas of Special Importance for cetaceans



ACCOBAMS provisions for Habitat protection

“Parties shall endeavour to establish and manage specially protected areas for cetaceans corresponding to the areas which serve as habitats of cetaceans and/or which provide important food resources for them. Such specially protected areas should be established within the framework of the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, 1976, and its relevant protocol, or within the framework of other appropriate instruments.”

ACCOBAMS’s Conservation Plan (Section 3)



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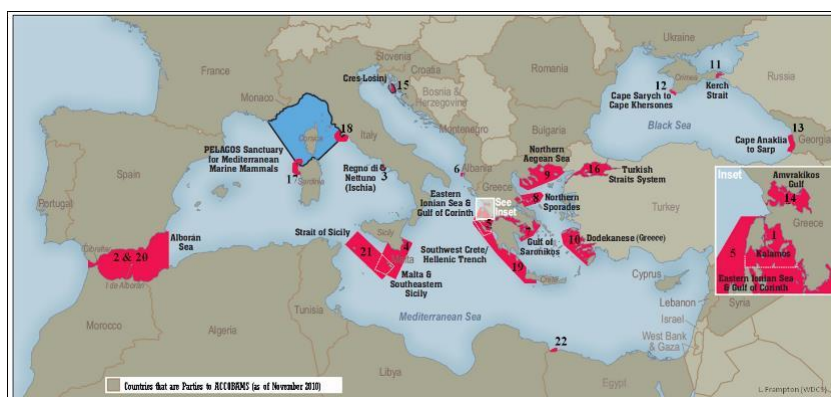
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Areas of Special Importance for cetaceans in the Mediterranean and Black Sea



What is a Cetacean critical habitat?

A cetacean critical habitat is a place or area regularly used by a cetacean group, population or species to perform tasks essential for survival and equilibrium maintenance.



Criteria to identify sites containing critical habitat for cetaceans:

- Areas used by cetaceans for feeding, breeding, calving, nursing and social behaviour;
- Migration routes and corridors and related resting areas;
- Areas where there are seasonal concentrations of cetacean species;
- Areas of importance to cetacean prey;

- Natural processes that support continued productivity of cetacean foraging species (upwellings, fronts, etc.);
- Topographic structures favourable for enhancing foraging opportunities for cetacean species (canyons, seamounts).

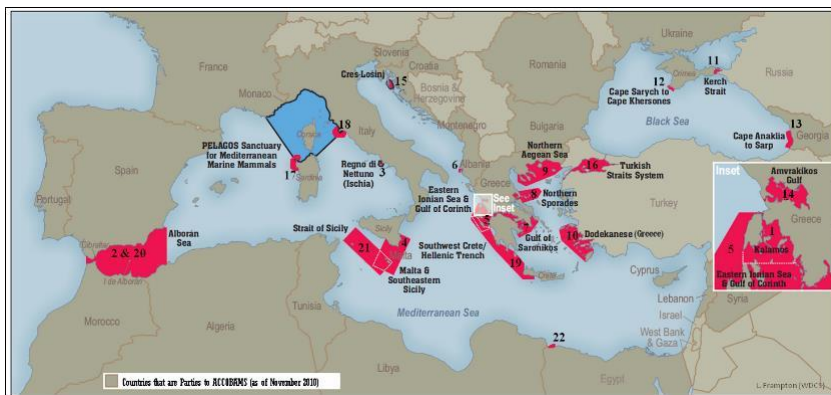


The occurrence of significant interactions between cetaceans and human activities should also be considered:

- Conflicts between cetaceans and fishing activities
- Significant or frequent bycatch of cetaceans is reported
- Intensive whale watching or other marine tourism activities occur
- Navigation presents a potential threat to cetaceans
- Pollution runoff, outflow or other marine dumping occur
- Military exercises are known to routinely occur

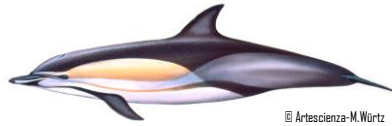


Areas of Special Importance for cetaceans in the Mediterranean and Black Sea



Areas of special importance for the common dolphin

- (1) Kalamos (Greece)
- (2) The Alborán Sea;
- (3) waters surrounding the island of Ischia (south-eastern Tyrrhenian Sea, Italy)
- (4) waters surrounding the island of Malta and southeastern Sicily, Italy
- (5) the eastern Ionian Sea and the Gulf of Corinth (Greece)
- (6) the Gulf of Saronikos and adjacent waters (Argo-Saronikos and southern Evvoikos Gulf, Greece)
- (7) waters surrounding the northern Sporades (Greece)
- (8) the northern Aegean Sea and
- (9) waters surrounding the Dodecanese (Greece).



Areas of special importance for the bottlenose dolphin

- (13) The Amvrakikos Gulf (Greece)
- (14) the Cres-Lošinj special marine reserve
- (15) the Turkish straits system (also used by all Black Sea cetacean species).



Area of special importance for the sperm whale

- (16) southwest Crete and the Hellenic Trench (Greece).



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Areas of special importance and diversity for various cetacean species

(17) the Alborán Sea and Straits of Gibraltar

(18) the Strait of Sicily for fin whales and common, bottlenose and striped dolphins.



Guidelines for the Establishment and Management of Marine Protected Areas for Cetaceans

Joint initiative of:
RAC/SPA, ACCOBAMS and MEDPAN)

Author of the original version:
Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciarra

Year of publication: **2007**



Guidelines for the Establishment and Management of Marine Protected Areas for Cetaceans

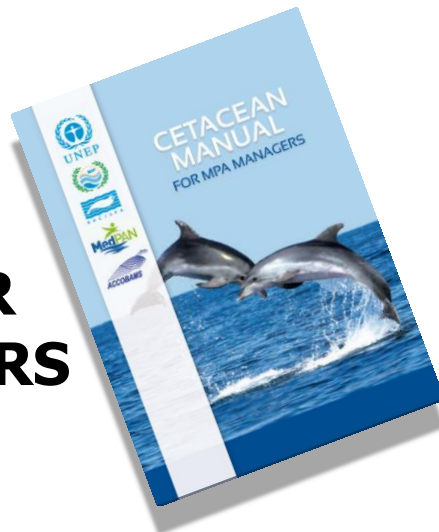
Selection and creation of MPAs

Management of MPAs

Cetacean conservation in existing MPAs



CETACEAN MANUAL FOR MPA MANAGERS



Content of the Manual

Species presentation

Monitoring of cetacean populations in MPAs

Existing data feedback mechanisms and Networks of Experts

Key organisations

Cetacean stranding & Cleaning carcasses

**Awareness raising Whale Watching
Eco-volunteering**

Interactions between maritime activities and cetaceans

