



Workshop : Coordinated monitoring and coherent assessment of population status

Southern Europe, Mediterranean and Black Seas - ACCOBAMS -

Léa DAVID

(member of the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS)



Introduction



 Agreement area

 Extension

 Parties

ACCOBAMS Area

Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans
 in the Black Sea Mediterranean Sea
 and Contiguous Atlantic Area

In March 2016

23 Parties to ACCOBAMS

The designations employed and the presentation of the information on this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of ACCOBAMS concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Cetaceans of the Black and Mediterranean Seas

Cétacés de mer Noire et de Méditerranée



Steno bredanensis
Rough-toothed dolphin * Sténo



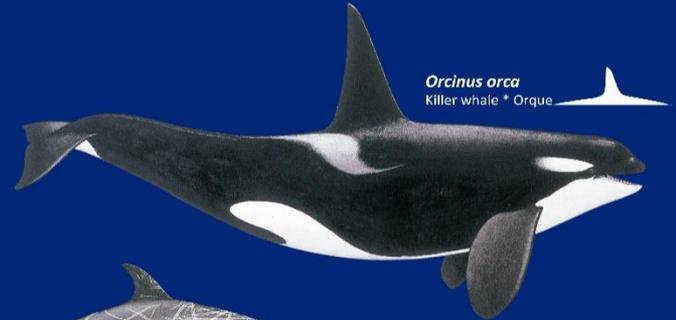
Stenella coeruleoalba
Striped dolphin * dauphin bleu et blanc



Physeter catodon
Sperm whale * Cachalot



Delphinus delphis
Common dolphin * Dauphin commun



Orcinus orca
Killer whale * Orque



Tursiops truncatus
Bottlenose dolphin * Grand dauphin



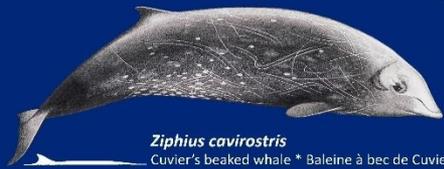
Globicephala melas
Long-finned pilot whale * Globicéphale noir



Grampus griseus
Risso's dolphin * Dauphin de Risso



Phocoena phocoena
Harbour porpoise * Marsouin commun



Ziphius cavirostris
Cuvier's beaked whale * Baleine à bec de Cuvier



Balaenoptera physalus
Fin whale * Rorqual commun



© dimension by M. Stevens & illustration by Corinne Miniglieri for ACCOBAMS, 2014.



Research and monitoring programs and projects done to improve knowledge about the biology, ecology and conservation of cetaceans



- ★ Capacity building
- ★ Research
- ★ Monitoring

*Information from 2013
 National Reports*



Cetacean Monitoring Programs



Agreement area
 Extension
 Parties

National and sub-regional Cetacean Monitoring Programs identified in the ACCOBAMS SC Regional reports in 2015

- Less actions undertaken in countries having a delicate geopolitical situation...
- Only at national level, so not coordinated between countries
- Gaps



Cetacean Monitoring Programs: the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative

To establish a coherent monitoring system for the species concerned in the Mediterranean ecoregion, based on objective, robust and comparable data, with a view to improving the conservation status of these species and their habitats through appropriate management

Providing a **deeper understanding of the abundance and distribution of the species** at the Mediterranean Sea regional level

Strengthening international cooperation and synergies between the countries

2017

Plan for research platforms (10 macro-areas, 11 aircrafts, 2 ships and 3 acoustic ships)

➔ The project will provide **essential supports to the countries to meet their international and regional commitments (EcAp process, EU Directives, CBD Aichi targets, Bern Convention...)**



Relevant international/regional Organizations addressing cetacean monitoring



- ACCOBAMS Parties also EU Member States

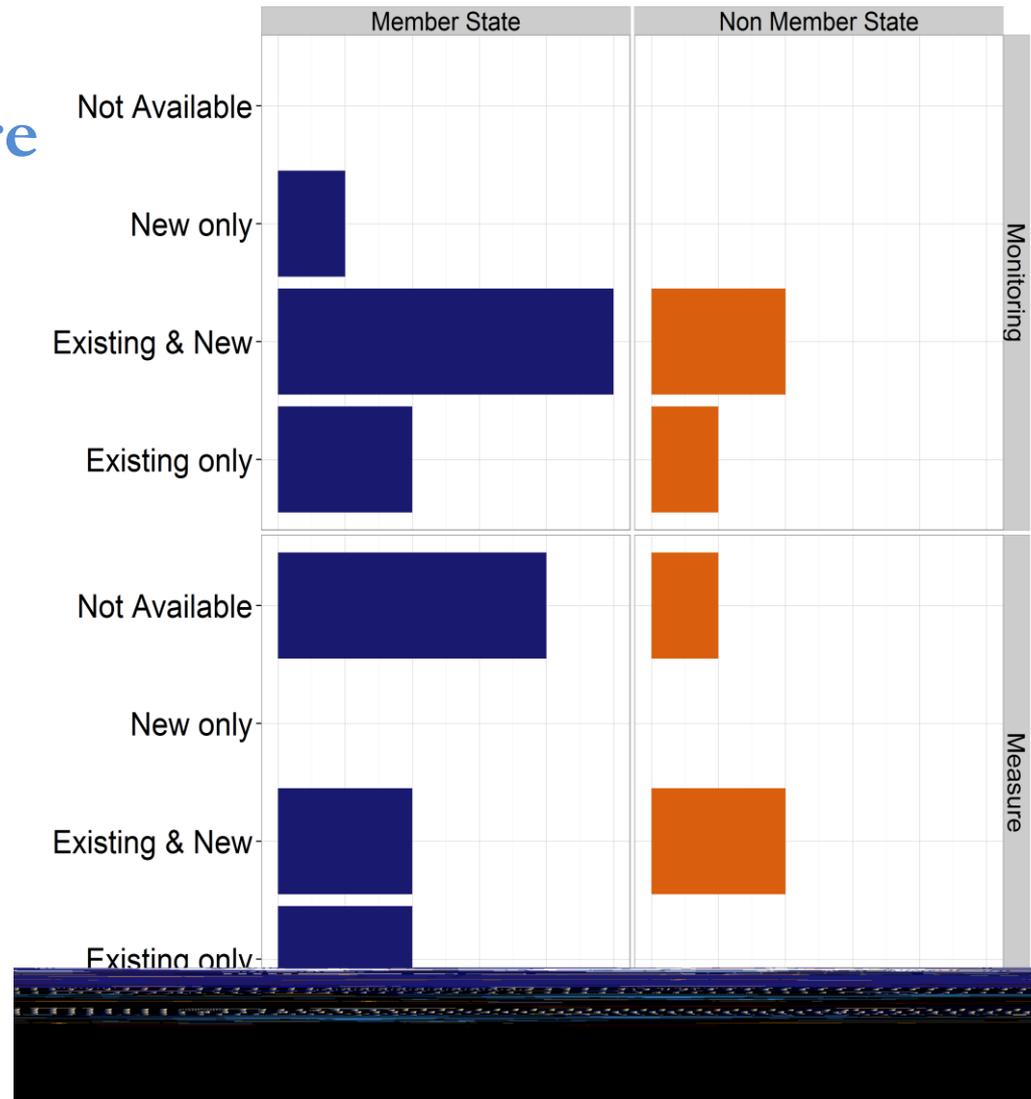
Marine Strategy Framework Directive
(Biodiversity descriptor – D1)

Questionnaire survey of national practices relative to the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive cetacean aspects in ACCOBAMS Contracting Parties

7 - Monitoring and Measure Programs for Cetaceans?

Monitoring included both existing and new schemes (only 1 MS has a *de novo* programme).

Contents of Measure programmes often unclear (lack of ambition or delay in the implementation?).

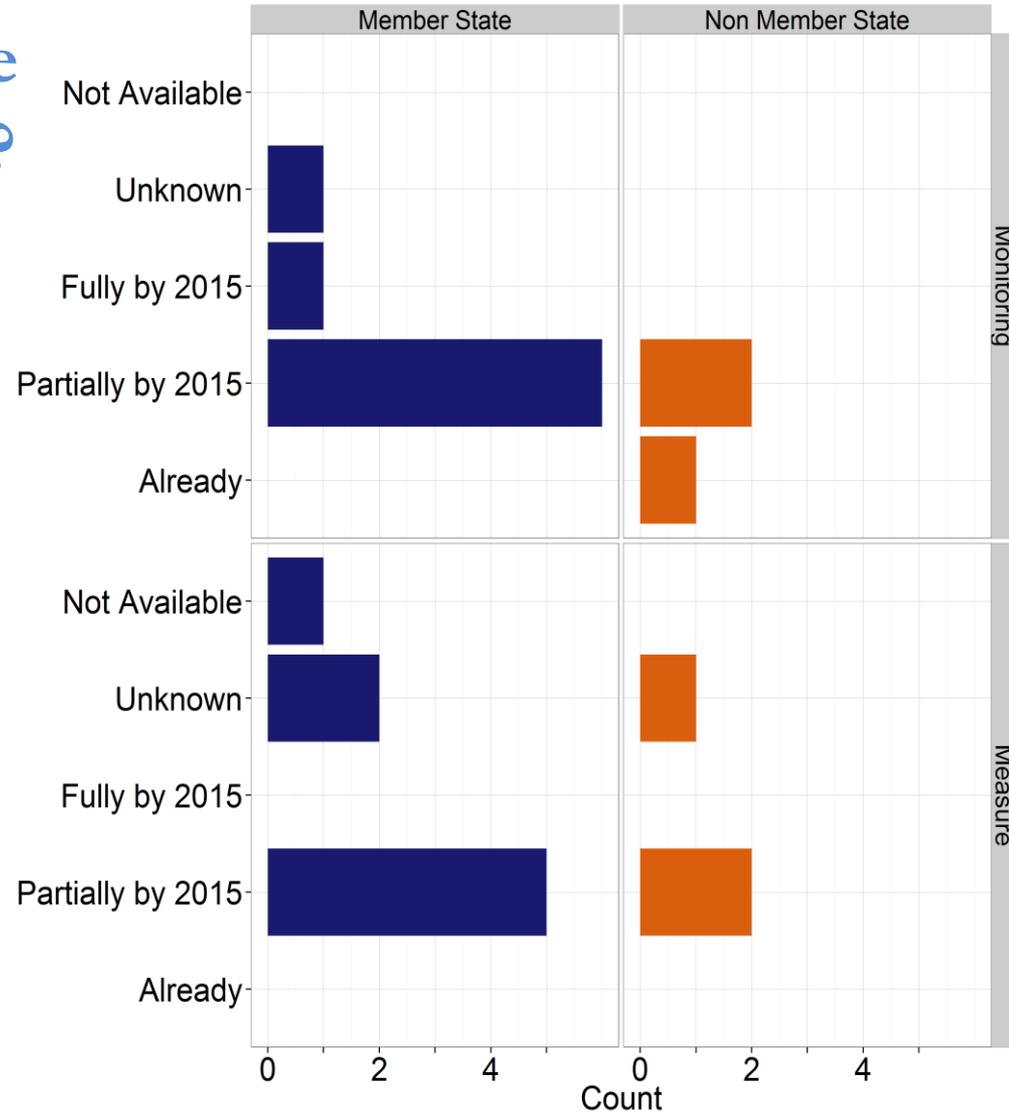


Questionnaire survey of national practices relative to the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive cetacean aspects in ACCOBAMS Contracting Parties

8 - Monitoring and Measure Programmes for Cetaceans?

Monitoring programmes expected to be partially operational by 2015 in most MS.

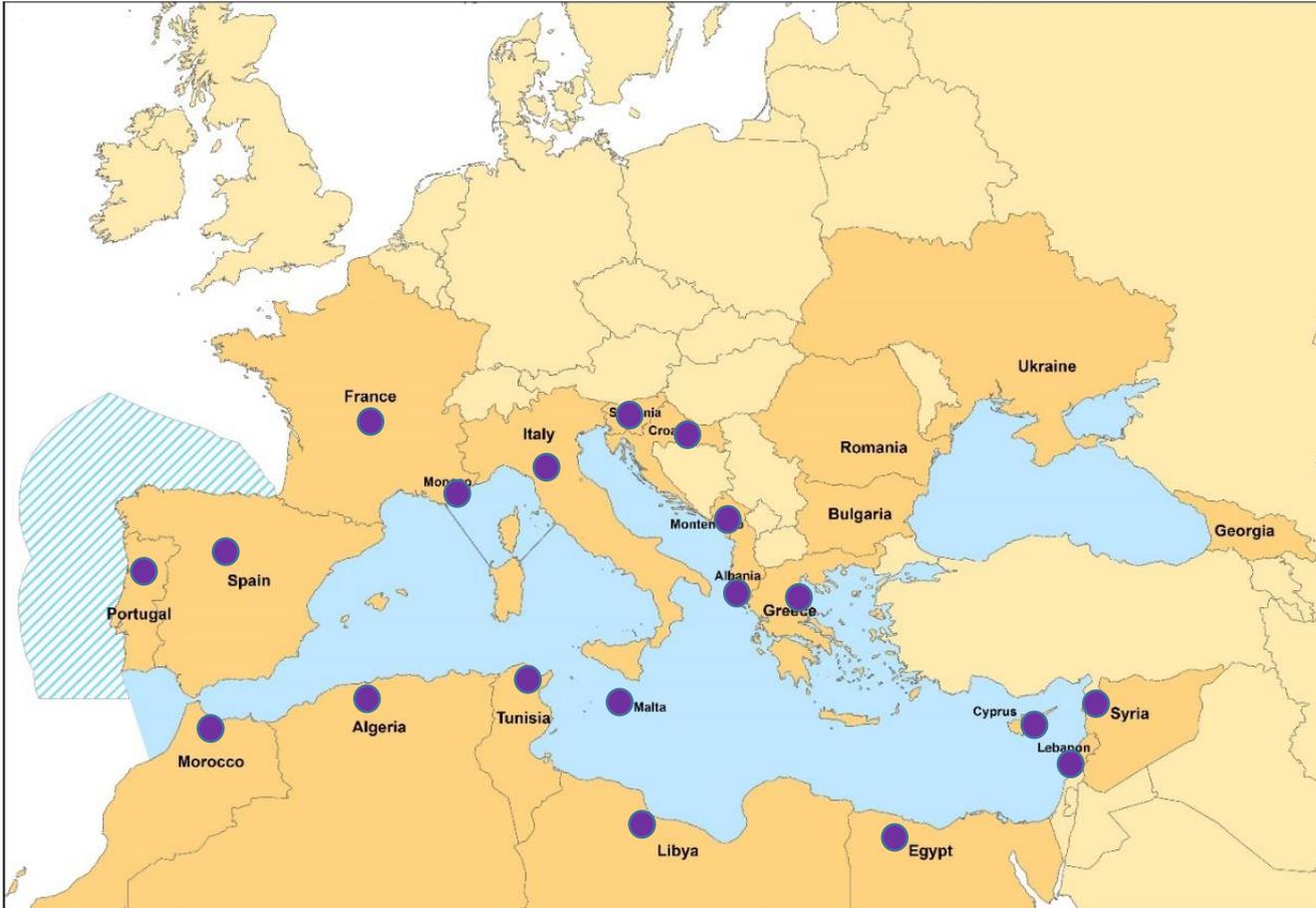
Operability of the programme of measures seems less clear.



11 respondents out of 23 Parties of the ACCOBAMS



Relevant international/regional Organizations addressing cetacean monitoring



- ACCOBAMS Parties also Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention

EcAP Process

Ecological Objective 1
“biodiversity”



Relevant international/regional Organizations addressing cetacean monitoring



- ACCOBAMS Parties also members of the OSPAR Commission



Relevant international/regional Organizations addressing cetacean monitoring



- ACCOBAMS Parties also members of **The Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution**



Other ACCOBAMS Initiatives to improve cetacean monitoring

Assessment of data-deficient species/all species under the IUCN red list

Species	2006	2014
Sperm whale, Mediterranean population	Endangered	Endangered
Short-beaked common dolphin, Mediterranean population	Endangered	Endangered
Common bottlenose dolphin, Black Sea sub-species	Endangered	Endangered
Striped dolphin, Mediterranean population	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Fin whale, Mediterranean population	Data deficient	Vulnerable
Cuvier's beaked whale, Mediterranean population	Data deficient	Data deficient
Long-finned pilot whale, Mediterranean population	Data deficient	Data deficient
Risso's dolphin, Mediterranean population	Data deficient	Data deficient

ACCOBAMS–IUCN workshop for the establishment of a Red List of cetaceans in ACCOBAMS area, Monaco, 5–7 March 2006

Work is ongoing for Cuvier's beaked whale and Long-finned pilot whale



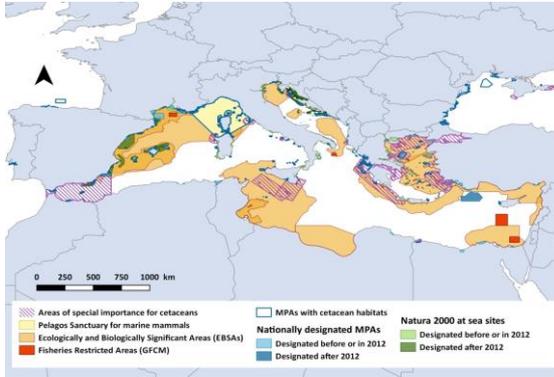
© Morigenos - Tilen Genov

Other ACCOBAMS Initiatives to improve cetacean monitoring

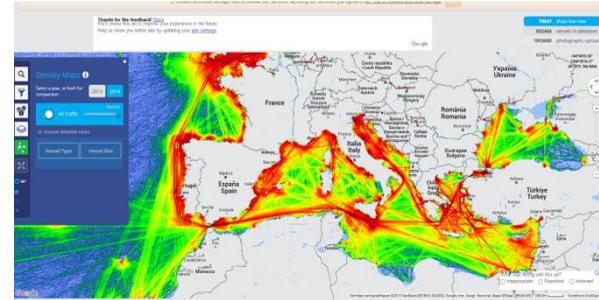
Ongoing effort on Cetacean Critical Habitats



Areas of importance



Maritime transports

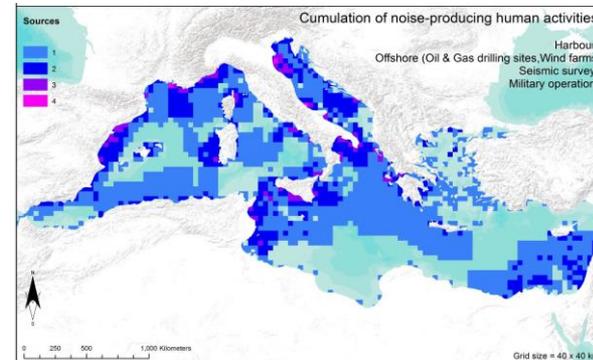


<http://www.marinetraffic.com/en/ais/home/centerx:10/centery:40/zoom:5>

Cetacean distribution



Oil & gas + marine renewable energy



MAGLIO A., PAVAN G., CASTELLOTE M., FREY S. 2016. Overview of the noise hotspots in the ACCOBAMS area. Part I – Mediterranean Sea. ACCOBAMS Technical report, 46 pp

<http://seamap.env.duke.edu/>





Main relevant Recommendations from SC10

Facilitation of the release of **research permits** for research activities to be conducted in the Agreement area in line with the actions presented in the ACCOBAMS work-plan

Parties and Range States should ensure that any proposed national programmes on the study of abundance and distribution of cetaceans are **compatible** with the development of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative

EU Member States, but also Non-EU-Member States [Parties to ACCOBAMS and of the Barcelona Convention under which the EcAp initiative is being developed] should be encouraged to **include cetaceans in all 5 potentially relevant descriptors** (D1, D4, D8, D10 & D11) as threat to GES

EU Member States, but also Non-EU-Member States [Parties to ACCOBAMS] should be encouraged to **integrate** conservation action reflecting objectives, decisions, recommendations and information by ACCOBAMS that suit reaching GES within their **national Programme of Measures**



Main relevant Recommendations from SC10

consideration is given by the initial assessors as to whether there is sufficient **new information to re-asses the species** that are still Data Deficient, and if so, submit new assessment for consideration by the appropriate evaluators

consideration is given whether there is sufficient information to evaluate species within the region **not previously assessed** (e.g. the rough-toothed dolphin) and if so, an assessment is submitted for consideration by the appropriate evaluators

Importance **to liaise with** the coordinators of the Marine Mammal Task Force of IUCN concerning the IMMA status

=> Because working together made things become greater !



Many thanks

More information :

Florence DESCROIX-COMANDUCCI

Executive Secretary

fcdescroix@accobams.net

<http://accobams.org/>

<http://www.netccobams.com/>

<http://accobams.geo2i.com/>

Questionnaire survey of national practices relative to the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive cetacean aspects in ACCOBAMS Contracting Parties

SO WHAT?

- ✓ 11 respondents out of 23 Parties of the ACCOBAMS:
- ✓ Exploratory analysis focussing mainly on the answer forms, not on the content of the documents attached with the filled questionnaires;
- ✓ Several salient features in MSFD implementation among Parties:
heterogeneity in (1) methodology of MSFD national transposition, (2) perceived importance of cetaceans as component of GES, IA, GES, *etc...*), (3) ambition placed in the monitoring and measure programmes;
- ✓ Part of the heterogeneity may stem from ambiguity of some of the questionnaire items;